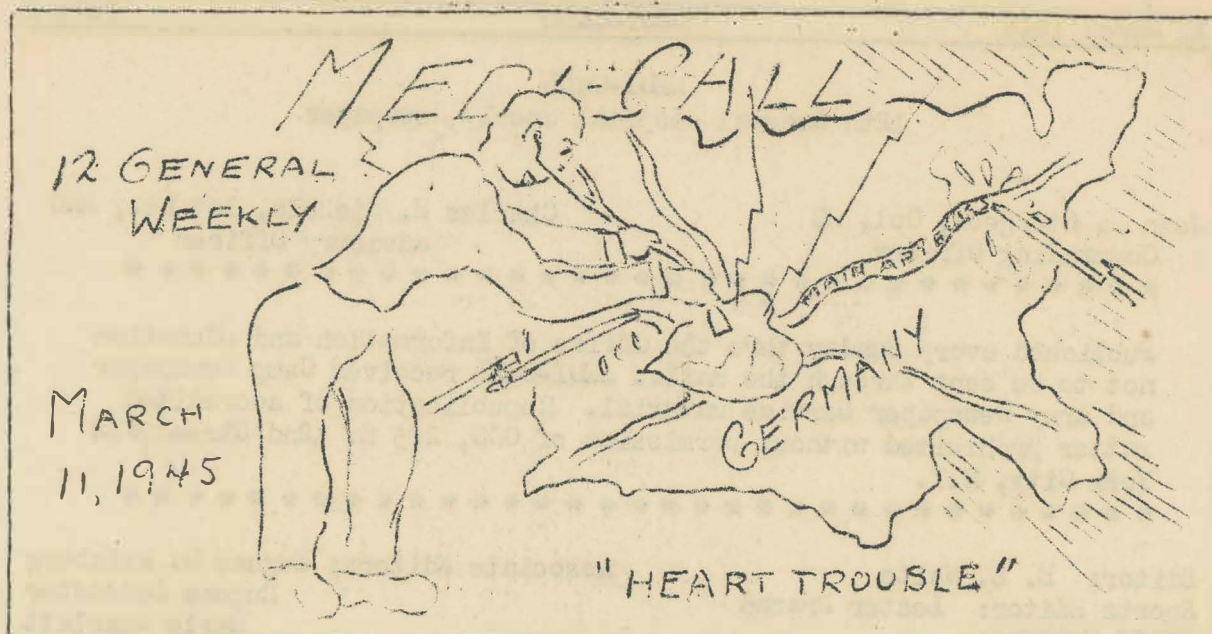




MEDI-CALL

VOL I, NO 8

11 March 1945

NEED FOR CLEAN UP

CHANGES PASS SCHEDULE

Original plans for the E.M. to spend one-half their pass day each week for an indefinite period improving the detachment area were changed at a meeting of the head Non-Coms and the Detachment Commander Friday.

A countersuggestion on behalf of the E.M. was accepted. The new arrangement is this: Each service in the hospital will supply the Det. Office a list of names of the men who would usually have had that day off. Men on this list will report to the First Sergeant's office and be detailed to the various jobs of cleaning and improving the area for summer. The following week, the full day pass schedule will be resumed.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

WARD KEEPS "STATE BOOK"

A "State Book" in which each patient signs his name and home address, is being sponsored by Wd 22. Altho this project has been in existence only two weeks, already four men have found the names of friends who were patients in that ward.

The number of names in the book cannot be revealed because of censorship regulations, but it can be stated that there is at least one person from every state

CAFE SOCIETY ADDS

MORE IMPROVEMENTS

Cafe Society's Reading Room will be open for business in the very near future. Construction is completed, but the bottle-neck is furniture. EM Club officials and Cafe Society Manager Shapiro are searching far and wide for tables and chairs.

Another "band nite" has been added to the Club's weekly schedule; dance music is now on the program Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nites.

Shortage of drinking glasses is proving to be a serious problem at the bar. Less than one-half the number of glasses remain that were on hand when the club opened. Each inventory discloses less on hand. President Sweeney says that unless club members round up the glasses that have strayed, it is possible that each man will have to bring his own mess cup to the bar. He requests that everyone return any Cafe Society glasses that they have in their quarters.

BRING BEER BOTTLES TO MESS

A box will be located by the mess hall for beer bottles (empty or full). These bottles will be collected by Cafe Society and will be cut down into tumblers to help solve the drinking-glass problem.

MEDI-CALL

12th General Hospital Weekly Newspaper

John H. Sturgeon, Col, MC
Commanding Officer

Charles H. Nichols, 1st Lt., MAC
Advisory Officer

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SOLDIERS' DEPOSITS EXPLAINED BY PERSONNEL

Who can make a Soldier's Deposit? Is it difficult to make a deposit? Can the money be withdrawn before discharge? Is the deposit lost by court martial? What happens to it if the man dies? Personnel has endeavored to give us the answer to these and other questions, and if further information is desired, the department will be glad to help you.

Soldiers' Deposit is a form of savings for enlisted men providing the safest and most practical method of investment. It is a privilege extended to enlisted men only; officers and warrant officers are not eligible. No application forms are necessary. A record is kept of each deposit in a "Soldier's Deposit Book" which is verified at the time of each deposit by the signature of the Personnel Officer and the Local Finance Disbursing Agent Officer. This book is available to the enlisted man. In addition, a record of every deposit is made on page eleven of the Service Record.

Money deposited is normally repaid only upon discharge, but can be withdrawn by the enlisted man upon approval of his Commanding Officer when the CO considers that partial or complete withdrawal is necessary in a case of emergency.

Neither deposit nor interest can be forfeited by a sentence of a court martial.

In case of death, the deposit and interest will be repaid to the enlisted man's heirs or representatives.

Any enlisted man desiring to make a deposit need merely inform Personnel at the time the payroll is signed (on or about the 15th of the month) that he wishes to deposit a certain sum when he receives his pay. When he is paid, the enlisted man will deposit with Personnel the sum of money he designated when signing the payroll. There is nothing to sign - the soldier just turns the money over to Personnel, and Personnel carries on from there. Money can be deposited in sums not less than \$5. Money deposited for 6 months or longer draws interest at the rate of 4 percent per annum.



The japs like to work in pairs when using the bayonet. Their bayonets (15½ inches long, weighing 14 ounces) have a hook near the hilt. One jap tries to hook the enemy's rifle while the other tries to sink in his blade.

Forty-four percent of the enlisted personnel of the 12th General Hospital are now taking advantage of this convenient savings system, which assures every participant a post-war nestegg.

YOU CAN GET ANYTHING AT THE PHARMACY BUT AN ICE CREAM CONE!

VERY COMPLETE AND VERY NEAT

Our pharmacy is probably one of the most frequented places in the 12th General Hospital. From its white shelves and masonite counters are dispensed nearly every medicament available in civilian drugstores and many that are not.

Prescriptions come in thruout the day and during part of the nite. An average day's work consists of filling 100 to 150 ward prescriptions, narcotic and alcohol requisitions, and making up stock solutions. The pre-preparation of these solutions enables the Pharmacists to give the corpmen good service, even tho it leaves the impression that all Pharmacy consists of is pouring things from big bottles into smaller ones. Quite often, the department is called upon to make preparations which the civilian pharmacist would buy from a wholesaler. Capt. Griffith and his Dermatology Clinic are good customers--just as the last messy ointment is finished, in bounces another victim of some queer Italian skin ailment and the work begins again.

PENICILLIN PAINSTAKINGLY PREPARED

Penicillin takes a lot of time and care, but its preparation has been cut down from 4 hours to about 1½ hours per day, depending on the number of patients using the "miracle drug". Each 10cc bottle contains 100,000 units of drug and Pharmacy hit an all high in the hospital's hey-day in Rome when it prepared 70,000,000 units in one day. At that time, 100,000 units were priced at \$10.00 and careful handling by the Pharmacists resulted in extremely small loss.

"PHARMACY SHOULD BE A SHOWPLACE".

The Office of the Surgeon, PBS, sent out a letter last January with this sentence: "The

12TH OFFICERS' RATE TOPS IN PING PONG TOURNAMENT

12th Ping Ponggers made a clean sweep at the Penbase Ping Pong Tournament this week, taking first prize in both singles and double events.

Lt. Leon Shankin, representing APO 361 won first place in the singles. The Postman, teamed with Lt. J. S. Kounin, AGD, who assists Col. Boshes on Ward 13, to take the blue ribbon in the doubles.

These officers will represent Penbase at the playoffs against Penbase-South in the near future.

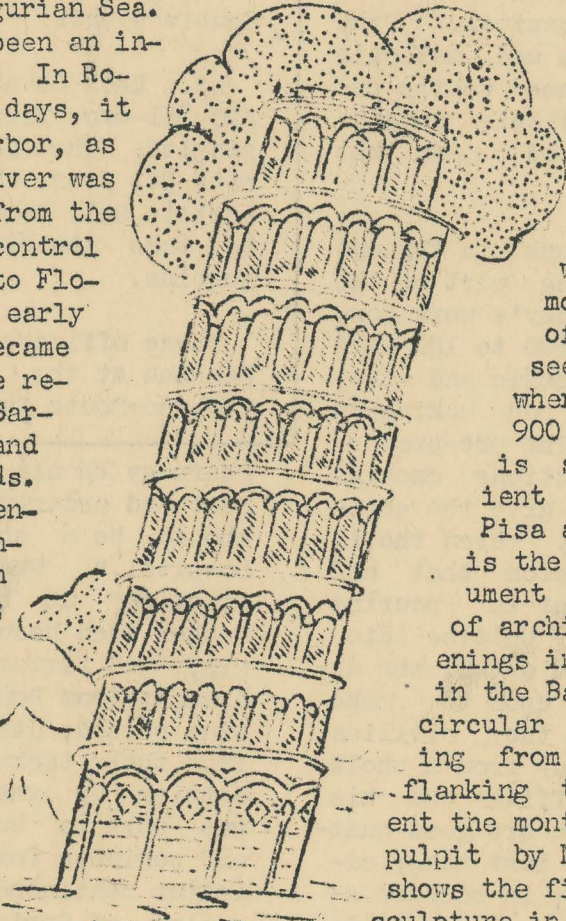
Pharmacy should always present a neat and orderly appearance; it should be a show place of the hospital." When Pharmacy was first set up here, efficiency rather than beauty was the first aim, and fixtures and material brought from Rome were used. As time passed, Utilities was freed from their tasks connected with setting up the hospital, and was able to build new shelves and cabinets for Pharmacy. The letter mentioned above plus the coming of Spring was an added inducement to redecorating. Now the shape and appearance of the department are so altered that, even tho the final improvements have not yet been accomplished, the Pharmacy personnel feel they are working in a show place--and are very proud of it.

Pharmacy personnel has undergone few changes since the unit left the States. At that time, as now, T/Sgt Harvey J. Swartz was in charge with T/3 Andrew J. Kucek second in charge. T/4 Edward M. Gardner now on TD, T/4 Courtland H. Barwick and T/5 Russell A. Geiman were the original members of the personnel. In the early part of 1944 the T/O called for an increase in personnel, and soon after arriving in Rome we added to our staff T/3 John Neczesny and T/5 Albert Alt, both formerly with the 151st Station Hospital.

City with a Tower and a History

Pisa, with a pre-war population of 80,000, is situated on both banks of the Arno, six miles from the Ligurian Sea. Not always has it been an inland city, however. In Roman and medieval days, it boasted a fine harbor, as the mouth of the river was then but a mile from the town which could control all water traffic to Florence. In the early Middle Ages, it became a powerful maritime republic, and owned Sardinia, Corsica, and the Balearic Islands. But it was subsequently weakened by constant warring with Genoa and Florence; in 1361, it was captured by the Florentines who carried off the chains used by Pisa to prevent free shipping up the Arno. When northern Italy was unified in

1848, they (the chains) were restored, and are now hanging in the Campo Santo (Cemetery) adjacent to the Leaning Tower.



The Cathedral, Baptistery, and Tower form one of the most impressive groups of monuments to be seen in one spot anywhere in the world. The 900 year old cathedral is supported by 68 ancient columns brought to Pisa as war trophies, and is the most important monument in the Pisan style of architecture. All christenings in the city take place in the Baptistery which is a circular domed building dating from 1153. The columns flanking the entrance represent the months of the year; its pulpit by Nicola Pisano (1260) shows the first attempt made in sculpture in Tuscany.

PISA

One of the few remaining wonders of the ancient world is the leaning bell-tower. The 14 foot variation from the perpendicular has caused it to become a mecca for tourists and a subject for innumerable photographs and snapshots. It forms a natural watch-tower and on a clear day Corsica, Elba, and Leghorn can be seen with ease. In 1180, after 40 feet of the structure had been erected, the structure began sinking into the ground on the south side. The first three stories were then rebuilt off center to restore the balance, but the effort failed, and work was suspended for 100 years. The remaining 139 feet were then built, even more off-center, and close observation today will show where the tower begins to lean a trifle backward; that is, where the resumed work began. The lighter of the 7 bells are hung on the south side, while the heavier two and three and one-half ton bells are hung on the north side. The campanile (bell-tower) is 52 feet in diameter; its exterior is white marble, and its interior Verucca stone.

Galileo, who was born in Pisa and who carried on much of his research in its university, made the tower additionally famous by demonstrating that objects of similar mass (whether they be feathers or lead) when dropped from the top of the tower simultaneously, reached the ground at the same instant.

(Cont'd on page 8)



DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

NOTES FROM THE LAB

RED CROSS TALK

After 32 months, a few weeks, a few days, a few hours and a few minutes of faithful service, and devotion to duty, PLUS AR 615-5, Change 5, 9 Dec '44, Private First Class Melvin E. (Moose) Dreyer was appointed to his present rank of Pfc.

Melvin (The Swede) Dreyer entered the Army from Fergus Falls, Minnesota, the land of 10,000 mud puddles.

Of all the officers and enlisted men of this organization who have returned to the States on TD or Rotation, not one officer or enlisted man from the Lab has been selected. The Lab is the only department in the unit that holds this distinction. Are we proud of this honor? For a short and snappy answer, see James (I'll give them'till June) Perrotta.

PERSONNEL POINTERS

IT HAPPENS EVEN IN ITALY

March may come in like a lamb and go out like a lion, but this year a Wolf came out--Tent 3, Row 5, held its door open wide to the many friends and acquaintances of Ray Wulf last Monday evening in celebration of his birthday in a manner befitting men of the 12th.

The tent was very cleverly decorated with clothing and other bits of G.I. equipment hung indiscriminately to add a homelike touch. The rug had been removed, and a small coal stove was placed in the center of the room to produce a n air of rusticity.

Sixteen guests were on hand to assist Ray in ushering in his 29th year; besides Personnel Office, where Ray is employed, several other departments were well represented. Tom Settlemier soon won

The Territas on Ward 34 are fairly beaming with brotherly love, and why not? It has been a year and a half since they have seen each other. Cpl James Territo, a patient, had told us of his brother, John, being somewhere in Italy---so we made the necessary contacts; brother John must certainly have a peachy C.O. for he gave him ten days and a plane trip.

Along this same line, last week in A. & D. Office, one Pfc Lawrence Johnson noticed a tag for Pfc Joseph Mishler. The name sounded very familiar to him and on inquiring, found him to be a cousin. They are now side by side in Ward 35.

The V-mail Easter Greetings being passed out on the wards and in the PX were drawn by patients. S/Sgt Newman (Wd 31) usually a right hander, but due to an accident, is using his left hand; this accounts for his doubly interesting drawing and printing. Huntley, Wd 35, drew the ducks with the vino bottles.

Rumor has it that Red Cross is now operating a date bureau. This would be a very impractical arrangement---primarily, because the doctors would not approve....then too, niente signorinas.

for himself the name "Cassino King"; Texas was defended by Det Supply's Bob Hall; Durer from QM was not feeling up to par or he would readily have accepted Jim Sweeney's challenge to wrestle. "Shoot-the-half" Gilbert was sole representative of the "Honey Wagon". Refreshments included delicious popcorn prepared by Don Mc Minch while Sweeney fixed ice for the "punch". Ray cut and served his cake which was inscribed with "Happy Birthday Ray"; and may we add "best wishes for the coming year".

Natural History In Fables

THE DUCK

Story 5

Once upon a time there was a was George, and he lived in a and several other citizens who character was a goose, and had come to spend his declining all very happy and spent most ing about and maybe laying an that is. For every time he got into the water he caught cold. And every time he caught cold he got laryngitis and couldn't quack worth a darn. So he tried to spend his days sunning himself in the tall grass and learning how to crow like a rooster. This annoyed everybody, including his father, who would rush up now and then and throw him into the pond. "Ducks are supposed to like water!" he would shout, "and no duck of mine is going to be any exception." With that he would let go and SPLASH in the water would go George. Out he would crawl, full of sniffles, and pretty soon he would be as hoarse as a bull moose in the mating season. So into the grass he would waddle to dry himself out. Since he couldn't quack he would try crowing until his father got mad and threw him in

(Cont'd on Page 8)



COLUMN WRITER



To the Editors.....

I read your article on the PX in last week's issue of MEDI-CALL with great interest, and it cleared up several points on which I was in doubt. Two questions, however, still exist in my mind: 1st, What are the names of the three enlisted men who inspect the PX books? And 2nd, do not officers rather than enlisted men win the more expensive watches, pens, and lighters? For example, on the last roster of winners posted, the \$2 lighters were won largely by officers while the \$1 lighters were won exclusively by enlisted men. The same thing occurred with the other articles. Perhaps you could answer these questions.

Sincerely,

PX Patron

(Editor's Note....The men who inspect the PX books are 1st/Sgt Kerr, T/Sgt Briney, and T/Sgt Kitora.

The number of \$1 Zippo and \$2 Ronson lighters on hand at the time of the last raffle was so small that a percentage breakdown was impractical. The popular demand for the Zippo lighter is ten times greater than for the more expensive Ronson. In view of these facts, it was decided that the enlisted personnel be given a "break" and be given all the Zippo lighters. Records of past raffles show this to be the only instance of this nature.

The PX Officer wishes to inform everyone that constructive criticism and suggestions for operating the unit Post Exchange will always be welcomed and appreciated.

MALE CALL

by Milton Caniff

MESSAGE CENTER FOR THE MAIN BODY



REDBIRD SPORTS NEWS

REDBIRDS ENTER PBS LEAGUE

SOFTBALL TEAM FORMED

LEAGUES ORGANIZED

7 March.....Softball leagues were organized today at a meeting in the city attended by Neil Gleason, manager of the 12th Softball Team.

The setup is similar to the arrangements for the hardball league except that games will be played Thursday nites at 1800.

The 12th Team is named "Little Reds" and plays in the National League. The opening game is scheduled for 5 April 1945.

All men who are on our payroll or on authorized TD or Detached Service with our unit are eligible to play on the softball team. No player, however, can play for more than one unit's team in any one season.

TRAINING CAMP NOTES

The Redbirds held their first practice session on the new baseball diamond north of the Officers' Quarters last Wednesday evening.

* * *

Sam Roseman, who is supervising the job of putting the diamond in playing condition, states that it will be ready for batting and infield practice in four or five days.

* * *

Manager Feese has chosen Joe Schneider and Ray Wroblewski as coaches for the coming season.

Anyone interested in track events is urged to contact PBS Special Service Office where he can meet other track enthusiasts. There is a first-rate track in town, and plans are in progress for a track meet. Workout facilities are already available.

March 5.....The different leagues were formed at a PBS Special Service meeting this morning. At the present time there are about 90 teams entered in various leagues, which means that either nine or ten leagues are needed in this area.

The regular season calls for a schedule of 18 games played on a home and home basis. At the end of the regular schedule, the championship of each league will be decided by Shaughnessy playoffs:—the team that finishes first will meet the third-place team in a best two out of three series; second place team will meet fourth place team in a similar series, and the winners of each series will meet in a three-game playoff to decide the championship team.

Several names for the league in which the Redbirds are entered were submitted, and the name decided upon in a vote by the ten teams entered is "The Big Ten". The schedule calls for nine inning games every Sunday afternoon at 1430. The opening date has been set for April 8th. Altho a complete write-up of every game will appear in MEDI-CALL each week, nevertheless the players need and want the support of every member of the command throughout the season—in other words, LET'S GET OUT TO THE GAMES!

BASE BALL EXPERTS NEEDED

To participate in Special Service Baseball League, each team must submit one umpire for hardball and one for softball. The umpire in the hardball league will officiate at games played by teams other than his own unit; the softball ump can officiate at any game.

Any man who wishes to volunteer for either of these umpire positions, contact Bill Moerman, Special Service Office.

PASS SCHEDULE CHANGED (Con't from Page 1)

This suggestion, adopted as a result of the meeting, will accomplish the end of improving the area for summer and take as little of the E.M.'s time as can be arranged.

Lt. Graham, Det. CO pointed out at the meeting that regulations for this area authorize only half day passes but that full day passes have been and will continue to be issued in order to provide each man as much free time as is practical.

12th General sign painters have coined a new noun - "electric" is the word, and according to signs over the light switches in building #1, we are asked to save the word when lights are not needed. Seriously, tho, we think the idea, if not the grammar, is excellent.

A member of the faculty in a London medical college was appointed an honorary physician to the king. He proudly wrote a notice on the blackboard in his classroom informing his students. When the professor returned to his classroom in the afternoon, he felt honored when the students rose to their feet, until they began to sing: "God Save the King."

PISA

(Con't from page 4)

Much of Pisa has been destroyed in this war, but the cathedral group remains intact. Two shells are said to have hit the tower, resulting in only minor damage. Certainly war is not a novelty in the town's history, and it is already well forward in rebuilding and in resuming its peaceful functions much as it has similarly resumed them many times in many centuries.

DUCKS

(Con't from Page 6)

again. This kept up for some time, and finally George got good at crowing and his father pretty sharp at throwing. The other ducks, faintly proud of themselves because they acted like ducks, used to say that wasn't it a pity about poor George, and how did his father stand him anyhow, and maybe George ought to be Put Away since he wasn't Normal, etc, etc.

One day George crawled out of the pond for the 5,843rd time and headed for the tall grass. He was crowing softly to himself when a Band of Humans came down, scooped up every bird in the pond and carted them off to the chopping block. They couldn't see George and, although they heard him crowing, they didn't hunt him up. No one eats roosters, do they?

Moral: "If you can crow as well as quack -
Your chances are much better, Mac!"

ADV

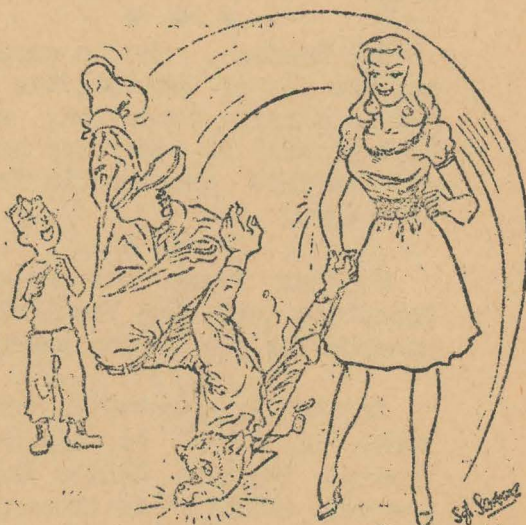
ADV

Joe Davis.....Dental Clinic
Camera to sell.....3.5 lens, 120 reflex. What a bargain!!!

THE WOLF

by Sansone

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"Oh! I forgot to tell you—my sister was a guerrilla!"