

## I'M IN THE ARMY NOW

By  
Cpl. Whitt N. Schultz

### Flying A Typewriter

Special to the Highland Park Press

In a vicarious sort of a way, your correspondent is living this war through the words and the stories of men and heroes who have returned from combat duty.

How come?

Well, you see, Highland Parkers, I'm a public relations man for the Army in the United States. In that work, to date, I've heard a lot about the war and I've seen some of the results. But like most of the soldiers in our Army, I've not seen combat.

That is, not yet anyway.

Perhaps one day this corporal will get the assignment he has wanted for many months and will go over to combat areas and write about soldier-heroes right at the time they're fighting.

#### Pilots aren't the only heroes . . .

There are lots of heroes who aren't shooting down planes, but who are keeping our planes flying so they can down the enemy.

And those are the fellows I'd like to write about, too: men who do the all-important ground crew work; men who have been taught by the Army Air Forces Training Command to repair motors, calibrate delicate instruments, balance propellers, and do scores of other jobs vitally necessary if our fighters and bombers are going to fly safely.

Understand now, I kinda like flying my P-99 Typewriter for the AAF. It's interesting work and jammed with invaluable experience. And, using a good old newspaper sentence, I do meet such interesting people.

#### Helps to drop some 282,000 pounds of bombs . . .

Last week I talked with and interviewed Lt. Thomas L. Thayer, 27, a tall, poised, slow-speaking officer who has seen much action in this war.

By the way, fellow Army writer Ernie Pyle talked to Lt. Thayer a couple times and recorded parts of the lieutenant's story in his book.

Lt. Thayer used to teach elementary school. He decided to enlist in the Army in May, 1941. He won his wings as a navigator, went overseas, and helped to drop 282,000 pounds of bombs on enemy ships, sub-pens, and airfields. His Air Medal has nine oak leaf clusters and he wears the Distinguished Flying Cross.

#### Jumps into fog . . .

Once, he told me, he and his crew were on their way to izerte to do a little bombing. On their way, they ran into stormy, freezing weather. High mountains were all around. Ice on the wings weighed the giant bomber down. Pilot of the ship ordered the men to prepare to jump—the plane was falling fast. Command to jump was barked and Lt. Thayer bailed out—his first time. "And I was right scared too," he told me.

"We were at 11,000 feet. I couldn't see anything because of the heavy fog. But once I got through the fog, I kinda enjoyed my flight downward. I hit pretty hard, though, and was unconscious for some time," he added.

#### A lost airman . . .

When he regained consciousness, he hunted for the others. He didn't find them. They hadn't jumped, he learned days later. The pilot got control of the ship and returned to his base one hour after Lt. Thayer had jumped.

Lt. Thayer was lost. He saw an Arab tiller the soil and approached him. Using sign language and pointing to the sky, Lt. Thayer tried to make

the Arab understand. The Arab, it was later discovered, was a leader of a tribe.

#### Now, what? . . .

He was taken to the Arab's house. There he was given food. He tried to sleep there, too.

"I couldn't sleep because of all the fleas," he said. "Four Arabs and a goat were sleeping in the same room with me. When we got up early the next morning, the Arabs killed the goat and made him into stew. And we ate the stew for breakfast. Then we climbed on some mules and rode for hours. We reached a French outpost that night. Three days later I got back to camp."

He tried to reward the friendly Arabs; they would not take his money. But they had seen photographs of his girl friend in his wallet, and they wanted them. They were gleefully happy when the lieutenant gave them the pictures.

#### Writes for Glenn Miller . . .

For Capt. Glenn Miller's radio show, I had to prepare a story on Staff Sergeant Herbert W. Pugh, 24, gunner and radio operator on the famous bomber, "Lucy."

Sgt. Pugh has flown 276 combat hours. He's helped to drop 225,000 pounds of bombs on the enemy. He's shot down two Jap Zeros. And he wears the Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star. He told me this story. It seems he and his fellow crew members volunteered for an important mapping mission of certain islands in the Southwest Pacific.

#### Without bombs, too . . .

Their bomber took off without bombs, heavily loaded with camera equipment. After a long flight, they reached their objective.

"We were flying at 25,000 feet," he told me. "The unsuspecting Japs below us had 125 Zeros lined up on the airfield. If only we had had some bombs!"

"We mapped their field. We banked, headed for home. We looked back and saw 20 Zeros coming after us. They attacked. They knocked out our oxygen and hydraulic systems. We dived to 6,000 feet. We battled them for 80 minutes.

"Six of our nine man crew were wounded and out of action—but we knocked down five of their planes. Our plane needed a new nose and tail assembly when we finally made an emergency landing. My buddy was killed on that raid. His bravery won him the Congressional Medal of Honor," concluded the good-looking sergeant.

#### Repeat stories for readers . . .

Sgt. Pugh won the DSM for that mission. He won it because he had volunteered; he had remained at his tail gunner's position when the tail was almost shot away; he had administered aid to a disabled airman; and he had spotted landmarks enabling the fliers to return to an Allied base.

So you see, Highland Parkers, I'm seeing this war, seeing it through the eyes of such men and heroes who have been in the thickest of combat. And my duty is to record their stories and pass them on to you newspaper readers.

I like my work.

his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McLeod, 130 So. Elmwood Ave. At the end of his leave, Lt. McLeod expects to report to a base in No. Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. John Klemp, 310 N. Ridge Rd., who have three sons in the service, are enjoying a visit from their 22-year-old son, 2nd Lt. John Klemp Jr., who was graduated as an army air pilot last week at Albany, Ga. Lt. Klemp, whose visit is the first in 15 months, expects to report to the air base at Westover, Mass., on March 25. A Highland Park high school graduate, he was an employee at Western Electric, Chicago, prior to his enlistment. Pvt. Mathias, 21, a brother, is stationed at Camp Crowder, Mo., receiving signal corps training, and A/C Earl, 18, is receiving his basic training at State Teacher's College, Moorhead, Minn.

Notice has been received from the Office of Public Relations that Richard E. Wilson, 20, son of Mr. Everett L. Wilson, 200 Central Ave., has completed the prescribed flight training course at the Naval Air Training Center at Pensacola, Fla., and has won his "wings of gold," being commissioned an Ensign in the USNR. Pensacola is known as the "Annapolis of the Air." Designated a Naval Aviator, Ens. Wilson will go on active duty at one of the Navy's air operational training centers before being assigned to a combat zone. Prior to entering the Naval service, Ens. Wilson attended Illinois University for 2 years, and was a member of the Varsity baseball team there.

In company with more than 1,000 husky, young midwesterners graduated as combat pilots from Randolph Field, Texas, on March 13, was Gunther H. W. Ullmann, 1305 East Avenue. In this record-breaking Central Flying Training Command graduation, including men from every state in the Union, Ohio led, with 299 fliers, and Illinois, with 207, was fourth. Chicago led all American cities with 62 graduates.

Seaman 1/c Edward N. Stewart, who enlisted in the Seabees last July, reported for duty in August and received his training at Camp Perry, Va., and Gulfport, Miss., since he was stationed in New Hebrides since Feb. 8, where are also stationed Charles Grubert, Deerfield, and John Schwabach, of this town. The scenery, he states, is beautiful, but the climate hot. Edward, 18, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stewart, 637 Glenview Ave.

John Edward Connors, son of Mrs. Mary Connors, 1417 Oakmont Ave., has qualified for Army Aviation Cadet training, according to Capt. F. A. Wilgus, 166 W. Van Buren St., Chicago. A graduate of the Chiappaqua N. Y. high school, which course he completed in 3 years, he was president of his class during his sophomore year, and earned a full tuition scholarship to Johns Hopkins University, which he has attended for thirteen months.

Among the local boys now overseas giving the enemy a taste of what it's like is S/Sgt. Frank Spano, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spano, 231 North Ave., Highwood. He is reported to have taken part in a recent raid over Germany. In a letter sparing, of necessity, in detail, he states that he has escaped with nothing more serious than frozen feet, which kept him in the hospital for a couple of days. Sgt. Spano enlisted in Nov. '42, received his basic training at Miami Beach, Fla., was graduated as a mechanic, Pfc. at Amarillo, Texas, received his gunner's wings at Las Vegas, Nevada, and has been overseas since November, 1943.

Five stars will appear on the eservice flag of the Ravinia Auto Service, 1610 Burton Ave., when George D. Harrison, the proprietor, 1733 Pleasant Ave., receives his impending call from the Merchant Marines.

Four former employees of the Ravinia Auto Service are now in the service of their country: Carl Bonn, of the U. S. Coast Guard, Jack A. Harrison, overseas pilot of a B-26 Marauder bomber, Sgt. Robert Benson and Lt. John Benson, both of the air force.

Mr. Harrison, who is 31, married, and the father of two little girls, Marcia and Linda, has left his affairs in charge of Mrs. Harrison, whose slogan is: "Business as usual—till George comes home."

Cpl. "Bob" Roeber, 369 Central Ave., who for eight months has been stationed at Camp Haan, Calif., has been transferred to the air corps, and is at present stationed at the Army Air Base at Muroc, Calif., 25 miles nearer home. He is still in connection with the Anti-aircraft Automatic Weapons Bn.

The three Hutchison boys, Lewis, "Bob" and "Bill" are in this thing for sure. Lewis, USN, who was home about three weeks ago, has completed his pre-medical course at De Pauw University, and has now started his midshipman training at Columbia. He is 21. Lt. Robert Hutchison, USN, who is 23, is now stationed at an overseas base in the Pacific area. "Bill", 17, and a high school senior, has taken examinations for the Navy air force, and expects to join up in June. He is living with his uncle, Dr. Grover Grady, Forest Ave.

Cpl. John Fiore, stationed at Sarasota, Fla., after 17 months' service in Alaska, has been joined by his wife, the former Mary Venturi, of 49 Prairie Ave., Highwood, and their infant son, Charles John.

## UP TO NOW

Right now, it looks as though FDR has pulled the smartest political trick of his career out of his bag—pulled out right under the noses and with the help of his most ardent enemies. Whether he vetoes the so-called "states rights" soldier vote bill, or allows it to pass with a few of the scathing remarks for which he is well-known, he has maneuvered his enemies into the unenviable position of being guilty of depriving the fighting man of his vote. The trick, if it really was planned as such, went off so smoothly that the victims, who went for it hook, line and sinker, haven't felt the hook yet.

His opponents had their eye on the soldier vote and were somehow mesmerized into believing that it would plump solidly into the lap of the Commander-in-Chief. They believed, so credulous they were, that officers would be able to influence their men to vote for this same Commander-in-Chief. If they had only thrown away their crystal ball and had made a few down to earth inquiries, their fears would have vanished like a mist before the morning sun.

In the first place, the army is as good a cross section of the general population as can be found anywhere. In the second place, the few liberties that a soldier has are so precious to him, that the most ardent New

Dealer would be likely to vote for Alf Landon, just out of sheer distastefulness if any of his officers presumed to attempt to influence him. And in the third place, the cold hard fact is that so few of the soldiers would have bothered to vote that the result would be influenced by their ballots not a whit.

Soldiers, particularly those overseas, don't like lining up and waiting well enough to do it unless they have to not even to vote! Although these "states rights" boys don't seem to know it, they have other things on their minds besides elections and politicians. There are exceptions of course, but your average fighting man is too busy on his off time, thinking about home, his parents, his girl, a good meal, a good drink, and the chances of a few days leave to pay much attention to politicians.

BUT, the boys did hang onto their crystal ball, and whether they like it or not, however much they may now warble about their love for the soldier, how they were only protecting his ultimate rights, FDR can now say, "Well, fellows, I wanted to make it easy for you to vote. These people thought you'd vote against them, so they've wrapped your right to vote up in so much red tape that you'll never get to it in time to use it."

Every man that backed the obstinate-ridden "states rights" bill is branded for the rest of his life in the eyes of the servicemen as "One

of those jerks that wouldn't let us vote." The servicemen himself, might, later on, forget about it, but no politician who knows enough to vote for himself will ever let the issue die, and every time one of those boys runs for any public office his opponent, can, will and should get up and yell, "He's the guy that wouldn't let you vote."

Those guys keep on yelling that FDR is no statesman, but a politician. Maybe so, but he sure politicianed them to death — political death, on that play.

## H. P. Music Club

The Highland Park Music Club met on Wednesday with Mrs. Donald S. Boynton, 608 Hawthorne Lane. The program was presented by the following: Miss Jean Schick, Eyanston—guest pianist; Mrs. D. G. Schneider, soprano; Mrs. Lawrence E. Meyer, contralto.

Tea was served following the program.

## Susanne Howe Makes Semester Honor Roll At Indiana University

Last semester's undergraduate honor role at the University of Indiana includes the name of Miss Susanne Howe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Howe, 2115 Ashland Place. The honorary list includes 179 coeds and 65 men students.



## 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**

## In The Nation's Service

Adolph Volpendeda, son of Mrs. Diana Volpendeda, 219 Llewellyn Ave., Highwood, is a member of the Amphibious Forces of the U. S. Navy, having been assigned to the crew of an LST for active duty since completing his training at the Amphibious Training Base, Camp Bradford, NOB, Norfolk, Va.

The Amphibious Force, of tremendous importance as an integral part of the Navy, is, in the Pacific and the Atlantic, today, paving the way for attacking forces of all branches of the Military services. Crews, highly trained and capable of performing all of the varied duties to which they are assigned, are selected to man these craft. The LST, especially constructed to transport troops and heavy equipment, has a bow that can be opened when it comes into the beach, enabling men and equipment to land ready for action. This is the largest of amphibious boats. As in the Naval Air Force and Submarine service, the physical requirements of this branch are greater than for the other branches of the Naval Service, the successful candidate completing a thorough and varied curriculum.

Mrs. Volpendeda has three other sons in the service: Rocco, in the Engineering Dept., Pensacola, Fla.; Pvt. John of the Army, now stationed in England, and Pvt. Dominic, Army, now stationed at Camp White, Medford, Oregon.

Home on furlough of indefinite length is Pvt. Edward Nechville, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Nechville,

lorists, 1740 Deerfield road. For the past six months Pvt. Nechville has been stationed in Yukon and Alaska, engaged in winter research work in fuels and lubricants. The country, he finds, is sparsely settled, inhabited for the most part by French Indians and Canadians. Had it not been for the interesting nature of his work, young Nechville would have found life rather dull the past few months. He obtained some good movie film of the country, however, showing the woods, the mountains and the desolate stretches. A graduate of the Highland Park high school, Pvt. Nechville attended Central Y.M.C.A. college in Chicago prior to his induction, July 5, 1943. He is now awaiting orders to report again to the ordnance research center at Aberdeen, Md.

Miss Shirley Lauridsen, granddaughter of Mrs. Sophie Lauridsen, 374 North Ave., has been sworn into the ranks of the Waves and will report to Hunter College, New York, for training next May. The daughter of Emil Lauridsen of St. Louis, she is a graduate of the local high school and attended Occidental College in Los Angeles. She is at present engaged in office work for the Highland Park Bell Telephone Co.

Lt. Willis McLeod, fighter pilot, USMC, who received his wings and commission at Corpus Christi, Texas, last December, and the same day was married to the former Janet Whitehead of Wilmette, is spending with his bride, a 15-day leave at the home of

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