

Problem of Melting Relics Into War Medals For Soldiers Puzzles Departments

HISTORIC GUNS TAKEN IN WAR, WERE BUILT BY OUR ALLIES

Problem Confronts War and Navy Departments as to Desirability of Melting Up Cannon Around Building to Make Medals.

Will an American soldier value a distinguished service medal more if it were made from bronze cannon captured in earlier American wars? Would the destruction of these historic trophies to make war medals be an insult to those earlier American fighters?

Department is Puzzled. That's the question that is puzzling the War Department these days, while Congress wrestles with the problem of creating a medal for American gallantry in the war in 1917. Letters are pouring into the Department, some of which urge the conversion of the historic cannon which now adorn the entrances of the State, War and Navy building in Washington, into service medals, while others denounce such an idea as a sacrilege.

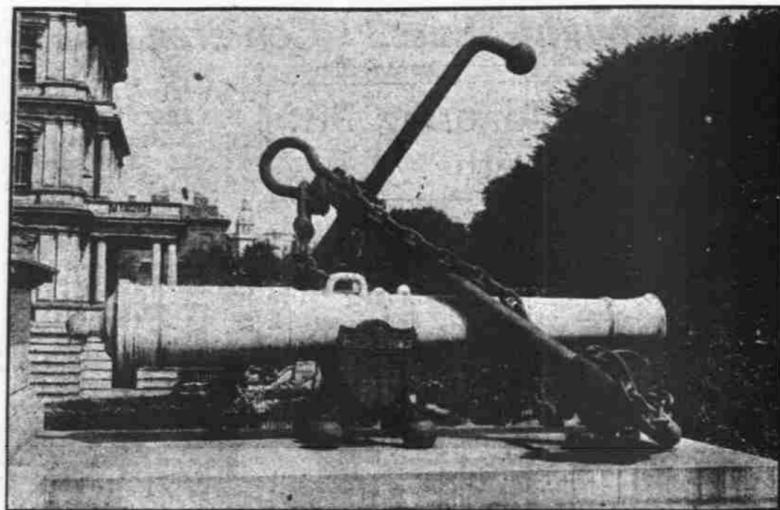
The War Department is a trifle vague on who first originated the idea of melting up the State War and Navy cannon into medals, but the idea was first advanced about two months ago and with many people, it has found much favor. On the other hand, such a course would lose to the Army and Navy a number of famous trophies which can never be duplicated.

Five major entrances of the Navy and War Departments' portion of the big executive are guarded by approximately a score of cannon, mostly bronze, which were captured in the Revolutionary, Mexican and Civil wars.

A rather startling fact came to light during an inspection of these cannon. If they were ever melted up to make war medals, America will witness the conversion of cannon made in France and some made in England, which were later turned against the Stars and Stripes in battle, melted down into medals for Americans who are fighting on the side with Englishmen and Frenchmen on French soil.

The major portion of these guns were owned by Spain at one time, but a number of them were made at Douay, France, and later came into possession of the Spanish, either by purchase or capture. It is interesting, also, to remember that Douay, the place where these guns were cast, over 100 years ago, is today historic in the annals of the war for democracy.

Have Warlike Names. A study of these guns will reveal a number of interesting facts. It will show the common practice of the French and Spanish gun makers to give their big weapons belligerent titles. A big Spanish cannon mounted under the window of Secretary of the



Here is "Le Farouche," a neat little plaything of Mars, the God of War. It used to shoot an eight-inch cannon ball. Now some persons want to melt it up to make medals.

Navy Daniels was named "Le Bellicoso"—The Bellicose; and another in front of the War Department end of the building is named "La Passepartout"—The Passport. A very brief examination of the Spanish-made guns will also reveal the fact that the Spanish ordnance department of the late eighteenth century was particularly efficient. The gun might be named any delectable, sentimental name that occurred to those who named them, but the ordnance department put its "numero" or number into the gun in base relief characters that stayed there as long as there was a gun.

Would Gladden Warrior. "Le Farouche" must have been the sort of a gun that would make glad the heart of an eighteenth-century gun-builder. It was a great 8-inch piece, moulded of solid bronze, and about twelve feet long. Its weight is enormous. Up near the muzzle is a grimly significant motto, that appears on others of the French-made guns: "Ultima Ratio Regum"—"The last argument of Kings."

Then in bold relief, reads this inscription further down the barrel: "Louis Charles de Bourbon, Comte de Du, Duc d'Anjou."

Next comes a wonderfully and fearfully fashioned device—the arms of France, with the three fleur-de-lis in the center—which shows clearly to what heights the art of gun-decorating reached in those artistic, brass-cannon days.

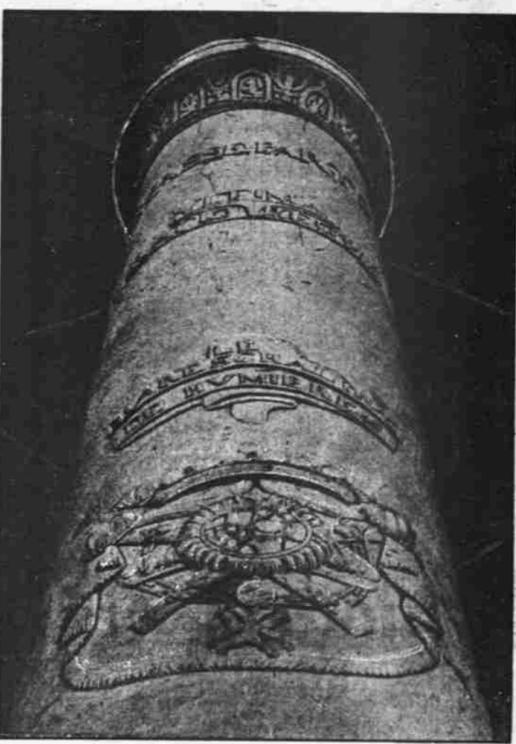
A Hiding Sea. Then a strange, perfect device of a blessing and face, surrounded by the Latin motto "Pluribus nec Inpar." Then come more and more intricate representations of the French coat-of-arms in the days of a monarchy and also by the side of the gun, one finds this inscription: "Ronde en Douay le 27 Juillet, 1748 par Jean Maritz. The translation is plain: Made at Douay (France) July 27, 1748 by Jean Maritz."

Much the same is "La Passepartout," both of which stand at the north entrance of the State, War, and Navy building. Virtually the same device appears on the two guns, except that "The Passport" bears the arms of "Le Maréchal Duc de Huischard" and the dorsal crest, though the gun was made by Kellertiere, a Helvetian, at Douay, in 1693. Both "The Passport" and "The Revenge" were captured at the fall of Santiago by the American forces in 1898.

Some Peculiar Names. A glimpse at the names of these guns is fascinating to the lover of relics. There is "Le Fanatico" (the Fanatic), a big Spanish sea coast cannon made in Seville, in 1779; the "Carberos" (Carbers, the three-headed dog who guarded the gates of Hell), a short, three-inch piece that must have barked at the rovers of the Spanish main; "Le Gardain" (The Guardian), a great twelve-foot, six-inch caliber piece that bears the Spanish crest and is "Numero" 4.

Among these larger guns there are two small, apparently lonesome little twin cannons that were dragged from Mexico by the invading forces of Scott in '48. Singularly enough, they bear the names of two of Jesus' disciples—San Mateo and San Marcos (St. Matthew and St. Mark).

SUSPECT NEGROES OF HOLD-UP. Pending investigation of the alleged holdup and robbery of Harold Stewart, of 6 Summer road southeast, two negroes were detained by Sergeant Radruff, of the Eleventh precinct, today. Stewart was robbed of \$17 when attacked by a gang of men last night while returning from work at the Glebeboro Point steel plant.



A "close-up" of "La Passepartout," captured from the Spanish at Santiago. It's very ornate, but probably was some terror in its day.

'PENNSY'S' PASSENGER TRAFFIC HEAD DIES

George W. Boyd, passenger traffic manager of the Pennsylvania railroad, and well known in Washington, is dead at his summer cottage at Cape May, N. J. He had been ill since early in June.

Mr. Boyd was sixty-nine years old. He began his railroad career in 1863, and since 1903 had been general passenger agent for all lines east of Pittsburgh.

He was personally known to all the Presidents since Grover Cleveland, and had a wide acquaintance among members of Congress, Government officials, and newspaper men by whom he was held in the highest esteem. He was a frequent guest at dinners at the Gridiron Club.

Relatives of Mr. Boyd living in Washington had not been informed today of the funeral arrangements.

Mr. Boyd was twice married. His second wife was Miss M. C. Noyes, daughter of the late Crosby S. Noyes. The children of his first union, who survive him, are Oliver T. Boyd, of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; Mrs. Richard Day, of Denver, Colo.; and Miss Anna Boyd. Mr. Boyd's second marriage occurred in Washington nineteen years ago. He is survived by his widow and two children, Elizabeth and Crosby Boyd.

GEORGETOWN STUDENTS PLAN MILITARY DRILL

Plans are being pushed for the opening of all departments of Georgetown University on October 1. With registration at the 1917 greater than in any previous year, officials of the institution are confident of a better attendance throughout the whole term.

The increase in registration figures in the college of arts and sciences is said to be borne out in all other departments, with the exception of the law department. Last year the law department had an enrollment of 320 students. Since the close of school last spring, 225 men have enlisted in the service of Uncle Sam.

Chief Justice Livingston, of the District Supreme Court, has been added to the faculty, and will lecture in the course on corporations and partnerships.

The graduate department will offer a new course in trial practice conducted by Frank J. Hogan.

The law department will open October 1 at 6:30 o'clock in the evening, when the Rev. A. J. Donlon, president of the university, will welcome the students. George E. Hamilton, dean of the law department, will preside, and some prominent Washington member of the bench or bar will deliver the address.

October Holders Will Be Well To consult Guide our about flowers and floral decorations, 1214 F st. —Adv.

"MADNESS OF THE MOVIES" IS DECRIED BY PRIZE BEAUTY

A girl of tender years, not yet sixteen, slipped away from her home one day recently and disappeared. That girl was Majorie Thompson, the fifteen-year-old daughter of Mrs. Marie Thompson, of Grant place northwest.

This fifteen-year-old girl had enormous odds against her, but even with the cards in her favor, it is doubtful if she could have succeeded in her battle for a place in the "movie" sun. There was another Washington girl—Miss Ruth Purcell—who went into the "movies" in de-luxe fashion.

Miss Purcell was chosen as the most beautiful entrant in a city-wide beauty contest conducted by The Washington Times two years ago. Her beauty had formerly attracted the attention of Harrison Fisher, the famous magazine artist who had Miss Purcell pose for him on several occasions.

Ruth Purcell today told her story to The Times, that other girls might be warned against it.

By RUTH PURCELL. It took me about three months to make up my mind to give pictures a trial, which was about the same length of time that I remained in New York at the studio.

I might tell you, first of all, that while I was in California and after the papers had published my refusal to accept the contract offered me to remain in the State, word was sent to me by one of the most prominent writers of moving picture stories in America that I was very sensible in refusing the contract and that I would be much happier if I returned to Washington to my former work.

Since that time I have always found that the people who seemed to think me foolish in leaving pictures were those whose knowledge of the profession was confined to that of on-looker in the theater. Those who knew the "inside" of the business had

Warns Girls Against Lure Of Films



MISS RUTH PURCELL. —Photo by G. V. Buck.

views along the lines of the moving picture writer I mentioned. To sit in a motion picture theater and watch your favorite star is a great emotional feast, I'm free to admit, but any girl makes a real mistake when she tries to become the star herself. Movie-land from a seat in the theater is a vista of glamour and dreams, of fair women and brave

DRAFT APPEALS CONSIDERED AT SUNDAY SESSION

Forced to hold an extra session to speed up cases before it, the District Board of Appeals for men of the draft met today for the first time on Sunday.

Two new members, George W. Cox and Morris Hacker, who succeeded respectively, James H. Easby-Smith, chairman, and Dr. W. C. Woodward, secretary, met with the board for the first time.

Estimates today were that at least two more weeks will be required for the District board to finish its task. There are 100 general appeal cases and between 600 and 800 appeals brought on behalf of the Provost Marshal General still to be passed upon.

A majority of the negroes drafted will be called out for mobilization at the training cantonnments with the contingent of white drafted forces summoned October 2. It became known today.

Secretary Baker declared, in making this announcement, that the negroes would be called from States with the largest percentages of colored population first. He added that States with small colored population would mobilize colored men later.

the limelight. However, all insults people take and give in such a place are covered with the word "ambition."

If you are told to dress in such a fashion that would not come up to your idea of decency, and refuse, you are consoled by some one telling you that if you want to succeed in pictures you cannot dictate to directors.

Directors Are Harsh. The toll is terrible at times. One must be ready to perform all sorts of foolish and hazardous feats, if ordered. The director cares nothing for the feelings of the minor members of a cast. The harsh, unfeeling criticism of many of these directors is unnecessary, and serves no real purpose.

I had none of the starvation, the miles of tramping for jobs, the uncertainty of a place to sleep, the constant search for money to make a presentable showing, with the consequent temptations that such conditions inevitably bring. I only know that the picture game is impossible, from my standpoint, and all the cards were stacked in my favor.

To my mind, the loss does not compensate the gain. It means sacrifices innumerable to achieve fame that lasts approximately but a few years, that is, with few exceptions.

My experience was for three months, and was sufficient to last me for a lifetime. I have no regrets.

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