

THE MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD

Thunderbolt

Vol. II

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No. XIX

BASE TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Spaniards Hailed Potsdam Rap Of Franco Says Veteran Gunner

Flabby Francisco Franco, the double-dealing, fascist-minded dictator of Spain, has the faculty of earning the enmity not only of chiefs of states, but everyone coming in contact with his seamy influences. His latest critic, a sharp-tongued, observant G.I., S/Sgt.

Steve Krawczynski, of New Britain, Connecticut, alludes to Spain today as "Hitler's last chain store."

A Flying Fortress tail gunner, Sgt. Krawczynski was shot down over Holland last year, and with the help of the Dutch Underground made his way across the Pyrenees into Spain. While in Madrid and Barcelona the evadee managed to get around sufficiently to study conditions and sample the sentiments of the Spanish people. "Generalissimo Franco is about as popular with his people as a chaperone at a blanket party, says the evadee. If the people weren't terrorized by the Phalangists, his strong arm boys, they would toss him to the bulls."

Ready For a Change

From reliable sources Krawczynski learned that over 85 percent of the people are ready for

a change in government, and welcomed the denunciations of Franco by the Big Three at the recent Potsdam Conference. "I'll go out on a limb and predict," says the gunner, "that Franco will be out of office before I am out of the Army—and I have enough points already to run a military black market."

Krawczynski went on to say that the people discussed politics in hushed whispers, and still bear the scars of the recent civil war. They also know, he continued, that were it not for Italy and Germany tossing in their military strength during that struggle, Franco would be standing on a hot tamale line today. "Spain is emotionally and politically in sympathy with democracy," the Sergeant declared, "and would do anything to throw off the yoke of the phoney, blustering puppet of Hitler and Il Duee."

Old and Regular Vets Rush to Colors

The most extensive recruiting campaign in Army history which began early this month has resulted here in the enlistment of over 23 enlisted men for a three year hitch, Maj. J. F. Kirkendall, officer-in-charge announced this week.

Among the first to rush for post-war service were old time regular army men who linked their star to a military career after World War I. Many other younger soldiers, and some recent discharges, are also taking advantage of the liberalized enlistment bonus, furlough, and choice of theatre, in the event of assignment to foreign duty, Maj. Kirkendall added.

"One amusing incident occurred this week," the officer related, "Probably typifies the sentiment of many. A former Millville Airbase soldier came into my office, his discharge button glistened brilliantly under the office light, and asked to be re-enlisted. When I asked him why, he sheepishly replied, 'I can't find a place to buy any good food'."

In a sudden, dramatic announcement, Millville Army Airfield, one of the foremost Air Force gunnery schools on the Eastern Seaboard, received orders late this week straight from the War Department, to begin immediate, temporary

First Air Force Separates Its Own

Mitchel Field, Long Island—The first three First Air Force bases to establish and operate Air Force Separation Centers, Mitchel Field, Seymour Johnson Field and Westover Field, started processing separatees last Monday morning. Each base has facilities to process 100 men a day, and will gradually add more space and personnel to the Separation Center in order to discharge an increasingly greater number of men. It is the aim of the Army Air Forces that its personnel receive their discharge within 300 miles of their homes, and discharges will be transferred to such stations for processing. Pre-separation counselling is given at the home base, and the center is concerned primarily with making a final check of all records, giving a final physical, and providing vocational guidance if such be requested.

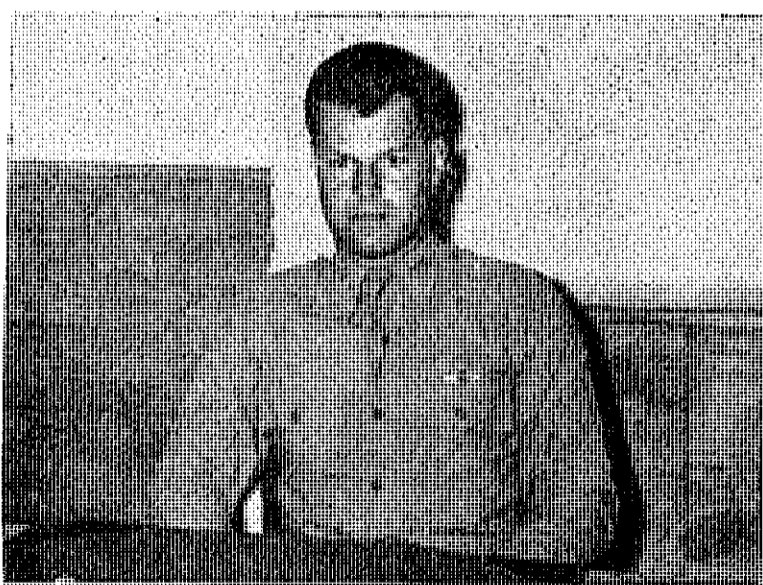
deactivation under existing regulations. The 'close shop' order was first learned here when the Public Relations Office was alerted to release the story to the press today.

Thus after three years of supplying the combat zones of the world a never-ending supply of Thunderbolt fighters and ground crews, Millville Air Field has officially accomplished its primary mission.

The announcement came here close on the heels of a rumor that Base personnel was to be drastically reduced. No confirmation of these reports could be obtained from Headquarters, and though the temporary deactivation flash was expected and anti-climatic, still it was received with considerable surprise in some quarters.

What immediate effect the announcement would have on personnel here was not learned. All officers and enlisted men were placed, however, on "stand-by" orders, awaiting clarification of the earlier telegram.

THUNDERBOLT'S HALL OF FAME



As twilight descends upon the Thunderbolt gunnery program of Millville Airfield, we select from the pages of our history personalities whose contributions enriched the mission and lore of this Base. During their tour of duty Millville Airfield grew from an isolated Army Air Force installation in South New Jersey to a top ranking, influential spot in the magnificent training role of the First Air Force. These men lent their combat knowledge, organizing skill, and sheer devotion to duty to achieve for Millville Army Air Field the distinguished reputation which it has today.

After the early days of the Base saw a procession of short-term Commanding Officers, word reached here that the various tactical squadrons and parent groups were to be merged under one command. Upon the shoulders of (left) Lt. Col. Stanley G. Huey, a veteran of the Aleutian campaign, fell the high responsibility of solving the thorny problems of deactivation and reorganization. With rare executive ability he accomplished his mission in record time, and turned over a Base containing a vast fighter-bomber training potential to Lt. Col. Tarleton H. Watkins.

During the administration of Col. Watkins Millville Airfield emerged from comparative obscurity to its present prominence on the Eastern Sea-

board. His chapter in the Base history is studded with such accomplishments as separation from Camp Springs, Washington, D. C., initiation and completion of a \$700,000 building program, vast improvements in public relations, soldier morale, and pilot facilities. Also a veteran airman, Col. Watkins was assigned last summer to Shaw Field, South Carolina. Behind him he left an enviable heritage of accomplishment.

Legion in number are the enlisted men who gave of their all to Millville Airfield. From the thousands of unsung, hardworking GIs whose names never graced the annals of our records we came to T/Sgt. Mike Arooth. His flight log in combat reveals only 14 combat missions. In this time he knocked out nine Nazi planes and scored six probables. When he arrived here his orientation lectures, and attempt to bridge for the uninitiated the gap between training and battle earns him this periodical's accolade.

Twice in his time, first in the very early days of Millville Airbase, and today, fate has beckoned Col. Joe L. Mason. In the Fall of 1942 he brought the first gunnery unit here for training, and staged a spectacle of flying and shooting for local citizens which is still remembered. Now, in the frenzy of demobilization and personal dislocation, his is the duty to speed deserving military personnel to home and a new life.

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MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD
 Millville, New Jersey (Phone 1100, Ext. 71)

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LT. SYDNEY R. NEMAROW Editor

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(All Photos by Base Photo Laboratory Personnel)

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The Truth About a GI Loan

The soldier who has happily lulled himself to sleep secure in the belief that when he returns home a government-guaranteed loan awaits him in his local bank, merely because he served Uncle Sam for 90 days or more, is going to be rudely awakened. No beaming bank cashier is going to rush from his desk and present you with a huge check when he sees your discharge button. That GI loan is a down-to-earth, realistic business venture to Uncle Sam, and before you, as a veteran, can see a red cent, you will have to prove to the bank, and the Veteran's Administration, that you are a darn good risk.

In other words, if you were a grocery clerk before entering the Army, and decide now that you would rather own and operate a hardware store, and request a GI loan from your bank, your chance of obtaining same would be slim; mainly, because of your inexperience in that field of endeavor. Now, mind you, the bankers aren't turning down business. They would very much prefer to extend you credit, but, the government, who is secondarily liable in the event of your default in payment, steps in and starts asking questions.

The Veteran's Administration conducts an exhaustive investigation into your Army record, education, personal traits, past employment, capabilities, prevailing market conditions, and a host of these vital facts. All this time you are "sweating out" the decision and are making preparatory plans for launching your enterprise. A local banker tells us that a delay of two months before acceptance or rejection of a loan is a normal waiting period. And, if the all-scrutinizing eye of Uncle Sam evaluates the contemplated business as a mathematical certainty to fail, the loan is turned down.

The same conditions govern a request for a home loan. If the offered sales or building price is out of line with the assessed value of the property, the government will make no guarantee. And, it is interesting to note that inspectors for the Veteran's Administration determine real estate values, in terms of normal, peace-time appraisalment.

Therefore, we advise servicemen contemplating starting a business of their own, or who intend building or purchasing a home, to fortify themselves with a file of facts and figures proving their personal responsibility, and the soundness of their project. Otherwise, the shock of disappointment to the veteran, may render him useless for other remunerative ventures.

FROM THE PURPLE

By Chaplain Horace M. King

There is much furor about the investigation of the Pearl Harbor "surprise." Now is added the demand that the disaster of the "Belgian Bulge" be investigated.



On Little Things

A good light on the way ahead shows up the minor details and defects. It reveals the importance of little things and shows the high value of what many persons thrust aside as of no meaning.

Careless little errors are putting friends and fellow-soldiers in uncomfortable spots right along.

One man is missing a permanent position held open for him two weeks. The clerk in his outfit failed to record a tour of duty in Burma. He sits here now needing one point for discharge.

Another G.I. would have been transferred to within a few miles of his home if the administrative assistant in another field had just kept his records up to date.

A project "R" man cannot get home as urgently as he is needed because the carbon copy of recommendations for the purple heart and additional clusters failed to more forward to this Base with his 201 file.

It is more popular to look back and tell how much better affairs could have been managed than to look forward and manage one's own affairs so as to prevent painful surprises and deadly disaster.

We certainly need to see where we are going as well as where we have been. This applies to the men immediately being discharged. What type of planning has been done? It also applies to those who look forward to release within a few months. Are letters which go home and which go to hometown contacts such that they will prepare the way for a "happy landing" and a successful re-entry into civilian life?

THAT'S NEAT!



Messages

One of the most gala events to liven this headquarters in lo, these many moths, was the party held on September 17th, honoring Major General Frank O'D. Hunter on the second anniversary of his assumption of command of the First Air Force. The gods seemed to smile upon the Officers' Club that night. And if we lapse into superlatives to describe the geniality of the atmosphere, the excellence of the food, the beauty of the decorations, the quality of the entertainment, the impressiveness of the guest list, and above all, the overwhelming enthusiasm for our commanding general, it is a justifiable attempt to depict the success of the affair.

In addition to First Air Force officers and their guests, the General's guest list included Major General Follett Bradley, (former commanding general of this command) and Mrs. Bradley, Brigadier General and Mrs. A. W. Marriner, Colonel Arthur R. Christie, Washington representative of Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Corporation, who was General Hunter's first commanding officer in World War I, Colonel E. O. Hunter, brother of the General who recently returned from the India-Burma Theater, Colonel Julian Stanley, (Chief of Staff of General Hunter's VIII Fighter Command in England and later Chief of Staff for Bases of FAF) and Mrs. Stanley, Colonel Flickinger, Republic Aviation Corporation executive, and Mrs. Flickinger, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tibbett, Mr. William Goulding, vice-president of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Mr. T. E. Tillinghast, (vice-president of Pratt & Whitney) and Mrs. Tillinghast.

One of the most heart-warming features of the party was the pretence of three of the four Chiefs of Staff who have served under General Hunter since his assumption of command of First Air Force. Brigadier General Richard E. Nugent, recently returned from the European Theater, where he was in command of the 27th Tactical Air Command, who was General Hunter's first Chief of Staff, received an enthusiastic welcome.



Dear Editor:

You have a darn good paper in Thunderbolt. How about listing some want ads for us guys returning to civilian life, and don't have jobs.

Signed,
 Worried

(Ed. Note): Your idea, if executed, would prove ineffective. Thunderbolt news is disseminated primarily to Base Personnel, their families, local communities, and higher Air Force echelon. Prospective employers, scattered far and wide, would never see a copy of the paper. However, if you wish to publicize your honorable discharge from the service, stressing special talents, we would be happy to release the story to your hometown newspaper. Visit us at your leisure, and we will oblige. This service, incidentally, is available to all our personnel, and is a definite duty of Public Relations. We urge you to take advantage of our willingness to help.

Dear Editor:

Congress hasn't thought of one bill that would please all GIs. Why not start lobbying for a bill that would add to a soldier's life-span the number of years he has spent in the Army? In other words, if a GI has spent three years in the Army, Congress can decree that he should live three years beyond his time. Perhaps it can be added as an amendment to the GI Bill of Rights. Naturally, the Bill would be subject to the veto by the One power over our President.

Signed,
 Yours For a
 Longer Life

(Ed. Note): No comment.

Dear Editor:

I wish to thank Thunderbolt and you for the swell publicity you gave my invention of the Dzus Fastener. As a result of your interest I think that I will, at long last, get my promotion.

Signed,
 Cpl. McLimans.

Sunday Buffet Meal Popular Attraction

The lush quarters of the Officer's Den will sparkle brilliantly tomorrow evening, when the bi-weekly Cocktail party, buffet supper, and dansant takes place. A favorite week-end attraction, the buffet supper is attracting many officers and their families.

Bell Telephone Co. Envisions Scores Of New Positions

A \$2,000,000,000 expansion program which will provide 70,000 new jobs is ready to get under way in the operating subsidiaries of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. It will start as soon as materials are available, according to A T & T's Bell Telephone magazine.

The program provides a special opportunity for Signal Corps and Air Corps veterans with experience in the repair and maintenance of communications equipment; for most of the new positions are of a mechanical nature.

A considerable proportion of these jobs will be in the Western Electric Co., the AT&T subsidiary which manufactures nearly all telephone and telegraph equipment used by the Bell System. The major factories of Western Electric are situated in Kearny, N. J., near Newark; Hawthorne, Ill., near Chicago; and Point Breeze, Md., near Baltimore.

Many other men will be required in the 20-odd operating companies which actually provide telephone service, for here is a capsule view of war-detained telephone projects and of the development, extension, and improvement of existing services, according to the Bell magazine.

The first aim of AT&T will be to provide telephone service to some 2,000,000 applicants who have been unable to receive it during the war.

The Wolf

by Sansone



The Return Of A Native - -

From Ft. Dix's Separation Center to his home in New York, came ex-Cpl. Manny Schneider, a former Clerk at Millville Army Air Base. Still wearing his uniform he stumbled through a day of uncertainty, in which he tried to find a solution for his many personal problems.



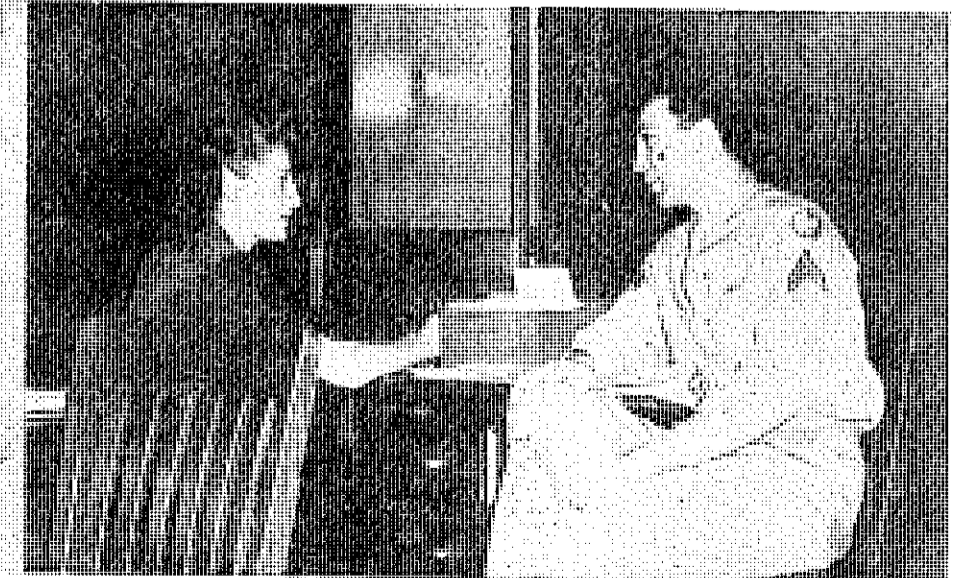
WINDOW SHOPPING in Gotham's clothing district went Cpl. Manny Schneider. Some of the latest models he beheld were far beyond his capacity. Doing some quick mental arithmetic he decided to spend about \$36 for a tweed suit.

INFORMATION PLEASE. After overcoming the instinctive impulse of changing garb, Manny got down to business. There were several important items on his schedule. Selective Service had to be visited, the U. S. Employment Office had to be contacted, and, of course, the realistic issue of the day—a job had to be secured.



MY PROBLEM. Not every returning soldier in New York is granted an interview with Col. Arthur V. McDermott, but not every soldier is Cpl. Manny Schneider. Into the elegant offices of the chief of New York Selective Service went our man, and had a heart to heart talk with "the chief" himself.

JOB HUNTING is not a pleasant task. It becomes increasingly worse as "I'm sorry" replies greet the soldier. But at the U. S. Employment Service, Manny found the staff to be on the alert, courteous and sympathetic.



ON THE HOUSE. Manny learned that PM, New York's non-ad taking newspaper, had recently started a "Situation Wanted" feature free-of-charge to ex-servicemen. Here he found small, cheerful Mrs. Schlesinger practically brimming over with a desire to help. Manny composed a 25-word ad, and went off with a heart full of hope.

VETERAN'S COUNSEL. At 10 East 40th Street he found the Veteran's Counsel Bureau. A quasi-public institution, it helps advise ex-soldiers on prevailing conditions in business, jobs, and new industries. On their finger tips they know the right agency for any answer, and act as a clearing house for the thorniest problem.



SPORTS

MAAF-SPORTS LOG

By Lt. Syd Nemarow

Lets Look At The Record

A hot blurb from the Gym advises us that preliminary basketball practice sessions are taking place several times a week. Happy are we to hear the news. The few oldtimers left hereabouts probably recall the sensational team we organized last year. For the Johnny-come-Latelys we'll bring them up to date with an article we had published by Associated Press last winter.

Millville Army Air Field's Flyers, a rag-to-riches basketball team that started as the obscure representative of one of the smallest bases in the East, has moved up among the top ranking Service quintets of the Atlantic Seaboard with a 21 game victory streak in a record of 26 triumphs against only five losses.

Coached by Lt. Joseph Pishioneri, former athlete at Salem College, West Virginia, the Flyers combination include stars who played with top teams in New York and Pennsylvania before the war.

Sgt. Ray Studwell, Captain and Guard, is a former standout at Seton Hall College. He saw action the night Long Island University shattered Seton Hall's dream of capturing the mythical Madison Square Garden championship in 1941. His running mate at Guard is Sgt. Harold Freeman, who starred with the Fine and Dandy aggregation in the Long Island City professional league in '41.

S/Sgt. Carrol Whetsel, of Litel, Indiana, who was on his way to Indiana U., after a brilliant high school career, when war interrupted his education, is Millville's center.

Two Western Pennsylvania stars man the forward posts. One of them is Lt. Ed Strahl, former protege of Doc Carlson at the University of Pittsburgh; the other—T/Sgt. Lamont Dickey, New Kensington athlete, who played Pro ball at Johnstown.

The reserve strength is hardly less talented than the starting five. And includes such performers as Lt. William Miller, top notch forward, from Monessan, Pa. High School, Pvt. Joe Falatko, and the big boy of the squad, six-foot-three Pfc. Ted Bojanowski, who went from High School to Kenesha College.

The Flyers have gained splits with Ft. Miles, Dover and Ft. Dix. The other teams which defeated Millville, Mitchel and Bainbridge Naval, are to be played before season's end, and Millville's free-scoring aggregation is determined to square matters with both teams.

SPECIAL SERVICES

BASE THEATRE

Sunday, September 30
State Fair
Jeanne Crain, Dick Haymes
Tuesday, October 2
Love, Honor, and Goodbye
Virginia Bruce, Victor McLaglen

Thursday, October 4
Shady Lady
Ginny Sims, Robert Page
Friday, October 5
Isle of the Dead
Boris Karloff, Ellen Drew

FIRST AIR FORCE 'ACES'



Maj. Jesse Yarborough
FIRST AIR FORCE HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

THE COACH MADE HIMSELF QUITE A REP' AS MENTOR OF MIAMI SENIOR HIGH, WHERE HIS BOYS WON 97, TIED 4, AND LOST ONLY 13, OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD

THE MAJOR ESTABLISHED AN ENVIABLE ATHLETIC RECORD WHILE AT CLEMSON COLLEGE • HE STARRED AT TACKLE, AND WAS QUITE A FIRST-SACKER ON THE BASEBALL NINE • COACHED THE MAXWELL FIELD FOOTBALLERS LAST YEAR •



Aces Tie Ft. Pierce In Opening Clash Of Grid Season

New Stars Loom

Miami, Fla.—The First Air Force ACES were looking for their first football victory of the still young season tonight as they made preparations to tackle the Ft. Pierce Amphibs at Miami's Orange Bowl Stadium, after emerging from a bruising 7-7 tie with the Air Transport Command Rockets at Nashville, Tenn., last Saturday.

Coach Major Jesse Yarborough, who comes "home" to Miami as the coach of the ACES, is a big figure in this city, where he gained a national reputation as coach of the famed Miami Senior High School, doesn't plan any major changes in his line-up for tonight's battle. He was pretty well satisfied with the performance of his ACES against the ATC eleven, considering it was their first contest and the fact that the game was played in 95-degree heat. A veteran Vanderbilt official declared it was the hottest football day he had ever seen in 40 years at the university.

And if it hadn't been for the alertness of hynotist Lt. George Darrow, the Oklahoma star, who plays left end for the Mitchel Field entry, the ACES might have taken a 7-6 defeat with them into this evening's battle.

The Rockets were nursing a 7-0 lead when the ACES struck with startling suddenness in the fourth quarter at Nashville last Saturday. Lt. Tarzan White, the former Alabama All-American and a pro grid star with the New York Giants and Chicago Cardinals, recovered an ATC fumble on the opposing 41-yard line and the Mitchel Fielders started to roll.

BASE BOWLING TEAM ORGANIZATION URGED

Sgt. Frank Davidson is an incurable optimist. Ever since he came to Millville he dreamed of organizing a bowling team. Alas, as it is in the Army, all of his hopes were shattered by the constant turnover in personnel.

This week, as it is usual for him with the start of a new season, Sgt. Davidson has enlisted our aid to urge the formation of a "ten-pin" group. All men interested in supporting the project will find the promoter counting greenbacks in the Finance Office.

Dribblers Start Court Sessions

Sparked by "Iron Horse" Studwell, the Old Seton Hall courtman, 20 potential first string players scrimmaged this week in the opening blast of the pre-basketball season. All other things remaining equal, a full schedule of clashes will be released shortly.

With the famed Flyer aggregation of last year gone, except for Studwell, new hopefuls are appearing on the scene. Cpl. Bill Bahr of the San Francisco Olympic Club, and S/Sgt. Van-Bell of St. Josephs are two of the more promising candidates.



FREE 'DUCS' ON HAND FOR MAJOR SPORTS

The Special Service Office revealed this week that a limited number of free tickets are available for athletic events in the Philadelphia area this season. All such Annie Oakleys will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.

Starting next week, and continuing indefinitely, free ducs will be distributed for midget auto races in the Quaker City. The next event takes place Monday night, and tickets are disappearing quickly. Pro and college grid clashes, boxing matches and the like are on the list for local fans.

He'll Be Sorry!

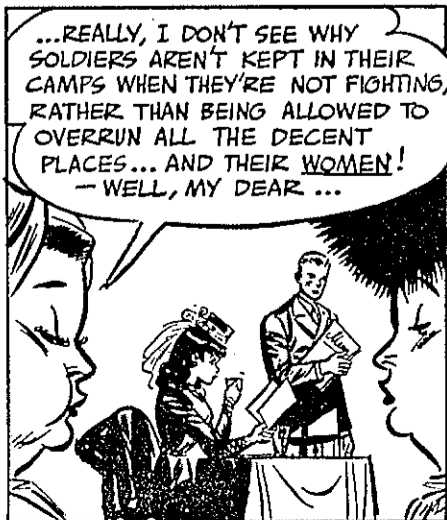
London (CNS) — Brigadier Thomas Evers, retired from the Army, has been offered his old job as bus conductor. He declined.

Male Call

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



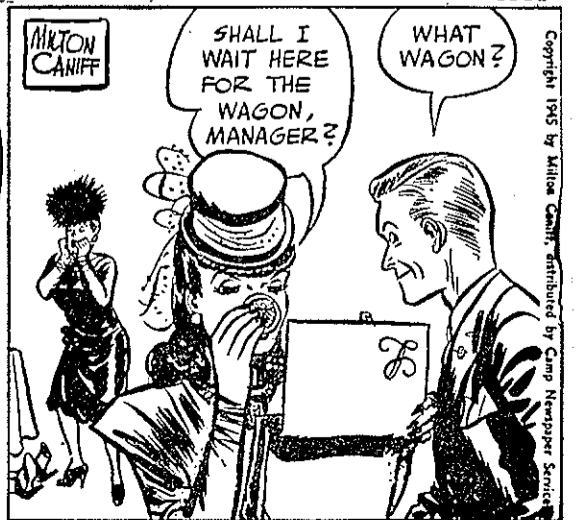
WELL, NOW THAT THE WAR'S OVER I HOPE THE HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS WILL SOON BE CLEARED OF THOSE DREARY PEOPLE IN UNIFORMS—WITH ALL THOSE SILLY RIBBONS!



...REALLY, I DON'T SEE WHY SOLDIERS AREN'T KEPT IN THEIR CAMPS WHEN THEY'RE NOT FIGHTING, RATHER THAN BEING ALLOWED TO OVERRUN ALL THE DECENT PLACES... AND THEIR WOMEN! — WELL, MY DEAR ...



FOR THE TAXES WE PAY, ONE WOULD THINK THE GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE A PLACE FOR THOSE UNHAPPY LOOKING FEMALES AND THEIR CHILDREN ONE SEES IN THE PUBLIC PARKS...OF COURSE THE CREATURES WEAR RINGS, BUT---



SHALL I WAIT HERE FOR THE WAGON, MANAGER?

WHAT WAGON?

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Combat Point