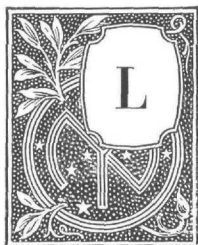


CHAPTER VIII

LIFE AT CAMP WADSWORTH



LIFE at Spartanburg merits a chapter. To record in detail the activities of the officers and men and of the many thousands of individual members of their families who visited them during the long stay of the division in the south would require the space of a book. The period from September, 1917, to April, 1918, was an important period in the lives of the men of the division. It is an interesting period to look back upon. It saw the development physically and in many other ways of thousands of impressionable and zealous young men who had had no previous military training. It continued the training in new fields of the men who were veterans of the Border service. It brought together many of the families of the division under circumstances of common interest that served to stimulate mutual understanding and a common purpose to serve the cause.

In another chapter, mention is made of the character of work that occupied the men when they first went to Spartanburg. Even during this early period, members of the families of officers and soldiers began to arrive in Spartanburg. Some came for short visits. These were usually fathers or mothers of the younger men who would see for themselves the environment in which their boys were to be trained for war. Others, for the most part wives, rented houses or rooms and prepared to stay at Spartanburg so long as the division might be in the vicinity. In this way there gradually developed a considerable colony of New York women in and about the city of Spartanburg. Many of these women occupied themselves in efforts to create proper diversion for the soldiers. Some helped the Y. M. C. A. or the K. of C. Others promoted entertainment for the men or assisted church societies in organizing social occasions for them to meet the young people of the city.

One of the most active and efficient women in the colony was Mrs. Anne Schoellkopf, wife of Captain Walter C. Schoellkopf of the 52d Field Artillery Brigade staff. Her work deserves special mention, for she was deeply interested in the happiness of the enlisted men, and quite generally they appreciated and understood her interest, her zealous effort and her efficient accomplishment. She organized a movement for the establishment of an enlisted men's club in the city of Spartanburg. The committee was formed, the funds were raised. An old building was leased, remodeled, and shortly thereafter was furnished and equipped for the purpose. It became a most popular place for the soldiers who daily visited the town. There they met the best women of the division and of the city of Spartanburg, who had organized for the purpose of making the club a wholesome and attractive place for soldiers. Mrs. J. Mayhew Wainwright

was another woman whose interest in the men was always keen and practical. There seems to have been ample diversion for the officers who visited Spartanburg during the evening. There were several hotels in the city, the most modern of which was the Cleveland. This hotel was soon crowded with visitors from New York. Every Saturday night there was a dance at this hotel and always the ballroom was crowded with officers. The officers found no difficulty in securing dancing partners, for the families of the officers, as well as the ladies of Spartanburg, attended the dances in large numbers.

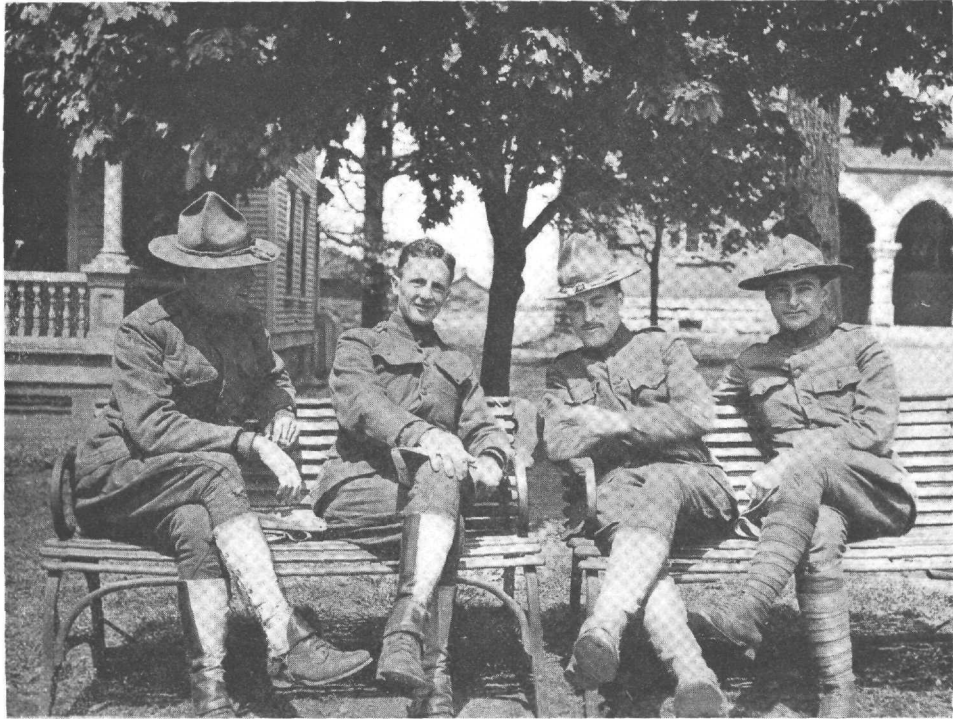
The social festivities at the hotel, the church entertainments, the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. activities, the stores and shops, and all the other attractions of the city resulted in much travel between the city and the camp. There soon developed a jitney service which transported visitors to and from the camp, and the officers and men to the city and back. The great number of these improvised busses resulted in the usual complications affecting traffic and charges. The situation, however, was satisfactorily controlled by the military police, rules and regulations being made, and from time to time modified in accordance with new conditions as they arose. The greatest obstacle to proper communication between the camp and the city was the condition of the roads after the winter rains set in. The so-called "Snake Road" between the two points became almost impassable. The importance of this road was recognized immediately after Division Headquarters arrived at the camp, and a recommendation was made that the War Department authorize its proper preparation to serve as the main line of travel between the camp and the city. As explained elsewhere, this was not done, and accordingly the immediate necessities were looked after by the Engineer Regiment, which considerably improved conditions. It is interesting for the veterans to know that after the division left for France in the spring of 1918, belated authority was given for a concrete roadbed, properly surfaced, to be laid in the "Snake Road." The carrying on of this work rendered use of the road impossible, and sent traffic to another and longer road. The Snake Road was not finished and ready for use until after the Armistice, and at a time when the last detachment of troops was leaving the place.

During the winter the writer, traveling between Spartanburg and camp, made it a practice to pick up soldiers on the road to the limit of the capacity of the car. These were usually men who had been unable to secure places on the overcrowded jitneys. The conversations carried on with these men during these trips were a real inspiration. In spite of the trying conditions as to transportation and of the fact that they were required to live in tents during a very severe winter, there was never any complaint made by these men. Their attitude was always disciplined and attentive, while at the same time they seemed to be the very incarnation of confidence and optimism. They always thought their own regiment the best in the division. All liked the training. All were impatient to get to France. None had any doubt as to the outcome of the war. All seemed to possess an almost fanatical affection for the division. At times valuable

hints were obtained from these men affecting details of their routine. Sometimes these related to the preparation of the rations in a particular company, or to a mystery concerning the disappearance of some civilian's wood fence or pile of cordwood. None of the men seemed to feel that the ride accorded them was merely a simple and decent thing to have offered, but rather placed an excessive value upon it. During the battle period in France soldiers of the division were frequently met in out-of-the-way places where the conditions were trying, who made cheerful reference to the personal acquaintanceship gained on one of the "lifts" between Spartanburg and the camp.

Two very well-known colleges are located in Spartanburg. One of these is the Converse College for girls, and the other Wofford College for boys. The presidents and faculties of these two colleges were most cordial in their relations with the Division Commander and the officers generally, and there were a number of occasions when the large halls of one or the other of these institutions were made available for lectures or entertainments organized at the camp. The officers were frequently invited to attend concerts given at the colleges. It will be interesting for the soldier readers of this story to learn of the great concern which was manifested by the president and faculty of Converse College when it was first learned by them that a division of troops was to be concentrated in the immediate vicinity of Spartanburg. The first callers received by the Division Commander upon his arrival at Spartanburg in September, 1917, were several gentlemen representing Converse College, who sought to impress upon the Division Commander the gravity of the situation. Various suggestions were made concerning the means best adapted to safeguard the girls of the college from what one of the staff facetiously referred to as the "the coarse and licentious soldiery." After the division had been in the camp for some weeks, there were no more enthusiastic and sincere friends of the division in the city of Spartanburg than the president of Converse College and the members of his faculty. In fact, this perhaps is a proper place to record the really exceptional conduct of the men of the 27th Division in their relations with the people of Spartanburg throughout the entire period of their stay at Camp Wadsworth. Constantly it was remarked by the older people of the town that the men of the division were never seen to look at or attempt to flirt with women or girls whom they passed on the streets. All the men from the beginning seemed to take a personal pride in maintaining a dignified bearing in public places, and in the reputation they were building up with even the most exacting people of the town.

It was obvious that the advent of so large a body of troops coming into the life of a city of the size of Spartanburg would create many perplexing little problems. Street traffic was controlled by the local police. Soon the streets became crowded with vehicles of all kinds, from heavy army motor trucks to side car motorcycles. Which force could most effectively control traffic under the conditions, the local police or the military police? Again the messes at the camp were augmented by articles of



Resting on Main Street, Spartanburg

food purchased in the city. These included milk, eggs, fresh vegetables, ice cream, etc. What was the sanitary condition of the places where these products were stored or sold? The Division Commander was vitally concerned with this question. Who should be responsible for proper inspection of these places, the local health officer, or the camp sanitary officer? In like manner, the Commanding General was vitally interested in the enforcement of the liquor law and in the character of all resorts which might be frequented by soldiers. How was it legally proper for the military to interfere with civilian authority in relation to these matters? All of



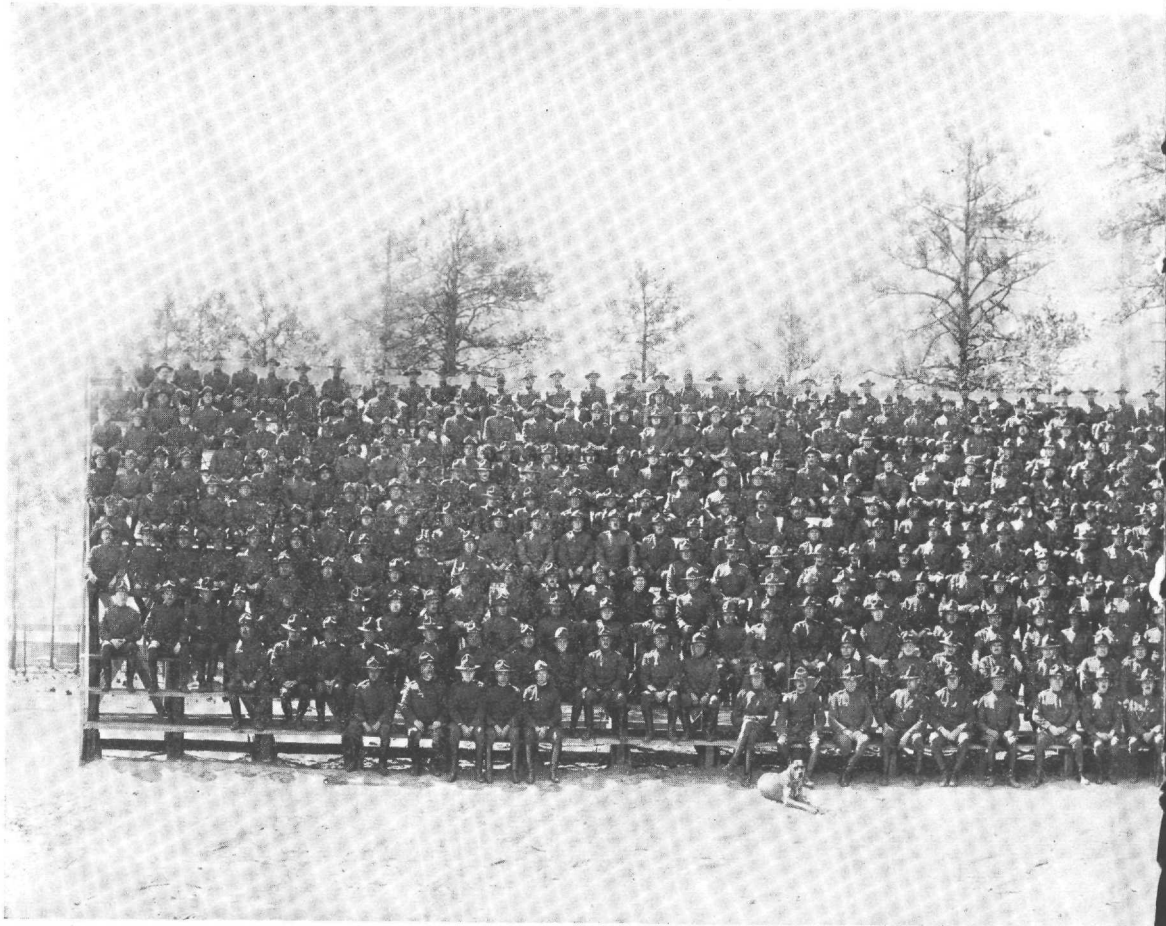
Parade for Third Liberty Loan, Spartanburg, S. C.

these and many other kindred subjects were satisfactorily disposed of and without an unpleasant incident of any kind, due to the very marked spirit of cooperation manifested by the officials and the people of the city of Spartanburg. It may be said in brief explanation of the foregoing that the Camp Commander was accorded the widest character of latitude in relation to these matters by the city authorities. When the results of inspections showed that laws or ordinances were being violated by civilians, evidence was furnished to the local police authorities, who made the necessary arrests or complaints. The sanitary inspections resulted in a big clean-up of back alleys and other places needing such attention. So far as concerned stores and shops where foodstuffs were sold, these were all inspected by sanitary officers of the division. Many requirements were imposed upon the proprietors which were not based upon any legal authority. They were carried out, however, because of the effective penalty involved in a refusal. The penalty was provided for by the following system. A certificate was printed, very formidable in its appearance which certified that Mr. Blank, the proprietor of such and such a store, had complied with all the requirements of the camp sanitary inspectors, and that his stock might be purchased by officers and men of the army. The point was that unless such a certificate was obtained and displayed in a prescribed place in the window of the shop, a military policeman was placed on duty on the sidewalk, who prevented officers and soldiers making purchases at such places.

An efficient secret service section of the military police operated most successfully in the detection of criminals and in picking up, as soon as they detained, criminals who came to Spartanburg for the purpose of preying upon the soldiers.

Mention is made, in other parts of the story of the division, of the exceptionally fine men who composed the corps of chaplains. They were a harmonious and brotherly group. They had been accustomed to working together. Similar standards of team-work did not, of course, prevail among the ministers of the city of Spartanburg. There was no organization prompting their coordination of effort. It was therefore suggested that our chaplains invite the ministers and priests of the several churches in Spartanburg to meet and discuss with them subjects of common interest to the church people of Spartanburg and to the soldiers of the camp. Several such meetings were held, and they were most profitable to all. Two of the leaders among the ministers of the city in the development of this team-work were Dr. W. H. K. Pendleton of the Church of the Advent, and Dr. A. D. P. Gilmour of the First Presbyterian Church. They were assisted by Father N. A. Murphy of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church. Major McCord of the 107th Infantry, as senior chaplain of the division, presided at the joint meetings, which were usually attended by the Division Commander.

During the stay of the division at Camp Wadsworth a number of reviews were given to visiting officials. Among these were Governor Manning of South Carolina, Governor Whitman of New York, Senator

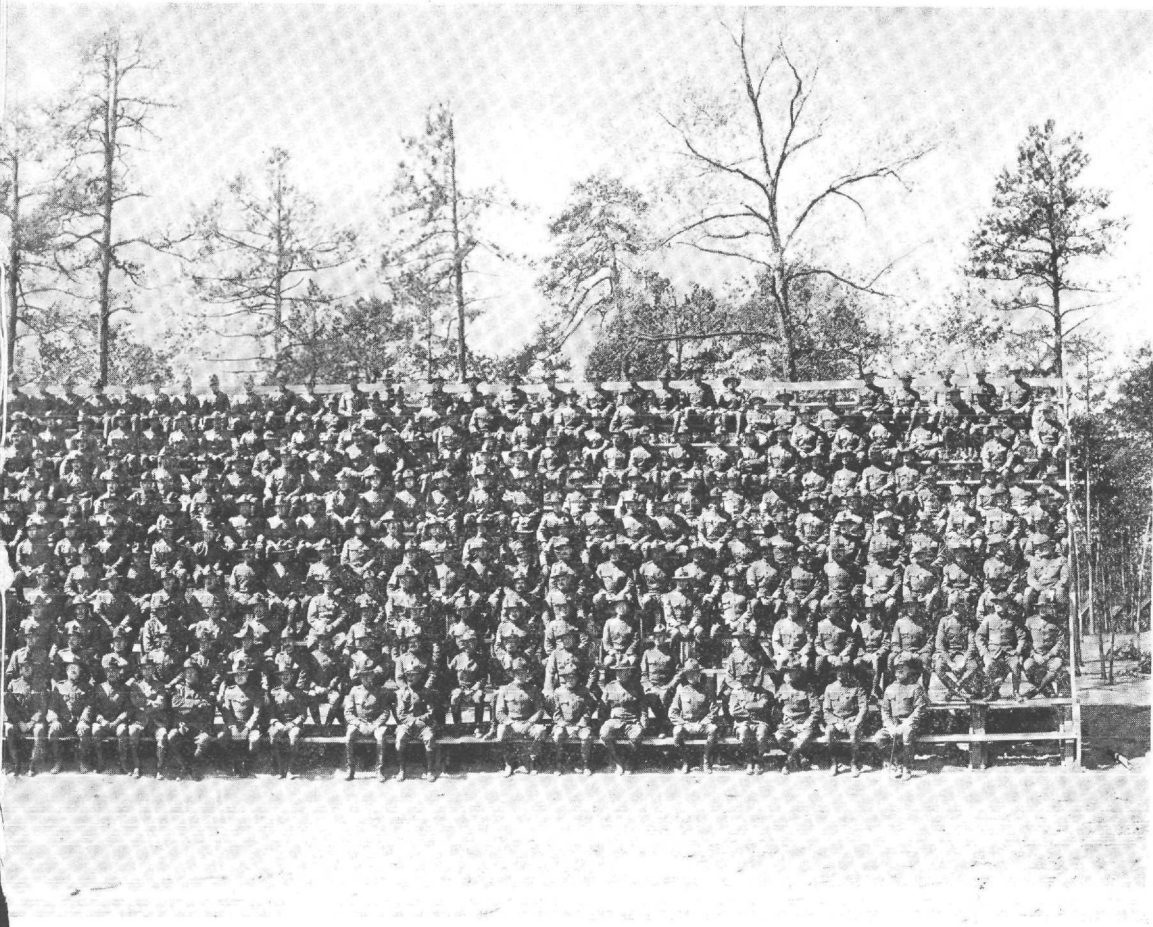


Officers of the 27th Division

Wadsworth of New York, and Major General John Biddle, Chief of Staff of the Army.

In work of the above mentioned character, which had to do with the morale of the division, real assistance was given at all times by the army auxiliary organizations, such as the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus and the Red Cross. Among the workers of note was Dr. C. A. Barbour of Rochester. Although his stay was relatively short, he made a strong impression upon the minds of the large number of young men with whom he came in contact.

The life at Camp Wadsworth afforded ample opportunity for observing human nature. At one time more than 40,000 soldiers were in the command. The responsibility for their proper development, morally, physically, mentally and technically, was a considerable one. A military organization of the size of a division is a great and complex organism, made up of several arms of the service, but in the last analysis it is com-



aken at Camp Wadsworth

posed of men—men of varying likes and dislikes, of preferences, prejudices, interests and emotions. To best effect the common military purpose which brought them together, it was necessary that they be so developed and controlled that each individual and group in the great team would bring into play every quality contributing something to the common purpose, and withhold every individual or group influence that might adversely affect the result sought. To develop men and coordinate their efforts in this way is a great and complex problem, requiring a knowledge of human nature and a capacity for organizing and maintaining the developing and guiding agencies. It is obvious that to reach all the men of so great an organization, and to harness the minds and hearts of every last one of them to the common purpose, so that each might pull his share of the load, required the use of agencies completely coordinated. No one man can personally lead by individual word and effort more than forty or fifty fellow men. Go beyond that number and the leader must have

assistants. The greater the number to be led and developed, the more assistants must the leader have, until the latter so increase that they in turn must be organized, supervised and led.

To better understand the complexities of this problem of the development of morale among so large a body of men, many of whom were inexperienced, let us glance at a rough outline of the picture presented to the minds of one charged with responsibility for such a force. To begin with, it would be idle to attempt the development of morale until subsistence was provided for. The army moves on its stomach; in fact, all men must eat to live, and they must have wholesome and varied food, properly prepared and served, if they are seriously to attempt anything. But before the men can be fed, the necessary supplies must flow into the camp without interruption. For safety there must be maintained a reserve supply of subsistence stores. Some articles of food must be obtained locally in order to insure the requisite fresh quality. In the case of so large a force, the daily subsistence stores so required necessitated adequate housing for their protection from the elements. This means the construction of necessary depots for the reception of stores, their accounting, distribution, and the safe-keeping of the reserve. Transportation from the depot to the various camps of the units is as essential as the stores. This means wagons, mules and motor trucks, and in turn these vehicles imply necessary personnel, repair shops, and gasoline and oil supply stations. The item of wood for the hundreds of fires constantly going is a considerable one, especially in the American army, which is so wasteful of wood. In turn, this implies more transportation. There is the question of ice for refrigeration; the preparation of meals must be supervised; cooks must be instructed; daily sanitary inspections are imperative. Accordingly, this single department of effort having to do with the subsistence of the men is divided into several fields of effort and of supervision, each with its necessary personnel. If an army could campaign without eating, one of the most complex and annoying problems of war would be eliminated.

But assuming that the matter of subsistence has been provided for, the matter of morale training must still await other fundamental provisions. Eating is but one of several considerations governing the mere existence of the men. Another consideration is housing. This involves the construction of barracks and hutments or the use of tents. In any event there must be available sanitary sleeping quarters for every man, shower baths and latrines in adequate numbers, and an adequate drainage system.

Always a percentage of humanity is ill. In the army the percentage is normally low, but among so large a force as a division even a low percentage produces a substantial number of patients. These must be properly provided for. This means the availability of hospitals, operating rooms, dispensaries, convalescent wards, contagious disease wards, and all the other appurtenances of modern hospitals. In like manner, clothing, equipment and armament must be provided for, each with its complex organization and detail.

It is only after all these things, which have to do with the mere routine existence of the mass, have been provided for, that the development work can be seriously undertaken. Having provided means to exist and the material things needed by the men in their training, we can then carry out a program for the development of the individual soldier and the team-work of the mass. In this field of development it is obvious there must be departments and some provision for inspection and supervision. Then there is the physical side. All the men must be developed physically, for the physical efficiency of the mass is not to be judged by the athletic prowess of a few men, but by the average standards of the mass. And so the mind may run on in considering this subject of organization. There are the fields of technical training, theoretical instruction, rifle practice, road marches, tactical walks and maneuvers. Finally, there must be recreation, games and amusements. These latter constitute a most difficult field to plan, for experience shows that the mass cannot be left wholly to their own devices and choice. Where this was practised in the army, abuses usually resulted. On the other hand, too much supervision would cause the recreation to be regarded by the men as work. The supervision and control of all forms of recreation should be carried out through the men themselves, so that they are little conscious of the force which is controlling and directing their activities.

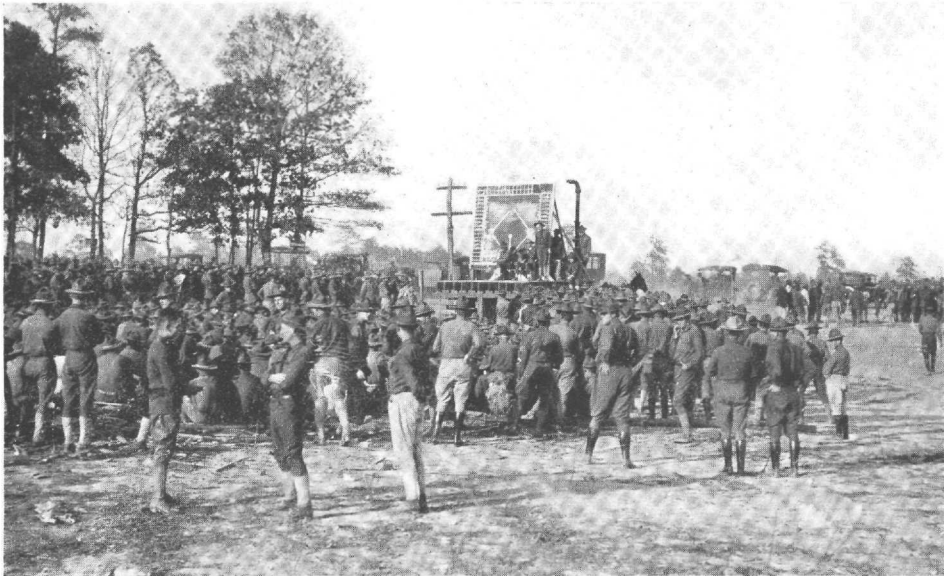
The divisional theatrical troupe was an example of entertainment which was at all times controlled, and which it is believed was most satisfactory to the men, who seldom, if ever, reflected upon the careful control which was exercised over the troupe. The entire enterprise was the product of the talent, energy and zeal of one or two junior officers and from eighty to one hundred enlisted men. While the division was at Camp Wadsworth the troupe, having thoroughly prepared the show known as "You Know Me, Al," presented it at the local theater to packed houses for a period of two weeks. The show was such a success that it was later given in New York City for two weeks and in Washington for several nights. With the proceeds of these outside entertainments it was possible to equip the troupe with costumes and other needed properties. In other parts of the story the value of this organization in the maintenance of morale is referred to.

In nearly every non-technical field of the war-time life of the soldier there were various individuals who were more or less expert in the subjects of their interest, who rendered their advice and assistance to the War Department. In many cases they were permitted to visit camps and to stimulate an understanding of the particular subjects in which they were interested and to develop the interest of officers and men. The difficulty with these usually intelligent and self-sacrificing individuals was that not always did they understand the necessity for maintaining a proper balance between the particular activity they represented and the numerous other activities which necessarily occupied the time and attention of the army. It was the duty of the Camp Commander to benefit so far as practicable by the suggestions and advice of these individuals



Typical regimental infirmary, Camp Wadsworth, S. C.

in their respective fields, but to control and coordinate their activities so that the soldier would not become a victim of some specialty, in charge of one who possessed exceptional ability and dominating character. For example, a serious effort was made by the War Department to have our soldiers sing. Expert leaders and directors of community singing were sent to most of the camps. The testimony of some high ranking officers was



Watching the baseball score, Camp Wadsworth

published to the effect that "a good army is a singing army." Some even went so far as to urge that an army that could not sing could not fight. Analogous claims were made by the bayonet experts, grenade specialists, machine and automatic rifle enthusiasts, each on behalf of his own specialty. At Camp Wadsworth the specialists were encouraged, but their work was coordinated and strictly confined to the limits of the time periods allotted them. Periodically they were all reminded that the war could not be won by the singing of songs, by the firing of machine guns or grenades, by the use of the bayonet, or by any other single effort or device, but by divisions of troops so trained that each unit by its discipline and skill would be able at a particular time and place to be more effective in the complexities of combat than the enemy opposed to them.

In the 27th Division, singing was not popular in the average unit during the march. Group whistling was more in evidence. An exception in relation to singing was Major Gaus's 106th Field Hospital Company. This company made a practice of singing while on the march and attained excellence in that field. The average company early in the war seemed too large for the men to sing in unison when stretched out in column of squads. The platoon was a better song unit on the road. The most popular songs among the soldiers of the division seemed to be "The Long, Long Trail," "Joan of Arc," "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag and Smile, Smile, Smile," and the divisional song, written by two men of the division show troupe, "My Heart Belongs to the U. S. A."

Toward the end of the stay at Camp Wadsworth, after the severe winter weather was over, one of the most popular places of amusement was the outdoor movies. Even the movies were used, to a reasonable extent, for instructional purposes. Between the thrilling films usually displayed on such occasions, official films were shown, portraying the correct and incorrect methods of performing the duties of the soldier. The men took these instructional efforts in good part, and on some occasions derived more merriment from these films than they did from those specially designed to entertain. Pictures of soldiers thrown on the screen for the purpose of illustrating the correct method of executing the manual of arms were greeted with a hurricane of criticisms. Many of the comments were exceedingly funny. The screen would announce, for example, "Correct Method of Executing Present Arms," after which the soldier on the screen would execute that movement. If there existed the slightest defect in the soldierly bearing of the screen artist or in the manner in which he carried out the movement, the entire soldier audience would groan, "Rotten—awful!" and the artist would be advised to undertake a week's training at Major Sharp's school.

Boxing was a popular pastime in most of the units of the division. The War Department had assigned to the camp as boxing instructor Mr. Frank Moran, a celebrated professional boxer. He was popular with the men interested in boxing, and succeeded in developing scores of men who became expert in this form of athletic competition. Practically every company had its champion boxer in each of the several classes of weights.

Within each regiment these company representatives competed for the honor of representing the regiment, and in like manner there were brigade and divisional contests for the purpose of determining the best man in the division in each class.

One of the best features of Camp Wadsworth was the Third Officers' Training Camp. The Division Commander was directed by the War Department to organize a training camp for the training of candidates for commissions, and the orders prescribed how the candidates would be selected from the companies. The training of the candidates was to cover a period of months, beginning January 4, 1918. In the first instance, there were perhaps 700 men selected by their organization commanders and recommended for detail to the Third Officers' Training Camp. The final decision in relation to the details rested with the Division Commander. The final selections were made in the following way: The men were sent to the Division Commander in groups of 100. The men of each group were formed in a column of files. Each man was required to advance, halt and salute. During this period of perhaps ten seconds of time, there was opportunity to observe conformation and physical fitness of the candidate, his military bearing, degree of confidence, and his features. The names or organizations of the men were not known. If there was no doubt concerning the general fitness of the man, he was directed to pass to the right, where his name was listed by an officer designated for the purpose. The men so listed were thus approved for detail to the training camp. Where, however, the inspection indicated that the candidate was lacking in one or more of the qualities believed to be essential in a commissioned officer, the candidate was directed to turn to the left and report to an officer, to be listed as a candidate who had been rejected. Where the inspection indicated a doubt as to the fitness of the candidate, he was sent to a third officer for later and more extended reexamination. In this way the entire 700 men who had been designated for this inspection were passed before the Division Commander in two days. A few more than 500 were accepted and detailed to the training camp.

The high standards required, which resulted in so large a number of men being eliminated, provided the training camp with a very extraordinary corps of officer candidates. The discipline of this training camp, the industry of the men, their physical fitness, intelligence and capacity for development, resulted in extraordinary progress being made by them during the period of the prescribed course. They were soon recognized as a *corps d'elite* throughout the division. It would be well worth the time of some graduate of this training camp to record its history and the later service and accomplishment of its graduates. They were graduated shortly before the division left for France. Later they could be found in practically all the combat divisions of the army. Numbers of them were killed or wounded; a very considerable number won distinction. Everywhere they were recognized as men who had been carefully selected and highly trained. From many of the units of the A. E. F. the Division

Commander received favorable comments from superior officers concerning the graduates of this camp. The names of these graduates will be found in Special Orders No. 182 of the division, an extract from which is included in the Appendix as Exhibit 14.

The Commandant of the camp was Lieutenant Colonel William A. Taylor of the 108th Infantry, later made Colonel of the 106th Infantry. He was assisted by a very able corps of instructors, which included such officers as Major Jesse S. Button of the 105th Infantry, Chief Instructor; Captain Jacob S. Clinton, Senior Instructor of Infantry, and Captain George B. Gibbons of the 104th Field Artillery, Senior Instructor of Field Artillery. Captain Gibbons' battery and the camp students under him might well be considered models in any army.

During the period of the service at Spartanburg more than 2,500 men were lost to the division because they excelled or were experienced in some civilian line of effort of such value to the government that their services were believed to be more important in the non-military field than in the combat service. This has been referred to elsewhere in this story. When these drafts began to constitute a drain upon the division, application was made for leave to recruit other men, but the application was denied. It was not until February, 1918, that the ban was lifted and the Division Commander was authorized to send recruiting officers to New York for the purpose of gaining recruits. These officers, however, were limited by War Department orders to enlisting men who were above or below the draft age.

In February the hostess house was completed and opened for the convenience of visiting members of the soldier families. Miss Bertha M. Loheed was the popular and efficient directress of this adjunct of the camp.

During the winter the various battalions of the division took their turns in occupying the practice system of trenches. Due to the frequent severity of the winter weather, this class of training at times necessarily involved some hardship. The conditions, however, were carefully observed so that the degree of discomfort or hardship might not be out of proportion to the value to be derived from the experience. The practice periods in the camp trenches furnished some incidents which illustrated the extent to which rumors are circulated in a war army, and as well the credulity of people in relation to such rumors. Undoubtedly numbers of the younger men wrote home stories of their trench experiences and such accounts probably lost little in the telling. Soon the Division Commander began to receive letters from uneasy parents, suggesting that their particular boys were not any too strong constitutionally and might succumb under the rigors of the trench training. At one time rumors were circulated in New York that one or more soldiers had been frozen to death while on duty in the camp trenches. Finally, by division order the men were warned that the spreading of any rumor tending to injure the morale or efficiency of the army or any of its units would be very summarily dealt with, and it became the duty of all to report the names of those who repeated rumors. There was little to criticize in relation to rumors after

this order was published. In any future mobilization on a large scale, it might be well for commanding officers of troops to anticipate the abuses in relation to rumors which were so general in our army, for a time at least, by pointing out the evil effects of rumors and the obligation of officers and men to avoid transmitting them.

The pleasure of camp life was added to by the number of bands available for concerts. In the first place, there were the seven bands of the 27th Division; four of these belonged to the infantry and three to the field artillery. Among the corps and army troops at the camp were fifteen additional bands, making a grand total of twenty-two bands. A professional band was organized from among the bands of the 27th Division to play on special occasions. This special professional band was organized by Lieutenant Francis J. Sutherland. The band played very successfully in the city of Spartanburg, at Asheville, N. C., and other places. Later a similar band was organized from among the musicians of the corps and army troops.

After the first two or three months at Camp Wadsworth, the men began to think of France, and as the weeks wore on they became more and more eager and impatient to begin their overseas movement. At times they were warned that after they had been in battle a few times they would look back on their stay at Camp Wadsworth as a period of comfort and relative happiness. They did not know how true was the warning, but during the battle period in France many men gave expression to the sentiment.

In March, 1918, about 1,200 replacements were received and distributed among the units of the division. These were drafted men. They received a hearty welcome in accordance with the spirit of Bulletin No. 25, of the division, of which the following is an extract:

The Division Commander takes this means of informing the officers and enlisted men of the division that detachments of drafted men will arrive in this camp from time to time to increase the strength of certain organizations stationed at this camp. It is the desire of the Division Commander that every enlisted man of the 27th Division cooperate with the officers to the fullest extent in making these drafted men feel at home with us and that they have the respect and regard of the soldiers of the 27th Division.

An effective army must be a homogeneous army and not a fanatical army. In doing our part to meet this requirement, we must measure up to the high standards of a division composed of men like ours. Our soldiers are trained men, who know how to obey orders and therefore how to carry out this order in letter and in spirit. Our men are noted for their intelligence, loyalty and zeal. Accordingly, they will see the desirability of carrying out in effective manner the course of action prescribed for them to help make our army a united army. Furthermore, every ordinary, commonplace sense of hospitality would prompt veteran soldiers to make happy the lot of newcomers.

It is hoped that our men will provide opportunities to make this attitude clear and unmistakable in the minds of the drafted men as their detachments arrive. Whether this be done by cheering their entry into camp, by inviting them to entertainments, or in other ways, is unimportant, as long as outward, visible evidences of the attitude of the division toward the newcomers is made clear.

It is directed that this paragraph be read at two formations of every company and unit in the division.

A very thorough and interesting study was made of the subject of camouflage during the spring months. This specialty was in charge of Second Lieutenant Linwood P. Ames, one of the Division Commander's aides. Many practical features were developed, and numerous samples of camouflage art were constructed about the camp and in the area of the trench system. The general principles which these studies and experiments developed are enumerated in Bulletin No. 27 of the division, a copy of which follows:

Regimental and similar unit commanders at the next assemblage of officers will read and discuss the following bulletin with a view to impressing their officers and through them the enlisted men of their commands with the importance of the subject of camouflage.

The use of the word camouflage in relation to deception of the enemy regarding positions, strength, lines of communication and other material military agencies may be new in the sense that the present application of the word may have been used for the first time in this war, but the art itself is old and has been employed to advantage in past wars. Officers and men therefore should be given to understand that camouflage is not a new military wrinkle, interesting and clever, but of relative unimportance.

Efficiency in the art of camouflage means the saving of life among soldiers, the saving of guns and other military materiel which might otherwise be destroyed, and the ability to see through and detect enemy camouflage which is screening and masking the enemy personnel and materiel.

In maneuvers it is unfortunately a common sight to observe platoon, company and even higher commanders leading their men into positions over ground within full view of the enemy, when close at hand there is some feature of the terrain which might be termed nature's camouflage for the particular movement. Frequently this natural camouflage would have provided as ready an approach to the desired position as the one selected, with the additional advantage of providing a complete mask for the movement. Again it frequently happens that a deployment in a particular location is made on a line affording the enemy every opportunity to inflict losses, when in the immediate vicinity there exists a camouflaged position almost providentially provided by nature for the occasion.

It has happened that an officer directed to effect the crossing of a river will attempt the crossing at a point in the stream where the river runs straight and which in consequence is under observation for long distances from the enemy's side, when there was available above or below such place sharp turns in the river with high banks where enemy observation, except that which is wholly local, was completely cut off. In other words, nature has provided a camouflaged crossing which has been overlooked. This is not a forced picture, because sharp turns in a stream are frequently occasioned by a natural obstacle such as a ridge or embankment, while at other times, when the turn of a stream has been influenced by other causes, it will frequently be found that the flow of the stream in making the turn has piled up on the outward side deposits of alluvial soil which have resulted in thick vegetation or other formations furnishing excellent cover.

The first distinct impression which the Division Commander desires the officers and men of his division to receive and retain, in relation to this subject of camouflage, is that aspect of the subject which has to do with nature itself. With this view of camouflage we will hear no more of the criticism that the subject is relatively unimportant on the theory that it has no application to warfare of mobility. Those who make such comments see in camouflage only a means to successfully mold and paint the remains of a dead horse, with the view of furnishing cover for some sniper or kill a man or two of the enemy's forces.

That form of camouflage which is only artificial has been the subject of remarkable development during the present war, due to the peculiar conditions affecting the warfare of fixed positions, and many things have been successfully done, some of them

more or less inconsequential, because there has been time for adequate preparation. The value of camouflage, however, bears a direct relation to its approximation to nature.

The ideal camouflage is "nature's camouflage," that is to say, features or idiosyncrasies of the terrain which may be availed of for particular tactical purposes. The next most effective form is a combination of artificial camouflage with "nature's camouflage," as for example the artificial extension of some natural feature of the terrain when "nature's camouflage" would be insufficient for the particular purpose. The least effective, although perhaps the most interesting form of camouflage is that which is wholly artificial. This is true because camouflage to aid the movement or operations of considerable forces must be provided on a huge scale, and consequently to provide artificial camouflage to such an extent would involve materials, labor and time in prohibitive measure. Furthermore, artificial camouflage deteriorates more rapidly than natural camouflage and is more readily detected by the enemy.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the most important class of camouflage activity might be termed tactical camouflage. With this conception in mind it will be seen that the subject bears an intimate and important relation to mobile warfare, and accordingly a study of the principles of camouflage will throw an illuminating light upon the problems of the tactical dispositions of troops in open warfare. As troop movements resolve themselves into troop dispositions and the occupation of positions, natural camouflage should be promptly augmented by artificial camouflage, and when these positions become more or less permanent, artificial camouflage is resorted to in its fullest measure.

A knowledge and understanding of the importance of this subject is the concern of every officer and enlisted man of this division. Perhaps the greatest factor in contributing to tactical success in the conduct of war is the factor of surprise. A trained force will often stand its ground under twenty per cent. of losses suffered in the course of what might be termed normal combat conditions, when the same force might stampede under ten per cent. of losses inflicted suddenly and in the form of surprise. To effect tactical surprise upon the enemy an appreciation and practical understanding of camouflage, particularly natural camouflage, is most essential.

The commanding officer of each regiment and similar unit will carefully select and designate a regimental camouflage officer. In like manner an officer will be selected and designated by each battalion and company commander, whose duty it will be to devote special time and study to the work, and will confer with other camouflage officers of their own and other units in relation to this subject. They will give theoretical and practical instruction to the officers and enlisted men of their units, upon such occasions and under such circumstances as may be prescribed by their commanding officers. A roster of their names and record of their industry and efficiency will be maintained by the divisional camouflage officer, whose duty it will be to keep track of their work, to provide lectures and special instruction and demonstration for them on particular occasions.

Normally, camouflage officers will continue the performance of their regular routine duty. The permanent enlisted camouflage personnel will be one non-commissioned officer and one private at regimental headquarters, the same at battalion headquarters and the same for each company. Record of their names and work will be maintained at regimental headquarters.

When manual labor for camouflage is required it will be furnished by the commanding officer of the organization concerned. The strength of camouflage detachments will vary from two to three men to the entire strength of the regiment, dependent upon circumstances.

The stay at Camp Wadsworth constituted a vital period in the lives of the many thousands of men who were there. As a result of the training they were developed and bettered in innumerable ways. It is believed that none will give more enthusiastic corroboration to this statement than

the men themselves. Toward the end of the training period the physical excellence of the command was remarkable. They made a record for good health; their intelligence had been stimulated; they were orderly, prompt and responsive. They fastened themselves securely in the hearts of the people of Spartanburg, and in like manner the people of Spartanburg won an enduring place in the affections of the officers and men of the 27th Division.

