

SEES ELIMINATION OF HORSES IN WAR

Gen. McArthur Predicts Tanks and Combat Cars Will Take the Place of Cavalry

With the announcement by Major General Douglas MacArthur, in Washington, recently, that tanks of "combat cars" equipped with machine guns and small cannon would take the place of cavalry, and that all the 8,000 horses now in service will be retired with the honors of war, the inexorable march of progress writes finis to one of the most colorful and romantic phases in the art of Wars.

Ever since a fleet of rattling taxicabs wheezed and groaned their way out of Paris in 1914 and went to meet and cut to ribbons the cream of the German cavalry, the eventual aboli-

tion of the horse as an arm of war has been assured. The Great War proved, among other things, that cavalry was as obsolete as the bow and arrow, and since the cessation of hostilities the master minds have been planning and devising an army to take its place.

Romance, Color to Go

No more shall posterity read with pulsing pride of gallant charges on forlorn hopes, of the thunder of hoofs, the creak of saddles and the jingle of sabres. The martial men of the future will go forth to war in oily overalls to the accompanying of grinding gears and the fumes of gasoline.

Simultaneously with General MacArthur's announcement the War Department asked bids on seven convertible tanks of the Christie type, recently tested with great success. They must weigh no less than 15 tons and must make 40 miles an hour on hard roads. Their fighting equip-

ment will be a machine gun and a 37-millimeter cannon each and the estimated cost will be \$70,000 per car fully equipped.

Army officers hail the machinization program as the most advanced move toward the modernization of U. S. forces since the Morrow board charted a definite airplane program. As an example of efficiency of motorized units, they point out that the 300 mile march from Fort Eustis in Virginia to Fort Bragg in North Carolina can be made in two days by trucks as against 25 by horses.

Heroes at Premium

But in extolling the virtues of machinization, the war lords lose sight of the fact that it was the glamour of cavalry that partly counteracted the horrors of war and gave the touch of romance that stirred the blood, instilling the dash of recklessness that made the good soldier. If Paul Revere had made his famous ride on a

motorcycle the episode would now be in the limbo of forgotten things, or had Sheridan took that trip to Winchester in a flivver, who'd have ever heard about it? Would the spectacle of Teddy Roosevelt riding up San Juan hill in a Packard cause the pulse to beat any faster?

The answer to those questions is very probably in the negative, therefore, posterity is going to be in a bad way for heroes. A man cannot shine in battle if he is going to be cooped up in an iron box. But maybe progress will advance to a point where wars can be fought without even men.

Already we have robots that can smoke, tell the time, use a telephone and a thousand and one things, so why not abolish the human soldier? The idea has advantages. Robots leave no widows, nor would they miss a leg or an arm and all their hurts could be fixed with a monkey wrench. Verily it is a great idea.

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