

Armour Summer Camp, 1919

Trout Lake, Wisconsin

It was a strangely uncivil-looking bunch of engineers that started out upon that wild and sleepless northward journey on the night of June sixth, with their queer boxes, mackinaws, army outfits and—yes, we must admit it—smattering of stiff collars and ties. However, those who knew better than to try to soothe the native wilds with the refined accouterments of civilization soon made themselves quite comfortable and weathered the storm in true backwoods fashion by sleeping until transferred to Charlie's tender care, whereupon that pastime became altogether impossible to all except our doughty sailors of the S. A. T. C. regime who, of course, were accustomed to the ocean-going motion. Even these gentlemen, however, were more than overjoyed when time came to pull into the grand terminal station at State House, and nobody lost any time in getting to the camp and satisfactorily filling an aching void in his anatomy.

This latter trifling detail having been attended to, we proceeded to match up room- and tent-mates and spent the rest of the day in pitching tents, and arranging camp.

Everybody was out bright and early the next morning and the instruction in surveying field practice was begun immediately. In the course of the summer we were duly initiated into the mysteries of taping, leveling, topographical surveying, railway surveys, location, and triangulation.

This latter subject calls to mind Montague's Tower, an imposing edifice erected at a tremendous cost of labor and a minimum cost of material, for the purpose of elevating the theodolites to a vantage point from which any point in the surrounding country might be seen with comparative ease. The tower is composed of two independent units, each built up from the ground so that the motion of the instrument man cannot affect the position of the instrument. It is fully thirty-five feet from the ground to the instrument and considering the materials used and the adverse working conditions the structure is really a credit to the industry and resourcefulness of the builders and notably to Montague, the guiding spirit and "construction engineer" of the project.

Time fled indeed too fast during the period of our stay but never a day passed without some high light to make it memorable. The arrival of "Peri" Grammas was hailed with delightful anticipations which were soon justified when he, with true Hellenic maritime skill, fashioned a bold Pirate craft which provided several evenings of unparalleled entertainment for those who were adventurous enough to fare forth in the craft under his able guidance, but several cruises of ill-advised duration and with well-nigh disastrous results, caused those responsible for our safety such anxiety that it was necessary to curb the activities of the craft.

When things threatened to become dull, friend Kumbera succeeded in arousing considerable dormant enthusiasm by means of liberal applications of "ambition-water" from the well.

The summer camp is certainly one of the supreme successes of Armour Institute, for it provides a means of attaining valuable experience in actual surveying practice in only a few weeks, under skillful guidance; it brings the student into contact with the faculty in such a manner as would be impossible