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The Rouen Post, August 1936

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THE ROUEN POST

A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ROUEN POST No. 242

WILLIAM STACK

Editor

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following comrades were elected Post officers for the ensuing year at the August 11th meeting of Rouen Post: Commander, William Engel; First Vice-Commander, Marvin Hamilton; Second Vice-Commander, Gordon Kimbrel; Finance Officer, Ritchey Williams; Sergeant-at-Arms, Frank Depke; Post Surgeon, Dr. Raymond Spivy; Service Officer, Charles Jablonsky; Historian, Joseph Meyer.

A motion by Phil Conrath to hold monthly meetings was passed by a unanimous vote. All future meetings will be held on the eleventh of each month, which means that the entertainment committee will have to show some activity. Robert Hecker's application for membership and the transfer of Jones Davis from Broadmoor Post in New Orleans was approved. Jones is a branch manager for the Parke, Davis Drug Company in the Crescent City. Bob Hecker, resides in Kirkwood and is in the employe of the Missouri Envelope Co.

MAYBE IT WASN'T SO BAD

Comment from "A Surgeon's Journal" by Col. Harvey Cushing who commanded the Harvard Unit, Base Hospital No. 5. He notes on April 27, 1918: "Then Sgt. Ruff drove me out across the river to the race course, where, in No. 12 General, Fred Murphy and his St. Louis outfit have been comfortably quartered, the best situation I think of all of our original six base hospital units."

THE ACTIVITIES OF COMRADE MEYER

Joe Meyer, who may be remembered by some members of Unit 21 as the old coffee-sergeant (or ex-sergeant) reports that he has been making a little extra coffee-money lately by writing articles for trade-papers. So far he has written two and had two accepted—by the Inland Printer. He claims that's batting a thousand; but he admits that on short stories sent to Colliers and Liberty he's come out short, with a batting average of exactly .000. Ex-sergeant Meyer has also been dabbling in Star-Times Skill-words Contests during his spare time (about 18 hours a day) and has won third prize twice. As a recognition of his skill (or lack of it) at Skill-Words the Star-Times printed an interview in which he tells all about words, embellished with a picture of Comrade Meyer looking avidly at the pages of a dictionary.

FROM THE MAYOR OF UNIVERSITY CITY, MO.

Dear Bill:

I was very much interested in getting your last edition of the "Rouen Post," and I want to compliment you not only on the interesting articles that you have in it, but also the fine literary style in which you have composed it, as well as the inimitable Stack cartoons. Best wishes for its continued success.

Very truly yours,

DAVE MILLAR.

THE ROUEN POST

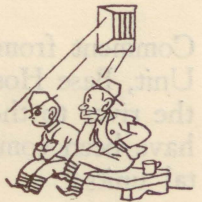


THE PARADE THAT WAS CALLED OFF

We recently learned from an authoritative source that a Victory Parade of overseas troops was planned for Washington in 1918. This triumphant procession was to have been composed of one unit from each type of organization and our hospital was selected to represent the base hospitals. The plan was abandoned owing to the difficulty in getting all of the selected units back from France at the same time. Perhaps it was just as well. With Bellios, George Kolk, Schmidt and "Dizzy" Shea attempting to obey the command eyes right while continuing to march, the Unit would undoubtedly have given an excellent imitation of a football scrimmage in front of the reviewing stand.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Lance-corporal Jim Barnard and Post-master Clinton (Dracula) Tobias are the only members of Unit 21 who can speak with authority on living conditions in Rouen city jail during the summer of 1917. These gallant soldiers dined on bread and water for three days and nights in a dimly lighted cell of that institution following an assault upon an elderly cab driver and a losing battle with gendarmes who came to the old man's rescue. Jim engaged in numerous cafe fights with Tommies during his stay in Rouen but the bout with the cab driver is believed to be the only one in which he succeeded in landing a punch.



ODE TO A FACTORY GIRL IN PETITE QUIVILLE

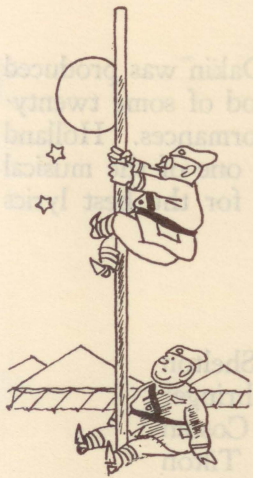
Dedicated to Sergeant Roger Puckett, 1918

You shall not barter your fair name
Your pure chaste Youth for gleaming gold
And lead the life of calloused shame
That trails the wake of Virtue sold.

Let others tempt with promise rash
Your Youth, with roseate dreams enthuse
I will not buy your soul for cash
But, would you for a pair of shoes?

THE ROUEN POST

RETROSPECTION



The determined but futile attempts of Majors Veeder and Fischel to climb a greased pole during a nocturnal celebration in honor of the medical students who had just received commissions. The pole, still greasy as Cook Schmidt's apron, had been used in a climbing contest won by Spencer Allen during an amateur circus . . . Corporal "Rabbit" Millar, the "King's Runner," munching lettuce in the officer's mess kitchen . . . Postmaster Tobias and Kohn, his gnome-like assistant, devouring the contents of packages intended for men who were making a conscientious effort to help win the war . . . The unknown wag with a flair for alliteration, who nicknamed the enlisted personnel "Veeder's Venereal Veterans" . . . Cinderella man, Bob Moran, unloading coal in the rain one day — and off for Paris and a commission the next morning . . . Pat Byrns reciting "Coward Jake" to the dulcet strains of "Hearts and Flowers," and Lee Gay singing the unbelievable adventures of the lustful "Jolly Tinker."

Walter (Mike) Brown, now secretary to Gov. Lehman of New York — another graduate of Sgt. Puckett's latrine polishing squad, who has made good . . . Frank Depke's unaccountable popularity with the girls of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps . . . The superlative exaggerator, Joe Lindsey of the Twelfth Engineers, declaring during a visit to Rouen, that German airmen in the vicinity of Peronne flew so low that they were knocking Hindoos off of coal piles behind the British lines . . . "Shorty" Wallis charging the adjutant with discrimination when his appointment as tent stove inspector failed to appear in the orders of the day . . . The subtle flavor of soap in McConachie canned stew.

Don Juan Nushan, whose dusky beauty proved so irresistible to a female hanger-on at the Princess Cafe in Paris, that she followed him to Rouen. A tender romance, brought to an end by the appearance of the lovesick woman's grandson, who escorted her back to Paris . . . Chalfont testing his pitching arm and the patience of Rouen's gendarmes by hurling lemons at whiskered French civilians in top hats . . . Sgt. Pat Byrns, a bit confused by the sudden clamor of the air raid gong and several shots of cognac, ordering the fire brigade to line up according to age instead of height . . . "Old Folks" Jolley tottering through the mist with his lantern. "Watchman, what of the night?"



The funeral of Brigadier General Mitchie of the 26th Division who died on a train near Rouen. Col. Veeder's finally victorious argument with the French and British military authorities who clamored for the privilege of interring the General. The Mayor of Rouen almost coming to blows with the Chief of Police over their respective positions in the funeral procession. Pallbearer George Delaney's narrow escape from falling in the grave as the coffin was lowered. A South African Scottish firing squad going sour on the third volley.



Violet Kohn, the Walnut Ridge merchant, winding the drapery of his couch about him at Carnac and lying down on a bed tastily garnished with wet star fish.

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"A MUSICAL BARRAGE"

"C'est La Guerre" a comedy with music by Percy H. Byrns and Edwin F. Dakin was produced in Rouen, France, by the personnel of Base Hospital No. 21, during its period of some twenty-three months of active foreign service. This original cast gave seven performances. Holland Chalfont and Carl Taylor appeared in a later revival. "The Army Blues" one of the musical numbers was among the award winners in the "Stars and Stripes" contest for the best lyrics written by American Soldiers in France.

THE CAST

Aunt Laura	Miss Nina Shelton
Dorothy Brooks (Her Niece)	Miss Byrd Boehringer
Johnny Hodges (From France on Secret Mission).....	James B. Costen
Pierre Durand (Johnny's friend).....	Calvin Gale Tilton
Hotel Clerk	Charles W. Collier
Henry Jackson (Head Waiter).....	J. Cliff Graham
Albert Johnson (Waiter)	Howard Harding
Rastus Kelly (Waiter)	Ernest McIlvaine
George O'Brien (Waiter)	Jas. S. Wilcox

CHORUS GIRLS

E. G. Hanvey, H. W. Pickering, Wm. J. Brinsky, Frank Shade, Andrew Weir, Roy J. McCann, John Higgins, Guests, Servants, Etc.

ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

	Paul Webb.....	Piano	
W. J. Martin	} Violins	G. W. Parsons.....	Clarinet
Sylvester Horn		Clarence Koch	}.....Horns
W. C. S. Musguin		R. J. Thorne	
David Brock		Thomas Riste	Trombone
C. W. Schlueter		Arshav Nushan	Drums

COSTUMES

Courtesy of Lt. Col. Borden S. Veeder and Miss Rachel Watkins

STAGE SCENERY and CONSTRUCTION

Charles E. Wallis

Thomas Ridley