

Moral Standards Of U. S. Troops in Britain are High

One Per Cent Laxity Ascribed By Investigator to Low Type Of Girls and Bootleg Liquor

By DEWITT MacKENZIE
(Wide World War Analyst)

LONDON, Oct. 8.—(AP)—This is a friendly, intimate message to the folks back home about the moral welfare of their boys in the army over here and it is good to be able to say right at the start that while there are some rather spotty places you can rest easy in your minds.

I've been looking about a bit and talking with army people who know how the battle of morals really goes.

I got away to a good start through a chance word dropped by Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower during a conversation with him on military affairs. It is not permitted to quote him but his remark was in effect, condemnation of loose living and showed clearly his abhorrence of that sort of thing.

Since then I have run across plenty of evidence that the AEF commander in chief is indeed a clean liver and sets an exemplary standard for his men. It is small wonder, then, that we find the vast majority of them keeping step with him and members of his staff who make it their business to try to keep stragglers from falling out of line.

Standards Very High
Right here, and before we discuss those spotty places, I'd like to introduce the testimony of two distinguished officers immediately associated with the welfare of our boys.

First meet Colonel James L. Blankeney, chaplain-in-chief, who tells me General Eisenhower, "backs his chaplains up 100 per cent."

Here is his summary of the

position of morality among our troops in the British Isles.

"On the whole our standard is very, very high. There's no more letting down of moral standards than there was at home."

Then there is Colonel P. B. Rogers, headquarters commandant.

"There's no problem with our boys," he told me in crisp incisive language. "They're well-disciplined, well-behaved. They are an amazing lot. The British people are astonished at their good manners. They are fine gentlemen."

"The trouble in London relates to one per cent."

Bad Gals Blamed

And what about London? Well, it's no worse than any other great metropolis in wartime and it's better than many.

Wherever there are a lot of troops there will be an army of bad girls following them. That probably has been true since the first primitive army went into the field.

So London has a host of huntresses, some of them shockingly young, who chase every soldier in sight. The same is true of some lesser British towns.

The streets are always full of soldiers of many countries who are on leave or off duty for a few hours. Among them are some of our yankee boys and a few of them succumb to the blandishments of camp followers—that would be the one per cent of which the colonel spoke.

Just as my observation had led me to believe, this tiny percentage of backsliders who allow themselves to associate with some of the toughest, most slovenly women of the streets represents the men who have no breeding and weren't much good back home.

"When you raise an army of a million men you don't go into their morals," remarked the colonel dryly. "You get a mixture of all sorts, from extremely religious to the bad."

Rogers explained a lot of the difficulty in London was due to bad bootleg liquor which is being circulated. Some of that one per cent of our men get bowled over and do things they otherwise wouldn't do. British and American authorities are trying to stamp this traffic out.

Chaplain Blankeney was quite clear on the point that the situation here is no worse than it has been in America.

Pension Legislation to Be Discussed at Forum

A report and discussion concerning federal pension legislation will feature the meeting of the Douglas County Pension forum at the courthouse in Roseburg Saturday, it was announced today by J. F. Custer, president. The meeting will be held in the circuit court room, starting at 2 p. m. All pension-minded persons are invited to attend.

Draft Delay Laid To War Leaders

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—(AP)—The army and navy, and not the forthcoming elections, were blamed by members of the house military committee today for any delay in holding hearings on legislation to lower the draft age from 20 to 18.

Apparently irritated by widely circulated suggestions that the hearings were being held up for political reasons, members said they were ready and willing to begin consideration of the bill, introduced last month by Representative Wadsworth (R., N. Y.), but were awaiting recommendations from the war and navy departments and selective service.

Chairman May (D., Ky.) said he had written heads of the departments shortly after the bill was introduced soliciting their views but to date had not received them. Of necessity, he explained, the committee needed the views and suggestions of the departments before starting hearings.

Other members said privately they had deferred trips back home to conduct their campaigns for reelection in order to be on hand so hearings could be started as soon as the departments were heard from.

They expressed doubt the departments would make any recommendations until some accurate determination could be made of the results of the current drive for enlistments among the 18 and 19 year group.

Around the County

Azaia

AZALEA, Oct. 7.—Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Pickett from Bremerton, Wash., visited here over the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pickett.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Clare attended to business in Grants Pass Saturday.

Miss Thelma Langhery from Medford visited here over the weekend with her grandmother, Mrs. Millie Spaulding.

Mr. and Mrs. William Jantzer and sons, Billie and Jaelde, made a business trip to Grants Pass Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Eakin from Bandon and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dudley and daughter, Patricia, from Empire visited friends here over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pickett and granddaughter, Gay Thorpe, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Pickett were in Roseburg on business Saturday.

Elkton

ELKTON, Oct. 6.—Mrs. Vesta Thomas has been driving the mail stage between Oakland and Elkton for Chester Davis for several days.

Mrs. Elsie Wells has returned to Cottage Grove after spending a number of days visiting Miss Mary Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ingram has moved to Lebanon. Mr. Ingram was hauling logs here.

Mrs. Roy Sweeting, of Elmore, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ferny Davis.

Word has been received of the birth of a 7-pound, 11 ounce son to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Burke. The baby was named Richard Walter. Mr. and Mrs. Burke, who live in Baltimore, Md., were in Elkton several months two years ago. The babe arrived September 16.

Gilbert Binder has returned from North Bend where he has been in the hospital.

Mrs. Ella Fenley spent the weekend in Roseburg.

Mrs. Bernice Thiel, who teaches in the high school here, spent the weekend at her home in Oakland.

Mrs. Alva Maupin returned from Portland Saturday morning where she had been with her son, Howard, who was in the hospital. Howard came in the evening.

J. B. Rader, of Kellogg, was attending to business matters in Elkton Saturday.

James Adams and Henry Weatherly have returned from Idaho where they have been working. Monday, they went to Eugene to work for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Wade and daughter, Margaret, have returned from Hood River where they have been visiting the

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George Easterly family. Mrs. Sarah Smith, who has been ill, is better.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Cutlip, of Marshfield, visited Mrs. Sarah Smith Sunday.

Mrs. A. R. Andrews and Alton Andrews came from Portland for the weekend.

Jack Fetter is home from California to spend a few days before going in the army.

Melrose

MELROSE, Oct. 8.—Mr. and Mrs. Ira Pierce and son, Lester, and daughter, Gertrude, recently visited several days with Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Lutzman. The Pierce family recently returned from Lakeview where they spent the summer and where the former was employed. They will reside at their home in West Roseburg this winter.

Jack Rowell, who recently received a badly broken leg when a tractor overturned with him, is reported to be improving at Mercy hospital in Roseburg. Mr.

and Mrs. Rowell reside at Medford and were assisting with the farm work at the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Dorch.

Mr. Tanner returned home Saturday after spending two weeks in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Oran Smith of San Jacinto, California, arrived Monday for a two weeks' visit with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cox.

Mrs. Stanley Sjogren and son, Dickie, are visiting at Myrtle Creek with her sister, Mrs. Glen Thackery.

Mrs. Pete Dorch is reported to be improving in St. Vincent's hospital in Portland, where she recently underwent a major operation.

Miss Ruby Matthews left last week for eastern Oregon to visit her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Matthews.

The Elgarose school opened Monday with an enrollment of seventeen, there being three new pupils which includes Edmond Foltz of Drew, Charles Carter and Janice Austin. Mrs. Marga-

ret Austin of Edenbower is the teacher.

Mrs. E. Edman is leaving Thursday of this week for Salem to stay with her daughter, whose husband has been called into service.

Edmond Foltz of Drew is staying with his aunt, Mrs. Russell Barkley, and attending the Elgarose school.

Carl E. Johnson has excavated under one of his chicken houses, in order to have another room there which will house around two hundred birds.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Richards left for Portland the first of the week. The former was called for a medical examination for government service.

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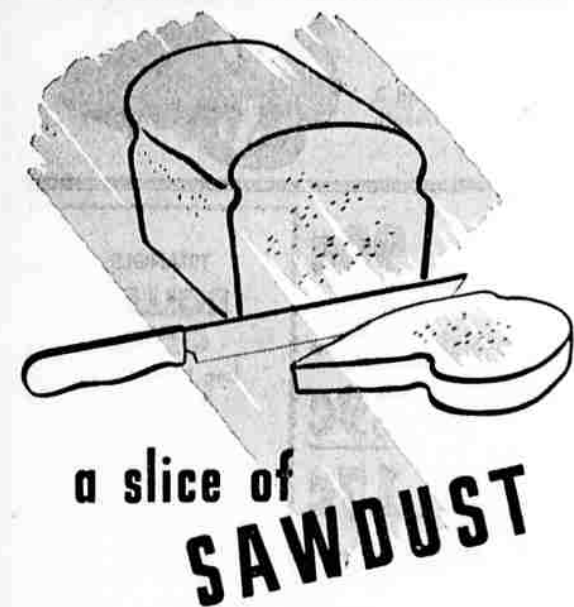
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