

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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## 'They Also Serve Who Only Stand And Wait' ...

(A Fable)  
There I was, lying in bed, reading the Classified Ad section of my favorite Sunday morning paper, in search of a possible means to supplement my meager \$65 allowance. My \$65 check was long overdue; and I needed a few shekles.

Suddenly I sat upright in bed. Staring me right in the face was my life-saver—the opportunity of a lifetime—my chance to make a little money.

I read it more carefully, because it was too good to be true. Sure enough, I met the qualifications. It said:

**"MILITARY TACTICAL OFFICERS** to advise cadets and assist in operation of A. & M. College corps of cadets. Reserve officers with combat experience, between ages of 25 and 45. Include in first letter complete statement of service and availability. Write **COMMANDANT, A. & M. College of Texas, College Station, Texas.**"

So I bounded out of bed, put on my dirtiest pair of fatigues (because I wanted to look combat-fatigued), affixed by Good Conduct Ribbon over my right pocket, and headed for Ross Hall. I was eager to apply, I was only 22, but I hadn't shaved for a week, so I figured I'd look odd enough.

But, alas, I was not the first in line, for there were four others ahead of me waiting for the old oaken doors to swing open and permit applicants to enter.

There stood good ole Gypsum McGargoyle, president of the North Gate Athletic Association, in front of me, waiting impatiently. In a brief 1,000-word oration, he allowed how he met all the requirements.

In front of McGargoyle stood an eager-looking North Gate entrepreneur. During the next 15 minutes he related his combat experience. Why, four times, he said, he had to combat his way off the KP roster at Fort Sam reception center. And every time he won, too.

The third person in front of me was a veteran named Rastus George Washington

Jones. When Rastus saw how I was through listening to the other folks, he greeted me right friendly-like. "Ah sho' was surprised to see that ther ad this mawin. An heer Ah been workin 25 hours a day a-cleenin dawn-itary 'leven for fo'-bits a day. Ah don't know nuthin 'bout that ther 'preserved officer' stuff, but Ah sho' has had mah share o' combattin mah wife. An' all de time Ah didn't know that the A. & M. College threw away so much money on that ther 'discipline.' Ah'd reckon they'd spend more money on mops and Sani-Flush."

Well, I could hardly wait to get rid of Rastus, because I saw a demure, young WAC lieutenant in full dress standing at the head of the line. She was eager, too.

"When in \$\*(-) ?# are they gonna open that ?") (\$@#/? door?" she queried coyly. Her sophisticated language implied that she had had the best of everything. Lt. Smith (we shall call her that for purposes of identification) spat violently on the ground, withdrew a bottle of Four Roses from her hip pocket, and took a slug. "What I wouldn't have given for some of this when I was in one of those foxholes," Lt. Smith asserted, smacking her lips and hiccupping.

Just then an effeminate private first class unbolted the door. "Now before we get down to 'brass' tacks," he said, "all applicants must have been awarded the Good Conduct Ribbon."

The four other applicants, failing to meet this qualification, turned sadly and started off. I was the sole possessor of a Good Conduct Ribbon. "Wait," I called to the retreating applicants. "Be not discouraged. You've got another possibility."

I unfolded the Houston Chronicle and pointed to a "wanted" ad below the one which they had answered. They read earnestly:

**"MESSENGER BOYS. Three young boys ... high school graduates ..."**

That evening four unidentified persons boarded the 8:10 train bound for Houston and they lived happily ever after.

## Delaying Scientific Research ...

By withholding approval of the national science foundation bill and preventing it from becoming law, President Truman has postponed full-scale government support of basic scientific research for at least six months, probably for two years and perhaps longer.

The bill, given pocket veto after passage by both houses, was the result of two years of hearings, debate and compromises in congress. For a year earlier at the request of President Roosevelt, a committee headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush, director of the wartime Office of Scientific Research and Development, worked on a plan for peacetime government support of science and brought forth recommendations that did not differ markedly from the provisions of the bill finally passed.

The Bush plan of power vested in part-time scientific board won out over the single, responsible administrator type of organization vigorously favored by President Truman, the then Secretary of Commerce Wallace and the budget bureau. Both the House and Senate voted down the in-line customary type of organization, preferring to make a group of scientists responsible.

Folls among representative scientists showed that they favored heavily at the opening of the 80th Congress the single administrator with advisory committees. But when Congress decided upon a foundation membership of 24 serving part-time, confident that this administrative plan would work fairly and effectively. They pointed to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics as a good example of a part-time committee that has administered research successfully for the government since World War I.

Scientists in all fields are disappointed that the national foundation bill did not become law. Some of them point out that control of research funds available for grants are left, by default, largely in the hands of the Army, Navy and Air Force. They admit that military funds have kept in operation research projects of importance generally, not alone to defense. But they want to see research predominantly in civilian hands and the military research bureaus have agreed with them.

Scholarships for young research sci-

tists were authorized in the bill as an aid to filling the depleted ranks of scientific investigators. This is considered one of the most important functions of the foundation, now delayed.

Both political parties are in favor of science, you may be sure, and the few members of congress who opposed the unsigned bill were careful to go on record for science research. While the unsigned bill, S.526, was a Republican majority measure, it had strong Democratic support and was based solidly on previous bills of the 79th congress.

Whether Congress will reconsider the matter of a national science foundation in its pre-election session in January and enact a bill more to his liking, as President Truman hopes, is problematical. Real hopes for a national science foundation may be unjustified. Scientists confronted by some of the world's greatest and most urgent problems will have to do the job with what they now have. The government reinforcements aren't coming.

### Wrong Tie-in ...

Faces, currently, are pretty red around the Toledo Blade. It seems that a correspondent sent in a picture of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Stuckey, substantial citizen of Fulton County (Ohio), to accompany a feature story on their golden wedding anniversary. But as the photo went through the art department for routine retouching, the artist noticed that Mr. Stuckey wasn't wearing a tie so, with the best of intentions, he decided to dress Stuckey up for the occasion and proceeded to dub in the tie.

Well, the story ran and a few days later angry letters began to pile in from Fulton County. It seems that Stuckey has been a pillar of the Amish church for over 60 years, and that the Amish consider neckties as well as all other personal adornments to be inventions of the devil.

—TIDE

"WHEN AN individual offers you something for nothing, it is time to remember that the price is too high."—The Lafayette (Alabama) Sun.

## The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published tri-weekly and circulated on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons, except during the summer when it is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Gene Tierney in "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir"

## Familiar Hands



## 10 Year Deadline ...

### New Schedule Vet Benefits

By A. D. Bruce, Jr.  
This year Congress and the White House put heads together, kicked around a few ideas, and came out with the following timetable for veterans' benefits. Some new privileges and a time limit on most rights gives a different picture of what ex-servicemen may expect and for how long.

Effective right away in the new timetable are these rights:

**TERMINAL LEAVE PAY** for former enlisted men may be spent after September 1, 1947, when banks will be permitted to cash terminal-leave bonds.

**SERVICE INSURANCE** may be reinstated without a physical examination at any time until next January (The deadline of August 1 was extended).

**ON-THE-FARM TRAINING** is now provided for farmers-veterans, with class room instruction and actual farm work. Also included is an increase in the V. A. "revolving fund" for small loans to needy veteran trainees.

able in veterans' hospitals. However, in practice, the scarcity of VA hospital space is likely to continue for about four more years, while some 88 new hospitals are built throughout the country.

**DISABLED VETERANS' TRAINING** and education courses under Public Law 16, meanwhile, must be started by 1952 if the individual expects to take a full four-year program at Government expense. These courses must be completed by July, 1952, but may be started at any time up to that date.

**LOAN GUARANTEES** for new houses, farms or businesses, finally, are to be stopped in mid-1957. Up to that time, the VA will guarantee half of the veteran's loan, up to a maximum of \$4,000 on real estate, and up to \$2,000 on other deals. Loans made before that date will continue in force, but no more may be made.

Only the right to cash terminal-leave bonds this year will cost the taxpayers big money. Action on many major privileges asked by veterans groups was postponed till next year. Congress just couldn't seem to find time to finish its debate concerning a general increase in GI schooling allowances—after all, they were in a big hurry to start their long-needed vacations. Another possible explanation for the lack of action is the coming elections; they have a powerful influence over congressmen.

Assurances to veterans call for a flow of government dollars in their direction over the coming 10 years, in accordance with the timetable of rights and deadlines. After that, payments to veterans promise to decrease slowly until 1957, when most of the GI bill is to die.

## BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS ... Main Street, Vermont Is Setting for 'The Quarry'

By Wilsons Arnold  
Readers' Advisor

**THE UMBRELLA THORN.** By Peter De Polnay, New York. Creative Age Press, Inc., 1947.

Peter de Polnay, a striking and arresting figure on our literary scene, has brought us in his latest novel the unmistakably individual twist to a well developed story. The charm of his style lies partly in the fact that he is temperamentally as well as by birth a continental, yet he writes in supple English stories that have the fascination of being un-English in their flavor.

**THE UMBRELLA THORN** is set in Kenya, and the climate, the isolation of up-country estates, and the uncanny strangeness of the landscape play a large part in the story. The characters, however, are tricky. For instance, in the opening scene we find Miles Wace making a delightful idiot of himself in the role of a new-made father. Apparently Miles is all set to be the hero of Mr. De Polnay's story, but quite unexpectedly Miles quits the scene (I won't say how), and his place is taken by David McKenna—Miles' friend and the new baby's godfather. David, a masterpiece of character development, is, emotionally, a dark horse. Gloria, Miles' wife, is a curious mixture of sincerity and worthlessness, but her character is not so well drawn as David's.

Apart from its merits as an absorbing tale with unusual atmosphere, this is one of the best pieces of good workmanship in fiction I have come across in some time.

**THE QUARRY.** By Mildred Walker, New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1947.

"Love desires that which is absent and beyond his reach." Young Lyman Converse, reading Plato in his rooms at Brown, showed the book aside, saying, "Plato's crazy as a loon." But Lyman had no way of then knowing how closely his own emotional life would follow this definition of love.

In telling the story of Lyman Converse, Mildred Walker has written a long, satisfying novel of (See BOOKEND on Page Four)

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