

Victor Crocker Is Missing in Pacific Action

ALBANY—Leland Victor Crocker, machinist's mate 3/c, is missing in action, his wife, Martha Lean Crocker of Albany, has been notified by the navy department. The message conveyed no data or indication of the area of the action where Crocker was engaged. He has been in the service about 19 months and had been aboard a destroyer in the south Pacific.

Arthur Harris Out of German Prison Camp

JEFFERSON—Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Harris received word from the adjutant of the army, saying that the secretary of war desired him to express his pleasure that their son, Arthur L. Harris returned to military control April 15, 1945. Private Harris had been in a prison camp in Germany since October 19.

WITH THE 1104TH ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP IN GERMANY—In little more than a year's time the first squad, second platoon, of Co. "C" 246th engineer combat battalion finished its training at Fort Lewis, endured a turbulent Atlantic crossing, disembarked in England for continental invasion training, landed in France D-day plus five, and literally worked and fought its way through the Normandy, Northern France, and Germany campaigns. The squad includes Cpl. Robert E. Brown of Salem, Ore.

Chi Omegas at Dyer Home

Mrs. William Connell Dyer and Mrs. Claybourne Dyer were hostesses to the Chi Omega alumnae at their North 13th street home Monday night. Bridge was in play during the evening with prizes going to Mrs. Robert S. Farrell, Jr., and Miss Edith Libby.

A late supper was served by the hostesses. The supper table was centered with a bouquet of red and white carnations flanked with red candles. Attending were Mrs. George Hill, Mrs. John Fredin, Mrs. Irwin Harris, Miss Edith Libby, Mrs. Paul Nieswander, Mrs. Richard DeCamp, Mrs. Elwin White, Mrs. Conrad W. Paulus, Mrs. Robert Farrell, Jr., Dr. Helen Pearce, Mrs. Grey Muñjar, Mrs. George Neuner and the hostesses.

Miss Lora Kate Griffith, who is a cadet nurse at the University of Oregon Medical school, was here from Portland for the weekend at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Griffith. Saturday Mrs. Griffith, accompanied by Mrs. William Paulus, attended the cadet nurse induction program at the Neighborhood of Woodcraft hall in Portland.

The National association of Letter Carriers and auxiliary met on Monday night at the chamber of commerce rooms. They decided to assist in the sale of poppies and to make a donation to the Red Cross for the purchase of a record player for the Corvallis naval hospital. Hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Mem Pearce and Mr. and Mrs. John French.

The Royal Neighbors will hold their regular meeting tonight at 8 o'clock in the VFW hall. Mrs. Winston Purvine, juvenile director, will hold a get-acquainted meeting for the juvenile society members in the VFW hall at 4 p. m.

Mrs. Lester L. Colgan, of Grants Pass is visiting at the home of Mrs. G. H. Colgan, 1349 Waller street. Cpl. Lester Colgan is now in Germany, his family has learned.

Major and Mrs. Welcott E. Buren have returned from a week's trip to San Francisco, Berkeley and Modesto, Calif. At the latter city they visited with Major Vern W. Miller.

Maccabees Willamette No. 6 thimble club will meet today for a no-host dinner at noon, at the home of Mrs. Elisabeth Taylor, 525 North 18th street.

Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Owens entertained at dinner and bridge Sunday night at their home for the pleasure of members of their club. Covers were placed for 12.

St. Agnes Guild of St. Paul's Episcopal church will meet tonight at the parish house at 7:30 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Colton of San Francisco are visiting here a few days as the house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Riches.

IN THE... Nation's Service



DFC Awarded to Dallas Man

DALLAS — Cpl. Kenneth G. Steele was presented a Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal for an impressive military formation held recently at Hamilton Field, Calif. Col. Curtis A. Keen, commanding officer of the Hamilton field base unit of the air transport command's West Coast wing, making the presentation.

SWEGLE—Donald Wayne Cooper has notified his mother, Mrs. Mable Knight, that he has again been given sea duty. He enlisted in the navy immediately after Pearl Harbor and saw 28 months of active duty aboard a flagship in the Pacific before his first leave home, 23 months of this south of the equator. Since then he has been stationed at Oceanside, Calif.

Sgt. C. H. Gustafson Awarded Air Medal

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE LIBERATOR STATION, England—S/Sgt. Carl H. Gustafson, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Gustafson, 889 Blaine st., Woodburn, Ore., was recently awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" in aerial combat with the 453rd bombardment group. He is a nose gunner aboard the B-24 Liberator "Crow's Nest."

Leroy Heiser Spends Leave With Parents

JEFFERSON—Leroy Heiser, seaman 1/c, is spending a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heiser. In the navy for 1 1/2 years he has participated in action in the Philippines, Moratti, Marshalls, and Marianas.

Seaman First Class Richard Walter Coonse, USNR, 17, of Salem, is at the naval training station, Norfolk, Va., to undergo training for duties aboard a destroyer of the Atlantic fleet. He recently completed a period of training at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Son of W. S. Coonse of route two, Salem, Coonse has a brother, Bill, an electrician's mate second class, in the navy.

SOMEWHERE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC—Rollin Dakyns Page, 1823 Chemeketa st., Salem, Ore., has been advanced in rating from seaman second class to seaman first class. He is on duty at one of the gigantic mobile supply and repair bases which operates in the forward area of the Pacific.

MONMOUTH—Of interest here is the marriage of Sgt. James C. Chatauk of Monmouth to Miss Lucille Miller of Sioux City, Ia., which occurred April 13. Chatauk's mother, Mrs. Mabel Pollan, and grandmother, Mrs. C. C. Yeater live here. He was graduated from Monmouth high school, served a 3 year enlistment in the army at Fort Lewis, and re-enlisted the day after Pearl Harbor. He served in the south Pacific as mechanic with the AAF, and for the last year has been assigned to a post at Sioux City, the home of his bride.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank V. Prime, sr., have received word that their son, Corporal Robert Prime, is now in France. He left the states in March. Before going overseas Corporal Prime was stationed at Fort Columbia, Wash. His wife, the former Willetta Griffith, resides in Salem.

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England—Staff Sgt. Harold H. Dugman, 27, of Salem, Ore., waist gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, has been assigned to the 95th bombardment group, cited for leading the first American bombing attack on targets in Berlin. His wife, Mrs. Gwendene Dugman, lives at 491 North Winter st., Salem.

J. Hugh Ward, seaman first class, is spending his leave in Salem at the home of his brother, Connell C. Ward. The visitor has been on duty on a mine-sweeper for the past year in European waters, and previously was stationed on the Atlantic seaboard for 18 months. He participated in the Normandy invasion.



AUMSVILLE—Wilford LaFountaine, fireman 1/c, stationed at San Bruno, US naval advance base, was visited in San Francisco recently by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. LaFountaine, and his sister, Louella, all of Aumsville.



Clifford Helgerson Of Dallas Dies in English Hospital

DALLAS — Mr. and Mrs. Clifford P. Helgerson received notice Friday of the death of their son, PFC Kendall Helgerson, 20, who was seriously wounded in Germany, April 8. He was being treated in an English hospital.

Born in Dallas he had lived his entire life here graduating with the class of 1942 from Dallas high school. After training with a military police organization he went overseas early in the year. He was a truck driver in a MP battalion attached to the 89th infantry regiment.

Surviving are his parents and a sister, Pvt. Elogene Helgerson, serving with the WAC at Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Fla.

ALBANY—It is First Lt. Ronald J. Bowerman now, according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Bowerman of East Albany. He received his promotion and also the Air Medal recently. Lieutenant Bowerman, copilot on a B-29 bomber, has flown on combat missions both over China and Japan. He is a graduate of Albany high with the class of 1942 and has been in the army two years and overseas since November, 1944. Before enlisting he was employed by the Taylor Printing Co. of Albany.

SIXTH ARMY GROUP, Germany—PFC Robert R. Akers of 2397 Hazel ave., Salem, Ore., is among the veteran doughboys of the 142nd infantry regiment who experienced some of their hardest combat in more than 350 days of battle recently when they broke through the Moder line at Oberhoffen, captured Wissembourg, and slashed their way through strong Siegfried line defenses, prior to the Nazi surrender.

Rice, Beatings Provide Diet Of Prisoners

CORVALLIS NAVY HOSPITAL—(Special)—The second Battle of Manila Bay and its after effects convinced Gunner Lee G. Mills, 32-year-old regular navy warrant officer, that stateside duty is great, particularly after an absence of five years, three of which were spent as a Jap prisoner in the Philippines.

Mills, who reduced his weight at one time to 89 pounds while on a daily Jap diet, is now convalescing at the U.S. naval hospital, Corvallis. He has a wife and two daughters in Portland.

When the war broke, Mills was serving aboard the Finch, making nightly exploratory sweeps to prevent Japs from planting mines in Manila Bay and in the China Sea nearby. The day after Bataan fell—April 10, 1942—the Finch was sunk by aerial bombs.

On May 6, the Japs took over after losing 5,000 troops the previous night. Mills and other Americans spent the next 20 days on the "Rock" helping bury and burn the dead. Then the 9,000 prisoners were moved to Manila and marched up Dewey boulevard to Bilibid prison.

To Cabanatuan, 110 miles away, 2,000 Americans again were moved in crowded box cars. Mills said they were placed in a fenced schoolyard, greeted by six inches of rain and no sleeping accommodations.

"The next day we were ordered to march. Heat exhaustion affected many of the weaker ones but none were molested until about 50 had fallen. Then succeeding stragglers were jabbed with bayonets and beaten with rifle butts."

"The next day we were fed just rice. The guards were changed to second line troops of Japs born in Formosa. Later, at the largest stockade visited during our imprisonment, we broke ground, cut grass, farmed and chopped wood. Colonels, doctors, all of us had our hands in hard labor while a goon squad of brutal Japs clubbed those who loitered, ate, or stepped on plants."

Three years later, seeing the Jap guards scurry away leaving



Lt. and Mrs. Howard Jenks Visit Relatives

ALBANY—Lt. and Mrs. Howard Jenks, who early this year came to the United States from London, England, where Lieutenant Jenks had been stationed with the AAF, and where Mrs. Jenks had always lived, are visiting relatives in Linn and Marion counties.

Lieutenant Jenks is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jenks of Salem and Tangent, who are now at their country home near Tangent. He is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Jenks, Tangent.

Jenks wears the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two silver clusters and three campaign stars. He participated in the D-day invasion of France as pilot of a Martin Marauder. Following their visit here, Lieutenant and Mrs. Jenks will go to Santa Monica, Calif., where he will await further assignment.

Archie Brower on Leave at Jefferson

JEFFERSON—Archie Brower, seaman 1/c, in the Pacific area for 10 months, is spending a 23-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Brower. In the navy for 17 months, he received boot training at Farragut, then transferred to San Diego, where he trained at the sound school.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—Robert Lee Simmons, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Simmons, of route two, box 194, Silverton, Ore., has been graduated from the naval air training base here and was commissioned an ensign in the U. S. naval reserve. He is a former student of the Willamette university, Salem.

Additional Servicemen On Page 12

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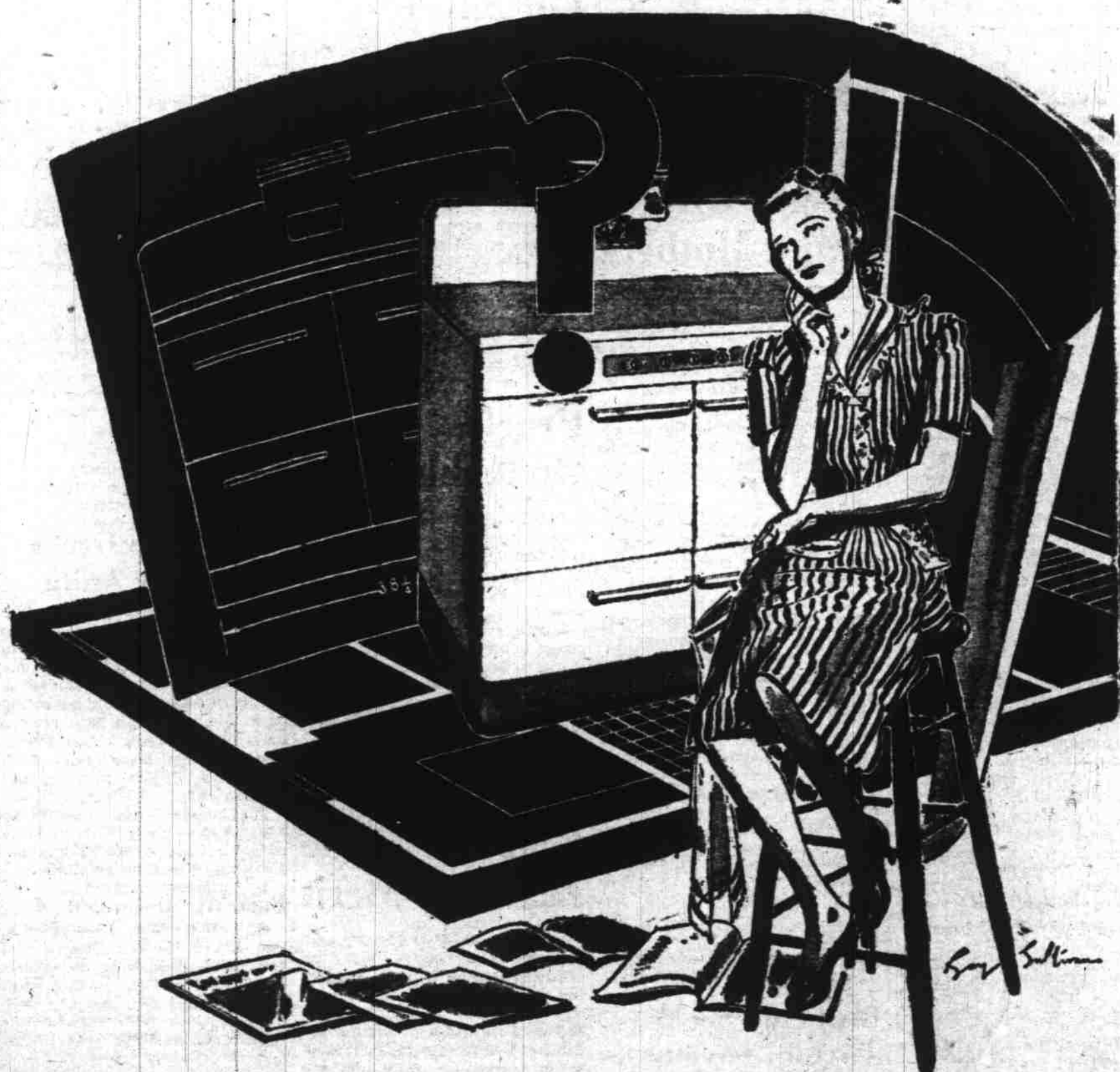
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