



# AN T-OGLÁC

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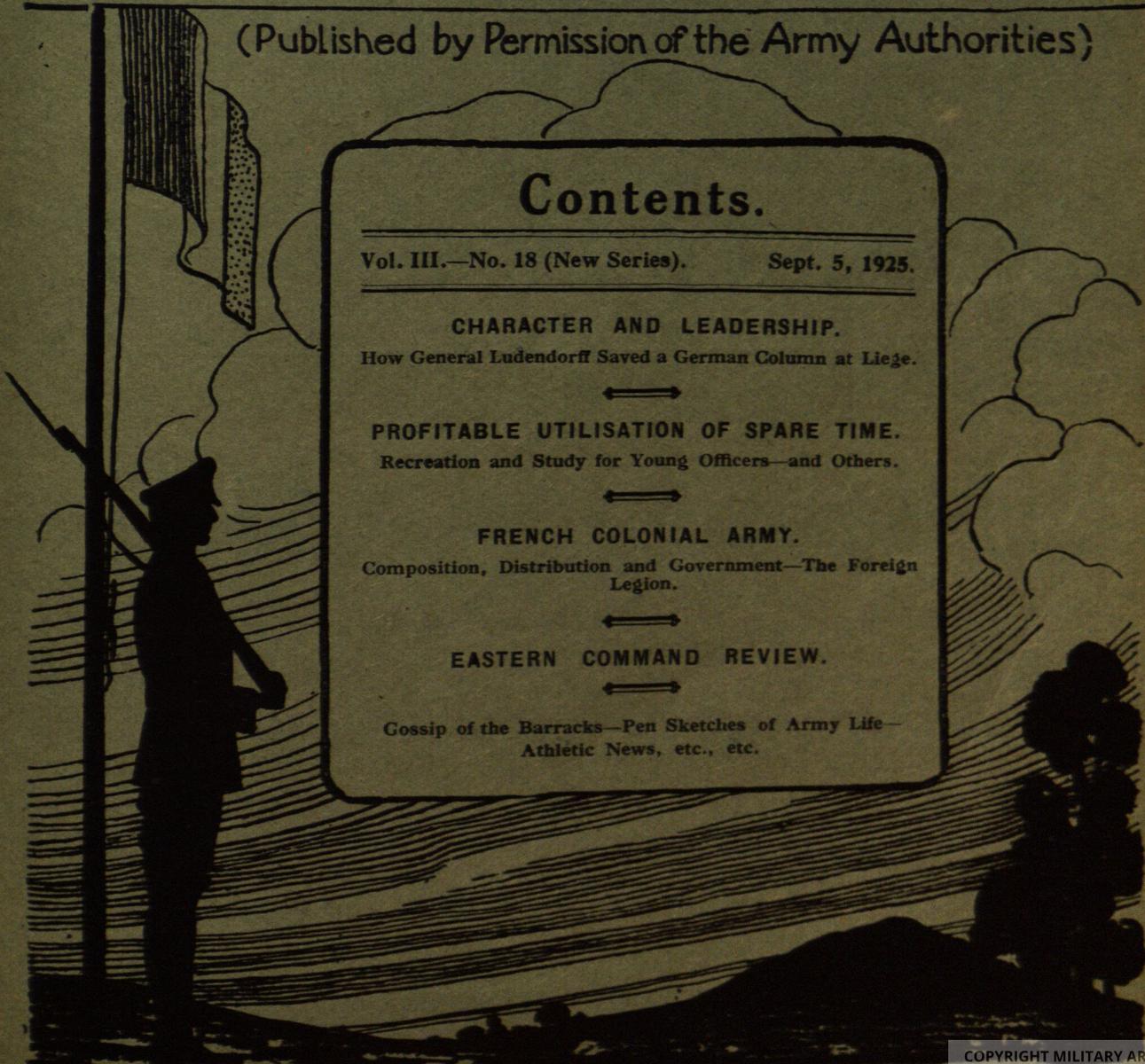
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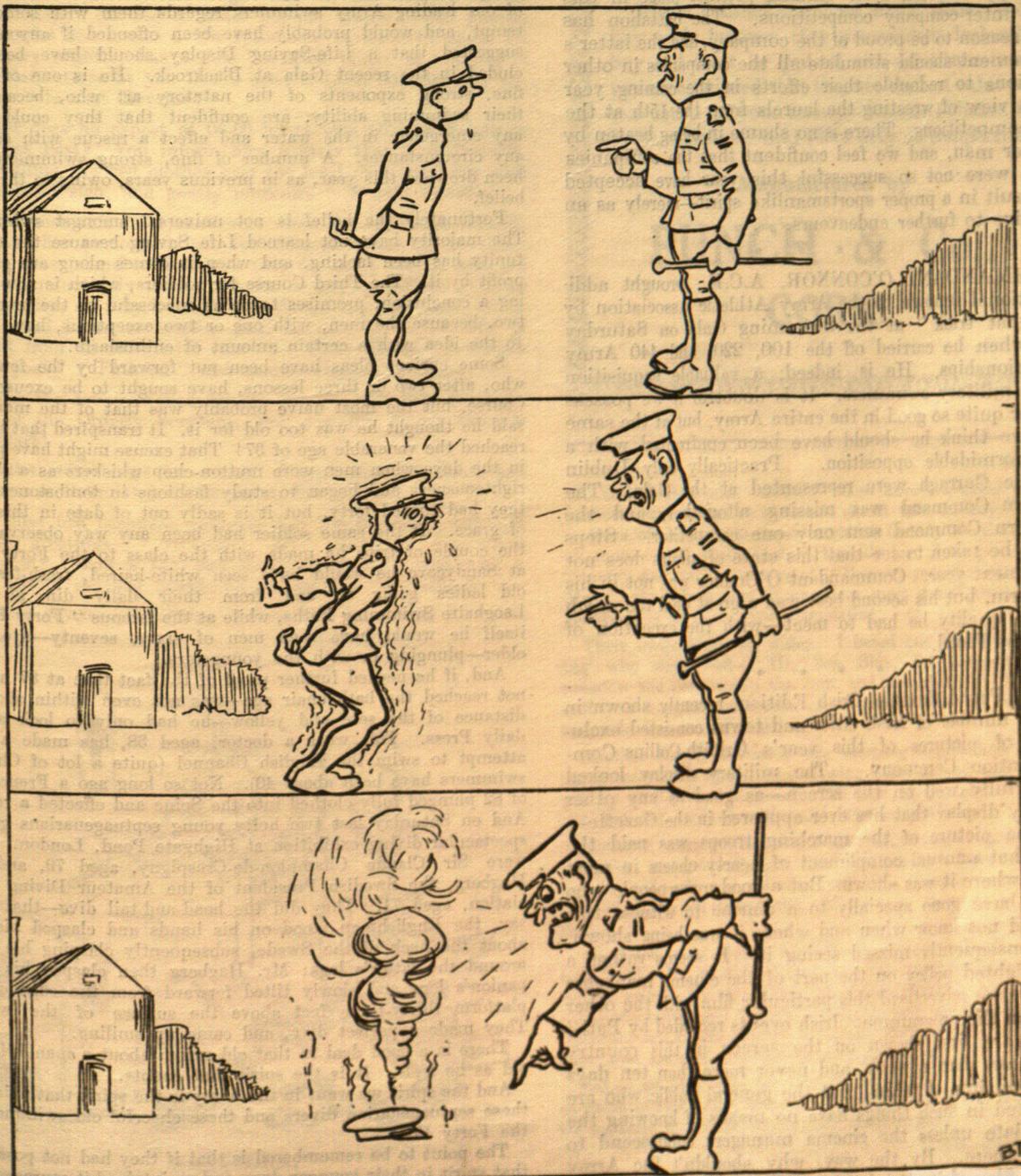


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DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

# An T-ÓZLÁC

SEPTEMBER 5, 1925.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

AS will be seen by the report in another page, the 15th Infantry Battalion accorded an enthusiastic welcome to "A" Company on its return to Ponsoby Barracks, Curragh, after winning premier place in this year's inter-company competitions. The battalion has every reason to be proud of the company, and the latter's achievement should stimulate all the companies in other battalions to redouble their efforts in the coming year with a view of wresting the laurels from the 15th at the next competitions. There is no shame in being beaten by a better man, and we feel confident that the companies which were not so successful this year have accepted the result in a proper sportsmanlike spirit—merely as an incentive to further endeavours.

\* \* \* \*

COMMANDANT O'CONNOR, A.C.E., brought additional renown to the Army Athletic Association by his "hat trick" at the Swimming Gala on Saturday last, when he carried off the 100, 220, and 440 Army Championships. He is, indeed, a valuable acquisition to the military swimmers. It is doubtful if we possess another quite so good in the entire Army, but at the same time we think he should have been confronted with a more formidable opposition. Practically only Dublin and the Curragh were represented at the Gala. The Western Command was missing altogether, and the Southern Command sent only one competitor. Steps should be taken to see that this state of affairs does not obtain next year. Commandant O'Connor was not in his best form, but his second best was a great deal too much for the quality he had to meet—with the exception of Sergeant Flood.

\* \* \* \*

THE Pathé Gazette, Irish Edition, recently shown in a number of Irish cities and towns consisted exclusively of pictures of this year's Griffith-Collins Commemoration Ceremony. The military display looked wonderfully well on the screen—as good as any other military display that has ever appeared in the Gazette—and the picture of the marching troops was paid the somewhat unusual compliment of hearty cheers in most places where it was shown. But a good many people who would have gone specially to a cinema to witness this film did not know when and where it was being shown, and consequently missed seeing it. It seems rather a short-sighted policy on the part of the cinema managers not to have advertised this particular film with the other items on the programme. Irish events recorded by Pathé Freres are first shown on the screen in this country never less than a week, and never more than ten days from the time of taking, but the general public who are interested in such things have no means of knowing the exact date unless the cinema managers condescend to inform them. By the way, why shouldn't the Army have a film of itself taken specially? There was an all-

Army film in existence some two and a half years ago, but the fact annoyed certain people, so they blew up the building that contained it, and thus wiped the film in question out of existence. From the publicity point of view as well as the recruiting standpoint such a film should be a good investment.



## THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD AND SEVENTY-NINE YEARS YOUNG.

The Life-Saving Courses which have been instituted in the Army this year do not appeal to all swimmers. One, at least, of our leading Army swimmers regards them with some contempt, and would probably have been offended if anyone had suggested that a Life-Saving Display should have been included in the recent Gala at Blackrock. He is one of those fine, strong exponents of the natatory art who, because of their swimming ability, are confident that they could meet any emergency in the water and effect a rescue with ease in any circumstances. A number of fine, strong swimmers have been drowned this year, as in previous years, owing to the same belief.

Fortunately the belief is not universal amongst swimmers. The majority have not learned Life Saving because the opportunity has been lacking, and when it comes along are glad to profit by it. The Third Course for soldiers, which is now nearing a conclusion, promises to be as successful as the preceding two, because the men, with one or two exceptions, have taken to the idea with a certain amount of enthusiasm.

Some curious pleas have been put forward by the few men who, after two or three lessons, have sought to be excused the Course, but the most naive probably was that of the man who said he thought he was too old for it. It transpired that he had reached the venerable age of 37! That excuse might have passed in the days when men wore mutton-chop whiskers as a sign of righteousness and began to study fashions in tombstones after they had turned forty, but it is sadly out of date in this year of grace. If the same soldier had been any way observant on the couple of trips he made with the class to the Forty Foot at Sandycove he would have seen white-haired, fresh-featured old ladies going to and from their daily dip at Dun Laoghaire Swimming Baths, while at the famous "Forty Foot" itself he would have seen men of sixty, seventy—aye, and older—plunging in with the youngsters.

And, if he needed further proof of the fact that at 37 he had not reached the bath chair age—was not even within shouting distance of the sere and yellow—he had only to look at the daily Press. This week a doctor, aged 38, has made a good attempt to swim the English Channel (quite a lot of Channel swimmers have been about 40). Not so long ago a Frenchman of 82 plunged fully clothed into the Seine and effected a rescue. And on Saturday last two hefty young septuagenarians gave a spectacular diving exhibition at Highgate Pond, London. They were Sir Claude Champion-de-Crespigny, aged 79, and Mr. Hagberg, the Swedish President of the Amateur Diving Association, aged 71. They did the head-and-tail dive—that is to say, the Englishman stood on his hands and clasped his feet about the neck of the Swede, subsequently clasping his arms around the latter's legs; Mr. Hagberg then clasped his companion's legs and slowly tilted forward from the edge of the platform thirty-three feet above the surface of the water. They made a perfect dive, and came up smiling.

There is a good deal in that old axiom about a man being as old as he feels. It is the spirit that counts. And the spirit we want in the Army is the spirit that animates these septuagenarian divers and these cheerful old swimmers at the Forty Foot.

The point to be remembered is that if they had not possessed that spirit in their younger days, and continued it courageously, they would not possess it at the present day.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT REVEILLE.

Not so Poetic as it Seems to those who  
only Read about it.

Dawn! Reveille sounds loudly and, I may add, a trifle unpleasantly across the Barrack Square, proclaiming to the denizens of "McKee" that it is another day nearer Pay Day (or farther away from it).

There is a stir—a very slight stir—in the Barrack rooms. "Your man" (to use a rather popular Barrack-room phrase) in the next bed makes a few spasmodic movements, opens his eyes very slightly, has a few buckshee blinks at nothing in particular, stares at you like a dead cod-fish and drowsily enquires—"Is that Reveille?"

What does he expect at 06-00 hours—the General Salute or the Last Post? You inform him politely that it is Reveille, and, pulling the bed clothes over his head, he turns over with a contented sigh, and gently murmurs "S *only* Reveille!"

A few moments later, however, when the idea that Reveille has gone has percolated into the sleeping heads of the slumberous ones, somebody realises that he must get on and get out, and reluctantly makes a move to get up. If he gets up very quietly, all may be well, but should he, perchance, knock over a bed board or trestle—then he is "fer it." He is greeted from all sides with cries of "Ould Windy," "What's biting you?" "Fathead" and similar classical phrases.

Across the cobble stones outside one can now hear the fairy steps of the Orderly Sergeant, and now the proper Reveille *does* start!

Up the stone steps he comes. Bang! goes the door, and "your man," the Orderly Sergeant, has arrived.

The first bed occupant generally has the honour of the first morning greetings. "Hi! boy! Hi! What do you think you're on? Show a leg, and lively about it!" And with a polite tilt of the bed boards he accentuates "Reveille."

From a psychological point of view it is interesting to watch



"REVEILLE."

You are frequently recommended to support the products of your own country, even at a sacrifice of a little extra price, thus to create employment for the people in their own land—excellent counsel, for without employment you must have poverty and all its attendant evils.

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the Orderly Sergeants. Some of them have a decided sense of humour—and it does to a certain extent take the raw edge, as it were off Reveille to meet a genial Orderly Sergeant. We all more or less admit that at Reveille few of us possess that "merry and bright" sense of "Here-we-go-gathering-nuts-in-May" atmosphere, and if one does meet genial Orderly Sergeants it is refreshing and stimulating.

Their methods greatly differ. I heard one the other morning who started off—"Hi, Boy Blue, the sheep's in the meadow and the cows in the corn, and breakfast's at 7.30, and—if you don't get up damn quick, orderly room at 9.30." I may add that Boy Blue got up!

Another Orderly Sergeant one morning approached one of our prize-winners in the long-sleeping contests, and told him to get up as Reveille had gone. The sleeping one gently opened one eye and enquired with mild interest "Where to?"

However, after a little while they all, more or less, get a move on, and gradually get ready for parade. Between looking for odd socks and missing boots this occupies some time, and when our old friend the whistle goes, there is a general rush.

After the usual spasm of "Form fours," "Back on the left," "Up No. 2, 3, 4," etc., and the usual "doings," the roll is called. By this time the senior N.C.O.'s have segregated themselves and fall in, looking a trifle melancholy. The Orderlies and Clerks exhibit a certain amount of undue freshness, and are eyed reproachfully by those who don't.

Before we have time to conduct more than a superficial inspection of each other, however, the "Dismiss" is called, and we separate to lift the Army over another day.

ME LARKIE.

## FRANCE'S "OUTSIDE" ARMY.

### The Colonial Organisation—Distribution and Government.

The French speak of the Metropolitan Army (*Armée Métropolitaine*) to distinguish it from their Colonial Army. The term Metropolitan Army applies to that part of the French Army which is composed of men furnished by the operation of the conscription law in what is called "France," as distinguished from the colonies of France. Algeria, in this as in most other respects, is, from the point of view of law, a part of France, and is not a French colony. Algeria is politically a Department of France, and sends deputies to the French Chamber. It is true there is a Governor-General, but for all practical purposes Algeria is a part of France. The conscription laws thus apply equally to Algeria and Continental France. Algerians, as a rule, serve their legal term of service as part of the 19th Army Corps, which is the Algerian Corps Region.

Outside of this Metropolitan Army there are two organisations having their own distinct autonomy; these are the Foreign Legion and the Colonial Army. The Foreign Legion is now made up of four regiments of infantry and one of cavalry. In time of peace they are habitually located in the colonies; in time of war or for any expedition the whole or part of the Legion is sent wherever required.

#### The Foreign Legion.

The word "Foreign Legion" has been employed for a century to designate a body of troops of the French Army composed largely of foreigners, but commanded by French officers. This term is still used in common parlance, but officially these troops are known as "Foreign Regiments" (*Régiments étrangers*). The creation of these troops was authorised by a law approved March 9, 1831, and various orders as to the formation, organisation and recruiting of these regiments have succeeded each other since that date.

For a foreigner to be accepted in the Foreign Legion, he must be at least 18 years old and not more than 40; is required to produce a certificate of birth or some other equivalent paper, a certificate of "respectability" and a certificate from the military authorities establishing that the man has the qualities necessary to render good military service.

Men of French birth may also enlist in the Foreign Legion on their request properly approved. These may be men who have not yet performed their military service, or others who wish to re-enlist after their military service.

#### Foreign Officers.

The period of enlistment is for five years; re-enlistment in the Legion may be made for periods varying from two to five years. Foreign officers who wish to serve in the Foreign Legion may be permitted to do so under certain conditions, amongst others they must do a preparatory tour of six months before being accepted.

Troops of the Foreign Legion in time of peace invariably are stationed outside of Continental France. When first organised in 1831, the Legion was intended solely for service in Algeria; since that time parts of it have received other assignment in French Colonies, usually to territories going through a period of pacification. At present these troops may be joined to those of the Colonial Army and receive the same advantages and distinctions as the Colonial troops.

#### The Colonial Army.

The Colonial Army is recruited and administered under the provisions of a law approved July 7, 1900, which created it

mostly from existing elements. These were formerly known as "Marine Infantry," and were under the orders of the Navy Department. Colonial troops are now under the Minister of War. They comprise the following:—

(a) French Elements—Composed of Frenchmen who volunteer for service in the Colonial Army, or men forming part of the annual French contingent, and who have agreed to serve in the colonies. The volunteers of both these categories are given certain advantages, such as civil employments reserved for them after 15 years of colonial service, farm lands in the colonies, etc.

(b) Colonial Elements—Composed of men recruited in various colonies through the application of special laws and decrees applicable to each one of these colonies.

(c) Native Troops—Recruited by voluntary enlistments in certain colonies or protectorates and formed into special organisations, such as Moroccan Sharp Shooters, Senegalese Riflemen, etc.

#### Depôts in France.

The law permits Colonial troops to be garrisoned in any part of the territory of France or of her dependencies. Some of the organisations of the Colonial troops are always stationed in France, where they have a number of depôts. Native Frenchmen who volunteer for the Colonial Army are never sent to the colonies before they are 21 years old or before they have served for six months.

Colonial troops are primarily intended to garrison and defend French colonies and protectorates. They may, in case of need, be called to Metropolitan France for service, or they may take part in expeditions outside of French territory. During the late war large numbers of Colonial troops served at the front, and some of these divisions, e.g., the Moroccans, were considered amongst the very best in the Army.

Colonial troops always preserve their autonomy, and remain under the orders of officers of the Colonial Army. They are entirely distinct from the troops of the Metropolitan Army. They have their own regime and a budget which is distinct from the appropriations for other troops. There is at the Ministry of War what is called a "Direction" charged with everything which concerns the personnel, instruction and command of the whole body of Colonial troops. At the head of this Direction, Bureau, or Department, there is a general officer.

#### Colonial Governors' Authority.

In each colony the Governor has under his authority the officer commanding the (colonial) troops, and this officer is responsible to the Governor for the preparation and conduct of military operations and everything relating to the defence of the colony. There are a certain number of major-generals and brigadier-generals of colonial troops amongst whom the Minister of War selects those for the command of divisions, brigades, etc. in France and in the colonies. However in what concerns the latter he must first consult the Minister of Colonies.

General officers of the Metropolitan Army, in exceptional cases and on account of former service in Algeria, Tunisia, or the colonies, may be given employment in the Colonial Army, but this only with the consent of Minister of Colonies. However, no more than one-fourth of the number of general officers allowed by law to the Colonial Army can be thus selected. Exchange amongst officers of the Colonial troops and those of the Metropolitan Army may be effected according to rules which are established governing such permutations.

The Colonial Army has long had its own distinct uniform of khaki.

The Colonial Army at present consists of 40 regiments and 19 independent battalions of infantry and 9 battalions of machine guns of four companies each, stationed in various parts of French territory.

## CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP.

### How General Ludendorff Saved a German Column at Liege.

The basic plan of the Germans in their great offensive against France in 1914 was the envelopment of the Allied left. This contemplated a wheel by the German First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Armies, with the fortified area Thionville-Metz as a pivot. The German First Army, commanded by General Von Kluck, was on the extreme right; the Second Army, commanded by General Von Bulow, next to it. Being on the marching flank of the wheel, rapid progress was demanded of these two armies, if the plans for the quick conquest of France were to succeed. The fortress of Liege stood in their path. Its reduction was undertaken while the First and Second Armies were mobilising and concentrating. The task was entrusted to General Von Emmich. Forces for the purpose were drawn primarily from the Second Army, but these were reinforced by two infantry brigades from the First Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter S. Grant, Cavalry Director of the Command Division at the U.S. Army War College, in a lecture delivered at the Army War College on a study of certain features of Von Kluck's march on Paris, made among others the following interesting statements concerning this phase of the operations:—

On August 4th the advance over the Belgian frontier began. German cavalry under Von der Marwitz crossed the border and moved upon Vise, north of Liege. It found the bridge over the Meuse at Vise broken, and the western bank held by Belgian troops. There was fighting. Two cavalry regiments went north to Lixhe, three miles north of Vise, where they crossed the river by a ford. The Belgians found their left threatened, and fell back on Liege. By evening of the 4th the heads of the columns of Von Emmich's force which had crossed the frontier were nearly two miles into Belgium.

General Von Emmich decided to make a night attack on Liege. His force was divided into five columns. On the night of August 5-6, these five columns, assisted by the demonstration of weak forces drawn therefrom against the forts, attempted to advance between the forts, with the object of seizing the town and the citadel of Liege. The town once captured, the plan contemplated the attack of the forts surrounding the town, from the rear.

Of the five columns, the two advancing from the north and north-east were unsuccessful; the two advancing from the south were worse than unsuccessful; and the one advancing from the east was almost unsuccessful. However, this column did finally succeed. On the morning of August 7th, the Germans, though not yet masters of the encircling ring of forts, were in possession of the town and citadel of Liege.

If you were to ask me to what the success of this one German column was in greatest measure due, I would say—Ludendorff. Were you to ask me in what way Ludendorff contributed to the success of this column, I would say—by character and leadership.

You may remember that on August 3rd, upon arriving at Aix-la-Chapelle, General Von Emmich found General Ludendorff at the Hotel Union. At that time General Ludendorff was Quartermaster-General of the Second German Army, having been transferred to that position under mobilisation orders from his position as a brigade commander at Strasburg. From 1913 to 1914 he had commanded the 39th Fusiliers at Dusseldorf. From 1904 to 1913, with only one short interval, he had been in the Operations Department of the General Staff, becoming its chief. His principal work there had been the preparation of strategic plans under the direction of the Chief of Staff, Von Schieffen, and later Von Moltke. He was thus acquainted with the plans for the reduction of Liege.

On August 3rd, Ludendorff was acting as the representative with Von Emmich's command of the Commander of the Second German Army, Von Bulow, who was at his headquarters at Hanover. In other words, Ludendorff was a liaison officer.

His detail as liaison officer with brigades given Von Emmich for the operation shows the concern with which Von Bulow considered that operation. In fact, the Second German Army was more concerned in the prompt removal of the obstruction to the march caused by Liege than was the First Army. The Second Army Headquarters had been furnished with information as to the proposed method of execution of the operation; Liege lay squarely in the path of their proposed advance; and General Von Emmich was a corps commander in the Second Army. Moreover, in an early order issued by the German High Command it was stated:—"Should Belgium offer resistance to the advance through its territory, Liege is to be taken by the Second Army, so as to free the main roads, which are covered by that fortress." So Von Bulow was justified in sending a liaison officer of such high rank to keep him in touch with the operation.

To understand the influence exerted by Ludendorff on the operation it is necessary to follow the movements of the eastern column in its advance into Liege. This column was headed by the 14th Brigade. It started from Micheroux (about two or three kilometres east of the line of forts) about 1:00 a.m. on August 6th. Its route of advance lay north of Fort Fleron, and through the line of forts via Retinne, through Queue du Bois, and so to the heights of La Chartreuse on the outskirts of the town. The column was due there early in the morning. The other columns were scheduled to reach the town at the same hour. General Von Wussow, the brigade Commander, rode with the advance party. General Von Emmich, with his staff, rode almost at the end of the column. Ludendorff accompanied Von Emmich.

In the darkness the column stopped. Ludendorff went forward to find out what was the matter. He found that the head of the column had lost touch in the darkness with the advance party in front. Ludendorff took charge, put the column in march, and remained at the head. There was great trouble in finding the way in the darkness, but at length the column reached Retinne. Ludendorff then led the column off on the wrong road and ran into hostile fire. He was obliged to return to Retinne. Here he placed himself with his men on the right road, and advanced towards Queue du Bois. Von Wussow was missing; his orderly thought he was killed. So Ludendorff assumed command of the brigade. He continued to advance. He ran into machine gun fire along the road, and the machine guns had to be captured. He had to engage in house-to-house fighting in Queue du Bois, and artillery had to be brought up. The advance was slow, and the soldiers had to be encouraged to go forward. But the village was finally passed, and about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon the brigade arrived at La Chartreuse. Von Emmich came up, confirmed Ludendorff in his assumption of command, and placed reinforcements at his disposal. The night of August 6-7 was spent in great anxiety, but on the 7th the brigade entered the town, headed by Von Emmich and Ludendorff. Ludendorff then got Von Emmich to relieve him, and returned to Aix-la-Chapelle to report to Von Bulow at Hanover what had happened.

Now what are the lessons that this incident teaches?

I think they are that luck is with the man of nerve; that for successful operations leaders of character and determination are often of more value than plans and numbers; that the remark attributed to Marshal Foch that the difficulties of execution are to those of planning as 99 to 1 may be not far wrong.

Here we have a man who had no connection with the operation other than that of observer; who occupied a high position in the German military establishment; whose reputation needed no bolstering up; and who could have been ruined by failure. Yet in an emergency; in the dead of night; during an operation on which grave consequences depended; in the face of hostile fire and reluctance on the part of his own troops; this man had the effrontery and the forceful character to take command on his own responsibility, and push the matter through to a successful conclusion.

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The Colonial Army at present consists of 40 regiments and 19 independent battalions of infantry and 9 battalions of machine guns of four companies each, stationed in various parts of French territory.

## CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP.

### How General Ludendorff Saved a German Column at Liege.

The basic plan of the Germans in their great offensive against France in 1914 was the envelopment of the Allied left. This contemplated a wheel by the German First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Armies, with the fortified area Thionville-Metz as a pivot. The German First Army, commanded by General Von Kluck, was on the extreme right; the Second Army, commanded by General Von Bulow, next to it. Being on the marching flank of the wheel, rapid progress was demanded of these two armies, if the plans for the quick conquest of France were to succeed. The fortress of Liege stood in their path. Its reduction was undertaken while the First and Second Armies were mobilising and concentrating. The task was entrusted to General Von Emmich. Forces for the purpose were drawn primarily from the Second Army, but these were reinforced by two infantry brigades from the First Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter S. Grant, Cavalry Director of the Command Division at the U.S. Army War College, in a lecture delivered at the Army War College on a study of certain features of Von Kluck's march on Paris, made among others the following interesting statements concerning this phase of the operations:—

On August 4th the advance over the Belgian frontier began. German cavalry under Von der Marwitz crossed the border and moved upon Vise, north of Liege. It found the bridge over the Meuse at Vise broken, and the western bank held by Belgian troops. There was fighting. Two cavalry regiments went north to Lixhe, three miles north of Vise, where they crossed the river by a ford. The Belgians found their left threatened, and fell back on Liege. By evening of the 4th the heads of the columns of Von Emmich's force which had crossed the frontier were nearly two miles into Belgium.

General Von Emmich decided to make a night attack on Liege. His force was divided into five columns. On the night of August 5-6, these five columns, assisted by the demonstration of weak forces drawn therefrom against the forts, attempted to advance between the forts, with the object of seizing the town and the citadel of Liege. The town once captured, the plan contemplated the attack of the forts surrounding the town, from the rear.

Of the five columns, the two advancing from the north and north-east were unsuccessful; the two advancing from the south were worse than unsuccessful; and the one advancing from the east was almost unsuccessful. However, this column did finally succeed. On the morning of August 7th, the Germans, though not yet masters of the encircling ring of forts, were in possession of the town and citadel of Liege.

If you were to ask me to what the success of this one German column was in greatest measure due, I would say—Ludendorff. Were you to ask me in what way Ludendorff contributed to the success of this column, I would say—by character and leadership.

You may remember that on August 3rd, upon arriving at Aix-la-Chapelle, General Von Emmich found General Ludendorff at the Hotel Union. At that time General Ludendorff was Quartermaster-General of the Second German Army, having been transferred to that position under mobilisation orders from his position as a brigade commander at Strasburg. From 1913 to 1914 he had commanded the 39th Fusiliers at Dusseldorf. From 1904 to 1913, with only one short interval, he had been in the Operations Department of the General Staff, becoming its chief. His principal work there had been the preparation of strategic plans under the direction of the Chief of Staff, Von Schieffen, and later Von Moltke. He was thus acquainted with the plans for the reduction of Liege.

On August 3rd, Ludendorff was acting as the representative with Von Emmich's command of the Commander of the Second German Army, Von Bulow, who was at his headquarters at Hanover. In other words, Ludendorff was a liaison officer.

His detail as liaison officer with brigades given Von Emmich for the operation shows the concern with which Von Bulow considered that operation. In fact, the Second German Army was more concerned in the prompt removal of the obstruction to the march caused by Liege than was the First Army. The Second Army Headquarters had been furnished with information as to the proposed method of execution of the operation; Liege lay squarely in the path of their proposed advance; and General Von Emmich was a corps commander in the Second Army. Moreover, in an early order issued by the German High Command it was stated:—"Should Belgium offer resistance to the advance through its territory, Liege is to be taken by the Second Army, so as to free the main roads, which are covered by that fortress." So Von Bulow was justified in sending a liaison officer of such high rank to keep him in touch with the operation.

To understand the influence exerted by Ludendorff on the operation it is necessary to follow the movements of the eastern column in its advance into Liege. This column was headed by the 14th Brigade. It started from Micheroux (about two or three kilometres east of the line of forts) about 1:00 a.m. on August 6th. Its route of advance lay north of Fort Fleron, and through the line of forts via Retinne, through Queue du Bois, and so to the heights of La Chartreuse on the outskirts of the town. The column was due there early in the morning. The other columns were scheduled to reach the town at the same hour. General Von Wussow, the brigade Commander, rode with the advance party. General Von Emmich, with his staff, rode almost at the end of the column. Ludendorff accompanied Von Emmich.

In the darkness the column stopped. Ludendorff went forward to find out what was the matter. He found that the head of the column had lost touch in the darkness with the advance party in front. Ludendorff took charge, put the column in march, and remained at the head. There was great trouble in finding the way in the darkness, but at length the column reached Retinne. Ludendorff then led the column off on the wrong road and ran into hostile fire. He was obliged to return to Retinne. Here he placed himself with his men on the right road, and advanced towards Queue du Bois. Von Wussow was missing; his orderly thought he was killed. So Ludendorff assumed command of the brigade. He continued to advance. He ran into machine gun fire along the road, and the machine guns had to be captured. He had to engage in house-to-house fighting in Queue du Bois, and artillery had to be brought up. The advance was slow, and the soldiers had to be encouraged to go forward. But the village was finally passed, and about 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon the brigade arrived at La Chartreuse. Von Emmich came up, confirmed Ludendorff in his assumption of command, and placed reinforcements at his disposal. The night of August 6-7 was spent in great anxiety, but on the 7th the brigade entered the town, headed by Von Emmich and Ludendorff. Ludendorff then got Von Emmich to relieve him, and returned to Aix-la-Chapelle to report to Von Bulow at Hanover what had happened.

Now what are the lessons that this incident teaches?

I think they are that luck is with the man of nerve; that for successful operations leaders of character and determination are often of more value than plans and numbers; that the remark attributed to Marshal Foch that the difficulties of execution are to those of planning as 99 to 1 may be not far wrong.

Here we have a man who had no connection with the operation other than that of observer; who occupied a high position in the German military establishment; whose reputation needed no bolstering up; and who could have been ruined by failure. Yet in an emergency; in the dead of night; during an operation on which grave consequences depended; in the face of hostile fire and reluctance on the part of his own troops; this man had the effrontery and the forceful character to take command on his own responsibility, and push the matter through to a successful conclusion.

## EASTERN COMMAND REVIEW ON THE FIFTEEN ACRES.

**Chief-of-Staff Inspects 2,500 Troops—Governor-General and Heads of State Present—Big attendance of the General Public.**

A thin drizzle of rain prevented the Eastern Command Review in the Fifteen Acres, Phoenix Park, on Wednesday afternoon, August 26th, from being as brilliant a spectacle as it would otherwise have been, but it was, nevertheless, a very satisfactory display and the Officers and men concerned are to be warmly congratulated upon it.

Lieutenant-General Peadar MacMahon, Chief of Staff, accompanied by Major-General Cronin, Quartermaster-General, and Colonel Magauran, D.A.A.G. (the Adjutant-General being absent on leave) rode up to the saluting base promptly at 3 p.m., and the entire review was carried out according to plan, with equal precision.

There was a very large attendance of the general public, and it was noticeable that all remained to the conclusion of the proceedings, despite the rain. The President and heads of the Government, the Governor-General, and a large number of dis-

tinguished visitors were accommodated with seats in a roped-off enclosure, and after the review refreshments were served in a large marquee on the grounds.

A grand total of 2,470 officers and other ranks took part in the review, the troops participating being composed of the following units:—

Eastern Command Staff,

Colour Party—2 Lieuts., 2 Sec.-Lieuts., and 4 N.C.O.'s.

Three Infantry Brigades of 2 Battalions each, i.e., No. 7

Brigade—22nd Batt. and 27th Batt. (complete); No. 6

Brigade—21st Batt. (3 Coys. own and 1 Coy. from 24th

Batt.) and 17th Batt. (2 Coys. and 1 Platoon own; 1

Coy from 24th Batt. and 1 Platoon 13th Batt.).

No. 5 Brigade—20th Batt. (3 Coys. own and 1 Coy. from

19th Batt.—or complete), and 23rd Batt. (2 Coys own

1 Coy from 24th Batt. and 1 Coy. from 7th Batt.).



Lt.-General Peadar MacMahon, Chief-of-Staff, accompanied by Major-General D. Hogan, G.O.C. Eastern Command, inspecting the troops of the Eastern Command on the Fifteen Acres, Phoenix Park, Wednesday, August 26th, 1925. ("Independent" Photo).

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1 Coy. each from:—Military Police Corps, Army Medical Services, Army Signal Corps and Army Corps of Engineers.

1 Battery of Artillery and Detachment of Horse and Mechanical (Including Ambulances) Transport:—6 G.S. Wagons, 5 Crossley Tenders, 1 Ambulance.

Detachment of Armoured Cars from Command Coy:—3 A.R.R. and 3 A.L.

One Squadron of Aeroplanes.

The Chief of Staff, as Reviewing Officer, was received with the General Salute, after which Major-General Hogan, G.O.C., Eastern Command, accompanied by the Command Administrative Officer, Adjutant and Quartermaster, rode forward to the saluting base and reported the Parade ready for inspection.

Immediately afterwards, Lieutenant-General MacMahon and Major-General Hogan, accompanied by their Staffs, made the tour of the Parade, during which time the band played a selection of suitable airs.

The inspection finished, the Reviewing Officer and his Staff returned to the saluting base, and the March Past began. The troops first passed in close column of companies and afterwards in column of route. As soon as the March Past commenced, the detachment of aeroplanes took the air, and flew in formation past the saluting base. The rain made things a trifle difficult for the airmen, but they made light of this handicap, and their work left nothing to be desired. When the Parade marched past in column of route the aeroplanes flew by again in single file, afterwards resuming their positions on the ground.

A striking feature of the Parade was the Colour Party, which bore, in addition to the Tricolour, the new colours of the Command. The latter, which made their first public appearance on this occasion, consist of the Army crest embroidered in gold on a background of St. Patrick's blue, and the whole heavily fringed with gold.

The marching of the men was excellent, though the unevenness of the ground made the task of keeping absolutely perfect alignment almost impossible at times. A very favourable impression was created amongst the spectators, both civilian and military, to judge by the remarks which one overheard. Special praise was given to the Military Police, the 20th and 27th Battalions.

After the March Past the troops resumed their original positions in review order, and the G.O.C. again took command.

**MILITARY NOTE.**—An Army officer was showing his fair guest about the camps when a bugle sounded.

"What's that for?" the fair one inquired.

"That's tattoo," the officer explained.

"Oh, I understand," she remarked. "I've often seen it on soldiers' arms, but I didn't know they had a special time for doing it.—*The Argonaut.*"

**NOR QUITE, BUT**—Solomon has attested to the strangeness of a man's way with a maid, but the way of a maid being courted has always been a mystery to a man. A girl dismissed her soldier sweetheart with the statement that she could not think of marrying him until he had a few thousand pounds. A few months later she met him and asked him how much he had saved. "Twenty quid," he said. "Well," she remarked with a blush, "I guess that's near enough."

The drums and bugles sounded the General Salute, and the G.O.C. reported to the Chief of Staff. Order was then given for the Colours to march off, and as they did so the troops presented arms, and the band played the "Soldiers' Song."

Immediately afterwards the Parade was dismissed.

## NEW SWISS AUTOMATIC RIFLE.

The following description of the Swiss new automatic rifle is taken from "L'Alsace Francais":—

The Swiss troops are going to be equipped with an automatic rifle, which the specialists consider very good. Its inventor, who also built it, Colonel Furrer, Director of the Manufacture of Arms, supervised the recent tests made thereof, which were witnessed by a number of officers and newspaper men—the enemy being simulated by manikins.

This automatic rifle fires a cartridge called "Regulation cartridge 1911," and has the appearance of an infantry rifle. It weighs 8 kilograms. Its barrage firing rate is 450 shots per minute, but it can also be used as an ordinary rifle, firing the single shots at the rate of 50 to 60 per minute. An extra gun barrel can be substituted in less than 30 seconds, thus obviating all danger of heating. The gun is provided with 30 magazines of 30 cartridges each, the bullet has a muzzle velocity of 740 metres. New magazines can be adjusted while the rifle is being fired. For accurate fire, single shots, the rifle is provided with an adjustable support with prongs. As a whole, it is simple, and easily handled.

The tests were entirely conclusive. The dispersion of the projectiles was very small, especially in height. The following are the remarks of a witness of the tests:—

Finally, Colonel Otter, Director of the School of Practice of Wallenstadt, gave us an interesting demonstration of combat fire conducted by two lieutenant-colonels. The large field was about covered with manikin targets in different formations, including machine guns sometimes difficult to detect. The simulated enemy was quickly overcome, including the machine gun targets at distances of 700 metres. The two officers fired with the rifle on two tripods, on one tripod, kneeling and standing. In whatever position they fired, the targets were hit rapidly. It was all over within twenty minutes."

There are two of these automatic rifles per section, i.e., eight per company. They are served by eight men transporting 1,020 cartridges, with a further supply of 1,440 cartridges in the section wagon and 720 in the company munition caisson. This new arm, named after its inventor, Colonel Furrer, is considered as the best of its kind in Europe.



Sean sustained a severe shock whilst on leave—but he deserved it.

## UTILISING SPARE TIME.

### Recreation and Study for Young Officers.

In prefacing any remarks on this rather touchy subject, we should first consider the day and age in which we live. Before considering the young officer specifically, we must first contemplate the young folks in general of the present generation.

The slogan of the young people of to-day appears to be "Get by?" It isn't what you do that counts, it's what you're caught doing. Duty for duty's sake seems to be comparatively non-existent (says "Fabian" in the American "Coast Artillery Magazine").

Please do not think that I hold a deeply-rooted grudge against our younger generation. Not at all. I am simply stating the facts, as observed over a period of several years, while on duty with an educational institution and while visiting around an important educational centre. The youngster of to-day does very little real studying, and much less serious thinking. He skims over textbooks, reading with only the attention necessary to retain the subject until his next class. When classes are over—Ho for the Movies, the Pollies, or "Snappy Stories"?

The young officer of to-day partakes, to a certain extent, of the aforementioned characteristics. To be sure, if he has just come from the Military Academy, he has had to do considerable studying. He thinks that when he joins his organisation he has done with study until he goes to one of the service schools. He resembles somewhat the youngster referred to above in this particular. As soon as drill or routine work is over he's off to town, to the show, to the dance—anywhere to have a good time?

Let me impose upon the reader's good nature long enough to quote my own case as a horrible example. When I first joined my organisation, my captain very thoughtfully obtained for me several essential books. They formed a neat little row in my tent—say about three feet long. My orderly dusted them religiously. I knocked them over occasionally and caused—and cussed—and used them as paperweights to hold down theatre programmes, novels, etc. Read them? Of course not—I was too busy. As soon as my captain released me, I was headed for town, or the club, or some other place of amusement. The interesting part of all this is that I really like to read and study. The idea of doing it during my "time off" however, never seemed to appeal to me. From observations made at the time, I am convinced that my case was the average rather than the exception.

Back to our original subject. The young officer is required to do certain things around his organisation. Usually he has to do very much. He must acquire a certain amount of knowledge to be able to perform these routine duties in a satisfactory manner. He must study his Training Regulations, and various other service manuals.

In spite of the formidable array of what we have just considered, the young officer still has sufficient spare time on his hands. Routine duties do not run into the evening, as a rule, and troop schools do not require an excessive amount of burning the midnight oil. He will have at least two or three hours daily to dispose of as he sees fit. Some of it will fall in daylight, some after dark—but all of it is entitled to be classified as "spare time."

The question now before the house is, "What is the best disposition that can be made of the young officer's spare time?" There are several excellent causes to which it may be worthily devoted, chief among them being exercise, recreation, and education. Let us consider them in the order named.

Exercise is a mighty important activity, particularly in the Service. In the case of the young officer, however, we feel that it is not necessary to stress it unduly. He is at the age that delights in outdoor sports, and does not have to be urged to indulge in tennis, baseball, golf, or polo. He'll do lots of it without any urging at all. Let us just remind him, then, in passing, that he should consistently take at least one hour daily of vigorous exercise, preferably in the open air, and keep this up throughout his military career.

Now we come to a delicate subject—recreation. Call it amusement, relaxation, or anything you like. What I mean by it is something that yields no visible or immediate return for the money or effort expended save a feeling of mental or physical exhilaration. It is a pleasurable sensation that lifts us out of ourselves, making us forget our cares and troubles. It is play as compared to work.

Recreation, in my humble opinion, is quite as important as exercise. Usually the two are combined especially in the case of the younger officers. A certain amount of recreation is as essential to the young man as is a certain amount of food. That, I believe, will not be denied by anybody with powers of observation. The troublesome part of the question is—where to stop, when have we had enough? Perhaps we should work from the other end; first consider how much time we should devote to education, and utilize the balance remaining for recreational purposes.

Many of us—most of us, I fear—believe that our education is complete when we finish school. Right there we make fundamental error, and innumerable authorities will support that statement. Education involves a process of mental growth. It's more than an acquiring of book knowledge; it is an exercise and development of the brain. Without it we may stand still but we usually march backward.

In speaking of education, I do not mean mere military studies. We have already assumed that the young officer concerned has a good working knowledge of his routine duties and textbooks. Just as "straight troop duty" is liable to get one into a rut, so, in a broader sense, does purely military study tend to narrow our point of view. While it is highly advisable to study professionally above and beyond the call of routine, it is also equally meritorious to develop ourselves along more general lines.

Read good books of the day. Study the older classics and read and study plenty of history. Post yourself on subjects of general interest, particularly those of concern to the community in which you find yourself stationed. Do not count light reading as education—it is relaxation, and therefore recreation. Above all, do not "skim over" what you have chosen to exploit. Go at it conscientiously, and make it your own before you leave off. Post yourself on questions of importance to the public welfare. Keep abreast of the times. Know what is going on with the work, and in your own immediate surrounding country. Set this for your goal, the ability to discuss with any well-educated civilian, subjects of his own choosing.

Pray do not get the impression that I favour nothing but non-military study during spare hours. Not at all. I am a firm advocate of extensive military reading and research. One cannot know too much about one's own profession. But one must also, in order to attain the highest degree of mental development, know something else—something of what the other fellow, the rest of the world, is doing. As a practical suggestion, I would advise that roughly equal parts be devoted to military and non-military study during our spare time, with the emphasis slightly on the military side.

In a recent number of a service journal, I read of an interesting experiment conducted by a certain colonel. This same colonel was a firm believer in the necessity of honest educational reading.

Upon taking command of the regiment he prepared a list of seventy-five excellent books—military history, history, classics.



and good novels. He required all the officers in the regiment to check the books that they have read. The result was startling.

Fifty-seven officers reported on the list. One officer—the regimental surgeon—had read forty-nine out of the seventy-five listed. Another—a field officer—came second with thirty-eight to his credit. The rest dwindled down to less than six, and the average for the whole regiment was less than thirteen.

The colonel then proceeded to find out what his officers had been reading. He called for a report showing all the books—magazines and newspapers excluded—that had been read by each officer within the past twelve months. This time the lists were equally enlightening.

Most of the older officers have been reading the better class of fiction, with a little history and professional reading interlarded. Forty-six of the fifty-seven had devoted practically all of their literary efforts to such books as "The Shiek," "The Beautiful and Damned," "Tales of the Jazz Age," etc. Reflect on that. Forty-six fifty-sevenths of the regiment were reading such trash, to the virtual exclusion of the better class of literature.

The next step was to call a meeting of all officers of the regiment. There the colonel explained briefly what he had done and why. He outlined to his assembled officers what men in civil life—doctors, lawyers, bankers, teachers, writers—were doing with their spare time. Most of them had less leisure than the average Army officer, but they used it to a decided advantage. To quote the colonel:

"I have found great difference between these men and you—as a class. These men read, they study. They read books pertinent to their various activities, and other books to enlarge their knowledge of their fellowmen and of the world they live in. You do not. As a class, generally speaking, you read practically nothing but the stuff which is written solely to sell."

These remarks applied to all his officers, but more particularly the younger ones. They were the greater offenders by far. In addition to these lists the colonel had also carefully investigated the book situation in the various officers' quarters. In visiting the regimental officers, he noted mentally the number and type in each set of quarters. He struck a rough average, and found it to be nineteen. Most of these were of the type of best sellers already referred to, with a few subscription sets of popular authors thrown in for good measure. Of the nineteen volumes listed, only two were of professional character—that should be sufficient to make one pause and think, should it not? Does it not show that the condition I have previously mentioned is not a product of my own fevered imagination, but actually exists in the Service to-day? Furthermore does it not prove conclusively that it applies more emphatically to the younger officers? But let us to our text again.

Here we are at an important cross roads—recreation and education; we must now decide what proportion of our leisure we should devote to both. If we omit one or the other, we have not a well balanced programme. Compare briefly the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Recreation frees the mind from worry and care—it is a mental house-cleaning. Too little of it is much worse than too much. If we devote all of our time to recreation of the right sort, we will probably live to a ripe old age, and enjoy good health to the end. There is very little danger from too much recreation.

Education packs the mind with youthful information. It is a re-arrangement of the furniture of the mental household, with the frequent acquisition of additional pieces. It properly falls under the classification of work. Too little of it is to be deplored but too much of it is dangerous. The proverbial book-worm is a shining example. He overloads his brain with theoretical knowledge that he cannot possibly live to apply or enjoy.

Lack of recreation means loss of health and too much education and lack of recreation are invariably corollaries.

Therefore, it would appear that a useful limit on education

should be fixed, and the question of recreation will then automatically take care of itself. Let us consider, then, of the several hours daily available to the young officer, I suggest a minimum of half an hour and a maximum of two hours to be consecrated to mental development. If the young man be bookishly inclined, he should stop short at the two hour limit and make himself get out and exercise. If he be of the athletic propensity he should make himself sit still for thirty minutes daily and do a little forced feeding to his brain. Results will surely justify the effort put forth in both cases.

So it would appear that the happy medium is the best course to pursue. Either extreme—too much or too little—is bound to be injurious in the long run. But if the young officers spare time be carefully divided between recreation and a preparation for further mental progress—balancing one against the other as evenly as his natural inclination will permit—he will be sure of reaching a further reward. Soundness and strength of body and mind shall be his.

In conclusion let me sound a note of warning. It is based on my own bitter experience, as well as on observation of those about me. Get yourself into regular habits of recreation and study. It is so easy to put off these little things—to say "Tomorrow?"—And never do them. How many times do we promise ourselves to do certain things, to start next week, or the first of the month, or the first of the year—Oh you know the old story "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

Instead of talking about what you'll do, do it. Make yourself a little schedule for your spare time if necessary and stick to it religiously. Soon you'll find that habits are forming themselves, and each day it becomes a little bit easier. Promise yourself to sow a reasonable amount of good wheat daily, and eliminate the tares and wild oats. Do not forget that there are certain principles—and sayings—that are immutable, on changing through the ages, and one of the best is:

"As ye sow, so shall ye reap?"



## BREAD ALWAYS FRESH FOR SOLDIERS CAMPAIGNING.

It is reported that Mr. Jean Matti, a baker, residing at Pully, near Lausanne, Canton de Vaud, has discovered a method of preserving freshly baked bread. This discovery is the result of ten years of research work which Mr. Matti has perseveringly conducted in the face of disappointing and costly experiments.

On December 4, 1924, Professor Charles Arragon, Cantonal Chemist of the Canton of Vaud, was able to issue officially the following declaration regarding this discovery:—

"The undersigned, Chief of the State Laboratory of the Pure Food Department and Director of the Chemical Analysing and Bacteriological Laboratory of Pure Food of the University of Lausanne, certify that the bread prepared by Matti's system (deposited trade-mark Mattipan) has been perfectly preserved during a period equalling ten months. The length of time may be guaranteed for two years at the minimum, the experiments having been done at a constant temperature of 40 degrees Centigrade."

By reason of the utilitarian nature of this invention, which may render great services to armies and navies, numerous interested inquiries from financiers have been made to Mr. Matti's legal agent. It would appear that all kinds of flour may be used to make "Mattipan" bread, of which the Swiss and international trade-mark have been deposited at the Federal Bureau. The quantitative output is the same as for ordinary bread. The raw material which enters into the composition of the product is very small, and can be found anywhere, and requires an increased cost of only 4 Swiss francs (about 8s. 1d.) per 100 kilos of flour (220 pounds).

# ARMY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

## Soldiers Still Scoring in Fixtures throughout the Country—A Tip for the All-Army Championships—The “Twelfth’s” Hefty Tug-o’-War Team—More of the “Hush! Hush!” Policy.

Comdt. M. A. O'Connor, A.C.E., repeated his performance of 1923 by winning the 100, 220, and 440 yards championship of the Army at Blackrock Baths, on Saturday, the 29th August. Sergeant Flood, Contracts and Disposals Office, Portobello Barracks, was second in each event. Had he made his effort a little earlier in the 440 event the championship might have been secured by him.

\* \* \* \*

The solitary entrant from the Southern Command, Pte. Gibson, made a good show. He is a young swimmer that, with practice, will be heard of to advantage in the future.

\* \* \* \*

Lieut. Sean Collins-Powell, Curragh Camp, swam a fine race to secure the 50 yards handicap.

\* \* \* \*

Capt. John P. Murphy, 21st Infantry Battalion, Collins Barracks, Dublin, was the outstanding player at the Tralee Sports field on Sunday, 23rd August, in the All-Ireland Football Senior Final, Cavan v. Kerry. Sergeant Sexton of the same Battalion also assisted Cavan and was conspicuous by his brilliant play.

\* \* \* \*

Capt. Con Brosnan, Southern Command, at centre-field for Kerry played as is usual with him—brilliantly.

\* \* \* \*

Phil Sullivan, G.H.Q., with Brosnan was mainly responsible for Kerry's victory.

\* \* \* \*

Sergeant J. Higgins, Command O. M's Staff, Collins Barracks, Dublin, gave a wonderful display with Kildare against Wexford in the Leinster Final.

\* \* \* \*

Sergeant Paul Doyle, 21st Infantry Battalion, was missed from the Kildare Team. His loss was regretted by all the players.

\* \* \* \*

Mayo had a comfortable win over Kerry in the 2nd Semi-final All-Ireland Football Championship at Croke Park, on Sunday last.

\* \* \* \*

The successful team had the services of Capt. F. O'Doherty, A. S. I., Curragh Camp and A. Lohan, Custume Barracks, Athlone, both of whom showed good form.

\* \* \* \*

Capt. O'Doherty has been inactive on the Gaelic fields for over 12 months, but judging by his display against Wexford the rest has proved of much value to him.

\* \* \* \*

Sergeant-Major Houlihan, Western Command, assisted Galway in the Junior All-Ireland v. Tipperary. It was not the Sergeant-Major's fault that his team failed to gain the honours.

A prominent player on the Tipperary side was J. Costelloe, late of the Waterford Command. Pte. McAllinden, A.P.C., Collins Barracks, Dublin, won the 220 yards handicap at the Drogheda meeting on Sunday last. He was second in the 440 yards.

\* \* \* \*

Pte O. Murphy of G.H.Q's Staff is doing well at the 100 yards flat and with a little more judgment will be in the reckoning for the 100 yards championship next season.

\* \* \* \*

Pte. McCarthy, Curragh Training Camp is tipped to beat Lieut. Coughlan in the 880 yards flat at the All-Army championships. If he succeeds none will have more admiration for him than the Lieut.

\* \* \* \*

This event should prove very interesting having such entrants as the above-named and Cpl. Rea, Collins Barracks.

\* \* \* \*

If Rea reproduces his home form he may spring a surprise.

\* \* \* \*

Templemore Military Tug-of-War Team won the Silver Cup at the local Sports.

\* \* \* \*

The team trained hard for the event and it is rumoured, so hefty was their pull that in a trial before the contest they succeeded in removing several sound structures in the vicinity of the training ground.

\* \* \* \*

The Secretary of the Army Athletic Association desires to place on record the fact that, with the exception of the G.H.Q. Command Council, he has not received a single report from any of the Athletic Committees within the past two months.

\* \* \* \*

Which illuminating statement the Editor can supplement with the announcement that certain athletic committees meet almost on the doorstep of the editorial office, but manage to keep their proceedings a dark secret from the Army Journal as well as from the Secretary of the A.A.A.

\* \* \* \*

Is it that the pen is lazier than the sword?

\* \* \* \*

To judge by the behaviour of these committees they are really little secret societies.

\* \* \* \*

And as such should be wiped out of existence.

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## SPORTS AT FINNER CAMP.

### No. 1 Brigade, Western Command, hold very Successful Meeting.

The No. 1 Brigade Council A.A.A. held their Annual Sports on the Finner Grounds, on Sunday, 23rd ult. The fixture was well advertised throughout the six counties in addition to the Saorstát. But not in "An t-Oglach." Why?—Ed.) And a fine entry was received for the Open Events, such well-known athletes as W. T. Ahearn, Lieut. Coughlan, Athlone; Pte. Doyle, Athlone; J. Mannion, Derrygonnelly; A. G. Patterson, Garrison; A. Callaghan, Lifford; P. Burke, Dromore; L. Meagher, Letterkenny; and many others attending to make the meeting a huge success.

The No. 1 Army Band was specially sent down from Dublin for the occasion and gave selections which were greatly appreciated. It is hoped that the people in the North-West will be given further opportunities of hearing this splendid band in the near future.

Colonel Conway, O.C. No. 1 Brigade; Commandant T. Crean, Q.M. No. 1 Brigade; Captains M. Doyle and B. Whelan, 2nd Battalion; Lieut. M. A. Scanlon, No. 2 Battalion; Lieut. Roche, Brigade Staff; Captain O'Donovan, Brigade M.O.; B.S.M. Doherty; B.Q.M.S. Kane; Sergt. Gahan; also of the Brigade Staff; Sergt. Rooney; Corpl. O'Connell; Pte. Gleeson and O'Connor, 2nd Battalion H.Q. Staff; and S.M. Sime T. of the 2nd Battalion; Lieut. McManus and Sergt. McCallion, A.C.E. worked like Trojans to make the Sports a success. Corporal H. Barlow, 2nd Battalion H.Q. Staff did the "Hon. Sec." part of the work.

The Catering was carried out in first class style by "Crowders" of Bundoran, and Messrs. Liam Devlin, Army Contractor, Dublin. Mrs. Cronin, wife of Major-General Cronin, distributed the Prizes.

The Competitors in the Confined Events (these events were open only to members of the Army stationed in No. 1 Brigade Area) totalled 175. Some good talent was seen, so good that members of Clubs present from the North asked for Teams to be sent to Sports which were to be held later in the season, in their Districts.

Mr. T. Faulkner, Derry, was the Official Starter and Handicapper. This gentleman received the thanks of the Committee for the way in which he carried out his heavy duties. We hope to have the pleasure of meeting him again in the same capacity.

After the Flat Events, a Boxing Tournament was staged under the following Officials:—Referee—Commandant T. Crean; Judges—Commandant McBrearty, 3rd Battalion; Lieut. McGoldrick, Sligo; Captain J. A. Smart, 2nd Battalion; Lieut. Duffy, Brigade A.P.M.; Timekeeper—Lieut. M. A. Scanlon, 2nd Battalion, M.C.; S.M. Sime, T., 2nd Battalion.

Comments on the different Contests will be seen in appended Report. The general opinion of the spectators was that the Army was doing its utmost to encourage the art of self defence.

#### RESULTS.

100 Yards (Confined).—1, Pte. Duffy, A.P.C.; 2, Sergt. Earnshaw, A.C.C.; 3, Pte. Codd, 2nd Battalion. Duffy won by a yard in 11.1/5 seconds.

100 Yards (Open Handicap)—1st Heat—1, Mannion, 2, Kavanagh; 3, Codd. 2nd Heat—1, Taylor; 2, Pentland; 3, Doyle. Final—1, Mannion (Dromore); 2, Taylor (Letterkenny); 3, W. Kavanagh (Derry). Won by a foot. Time 10 secs.

3 Miles (Open Handicap)—1, Lieut. Coughlan (Athlone); 2, M. Connor (Sligo); 3, McDevitt. This was a fine race. Coughlan keeping well up to his men until the last lap, when he drew to the front with a fine sprint and won in great style, McDevitt just losing the second place by a foot.

High Jump (Confined)—1, Pte. Duffy, A.P.C., 4 feet 11 inches; 2, Pte. Barry and Sergt. Dunne (9th Battalion) tied for second place. On the toss Sergt. Dunne was placed next winner. He jumped 4 feet 10 inches.

220 Yards (Open Handicap)—1, P. Burke (Dromore); 2, W. Kavanagh (Derry); 3, T. Pentland (Derrygonnelly). A very close finish. Burke having nothing to spare in the last few yards.

880 Yards (Confined)—1, Pte. Magahran, 2nd Battalion; 2, Pte. Beatty, 2nd Battalion; 3, Pte. Hannon, 9th Battalion. Pte. Magahran led from start to finish, and won a good race. He is only a youngster and will pay to be trained.

440 Yards (Open Handicap)—1, Lieut. Coughlan (Athlone); 2,

D. J. Taylor (Letterkenny); 3, W. Kavanagh (Derry). This race caused a lot of excitement. It was anyone's race until the straight was reached when these three made a good fight for the places as shown.

Slingsing 56lbs. weight for Height (Confined)—1, Pte. Lawlor, P.A. (9 feet 8 1/2 inches); 2, Pte. McGowan, 2nd Battalion; 3, Pte. Gallagher, P.A.

220 Yards (Confined).—1, Pte. Duffy, A.P.C.; 2, Sergt. Earnshaw, A.C.C. Pte. Duffy after a hard struggle beat Earnshaw on the tapes. Time 28 seconds.

880 Yards (Open Handicap).—1, W. W. T. Ahearn, Mount Nugent; 2, L. Meagher, Letterkenny. This was another very good race. Ahearn giving Meagher 45 yards, which he pulled up in the second lap of the field.

Long Jump (Confined).—1, Pte. Duffy, A.P.C.; 2, Pte. Barry, A.C.C.; 3, Sgt. Dunne, 9th Battalion.

Slingsing 56lbs. (Without follow) (Open).—1, Pte. Lawlor, P.A.'s, Finner; 2, Pte. Gallagher, P.A.'s, Finner. Pte. Lawlor won this event with 2 feet 5 1/2 inches to spare.

1 Mile (Confined).—1, Pte. Magahran, 2nd Battalion; 2, Pte. Rushe, 2nd Battalion; 3, Pte. Boyle, 3rd Battalion. Magahran led a strong field a very hot pace and retained the lead throughout, winning by half a lap. Rushe ran a good race, but has not got the speed of the winning man.

Reveille Race (Confined).—Pte. Tolton, 2nd Battalion had a walk over in this event.

Hop, Step and Jump (Confined).—1, Pte. Duffy, A.P.C.; 2, Pte. Barry, A.C.C.; 3, Sergt. Earnshaw, A.C.C. Duffy won this event with 39 feet 6 1/2 inches.

1 Mile (Open Handicap).—1, W. W. T. Ahearn, Mount Nugent; 2, L. Meagher, Letterkenny; 3, T. Kane, Garrison. Ahearn gave the second man 80 yards and the third man the same distance. But the result was never in doubt after half the distance.

Tug-of-War.—No. 1 Brigade Team v. No. 2 Brigade Team. No. 2 gained the first pulls and ran out winners easily.

Relay Race (Confined).—Owing to the 3rd and 9th Battalion being unable to field a team the 2nd Battalion team ran the course and were awarded the race.

#### BOXING.

Lieut. Barry (Athlone) v. Sergt. Wilson (Finner). This contest lasted only two rounds. In the first the officer brought Wilson to the boards, Wilson then took the measure of his man and had him beaten all the way. In the second round some good punching was seen, Wilson knocking Barry out with a beautiful straight left.

Pte. Harte (Athlone) v. Pte. Roarty (Finner). Harte had his man well in hand from the start and on reaching the fourth put Roarty to the boards for the full count.

Pte. Egan (Athlone) v. Pte. Wall (Finner). This was Wall's first public fight. After the first round he began to warm to his fight and in a fine exhibition of very clean fighting wore Egan down. In the fourth round Egan's seconds threw in the towel.

McDonagh (Athlone) v. Pte. Cullinane (Finner). McDonagh was giving weight away in this contest which went the full six rounds. Some very hard punching was seen and both men showed the effects of a tough struggle. The decision will be mad, known later.

Owing to a misunderstanding between the Team Managers the remainder of the Athlone Team withdrew from the Contests and the other four fights were awarded to the Finner men.



#### EXPLOSION OF JAPANESE AIRSHIP CAUSED BY RADIO WAVES.

It is announced in Japan that after a whole year's investigation it was discovered that the explosion of the S.S. No. 3 Airship attached to the Kasumigaura Air Force on March 19 last year, which caused several of the crew to lose their lives, was due to radio waves.

Dr. T. Terada, Professor in the College of Science of the Tokyo Imperial University, carried out extensive experiments in the University laboratory.

A miniature airship was brought over the experimental table, and radio waves were broadcast to it. Against the metallic paint of the airship the sparks produced a length of 7/8 inches. The explosion was declared due to this cause.

## ARMY SWIMMING GALA AT BLACKROCK BATHS.

Fine weather favoured the Army's annual swimming gala at Blackrock Baths on the 29th August, and there was a good attendance, though one would have expected a much larger representation of Army swimmers amongst the audience. One would also liked to have seen the different Commands better represented. Nobody was present from the Western Command, and there was only one competitor from the Southern.

Commandant O'Connor was the star turn, carrying off the 100, 220, 440 yards Army Championships with ease. Soldier swimmers will have to put up very much stronger representatives if they hope to wrest the championships from him next year. The only swimmers in O'Connor's own class on Saturday were Sergeant Kennedy and Sergeant Flood, and the former was not in swimming form.

Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed at the manner in which the 50 yards confined race was handicapped. Nobody grudged the Curragh men their victory, but it was felt that if more care had been taken with the handicapping they would have had a tough struggle for it.

Keen competition was witnessed in the ladies' race, and the winners fully earned their laurels.

The polo match between Sandycove and Clontarf in the semi-final of the Leinster Senior Cup may not have been first-class polo, but it was very good fun. Sandycove demonstrated their superiority from the very start, and have reason to congratulate themselves upon the possession of two such stalwarts as the Fagans (C. and W.). Cecil Fagan was an electric spark in the water, and brought off some really remarkable saves, whilst W. was a most formidable custodian. The match was admirably controlled by Commandant O'Connor.

Owing, we understand, to last minute entries, there was a big delay before the 100 yards Championship was staged, and care should be taken to obviate similar tardiness at the next gala. It would be better, too, if the names of the competitors were printed on the programme. And we would suggest more variety—say, a diving competition and an obstacle race.

The No. 2 Army Band played a pleasing selection of popular music under the baton of Lieutenant Duff, and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Cronin, wife of the Quartermaster-General.

Details of the events are as follows:—

100 Yards Army Championship—Commandant M. O'Connor, 1; Sgt. Flood, 2; Pte. Gibson, 3. Nine competed. Time, 69 4/5 secs. O'Connor led all the way, and won by eight yards.

220 Yards Army Championship—Comdt. M. O'Connor, 1; Sgt. Flood, 2; Bandsman Nolan, 3. Six competed. Time, 3 mins. 7 secs. O'Connor went to the front at the end of the first lap, and won by twenty yards.

440 Yards Army Championship—Comdt. M. O'Connor, 1; Sgt. Flood, 2; Pte. Keane, 3. Also competed—Sgt. J. J. Kennedy, 18, 4. Twelve competed. Time, 7 mins. 3 4/5 secs. O'Connor took the lead early on, and increasing his advantage at each lap, won by ten yards. Kennedy retired at the end of the fifth lap.

50 Yards (Confined)—Lieut. Powell (9), 1; Comdt. O'Neill (10), 2; Pte. Nolan (9) and Q.M.S. Lawless (11) tied for third place. Time, 40 secs. Eight competed.

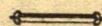
100 Yards (Men) Open—Heat 1—K. S. Schoreman (2), 1; A. Barrett (21), 2; A. P. Healy (17), 3; J. J. Higginbotham (18), 4. Twelve competed. Time, 82 secs. Heat 2—H. Styles (15), 1; K. Doyle (5), 2; E. Lightfoot (15), 3. J. M'Lean (10), 4. Fifteen competed. Time, 72 secs. Final—Barrett, 1; Schoreman, 2; M'Lean and Doyle dead-heated for third place. Time, 78 2/5 secs.

100 Yards (Ladies) Open—Heat 1—Miss L. M'Garry (15), 1; Miss K. O'Connell (12), 2; Miss I. Sullivan (22), 3. Eight competed. Time, 93 secs. Heat 2—Miss M. White (25), 1;

## ALL-ARMY ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### Programme of Events at the Big Curragh Meeting on the 5th inst.

100 Yards.	56 lbs. Over Bar.
220 "	56 lbs. With Follow.
440 "	16 lbs. Shot.
880 "	High Jump.
1 Mile Flat.	Long Jump.
1 Mile Relay (220 Yards).	Pole Jump.
220 "	Hop, Step and Jump.
440 "	Javelin.
880 "	Half Mile Cycle (Roadster Cycles).
3 Miles Flat.	1 Mile Cycle (Roadster Machines).
120 Yards Hurdles.	Tug-of-War (10 men, weigh-in 120 stone).
Discus.	



## HURLING & FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES.

A meeting of the Hurling, Football and Handball Sub-Committee was held at General Headquarters, Parkgate, on Monday, August 31st, Major Doyle, Vice-Chairman, A.A.A., in the chair. Also present—Captain J. P. Murphy, Eastern Command; Lieut. Doyle, General Headquarters; Lieut. Horgan, Curragh Command, and Captain O'Briain, Acting Secretary.

The position of the All-Army Hurling and Football Championships and the Chaplains' and Medical Services' Cups was reviewed, and it was decided to make the following fixtures:—

HURLING—Eastern Command v. Southern Command, at Cork, on Wednesday, September 9th. Referee—Captain Finlay.

FOOTBALL—Eastern Command v. Southern Command, at Cork, on Wednesday, September 9th. Referee—Comdt. Mackey.

HURLING—General Headquarters Command v. Curragh Command, at Kildare or Newbridge, on Sunday, September 13th. Referee—Captain J. P. Murphy.

FOOTBALL—General Headquarters Command v. Curragh Command, at Kildare or Newbridge, on Sunday, September 13th. Referee—Lieut. J. Lanigan.

It was decided to entertain no applications for postponements of the foregoing matches, and to play the Finals at Croke Park (if available) on Sunday, 4th October.

It was also decided to ascertain the opinion of the Southern Command as to the suitability of Cork as the venue for the Eastern Command v. Southern Command matches.

The matter of Comdt. Kingston's expenses incurred through refereeing matches at Longford was introduced by Lieut. Horgan, and referred to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Fixtures in Chaplains' and Medical Services' Cups were left over until Championships are completed.

The question of Handball Courts was discussed, and referred to next meeting of Standing Committee.

Miss D. Sullivan (20), 2; Miss A. O'Connell (12), 3. Six competed. Time, 100 secs. Heat 3—Miss Ryan (16), 1; Miss D. Mooney (10), 2; Miss K. White (22), 3. Nine competed. Time, 92 secs. Final—Miss M'Garry, 1; Miss D. Mooney, 2; Miss K. White, 3. Won by a touch. Time, 94 secs.

Water Polo—Leinster Semi-Final—Sandycove, 2; Clontarf, 0.

## PORTOBELLO INSTITUTE.

### Record of Splendid Work Well Done.

#### EXAMPLE TO THE ARMY.

The Portobello Institute meeting which was held at the Canten Buildings on Monday, 31st ult., was the most successful of many successful meetings held since the Institution was founded.

Judging from the large attendance, representative of the various units, the work of the Institute has been taken up in the right spirit by the various Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men.

A brief survey of the work accomplished may be of interest to "An t-Oglach" readers.

Within the past 12 months a small committee was formed from amongst the units stationed at Portobello Barracks, with the intention of formulating a scheme to make barrack life more home-like and cheerful for troops. The influence of this committee soon penetrated the whole Brigade area, and as a result of hard work lending libraries were established at Portobello, Naas, and other centres.

During the Winter months Whist Drives, Band Recitals and Lantern Lectures were organised in the several centres. A boon which was much appreciated by the troops was the providing of hot suppers each night up to 9.30.

Owing to the influence of the members of the committee several tennis courts were laid down and prepared for use by the N.C.O.'s and men.

For the coming Winter a comprehensive programme has been thought of which includes Irish language classes, Irish dance classes, dramatic and minstrel troupes, debating societies and a continuance of last year's amusements on a larger scale.

It now rests with the Officers commanding Battalions and Units to give their wholehearted support to the committee's endeavours and so ensure for their men clean, healthy amusement in surroundings denuded of many of the temptations to which our men are subjected outside barracks.

An example to the various commanders has been set by Col. J. H. McGuinness, O.C. No. 7 Brigade, to whose untiring efforts much of the Institute's success is due.

#### THIS WEEK'S MEETING.

The following are the minutes of the last meeting:—

The usual meeting of the No. 7 Brigade Area Institute Committee was held on Monday, 31st August, at 11 a.m., in the Dry Canteen, Portobello Barracks. Rev. Father Casey, C.P., presiding. Also present—Comdt. Saurin, Comdt. Devlin (Brigade Staff), Commandant Wedick (23rd Batt.), Commandant Noone (22nd Batt.), Commandant Hegarty, Captain Daly and Sergt. Burke (27th Batt.), Commandant Gantley, Capt. Barry and Pte. Kelly (7th Batt.), Sergt. Kennedy, Sergt. Dack and the Secretary (Records).

The Secretary read a letter from the Army Finance Officer stating that the bagatelle table, which was purchased on behalf of Cumann Sugraidh an Airm, was awaiting removal from Tallaght Camp, and Commandant Devlin undertook to supply transport for the conveyance of same to Portobello.

#### Men's Suppers.

The Officers Commanding Battalions present informed the meeting that, in view of the depleted conditions of Battalion

Funds, a considerable difficulty would be experienced in the future as regards supplying supper to the men. Commandant Devlin promised to meet the Battalion Quartermasters with a view to overcoming the difficulty.

#### Library.

Sergt. Dack informed the Committee that he was not able to meet the increasing demand for books, and asked the Rev. Chairman to use his utmost endeavour to expedite delivery of the books selected under the Government Grant.

#### Billiards.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the arrangements for the last Billiard Handicap, and the Secretary invited Commandant Noone to attend a meeting of Cumann Sugraidh an Airm which would be held on Wednesday, the 2nd September, at 11.30 a.m., in the Dry Canteen, where the matter could be further discussed.

Sergt. Kennedy reported that arrangements were proceeding satisfactorily for another Billiard Handicap for prizes presented by Cumann Sugraidh an Airm.

#### Winter Amusements.

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the O.C.'s of the different units within the Brigade Area, with a view to the establishment of Irish language, Irish dancing and dramatic classes, minstrel troupes, debating societies, whist drives and lantern lectures during the coming Winter months.

#### Premises.

Commandant Saurin stated that the efforts to secure the evacuation of the Institute's premises had so far been unsuccessful, and promised to continue his endeavours to this end.

#### Savings Certificates.

The Rev. Chairman was asked to invite the Organiser of the Central Savings Association to re-visit the barracks, as there were some details on which further information was desired regarding the method of collecting subscriptions within the Battalion.

#### Louvain College.

Father Casey expressed satisfaction at the amount subscribed on behalf of Louvain College, and thanked the members present for their successful efforts.

The next meeting was fixed for Monday, 28th September, 1925, at 11 a.m.

A vote of thanks to the Rev. Chairman concluded the meeting.



### QUERIES FROM THE HIBERNIAN SCHOOLS.

What do we think of the Special Company now?

Who is responsible for the suggestion that Tommy G— should go in for Whippet Racing?

Who was responsible for the following new detail in Guard Mounting—"Two by day and four by Two. Even Numbers right files; odd numbers blank files"?

Is it true that a certain N.C.O. is proceeding to Cairo in the near future to attend a demonstration in Tent Pitching? We hope the climate agrees with him.

Is it true that Caulfield and Kinlan have entered for World's Championship of the High Jump and McGill for the Command half-inch?

Who is the "Senior Corporal" of the Battalion? Is he entitled to a spring bed?

Is it true that the N.C.O.'s course put the "wind up" the Orderly Room staff?

## A DASH TO DUTY.

### If you go on Week-end Leave with a Motor Cycle—Leave a Wide Margin.

I have the misfortune to have a motor bicycle. Yes, but I'm proud of it too. Of course it is old, and looks it, but still 'tis serviceable—very! Every Seosamh, Sean and Seumas of the Sergeants' Mess here can swear to this, for you may bet they have had their turn of it.

That is where part of my misfortune comes in. When I go to take the bike out I generally find a note saying that the writer, being unable to find me (he didn't search far!) and feeling sure (oh! so sure) that I would be only too delighted, had gone off for a spin. Of course when he returns he forgets to leave another note to say that he had lost the horn, damaged the brakes and smashed a few spokes and that he has ordered it to be repaired at his own expense.

But this is getting away from what I'm trying to tell you. I never had a puncture, nor a leak in the carburettor, nor any of the many faults that all the boys frequently found wrong with my bike. I never broke down and—wonders of wonders!—never had my number taken. The only thing that ever happens to the bike is that there's never any petrol for it after Sunday. Friday's our pay-day.

The higher authorities having decided that the Army would be able to struggle along without my valuable services for one week-end, granted my application for leave until 10.00 hrs. Monday morning. Off with me then on Saturday—home. Boys! how she flew. I got home in two hours—fifty miles—not bad for the old creak after all it had suffered at the hands of my friends.

The soldier son was duly welcomed and the fatted calf (in this case, a goose) duly executed. 'Twas a great week-end! I enjoyed myself immensely, and consumed enough home-made bread and buttermilk to help me to digest the Army "grub stakes for another few months."

Got up early on Monday, breakfasted, and started off on the bike at 6.30 sharp. My steed was in great order. I had oiled it, etc., the night before, and, having given myself 3½ hours to travel fifty miles, I felt sure that I would be "on parade" by 10.00 hrs.

Speeding through beautiful, wooded country early on a fine Autumn morning is indeed exhilarating. I sang every song I could think of during the first ten miles, and was just about to recommence the whole repertoire when—whouf!—with an extra loud bang the engine stopped and the bike did ditto.

My interest was transferred from the scenery to the "in-nards" of the machine forthwith. There was plenty of petrol, the carburettor seemed to be enjoying good health, the compression was robust; plug, magneto—all well. What the deuce was wrong?

Nothing for it but an exhaustive autopsy. I unscrewed the carburettor—'twas clean, and seemingly working all right. Recleaned the plug, tested it. Tried the compression, experimented all sorts of ways with the ignition, and started at the lubrication brakes. No result save a growing feeling of despair.

What time was it? A quarter to eight! Great Scot! That bike would have to go somehow. I lost my temper and kicked the starter angrily—pouf!—wouf!!—wouf!!!—she had started!

Carefully I mounted, feeling as if in a dream: slowly and with great caution slipped in the clutch. Boys! She was off! I often heard of the seventh heaven of delight, but never experienced it till then.

Round the corner, over the bridge, past Dempsey's, through Kil—, three miles covered; five! She was going like a Ford. I wouldn't take long now—wiff! Stopped again!

I kicked the starter till I was tired: laid down and rested;

got up and kicked again; shoved the bike down the hill; shoved it up the hill and back again.

Nothing doing! Black despair. 9.25 a.m. and far from the barrack square. I was in for it all right!

Another rest and up again. Did I or did I not turn off the petrol tap? Let's see. Wouff! She was purring like an old cat. By the hokey, that's what was wrong with it! Blind idiot—caochóg mór!

I was off again, twenty miles to go in half an hour. I travelled—my number certainly would have been taken had any Garda been around!

Ten miles to go—five. Paul Revere's ride was in the ha'penny place. Kildare. Ten minutes more and I was there.

The Camp limit! The Barrier, Ponsonby, Stewart—I was there at last at twenty minutes past ten. No so bad considering!

I shoved the bike into the little shed, straightened my belt and doubled out to report my return. Strange! The square was empty. The Battalion must be out practising for the manoeuvres. Ha! there was Lieut. ———. Click! The salute was splendid.

"Good morning, a Shairsint, anything wrong?"

"Well, sir, I'm sorry. I'm twenty minutes late, but I ———"

"What! Were you to be back to-day? Show your pass. . . . From 13.00 hrs. 1/8-'25, to 10.00 hrs. 4/8-'25. Why, that's to-morrow!"

"To-morrow, sir?"

"Yes, to-day's a Bank holiday. No parades. All passes dated till to-morrow morning. Did you not know that? I would not be here myself only I'm Orderly Officer."

Exit C.Q.M.S. ———

Now, I ask you!

Q. M. (Curragh Camp).

## 12th INFANTRY BATTALION TEMPLEMORE.

For the furtherance of Irish in the Army, the following, from the writer of these Notes, is respectfully suggested:—  
"That from the 1st of October, 1925, to the termination of winter a suitable member of the No. 1 (Irish Speaking) Battalion be posted to each of the Infantry Battalions, for the purpose of giving instructions in the Irish language." We can see no more practical way of having the language taught.

Ptes. Maher and Scanlan of this Battalion would like to meet two junior Army handball players in a friendly contest at an early date. These soldiers represent the "Twelfth" in hurling and football, respectively, and Maher recently beat a well-known Mid-Tip. Gael in handball by a small margin.

Three members of the Battalion Hurling Team have each been presented with an exceptionally fine photograph of the Southern Command Hurling Team—Winners All-Army Championship, 1924—by Capt. O'Higgins, Collins Barracks, Cork. The recipients of the photographs played on the occasion of the victory. The C.O. was presented with a similar photograph.

Some difficulty was experienced recently in this Barrack in locating the bugler. One bright youth suggested that a bugler be got to find him. It was the same soldier who suggested writing to a certain firm in Dublin for their address.

ROS CAIRBRE.

TO LET.

ATHLONE.—Rooms to let and use of kitchen; suit Officer; very reasonable.—Mrs. Malone, Excise St.

## GRAMOPHONE RECORDS FOR THE SOLDIERS' MESSSES.

In our last issue our correspondent with the 5th Battalion announced that the men of "C" Company had bought a gramophone, and would be glad of a list of records "appropriate to the Boys in Green." Pressure of other duties has prevented us from making out a very big list for this issue, but we hope to return to the subject from time to time and publish information of records of an Irish character.

The H. M. V. McCormack records are all safe, and well worth purchasing, but they are a trifle expensive. Quite a large number of very good records of Irish character are issued in the cheaper makes, but there are also some very poor ones, and care must be exercised in purchase.

J. C. Doyle, the well-known Dublin baritone, has made six discs for the "Winner" series (Edison Bell), which are published at half-a-crown each. The only one of them that the writer possesses is that with "Bantry Bay" on one side and "Molly Dooley Darlin'" on the other. It is quite good, and if the others are equal to it they are worth the money. The titles include "When he who Adores Thee," "The Meeting of the Waters," "Off in the Stilly Night," "She is far from the Land," "The Ould Plaid Shawl," "Avening and Bright" and "Little Mary Cassidy."

Among the other half-crown double-sided "Winner" records are some very good recordings of jigs and reels by the famous piper, Liam Walsh (Union Pipes), and James O'Mahony, the fiddler. There is also a piccolo record of old Irish dances by the late Eli Hudson.

It is not generally known that the Parlophone Company, who are the English branch of a famous German gramophone firm, have issued a number of Irish discs. The only ones of which I can speak from personal knowledge are the splendid violin records by Miss Edith Kelly-Lange, which were issued a couple of months ago. They include:—1, Air, "Emer's Farewell;" Reel, "The Wind that Shakes the Barley;" Reel, "The Flower of Donnybrook;" Slow Air, "The Wheelwright;" Reel, "The New Potatoes;" Reel, "The Merry Blacksmith;" and, 2, Air, "Little Brother of my Heart;" Hornpipe, "The Harvest Home;" Hornpipe, "The Good-Natured Man;" Air, "Farewell but Whenever" (arranged by Edith Kelly-Lange), solo.

These discs are two-and-six each, and other Parlophone records at the same price include "I'm Sitting on the Stile, Mary," and "The Minstrel Boy," by Harry Thornton, baritone, who has also made records of "Dark Rosaleen," "Off to Philadelphia," "Let Erin Remember" and "Savourneen Deelish."

The Velvet Face firm is the company that made the records of the Army No. 1 Band (which records, by the way, must be played at a speed of 85 at least, in order to get the best results). All their discs have now been reduced in price (including the Army Band ones)—the 4s. 6d. to 4s. and the 3s. to 2s. 6d.

Regal records include a large number of Irish recordings, most of which are really good. J. C. Doyle sings "The Soldier's Song" and "Men of the West" excellently, and has also a record in this list of "Wrap the Green Flag Round Me, Boys," with "The West's Awake" on the other side. These discs are half-a-crown each. At the same price this firm issues records by Gerard Crofts of "Who Fears to Speak of '98" ("Kelly of Killan" on the reverse), "Raithineach a Bhean Bheag (in Gaelic) with "Annie Dear" on the other side. Personally the writer does not care much for this singer, but he has many admirers.

If it is possible to get the Vocalion Gaelic records at the present day they should be bought. The writer has "An Maidrin Ruadh," and it is as perfect a Gaelic record as could be desired, but it needs an adequate needle and correct speed.

Next week we hope to return to this subject.

## Our Information Bureau.

### Transfer.

"Hopeful" (Curragh).—Apply for transfer in the usual manner through your Commanding Officer.

### Pension.

"Worried" (Cork).—A soldier may draw his pension anywhere. In the case of a Military Service Pension or a wound or injury Pension he need not apply in person but may be called upon to do so if circumstances render this action necessary.

"Fair Play" (Mullingar).—We do not know of any save that provided under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1924.

### Dependants' Allowance.

"Justice" (Curragh).—Write to the Officer I/C Dependants' Allowance Branch, Portobello Barracks, Dublin, giving full particulars of your claim.

"Anxious" (Collins Barracks).—No replies by post. You will receive a reply in the next issue.

### Claim.

"J.C." (Islandbridge).—The matter is at present under investigation in the Quartermaster-General's Department.

### Proficiency Pay.

"Finner" (Donegal).—Your appointment does not warrant payment of additional pay under the terms of the existing regulations which confine such issues to Technical Storemen.

"Wanted" (Athlone).—You should refer the matter to your Commanding Officer who will take the matter up with the Officer I/C. Records, with a view of securing the necessary verification to enable him to publish the appointment to Class II. Private in Battalion Orders. The publication through orders automatically carries the pay of the appointment.

"Volunteer" (Griffith Barracks).—The existing Pay regulations do not permit of the issue of additional pay in respect of your appointment.

"Interested" (Dublin).—No additional pay is issuable save in respect of N.C.O's. and men engaged at the trades specifically covered in the pay regulations.

### Grade Pay.

"Staff" (G.H.Q.).—Your case is being investigated.

"Curious" (Collins Barracks).—See reply to Staff above.



One man's idea of a Recreational Half-Holiday.

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## GOSSIP OF THE BARRACKS.

### GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, PARKGATE, DUBLIN.

#### OVERHEARD.

N.C.O. i/c Room—"Oh! Sergeant, Private Murphy has swallowed a nail." Sergeant—"Righto; mark it off the Inventory Book."

#### THE SOLDIER CLERK—(1st Hookum).

I'm a giddy young soldier clerk, tra la!

Attached to H.Q., for a lark, tra la!

I go through the mill

On the Square at my drill,

And I have a Flat, in McKee, in the Park, tra la!

Tho' I'm a trifle short of the cash, tra la!

Yet I cut the deuce of a dash, tra la!

On the Proficiency Pay

Of ninepence a day

The Polo I watch in the Park, tra la!

The Laundry Grounds are now out of bounds. Another wash out!

Innovations, it's true

On Parades are but few,

They're nearly always confined to a groove,

But up in the H.Q.,

Where the drill we can do,

We've welcomed the new game of "Move."

The evacuation of "B" Block by Mac's Light Horse was carried out on Saturday, 22nd August. No Salvage!

Charlie Dillon has returned from Holidays. Bring in the Bull!

#### IN THE MESS.

"Mac, I can't finish my dinner. I've lost my appetite." Mess Orderly. "Lost your appetite. Well, Heaven help the gink that finds it."

On Monday you join in the queue,

For Baths up here in H.Q.,

If you're small and you're thin,

You've got a chance to get in,

If you're fat bring a shoe-horn with you

(If not it's a case of Na Poo!)

Sergeant Teddie McCracken and his troop of "Sea Lions" gave a fine exhibition of life-saving in the Red House Square the other afternoon. It is rumoured that Q.M.S Paddy Hodgins and his troop of "U Boats" have arranged a challenge Water Polo Match!

The "Riffs" in "G" Block, McKee Barracks, have now started Autumn Manœuvres. It is to be hoped that the "Riffs" in "B" Block won't follow suit!

#### ORDERLY MAN—(3rd Spasm).

Oh, Orderly man you've a tug-o'-war way with you

All the P.A's are wishful to play with you,

Even the Remounts have good things to say for you,

When you pull them at tug-o'-war Orderly man,

So here's a good pull to you Orderly man,

And get back into training as soon as you can,

May the sun shine for you,

The Artillery pine for you,

(Hope it keeps fine for you) Orderly Man!

The Clerks Unit held their monthly "At Home" on Saturday, 22nd August, for Kit Inspection purposes. "Quick ones" were the order of the day, and G.H.Q. Company were obliging! The "Cossacks" from "B" Block supplied the Orchestra—minus the Melodeon—under the conductorship of your man Spencer, and tea was served in the Mess, "Jock" presiding!

New arrival in McKee Barracks surveying the remnants of his Kit: "When I came here first I could hardly close my trunk, but now, bedad, I've neither clothes nor trunk!"

The wearing of Oxford Bags is not confined to the Sergeants' Mess. A well-known gink in the Clerks' Unit sports a pair (official issue) Portobello origin!

Yes, we were at Bray Sports on Sunday, Aug. 23rd. To make room for the "Prizes" in the Char-a-Banc several well-known sports volunteered to go home by train—and, I may add, knew how to!

The Sports were a treat, in fact the whole evening was a series of "treats." After the tug-o-war a well-known wag remarked, that "it was a good job the Esplanade was there, or a certain well-known team would have been lugged across to Ireland's Eye!" Jeff's oration from the lorry was a masterpiece. So was the Driver's! All the Heads were there that evening, and, I may add, that there were quite a number of Heads the following morning!

We are looking forward to the "Spasm" which is to take place on the 27th September. All the "boys of the Village" are going, and also a few "town lads." A great night is expected. With Jimmy Keyes, Charlie Dillon, and "Me Larkie" on the Committee—well, it should be a *trifle* lively!!

#### THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW:—

The date of (1) G.H.Q. Excursion, (2) Jimmy Keyes Hooley? How many Sergeants in McKee Barracks suffer from Insomnia?

Did "Susie" find his slacks in Collins Barracks?

What did Mick Brophy think of his hair cut?

What did Maurice think of the train journey from Bray?

What did Paddy Hodgins think of the "Bursting" spasm?

Is the Sergeants' Mess Slogan of "Reduce please" copyright?

What do the boys think of the new order "Stand up straight" on a certain parade?

What was the story that the Corporal told the Sergeant at Bray?

Is Jeff an optimist?

What did the boys think of the Billet changing last Saturday, and is Gillard going to give a house warming?

Are "living out" men permitted to supply their own transport for conveying Kit for inspection?

Did Tom close the Clothes Emporium during Kit Inspection?

Did Harry Connolly really think water was so expensive?

Was Jack Early really late the other morning?

This Week's Slogan:—"Stand Fast McKee Barracks. Remainder Dismiss."



#### COLLINS BARRACKS, DUBLIN.

Heard somewhere (not in Collins Barracks) after a recent big march:—

Troops form up on Square upon Return. C.O. congratulates N.C.O's. and Men on turn out, then orders: "Any N.C.O. or man willing to do a further 10 miles remain steady. Remainder take two paces forward." All moved forward save one man. C.O. approaches to congratulate him only to dis-

cover the immovable soldier had remained still simply because he was too "dead beat" to take the two paces forward.

Our genial "Charlie" has gone holidaying abroad, and it is freely rumoured that part of the time will be spent Honey-mooning. So that is another for the Big List. He has the best wishes of all.

The 21st will soon again take to the Football Field. Company matches will be the first practice. The Hurlers will also soon be getting a move on.

"Blewey" and the rest of our 24th friends have again left us for their own H.Q. Sergeant Cregan is a Humourist and Gramophone at same time while playing Billiards, and depression never tarries where he stays.

"Mayo" of Battalion Police fame seemed very pleased at the success of his County.

A certain B.O.S. when asked to take part in a game of Draughts replied, "Sure I've been doing nothing else since Reveille only moving."

"Larry" and Sergeant John McG. recently gave an exhibition of how balls were potted.

L.I. 00000000 reported its arrival recently, and is now "Stationery."

Sergeants G. and H. recently attempted some of the "Cossacks" touches in a recent Billiard Game. Warbling was also indulged in.

A very common remark, "Goalie let ball slip through his fingers." Goalie must have some hand.

"Siki" has now been gone some months, but "Ginger" makes a good substitute, and his assistance is much appreciated by the employees at the "Dry."

The Recreation Corporal and his able assistant are about to declare war if Overdue Books not returned forthwith.

Little heard of the "Scout Boys" these times. What is wrong?

The B.O. (Bath Orderly) is kept busy these times, and tells an amusing water story.

Often heard about "Money to Burn" but what Orderly tried to boil a valuable Red Note lately?



**5th INFANTRY BATTALION.**

Milestones! Hm. I had always thought they looked nice but somehow they remind me now of cemeteries. As the Banjo Bard of Empire sings:—

"An' if your 'eels are blistered and they feels to 'urt like 'ell, You drop some tallow in your socks and that will make 'em well."

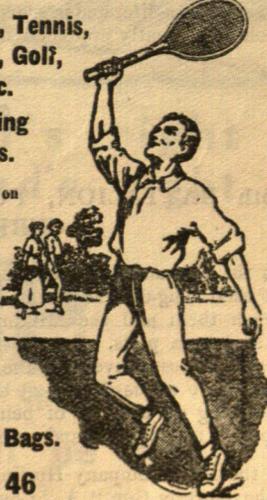
Route marches! Well, quite a lot of "Felixes" lost their reputations on the last one. That reminds me, by the way, of the latest expression of 'the workin', worritin', cussing 'ole bloke, the Company Sergeant Major.'

Sergeant (to hefty straggler on verge of collapse). "Pick 'em up, you cailin ban a chruthadh na mbo!"

In the Command Inter-Company Athletic Competition the 5th Battalion secured second place. Cheers! A few more months and plenty of that jam roll stuff and we will take first place even from the Military Police, big and all as they are!

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"A" Company played "B" and "H.Q." combined on Sunday, at Newbridge, and beat them too! No wonder with the rig-outs they had!

The following were recipients of splendid gold medals as the best all-round athletes of their respective Companies:—A/Cpl. Hodgins, "B" Company; A/Cpl. Keogh, "C" Company and Cpl. Banks, "D" Company. The medals were presented by their Company Captains.

Cheers for a life under canvas! Our stay at the Hibernian Schools was greatly appreciated. We want some more.



### 15th BATTALION, PONSONBY BARRACKS, CURRAGH.

At the Command Sports the 15th again gave a good display with their Tug-of-War Team, and a fine tussle was witnessed between them and the Military Police. The 15th won after two strenuous pulls. Cpl. Cassidy and Cpl. Lennon were first and second respectively in the half-mile Cycle Race, and Cpl. Ahearn gave a fine display at the Pole Jump. Although he had no training on account of being on the Special Company, he jumped 8 ft. 10½ ins. and won easily.

In the Inter-Company Hurling League within the 9th Brigade for the Hurling Cup "A" Company 15th Battalion beat "A" Company 26th Battalion in the final. The match was very keenly contested, and a fine spirit of emulation was witnessed. "A" Company of the 15th lead the whole way through, and won by 6 goals 4 points to 3 goals 2 points.

After the match the Cup was presented by Commdt. J. J. Kingston, at a reception given by the 15th Battalion, in the Battalion Institute, where both teams were entertained.

A draft of recruits has been posted to the Battalion and goes to form the nucleus of "B" Company. There is very promising material amongst them, and we may expect to hear from this Company in the near future. They have already sent out challenges to the other three Companies.

The gallant boys of "A" Company have again won the Premier Cup in the Inter-Company Drill Competition as detailed in the last issue of "An t-Oglach." They left no shadow of doubt as to who were the victors, as their total score 13,684 points, was a win by 999 points.

After the 18 miles Route March which concluded at Storecross, Pte. Maher, Pte. Kinsella and about six more of the boys organised an impromptu Concert, and the remainder of the Company joined in dancing half-sets. After this they started on the attack, which measured about 4 miles down to the Camp, and up to the firing ranges. They had some rough ground to get over going up to the ranges, but their one objective and true spirit brought them over this all right. They absolutely riddled the targets, and almost scored the possible for the Tactical Operation.

When they rejoined the Battalion on Tuesday, 18th Aug., B., C. and D. Companies were formed up on each side of the road leading to the Battalion Parade Ground, as the Premier Company approached they presented Arms, and "A" Company marched proudly through.

That evening at 8 o'clock, there was a smoking concert in which all Officers, N.C.O's. and men of the Battalion participated. The Battalion Commander, Commandant Peadar O'Conlon congratulated Captain Sean O'Meara, Lieut. Sean

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Collins Powell, Lieut. Sean Lynch, and the N.C.O's. and men of the Premier Company, on their victory and said he felt very proud of being in Command of such a fine body. He explained in detail the work done by the Premier Company while they were competing, and dwelt on the good name that they had achieved for the Battalion. He asked the remainder of the Battalion to do their daily duties with the same determined spirit, and keen interest as the Premier Company showed on the competition.

The Battalion Adjutant, Captain Louis Marie congratulated the Officers, N.C.O's. and men of the Company, and said that he was very sorry he was not the O.C. of the Special Company again this year, but he was glad to hand over the title of Premier Captain to Captain O'Meara.

Captain O'Meara thanked the Officers, N.C.O's. and men of his Company for the excellent manner in which they had performed their duties, and pointed out exceptional cases, such as the Lewis Gunners, who were carrying a heavy load on the march, and in the attack, also his Orderly who was running about carrying messages during the attack, in full Marching Order. Those men never grumbled, but were glad that they were there to do it, and it was the same with every man in the Company.

The Platoon Officers mentioned above congratulated the N.C.O's. and men of the Company in a similar manner to that of their Company Commander.

The Concert ended about 10 p.m. with the singing of "The Soldier's Song."

The Premier Cup was presented to the Officer Commanding the Company on the 24th ult., on Beresford Barracks Parade Ground, by the G.O.C., Major General Sean MacEoin, who congratulated the Commanding Officer, his Staff, and the Officers, N.C.O's. and men of the Company, and commented favourably on their strenuous efforts to achieve, what they did achieve by winning the Cup two years in succession, the title of the best trained Company in the Army.

We wish to convey our sincere thanks to Colonel J. J. O'Connell for his instructive lessons on tactics.

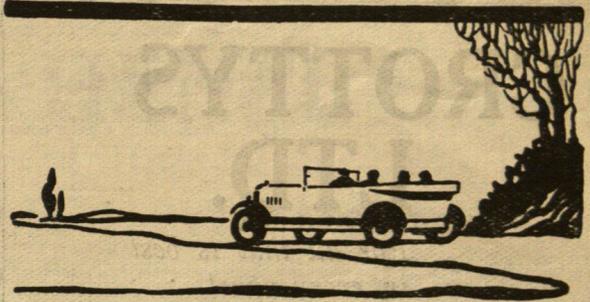
## THE LATEST IN AIRCRAFT TACTICS.

More than the other armies, that of the United States seems to be concentrating on exceptional training for its aviators. In a recent issue we detailed the parachute drill, in which a man had to drop from a plane at a height of a mile or more, in order to qualify for his certificate. According to the latest news from the States, they are now concentrating on a method of changing crews in mid air.

The idea is to find out how long a plane can remain aloft. The problem of replenishing the petrol tanks was solved some time ago, by flying the supply craft immediately over the other and feeding the latter with fuel through flexible pipes. In a recent American test a big biplane had its tanks refilled no less than fifteen times by this method. The difficulty has been, however, how to replenish the man power in the machine. While it might be possible to keep the engines going indefinitely, human endurance has a limit, and the problem arose of replacing a tired pilot and engineers whilst the plane was in flight.

It is not stated if the experiment has yet been carried out, but the lines on which it is to be conducted are known. Briefly, the relief crew are carried aloft by the plane that is going to refuel the craft making the endurance test. Arrived over the latter, connection is made between the two by telescopic ladders, which will carry a wind shield, and by means of these the transfer of personnel will be effected.

The result of the experiment will be awaited with interest in all military flying circles.



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## ON THE WAY TO THE MANŒUVRES.

### The March of the "Twelfth" from Templemore to Limerick.

On Thursday morning the 13/8/25, the personnel of the above Battalion, left their Stations, to march to Limerick, preparatory to proceeding on the Annual Army Manœuvres. The entire party consisting of three hundred all ranks, was ready to march off by 9 a.m. and presented a very smart appearance drawn-up on the Battalion Square, awaiting the order to move.

The weather conditions in the morning were very favourable for marching, being cool and breezy, but, as the day wore on the heat gradually became greater and from noon onwards was oppressive.

"A" Company furnished the Advance Guard and "D" Company the Rear Guard. Transport travelled in rear, each Company supplying an escort of Cyclists. Communication between the advance guard and the main body was maintained by cyclists. The men marched in battle order and each was provided with one blanket, in addition to ordinary kit. The party carrying rifles was augmented by a machine gun team.

The first halt took place outside the village of Borrisoleigh, seven miles from Templemore.

Transport containing rations arrived about noon to find the troops "halted," but not "resting," for most of them were dancing to the music of melodeons.

After attending to the inner man the journey to Nenagh, thirteen miles distant was resumed. The party rested in Nenagh overnight in the recently vacated barracks. The advance guard supplied inlying picquet and Guards.

I'm sure many of the men could not help pondering on the changed conditions under which they garrisoned the old barracks on that night. The thoughts of some, no doubt, travelled back to the time when they were stationed in the same barrack, one, two and three years previously. Some, too must have pondered on the lively week-ends they often spent there for Nenagh has a peculiar knack of drawing the military to it even those who were never previously stationed there.

The journey to Limerick, twenty-four miles from Nenagh, was resumed early on the morning of the 14th, and completed early that evening.

The 4th Brigade Pipers' Band met our troops outside Limerick City and played them to their destination, the New Barracks.

While all the Companies deserve praise for the endurance displayed on so long a march, special mention must be made of the O/C "A" Company (Capt. Goggin), and his men.

Manœuvres commenced on the 1st inst., and on their completion, more in that connection may be heard from the "Twelfth."

S. U. A. M.

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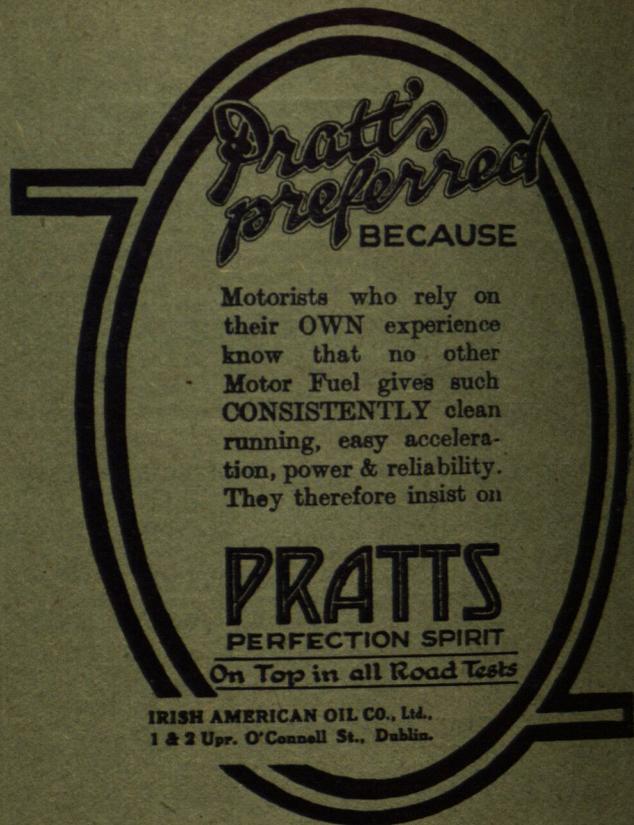
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