

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE OF CAMP GREENE

Real Magnitude and Accomplishment of the Wonderful Institution Hardly Yet Appreciated by People of Charlotte and the Carolinas—Genuine Soldiers, Trained and Seasoned for Actual Service at the Front, Being Made Out of Tens of Thousands of Men Heretofore Untutored in the Arts and Science of Modern Warfare.

Camp Greene, with about 30,000 inhabitants, is a wonderful institution, the most magnificent of which probably only a relatively few people of Charlotte ever heard of. Springing from fields of growing cotton and waving green corn to practical completion in seven weeks, this mobilization center has added tremendously to the responsibilities and proportionately has increased the assets of this city.

The real Camp Greene is not what it would seem to the sightseer who passes along the military road. The real goal is not so plainly and easily to be seen. Great tasks have been accomplished these within the past three months, even greater tasks are now being accomplished with rapidity and smoothness, and the casual visitor cannot name to know the deadly earnestness of the men who could not understand the full meaning of the seemingly haphazard doings here, there and everywhere. There is order in all these things that apparently make for chaos. The fare is nothing more nor less than conducting a school. As the child is gradually advanced in its studies through the various branches of reading, writing, arithmetic, mechanical and physical science, philosophy and psychology, knowledge of which is essential to his success and that of the army of which he is one of a great many closely co-ordinated parts. Drill, as the civilian knows it, principally serves the purpose of developing discipline and cohesion and uniformity. Drill, as the soldier knows it, includes everything which goes into the making of real fighting men of sturdy Americans.

Digging in red clay for hours at a time while others shovel and work perhaps does not appear to have much connection with war. Neither perhaps would it seem advisable to many fathers and mothers to have their sons spend long hours heaving rounded chunks of wood or nothing in particular. Those who perchance should come upon a company or a battalion shoveling in various directions a sun might wonder what relation that has to the task of expelling the Germans from Belgium. Those who see no good in hard athletics might question the judgment of the Government which requires each enlisted man to devote so many hours weekly to some branch of sports.

Serve Double Purpose.

All these things serve a double purpose, the principal of which is that either the work is done or the soldier would have to do it at the battle front or it prepares him physically for the work he will have to do in the trenches. The digging at Camp Greene is teaching the men how to dig trenches, those narrow, crooked gashes in the face of the earth so essential to the safety of the front. The thousands of strong-armed young men at this camp are acquiring proficiency as bombers by hurling neck grenades and as marksmen by practicing with their rifles. The strong arm, clear heads and capable bodies. All these things which the soldier receives in such large doses are steadily advancing him to the point where he will be ready, if called, to join his thousands of comrades in Europe.

But there are many other things to be accomplished before the soldier is ready to board the transport—things which do not particularly concern the individual on the company, only the regiment or the entire separate organization. A numerous series of steps leads to the division—the best known tactical unit of the war. To accomplish the organization of a division, enlisted men must be formed into companies, companies into regiments, regiments into brigades and brigades into divisions. And the approach to the end of the work of organizing a division the harder the work becomes.

Out at Camp Greene one class of individuals while another class gives attention to the great task of whipping these individuals into one great unit—the division. While this organizing is progressing, hundreds and hundreds of unassigned recruits are arriving to aid in the expansion of the recently created regiments to oversize strength. Quartermasters, cooks and men are engaged in supplying food, clothing and various other supplies. Ordnance sergeants and men have the task of providing the actual fighting equipment, the rifles, side arms, ammunition and explosives. Medical officers care for those who need medical attention, maintain close supervision over sanitary conditions and direct other work which may result in im-

proving or at least maintaining the general health of the soldiers. Indeed, Camp Greene is constituted of wheels within wheels.

The Individual. After All. Not the activities of the brigade nor the regiment makes Camp Greene what it is—to Charlotte a wonderful mixture of opportunity and responsibility. The individual soldier, the "buck" private, is the heart and soul of Camp Greene, and each other camp, too. Those boys and young men and middle-aged men out there who wear no insignia of rank nor braided cuffs have thrown their all into the balance, and more fully aware of this than those in Charlotte, they live with a smile on their faces. It is interesting as a psychological study—those who are preparing to see and participate in horrors known to be beyond the power of words to describe, the least of what the extremely uncertain future may hold or what the end may be, whether individual glory or collective oblivion.

Their life in camp is simple and largely a matter of strict routine. Their commanders know they must be kept busy, doing one thing or another, regardless of what service is the nearer or remote future may be required of them. Perhaps nowhere else than in the army is it better known that idleness breeds trouble. Therefore the soldier, who is well occupied from about 5:45 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. Then he is at liberty until 11 p. m. The work the boys at Camp Greene have to do each day generally influences them to really "hit the hay" at an hour which will enable them to get about eight hours' sleep.

Early each morning, just as day is breaking now, the bugler calls them from their sleep. They have it to relate that the bugler says, "I can't get up. I can get up to have much in a morning. But they tumble out in a hurry, and after donning their uniforms, fall in line in the company streets for a period of getting the mess which when served, sends them keenly hungry in a rush for the mess halls as the "chow" call is sounded. Early in the day, all who are sick or who feel unwell are sent to the regimental physician or medical attention.

Everything is done according to schedule. Just enough time is allowed that everything may be done well, but little time is wasted. So, after breakfast camp and tents are cleaned up and then the big task or tasks of the day are taken up. This means generally that they follow the schedule for training activities which the regimental commander prepares usually each week. A specimen schedule might provide for practical and theoretical schools in various branches for different bodies, all in progress at the same time. Or, the entire regiment might devote itself to some phase of training.

Present Activities.

The infantry regiments at Camp Greene now are giving their attention to the following things: bayonet practice, grenade throwing, trench digging, drill, including close and extended order work, and so on. Regarding their rifle, its care and use, gas attack and defense, first aid to the injured, how to maintain good health, care of their feet, methinks and means of communication between the firing line and the supply bases far in the rear, and numerous other subjects of which the soldier must be familiar before he is prepared for actual service. As rapidly as may be, the various regiments are sent to the rifle ranges, about a mile from the camp, for an extended course in target practice. Though many of the men of these regiments are "shooters" for their first time, it is said uniformly satisfactory scores have been made. The old hands at this game, men who have been years in the regular army though still enlisted men, are rendering a fine service to the country as instructors for those who are getting their first whiff of powder fumes.

Despite the presence of the holiday season, there is not that desorganization at Camp Greene which is characterizing civil life. Save for Christmas day, the soldiers are going through their daily routine as usual, though there is some difference in the intensity of the work, it is true, but not enough to be of much importance. Those 2,500 enlisted men who have gone away on Christmas "turloughs" service to their country as instructors for those who are getting their first whiff of powder fumes.

Regarding the men's physical condition, there is little to be said. Not many words are required to tell that they are in good health, well fed, comfortably clothed and warmly housed. Since September 1—almost four months—there have been at least 15,-

000 officers and men, on the average, at Camp Greene, and there had been on December 20 only six deaths, five of which are known to have resulted from disease and one was known to have been the result of indiscretion. This sixth death was of a soldier found dead in bed. The number of cases of illness is reported to be relatively low, considering the fact that the crowded regiments at "shooting" fortification conditions of camp life very frequently expose the men to disease.

All Warmly Cload. Despite the difficulties the government is known to be facing in the effort to provide clothing for the men, all at this camp are warmly clothed. They are said to have now full outfits of woolen under and outer clothing, overcoats and good shoes. Thousands though not all of the men have sweaters in addition to their other heavy clothing. During normal weather for this season of the year in this section, the men seldom will need to wear their overcoats in the winter. Each of the soldiers, whose discomfort was experienced during the recent abnormal weather, during which period several low temperature records were set and the greatest snowfall in 20 years occurred. This was due not so much to lack of clothing as it was to lack of fuel. Only when the men tried to sleep in an unheated tent while the outside was bitterly cold did they really approach suffering.

Many causes, it was learned, contributed to the shortage of fuel, which forced the men into the woods by the hundreds to cut and haul anybody's timber to camp. The immediate cause, it was said, was the congested condition of freight tracks. Lack of fuel was reported failure of contracting parties to make deliveries and the reason attributed for this was that sufficient labor could not be employed. The men reported climbed upward toward normal, the need for

wood decreased, resulting in considerably relieving the shortage.

City and Camp Relations. With reference to the relations between the soldiers at Camp Greene and the people of the city of Charlotte, officers and men speak in terms of highest gratification. An area officer in high position at Camp Greene, a native of Dixie and a real southern gentleman who has seen service in many camps in many parts of the world, told the writer that "the people of Charlotte opened their doors in their hospitality to enlisted men to an extent which probably no other regiment of soldiers in the service of the United States ever enjoyed."

This conversation was entirely personal. For that reason, and that only, is his name not mentioned. It is sufficient to say his position at the camp was such as to give his words great value.

Also during the conversation on the subject of Charlotte's attitude toward the soldiers, this high officer declared that "this attitude has been of great help to us, in that it made the men more amenable to discipline, more zealous of homeliness and discontent. In fact, the treatment has been such as to make it a very unpopular thing for an enlisted man to be sent back to the front. I mean not unpopular with the community so much but with his comrades. The whole thing has worked out so that the enlisted man was prompted to do the right thing."

"In fact, the people of your city by their kindness and hospitality toward the soldiers have done the nation a great service and have performed well their patriotic duty."

"As for the officers, I think they should in after years always contemplate the people of Charlotte with the pleasant stirring of delight and gratitude."

BATTERY A, THIRTEENTH GIVES "Y" ENTERTAINMENT

Private Cohn, Lawyer and Musician Before Enlisting, Lines Up Talent With Short Notice.

In the absence of Physical Director George Taylor, who for several days has been at Charlotte Hospital, the regular athletic program for "stunt night" at 108 was not put on. In place, however, a program was arranged that did great credit to the regiment from which the men came, and especially to the leader of the troupe.

Private Manuel Cohn, of Battery A, a San Francisco lawyer by profession, and a talented musician, agreed to take charge of the program and arrange an evening's entertainment for the boys. With only a day's notice Private Cohn got busy and from his battery in some magic way produced a program of nine numbers that were excellently rendered. The Thirteenth band, under the leadership of Sergeant Major Harry Jagendorf, gave a concert before the performance and accompanied the singers. The music was good, and already 108 is planning to have this band give a full evening's concert.

Especially should be mentioned the fancy rope twirling of Private E. H. King. How to do it is a question that will hardly be answered by those who saw him work; dramatic reading, Corporal Paul Benton, all of whose readings were written by him; original recitations, by Private Henry Thomas, and singing by Leader Cohn. The but, was packed with a large and highly interested audience and each man present Tuesday night will welcome Private Cohn and his troupe when they come back, for they've got the goods.

The program was as follows: Band selections—Thirteenth Field Artillery band, leader, Lt. Dixieland, Song—"The Goodbye," Private Manuel Cohn, Fancy rope twirling, Private E. H. King.

Song—Yaca Hula, Private Milton B. Harris. Dramatic reading (original), Corporal Paul Benton.

Italian song—"Carmen," Tris, Corporal Brickwelder; Privates Cigliano, Esposito.

Comic Song—"Good-Bye Broadway," Hello France, Manuel Cohn.

Original recitations, Private Henry Thomas.

Yiddish monologue, Private Milton Harris. They're Wearing 'Em Higher In Hawaii, Private Cohn.

FAST BOUTS MARK STUNT NIGHT AT "Y" 104

Interesting Program Amused Soldiers Christmas Eve Night. Contortionists Make Hit.

"Stunt night" and Christmas eve program at Y. M. C. A. Building 104 was marked by fast boxing and wrestling matches and contortionists' exhibitions.

A boxing bout of three rounds between Private Digerlammo, Company A, Seventh machine gun battalion, and Private Levie, Headquarters company, machine gun battalion, was won by Digerlammo, who did most of the leading.

A wrestling bout between Private Sazynsky, Company K, Forty-seventh regiment, and Private A. Connecticut Signal corps. Both men, weighing about 140 pounds, agreed to wrestle six minutes with struggle, too. Sazynsky threw Proclida in one minute and 40 seconds.

A wrestling bout between Private Sazynsky (who agreed to take on other men owing to shortness of other bout) and Private Antonowicz, Company C, Seventh machine gun battalion, and Antonowicz. They wrestled six minutes to a draw.

Corporal Beckett, Company D, Seventh machine gun battalion, entertained the men with tricks and picking coins off the floor with his teeth without bending knees and bending the crash fashion. It was well taken the crowd.

A wrestling bout between Private Kelly, Field Ambulance 28, of Boston, Mass., and Private Tansgo, of Company F, Forty-seventh regiment. They agreed to wrestle two best falls out of three. Kelly went to work with a vim and the time for the first fall in 20 seconds and after a two-minute rest succeeded in throwing Tansgo for the second fall in 30 seconds.

NEW FRENCH CLASSES IN THE THIRTEENTH

Many inquiries have come from batteries in the Thirteenth for French. All names have been carefully listed and within the week arrangements will have been made for the establishment of several classes. The study of French is becoming more popular with the time that it more people approach. This is as it should be, for if ever men will need the knowledge of a foreign tongue, it will be when they are engaged in the service of Uncle Sammie side down for a bite and tries to make known his wishes to a sympathetic yet helpless French waitress.

