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AMERICA'S PART IN THE WAR

(This is the first of a series of editorials written especially for TRENCH AND CAMP by the patriotic, co-operating publishers printing editions of TRENCH AND CAMP throughout the United States.)

By HARRY CHANDLER

Publisher of the Los Angeles Times

France and Great Britain for three and a half long, terrible years have borne the burden and heat of the struggle. Had they not done so, democracy had gone down to defeat before America was able to marshal her physical and material resources. We feel justified in asserting that America has played a prominent, if not the consummate part, in securing the final victory.

For the race is not always to the swift or the battle to the strong. The moral fiber, the spiritual aims of the fighter must in the long run prove the decisive factor in every contest, even though the weapons be those of fire and steel and destruction.

To you want to know why America is bound to conquer the efficient Hun, he has numbers ever so many, his men implements of war ever so numerous, his organization ever so powerful? Do you care to discover why America's part in the war is the noblest and the grandest that any nation ever undertook? And why our allies, knowing they had the sympathy and support of this Christian nation, were given the moral courage from heaven to withstand the most ferocious blows of the mightiest military machine ever devised in the annals of mankind? We

know of no better manner for throwing light on this point than by placing side by side the instructions issued by the Prussian overlords to their super-warriors and the words addressed by General Pershing to our own boys about to suffer their first baptism of fire.

Thus speaks the would-be world conqueror to the men of his invading armies. He calls on the German soldier to make his name more terrible to the enemy than that of Attila, the Hun. "Strike him dead! The Day of Judgment will not ask your reasons." And again: "By steeping himself in military history an officer will be able to guard himself against excessive humanitarian notions."

And now listen to the words of the brave Pershing: "Your first duty is to fight against a foe and to guard our ally. You are also to lift a shield above the poor and weak. You will be very tender and gentle with little children. You will do your duty like brave men. Fear God. Honor your country."

America is the first nation in history to place its soldiers officially and directly under the care of religion. That in the winning part of America is filling in the world's savagery of wars. And such being her attitude, can any one for a moment doubt the issue?

TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL GRADUATES

Approximately twelve thousand enlisted men have qualified for commissions through the training school courses at the camps and cantonments of the country. They have been given the certificate of eligibility and will be commissioned as vacancies arise.

It is to these men that have been pronounced eligible that a word may be addressed at this time. To them it may have been a disappointment that they are not immediately taken from the ranks. But the delay is all part of discipline. The important thing for them to keep in mind is that they are marked men—men marked for promotion; and the eyes of their officers will be more closely than ever upon them. Also the eyes of enlisted men will watch them closely. From now on they must set the example, more conspicuously even than they set the example before they were sent to the training schools.

It was the fact that they were good soldiers that led to their selection for the schools. Through the long weeks of training they had to live up to the promise they had given or fall by the wayside. Hundreds of them did fall. Those who survived were fit to survive.

But their position now is doubly difficult. Being marked men, every act, every word, will be the word and act of potential officers of the army of the United States.

The presence for the time in the ranks means much to their commanding officers. By their example the commanding officers can teach as they have been trying by precept. The qualified candidates will be pointed to day after day.

The delay, then, is a splendid thing. It will lengthen the course of training; it will strengthen the hands of commanding officers; it will inspire the men who still serve in the ranks.

The great body of the army is the enlisted personnel. The history of all wars has given examples of men who rose from the ranks to positions of great responsibility and distinction. Napoleon spoke from the record when he said that in every private soldier's knapsack was a marshal's baton. Here is a great object lesson in democracy: men chosen because they were exceptionally good soldiers, now qualified for commissions, but still doing the work of men in the ranks, waiting for the great day of opportunity. Every man in the ranks, every man whose veins have the red blood of Americanism, will take heart from this object lesson and try, even as these men have tried, to fit themselves to be called eligible when the fortunes of war shall give them their shoulder bars.

There is war enough for everyone. The chances will come quickly and none can tell just where they will strike. A story of the British army is pertinent:

On the fields of Picardy a young officer had just been given command of a company. He led his men over the top of the trenches and was struck by a bullet just as he emerged. "First Lieutenant, you are in command, sir; carry on!" This was his command. The first lieutenant took command and, too, was struck. "Second Lieutenant, you are in command, sir; carry on!" This was the next command. The second lieutenant, a mere boy, proudly took the lead. Then he was hit. "First Sergeant, you are in command, carry on!" And the shattered little company, led by the first sergeant, gained the objective.

The first sergeant was ready. He was able to "carry on." So these young graduates of the training schools are ready. So, too, they will be able to "Carry On."

"Waste Is An Arch Enemy Of Army Efficiency"

By MAJOR I. S. OSBORN, Q.M.C., N.A.

In Charge of Reclamation Division

CONSERVATION in the Army is a vital necessity. Care and upkeep of clothing and equipment and saving of all material should receive the serious individual attention of every man in Uncle Sam's fighting force.

1. Available supply of both raw and finished material is limited.

2. Industrial enterprises are being severely strained to equip the Army now mobilized and which is soon to be called to the colors.

3. The labor of the country is exerting tremendous efforts to produce industrial necessities of national importance.

Economy is prosecuting the war. America is the only large financial power able to close the world's conflict. Waste is an arch enemy of Army efficiency.

The tremendous cost of training, equipping, transporting and feeding our Army is worthy of serious consideration; it is conservatively estimated that the cost of maintaining each enlisted man per year will be in excess of three thousand dollars, which must be paid by the Government. Who makes up the Government? Two classes—the man in service and the man at home who is caring for dependents, individual industrial enterprises and necessary business.

EVERY TIME A MAN IN SERVICE NEGLECTFULLY PERMITS DESTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT HE IS MAKING HIS SERVICE A BURDEN, RATHER THAN A HELP TO THE WINNING OF THE WAR.

Every line of business is responding to taxation to win the war. Co-operation is a vital necessity. Do your share by conserving the equipment that has been purchased with taxes paid by your neighbors or by your own families at home. When your uniform, overcoat, shoes or any other article of equipment shows signs of wear and tear, take that personal interest, because it is your Government's property, YOUR OWN PROPERTY, and turn it in to the Supply Officer for repair. The old saying: "A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE" is particularly applicable to your case; it may mean the conservation of your entire outfit; it does mean aid in winning the war.

You, Mr. Soldier, are bearing your part of the War Tax Burden. Your pleasures and luxuries, the Theaters, Movies, Cigarettes, Tobacco, Railroad Fares, Pullman accommodations, Telegrams, are all taxed. Shall this burden be made heavier or will you help to lighten it?

LINES TO OUR DEPARTING SOLDIERS

By Dick Gifford, Former Champion Walker of America

The time has come to say "Good-by," you soldier boys must go Upon the fields of battle, that your young hearts do not know You're just a bunch of real live Yankees, and we will bank on you To guide our colors to the front and rush them nobly through the foe. What matters how the cannon roar, when Yankees face the foe? The fighting spirit's always there, while Old Glory's on the staff.

Old Glory! Boys, the very name just thrills me through and through, And I know, boys, that grand old name has the same effect on you. For Freedom's sake. That's why you're sent, across the briny deep To fight in France where lives are spent, that Liberty might keep. Go to it, boys, when you get there, as in the days of yore. When all our grandads, side by side, brought Freedom to the fore.

There's glory waiting on those fields, there's a name for every man Who wants to do his level best, just like a Yankee can. There are names like Washington and Grant, and Farragut and Lee Awaiting there upon those fields, who'll bring us Victory? We're parting soon, but not for long, at least we hope that way. We're with you all in spirit, boys, though at home some of us stay.

Just think about the Stars and Stripes, the battles they've been through, And keep them floating to the skies, the task it's up to you. Your grandads all were scrappers, boys, no kaiser could hold 'em down; Now you go out and do your bit, and do the Kaiser brown. What matters how the cannon roar, when Yankees face the foe? The fighting spirit's always there, while Old Glory's on the staff.

CANTONMENT TYPES

THE KING

THIS is a democratic army. Some of the licensed crowned heads may well tremble. Their crowns are due for a speedy drop in market value, and it's highly probable that even their heads may depreciate somewhat, when America's Own begin wearing old hiking leather on the journey toward Berlin.

And yet—there are Crowned Heads in the army, and of it. There's no glitter to the crown. Nor do they hold their positions by divine edict or the fortunes of birth.

Their crown is the White Cap. It signifies the Ruler of a Cookdom—an iron spoon, or ladle. Their word has been known to make many a High Private tremble with lowliness. And even a mess-sergeant—a Prince in his own right—loses poise and possession occasionally in the presence of The King.

There is the suzerainty of soup, the principality of pudding, the dukedom of dishes. Many a Lieutenant has shaken at their regal ukases. And the bird who can chirp orders into the ear of Second Loots is Some Kink! White, not purple, is the royal color of this army king. It lends a domestic touch to many a drab landscape. It is reminiscent of the Queenliness of White in the kitchens of home, where Mother rules, her sceptre a cook-book.

WRONG PRONOUN

Hindenburg—I think we have cause to be proud of our initial successes. Kaiser—Where do you get that "we" stuff?

SEND IT HOME

Trench and Camp will be appreciated by the folks back home. Send it to them regularly so that they may be kept informed on the life and activity of your camp.