



Serving Uncle Sam

Edited by Margaret Magee

Aviation Cadet Lynden E. Thomason, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Thomason of East D street, has completed his basic training at Stockton field, California, and soon will begin his advanced flying training.

In Salem on furlough is Pfc. Marvin "Red" Olin, who arrived Saturday and will leave New Year's day to report back to the presidio at San Francisco. In the army for a year and a half, Pfc. Olin, prior to being stationed at the presidio, was stationed at Camp Kohler, Calif., and Camp Davis, Calif., where he was given teletype training.

Transferred from Grand Island, Nebr., where he has been stationed with the air corps, to the Fourth Air force at Hamilton field, Calif., was Staff Sgt. Delbert W. Graber, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Graber. The sergeant, who entered the service when the Oregon national guard was mobilized in 1940, transferred from the coast artillery to the air corps two years ago.

Pvt. A. Dean Lacey, who spent his furlough at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lacey, has returned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

15th AAF in Italy—Ball turret gunner assigned to an AAF B-17 Flying Fortress unit of the 15th airforce is Cpl. Jimmy L. Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Michael of 150 High-Way avenue, Salem, who in civilian life was an electrician. A former student at the Payette, Idaho, high school, the corporal was, prior to entering the service January 3, 1943, an employee of the Oregon Shipyards in Portland. He received his gunner's wings in May, 1944, at Las Vegas, Nev.

Sailor in From Pacific

Twenty-one months of service in the South Pacific have found Pfc. Samuel McRae, who this week arrived home, aiding in the care of many American wounded aboard the hospital ship Relies. Now on a 30-day leave, the sailor flew to Salem from San Francisco for his first visit in three years with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel McRae of 960 Jefferson street. A former Sacred Heart academy student, he took his training at the Great Lakes naval station. On completion of his leave, McRae, whose father, the superintendent of construction project at the Pasco, Wash., air base, came from that city to spend the holidays with him, will report to Treasure Island.

Here from Louisiana on a 30-day leave is the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. McRae, Lt. Richard David, stationed in Arkansas. His wife and their two children, who have been residing in California, came north to be with him. Another son-in-law, Cpl. Robert Meier, whose wife and small son are making their home in Salem, will arrive from Louisiana on furlough in January.

Drawing Brings Honors

Staff Sgt. F. Loren Boulter, a Salem marine, has been awarded second honors for his drawing, "Ad Requiem," at Golden Gate park's de Young museum in San Francisco.

A total of 30,444 visitors saw his contribution which was part of a month-long combat art exhibition created by 17 leather-neck artists, which ended last Friday.

Now on duty in San Francisco, Sgt. Boulter is on military leave of absence from the Oregon state highway department.

Lt. Lynn F. Cronemiller, Jr., a United States army air corps pilot at Yuma, Ariz., surprised his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Cronemiller, Sr., 1760 South Winter, by arriving home late last night on leave through the holidays. He is in charge of the training aid department at Yuma.

Silverton—Mrs. Alf O. Nelson has returned from a week-end visit in Eugene with her youngest son, Jim, an air student there.

St. Paul—Leslie Faber of the U. S. navy is spending a 30-day leave at the home of his mother, Mrs. Agnes Faber. This is the first visit home in 25 months of the navy man who wears stars for five major battles.

After spending six months on duty in the Aleutians, Pfc. M. J. Ellis B. White of the United States navy is spending a 26-day leave with his wife, the former Janrose Wimer, and their small son, Phillip Lynn.

Also in the city is a brother of the navy man, Pvt. Loren J. White, on a 10-day furlough from his duties with the army

paratroopers, who is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Loren R. White of route 2.

Another brother, Robert C. White, is a seaman, second class, (RM) on duty with the navy in the South Pacific.

Grand Island—Sgt. Harold R. Tompkins, stationed in Italy, has sent Christmas V-mail season's greetings to relatives and friends here.

Silverton—Raymond L. Hall, SOM3 c, arrived at the home of his parents, the Lewis Halls in Silverton Hills district, Sunday for a several days' furlough after many months in the combat area of the south and central Pacific, where his group participated in nine major engagements. He is of the opinion that the fighting with the Japanese is a long way from its close.

Major Goulet Home

Completing an encirclement of the globe, Major Homer Goulet arrived in Salem Sunday to spend a 21-day furlough with his family. Going first to Africa and from there to Sicily and Italy, the major has recently been stationed in India, where he was executive officer of a bomber squadron. Prior to being appointed executive officer he had served the squadron as group adjutant.

Major Goulet docked on the Pacific coast on the return trip



Col. James Luper, former Salem man, reported missing over Germany in October, whose mother, Mrs. Harry M. Boury, of Portland, received word through the Red Cross recently that he was a prisoner of war in Germany. A graduate of Hill Military academy in Portland and of the United States military academy at West Point in 1938, the colonel was commander of a B-17 Flying Fortress group, stationed in England. Prior to his going down over Germany Luper's group had passed the century mark in the number of daylight, precision bombing assaults successfully carried out against vital military and industrial installations scattered throughout the length and breadth of Nazi-occupied Europe. The wife of the colonel resides in Philadelphia.

and from the place of his ship's landing went to Fort Lewis, where his leave was issued. On completion of his leave he will report to Santa Monica for reassignment.

Two Salemites Meet

It is a small world, even in war time, with former Salemites often meeting at the most unexpected times, as was proven by the letter received recently by Mrs. Clifton Mudd from Lt. Mildred Ann Bohrer, former Salem resident, who told of being with Mrs. Mudd's son, Lt. William Mudd.

Lt. Bohrer, a Red Cross nurse, was in charge of the train of wounded that carried Lt. Mudd to the hospital in France after he had been wounded in action early in November. Written November 13, her letter, saying that Mudd had been wounded in the upper right arm and shoulder, stated that he was making rapid improvement and would soon be back in the lines with his company.

Noting that Lt. Mudd had received no mail from any of his family for over five months, the Red Cross nurse asked Mrs. Mudd to write to her son in care of Lt. Bohrer, with the hope of overcoming the long delay incurred in delivering mail directly to the men in that area, many of whom have not received mail for a number of months.

Lt. LaRaut Improves

Injured in a bicycle accident in Scotland in October, Lt. Althea LaRaut of the nutrition division of the army medical corps, has written her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. N. LaRaut, that she has been on a liquid diet since October 21. Her jaw broken in two places and the bones pushed so far to the left that at first it was thought her ear had been injured, her hand broken in three places and her elbow fractured.

(Concluded on page 9)

MONTGOMERY WARDS REPLY TO THE WAR LABOR BOARD

December 18, 1944

National War Labor Board,
Washington, D. C.

Your telegram of December 14, demanding that Wards comply with war labor board's order covering Wards four Detroit stores was obviously intended to give to the public the false impression that wages are the major issue.

The board knows very well that Wards has offered to adopt the minimum wage rates recommended by the board. The board knows very well that Wards policy is to pay wages as high as or higher than those paid by other employers in the community for similar employment. The board did not base its wage recommendations upon the survey of competitive rates made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Davis, chairman of the war labor board, deliberately attempted in his December 16 press release to mislead the public into believing otherwise. Wards only objection to any of the board's wage recommendations has been in those instances where the board has arbitrarily demanded that Wards substantially increase its rates above those of its competitors in the highly competitive retail field.

The board knows very well that the real issue arises from its attempt to impose upon Wards a closed shop in the form of maintenance of membership, together with the check-off of union dues from wages. Wards has refused to agree to any form of closed shop, or compulsory union membership, because the closed shop violates the American principles of liberty and freedom. The board is well informed as to Wards position.

Mr. Davis is quoted in the press as threatening the cancellation of Wards priorities. The denial of scarce materials to Wards, and the seizure of its business if Wards does not comply with the board's demands. These are the tactics by which the board has coerced innumerable employers into granting special privileges to labor unions.

The board knows very well that its orders cannot be legally enforced by such punishments. Congress, which is the sole law-making authority under our constitution, omitted from the war labor disputes act all provisions which would have given board orders the force of law. Congress included in the original draft of the law a section which would have made board orders enforceable in the courts. Congress later removed this provision upon the written request of Mr. Davis, who asked that board orders be left as "mere declarations" which no one could be compelled to accept. Mr. Davis' express reason for his request was that the board would then not be "subject to court review of its decisions."

The board knows very well that its orders are consequently unenforceable. The court of appeals of the District of Columbia has held, at the request of the attorney general, acting as counsel for the board, that orders of the war labor board are merely "advice" which no one has any legal duty to obey. The court held that anyone who refuses to comply with orders of the war labor board is not defying a command of the government, and that, since the orders are merely advisory, no government official has the right to impose punishments on those who do not comply. The supreme court has refused to alter this decision.

The board knows very well, since its orders are legally unenforceable, and since congress has not authorized any punishment for those who reject the advice of the board, that the reprisals with which it threatens Wards are necessarily illegal. The President of the United States knew this when he recently explained to Mr. Petrillo of the American Federation of Musicians why that union could not be compelled to obey a board order.

Wards has violated no law, nor denied to any union a privilege to which it is legally entitled. Wards has many times informed that board that its closed shop demands would require Wards to violate the national labor relations act. Wards cannot in good citizenship accept the board's advice, and give to the union special privileges which Wards believes to be not only unfair and uneconomic, but illegal.

The time has come for the board to cease its threats of reprisal upon those who reject its advice. The board's policy of granting special privileges to unions has led to a breakdown of collective bargaining and has encouraged strikes in time of war. The board's disregard of the facts and its pretense of an authority which it does not possess have destroyed the confidence of labor, industry and the public. The usefulness of the war labor board in the settlement of wartime labor disputes has been destroyed.

The best interest of the employes and employers and the welfare of the American people, demand that congress face the realities of the country's need. The great problem of wages and the closed shop in time of war should be governed by law and must be solved by congress.

If the board desires a further hearing, Wards, as always, will be happy to attend.

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