

PROVIDING FOOD FOR ARMY

Commissary Department a Comparatively Modern Institution.

STANDARD RATIONS FOR A SOLDIER

American Fighting Men the Best Fed and Most Liberally Provided for in the World Today.

Very little data is handed down from the early warlike ages antedating the Christian era, that gives much information regarding the provisioning of armies. In the very nature of things they must have had commissariats in order that some system should be observed in the distribution of food supplies to the various military divisions. Military campaigns were carried over extensive areas of desert countries, and food supplies must have been carried from the fertile food producing countries across these desert reaches. These supplies were only intended to last from the point of departure to the destination of the invading armies. Wars in those days were for conquest and plunder and pillage, and as the soldiers were made partners with their officers in the division of the loot every possible pance was stirred and cultivated to stimulate the soldiers to undertake the conquests into the lands flowing with milk and honey, and myth and frankincense.

It was this promise to the famished hosts of Moses from the narrow food-improvised valley of the Nile that lured them into the food-fattened land of Canaan. It was the promise of ravaging the vineyards and fields and flocks of the invited Xerxes and his famishing hordes of soldiers and camp followers, approximating over 2,000,000 of people, to undertake the invasion of Persia and Asia Minor for more than a century afterward. And it was to prevent the certain infliction of famine throughout Greece that wrought the Greeks to that marvelous courage that thwarted the Persian invasion and drove the Xerxian multitude back across the deserts they had made, where more of them perished from famine and starvation than were destroyed by the scourge of Sparta and the heroism of the Greeks.

Greeks Were Great Hustlers. It was the fertile valleys of the Euphrates that lured the Greek legions under Xenophon to become mercenaries of Cyrus the younger that they might fatten off the produce and established Greek colonies at the gates of Nineveh and Babylon from which food supplies might be transported back to Greece, in order to complete the conquest of the world. The Grecian army consisted of scarcely more than 10,000 men, when the battle of Cunaxa (September 2, 401 B. C.) was fought, and although the Persians and Greeks were victorious, the most complete disorganization prevailed because of the death of Cyrus in that battle, that the Grecian army was compelled to retreat because of the lack of food arrangements, and being surfeited with the plunder of the camp of their enemies, Xenophon had to "slaughter the bullocks and asses which had drawn their wagons and with them made their breakfast." They left the Tigris on their homeward march and thus began the "retreat of the 10,000," of which less than 1,000 eventually reached the seacoast. And here we have the first historical record of mule meat as an army diet.

The same promise of milk and honey and plunder beckoned nearly a century later Alexander of Macedonia to the Tigris and Euphrates and to the conquest of Babylon, and wherever pre-Christian armies marched it was for food as the prize rather than the plunder of palaces. Neither had the Greeks of still later years a commissariat. Their incursions into Asia were largely for food, and after an army had once departed upon an expedition for conquest or plunder no concern was ever given to the needs at home, as its departure only left more food for those that remained. The army was to provide for itself and open up larger fields of sustenance for the kingdoms. The Greeks subsisted largely upon fish, olives, dates and tropical fruits. The vocation of agriculture was held in such contempt by them that cattle and sheep were too scarce and valuable to permit them to become articles of common food or for the army. The bulls and cows were made objects of religious veneration in order to discourage their slaughter except for the elect.

Romans Good Providers. The Romans were the first to recognize the fact that a full stomach makes a fine soldier, and they were the first to organize a quartermaster and commissary system. The two departments were combined. The food of the soldier was apportioned and every sacrifice was made to keep the army well fed. Granaries were established at Rome for the special sustenance of the army. Bread, or a crude form of cake, easily portable, was made in the Roman camps for the long marches, and this, with wine and fruits, was the chief food of the Roman armies. When campaigns were carried on near the seacoast, fish, dried and salt, became a part of the ration. Very little meat was issued the Roman soldier, though salt was an important ingredient of the Roman army ration. They had to rely wholly upon the invaded territory for meat, and at times on short marches cattle were driven along with the armies, but where great numbers of live stock were a part of the plunder, these were sent back into the

empire to replenish the stock herds nearer the cities. Sugar, coffee and tea were unknown to the Roman soldier.

Thus down to modern times there was very little change from the Roman method of feeding armies. In the northern armies, the Huns, Saxons, British, Norwegians and Swedes, meat was the principal feature of the army ration. It was a fancy among many of them to eat their meat nearly raw, as they conceived that it made them more savage and fierce. A black, coarse bread and a sort of beer comprised the remainder of the ration.

Impoverished France in the revolutionary period, was niggardly with everything else but her army. Its sustenance was essential, and while the rations furnished the soldiers of Napoleon were not materially different from those that nourished the legions of Caesar and Charlemagne, they were at least abundant for a time. Wine became the essential beverage of the French army, as it is today. Meat was scarce, and about the only way it could be obtained was by armed forays into adjacent countries. Germany, Austria and Spain contributed almost wholly to the meat ration of the French. It was the gilded promise of "Beyond the Alps lies Italy" that lured the tired Napoleonic hosts across the glaciated Alps to the plains of Lombardy, and it was the stimulus of plunder and surfeited appetites of his soldiers that started that meteoric career of the Little Corporal toward the world's firmament, and it was the hunger and weakness of his troops, emaciated and worn from the flight from the icy plains of Russia, that caused the setting of his sun at Waterloo.

American Army's Experience. In the Continental army at the beginning of the American Revolution there was no commissariat. Each state furnished its own contingent of troops with their food. When Washington took command of the army at Boston he organized the first commissary system. The food for the troops was furnished by the contracting or purchasing commissary and issued to them by the "issuing" commissary. The ration consisted of fresh and salt meats, flour or cornmeal, beans, salt, dried fruit, candles, soap, vinegar and "elder." Sugar, tea and coffee did not constitute a part of the ration. It would have been rank treason to drink tea, and coffee and sugar were too expensive and wholly unobtainable. The soldiers made their own bread and hard bread, salted their own meat and made their own soap and candles. The Continental army was the main well fed. During the entire eight years of the Revolution there was no general shortage of foodstuffs for the army. There were incidental exceptions, as at Valley Forge, but the fault lay not with the supply of food in the country, but the inadequate facilities for transporting it as the emergencies of service required, and then the provision trains were intercepted by the enemy, as was the trouble at Valley Forge.

The ration of the American army continued practically unchanged during the war of 1812. In the Mexican war one or two minor additions were made, coffee and sugar being included.

Ration of the Civil War. When the Civil war came on the ration adopted during the Mexican war was in use throughout the army. During the first year of the Civil war the ration was fixed as follows per man per day: Twelve ounces of pork or bacon, or one pound and four ounces of fresh beef, or twenty-two ounces of salt beef; eighteen ounces of soft bread or flour, or sixteen ounces of hard bread, or one pound and four ounces of cornmeal. To every 100 rations fifteen pounds of beans or peas or ten pounds of rice or hominy; ten pounds of green coffee or eight pounds of roasted coffee, or two pounds of tea; one pound and eight ounces of adamsantine or star candles; four quarts of vinegar; sixteen pounds of sugar, four pounds of soap, four pounds of salt, four ounces of pepper, and to troops in the field four pounds of yeast powder to the 100 rations of flour.

This ration continued up to 1873, when fresh mutton was authorized to be issued at the same rate and in lieu of fresh beef, or fourteen ounces of dried fish, or eighteen ounces of fresh or pickled fish might be issued in lieu of the meat components of the ration. Molasses or syrup could be issued in lieu of sugar at the rate of two gallons to fifteen pounds of sugar.

When Vegetables Were Added. It was not until 1890 that one pound of vegetables was added to and became a part of the ration. Prior to this time there had been issued during the closing years of the war a species of compressed vegetable and desiccated potatoes. This was one of the very first attempts on the part of the government toward an issue of condensed food or an emergency ration. This preparation never became popular with the army. The soldiers characterized the compressed vegetables as "dried weeds" and the desiccated potatoes as "doctored sawdust." While not a part of the ration up to this time, potatoes and onions could be purchased from the commissary department. During the civil war the lack of vegetables caused scurvy to prevail in many parts of the army and many died from its effects, and others were permanently invalidated thereby.

An instance is recalled of the eagerness of the troops for vegetables during the civil war. When General Hooker's corps was transferred from the Potomac army to the western army by rail, they passed through Columbus, O. Almost the entire city was at the depot to see the troops pass through, and were provided with all sorts of luxuries in the way of food for the boys. One old farmer who had heard of the scarcity of vegetables in the army brought in a wagonload of onions to give to the veterans. As soon as the soldiers learned of the existence of the onions they threw away cakes and pies and fried

chicken and the like and filled their haver-sacks with onions and ate them ravenously, and, while grateful for the other dainties, gave their heartiest cheers for the onion man.

Present Standard Ration.

It was not until the Spanish-American war that any other significant addition was made to the ration of the American army. This was the addition of two ounces of dried fruits, and during field service an equivalent in fruit jams was furnished. The vinegar allowance, which was always excessive, was reduced to one-half, and pickles substituted therefor. There was also a change in the sugar ration, which originally allowed but fifteen pounds for ten men for ten days, and this was increased to twenty pounds. Canned tomatoes were included in the vegetable ration and could be substituted for the potato or onion if desired.

In 1901 the standard of the army ration was again raised and is in effect at the present time. This ration is known as the President McKinley ration, as the "duty of prescribing the kinds and quantities of the component parts of the army ration lies directly with the president of the United States." This ration is as follows:

Fresh beef, 20 ounces; or fresh mutton, 20 ounces; or bacon, 12 ounces; or canned meat, when impracticable to obtain fresh meat, 16 ounces; or dried fish, 14 ounces; or pickled fish, 15 ounces; or canned fish, 15 ounces. In Alaska 15 ounces of bacon, or when desired, 15 ounces of salt pork or 25 ounces of salt beef.

Beans, 2 1/2 ounces; or peas, 2 1/2 ounces; or rice, 1 1/2 ounces. Potatoes, 15 ounces; or potatoes, 12 1/2 ounces, and canned tomatoes, 3 1/2 ounces; or potatoes, 11 1/2 ounces, and other fresh vegetables, 4 1/2 ounces, when they can be obtained in the vicinity or transported in a wholesome condition; or desiccated vegetables when impracticable to furnish fresh vegetables, 2 1/2 ounces.

Fruit, dried or evaporated (prunes, apples or peaches, 20 percent; or raisins, 15 percent, when practicable), 1 1/2 ounces. Coffee, 3 1/2 ounces; or tea, or roasted and ground, 1 1/2 ounces; or tea, black or green, 8-25 ounce.

Vinegar, 8-25 gill; or vinegar, 4-25 gill, and cucumber pickles, 4-25 gill. Salt, 16-25 ounce. Black pepper, 1-25 ounce. Soap, 16-25 ounce. Candles, when illumination is not furnished by the quartermaster department, 6-25 ounce.

In Alaska the allowance for fresh vegetables will be 24 ounces, instead of 16 ounces; desiccated vegetables, 2 1/2 ounces; candles, 8-25 ounce.

Field Ration Also Fixed.

There is a slight difference in the field ration from the garrison ration. The difference is hardly perceptible, except that jams are issued in lieu of dried fruits in the proportion of 1 1/2 ounces to the ration. Dried or compressed yeast or hops for bread making is furnished where ovens are practicable.

Then there is the travel ration, which is as follows (the proportions are given per the 100 rations): Soft bread, 11 1/2 pounds; or hard bread, 10 pounds. Canned cornbeef, or cornbeef hash, 75 pounds. Baked beans, 25 pounds. Canned tomatoes, 50 pounds. Sugar, 15 pounds. Coffee, roasted and ground, 8 pounds. Soap, 15 pounds.

Since the order for the McKinley ration has been promulgated there has been added as a substitute for either of the above meat rations cornbeef hash or beef stew, in about equivalent proportions to those above given.

The bacon ration is now much improved and it comes in pieces of ten to twenty pounds each, and the old fat bacon and salt pork is eliminated entirely. Salt pork can still be bought of the commissary department when desired.

The rice ration is being more extensively used in the Philippines now than formerly, the officers preferring it to the excessive use of meats.

Fancy Food May Be Had.

Every article of standard and fancy groceries, and many articles of dry goods, can be purchased from the commissary department of the army by the soldiers. To enumerate these articles would be simply going over a list of about every conceivable food product. These are furnished to the army at the lowest cost rate with the rate of transportation added.

The American army is the best and most liberally fed army of the world. The English army is gradually emulating the American commissariat.

A peculiar system prevails in the English army. The ration as issued is really insufficient for the maintenance of the soldier, but he is paid for the deficiency and is at liberty to buy food to make up the deficiency. This plan is adopted on the principle that it instills into the soldier the habit of providing himself with food off the resources of the country in which he happens to be, and thus prepares him for the emergency of living off the country by scavenging when in the enemy's country. The same general rule applies in the German, Russian and French armies.

The emergency ration has as yet failed of practical accomplishment. The American soldier does not take to patent foods.

In the preparation of food for troops in garrison, everything is provided, on the most elaborate and complete scale. The kitchens of the garrisons contain every modern device for the convenience of cooking, and the mess table of the private soldier in garrison will compare very favorably with any ordinary hotel, while the food is certainly superior to the average hotel or boarding house, in its purity, wholesomeness and cleanliness.

This condition has been brought about by the enthusiastic zeal of the commissary general of the United States army, Brigadier General John F. Weston. He has been assisted in the work by the various department commissaries, and none of these have been more conscientious and devoted to this work than Major W. H. Bean, chief commissary of the Department of the Missouri at Omaha, and his able assistant, Captain Frank A. Cook. Major Bean and Captain Cook have made a close study of the subsistence question of the army and the results of their intelligent and faithful labors are manifest in the growing improvement of this most important department of the military service.

RELIGIOUS.

A monument to Hosea Ballou, the founder of Universalism in America, has recently been dedicated at his birth place, Richmond, N. H.

The endowment fund of the Madison Square Presbyterian church, New York, which Dr. Parkhurst is pastor, now amounts to \$25,000.

The aggregate number of members of the various Danish co-operative institutions exceeds 600,000, and the aggregate value of annual exports of co-operative butter, bacon and eggs amounts to \$41,700,000.

The French Canadians are overrunning the eastern part of the United States, but they have not attracted attention because they have taken no part in general politics. They have driven the Irish out of the middle West.

The largest shoe factory in France uses only American machinery. Its growth is phenomenal. Before the Paris exposition of 1900 this factory was a very small one, employing only French machinery. It is now the largest in the republic.

The work of changing the gauge of the Mexican National railroad has been completed at a cost of \$15,000,000, and the entire road, which was until a year ago the longest narrow gauge railroad in the world, now runs standard gauge from Laredo to the City of Mexico.

A San Francisco inventor claims to have perfected a simple method of extracting radium from ore. He also claims to have invented a small battery, which, with one charge of a preparation of radium, will run a motor car for 20 miles.

The sewing of buttons on shoes and on garments is no longer done by hand in modern factories. There is a machine that sews 1,500 buttons on garments in nine hours—or more than eight expert sewers could possibly do in the same time. This machine requires no expert operator. A boy or girl runs it.

There were 144 German domestic servants last year who were awarded the servants' golden cross for having lived forty years with one family. Only one was found in Berlin.

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GREATEST FIRE SALE ON RECORD

The entire stock of CANNED GOODS damaged by the Allen Bros. fire. These goods were damaged by smoke and water, and not by heat—all in good condition—will be placed on sale

Tuesday Morning at 9 O'Clock AT 1315 HOWARD STREET, 2D FLOOR

- 943 dozen cans Peas, at, per dozen 65c
1265 dozen cans Corn, at, per dozen 65c
874 dozen cans String Beans, at, per dozen 65c
1132 dozen cans Van Camp Whole Corn Hominy, at, per dozen 65c
1321 dozen cans Tomatoes, at, per dozen 65c
1284 dozen cans California Apricots, Peaches, Plums and Cherries, doz 80c
138 dozen gallon cans California Peaches, Apricots and Blackberries, at, per dozen 2.25
110 cases Laundry Soap, at, case 2.00
23 dozen cans Royal Baking Powder, at, per dozen 75c
1115 dozen cans Mustard Sardines, at, per dozen 30c
1548 dozen cans Salmon, at, per dozen 75c
1462 pounds Pearl Barley, in 25 pound lots, at, per pound 3c
65 bundles Cotton Wrapping Twine, at, bundle 50c
3,000 pounds Star and Horseshoe Plug chewing tobacco, in 5-lb. lots, per lb 25c

No can goods sold in less than 2 dozen lots. Sale begins promptly at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, February 9th, at 1315 Howard. Be on and early if you want first choice of bargains.

L. MCGREER, Agent.

Another Week...

OF THE Hidden City Contest...

THERE are the names of a number of towns and cities both in the eastern and western hemispheres in the Want Ads in The Bee. Prizes will be awarded to the persons making the largest and most correct list according to the following conditions. Read the Conditions carefully.

..CONDITIONS..

Take a sheet of paper—write your name and address at the top—cut out the ad—paste it on sheet—underline the name of the town or city, and underneath the ad write the name of the state or country in which it is located. If the name of the town or city appears more than once it is only necessary to put it down once. Do this for one week, beginning Monday, February 8th, and ending Sunday, February 14th. Do not mail your answer until your list is complete, including the names that appear in the want ads in the issue of Sunday, February 14th, otherwise your answer won't be counted. If you use more than one sheet, write your name and address at the top of each sheet, mark the number of towns or cities found and underlined at the top of each sheet. The first prize will be given to the person making the largest most correct list—the second to the next largest, and so on. In case of a "tie" the person sending in answer first as shown by postmark on the envelope will be given preference.

All answers must be sent by mail, and no answer will be considered which is mailed later than Monday, February 15th. No one connected with The Bee Publishing Co., will be allowed to compete for a prize.

..List of Prizes..

- 1st-CASH \$10.00
2nd-CASH \$5.00
3rd-CASH \$2.50
4th-CASH \$1.25
5th-One Year's Subscription to The Metropolitan Magazine, \$1.50
6th-One Year's Subscription to The Metropolitan Magazine, \$1.50
7th-One Year's Subscription to The Metropolitan Magazine, \$1.50
8th-One Year's Subscription to The Metropolitan Magazine, \$1.50
9th-One Year's Subscription to The Metropolitan Magazine, \$1.50
10th-New Books and Novels \$1.25
11th-New Books and Novels \$1.25
12th-New Books and Novels \$1.25
13th-New Books and Novels \$1.25
14th-New Books and Novels \$1.25
15th-New Books and Novels \$1.25

Address All Replies "Want Ad" Department Omaha Bee, Omaha.

You Are Invited

To come to our great half price sale Monday morning at 8:30.

We have determined to dispose of every sample piece of furniture that has been on our floor beyond a certain time. \$7,640.00 worth, including dining room, parlor, bed room and library furniture. Not one piece but that will be sold for less than cost and many at half cost. These goods have all been on show for inspection Friday and Saturday, and go on sale Monday morning at 8:30. An opportunity you cannot afford to let go by if you are in need of furniture.

All sale goods on main floor.

Doors Open at 8:30 Monday.

Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet Co.