

MOBILE HOWITZERS WILL RIVAL WORLD

Army Ordnance Experts Working on Weapon of Great Size

LARGER THAN EUROPEAN GUNS

Word comes from Washington that army ordnance experts are at work on designs for huge field howitzers as large or larger than the German 42-centimeter guns which wrecked forts in Belgium and France early in the war. They will be at least 16-inch caliber, with a range of 12 to 15 miles, hurling a projectile weighing more than a ton and carrying a huge amount of high explosive.

In addition to placing several of these mammoth weapons along the coast line for mobile defense against a naval attack, army officials now are considering the creation of a special regiment, equipped with six of the howitzers to work as a unit of the mobile army. The problem confronting the designers in that regard is to distribute the enormous weight of the gun and carriage in such a way that it can be moved over any good road.

That difficulty is a determining factor in American heavy artillery designs. Near a few of the largest cities well ballasted roads which would support the weight of the huge guns can be found.

Boston Post Road from Boston to New York, it is said, has many sections so lightly built that the great weight would crash through. For those reasons it is planned to build the new howitzers primarily for transportation by rail on special cars.

It is stated by good authority that the Watervliet Arsenal is being fitted out to build the new 16-inch army guns. The first gun of this type will be placed in the new fortifications at Cape Henry. Later some of them will be installed in the Panama fortifications. The projectile of the new gun will weigh about 2,400 pounds. The new gun is to be a 50 caliber rifle and the longest coast defense gun in the world. The range will depend largely upon the mounting of the gun. It can easily have a range of 50,000 yards, or 30 miles.

WHAT NEXT, BOYS.

Here's good news for all. Just as soon as two carloads of puttees, rubber boots, pongee shirts, wrist watches, bath towels and other supplies arrive from somewhere down East, the new Division Camp Exchange will be ready for business. Up to the present time, Manager O. K. Schwind, has been able to get only a few incidentals, such as tobacco and groceries, although the trim exchange building back of Division Headquarters has been open more than three weeks.

In addition to his regular stock of army goods, Mr. Schwind plans to open a tailor shop in the near future. This will be the only shop in the Valley where officers can have uniforms made and altered. The management also contemplates a fair business in sewing on chevrons of newly-made non-coms, as there will necessarily be many promotions during this period of service.

"That isn't all," Mr. Schwind said. "Tell the boys that a head barber from 42nd Street, near Fifth Avenue, is coming down himself with ten barbers to open up a shop here. He will occupy a new building next door to the Exchange. Later on, a high priced laundry specialist from Houston will open an automatic laundry here."

We wanted to ask Mr. Schwind if there would be lady manicurists in that barber shop of his, but we didn't dare. Perhaps he had promised enough as it was.

DIDN'T YOU GET YOUR RATTLER?

Have a little sympathy with our Circulation department if your copy of The Rattler last week was a little delayed or maybe strayed into the hands of some "other fellow." This week we hope to publish enough, and The Rattler will be on sale at every regimental canteen and all six Y. M. C. A. buildings, in Mission, McAllen and Pharr. Arrangements have also been made to handle The Rattler at the Mission Drug Store, City Drug Store and Palace of Sweets Mission; McAllen Drug Company and souvenir stands in McAllen; and Pharr Drug Store, Pharr.

The adventures of our circulation department last Wednesday and succeeding days reads like the *Sainted Stories* of Sinbad.

Leaving McAllen early in a regimental fiver, Corporal Barnhill "made" Mission and delivered a thousand copies to the canteens of the First Brigade. McAllen received its allotment of copies the same day.

An effort was made to sell copies to all regiments in the field. The 7th Infantry, bivouacked at Mission, absorbed seven hundred easily, and the 2nd Infantry, camped a day's march further out, bought all it could with a few souvenir nickles and pocket-worn pennies, the paymaster having neglected to pay them before The Rattler was issued.

A special delegation, under Lieut. elect. M. O. Bradley, 14th Infantry, late of the Headquarters Hospital detachment, covered the 23rd's camp in Pharr in glorious style, emptying the tonneau of a big touring car in 45 minutes without outside interference. Before he had a chance to report on this performance, Mr. Bradley's papers came through from Washington and The Rattler lost a good circulation booster.

By Friday night the question was raised, "Where have all The Rattlers disappeared to?" Inquiry developed the fact that several cautious canteen managers, realizing that there would be a demand for the paper when their regiments returned from the hike had "bunked" several hundred copies behind counters and under cracker cartons. These copies were rescued and redistributed to the selling agents, where they quickly became converted into nickles.

This week we are printing several

thousand more copies, which we trust will supply the demand. Remember, The Rattler cannot be reprinted; also, on account of the high cost of print paper and its great scarcity, we will print each week only as many copies as we can reasonably expect to dispose of.

"Don't wait! And when you get it, 'send a Rattler home.'"

WIRELESS IS ALRIGHT, BUT WE MUST TALK

"Hello! Long distance? Private Hooch at McAllen wishes to speak to Miss Flossie Footlights at the Knickerbocker. Yes, yes, I'm calling New York City, Central!"

All of which sounds like a pipe dream of a Sunkist Soldier but promises to be a blissful reality if the work of the 22nd Corps of Engineers can be accepted. For several weeks past a telephone line to connect all the camps of the New York Division has been contemplated and at last the work of carrying out these plans has commenced. The course of the line is marked out, the Divisional camp mapped and the actual erecting of the poles is well under way. What at first was taken to be a joke is now accepted as a fact for where telephone poles are planted currents and wires will soon grow.

The work of connecting the encampments by telephone is under the supervision of Sergeant Donald McLean, Co. A, 22nd Engineers, who at home is an engineer of the New York Telephone Company. Sergeant McLean has promised us that within a few days we can drop into a pay station at the head of our company street and for a small monetary consideration, say several months' salary, become connected with a certain telephone in a certain apartment not far from Central Park and then converse with a certain young lady.

The Sergeant did not see whether the New York Telephone Co. would send down some of their "Hello" girls to take charge of the switchboards and we didn't have the nerve to ask him. You can't expect everything when you're in the army.

PROMOTIONS IN THE 12TH INFANTRY.

Col. Gordon Johnston has nominated for promotion the following officers of the 12th Infantry:

Major Reginald L. Foster to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Captain George E. Roosevelt to be Major.

1st Lieutenant M. L. Waltz to be Captain.

The nomination of these officers meets with much favor by the entire personnel of the regiment, and we may say of the division as well.

Col. Foster enlisted in the 7th Infantry in 1893. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in the 12th Infantry in April 1900, and has held the commissions of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel in that command. When the Regiment was mustered into the federal service, he voluntarily accepted a majority for military reasons. Colonel Foster is a graduate of Yale University, and is a journalist by profession.

Major George E. Roosevelt was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 12th Infantry in January 1911. In December of the same year, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. He was commissioned Captain in December 1913. Major Roosevelt is a member of one of New York's oldest families and is a cousin of the ex-president. He is a banker by profession. He graduated from Harvard University, and was professor of mathematics at Cambridge for nearly six years. He is a member of the Metropolitan, Knickerbocker, Manhattan, Harvard and other prominent New York clubs.

Captain M. L. Waltz is the son of Colonel Millard Waltz, U. S. A., at present post commander at Fort Sam Houston. Captain Waltz was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 12th Infantry in 1914 and promoted 1st Lieutenant in the spring of this year.

THE "SCREEN-OFF-RESTORIO" OF TEXAS

Texas and New York City may have their hotels, restaurants and cafes of prominence and popularity, but right here at McAllen, Division Headquarters maintains a mess, second to no table for the excellence and variety of its food. This is mainly due to skill and untiring work of the chef, Edward Dobarb, who was the assistant chef at Hotel Rice, Houston, Texas, when Division Headquarters came down to the border. He got the "soldier fever" and wanted to follow the boys and the flag right into Mexico, so when he heard that the New York Division headquarters wanted a cook, he dropped his "working tools" at the Rice and got aboard. Confidently he has informed us that it is more fun and greater satisfaction cooking food to be served in a "ground garden" where he can see the patrons enjoying his efforts than working for those eating on a "roof garden," whom he never sees. He's some cook, too, and can show doubting soldiers what a small field range can do! He turns out a seven-course dinner for twenty-five as easy as the "folks at home" would cook a steak and potatoes for four. He makes biscuits, pies, bread, rolls and cake just like "mothers," in fact he's some chef.

HE HAD THE RIGHT KIND.

A private in the infantry recently asked his commanding officer for a furlough for thirty days to return to New York.

"Why do you wish to return," asked the Captain.

"Well, I haven't seen my wife for over two months," was the reply.

"But my man," said the Captain.

"I haven't seen my wife for over six months!"

"That may be all right," replied the soldier, "but me and my wife aint that kind of people!"

"Mother, is it true that an apple a day keeps the doctor away?"

"Yes Jimmie, Why?"

"Cause if it is, I kept about ten doctors away this morning."—Life.

Knicker: The campaign issue will be Mexico.

Bocker: But the President himself does not know whether Mexico is an issue or an outrage.—The Sun.

IMPRESSIONS

For two weeks I have served with the New York Troops and have had an excellent opportunity of observing their work, and getting acquainted with them and appreciating their spirit.

I have learned of the sacrifices many of them have made to come to the border, and realize the effort of self-control exercised by them in sticking to their posts in spite of the fact that it has not been possible to give them a definite idea of the "why and wherefore" of their stay here, and I find cause for gratification in the fact that so few applications have been made for release from the service.

The non-commissioned officers of the New York National Guard compare very favorably with those of the regular establishment in ability and instruction. The men's mess is good, and they do not by any means suffer by comparison with those of the Regular Army. The officers, the equipment, proficiency in drill and combat exercises, personal neatness and the rapidity with which they have absorbed the method and spirit of their profession as soldiers has been an increasingly beautiful surprise to me.

It is my firm conviction that this service, if it does no more for them, will have repaid every one for the sacrifices in several ways: By putting every soldier in an enviable physical condition, which will go back with them back to their shops, and leave them better equipped for the strenuous effort required of civilian workers, than are their comrades at desk and bench, who have remained behind; second, they will have acquired a new perspective, which will give each of them a full appreciation of things as they are, and tend to connect the one idea-ness that is induced by unbroken routine in daily business life.

Above all of these personal benefits, whether or not the soldiers of the New York Division are called upon to cross the muddy stream that forms a part of our southwestern frontier they are rendering a great and worthy service to their country.

Their presence here has effectually stopped invasions into American territory by bands of outlaws from the Mexican side. It has ended an insipient revolution in South Texas that was assuming alarming proportions, and above all, the presence of the militia is lending weight to the President's negotiations with Mexico at a time when it is absolutely necessary that those arguments be backed by visible force.

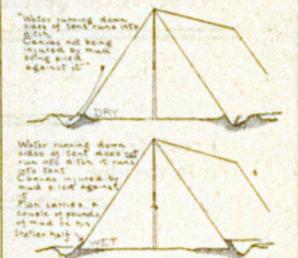
Remember that the soldier that does not growl is a poor soldier, and do your little bit of that as well as you do your bit along other lines.

If you cannot find anything to kick about, kick anyhow and don't let anything settle on your chest, and give you a grouch.

Although there are many rumors about going home the first, take my advice and study Spanish, its a great pastime, and "It's a long way to Mexico City."— Jennings U. Catton, Corporal Co. I, 4th U. S. Infantry, detailed with 23rd N. Y. Inf., Pharr, Texas.

PROPER AND IMPROPER SHELTER TENT PITCHING

At a suggestion of the Divisional Commander, The Rattler is pleased to publish these cuts showing the proper and improper methods of attaching shelter tents.



On the recent marches, the Commanding General observed that recruits in several of the organizations failed to comply with instructions, and attempted to keep water out of the shelter tents by banking earth against the outside of the tents, and the result was the water ran down the sides of the tent, underneath the earth into the tent.

This improper method of attaching also resulted in impairing the efficiency of the canvas, and leaving it in a wet and muddy condition at the time of breaking camp in the morning. Men with such canvas impose upon themselves, not only in inconvenience of wet tents, but also the burden of carrying on the following day an additional weight of mud caked on the canvas.

The cuts given here should forcibly illustrate to the recruit the different results which follow proper and improper attaching of shelter tents.

DAILY TIME TABLE

Following is the schedule of trains between Pharr, McAllen and Mission: Leave Pharr for McAllen and Mission 10:35 a. m., 12:35 noon and 6:40 p. m.

Leave McAllen for Mission 10:50 a. m., 11:00 p. m. and 6:57 p. m.

Leave Mission for McAllen, Pharr, Brownsville and points east at 8:05 a. m. and 4:55 p. m. and 1:25 p. m. Leave McAllen for Brownsville at 8:15 a. m., 1:45 p. m. and 5:10 p. m. Leave Pharr for Brownsville at 8:23 a. m., 2:03 p. m. and 5:20 p. m.

Extra service is running on this railroad since August 16th.

A woman, wearing an anxious expression, called at an insurance office one morning.

"I understand," she said, "that for \$5 I can insure my house for \$1,000 in your company."

"Yes," replied the agent, "that is right. If your house burns down we pay you \$1,000."

"And," continued the woman anxiously, "do you make any inquiries as to the origin of the fire?"

"Certainly," was the prompt reply; "we make the most careful inquiries, madam."

"Oh!"—and she turned to leave the office.—"I thought there was a catch in it somewhere."—Everybody's Magazine.



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New York

U. S. medical officers, the finest in the world, condemn the use of highly flavored pop and other artificial drinks. All speak a hearty word for the benefits of *White Rock*

White Rock is always welcome to the palate, especially where heat and local conditions make pure drinking water a problem. *White Rock* cuts an alkali thirst every time. When taken with limes or lemon juice, *White Rock* forms a drink which is wonderfully cooling and always refreshing.

Serve it with a tinkle of ice, in a fountain glass or mess kit cup. *White Rock* invites the palates of officers and men alike.

A case of *White Rock* in the tent provides well for the occasional rainy night. Order at all groceries in McAllen, Mission and Pharr.

DRINK

White Rock

"The World's Best Table Water"