

## KEEPING THE SOLDIER HUMAN

LORD NORTHCLEIFF TELLS HOW THIS IS DONE.

The Y. M. C. A. Is The Great Agency That Humanizes The Soldier.

(By Lord Northcliffe.)

LONDON, August 20.—(By Mail.)—Have you ever tried to picture for yourself the life of the soldier in the field? Let me draw you an outline. What I describe I have seen during my many visits to the Allied fronts.

While he is "in the line" as he calls it, which means holding the front positions, he is fixed to one particular spot. He has duties which occupy a large part of his time. His recreation is limited to smoking, chatting and reading. How the men in the line hunger for "something to read," how they go through the magazines, dailies and weekly papers, even through scraps of old paper, how they enjoy anything fresh which will "take them out of themselves" for a little while—I could describe from personal experience and illustrate by many a pathetic anecdote, but there is no need, you can imagine it. And then you can go on to imagine also the gratitude which the soldier feels to the Y. M. C. A. for the loan of books which he can put in his pack and take with him into the line to help while away the weary hours of which there are so many in war. I have seen men come into a Y. M. C. A. library and tell the librarian that his books have saved them from going melancholy mad.

Next the soldier is for a time "in support," that is to say, in trenches and dugouts a short distance behind the front line. Here he may begin to be indebted to the Y. M. C. A. for other advantages. I have known Y. M. C. A. canteens to be established actually under the enemy's fire for the benefit of the men in support. Here they can buy cigarettes, chewing gum, biscuits. They can drink a cup of tea or coffee. They can feel that there is a link between them and the world behind the lines. How much that means only those who have been in the trenches can appreciate.

Then comes a spell of being "in reserve." This is passed in some ruined town or village or in a camp of tin huts. The soldier now has plenty of leisure—what can he do with it? You know that one of the pleasures of life is shopping. This is suppressed by many people to be a woman's pleasure, but my experience is that men enjoy shopping too. In ruined villages, in tin-hut camps, there would be no shops just as there would be no cafes, no libraries, no writing rooms, if it were not for the Y. M. C. A. Ask any soldier how the Army would get on without the Y. M. C. A. He will tell you that it would get on very badly indeed. Go into any Y. M. C. A. canteen at any hour of the day and you will understand why.

They are at the same time clubs and stores. They offer refreshments both for the body and the useful. They are well-stocked with useful things such as soap, tooth-brushes and other simple toilet necessities. They offer also a wide choice of more attractive purchases from canned fruit to picture postcards. And when the soldier has bought what he needs or fancies, or merely looked around and kept money in his pocket, he can sit down, order something to drink, meet his friends, read the papers, write letters.

A soldier said to me once "It's the Y. M. C. A. that keeps us human." It does what no other organization is doing or could do. Amid the dreariness of the war-zone, in the monotonous life of the troops in the field, the Red Triangle shines with steady comforting glow. There could in my opinion be no better way of spending a hundred million dollars than giving the Y. M. C. A. the fullest opportunity to make the soldier more comfortable and more contented with his lot.

### MEN ARE TAUGHT TO JUDGE DISTANCES

By Capt. H. C. Pollard, British Army.

(Written for the United Press)

LONDON, Aug. 15.—(By Mail.)—Every British soldier is expected to be able to judge distance approximately, and every non-commissioned officer and officer is expected to do it with fair accuracy. It is an essential part of his training. Without it he cannot give his orders correctly.

Most people have their own mental unit of comparison. Such and such a place is a mile away, and they always think of distances in terms of comparison with that mental picture. But though to the ordinary man, half a mile or so is close enough reckoning, the soldier must be able to estimate distances in units of 50 yards or less, and he can only teach himself to do this by hard practice. It is by practice that he gets a store of mental units of comparison which enable him to judge distances in the field.

One of the best ways of teaching men distance judging is on route marches. At a halt the men estimate the distance of objects visible ahead of them along the road. When the

march is resumed these estimates are checked by pacing the distances. In this way the men are taught to take an interest in distance judging, and a competitive spirit is encouraged among them.

In the same way the ranges of all prominent objects near camp are carefully taken with a range finder, and the men are taught by heart the various distances. Natural objects, such as houses, average sized trees, or roads where men or traffic move are preferred to merely landscape features for men retain a mental picture of such objects best.

**Accurate Rules Help**  
In addition to the "mental picture" method of estimating ranges there are certain rule-of-thumb methods. One of these is the observation of objects through a service rifle barrel with the bolt removed and the eye placed immediately above the butt plate. Thus a standing man completely fills the diameter of the barrel at 300 yards distance. If he occupies one-half he is some 550 yards away, and at 800 yards he occupies a third. This system is good for ranges up to 800 yards, but it requires a good light to see a dismounted man through the barrel at this range.

For close range the following table is an accurate guide to a man of normal vision:

Mouth and eyes of a man can be seen at 50 yards.  
Eyes appear as points at 100 yards.  
Buttons and details of uniform can be seen at 200 yards.  
Face can be seen at 300 yards.  
Shoulders go bottle-shaped at 500 yards.  
Head is visible as a dot at 600 yards.

Head is invisible at 700 yards.  
Man looks like a post at 800 yards.

**Half-Way Landmarks.**

In long distances the best way is to select an object which appears to be half way, to estimate the distance to it by one or other of the methods and then to double the estimate.

Flashes of guns at night are useful for range finding. Sound travels about 360 yards a second. A more accurate computation can be made by counting 11 beats to three seconds, each beat between the sight of the flash and the noise of the sound equalling 100 yards. But here again practice is required to estimate the beats correctly.

All the foregoing rules are for good light and level ground. In bad light, in mist, when looking across a valley or when estimating distance lying down, the tendency is to over-estimate distance.

A distinct object will lead to under-estimation and an indistinct one to over-estimation.

Practice alone can teach correct range finding without instruments, but it can be learned.

### Classified Ads

#### FOR RENT—FURNISHED

ROOMS FOR RENT—With bath; \$7 a month. 1317 E. Ave. 9-24tf

FOR RENT—Housekeeping rooms, near High School. 908 3rd St. Mrs. Louise Larson. 8-31-6t

FOR RENT—Five room modern cottage, 1502 1/2 Sixth street. Call Red 461. 8-31tf

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms for rent. Phone Red 3171. 8-21tf

FOR RENT—Two rooms for light housekeeping. Inquire Observer office. 8-28tf

#### WANTED.

WANTED—Help, at Modern Laundry. 9-31tf

WANTED—At once, cook on ranch; from 3 to 5 people to cook for. 9-31tf

WANTED to rent a six or seven room house. Phone Red 2281. 8-29tf

WANTED—Man to tend arc lights and sub-station. Eastern Oregon Light & Power Co. 8-29tf

WANTED—To Rent, Wheat Ranch 120 acres or more. Must be partially or fully equipped. Address P. O. Box 139. 8-29tf

WANT TO RENT—Five or six room furnished house, for about two months. Address D. E. Myers, care Sommer Hotel. 8-28tf

#### FOR SALE OR TRADE

FOR SALE—City Property. Mrs. C. Ralston, 1605 Adams Avenue. Phone Red 601. 8-31-6t

FOR SALE—Cut flowers. Phone Red 511, or call 1702 Spruce St. 8-10tf

FOR SALE—One-ton used auto truck. McCrary Auto Co. 7-17tf



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### DOINGS OF THE DUFFS

BY ALLMAN



FOR SALE—Used Maxwell car, in first class condition. Inquire 1420 Y avenue. 8-14

FOR SALE—Restaurant and furnished rooms will sell cheap. Phone Main 136. 8-12-1f

FOR SALE—Stock Ranch. For particulars apply to Alex Lindsay, RD. No. 2. 9-2-6t pd

FOR SALE—Household goods, including Raz Carpet and canned fruit. Call Black 1391. 8-31-6t

FOR SALE—Franklin five-passenger, 1914 model; good condition. Call Black 422. 8-30-6t

FOR SALE—Four foot dry wood. Yellow pine. Farmers 22X5. 8-29 1m.

FOR SALE—Three large work teams and harness, two wagons and logging truck. You can pay for these in hauling or will make easy terms. Phone M711. W. R. Kivette. 9-3-1f

FOR SALE—Teams: The J. D. Lynch Co. 8-16-1f

FOR SALE—Two gentle mares, weight about 2550 lbs. J. L. Mars, S. avenue. 7-26tf

FOR SALE—One Studebaker car and one Chalmers truck, both in good condition; cheap. Phone Black 1012. 8-26tf

FOR SALE, HOPS.—Three pound package of Oregon hops delivered anywhere in the U. S. by

parcel post, prepaid, \$1.00.—F. M. Morley, Silverton, Oregon. 8-22-1m

LOST AND FOUND

LOST OR STRAYED—One Red Durham Cow, Brand "J.M." on right hip. Left hip, "M. L." Weight about 1200 lbs. Reward \$10 for return to 213 Fir street, People's Market. 4-5-2t pd

LOST—One Gold Collar Link. Engraved "C." Leaves at Observer Office. Sept. 5-2t

LOST—Camco Brooch on Adams Ave., or between P. O. and 1402 Sixth street. Finder return to Observer Office. Sept 5-2t p

LOST—Eastern Star Badge; initials "E. J. B." Return to Observer Office. Sept. 4-6t

LOST—A package of laundry, between La Grande and Cove. Return to Richard Piano House. 8-31 tf.

LOST—Log chain. Finder please return to J. D. Lynch Co.

Honeymoon and Vaudeville—Saturday and Sunday?

Second-hand School Books that are in good condition, are bought and sold at Silverthorn's. Daily 9-4-1f

Silverthorn's FAMILY DRUG STORE LA GRANDE, OREGON.

McKibbin's

Now Fall Styles

Oh look!

Golden Rule Co.

## NOTICE--to Our Patrons

### WE HAVE CHANGED DELIVERY SYSTEM

All orders north of Railroad Track leave the store at 9 a. m. and 2 p. m.

All orders south of Railroad Track leave the store at 10:30 a. m. and 4:30 p. m.

Outside north, leaves at 9 a. m.

Old Town, south of M street, leaves at 4:30 p. m.

REMEMBER THE TIME OF THE DELIVERY, AND OUR TELEPHONE NUMBER, MAIN 35.

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CALL MAIN 35

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is calling many women of our country into commercial and industrial activities.

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—To the women "over here" who are backing up our boys "over there" this institution would extend every encouragement.

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No harm in  
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