

# Nomenclature of the PACKAGE, APO

By Cpl. JAMES O'NEILL  
YANK Staff Correspondent

**S**OMEWHERE IN THE PERSIAN GULF—Now that the Army Postal Service has restored the soldier's privilege of getting packages from home, we would like to commend the APS for putting in the clause which says the soldier must ask for a package in order to get it.

This requirement that soldiers must ask for packages is not, as some believe, an effort to limit the number of packages. It springs from the demands of soldiers that they be protected against the parcel-post system. Reports might show that the first AEF in Ireland as long as a year ago was actually sabotaging incoming box-laden boats by purposely not claiming title to the merchandise at time of delivery.

This practice spread until thousands of boxes lay purposely unclaimed on wharves all over the combatant world, and the Army Postal Service probably conducted an investigation to discover why. The APS no doubt discovered the reason: no soldier would claim a package because (a) he knew what was in it, (b) he had had enough of what was in it or (c) even his worst enemy and first sergeant had had enough of what was in it.

From now on we get an even break with the people who make up packages. We get to tell them what to put in.

Up to this time there have been only four variations of the box-sending theme.

Let us discuss them, now that they are a thing of the past:

**TYPE A—THE GOODIE BOX.** Invariably consisted of one of two items—candy or home-made cookies. There were two choices open to the unfortunate recipient of home-made cookies. He could, if still in love and his sweetheart sent them, try to eat the cookies. This lovelorn type cabled home the next day for a new upper plate and a stomach pump. If the guy wasn't in love or just didn't give a damn, he took the sensible course of donating love's handiwork to the Engineers for road markers or dummy land mines.

**TYPE B—GOOEY-YUM-YUM KANDY KIT.** En route the kit was placed by considerate stevedores between the engine-room boilers and a shipment of Grant tanks. When the soldier received it, he could use the mashed-up goo for pasting French postcards or YANK pin-ups on his barracks wall. Or, if he had a little goat's blood in him, he might start right in eating Gooley-Yum-Yum's wrappings, partitions, string, APO number and all.

Suppose the sender was the thoughtful type and sent hard candy that stayed hard. Tell me who in hell is going to sacrifice his native-likker-weakened molars on a job a couple of Grant tanks couldn't do? The ingenious AAF is said to be using these dextrose blockbusters over Berlin, the only practical use so far discovered.

**TYPE C—THE KNIT-ONE-AND-PURL-ONE BOX.** The sort of box that caused the recent high female death rate by accidental self-stabbing. It contained The Knitted Glove or The Knitted Pull-over Sweater. Already enough has been said on this gruesome subject in newspaper editorials, syndicated columns, joke books and returned packages marked "Wrong Address."

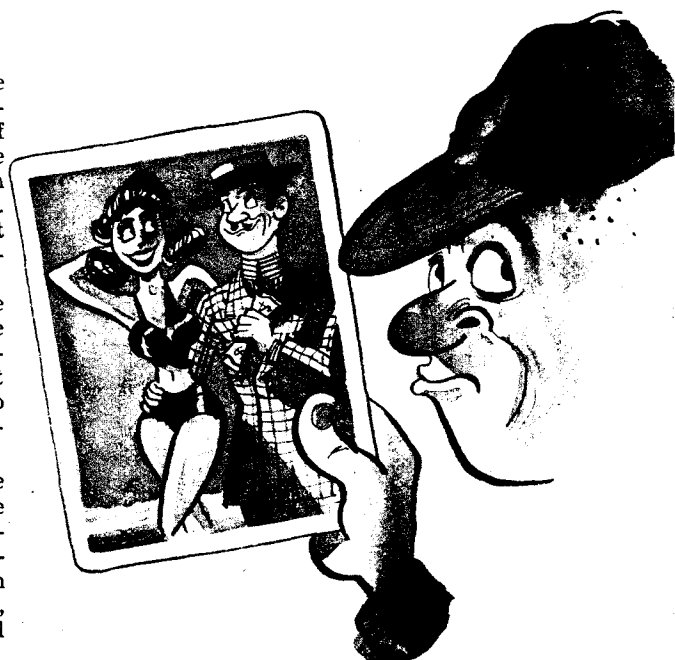
**TYPE D—THE ODDS-AND-ENDS BOX.** This always fell into one of the following subdivisions:



No soldier would claim a package. Even his first sergeant had enough of what was in it.

**1. The Sewing Kit.** This was the 1,442d one the helpless GI received. Despite all the Boy Scout and Sewing Kit Concession propaganda, the average GI doesn't know how to sew. Even if he did, Whistler's Mother couldn't darn the craters he plows through a sock. Upon receipt of the sewing kit, the soldier carefully took out the needles to pin up that picture of Jane Russell and threw the rest away.

**2. The Compact Shaving Kit.** This monster was delivered by a detail of 10 and, when opened, resembled a surgeon's operating room, complete with X-ray equipment. It so scared the dogface he refused to shave with anything for a month.



If the girl was a looker, she had her picture taken with a guy clutching a \$1,000 war-industry check just to make you feel a teeny-weeny bit jealous.

**3. The Cigarette Lighter.** It didn't work, but there was plenty of fluid at the PX. It did work, but there was not a drop of fluid at the PX. Or no PX.

**4. The Photograph.** Usually sent by that much-maligned creature, the Girl Back Home, who, unless she was straight out of *Vogue*, included an original little note, "Put this in the mess hall to scare the rats away." It could do the job very well. If the girl was a looker, she had had the picture taken with one of the boys back home "just to make you feel a teeny-weeny bit jealous." The guy looked like Cary Grant and was either sporting a pair of oak leaves or clutching a \$1,000 war-industry check in one hand.

**5. The Canned Tidbit.** Usually tied in a maze of fancy ribbon, this was something the dogface hopefully ripped open with anxious hands only to discover a can of Spam. (Last week the mess sergeant was clubbed to death with empty cans that had contained this ersatz chicken.)

**N**OW that us soldiers overseas are allowed to select the contents of our packages from home, here are four types of gift boxes that we would like to receive:

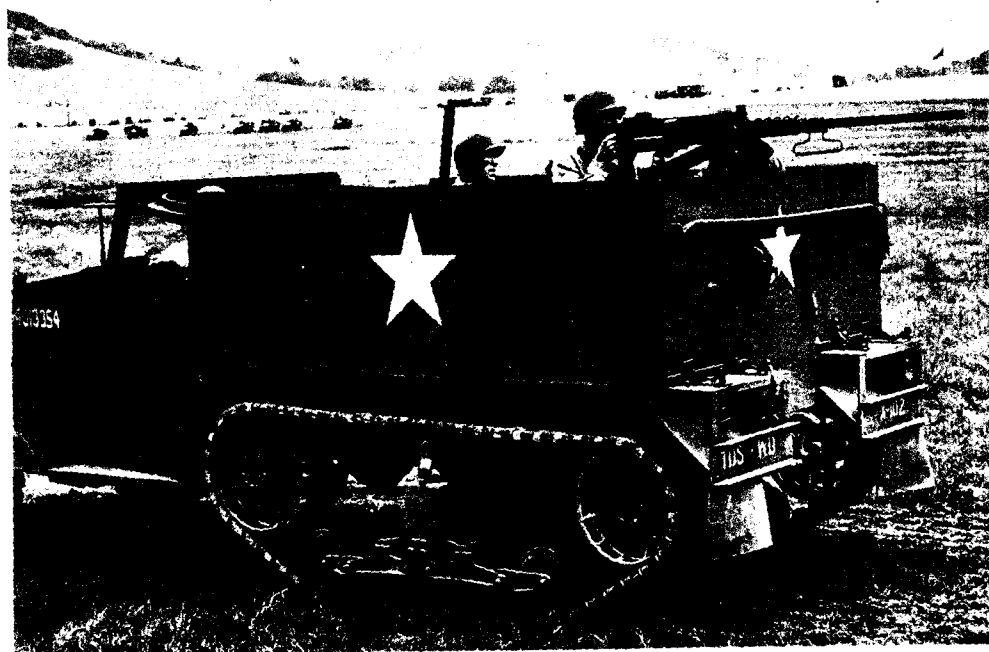
- A—One Lana Turner and one case of Scotch.
- B—One Dinah Shore and one case of Scotch.
- C—One Rita Hayworth and one case of Scotch.
- D—One Scotch and one case of Jane Russells.



**T**HE Gooley-Yum-Yum Kandy Kit was placed by considerate stevedores between the engine-room boilers and a shipment of Grant tanks. If the soldier had a little goat's blood, he might start eating Gooley Yum-Yum's wrappings, partitions, string, APO number and all.







1. Esposito, Gartner, Redovich and Crawford are shown at firing position in their half-track as it rolls to a stop on simulated battlefield before they start racing against time to set up their 50-caliber gun on the ground.



2. Redovich holds the heavy tripod high on his chest as he leaps from the half-track while Crawford and Esposito carry the gun and ammunition. It took them 30 seconds before they figured time-saving movements.

## Camp Hood Gun Crew Claims Speed Record

**A** CRACK demonstration gun crew at the Tank Destroyer School, Camp Hood, Tex. —S/Sgt. Carl Esposito of Kingston, N. Y., Cpl. John M. Gartner of Farrell, Pa., T-5 Joseph Redovich of Akron, Ohio, and Ffc. Merlyn Crawford of Deposit, N. Y.—claims the world's record for dismounting a 50-caliber machine gun from a half-track and setting it up on the ground in firing position. They have been clocked in 6 4/5 seconds from the moment the half-track's brakes shrieked to a stop until the bullets were streaming from the gun on the ground. They started working for the record when they saw a magazine article showing a squad setting up a gun in 12 seconds. It took them 30 seconds when they first tried it, but gradually they cut the time down to 20 seconds and then 8 seconds before setting their record.



3. The Tank Destroyer School crew swings the machine gun into action again from the new position on the ground while the half-track moves away into concealed cover. The total time required for shifting the gun and setting it up for firing: 6 4/5 seconds.

Dear YANK:

I have heard that the Army is training dogs for military service. I have a dog at home which I'm sure would like to enlist. What is the correct procedure? He is a police dog type, stands about 18 inches and weighs 35 pounds. He is good-natured and obeys commands instantly. There are several dog owners here who would like this information.

—Cpl. A. L. HANSON

Childress, Tex.

■ Sorry, but your dog is unfit for military service. He's the right breed, but he'd never pass the physical. To join the K-9 Corps, a dog must be 20 inches at the shoulder and weigh over 50 pounds. Pure breeding isn't required, but the dog must be under 6 years and have a fearless disposition.

Your friends should write to *Dogs for Defense Inc.*, 22 East 60th Street, New York 22, N. Y., which is sole procurement agency for the supply of war dogs to the armed forces. They will receive an application form which must be filled out and returned. If the owner is notified his dog is 1-A, he will be asked to report to the organization's nearest branch office. If the soldier is too far from home to deliver the dog himself, the Army will pay for the shipment by crate.

Dear YANK:

Does service in the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps count toward longevity pay? If it does, will the fact I'm in the

## What's Your Problem?

Navy disqualify my claim? I served three years in the AER before I joined the Navy.

—J. W. THOMPSON SC3c

Lewes, Del.

■ Yes, you can draw longevity pay for service in the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps. The fact you are in the Navy doesn't affect your claim. Longevity is paid for service in all the reserve components. The only exception is the Regular Army Reserve, inactive.

Dear YANK:

In civilian life my brother and I supported our parents. Now that we're both in the Army, they need our support more than ever. Last week we applied for Class B family allotments but were told by the clerk at headquarters this couldn't be done. He said only one member of the family could make an allotment. Is that true? Our parents are too old to work, and one allotment will never take care of both of them.

—Sgt. RALPH BEKINS

Camp Roberts, Calif.

■ Your parents can receive an allowance from both of you, providing it can be shown both of you contributed a substantial portion of their support in the past. Tell the clerk your parents are Class B dependents and as such are entitled to a month-

ly allowance of \$74. Both of you can take out allotments for \$37.

Dear YANK:

I am interested in knowing if a soldier who receives a discharge is allowed to wear insignia when he returns to civilian life to show he has served in the Army.

—Pvt. RALPH H. WEISS

McCloskey Gen. Hosp., Temple, Tex.

■ Provided a soldier was honorably discharged, he's entitled to wear a service pin on his civvies. This pin has an American eagle with wings outstretched, mounted on a circle. An ex-dogface may obtain one by writing to the Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

Dear YANK:

Can a sailor get a discharge from the Navy if he's over 38? I read in YANK that soldiers of this age are being released from active service to work in industry and agriculture. My CO said this didn't apply to men in the Navy. He must be wrong. If a soldier can get a discharge, I'm sure I can.

—J. C. BURNS S2c

USNTS, Sampson, N. Y.

■ Your CO is right. Men over 38 are not released from the Navy. They enlisted voluntarily, and in the eyes of the Navy, this meant they intend-

ed to stay in for the duration. Also the Navy made it a point not to accept men for enlistment who were employed in essential industry.

Dear YANK:

The Army is giving me an honorable discharge, and I want to know if I can wear my uniform when I'm a civilian. When I joined the Army my wife gave away most of my clothes, and I won't have anything to wear for a while when I go home.

—Pvt. WILLIAM BASSETT

Camp Crowder, Mo.

■ You may wear your uniform three months after the date of your discharge. If you haven't bought any civilian clothes by then, take the buttons and insignia off and you may wear your uniform as long as you like.

Dear YANK:

I have been told that troops stationed in Hawaii during the Battle of Midway are authorized to wear a bronze star on their service ribbons. I would like to know if this is true as I was on a small Hawaiian island during the battle.

—2d Lt. S. T. VITOLO

Kellogg Field, Mich.

■ Sorry, but this is wrong. The only star on a service ribbon authorized by the Army is for service in the Philippines after Dec. 7, 1941, and until a date to be announced later. It is worn on the Asiatic-Pacific Theater ribbon.

[For information about Navy stars on ribbons, see page 11.]