The Rouen Post, September 1951

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FRANK DEPKE DIED

Funeral services for Frank M. Depke, former sergeant of Base Hospital 21 and Mobile Hospital No. 4, were held Friday, August 15, 1951 at St. Louis, with interment in National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

A chiropodist here for 27 years, Frank died Sunday, August 12, 1951 of a heart ailment. He was 57 years old and lived at 5822 Delor Street, St. Louis.

One of the original members of Base Hospital 21, Depke was credited with originating several devices for the treatment of foot ills. He enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. To better serve his patients he attended many Clinics for the Advancement of Chiropody.

Depke was a member of Rouen Post 242, National Association of Chiropodists Pedi Research and Missouri Association of Chiropodists.

Sergeant Depke was popular with the members of both the Units with whom he served. As is the case with most of the members of Mobile Unit 4, he was inclined to exult a bit too freely about the heroic deeds of that small but gallant group of hospital corpsmen.

His penchant for British marmalade inspired some wit to hang on to him the moniker of "jam-king", not very euphonious but apparently quite descriptive. From all accounts his taste for conserves did not diminish during his latter years, nor did the "extra handle" ever leave him. Even after his death he still is affectionately referred to in Unit conversation by that name.

Depke's popularity was not confined to the members of his service units. Although we were not there to verify this, the lads have reported that Frank was the most sought-after American Soldier at the Rouen Base by members of the British Expeditionary Forces, W.A.A.C.'s, an organization from which has been patterned our own WAC.

Seriously, the passing of Frank Depke leaves another great void in the ranks of B.H. 21. He shall be missed whenever the members gather. His ready smile and cordial handclasp were as much a part of Unit 21 as the numerals themselves. We grieve, deeply, with his widow Mrs. Joyce Depke, and a daughter Mrs. Gilbert Depke Weber of Huntington, W. Va.

* * *

"When beggars die there are no comets seen;
The heavens themselves blaze forth
the death of princes".

A bientot, Frank Depke.

* * *

GEORGE M. SPALDING DIED

Mr. George M. Spalding, father of Miss Lucille S. Spalding, Chief Nurse of the 21st General Hospital of WW II and present Chief Nurse of Barnes Hospital, died August 11, 1951 at a ripe old age.

Funeral services were held at Lupton Chapel in St. Louis, Tuesday, August 14, 1951, with interment in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis. He was a member of Missouri Lodge No. 1, A.F.&A.M.

Survivors in addition to Lucille are his wife, Lucie Spalding (nee Pettit), sons and daughters Georgie C., Frank P., Virgil P., Charles T., and a number of grand and great grand children.

We extend our deepest sympathy to each member of the family.

* * *

BILL STACK RECOVERING

Belatedly, we have learned that Bill Stack, popular member of Base Hospital 21, WW I, has been hospitalized at St. Luke's Hospital, St. Louis, with a severe case of pneumonia.

A report this afternoon indicates he has recovered to a considerable extent and is able to receive visitors.

* * *
A panel discussion on the controversial subject of anesthesia as a nursing function will provide one of the high lights of the eighteenth annual meeting of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, which opens in St. Louis Monday, September 17, and continues through Thursday, September 20.

General sessions and business meetings as well as the panel discussion will be held in Kiel Auditorium. Headquarters for the convention, which will be attended by delegates representing 5,500 nurse anesthetists throughout the United States, will be at the Lennox Hotel.

Participants in the forum on administration of anesthesia as a legitimate nursing function in the hospital include Emanuel Hayt, New York attorney and specialist on hospital law; Dr. John S. Lundy, head of the section on anesthesiology at the Mayo Clinic, and Dr. August Groeschel, assistant director of the New York Hospital, New York City.

Three St. Louisians also will participate in the forum. They are Dr. Frank A. Bradley, director of Barnes Hospital, and Dr. Frank Walton, assistant professor of clinical surgery, and Miss Louise Knapp, director of nursing, both of Washington University.

Ed. note! Several months ago we had a letter from Miss Emma Miller of the Department of Anesthesia, Episcopal Hospital of Philadelphia advising she would attend these meetings. No doubt there shall be others of the 21st General nursing staff here.

Dr. Frank Walton was a member of the 21st General and Miss Knapp, having been so closely associated with members of both the 21st, is considered one of us.

A LETTER FROM COLONEL FIFE

Recently we saw a news item that Rear Admiral James Fife, Jr. was named to be deputy chief of naval operations with grade of Vice Admiral.

Since we remembered that Colonel James D. Fife had a son we were certain that Admiral Fife must be he, but in order to keep the record in conformity with the facts, we wrote the Colonel. We quote:

My dear William:

I had misplaced your letter or would have answered it long ago. In fact I have a hunch that old age has a lot to do with my seeming negligence in answering your very cordial and much appreciated letter.

You asked if James Fife, Jr. is my son? He is not and is no close relation that I know of, but as my brother found out on a visit to Scotland, that the Fifes were as numerous there as the Jones's in America, he may be a distant relative. I have gotten his mail on occasion while he was a submarine commander and have inquired of him as to his origin, but have received no reply.

So, I am sending you a picture of my only son, Robert Herndon Fife, and my granddaughter. He gets his name from my great uncle who was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis.

I do appreciate your letter and the kindly sentiments expressed therein.

With kindest regards and with best wishes for your continued health and happiness,

Sincerely,
James D. Fife

Col. Fife was the first commanding officer of B.H. 21, having been assigned to the Unit from the Regular Army Medical Corps, when it was activated and sent to France. He remained at Rouen until the reserve officers were ready to take over and was then assigned to the Office of the Chief Surgeon, A.E.F. The Colonel's principal assignment was the location of hospital centers throughout France as the need for more beds became apparent.

The writer also had been assigned to GHQ and became closely associated with the Colonel, especially in the wind-up when Colonel Fife's assignment was the compilation of historical data for the Medical Corps of the A.E.F. The Colonel, being an indefatigable worker, we spent many hours together. It was a pleasant assignment and one which we shall long remember.
Gladys Johnson In Motor Car Accident

Gladys Johnson of the 21st General Unit, now with the Veterans' Administration Hospital at Amarillo, Texas, was in a motor car accident recently. The nature of her injuries or the details of the accident have not been available to us.

Edna Kelly reported this. We trust Gladys was not seriously injured and that about auto accidents we are most pathetic.

Dr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Ernst, 2 Schultz Road, Sappington, Missouri are vacationing at their ranch home, Tee-O-Bar, at Roscoe, Montana. They were accompanied by their son, Richard Ernst, a student at Washington University School of Medicine. They plan to remain until September 12.

Just prior to their departure for the west Mrs. Ernst returned from Rochester, Minnesota where she visited her son Dr. Roland Ernst and Mrs. Ernst, who are the parents of their second child, Elizabeth Marie Ernst.

* * *

BONUS ARTICLES AND LETTERS STIR UP NEW INTEREST AMONG B.H. 21 PERSONNEL

Mrs. Olive Serafini Flynn called us recently to report on the amount of interest her letter has created among the nurses of B.H. 21. She advised us that since we used her letter in the NEWS-LETTER she has re-established contacts with other nurses of the unit and has created quite a voluminous interchange of correspondence. She told us that she and Mance Taylor, former chief nurse of B.H. 21 have exchanged more than a dozen letters.

Both Mrs. Flynn and Miss Taylor are living in retirement and there cannot be any doubt that a little extra spice has been added to their lives. It is a pity that we did not conceive of the idea of publishing names and addresses of our members years ago. We may have added a little "something" here and there.

* * *

We have another letter from Miss Frieda Damm, residing at Glen Ridge, N. J. which we are eager to quote inasmuch as it gives us a brief biography of her activities since being discharged from the army. We quote:

Ed. note! Yes, folks, there are many paths which lead to interesting information. Even though the span has been 34 years for us B.H. 21 guys and gals, there still remains a lot of unfinished business.
JENSEN OR KNUDSEN, THE GAL STILL WIELDS A VITRILOCIC PEN

Whether through fair means or foul, we finally brought Grethe Jensen out of hiding, where she has been since her marriage to Mr. Jensen. It required a bit of subterfuge to get the former columnist, now turned housewife, to send us something from her pen or typewriter, but we did it and we quote "Knute's" latest contribution to the NEWS-LETTER:

* * *

SHADES OF KNUDSEN & DEMUMB RUN
Phone: 2-4197; 6431-22 Ave., Kenosha, Wisc.

Dear Bill: First - puhleeze - get my name straight. I am not one of these much married society belles, whose former string of names accompanies her Christian name whenever mention is made. Ergo: the name is simply Grethe L. Jensen, the L. being for Lind which is my maiden name. The Knudsen is a thing of the past which I will only be reminded of, when my good ole 2lsters call me Knute - that's a beautiful sound. So for Pete's sake, don't call me Lind Knudsen Jensen. Holy smokes!

Now that's settled - I just read Col. Shook's report from Europe with great interest. But, my goodness gracious sakes alive!!!! What's happened to deah ole Shookie? Or should I say, what's happened to the Italians AND to Naples? I was there in '47 and the Eyetie nation was as lazy as heck, which they've been for generations, and Naples was a sink hole of filth and rat filled alleyways. If you turned your back to the town and faced the bay - then Naples was beautiful, especially if you remembered to hold your nose. Unless Italy has changed the habits of centuries, the Neapolitans and Naples couldn't possibly have been clean and industrious. Col. Shook, your tolerance and enthusiasm are touching and are the stuff we should all be made of, for world peace, but doggonit - I ain't! As for me, I move we quit sending money to Europe - yes, even Denmark included, and use our hard earned income tax revaged dough to keep war out of America. It's really disgusting, here I am a "young thing of 40 odd winters", and I've seen three - count 'em, three wars and there's more coming. Ah me, I guess I'm getting to be a sissy, living the pure and simple life in Kenosha, a little clean - pardon me - city of 50,000, where my greatest worries are to get Winkie, my turquoise parakeet, to talk, and to pick up the stitch I dropped in the soakers I'm knitting for husband's daughter, who's expecting.

Annie Laurie Dickson Nielsen who lives in Racine with her Danish hubbie, has been a sick girl and is convalescing now for the fifth month, from a spinal fusion done at Mayo's. She's out of the brace, into the corset and on flat heels for six months.

On our way home from Minneapolis, which we visited on our vacation in July, a vacation where we hopefully started out with five fish rods and two bait boxes and didn't even catch a minnow - well anyway we stopped at Eau Claire, where "Andy" Raymond A. Andersen lives. He was a patient on the surgical ward that Capt. Kallenbach was in charge of in France. The boy had jumped into a foxhole and a grenade followed him and killed his two pals and blew him full of holes. Ernie Hageman and "Georgia" will remember Andy who laid flat on his back with a mouth organ tied around his neck and played polkas and other pieces to keep up the morale of the ward, and him the sickest of them all. He lost his right hand and has a hook or pincer affair there and his left hand has two parts of fingers left. Well - all of this preamble was to say that I found Andy in Eau Claire and he has a new wife named Betty who is pretty and intelligent and adores her Andy.

Andy is on the road all day, driving a regular Chevy, and selling Watkins products in the rural districts. They are "expecting" in October and that's where the one pair of soakers are going. Andy is a funny guy, he thinks I saved his neck by staying with him one night when I was on day duty. He's a great guy - with no mental quirks about his place in society because of his handicap. Otherwise I guess this is the end of my ramblings. Thought it was about time you heard from Knute - Listen, our doors are always open, the icebox and liquor cupboard is well stocked at all times and so is the pantry, so puhleeze - you guys and gals - stop in if you're near Kenosha -
you are so welcome. S-a-a-ay - how's about a reunion in St. Loie so I can have an excuse to run away for a couple of days? No, that won't work, my hubbie used to live in KC and St. Louis and would be bound to come along. Oh, I'm just kidding but not about the reunion!

My love to all - have the Bob Kelley's any more daughters? Or the Patton's any more boys?

KNUTE...

P.S. I forgot to tell you that Alice Kokrda Lewis lives in Grand Island now, her husband, a Medical Major, is going or has left for Germany to help Ike clean up things there! Alice will leave too as soon as she has permission and I will probably drive her and little Jimmie and Linda and the cat - Tar Baby to New York and see her off.

Alice came to Chicago with Linda in March to be my only attendant at the weddin' - you may remember. Alice's address is 2309 W. Division St., Grand Island, Nebr.

That's it...Knute.

P.S.2...Hey, how's the money situation? I pledged $5,00 a year and think I'm in good standing - why in the world doesn't every one do that, then we could have the "slick" paper and have pics of our friends from time to time. After all, five bucks often go across the bar in many a home - in half hour - why not make a real paper out of - oh, so important - Rouen Post? And then have a subscription list.

* * *

HOSPITAL GROUPS TO CONVENE HERE

About 10,000 doctors and medical and hospital personnel are expected to attend the joint annual convention of the American Hospital Association and American Association of Medical Record Librarians here Sept. 17 through 20.

The hospital group's headquarters will be Hotel Jefferson and the librarians at Hotel Sheraton. There will be educational and commercial exhibits at Kiel Auditorium.

These are the same dates of the Nurse Anesthetists conclave.

* * *

As a closing for letters and a signature which denotes character, honesty of purpose and sincerity we submit that of our unfortunate mate of B.H. 21 as a classic.

Many years of invalidism have not dimmed the sentimentalism Syl has toward his associates of World War I. It is lads like he - and there are many - who are proud of having belonged. Syl has been one of the most unsuccessful of 21sters because of health. He has kept up a stubborn fight to remain alive, an accomplishment men of lesser courage and intestinal fortitude could and would not have undertaken.

Syl has been in and out of hospitals so frequently that only one of his indomitable spirit could have carried on. There is no bitterness because of his lot in life - as there would be of those of lesser courage.

As a graduate of the Yale School of Law - an honor graduate - he gave promise of being one of the nation's intellectual jurists. This is not fabricated information but came to us from a gentleman of great learning in law. And then the ravages of his unconquerable malady came upon him.

A letter to Justin Jackson of recent occurrence is called to our attention. It reflects the warmth and affection, one, Sylvester Horn, has for his former mates - much more than any words we can find - and they would be totally inadequate. We now quote the letter:

959 Cook St., Denver 6, Colo.

Dear Friend Justin:

My warm personal greetings to you and yours, and to our numerous friends you serve so ably and gracefully.

I hope quite soon to address our admirable Editor Bill Engel in relay of an item or two, but I felt that your fiscal department should not await its entitlements longer. And so here is a bit on account of deep debt.

Heartyly yours, Syl Horn

* * *
That closing and signature have characterized Syl's letters for nigh on twenty years. In our humble judgment the closing greeting and the signature reflect a "something" found in few persons.

* * *


Dyer, Virginia M. 1049 Charleville Rock Hill Village 19, Mo. Carycrest Lodge E. Aurora, N. Y.

Dyson, Mrs. Geo. 1664 Duffield St. Pittsburgh, Pa.


*Eberbach, Dr. Carl 324 E. Wisconsin Ave. 300 E. Armour Blvd. Milwaukee, Wisc.

Ericksen, Wallace H. 1524 Vermillion St. Hastings, Minn.

Ernst, Dr. Edwin C. 2 Schultz Rd. Kirkwood 22, Mo.

*Fabick, Lena 2821a Iowa Ave. St. Louis 18, Mo.

Eimers, Dr. Jos. E. Lyons, Nebr.

Eimers, Ruby Walker 3863 W. Pine St. St. Louis, Mo.

Ellerbush, John F. 8918 - 99th St. Woodhaven, L.I., N. Y.

Elliott, Rose M. c/o Hallowell House Wellesley, Mass.

* Denotes B.H. 21.

Fellerman, Henry S. 151 W. 228th St. New York, N. Y.

Fenski, Hillard A. 5324 W. Medill Ave. Chicago, Ill.


Ferrell, Dr. Thomas *Fishar, Dr. Roland F. 1521 St. Mary's Dr. Sweet Bldg. Waycross, Ga.

*Fife, Col. Jas. D. Flavin, Harold W. 2313 Riverside Dr. Novinger, Mo.

* Fifa, Col. Jas. D. 261 Avenue "S" Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Fink, Harold W. 2032 Roscoe St. Chicago, Ill.

Finkle, Dr. Albert 6325 N. Claremont Ave. Chicago, Ill.

* Fink, Harold W. 2032 Roscoe St. Chicago, Ill.


* Contributions

The re-born Rouen Post News-Letter is having its first birthday this month. The best way to show your appreciation and assure its continuance is by further assistance. That we can continue without incurring indebtedness beyond our ability to pay, you have demonstrated since last September.

Thanks, everyone for having made it possible to carry on. Some more of the same will do the trick for another year.

Please mail contributions to:

Justin J. Jackson, Finance Officer
7477 Cannon Avenue
University City 5, Missouri

And do not forget, contemporaries of each of the 21st's would like another avalanche of letters such as we had last year, after our re-birth. Mail to:

BILL ENGEL, 220 N. Fourth Street
St. Louis 2, Missouri