

ON THE HOME FRONT

News From Jackson County for Men in the Armed Services

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

The Mail Tribune suggests you clip and mail this news roundup to a relative or friend in service.

Date _____

Dear _____

Santa Claus visited Medford this morning and among the considerable number of men in the service who, thanks to furloughs, were at home to greet the old fellow was Dan Ehrheart, a technical sergeant in the U. S. army air forces and the city's most decorated soldier.

Dan, who used to play plenty of tackle for Medford high, has received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for action in the southwest Pacific, Java, the Coral sea and the Philippines. He is a "belly gunner" in a Flying Fortress and, while modesty prevented him from saying so, has undoubtedly blasted a goodly number of Jap Zeros to Kingdom Come.

He participated in the first

air battle over Buna in New Guinea, where our troops are right now giving the Sons of Heaven hell, and it was in this action that he suffered the wounds that won him the Purple Heart. In this battle 15 Zeros attacked his plane and eight of them never flew again. The Fortress returned safely to its base.

We in Medford have received word of the promotions of several local boys, including Shelby Tuttle, Jr., upped to a cadet lieutenant in the army air force; Paul Corwin, promoted to staff sergeant and now stationed with the glider forces at Stuttgart, Ark., flying school; Olaf Severson, advanced to corporal at the gunnery school in Jacksonville, Fla., and Clayton F. Martin, promoted to corporal and stationed



LIEUTENANT GENERAL MARK W. CLARK
BREADER OF THE MODERN MESSAGE TO GARCIA—ONE OF THIS WAR'S OUTSTANDING HEROES

with a bomber squadron at Barksdale Field, La.

Commissioned an ensign in the U. S. naval reserve at Corpus Christi, Tex., recently was Robert E. (Bobby) Ettinger, like Sgt. Ehrheart an ex-Black Torpedo football player.

Quite a number of local boys have joined the armed forces of late. Among them are Bob Leslie, a member of the state police force for a year and a half, who enlisted in the U. S. army reserve; Bob Leonard, former Medford chap now living in Sacramento, Calif., who entered the army and Tod Tibbitt and Maurice J. Sample, who are enlisted in the air force and are stationed for training at Santa Ana Calif., air base.

Pvt. Orval J. Thomas has been assigned to the AAF Basic Flying school at Pecos, Tex. Pvt. Herbert A. Pruitt is in the airplane mechanic department of the army air force at Ajo, Ariz.; Rufus N. Younger is an electrician's mate, second class with the navy and stationed at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Pa.; Edward L. Evanson is receiving training in the "Sea Bees" at Davisville, R. I., and Roy Arthur Reed recently reported for training in the navy at the Faragut, (Idaho) Naval Training station.

Sgt. Albert Charles Andre,

who has been stationed in Alaska for the past 21 months with an air squadron, is spending a furlough at his home in Jacksonville.

Sports in Medford are picking up slightly. The high school basketball team last Friday defeated Wood, Calif., 29 to 20, with Captain Don Fawcett scoring 13 points. But this week the boys were trimmed by an alumni team, 31 to 19. Walt Kresse scored 10 points and Henry Herman eight for the grads.

The ice hockey league got under way last Saturday night, with the USO Bombers defeating the 81st Infantry Division Artillery, 8 to 1. Second game of the schedule was played Tuesday night, the 81st Snipers tying the 78th Field Hospital Clippers, 3 to 3.

People at the postoffice really put in some overtime last night, Christmas eve, working until after midnight delivering Christmas parcels. And they kept right on delivering gifts all day today, Christmas. Frank DeSouza, postmaster, said it was the heaviest volume of Christmas mail in history.

John Day, president of the Pacific Co., said recently that the concern would start mining chrome in the Briggs Creek area near Galice as soon as road conditions improved sufficiently to ship the metal out for processing.

A new field recreation representative of the federal government has been appointed for Oregon, and he visited Medford the past week. He is Roger J. Folgate, former director of physical education and athletic director at Pacific university.

Today, the streets of Medford are jam-packed with soldiers from Camp White, enjoying passes and furloughs. You wouldn't recognize the old home town. Over 350 families in the city invited one or more Camp White boys to their homes for Christmas dinners, but we doubt if any of them came up with a more elaborate spread than did those army cooks at the cantonment.

To every one of you boys in the army, navy, air force, marines and coast guard, the Mail Tribune and all the people of Medford—your relatives, friends and acquaintances—wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

TONY STUMPED ON U. S. HISTORY

Cleveland, O.—U.S.—Federal Judge Paul Jones was questioning immigrants for naturalization.

One of them was "Tony," a mustached steelworker, who has been in this country for 35 years.

The judge asked who the head man down in Washington is, Tony replied, "George Washington."

"He was the first president," Judge Jones informed him and then re-asked the question.

This time Tony answered heftily, "Christopher Columbus."

Judge Jones changed his tactics and asked him if he had ever heard of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He hadn't. He also thought Abraham Lincoln was a laborer, didn't know who was governor of Ohio or who was mayor of Cleveland. Tony doesn't speak English, although he's been here 35 years.

Needless to say, his request for citizenship was denied.

GLASSES

Dr. R. M. Hood, Optometrist
Sparta Bldg.
Main and Riverside, Medford, Ore.
Skillful Service—Reasonable Prices

U. S. EXPEDITION IN LIBERIA KEPT NAZIS GUESSING

Troops There Used as Decoys to Make North African Occupation Effective.

By Donald Coe

United Press Staff Correspondent
Headquarters, United States Forces in Liberia—(Delayed)—(U.P.)—United States forces in several West African locations, including this technically neutral republic, apparently were decoys to make the surprise occupation of North Africa more effective.

How well they succeeded in drawing Axis and Vichy French attention toward Dakar was indicated in the announcement that the French had evacuated four shipsloads of women and children from Dakar to Casablanca, only weeks before the Allied forces struck at Casablanca and other North African ports.

These decoys were not defenseless wooden ducks, either. Had there been occasion the forces in a half-dozen coastal places could have protected their establishments effectively. Meanwhile they were actively fighting the battle of supply to keep materials rolling to China, India, the Middle East and Egypt.

Now the occupation of North Africa has effectively neutralized any threat Dakar and the French Ivory coast could have been toward the United Nations installations, for all French West Africa was dependent on supplies from the northern area now in Allied control.

Planned Far Back

The planting of the decoys was planned far back, at least weeks before a force arrived in

Liberia. Correspondents who accompanied the force were told they probably could not write a thing about it for several months.

Axis radio broadcasts made it plain that Germany knew of the troops' presence. And the German consul still was living in Monrovia, capital of Liberia, although other Germans had been evacuated.

Similarly no announcement was made that American forces were in British colonies.

Viscount Swinton, British resident minister for the West African colonies, said on July 29 that "Americans are here with us, as they are everywhere in this world-wide conflict."

No Official Comment
American authorities were not exactly pleased about the statement. Nor were they when another of the United Nations let it slip that American forces were elsewhere in West Africa.

The value of the decoys would be less unless the Axis were led to think that Dakar was in danger of another Allied assault.

Even when a British news agency revealed the presence of troops in Liberia in mid-October there was no confirmation. American correspondents thought they saw the story on which they had been sent in late May vanish before their eyes. Again on Oct. 30 more details of the force were revealed. Whether the details were true is another matter, but neither correction, confirmation nor denial came from Washington.

Then the North African campaign was announced. That is when the pieces began to fit together. I remembered a high-ranking officer's attempt to steer me on the right track several months ago. He was trying to answer the question dominant in my thoughts for weeks: "Why are newsmen sent out with this force and forbidden to write about it?"

We had a long discussion and finally, apparently roused by my refusal to accept any of the reasons he had advanced, he said: "Maybe this is just a feint—that's possible, you know."

"Were Just Staging" I didn't think so then, but I

do now. The confirmation came a few days after the North African campaign opened. I asked a visiting officer about the activities of a detachment of our troops in his home base.

"Oh, they've gone on," he replied. "They were just staging."

Staging to keep the Axis guessing.

American troops in Liberia, mostly Negroes, have worked hard since their arrival. They had a difficult task in unloading cargo ships and moving thousands of tons of cargo across treacherous sandbars. They had a difficult job setting up camps in the jungles. The disease dangers were great. Maintenance work proceeded on existing airports and additional facilities were created. Roads, bridges and dams were built. Vast areas had to be drained to get rid of mosquitoes which carried malaria.

Native populations had to be resettled to get them away from military areas.

In the British colonies troops occupied existing or enlarged garrisons, principally to maintain the flow of supplies.

Closing time for Classified ads 9 a. m.—Too late to classify 12:30 p. m.

Office Closed

Dr. Jouett P. Bray

has closed his office until about February 1st while he is in Portland taking post graduate work.

Here's Wishing
You a Happy
Holiday

And the Best in
the New Year

WESTERN THRIFT

Christmas

May the Spirit of Christmas
Live Forever!

YES, Christmas this year represents, in the most real and earnest sense, the very things we are now fighting for on far flung battle fronts . . . It represents spiritual freedom, the right to assemble, the sanctity of the home . . . Yes, today we sacrifice for the freedom to work, to play, to enjoy our life on this earth, to dream and to make our dreams come true. The love, the friendship, the spirit of magic Christmastide—these are our priceless heritage. Our hopes, our prayers, our greater sacrifices must keep Christmas alive for years and generations to come. Let the Yuletide this year give greater strength and resolution to achieve the goal of victory!

ART WINETROUT
and the "GANG"

FORD
MERCURY
LINCOLN-ZEPHYR

CRATER
LAKE
MOTORS

CANDLES OF THE YULETIDE

May your Christmas candles burn brightly with happiness, and may your every wish come true.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Swem's Gift Shop