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CAPTAIN JOHN REED
A SOLDIER'S SOLDIER

Is there a finer tribute, to any man, living or dead, which can be paid by his former commanding officer? Death alone did not remind Colonel Cady, commanding officer of the 21st General Hospital, of the splendid deeds of this fine soldier. When the Colonel last visited in St. Louis, if memory serves us correctly, Ed Manley and this writer visited with Colonel and Mrs. Cady until a very late hour. The conversations brought out many names of persons of the 21st General whom Colonel Cady felt had performed "above and beyond the line of duty" on many occasions. We made notes—and among those notes is the name of Captain John Reed.

We quote Colonel Cady's tribute to this great soldier.

Mr. William Engel
Editor, Rouen Post
St. Louis, Missouri
Dear Bill:

On the morning of July 3, 1948, at about 11:30, while working at my office, I received a telegram addressed to Colonel Lee D. Cady. It read as follows:

"Captain John Reed passed away Army Navy Hospital, Hot Springs, Arkansas, Services Sunday, July 4th, 2:30 P.M. at 201 West Fourth Street, Augusta, Kentucky."

I forwarded a telegram to Mrs. John Reed as follows:

"In name of 21st General Hospital members, I offer sincerest condolences for the premature passing of Captain Reed, a soldier's soldier if there ever was one!"

I tried to wire flowers to the funeral, but was unable to find a reliable exchange.

August 1948

Captain Reed came to the 21st General Hospital sometime during 1944, I believe. March 10, 1945 was the effective date when he was officially transferred into the 21st General Hospital. First Lieutenant Reed was a quiet, unassuming man, friendly when approached, modest, and, I believe, quite tactful. He had the courage of his convictions when it came to doing something to get his job done. He was put in our hospital on detached service by the Base Section Engineer. Later on I learned that he had been something of a "problem child" in his Engineering Unit, and, still later, as his Commanding Officer, I came to associate very well indeed how fortunate the almost 30,000 patients we cared for during our stay in France and the many personnel of our unit and those attached for duty were in having John Reed assigned to the 21st General Hospital for the purpose of maintaining and operating the huge utility plant of the installation. Many of us will recall the two and a half miles of tunnels that he got operating for the numerous buildings and how he kept them operating often by hook and crook and sometimes, as we said, "repairing the steam pipes "with chewing gum and balling wire." There are few people, even unto this day, who knew, or know the calculated risks that he shared with his Commanding Officer in getting the utilities job done.

Lieutenant Reed not only lacked materials to maintain his big power plant and his utilities, but he lacked personnel of all engineering variety, skilled and unskilled. He had rare judgement of men. Once when we were just getting his soldier and French Civilian power plant crew in training operation, there was a dangerous explosion. My French Liaison official and I were ready to deal harshly with the civilian engineer who made the mistake, for we were very sensitive to signs of sabotage. Lieutenant Reed came to ask that the Frenchman not only not be punished, but he kept on the same job. "That fellow may kill you and a lot of other men." I warned severely. "No, Colonel," he said respectfully, "I don't believe so. You see, he did not try to save himself, but remained in the steam where he might have been scalded to death, and turned the right valves—He will be a better man for us now—and we won't have to let some other new man make a similar mistake." So, that was one of those "calculated risks" we shared successfully.

Another thing Reed apparently lacked was a reliable quitting time clock. Somehow, it seemed to be good only for meeting appointments. On December 26, 1944, when the Luftwaffe chose a nice clear moonlight night for visiting us, Reed was still hanging around that very important power plant. The bomb missed it by about 100 yards, and had been dropped a second or so too late to hit Reed and his men dead center. He was not trying to be a hero either, for I had to dig for this detail of the report. Reed got most of the crew and German Prisoners of War out of the plant in anticipation of the next bomb, but he stayed where he could watch the controls!

As I recall from memory, Lieutenant Reed was a self-made engineer, but there seemed to be nothing too complicated or too big, or, indeed, too outlandish a demand which L, as his Commanding Officer, might make upon him that he would not be nonplused or fail to produce the desired results. He realized that we always had almost 6,000 people to work for at all times. He was rarely censored and he never came asking for praise.

When he was actually transferred to the 21st General Hospital, I was touched by this gratitude for my having found on my part, cause for a purely selfish act. Some-
time later I was again impressed at the sincere modesty he showed when I was able to decorate him with the Bronze Star Medal in the big Officers' Mess at Mirecourt, for he never expected his services to be recognized to any such extent.

And now, I am profoundly saddened by the loss of this officer who never permitted his eyes to deviate from the beacon light of a soldier's duty.

I am sorry that the Rouen Post does not reach all the former members of the 21st General Hospital. I hope that all of his friends who read this will communicate with his family.

Sincerely yours,
LEE D. Cady, M.D.
Branch Medical Director

MRS. NOLA O'CONNOR KUHNE DIES IN COLORADO

Mrs. Nola O'Connor (Kuhne) a former member of the 21st General Hospital, died Saturday evening July 17, 1948 in a Pueblo, Colorado Hospital. She had been ill about eight weeks.

Funeral services were conducted at Grand Island, Nebraska, by the Reverend Walter P. Hill, pastor of the East Lincoln Christian Church, with burial in Grand Island Cemetery. Military rites were in charge of Post 1347 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Nola O'Connor Kuhne was born at St. Michael, Nebraska to Anthony and Mary O'Connor. When she was a small child her father died. Soon afterward, Mrs. O'Connor and the children moved to Grand Island to make their home.

Mrs. Kuhne attended the Grand Island schools and was graduated from Senior High school with the class of 1930. She later entered the University of Nebraska. Upon her graduation from the physical education department, she went to Rochester, Minn., where she completed her studies in physiotherapy and served her internship.

She enlisted in the United States army as a physiotherapist and served overseas with the 21st General Hospital in the African campaign, the invasion of Italy, and later in the European theater of action. At the completion of hostilities, she was a first lieutenant. Nola O'Connor served with distinction with the 21st General.

Following the war Mrs. Kuhne went to Pueblo, Colo., where she was the girls physical education instructor in the Pueblo High School.

On August 31, 1946, she and Mr. Kuhne were married at Pueblo and made their home there. She was a member of the First Christian Church of Pueblo, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and of the American Physiotherapy association.

Nola O'Connor Kuhne is survived by her husband; her infant son, Michael David Kuhne; her mother, Mrs. Mary O'Connor, Grand Island; and one brother, Dr. Kenneth O'Connor, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

We mourn with their families, the passing of these two gallant members of the 21st General Hospital. They served faithfully and well in the war—The passing of Captain Reed and Lieutenant O'Connor leaves a void in the lives of their families but there is compensation in the memories that they gave their all—and have earned high places in the life to come.

OTHER DEATHS

Ernestine Hageman's father, Ernest Hageman entered into rest on June 3, 1948. Mr. Hageman lingered in illness for a considerable period before he was called. He is survived by Mrs. Hageman, his wife, and Ernie. Shortly after the death of Ernest Hageman, Ernestine's mother had a fall which seriously impaired her mobility for a long period. During that time Ernie was doing triple duty, but fine soldier that she is, carried on without complaint—and had cheery greetings whenever we encountered her. Miss Hageman served with the 21st General.

Monday, June 7, 1948 Mrs. Iva L. Kelly passed away. She was the mother of Edna Kelly a member of the 21st General during World War II. Other survivors are Edward Kelly, Edna's father and Mrs. Kelly's sister Mrs. Grace Graham. Iva League Kelly was a Past Matron of Benjamin Franklin Chapter No. 393, O.E.S.

Margaret Nolan. On Wednesday, August 18 at 12 noon was called by her Maker. She was the mother of Mrs. Saidie Nolan Hausmann, a member of Base Hospital 21 of World War I and Edward T. Nolan. Mrs. Nolan had been in ill health due to infirmities for a long time. However, she did live to a ripe old age.

It has been reported to us that Helen Leet
of the 21st General lost her mother not too long ago. Mrs. Leet lived and died in Colorado. We regret we do not have any further details.

The members of Rouen Post 242 mourn with each of our members and their families and express sincere sympathy.

"These hearts were woven of human joys and cares Washed marvelously with sorrow, swift to mirth. The years had given them kindness. Dawn was theirs, And sunset, and the colours of the earth. These had seen movement, and heard music; known Slumber and waking; loved; gone proudly befriended; Felt the quick stir of wonder; sat alone; Touched flowers and furs and cheeks. All this is ended."

Rupert Brooke.

BIRTHS

And then there comes to us an announcement of cheer—Introducing someone.

And it is none other than Kathleen Mary Orth, born May 21, 1948 the daughter of Mr. and Mr. C. Orth. Our heartiest congratulations and may there be many more happy little Orths.

And while on the subject of births, we have a letter from Arthur Nie, now living in Bell, California, telling us of their third child, Arthur Jr., born July 28, 1948. Mrs. Nie is the former Bernadine Daugherty of the nursing staff of the 21st General.

But all news of the Nie family is not good. Arthur has been in the hospital with a recurrence of hepatitis which he picked up while with the 21st in Africa. Arthur writes that he has been on his back since June 18, and his physician has informed him that he will not be up and about until sometime in September. ‘I remember how I mentally lashed Dr. Wedig when he kept me in bed a few weeks in Africa, writes Mr. Nie—but this tour seems as though it is going on forever.’

We are happy about the glad tidings Arthur’s letter conveyed—and quite unhappy about his health. Rouen Post 242 members all wish for a speedy recovery.

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MARGARET W. BEUMER
LORINE E. MULLINS
FRANCES E. WARD

Did, on June 8, 198, receive degrees as Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Washington University.

We are very proud of our girls, as few women have the courage and patience to further their education to such an extent. The members of Rouen Post 242 and all former members of both our units extend felicitations and best wishes to these splendid women. May their cups of happiness and success ever be brimful to the over-flowing.

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WILLARD MC QUOID HEADS ROUEN POST

Rouen Post 242 elected the following members to fill the various offices for the ensuing year: Commander, Willard G. McQuoid; 1st Vice Commander, Dr. Earl E. Shepard; 2nd Vice Commander, Edward J. Manley; 3rd Vice Commander, Margaret Beumer; Adjutant, Bill Engel; Finance Officer, Dr. Truman G. Drake; Historian, Emma Frohbeiter; Associate Historian, W. C. Stack; Service Officer, Charles H. Jablonsky; Chaplain, Dr. Carl W. Lattner; Sgt-at Arms, Dr. David N. Kerr; Child Welfare Chairman, Edna Haase.

** ** **

Dear Bill:

Everytime I’ve received the Post lately I’ve promised myself to send you a check and just didn’t follow up, so glad you sent the reminder and hope the enclosed will help a little.

I look forward to receiving each copy and reading about the reunions and good times you have.

Had a nice visit with Mary Stebbins and Nina Shelton Tucker early this spring while I was in the hospital. Have been in the wheel chair now 8 years so don’t get out much.

Regards to all the old bunch.

Sincerely,

Ruby Ielle Dearing

Dear Bill:

Having received a short communication from you, I am making a brief reply. I am surprised that you would send such a letter to Texas. We don’t have any money down here—the only thing we have to collect money from is jackrabbits and rattle snakes; so you can see our source or revenue is very scant. However, I am mailing you a small mite as I am always anxious to receive the Post. Certainly glad to hear from you and best wishes to the gang.

Very truly yours,

Bert C. Ball, M.D.

1427 Minnesota
Kansas City, Kansas

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a check to help pay for the costs of printing the ‘Rouen Post’, it is so enjoyable to hear news of
Dear Bill:

The matter of a thousand miles or so makes it too difficult for me to attend the cocktail party and dinner this coming Saturday evening, but I wish with all my heart that I could be there.

I hope you'll let it be known to one and all that I am sorry to miss, and that I send them good wishes every one. I'd be mighty glad to hear from the 21sters, or to see any of them who might wander this way. In case you cannot place Rosemont easily, it is part of Philadelphia's well-known Main Line.

Incidentally, make note of my address, will you? I have never had a copy of the paper forwarded from Baltimore, but I did get the letter about it needing some support, for which I send this small contribution.

Sincerely,

John R. Peterson,
ex-Chaplain, 21st General

Jefferson, Iowa

My dear Bill Engel:

Your recent invitation arrived while Jim and I were taking a holiday on the west coast. Please accept my sincere appreciation as well as my regrets.

I read each issue of the post with avid interest as it seems my only contact with the old friends. By the way, how is Colonel Cady progressing with the history of the 21st? At Xmas I received a very remarkable volume, compiled by the 3rd Infantry Division and since their foreign trek was practically identical, the whole issue is so nostalgic. It will be good to have our own volume, somewhat less tactical and with the many personal touches.

My very best wishes are yours and thanks for always including me on the 21st party list.

Cordially,

Alice Thompson Andrew

Dear Mr. Engel:

I'm glad to receive news of my army friends. Enclosed find check to help with your expenses. The address you have been using is correct.

We like Japan fine. There certainly is a difference in being overseas in war time and peace time. We have a new house and new furniture, with Japanese help to do the housework and look after our two children, Suz 4 years old and Buz 10 months.

Sincerely,

Elaine Fraehly

Dear Bill:

This is my first occasion to write to you concerning "the Rouen Post". I have enjoyed reading it and have been tempted many times to write but when you are in college it takes every spare moment to keep up. This happened to be my case. I finished my last examination today, so no more school until September.

Many things have happened since I left the 21st General Hospital in France. Was discharged October 21, 1945 and went right to work. Worked for two years, then came here to Emmanuel Missionary College, Berrien Springs, Michigan to take up a theological course, so have hopes of being a minister in the near future.

I have heard from several of the boys since my discharge. Kenneth Mickelson took on the irrevocable vows of matrimony last August, and is now operating a farm with his brother in Morris, Illinois. Curtis Kindgren went in knee deep in his love affair and was married in October, 1945, and has at the present a third member to his family. As for me I was married in June, 1946.

I am going to Davenport, Iowa for the summer to stay with my folks and the wife's, in the meantime doing some plastering to help with expenses.

Received several letters from Colonels Beam and Patton not too long ago and enjoyed hearing from them very much. Would like to see everyone again but find it impossible at the present time.

Enjoy the Rouen Post and may be able to help in a donation when I get back to work. Give my regards to the gang and here's wishing you the best.

Worked in headquarters and registrar's office.

A 21ster,

Eston "Bud" Allen

"Skin and Bones Allen"

Dear Mr. Engel:

I am sorry that I was not at the last 21st reunion and certainly hope that my wife and I will be there for the next one.

Please extend my very best regards and a sincere hello to all my friends of the former 21st General Hospital and all you grand people of Base Hospital 21 whom I hope to have the pleasure of meeting in person in the very near future. I feel that I know a good many of you already from the articles in the Rouen Post.

Sincerely,

Coleman Friedman

Dear Bill Engel:

This is again early in the morning after, and the beginning of Mrs. Boemer's and my vacation of fishing, golfing for ten days near Brainard, Minnesota, then a trip by train to Tacoma, back here to Minneapolis to pick up the Chrysler and journey home.

Drove 550 miles from St. Louis to Minneapolis in one day and fortunately obtained accommodations at the Curtis. With a wonderful filet mignon at $1.50 and beef tenderloin at $2.25 with full course accompanying dinner, and orchestration to boot. Have not yet had time to contact Chaplain Hook, here.

Saturday night, August 7th, the most colorful Legion Parade I have seen, took off from right in front of our hotel. All of Minnesota's power and pep was massed in it. This was the beginning of the Minnesota American Legion convention. The 40 and 8 part of the parade was the most powerful, while the girl legionaires, majorettes and bands pleased me most.

It seems the "old fellows" have more sustained energy and Legion loyalty than the World War II additions, but maybe the atomic and unsettled world conditions have maintained our minds in a confused state.

Let us have peace and we will continue our super prosperity.

Lots of luck to all.

Most cordially,

L. C. Boemer
This is an important meeting. The nominating committee will report its recommendations for the official family - 1948-1949. Following the report the regular meeting will be adjourned and a special meeting will be called for the purpose of electing the officers.

Your Commander, Dr. Beam, urgently requests your presence.

W. E. Engel, Adjutant