

Scotch Plains Veterans Get Discharges

The Old Town is taking on more and more of a pre-war appearance with the return of increasing numbers of servicemen to civilian life. The separation tempo has stepped up in a lively manner this past month. A total of 208 lads have 'reluctantly' (?) shed Army Drab and Navy Blue for colorful civvies.

Among those discharged was S/Sgt. Frank Bardolf, veteran of 50 combat missions in the ETO as a waist gunner on a B-17.

Another flyer who put on civvy walking shoes is Lieut. Bill Cottrell who navigated a B-29 to Kobe and back with a 25-cent compass when bad weather crippled his expensive navigation instruments.

S/Sgt. Shel Coudray, holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross with eight Oak-Leaf clusters, is also back on Park Avenue. Shel drew his flying experience in the Marshall, Caroline and Mariana Islands, New Guinea and Guam.

M/Sgt. Harold Debbie earned his discharge with 99 points acquired in the ETO as a member of the Ninth Engineers of the Ninth Air Force.

Pfc. Mauro Donatelli, Marine Corps veteran, earned his 91 points aboard the buzzing aircraft carrier Hornet. His battle-record reads like a log of the Pacific operations. He's glad to be home for keeps.

So is Corp. Anthony DelNero who, in the course of his Army career, met, wooed and won Miss Odella Dilbeck, Hollywood film actress.

The 98 points which Sgt. Robert Fritz added up as a member of the 628th Tank Destroyer Battalion of the Fifth Armored Division insured his release late in September. His outfit saw action in France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland and so did Bob who has a Purple Heart and an ETO ribbon with four battle stars to show for it.

Another 98 pointer released is Pfc. Richard Graves who saw 3 1/2 years' service with a transportation unit in England, Scotland, North Africa, Corsica and France.

Pfc. Stanley A. Krempa accumulated 108 points serving as a member of the 165th Infantry of the 27th Division. He saw action in the Gilbert Islands, Saipan and Okinawa and in addition to the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on Okinawa, he has the A-P Ribbon with three battle stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Good Conduct Medal.

Sgt. Anthony Surlano and Corporal Arthur Meyer trained in the same camps, saw action overseas in the same outfit together and were discharged within 24 hours of each other. They were members of an Armored Field Artillery Battalion that saw service with the Third and Ninth Armies in the ETO.

Pfc. Edmund Novello, a veteran of 4 1/2 years Army service, earned his discharge with 96 points. He has the ETO ribbon with five battle stars

for campaigns in Northern France, Southern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland and East of the Rhine.

Corp. Freeman E. Miller served 33 months in the South Pacific with a Military Police unit and shortly after his discharge unearthed a mystery when he discovered a torso in the woods back in the hills. He was training his hunting dog when he made the gruesome discovery.

Pfc. William Ostrander is back in his home on Lake Avenue after 20 months Army service. While in France he was stricken with frost bitten feet and hands and later was stricken with pneumonia. His ETO ribbon with three battle stars represents participation in the battles of France, the Ardennes and the battle of Germany.

Sgt. Rocco Ponzio, we understand, will resume his former duties as a member of the SP Police Department. He should have a lot of interesting experiences to relate about his service with an MP platoon of the 98th Infantry Division. Rocco was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific and the European African-Middle East theater Ribbons.

Pfc. Stephen J. Puchel amassed 105 points as a veteran of three years overseas service with the Army Engineers in the ETO. He trained at Fort Bragg with a Field Artillery Battalion and later was transferred to the Engineers with whom he saw service in the Algeria, French Morocco, Central Europe, Naples-Foggia, Northern France, Normandy, Rhineland and Sicily campaigns.

Sgt. Chester Rumsey ended his Army duties after 19 months service with a Military Police Detachment in the ETO. His tour of duty included England, France, Germany and Belgium and he was awarded the ETO campaign-ribbon with three battle stars for the campaigns of Northern France, Central Germany and the Rhineland. He also holds a Presidential Unit citation, a Meritorious Service Award and the Good Conduct Medal.

Edwin C. Sharkey, carpenters' mate second class, a veteran of 27 months service in the Pacific area with the Seabees, wrote us a nice letter of appreciation for the Scotch Plainsman and told us of his discharge.

A veteran of almost 32 months of overseas service with a tank reconnaissance unit with the 117th Cavalry, M/Sgt. John Torbyn was discharged in August. He served in England, Africa, Italy and France.

Elmer W. Ulrich, aviation metal-smith first class, was granted an honorable discharge late in September after 5 1/2 years in the Navy. He was stationed at the Naval Air Station at Pearl Harbor during the Jap sneak attack.

T/Sgt. Persis T. Peterson, WAC, daughter of the Rev. Edward E. Peterson, pastor of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church, and Mrs. Peterson, became the bride of Lieut. Edward S. Adams, U.S. Army, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Adams, 148 Elm Street, Elizabeth, on September 3. The Rev. Mr. Peterson officiated at the double ring ceremony. A reception for more than 400 guests followed in the church chapel.

The bride wore her service uniform and was given in marriage by her brother, Lieut. Edward R. Peterson,

USNR. Miss Bette Adams of Elizabeth, sister of the bridegroom, was maid of honor. Miss Jean Peterson, sister of the bride, was the bridesmaid.

Lieut. William R. Timms, USNR, was best man. Ushers were Sgt. Edward Wojnowski, Arthur E. Bittle and Warren Laughinghouse.

Announcement has been made of the marriage of First Lieut. William H. Lee, AAF, son of Mrs. Alice Lee of Forest Road, and Miss Joyce Beattie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Beattie of Grand Street.

The couple was married September 7th in the parsonage of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church with the Rev. Edward E. Peterson, pastor, officiating. Attendants were S/Sgt. Robert E. Lee, brother of the bridegroom, and Mrs. Daniel Waxler, the bride's sister.

On October 27 in St. Bernard's Church, Miss Mary Mineo, of Forest Road, became the bride of ex S/Sgt. Michael Rossi. The couple will reside at Westfield Road. Rossi received his discharge in July after five years of service in the Pacific area.

Miss Nellie Brunetta, of Westfield, and Mario DiProspero, were married in Holy Trinity Church, Westfield, Sept. 22, with Msgr. Watterson officiating. Mario was one of the survivors of the sinking of the escort carrier USS Block Island in May 1944. The newly married couple reside at 568 Forest Road.

Boosters Club Elects Officers

Dominick D'Amato, of Scotch Plains was elected president of the Blue Raiders Booster Club recently.

Other officers elected are: Vice president, Harold Pearce of Fanwood; secretary, Preston Ehmman Sr. of SP, and treasurer, John Mehring of Fanwood.

Samuel M. Hyman of Scotch Plains and John A. Cowan of Fanwood were named co-chairmen of the annual membership drive which is now under way.

Faculty and athletes of the high school will be guests at a meeting of the organization on Dec. 11. Edward Penry was named chairman of a committee to arrange for a program for the meeting.

The club was organized in 1940 to encourage sports at Scotch Plains High. Each year the Boosters have paid the expenses of players injured in athletic competition. 75% of the income of the club goes in trust for this purpose. The organization also presents a cup each year at graduation to the boy judged outstanding in sports.

So, DIG DOWN and hand over a buck to either Sam Hyman (in Fanwood) or John Cowan (in Fanwood) to support these game youngsters.

Hyman's address is 28 Park View Drive, Scotch Plains; Cowan's is 174 Harold Avenue, Fanwood.

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