"THE BARRACKS WHEEZE"

By PRIVATE CHET SHAFER
(Aviation Corps, Somewhere in Texas)

The
Man trouble
With
Rome
A
Roistering
Blade
In the arms
Is that
You
Take
Your side
On
The
Bars.

ALL WINTER LONG A SQUAD LEADER AT CAMP CUSTER HAS BEEN CALLING "SUMMERTIME" AND THAT PRIVATE HAS MAINTAINED THE SUPREME CHIN TO ANSWER "HERE."

Bless a fool, it's as easy matter to fraternize with the boys in the crap game.

BUTTONS HARD TO GET CLEPPY WITH A BOILER FILLED WITH ONIONS FOR FEELING.

When they pettishly requested Edgar Rinaldo to "can" the noise after the lights were out he placed the blame on the woof of his blankets.

That battle
Is
I Wiz
Who
Knows
How to do
When
He's
Getting pretty.

Is there anyone else present who wishes a bottle of this tonic?

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO POST ANOTHER LIST OF BORES—THOSE WHO ARE CONTINUALLY SAYING—"WELL, THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE DID IT ON THE BORDER."

"Dressing—In Two Counts."

"EXERCISE—BEGIN."

On his way out from mess Eustace remarked that he was getting fashionable—he had just finished a slumming tour.

From Webster: Slum—In army slang. A euphonious word, powerfully descriptive, imperiously attractive and snacking of dignity.

And Webster, in his day, despite his lack of tools, didn't skid very much.

AND

ANY WAY YOU READ IT—

IT'S A LONG, LONG

STORY.

There will be special wards in the state asylums later on for those who lost their marbles trying to figure out the thickness of their blankets.

THE WRIST WATCH

Out of the first million men utilized for the national army almost as many secured wrist watches as commissions. The pieces, with phosphorescent dials, went heavy on furloughs. In camp they were about as useless as a mad dog. With the recognition of the infallibility of the bugle and the top-sergeant's whistle thousands of the tickers were sold after the first week for anything from a split on a box from home to six-bits 'till payday.

Many excuses have been offered for the wrist watch but the most reasonable, coming from a high authority, credits it with creating the necessity for a second hole in the left wristlet.

Wrist watches were not used at Valley Forge. At that time the soldiers were fighting for liberty instead of passes home.

WOULD ELEVATE MISICIANS

A bill has been introduced in Congress by Senator Robinson which would create the position of bandmaster for chief musicians in the cavalry, infantry, artillery and Engineers' Corps, who would have the rank of second lieutenant and receive the same benefit in respect to pay, emolument and retirement arising from longevity.

DOUBLE LEAVE NECESSARY

Officer: Now, Smith, you had twenty-four hours' leave to see your wife and child. You have been away forty-eight. What have you got to say for yourself?

Smith: But it was twins, sir.—Judge.

LEFT AT THE POST

Learn French

You will find it a mighty good thing when you get to France, if you can "parler francais" a little—and what's more, if you can make out what a Frenchman means when he "parle français" at you.

Suppose you are in a sector next to French troops, or are close to French troops in a big offensive; suppose you have to take a quick order or message from a French officer; suppose you have a chance to help a wounded "poilu"; suppose you're wounded yourself; suppose you are billeted in a French house; suppose you're sent to make purchases, or to get information from peasants or townspeople; your knowledge of French might make the difference between delay and speed, between blundering and efficiency, between comfort and discomfort, between suffering and relief—even between life and death, between defeat and victory.

Moreover, you are going to have the opportunity in France to get acquainted with one of the finest nations on the face of the earth—a nation whose mind is alive and keen, a nation of fine feeling and heroic achievement; and you can't get really acquainted with them unless you can talk with their men and read their papers.

There are thousands and thousands of men in the army studying French right now. General Pershing himself studied French on the way across. There are hundreds of classes in French behind the lines "Over There"—when they get there they realize how much they need it. There are just about seventy-five thousand men enrolled in French classes in the training camps at home. In some cantonments work in French is required of large groups of officers and of men.

The Y. M. C. A. maintains classes in French in every big camp, and expects to develop this work more and more. Find out about the Y. M. C. A. French classes in your camp, and if you can arrange to attend them regularly, by all means do so.

But if you can't, here's the next best thing: Trench and Camp today begins a special series of French lessons, intended for the men who can't attend the classes. These lessons are to be very simple. They will consist mainly in giving you the particular words and phrases that are most important for you to know, showing you how they are pronounced, telling you what they mean, and combining them in practical sentences. They won't teach you all the French there is, but they will give you a good start. And here goes for

LESSON 1

WORDS AND PHRASES

THE words and phrases are given first in their real French spelling; then in a special spelling that shows how they are to be pronounced; then the English meaning is given.

donnez-moi, doné mwa, give me
de l'eau, duh l oh, some water
du lait, dü lè, some milk
du café, dü kafé, some coffee
de la soupe, duh la soop, some soup
des pommes de terre, dé pom duh ter, some potatoes
s'il vous plait, s ee voo plè, please
monsieur, muhsyuh, sir
merci, mèrsee, thank you
voulez-vous? voolè voo? do you want?
oui, wee, yes

In the special spellings that show how words are to be pronounced:

a sounds like a in English father
è sounds like e in English met
é sounds like a in English fate
ee sounds like ee in English beet.

In making è, é, and ee, draw back the corners of your lips.

o sounds like o in English softer,
oh sounds like o in English go,
oo sounds like oo in English boot,
uh sounds like e in English fern, when the r is not pronounced.

In making o, oh, oo, and uh, stick out your lips.

The letter ü indicates a sound quite different from any English sound. It is made with the lips in the same position as for oo and the tongue in the same position as for ee. To practice this sound, get the lips rounded as for whistling, and then, holding them firmly in that position, try to say ee.

Notice that French words are not spelled consistently; and notice in particular that many letters that appear in the spelling of the French word, especially final consonants, are not pronounced at all.

Notice that the expression for "some" is different before different nouns.

EXERCISE

1. Try to understand these sentences, and then pronounce them carefully, according to the pronunciations indicated above: Voulez-vous de l'eau? Ooi, monsieur. Donnez-moi des pommes de terre, s'il vous plait. Merci, monsieur. Donnez-moi du café, s'il vous plait. Voulez-vous de la soupe? Merci. Voulez-vois du lait, monsieur? Oui, merci.

2. Say in French: Will you have some coffee? Yes, thank you. Give me some potatoes, please. Do you want any soup? No, thank you. Give me some water, please.

Cut this lesson out and keep it, and watch for Lesson 2 next week!

MUD CAUSES BAD WOUNDS

Discovery has been made by a major in the Medical Department, U. S. A., just returned from France that mud can and frequently does cause serious wounds on soldiers' bodies. A bullet striking the ground may throw up a splash of mud with sufficient velocity to penetrate the skin. The soil of France and Belgium is so highly fertilized that a dangerous wound often results.

TEN MILES GAINED

According to the annual report of the British Aeronautical Engineering Society, the speed of British scout airplanes was increased ten miles an hour by the substitution of flat "stream line" wires for the ordinary circular wires formerly used.

OFFER HAIR FOR BELTING

Having heard that German women were cutting off their hair and giving it to the Kaiser to make belting for machinery in his munition factories, a Pennsylvania mother and daughter made a similar offer to the War Department. The patriotic offer of the "crowning glory" was declined with thanks and the explanation that the United States government is not quite that hard up yet.

SPENDING BILLIONS

A statement recently issued by Secretary of Treasury McAdoo showed that in the six months prior to January 1 the military establishment of the country had spent $1,700,000,000 and that by June 30 this year $8,790,000,000 will have been spent.

Changes in Insignia Of U. S. Officers Urged To Prevent Confusion

Suggestion has been made by a major in one of the United States Engineers commands now in France that the insignia of the commissioned officers from second lieutenant to colonel be slightly changed to prevent confusion in the minds of French and British soldiers.

The second lieutenants with their gold shoulder bars and brown braid on their sleeves are primarily responsible for the major making the suggestion. Writing home the major said:

"A lot of second lieutenants arrived yesterday from the United States with a single gold bar on their shoulders and khaki colored braid on their overcoat sleeves. It makes them more distinguished in appearance than first lieutenants and greatly impresses the French, who, in common with the rest of the world, think gold is superior to silver. We have the same thing in the gold leaf for a major and a silver leaf of the same pattern for a lieutenant colonel."

The major suggests that the second lieutenants' gold bar be eliminated and that officers of that rank be given a single silver bar. First lieutenants could be designated by two silver bars; captains could be given the silver leaf, the majors could retain the gold leaf, the lieutenant colonel could be designated by the silver eagle, while a gold eagle could be used by colonels.

"Our system does not seem to be rational and is entirely arbitrary," says this major. "In every other army in the world a single device—braid, star, pip, etc.—indicates a second lieutenant, two a first lieutenant; three a captain, etc. Officers and civilians are continually having us explain our system, which calls for much memorizing without any mnemonic aid. Also on the sleeves of our overcoats we are one behind other armies. Since we are acting with armies having a definite system we should conform. One braid for a second lieutenant, two for a first lieutenant, three for a captain, four for a major, five for a lieutenant colonel, six for a colonel. The change would be easy to make and would not cost much. As it is our first lieutenants are thought to be second lieutenants, our captains to be first lieutenants, our majors to be captains, etc."

The present gold and silver shoulder strap designation for officers and chevron system for non-commissioned officers in the United States Army was adopted in 1847. Originally lieutenant colonels wore two leaves to differentiate them from majors.

It has been suggested that if the United States creates the rank of field marshal during the war the insignia would have to be a sun, similar to that worn by Marshal Joffre on the front of his coat, as four stars are now being used to indicate the rank of general.

AMERICAN WOUNDED GET BEST OF CARE

No American soldier who has the misfortune to be wounded in France will suffer from lack of care, as reports show that the medical branch of our army is splendidly equipped for its work. Indeed, an injured man will probably receive better attention than he could secure at home, for many specialists of national reputation, besides some of the best women nurses are serving as volunteers in the military hospitals.

A careful system for handling the disabled has been worked out. If a soldier receives a wound in the trenches it is dressed at once from the first-aid kit, which every man carries. Stretcher bearers or his comrades then assist him to the first-aid dressing station, usually a dugout and often within a hundred yards of the fighting line. A hammock stretcher has been devised for use in narrow, winding trenches.

The medical officer at the first-aid station gives the wound a more careful dressing, injects anti-tetanus serum and telephones for an ambulance. The latter comes as close to the front as is possible, always a dangerous service, as German flyers regard both ambulances and hospitals as fair targets for their bombs.

The wounded man is taken to the field hospital, four or five miles to the rear, and his injury is inspected. If an operation is imperative, it is performed; but if the patient is strong enough, he is made comfortable and sent without delay to an evacuation hospital, eight or ten miles from the front, and where American women nurses are on duty. If it is possible, every wounded soldier will be under the care of a woman nurse, in a place of comparative quiet and safety, within twenty-four hours after his injury is received.