

FIRST GAS ATTACK

BY EDGAR D. GILMAN,
Chief Gas Officer, Camp Greene.

About the middle of April, 1915, rumors became current in the British lines that the Germans were going to use a poison gas as a war weapon. Some prisoner or deserter seems to have been responsible for the story. It was not considered seriously. No one believed it or paid any attention to it. All nations had agreed not to use such a weapon, a signed treaty existed to this effect. Then in the early hours of the morning of April 22, 1915, a date that will long live in the memory of man, the Germans launched the first gas attack, and another horror was added to the war which they had already made so horrible. From that date on the study of the tactical problems of war have had to be reconsidered. The drills of the soldier have slowly been changed, and even the equipment carried by the soldier has been materially affected by this, the most used and the most terrible of war's weapons.

The point of attack chosen by the Germans for the first use of gas was in the Ypres salient, at the junction of the French (Turcos) and British (Canadian) lines. Imagine if you will the feelings of these men as in the gray of the early morning they saw arising from the ground, rolling toward them in heavy waves this strange greenish-yellow monster. First wonder, then fear, then terror as the first breath was drawn containing the deadly poison. Absolutely unprepared for such a form of attack the allied troops were completely felled by the wave of gas. Heavier than air the gas clung to the ground, rolling over and over in big clouds propelled by the wind. It found its way down and completely filled every trench, dugout and shell hole. Thousands of the French colored troops and of the Canadian troops were killed, many immediately, but most of them slowly and horribly. The cloud swept on and through the line leaving death and bareness behind it and for that one time in the war the allied line was broken.

With thousands of the allied soldiers killed and helpless, with virtually a clear field before them, and an open way to Calais and the Hohen-zollern dream of control of the channel ports, the German army was stopped by a handful of men. Those who had saved themselves by their presence of mind in burying their faces in the earth, by covering their nostrils and mouths with wet handkerchiefs, or socks, together with a few who came into the breach from the flanks of the attack stoutly opposed the whole German army and halted them.

It will always be a wonder point in history—this failure of the German high command to follow up the advantage obtained by them at this time. Had they underestimated the effect of the gas? Were the local commanders lacking in the authority or the initiative to push the advantage they should have observed? It will always be a surmise as to how long the Germans had planned this attack. The fact remains that it lacked finesse and evidence of the finer sense of tactical judgment. It will always be held up against the Germans, not only that they failed to uphold a treaty of civilized nations but also that they failed at this crucial point in military strategy.

No account of this first gas attack, however brief, would be adequate or complete without a word of praise to the Canadian troops who met a new and terrifying death without a falter, who jumped into the opening, a handful against an army, and succeeded in holding the broken line until it could be reinforced. It remains for some poet of imagination to perpetuate the work of these men, each and every one a modern Horatius.

Personnel Office Busy.

One of the busiest places in Camp Greene is in the personnel office where Lieut. T. I. Carroll and his force is supposed to know everything and the exact location of it. A feature that makes the work go fine in the office is the jovial spirit that fills the bunch although working every minute seems to put life into their work enough to make it interesting. Keeping up data about men and doing nothing but statistical work is no pleasant job, but you will find this one office there with the goods. If they can't find out what you want they will try to create an emergency or do anything to accommodate the inquirer, and it would be interesting too to list the questions that are asked in a day about men connected with the camp. It is no curiosity office, but the next time you have business with the same just see if you don't agree with the writer about their willingness to deliver the goods.

Fire Truck and Hose Company No. 323
Sergeant Frank J. Cooper, fire department clerk, has lately been commissioned second lieutenant.

The new fire marshal, First Lieutenant L. J. Evans, was a member of the Chicago fire department for 15 years.

Forty-three men in the company have recently subscribed \$2,600 for the fourth Liberty loan.

Boys, write up your company news for Trench and Camp, give it to any secretary and sign your name to anything that you contribute so that the editor will know that it is authentic.



The quarantine has brought about increased activity on the part of the Jewish welfare board and the Charlotte branch has been especially generous in looking out for the wants of the boys. Baskets of fine fruits have reached the Welfare building almost every other day and these have been a great treat, not only to Jewish boys, but to all who have been fortunate enough to be around when the "eats" arrived.

The camp worker, Mr. Silverman, has devoted a great deal of his time and efforts to looking after the wants of the "flu" victims in the different hospitals, and has done much to earn the gratitude of those unable to help themselves.

Last Saturday, the 12th, Mr. Nabow and Miss Silverstein, of the Charlotte branch, brought a big can of coffee, cakes and cigarettes, and gave the boys a little party. It was a great success for they all lined up for thirds, and no wonder.

Saturday evening, 19th, the same people entertained the boys again, with a chocolate party, given under the auspices of the Charlotte branch of the J. W. B.

Mr. Rabinowitz, formerly head worker of the Jewish welfare board in Camp Greene, has been transferred to Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va. He is in charge of the welfare work there.

There was much regret at his departure and he left a host of friends in Camp Greene. We wish him all success at his new post and feel he will have ample opportunity to enlarge upon the good work he started in Camp Greene.

All aboard for the big musical revue and minstrel show to be given by the big 3: the Y. M. C. A., K. of C. and Jewish welfare board. More information about this can be had from the secretaries of any of the welfare buildings. Talent of all kinds and of a good quality is wanted, and all those that want to help make this show a big success, and provide the boys in the hospital with "goodies" are asked to send their name in.

Abe Mennin, who used to be a very familiar figure in the J. W. B. building, and who was the bandmaster of the fourth recruit camp band, has been transferred to Minneola, L. I., as bandmaster. We all wish him the best of luck, and hope that he will have an opportunity of playing the Star Spangled Banner in Berlin, within a very short time.

The Jewish welfare board has authorized its local representative, Mr. Silverman, to purchase packages of candy and cigarettes to be distributed among the negro soldiers of the 810th Pioneer Infantry who are soon to leave for over there. This is only one of the many proofs of the non-sectarianism of the welfare agencies in the camps of this country. One of

the most beautiful things that this war has brought out is this wonderful work of the welfare agencies, and the unselfish co-operation that exists between the representatives in the different camps, and naval stations throughout the country.

"Boys if you want anything go to Jack!" those are the words of the men that visit the Jewish welfare building, and "Jack" Silverman usually gets it for them. Mr. Silverman must be admired for his wonderful conception and ability for the performance of his duties as a welfare worker. Although hardly less than two months in this camp you will find that he has everything from A to Z on the tip of his tongue, and does his work like a veteran. Nothing is too much for him in order to make the boys comfortable and pleased, and the men readily appreciate his good efforts and are at all times willing to help their "Jack" in anything that he may ask them.

NOTES AROUND CAMP.

Second Lieut. Amos A. Putnam arrived in Camp Greene last week from Camp Devens, Mass., and is connected with the utility company.

Ceebynite Compass
\$3.50 at Dealers or Postpaid
Gold Filled \$6.50
If dealer can't supply you don't take substitute. Order direct from us. Folder on Taylor-made Compasses on request.
Taylor Instrument Companies
Rochester, N. Y.

BEST IN THE LONG RUN FAIR TREATMENT

When War Invaded The Air

THE eyes of the army were first set in the sky when the French Revolutionary forces, using the first war balloon, won the battle of Fleurus, 1794.

It was a Montgolfier balloon, the type the Montgolfier brothers developed from Cavallo's crude experiments in 1766 with hydrogen-filled pig bladders.

Goodrich follows the flag into the sky.

One hundred and twenty-five years after the first war balloon, the battles of the air find not only Goodrich Dirigibles and Montgolfier balloons in the thick of it, but also—

GOODRICH SERVICE VALUE TIRES

For war, exalting the long-known supremacy of Goodrich Silvertown Cord Tires, has adopted the Silvertown spiral-wrapped, cable-cord tire for airplanes.

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