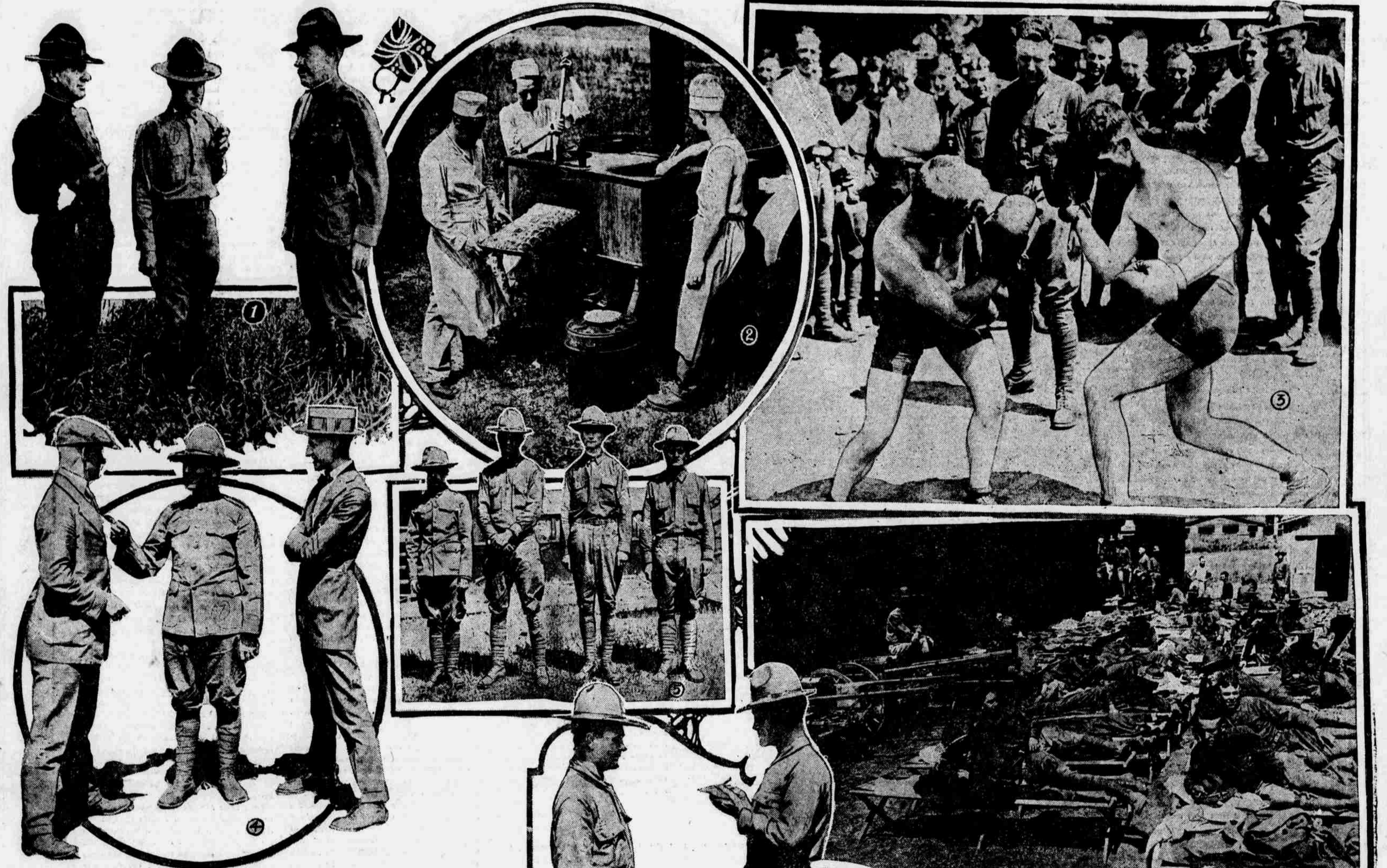


“BOY, YOU’RE IN THE ARMY NOW!”



Ex-Service Man, Raw Recruit Buckle Down to the Military Grind in the Two-Weeks’ Encampment of Nebraska National Guard at Camp Dodge, Ia.

By EDWARD BLACK. “Big boy, you’re in the army now.” Former service men who are now with the newly organized Nebraska National Guard, in training for two weeks at Camp Dodge, know what it means to be in the army. Recruits of the First Nebraska are being initiated into the arts and science of war, into the stern realities that a soldier should know.

The Nebraska guardsmen, nearly 1,600, are attending their first annual encampment of two weeks, under rules and regulations prescribed by the War department, and in quarters which were used a few years ago for the training of men for the great strike across the seas. These Nebraska fighting men are functioning as a model army.

“Ready to Go.” “Just give us the bread and beef and we are ready to go,” remarked one of the top sergeants, enthusiastically, but reflecting the morale of the men. A day in camp with the Nebraska men would suffice to show that a new spirit dominates the national guard, a spirit which is eloquent in conveying the impression that the guard today is in fact a part of the great national defense, and that it will command more respect and consideration during the next few years.

The national defense act of June 3, 1916, as amended on July 11, 1919, provides that the national guard shall be established by annual increments, starting with 200 men for each representative and senator in congress, which allows Nebraska its present guard strength of 1,600, and an ultimate strength of 6,400 men and officers in 1924.

talion has three rifle companies, one machine gun company and headquarters company. The regiment also has a service company which includes a band, transportation and supplies. One of the most interesting features of the present state guard is the manner in which it is functioning on all fours with the regular army of which it immediately would become a part in the event of a national emergency. This is the arrangement authorized by congress and through which the guard is receiving substantial national financial support.

Each Nebraska company is provided with a rolling kitchen for field service, a large motor truck and a water tank on wheels. These trucks were used in hauling equipment and supplies overland to Des Moines.

Practice on Range. The men now in camp are required to engage in target practice according to the regular army regulations. The scope of this practice for the Nebraska regiment includes the use of rifles, machine guns, automatic rifles, pistols and light Howitzers. It is anticipated that within a few years this state will have a regiment of field artillery attached to its national guard and will have a suitable practice range. The Nebraskans went to Camp Dodge on account of the range facilities there.

The co-ordination of the Nebraska National Guard, with the national army requirements, contemplates an organization scheme generally observed by the regular army. With that end in view the Nebraska guard is included in the Seventh army corps area, which also includes Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota. This area embraces the 34th and 35th divisions, Nebraska being in the latter. The regular army commander of the Seventh army corps area has jurisdiction also over the national guard and the organized reserves within the area described. In time of a national emergency all of the national guard and reserves in the seven states mentioned would come within full charge of the Seventh army commander.

No Place for Squawker. This close identification with the national defense, in addition to being state guardsmen, has resulted in the growth of a new esprit du corps among the guardsmen. A cursory glance over the Nebraska encampment impresses the attendant with the idea that it is no place for a squawker. It is not a congenial atmosphere for a grouch or sorehead. The real guardsmen must be a square shooter,” remarked one of the officers, using the expression in a more figurative sense. “The boys are realizing this fact and they are taking a wonderful interest in the work. They take pride in their organizations. The company spirit is fine.”

Proud of Uniform. It was noted that the squawkers are few and far between. Of course, there are all types. This new army is in the making and the results thus far are surprising. Now and then there is a “mummy’s lasses candy child” but he, too, soon gets into the game and “plays ball.” A youngster of this type was heard recently to refer to his sergeant as “hard boiled.” He spoke of the sergeant as the “war boss,” but now he is one of the best in the line and feels rather proud of his uniform. He will be a sergeant some day.

Hard work and intensive play go to make up the life of guardsmen in camp. They take the grim and the gay with good grace. They are as boys in their play and as sons of battle in their drills, target practice and other activities in the curriculum of military training.



No. 1. Adj. Gen. Herbert J. Paul of Nebraska, left; Col. Amos Thomas, commander of the Nebraska National Guard, and Lieut. Col. W. A. McDaniel, U. S. A., senior instructor. No. 2. Field kitchen in action. William Keegan and LeRoy Lehman, civilian cooks. Theodore Cahn, cook of Company L, stirring pot. No. 3. Patsy Clancy, left, and Tommy Vaughan in action. Sergt. Leonard M. Cowley, Company I, Lincoln, referee. No. 4. Left to right, John Kilmartin, Supply Sergt. George S. Heffner, Company L, and William Bruett, recounting other days when they were in service together. No. 5. Left to right: Corp. F. D. Stone, Company F, Hartington, Neb., editor of the Hartington Herald; First Sergt. N. C. Vandenoer, Company E, First battalion, Scottsbluff, Neb., two years captain of engineers in world war, overseas 16 months and holding commission as major of reserves; Sergt. C. H. Blackburn, Mitchell, Neb., of Howitzer company, practicing dentist, and Sergt. W. B. Kline, Company D, First battalion, of Fairmont, Neb., pastor of the Congregational church of Fairmont and for six years assistant chaplain of the First Nebraska National Guard. No. 6. Left, First Sergt. Louis B. Stipes of Company L, and right, First Sergt. John S. Kerr of regimental headquarters company, both Omaha policemen. No. 7. Company D, First battalion, Fairmont, Neb., sunning its cots and blankets; Capt. Donald Frazier in charge.

Exemplar of Pep. The foremost exemplar of snap and pep among the Nebraskans is Sergt. Jimmy Murphy, every inch a soldier and a man who would rather fight than eat. He has 20 years of active military experience to his credit. About a year ago he returned from Germany where he served with the army of occupation and “all that sort of thing.” With discharge papers in his pocket, he made his way to Omaha, where he found the pursuits of peace too irksome for his adventurous spirit. He was a man without an army. Murphy became restive during his brief civilian respite. He felt the urge of military life, so he enlisted in the First Nebraska National guard. They gave him a uniform that was not quite new, whereupon he remonstrated and threatened to quit the army unless a new wardrobe was forthcoming at once. At camp he is the snappiest piece of fighting machinery in the regiment. He is the life of the party. One of his officers takes delight in shouting “Sergeant Murphy!” just to see him

Moines and enjoyed a picture show. An officer of the day, inspecting the guard, asked a recruit what were his orders. “I have two sets of orders, sir, special and general,” replied the guard. “What are your special orders?” was asked. “And all that sort of thing.” “Stop all traffic on the road through the regiment after 9:30, and all that sort of thing. Be especially watchful for fires and all that sort of thing.” The officer of the day thought he would hear the sentry recite his general orders which all soldiers must know. “What are your general orders?” he asked. The sentry replied: “Take charge of this post and all that sort of thing.”

Among the other amusing incidents of the day’s routine at the camp was the case of an orderly who approached Capt. Frank L. Peterson of Company L with the information that Sergt. M. F. Galligan of the canteen wanted the captain to report immediately at the canteen. The orderly got his verbal message twisted and was not versed in that branch of military technique which calls for recognition of rank. Sergeant Galligan, by the way, is an Omahan, being six feet and one inch over all and having a displacement of 250 pounds. He is the largest man in camp.

Varied War Records. In the personnel of the Nebraska guards at camp are men with interesting and varied war records. This was aptly illustrated last week when George Heffner, supply sergeant of Company L, Omaha, met John Kilmartin and William Bruett, also of Omaha and all world war veterans. Sergeant Heffner joined the national guard for the first time 24 years ago at Shennandoah, Ia., and he served in the Spanish-American war, along the Mexican border and in the world war. This little impromptu reunion of Heffner, Kilmartin and Bruett at Camp Dodge recalled the time when Kilmartin was a recruit and was unloading wood for Heffner, then supply officer at Llano Grande, Tex.

On a later occasion, when Kilmartin was second lieutenant, Heffner came to the outfit as an enlisted man from the Fourth Nebraska to the 127th Field Artillery at Camp Cody, N. M. Heffner saluted Kilmartin on that occasion with a twinkle in his eye and asked whether there was any wood to be hauled. Bruett also served with Kilmartin and Heffner in years gone by and during the last year they have been interested in the organization of the Nebraska guard.

World War Officers Serve as Non-Coms—There’s No “Squawking” and All Work Hard to Make Emergency Fighting Men for Uncle Sam.

bristle up and for the good effect it has on the other men. They are wondering what the sergeant would be like in real action. Varied War Records. In the personnel of the Nebraska guards at camp are men with interesting and varied war records. This was aptly illustrated last week when George Heffner, supply sergeant of Company L, Omaha, met John Kilmartin and William Bruett, also of Omaha and all world war veterans. Sergeant Heffner joined the national guard for the first time 24 years ago at Shennandoah, Ia., and he served in the Spanish-American war, along the Mexican border and in the world war. This little impromptu reunion of Heffner, Kilmartin and Bruett at Camp Dodge recalled the time when Kilmartin was a recruit and was unloading wood for Heffner, then supply officer at Llano Grande, Tex.

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Major Is Sergeant. A glance over the “who’s who” at the camp reveals an interesting array of civilian business and professional ability. There are doctors, lawyers, merchants, clergymen, policemen and even a country editor. Sergt. W. B. Kline of Company D, First battalion, has been pastor of the Congregational church at Fairmont for six years. He is assistant chaplain of the regiment. The first sergeant of Company E, First battalion, is N. C. Vandenoer of Scottsbluff, who served two years as captain of engineers and now holds a commission as major in the officers’ reserves. Corp. F. D. Stone of Hartington is editor of the Hartington Herald. Sergt. C. H. Blackburn of the Howitzer company is a practicing dentist at Mitchell. Louis B. Stipes, first sergeant of Company L, Omaha, and John S. Kerr, first sergeant in the headquarters company, are Omaha policemen and former service men. Kerr having served in the Spanish war. Paid by State. Adjutant General Herbert J. Paul and Major Harry Stein are the officers paid by the state in accordance with the requirements of the national defense act as amended. The major is the property disbursing officer for Nebraska and is responsible to the bureau of the National Guard affairs for the Seventh corps area. Lt. Col. W. A. McDaniel. (Turn to Page Eight, Column Seven.)