OUR COMMANDER
By Dr. Sim F. Beam

Some forty odd years ago a boy child was born in the wilds of north Missouri near a village known as Albany. He was destined to have a great and good influence in the lives of many, albeit for the most part those of the 21st General, but of recent months also on those of Base Hospital 21.

In the town of his birth he spent his youth listening to and observing his elders. Proof of this lies in the fact that no single small community is so well known to such a diversified group as that which comprised the 21st General Hospital. He recorded the colorful and happy life of these friends and acquaintances in his memory and made us feel as though we knew many of them intimately, in retelling these happenings of his youth.

Deciding upon Washington University School of Medicine as the scene of study for his chosen profession he came to St. Louis. Here he not only studied medicine but found time for perfection of his ability to make the piano talk in a very special way; the fruits of both activities we valued highly during the recent past years.

Graduating some 19 years ago he became the associate of one of the outstanding men in his specialty. This man was keen not only professionally but in that art of entertainment, story telling, he was a past-master. Again our friend availed himself of the opportunities at hand as can all attest that know him.

Came the time for our part in the "fight for democracy" and our friend was ever a leader among us. Not only was his professional work outstanding and recognized afar, but his contribution to the morale of the entire group was inestimable.

Now that we are "reconverting" he continues to carry on as the first post-war commander of Rouen Post No. 242 of the American Legion, a post limited in membership to those who formerly served with either of the hospital units originating at Washington University in World Wars 1 and 2, and their sons and daughters who have served in the armed forces. To those who know, John Patton remains the same, excepting he has added to his repertoire, new and better stories, has less hair and more activities than a man ordinarily can do.

To former members of Base Hospital 21 who have not had the opportunity of meeting our commander it is hoped this introduction will give you some idea as to just how fine a person leads Rouen Post. To those of the 21st General Hospital he needs no introduction.—rather these few words will probably set off a train of happy thoughts of our years together.

To all may it kindle a flame, the desire in your hearts and a determination in your minds, to come for the reunions in May at St. Louis. Only so far as each of you will be here, will this be a real celebration the purpose of which is to keep alive that spirit which has bound us together through the years. So let us not miss you, but rather let us greet you in the true, whole-hearted hospitality of the 21st.
COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

It has been refreshing to have so many voluntary acknowledgments of our news sheet. If through this medium we can keep alive the traditions and spirit of the 21st General as we have the original outfit, for those residing away from St. Louis, we will feel worthy of our trust. Send us letters, postcards or memoranda of such items you think will be of interest. Because of the limited space we cannot guarantee to use everything we receive—but we certainly shall try. Following are excerpts from some of the letters and cards recently received.

LT. IRENE P. STEPLYK WRITES

Yesterday I received three copies of the ROUEN POST which you have guessed would make me very happy. It was such a pleasant surprise to learn that something is being done to perpetuate the spirit of the 21st and to maintain contact with it’s former members who live outside the St. Louis area. I have often hoped that this would be done, to keep us up to date as to what all our friends of the 21st are doing or have done since the unit broke up and we took off in all directions. Well, the ROUEN POST is a wish come true.

Please notify me as soon as possible when the scheduled reunion for May will take place. It is possible that I may be able to get a leave then to attend it and it would help a great deal to know the date long in advance.

Thank you for your kindness. May I extend my best wishes to all of the members of Post No. 242 and former members of the second 21st.

CARROLL E. WOLFORD REPORTS

Believing that the ROUEN POST should have a correspondent from the great State of Indiana, here goes a letter from “Pop” Wolford. I was very happy to get the copy of news from the 21st, it being the first I had received since returning to the States. Wilson Brown came through Indiana sometime last fall on his way back to Washington. He spent a night with me but he did not have the complete coverage of the news that the “POST” has. I am glad that our 21st is still living on in spirit.

Perhaps you would like to know a bit of what I have been doing since my discharge from the army. I’ll not bore you with the complete history but will give you a brief resume! For awhile I managed a grocery and meat market. (Yeah, I know!! I can hear the gang saying it, “still the butcher”). Last summer I bought my own business and have been operating it since. I also own the one and only drug store in this small town and we have been doing nicely. Last October I was married to a swell little Louisiana girl and we have our own home in Newberry. We would be glad to see any of the old 21st crowd anytime they are in the neighborhood. Finding us would not be difficult—just ask anyone in the county and they can tell you where we live.

Now—what’s the dope on membership in Rouen Post No. 242? There is no Legion Post here and thus far I have never joined any other. I believe I would like to become a member of your Post if it is convenient. (Editors’ note—the application form was dispatched forthwith—but not yet returned. We are awaiting it) I’ll be looking forward to future issues of the paper. My best to all of my old buddies.

FROM NEW YORK CITY

Dr. Morris Zimmerman of 200 West 20th street, writes, “thanks a lot for sending me the ROUEN POST publication. I find it very interesting and will appreciate receiving each number. See several of the 21st boys in New York. Best wishes and thanks.”
AND FROM BROOKLYN TOO

Oscar Kraines sent a card stating he was pleased to receive the "ROUEN POST". Says he and his wife had as guests recently, Sid S. Shindler, Max Stern and Irving Goodman. Oscar also reports having run on to Ed Savage recently returned from UNRRA service.

A NEW MEMBER

From 103 North Ohio Avenue, Abingdon, Illinois we have a letter signed, Frances (Banks) Dickerson which reads, "On my return from our honeymoon at Vallejo, California I found the ROUEN POST and a card both having been forwarded from Texas. I was married at Saugus, Massachusetts, March 5 to former Captain Reece M. Dickerson of the 982 Signal Company whom I met at Mirecourt, France in February 1944 while serving with the 21st General.

Upon my return to the U. S. I joined American Legion Post 210 at Saugus. To date I have not paid this year's dues. I would like very much to become a member of Rouen Post No. 242 and am enclosing a check for six dollars. I would like to add my husband and I hope to attend the reunion May 23. At this time do you know how or to whom hotel reservations should be made and how early? (The letter was answered, toute suite.)

GLADYS JOHNSON SIGNS UP

I would like to place my membership in ROUEN POST No. 242 since the 21st is about the best "alma mater any one could have, asserts Miss Johnson. And old 242 is the best Post she could join."

Miss Johnson came to Mountain Home in February and found there were three 21st girls who had preceded her—Laura Adams, Sue Morgan and Helen Vereen. These girls are at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Mountain Home, Tennessee.

EVA V. BROUILLET TO DOROTHY C. MACLEOD

From Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Hi Mac!

So you want a report?—Well, I'm in a forgotten land, in Haiti, where they have every imaginable disease, earth-quakes, revolutions, etc. Never a dull moment.

Working almost as hard as in the Army, but the results not nearly as good. We are trying to teach the nurses (if that's possible). Can you imagine anyone dumber than I?

I'm with Inter-American Affair with Sanitary Mission. It is, without a doubt missionary work. The country is very beautiful and has about everything growing in it, but no one seems to do anything about it. They just don't care. The climate is superior to any place that I have been.

The country is rugged, the mountain ranges traversing it from the Dominican border to the sea. They rise in the north to 4,600 feet, and in the south 9,000 feet.

Haiti has a population of 3,000,000; Port-au-Prince, the capital, has approximately 125,000. There are some 300 Americans.

The standard of living in the country is low. Agricultural methods are primitive and holdings usually small.

There is little manufacturing—coffee is a valuable crop. Other exports are: bananas, sisal, sugar, cotton, cocoa, castor beans, mahogany, and goat skins. Not nearly as modern as Africa.

Well, this is it, and what do you have to offer? Hope you are in good health, and a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Eva
A WIFE MAKES AN ASSIST

Dr. Bishop received the Rouen Post recently and we both enjoyed it. We are anxious to receive the monthly post paper and would like to be a member of Rouen Post.

News from Dr. Bishop may not be too regular. When he finds time from his practice he does quite a bit of fishing and boating. Perhaps I can persuade him to write you about some of his experiences. An invitation to any of you who like to fish is always extended.

By the way we have a new baby in our home—John William Bishop, born November 8, 1946. We call him Johnny.

Do hope this letter has not been boring and that we shall be able to keep in contact with our friends through the ROUEN POST.

De Quincy, La.

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. D. Bishop

P. S. We talked via telephone with Dr. L. H. Oden tonight and learned he has been in bed for three weeks with hepatitis.

A FORMER MAJOR HEARD FROM

Dear Dr. Patton: Enjoy the ROUEN POST which came today. Though I was with the 21st only a short time at Bon Harrifia, it was tops. It is good to hear from those in the 21st. "Major H. M. Ausherman, M. C." Medical Arts Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

REMININDING YOU AGAIN

REUNIONS

May 23, 24, 25, 1947

CORONADO HOTEL ST. LOUIS

Even though we have not yet mailed complete details for the above, reservations are coming in. Full information on the costs, program and all pertinent facts thereto will be available shortly.

Our program will include some serious moments reflecting the solemnity of the occasions as well as the lighter side.

Come, join us in song, laughter and conviviality. You may even want to toss a few verbal curves at army life in general, the general staff or some of those disciples of discipline who are a part of each unit of the armed forces.

The idea is to "let your hair down" for these several days—and enjoy yourself.

We repeat jot down the dates—now!

CORRECTIONS

Ever on the alert for opportunities to criticize better men old eagle-eye, the former first sergeant of the original 21st, one Jablonsky, master of detail, called our attention to an omission from "Requirements for Membership"—the fact that sons and daughters of former members of both units who may have served in the armed forces in World War II are eligible to membership in Rouen Post No. 242.

Overzealous reporting without proper investigation caused us to report that our commander is serving as vice-president of both the St. Louis and the St. Louis County Medical Societies—an inaccurate statement (good thing Jabby did not know of this) since the former colonel is vice-president of the St. Louis Medical Society only. At any rate he is qualified to serve on both staffs hence we do not feel too badly.

Bill Engel