

The Battalion

STUDENT BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
Texas A. & M. College

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Missing a Chance . . . Training Plus

It was not long ago that people all over the United States were planning victory-in-Europe celebrations. The rapid advance of Allied armies through France set off repercussions that resulted in waves of optimism that swept the United States from city to city, from town to town, and from farm to farm. Victory, sweet victory and wild celebrations seemed to be the promise for the morrow.

Then the Germans opened their counter offensive. With German precision they rolled the allied armies back, cut their supply lines, crushed their tanks, captured their artillery, and bled and killed American soldiers. The waves of optimism were retarded but still they washed on the shores of American thinking with hope for an early victory.

Victory may come early and unexpectedly. The Germans may be weaker than their recent display of power indicated or their daring thrust into allied positions may cost them their last strength but there is no way that Americans can be positive whether the Germans are still powerful. Certainly they give very little indication of gasping for breath. They do not fight like a nation on its knees. It looks like they are standing up and slugging it out with the allies and winning their share of battles.

Infantrymen, artillerymen, airmen, engineers, and every other fighting branch of the war effort is calling for more explosives with which to blast the enemy. American industry is stepping up production once again to meet this new demand for munitions.

Selective Service has raised its quotas and there is strong feeling in favor of re-examining all those previously turned down for military service. The United States needs more troops. They need more men.

Calling more men into the service is one method of increasing the size of the armed forces. There is another method to increase the striking power of American fighting men quickly. Speeded up training puts the soldier in the place where he is needed. Speed ups in training have somewhat the same effect as an increase in total manpower. The army has done this but how have they accomplished it successfully?

The army and navy both have improved and perfected training methods but it still takes a certain amount of time to train the men for the job. Both the army and navy are using another method that has the effect of speeding up training. Young boys of pre-induction age enlist in special reserves and enter college and all the while are under military supervision, discipline and training.

A. & M. was founded under laws that required it to instruct students in military science and tactics. As A. & M. grew its reputation grew as a center of civilian military training. In World War I soldiers from Aggieland carved an everlasting niche for A. & M. in military tradition. In World War II they have made this niche deeper and carved several more in which the Spirit of Aggieland burns brightly.

Other schools have military training. Other schools equal and surpass A. & M.'s academic standards. Other schools have more difficult entrance requirements than A. & M. Yet A. & M. men continue to compile a war record without equal.

Milton said, "I call therefore a complete and general education that which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully and magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war." That has been A. & M.'s goal. A. & M. has fulfilled that definition, but why? What is it that makes an A. & M. man outstanding?

Many have defined it as an intangible something. They called it something that could not be seen by the casual observer. They are right. It is something that the visitor seldom sees. It is something that has been driven underground by an antiquated statute which says, "No student of any normal school of Texas, or of any other state educational institution of this state, shall engage in what is commonly known and recognized as hazing, or encourage, aid or assist any other person thus offending."

Bodily injury is definitely something that A. & M. could not be proud of. But hazing is further defined. "Any wilful act by one student alone or acting with others, directed against any other student of such educational institution, done for the purpose of submitting such student, made the subject of the attack committed, to indignity or humiliation, or without his consent." Careful analysis of the two quoted statements will convince the impartial reader that nearly any action by one student toward another can be construed as hazing.

Every semester A. & M. has an epidemic of discipline cases resulting from what is commonly referred to as enforcement of underclassmen duties. It is submitted that these duties which underclassmen at A. & M. are requested to do are that intangible something that has made A. & M. men stand out in every war and in every year of peace since the A. & M. College of Texas graduated its first class.

Perhaps it is time that the Texas State statute on hazing be re-examined and a definite definition constructed so that it can be decided whether or not it will be possible for future A. & M. graduates to have that intangible something that has made the Aggies just a bit better than other graduates.

A. & M. trains military men. Every bit of training that a man has before he goes into the army helps the army train him much faster and speed him to the spot where he is needed. Aggies have always had that preliminary training plus. The plus resulted from that intangible something. A. & M. has dedicated itself to the war effort. If A. & M. and the people of Texas whom it represents do away with that intangible something they may be missing a chance to bring victory a few days closer.

BACKWASH

By Renyard W. Canis
Backwash: An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence.—Webster.

SO MANY beautiful girls here over last weekend calls to mind the various tests of beauty. More than a thousand years ago a Persian king set up 27 points as standard requirements for his court beauties. The points are: "Three white: the skin, the teeth, the hands; three black: the eyes, the eye lashes, the eyebrows; three red: the lips, the cheeks, the



nails; three long: the body, the hair, the hands; three short: the ears, the teeth, the legs; three broad: the bosom, the forehead, the space between the eyebrows; three full: the lips, the arms, the calves; three small: the waist, the hands, the feet; three thin: the fingers, the hair, the thighs."

Have the standards changed much? If pin-up pictures can be taken as an indication of the trend it takes a long legged girl to be beautiful. Then too, it was surprising that the old Persian king required red fingernails. It is reported that Cleopatra painted hers green. Women wouldn't be women without paint.

That old Persian king neglected to record just how he wanted these various requirements put together. Ask any Aggie and he'll say that is the most important thing.

Ring Sidelights

CONGRATULATIONS on the fine Ring Dance are in order for the committees of the Class of '46. It was one of the best ever.

Especially good was the impressive program just after the ring ceremony. The Singing Cadets really did a swell job of bringing the old Aggie sentiment up into a fellow's eyes. Their rendition of the "Twelfth Man" was unusual and gratifying.

Bob Kidd, better known as Pop provided an interesting sidelight in the ring. For some reason, maybe his date was late getting to A. & M., Pop was late to the dance. So he would have to wait another year to go through the ring the seniors stopped the dance and gathered around to watch. What they hadn't counted on was Pop taking as much time to go through as the rest of the class.

Most amazing are the contortions that these freshmen and other jitterbugs go through on the dance floor. Saturday night at the corps dance there was a little fish dancing with a little girl in a fuschia (red to men) sweater and gray skirt. All these guys wearing supports under their eyes today are wearing the slings on the eyeballs because they all "bugged" out watching the fish and fuschia dance.

One fellow described his sensations going through the senior ring. "While waiting in line I got an enormous charge watching the other couples but when it came time for me to go through the ring I was nervous as heck. Then when we started I felt like turning around and going the other way. But when we got in the ring—ah yes—I forgot everything except the girl and what she was supposed to do to me. Wow!"

"After the ceremony she told me that she got a crick in her neck while in the ring. I see, sure enough. Yes, she says, I thought that I was supposed to kiss you instead of you kissing me'. At that I crawled back under the sofa. That is where I ran into Stanley Knight playing "Don't Fence Me In."

Cassanova Aggie

SOME AGGIE, he won't let his name be printed, reports that he was almost picked this past weekend. He had a date down for the dance. Thursday he got a letter from a girl in Austin asking him to come down to be with her. Friday a letter came from the one in Dallas asking him to come up. His Bryan girl isn't speaking to him any more because he didn't ask her to the dance. Yesterday a buddy told him that he saw another girl in Dallas hoping to see him.

Now this guy is bleeding because he didn't hear from Houston or Ft. Worth. If they all ever find out about every body.

:: As The World Turns ::

By Dr. Al B. Nelson

The present smokescreen being put out by government propaganda agencies has a double purpose, first, to take the mind of the American people off of the recent campaign promises and slogans and



off of the question of responsibility for the recent reverses on the European front and, second, to try to throw the responsibility for said reverses upon the so-called complacency of the American people.

The man-power shortage propaganda loosed upon the general public since the November election is a definite part of the above campaign and is producing a vigorous reaction from many well informed persons who ask some very pointed questions. Why, if the man-power shortage is as serious as the propagandists assert, does the government continue to coddle the union labor racketeers by preserving the forty hour week when the laboring men of England have been working much longer hours for years. The mere lengthening of the work week to forty-eight hours would be equal to the addition of twenty per cent more men on the war time production lines. This blindness to reality is typical of the bungling labor policies which were largely responsible for the fall of France in the year 1940.

The army continues to occupy seven of the Montgomery Ward retail stores in the north and east where army men sell goods over the counter, take in money owed the firm, and write checks on the Montgomery Ward bank account. If the man-power shortage is as acute as officials seem to think the army of occupation in the Montgomery Ward plants could be used to advantage in reinforcing some desperately fighting unit in

Belgium or on Luzon. Some interesting headlines: Twelve hundred American war prisoners to be exchanged for an equal number of Germans, the exchange to take place in Switzerland . . . Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana objects strenuously to the proposed appointment of a southerner to the Interstate Commerce Commission in the place of Commissioner Mahaffie who has consistently opposed lowering the southern freight rates to an equality with those in the north. . . Sweden has at last agreed to cut out all trade with Germany. . . Turkey has agreed to permit shipping to carry war supplies to the Russians through the Dardanelles.

California Science Academy Discovers New Way to Make Fake Ear

Frank Tose, late chief of the exhibits departments at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, just before his recent death, had perfected a new process for making an exact replica, in reverse, of a human ear. Working to fill the needs of the armed forces for natural-looking artificial parts of the body to replace those of maimed veterans, Mr. Tose and his staff utilized skill gained through years of research with plastic materials. With rubber, latex, plastics (formerly used in exhibits to simulate real objects) new experiments were made in the surgical art of prosthesis. One of the problems presented by prosthesis, (the making of artificial parts of the body and fitting them to duplicate the natural features of disfigured men—an essential part of the program of war rehabilitation) is to secure an exact duplicate of a living member of the body when its mate is maimed. To make a duplicate (in reverse) of a living ear Mr. Tose solved the problem by inventing a ruled plywood board fitted with hollow tubes set in a certain way. By attaching an ordi-

Aggie Flying General Leads Newest Wings

15TH AAF IN ITALY—The Wing commander from Weatherford, Texas, landed his light cabin plane after a routine flight, strode across the windy Italian pasture and entered his office.

The telephone rang. "Hello, General," said a familiar voice at the other end of the line. It was Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General of the 15th AAF, informing Col. William L. Lee that on December 7, the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Congress had approved Lee's promotion to Brigadier General.

"What the . . .", stammered the surprised 41-year-old flying General of the youngest wing in the 15th AAF. "What do you mean, Sir?" General Twining assured him that he could replace the eagles which he had worn for two years and a half with the star of a Brigadier General, and added that written notification was on its way.

The elevation to the rank of General came as Lee's B-24 Liberator Wing was approaching its 150th mission against enemy targets in Europe. Known as the baby wing, it has, nevertheless, pounded all of the major objectives in the German network of factories, oil fields, and communications systems in its 8 months of operation. The names of these targets are now legend in the history of heavy bombardment: The oil refineries of Ploesti, and the aircraft industry at Wiener-Neustadt, the synthetic petroleum plants at Blechhammer and Vienna, and airfields in Austria and the Balkans.

Under his leadership the groups in General Lee's wing have been cited six times by the President of the United States and the War Department, "for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy."

A command pilot with 17 years of service in the Air Corps and more than 5,000 flying hours logged, General Lee has participated in many of the Wing's missions against the enemy. He led the Wing when it bombed with 99 per cent accuracy its target objective on August 15, D-Day for the invasion of Southern France; and planned the Wing's historic overnight conversion from heavy bomber operation to the role of cargo-carrying Liberators. For three weeks Lee delivered much-needed fuel, ammunition and bombs for September-October days in Southern France. The Army was advancing so rapidly that normal facilities were inadequate to cope with the headlong drive up the Rhone Valley. General Lee's wing delivered the goods and saved the day.

For his superior leadership on a concentrated bombing mission, against a strongly defended target in Roumania on July 15, Lee won the Distinguished Flying Cross. "By his extraordinary heroism, gallantry and devotion to duty, Colonel Lee has upheld the highest traditions of the military service," the citation read.

General Lee's rise from Second Lieutenant in 1929 to General rank in 1944 is the story of a young Texas A. & M. graduate who forsook a career in Animal Husbandry for the more exciting life in the growing U.S. Air Force. He earned his wings on May 2, 1929, and until 1935 held various posts on the flying fields of his native Texas.

Then, under Generals MacArthur and Eisenhower in the Philippine Islands, he served as assistant liaison officer and chief of the Philippine Army Air Corps. In recognition of his outstanding work in building the Philippine Air Force, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Star of the Philippine Commonwealth, an unusual honor held by few other American military men.

He returned to the United States in 1939, and began a rapid rise through the ranks that culminated in his elevation to full Colonel on July 7, 1942, when he became supervisor of training at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla. Under his direction seven B-26 Marauder Groups completed their overseas training.

In November, 1943, General Lee organized his present command, and brought it overseas last January.

He was born in Weatherford, Texas, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lee. While a student at Weatherford High School he served in the ranks of the Texas National Guard, and later completed four years of R. O. T. C. training at Texas A. & M., graduating with a

primary drawing compass, measurements are obtained from a cast of the normal ear laid on a board, accurate enough to assure an exact replica.

Loupot Sponsors A. & M. Historical Contest Open to Aggies and Companies

J. E. Loupot has opened a contest starting today concerning historical questions about A. & M. Loupot will give a prize of \$2.50 to the first Aggie or company that answers the list of questions correctly. Each week the Battalion will carry a list of questions and the following week will run the answers to the questions of the previous week.

Contest rules are simple.

1. The contest is open to any Aggie or any A. & M. company, battery, or troop.
2. Battalion and Longhorn staffmen are not eligible nor are employees of Loupot.
3. Answers must be taken to J. E. Loupot not later than the next Friday after the questions appear in the Battalion.
4. The first entrant turning in the correct answers will receive the prize.

The first set of questions are:

1. What year did the College first open? How many students reported on the first day? What was the first permanent building?
2. What year did Texas A. & M. first play Texas Univ. in football? Where? What year did the Aggies win their first football game from Texas?
3. Who was offered the first presidency of the College but declined?
4. Who was Bernard Sbsia?
5. What do the stones at the base of the live-oaks bordering the drill field represent?
6. Who was Jesse Easterwood and why was the airfield named for him?
7. Whose Band dedicated the GROVE?
8. Where is Uncle Ed's?
9. Who were the authors of The Spirit of Aggieland? The Aggie War Hymn? The Twelfth Man?
10. What was the name of the first College Annual? What year was it published first?

New Robot Pilot Is Superior to Humans

Superiority of a robot pilot over a human pilot in holding a plane on its course and in correcting for deviations from straight and level flight has been demonstrated by aviation engineers of General Electric.

Using a hook-up of an automatic pilot with a Link trainer, they showed that in a long, straight-line flight it will not deviate from its set course more than one-half of one degree and that it will correct the plane's attitude, when it is off-line, more quickly and accurately than a human pilot.

The G-E automatic pilot employed in the test is being used widely on Navy torpedo bombers. Its function is to provide relief for the human pilot by taking over the controls and maintaining a course he sets. In doing so, it relieves him of the physical duty of controlling the flight and will hold the airplane on a steadier course than he can by hand.

The trainer was used in the demonstration to stimulate the stormy, unstabilized conditions a pilot might meet in a plane. Similar types are used in training fliers. They throw him into spins, dives and other dangerous attitudes, challenging him to bring the ship back to an even keel.

In the demonstration, G-E engineers showed that an automatic pilot will start correcting action as soon as the plane begins to move off its course. Reactions of a human pilot are much slower, they found, because at least one-tenth of a second is required for the message that he is off-course to reach his brain, then he must have time to adjust his controls by hand.

"Secret of the speedy, accurate performance of the robot pilot is an electrical gyroscope, which acts as the 'brains' of the system," according to engineers. "Any pitch, roll or yaw—that is, lengthwise or crosswise tilt or turn—produces

second lieutenant's commission in the Field Artillery Reserve.

His wife, the former Bertha Ida Haag of San Antonio, Texas, lives with their son, William L. Lee, Jr., 14, in Jackson, Miss.

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