

THE SQUAD LEADERS (CONTINUED)



Cpl. Calvin "Pop" Olds, of Wheeling, West Virginia, the oldest of our NCOs, has a sleeveful of hash stripes chronicling his time in service: he was aboard the *USS Brooklyn*, manning both one- and six-pounders at the Battle of Santiago de Cuba, the battle that sealed the American victory over the Spanish during the Spanish American War; he also saw action in China in 1911, and he was at Veracruz in 1914, where his best friend, a fellow corporal, had been killed by a Mexican sniper. Olds still carries himself with a slight limp from being shot in the thigh in the same engagement. On the shady side of forty, Father Time has not yet got the best of him. His most notable physical characteristic is a white patch of hair—resembling a snow-covered peak—atop his prematurely graying head. Always smiling, he is the least prototypical of the corporals; he relaxes by smoking a straight-stem pipe, blowing one perfectly circular smoke ring after another. He also finds contentment in artlessly tugging at the hair that grows from his ear canals and examining the abundant harvest before dispatching it to the ground.

