

# Citizen Veteran

BY HARRY B. CRITCHLOW.

THOUSANDS of combat troops were being moved from the port of St. Nazaire there to divest themselves of the countless canteens, the front line and the alleged "rest areas" had donated, to stand tireless inspections and, at last, to sail for home. Time moved slowly in the camp and the men were restless and willing to complain at most anything that came up. They were in a hurry to get home and desired no delay in embarking.

One morning a buck private stood on one of the board walks leading down a barracks-lined street. He was watching a number of his comrades as they passed through the morning exercises, which he had successfully dodged. He glanced to one side and noted a trim-looking soldier in a neat tailor-made uniform. The "buck" started looking at the man's shoes. They were tan and handsomely shined. He then turned to his own shoes, which were of the "hobbed-nail" variety and, by the way, were not matted. He then noted the puttees of the man. They were of the best material and were carefully wrapped, while his own were "issue" and were torn and soiled.

The buck's eyes were fixed on the stranger who were tight-fitting, carefully pressed and of "old issue" material. The "buck" was just what the supply sergeant had chosen to give him. The stranger wore one of those sleeveless leather jerkins, while the "buck" was possessed of a coat that was several sizes larger for him and had one of those tails that flared out from all sides.

"Say, Bud, where in the devil did you get all those swell clothes, you must have a stand in with the supply sergeant," declared the "buck." He slapped the stranger on the back and, as he did so, to his amazement caught a glimpse of the letters "P. G." on the back of the leather jerkin.

"What is this, anyway, a parade?" continued the "buck." "Do you think you're fooling someone by going around here with a 'prisoner-of-war' sign on you? Are you trying to go to A. W. O. L.? Where did you get those clothes?"

"Ich kanne nicht Englisch sprechen," grunted the stranger as he turned his face towards the "buck" and walked away.

"Well, I'll be damned! A Boche running around here in clothes fit for a king and me with my pants just hanging," declared the "buck." "How come you with a Yank uniform? Take them duds off or you'll never get back to your mamma! Take 'em off or I'll clean up on you!"

The buck was just at the point of knocking down the prisoner and appropriating the fine clothes to his own use when an officer showed up.

"Private Jones, leaves that German alone and get out there on the drill field," ordered the lieutenant.

"Well, sir, how come you wearing a Yank uniform?" returned the Yank. "Look at me and then look at him."

Prescott Cookingham, state finance officer of the American Legion.

dirty and misshapen. He made every effort possible, after discharge, to reach the city before the stores closed for the evening. He arrived five minutes too late. Though he had many friends in the city, he refrained from visiting them. He did not want them to see the type of uniform he was wearing, so contented himself by retiring early to his hotel room. The next morning he arose early and went immediately to a store. There he purchased an entire outfit and hurried back to the room with it.

He soon lost his identity as a soldier and found himself back in civilian clothes after a period of two years. He took the belt from the breeches of the uniform, unscrewed the collar ornaments, removed the service stripes, placed them all with the overseas cap and identification tag and mailed them home to his mother.

"And you," he remarked as he gazed at the coat and breeches which he had hung in the closet, "will be little donations on my part to the greatest benefactor of transient mankind, the hotel bell-hop."

The next meeting of the American Women's Overseas League will be held at the home of Mrs. C. C. Meyer at houseboat 6, near Cemetery station on the Southern Pacific electric line. Members have been requested to take bathing suits, for Mrs. Meyer's backyard is a swimming pool.

It is important that every eligible woman join the league before July 11, which is the date set for the closing of the charter. Women who served with the army, navy, U. S. Coast Guard or any of the welfare organizations in France are entitled to membership in the league.

Veterans of the 34th field hospital company will hold their annual reunion and banquet in the Grand Hotel next Saturday night. Invitations have been sent to the 100 or more men of Oregon who served with the unit while at Camp Lewis and France. Harry Carroll, John Heimer and James Kazian are among those who are promoting the affair. The organization almost a year ago completed the publication of its history and the book were sent to General Pershing, General William H. Johnson and other war leaders. Letters from these men will be read at the reunion.

In order that newboys as well as the more fortunate boys of the well-to-do may enjoy the advantages of membership in the boy scout organization, a movement has been started by the Detroit American Legion to make it possible for lads who earn their livelihood on the street to become full-fledged scouts. The plan is set forth by Dr. Frank B. Broderick, its director.

The step that Field Marshal Earl Haig has taken in his recent announcement of the great of one commenda to the great of the former service men. The noted military leader is now the president of the British Legion and is devoting his entire time to the strengthening of this organization in England.

can Legion Can Best Serve the Nation." Prizes to winners will be given as follows: First \$500, second \$200 and third \$100. A boy or girl between the ages of 12 and 18 may enter the contest. Essays will be limited to 500 words. American Legion posts of the state have been supplied with rules regarding the contest.

A modern hotel on wheels with a capacity of 1,000 guests will be operated by four large railroads during the national convention of the American Legion in New Orleans, October 16 to 21. The rolling hostelry will be 465 Pullman cars parked in four large railroad yards. Equipped with electric lights, shower baths and all facilities of a hotel, the cars will be the homes of thousands of visitors during the five days of the convention. One of the largest parking yards is only four blocks from Legion national headquarters hotel, while the others are located at distances necessitating only a short streetcar ride.

The railroads have established a rental and parking charge which will enable the legionnaires to obtain his "bunk" for about \$2 a day, including Pullman charges en route. The Pullman hotel project has appealed during men in many parts of the country. One of the largest railroads has announced that its reservations for cars have filled parking space available. Many other American Legion men have reserved space for 25 cars, Louisville 15, Washington 10, Cleveland 7, and other reservations are on file from Detroit, Atlanta, Birmingham and Pittsburgh.

"Forty Femmes & 8 Chevaux" is the name of a fun-making, purely social organization, formed by members of the national executive committee of the American Legion auxiliary during its closing session at national headquarters. The new club corresponds to the legion's "40 Hommes & 8 Chevaux" organization some months ago, which now has local chapters in all parts of the United States.

All members of the auxiliary's executive committee were made charter members of the new organization. Membership will be open to auxiliary women who have been active in the work of that organization. The meeting of the national convention of the legion and the auxiliary, in October, Mrs. Ada C. Sangster of Sheboygan, Mich., will be made grand chaperon (president); Mrs. Lowell J. Hobart, Cincinnati, will be hon. chaperon (vice-president); Mrs. Eugene Arborea Jr., Bogalusa, La., secretary; and Mrs. Edward F. Burt, Salisbury, N. C., treasurer.

Plans for the care of orphans of service men now in orphanages throughout the country were announced at the first meeting of the executive committee of the auxiliary. "The mother's touch which the orphanages cannot give, will be supplied by the women of the American Legion," declared Mrs. E. M. Macrea of Council Bluffs, Ia., chairman of a committee for the care of orphans. Scholarships will be awarded to the children of men who will take advantage of them.

En route back from San Francisco, where he attended the convention of the Mystic Shrine, Irl B. Davis, department commander of the American Legion in Oklahoma, has remained longer in that state than he had planned. He is superintendent of schools.

NEW YORK, July 8.—A pilgrimage to the battlefields on which they fought six years past has been arranged for several hundred former service men by the American Legion. The tour is open to members of the Legion and its auxiliaries, which comprise the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of the men who served in the world war.

According to the itinerary of the Legion the party will reach Brussels August 30. From Brussels it will go to Ostend and tour the battlefields of Flanders. From Belgium the Legionnaires will go to London, where they will be the guests of the London post of the American Legion and the British Legion. The party will return on the steamship Metagonia, arriving at Montreal September 16. Arrangements for the tour are in charge of John J. Wickley Jr., of Richmond, Va., who as tour director has headquarters at the office of the American Legion Weekly, New York.

J. Harold Bevtien, ex-member of the 361st ambulance company, and now one of the leaders of the American Legion in Eugene, passed through Portland a few days ago en route home after a honeymoon trip that took him to Minneapolis, Minn.

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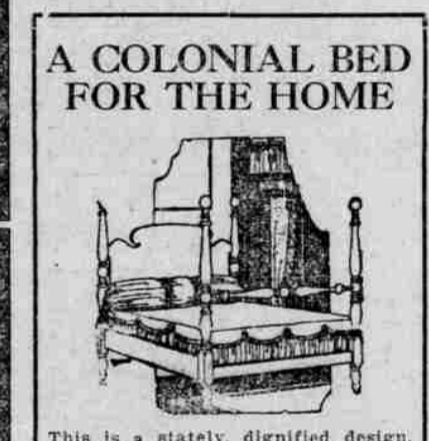


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When the company arrived at the port of embarkation there were the Eiffel tower or sales of the hot sterilizer for its purification. When it came out and was handed back to him immediately put it on and started to button it. He was dismayed to find that the terrific heat of the sterilizer had melted the rubber buttons to the extent that the rubber had penetrated all through the coat. The garment was a ruin. It was only through red tape, many explanations and a special dispensation that he was allowed to return to the United States coastless.

What a wonderful concession it was on the part of the military authorities when they agreed to give the soldier his uniform when he was discharged from service! The men who came home from overseas were, in most cases, clothed in garments that had been worn by others, second-hand uniforms, in other words, their old uniforms were turned in, sent to a renovating plant, where they were made over and then issued to the men at random.

As a consequence there was little that attached a man to the uniform he wore back home. It helped him to hide his nakedness until a suit of "civilies" could be obtained and that is about all. The uniforms of the veterans of the A. E. F. today are not those that they can point to with pride. Few men can say: "There is the uniform I wore through the Argonne."

An enlisted man had just received his discharge from one of the demobilization camps of the east, and was preparing to go to a big city. He was clothed in a uniform that, in addition to being too large, was

Members of the American Legion of Astoria are trying to prevail upon Hanford MacNider, national commander, to pay a visit to their city while he is in the state attending the convention at The Dallas. G. A. Murphy, post commander, extended an invitation to the national executive.

Hanford MacNider, national commander of the American Legion, will attend the state convention at The Dallas the last of this month. An invitation was extended to him some time ago and he notified the state officials that he would make all plans to be on hand. Henry A. Wise, adjutant of the state department of Washington, who has signified his intentions of attending.

An important meeting of Over the Top post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be held tomorrow night in the courthouse. Officers of the organization have requested all members to be present. They claim there is a surprise in store for the veterans.

Under the direction of The Dallas "Wrecking Crew" a new volume of Les Societes des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux was established in Heppner. The officers chosen for the new volume of the sunshine order of the American Legion are as follows: Harold Cohn, chef de train; Fred E. Farror, correspondent; and John Higley, commissaire intendante.

As a means of fostering greater patriotism among the younger generation, the American Legion is starting a national essay contest. The subject will be "How the Amer-