

Convalescent Soldier Relates Tall Story of 'Internal Injury' Received

Several weeks ago the Centre Democrat announced the return of Pvt. George A. Gardner, son of Mrs. Dora Gardner, Bush Addition, Bellefonte, from the South Pacific war area, where he had served for over a year in the Ammunition Ordnance. It was also stated that Pvt. Gardner, since his return, was at the Brooke General Hospital, Texas, recuperating from a condition resulting from overseas duty. The nature of the young soldier's disability was not disclosed until last week when we were shown a letter received by his sister, Miss Irene Gardner, in which the brother reveals the "inside" story. Risking the penalty for divulging "military secrets," we publish the contents of the letter as it was received.

"Dear Bridget: "January 30, 1944 "Just dropping you a few lines to say hello and hope you are all O. K. back home. This letter finds me wanting to get out of here but I'll have to wait till they let me go. I am sure it will be soon.

"What I am going to tell you in this letter is a military secret. I know you are a close-knit girl and know that you will not say anything to anyone. I'll tell you why I came back.

"I do not know if you ever heard of Lunca River which is on Guadalcanal. Well, it so happened while I was there swimming one day—which I should not have been for the crocodiles and alligators were so bad that it was not safe for a man to go there without a gun. But you know big Gussie. He wasn't afraid of those little things.

"I took off all my clothes, laid them on the bank, and walked out on a big log which was lying out in the water. Everything looked so peaceful and calm, so I jumped in and took some soap with me. I swam around a little, then started up stream to get in a milder current to take my bath. I had a pretty good lather worked up—and soap in my eyes. I heard a funny sound in the water! Ducking my head quickly to get the soap from my eyes and see what was going on, I came from under the water only to find a hundred alligators coming all ways at me.

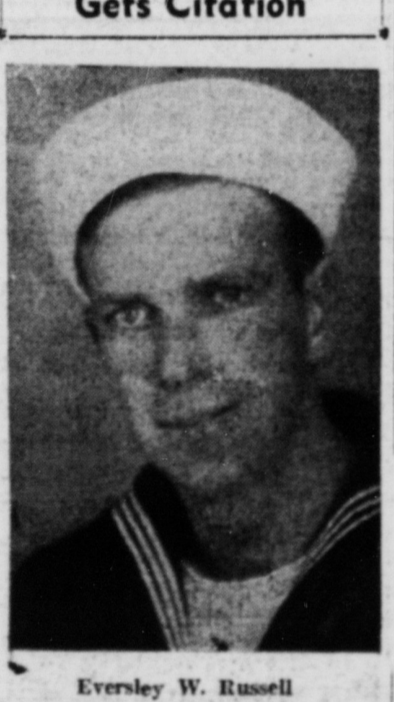
"I knew I couldn't make it to shore, but about three feet above my head was a large overhanging limb. I knew I would have a chance if I could get hold of it. It seemed so far away but I knew I would have to do something mighty quick. I got down on my knees and made a spring out of the water. How I did it I'll never be able to tell you, but I had a hold of that limb. I looked below me and the water was just full of those enormous alligators.

"Now here's what happened. I heard the limb snap and I knew I was about done for as an enormous alligator was laying down there laughing at me—just waiting for me to drop. Well, I finally did, and right into his mouth I went and kept right on going down his throat. When I got down there, I started looking around. I thought I was in the bottom of a ship as he had several kinds of canned foods, guns, one small motor, and a box of T. N. T. and the caps to go with it. Just then I had to start figuring how I was going to get out as I had to get back to camp. It was plenty cool in here and I didn't have much room to get around in. I figured with the load he had in his belly, he would soon go out on the bank and sun himself. My guess was right. It wasn't very long till it started to get warm in here. If I didn't soon get out I would suffocate.

"I had an idea. I took a cap and four pieces of T. N. T. and worked myself back to the rear compartment and out the fuse. It would take about one minute to go off after I lighted it. I finally had everything set. I took my cigarette lighter and touched it to the fuse. I worked myself back up front as much as I could. Then I heard a loud noise. When I awoke I was in the hospital being treated for shell shock, so now you know why I am back.

"Always, "P. S. Don't go to your local newspapers with this. Will close now, hoping to see you all soon.

Gets Citation



Eversley W. Russell A Snow Shoe High School graduate who studied a course in accountancy and who was employed in the Ridley Park Bank, Philadelphia, recently won a citation from Lieutenant J. E. Walsh, of the U. S. Navy, for his outstanding work with an amphibious force in northwest African waters.

He is Eversley W. Russell, son of James Russell, of Snow Shoe, who enlisted in the Navy on July 1, 1942. He received his basic training at Newport, R. I., and upon completion of a six-months' course at quartermaster school was assigned to the amphibious force.

He was a member of a contingent which left the Solomon Branch in Washington early in March 1943, for North Africa, and he has been overseas since that time.

Russell graduated from Snow Shoe High in 1930 and was employed in his father's store there for a time while studying accountancy. After completing the course he accepted a position in the Ridley Park Bank where he was employed when he enlisted in the service.

Following is the citation he received recently from the commanding officer of the fourth battalion, Amphibious Force:

"I wish to use this means of conveying to you my appreciation for the splendid way in which you carried out your duties and in many instances went far beyond them, in the Sicilian Avalanche operation on July 10, and in the Italian Staffs landing operation on September 9 and subsequent dates, 1943. I feel that the success of these vital operations was due in no small measure to the gallantry and bravery under heavy fire which the Fourth Beach Battalion, as a unit, displayed upon this occasion.

J. E. Walsh, Lt. Cmdr. USNR.

Missing in Europe Staff Sgt. Harry Romaniec is missing in action in the European war area, the War Department reveals. His father, George Romaniec of Osceola Mills, has been notified.

Airman Promoted The War Department has announced promotion from second lieutenant to first lieutenant of Eugene Thurman Blier of Rebersburg, who is serving in the Air Corps.

HONOR ROLL

Aviation Cadet



Cadet Edward D. Foye, Jr. Cadet Foye, 20, son of Major E. D. Foye, of 154 E. Curtin street, Bellefonte, was recently appointed a Naval Aviation Cadet and was transferred to the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, Florida, for intermediate flight training. Upon completion of the intensive course at the "Ampolis of the Air," Cadet Foye will receive his Navy "Wings of Gold" with the designation of naval aviator, and will be commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve or a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. Cadet Foye formerly made his home with his grandmother, Mrs. Robert Hunter of Bellefonte.

On Overseas Mission



Cpl. Paul F. Stover Inducted July 2, 1943. Corporal Stover, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stover of Woodward, was sent to Camp Sutton, N. C., then to Camp Butler, N. C., and is now with the American forces overseas. He graduated from East Penns Valley High School in 1943, and was a member of East Penns Valley Band. He has a brother, Russel Stover, also serving overseas.

In England



Sgt. Walter E. Lucas Inducted at New Cumberland, Feb. 15, 1943. Sgt. Lucas took his basic training at St. Petersburg, Fla., followed by two months airplane mechanics schooling at Chanute Field, South Carolina. He was sent overseas about Dec. 21, 1943, with the 484th Service Squadron, 4th Service Group of the Air Corps. He is now stationed somewhere in England.

In Radio Work



Seaman 2/c Bernard M. Kerin Seaman Kerin, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Kerin enlisted in the Navy October 11, 1943, and was sent to Sampson, N. Y., for his boat training. From there he was transferred to Aviation Radio School in Memphis, Tenn. Prior to entering the Navy, Seaman Second Class Kerin was attending Pennsylvania State College, taking chemical engineering. He spent a 7-day furlough with his parents before going to radio school in Texas.

Training In South



Seaman 2/c Bob Branstetter Seaman Branstetter is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Branstetter, of Phillipsburg, was inducted in August, 1943, and is training in Gulfport, Miss., as a member of Co. B, Plt. 3, ABD, 144th Battalion.

Located in Ireland



T/Sgt. Walter R. Schenck T/Sgt. Schenck, son of Oscar Schenck, of Howard, was inducted into the armed forces on Sept. 29, 1942. Completing his basic training at Keebler Field, Miss., he was sent to Las Vegas, Nev., to attend gunnery school. From there he was sent to Salt Lake City, Utah, for classification. His mark being high he was sent to Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas, to enter engineering school. From there he was transferred to Dalhart and Proke, Texas, for combat training on B-17 Flying Fortresses. He was sent overseas August 19, 1943, doing combat duty, and has seven missions to his credit. He is now stationed in Ireland, awaiting assignment.

Learning Sea Duty



Seaman 2/c Homer D. Kruger Inducted last June, when just two weeks out of high school, Seaman Kruger, son of Mrs. Lois Kruger of Phillipsburg, is learning the exacting duties of life on the bounding main with Uncle Sam's navy.

Japs Now Selling Poisoned Liquor

The Japanese have turned bootlegger in one war theater, attempting to peddle phony "American" brands of liquor—some of it poisoned—to American troops.

Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell in an order to his troops in China declared liquor represented as Scotch, rye, brandy, and others are being smuggled into China from enemy-occupied territories by Japanese agents intended for sale to American troops.

"Recent reports indicate the Japanese in some instances introduced poisons into these liquors," the order stated. "All U. S. Army personnel is warned that the purchase of these spurious liquors actually is aiding and abetting the enemy, and drinking the Japanese beverages may result in serious illness or death."

MILESBURG FLIER IS REPORTED GERMAN PRISONER

Staff Sgt. William J. Edmiston, Milesburg flier who was reported missing in action January 7, has been mentioned as a prisoner of war in enemy hands by a German broadcast recorded by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, according to a telegram from the FCC's foreign broadcast intelligence section received last week by Sgt. Edmiston's wife, the former Anna Marie Jones, of Bellefonte.

The telegram warned that the purpose of the broadcast was to gain listeners for enemy propaganda but added that the Army was checking the information concerning Sgt. Edmiston and would inform Mrs. Edmiston of any developments as soon as possible.

Sgt. Edmiston, a radio gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, left for England on October 26 and arrived at an American bombing station early in November. He is a graduate of the Bellefonte High School.

America's first woman mayor was Mrs. Susanna Kinsey Salter, now of Norman, Oklahoma, who was elected at Argonia, Kansas, in 1887.

In Naval Training



Seaman 2/c Stanley P. Miller Seaman Miller is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Miller of Phillipsburg. He was inducted into the Navy in August, and was assigned to R. M. School, class 7-44, Barracks 131 Lower, Section 135, Service School area, USNTS, Bainbridge, Md.

Nurse Returns From Iceland Lt. Agnes Katie departed last week after having spent a 16-day furlough in Phillipsburg and with home folks at Clearfield. She has just returned from Iceland, where she had been stationed with the Army Nurse Corps since last summer. She has been transferred to the Lovell General Hospital at Fort Devens, Mass.

The District of Columbia was established July 16, 1790, from tracts ceded by Maryland and Virginia.

Hitler's Nephew to Enter U. S. Navy

William Patrick Hitler, New York nephew of Adolf Hitler, who has passed his physical examination and now awaits induction in the navy, said he was "rarin' to go" because he has "more than one score to settle with Uncle Adolf."

"My mother was one of the first to declare war on the Hitlers when she left Alois Hitler, Adolf's half-brother," he said. "All the time I was in Germany I had to run to Hese or Hitler for anything I wanted. Later my mother's sister was killed in the 1941 London blitz."

He said he is planning to write a book on Hitler and already has chosen a tentative title. It is "My Uncle Adolf."

SEE LARGE FIELD IN SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The demand for teachers of mentally retarded and handicapped children so far exceeds the supply in Pennsylvania that the opportunities in this field are limitless, according to Dr. C. O. Williams, in charge of the educational placement bureau at the Pennsylvania State College.

One hundred and one schools needed such teachers this year and were unable to fill the vacancies, Dr. Williams pointed out. Although these positions are better paid than most teaching jobs because of state appropriations, few teachers are certified for the work.

"To meet this shortage," he advised, "superintendents should pick out teachers who have the talent to handle special classes and urge them to obtain certificates."

Only 24 credits are necessary, he explained, and teaching experience automatically provides six of these. The others—six credits in the educational child, six in arts and crafts, and six in methods of instruction for the special class—may be obtained in one college semester or two summer sessions.

U. S. Soldier's Knowledge of German Captures Eighty Prisoners

German after German would walk up to the door, click their heels and self-propelled gun came into sight inquire: "Ist den Herr Hauptmann da?"

Second Lt. Paul M. Koerner of Pontiac, Mich., would reply: "Ja, der Hauptmann ist hier," and take another prisoner.

Koerner and three other Americans were sitting in a captured German command post on the edge of Cairo, north of Casimo. The German captain who was supposed to be in command was lying dead in a ravine outside.

Koerner isn't sure how many Germans fell into his trap that day—the day he had 10 other Americans capture Cairo—but all told he picked up about 80 prisoners.

Cairo had to be taken before the Americans could make their attack on Monastery Hill above Casimo. By some freak tactics Koerner found himself heading into town with 22 men and four tanks.

The first thing that happened was that a German self-propelled gun and two tanks got between Koerner's platoon and the village.

The Lieutenant and Pvt. Joseph J. Smith of Rockford, Ill., were riding atop one of the American tanks

and firing their carbines when the self-propelled gun came into sight about 100 yards away.

With Koerner directing the fire, the tank put the gun out of commission with one shell and, with three more wrecked one of the German tanks. The tank then began attacking the various fortified houses soon after we knocked off the tank," Koerner said.

"It got so crowded I finally had to send some men back with prisoners," Koerner said. "Almost every house in Cairo was fortified, but we finally reached the center of town with everything clear out behind."

A couple of men were wounded, so I decided to sit there and hold the town for awhile. Just then an Italian came up and pointed out a house on the far side of town and said there were a lot of Jerries there.

"I had only ten men then. We got within 50 yards of the house and turned a bazooka on it. A tank opened up with three rounds and we surrounded the house. Pretty soon out came 31 more prisoners, four officers and 27 men—a complete battalion staff. The captain decided not to surrender and he finally was killed."

County's Record Cold Snap Mild Compared with Army's Arctic Test

Centre county's record-breaking low temperature of 31 degrees below zero, which up to 1941 broke all previous records, was fairly compared with sub-zero temperature recorded the year around at Lawrence, Mass., in the Arctic room of the U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps.

Created to test cold weather clothing for Uncle Sam's doughboys, this unique laboratory utilizes one of industry's newest electronic devices, an electronic potentiometer developed by the Brown Instrument Co. of Philadelphia. It was revealed, each soldier volunteering for the tests remains for hours at a time in the Arctic room, exposed to temperatures varying from 40 to 60 degrees below zero. During these test periods the new and ingenious electronic device is connected, it was stated, to a wired harness which is fastened to each man wears under his clothing.

Temperatures at eight points on his body, beneath the clothing being tested, are electronically recorded in a matter of seconds by use of the Brown potentiometer, according to Army officials.

The tests at Lawrence are said to have verified one conviction of veteran Centre county amateur weather experts, namely, that when a man shivers he becomes warmer. Data accumulated there on the reaction of the human body to long periods of intense cold, and on the warmth-giving qualities of different kinds of clothing and fabrics, have enabled the Quartermaster Corps to make available the improved types of Arctic protection being used by our armed forces.

The results of the tests will, it is believed, be reflected in warmer clothing which will be available to each man wears under his clothing.

On Duty at Army Air Base

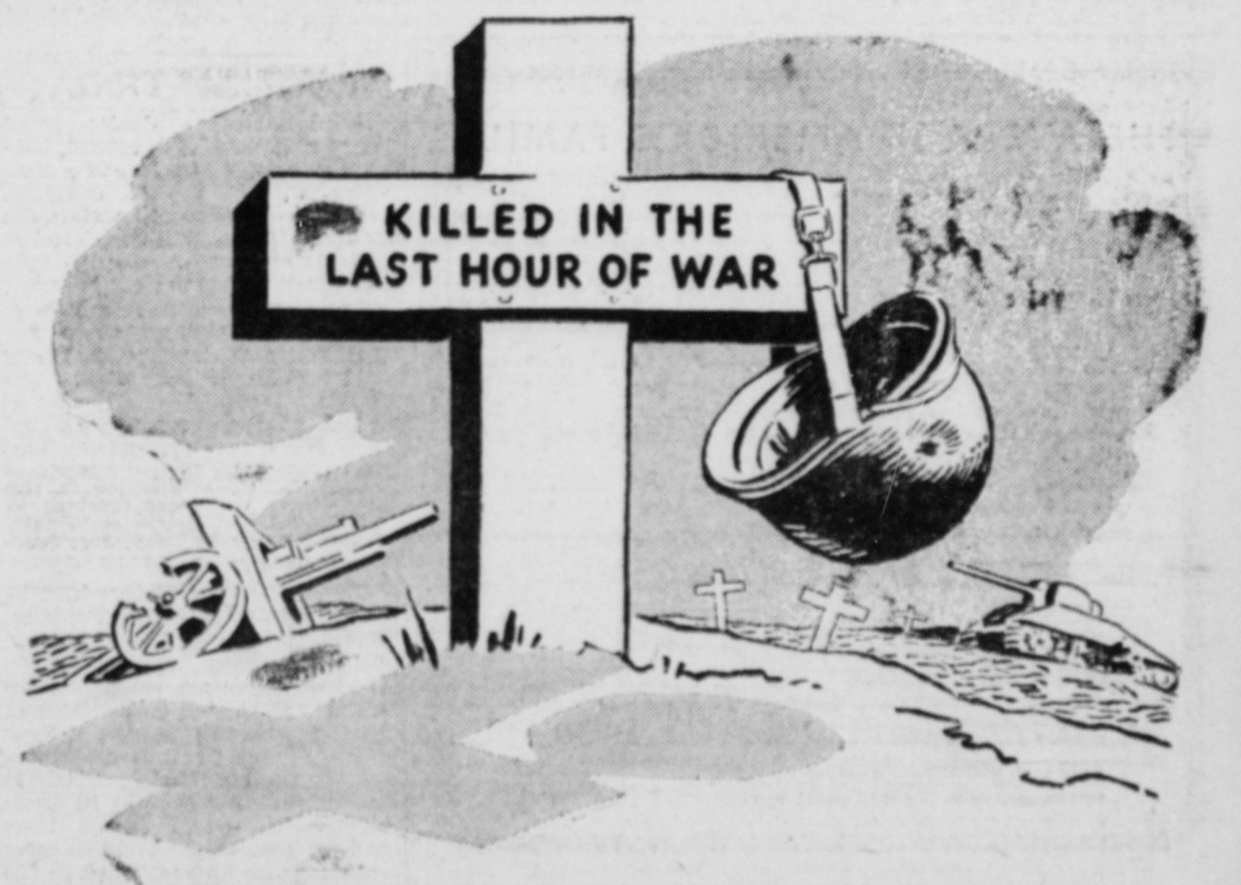
Pvt. Elizabeth Clara Mangino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Mangino, 207 East Lamb street, Bellefonte, was a member of a Woman's Army Corps unit which recently left First WAC Training Center at Fort Des Moines, Ia., for duty with the army at WAC Detachment Army Air Base, Sioux City, Iowa. Hundreds of trained WACS go out each week

from Fort Des Moines, the other WAC training centers and specialist schools, to take their places with the army.

J. M. KEICHLINE INSURANCE AGENCY One of the Oldest Agencies in Centre County EDW. L. KEICHLINE Temple Court Phone 2521

HEAR and understand HOW TO TELL WHICH HEARING AID IS BEST FOR YOU Two Basic Types TELEPHONE TYPE: High-efficiency reception—low cost ELECTRONIC TYPE: Super-sensitive—many exclusive features TRY BOTH! COMPARE RESULTS! New TELEPHONE Type gives maximum dollar value, combines high efficiency and smooth performance. Light, compact design! Super-sensitive ELECTRONIC Type is closest approach to natural hearing! Adjustable Tone Control shuts out background noises. Have your hearing carefully tested and analyzed by our experienced technician. We help select and adjust the hearing aid that is best for you. All tests and demonstrations free! Call or write today. Western Electric Hearing Aids Designed by BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES AUDIOPHONE CO. 451 Altoona Trust Bldg. ALTOONA, PA. Phone 9010 Send Free Book! Explain Free Test. Send list of 92 difficult words.

A Few Drops Up Each Nostril Quickly Relieve Head Cold Stuffiness Specialized Medication Works Fast Right Where Trouble Is! Grand relief from sniffly, sneezy, stuffy distress of head colds comes fast as Va-tro-nol spreads through the nose, reduces swollen membranes—soothes irritation, relieves congestion, helps clear cold-clogged nasal passages. Makes breathing easier—try it! Follow directions in package. VICKS VA-TRO-NOL



EVERY EXTRA CORD OF PULPWOOD BRINGS VICTORY NEARER Right now one of the critical war-material shortages is pulpwood. And this shortage can be overcome. There is plenty of pulpwood to be cut. The woods are full of it. The only problem is to get it cut. Cutting Pulpwood Is An Essential War Job If you are in a position to get out some pulpwood—and every cord helps—you can contribute that much to an early victory and be well paid for your work. The nation looks to you for help! For information, ask your local pulpwood committee. VICTORY PULPWOOD COMMITTEE KARL E. KUSSE H. A. BROCKERHOFF THOMAS BEAVER J. M. CURTIN US VICTORY PULPWOOD CAMPAIGN