

# Uncle Sam Has Made Marksmen in Peace Times

Special Correspondence  
WASHINGTON, D. C., 1917.  
When the "planned time of peace" the United States issued to civilians the Krag rifle, retired as obsolete by the advent of the Springfield, the seed of a practical preparedness, which is now being harvested a thousand fold, was sown.

At the time the issuance of the rifles was sanctioned by Congress, which placed within reach of every able-bodied citizen a service rifle and 120 cartridges for practice every year, many critics asked "What good will it do? What will the government receive in return?"

America has been a participant in the world war only three months. Yet already is the answer apparent in these facts.

Through the issuance of the obsolete Krag, there are now in the United States more than 100,000 men, many of military age, who are more proficient with the service arm than is the average recruit at the end of six months' training. Many of them are not only marksmen, but qualified sharpshooters and expert riflemen, fully equipped to step out as practical fighting men, learned in the art of straight shooting, or what is far more important from a military standpoint, equipped to become instructors in any school of musketry the War Department may establish.

A similar situation existed in England in August, 1914. A few months after the war practically every civilian rifleman in the empire was "doing a bit" of far more valuable service than what he could have accomplished as a private in the ranks, for England immediately availed herself of the many civilian ranges, installed thereon corps of instructors drawn from civilian ranks and with this machinery began at once to graduate trained marksmen into her foreign trenches.

But while this fact alone is of the utmost importance, the rifle club members of the country, while waiting for the government to outline the part they will ultimately play in the great conflict, have not been idle.

"Home guards" have sprung into being over night as a result of the efforts of rifle clubs. Corps of experienced marksmen have volunteered as guards to public buildings throughout the country, notably at the United States Department of the Interior at Washington.

Recruiting drives and patriotic rallies have been engineered, and ranges



ON THE WAY TO THE RANGE.

and clubhouses have been offered to the army to be used not only for the training of potential soldiers, but for recruiting purposes as well. In other localities, as soon as war was declared, rifle clubs have undertaken to train not only in shooting, but in military tactics, all citizens liable to conscription and all who would come under home guard requirements, or those of a line of last defense.

The activities of rifle clubs have been many and varied, and each possesses to a greater or less extent national military knowledge. It is this knowledge, the thousands of experienced riflemen who either have actually enlisted in one of the regular establishments or who have offered their services as instructors.

For many years rifle shooting has ranked as one of the prominent sports of the country, but within the past decade it has flourished at its height. The National Rifle Association of America, an affiliation of the 2,000 and more civilian rifle clubs and the medium through which the national board for the promotion of rifle practice of the War Department works, represents the shooting game in so far as the civilian and much of the match shooting of the military are concerned. The "N. R. A." has for its one aim the encouragement of rifle practice. The membership of the organization is increasing and the association now totals more than 100,000.

It is through this organization alone that the government sanctions the use of its old rifles. Since 1914 the government has issued thousands of Krag rifle clubs affiliated with the N. R. A., under certain prescribed rules, together with an annual allotment of 120 rounds of ammunition for each club member.

"Placing service rifles in the hands of civilians was the greatest impetus ever given the shooting game in this country. As far back as 1905 Congress had provided for the purchase of government arms, but not until this later legislation did rifle shooting take hold upon the men of this country which it now has.

"When the United States retired the Krag rifle and armed its forces with the Springfield, 300,000 Krags and 20,000,000 rounds of ammunition were in reserve in the various arsenals of the country. It was the issue of these arms which constituted the great surprise of the nation.

was undesirable. Each one, however, is capable of doing something. If it is desired we can furnish twenty or more expert riflemen who can be used to train recruits in the use of the army rifle. If you can use any of our men please feel free to command.

Yours truly,  
E. C. CROSSMAN, President.  
To quote other letters would be to repeat the same spirit, almost the same words. From the Atlantic to the Pacific from Maine to Florida, has come word that the men to whom Uncle Sam has loaned rifles want to "do something for the country," and that the President is to "feel free to command."

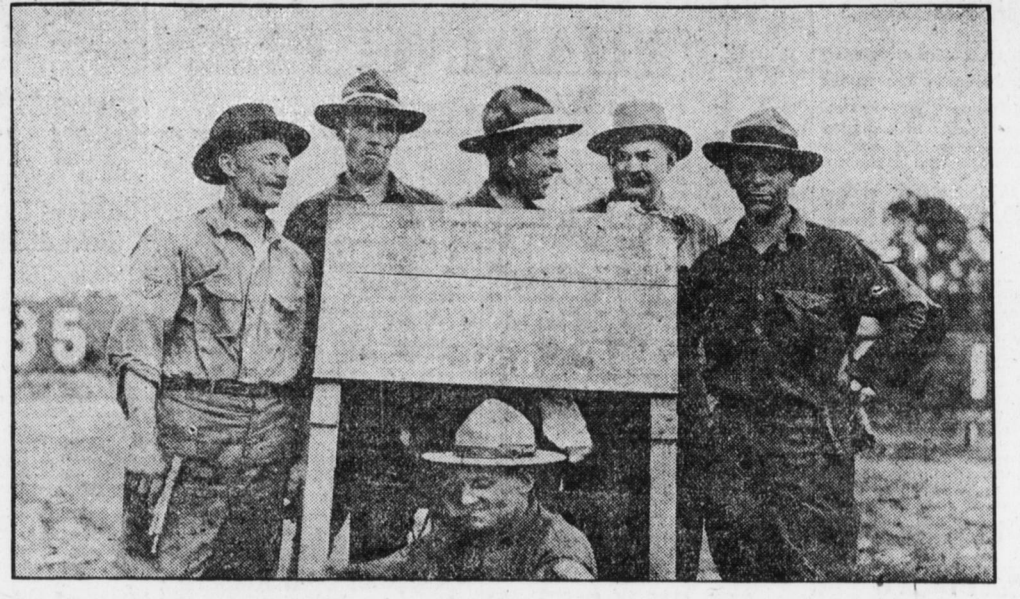
But the methods taken by many of the clubs differ. From the Greater Omaha Rifle and Revolver Club word was sent to President Wilson that they were organizing a complete regiment of volunteers for foreign service, to be at his disposal. From Detroit, Mich., came word, through Dr. S. E. Sanderson, president of the Michigan State Rifle Association, that all ranges and equipment controlled by that association, together with the services of many expert riflemen, were at the command of the government. At a meeting of the Marlon, Ohio, Rifle Club, that body was tendered to the President, "to be used in any way the President sees fit." The Harrisburg, Pa., Rifle Club, among the largest in the country, also tendered its services.

Word has been received from the Olympic Rifle and Revolver Club of San Francisco, one of the largest shooting organizations on the Pacific coast, that many of the members, including some of the best shots in the west, have enlisted in the army and navy.

Down in Texas the Pecos City Rifle Club, a few days after the declaration of war, held a mass meeting. The city was divided into wards and every able-bodied man in the city was enrolled for military drill work, the club equipping a drillground and acting as instructor.

The term "home guard" has spread throughout the United States. No community too tiny nor city too vast but what there comes word that the men who are too old to "do their bit" at the front are preparing to do the work which will be found for those forced to stay behind. To give a roster of the towns and cities in which a home guard had been organized would be to press into service the postal guide, for legion are their names.

In Montana alone every rifle club of the state has come together, numbering some 2,000 shots, for purposes of home guard work for the men past military age. At their head is Capt. D. Gay Sitters, president of the Rocky



MEMBERS OF MOUND CITY RIFLE CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, WHO HAVE OFFERED THEIR SERVICES TO THE PRESIDENT.

Mountain Rifle Club and father of the rifleman's movement in Montana. Not only is he one of the best target shots in America, but a big game hunter as well. At the opening of the Spanish war he raised a company of cavalry.

Many of the best known rifle shots of the country have offered their services as individuals, not waiting for the organizations to which they belong to offer theirs as a whole. From Alabama today "Stark-hole" Lee, one of the best known civilian shots in the country among the shooting fraternity, is not only the holder of many world's records for rifle shooting, but recently won the interclub civilian gallery competition staged by the National Rifle Association.

Mr. Lee made the high individual score 1,922 out of a possible 2,000, which incidentally is the second time he has made that score, firing ten matches of twenty shots each. The competition consisted of one match each week for ten weeks. Even more recently Mr. Lee scored ninety-eight consecutive bulls-eyes, shooting from 500 yards, which required nearly two hours, was done at a distance of seventy-five feet, the bulls-eye being a one-quarter of an inch diameter.

Mr. Lee is a member of the Birmingham Athletic Rifle Club and Revolver Association. Capt. Herbert McBride of Indianapolis, Ind., a member of the N. R. A., is another of the best known shots in the United States. He was one of the first 100,000 troops sent across by Canada, having enlisted as a private. He became known as a machine gun expert, winning two French and one British medal, as well as the rank of captain.

He has just returned to the United States to offer his services to his own country. No better example of the spirit of the civilian rifleman to render aid to his government seek entrance into any of the buildings belonging to the Department of the Interior. Uniformed in khaki, standing motionless at the entrance, with rifle at rest, stands a member of the Home Club Rifle Club. One of the first departments, after the War, State and Navy, to refuse admittance to all save those on necessary business, the Department of the Interior gave to the members of her civilian rifle club the task of guarding her doors.

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records lost at that time have never been replaced. So when war was declared Secretary Lane was quick to realize the importance of safeguarding his buildings and was more than ready to rely upon the members of the Home Club Rifle Club to do the work.

Of greatest importance in connection with the action being taken by the civilian rifleman of the country is the fact that they all know how to shoot; every member affiliated with the N. R. A., is said to be as good a shot as the average private in the army or navy.

Rifle shooting is not a "pastime" which appeals to those not having a serious intention. For the most part its devotees are business men who from sheer love of rifle shooting are willing to travel several miles from town to the range, men, who for the sake of the smell of the powder, are willing to overcome the obstacles surrounding the establishment of a full charge range, free from any chance of doing damage to property or persons.

Not only can every man who has taken the trouble to join a rifle club, or the N. R. A., as an individual member shoot as well as the average private, but at least 60 per cent are marksmen or better.

As a spur to better shooting the National Rifle Association awards lapel buttons to those qualifying as marksmen, sharpshooters or experts. Two courses of fire may be shot in winning these decorations—one a modified army course the other a modification of the course used in the navy. That means that men who have won honors as N. R. A. members can operate the army or navy as experienced shots and not have to "unlearn all they ever knew."

Twenty shots slow fire and the same number rapid fire, with a total possible score of 200, is called for in the modified army course. In both slow and rapid fire five shots each are fired prone, kneeling, squatting and standing. To gain the marksmanship standing a score of 100 is necessary, with a total of 140 necessary out of a possible 200.

In the modified army course the same course of fire is used for all classes, the score determining the qualification to which the shooter is entitled. Thirty shots are fired, ten at 200 yards, ten at 500 and ten at 600 yards; all shots slow fire, prone position. Twenty shots are required in rapid fire, three shifts, yards. For qualification as a marksman, out of a possible 250 it is necessary to score 150 for sharpshooter, 190, and for expert, 210.

Instead of firing at 200 yards, as is done in the marksman course, he would win distinction as an expert rifleman, must shoot from 500 yards in both slow and rapid fire. In rapid fire the shooter has to change position with each shot. Forty shots comprise the entire course for experts, with a total of 140 necessary out of a possible 200.

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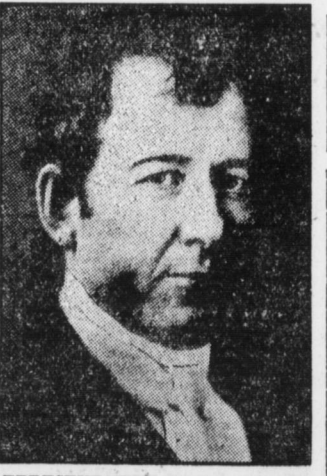


THOMAS K. LEE, A crack marksman.

with the next year. What they have felt, other fathers and mothers will feel. And on whether they face bravely as have these men, who have given their sons and sacrifice with the War willingness hardly depends on the success of the war. For even though the draft take a son regardless of his parents' wishes, his parents' attitude will mean much to his fighting spirit, to his bravery and his power to endure hardships when he goes away to battle for the land of his birth.

With this fact in mind, several representatives whose sons already are in the army, and who are preparing for one branch of the service have told something of their boys, the circumstances surrounding their entering the services and the parental emotions they experienced when Johnnie went marching away.

When a man gives his only two sons to his country he certainly should have first place in any story regarding a sacrifice for war. And that is why Representative Mark R. Bacon of Wyandotte, Mich., takes first place here. His two boys, Milton E., twenty-one years old, and John B. F., twenty-five years old, have signified their willingness to fight, and now are training for entrance into Uncle Sam's service.



REPRESENTATIVE PHILIP P. CAMPBELL OF KANSAS.

representative Gordon of Ohio, whose son, Walter Scott, is in training for the Officers' Reserve Corps, said: "He said that his son wanted to enlist and that he agreed and that he would have it any other way."

"My boy went to Johns Hopkins University for four years. After that he entered Kenyon College. He had been there two years when the war broke out. Then he wanted to enlist and I helped him all I could. I was his view of the situation, 'This is what I want to do and I will do it.' If my boy is trained—as he is, in military tactics—it is his duty to go and do his best, and it certainly is not my duty to try to discourage him."

says he does not know why he ever was placed on the committee, but he works, and works hard, and that night he was selected for training for the Officers' Corps is John Temple, a son of Representative Temple of Pennsylvania. He had four years' service in the guard and recently was on the Mexican border.

"I am not particular to see the boy exposed to danger," his father said, "but I didn't want to see him be a slacker. Hence, when the time came for him to go, I couldn't object."

Some day, over in France, when Gen. Pershing gets homesick and wants to talk with some of the boys about the year, the chances are he will summon Capt. M. C. Shallenberger, son of Representative Shallenberger of Nebraska, and gas a while with him. For he it knows, Shallenberger the younger is one of the original members of Pershing's Rifles, a former organization of the University of Nebraska, where Pershing was military instructor and young Shallenberger was a student.

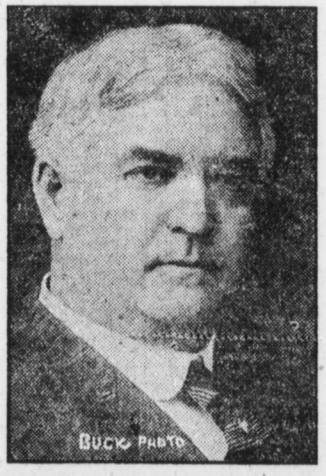
After graduation from college, Shallenberger joined the National Guard, and frequently went about the country shooting at prize events. He was a crack shot, and stands high in National Guard circles. He also is a famous polo player. Later he was in Mexico, and of recent date sailed for somewhere in the war zone.

Campbell, an enlisted man, son of Representative Campbell of Kansas, a lad nineteen years old. His father doesn't know just where he is, but wherever he is, his father's heart is with him and he wants him to fight with all his might for the country.

"I'm glad that as long as he was determined to go he went without being drafted," Mr. Campbell said. "There isn't much any one can say when his boy wants to go to war. He told his mother and me one night that he was getting ready to go. The next morning we went to the train with him and he went away. It's a mighty serious thing, and you feel serious, I tell you, when your boy goes away."

"Stick with the job, now that you're in it, even if you come out with nothing but a corporal's warrant," Representative Greene of Vermont wrote his boy Richard, who is at Plattsburg training for the Officers' Corps.

Fighting comes naturally to young Greene. His father and grandfather before him fought for their flag. The boy probably remembers how as a little lad



REPRESENTATIVE ASHTON C. SHALLENBERGER OF NEBRASKA.

he saw his father, who was a captain in the Spanish-American war, march away.

Being a soldier, the son and the grandson of a soldier, young Greene is not long on words about his fighting. "I have gone," was the word he sent home last summer, when, as a member of the National Guard, he went into the federal service for duty on the Mexican border. His parents have seen little of him since then.

him a pacifist. A lot of folks do that at long range, and get away with it. He isn't a pacifist, though he fought the present war, and he wants folks to know it.

It was natural, therefore, when his boy, Mills, went to war, that Mr. Kitchin approved the step. "Kick!" he inquired, laughing loudly, "I should say not." That boy comes from fighting stocks, with a granduncle, Young Kitchin and C. H. England, the representative's clerk, slipped one over on the father when it came to making preparations for the young Kitchin to enter the army, even though they knew he would approve. They made all arrangements to get young Kitchin into the Fort Myer training camp and then apprised the father of their steps.

Mills Kitchin is twenty-five years old. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina and published the paper and edited a newspaper before he went into training for the army.

## Warped Morals.

A NEW YORK socialist said the other day: "Those Russian revolutionary socialists who ask for peace with Germany—peace with kaiserism and autocracy at the allies' expense—have warped morals."

## A Sneezer.

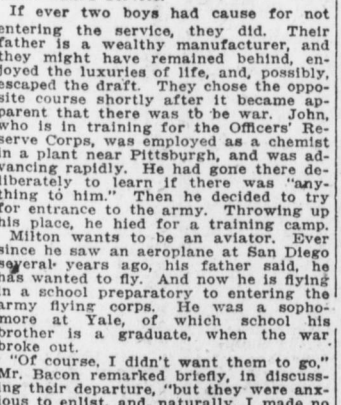
NORMAN DE A. WHITEHOUSE, chairman of the New York state suffrage party, said in Newport of the recent Rhode Island victory: "Between all factions a more amicable spirit will now prevail. In the past the spirit one encountered is more like that which was shown to the summer girl, delighted with the seashore trip that lay before her, said, with a giggle: 'If while I'm away I get ten proposals, that'll be a tender, won't it?' 'Yes, said her disillusioned married sister, 'and if you get one proposal it'll be a wonder.'"

Special Correspondence  
WASHINGTON, D. C., 1917.  
SLACKER fathers are unknown in the House of Representatives. Men who first voted for war on Germany are backing up their votes with sacrifices of their own flesh and blood. Sacrificing it willingly, too, though it breaks their hearts, because they feel there is nothing else for them to do in this, the country's gravest hour of peril.

Almost a score of representatives already have given their sons to the service of the army or the navy. Many more are boys who are planning to go to the front or on the seas with the fleet.

Of the total number who have given their boys to the colors not one today says he is sorry. Without exception, of course, they would like to see them go, but when the crucial moment came when the son asked for his parents' final word, none of the representatives faltered his country's flag.

The test to which these representatives have been put is one which will be repeated in many American homes



REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDE KITCHIN OF NORTH CAROLINA. (Photo by Harris & Ewing.)