

Personnel Officer at Camp White Discovers War-Caused Blindness No Handicap To Work

By A. W. RIBERDY
 Editor, Camp White Dominions
 Many words have been written, movies have been made, and personal experiences recounted of life as a prisoner of war. To even survive through the back-breaking toil, the unbelievable brutalities of the enemy, and the utter hopelessness which often overcame these men demanded more courage than most of us possess, and there were many who did not survive to see that long-dreamed of day of liberation, and of those who did, many returned disabled for life.

the only two books he still had with him—a Bible, and a Spanish textbook, reminder of peacetime in the Philippines when he had studied Spanish.

Couldn't Understand
 The Japanese couldn't understand why John could not see, and with them no work meant no eat. Sinders quickly learned to find his way around through his ears and his sense of touch, and the problem of food resolved itself.



JOHN W. SINDERS Overcomes Handicap

One of these is John W. Sinders, now personnel officer of the Veterans Administration Domiciliary, Camp White. Sinders is a veteran of World War II—a veteran of those dark, dreary days when deadly battles were being fought in the far Pacific area; America wasn't ready, and the names Corregidor and Bataan were strange to America's ears; a veteran who knew hunger and the fear of possibly being one of those who would not return.

Joined Marines
 Sinders, a native of Texas, joined the Marines in 1938, still a youngster fresh out of school, intending to make it his career. But the fortunes—or misfortunes of war willed it otherwise. After his initial period of training, he had a brief tour of duty in the Hawaiian Islands, then was transferred to the Philippines where the outbreak of World War II found him. Through five long months of heroic battle against impossible odds he and some 8,000 others held Corregidor and surrendered only after they had nothing left with which to fight. On May 7, 1942, while newspaper headlines were screaming of the fall of Corregidor, John Sinders was one of the group captured by the Japanese army.

ed itself. He was fortunate enough to be assigned to the gardening detail for the duration of his stay in the Philippines. However, the last year of his imprisonment was in Northern Japan where life was even tougher. Part of the time he hauled logs. Part of the time he worked in a copper mine—both dangerous occupations even for a man with eyes.

in New York for testing and rehabilitation. Sinders eventually was discharged from the Marine Corps on July 3, 1946, and with Mary, his wife, returned to his native Texas.

Takes Courageous Step
 Now he took a step which must have required a great deal of courage: In the fall both he and Mary entered Clifton Junior College, then on to Baylor University. After a year they decided to enter law school.

Throughout their years of study, Mary's eyes served for both of them. "It wasn't easy," he says. They worked hard and reviewed regularly. John received his law degree and passed the Texas bar in June, 1952. Mary, because she had been ill and got a late start, received her degree a year later. During this period, and because they feared they could never have a child, they adopted a daughter, Mary Kathryn, now 8½ years of age. Now they also have a son, John Jr., 2½.

When Sinders had adjusted to his lack of sight in school, he now found that lawyers were more plentiful in Texas than in Texas steers. As a result, he went to work for the city of San Antonio, later applying for a position with the Government. He was selected and sent to the VA Center, Waco, Tex., as a personnel officer trainee.

Uses Telescopic Lenses
 Since graduation from college, John has learned to use glasses equipped with telescopic lenses. Although he may use only one eye at a time, the glasses allow him to read anything within eight inches. Another type of lens also makes it possible for him to view distant objects, such as a football game or movie. He occasionally falls up steps and sometimes walks in front of a bus. But, like all persons denied their sight, he has learned to use his memory and his other senses to the extent that sight is almost unnecessary.

From Waco VA Center, John was transferred to VA Hospital Salisbury, N.C., then to VA Hospital, Durham, N.C., as assistant personnel officer, and in July of this year he was assigned to the VA Domiciliary at Camp White as personnel officer.

Not Through Studying
 John Sinders is happy in his work with the Veterans Administration but is not through with studying. He hopes in the future to be able to take additional

courses which will assist him in increasing his value to his employer as well as taking further studies in the law. He hopes someday to get his Doctorate in law. His biggest difficulty, he says, is that he can't drive. He tries to keep people from knowing of his physical disability—and surprisingly enough—often succeeds. He wants no sympathy because he has complete faith in his own individual ability.

John Sinders wholeheartedly subscribes to the theme of the current National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week when it reads, "A physical handicap is not a job handicap when a person is properly placed in employment."



IN THERE PICKING—Sally McClutchen tries out her cotton picking hands just before the 17th annual National Cotton Picking contest gets underway at Blytheville, Ark.

Menon In London; Nasser Talks End

Cairo — (U.P.) — India's V. K. Krishna Menon ended his talks with Egypt's president Saturday and headed for London to try to get the west to sit down with Egypt and work out their differences over the Suez canal.

Suez Company Estimates Drop in Canal Shipping
 Paris — (U.P.) — The old Suez Canal company Saturday estimated a drop of about two percent in shipping tonnage through the Suez canal during September compared with the same month of 1955, although the overall trend had been toward considerable annual gains.

Lima, Peru — (U.P.) — Eight persons were killed and 18 hospitalized with serious injuries in a bus accident near Huancayo Friday.

Factory Stands as Testimony To Courage of the Handicapped

(Editor's note: President Eisenhower has designated this National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. The following is a story of an unusual way in which the physically handicapped themselves are meeting the challenge.)

By ALFRED LEECH
 United Press Correspondent
 Chicago — (U.P.) — A neat little factory in the suburbs stands as a testimonial to the courage of handicapped workers and the opportunity they found in free enterprise.

The Paraplegics Manufacturing company is no "sheltered workshop" for the physically handicapped. It's a profit-making concern in a highly competitive field, and 72 of the 80 stockholders are employees.

The workers are honorary members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and are paid union scale wages.

The unique firm was founded five years ago, not without the problems and headaches encountered by most small businesses, plus some of its own.

Wheelchair President
 President and co-founder is Dwight Guilfoil, 33, a father of six. He was stricken with polio and spinal meningitis in the Air Force and gets around now in a wheelchair.

Most Are Paraplegic
 The firm normally employs about 85 persons. The office girls, the sales manager and the

foreman are not physically handicapped, but virtually all the production workers are.

Most of them are paraplegics in wheelchairs. But there are others — deaf mutes, blind, spastics, advanced heart cases.

The work benches are higher than normal to accommodate the wheel chairs. Ramps have replaced steps throughout the entire plant.

Bob McShane, a former fireman whose back was broken when a wall collapsed on him in a fire in 1952, is both production worker and a member of the board of directors.

When the firm ran into a temporary financial squeeze, McShane bought all the stock he could.

Gibson Refuses to Tell of \$6,000 Loot

Coquille — (U.P.) — Ernest LeRoy Gibson, captured fugitive from the Linn county jail, refused Saturday to tell authorities whether he had recovered any part of the \$6,000 loot from the Linn county treasurer's office that he is suspected of hiding somewhere in Coos county.

Gibson was captured Friday after a 72-hour search in the rugged area around Seven Devils road near Coos Bay. He was found in a car stolen at Empire, Ore., the previous night and was later arraigned on a car theft charge and lodged in Coos county jail here.

At the time Gibson took a cab from Bend to Eugene and thence to Coos Bay with the abducted driver, he was carrying a red brief case. He did not have it when he was captured.

"I had nothing in it. I threw it in the ocean," he told arresting officers who speculated that it might have contained money Gibson was accused of taking from the Linn county courthouse.

Algerian Rebels Fire Machinegun From Taxi
 Algiers, Algeria. — (U.P.) — Algerian rebels riding in a taxi splattered pedestrians with machinegun fire during the rush hour in Bone Friday night. Three persons, two of them women, were killed and 24 others wounded.

The taxi roared through major thoroughfares of the eastern Algerian port city with machinegun fire shot from its windows.

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