

## AMERICAN LEGION DOOMED BY DEATH

Veterans Of Last War Dying 12 Percent Faster Than Other People Same Age

Elmer, like Topsy, has "grown up."  
This month the American Legion, which is Elmer, celebrated its 20th birthday. Newspapers throughout the country noted the event in reminiscent tales of the struggle since 1919 when Col. Theodore Roosevelt first suggested the formation of a World war veteran's organization.

But what of the next 20 years? Will Elmer still be living and if so, how much will he have grown, or diminished, in stature?

The answer is an American tragedy. For, although there are nearly twice as many men to draw from, the American Legion will not be as strong numerically in 1959 as the grand army of the republic was in 1906, 40 years after the War Between the States.

United States veterans of the World war are dying 12 percent faster than other citizens of the same age, according to insurance actuaries. On every day of last year 86 more veterans answered the final roll call.

Since the armistice of '18 up to and including armistice day of '38, more than half a million former soldiers died—545,139, to be exact. During the present year, according to actuary estimates, 33,000 more will have taps sounded.

Life expectancy data shows the death total will increase every year by 10 percent for five years, 13 percent for the next five years, and then jump to 20-22 percent for the next decade.

Records are not available on the deaths of veterans during the reconstruction period but membership rolls of the G. A. R. showing a decided upswing in the 20 years following the grand army's inception, reached 323,571 in 1886, about one-third the potential strength.

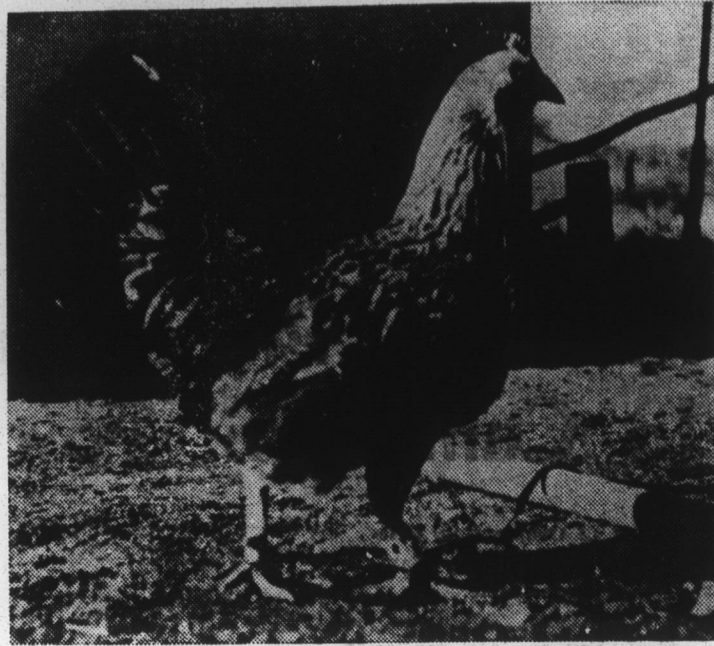
The Legion, on the other hand, shows a decrease over the last few years, closing 1938 with 974,637 members, well below the all time high of 1,053,909 in 1931.

What is the cause of Elmer's coming demise?

The increased torture of war. Sherman's men, after the march to the sea, were in better physical condition than when they started.

But the combatants who fought through Chateau-Thierry

## Famed Hen, Aged 23, Dies of Old Age



Granny, 23-year-old hen, died of old age near Salisbury, N. C., recently. Property of Lawrence A. Taylor, Granny was the oldest hen in the world. She was widely known among poultry men and was frequently exhibited at shows. Until a year ago she laid an occasional egg.

or the Meuse-Argonne were physically spent, jittery from constant shell fire, sniping, and trench life.

In the Civil war, the chances of being wounded were not as great. Desertions with intervening periods of pleasure were more frequent. Shell-shock was practically unknown.

Neuro-psychiatric breakdowns following the Civil war were about nil. A large percentage of post World war casualties are of nervous origin.

Men who went to the front in '61 were, in many respects, pioneers hardened by constant struggling for their place in the world. But the World war soldier had lived in a decade of luxury and was not prepared for the strain of changing from office to trench.

The difference shows up sharply in life expectancy figures. Whereas many Civil war veterans have lived to old age, the World war survivor—now 46 years old, on the average—has only 21 more years of life.

Watson B. Miller, national rehabilitation director of the Legion after studying the death records of the U. S. veterans' administration and comparing them with mortality figures of private insurance companies, recently said:

"The average death rate among the general population at the age of 46-47 is 76.8 per day. If this figure is approximately correct, and we feel it is, the conclusion that America's World war veterans are passing away at a

rate 12 percent greater than others in the same group is substantiated, for the daily average death rate of World war veterans during 1938 was 86."

So, it would seem that Elmer, proud of nearing his majority in organization, and striving to keep his waist line down at 46 years of age, never will reach his allotted three score and ten.

In 1959, according to these statistics, the World war veteran, at an average age of 67, will be as scarce as the G. A. R. veteran of about 90 years is today.

And there were only 3,325 of the "thinning line of blue" accounted for last year.

Elmer is doomed! Long live Elmer!

### EUROPEAN TENSION INCREASES

London, England—All Europe awaits Hitler's next move, after his bloodless seizure of Czechoslovakia, which added 10,000,000 people and \$80,000,000 in gold to the rapidly expanding German Empire. The store of bullion is insufficient to solve the Reich's economic crisis and the added population merely presents another problem. At the big Portland Naval Base officers and men have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for any emergency.

Paris, France—With the full status of a dictator, Premier Edouard Daladier has moved to place the entire French army on a war footing if any further moves are made by Germany to change the balance of power in Central Europe. France, Great Britain and Russia have declined to recognize the seizure of Czechoslovakia as compatible with international law.

Bucharest, Rumania—This government has signed a trade agreement with the Reich, but it is emphasized that it does not follow the original German demands, nor does it constitute a surrender of Rumanian rights.

Berlin, Germany—A million people stood for hours in the rain to acclaim Adolf Hitler as "Aggrandiser of the Reich", a new title conferred on him on the occasion of his triumphal return from the conquest of Czechoslovakia.

ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES FOR RESULTS.

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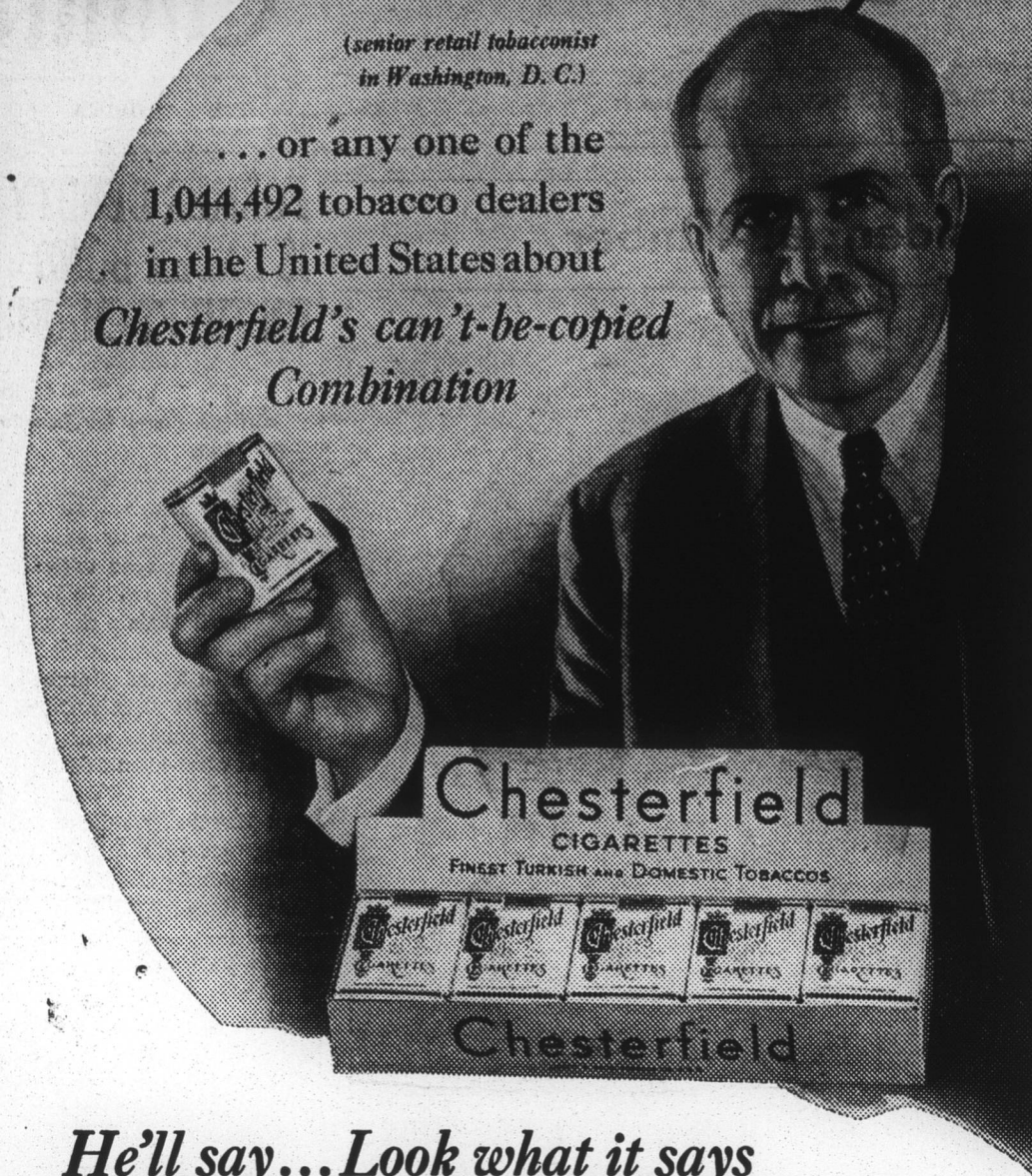
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# Chesterfield

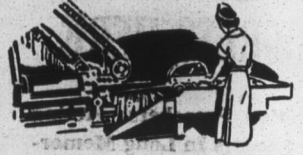
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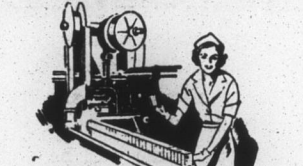
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