

Trench and Camp

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DISTINCTION IN RANK ONLY IN INTEREST OF DISCIPLINE

Distinctions of rank in the U. S. Army imply no social distinction and are solely in the interest of military discipline, according to Secretary Baker. This statement was made by him in a letter to Vice-President Marshall in response to a Senate resolution asking whether there are War Department rules and regulations to prevent social intercourse between officers and men.

(Citing paragraph 2, Article 1 of the Army Regulations, Secretary Baker said in his letter:

"In this paragraph will be seen an endeavor to arrive at a true balance in the proper relationship between officers and enlisted men on the one hand to encourage and exchange confidence and co-operation between the officer and the soldier, and on the other to avoid personal intimacies between an officer and any particular soldier or soldiers, which might have a tendency to lead to favoritism or the suspension of favoritism in assignments to duties or cause discontent on the part of those not selected for special intimacy by the officer in question. Distinctions of rank in the Army are solely in the interests of military discipline. They imply no social distinction; indeed, in a country like ours the advantage of education and culture very frequently will be found in favor of the soldier, and yet it is necessary that the soldier should acquire by continuous and unvarying practice the habit of instant obedience to his superior. This is as true of officers as it is of men.

"In the emergency of battle, when every condition tends to distract men's attention and peril is on every side, safety for a command frequently lies only in its organized and co-ordinated activity, and this can proceed from one inspiration alone—the instant, unquestioning compliance by all with the voice of authority. While here and there instances undoubtedly occur of thoughtless and inconsiderate conduct on the part of officers and of unreasoning complaint on the part of the men who have failed to understand the just obligations of this disciplinary relationship, I am still persuaded that in the great Army we now have in the field and in training there is a growing realization that it is both possible and useful to be faithful to military discipline and at the same time to the democratic ideals of our country."

HOW MANY GENERALS HAS U. S. ARMY HAD?

Promotion of Major General Pershing to the rank of General has caused considerable discussion as to the number of men who have held that rank in the United States Army. It is contended by some military writers that only three men, Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, held the rank prior to the elevation of General Pershing, while others insist that George Washington should be added to the list.

Commenting on the subject the Army and Navy Journal has the following to say:

"The U. S. Army was organized September 29, 1789, but it was not until nine years later, July 3, 1798, that Washington was appointed lieutenant general and commander of the Army, which rank he held until his death, December 14, 1799. This was the highest rank Washington ever held in the U. S. Army. The rank of General and Commander-in-Chief of all the forces raised or to be raised (otherwise the Continental Army) was held by him from 1775 to 1783, but this was in the Continental Army. Heitman puts Washington as among the Generals in his list of general officers in the Army of the United States from June, 1775 to 1903, but it must be understood that the Army of the United States in general all troops raised in this country, whereas the United States Army was not organized until 1789, six years after Washington resigned his rank of General of the Continental Army."

WAR TO END THIS YEAR SAYS NOTED ASTROLOGER

It can be stated more or less reliably that the war will end in the summer of 1918. We have the word of an eminent astrologer for it. He reads it in the stars.

While there has been considerable discussion as to who started the war, where it started and how, this astrologer settles the matter by blaming the whole thing on the solar system.

"The beginning of the great war came in 1914, when together the sun and moon struck adversely on the chord of the conjunction of Jupiter and Uranus in the preceding spring, symbolic of the warring forces.

"To those who look below surfaces the determination of the end lies with the United States and Japan, said to be ruled respectively by Gemini and by Libra, the symbols of the power of thought, the guiding intelligence and work of the hands, and the Libra ability to perceive both sides of a question, throwing its weight on the side of the just cause.

"After commenting on the facts that last July there was a major conjunction of the forces of law, order and endurance with the forces of universal love and sympathy working through chaotic disorder, the astrologer says:

"Thus it would seem that the world war must be ended by the summer of 1918, though it would be folly to expect Utopia until 1944."

EXPENSE ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS

Announcement has been made by the War Department that all officers ordered abroad for the purpose of observing the operations of the Allied armies will be entitled to reimbursement for the actual and necessary expenses while on duty at not to exceed \$5 a day, from the date of arrival in a foreign country to date of embarkation for return to the United States.

"WAR OF 1917"

Thus far the only official attempt to give a title to our war against Germany has been several references to it as the "War of 1917." It would seem that "the European War" since this is the first time American troops have ever fought on that continent. Moreover, if the war continues for several years longer, it will be scarcely adequate to the prospective gigantic task the country has of fighting a war 3,000 miles from home, to say nothing of its added tale of years.—Army and Navy Journal.

MAIL IT TODAY

Relatives of soldiers appreciate Trench and Camp, for it is "a vital transcript of life in camp." See that your mother and other kinsfolk get a copy each week. A one-cent stamp will do the trick. Don't delay. Mail it today.

CANTONMENT TYPES

THE CREPE-HANGER

TUM-TA-TA! Tum-ta-ta-ta-ta-tum! Tum-tum-to, etc. Dirge music. Half light. Sniffling and low moaning of stage. Enter—funeral procession! No! One, long figure, in regulation gear denoting the private soldier—American, any company, any regiment. The corners of the mouth are drawn down, horse-shoe style. The brows are knit heavily as in thought. This is camouflage. There never was a real thought inside the low forehead of this specimen. Shoulders are bowed slightly. The movement is slow and suggestive of excess gravity—in the feet.

When he begins to talk it has the same effect on the spirits as closing all dampers and drafts has on a fire. The color of the world darkens and darkens, finally becoming flub black. He allows no joy to float free. He hangs his weight of lead to every pleasure. He tucks up his crepe in tent and mess-hall. One of his tribe was given a four-day leave at Christmas. Was he merry? Did he beam with anticipation and satisfaction? Did he? Ah, not the crepe-hanger.

"This is some rotten deal! Let a fella off a couple days and make him leave home Christmas night!"

The crepe-hanger tries to slip a fly into every entitlement, attempts to poison every cup, adding those little duties to his chosen calling of Crepe-Hanger. His life is not a enviable one. He knows no such thing as comradeship or popularity. He is shunned, but it avails naught to pass him by. He'll follow after, hang his crepe, and pass on, grimly satisfied.

It is a splendid indication of the spirit of the new army—that the Crepe-Hanger has a negligible following. For he might be pernicious and a menace, if there were not a buoyancy and humor among his co-soldiers which make him a joke.

But have you ever felt the urge of crepe-hanging rise within yourself in sullen flood? Perhaps you have. Then isn't the verdict on your own crepe-hanging self, "Guilty, to be kept permanently in the guard-house?"

In Marble Halls

By CHAUNCEY HULBERT

Somewhere in France. It did not mean much to the American soldier boys to be told the house was a perfect model of the Petit-Trianon. It was like no house they had ever seen before but by far the grandest.

Pink marble facades and gorgeous wrought-iron gate way and imposing door created an impression that the rest of the house descended, in the great hallway a butler in livery ushered the men into a cloak room and relieved them of their hats and several of the men slipped and skated precariously on the smooth floor. They made their way in awed silence up the mammoth red marble stairway, eyeing the gold walls and magnificent pictures.

In an upper room some one was singing and 200 American service men were sitting in magnificent chairs in the music room. The ceiling attracted every one's attention first. It was high and vaulted on which a sunrise picture was painted with delicate brush. Concealed electric lights throw a soft glow upon it from a gilded moulding. The only visible lights in the room were a hundred new waxen candles, glittering amidst the crystal bangles of thin glass candelabra. On walls were heavy, huge "bas relief sculptures" and a life-sized bronze statue stood in the corner.

A woman was singing at the piano and the hostess—an American who had married abroad—stood at the door shaking hands with the new arrivals. The men applauded at the end of the song and another was sung. The men would have liked to stand by the music rack. Most of them had never heard a real harp played.

Needed Reinforcements

After the music the men moved down a long marble hall at the end of which a snowy refreshment table

was piled high with choice viands. Four stern-faced butlers stood behind the table as the hungry, abashed multitude approached. When about four feet from the cloth, the front line halted and blushed red. Pressure gently increased from behind and the front rank embarrassingly tried to back through into the second line which held firm. An awkward pause ensued during which four hundred eyes looked over the plates of cakes and cream and wondered how many he would dare take when his turn came.

The hostess noticed the halt and hastened to the rescue. "Come on, boys—don't be bashful! What will you have?" said she, addressing a particular man. The color swept over his face and he could not say a word, so she gave him a dish of ice frappe and a few small cakes. The ice broke about one second later and the four butlers who had never faced a hungry American crowd before, learned something new.

It was not a mad rush and snatch. Absolutely not. Every man was hot polite and deliberate, but they took the hostess at her word and heaped their plates with the first "delicatessen" they had tasted in France. They then retired to chairs to enjoy themselves.

After refreshments there was more music, then a good-bye to the hostess, a quick scamper for the subway and the party was over. But, like the stone in a millpond—the waves of its description will radiate in everlasting dimensions in Paris when the "Swellest Party in Paris" reaches the uttermost confines of American soldiers' camps in France.

Through the medium of the Y. M. C. A. many of the wealthiest American homes in Paris are open to American soldiers in the French capital and many a soldier returns from leave with tales of magnificent homes and gay parties attended instead of the paucity of demimodes on which he had planned to squander his money.

WAR? WHAT'S WAR WHEN YOU WED WIDOW WITH SIX?

Baltimore Man Sought to Evade Draft by Matrimonial Route, but After Eight Months He Declares Himself Eager to Fight for Uncle Sam

War may be all that a distinguished American general described it to be—yet, there may be worse things. There is one converted slacker in Baltimore who has reached this conclusion.

The man is thirty years old, and he told the draft official of whom he asked assistance in filling out his questionnaire that he had attempted to evade being called out under the first draft by the matrimonial route.

"But," said the astonished official, "you said here you had six children to support."

"She had 'em when I married her," said the young man.

"There are some things that are much worse than war," he went on, earnestly, "and I am now willing to go through as much to get to the front whenever Uncle Sam calls me."

He said he was married on May 1 and that he not only had become ready to go to the front, but intimated that he had received some training which would increase his value as a fighting man. But the burden of the statement was the following, which he repeated several times: "I've been married eight months, and I am now ready for war. I don't want any exemption."

It was Sam Weller, who quoted the charity boy, who boasted that he had mastered the alphabet, pronounced not without the aid of sundry cuffs and other chastisements such as were wont to accompany the pursuit of knowledge.

"Yes, I know it," said the boy, "from 'a' to 'z'—but whether I go through with it or go through as much to learn so little—er, that's another question."