

Army Suggests Memorial Service for Men Killed

Engineers and Firing Squads are Now Available for Special Services, Says Official.

It is believed that military memorial services for soldiers killed in action should be held wherever possible for bereaved relatives and as a consequence Chaplain John O. Lindquist, Chief of the Branch, Headquarters of the Service Command announced that chaplains, buglers and firing squads are available for this purpose.

Custom of firing three volleys at military funerals is believed to have originated among the Romans, who, after casting earth on the graves of the dead, pronounced the word "Vale" three times as they departed. So, today, when the squad members fire three volleys over the grave, they are, in accordance with the old Roman custom, bidding their dead comrade "Fare-thee well" three times.

The number three is considered a symbolical and mystical number, as for instance, the Trinity and the Three Graces, as well as frequent recurrence in religious ceremonies. In daily life it is interesting to note the extent the number enters into activities, such as saluting by blowing whistles three times when passing a ship at sea, and various other rituals.

The practice of sounding taps at military funerals is a deeply sentimental—"Rest in Peace." The daily life of the soldier the sounding of taps at 11 p. m., signifying "Lights Out," announces the end of the day, implying that the labors of the soldier ended for that day. So does the sounding of taps at his funeral at the end of his day—the "Lights Out" of his life—his "Rest in Peace."

There is no other call so beautiful as significant, so replete with meanings of comrades dead and there is no other call that has such sentiment, so many meanings in the soul of the soldier as the sounding of "Taps."

Chaplain Lindquist further explained that although military services could be held for individual soldiers in most instances, still in many cases the location be too far from camp, post or station, to make such services feasible, and memorial services could be arranged and planned for a congregation of people suffering similar losses.

In larger towns and cities it is such denomination could have memorial service of this sort, in smaller towns it would be desirable to have a general service for all denominations. At the event such ceremonies are arranged, a letter should be written to the Chaplain's Office at the post camp, post or station, Chaplain Lindquist stated.

Balsam News

By BEULAH BECK

The Balsam P. T. A. was organized August 20th, and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Knight, president; Mrs. Glenn, vice president; Mrs. Johnnie, secretary; Mrs. Fred Bryner, treasurer.

The P. T. A. met again on September 3rd. After the business hour, nice refreshments were served by the teachers, Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. Monteith, and Mr. Wright. The P. T. A. will meet the first Friday of every month and all are urged to attend.

Edith Christy, Matron of the Orphanage, Greenville, S. C., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Christy.

Mrs. and Mrs. Winifred Wright Hazelwood, spent the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eddington, Mrs. Knight's parents.

Friends of Edward Parson, owner and manager of Balsam Lodge, are glad to learn he is resting well after an operation at Wood County Hospital.

How did you like the parade? Marvellous! Ten thousand and not one slip showing!

MARRIAGES

W. R. Hipps to Bessie M. Smith, both of Canton.

Claude B. Gujder to Mrs. Buelah Trull, both of Candler.

Joseph Jesse Brown, of Lake City, Fla to Helen Smathers, of Canton.

Wilton L. Fleming, of Fuquay Springs to Roas Marie Haynes, of Clyde.

Ralph Jenkins to Bertha Lynch, both of Canton.

Chaplain Carper Writes From North Africa

Chaplain J. H. Carper, a former Haywood county minister writes friends back home from somewhere in North Africa. Excerpts of one of his recent letters is reprinted below:

"It really isn't any fun to be with the men fighting a rear guard action when all other units have withdrawn through your lines and you see the enemy, almost the whites of the eyes; have their artillery range in on your position, then travel all night, hungry, tired, sleepy, cold. Such an experience happened soon after my last letter to you. Again when you try to reach your fallen comrades and soon find the shells falling near seems to be labeled 'To whom it may concern,' one naturally 'takes off' until the time is more propitious. The 'living daylight' were almost frightened out of me one day while searching a battlefield and burying enemy dead when some cattle hit a trip wire nearby and set off several land mines. Veal and tough steak flew all around, Arabs prayed to Allah and called upon Mohammed, and I almost stripped my gears trying to get control of myself. After the smoke had cleared and the ringing of my ear stopped and I found I was okay, I thanked God and took courage. But before the day was over my truck won the 'Purple Heart.' We hit a personnel mine and, boy, howdy! I was glad I was bending down clearing the dried grass from around a land mine so some other fellow might be able to see that death dealing object more readily. Again prayer of thanksgiving was in order, and again I prayed!

"Well, friend, it is these incidents that give variety and excitement to the life of an army chaplain in the field. But possibly the most touching scene was when four healthy normal robust young men at the close of a field (open air) service stepped forward and said, Chaplain, we want to be baptized. We have come to see life and its meaning. We are not afraid, but since has gone we want to do this in memory of him and in simple honesty to ourselves.

"It is likewise a cheerful sight, amid the raiding of enemy stores, to be driven away three times from administering communion, and yet have men bow in reverence and consecration in the sand to partake of the holy communion. No, there were not any frills, the atmosphere was not all one would desire, but honesty, sincerity of purpose and God were there.

"Something deep and abiding has happened to so many of us over here. One can't stand by and open grace and say the last rites over a close friend and roommate or tentmate, and after with your own hands have as tenderly and affectionately as you can prepare him for his rest, without something saying deep within, 'Now I must live on—for him. I must not fail him, nor those high aims to which he gave himself, so earnestly and so completely.'

"I am well, hale and hearty, and I do hunger for a sight of loved ones and home.—John H. Carper." Chaplain Carper was pastor of the Methodist church at Lake Junaluska, and was active in young people work throughout the district.

TRANSACTIONS IN Real Estate

(As Recorded to Monday Noon of This Week)

Beaverdam Township
O. S. Rogers to C. A. Buchanan, et ux.

Waynesville Township
W. Arthur Barbs, et ux to William Harry Moore.



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