

WAR LIFE IN ALBANIA TOLD OF BY FORMER STAR-BULLETIN MAN

Harry Frantz of French Ambulance Corps Having Busy Time in Balkans

"Somewhere in Albania" is the title of an interesting article in the latest number of the Typographical Journal written by Harry W. Frantz, former linotype operator with the Star-Bulletin. After a considerable time in Hawaii, the land of Holo Pau as he calls it, Frantz went to Japan and China, thence returning by way of Hawaii to the mainland.

"If I remember rightly, my last letter to the Journal was written from the land of Holo Pau, some time last fall. When I returned to the Pacific coast in December after 19 months in Hawaii and the Orient I felt convinced that my travels were at an end for a while. I reckoned erroneously, however. In May my college days were terminated when I joined a volunteer ambulance unit of Stanford University for service with the American ambulance corps in France. Arriving at Paris in June we were offered an opportunity to drive cars for the Armee d'Orient in the Balkans. We left the French capital in July, traveling overland by rail through France and Italy to Tarento, thence by transport to Saloniki in Greece, and from there by rail and auto camion to our present field of operations somewhere in Albania.

"To avoid reference to an atlas, I may explain that Albania is the Balkan country which lies on the eastern coast of the Adriatic, south of Montenegro and north of Greece. The battle front runs across the country from the sea into southern Serbia. The western part of the line is held by Italian troops and the eastern part by the French troops, including colonials, and Russians in the employ of the French government. The French section of the front continues on into Serbia. The English are further to the east. While the war on the Albanian front is far less intense than that in France, it certainly is not dull. Trench systems are less extensive and operations generally are more open. All movements are attended by great difficulties in transportation, owing to the complete absence of railroads. The country is very mountainous; it is inhabited by some of the strangest peoples on the globe. In addition, picturesqueness is lent to the activity on the front by the presence of a great variety of races and nationalities.

Many Nationalities

"On the allied side of the entire Balkan front there are at least 25 different nationalities. In Albania the number is much less, yet in many places one may see men from four continents. In the Armee d'Orient, for example, are not only Frenchmen, but Senegalese, Arabs, Indo-Chinese, Moroccans—the famous Spahi cavalryman—and Americans. The latter are not numerous, being entirely confined to two sections of ambulance drivers representing the American field service. In one of these sections your correspondent has the honor to serve. There are 25 men in the group, with two exceptions former students of Stanford University in California.

"Driving an ambulance in the Balkans is perhaps less exciting than one might imagine. In the main, the work consists of transporting the wounded, or sick men, from ambulance camps near the front to hospitals some 30 miles to the rear. Dysentery and malaria are very common in this part of the world, and probably kill more men than the bullets of the enemy. Occasionally there is a spell of activity on the front, during which wounded men will be numerous. Last month the blesses included numbers of Austrians who had been taken prisoners during a French offensive. The roads are bad, the grades steep, and the hauls long, so the work is hard. Perhaps the chief danger is derived from driving at night through the mountains.

Aeroplane Attacks

"At times aeroplane bombing parties enliven things somewhat. Last week a hostile avian acknowledged my existence by dropping three bombs near the road about 300 yards ahead of my car. The presence of numerous bands of komatases, or brigands, in the region adds something to the interest of the work. Four cars upset during our first six weeks of service here, the total damage to the drivers being one cracked rib. Broken springs and axles are frequent, and the staff of mechanics is kept pretty busy.

"The Albanian people are agriculturists, primarily. They have no manufactures to speak of, and the poor means of transportation forbid any considerable commercial development. Many of the men have been to the United States at some time or other, and these constitute the most progressive element of the community. In addition to the native Albanians, many Roumanians and Turks live in the country, and Bulgarians were numerous before the war. Religiously, the people are divided between the Mohammedan and the Greek Orthodox faith. In most towns are to be seen both the Greek church with cross and the mosque with minaret. Education is not extensive, and development generally has been arrested by protracted political strife and misgovernment. The southeastern part of Albania with the last decade has been under the rule of Turks, the independent Albanian government, and the Greeks. Last fall this section was organized into a republic of Koritza, with the encouragement and support of the French military authorities.

"At this time the presence here of large bodies of troops changes the general complexion of things. Food supplies are scarce, and prices are very high. Ravitaillement, or supplies for the troops, is brought into the country by automobile transport, the normal native production being insufficient even for the natives, many of whom must be supported by the military authorities. As a result, large gangs of men, women and children are employed at road work, for which labor they receive both wages and rations. So far as an observer can see, the French authorities treat the natives with scrupulous fairness and generosity. At times, when an attack is contemplated, the civil population is marched to refuge camps well to the rear, pending the completion of the action.

Balkan Future Hazy

"As to the future of the Balkan states, and of Albania in particular, no one may fairly profess to have a very definite idea. Austria has declared a protectorate over northern Albania, and Italy has taken similar action in regard to the southern part of the state. The existence of the Republic of Koritza, ostensibly under French protection, further complicates the situation. Certainly there will be much wagging of diplomatic tongues and much scratching of statesmen's heads before anything like a permanent and just solution is achieved. I will not muddle this simple narrative by interjecting my own opinion.

"Typographically, Albania is hardly on the map. I believe that a few small papers are printed in the coast towns, but in the interior there exist only a few small job offices, employing only natives. Before arrival I had an idea that there might be a few real offices in Saloniki, Greece, the great center for allied operations in the Balkans, a city which recently burped. It was disappointed. There were no linotypes in town and the cases were manned by Greeks and Spanish Jews. The single English newspaper there, the Balkan News, is published by government employes and solely for the convenience of the troops.

"Between pounding the keys of a linotype and driving an ambulance there is some difference. First, in the matter of the wage scale. Just now I am earning the magnificent sum of eight sous per day. For this sum I can buy one egg. If there is any on the market. As for hours, we are liable to be called out any time, though there may be days when there is little or nothing to do. Officers are no more exacting than proofreaders and foremen. Dues are nil. On the whole it is rather a happy, carefree life—one can have as many friends, and of as many different nationalities, as he cares for. Of course in time it will become rather boring. Food is sufficient, but not in great variety, the short ration of sugar being rather painful. The government tobacco comes from Algeria; occasionally some philanthropist in the states sends a few cigars or cigarettes and there is real joy in camp.

"The length of my stay in the Balkans is contingent on many things. The American field service is now in process of absorption by the United States army, and I may find myself in the automobile service on the French front before many months. The best thing one ever gets out here is mail from home, and I'd be mighty glad to hear from any of the friends of yesterday who may care to write. Address: S. S. American 10, Convois Automobiles, Armee d'Orient, Par. B. C. M., Marseilles, France."

ALL HAWAII BUYS

The SATURDAY Star-Bulletin for the latest News and SUNDAY READING

SOLDIER WRITES ABOUT FUNERAL OF LATE QUEEN

FRESNO, Cal., Dec. 9.—An account of the funeral of Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii is contained in a letter received by Faye Kilpatrick of Hugison from Wylie Kilpatrick, with the 9th ambulance corps, stationed near Honolulu. It reads:

"The 9th Ambulance Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Nov. 23, 1917.

"Last Sunday I went down with several others in an ambulance and joined the throngs of onlookers at the funeral procession of Queen Liliuokalani—said the customary things that onlookers are expected to say and received the customary impressions. I thought I was lucky to see a pageant that was something more than a makeshift representing a dead past. This one was real, portraying a period fast passing away, and the actors were themselves the ones who had lived the life portrayed. The thing that made the pageant effective was that it was not intentionally at all, but just assumed that character naturally.

"The brilliant colors and costumes of the native dress which I had hitherto associated only with advertisements or displays for tourists' benefit began to seem less artificial as ancient natives—men in flowing robes and women in dark dresses with red bands—slowly trailed in a long line walling their chants in native tongue. No repression here even with the cynical world looking on. The color and decorations were gorgeous. I did not think color in a funeral would seem fitting. Yet in the big out of door setting it did not seem out of place. Natives of the younger generation showing the influence of Americans emphasized the transient quality.

"The bodyguard of the queen—men who had been associated with her in her reign—were a picturesque addition to the scene in flowing red and yellow robes. The military side was strongly marked, for the professional military class who form so large a part of the island life were sure to attend to that. The 2nd Infantry, 4th Cavalry, 9th Field Artillery clattered through the streets.

"More interesting than that was the participation of a company of Japanese sailors. A ship has been stationed in Honolulu since the new treaty. One interesting incident—though in an unexpected way. Before the troops had fallen in, the Japanese and American soldiers were lounging in the park, the latter, of course, smoking Bull Durham. But strangely, the Japanese were not smoking, until suddenly a command was given, and as if by magic, every one of them produced a cigarette case. A second command and puff, all cigarettes were simultaneously lit and the Japanese lounged back at ease.

"The appearance of the national guard regiments was worth noting. You know the guard here is composed almost exclusively of natives, Japanese and Chinese. There seems to be no trouble in recruiting them for service. It gives you a rather queer feeling, a shock in fact, to see the United States uniforms coming down the street and then, on nearer view, their brown and yellow faces. When Sergeant Chinn Lee gives a command in pigeon English or when Lieutenant Kalouwen orders 'Wiwikiwi' (hurry up) a middle westerner is apt to rub his eyes.

"WYLIE KILPATRICK"

U. S. BRIEF IN DRAFT APPEAL MADE PUBLIC

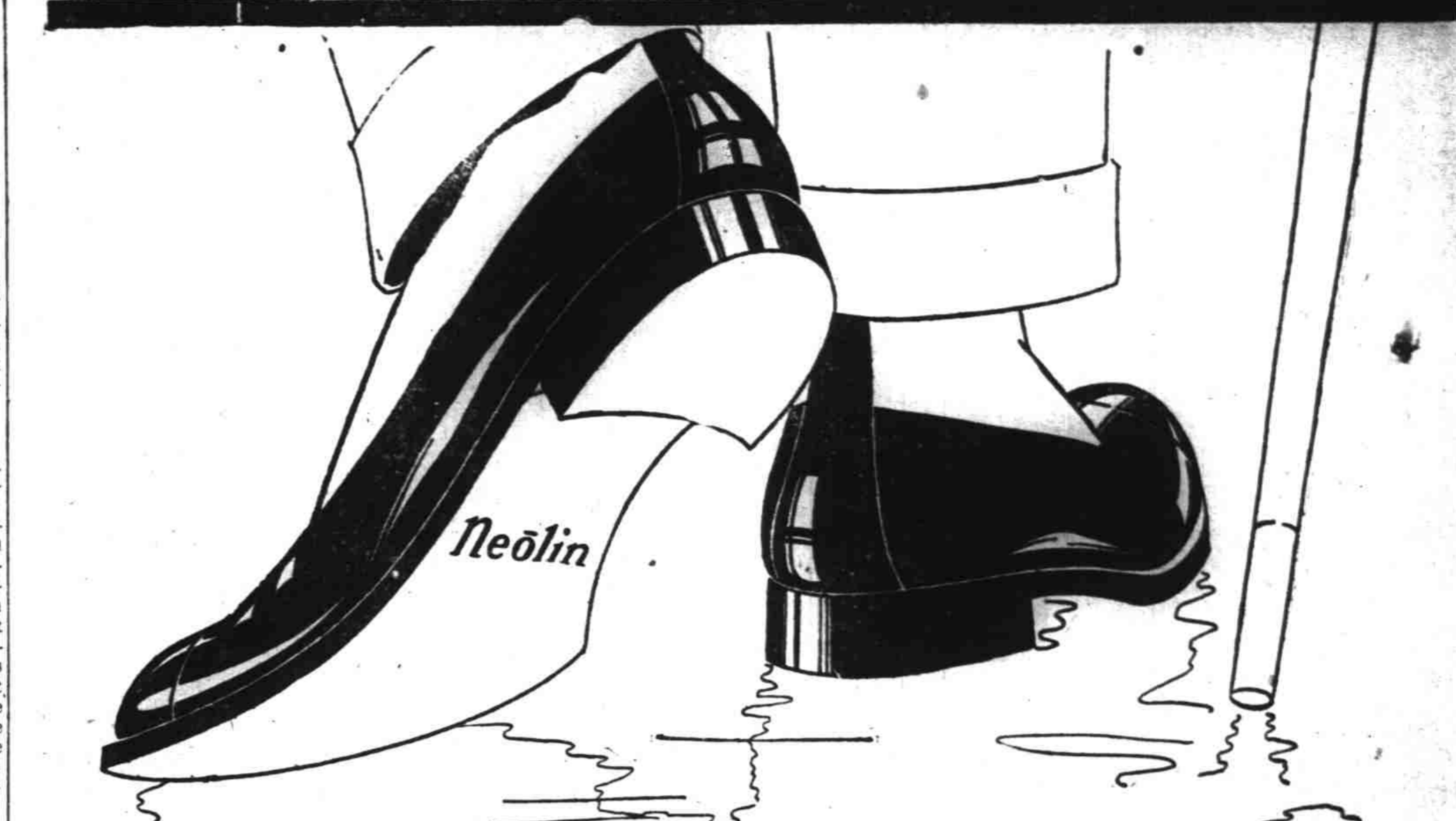
WASHINGTON.—In a brief made public recently asking the Supreme Court to dismiss cases attacking the constitutionality of the selective draft law, the government asserts that power conferred upon Congress to declare war carries with it authority to compel military service either at home or abroad. Compulsory draft is declared to have been a normal method of raising armies ever since this government was established, the legality of which has been repeatedly upheld by the courts. The situation in Russia is pointed to, without mentioning the name, as a demonstration that there can with safety be no absolute freedom in civilized societies.

"If the argument against this law upon constitutional grounds be not frivolous," says the brief, "then that adjective has lost its legal significance."

The cases now before the court include nine appeals from Minnesota, Georgia and Ohio, in which persons were convicted of either failing to register on June 5 or of attempting to block the operations of the act by urging others of draft age not to comply with it. Among the cases are those of Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, convicted in New York after having made speeches opposing the law. Argument on them probably will begin Tuesday.

"It is true that the law provides for the restraint of the liberty of the citizens to a certain extent," the brief sets forth. "Yet to protect most truly the liberties of people who live together in communities, it is plain that some governmental organization and some exercise of governmental powers are necessary. There is no absolute freedom in civilized societies. Our own history prior to the adoption of the constitution and the present experience of one of the allies vividly show moreover that the government, which exercises least powers may be the instrument of tyrannies in the hands of domestic disturbers as well as the facile tool of foreign conquerors."

"Illustration may be cited without number to show that in order to protect the liberties of the people as a whole the individual citizen may in-



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Honolulu Star-Bulletin

centially or temporarily be restrained of his liberties. Yet military service, cited as an extreme example of restriction of personal liberty is only temporary incidental to the security of the citizens as a whole, and only so far imposed as is necessary for the purpose. The few who are compelled to serve do so that the many who remain at home at the present time and the generations who come in the future may enjoy those blessings of freedom which this government was established to secure."

The brief characterizes as "unfounded" the contention that compulsory military service is contrary to the spirit of democracy and says that while occasions for the draft in this country have been infrequent, "it has been resorted to without flinching when the emergency arose."

TOTAL NUMBER IN U. S. ARMY IS 1,360,000

SAN FRANCISCO.—The latest official figures put the number of enlisted men in the armies of the United States at 1,360,000, according to information sent to the California State Council of Defense by authorities in Washington. This is the force that has grown in eight months out of an army that on April 1 numbered only

110,000 men. Most of them are still in the training camps. Many of them are not yet disciplined troops, fully equipped and armed for battle.

To lead them there are over 100,000 officers—as many as there were private nine months ago.

The whole military establishment, with the marines and the auxiliary forces thrown in, numbers a million and a half. The expansion that has taken place is as if Grand Rapids had grown in eight months to be virtually as big as Philadelphia.

There were 2,700,000 enlistments in the federal army in the Civil war. But many of this number were reenlistments. The highest total engaged at any one time was reached in the last year of the war. On March 31, 1865, the Union army comprised 980,000 men.

When Great Britain entered the war it was with a much smaller army. The first expeditionary force numbered barely a hundred thousand. The Kaiser called it a contemptible little army. Yet without its work at Mons, Paris might have fallen. One hundred thousand men, and the encouragement they brought to the French, were enough to avert defeat in the first year of the war.

Marine workers in the port of New York were warned by their leaders not to quit work until the national committee had opportunity to adjust matters with the Federal board.

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