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GREETINGS

It has been little more than a year since the 21st General closed its books at Ravenel, France and ended its tour of duty. The closing on that Sept. 11th was fittingly solemnized at a midnight ceremony in which a group of ardent members, fortified with a can of petrol and a bottle of cognac, set fire and burned to the ground the large sign that stood within the main gate. This also marked the end of a long and close association, of living as a unit, of working together, enduring the same hardships and relaxing to similar entertainment. The 21st had served almost four years with the armed forces, three of them in Africa and Europe. The 21st Station, a component of the original unit, had served in Eritrea and Persia. Many had finished the war in other units and in other theatres, some in combat. Except for those who have chosen to remain in the service, all have now returned to their individual pursuits in civilian life and are scattered over the forty-eight states. A year in civilian life has only served to sweeten the memories and strengthen the bonds that existed during the fighting years.

It seemed highly desirable that something should be done to perpetuate the "Spirit of the 21st" and to maintain contact among the "old grads", and to you who live outside the St. Louis area, here is what has been done.

A few interested members met last spring, largely at the instigation of Emma Frohbieter and Amy Tabor to map a course of action. (Leave it to the women and they'll get something done.) Rouen Post No. 242 of the American Legion, made up of members of Unit 21 of World War I, had extended an invitation for us to move in and eventually take over. A promotional party given by Dr. Joseph Larimore of Unit 21 at his lovely place on the Missouri River completely sold the idea and the deal was made. In October the new roster of officers included those from the old and new unit. That the move is a success was attested by the party at Dr. Edwin C. Ernst's "Lazy M.D. Ranch" in St. Louis County in November so aptly described by Miss Frohbieter in this issue. This has been an annual affair which we hope will continue.

Things are moving along and there have been other parties, which have done credit to the 21st tradition. The Needle Point Club is active, "choir practice" has been held on occasions, and January 10th was not forgotten. The membership is now one hundred and ten. Regular meetings are held near the 11th of each month and if you are in town on that date, do not fail to make contact. Already plans are being made for a big reunion in May, the date to be announced in an early edition of this news sheet. Make plans to come. It will be a five year reunion for the 21st General and a thirty year reunion for Unit 21.

In order to maintain contact and keep you informed of news about members of the unit, a post paper is being published once a month. You may have already received a copy. Membership in Rouen Post is desirable but not mandatory for receiving the news sheet. We expect to send it to every former member of the 21st General and if you do not get it, put in a complaint. The mailing list is now up to 625 and will be expanded as we obtain correct addresses, so send in names of anyone whom you know is not receiv-

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ing it now. News items depend on you. We want to hear from the “Swamp Fox” of Georgia, from Col. Cady and the little 21st at Dallas, Texas, from Jim Gibbons and the boys from Brooklyn and Queens. Ginny Lee Schneider (Garrett) should make a good contributor from the great northwest.

As we begin the year 1947, let me extend greetings and best wishes to all the former members of the 21st General and also to the loyal members of Unit 21. Here’s to a reunion in May!

John F. Patton, Commander

COMMANDER PATTON HONORED

Commander John F. Patton of the second 21st holds the unique distinction of being vice president of both the St. Louis and St. Louis County Medical Societies. A bit rough serving in two such organizations but our commander is equal to the task. The medical profession is to be commended in selecting Dr. Patton for these important posts and will be greatly benefitted by his advice and counsel. Felicitations to our commander.

HUGO MEUNCH NEW HEAD OF BIOSTATISTICS

Dr. Hugo Muench a former member of the Base Hospital Unit 21 of World War One, now professor of biostatistics, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston, has been appointed head of the department of biostatistics, it was announced November 8. Dr. Muench is also assistant dean. Prior to his present assignments Dr. Muench was a member of the staff of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York.

HAROLD T. JOLLEY

At a recent meeting the Board of Directors of The Boatmen’s National Bank of St. Louis elected our former comrade of Base Hospital Unit 21, 1917-18 Harold T. Jolley president of that fine institution. The selection of Harold for this important position reflects the wisdom of the board. He has been with the bank since 1929 and has worked untiringly for it’s success.

Bill Stack, throughout the years, has insisted that “old man Jolley” was the oldest corporal in the A.E.F. His ability to serve as a corporal still is being questioned by Allen, Bowman and Williams, they maintaining that his elevation to the rank of corporal came thru “drag”. But his service to our community is unquestioned. He has given unstintingly of his time and talents for it’s betterment. Harold Jolley has been a member of the executive staffs of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross, and other civic and cultural organizations to numerous to mention. He also was a member of the Board of Election Commissioners for one term.

The membership extends heartiest congratulations and best wishes for continued success and happiness.

JOHN SPENCER ALLEN VISITS US

The former operations engineer in charge of g.i. cans, Spence Allen, was in St. Louis recently. Aside from his thinning hair and the addition of a few wrinkles Allen’s physique is much the same as it was thirty years ago—lean, lythe and rugged. Exchanging insults aided and abetted by numerous cocktails held forth during the evening. Allen passed out the information that he has been employed by one of the leading clothing manufacturers of America to model new styles. “Pink” Bowman insists, if true, the slogan accompanying their advertisements should be captioned “If we can fit this spook we can fit anyone”. It was a pleasant evening, with an excellent dinner of choice viands, rare wines and much ready wit. Present at the Missouri Athletic Club as John Spencer’s guests were Jolley, Bowman, Stack, Williams and the writer.
FISHING IN STYLE

Melvin Croissant who served as First Lieutenant with the Army Engineers in the far East in World War II writes about a fishing experience that should satisfy even the most fastidious. While in Calcutta, India he visited at the country club where they have a “tank” well stocked with fish. Rods, reels and bait, along with a servant are provided. The servant baits your hook, you then reel out and return the reel to the servant. Meanwhile you join your host in scotch and soda, and watch a bevy of beautiful girls dancing to delightful oriental music. About the time you are completely absorbed in the girls your servant returns, screaming, “fish, sahib”. You return to the tank to reel in. The servant removes the fish, rebaits the hook and you return to your scotch and soda—and the girls. Fishing which even this writer could enjoy.

THE AUTUMN PARTY

by Emma E. Frohbieter

The party at Dr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Ernst’s place in November was a gala affair. Considering the number present one would suppose that it was a beautiful balmy moonlight night instead of one of the wettest in history. We came in dripping. Not being familiar with the flagstones we stepped in the water beside the walk more often than on the walk—and that was on the way to the party. Everyone was there. It was the first party to which the wives and husbands of the members were invited, other than reunions. The innovation proved very popular, the final count being 110 present and accounted for.

Our host was the busiest person on the premises, visiting with the guests and attending the barbecuing of the hams and lamb and the baking of huge pans of beans. He was fittingly garbed to withstand the elements, resembling a seaman on a stormy night. Mr. Stack’s slaw which he made with his own hands was most delicious. To see him in the pantry working mightily in his shirt sleeves, muttering under his breath, was to know that he did more than his share toward the preparation and the serving of that excellent supper.

“Silent” Forney Dixon, our favorite bartender was on the job as usual and everything was under control in that department. Forney has gained enough experience at Rouen Post gatherings to qualify for any of the better bars.

The crowd was congenial, mixed well and all seemed to be enjoying the party. Entertainment was entirely unrehearsed but adequate. Dr. L. C. Boemer accompanied by Dr. Patton rendered several tuneful numbers. However he did have a bit of difficulty enunciating clearly hence the words of his witty songs were not too well understood. Unsuccessful efforts were made to have Dr. Shepard render “My Troubled Mind”, always popular with the World War II veterans.

Dr. Carl Laffler entertained a group in one corner with stories in his own inimitable way. The doctor has a technique surpassed by few.

Not to be outdone by Dr. Laffler in the matter of stories Dr. Patton climaxed the evening with one he professed was taken from an original conversation he actually heard in an Eminence, Missouri barber shop. The story was a finale to his cultured presentation speech in which Dr. Ernst was the recipient of a highly polished brass receptacle fabricated for the purpose of receiving the used portions of “Long John Chewing Tobacco”. In his calm and pleasant manner the doctor reconstructed a story of two brother barbers
in his hometown. These brothers were very immaculate about their shop. Their tempers were of the typical Missouri variety, even, self-controlled and not changing the tone of their voices even when evincing displeasure. When a client apologized for his inaccuracy in conveying a huge portion of the famed Kentucky granger into the proper receptacle, one of the brothers remarked, "that there should be no need for misgivings since he did not feel that the gobboon would have held it anyway".

We were sorry not to see more of the nurses from the original 21st, Estelle Claborn, Retta Snyder, Margaret Pollock, O. S. Flynn, Lena Fabick, Hazel Flint, Florence Keiffer, Martha Zimmerman and others too numerous to mention. It is unfortunate they were not there as they missed a very pleasant evening.

Most of the members were accompanied by their wives and a jolly time was had by all. Wonder how Jablonsky and Silberberg fared when their wives learned about the others being present? We will wager they will not be left behind on another such occasion. It is to be regretted that more of the enlisted personnel are not interested. We were delighted to see Manley, Parnapos, Cammaratta and Zysk. Greater effort should be put forth to encourage others.

To sum it all up it was a grand party and again our thanks go to Dr. and Mrs. Ernst and all of the others who contributed so generously of their time and efforts to make it a success. Cheerio, until we meet again.

PERSONAL NOTES
by John F. Patton

Christmas cards were received from Sophie and Kenneth Happach (you will recall Mrs. Happach was formerly Sophie Cravitz), Jim Gibbons, Bill Oggeri, Joe Composto, Frank Reilly, Ed Tillson, Jim Hubbard, Frankil Gasland, Frank Bilz, Wally Erickson, Charlie Olsen and Clarence Chapman. A note from "Knute" (Greta Knudsen) states that she is returning to the scene of battle in May and will spend the summer visiting England, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy and Czecho-slovakia—the post-war period in the States is too tame. It is rumored that Sue Vedder is taking a course in how to raise chickens at the University of New Mexico, preparatory to taking over a ranch. Irene Steplyk is still in the Army and at Percy Jones General Hospital. A Christmas card from Carrie Williamson adds the name Larsen, the first news that she has gone to the altar. Others heard from were Metzger, Clarice Johnston, Meta Baxter, Emma Miller, Betty Atkins, Elizabeth Schwab and Pinky Maroon. One from Judy Price indicates that she is now a hostess with TWA. A note from John Chase says that he will be out St. Louis-way sometime this year. Other cards include Charlie Yarbrough, Lou Oden, Pat Dunngan, Allen Katz, Sam Harbison and Avery Rowlette. One from Herb Slatery leaves no doubt but that he is still a bachelor. Daniel W. Myers of Detroit says he is coming to St. Louis sometime but no one here believes it. Wendell Dove and his bride, Alice Walker, have returned to the states from Baranquilla, Colombia, S.A. and are taking up residence in Dallas. Col. and Mrs. Cady were visitors in St. Louis during the holidays and were greeted by old friends in the 21st. They have purchased a new home in their adopted city of Dallas. Other cards include Joe Parker, Sam Dibbons, "Whit" Whittemore, Morris Shapiro, John Ackerman, Ernest Buxton, Joe Eimers, Benny Burbank, "Baron" Hagelshaw, Howard Wilson, Dick Crouch, Bill Dann, Bill Edwards, Vince Conti, Gus Kallenbach, Bill Warrick, "Little Flower" Polzinetti, and "Anesthesia" Robinett. The St. Louis contingent of the 21st extends best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year and hopes to have a personal note from you suitable for publication in this journal.

FLASH!!!!!! An announcement just received from Dr. and Mrs. Bill Warrick heralds the arrival of little Shirley Melinda on January 6th.

Bill Engel
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ST. LOUIS, MO.