

REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

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PAULINE M. WHITLOCK
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CURRENT RECORD
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FROM THE "CORAL STRANDS" OF FLORIDA

No word from Ensign Vic Rix in a long time---then up comes a letter written from Coral Gables, Fla., where he is attached to Transportation as "Assistant to Automotive Maintenance Officer." Translated, he says, that means he's in charge of the 7th ND Garage from 1600 to 2400, or fill in days when one or the other of the two regular garage officers is away.

"I have about 20 men under me," he continues, "on the 1600-2400 shift, including a Ch Mo MM on whom I depend almost entirely in running the automotive maintenance work. Other personnel includes motor machinists; motor pool drivers and dispatchers, storekeepers, Spars, office workers, and Temporary Reservists----a special Coast Guard deal whereby civilians may be enlisted men for twelve hours a week, no pay, but uniforms supplied. Incidentally, the garage is Navy and Coast Guard combined, which further complicates matters. All in all, I'm doing useful work, but it's a far cry from radar."

ATTENTION: REA'ERS IN THE ORIENT

Lt. Col. Kenneth Stiles has made four trips over the "Hump" to China and expects to make a few more soon. He would particularly like the addresses of REA men or women stationed around Calcutta, India, and Kunming, China, as those places are his "stomping grounds." (For the benefit of Col. Stiles and others involved, here is an exchange of addresses which we hope will make for a reunion of REA'ers in the Orient: Sgt. Samuel Saltman, 1347th A. A. F. Base Unit, India-China Division ATC, APO 219; M/Sgt. William P. Riley, I. C. D. - A. T. C., APO 465; Maj. Roy Zook, 3101st Sig. Sv. Bn., APO 689; Cpl. C. W. Ritter, 344th Airdrome Squadron, First Combat Cargo Group, APO 210; and Capt. Andrew Tessman, 234th AAA Gun Battalion, APO 17572. The address of Col. Stiles is ICND, ATC, APO 192. All of these are New York APO's. The Roll Call will be watching for results from this exchange of addresses.)

INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES ON MILITARY FURLOUGH

By John W. Asher, Jr.,
Chief, Personnel Division

The Selective Service Act permits payment to REA employees on military furlough for annual leave accrued to the date of entering service, but it does not permit the payment of salary to employees who wish to return to their civilian position, until they have been discharged from the service. In other words you cannot be on two government payrolls at the same time and draw salary from the two Agencies when you are leaving the Armed Forces. The following excerpt is from the Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

"A government employee who has been inducted into the military service may not be paid compensation for service rendered in his civilian position during a period of furlough with pay from the military service. However, a government employee who is inducted or enlisted in the Army or Navy and is thereafter placed on inactive duty without pay as a member of the Reserve as distinguished from a person in an active duty status with pay in the military or naval service, may be employed in a civilian position and receive the compensation thereof during the period of such inactive reserve status.

"Employment of Army Reserve Corps Officers. In the absence of specific authorization of law, payment of compensation for employment in a civilian capacity of an officer of the Army Reserve Corps on extended active duty while on leave of absence from his army duties, is strictly prohibited, limiting authorization for receipt of more than one salary when the combined amount of said salaries exceeds \$2,000 per annum."

From the above information, it will be noted that employees in a military furlough status, who are discharged from their respective units, may not be placed on our rolls until the day following their final discharge.

COLUMN WRITE!

CAPT. DAVID ASKEGAARD assures us the food and weather are splendid where he is on temporary duty. He gets plenty of steak and pork chops, thanks to the Army. As for the weather, he admits occasional downpours, but for folks fresh from the States to say it's swelteringly hot is showing prejudice, according to him.

By something like remote control he has become an author or a reasonable facsimile thereof. Anyway he says, "I spend my time wading through piles of paper. Once in awhile somebody prods me, and I start turning a crank, and after awhile out comes a piece of paper for other people to read." All of which, he states, is not very exciting, and he'd far rather be tinkering around with carrier-current telephone work...In spare moments he and Don Housley discuss all manner of things from the point system to when the war will end. With 98 points to his credit, Dave has hopes. "And they won't have to ask me twice! I'll not stand in the way of some poor chap who's itching for a chance to get overseas," he informs us.

PHIL WIDMAN is justly proud of the special citation accorded his group. On V-E Day Courtney H. Hodges, Commanding General of the 1st Army, wrote a special congratulatory message to Maj. Gen. Clarence R. Huebner who was in charge of the V Corps to which Phil belongs. It read:

"Since landing on the fiercely contested Omaha Beach nearly a year ago, V Corps has made for itself an enviable reputation. After the break through, it was your Corps that closed and cleaned out the Argentan-Falaise pocket with such disastrous effect on the enemy. It was V Corps that sped ahead to liberate Paris and moved on without pausing to be first to enter Germany. During the December counter-offensive, your Corps held a stone wall at the Elsenborn corner. The courage and tenacity of your fighting men in that engagement marked a high point in the tradition of gallantry of our armed forces. Under your driving leadership, V Corps raced across central Germany to capture Leipsig and pushed on to be the first of the western forces to meet the Russians at Torgau....."

"Please let your corps troops and divisions know that I deeply appreciate their accomplishments."

The forward-looking, progressive REA War Veterans are in action on the home front again, this time holding an "Outdoor Sunshine Reception" Sunday, June 24, at Perc Sachs' farm where the oldsters of World War I welcomed back youngsters of World War II.

Highlights of the occasion: pot luck supper, root beer, games for children, championship ball game, and, when darkness permitted, six fast thrilling horse races with Walter Ettleman as chief bookie (and pin ball operator?). This event may establish a monthly affair---something for you to come home to after the war is over.

S1/c RAY L. GARCIA has been assigned to the good ship USS. Myrmidon plying the waters somewhere in the deep, blue Pacific. He speaks of seeing Chinese, Japanese, Polynesians, and other natives, so you have a good idea where he is.

Now we know why we haven't heard from LT. HENRY C. BAUER. As head of the Coast Guard Supply Depot at Jersey City, the main one for the whole country, he has too many irons in the fire to write letters. But his conscience pricked him about neglecting the Roll Call, so when John Donahue visited him recently he instructed him specifically to pay his, Bauer's, respects to the news sheet for REA'ers in service.

For the last five months he has been in charge of the supply depot with 450 or 500 men under him dispatching stuff all over the world. About \$50,000,000 worth of material is kept in storage at this depot which is enough to provide plenty of headaches for Bauer.

George Mallett played the role of proud father recently when his son, PFC. GEO. W. JR., all resplendent in his AAF uniform, came to visit at REA. Young Mallett has just finished a course at the Kingman, Ariz., B-17 gunner school and now, because the need has changed to the long-distance B-29's, he and his whole company go next to Harlingen, Texas, for a course in the B-29 gunner school there.

F. A. Vardy, who helps the Roll Call to keep track of the Finance boys in service, was another of those proud papas recently when his son, ENSIGN RICHARD S., visited his father and friends at REA. Ensign Vardy just graduated from Annapolis, and goes on sea duty July 10 on the cruiser Portland.

VISITED HITLER'S MOUNTAIN RETREAT

HOW THEY CELEBRATED IN PARIS

If we get another saber, REA can revive the ancient art of duelling. Mr. Samuels received a bright shiny new one, scabbard and all, from Capt. Joe L. Thurston now in Salzburg, Austria. A few days later a letter came, explaining he had sent it from Worms where "the university was out of order and not in any condition to accept students for the summer session."

Describing the activities of his Signal Battalion, Joe writes, "We sparred around Alsace all winter and then, early this year, the XV Corps cocked a Sunday punch that cracked the Siegfried Line wide open.... We crossed the Rhine and the Main with our sights set toward Berlin. But we turned south, took Nuremburg, crossed the Danube and took Munich... All of southern Bavaria was a junk yard of the German Army. Their transport, arms and equipment were strewn from one end of the land to the other. German soldiers, by squads and by battalions, waited in the fields and along roads for somebody, anybody, who would accept their surrender. Some of them waited for days.

"The war's end found us here at Salzburg, a lovely city at the foot of the Alps. Yesterday I visited Berchtesgaden and took a look at Hitler's real estate. The old murderer was comfortable to say the least. Incidentally, we bivouaced at Dachau the day after it was taken. The incredible horror of the concentration camp is not for me to set down here."

THE NAME IS "PUNK," PLEASE

We are indebted to Pfc. Anna M. Willett for an entertaining letter from the tropics. She is section chief stenographer for the Quartermaster Branch on New Guinea. She tells of a G. I. soccer game where several of the players wore colorful scarfs, herself included. "These seemed to fascinate the natives no end, some of them bringing out small wooden boats, which they had made, and offering to trade for a scarf.... Some of the little children even grabbed at my scarf, but they are not dangerous and I can't help laughing at them. I can't understand them, but they seemed to understand me. Four or five crowded around me, wanting to know my name. Just for fun I said, 'Punk,' and they just giggled at each other. I giggled as much as they did."

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Major Don Basler was in Paris when Germany surrendered, and in a recent letter gives us a vivid account of Paris celebrating the war's end. "Early in the evening (May 7) it became apparent from news reports that the end was at hand. The air seemed charged with tension. I went to a movie at 8:30 and when it let out they had lighted the Arc de Triomphe with flood lights and were beginning to shoot up flares and rockets. About midnight things were really humming and a laughing, singing, shouting crowd jammed the Champs-Elysees. This lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

"Tuesday was the big day, a holiday for everyone except the American forces. The crowd began to collect about the Champs and around the Arc in mid-morning and was plenty large by early afternoon. It was also packing the Place Concorde at the other end of the Champs and most of the avenue in between. At three o'clock we heard the radio speeches of President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill over the radio while they held a ceremony at the Arc ending in the raising of five huge flags inside the Arc itself representing the U.S., France, Great Britain, Russia and China. These flags floating in the breeze made a very stirring picture.... The air forces were adding their bit to the commotion by buzzing the town from end to end. And those Fortresses can really buzz a place with the four engines they have.

"The tempo increased until by evening the Champs-Elysees was a mass of seething humanity from the Arc to the Concorde. Planes were flying overhead, flares and rockets were going up at intervals, and everyone was having a good time. This lasted again well into the morning. The next day was a holiday and that evening the apparently tireless Frenchmen put on a third performance almost the same as the previous two. It was the end of the war for them, and they made the most of it."

FROM THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

At his base in the Aleutians, Lt. (j.g.) Levinson grasps his pen in hand at 11:45 p.m., just before dusk, and writes a "midnight special" to us. He concedes it's a bit hard on a fellow's sleep (this daylight business at midnight), but "shucks," he says, "---- nothing to what the boys in the South Pacific are going

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DOUBLES FOR A GREY LADY

In addition to his other work with the Red Cross, Al Kaminstein has been doubling as a Grey Lady. Al doesn't mind it, but the patients don't appreciate his efforts. "They much prefer to see a gal," he explains. But the hospital where he is hasn't been commissioned yet, and until it is, the feminine element is excluded; so Al will continue to improve his Grey Lady technique by experience.

He has left Oahu for a much quieter island. He writes, "I wish I had seen a copy of Roll Call for Apr. 6 a week before I got here. One day a friend and I wandered around Navy 926--- another island. We had gotten a ride on the back of an open truck. By the time we started back we were so thirsty it wasn't funny. In about an hour we came to Camp D-----y. We decided we'd try to find a drink, no matter what. I walked into this officers' club where a lieutenant spotted me immediately and insisted on getting us some drinks. We did not refuse, and when I asked him how come he wouldn't let us pay for them, he had an excuse about having a date with a Red Cross girl in a little while. 'What's that got to do with us?' said I, 'we didn't get it for you.' To which he replied, 'I know, but that's just the way I feel.'

"The moral to this story is that I'm sure the club is where Lt. Severine is stationed"---

FROM HERE TO THERE

Lt. Henry C. Bauer, Jersey City, N.J.; Pfc. Anna M. Willett, APO 503, San Francisco; Capt. A. J. Mikules, APO 339, New York, N. Y.; Ensign Victor Rix, Coral Gables, Fla.; Sgt. Gerald Denton, APO 902, San Francisco; Albert B. O'Donnell, T/5, APO 707, San Francisco; Ray L. Garcia, S 1/c (SK), U. S. S. Myrmidon, FPO San Francisco; Capt. Arnold Sukrow, MacDill Field, Fla.; Lt. Raymond T. Broderick, Philadelphia, Pa.; Lt. David Birenbaum, Esler Field, Alexandria, La.; Capt. David Askegaard, APO 500, San Francisco.

GOING UP

Pfc. Anna M. Willett; Lt. (j.g.) George M. Scherer; Lt. Col. Kenneth Stiles.

THE NAME IS "PUNK," PLEASE (Cont'd)

Sunset in New Guinea charms Private Willett. She elaborates, "Sometimes the sky becomes a bright red, gradually fading into a delicate pink, and when this reflects upon the ocean it is certainly a picture for an artist to paint."

Life for the average G.I. in New Guinea is quite a problem, she admits. "Climatic conditions seem to breed disease, and the terrific heat takes away any energy you might have. Infections set in from a mere scratch or bite, and if not taken care of will not heal at all in this climate. Consequently, many such cases have to be sent back to the States for cure. Then malaria takes its toll, but precautions to prevent it keep it under control. Atabrine is taken daily, and all sleeves and trousers must be rolled down. At night when going off the post leggings which lace up and cover the ankles must be worn. Spraying breeding places (streams of water and swamps) combat to a great extent the destructive effects of 'Annie,' as the Anopholes mosquito is often termed."

FROM THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN (Cont'd)

through." "They," says he, "are the ones really fighting this war."

With so much daylight, Nat has plenty of time to make more of those "shot glasses," six of which he has already sent back and more in the offing.

Levinson makes these glasses without benefit of machinery, power-driven or otherwise. "First, you find a nut and bolt. Said nut to fit said bolt, and said bolt to be about 3 or 4 inches long. Secondly, you find a cork out of an old whisky bottle. Said cork must be slightly longer in external diameter than the internal diameter of the 20 MM shell. Thirdly, you impale the cork on the bolt and tighten it up so the cork is locked between the head of the bolt on one end and the nut on the other. Fourthly, you force the 20 MM shell over the cork which grips it tightly. Lastly, you place the other end of the bolt in the chuck of the hand drill, put the hand drill in the vise and get a friend to turn the hand drill. Presto--- you have a lathe, and the rest is obvious. There is no patent on the process yet," says Nat.