

**THE OFFICER'S
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR HIS MEN**

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The Officer's Responsibility for His Men by Various

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PREPARED BY
THE MEN OF THE 2ND OFFICERS'
TRAINING CAMP



FORT SHERIDAN, ILL.
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

Wdr 30-1-17.7



Albert A. Spangue

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By MYRON E. ADAMS

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
FORT SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 11, 1917.

FOREWORD

Many books have been written on the training of enlisted men of our Army, most of which have dealt with the military side only. There is another side, the influence of which is quite as important in rounding out the soldier's training to make him the ideal among the Nation's defenders.

This book is sent forth as the result of the combined efforts of men of the Second Fort Sheridan Training Camp, to place in the hands of newly commissioned officers, in concrete form, a system of solving the many problems they will meet in the development and training of the newly formed regiments in the armies of the United States. It is believed that the benefits to be gained will increase in proportion to the spirit with which it is accepted and applied.

J. A. RYAN, *Colonel of Cavalry,*
Commanding.

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INTRODUCTION

The officer entrusted with a company in the National Army has a responsibility in caring for his men, equal to that in commanding them. His success in creating efficient, loyal soldiers will be in proportion to the thoughtful leadership and spirit of consideration shown in their training. Positive plans for the continued development of the good spirit of a company accomplishes far more than irregular attempts at severe discipline. Our Government expects that the new men are to be trained in an atmosphere of discipline and consideration which will fit them for the battle-field, and for the subsequent return to their own places in after days.

Such consideration should not be given as a bait for popularity, or as a substitute for necessary discipline and training. It should contribute directly to the spirit of the company. It should aim to build up a spirit around the commander and within the company, which will furnish a wholesome influence to training in teamwork, a splendid morale for battle, a condition where the failure or delinquency of men will so affect the rest of the company that personal discipline may be unnecessary.

The good officer is constantly striving to make the men under his command better soldiers. He

is continually endeavoring to make his unit the most efficient in the service. And, being a good officer, he realizes that his work does not stop with "Relief" — that he must keep as watchful and diligent supervision over his men during their leisure hours as he does on the drill field or rifle range.

He recognizes that, while the enlisted man must have some time to himself, a good proportion of this time is frittered away in useless trifling, or in dangerous dissipation. He would not deprive the enlisted man of what leisure is rightfully his, yet he would like to tell him how to employ that time to better and more useful purposes, "for the good of the service." The trouble is,— How shall he go about it? What alternatives, what "counter attractions," can he offer?

It is hoped that this little book may help answer both of these questions. It deals with the leisure hours of the enlisted man, and how they may be turned to good account in the disciplining and training of our great new army. The suggestions have purposely been made as brief and concise as possible. They have been compiled from voluntary studies made by several groups of candidates chosen from the Second Reserve Officers' Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and investigated various aspects of the officer's relation to his men.

MYRON E. ADAMS,
Director of Morale.