

GI's To Relax In Style At Goldsboro

One of the most elaborate buildings of its type in the south, the Community Building, corner of Walnut and William Streets in Goldsboro, is being redecorated prior to reopening next month as a recreation center for service men as well as county residents.

To include a large indoor swimming pool, gymnasium and dance floor, dormitory rooms, snack bar and miniature restaurant, showers, stage for theatricals, private meeting room and other facilities, the structure is now getting finishing touches.

Changing of facilities has been under way for more than three months, but a shortage of labor has slowed the job, officials said. The large building, located right across from the Wayne County Courthouse, the structure is easily recognizable by GIs, many of whom have used its dormitories.

It was the first building of its kind in the United States to be erected as a war memorial and is dedicated to the memory to the men of Wayne County who gave their lives in the last war.

The building is headquarters for recreational activities within the city and county. Basketball, softball, playground activities, swimming, chess, dramatic groups, musical organizations, and at one time have animated from the center.

The government thought so well of the building and its program that when an application for funds was made to improve the building, it was to better provide recreation facilities for the men of Seymour Johnson Field, it was readily granted. Funds have also been provided through the Lanham act. The structure is 12 years old.

"You, as a man in the army, will be expected to take advantage of any activity within the building that you so desire," officials said.

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Fourth Of July

Tomorrow is the Fourth of July. Not that we had to look at our calendar to discover it, but merely to remind you that it's the greatest date in American history.

It will probably be the quietest Fourth ever spent by the nation. The fireworks and other hilarious sound effects will be missing. Here on Seymour Johnson Field the day will pass with hardly a thing to mark it from another.

But let's not forget that Pearl Harbor's date pales into insignificance when stacked up against July 4th. It was the beginning, it marked our birthright to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

And we will fight to see that its importance does not perish from our lives—or the lives of others.

Johnson WAACS Are Promoted

Not to be left out of field-wide promotions of enlisted personnel this week were the enrollees of the 519th WAAC headquarters company. Airman advancements were announced:

To Leader: Alma Lee J. Davis and Myrtle M. Fleming.

To Junior Leader: Estelle Nelson, Irene E. Connerland, Doretha R. Oglesby, Carmel R. Chirumbolo and Mary E. Mouser.

To Technician Fifth Grade: Minnie D. Schram, Anne D. Johnston, Thelma L. Weaver and Joan Scheyer.

Just in case some of the above grades are mystifying to the G. I., a leader equals buck sergeant, a junior leader is equivalent to a corporal and a technician fifth grade is the same as in the regular army.

Song Books

If you've been having trouble with the words to those songs and you'd like to know them, don't worry—you'll soon get the chance.

Special, pocket-sized song books will soon be issued to every soldier on Seymour Johnson Field. It's entitled Song Book No. 1 and will include the words to 20 different songs. They are:

- The Army Air Corps, I Want A Girl, Notre Dame, The Technical Training Command, Praise the Lord and Bless the Ammunition, I've Got Silence, Show Me the Way To Go Home, Happy Days are Here Again, Shine On, Harvest Moon, There's A Long, Long Trail, Darktown Strutters' Ball, Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Alexander's Rag Time Band, Alouette, For Me and My Gal, This is the Army, Sleepy Time Gal, Marine Hymn, Pack Up Your Troubles, Stout-Hearted Man and the Caisson Song.

EM Advance Rank Sport New Stripes



Sewing bee! Yeah, boy! But not a bad, this one, when you're sewing on new stripes. Here is Corporal (Newly Made) John Sawchuk, of the 33rd, tacking 'em on.' He is from Roslyn, Pa.

It wasn't the butcher, the baker or the candlestick maker that was working hard this week because of Seymour Johnson Field—it was the tailor, and the EMs themselves, sewing on newly awarded chevrons. They were everything from one-stripes to three above and the same number of 'reducers' below. Mostly, the promotions came out last week, but the stripes were being issued by supply rooms this week, and the actual job of sewing them on or having them sewed on was in full swing.

Promotions at Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron were listed in the Air-O-Mech last week. Other promotions on the field:

- Tenth School Group**
To Tech. Sgt. Gordon W. Bennett and Lowell L. Stewart.
To Staff Sgt. Arthur D. Dunn, George C. Horton and Harry R. Locke.
To Sgt. Kenneth O. Adams, Arthur E. Garbrocht, Harold E. Humphries, Denver R. Thompson and Julius Yellen.

- To Cpl.** Raymond E. Adams, Michael F. Cassa, Stanley C. Conkton, William C. Cunningham, Salvatore C. Greco, James Kerr, John P. McCarthy, Francis H. McLaughlin, Andrew Morris, Robert M. Crick, Edward L. Rodgers, Jr., Tony J. Slano, Edward E. Smallwood, Charles A. Spears, John L. Stalker, Edward M. Stepe, Sylvester J. St. Germain, Adolph S. Stasiak, Stanley L. Traver, C. Unger and Zachariah Wheat.

- Ninth School Group**
To Staff Sgt. William G. Hamilton, Raymond A. Dupuis, Joseph J. Michele, Jay D. Smith and James R. Rutherford.

- To Sgt.** Patsy E. Aiello, Roland V. Jean, Albert F. French, Jr., Edwin C. Zeller, Statore B. Tambora, Harry L. Snavely, Everett A. Loucks and John Luskey.

- To Cpl.** Marvin M. Deitch, Alfred Kancy, Ernest N. Subody, Albert J. Carlini, Frank H. Hares, Louis G. Micco, Joseph J. Nugent, Francis J. McCarthy, Clarence J. Farach, Harold A. Wells, Earl B. Crick, Maurice M. Chapman, Quentin J. Webb, William E. Wiley, Michael J. Ricciardi, Richard G. Beschloss, James J. Johns and Nicholas M. Paglia.

- Twelfth Mess Group**
To Tech. Sgt. Harry W. Kittel.
To Staff Sgt. Harold Horne, Henry A. Starks and Bailey Patrick L. Traver.

- To Sgt.** Nathan Kantor, Lowell D. Spivak, Peter A. Iodice and Solomon Moskowitz.

- To Cpl.** George E. Ballan, Richard J. Doran, Joseph Therberge and Max Schlossberg.
To Cpl. George E. Marshall, Carl P. (Continued on Page Three)

He'll Fight Back: Alex Velle, Native Of Yugoslavia, Mech Student

Red-headed Alexander Velle, a ship. That night, the vessel pulled out of the harbor and sailed for Africa and finally America, where Velle came to live with an uncle in Galveston, Tex. It was there he was inducted.

The 23-year-old Velle worked as an assistant engineer on Yugoslavian Merchant Marine, and later a Yugoslavian ships that went under a Panamanian registry.

It was on a trip from Africa to New York that his ship was nearly torpedoed. At 11 o'clock one night the order came through to stop the engines. Then Velle learned that a torpedo obviously launched from a Nazi sub had just missed the vessel. The ship zig-zagged for two hours, and experienced no further difficulty.

Asked if he thinks his brothers are still with the Obetzka, Velle smiled. "Everyone fight down because of wounds received on Guadalcanal. And a grateful United States government is giving him the Order of the Purple Heart." "I'd like to be back in that green uniform," Parker said this week. "But I guess they can't have me. It takes rough, tough men now to stand the life and my shoulder doesn't function too well."

Rough, tough men it takes all right, and as you painfully, bit by bit, extract Parker's story of Guadalcanal, you'll see what it means; but let's start at the beginning.

When Parker enlisted in the fall of '40, he was sent to Paris Island for foot training; later to New River, and to Norfolk, Va. Parker was assigned to the 32nd Marine Corps. On May 17, Parker's outfit pulled out of Norfolk. With 8,800 other Marines, Parker was shipped away on a troop transport. It arrived at Wellington, New Zealand, and shortly after his Marines made their last "Dummy Run" to the Samoa Islands. It was a practice landing operation. But this time it was a little bit more, because "something big was ahead."

Then it came. The Higgins boats were loaded and ready and placed on board. The transports were jammed with troops, transports, warships and planes merged into a convoy and moved out.

Northward, still three days away, American planes were pounding Guadalcanal, a Jap-held island in the Solomon chain, so to remove few of the folks back home had ever heard the name. On board the transports, Marine officers were explaining to enlisted men what was up. The Marines were to move in, mop up the Japs, take Henderson Field, the vital air port. Then the Army would take

over. Each Marine was issued a small map of the island.

One day away from the landing, the chow call sounded and Marines rushed to line up. They sat down at crowded tables and gobbled in amusement—they were served a turkey dinner equivalent to anybody's Thanksgiving meal.

"It was kind of funny," Parker says. "We sat there looking at one another. Sure, they were being especially nice to us—and we were afraid we knew why. It was sort of like the condemned man eating a hearty meal, or so we thought. And not a lot of us could enjoy it, either."

When the convoy arrived and the Higgins boats were filled, they headed in a flying wedge for a point near Tanarua, Traver. Flares filled the skies and guns were fired. (Continued-On Page Three)

791st T.S.S. Heads June Honor Roll

Members of the 791st Technical School Squadron are really on the beam and proved it when their commander, Captain Stanley Levy was able to report no AWOLs for the month of June. The 791st is the first full-strength technical school squadron to be able to report no one absent without leave for the honor list was started in the Air-O-Mech.

- Other organizations who had no AWOLs during June were: Detachment Medical Corps, 56th Signal Service Co., Detachment Finance Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 796th Technical School Squadron, 794th Technical School Squadron, 800th Technical School Squadron, 11th Academic Squadron.

Ex-Marine, PX Worker, Wounded At Guadal

The boys have been kidding 22-year-old Wilson W. Parker, a shy, slow-talking native of Smithfield who works in Post Exchange Branch No. 1 that he "ought to be in uniform." They say a healthy, strapping fellow such as he is wasting his time selling pop or smoking goods in the supply room. They think he would make a good soldier or an airplane mechanic like themselves.

The funny part of it is, or the tragic part, that Wilson W. Parker has already done his bit—and perhaps a little bit more. If he hasn't, then Uncle Sam is wrong for the government has awarded Parker the Order of the Purple Heart.

We give you Wilson W. Parker, late of America's ace fighting corps—the United States Marines. Parker enlisted in the Leathernecks on Aug. 2, 1940. Almost two



years later to the day, on Aug. 7, 1942, Parker scrambled out of a Higgins landing boat off the shores of Guadalcanal Island, a spot that was to become another glorious chapter in American history.

Exactly two years and 8 months after his enlistment, on April 8, this year, Parker was discharged

because of wounds received on Guadalcanal. And a grateful United States government is giving him the Order of the Purple Heart.

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