

# ASTP Sergeant Relates Vivid Tales Of Misery, Pestilence In Burma

First Sergeant Byron Lewis, now attached to the ASTP on campus, fought the Japs in India, Burma, and China. Stationed in Burma during part of the famine in 1943, he vividly recalls the misery, hunger, and pestilence which walked the streets with the hungry poor.

American troops tried to offer aid, but rather than violate religious edicts, the Indians would choose starvation. They accepted no food from the Americans.

But Sergeant Lewis had not gone to Burma to inspect the ravages of famine. Attached to the ATC and the 14th Air Force under General Chennault, he shuttled from one patrol to the other in the battle to keep supplies flowing into China.

Only the northern sector of the road, running from Kunming to Chungking was open then. The average truck lasted seven months. There was no convenient depot from which to draw supplies for repairs. Worn-out trucks were dumped in the "graveyard" where they were dismantled to provide spare parts.

Transportation difficulties were only one problem. Overhead Jap Mitsubishi planes would suddenly appear and dive, strafing everything below. Sgt. Lewis describes the protection their position afforded by comparing those travelling the road to ducks on a pond—an easy target for a powerful plane.

Chinese worked with American soldiers. Although the sergeant found them curiously unsuited to truck driving, he commented on their fighting spirit: "Chinese morale is high. They really mean to go back and do business."

When Americans stationed in the Far East speak of "the Hump" they refer to the towering range of mountains stretching between India and China. To airmen "the Hump" represents one of the most dangerous stretches of the air, comparable in number of casualties to the toll taken in the "graveyard of the Alleghenies" when plane travel was in its infancy. According to Sgt. Lewis, a common description of "The Hump" at 22,000 feet is, "clouds full of rocks."

Sgt. Lewis made 12 trips over "the Hump." After he had been wounded in October of 1943, and had partially recovered, he was scheduled to make his last trip over it in a hospital plane. It almost became the last trip he would make anywhere.

"I usually sat in the back of the ship. Captain Ross, the pilot, called me to the front and pointed to the right. He asked me what I saw. I looked over and saw a swarm of planes, which I told Captain Ross were P-40's. 'P-40's, hell!' he exploded, 'those are Zeros!'"

Captain Ross beat the Zeros to the field. All aboard dashed for the nearby rice fields when the wheels touched land. No members of the crew or passengers were hurt, but the plane was destroyed.

Having arrived in the States after an attempted torpedoing, the sergeant enjoyed the sensation of ordering almost anything and getting it. The inflation of the Chinese dollar had sent prices soaring in China. A steak dinner, if one had been available, would have cost at least \$30. It was a common occurrence to lose thirty or forty thousand dollars in a poker game if the stakes were Chinese money. American soldiers were paid in silver.

Sgt. Lewis enlisted in the Army in 1930. He has refused two commissions. When he returned from the East he felt that a chicken farm would provide the ideal home. State College, with its quiet and lack of excitement, fills his specifications.

Although Sgt. Lewis had heard much of the apathy of civilians towards the war, he does not agree that it exists in large measure. He also feels that the war in the East will be won through China.

## Prize Holstein Cows Win National Awards For Milk Production

Penstate Inka Hazel, Penn State's prize cow walked off with the title of champion milk producer of the U. S. in the class of full-aged cows milked four times daily during ten months of 1943. She gave 20,572 pounds of milk and 811.2 pounds of butterfat during that period.

Three other registered Holstein cows from the herd owned by the College also ranked among the nation's highest producers in 1943.

Penstate Inka Betsy with 21,566 pounds of milk and 784.4 pounds of butterfat is the highest producing senior four-year-old in the same division.

The other leaders are Penstate Inka Doris, second highest four-year-old, and Penstate Inka Lady Josie, third highest producing full-aged cow. They were also scored on the basis of four daily milkings throughout ten months.

These records will be listed in the 1943 Honor List which is based on production exceeding advanced registry requirements by 66.6 per cent. It is announced annually to show the status of cows meeting the high standards.

"Betsy" and "Hazel" will also be listed in the yearly division as third and sixth respectively in their own classes.

## War News Analyzed

By CARROLL D. CHAMPLIN Professor of Education

The news is good to know. The papers are definitely worth reading today. The magazines are still better if you wish interpretation; and if you want to acquire a genuine perspective, some of the recent books are best of all. So much for our educational plug. Now for the facts.

### Books

First of all three books. Do you care to understand the transition period between war and peace? Sumner Welles can help you in his "The Time for Decision." The same motivation holds for Walter Lippman's "U. S. War Aims." Willard Waller, of Barnard College and formerly a Penn State sociologist proves himself to be way ahead of Congress as a post-war planner in his "The Veteran Comes Back."

### Battle Fronts

The Russians have come into a phase of fighting that means more difficult battles and slower advances. Cutting through White Russia and Eastern Poland was not so serious, but knocking the Nazis out of the Baltic States and subduing Warsaw may require considerable time. Our lend-lease contribution to the series of Soviet victories has been 200,000 trucks and jeeps, 8,000 airplanes and a phenomenal supply of food. For this generosity Stalin is grateful.

The situation in France is somewhat in reverse to the Eastern Front, owing to the phenomenal manner in which the Americans, British and Canadians have clicked cooperatively. These comrades in this latest version of the BLITZ have their hardest battles behind them. They are fanning out toward fresh conquests, under the spell of the proximity of the French capital, which at this writing is 80 miles away. Wednesday, August 9th, is claimed to have been our best day so far.

In three days we have moved forward 100 miles, equalling the best rate of the Russian pace-makers. Nazi resistance is softening, and their vaunted efficiency is conspicuously absent. The Western Front—the long awaited, notorious Second Front—has usurped the headlines. Lovers of Paris and her famed institutions hope they will fare as well as Rome and Florence in escaping the full wrath of the retreating Germans.

### The Marianas

We have slain 5,000 Japanese on Tinian, 10,000 on Guam and 20,000 on Saipan. Even the profligate policy of human sacrifice practiced by the Japs throughout their long war will respond to these tragic statistics with strokes of "Japaplexy" among their strategy makers. Rota has been occupied, and now our forces are reaching out to Wake to avenge another long-standing grievance.

### German Purge

German generals, colonels and captains have surrendered and committed suicide with revealing satisfaction. They have plotted against their Fuehrer, faced trial haughtily and been hanged ignominiously. They were not our friends, any of them. There was no apparent conspiracy with any Allied authorities. This has been merely a family quarrel, but it presages probable early negotiations between Nazi Fifth Column leaders and agents of the United Nations. No verification yet of Himmler's assassination and Goering's injury.

### Predicting the End

Pessimists say the war in Europe will run five or six months. The moderates say ten weeks or three months. The optimists one month. The early fall of Paris and the landing of a large force of paratroopers in Southern France or in Belgium or Holland would

(Continued on page eight)

## 'Penn State Engineer' Features ASTP Column

"The Army At Penn State" will be a new feature in this month's Penn State Engineer. Two ASTP trainees on campus Pfc. James Hale and Pfc. Nate Cooper of Barracks 28 will be writing the monthly feature which will be devoted in its entirety to the ASTP men' stationed on our campus. The August column is concerned chiefly with a brief history of the ASTP since its arrival at the College.

Other articles included in the new issue are articles on penicillin, "Miracles From Mold;" the helicopter, "Helicopters As Personal Aircraft;" and the latest news of the turbo-supercharger, "Power Plus."

## Players

(Continued from page one) up: Laurette Swartz, manager, Libby Peters.

Stage: George Rowe, manager, Jack Simpson, Robert Whitall, Joseph Mayers, Walter Robinson, Walter Falkenberg, William Silverstein; Advertising: Shirley Levine, manager, Louise Zimmers, assistant manager, Libby Peters, Eleanor Zins, Nancy George, Terry Rosenthal, Dorothy Schumaker.

## College Vets Organize

Fourteen veterans of this war met at the American Legion Home Monday evening to create a new organization consisting solely of honorably discharged servicemen. A committee was appointed to frame a constitution for the group.

All former soldiers, sailors or marines who did not attend the first meeting are urged to be present along with the other members at the American Legion Home 7:30 p. m. Monday, and find out what the club has to offer.

## Surgical Dressings

The surgical dressings class which met August 2 rolled 990 dressings. AEP continued to be the best represented with 17 members present and Delta Gamma had six.

During the month of July a total of 79 coeds worked 157 1/4 hours and rolled 1743 dressings.

## Air Force Opens Exam To Students

Lt. Vance Dunkelberger of the Harrisburg Aviation Cadet board will give the Army Air Forces mental examinations for students who are not yet 18 years of age in 417 Old Main at 9 a. m. August 18.

Successful applicants will then be directed to report for their physical examinations in Harrisburg.

The men who pass will be enlisted in the Air Force Enlisted Reserves, but they will not be called until the close of the semester in which they become 18. Once called, they will be assigned to Air Combat Crew Training, with the upper 43 per cent going on to training as pilots, bombardiers, or navigators.

Applications may be obtained from the faculty adviser on War Service in 243 Sparks. Completed forms must be submitted at the time of the physical examination, accompanied by birth certificates and three letters of recommendation.

Lt. Dunkelberger, directing the tests, is a veteran of the African and Italian campaigns. He has flown more than 50 missions as bombardier, and holds the Air Medal with bronze and silver clusters.

## Newman Club Opens Drive

Opening its membership drive for the summer semester, the Newman Club has invited all Catholic students to join. Prospective members are asked to attend the weekly meetings held at the rectory 7 p.m. Wednesday, and to be present at the initiation in the State College High School gymnasium 7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 12. A dance for all members will follow.

One of the first social activities planned by the club is a swimming party and picnic, to be held at Justice Lodge, Sunday August 27. Admission will be by membership cards only.

## IWA Elects Chairmen

Norma Shanholt and Harriet Strauber were recently elected co-chairmen of the IWA social committee to replace Virginia Beirne who has resigned.

## WARNER BROS.—STATE COLLEGE THEATRES

### PROGRAM

### CATHAUM THEATRE

Fri. SECRET COMMAND Pat O'Brien Carole Landis

Sat.-Mon. WHITE CLIFFS of DOVER Irene Dunne Alan Marshall  
Tues.-Wed.

Thurs. TAKE IT BIG Jack Haley Harriet Hilliard

### STATE THEATRE

Fri.-Sat. BATHING BEAUTY Red Skelton Esther Williams Music by James and Cugat

Mon. THEY MADE ME A CRIMINAL John Garfield Priscilla Lane

Tues. BROTHER RAT Wayne Morris John Clements

Wed. UNDERGROUND GUERRILLAS Mary Morris

Thurs.-Fri. Sat. STEP LIVELY Frank Sinatra George Murphy Gloria DeHaven

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