

ALLIED TROOPS AT FRONT TRAINED IN USE OF BOMB

Chosen Soldiers From Trenches Are Taught How to Handle Anarchist's Weapon.

RESPECTABLE AS RIFLE NOW

Visit to School on French Farm, Where Instructors Take Charges in Hand and Fit Them as Specialists in This Form of Warfare.

[Correspondence of Associated Press.]
BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, FRANCE, July 26.—It was at a bombing school on a French farm where chosen soldiers brought back from the trenches were being trained in the use of the anarchist's weapon, which has now become as respectable as the rifle. Specialized develops as the war goes on. There are no M. B. degrees for master bombers yet, but that may come any day.

Present was the chief instructor, a young Scotch subaltern with blue eyes, a pleasant smile and a cock-of-the-north spirit. He might have been twenty years old, though he did not look it. On his breast was the purple and white ribbon of the new Order of the Military Cross, which you get for doing something in this war which would have won you a Victoria Cross in one of the little wars.

Also present was the assistant instructor, a sergeant of regulars—and very much of a regular—who had three ribbons which he had won in previous campaigns. He, too, had blue eyes, blond blue eyes. These two understood each other.

"If you don't drop it, why, it's all right," said the sergeant. "Of course, if you do . . ."

"And when you throw it, sir, you must look out and not hit the man behind and knock the bomb out of your hand. That has happened before now to an absent-minded fellow when you throw bombs."

"They say that you sometimes pick up the German bombs and chuck them back before they explode," it was suggested.

"Yes, sir, I've read things like that in some of the accounts of the reporters who write from 'Somewhere in France.' You don't happen to know where that is, sir? All I can say is that if you are going to do it, you must be quick about it. I shouldn't advise delaying your decision, sir, or perhaps when you reach down to pick it up neither your hand nor the bomb would be there. They'd have gone off together, sir."

"Have you ever been hurt in your handling of bombs?" one asked. (Surprise in the blond, blue eyes.)

"Oh, no, sir! Bombs are well-behaved if you treat them right. It's all in being thoughtful and considerate of them."

Meanwhile he was jerking at some kind of a patent fuse set in a shell of high explosive.

"This is a poor kind, sir. It's been discarded, but I thought that you might like to see it. Never did like it! Always making trouble!"

More distance between the audience and the performer.

"Now I've got it, sir—get down, sir."

DISCARD IS THROWN
BEHIND ANOTHER WALL
The audience carried out instructions to the letter as army regulations require. We got behind the protection of one of the practice trench traverses. He threw the discard beyond another wall of earth. There was a sharp report, a burst of smoke and some fragments of earth were tossed into the air.

In a small affair of 200 yards of trench the other day, it was estimated that the British and Germans together threw about 5,000 bombs in this fashion. It was enough to sadden any Minister of Munitions. However, the British kept the trench.

"Do the men like to become bombers?" one asked the subaltern.

"I should say so. It puts them up in front. It gives them a chance to throw something—and they don't get much credit in France, you see. We had a pupil here last week who broke the throwing record for distance. He was pleased as Punch with himself. A first-class bombing detachment has a lot of pride of corps."

To bomb has become as common a verb with the army as to bayonet.

"We bombed them out," means a section of trench taken. As you know, a trench is dug and built with sand bags in zigzag traverses. In following the course of a trench, it is as if you followed the sides of the squares of a checkerboard up and down and across on the same tiers of squares. The square itself is a bank of earth, with the cut on either side and in front of it. When a bombing party locates their way into the possession of a section of German trench, there are Germans under cover of the traverses on either side of them. The German is waiting around the corner to shoot the first British head that shows itself.

"It's important that you and not the Boches chuck the bombs over first," explained the subaltern. "Also that you get them into their traverse, or they may be as troublesome to you as to the enemy."

With the bombs bursting in their faces, the Germans who are not put out of action are blinded and stunned. In the moment when they are thus off guard, the aggressors leap around the corner.

"And then?"
"Stick 'em, sir!" said the matter-of-fact sergeant. "Yes, the cold steel is best. And do it first. As Mr. MacPherson said, it's very important to do it first."

It has been found that something short is handy for this kind of work. In such cramped quarters—a ditch six feet deep and from two to three feet broad—the rifle is an awkward length to permit of prompt and skillful use of the bayonet.

"Yes, sir, you can mix it up better with something handy, sir—to think British soldiers would come to fighting like assassins, sir," said the sergeant.

"You must be spy on such occasions. It's no time for wool gathering."

Not a smile from him or the subaltern.

PARK CONCERTS

- PROGRAM.
1. March, "It's Tulp Time in Holland."
2. Overture, "Stradella."
3. Medley, "Of Ten Popular Airs."
4. Piccolo solo, "Hip-and-Tuck."
5. Scandinavian Scenes:
a. Country Dance.
b. Country Wedding.
c. Wedding March and Dance.
6. Waltz, "Seal of Minnesota."
7. Song, "I Hear You Calling Me."
8. Medley, Harry Lauder's Songs.
9. Descriptive, "A Day at the Panama Exposition."
10. "Dixie" and "Star-Spangled Banner."

WHERE THE BAND PLAYS.
Monday—Himborzo.
Tuesday—Riverside.
Wednesday—Clarke Springs.
Thursday—Gamble's Hill.
Friday—Highland Park.
Saturday—William Byrd Park.

tern all the time. They were the kind you would like to have along in a tight corner, whether you had to fight with knives or flats or seventeen-inch howitzers.

The sergeant took us into the storehouse where he kept his supply of bombs. "What if a German shell should strike your storehouse?" it was suggested.

"Then, sir, I expect that most of the bombs would be exploded. Bombs are very peculiar in their habits. What do you think, sir?"

DIFFERENT KINDS
OF BOMBS EXHIBITED

It was no trouble to show stock, as the clerks at the stores say. He brought forth all the different kinds of bombs which British ingenuity has invented—but, no, not all invented. These would mount into the thousands.

Every British inventor who knows anything about explosives has tried his hand at a new kind of bomb. One means all the kinds which the British War Office has considered worth a practice test.

There were yellow and green and blue and black and striped bombs, egg-shaped, barrel-shaped, conical and conical bombs, bombs that were exploded by pulling a string or pressing a button—all these to be thrown by hand, without mentioning grenades and other bigger varieties which were thrown by mechanical means which

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The public is cordially invited to attend the exercises.

OPEN PLAYGROUND

Exercises Take Place in Woodland Heights To-Morrow Afternoon.

Many songs and speeches will feature the program when the mothers and youngsters of Woodland Heights turn out to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock to dedicate their new playground.

The playground is the result of the efficient work of the Mothers' Club, which has been untiring in its efforts to secure a place where the children might get out and romp at will in the sunshine. Miss Fisher will be superintendent of the new playground.

Children's Summer Dresses 39c Worth 60c.

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would have made a Chinese warrior of Confucius's time or a Roman legionary fool at home.

"This was the firstborn," the subaltern explained. "The first thing we laid out our hands on when the close-quarters trench warfare began."

It is out of date now, as grandfather's smoothbore—the tin-pot bomb which both sides used early in the winter. A wick was attached to the high explosive wrapped in cloth and stuck in an ordinary army jam can.

"Quite home-made, as you see, sir," remarked the sergeant. "Used to fix them up ourselves in the trenches in odd hours—saved burying your refuse jam tins, according to medical corps direction—you threw them at the Boches. Have to use a match to light it—very old-fashioned, sir. I wonder if that old fuse has got damp. No, it's going all right"—and he threw the jam pot, which made a good explosion.

"But here is the best; we're discarding the others," he went on as he picked up another bomb.

It was a pleasure to throw this crowning achievement of the experiments. It fitted your hand nicely, it threw easily, it did the business; it was foolproof against a man in love or a warpost.

"We saw as soon as this style came out," said the sergeant, "that it was bound to be popular. Everybody asks for it."

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