

What's the STATE ABSENTEE



By Sgt. MERLE MILLER
YANK Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Back in November 1940, when he was beginning to sweat out the draft in Des Moines, Iowa, George Smith walked two blocks from his home and voted.

This year Smith is a sergeant in an AA outfit in Calcutta, India, but, if he wants to, the chances are he still can vote in the general election in November. He probably won't even have to walk two blocks.

The WD, through the Coordinator for Soldier Voting, Col. Robert Cutler, is trying to make it as simple as possible for Smith, and every other eligible GI who's interested, to cast a ballot no matter where he's stationed. Many men in actual combat won't, of course, have the time.

But the WD is issuing two soldier-voting manuals, one explaining voting for GIs in the U. S., the other for those overseas; five explanatory posters that will be distributed down to company and battery level and a Walt Disney short on voting for the Army-Navy Screen Magazine.

Naturally, neither Smith nor anybody else can vote just because he's in the Army. To cast a state absentee ballot, which a majority of GIs overseas and almost all those stationed in the U. S. will be using, you have to be eligible under the laws of your home state.

Your eligibility will be decided by local election officials back home—on the basis of your age by Nov. 7 (21 for every state except Georgia, where it's only 18), citizenship, place of residence and other factors. For instance, in some Southern states you'll have had to pay your poll tax.

Smith's home state, Iowa, is one of 25 whose governors have already announced that their laws do not authorize the use of the Federal ballot. The others are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Some additional states may still approve use of the Federal ballot, but even GIs from states where it is okay can only use it if they fail to receive by Oct. 1 a state absentee ballot for which they applied before Sept. 1.

Here's the way Smith will go about voting by absentee ballot, and his case is fairly typical:

1. First of all, he and every other EM and officer in his outfit soon will be given a regulation post-card application for a state absentee ballot. Most of these cards—of which the Army has had 31,000,000 printed—should be distributed to everybody in the Army in every theater in the world sometime early in August and in the U. S. before the end of August.

The card simply asks for the information required by law to determine your eligibility—dope like your age, home address, voting district (if you know it), complete military address and ASN.

2. When Smith has filled out the application, he'll have to have some officer or noncom not below the rank of sergeant witness his signature.

3. The next step for Smith is to mail his application back to his secretary of state at the state capital, which, in his case, is Des Moines. Like all other war-ballot material, it will be returned to the U. S. by high-priority air mail.

Since Smith is from a state that doesn't authorize the Federal ballot, he ought to mail the application so that it will get back to Des Moines about the time Iowa starts sending out its state ballots. In Iowa's case that's Sept. 13. The dates for

other states can be found on a card called Soldier Voting Poster 2, which every soldier will be posted on your company or battery bulletin board or perhaps simply tacked on a nearby tree.

Sending the application so that its arrival is as near that date as possible cuts down the risk of delay because of a change of station between the time the application is submitted and the time the ballot is mailed.

4. After Smith receives his ballot, also by high-priority air mail, he should mark it and mail it back to Des Moines immediately. Even though it's sent from Calcutta, it's almost certain to get back to Des Moines in time to be counted—because it will be returned to the U. S. by high-priority air mail.

Thus Smith has voted.

In general, the procedure Smith followed will be the same for most registered GIs casting state absentee ballots. Dates and details may vary, and again they can be checked by studying Soldier Voting Poster 2.

GIs from Washington, D. C., like District of Columbia civilians, are unable to vote either in person or by absentee ballot. In New Mexico and Kentucky, cases are pending to determine whether state absentee ballots are okay. When these cases are decided, the WD will let you know the results. All the other 46 states provide absentee ballots.

Of course, the chances are that a lot of GIs won't know whether they're eligible to vote by absentee ballot or even whether they're registered back home.

In 36 states, simply sending in an application or voting a ballot is enough for registration. However, you have to take an extra step if you are not registered and are from one of the following 12 states: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, South Carolina and West Virginia.

If you're from one of these states and don't know whether you're registered or have any other doubt about your eligibility to vote, write a V-Mail letter to the secretary of state in the state capital, or to your local election official—if you know who he is. List your full name, serial number, military unit and APO. Then, in the message blank, write a couple of paragraphs like these:

"I am a citizen of the U. S. For _____ years preceding the general election of November 1944 my home residence has been in the state of _____. For _____ years preceding such election my home residence has been in the city, town or village of _____, in the county of _____, at (street and number, if any, or rural route). My voting district to the best of my knowledge is _____.

"I want to know if I'm eligible to vote by state

ABSENTEE VOTING

Still in Doubt

No Special Requirements

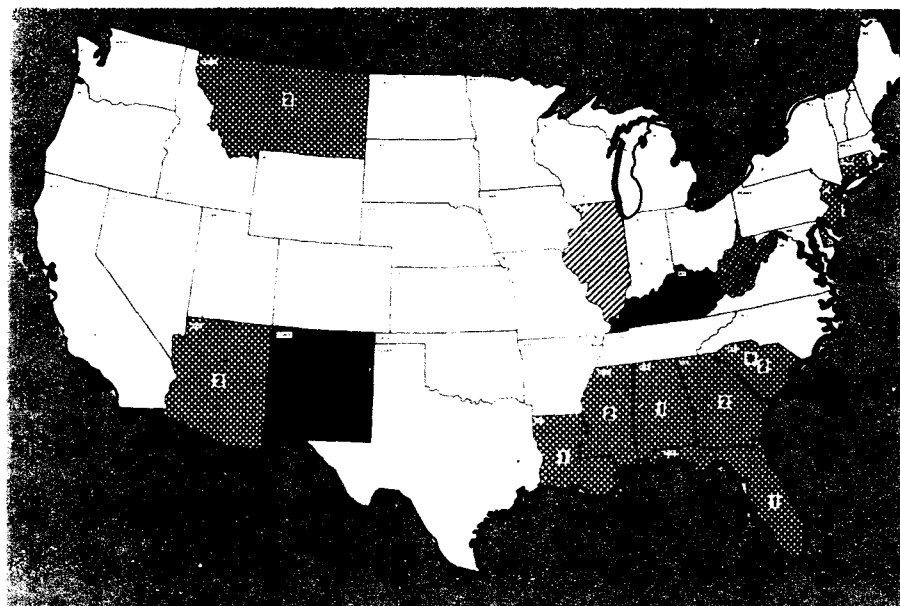
Special Application May Be Required

Illinois *South Carolina

Special Steps Required for Registration

1. PERSONAL REGISTRATION
Alabama Florida
Delaware Louisiana

2. SPECIAL FORM (or otherwise) TO BE COMPLETED IN ADVANCE
Arizona Montana
Connecticut New Jersey
Georgia *South Carolina
Mississippi West Virginia



a state ballot in the November election, if not whether I can become eligible and vote."

The time between the day you read this and the election will be short. So it's best to get this V-Mail written and sent as soon as possible.

GIs who are still in doubt as to what exactly they should do to vote—and a lot of us will be—should get in touch with the Soldier Voting officers of their outfits. One will be appointed for every military organization down to company and battery level.

In addition, the WD posters will answer a lot of questions that will be cropping up. If you don't see the posters, ask the Soldier Voting officer where they are. The first should be available now, and the second very shortly.

The first poster just outlines general information on voting.

The second poster contains specific dope on requirements for voting by state absentee ballot in the different states.

The third poster is a huge map of the U. S. showing every Congressional district in the country and is designed to help men from states that authorize use of the Federal ballot, who—like most of us—aren't sure what district they're from.

The fourth poster lists, in addition to the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, the senatorial and congressional nominees in states whose laws allow the Federal ballot to be used (giving their names, addresses, party affiliations and the offices for which they've been nominated). As of right now, the governors of 15 states have certified that use of the Federal ballot is okay under their laws: California, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington and Vermont.

If others are added to the list, they will be announced by the WD.

The fifth poster outlines just what GIs who are eligible to use the Federal ballot must do.

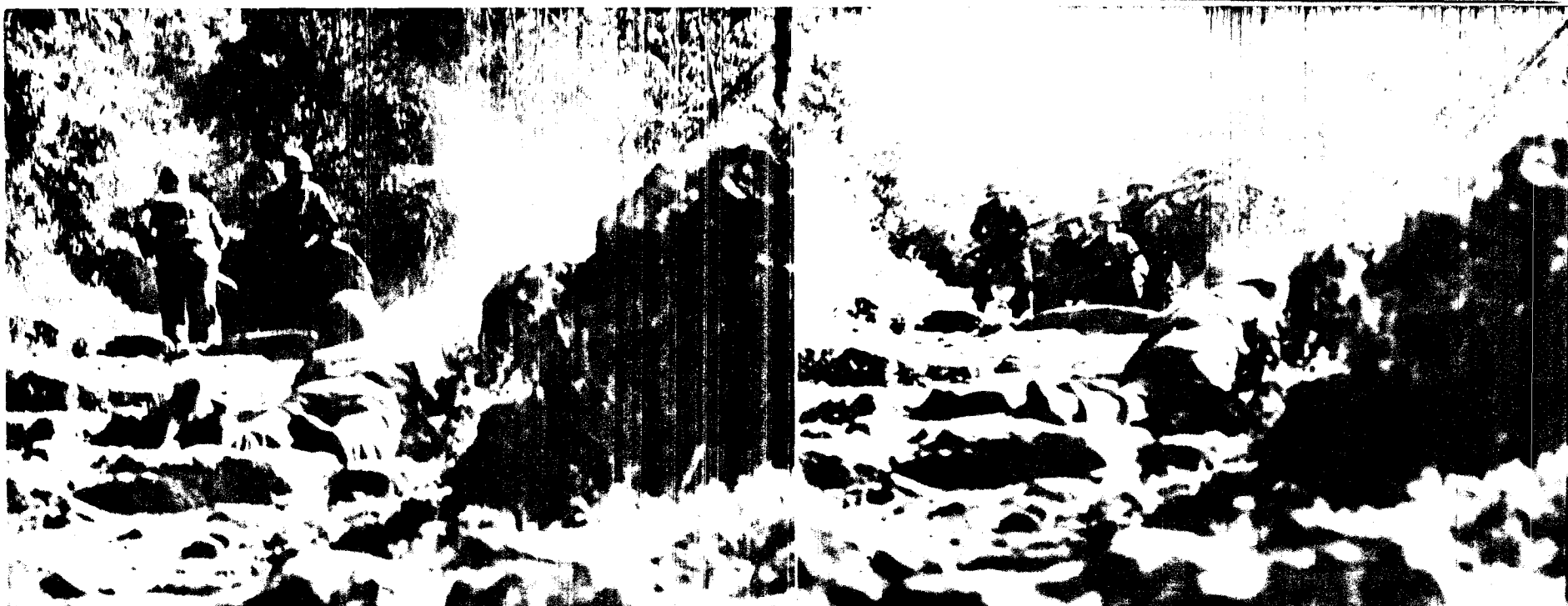
But remember that even if you live in a state that recognizes the Federal ballot you won't be able to get one unless you have applied for a state absentee ballot before Sept. 1 and have not received it by Oct. 1.

In any case, use of Federal ballots won't begin until October, and YANK in a later issue will publish detailed information about them.

WHETHER you vote by Federal ballot or by state absentee ballot, secrecy is a fundamental principle of a free election. That means you ought to mark your ballot so that no one else can see how you vote.

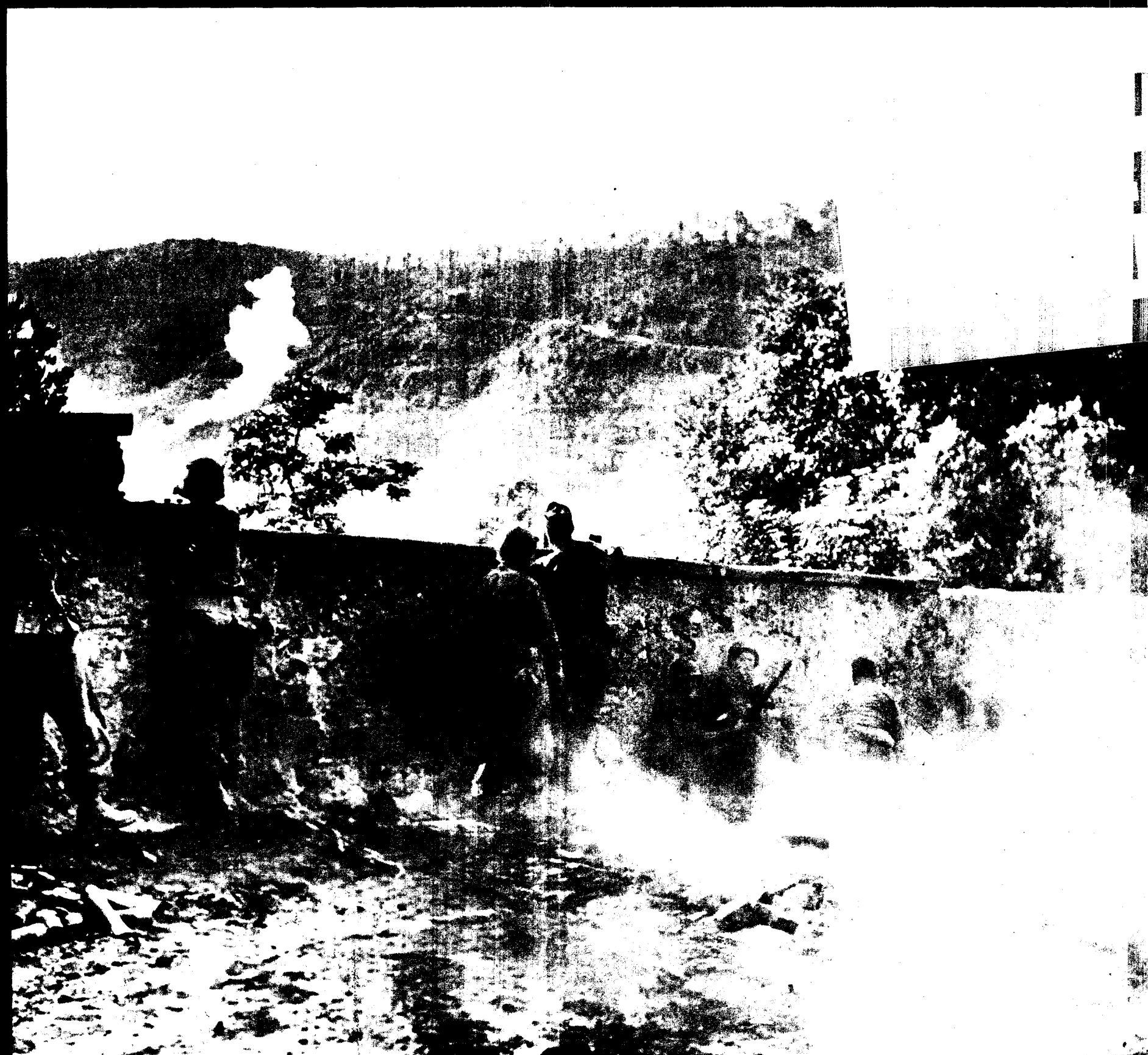
Nobody will try to influence the way you vote. Nobody will march you to a polls. The WD policy is strict impartiality toward the election. If you're eligible and want to vote—okay, go ahead.

An American soldier is an American citizen.

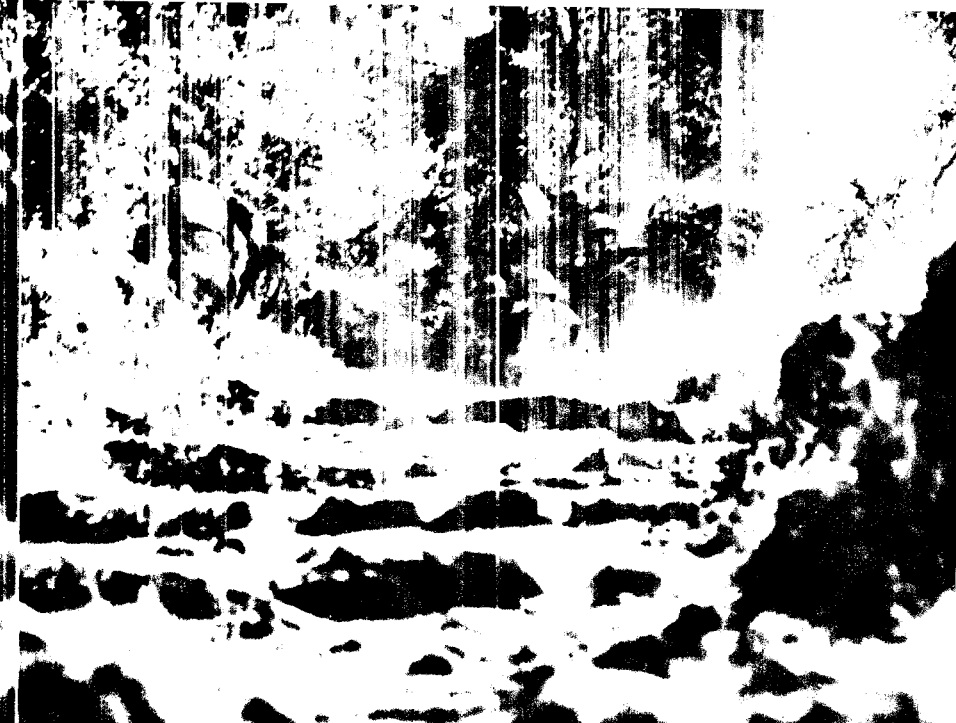


1. One member of the patrol has just made his dash across the hot spot, aided by the covering fire of the GIs first across. Another soldier waits.

2. The five infantrymen who have already crossed the gap hold their rifles ready for covering fire. The waiting soldier lifts his head to scout.



NOW, PROTECTED BY A STONE WALL WELL UP THE HILLSIDE, IT'S THE PATROL'S TURN TO DISH IT OUT. THE TWO INFANTRYMEN IN THE CENTER FIRE A BAZOOKA INTO THE VALLEY.



3. The way is as clear as it will ever be, and the crouching dogface makes a break for it. The other GIs open fire to keep Nazi heads well down.

4. He's made it. He ducks into the shelter of the bushes. The rest of the patrol wait, ready to cover the next dash across the lead-racked area.



A GI FIRES HIS BAR AS TWO ITALIAN PARTISANS LIE LOW BEHIND A PILE OF DEBRIS. THE ITALIANS CAME ALONG TO GUIDE THE PATROL TO THE CONCEALED GERMAN POSITIONS.

Conchies

Dear YANK:

I read your article on "Conchies in Puerto Rico" by Pvt. Jud Cook in a recent issue of YANK and appreciated it very much. This country was established by men of strong convictions and rigid consciences, who took their stand when their consciences dictated, in the face of public opinion, ridicule, sarcasm and in spite of the devil himself if need be. . . . I have always been under the impression that this was a country where a man could believe what he wanted to and have a right to his opinion, as long as he didn't do harm to others, without being persecuted by our law. I think it a sad day when we, as a nation, work a man in a dangerous and strategic station without feeding him food as decent as the average GI eats and without any pay at all, or even the means of financing his way home on furlough. A sorry way in which to uphold the right to think and speak and act the way we see fit, a liberty for which we're sweating out our blood and lives.

Luke Field, Ariz.

—Sgt. ROY H. POWELL

Dear YANK:

Allow me to compliment you on your very fine article. It was especially of great interest to me since I spent nearly 1½ years in CPS (Civilian Public Service) camps and six months as a hospital orderly, in a mental institution. I'm now in the Army, having asked to be inducted. . . . Conscientious objectors in CPS camps not only donate their labor but also furnish their own clothes. . . . Now, don't get me wrong: these fellows aren't asking for anything and, what's more, most of them don't want anything for their services. It's just one way for them to show their love of country. I've seen quite a number of Axis prisoners of war and must say that they are getting a much better deal than the conscientious objectors, who are American citizens. I think they should get a break!

O'Reilly General Hospital, Mo.

—Pvt. O. G. STUCKY

Dear YANK:

As a conscientious objector I wonder how many men have a misguided conception and regard us all as a lot of yellow rats because of our moral outlook to warfare. Yet quite a few of our chaps have volunteered to "dig out and render harmless" unexploded time bombs and unknown types of delayed-action missiles and have actually done these risky and dangerous operations without the world being told how brave we are, etc., etc. We don't wish to criticize, but it takes a lot of guts to be a medical paratrooper and to be armed, so to speak, with only a bottle of smelling salts dropped on the scene of action in the thick of it. We volunteer for it. YANK, give us a square deal and tell any of your toughs and strong-arm men that we conchies don't have to pack an arsenal to stiffen up our morale. We can match any combat men, and what's more we don't want publicity. Remember, we are doing our bit, too.

Britain

—Pfc. GIANNELLI

Dear YANK:

After spending almost two years in Puerto Rico I can truly say that the conchies do deserve a break and more than just \$5 per month. I was working as a civilian employee of the Navy on a small island just 14 miles off Puerto Rico. It has a population of almost 10,000. They have just one physician (who is also a mayor), and there are many people who won't even allow him in their house, because they are under the impression that medicine and politics do not mix. If an operation of any kind should have to be performed the patient would have to be removed to San Juan. In my opinion the doctor and conscientious objectors deserve a hell of a lot more credit for what they are doing there than they are getting. . . .

Eniwetok

—T-5 JOE CATANZARO

Dear YANK:

I've been subscribing to your magazine for some time now. I enjoy it very much and have yet to write in a beef about one of your articles—that is up till now. I'm talking of "Conchies in Puerto Rico." GIs are fighting and dying on every world battlefield. They've been away from their loved ones for a long time, and some have kids they haven't even seen yet. But in his article your correspondent tries to make heroes out of conscientious objectors and goes on to mention their hardships. That's really tough, and I'm crying in my beer. Can you imagine what would happen to them if they were German or Japanese subjects?

Corsica

—Pvt. C. DONOVAN

MAIL CALL



Razzberries

Dear YANK:

I quote your advice in reference to enlisted men working for officers, as published in *What's Your Problem* in an April issue: "They can't make you do it, but they can make you wish to hell you had done it." That is a helluva thing to say to men who are fighting for a democracy and for freedom after the war is over. Are we in America's "democratic" Army or an imperialistic one like Germany's or Japan's? Does the lack of a set of bars on a man's shoulders make him a servant? Though the Judge Advocate General's Office says no, YANK, which I thought was an enlisted men's magazine, advises us not to say anything. I used to think YANK was OK.

Southwest Pacific

—Cpl. MILT SCHIFF

■ We advised nothing;—we simply cited one of the Army's oldest truths. How you accept it is, of course, your own affair.

The American Male

Dear YANK:

I am not an American so I can view the American male rather dispassionately. At present I am living in a Lend-Lease area based by Americans and have been able to observe some of the antics of that strange phenomenon, the American male, and I append a few observations.

The American men are proverbial braggarts or, in common parlance, cheerful liars, whom we Northern folk cannot quite comprehend. Their story goes that their ancestors did not come over with the Pilgrim Fathers, but met them on the beach when they arrived and that they have done everything for Uncle Sam from drafting the Gettysburg Address to casting the deciding vote in the last Presidential election. But what intrigues me more than enough is this mysterious and wealthy grandmother, who leaves this wild and erring boy the large sum of \$90,000. To this lie they add sotto voce: "You see, darling, I was her favorite." Incidentally, this "darling" is enunciated softly and would do justice to Clark Gable or George

Brent in their most tender moments. . . . They are charming conversationalists; they imply that you are the exquisite exception, the unique woman and the only woman who can understand their profound and complex natures—that is the American line, as American as Walt Whitman or Woolworth's. . . .

My experience with American youngsters is that they are not dry behind the ears when they brightly tell you that they have an MA or a PhD. But to go along with Ananias, he says on taking his second drink that he is married but has a frigid wife, which doesn't mean much to Northerners as we live in that sort of clime. Then on his third drink, he slips his arm around you with the ease of long practice, tells you that he is divorced, that her name is Ellen. He pours forth a harrowing tale of abuse suffered at her hands—that the supreme insult came when she became most frightfully drunk and used vile language in front of their impressionable child. ("Yes, darling, that was the end.") . . . Another line is that they belong to the Intelligence Service, have sailed the seven seas and committed every crime in the social calendar. You are spellbound and say to yourself: "Under British law, my lad, you would be swung from a yard-arm for these crimes." You later find out that this Sherlock Holmes has never been beyond the borders of Minnesota. . . .

My faith in Americans is restored when I read the story of one of the greatest figures in American history, Abraham Lincoln. He was an unpretentious man. There was no hanging around college for him until he was 24—his schooling was practically finished when he was 9. At 25 he was a member of the Illinois Parliament, at 37 a member of the American Congress and 15 years later President of the United States. All this, you will say, is history; that is true, but history worthy of emulation, and if every American child could be given the life of that martyred President to read as part of the school curriculum, I think you would find fewer confounded liars in the rank and file of American men.

Meanwhile, the American males are a happy breed of men, who should be taken with a grain of salt. Like Diogenes with his lamp. I am still looking for a truthful American male.

Newfoundland

—WILHEMINA BRUENER

Atzd Mil Abbrs

Dear YANK:

In a friendly sort of way I would like to ask why you insist on printing incorrectly such abbreviations as "m sgt, s sgt, Tec 3, Tec 4 and Tec 5" and why you insist on putting a period after each? For authority on the correct use of abbreviations as used in the Army I refer you to AR 850-150 and C1, C2 and C3. It is very difficult to get the officer candidates here to learn correct usage when they see abbreviations misused so often in YANK. . . .

Fort Monmouth, N. J.

—2d Lt. LOUIE W. WALTER

■ REULET and ops o/a adm sub YANK sd WP the ex disch of SOP long cont w/ no app by pers at orgn Hq. In other words, we like our own system better.

Ailment

Dear YANK:

One morning I missed our duty formation and I thought I would cover up by going on sick call. Well, the doctor asked me what was bothering me, so I told him my stomach hurt, thinking I'd just get some pills and that would be all. But no, some guys had been sick from some bad meat they got in the rations, so the first thing I knew I was in the station hospital, marked "Meat Poisoning." Well, the doctor there saw I wasn't poisoned, so he started examining me and poking me in the gut with his finger. "Does that hurt?" he said. Well, he pushed so hard he just about put a hole through to my back, so I said "Yes." "Well, you got ulcers," he said, and the next thing I knew I was here in the general hospital. Well, they X-rayed me and stomach-pumped me, and they couldn't find anything wrong, so they sent me to see a brain doctor. Well, he asked me all kinds of fool questions and then he said to me: "You got nervous stomach." The next thing I knew they sent me to see a board of officers and they said: "You're no good in the Army. We're gonna send you home."

So YANK, here I am waiting to go home, and I never felt better in my life. I got started to thinking how everybody would call me 4-F and how I'd miss the Army and YANK. I don't want to go home. Tell me, YANK, what can I do?

Ashford General Hospital, W. Va.

—Pvt. JOSEPH GRANT

Message Center

Members of the 18th INF., Co. D, 1st Div., between 1939-1942: write 1st Lt. Andrew Bakasy, Cadet Det., GAAF, Greenwood, Miss. . . . Anyone who was in 217th TSS, SHEPPARD FLD., 1942-3: write Cpl. Robert B. Putman, 224th AAF Base Unit, CCTS (H), Sec. D, Sioux City, Iowa. . . . Former members Co. A, 1st Bn., 6th REGT., USMC: write Cpl. James R. Muldoon, Ser. Btry., 927th FA Bn., APO 102, Camp Swift, Tex. . . . Men who took basic training at CAMP BLANDING with Cpl. PAUL J. SCHULTZ: write Co. A, 264 Inf., APO 454, 66th Div., Camp Rucker, Ala.

Lt. JOHN A. BALABAN, navigator, last heard of at Randolph Fld., Tex., 1941: write Lt. A. W. Card, CAC, AAAORP, Fort Bliss, Tex. . . . QUENTIN CHARLES, once at Lead, S. Dak.: write Pfc. Vervyle Luke, Btry. C, 660th FA, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. . . . BURNISE RAY COTTRELL, last heard of in the 68th FA Bn. at Fort Knox: write S/Sgt. William W. Riley, Ser. Btry., 912 FA Bn., Fort Jackson, S. C. . . . Cpl. PETER P. DEMOYA, with the 39th Ftr. Sq., write Pvt. Eston H. Scott, Hq. Co., 3d Bn., 387th Inf., APO 445, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. . . . Pvt. O. M. GARRETT JR., once in Miami Beach, Fla.: write Pvt. Preston

R. Leblanc, H & S Co., 1880 Avn. Engr. Bn., c/o AAB, Alamogordo, N. Mex. . . . FRANK HARRIS, last heard of in 131st Inf., Chicago: write Lt. William V. Stieber, Hq. 138 TDTB RTC, No. Camp Hood, Tex. . . . Lt. WILLIAM HENTRICH, once at Camp Campbell, last heard of in Sicily: write Lt. John C. Lawrence, Student Officer, Adv. Nav. Sch., Box 1552, Ellington Fld., Tex. . . . Pvt. EDDIE HOEFT, once at Atlantic City, N. J.: write Pfc. Johnny Davis, ATC Ground School, Hamilton Fld., Calif. . . . Lt. SAMUEL LAMANNA, 331st Engr. Cadre, Camp Adair, Oreg.: write Cpl. Frank D. Bozzo, 440th AAF Unit, Sq. D, Santa Maria, Calif. . . . Pvt. JERRY McNEIL, last heard of in Italy: write Pvt. Robert Parker, Med. Det. B, 1878 Unit, Camp Claiborne, La. . . . Pvt. JOHN MANAH, last heard of in the 538th QM Bn., Co. C: write Pfc. Chester R. Echter-nach, 582d MPEG Co., POW Camp, Weingarten, Mo. . . . Cpl. JOHN J. O'CONNOR, formerly at Fort Hamilton with the 5th CAAA: write M/Sgt. Charles E. Rogan, Co. A, 36th Bn., 9th Regt., Camp Crowder, Mo.

. . . Sgt. R. C. PARKHURST, once overseas: write Sgt. James M. Love, 407 State St., Baton Rouge 13, La. . . . Sgt. GEORGE M. PAULSEN, formerly of the 212 Bn., Camp Blanding, Fla.: write A/S Bill Kucich, Sec. 1, 3013 AAF, Base Unit, Deming AAF, N. Mex. . . . Cpl. SCHOENFELD, once in Co. C, 890th Engr. Bn., spring of 1942: write Maj. C. T. Bagley, Ward C-4, Fitzsimons Gen. Hosp., Denver, Colo. . . . Lt. WALLACE SIMS, somewhere in Calif.: write Cpl. Marnard E. Johnson, Med. Det., Foster Fld., Tex. . . . WILLIAM BOWMAN SNYDER, in the National Guard in 1938 with Troop E, 111th Cav., later transferred to the Air Corps, at Jefferson Bks., Mo.: write Ens. Harry E. Wolking, NATC, Sq. 13-B, Corpus Christi, Tex. . . . A/C ELBERT J. SOWERS, King College, last heard from in Flt. 6 (44-A) at Shaw Fld., Sumter, S. C.: write Pvt. Walter Caldwell, Finance Office, APO 360, Camp Roberts, Calif.

SHOULDER PATCH EXCHANGE. A list of shoulder-patch collectors' names will be sent to you if you write *Shoulder Patch Exchange*, YANK, 205 East 42d Street, New York 17, N. Y. Specify whether you want your name added to the list.