

# ILLUSTRATED ARMY TERMS



## Aviation Safer Than Infantry

General Pershing is authority for the statement that "Flying duty is no more hazardous than duty with other combat troops and involves nothing like the hardships endured by troops which occupy trenches."

Because of the prevalent belief that military flying was extra hazardous, aviators have been receiving fifty per cent increase in their pay while on duty involving actual flying. General Pershing says aviation is now far beyond the experimental stage and it is not necessary to offer financial inducements to obtain the services of aviators.

His recommendation that the extra allowances in pay be discontinued was promptly adopted by Secretary of War Baker, who has asked Congress to repeal the old pay schedule and create a new grade of aviator, to be filled by qualified civilians at a salary of \$150 a month. One of the criticisms of the extra pay allowance plan is that "it is productive of improper balance in rank and pay, which result in injustice to other arms."

This proposed financial readjustment does not mean that the War Department does not appreciate the services of aviators, but indicates a desire to eliminate any ground for complaints regarding inequitable pay.

Lord Kitchener said: "An aviator is worth an army corps."

Actual war conditions have proved to be true. French and American officers that flying duty is not as hazardous as infantry service in the trenches.

## Attorneys Not Needed To Collect Insurance

Secretary McAdoo recently issued a statement warning survivors of killed or injured soldiers and sailors against employing attorneys and claim agents to collect money from the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

"The employment of outsiders is not necessary," said Mr. McAdoo, who strongly condemned the attorneys and claim agents seeking to drum up business. Their activities in this direction, he declared, constituted a violation of the law.

"The greed and avarice of those who would prey upon the misfortunes of the survivors of a gallant American soldier or sailor who has died for his country cannot be condemned or reprehended too severely," said the statement from the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Treasury Department is anxious to help the relatives of killed or injured soldiers and sailors and the claims can be collected without the needless expense of employing attorneys or claim agents. Blanks for filing claims will be promptly furnished and every assistance in filling them out will be given free by the government.

**Million and a Quarter Insured**  
With more than a million and a quarter of its fighting men insured for more than ten billion dollars, the government is still conducting energetic insurance campaigns throughout the country and will continue to do so until April 12, the new date fixed by Congress for the expiration of the insurance privilege. Extension of the date from February 12 enabled a number of soldiers in the camps and cantonments to sign up for insurance and afforded an opportunity for men who had taken out small policies to increase them. The change in date was made primarily for the benefit of the members of the Expeditionary Force now in France and American soldiers in other distant places.

For the first time in the history of the world a nation's land fighting forces are insured, with 95 out of every hundred men protected for about \$8,880. Every officer and man in a great many regiments is insured for \$10,000 apiece.

The insurance written by the government on its fighting men is more than three times the total amount carried by any life insurance company in this country.

## HIS PREFERENCE EXPLAINED

Recruit: I want to enlist in this mortar battery I've heard about.

Recruiting Sergeant: And why do you want to join that?

Recruit: Well, you see, I'm a mason by trade and I thought maybe my previous experience would help me.

Princeton Tiger.

## ON EQUAL FOOTING

Enlisted men in the National Army are on the same footing as those in the Regular Army and National Guard respecting appointment to West Point, according to a ruling by the War Department.

## Rising To Honor National Anthem Originated In 1891

Do you know the origin of the practice among Americans of rising in honor of the national anthem? This is said to be the way it started:

Senator Burrows, of Michigan, was the orator of the day at the exercises of the graduating class at West Point in 1891. Toward the close of his speech he said:

"Soldiers should not be heedless of the sentiment of their songs and to the music of their bands. I would like to see every true American soldier or citizen, when he hears the grand notes of our national anthem, rise to his feet in patriotic recognition and uncover."

Almost instantly the band present at the graduating exercises began to play "The Star Spangled Banner" and Col. Wilson, Superintendent of West Point, and the entire battalion of cadets responded to Senator Burrows' suggestion by springing to their feet. Their action was quickly followed by every civilian in the audience. All stood with bowed heads until the last note of the anthem had been played.

It was an impressive sight and attracted much public attention. Later Senator Burrows had this custom made compulsory at West Point, but it required no legislation to make it popular throughout the nation.

## WOMEN ELIGIBLE

The War Department now permits women to qualify as inspectors of small arms, according to announcement made by the United States Civil Service Commission. The examination for which the commission is receiving applications to secure persons equipped to serve as inspectors and assistant inspectors of small arms, in the plants filling contracts for the Army, is the first of its kind opened to women. It is stated.

## ALL RIGHT OUTSIDE OF THAT

The Sub: I say, Sergeant Major, do you realize that that chap with the barrow is a member of an archaeological society?

The Sergeant Major: Well, sir, 'o may be what you say. Personally I've always found 'im quiet and well-behaved.—Punch.

## Home Letters Revivify Soldiers And Play Important Part In War

"Home letters hold the front-line trenches."

This is the opinion of Captain H. H. Pearson, the first Canadian to go to France, when war was declared in 1914 and the first to see service with Kitchener's army.

Captain Pearson was at the front for many months and saw hundreds of men go over the top. He has been over the top a number of times himself. He says that both from experience and observation letters from home put heart and more courage into the soldiers when they stand near the edge of No Man's Land, with shells bursting around them.

Soldiers now in training in this country should keep up their correspondence with their relatives and friends so as to insure their getting a steady stream of letters when they get "Over There."

Send this paper home so that the members of your family may realize what home letters have meant to the soldiers who have preceded you to the trenches and what they will mean to you.

Speaking of letters to soldiers, Captain Pearson says:

"If you have a relative or friend at the front, write to him, and do it often. Letters from strangers don't count, of course, but the others—no one can say how much they matter.

"The most terrible part of the war was that first winter of it—the end of 1914, the beginning of 1915. During that first winter of the war, when the enemy marched against us with machine guns and all the modern instruments of warfare, and we had no guns, no ammunition, nothing but sheer strength of will to go on, it was really the letters from home that held the lines for us. We did it because the home-folk expected us to do it, and said so in their letters.

"You may say that this is all sentiment. Well! this is a war of sentiment. It's sentiment that took us over there to fight, and it is sentiment that is taking you Americans.

"Anyhow, soldiers are like that. I've known some of them that haven't gotten a word from home in all the time they have been gone, more than three years now. They were a very different lot, as a rule, from the chaps

who got letters from home regularly, and they went into the fight with a different spirit.

"Sometimes a boy who hadn't heard from home for two years or more would get his letters at last, a lot of them in a bunch. You ought to have seen his face when he saw his name on the envelope, and knew that those letters were for him! You ought to have seen how many times he got letters out and reread them, when he thought no one was looking! You ought to have seen the vim with which he went into the next battle!

"What kind of letters should the home-folk write to the soldier at the front? Literary quality isn't the thing most useful in them, of course. Perhaps the best of them all are the ones packed full of little homely details—accounts of the new neighbors across the street, and of the words the baby has learned to say, and of how Jimmy is growing out of all his clothes, and getting to look more like his daddy every day—and if he just grows up to be half so good a man it will be all right. These are the letters that are often reread by the soldier before he goes over the top, just commonplace letters that tell of every-day happenings back home, and of the love and the trust that are in keeping for him there.

"Certain other types of letter ought never to be sent to the men at the front. One is that written by the selfish or thoughtless woman whose closely written pages are blurred with her tears, and taken up with her own sorrow in having her soldier so far from home, and her plea for him to come back at once, since everything is going wrong without him.

"When it comes to sending home-boxes to the soldiers overseas, women should be sure that they send gifts that are needed, and that won't spoil en route. A lot of junk merely clutters things up for the soldiers there. But a letter is a gift that is always timely and never in the way."

Soldiers should be careful to answer all the letters they receive and write an extra one or two now and then. They should remember that their relatives are just as anxious, if not more so, to hear from them.

