

TRENCH & CAMP

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

National Headquarters
Room 501, Pulitzer Building
New York City

JOHN STEWART BRYAN

Chairman of Advisory Board of Co-operating Publishers

Camp and Location	Newspaper	Publisher
Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, La.	New Orleans Times Picayune	D. D. Moore
Camp Bowie, Fort Worth, Texas	Fort Worth Star Telegram	Amos G. Carter
Campron Aviation Field, Avondale, Fla.	Tampa Times	D. B. McKay
Camp Cody, Deming, N. Mex.	El Paso Herald	H. D. Slater
Camp Center, Battle Creek, Mich.	Battle Creek Enquirer-News	A. L. Miller
Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass.	Boston Globe	Charles H. Taylor, Jr.
Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J.	Trenton Times	James Kersey
Camp Doniphan, Fort Hill, Okla.	Oklahoma City Oklahoman	E. K. Gaylord
Camp Forrest, Chickamauga, Ga.	Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times	H. C. Adler
Camp Fremont, Palo Alto, Cal.	San Francisco Bulletin	R. A. Crothers
Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kan.	Topeka State Journal	Frank P. MacLennan
Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga.	Atlanta Constitution	Clark Howell
Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill.	The Chicago Daily News	Victor F. Lawson
Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C.	Charlotte Observer	W. B. Sullivan
Camp Hancock, Augusta, Ga.	Augusta Herald	Bowdye Phinizy
Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.	Columbia State	W. A. Elliott
Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, Fla.	Jacksonville Times-Union	Harry Chandler
Camp Kearny, Linda Vista, Cal.	Los Angeles Times	John Stewart Bryan
Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va.	Taroma Tribune	F. S. Baker
Camp Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.	Oregon Post	Gough J. Palmer
Camp Logan, Houston, Texas	Waco Morning News	Charles E. Marsh
Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas	Birmingham (Ala.) News	Victor E. Hanson
Camp McChesnan, Anniston, Ala.	Atlanta Journal	J. S. Cohen
Camp McPherson, Atlanta, Ga.	Wash. D. C. Evening Star	Fleming Newbold
Camp Meade, Admiral, Md.	Arkansas Democrat	Elmer E. Clarke
Camp Pike, Little Rock, Ark.	Greenville Daily News	B. H. Peace
Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C.	New Orleans Item	James M. Thomson
Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss.	Montgomery Advertiser	C. H. Allen
Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Ala.	Louisville Courier Journal	Bruce Haldeman
Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky.	Louisville Light	Charles S. Diehl
Camp Travis, San Antonio, Texas	San Antonio Light	Don C. Seitz
Kelly Field and Camp Stanley	New York World	W. T. Anderson
Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I., N. Y.	Macon Telegraph	R. C. Siegling
Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga.	Charleston News and Courier	Edward H. Butler
Charleston Naval Station	Buffalo Evening News	
Buffalo Military District, embracing ten Camps		

Published under the auspices of the National War Work Council, Y. M. C. A. of the United States, with the co-operation of the above named publishers and papers.

"IF YOU DON'T KNOW, YOU ARE KILLED"

Soldiers of the second draft are filling all the American camps. For many months now they have been prepared for separation from the peaceful pursuits of civil life. Some have come into the National Army with a little preliminary training gained in home guard units or at the many schools that have been started all over the country with the avowed idea of fitting new men for non-commissioned officers' chevrons and starting them on their way to the officers' training schools.

But the great majority of the new men have had absolutely no training. To them a military encampment is an undiscovered country.

During the first few days the novelty of their surroundings and the succession of new experiences will keep their minds actively engaged. But in the next few weeks there will be times of physical weariness and mental distress. In the quiet of the squad tent, too tired to sleep—for there is such a condition—the new men are going to question the wisdom of all this intensive training. Whether they can give adequate expression to the thought or not they will feel that the army is the slave of a system, that much of the routine might be eliminated. These men will come to feel that all this preliminary training is not only unnecessary but that it actually makes them sense a danger of what the athlete calls "going stale."

To such men Trench and Camp addresses a heartfelt admonition. Those who have been privileged to sit under the spell of the magic message of Lieutenant-Colonel George Applin, of the British military commission, well remember his famous paraphrase: "You say time is money. I say solemnly it is more than money—it is life itself."

At Camp Wadsworth the British officer illustrated his meaning in dramatic fashion. A great meeting of all the officers at that encampment had been arranged for ten o'clock on a Saturday morning. It was four minutes after the hour.

Colonel Applin drew out his watch. "Gentlemen," he began, "we are now four minutes late. If we were similarly delayed in going into action we would count our dead in hundreds, perhaps in thousands—our needlessly dead."

The average American is a human paradox. He will elbow his way into a crowded car to save time when time is of no concern to him and when a half-filled car is only a few hundred feet away. But he will be late in keeping an important appointment.

In the military there is no choice. There must be absolute precision. In fact, the term "military precision" has

grown out of the army's insistence upon clockwork obedience.

One of the first lessons the newcomer to the military must learn is this "military precision." He learns it through the infantry drill—through the manual of arms. When an exasperated officer denounces the careless soldier, the awkward man resents the officer's display of spleen. Perhaps it is unbecoming—perhaps an officer should have himself better in hand. But the officer knows. Back of the platoon he sees the regiment; back of the regiment he sees the brigade and the division. Back of all that he sees the huge problem of army transport.

The man in the awkward squad has not come to see these things. A division is merely a unit to him and he knows nothing of the difficulties in maneuvering 27,000 odd men.

But let him stop to think of the possible order calling for the replacing of a battle-weary division with entirely new troops—all of this to be done in absolute quiet and in utter darkness; and in the given space of a few hours.

The new troops must be where they are wanted when they are wanted. This does not mean three minutes ahead of time or three minutes late. Three minutes ahead might mean the blocking of a duckboard road—a path in the maze of entrenchments just large enough for one man. Three minutes late might mean exposure to attack at a point where an attack could not be withstood.

The drill regulations and the field service regulations are the result of many years of experience in the handling of troops. They are not codified experiments, but codified experience.

In the marine training camps there is a slogan that all the recruits must learn. They carry it about with them on banners and boards; they sing it and they shout it. The slogan is:

"If You Don't Know, You Are Killed!"

No better slogan could be adopted by the new National Army.

The men who direct the training know. They are aiming to conserve the lives of their men. In a word, they are teaching their men to move with such clockwork precision that they all move together; that the Army moves as one man.

Not only minutes but seconds count. Every day the officers of a regiment go to regimental headquarters to have their watches adjusted. All must read alike. When an order is given to be executed at a certain minute it means that the hands of every officers' watch will point then to that minute—not to a few seconds off the minute—but exactly that minute. This is what the Europeans call the synchronizing watch system. Bugles cannot be sounded; whistles must not be blown—the enemy would have the advantage of advance knowledge of an impending troop movement. The silent sentinel—the synchronized watch—must give the order.

From time to time Trench and Camp will seek to interpret to the new men the meaning of drill regulations and other aspects of military training. Sometimes men lose heart because they cannot see the significance of all the elaborate preparation. But they must acquire a knowledge of the military machinery even if they cannot grasp its meaning. For, "If you don't know, you are killed."

No Lowering Of Self-Respect In Submitting To Discipline

LIEUT.-COL. GEORGE APPLIN

"There is only one thing that will win this war. The Germans have had it for years; the finest discipline in the world. The whole nation has been preparing for over forty years for the present war, not alone the army but the whole nation, and all the preparations made and planned are based on discipline. It was, therefore, not to be wondered at that when the United States entered the war the German General Staff issued the following statement: 'The German people need not fear the entrance of America into this war, because America is a democracy and will never attain the standard of discipline required.' This opinion was well founded, as Americans would never accept German discipline (the discipline of brute force, and they know no other)."

"How, then, have British successes been possible? Through discipline—instantaneous, and given willingly. Not the German discipline of force and fear, but the discipline of respect for superior officers. The British and our French brothers in arms would no more think of accepting the discipline of the Germans than would Americans, but the officers have succeeded in maintaining a discipline of higher grade and character than ever

existed in the German army. They have established the discipline of democracy, which is the instant and willing obedience of an order, or in the absence of an order, what you believe it would have been.

"This can be accepted by any American without in the least lowering his self-respect, his high morale, or his ideals of a democracy.

"Discipline is and must be supreme. All other things must be secondary. Machine guns, trench mortars, hand grenades, airplanes, artillery, gas, and last; but not least, the bayonet, cannot be of any value in the hands of troops poorly disciplined. A few well organized and disciplined men can hold off a mob, and the higher the discipline the better the results. In one word, the entire army, from general to buck private in the rear rank, must 'click' at the word of command.

"When you sum up all the things we have to do in order to make the big machine run smoothly, we find that all work for one thing—to win the war; and to do it we must have discipline. Instantaneous obedience, given willingly."

(From a lecture being delivered to commissioned officers in every camp and cantonment in the United States by Lieut.-Col. George Applin, of the British Army.)

Homer Pigeons As War Couriers Prove Swifter Than Wireless

The pigeon, of that feathered family which has furnished the whole world with a commonly-accepted emblem of peace, has proved itself really a bird of war, for the part the pigeon of the homer variety is playing in the battle lines of France is warlike in its effect and of great military value to the armies it serves. For the homer pigeon has proved itself a courier that not only can be trusted to perform its mission, but to carry messages with a speed which only the field telephone can excel, and the pigeon is sometimes available when the telephone is not. Lieut. William L. Butler, Department Pigeon Officer, U. S. A., tells of a speed test at Camp Funston. Messages were sent a distance of five miles by wireless, dog and pigeon. The message by bird was delivered first. Uncle Sam needs 25,000 pedigreed racing homers and men from eighteen to forty years old to handle them, for our own lines in France will employ these feathered messengers which our European allies have found so useful. Almost every scouting party that crosses No Man's Land is supplied with homer pigeons.

At the outbreak of the war the German army had more than 50,000 pigeons in service; today the French and British forces have each about 30,000, writes Norman LeRoc in the Illustrated World, while our own Signal Corps is training a large number of men to handle these trusty messengers. Tanks, which so far have been unable to make use of wireless, take along a crate of pigeons, and they are also carried on airplanes, to bring back to artillery observers the location of vital enemy positions.

"Bring in your guns and pigeons" under penalty of death was the sinister notice placarded by the Germans all over conquered Belgium, for these birds are the sure reliance of the spy. The Belgians defied the order, and so to France came invaluable information of the plans and number of the invaders, together with the story of the atrocities in Flanders. Navies, too, make constant use of pigeons. They have been the one sure means of communication between raiding U-boats and their bases, and they are carried by practically every patrol boat in European waters. There is a case on record of a tiny British scout, sinking after an encounter with a submarine, to which relief was brought by a pigeon, released in the teeth of a howling gale.

Science cannot explain the wonderful instinct which brings the pigeon to its home, but it is stronger than fear or any other obstacle. "Liberated in the face of the heaviest barrage, it circles in the air to get its bearings, rises swiftly to a height of half a mile, then is off with the speed of a bullet. For a distance of thirty miles they are capable of making two miles a minute, and have flown 800 miles on a single flight.

Years of breeding for show purposes have ruined the real carrier pigeons for actual flying. The war bird of today is the Belgian racing homer, which is built for speed and

endurance, with an especially deep chest to insure lung capacity, and a strong, slender body. In racing condition it weighs from ten to twelve ounces. Scattered behind the Allied lines are hundreds of lofts where the pigeons are trained or "settled," and from these they are taken by motor to the front. The French say officially that they are 97 per cent. efficient.

The "pigeon voyager" is a model of patriotism, for it knows but one home. So it must be "settled" in the locality where it is to be used. Consequently only the men to handle them can be trained in the United States; the birds, all of racing homer stock, sent from here are useful only for breeding. When ten weeks old, the "squeekers," as the young birds are called, are able to fly, and their training begins. They are taken from the lofts and left alone to get the first "mental photograph" of their surroundings. If frightened at this time they may become useless. Afterward come daily flights, beginning with one mile and gradually increased.

Weather Here Is Index to Coming Conditions Abroad

The Department of Agriculture authorizes the following:

Even the weather in the United States is being watched from the western battle front in France. Like other events over here, such as the mobilization of man power and the conservation of food, the weather in the United States may vitally affect operations on the "frontiers of freedom."

Once every 24 hours a summary of weather conditions in the United States is cabled to officers of the Army who formerly were officials of the United States Weather Bureau.

The reason is that marked conditions of the weather in this hemisphere are likely to be reflected in the other, and the reason for that is the trend of the atmosphere toward the east. As the world revolves from east to west the atmosphere in mid latitudes tends to move constantly toward the rising sun. A great storm in this country may have its counterpart in greater or less degree in Europe some days later. Fair weather on this side may mean fair weather over there within the week. Supplied with this, in addition to local information, the "officers of the weather Over There" are aided in forecasting conditions favorable for airplane activity, artillery work or other military operations.

TIME UNIMPORTANT

Soldier in stockade to passing sergeant—What time is it, buddy?

Sergeant—What do you want to know for? You are not going anywhere.

Save your bayonet thrusts for the enemy; cots and tents are not flimsy.

