

Marine Corporal Performs Rites for Dead Comrades

(The following story was written by Sergeant Peter Pavone, jr., of Bridgeport, Conn., a marine corps combat correspondent.)

BOUGAINVILLE—(Delayed)—A blazing tropical sun is well along its downward arc and in its last brilliant rays, a grim yet poignant tableau of war is being enacted here this afternoon atop one ridge of Hill 1000 taken last night by US marines after 11 days of desperate fighting.

The hilltop, once thick with giant trees and dense jungle undergrowth, is now a bald, shattered mound, pocked with shell craters. Its smashed and broken trees lean crazily and an unreal silence prevails.

Below and in the distance are reflected the blue green waters of Empress Augusta Bay, and closer, in a semi-circle, lie the jungles. Oppressive and fetid at close hand, their picture postcard veneer appears beautiful from this hilltop, and their natural splendor belies the terrors they clutch in their stinking depths.

Occasionally the distant roar of artillery floats up from the beach, but here on Hellzapoppin' ridge it is silent—silent except for a curiously reverent voice intoning the 23d psalm . . . "The Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want . . ."

The voice, which has been heard all afternoon from different points atop the knoll, is that of a gaunt, giant marine, ragged, dirty and heavily bearded.

Yawning open before him are two newly-enlarged foxholes in which lie two still, covered forms. Leaning against a shovel a few feet away are two crude crosses, fashioned from boards taken from ration cases.

Motionless in a semi-circle stand 30 or 40 other marines, equally as ragged and dirty, bared heads bowed. Some hold shovels, axes, or other tools they had been using in digging stronger positions before they paused to the voice and recognized the farewell to comrades-in-arms. Others stood by boxes of ammunitions and supplies they had been carrying to reinforce front line emplacements, taken at a heavy cost from the Japs.

"Gone But Not Forgotten" . . . "May His Soul Rest In Peace" read the crosses . . . "Yeah, though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me" intones the voice.

The simple service over, the congregation fades quietly away as the graves are filled in and the crosses put in place. Long belts of machine gun ammunition are placed in square or oval design about the graves, tiny stars are made by placing cartridges in the fresh dirt. An almost childlike quality appears in the marines' earnest and reverent efforts to make the mounds "look nice."

Cpl. Thomas P. Kenny, 20, an altar boy at St. Francis church in Sacramento, Calif., most of his life, and who served a mass there wearing a marine corps uniform while on his last furlough home in January, 1942, was the man whose quiet, simple service for the dead was his own idea to make gruesome the burial assignment he had been given.

Kenny served in the front lines 39 out of the 41 days before the hill fell. It was not until then that he saw his first sunrise in 40 days, having lived in the interim in the jungles and swamps of the lowlands until moved to the foothills here, where marines were pushing their beachhead upward toward the headwaters of the Torokina river.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Kenny, of 2213 U street, Sacramento, the corporal was assigned to bury 10 marines atop the hill after it was taken.

"We had to take all personal effects from the men to send back to their folks and on one of the first two boys we searched, I found a serviceman's prayer book" he said. "It seems pretty awful to bury them without some sort of service, so I decided to read the 23d psalm over them. We buried them by twos and tried to make it as nice as possible."

Though he has often worked under mortar and artillery barrages, and under machine gun and sniper fire, and though he has carried out many wounded and dying, the black-haired marine

New Garden Fertilizer Available

This year, home gardeners will be able to get a new commercial fertilizer for the victory garden plots, announces Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent. It will be labeled "Victory Garden Fertilizer" and in fertilizer language will be labeled a 6-4-10, which means that it will contain 6 per cent nitrogen, 10 per cent phosphorus and 4 per cent potash. Last year victory garden mixture was a 3-8-7, with only three per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent phosphorus and 7 per cent potash.

The increased nitrogen in the fertilizer this year will give much better results than was available last year. With the nitrogen content doubled, only half as much will be needed to accomplish the same results. One sack should be enough to fertilize one-fifth of an acre or 8,700 square feet. If the garden did not have a cover crop this winter or no barnyard manure, then a heavier application of commercial fertilizer may be needed.

If you have a cover crop on the garden plot now, it would be well to apply about one-half of the 6-10-4 fertilizer now. This application would give the cover crop a boost so that you will have a maximum amount of green manure to plow under when the soil is ready to work. The rest of the fertilizer should be broadcast and worked in at the same time soil preparation is going on.

Granges Awarded Citation for No Unpaid Dues

SILVERTON — Silvertown Hills and Union Hill granges are among the eight in Marion county who received merit certificates for no unpaid dues during the past year.

The Waldo Hills Community club, of which Robert Riches is president, will hold its regular March meeting Friday night at the clubhouse. Miss Lois Anne Riches is club secretary.

Twin calves were born to a two-year-old Holstein cow at the George Benson home in the Silvertown hills this week. Both cow and calves are doing well, it was reported.

Fork and Shovel Brigade Come Out With First Signs of Spring

Nice sunny days as were enjoyed last week are bringing a lot of people outside with forks and shovels to start scratching around. Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent, says that the soil is just too wet to do much digging unless on well drained sandy soil. It is much better to wait till a little later to do any actual soil preparation, Newell reminds inquirers.

Something that can be looked after now is the condition or reaction of the soil in the garden plots. It is important to consider reaction in connection with the fertilizer program. If the soil is acid it should be corrected before money is spent for fertilizer materials. Most vegetables make a satisfactory growth when the soil is slightly acid. Beets, lettuce and spinach do best in soils that are about neutral, Newell said.

If beets or spinach grow well in the garden, it is a pretty safe bet that the soil is not acid and no lime need be applied. To correct acidity or neutralize it, most vegetable growers use ground limestone from one to two tons per acre according to the degree of acidity and the type of soil. In small gardens this would amount to 12 to 18 pounds per square rod on 272 square feet. It could best be applied in the fall previous to seeding of the cover crop or in

the spring during the preparation of the soil. Lime helps to improve the structure of heavy soil and creates a condition in the soil favorable for the growth of beneficial bacteria.

Wood ashes are a satisfactory form of lime but they should not be dumped in piles and left that way. Not more than 30 pounds of ashes should be put on to the square rod. If they are used, then spread them well at the time you put them on. An alkaline condition develops in these spots if ashes are left in piles and such a condition is not favorable to plant growth. Never put ashes on soil that is already alkaline.

Soil tests for acidity can be made at the county agent's office or at the soils department at Oregon State college.

Commercial fertilizers can be used to supply readily available plant foods, but they do not serve

as a substitute for manures or cover crops in adding organic matter to the soil. Growing cover crop is a good way to increase the organic matter and so is the application of barnyard manure if straw is used for bedding animals. Besides the organic material, manures contain beneficial soil organisms. The way manure is stored determines its value. Exposure and rainy weather may reduce its value 50 per cent in a few months.

If you plan to put barnyard manure on your garden, try to get it from a farm that has stored it under cover or have it hauled directly from the barn to the garden spot.

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