

Sergeant Carmichael is Poet at Heart; So Help Us!

Master Sergeant William E. Carmichael is personnel sergeant major for the post and as such has the number (serial and otherwise), of officers and men in SCU No. 1911, as well as some outside.

He knows more about the average soldier than the average soldier knows about him. In fact he has been, heretofore, a man of mystery, and many a rumour addict has wondered what dark, military secrets the canny Carmichael was pondering as he plodded, head bowed in thought, across the field from barrack to headquarters.

Today, however, The Sentry comes out with a fearless expose of Carmichael and this is it. The man is, at heart, a philosopher and a poet, and when you think he's thinking about the next list of promotions he isn't at all. He is figuring out the destiny of man and communing with the infinite.

In short, Carmichael is something special in sergeants. He is not only literate, he is literary. His novels have been published and he has another, of 140,000 words, hidden in his barrack locker or his desk. The Sentry's second-story workers have been unable to put their hands on it, but it is on the premises all right.

Of more immediate interest, though, is a weighty manuscript of poetry which Sgt. Carmichael has written. It is really done to a musical score, the music being that of Johann Strauss of the ravishing "Blue Danube Waltz" and others, although this is not in waltz time but march time and has a martial swing. The master sergeant, a son of Los Angeles and 18 months in the Army in this enlistment, was requested to do this job for a USO show that is expected to tour camps throughout the country.

The chorus, set to music, is preceded by a spoken prologue, which quotes a cynic, questioning the worth of any war, and concludes:

"We answer with a crash of drums, a blare of trumpet tones; Our files are long, our ranks are strong, with each hour stronger grown.

The great horn pounds the cadence, the chords rise up and fade, And sometimes it is like a prayer that rocks the big parade; And sometimes it is like a cheer, or like a childhood plea.

Or like a blast of angry storm against the dashing sea; Sometimes bright with merriment and sometimes touched with pain, And sometimes like a racing wind across the fields of grain,

Touching the witty and the shrewd and pious from within, But always with the burden force of a celestial hymn!

We answer with the voice of men who carry in their veins

The blood of unrelenting men who bore unto the tomb.
The cause of Love and Mercy far above the cause of Doom!
And long and loud our chorus rings across the dark domain
And echoes in a billion souls—never to die again!"

"The Victors' Hymn" is the subject of the manuscript. Now some lines from the chorus:

"We'll tramp the cold fields, sail the wild sea,
Hurtle the clouds to the blotted-out sun,
Ring the dark domains with Victory,
Fight till the job is done.

We'll keep 'em flying, stirring and strong,
Steadfastly roaring though trials be long,
Gallantly flying as ever before,
Valiant in Peace and unvanquished by War!

"Remember we went with a song on our lips,
A gay song, a brave song no night can eclipse;
Remember our souls stood devotedly by
A vow too proud to die!

Remember our step was not hurried by fears,
But hastened along by Humanity's tears.

God in His mercy, God in His might,
Will not forsake us when we are right!

"Oh, we shall falter and sometimes err,
Our faith relaxing, bow to despair,
But every heartache will surely bring
Strength to the Victor's Hymn!

From desk and plow we come, hero and clown,
Handy-man, dandy-man from plain and town,
Just one end to defend, scamps, tramps and kings,
Shaving, uncaring, what Fortune brings!"

Looks Like Sgt. Black Is Getting Desperate

"Look... maybe you were never called 'another Glenn Miller, T. Dorsey, J. Teagarden or Russ Morgan.' Maybe the director of your high school band made you sit in the third chair and play whole tone middle 'c's and nothing else. Maybe you think you're too rusty, can't read well enough. Whatever it is forget it. What we want is a trombone man. Two if possible. Now put that in your paper, and smoke it up as much as possible."

Thus spoke Sgt. Bob Black when asked how the new SCU-1911 orchestra was progressing. His eyes were bloodshot and weary. His voice quavered and his hands began to shake when he mentioned "trombone."

There's a chance to make a new man out of the ailing sergeant. If you can play trombone (or trumpet) get in touch with Sgt. Black. Telephone number, 2981.

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'Rose Of San Antonio'



Lone Nixon (above), 21, named "Rose of San Antonio," Tex., visits a Los Angeles, Calif., pool as part of a vacation sponsored by the Texas city. Her horsemanship and beauty won the trip.

Non-com Ex. Committee Selected for New Center

With a provisional executive committee selected and actual spade work around the building scheduled to start immediately, this camp's Non-Commissioned Officers Recreation Center is no longer a fond dream but a reality. A dedicatory dance and house-warming on Halloween is the battle cry.

M/Sgt. William E. Carmichael (see the story on the sergeant elsewhere in this issue) is provisional president of the new organization. Others on the committee are T/Sgt. Percy W. Buss, secretary; M/Sgt. Donald F. Reynolds, treasurer; S/Sgt. Paul P. Barnhill, procurement and supply; S/Sgt. Jack W. Reed, building and grounds; S/Sgt. Maynard S. Boge, director of plans; Sgt. Edwin A. Brown, public relations; Sgt. Charles H. F. Swarm, scribe and assistant to the secretary; S/Sgt. Cleve R. Birkes, membership, and S/Sgt. Harry A. Heskett, entertainment.

Pres. Carmichael announced yesterday that non-coms wishing membership should apply to any of the association officers, who will accept the initial assessment of five dollars and issue a receipt. This receipt will be used as a certification of membership until regular cards are issued.

The recreation center, located on Avenue D, west of the Officers' club, will be strictly restricted to members of the association and their guests. Plans include a bar, dance floor, writing and reading room, restaurant, terrace and lounge room, the layout having been designed by the Post Engineers office. October has been designated as "Organization Month" and everyone whose application for membership is accepted within this period will be entered on the rolls as a Charter Member. Charter Members will be exempt from assessment during the first month the center is in actual operation.

The Army Quiz

1. It's too bad all wars couldn't be like the _____, because that was the shortest one in which the United States participated:
Civil War World War Spanish-American Mexican War War of 1812

2. Ya mean to say soldiers in the U. S. Army at one time were branded for committing certain offenses? Yes, they were branded with the initial letter of one of these crimes:
Murder Insubordination Desertion Mopery Thievery

3. The reason sailors wear those bell-bottomed pants is as follows:
A—So they can take them off fast if they fall in the drink.
B—Because they look "salty."
C—It's just tradition.
D—Because they can be rolled up easily when scrubbing decks.

4. Lowest commissioned rank in the U. S. Marines is:
Second Lieutenant Ensign Midshipman Lieutenant Cabin Boy

5. If you've been around much, you know the difference between a card sharp and a card shark. Pick the true statement below:
A—A card sharp is good and honest. A card shark is good.
B—A card shark is good and honest. A card sharp is good.

6. Two non-commissioned soldiers are generally conceded to have been the best U. S. produced in the World War. Pick 'em out:
Alvin York Joyce Kilmer Samuel Woodfill Jimmy Duffy Allan Seeger

7. At work for the Army is the lowly spider. What's he doing?
A—Making antitoxin for snakebite.
B—Waging war on insect pests in camps.
C—Helping to make optical instruments.
D—Weaving silk to replace the source lost when the Japanese silkworm enlisted on Japan's side.

8. Which one of these men is supposed to salute first if he can't manage to avoid seeing the others?
Major, USA Captain, USN Commander, USCG Commodore, USN Group Captain, RCAF

9. One of these gadgets cannot be called a "dirigible." Which do YOU think?
Zeppelin Automobile Airplane Barrage Balloon Blimp

10. We know a rookie when we see one, but where did he get the name in the first place?
A—From the fact that he's easily "rooked."
B—From the term "rookery," the living quarters of certain British soldiers.
C—A corruption of the word "recruit."
D—From the fact that he LOOKS like a rookie, daggoneit!

ANSWERS
1. Spanish-American.
2. Desertion.
3. D.
4. Second Lieutenant.
5. B.
6. Alvin York and Samuel Woodfill.
7. C.
8. Major, USA.
9. Barrage balloon. (Anything that is rigid and can be directed is a dirigible.)
10. B.

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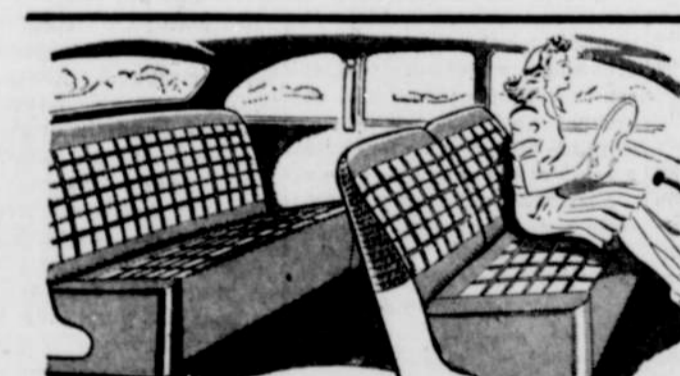
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