

# OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE

By ANN CONNELL

## Paratrooper Says Jumps Take Nerve; 'Freezing' Common



RAY WILSON

An interesting glimpse into the life of a paratrooper is given by the letter of Ray Wilson, a local boy who is in the U. S. paratroopers. He says:

"The fellows that refuse to jump are given another chance, and then if they can't jump, they are court-martialed and punished in some way. 'Freezing' in the door and refusing to jump are entirely different. 'Freezing' is common, even with the best of jumpers and old-timers. You're paralyzed in the door; you want to jump but you're so scared that you can't move. No ten men could convince you to jump—the only thing to do is boot the fellow out the door and that's rather dangerous.

**Jumps Exciting**

"After you go out the door, the propeller blast hits you with a terrific force and you are blown clear of the plane. After falling 75 to 100 feet your chute should be open. From the time you hit the door and jump until the time of your opening shock, you don't know what's happening. It happens so quickly you don't have time to think. And I'm telling you, when you land you could weigh your weight in wildcats, for you're so excited you don't realize what you have done. You look up and see the others coming down and they look like match sticks dangling on handkerchiefs. Just thinking about it is excitement, and I don't know yet where I got the nerve to make my jumps. The real one will be overseas, of course.

"Our jumps are en masse and every half-second a man goes out the door. You take 100 planes with 24 to a plane and let them all jump—that's a lot of men in the air!

**Tumbling Saves Legs**

"As soon as your feet touch the ground, you tumble, still holding on to the suspension lines. You have to tumble to prevent landing too hard. Tumbling relaxes you and there is less chance of breaking bones. The boys who break their legs are given medical discharges, but can serve in field or coast artillery."

A new deposit of iron ore, important for war, has been located and staked on behalf of the Crown in Quebec province.

## Captured Bicycle Much Enjoyed by Seamen Who Ride It Around Decks

Ralph L. Spencer, petty officer third class with rating of coxswain, has written his mother, Mrs. Hallie Spencer, 1209 Emerald, that he has picked up a Japanese army rifle of 2516 calibre, also a Japanese bicycle, both of which he hopes to be able to bring home someday. In the meantime, he reports, he and others aboard his ship have fun riding the "bike" around the decks.

Coxswain Spencer is 21, and joined the navy October 31, 1940. Taking his boot training at San Diego, he later spent eight months aboard the Aircraft Carrier Lexington. He was transferred to South Dakota for further training, until the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and was supposed to report back to the Lexington but by a lucky accident, as his mother views it, he was sent elsewhere and so escaped the Lexington's fate. He has been in several serious battles in the Solomons, and wears a four-star campaign bar.

## Carol Edna Nelson Has Her Military Orders

Private Carol Edna Nelson, 1259 Hilyard, has received her orders for transfer to Camp Lejeune, N. C., for indoctrination in the marine corps women's reserve. She will leave from Portland by train November 26 with eight other women privates and begin her training on the east coast December 1, according to Sergeant L. L. Pittenger, local recruiter. Miss Nelson enlisted at 841 Willamette street early this fall.

## Mars Finds Magazine Story by Local Man

Paul Mars, proprietor of Mars' Shoe Repair shop, arrived home the first of the week on medical discharge from the army of the United States. He served eight months overseas, in New Caledonia. He tells that one of the first magazines he opened, overseas, was a 1941 copy of Popular Mechanics, containing a short article and picture submitted by Glenn Hasselbroth, Register-Guard reporter.

## Lt. Pitney Personnel Officer at Big Base

Mrs. C. E. Pitney of Route 5 has received from her son, Lt. William E. Pitney, personnel and training officer at the 355th sub depot of the air service command, at Clovis, N. M., an illustrated article concerning the base. The sub depot recently celebrated its second anniversary, and it was announced that construction had been completed within the two years. The depot, which has a military staff of seven with Lt. Col. Donald McDonald as commanding officer, employs 528 civilians in the maintenance and repair of planes.

### RECENTLY GRADUATED

Donald Robert Stewart, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cameron Stewart, Route 5, Eugene, recently was graduated in a class of 118 Bluejackets from the naval training school on the Iowa State college campus at Ames, Iowa, and advanced to the rate of motor machinist's mate, third class.

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## Kermit Stevens Also Awarded Silver Star



COLONEL STEVENS

Kermit D. Stevens, former Eugenean who recently was named a full colonel, by announcement of Brigadier General Frederick L. Anderson, commanding general of the Eighth Bomber Command "somewhere in England," also was awarded the silver star recently for "gallantry in action" while leading his group of Flying Fortress bombers on a daylight bombing raid over Germany.

An overseas communication concerning Colonel Stevens reads as follows: "Colonel Stevens, who recently took over command of one of the veteran Flying Fortress heavy bombardment groups in the Eighth Air Force, played an outstanding part in the initial organization and development of the Eighth Bomber Command in the European theater of operations. He came overseas in the early months of 1942 with the small group of officers, under command of Lt. General Carl Spaatz, that formed the nucleus of the mighty air force destined to follow." Colonel Stevens is the son of Mrs. Jennie E. Stevens, 1508 Thirteenth Avenue east. His wife, Mrs. Marian Stevens, lives at 2208 N.E. Knott street, Portland.

"The courage, endurance, and skill with which you devoted yourself to duty on the above occasion were in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service."

## Cottage Grove Man Wins Lieutenant's Bars

Roger E. Braswell of 817 Main street, Cottage Grove, has been commissioned a second lieutenant in the army of the United States after successfully completing a course of training at the adjutant general's school at Fort Washington, Md.

Lieutenant Braswell was one of a selected group of enlisted men drawn from virtually all arms and branches of the service and designated to attend the officer candidate school.

## Alice Richardson Now Made WAC Corporal

The promotion of Corporal Alice L. Richardson from the grade of private first class recently was announced by the commanding officer of the army air base at Clovis, N. M. Corporal Richardson has been in service since March 31, 1943, and this promotion speaks for her ability as a soldier. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Richardson of Hannaford, N. D., but she enlisted from Eugene.

## Lt. Gene Demagalski Gets Commission, Wings

Lt. Gene Demagalski, son of Mrs. Helen M. Casteel of Eugene, received his wings and commission early this month when he was graduated from the Maria, Tex., army air forces pilot school, it is announced by Col. Donald B. Phillips, commanding officer.

Lt. Demagalski, a University high school graduate, was assigned to Maria from Marana basic flying school, at Marana, Ariz.

## ARRIVES AT SCHOOL

Charles E. Hallin, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Hallin, 1358 High, has arrived at St. Cloud State Teachers college, located at St. Cloud, Minn. Here he will take a course of instruction under ASTP for approximately five months, prior to appointment as an aviation cadet in the AAF.

## Bissell is Navigator

Lt. Eugene P. Bissell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Bissell, 687 Cheshire, has completed a course at the Texas navigation schools, at San Marcos, Tex. For 18 weeks he took training in the exacting science of flying by stars, instruments, landmarks and radio, and at its completion received the silver wings of an aerial navigator.

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## James Larsen, Local Seaman, Guard, Given Commendation

James Ellsworth Larsen, Seaman First Class, USNR, of Eugene, has been commended by the Chief of Naval Personnel for exceptional bravery as a member of an armed guard unit, according to a direct communication from the naval headquarters at Portland.

Seaman Larsen is the son of Andrew K. Larsen, Route 1, Eugene. He enlisted in the navy in Portland August 4, 1942. The complete text of his commendation follows:

"The Chief of Naval Personnel takes pleasure in commending you for exceptional bravery as a member of the armed guard unit aboard a merchantman during a voyage through the Mediterranean war zone.

"A report of the experience reveals that your vessel and the areas about her were subjected to vicious persistent aerial bombing, strafing, and torpedo attacks day after day by waves of enemy German planes. Because of the prompt and fearless defensive action with which the men of the navy crew met each assault, sending up terrific barrages of instantaneous, accurate, and deadly fire, attacking planes were unable to come within range. The armed guard unit aided in sending three aircraft into brilliant, flaming crashes, and scored hits on at least four others, while one plane diving directly on their ship was forced to turn away and flee from their blazing guns, jettisoning its bombs and losing altitude when last seen. By unflinching vigilance you and your shipmates were often among the first to engage the raiders, thereby not only saving your ship from destruction but also inflicting severe punishment upon the enemy.

"The courage, endurance, and skill with which you devoted yourself to duty on the above occasion were in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service."

## Margaret Coram Gets Petty Officer Rating

Promoted to the petty officer rate of storekeeper third class at her recent graduation from the naval training school on the Indiana University campus, at Bloomington, Ind., "Bluejacket" Margaret E. Coram, 26, of Blachly, is ready to release a shore-stationed male storekeeper for sea duty.

The woman reservist was selected for this special schooling on the basis of aptitude test results and past civilian experience.

## Radioman Lawson Has Second Wound, in Foot

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Lawson of Westfir have received word from their son, Roy "Cleo" Lawson, RM 3-C, USN, that he is hospitalized in South America for a wound in the foot. He was wounded previously, also, an arm injury. The letter, received a fortnight ago, said he "had hoped to get home on leave by Christmas but the navy had changed his mind." He has not had a leave since entering the service, in May, 1942.

## Sergeant Gerald Orem Is Recently Promoted

Sgt. Gerald Orem, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Orem, 364 Seventh Avenue east, recently received his promotion from corporal's rating, at the army air base at Hayward, Calif. He entered the service in October, 1942.

His brother, Loyal Orem, 17, has been accepted for service in the merchant marine, and left Saturday, Nov. 13, from Portland, for a training school at Avalon, Calif.

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## Sgt. Don Bowman in 2nd All-Soldier Show

Sgt. Don Bowman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay W. Bowman, 810 Jackson street, has appeared in an all-soldier show. "You've Had It, Yank" which was given at the base where he is stationed in England under the auspices of the American Red Cross.

The show was directed by Miss Frances Abbott of the Red Cross Aeroclub. It has been given at several nearby military bases.

Sgt. Bowman, whose work on the field is with a transportation organization, sings a song he composed, "Frenetta." He earlier toured in another similar production.

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MAJ. LAURENCE E. FISCHER, whose wife, Ruth Station Fischer, lives at 570 Tenth Avenue west, is commanding officer of the 460th base headquarters and air base squadron at the army air field at Kingman, Ariz.

## Eugene Marine Pilot Scores Direct Hit

SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC — (Delayed)—With 10 attacks against Japanese land installations to his credit, including a direct hit on three heavy anti-aircraft guns, First Lieutenant John E. Jaqua, 22, of Eugene, a marine torpedo bomber pilot, recently completed his first tour of duty in the combat zone.

Lieutenant Jaqua saw action over Kolombangara, Shortland, Ballale, and New Georgia islands in the Solomons. His hit on the ack-ack emplacement was at Kolombangara.

"My bomb landed right in the middle of them," he says. "One minute they were firing. The next, they weren't."

Lieutenant Jaqua left Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., after three years to enlist in February, 1942. He was commissioned as Corporal Christ, Tex., November 16, 1942. After several months duty in the United States, he left for overseas.

His wife, Rosamond, is living in Long Beach, Calif., and his parents reside in Eugene.

## Phillips' Two Sons Write from Overseas

Mr. and Mrs. John Phillips of Franklin have had letters recently from their two sons, both of whom entered the army in April of 1942, and have not returned on furlough. Cpl. Ellis Phillips now is in Australia. He finds the folk very friendly, and the climate and crops much like the Willamette valley. He has not met any Lane county boys there. Cpl. Cecil Phillips has been on Guadalcanal for the past year. A letter mentioned being in action on Vella La Vella Island, saying: "As usual, the Siant-eyes got the worst of it." He said it had been more than 10 months since he had seen a white woman, and he "certainly would like to see somebody besides the armed forces and natives."

## Good Conduct Medal Won by PFC Foster

PFC Edward A. Foster, son of Mrs. Eva Foster, 1442 Lincoln, now assigned to the 59th station hospital at Camp Chaffee, Ark., has been awarded the good conduct medal by Lt. Col. Francis D. Pierce, commanding officer.

The good conduct medal was awarded to those enlisted men who had "demonstrated fidelity through faithful and exact performance of duty and whose behavior had been such as to deserve emulation."

The medal is represented on the soldier's shirt or blouse by a red ribbon with three vertical white stripes at each edge. After the war is over, the medal itself will be awarded.

## Cadet John Hess Made Sergeant of Squadron

Aviation Cadet John L. Hesse Jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. John L. Hesse, 2226 Kincaid Street, Eugene, has been appointed a cadet flight sergeant in a squadron of aviation cadets taking their flying training at the Peecos Army Air Field, Peecos, Tex.

Cadet Hesse is a graduate of University High school, class of '41 and was a student at the Oregon State college prior to his entrance into the air corps. He was a member of Hi-Y at University high school and of Delta Upsilon fraternity at Oregon State.

## THREE AT SAN ANTONIO

Among 54 young men from Oregon stationed as cadets at the army air forces preflight school for pilots, at San Antonio, Tex., are three from Eugene: Aviation Cadets Richard M. Averill, 1745 Fairmount; Stanley E. Parrish, 1450 High and Jack Wiseman, 1943 Onyx.

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## Sergeant Evonuk Has Third Air Medal for 25 Flight Missions

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA: A bronze oak leaf cluster—in lieu of a third award of the Air Medal—has been made to Sgt. Eugene Evonuk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Evonuk, Route 2, Eugene, "for meritorious achievement" while participating in 25 operational flight missions in the Southwest Pacific area, during which hostile contact was probable and expected.

The award was made by Lieut. Gen. George C. Kenney, commander of the allied air forces in the Southwest Pacific.

These operational missions consisted of dropping supplies and transporting troops to advanced positions in General MacArthur's coordinated air, land and sea offensive against the Japanese in New Guinea and northward from Australia.

## Beckett Is Officer in Transportation Corps

John Beckett, a graduate assistant in the school of business administration at the University of Oregon before his enlistment in the army in July, 1942, at Cambridge, Mass., has been graduated from the transportation corps officer candidate school at New Orleans, La., and commissioned a second lieutenant in the army of the United States. He has now been assigned to active duty in this newest branch of army service forces. His wife, Elizabeth Debusk Beckett, resides in Eugene.

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Clip and send the "Whistle" to your favorite sailor, soldier or marine—it's meant especially for HIM.

**Hometown Whistle**

A weekly digest of community news for Lane county men in uniform.

## Strite Says

One local football championship was decided this week when Mohawk defeated Oakridge 12-0 at Civic Stadium. Although USC suffered a defeat March Field, Seaman Ed (Tom) Strite, who was named MVP, was selected to lead the team. The team is coached by Coach Strite.

Two untimely deaths rocked the local sports world during the week: Paratrooper Dwin Harbert, the fighting hero of the Pacific, died at his home in Eugene last week-end by walling the Lebon 22-7.

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## Vocational Course Aid To Seaman and Parents Who Now Help Defense

George W. Zahn, seaman 2-C, has completed boot training at Newport naval training station in Rhode Island, and has reported to Memphis, Tenn., for further training. A graduate of Eugene high school, Seaman Zahn also took a course in airplane mechanics at the Eugene Vocational school, and because of this, he says, was one of 18 out of 1000 men who were chosen to attend the school at Memphis.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Zahn of 522 Eleventh Avenue east, and it is interesting to know that Mr. and Mrs. Zahn, becoming interested in the aviation mechanic course through their son's work at the vocational school, also enrolled for the course, and recently have been assigned to defense work in Spokane.

## Brother of Local Man In Hard Battle, Atlanta

Pvt. Francis Sholly, brother of John K. Sholly, a local furlough at his home in Eugene, told a dramatic and desperate tale of his brother's death in a battle in Atlanta. He said Japanese left on the ground to die fighting, and he caused the patients in hospitals to commit suicide, those sick and wounded were able to walk joined in the streets. The Americans were and a thrilling battle took place. Private Sholly took the body of a dead Japanese medical officer from his dead body. He wished the officer's identity young Japanese physician had been educated in this country had practiced medicine in Atlanta.

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