



THE ARMY and THE NAVY

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OFFICERS KEPT BUSY INVESTIGATING RUMORS

Letters by the Thousand Pour Into Camp Dodge Caused by Outlandish Rumors

(By J. W. Jarnigan, Herald Correspondent)

Camp Dodge, Iowa, Oct. 30.—The past week among the soldier boys at Camp Dodge has been one of feverish anxiety. There were so many outlandish rumors floating about over the country as to conditions here that letters by the thousand came pouring into camp from all over the country, anxious parents or others, making inquiry as to the reported death toll, the number of sick men and the condition of this or that particular person. Not only this, but there were rumors that doctors and nurses had been caught in the act of inoculating patients with deadly virus and upon the establishment of guilt were taken out and shot. Another rumor was that a guard at the water reservoir caught a man climbing a ladder to get on top of the enclosure. After being ordered to halt and refusing the guard shot him and upon examination it was found that he carried a bag containing enough poison to have contaminated the entire water supply. The number of deaths was greatly exaggerated and the statement was freely made that several car loads of coffins were ordered by express. To add to the anxiety occasioned by these ridiculous rumors the authorities at the camp refused to give out any information as to the death rate or to inform the country as to the number of cases of sickness. This greatly aggravated the matter and finally the Des Moines newspapers appealed to the representative of the Associated Press in Washington to ascertain from the war department the exact conditions. The war department announced that there were 213 deaths from all causes for the 30-day period from September 12 to October 12. This piece of information greatly relieved the tension, and excitement subsided. When it is taken into account the large number of men at the camp the death rate has been less than in the average county-seat town. There are now in the hospital just about double the number of patients that make up a normal sick list so it will be seen that there is no cause for alarm. With 150 of the best doctors in the country constantly on duty, with nearly 300 Red Cross nurses faithfully looking after their wards, and with over 1,000 enlisted men detailed to assist in caring for the sick, it is self evident that careful attention is being given the afflicted. Sanitary conditions are the very best possible, steam heat takes the chill from the various wards and gauze masks through which to breathe prevent contagion. The newest and best methods known to science are used and by men who stand at the top of their profession. The X-ray department, and the laboratories, for example, are marvels of completeness. In one ward a soldier whose entire left side, from the head down, had become involved from an infection in his ear, was receiving the Carrell-Dakin treatment. In the wards connected to contagious diseases the cubical system is employed. This is a tent-like arrangement of sheets, on each side of a patient's bed, which prevents the spreading of germs to the next patient. It is a well-known fact, according to Dr. S. Jacobs, division epidemiologist, who, by the way, is directly responsible for the 100 per cent decrease in pneumonia at the cantonment during May, that germs fall to the floor, and the cubical system, while not interfering with ventilation, keeps the germs from being lifted by air currents from one patient to the other. There are separate wards and examining rooms, with their individual hospital staffs, for every illness. On each door is marked the nature of the disease which is taken care of there, and each has its own diet kitchen, linen rooms, convalescent wards, etc. No department comes in contact with another. The clinical records of some of the pneumonia patients are almost an inch thick, showing various examinations. They are given two alcohol rubs and a bath each day, and between each meal and before going to sleep are given egg-nogs, fruit drinks, or something similar. The most vivid impression that remains with one is the sense of cleanliness. You can go through any of the rooms, run your finger under table boards or along window sills, and not find a speck of dust. The medical officers declare that the epidemic at Camp Dodge is now well under control; that the number of new cases reported each day is rapidly diminish-

ing, and that the mortality rate among those afflicted is showing a most gratifying decrease. "We are daily turning out of the hospital a large number of patients who have fully recovered and are again ready for duty," said Captain Butler. "Persons who have relatives stationed at Camp Dodge will be spared much unnecessary anguish and suspense if they can be made to understand that they will be promptly notified by telegraph in case a soldier relative should become seriously ill—and that they will be repeatedly and continuously telegraphed until they actually acknowledge receipt of the information," declared Capt. W. C. Butler, adjutant at base hospital. "If no such telegram is received, that fact may be accepted as proof positive that there is no occasion for uneasiness. In many cases we have had to send a number of wires, to various persons and places, before finally receiving an acknowledgment from a patient's relatives; but there was no let up until that result was obtained. "Each patient in the base hospital who is not seriously ill has been earnestly requested by the adjutant to write a letter or at least a postal card, to this family to relieve their suspense. Where any patient is unable to write, we telegraph for him. It must also be fully understood that no one can possibly gain admittance to Camp Dodge to visit a relative unless he can show a copy of a telegram sent from here stating that the soldier's condition is serious. It is useless to try to get through the quarantine without a copy of such message."

Persons wishing to obtain information concerning soldiers who are in at Camp Dodge should address or telephone A. C. Carroll, Red Cross information bureau, Camp Dodge.

Soldiers Are Well Provided
The home folks need have no fears about the sick men not being well taken care of. They have everything that is needed. The Red Cross sent supplies to the value of \$50,000 for the men. These include various luxuries, toilet articles, extra comforts if such are needed and various and sundry delicacies that come handy while the men are recovering. The food supply is furnished by a practical dietician and everything needful is provided.

Col. Brookhart to Teach at Dodge
Lieut. Col. Smith Brookhart of Washington, Iowa, will conduct a six weeks' course in marksmanship at Camp Dodge. Colonel Brookhart has been in charge of the small-arms school at Camp Perry, Ohio, where a number of soldiers from Camp Dodge have been sent for special courses in marksmanship. The officer will go to Columbus, Ga., December 1, where he will be in charge of a training camp for officers and men which will accommodate 10,000 soldiers each. Col. Brookhart is one of the greatest rifle experts in the United States. He got his initial training when a member of the National Guard.

Lieut. Col. Rich Promoted
Lieut. Col. E. W. Rich, division surgeon for the 19th division, has been promoted to the rank of colonel in the U. S. Medical Corps, according to orders received at headquarters from Washington. Colonel Rich reported here for service from Vancouver, where he organized the base hospital for the Spruce Production Division of the army. It has been under his general direction that the fight against Spanish influenza epidemic has been made and is being successfully carried on.

May Not Visit Camp Until Epidemic Ends

Headquarters of the military police have asked that particular publicity be given to the fact that no passes to visit Camp Dodge are being issued. None will be issued until the epidemic of Spanish influenza has been completely checked. A rumor has been given credence, military police officers say, that passes for the camp may be obtained by applying at the federal building. Officers there have been overwhelmed by requests for passes. Only in cases of serious illness and death will passes be issued.

Indians Do Not Take Influenza
Out of the thousands of cases of Spanish influenza at Camp Dodge not one of the fifty or more Indians took the disease. They are scattered throughout the cantonment, some serving in one unit and some in another, but wherever they may be stationed they seem immune from the distressing visitation.

Band Caught Out of Camp
The First Development Battalion Band, one of the crack musical organizations at Camp Dodge, was out over the state in the interest of the Liberty Loan when orders were issued for a complete quarantine. Not being able to get back to headquarters the men decided to make the

best of the situation so it has been giving concerts at various towns, each community visited giving the men meals and lodging and railway fare to the next town. In this manner a number of towns got to hear the band, some getting up special exercises for the occasion.

Men from the Far North
Two brothers, named Millikin, both born in Alaska, have reported for duty at Camp Dodge. They gave their occupation as mail carriers and stated that they were trainers of carrier dogs. They had been carrying mail in Alaska upon a thousand-mile route, using dogs as a means of conveyance over the deep snows. They came dressed in garments adapted to that cold region.

Clothing for Suffering Belgium
Soldiers at Camp Dodge have done their part in contributing garments to suffering Belgium. Thousands of suits of clothing have been donated by the soldiers. Des Moines has sent more clothing to Belgium than any other five cities in the United States. Thus far 95 cars have been shipped from Des Moines. Of this number two car loads went down with a vessel sunk in the English channel and one car was burned in a railway wreck in Ohio. The railway company paid the Relief Commission \$22,000 for the loss. There were in that car 12,000 women's coats, 8,000 men's suits and other things too numerous to mention.

Member of Jury Expressed Opinion
Priv. Clinton A. Sanders, of the medical department, charged with forgery and tried by a general court martial, has been restored to duty. Sanders was found guilty and sentenced to five years in the disciplinary barracks. The reviewing authority, however, disapproved the sentence in view of the fact that one of the officers of the court was found to have formed and expressed an opinion prior to the trying of the case.

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Election November 5, 1918



LLOYD C. THOMAS

Editor The Alliance Herald
CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION

Lloyd's platform is his excellent record during the regular session of 1917 and the special session of 1918. During the regular session he helped introduce and push through, among others, NEBRASKA'S PROHIBITION LAW, the 18-miles-per-hour LIVE STOCK TRANSPORTATION LAW, the STATE PUBLICITY LAW, twice-a-month pay for railroad employees law, the law creating a STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE and the joint resolution requesting the national congress to take steps for government ownership or management of all railroads, telegraph and telephone systems.

At the special session in 1918 he helped introduce and pass the SOLDIERS' VOTING LAWS, the MINERAL LEASING LAW, the SEDITION LAW, and the HOME GUARD LAW.

He stands for ratification of the national prohibition amendment and for the passage of every law that will assist the government in the successful prosecution of the war.

Lloyd is not backed by any ring or combination. He has no "axe to grind." He has helped to put western Nebraska "on the map" and if re-elected he will help to keep it there.

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