

Medi-Call

12 General Weekly



4 March 1945

VOL I, No 8

Page 1

MEET COL. MASON

Colonel Michael L. Mason, Chief of Surgical Service, has a history that is curiously connected with the 12th General Hospital and with Northwestern University.

The colonel started his college career at Northwestern, and in 1916 won his BS degree; the next year he received his MA. When war was declared in '17, he enlisted in a medical unit formed at the university by Dr. Frederick Beasley, Professor of Surgery. The unit was designated as Base Hospital 12 and was the original 12th General Hospital.

GOES OVERSEAS IMMEDIATELY

Colonel Mason was one of the volunteers in the unit which left Chicago on 14 May, 1917. The members were still in civilian clothes and did not receive uniforms until they were aboard ship. They left for France on 1 June but on the way over, two nurses were killed by ricocheting shells and the boat returned to the States. The colonel believes that these may have been the first American military casualties of World War I and were certainly the first casualties in the nurses' corps. The boat remained only a few days in the States and again left for France.

The unit was landed at Boulogne, France, after a brief stop in England, and set up in

12TH DIETICIAN MAKES

HIT WITH "TALENT SCOUT":

GETS RADIO PROGRAM

MUSICAL SONG LEADS TO RADIO BID

Lt. Schiller of the American Expeditionary Station was in the audience at the Goldoni Theatre on Feb 17th watching a performance of "The Barracks Bag Revue." A dark-haired girl with a golden voice stepped out on the stage, and began to warble "I'll Walk Alone" as tho she really meant it. The lieutenant was impressed, and after the show, he asked the girl to drop in at AFS for an audition. She agreed, and the audition proved to be the beginning of her radio career.

That girl was Miss Carmella Sarry, dietician at the 12th General Hospital. She sings over the AFS in town on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 1715, accompanied by the "Leonard Quartette".

A Scranton, Pa., lass, Miss Sarry had no professional singing experience in civilian life. Asked if she had any ambitions to turn pro, she answered with an emphatic "No".

"I just like to sing", she said.

----And when Miss Sarry sings, we like to listen!

x Landed in France 1 June

MEDI-CALL

12th General Hospital Weekly Newspaper

John H. Sturgeon, Col, MC
Commanding Officer

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

Published every Sunday thru the Office of Information and Education
not to be sent through the mails. MEDI-CALL receives Camp Newspaper
and Army Newspaper Service material. Republication of accredited mat-
ter prohibited without permission of CNS, 205 E. 42nd Street, New
York City, N. Y.

Editor: E. E. White
Sports Editor: Lester Braman
Staff Writers:
H. J. Maxwell, Albert Hoover, James Brown

Associate Editors: Eugene D. Weinberg
Eugene Lancaster
Art Editor: Merle Scarlett

MEDI-CALL FEATURES
SYNDICATED CARTOONS

POETRY IS BAD —
BUT THIS IS VERSE

THE MONKEYS' DISGRACE

Three monkeys sat in a cocoanut tree
Discussing things as they're said to be -
Said one to the others, "Now listen, you two..
There's a certain rumor that can't be true:
That man descended from our race -
The very idea is a disgrace!"

"No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Starved her babies and ruined her life;
And you have never known a mother monk
to leave her babies with others to bunk,
Or pass them on from one to another
Till they scarcely know who is their mother.

And another thing you'll never see -
A monk build a fence 'round a cocoanut tree;
And let the cocoanuts go to waste,
Forbidding all other monkeys to taste.
Why, if I built a fence 'round a cocoanut tree,
Starvation would force you to steal from me.

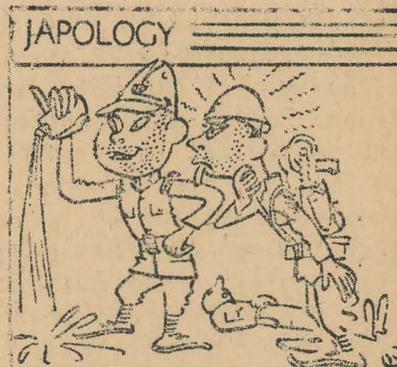
Here's another thing a monk won't do -
Go out at nite and get on a stew;
Or use a gun, or club, or knife
To take some other monkey's life.
Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss
But, brother, he didn't descend from us!"

Overheard on an orthopedic ward.....

WARD OFFICER: Have you ever been in traction?
PATIENT : No sir, Italy is the only for-
eign country I've been in.

Starting with this
issue, MEDI-CALL is
pleased to include on
its pages "Male Call",
"The Wolf" and other
art work which would
be unavailable except
thru the courtesy of
Camp Newspaper Service.

These sketches are
cut into a mimeograph
stencil which is mailed
to unit newspapers.
For use in MEDI-CALL,
a section must be cut
away from the page ster-
cil and a portion of the
stencil containing the
cartoon pasted in its
place.



The Japanese soldier is taught blind
obedience. Before the war, a group of
Jap soldiers on summer maneuvers
were ordered not to drink from their
canteens except upon the order of the
CO. Although 20 men fell from thirst
and exhaustion, and 5 died, examina-
tion of their canteens revealed they
had not been touched.

FIRST OF FOUR

M/SGT. FARRAND GETS

NEW MAC OFFICERS

LIEUTENANT'S BARS

JOINS UNIT

The unit extends a hearty welcome to newly-commissioned Lt. Sydney Simon, who is the first of the new MAC officers to join the 12th. Formerly a T/Sgt in the Personnel Office of the 103rd Station Hospital, Lt. Simon received his gold bars on Feb 26th.

The lieutenant hails from Chicago, where his wife now lives. He studied architecture at Armour Institute, and worked in Hollywood at MGM and other studios, designing and drafting settings. This occupation is reflected in his hobby, that of producing theatricals.

Inducted at Camp Grant Feb 17 1943, Lt. Simon joined the 103rd and six weeks later was overseas with that unit. Three other MAC officers have been assigned to the 12th and are expected to arrive shortly.

ROTATIONS AND VACATIONS

Ten enlisted men, two officers, and two nurses left recently for 30 day furloughs in the States. Major Overfield, Captain Woolsey, Lt. Ruth Zink, Lt. Florence Thompson, T/Sgt James Donnelley, T/3 Raymond Allen, Sgt Frank Kastellie, Sgt James Bryan, T/4 Ed Gardner, T/4 John Wondolowski, Sgt. Harold Noirot, T/5 Herbert Schnur, Pfc John T. Quinn, and Pfc Leo Vadalabene are the lucky tourists.

Those who left the unit recently on rotation are Lts. Anne Paunicka, Mable Anderson, and Ann Kelley, T/3 Anthony Slotwinski, and Pvt Harry Workman.

BERLIN MOST BOMBED CITY

Washington (CNS) The most heavily bombed target in Europe, according to the War Department, is Berlin. The AAF alone has dropped 15,116 tons of bombs on the German capital while the RAF has added another 10,000 tons.

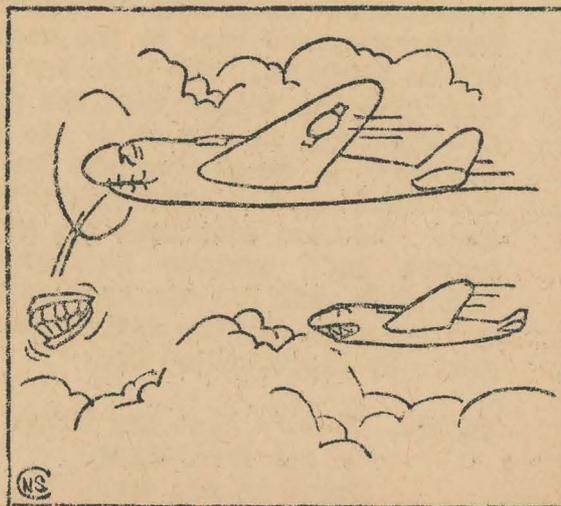
HAS NEW ASSIGNMENT AT 37th GEN.

Much ado has been made from time to time about the army custom that a newly commissioned officer delivers one dollar to the first enlisted man who salutes him. Lt. Harold A. Farrand who most of us know as M. Sgt Farrand of Headquarters Office is not one to ignore tradition.

Wednesday morning, Lt. Farrand complete in gold bars, entered Hdqs Office somewhat sheepishly and asked if anyone wanted to salute him. The staff members looked up with surprised expressions.

Lt. Farrand then explained about the dollar-paying custom and added that one of his friends may as well be the richer for it. Pfc Vernon Adams rendered the salute, saw it returned, and received the dollar.

The new lieutenant, a native of Oklahoma, entered the Army in March, 1941 at Camp Grant, Illinois. He was assigned to the 215th General Hospital from which he was transferred to the 12th in February, 1942. He became Sgt Major in November, 1943, prior to which he worked in Personnel. He will leave shortly to take his new post at the 37th General Hosp.





NATURAL HISTORY IN FABLES

STORY 4: THE BULLFROGS

Once upon a time there was a big, beautiful bullfrog named Bolivar. He was happy and spent his days snapping at flies and singing to his wife, a frog named Belinad. They lived on a lily pad in the center of a small pond, played pinochle, and went out one nite a week. They were sociable, but not fond of traipsing all over the place. Bolivar owned one pair of shoes and one suit of clothes, but he managed very well. And his wife did her own hair and was content with Things As They Were.

One day, however, Belinda saw her picture in the paper, with two lines of print which said: "This charming lady is Belinda Bullfrog, a well-known young matron in these waters. Her husband is one Bolivar Bullfrog, who catches flies." That did it. From then on Belinda Went Everywhere and Did Everything that was socially correct. Her picture was in the paper so often that the editor, a speckled trout named Theodore, just let it stay on page one and quietly hanged himself.

At first Bolivar got proud and composed some new songs. Then he got puzzled and stopped singing. And finally he was ashamed because all he knew how to do was catch flies. So he bought a correspondence course on Electrical Engineering and went to the country to study it. His wife was so busy planning things that she did not even know he was gone. So it was quite a shock when she found him dead on the porch one morning. He had come home the nite before and, anxious to impress his wife with his new knowledge, had tried to fix the vacuum cleaner. It electrocuted him.

MORAL: There's just one thing
To get from this:
Print is not good
For married bliss.

PX. A LOT-

PX BOOKS OPEN TO INSPECTION

The raffle held by the PX is designed as the fairest method of distributing limited amounts of highly desirable merchandise. The PX personnel have taken a lot of bitter criticism by poor losers in these raffles, but it should be realized that if there were enough of these items to sell to each person, the whole ration system could be discontinued. This unit has been overseas for well over two years, and there are still close to half of the personnel who have not yet won the right to purchase the articles which include watches, expensive fountain pens, cigarette lighters, etc. The following questions and answers should clarify the way in which these raffles are handled:

WHO IS ON THE RAFFLE?

Since setting up in Rome, every winner has been kept on file, and if he has won any article, his name is not considered on another raffle. Patients, unless they are members of this outfit, are not eligible, since the items are drawn on the basis of command strength only.

IF I HAVE WON ONCE, WHEN WILL I BE PUT ON THE RAFFLE LIST AGAIN?

As soon as everyone in the Hospital personnel has won one item. IF I HAVE WON THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE A PEN IN A PREVIOUS RAFFLE, WHEN CAN I HAVE A CHANCE AT A WATCH?

As soon as all personnel of the hospital have won one item, each member will have his name put in to win any of the articles he did not win previously.

IF I AM IN DIRE NEED OF ONE OF THE ITEMS WHY SHOULDN'T I BE ALLOWED TO BUY IT WITHOUT THE RAFFLE?

First, all of these articles are known to be difficult to obtain, but if you have a need for them, it is possible to get them thru a friend or relative at home.

Secondly, it is not fair to the man who did send home for a watch which cost \$50 to step aside to let others have his chance to buy a good watch at the PX for \$20.

TERRY - YOU CAN'T LOSE BUT YOU MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT!

WHEN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF WATCHES, PEN, PENCILS, AND LIGHTERS ACCUMULATE, NAMES ARE DRAWN.

HOW DO I KNOW THE RAFFLE IS FAIR?

The books at the PX are kept in good order and may be inspected by anyone by appointment. Purchases, accountability statement, and monthly reports are inspected monthly by the Hospital Auditing Council, PX Council, and occasionally by the Inspector General's Office. A committee of three E.M. sit at the PX council meetings, and ask questions, suggest improvements, and inspect any of the PX policies.

HOW ARE NAMES DRAWN?

Everyone entitled to win is listed on a roster and given a number. The numbers are typed on individual pieces of paper, exactly alike, and put in a cigar box. When enough articles accumulate from the weekly drawing of supplies at the warehouse to make a good raffle, the PX Officer requests the Commanding Officer to draw numbers from the box after the box is thoroly shaken. The names are checked with the numbers drawn and a list is published on the various bulletin boards.

DO EM RECEIVE A SQUARE DEAL?

The Enlisted Men get exactly the percentage of items as their percentage strength in the whole command which is 76%. The same holds for Officers who make up 9% of the unit strength and with nurses who make up 15% of the total personnel.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THESE ARTICLES THRU SOME OTHER UNIT?

Only by violating regulations and the spirit of fair play.

WHY CAN THESE ITEMS NOT BE MAILED?

They are government articles and subject to censorship which does not permit Army issue or merchandise to be sent home thru the mails. Besides, the articles are sent overseas for our use here by the people at home.

WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR AN ARTICLE THAT I HAVE WON?

Articles will be held for you for thirty days in order to allow you to receive a pay. WHAT CAN I DO IF I WANT ONLY A WATCH AND NOTHING ELSE?

Refuse to buy what you win; you will stay in the raffle but it may be six years before you win a specific item at the present rate of availability.

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN THAT MEN WORKING IN THE PX HAVE SOME OF THESE RAFFLE ARTICLES?

PX personnel have never been permitted to have their names on the raffle list in order to avoid criticism. What they have, they have purchased from winners, sometimes at double the PX price.

WHY ARE PATIENTS EXCLUDED?

The articles are drawn on a separate strength report for the hospital personnel only. All of the patients here should be included in their own organizations' strength reports and they have the same chance of winning and the same rations as do members of this unit.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ITEMS NOT TAKEN BY WINNERS?

Any items not purchased by winners are held for the next raffle. Raffle items are sold only thru the raffles.

IS IT TRUE THAT THE PX MARKS THE PRICES UP ON THESE ARTICLES BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY CAN GET MORE?

No. The only profit allowed to overseas unit PXs is 2½ cents on each carton of cigarettes to cover expenses. All other merchandise is sold at cost.

***** DID YOU KNOW -

Perhaps you've noticed the "spickness and spanness" of the hospital area. The man chiefly responsible for pruning, planting and policing is S/Sgt Russell Delessio and his staff of Alpine assistants.

"DEPARTMENT NOTES"

SPECIAL SPECIAL SERVICE

Springtime is only a month away; but "Swingtime" will be here even sooner. "Swingtime" is the new USO show currently touring this theatre, and it appears at the 12th this Tuesday, March 6th. Advance reports indicate that the performers are quite proficient in the three M's—MUSIC, MAGIC, & MIRTH.

The 61st QM Bn presents its top notch band and show on Thursday, March 8th. The boys will play for patients at 1500 and for personnel at 1900 hours.

Our library of self-teaching courses in the Information & Education Office is not collecting dust. At the last count, 150 volumes were being used to good advantage by patients and personnel, and more are going out every day. Psychology and Life seems to be the most popular course, a fact which indicates a desire for self-understanding, and self-adjustment, so necessary to carry us thru these times. Everyone is urged to drop in at the Office to look over the material on hand. Perhaps you, too, will join the growing throng now spending their leisure time more profitably.

The volley-ball courts thru-out the hospital area are now ready for use. Equipment may be checked out from Special Service.

EVERYTHING COMES OUT IN THE WASH OR "WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?"

Bruno, the launderer, emerged last nite from his hideout to visit Cafe Society. Likening himself to the proverbial groundhog, (this was his first time out in public without his bodyguard), he said, "Well, youse guys, guess we will have an early spring this year; the only shadow I can see is the one following my nose.

"Say! This is a swell joint, and so peaceful, too," he went on, laying aside his "knucs". "Are those waiters in the union? Hey, Sweeney! what kinda place you running here? Who's gonna buy the next round?" He expressed some concern about a certain ad run in MEDI-CALL a few weeks ago. "G'wan" he said, "I don't shrink clothes, youse guys is just getting too big for your britches! Besides, I've been studying this shrinkage problem from every ankle (no misprint..Ed.) and I wish you'd get across to those guys that Bruno is gonna nose out the trouble." Well, Bruno, all that we can say to that is you've got yourself a lot of trouble....but then again, you've got a lot of nose.

Lt. Norris E. Binding, former laundry and PX officer, left the 12th General to assume new duties at the 54th Station Hospital. Best of luck, Lieutenant!





SPORTS



WIN OVER ORDNANCE TEAM

PLAY BALL !!!

ENDS SEASON FOR REDBIRDS

Feb 25.....The Redbirds finished their basketball season tonite by defeating the 3253rd Ordnance team 46-28 at the 4th Ordnance Base Depot Gymnasium.

The Ordnance boys were off to a good start, and at the end of the first quarter they held an 8-6 lead. But in the second stanza the Redbirds started rolling with nice shooting by Wilson, Dolson, and McGraw, they rang up 13 points to hold a 19-14 advantage at half time.

PASSING ATTACK SPARKLES

In the third quarter, the Ordnance team cut down this four point advantage by outscoring the locals 8-7. It seemed, however, that the Redbirds were just warming up, for in the last period they dropped in 20 points. Their passing attack in this stanza left the 3253rd completely bewildered, as with short, snappy passes they worked the ball under the basket time after time.

Kelly led both teams in scoring with 16 points. Wilson was runner-up with 12 points. Mathis led the Ordnance team by ringing up 10 points and was followed by Kohut with 8.

MAJOR LEAGUE HOCKEY PLANNED FOR CALIFORNIA

Ole Olsen of the famous Olsen and Johnson comedy team is seriously planning on bringing major league hockey to Los Angeles after the war. He already has a suitable ice palace in Westwood (near UCLA) that can easily seat 20,000 persons.

The Redbirds held their first baseball meeting of the season at "Cafe Society" last Monday nite. Most of the 1944 baseball squad were present plus a few new men.

Manager Feese was re-elected unanimously to serve as head of the club for his 4th straight year. Feese in a few words told the boys what he expected of them in the coming season. He stated that they would be out and hustling at every practice session unless specifically excused by him. And he said that on the field everyone will work together as a team with no bickering.

The hospital is making a ball diamond north of the Officers' Quarters. Work will start in a few days, and all volunteer labor will be greatly appreciated. The first practice session was held last Tuesday evening with about 25 men working out. This is the first year in its existence that the Redbirds' nine have been able to begin practice early in the year, so a banner season, surpassing even their remarkable performances of the past, is expected.

THE REDBIRDS' RECORD

The Redbirds' Basketball Team ended the season with a record of 13 victories and 6 defeats; they scored 658 points in the 19 games while holding their opponents to 567 points.

Kelly was the leading scorer with 133 points in 17 games for an average of 7.824 points per game; McGraw was second by scoring 123 points in 17 games. Foley, however, had the second place in points scored per game: in 11 games, he made 82 points for a 7.455 point per game average.

(Con't from Page 1)

operation at Etaples, a large British base. Colonel Mason worked in the operating room and after much "bucking" was promoted to Sergeant First Class. With this promotion came the responsibilities as "chief orderly" of the operating room".

ENTERS MEDICAL PROFESSION

After the war, Colonel (then Sgt.) Mason returned to the USA, arriving in the Spring of 1919. The unit was demobilized at Camp Grant on 1 April 1919. Upon being discharged, the colonel decided to go into medicine rather than biology which was his previous intention. He entered Northwestern Medical School in the autumn of 1919 and received his MD in 1924. In 1921 he married Miss Alice Kolb.

His internship was served at Cook County Hospital, and in 1925 he took post graduate work in bone pathology at the University of Vienna. Until his entry into active duty in this war, he held successively higher faculty positions in Northwestern University Medical School, his most recent chair being that of Associate Professor of Surgery.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS MANY AND VARIED

Colonel Mason has published or prepared papers on various subjects, particularly dealing with surgery of the hand and management of open wounds. He is a member of numerous medical and surgical associations and societies, and is associate editor of the Journal of Surgery, Gynecology, and Obstetrics. He also belongs to several honorary scholastic fraternities and to several clubs in Chicago.

The colonel has also done some oil painting and lithography. His work has appeared in Chicago and Philadelphia art shows and one of his pictures was selected to be exhibited at the San Francisco World's Fair. It has been suggested that he is sometimes prouder of his painting than of the many articles he has written.

WHISKEY CURES FROSTBITE, YANKS AT FRONT FIND

Belgium (CNS)....Army hospital units near the front have found a staple cure for frostbite..... whiskey. Alcohol expands blood vessels and increases circulation in frozen limbs.

So successful and popular has this whiskey treatment been that, as one doctor said, "it's gotten so that every ambulance driver coming in around here claims he is a frostbite case."

HANDS OFF!

New York (CNS).....Some New York girls, with husbands and sweethearts in the Armed services have appeared on Gotham's streets wearing a lapel decoration designed to let home front wolves know they are out of circulation. A little silver figure of a sailor (or soldier) points to a heart on which is inscribed the word..... "TAKEN".

HANDS OFF!!!

Los Angeles (ANS) A well dressed young man walked into a local bank of the financial district, took off his coat and strolled over to a counter where he helped himself to \$10,000. Everybody thought he was a visiting auditor. He wasn't!

THE WOLF

by Sansone

