

TRENCH & CAMP

Published weekly at the National Camps and Cantonments for the soldiers of the United States

Room 304, Pullitzer Building
National Headquarters
New York City

JOHN STEWART BRYAN
Chairman of Advisory Board of Co-operating Publishers

Camp and Location	Co-operating Publisher
Camp H. H. ...	New Orleans Times ...
Camp ...	Port Worth Star Telegram ...
Camp ...	Battle Creek Enquirer News ...
Camp ...	Oklahoma City Oklahoman ...
Camp ...	San Francisco Bulletin ...
Camp ...	The Chicago Daily News ...
Camp ...	Augsburg Herald ...
Camp ...	Columbia States ...
Camp ...	Richmond News Leader ...
Camp ...	Wash. D. C. Evening Star ...
Camp ...	San Antonio Light ...
Camp ...	New York World ...

CANTONMENT TYPES

THE KIDDER

A GOOD share of the influences working for the development of high soldier morale comes from outside the ranks—the officers, the folks back home, the welfare workers, the pen-wielders—but there's a sizable collection of influences at work in the ranks themselves. Certain types of soldiers are as valuable in fostering spirit as ice cream and cake at mess. One of these types is The Kidder.

Every man in the army has to be more or less a master of this Tongue-and-brain art. "The Come-back" as a means of self-defense is rivalled only by the Manly Science itself. Many a man whose fist is No. 10 can't stand a whole squad or platoon by means of his ready wit. Most soldiers would rather take a beating than have to pocket the small end of a kidding match. The torture, for instance, which many a sergeant has to undergo when the batteries of Josh are turned on him after laps under secure cover of darkness is unacquailed by the rack or the whole works of the Spanish Inquisition—or even a balling-out by the Primary Loo.

Often, he serves as a full portion of pepper, salt and all the other condiments in his company. When a bird grouses at the weather—bring on the O. D. Kidder! Let him turn loose all he's got. The complainer will retire under a cover-fire of grumbles, and ere long his lamp dickers and goes out. When the Mess Kicker breaks forth, allow the kidder several seconds.

"G'wan the only Waldorf you ever knew was Bill's Free Lunch or the Quick-and-Dirty on the corner. Mess! You never had a square meal in your life till you joined the army." That does the business, more effectively than a general order.

The kidder can stop up every alley of complaint quicker than a decaloration of peace.

The Conscientious Objector is his pet theme. And the C. O. rarely loafs in the vicinity of the Company Barbed Wit. The yellow-livered specie loves nothing better than an argument, but The Kidder is beyond that. He never argues. He loads his belt with ammunition and shoots from a sniping post. And like all hypocrites, the one of conscientious objection draws the shortest breaths and gets the least nourishment from unwarnerable, thirty-three degree, heel-and-toe ridicule.

May the kidder be always with us. An army of them would make a healthy fighting force. And the German is the poorest kidder in the world. He isn't a sport, and he isn't a kidder. His only wit is cruel. It has to hurt—draw blood, so to speak—or it doesn't qualify.

"A FIRST CLASS SOLDIER"

BY JAMES M. THOMSON
Publisher of the New Orleans Item

A soldier's work is a man's work. The best men in America are the men in uniform. Next to these come the men who would like to be in uniform, and generally speaking the men in America who would not be willing to do their uniform and take a turn at it, provided they are fitted for a soldier's work by health, age and training, are not real Americans and are not worth very much.

For nearly twenty years I have been employing other people. I don't believe that there is one of these men who would not have been better off and a better man for a soldier's training. For military life teaches a man self respect, it teaches him to take orders and obey them and thus it fits him to give orders. The only man I think of just now who doesn't take orders and obey some one is the Kaiser, and if he lives long enough he will learn. Some boys go to the service and may have to face bullets. The truth of the matter is that every man who is worth his salt has a sneaking or open envy of them.

And all of us know that the fellow who is unwilling to stand up for a

good cause, fight and risk his life, if need be, is a poor sort of fellow, who is not fit to hold much of a job anywhere, so to look forward to the time when the men who are securing the benefit of army training will be in demand for places of responsibility in civil life, but toward the time when this training will fit many of them for taking over the conduct of the great affairs of the country.

The saying that "success needs no explanation" is not altogether true; but it is certainly true that the man in uniform has no explanation to make as to how he is serving his country. Most men who are not in uniform feel every now that some explanation is necessary.

In the army as elsewhere there is bound to be a difference among men. So a great deal depends on how good a record a man makes as a soldier. All of my life I have heard veterans of the Civil War use the expression in describing some man "and he was a first-class soldier." In the years to come that kind of a recommendation is going to determine the careers of hundreds of thousands of the men who are going to run America. And that is right. The men who are going to run this war right can run the country right.

THE HONOR OF THE AMERICAN ARMY

When that grim old warrior, General Chaffee, led the American troops in the China campaign, his attention was called to the fact that certain of the Allied troops were looting. Particularly was his attention called to the fact that astronomical instruments of great value had disappeared from an observatory.

With all the vigor he could summon, General Chaffee sent a protest to the field commander, a German general. Having been in the field with the German troops, the American commander probably thought the direct route was the best, although military etiquette demanded that the protest be addressed to the senior of the two.

It struck General Chaffee that it was scarcely consistent with the avowed ideals of the armies of the great powers that they should permit their men to pillage. But it was a new line of reasoning to the Hun commander, who very curtly acknowledged receipt of the protest and demanded to know why it had not been written in German.

Because of the international favor to the incident, the authorities in Washington were compelled to administer a mild rebuke to General Chaffee, not because of the stand he had taken but because his righteous indignation had led him to such vigorous statement. But General Chaffee was rewarded later with the highest honors that could be bestowed by a grateful government, and among his prized possessions for the rest of his life was a letter from the then Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt telling him that the Republic would always be grateful to him, not alone for his achievements but for what the American soldiers had not been permitted to do.

When the admittances were paid, the American nation showed that it counted some things far more pre-

ious than money. The amount awarded to the country was not placed in the coffers of the nation; but was held as a trust for the education of Chinese students at American universities.

These are two incidents in the military history of the United States of which we, the citizens, have reason to be proud.

In Flanders another chapter has been written.

We have gone to the relief of stricken France. We have pledged all that we have and are. In fulfillment of our pledge we have placed a great army in the country of our Ally. We have rained fields by our military operations; have occupied houses; have razed forests—all this, mind you, in behalf of France.

The fields were owned by individual farmers; so were the houses and so, too, were the forests. The fields, the houses and the forests were of the French peasants and landowners had. If the Hun conquered they would be swept away.

Going to France's aid in an expedition such as we have undertaken might have been reasoned that the burden of paying for what we seized would rest upon our Ally. But our government did not so reason. General Pershing sent to Washington a request for the passage of legislation reimbursing everyone whose property had been taken. To relieve his argument our Field Commander said that any action short of this would make our Army suffer by comparison with the British, which had paid value for value for everything taken or destroyed.

Action was prompt. The Congress enacted the needed legislation. But it is with pardonable pride that we who are Americans recall that our action in the China campaign set a standard recognized and adopted by the British, that is thoroughly in keeping with the high aims we have proclaimed.

THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE

By F. O. BRAMHALL

One especial bond of sympathy between Americans and Frenchmen lies in the fact that just as the United States represents and maintains the republican idea in the Western Hemisphere, so France upholds it in the Eastern. Yet Americans in France will soon be struck by differences in the forms and ways of action in government. Not only will they find unfamiliar titles for familiar things, but they will occasionally find familiar names applied to quite different things.

The President of France, to begin with, is a very different sort of officer from the President of the United States. Although he lives in greater state and is surrounded with more ceremony, his actual power is but a shadow of that of our chief magistrate. While the American president wields the great powers of appointment and removal from office, directs and controls the great army of federal officers, manages according to his own judgment the foreign affairs of the nation, and argues upon Congress and the country the policies in which he personally believes, none of these things are true of the French President.

Cabinet Governs Country

It is in France the Cabinet, not the President, which manages the affairs of the Republic, and even though action is taken in the name of the President, everybody knows that the Cabinet is responsible for it. The Premier is a much more powerful man than the President.

Nor is the French Cabinet at all like the American one. It is a group of about a dozen men, who are the leaders of the Chambers of Deputies (corresponding to our House of Representatives) and the Senate, and who speak for the majority in the Chamber. The Premier is chosen by the Chamber of Deputies, by vote, tells them that it no longer approves their conduct, whereupon they must all resign and let a new cabinet take their place. The Cabinet, therefore, is the center of the French Government; not, as in United States, a group in which the President may consult but whose advice he need not follow, but one which actually wields the power, subject to the approval of Parliament.

The Parliament is not unlike our Congress in its general outlines. The Chamber of Deputies is composed of 501 members, elected by universal manhood suffrage, each from a dis-

trict of about 100,000 people. All are elected once, for a term of four years. The Senate has 300 members, chosen in the 87 Departments of France by electoral colleges, most of the electors being delegates from the town or commune councils. The Senators are elected for nine years, and a third of them go out every three years.

In the actual working of Parliament, however, the American will find many differences from that of Congress, and those mainly because France has no such thing as national political parties as we have and as the British have. Instead, we find in the French Parliament a dozen little groups, without strong party discipline, forming and dissolving combinations to support or to overthrow cabinets. Every Cabinet, consequently, must represent not a single party but a group of more or less harmonious ones; and that makes it necessary for a French Premier to be a very skillful manager of men if he is to last very long in office.

Departments Instead of States

Beneath the National Government with its seat at Paris, there are, of course, local governments. France has, however, no States like ours, with their distinct constitutions which the central government cannot encroach upon. They are all created alike. Every commune, town or city, and they are much more closely directed and managed, all over France, by national officers than our local governments are.

France is divided into 87 Departments, each of which is governed by a Prefect appointed from Paris, with large powers. Each Department is divided into four or five Districts or Arrondissements, and they in turn, into some eight or nine cantons; but neither of these plays any large part in the Frenchman's life.

At the basis of French Government, however, stands the most ancient of French units of government, the Commune. The Commune corresponds pretty much to our township. It may be a town or village or city; it may be purely rural. It may be a few acres, or many thousands in extent. It may have a handful of people, or hundreds of thousands. Every one has its mayor and its communal council, both directly elected by all male French citizens over twenty-one years of age, and each is vested with the powers which bring government closest home—the care of health, local orders, morality, local public works and public utility services.

It is in the 36,000 French communes that French democracy finds its most permanent expression.

CHANGES CONSIDERED

Announcement has been made by the Quartermaster General that a number of changes in the uniforms of enlisted men are under consideration but no changes are contemplated in the uniforms of officers.

ORIGIN OF "TANK"

The name "tank" was given to the mighty British fighting machines because for secrecy's sake they were known as "Water Carriers for Mesopotamia" while being shipped to the Western theatre of war.

