

Mail Great Builder Of Soldier Morale

Never before, say the army and navy, has mail to the armed forces overseas meant so much in terms of morale.

That's why their postal services, in co-operation with the U. S. Post Office, are going to such lengths to see that the mail goes through.

To battle one of the worst mail problems in history, the army and navy say they need the co-operation of the soldier and his girl or family.

They say that 10 per cent of all letters for men overseas have something wrong with the address, and indicate that if each would be careful when they write, they'd get more letters from each other.

There are other factors, of course,—ship sinkings, for instance, that's why they dreamed up V-mail (for victory) which is, they say, the surest way of getting a letter to a serviceman overseas.

But V-mail or ordinary mail has to go through. The reports from the front are that many men would gladly miss a meal to get a letter.

In getting the mail to our men overseas, the army and navy have to use schedules and transportation as they find them.

The army has roughly a million and a half men overseas, and its post offices function in China, India, Australia, the South Pacific, Africa, Greenland and dozens of other places. The navy has a million men in service, and a large proportion of them are at sea most of the time.

Many Problems

What happened during the Christmas rush indicates what the army and navy are up against. The army shipped overseas nearly 2-1/2 million parcels, more than 31 million ordinary letters, and more than 15 million air mail letters. The navy, which takes care of the mail for the coast guard and marines, handled comparable amounts of mail in relation to its size.

Delays in such a huge system are inevitable, postal service men say, and if Mary doesn't hear promptly from Joe, or vice versa, there may be many reasons:

Letters may have to wait for a convoy to gather.

Ships may be sunk, though both army and navy say the loss here is surprisingly small.

Joe may have been transferred. Even if he left a forwarding address (which he often forgets) there may be a delay before his mail catches up with him. If he is transferred to a strategic area, a letter to him may be held up temporarily lest his unit designation provide valuable information in case it falls into enemy hands.

If Joe's in the navy, coast guard, or marines, even more chances of delay are present, because of the frequency and secrecy and secrecy with which naval boats move about.

The army has cut out the sending of packages to boys abroad except when requested, while the navy has set its limits.

A lot of people are still suspicious of V-mail, say the army and navy postal people, who mention that only a small percentage of overseas mail goes this fast, sure way, though that percentage is growing.

One point often heard about V-mail is an alleged lack of privacy—but all mail to servicemen overseas is censored anyway.

Here's what actually happens:

V-mail written on special white paper forms (to photograph well) are photographed on 16 mm. film which is flown abroad to the V-mail station nearest the soldier. There is a print made from this film and this print is sent to him in a sealed envelope.

Great Record

The original of the letter is not destroyed until the word comes back that he has received the photographic reproduction of her letter. If by chance that particular roll of film is lost in a plane accident, the letter is again photographed and a print made and sent to the soldier.

More than 15 million have been sent without a single loss.

Since it's the film that travels, the saving in cargo space can be imagined when you remember that a pound of V-mail film carries 4,000 letters.

Despite the cost, the army considers V-mail practically the perfect answer, and it would suit the army fine, postal men declare, if every letter to soldiers overseas went that way. To the navy, V-mail is equally preferable where large numbers of men are in more or less permanent stations, as Pearl Harbor. For sailors or warships moving all over the globe, V-mail doesn't help so much.

Just who should write the boy overseas.

Only his family and friends, say the authorities. Time and experience have shown, they say, the boy is not interested in getting letters from well-meaning strangers, and as this is one of the oldest dodges of would-be spies in putting information, they have ruled it out as far as possible.

Our First Acid Test—War Bonds and War Taxes



You've Done Your Bit—Now Do Your Best

War Stamp Sales Over Half Billion Dollars, Album Drive Opens



Appealing Margaret C. Russell of the War Savings Staff tucks up this new Treasury poster which will be seen from coast to coast. It pictures retailers' slogan, "SAY YES." A drive is under way for Americans to buy additional War Stamps to fill albums and convert them into War Bonds.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The nation's retailers from the tiniest hamlets to the mighty cities are acting as a spearhead in a great Treasury Department campaign to sell the additional War Savings Stamps needed to fill more than 100,000,000 albums now in the hands of the American people.

According to a report released by the Treasury Department today, sales of War Savings Stamps totaled \$559,777,000 for the period from May 1, 1941, through November, 1942.

Stamp sales have risen from less than three million dollars per month when they were first introduced to the public, to an average of more than fifty million dollars per month at the present time.

The Treasury's slogan, "A half-

filled album is like a half-equipped soldier," has been adopted officially by retailers for the campaign.

The importance of the drive is seen in the fact that a War Bond potential of nearly two billion dollars hangs in the balance.

Every War Stamp album, converted into a People's Bond, for which the purchaser pays \$18.75 and which matures to \$25.00 value when held for 10 years, adds its force to the war effort.

The Treasury Department is counting upon the country's school children to play a powerful role in the success of the SAY YES drive. The volume of stamp and bond sales is at the rate of \$200,000,000 for the current school year.

U. S. Treasury Department

College Girls Favor War Weddings If Not Hasty

Greensboro, Feb. 27.—Students at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina are in favor of war marriages, if they have known the man before he entered service with the nation's armed forces. They

would not marry boys whom they have known only a short time since the war began.

These are the findings of five students, Misses Kathryn Cox, Fremont, who questioned 150 sophomores, juniors and seniors; Doreen Henry, of Peckskill, N. Y., and Penelope Morton, New Bern, who checked on the attitudes of 412 juniors and seniors; Frances Baer Bunn, and Kathleen Rhyne, Aberdeen, who made a survey in the one-year commercial class. Of the 721 girls—all

most one-third of the student body—who served as guinea pigs only 45 per cent were in favor of war romances under any circumstances. The upperclassmen did not think marriage under any conditions in war times as a good thing as the younger commercials.

The girls were considerably more conservative than the boys in wishing their parents' approval and in wanting to know the family background of their future husbands than were the soldiers answering the queries.

Opinion was divided as to whether it is wise to marry a fellow who expects to be sent overseas very soon. Seventy-two per cent of the Woman's college girls said, however, that they would be willing to have children if they knew the future father was leaving immediately for foreign duty.

The answer was an overwhelming "no" to "Would war conditions justify unconventional sexual behavior?" asked by Miss Henry and Miss Morton. These students report, too, that the girls say that a church wedding is not necessary, though many indicated that they would like in normal times to have the big event done up with all the trimmings.

Students who made the studies have been members of the popular class in the sociology of marriage taught by Dr. Lyda Gordon Shivers. They are happy to report that 93-1-2 per cent of 412 upperclassmen answered "no" to the query, "Would you marry almost any man merely to escape being an old maid?"

To the reader who might raise the question of whether there are any war brides among The Woman's college students, the answer is "Yes, 18."

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