

### Fleet P. O. Works 24 Hours A Day

CHARLESTON, S. C.—Service men overseas and their families at home in the South Naval District worry about each other when the mail is slow getting through, but there is really no great reason for concern.

The Navy's Fleet Post Offices are operating 24 hours a day to give service to the Fleet and eventually mail will get through as swiftly as wartime conditions permit.

The Navy's advice is to keep writing often, address mail clearly and correctly and speed it on its way by sending it by air mail which is air mail all the way through.

There are many number of reasons why mail addressed to men of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine may be delayed. One with a last Navy mail organization carefully routing it, according to its Navy Postal Service.

But when mail is lost or undelivered, the blame almost inevitably can be placed at one of two sources—the services of the person who wrote him or the ship to which it was addressed.

Mail to the members of the Armed Services divisions has reached the staggering total of 21,000,000 pieces a week. Navy officials say that these are insufficiently or incorrectly addressed.

Some ideas of the tenacity and efficiency of the Army and Navy postal clerks can be drawn from the fact that of these millions of pieces or wrongly addressed letters, more than 97 percent eventually reach their destination. But the delay usually and understandably, runs into months.

The handling and distribution of wartime mail, the Naval Postal Service points out even when it is correctly addressed, is a complicated and intricate operation. Security considerations, codes and numbers. A great percentage of naval personnel is concentrated in the more transportation is through numerous waterways. The added obstacles of distance, supply, casualty and routine transfers make the Navy Mail Service much more complex than its routine policy and delivery of a domestic post office.

Since mail from home is admitted a primary factor in morale of men overseas, the Navy makes every man effort to see that men of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine get their mail as soon as possible wherever they are. There are a total of 9,125 postal clerks and thousands of assistants assigned by the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard to sort and forward service men's mail. At last count there were over 1,700 Navy post offices. The base lines for the San Francisco and New York cover areas back in each area are equal in size to a building with 20 stories high. Each handles over 20 million outgoing letters and 10 million parcels in a month.

Before the war every country in the world, with few exceptions, was represented by ships sailing the seven seas. Today Americans are watered all over the world and only the overburdened transports of allied nations are available to carry mail.

War has interrupted trade routes, and few ports of entry are available to which mail can be transhipped with ease. Mail to the Orient via the Pacific has ceased. Certain Atlantic and Mediterranean routes are the only ocean lanes open to mail for Americans in the Far East. Air transportation is the only service to many far flung overseas and advance bases.

Despite these substantial obstacles, the Navy gets mail through as quickly and surely as possible—and could improve the service if civilians and servicemen will exercise a little care in helping it on its way.

"The Navy Department has done everything possible to organize an efficient Navy Postal Service by using former civilian postal personnel in the various Navy Post Offices," declares Lt. J. A. Price of 11 Cypress Drive, North Charleston, S. C., formerly of 925 Power de Loun Ave., Atlanta, Ga., Officer in Charge of the Fleet Post Office in the Charleston Navy Yard. "The main causes of delay in getting mail to members of the Naval forces are due to the fact that mail is improperly addressed, or possibly that letters on which air postage has been paid do not go air mail because of the inability to fly the mail through because of other priority cargoes."

"However, the use of V-mail does insure air mail service all the way. V-mail received here goes either to New York or San Francisco for photographing provided it is addressed to members of ships and units based overseas, and then is flown overseas."

"There are V-mail stations on many islands in the Pacific where Navy personnel are based," continued Lt. Price, who was recently transferred to Postal duties in the states after 18 months with the Navy Postal Service in the Philippines, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

"The two most important suggestions to civilians who are anxious to help the Navy speed the mails overseas are:

"1. Address mail correctly, write clearly, use the serviceman's full name, not just his initials, use his full rate and organization.

"2. Use V-mail because it goes air mail all the way."

### Sisters Are Reunited

#### By Chance Conversation

SEATTLE.—Two women, working side by side as welders' helpers at the Associated Shipyard, learned through a chance conversation that they were sisters.

They are Mrs. June Schultz who came here from Marshalltown, Iowa, and Mrs. Sandra San Juan, Des Moines, Iowa.

"We just started talking about how we couldn't get our birth certificates," Mrs. Schultz explained. "Sandra asked me if I thought I was born in Missouri, and I said, 'no, Iowa.'"

"Suddenly Sandra looked at me funny, and asked me, 'was your name Fiddler?'"

"I told her that was correct. She asked about my younger sisters, Alice and Frances Marion. I told her what I knew, how Alice and I had been placed in an orphan's home when we were very small.

"Then Sandra took hold of my arm and took me over to a corner to sit down. 'I've got something to tell,' she said. 'I am your sister.'"

### Pickpocket Is Foiled

#### By Use of Judo Tricks

CHICAGO.—William Mason, 43 years old, a parolee from the prison at Jackson, Mich., isn't a soldier, but he has a practical idea of the meaning of judo. It's rough, he told Judge William V. Daly, in Felony court.

Mason pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted larceny in connection with a pickpocket attempt on Pvt. Martin Y. Baba, on a Chicago bound train from Fort Custer, Mich. Baba's pals, Pvt. Larry Klingman, and Pvt. Philip Shapiro, saw the move, and overpowered Mason with every judo trick in their repertoire.

"They were very rough, Judge," complained Mason. Judge Daly said he was lucky they were not rougher, and sentenced Mason to 90 days in the Bridgeway prison.

### Youth's Shed Stolen

#### Warning Brings Two

DECATUR, ILL.—When Clarence Ship's son Ronald, nine, reported the theft of his sled, Ship informed Ronald's playmates that he knew "who took the sled," and warned of grim results if it didn't show up.

The next morning Ronald's sled was parked on the Ship's porch—with another one alongside it.

### Triplets Get Fun Out of Nurse Job

#### Maryland Sisters Take Care Of War Wounded.

BENEDICT, MD.—The army air forces nurses' corps was the answer to a problem for the Chapelleur triplets of this place.

They look alike and think alike; and they decided always to dress alike and to do the same things.

Sometimes it was difficult in civilian life, but G. I. uniforms and hospital routine made it all easy for the 21-year-old sisters. They volunteered as nurses, passed entrance examinations with almost identical marks and were assigned together as second lieutenants at the army air forces regional station hospital occupying the former Miami Biltmore hotel at Coral Gables.

"And are we glad we did," says Ellen Rose Chapelleur, who outranks her sisters because she is 10 minutes older than Elizabeth Flavin and 20 minutes older than Mary Virginia.

"It's fun being a nurse—particularly when you're triplets," she claims.

Life always has been fun for the triplets. In high school at Hughesville, Md., they liked to change seats and pretend they were each other. That was easy since they stood one-two-three in class throughout high school.

Now they substitute on tours of special duty. All three take turns on the telephone switchboard and on other hospital jobs.

They have no trouble among themselves—even about boy friends.

"We haven't begun to think about that yet," says Ellen Rose. "We want to keep on being nurses."

The sisters are on general assignment at the hospital which receives overseas casualties and serves air force personnel in this area. There is even a maternity ward for wives of service men, and Ellen Rose is on duty there. They are not particularly interested in an overseas assignment.

"We like it here," they say.

### Lack of Pants No Bar to

#### Yanks Attending Church

WASHINGTON.—Such superficialities as the absence of pants didn't keep American soldiers on chilly Attu island from going to religious services, army chaplains said in a report released by the war department.

"I was holding a service in a hospital mess tent," said Chaplain Francis W. Reed of Glendale, Calif. "A lieutenant came to me after the service and said: 'Chaplain, please excuse me for coming to church without my pants.'"

"All he had on was a pair of long undershorts and a field jacket. He explained he had had his pants cut off so the doctor could get at his wounds, and that it was a choice of coming to church without his pants or not coming."

Reed reported that the American soldier, beneath his periodic cursing and rough exterior, was deeply religious, possessing faith that would put many people at home to shame.

Another chaplain, Lieut. Col. Stephen E. Curtis of Salt Lake City, said that almost without fail men's thoughts turned to God when the going got tough.

### Jury's Sore Jaw Used in

#### Appeal in Burglary Case

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.—A sore jaw figured in a plea for a new trial here.

Viola Gallagher, appealing conviction for theft, submitted the affidavit of one of the jurors, Thomas Moore.

Moore swore he had a painful jaw from a tooth extraction, but that he consistently had voted for acquittal up to the last ballot. Then, with his jaw causing him more and more anguish, he said he was told that if a verdict was not reached, the judge was going home. He attested:

"I knew I couldn't stand it if I was locked up over the week-end, so I voted with the others."

### Soldier Twice Reported

#### Dead Lives and Serves

JOHNSON CITY, TENN.—Twice during his 25 years of soldiering, Tech. Sgt. Charles A. Bryant has been reported dead.

The first time was in the Canal Zone several years ago when a doctor examined him for malaria fever, stopped him and pronounced Bryant dead.

The last time was when his wife wrote him in North Africa from Little Rock, Ark. The letter was returned by the censor with "deceased" printed on the envelope.

Sergeant Bryant was in a Texas hospital during that last period. And he's still in the army and waiting for a fight.

### Electricity Safe If Well Harnessed

Etternal vigilance is the price of safety on the farm, regardless of whether the worker is operating heavy machinery, handling an ill-tempered bull, cutting trees in the forest, or using electrical appliances and equipment on the modern farm. Under certain conditions, the 110 volt electric current that flows thru the house circuit carries more kick than an Army mule.

Electricity, properly harnessed, is a safe and dependable servant. Agricultural engineers of the State College Extension Service remind farmers to use only those appliances that are safely approved.

The house and barn should be properly wired and the installation should have regular inspections. Grounding and insulation of all equipment should receive special attention and switches should be located beyond the reach of children and animals.

"Make sure that your hands and feet are dry and that you aren't standing on a damp spot, when using electrical equipment," say the engineering specialists. Also keep the equipment free of moisture.

Have adequate lighting around the equipment in use; remove dust and

oil from insulators, lamps, and wires; provide guards around gears; rotating parts, and belts; these are important safety measures that should receive attention.

A fuse is the safety valve for the electrical system. If it blows out, something is wrong. There may be too much load on the circuit, a wiring fault, or a short circuit. Locate the trouble before inserting a new fuse, and be sure that the fuse is the right size.

"Keep all electrical connections tight. Check cables, conduits, outlet boxes, and other equipment to see that they are rigidly fastened in place," the engineers warned. Electricity is only safe and dependable when properly harnessed.

### State College Hints To Farm Homemakers

(Bath Current, N. C. State College)

Here are some tips for outdoor cookery. Small fires are best to cook by. Wait until the fire burns down to red embers before putting the pan over it. Flames smoke up the pan and also the cook's face.

Fresh corn, boiled in an outdoor kettle or roasted in the husk over the coals, is mighty good. To roast the corn, fold back the green husks and remove the silk. Rewrap in the

husks and then wrap in damp paper. Lay the corn directly on the hot coals and let it steam. Potatoes are so adapted to outdoor cooking.

Chicken, fish, or omelet are tasty variations from the small picnic steaks, which aren't to be had. For dessert, nothing beats fruit eaten out of the hand on a warm day.

Good etiquette for outdoor get-togethers is for everybody to help. The hostess has more fun that way and so do the guests. Sometimes each family brings one prepared dish.

If space permits and there's enough old lumber around, the family carpenter may make a table that will serve a double purpose; for use when eating and for table tennis. A sandbag can bring the numbers home to the children.



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