

FRENCHMAN IN ARMY OF U. S. MAKES SPEECH

Private Koehler Speaks of
Washington and LaFayette at
Y. M. C. A. Meeting.

The following was delivered at the Washington birthday gathering at Y. M. C. A. Building No. 106 by Private Charles Koehler, Battery E, 13th F. A. The feeling with which Private Koehler spoke, the earnestness with which he delivered the original lines, "Us Foreign Born," the man's whole attitude impressed the large crowd attending in a manner that will never be forgotten. Private Koehler seemed to be speaking for the thousands of men of foreign birth to be found in the army today. The spirit and thoughtfulness of his words will be readily appreciated.

I'm a Frenchman by birth, an adopted son of the United States, a soldier by choice. I've been asked to speak of Washington and Lafayette from a Frenchman's point of view, strictly emphasizing the close relationship between both countries.

We love and honor Washington, the first great champion of the rights of mankind, the noble defender of freedom and of human race. When our great nation of today was in its infancy, struggling for existence and for the nation's birth, Washington gallant and rugged volunteers, strong and brave at heart, fought and bled until they were but few. The foe were everywhere. They came in strong and many. Our nation's freedom was at stake we called to other nations for a helping hand; none but France came to the call, though she herself was gasping breath, from the burdens of her wars. She saw from far across the sea the fate of young America, the peril that would endanger our struggling land of liberty and she sent us gallant Lafayette. He came with money, men and clothes. He came as a deliverer; not to win fame or gold. They fought and won the day at Yorktown; the foe were driven from our shores the spark of freedom began to rise. Then from an infant nation to a mighty one we grew.

France and her kind people gave to us the greatest gift, that token which we hold dear in our hearts, the symbol that enlightens the world today, the statue of liberty.

France today is bleeding for this cause that Washington and Lafayette and our forefathers fought and bled for. She needs us now, as we did then, "Thank God we can repay our precious debt to her. Millions in money, millions in men, millions in food and clothes to our sister republic we send. If Washington and Lafayette could only see their sons today again united, fighting side by side for justice and for the rights of humanity and democracy.

Oh, France we'll show our gratitude to you 'till victory is won and wrong is righted. United States and France evermore.

Us Foreign Born.

We came to this great land of freedom
From far across the sea;
Breaking away from tyranny of kingdoms
To a life that is promising and free.

With outstretched arms you welcomed us
Upon your shores.
Our hearts were filled with joy and honor bright.

O, Land, with every passing hour we love you more,
Great foes of wrong, eternally the friend of right.

When, native countries plunged into the strife,
We showed our gratitude to you;
Though kings and emperors call us back to fight,
We stood by you, America, just and true.

When Wilson, like his great forbear called for men to urge the nation's right,
We answered to his call against autocracy.

We foreign-born, bound with you now, uphold the stars and stripes,
Suffering, dying if we must, until the final victory.

—Charles Koehler.

SOCIAL CLUBS AT CAMP.

Two social and literary clubs meet on Tuesday and Thursday at "Y" 105, weekly. Their names are the "Double Triangle Club" and the "Shield of David," after the insignia adopted by the Jewish board for welfare work.

Interesting short talks were delivered at the recent meetings. Private M. Bloom, Supply Co., 38th Infantry, spoke on the importance of organization in our lives both military and civilian. Sergeant Friedman, a regular, gave some very much appreciated "tips" to the men. Sergeant Hornblow, 9 M. G. B., a veteran, told some interesting experiences during the Spanish-American war, and compared fighting in Cuba and the Philippines with what it is today. Messrs. Konowitz and Seligman, Jewish welfare workers, spoke to the men on the attitude they must have toward their various surroundings.

BASE HOSPITAL BREVITIES.
Secretary John W. Day of the hospital "Y" is home to Boston on a 10 day furlough.
"Kill the Germans" is the happy way that Captain Crowe drives home, before the afternoon drill class, the point about disinfecting articles in order to exterminate disease germs.
"Use the heavy artillery" of a carbolic acid solution of the caliber of ten per cent," added the captain.
A branch room for the Y. M. C. A. has been established just back of the post exchange. Provisions are made at the branch for reading and writing. The new "Y" addition is to be used by convalescing patients of the hospital.

A movement is abroad which urges that a baseball diamond be established on the plot of ground to the east of barracks row and which space was formerly used for a dumping ground. Since Corporal Yates has been instrumental in having the ground cleared, by his vigilant supervision of the labor of his band of colored workmen, it is also suggested that the plot be called Yates field.

The new mess hall song is "It's a Long Way to Go for Seconds but We're Traveling There."

A most forceful analysis of the Bible ("that best book of the ages") was given by Rev. Mr. McKean in his address at the Sunday evening service at the Y. M. C. A.

"Sing, Listen, Drill" are the three requisites of the afternoon classes

conducted by Captain Crowe. At the captain's suggestion the gatherings have been opened by the singing of the late war songs. Top Sergeant P. J. Dempsey has distributed song sheets, which are published by the Knights of Columbus, and from these the men gather the words for the popular airs.

Initial steps are being taken for organizing a minstrel show. The first rehearsal is to be called next week. Catholics of the base hospital have organized a choir for their services on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. There are 20 singers, nurses and enlisted men, and their choral work is excellent. Private George Ryder acts as choir leader.

Secretary Ferguson, who had been in the Presbyterian hospital in Charlotte for several days because of an infected ankle is now back at his post and doing splendid things for the hospital Y.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES.

Messrs. Seligman and Konowitz announce the following program of activities to take place in the club-room at the Hebrew temple, 403 West Seventh street:

Wednesday nights—Dance.
Saturday nights—Smoker.
Sunday nights—Entertainment.
Friday nights—Services at camp, 7 p. m. in the ten behind "Y" 105.
All are welcome to all activities.

PEPPERY PARAGRAPHS FROM COMPANY "A," 12TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Sergeant Morosick is enjoying a brief furlough and we miss his harmonious voice very much. Hope's wishing you a happy time "serg," but for craps sake don't try to teach the folks at home the Semaphore.

Ex-Sergeant Steinberg, late of Yaphank, has been appointed on the K. P. staff for an indefinite period. We knew you had in it you "Steiny."
A certain member of the 15th quard recently had his head shaved. We hate to draw comparisons, George, but that dome of yours resembles Pikes Peak crowded with "eternal snow."

Benjamin Kelly has achieved the impossible. He actually got a hair cut. Where'd you make the razor, Benmie?
Clarence Wood spent a very enjoyable holiday on the 22nd. He was one of the committee on public improvement, and wielded a number 2 to the satisfaction of all concerned.

NOTED EVANGELIST COMING.

The base hospital force is anxiously waiting for a definite announcement of the date when Mel Trotter, the noted evangelist will speak at the hospital "Y." Accompanying the forceful speaker will be the Trotter evangelistic quartet which musical organization has made a globe wide reputation by the forceful rendering of religious hymns.

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