

# MIDDLE AGED SOLDIERS HOLD THEIR OWN WITH YOUNGER MEN

(Correspondence Associated Press.)  
**FRENCH FRONT, June.**—When heroism is concerned there is no question of being "too old at forty" in the French army. This has been demonstrated time and again among the veteran regiments of the territorial army of France—the second reserve, the youngest of whose men when they were called to the colors in August, 1914, had attained the age of 34, while the remainder ranged between that age and 41. Many of them, especially among the younger classes, have since been transferred at their own request into the ranks of the active army, thus making the average age of these regiments much higher, while three years have been added to the age of all the men since they first put on their uniforms at their country's call to arms.

The record of one of these regiments, entirely composed of men from Brittany, will serve to demonstrate how great is the part these soldiers of mature age have taken in the task of repelling the invaders, in spite of the natural supposition that they had passed the period of enthusiasm for deeds of valor.

This regiment was mobilized together with the rest of the French forces, on August 2, 1914. When the troops of the active army left to meet the invading Germans crossing neutral Belgium, this Breton territorial regiment was sent from its depots at Rennes and Saint-Malo to organize, garrison and possibly defend one of the sections of the entrenched camp encircling Paris.

Four months it spent there digging trenches, erecting gun emplacements, and doing all the arduous labor connected with the establishment of strong military works.

When the Germans had been driven back in the battle of the Marne, they were placed in charge of a front line sector to the north-east of Rheims. Here they stayed for twenty-eight months, constantly harassed by the enemy while they dug a great system of trenches both of defense and communication, built blockhouses and concrete machine-gun positions, excavated rifle and grenade pits and generally organized the position.

The greatest test of the soldierly qualities of these tough old warriors came when they were transferred to Auberive in March this year. They were attached to the famous fighting Legion and their duty was to do the pick and spade work and keep the legionaries supplied with ammunition and food during the French offensive, which began on April 17, and at the same time to hold a line of trenches. When the Legion went forward on its victorious attack the Breton territorialists were ordered to follow them up and extend the communication trenches and tracks across the conquered territory. They were not content with simply doing this very perilous work always under fire. They also took part by the side of

the legionaries in the capture of Auberive, and a section of territorial grenadiers played a glorious role in the reduction of the small field fort of Vandemincourt.

Meeting a couple of these Bretons coming back with a batch of German prisoners, a French staff officer inquired of them where they had taken the captives and where they were going, and received only a broad smile in reply. He was astonished at this apparent lack of discipline and was about to remonstrate when a German prisoner stepped forward and said: "Excuse me, sir, but these men do not speak French. They are Bretons." He gave the officer the information asked for and the convoy marched on.

This is not at all surprising, for although all Frenchmen learn French in school, the Bretons soon lose the habit of speaking it, as they at all times speak their Celtic tongue among themselves. This is a close approach to Welsh and has no relation whatever to French.

Their gallant deeds at Auberive brought the old territorialists mentioned in dispatches along with the Foreign Legion, while many of the officers and men were decorated on the field of battle, including one of the majors, who, although 52 years old, has kept command of his battalion ever since war was declared and has undergone with his men all the fatigues and hardships inseparable from fighting in the front line.

# 64,000 CARS NEEDED TO HAUL FOR ARMY

Uncle Sam's tremendous war business has already begun to move and is the principal reason behind the concerted campaign undertaken by the railroads to induce the shippers not to waste an inch of car space. Estimates by the New York Journal of Commerce indicate that 64,000 freight cars will be needed to haul construction materials to the sixteen cantonments which will house the new American army. This does not include cars that will be needed to move troops nor the 3500 to 5000 workmen who will be attached to each military city. Then, too, it must be remembered that many of these cantonments will be located where no terminal railroad facilities exist, and these will have to be constructed before work on the cantonments themselves can start.

Figures given out by the war department indicate the tremendous burden that will be placed upon the railroads.

Concrete work in each cantonment is estimated to require 4700 barrels of cement, 1400 cubic yards of sand, 2500 cubic yards of broken stone or screened gravel, over 2500 kegs of nails, 5,600,000 board feet of boards, 7,800,000 board feet of dimension stuff, 177,000 feet of 4x4 inch timber, 2,800,000 feet of flooring, 1,200,000 feet of siding and 1,400,000 feet of matched boards. These figures vary in the northern and southern states to allow for climatic adaptations. The northern states will require more lumber than given above.

Estimates of the total requirements of electrical equipment for the sixteen military cities amounts

to 20,800,000 feet of insulated wire, 280,000 feet of lamp cord, 125,000 key sockets, and about the same number of shades; 150,000 clear receptacles, 22,000 snap switches, 27,800 combined switches and plug cut-outs; 75,000 plug fuses; 3,000,000 pairs of unglazed porcelain tubes; about 7,000,000 1/4 to 3/4 inch wood screws; 9600 pounds of friction tape, 4000 pounds of solder, and other items on a similar scale.

In order to extinguish fires in these cantonments about 8300 fire extinguishers, 5000 water casks, 120,000 water pails and 380,000 feet of hose will be on hand.

The plumbing calls for about 1,600,000 feet of pipe, 40,000 closets and tanks; 30,000 shower bath heads and tremendous quantities of pipe fittings, sinks, boilers, etc.

Bear in mind that while the railroads are hauling all this load for the government over tracks and into terminals that they have been compelled in many cases to build especially for the purpose, all the factories of the country must be kept supplied with fuel and raw materials, the huge crops must be moved to market, and the greatest industrial traffic the country has ever known kept moving smoothly day and night.

Patriotism of the American people will have to be indicated by making maximum use of freight cars in the future. Perhaps the greatest economic waste of today is in failure to utilize freight car capacity. Averages show that but 43 per cent of car space is used. Increased loading is an obvious necessity if the government is to be supported properly.

## FEAT OF THE OREGON.

Her Historic Trip Around Cape Horn to Santiago Bay.

At the outbreak of the war with Spain the battleship Oregon was ordered from San Francisco to the Atlantic coast. She left San Francisco on March 19, 1898; arrived at Callao, Peru, on April 18, where she took on coal; reached Seaford Point on April 18 and took on more coal; reached Rio de Janeiro on April 30; Bahia, May 9; Barbadoes, May 18, and Jupiter Inlet, Florida, on May 24. The entire distance run was 14,706 knots at an expenditure of 4,153 tons of coal.

While at Rio de Janeiro Captain Clark, who was in command of the Oregon, received word that the Spanish torpedo boat Temerario had sailed from Montevideo with the intention of destroying the Oregon. Captain Clark notified the Brazilian authorities that if the Spanish vessel entered the harbor she would be attacked. The Temerario did not enter the harbor.

In the battle of Santiago Bay the speed of the Oregon enabled her to take a front position in the chase, in which she forced the Cristobal Colon to run ashore to avoid destruction from the Oregon's thirteen inch guns. The Oregon also prevented the escape of the Vizcaya.

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# FEET MUST BE SOUND TO MAKE A SOLDIER

(By Associated Press.)  
**SAN FRANCISCO, July 6.**—Drug stores in the vicinity of the reserve officers' training camp here are doing what is familiarly termed a land office business.

The period of short, sharp marches is on, and there are many and severe inspections of feet. Yards of adhesive tape are disappearing with amazing speed from the drug store shelves, while talcum powder is being sold pound after pound. The feet of every man are examined before the march, and the taping and powdering process begins at that time. If there is any indication of wear at the end of the march the pedal extremities of the rookies are given another plaster of tape and shower of powder.

In view of the big demand the commissary tents have been well stocked with everything that will make marching easier and yet not "baby" the feet of the rookie. The officers have no desire to make a man's feet so soft by treatment that he will be unable to stand up under a sustained march. On the other hand, the slightest bruise or scratch is given close attention, and properly reinforced with tape and powder.

The inspection of feet is one of the amusing features of camp life, but the rookies realize the seriousness that is behind it, for battles, they are told by Major Edward L. Massee and the other experts on marching at the camp, are won by the side that can keep its feet as well as its head.

Colonel F. W. Sladen, commandant at the camp, is a stickler for perfect feet, and so that account the examinations of these marching essentials are unusually severe. Rookies have

ing a leaning toward tender feet are nursed for this particular ailment. If their feet do not become hard under the process they are liberated from further duty until sent to their homes. Corns and callouses are strictly taboo, unless, in the opinion of the medical examiners these defects do not interfere with the marching quality of the man.

The inspection of feet has as important a place in the reserve officers' training camp as the inspection of firearms and other equipment. One of the most frequent things the camp doctors have to do is to ascertain where the shoe pinches, and then doctor the pinch. And in order to obviate as much foot trouble as possible the rookie is made to wear a shoe that is larger than the shoe he would wear in piping times of peace.

The socks must also be of a make that will not irritate or overheat the feet. One of the principal things the camp doctors have to combat is "scalded" feet, or feet which, although otherwise hardy, become inflamed when forced to do certain kinds of work. Several rookies whose feet passed successfully in the initial examinations are finding out that good looking and good wearing pedal extremities are sometimes vastly different.

As a consequence of this close attention to feet the Red Cross and other organizations making outfits for soldiers are being instructed to abide closely by the government regulations on socks, and other foot and leg equipment.

The throngs of bare-footed men lined up for inspection in company formation, present an odd sight, but certainly show the good effect of this scrutiny when they march.

# SHORT HAired WOMEN ORGANIZE REGIMENT

**COLORS OF AMAZON REGIMENT BLESSED AT PETROGRAD CATHEDRAL**

(By Associated Press.)  
**PETROGRAD, July 6.**—The colors of the first detachment of the Petrograd women's regiment were blessed in the square of St. Isaac's cathedral yesterday. More than two hundred women, with their hair closely cropped, and in full uniform, were present, armed with rifles.

Don Cosacks and sailors furnished a guard of honor. Later the women paraded through the Nevsky Prospect and other streets, carrying banners with the inscriptions: "Death is Better than Shame," and "Women, Do Not Give Your Hand to Traitors."

## EXAMINATION FOR CLERK

An examination for clerk will be held at the postoffice in this city on July 23, 1917. Age limit, 18 to 45 years on the date of the examination.

Married women will not be admitted to the examination. This prohibition, however, does not apply to women who are divorced, but they are eligible for appointment only as clerk.

# NEUTRALS ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT FOOD SUPPLY

**SITUATION GRAVE IN SCANDINAVIA OVER THE SHORTAGE OF COMMODITIES**

(By Associated Press.)  
**STOCKHOLM, July 6.**—Washington dispatches forecasting the sharp limitation or possible discontinuance of all exports to neutrals has caused anxiety to the government and people. The situation is already grave. Crops are likely to fall below the average. Manufacturers are closed by a lack of raw material. Supplies are waning and living costs are increasing in Sweden.

## MAJOR BELL OF GOLDFIELD DIES IN LOS ANGELES

M. J. Bell, for many years engaged in mining in Goldfield and Manhattan, and auditor and recorder of Esmeralda county during 1911 and 1912, died last Saturday in Los Angeles, following an operation.

Major Bell came to Goldfield in the early days of the town and was well known to almost every one as the candidate who walked from one end of Esmeralda county to the other in campaigning for office.

He is survived by two daughters, Marjorie Bell and a married daughter in St. Paul. He has a brother and sister in Goldfield.

## CHINESE FARMS SMALL.

Hardly More Than Gardens, and the Cultivation is Intensive.

It is incorrect to speak of the Chinese as farmers in the strict sense of the word, for they are gardeners rather than farmers. A so-called Chinese farm is no larger than what in America would be called a good sized garden, and the methods of cultivation are of the most intensive sort.

Generally speaking, it seems that the greater the prosperity of the agricultural family the larger the number of children; hence in turn the greater number of mouths to feed. In addition prosperous conditions always bring with them greater expenses incident to family festivities, such as weddings, which stand out as all important considerations in the lives of the Chinese.

In Manchuria the conditions are somewhat different, for there are vast stretches of land open to cultivation on a much larger scale than in China proper. These tracts are generally worked by hired farmers, who come in hundreds of thousands from the more densely populated sections of China to spend the short farming season in northern portions, returning again when the cold weather makes further labor in the fields impossible.—United States Consular Report.

## A Turkish Love Story.

A Turk knocked at his beloved's door, and a voice answered from within, "Who is there?"

Then he answered, "It is I."

Then the voice said, "This house will not hold thee and me."

And the door was not opened.

Then went the lover into the desert, where there is nothing but Allah, and fasted and prayed in solitude.

And after a year he returned and knocked again at the door.

And again the voice asked, "Who is there?"

And he said, "It is myself."

And the door was opened to him.

Dickens and a Face Ache.

Dickens wanted to be an actor before he was an author. He would have been but for a face ache. When he was a lad and a lawyer's clerk he had attained a trial of his power of reproducing "character and oddity" before Mathews and Charles Keble. But a face ache kept him at home, and soon after he "made a great splash" as a newspaper reporter. Thereafter he reproduced "character and oddity" on paper in stead of the stage.

## THE WAY NOT TO KEEP YOUNG.

Our Cousin Eua is only forty years old, but she doesn't look to be a day under sixty. Worry has been the cause. She has worried almost constantly for fear she would look old and that her husband wouldn't like her. She has dieted herself in order to remain young. She never eats as much as she wants or the kind of food she wants. She seems to think that punishing herself in this manner will keep off old age. And she sleeps with a view of remaining young. She goes to bed at 6 o'clock every afternoon, and she remains in bed until 7 o'clock in the morning. The remaining eleven hours of the twenty-four she spends in trying to rub youth and beauty into her cheeks.—Claude Callan in Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

## STRATEGY OF THE BOER.

De Wet's Clever Escape When Hemmed In by the Enemy.

Of the three great figures that emerged on the Boer side in the war of 1899-1902, De Wet and De la Rey, De Wet was the most impressive. His face was a study in resistance, says Harold Spender in "General Botha—The Career and the Man." Looking on him, one could understand the fear that he inspired in his own men. But it was his schemes of escape, almost miraculous in their cunning, that perplexed an enemy and puzzled a planet.

One evening after a long day's march—so he told us—all his wanderings seemed to have come to an end. The lights of the British bivouac fires twinkled from every point of the horizon. De Wet, as was his wont, went apart from his men and sat alone in dumb despair. Then there came to him softly one of those wonderful scents which served him so well. The scout had discovered a slight gap in the British lines between two regiments that were not quite keeping touch.

In a moment De Wet was on his feet. Within an hour every horse's foot was muffled with cloth or wool and every wagon wheel was swathed. The Boer campfires were lighted and were left burning brightly. Then the whole Boer force crept out through the darkness of the night in utter silence, penetrated the gap in the British lines and started on a new course of fugitive warfare.

It may be fortunate for a fool that he does not know he is one, but it's awfully rough on the rest of us.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

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