

# I'M IN THE ARMY NOW

By  
Cpl. Whit N. Schultz

## Thoughts At Random!

Special to the Highland Park Press

CHANUTE FIELD, A.A.F., T.C., March 15—  
Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Bud) Pfister.  
I'm right anxious to see their new baby.

Your correspondent passed the board for officer candidate school June 3, 1943—nine months ago.

He's still awaiting those orders that will send him to OCS. He'd like to go to officers' school and become a second lieutenant.

He's been an enlisted man now for 16 months—23 months if you count those long days he waited in the enlisted reserve for call to active duty. He feels he understands now the life of the enlisted man. He'd like to know more about an officer's life.

He knew about it once—in civil life. What's that saying: "Everything comes to the man who waits."

I wonder.  
In this war of speed, where the need is urgent for young officers, it seems that nine months is a right long time to wait!

On boxing...  
Have you ever been to a boxing show?

Well, I have.  
In the last two months I've seen 150 prizefights—and I'd just as soon never see another.

This corporal was put on detached service to cover the Golden Gloves. I had to write about them for certain newspapers in the South and for our camp newspaper. You see, some Chanut soldiers participated in the fights.

Covering the bouts was a real experience—I've never seen so many bloody noses, bruised faces, and cauliflower ears. Boxing is a rugged sport—particularly Golden Gloves style.

This is the Army...  
I've been given the assignment to write a magazine article about a master sergeant here who recently returned from the China-India-Burma theater of operations. He was chief of the weather station for the Flying Tigers and Gen. Chennault.  
I've spent several hours with the sergeant, getting his story.

It's an interesting one.  
But the one fact that stands out in the interview is when he told me he had been overseas 20 months and then returned to the United States to learn he was disqualified for overseas duty!

This is on letters...  
Readers have asked what kind of letter I, a service man, like to receive. That's a good question.

I look forward most to my Mother's letters. And I think most service men feel likewise about letters from their mothers.

I like Mother's letters because they're always newsy, cheerful, encouraging. They tell me about Highland Park weather. About what my friends' mothers are doing. About my sisters and high school. About the little but important happenings around my home.

No gloom.  
Only happiness, inspiration.

In short, we like to get your letters that tell us you're well, you're having a good time—but you're missing us; you're keeping our home and our town as much like we left it as possible; and you're including us—mentally, at least—in your daily activities, your plans for the future.

The little things...  
I haven't been asked yet, but if anyone should ask me about what I miss, I'd tell them a lot of "little things."

Like the shine on my Dad's shoes. Standing in the Northwestern station with other Highland Park men, talking to them, waiting for the early morning trains to the city. Eating a big, hot-fudge sundae with plenty of pecans and lots of whipped cream. Polishing my car. Teaching young boys how to swim. Wearing a grey flannel suit and a white shirt and a black knit tie.

Driving down the North Shore in the spring with the top down. Saying, "Fill 'er up" to the gas station man. Seeing movies at the Alcyon. Eating a Shelton hamburger. Having a coke at Parkside. Playing tough football at the beach with the Aubrey boys—men now.

Yep.  
I miss things like that.  
And I know other Highland Park lads who miss things like that, too.

## In The Nation's Service

A credit to the high standards of his branch of the service is Marine Capt. John P. McMahon, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. McMahon, 130 So. Second St. Capt. McMahon has been cited for his meritorious work carried on in the Solomons area, and has been awarded the Air Medal. Taking part in many patrols, fighter interceptions and escort missions, he has downed, in all, four enemy planes. His record for outstanding airmanship and courage against great odds is "in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service." At present, he is stationed in Jacksonville, Fla., which has been his base since December. His wife, the former Helen Meachem, former trained nurse, is with him. He is, for the time, instructing in fighter and bomber plane activities.

Sgt. Nathan "Bud" Udell, now stationed at Maxwell Field, Ala., is in training as an airplane pilot. Sgt. Udell was inducted into service in May, 1942, received his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood and left for overseas the following September. Stationed with a non-combatant unit on the bank of the Thames River, he reported that the scenery in England is beautiful. Nevertheless he is acquainted with the sight of Nazi planes. The sergeant is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Udell, 102 No. Sheridan Road, and husband of the former Betty Hallberg, 700 Forest Ave.

The slogan, "Join the Navy and see the World," might well be changed to "Join the Air Corps and see the World," for John W. Wyle, son of the Roy E. Wyles, 2413 Sheridan Rd., who was recently promoted from the rank of 2nd lieutenant to that of 1st lieutenant. He is now serving as headquarters commandant with an advanced air depot in the European theater.

Lt. Wyle, who entered the service in May, '41, was stationed at Cairo, Egypt, in various capacities for nearly a year. Later he served as liaison officer in the invasion of Sicily, where, with British Royal Marines, he accompanied the first wave of landing troops. As a memento of that occasion his helmet carries two bullet cuts. Also in his possession is the sword of an Italian officer, personally captured together with its owner, by the Lieutenant.

Although no win England, Lt. Wyle has visited about 20 countries since 1942, among them are Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, India, Iran and Iraq, as well as Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Eritria and Egypt in the African area.

Lt. Wyle attended the local high school and was graduated from the University High in Chicago. For five years merchandise buyer for Spiegel,

inc., Chicago, he entered the service in May '41, received his basic training at Bowman Field, Ky., was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer (j.g.), upon going overseas, and was commissioned 2nd lieutenant in May, '43.

Bluejacket Willard A. Veitch, 18, son of Mrs. Lottie Veitch, 625 So. Ridge Road, was granted recognition as eligible to qualify for the petty officer rate of motor machinist's mate 3/c, during the recent graduation ceremonies at the Naval Training School (Diesel) on the Iowa State College campus, Ames, Ia.

Selection to the specialty school is based on the results of the Bluejacket's recruit trainee aptitude tests. The completed course of study includes the operation, function and maintenance of internal combustion engines. A theoretical phase also includes fuel oil engines and electricity. Young Veitch now awaits active duty on sea or at some shore station.

18-year-old Raymond A. Danner, seaman 1/, was last week granted recognition as eligible to qualify for the rate of carpenter's mate 3/c, at the graduation exercises held at U. S. Naval Station at Great Lakes. On the basis of his recruit training aptitude tests, young Danner has been selected for specialized training. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Danner, 736 Central Ave.

A V-mail letter from Alexander McPherson, of the U. S. Army Medical Corps, reads as follows: "After a safe and enjoyable boat ride across the pond, I have arrived somewhere in North Africa. Do not expect to be here long, but am getting plenty of fresh air and exercise—10-mile hikes every day, wearing out a lot of leather from my size 14 shoes." Alex goes on to say that they sleep 8 to a tent, with four blankets and an overcoat for comfort. Since many of the boys are ex-ASTP cadets, "we call our canvas palace the 'A.S. Tee-Pee.'" Alex's wonderful sense of humor should take him through almost any difficulty.

## UP TO NOW

Up to now, little has been said in Lake county about the forthcoming primary, perhaps because there has seemed to be little need of early campaigning in a county where Republican nomination is tantamount to election.

For the benefit of those who came in late, the only Democratic officeholder in the Lake county courthouse since the War Between the States was Russ Alfrod, who served one term—1936-40—as county clerk.

However, one thing that should be emphasized is the fact that one of the most important posts in the county, that of coroner, is to be filled, and will be filled, barring another political upset, by the winner of the Republican nomination for that position.

Of the three men seeking the Republican nomination, the most favored contender would seem to be Garfield Leaf, former county treasurer, who is a veteran in the county's service, and who is acknowledged as having few peers as a vote-getter in the entire county. The fact that one of his opponents is a doctor and the fact that the post was filled by an M.D. for the past 44 years, is bothering this experienced campaigner not at all. He points to the fact that the majority of coroners in Illinois are NOT doctors and that nothing in the law requires a candidate to possess such qualification.

As a matter of fact, the post of coroner calls for much more than the possession of a medical degree. A coroner is NOT required to perform autopsies—his duty is to hold inquests, to ascertain ALL the facts surrounding a death which occurs under circumstances which require an autopsy. Very often an autopsy is unnecessary or is of comparatively minor importance in the ascertaining of such facts.

The coroner (who by the way is the only man in the county empowered to arrest the sheriff, which is a handy thing to know in case you ever wanted to throw your sheriff in the pokey) should be a man of unimpeachable integrity, one who knows all sections of his county thoroughly, and one who is both willing and able to proceed to even the most remote section of the county on a moment's notice, to investigate a death. He should be a man with experience in meeting and dealing with the public; and one possessing the rare gift of following the letter and the spirit of the law, while affording those he serves every possible consideration and accommodation. Gar Leaf fills these qualifications admirably.

A recent dispatch from army headquarters for this area reveals that some three million dollars has been paid to Illinois service men under the new provision which allows a discharged veteran mustering out pay ranging from \$100 to \$300.

A superficial investigation among a few Highland Park veterans reveals that their money is being put to the following uses: purchase of needed civilian clothing, medical attention, dental care, "job-hunting money." Leading the list in the purchase of war bonds. If this sampling is a fair indication of the uses this money will find, it is certainly not being wasted, and those friends of the veteran who proposed a "little lend-lease at home," had something on the ball.

## Lt. Richard Gilbert Bombardier-Pilot, Reported Missing

2nd Lt. Richard "Stan" Gilbert, 909 Taylor Ave., has been reported missing in action in an air raid which took place over Germany on February 22nd. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Gilbert, who are hoping for favorable news soon.

Born and raised in this town, Lt. Gilbert is a real Highland Parker, graduating from the high school in '34, after which he studied for a year in Commercial College at Waukegan. For several years he was a clerk and distributor of the Chicago Tribune, and it was his ambition to become a newspaper reporter. To this end he kept well informed on world events, and his letters have been long and interesting.

"Stan" enlisted soon after the memorable Dec. 7, '41, leaving for Camp Grant the following January. Different phases of his training were received at Jefferson Barracks, Patterson Field, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and he arrived at Santa Ana, Calif., on his 21st birthday. He was one of a group of 15 chosen for specialized training.

In the same class with Lt. Everett Anderson, "Stan's" transfer overseas was delayed for a month by an eye operation. Given the choice of becoming an instructor or engaging in active duty, he chose the latter course. When last heard from directly he was stationed in England, and had visited London, Dover and Harrington. He spoke highly of the English people, who, he said, had entertained him and treated him royally.

A former Highland Park nurse at the Highland Park hospital who is doing her share of "getting around" is Lt. Ruth Chatfield, of the Army nurse corps. At her base in Africa, where she was assigned to a tent unit, she states that the weather was very cold. Before that she had been stationed in Italy. Her present post, on the Mediterranean, is most agreeable, both as to climate and quarters. The patients here are for the most part convalescents.

## Phyllis Whitney Elected President Of Writers Conference

Phyllis Whitney, author of juvenile and mystery stories, recently was elected president of the executive board of the Fifth Annual Writers' Conference of the Middle West.

This board is directing plans for the 4-day sessions to be held July 26-29 at Northwestern university, Evanston, with 21 literary groups in the metropolitan area as sponsors.

Miss Whitney was born in Yokohama, Japan, and spent the first fifteen years of her life in the Far East. She has been writing and selling fiction stories and books for the past ten years, and is the founder and chairman of the Authors' Round Table of Chicago, comprising established writers who meet to "talk shop" and stimulate literary interests. She is the children's book editor of the Chicago Sun supplement, Book Week.

## Sam Campbell to Show Colored Movies Mar. 19 At Local Woman's Club

Sam Campbell, "the Philosopher of the Forest," will present movies in technicolor at the Highland Park Woman's Club on Sunday, March 19, at 2:30 p. m. He will be sponsored by the Community Center, and the subject of the lecture will be "The Land Of The Free." A silver offering will help to defray expenses.

## Blazing Barracks At Ft. Sheridan Fatal To Veteran Sergeants

An early Sunday morning fire at Ft. Sheridan took the lives of two veteran sergeants, and three other soldiers were more or less severely injured.

Fire departments from Ft. Sheridan, Great Lakes, Highwood, Highland Park and Gurnee, summoned at 1:30 a. m., were unable to extinguish the blaze in the one-story frame structure, 100 by 150 feet, and turned their efforts to saving the surrounding buildings.

It was found that M/Sgt. Wm. S. Lee, 50, of Fall River, Mass., an army man since 1914, and T/Sgt. Guy S. Bleistein, 45, of Petersburg, Va., a veteran since 1917, had been fatally burned. Others injured were Pfc. Willie Clark, 25, Brunswright, Okla., Pfc. Acey Parker, 33, Clare, Mich., and Pvt. Lester C. Paden, 29, Franklin, Ia. The building, formerly an automotive school, valued at about \$100,000, will not be replaced. It was being put to use as a temporary barracks for men of the replacement pool, and ordinarily about 100 men would have been sleeping there, but 65 were away on leaves at the time. The fire, the cause of which is as yet unknown, apparently started in the boiler room.

DON'T BURN PAPER

## R. E. Peterson Succumbs To Lingering Illness

Raymond E. Peterson, 246 Sheridan Ave., Highwood, aged 52, passed away on Monday in the Lake Co. General Hospital, after an illness of eight months.

A lifelong resident of this vicinity, he is survived by two sons, Robert (Boker) Peterson, USN, now stationed in the southwest Pacific area, and Norman, USN, stationed at Rhode Island, his mother, Mrs. Carrie Peterson and a brother, Floyd, also of the navy, and stationed in the Pacific area.

## Infant Daughter of Soldier Buried Monday

Sandra Jayne Rucinski, five-day-old daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Eugene J. Rucinski, 327 Waukegan Ave., Highwood, passed away on Friday in the Highland Park hospital. The father is thought to be on his way to an overseas base.

Besides her parents, the child is survived by a two-year-old brother, Eugene, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Huehl, of 327 Waukegan Ave.

Surprising his wife, Mrs. "Bunny" Moon, 26 So. Green Bay Road, Cpl. Melvin "Bud" Moon, 530 Engrs. Camp Beal, Calif., "just walked in" last Saturday, on furlough. Cpl. Moon is one of the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moon, 598 Homewood Ave., in the service.



## TO THE VOTERS OF LAKE COUNTY

My name will appear on the Republican ballot in the Primary election to be held, Tuesday, April 11, 1944, as a candidate for Coroner of Lake County.

Knowing that a personal campaign, because of gasoline rationing will be greatly curtailed, my appeal for votes must be made through the columns of the newspapers. I will make every possible effort to see you, but should I fail to do so, I know you will understand. Any assistance you may give me will be gratefully appreciated.

**Upon My Record I Ask for Your Vote**

I can offer no stronger proof of my honesty, ability, integrity and willingness to work, than my record during the four years I served you as County Treasurer. I also served as deputy County Treasurer under J. E. Morse, now County Clerk; Allen J. Nelson, now Probate Court Clerk and the present County Treasurer, Gustaf H. Fredbeck. I was educated in Lake county schools and Lake Forest University. My wife is a Lake county girl, we have two daughters and maintain a home at 425 S. Jackson st., Waukegan.

## GARFIELD R. LEAF

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR CORONER**

Primary Election . . . Tuesday, April 11, 1944

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IN WARTIME, our first concern is to supply needed telephones to army camps, naval stations and war industry in this area.

But we haven't neglected you. We've stretched our facilities, somehow, to reach many more people than ever before. Even though things are getting tighter, we're going to give you the best telephone service possible. And it's still the best telephone service in the world.

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LET 'EM HAVE IT! BUY EXTRA BONDS!