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THE ROUEN POST

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


WILLIAM STACK
Editor

HOMECOMING



The call of "21 on Deck" rang again through the years, and Unit 21 responded as of old. Relinquishing duties of the present in order to devote a brief time to commemorating the past, men and women came from all parts of the country to attend the reunion. Friendships, born during the colorful days of 1917-18, were renewed and old times were recalled. It was a splendid gathering, the most successful ever held by the Unit, and those who were fortunate enough to attend have added another branch of rosemary to their wartime souvenirs of Unit 21.

The memorial service at Christ Church Cathedral brought memories of another springtime and of other faces now gone. Bishop William Scarlett recalled that twenty years ago when the Unit made its departure it was to participate in "the war to end war."



"Now, twenty years after," he said, "we are chastened in spirit and disillusioned in mind. We know that war will never end because of the hatreds engendered by conflict and enflamed by false propaganda. In modern warfare there are no victors—only some nations that are less vanquished than others. And yet, men have not gained sufficient intelligence to establish a stable peace."

Two hours after the Memorial Service, the Reunion dinner was held at Hotel Coronado's Club Caprice with Pat Byrns presiding. Byrns introduced Colonel Veeder, who in turn presented Major Julia Stimpson, of Washington, D. C.; Colonel Murphy, of Detroit, and Colonel Clopton, all of whom spoke briefly. Colonel Veeder later introduced Commander Bill Engel and your editor, who stammered a few inadequate remarks through the microphone. Dr. Arthur Proetz showed lantern slides, wartime cartoons and photographs, and Dr. Ernst exhibited moving pictures of Rouen taken ten years after the war.

Arshav Nushan closed the entertainment with a clever monologue entitled "Now It Can Be Told." The versatile Rug Vender in his inimitable manner recalled many amusing incidents that occurred during the Unit's stay in Rouen.

The reception and cocktail party held in the Cortez Lounge Saturday afternoon, was attended by about one hundred and fifty members and friends. Canned corned beef, baked beans, cheese and salmon, army style, were served as appetizers.

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REUNION SIDELIGHTS

The Unit's headquarters in the Hotel Coronado was reminiscent of army days. Ed Winer displayed surprising endurance at the piano and Levi Fuson, Art Melville, Pat Byrns, Earl Padgett, Allen Gilbert, Martin Fardy, "Doc" Gay, Cal Tilton, Jim Costen, Bill Engel and Roland Fisher divided their time between old songs and tales that soldiers tell. Judge Neely has apparently turned soft. Padgett pleaded long and earnestly with the Judge to shake dice with him, but the "Sage of Marion" refused to gamble . . . Martin Fardy spent most of the early Saturday morning hours wrestling with a pianist who performed during the dinner . . . Fardy has made four trips to Europe since the war.

Captain Walter S. Thomas, who commanded the reinforcements from St. Louis, came from Clifton Springs, N. Y. to shake hands and swap stories with his former comrades . . . Fardy came from Minot, North Dakota, 150 miles from the Canadian border. Other long distance travelers to the Reunion were Calvin Tilton of Pasadena; Major Julia Stimson of Washington, D. C.; Dr. Sanford Withers of Denver; Colonel and Mrs. Fred T. Murphy of Detroit; Mrs. Marie Kammeyer Stockhaus of Cleveland; Dr. Roland F. Fisher of Wausau, Wisconsin and Dr. C. W. Eberbach of Milwaukee.

It was fortunate that the Reunion dinner was held on Friday instead of Saturday as was originally planned. The hotel employees' strike, which went into effect Saturday morning, played havoc with many dinner parties scheduled for that evening. Hotel Coronado was forced to cancel a dinner for 350 guests. However, as the hotel was not affected by the strike until six o'clock, the Unit's cocktail party in the Cortez Lounge proceeded without interruption.

We have received numerous requests for back numbers of the Rouen Post, which we have been unable to supply. However photostatic copies of the first twelve issues may be obtained for \$3.25 postpaid. These may be ordered through Rouen Post Headquarters, 514 Commercial Building, St. Louis, Mo.

NEXT MEETING OF ROUEN POST No. 242, FRIDAY, JUNE 11 — Coronado Hotel.

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(A RUDE AWAKENING)

The sight of Colonel Fred Murphy at the Reunion dinner recalled our one and only contact with him in France. Your fearless editor, then a carefree youth, was assigned to night duty as wardmaster in H lines. One November evening in 1917, he was ordered to report at once to the Commanding Officer. As he walked toward the office, the sudden recollection that Colonel Fife, on inspection tour, had praised the appearance of the ward, dawned pleasantly upon his thoughts. Ah, that was it! A recommendation. A promotion, perhaps! Leather puttees and all that. Looking every inch the diligent wardmaster, he entered the Commander's office.

The Major set aside a sheaf of papers, wiped the steam from his eye-glasses with a handkerchief and peered thoughtfully at the expectant private. "Will it be corporal or sergeant," wondered that individual. The next moment the stern voice of the High Command brought his dream world crumbling to the floor. "Private Stack," thundered the voice of doom, "I understand you've been sleeping on night duty."

An unintended touch of comedy relief, creeping into the impressiveness of the Memorial Service, was glimpsed by a small group who smiled at the sight of the diminutive Jim Sallee, trying to sing from a hymn book as he stood between George Delany and Arthur Schanuel, who were holding the book. When Colonel Clopton arose to speak during the dinner, Sallee jumped to his feet, waved a small flag and shouted "Tell 'em about Mobile 4, Colonel."

Dr. Sanford Withers left for Denver Saturday morning. Sanford feared that the cocktail party might prove to be an anti-climax. "I don't want to spoil my memories of the Memorial Service and the dinner that followed" he said. "My skin is pretty thick, but the deep solemnity of that service in the Cathedral got under my hide."

Pete McKee has lost his slender lines. As a result of humoring an appetite intended for a horse, Pete has developed into a light heavyweight.

Pat Byrns and Bill Engel slept in adjoining beds in headquarters suite. Early Saturday morning, Byrns was startled by the sight of the slightly disheveled Ed Winer, rising genii-like from the floor between the beds. He had slept there without removing his hat and coat.

Miss Stimson intended to return to Washington after the dinner but found the reunion with old friends so pleasant that she remained for the reception and cocktail party Saturday afternoon. Miss Stimson, the only woman to hold the rank of Major in the United States Army, plans to retire as chief of the Army Nursing Corps in June. She has served twenty years in the army.

The passing years have been kind to Colonel Fred Murphy. Perhaps our vision was a bit blurred by previous doses of stimulant in the Coal Hole Bar, but as the Colonel arose to speak at the dinner he seemed to have aged very little in the past twenty years.

Prints of the photograph taken during the Reunion dinner in the Club Caprice are now available and may be obtained by sending one dollar to Rouen Post Headquarters, 514 Commercial Building.

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"GONE WITH THE WIND"

Stung by the jibes of Jim Costen in a recent issue of the *Post*, Calvin Tilton journeyed from California to prove that he was not afraid to attend the reunion because of Costen's presence. Calvin arrived in St. Louis on Tuesday and though Costen claims it was purely a coincidence, the good doctor boarded a train for Birmingham two hours after Tilton reached the city. "Costen never dreamed I would call his bluff" chuckled Tilton.

"Despite his senile boasting the eminent doctor is a man of sound judgment and when he was informed of my arrival in St. Louis he promptly left town. He later claimed that he was invited to read a paper before a society in Birmingham. But I still believe he went into hiding until he learned that I was in a friendly mood and willing to overlook his insulting remarks for the sake of harmony at the reunion."



Colonel James D. Fife was prevented from attending the Reunion by the illness of Mrs. Fife.

After the dinner Friday evening, Dr. Fred Bierkamp mounted the platform and played the piano for nearly an hour while the boys sang all the familiar songs of Rouen days. Judge Neely contributed the balad "The Bum and the Farmer's Son" and everyone joined in singing "Oh Horsie Keep Your Tail Up." Dr. Allen Gilbert sang "The End of a Perfect Day."

As Colonel Veeder entered the Coronado lobby after the Memorial Service, on his way to the Reunion dinner, the irrepressible Arshav Nushan rushed forward with a scream of welcome and kissed the Colonel on both cheeks. The Colonel's face turned a deep magenta and his knees buckled slightly, but he quickly regained his poise and proceeded toward the Club Caprice without assistance.

OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE REUNION

Emma C. Ammon, Fredericktown, Missouri
G. D. Brasel, Hoopeston, Illinois
Dr. C. W. Eberbach, 3073 N. Shephard, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Horace Neely, Marion, Illinois
Dr. Martin J. Fardy, Minot, North Dakota
Dr. Roland F. Fisher, 314 Washington St., Wausau, Wisconsin
Dr. L. E. Fuson, Kirkpatrick Bldg., St. Joseph, Missouri
Zephirin Guilbeault, Festus, Missouri
May File Harned, 305 S. 21st St., Mattoon, Illinois
Louise Hilligass, Columbia, Missouri
Mrs. Mary Weisse Moats, 40 East 53rd Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri

Dr. Fred T. Murphy, 1762 E. Jefferson, Grosse Point, Michigan
Myrtle J. Nash, 6330 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, Mo.
Dr. E. C. Padgett, Kansas City, Missouri
Mrs. Dolly Schmidt Proctor, Sullivan, Missouri
Cordelia Ranz, Mexico, Missouri
Mary E. Stebbins, Kansas City, Missouri
Major Julia Stimson, Washington, D. C.
Marie Kammeyer Stockhaus, 17418 Bradgate Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
Dr. W. Thomas, Clifton Springs, New York
Calvin G. Tilton, Orange Grove Ave., South Pasadena, California
Mrs. Nina Shelton Tucker, Hannibal, Missouri
Dr. Sanford Withers, Denver, Colorado

Reunion Sidelights will be continued in the July issue of the Rouen Post.