

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Mis Treatment in Camp

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I happened to notice in an issue of the Evening Public Ledger a very interesting statement by one who signed himself "Brinton." It referred to Daniel J. Lince, former sergeant of Company K, 11th Infantry, and criticizing said sergeant in his written statement to the Select War Crimes Committee concerning the inhuman and cruel treatment of prisoners at Camp Hancock or the 11th Infantry stockade. I read with interest Mr. Edwards' article "Why Three Lives Lost," as I would say, "Why a Man Loses."

Now he has become a buddy to Sergeant Lince, also a former member of said 11th Infantry, but not of the same company as the sergeant. Sir—I wonder what may have caused him to do the fact that I also fell a victim to that terrible epidemic which spread over Camp Hancock around the holidays of 1917 and suffered similar fate as Sergeant Lince.

We all know as should know that a soldier must expect such treatment as that which may be imposed upon him in order to run an army, we may say, its engine, and that the various camps must be run in two different methods that could have been dealt us instead of those that were practiced? Why starve the men to death? Why starve the men in the 11th Infantry, you virtually don't know what went in the 11th Infantry. I doubt if you know all that happened in your own regiment.

I will not go into details to explain how as you may note above I state "Why a hard lesson?" so will not make further what I will to you. Mr. Edwards, if you will accept my cordial attention to your suggestion, we can get the whole story of what actually did take place. Yes, our outgoing and incoming mail was censored so how could such facts have made known.

The American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, we realize that but did not make a grave mistake when they censured Sergeant Lince's attitude towards our wounded soldiers in the various names of high standing, the commandant and not of the type you imagine. There is not one who knows him who would hesitate to attend an excellent chairman.

There are many career mistakes of others, which none can, not as you see yourself but as others see you.

JOHNIE RUCK
JOHNIE DONAHUE

Philadelphia, December 8, 1921.

Women Clerks

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I answer to "W. M. H." I should like to ask how he would define "clerk" when referring to women who work in clerical offices.

Regarding them, let me say that many women came to Washington in 1917 and 1918 to work in places which could not be filled by men. They had to work hard and often a hard day, from seven and eight and ten in a small room. These went on army coats, using their coats as bedding on a six-cent corner, having a half-hour to be served. To live in this way cost them \$75 or more a month while they were paid an average of \$30 a month.

During the war, there were hundreds of thousands of clerks attending them.

We gave many a dollar out of our meager savings to ship the bodies of the unfortunate men who had died in the service of the United States, and no flag draped over them.

Now, Mr. "W. M. H." gives not your definition of a "clerk." Would you say that the women who worked in the clerical offices should be scored? I am now married to an ex-service man who has a position with the Government. We find that Washington unions are as high as ever. I am a member of the Red Cross office on 30th Street, where we have a good time, a half-hour to be served. To live in this way cost them \$75 or more a month while they were paid an average of \$30 a month.

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