

Veterans' SERVICE BUREAU

EDITOR'S NOTE: This newspaper, through special arrangement with the Washington Bureau of Western Newspaper Union at 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is able to bring readers this weekly column on problems of the veteran and serviceman and his family. Questions may be addressed to the above Bureau and they will be answered in a subsequent column. No replies can be made direct by mail, but only in the column which will appear in this newspaper regularly.

Local Service Centers

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, administrator of veterans' affairs, in a recent statement declared that the most pressing need, insofar as the civilian population and the veteran is concerned, is the establishment of a single service center in every community so that benefits to the veterans can "get down to the grass roots of the home community."

Many communities already have set up these centers where the returning veteran may go for information, for service, for advice, but there are thousands of home communities where no such benefit is available to the veteran.

"We have the plans," General Bradley said, "but you can't help a veteran with a plan. We need the help of business, patriotic and civic organizations, of the press and radio, in solving a problem of space and personnel which is slowing up our job."

In the meantime, the veterans administration has inaugurated a six-point program for amputee rehabilitation to include: (1) direct veteran contact to learn problems, invite criticism and provide corrective measures; (2) a survey to determine availability of prosthetic appliances; (3) to provide each veteran a booklet with essential information; (4) a program of scientific after-care designed to meet the need of the veteran; (5) a conference with artificial limb manufacturers to establish fixed limb standards; (6) to establish a museum of prosthetic appliances.

Questions and Answers

Q. I want to know if a man who has been in the army over six months, is 30 years old and has a wife and four children, will be sent overseas or will he get a discharge soon?—Wife, Strasburg, N. D.

A. According to regulations at this time your husband is eligible for overseas service. According to the information you give, he has only approximately 42 points.

Q. I want to know if my husband can get a discharge. He has been in service 21 months and overseas 14 months and has four children and is needed at home since his mother is his dependent, too, and very feeble. He is in the army and is 29 years old.—L. B., Pisgah, Ala.

A. Without any points for battle stars or decorations, your husband has 71 points so he would be eligible for discharge.

Q. My husband served nine months in World War I, five of these overseas. While in service, one of his ear drums was affected from roar of guns and he can hear but very little. During this time his service record was lost and now he cannot get help because he doesn't have a record of his ear. Does he have to be handicapped because the army lost his record? He can do very little work.—Wife, Deatsville, Ala.

A. Your husband's service record should be in the war department in Washington. Would suggest that you immediately file a claim for pension, due to disability, with the Veterans administration at Birmingham. Write to the bureau of enlisted personnel, war department, Washington, D. C., concerning his service record, giving all details possible.

Q. I was called for the army September 4, 1918, and went to Fort Riley, Kans., and got my discharge at Fort Riley September 14, 1918. I got the \$60 bonus and the whole outfit of uniforms. Did guard duty and my serial number was 3474300. I asked for the soldier tax exemption in Iowa and they turned me down.—E. J. H., Webster City, Iowa.

A. You were apparently in the army only 10 days, but the internal revenue bureau says there is no federal tax exemption for veterans except on disability payments and the \$1,500 exemption on active service pay. There may be an Iowa state law providing for some form of tax exemption for veterans. Suggest you apply to your state or local tax authorities.

Q. My husband, who is in the navy, has three children and is 26 years old. Under this new system of discharging fathers of three children, will he be eligible for discharge?—Wife, Vanderbilt, Mich.

A. The navy department says "yes."

Q. How long will boys 18 or 19 years of age, who entered service in the spring of 1945 and are now on their way overseas, remain in the service?—N. G., Lancaster, Wis.

A. Under present regulations, until they have the required number of points to make them eligible for discharge.

Q. I want to know if a man who has been in the navy 21 months, is 34 years old and has a wife and three children will be discharged?—Wife, Owens Cross Roads, Ala.

A. Yes, he is eligible for application for discharge.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

BY DREW PEARSON

EISENHOWER—DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN
WASHINGTON. — When Admiral Dewey returned triumphant from capturing the Philippines in the Spanish-American war, newsmen asked the conquering hero whether he was a Democrat or a Republican. The admiral wasn't quite sure which. That ended the Dewey boom for President.

Today, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower may be put in the same position as Admiral Dewey. Both parties are considering new blood for 1948. GOP leaders are convinced that, given a candidate who can win labor votes yet not alienate the Hoover conservatives, they can win. Obviously, Eisenhower is important presidential timber.

Popular impression is that Eisenhower is a Republican. He was appointed to West Point from the rock-ribbed Republican state of Kansas by GOP Senator Joseph P. Bristow. And nobody in those days could get anywhere in Kansas unless he was a Republican.

However, though it may be news to GOP leaders, Dwight Eisenhower put himself on record early in life as a Democrat. Furthermore, he was an energetic William Jennings Bryan Democrat, and in November, 1909, made a speech at the annual Democratic banquet held in Abilene, Kan. The other speakers were older and seasoned Kansas Democrats; but Dwight Eisenhower, then only 19, was picked to stand up with them and harangue the crowd. He did.

IKE'S OLD FRIEND
I am indebted for this information to J. W. Howe, now of Emporia, Kan. Howe not only published the Abilene News, but was a member of the school board and knew young Dwight better than anyone outside his own family.

The Abilene News office was headquarters for a group of high school boys who came there to discuss their problems, talk sports and politics, read the papers and do odd jobs for the paper. J. W. Howe says of Eisenhower:

"Dwight liked to read the exchange newspapers from out of town. He never complained about working, seeming to take that for granted. In school discussions, he was always for the under-dog and contended we needed a somewhat better distribution of wealth."

William Jennings Bryan at that time had made many speeches in Abilene and the young folks liked to hear him. In fact, Bryan made some definite inroads on the Republicans. The Republican party at that time was beginning to be split into two groups, led by Taft and Teddy Roosevelt. The fight in Abilene was bitter, and this was the situation when Dwight Eisenhower started out in 1909 to get the proper endorsements to enter West Point.

DWIGHT GOT TO WEST POINT
The Eisenhower family had no political pull — on the contrary. Dwight's father was listed as a Democrat, though he took little part in politics. Dwight himself was more active than his father, but whatever pull he had was with the Democrats. However, the factional Republican fight helped him. Editor Howe, the town's chief Democratic leader, advised Dwight to go get the endorsement of Phil W. Heath, editor of the Abilene Chronicle and spokesman for the "Square-Deal" Republicans; also to get the endorsement of Charles M. Harger, editor of the Abilene Reflector, spokesman for the "Stand-Pat" Republicans.

Since young Eisenhower was not allied with either faction, Heath and Harger were very friendly, and gladly gave him their support. Thus, he was able to obtain not only the endorsement of the Democrats, but of both Republican factions—a real compliment to his standing in the community.

Eisenhower's first and only venture into politics occurred while he was taking postgraduate work at the Abilene high school, preparatory to West Point. Chief speaker at the Democratic banquet was George H. Hodges, later governor of Kansas. Dwight's subject was "The Student in Politics."

Two themes ran through the speech of the 19-year-old future commander of the Allied armies in Europe—preparedness and helping the under-dog.

According to the Abilene News: "To say that he handled himself nicely would be putting it mildly. His speech was well received."

A few months later, Ike Eisenhower was in West Point, where no one is supposed to be either a Democrat or a Republican.

EISENHOWER MERRY-GO-ROUND

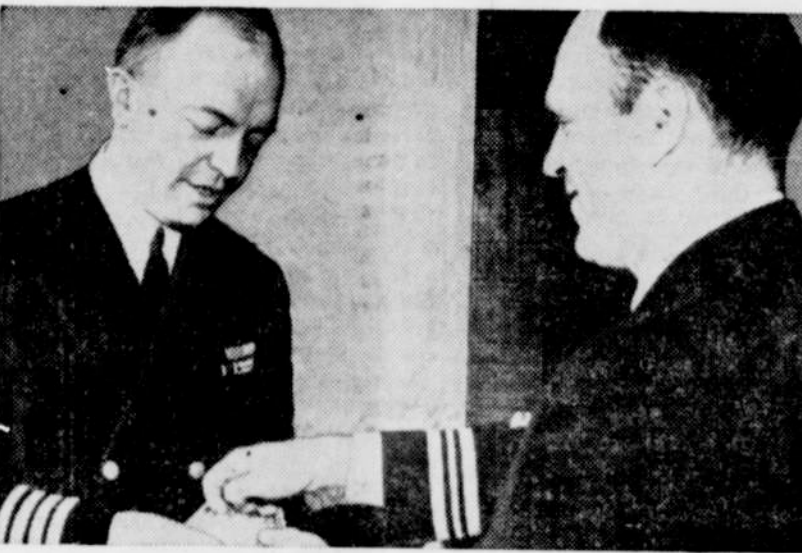
In high school, young Dwight was called "Ugly Ike." . . . One day a gang of schoolboys trooped into J. W. Howe's editorial office to narrate how Ike fell off a horse. "The horse turned his head to knock off a fly and Ike just fell off," they said. . . . Dwight had come in walking on one leg and guarding his arm. He just grinned. Actually, the horse had stepped in a hole and fallen, but Ike never tried to explain it to the other boys. . . . The Eisenhower gang at school had odd traits.

Undeclared Civil War of China Area



Shantung province seaport of Tsingtao took a place in the forefront of undeclared civil war in China when Chiang's troops were landed from American transports. Occupied since October 11 by U. S. marines, the possibility of involvement in clashes has been heightened by fact that Chinese Communist forces ring the port by land.

Stassen Returns to Civilian Life



Capt. Harold Stassen, USNR, receives his final pay from the navy and becomes a civilian. Paymaster is Lt. Com. F. C. Mathis, New Brighton, Pa. (right). Former Governor Stassen stated that he would become active in the 1946 congressional campaign and in a plan to liberalize the Republican party. He refuses to discuss the 1948 presidential campaign, although he is considered a candidate.

America's Oldest Style of Football



Soccer was the first kind of football played in the United States. It is the only game of football played in most of the world. The greatest single soccer organization in the world is the Lighthouse Boys' club in Philadelphia, consisting of some 500 players. Photograph shows how the club is developing new champions from among the youngsters.

Pearl Harbor Group Holds Hearings



Hearings were started on the Pearl Harbor disaster before a joint congressional committee. Left to right: Sen. Scott W. Lucas, Illinois; Sen. W. F. George, Georgia; Sen. Alben Barkley, Kentucky, chairman; Sen. Homer Ferguson, Michigan; and Rep. Jere Cooper, Tennessee (standing, who is chairman of the house group of the committee).

New Chief of Staff



General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, while attending the American Legion convention in Chicago, was nominated by President Truman to succeed General Marshall as chief of staff of the army. He started on his duties immediately.

Nobel Prize Winner



Gabriela Mistral, the well-known Chilean poetess, was named as the winner of the 1945 Nobel prize for literature. The famous poetess lives in Rio de Janeiro. The Nobel prize for peace was recently awarded to former Secretary of State Hull.

Stork Landing Place



Ex-paratrooper Stuart Kappel parades the streets of Hollywood in an attempt to secure a home for his 20-year-old wife, Betty, who is expecting arrival of stork shortly. He selected the busy corner of Hollywood and Vine in the film city.

Evict OPA Director



Ben W. Koepke, OPA rent control director for the Los Angeles area, receives his eviction notice from owner of apartment house where he lives in Los Angeles. Apartment owners are striking against OPA.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

CONGRESS ORDERED TO ACT ON LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON. — Senate Floor Leader Barkley came out of the White House and announced the recess for which congress had been panting will be delayed until the very eve of Christmas if necessary to get through the two CIO bills increasing unemployment compensation and the full employment measure pledging the government an eternal but undefined spending policy.

This is merely the latest development in Mr. Truman's battle with congress and an expression of his uncharacteristic firmness and insistence in a rather Roosevelt style upon the top two points of his program which are so unpopular in congress that they have been allowed to lie dormant without arousing a public clamor.

At the same time Mr. Barkley announced the President would allow the youth draft act, officially known as "compulsory military training," and the army-navy unification bill to modernize the armed services into one force, to be permitted to go over until after the Christmas holidays.

The youth draft plan of the war department is obviously unpopular — by observedly I mean a considerable genuine public sentiment has been expressed against it in letters to congressmen from unorganized individuals in their home districts as well as the most formidable array of organized groups yet presented this session against a measure—educational, religious and even labor, including CIO.

The army-navy unification bill does not seem to be either popular or unpopular as far as I have been able to penetrate the normal sources of public opinion. My guess is the people do not understand it as it involves largely technical training problems, although most of the young people in both services with whom I have come in contact seem to be militantly in favor of it.

FIGHT ON ARMY-NAVY UNIFICATION

Strange things began to happen to this proposed modernization program several weeks ago. You may recall when the George (lieutenant general, head of air transport command) report first appeared in this spot setting forth the modernization program which had been bottled by the shiniest and biggest brass hats of both services, I reported that Admirals Halsey and Nimitz, the fighting admirals, were in favor of it.

Since then both have indicated their intention to leave the navy and likewise have made known their opposition. "You might guess offhand that I made a mistake. I did not."

Both Nimitz and Halsey were for the measure, and so informed the George committee when it was traveling around the world accumulating evidence from the fighting men in the field. What happened to change their minds I do not know.

Equally and similarly strange has been the lack of developments in investigating the responsibility for Pearl Harbor. The committee of inquiry planned at first to take a jaunt by air out to see Pearl Harbor, although a half hour's trip to the navy department would have permitted them to inspect bas-relief as well as topographical surveys of the whole islands. What they could find otherwise at Pearl Harbor now that the sunken ships have been raised, I cannot learn.

The committee investigation itself got involved in what reporters call a political fight with the Democrats obviously trying to hold back matters in one way or another, then loosening up a little here and there, and the Republicans outraged but confused and unable to penetrate the administration tactics successfully. The sum total of it has been nothing—an absolute nothing.

This vacuumized condition can be rather plainly seen but my authoritative informants hereabouts have wondered if there were any connection between these events.

In congress you hear aside whispers that what is facetiously called "top brass," meaning the invisible military authorities of both services, have to a considerable extent, captured the Truman administration for precisely what they want—namely no unification, youth draft act, and no Pearl Harbor expose. If so, what Mr. Truman will get out of it may be difficult to find.

My information would not encourage him to believe that congress is so eager for a Christmas recess that it will ease under the pressure applied.