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The Rouen Post, January 1948

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COLONEL GAY AWARDED BRONZE STAR MEDAL

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9419, 4 February, 1944, a Bronze Star Medal was awarded to Lt. Colonel Ellory C. Gay for meritorious services from November 1944 to April 1945. He was first awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon but this was later revoked and replaced by the Bronze Star Medal.

Dr. Gay was attached to the 21st General Hospital at Mirecourt, France, in charge of Moxillo-Facial Team No. 2, 21st Auxiliary Surgical Group from 8 November, 1944 until 15 April, 1945. He served with the unit through the “Bulge” campaign. His present address is 1409 Battery Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. We extend congratulations to the Colonel.

CITATION FOR MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Lucile H. Gardner, American civilian, for exceptional and various achievements which aided the United States in the prosecution of the war against the enemy in Continental Europe, as Assistant Field Director, American Red Cross, while serving with the 21st General Hospital, from 7 February 1945 to 5 October 1945. Within a short time she molded her under-staffed Red Cross unit into an efficiently operating organization, enabling it to cope with and meet the tremendous need of patients and hospital personnel numbering four to five thousand. Her tireless work without thought for her own convenience or rest, her resourcefulness, and whole hearted interest in patients and personnel alike contributed materially to the maintenance of a high state of morals and were decisive factors in the successful accomplishments of the hospital’s mission.

Miss Gardner was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the Commander-in-Chief, European Command. She was with the 21st General Hospital at Mirecourt, France in 1945. Her present address is Hotel Victoria, Des Moines, Iowa and her permanent address is 1610 South 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois. October 29, 1947, Miss Gardner’s home town newspaper said, “The Medal and Citation were presented in ceremonies in the headquarters of the Sangamon County Chapter of the American Red Cross, by Colonel Roy S. Dalfneres, on behalf of Lt. General Walter H. Walker, Commanding General of the Fifth Army. Rouen Post extends sincere felicitations.

DEMUMBRUN CHALLENGES KNUDSEN

Bill Engel
Box 600
Las Vegas, New Mexico
January 9, 1948

Dear Mr. Engel:

In the October 1947 issue of The Rouen Post there is a long article written by Grethe Knudsen in which she makes a statement which I would like to challenge: “President Benes, whom the majority had faith in, has been a big disappointment. He has been to Moscow, received his orders and has communists in high offices of the government.”

Miss Knudsen may be a competent nurse, but she is not a qualified political analyst. If she had read the history of Czechoslovakia she would discover that Eduard Benes has been for years a champion of democracy in Eastern Europe. She would also comprehend that it was the Western democracies which threw Czechoslovakia to the nazis, and the United States of America especially who bears the brunt of responsibility for the failure of the Czech democracy unity. Having thrown her to the nazis, we did not hesitate to throw her to the communists. President Benes is first and foremost interested in the
welfare of his country; post-war pressure in Moscow has forced this gallant and democratic nation to bow before the dictates of the Stalinist clique. Or would Miss Knudsen have Czechoslovakia declare war on Russia and suffer alone the humiliation she underwent in 1939?

A very good friend of mine, Edward B. Hitchcock, author of the only reputable biography of Eduard Benes: I Built a Temple to Peace (Harpers) has clearly outlined the responsibility Benes bears to the integrity of the Czech people. Mr. Benes is still respected and loved in his country for his achievements in the past. If modern contingency has forced him to accept the dictates of irrevocable power, who can say that the United States in its UN dealings with Russia has not played ostrich!

Mr. Hitchcock, who resides in Prague and who writes for Czech newspapers, informs me that his book is a best-seller in Czechoslovakia, and that Eduard Benes, one of the great democrats of all time, enjoys, among the intellectual and informed citizenry of his country, the same measure of popularity characterizing the long years of his struggle for Czech freedom and democracy.

The times make liars and cowards of us all. There was a critical period in history Czechoslovakia singlehanded challenged the nazi Wehrmacht. If the Western democracies had kept the faith and come to her rescue then, a great war could have been avoided, and President Benes would not find it necessary now to swallow, what for him must be poison, the humiliation of Russian dictatorship!

I enjoyed Miss Knudsen’s letter, but I feel she is not qualified to judge the position, equivocal though it may appear on the surface, of one of the few democratically-minded entities left in Europe. Thanks for The Post, you’re doing a good job.

Very truly yours,
Roland R. DeMunbrun

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Colonel Charles F. Shook, retired, formerly of the regular army Medical Corps is now a member of Rouen Post. The Colonel served with the 21st General and has written us. “I think that this is an outstanding honor and I appreciate the opportunity of continuing my friendship with that grand outfit, the 21st General Hospital”. From all we can learn, the Colonel is a “pretty swell guy” too and we are happy to have him as a member of our post.

James Hubbard of the 21st General’s X-ray service has written us, “I’ve been fortunate enough to receive your issues of THE ROUEN POST up to July, 1947, but that was the last issue I received; also I would like a membership application to the Rouen Post No. 242. (Ed’s note: Both items taken care of). If you can find space to print the following in the Post I sure would appreciate it and I know the party concerned would also. I think most of the members of 21st General Hospital will remember a boy named Gus Olah. He had taken ill while in France and from that illness is still confined to a veteran’s hospital in Chicago. His address can be gotten from his family who reside at 905 Mountain, Aurora, Illinois. I know he would be happy to hear from some of the old gang. Well “Ed” I’ll be waiting for those swell issues of THE ROUEN POST, and please don’t forget to keep me on the mailing list. And give all my regards to all of the old gang”. We immediately dispatched a letter to August’s family which his mother, Mrs. Joseph Olah answered. We quote, “This is in reply to the letter you wrote the third of January concerning my son, August D. Olah. I am indeed very happy to learn of your very kind thoughtfulness concerning his welfare. He is getting along very nicely and I’m sure it won’t be too long before he is discharged. The address is—Veteran’s Administration, Ward 66, Downey, Ill. Last week end we sent Gus a letter and some of the current back numbers of our paper. Also we charged Grethe Knudsen with the job of contacting the boy. Her answer was, “Of course, I’ll go and see Mr. Olah and I have just now written him a letter”. Fine, we knew she would respond in that manner. Incidentally, the gal writes that the state of her exchequer has forced her to take employment, that she is now working in a doctor’s office, with a clinic. She really did alright for herself for a couple of years. Anyone knowing of any other cases similar to Olah’s let us know about them, although we hope there aren’t any others.
Colonel Cady forwarded to us a holiday greeting card received from Viola and Bob Anderson with a note, "Thanks for your card which we left in Carlisle so haven't the address. I finished my internship at Johns Hopkins and have remained as administrative assistant. My principal charge at the moment is in the Department of Radiology. Trust your work is progressing to your satisfaction. Please give my regards to Messrs. Dann, Bolotin and other poker players from Bou Hanifia you may encounter. All the best". Bob Anderson was 1st Lt. Robert A. Anderson, MAC, to the 21st General in Africa, later aide to Major Gen. Morrison G. Stayer, headquarters, N.A.T.O., USA at Caserta, Italy...Another card came from Dr. & Mrs. Melvin A. Dillman, 420 Monastery Avenue, Philadelphia, Penn. Dr. Cady notes that this "Mrs." business is news, indeed! Dr. Dillman is radiologist to the Veteran's Administration Hospital at Philadelphia. He served with the 21st General in 1944 and 1945.

* * *

Joe Comorato formerly of Chicago, now residing at 6732 Sutherland Avenue, St. Louis, comments, "I read the little article concerning Samuel Barbee, the maestro and conductor of the P. O. W. symphony. I thought you might be interested in knowing that while on my honeymoon, in New Orleans, this last October, I ran into Sam and his wife on the street. They are to be parents soon or possibly are by this time. Yes, he did return to Italy for further study. His wife is a very attractive 17 year old girl, who is amazed at this country, America. Sam is a real estate salesman at the present time, but he mentioned that when the season opens he would join some symphony orchestra which he named, but I do not recall. He is going to tour with it."

* * *

Correction—In the November issue we gave Berenice Haywood's address as Clayton, Ohio—should have been Cleveland. That has since been changed to 79 Haven Avenue, Apartment 52. New York, N. Y. Incidentally, Berenice formerly of the 21st General, is the latest recruit to join Rouen Post.

R. J. Richner, 630 Yale Avenue, Fresno, Calif., the first 21st "soapbox orator", better known as "Shorty", sent Christmas greetings to Bill Stack in the form of a necktie and muffler. Regretfully we lost Richner for a number of years, not having a forwarding address after he left Pixley, Calif. Mary Jane Richner, daughter of R. J. and Mrs. Richner was married in the late summer to Ralph D. Smith, Jr., at Fresno. Mary Jane attended the Delano Union High School and the Central California Commercial college and until her marriage was employed by the Roma Wine Company. Mr. Smith is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Smith, Sr., of Fresno. He is a graduate of the Roosevelt High School and attended the Fresno State College and the University of California at Berkeley. During the war he served in the navy for two and one half years.

* * *

THANKS to the readers who have made contributions to THE ROUEN POST. George M. Polk, M. D. of Independence, Missouri with a number of the "firsts" to his credit as a contributor, scored another first, with a note, "I enjoy getting The Rouen Post." Spence Allen was right behind him with a letter: "This morning I received the September and October copies of the Post paper and certainly want to congratulate you. I am not surprised that the treasury is depleted for the "Great Auk" would never have dropped out had there been anything left. It is a pleasure to enclose the small check now that we all know that the money will be spent for publication of the paper only and not a lot of other miscellaneous uses to which the "Great Auk" applied it. Best wishes to all for a very Happy, Prosperous & Healthy New Year... Former 21st Generalities responding with notes... Carroll Wolford of Newberry, Indiana, sent a note. "Enjoy the Rouen Post very much. Perhaps this will help a little toward its publication.

... Annie Laurie Dickson, a contribution, a change of address and a note. "I enjoy The Rouen Post very much. Please change my address to, Nurses Quarters, Wood, Wisconsin. Happy New Year... John Freedman, E. D., 4853 Second Boulevard, Detroit,
Michigan. "I read your appeal for funds in the Post bulletin of September, 1947. Please accept the enclosed check as my contribution for the bulletins which I have been receiving and have been enjoying very much. Please keep sending to me. I was radiologist to the 21st General Hospital at Mirecourt, France from November 1944 through May 1945. Please extend my best wishes and most sincere personal regards to all men of the 21st General."... Alice (Kokada) Lewis of Scotia, Nebraska writes: "Enclosed is a check which I hope may help the Post News along a little financially. Both Jim and I enjoy it so much. Even though he wasn't a member of the unit, he knew many of the personnel. We hope before too many years go by we will be able to attend one of the reunions. I still intend finding out which of our illustrious medical officers slipped my prospective bridegroom a "mickey" one Christmas eve at the Terme Lock in 1943. Consequently I spent the evening nursing him back to health so he'd be in fit condition to fill out the papers for a wedding. And I had on my evening gown for a gala dance to be held in the ballroom of the Terme Agnano. It was all very tragic at the time but always good for a laugh when we reminisce about it now. Keep the news coming our way—we look forward to it."... Mary A. Jenne, R.N. Nassau Hospital, Mineola, N.Y. writes: Am enclosing check of a small fee to help finance "The Rouen Post". I am very grateful for the issues which I have received and I am always interested in news of my former co-workers of the 21st General Hospital. The privilege of being part of the 21st General, I count as one of my greatest honors. I appreciate among many other nurses that we were most fortunate in having the BEST chief nurse in the U.S. Army and one of the best commanding officers I was deeply touched to read Col. Cady’s citation, an honor he well deserves."... Jennie Sargent, W. Boyd Sargent's spouse, penned this. Thanks for everything. Please change our address to Route 2, Box 111 A, Kent, Ohio. "Sarge" has enjoyed the recent POSTS so much—and with it came a nice check.

**DR. GILBERT TAKES EXCEPTION**

In the December issue of THE ROUEN POST we described some of Allan Gilbert's antics during the reunions, to which he takes exception in a letter we shall quote. We think we were kind to him omitting such details as how he crashed a wedding breakfast of parties unknown to him and then returned to the suite with six empty champagne bottles all iced and resembling the real thing, how his little "joke" fell as flat as some of his anecdotes, when no one felt physically able to indulge in that sort of liquid that early in the morning, and he paid the head waiter $15.00 for the pail, the ice and the "empty" bottles. The letter with many portions deleted.

Fayetteville, Arkansas
January 12, A.D. 1948.

My dear William:

I had been intending to send you a small contribution toward the upkeep of the worthy enterprise known as THE ROUEN POST, of which you are the editor. Now I don't know that I shall. It seems you must have run out of worthwhile copy, else why the waste of printer's ink and costly paper devoted to the "ridgerunner". Enclosed please find check to help a little in the continued perpetuation of your nefarious project.

For your information I did not wear pajamas, (ridge-runners sleep raw) and had you paid particular attention you would have noticed that I had both feet back of my head. That posture is a ridge-runners favorite for complete relaxation. It affords proper application of the benefits of the rays of the setting sun to the southern exposure, a part of the anatomy rarely benefitted by such treatment (Ed's note: at this point he made a suggestion which must be deleted).

Enough of the nonsense, I certainly enjoyed your reminiscences. We are slowly passing out of the picture as you say. It is wonderful the "POST" has perpetuated itself and I just wish it were possible to meet with you all more often. Give my love to all those who are worthy and keep the good work up. Tell Bill Stack I enjoy the Telephone News thoroughly. (Ed's note: Bill is a feature writer for the Southwestern Bell Telephone News).

Yours comme d'habitude,
Allan A. Gilbert

220 No. 4th Street
St. Louis 2, Mo.
DINNER MEETING - JANUARY 22, 1948
CANDLELIGHT HOUSE
7800 CLAYTON ROAD - ST. LOUIS COUNTY
7:30 P.M.

For years we have turned the JANUARY meeting over to former members of Mobile Unit 4, an off-shoot of Base Hospital Unit 21 of World War I. They again will have charge of the program this year.

At this meeting, Colonels Fred T. Murphy and Borden S. Veeder will be the honored guests - to pay tribute to their able leadership of Base Hospital Unit 21 during World War I and their continued interest in the welfare of each and every former member since demobilization.

Your presence is desired.

Public transportation is available to within one square of 7800. Take Lindell-Clayton bus to Hanley Road. Walk one square West.

PLEASE do not fail to return the enclosed card.

W. E. ENGEL, Adjutant