

OWNERS AS RULE
SOLDIERS SATISFIED
WITH LIFE IN POST

Investigation Shows That Enlisted Men Are Well Fed and Cared For at Stevens, Despite Charges to Contrary.

By Fred Lockley.

One can get no better and fairer idea of actual army life conditions as they exist at Fort Stevens than by personally absorbing the atmosphere of the post.

To this end I recently spent the greater part of two days in personal contact with the officers and enlisted men at the fort, talked to them, ate at the mess table and talked with civilian employees stationed there. The courts were extended to me by the officers that I might judge for myself the facts of Fort Stevens conditions, which of late have been subject to much criticism in published communications from the soldiers.

At the mid-day meal a big bowl of rich soup was followed by servings of fried salmon and boiled potatoes. That all might be plentifully supplied, the waiters kept busy refilling plates, serving bread and keeping the coffee cups filled. A large serving of sage pudding completed the noon meal. There was no excuse for any soldier leaving the table without all he could eat, as the platters of fried salmon were constantly refilled, as were the bread plates and potato bowls.

"Today is Friday, so we have fish," said the sergeant who sat next to me. "Yesterday we had roast beef. For breakfast we usually have mush, coffee, bacon and eggs, or ham and eggs. It is a wonder to me that the papers would publish 'kicks' from ex-soldiers who probably got 'bob-tail' discharges, and who are trying to justify themselves for being let out of the army without a good record."

"Any man," said a corporal across the table, "who wants to behave himself in the army, can get along. The trouble is that a lot of young fellows who have been spoiled and pampered join the army, and when they find that they must top the mark and can no longer be looked upon as heroes, they get indignant. To obey an order promptly and implicitly is degrading to their finer sensibilities, and imagining they are greatly abused, they desert. If a man has the right stuff in him and will stick it out a year, you will rarely hear any complaint from him."

"As a matter of fact," continued the first speaker, "the army turns many a fellow who would have become a hobo into a respectable citizen, and sends him from the army with a good trade."

About the Pay.

"A man's pay depends very largely upon his own efforts. For example, we get \$18 a month, and in addition to this we receive board and lodging, free medical attendance, clothing allowance, use of the reading room and gymnasium, game room and other privileges. Two or three dollars a month will cover all necessary expenses. A shave here costs 16 cents, a haircut 25 cents. Half of this money goes to the post exchange, and comes back to each company in the form of luxuries not provided by the war department. Laundry bills and rent are paid for by the company. A man can save \$14 or \$15 a month. Some of the fellows who do the most kicking are the ones who spend all the money they make on booze, gambling and women. If a man wants to make money in addition to his regular salary he can very easily take up some extra work."

"Ninety-nine dollars a month is the highest wage an enlisted man can draw with a certain amount of additional money is paid. Sergeant Leary, who is an electrician sergeant, is getting \$77 a month. If a man wants to be a cook or a baker, the government will send him to the post exchange, and send him to school for cooks and bakers at the Presidio and give him a course that will fit him for this work. If he prefers to become an electrician, the government will train him for it, and will allow him to work in the machine shops, and so on through the various lines of work. If a man is shy in his schooling he can go to the night school maintained here at the post and brush up in the different studies."

"After dinner I spent a few hours talking with men in their quarters, at the post exchange, in the reading rooms and at their various posts of duty. In the bathhouse bank of the company mess hall I ran across a private named J. L. Varner.

"You don't look as if you were starved to death," I said.

"Private Is Contented.

"No," he answered, "haven't any kick coming. I put in my spare time working in the garden for one of the officers, and I am also agent for two different laundry companies. So that I manage to make about \$40 a month. The officer pays me 10 cents an hour for my work, and I get a commission from the laundry companies."

"If a fellow is looking for trouble in the army he can get it," said another private. "For instance, you think it is rather hard that a man would get a year at hard labor for stealing a pair of shoes or a dollar or two from some other soldier, and yet, when 90 or 100 men are living together with their possessions where they can be readily gotten at by anyone, they must be able to feel that it is safe to leave their things around and to know that a man who steals them should be given such a severe lesson that he will never be tempted to do it again. A man is charged with all of the clothing he draws, and if some thief steals his shoes or some other part of his equipment and sells it to buy booze, he gets much sympathy from the other boys."

A moment or two later I met Captain Long and asked him to take me out to the mortar pits and tell me something about the post. At the mortar pits the mortars rest on their turn tables, protected by walls of masonry and a hill of earth in front of them. "These mortars weigh 14 tons each," said Captain Long, "and containing the turn table and the machinery that operates them, they weigh about 30 tons apiece. They shoot a projectile weighing 1050 pounds."

"It takes 140 men to operate the four mortars to fire one round per minute from each gun. They are placed at an angle of from 45 to 60 degrees and a child can operate the turn table and direct the fire in any direction. We have two stations about 300 yards apart. The men in the stations telephone the angle of the target or the ship to be fired upon and the exact location of the object; is worked out almost instantly on the plotting board. As the target or vessel proceeds, the angle is constantly changing. We have eight zones and in each of them we use a different powder charge. For example, if a ship lies on the water, the powder naturally a projectile would be sent with

too great force to land on the object. It is a very important matter to put 100 pounds of steel in a 30 foot charge in the vitals of a warship four or five or six miles away. You know the time of flight of the projectile, you have the estimated speed of the boat at which you are shooting, on the plotting board you have worked out the exact location so that it is a mere matter of higher mathematics to be able to place your shots where you want them.

Some Accurate Shooting.

"Recently, at mortar practice at the Presidio, at a distance of five and a half miles, the mortars put 15 out of 20 shots in a 50 foot target. At a distance beyond three and a half miles a mortar is more accurate than a direct aim gun. Say, however, that you could only put in one shot out of four where you wanted it. No enemy's fleet could pass a battery without being destroyed."

"As we came back from the mortar pit I met another soldier. 'Do they give you a square deal here?' I asked. 'Do you give us a square deal?' he inquired.

"The officers. Have you ever been court-martialed?"

"He gave me a rather embarrassed look and said: 'Almost any man who has served two or three enlistments has been before the summary court a few times for some infraction of the army discipline. They have handed me a lot of court-martials but no more than I have deserved. If a man gets drunk or if he does something else against the regulations he expects to get punished. Possibly some of the younger army officers who just come from West Point are more strict than those who have handled men for a long time, but it is the rare exception rather than the rule for a man to get the worst of it in the army.'

At the hospital Captain Macey, the surgeon, took me through the various wards and through all the different departments. "In the army, when a man meets with an accident, his pay does not stop as it does in civil life. Not only does his pay go on, but the best of surgical attention and nursing is given him as well as all medicines and everything else necessary, without expense. Here for example, is a young man whose arm is in splints and who is getting along very nicely. He broke his arm in a game of baseball a week or two ago."

From the hospital we went to the mortuary chapel. A flag draped casket was in the center of the room. Taking off the cover of the casket Captain Macey showed me a soldier in full dress uniform. "This is Sergeant Louis Stelzel," said Captain Macey. "He died of Bright's disease. In two months more he would have retired as he has served 10 years and 10 months. He is a German and an excellent soldier. He has over \$11,000 deposited with the war department drawing 4 per cent interest. His wife has asked that he be buried in Florida. The government sends him there at government expense and if requested, an attendant is sent with him. He has been embalmed and the government will not only bury him at its expense, giving him a military funeral with full military honors, but will erect a tombstone and maintain the grave."

A little later, in the office of the commanding officer of the post, Colonel Straub, I learned many additional details relative to Fort Stevens, one of the officers being my informant.

Facts About the Post.

"There are three companies of Coast Artillery stationed at Fort Stevens," he said. "The Thirty-third, commanded by Captain J. A. Berry in command, with J. E. Townes Jr., first lieutenant, and S. W. Sperry, second lieutenant; the Ninety-third company in command of Captain J. T. Long and second lieutenant R. E. Eastwood, and the One Hundred and Eightieth company, in charge of Captain Frank B. Edwards and Lieutenant D. B. Netherwood. Lieutenants R. E. Cox is the quartermaster and Lieutenant J. H. Hood is the adjutant. Captain L. Turtle is the engineer and ordnance officer and has charge of the signal corps work. Captain Macey is the surgeon and Colonel O. I. Straub is the commanding officer. There are 94 men in each of the companies and if you will watch them at their infantry and artillery drill, you will find that they are fine, soldierly and drilled lot of men."

Interviews with a number of the men, personal investigation of the kitchen, refrigerator, store rooms, dining room, amusement hall, bowling alley and reading rooms, leads me to conclude that the reports that the men at Fort Stevens are not sufficiently fed and that the food is not well prepared are without foundation. A sergeant of one of the companies told me that the government allows a certain amount of rations, the cost varying with the contract price of the supplies. Just now, it is around 37 cents a day per man.

"When you remember that there is no cost whatever for cooking, service or any of the other expenses incident to civil life," said a sergeant, "you will realize that a man can be fed for that amount. Frequently, in hotels and restaurants, if the meat is a little tainted or if the fish is a little stale, the materials are used just the same. You get your tainted meat and your cold chicken in the form of stews disguised with sauce. In the army no questionable food is accepted. It is promptly condemned. If it should slip by the inspection officer, the mess sergeant or company cook could bring it to the attention of the officer of the company and a board would be called to review it and condemn it."

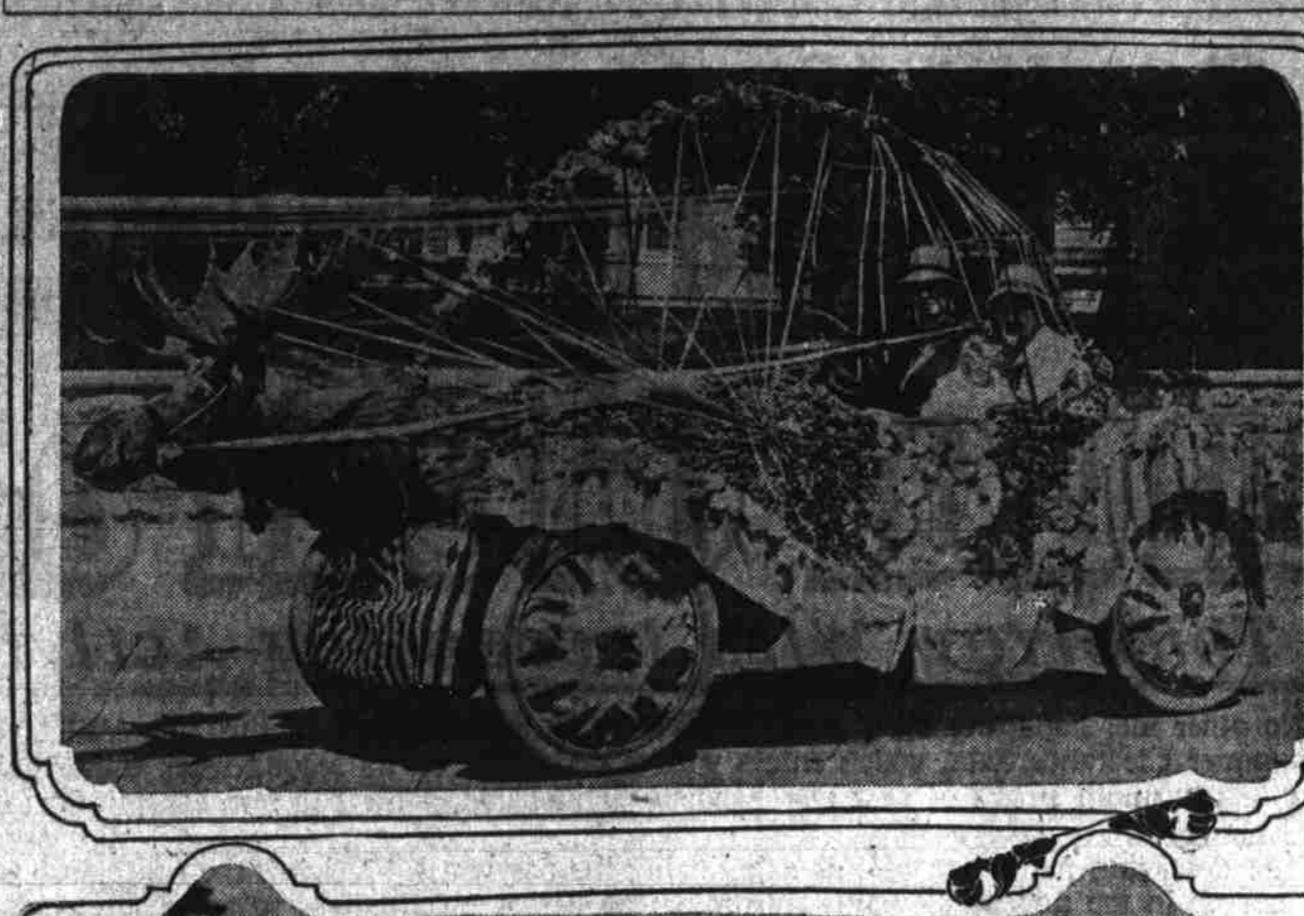
"If a man comes into the army for a year, he is making a mistake," said one of the soldiers. "If he comes into the army willing to drill, do his work promptly and neatly and obey orders, he isn't going to have any trouble."

2 COMMISSIONS NAMED BY GOVERNOR LISTER

(Special to The Journal.)

Olympia, Wash., July 12.—Governor Lister today announced two appointments of non-salaried commissions authorized by the legislature. On the commission to act with the state board of control to select a site for a girls' training school he named J. W. Shaw, of Vancouver; Miss Lucy Case, of Seattle; Mrs. Herbert T. Grainger, of Seattle; and Mrs. Clarence Parker, of Tacoma. The law requires the selected site be within 10 miles of the present training school near Chehalis, in Lewis county. The buildings are being erected so that the sexes may be separated, the boys to retain the present quarters.

GRANTS PASS CELEBRATION WAS A GRAND PATRIOTIC HUMMER



Top—Moose float, awarded first prize in fraternal order float division of parade. Bottom—Parade forming on Sixth street, near County Courthouse.

(Special Correspondence.)

Grants Pass, Or., July 12.—The feature of the two days' independence day celebration in Grants Pass was the parade, in which business houses, fraternal orders and other organizations compete for prizes. Rivalry among the lodges was especially keen, the Order of Moose winning first honors with a beautifully decorated auto float escorted by the brass band, composed of members of the Moose lodge. Second place was given the float prepared by the resident Elks.

The pageant of nations was an effective section of the parade, a dozen floats being decorated to represent as many nations. The car representing Japan, prepared by Sam Baker, cashier of the Josephine County bank, was awarded first prize in this section.

America, Paul Kinney's car, was given second honors. Among many features, the Rainbow drill, in which 56 young ladies in distinctive gowns appeared, attracted special attention. Fully 10,000 visitors were present during the two days. Not an accident occurred, and not an arrest was made. It was generally agreed that the celebration eclipsed anything of the kind ever before held in southern Oregon.

EVEN 95 YEARS ISN'T TOO OLD FOR DIVORCE

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Aberdeen, Wash., July 12.—Chief Tahola, better known as Chief Mahon, head of the Quinaluit tribe, and 95 years of age, was granted a divorce from his wife, who he says has become enamored of another man of the tribe, known as "Nigger Jake." The object in getting a divorce is to keep the woman from acquiring any of the old chief's property on his death.

ACCIDENT UNAVOIDABLE, IS VERDICT OF JURY

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Los Angeles, July 12.—"Deadly due to unavoidable accident," was the blanket verdict returned today by a coroner's jury which heard testimony regarding the smuffing out yesterday of the lives of Carl Huffman of Long Beach, Cal., and five members of his family. Huffman's automobile was struck by a Southern Pacific switch engine near San Gabriel, and all but one of its occupants instantly killed. Testimony showed that crossing bells were ringing, and the locomotive was in sight when Huffman drove his automobile across the tracks.

PIONEER FRUIT MAN OF CALIFORNIA IS DEAD

Long Beach, Cal., July 12.—T. H. B. Chamblin, 79 years old, founder of the Southern California Fruit Growers' Exchange, died today at the Long Beach sanitarium where he had been a patient for almost two months. He came to California in 1880 from Galesburg, Ill.

HAY CROP IN SLATSOP PROMISES BIG YIELD

(Special to The Journal.)

Astoria, Or., July 12.—Reports from different parts of the county are to the effect that the hay crop this year will surpass anything realized for many seasons. Good weather is all that is needed by the farmers who have already begun cutting. By next week the harvest will be well under way. County Fruit Inspector Worsley, who was in the city yesterday, stated that while there was some loss to the strawberries, owing to the rains, the other fruits will make up the deficiency in the fruit men. All indications are that there will be a bumper loganberry crop, as well as of other small fruits.

Experiments with a tree planting machine at the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station indicate that it may be used to advantage in reforesting old burned areas on the national forests.

FREE ALCOHOL IS SENATOR LANE'S PLAN FOR FARMER

Anyway, It Will Be Almost Free, if He Is Allowed to Turn Waste Fruit, Vegetables Into Denatured Product

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

Washington, July 12.—Senator Lane has discovered what the country needs—free alcohol.

Not absolutely free, but relatively free of unnecessary cost to the producer, and he hopes that every farmer shall in time become a producer. Now it is hoped that the white ribbons will not throw up their hands and start out to make protest until the matter can be set forth more in detail. It is not the alcohol used to put the "kick" in liquor that Senator Lane refers to, but he has in mind the ordinary, common or garden variety which can be distilled from the weeds and vegetable rubbish on any farm into the denatured sort that can be used to run motor cars or for many other purposes, and in the end it will be worth that money of the age, the high cost of living.

The government went into this subject of denatured alcohol very ably, and it was that same government, very enthused over the possibilities of profit to the agriculturist, Congress got imbued with enough of the enthusiasm to pass a law which was sure, its proponents said, to result in a still on every quarter section, with the result of utilizing fallen apples and chick weed and potato parings and corn cobs, et hoc genus omnia, as they say at school, by extracting from them the spirits of the things that cheer and sometimes do more than that.

Octopus Still At It.

The emancipation of the honest agriculturist was visualized by the solons who, in truth, have a real honest affection for the aforesaid H. A., and great deal was said about the wonders that denatured alcohol would accomplish in turning the wheels of industry and putting a crimp in the tentacles of the octopus. But there's the rub. The octopus is still octopus, and it was that same octopus, according to Senator Lane, that denatured the denatured alcohol bill. How was it done? Why it was so simple as to make an experienced octopus, wise in the ways of legislation, snigger until it felt cockily with emotion. It was simply, Senator Lane says, by fixing up the regulations governing the extraction of the tanglefoot essence from various unconsidered trifles of the vegetable kingdom so that it would be too expensive for any small operator to run a denatured alcohol still at all.

"The Standard Oil outfit triumphed," said Senator Lane, speaking of this sad affair, "by making the cost of alcohol inspection of such stills so costly that they couldn't be run. An inspector at \$5 a day of eight hours, or \$15 a day of 24 hours, would be too heavy a burden for any farmer still to bear. And the stuff turned out couldn't be used at that without being refined, because it is too acid or something; anyway it couldn't be taken internally unless it might be used by the happy hunting grounds.

Gives Us for Waste Fruit.

"I have spoken to the finance committee and the Democratic caucus about it, and they declared that it sounded good to them. Take Oregon; we are putting out so much fruit, especially apples, that it is likely to be a drug on the market in a few years, and even if selected fruit meets with a good sale there are always the culls and windfalls and runty potatoes, and so on, which could be made up into alcohol. Why, in Germany they grow potatoes to make into alcohol. This will interest the orange grower, the sugar cane man in Louisiana—when the tariff is never speak to another woman, and up to this date he has kept his word, he says.

Captain Bolton is a Mexican war veteran, having been assigned as captain of company D, Twenty-fourth Infantry regiment of the Indiana volunteers. He has lived in Clarke county for 35 years and owns a large fruit ranch near the city. He makes trips to Vancouver about once every six months. He does all his own cooking and busies himself reading the news out of 12 papers which he takes regularly.

86-Year-Old Rancher Says Mail Order Wife of 30 Got \$2500 and Flew.

(Special to The Journal.)

Vancouver, Wash., July 12.—Claiming that he was "kicked" to the tune of \$2500 by a "mail order" wife, Captain N. F. Bolton, of this city, comes out with the statement that women as a general rule cannot be trusted. Captain Bolton was born March 1, 1827, married and lived happily. His wife died and he became lonesome. He subscribed for a marriage paper and after perusing it for several editions selected him a wife. He got into communication with the woman of his choice after paying the fee required in such cases and the wedding day was set. The woman was about 30 years old.

Private Is Contented.

"No," he answered, "haven't any kick coming. I put in my spare time working in the garden for one of the officers, and I am also agent for two different laundry companies. So that I manage to make about \$40 a month. The officer pays me 10 cents an hour for my work, and I get a commission from the laundry companies."

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year, if the administration is really actuated by a desire to advance the best interests of the farmer—and of this you are going to President Wilson and demand that the people be given a chance to get at the Standard Oil company and checkmate it in this nefarious scheme to keep down the market on the farm; to let him lift a profit out of present loss and turn refuse into coin.

Says Inspection Is Unnecessary.

"This problem of manufacturing is simple. The inspection provided for here is unnecessary. Let the distiller or denatured alcohol operate his still under seal. When he is ready to remove the product, let him notify the revenue authorities and have an inspector sent without charge to see him denature the alcohol—a little coal oil poured into it would do the trick—and empty the still. I am taking this up with the treasury department and I expect soon to be able to present a bill which I think will prove satisfactory."

Girl Gets Appointment as U. S. "Elevator Boy"

Washington, July 12.—Postmaster General Burleson today appointed Miss Jessie Vachon "elevator boy" in the federal building at Bellingham, Wash. Some time ago the postoffice department refused to confirm a temporary appointment of Miss Vachon, and this caused Senator Poindexter to make a vigorous protest.

Why Pay More? MEN'S SUITS 1/2 PRICE NO JUNK OR TRASH selling out the Gevurtz Bankrupt Stock of High-Grade Suits selling regularly at \$15-\$20-\$25-\$30-\$35-\$40 At 1/2 Price \$50-\$60 Full Dress Suits Now \$25.00 Everything marked in plain figures 266 Washington St. Bet. Third and Fourth

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Latest Styles in Fine Bar Fixtures On Exhibition at Salesroom 46-48 Fifth St., Portland Let Us Figure with You on Your New Bar Outfit The Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co.

Laue-Davis Drug Co. Elastic Hosiery