

The Stars and Stripes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1918.

NEW MESS KIT HERE, LID MUCH DEEPER

Lower Pan Also Designed to Hold More Chicken a la Casserole

There is a new mess kit.

It has two oval pans, like the old mess kit, but both pans are deeper.

The lower pan—with a draught of almost two inches—will hold a whopping ladle full of soup or stew, or all that even the most altruistic mess sergeant would allow to be loaded into it. The lid part has a depth of over half an inch and a wide, sharply turned edge all around that is guaranteed to prevent even peas and other rolling vegetable from sliding off when a reasonable angle is maintained.

A major in the equipment bureau of the Ordnance Department designed the new mess kit after observing company messes at the front. He says that Mr. Hoover might object to the big holding capacity, and the dry cleaners' union might denounce the non-spilling, non-splashing rims that keep gravies from spilling on to doughboys' laps, but he is confident that the divisions now getting the kits will be envied by the men who are still using the old magician and juggler outfits.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25, 1918.

TRENCH KNIFE KNOB LATEST IN ARMORY

Acorn-Shaped Lump of Iron Added Just Below Hilt

The trench knife has just been refined.

A nice little knob—an acorn-shaped lump of iron—has been added to it just behind the hilt. And the hilt is really only a pair of brass knuckles. The blade is a modest affair, three cornered, thin as a stiletto, about six inches long.

Trench knives have long been issued, but the earlier ones were rather crude, having wooden handles that broke sometimes. The new one is scientifically designed to make every blow count.

For instance, the knob of iron on the end opposite the blade is splendid for a down-sweeping blow in case the first jab with the blade has failed to land. But the brass knucklet hilt probably will be the most popular feature of the knife.

Previous to the adoption of the new trench knife, probably the most artistic weapon used in this war was the German clean-up club—a stick of wood about as long as a policeman's club, with a knob of iron on the end about as big as a fist. The iron had little peaks all over it, so that the knob wouldn't slip off the human head when it landed.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1918.

TWO CANTEENS IN LINE

Infantrymen will soon be carrying two American canteens when they go into attack.

The extra canteen will be carried by a webbed canvas strap slung over the shoulder. The regulation canteen, hooked on to the belt, will still be worn. Under the new arrangement, however, a man will not have to be a Houdini to get a three-second drink.

There will be no cup to the new canteen carrier.

After drinking, a man simply lets the canteen fall back to his hip—no buttons or hooks to bother with.

American front line troops have been using French canteens as their second water bottle.