

The Citizen Veteran

BY HARRY B. CRITCHLOW.

WHEN the first officers' training camp was established at the Presidio, in 1917, among those men fresh from the colleges and universities who reported was one headless youth who for the sake of a name will be called Reginald. It was his deep-rooted belief that he should emerge from the camp a full-fledged colonel and a "gentleman by act of congress."

There was no man in camp who worked harder than Reginald. He was at his studies early in the morning and pursued them until late at night. When it came to the drill field, however, he was almost impossible. His feet got mixed up and he did everything wrong. One day the officers in charge ordered Reginald to drill a platoon of men. The result was sad indeed. His shrill voice would break and crack when he gave the commands to the members of the platoon came near breaking into a riot of laughter.

That night Reggie went home with the request for the "best orders." Those orders came in the shape of a message from the draft board in which he was instructed to report at Camp Lewis. It was learned by the draft board authorities that Reggie had been an attendant at the first training camp, so he was placed in charge of the men going to Camp Lewis. No general ever took more seriously his command of a division.

Soon Reggie found himself in the depot brigade, where his military talents went unobserved despite the fact that he had been in the ranks where he knew where he went. One day an order from division headquarters requested an expert stenographer. Personnel officers were looked over and Reggie seemed to fill the bill, so he went to headquarters.

Headquarters detachment was composed of men who knew little or nothing about "soldiering." They were stenographers, accountants, engineers and technicians and all kinds who had been chosen for their particular value. They had no time for military training, for their duties required them to be on duty from early morning until retreat at night. But the jobs they were holding down rated ranks of anything from sergeant-major to sergeant-major. Reggie was placed in one of those positions, where he soon came to possess a regimental sergeant-major's stripes.

He felt that his time was arriving. The military authorities were coming to realize his true worth and were promoting him over the heads of his less brilliant associates.

Finally the commanding general decided that even members of the headquarters detachment should know something about drill. At any rate they should have a certain amount of physical training. It was arranged that the hour between 7 A. M. and 8 A. M. was set aside for drill for the detachment. Reggie, by virtue of his rank and his military training, was placed in charge of the drilling.

Up until that time his associates in the barracks had paid little attention to him, but when he went out on the field before them and began giving orders with that shrill voice they became acquainted with their leader.

It is no easy task to drill any group of men, but when one gathers together a detachment of between 50 and 60 "non-coms" and attempts to instruct them in military matters he is picking out some task for himself. Reggie told the outfit how to "about face," inculcated into them ideas regarding "right by squads" and explained all manner of things.

He would be sailing along in first-class style until his voice would break. Then the men would laugh and he would forget all that had been told them. Officers used to walk out of their way to keep from passing him, and when Reggie was drillmaster. They were too military to laugh before the men. When the sergeant-major would attempt to "bawl out" the men for their mistakes they would laugh at him. Several months of this kind of drilling found them in possession of a certain military knowledge—they knew how to salute, for that is one thing they had to do often around division headquarters.

It became Reggie's job to call the roll at reveille each morning. Out of the entire detachment perhaps 20 men would answer up for roll call. Reggie would start down the line calling the names of the members of the outfit. As soon as a man had answered for himself and the man who slept next to him he would slip out of line and go back to bed. Reggie never came to understand why there appeared to be but a score of men in line and yet the entire outfit answered roll call.

"When the organization started overseas there was considerable marching to be done. When halts were made along the transcontinental trip east the organization would be taken out for drill with Reggie in charge. He tried "double timing" the men up a road in a small town in Montana one morning and the outfit almost ran over him. He had a difficult time stopping them. When he gave an order they would do the exact opposite and then when he called their attention to the error they would argue him into believing that he was in error."

On the boat bound for France a small space on deck was set aside for the members of the detachment to drill. Each morning Reggie would call the men to the space and this space endeavor to give his charges physical exercise. Above this deck the officers on board would stand and look down at the drill. They would see men going through all kinds of contortions. Not one of Reggie's instructions were being carried out properly. It seemed to be the desire of each man to do something different from what his nearest comrade was doing. Each was succeeding and the officers who leaned over the rail declared that the "detachment at drill was better than a three-ring circus."

Several of the members of the detachment became serious. They had been having their fun with Reggie and at length they were in Camp Lewis delighted in him, but now they were nearing France and wanted to be rid of him. They held an indignant meeting on board the boat and ended by going to the commanding officer of the troop and detachment.

They did not hesitate in saying that they wanted a new drill master. "We will look like a bunch of fools marching in the streets with Reggie in charge," they declared.

"Well, who do you want to drill you?" the officer inquired. "Reggie's good stenographer, but he's no Napoleon."

"Give us Sergeant Blank out of the troops," said one of the men. "He's hard-boiled and has been in the army ever since the Spanish-American war."

It would up the Sergeant Blank was placed in charge of the detachment and he soon whipped the outfit into shape so that it would present a decent appearance at least.

In Knotty Ash, England, where



Harry Nelson, state adjutant of the American Legion.

The detachment was located for two days. British "squad tents" were used to house the Yankees. The tents were large enough for eight men but when it came to crowding in 13 the extreme limit was reached.

A dozen of Reggie's comrades had been crowded in one of these tents and he followed. The men made down their beds through the simple process of unrolling their blankets. After that mess, our Reggie went off to the Y. M. C. A. to study French and the men in his tent went to bed. It was only by repeating on their sides that the entire dozen could all lie down at once. When Reggie arrived about 10 o'clock at night he found the interior of the tent silent except for an occasional snore. He tried to find his blankets but failed. He attempted to get med to move over so that he might find a sleeping place. There was no such thing in that tent, for it was overcrowded before Reggie arrived. All he received was a "bunk."

"Go on outside, Napoleon, and sleep in the street," someone shouted.

Reggie went to another squad tent where he fared no better. He at last gave up hope and went back to the Y. M. C. A., where he slept on a bench.

Day after day, through his experience of 20 months in the army, Reggie was the butt of jokes of all kinds. He was treated as a joke and treated him as such. His ability as a clerk and stenographer saved him from being reduced or transferred. He never ceased to believe that the military authorities had made a mistake when they failed to make him a colonel. Whenever he is today he probably believes as he then did.

Veterans of the 1st division will have Seattle and Tacoma as their hosts of command Saturday and Sunday. Plans are being made to entertain more than 5000 former wearers of the green pine tree, who will assemble in those cities.

The reunion will open Saturday morning, one day following the adjournment of the national convention of the Veterans of the American Legion. Scores of men of the Powder River outfit will journey from California, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Montana, Idaho and Oregon, the states from which the unit originally sprang. Saturday the veterans will be the guests of Seattle and the following day they will be at Tacoma and Camp Lewis. A big banquet, sufficiently large to accommodate all is being arranged by the Seattle reception committee for Saturday night. Sunday afternoon there will be a barbecue and divisional review on the grounds where in 1917 the members of the division received their intensive military training that prepared them for the days of hardship that were to follow at the front.

A large number of men are planning to go from Portland to the convention. Most of them will leave Friday and will make the journey by automobile.

A year ago Portland Post of the American Legion was hard pressed for funds. Debt was the legacy left to the members of the executive committee of 1921. These men, with the loyal assistance of the members, managed to reduce the debts to the extent of several thousand dollars. As the year neared its end a committee headed by E. C. Mears was appointed to float a bond issue to pull the organization out of the "hole."

The men who served on this committee worked faithfully. The men who they approached for subscriptions reluctantly complied and signed their names on the "dotted lines" but they believed that they were saying farewell to their funds. They were of the opinion that the post was "on the rocks" and that the subscription was a waste of money. Such has not proved the case. A few days ago the finance committee of the post met and decided to make a payment of \$2500 on the \$8000 bond issue. Numbers were drawn and preparations were made for the payment of the funds to the holders of the notes.

The money that has been accumulated for the payment of the notes comes from the sinking fund provided last year when the post dues were raised from \$3 to \$4 and the extra dollar was set aside for the payment of the outstanding bonds.

The fall of Manila will be reenacted over and over again this afternoon when veterans of the famous old 2d Oregon regiment of the Spanish war, with their families gather in Laurelhurst Park. The gathering will be held in commemoration of the 24th anniversary of the fall of the Philippine city.

A special programme of music and games has been arranged. The committee in charge of the occasion is composed of the following: Percy Willis, W. C. North, John R. Hubbard, C. A. Murphy, W. E. Finser and Richard Delch.

Physicians and surgeons of the government hospital in Portland were guests of the medical staff of the sub-district office of the United States Veterans' bureau at a banquet made president. Kenyon H. Cooper vice-president and Dr. Arden secretary.

Twelve graduates from the citizens' military training camps in each of the nine corps areas throughout the country will be sent to Camp Perry, Ohio, for expert instruction in musketry and, if qualified, to participate in the national rifle matches in September. A citizens' military training camp will be established at the Ohio state

rifle range and the selected graduates will have an opportunity to take the full course in the national match school. The graduates will be selected by the corps commanders and must be men of markedly good character who indicate the ability to become proficient as instructors in rifle practice.

At Camp Perry the teams will be formed into ten shooting members and two alternates. The team coach and necessary team captain will be supplied from the personnel at Camp Perry.

Guy Rathbun, post, American Legion, of Kelso, Wash., has elected Charles D. McCarthy and Bert Cyr as delegates to the state legion convention which will be held at Wenatchee the last of this month. Charles D. McCarthy, Elden Dunham and Frank Groce have been appointed as delegates from the legion to sell the old ball grounds in the Wallace addition.

Legionnaires of Grants Pass have undertaken the improvement of the Riverside bathing beach near their city, according to Glenn Simpson, a member of the committee who visited the site. The committee has been working during the last week. The veterans have cleared all of the brush from the river bank and are now planning to put a tractor to work leveling the ground.

"The finest state publication of the legion in America" was the character of the Pacific Legion, the Oregon department magazine published in Portland, made by Sanford MacNider, national commander of the American Legion, at the state convention recently held at the Dallas. This was the only address of Commander MacNider from the state, which he prepared for all convention programmes, according to George Harvey, his private secretary.

The mill workers' strike at Manchester, N. H., has reached such proportions that the American Legion has thrown open its clubhouse to them and has established soup kitchens.

E. A. Adams, the "Old Man" of the American Legion in central Oregon, was in Portland during the past week. He is adjutant of the post in Madras. The purpose of his trip here was to undergo an examination for war disabilities. He is a veteran of the Spanish-American and World Wars. Adams obtained a piece of land from the government and spends most of his time farming it. It is located on the Metolius river and all Adams has to do when he desires a mess of trout is to stick his fishing pole out the back door and let the fish come hold.

The Maryland court of appeals has reversed the decision of a lower court and has held the recently passed bill unconstitutional. The bill would have authorized the American Legion and other veteran organizations have started work on a new measure which will be presented to the general assembly. The new bill will be designed to meet the objections of the high court to the last one. Before its presentation to the assembly 10,000 Maryland voters will sign the bill.

Persons who have suddenly acquired world-war records, would stripes and a desire to help other disabled veterans by soliciting subscriptions to equally big magazines have so aroused the American Legion and municipal authorities at Syracuse, N. Y., that the two forces have combined against such fake solicitations. Anyone seeking a place to sell magazines is turned over to the legion for investigation.

The American Legion of McMinnville is co-operating with the Commercial club and the county fair board and will take care of the entertainment concessions for the gathering which will be held in their city September 19-21. The legionnaires will call their portion of the celebration the "Second Legion Encampment." Last year the post held a three-day celebration that proved a decided success.

An application has just been received for a charter for an American Legion post in Korea, by the members of the executive committee. There are 15 persons eligible for membership in Korea and the application bears the name of those 15 persons. The local post will have its headquarters at Kwangju, Chosen. The post in Korea is being organized by M. L. Swineheart, treasurer of the Southern Presbyterian mission in that country. In his letter accompanying the application for a charter Mr. Swineheart said: "Please have the application acted upon as quickly as possible, as we have good reason for wanting to get busy and get the post organized in a going concern."

It is unfortunate that some world-war veterans in the United States, where it is hard to stay out of the legion than it is to get into it, don't get some of this enthusiasm manifested by their erstwhile comrades in arms in far-away Korea.

The New York police have picked up an unknown man who for several days has answered every question put to him with "I was in the war." The same answer has been given to requests for his name, place of discharge, parents and other questions. The American Legion has been asked to try and find the young man. He is about 28 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 145 pounds, has black hair and eyes and has a small American flag and the initials "J. W. W." tattooed on his right forearm. He is in the observation ward at Bellevue hospital, where they do not know what is the matter with him, although the case has indications of shell shock.

Illuminated by 28,000 electric lights and decorated with flags, banners and streamers, the downtown streets of New Orleans will be in holiday regalia during the American Legion national convention next October.

For five days the conventional names of business streets will be thrown into the discard and they will be rechristened with designations more appropriate to the legion gathering.

Court of honor of the nations will be established in ten blocks, each block being set aside for one of the principal allied powers with corresponding flags and decorations. Signs indicating the names of the states, with their contributions in numbers of world-war fighters, will feature the court of honor of the states, to be held on the principal residential street. American Legion avenue will be decorated with legion banners and emblems.

Visiting doughboys in search of their buddies will be assisted in the establishment of the streets of the divisions. Suspended across the streets utilized for this purpose will be the insignias of all divisions in the world-war army. Impromptu reunions of men who served in the

same division will be held near the banners inscribed with their divisional insignia.

Red, white and blue electric bulbs will illuminate Canal street, the main thoroughfare, and all principal side streets.

Life on the Rhine for 1200 American doughboys who still stand guard over Ehrenbreitstein, is almost a "flowery bed of ease," according to a story by Alexander Woolcott, published in the current issue of the American Legion Weekly.

Woolcott, as a representative of the Stars and Stripes, was one of the first men wearing the Yankee uniform to visit Coblenz. Recently he went back up to the scene he visited in December, 1918, and there he found many changes. The visitor found his room in the Hotel Traube much different from the one he occupied when the army of occupation was making its advance.

"I had a bedroom not quite as big as the Union station in Washington," he relates. "They charged me 19 cents a day, a bewildering descent from the 1500 marks I paid for a not superior room in Berlin a week before. I used to breakfast at the Coblenz hotel and on my window table overlooking the Rhine would be a repeat of orange juice, oatmeal and cream eggs on toast and a hot coffee. The bill would be about 12 cents."

He relates the "experiences of the doughboy following payday." "Of course there is no use pretending that the doughboy has any money to throw around after the first week of the month. He would be glad if you gave him a million dollars—but throughout that first week he is a spending fool. With a bed-check tucked in his pocket he salutes the waiter and summons a taxi. When he alights at the first of his favorite best gardens he bids the taxi wait. When the waiter out two hours later, he decides lazily that he might as well keep the car for the remaining day as Gretchen might take it into his flaxen head to want to drive over to Bad Ems for dinner. When he finally dismisses the yellow taxi he drifts into a cafe and orders a tip large enough to pay the rent for the next month."

"They say that for the first four or five days after payday it is impossible for officers to get taxis in Coblenz. I know that at the base-ball game on July 4 the officer's bleachers were full and the men's empty. The men's bleachers were empty because they had all driven out with their girls to see the game and had taken his shoes some time previous and he had retaliated by stealing someone's high-topped boots."

Not only the doughboy but the boots attracted the attention of the populace as he went forth in search of the barbershop, and by the time he arrived at the barber's he was followed by a group of at least 200 persons.

There were three chairs in the shop. The first was presided over by an elderly German, who was the proprietor, and who at that time had a customer. The second was that of a flaxen-haired son, and it was empty, so the doughboy crawled in and took the latter.

The old man could speak English and was glad to have the opportunity of conversing with the American.

"My son just got out of the submarine service," declared the German, just about the time that the son was preparing to apply the cream to the American's face. "He spent much of his time in the Irish sea."

"Gosh, that's the place where they submarine so many of our boats," thought the American. "I'm glad to see you're home." "This guy's sure a murderer, and he'll cut my throat sure as shootin'." Quickly he slipped his right hand down on his holster, where reposed an American automatic.

"I'll take no chances with this kind of thing," thought the American. "He can cut my head off with one slice of that razor, but the first move he makes to do it I'll pull and shoot and he'll go west."

Evidently the German youth had shed all his submarine habits upon discharge for he was exceedingly careful in aiming the American's face. "It was a good shave," declared the Yankee to friends, some time later. "But I sure was scared while he was shaving me."

Age

is no indication of eye condition.

Many aged people do not need to wear glasses, whereas many children need them at an early age.

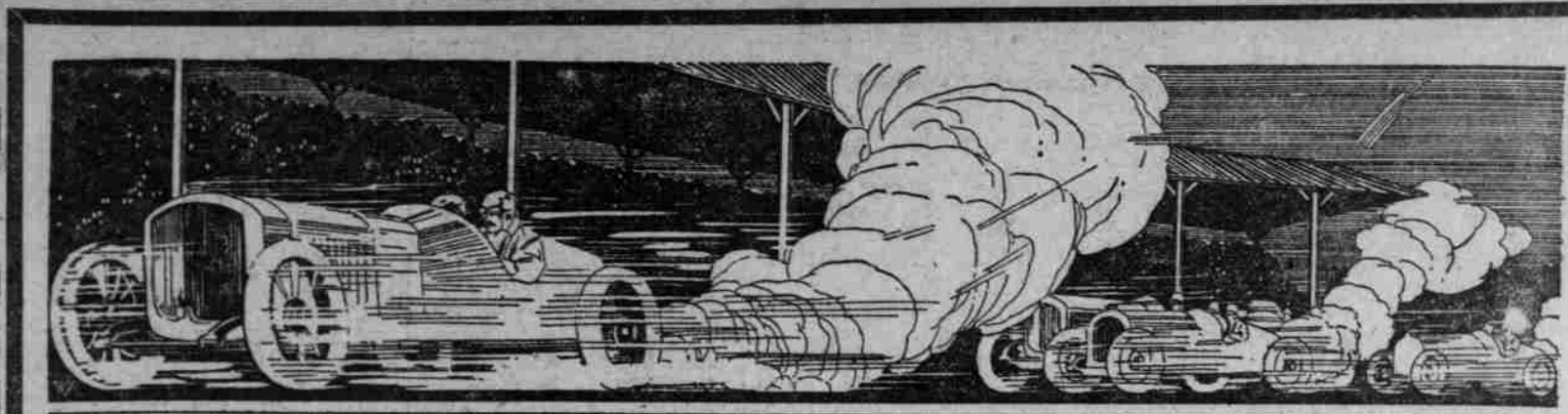
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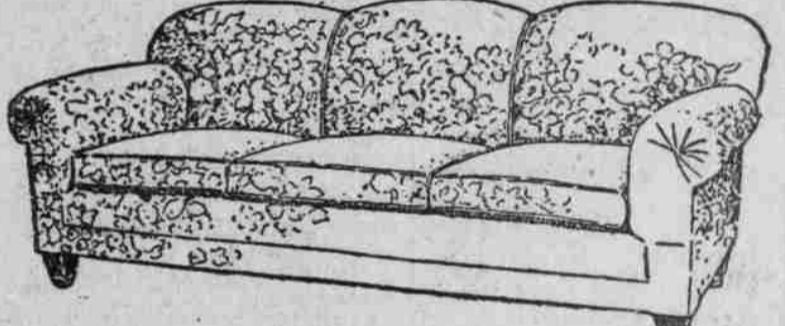
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| \$67.50 72-inch Willow Davenport, cretonne cushion..... | \$34.95 | See Our Windows for Real Bargains | \$12.00 6x9 Grass Rugs..... | \$6.00 |
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| \$23.75 Folding Reed Sulkey, no hood..... | \$16.50 | \$175.00 Combination Range, burns wood, coal or gas; guaranteed..... | \$85.00 Tapestry overstuffed Chair, spring cushions..... | \$42.50 |
| \$30.25 Folding Reed Sulkey, no hood..... | \$13.50 | \$145.00 All blue enameled wood or coal Range, coil included..... | \$24.00 Ivory Chiffonier, no mirror..... | \$14.95 |
| \$57.50 W. E. Kitchen Cabinet..... | \$37.50 | \$55.25 Oak Kitchen Cabinet..... | \$49.50 Walnut finish Chiffonier..... | \$24.95 |
| \$38.75 Royal Oak Kitchen Cabinet..... | \$29.75 | \$125.00 Sapphire Windsor wood and coal Range..... | \$49.00 Walnut finish wood Bed..... | \$24.95 |
| \$35.00 Royal Oak Kitchen Cabinet..... | \$27.75 | \$19.50 4 1/2 x 7 1/2 Rag Rugs..... | \$36.50 Ivory steel poster Bed..... | \$19.75 |
| \$19.50 4 1/2 x 7 1/2 Rag Rugs..... | \$9.75 | \$21.75 6x9 Rag Rugs..... | \$24.50 Walnut steel Bed..... | \$16.50 |
| \$21.75 6x9 Rag Rugs..... | \$10.40 | | \$57.00 Ivory wood Bed..... | \$28.00 |

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