

## SUFFERINGS OF REFUGEES MADE MARINES FIGHT

J. E. Applegate, Wounded Four Times at Chateau Thierry, Invalided Home to Omaha.

"It was the sight of the French refugees that made me eager to fight. I did not know what war really meant until I had seen the sufferings of the homeless old men, women and children of France," said Julian E. Applegate, Chateau Thierry veteran, invalided home from France because of four wounds received in action, and at present residing with W. F. Dickson, 2222 South Thirty-first street.

Just after America's entrance into the war he joined the marines. After a short training period he was sent to France with the 51st company of the Second division, Fifth marines.

The company of which Applegate was a member was assigned to help fill the gap in the French lines at Chateau-Thierry when the Hun rush on Paris was stopped. They were brought to the firing line on double-quick time, running about a mile and a half. He was wounded when ordered with 50 other members of his company to capture an enemy machine gun nest.

**Wounded Four Times.**  
"A machine gun got a line on me," he said, "and I was hit twice in the right arm, once in the right side and once in the leg. Because of the intense machine gun fire my comrades were unable to move me and I was left in a shell hole until further reinforcements arrived and we were enabled to destroy the machine gun nest."

"I crawled about a quarter of a mile to a dressing station at the edge of the woods, but the German artillery soon located us and forced us to move."

In company with several of his comrades wounded in the same engagement, Mr. Applegate was finally sent to an American hospital in Paris, where he remained for nearly five months. A few days before the signing of the armistice he was invalided home.

While in the hospital in Paris he was visited by Sergeant M. L. Dickson at 2222 South Thirty-first street. Mr. Applegate expects a medical discharge as soon as the shell fragments lodged in his leg are removed.

**Domestic Relations Court May Be Created Here in Near Future**

A domestic relations court may be established in Omaha in the near future without recourse to state legislature to pass such a bill.

Lawyers have determined that the district judges are empowered to establish such a court if they deem it wise, according to Dr. Jennie Callias of the Welfare board.

**Burl Thomas Accidentally Shot Celebrating New Year**

The first accident this year occurred at Twenty-third and Grant streets at 12:05 Wednesday morning. Burl Thomas, negro, 2866 Maple street, who police say is employed at the Blackstone hotel was accidentally shot by a companion welcoming 1919. He was taken to the St. Joseph's hospital, where he has an even chance for recovery.

No arrests had been made at 11 a. m. today. The last man to be arrested last year was Harry Abbott, 2108 South Tenth street. Police say he was caught at a depot with 23 pints of whisky in his possession.

Only one fire has been reported this year, in a house owned by G. A. Vradenburg, 1535 Georgia avenue. Little damage was done.

**Silver Platter is Given to Wattles by Associates**

A silver platter, "heaped high with the love and best wishes of men and women who worked with Gordon W. Wattles during the war," was presented to the federal food administrator of Nebraska last week by county federal food administrators, state committeemen and associates.

The gift is inscribed with the seal of the food administration and the words, "A token of admiring appreciation of his patriotic and signal services to his country and state."

In a printed testimonial just issued, is reproduced the letter of presentation and Mr. Wattles' acceptance. A long list of donors is mentioned.

## The Abandoned Room

By Wadsworth Camp

**CHAPTER XLIV.**  
Paredes Establishes His Innocence. Bobby's assurance of Paredes' innocence clouded his own situation; made it, in a sense, more dangerous than it had ever been. His wanderings about the Cedars remained unexplained, and they knew now it had never been necessary for the murderer to enter the room. Katherine, too, evidently realized the menace.

"Do you think I—" she began. Paredes bowed.  
"You dislike me, Miss Katherine. But don't be afraid for yourself or Bobby. I think I can tell you how the evidence got in your room. I can answer nearly everything. There's one point—"

He broke off, glancing at his watch.  
"Extraordinary courage!" he mused enigmatically. "I scarcely understand it."  
Rawlins looked at him suspiciously.

All this explaining may be a trick, Mr. Robinson. The man's slippery. I've had the slippers to work under your noses," Paredes laughed. "By the way, Bobby, did you hear a woman crying about the time I opened this door?"

"Yes." It sounded like the voice we heard at the grave."  
"I thought I heard it from the library, Robinson put in. Then the rumpus up here started, and I forgot about it."  
"The woman in black is very brave," Paredes mused. "We should have had a visit from her long before this."

"Do you know who she is?" Robinson asked. "And as Rawlins says, no tricks. We haven't let you go yet."  
"I thought," Paredes mocked, "that you had identified the woman in black as Miss Katherine. She hasn't had anything to do with the mystery directly. Neither has Bobby. Neither have I."

"Then what the devil have you been doing her?" Robinson snapped. "Seeing your job through," Paredes answered, "for Bobby's sake. With a warm gratitude Bobby knew that Paredes had told the truth. Then he had told it in the library yesterday when they had caught him prowling in the private staircase. All along he had told it while they had tried to convict him of under-handed and unfriendly intentions."

"I saw," Paredes was saying, "that Howell wouldn't succeed, and it was obvious you and Rawlins would do worse, while Graham's blundering from the start left no hope. Somebody had to rescue Dabby."

"Then why did you give us the impression," Graham asked, "that you were not a friend?"  
Paredes held up his hand. "That's going rather far, Mr. Graham. Never once have I given such an impression. I have time after time stated the fact that I was here in Bobby's service. That has been the trouble with all of you. As most detectives do, you have denied facts, reaching always for something more subtle. You have asked for impossibilities while you blustered that they couldn't exist. Still every one is prone to do that when he fancies himself in the presence of the supernatural. The facts of this case have been within your reach as well as mine. The motive has been an easy one to understand. Money! And you have consistently turned your back."

Robinson spread his hands. "All right. Prove that I'm a fool and I'll acknowledge it."  
Doctor Groom interrupted sharply. "What was that?"

They bent forward, listening. Even with Paredes offering them a physical explanation they shrank from the keening that barely survived the heavy atmosphere of the old house.  
"You see the woman in black isn't Miss Perrine," Paredes said. He ran down the stairs. They followed, responding to an excited sense of imminence. Even in the private staircase the pounding that had followed the cry reached them with harsh reverberations. Its echoes filled the house as they dashed across the library and the dining room. In the hall they realized that it came from the front door. It had attained a feverish, a desperate insistence.

Paredes walked to the fireplace. "Open the door," he directed Rawlins.  
Rawlins stepped to the door, unlocked it, and flung it wide.  
"The woman" Katherine breathed. A feminine figure, white with snow, stumbled in, as if she had

## Khaki Kolumn

A soldier with a "sweet-tooth" writes from France to the Omaha Chamber of Commerce this pitiful story:  
"I am in France and I cannot buy anything sweet, so I wish you would please send me some candy."

The message is signed William Wakefield, 816 infantry, American Expeditionary Force, First Army France.

Henry Meyers of the third expeditionary board has asked the War De-

partment to release the soldier clerks who have been doing clerical work for the third draft board.

Mrs. Mabel Walker, in charge of the soldiers' employment bureau at the Chamber of Commerce, has had a letter from her husband, Roy E. Walker, who is in France with Company C of the 14th engineers, in which he stated that they are now near Verdun in a section of the country that has been torn by thousands of shells and suffered all

of the destruction of the war. He writes: "Big forests have all been shot up. Not a twig is left, only the stumps of the trees are standing now. Dead horses and all kinds of graves are everywhere."

He is busy hauling ammunition following the troops that are going through Germany, and that the towns are all shot to pieces and that he has not seen one building that has not been hit by shells. The building in which he was staying has shell holes in it so large you could stick your foot through them, he writes.

P. P. Murray, young Omaha attorney formerly connected with the traffic bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, returned yesterday from Edgewood Arsenal, Md., where he was in the ordnance department of the army. He was discharged from the service Friday and probably will resume his former position here.

Chief Printer Watt of the battle ship Pennsylvania is spending a ten-day furlough in Omaha and Council Bluffs, where he formerly resided. Mr. Watt is serving his fourth enlistment in the navy.

A big skating rink has been made at Fort Omaha and plans have been laid for some old-fashioned skating parties. The rink is more than 200 feet long and 100 feet across. A hedge of shrubbery has been made along the edges of the pond and electric lights have been strung across it. Skates have been provided for both soldiers and their girl friends and the big pond will furnish recreation to the hundreds of soldiers stationed at the post.

Lt. Richard E. Thompson is in charge of the skating pond. Richard Kitchen, manager of the Paxton hotel, celebrated New Year's by discarding the uniform of Uncle Sam and returning to civil life.

He was one of the most prominent of the young business men of Omaha to enlist in the army. Five months ago he entered the quartermaster's department and served at Fort Omaha.

"Dick" came out of the service Tuesday, just as he went in, a "buck" private. He has returned to his duties at the hotel.

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ALL \$55.00 SUITS \$27.50  
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ALL \$65.00 SUITS \$32.50  
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January Clearance Price

ALL \$35.00 DRESSES \$17.50  
January Clearance Price

ALL \$39.50 DRESSES \$18.75  
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### Missouri Remains Open Longest in Many Years

The nipping cold of last night came pretty near closing the river. This morning there is a narrow channel free from ice along the Nebraska shore and just above the street railway company bridge. Farther up the stream and below the Illinois Central bridge ice has formed in the channel.

It has been many years since the Missouri has remained open until January 1. Usually the channel is closed by ice along about the middle of December. Old settlers recall, however, that during one winter something like 30 years ago, the ice bridge did not form until late in February.

### Canteen Workers Extend Greetings to Khaki Boys

Red Cross canteen workers were on duty all day at the Union station to extend New Year's greetings to all soldiers passing through the city. Mrs. James C. Dahlman's corps was on duty at the information desk and Mrs. Howard Baldrige's company in the hostess house. Women serve from 7 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.