

OUR MEN TRAINED BY RIFLE EXPERTS

SOLDIERS IN TRAINING CAMPS TAUGHT HOW TO USE AND CARE FOR WEAPONS.

BRITISH COMMUNAL KITCHENS

They Prove Successful in Saving Food and Fuel — State Councils of Defense Will Advise War Risk Claimants.

(From Committee on Public Information.)
Washington.—The National Army and many organizations of the National Guard having been equipped with the United States rifle, model of 1917 (modified Enfield), it became necessary to devise some plan whereby troops could be efficiently trained in the use of this weapon in short time.

A statement authorized by the ordnance department tells how experts in shooting, many of them members of United States teams which won international shooting matches, were commissioned and sent to various camps to instruct officers and men in shooting and in the operation and care of the rifle.

In one camp officers under instruction from these men gave a demonstration in dismounting and assembling this rifle while blindfolded, the record time being 7 minutes for dismounting and 22 minutes for assembling. There are 86 parts to the rifle, chances' classes, the mechanics being trained to make repairs to rifles in the field. Frequently they will have to do their work at night, when they will not be allowed to use lights, and therefore they must be thoroughly trained in taking down the rifle and putting in new parts by sense of touch.

Communal kitchens are being established throughout Great Britain and are proving successful in saving food and fuel, according to reports to the department of commerce. An article from a recent issue of an English newspaper is quoted:

"The war has brought home to the public that the communal or national kitchen is a necessity and can be made a success. Within a comparatively short period there will probably be installed many hundreds of these establishments throughout the country. The national kitchen was originally intended to supply poor people with nourishing and attractively prepared food at low prices, but there is considerable prospect—certainly, in fact—that the more prosperous will form a fair proportion of the customers."

"As an example of the outfit of a people's kitchen that at Hammersmith (London) may be taken as a model. This supplies about 6,000 customers a week, which probably represents 12,000 to 15,000 consumers, as a customer commonly purchases for his or her family."

The council of national defense has urged the state councils to provide voluntary aid for dependents of men in the service in collecting allotments of pay and family allowances, arrears of pay, travel pay, extra pay, or other money due estates of deceased soldiers and sailors.

Allotments and allowances under the war-risk insurance law are paid directly by the treasury department to the persons entitled thereto; claims for insurance taken out under the law should be addressed to bureau of war-risk insurance, treasury department, Washington, D. C.; claims for arrears of pay, extra pay and travel pay of deceased soldiers and sailors and all other claims should be addressed to auditor of the war department, Washington, D. C.

Consul General Thackara, at Paris, cables: "A decree of April 5, published April 6, gives notice that all merchandise prohibited from importation by law of May 6, 1918, will be seized and sold for profit of the state unless a regular import authorization be presented within five days after arrival. For first 30 days after promulgation of this decree requests for derogations from its provision can be addressed to the minister of finance, in case particular circumstances justify an exception."

Two per cent of the enlisted personnel of the divisions and detached units of the regular army, National Guard, and National army, excepting the coast artillery and various staff corps, will be designated to attend the fourth series of officers' training schools, which will open May 15. Admission has also been granted to some men who have had at least one year's military training under army officers at educational institutions which have earned government recognition.

Night driving of motor-truck supply trains from the West to the seaboard has been started by the quartermaster's department as a step toward final training to fit men for service in France.

According to the council of national defense, the experience gained in cross-country convoy work has made the truck companies able to travel entirely independent of the countryside. Camps are made at the regular hour, no matter where the company is located, except that open country is given preference over cities.

Optical glass equaling the product of European manufacturers, from whom only it formerly could be obtained, is now being produced for military use by the bureau of standards of the United States department of commerce and several privately owned factories. One shipment from the glass factory in Pittsburgh, for use by the navy department, contained 780 pounds of high-grade optical glass—enough to provide lenses for probably 750 binoculars.

Development in glass manufacturing in the United States has been similar to that of dye making. Before the war manufacturers of optical goods in this country were content to import all their glass from Europe, themselves doing only the grinding, polishing, and mounting. European glass factories, one of the three largest being located in England, one in France, and one in Germany were closely guarded to protect secrets of the trade sometimes a century old. It was considered impossible to produce efficient glass without formulas and factory processes developed by many years of experimentation.

One of the problems facing the bureau of standards when, with optical companies in America, it started to replace with locally made products the supply of European optical glass which had been cut off by the war, was to provide suitable pots for melting. In one process of its manufacture the glass must be kept at temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees F., when it would rapidly dissolve a container made of iron, steel, or other metal. Pots now being used which satisfactorily withstand the heat and chemical actions of molten glass are made of clay found in the United States.

In addition to the factory operated by the bureau of standards at Pittsburgh, several privately owned companies are now furnishing optical glass for military use in telescopes, binoculars, field glasses, periscopes, and other technical and scientific instruments.

The quartermaster corps, charged with the responsibility of feeding and clothing the soldiers, is rigidly inspecting the food purchased for the troops to see that only pure articles are supplied. As an indication of the amount of food that must be obtained, says a statement authorized by the quartermaster general, 1,500,000 men consume daily 1,500,000 pounds of beef, 225,000 pounds of bacon, 210,000 pounds of ham, 135,000 cans of tomatoes, and 225,000 cans of jam—with other articles aggregating 6,750,000 pounds.

These quantities of foodstuffs are subjected to thorough inspection, which begin at the source and continue until the food is actually consumed. Each depot of the quartermaster corps is a central subsistence business of its own, supplying the camps, cantonments, aviation fields, and other posts in its territory. The subsistence officers are held responsible for the quality of the goods they receive.

Before the supplies reach the depots, however, they are passed upon by inspectors in the packing houses, canneries, and other sources of origin. The records at Washington show the capabilities, character, and standard of every establishment furnishing food for the army. The specifications which their products must meet are clear and exact.

The inspection branch maintains a current file of unreliable dealers and unreliable products, insuring the elimination of dealers who, having been denied the right to supply some of the many depots of the army, make subsequent attempts to obtain contracts at other points.

Relatives and friends of several soldiers in army camps have been victimized by swindlers who wired or wrote for funds under soldiers' names. In each instance it was requested that money be sent by wire waiving identification, or by mail to general delivery, the customary explanation being that the soldier had been discharged and would have no way of securing identification, nor of getting mail addressed to his company.

The following is a typical telegram, sent to the father of a soldier in a southern camp:
"Have been discharged. Coming home. Going to Atlanta through country tonight. Please wire me \$60 at Atlanta so I may pay for uniform and come home direct. Wave identification as I am not known in Atlanta. Wire cash quick so I can get it tomorrow morning."
Before being complied with, any request for money to be sent under such conditions should be verified by a letter or telegram to the commanding officer of the camp in which the man whose name is signed to the request is stationed.

The United States government is looking for men who can take charge of branch offices of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce, and men to act as assistants in these offices. Branches are located in the principal commercial cities. The salaries range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for managers and from \$1,200 to \$1,800 for assistants.

A noncompetitive examination will be held May 16 in various parts of the country. Applicants will be examined in export-trade, technique, promotion of commerce, and economic geography, and credit will be given for knowledge of foreign languages. The examinations will be under the direction of the civil service.

The minister of agriculture of Brazil has been authorized to establish modern experimental farms and agricultural colonies, especially for the education of orphans and abandoned children.

AMERICANS IN GREAT BATTLE

Heavy Attack Launched Against U. S. Troops.

HURL THE ENEMY BACK

Huns Leave Many Dead—Losses on American Side Also Reported To Be Rather Large.

France.—A heavy German attack launched against the Americans in the vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux was repulsed with heavy losses for the enemy. The German preliminary bombardment lasted two hours, and then the infantry rushed forward, only to be driven back, leaving large numbers of dead on the ground in front of the American lines.

The German bombardment opened at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and was directed especially against the Americans, who were supported on the north and south by the French. The fire was intense, and at the end of two hours the German commander sent forward three battalions of infantry. There was hand-to-hand fighting all along the line, as a result of which the enemy was thrust back, his dead and wounded lying on the ground in all directions. Five prisoners remained in American hands.

The struggle, which lasted a considerable time, was extremely violent and the Americans displayed marked bravery throughout. It was the first occasion in which the Americans were engaged in the big battle, which has been raging since March 21, and their French comrades are full of praise for the manner in which they conducted themselves under trying circumstances, especially in view of the fact that they are fighting at one of the most difficult points on the battle front.

TRANSPORTS IN COLLISION.

Neither Seriously Damaged, But Brought Back To Port.

Washington.—Two American transports which were in collision at sea several days ago have returned safely to an Atlantic port, the Navy Department announced.

Secretary Daniels authorized the following statement:
"Two transports which were damaged in a collision at sea several days ago have arrived safely at an Atlantic port. The two vessels were in a convoy and were running without lights. Neither was seriously damaged, but both were ordered to return to port for repairs. No lives are reported lost."

"A board of inquiry will be appointed to make a thorough investigation of the accident."

THREE BILLS TO RAISE ARMY.

Smith, Of Georgia, Would Have It Number 5,000,000.

Washington.—Three bills to increase America's manpower in the war were introduced in the Senate. Senator Polk, of Washington, offered one authorizing the President to call 1,500,000 men under the Selective Draft law; Senator Reed, of Missouri, offered one to add 3,000,000 men to the army, and Senator Smith, of Georgia, introduced a resolution proposing to raise the army to 5,000,000 men.

Immediate action to increase the army, Senator Polk said, in a brief address, is necessary.

VILLA SLAYS ALL IN TOWN.

Orders Dand To Massacre When Girls Are Refused Him.

El Paso, Texas.—Thirty old men, women and children were killed by Villa's men at Santa Cruz de Rosales, 40 miles southeast of Chihuahua City, last Friday, according to a report brought to the border by railroad men. Villa demanded that three young girls be delivered to him. When this was refused his men were ordered to kill everyone living in the little settlement, according to the report from Chihuahua City.

LUMBER RATES DISAPPROVED.

Virginia, Carolinas And Georgia Affected by I. C. C. Report.

Washington.—Proposed increases in lumber rates from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia to points in Buffalo-Pittsburgh and Central Freight Association territories were disapproved in a tentative report of an Interstate Commerce Commission examiner just made public.

MORE PEACE TALK.

Charte Of Austria Reported To Be Making Overtures To Italy.

Stockholm.—The Catholic international Press Agency announces, a dispatch from Basel says, that Emperor Charles of Austria is making a fresh peace offer, appealing to Italy to consider it in her own interests.



STEAMER RAMMED 66 LIVES ARE LOST

City of Athens Sunk off Delaware Coast.

33 PASSENGERS MISSING

Attempt Made To Lower Lifeboats Abandoned Because Of Rapidity With Which Vessel Was Sinking.

An Atlantic Port.—Sixty-six persons lost their lives when the steamship City of Athens, bound from New York for Savannah, was rammed and sunk by a French cruiser off the Delaware Coast. The missing include 10 men and two women who were passengers, seven out of 24 United States marines who were on board, 14 out of 20 French sailors and 33 members of the crew.

All the passengers and many of the crew were in their berths when the bow of the warship plunged into the side of the 2,300-ton coastwise vessel. Fire broke out almost immediately afterwards in hold No. 1, but it had no bearing on the fate of the ship, for the flames were quickly quenched by the rush of water which poured in.

Capt. J. Forward, one of the veteran commanders in the service of the Ocean Steamship Company, owners of the vessel, did his best to avert a panic and man the life boats. So quickly did the doomed vessel sink, however, that there was no time to get the boats away, and many of those who perished were trapped in their berths.

Those of the passengers and crew who were able to reach the deck, all of them thinly clad and many without life preservers, plunged into the sea. The cruiser launched lifeboats immediately after the crash and turned its searchlights upon the waters in which men and women were struggling for their lives. Sixty-eight persons were picked up and brought back to this port by the warship, which was not seriously damaged.

ALEXIS CZAR, SAYS REPORT.

Son Of Deposed Monarch Rumored To Have Been Proclaimed.

London.—A dispatch from Copenhagen to the Exchange Telegraph says it is reported there that a counter-revolution has broken out in Petrograd.

It reports that while no telegrams have been received from Petrograd for several days, there are rumors from Finland that there is serious rioting at the capital, and that the rumor is persistent that Grand Duke Alexis Nikolaevitch has been proclaimed Emperor and that Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch is the real leader in Russian affairs.

DEFINITE ANSWER WANTED.

Uruguayan Government Again Asks Huns If State Of War Exists.

Montevideo.—The Uruguayan Government has again requested from Germany a definite reply to the query previously forwarded as to whether Germany considers a state of war existing between the two countries. Germany's answer to Uruguay's first request evades this point, but in the meantime the Uruguayan Foreign Minister declines to discuss the matter.

WILL SUCCEED SENATOR STONE.

Xenophon P. Willey Accepts The Missouri Toga.

St. Louis.—Xenophon P. Willey, member of the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners and a well known Democrat of Missouri, was tendered by Governor Gardner the seat in the United States Senate vacated recently by the death of Senator W. J. Stone. Willey announced he would accept the appointment and left for Jefferson City to confer with the Governor.

AMERICA MUST SEND MORE MEN

Review Emphasizes Need For Reinforcements

SAMMIES HELP SAVE AMIENS

Result Of Battle On Western Front Depends On Man Power And It's Up To America.

Washington.—Formal announcement that American troops, sent to reinforce the Allied armies, have taken part in the fighting was made by the War Department in its weekly review of the situation.

"Our forces have taken part in the battle," says the statement briefly. "American units are in action east of Amiens. During the engagements which have raged in this area they have acquitted themselves well."

The review in emphasizing the immediate need of fresh men to withstand the German onslaught, adds that America's imperative duty is to provide replacement units for the French front.

"In addition to those already called to the colors," says the statement, "and those in training at our cantonments or already selected for service, very large quotas will be required in the immediate future to fill the gaps."

In this connection the review points out that "the enemy is seeking a decision that will end the war and the outcome of the present operations upon manpower."

The statement mentions the attack on American positions at Seicheprey, northwest of Toul. Here on April 26, the review says, the Germans swept over American lines on a front of three kilometers, but subsequently gave up the ground occupied. The department's statement is as follows:

"The outcome of the present operations in the west depends on manpower. The Germans are relying principally on rifles, machine guns, manpower and carefully thought-out methods of transporting and supplying munitions to the front of attack under all conditions, which means that they have developed mobility of offensive action that can only be met by counter measures of equal potency and flexibility."

"A battle of such magnitude as the one being fought in the west cannot be decided by any single engagement, yet there arise a series of crises on which the ultimate outcome depends. These crises, up to the present in a large measure, have resulted favorably to the enemy."

"The vigorous attacks driven against the British lines were intended to paralyze the independent will power of the British command. In this the enemy has failed. Unity of command of the Allies has extended operations to the broader field of general engagements in which all the Allied forces will henceforth be used interchangeably."

"This change in the combat situation has materially altered the moment of decision of the offensive. Instead of the enemy being able to defeat the British Army and then turn its full energy against the French, the Allies are now able to oppose their full united strength to the hostile attack."

GERMANS RESPECT MARINES.

Refer To American Sea Soldiers As Devil Dogs.

New York.—United States marines in service in France are proud of the title, "Deufel Hunden," or "Devil Dogs," conferred upon them by the Germans, according to letters received here from overseas. The name, the letters say, saves the "soldiers of the sea" from selecting a substitute for the unfavored "Sammy."

World War in Brief

Again there has come a pause in the battle of Flanders, where the ground everywhere is covered with the gray-clad bodies of German dead, and the British and French are holding securely to all their positions.

From Saturday until well into Monday night General von Arnim's forces continued their efforts to break the British lines on the Ypres salient and to press back the British and French from the high ground to the southwest, but everywhere their efforts were fruitless. True, they gained their objective and again captured Loere, but a counter-thrust forced them out again, and at last accounts the French were holding the village.

In the hilly region just to the north of Loere the British also pushed back the enemy at several points, notably between Kennel and La Clytte.

Much of the snap of the German attacking forces has been absent from the maneuvers they have been carrying out in Flanders under the stiffened line of the Entente troops, which has been apparent since last Sunday.

To the south, near Amiens, and to the east, around Noyon, the enemy likewise has failed in all his attempts to push farther forward. The British, east of Villers-Bretonneux, which lies directly east of Amiens, have advanced their front, and in the Noyon sector the French have re-established their lines which the Germans previously had captured from them.

While the present halt in the battle possibly may indicate the near approach of the throwing into the fray of the great reserve army which General Foch has gathered, that such is the intention of the supreme commander of the Allied forces has not become apparent.

It is not improbable, however, that at a meeting of the Inter-Allied War Council, in Paris Wednesday, which will be attended by the American, French, British and Italian representatives, measures having in view the turning of the tide of the battle will be uppermost in the discussions.

In all the various war theatres, except the western, the situation remains relatively calm so far as fighting is concerned. All along the front in Italy reciprocal bombardments continue and small maneuvers by reconnoitering parties are being carried out.

In Macedonia the Serbians, in the region of Monastir, again have entered an enemy position and annihilated the garrison. They also have been successful in repulsing an attack by Bulgarians, which had as its object the recapture of positions near Vretsk, taken by the Serbians a week ago.

German and Austrian newspapers are beginning to express their fear concerning the entry of the United States into the war, which they have referred to with scorn. "We must hurry and obtain a solid victory by arms before the American forces arrive," is the tenor of their plea to their peoples.

SCORES CASUALTY PLAN.

Representative Rogers Tells Of Diminution Of Relatives.

Washington.—Representative Rogers, of Massachusetts, speaking in the House, said the War Department's policy of not giving the addresses of men named in the casualty list had caused unnecessary grief by reason of the duplication of names. Three families in his district, he said, had supposed names mentioned in the lists were those of their sons, but on investigation learned the men were from another State.

BRITISH AIRMEN BOMB TROOPS.

Huns East Of Loere Offer Good Targets To Pilots.

London.—An official report on aerial operations just issued says: "East of Loere the enemy's troops on Monday offered good targets to our pilots, who dropped 275 bombs on them and engaged them with machine gun fire. Seven hostile machines were brought down in air fighting and one was shot down by our infantry. Two of our machines are missing."

KILLED PLAYING SOLDIER.

West Virginia Boy Falls Upon Wooden Gun And Dies.

Elkins, W. Va.—Elkins lost its first war victim this week, not in the trenches but right here in Elkins. William Lyle Kemper, 9 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kemper, while playing soldier about 10 days ago fell upon his wooden gun, inflicting internal injuries from which he died.

FIVE OF FAMILY KILLED.

Meet Death When Passenger Train Hits Automobile.

Fayette, Ind.—Five persons, all members of one family, were killed when a Big Four passenger train struck an automobile in which the party was riding. All of them were killed instantly and some of the bodies were carried half a mile by the train.

WASHINGTON.
The Overman bill was passed by the Senate by the vote of 63 to 13 without amendment.