

Describes Pre-Invasion Incidents Aboard Ships

A correspondent who accompanied the American boys across the English Channel on their great invasion adventure, gives us the following pen picture of incidents preceding the assault:

There was no bravado, no noticeable tension and no visible elation. These were just a bunch of American youngsters who wanted to get their job over with as quickly as possible.

They knew where they were going and why. After months of rigorous training they felt as ready as they would ever be for what they knew would be a dangerous and bloody task from which they would not return and from which others would come back blind, limbless and shocked.

But for most of them, this was their first battle and such thoughts were far back in their minds.

As one shavetail told me: "I feel the first step on the beach will be my first step home."

"For three years each step I have taken has been away from home. Now is the time to get started back."

"I am accompanying the American assault force which was chosen for the all-important task of making the first breach in one sector of the steel and concrete explosive wall that Hitler has thrown around his enslaved countries."

Their job is to die on the beaches or in charging the wall if necessary, but at all costs to blast holes which following forces can pour through for eventual destruction of Germany and liberation of Europe.

Men standing on the decks of our LCT (landing craft, tanks) listened crowded together in close attention as their commanding officer read a letter from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower telling them that the hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere are marching with them to victory.

Leaning against jeeps and other vehicles they appeared absorbed as they heard other messages from Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery and Omar Nelson Bradley. All three promised victory "with God's help."

The commanding officer of headquarters company troops of this LCT read the messages rapidly but expressively and then added:

"There's not much need for me to say anything. In the event of air attacks, the only firing will be done by the Navy and our 50-calibers. It's unlikely the big bombers will go after us because we're a small target."

"We may get strafed. If so, get under your vehicles as quick as you can. Lie there and pray to God."

"There's no need to say anything more. This is the McCoy. Every one of you has proved himself one hun-

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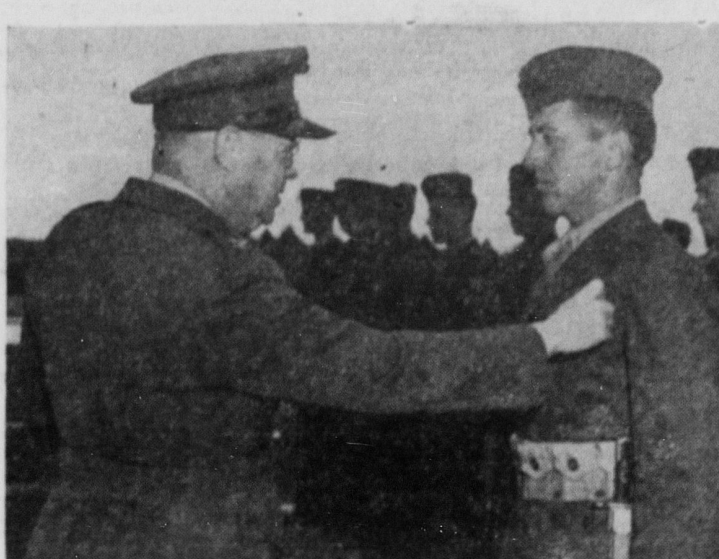


Flying Officer



Harold W. Powell, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Powell of Bellefonte, was a member of the 25th class of aviation cadets to graduate from the Columbus Army Air Field near Columbus, Mississippi, on May 23. He received the silver wings of a Flying Officer and commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces.

Receives Honor Badge



One of the most coveted awards is the husband of Mrs. Helen Heaton Colborn who lives on East Lamb street, Bellefonte.

This award is made to the man who, in the minds of his instructors, has shown particular aptitude and efficiency in military training. This award is open to each man in every recruit training platoon.

Editor Is In Sea-Bees



Lt. Charles A. Mensch, 35, editor of The Key-stone Gazette, Bellefonte, and son of Mrs. Bessie Mensch, of North Allegheny street, enlisted in the Sea-Bees in February, 1942, and the following month reported for training at Newport, R. I. He received a rating as a Second Class Petty Officer and later, when assigned to Camp Peary, Va., was advanced to first class.

Soldiers in Italy Proud Of Telephone Work

Private Paul H. Kellerman, line-man, husband of Mrs. Gladys Kellerman, Bellefonte, is serving with the wire section of a Signal Corps regiment that establishes, operates and maintains communications for an important part of the Allied Armies in Italy.

Early in the campaign this wire section was given the almost impossible task of setting up in fifteen days an entire telephone system for one of the most important headquarters in this war theater. With every man in the unit working day and night, the job was finished on time. Establishing this system involved activating a six-position commercial switchboard and installing 35 miles of buried lead cable, 60 miles of field wire and rubber cable and 200 telephone instruments.

Construction crews, linemen, cable splicers and switchboard operators are proud to see the results of their work in operation.

A total of 700 officers and enlisted men, most of them who were telephone technicians in civilian life, are now engaged with this unit in keeping open the lines of communications that are vital to the success of a fighting army.

Poets' Corner

The Sailor's Prayer

U. S. Naval Training Station Great Lakes, Ill.

Dear Sirs:
I receive your paper every week and it sure makes me feel good when I get it, because news from home really sounds good.

The boys here get as much kick out of a circus, so they say. So a few of us got together and made up a Sailor's Prayer which I am sending you. The boys would like to see it in the paper. Here it is:

THE SAILOR'S PRAYER
Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
Grant no other sailor take
My shoes and socks before I wake.

Lord, guard me in my slumber
And keep my hammock on its number.
May no clues or lashing break
And let me down before I wake.

Keep me safely in this sight,
And grant no fire drill tonight,
And in the morning let me wake
Breathing scents of airloin steak.

God, protect me in my dreams
And make this better than it seems.
Grant the time may swiftly fly
When myself shall rest on high
In a snowy feather bed
When I long to rest my head.

Far away from all the scenes
And the smell of half-done beans,
Take me back into the land
Where they don't scrub down with sand.

When the women wash the clothes
God, thou knowest all my woes,
Feed me in my dying throes;
Take me back, I'll promise then,
Never to leave home again.

HAROLD MOWERY, A.S.
Ward B. South, McIntire Disp. U.S. N.T.S., Great Lakes, Ill.

Happy Birthday



Corporal Robert Heckman who today, June 15, is celebrating his 34th birthday, "somewhere in England." Corporal Heckman is the son of Mrs. J. C. A. Heckman, of Spring Mills. He was formerly employed at the Dairyman's League Milk plant.

HOWARD BROTHERS IN ARMED FORCES



Sgt. Joan E. Heverly, 24, of Camp Shelby, Miss., and Pvt. Donald E. Heverly, 18, of Ft. Knox, Ky., sons of Milford and Anna Boone Heverly of Howard, are serving in the U. S. armed forces.

Sgt. Joan graduated from the Howard High School and was attending the State Teachers College in Lock Haven in December 1942 when he was inducted. He is a mem-



ber of an infantry unit stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Pvt. Donald Heverly is a graduate of the Blanchard High School and held a position as seaman on the Great Lakes when he was inducted into the army on March 23, 1944. He is stationed at Ft. Knox, Ky., where he is undergoing training.

Both brothers were outstanding football and baseball players while attending school.

In South Pacific

Those who remember Lieut. Sidney L. Sattenstein as one of the officers of the Monument CCC Camp several years ago will be interested to learn that he is now lieutenant colonel in the Army, located in the South Pacific, his service having included New Zealand and Australia.

OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE

EDITOR'S NOTE:
All of the limited production of Wrigley's Spearmint chewing gum is being shipped overseas to our Armed Forces. Wartime difficulties make it impossible to produce sufficient quantity of quality gum to supply everybody. We are all missing Wrigley's Spearmint—but until the Wrigley people can bring it back, they hope that you will get some satisfaction and pleasure reading about your Service friends and relatives in this news column sponsored by Wrigley's.

Promotion Announced

Myrtle Vivian Mitchell, Clearfield, of the Army Nurses Corps, has been promoted from second lieutenant to first, the War Department has announced.

Nurse Promoted

Ruth M. Frank of Lock Haven, of the Army Nurses Corps, has been announced by the War Department as promoted from second lieutenant to first lieutenant.

Men in tense situations often chew ten to twenty times as much chewing gum as they would normally. So for the past several weeks, all the limited supply of Wrigley's Spearmint has been going to the battlefront. We know you are missing Wrigley's Spearmint Gum and think you are swell for so unselfishly giving it up.

Home on Furlough

Richard D. Thomas, HA 1/c, is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Thomas at Ocoale, Ind. Dick is stationed at Lafayette, Miss.

Send your letters and news to the Wrigley Editor, care of The Centre Democrat.

Mom and Pop

Who was it worked from morn till night?
To keep our home so clean and bright?
Who cooked us many a delicious meal?
Who worked like heck to make the dough?
Who always makes a household go?
Who dressed us out from head to toe?
Pop—always pop.

Who taught our childish lips to pray
When night came on—no toys put away?
Who told us just the words to say?
Mom—always mom.

When we would speak on Children's Day,
"Oh that was fine," you'd hear folks say?
Who took the credit right away?
Pop—always pop.

When tasks were hard and we were blue,
We simply couldn't see things through,
Who knew the very thing to do?
Mom—always mom.

When we lost our job and funds were low,
And we didn't have a place to go,
Who said "You can come back home,
I know?"
Pop—always pop.

When Gabriel sounds his trumpet call
To round up the saints and angels all,
Who will be first in line to fall?
Mom—always mom.

Who knows he'd better mend his ways
And walk straight and narrow the rest of his days,
If from the Lord he'd get any praise?
Pop—always pop.

Who do I love more than all the rest,
Who always could stand the hardest test?
Who among the good are the very best?
Mom—and Pop.

—LORETTA BORGER

What Did You Do Today?

The following poem was written by Lieut. Dean Shatlain, a tank commander in the United States Army in Africa, who was wounded in battle and forced to amputate his own foot. While, so far as he knew, he was dying, the lieutenant wrote the poem which found its way to America. Shatlain did not die, but is recuperating in a hospital in England. His thoughts in poetry stand as a living challenge to every man, woman and child on the home front.

WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?
What did you do today, my friend,
From morning till the night?
How many times did you complain,
That rationing is too tight?
When are you going to start to do
All the things you say?
A soldier would like to know, my friend,
What did you do today?

We met the enemy today
And took the town by storm.
Happy reading it will make
For you tomorrow morn.
You'll read with satisfaction
The brief communique.
We fought, but are you fighting?
What did you do today?

My gunner died in my arms today,
I let his warm blood wet
Your neighbor's dying boy gave out
A scream I'll never forget.
For my right a tank was hit,
A flash and then a fire.
The stench of burning flesh,
Still rises from the pyre.
What did you do today, my friend,
To help us with the task?

Did you work harder and longer for
less?
Or is that too much to ask?
What right have I to ask you this,
You probably will say,
Maybe now you'll understand,
You see... I died today.

Advanced in Rank

Colonel Herbert E. Taylor, post commander at Camp Campbell, Ky., announces the promotion of Private Charles M. Ray to the rank of Technician Fifth Grade. Ray is assigned to the Military Police Section of the 1580th Service Unit, A native of Bellefonte, T.S. Ray is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel N. Ray, of Axemann. Prior to his entrance into the Army he was manager for Weis Pure Food Stores of Sunbury.

Unseen, Fate goeth, too!

Think then, some earnest word to say
Between the idle talk;
So he may know, that always, night and day,
You with him walk.

—ANONYMOUS

Soldiers Want Farms When They Return

If the number of letters received from soldiers who want to buy farms after the war is any criterion, "the problem is going to be how to find enough good farms, part-time farms and homes in the country to go around." So said Professor F. F. Hill of Ithaca, N. Y., head of the agricultural economics department at Cornell University, in a General Electric Farm Forum address here.

"Whether it is life in the long hours of hard work or something else that puts the farm idea in their heads," Professor Hill pointed out, "a day never passes that we don't get a letter from some serviceman in Italy, England, the South Pacific or the United States, who has decided that, after the war, he wants to farm or at least get out of the city into the country, where he can have plenty of room to move around and perhaps a garden and a few hens to help keep down the grocery bill just in case we should run into another period of unemployment like we did in the 1920's."

To prospective farmers, soldiers and civilians alike, Professor Hill gave the following advice:

"The first thing to do is decide whether you want to farm for a living or to buy or rent a farm either for use as a home or perhaps for part-time farming. Then, after making this decision," he said, "select a piece of property that is suited to the use you want to make of it. All farms are not alike even if they happen to have the same number of acres, a house, a barn, and a rural free delivery mailbox down at the corner."

"If you want to operate a poultry farm, it is usually good business to locate in an area where poultry farming is being carried on by someone else. In the same way, if you want to operate a fruit farm, locate in a fruit section and be sure to buy a farm that has well-drained, fruit soils."

"Don't buy a farm until you talk with the county agent and experienced farmers in the neighborhood where the farm is located," Professor Hill advised. "The first farm you find that is offered for sale may be what you want. Again, it may not be."

"Last, but not least, if you are going to try to make your living entirely from farming and have not had farming experience, the first thing to do is to get some in the area and in the kind of farming you want to do—dairy, poultry, fruit, corn and hogs, or what not. If you

WAC and Soldier Leap From Plane

WAC Pfc. Dorothy Kimmel, 26, of Meadville, Pa., and Sgt. Paul L. Hays, 34, Osborn, Ohio, both connected with the materiel command photographic laboratory at Wright Field, frightened while on a routine mission, leaped to their deaths from a plane Sunday near Dayton, Ohio.

The public relations office at Wright Field said they were flying in a B-26 Marauder bomber and attempted to bail out when a parachute which had been released accidentally began flapping against the side of the plane.

They were at such a low altitude that chutes did not open.

Begin Air Training

Two youths from Bellefonte have reported to the pre-flight school at Maxwell Field, Alabama, an installation of the AAF Training Command, to begin another phase of their training in the U. S. Army Air Forces. They are Aviation Cadets William F. Dunn, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dunn, 52 East Curtin street, and John E. Knarr, 18, of 19 East Burnside street. Here the aviation cadets are receiving nine weeks of intensive physical, military and academic instruction.

Three Brothers in Italy

Pfc. Paul Dumbleton has landed in Italy and is the third son of Mrs. Elizabeth Dumbleton, of Osceola Mills, to be sent to Italy. Sgt. Harry and Pvt. Robert are already on duty there and the three brothers hope to be able to get together soon.

Receives Promotion

Robert Ashworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ashworth, of Osceola Mills, had been promoted to pharmacist mate third class. He is stationed at Portland, Maine. He has been in the service thirteen months.

Promoted to Major

Capt. Harry C. Myers, of West Decatur, who is stationed at Turner Field, Albany, Georgia, has been promoted to the rank of major.

Tired Feet

The feet will not become tired while ironing or doing any kind of work that requires standing, if an old blanket or comfort is doubled into several thicknesses, and used to stand on.

Aide at Marien Base



Cpl. Louise Kozar, U. S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve, of Bellefonte, is now on duty at one of the Women's Reserve mess halls at Camp Elliott, San Diego, Cal. She is a graduate of the Cooks and Bakers School in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and was an assistant cook there prior to her present assignment.

Corporal Kozar was employed as a housekeeper previous to her enlistment. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kozar, reside at Bellefonte, R. D. 1. She is a graduate of the Bellefonte High School.

Clarence Truck Driver Rescues Cow From Combat Zone

Hauling supplies and troops are the usual duties of Corporal Michael Kormanice, of Clarence, Centre county, a squad leader in a quarter-master trucking platoon on the fifth Army front in Italy.

Recently, however, he was called upon to help rescue a cow from a forward area. With the help of several other soldiers, the "Italian Jersey" was coaxed aboard his vehicle and driven to greener pastures far from the sound of guns.

"She was in the way and I had to move her fast, before the Krauts could make hamburgers out of her. All in a day's work," said Kormanice when he had completed his unusual task.

His mother, Mrs. Mary Kormanice, a native of Czech-Slovakia, lives in Clarence. His wife, Mary, lives in Stanley, Virginia.

Before the war he was a shipyard construction worker. He has one brother in the army and two with the Marines.

Awarded Conduct Medal

Pvt. Nevin B. Watson, son of Mrs. Alta Reese, Bellefonte, R. D. 3, and husband of Mrs. Nevin B. Watson, 86 Elm avenue, Uniondale, Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y., has been awarded the Good Conduct Medal by his Company Commander Capt. Robert L. Fox, for demonstrated fidelity, faithful and exact performance of duty, efficiency through capacity to produce desired results and exemplary behavior. Pvt. Watson is stationed with the Army at Bougainville.

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