

# "A Letter to Graduating Senior Men"

## Service Life (Also) Has Advantages

the emerald's newest staffer writes of g.i. experience and responsibility

This is the first in a series of articles to be written for the Oregon Daily Emerald this term by a young man from this state now serving in the armed forces. S Sgt. Frank Pleshnik wrote us recently asking us if we'd be interested in some reports from Europe—a kind of GI's view of things. We encouraged him to go ahead with the idea and this is the first result.

We'll be hearing from him again from time to time over the term—reports on American soldiers in Europe, what they're doing and how people react to them. And we think you'll find this article, and those to come, well worth the reading.

Gentlemen:

As a male civilian in the 18 to 25 age group, you can expect to receive a notice in the near future, signed by the president of the United States, bearing greetings. Those of you who accept this notice and enter military life thinking that the service is unnecessary and something that will prove entirely disagreeable, will probably find it so.

If, on the other hand, you accept it as one of the duties and responsibilities that go with the privilege of being a citizen of the United States, and enter the service determined to make the most of your time in uniform, you will very likely find that the benefits and opportunities offered will equal or even outweigh the few disadvantages.

For example: How many of you can afford two 15-day vacations in Europe each year? The service offers you an opportunity for just that.

Under current regulations, a serviceman must spend a portion of his service overseas—and that 90 days furlough each year is more than just a privilege; it's your right. And there's your opportunity. All you have to do is make advantage of it.

### Tough Part First

On entering the service, you'll be sent to a basic training center where you'll be instructed in military life, discipline, customs and the traditions of your particular branch of the armed forces. And, of course, you'll march and march until you'll think you can't possibly take another step.

Basic training will be the toughest part of your military service, but any able-bodied

man can take it. (I did, and I'm not particularly able-bodied).

Basic training doesn't last too long, though, and soon you'll probably be sent to some technical training school where you'll learn to do the job you'll have during your service life. After that, a short assignment in the States, and then overseas. Don't worry, you'll get a furlough and a chance to spend a few days at home before you go.

Once overseas, your off duty hours and furloughs may prove to be unforgettable experiences.

### Alpine Vacations

In Europe, the U. S. government operates a recreation center for troops at Garmisch and Berthtesgaden (Hitler's mountain retreat) in Germany, in the heart of the Bavarian Alps. A winter sports playground, the year around! Government-operated hotels charge about \$1 per day with meals for about 50 cents each—or you can stay and eat at German-operated establishments for a slightly higher cost.

In England, servicemen can travel by rail for one-third the normal fare. Meals and hotel accommodations are very reasonable; a nice room in a private hotel at a seaside resort town will cost you about 20 shillings (\$2.80), and that's with four meals included. (The English eat four meals a day—a very good idea!)

In France, there's Paris, with all its interesting night life, and, of course, the French Riviera. In England, everything closes up by 11 p.m., but in Paris it seems to be the other way around, especially in the district of Pigalle. Things don't get lively until after dark, and they don't stop until daybreak. Prices in France compare with Stateside, in a few cases higher, in other lower, depending on the town.

### Fast, Free Travel

Travel expenses aren't much of a problem in the service. Any uniformed member of the armed forces is entitled to travel on a military aircraft, on a space available basis.

All that a soldier, sailor or air-

man must do is to report to the Flight Operations office at any U.S. air force base, with sufficient copies of his furlough orders, and—provided that a flight is going his way with space available—he's got free and speedy transportation to or near his destination.

Another good feature: you'll have the opportunity to purchase such as cameras, watches, and other jewelry at the post exchange for approximately half price. In addition, once overseas you'll have the opportunity to shop on the local market for all sorts of items ranging from Swiss watches and French perfumes for the girl or folks back home to an English Jaguar or MG sports car for yourself (if you can afford it)—all of which you can take home with you tax free!

### A Chance to Learn

Best of all, if you'll take advantage of the opportunity, you've got a wonderful chance to observe the way of life in a foreign country.

You'll have a chance to meet people from nations other than your own; see the things they do, learn their language, and perhaps why they think and believe as they do. When at last, you return to the US again, perhaps you'll have a better understanding of the world we live in today and what

makes it tick.

Of course, you can name a lot of disadvantages of service life, such as not as much pay as you'd be making as a civilian. But remember, your pay in the service is almost all clear spending money—no food bills, nor rent to pay.

You'll no doubt have a girl that you'll be leaving behind—but if she won't wait for you, she's not worth having anyway, is she? (No slur intended on American girls—they're tops.)

### We Are Examples

A word of caution to those of you who will wind up in uniform and stationed overseas: foreigners judge the United States and all Americans by those of us they see in their own country.

Too many Americans when overseas forget that the local people are human, too, and that their ways and customs are much older than our own.

We tend to forget that the girl we see walking down the street is someone's sister, just like your sister back home (or possibly the wife of some other GI—you can't always tell Europeans by their looks). And so we say, "How much, Baby?" We see an old woman riding down the village street on a bicycle, and it seems strange to us to see a 50-year-old woman

on a bicycle and so we laugh. The Europeans hear us—and resent it.

An American soldier riding down the highway in a new car after a few too many drinks hits a Frenchman on a bicycle, severely injuring him—and next day it's in all the Communist newspapers, grossly exaggerated.

### And We Forget

We forget that the peoples of Europe faced far greater hardships during the last war than we; that many of them lost all their worldly possessions—and we tend to feel superior to them because we can walk into a store and purchase things they can't afford to buy.

Everything an American abroad does and says is noted closely by the local population. Everything we do out of place is good food for the local Communist party's propaganda mill, and they make the most of it.

So if and when you do come overseas, no matter where you may be, treat the people as you would your friends and neighbors back home. American servicemen overseas are examples of the products of democracy and freedom. If by our careless actions we make enemies for the United States, at the same time we give the Communists just the foothold they are waiting for.

So, if the time comes when you must wear a uniform, wear it proudly; let your actions show the people of the world that democracy teaches respect for the rights and customs of others.

Sincerely,  
Frank L. Pleshnik, S Sgt., USAF.

## HOUSEMOTHER PLAN OUTLINED

### IDC Prexy Stresses 'Consideration'

Tom Shepherd, Inter-dorm council president, emphasized Wednesday that:

1. The proposed housemother plan for men's dorms is a consideration, not a program already decided upon.

2. There would be only one central housemother for John Straub dormitory, not a housemother for each hall, according to the plan.

Shepherd said that no action on the idea would be taken by the

IDC until the men's dorms discussed the plan and indicated their position. The IDC, which will vote on the plan Tuesday, is not acting on its own, but on the opinions of the individual dorms, he stressed.

The Straub housemother, Shepherd said, would have living quarters off the main dining lounge, and would not be affiliated with any specific hall. She would serve in an administrative capacity only;

any other jurisdiction would come from the student themselves.

Discipline cases would be handled as they are now, Shepherd explained, by A. L. Ellingson, counselor for men, and hall officers.

If the program were adopted, it would not apply to the freshman Vets' dormitories. It would eliminate the present system of counselors in dorms, and concentrate student dorm authority in hall officers.

## Reds Make Offer to Exchange 600 Disabled Prisoners Daily

Panmunjom, Korea (AP) — The Reds have offered to exchange 100 disabled war prisoners daily with the Allies.

That would mean the 600 they have promised to return would be exchanged within a span of six days. Included in the 600 probably would be no more than 125 Americans.

The Reds told the Allies at Panmunjom, however, that they were willing to take in exchange 500 prisoners daily from the Allied side. The Allies have said they would give up 5,100 disabled North Koreans and 700 Chinese.

The offer was made in amendments proposed by the Reds to the Allied nine-point plan for handling the mechanics of exchanging sick and wounded.

The Reds proposed increasing number of security guards in Panmunjom area.

The Red amendments—confined to details—also would remove the restrictions the Allies wanted on movement of convoys carrying the prisoners from their camps to Panmunjom.

The Reds also sought to delete an Allied request for advance notification of where convoys would make stops.

### Today on KWAX

- 6:03 p.m. Sign on
- 6:03 Piano Mood
- 6:10 News Till Now
- 6:15 Public Health Series
- 6:30 Radio Workshop Drama
- 7 Our Search for Mental Health
- 8 Campus Classics
- 9 Kwaxworks with Ken Whittle
- Emerald of the Air
- 10:57 Sign off.

## The United States National Bank of Portland, Oregon

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Interviews to be conducted on the campus April 9.

For additional information contact Karl W. Onthank, Graduate Placement Service