

# The Battalion

STUDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
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Texas A. & M. College  
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## A Misconception of Aggie Spirit . . .

Editor's Note: The following editorial appeared in part in a 1940 issue of the Batt; and as then, it is still fitting to the needs of the time. From time to time, criticisms are made in relation to this topic, and therefore the Batt is of the opinion that the matter should be brought to the attention of the corps whenever such things arise.

In recent years the term "Aggie Spirit" has been used to back every sort of undertaking imaginable. Too many campaigns for one thing and another have been prefaced with, "Do this because it's a part of the old Aggie Spirit." Such exploitation and commercialization of the corps is a crime of the highest order!

Commercializing on the Aggie Spirit is a situation comparable to a petition once seen requesting legal permission to operate a slot machine provided half the profits went to the church. Exploiting the Aggie Spirit is just as bad. If every commercial or private undertaking that comes along uses the disguise of sanctioning its undertaking in the name of the Aggie Spirit, soon the phrase will have no meaning. Nowhere in the definition of Aggie Spirit is found some of the practices now in existence. Many things which really have no place at A. & M. are passed off as a firmly rooted tradition, when, in reality they never have been and never should be.

The job of enumerating just what is and just what is not Aggie Spirit would be a task of infinity. Therefore, a great deal of discretion on the part of the individual Aggie at Texas A. & M. has to be exercised in determining the things that are good and that deserve to become a real tradition. Those that are bad have no business entering into our mode of Aggie life, and for that reason should be dispensed with. If the task of doing away with something that is undesirable proves too great for one individual or a few individuals, the college as a whole should move to see the "undesirable" eliminated.

People who task American flags on goods to be sold, are in the same position. They are exploiting the patriotic feeling of the American people. Just as patriotism does not hinge on saluting the flag and bellowing the Star Spangled Banner, neither does the Aggie Spirit and tradition hinge on supporting the private graft of any individual or group of individuals.

The spirit found at Texas A. & M. is unexcelled by any other school in the world. The Aggie Spirit is one of the biggest things for which A. & M. is known. But once in a while, a few of us become a little lax and allow practices among our countless fine traditions. We usually weed them out in time, but each and every Aggie should be constantly on his toes in an endeavor to keep the good and dismiss the bad.

## So You Want to Play Golf . . .

Of interest to the fans of the golf links should be the dreams of some of the college leaders for an eighteen hole golf course on the campus complete in every detail. For a considerable time now, plans for such construction have been proposed; with wartime restriction gradually being lifted it is hoped that construction in the near future can commence.

The suggested location is one of the two sites of the approach to the Administration Building at the East Gate. A more beautiful or more splendid site could not be chosen, since that area contains all the elements of nature essential to a modern golf course. A natural stream flows through the considered site, affording proper traps for golfers. The terrain is quite irregular providing varied elevations for the game. Foliage is very abundant on the southwestern edge of the location supplying both beauty and entertaining obstacles to the game. A more logical location could not be secured at any other site on the entire five thousand acre campus.

In the operation of the links, the course will most likely be restricted exclusively to the Aggies, the faculty, and their guests. Such a restriction would eliminate the overcrowdedness encountered at public links; and without an overcrowded course, those privileged to use the greens would find their game improved and more enjoyable.

Charges for the use of the greens could easily be covered in a blanket fee charged for general Student Activities. That would mean that an Aggie could play golf at any time without regard to cost, provided he had paid his Student Activities fee at the beginning of the semester. For the benefit and convenience of Aggies who do not know how to play golf, trained instructors would be on hand to teach them, free of charge. Such provisions would enable every Aggie to learn the game without considering the expense item involved.

## Five o'Clock Class . . .

Starting on August 20 was an intensified and laborious football workout for all men of football material for the great 1945 Aggie football team. One week and more has elapsed since the training began, and scarcely a handful of Aggies has bothered to journey down toward Kyle Field in the late evening to witness the daily workouts. Such neglect of a duty owed by every Aggie, and especially every freshman, can indicate but one thing—utter lack of interest in the team and a lack of spirit on the part of a great many.

No one should be forced to make a quick trip down there and lend an encouraging hand to the hard-working men on the team. It should be everyone's desire to do all in his meagre way to help out, and the best way is also the simplest way; namely, just going down and letting the boys who are hard at it know that the corps, which is the twelfth man, is standing behind the team one hundred percent.

Second only to yell practices for telling our men that the old Twelfth Man is firmly behind the team is this practice of journeying down toward Kyle Field each day to witness the work-outs. The team has few and rare opportunities to participate in the weekly yell practices, so the only way they can really know the corps is behind them is by the turn-out each day at practice. When the showing is scanty, as it has been for the past week and more, it is only natural that they begin to wonder just how much they can rely on the corps for that twelfth man spirit. A poor showing as of late naturally doesn't give these men much encouragement, and without that support of the corps, our team means nothing and can do little.

What do you say, ole army? Are we still behind the fighting Texas Aggie football team?

# BACKWASH

Backwash: "An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence."—Webster.

By The Collaborators

And the rains came to College Station and vicinity; that is, if you know where "vicinity" is. If it were just twenty degrees cooler, this weather would be typical of fall weather around here—bleak and dreary looking with rain drizzling down like fine spray from a shower bath. Some of the rainy weather apparel you don't see around here just isn't found. The only thing we haven't seen used by some individual is a tow sack and apple box.

Since there is to be an A.V.M.A. dance this coming Friday night, practically all the vet students are eagerly awaiting a reply from their various girl friends. Some of the replies will probably be in the form of a you-know-what-kind-of letter or telegram, but the others will receive the happy tidings that they are about to be visited by their one and only. Even this won't gladden some of the boys. There is to be a corps ball on Saturday night and it should be a good dance because there is usually a large group of feminine characters at the vet students dance.

Here is some food for the thought of a woman-weary Aggie:

I'm through with all women, they're fickle, untrue, They make you, then break you and laugh when you're through. They wreck and degrade you with motives most base, Then reward your love with a slap in the face.

I'm done with all women, there's not one alive,

To win their black hearts, where a flame seems to dwell, That is fed by the men that are under their spell.

I'm through with all women, they cheat, and they lie,

They prey on us males to the day that we die.

They tease us and torment us and drive us to sin—

Say, who is that blonde that just now came in?

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This week Backwash finds itself honored by none other than THE SUMMER TEXAN. Last week's piece about Kearby and his T. U. girl friend caught the eye of Mr. Horace Busby, editor-in-chief of that illustrious publication, who deemed the paragraph important enough to devote the major portion of one of his highly entertaining comment columns to its reproduction, along with this witty remark: "All of which goes to prove that freshmen

live at Littlefield and, too, that news is where you shush it." Then Mr. Busby goes on to remark on the editorial "Aggieland Looks Ahead" ending up in an incoherent blaze of glory, having accomplished nothing, and wasted several minutes of the reader's time. Surely, Mr. Busby, a man of your vast ability can find something more constructive to do than that.

Fast becoming an almost Aggie tradition is one Fish Kemp's car, if it can be called that. It seems that most of the Senior Class now rely on the said vehicle for transportation, despite the fact that they usually end up pushing it home.

Scene I: Room 202, Dorm 6, Time: August 28, between 10 and 11 p. m.; Characters: X (still unknown), and x (a small, odd-faced, black cat, now defunct); Action: x's tail is being sliced off to a point two inches above the point of origination by X (still unknown). After performing this cruel and heartless deed, X departs, his identity completely masked.

Scene II: Same; Time: A little later; Characters: x, protesting thusly—meow; an experienced veterinarian, McDermont, hero (?) of this tale; other veterinarians, who offer technical advice. Action: McDermont is injecting a spinal anesthesia into x's leg. x promptly keels over, as it seems that no one present remembered that mule anesthesia isn't meant for cat cases, especially if the amount given is enough for five mules.

Scene III: Second floor bathroom, Dorm 6; Time: a little more later; Characters: x's missing tail in a corner; somebody else's hand; Action: A tear, very large, drops from owner of hand as said hand picks up the tail gently.

Scene IV: Second floor, Dorm 6; Time: who cares?; Characters: Occupants of scene; x's tail; Action: The second floor occupants are being questioned somewhat similar to the procedure given by a local draft board. One of the questions was, "Did you have a hand in this?" which was obviously the wrong way to ask it, because X could say "no" and still be clear with his own foul heart. The question to ask was, "Did you have a hand on this?" An unending search goes on, so don't be surprised if you are confronted with the same question soon.

In view of the facts herewith presented, the Collaborators will give to the apprehender of X (still unknown), a reward consisting of two (2) dirty mess hall spoons.

# Good Neighbors

PARAGUAY. . . . FRONTIER COUNTRY

By Ruben R. Caro-Costas

Paraguay is one of the inland countries of South America. Bounded by Bolivia and Brazil on the north, Brazil and Argentina on the east, Argentina on the south, and Argentina and Bolivia on the west, she finds herself isolated from the rest of the world.

Paraguay's territory can be divided into two divisions, Eastern and Western Paraguay. Eastern Paraguay comprises one third of the territory and is located between her two great rivers, the Paraguay and the Parana. Most of her million people live in this section of the country, tilling her fertile and rich soil and tending the cattle. Western Paraguay remains largely a wilderness with few settlements, where the great "quebracho" forests are found. This section of Paraguay occupies two thirds of her land.

### Paraguayan Climate

About two thirds of Paraguay lies within the temperate zone and one third in the tropics. Her land climate is subtropical and is subject to stimulating changes. The beauty of her land, with its towering palms and orchids, strike the visitor's eye. It is a fascinating scene, as legendary as the bravery of her people, who are a blending of Spanish and Guarani, which in the Indian tongue means "Warrior".

### A Bloody History

Paraguay was settled early in the sixteenth century in an attempt to find a "northwest passage" to the fabulous gold and silver mines of Bolivia and Peru.

Spain being far away from her, Paraguay acted early independently of the mother country. This country was the first in South America to choose its own government, in 1531. After several uprisings against the Spanish crown,

Paraguay obtained her independence without bloodshed, in 1811. In 1816 Dr. Francis was made dictator for life and after ruling his country with an iron hand for twenty-four years, he died, leaving the national treasury well filled, a unified country, and a good army.

He was followed by Lopez, who continued the development of the country by building one of South America's first railroads and by passing a decree giving liberty to all children of slaves. He was followed as president of Paraguay by his son, who was then Minister of War. Lopez II made the Paraguayan Army the best in South America. He was a cruel ruler and he tried to imitate Napoleon. He declared a war on Brazil and Argentina which is one of the most devastating conflicts in history. The Paraguayans were greatly outnumbered in the struggle, but fought on until the male population was virtually exterminated. Of Paraguay's million and a quarter people fewer than 300,000 survived the war and the diseases and famine which followed it. In addition Paraguay lost about 50,000 square miles of her territory.

Some fifty years later Paraguay once more went into war, this time against Bolivia. This war was fought over the Chaco territory. After several years of fighting, Paraguay drove Bolivia away from the Chaco and pursued her army into the Andes, but was unable to conquer Bolivia. Finally a truce was worked out and a treaty was signed in 1938 and accepted by both countries.

### Paraguayan Economy

Cotton is the leading money crop, and accounts for more than one quarter of the value of all exports. Tobacco and citrus fruits rank next to cotton, while rice, sugar, corn,

# BETWEEN THE BOOK-ENDS

By Paul S. Ballance

## THE GENERALS OF WORLD WAR II

No doubt the plans for defeating the enemy in this great world conflict have been laid by the leaders of the four Allied Nations, but these plans have been executed by the top ranking generals of this and the other three Allied Nations. There have been several books written by and about our generals, and this article will deal with some of these books. Alfred A. Knopf published in 1943 a volume entitled "These are the Generals". This volume is written by a group of well known correspondents and writers, who have more or less studied the lives of the individuals whom they have written about. General Johnson Haygood has written about our Chief of Staff, Gen. George C. Marshall. General Haygood says that when the President appointed General Marshall as Chief of Staff of the Army, he picked not only a man who is America's best present-day soldier but one who many years ago was reputed to be the outstanding military genius of America since Stonewall Jackson. Marshall is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, and not a product of West Point. Marshall's first and real assignment came when he was stationed in the Philippines, and he was then only a first lieutenant. George C. Marshall was sent to France as a Captain on the General Staff in World War I. He was soon promoted to the rank of Colonel. Marshall was quite universally recognized as one

of the outstanding men of the A. E. F., but he could not be advanced to high rank on account of peculiar promotion laws. After the war, this man was reverted to his pre-war rank of Captain, and he had to climb the ladder of rank all over again in a peace-time army. In 1936 George Marshall was made a Brigadier General and it was from this position that he was advanced to be head of the American Army, as Chief of Staff. Other generals mentioned in this volume are Douglas MacArthur and his rise to responsibility and popularity; General Dwight D. Eisenhower; General Henry H. Arnold; Lt. Gen. Simon H. Buckner, who was killed on Okinawa; Lt. General Mark C. Clark; Lt. General George S. Patton; Lt. Alexander A. Vandergriest, and a half score of other important American generals.

For the individual biography of one of the outstanding soldiers of this war, Francis Trewelyan Miller has written a volume entitled "Eisenhower, Man and Soldier". Over two hundred years ago the Eisenhower family first came to the New World to find freedom from oppression in the Old World—today General Dwight Eisenhower is the hero who has led the Armies of the Allies against the Axis stronghold in Europe to bring freedom to the lands to which his family fled. The author begins the volume by giving a brief history of the Eisenhower clan and later the happenings and events in the lives of the Eisenhowers' while Dwight and the others were youngsters. The records in the War Department at Washington definitely state that

Tyler, Texas was the birthplace of General Eisenhower, but the records at West Point state Denison, Texas, and Mother Eisenhower emphatically states that it was Denison and she corroborates it with the family Bible. Dwight Eisenhower spent much of his boyhood in Abilene, Texas. He was one of the most popular among the youths of the town. In school and in the social doings he was always a leader. He earned the nickname of "Ike" early in life, and it has followed him to this day. In 1911 Dwight Eisenhower entered West Point, and this was the beginning of his life as a soldier. The author follows him through his assignments and accomplishments from that day in 1915 when he left West Point to the present. Eisenhower as a man as well as soldier is stressed in this most interesting narrative, and his human characteristics are cited. These titles are in the College Library, and are well worth reading, for an insight into the lives of the men who have been partially responsible for our victories in this great world conflict.

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