

MEN WHO WILL LEAD NEW NATIONAL ARMY



President soon will appoint a number of major-generals and brigadier-generals to command the "Liberty Boys" of 1917 :: Edward B. Clark gives valorous records of some likely candidates

SOON as the various and perhaps multitudinous recommendations can be studied and the majority approval determined, major generals and brigadier-generals will be named to command divisions and brigades in the new National Army. It may be a matter of interest to young men who are to serve their country to know into whose keeping their leadership is to be committed. The names of the men selected for high service with the new National Army have not yet been made public, but it is virtually known that the major generals will be chosen from officers of regiments now holding the rank of brigadier general, and that the brigadier-generals will be chosen from regulars now holding either the rank of colonel or lieutenant colonel.

On June 8 last the president sent to the senate nominations for new major generals and brigadier-generals for the regular army. It must be understood that these men were named for regular service and not for National Army service. It is probable, however, that several of the regular brigadiers will be made major generals of the new forces.

It will cause no surprise if Col. John W. Heard of the Fifth Cavalry shall be a general officer of the new forces. Young Americans may know that if they get Heard as a commanding officer they will get a soldier with a fighting record.

Heard wears a medal of honor given to him by a vote of congress for conspicuous personal gallantry. During the Spanish war the transport to

which he and his immediate command were assigned became disabled at the mouth of the Manant river west of Bahía Honda, Cuba. Behind the rocks and in the thickets on the shore were scores of Spanish soldiers. The deck of the transport was being swept by Mauser bullets from the rifles of the hidden foe. Mechanical communication between the engine room and the pilot house of the transport was out of service and it was necessary to transmit orders by messengers.

Because of his place on the boat Heard did not know that two of his men had been shot in quick succession while performing the duty of order bearing. When he heard of it he said: "I will ask no more of my men to expose themselves. Give me your orders."

For twenty minutes he carried the messages along the deck, though Mauser bullets cut his blouse and splintered the railings and the boat's upper works all about him. Every step of his way was marked out by shots, yet he came through unscathed. He wears the medal given "For Valor."

When President Wilson recently promoted some colonels to be brigadier-generals of regulars one of those advanced was Col. Joseph T. Dickman, cavalry officer, now in command at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. It probably is not poor guessing to place Dickman as one of the brigadiers who will be given the command of a division of the new National Army. He is a sturdy soldier of high record, a student and fighter.

For army boards appointed for investigation and method-reforming purposes Dickman always has been a favorite choice. He looks like a soldier and he has proved on many a field that he has the soldier instinct. There is a feeling here that one day he will be heard from in France.

It was Dickman who in 1892 with a small detachment fought, defeated and captured the bandit chiefs, Benavides and Gonzales, with many followers, in the chaparral country in Texas. He distinguished himself at the battle of San Juan and later was chief of staff to General Chaffee, going with his chief to the relief of the beleaguered ones at Peking. He was in the thick of the fighting at the Pa-ta-chao temples near the Forbidden city.

Colonel Grote Hutcheson of the cavalry is likely to have a brigadier general's command in the new army. It was into Hutcheson's arms as he stood under fire on the walls of the Forbidden city in 1900 that Captain Rellly, his comrade, fell dead. At that time Hutcheson was an aide to General Chaffee. With his chief and with Rellly he stood on a wall where the Fourteenth regiment had planted its flag. A detachment of Chinese marked the three and a shower of shot splattered about them. They stood unharmed. Another shower and the gallant Rellly, who, conquering all obstacles, had fought his battery to the front, fell dead into the arms of Hutcheson.

Col. L. W. V. Kennon of the infantry almost unquestionably will have a brigade and possibly a division command in the new army. Kennon served for a long time on General Crook's staff in the Indian wars of the West. He went to the Philippines early in the war game and he did not leave until he had played his hand for six years.

It was this army officer who, although attached to the infantry, was given the engineer's task of building the Benguet road in the Philippine Islands. It was the most difficult engineering job ever undertaken in the Islands. Kennon, although a junior officer of the army, had commanded a brigade in the northern campaign of General Lawton. He brought to the work of road building nearly two thousand members of the tribes in whose country he had been campaigning. The battles with them over, he asked

these men to aid him in the works of peace. They liked him, trusted him and they stood loyally to the road building task, which was completed more quickly than anyone knowing the ordinary inclinations of Philippine laborers thought could be the case.

Col. Walter K. Wright of the Twenty-third infantry, now stationed at Syracuse, N. Y., is likely to find himself promoted shortly to the command of a brigade. Wright will fight and he will look after his men; and when this is said it covers the entire military case as the true soldier views it.

Wright's quick thinking made him an army officer. In the New York district in which he lived as a boy a competitive examination was held for the appointment to West Point. Wright was a candidate. It was a question as to which of six youngsters best had stood the test, and so the examining board called them up to ask them some questions. The first question put was, "Why do you want to go to West Point?"

The first five thoughtlessly answered, "Because we want to get an education." In other words, the youngsters implied that they wanted nothing more than to be educated at Uncle Sam's expense.

The sixth boy to be asked the question was Wright. He had heard the answers of the others. His answer was, "Because I want to be a soldier."

He is a soldier.

There are many men to be promoted to high commands in the new army. Of some of the others and their record it will be the duty and the delight of one who knows most of them to say a word later.

JAPANESE KNOW NO PRIVACY

The Bay of Kizuki is a Japanese watering place, and, like any watering place in America, it has a fine sandy beach stretching half a mile between two long green hills and a great hotel and casino and good fishing. In addition to these things it has a sacred temple and a wonderful rock.

The hotel is sufficiently different from any outside the Orient, for its every room is open to the street, and you may see at a glance dozens of families playing, eating, sleeping. The Japanese do not know privacy as the Occident knows it. They go about all things openly. Which has led some observers to call them a nation of monkeys and others to say that they are the most natural people in the world.

All day at Kizuki bay the people will disport themselves as man has disported by the sea since before his memories began. The water will be filled with splashing figures and the air with the shrill voices of children and women, the deep guffaws of men. There is music, too, of the Japanese sort, and men put out in boats to fish and sail in the safe little harbor within the arms of the hills.

But the event of the day comes in the evening, when the sun drops into the bay, turning it into gold, and the protecting arms of the hills are plunged in night. Then does the lone rock spire of Kizuki bay stand out in a silhouette of majestic curves against a fiery sky. And all the people come to look and admire. For to even the humblest Japanese the severe beauty of a rock spire against a sunset sky is solace and inspiration.

One of Them Did.

As good a real kid story as you've probably noticed for a while is related herewith: The four-year-old son was having lunch with his grandmother. At his proposal they agreed to play "father and mother." He was the father and she was the mother. After the few words of grace he bent forward, in excellent imitation of his father, and said, "Well, mother, and have the children said anything cute today?"—Philadelphia Star.

SELF HELPS for the NEW SOLDIER

By a United States Army Officer

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THE PLATOON.

In the preceding articles on the school of the company, the platoon has purposely been left out of consideration and the attention confined to the squad and company. The reason was that the principles upon which platoon movements are executed are based on those of the squad and company; for the platoon, consisting of from two to four squads, is simply a company on a reduced scale, or a squad on an enlarged scale, and is handled, generally speaking, accordingly. Moreover, when the new soldier, after drill in the school of the squad, is first placed in the school of the company, he is taught the application of his squad movements in company formation, and this supplies the natural connection between squad and company evolutions.

The platoon, as has been said before, is to the company what the company is to the battalion. In a war-strength company there are four platoons, and in either a peace or war strength battalion there are four companies. It is therefore apparent that such movements as "Company right (left)," which are for the purpose of throwing a column of companies into line of the battalion, are simulated with "Platoons right (left)," by turning the platoons on a fixed pivot into a line of the company.

As pointed out in connection with "Company right (left)," the movement is the same in principle as "Squad right (left)"; but since a platoon consists of two, three or four squads (we shall assume hereafter that the platoon is at the war strength of four squads, or 32 men), in such points as the rules vary between squad and company "right," the platoon follows the rules for the company.

The reason for the subdivision of the company into four platoons, instead of two, as formerly, is that modern battle conditions have demonstrated that from twenty to thirty rifles are as many as can be effectively controlled by one leader.

The platoons are commanded as follows: The platoon on the right of the line, by the first lieutenant; the platoon at the left of the line, by the second lieutenant; the platoon at right center, by the first sergeant, and the platoon at left center, by the sergeant next in rank.

Each platoon has a sergeant for guide, and the file closers are distributed according to their posts behind the line of the company.

The platoons are numbered consecutively from right to left, and these designations do not change. Since the platoon is the fire unit, its usefulness is most apparent in extended order; but it is also frequently employed in marches, on the parade ground, or in the armory. In parades through the streets of a city a company front of 64 men would generally be impossible; also, a company front of 32, or two platoons, is frequently too wide. The column of platoons formation, therefore, of a war strength company would give a front 16 men wide, and this would accommodate itself to streets which were too narrow for the two-platoon front.

Nevertheless, in garrison or ceremonies, the strength of platoons may, if desirable, exceed four squads. That is, under such circumstances, the company might be divided into two platoons of eight squads each.

PLATOON COMMANDS.

When the company is in line, to form columns of platoons, the command is, "Platoons right (left)." This is executed by each platoon as in the school of the company.

The right flank men in the front rank of each platoon face to the right in marching and mark time. The other front rank men oblique to the right, place themselves abreast of the pivot men, and mark time. In the rear rank, the third man from the right in each platoon (followed in column by the second and first) moves straight to the front until in the rear of his front rank man. Then all three face to the right in marching and mark time. The remaining men of the rear rank move straight to the front for four paces, oblique to the right, place themselves abreast of the third man, cover their file leaders and mark time.

Before executing this movement with platoons, the captain makes it a point to see that the guides on the flank toward which the movement is to turn are covering—that is, are in a straight row, so that the pivot men, whose positions are governed by those of the guides, will also be in a straight row, which will bring the platoons into a precise column. This is effected by previously announcing the guide to that flank.

Following the command, "Platoons right (left), MARCH," the concluding command is to the company as a whole—"Forward, MARCH," or "Company, HALT."

Being in columns of platoons, to change direction, the command is, "Column right (left), MARCH." At the preparatory command, the leader of the first platoon turns to the right on a moving pivot; then its leader commands, "Forward, MARCH," at the completion of the turn. Rear platoons march squarely up to the turning point of the leading platoon and turn at the command of their leaders.

When a company is in a column of squads, and it is desired to form a line of platoons, the command "Platoons, column right (left)" is given. This is executed by each platoon as already described for the company. The leading squad of each platoon executes a right turn, and four parallel columns of squads advance in line of platoons.

When the company is in line, to form line of platoons, the command may be either, "Squads right (left), platoons, column right (left), MARCH," or "Platoons right (left) by squads, MARCH." The first command is explained by reference to the preceding paragraph, while the second is executed by each platoon separately as "Right (left) by squads" in the school of the company.

Being in column of platoons, to form the company line on the right or left, the command is as follows: "On right (left) into line, MARCH." . . . "Company, HALT!" At the preparatory command, the leader of the first platoon gives "right turn." At "March," the platoon turns to the right on a moving pivot. The command "Halt" is given when the leading platoon has advanced the desired distance. At the "Halt" its leader commands "Right dress." The other platoons march exactly as though they were squads when this order is given to the company in column of squads.

"Platoons, right (left) front into line" is executed as described by squads in the school of the company. The dress for "Platoons, right front into line," would be on the left squad of the left platoon.

EXTENDED ORDER.

The purpose of the close order drill through which we have just been put with the company is threefold: In the first place, it confers the benefits cited at the beginning of this series, namely, discipline and uniformity of movement. In the second place, by pleasing the eye with the movements, it not only teaches with concrete example the fundamentals of military precision, but contributes an important moral element known as esprit de corps. A company which is in the height of drilling or marching together has a vastly better spirit than one which, however well trained as individuals, has been assembled but a short time. The third benefit is a practical or mechanical expression of the second. This is "teamwork."

Teamwork is so important to troops in combat that the infantry drill regulations select this athletic term in preference to the whole military glossary to explain the combination of elements required by a unit for successful action. Teamwork is indispensable, and teamwork can only be learned, to begin with, in close order, just as teamwork with a football squad can be properly learned only by signal practice. But well-developed teamwork is the more indispensable with deployed units because the comparatively wide fronts increase the difficulties of control. This brings us to the consideration of extended order.

Because of the increased difficulties of control, noncommissioned officers are given great latitude in the execution of extended order work. We have already seen, in the article devoted to the corporal, how that individual's importance increased the moment the squad was deployed in line of skirmishers. The success of the whole, in fact, in the word of the regulations, "depends largely upon how well each subordinate co-ordinates his work with the general plan."

In further illumination of this statement, officers and men are instructed that "it is far better to do any intelligent thing consistent with the aggressive execution of the general plan than to search hesitatingly for the ideal. This is the true rule of conduct for subordinates—who are required to act upon their own initiative."

But subordinates are immediately warned that independence must not become license. The subordinate officer should at all times have the general plan of action in mind and cause his own acts to conform thereto. The test is for him to ask himself whether he is reasonably sure that his superior in the given circumstances would issue the identical order. If the order he receives is obviously based upon an incorrect view of the situation, is impossible of execution, or has become impracticable because of changes which have occurred since its promulgation, the subordinate is compelled to use his own judgment and take the responsibility upon himself, if he is unable first to communicate the situation to his superiors.

These instructions are directed to officers primarily, but they are relatively true of the responsibility which devolves upon the squad or platoon leader, and for this reason have their places in the consideration of the company when deployed in line of skirmishers.

FUNNY PROPOSITION IS LIFE

Did you ever sit and ponder, sit and wonder, sit and think, why we're here and what this life is all about? It's a problem that has driven many brainy men to drink. It's the weirdest thing they've tried to figure out; about a thousand different theories all the scientists can show. But never yet proved a reason why. With all we've thought and all we've taught, why, all we seem to know is, we're born and live awhile and die. Life's a very funny proposition, after all. Imagination, jealousy, hypocrisy and gall; three meals a day, a whole lot to say; when you haven't got the coin you're always in the way. Everybody's fighting as we wend our way along. Every fellow claims the other fellow's in the wrong; hurried and worried until we're buried, and there's no curtain call. Life is a funny proposition, after all. When all things are coming easy, and when luck is with a man, why, then, life to him is sunshine everywhere. Then the fates blow rather breezy, and they quite upset a plan; then he'll cry that life's a burden hard to bear. Though today may be a day of smiles, tomorrow's still in doubt. And what brings me joy may bring you care and woe. We're born to die and don't know why, or what's it all about; and the more we try to learn the less we know. Life is a funny proposition, you can bet, and no one's ever solved the problem properly yet; young for a day, then old and gray, like the rose that buds and blooms and fades and falls away. Losing health to gain our wealth as through this dream we tour; everything's a guessing and nothing's absolutely sure. Battles exciting and fates we're fighting until the curtain falls. Life's a very funny proposition, after all.—George M. Cohan.

SCRAPS

Coast guard stations will be equipped with airplanes for rescue and observation work.

When water in a minnow pail cannot be changed often a bicycle pump blowing air in the water is worth while.