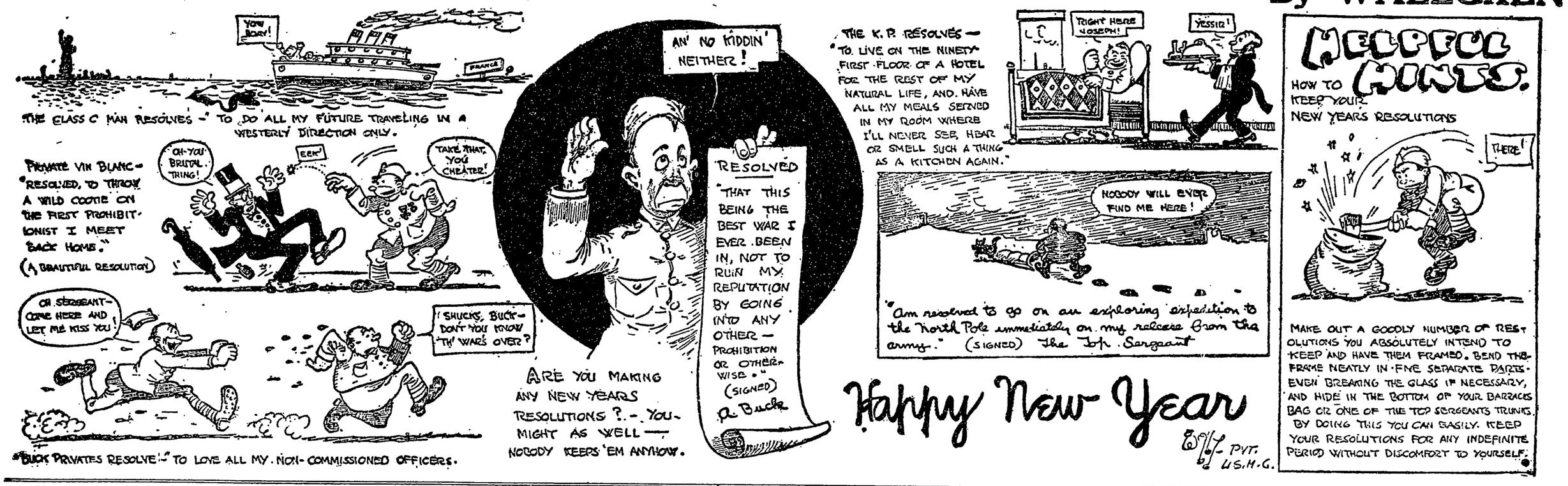
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS —By WALLGREN



CENSUS UNDER WAY TO GET FULL DATA ON EVERY SOLDIER

Grading of Officers Completed, Enlisted Men Being Tackled

ACCURATE ESTIMATE MADE

Would Fit Veterans Into Proper Places If Call for New Army Ever Comes

When the A.E.F. exists in history only and its recent members have gone back into the civilian life of 48 states, Uncle Sam will have at his finger tips an accurate estimate of the soldierly and business abilities of all the officers and men who have fought and worked themselves out of a job in France by the simple process of helping win the war.

If the occasion should arise for forming another American Army, the job could be done quickly and probably much more efficiently by consulting these personal records of the men who served in this war. Officers and men misplaced in the A.E.F. by circumstances could be fitted into the places for which they are best qualified.

On December 15 there was completed in the A.E.F. what might be termed a census of officers in all branches of service. Every officer had been graded on his war record, soldierly qualities and his standing in his peace time occupation.

Two Cards Filled Out

As a part of his official record there had been prepared a rating card, drawn up by his immediate superior officer and revised or approved by a still higher superior. In addition each officer has filled out a qualification card, which recites all the facts of his military career and his experience in civil life occupations.

For enlisted men there is now being made a similar census, based on the qualification cards which have already been prepared and filed at the Central Records Office, Bourges. Statistics are to be prepared from these qualification cards showing the number of men of each occupation or trade in the Army. The cards themselves form an index to the relative skill of each man in his occupation, and recite all the other occupations in which he has had experience.

In the ratings of officers just completed, five general factors formed the basis of the estimates superior officers made of the officers under them.

Under physical qualities, an officer was graded on the way he impressed his men by his physique, bearing, neatness, voice, energy and endurance. Under intelligence, points considered were accuracy, ease in learning and ability to grasp new points of view and to overcome difficulties.

Buck Passing Frowned On

Leadership, the third point, was based on force, self-reliance, initiative, decisiveness, tact, and ability to command obedience, loyalty and co-operation of men. Personal qualities considered were industry, dependability, loyalty, personal habits and readiness to shoulder responsibility for his own acts.

An officer's general value to the service, the fifth point, was judged from his value as an administrator and as instructor and his capacity for arriving quickly at a sensible decision in a crisis.

In making the above gradings, each superior officer was ordered to use the principle of comparing the officer to be graded with other officers. A list of officers would be prepared in order of their rating for a given quality and the officer under consideration would be judged according to the place where he would fit into the list, that is presumably between two of the other officers on the list, or approximately equal to some officer in the quality being estimated.

That is, if A were being graded, a list would be prepared of B, C, D, E and F. Then the grading officer might determine that A was not quite so good as C but was better than D.

TRANSPORT MEN DECORATED

Two lieutenants, one sergeant and one private, members of the American Mission, Reserve Mallet, were awarded Croix de Guerre for bravery under fire in a decoration ceremony held at Sedan December 14. The men are: 2nd Lieut. Frank O. Robinson, 2nd Lieut. Leroy F. Krusi, Sgt. William Frizzell and Pvt. Frederic Henneberry.

MAPS GO THROUGH MAILS

The lowering of the censorship bars now permits the mailing of maps, according to the Base Censor. Soldiers who wish to chronicle their wanderings in France on a chart instead of on letter paper may therefore do so.

MEDICAL UNITS GOING IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL

Outfits Attached to A.E.F. Likely to Beat Rest of Us Home

BASE 18 FIRST TO DEPART

Total of 864 Officers nd 1,329 Enlisted Men of M.D. Now Serving With British

Medical units of the A.E.F. will, so far as practicable, be returned to the States in the order of their arrival in France, and officers, nurses and enlisted men of six base hospitals which have been attached to the British forces since the middle of 1917 are entitled to return first under a policy formulated by the office of the Chief Surgeon.

As an exception to this rule, the very first unit to return will be Base Hospital No. 18, known as the Johns Hopkins unit, stationed at Bazoilles, which is now awaiting transportation arrangements. This unit was the first one to arrive for duty with the A.E.F. Arrangements for its return were made when cable dispatches from Baltimore stated that its personnel was badly needed at home. The unit arrived in France June 6, 1917.

The units serving with the British forces probably will not be returned in the exact order of their arrival, as this is conditional upon the facilities the British medical authorities have for releasing them. Base Hospital No. 2, which has been in charge of a British general hospital at Etretat, has been relieved of its duties with the British and probably will be the second medical unit to be returned.

First Unit to Arrive

The first American medical unit to arrive—the first detachment of the American Army to land in France, incidentally—is Base Hospital No. 4, known as the Lakeside Unit of Cleveland. It landed at Rouen May 24, 1917, where it took over a British hospital. A part of the personnel of this original unit was detached to conduct a mobile hospital that operated with the First American Army in the Argonne-Meuse drive.

Other American hospitals with the British Army are Base Hospital No. 21, at Rouen; Base Hospital No. 5, at Boulogne; Base Hospital No. 10, at Treport, and Base Hospital No. 12, at Camiers.

Where circumstances will permit, medical personnel who were detached from their units for service elsewhere will be permitted to rejoin their original units for return to the States.

American M.D.'s With British

A total of 864 officers and 1,329 enlisted men of the Medical Department are now serving with British troops, most of the enlisted men and about 130 officers being stationed at general hospitals.

More than 700 American medical officers are still attached to British units serving in the advanced area—attached to regiments, field ambulances, casualty clearing stations, or on special duties. The return of these officers to the A.E.F. or to the United States will be governed largely by the length of their service and other factors.

During hostilities the Chief Surgeon's Office endeavored to transfer American officers from the British forces to the A.E.F. after they had spent a period of service at the front and had profited from the training under the methods the British had worked out during four years of fighting.

Hospital Turned Over

Incidental to the departure of practically all American troops from England, four base hospitals and two camp hospitals are being turned over to the British by the American units which have been operating them. The hospitals are at Tottenham, Portsmouth, Dartford, Hursley Park, Romsey and Southampton.

Three other camp hospitals are to be returned to the French—No. 44 at Riom, No. 77 at Montmorillon, and No. 68 at Saintes. Three American Red Cross military hospitals are being turned over to the American Red Cross by the American Medical Department—No. 5 at Auteuil (Paris), No. 8 at Malabry, and No. 21 at Paignton.

OFFICERS' PAY RAISE LOST

A bill to increase by $500 the pay of all American officers below the rank of colonel was defeated in the House of Representatives after it had been passed by the Senate, just before the last session of Congress ended.

This is the answer to a question widely debated in the A.E.F. in recent weeks after the starting of a rumor that Congress had authorized the pay increase.

HIGHER COMMUTATION FOR MEN WHO TRAVEL

Rate May Reach Four Dollars a Day Under Certain Conditions

Enlisted men may draw $4 a day as commutation of rations and quarters, under certain conditions, by the terms of Change 79 in Army Regulations published by the War Department.

The change provides that when commutation at the regular rate—in most cases $2 a day for ratious and $1 for quarters—will not reimbuse the soldier for actual expenses of travel, the $4 rate may be directed to be given, provided the soldier is away from his regular station not more than 72 hours. If he remains at his temporary station more than 72 hours, but less than 30 days, he may receive $3 a day for the period after the first 72 hours. For all time after the first 30 days be may be given $1.75 per day.

No per diem commutation will be paid a soldier if at his place of temporary duty there exists, consistent with the nature of his duties, facilities for quartering or messing with other soldiers.

First Buck: What are you wearing a Cavalry hatcord for? Thought you was in the Q.M.?

Second Buck: So I am, but I bought the hatcord at night and it looked like buff.

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YANKEE PRISONERS JUST MISS DUNGEON

Recaptured Americans Are Saved by Signing of Armistice

That the signing of the armistice saved from the dungeons of some fortress or the salt mines of Schleswig two American soldiers recaptured after escaping from a prison camp, and facing trial, is the statement of a native of Luxembourg, himself a prisoner for three years.

The Luxembourger, John Magonnette, a mechanical engineer who has taken out first citizenship papers in the United States, says the Americans were brought to their second prison, at Muenchen-Gladbach, in Prussia near Dusseldorf, about October 8, and were awaiting the decision of the high German military court at that place.

They were not permitted to speak to their guards or to the other prisoners, M. Magonnette said. On one occasion, when they asked for paper, the guards turned on them a torrent of invectives and jostled them roughly. For keeping only at five-foot intervals instead of ten while on their tri-weekly ten-minute periods of exercise in the yard they were given the "black cell," with bread and water. Their condition, M. Magonnette declared, was pitiful.

He was unable to ascertain their names or their history, but he said that when, on November 8, the Red Guards broke into the prison and released the inmates, the two Yanks were able to make their way out of the town and toward the Dutch border.

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