

RIDICULE SPY STORY.

Army Abandoned the Use of Dunnite Years Ago, Officers Say.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—The War Department received to-day a dispatch from Capt. Watson of the Coast Artillery, U. S. A., who is in charge of recruiting at Indianapolis, giving the details of a request made to the War Department through him by Miss Clara Dyer, for the discharge of Private George Petr, an enlisted man in the 137th Company of Coast Artillery, stationed at Fort Totten, N. Y., on the ground that she was married to him, and he is an officer in the Austrian Army, playing the spy for the Austrian Government to learn the secret of how dunnite is made. At the War Department the story told by Miss Dyer is laughed at for its improbability.

Such cases, it was pointed out, are of frequent occurrence, and are attributed to women who find themselves married to men who have been obliged to move with their army organization, leaving their brides behind. Army officers say that Miss Dyer probably did not know when she made an affidavit declaring that Petr was a spy that if she should prove the charge it would go hard with the man.

Gen. Ainsworth said to-day that the man Petr had a good card record, and did not seem to be such a fool as to go into the army to get any knowledge of our high explosives which he could acquire with greater ease out of it.

Dunnite, army officers said to-day, was long ago abandoned by our army, that every information service in Europe knew all about it, and of a dozen other high explosives that have superseded it.

Private Georg Petr, 137th Company, Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. A., awoke to find himself famous in a way yesterday morning.

Col. Strong, the commanding officer at Fort Totten, read the stories in the morning papers yesterday, which said that the 137th Company, one of those under his command, at Fort Totten, had on its rolls a spy of Emperor Franz Josef.

The reporters came to the fort throughout the day, but none talked with private Georg Petr.

"Petr's record is a good one," said Col. Strong, "and I do not intend to have him talked to about any spy business unless I get some word from Washington about the matter. All that I know is that Petr has been a good soldier, and I have no reason to suppose he is a Count, a spy, or anything but a well-behaved artilleryman. His company is going to Sandy Hook for target practice at 7 o'clock to-morrow morning, and Petr will surely go along with it unless orders to the contrary come from Washington."

The enlistment papers of Petr show that he served a full enlistment in the Sixth Cavalry, and that when that enlistment expired he went to Fort Slocum, N. Y., in May, 1910, and enlisted for the Coast Artillery. Since that time he has been on duty at Fort Totten, and at no time has he been connected with the ordnance arm, the branch of the service that holds the secret of dunnite.

HEALTH BOARD TO MOVE.

City Leases Building at Walker and Centre Streets for \$58,000 a Year, It Is Said.

A lease will be recorded to-day, it was announced last night, whereby the City of New York will take over for ten years the new building at Centre and Walker Streets, for the use of the Department of Health. It was said that the lease had been signed by the members of the Sinking Fund Commission, and that official announcement of the fact would be made through The City Record to-day.

The new home of the Health Department, under this plan, will be in the neighborhood of the other city buildings, and it was said that the choice of the site had the full approval of the Municipal Art Commission, which has advocated the concentration of the municipal buildings in the vicinity of City Hall Park.

The building is eight stories, and is just being completed by the Abingdon Construction Company, which was a party to the lease. The negotiations for the lease were conducted by S. H. Stone, a real estate broker of 100 Broadway.

The Abingdon building has a frontage of 150 feet on Centre Street, and runs back eighty feet on Walker Street, and is near the Criminal Court Building. It is expected that the whole building will be used by the Health Department. The total amount of floor space is over 100,000 square feet.

The annual rental, it was said, will be \$58,500 and as the lease runs for ten years the total cost to the city will be \$585,000. A new building for the Health Department was sought last year down-town and the choice of the Health officials fell upon a building at Sixteenth Street and Irving Place. A resolution providing for the leasing of the building was passed by the Aldermen, but was vetoed by the Mayor.

The present home of the Board of Health is at Fifty-fifth Street and Sixth Avenue in an old brick building it has occupied for twenty years. Removal to the new building is expected to begin as soon as the Abingdon building is completed, which will be within a short time.

Police Who Shot Boy Arrested.

Patrolman W. A. Weaver, who shot William Trantino, 16 years old, at New Dorp, Staten Island, on Sunday night, was locked up last night on a charge of having discharged his revolver without just cause. Trantino was reported to be in a serious condition at St. Vincent's Hospital, Livingston. It is understood that the boy's father will go before District Attorney Fach of Richmond County and make a charge of felonious assault against Weaver. Trantino had been arrested and was running away when Weaver shot him.

Makes His Fourth Rescue This Season.

Cancel Dowyarelli, a jeweler, of 70 Bayard Street, was carried away by the strong ebb tide while bathing from Pier 55, East River, yesterday morning, and would have drowned but for Charles Schenfelder of 430 Cherry Street, who, seeing his distress, swam from the pier after him and brought him in from nearly midriver. Schenfelder has been a member of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps for thirteen years, and this was his fourth rescue this season.