

### HOW TO WIN COMMISSION IN ENGINEERS.

Examinations for Lieutenancies to Be Held Here January 21.

Announcement is made at Division Headquarters that, owing to the shortage of officers in the engineer corps of the army, it is proposed to hold a competitive examination in Camp Wadsworth, beginning January 21, to fill some of those vacancies, and enlisted men and civilians who may aspire to appointment as provisional second lieutenants in the engineers are asked to compete.

According to law, vacancies in the corps of engineers may be filled, first, by cadets as they graduate from the military academy, and, second, through the competitive examination of other candidates. In order to be eligible to take this examination, a candidate must be an unmarried citizen of the United States between the ages of 21 and 29 years and must hold a diploma showing graduation in an engineering course from an approved technical school. Commanding officers are required to submit, not later than December 15, a list of approved candidates in their organizations. Concerning the chances of the enlisted men to pass the examination, the bulletin states:

"It is expected that by relieving them as much as possible from their regular duties, such of these candidates as may be approved will be given special opportunities to prepare themselves to some extent for a written examination which will be held beginning January 21, and presumably at the station of this organization. This competitive examination is required by law, but will be considerably simpler in character than the one which persons outside of the service are required to take. It will, however, be sufficient to show to what extent the candidates have assimilated the principles which they learned in their course at the technical schools.

"Arrangements have been made for the examination of candidates who may be at officers' training camps at the time, and further arrangements have been made in order that the opportunities may be given those in France, or may be en route there, to be examined likewise."



By the Lord of Buns

### WHY SUPPLY SERGEANTS ARE UNPOPULAR.

Whatever Else They Lack, They Always Have Plenty of Red-Tape on Hand.

I dislike Supply Sergeants. They irritate me.

They are always asking personal questions. They want to know the "Hows" and the "Wheres." They question your motives. They go on the supposition that all people—excepting themselves, of course—are deceitful or ignorant or both. They are suspicious.

#### Sergeant-Misers.

They look upon all Government property as a miser looks upon gold. They are forever inspecting and taking inventories. They are selfish. They think a man can dress well and be presentable in "one (1) hat, service; one (1) undershirt, cotton flannel, winter; one (1) breeches, cotton, O. D., pr.; one (1) stockings, lt. wt., woolen, pr.; one (1) shoes, russet, marching, pr.; and two (2) ornaments, collar, bronze."

Whenever I lose anything I invariably find out that it has found its way into the Supply Tent and—in such event—the Supply Sergeant refuses to return it until I have presented him with two "bits" cash for the Mess Fund. Judging from my contributions to this fund, our mess should begin to pick up considerably without further delay.

Supply Sergeants are unfriendly. They speak of and to you by number only. When they are not asking you questions they are demanding that number so and so "sign here!"

#### Tag, Tag, Who Has the Tag?

I was well-known in civil life. I used to get five and ten dollars at fairs and bazaars for my signature. In the Army I must attach my signature at least four times to various papers before I can persuade the Supply Sergeant to give me so much as "one cord, hat, inf." or "one laces, shoes, russet, pr."

Three or four months ago the tape from which my identification tag dangles upon my chest broke and I lost my tag. An identification tag is a small metal disc upon which is stamped your name, rank and the company and regiment that has possession of you. In case you are lost the person who finds you is able to locate your owner by this tag and return you without much inconvenience.

You see, these tags are vitally important.

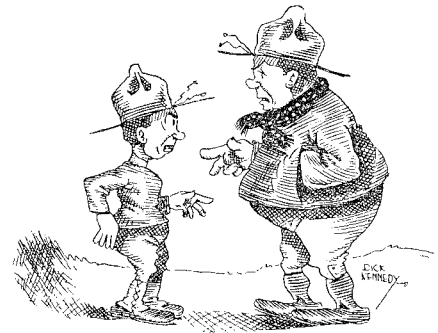
I went, therefore, immediately to the Supply Sergeant to get a new tag and this is the conversation—as nearly as I can remember—that ensued:

"Sergeant," I reported; "I have lost my identification tag."

"Where did you lose it?" snapped the Sergeant.

"That seems to be a secret?" I replied, pleasantly.

"Don't try to be funny," said the Sergeant. Supply Sergeants lack all sense of humor. "Have you reported the loss to your corporal?"



"How dare you laugh at me?"

"I wasn't laughing at you, Sergeant Patson."

"Well, what else was there for you to laugh at?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did he give you permission to report to me?"

"Yes, sir."

"Why haven't you reported sooner?"

"I have only just lost the tag, sir."

"Did you ever have a tag?"

"Yes, sir."

"Who are you?"

"Private John Blank."

"That means nothing to me. What's your number?"

"X-83, sir."

After a search through a thousand odd property slips and a large ledger, the Supply Sergeant resumed the conversation.

#### The Third Degree.

"Yes, you had one tag, identification, and one yard of tape for tag issued to you on July 2nd, 1917. How did you lose it?"

"I was digging a trench, stripped to the waist. The tape broke and the tag fell."

"Did you look in your clothing when you returned to camp?"

"No, sir. I had no shirt on and the tag must have fallen to the ground."

"Did you look on the ground for the tag?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you find it?"

"No, sir."

"Carelessness!" was the brief summing up. "You can't have another."

"What shall I do?" I ventured.

"Make out a Report on Survey, Form No. 186 A. G. O."

Now a report on survey is made out in triplicate. Upon it is entered all the facts of the case; the article lost, how it was lost and the date, hour and minute upon which the loss was discovered. Attached to this form are affidavits sworn to by all present and the Supply Sergeant stating that there existed such an article, that it was actually issued to you and that you received and signed innumerable forms for it and giving all particulars over again.

#### Unwinding the Red Tape.

This form was filled in with great care and presented by the Supply Sergeant to the company commander. The Major of the battalion then signed it and passed it on to the Regimental Supply Sergeant who let the Regimental Supply Officer give it the

(Continued on page 29)