

I'M IN THE ARMY NOW

By
Cpl. Whitt N. Schultz



Okinawa Stories

Special to the Highland Park Press

SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC — OR, 5000 MILES FROM HIGHLAND PARK

Around here, if you're not on the "rock"—the Hawaiian Islands—you're "down under," or a bit nearer Tokyo. One of our staff members on BRIEF (weekly news-feature magazine written for all men in the Pacific ocean area) told me a couple of Okinawa incidents, Curious Variety. I thought I'd pass 'em on to you, Highland Parkers, 'cause they show a touch of humor which came as an aftermath in the bitter Okinawa campaign.

For some reason a frontline soldier believes he's expected to pick up souvenirs just like he's expected to swear. The Army, obliging at times, realizes this Yank-souvenir-Craze, and has, therefore, set up a Souvenir Clearance tent on Okinawa:

The other day a private who has developed the "Pacific Island Stare" — he's a trifle dazed, or punchy, from his rugged tour — duty — came to this tent with his souvenir.

WHAT IS THIS?

It was a large glass of pickled vipers heads, about as big as your fist, staring through the glass looking meaner than the devil.

When the private was asked what he planned to do with the heads, he replied:

"O, put them on me mantle at home."

Veterans of Pacific-island-advances consider this viper keepsake the horror souvenir of the war . . .

TOO BAD, COLONEL

A breathless-from-excitement colonel popped into Souvenir tent one day, our scout says, carrying the gaudiest flag imaginable. Humbly the colonel told the rather bored sergeant-in-charge-of-souvenir-checking that the flag was a Jap regimental banner, wrested from the fanatic enemy. (It was later learned, by the way, that the colonel had paid 100 dollars and two quarts of scotch for the flag.)

Well, before long, an officer who knows all about Jap flags knocked the colonel's story all to pieces. The flag was simply a banner presented to Okinawa children for their farming excellence or something like our Four-H club awards, you know.

The colonel walked away muttering oaths to himself . . .

BOOM!

On another day a huge truck came bumping up to the tent.

"Look our souvenirs over and see if they're okay to send home, Sarge," one of the GI truck drivers said.

The sergeant-checker looked, gasped, almost fainted.

The souvenirs were Jap cluster bombs, each composed of 300 explosive shells, potent enough to put a deep dimple in any landscape . . .

IN THE NATION'S SERVICE

Lt. Com. Horace W. Neill, USN, of 866 Fair Oaks avenue, Deerfield, a veteran of 53 months service overseas, has been admitted to the hospital at Great Lakes.

Neill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Neill, who reside at 1030 Wade, Highland Park, and his wife, Marion, resides at the Fair Oaks avenue address. He attended Northwestern university, and enlisted in the navy Oct. 12, 1940. While overseas he served in Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Marianas and Palau.

Miami, Fla. — Illinois can get out the red plush carpet. More of her native fighting sons are headed home after being flown by air transport from far-flung battle fronts.

They were among 50,000 "chosen" ATC fliers from overseas each month, the majority of whom land at ATC's Miami army air field. Spending less than a day here, they are taken by rail to Camp Blanding, Fla. Their next step toward home is a reception center for separation from the service or furloughs prior to reassignment.

Among these latest returnees through ATC's Caribbean division hub was S/Sgt. Donald C. Whitney, 26, 504 Central avenue, of the quartermaster corps, veteran of 41 months in Germany.

ABOARD USS GUAM IN THE PACIFIC — John E. Huestis, 20, coxswain, USN, 685 Central avenue, served aboard this unique battle cruiser while she was proving her worth during nearly six months of combat from Okinawa to the fringes of Japan's Inland Sea. The Guam made her battle debut on the morning of March 18,

tioned at Ft. McClellan, Ala., where he will receive two months of advanced infantry training. Recently he spent a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Olson, 718 Ridgewood.

2nd Lt. Edward Fischer, with his wife and infant son, is visiting his mother, Mrs. Edwin Fischer, 589 W. Park. Member of a ground crew of a bomber group, Lt. Fischer left for England last March on the Queen Mary, returning last week on the same boat. After a 34-day furlough the lieutenant will report to Sioux Falls, S. D., for further orders.

Sgt. Robert Schneider, veteran of 21 months in the Aleutians, reported recently to Camp Swift, Texas, after a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Schneider, 439 Oakwood.

CWO Hugo, a brother, overseas 14 months with an armored division, awaits deployment orders from his station in Bvhen, Germany. A former postal employee, he now holds the Bronze Star award.

Pfc. Richard, another brother, is with the infantry on Mindanao.

Mrs. Herbert Honer, the former Marilyn Kugel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kugel, 410 Linden, is in Norfolk with her husband, Lt. (jg) Honer, who is hospitalized there, recovering from injuries received in the Pacific when his ship suffered 5 kamikaze attacks. He will be home on a 30-day leave soon.

S 2/c Arthur Kugel, navy radio operator, her brother, is now stationed at Newport, R. I. He recently spent a leave with his wife and two small children at 311 Vine. After further training he will report to the carrier Midway.

Lt. Harry Hansen, husband of

the former Betty Kugel, former German prisoner-of-war, is now home on a 60-day leave.

Lt. Wm. J. Tilden, home from serving 20 months with the amphibious forces of the Pacific, expects a release to inactive duty about the middle of this month, after which he plans to engage in the paper industry, which was his work before induction into service.

The lieutenant has taken part in landings at Bougainville, Green Island, Emirau, Hollandia, Leyte, and Luzon. He is married and has two young daughters. The family lives at 2404 N. Deere Park drive.

Pvt. Wm. Flynn, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Flynn, Briar lane, is now stationed in Trinidad with the Army Air Transport command, where he went directly from Italy after 6 months there with the 449th bomb group.

His brother-in-law, Lt. Daniel Burke, personnel officer at Clardina, Ia., a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, is spending 15 days with his wife and small daughter; at the above address.

Herman J. Cucchario, AM 2/c, is spending a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Cucchario, 141 S. Second.

Overseas for 22 months, the young aviation metalsmith wears the Asiatic-Pacific and the Philippine liberations ribbons. He participated in the battles of Luzon, Mindoro, Leyte, Peleliu and Mindanao, as well as the battle of the Philippine sea.

Prior to entering service, Cucchario was employed by Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, Calif. He received his training at Glenview naval air station.

Two brothers, Tony and Richard, have received medical discharges from service.

Eighteen months on a destroyer in the Pacific, James Holmstead, m/m 3/c, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Holmsted, 213 North, Highwood, while his ship is being overhauled. At the end of 27 days he will again report for duty.

Last stationed at Okinawa, Holmsted also participated in the campaigns of Truk and the Marshalls. He entered service upon graduation from high school in June, 1943.

Bowes Brothers Meet After Three Years

The Bowes brothers, Midshipman J. Channon, 22, and 1st Lt. Jerome III, 23, met for the first time in nearly 3 years when they spent recent leaves with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome P. Bowes, 176 Laurel.

The midshipman, now on cruise, will finish at Annapolis in June. The lieutenant, veteran of 2 years in the European theater, where, as bombardier-navigator, he was awarded 3 Distinguished Flying crosses, and the Air medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, flew 69 missions over enemy territory. He has reported to Santa Ana Calif. for further orders.

RECENT PROMOTIONS IN CADY FAMILY

Two promotions have recently been made to members of the marine-minded Cady family, 339 E. Park. Lt. Hearst W. Cady Jr., USMC, now based at El Toro, Cal., has been made a captain. Marine Pfc. Jean, recently promoted to the rank of corporal, is stationed at Pendleton, Cal. Marine Cpl. Margo is stationed at Honolulu.

F. O. Carrell, Glider Pilot, Home On Leave

F. O. Edward T. Carrell, glider pilot, son of Mrs. Mary M. Carrell, 123 Pleasant, Highwood, arrived from France on Sunday, July 22, after serving for 10 months in the European theater of war, with the 92nd troop carrier squadron, 439th troop carrier group.

An accounting clerk in civilian life, employed in Cleveland, O., F. O. Carrell now possesses the Presidential citation, the Air medal with oak leaf cluster and three battle stars. He has 97 points under the redeployment program.

While overseas Carrell participated in the campaign at Bastogne (Battle of the Bulge), and during the Rhine river crossing he transported a jeep-load of medical supplies and men. The total carrying capacity of a glider is about 7500 pounds.

Glanders are practically one-trip conveyors. Of the 1500 flown across the Rhine, only about 50 were retrieved.

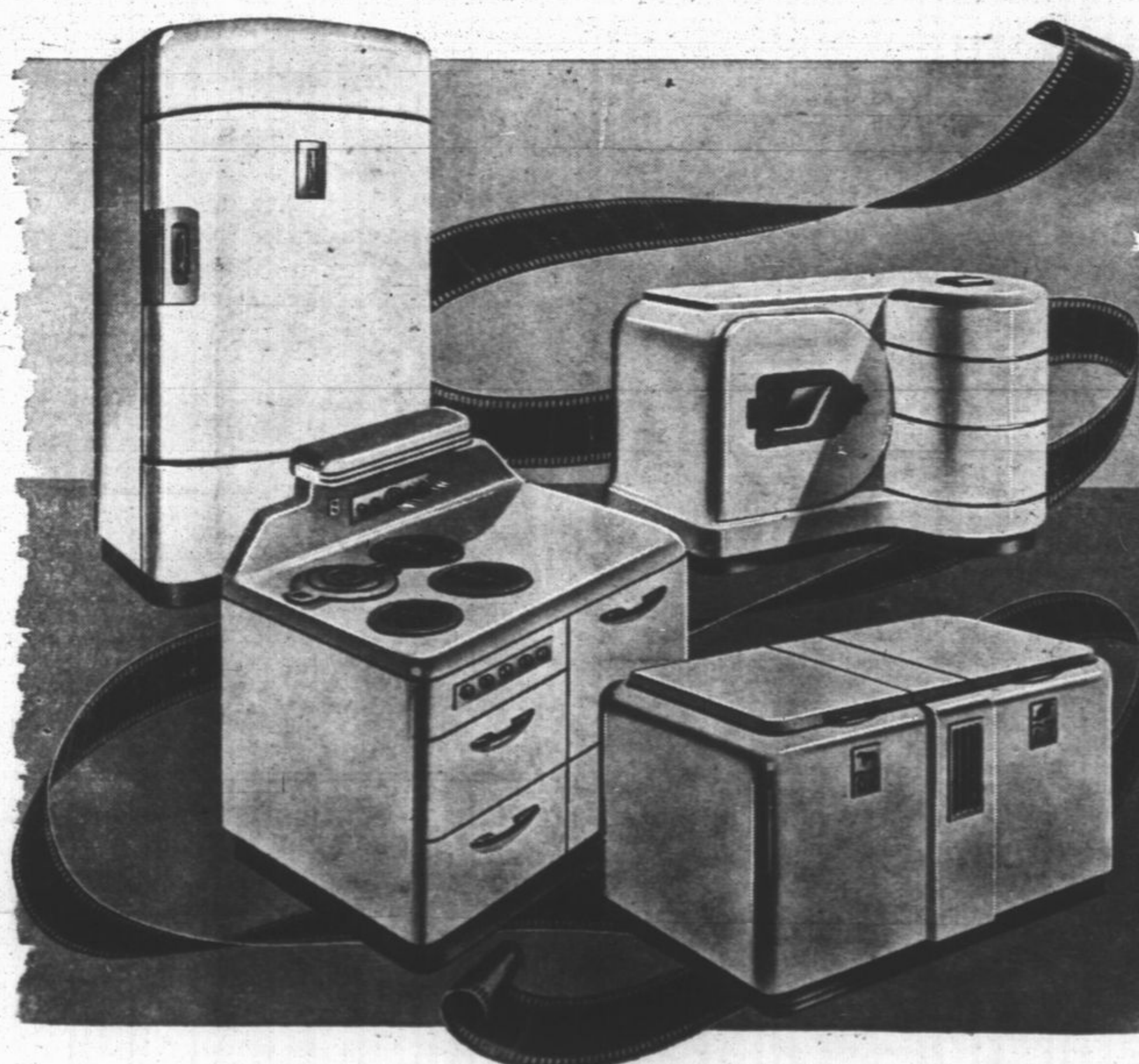
F. O. Carrell is a graduate of Oak Terrace and of Deerfield-Shields Twp high school, and entered the service in January, 1942. At the end of his furlough he will report to Santa Ana for further orders.

Lt. Col. Hugh A. McKinley Home from European Area

Lt. Col. Hugh A. McKinley, 597 Glenview, has returned from 32 months' service in north Africa, Italy, southern France and Germany. A regular army man, he had been stationed for many years at Fort Sheridan, where he will report at the end of his furlough for further orders.

Lt. Frank McKinley, USN, a brother, has been serving in the Pacific for 3 years.

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