

MEN HIDE AS MATES GO GAILY INTO FRAY

No Favors Are Asked by Russian Women Soldiers and None Are Shown.

ALL CHAFE FOR ACTION

Botchkareva's Battalion Is Honored by Being Allowed to Go Into Battle After Less Than Two Months' Training.

(Continued From First Page.)

along, too, but just before we reached the swimming pool under a railroad bridge, Botchkareva turned around and delivered another of those crisp little commands. The men stopped in their tracks as if she had thrown some kind of feeding gas at them, and we went on.

Women Plunge in Like Boys.

It was a lovely swimming pool, clear and cold and fringed with sheltering willows. The women peeled off their clothes like boys and plunged in. As we dressed afterward I looked at them, heads shaved, ugly clothes, coarse boots, no concealments, not a single aid to beauty, but, in spite of it all, singularly attractive.

Some, of course, were homey, primitive types. Purple and fine line would not have improved them much. But some who would not have been especially pretty as girls were almost handsome as boys. A few were strikingly beautiful in spite of their shaved heads. You observed that they had good skulls, nice ears, fine eyes, strong characters, whereas in ordinary clothes they might have appeared as pleasantly commonplace as the girl on the magazine cover.

Quarters Are Clean.

Cool and refreshed, the battalion marched back to the barracks, which consisted of two long, hastily constructed wooden buildings, exactly like hundreds of others on all sides about as far as the eye could reach. Some of the buildings were half underground, for warmth in winter, and must have been rather stuffy. Our buildings were well ventilated with many dormer windows in the sharply slanting roof and they were new and clean and free from the insects which in secret I had been dreading.

Inside were two long platforms on either side of a three-foot aisle. These wooden platforms were our beds. They were harder than I thought mere punks could be, and they were full of bumps and ridges. Nevertheless, we slept on them, and slept well. But anyone who imagines that women become soldiers just to get a chance to enlarge their opportunity to flirt, or for any of the various reasons I have heard suggested, is invited to pass one night on a plank bed, then to get up in the early morning, make a toilet in the open by having a pail of cold water poured over his head, and sit down to a Russian soldier's breakfast of tea and black bread. That's all.

Intruders Are Threatened.

Our first slumber that first night was interrupted by the last lesson in politeness it was necessary to give the men soldiers. A group of them came to the door at midnight, and in a manner not to be misinterpreted demanded entrance. The sentry challenged them, and then calmly warned the intruders that unless they left instantly they would be shot. They left from that time on the women of Botchkareva's battalion were as safe in that camp as they would have been in a convent.

Not a command was given, insulted in any way or molested. The men hung around and stared from morning until night, but the women came and went freely, stood in the open, washed with the men, bathed and washed their clothes in the open, and never had a particle of trouble.

The day after we arrived, Monday, it rained. It poured. The camp became a swamp. The women stayed in their barracks, drilling as best they could in the narrow alleys, sitting on the edge of their plank beds, the only place there was to sit, they listened with deep attention while under officers read aloud the army code and regulations.

In the morning the group of nurses from a hospital train in the neighborhood came to call and in the afternoon half a dozen officers came from the staffs, two miles away. The commander, a charming person, seemed astonished and deeply impressed with the regiment standing at attention to greet him.

"I love anything that brings death to the Germans," he answered grimly. "This girl, a highly educated, well-bred young woman, was in Germany when the war broke out. She was arrested and charged with espionage, a charge which, for all I know, may have been true. It was not proved, of course, or she would have been shot. On the mere suspicion, however, she was kept in prison for a year and must have suffered pretty severely. She looked forward to the coming fight with keen zest. I asked her one day what she would do if she was taken prisoner again."

She pulled down under her blouse a slender gold chain on the end of which was a capsule in a chamois bag. "I shall never be taken prisoner," she said. "None of us will."

From Friday on the weather improved and the regiment worked hard in the field. It had felt the strain of confinement in barracks, and when I

was not watching the drill I was taking long walks down a highway over which went a constant procession of troops and camp supply wagons, moving on and on, near the horizon, from which came frequent low mutterings like distant thunder, but which were heavy gunfire.

Sometimes I walked as far as a little settlement which the Nachalnik told me was not unlike the village she found so unbearable after her husband left it. The village consisted of two rows of log or roughly timbered cottages along a winding, muddy road. Green moss grew on the thatched roofs, and the whole place had a forlorn neglected look, but surrounding each cottage was a carefully tended garden with beets, cabbages, onions, potatoes and sunflowers for the seeds, which are the Russian substitute for chewing gum. Often the cottages had poppies growing in the rows of vegetables, the bright blooms giving brilliance to the somber and lonely landscape.

Women Fret for Action.

But no amount of good food would have kept our regiment happy in camp very long. The women fretted and chafed and demanded to know why they were kept in that hole. The Nachalnik coaxed and soothed them along, and Skridlova, who was easily the most popular person in camp, reminded them that it took six months to train ordinary soldiers and that they were being especially favored by having the time shortened.

Those women went into battle after less than two months' training, as it turned out, for the evening of the ninth day the Nachalnik came back from headquarters with orders to march the next morning at 5. What an uproar followed! Cheers, laughter, singing. You would have thought they were going anywhere except to a battlefield where death waited for some and cruel suffering for many.

I wanted to go with them, and would have insisted on going had I known they were so good or so tight. But orders were merely to advance for further drill under gunfire. I would have been frightfully in the way in the new position, which had no barracks, but only dog tents, just enough to go around. Nothing on earth except the knowledge that I would be depriving some one of those brave women from the comfort of a dry and sheltered bed persuaded me to leave them.

Several Girls Slain.

Five days later in Petrograd I read in the dispatches that they had been sent into the line, and that they had been killed or had died of wounds, but two of those you knew well were killed, Catherine and Olga, who, you remember, had won three medals of St. George. Eighteen girls are wounded badly, Nina among them. Nina was the girl who called her gun "sweetheart," and who had been a prisoner in Germany.

Skridlova was badly contused in the head, shoulders and knees, but she remained in command of the regiment of the battalion because the Nachalnik had suffered so severely from shell shock that she had to be sent to a hospital in Petrograd. She was nearly deaf when I saw her, and her heart was badly affected.

In another hospital I found more than 20 of the battalion, some slightly and others seriously wounded. The worst cases were kept in base hospitals near the battle front, and I never saw Nina again.

GROCERS WILL BE GUESTS

Food Conservation to Be Topic of State Body at Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Discussion of food conservation, to be the principal topic of the annual state grocers' convention, which opens here Tuesday for three days. Food Administrator Hoover has sent a paper to the state association, which will be read on the second day of the meeting. Governor Lister, Secretary of State Howell, and J. E. Sylvester, Idaho, last Saturday, reports him as saying: "The question of war aims will be discussed in the course of a big debate next week."

BIG DEBATE IS PROMISED

Dr. Helfferich Says War Aims Will Be Discussed This Week.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 7.—The Cologne Gazette, a copy of which has been received here, in its report of the address of Dr. Karl Helfferich, German Minister of the Interior, in the Reichstag Saturday, reports him as saying: "The question of war aims will be discussed in the course of a big debate next week."

FUGITIVE BELIEVED TO BE HEAD OF GANG OF AUTO THIEVES.

JOSEPH DAVIS, who escaped from a car window in Shoshone, Idaho, last Thursday night while being returned to Portland from Denver to answer a charge of stealing an automobile owned by Charles E. Runyon, is believed to be the guiding genius of an organized band of automobile thieves operating on the Pacific Coast. Davis had two stolen machines in his possession when arrested at Ogden, Utah, two weeks ago.

Davis told Deputy District Attorney Hammett that his father was an Army officer. Although he made his escape Thursday night with his hat or coat, and was sick at the time, he has not yet been located. Detective Craddock is still in Idaho searching for the fugitive. His two alleged accomplices, Lee Betzinger and Mrs. Edna Davis, were brought back to Portland and are now in the County Jail.

Yamhill Oil Lands Examined. McMinnville, Or., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Host S. Gale of Washington, sent here by the United States Geological Department, has been here several days looking over gas and oil indications and prospects that have developed in this vicinity. He was accompanied by Dr. E. E. Goucher and Joseph De Bois, proprietor of the Yamhill Hotel, in making his investigations.

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WAR MAY EVOLVE VIRILE NEW RACE

Sarah Bernhardt Makes Prediction of Higher Type of Humanity.

AMERICANS TO WED FRENCH

Vigorous Young Blood of United States Mingling With Mercurial and Imaginative Allies to Make Ideal People.

CHICAGO, Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Mme. Sarah Bernhardt predicts that out of the stress of war there will be evolved a marvelous new race of people. This will be the result of the intermingling of hundreds of thousands of virile, enthusiastic, strong Americans and the mercurial, imaginative and idealistic French. The combination, she believes, will produce a new and exceedingly high type of humanity.

The divine Sarah grew quite enthusiastic over the proposition of an interview today. It was suggested to her that hundreds and thousands and perhaps millions of Americans are going to France as soldiers. Most of them are in the prime of life, young, unmarried and fancy free. Would not many international marriages result? Will the Americans and French blend into a new race—almost the effect of one nation?

Romances Are Unending.

There was a strangely luminous light in her eyes, which are barely visible beneath the mass of titan hair which covers her forehead. Then she began to talk softly and intimately of her work in this country and her hopes for the war-torn nation to which she has given her youth and to which she intends to give her tireless devotion until her call comes for the final curtain.

"There are many romances today—many today and many more tomorrow," she said. "The alliance between the French and American nations must be stronger after the war, and it will mean an ideal blending of races if the vigorous young blood of America mingled with the blood of the French. French? These American soldiers will marry over there, no doubt, and the union of the two nations will be ideal."

Pledge Given to Play in Trenches. She was told that an effort was being made to bring the best dramatic talent in the country before the American soldiers and sailors and she gave immediate approval of the plan. She pledged herself, if her health and strength permitted, to play in the trenches for the American soldiers at every opportunity.

The traditional friendship between France and the United States she believes, will become so firmly cemented by the ties of blood, by the wedding in the fire of war, that it can never be shaken and out of the fierce crucible of a world war, both nations will witness the arising of a new people, the combination of the best, bravest and truest of each.

"I would rather be a private soldier, fighting for France, than to be Bernhardt—that's how I feel about it," she said. "I have been through parts of my loved France devastated by the Germans. I have seen the battlefield of the Marne."

Ruin Hard to Believe.

"Ah, if the people of America could see. But it is no use for me to tell it all to you do not you tell it to your writers, then surely not me. I am French—prejudiced, you say. The Germans, you know, are polite and gentlemanly. You say such people could not do these atrocities."

"Murder! Devastation! Ruin! Desolation! Oh, the women and children of France!" "Ah, America is wonderful," she continued. "In New York I have seen a great enthusiasm. No one can tell me this Nation is not roused. This country's great wealth, its factories, its millions of men with the spirit of the victor is here. With America's help France and England and all the allies will win."

"Would that I could be a soldier of France, fighting in the trenches. That is honor and glory enough. That is the greatest honor."

\$60 PRIZE BRINGS DEATH

Chinese Succumb From Excitement on South Portland Car.

Excitement, probably due to winning \$60 at a lottery game is thought to have been responsible for the death of Kwong Hing Lung, a Chinese, who expired last night as he started to leave a South Portland streetcar at Third and Morrison streets.

The Chinese had boarded the car a short time before 11 o'clock. Among his effects was found the check for \$60, issued by a company believed to be in the lottery business.

E. E. Foss, conductor, Ben Tillman, motorman, notified the police.

CHARLES L. WATTS DIES

Sixty-Five-Year-Old Native of Salem Had Been Ill for 2 Years.

SALEM, Or., Oct. 7.—(Special.)—Charles L. Watt, 65 years of age, a native of Salem, died tonight about 10 o'clock. He was well known in this vicinity, where he lived all his life.

He had been an invalid for the past two years.

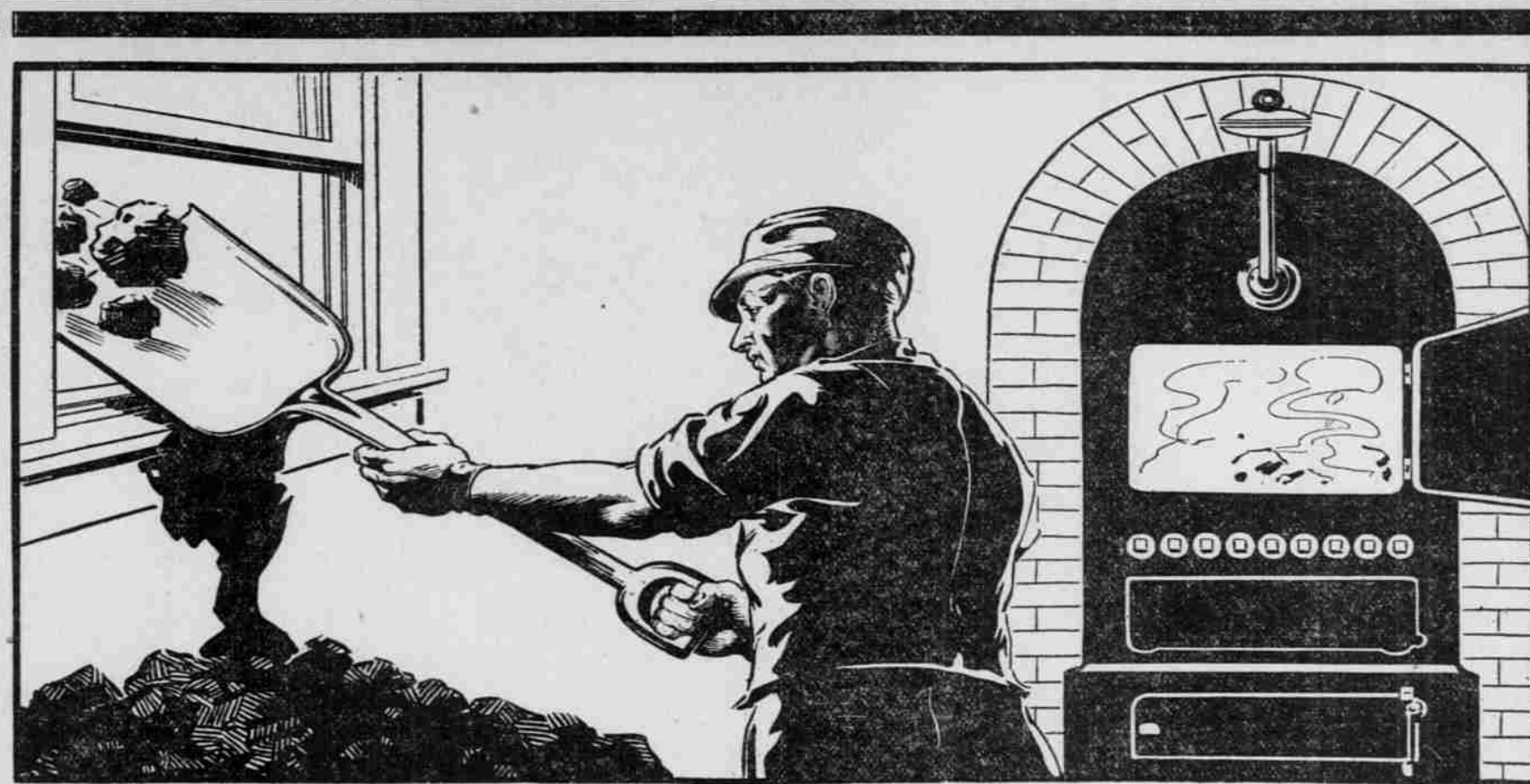
Boy Terrorizes Housewives.

AZUSA, Cal., Oct. 1.—Henry Garcia, the "boy bandit," is again the cause of terror among housewives of Azusa. Five homes were broken into in one day, money, guns and clothing making up the spoils. Surprised at the home of J. H. Akard, Garcia fled across an orchard, but could not resist the temptation to enter a house not 200 yards distant. Here he stole a watch and escaped a few minutes ahead of the police. Shortly after this he was seen in a nearby canyon, but escaped a bullet from the gun of the City Marshal, making his way to the wilder canyons near the foothills. Garcia was captured in Azusa a month ago after a series of robberies and delivered to the county juvenile authorities, but escaped within a week.

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MANY ALIENS ARE IN ARMY

Foreign Arrivals at Camp Custer
Outnumber Native Americans.

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Sept. 26.—(Special.)—Detroit and Milwaukee, largest cities in the district feeding Camp Custer with National Army soldiers, furnished the bulk of today's arrivals, and it was the most cosmopolitan crowd that has yet come. There seemed more Italians, Poles and Canadians in Detroit's delegations than native Americans, and where "Old Glory" has heretofore fluttered from the train window, there were many flags of Italy and Canada and of other allied peoples today.

Milwaukee's representatives showed a notable tendency toward German names, but they waved American flags, sang National songs and had the same "Kaiser Bill" signs on their coaches as the Michigan contingents had boasted. Detroit sent 1700 men, but at that 300 Detroiters failed to show up, and must be classed as deserters until examinations can be made. Milwaukee sent 825 men on one train and another Wisconsin train carried 500.

It rained all day, but officers met the boys with great stacks of ponchos and dealt out this equipment before they reached the receiving station.

Mess cooks were on duty all day and

evening serving hot meals to the new soldiers as they were assigned to barracks.

Yesterday's arrivals were lucky in one respect. Their first drills, scheduled for today, were called off owing to the steady rain. Hundreds were put through their medical examinations, but none were assigned uniforms. Today's arrivals were treated to one thing not on the programme. Lightning struck the transformer station, near the shelter where the recruits are received. A guard fired three shots and the rookies learned that Camp Custer has a fire department. The loss was small.

METAL MONEY IS SCARCE

Silver and Bronze Currency in Norway Does Not Circulate.

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, Sept. 10.—The scarcity of metallic currency is being felt more and more sharply throughout Norway. Although the mint last year coined a greater quantity of silver and bronze currency than ever before, it seems all to have disappeared. The Bank of Norway had no small change on two or three days this week and was therefore unable to cash checks for odd amounts. Recently a number of iron coins were put into

circulation and the experiment will be continued on a larger scale.

The director of the mint in an interview says that the reason for the disappearance of small coins is that the prices of silver and bronze have now reached approximately the value of the metal used in the coins and that consequently the coinage is all being melted up for secret export.

Pretty Wife Divorces Convict.

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1.—Percy Lake, now serving a sentence in the Federal Penitentiary at McNeil's Island, no longer has a pretty blonde wife. Superior Judge Valentine granted her a divorce on the grounds of desertion

and nonsupport. Mrs. Mabel Lake, the wife, said in her complaint that her husband deserted her before he became entangled in the web of the law. It is said that while Lake was confined in the County Jail here he became friendly with a counterfeiter. This pretense told him where a full set of counterfeiting tools were cached. When Lake was released he proceeded to "make" money, was apprehended by the Federal authorities and convicted of counterfeiting.

An important piece of Fall work is to destroy dried, wild bunch grasses and broomsedge, which furnish winter quarters for the chinch bug.

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