

## FLU MASK WEARERS NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC

There was many a long face in ranks when we were issued "flu" masks with orders to wear them. Optimists, too, were in the decided minority. One misguided person suggested that one need neither shave nor wash; another bright Sig-Nut who had always had to throw his gum away when in ranks calmly ate his "victory bar," hid from the hateful eye of the "Loot" by his mask.

The great discomfort came at night. On the top floor there was a one-sided combat when one of the men was heard trying to break the stray hold of a Hun who was on top. Needless to say the Hun was represented by the extra mattress thrown over the bed for warmth, and the strangle hold was the mask.

As the penalty for removing the masks was court martial, the first day the order was strictly observed. Since the order read that: "masks were to be worn in all buildings except while eating, many prolonged their eating periods until the most of their time spent in barracks was spent with an apple or a Hershey. Another dodge was to let it slip off the nose and have it ready to pull up at a moment's warning. The justification of one private for putting his nose over the top was "that he was afraid he had breathed his mask full of germs, and didn't want to breathe them again. The hospital joker suggested that he take his mask out in the back yard and kill the germs with a club.

Lieut. Hansen, suspecting that some were not obeying orders strictly enough went gently around the different barracks and rounded up a considerable number.

Having been told to report next morning at Co. A and B headquarters, they one by one went down there prepared for the worst. The ones outside received no comfort from those who had received the sentence. Some reported "Shot at Sunrise;" others "Camp Lewis." So each fellow went in and told his respective story—"Eating an apple," "Sending a letter," or "Licking a stamp," got reprimanded and came back to the barracks with the inward resolution to "never do it again."

Today the "flu mask" edict was revoked and only the fact that the men were at "trenchun" prevented a heartfelt cheer.