

HEAVY FIGHTING NEARS CAFF FOR MORE MEN

With U. S. armies getting ready to swing the big punch in Europe and the war against Japan being stepped up in the Pacific, draft boards throughout the nation are going over their lists with a fine comb to supply the services with needed manpower.

The authorized strength of the army is 7,700,000 men, but at the end of 1943 it had fallen 200,000 short of its schedule for that time, due principally to many draft board's decisions to await the outcome of dad's draft legislation in congress.

In responding to orders from Washington, D. C., the local draft boards are continuing to re-examine their files with the intention of sparing as many fathers as possible, while concentrating on childless men under 26, of which there are almost a million deferred in agriculture and industry.

Despite the Allies' devastating aerial bombardment of Axis Europe, authoritative U. S. and British spokesmen look to bitter German resistance and an extension of the fighting into 1945. Nazi operations in Russia have tended to shorten the enemy's lines on the eastern front, releasing crack and tried troops for duty in the west, and the nature of the Germans' operation in Italy suggests that they are determined on a bitter, last-ditch stand.

In the Pacific, the U. S. air force has teamed with the navy to blast Japanese defensive outposts to smithereens, and doughboys and marines have swarmed over fanatical opposition on the Gilberts, Marshalls and Solomons. But we have yet to meet the full force of the Japanese army variously estimated at 5,000,000 first line troops.

A brief glimpse of the overall situation, therefore, gives one an understanding of the army's insistence on a force of 7,700,000 men, besides calls for from 75,000 to 100,000 men a month later for replacements to keep the field units at full combat strength.

In an effort to secure the needed manpower, the President recommended that draft boards comb carefully through their list of 5,000,000 men deferred in industry and agriculture, with emphasis on all childless men under 26.

According to the President, deferments in industry total over a million non-fathers, of whom 360,000 are under 26, and deferments in

agriculture also include a million non-fathers, of whom 550,000 are under 26.

Declaring that "the over-age men, the physically disqualified, the returned soldier, and the women of the nation must be used more effectively to replace the able-bodied men in critical industry and agriculture," the President said that "agriculture and industry should release the younger men who are physically qualified for military service."

Because some industries have been laying off men as a result of a cut-back in munitions production, it was felt that many would not have to be replaced and large numbers of fathers who otherwise might be called could be spared.

Pursuant to congress' action calling for the creation of a special medical board to study the possibilities of lowering physical standards for the service, such a board appointed by the President reported that standards could not be reduced without impairing the efficiency of the fighting forces, but that re-examination of 3,357,000 4-Fs might result in the induction of about 250,000 for general service.

In arguing for maintenance of present physical standards, army spokesmen told the board that even under current norms the quality of some men is lower than desirable.

From Pearl Harbor to October 31, 1943 spokesmen pointed out, 474,000 enlisted men were discharged for physical or mental reasons, and of those released in the second quarter of 1943, 44.6 per cent were suffering

Furloughs Here



Cpl. Claude G. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Miller, of Vilas, has returned to his post at Chanute Field, Ill., after a 15-day furlough with his parents and friends. Cpl. Miller has been stationed at Chanute Field for over a year.

from neuropsychiatric disabilities. These disabilities—nervous mental cases, constitute a problem, both in induction stations and after being mustered into service, and the Pres-

ident's board recommended measures for weeding them out before they don khaki.

Instructions to local board to comb through their lists of deferments of men in defense work or industries supporting the war effort, closely followed announcement that all farm deferments would be closely re-examined to determine essential hands, with only those able to produce 16 war units a year eligible for deferment.

Abundance of Irish Potatoes Is Reported

Raleigh—Housewives wanting to include more Irish potatoes in their daily menus need have no fear of a shortage now, Harry Westcott, vegetable marketing specialist with the state department of agriculture, declared recently in urging a greater use of potatoes in North Carolina.

"There are plenty of potatoes," said Westcott. The abundance of this product is due to the record crop produced in the state last year about 11,000,000 bushels—and to the unprecedented movement of a large portion of the Maine potato crop into this area, Westcott explained.

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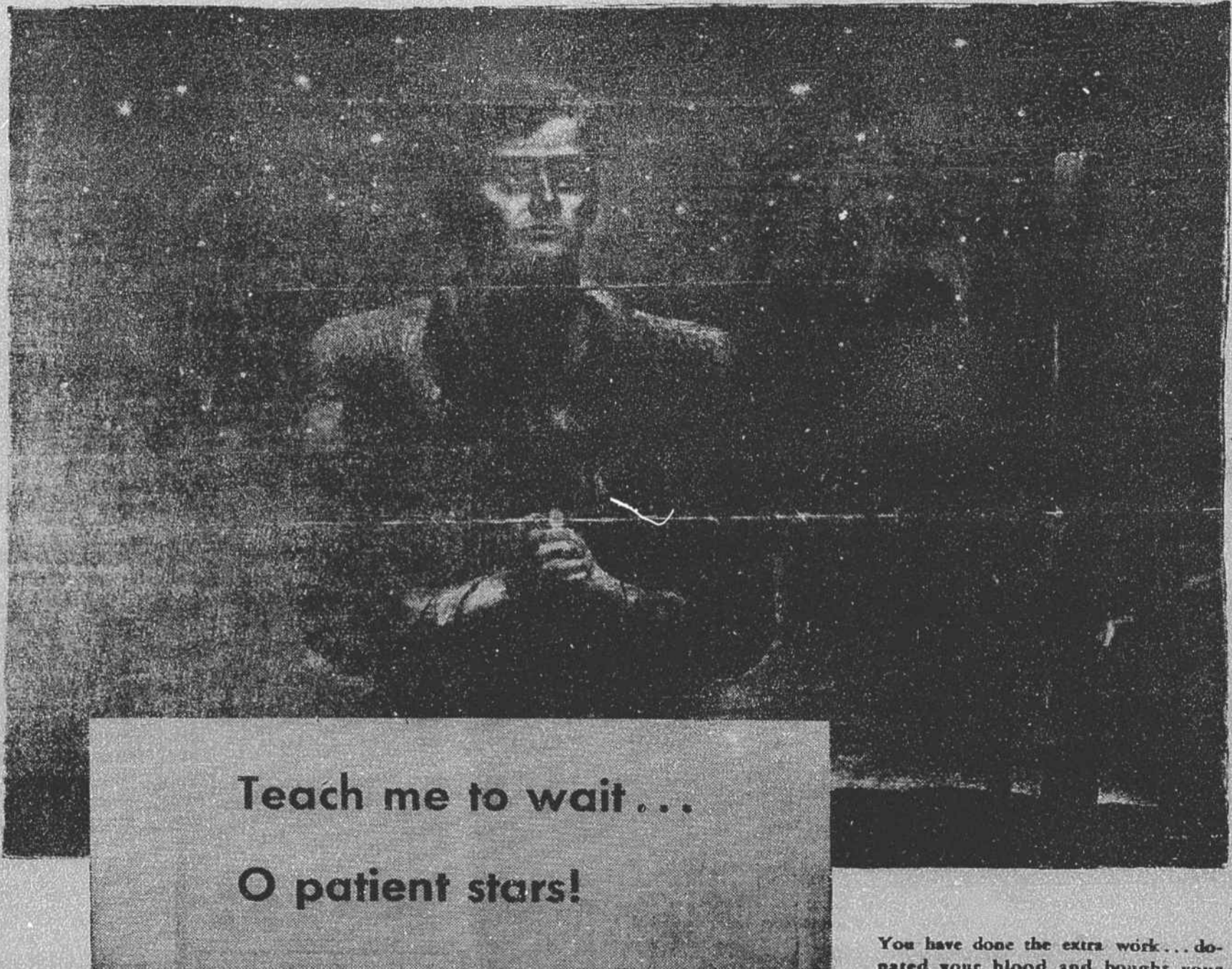
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