

Report Soldier Is Held Up Here

Mar 10 '43

The robbery here overnight of William R. Wilson, stationed at the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot, was reported today.

Wilson was admitted to Greenville Hospital at 11 p. m. suffering from a lacerated scalp and abrasions of the right hand. He was discharged from the hospital this morning.

It was reported that a fellow soldier had struck Wilson over the head with a pop bottle and had taken a sizable sum of money from his person.

Search for Escaped Prisoners Near Here

— May 7 '43

The escape last night of several prisoners from the guardhouse at the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot was reported today by the public relations office at the depot.

The announcement said that the stopping and questioning of motorists in the vicinity of the Army depot last night was a result of the prisoners' escape.

Soldier Held For Grand Jury Action

June 31 '42

Pvt. Albert Yother, 27, of Camp Shenango, was held for Mercer County grand jury on a charge of rape after he entered a plea of not guilty before Alderman Hays Brooks, of Sharon.

Yother was arrested by police after he allegedly persuaded a 12-year-old Youngstown girl to accompany him to a Sharon hotel.

Taxi Stolen Here By Two Escaped Soldiers Recovered In Missouri

June 4 '43

Two soldiers arrested by highway patrolmen in Jefferson County, Missouri, and now held in Jefferson Barracks for action by military authorities, were fugitives from the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot, and made their trip to Missouri in a stolen Riffer taxi, it was revealed last night.

H. D. McClure, noting the published account of the arrest of a pair of soldiers, who said they and four others broke out of the guardhouse at Shenango on May 31, and by means of a stolen taxi travelled to Missouri before being picked up, called the provost marshal's office at Jefferson Barracks, to ascertain what kind of a taxi the men had used. He was told that it bore a Pennsylvania license, but that all identifying markings on the side of the car had been removed. Comparison of engine and license numbers, however, revealed the taxi was the same.

The taxi had been stolen from Main Street, Greenville, at 1 a. m. June 1, when its driver, Robert Denny, left the car for only a couple of minutes, near the front of a Main Street fraternity house. It was a 1942 Model Ford sedan, painted light gray.

Police reported that with the exception of the removal of paint from the car sides, and two bullet holes which were the work of Missouri state police, the car appeared to be undamaged. The two men captured were Gerald Branson, 18, of Valley Park, Mo., and Joseph Bowles, 21, of Hagerstown, Md. The latter was

shot back of the ear and was in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks after his capture. They had failed to stop when ordered to do so by Capt. Thomas E. Whitecotton.

The young men told officers who took them in custody that they had escaped from the guardhouse, purchased clothing from a guard, and drove to St. Louis. According to one officer, one of the prisoners had been returned to Shenango from St. Louis only two weeks earlier as AWOL, which accounted for his being in the guardhouse.

The Riffer taxi was stolen from Main Street, near the Louisa Avenue intersection, at 1 a. m. Tuesday and was recovered in St. Louis the following day.

Greenville police today reported the recovery of an automobile stolen here a month ago by four soldiers of the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot who were later taken into custody at Millersburg, Holmes County, Ohio.

Police Chief R. R. Hutton said that the auto was owned by Joseph C. Sossong and was stolen from in front of his 37 Maple Avenue residence during the night of May 6. The Holmes County sheriff took the four soldiers into custody and reported that they were later turned over to military authorities at the Shenango Depot.

Chief Hutton said that the Sossong machine apparently had been held at the Ohio town and unreported to Pennsylvania police although a complete description had been carried on the radio and police teletype.

Escaped Soldiers Had Local Hideout

— *Spec 5'43*

The two AWOL soldiers from the Shenango Depot who stole a taxi here early Tuesday and were apprehended by police in St. Louis, Mo., the following day, hid out for a short while in Greenville before heading for the mid-west, Police Chief R. R. Hutton learned yesterday.

Chief Hutton said that the soldiers, Gerald Branson, 18, of Valley Park, Mo., and Joseph Bowles, 21, of Hagerstown, Md., had hidden in the flats east of the College Avenue bridge in a building used by T. A. Grauel as a crab hatchery. A barracks bag and odds and ends of clothing were found there.

Branson and Bowles told St. Louis police they had escaped from the Shenango Depot guardhouse and purchased clothing from a guard.

Soldier Charged With Fraud Attempt

— * 30 '43

Pvt. Walter Higginbottom, a soldier from Camp Shenango is being held by military police after he was arrested in Sharon for attempting to extort money from the parents of Pvt. James L. Middabaugh of Twin Lakes, Pa.

Police state Higginbotham wired Middabaugh's parents for money. The parents, knowing their son had been transferred from Camp Shenango, notified police and co-operated with officials in setting a trap which resulted in the soldier's arrest as he called at the Western Union office for the money.

ARREST HOLDS BACK ROMANCE

Aug. 4 '43

Soldier Said to Have Wife Halted on Eve of Second Marriage.

The romance of Ava D. Edwards, charged with being a deserter from Camp Shenango two months ago, was nipped in the bud last evening by the long arm of the State Police, when Sergt. Frank Milligan, in charge of the Mercer barracks, placed him under arrest as a deserter, and held him in the Mercer jail for the authorities at Camp Shenango.

Edwards is reported to be married and his wife is said to reside in Greenville. He had been employed as a mechanic in the Lydia Garage, formerly the Midway Garage, on the Greenville-Mercer road, and was rooming on North Diamond Street, Mercer, where he was apprehended. While staying in Mercer he is reported to have made the acquaintance of a Mercer girl and had arrangements made for his marriage with her today.

Edwards' home is in Texas, and he had been transferred to the Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot, from which he deserted two months ago.

The garage in which he had been employed is about five miles north of Mercer and not far from Camp Shenango.

He was taken back to Camp Shenango this morning.

NEW HEARINGS IN CAMP CASE

Sept 22, 43

Charges of Illegal Purchase of Army Equipment Heard Here.

Further hearings as to the illegal purchase of Army equipment and government property at Camp Reynolds started this afternoon before United States Commissioner Guy Thorne.

Two hearings were held before Commissioner Thorne last Friday afternoon, both defendants being bound over to Federal court.

Late Saturday afternoon the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that there would be a further complaint against a Farrell man and 18 "juveniles", all under 18 years of age, who would probably be turned over to the county juvenile court for disposition.

GI Prisoners Get Out of Reynolds Stockade

10/8-745

An escape last evening from the post stockade was short-lived for two Camp Reynolds GIs who were being held for minor violations of Army regulations.

The camp's public relations office reported that Arthur Lashare and Charles Haines escaped from the stockade between 7:30 and 7:50 p. m. after substituting their own GI clothing for the blue denims they wore in the stockade. They obtained the clothing from the prison supply room.

By 8:50 p. m. the two men were apprehended in Farrell, which is Haines' home city, by the provost marshal and two military policemen. Both were returned to the post stockade.

SOLDIER-PRISONER ESCAPES FROM CAMP

17-20195
Escape of an Army private from the guard house at Camp Reynolds was announced today by the public relations office at the camp.

Pvt. Lawrence E. Easterling, whose home is on Hamilton Avenue, Farrell, escaped from the guard house at 7 o'clock Wednesday night, the news release stated.

Pvt. Lawrence was charged with having been AWOL from Fort Meade, Md., and was being held at Camp Reynolds pending his return to Fort Meade.

He made his escape last night by forcing a window of the guard house, it was stated.

CAMP REYNOLDS

CASE IS HALTED

10/1/47 Brother and Sister Ac- cused of Theft at Camp

Pittsburgh, Oct. 1—(AP)—Prosecution in Federal District Court of a Pittsburgh ex-soldier and his sister in connection with charged thefts and concealment of government property was dropped today.

U. S. Attorney Owen M. Burns moved to wipe out the cases against Ferdinand Samuel Lych, former sergeant stationed at Camp Reynolds, Mercer County, and his sister, Mrs. Tillie Rider. Burns said there was "insufficient evidence to warrant further prosecution."

The man and woman were indicted March 21 last year at Erie on a charge of conspiracy to conceal government property. Mrs. Rider also was indicted on a charge of receiving and concealing government property.

Burns said they were indicted in the thefts of medical and dental supplies from a Camp Reynolds hospital but that the woman "was an innocent victim." Burns said the indictments charged the material was found in her home.