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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

MERCER MONITOR

E.J. Raushenborger 1st. Lieut. Sig. Res. Commanding

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WAKE UP!!

As this, our third issue under present management, goes to press; the "Monitor" has definitely become a monthly rather than a bi-weekly as it was formerly. This will permit more time for gathering news and make for a larger and more finished paper. We feel that our publication has improved and we hope to be on improving. This can be accomplished only with your hearty cooperation and assistance. You, individually and as a group, owe your camp paper and its staff whatever assistance it is in your power to give. It is your duty as a member of this company to contribute your talent and ability to the official camp publication, namely, the "Mercer Monitor". We feel that you have failed in that duty and hope that you shall do better in the future. It is our honest opinion that there lies dormant in many of you a real

talent for journalism. Arouse that talent! Try your hand at writing a short story, a news article, or an editorial. Contribute it anonymously if you wish. Your identity will not be disclosed if you wish to keep it a secret

Perhaps you have noticed the camp papers listed in the Happy Days in order of their merit. You didn't see the "Mercer Monitor" listed, did you? Do you know any reason why it shouldn't be there? Why it shouldn't be right out on top? With your help, we will put it there.

If you will work with us, we will make this the newsiest newspaper and the finest bit of journalism ever published in a CCC camp; barring none. Those are strong words but we feel that we can back them up with results. Come on fellows, strut your stuff. ---Editor---

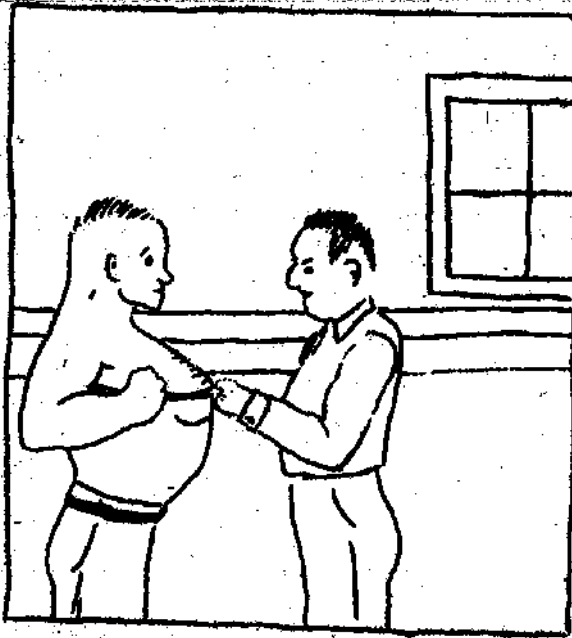
DEBATE



DO YOU FAVOR MILITARY TRAINING IN THE CCC ?

In the last few weeks the subject of compulsory military training for the CCC has been much discussed. The staff decided to ask the men what they thought about the subject. Out of the one hundred and three men interviewed, seventy-six were against it and twenty-seven were in favor. Most of the men who voted in favor of military training are former National Guard, C. I. T. C. or Navy men.

Since this subject aroused so much and such heated discussion, we think it would be a good subject for debate.



Red throws out his chest

"WHY THE CENSUS"

Although statistics are generally run over without much more than a glance, the following should prove interesting to both the 'rooks' and 'Vets'.

We find that our heavyweight is 'Bubbles' Korlesky, who tips the beam at 225 lbs., while little 'Jack the Giant-killer' Cardinal tickles it at 118lbs. But we have found among our newly arrivals a mere sample of a man - weighing 112 lbs.

Sixty-five years of age may be old to some, but they do not rest heavily on 'Pop' Johnson's shoulders, because we see him gallivanting around with some of the youngest-downy-faced upstarts in camp, who strut around saying they are 17 years old and proclaim to be a man.

Your correspondent's 'brat' is the most 'looked-up-to' man in camp, as Louie Sadowitz is 6 ft. 3 inches tall. Louie says he is going to Iowa, and doesn't want to get lost in the tall corn. Personally we do not think he will take Maitre Jean, the smallest enrollee in camp, along - to much trouble to keep track of him.

Speaking of 97 lb weaklings, look at Red Thayer, a fit model for any advertisement. He claims a 6 inch chest expansion is enough to break two chains in two, and he also judged as being in perfect physical condition.

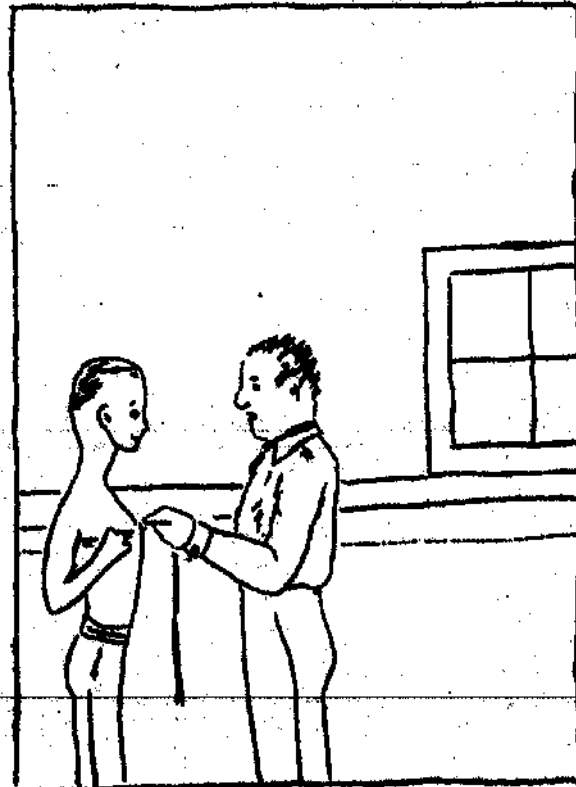
Following are a few more comparative figures;

Veterans	Averages	Rooks
20.5	Age years	19.5
10.3	Education Yrs	9.2
65.8	Height In.	64.7
157.8	Weight Lbs	136.8
2.9	Expansion In.	1.9

Incidentally the total weight of the entire company comes to the mere trifle of 424,000 ounces, or reduced to pounds only 26,500. Naturally tons are fewer to juggle so shall we say that it simmers down to 13.2 tons.

Wife (in middle of night) George wake up I hear a mouse squeaking.

George - "What do you want me to do, get up and oil it?"



Result of a Rook's Tremendous Struggle

JOHN ALVEY was put on detached service here as a radio Operator to assist "Frenchy" Garrow in his strenuous duties. Alvey came to Camp Mercer as a "Rook" in July, 1934. He was transferred to Camp Pattison with the group of pioneers who started the new Company there in July, 1935.

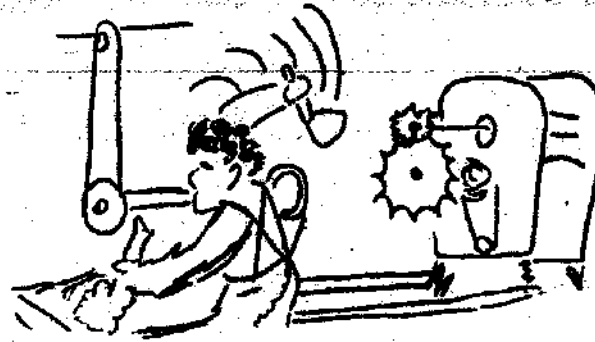
He spent a month at Camp Siskiwitz on Isle Royale last summer fighting fire. September fifteenth he was transferred to the Headquarters Company at Sparta, where he served as a radio operator until he was sent here. John says that the Camp looks pretty much the same with the exceptions on the numerous improvements.

Only a handful of men, of the old gang remains, but he is fast making friends and doing a good job of getting resettled. John is not very talkative, but maybe we can get a story from him about Isle Royale fire for our next edition.

RUDOLPH OSRETKAR was transferred to Camp Mineral Lake at Marengo, in a mutual transfer with Marvin Weaver, formerly a member of that company. We wonder who got the better of the trade?

GEORGE EDER, our former cover artist, took a discharge January fifth to accept employment. We appreciate the work he did for this paper, and will miss his help. Red Ohlsson took over the job of furnishing the cover and cartoons until Roen came along and offered his able assistance. How did you like the chest expansion cartoon? We feel that he shall contribute a great deal to the advancement of the "Monitors" fame.

One of the fogies, Carl Golla, found employment and was discharged while some of us were still enjoying our holiday leaves.



REUBEN J. BENTLEY, our famous barber was transferred to Camp Mountain to work in the machine shop there.

That great bugler, Glen "Ritz" Ritzinger, left early in the month for a job near his home. Stan Bekken picked up the little tin horn and is bugling now.

William Schact, also known as the "Manitowish Kid" went home on an emergency leave and found work. Bill was a great taxidermist, and was teaching a class in that subject when he left.

Ross "Tubby" Vaughn FOUND A JOB while home on a work leave. He served as First Aid man, and was well liked by everyone.

RAMOND HETUE? one of the Two River boys landed work in his home town and left us in January.

LEROY LARSON had two years and one day with this company when he left to go to work in Racine. According to reports he is getting along well.

George Towns MUST HAVE BEEN VERY HOMESICK when he returned from his Christmas leave, for he left us shortly afterwards.

Velmer Kizer was discharged from the Station Hospital at Fort Sheridan, where he was transferred sometime ago to receive treatment for a goitre. Kizer was one of the group who were transferred some time ago to this Camp from Moose River.

LEARN SAFETY

PRACTICE SAFETY



HERE AND THERE

BY The Tatle Tale

Francis Garrow
Assisted by R. Grocholski.



"Cutie" Herman had a birthday on the Seventh. Couldn't you tell? He got two rings for presents; both under his eyes.

Well I guess they finally caught up with Voight. He tried to feed the poor sick boys soup and now they got him inhaling it. How does it taste kid?

I wonder whats become of Sylvia? Woody has been staying in nights for the last few weeks. Why dont you kiss and make up "Chief"?

"Louie" Renario must have a grudge against all men wearing "Conductor" on their caps. Take it easy Louie, there are more of them than there are of you.

Pete Voyer is another of our famous would be hermits. He claims that he is going to stay in camp until April first. Haw Haw!!

Hey, Bill Summers; you can get a team of horses now. We found a couple of teamsters in the new rooks. Get rid of those cats Bill.

And then there is always Czech. He is going to quit again. How many times does that make now Toots?

Freddie Smith says, "Only fifth-one more pay-days for me and I am going farming". You can take charge of the 'Rooks' Fred.

A few of the boys are going to wonder where to go since all those Night-Clubs burned down in Hurley.

Bill Watson is going again. Dont take my word for it ask Freddie.

I wonder why Omitt gets more mail from Shell Lake than Pete does? Pete lives ther too. Maybe there is something rotten in Denmark.

I wonder where Weber spent all that time between Green Bay and Antigo coming back from his leave? They were all looking for you Weber. Break loose and tell us.

We gather that Eno Kosky is taking great interest in his squaw and is making arrangements for his third date.

Why did Hirte sew on his stripes before he went home on leave? We are all curious Hirte. Tell us.

Joe Planutis is a new man since visiting his home for the holidays. Maybe its love, or something.

Major Just loves all the comforts of the reading room. In fact he spends most of his nights sleeping there.

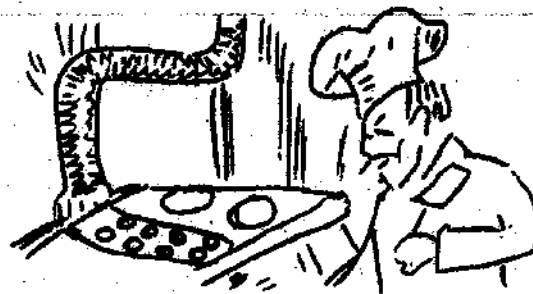
With the spring Enrollment period yet two months distant, we already hear many of our staunchest "veterans" and some of our recent recruits say, "I'm quitting in April". This famous quotation is just like the music that continues to go down and around.

At this time the writer, basing his estimates on what is heard about Camp, roughly figures that at least 60 or 70 men will sever their connections with camp Mercer April 1st. Of this number, approximately 10 or so, will have their minds changed by threats of drastic action from the home port. Others will back water from fear of facing the future jobless; again sinking in to the depths of despair they knew before entering the CCC.

Most of the newer men seem to be afraid of the world and they will return to the home fold. Some of the "Vets" who claim they are quitting, may have had a talk with themselves, and found that they must some day carve a niche in the busy world in order to gain success. So they decide to step forward now with the hope, vim, and enthusiasm of youth backing their movements.

Eventually, history will repeat itself, as it has done other Aprils, when the deadline for reenrollment appears on the horizon, those who were quitting in the loudest tones will put their signature on the dotted line to call for six more pay checks. Men who held back and were silent will step up with the shining light of hope in their eyes, and affix their signatures under the heading, I DO NOT INTEND TO RE-ENROLL.

by Wally Reit.



KETTLES AND SKILLETS

Another rook makes good, Bakeman goes from typewriter to sink. You just cant keep a good man down.

Somebody scrambled a couple dozen eggs last night. Who is the guilty party?

Red Thayer wishes a transfer to Soarta according to latest reports.

Red says he is going to move the barber chair to the cooks' barracks. There is plenty of room now.

Shorty Singleton wouldn't mind if he were sent down to the flood area. He was heard to say, "By cracky, I've always had a hankering for them thar hills."

The cooks and K.P.s wish the midnight yodeler in the rooks barracks would go yodel up a canyon.

Stay away from the cooks' barracks boys, they will make you haul in wood. Admission to their exalted domain is one large armful of firewood.

Dont tell anyone boys, but a little Bird told me there is a feed planned for Friday night. There are whispers of chicken and ice cream.



DISPENSARY NEWS

Another long hard day had finally dragged itself into the night when the two first aid men(?) are seen sitting on their bunks again.

Jackie sits there and seriously thinks about his Susie; Ted, on the other hand has his everyday troubles to think about. He wonders how many more will have to be placed between the white sheets before the run is over.

All of a sudden there is a commotion coming from the patients room. The First Aid men arise from their bunks and stalk their quarry. First the faint sound of a tom-tom comes to their ears, gradually getting louder. Then the eery cry of "fruit, fruit, fruit", is mixed with the sound of the tom-toms. (This sound is produced by striking the fist on the wall) Before they know what to do the tremendous rear of Bear-Paw Warshall's voice rings out, drowning out the din. The result is that the patients get their fruit.

It seems as though the dispensary could use about three more typewriters. Jackie was typing a letter to his girlfriend one day when Dr. Rand walked in. The following scene took place;

Dr. Rand: "Let me use it for a while, will you Jackie?"

Jackie is so upset that he jumps up and leaves without taking his letter out. Dr. Rand picks it up and starts reading it aloud, "Dear Susie, I dont love Doris anymre, I just love you". "All I'm doing

around here is plunging, plunging and plunging some more."

by Willet & Bekken

*Editor's Note - Is little Sammy sore.

MY OPINION OF CAMP MERCER .

by a Rookie.

My first thoughts of Camp Mercer, as I came here on the morning of January 15, 1937, were that it was to be the place of my future employment. The duration of such employment probably depended upon the lenth of time the CCC's would be in effect.

However, my first day in camp gave me quite a different outlook on what my life would be while enrolled.

I had visited several camps, but to me this camp is superior to any. The boys have treated the "Rooks" very considerately. They gave us some of their clothes, which we all needed very badly due to the cold weather. We used their towels, and some of us smoked their tobacco.

The Camp Officers have been very considerate, especially with the small details which mean much to our confort and happiness.

The Camp is very conveniently arranged. The bath house, canteen dinning hall, educational building, and barracks are so arranged as to make it as convenient as possible for everyone.

I believe that I will enjoy my stay at Camp Mercer more than previously anticipated.

Frederick Hall

LEARN SAFETY

PRACTICE SAFETY



SKATERS TAKE NOTICE

Some of the more ambitious enthusiasts of skating have taken it upon themselves to keep a nice seze rink cleared off on Dog Lake which is approximately a mile and onequarter from camp.

The fellows are few in number and would welcome support if enough show interest attempts will be made to obtain a pump to keep the surface flooded and free of cracks and cuts.

We have a few hockey clubs in the reading room and plans are being made to form a hockey club. Come on you new men and join in this clean wholesome sport. See F. Franz, Bill Udee or 'Woody' for further information.

WELCOME "ROOKS".

Thirty-one Recruits enroll Here January Fifteenth

Thirty-one "Rooks" coming from St. Croix, Dunn and Barron Counties became members of this company on January fifteenth.

As is usual the boys extended them a warm welcome.

Many of you however do not know as yet the names of the rooks so we shall proceed to introduce them formally.

- Bert L. Barnes
- Raymond H. Dauscher
- Louis Floyd DeTienne
- John William Fitzhugh
- Elmer Richard Frank
- George A. Forehand
- Frank J. Goveronski
- Frederick C. Hall
- Walter Jurek
- John Jurkovic Jr.
- Clarence Kiekoefer
- Russel Evert Kroger
- Edward Lechner
- Allie C. Mathison
- William Meath
- Joseph Mitchell
- Melvin Milius
- Johnny Norvil Nelson
- Byron F. Plummer
- Edward Lawrence Roen
- Manford Burton Rotnem
- Chester Running
- Shirley Elvin Sweeney
- Oritz Helmer Trandum
- Curtiss Meneal Vihus
- Thomas E. Wallesverd
- Francis A. Weitzel
- Edward Peter Withuski

SKIPPER GETS PRIVATE OFFICE

Work has been started on the new headquarters to be situated in the end of barracks one. It is expected that it will be completed about the first of February.

A room is being partitioned off as a private office for Lt. Raushenberger, and another for the clerk and Co. Foreman. 'Ritzy'



'Rook's'

IRON COUNTY SURROUNDED BY BLISTER RUST DISEASE

Air Currents Spread Disease Into County

During the summer of 1935, pathologists discovered that blister rust spores were being spread in Iron county by air currents, and were developing and spreading on the leaves of currant and gooseberry bushes. It was also found that the deadly disease had begun its destruction of valuable white pine stands in both Ashland and Vilas counties.

The spores of the disease are carried long distances by air currents from infected pines. The spores cannot infect healthy pines, but must first live part of their cycle on the leaves of currant and gooseberry bushes where new spores are again produced to continue the destruction of the pines.

Pathologists have found that the blister rust spores produced on the currant and gooseberry leaves are very sensitive and will not live after traveling through the air over 900 feet. Therefore, valuable white pine stands can be protected from being destroyed by removing all currant and gooseberry bushes growing within 900 feet of the stand.

Since establishing the CCC Camps in Iron and Vilas counties during 1933 and 1934; 31,569 acres of heavily stocked white pine have been protected in the third forest district by removing 1,930,178 currant and gooseberry bushes on 58,894 acres.

This work is conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry and the Division of Entomology of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Markets, as a part of the Emergency Conservation Work program in cooperation with the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

Plans have been made to protect all valuable white pine stands as rapidly as possible. Due to the large acreage that will have to be worked, serious infections may take place before the work can be done, unless pine owners protect their own property.
---by H.W. Rahlow, Junior Plant Pathologist---



ECHOES FROM THE FORESTRY

Mike McAlcavy started on the cedar yesterday with his cedar savages and from his report for the first day it is very favorable. Keep up the good work boys, "But don't get hurt!!!"

Heiden is also in the big timber, burning brush out on the Crab Lake fire lane.

The telephone work is about done for the winter but will have to start the first thing in the spring to complete the Jute Lake line before the fire season.

I wonder who belongs to the goodlooking, cream-colored Ford in camp. "Will it be a permanent fixture?"

Mr. Summers is asking the cooperation of all the enrollees to prevent accidents. We have a record of no lost time accidents for five months; so, please be careful, as the boss cannot be with each of you all the time.

L E A R N S A F E T Y



Basket Ball

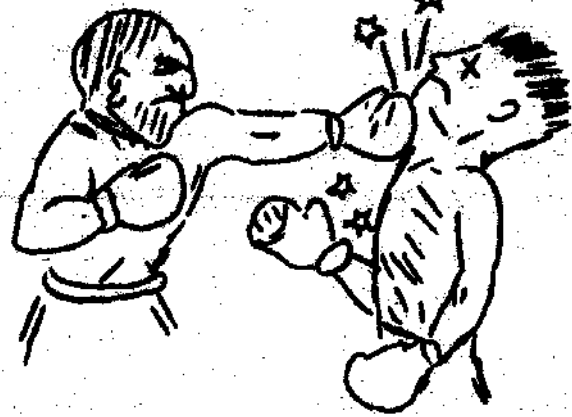
The basketball season along with winter is getting pretty well on it's way, with the company boys taking a good share of interest in it. There has been in the neighborhood of fifteen boys out for basketball so far in the season and there seems to be more coming out for it all the time.

The team has played several minor games so far, these games have been played in the Hurley W.P.A. league. The team has also played a practice game with Camp Upton, Mercer getting the lower end of the score which was 42 to 17.

The team has been driving to Iron Belt every Tuesday night, when the weather would permit, to practice plays and get signals and other valuable information to enliven their game.

The Fifth Area League has begun with Mercer playing their first game with Star Lake at Eagle R. River.

This game was a very fast and furious game and both teams showed considerable skill and sportsmanship. Star Lake proved to be the better team, the score at the finish standing 25 to 21 in Star Lake's favor. The second of the schedule to be played with Crystal Lake was called off on account of the heavy snowfalls in the two previous days.



BOXING

The night of Jan. 19, proved to be an exciting one for the boys in camp when the following matches were presented in the new ring in the recreational building, under the direction of Bill Plonty

- Willet vs Gibson.
- Sweeney vs Meath.
- Blanchard vs Vanderventer.
- Ohlson vs Poppe.

These matches were all considered a draw as both men of the matches were both in good physical and mental condition and neither scoring a knock out.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

There still remains four more games to be played, the schedule being as follows;

- January 27, Camp Nine Mile.
- February 10, Camp Crystal Lake.
- February 3, Camp Star Lake.
- February 17, Camp Nine Mile.

On February 24 the winners and the runners up in the Finishing Games will decide the Champions of the Fifth Area.

Well, more power to you boys.

HOCKEY

Many of the new men have inquired about hockey. All men interested in hockey see Woody Rutell.

POOL TOURNAMENT

The tournament began with a bang. Plenty of excitement and tense moments were had on those long range shots.

The eliminations games were thrilling. The first game was a close affair, Udee outplaying San Dretto by a small margin. The score -Udee, 80, San Dretto 43. Zarnowski, the peoples choice took a very close defeat in his first appearance. Lowe seemed to be 'on' and the Major 'off'; but it was still close. Score, Lowe-50, Major - 46.

Reinerio was easily the class of the field, and seemed to have an easy time of it all through the tournament. None of his opponents even came close. His uncanny ability to make almost impossible shots, gave him the edge over the field.

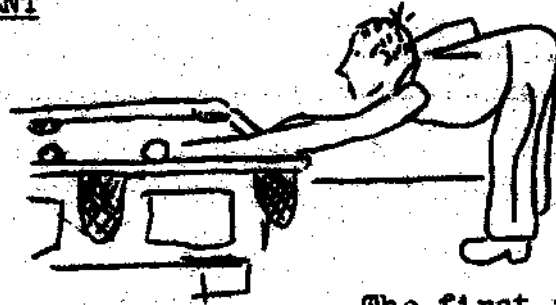
Reinerio will be the man to represent Camp Mercer in the Inspection Area tournament.

Good luck Kid, we are expecting to add another trophy to our growing collection.

Entries

Udee	Franz, F.
San Dretto	Korlesky
Reinerio	Towers
Herman	Erickson
Lowe	Grosjean
Zarnowski	Dobinski
Seabury	Warshall

No week-end leave for the Forestry Overhead. We wonder if that could possible mean SKIFF.



BILLIARD

TOURNAMENT

The billiard tournament was quite as exciting as the pool play-off, but with fewer matches.

The first round matches did not attract as many spectators as did the final round.

Ginski beat Seabury 50 to 39, and Garrow beat ginski 50 to 43

The old Master in the form of Pete Voyer took Garrow into camp to the tune of 50 to 32.

The great Voyer will play in the singles in the Inspection Area tournament, and we have the greatest confidence that he will outplay all comers. Garrow and Ginski will be the doubles team, and we have great hopes for them also.

Entries

Voyer	Leadke
Ginski	Matko
Garrow	
Seabury	

THE TAIL OF A SHIRT.

A young CCC lost his BVD
So the PTA sent an SOS
To the CWA who was PTQ
As the FRA had put the CAN
To the FWA with a near KO
And the NRA was all FOB
So the AAA sent it COD
But USA wired FDQ
To the RFO for it's ICU
Now it's all OK at the MTC
For the CCC got his BVD.

Morning Reminder.

EXTRA

TRUCK DRIVER MESS STEWARD AND TWO FIRST COOKS GO
TO SPARTA TO SERVE IN FLOOD-STRICKEN AREA

JELICH BOUCHER H. PETERSON AND MATKO TO SEE
SERVICE IN FLOOD AREA

Tony Jelich left this morning and Charley Boucher, Elmer Peterson, and Frank Matko left this afternoon to go the flood area, first reporting to the Commanding Officer of the Headquarters Company at Sparta. Jelich went down this morning following orders to send a truck driver. This afternoon a telegram came ordering the mess steward and two first cooks to Sparta and thence to the flood area. As a result, Boucher, Peterson, and Matko are now on their way.

Stand by men, there may be further orders. Perhaps more of us will get a chance to see the floods first-hand.

It is in times like this that the CCG makes a special effort and by their bravery and hard work justify their existence and endear themselves to the hearts of their fellow countrymen. It is in times of stress like fire and flood that an organized and disciplined organization is most appreciated.

So to the men who left for the scene of action we say, "Good Luck, and remember that Camp Mercer is proud of you.