

Reynolds Ramblings

Hallowe'en Note: If you don't believe in ghosts, then what are those apparitions which emerge from the barracks every morning at reveille!

For the nearest thing to abnegation of individual personality, we recommend attending Saturday's Hallowe'en Dance. You'll see soldiers in identical GI uniforms trying to look different by wearing masks!

Our idea of post-war planning: Not when the lights go on again, but when the lights are turned off at reveille so that guys can turn over with a sigh and sleep.

Coincidence: In April, long before this camp's name was changed, the post was inspected by General Russell B. Reynolds, from Washington.

Theme Song for the New Class "A" Pass: "Yo'town is Our Town."

The new housing project across Route 18 is a surprising preview into the mass-produced home of tomorrow. Pre-fabricated sections made in Sharon are transplanted and assembled in record time. It may seem odd, but the most substantial temporary building on the post, housing motor pool headquarters, was shipped here piecemeal from a CCC camp in Maryland.

Rationing restrictions have even affected women's clothing. Our undercover agent reports that some items of apparel require two points.

Happy Thought: Every day in the U. S. Army there are at least 7,500,000 men who don't get furloughs.

The Literal Truth: Waiting in the chow line is certainly Line of Duty.

Heed the fire marshal's warning, and take precautions against fire hazards. Remember, you can't go through channels to report a fire, or get a tally-out for a fire engine when you need it in a hurry. Simply buzz that fire alarm or telephone 130 pronto.

Pome of the Week: "May we print a kiss upon your lips?" we asked, as she nodded her sweet permission. So we went to press, and I rather guess we printed a large edition.

And then there was the GI who was so sober the only way you could persuade him to take a drink was to club him into submission with Three Feathers.

Dashiell Hammett, the original Thin Man, who is a Reynolds alumnus stationed in Alaska, rates a picture spread and story in the last issue of YANK.

Question for this week's Inquiring Reporter: "Do you think that juvenile delinquency will ever mature?"

When Pvt. Maloney wrote home for an advance of five dollars before payday, he offered this unique guarantee: "Your loan is good and will be repaid for sure because I have a steady job with the government!"

Now they're calling the latrines the IP (Initial Point) for rumors.

Strange sights on the road to Sharon: A newly painted sign proclaiming—Free Pair of Shoes with Every New Suit Bought! Considering the PX ban on sale of lightweight shoes to enlisted men, we're tempted to buy a suit, if only to get the needed shoes!

An eyedropperful of gas to the indifferent drivers who cruise by with empty seats while buses are taxed to capacity! Share-the-ride clubs among soldiers as well as civilians can help ease the transportation burden in wintry weather. During a suspenseful moment on the Sharon bus, Pfc. Garrity remarked: "Wish I was a pin-up boy so I could hang on in comfort!"

Cpl. Walters is again the cynosure of attention since he placed his car on sale. "This time I mean business," said the corporal, "provided

I get at least as much as I was offered five months ago."

Personally, we find we can get just as much solicitous attention and popularity by applying for an absentee ballot in the November election. Our mail call has boomed. Candidates are giving us a lot of attention, and we feel almost like a civilian!

Obstacle Course: Trying to run interference through the four railroads which cross Sharon's main drag!

Finance Det.

Cpl. Jures Bogner
Highlights of the week: Pfc. Clyde Brossman attending the Cadre dance and remarking "My girl came from Youngstown." Listen to Pfc's. Norvel Cline and Paul Peirson sometime; same old story, North vs. South. Ask T-5 John Slay how the steak fell into his lap; makes a very interesting story. T-Sgt. Arthur Nelson and his wife treating a few of the boys to a swell meal. T-4 Ernest Hack spending most of his spare time in the library. Cpl. Albert Piltz branching his interests far and wide.

M-Sgt. Stephen Nypaver looking sharp at the dance, but he is still looking for the right one. Sgt. Stephen Black, and T-5 Charles Caldaugh all dressed up and nowhere to go. Pfc. William Karolyt pleased with the way things turned out. T-4 Casimir Malinowski asking one of the boys "how do you do it." Pfc's. Joe Schaeffer and Robert Lehner all worked up over the Finance basketball team.

Pfc. Sidney Eger having all sorts of trouble getting his one man detail back to basic class in the afternoons. Sgt. Danny Boy Duggan and wife spending an enjoyable weekend in Sharon. Sgt. Harold Keller almost coming back with a certificate on his recent three-day pass. S-Sgt. "Pinky" Shellenberg going strong with his recent heartbeat. T-5 Milton Bruce still looking for his prospective Vanderbilt. Cpl. Herman Wallin kayoed over a certain QM lass.

QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT

Soldier Had No Leave in 10 Years Service

F-Sgt. Joe Nittiskie, stationed at San Juan, Puerto Rico, has been in the Army 10 years and he's never had a furlough. He enlisted in Pleasant Valley, N. Y., in 1933 and spent less than six months of his service in the continental U. S.

Recently he married a Puerto Rican girl and now he's lost interest in getting a furlough. "I'm saving up my time," he says, "for a big vacation after the war."

BrainSurgery Saves Man in Jungle

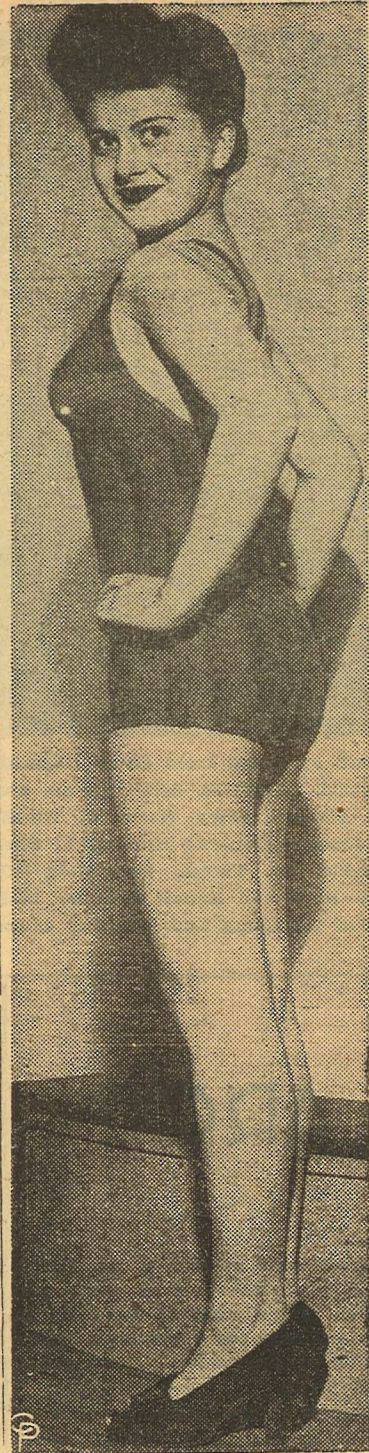
New Guinea (CNS)—Capt. Joseph R. Strauss, a Bridgeport, Conn. doctor, saved the life of an Australian infantryman here by performing a delicate brain operation on an Army cot in the middle of the jungle. Capt. Strauss found the man lying unconscious with brain tissue exuding from his right temple after an air raid here. After setting up a primitive operating table the medical officer cleaned the wound, packed it and sewed it up. Three days later the man was pronounced out of danger.

Solution

A rookie on his first trip into town met three lieutenants walking abreast. The rookie remembered what he had been taught about military courtesy but the sergeant hadn't told him about meeting three officers. He became flustered. Then an inspiration came to him. As he walked by he saluted smartly with his right hand meanwhile holding up three fingers of his left hand!

And then there's the G. I. who entered the bar optimistically and left misty optically.

Today's Pin-Up Girl



Still carrying out a promise to provide servicemen with pretty pin-ups we offer this smiling package of pulchritude. Her name's Jean Ann Ance, Maywood, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

★ THE

Commentators

COMMENT ★

(Publication of the following opinions of prominent commentators of the press and radio implies no indorsement. They are presented as interesting views by well-known spokesmen on topics of concern to our readers).

Columnists Marlow and Zielke discuss the demobilization of the Army and report:

Postwar planners foresee demobilization of the armed forces at a rate of one or two million men a year for four or five years.

A report to the Senate Postwar Committee by a sub-committee's investigators who interviewed government and private postwar planning groups states this forecast "as the most probable result of the decline of the war and the policing of occupied territory."

In explanation of "decline of the war," the report speaks of "the winter of 1944-45 when Germany is knocked out, followed by a year or more of pressure against Japan."

The investigators also came to the conclusion that married soldiers probably will be the first to be demobilized . . .

Both the pessimists and optimists agree, the investigators report, "that if the decline of the war is general and if private industry can see its way clear to pick up the ball and run with it as opportunity is afforded, the demobilized forces and war workers may all have jobs waiting for them."

After a study of four months in the Pacific war theater, Gilbert Cant, war editor of the New York Post, reports that:

The United States can launch an offensive in the Pacific now—without waiting for victory in Europe. That is the outstanding point in the report I bring back after spending four months in the Pacific war zone, during which I traveled approximately 26,000 miles . . .

The U. S. (with its Australian, New Zealand, and French allies in the south) has the strategic initiative in the Pacific.

We can engage the Japanese on our terms rather than theirs. We can engage them at points of our choosing, not theirs . . .

We cannot afford to let our own forces, both human and material, suffer the wasting process that accompanies waiting, waiting, forever waiting on the defensive, as did the "sitzkrieg" in the winter of 1939-40.

We must strike soon, because we have the power to do so.

It must be emphasized that I am neither advocating nor predicting that the great offensive to conquer Japan proper will be launched in 1943, or even early in 1944 . . .

But we can, and I am confident that we shall, launch an intermediate, strategic offensive, because:

The U. S. Navy now has a fleet more powerful than the entire Japanese navy;

The navy's air power greatly exceeds that of the Japanese navy;

The army and the marine corps have the troops to undertake almost any task within the scope of an intermediate offensive;

The army and marine corps air forces have most of the planes—and planes of sufficiently high performance—needed for an intermediate offensive.

The majority of these forces would have to be retained in the Pacific even if we were to fight a purely holding war. To employ them offensively will require comparatively little additional strength.

To employ them offensively will be an immense reinforcement to the coming campaign for China and will cause only a negligible division of strength from the European theater.

Raymond Z. Henle, in his wire report from Washington, states that:

Disclosure by President Roosevelt . . . that Flying Fortresses dropped 1,250 tons of bombs on Bremen and vicinity on one raid recently is important news because it indicated the strength of American air forces based on England. The President announced that 855

planes participated in the raid, but it should be noted that he did not say 855 Flying Fortresses went on the raid . . .

Air experts are able to calculate from these figures that no doubt some 200 fighter planes accompanied the bombers part way on their trip to the target, then some 200 or more fighters went up to meet the bombers on their way back.

By such computations, the experts figure probably 400 or so bombers were in the raid. This is reinforced by General Eaker's statement that 4,000 airmen went on the raid. The Forts take 10 men to the plane. This may mean we now have 1,000 or more bombers in England.

Walter Lippmann studies the recent rush to hop on the United Nations' band wagon and concludes that:

The Italian, Spanish and Portuguese actions have reactions in the Argentine which finds herself unable to maintain a policy in conflict with the interests of the whole Latin world, old and new.

That all the Latin countries which are, in one degree or another, pro-Fascist in their internal policies, should join the democracies and the Soviet Union against the leading Fascist power of the world, merely indicates that we have reached a late state of the European war . . .

The Hitler band wagon failed. The democratic band wagon is becoming an express train, carrying many odd passengers. And there is a very good reason for it. Dictatorships are capable of changing sides with great rapidity, according to the best chances. But free nations are not. Since they govern with public opinion, they cannot possibly change over night, but are compelled to a certain consistency in policy. Thus, our system of open or tacit alliances did not break even in the darkest hours, while Hitler's falls apart at the first real blow.

In the most real and literal sense of the word "conservative," political democracy is conservative. It sticks to its commitments and remains true to its course, because only by so doing can it get anywhere at all.

The value of the League of Nations in the post-war world is discussed by David Lawrence:

There is as yet no assurance that the post-war "peace" to follow World War II will be any more enduring than that which followed World War I. Leadership on this issue is still foggy and timid though . . . two notable speeches—one by Wendell Willkie and the other by Sumner Welles—revealed significant trends of thinking . . .

The real weakness of both the Welles and the Willkie proposals and the Roosevelt-Churchill plan to experiment and drift through a "transition" period is that all seem to ignore post-war psychology. They forget that Woodrow Wilson really lost his leadership and his leverage among our allies of World War I when the armistice was not yet six months old.

The psychology of returning soldiers during demobilization and job-hunting is not merely anti-war but it sometimes becomes bitterly anti-foreign. This disillusionment is due in no small part to wartime mistakes in the behavior of our allies . . .

The League of Nations Covenant still lives. It is embodied in the treaty structure of 44 nations. It handles well the problem of giving voice to small as well as large nations. It preserves the sovereignty of every nation. It is not a super state. It conforms to the American Constitution. It depends first on moral forces and reason but it rests in the final analysis on the concerted power and physical force of all nations.

The League Covenant is, in fact, a splendid constitution for world peace. To try to write another constitution means endless bickering while the peace of the world waits. The existing Covenant can be improved in detail and clarified but the framework is there already for us to use.