

I'M STILL IN THE ARMY!

By

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Random Notes on The Three Bs

HONOLULU, T. H.—

Wishing solace from Army routine and the discouraging headlines smacking returning veterans in the face, this khaki-wearer GI has lately lost himself in an interesting book titled, "Famous Composers," by Nathan Haskell Dole.

This column strongly believes that if we had more music in this world, it would be a happier one. I've jotted down some at-random notes on the Three Bs and I thought you music-loving Highland Parkers would like to look 'em over.

BACH'S WORLD . . .

Johann Sebastian Bach, (1685-1750) grew up amongst reconversion rumblings arising after the bloody Thirty Years war. That war, like all wars, put mortal standards at a new low and the period was rotten with drunkenness, obscene songs, and the like.

Bach (which means "brook") was the son of a twin. Even Johann's mother could not distinguish between her own husband and his brother.

A bright boy and the youngest son, Johann was eager to learn about music. Indeed, he lived in an atmosphere of song and he wanted to write music which would lift the minds of his countrymen from the gutters to the heavens.

HOME LIFE HAPPY . . .

He wrote a great deal during his childhood, composing many clavier and chorale fugues. Bach was one of the leading singers of his day. And although a great musician, he never had a really fine instrument on which to play.

Though his parents died when he was young, his homelife was happy. He married his cousin, Maria Barbara, who proved to be a "calm, kindly wife" and a constant inspiration.

A composer, pianist and organist, Bach is called the "Father of modern pianoforte playing." "With his two feet," Dole reports, "he could perform on the pedals passages which would be enough to provoke many a skilled clavier-player with five fingers."

HONEST, SENSITIVE . . .

He was a modest, sensitive, diligent man who never spoke harshly to a fellow artist. During his lifetime — he made his last great expedition to Potsdam — only seven of his compositions were printed. He wrote hundreds.

After an operation on his eyes late in his life, he became totally blind. Bach had strained them in his youth when he had copied a lengthy score by the light of the moon.

When death came, Bach's remains were scattered all over. Later this mistake was called "the crowning infamy of Leipsig."

BEETHOVEN . . .

Ludwig Von Beethoven (1770-1827), critics say, was the real musical giant of the 19th Century. An infant prodigy, the great composer never earned more than \$125 a year.

Beethoven called his Mother his best friend. His father was a drunkard and when he came home late at night, he made Ludwig get out of bed and play the piano until dawn.

Mozart said, "Take note of Beethoven; he will make a noise in the world."

And that he did. The musical giant stood five feet, four inches. He was stocky and broad-shouldered. His head was small, thick, and round. His nose was stubbed; his face ruddy, fox-marked. His eyes were small, fiery, deep-set; and his hair a steely black.

FASCINATED WOMEN . . .

Women were drawn to him and he made many "conquests" where the dandies of his day failed. He worshipped all women. From childhood he learned to love virtue and all that was beautiful and good.

Beethoven's father committed suicide, and at 19 Ludwig was put at the head of his family.

A stormy, impetuous, quick-tempered artist, he took lessons from Haydn but discovered that he,

Haydn, did not correct exercises faithfully and this bothered Beethoven.

Beethoven once said, "I know well that God is nearer to me than others in my own arts, so I walk fearlessly with Him."

CONSIDERED CRAZY . . .

When Beethoven was teaching and a student made a mistake, the great musician would tear up the music and rave. If interrupted while playing on the piano, he would stop and shout, "I play no longer for such hogs!"

Many considered him crazy for he used to go in the woods screaming and gesticulating. He spent much time outdoors and once said, "No one can love the country as I do."

He frequently forgot his dinner hours and his guests. When he composed he was fond of pouring cold water over his hands. His home always had leaky ceilings.

The etiquette of nobility irritated him. He was clumsy in his motions; he was forever breaking things.

He took dancing lessons in Vienna, but could never dance in time.

HATED TO SHAVE . . .

Often he would soap his face for a shave and then forget to perform the task. He hated shaving because he always cut himself — quite severely, too, his biographers report.

Schubert was with Beethoven when he died. The ground was white with snow. Beethoven lay unconscious. Suddenly there was a flash of lightning, a terrific thundering, and the great musician passed away.

Thirty thousand persons attended his funeral.

BRAHMS . . .

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), whom critics place next to Beethoven in greatness, resembled "a doubtful candidate for the ministry."

Although his father was violently against a musical career for his genius son, Johannes was quietly inspired by his Mother for whom he wrote the German Requiem. He was so poor at the time that he could not afford to buy the paper on which to write the score.

STRONGLY OPINIONATED . . .

He was a man of strong opinions and once said: "Poor music I do not care to hear. And if I wish to hear good music, I can compose that myself."

He married a failing woman, 17 years his senior. By her he had three children. His home life was pleasant, but hindered "by too much water in the soup."

All through his life the great composer liked to play with tin soldiers.

He once told an admirer, "The best songs came to me while brushing my shoes before daybreak."

LIFE OF THE PARTY . . .

At a party the clear-blue-eyed composer was always the center of gaiety.

When he played the piano he used to lean way over the keyboard and hum to himself.

A pastmaster at writing for chorus (witness his "Ave Maria," and "Funeral Hymn") he stinted himself to buy great books.

Oddly, he was very fond of startling ladies; he liked the company of women, but he definitely preferred the "lower classes."

He never would be persuaded to cross the English Channel even after he was offered the conductorship of the London Philharmonic society and later a degree from the University of Cambridge.

Brahms hated to write letters and he refused to have his portrait painted. He was very fond of having his picture taken, however.

He was buried near Mozart, Schubert and Beethoven. He left \$80,000, to relatives he detested.

Five Sons of Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Have Served Their Country

"I had five sons, two sons-in-law and one grandson in the service," states Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, 26 S. Green Bay. "and," she adds joyfully, "they all came back!"

Alex, who served with the army engineers in New Guinea, and Jack and Bill, of the navy, have been out of the service for some time. S/Sgt. Richard, overseas for 20 months and last stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, was separated from service last Sunday. S/Sgt. Edward, now in this country, has not yet been released. Overseas 18 months, he was last with the 94th division in Nuremberg.

Ivan Fox, 24, the grandson, lives in Essex, Ill. The sons-in-law are William Alkland of Highland Park and George Kay of Highland Park.

Pfc. Adolph Rosalini, Infantryman, Is Released from Service

Pfc. Adolph Rosalini, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rosalini, 125 High, Highland, was released from service last week at Ft. Sheridan after nearly 3 years of service.

Overseas since July, 1943, he served with the infantry in New Guinea, Dutch East Indies and Australia.

Lt. William S. Nunn Discharged from Navy

Lt. (j.g.) William S. Nunn, Moraine road, Highland Park, has been discharged, after honorable service in the navy, at the personnel separation center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Capt. Lee Gatewood On Inactive Duty

After four years in service, during which he was stationed at Wright field, Dayton, Ohio, with the AAF as engineering test pilot, the former Capt. Lee Gatewood, son of Dr. and Mrs. Lee C. Gatewood, 286 Laurel, has been placed on inactive duty.

With his wife and two daughters, Nancy Lee, 2, and Dorothy aged 7 weeks, he is living at 286 Laurel, and is associated in business with the Westinghouse Co. in Chicago.

Edward Therrien Enlists In the Coast Guard

Edward J. Therrien Jr., 17, of 745 Ridgewood drive, Highland Park, recently took the oath of enlistment in the U. S. Coast Guard, and departed the same day to begin his basic training at Alameda, Calif.

Therrien, the step-son of Capt. Joseph M. Collins, AUS, Ft. Sheridan, attended Highland Park high school, and also worked for the post office as sub-clerk-carrier.

Sgt. Ray Anderson Home After Release

Sgt. Ray Anderson, who arrived in New York last week on the Alhambra Victory, received his discharge at Camp Grant Monday, and is now home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Anderson, 730 Central, his wife, and his 3-year-old daughter, Sherel. The younger Andersons will make their home with his parents.

Overseas for two years, Anderson was based, with the army engineers, in England. He entered service in July, 1943.

T. Sgt. Allan Gerkin Arrived Home Saturday

T/Sgt. Allan J. Gerkin arrived in Fort Sheridan at 4 a.m. last Saturday, and breakfasted with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gerkin Sr., at 696 Central. He received his honorable discharge from service Monday at Ft. Sheridan.

With the armed forces for 3 years, Sgt. Gerkin served in both theaters of war.

Arriving in Scotland 17 months ago, he was later stationed in France and Holland. Still later he won distinction in the battle of the Belgian Bulge, receiving the Silver star, and afterward served in Luxembourg and Germany. Last August he left the ETO for Manila, and had just passed through the Panama canal when the surrender of Japan was announced.

He spent 2 months in Yokohama, Japan. He wears 3 battle stars.

Former Navy Lieutenant Separated from Service

Lt. Leo F. Tahtinen was released from service last week at Great Lakes.

Over 4 years in service, the former lieutenant was stationed aboard ship in the Atlantic and Caribbean areas for over 2½ years of that period.

He is the son of Mrs. Fred Tahtinen of County Line road.

James Garino Receives Discharge

James F. Garino, aviation machinist's mate, 2/c, 708 Deerfield ave., Highland Park, has been discharged, after honorable service in the navy, at the personnel separation center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Pfc. C. J. Williams Returning to States

Pearl Harbor, T. H. — Pfc. G. J. Williams, of 1018 Loretta Pl., Highland Park, is one of 2030 army veterans returning to the States aboard the USS Kenton, an attack transport of the "magic carpet" fleet. This ship left Japan Jan. 13 and arrived in Seattle Jan. 23. The Kenton is an attack transport of the type which supported the seizure of stepping-stone bases to the Japanese home islands, and was responsible for maintaining supply lines to the fleet, to ground troops and to shore based air forces.

Robert M. Gooder Receives Promotion

Robert M. Gooder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Seth M. Gooder, 1247 Deerfield avenue, Deerfield, now stationed in Austria, has been promoted to the rank of staff-sergeant.

Sgt. Gooder entered the service in September, 1943, and a year later was transferred overseas with an engineering unit. He has served in the African, European and American theaters of war, and seen action in two battles.

Jack Kelley Is Discharged from Seabees

Jack Kelley, coxswain's mate, of the Seabees, who has been in the service for four years, has been honorably discharged from service.

Enlisting in September, 1942, Kelley served for 2 years in the Pacific theater before returning to the States on leave a year ago. On sea duty during the past year, he was last stationed at Okinawa.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kelley, Roslyn circle.

Exchange burned out Light Bulbs...



Fill Empty Sockets NOW!

Don't let empty sockets and wrong size bulbs strain your sight and spoil your disposition. There are plenty of bright, new light bulbs available now.

You can brighten up your home with light because the wartime restrictions on light bulbs are removed. We have plenty of light bulbs on hand—fill those empty sockets and replace wrong size bulbs.

Check all the sockets in your home and see how many bulbs you need—in the living room . . . in closets . . . in the attic and cellar . . . and in stairways!

Don't risk your precious sight—get all the new light bulbs you need today.



REMEMBER OUR LIBERAL RENEWAL POLICY

An ample supply of most sizes and types of light bulbs is available at your nearby Public Service Store or light bulb agency.

Standard burned-out light bulbs (marked "P. S. of N. I." or "Renewal Service") in 25 to 200 watt sizes, may be exchanged for new bulbs without charge; others at a slight renewal charge.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

HOME FROM THE WARS

Sgt. Whitt N. Schultz
Arrives in States

A wire received by Mr. and Mrs. Whitt Schultz, Sr., 1007 Ridgewood Pl., this week, disclosed

that their son, Sgt. Whitt Schultz, is now at Camp Stoneman, Calif., having arrived aboard the USS Matsonia, flagship of the Matson line. The sergeant, who may be just plain "Mister" by now, will arrive home soon.