

## Sergeant Cleared By Army Court

FT. DIX, N.J. (AP) — A wiry, one-eyed non-commissioned officer with six years of Army service behind him yesterday was cleared of charges that he kept 225 recruits at bone-lust attention for an hour in 92-degree heat.

Sgt. I.C. Richard J. Witbeck, of Wellington, Ohio, breathed a sigh of relief as a three-man, special court-martial board of three of his superior officers acquitted him after deliberating 40 minutes. "I feel very good," Witbeck said outside the nine-paneled hearing room. "I'm glad it's all over."

The verdict thus wiped clean the slates of the two principals brought up on charges as a result of the June 21 punishment formation during which men were said to have passed out in the broiling sun, been revived with pails of water and forced back into line.

First Lt. Robert S. Morgan, 28, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Witbeck's immediate superior and commander of Company "L," 72 Infantry Regiment, which stood the formation, was cleared of "dereliction of duty" charges last Friday.

Witbeck, who wears a patch over his left eye, lost in a training mishap while on occupation duty in Austria, pleaded innocent to allegations of maltreatment of personnel. He did not take the stand in his own defense and did not exercise his right to have other enlisted men sit on the court.

His counsel, Capt. Norman Tupper of Winter Park, Fla., contended that Witbeck merely acted on orders of his superiors.

Tupper made 11 of the trainees' ordeal of standing at attention, saying, "I've done it many times. . . I've seen men passing out all around me."

Pvt. William Brooks, 20, of Hempstead, N.Y., testified he fainted twice while on the formation. He said the first time he was revived by water in the face and the second time by smelling salts administered by Witbeck.

Asked if he thought he was maltreated by Witbeck, Brooks replied, "No, sir."

## Careful Robbers Net Small Sum

TOKYO (AP) — A pair of very efficient Japanese burglars must be wondering today if all their planning was worth it.

The two broke into a home in daylight, after carefully cutting telephone wires and making certain only the servant was home. They locked the servant in a closet and ransacked the house.

All they found was 900 yen (a little more than \$2).

Wyoming had 3,714 applicants for the 662 moose and mountain sheep hunting permits which the state grants for the 1954 season.

## Soviets Honor Red Chinese After Triumph At Geneva

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin chiefs uncorked their choicest vodka last night to honor Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and Vietnam deputy Premier Phan Van Dong, triumphantly touring homeward from the Geneva conference.

Toasts by the dozen to peace and coexistence were hoisted at a gala reception given by Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov for about 1,000 persons, including Western diplomats and newsmen.

The get-friendly theme was pitched mainly at British Ambassador Sir William Hayter, who sat at the head table with the guests of honor and top Russian officials.

**TOAST**

In a jovial moment toward the end of the party, Soviet Communist Party Secretary Nikita S. Khrushchev raised his glass to the British diplomat. "You British don't want to capture Leningrad," Khrushchev said, "and we don't want to take Glasgow."

"Leningrad is a very nice town, pricier than Glasgow," Hayter smilingly replied.

U. S. Embassy officials passed up their invitation to the big Sverdlov House reception. It arrived just a few hours before the party started. The Americans wouldn't have gone anyway, because the United States does not recognize Chou's Peiping regime.

**GUEST LIST**

Premier Georgi Malenkov topped the guest list of government leaders, Moscow bigwigs, foreign diplomats and Western correspondents. The Premier was amiable and all smiles but he offered no toasts.

As the vodka compliments mounted toward half a hundred around the head table, Khrushchev and Internal Trade Minister Anastase I. Mikoyan grew especially animated and high spirited.

Even after all the guests rose to leave, Khrushchev kept tipping his glass with the British ambassador in an exchange heard by newsmen nearby.

"Now we don't want any war, and we are not afraid of each other," the party chief said, linking his arm with Chou's, he added.

**FRIENDSHIP**

"Now here's a good example of friendship—the Soviet Union and China. That's how we all should be friends."

"I'm the secretary of the Soviet Communist party," Khrushchev continued, "but in this question of coexistence, Prime Minister Churchill of Great Britain is in complete agreement with me. Lenin laid down this principle—and very rightly."

Chou and Dong had stopped over in East Berlin and Warsaw on their way from Geneva.

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