U. S. ARMY GETTING "WAR" TEST

Newest Developments in Fighting Equipment Are Tested in Giant Maneuvers Held in Middle West.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

WAR has come to the Middle West—a hypothetical war that raises no fear of ravage and pillage in the civilian population but rather permits them to see what manner of defense their army has prepared for them. But to the soldiery in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia it is war in grim earnest for it is the basis for the August maneuvers of the SECOND ARMY.

The maneuvers represent — in a short period of time — a complete cycle of mobilization, concentration, training, operation and demobilization, Major General Charles E. Kilbourne, commanding general, explained in outlining the purpose and plan of the field exercises.

While the problem as a whole simulates a conflict between hypothetical Red, Blue and Brown states, with Green as a neutral, its principal purpose is to provide training, and not to be a formal test of training. Whatever units the umpires from time to time may declare have won or lost a decision, all of the troops should benefit greatly from the character of training these maneuvers make possible.

Will Use Modern Methods

In total number of troops involved and in territory covered, these exercises are the most extensive ever held in the Middle West in peace time, General Kilbourne pointed out. The training problem involves the use of the most modern weapons and facilities available and also is the first in this area to give special emphasis to the employment of aviation and mechanized units. Large numbers of Illinois and Wisconsin troops must be transported across Lake Michigan. Units charged with responsibility for supply and communications operate over longer distances than in the field training of former years. Night operations are being conducted and attention given throughout the exercises to the tactical value of the element of surprise.

The entire maneuver is based on situations that are moving, rather than static. By provision of faster means of transportation and by reduction of weights carried, a systematic effort is being made to increase the mobility of troops, in action and behind the lines.

The conditions set up for the maneuver assume that, after a period of strained relations, an outbreak of hostilities occurs between Blue—a state comprising Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia, and Red, an "enemy" state, including Tennessee and Virginia and extending southeastward. Brown, a state which includes Pennsylvania and territory to the east and north, is friendly toward Red and later becomes its ally against Blue. Green, a large neutral state, comprises territory west of the Mississippi river.

Will Use 40,000 Troops

In the first phase of the maneuver the V corps of the Second army (Blue) conducts an offensive in the direction of Nashville, the Red capital. In the second phase the VI corps of the Blue army begins its offensive toward the Brown capital of Pittsburgh, ending its march at Camp Custer, near Battle Creek, Michigan. The principal elements of Red and Brown troops will be represented by units of the recently organized GHQ (General Headquarters) Air force and the new mechanized cavalry. Upwards of 40,000 troops are participating.

It is the largest concentration of troops in the middle west since the World war, and represents the most extensive employment, under field conditions, of aviation and the Mechanized force ever witnessed in the United States.

Frequently called "the laboratory of the army" the "Mechanized force" is the agency through which the United States army is keeping abreast of developments in mechanization and motorization.

Consisting of the mechanized First cavalry; the First battalion, Sixty-eighth field artillery (mechanized), First battalion, Nineteenth field artillery (motorized), the Fifteenth observation squadron, air corps; together with maintenance and supply units, the "Mechanized force" comprises a small compact organization of great mobility and striking power.

This force is under the command of Col. Bruce Palmer, First cavalry. Artillery officer and commander of artillery is Lieut. Col. A. C. Sandeford, Sixty-eighth field artillery. The force as constituted for the maneuver includes 117 officers and 1,841 enlisted men. Its equipment includes armored cars, combat cars (light, fast tanks), cross-country personnel carriers armed with machine guns and automatic rifles. The tables of organization call for 88 combat vehicles for a mechanized cavalry regiment.

The First cavalry, mechanized, has two combat car squadrons, each with two ten-car troops. It also has a machine gun troop of 16 cars armed with 53, .30 cal. guns and 13, .50 cal. guns, and a 16-car reconnaissance troop.

Trend Is Toward Mobility

Brig. Gen. C. D. Herron, chief of staff, in commenting on the employment of the Mechanized force in the army maneuvers points to the fact that the trend of all tactics today involves mechanization, motorization, greater speed and greater mobility.

In order to keep abreast of developments in foreign countries, the army is experimenting with this mechanized force. Great progress has been made in developing combat vehicles that can travel at high speed both on the road and across country.

Mechanized units, however, are sensitive to ground conditions. Streams form serious obstacles. Destruction of bridges and critical road points greatly hinders such a force. And always a mechanized or motorized unit is dependent on the gasoline supply.

In spite of these limiting factors the Mechanized force, with its heavily armed vehicles, each capable of tremendous shock and fire power are of growing importance in the development of our national defense.

Constant radio communication from car to car gives the commander a complete picture of the location of his force at all times and permits complete control of the unit.

Mechanized forces can make deep incursions into enemy territory as illustrated in the rapid movement of the unit from the Fort Knox, Kentucky, area to Camp Custer.

Study Aircraft Effectiveness

Much interest is being shown in the effectiveness of the participating aircraft and the anti-aircraft defenses. Until actually tested by war, it is impossible to state whether the attack by aircraft or the defense against such attack has made the most progress.

In war every development of method or material for offensive operations automatically leads to the development of means of defense against attack by such methods or with such materials, experts point out.

In the beginning of the World war aviation was utilized almost entirely for observation missions. Gradually, however, its potentiality for the offensive was recognized and towards the end of the World war the attack on installations, cities and troops on the ground became daily occurrences.

Efforts to develop a defense against these attacks, other than with aircraft, were decidedly lame until the closing months of the war, when improvements in anti-aircraft artillery and the establishment of balloon barrages seemed to have had a considerable deterring effect, and the percentage of planes brought down was rapidly increasing.

One of the New "Motorized Army" Units.

Following the World war great emphasis was given both to the development of aircraft for offensive operations and to the defensive means. These defensive means are now divided into an active defense and a passive defense. In Europe and in Japan, training of civilians in the so-called passive defense against air attack is being undertaken. We read of cities being darkened during simulated bombardment from the air; of civilians being required to use gas masks; of fire departments and other civil organizations being drilled in protection of property and personnel, and instructions as to methods of preparing effective cover. These exercises are apparently made very real. The object is not only to save lives, but to organize and drill the people so that panic may not add to the actual danger of an attack.

Active Defense Elaborate

The active defense against enemy aircraft consists of pursuit airplanes to attack the bombers of an enemy, of anti-aircraft guns, machine guns and searchlights to be disposed around installations offering a proper objective for air attack, and an aircraft warning service consisting of a net of properly equipped observation stations with a system of communication insuring that the aircraft and the anti-aircraft services are alerted in time to meet threatened attack.

Much has been written of the great advance in aviation and the weapons installed on military aircraft. These improvements extend, of course, to the aircraft designed for operations especially against bombers.

Less is generally known of the development of the anti-aircraft artillery. There has been marked improvement in the type of anti-aircraft guns. The three-inch guns can maintain a fire at the rate of twenty shots a minute, with an effective altitude of over twenty thousand feet. The fifty caliber machine gun, firing six hundred rounds a minute, is effective against any aircraft operating at low or medium altitudes.

New Gun Perfected

Another automatic weapon for anti-aircraft use, the 37-millimeter gun, has been perfected but regiments have not, as yet, been supplied with them. This gun has a maximum vertical range of 15,000 feet, fires a shell that will explode on contact with the fabric of an airplane. It fires at the rate of eighty rounds a minute.

The searchlights used are eight hundred million candle power. Their range is, of course, dependent upon the state of the weather. However, the greatest improvement of material has been in the development of instruments simple of operation, which control by electricity the setting of the gun so that the projectile will meet the plane in flight and also operate the fuse setter to insure that the projectile bursts at the right instant.

Until actually tested by war, it is impossible to state whether the attack by aircraft, or the defense against such attack, has made the most progress. We can state with assurance, however, that both are vastly more efficient than at the close of the World war.

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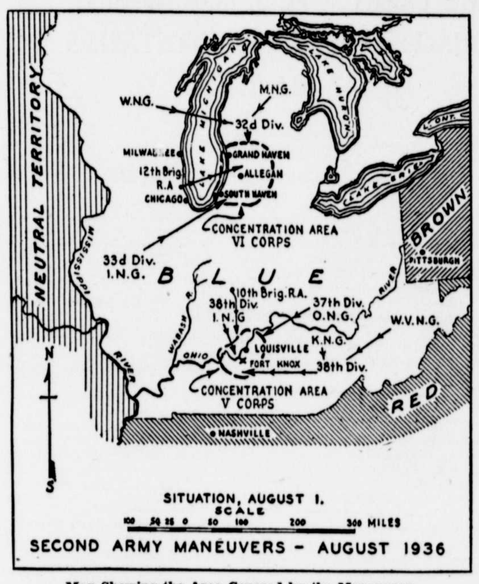


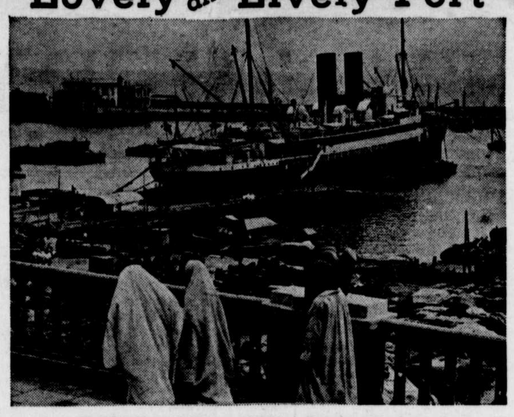
Map Showing the Area Covered by the Maneuvers.

Experts Scan Efficiency of Army's Aviation Units in Modern Warfare.

Discovered Radium

Radium was discovered by a Polish lady in a French laboratory and the idea of it developed principally by an Englishman and New Zealander.

Lovely and Lively Port



A Portion of Algers (Algiers) Spacious Harbor.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

MANY visitors to North Africa begin their exploration of the Dark Continent at Alger (Algiers), and remember it as one of the loveliest ports in the world. Its dazzling white buildings climb a terraced hillside above an incredibly blue, crescent-shaped bay. Behind the hills blossoms the narrow fertile plain of the Mitidja, above which tower the mighty snow-clad Atlas mountains.

Alger, the White City! Only a little over a century ago it was the lair of cruel sea wolves, the bloodthirsty Algerian pirates who captured and enslaved Europeans and even Americans. Today it is a beautiful modern French city with many Europeans among its thousands of inhabitants.

Alger is kept in constant touch with France by submarine cables, by regular postal and passenger air service, and by daily steamers to French ports. Railroads connect it with points in Morocco and Tunisia.

Not only is Alger an important French naval station, but it is the largest city in Algeria. From it is shipped much of the country's produce. Its waterfront is lined with merchants' warehouses, wharves piled high with merchandise, and docks beside which lie large steamers.

Alger's European section has well-built streets along which electric trams and automobiles rush past theatres, hotels and attractive shops. Strolling along broad sidewalks sheltered by arcades, and in cafes fronting palm-shaded squares, one sees well-dressed European men and modish French girls as well as veiled women and stately Arabs in flowing burnooses.

These streets are in direct contrast to the narrow, cobbled alleys of the native quarter which climb up the steel hillside. Along them gayly-colored houses are crowded together.

The native quarter affords many picturesque sights. At the corner of a market place is an Arab coffee house. Outside, squatting on the pavement or seated on benches against the wall, are Arabs, Kabyles, Negroes, men of all classes and ages—merchants, small shopkeepers, clerks, laborers—conversing volubly, playing cards, dominoes, draughts, or merely sitting—sitting idly, vacantly, unconscious of those around them. No man on earth—Neopolitan lazzarone, Hindu ascetic, or Buddhist priest seeking Nirvana — is capable of such utter detachment from the world as the ordinary Arab.

They Love Coffee

A few of those gathered in front of the cafe hold tiny cups of coffee in their hands, taste it, drink it slowly, savoring every precious drop of the pennyworth of fragrant dark fluid. Inside, at the tiled, waist-high fireplace, the cook dips a small, long-handled measure into the steaming copper pot resting on a handful of red embers and fills the cups for the bare-armed attendant to take to customers seated on benches or huddled on mats in the interior of the establishment.

The walls are scrawled with crude drawings of mosques, palm trees, tigers and elephants—these last by an artist who had evidently never seen either animal — or chromos of French presidents and European royalties.

A gray-haired, wild-looking man in rags, hung round with the skins of small animals, strums a one-stringed guitar made from the shell of a tortoise. He enters the cafe and, half shambling, half dancing, holding out a hand for money, wanders among the customers. As he moves he sings in a high-pitched, nasal voice, and the contrast between the eastern love song and its singer is striking.

In better establishments, situated nearer the French quarter and patronized by well-to-do Arabs, one often finds a superior orchestra. Three or four black-coated, white-collared gentlemen in red fezzes play strange instruments — a big guitar, a large drum called a teboul, a long one, the derbrouka, similar to an Indian tom-tom; a ghaita, a sort of flageolet shaped like a doctor's stethoscope, and perhaps a tambourine — the while they sing in nasal tones.

To the poor native the cafe is a club, a hotel, a home. He brings his crust of bread, his handful of onions, to eat there; he sleeps on its benches or on the pavement against its wall; and once or twice a day he spends two cents in it for a cup of coffee.

From the market place lead narrow streets and, as in such eastern cities as Cairo, Tunis, Delhi, and Canton, each is lined with shops devoted to one trade. Down this one are the tailors. In the square holes devoid of counters, tables, or chairs, white-burnoosed, bearded men resembling Biblical patriarchs squat on the floor and sew furiously.

Workers in Brass

In the next street brass workers hammer at bright pots and tall water vessels, denting patterns into them with sharp-pointed instruments struck with mallets. Tinsmiths display piles of saucepans and coffeepots. In the tiny shops of the next crooked lane cobblers stitch rapidly at the native's easy red-leather slippers, or work beautiful designs with gold and silver threaded and spangles on dainty shoes for women.

Here is break in the trades-union character of the shops. Outside this one a small crowd eagerly watches the movements of a youth seated before a tiled stove running up into a pointed chimney. A small table stands beside him. In a dish he mixes a white batter, rolling it, pulling and twisting it with nimble fingers, then dipping it into oil and placing it in the stove. His hand dives in once or twice to turn the morsel.

Then with tongs he draws out a crisp, golden puff, places it on a small square of newspaper, thrusts it into an eager, outstretched palm and receives a coin. The buyer turns away, contentedly munching the succulent titbit, and his place is taken by another expectant purchaser.

The next street blazes with color. Here black-bearded Mozabites in flowing Arab garb—heretical Moslems from the Mzab district in the Sahara—or hooked-nosed Jews in semi-European attire display a wealth of rainbow-hued, long-fringed silk shawls; gay-colored bodices and jackets; skirts and other garments in pink, blue, yellow, red; leather belts gold-buckled and heavy with bullion and gold embroidery; white wool or silk and wool gandauras (long gowns), and crimson burnooses worked with gold or silver.

Then comes the Street of the Jewelers! Many of the shops have glass windows displaying massive silver bracelets three or four inches wide, gold and silver earrings several inches in diameter, huge necklace of broad, beautifully designed flat silver and gold ornaments, filigree rings, heavy anklets —truly a street of delight for womankind.

And always there are innumerable tiny gold or gold-washed hands inset with coral or turquoise, the universal Arab mascot, known as the Kamsa, Five, because of the five fingers. Europeans term it "The Hand of Fatima," daughter of the Prophet. Every Arab woman—and many a foreigner—wears one, and on the wall of every Moorish house is its luck-bringing imprint. It is borne on the company colors of the regiments of Tirailleurs Indigenes, the Arab and Berber infantry skirmishers.

Dazzling White Mosques

Dazzling white in the brilliant sunshine, the walls of a mosque almost blind one by their glare. But enter. You pass into dark, cool shadows, into a silent interior, bare and restful. Through the past centuries bearded Moslems with the blood of the unbelievers red on their hands have gathered here to bow down toward Mecca and beg Allah's aid in fresh crimes. Yet they thought them meritorious deeds, by the truth of the Most High! And every Friday the faithful come here still, and who shall say that none of them mutter curses in their beards upon the Christian dogs that rule them?

The crowding houses of the city end. Across the road is a scarped hillside, with grass, gardens, and trees. In a small open space native barbers shave the scalps of clients or squat beside their chairs waiting for trade, while their tools — razors, scissors, clippers, mirrors — are laid out ready on the ground.

This open-air toilet saloon is a strange sight for the tourist, but does not gain a look from the passengers in the electric trams passing within a few yards of it.

Suddenly one comes upon tombs and the ground falls sharply away. The eye ranges over the deep valley of Bab-el-Oued, with its gardens and houses, to the bright-red scars of quarries and cliffs in the green hillside opposite, crowned with the domes of the famous church of Notre Dame d'Afrique. It faces across the Mediterranean to its sister, Notre Dame de la Garde, on the height above the harbor of Marseille.

Here, where one stands on the summit above the steeply descending pathway, are the densely crowded graves of the Arab cemetery of El-Kettar. A very few are marked with white domes. Most of them have thin white stones at head and foot; some are but green mounds. A gravedigger in a garment of ragged sacking and a wide-brimmed straw hat is digging languidly, while a couple of urchins stare with interest at brown bones and a skull in the mold that he has thrown up.

Uncommon Sense

By JOHN BLAKE

© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

Don't Watch the Thermometer

I am writing this on a hot day—a very hot day. The thermometer on my porch informs me that it is a hundred degrees Fahrenheit. I could believe that it is very much hotter than that.

The people that pass my door have taken off their coats—if they are men.

The women, who refuse to be beaten even if they can't really keep cool, are wearing filmy raiment, but they don't pant the way men do.

But while I admit that I am inconvenienced, and wish I could be in Alaska and lean against an ice floe like a polar bear, I know that if I stop thinking about the weather and go to work I will soon lose myself in my job.

* * *

A little way down the street is a fire-engine house. The firemen have rigged a pipe up in front of the building and from its mouth spouts a continuous man-made geyser. All the children in the neighborhood, and they make as much noise as all the children in town, are stripped to their little buffs and are shouting joyfully as they bend down their backs and let the spray from the pipe run over them.

* * *

But in the suburban town where I live, and in the great city which is not far away, men and women are doing their regular work.

If a fire should break out in another part of the town, the firemen who are now watching the children enjoy their shower baths would mount their ladder trucks and man their engines, and be off with a blare of sirens to do their appointed job.

If they decided they didn't want to get any hotter and stayed where they were perhaps the town might be consumed.

* * *

Men and women can do in a pinch what they have to do, whether the temperature is up or down.

When the need arises, especially the need to help others out of danger, their courage crops out and they all become heroes for the time being.

And I, who have nothing to do for the present but pound a typewriting machine would do well to forget the fact that it is uncomfortable, and stop breathing hard and making continuous trips to the refrigerator for ice cubes to fill my glass.

Rain or snow, cold or hot, one is easier in his mind if he forgets the discomforts that are bound to come, and to continue with his work.

And the more indispensable work he has to do, the more easily he will withstand the steaming streets and the torrid skies.

As long as it is not humanly possible to change the weather, the only intelligent thing to do is to forget about it.

Foreign Words and Phrases

Ab ovo usque ad mala. (L.) From the eggs to the apples; from the beginning to the end.

Avanti. (It.) Come in.

Beaute du diable. F.) That transient type of beauty doomed to fade early with loss of the glow of youth.

Comme il faut. (F.) As it should be; perfect; in good taste.

En plein jour. (F.) In broad daylight.

Facon de parlor. (F.) A manner of speaking.

Genus irritabile vatum. (L.) The irritable race of poets.

Homme d'affaires. (F.) Business man.

Deo volente. (L.) God willing.

Shark Fishing

Norwegian fishermen report that shark fishing off the Shetland Islands is now more profitable than trawling. They say that this season they have been able to make catches worth $3,500 to $4,000 in a few days. Large galvanized iron swivel hooks 50 fathoms apart on stout lines are baited with haddocks. The sharks, from 10 to 14 feet long, are hauled aboard by means of derricks. Every part of the fish is used, flesh being salted for food and skin preserved as fine leather. While the shark lines are in the sea the fishermen shoot dolphins, which are used as food on silver fox farms.

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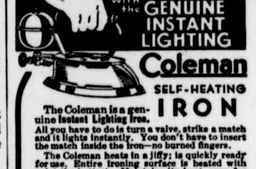

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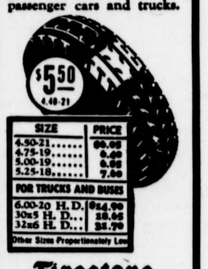

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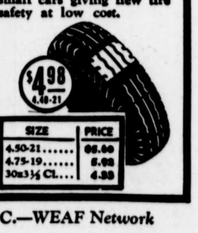

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