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The Rouen Post, October 1937

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THE ROUEN POST

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

WILLIAM STACK

Editor

COMMANDER ENGEL EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

As my tenure of office draws to a close (the second administration of Rouen Post No. 242) I recall the pessimistic attitude of a few former members of Unit 21, who predicted that a Legion Post composed entirely of Unit veterans could not succeed. I think we can now answer our skeptical comrades by stating that Rouen Post has succeeded and has done a good job, despite the handicap of a limited potential membership. Reviewing the past year, I point with pride to the Twentieth Anniversary Reunion of Unit 21. Those who attended that memorable affair know what an outstanding success it was. Rouen Post was the vehicle which enabled us to stage this notable gathering. Through the medium of **The Rouen Post** so ably edited by Bill Stack, friendships of former members of the Unit that had long been dormant have been revived throughout the country.

The original mailing list of **The Rouen Post** was approximately 75. Now it has reached 265 or nearly 100 per cent of the living members who served with Unit 21 for any length of time.

The favorable response to my letter of August 4, relative to a Unit 21 Society has exceeded expectations and organization details will be worked out at an early date. The cooperation of the membership has been splendid and the support of many former members of the Unit who are not members of the Post, has been all that could be desired. Their financial assistance has made possible the continuation of **The Rouen Post** and the purchase of our flags. The same spirit which manifested itself during the trying days in France still prevails. I thank you all for your fine cooperation and am confident that the commander-elect and his staff will be accorded the same support. It is my sincere hope that they find as much happiness in their tenure of office as I did in mine.

ANNUAL ARMISTICE DAY DINNER

All former members of Unit 21 are invited to attend our Annual Armistice Day Dinner, at Hotel Kingsway, Thursday night, November 11. Further details will be sent by mail.

Dear Bill:

PAUL CORRUBIA

I had to go to Mexico to find out what was going on among the members of Unit 21. It happened one morning in Sanborn's famous restaurant. As my wife and I were waiting for an empty table in the crowded patio I saw a familiar face among the diners. It was none other than Marvin Hamilton. He was leaning over his coffee, talking now to a young woman at his right and then to an elderly woman at his left. A moment later we were shaking hands and I was introduced to his charming wife and aunt. Hamilton graciously made room at the table for my wife and me, and while the women talked of their experiences in Mexico, I listened to my old buddy describe the highlights of the Twentieth Anniversary Reunion at the Hotel Coronado last May.

We met frequently thereafter.

Very sincerely,

Paul Corrubia, 2618 East 6th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma

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NEXT MEETING ROUEN POST No. 242

Hotel Kingsway (The Old Stand), Monday, October 11, 1937

THE ROUEN POST

REMEMBER?

Are you the person who used to wait for me in the back of the Cathedral of Rouen? Not often did I keep you waiting, for I usually arrived ahead of time as I loved to sit in the quiet beauty of the lofty columns—perhaps just out of a ray of light coming through the window. Remember? Yes—you are the one and got there first for the same reason I did.

Were you the person at Carnac who often said, “let’s walk down the road (it was three miles to the petit maison) and have a bowl of chocolate.” We never knew which would be less offensive to Mademoiselle, to drink from the bowl or sip from the big spoon. The chocolate was excellent—Remember? And none was ever left in the white bowl.—Anonymous.

Are you the person who used to pilfer eggs from the nurses’ quarters? If my memory serves me well, you often brought them to the company kitchen to be fried for your breakfast—and when you had three you always gave me one. Remember? And you were in the kitchen at Carnac the night Colonel Veeder’s basket of crabs were stolen. The cooks took the rap for that offense—but you burned the shells.

Are you the person who used to seek shelter in the nearby forest when stretcher bearers were needed for convoy duty? You ran like a deer in those days—yet Buck White always passed you in the race for the woods. Remember?

ONE WE LOST

(From The Herald’s Correspondent)

Rouen, July 5.—Inspired by beautiful weather and the holiday spirit yesterday the baseball team of Base Hospital No. 4, U. S. A. (of Cleveland) rose to the occasion and walked away with two games. The Cleveland boys beat the St. Louis soldiers of Base Hospital No. 21 by 14 to 4 in seven innings and then in seven more innings won from the fast Canadian team by 5 to 1.

Five hundred spectators in uniform lined the playing field, while advance notices brought out many French civilians. Nursing sisters of the two American hospitals and British and American medical officers cheered for their teams. Strangers to baseball were there, too; cricket-playing Tommies, kilted Highlanders and tall swarthy Bengalese from the Indian regiments. Wounded men also had a holiday out of convalescent wards.

In yesterday’s game the St. Louis team was handicapped by Bammann’s hurried retreat from the box after a fusilade of hits and runs. As St. Louis mainstay left the game, the team weakened and Cleveland kept on piling up the score.

BASE HOSPITAL 21, U. S. A. (St. Louis)							BASE HOSPITAL 4, U. S. A. (Cleveland)						
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E		AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Padgett, 2b	3	1	1	3	1	0	Parsons, 1b	4	1	0	11	0	0
Lueking, ss	3	1	1	0	2	1	Acker, ss	3	2	1	0	3	0
Chalfant, 1b	2	0	1	4	0	0	Clancy, lf	4	2	3	2	0	0
O’Keefe, cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	Speckman, rf	3	1	2	0	0	0
Stack, rf	2	0	2	1	0	0	Gerlach, cf	3	3	2	0	0	0
Alvis, c	2	0	0	4	3	0	Hughes, 2b	4	0	1	2	4	0
Knecht, lf	1	1	0	2	0	0	Shaner, 3b	4	0	1	0	1	0
Binder, 3b	2	0	0	4	1	0	Burlingame, c	1	2	1	1	1	0
McQuoid, 3b	1	0	0	1	0	0	Bredt, c	2	0	0	4	0	0
Bammann, p	1	0	0	1	0	0	Von Blon, p	1	1	1	0	0	0
Fuson, p	2	1	1	1	2	0	Smith, p	1	2	0	1	5	0
Totals	24	4	6	21	13	0	Totals	30	14	12	21	16	0

Three base hits: Burlingame, Shaner and Stack; two base hits: Gerlach. Struck out: by Smith 4, Bammann 3, Fuson 1; bases on balls: Von Blon 3, Smith 3, Bammann 4, Fuson 6.

Philip Von Blon, who toiled briefly in the box for Cleveland that day, was later transferred to “The Stars and Stripes,” the official publication of the A.E.F. Several years after the war Von Blon became managing editor of the American Legion weekly and retained that position when the Weekly became the Monthly in 1926. In a letter to us a few months before his death, Von Blon recalled his part in this game: “I remember one baseball game particularly because I was in the pitcher’s box and managed to walk three or four of your comrades before I was waved to the shower. This was proof to me as to everybody else that I had lost the eye which in earlier times had never led me into ignominy.”

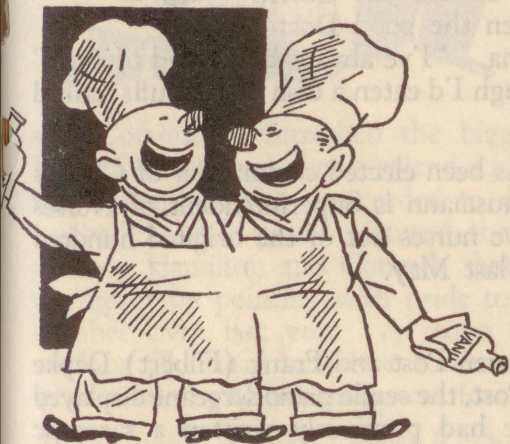
THE ROUEN POST

RETROSPECTION

Holland Chalfant volunteering his services as a vocal entertainer during a soiree in a cafe at Malakoff and going over in a big way until the applause that followed his songs encouraged him to vary his routine with an original solo dance . . . Cook Alphonse Rieser's birthday celebration on St. Patrick's Day in Rouen which ended in a clash with Sergeant Welsch when the latter decided that Al's ideas of merry-making were of an anti-social nature . . . "Old Yorkie" the incinerator engineer, setting aside a bit of bread and cheese to toss a fresh delivery of amputated arms and legs in the fire . . . Merry hags soliciting business from the doorways of various houses of sin in the Rue St. Romaine . . . Sanford Withers sentenced to thirty days in jail for refusing Sergeant Hester's order to carry a Tommy patient "piggy-back" to a ward. As no jail was available in the vicinity Sanford was forced to build one by order of the Commanding Officer . . . Buck White, Shorty Wallis and George (Tiny) Dillman rushing to the Point Hut to volunteer for duty as stretcher bearers . . .



The marked absence of flavoring in desserts served to the officers of Mobile Hospital No. 4 following the battle of San Mihiel. Cooks Murphy and Duffy celebrated the American victory by drinking the entire supply of lemon and vanilla extract . . . Padre Taylor's farewell note on the bulletin board: "I shall miss SOME of you." . . . Sergeant-major "Dolly" Gray of the British detachment at General Hospital No. 12. A handsome soldier, clever with a football and highly successful in convincing medical boards that he was unfit for front line duty . . . White-haired, ruddy-faced Major Morrison yearning for his farm in Scotland . . . The loyal baseball fans who were excused from duty and sent by truck to Le Havre to attend a game between Unit 21 and a team from the Quartermaster Corps. And the righteous wrath of Lieutenant Allen Gilbert when they spent the afternoon sightseeing in Le Havre instead of appearing at the ball park.



♦ ♦ ♦

THE SPIRES OF OXFORD

(As seen from the train)

I saw the spires of Oxford
As I was passing by,
The gray spires of Oxford
Against the pearl-gray sky.
My heart was with the Oxford men
Who went abroad to die.

The years go fast in Oxford,
The golden years and gay,
The hoary colleges look down
On careless boys at play.
But when the bugles sounded war
They put their games away.

They left the peaceful river,
The cricket field, the quad,
The shaven lawns of Oxford
To seek a bloody sod.
They gave their merry youth away
For country and for God.

God rest you, happy gentlemen,
Who laid your good lives down,
Who took the khaki and the gun
Instead of cap and gown.
God bring you to a fairer place
Than even Oxford town.



THE ROUEN POST

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Cordelia Ranz is superintendent of the Audrian County Hospital at Mexico, Missouri . . . Elmer Williams has been a patient for several weeks in the Veterans' Hospital at Wadsworth, Kansas . . . Dr. Joseph (Pete) McKee of Kansas City recently returned from a pack trip in the Wyoming Mountains northeast of Pinedale, where Pete and several friends were the guests of Mr. Clem Skinner of the Boxed K Ranch. The fishing was excellent and the proud Doctor is showing photographs of rainbow trout which he claims were ten to twenty-five inches in length . . . Mike Ganey is living in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Mike recently wrote to Pat Byrns: "It has been a long time since I've seen or heard from any of the gang, as I moved around quite a bit in the past six years. Started with the Veterans' Administration Facility at Whipple, Arizona, transferred to Albuquerque and am now at St. Cloud. I am hoping my stay here will be short and that I will soon be able to return to the Southwest. Regards to the gang!"

Bess Hopkins spent the summer in Atlantic City and Retta Snyder, Director of Social Service at St. Luke's Hospital, attended summer school and visited Yellowstone Park . . . Ruth Page Vornbrock received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work at Washington University last June . . . Leona Mannion Garrett is living in Miami . . . We recently talked with a neighbor of Dr. Jim Costen who was a guest in Jim's house one evening last August when the good Doctor proudly prepared and served a dish alleged to be Eggs Burma. "I've always been fond of eggs," said the neighbor, "but I went to bed that night feeling as though I'd eaten a dish of earmuffs soaked in signal oil."



Dave Millar, former Mayor of University City, Missouri, has been elected commander of Charles Duncker Post No. 157, American Legion . . . Mrs. Sadie Hausmann is Superintendent of Nurses at Meriden Hospital, Meriden, Connecticut . . . Thirty-five nurses out of the original hundred attended the Twentieth Anniversary Reunion in St. Louis last May.

Toby Dunville failed to attend the September meeting of Rouen Post and Frank (Filbert) Depke acted as adjutant. In the opinion of many members of the Post, the senile piano sergeant displayed good judgment in absenting himself from this meeting as he had previously written a sarcastic letter to your editor.

The wolfish Mr. Byrns, clad in freshly pressed sheep's clothing, recently attended a dinner and entertainment at the Downtown Y.M.C.A. Despite the absence of strip-tease acts and alcoholic refreshments, Comrade Byrns remained until the end of the program.

CORPORAL KNECHT TO THE RESCUE

The first delivery of vaccine by airplane in the United States was made by the San Antonio Drug Company through the U. S. Army Air Service on January 26, 1926. The village of Winchester in Fayette County, Texas, sent a call for vaccine points to check an epidemic of smallpox. As the last train for Winchester had departed and another was not due for twenty-four hours, Lt. James Duke of Randolph Field, and Frank Knecht of the San Antonio Drug Company, took off for the stricken community in a De Haviland plane. Knecht dropped the package of vaccine in front of a drug store in Winchester and the plane returned to San Antonio without making a landing.