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The Rouen Post, September 1943

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Mr. Wm. Stack, Editor,
Rouen Post

Dear Bill:

The five enclosed linoleum prints were made by one of our nurses and represent rather typical scenes of non-military installations around here. You might like to reproduce some of them. Her home is in Payson, Ill. I'll have to write the name of her school at the bottom of the letter after I look it up, but I suspect it is Barnes.

I would like to send you a lot more stuff but it would all be in violation of censorship, and that is pas bon around here. I can say that we are undoubtedly upholding the standards set for us by the old unit, and many of us are learning French just as the old unit did.

I've been Engineer, Mayor, Judge, Administrator, and Arbiter of Fashions here at this post. Perhaps that is why time has literally flown by, there has been so much to do. We really have accomplished things... I got my first bottle of Coca-Cola yesterday! I've had ice cream once or twice too, and things dietetically are looking up. We really don't have any complaints about the real essentials, and we are some better off than others...

Well, what do you think of that? "Farmer" Freedman just came in and left some musk melons, the first of the crop in our (his) garden. I am referring to Captain Harold Freedman who was known thereabouts as Doctor Freedman.

I do not believe we are having any more troubles with the heat here yet than you have been. There have been two or three days that got up 102 and 103 degrees F. The air is much drier and we don't feel it so much. Usually there is a breeze. However, the French here says for us to just wait for one of the Sirrocco winds that come up from the desert. They say that if it lasts for a day, it usually lasts for three, and that if it lasts three days it will almost certainly last seven. People, they say, have to go into their houses and shut everything up tightly to keep the dust out. Well, I can believe it about the dust, for we have no more rains until Fall.

Our enlisted men are having a dance on the roof of one of our main buildings this evening. The officers club had theirs last evening, and people flocked in for the sociability, and dates with their favorite nurses. One of our medical officers, Capt. John Modlin and 2nd Lt. Ann Bloomer, Bois D'Arc, Mo., announced their engagement at a reception in their honor at the hotel where Miss Polly Ann Billington lives. Lt. George Roulhac is engaged to her. And so it goes in the wilds of North Africa.

LEE D. CADY
Lieut.-Col. M. C.
The linoleum prints made by Lieut. Rose Elliott, a nurse with the 21st General Hospital in North Africa, are from the collection of prints sent us by Lieut. Col. Lee D. Cady, commanding officer of the hospital. The one above, at left, is entitled 'Mara­bout.' Below, at right, is "Grand Hotel." Inset of Lieut. Elliott, a graduate of Barnes Hospital. A former school teacher, and a former student at the Universities of Illinois and Hawaii, she completed her three-year nurse's course in March, 1942 and left for training with the 21st General the following January. Her former home is in Payson, Ill.

Through the offices of your Editor, these prints with the picture of Lieut. Elliott appeared in the St. Louis Star-Times about a month ago and the plates used on this page were loaned to us by that paper.
Mr. Marvin C. Hamilton  
215 North Tenth Street  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Dear Ham:  
The hat has been received, duly autographed and returned parcel post.  
Your brief prologue covering the story of the hat reveals in true light old garrulous Costen, with his chronic gasconade. It is obvious that, realizing he is crash diving into senility, he is resentful of the hold I have upon vigor and vitality.

As for Stack, it is droll beyond measure, and filled with injustice, to observe the pudgy ex-prize fighter sitting under a shade tree fanning his swollen feet while relatives and friends cultivate the victory garden for him to boast about.  
Best regards to all.

Sincerely,  
C. G. TILTON

The enclosed photograph will give you a fair idea of how I spend my spare time.

Castle Park, Holland, Michigan  
September 2, 1943  
Dear Bill:  
Your letter with the picture of Tilton was handed to me as I came in to breakfast after a brisk seven-mile hike along the beach. The astonishing sight of Tilton astride that horse raised two questions: first, who helped him climb up; second, what’s holding him on? I finally reached the conclusion that the old boy had slipped Hamilton as fine a sample of trick photography as I have ever seen. However, I cannot figure how the camera man concealed the Thomas splint Cal wears on that game right leg; the one he injured when I shoved him violently back into his seat during a rally for the late President Harding.

Jean goes back to school from here and the rest of us will return to St. Louis about September 10. Certainly had a fine time doing nothing. Regards and thanks for sending me the picture of the Pasadena ranger. The horse is a beauty—but a merry-go-round pony would be more appropriate.

JIM COSTEN

Somewhere in Assam  
Comrades:—  
Just a line to say hello! I am now enjoying the spring monsoon. The black ants and lizards have taken over—clothes and leather goods are mouldy, but supplies are coming through O.K. and we hope to push the Jap back before Fall. We at present have sea and air superiority and it’s the weather we have to fight.  
I hope all the gang are O.K. I am alright and the boy’s are doing a fine job.

Regards to all—  
LT. M. CROISSANT
Mr. Wm. E. Engel, Post Adjutant
Rouen Post No. 242
Dear Mr. Engel:

Recently I received two books, loaned to me, from a former Nurse of Base Hospital No. 5 and Mobile Hospital No. 6. The one is titled: "The story of Base Hospital No. 5" written by "a member of the unit," the University press 1919; and the other is: "Concerning Base Hospital No. 5", a book published for the personnel.

Both of these are unusually interesting, especially the latter, which describes fully the history of Mobile Hospital No. 6 and refers to Mobile Hospital No. 4 and Base Hospital No. 21 very frequently, together with illustrations, etc.

I would like to know, if anything similar was written or published about Base Hospital No. 21 and Mobile Hospital No. 4 and the personnel as I have never heard nor seen anything like those publications covering our old hospitals; and if there should be, I certainly would greatly appreciate seeing it.

My kindest regards to your Post Commander Dr. Edwin C. Ernst and to comrade Philip A. Conrath. I wonder if Dr. Clopton still remembers that when he was promoted to Lt. Colonel while at Cheppy, the nurses tried to scrape the gold leaves so they would shine like silver leaves and make him look like a real Lt. Colonel, since new insignias were not obtainable out there.

Best wishes to Rouen Post No. 242; I am Sincerely yours,

CARL J. JOHANNESSON, M. D., F. A. C. R.
Walter C. Lee Post No. 32

The name of our old friend Dr. Arthur Proetz appears in an article in the July Readers Digest which debunks the extravagant claims made for popular cigarettes. Research by doctors hired to conduct experiments for the Phillip Morris Company had resulted in the claim that diethylene glycol, used as a moistening agent in Phillip Morris cigarettes was less irritating to the throat than the glycerine used by other brands. This claim was advertised in the Medical Journal and the glycerine makers came back with tests that found their product as kind to the throat as diethylene glycol.

Phillip Morris then gave a grant of $10,000 a year to the department of otolarynology at St. Louis University. Dr. Proetz in accepting the grant insisted upon complete freedom of investigation. After two years he reported that his experiments showed that different doctors reading the same throat could not agree and that there is no uniform device for measuring throat irritation.

Phillip Morris has not advertised the findings of Dr. Proetz. Instead it has continued to tell the medical profession about the earlier more suitable report.

The blood donor campaign of Central Memorial Post, under the leadership of Past Commander Ed McCuddy, has been carried on for a full year, during which time 2,203 pints of blood have been given to the blood bank. A Red Cross mobile unit goes to the post home on the second Tuesday of each month between the hours of 3:30 and 8:30 p.m. to take blood from the assembled volunteer donors. As many as 218 have been bled during the five-hour period.

My Dear Mr. Engel:

Convey to Commander Ernst and through him to the members of Rouen Post No. 242, my sincere appreciation for your note of August 19, 1943. The convalescence has been uneventful and I am now doing light duty.

CHAS. H. EYERMANN