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HUMBOLDT NEWS LETTER

HUMBOLDT STATE COLLEGE, ARCATA, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 1, 1945

NELLIST WINS HONORS

Lt. Bill Nellist ('37-'38) has been winning fame by several daring exploits in the Philippines. In the Humboldt Standard of February 6 is an account of a rescue of a group of Dutch and Javanese prisoners from the Japs in which Bill participated as the leader of one of the rescue parties. For this he was awarded the Bronze Star by Lt. General Walter Kruger, Commanding General of the Sixth Army.

In the Humboldt Times of February 7 is an Associated Press dispatch describing Bill's part in rescuing the Allied war-prisoners from Cabanatuan. It is so interesting that we quote it in full:

"WITH 6th ARMY, LUZON, Feb. 6 — By Richard Bergholz, A.P. There are only 13 of them — the Alamo Scouts who played such a vital part in rescue of the Allied war-prisoners from Cabanatuan. Sixth Army officers say the rescue might have failed without them. They provided last minute information on the location of Japanese guards and guns, conditions of the prison gate, barracks and other vital intelligence.

"They worked in two six-man teams while the thirteenth, Lt. John M. Doce, Hollywood, Calif., traveled with the main force of U. S. Rangers.

"One team was headed by Lt. Tom Rousanville, Atoka, Oklahoma.

Eurekan in Lead

"The other team was headed by Lt. William E. Nellist of Eureka, Calif.

"The two teams previously had won bronze star awards for daring rescues of Dutch and Javanese prisoners in Dutch New Guinea.

"This is how the Alamo Scouts took part in the rescue:

"The two teams started from their base at midafternoon on January 27. They skirted a good-sized battle between Yank infantry-men and Japanese, swung south and crossed big rivers to reach Balincarin in the hills by 2 a.m. the next day — a 30-mile march.

"By 10 a.m., January 30, the Alamo Scouts were within 500 yards of the prison camp. Rousanville and another scout crawled up to a deserted Filipino hut directly across the road from the camp. Nellist and Vaquilar moved up on the camp from the other side from which they could accurately locate the positions of the Japanese guards and pinpoint Japanese defenses.

Runners Busy

"From 11:30 a.m. to dark the Scouts kept sending runners back to the Rangers with detailed information on the camp.

"When the Rangers arrived and took over the assault on the camp it was the Scouts' job to reach the prisoners and guide them out of the camp along the escape route. Nellist from his commanding position, directed Ranger fire on Japanese mortars.

"On the escape trip homeward it was the Scouts' job to bring up the rear and keep an eye peeled for any stragglers.

"They were the first to go out and the last to come in."

FOUR HUMBOLDTERS COMMISSIONED

Ensigns Merritt Neale ('41-'43), **Guy Keith** ('41-'43), **Jimmy Roscoe** ('41-'43) and **Jack Piersall** ('41-'43) received their commissions on January 6 at Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. Following a 4-day "basket" leave which most of them spent sight-seeing on the eastern coast, they are now engaged in a six-weeks period of officers' training. They are being prepared primarily for duty with construction battalions in the Pacific. Special congratulations are due **Guy Keith** for being number one man in the midshipman class of 360 men!

KEEPING US POSTED

Lt. Richard Albert ('34-'35) wrote his last letter from the East Indies on Japanese rice paper. Richard is assigned to general hospital work there and is learning a good deal about the effect of tropical weather on the white man's skin. Ring-worm and tropical ulcers are common in these climes.

Lt. William Arvola ('38-'39) has decided to keep up with his older brother, become a metereologist and go overseas. **Lt. Tovio Arvola** ('34-'36) is with the 10th Weather Squadron, APO 210, New York, N.Y.

Pfc. George Baker (Fall '42) writes a very interesting letter from France. He enjoyed a fine holiday with two good turkey dinners in one week plus good local entertainment and good "eats" on Christmas night. George's visit to the Maginot Line sounds a bit like a Cook's Tour, and we were thrilled to hear of his sighting our own silvery-winged planes in that area.

Lt. Brad Barnes ('41-'42) doesn't mind too much having to sleep in a warm, dry "sack" in one of the huts specially built for American army men. Brad says the weather seems wetter and colder than Humboldt County and his buddies tell him that "the sun never sets on the British Empire and never rises on England."

Bill Blackford, A/C ('42-'43) is at the U. S. Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi. Says he's in a VB-2 squadron and is getting his multi-engine start in SNB's — quite a jump he says from the single-engined Vultee which he has been flying. Bill expresses his interest in basketball at Humboldt, so Humboldt hopes he'll be back soon to carry on against Chico.

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THE LIBRARY HUMBOLDT STATE COLLEGE ARCATA, CALIFORNIA

HUMBOLDT NEWS LETTER

EDITORIAL STAFF

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APPRECIATION

The News Letter Staff wishes to thank the college faculty, administrative, and maintenance staffs for their generous contributions which made possible this issue.

MR. GRAVES RESIGNS

The staff of the News Letter announces with deep regret the resignation of Mr. Graves from the editorial staff. Mr. Graves is retiring voluntarily from the college and hence feels that he will soon leave Arcata and be unable to serve.

Mr. Graves has done excellent work. His news items have had a "punch" seldom used by amateur journalists. He has kept a file of all names mentioned and helped with the policies of publication.

We shall carry on but will miss him and his fine work.

Arthur S. Gist

KEEPING US POSTED (Cont.)

Sgt. Rico Bongio ('39-'42) now in France, has been living in a three-story building formerly occupied by Nazis and which was so filthy it had to be cleaned from top to bottom before his company could move in. Rico has seen piles of rubble which had been French towns.

Cpl. Ed Burgess ('40-'42) sends a greeting card from Germany saying that he is o.k. The card is marked "The 78th Lightning Division"!

Leno Canclini, A. M. M. 2/c (Fall '32), has been in the Ship's Service in Seattle, Washington, more than a year now. Leno describes the Naval Air Station there as well situated and it reminds him of a country estate. We believe he likes the city of Seattle. More power to good shoe repairers, Leno!

Sgt. Milton Carlson ('39-'42) sends us a one-page letter from the Marianas where he says he is working on a booby trap to keep his associates alert. The Staff suggests Milt's next transfer be back to the cool, cool Redwoods.

Wilma Carlson ('40-'41) completed her nurse's training in November at Portland, Oregon. On the first of March she expects to be sent to Ft. George Meade in Maryland for four week's basic training for her commission.

Sgt. Raymond Carroll ('35-'36) after head-hunting in the Pacific for more than three years, has hopes of coming home soon.

Capt. Ray Carson ('31-'34) and **Ensign Pete Domeyer** ('38 - '41) are both serving as dentists in foreign service somewhere in the Pacific.

Donald Christiansen (Fall '44) was a visitor at the College in January. Don is based at San Diego and considers Navy life a wonderful experience in spite of crowded USO centers!

Pvt. 1/c Wiley A. Cousins ('41-'42) arrived at the Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia, on January 17 where he will have 16 weeks of training in the Marine Infantry. **Pfc. Frank Cerny** ('41-'43) is also at Quantico.

Capt. Harold Del Ponte ('34-'36) writes from Grand Island, Nebraska, where he is with a bombing squad of B-29's. He spends half of his time beneath tropical palms and half among the snows of wind-swept praries. Harold enjoys his work in the flying business.

Cpl. Harry Falk ('34-'36) is an advanced infantry instructor in the Louisiana maneuver country with headquarters at Camp Livingston. Quoting Harry: "It is most interesting to hear about my friends from Humboldt. Of course, you are all too casual! You mention things like advance reconaaissance work in the Philippines as you would mention the time of day. The phrase implies going with a group of three or four men (perhaps even alone), behind Jap lines, living there for at least several hours (perhaps days), and spying on the enemy at as close a range as possible. A rather unhealthy occupation!"

MEDAL FOR WALSH

Capt. Joe Walsh ('33-'35) has received the bronze star for extraordinary achievement in the performance of outstanding services as flight surgeon in a squadron of B-24 Liberator heavy bombardment aircraft. Joe has served as squadron physician for over a year in the European theatre of operations. He has gone beyond the expected duties to design equipment for the prevention of casualties. When his group first became operational in the winter of 1943, gunners suffered from frequent and severe frostbite of the face as a result of exposure to temperatures ranging up to fifty degrees below zero. After many hours of flying and experimentation Capt. Walsh designed a hood to be attached permanently to the flying helmet and so made that it covered completely every part of a man's face that was not protected by his helmet or his goggles. Cases of frostbite were cut to a mere fraction of their former frequency.

The bronze star citation reads in part: "Capt. Walsh's skill as a flight surgeon, his ingenuity and his constant devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the U. S."

Capt. Gerald Geiger ('35-'39) is with the 15th AAF in Italy and is now wearing the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. He arrived overseas nearly a year ago after receiving his pilot wings at Moody Field, Georgia in June 1943. Gerald is in charge of the liberal arts and education program in the special service section at headquarters. His wife lives in Richvale, California.

S/Sgt. Wesley C. Graham ('41-'42) was wounded on December 14, and after hospitalization he is back serving with the Ninth Army somewhere in Germany. Wesley has been overseas since last September, according to word received from his mother, Mrs. W. C. Graham.

Pfc. Clifford Hansen ('42-'43) is working in the Reception Center and Reception Station Dispensary at Camp Beale, California.

MOULTON AND McGRATH MEET IN ITALY

The Staff received permission to publish the following interesting letter recently received by Gordon Hadley, Editor of the Arcata Union, from **Captain Bill Moulton** (Fall '35) now in Italy:

Hi Gordon:

A line from somewhere in Italy with the Fifth Army. Everything is fine here, even to the snow. We have more here than we used to get on Grouse Mountain. But I'd much rather be there, and who wouldn't!

I met **Art McGrath** today. What a time we had, talking over old times and about good old college days in Humboldt. He is now serving with an Infantry Division Special Service office here in Italy. He is the same old Art that played many a good game of ball for Humboldt State. He has a handle-bar mustache that rivals Jerry Colona's.

There are more fellows near here from Humboldt but it is a problem to find them. We don't know when we will meet next and at the present are a little too busy to just go looking.

One thing Art and I both agree on is that the Arcata Union does a lot to bring fellows in this part of the world together. We sure appreciate it very much.

Good luck,

Bill.

Cpl. Warren Haughey ('39-'42) and **Sgt. Erle L. Hill** ('38 - '40) seem to be playing a game of tag! They met in "merry olde England" several months ago. Both were inducted on June 4, 1942 at the Presidio in San Francisco, spent several days at the Presidio in Monterey and later both went to Sheppard Field, Texas. Sgt. Haughey is working in Communications in the 74th Troop Carrier Squadron. In December he went to Edinburgh and Glasgow on his furlough.

Cpl. Allen Hill ('41-'43) says that roughing it in the Marianas has its compensations . . . there's no time for uniform regulations and inspections! Hill is in a bombing squadron which recently went overseas.

REUNION IN HAWAII

A reunion of Humboldters in Honolulu Friday, January 26, followed a month behind the one held in San Francisco at Lucca's on December 31. **Pfc. Bob Oliveira** ('41-'42), **Lt. Loy (Monty) Montgomery** ('39-'42), **Don Wilson** ('42-'43) and **Don Karshner** of the college faculty were present. They spent the day chatting about old times and of their friends scattered all over the globe. No mention was made of food, but we are imagining their dining at Yau Lee Chai's or at P. Y. Chong's!

Lt. Paul E. Hunter ('34-'37) recentry wrote to President Gist from Khorramshahr, Iran. Paul had a leave in January during which time he spent three days in Jerusalem seeing historic and sacred shrines. Several days were spent in Baghdad; three days in Tel Aviv. He tells of the attractive Y.M.C.A. building in Jerusalem which serves as the center for American tourists, and of the King David Hotel with its period furnishings. Humboldters will be eager to see the color-movies which Paul has of this trip.

Sgt. "Hutch" Hutchinson ('41), after much sweating in Australia and New Guinea, finds himself assigned near home — near enough so that he can spend week-ends there. He's in Hq. Co., SCU 1916, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Lt. Wilbur Jensen ('41-'42) recently asked the College to prepare the fatted calf, deck the halls and have **Mr. Van Duzer** nail down Nelson Hall for he was taking leave from Langley Field, Virginia and coming west to give Humboldt a thrill. Incidently Wilbur wanter to see a redwood forest again. And lo and behold — before this was hot out of the typewriter he walked into the office, minus the cow-boy hat!

Pfc. Jack Kellogg ('41 - '42) writes that life in Iran is dull these days . . . and HOT. The G. I. Bill sounds like a good means of making him a commercial artist, says Jack, who is remembered especially for his ability in the art line.

T/Sgt. Earl Lowry (Spring '38) has recently recovered from an illness while in the Philippines. Earl was in one of the first air corps units to land there after MacArthur's "return." The Philippines, Earl says, are far different from New Guinea. The country is very scenic; the people friendly.

Pfc. Alan Lufkin (Fall '40) stationed in the Moluccas group of the Dutch East Indies, has been in the South and Southwest Pacific for more than a year and a half. "Waving palms and gentle breezes from the sea," Lufkin says sounds good only in story books.

T/c Norman C. Moore ('38-'41) is now with the 7th Army in France as a French interpreter, according to word received from his mother.

Pvt. Leonard Moseley ('39-'40) was killed in action on Leyte Island on December 11, 1944. He was in Company I, 184th Infantry. While at Humboldt Leonard played football under Coach Hart. He was a man of fine sportsmanship — well liked by the members of his squad.

Lt. Kendall Naye ('35-'36) and his bride were recent guests in Arcata. "Nip" has reported to Camp Locket near San Diego for reassignment and Mrs. Naye is staying in the bay area until she can join her husband.

Pvt. Nick Nickerson (Fall '41), the writer of **Lumberjack** fame, writes no gripes these days. He's found an English bride . . . and life is rosy!

Mike O'Donnell, C. Sp ('38-'40) had his picture in the Farragut News recently. The title of the column was captioned "What is the most unusual request you have listened to by men asking for liberty or special leave?" **Mike:** "Once a sailor came to me and said he had to get home right away to chop some wood as his wife was freezing. I let him go but suggested that in the future he use a little more foresight!"

Don Gould, TM 3/c ('31 - '33) writes to his friends in Arcata from a camp in the South Seas, where his back-yard is the jungle.

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KEEPING US POSTED (Cont.)

Ensign Louise Parker ('32-'34) received her commission in November, following which she reported to the Bureau of Personnel in Washington where she was assigned to educational service work which fosters adult education in the Navy — a very vital phase of off-duty, voluntary aid to rehabilitation. Louise is located now at the Nurses' Quarters, Naval Hospital, Farragut, Idaho.

Thomas Paul A/C ('41-'43) is knocking on wood in hopes of receiving a commission soon. He is in an advanced squadron at Corpus Christi, starting his twin-engine training.

Pfc. James Peets (Fall '35) is now stationed on Guadalcanal with the Army Air Forces.

T/5 Brian J. Sanders, Jr. ('40-'42) is with the 27th General Hospital somewhere in the Pacific. His father informs us that his APO is 565.

Lt. Ted Speier ('38-'41), somewhere in France, has recently graduated from an infantry school and has been re-comissioned in the Infantry. His instructors were all "vets" back from the front on limited assignment, and Ted says "They really know what to teach us!" Aside from war, Ted mentions wild boar hunting as becoming a real sport in France.

Lt. Elrid Spinas, U.S.M.C. ('41-'42) somewhere on an island in the South Pacific, is receiving the News Letter often enough to remind him of the smell of the zoology lab, of President Gist's stories, the barn dances, a certain gal in Murf's English class, as well as the mad dash he used to make every morning from Trinidad in a '29 Chevy full of "knowledge-seekers."

Capt. Curt Sundquist ('36-'41) and **Cpl. Bill Moschetti** ('38-'39) had a surprise meeting and tea party following a major skirmish in the South Pacific!

Ensign Jack Sutherland ('40-'42) has so far been unsuccessful in his attempts to catch up with **Doc Womack.** "War's a sickening thing," he writes. "If a nation could devote the energy and expense . . . even a fraction of it . . . to peace-time education **against** war, we would never have such things."

Lt. Jack Walsh ('36-'38) is doing minor surgery at the 125th Army Station Hospital somewhere in Alaska. Jack says he finds the glaciers and fiords excellent subjects for photography, one of his favorite hobbies. Also, he has found a little time to ski. **Rose Ivancich Walsh** ('37-'41), his wife, is back at Humboldt for the spring semester.

Pvt. Sunter Walsh ('43- '44) is in Company H of the Marine Officers' Candidate Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Sunter seems to be burning the midnight oil, something he wished he had done at college!

Pvt. Dave Williams ('39-'42) is stationed at Pecos Army Air Field in Texas, waiting to commence his cadet training.

Cpl. John Williams ('42-'43) drives an ambulance somewhere in the South Pacific where he says the roads are really slippery. He also mentions belonging to a basketball league in his battalion.

Pfc. Kenneth Williams (Fall '42) has been on the battlefront in Belgium for more than two months, according to word received from his father. Kenneth is in the Third Army under General Patton.

Lt. Garff Wilson, formerly of Humboldt's faculty, sent greeting on a French post card from his pup tent in France. The Staff would like to hear more from Garff but we understand he's mighty busy on the front lines.

Lt. Hugh Wilson, USMCR ('40-'42) has been flying transports for 16 months in the South Pacific and was recently seen as a visitor at the College. He was stationed at New Caledonia and at Bougainville Island. While in that area, Hugh ran into **Capt. Jack Morton** ('39-'41) and **Lt. Robert Hoilien** ('40-'42). On March 10 he expects to report to MCAS, El Centro, California, for duty.

Sgt. Doc Womack ('41-'42) writes that both of his Philippine D-Days clinched the resolution that it would be Humboldt for him when the time for cashing in on the G. I. Bill comes.

Pfc. Glenn Swanback ('41-'42) has received his discharge from the Army and is now in the Army Hospital at Oteen, North Carolina.

WAR TROPHIES

The brilliant Nazi flag flaunted in the show case at Humboldt State College does not mean that there are any pro-Nazis taking refuge here in the redwoods. Quite the contrary, it is a defiant war trophy, captured from the Germans and sent to President Gist as a souvenir by **Cpl. Charles Waters** ('40-'41) who is now serving in the third infantry fighting on German soil. Along with the flag are two Nazi arm bands, and a handsome dagger bearing the legend "Alles for Deutchland."

These articles were apparently captured from the Germans when they retreated from France, but they are unused and bear a PX sales tag. Evidently Chuck did not take them red-handed from a fleeing Hun, but just the same, they are most interesting mementoes of a tottering regime.

WAC WEDDING

Cpl. Joyce Abbott ('40-'41), station at Luke Field, Arizona, was married on February 3 to Sgt. Edward Baker of Anaheim, California, at the Luke Field Chapel. Cpl. Abbott is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Abbott of Mount Shasta, formerly of Korbel.

Sgt. Gene Sutton ('40 - '42) deals in high finance at Fort Ben Harrison, Indiana. One of his Colonels gave him a fine push and send-off to Advance Finance School, and Gene is now in a Disbursing Section . . . still training and making a name for himself.

Russel Hodge, S O M 1/c (Spring '41) is now attending classes 10 and 12 hours a day at the West Coast Sound School in San Diego. Says his new assignment isn't bad conmpared to duty out in the Pacific!

Midshipman Charles Sweet ('40-'43) is another lucky man. He expects to get a leave soon, as his class at Notre Dame graduates early in March. Charles plans to visit the College on the hill and get a glimpse of the present "Econ" sufferers to see if they compare favorably with former ones!