

Jim Takes A Look Into The New Year

BY OUR OWN RING W. LARDNER



well all of a bout calm to the end of this yere 1917 & am now a bout to be in a new yere 1918 the saim as you are a bout to be in it only i am going to be in a different kind of a yere than you are al from wath i have lerned it will be a different Jim that comes to new yeres.

things i am diffront in al is the weigh i stand now al witch seems like a small thing but it inseat a small thing but a big thing in the stead of standing with 1 foot crossed over a nother & leaning va. sumthing i stand up strait all the time & on 2 foot wath it the no. of feet everybody has only they dont use both of them for standing wen their stivilyns.

my chest for 1 other thing is a chest now & not sumthing just the saim as my stumckle only hire up. now my chest al sticks out wear it is supposed to stick & my neck goes up strait in the stead of being bent like the letter C from walking with the head forward instead of up and down.

these things are little things al & yet their big things becaus now im a man strait up & down & every amerrycan shood have his head up & his neck strait up & down & his chest out becaus his country is doing the biggest thing any country has ever did witch is get into the war.

well i make it so the kids wich are kids now want to have no germ man telling them wath to do wen they get to be not kids but men.

i of ben in this as a soldger now al for 3 mos. or more & their is lots of things i cood tell you a bout wath i think of the new yeres coming on. i am glad it is coming & i think it will be a new yere in other weighs than just a diffront weigh of writing letters 1918 in the stead of 1917. for me al it will be a new yere in 1 weigh if Aggie can only see it the weigh i do you know me al. of course i hope to be in frantz before very long just as soon as possibel but it woud be a grate thing for me to feel that there was, a missus Jim back their in the U. S. of A. hoping that her Jim was O. K. ime not sure yet that big bloaker isent hanging a round their & trying to get a dragg with Aggie al though her little sister hasent said nothing lately & i get a letter every day sun days.

well al outside of Aggie their is lots of reasons why this will be a new yere for me newer than any other wich woud be clear to you if you cood lerned has made a nother man outen me than wath you knew not so much a nother man as a better 1 not that you are less than 1 for not being a soldger becaus you are doing your bitt too wear you are.

this will be a new yere becaus i will have sum chants us to do sum new things that are newer than any thing i ever did & the biggest 1 of them is to lick them germ man & mark them guys hindendoff & hindendoff sorry the rest of the world is all wrong becaus it isent germ man. well pitty them al i wath i say as i look into the new yeres & for give the poor devils for they dont know wath their doing. i hope the yere woud be as new for you as i know it will be for me.

your freind PRIVATE JIM.

Birdmen Will Decide War

The war will be won in the air. This is the opinion not only of the great army of rocking-chair strategists, but also of some of the best informed military leaders.

Just what is it that the aeroplane does in warfare? The lay mind conceives of some wonderful feats of reconnaissance of map-making and of directing artillery fire. But in just what measure does the aeroplane contribute to victory or defeat? The whole story of the aeroplane's contribution will not be known until, in those quiet hours following the war, men that have actually taken part in aeroplane encounters can write the stories contained in their brief and fragmentary notes.

General John Mailland Salmond, of the head of the Central School of the Royal British Flying Corps, in an article published in the New York Tribune, tells in detail of some of the feats of the nation's airy navies.

He explains the fact that the German reports tell the names of machines and even of engines and of the rank of British pilots and observers by the statement that the Allies retain air supremacy. If the Allies did not hold this supremacy, he argues, their aeroplanes would not fight and fall over German lines and it would be impossible for the German Intelligence Service to have such detailed information. Were the supremacy held by the Germans their aeroplanes would be fighting over the Allied lines.

THE HONOR ROLL

Last week Trench and Camp told how Hawaii had sent more than twice her quota of volunteers to the army and how she had asked that credit be waived so that more of her 26,337 eligibles might be chosen under the selective draft.

Now comes the following:
Larue County, Kentucky, had 132 men as her quota for the National Army. Only 122 were examined. None claimed exemption. All the 132 were accepted.

Connecticut will send double its quota into the army of the United States. When the recruiting closed on December 11, the total accepted in Connecticut stood at 4,305. Only 2,242 were called for.

NEXT!

THEY'LL APPRECIATE IT

The home folks will appreciate Trench and Camp. Send it to them so that they may read the news of your camp.

The German reports for a given month claimed 78 British machines. The British, for the same period, claimed 152 German machines as victims by actual crashing to the ground and 132 driven out of control.

General Salmond surveys the work on all fronts. He says the artillery co-operation results in such cases ranging in a single week of the given month that 226 enemy batteries were "successfully engaged for destruction."

In the sphere of reconnaissance thirty-eight long tours of survey, each more than three miles, were made; 4,272 photographs were taken in enemy area.

In the sphere of actual offensive squadrons carried out several deliberate attacks with enemy infantry concentrating for counter attacks. All the counter attacks were broken up, troops being thoroughly demoralized by machine gun fire from heights of one hundred to three hundred feet.

Also in the sphere of actual offensive, bombing was continued in all weathers, day and night. No enemy air-arms opposite the British front escaped unmolested and "rest billets, ammunition dumps, roads and rail-ways were attacked assiduously."

Thus it will be seen that the aeroplane assists in directing artillery fire, in making and preventing reconnaissance, in destroying enemy morale and in scattering his forces during respites from front line effort.

WOULD ELIMINATE TAX

Congressman Carter, of Massachusetts, has introduced a bill in the House to exempt officers and enlisted men of the military and naval forces of the United States from payment of war tax on railroad tickets. A bill to exempt officers and enlisted men from the payment of war tax on tickets of admission to places of amusement has been introduced by Congressman Sinton.

The Man Who Did Not Know

By H. ADDINGTON BRUCE

Have you ever heard of the spirochaeta pallida?
Do you know what it is? Do you know what it can do?

Are you aware that it is one of the worst enemies menacing you as a soldier for Uncle Sam?
You do not have to go abroad to encounter it. You are in danger from it even now.

Here, on our own soil, it is waiting a chance to attack you. And it is cunning in its method to entrap you. It makes itself, in attractive guise. It comes to you, not as an open foe, but as a seeming friend—a young woman, eager to help you amuse yourself when off duty and away from camp.

True, the face of your would-be "friend" is not quite so fresh and pleasing as the faces of the girls you know and respect back home.

And the mode of entertainment she offers is not one approved by your moral sense.

But you feel lonely. The fame of youth is burning brightly in you. The temptation is strong to forget the teachings of morality—just this once.

Tremendous Risk Involved

Yield to the temptation, and forthwith you make yourself liable to suffer the physical pains and mental anguish which the spirochaeta pallida knows well how to inflict on its victims.

Prompt help from men expert in fighting it may save you from its cruellest tortures. But it is indeed a foe whose grip is hard to loose.

Years after you think you are entirely free from it, you may one day discover that it was only hiding its time to strike you a new and deadly blow.

You may even find yourself in the miserable plight of a certain successful business man, who one day confessed to his wife:

"I'm afraid I'll have to see the doctor. Something queer is the matter with me."

"But," his wife objected, "you eat well and sleep well. Your health seems to be as good as usual."
"I've strange pains in my legs," he told her. "They are sharp, shooting pains, like a stab or an electrical shock."

"When I walk, it sometimes feels as if I were walking on cotton or sand, not on firm ground. And when it is dark I have trouble controlling my feet."

"I have noticed, too, that I almost fall if I stand with my eyes shut. Certainly I must ask somebody about it!"

The doctor consulted was not long in giving an opinion.

The Barracks Wheeze

By PRIVATE C. W. SHAFER
(Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Mich.)

Army life
And the drama
Are closely
Related.
Both depend
Largely
On the
Fitting action
for
Success.

The inventor of the mess kit is safe, but Providence should keep a watchful eye on the composer of the poncho.

Needless waste—Sending an engraved wedding invitation to a private in the army who believes in the liberty loan, insurance and a family allotment.

A safety pin in camp is a diversion.

Aesculapius would never have consented to be the patron saint of medicine if he had known what army surgeons intended to do with iodine.

The biggest crickets are often found under the smallest stones.

You can't watch your step and be a good soldier.

Remember your parcels

And—

"Fasaal In!"

Every soldier
Has a duty
To perform—
On—

And the one
Who gets
The brass buckles
Is the one
Who knows
His
Military
Shit—the-Cat
The Best.

"I think you had better let a neurologist examine you," he advised. "Your nerves seem out of order, and may require special treatment."

At the neurologist's there was a prolonged session of physical testing. As it proceeded, something in the specialist's manner sent a chill of dismay through the business man.

"You might as well tell me the worst," said he. "I guess I'm pretty sick."

"Your nervous system is not in good shape," the neurologist admitted. "In fact, I am afraid that you are suffering from locomotor ataxia."

"Which means," the business man groaned, "that I shall soon become a helpless cripple?"

"It may not be as bad as that. Modern methods of treatment may—"

"I know, I know. But I have seen too many men afflicted with this terrible disease. Doctor, how did I get it?"

Enlightened Too Late

The neurologist parried the question, answering it by a vague reference to nervous injury in earlier years. He did not deem it wise at that moment to enlighten his agonized patient concerning matters about which he should have been given enlightenment in the days of his youth.

Therefore he did not show him, as he might have done, a picture of the spirochaeta pallida. He did not say, as he might have said:

"This curious little corkscrew-shaped creature is the source of all your trouble."

"It is a disease-germ which got into your system when you were young and foolish. It is the germ which causes syphilis, and which is now causing your locomotor ataxia as a sequel of the syphilis you contracted in your years of indiscretion."

There was nothing to be gained in telling this long after the harm had been done. It would only have drawn from the unhappy patient, as it has drawn from many another sufferer, the bitterly regretful cry:

"If I had but known!"
But there is much to be gained by letting other men know, before it is too late, the harm that the spirochaeta pallida may do to them.

And Uncle Sam wants to put every one of his boys on guard against this insidious enemy.

He wants them to know that the surest way to protect themselves against it is to lead clean sexual lives.

He wants them to know that, if they do not lead clean sexual lives, they will be incurring risks as deadly to health and to life itself as any they will incur on the firing-line.

ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE IN 1918

These are the army officers who in the normal course of events would retire in 1918 on account of the age limit. They probably will all be continued in service, due to the need of experienced officers for the conduct of the war:

Col. Horatio G. Stekel, 12th U. S. Cavalry—Jan. 15.

Col. William A. Simpson, A. G. Department—Feb. 11.

Brig. Gen. James Parker (Major General N. A.)—Feb. 20.

Col. Henry P. Birmingham, Medical Corps—March 15.

Col. John P. Finley, Infantry—April 11.

Col. Henry H. Ludlow, Coast Artillery—April 15.

Brig. Gen. Ebenezer Swift (Major General N. A.)—July 11.

Major Gen. Erasmus M. Weaver, C. A. C.—May 23.

Col. George K. McGunnagle, Infantry—June 23.

Col. William O. Owen, Medical Corps—July 6.

Col. Abner Pickering, 11th U. S. Infantry—July 11.

Brig. Gen. W. A. Mann (Major General N. A.)—July 31.

Col. Rudolph C. Ebert, Medical Corps—Aug. 29.

Major Gen. W. C. Gorgas, Surgeon General of Army—Oct. 3.

Col. Augustus C. Macomb, 14th U. S. Cavalry—Oct. 17.

Brig. Gen. A. P. Blockson (Major General N. A.)—Nov. 7.

Col. C. Richards, M. C. (Brig. Gen. N. A.)—Nov. 15.

Col. Frank L. Docks—J. A. G. Department—Dec. 8.

Col. W. C. Brown, Cavalry—Dec. 19th.

A GOOD SOUP

"That's what I call a good soup," remarked the lieutenant, putting down his cup.

"Thank you, sir," replied the mess sergeant, "but we have been serving it as coffee."

