

SERBIAN WAR HERO DRILLS AT OPTON

His Family Wiped Out, He Is Eager to Avenge as American Soldier.

SISTER, NURSE, HANGED

Camp Sergeant Earned Living in This City as Villain of Movies.

Special Dispatch to The Sun. Camp Upton, Oct. 23.—Over in the exact barracks of the 304th Field Artillery they kept the selected men only a few days until they are permanently assigned to the different batteries of the regiment. But those first few days mean a great deal to young soldiers, because they are the days of deep impressions and quick friendships and lasting thrills, when never ceasing pride and loyalty is born for officers and bunk mates. The army is new and all its wonder and fascination and gripping magic reaches far into the hearts of these boys.

"Know who our first sergeant is?" the short, smiling lad from Harlem asks, knocking the third button on his O. D. blouse, as the pride in his chest brags forth. "He's a motion picture actor—a star villain. Ain't you never seen him? Say he's a bear cat, played in 'The Stolen Heart,' 'Womanhood,' 'Pearl of the Army' and maybe he wasn't such a knockout as Robinson Crusoe in that film. Some class to this here barracks, eh?"

"Sure, I see him too," pipes up Benjie Levinak, postmaster from Livingston street. "You'd ever see him in the 'Money Mill.' He's a furrier, ain't he?"

"It was the shady side of 41st Twelfth street, where the barracks stands forth in all its nakedness, and Benjie and a half dozen were sunning themselves and watching the outdoor, indoor baseball game.

Time for Recreation. Noon mess was over and it was forty-five minutes before the call would be sounded for the first lap of the long three and a half hours of afternoon rest.

Two or three more new soldiers of the army of freedom pounded out through the big double doors of the barracks, their "battered" trench boots clanking against the wooden floor. With a demand for a match they joined the group, leaning back against the wall of the building, their hands sunk deep into their comforters.

Then another soldier joined them—a big, broad shouldered, heavy faced fighting man, with villainous mustaches and strong, muscular arms, in whom the muscular wrists. "That's him now," Benjie whispered.

But the Harlem picture fan spoke out frankly and directly after the match of Harlem being civilians, who know very little army ways and means. "This newspaper guy here wants to know how you happened to get into the army."

"The Sarge had very little time to smile, but he did stop for a word or two. "It was what you call him? A war for one play. Den I have a part. Det was all."

"Where'd you learn how to drill, Sarge?" the Harlemite demanded.

A Serbian Veteran. The big man who had little time to smile hesitated as if he were about to remind the soldier for impudence. Then very simply he answered, "In the Serbian army, movie fanning having developed a sense of the dramatic in the Harlemite and Benjie, by hook or by crook they dragged out the story from this fighting man, ex-fighter of Stefanovich, of the Serbian Army, who waits for his day to come again.

"From the military academy in Belgrade I graduated in 1914," he said, "and am assign to the First Heavy Artillery. But soon the Government sent me as secret service man to Austria and I served with the Austrians. Then when the Balkan war came I fight for two years as lieutenant and win the King Peter cross in the battle of the Maritsa and the Bulgarians. And then come the great war, and I, with my artillery regiment, fight in the battle of Rudnik against the Austrians."

"In December, 1915, in the great Austrian offensive near Monastir I am captured. Eh, eh—but I kill three before we get hand to hand. My gun goes, and another he goes down. But he grabs my foot and a third attack me from behind. He pull my head back, strike down with his bayonet, and he stab me here in the side and then I get him down and kill him so." The heavy boot struck at the imaginary head.

Austrian Aids Escape. "Then I drop and when I become what you call—yes, conscious, I am in the Austrian hospital at Petrovaradin. Three months later I meet an American officer who sympathize with my country and who I knew well and he help me escape. I go to Trieste and then escape by fishing boat across the Adriatic, and then go to Marseilles. Then I work my way over to America as sailor. I have no money here and I work as orderly in Mount Sinai Hospital. Then I see 'let's happen' in military play, 'Enemy to the King,' and I work and the director see I know army things and he make me play a part and from then on I play villain parts many times. And then when America goes into war I want to go too and get them to send me down here."

"Well, how'd you and I thought you was being put a picture actor," Benjie declared.

"Also of your folks killed over there?" the Harlemite asked, with new pride. "Ain't there was the flash in the black eyes and the knotting of the powerful hands. My brother, a lieutenant in the army, was killed during the fighting by the Bulgarians. My father die of typhus. My younger brother, a private, was killed in the trenches. My sister, a Red Cross nurse, was killed by the Bulgarians. My mother she die of a broken heart. I only am left."

Not even Benjie had anything to say for half a minute, then he repeated quietly respectfully, "And I thought you was not nothing but a movie villain."

"With a sarge the man who has little time or wish to smile turned and walked back to his work in the barracks.

Baker Killed When at Work. While working last night in the bakery of Joseph Hunt, 1324 First avenue, Adolph Pichacek, 36 years old, of 429 East Seventy-fourth street, a baker, was killed when caught in the wheel of a dough mixing machine. His right hand was torn off at the wrist. His body was drawn upward by the machinery, his head striking the ceiling.

\$100,000 FIRE ON RANDALL'S ISLAND.

House of Refuge Building Damaged; Boys March Out.

ENEMIES ARE BLAMED

Manager Allen Says Prosecution Will Be Vigorous if Offenders Are Found.

Frederick C. Heister, chief parole officer of the House of Refuge on Randall's Island, discovered fire last night at 1:55 o'clock in the laundry of the institution, occupying a small one story extension and the ground floor of a two story brick building just east of the school building. The top floor of the laundry building was used as a storeroom for clothing and was filled with supplies for the winter. Heister turned in an alarm which brought the fireboat Cornelia W. Lawrence and the House of Refuge Fire Company, under command of Firemen Beardon and Harris. The flames spread so quickly that another alarm was turned in soon after the arrival of Col. E. C. Harbour, superintendent of the House of Refuge, bringing the fireboat George P. McClellan, police reserves from the East 194th and East 136th street stations, and apparatus from several East Side firehouses. None of the fire apparatus, however, was able to get across the river and the fire was fought by the fireboat and the boys who make up the island fire company, with the aid of hose brought from Manhattan by police men and firemen in small boats. The flames soon ruined the laundry building, destroying the entire supply of clothing, and doing considerable damage to the structure. About 140 boys who were in a dormitory near the school building were marched out into the main dormitory without disorder and excitement. The fire was extinguished after about three hours. Col. Harbour said he estimated the loss at about \$100,000. Of this \$60,000 was done to buildings, \$20,000 to the machinery of the laundry. The clothing loss was placed at about \$20,000.

WHEATLESS MENUS FOR HOTELS TO-DAY

Success of Meatless Tuesday Leads to Extension of Conservation Plan.

A wheatless Wednesday is due to-day in the hotels of this city. Corn pone will take the place of the white loaf in some places and rye bread will seek to make a day of it in others.

At the Hotel Majestic yesterday several girl students did their bit as sand-wich girls, bearing banners sent out by the Federal Food Administration emphasizing the importance of "wheatless Wednesdays" and "meatless Tuesdays."

A meatless instead of a beefless Tuesday was generally observed in all the important hotels. As a rule guests took the substitution of fish, poultry and game for meats as a matter of course and there were comparatively few objections to the sidetracking of meat dishes for the day.

"It cost us just as much to serve a meatless dinner, than a beef one," said David H. Knott, proprietor of twelve New York hotels and candidate for Sheriff. "We're not doing it to save money; we are conserving food for our allies."

"Our guests took as readily to an entirely meatless day as they did two weeks ago to a beefless Tuesday," said George C. Brown, proprietor of the Park Avenue and Maritza Washington hotels. "We are for the Government, even if we have to install an endless day once a week."

Four More Indicted for Fraud.

Four additional indictments, making a total of seven, in the alleged primary frauds, were returned yesterday by the Grand Jury. The men charged with miscounting votes of candidates for Mayor were officials of an election district in the Seventeenth Assembly district. Judge Sulzberger, in whom the indictments were handed, issued bench warrants.

Lawyer Rowe Free in Jewel Case.

Edward L. Rowe, a lawyer of 417 Riverside Drive, who was arrested September 5 upon the complaint of his mother, Mrs. Minnie Rowe, that he had taken jewelry worth \$2,500 from her room, was discharged yesterday by Magistrate Nolan in the Washington Heights court. Mrs. Rowe did not appear.

MALICIOUS RUMORS AROUSE RED CROSS

Persistent Story That Soldiers Are Charged for Sweaters Women Knit.

ENEMIES ARE BLAMED

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Rumors, as malicious as they are persistent, have been circulating recently to the effect that goods knitted for soldiers and forwarded to the Red Cross for distribution were not so distributed but were offered for sale, the goods being sold to civilians when the soldiers failed to "come across." Time and again this lie has been nailed in one form or another, only to bob up somewhere in another form. On one occasion it took the form of a woman who had knitted her sweater faithfully and well for the greater comfort of soldiers in the trenches and had placed a \$3 bill in the sweater pocket before turning it over to a Red Cross chapter, found another woman marching out as the sweater knitter, replying smugly in the sweater pocket. Now come specific denial of the malicious slander. The denial, issued by the general manager of the American National Red Cross, in part as follows: "A report that sweaters, socks and other articles knitted for the Red Cross chapter or subsidiary sanctuaries, or shops or direct to the soldiers is being industriously and systematically circulated. While this damaging report is heard on many sides, it has in not a single instance been established as true. No articles whatever, either knitted or otherwise, made by Red Cross workers and turned over to any Red Cross chapter, branch or auxiliary, or to any supply warehouse, are sold either to soldiers or to the public. "Should it come to the attention of Red Cross headquarters that anything of this sort is being done, the Red Cross chapter or subsidiary sanctuaries, it would be immediately dissolved and full publicity given as to the reason for such action. 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