

# The Skirmisher

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL, SALINA, KANSAS

Vol. II.

MAY 30, 1919

No. 11.

## CADETS HAVE CAMP

### BATTALION GETS RANGE WORK —LIVE IN TENTS

When "Fall In" was commanded on the hill near the home of Bob White, southeast of Salina, cadets of St. John's Military School turned for a last look at their camp-site in the valley below, a camp-site that had been their home for nearly two weeks at the annual encampment of St. John's School. They had lived under canvas all that time, they had lined up for their meals and eaten in the open air; most of them had fired the course with the highpowered army rifle, they had drilled, hunted, fished, gone swimming, they had gotten a good coat of tan—in short they had had a taste of army life in the open, with plenty of time for rest and recreation thrown in.

The battalion formed in front of the barracks at 2:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon, May 8, and left shortly afterward for Camp Perkins, arriving there in time for supper. They broke camp May 20 and came back in time for a late supper at school that evening.

On the march out, the first halt, a brief one, was made at the railroad tracks south of the school. From here on they marched at attention through the business and residence district of Santa Fe Avenue for more than a mile, the band playing in front of the battalion. At Crawford street they turned east and went for some distance out what is known as the Crawford Street road, when they were halted and allowed to fall out for a rest.

On arriving at camp, the cadets were well pleased to find that the detail ahead had erected all tents and that supper was cooking. The band and various squads had already been assigned their tents. Most of the cadets were content to wait in their tents for supper. The more energetic ones, refusing to be tired after their hike, went exploring for possible swimming and fishing places.

There were daily drills; parade and guard mounting were held in the evening, but except for those who were on the various necessary fatigue details and on the range, most of the cadets had plenty of time to enjoy themselves along with their instruction.

### PLANE PERFORMS FOR CADETS

#### Army Machine Does Stunts Over Camp Perkins

Aeroplane stunts entertained the cadets during several days. On one day in particular, the machine flew out over Camp Perkins, circled around the camp a number of times and wound up by showing a number of stunts before going back to its landing place near the Country Club.

Major Ganssle had hoped to arrange for the machine to land in the strip of meadow just south of the camp. A fringe of trees, however, made landing impractical except with the wind from a certain direction and the wind didn't seem disposed to change when the aeroplane was over the camp.

The flying machine was an army plane from Ellington Field, Texas. It came directly to Salina from Texas, to aid in the Victory Loan campaign and remained here more than a week. It was in charge of two Salina boys, Lieutenants Mac Short and Leo Kuhn.

#### Waited Dinner For One Cadet

The second Sunday at camp the whole battalion and visitors waited dinner for one lone cadet. However, the cadet was Corporal Fulwider who had gone into Salina some time before for two most important items of the Sunday meal, bread and ice-cream. When he failed to appear after dinner was nearly an hour late, some anxious cadets who had organized a volunteer patrol, came running into camp. Lieutenant John Pribble and some half dozen cadets went to the rescue, transferred the ice-cream and bread and hurried back in time to prevent starvation—and a mutiny.

## FOR MAJOR PERKINS

### ST. JOHN'S CAMP NAMED FOR SALINA SOLDIER

This year's St. John's camp was named Camp Perkins in honor of Major Roy Perkins of Salina, who has been honored by the United States and France for gallantry in action. Major Perkins, then Capt. Perkins, left Salina with Company M as captain. After being cited for bravery in France and after being gassed, he returned to the United States as instructor at Camp Funston and was promoted to major shortly before the armistice. He would have returned to France with the Tenth Division, probably, if the fighting had not stopped.

Although it was known he had been honored by the United States government, no one knew that he also had been given the French war cross, as the following extract from the Salina Evening Journal shows:

"That Major Roy Perkins is the proud possessor of the Croix de Guerre, the highest honor that can be bestowed by the French government, was revealed last night to the crowd at the Company M dinner at the Methodist Church. Strangely enough, he has had it for more than a year, but it remained for another soldier, Col. Fred R. Fitzpatrick to tell the story of the award."

Major Perkins was instructor in military science at St. John's School in the spring of 1917.

#### Connor and Ording, Cooks

Girls wishing husbands with a knowledge of cooking can get information from Cook Neimiers. He probably will list high Corp. Alan Connor and Cadet Paul Ording who were his assistants the entire camp. Both these cadets did a large amount of work cheerfully and voluntarily and instructed conscientiously the various cadets on detail at meal time. Ording lived up to his reputation earned the preceding year when he stepped into the kitchen after the cook from town had failed the camp.

### CADET AT DANCE AS A GIRL

#### Female Impersonator Causes Stir At Junior-Senior Prom

When Cadet Robert Wyber, senior, walked into the dining room at the dinner dance given by the junior and senior cadets, accompanied by a slender, graceful blonde girl there was many a whispered "Who is she?" Cadet Wyber and his partner arrived just before dinner and there had been no time for a general introduction. Word was passed around that his partner was an out-of-town girl, a Miss Henrietta Ware. At the progressive dinner, Miss Ware listened attentively, smiled sweetly but had little to say except to Cadet Wyber.

It was not until much later when an inquisitive young lady who had drawn Miss Ware into conversation informed the girls that "it's Gardiner Hart again" that even some of the cadets discovered for the first time the presence of their versatile fellow student.

The dinner dance May 14, at the Elk's Club the first Junior-Senior Prom of St. John's School, was so successful that it was voted to have one annually. The dinner was progressive, with dancing between each course. After dinner, the regular program was danced. There were several favor dances.

The guests were: Misses Margaret Drake, Neva Sloan, Maria Quinn, Neva Brown, Christina Muir, Marie Gafford, Margaret Lynch, Doris Riddell, Hortense Pierce, Cornelia Flood, Ella Wilson, Bernice Donmyer, Helen Smith, Mary Hazel Phinny, Mrs. I. J. Branson and "Henrietta Ware." Major and Mrs. W. L. Ganssle, Mrs. Grace Ganssle Plank, Capt. Charles Cannon, Capt. and Mrs. Maurice Hicklin, Capt. Edward Morgenstern. Cadets: A. G. Oliver, D. W. Buchanan, Ralph Muir, Bruce Johnson, John Pribble, Walter Miller, Fritz Wiedey, Howard Hayden, Bruce Davis, Lloyd Umstot, Ralph Dodge, Belmont Rising, Ned B. Goffe, Theodore Tanner, Robert Wyber.

The prom committee consisted of cadets Belmont Rising, Howard Hayden, Bruce Davis, Bruce Johnson, with Mrs. Grace Ganssle Plank as faculty adviser. Six cadets from the lower school assisted in serving. They were: Roy Edwards, Parvin Pattison, James Coyte, R. W. Barnes, John Harris, James Hyde.

Put your trust in the Lord and keep your powder dry—especially if its talcum powder.

### WIEDEY BEST RIFLE SHOT

#### Oklahoman's Experience In Hunting Proves Valuable

Ordinarily band men are not expected to be the best shots but Sergt. Fritz Wiedey, of the cadet band made the highest score on the range. However, when Wiedey isn't playing he is hunting and is perhaps the best shot in the school with a target rifle. He proved that he was also the best with a high-powered rifle. The following cadets were second, third, fourth and fifth respectively: Theodore Tanner, Lloyd Umstot, A. G. Oliver, Harland Mitchell. One of the youngest cadets to shoot was Robert Bell of the band and he ranked high on the range.

Rains interfered with the work on the range the first days at camp. It was finally decided to shoot Special Course A, rather than attempt work at the longer ranges, as it was feared there would not be time to complete a longer course. If there is opportunity, a number of cadets who for various reasons were unable to complete the course, will fire later. Special Course A, Instruction Practice, fired at Camp Perkins was as follows:

Table 1, Slow fire, target A; 15 shots at 200 yards, 5 prone, 5 kneeling, 5 standing; 10 shots at 300 yards, 5 prone, 5 sitting.

Table 2: Slow fire, target D; battle sight; 10 shots at 200 yards, 5 kneeling, 5 standing; 10 shots at 300 yards, 5 prone, 5 sitting.

Table 3: Rapid fire, target D; battle sight used. 10 shots, kneeling or sitting from standing at 200 yards; 10 shots prone from standing at 300 yards.

#### Went to Sea on a Raft

When Corporal Bruce Davis came running into the supply tent and breathlessly called for a rope, every one had visions of a drowning cadet. Davis, however, relieved their anxiety when he announced that Cadet Gray had built a raft up stream and was now coming down the river, but was unable to land. Cadets went out with a rope and threw it to Gray as he floated past. They brought Gray to land all right, but the raft went on. It was later found some distance down stream where it had been caught on drift wood.

#### Live Models Not Wanted Here

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**THIS SWING HAD A PUNCH****Cadet Smith Demonstrates His Ability on the Tight Rope**

The swing of ye good old picnic days was not forgotten at Camp Perkins, but it was the picnic swing with a punch. If you fell out, you fell in. For the swing hung over the river.

About three hundred yards below camp stands an immense tree with branches extending out at least half way across the river. Several good climbers worked their way out on one limb and tied to it a heavy rope, just long enough to graze the surface of the water.

A loop in this for your foot, a run down the bank, and out you went over the water.

Cadet Smith, on wood detail, watched cadets who were swinging but declined to join as he feared a ducking. However, after watching for some time he discovered that the rope wasn't long enough to carry one into the water. So he hurried to take his wood to the waiting cook and return for the fun.

In the meantime, Cadet McDonald happened along. He noticed another limb further out and decided that moving the rope to this limb would give a more exciting swing. So he moved the rope. Smith returned after the rope had been moved. He wanted to swing. McDonald unselfishly (?) allowed him to go first.

Smith inserted his foot in the loop, took a good running start and then—splash. It certainly was a more exciting swing, at least for Smith. For the limb further out had been a limb lower down, and Smith went into the river up to his neck.

**Thompson Catches Snakes**

Snakes are popularly supposed to be visible to devotees of the bottle. Probably that is the reason Cadet Thompson, the prize snake catcher of the battalion, went out hunting them with an ax and a quart bottle. He used the bottle to bring home the small snakes. He took the ax for company.

**They Didn't Return Empty-Handed**

Heard in an officer's tent as some of the smaller cadets were returning from a walk over the hill. "What did you get? I got two turtles and five snakes."

One spoonful in the mess-kit is worth two on the shirt.

**OLD GUN FOUND SERVICEABLE****Pit Detail, However, Feared Cannon Was Being Used**

Among the relics of old St. John's is a single loader Springfield rifle. Mr. Ralph Hiller of Salina, a rifle enthusiast who visited Camp Perkins, recalled he had a few cartridges that would fit such a rifle and Major Ganssle had the gun brought out from school.

When the cadets on the target range saw the size of the cartridges and the length of the gun, they were glad they didn't have to use it on the range. However, Mr. Hiller volunteered to be the first to try it. Accordingly he took a shot at the target. What that big-nosed, soft lead bullet did to the target can be imagined. Up came the ricochet flag from the pit.

Five shots were fired. Evidently refusing to believe that a bullet was making such a hole, the pit detail put up the ricochet flag after such shot.

After the fifth shot, the red flag was raised. Firing ceasing and the pit detail came out and wanted to take a look at the gun the last man used.

From the size of the holes made in the target by the bullet, the said they thought some one must be using a cannon.

**Tin Hats Prove Popular**

Although they were not issued by the government, many members of the cadet corps wore "tin hats" while at camp. Tin hats they actually were.

During a rain, an enterprising cadet found out that a tin wash pan, turned upside down and tied on with strings, made a most effective rain hat and saved one's service cap. The style spread in a hurry. Thereafter whenever it threatened rain, the cadets who wanted to wash face and hands had to hold up some cadet and take away his "tin hat."

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# The Skirmisher

Published Bi-Monthly by the Cadets of  
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This issue of THE SKIRMISHER is the Camp Number, devoted principally to incidents of a camp from May 8 to May 20. The outstanding feature of the whole time was the spirit shown by the cadet body.

Part of the time spent at camp was spent in the rain and mud. On one night in particular an unusually hard rain flooded many tents. Cadets frequently lined up in the rain, mess kits in hands, for their meals.

Yet at no time were there any complaints. If any cadet "had a grouch," he kept it to himself. When the storm struck camp that memorable Sunday night, it seemed that no one was thinking of himself but that every one was looking out for the other fellow.

This was shown particularly in the way the larger cadets were trying to find out how B Company, composed mainly of smaller boys, was faring. Fortunately, B Company fared pretty well and most of the squads slept through the entire storm,—due probably to the fact that officers and non-coms from both companies and A Company Cadets forgetful of self were looking after the guy ropes, pounding down pegs and deepening the ditches around the tents of the younger boys. Cadets whose bedding was dry, shared their blankets with the unlucky ones.

The next and last issue of THE SKIRMISHER will be the Commencement Number. This will be devoted to the activities of the last week of school. The present issue, the Camp Perkins Number, is late as publication was delayed until after camp. Drills, target practice, camp duties and play took up so much time that no attempt was made to get out the paper at its usual time. Ordinarily, this number would have gone to press May 15. The Commencement Number, which should have appeared as the second May issue, will be sent to the printer the first week in June and copies will be mailed to the cadets instead of being distributed to them here.

What did Henrietta Ware?

Cadet Penn Phillips, formerly of the Marines, decided he got his service on water at the St. John's camp although he missed sea duty while with the Marines.

Faculty and Cadets of St. John's Military School will have many pleasant memories of J. Robert White of Grand View Farm, affectionately known as Bob White, on whose farm Camp Perkins was located. He was ready to give them any assistance at any time and his kindly sympathy for boys and their activities made him one of them.

## Visitors Came From Town

Among the guests at Camp Perkins during the stay of the cadet battalion were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hiller, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards Hiller, Dr. O. D. Walker and family, Mrs. W. L. Ganssle, Mrs. Grace Plank and little daughter Luraine, Mrs. O. L. Drake and daughter Miss Margaret, Miss Doris Riddell, Miss Christina Muir, Miss Neva Brown, Mrs. Maurice Hicklin, Mrs. J. Carver Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bangs and little daughter Dorothy, Mrs. J. T. Harris of Eldorado, Bert Strom, Major Perkins, Warren Branham of Columbia, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rosenwald, Mrs. Morgenstern, Mr. Wayne Dodge and family.

## Lined Up For Their Meals

The line of "seconds" at mess was always as long as the line of firsts for the former began where the latter ended. The cadets filed by the kitchen at meal time, mess kits and cups in hands, knives, forks, and spoons, when the latter hadn't been lost, stuck in their leggings. The band, A company and B company took turns in going first and each squad in the two companies of the cadet battalion also took turns within the company. The man who was first for breakfast was last for dinner and so on.

## Two Officers Are Promoted

By a recent special order, D. W. Buchanan was promoted from first lieutenant to captain and Bruce Johnson from second to first lieutenant. Captain Buchanan, formerly of Company A, is now in command of Company B. Lieutenant Johnson has been transferred from Company B to Company A. Captain Buchanan, a senior, lives in Kansas City, Mo. Lieutenant Johnson, a junior, is a Saline County boy.

## TARGET PIT WAS FLOODED

### Pumping Line and Bucket Brigade Saves Range Practice

To the wandering habits and keen eye of Sergeant Fritz Wiedey goes the credit for the fact that the cadet battalion was able to resume target practice so soon after the Sunday night rain.

It was found on investigation Monday morning that the target pit was over knee-deep in water. There was no way to drain the excavation. Attempts to bail it out with buckets made no impression on the depth of the water. To have waited until the pit dried out would have meant that the cadets who had started firing would have been unable to complete the course.

Wiedey, however, the best shot in the battalion, who was on the investigating "committee" that morning, remembered having seen and old pump in the woods. Permission to use this was obtained from Mr. White and a detail sent to bring pump and pipe.

By noon, most of the water had been bailed or pumped out and target practice was resumed about 2 o'clock that afternoon. The men who worked in the pit, however, found their job a muddy one for the rest of that day.

## Tents Pitched Ahead of Time

When the cadet battalion arrived at Camp Perkins they found that all tents had been erected. A detail had been sent out the day before in charge of Lieutenant Johnson to lay out camp and pitch tents. The cadets chosen for this detail were picked from those who ranked highest in their scholastic work and could best afford to miss the day of school. They were: Lieut. Bruce Johnson in charge; Cadets Alan Conner, Carlyle Fluke, Richard Hamm, Howard Hayden, Robert Kirkpatrick, Harold Shellenberger, Theodore Tanner, Lloyd Umstot, Robert Wyber. They rode out with the supplies on the truck and returned by truck the day set for the cadets to leave school, and marched out again with the battalion.

## Winger Catches a Boat

In one of the sudden rises of the river, Cadet Winger caught a tiny boat floating down stream oarless. There was nothing the matter with the boat except that it insisted on floating upside down. After the first trial, cadets put on bathing suits before going for a ride.



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**CAMP WEATHER'S RAIN STORM**

**Sunday Night Storm Fails To Dampen  
Spirits**

The Sunday night downpour, which is said to have stalled cars on Santa Fe avenue in Salina, flooded most of the tents in A Company and some in B Company. The heavy rainstorm hit camp about taps and water was over the tent floors before most of the cadets realized what had happened. The tents had been ditched but it would have taken a canal to have carried off the water from such a storm.

Fortunately for the cadets, the rain was as brief as it was violent. Major W. L. Ganssle started cadets making hot coffee in anticipation of a long line of wet and chilled boys but luckily found that his coffee line did not have many patrons.

**Kitchen Under a Tree**

As first planned, the camp kitchen was set up under a large tree. A stove was built here, an incinerator made and a rough serving table erected. The kitchen was well lighted and had plenty of fresh air. Unfortunately, though, the roof leaked and after a couple of days, cadets were moved out of one of the A company tents and this was used as a kitchen, gasoline stoves furnishing the motive power.

**Cadets Put In a Well**

If in the future Cadets Wiedey, Lang, Starr and Phillips need a trade to fall back on, they can go to digging wells. Under direction of Captain Cannon, these cadets put in a well close to the camp site. Heretofore, it was necessary to carry water a considerable distance, and the "water detail" was not the most desirable detail of the camp duties. Well-diggers, that's us all over, Mabel.

**Captain Cannon Builds Stove**

Captain Charles Cannon, athletic director, was the architect of the camp stove at Camp Perkins. It was through his ingenuity and the work of the daily wood detail that the "home fires were kept burning."

**Were Billeted In Barn**

Cadets Fluke and Smith now have a fairly good idea of what some of the French billets were like. During an unusually heavy rain one night shortly after taps, these cadets fled to a barn nearby and slept there the rest of the night.

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### TAKES PICTURES FROM SKY

#### St. John's Instructor Gets Camp Views From Plane

Several good pictures of Camp Perkins were taken from an aeroplane one day.

The pictures were taken by Captain Morgenstern, instructor in history at St. John's School, who was a passenger in the machine that day. Cadets had noticed the aviator in the front seat stand up and lean over several times when the machine swooped down.

Captain Morgenstern holds a reserve commission in aviation. He was discharged from the army shortly after Christmas. He took his training as a flyer at March and Rockwell Fields, California.

He was also an instructor in flying at March Field.

#### Couldn't Sleep For "Hop-Toads"

"What are you doing out of your tent at this time of night" the sentry on Post Number 2 was heard to ask a cadet after taps one night.

"You couldn't sleep either, if your bed was full of 'hop-toads'" a complaining voice replied.

Whether the "hop-toads" were merely paying a call on that particular cadet or whether there was some connection between them and Cadet Tanner who passed by a mud puddle on his way to Bob White's late that evening after milk has not yet been determined.

#### Finds Color-Blind Bull

Corporal Bruce Davis insists that bulls are color-blind. Maybe he doesn't go as far as that, but he does claim that one bull in particular can not distinguish colors. Davis wandered into a field while wearing a white sweater and the color-blind bull gave chase. Explanations that the sweater wasn't red made no impression on the bull. In fact, the animal was so rude that Davis just wouldn't talk to him any longer, but departed with dignity—and with speed.

#### Says Shoe Floated Away

"Something sailed past my face last night going about forty miles an hour" said Corporal Bruce Davis attempting to account for the loss of one shoe which disappeared during the night of the storm. As far as is known, the shoe is still voyaging and at the rate it was going must be nearing New Orleans now.

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## PLATOON GREET'S COMPANY M

### St. John's Cadets At Station When Veterans Arrive

St. John's Cadets who have taken part in most of the public events in Salina this spring were again called on to aid in the plans for welcoming Compan M, the local militia company that recently returned from France where they saw hot fighting with the Thirty-fifth division.

Thirty-two cadets, in charge of A. G. Oliver, senior captain, marched into Salina on the day of Company M's arrival. They were used as guards to keep back the crowd when the soldiers got off the train.

### Tire Trouble Prevents Service

Major W. L. Ganssle had planned to have an open air service the Sunday evening the cadet battalion was at Camp Perkins. Hymnals and prayer-books were brought out Sunday morning from the school chapel and service was to be held in a small grove about a hundred yards south of the tents. However, Major Ganssle had not taken into account the vagaries of tires. Corporal Fulwider started in early in the afternoon but on account of tire trouble reached Salina so late that Doctor Rudd, chaplain, could not come to the camp on account of evening service at the Cathedral.

### Camp Had Telephone

Camp Perkins had telephone connections with town. "Two longs and two shorts, there goes our ring" would be the call when the orderly on duty at headquarters tent heard the telephone. The line was put up under supervision of Captain Morgenstern.

### School Pictures Taken

Pictures of the buildings, of the cadet battalion and band and of the various school organizations were taken last week. All of them turned out to be excellent.

### All The Home Comforts

Captain Oliver, during the young cloudburst: "Well, we have all the comforts of a modern hotel. There's running water in each tent."

### It All Depends

First Cadet: "Do you think tobacco is harmful?"

Old Timer: "It is if you get caught."

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