



COMPANY L SQUAD IN HEAVY MARCHING ORDER—Photo by Courtesy of Harry Sackett.

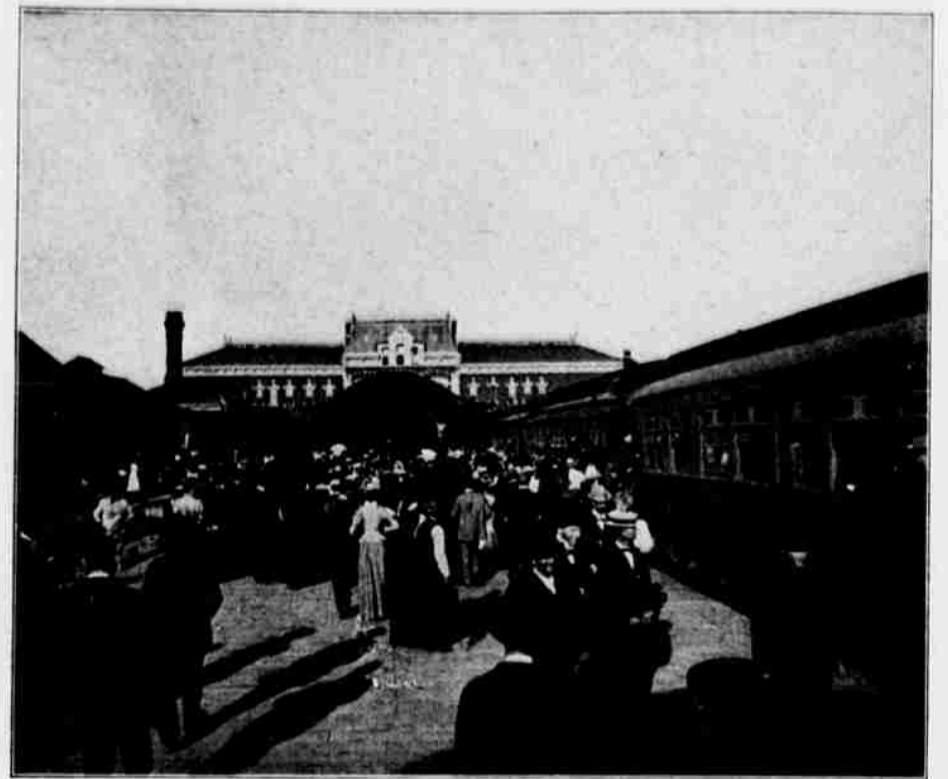


IOWANS CROSSING BAGBAG RIVER—Photo by Official War Department Photographer.

The Fifty-First Iowa Volunteers Before the Camera



THE REGIMENTAL MASCOT—FILIPINO SHIELDS—ADOPTED BY W. S. SHIELDS OF LEON, Ia.



DEPARTURE OF FIFTY-FIRST IOWA FOR PHILIPPINES FROM TRANSFER DEPOT, COUNCIL BLUFFS—Photo by Courtesy of J. N. Cochran.



THE WATER WORKS—TEN MILES OUT OF MANILA.

How Different Countries Treat Their Soldiers

With the United States at war in the Philippines, England at war with the Boers and every great nation anxiously scanning its military equipment, the life of a soldier possesses, at this time, a peculiar and personal interest to all people, relates the Detroit Free Press. The great armies of the United States, England, Germany and France are on paper merely military bodies moved about at the will of commanding generals, but these armies are composed of units. Each unit is an individual who thinks for himself, suffers or enjoys to the limit of human capacity, and who has strong ties binding him to one or more persons in the noncombatant force of the nation. These units come and go from civil life. Their impressions are spread broadcast and they enthrall or prejudice the people as a whole, according to personal experiences. This is more particularly true of armies where the service is voluntary, as in the case of England and the United States, and in these countries public criticism of government institutions is not a crime, in fact, it is rather encouraged.

The rank and file of an army is its strength. The forced draft does not produce soldiers with high ideals. The volunteer, as a rule, is inspired by something more than the desire to feed at public expense. He is a citizen, a patriot, a willing defender of his country's policy. One way in which this is recognized is in the treatment of its soldiers by various nations. The private in the American army has at times been short of food, without shelter and without hospitals, but such occasions have arisen from lack of system or intelligence, not from lack of intention or desire to furnish the best. The American soldier gets double the pay of any other soldier in the world. He is as well or better fed, as well clothed and as carefully equipped. His life, in times of stress, is no holiday, but, as compared to the life of private soldiers in foreign armies, he is a highly favored individual.

An Unfortunate Change.

It was not long ago that a lieutenant in the American army resigned his commission under stress and desiring to hide himself enlisted in the British army under an assumed name as a private. After serving three months in one of the crack English regiments stationed at one of the most desirable posts in England he wrote to a friend in the United States: "The life of a private in the American army is heaven compared to the hell endured by a private in the British army." This lieutenant was a good soldier, one of the best drill masters in his regiment and he had come into his American commission from the ranks, so his opinion

was worth noting. With all that the life of the British private is still far preferable to that of the private in the German, French, Austrian, Russian or Italian armies. The English soldier is paid 24 cents a day and this is a princely sum compared to what the soldiers get on the continent. The difference is shown in the total cost of keeping these armies, for while the United States formerly paid \$51,000,000 to support an army of 25,000 men, England paid but 52,000,000 to support over 200,000. Germany paid still less in proportion and Russia the smallest per capita of all.

A prominent American army officer who has been abroad recently has said that England has reached the limit of her military strength in time of peace and that the pay of soldiers would have to be increased or enforced military service would have to be made. This point was passed long ago by continental Europe and there are many significant things which tend to corroborate the prophecy as to England. Matters of this kind cannot be judged in time of war, for all men willingly go to the relief of their flag when its ascendancy is threatened. The peace basis is the only safe estimate of a country's real strength in the guarding of its possessions against possible and not active foes.

In Britain's Army.

In addition to smaller pay the English soldier does not get such good care as does the American soldier. This is shown in a most interesting way in a new book called "The Queen's Service, or the Real Tommy Atkins," by Horace Wyndham, who served several years as a private in the English army. The book is a simple recital of Wyndham's career from the time he enlisted to his discharge. There are no attempts at literary flights nor does he spend much time in moralizing. The impression gathered from the book is that the English army is drawn from a very difficult class of men so far as good citizenship is concerned, that they are licked into excellent soldiers and make good fighters. The author also complains of the small pay, scanty food, poor shelter and inadequate clothing furnished, and as compared with these things as found in the American army his complaints seem justifiable.

It takes a war to test an army no matter how perfect it may appear in time of peace, and England's army has been mainly one of occupation. The old saying that a soldier is lucky if he gets six months of fighting in twelve years of service is well illustrated with the English army, for comparatively few of its men or junior officers have ever

seen service, notwithstanding England's armed supremacy.

The Dreyfus case has attracted wide attention this year to the French army, and its officers, staff and line, have been severely criticised. In his book "Trooper 3809" Lionel Declé tells a story of the life of the French private. He brings out most vividly the details of poor pay, wretched clothes and food, unequal punishment, favoritism, and sums up the condition of the military arm of France as follows:

In the French Army.

"Yet how does the case really stand? Are these armed multitudes as formidable as mere arithmetic would have us think? France, for instance, prides herself upon being able to put in the field millions of trained men. What does this boast amount to? Upon the outbreak of war, in these days of rapid mobilization, much—perhaps all—would depend upon the troops first in the field. And these troops, upon whose behavior in the brunt of sudden battle the salvation of their country might depend, would be not a body of well-trained fighting men, leavened with veterans, and relying upon their leaders with glad confidence—but a crowd of half-taught lads, lacking in thwags as well as training, and led—or driven—to battle by officers whom either they have never seen until the day of conflict, or whom they know—and hate.

"As for the reserves, suffice it to say that officers of the active army refuse to regard them seriously, and consider them merely in the light of civilians playing at soldiering. The officers of the reserves (for the most part promoted privates) have received no military education worthy of the name. The noncommissioned officers and men consider the month they have to serve every other year a hateful episode. Awkward in their unaccustomed uniforms, they do not even look like soldiers, and it would take months of training to convert them into such once more. In point of efficiency they are, of course, far inferior to our volunteers.

"But behind these stands yet another line of defense—the territorial army and its reserve—an army composed of men who have a faint recollection that they once were drilled. There is something pathetic as well as absurd in picturing these middle-aged citizens in time of war clad in antiquated uniforms, handling unaccustomed weapons, and painfully if unconsciously struggling to acquire a knowledge of new regulations and modern drill. To sum all up it may be true that Providence is still on the side of the big battalions, but chiefly, we think, when these battalions are well officered, well trained and animated with all the virtues of the soldiers."

The American military system has serious defects, which have been brought clearly to light in the recent war. These are defects which can and will undoubtedly be remedied; but there are no doubts in the material of

which the army is made or in the spirit which animates it. It is not too much to say that the standard of material and the strength of the spirit are kept at the highest and most effective point by intelligent and liberal treatment of the privates. This is so much more intelligent and so much more liberal than in any other army in the world that there is no comparison.

Explosive Danger of Dust

An explosion of flour dust in the New England mills in Chicago on Wednesday, which killed several men and destroyed the mills, is but another instance of the power for harm which resides in an atmosphere heavily charged with fine particles of starchy or other combustible matter. Such accidents are not uncommon, reports the New York Sun, and the necessity for guarding against the projection of a spark into an atmosphere charged with gas or the fumes of gasoline or alcohol has been demonstrated often.

Such explosions used to be common in the malt-grinding mills of breweries where sparks generated by nails or other bits of iron getting into the mills would set fire to the malt dust, and it was the custom to build the mill rooms of light material which could be destroyed without very costly damage. Magnets are now suspended in the malt chutes to pick out the dangerous bits of metals and explosions in the mills are uncommon. It was only a few weeks ago that an explosion took place in the malt room of Stevenson's brewery in this city from which came a fire that did much damage. The dust-laden air was exploded by a spark from an exposed machinery belt. About a year ago there was an accident somewhat similar to that in Chicago in a mill in Long Island City which was accompanied by loss of life. Grain was being dumped into the bin by a conveyor and it was supposed that the dust was fired by the opening of a furnace door in the nearby boiler room. The fire traveled with explosive force along the conveyor for several hundred feet and injured some men who were working at the end of it.

Finely comminuted combustibles of any kind, when mixed with a proper portion of air, form explosives akin to gunpowder. A spark or open flame which heats a few particles of the dust to a high temperature, causes these to combine with the oxygen of the air in which they are suspended, and the flame shoots through the whole mass with explosive rapidity. Flame has been known to travel for twenty feet or more along a draft of air laden with gasoline fumes, and it will do the same with a dust-laden draft.

With dust mixtures, as with those of volatile hydro-carbons or illuminating gas, the explosions are most violent when the amount of air in the mixture is just sufficient to supply the oxygen necessary for the perfect combustion of the suspended matter. When

these conditions exist these mixtures have the ability to do more damage to buildings than would be done by the disintegration of an equivalent amount of dynamite or fulminate. In the case of the more powerful explosives their particles are simply shaken apart and resolved into gases with an action so sudden that the air itself offers as much resistance as more solid substances. The manifest effect is to shatter the harder substances, but only within a small area. The slower explosions produced by the release of gases by combustion and their expansion by the resultant heat, get time to spread their effects over a wide area, and hence their wrecking effects upon a building when the explosion takes place within.

Only a few weeks ago a house in East Fifty-sixth street was wrecked by an explosion of gas that had leaked into it over night from a broken street main. Its walls, front and rear, were blown completely out at the lower story and stripped above, and the workman who unwittingly started the explosion was found dead within the basement door where he had evidently stood while he lit a match. That accidents of this kind are not preventable so long as men will light matches or take a lamp to look for a gas leak, is evident, but those in flour mills and other manufactories where the danger is known, ought to be made impossible through the provision of ample ventilation and the exclusion of all fire or spark-producing devices, is clear. Suitable precautions have made the manufacture of gunpowder almost as safe as stone crushing, and the like would be true of the manufacture of smokeless powder and nitroglycerine if it were not for the unstable chemical character of the materials during parts of the process.

Anything for Peace

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The peppery little man hopped around the famous prizefighter.

"You're a big bundle of nothing," he snarled. "I dare you to strike me."

The big prizefighter shook his head. He didn't want to run any chances of injuring himself in a barroom broil.

"You're a yellow dog," shrieked the little man.

"I'm a yellow pug," said the big man quietly. Then he walked away.

Justified

Detroit Journal: Yes, she had sent the other woman the poisoned caramels through the mails; she did not deny it.

"I hated her!" cried the defendant, her dark eyes flaming malignantly. "I had reason! For once we went shopping together and I insisted on paying the car fares for both of us and she let me!"

Here her voice rose to a shriek, while the jury, composed entirely of women, burst into tears and brought in a verdict of not guilty without leaving their seats.