

Aliens At Transfer Camp Made Citizens

Five aliens, who are now fighting for the United States, were welcomed into citizenship today in the first naturalization ceremony at the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot, Transfer, Pa.

In a special common pleas court session the following privates were sworn in as new citizens: Gerald Banchik, Olav Pedersen, who entered the Army in New York, Michael Larkin and Morris Galowitz of Brooklyn and Edward Opat of Maplewood, N. J.

"Ordinarily newly-sworn citizens are reminded of their obligations to bear arms, but in this case I believe you have already proven your appreciation of that duty," said Judge Rowley, addressing the soldiers before members of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Forty Soldiers Get U. S. Papers At Camp

Sixteen nations were represented at Camp Shenango when Judge George H. Rowley held Naturalization court, assisted by Prothonotary Harry Kremis and Deputy Clifford Griffin.

Great Britain led with eight applicants and Italy came second with seven. The rest of the countries were represented as follows: Germany, five; Poland, Mexico and Finland, three each; Sweden, two, and the following one each: Russia, Greece, Bulgaria, India, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Honduras, Yugoslavia and Norway.

SOLDIER ALIENS NOW CITIZENS

May 22 '43

Ceremony of Welcome at Army Depot, Five Sworn in By Judge.

Five aliens who are now fighting for the United States were welcomed into citizenship today in the first naturalization ceremony at the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot, Transfer, Pa.

In a special Common Pleas Court session attended by Col. George H. Cherrington, commanding officer, five Army privates stationed at the nearby camp were sworn in as American citizens by Judge George H. Rowley of the Mercer County Court of Common Pleas.

"Ordinarily newly-sworn citizens are reminded of their obligations to bear arms, but in this case I believe you have already proven your appreciation of that duty," said Judge Rowley, addressing the soldiers before members of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, gathered in the office of the post judge advocate, Capt. Herman J. Goldberg.

The new citizens who are now Americans in fact as well as spirit, are Private Gerald Banchik, 19, Olav Pederson, 37, who both entered the Army in New York last November; Michael Larkin, 41, and Morris Galvenity, 33, of Brooklyn; and Edward Opat, 31, who was a machinist at a Maplewood, N. J., war plant before entering the Army last September.

The special ceremony conferring citizenship was made possible by amendment to the Nationality Act which Congress passed in conjunction with the Second War Powers Act of 1940.

The ceremony at the Army camp was performed after the men had filed petitions for naturalization with the Naturalization Service district office in Youngstown. John Maloney and Everett Wrights, representatives of that office, were at the proceedings to give final approval to the petitions.

In addition to Judge Rowley, Harry W. Kremis, county prothonotary, went from Mercer to set up the first County Common Pleas Court session in history to be held outside of the county seat.

Colonel Cherrington congratulated all of the men and wished them success as citizens as well as soldiers.

Corporal Meyer S. Miller, a Chicago attorney attended to the Judge Advocate's office, was appointed special bailiff to open the court.

NATURALIZE 23 AT ARMY DEPOT

April 12 '43

Soldier Aliens, Representing 12 Countries, Become Citizens.

**JUDGE ROWLEY
HOLDS COURT**

At a special session of naturalization court, held Saturday at the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot, Prothonotary Harry W. Kremis, Deputy Prothonotary Elizabeth J. Jones and federal examiners from Youngstown for sildiers' who do not have their citizenship papers, 23 were examined and sworn in.

The group represented 12 nationalities, including: Spain, one; Turkey, one; Great Britain, nine; Russia, one; Mexico, one; Canada, one; Lithuania, two; Germany, two; Sweden, one; Austria, one; Italy, two; and France, one.

This was the second naturalization court conducted at the Army depot by Judge George H. Rowley.

MEN AT DEPOT NOW CITIZENS

Court Moves to Army Camp to Swear in 23 Soldiers. *April 13 '43*

Twenty-three men in uniform were sworn into citizenship Saturday in an extraordinary court session as, for the second time in history, the Court of Common Pleas of Mercer County was moved from the county seat to the Judge Advocate's court at Shenango Depot.

The first naturalization ceremony was held here March 20—the first recorded instance in 138 years that the Court convened outside Mercer, the county seat.

Hailing from such diverse points of origin as Spain, Greece, Sweden, Canada, Scotland, England, Mexico, Russia, and Lithuania, the 23 men, all privates, were welcomed into citizenship by Judge George H. Rowley, who said:

"Ordinarily a newly-sworn citizen is reminded of his obligation to bear arms in defense of his country. You have demonstrated your appreciation of this responsibility, and are deserving of the privilege of citizenship."

Under provisions of the War Powers Act of 1940, naturalization procedure has been streamlined to enable soldiers who complete three months of service to apply for citizenship, it was explained by Capt. Herman J. Goldberg, judge advocate.

Capt. Charles Cake, newly designated naturalization officer, arranged the legal details and preliminaries. Representatives of the Naturalization Service from Youngstown, and Harry W. Kremis, prothonotary of Mercer County, also participated in the ceremony.

Sworn into citizenship were the following privates:

Edward Rodriguez, of Gary, Ind., George Pettokos, Jersey City, N. J., Conrad Dumont, Sanford, Me., George Loewy, Elizabeth, N. J., Anton Pearson, Milwaukee, Wisc., Jacob Krezer, Benton Harbor, Mich., Joseph Lorentas, Worcester, Mass.

Guido Farrace, of Detroit, Mich., Frederick Setzer, Sacramento, Cal., George Fech, Lincoln, Nebr., Arthur Taylor, Los Angeles, Cal., Peter Jastrench, Detroit, Mich., Eligio Herrera, Santa Barbara, Cal., Francis Gisborne, Eugene, Ore.

George LeMay, New Bedford, Mass., Harold Shapiro, Providence, R. I., Pasquale Tropeano, Port Chester, N. Y.

New York City residents included Walter Hauer, Peter Hirschburg, William Maier, John Egri, Harry Clark, William Polsky.

Chinese Soldier Naturalized Here First Instance in County, Maybe State

May 24 '43

A native-born alien Chinese was made an American citizen Saturday at Shenango Depot, the first instance of the kind in Mercer County and possibly the first in Pennsylvania. He is Tom Kwong of San Diego.

He acquired citizenship through a special act of Congress whereby Oriental aliens in the armed forces of the United States may be naturalized despite the Exclusion Act.

Naturalization court was held by Judge George H. Rowley, Harry Kremis, prothonotary, and Floyd M. Ault, of Youngstown, inspector-in-charge. Forty-three applicants were naturalized representing the following nationalities: Ireland 2, Poland 2, Great Britain 14, Germany 7, Austria 1, China 1, Italy 4, Sweden 1, Mexico 4, Dominican Republic 1, Lithuania 1, Roumania 2, Belgium 1, Greece 1

60 Soldiers to be Citizens

Sixty soldiers become citizens at naturalization ceremonies to be held at Camp Shenango Saturday, Sept. 11. Mercer County Court officials will officiate.

Sept 7 '43

Naturalization Court Planned at Camp

Sept 10 '43

There will be a special session of naturalization court held tomorrow at the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot, which will be conducted by Judge George H. Rowley, Prothonotary Harry W. Kremis, Deputy Prothonotary J. C. Griffin, and representatives from the Youngstown office of the Immigration Bureau.

Sixty soldiers of alien parentage are listed for examination.