

**Pleads Guilty to Slaying Baby With Poker**

CHICAGO, March 3 (U. P.) — Mrs. Mildred Merkel, accused of slaying her 2-year-old daughter with a poker, changed her plea to guilty yesterday and asked that the jury be dismissed.

She persisted in her request even after the judge warned her that under such a plea she was subject to the maximum sentence of one to 14 years for manslaughter. It was indicated that the state had agreed to her request and would recommend a

punishment of no more than two to four years.

Mrs. Merkel's husband, Fred, a machinist, testified that his wife was subject to moody spells during which she appeared to be in a fog and was unable to answer questions.

Mrs. Merkel, the final witness of the day, told of an unhappy childhood after her mother died. She said she was sent to live on a farm and was mistreated and beaten.

She admitted that her first child, Beverly Jean, was born out of wedlock. She said that she had fainting spells recently and had been examined by a psychiatrist at one time, after a suicide attempt.

CIVIC LEAGUE TO MEET  
Keystone ave. and 34th St. Civic League will hear a report on the federal housing project at 8 p. m. today in school 89. Wally Nehrling, radio announcer, will be on the program.

## In the Service

**4 HELP TRAIN  
U. S. SOLDIERS**Local Veterans of North Africa Now on Duty  
In England.

Four Indianapolis men, all veterans of North Africa, are in England helping train troops for the coming invasion.

They are: Cpl. William F. Jester, 1232 E. 10th st., an infantryman, and Cpl. George D. Davis, 5130 E. Michigan st.; Pvt. Joseph S. Rawls, 2202 N. Wallace st. and Sgt. Carroll D. Mann, 316 N. 17th st., ordnance soldiers.

**FIVE GO TO FT. SILL**  
Five Indiana soldiers have entered field artillery officer candidate school at Ft. Sill, Okla. They are:

Philip W. Vinton, 5119 N. Illinois st.; W. G. Frantz, 828 S. Randolph st.; Jack G. Reeder, Evansville; A. W. Kohlsaedt, New Augusta, and Donald W. Harding, Kirklin.

**Indianapolis Officers in India-China Theater Win Promotions**

## Completes Course

Charles R. O'Connor, formerly of 1609 Bacon st., has completed aviation ordnanceman school at Memphis, Tenn.

Lt. Earl J. Steckel, husband of Mrs. Violet M. Steckel, 2711 Watson st., has been promoted to first lieutenant.

Capt. Gardner, formerly of 2039 N. Talbot ave., is the husband of Mrs. Gladys Gardner of Montgomery, Ala. He is attached to the medical corps. Lt. Swinford is the son of Mrs. William E. Swinford, 5602 N. Michigan rd., and Lt. Whaley is the son of Mrs. Hobart D. Whaley, 802 S. Pershing ave.

Pvt. Vernon C. Oakey, member of a medical regiment, has returned to Camp Barkley, Tex., after visiting

his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Okey, 1730 Ingram st. His brother, Cpl. Walter L. Okey, is serving as a quartermaster corps overseas.

Marine Pvt. John D. Potter, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel T. Pate, 331 N. Walcott st., has been transferred to Miami University, Oxford, O. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Nagel, Weslaco, Tex.

Aviation Cadet Walton G. Wilson Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Wilson, R. R. 16, is at Greenwood Field, Miss., for basic pilot training.

Gets Promotion  
Gilbert E. McCallie, husband of Mrs. Dorothy A. McCallie, 19 N. Kealing ave., has been promoted to marine platoon sergeant in the Aleutians. A marksman with the rifle, he is the son of Ralph McCallie, 942 N. Olney st. Sgt. McCallie wears the Asiatic Pacific campaign medal.

Two Indianapolis men have been graduated from the Camp Grant, Ill., medical clerical school. They are Pts. Robert D. Bell, 3829 N. Caroline st., and Melvin L. Rumpf, 1555 Comer ave.

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Three cousins, SGT. ROBERT E. BEDELL and PFC. WILLIAM H. BEDELL, brothers, and PFC. EDWARD F. LEWIS, are all in the service. William Bedell is a member of the army air force ground crew in South Carolina and Robert Bedell E. Lewis is with the signal corps of the army air force in Panama. He has been overseas a year. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bedell of Fortville. Their cousin, Edward Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lewis, 2309 W. Morris st., is with an army air force ground crew in Italy. He has been overseas since November.

Leland F. Sutton, marine son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude L. Sutton, 221 S. Holmes ave., has been promoted to sergeant in the Aleutians. Cpl. Sutton, who is a pistol marksman, also wears the basic bar for proficiency with the bayonet and is entitled to the Asiatic Pacific campaign medal.



LT. ROBERT W. HANSON, bombardier, son of H. F. Hanson of Indianapolis, is in the final phase of combat flying at Alexandria army air base, Louisiana. His wife, Patricia Ward Hanson, lives in New Mexico.

JAMES S. CLARK, transport pilot in England, has been promoted to captain, according to word received by his wife, Mrs. Frances Clark. The 26-year-old pilot has been overseas since June, and spent five months in Egypt before going to England. His wife and son, Steven, live with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Myron T. Clark, 1203 W. 24th st.

Charles J. Beck, pilot in the troop carrier command in New Guinea, has been promoted to captain. He is the son of Mrs. Mary L. Beck, 21 1/2 W. 27th st.



Two Indianapolis men, CARL K. KLUTNEY, quartermaster, and MARVIN C. ESPICH, fire controlman, have been graduated from the submarine school at New London, Conn. Klutney is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Klutney, 1009 Congress ave., and Espich is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Espich, 3520 N. Keystone ave.

Pvt. William S. Parks, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Parks, Brooklyn, Ind., is taking tests at Keesler Field, Miss., prior to entering pre-aviation school.

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