

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

IN ITALY, March 18 (By Wireless).—One of the most fabulous characters in this war theater is Lt. Rudolf Charles Von Ripper. He is so fabulous you might be justified in thinking him a phony until you get to know him. I've known him since last summer in Algeria. Most of the other correspondents know him. One whole fighting infantry division knows him. He's no phony.

Von Ripper is the kind they write books about. He was born in Austria. His father was a general in the imperial Austrian army, his mother a baroness. They had money. He could have had a rich, formal, royal type of existence.

Instead he ran away from home at 15, worked in the sawmills, collected garbage, was a coal miner for a while, and then a clown in a small traveling circus.

At 19 he went into the French Foreign Legion, served two years, and was wounded in action. After that he went back to Europe and studied art. He is fundamentally an artist.

Imprisoned by Nazis

HE TRAVELED continuously. He lived in London and Paris. He lived in Shanghai during 1938. Then he returned to Berlin joined liberal groups, and did occasional cartoons. Because he helped friends hide from the Nazis, he was arrested in 1933, accused of high treason, and sent to a concentration camp.

Dollfuss of Austria got him out after seven months. Then he went to the Balearic Islands off the coast of Spain and hibernated for a year, doing political satirical drawing.

All his life has been a fluctuation between these violent extremes of salon intellectualism and the hard, steady reality of personal participation in war.

Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

ADD SIGNS of spring: The Indiana Roof is advertising on billboard posters that it is air-conditioned. The public library has issued a printed list of the various books and pamphlets available on the subject of gardening. . . . George Diener has resigned his position with the Siedler & Van-Riper advertising agency and is taking a job as advertising manager and assistant sales manager of the Pierce Governor Co. in Anderson. . . . Remember Sgt. David Johnson, 3241 Central, who while recovering in a hospital in Italy from battle wounds sent home \$50 for the youngsters of Mayer chapel? His mother, Mrs. Arthur E. Johnson, just has received his Purple Heart medal. . . . Herman Bowers, a city councilman and assistant county chairman, is a proud father. . . . The city schools' physical education department gets out a mimeographed magazine, The Palestre, the current issue of which includes a conspicuous typographical error. Reviewing an article on physical fitness, the magazine includes the following: "To see a 15-year-old girl like Mary Ryan win the 440,880 mile race in a single meet is to see dynamic stamina at work." Dynamic stamina is right. It should have read "the 440-yard, 880-yard and one mile races."

Around the Town

THE PUBLIC'S instinct to hoard sometimes exhibits itself in odd directions. For instance, toilet paper and electric light bulbs. And then we heard of the woman who heard a rumor there might be a shortage of playing cards, so she went out and bought a dozen packs. . . . Some of our readers complain that part of the traffic officers are too "smart slecky" in educating pedestrians to observe traffic laws. Maybe some of the cops do irritate pedestrians more than they educate them. Regardless of this, a big improvement has been made in pedestrian habits. Here's hoping the campaign goes on and on, even though some of the cops get a bit sassy. . . . Harry Reid Jr.

Oil Imperialism

NEW YORK, March 18.—Tying his objections to his own experiences as secretary of state, Bainbridge Colby, who held that office under President Woodrow Wilson, today assailed our government's Middle East oil venture in an exclusive interview.

It was Secretary of State Colby who first officially outlined America's foreign policy in the field of oil. And his action pertained to the same area as our government's new policy of participation in oil production and marketing cartels abroad. Shunning these like poison, the then secretary of state fought for, obtained and established America's "Open Door" on Middle East oil. He did so in obtaining for the American oil industry the opportunity for equal participation with British companies and the British government in Iraq on a non-government basis.

"Contrary to the 'Open Door' policy, this proposed government adventure is the most imperialistic ever undertaken by the United States," said Mr. Colby. "If such policies are pursued in oil and other fields our country appears committed definitely to future wars in bewildering places and to constant maintenance of American armed forces all over the world."

'Capricious Charade'

"FROM MY OWN experience with governments abroad, our government should not engage in oil operations in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Palestine, Saudi Arabia or anyplace else by itself or as a partner of other nations. Such government intrusion despite the limited territorial history of the Anglo-Iranian and Compagnie Francaise has for years been looked upon with special hostility by many smaller nations. And wherever it occurs it is noticed particularly by Latin American countries. Laws of Venezuela,

My Day

SOMEWHERE IN THE WEST INDIES, Friday.—I think I am more deeply impressed by the work of the engineering groups and the Seabees on the different bases on Trinidad than anywhere else, though it is impressive everywhere in this area. In Trinidad the Seabees have cut a base out of the jungle and cleared about 32 square miles. A number of fine roads have been built and one of them looks like an extraordinary feat of engineering.

Sunday morning we visited the naval operating base including the naval air station. Everything was planned in expectation of more active opposition in this area, but we have encountered, but our very preparation is what has brought about our safety.

The naval hospital here is a fine hospital with every facility for taking care of the men. There are a few serious accident cases, but all are getting well. One youngster will have a permanent handicap to fight, but he has the stuff to win, I think.

During the day we drove to a high point where there is an extremely interesting station. The officer in charge seemed to feel that he and his men were all one family, and were particularly privileged to be themselves on top of a mountain. The naval base has many acres of citrus fruit, and if properly taken

care of, these orchards ought to provide our men with fresh fruit and be a great asset to the fleet and bases in this area.

Sgt. Bode Clifford and several of the island officials met me on our arrival in Trinidad, and we met again at a dinner at the officers' club at MacQuarie. There is a beautiful view of the harbor from this club, and it is in every way a charming spot with a good swimming beach.

We saw the most wonderful recreation area at Scotland bay which was developed by the men on the station and the men from the ships which come in here. Everything that anyone could possibly want to do out of doors is at hand. Some of the men were doing some fancy diving; others were practicing upsetting in a rubber boat and climbing back. Basketball, horse-shoe pitching, and just lying in the sun with the prospects of food cooked on the out of door grills and soft drinks and beer when they wanted them seemed to provide a good day's outing to all.

I also saw the recreation room for enlisted men on the post, and one club for the non-commissioned officers, all of which must help to build up morale—that intangible thing that nobody likes to talk about but which everybody thinks about. In the evening I went to two U.S.O. clubs in Port of Spain. Both were well equipped and crowded.

I would like to mention the work of a colored naval construction unit which has done such good work that it has earned a wonderful reputation

among all the officers.

Curious Army Career

HIS ARMY career has been a curious one. At first he was a hospital laboratory technician. Then he was transferred to the newly formed army arts corps, and left for North Africa last May to paint battle pictures for the war department.

It happened to meet him a few days after he arrived on this side. He had hardly got started on his art work when congress abolished the whole program. So he went back to being a regular soldier again, this time an infantryman. He was transferred to the 34th division.

Last fall he was put in a front-line regiment, and in October he was wounded by shell splinters. He doesn't seem to mind being shot at all. A month later, while leading a night patrol, he got four machine-pistol slugs in him.

One slug split his upper lip just where it joins his nose. Another ripped a deep groove in the back of his hand. Another shot one finger clear off at the first joint. The fourth went through his shoulder. Before all his bandages were off he was back patrolling again.

All this time overseas he had been a sergeant, but after his November wounding he was given a battlefield commission as second lieutenant, and transferred to the division's engineers. Later it was possible for him to resume his art work in his spare time.

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INN, specializing in car advertising, dedicated a spiffy suite of offices at 217 Traction Terminal building with a reception yesterday afternoon. The offices are along modernistic lines, with some mighty foxy-looking furniture. Mr. Reid is the son of the street railway president. . . . The drivers corps of the Marion county civil defense has some openings for capable women drivers willing to help out in public matters. There are 44 active members now. Their work has included convoy duty of military trucks for the army and navy, driving jeeps, transporting crippled children to the hospital from Roberts school, testing synthetic tires at the Speedway, transporting convalescent soldiers at Ft. Harrison, and many other essential tasks. If you're interested, get in touch with Mrs. Richard A. Wall, chairman. Her phone number is HU 2828.

Press Gets Evicted

NEWSPAPERMEN covering the city hall were the first victims of the efficiency campaign just started by the J. L. Jacobs & Co., Chicago, efficiency experts. The first three representatives of the company did when they arrived to start streamlining the municipal jobs setup was to take over the city hall press room, evicting the press. Speaking of efficiency, the company's representatives have their campaign worked out to a gnat's heel—even down to publicity. They can tell you just when certain stories will break. For instance, they predict "you'll have a front page story in about two months on the classification of jobs, and then along about June you'll devote most of the front page to city hall pay scale changes." . . . Our men a month or so ago about how Dean Burns and Mrs. Nelle Dawson of the gas company drove to their homes one evening and left their fellow share-the-riders, Fred Doebber, standing on a corner, brought Mrs. Dawson a letter all the way from India. It was from Coast Guardsmen Sam O'Connell Jr., a friend of the family. While in India, he received a copy of Inside Indianapolis mentioning the share-the-ride incident and, seeing a familiar name—that of Mrs. Dawson—sat right down and wrote her. His father is a field auditor for the internal revenue department here.

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