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Sports---

LEONARD BACKING DOWN ON PROMISES.

BY H. C. HAMILTON.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
New York, July 24.—The country is beginning to wonder if Benny Leonard was serious when he announced after winning the lightweight championship from Freddie Welsh that he would immediately join some branch of the United States army or navy, and that his fight would be against only the best men in his division.

Since that announcement Leonard has fought twice—against a "setup" each time. He has been matched for an encounter in Philadelphia with Johnny Kilbane and the fight is to go only six rounds.

Leonard turned down one of the best offers the country ever heard of for a bout in that class when he refused Matt Hinkel's offer of a \$25,000 purse for a fifteen round go in Ohio—and no decision was attached to the articles for the bout. Kilbane and his manager had set their signatures to the agreement and were ready to go ahead.

One of two things happened to Leonard when he received that offer. He either figured Kilbane far too dangerous to battle for fifteen rounds or he decided that fighting six rounds for a wad of money was more remunerative than battling fifteen rounds for a slightly larger wad. The bout in Philadelphia doesn't promise anything, and if Leonard doesn't show at his very best he will be soundly panned. The unpopularity of Freddie Welsh and his record of many no-decision alleged fights should be a warning to Leonard. There are many young lightweights aching for a crack at his crown and they would be willing even to take him on in ten round bouts. The fans want that kind of action—not the six round kind even if it is with Johnny Kilbane as an antagonist. Besides, as was stated, the country wants to know how about that enlistment. Leonard probably will find some insistent questioners regarding that when he enters the ring at Philadelphia.

Military Songs Sell.

Portland, Ore., July 24.—(United Press)—Is the war affecting our musical standards?

Portland music dealers answer in the affirmative.

One song-shop proprietor explained here today that it is a conflict between quality and quantity. The extra demand for martial airs and military music is blamed.

"Anything with a military title," this dealer explained, "will sell. If it is new and the least bit catchy, people will buy it. It has run for two or three weeks, when the fickle public deserts it for another."

"The trouble is that everybody is trying to write music with a military swing, whether he has talent for that sort of composition or not. Even some good writers are yielding to the popular demand for this war-time stuff. Much of the light music of the day is the work of writers who have never had experience in composition. Little or none of the music ground out these days will last. Not a classic in a barrel of it."

"No," he continued with a chuckle. "I would hardly give you any examples of the poor music now offered to the public. Hardly be fair to the rising young composers."

In many cases the "new" military airs are simply old stand-bys worked over and fitted with new titles.

A phonograph dealer today told the same story. The sale of records, he declared, has been greatly reduced and high-class records are in demand. "People want just anything that carries a military note," he said.

YOUTHFUL HERO HONORED WITH LEGION OF HONOR CROSS

BY HENRY WOOD.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Paris, July 7.—(By Mail)—The cross of the Legion of Honor was today conferred upon a 21 year old Alsatian by the name of Alt as the result of a most remarkable career in the French army, prompted solely by his great desire to see his native province of Alsace reunited to France. Alt's services in the Alsatian cause have now been cut short by the loss of one leg. Although the cross of the Legion of Honor is designed to recompense him in part for this, he declares the recompense that alone will satisfy him will be the ultimate return of Alsace to France.

Alt, has been from his boyhood, one of the most ardent champions of the Alsatian cause. When the war broke out he was at Toul. Although only 18 years of age then, he enlisted in the French Foreign Legion and made the campaign on the Yser. With twenty-seven wounds in his body, he was left on the Belgian battlefield for dead, but was later picked up and taken to a hospital.

The doctors declare that it was his determination to get well and keep on fighting for Alsace that pulled him through. Hardly was he out of the hospital than he was back in the French ranks demanding to be assigned to the most perilous tasks. Alt had been serving for some time as an observer in a large tree far in advance of the French lines. Eventually the tree fell under suspicion of the Germans and they at once surrounded it with a machine gun that made escape practically impossible. The Ger-

mans directed shell after shell at the tree, until one struck squarely and felled it to the ground. In the fall, Alt received wounds that made it impossible for him to flee. From nine in the morning till midnight Alt lay on the ground, hoping almost against hope.

At midnight, the barrage ceased and a German sergeant and two soldiers crept out of their trenches to take Alt prisoner. He drew his revolver, waited till they were close, and shot all three. French comrades reached the wounded Alsatian and carried him back to their lines. The Legion of Honor was conferred on Alt at the hospital where he is recovering from the amputation of his leg.

Letters From The Front

(Letters to Mrs. E. J. Conrad from Heber Conrad with the Aviation Corps at Quantico, Va.)

18th Co. Quantico, Va., July 14, 1917.

Dear Mother and all:—I have a little spare time so will drop you a few lines. We dug trenches yesterday and are having inspection today—getting ready to leave. We will draw what clothes we need tomorrow or Monday and in the afternoon go to the beach and get swimming lessons by an instructor. I only made marksman on the range in shooting for record. It was dark and raining when I shot on the last two ranges. I was shooting above expert until I fell down on the last two ranges. I was short 5 points to qualify for a sharp shooter. I heard today that the Mare Island band is coming to go with us, also 500 marines. There were two trainloads of watermelons passed through here yesterday. Four of us bought one last night and it was more than we could handle. A couple of "Coons" came along and we gave it to them. It sure made them show their teeth. I am going to the dentist and get the holes in my head vulcanized so when I get over in France I will be able to eat hard tack. I am squad leader now and I have to drill my squad. When any of them get "onery" and don't do things right I look fierce like the corporal and sergeant used to look at me. I have all the signals down pat now. I can't wait till we get started across the water. If I can will write and tell you all about it when I get over there. Don't worry about me as I am well and happy. With love to all.

Your son,
HEBER W. CONRAD.

18th Co. Winthrop, Md., July 6, '17.

Dear brother and all:—I am in Maryland now on the target range—my old cannon is a daisy, she slipped through my hands and kicked me on the hip and cut it a little. I made 188 points out of a possible 150 in slow firing. We will shoot rapid fire tomorrow then we will shoot for record. The 188 points are made on three ranges. On the 300 yard range I made 47 out of 50; at 500 yards, 48; and at 600 yards made 43. I got too reckless at 600 yards. I only have to average 40 points on each range to make sharpshooter, so if I have good luck the day we shoot for record I will be all right. We use the peep sights on slow fire and battle or common sights on rapid. There are about 4 out of 10 that miss the whole target as often as they hit it. All we have to do is cross the river to get into Maryland. It is two miles across. We have to keep our guns as clean as a silver dollar. I re-cleed May's cake and mother's package all O. K. You should have seen it disappear. It reminded me of old times when I used to get in the pantry. I had a 4-mile walk out in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia on the Fourth, and sure had my fill of wild blackberries and huckleberries. I saw a nice big water moccasin the day we were after berries, he was a dandy. I saw the big 4-in and 6-in machine guns work, also the rapid fire guns. They were trying them out. Don't be afraid to write when I get across the water. I will only get mail once in a month or two.

With love to all, I am,

Your brother,
HEBER.

Non-Coms To Be Promoted.

Washington, July 24.—(Special)—During the continuance of the present war practically all vacancies in the commissioned personnel of the increased Marine Corps will be filled by the promotion of meritorious non-commissioned officers of the Corps. It was announced at Marine Corps Headquarters today. The customary number of appointments from graduates of the Naval Academy will still continue to be made, but no civilians will, in future, be given commissions with the "Soldiers of the Sea."

Major General George Barnett, Commandant of the Marine Corps, says in this connection: "All civilians desiring commissions in the Marine Corps are advised to enlist in order that they may have the opportunity to become eligible for second lieutenantcies. I fully appreciate the fact that a large number of young men of fine attainments and excellent education have enlisted in the Marine Corps during the present war, and I will therefore, when the plans for the next examination are being made, give the most careful consideration to ques-

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tion of reducing the required length of service below the present minimum."

Bible Conference Opens.

Glendale Park, Ore., July 24.—With religious leaders from a score of cities and a dozen denominations here, the big interdenominational Bible conference opened today. The conference will end July 29. Among those on the program are Dr. H. A. Ironsides, teacher and writer of national prominence; Rev. Mark Mathews, pastor of a Seattle Presbyterian church; Dr. Walter B. Hinson, pastor of the East Side Baptist church, church, Portland, and Mrs. Walter Duff, a worker among the Ulster Scotch of Ireland.

Theologians Meet.

Victoria, B. C., July 24.—War plays a part in the program of the Pacific Coast Theological conference, international and interdenominational, which opened here today. A number of prominent churchmen from Washington and Oregon, including Rt. Rev. Walter T. Sumner and Bishop Matt Hughes, of Portland, and Rev. Hugh Elmer Brown and Rev. Carter Heim Jones, of Seattle, will speak. The common cause which this year makes the ideals and purposes of this country and Canada were forcefully declared today.

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