

### OFFICER BALL NINE CAUGHT WITH RINGER

#### Line Men Try to Get Away With Sergeant in Box

### BUT COLONEL SAYS NAY

#### Army School Provided One Form of Training Not Down on the Book at G.H.Q.

There is one thing about the Army School of Line at G.H.Q. that wasn't mapped out at G.H.Q. and that is its ball team.

This team hasn't got all of Spaulding's strategy mastered, but at least it conforms to the tables of organization of a ball team. The majors and lieutenants on it might make a Caesar's laurel wreath look like a bunch of dried corn husks, but they will never shirk Ty Cobb off the shelf.

They just play at the game, and about all the practice they get is passing Cheval Rouge at the Line school mess and running from their bunk rooms to classes to maintain liaison between Mess and Marquee. This team was born on a bluff and has thrived on the accidents of fortune.

An Intelligence school was started recently and after they painted some new signs for the doors, they challenged the Line school to a game. The Line school adjutant called for volunteers and a regular Valley Forgearrison reported. There were colleagues who barnstormed the northwest and a few starns who helped Spaulding write the book and some who were honest and admitted they would have to learn. And so everybody drew ordnance property from the Y.M.C.A. and the game was fixed for a date when the Romans once camped when they fought the original Huns, and the Intelligence school thought they were ready too, and they began to seek an umpire.

#### Hard Umpire Found

A high ranking officer was needed for an umpire, somebody who was hard and could call the strikes without swaying the referee. The umpire was a white-brown and a low, loud voice. So the personnel bureau at G.H.Q. sent a colonel named Johnson, who is so hard he uses a cactus plant for a powder puff after shaving. He is the only man extant who has umpired games in the Texas league and anybody who can umpire a Texas league game without getting a wound chevron or a pension for his widow is queque umpire.

So they had an umpire and two teams and everything but pop and peanuts and programs, and the Intelligence team came up to bat. A chap named Sheehan mounted the mound for the Line and Colonel Johnson swept off the home plate and adjusted his gas mask and an Intelligence captain was in the batter's box doing Butts' Manual with the willow.

The colonel leaned over the pitcher's shoulder with his hands behind his back holding an umpire's adding machine and Sheehan drew an ace, the ace Olympic pose and then unbound and fired a round past the batter. The colonel bawled "strike," and the Intelligence observer on the first-base line told him to lower his sights, and then the colonel sent the mouthy observer to the S.O.S. and Sheehan wound into another pose.

When he came out of it again, it looked as though the batter was going to get a wound chevron in his ribs, but the ball ricocheted and cut the plate. The umpire knew all about horseshoe ballistics and signalled a strike.

#### Ringer Is Discovered

Then the Intelligence discovered that Sheehan wasn't wearing a Sam Browne belt and they all assembled around the umpire as though he was a Hun prisoner and they were going to heckle him about the morale of the German army. They said if the Line school was going to use any non-commissioned ringers, they would not have the game until after the big League season when they could use some of the draftee stars.

So the Line put in a new pitcher and everything was conducted along amateur lines except the umpiring. The Intelligence had plenty of liaison and the batters reconnoitered the whole score sheeting and flies.

The sixth inning was a tie. The Line got a few patrols out in the Intelligence infield that fattened out all the infielders. The Liners circled the bases like stavedore privates in a chow line. Everybody was excited except the umpire, who got disgusted with the Liners and called them out one, two, three, in the last inning. The Line school bulletin board had it, Line 20, Intelligence 6.

#### Tank Outfit Sucked in

Then the Line challenged the General Staff college, which promptly developed a tank outfit, so the challenge went to the Tanks, and the Tank outfit, which ranks itself fairly high, accepted.

They played on a tank field with barbed wire fences and abandoned wells and artificial shell holes for a field and there were male tanks and female tanks until it would remind you of a banquet by the Milwaukee Commercial club to the Brewers for not finishing the season in the last place. The Line school bulletin board said Line 5, Tanks 1.

#### Several Offices Can Tell If You Want to Get There

"You are directed to proceed to Umph Division Headquarters—"

But what are you going to do when you haven't an idea in the world where the Umph Division is, when you want to find its headquarters on any known map, when public opinion in your particular bailiwick is divided as to whether it is due west of Zeebrugge or in a suburb of Kamchatka.

#### S.O.S. FATIGUES SUITS

Cooks, bakery men, hospital orderlies, and other troops are going to get new suits soon.

Allowance of fatigue clothing for S.O.S. troops, under G.O. 37, Hq. S.O.S., will be as follows: Three suits for every bakery company enlisted man; two suits for each private and private first class on duty in hospitals; two suits for each cook and assistant cook, except at hospitals, where cooks will be provided white clothing; two suits for each enlisted man or shop and stavedore troops, and engineers when engaged in outside construction work; one suit each for 50 per cent of strength of all organizations.

### WHAT IF HE IS A LIEUT?



### WAR AS THE AIRMAN SEES IT

An airman is always on the lookout against a surprise from the enemy, but to guard against a surprise by one of his friends is also a part of the game.

Just before daybreak one morning Lieut. Ned Buford decided to go out and round up another Boche plane to add to his growing list. He had been in the air only a short time when he located a Boche photographic machine well beyond him preparing to carry out its dawn campaign. He immediately swooped towards his aerial objective, maneuvered for position and, with the enemy in direct range, prepared to open fire.

Much to Lieut. Buford's astonishment, a machine gun opened fire from a new position and the Boche plane, curling into a nose spin, started downward at terrific speed. Lieut. Buford followed the downward rush of the enemy plane until he saw it crash into flames as it struck the ground. It was only then that, looking up, he saw one of his best friends, Lieut. David Putnam, also swooping down after the wrecked machine. Up to this moment neither American flyer had seen the other nor had known that another Yankee plane was in the neighborhood.

"You can't waste any time getting your Boche if Putnam is around," was Lieut. Buford's tribute to his friend.

"The most exciting work in the way of flying," remarked a well known American aviator, "is not always in battle with a German plane. The job of flying only 50 or 60 feet above enemy infantry and machine guns in an offensive is the most nerve-racking of them all, unless your motor stops when you are back of German lines. I had that happen to me once, and once is enough."

#### THREE CONTINENTS AT S.O.S. FUNERAL

Down in the S.O.S. the other day they held one of the strangest funerals that any war has ever seen. An Annamite—one of the little yellow people who have come from far Cathay to help win the war—was laid to rest in French soil, after a ceremony in a little village church, while American buglers sounded taps over his grave and soldiers from three continents stood at silent attention.

An odd little people, these Annamites, judged by our Western standards. But they display, among other characteristics, a desire to learn, to know more, that might shame a lot of us. A Y.M. man who has developed a particular interest in them has whole books of them in his French classes, and many at his English class. (He used to be a missionary in China, so he compares them and they him.) They are not pupils—probably more apt than the handful of Americans who are bravely devoting their spare time to studying Chinese under the same ex-missionary.

If you know any sufferer, landowner or proprietors of chop suey restaurants in the States, you will recall their devotion to Sunday School, partly because they are quite as upright as the rest of us and enjoy it, partly from the more ulterior motive of learning English.

The S.O.S. Chinese have their Sunday School fairs, too. They come to the services and run through the dozen or so familiar hymns with scarcely an accent. But that's all the English they know.

#### WHERE'S THE UMPH? ASK THESE PEOPLE

Several Offices Can Tell If You Want to Get There

"You are directed to proceed to Umph Division Headquarters—"

But what are you going to do when you haven't an idea in the world where the Umph Division is, when you want to find its headquarters on any known map, when public opinion in your particular bailiwick is divided as to whether it is due west of Zeebrugge or in a suburb of Kamchatka.

In that case, before beginning your journey, you will, says G.O. 135, ascertain the organization's location through your C.O. from the nearest of the following offices: Regulating Stations, Hq. S.O.S.; Advance Section, S.O.S.; Headquarters Intelligence Section, S.O.S.; any Base Section; Headquarters U.S. Troops; American Statistical Section, Honen, or French G.H.Q.—or, as they call it, G.G.G.—or yet again, at the headquarters of a corps or school.

In order to prevent the necessity for issuing additional orders confirming indirect travel, the authority issuing a travel order will, in cases where the travel cannot be by the "shortest usually traveled route," state in the order "via the particular point through which the destination may be reached."

#### WAR AS THE AIRMAN SEES IT

These were the longest minutes of my life. I seemed to be standing still, making no progress at all except downward.

"After what seemed to be a year or so, I finally glided back across the German front lines and was lucky enough to drop in a field with several shell holes within close reach. I managed to reach one and stayed there under cover until dark. Those moments carried far more excitement for me than I have ever known battling with a Boche plane."

Set strategy doesn't always work. But the German mind can't understand anyone's abandoning a fixed method.

"The scariest man I have ever seen," said an American aviator, "was Lieut. Meinkopf, the star Boche flyer, when he was shot by Lieut. Avery. Meinkopf was Baron Richtofen's successor and the best flyer that Germany had left."

"When Avery tackled him, he abandoned all set principles of air strategy, simply suffled in and opened fire without indulging in preliminary maneuvers. He brought his man down in about three seconds and this was his first Boche battle."

"When Meinkopf landed, he was purple with rage, and as far as I could make out his main complaint could be translated in this fashion: "What the hell kind of flying is this, anyhow?"

One American flyer, leaving late one afternoon, failed to return on time. His commander attempted to get into telephone communication with an advanced base to locate the trouble. But not a phone was working.

Several hours later the flyer came walking back to camp, minus his machine.

"What happened?" the flight commander asked.

"On my way back," said the flyer, "I crashed into a set of telephone wires and ripped them up."

### MOTOR BRANCH MEN WILL GO TO SCHOOL

#### Officers, Drivers, Mechanics to Get Training Under G.H.Q. Order

Courses for drivers, non-commissioned officers of the Motor Transport Corps, mechanics and officers of motor trains will be offered at a school for the M.T.C., established, according to G.O. 134, "for the instruction of officer and soldier personnel of the A.E.F. in the maintenance and operation of motor vehicles and motor trains." The school will be directed under G.H.Q. direction.

The Director of the M.T.C. is assigned as commandant of the school, with power to appoint a major as assistant commandant, a captain as secretary, a captain as supply officer, and two captains as senior instructors, plus many lieutenants as instructors and non-commissioned officers as assistant instructors as he may direct. He will also decide on the number of clerks, janitors and orderlies needed, and give directions for their selection.

Individuals or detachments not belonging to the M.T.C. may be sent to the school for instruction without the necessity of being transferred to the Corps, and on completion of their instruction, they will be returned to their organizations.

Application for the admission of such personnel to the school will be made directly to the Director of the M.T.C.

#### NEW JOB FOR M. P.'S

The M.P.'s have got another job. Hereafter, in addition to their present duties—which are possibly too well known to demand minute exposition here—they will turn in to the nearest quartermaster all lost Government property that comes into their possession. Bulletin 64 says so.

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### NATION'S MIND ON ALL-ELECTRIC PLAN

#### Industrial Revolution Like One Caused by Steam Is Predicted

[By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES] AMERICA, Sept. 12.—There is growing talk over the possible electrification of the whole country by building huge power plants at the mines and developing all water powers enormously.

The project is unformulated, but the discussion is expanding daily and familiarizing the public mind with the colossal idea, whose execution would revolutionize America industrially and probably socially.

It would be a revolution only comparable to the industrial revolution caused by steam, and the vast vision appeals to American temperament and ambition.

The great power bill now before Congress gives food to the discussion, although its provisions only indicate the possibilities of future development.

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