


THE MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD



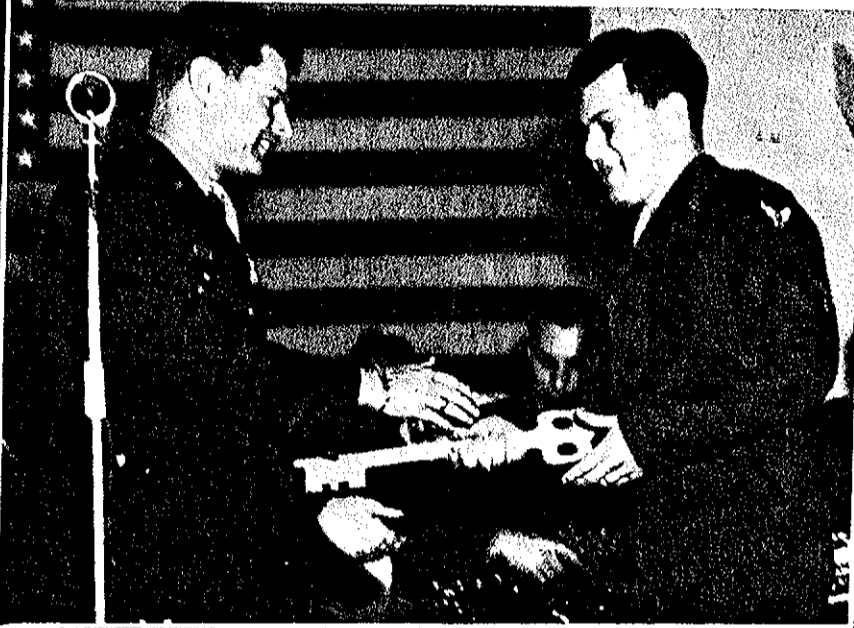
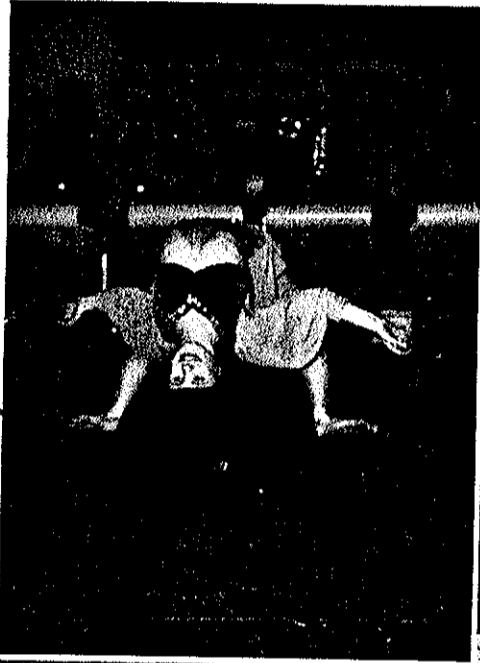
# Thunderbolt

Vol. II

MILLVILLE, N. J., SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1945

No. VII

## SERVICEMEN'S CLUB DEDICATED



After months of unbelievable toil, the long-awaited Servicemen's Club opened its doors last week to an overflow crowd of soldiers and civilians, estimated by Base officials to exceed 1200 persons. The patience of the soldiers was rewarded. They found their recreation hall to be lush with beauty and charm. Designed along colonial lines, the fixtures, decorations, furniture and atmosphere reveal delicate taste coupled with utilitarian plans. Those who made this Club possible are legion in number. Many of the soldiers are in combat today. Others who helped materially in building the magnificent project are: The entire

cast of "Prop Wash," produced and directed by S/Sgt. Wally Snellenberg, The People of Cumberland County, Maj. Waldo C. M. Johnston, Lt. Charles F. Neary, and his hard-working staff composed of S/Sgt. M. Goldstein, Cpl. G. Enlow, S/Sgt. Sid Wolfson (murals), Cpl. Mack Iworsley, Capt. Mike Bass and Capt. J. Aebischer did much of the trouble-shooting for the Base. Entertainment for the Dedication was furnished by the Philadelphia Theatre Wing, headed by Bob Lawrence. The Ft. Dix Band deserves a special hug, as does Donald O'Connor, his charming wife, and Allan Kirk.

### CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES TO BE DECORATED TODAY AT THEATER

More than 60 Base civilian employees will receive the coveted Service Ribbon in a ceremony to be held today at the Base Theatre, according to an announcement by Lt. Charles Walstrom, Civilian Personnel Officer. Lt. Col. T. H. Watkins, Base Commander, will present the award at 2:30 P. M., and has extended an invitation to all military personnel who can be spared from their duties to attend the function.

### SUGGESTIONS WANTED

The Base Suggestion Committee is renewing its drive to find original ideas on improving the base. Money, passes, and citations will be awarded monthly.

### New Den To Revolutionize GI Social Life; Parties, Hops, and Cafe Society Planned

An agenda of social activities has been mapped in the new Service Club, according to Lt. Charles F. Neary, which will so alter the pattern of GI extra-curricular habits that



the desire to become a proverbial "30-year-man" will be the usual rather than the uncommon. "This prediction," says the Special Service Officer, "is based on positive facts and the tendency to remain on the Base after working hours rather than rush to town has already been

noted.

As soon as the cafeteria is completed, Lt. Neary continued, soldiers will be able to bring their dates on the post. Here they can dine, dance, and socialize. A fulltime hostess will be on hand to assist the enlisted men in every way possible. The various USOs and Girl Service Organizations are also preparing to aid the Post in arranging for teas, parties, and proms. "The stay-on-the-Post movement" is now in full swing, and will succeed," the officer added.

#### Last Tuesday's Dance

Testifying to the impact the Service Club is having upon local GIs, the Special Service Officer cited the impressions they received as a result of last week's GSO formal dance.

Long before the scheduled hour for the hop, men of all seven grades crowded the spacious building to welcome the beautifully gowned hostesses. Music for the affair was furnished by Bart Dutton and his band, and the entire atmosphere was pervaded by healthy fun and frolic.

#### Service Club Committee

Helping the Special Service staff map the Recreation Hall's program will be a committee representing every section and activity on the Base. Members of this group are: S/Sgt. Wally Snellenberg, Sgt. T. Hirschberg, Cpl. Grayson Enlow, Cpl. H. W. Hulett, Cpl. G. Shumak, Cpl. Benj. Fishman, Cpl. Jerry Danovitch, and S/Sgt. Francis Scholtz.

### Pearl Harbor Vets To Hold Reunion

Plans are underway, according to an announcement by M/Sgt. Nicholas Thermonos, to hold a grand reunion of all officers and enlisted men of Millville Air Field, who underwent their baptism of fire at Pearl Harbor.

More than 15 men who survived the Jap sneak attack on Hawaii have already been contacted, Sgt. Thermonos stated. The Sergeant issued an appeal today to all veterans of the historic battle to leave their names with him at Unit Headquarters.

#### NEW BARBER

A brand new tonsorial artist is now employed full time by the PX to clip our locks and braid. Farewell ringlets, farewell!



**MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD**  
 Millville, New Jersey (Phone 1100, Ext. 71)  
 Published Bi-weekly by the Public Relations and Special Service Office for  
 the benefit of the military and civilian personnel of Millville Army Airfield.  
 LT. COL. T. H. WATKINS, Commanding Officer  
 LT. SYDNEY R. NEMAROW Editor  
 SGT. W. B. URQUHART Sports Editor  
 (All Photos by Base Photo Laboratory Personnel)

The THUNDERBOLT receives Camp Newspaper Service material.  
 Republication of credited matter prohibited without permission of CNS,  
 205 E. 42nd St., NYC, 17.  
 No material appearing in this publication may be republished without  
 permission of the Public Relations Office.

### Help Beautify The Base

Every possible effort is being made by this Command to beautify the grounds of Millville Air Field. The Post Engineers have spent a great deal of time and money to seed the surrounding areas, markers have been placed to confine pedestrians to authorized paths, and the people of Cumberland County have been asked by their local newspapers to send us whatever flowers, shrubbery and trees they can spare. In short, we are determined to make this installation the garden Base of the First Air Force.

To succeed in this project the cooperation of each member of this Field is urged. Unless we take a personal pride in watching the face of the post take on color and bloom, unless we learn to enjoy the sight of verdant arborage growing, the efforts of Headquarters will be thwarted. While we are stationed here this is our home. The bromide of not letting grass grow under your feet does not apply to Millville Army Air Field.

### The Traffic Section

Unheralded, unsung; performing a vital chore quietly and efficiently, the Traffic Section carries on. Their duties are taken for granted. Still, the soldier in the lower birth sleeping through the night owes this department his thanks. They pick up baggage at depots, ration gasoline, handle bills of lading, and perform a myriad of duties that makes the daily life of this Base possible. To Lt. King A. Grinnell and his hard working staff we offer this gentle accolade.

### The New Library

Somewhere over the skies of South Carolina Lt. William W. Smith, Jr. is today learning to wing his way in the Army Air Force's latest bomber—the A-26. As time goes on he may be forgotten in the passing parade of Millville Airbase. He didn't want anyone to know that he donated the money for the magnificent new library that opened its portals this week. To a generous airman, and a good friend of Millville Air Base, we say thank you, and happy landings.



By Chaplain Horace M. King

#### —EASTER—

Easter has been written into the experience of the human race in a glorious way. We would not take the occasion out of history.



Because Easter means the resurgence of life, and because the resurgence of the spiritual life of our people becomes a necessity if we are to have a different world, April first therefore should have meaning and an appeal to each of us.

#### New Commitments

Easter services will be scheduled for men of Catholic and Protestant faith. Many a man will be thinking, "Well, this Easter will find me making new commitments, and I will have less regrets this year than I had last year."

Now comes the challenge to men of this Base. The news-

papers are full of discussions concerning curfews on carousing. How many of us can make for ourselves a new life schedule which will so fill every day with the creative values which the world hungers as to remove all need for curfews?

#### Spiritual Values

What shall we resurrect of worth for our fellows on the field? What difference will others discover in me because Easter has come and gone, or because I have shared in the Passover?

May the rich traditions, the chapel call, the rekindling of concern and the normal longing of our hearts for eternal life combine to bring us into the deepest experience of Easter and to the appreciation of its highest spiritual values.

Services At New Chapel  
 Confessions ..... 0745  
 Mass ..... 0800  
 Protestant Worship ..... 1000

### LS/MFT—SO ROUND, SO . . . . .



Dear Old Dutch Cleanser:

Nearsightedness is most convenient when one does not have to look beyond ones self. The recent limitation of sending only 25 pieces of clothing to the GI Laundry, as prescribed in AR 30-2135 was, no doubt, placed upon you as well as every EM in this man's Army so that a larger number of fellow soldiers would be given an opportunity of using the already overtaxed facilities of our government laundries. C'est la Guerre!

I am quite certain that those men at the fronts all over the world who are washing their socks and underwear in their steel helmets or some five gal. dehydrated chow can are not worried about being atheists. There just aren't any atheists in fox holes.

Are you capable of enduring the tough life we lead here in the States, or do you believe in silver platters? Not finding it necessary to hide behind a "Nom de Plume," I remain

Sympathetically yours,  
 S/Sgt. C. M. Schuetz

Dear Editor:

Many buildings on the post are now vacant. Is there any chance to induce some kind high ranking officer to convert one of the edifices into a Hobby Shop? There are many officers and GIs here who like to dabble in painting, wood carving, chemistry, modeling, and a host of other activities. A project of this type would be of no cost to the Base. Each man would furnish his own material.

Signed,  
 Peter L.

Dear Editor:

The opening of the Servicemen's Club was magnificent. The only thing lacking was an expression of thanks to 60% of the enlisted men who were in "Prop Wash," and are now overseas.

Signed,  
 M.J.W.



### Tomorrow's Job

Unlike most of the industries of today and tomorrow, plain glass is an old-timer. Man first made glass in the first century A.D. Since that time, it has really moved slowly, and has just started within the past few years to move by leaps and bounds into new and absolutely unheard of ideas.

Glass is no longer merely transparent stuff which cracks under heat or shatters at the impact of a baseball. We now have glass which is almost unbreakable, glass with the structural strength of steel, glass which is as light as cork and saws like wood, glass which moves from the hot stove to the icy refrigerator without cracking. Since new forms of glass can be used in home building, glass will share the coming building boom.

#### Women and Glass

Windows, walls, furniture, fireplaces, drapes and accessories will all be made of glass. They are even making women's dresses and other articles of clothing for women out of glass. A woman in a glass house in a glass dress will be quite a revelation!

Each new use creates new jobs. Some of the best of these will be in fields where glass will overlap plastics and metals, being used in combination with them to produce unique new materials.

So when you are out with the local glass-blower, try to learn something and also look into USAFL, and be one step ahead of the other guy when the time comes to take you job.

### Officers Bid Adieu To Capt. Aebischer With Food, Song

With a group of wounded Infantry officers as honored guests, Base Officers will hold a gala party, called "Aebischer Nite," at their swanky Club this evening. Capt. Joseph E. Aebischer, Post Engineer, and one of Millville Air Field's pioneer brass hats will be toasted and bade "adieu." The Captain has been alerted for transfer to another station.

Pvt. Donald O'Connor, screen star, and his retinue will headline the entertainment. Capt. Mike Bass, Maitre D', promises the paying invitees an evening of fun "out-of-this-world."

### "The Lil' Devil" Assigned To Millville Air Base

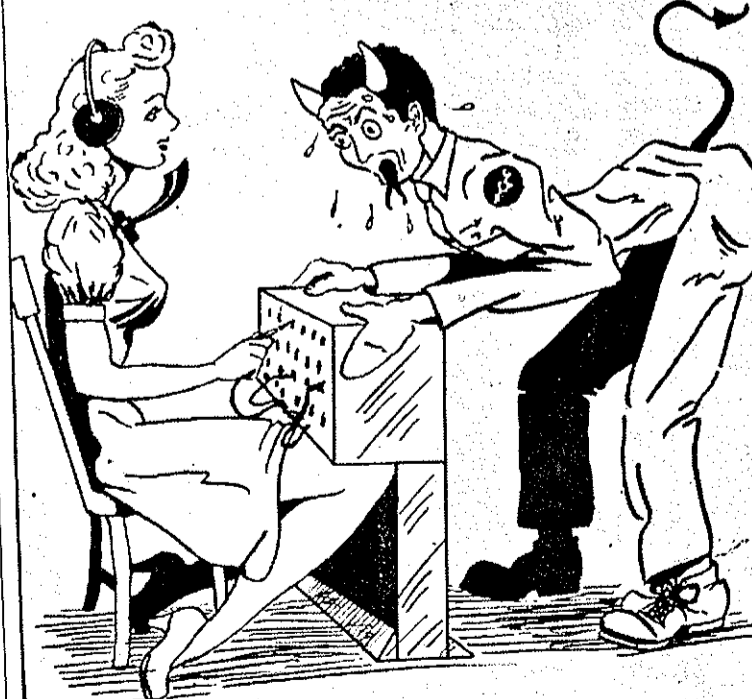
While lying on his back for several months at England General Hospital, Pfc. Phil Hier did some fancy cogitating, and conceived a lustful, mischievous character, who embodies the ele-

ments of Freudian philosophy plus Ernie Pyle's concept of C. Joe. Hier dubbed him the "Lil' Devil," and we happily introduce Pvt. Mephistopheles today to our sophisticated readers.

#### THE LIL' DEVIL

by Pfc. Hier

#### TELEPHONE CTR.



"I THINK I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER, SIR."



Saturday, March 31, 1945

**She Looks Different Without Bangs**

**Male Call**

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



**INFORMATION**  
\*  
**CLICKS**

**QUESTION:** What is your pet Army gripe?

**Answers:**

**PFC. EARL S. FALK,** (Grand Rapids, Mich.), Cook.



"As far as I am concerned, there is too much complaining from the "Home Guard" and "USO Commandos" about the show. Let them get a taste of K-rations and dehydrated foods overseas and they'll find out what rough cooking is really like. If the shoe fits, put it on!"

**SGT. RALPH H. GRAVES,** (Colorado Springs, Colo.), Finance Office.

"I guess all of us GIs have about the same gripes, but the one that stands out in my mind is the lack of freedom. Most of us do as we are told, but never the less, there is the urge to refuse. Give me liberty or give me love!"



**SGT. EDWARD V. FISHER,** (Bridgeport, Pa.), Link Trainer.



"Army camp locations. The Army always appropriates mosquito-infested swamp land and fills it in. After the barracks are built, you call it home. I wonder if it wouldn't be cheaper to buy hills and level them off. I'll be first in line for the mosquito repellent this summer."

**T/SGT. MICHAEL S. BARBINO,** (New York City), Maintenance Control Office.

"Wearing of uniforms! I guess every guy dresses for comfort, and I'm never comfortable in a blouse. They issue us a nice looking Field Jacket and then tell us we can't wear it off the Base. It just shows you, the Army wasn't made for fashion plates."



**The Peripheral Road**

By Cpl. Joe MAAF

**The Millville Merry-Go-Round**

**A SOLDIER IN LIMBO:** Sgt. Angelo Gatto, Personnel Equipment, a combat-wise veteran of the North African, Italian and French campaigns, suffered his first mishap in the Army. Last week a stage coach, operated by the Camden to Millville Railroad, (so called), clipped his shiny new car and \$1700 went into the salvage heap. Angelo wept bitter tears as he related his heart-rending yarn. "One whole day before the accident a Captain begged me to sell him my car," he wailed, "He wanted to give me \$1850, but I held out for more. At six P. M. along comes the choo-choo, and there goes my moola" . . . Talking about cars, Maj. Jerome C. Simpson has been dubbed "The Lemon King" . . .

S/Sgt. Martin Slater has transferred his affection from a jeweler's daughter, a 14 karat honey, to a beauty in Millville. "All that glitters is not gold," quote the Sergeant evermore . . . What well known Captain, who recently returned from what well known Army School, is rumored to soon become a pappy? . . . Sgt. Jimmy (Fighter Operations) Smith will soon hear wedding bells tolling . . . M/Sgt. Ace Hunsleker is about ready to give up his sacred right to bachelorhood . . . The personal history of Sgt. Jerry (rag dragger) Leitner is as colorful as the Bolante Gardens. He was once a member of the Polish Army, boxed for a Field Artillery unit, speaks seven languages, and in 1934 received his "Odlbyl Sluzbi Czynnna," from his native Army—"discharge" to you, Bo.

Cpl. Guy (Kingfish) Long, Ordnance, former circus performer and glass eater extraordinary, had cause for celebration last week. He became the daddy of a husky 10 lb. youngster, and was promoted to the rank of corporal. When he heard the double good news he is reported to have become so excited, he gulped down six 50 Cal. bullets . . . Pfc. Michael Zaimont, who wangled a discharge from Uncle Whiskers is reported to be asking for a franchise to run a taxi from Millville to New York . . .

**Galley Cook Whittles Fiddles From Stradivarius Blueprint**

From the galley of a Millville Airfield crash boat anchored at Cape May, N. J., a 30-year old cook, Cpl. Alvin Struckman, of Wheaton, Minnesota, emerged this week with a butcher knife in hand, and the finished product of his artistic dexterity—an exact model of a Stradivari violin. After nine months of painstaking labor, with the crude kitchen blade as his only tool, the GI cook exhibited the delicate instrument to shipmates and friends.

A farm worker in civilian life, the Corporal revealed that he had been taught the skill of violin making by an old Norwegian neighbor who used to visit with him during long winter nights in Wheaton. By crude light master and pupil sat until the early morning hours carving and whittling maple and spruce until from the shapeless pieces of wood they fashioned replicas of the 17th Century masterpieces.

**Exact Science**  
Struckman explains that violin making is an exact science, where the slightest extra pressure of the hand may spell the difference between obtaining a deep, vibrant tone, or a hollow sound. The Stradivarius blueprint exacts the maximum of adherence to minute details.

"For instance," says the Minnesota soldier, "the back of the fiddle is our first problem. It is usually made of maple. We spend endless weeks carving and shaping until we get what Stradivari stipulated. Then, out of spruce, we whittle the top. After that the side and neck and the back and ribs are assembled.

To beautify and support the instrument we start on a process known as 'purfling.' Two pieces of ebony are glued on a strip of holly and is made part of the body."

**Right Tone**  
The job is far from completed even after those nerve-trying steps. "The genius of Cremona," says Struckman, "was a tough professor. His blueprint calls for 'graduating' the violin from one position to another until the proper timbre is attained. All of this calls for patience and endurance beyond the capacity of most folks. And always in back of our minds is the haunting thought. Will the bridge of the violin be able to stand the 50 pounds of pressure on the bridge? When this test is passed, the violin is ready for sale, and sometimes, if we are lucky, we get about \$500 for our pains."

Asked how he could reconcile his talent for handiwork with his Army job of cooking, Struckman laughingly replied, "a good cook should know how to use his hands."

**FIRST ENTRIES IN 'MY QUEEN' CONTEST**



Upper left to right: Mrs. Josephine Flshel, wife of Cpl. Douglas Flshel. The lady is employed at the PX; Miss Sybil Kenson, bride-to-be of Pfc. John A. Blecken. Miss Kenson hails from Huntsville, Alabama, where she is an aircraft mechanic. Lower left to right: Miss Lella A. Greenwood, "sweetheart" of Pfc. P. S. Hier. Hier's girl friend warbles for the USO, and also attends school in her home town, Lynbrook, Long Island; Miss Muriel L. Dussom, a government translator in New Orleans, La. The young lady is the fiancée of Sgt. James B. McGann.

**CARVING OUT A MASTERPIECE**





# MAAF-SPORTS LOG

By Sgt. Willis B. Urquhart

## TERM THESIS

When some of the local entrepreneurs dreamed up the idea of matching the "FLYERS" against an all-star Cumberland County array, some of the grey beards shook their venerable locks and opined openly that the "dream game" was no match. "Those poor kids will be smothered by the soldiers," the wise boys predicted. Only one voice in the wilderness, the dulcet tones of Del Brandt, Sports Editor of the Vineland Times-Journal, piped up with something that sounded like "a child shall lead them." And so it came to pass that when the classic was played off the High School youngsters ran the old dog faces ragged. Players like Larry Harris, Bridgeton High's flashy colored athlete, and Carl Haught, of Vineland, coupled their youth and enthusiasm to lead the "FLYERS" a merry chase. It took every trick in the bag for the soldier boys to squeak out a 65-60 win. Incidentally, a garden of American beauties should go to Ralph Brandt, Virge Johnson and Del Brandt of the Cumberland County Sports Writers Association. They did all the work in making the game possible. The people in the local towns have been swell to the Base, and no play on words could be more heartfelt than we say "Thank You!"

Negotiations are going on between the PT Union and the Kimco Club of Vineland to secure their diamond for our prospective ball club. The field is a beauty, and until such day that we get our own grounds the boys will get much pleasure in playing there . . . And talking of the ball club we would like to go out on the limb and predict that our boys will trounce the University of Pennsylvania when they meet next month. Some of the men now working out are top notch players. We watched

the boys limber up their muscles in the Gym the other day, and there is one fellow who will bear watching. That's Pfc. (fuzzy-wuzzy) Scher, formerly a hurler in the Rocky Mountain League. He looks like sure fire stuff to us.

While Lt. Joe Pishioneri is having his schnozzola repaired in Atlantic City's Second Echelon Remodeling Jernt, some of the zoot suiters were figuring on starting six tournaments which he would be responsible to run on his return. Every Joe and his brother has some new fangled sport that he wants to make popular by asking the Gymneers to stage a tournament. If the boys could handle all the leagues, the sweat palace would look like a six ring circus, and we would apply for the hot dog concession.

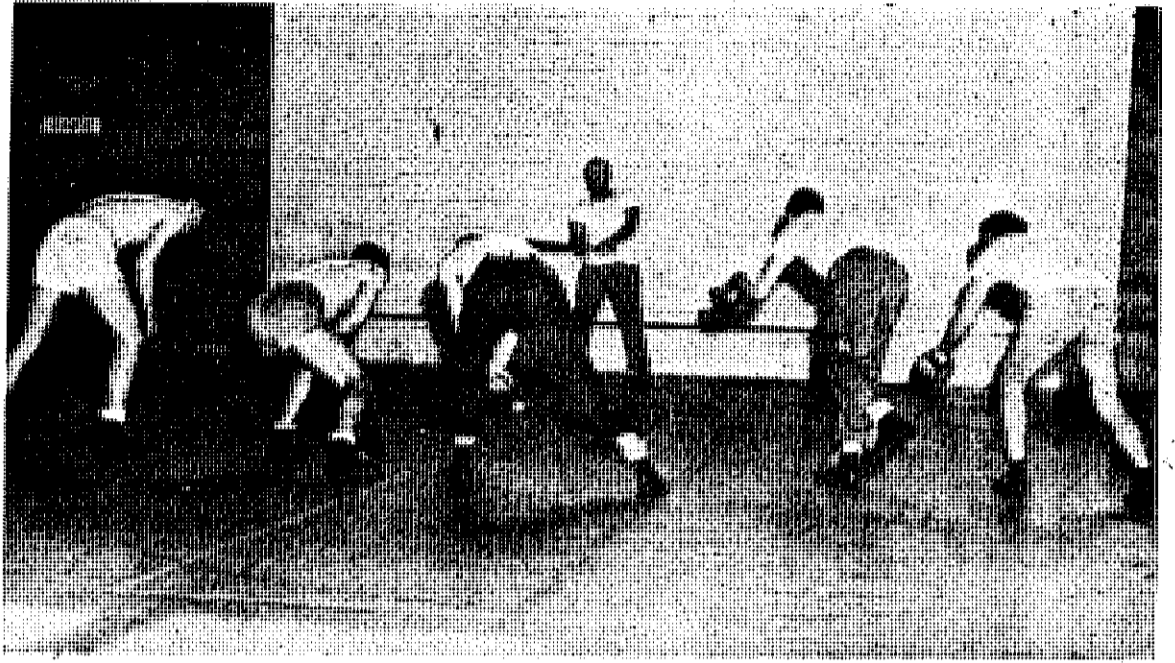
## The Wolf

by Sansone



"Unless the rules have changed, he plays a pretty rough game of checkers!"

## GYM CONVERTED INTO SANDLOT



The Gym is loaded with action these days. Coach Pishioneri is intent on limbering up the muscles of the men before they take to the diamond. Pepper games, such as pictured above, take place dally. Some of the men trying out for the team show unusual promise, with plenty of stuff on the ball. The talent search is still going on. The baseball mentor is looking for a streamlined, powerful combination of 15 ball players. Several vacancies are still open.

## Baseball Team Starts Practice For Penn Game

The Post baseball club began to take on shape and substance last week, when about 25 sandlotters turned out for indoor workouts at the Gym.

With weather conditions about as predictable as Argentina's foreign policy, Coach Joe Pishioneri has had the lads go through the warming-up paces, and will save field work for this week. The baseball mentor also announced that no official team has as yet been chosen, and that any soldier interested in playing ball will be given a tryout.

### Penn Univ. First Game

The "Flyers" are preparing for a gruelling schedule this year. Some of the leading service teams on the Eastern Seaboard are scheduled to meet the local clan. The first game is on April 18th, when the Club faces the University of Pennsylvania in the Quaker City. Other "name" teams that have had highly touted combines in the past have been included in the lineup. Mitchel Field, Valley Forge, Fort Dix, AAF and ASF Redistribution Centers in Atlantic City, Camp Kilmer and Olmstead Field lead the baseball hit parade. No definite dates have been set for these teams.

### Old Faces

Many of the players wore the Millville uniform last year. New faces, with great baseball records, are also making their appearance in the roster. Outdoor practice starts Monday night when the team meets at the Base gym.

## Tennis Carnival Started By Two Local 'Racketeers'

Lt. Louis F. Banos, assistant Provost Marshal, and ambassador of good will from south of the Rio Grande, has been appointed by the Physical Training Department to head a contemplated Base Tennis Tournament.



Senor Banos, whose tennis career includes matches in Mexico City, Laredo, Texas, South America and Washington, D. C., plans to start contests on the YMCA courts in Millville immediately. Playoffs will take place among officers first, and then among enlisted personnel. Winners of both sections will compete the single and doubles crown.

Heading the GI department will be Pvt. Norton L. Norris, one time winner of the National Junior Tennis Tournament. The Detroit "racketeer" can be found in the Base library, where he will take names of prospective players.

## Pvt. 'Buz' Hanigan Teaching Boxing To Novice Pugs

Pfc. "Buzzie" Hanigan, former Golden Glove Bantam weight champion, has started boxing classes at the Base Gym on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 1900. The former 128 lb. title holder is showing novices every trick in the leather pushing trade. In the near future he hopes to pick a boxing team and compete against local service and college squads.

## USO Camp Show At Post Theater Monday Night

A galaxy of hot entertainment from Gotham's main stem will be presented at the Post Theatre, Monday night, at 1915, the Special Service Office announced today.

The Tabloid Troupe is composed of Jimmy Richards, M.C., comedian and mimic, lovely Mimi Carr who can do a belly roll better than a hula-hula gal, Mickey Arris, warbler and "face," and Harold Freeman, accordionist, who is not to be mistaken for Sgt. Harold Freeman, Duty Non-Com, Basketball player, and man around town.

## BASE THEATRE PROGRAM

Sunday, April 1	HOTEL BERLIN
	Raymond Massey, Peter Lorre, Faye Emerson
Dog Watch	Disney Cartoon
RKO Pathe News No. 61	Weekly
Monday, April 2	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE
	Michael O'Shea, Lloyd Nolan
Dooby Dupes	Three Stooges
Flicker Flashbacks No. 5	Novelty
Court Craft	Sportscope
Tuesday, April 3	MOLLY AND ME
	Monty Woolley, Gracie. Fields
Community Sing No. 8	Sweet and Lovely
City of Paradox	Movietone Adventures
Ain't We Got Fun	Blue Ribbon Merria Melodie
Thursday, April 5	SUDAN
	Maria Montez, Jon Hall, Turban Bey
Army-Navy Screen Magazine	Issue No. 49
RKO Pathe News No. 62	Weekly