AIR-O-MECH

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COL. DONALD B. SMITH, Commanding Officer
MAJOR J. B. MURR, Special Service Officer

EDITORIAL

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Cpl. Joe Butera — Pvt. Porter Ward
Pvt. James Hearns — Cpl. George Denes, artist.

Post Photo Section

Definition of a Soldier

We like this definition of a soldier, printed by The Caribbean Breeze:

This is an answer to all the blab and slush that has been tossed by uninformed writers at the men in the armed forces.

Soldiers today are informed persons. They are an intelligent group with a keen sense of humor. The type of "bushwah" handed out during the mauve decade concerning the quaking rookie, the hard-boiled sergeant, beans for chow, reveille at 4:30 a. m., delirious joy or despondent gloom at mail call, cigar coupons used for money, and all the other junk that is supposed to mirror the average soldier, leaves us with a bad taste in our mouth. To put it mildly, our reaction is "Horsefeathers!"

The rookie, as we find him, is a fellow who might be any age from 18 to 50. If he is 18, the chances are that he has had a sufficient amount of schooling to give him a stable outlook on life—whether it is a life as a civilian or a soldier. He is not the stupid fool caricatured by cartoonists, nor is he the wise guy portrayed by sensational writers. He is probably a likeable chap fully capable of and willing to adapt himself as readily as possible to Army life. He has no heed of the "hard-boiled" sergeant . . . If the rookie is of the more advanced age, he has probably spent a number of years in some industry and his reactions are mature. He, too, has no need for the "hard-boiled sergeant."

It can readily be seen that the "hard-boiled" sergeant is also a myth. The sergeant, as a rule, lives with the men he either trains or leads. A ruthless leader would soon alienate the spirit of cooperation among his underlings unless he were in a position to dictate even their thoughts, such as is evident today in Nazi Germany. The sergeant does not have this complete control of his men. There are loopholes through which a dissatisfied group can escape. The loopholes in the case of the "hard-boiled" sergeant are goldbricking trips to the dispensary, transfer to another organization and many other excuses. The very fact that a number of men in a group may seek these outlets indicates improper training and poor morale. The sergeant realizes this. To get the most out of his men he must be somewhat of a psychologist. He must learn to get the most out of his men through cooperation, for it is a certainty that he will not do so through force. The amazing fact is that SOLDIERS ARE JUST—PEOPLE!

Whatcha Know, Joe

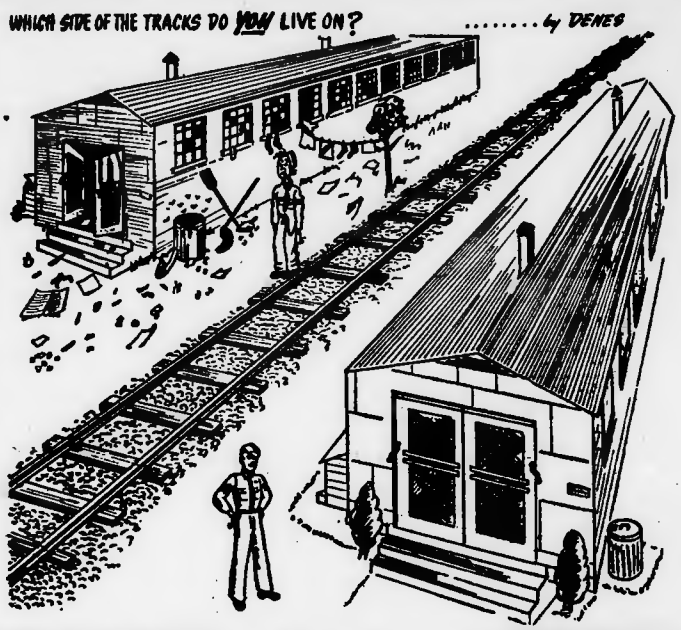
American troops have been doing a nice job in the Aleutians. Here's looking Attu...Proving that people back home want soldiers to be prepared for hard fights, the manufacturers of sporting equipment have given 110,000 pairs of boxing gloves to the Army and Navy alone. More equipment arrives at Service Posts everyday...Thequestion as to whether a soldier stationed in Alaska is considered foreign duty, is Yes, according to the War Department...

New gag to obtain a night's lodging in overcrowded Washington is to register at a hospital or sanitarium "for observation"....United States is spending $10. to $1. in regards to the cost of the war between our country and Japan...Martha Raye will follow her Army Camp tour with a Mexican divorce from Neal Lang — Perhaps the soldier boys influences were too great...A well done steak is even rare these days...

The War Department has given M.G.M. permission to film "Thirty Seconds Over Tokio"..This picture should not be missed...Hollywood has made a short called "Bastineo Alas," but later changed the title to "Wings Up" with Clark Gable as the commentator...Headline: Slash in meat rations, more beef expected . . . Beau Jack, the homeless Negro fighter, who has lived up to this time as an orphan finds that he has many relatives, especially interested in his money...In ancient Sparta, those who grew too fat or too soft for military service were soundly whipped...Since girls have joined the Navy as WAVES, sailors instead of looking for a girl at every port, can find them at every porthole...It appears as if Jack Dempsey of the Navy is fighting a two front war, with the Axis and his wife fighting again him...

Milton Berle takes his physical June 11th...Deadline on Army leases is June 30, so that's why Miami Beach and Atlantic City hotels are being shoved back to civilian owners...Heart - breaking to the owners: Miami Beach got $5,000,000 in rentals from Uncle Sam this last year. Ex-Congressman Black insists that the next Presidential race line - up will be F. D. R. and Gen. MacArthur, on the Democratic ticket; Tom Dewey and Frank Knox, on the Republican ticket...Back in Willkie's home state, his book is known as "Wendell's Gulliver's Travels."...Samuel Hopkins Adams will do a biography of the late Alexander Woollcott...Jackie Coogan, former movie star, is a flying officer (glider pilot) stationed at Maxton, N. C....

Phil Baker asked for a wild duck in the Macambo the other day. Waiter came back with, "We have no wild duck, but I can get you a tame one and let you irritate it!"..Tom Harmon, former All-American football star has arrived in North Africa for duty as a lightning fighter pilot...For the second time since Pearl Harbor, the famous Indianapolis Speedway was silent on the customary Memorial day races. One of America's greatest sporting event—the 500-mile auto classic...



TO THE MAN WHO TAKES MY PLACE

I drink a toast to some fair lad
That I may never know.
Who'll undertake what I've begun,
When it comes my time to go.

The things I've started o'er o'er,
He'll finish them for me,
And change my faults to stepping stones,
As I would have them be.

May God be with you, lad so fair,
In all you start to do,
And help you o'er the river wide,
And see you safely through.

I drink true health to you, fair lad,
As a bride-groom to his bride,
As you tackle the things that I have failed.
But God knows how I've tried.
—Pfc. G. W. Jernigan, Jr.

Hard Work Ahead

"Last Jap Force Wiped Out on Attu." For three days now the headlines in the daily newspapers have repeated this statement. According to the special wire service made available to this Post through the Special Service Section, Tuesday it was believed there were still small nests of Japs on Attu.

We will wipe them out, of course, but not without resistance to the last Jap. We at Seymour Johnson Field should take head of this battle and realize that to do this job of wiping the Jap out completely is going to take hard fight from each one of us.

Our victory has proven that we here at Seymour Johnson Field and at other camps away from the theatres of war have a tremendous job on our hands—that is to make sure that each one of us can lick our weight in Japs. As much as we scorn them, we are only kidding ourselves if we think that this business of defeating the Japs will be an easy victory.

Girl Says 'No'—and To a Sergeant

CAMP PICKETT, Va. (CNS) — Sgt. Hank Brennecke got his laundry back from the Post concession last week. Inside was a note written in a feminine hand describing in tempting detail the furnishings of an apartment. At the bottom was a girl's name.

Brennecke ain't slow on the draw. He wrote the young lady at the laundry, complimented her on her taste in apartments and mentioned, casually, that he was single and willing.

He got a prompt reply. She told him over the phone that she was insulted and that he had no business reading her mail.

Left Of The Week

There is a story going the rounds about a WAAC who won her first stripes. For an hour she tried to sew them on her blouse. Finally she gave up.

The next night she sought the sewing advice of a male soldier who took her blouse back to his barracks and returned the following day with a perfect job.

Saudi Arabia is larger than Mexico.

The Chaplain

Lloyd C. Douglas in his book "Green Light" says, "It isn't a matter of mental capacity or system of temperament. The trouble is that the average individual leaves most of his tasks unfinished, his mental tasks in particular. The world is fairly crowded with truncated minds belonging to people who learn the scale up to three flats and two sharps. If the tune they are interested in happens to be written in a higher signature, they have either to transpose it into one of the keys they have learned or give it up. Most people try to get along with a vocabulary of about six hundred words. This enables them to understand what is going on in the kitchen, the shop, and on the street. Any idea that cannot be translated into kitchen - lore, shop - lore or street-lore is dismissed."

If this is true, and I am coming more and more to believe that it is true, then we are missing most of life because we are not willing to pay the price to live on a higher and more intelligent plane. We are satisfied to be one of the crowd with our faces turned toward the dirt when the whole realm of possibilities in life is open to the man who is interested enough to learn how to live on a higher level.

The great people of a day past were those who were not satisfied to play "Chop-sticks" or "Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater" but felt that only the more difficult harmonies of life were worth playing. Great personages like Edison, Jane Addams, Pasteur and others would not live in C-natural and as a result they made a contribution to life that we never will forget.

In our day we have left government, world affairs, morals, religion, in fact most of life, into the hands of others. When we found that most of life is too difficult to translate into as simple a key as we would like to play it in, we try to dismiss all of the problems and hope that someone else is interested enough to figure them out.

The day has come when all who are worthy to exist are going to have to be willing to learn how to live. If life is hard then we must learn how to live it. If we are having trouble finding our place in life it may be because we are trying to put all of our trouble into C - Natural living. In this day of stress many of our problems cannot be answered in anything short of a complete mastery of life. Then, and then only, will all of the possibilities of life open up to us.—Chaplain Lester E. Olson.

$150,000,000 Monthly Paid G. I. Dependents

NEWARK, N. J. (CNS) — Approximately $150,000,000 monthly is paid dependents of servicemen by the War Department through its office here. An entire 16-floor building is occupied by the 188 Army officers and 10,000 clerks who mail out the cash at the pace of $200,000 per hour. Largest single monthly check is $183 which is sent to the wife and ten kids of one Pvt. Pinkerton.

The French island of Guadeloupe is only about half the size of Rhode Island.

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Chapel No. 2
- Liturgical Holy Communion .0900
- General Service 0900
- General Service 1030
- General Service 1400
- General Service 1830

Midweek Services
- Liturgical Holy Communion Wed. 0800
- Liturgical Holy Communion Thurs. ..... 1230 (Chaplains Green and Quick)

Chapel No. 2 Chpln Davis, Olson)
- General Service 0900
- General Service 1030
- General Service 1400
- General Service 1830
- Midweek Services Wednesday 1830

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Chapel No. 1
- Masses 0730
- Masses 0900
- Masses 1000
- Masses 1100
- Masses 1215
- Masses 1900
- Daily Mass ..... 0730 and 1830 Chaplains McGuire and Tainter)

JEWISH SERVICES

Chapel No. 3
- Sabbath Services Friday ... 0730

Chapel No. 4
- Sabbath Services Sat. 0830 & 1030
- Sabbath Services Sat. 1530
- Sabbath Services Sun. 1030
- Daily, Mon.-Fri. ..... 1000 & 1930 (Chaplain Goldberg)

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Red Cross Auditorium
- Protestant 0900
- Jewish (Annex) 0900
- Catholic 1000

Attend Church

For six days, a GI is usually well preoccupied. On the seventh day he usually rests, looks around for something to do. If services are available, why not go to church? Remember, the Chaplain is your friend in time of need—why not show your respect by attending his services?

14-Year-Old Ends Career In Military

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. — Fourteen-year-old Charles N. Keen became the second Camp Edwards soldier in two days to receive a discharge because of minority. Earlier Orthe Sheridan of Maysville, Ga., was discharged because he was only 17 years old.

Young Keen was inducted last February 24 and was sent to Camp Edwards from a West Virginia Recruit Reception Center. Last January he decided to get into the service and went to his draft board and told them he was 18.

Sgt.: Do you know that girl over there?
Pvt.: Yes. She's Helen Carra.
Sgt. How is she on a park bench?

In the spring, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of one damn thing after another.

Nearly 250 Axis supply ships in the Mediterranean were sunk or damaged by the British between September, 1942, and January, 1943.