

# Service Men

Where They Are—What They Are Doing



Lt. Raleigh Wirth, US army air corps, who spent a recent leave with his wife, Betty Eyrely Wirth in Salem.

**WOODBURN**—Hrtle Fryer, motor machinist first class, who has been serving in the Caribbean since 1942, is spending a 15 day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Miller Fryer, before reporting back to New York for assignment to shore duty. He served first on a sub chaser for 18 months, and then seven months on a mine sweeper.

**WOODBURN**—Bob Evans CM2c for the past three years on a coast guard cutter in the North Pacific spent a few days with his parents at their farm home north and west of town, before going on to Seattle for a new assignment.

**WOODBURN**—Mrs. Robert Renn and little son Michael are en route to Columbus, Ohio, to join Capt. Robert Renn of the US air force, who is in training there.

Wendell Isaac, pharmacist mate 1st class, of Portland, has been a guest of his uncle, John TeSelle, of the Valley Motor company, on leave from active duty in the Pacific. Member of a navy medical unit attached to the second marine division, Isaac participated in the fighting at Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Saipan, and wears numerous battle decorations including the purple heart. On his return to duty he expects a shore assignment with the navy for several months and then hopes to be assigned to a battleship.

(Special to The Statesman)

**AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE FIGHTER STATION**, England—Pfc. Orville C. Wright of Salem, Ore., is a member of an eighth fighter command P-51 Mustang group which recently passed the 450 mark in victories over Nazi planes, becoming the third American fighter group in the European theatre of operations to make such a record.

Pfc. Wright is an armorer in a Mustang squadron stationed here and his work contributed to the group's high record of combat efficiency.

Pfc. Wright, who formerly resided at 530 North 21st street, Salem, was employed by the state highway department of Oregon prior to his induction in January, 1943.

The name of Second Lt. Francis A. Minturn, son of Mrs. Lucy Minturn, 292 North Church street, is on the official list of men missing in action in the Asiatic theatre of operations, released this weekend by the war department.

**NORTH HOWELL**—Pvt. Raymond Woelke, U. S. Army, has written to his mother, Mrs. Anna Woelke, from southern France.



First "WAC of the week" in the area served by the Salem army recruiting office is Hazel Marie Schomberg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Schomberg of 142 Abrams avenue, who has completed her enlistment in the women's army corps and will be called to active duty October 16. Miss Schomberg has a very special interest in the work of the army medical corps, for she has been one of the regular contributors to the Red Cross blood bank. After completing her basic training at Des Moines she will be assigned to the medical corps for surgical technical training and will then be assigned to one of the army general hospitals where WACS aid in the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers returning from overseas.

## Salem Private Writes of Guam Invasion, Jap Tanks, and Says 'Thank God I'm an American'



Pvt. Wallace D. Gilchrist, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Gilchrist of 115 Liberty road, told his parents in a letter that D-day of the Guam invasion "was really a breath-taking sight."

pointed minute the landing craft headed for the beach to make the assault. What a flotilla that was! It was the first invasion I had seen and the immensity of the thing held me spell-bound.

"I thought of how many hours of labor it took to make possible all the shells, ships, planes and supplies, and how much planning it took to make the whole operation a success.

"We fellows over here certainly must thank the people back home for the quality of our equipment.

"You'd laugh out loud like I did at the first Jap tank I saw. It resembles an old pot-bellied stove and when it was hit by a shell . . . it just sorta disintegrated. Thank God I'm an American.

"It's funny how during the campaign I worried about you folks and Lois worrying about me than I did about myself. May sound strange but a lot of fellows said the same thing.

"The idea is that the soldier in the fox hole knows he is OK.

"For several days now we have had hardly any rain at all, but today old Jupe Pluvius visited us quite often. But . . . the rain does make it a lot cooler and helps keep the flies down, too.

"Censorship regulations have been lifted on certain items so I want to tell you about the big show on D-day.

"Early in the morning all the fighting ships started shelling and planes were bombing up until the zero hour. Then at the ap-

## Former Salem Officer Dares German Lines to Demand and Obtain Yielding of Paris Nazis

Lt. Col. Bion C. Welker, who was stationed in Salem as executive officer to Col. A. H. Stackpole of the 104th cavalry, a former Pennsylvania national guard regiment assigned to coastal defence in 1942, forced the surrender of the Nazi commandant of the Continental hotel in Paris in late August through personal intrepidity and power of persuasion.

In civil life, Welker is managing editor of the Harrisburg Telegraph of which Colonel Stackpole was publisher. His present duty is civil affairs officer with the first army. Colonel Stackpole is on duty in China.

The army newspaper, "Stars and Stripes," in its issue of August 29, told the Welker story under the heading, "Sage of a Paris Hotel, or How a C-3 Talked a Nazi Into Surrendering."

According to this article:

### Demands Are Met

"I started when Lt. Col. Bion C. Welker, civil affairs officer of the United States 1st army, coldly drove his captured German vehicle through the German lines into Versailles. He faced German capture. He knew it. He drove on until two machine guns barred his way.

"I am a domineering type of man," said Welker with a grin, "and I demanded to be taken to the Stadt Kommandant of Paris."

"Quickly he was conducted before the resplendent Kommandant who was not a little impressed by the Class A uniform and the air of importance worn by the colonel. Welker was in the Continental, a lush and expensive hotel taken over by the Kommandant and the SS and he explained to the Germans the utter hopelessness of their position in the face of such French and American strength as was assembled outside the city.

### Surrender Advised

"As the thunder of allied gunfire drew nearer, the Kommandant became more nervous. 'What do you think we should do?' he asked Welker. Speaking perfect German, Welker told him he should surrender as an honorable soldier before a superior force. The Kommandant shook his head.

"But time was passing. The guns moved in, and the FFI was gaining the upper hand throughout the city. A wild night of burned secret documents followed frantic hurried conferences. Welker could feel the end was coming.

"His guards were perfectly correct in their treatment of him and the German officer looked after his welfare. Then came the sudden end.

"'Herr Colonel,' said the Kommandant, 'we will surrender to you—to the Americans—but do not turn us over to the FFI, I beg of you.'

"Welker said he would consider the matter, which he did, long enough to get a white sheet and march out of the hotel to the waiting French, who then took the Germans away. Welker had explained the situation to them and they agreed to accord the sur-

rendering German staff all the honors of war, and gave them treatment commensurate with their rank.

### 'Welcome to Paris'

"Shortly after, a tank column pushed to that section of the city," writes Winget (S&S correspondent). "I was halted by a Frenchman who said he would take me to Welker. We walked through endless dark corridors of the hotel, past litter cast away by the frightened Germans everywhere, and past the piled up armament, through rooms where meals were still on the table, only half eaten. Eventually I found the colonel sitting placidly in a chair with a glass of vintage wine in one hand, and watching the street fighting from his penthouse window.

"Welcome to Paris," said this former editor of the Harrisburg (Pa.) Telegraph.

"He had just one complaint. A German officer had stolen his only shirt and his toothbrush."

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## Overseas Mailing Season Expected to Be Largest in History; Regulations Stressed

AP Features

Mailing gifts to servicemen and women abroad is just as important as buying. The post office says this overseas mailing season — from now to Oct. 15 — will be the biggest in history.

Here are the government's rules for overseas mailing:

Packages must not be over five pounds in weight, nor more than 18 inches long, nor more than 36 inches in length and girth combined. This is about the size of an ordinary shoe box.

Only one package may be sent by or on behalf of the same person or concern to or for the same soldier in one week during the mailing period.

The package should be marked "Christmas Parcel," and a label not resembling a postage mark or stamp is suggested for this.

Standardized boxes for mailing are being sold. But, if you'd rather you can make your own from corrugated fiberboard cartons, such as can be secured from the grocer. The box should be tied firmly with strong twine, bound and reinforced with strong gummed paper tape, or both.

The address should be typewritten or printed plainly in water-proof ink. A duplicate address and return address should be placed inside the box.

The destination address should include the rank and full name, serial number, service organization and unit of the service person. It also should include the proper Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office number and the port from which it will leave. The return address should be complete.

### FOUR POINTS TO CHECK



Postage on all parcels must be fully prepaid — fourth class on packages over eight ounces, third class under that weight.

Many articles are strictly taboo for mailing: Perishable foods, intoxicants, weapons, poisons, and inflammables like matches and lighter fluids.

### Mrs. Morrow to Speak To USO Volunteers

PORTLAND, Sept. 23—(AP)—Mrs. Dwight W. Morrow, national head of USO volunteer services and widow of the former US ambassador to Mexico, will arrive here this week to speak to volunteer workers.

but his people 5 or 6 thousand miles away do not know that.

"The doughboys in Europe are doing a wonderful job; it makes me feel like the whole thing couldn't last more than 6 or 8 months longer. . . .

"Thanks for the clippings from The Statesman of the chief radio man who was on Guam 31 months. One of the natives told me about it and how they befriended him but I was a little skeptical about it, so now the clippings verify the whole thing. . . .

"Darkness is falling and the mosquitoes are coming out. I cannot see very well so shall close.

"Although my body is on the island of Guam, my heart and mind are always in Salem with my loved ones. Mail from home means a great deal to the soldier, so keep the letters coming.

"Love, "Wallace, Jr."

### Armstrong to Assist Winant In London Post

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23—(AP)—Appointment of Hamilton Fish Armstrong, editor of the magazine "Foreign Affairs," as special assistant to Ambassador John G. Winant at London with personal rank of minister was announced today by the department of state.

**McCHORD FIELD, Wash.**—Tech. Sgt. LeRoy J. Willig, stationed at McChord field, Wash., has been awarded the Good Conduct medal at that fourth air force base.

Sgt. Willig, with close to eight years service, including two years overseas, also wears the American Defense Ribbon.

A crash crew chief at McChord field, the popular, well liked sergeant is also president of the base NCO club.

His home address is 1554 North 4th street, Salem, Ore.

Overlooking the French town of Dreux on the Blaise river, near Paris, are the ruins of a castle of the counts of Dreux who flourished in the Middle Ages.

### Bigger Deer Season Expected by Hunters

PRINEVILLE, Sept. 23—(AP)—A larger open area, more ammunition and a season which opens on a Sunday will attract an unusually large army of deer hunters to the Ochoco national forest Oct. 1, forest officials predict.

## POOR TEETH ALWAYS LEAD TO POOR IMPRESSIONS

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### Fisherman Drowns When Tug Rams Boat

CAMAS, Wash., Sept. 23—(AP)—Thrown into the Columbia river when a tug rammed his small fishing boat last night, Jess Powell, Camas, still was missing today.

All three occupants of the small boat, apparently unnoticed by a tug taking two barges downstream, were hurled into the river by the crash, which occurred off the port dock between Camas and Washoual. Frank Gibson and Henry Huber, both of Camas, clung to the wreckage until help came.

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