

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

WITH THE ALLIED BEACHHEAD FORCES IN ITALY, March 28 (By Wireless)—When you get to Anzio you waste no time getting off the boat, for you have been feeling pretty much like a clay pigeon in a shooting gallery. But after a few hours in Anzio you wish you were back on the boat, for you could hardly describe being ashore as any haven of peacefulness.

As we came into the harbor, ships skipped the water within a hundred yards of us.

In our first day ashore, a bomb exploded so close to the place where I was sitting that a fragment came through the window of the room next to mine.

Sounds Are Confusing

On our second evening ashore so suddenly that it almost knocked us down with fright. It smacked into the tree a short distance away.

And on the third day ashore, an 88 went off within 20 yards of us.

I wished I was in New York.

All in Same Boat

WHEN I WRITE about my own occasional association with shells and bombs, there is one thing I want you folks at home to be sure to get straight. And that is that the other correspondents are in the same boat—many of them much more so. You know about my own small experiences, because it's my job to write about how these things sound and feel. But you don't know what the other reporters go through, because it usually isn't their job to write about themselves.

There are correspondents here on the beachhead, and on the Cassino front also, who have had dozens of close shaves. I know of one correspondent who was knocked down four times by near misses on his first day here.

Two correspondents, Reynolds Packard of the United Press and Homer Bigart of the New York Herald-Tribune, have been on the beachhead since D-day without a moment's respite. They've become so veteran that they don't even mention a shell striking 20 yards away.

On this beachhead every inch of our territory is

a huge adventure—3" of the play-stage tomorrow home ice "bugaboo" trell's boys a game.

Caps tomorrow meet them from Eddie Shore's meet the winn' Hershey play-offs, and their final offs, ironically come through now night, then it will be necessary series and it the Coliseum in any night. A necessary would buffalo, as the game because that's the regular season.

leads the Team

March 28 (U. S. A.)

announced All-American team today

as captain from the East, and one from

town is Par-

named player

one forward

Brindley of her. Sporting

Mikan of De-

Ott Graham, and Bob

guards.

It's made up of John's and Leo

forwards; Bob

Aggies, center;

Washington State,

Iowa, guards.

Will Will Not Answer

WILL REMY, the president of the safety board, is our current nominee for the "man most difficult to reach by phone." It's been so long since we started trying to reach him, first at his law office and then at the safety board—inevitably without success—that we've long since forgotten what it was we wanted to talk to him about—or why. For the last several days, we've called just out of habit. Of course, if we really wanted him, all we'd have to do would be to install a police radio in a car, then chase to the scene of the next police run. . . . The chain letter epidemic seems to be at one of its frequent peaks. The one most frequently called to our attention recently requests the recipient of the letter "to buy a 25-cent war stamp and send it to the person whose name appears at the top of this list." The letter contains one grave misstatement, as follows: "This chain has been approved by the postal authorities as it promotes the sale of war bonds and stamps." This is

an out and out falsehood. The post office has not changed its laws prohibiting chain letters. They're covered by the federal fraud statutes. They are frauds because they lead folks to think they're going to make some money, whereas 90 odd per cent of them are doomed to be mere suckers. If you send that letter on, with your name on it, it may fall into the hands of the postal inspectors and cause you some embarrassment.

A Grandpa-to-Be

ONE OF OUR readers sends us a note about R. D. Collins, manager of the Phillips Petroleum Co. Mr. Collins, it seems, has been boasting that he was

become a grandpa in June. His fellow members

at Indian Lake country club felt they wanted to do

something about the impending event, so they aran-

ged a baby shower for the proud grandpa-to-be.

They arranged with Mrs. Collins to have him present.

And then, when everyone was assembled, they sang: "Happy Grandpa to you." And then they began to give him the baby presents. Was his face ever red!

Our item about John Thompson, former Times staffer, heading the Ford Motor Co. public relations, brings a letter from John thanking us for the "nice plug" but adding he'd rather we'd "plug Ford than Thompson." He calls our attention to some of the other hometowners in automotive public relations, such as Bill McGaughy—big, ruddy, ever-smiling Bill whose whisper can be heard in the next county.

He is in charge of press relations for the Automotive Council for War Production in Detroit. John men-

tions Felix Bruner, former Times managing editor, and Tom Rhodes, formerly with the News both of General Motors. Says John: "Truly, the place (Detroit) is lousy with Hoosiers (I must be careful where in that sentence I place the word lousy). Joe Thomas, who used to be with the Star, is in charge of our news bureau at Ford. Ellsworth Maxwell, also of the Star, is handling our news office at Willow Run. Charlie Carl, former Times managing editor, was with us for some time and did a swell job, but is with Steve Hannagan in St. Louis now, I believe. Lib Carr and Helen Lindsay (both from The Times) were with us for a quite pleasant interlude. Helen is with Hannagan in New York, I think. Lib has left to live with her sister in the East. Harlan Hadley, who was out at Butler, has just been transferred to a Washington job with the Automotive Council for War Production. 'Nuff about us Midwest Nomads.' Thanks, John, for the fill-in.

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Would Serve Emergencies

COL. FRANCIS V. KEESLING of selective

service revealed yesterday that the armed forces were discussing a

plan for taking 4-Ps and men over 38 for work in military hospitals,

seasonal harvests and other non-

combatant jobs provided they were not included in the 11,300,000 or

11,400,000 "prime military strength."

This corps of non-combatants would

relieve the fighting forces of

"emergency calls" for manpower

such as those which sent soldiers

and sailors onto farms and into

canneries in recent seasons. They

would also help make up for deficiencies in WAC, WAVE and SPAR

recruiting programs and provide

manpower for domestic military

jobs.

KEESLING believed the move would

go a long way to provide replacements

in war plants and curtail labor

turnover. He explained that

men in the 38-45 age group, 4-Ps

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The Indianapolis Times

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SECOND SECTION

4-F'S EMERGE AS VAST POOL FOR WAR WORK

Overaged, 1-C's Also May Help Relieve Critical Shortage.

WASHINGTON, March 28 (U.P.)—A vast new war manpower pool—the 7,000,000 present and potential 4-F draft registrants and discharged servicemen—emerged today as a probable solution to the nation's critical manpower shortage.

The Germans shoot shells of half a dozen sizes, each of which makes a different sound on explosion. You can't gauge distance at all. One shell may land within your block and sound not much louder than a shotgun. Another landing a quarter mile away makes the earth tremble as in an earthquake, and starts your heart to pounding.

You can't gauge direction, either. The 88 that

hit within 20 yards of us didn't make so much noise.

I would have sworn it was 200 yards away and in the opposite direction.

Sometimes you hear them coming and sometimes you don't. Sometimes you hear the shell whine after you've heard it explode. Sometimes you hear it whine and it never explodes. Sometimes the house trembles and shakes and you hear no explosion at all.

But I've found one thing here that's just the same as anywhere else—and that's that old weakness in the joints when they get to landing close. I've been all over Tunisia and Sicily, and in parts of Italy, and I get weaker than ever up here.

When the German raiders come over at night, and the sky lights up bright as day with flares, and ack-ack guns set up a turmoil and pretty soon you hear and feel the terrible power of exploding bombs—well, your elbows get flabby and you breathe in little jerks, and your chest feels empty, and you're too excited to do anything but hope.

With the problem intensified by the decision to draft most able-bodied men under 26 now deferred in war jobs, officials of the army, navy and selective service and many prominent congressmen looked upon men now classified as unfit for military service as the ones who must keep essential production going while others go to war.

Whether the government is ready to use legal compulsion to force these men into war jobs may be discussed today when War Manpower Chief Paul V. McNutt testifies before a special house military affairs subcommittee on draft matters.

Would Avoid Legislation

Chairman John M. Costello (D., Cal.) said the proposal to induce 4-Fs, armed forces discharges classified as 1-C or men over the present top draft age of 38 would be preferable to any new manpower legislation because "passing a new bill would require a couple of months, and we want to solve this problem within another month."

He said another plan would be to bring all draft deferments within the purview of the government interagency committee now studying

industrial deferments for men up to 26. By studying deferments for men up to 26, then to 28 and 30 and ultimately for all registrants,

he said, the committee would free

for induction all men not truly

essential to the war effort.

But for the time being, the approximately 7,000,000 present and potential 4-Fs and 1-C registrants

were being studied most closely.

Costello said the army and navy could start "tomorrow" in taking

these men and then either fur-

oughing them or giving them inac-

tive status on the promise to go into essential industry.

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Each Case Separate

He explained also that it would be impossible to call up all 4-Fs because of the nature of their disabilities. Thus, men with bad eyesight or poor hearing could serve in non-combatant work corps, but those with missing limbs or serious organic ailments would be of no use. Each case would have to be decided individually.

Meanwhile, Senator Warren R. Austin (R. Vt.) announced that a second meeting of government, labor and business leaders over proposed amendments to the national service bill will be held about April 10.

Foundation of Airpower

TEN OR MORE years ago the foundation of today's American airpower was laid in the cellars and attics of American homes. The lads who made model planes of sticks, cloth and glue a few years ago today are flying war planes and blasting our enemies into submission.

Is public education aimed at the conditioning of a mind to find its own place in the American scheme of free enterprise, or is it aimed at training each graduate to walk out its doors ready to earn a living in specialized trades?

Foundation of Airpower

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