

Seaman Finds Acting Mild After Overseas Service

As State Trooper Brendell in players' forthcoming production, "Papa Is All," Seaman Mat Szeylel of Barracks 41 finds that acting in a play is easy, mild business compared to his performance in the drama of war for four years.

Enlisting in the Navy in August 1940, Szeylel was assigned to the aircraft carrier Yorktown which was operating in the Pacific Ocean. After nine months the warship transferred to the Atlantic by way of the Panama Canal. Seaman Szeylel was then placed aboard the aircraft carrier Ranger as radioman and remained on the ship for two-and-a-half years.

During the North African invasion the Ranger was operating just off Casablanca. When the signal was given planes based on the Ranger took off and protected the ground forces swarming ashore. During three days of opposition, the waters were infested with enemy submarines which attempted to torpedo the carrier. The Ranger's planes and destroyer escorts sunk the enemy subs.

Szeylel was situated in the Orkney and Shetland Islands just north of Scotland during the latter part of 1943. The Ranger was ordered to destroy enemy shipping in company with the British home fleet off the coast of Nor-

way. When the Norwegian garrison stationed at Spitzbergen radioed that they were being attacked by the German battleship Scharnhorst, the Ranger and her British escort attempted to intercept and annihilate her.

The Ranger landed in Scotland for minor repairs in the latter part of October 1943, which meant a brief leave for Szeylel. He rail-roaded to London where he met his sister Margaret, first lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps. For five days the couple toured England and Scotland, including the bombed areas of London.

Rituals more elaborate—and painful—than any campus fraternity could devise were experienced by Szeylel when he crossed the Equator. A sailor who had crossed the imaginary ring around the world the longest time ago was crowned King Neptune, and supervised the ceremonies. Shellbacks, gobs who had sailed across the Equator before, masqueraded and escorted the Pollywogs or greenies to the Regent of Waters.

Before the grueling proceedings were over, Seaman Szeylel had delivered a speech, had his hair clipped, and face painted, and had been sufficiently dunked. Because Szeylel survived the ordeal he was awarded a Shellback certificate, handed out to all sailors who cross the Equator.

During May and June of this year, the seaman attended pre-V-12 school at Asbury Park, N. J. In July Szeylel reported to Penn State for 16 months of training.

Players To Hunt Authentic Props

Promising to scour the countryside like a swarm of hungry locusts in search of genuine Pennsylvania Dutch furniture and kitchenware for the forthcoming presentation of "Papa Is All," Players technical crews prepare to lend an authentic air to the sets; Pat McClure, assistant to the director, announced today.

Cupboards and chests, such as would be found in a Mennonite kitchen, are being reproduced by the assistants to the designer in painting the sets, she said.

The crew heads as released by Prof. Frank Neusbaum, director of the play, include Libby Peters as prompter, Bill Morton as stage manager, and Bob Whitall as construction engineer. Property managers are Allene Babbitt and Nan Hoefflich.

Helen Blanker has been named costume manager, Norma Lee Hoover, paint manager, and Mary Anne Mason, light manager. Advertising manager is Louise Zimmers. Assistants to the designer are Audrey Kreeger, Nan Charles, and Jean Breskin. Anne Hazard is the assistant to the technician.

Nightly rehearsals continue to prepare the play for its presentation in Schwab Auditorium Sept. 29 and 30.

Rabbi Eppstein To Direct Hillel



RABBI VICTOR EPPSTEIN

Beginning next week, Rabbi Victor Eppstein will take Rabbi Benjamin Kahn's place at the Hillel Foundation when the latter leaves for McGill University, Canada.

The new Rabbi, who arrived Tuesday, graduated in 1926 from the University of California and did graduate work at Columbia University. He was ordained in 1929, after attending the Jewish Institute of Religion.

Havana, Cuba, Scranton, and New York have been some of the cities whose congregations the Rabbi has served. In 1940 he ran for Congress on the Democratic ticket in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania.

Rabbi Eppstein operated a modern dairy farm in Montgomery county near Pottstown. He doesn't think farming is too far a cry from politics—"George Washington had a farm."

In 1941, after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Rabbi Eppstein enlisted in the Marine Corps as a private. Now honorably discharged, the Rabbi is acting as counsellor of the Hillel organization at Bucknell University as well as being director of the State College unit.

Rabbi Kahn will introduce his successor to the congregation tonight at 7:30 p.m. during the Hillel services.

Departure Of Lt. Rua Marks Official Close Of Air Corps At College

Lt. Frank D. Rua, acting commander of the 330th Army Air Corps Division leaves today for Freeman Army Air Field, Seymour, Ind. He was transferred to the College April 21, 1943 from Pittsburgh, where he served with a College Training Detachment Unit.

Lt. Rua, resident of Los Angeles, served here first as Plans and Training Officer, then as Special Service Officer. Since the departure of Maj. Thomas E. Leet, six weeks ago, Rua has been the acting commander at the College, in charge of winding up the government's Air Corps affairs regarding property and supplies. He is the last member of the Air Corps to leave the College.

After being graduated as a second lieutenant of the Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga., July 1943, Rua was assigned as an administration officer to the Air Corps at Fort McClellan. He has also served at Maxwell Field, Gunter Field, and Stuttgart Army Air Base, Pittsburgh. In February 1943 Rua was promoted to first lieutenant. Previous to his induction he was a chemistry major at U.C.L.A.

Captain Describes Death, Defeat At Kasserine Pass

By ESTELLE SIMON

Today United Nation troops are blasting the very foundations of Hitler's Fortress Europe. Two years ago the war situation did not look auspicious where the Allies were concerned. Among the factors which made for pessimism was the decisive defeat of American troops at the Battle of Kasserine Pass in Tunisia.

Capt. Benedict C. Hausdorf, stationed at the College with the ASTP units, took part in that battle. Attached to the First Infantry Division he fought throughout the entire Tunisian campaign and then went on to Sicily to help give the "soft underbelly of Europe" its first gas pain.

Military experts in the United States attributed the loss of the battle to green inexperienced troops. According to Captain Hausdorf the Americans lost because there weren't enough of them.

Against one infantry battalion, some combat engineers, and a few other odds and ends from different divisions, the Germans attacked with parts of two Panzer divisions from the famed Afrika Corps.

While he and his men were holding the pass so that tanks and other mechanized armor might effect a strategic retreat, Captain Hausdorf recalls an incident which seemed grim at the time.

"As the last tank rumbled by, the driver stuck his head out and yelled, 'The next tank you see will be German!'"

Death or capture appeared inevitable for the men holding the pass. At the strategic moment a British armored brigade rushed there and counter-attacked. It was the Americans first contact with the British who as Captain Hausdorf puts it, "saved our necks."

Captain Hausdorf recalls the plight of one outfit which had been badly chopped up in battle. Five tanks, detailed to save them if possible, crashed through to their position. Everyone climbed aboard the tanks. All of the wounded and some of the dead were evacuated.

After the dismal failure at Kasserine Pass the Americans were organized as one Corps and

went from the defensive to the offensive. Fighting for the first time as a team they participated in the Battle of El Guettar. This was the battle in which a combat team succeeded in stopping the 10th Panzer Division. El Guettar was also the point where the British Eighth Army succeeded in making a junction with the Americans.

Meanwhile Captain Hausdorf had become company commander of a rifle company. Shortly after Easter he met what he describes as the worst situation in all of his overseas service.

"My company was designated to make an attack on a small hill. We got to the hill and found we had bitten off more than we could chew since the Germans were firmly established there. We did manage to get a foothold on the hill.

"The Germans made six counter-attacks the first day. We lost five of our six officers. I got by without a scratch although they put a bullet hole through my jacket sleeve.

"It did not seem as though we would get out of there alive, but the colonel was able to send the remnants of the battalion up. We stayed there for five days under constant shelling and mortar barrages.

"By the end of the fifth day the stench from dead bodies made remaining there almost impossible. We decided to move up. The Germans had evacuated ahead of us but we captured many prisoners."

Some of the prisoners wore a special ribbon to show that they had taken part in the siege of Stalingrad. Captain Hausdorf says wryly that he suspects they were given the ribbons because they succeeded in surviving.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK

Carrier Corp. Interviews

Carrier Corporation representative W. G. Hillen will be on campus Thursday to interview seventh and eighth semester engineering students. Arrangements for interviews should be made in the College Placement Service office, 204 Old Main, as soon as possible.

CLASSIFIED SECTION

Will the man who was looking for the girl Dan please contact room 130 or 137 Atherton.

Lost: A gold activities key with safety catch. Contains initials E. R. P. on back. Mount Carmel High School inscribed on front. Sentimental value. Phone Bebs Parke, Womans Bldg. 2nd East.

Spaghetti dinners served every Wednesday and Saturday 6 p. m. Make reservations. Parties by appointment. Alpha Phi Delta. Phone 3412.

For rent. Four room and bath furnished apartment. Suitable for four students. Rental \$40.00. Available at once call 2904.

Help wanted. Male student. Available from 8-11 p. m. Apply Nittany Lion Inn.

Lost: Shell rimmed glasses in brown leather case. Call 232 Grange. Reward.

Room and board. Only board if preferred. Call 3332 or come to 243 South Pugh.

There is a smart student named Joe
And his flower orders all go
To WOODRING'S for they
Have a special way
Of filling each order,
you know!



NOW IS THE TIME!

Add a Personal Touch to Your Christmas Gift

Give an artistically posed, handsomely framed photograph

A picture of yourself will live through the year's and ...

Only You Can Give It!

PENN STATE PHOTO SHOP

E. COLLEGE AVENUE