

"OVER THE TOP"

By An American Arthur Guy Empey
Soldier Who Went Machine Gunner, Serving in France

Copyright 1917, by Arthur Guy Empey

WAR IS CRUMBLING THE WALL OF CASTE THAT HAS STOOD SO LONG IN BRITISH ARMY.

Synopsis.—Fired by the sinking of the Lusitania, with the loss of American lives, Arthur Guy Empey, an American living in Jersey City, goes to England and enlists as a private in the British army. After a short experience as a recruiting officer in London, he is sent to training quarters in France, where he first hears the sound of big guns and makes the acquaintance of "cooties." After a brief period of training Empey's company is sent into the front-line trenches, where he takes his first turn on the fire step while the bullets whiz overhead. Empey learns, as comrade falls, that death lurks always in the trenches. Chaplain distinguishes himself by rescuing wounded men under hot fire. With pick and shovel Empey has experience as a trench digger in No Man's Land. Exciting experience on listening post detail. Exciting work on observation post duty. Back in rest billets Empey writes and stages a successful play.

CHAPTER XIX—Continued.

The game is honest and quite enjoyable. Sometimes you have fourteen numbers on your card covered and you are waiting for the fifteenth to be called. In an imploring voice you call out, "Come on, Watkins, chum, I'm sweating on 'Kelly's Eye.'"

Watkins generally replies, "Well, keep out of a draft, you'll catch cold."

Another game is "Pontoon," played with cards; it is the same as our "Black Jack," or "Twenty-one."

A card game called "Brag" is also popular. Using a casino deck, the dealer deals each player three cards. It is similar to our poker, except for the fact that you only use three cards and cannot draw. The deck is never shuffled until a man shows three of a kind or a "prile" as it is called. The value of the hands are, high card, a pair, a run, a flush or three of a kind or "prile." The limit is generally a penny, so it is hard to win a fortune.

The next in popularity is a card game called "Nap." It is well named. Every time I played it I went to sleep.

Whist and solo whist are played by the highbrows of the company. When the gamblers tire of all other games they try "Banker and Broker."

I spent a week trying to teach some of the Tommies how to play poker, but because I won thirty-five francs they declared that they didn't "fawncy" the game.

Tommy plays few card games; the general run never heard of poker, euchre, seven up, or pinochle. They have a game similar to pinochle called "Royal Bezique," but few know how to play it.

Generally there are two decks of cards in a section, and in a short time they are so dog-eared and greasy, you can hardly tell the ace of spades from the ace of hearts. The owners of these decks sometimes condescend to lend them after much coaxing.

So you see, Mr. Atkins has his fun mixed in with his hardships and, contrary to popular belief, the rank and file of the British army in the trenches is one big happy family. Now in Virginia, at school, I was fed on old McCaffy's primary reader, which gave me an opinion of an Englishman about equal to a 76 Minute Man's backed up by a Sinn Feiner's. But I found Tommy to be the best of mates and a gentleman through and through. He never thinks of knocking his officers. If one makes a costly mistake and Tommy pays with his blood, there is no general condemnation of the officer. He is just pitied. It is exactly the same as it was with the Light Brigade at Balaclava, to say nothing of Gallipoli, Neuve Chapelle and Loos. Personally I remember a little incident where twenty of us were sent on a trench raid, only two of us returning, but I will tell this story later on.

I said it was a big happy family, and so it is, but as in all happy families, there are servants, so in the British army there are also servants, officers' servants, or "O. S." as they are termed. In the American army the common name for them is "dog robbers." From a controversy in the English papers, Winston Churchill made the statement, as far as I can remember, that the officers' servants in the British forces totaled nearly two hundred thousand. He claimed that this removed two hundred thousand exceptionally good and well-trained fighters from the actual firing line, claiming that the officers, when selecting a man for servant's duty, generally picked the man who had been out the longest and knew the ropes.

But from my observation I find that a large percentage of the servants do go over the top, but behind the lines they very seldom engage in digging parties, fatigues, parades or drills. This work is as necessary as actually engaging in an attack, therefore I think it would be safe to say that the all-round work of the two hundred thousand is about equal to fifty thousand men who are on straight military duties. In numerous instances, officers' servants hold the rank of lance-corporals and they assume the same duties and authority of a butler, the one stripe giving him precedence over the other servants.

There are lots of amusing stories told of "O. S."

One day one of our majors went into the servants' billet and commenced "blinding" at them, saying that his horse had no straw and that he personally knew that straw had been issued for this purpose. He called the lance-corporal to account. The corporal answered, "Blime me, sir, the straw was issued, but there wasn't enough left over from the servants' beds; in fact, we had to use some of the 'ay to 'elp out, sir."

It is needless to say that the servants dispensed with their soft beds that particular night.

Nevertheless it is not the fault of the individual officer, it is just the survival of a quaint old English custom. You know an Englishman cannot be changed in a day.

But the average English officer is a good sport. He will sit on a fire step and listen respectfully to Private Jones' theory of the way the war should be conducted. This war is gradually crumbling the once insurmountable wall of caste.

You would be convinced of this if you could see King George go among his men on an inspecting tour under fire, or pause before a little wooden cross in some shell-tossed field with tears in his eyes as he reads the inscription. And a little later perhaps bend over a wounded man on a stretcher, patting him on the head.

More than once in a hospital I have seen a titled Red Cross nurse fetching and carrying for a wounded soldier, perhaps the one who in civil life delivered the coal at her back door. Today she does not shrink from lighting his fag or even washing his grimy body.

Tommy admires Albert of Belgium because he is not a pusher of men; he leads them. With him it's not a case of "take that trench," it is "come on and we will take it."

It is amusing to notice the different characteristics of the Irish, Scotch and English soldiers. The Irish and Scotch are very impetuous, especially when it comes to bayonet fighting, while the Englishman, though a trifle slower, thoroughly does his bit; he is more methodical and has the grip of a bulldog on a captured position. He is slower to think; that is the reason why he never knows when he is licked.

Twenty minutes before going over the top the English Tommy will sit on the fire step and thoroughly examine the mechanism of his rifle to see that it is in working order and will fire properly. After this examination he is satisfied and ready to meet the Boches.

But the Irishman or Scotchman sits on the fire step, his rifle with bayonet fixed between his knees, the butt of which perhaps is sinking into the mud—the bolt couldn't be opened with a team of horses it is so rusty—but he splits on his sleeve and slowly polishes his bayonet; when this is done he also is ready to argue with Fritz.

It is not necessary to mention the colonials (the Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders), the whole world knows what they have done for England.

The Australian and New Zealanders is termed the "Anzac," taking the name from the first letters of their official designation, Australian and New Zealand army corps.

Tommy divides the German army into three classes according to their fighting abilities. They rank as follows: Prussians, Bavarians and Saxons.

When up against a Prussian regiment it is a case of keep your napper below the parapet and duck. A bang-bang all the time and a war is on. The Bavarians are little better, but the Saxons are fairly good sports and are willing occasionally to behave as gentlemen and take it easy, but you cannot trust any of them overlong.

At one point of the line the trenches were about thirty-two yards apart. This sounds horrible, but in fact it was easy, because neither side could shell the enemy's front-line trench for fear shells would drop into their own. This eliminated artillery fire.

In these trenches when up against the Prussians and Bavarians, Tommy had a hot time of it, but when the Saxons "took over" it was a picnic; they would yell across that they were Saxons and would not fire. Both sides would sit on the parapet and carry on a conversation. This generally consisted of Tommy telling them how much he loved the Kaiser, while the Saxons informed Tommy that King George was a particular friend of theirs and hoped that he was doing nicely.

When the Saxons were to be relieved by Prussians or Bavarians, they would yell this information across No Man's Land and Tommy would immediately tumble into his trench and keep his head down.

If an English regiment was to be relieved by the wild Irish, Tommy would tell the Saxons, and immediately a volley of "Donner und Blitzen" could be heard and it was Fritz's turn to get a crick in his back from stooping, and the people in Berlin would close their windows.

Usually when an Irishman takes over a trench, just before "stand down" in the morning, he sticks his rifle over the top, aimed in the direction of Berlin, and engages in what is known as the "mad minute." This consists of firing fifteen shots in a minute. He is not aiming at anything in particular—just sends over each shot with a prayer, hoping that one of his strays will get some poor unsuspecting Fritz in the napper hundreds of yards behind the lines. It generally does; that's the reason the Boches hate the man from Erin's Isle.

The Saxons, though better than the Prussians and Bavarians, have a nasty trait of treachery in their makeup.

Empey, questioning a German prisoner, finds he's from New York. The interesting interview is related in the next installment.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Theory May Yet Be Proved.

According to one theory, primitive man came to America by a land bridge from the tablelands of Asia, in search of new hunting grounds. "It is not to be inferred," says Professor Wissler, "that the new world native is a direct descendant of the present Asiatic Mongolian, for the differentiation is evidently remote." Is it not possible we shall find that it was the American type that diverged into strains that passed to Asia?—Chicago Examiner.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
Copyright, 1919, Western Newspaper Union.

LESSON FOR JUNE 2

THE PROPHETIC OUTLINE OF THE INTERVAL BETWEEN CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION AND HIS COMING AGAIN.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 13:1, 14:9.
GOLDEN TEXT—He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.—Mark 13:13.

DEVOTIONAL READING—Ephesians 2:1-10.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Matthew 23:1-25, 46; Luke 21:5-38; I Thess. 5:1-24; II Thess. 2.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus among his friends.—Mark 14:3-9.

JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—Our best for Christ.—Mark 14:3-9.

The printed text (14:1-9) may profitably be used by the primary, junior and intermediate grades, but the adult classes will more profitably confine their study to chapter 13. In order to avoid confusion in this study, let it be clearly borne in mind that two matters are presented—the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies and the glorious return of the Lord. The two are sometimes so closely interwoven as to make the threads difficult to disentangle, but if we see the coloring in the graphic picture of the destruction of Jerusalem as adumbrating the revelation of the Son of God in glory, we shall have no serious trouble.

I. The Occasion of the Prophecy (vv. 1-4).

As Jesus was passing through the temple for the last time on his way to the Mount of Olives, where he gave this discourse, the disciples reminded him of the splendor of the building, to which he replied that not one stone should be left upon another. When seated upon the mount three disciples came privately with a threefold question, according to Matthew 24, requesting further information.

1. The Occasion of the Prophecy (vv. 1-4).

As Jesus was passing through the temple for the last time on his way to the Mount of Olives, where he gave this discourse, the disciples reminded him of the splendor of the building, to which he replied that not one stone should be left upon another. When seated upon the mount three disciples came privately with a threefold question, according to Matthew 24, requesting further information.

1. What shall these things be?

2. What shall be the sign of thy coming?

3. And of the end of the age?

That which follows is given in answer to these questions.

II. The Characteristics of the Age During the Absence of Christ (vv. 5-23).

1. Appearance of deceivers (vv. 5, 6).

Since Jesus went back to heaven many false Christs from time to time have pressed their claims as being the Christ. As the age draws to a close these claims doubtless will increase.

2. Wars and strife among the nations (vv. 7, 8).

The history of the centuries since Christ is written in blood, and the river increases in volume as the age goes on toward its consummation. Jesus warns against making any particular war the sign of his coming. Many good people have seriously blundered in this respect because they did not heed this warning.

3. Earthquakes and famines (v. 8).

Though these calamities grow increasingly severe as the days lengthen, the intelligent, believing disciple is not surprised or alarmed, for these are the precursors of a new order, the birth pangs of a new age, the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ upon this earth. Let the child of God in this present darkness look up, for his redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28).

4. Universal evangelism (v. 10).

The gospel of the Kingdom, according to Matthew 24:14, shall be preached in all the world for a witness. This is not the Gospel of the grace of God which we now preach, but the new evangelism which shall be proclaimed by elect Israelites immediately preceding the coming of Christ to establish his Kingdom (see Rev. 7:4-10; Rom. 11:15).

III. The Lord's Glorious Return (vv. 24-27).

This is the superlative event, the one to which all prophecies have pointed, and all ages are moving with unerring precision. It will usher in the golden age of which the wise and great of all ages have dreamed, and for which they longed. The coming of the Lord will put an end to earth's sorrows; wars and strife will not end until the Kingdom of our Lord and his Christ (Rev. 11:15). This event will be accompanied by great physical disturbances and Jesus will gather his elect from the ends of the earth.

IV. Applications of the Prophecy (vv. 28-37).

1. As these events multiply in the earth we know that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh (vv. 28, 29), as the putting forth of the leaves of the fig tree prove the approach of summer.

2. The Jewish race shall retain its integrity till the end (v. 30).

3. Certainty of fulfillment (v. 31).

Lessen Demand for Coal.

Burn wood wherever and whenever it is possible, in order that coal may be saved. Take the crooked and defective trees from the woodlot.

Sweet clover is adapted to a wider range of climatic conditions than any of the true clovers, and possibly alfalfa.

A dirty cow is a direct pecuniary loss to the owner. Keep the stables clean and dry. Use plenty of straw for bedding.

Three Exquisite Daytime Frocks



The smart woman of today improves each shining hour of summer by taking her knitting everywhere she goes, and by wearing frocks much like those that help to make the three graces pictured above, look so lovable. These frocks are of a sort to make even the jaded millionaire grow interested, and everyone else, who knows anything about clothes, to grow enthusiastic. They have everything that we aspire to in our apparel—simplicity, style, refinement, originality—all within the boundaries set by the season's modes, and they are not out of the reach of women of ordinary means.

It is hard to point out just what gives distinction to a frock as simple in design as that worn by the girl sitting at the left. It lies in the choice of material, in good hues and in the wide band of embroidery about the skirt with its motif repeated to finish the neck. Khaki-kool, or similar fabrics, would be a good choice for it, or some of the heavy weaves in silk or satin that are supple like those made for the handsomest sports skirts. The embroidery is done in the color of the dress with touches of black or a dark color introduced. Oyster-shell white, gray or sand color are good choices for this dress.

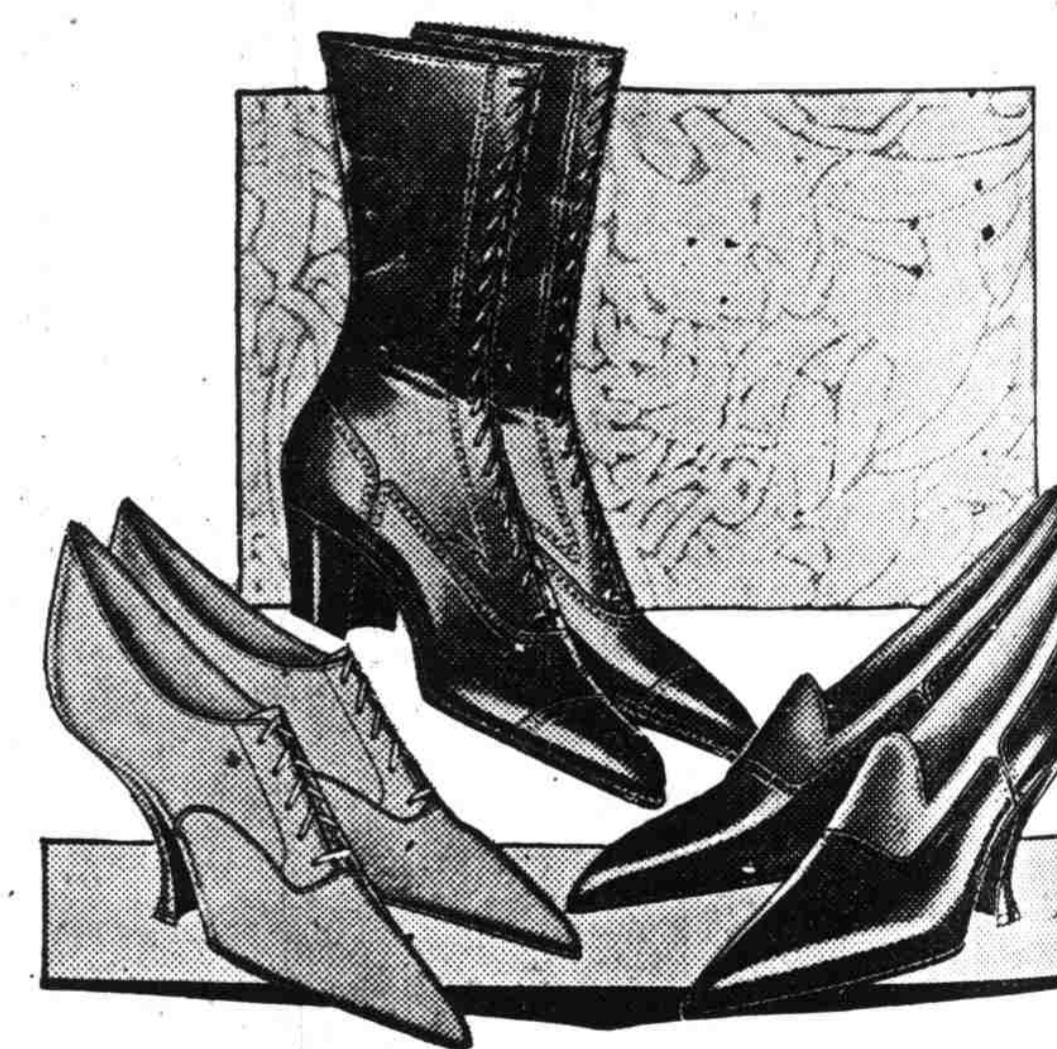
The one-piece tunic dress at the center appears to be of satin with over-bodice and apron drape, at the front, of georgette crepe. The long tassels at each side of the apron are important items in its make-up, and the sleeves are especially smart with deep shaped cuffs. The tunic is bordered with a braided band—bruid in the color of the dress and the neck finished with small, covered buttons set in a row at each side. It will be noticed that a tailored hat is worn with this daytime frock.

Silk Jersey, for which satin or tulle might be substituted, is shown in the skirt and coatee design at the right of the picture. The sailor collar tunic are finished with embroidered bands, and they define the sides of the bodice also. The much-admired covered buttons in precise rows add the neat charm to this exquisite dress.

All these frocks have wide, elastic girdles, adjusted easily to the figure below the waistline, and are worn with pumps and silk stockings—footwear that is in keeping with them.

There are definite characteristics to be noted in the spring and summer millinery and the styles of the season are almost all charming. There seem in fact, to be an obvious dismissal of weird and freakish shapes and trimmings, and a firm adherence to that which is truly attractive and beautiful.

War-Time Outfit in Summer Shoes



Just how few pairs of shoes can we get along with this summer? That's the question that women are called upon to settle for themselves, now that wartime economy calls for retrenchment on all sides. Secretary McAdoo says he has his shoes half-soled when they need it—and appears to be proud of it, recommending this course to every one else. Leaving out house slippers and evening slippers that need not come in the reckoning at all, three pairs of good shoes will see one through. This will seem an impossibly slim allowance to the woman who usually buys from six to twelve pairs, but three pairs will answer. There is no economy in having only one pair of street shoes, because they wear much longer and look much better when two pairs are worn alternately. Shoe trees keep them in good shape when they are not in use and are as necessary to shoes as hangers are to coats and frocks.

Wartime summer outfit in shoes might follow the suggestion in the group of three pairs shown in the picture. These do not include shoes made solely for sportswear, which can be considered beside the question of shoes that are indispensable. All the shoes pictured are in the best materials and workmanship, which are matters of real economy in footwear. They include a pair of substantial black kid street shoes, a pair of smart white canvas oxfords and kid pumps for dress.

The high boots for street wear have sensible Cuban heels and moderately heavy soles. Perforations along all the seams and at each side of the fac-

ing at the front, give them a handsome finish and they look altogether dependable and smart—just as women themselves aspire to look in these times. White canvas oxfords for wear with summer street suits and frocks are very plain and may be had with either Cuban or French heels. They are easily kept clean and are very durable. Where street shoes will strike the wrong note and something more dressy is needed, kid pumps, similar to those shown in the picture, will fill all requirements. They are of black kid with gray panels, but there is a great variety of pumps in all-black and black with colored panels to choose from.

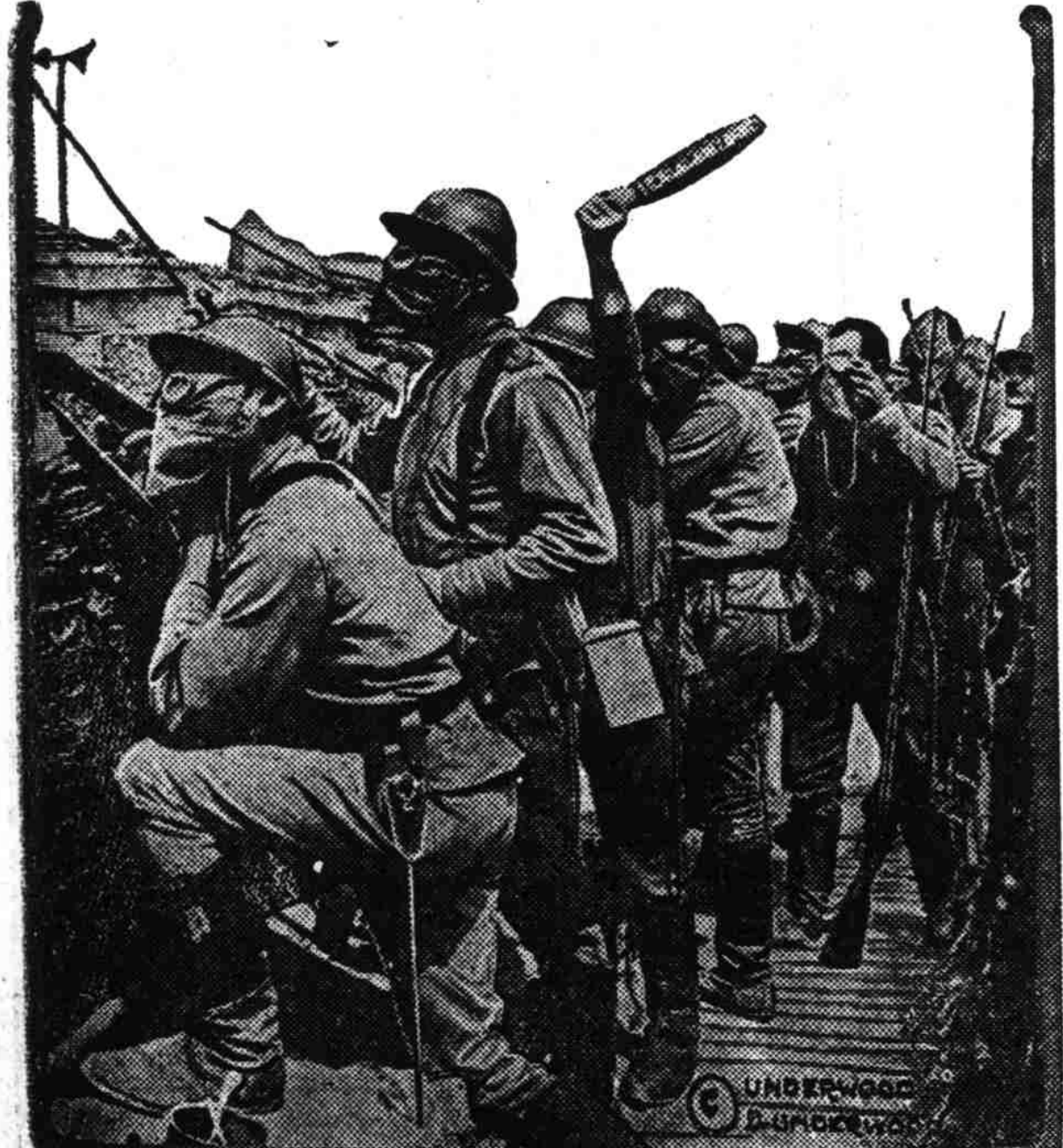
Julia Bottumley

Different Shades of One Color.

The combination of different shades in the same color is a very smart note in millinery just now; this is noticed, perhaps, most in the tortoise shell colorings. An attractive small hat of Milan has an upturned side brim and this is trimmed in a very light shade of apple-green wheat, which is laid thickly about the crown sides and topped by a row of foliage in the color of the straw.

Colored Leghorn Sport Hats.

Colored Leghorns make smart sport hats, some of these being faced in a contrasting color tagel and trimmed by single strips of the tagel used on edge and made into a motif that reaches from the crown base to the brim edge.



Meeting a Gas and Infantry Attack.