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RATS IN THE TRENCHES SAID TO BE DOOMED.

"Stars and Stripes" Tells of Work of Eradicating Rodents
on the Battle Lines.

Washington, D. C.

The "Stars and Stripes," the newspaper published for the American Expeditionary Forces in France, recently printed the following regarding the work of former members of the scientific staff of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture:

"As you may have heard five or eleven times already, this is a scientific war. Whenever an annoyance or an actual menace to the Army is discovered, scientific steps are taken to annihilate the pest.

"Even the cootie is doomed. It is said that the research work is in charge of an officer to be designated as a Cootenant. But this story is about rats.

"The rat, figuratively, is about to be trapped. A year or so ago there was a man -- a member of the Biological Survey -- who had great success in exterminating the prairie dogs out in Kansas and Colorado. When America came into the war, somebody in the War Department suggested that maybe this scientific exterminator of prairie dogs was so good at that job he might be able to solve the rat problem in the trenches. So they ordered him over here to give the rats a critical and microscopic look.

"He came over and went up front and studied the rodent. He studied it by and large, hither and yon, here and there, and through and through. He found out what it liked for supper, and its favorite flower and 'How it cared for its young.' And he doped out a way to lessen its ravages if not actually to exterminate it.

"He found out, too, that not all the rat trouble is at the front. A large part of it is at the base ports, where the rats get into the big storehouses, and cause damage to the food and clothing waiting to go to the front. Often the rats go right along up with the food and clothing.

"The rat specialist made his report and recommended that some men be sent to assist him. It is said that his request has been granted and that a successful barrage against the rat already has been laid down."