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Devoted to the interests of the members of B.H. 21 World War I and the 21st Gen. Hosp. World War II

July, 1951

Dr. E. C. Ernst, Sr. GIVEN AMA AWARD

Dr. Edwin C. Ernst, Sr., veteran of B.H. 21 and a leading member of Rouen Post 242, director of the departments of radiology at De Paul Hospital and Barnard Skin and Cancer Hospital, was given the American Medical Association's Scientific Award of Merit at the group's annual convention in Atlantic City, N.J., recently.

The award was made in recognition of Dr. Ernst's work in the development of new methods in the application of radium treatment in cancer of the cervix, according to the citation.

Dr. Ernst lives at 2 Schultz Rd., Oakland, Mo., and has offices in the Beaumont Building, St. Louis, Mo.

* * * *

DR. CASBERG DISPUTES M'ARTHUR; SOVIET NOT AFTER PEACE, HE SAYS

Russia has had no change of heart and "certainly does not want peace," Dr. Melvin Casberg, dean of St. Louis University School of Medicine, who was a military observer with both the Chinese Nationalists and Communists during World War II, declared recently.

Dr. Casberg also served with the 21st General Hospital during World War II.

The peace move in Korea, Dr. Casberg told an Advertising Club luncheon at Hotel Statler, in St. Louis, proves only that the Kremlin is at last convinced it can't lure United Nations forces into embroilment on the Chinese mainland, which he said was the original objective of the Korean War.

"But that doesn't mean outbreaks in Iran or elsewhere aren't likely," he added.

Gen. MacArthur's policy of bombing Chinese coastal cities but making no landings would have been "impossible," said Dr. Casberg. "Once we got the door open, we couldn't back out," he said.

Chinese Communists in Korea are "taking a terrific beating" and are "screaming for supplies" which Russia is reluctant to send them, Dr. Casberg declared. Dr. Casberg assailed the "big stick" policy in the far east as "outmoded." The Oriental masses will follow whoever promises to fill their stomachs - it is a fallacy to suppose that all we have to do to keep them in line is get tough with them, he said.

* * * *

Ed. Note! The foregoing articles on Dr. Ernst and Dr. Casberg are reprinted from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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ALBERT LUSTIG STILL AT V.A. HOSPITAL

In our March 1951 issue we reported on a letter we had from the 80 year father of Albert Lustig of the 21st G.H. Unit. Now we have a letter from Al which we quote:

My dear Comrade:

I am happy to read some good news in your paper and very sorry to read the bad ones. However, it is the will of God, so we must take the bad with the good. I am still in the Vet's Hospital at Northport, L.I., N.Y. and so far there is no cure for my sickness, Multiple Sclerosis. My folks and friends are good to me and I receive their presents and visits every week.

I wish you could find some of our doctors who know about that ailment. I can sleep and have a good appetite but sometimes I don't know what I am doing and my walk is slow.

So this is all. Good Luck to you and God bless you and all of my pals.

Albert A. Lustig.

When we read Al's letter we knew there was only one person qualified to answer it and that Ed, Manley, also a victim of this disease. Ed has fought hard to overcome the handicaps MS leaves with its victims.
and is holding his own very well. In fact, it was our observation when he paid us a long visit recently, that he is improved both physically and in his mental attitude. He has attacked his problems with a philosophy which men of lesser fortitude could not command.

* * *

We quote Ed. Manley's answer to Al--

Dear Al:

Bill Engel received your letter informing him of your condition. In his usual manner of taking a personal interest in each and every member of the Post he passed a copy of your letter to me and asked that I give you the latest on Multiple Sclerosis as we know it out here. He felt that because I have MS I could bring you the most information from a patient's standpoint. I'll try my best knowing well that Bill could have done equally as well. He asked that I extend you his personal thanks for your well wishes.

My name won't be familiar to you as I left the 21st in April '42 before you joined in June. But I had been drafted with the "New York Gang" into the 53rd and then the 21st, so I know that we have many mutual friends. Your Dad wrote Bill a letter last year but did not mention your disability by name so we did not know of the seriousness at that time.

At first Al, let me assure you that something is being done about Multiple Sclerosis. In case you don't know there is the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in New York City whose purpose is to "stimulate, co-ordinate and support research into, and to obtain and disseminate information respecting the causes, prevention, alleviation and cure of Multiple Sclerosis and other diseases of the central nervous system." From this statement you can see that the cause of MS is still a mystery so there is no cure but believe me Al, there is plenty of HOPE. Each day brings knowledge to more people of the existence of this disease with the result that more and more research is being started in the neurological field. National magazine articles, radio and TV comments and even the comic sheets are bringing the message to the public. Rex Morgan M.D. in the Post Dispatch comics is running a story on a pilot afflicted with MS. Thru the National Society, chapters are being formed in the principal cities in this country and throughout the world, which is doing a lot to tabulate the number of victims. At present the Society estimates that there are 250,000 cases in this country and they consider this conservative. So we are not alone. But I am heartened by all of the activity of the Society. They have about 13 research projects in operation and at least five clinics established for MS patients.

All I ask is that the cause and cure is found in time that my three children do not have to be exposed to MS in their lifetime.

In an effort to start something here in St. Louis, I've formed a Volunteer Committee to establish a chapter. To date we have about 240 people on our active list of which 62 are MS patients, the rest being friends and relatives of these patients. To get a charter we need a Medical Advisory Committee of at least five M.D.'s and a Board of Trustees. We now have the Medical Group formed and we have top men in their fields. You'll be glad to know that they are Washington University men and are in daily contact with doctors of the 21st. That should answer your question!

Our big problem now is recruiting a Board of Trustees who should be interested in MS and influential in the community to spark fund raising projects for research. It is going to be our policy to foster research and not attempt to operate a clinic. Wish us luck in our efforts. From this activity I have found that no two cases of MS are alike, so the research becomes more difficult. I assume when you say that at times you don't know what you are doing that you mean you lack certain sensations and co-ordinations, you are not sure of your footing or grasping objects. Glad to hear that you sleep well. I'm often disturbed by my legs jumping at the knee which keeps me from sleeping at times. My walk is slow but I'm able to get around without help. I get to school three times a week but on the alternate days I have to sack out from fatigue. But all in all I feel very fortunate. I have J.J. Gitt of the 21st as my doctor and I know that
he is doing everything possible for me and my relief that I've had has been thru his efforts. In fact all the folks of the 21st out here have been very wonderful to me both when I was in the hospital last, and ever since. I feel certain that there were many consultations among the doctors over my case and a great desire to assist in any way that they could. From my contacts with them in our Reserve unit and at Legion activities I know that they are very interested in MS so you can be sure that they are doing everything possible to clear up the mystery. They are a wonderful group and we can both be glad that we were affiliated with them during the war.

Al, in looking back over what I've written I find it very voluminous but I can't spare words when it comes to MS. I hope that I can inspire you to arm yourself with the facts on MS and then take every opportunity to tell others about it because in personal contacts we can create the publicity to further stimulate interest in MS research. Now a few suggestions if you don't already know of them.

1. Contact the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at 270 Park Avenue, New York, 17, N.Y. and become a member so that you will be on their mailing list and receive the latest information available. Give them the information that you are a patient, etc. Get your friends to join too.

2. I have to assume that you are a member of the American Legion but if you aren't a member of the Disabled American Veterans do so immediately for they can be of assistance in many ways. Their bi-monthly newspaper has news about veterans with MS and the latest information on legislation affecting disabled veterans. It will keep you posted and you will find the Service Officer of both the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans ready to help you with any problem. Any member of your family can make these contacts for you.

3. Above all don't lose heart... you indicate that your friends are good to you. Continue to let them help you all they can. You'll find that they are very anxious to help if you let them. Trust in GOD. I personally feel that HE works in strange ways and that our afflictions have a purpose. I've been blessed in many ways since the MS hit me but I try to spend my time counting the blessings and in that way don't have much time to think about supposed troubles.

Thanks again for your letter telling us of your difficulty and if there is any further information that I can give you, let me know.

Sincerely yours... Edw. J. Manley.

Ed's note: If each of you could sit across the desk from Ed and HEAR him talk about, not his affliction, but how he plans to help others, the enthusiasm with which he is devoting... yes, dedicating himself to doing something about discovering more about Multiple Sclerosis, you would soon be convinced that his being a victim, may become a great boon to all mankind.

* * * *

NELLIE HEINTZELMAN FOUND DEAD

Our information on the sudden death of Miss Heintzelman of Base Hospital 21 is but fragmentary. Frank Depke telephoned our office and advised our secretary that Miss Nellie Heintzelman died on July 3, 1951 but that her body was not found until July 6 or 7, 1951. The information is that the landlord, not having seen or heard from her for several days, finally broke into Miss Heintzelman's apartment, which was at 112 Magnolia Avenue, Long Beach, Calif. She was 71 years old.

Nellie Heintzelman was an interesting person. She was out our way several years ago and your writer had a long conversation with her about her life and its ramifications. Unfortunately we did not record the details but if our memory has not forsaken us we can yet remember a few of the highlights.

Miss Heintzelman, as we remember it, was discharged from the Army in Europe and then joined the American Red Cross whose person-
nel were serving everywhere in the occupied areas.

Her assignment was at Russian Prison Camps where she gained a wealth of experience and knowledge. Being a person of infallible memory she described all of the horrifying details connected with this assignment. Nellie Heintzelman's experiences were many.

Upon completion of this assignment she returned to the United States and lived with her sister at Dayton, Ohio--for a rest. Being of restless disposition she soon moved on and staked a homestead claim near Las Vegas. Her tales of the happenings there may be classed as legendary and even if we remembered them we would require several issues to cover the field.

Leaving the Las Vegas area Heintzelman migrated to California and has been living in Long Beach ever since we have been publishing The Rouen Post. She was a member of Rouen Post 242 from the time of its organization.

GEORGE TABOR DIES

George Tabor of Marine, Illinois, father of Amy Tabor of the 21st General Hospital Unit, died, suddenly, Wednesday, July 4, 1951. He was 69 years of age.

Mr. Tabor was the father of six children. An outstanding citizen of Marine and a member of the Christian Church, a fine Christian gentleman, he was loved and respected by all.

His daughter Amy is one of Rouen Post 242 and the 21st General's best loved members.

We mourn with the family and regret at the time of going to press that we do not have more detailed information on Mr. Tabor.

AGAIN WE HAVE SCORED

We quote a card from Charles Fox of West Palm Beach, Florida:

Dear Bill: Don't let them fool you, it is real service to let us find out where the others are, most of all poor folks who do not get around much. Had a visit from or with Francis (Frank) Kendall of Chattanooga, Tennessee the other day. He had seen my address in the paper. Hope you can keep up the pace. Thanks for your news.

Sincerely, Charles.

Dear Mr. Engel: A note for address change on Elizabeth Brua Monroe, 522 Wilson Ave. Florence, Colo. She has a new infant now. Has been doing work at University of Colorado. Just for interest to keep your mailing list more up to date.

Isabelle N. Kurtz.

Ed. note! Had we not published Miss Brua's name we may never have learned of the change. Isabelle's note is appreciated.

MISSOURI STATE BONUS, W.W. 1.

We have a letter from Frieda M. Damm, of B.H. 21 making inquiry about the bonus and we quote:

20 Edgewood Road, Glen Ridge, N.J.

Dear Bill Engel: Your latest Rouen Post contained some letters from former B.H. 21 members asking for blanks for applying for Missouri State Bonus.

When Base Hospital 21 disbanded in 1919 I stayed in the East, namely, New Jersey and did not apply for the bonus at that time.

Have I missed the boat this time? If not would you kindly send me the necessary blanks? I am taking this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for sending me the Rouen Post so faithfully all these years. I am sending a contribution to Mr. Jackson at this time but would suggest that you decide on a regular yearly rate to carry on the good work. I hope to return to St. Louis some day.

Most sincerely . . . Frieda Damm.

Ed. note! Upon receipt of Miss Damm's letter we tried to procure some blanks from the V.A. at St. Louis and thru the Legion Service Officer but were informed that, henceforth, all applicants must write to "Missouri State Bonus Commission, World War I, Jefferson City, Mo." giving serial number, period of service and an affidavit from two persons who have known them for the past thirty years.

We shall be glad to aid any one who
feels he or she is entitled to this bonus. Forward to us the information requested and we shall follow thru.

* * * * *

Note, please! Since writing the foregoing paragraph we have talked with that great artist of detail and technicalities, the venerable Sergeant Chas. H. Jablonsky of B.H. 21. As usual he informed us we have been approaching this matter improperly. He stated that we can go to the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in the City Hall of St. Louis and quickly and definitely learn whether any person of B.H. 21 is entitled to the Missouri State Bonus and/or if they had previously filed, and either have been paid or rejected. Jabby informs us that one must have been a resident of the State of Missouri at the time he or she joined B.H. 21 in 1917—not Indiana or elsewhere.

* * * * *

The medics have not been able to correct all of Jabby's ailments again, (He has just been returned from the hospital after operations for a couple of bursted ulcers) but they are 100 per cent in accord that the guy possesses one of the keenest minds ever given to any man. Jabby is not going to like us for this comment as only a few days ago he complimented us for not having used his name in our last issue.

* * * * *

NOTES AND LETTERS

May Kelley of B.H. 21 sent Jackson a note with a postal money order. Quote: I am sorry to be so late in sending the contribution. Best wishes to the Rouen Post, I enjoy every edition.

Others following are from 21st G.H. folks.

Dear Mr. Engel: Tahoe City, Calif. I was only with the 21st General about six weeks but felt so much at home, I still feel a part of the Unit. Some will remember me as Ruth Droste. Nela O'Connor and I were assigned there together. I kept in touch with your doings thru Nela.

I am now in the real estate business, quite a change from physical therapy. My husband passed away a year ago so I decided to take over. I write my insurance. Examinations are June 27 so will feel like an honest to goodness business woman. How things change!

Am happy to send you a contribution. I enjoy the Rouen News, even though my stay with you was so short.

Sincerely . . . Ruth Droste.

* * * * *

Dear Bill: Recently transferred from Texas to California. Would appreciate you changing my mailing address to:

Roy L. Prewett, Registrar,
N.P. Hospital, V.A. Center,
Los Angeles, 25, Calif.

* * * * *

From far off Japan we not only have a note but a most generous contribution. This note was written July 4, 1951 and comes from none other than Helen Vereen who was stationed in Tennessee for a long while. We quote:

Dear Mr. Engel: I am enclosing a small contribution to help keep the NEWS-LETTER coming. I sure miss it when I don't get a copy.

Am very glad you and Mrs. Engel are both feeling much better.

Kindest regards to all 21sters.

Sincerely . . . Helen Vereen.

* * * * *

Dear Bill:

I'm sorry I didn't get the opportunity to see and thank you for your thoughtful letter and consideration in forwarding my letter to Dave. (Marty wrote us for information regarding the May Party by Rouen Post. Since Dr. Kerr was in charge of the arrangements we passed it on to him for answer.)

I hope that your health will permit you to make the next party so that I can thank you for all the favors in person.

Bill, if possible, I'd like the address of John Somes in Hollywood, Florida, for I plan on going that way about the middle of August.

Thanks again for the many favors.

Cordially, Marty (Ferguson)

* * * * *

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