

In June, 1918, an enlargement of Camp Johnston was authorized at an expenditure of \$1,700,000 and the work was in progress when the war closed. Under the enlargement program 50,000 men could have been accommodated. The greatest number of men at Camp Johnston at any one time was about 27,000.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable report of General Wood's assistant, Camp Johnston proved to be one of the healthiest camps, with a pro rata sick and death rate as low as that of any camp anywhere in the whole country. It was entirely satisfactory in every other way with the single exception of the failure at first to keep "the lid down tight". War-workers who came here in the early stages in public speeches stated that there was more drunkenness among the soldiers in this camp than in any of the others; this question became a very serious one and the commanders of the camp on several occasions threatened to "quarantine" Jacksonville. The situation however was cleared by Duval County voting "dry".

From first to last the people of Jacksonville did everything in their power for the entertainment and comfort of the "boys" at Camp Johnston. In a score of ways the local camp activities committees strove to keep them smiling. Weekly boat rides were provided for the convalescents at the base hospital. A service club was established in the city, open to any who wished to come.

*Here they found in a little room one of Jacksonville's dearest old ladies, a "mother" for them, to whom they could go with their confidences; for comfort and cheer; for the picture that every man, rough and tender, carries in his heart, and especially at times like this.

With the proverbial hospitality of the South the homes of Jacksonville were opened to these young men. "Invite a soldier to dinner" was a standard slogan; and they came in unselected lots. Few betrayed the trust. Overseas, they sent back to Jacksonville greetings and souvenirs. Postal cards and letters came from over-there, often with regularity; but sometimes these suddenly ceased—and the reason was revealed in the lists published afterward.

Demobilization began at Camp Johnston the first week in December, 1918. By the following February there were but a few soldiers left, principally for the purpose of guard-