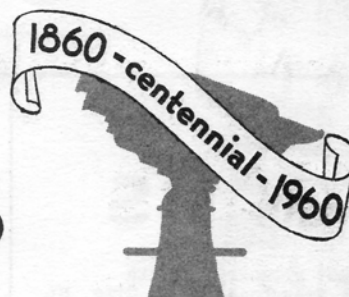


in FOCUS



Vol. 5, No. 2

Army Pictorial Center

March 1960

APC REACHES 18TH MILESTONE HAD BIG ROLE IN WAR EFFORT

'ECHO' TV REQUIREMENTS GIVE NCO INSPIRATION FOR UPPING CAPABILITIES

Practically all of the Television Division Field Operations Branch and its equipment was at Fort Gordon, Ga., last month, taking part in the Third Army Exercise "Lucky Echo."

As in previous map wars of this nature, the field units provided audio-visual communications and intelligence for an entire Army - three corps and three divisions. According to Maj Andrew G. Burt, Jr., TV Field Ops Chief, nine cameras were utilized for hourly scheduled briefings and transmission of situation map intelligence.

In this particular exercise, however, an additional strain was put on the units due to the inclusion of an extra corps. Rising to the situation, Sfc James H. Harris, Jr., NCOIC of Field Unit #1, revamped the Branch's tables of organization and equipment and came up with a composite unit that gives another two-camera capability.

Captain James A. Harrington, OIC of Field Unit #2, says that under Harris' plan the entire Branch benefits, since a higher degree of overall efficiency and capability is attained, utilizing existing personnel and equipment.

Lt Colonel Ralph N. Tudor, chief, TV Division, was also at Gordon to observe the typical "One Army" exercise.

MORALE AS WELL AS TRAINING FILMS

Eighteen years ago this month the Army moved into the old Paramount Motion Picture Studios at 35th Avenue and 35th Street in Long Island City, and the Signal Corps Photographic Center, now Army Pictorial Center, came into being.

There was a serious and determined air about that small contingent that was transferred here from Fort Monmouth after the War Department completed purchase of the property.

Suddenly catapulted into the throes of global war, mobilization had been accelerated overnight and time was of the essence. Normal, peacetime training procedures were inadequate to cope with the flood of citizen-soldiers being inducted into the service. Yet they couldn't be thrown into battle well equipped with weapons but ill-equipped with knowledge on how to use them, care for them, and survive. It was the mission of the Signal Corps' Photographic Center to produce films and film strips that would impart this knowledge forcefully, yet in the most expeditious manner possible.

Grocery clerks, bookkeepers, taxi drivers, machinists, men from all walks of life who had never handled a weapon before or undergone deprivation were kept on the battle line because of the Signal Corps films which augmented their curtailed basic, practical training. This, then, was the contribution made by the Signal Corps Photographic Center, now the Army Pictorial Center, to every battle, including the final one, in which the Army took part.

Another phase of the Center's wartime mission that, though less grim, nevertheless played a significant part in attainment of the ultimate victory, was the production of morale films. At

See REACHES on Page 8

Five Chinese Officers Make Tour of Center

Five high ranking Chinese officers who hold important positions in the Nationalist Government, were scheduled to visit the Pictorial Center on March 28 as the first stop on a nation-wide tour of U. S. Army installations.

Included in the entourage are Lt General Chien-jen Chiang, director, Political Department, Ministry of National Defense; Lt General Ting-yuan Teng, director, Political Department, Kinman, and Deputy Commanding General, Kinman Defense Command; Lt General Tze-ching Liu, chief, Political Department, GHQ Army; Maj General Hsiachung Liang, dean, Political Staff College; and Colonel Ping-yen Liu, staff, Civil Affairs and Military Government Section, Ministry of National Defense.

The local itinerary for the distinguished visitors included an orientation by the APC Commander, Col J. H. Fulton, a film in the Main Theater, lunch in the troop mess hall, and a tour of Production, Service and Television Divisions.

MSGT TURSI NI TO CONCLUDE ARMY CAREER WHICH BEGAN -AFTER FALSE START- IN 1938

Master Sergeant Mario J. Tursini, Casting Office, will become the second Pictorial Center enlisted man in as many months to retire from the Army when, on March 31, he ends a military career which started - legitimately - in 1938.

Use of the word, "legitimately," is necessary since, in 1934, he employed a bit of deception and joined the Army before he was of age.

In 1938 he came back in - for real - by enlisting here in New York. His first three-year hitch took him to Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, N. J., where he was assigned as chemist and lab man, thence to Carlisle Barracks, Pa., for medical schooling. While at Carlisle he worked his way up to sergeant and was transferred along with three officers and a platoon of men to open Camp Lee, Virginia.

Tursini's next duty was almost in his back yard when he was sent to the 210th General Hospital at Fort Dix, N. J. for assignment as sergeant major and subsequent promotion to staff sergeant. He was discharged from the service in November 1941, just a month before Pearl Harbor.

Following his separation from the service, Tursini worked for a while as a Civil Service worker at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, but this didn't take and he

See TURSINI on Page 8



MSGT MARIO TURSI NI

Lucky Sweeps Ticket Got Eddie Steamed Up

For a little while last week, Eddie Thoman, boiler room engineer, dreamed about what he could do with \$140,000, aside from giving a big chunk of it to the Internal Revenue boys.

Eddie got a cablegram informing him that his Irish Sweepstakes ticket, which he had bought under the nom de plume of "Sucker," was a winner and had been drawn with a horse, "Polished Steel," quoted in pre-race odds at 25 to 1. If it won he would get top money and lesser, but still substantial, amounts if it placed behind the winner.

It was scratched!

But Eddie still gets a consolation prize of about \$1,800, and although that's considerably less than what he could have won, he feels it's a good return on a three buck investment.

Focus your thoughts on how to save money, improve present operations or raise efficiency. Get in the beam of the Army's "Operation Searchlight."

in FOCUS

ARMY PICTORIAL CENTER
35-11 35th Ave, Long Island City, NY

COLONEL J. H. FULTON
Commanding Officer

In FOCUS is an authorized, monthly publication prepared under the supervision of the APC Information Office by and for the military personnel of the Army Pictorial Center in accordance with AR 355-5 and changes.

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Room 220 Tel Ext 485

Vol. 5, No. 2 - March 1960

Search on for Oldest Vet

Do you know a man 80 or more years old who once served in the Army Signal Corps?

The Information Office here would like to meet him and forward his story to the Chief Signal Officer in Washington.

If he should turn out to be the oldest living Signal Corps veteran, he will become a famous figure in this Centennial year. The Army Signal Corps will be 100 years old June 21.



Sharp Rapp

Sp-4 Douglas F. Rapp shows great presence of mind as he digs snow away first around license plate of snow-buried MG to make sure it's his. With 14 inches of the white stuff from above and plows piling it up on both sides, all that was visible of the sports car was a bit of the top. They're nice in the summer, tho. (Army photo by Sp-5 Leong)



RECAP Rite Sp-5 Frank L. Sampson (left) who already has 13 years of service in enlisted reserve category, goes "RA all the way" and reenlists for six years as Troop Commander, Capt George D. Bailey administers the oath and Post Career Counselor, MSgt Forest R. Clark looks on benignly. Under "RECAP" the Army's "Reenlistment Central Assignment Plan," Sampson gets new duty in Okinawa. (Army photo by Sp-5 Leong)

Post Catholic Guild Plans 11th Breakfast

The APC Catholic Guild is planning its 11th Annual Communion Breakfast for Sunday, May 11.

Services will be held at the nearby Church of the Most Precious Blood at 10 a.m., with breakfast to follow at Ricardo's Restaurant, 21st Street and 24th Avenue in Astoria.

This year's breakfast is to be a memorial to the late Charles Maguire, one of the founders of the Guild. A chalice in his memory will be given to the Trinity Missions.

Colonel Ira Genet (USAR-Ret), well known here at the Center and President of the Queensborough Chamber of Commerce, will be guest speaker.

NEW BOOKS

The following new books have been received at the Enlisted Men's library in Building #24 and are ready for circulation.

INTRODUCTION TO HIGHER MATH.....Reid
HERE TODAY.....Tanner
MURDER TAKES NO HOLIDAY.....Halliday
NIXON & ROCKEFELLER.....Alsop
BRONZE GOD OF RHODES.....deCamp
MISSILEMEN.....Hunter
UP INTO THE
SINGING MOUNTAINS.....Llewellyn
SECRET MISSION OF BANGKOK.....Mason
BEST FROM FANTASY & SF.....Mills
BITTER WATER.....Thompson
STUART SYMINGTON.....Wellman
NIGHT OF THE BIG HEAT.....Lymington
JOHN KENNEDY.....Burns
I LOVE YOU.....Berger
CHARLEY IS MY DARLING.....Cary
THIS SWEET SICKNESS.....Highsmith
ABEL'S DAUGHTER.....Maddux
GENERATION WITHOUT FAREWELL.....Boyle
GRANT MOVES SOUTH.....Catton
FRIGHTENED LADIES.....Benson
HORSES OF THE SUN.....Malet
LOOK TO YOUR GEESE.....Sanders
INVISIBLE PRESIDENCY.....Koenig
CONSTANT IMAGE.....Davenport
PRACTICAL ECONOMIST.....Crane
MAY THIS HOUSE BE
SAFE FROM TIGERS.....King
MURDER OUT OF SCHOOL.....Ross
DURIAN TREE.....Keon
TRASK.....Berry
TWIST OF SAND.....Jenkins

April Dates Set Aside As National Library Week

"Wake Up and Read - - for a Better Read, Better Informed America," is the theme of National Library Week, set for April 3 - 9.

At the Pictorial Center there are two libraries available - the Enlisted Men's Library in Building #24 and the Research Information Library on the third floor of Building #1. Civilians as well as all military personnel may check books out at either facility.

Have YOU read a good book lately?

MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

GRANT MOVES SOUTH by Bruce Catton

The author, already a recognized authority on the Civil War and its leaders, gains additional stature in this detailed account of the activities of Gen U. S. Grant from the beginning of the conflict through the victory at Vicksburg. It is not only a chronological account of a series of battles which opened up the Mississippi River basin for the Union but also is a story of a man's personal development, describing Grant's progress from a reluctant but dedicated soldier to a forceful general.

Mr Catton starts out with Grant's first real Civil War assignment (he had left the Army in disgrace several years before): the command of the 21st Illinois Volunteers. He shows how Grant's simple, forceful manner made an orderly regiment out of a group of recalcitrant farm boys.

During the subsequent moves this

West Point officer grew even more adept at training and leading his increasing forces of volunteers until they became one of the great armies of American history, the victorious Army of the Tennessee.

The author gives exciting, blow-by-blow accounts of the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth and Vicksburg, always with the background of Grant's relations with his superiors and subordinates, so that the reader feels upon reading the conclusion that he has a most intimate knowledge of the campaigns and those who participated in them.

Mr Catton is now at work on the third book about Grant, due for publication in 1961 to coincide with the Civil War Centennial. If it is as good, thorough and readable as this one, it will be treasured and enjoyed by all "buffs" of the Civil War. (GES)

10 Civilians, One EM Get Certificates, \$\$

At a Command Office ceremony this week, 10 civilian employees and one enlisted man received awards for ideas which had been adopted, or for exemplary performance of duty.

The largest cash award went to Joseph A. Flaherty, Television Division. He received \$300 in the "Special Act or Service Category" in connection with the rehabilitation of the Television Division Studio.

Two awards of \$100 each for Sustained Superior Performance went to Vera Allen, Distribution Branch, and Rupert N. Lovell, property and supply clerk in Production Division.

The largest suggestion award was received by Mary Boyle, chief telephone operator, who got \$100 for masterminding the change in APC's telephone number so that expensive time wouldn't be consumed answering calls that were meant for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Other suggestion awards were presented to Herman Korman, \$15; and \$10 each to Walter J. Belz, Lois Y. Williams, Violet A. Knight, Albert Brito, and Harry C. Kreider.

The lone military recipient was Sp-4 Donald N. Brown, who received a certificate as a result of his suggestion of a revision in TV film routing and of the TV Film Record System.

New Exec Officer Assigned For Troop Command Duty

First Lieutenant Victor D. Hunter was assigned to the Center last week for duty as executive officer of the troop unit.

A native of Miami, Lt Hunter was commissioned from the ROTC at Florida A&M in August 1957. He went on active duty in April 1958 at Fort Monmouth, attending the Signal Officer Basic Course there.

In September 1958 Lt Hunter went to Taiwan for assignment with the Military Assistance Advisory Group and stayed there until early this month when he returned to the U. S. and the Army Pictorial Center.

Earlier this year Lt Hunter received the Army Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant for his work in Taiwan.

Contributions to the combined fund raising campaign held here last month for the National Health Agencies and the Federal Service Joint Crusade, amounted to \$1,010.29, according to Maj Dominick J. Grandinetti, chairman.

Prael Off to Europe After Monmouth TDY



Captain Robert F. Prael (left), who was Chief of Animation Branch, along with sundry other jobs, received a Certificate of Achievement this month before leaving for a new assignment in Germany. In photo, the presentation was made by Post Commander Col J. H. Fulton, with benign smiles of approval being registered by (left to right) Lt Col John T. Quick, assistant to the Deputy Post Commander; Maj Douglas W. Gallez, acting chief of Production Division; and William R. Brown, Jr., Deputy Chief of Production Division.

Capt Prael's European tour of duty is being prefaced by a TDY stint at Fort Monmouth, where he is attending the Advanced Officers Course.

Two APC Employees Retire

Two APC Civil Service employees, Arthur J. Morley and Alfred Baum, retired the end of last month.

Morley was with the Construction Section of Studio Branch and Baum was Chief of the Supply Branch Storage and Issue Section.

are being worked over and the sound of "Play Ball," will soon be ringing throughout the land. Anyone interested in playing either baseball or softball contact me at Special Services.

CLARK'S COMMENTS

by MSgt Forest R. Clark

With bruises from the First Army Basketball Tournament almost healed, APC's hardwood quintet has hung up its uniforms and the season becomes just a memory.

Our biggest opponent at the Fort Dix tourney was, once again, height. But the local lads aren't too disgruntled. They knew they played good ball and, after all, that's the idea of sports competition.

Next month the bowling tournament gets under way at West Point and, in this case at least, height won't mean a thing. The Center should be well represented on the Academy alleys as the league competition during the past few months has been very keen.

With the first robin chirping outside, attention is turned now to baseball. The diamonds in the local area



Flag Waving Camera crew goes in on tight shots for film which will trace history of American flags. An Armed Forces Information Film, it is scheduled for release around July 4th and will eventually be made available to schools, patriotic groups, etc., as well as the Armed Forces. In photo, with blower behind flags are: (left to right) Sam Montalbano, William Price and James McGrath. On camera is Sgt Dave Croft, while grouped around are William Doran, Charlie Mattson, George Howell, Joe Archer, Cameraman Stanley Swed and Director Mort Lewis. (Army photo by Sp-5 Leong)

STARS OF SHOW BUSINESS



1. In a British-American Canteen scene, British comedienne Beatrice Lillie cavorts for Screen Magazine cameras.
2. The Hollywood Bowl was reconstructed on Main Stage as background for vocalist Eileen Woods and Paul Whiteman.
3. & 4. Nothing like this on APC stages these days. Phil Spitalny and his All-Girl Orchestra, Evelyn with her Magic Violin, and, in photo #4, vocalist Vivian.
5. & 6. Ray Bolger, he of the elastic limbs, evoked GI guffaws with (#6) "training film" gimmick and then in (#5) a demonstration "by the numbers."
7. This lavish set was for Christmas 1944, with (center stage) Marion Anderson, Leopold Stokowski and Westminster Choir. Still seen around APC is the Santa and sleigh (upper center); the boom man, Ed Dreyer, now Chief of Sound Section; Dick Allen (PFC at lower center); R&D Films; and Johnny Pagano (white shirt), (lower center) grip.
8. Pianist Hazel Scott, backed up by a combo, performed for one Screen Magazine segment.
9. Beauty abounds in this scene which featured (in black dress) Miss America 1944, Jean Bartel. Andre Kostelanetz conducted the background music.

HERE DURING WAR YEARS



1. Jose Iturbi at the piano but Screen Magazine viewers probably didn't hear a note while eying the bevy of beauties.
2. Funnybones were tickled in this scene which featured (right) comedian Zero Mostel.
3. Joan McCracken, Broadway musical comedy star, did a scene from her hit show, "Bloomer Girl" for Screen Magazine.
4. Pianos seem to attract pulchritude as witness this photo of blind pianist Alee Templeton surrounded by models.
5. Here is the "bouncing ball" in the making, with Dave Fleischer, one of the originators, doing the bouncing. It was a difficult job, all done by hand, with ball bouncing from one syllable to another with the beat of the music. Words and bouncing ball were superimposed at bottom of production footage for "sing-alongs." In photo (seated) is Ken Stiles, Special Effects, while at the Sound Console there's a familiar face - that of Tech Sgt Tom Hanlon, APC Sound Section.
6. Surprisingly enough, none of the "old timers" can remember this gal's name. That's a beautiful bird, though.
7. Nancy Walker's a lady cab driver in production number from "On the Town" shot for Screen Magazine.
8. This was for a penthouse segment and Nan Wynn, radio and stage star, must have lifted the soldiers' morale.
9. This was a front porch back home??? Where's home? Jerry Sullivan is at left and Victoria Cordova lounging at right. Center lass is unidentified - but who cares about names?

House Receives Bills Calling for Increase In GS Salary Rates

The Legislative drive for a Federal pay raise is under way in the House of Representatives following introduction of 19 bills calling for salary adjustments for classified and postal employees.

The 19 identical bills propose salary increases for classified workers that would average about 12 per cent.

The bills call for the following increases in the basic classified pay range for each grade. The figures give the present bottom and top pay in each grade (excluding longevity pay) and the new bottom and top scales under the proposed legislation.

GS-1 rates would be boosted from a present range of \$2960-3530 to \$3220-4320; GS-2 from \$3255-3825 to \$3555-4705; GS-3 from \$3495-4060 to \$3825-5025; GS-4 from \$3755-4325 to \$4115-5365; GS-5 from \$4040-4940 to \$4440-6000; GS-6 from \$4490-5390 to \$4955-6555.

GS-7 from \$4980-5880 to \$5510-7150; GS-8 from \$5470-6370 to \$6065-7745; GS-9 from \$5985-6885 to \$6645-8365; GS-10 from \$6505-7405 to \$7240-9000; GS-11 from \$7030-8230 to \$7915-9925. GS-12 from \$8330-9530 to \$9440-11,480; GS-13 from \$9890-11,090 to \$11,185-13,255; GS-14 from \$11,355-12,555 to \$12,540-14,850; GS-15 from \$12,770-13,970 to \$14,260-14,285.

Goobers Join Cotton In Garden Experiment

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. That's the motto of Joe "Gentleman Farmer" Lipkowitz, who is nothing if not persistent.

Readers of these columns may recall that last year the Squire of Lipkowitz Acres, his palatial Massapequa Park estate, attempted to grow his own cotton crop but lost out to the weeds and weevils. Far from being discouraged, Joe has sent away for, not only cotton, but peanut seeds, and intends to plant them as soon as the weather moderates.

To make these southern staples feel more at home, he says he plans to fly the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy from atop his flag pole and whistle Dixie every time he passes the "plantation."

Joe is so confident of success this year that he's considering seeking the salted peanut concession in the cafeteria and is looking for commercial outlets to handle the cotton crop.

Will the weeds and weevils win again this year or will Long Island rival the plantations of the sunny Southland? Read future issues of FOCUS and be informed.

Belvoir Engineers Commend APC Motion Picture Crew

"Outstanding performance of organization and execution of the mission," cited in a letter received here recently from the Army Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Referring to the location filming there of "Basic Engineer Reconnaissance," the letter said the entire crew demonstrated a highly cooperative attitude and a desire to provide the assistance and skill necessary to bring the filming to a successful conclusion.

Special mention was made in the letter of the Director, George McGowan; his assistant, MSgt Gilbert Sommer; and the cameraman, Peter Voutsas.



Medals for Mettle

At Valley Forge last month, four APC-produced films (three BIG PICTURES and an Armed Forces Information Film) were awarded George Washington Honor Medals. Dr Kenneth Wells (left) Freedoms Foundation president, presented the medals to Maj Gen William W. Quinn (second from left) Army Information Chief, with Army Secretary Wilber M. Brucker and Chief of Staff General Lyman Lemnitzer in attendance at the annual Washington's Birthday ceremony. (U. S. Army Photo)

BIG PICTURE

PROGRAMMING IN THE LOCAL AREA

Scheduled for telecasting over the local CBS outlet, Channel 2, each Saturday, at 7 a.m., are the following BIG PICTURE releases:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 2 | (rerun) TV 432 "Sylvanus Thayer" |
| April 9 | Project 0231018 "Army Digest #1" |
| April 16 | Project 0231014 "One Army Concept" |
| April 23 | Project 0231015 "Combat History of First Army" |

Contest Set for Writers

Prizes totalling \$500 will be presented to winners of a writers contest being jointly sponsored by the Army-Navy-Air Force Register and the Armed Forces Writers League.

Articles on, "What I Did to Make Friends for the United States," should be submitted by April 10 to Contest Editor, Army-Navy-Air Force Register, 2020 M Street, NW, Washington, D. C.

The articles should not exceed 1500 words and a prize of \$250 will be awarded the winner by a three-man judging committee.

Three More EM Reenlist

Two Camera Section soldiers, Sgt's Charles J. Siegfried and Paul M. Foley, reenlisted this past month with the former taking on another four years and the latter, six. An additional reenlistment recorded in March was for Sp-5 Frank L. Sampson, Lab Branch, who switched from enlisted reserve to Regular Army and signed up for six years.

Personnel Office Pair Cited by Reservists

Two "good will ambassadors" from the Center's Civilian Personnel Office have been effusively praised for their participation in a recent meeting of the APC Mobilization Designation Detachment.

In a letter from Lt Colonel Ellis Smith, OIC of the Reserve unit and wartime APC officer, reference was made to Mary O'Connor and Rosalie Levitt who spoke to the Reservists on the subject of "Civilian Personnel Memoranda and Directives, APC." Colonel Smith said, "The discourse and the spirited discussion evoked by these experts demonstrated their command of subject matter and conference leadership based on skill, long experience and warm personalities."

He said further that the Pictorial Center could be "truly proud of these two 'good will ambassadors.'"

ARRIVALS

Sp-4's Crawford G. McGill and William M. Cushman. Pfc's James E. Spence, Donald C. Bush and Larry W. Burgeson. Privates Frederick E. Hansen, David H. Klein, Larry D. Fleming, James L. Stayner, and Recruit Alan Heim.

Captain Orville H. Unnerstall and 2d Lt John J. Lagana, Jr.

Sfc James R. Conklin and Sgt's Ronald D. Bean, Oddis B. Cumberland and Virgil R. Priestly.

1st Army Gets New Leader

Lt General Edward J. O'Neill became the 15th First Army Commander on March 1, when he succeeded Lt General B. M. Bryan who retired the day previously.

PLAY AUTHORED BY APC SCRIPT WRITER SAM ROBINS MAKES BROADWAY BID IN STUDIO THREE PRESENTATION

When Sam Robins, Writers Branch, arrives for work in the mornings, he opens the door and walks right in just like anyone else. And why not? He's part of the APC family, and has been for the last 13 years.

But there was one day, a long time ago, when that same door was literally slammed in Sam's face - turning him away from an "extra" job with the old Paramount Studios and setting his feet on another path which eventually led right back here.

Sam was just 19 and freshly arrived from his home in Baltimore when his bid for an acting career was so effectively thwarted. Today he's a highly successful and professional writer of scripts for military films, is a former contract scenario writer for many of the leading Hollywood studios, and, in his spare time, has written a play that may some day be listed on Broadway's playbill.

Although Sam's background is interesting, and how he finally arrived here at APC worthy of mention later on, at the moment, "the play's the thing," of greatest import: because earlier this month it was chosen as the premiere production of the Studio Three Community Theatre Foundation.

Sam finished his play about three years ago. That is, if any play is ever finished, for he firmly believes that "the best plays are rewritten." At one time Sylvia Sidney was interested in doing it and Sam had gone so far as to get a few backers lined up to produce it for Broadway. Additional funds were needed, however, and just prior to a scheduled reading for more backers his APC writing chores took him to another part of the country.

Great in D. C.

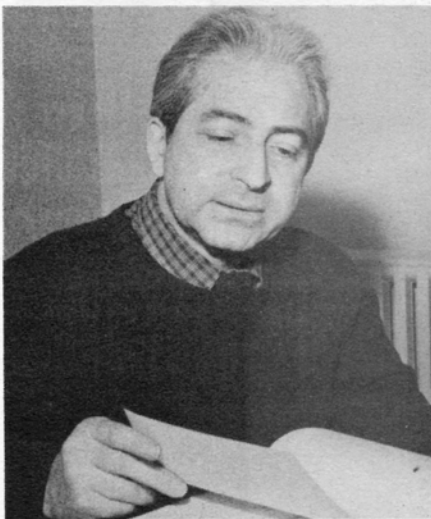
In 1957 the play was produced by the Washington, D.C., Arena Stage, a repertory theatre. It received good notices and a full page photo spread in one of the Capital's newspapers as well as favorable commentary by critics and scholastic drama department heads. But still no Broadway "angel."

Recently, as a result of past attempts by the Theatre Guild and the Group Theatre here in New York, Studio Three was founded "to create a professional theatre, dedicated to the production of new plays by American dramatists on a non-profit basis and to lend assistance to all native workers in the theatre crafts that deserve recognition." Sam says the group read dozens of plays before deciding to produce his as the initial presentation in a planned schedule of four.

The public reaction to his play, which ran for eight performances at the Finch Theatre, was more than gratifying. Aside from the ovations given it at each performance, he has received numerous letters praising it, many from people in show business. But the critics weren't so kind: particularly one who chose to be especially vituperative, not so much about the play, but about the brief biography of Sam which appeared in the playbill.

But Sam's not giving up - he still has Broadway lights in his eyes when he talks about "Answered the Flute." His hopes have been kept alive since, as a result of the Studio Three presentation, the play is going to be translated for production in several of the South American countries. Who knows, it could be a "smash" down there, earn a reputation and come back to Broadway via the "back door."

Although this has been his only experience as a playwright, Sam has an



SAM ROBINS

extensive background as a writer. Following his rebuff as an actor he got a job on the New York Times, later went to Hollywood and, after a long dry spell, broke into contract scenario writing out there. As a matter of note, his first writing job in Hollywood was with Paramount.

In 1943, after the Army's movie center here had been going for a year, a group of writers was brought in from the west coast, Sam being one of them. During the war he helped organize and did the script writing for the secret Staff Film Reports which were made up of the latest combat footage and which were viewed only by top Army and Government officials.

Sam's work on his play and all the attendant efforts he's expended to keep it alive have been done in his spare time. As one of the busiest writers on the APC staff, there isn't too much of that - nights, weekends, riding on trains, etc. He's both a dedicated and a happy man on his job here. Well aware of the mission of the Army Pictorial Center, obviously impressed with it, and proud of his part in it, Sam says that even if his play became another "My Fair Lady," you'd still find him every day up in his writer's cubicle or out on the road doing location writing.

Kalmer

Komments

When the BIG PICTURE epic, "Combat History of the First U. S. Army," hits the Nation's television screens next month a familiar voice will be heard as narrator - it'll be that of Ned Kalmer, veteran CBS news commentator, shown at right going over script with Bob Ervin from Information Films Office. Film, which covers both World Wars, is slated for local showing on April 23. (Army photo Sp-5 Leong)



Army Announces Need For Warrant Officers In 14 Critical Skills

The Army is making an all-out effort to recruit warrant officers in 14 different occupational categories that are critically short at present, it was announced last week.

Especially desired are enlisted personnel now on active Army duty, commissioned officers and enlisted personnel of the National Guard and Army Reserve, and former commissioned officers of the Army.

The 14 occupational categories in which vacancies now exist include 10 technical and four non-technical specialties. Included in the technical area are missiles, wheeled vehicles, television and radio, other signal equipment, and automatic data processing systems. The non-technical areas include intelligence, Army band, and one classified category.

It was emphasized that interested personnel need not hold existing MOS's in the various categories, since any applicant may acquire his MOS at this time on the basis of his previous experience and training, or his previous attendance at a technical course of instruction.

Among the specific MOS categories in which critical vacancies exist at present are: Television Maintenance Officer (MOS 4412); Radio Maintenance and Repair Officer (7864); Signal Equipment Maintenance and Repair Officer (4415); and Automatic Data Processing Systems Maintenance Technician (4842). Others are: MOS's 1182, 4815, 4817, 4816, 0605, 4808, 9668, 9666, 5241 and one classified, 9600.

New Stripes Authorized For E-6 & E-7 Specialists

Male specialists in pay grades E-6 and E-7 have another stripe-sewing-on chore to face with authorization of a new, three-inch wide insignia.

Although the supply is scarce both for issue and sale, the Troop Supply here has requisitioned the enlarged insignia and expects to have them shortly, according to Sfc Ernest P. Ingram, supply sergeant. There are a number of specialists E-6 assigned here at the present time but no specialists E-7.

The old, two-inch wide insignias for specialists 6 and 7 are being retained in Army stocks and have been redesignated as "designed for women."



Formal and Informal Top photo: With troops massed behind him, Sfc Howard A. McWhirr, who retired Feb 29 after 20 years of active service, approaches command line to be congratulated by (left to right) Capt George D. Bailey, troop commander; Lt Col James H. Malone, exec officer; and Col James H. Fulton, APC commander. Bottom photo: In less formal ceremony, fellow NCO's, plus photographer's son with candy bar, speed him on his way with good luck toast. (Army photo by Sp-5 Leong)

TURSINI

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once more enlisted, for the Medical Corps, in February 1942.

Tursini's first assignment on this enlistment was at Camp Forrest, Tenn., for duty with the station hospital there. Later, in November, he was reassigned to a newly-activated hospital unit which was preparing for shipment overseas. He was sergeant major of this unit and promoted to master sergeant in January 1943. A bout with yellow jaundice, however, brought about an extended hospitalization during which time the unit moved off without him.

Following his release from the hospital, Tursini went first to the 57th Station Hospital at New Orleans and then, in February 1944, was shipped overseas to the China-Burma-India theater of operations. He landed in Calcutta, was assigned with a Special (SOS) Detachment, later with a hospital unit in China, saw duty in Burma and came back to the U. S. for discharge in June 1945.

Following his release from the Army Tursini had another brief brush with civilian life. It only lasted until August 1946, however, and he once more heeded the bugle's clarion call and reenlisted at Fort Meade, Md. Before the year was out he was bound for another overseas assignment - this time to Hawaii. While in the land of pineapples and grass skirts, Tursini was sergeant major at the Tripler Army Hospital, and, later, TIE NCO at Fort Shafter. He returned Stateside in July 1950 for assignment at Ft Monroe, Va.

At Monroe, Tursini got away from the medics; he was assigned to the office of the Research and Development Chief and photographer for General Mark Clark, then Chief of Army Field Forces. This lasted until May 1952 when, with only nine months back in the States, he was sent to Austria. He was with Special Services there as a Recreation NCO until November 1954.

When the master sergeant returned to U. S. shores he missed the state of Virginia for a change and went to Fort Knox, Ky., where he worked in the Post PIO and was a photographer for the CG of the Armored School there. This didn't last too long, however, as he was reassigned, in 1955, to Fort Monmouth, N. J. and the Photographic School.

Although he didn't know it at the time, he was to be bound to the east coast from here on in. After completing the photo course, he stayed at Monmouth with the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories (SCEL) there and its photographic division.

While with SCEL, he became "commander" of a two-man test team for the Engineering Division. This involved a "sort of detached service" at Yuma, Arizona. The test teams, all of which were commanded by officers with the exception of the one Tursini headed, compiled documentary color photographic records of electronic devices SCEL turned out, and their reaction to severe cold or heat. He drew the hot climate and spent 14 months at Yuma.

Returning to his home base at Fort Monmouth, Tursini almost had to turn around and head west again. He had orders to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., but they were changed - and he wound up here at APC with the Casting Office. He's been here ever since.

REACHES

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an early stage it was established that though a soldier might be most proficient in the ungentle art of warfare, he might still be ineffectual if his spirits were low and his morale at an ebb.

It was learned further that, patriotism notwithstanding, country, home and the rest of the world became nebulous in the nightmare of battle. A link was needed between foxhole and "Main Street, U. S. A." This link was found in the "Why We Fight" series and the Army-Navy Screen Magazines, both, for the most part, produced here at the Center.

Most of the footage used in the "Why We Fight" productions was from captured German films that had been used for propaganda purposes in Nazi-land. With our own narration over the footage, and under the skillful direction of Frank Capra, the films became vivid documentaries, readily pointing up why the Axis countries should be fought - and defeated.

Had a Purpose

The Screen Magazines were strictly for entertainment - but with a carefully calculated purpose. Some of the foremost artists of stage, screen and radio were used for the SM segments. Elaborate sets, rivalled only by the pre-war Lasky and Paramount productions, provided a background for such personages as Phil Spitalney and his All-girl Orchestra, Morton Downey, Paul Whiteman, Leopold Stokowski, Ray Bolger, etc. (Photos in centerfold).

Presentation of these entertainers, well-known to the troops, provided a bit of home, a familiar note in a strange world. The artists were unanimously cooperative. Although they were prohibited from giving their services gratis, they received only token payments in contrast to the rates they normally demanded.

One standard feature of the Screen Magazine series was the filming of scenes requested by soldiers, such as the present-day "You Asked for It" TV program. One soldier, for instance, evidently left unsatisfied by "K" rations, said he wanted to see Lana Turner frying a steak, and hear it sizzling in the pan. The requested scene was incorporated into a Screen Magazine film and, it's hoped, gave the requestor, and other viewers, another reason for getting the business at hand over in a hurry.

Audience Singers

Other popular parts of the Screen Magazines were the bouncing-ball sing-alongs, and hometown vignettes. The former had already been pretty well established on American movie screens and were received just as enthusiastically by soldier-audiences. The vignettes portrayed a cross-section of the folks back home with segments, for example, showing a typical day in the life of a rural postman in Iowa, or a station master in Wisconsin, a taxi driver in New York, etc. All were intended to bridge the gap between battlefield and front yard.

Many of the people who worked here on these productions, either as soldier or civilian, are still around. And they'll talk about "the old days" at the click of a camera shutter. Tom Hanlon, for instance, can rattle off names of the greats and near-greats that performed here faster than they can be written down. Presently in the Sound Section, he was a staff sergeant here during the war and worked in - the Sound Department. Tom brought in the old pictures displayed in the centerfold of this issue.