

Pictures of World Events for News Readers

SECRET NOT LOST

Composition of Greek Fire of Ancient Days Still Known.

Ingredients Are Said to Be Identical With Those of Liquid Used in Modern Times by Some of Warring Powers.

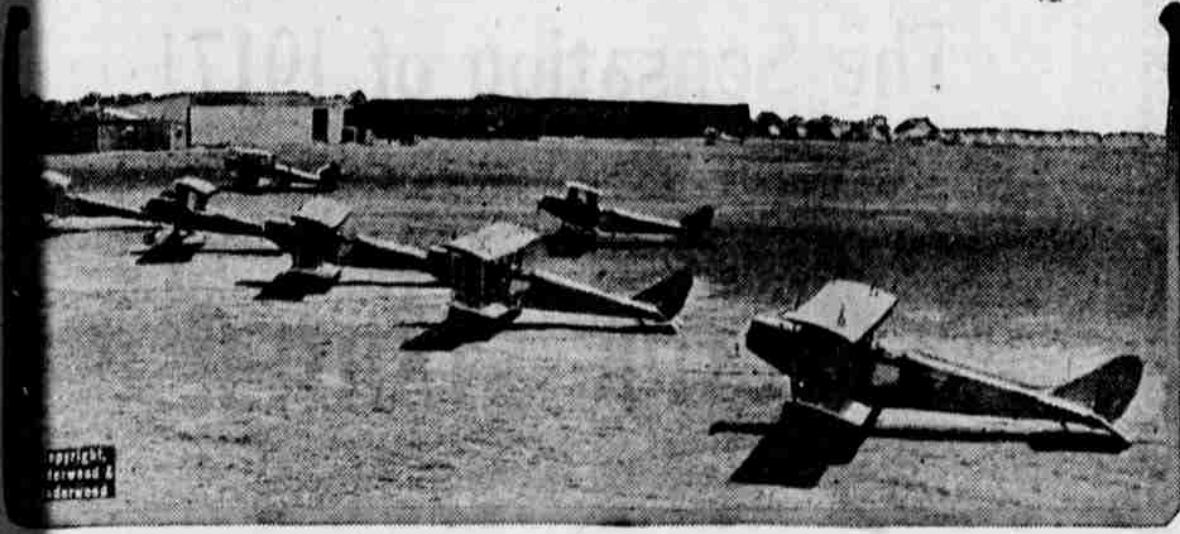
It is a common error to suppose that the secret of the composition of the Greek fire so jealously guarded by the emperors of Constantinople is lost. On the contrary, it is set out at length in an Arabic manuscript of the year 1225, now in the Royal museum at Leyden, as well as in the better-known "Liber Ignium ad Comburendum Hostes" of Martin Graecus, written five years later and republished in 1842. Its ingredients are there given as naphtha, pitch, resin and sulphur and are identical, according to a scientific writer, with those of the liquid used today by some of the warring nations.

The well-known passage in the Sire de Joinville's Memoirs about it "coming flying through the air like a winged dragon, about the thickness of a hoghead, with the report of thunder and the speed of lightning so that the darkness of the night was dispelled by this horrible illumination," has misled scholars as to the way it was projected. Pots containing it were undoubtedly hurled by engines on board ship resembling the modern catapult; but the Greek sailors of the Middle Ages also used a cheirosiphon, or hand tube, worked by an officer, called a siphonator, which enabled him to direct it on any point he pleased of the enemy's vessel. This was undoubtedly the parent of the modern method.

How the liquid in question was forced out of the tube may still be doubtful but Professor Bury, in the notes to his edition of Gibson, thinks it was done by gunpowder, the composition of which was, according to him, already known to the Greeks of De Joinville's time. This would, perhaps, get over the difficulty of lighting the liquid before it was pumped on the enemy. The Germans, for example, seem to have improved on their model by using compressed air. The ignition was also arranged by mixing with the naphtha an organic substance which will spontaneously take fire when exposed to the atmosphere. But this was found to have its disadvantages. The liquid, once inflamed, was liable to blow back upon its projectors, and had the inconvenience of revealing the carrier of the engine and thereby exposing him to the attention of "snipers" of the other side. Hence it was found to be more prudent to separate the burning fluid itself from its means of ignition. Attacks are now begun by throwing fireballs into the enemy's trenches, with a fuse which lights them as soon as they touch the ground. —Louisville Courier-Journal.

In This Department Our Readers in Fulton County and Elsewhere May journey Around the World With the Camera on the Trail of History Making Happenings.

UNCLE SAM'S BIGGEST ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL



General scene showing the grounds of the largest of Uncle Sam's army aviation schools, at North Island, located near San Diego, Cal. The school is commanded by Col. W. E. Glassford. It is the crack school of the country, and it is expected that over 200 aviators will be graduated from this instruction post every year.

BUSINESS MEN UNDERGOING VOLUNTARY MILITARY TRAINING



This picture shows a number of New York and Brooklyn business men undergoing voluntary military training at Governor's Island. Officers from the post are drilling the men.

A FRENCH SAUSAGE BALLOON



GIRLS LEARN TO SHOOT



Forty students in a New York school are learning how to handle a rifle. The young lady in the picture is taking a kneeling aim.

NEW DEATH-DEALING RIFLE

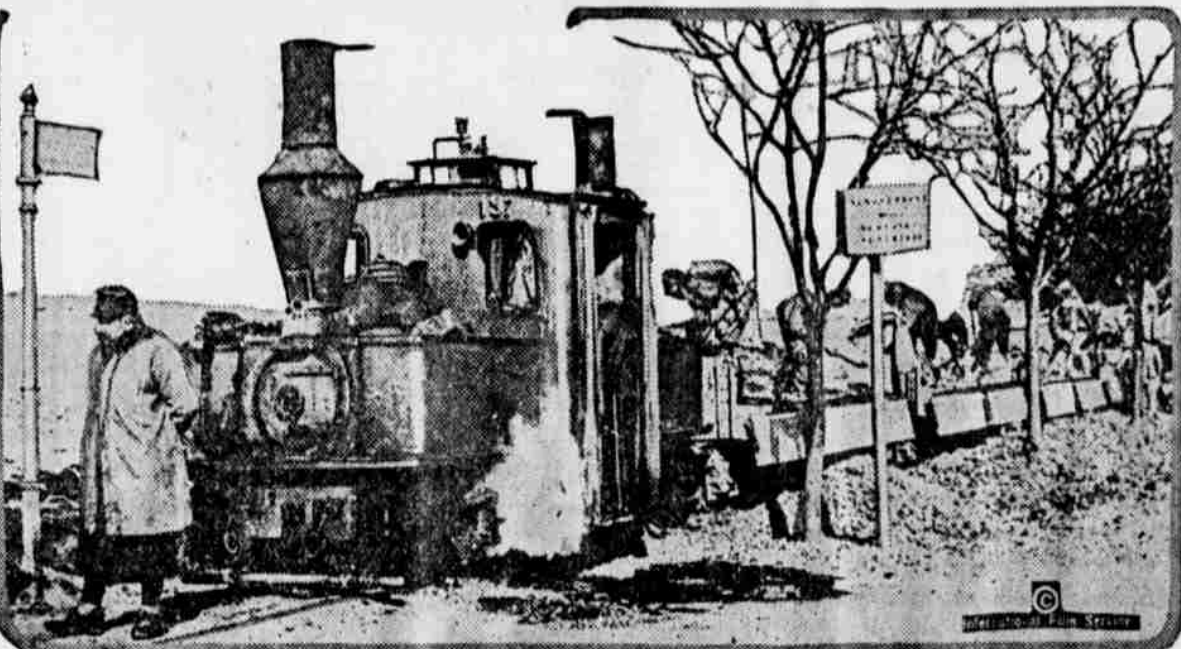


The attlescope rifle, the latest death-dealer to make its appearance, the action of the rifle is similar to that of the submarine periscope, the firing being done after the aim is found through the reflecting lenses. The marksman is crouched far below the edge of the trench, his entire head being concealed from the enemy. Taking the modern Springfield rifle, as used by the United States army, the two inventors built into it a frame of compressed steel to lower or raise the barrel. They also added reflecting lenses to permit the marksman to hold the butt of the gun in the customary shoulder position and get his aim through the sights of the elevated barrel. In this way the barrel of the rifle projects over the edge of the trench while the marksman remains fully covered. Experts who have examined the invention declare it to be as effective as the regular rifle and it can be operated with a greater degree of safety by the soldier. It can be fired without raising the barrel or used as an attlescope gun at will.

MACHINE GUNS IN AMBUSH ON THE FRENCH FRONT



FRENCH FRONT IS NETWORK OF LIGHT RAILWAYS



Most of the roads in the western war area now have light railways on either side over which the peculiar little engines, one of which is shown here, transport supplies to the trenches.

SOLDIERS ENJOYING A SWIM



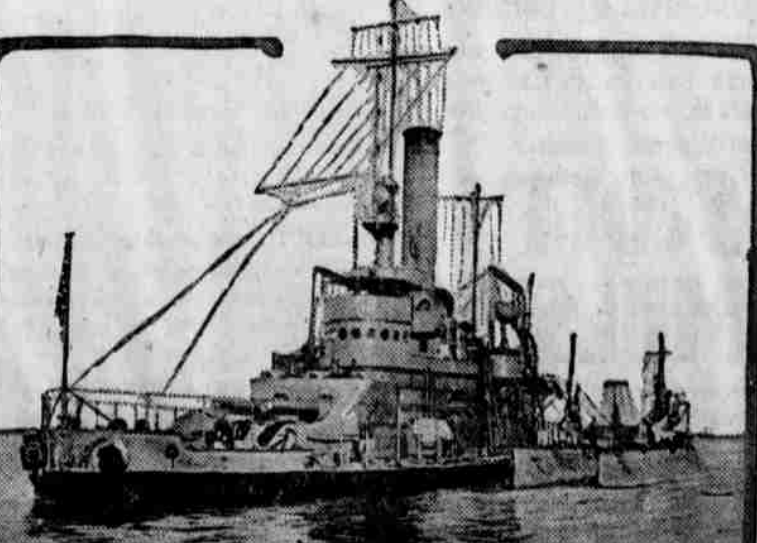
This stone swimming tank was built by the Zouaves two miles in the rear of the trenches.

WOMAN JOINS THE NAVY



Miss Loretta Walsh, a twenty-year-old Philadelphia girl, has been sworn in as chief yeoman and thus became the first woman in the United States navy. She has been assigned to recruiting duty.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE TENDER



The Tallahassee, a submarine tender, a type of the United States navy's floating submarine bases.

THE BATTLE CRY OF WAR



Miss Ethel Barrymore as "Grief," Mrs. Oliver Harriman as "Victory" and Mme. Frances Alda as "America" in the "Battle Cry of War," given for the Junior Patriots of America in New York.

WARNING OF GAS ATTACK



The horns are used in the trenches to give warning of a gas wave or dugouts of a gas wave or

Texans Hail Birthday.
Texans celebrate their own private Independence day, commemorating the signing of the declaration in 1836, which freed their ancestors from Mexican rule.

Texas was in all probability a part of the ancient Aztec empire, and since then it has been under six flags. Spain claimed the country by right of its conquest of the Aztecs, and France, too, claimed it as a part of the territory of Louisiana, with the Rio Grande as the southwestern boundary of French possessions. When the Mexicans gained their freedom Texas became a part of their republic, and so remained until 1836, when the Lone Star banner of the republic of Texas was raised. In 1845 the Stars and Stripes were raised over Texas, to be temporarily replaced by the stars and bars of the Confederacy during the Civil war.

A Man's Work.
The distinction and end of a soundly constituted man is his labor. Use is inscribed on all his faculties. Use is the end to which he exists. As the tree exists for its fruit, so a man for his work. A fruitless plant, an idle animal, does not stand in the universe. They are all toiling, however secretly or slowly, in the province assigned them, and to a use in the economy of the world, to higher and more catholic service. And the man seems to play, by his instincts and activity, a certain part that even tells on the general face of the planet, drains swamps, leads rivers into dry countries for their irrigation, perforates forests and stony mountain chains with roads, binds the inroads of the sea on the continent, as if dressing the globe for happier races.—Emerson.

Mother Knows Better.
Willie liked to look through the pages of an Illustrated history, and had a good memory for the pictures. One day a friend of his mother came in wearing a new hat.
"Oh," Willie exclaimed, "you look just like a witch."
The lady was very much complimented, as she thought he meant she was bewitching, but his mother was much embarrassed because she knew he had reference to a very ugly Salem witch in the book.

Standard Time.
Standard time is a uniform system of time reckoning in the United States and Canada adopted in 1883 by the principal railways, and since then by the principal cities and towns of both countries. By this system the continent is divided into four sections, each extending over 15 degrees of longitude (making a difference of time of exactly one hour) the time prevailing in each being that of its central meridian.

The Average Citizen.
"A man ought to attend to his own business."
"It can't be done," answered Mr. Crosslots. "Every time a strike is threatened people who don't know me get together and decide whether I shall be able to ride to work."

In 1492.
Willie—Pop, why did the people in Columbus' time believe the world was round?
Pop—Principally because they didn't think Columbus was on the square.