

# Jim Qualifies As A Soldier-Actor

BY OUR OWN RING W. LARDNER



well all I had my chants of bean an akter and from wat I have saw of akting on the stage & in the motion plekchures & after wat I pullid the other nite at our companny show ther shoodnet be no doubt of my be coming as good as digless hairbax or jno Barimorne or charley chaplins or any of the others that are suposed to be good.

befor I tell you al how I broke into the akting I will say that kins army is the greatest akting, singing and jazzing-banding army that has ever been got twogther sents the days of giddeen wen every soldjer was both a soldjer and a trumpiter. every member of this army is both a soldjer & akter or singer or jaxzer in addition of beeing aboul to carry a gun he is aboul to carry a tune or a leading part in sum companny show or sumthing. no companny is I untill it has had a companny show & a Feed with printit menyous and a companny fund witch means both a Feed and a show becaus the show gets the fund & then the fund gets the Feed.

well al our companny was wanting moar of a fund so as that we cood have Feeds & the only weigh out of it seemd to be a show & thas wear I cum in with the akting stuff you know me al. wen ther was 1st talk of haveing this I doped it out that the only patriok thing was to offer myself to the caws so I ced to the guy in charge how a bout late now your hand is too set in its weigh foar me to do anything with it. well he ced I think we can use you in the show but not as an ack of your own we will put you on as the small town boob all you have to do is ack naterhal I ced that woodent be akting wood it he ced no but we will let it bye this time.

he ced its too bad we didnt know you played this wen we got up the regyment band you might of lead it ced of course I mite of but its too late now your hand is too set in its weigh foar me to do anything with it. well he ced I think we can use you in the show but not as an ack of your own we will put you on as the small town boob all you have to do is ack naterhal I ced that woodent be akting wood it he ced no but we will let it bye this time.

after the show everybody laffed agen wen I calm out not as the guy in the show but your friend PRIVATE JIM.

# Major Generals Back From France Emphasize Necessity For Discipline and Accurate Fire

All of the major generals commanding National Army cantonments and National Guard camps who have been to Belgium and France and returned are laying particular emphasis and stress on three things:

**Discipline.**  
The School of the Soldier.  
Accuracy of rifle fire.  
What they saw in the trenches and elsewhere along the battle front in the Western theatre of war convinced them that these three things will win the war and without these three things wars cannot be won. As a result of their observations of actual war conditions they have issued orders that discipline be strengthened all along the line and that as soon as possible be devoted to drilling men in the school of the soldier and to practice on the rifle range.

The first order issued by a major-general upon his return from France was one forbidding the wearing of leather puttees and short sheepskin overcoats by non-coms and privates because these articles are not regulation and the wearing of them constitutes a breach of discipline.

"The war will be won by disciplined fighting soldiers and not by devices or material things," said this major-general. "The history of warfare shows this. What is going on abroad confirms it. The intelligence, loyalty and individual skill of our men are valuable assets."

"But they are assets which cannot be effectively used in battle unless they are welded into a harmonious and dependable whole through the solidifying influence of discipline." "There is enough war Over There for everybody," he continued, "and a continuation of the training period here under the favorable climatic conditions of the country will prove most valuable. A soldier has been defined as a man who has an insatiable desire to go somewhere else, and who, upon getting there, immediately re-establishes and continues the desire."

Major Edward Olmstead, Assistant Chief of Staff, 27th Division, caused to be published in the *Training Bulletin* of the National Guard, now training at Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, S. C., a letter he received from an officer in the service of the United States who had been visiting the battlefronts in France and Belgium.

Following are some of the most interesting and instructive portions of the letter:

"Much attention has been paid to the method of relief and comfort of the men. Hot meals were served three times a day and the men themselves are required to keep neatly dressed. So far as possible they require men to keep their shoes cleaned, their buttons polished and their uniforms neat. It was said this helped to keep up the morale. The British officers informed me they attempted to have their men shaved every day.

"The officers' messes were excellent. They made an attempt to dress for dinner. In the matter of dress, I was greatly embarrassed in this respect. We took with us our oldest clothes and on arrival found that both British and French officers made a great point of looking as spick and span as possible all the time. When entertaining at dinner they wore white collars and cuffs. Celuloid collars and cuffs were much in vogue, because the laundry problem is a difficult one, particularly so far as starched linen is concerned.

"Take plenty of matches and tobacco. Soap is at a premium, so take plenty of that. You can send parcel post packages home and have such packages sent to you through the Post Office Department sells money orders. The rate of exchange is greater for government checks than for gold or paper money. Any bank will cash a government check as will the quartermaster and some of the postal stations. You can probably arrange for a personal checking account in Paris with the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, but these personal checks in France can only be cashed in person at the bank on which drawn. A good financial arrangement is to leave your pay vouchers, for say December and January, with the depot Quartermaster at Washington, to be placed to your credit, when due, with some bank or mailed direct to the individual as you prefer, and cash February on the other side, and so on in some ratio as that. Put in a pay voucher for foreign service pay only each month on the other side. In cashing your pay vouchers in France, the quartermaster will give you any number of checks. There are banks in small towns and they are glad to cash these checks.

"More attention is paid to training

in the School of the Soldier and Squad than we have ever attempted, or I should say than we have attempted in recent years. Every man must have thorough and careful physical training. The instructor should be one who has had special training under some one trained carefully in that system.

"The French do not pay much attention to set-up. The British do and so will we. Indifferent or incompetent instructors fail to bring out the disciplinary value of this class of instruction. Everything possible should be done to develop agility and endurance. You can do no better than to follow the course laid down in 'Field Physical Training of the Soldier,' War Department 1317. The average company officer will not do. He must be an especially trained instructor. Classes should be small, not more than twenty to fifty at a time.

"Every man must be a good rifleman, a good shot, know how to throw hand grenades, have some knowledge of the rifle grenade, know something about the auto rifle, have individual training in patrolling, scouting and so forth. When soldiers are well trained in the School of the Soldier, they will adopt any formation, such as the French use with very little difficulty. If well trained it will not take more than four or five days to be efficient therein. I would not permit any man to be instructed in bayonet fighting, grenade throwing, auto rifle or physical training except by a specially trained instructor. No one man can be a specialist in all these things in the short time we have to prepare.

"The type and manner of saluting is that used by our very best soldiers. So if you have any doubt in mind as to what the correct salute is, keep that in mind. I would insist that the men in the ranks, at ease or at rest, must always stand squarely on both feet, with legs apart, and never with their hands in front of their bodies. If the man has a rifle in his hands let him hold that with one hand, and have the other one at his side or behind his back. Of course never with his hands in his pockets.

"Every platoon commander should know intimately every man in his platoon. He should be their father confessor. The captain must know his men and should be appealed to in matters which the platoon commanders cannot adjust."

## GERMAN PEACE

FOR peace that's made in Germany the allies do not care to throw bread and circuses, but they would be glad to see the peace negotiators wear the peace negotiators' uniform. The peace negotiators, and planning with a gun, would surely fade in laundering, the colors all would run. This war! The world is eating it, but peace would be more punk, with Germany dictating it, and handing out the bunk. The allies are much wiser dumb, and wielding sword and creese, than arguing with kaiserism about the terms of peace. When peace again is given us, and people know repose, and war's red dog, that's driven us, back to its kennel goes, that peace must be no platitude, no phrases neatly turned, of wide and yielding latitude, to be ignored or spurned. No paper written gaudily, whose terms may be withstood, no fabric worn shoddily, or "something just as good." When gentle peace has come again, it must have come to stay; no king shall make things hum again by starting up a fray. The peace that comes from Germany would last till Kaiser Bill should once again determine he was strong enough to kill—Walt Mason. (Copyright, 1917, by George Matthews Adams)

## MUST CURB CURIOSITY

American soldiers "Over There" are being instructed to curb their curiosity and to forget all about soldierly gathering. The reason for this is that a number of British, French and Belgian soldiers have lost their lives because their attention was attracted to a likely looking svenner left in a trench or dugout by fleeing Germans.

The discovery has been made that the Hunns leave watches, articles of jewelry and other trinkets on the floor or walls of evacuated trenches and when touched these articles set off a death-dealing bomb. In one instance a French soldier removed a watch from the wall of a trench and thus set off a bomb which cost him his life, together with that of a score of companions. An electric wire was attached to the watch and when the timepiece was touched the explosion occurred immediately.



# Taft Will Make Speeches To Soldiers In Many Camps

FORMER PRESIDENT SCHEDULED TO TOUR COUNTRY AND ADDRESS SELECTIVE SERVICE MEN IN Y. M. C. A. AUDITORIUMS

Under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., William Howard Taft, former President of the United States, will visit practically all of the National Army cantonments and make one or more addresses to the soldiers quartered in them.

The addresses will be delivered in the Y. M. C. A. auditoriums in the various cantonments, which will accommodate about 3,500 officers and men. In many instances the former chief executive of the Nation will make two speeches, while in some of the larger camps he will deliver three addresses.

The Y. M. C. A. considers itself fortunate in obtaining the consent of a man of Mr. Taft's prominence to make a series of addresses to the selective men. Mr. Taft is not only a former ruler of the Nation but a man who enjoys an immense popularity. More than this, however, he is an eloquent and forceful speaker, he has an intense admiration for the soldiers now in training, and he knows how to deliver a message to them.

It goes without saying that he will be accorded a warm reception by the soldiers. Mr. Taft has no set program of speeches to deliver. He will choose his topics at will, judging from the addresses he has already made to soldiers, he probably will devote most of his time explaining how the United States was forced into war with Germany. He draws a most scathing indictment against Germany for violating practically every principle of international law, and he is supremely confident that the American fighting

men will win the war to make the world safe for democracy.

Ex-President Taft has already spoken to the soldiers at Camp Grant, Yaphank, N. Y., Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill., and Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Tentative Itinerary**  
His tentative schedule for appearing at the other National Army camps is as follows:

January 24, Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass.

January 25, Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J.

January 26, Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va.

January 26-29, Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.

January 30-31, Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga.

February 1-2, Camp Pike, Little Rock, Ark.

February 3-4-5, Camp Travis, San Antonio, Texas.

February 6-7-8, Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kan.

February 9-10, Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky.

February 13-14, Camp Meade, Admiral, Md.

February 15-16, Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio.

February 17-18, Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Mich.

Mr. Taft will also deliver addresses at Hampton, Va., Baltimore, the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Chicago, Bowling Green, Ky., and New Haven, Conn.

In the instances in which he is to speak on more than one day in a cantonment, Mr. Taft will spend the night or nights in camp as the guest of the commanding officer.