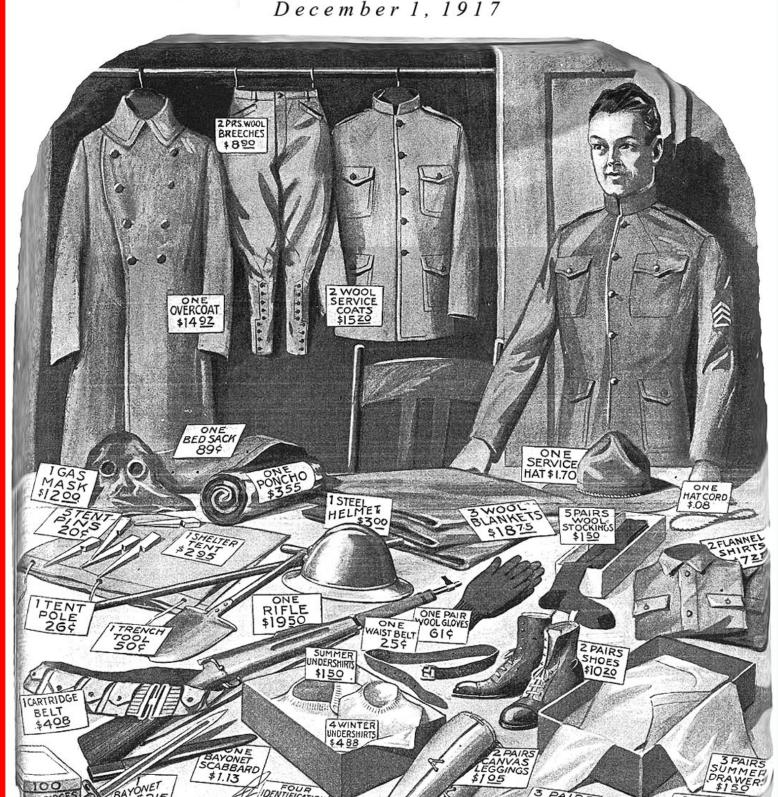
SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

(Cover Image)

December 1, 1917



WHAT IT COSTS TO EQUIP EACH INFANTRYMAN

detail which throws interesting light on the war's colossal cost is found in the statement that our government spends approximately \$156 in equipping every infantryman for service in France. A little calculation will show what it will cost to prepare a million or a million and a half men for the front. The equipment expenditures for the foot soldier are classified under three heads: clothing, eating utensils, and fighting equipment. Under the latter group the rifle, the cost of which is figured at \$19.50, is the most expensive item. This amount varies from time to time. The gas mask, which also varies in price somewhat, is estimated at \$12, and 100 cartridges at \$5. The total cost of the clothing is slightly over \$100, the biggest items being \$18.75 for three wool blankets, \$14.92 for one overcoat, \$15.20 for two wool service coats, and \$10.20 for two pairs of shoes. In all, there are 23 different kinds of articles listed under clothing. In the eating-utensil group are included food to be carried in the haversack during field service, a canteen and canteen cover, cup, knife, fork, spoon, meat can, haversack, first-aid kit, and a pouch, costing approximately \$7.70.

OldMagazineArticles.com