

Col. Mason



11 February 1945

Vol 1, No 5

Page 1

FACTS ABOUT OUR C.O.

Colonel John Howard Sturgeon was born in the State of Iowa.

After obtaining his A.B. at Cooper College in Kansas, he attended Northwestern University where he received his M.D. in 1914.

Colonel Sturgeon was married 11 June 1917, and soon afterwards was called to active duty as a 1st Lt. in the Medical Corps.

His first assignment in the last war, after completing a course at the Army Medical School was Supply Officer of Provisional Company C at El Paso, Texas. This unit was later known as Ambulance Company 12 and was assigned to the First Infantry Division. He and his unit left Texas on 5 August 1917 and sailed from Hoboken, N.J., August 13th, the same year. After a short stopover in England he went to France and served with the First Division during a training period before the First Division was assigned to an active sector.

After serving in nearly every position with Ambulance Company 12, including that of Commanding Officer, he was assigned as Battalion Surgeon of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. While serving with that Regiment, he received a battle field promotion to Major during the Argonne Offensive. He was notified of promotion by Field Message, and acceptance was written on the back of a blank Field Message

Con't Page 8

AMATEUR SHOW

"WOWS"

FIRST NIGHTERS

FIRST VARIETY SHOW A SUCCESS

A World Premiere performance of the 12th General Follies was presented last nite to members of this command. The show, jointly sponsored by the Red Cross and Special Service was compiled and directed by Joe Davis.

More than 40 Enlisted Men, Officers, and Nurses made up the cast; music was furnished by the internationally famous 12th General Dance Band.

Highlights of the evening were the Beauty Parade wherein the officers displayed their real charms, the nurses' "leg scene" in which a spotlight is played across a blacked-out stage onto the limbs of a female quartette and in an originally written pantomime, in which one department burlesques the value of its services to the hospital.

ROTATION NEWS

In the January 21st issue of MEDI-CALL in the article on rotation policies, it was stated that **this paper** would publish subsequent changes in rotation quota. For the March increment only (February's selections), there has been given this headquarters an increase of six (6) enlisted men to be returned on temporary duty to the States.

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

RED CROSS TALK

As a result of last nite's Detachment Show (which will be presented for the patients tonite), we are hopeful that a Dramatic Group can be started for hospital personnel. Anyone interested should contact Red Cross or Special Service -- be they stagehand, acotr, or actress. Everyone got such a bang out of producing the "Follies" that we're sure you'll want to be in on the fun next time.

Another Patient Talent Show is coming off soon...as soon as we find more talent. Do come forth if you can sing, dance, chatter or don't mind being a little foolish for a little fun.

While we are on the subject of shows, "THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 16TH", with all Hollywood cast, will be presented at our theatre this week. This show is to be the following nights at 1900 hours:

TUES,	FEB 13	DUTY PERS ONLY
WED,	FEB 14	PATIENTS ONLY
THUR,	FEB 15	OPEN NIGHT

Please set aside the correct night in order that there will be no confusion.

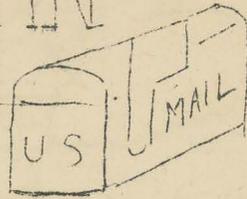
The Ping Pong exhibition last Tuesday night was fun. Rosenberg, a British soldier of professional ping pong standing, plus a couple of his pals, took on some of the spectators and we discovered some really good players. Lt. Shankin gave Rosenberg some stiff competition. Next Monday we hope to see a 12th General team of four play the Britishers.

Last Sunday at our weekly open house the string belt exhibition seemed to hold the main interest. Pfc Robert J. Kaiser, Pfc John Best, Sgt Louis Jones, T/5 Joe Balih, Pfc Gordon Kruse and Pfc Marvin Orvens were a ll winners.

Understand the young man who somehow managed to get a date with the glamorous Annabella was unable to keep it due to a tonsillectomy which very inconveniently left him without a voice. So Annabella was stood up.....not even a phone call. For shame!

COLUMN

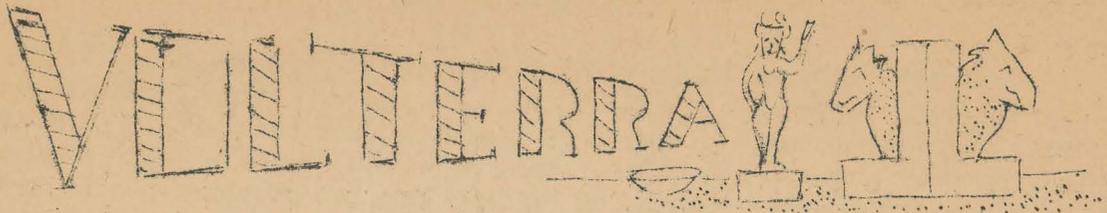
WRITE



There appeared a letter in the February 4th issue of MEDI-CALL relating to passes and furloughs written by "Pvt B. H.". As this is a subject paramount in the minds of most enlisted men and as it has much to do with the morale of the army, it is felt that the policy of this headquarters which is controlled by higher headquarters should be brought to the attention of all concerned.

He mentioned that some organizations are giving their men five days in Florence or Rome. If he wishes, he may spend ten days in these cities, provided he has an approved furlough certificate. Requests for furloughs are made by the individual and sent thru regular military channels. The Commanding General Peninsular Base Section is the approving authority. All requests will be made in writing and contain the following information: Date of termination of last authorized absence exceeding twenty-four hours. Forwarding address at which applicant may be reached while absent. Statement that arrangements for messing and billeting have been made at the place to be visited. Statement that specific arrangements have been made for transportation to and from place to be visited.

6th General Hospital in Rome, and 24th General Hospital in Florence are the places to be contacted for quarters and rations while on furlough in these cities. A statement from the Detachment Commander of one of the organizations, in writing, granting permission to billet and mess with them, will accompany the request for furlough. It might be that some will encounter a little difficulty in securing their furlough on the date desired as only 5% of the command may be absent at any one time on furlough.



Many members of this command have visited Volterra and have returned heavily laden with various forms of alabaster ranging from large statuary to small knick-nacks. White, pink, or yellowish, and often with darker streaks and patches, alabaster is very soft and fragile. You can tell the best grade by its white translucent quality; sometimes the natives will immerse it in nearly boiling water to render it opaque and similar in appearance to marble. It may always be distinguished from marble by the fact that it can be dented by a knife blade; also, it will not effervesce in acids whereas marble does effervesce.

TOWN HAS QUITE A PAST

Volterra is the alabaster center of this continent; the city existed as early as 900 B.C. and was a powerful Etrurian stronghold until the Romans captured and razed it in 82 B.C. It again flourished in medieval days, and many of the buildings and walls now standing were erected in the 11th and 12th centuries. In 1361, it was engulfed by Florentine rule; it rebelled and was retaken in 1492. In their retreat of last summer, the Germans did not defend the town itself, but resisted the Allies stubbornly in the vallies on its east and west.

ALABASTER IS SOLE INDUSTRY

Located one-third of a mile above sea level, Volterra is twenty miles east of the Ligurian Sea; 16,000 persons inhabit it and the surrounding commune. Their only industry is the mining and carving of alabaster; a small quarry is found close to the town and a large one is nearer the sea. The alabaster, which is really a granular form of gypsum, is cut to rough patterns by the men, and polished with grease by the women. Some of it is colored with dyes; these will run, so the pieces cannot be washed but should be cleaned with oil. Undyed pieces may be safely washed with water.

MECCA FOR TOURISTS TO ITALY

Prewar tourists reached Volterra by train from Cecina or Leg-

PURPOSE OF BLOOD TESTS REVEALED

The Laboratory wishes to thank the "volunteers" who so generously gave of their time and blood this past Monday. Only a few (90%) protested. All fifty are reminded that this procedure will be repeated each Monday for four weeks.

Those participating in the experiment were selected at random from those in the detachment who have recently received typhus shots. The object of the tests is to determine if any false positive or doubtful Kahns will result from the vaccination. After vaccination for smallpox, persons so treated may give misleading results in certain blood tests for syphilis, of which the Kahn, a standard Army procedure, is one. The advantages of knowing whether this fact is true for those receiving typhus immunization is obvious.

Again, our thanks to the martyrs of science, and if a certain M/Sgt will remember to bring his veins with him the day after he reads this, we will appreciate it.

ADV.

ADV.

A CAMERA CLUB IS BEING FORMED....
...We need an experienced photographer to act as instructor and..
..advisor. Also, anyone interested in becoming a member, contact Lt. Nichols for further details.

horn. Even if one is not interested in alabaster, the town's picturesque streets and buildings, and its magnificent view of the countryside below make it well worth seeing.

HERE'S WHAT THEY'LL DO WHEN THE SHOOTIN' STOPS!

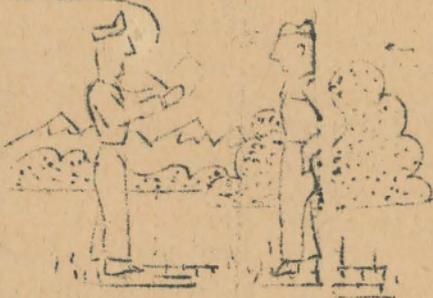
(by the Inquiring Reporter)

It's almost impossible to find a service newspaper today that doesn't contain something about the G.I.'s postwar plans. Not to be outdone, MEDI-CALL chased a reporter out to put the vital postwar question to members of the 12th. Many answered briefly with "stay drunk for a month" or, "catch up with a couple of non-coms who are riding me every day". Others went into a little more detail, and we are presenting their ideas today. We might add that not one G.I. queried was ready to become a thirty-year man.

Pvt James Kean, psychologist in the M.F. Section, plans to go to Mexico City for about three months and just have a good time. "When I finally have my fill I'm going to study medicine at Johns Hopkins University." Kean, a psych major at the University of Texas and who holds a B.A. degree, is currently giving psychological examinations and conducting extensive psychological research. He feels that this training will benefit him greatly in his postwar plans. "Eventually, I hope to be a psychiatrist," he concluded. "There is 'beaucoup' money in it!"

"I'm not gonna work, I know that", Jack Shapiro assured us. "I'm just not cut out for work. I've always gotten along with a good 'con' line....before the army and in the army. Why start to work after I'm discharged?" When we pinned him down, 'Slick' admitted that he'd "probably reopen my all-night joint in Toledo." The fast talking manager of Cafe Society then bought us a drink and began barking orders to his crew.

Probably the most novel postwar plan was offered by Pfc Linton (Speedy) Bedore of the Medical Section. Speedy hopes to be able to purchase a couple of army barracks and convert them into hunting lodges in Northern Michigan. "I've got just the spot", he explained, "right in some good hunting and fishing territory, but close enough to the big cities so that it won't be too isolated." His plan is to partition the barracks into individual rooms, leaving one large room on the



first floor to house a bar and dining tables. "I'm not an outside man myself", Bedore added. "I'll run the bar and gambling tables."

Sgt Jerry Herschenfeld's eyes lit up when we mentioned the day he returns to his beloved Bronx, a free man. "Get married right away", he began, at the same time fondling a freshly written eleven-page letter to his fiancée. "I've been in the army for four years and have been engaged all that time. After the honeymoon I guess I'll go back to my old job of architectural drawing and continue to study at night." Jerry, a cook in the diet kitchen, then carefully pasted an airmail stamp upside down on the envelope, caressed it lovingly, and took off to have it censored.

Our last interview came about rather accidentally. While this reporter's tentmate was "requisitioning" a box of coal, our duty was to keep the guard engaged in conversation. Pleasantly enough he turned out to be that stalwart sentinel, Mike Cohen. Mike, never a man of few words, volunteered the information that he was going to return to his old racket, "setting 'em up in a pool room." We told Mike that we thought a job like that couldn't pay much. "Oh heck!", he laughed, "that's only the front. The real gravy is taking the numbers and booking the horses. But, don't get me wrong...there isn't a better rack boy in the State of Michigan." By this time we figured our Buddy had maneuvered the precious fuel; so we thanked Mike for his information and called it a job.

ALPINI HAVE LONG RECORD OF SERVICE

No one connected with our hospital could help but notice the green uniformed Italian soldiers who work diligently in wards and kitchens or on outside details.

Here, in appreciation of their efforts and accomplishments, MEDI CALL presents a few facts about the Alpini soldiers who are attached to this unit.

Most of the Alpini troopers are natives of Northern Italy where they resided in or near Genoa, Cuneo, Milan, Turin or Venice. They worked in factories or on farms in that area.

Starting in 1931, most of them were compelled to take military training for the next eight or nine years. In 1941, their unit was sent to Greece. When fighting ceased there, they were released to return to civilian life. In 1942 they were called up again and after training in mountain fighting, were attached to the 1st Alpini Regiment in the Regular Italian Army.

In the early part of 1943, the company went to Corsica where they were when the Allied-Italian Armistice was signed. At this point they immediately took the Allied side and helped to clear the island of Germans.

They were then transferred to Sardinia where they continued to fight against the Germans. The

fighting in Gardinia finished, the Alpini went to Naples where they were assigned to P. B. S. P.B.S. sent them to this hospital.

Technically, they are the 89th Quartermaster Service Company, though they are also known as the Cuneense Division. The 89th is under the command of Lt. Angelo Torlasco.

It was in 1848 that the first Alpini company was formed by a Captain Perucchetti. In 1859, a complete division was organized and Captain Perucchetti was promoted to Colonel for his good work.

It is a tradition that an Alpino must keep the first hat issued to him. Its loss is an ill omen. The Alpini are very proud of their hats, as it gives them a mark of distinction.

The Alpini attached to our unit average about 35 years of age. Most have received no mail since September, 1943; a few have had messages through the Vatican. Naturally, they are all anxious to return to their homes.

Their camp site is comfortable. They live in tents heated by home made stoves and have electricity.

The Alpini consider themselves fortunate in their assignment. In turn, our hats are off to them for a job well done!

EXTRA SPECIAL SPECIAL SERVICE

Advantages of Army Institute Courses were emphasized last Thursday in a series of personal consultations and lectures by Lt. James M. Byron, of the Education section of Information and Education Office. Specially trained representatives from Inf & Ed are being sent to 5th Army, 12th Air Force, and all PBS installations; Lt. Byron has been assigned to PBS hospitals. The duties of the representatives are to disseminate facts about Inf & Ed, advise G.I.s and observe any special problems that may arise.

More than 200 High School and Technical Training courses are now available in Italy. This means that if you order one of these courses, you will receive it in a few days—just as long as mail takes to go from here to Rome and back. Courses which must come from the States take less time than formerly, since Army Institute material has been raised from a low to a much higher priority rating.

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 Service Material. Republication of accredited matter prohibited without permission of CNS, 205 E. 42nd Street, New York City 17.

* * * * *

Editor: E. E. White

Associate Editors: Eugene D. Weinberg

Sports Editor: Lester Braman

Eugene Lancaster

Staff Writers:

Art Editor: Merle Scarlett

H. J. Maxwell, Albert Hoover, James Brown

WANTED.....WANTED.....WANTED.....

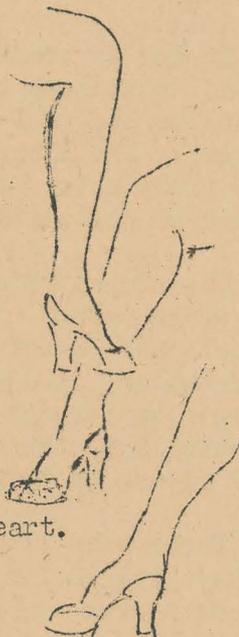
ADV.

ADV.

In the patients' Clothing department, (I'm sure you all know where it is), There's a bevy of beautiful pinups, 'Spieg' says there's none better than his.

So if you have some additions You'd like to contribute to art, Bring them to our department, 'Cause we're all 'old collectors' at heart.

(No peekin', Deacon)



BARBERS WANTED!

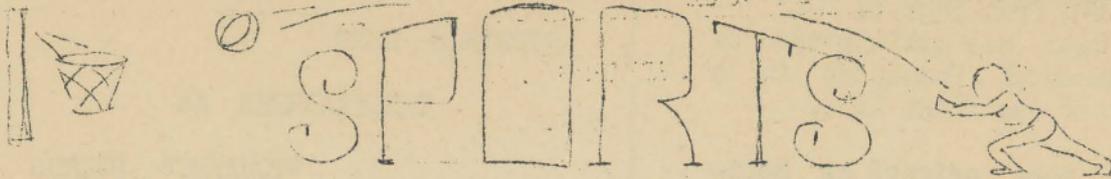
How many times have you said: "I WISH I WERE A BARBER, THEY'VE GOT IT MADE"? Alright, now's your chance. Here's what you do:

a) See Sgt Malefant at the 12th General Hospital Elite Barber Shop any time between 0900 and 1000 hrs and between 1300 & 1400 hrs any day except Thursday afternoon. (This day he spends in relaxation out on the sand dunes just west of the shop or promenading between here and the 33rd General. He does not wish to be disturbed at that time. Sundays, also, are spent in relaxation.

b) If you have the appearance of a man qualified to hold down the job, you get it, and start making big dough, provided:

- 1) You submit to and pass the stiff two weeks course. (No previous experience required.)
- 2) You get the prior approval of the detachment office.
- 3) You pass the required physical qualifications which are:
 - a)) No halitosis.
 - b)) Not classified Class 'B' on account of bad feet.
- 4) Mental qualifications: same as for civilian barbers(none).





SPORTS

RABER JOINS REDBIRDS

Coach McClaid bolstered the injury-ridden Redbirds for their coming important tournament games by bringing up Capt. Paul Raber from the "minors". Raber, who was the mainstay in the few games the officers played this season is a welcome addition to the lineup.

McClaid had figured on alternating him at the forward post with Foley and Wilson in order to keep all three men fresh and going at top speed. But with Foley's injury Tuesday nite, it looks as if Raber and Wilson will have to play.

In the two games that Raber has played with the Redbirds, he has scored 12 points in addition to playing a fine defensive game. With Wilson, who is hitting his stride, the Red birds will have a pair of forwards that will bear watching in the coming games.

Feb 5...After a week's much needed rest, the Redbirds returned to the basketball courts to nite to win their 11th game of the season, defeating the 391st Ordnance Team by a score of 43-26. Tarzan McClaid took over the coaching duties in the absence of Manager Bill Moerman who is hospitalized with an abdominal infection.

The local lads were off to a slow start, missing numerous set shots in the first quarter because their timing was off after a week's layoff. But in the second quarters the ball started dropping thru the hoop and from there on it was the 12th General all the way. The Redbird passing attack was really working for the first time this season.

On the opening tipoff Raber grabbed the ball and passed to Foley who shot and missed. Before the Ordnance boys could get the ball, the Redbirds had made four or five shots-- none of them good. Then the Ordnance team dropped in four quick baskets to take an 3-0 lead. Foley dropped in a set shot just as the period ended and the

REDBIRDS WIN IN OVERTIME

Feb 6...The Redbirds took their fourth straight game in their current winning streak tonite, defeating the 4th Ordnance Base Depot in an overtime period, 46-42. The injury jinx pursued the 12th; Foley was tripped while dribbling in for a shot early in the first quarter and badly sprained his wrist. He will be out of the lineup for a week or more.

In a fast start that saw the lead change hands several times, the 4th Depot finally got a four point lead which they held thru most of the game. The first quarter ended with the score 10 - 6 against the Redbirds. The teams played evenly in the second period and the half ended with the Ordnance team leading 19-15.

In the final period the locals turned on the heat and in the last seconds of play took a 36-35 lead. A double foul was then called on McGraw and Mathis. Mathis made his shot good while McGraw missed his to tie the score 36-36.

The Redbirds kept up the pressure in the overtime with Kelly and Oliphant each sinking two long shots and Wilson dropping in a criddle for 10 points. Kelly, with 8 baskets for 16 points, was the leading scorer, followed by Oliphant with 12 points.

second quarter began with the 391st ahead 8-2.

In the second stanza the Redbirds, paced by Foley and McGraw, scored 14 points while holding the opposition to 3 points and the half ended with the score at 16up.

The 12th kept going at a steady pace through the 3rd quarter and in the final period they turned the game into a rout by scoring 18 points. Foley was high scorer for the evening with 14 points, followed by McGraw with 10 points. O'Donald was high man for the 391st with 8 points.

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Form. Oath was administered by the Regimental Commander in a dugout near the front line.

He was then assigned as Regimental Surgeon of the 26th Infantry Regiment, which was then commanded by the late Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt. Colonel Arnest, present Penbase Surgeon, was a Battalion Surgeon in that Regiment at the time.

Colonel Sturgeon was twice decorated; hence Silver Star with Oak Leaf cluster. The first citation was from the First Division while he was operating a Battalion Aid Station near the front line during the attack at Soisson. He received the other from the 1st Artillery Brigade while operating a Battalion Aid Station during the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensive. The Colonel served with the First Division on seven fronts in France and the occupation of Germany.

In September, 1919, Mrs. Sturgeon and their one and a half year old daughter, Jane, whom he had never seen, joined the Colonel in France. Jane is now married to Commander Cordiner, U.S. Navy, who was recently decorated with the Legion of Merit while commanding a destroyer near the Philippines. The Colonel has a son, James, who is a 1st Lt on duty in the Philippines with an Engineer Amphibious Regiment.

After the last war, Colonel Sturgeon served at Fitzsimmons General Hospital, doing special work in TB; the 4th Cavalry; 4 years Attending Surgeon in Washington, D. C.; 3 years Chief of Medical Service at Schofield Barracks, TH; 4 years Chief of Medical Service at Station Hospital, Fort Jay, Governor's Island, N.Y.; and prior to joining the 12th General on 10 February 1942, he served at Fort Bragg as Attending Surgeon, Chief of Medical Service and during the last eight months, as Commanding Officer of Station Hospital No. 3, a 1,000 bed unit.

His service and citation ribbons are, from left to right, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Victory Ribbon of last war with 5 battle stars, Occupation of Germany Ribbon, Defense Ribbon, and the European-African-Middle Eastern campaign ribbon.

REDBIRDS LOSE

TAILFEATHERS AS

"TOURNEY" STARTS

Feb 9...The Redbirds were outclassed by the 457th Fighter Squadron in their first tournament game at Madison Square Garden tonite. The score was 60 to 32.

For the first half the game was played on even terms and the Redbirds went into the second half leading 22 to 19.

COLLAPSE COMES IN LAST HALF

But in the second half the Air Corps boys outplayed the Redbirds from the beginning. With Taylor, lanky Air Corps star, showing the way, the 457th scored 41 points in the wild second half while holding the 12th General boys to 10 points.

Taylor was high man for the Airmen, scoring 21 points. Kelly, with two field goals and six free throws, led the Redbird scoring with 10 points. He was followed by Oliphant who rang up eight points.

The Redbirds will play their next tournament game Tuesday, Feb. 13th, when they meet the 4th Ordnance Base Depot at Madison Square Garden.

OBITUARY

Laboratory Service requested Headquarters for permission to close down for one week to mourn the death of a beloved colleague and friend—Besse, their sheep who died Friday from a broken neck.

Request was not approved.