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The Rouen Post, February 1938

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THE ROUEN POST

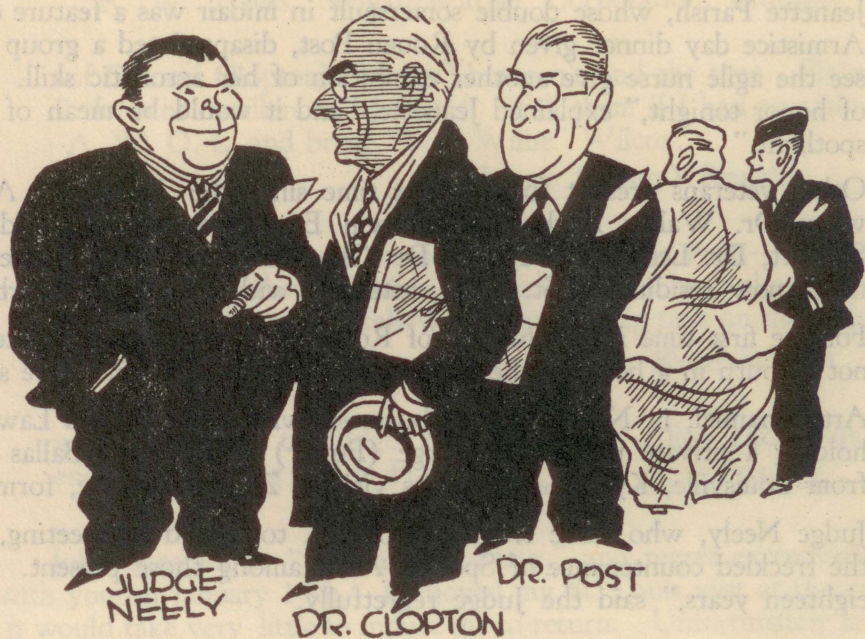
A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ROUEN POST No. 242

WILLIAM STACK

Editor

MOBILE 4 NIGHT

Former members of Mobile Hospital No. 4 and Base Hospital No. 21, joined in observing the 19th anniversary of the Mobile Unit's return to Rouen from the Meuse-Argonne sector and in paying tribute to a former Commanding Officer at a meeting of Rouen Post No. 242, American Legion, January 10, at Hotel Kingsway. Colonel Malvern B. Clopton, a leader who attached more importance to being a gentleman than a soldier, was the guest of honor and the members of his command presented him with a parchment scroll expressing appreciation of his inspiring leadership during the summer and autumn of 1918.



Colonel Clopton made a brief talk in which he thanked the members of Mobile 4 for the testimonial of their esteem and assured them that he would always be proud of their cooperation during the trying days and nights at La Grange au Bois and Cheppy where the Unit was cited for distinguished service by Major General C. F. Summerall, Commander of the Fifth Army Corps, A. E. F.

"I feel there were times when I failed to do all that I should have done for you," said the Colonel, "and I'm afraid that I wasn't a very good commanding officer. But we had a job which required adjustment to the Army pattern and I believe we did well despite our previous training, which was anything but military."

Dr. Lawrence Post, former Major in Mobile 4, Joe Lennon, Assistant Attorney General of Missouri, and Horace Neely the colorful pharmacist of Marion, Ill., recalled a number of amusing wartime incidents and Philip Conrath, Toastmaster of the evening, showed lantern slides of photographs and sketches made in Paris, Varennes, La Grange au Bois and Cheppy.

Telegrams were received from Calvin Tilton "The Pasadena Mauler"; Spencer Allen, Cincinnati, Ohio; Holland Chalfant, Springfield, Mo.; George Delany and Zach Wilhoite, Louisville, Ky.; Dolly Belle Schmidt Proctor, Doniphan, Mo.; Louise Hilligas, Columbia, Mo.; Arthur Schanuel and Lawrence Anderson, New York City; Meredith Johnson, Mountain View, Cal.; and Sergeant "Doc" Puckett of Natchez, Miss. Puckett's telegram, the veteran Sergeant's first direct communication with his wartime associates since he left Jefferson Barracks in 1919, was greeted with a round of applause.

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SIDELIGHTS OF THE MOBILE 4 MEETING

The lantern slides, made and shown by Phil Conrath, were very interesting. Judging from numerous pictures of expectant men standing in groups around a field kitchen, the members of Mobile 4 spent most of their time in messline. The familiar faces and half forgotten scenes flashing across the screen awakened dormant memories and evoked a barrage of questions and comments. "Isn't that "Kitty Tom" Mercer standing by the truck?" "Where did Melville swipe those hip boots?" "Well, look at "Bloke" Anderson on the motorcycle." "That's Judge Neely in the center—the guy holding the bottle." "Gosh! There's "Doc" Puckett and Mike Aspar the Greek cook."

Jeanette Parish, whose double somersault in midair was a feature of the entertainment during the Armistice day dinner given by Rouen Post, disappointed a group of admirers who had hoped to see the agile nurse give another exhibition of her acrobatic skill. "Colonel Clopton is the guest of honor tonight," explained Jeanette, "and it would be mean of me to crowd him out of the spotlight."

Other veterans present for the first time since the Twentieth Anniversary Reunion last May were: Dr. Walter Fischel, Dr. Edwin Ernst, Edward McCuddy, Dave Millar, Dr. J. Edgar Stewart, Dr. Lee Petit Gay and Dr. Chas. O'Keefe. Miss Jeanette Parish, the only Mobile 4 nurse now residing in St. Louis, attended with Mrs. Mae Auerbach Gluck.

For the first time in the history of Rouen Post meetings at Hotel Kingsway, the members did not adjourn in a body to the hotel Tavern. Refreshments were served in a private dining room.

Art Schanuel, in New York on business, wired that he and Lawrence (X-Ray) Anderson were holding a private reunion. George (Puffer) Delany, the Ballas road beekeeper, sent greetings from Louisville, Ky. where he was visiting Zach Wilhoite, former top-sergeant of Unit D.

Judge Neely, who came from Marion, Ill. to attend the meeting, was disappointed in not finding the freckled countenance of Spencer Allen among those present. "I haven't seen "Spindley" in eighteen years," said the Judge regretfully.

MESSAGES FROM OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

Have been sick in bed for the last six weeks but my prospects are fair now for getting on my feet in the near future. I am glad that I can muster sufficient energy to answer your kind letter. I would be interested in becoming a member of Rouen Post, No. 242, American Legion.

With fond memories and cordial regards to all.

Meredith Johnson

I'm thinking of you all and wishing I could be with you. I can't, so I send greetings and to Dr. Malvern B. Clopton and Mobile 4, I send special greetings. Your buddy,

Dolly Belle Schmidt Proctor.

You fellows used to sing about how glad you would be to see Nantucket and finally get rid of "Old Doc" Puckett. It's true that you have seen Nantucket, but not the last of "Old Doc" Puckett. It is not possible for me to be present at our reunion, but in spirit I am slapping each one of you on the back and shaking hands all around and I am planning to make a personal appearance at the next reunion. Salutes to Colonel Clopton and other officers present and cheery hellos to all the gang. Many thanks for the thoughtful invitations from Engel, Stack, "Doc" Gay, "The Jam King" and others and the wire from Mobile 4. It is with a feeling of comradeship deep and heartfelt that I say, "God bless you everyone."

"Old Doc" Puckett

Certainly wish I were with the gallant soldiers of old Number Four receiving their due homage from the "Base Wallowers" of Unit 21. Regards to all.

Spencer Allen.

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I hope that you will remember me to all the boys—particularly Colonel Clopton; the reason for my not having been able to keep in closer touch has been the fact that I have been located in the east, practically ever since the war. For the past nine years I have been with the General Electric Company in Schenectady, N. Y. and only recently accepted my new position here with the Stewart-Warner Corporation. If it is at all possible I may be with you for the meeting on Jan. 10th, but I've been so busy getting started on my new duties here that I am a little doubtful right now whether this will be possible.

You might pass the word around that I would be glad to see any of the boys who happen to be in Chicago—just for a good old time chat.

R. W. Ayers, Stewart-Warner Corporation, Chicago.

I'd give a lot to attend the reunion of Colonel Clopton's "circus" but can't find the time. Please remember me to the Colonel and all the tent dwellers of Mobile 4. Tell them if I had an ambulance for transportation I would go A. W. O. L. and bring "Wee Willie" Wilcox.

Marie (Benny) Franklin.

It is certainly a treat to hear from you and to receive the copies of *The Rouen Post*. Sorry I cannot attend the party sponsored by former members of Mobile 4, as it would be a pleasure to assist in paying tribute to Colonel Clopton. I know you fellows will have a big time on the night of January 10, and I will be thinking of you all.

Elmer Wright.

Regards to Mobile 4 and two Iron Crosses each to Judge Neely, Spencer Allen and "Pipi" Taylor. They were the best friends Hindenburg had in France.

Cal G. Tilton.

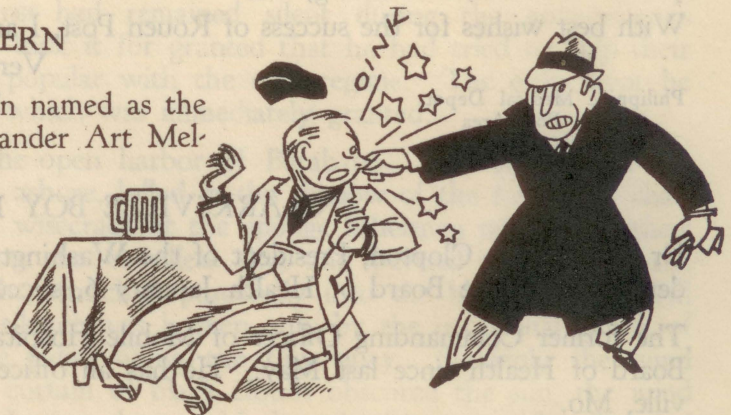
I have your announcement of the Mobile Hospital 4 "Reminiscent Party," and regret exceedingly that I shall not be able to be with you on January 10th. I enjoyed my St. Louis visit at the reunion last spring so much that it would take very little to induce me to return. Unfortunately my associate will be leaving for Europe about that time, and I shall be compelled to carry on alone.

With best regards and every good wish for a successful party, believe me

Carl W. Eberbach, M. D.

DIRTY WORK AT THE TAVERN

Tom Sheedy, former Post Chaplain, has been named as the member of Rouen Post who twisted Commander Art Melville's nose as the latter was meditating at a table in the Hotel Kingsway Tavern during the Armistice dinner party. According to a witness who requested that his name be withheld, the unfrocked Chaplain darted from behind a potted palm, gave Melville's nose a quick jerk and scurried through a side door into the night. Sheedy denies the charge. "I don't believe anyone twisted Melville's nose," said Tom as he sipped a Tom and Jerry in a downtown cafe. "Art undoubtedly invented that story in order to square himself with Mrs. Melville. In his befuddled condition he probably slammed his garage door on his schnozzle after leaving the hotel."



Next Meeting—Friday—February 11, 1938—Kingsway Hotel



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THE BULLETIN BOARD

CAPTAIN HESTER

One by one the scattered members of Unit 21 are returning to camp. The latest to report is Captain Thomas Hester, from whom we recently received the following communication.

Dear Mr. Stack:

I have recently received two copies of **The Rouen Post**, forwarded from the Surgeon General's office in Washington. I wish to thank you for sending them to me. Very sorry I could not be present at the Armistice day dinner and celebration.

I feel certain that the "Martial Minstrels" was a huge success, because anything that Base 21 put on in France was always good. I enjoyed reading the news sheet as it seemed almost like talking to the members of old Base 21. I shall never forget my service with the Unit. It was the most pleasant of all my service in the Army, and I can honestly say that I never saw a finer body of men than the members of Base 21.

Since my return from Europe in 1919, I have served at several places — Camp Devons, Mass., Camp Upton, N. Y., Camp Meade, Md., Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, Philippines 1925 to 1927, then back to Walter Reed General Hospital for three and a half years, from there to Baltimore for five years and back here again July, 1936. My present tour of duty will expire next July and I hope upon my return I may be able to stop off in St. Louis (if I am ordered to an eastern station) to see some of the old gang of Base 21.

This is my third tour of service in the Philippines. First tour in 1909, twenty-eight years ago. Many changes here since then. My tour this time has been very pleasant. Nothing in particular unusual, except a right severe earthquake August 20, last and several severe typhoons; the later are common here during the rainy season.

Please convey my best wishes and kindest regards to all the members of Base 21, and thank you again for sending me **The Rouen Post**.

I will inform you of my change of address next July when I return to the U. S. Until then my address will be here as shown in this letter head. Mrs. Hester is here with me. My two children are in the U. S. Daughter married and living in Baltimore; son (21) is in second year at V. P. I., Blacksburg, Va.

With best wishes for the success of Rouen Post, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Thomas G. Hester,

Captain, Medical Administrative Corps.

Philippine Medical Depot
8th St., Port Area
Manila, P. I.

CLARKSVILLE BOY MAKES GOOD

Dr. Malvern B. Clopton, President of the Washington University Corporation, was elected President of the State Board of Health January 6, succeeding Dr. E. Sanborn Smith of Kirksville.

The former Commanding Officer of Mobile Hospital No. 4, A. E. F. has been a member of the Board of Health since last May. He has an office in the Beaumont Building and lives at Clarksville, Mo.

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G. V. Hackett, of Webster Groves, is the only former member of Mobile 4 living in or near St. Louis who did not have previous service in Base Hospital 21. Hackett joined Mobile 4 at the training camp in Paris, and after serving as a stretcher bearer at La Grange au Bois and Cheppy, was transferred to duty at Le Mans. He is married, has two children and is employed by the American Brass Company.