

THE MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD

Thunderbolt

Vol. II MILLVILLE, N. J., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1945 No. XVII

HUNDREDS AWAIT RELEASE

Nazi Escapee Tells Of Gestapo Brutality To Allied Prisoners

To 26-year-old Lt. Jack Terzian of New York City, Base Photo Officer here, and former Thunderbolt pilot, the indictment being drawn up by the United Nations against German war criminals is not merely another news story.



Lt. Jack Terzian

'THREE GRADERS' CLUB LIQUIDATES ITSELF FOR 'NON-COM' GROUP

Mass Meeting Thursday

The year-long "First Three Grader's Club", blessed with an assortment of other names, will close up shop next Wednesday night with an all-out self liquidation party for all members in good standing. In its wake, a new group, composed of members in all the non-commissioned ranks, will rise.

"Big Wheel" prexy, M/Sgt. John J. Gardner, announced today that an all-base "non-com" mass-meeting will be held on Thursday, at 1600, in the Base Theatre. Here plans for the new organization will be formulated, officers elected, and a constitution adopted. "For months," declared Gardner, "a movement has been developing among the 'First Three Graders' to liberalize the Club, and permit the entry of all non-commissioned officers. We have been given the 'green light' by Col. Mason, and that is why the present outfit is folding up."

BASE BABE BAGS BANNER

To Thunderbolt pilot Lt. E. E. Middleton and Mrs. Middleton, of Philadelphia, Pa., a powerful 10 and 34 pound baby boy arrived this week at England General Hospital. Army doctors have proclaimed the bambino the healthiest and most robust youngster in the records of that institution.

To him it is a living, pulsating document in which he has a personal stake. He felt the wrath of Nazism in the fading hours of their power...

On his 68th mission over German-occupied Belgium in May, 1944, his blunt-nosed P-47 flew straight into a nest of anti-aircraft guns. Riddled by flak he was forced to crash land on a farm near Brussels. Found by a farmer, he was directed to a house in a nearby village that turned out to be the home of members of the Belgian underground.

Journey's End

They tailored a suit for him in three days, and started him on the first lap of a journey to freedom that ended abruptly when six Gestapo agents roused him from bed one morning and shoved pistols in his face. The Germans were tipped off by a Nazi-tortured Belgian that an American pilot was being shuttled by Allied sympathizers to a neutral country.

Questioned by German intelligence as to who aided him in his evasion, Lt. Terzian steadfastly refused to comment. Whereupon a husky soldier proceeded to shake him violently, and before he could catch his breath an officer slugged him until he was knocked cold.

For four days the Nazis kept Terzian incommunicado in a foul, fetid, cell three feet long and six feet wide. He slept on a bug-infested straw mattress. Three one-inch holes in the wall where a bit of light penetrated were plugged. In terrifying darkness gruff guards brought him bread and water twice a day.

Cruel Treatment

Finally he was pulled out of his cell and placed in a yard with 26 hand-picked Belgians who were held as hostages by the Germans. There he underwent the most cruel and merciless treatment at the hands of his captors. Later, he alone was transferred from the cage, put on a train, and found himself packed tight in a box car jammed with British and American captured soldiers. That night the train was derailed, and braving the fire from German guards the Allied prisoners made a break for it. The next morning they were picked up by a civilian wearing a white band on his arm, and were told that the Underground, hearing of the British advance through Flanders, had captured the City of Brussels.

REPLACEMENTS

"Rusty", the prolific "Heinz" pooch of the Rag Dragger's outfit, added new laurels this week to her storied career. Laboring loudly without the aid of anesthesia or a midwife, she delivered a litter of 11 pups to the proud dogfaces of the Tow Target Section. Hot diggity dog!

Scores Revised to Speed Separation; Vets Due Home Within Month

First Air Force has given Millville Air Field the "go ahead" flash this week on readjusting critical scores up to September 2, 1945, and over 200 enlisted men holding 80 points, and those within the 35-year-of-age or older bracket

will be transferred to Separation Centers as soon as possible, a Personnel Department spokesman disclosed today. Over 150 officers have also been alerted for immediate return to civilian life, the same source added.

Feverish preparations for the processing of the discharges are being made by the Headquarters group, and all Base administrative machinery is being geared to insure a swift and smooth flow of men to their homes. At the same time it was learned that along with the sudden liquidation of Squadron X, the pre-VJ overseas replacement pool, enlisted personnel with 45 points or more would not be sent to foreign duty, unless they volunteered for such service.

Speculation Rises

While Base demobilization machinery began to grind more quickly, speculation on the future of this installation rose in intensity. The City of Millville, having more than a mere curiosity in its neighboring airbase, dispatched a prominent official to Mitchel Field to determine the status of the Post. First Air Force frankly stated that any contemplated changes in the activities of continental airbases was in the hands of the War Department. No additional light was shed from any other source, but current Air Force policy indicates that sufficient notice would be given this command in the event any change in status was contemplated.

Manpower shortages in key departments are still critical. As enlisted personnel leave the Base, civilian employee wives of these soldiers are tendering their resignation, adding to current operational problems. However, it was authoritatively stated that with the tapering off of the gunnery program and the consolidation of interlocking departments, present difficulties will soon be overcome.

MISSION COMPLETED



The ruins of Germany, the rubble-heaped Japanese atolls in the Pacific, the staggering toll of thousands of enemy aircraft destroyed, testify to the monumental role played by the P-47 Thunderbolt in the historic achievements of the Army Air Forces. For years Thunderbolt pilots roared over the pine woods of Millville Airbase to learn the art of gunnery, and skills acquired were translated into heaping destruction and paralysis upon would-be world conquerors. As the dawn of a new day for mankind approaches, the Thunderbolt assumes a new function in the ascending star of aviation—spanning the skies of the earth to assure the birth of everlasting peace.

Airmen Leave For Recruiting School

Down from the clouds this week came Major Johnnie V. Haselby, Lt. Charley L. Williamson, and Lt. Walter Baron to assume a new role for Uncle Sam. The former Axis triple-threat were assigned to an Army Recruiting School in Boston, and upon completion of their studies will help launch the forthcoming all-out campaign for enlistments in the Regular Army.

BUFFET MEAL SUNDAY STARTS SOCIAL WHIRL

A gala cocktail party, buffet supper and dansant, will be held tomorrow evening at the Officer's Club, Maj. J. F. Kirkendall, Entertainment Director, announced this week. Plans for a series of week-end socials are also underway, it was learned, and a formal affair in the near future, with a "name" band feature presentation, is also under discussion.

ALUMNI NOTES

Penell-pushers T/Sgt. Frank Spurr and S/Sgt. Tony Sagona, formerly of Base Headquarters, are now construction supervisors in a Washington-based Aviation Engineer outfit. First Sergeant Charley McNesple is learning to operate a steam shovel. Maj. W. C. M. Johnston is on the high seas, Western Pacific bound. Tall, smooth Lloyd P. Carlos, who had several teeth knocked out last winter playing hockey for the Base, saw his gold leaf turn silver this week.

THE MILLVILLE ARMY AIRFIELD Thunderbolt

MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD
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A Tale of Three Cities

As we emerge from the agony of war and turn our eyes toward a better world, we believe it propitious to pause momentarily and express our gratitude and appreciation to the people of Cumberland County for the interest and generosity they have extended to the men of Millville Army Airbase during the years we were engaged in training combat airmen for the battle skies of the world.

This airfield took its place in the South Jersey scene in the fall of 1942. For reasons of security, participation by civilians in the activities on the installation was highly restricted, and naturally, to the initiated, the Post became a Pandora's box of secrets. Not so were the men who trained here. From every State in the Union they brought their families to Millville, Vineland, and Bridgeton; they married local girls, fraternized with the townsfolk and soon were absorbing the customs of their neighbors, and at the same time stimulating dynamic changes in the folkways of local life.

Townpeople saw in each airbase soldier a reflection of their own kin scattered to the remote corners of the earth in the service of Uncle Sam. Instinctively they extended the same sympathies and welcome to our men that they wanted accorded their children elsewhere. Sectional prejudices, social distinctions, and community rivalry of pre-war days vanished with GI Joe's coming to town. America had established a beachhead on the Matuxie River.

When the people of Cumberland County heard that we didn't have a recreation hall they sponsored "Prop Wash", a soldier variety show, and raised \$9,000 for the construction of one. When a prominent citizen of Bridgeton heard that several of our boys intended to marry home-town sweethearts but didn't have the financial wherewithal, he dug down deep in his pockets and launched the couples on the nuptial road. For years now, Red Cross volunteer workers have waited on Officers at their mess, and last winter, braving bitter cold, Salvation Army workers were around to give linemen a cup of coffee, a sandwich, and a cheery smile while they manned their posts making certain that at dawn's break the Thunderbolters were ready to take off on their missions.

Thousands of Officers and enlisted men have passed through the gates of Millville Airbase on to the now silent fields of conflict. Each learned here the grim rules of war—and each also learned that his neighbors in the three cities, like Americans everywhere, were behind him straight down the line.

FROM THE PULPIT

By Chaplain Horace M. King

Optimism — Another Victory

Optimism—we need it. It is the key to happier and better fellowships. We want it, enjoy it and yet can't buy it. We have to achieve it. We grow it within our attitudes. Optimism is the spirit of joyous hope and confidence. To be well founded it has to be based on common sense.

You can see signs of it in a wholesome smile, in a hearty greeting, in the spirit of good humor, in the way men throw off gloom and say "good morning" with a verve and glad warmth. Everybody likes optimism. It's good for the headaches which pain our pals.



Readjustment

Every day moves us a day nearer home. The Japanese fall

came sooner than we expected. Congress is hastening discharges. A committee is busy breaking bottlenecks. We can begin a process of readjustment right here on the field. We can get well along the way of re-converting ourselves. The first adjustment we shall have to make is an attitude adjustment. There is scarcely anything which we can take home with us which will be more valuable than a glowing spirit of optimism. Try within yourself to win the victory over pessimism. "Smile and the world smiles with you." "The cheerful grin will let you in where the kicker is unknown."

After all there's a great deal we can be thankful about. Optimism is one of the fruits of real gratitude. It is contagious. If an epidemic of optimism breaks out on this field what a delightful time we shall have.

Smile the smile of gloom-destroying joyfulness, and win that peacetime victory.



Dear Editor:

This lone voice in the wilderness would like to ask what happened to our German prisoners who strutted around here last year? Me-thinks it high time they returned and did a day's work in the kitchen of "Ye Ole Mess Hole". Last time I saw a group of those guys they were laughing and kidding with some dames who were working in a local factory. Let's get 'em back here and force them to pay for some of their crimes.

Pfc. K. P.

Dear Editor:

In your last editorial you urged us who are about to return to civilian life to have courage; that new economic frontiers were bound to open; that Congress was going to put a gold spoon in our kissers. All that is fine stuff, but you didn't say where these economic frontiers would open, and when the gold spoon was going to come our way. Why not be realistic about things?

Lt. R. G.

Dear Editor:

Inasmuch as I am about to go back into civilian life, and have not the proverbial pot with which to get started, and feeling that my suggestions, per-mit EM to vote on whether they prefer family allowance or cash payments in lieu of quarters for dependents; increased overseas pay on a graduated scale beginning at 20 per cent and increasing 5 per cent annually up to a maximum of 35 per cent; liberalized allowances for the lower 4 grades; continuance of free postage; liberalized retirement policy; payment of mustering out pay to men discharged for reenlistment in the Regular Army; payment of transportation and subsistence during reenlistment furlough.

S/Sgt. R. L. P.

Dear Editor:

A lot of yelping has been started by GIs and officers who feel that this country owes them a living because they were in the Army for several years. I would like to remind them that they took a beating from all sides in order to: (a), preserve the nation which helped give them the good things in life for which they now yearn; (b), safeguard their own skins from the enemy, and the skins of their families; (c), That everything reasonable is being done for veterans that should be done. And I would like to add that those who did the least in winning the war, are now yelling the loudest.

Pvt. Joe LaSalle

Clothing Survey For Vets

(ACS)—A survey conducted by a leading clothing manufacturer indicates that discharged soldiers will spend an average of \$60 for new clothing as a starter in civilian life.

This is not the cost of a complete outfit, by any means. The estimated average is on the vet's first clothing purchases immediately on discharge from the Army.

Thunderbolt Congratulated

A high ranking representative of the First Air Force's Inspector General's Department personally congratulated the staff of Thunderbolt for the "outstanding job being performed in bringing home the vital facts of 'separation' to members of this Command."

Missing From GI Bill of Rights



ARMY, NAVY URGE MORE DOUGH FOR EM

Washington, (CNS) — A joint Army-Navy Board in charge of the enlistment program submitted a number of proposals to boost voluntary enlistment in the regular Army and Navy to the House Military Affairs Committee. The idea is to make continuance of the draft unnecessary.

Of this number 7609 are enlisted men and 1206 are officers. During August, 88 officers left First Air Force for overseas assignment; 262 went to other commands including Army Service Forces and to other services.

Congress would have to approve these proposals to make them effective.

KNOW YOUR AIR FORCE

Last week First Air Force headquarters was happy to "come home" Colonel Ralph Richards, who has been assigned to this command as First Air Force Quartermaster, a position which he held from February 1942 until March, 1943, when he left this headquarters to be Chief Quartermaster in the quarters CBI in India. After months' service overseas, Richards has returned to continue his excellent work in this command. Col. Richards started his military career as an enlisted man in April, 1922, when he was assigned to Quartermaster Corps, United States Army. He received direct commission in August, 1922, and from December, 1920, December, 1922, did reserve work in Europe with the American Graves Registration Service.

He wears the Victory Medal of World War I, the Army Occupation medal, American Defense Medal, American Theater Ribbon, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with battle stars for India-Burma and Central Burma campaigns.

One of the most interesting round-ups of figures of these tired old eyes of our number of enlisted men and officers who were lost to command in the month of August, to overseas assignment to other commands, or relief for discharge. The approximate and somewhat earth-shaking total is 9815. Of this number 7609 are enlisted men and 1206 are officers. During August, 88 officers left First Air Force for overseas assignment; 262 went to other commands including Army Service Forces and to other services.

Of the enlisted personnel left First Air Force during August, 984 enlisted men and 1206 enlisted women were transferred to the Army Service Forces duty assignments in separate centers; 2514 were shipped on project numbers or assignments; 131 enlisted men and 1206 enlisted women were transferred to other Air Forces in this try, and 3675 went to separate centers for discharge in accordance with the Army system of point or age discharge.

The Wolf

by Sanson

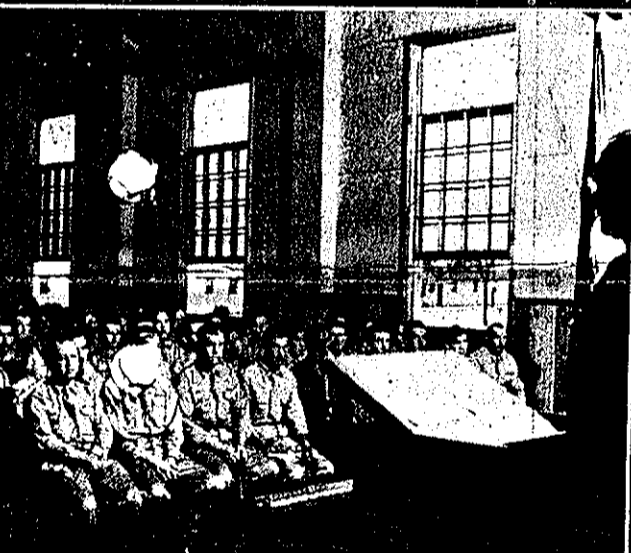
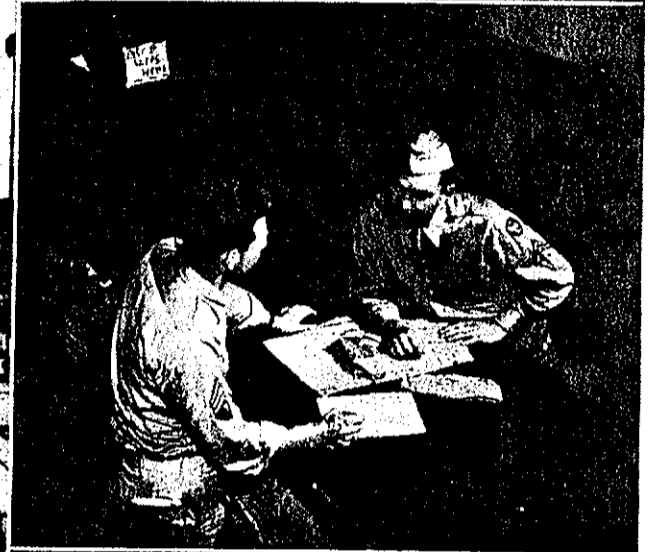


"Why, yes! As a matter of fact I am rather busy!"

THE ROAD BACK --

AS HUNDREDS of battle-tested officers and enlisted men at Millville Army Air Field stand poised to begin their homeward trek, we assigned a member of our staff, Lt. Jack Tew, to cover the story of what a typical dischargee encounters at a Separation Center in the feverish hours of his demobilization. Off to Fort Dix, N. J., went our reporter, accompanied by Lt. Jack Terzian, Base Photo Officer, to document in words and pictures GI Joe's farewell to arms. We selected Cpl. Manny Schneider, a high point holder, to act as the subject of our mission.

In the next edition of Thunderbolt we will follow Manny into his first few days as a civilian. We will graphically portray the manner in which he spans the yawning gap of years that he spent in the service of his country. Perhaps our readers' experience, in the early hours of readjustment, will parallel those of Cpl. Schneider as he steps off the train in "Hometown, USA."



The conversion of GI Joe, the Soldier, to John Q. Citizen, the Civilian, in 48 hours or less is the rigid policy followed by the hard-working Service Forces at the U. S. Army Separation Center at Fort Dix, N. J. The dischargee may rest assured that when he reaches this center he will be there only for a maximum of two days, and will not be caught in the old Army snare of "hurry up and wait." From the moment the soldier arrives at the Center he is constantly on the go, interrupting the separation processes only for sleeping and eating. The gang at Dix have been working at this game for many months, and have streamlined their operation to the point where 1,500 GIs and 200 Officers are discharged daily.

When the dischargee reports to the Separation Center he is taken to the Initial Reporting Post, where he is signed in. Here his records are taken from him and eventually follow him around the Post. Our man was assigned to a group of about 150 men who were processed as a unit. These groups form rapidly and "processing squads" take-off about every two hours.

The first step is a stop-over at Company Orientation, where the men are briefed on the methods of separation, told how long it will take, and given other pertinent information vital to keeping the revolving doors going.

Then it's General Counselling, where, in a personal interview, Army records are brought up-to-date, pay and allowances straightened

out, and the men are told how and why their National Service Life Insurance should be kept up in civilian life. There is also a comprehensive explanation of the GI Bill of Rights and other opportunities offered to veterans of World War II.

Leaving Counselling, the group is taken for a physical examination. This is followed by Clothing Issue. At this station a shakedown inspection is given and all excess government property is taken away. Every man is also given a complete set of sunbans and a set of O. D.'s, along with the cloth discharge emblem sewn on the shirt front.

There follows a visit to the Finance Office where men are paid in full and also receive a cash allowance of \$.05 per mile for transportation to the point of enlistment. The first \$100 installment on mustering out pay and the bronze discharge insignia are also distributed. There is a railroad ticket office adjacent to the Finance building for the convenience of dischargees where rail tickets to any point in the United States may be purchased.

The last step is called "Final Talk," and is a short lecture delivered at the Chapel. Thereafter the men are presented individually with certificates of Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, and walk out free men, completely on their own, stripped of Army entitlements and responsibilities.

P. S. There is also a recruiting office of the Enlisted Reserve Corps nearby.



MAAF-SPORTS LOG

By Lt. Syd Nemarow

A BASE OLYMPIAD

For many a moon it has been the custom of your reporter to browse about the environs of the Base gym, catch a bit of gossip here, observe an interesting sight there, return to his cubby hole, and pound out a "learned" tome on all things pertaining to matters of physical culture. Alas, lads, I am deep in the throes of depression. Nary an item can I sweat out of the muscle palace these days. Spirits of past glory pervade the halls, but only sporadic chilly winds now sweep the emporium and portend a bleak future.

Can we sit idly by and permit cobwebs to form on the rafters we saw built? Joe Pishioneri's ghost rises before me, and shakes a bony finger. "Go forth", it seems to say, "and restore the grandeur that once belonged here. Don't rest your befogged brain, but saddle your bronco, and gather the athletic hosts of Millville!" Far be it from me to defy the occult powers that beckon. Here is what I propose:

As soon as conditions on the Base become stabilized, and a degree of permanency in personnel is visible, why not have an all-Post Olympiad? We probably could "con" the Central Post Fund to offer prizes, and contests in track, boxing, paddle ball, wrestling, and paddle tennis could be held. Of course, the burden of organizing an Olympics would fall on the husky shoulders of the Gym Department. But, in the final analysis, isn't that what they are getting paid for? If past cooperation in such matters is an indication of their mood, I am certain the idea could be turned into a brilliant project.

To follow the thought through, I am going to submit the same proposal to all Army and Navy installations in South Jersey. Perhaps we could work out a deal whereby a day will be set apart at some local stadium for a good, old fashioned, All-Service Field Day. This, incidentally, is in conformity with present Army and Navy policies stressing the need of recreational activities on all bases. It is possible, of course, that I am doing a lot of unrealistic planning. I dislike been accused of having rocks in my head. Why not drop into the Thunderbolt office and let me hear what you think? If we can arouse sufficient interest in an "All-Base Olympiad", we'll helter-skelter to the front office and try to get a nod of approval—or mebbe—something else . . .

Air Force Eleven Boasts of Former College Athletes

An impressive roster of players, highlighted by a number of former pro and college grid stars, was revealed today by Major Jesse Yarborough, head coach of the ACES, the new First Air Force football team.

Yarborough announced his 46-man squad after he and Lt. "Tarzan" White, Major Clyde Crabtree and Lt. James Goolsby, his assistants, had spent several weeks putting a long list of candidates through their try-out paces.

From the ranks of the professionals, comes the Georgia GI, Pvt. Bill Paschal, ex-N. Y. Giant back and champion ground gainer of the National League in both 1943 and 1944. A teammate of Paschal's on the Giants will also be on the ACES with Bill—tackle Frank Damiani, who ranks Paschal by two stripes.

A Stack of ACES
Still another former Giant turned ACE is the All-American fullback "Tarzan" White who will serve as a player-coach. Named on more than a half-dozen All-American selections in 1935 and 1936, the former University of Alabama star went on to play for the Giants in 1937, 1938, and 1939, and for the Cardinals in 1940 and 1941.

Other former pros playing for the ACES include Pfc. Joe Pasqua, who used to be a tackle for the Washington Redskins and the Cleveland Rams, and before that for Southern Methodist. Among the ends is that veteran griddier, Staff Sgt. George Platakis, who has 13 years of civilian football to his credit; 4 years of High School ball, 3 with Duquesne, 4 with the Pittsburgh Steelers and 1 with the Rams.

The ACES open their season against the Air Transport Command on September 22 at Vanderbilt Stadium, Nashville, Tenn., and follow up with a September 29 game against the Fort Pierce Navy Amphibs at the Orange Bowl in Miami. They'll play two games in the New York area—against the AAF Training Command at Ebbetts Field on November 11 and against the Second Air Force at Freeport Stadium, Long Island, on November 18.

Lt. Bill Snyder Cops Base Net Title By Stopping Sgt. Roddick In Final

The curtain rang down last week on the dizziest carnival in Millville Airfield's sport's history, when Lt. Bill Snyder whipped Sgt. Johnny Roddick in the net final playoff, 6-3, 7-5, at the YMCA courts in Millville.

Employing a powerful backhand stroke, and utilizing the same speed which helped him trounce the Mitchel Field netmeister earlier in the season, the 27-year-old Officer from Staten Island, N. Y., found the last round competition easy going. Roddick, the GI hope, threatened in the last set, but Snyder's steady returns finally wore his opponent down.



NET CHAMP

Organized last Spring by Lt. Luis (the flash) Banos, the Tennis Club's career was fraught with constant disaster. Days of drippy weather, coupled with the steady flow of transferees left Luis, the rage of the papas, dejected and frustrated. Every industrial and service team that met the local clan set them skimping back to nurse their tennis wounds. The intrabase competition was even a sorrier spectacle, but Banos "manana" philosophy saw the comedy of errors through to its finale.

SPECIAL SERVICES



- Sunday, September 16
"Kiss and Tell"
Walter Abel, Shirley Temple
- Monday, September 17
"Caribbean Mystery"
James Dunn, Shella Ryan
- Tuesday, September 18
"The Strange Affair of Uncle Harry"
George Sanders, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Ella Raines
- Thursday, September 20
"Captain Kidd"
Charles Laughton, Barbara Britton, Randolph Scott
- Friday, September 21
Double Feature
"Why Girls Leave Home"

Pamela Blake, Sheldon Leonard and "Blazing the Western Trail" Charles Starrett, Carole Mathews.

- SERVICE CLUB**
- Sunday, September 16
"Open House"
 - Monday, September 17
"Recorded Rhythms"
 - Tuesday, September 18
Dancing Classes
 - Wednesday, September 19
"Sweetheart Nite"
 - Thursday, September 20
"Club Kibitzers"
 - Friday, September 21
Unit Dance
 - Saturday, September 22
"The Loneliest Night of the Week"

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"

