

## Hidden Japs Still Firing At Yanks Around Manila

By LEE G. MILLER, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

MANILA.—(By Air Mail)—Little groups of Japs lurking in desperation have made life interesting in recent days for some of the lads of the 117th engineer battalion, 37th division.

Cpl. Paul E. Merriman of Washington, D. C., was in kind of a hurry the night I talked to him—he wanted to join his friend, Pvt. Boyl Lundell of Staten Island, N. Y., because he thought Boyl "might be getting lonesome" at his post guarding a well and a 3000-gallon can water tank south of the Pasig river within a few blocks of the Walled City, which our troops had entered only that morning.

Lundell's possible lonesomeness is understandable when you hear Corporal Merriman's story.

A few days earlier some Filipinos had come rushing up to Merriman and Lundell, shouting that Japs were firing a machine gun from a nest nearby.

"We picked up five other soldiers and went for them," said Merriman.

"The Japs took off, and got across a little stream. A dozen infantrymen were beyond the stream, and set up an ambush, but we didn't know it until all hell broke loose."

### We Started Shooting

"We hit the muck, and deployed by crawling, and started shooting.

"When things quieted down we found that 11 of the 13 Japs were dead—four of them committed suicide with rifle grenades held to their chests. Two of them got away."

"We were all firing, so you couldn't tell how many Japs were hit, but I think I'll run over and keep Lundell company."

### Manila Postoffice Battle

Sgt. Ben McGuckin, Washington, D. C., used to work at St. Elizabeth's hospital in Washington.

Ben and Pfc. Louis Blerant of Baltimore had just been relieved, when I saw them, after four uneasy days and three nights with the 145th infantry across the Pasig.

Ben told how his squad had been sent into the Manila postoffice, where, although our flag had been hoisted over the building, Japs were still swarming in the basement.

"We went from room to room on the first floor," he said, "and laid satchel charges—10 or 15 or 20 pounds of TNT in a canvas bag or a discarded knapsack or whatever we could find, even sandbags. One of these charges blows a



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## Sailor Rescued at Sea to Visit Here

### Federal Officials May Have To Explain.

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, March 20.—

There is a treatise published by the U. S. department of agriculture and titled, "Orchids, How to Grow."

A special subcommittee of the house interstate commerce committee isn't interested in orchids, per se, except at \$5 a throw on wedding anniversaries. What it's interested in is paper, how to save.

Pfc. William L. Trent Jr., 21, of Ely, Nev., told about an incident that had occurred in his engineer company's area about two miles north of downtown Manila which was theoretically clear of Japs.

"We heard some rifle firing," he said, "and several of us went in that direction. Some guerrillas told us there were Japs in the upper story of a house. Pfc. Luther Morgan, of Sacramento, Cal., and I opened up with our rifles but couldn't see anything. Then we saw something move in a bomb shelter, and fired again but didn't get anywhere. Finally, I asked why didn't somebody go up with a

hand Grenade. The Senator Snorts

As for Chester Bowles, headman of the OPA, he's practically got a date with the paper-savers for some high-class explanation.

"Just look at this," suggested Rep. Clarence J. Brown (O.). He showed me a book published by the OPA—illustrated lavishly and telling in words of one syllable that red points are good for meat, if any, while blue are for canned vegetables.

"That's a fine thing to be writing a book about," Brown snorted. "I am sure the housewives of this country will be delighted to see the snorted to sit down and read it."

**Don't Know Nuttin' and Nuttin'** The committee was formed originally to inquire into the shortage of newsprint.

It discovered that postage stamps, facial tissues, packing boxes, note paper and legal-sized envelopes come from the same chopped-up trees and also must be considered.

The hearings have been going on for days in a committee room piled high with documents of all kinds.

When I dropped in, they were

questioning a succession of army officers about the military's use of paper.

The uniformed gents didn't seem to know nuttin' and nuttin', except what went on in their own cubicles.

**Don't Bring a New Book**

This caused Rep. Charles A. Wolverton of New Jersey finally to explode:

"The longer I sit on this committee the more confused I become. Isn't there any over-all agency that passes on the various departments that are demanding paper?"

"I don't know," answered a Maj. A. L. Harris. He said he'd try to find out. Numerous things he said, in answer to other questions, he would discover and report later.

"We certainly wouldn't want you to bring a new book for us," interjected Rep. Brown.

**Why Are You Selling It?**

"Oh, no, sir," replied Maj. Harris, nervous young fellow in heavy eyeglasses.

He testified then that waterproof paper for army wrapping purposes is scarce.

"Then why are we selling it for surplus now?" demanded Rep. Brown.

"Are we?" asked the major.

"You are," said Rep. Brown.

C. E. Canfield, a civilian expert of the quartermaster general, interrupted to say that the army probably would take the surplus paper back.

"And do you in your office use large quantities of index cards?" asked Rep. Brown.

"Oh, yes, sir," said Canfield.

"Then maybe you'd better look over this list of surplus," said Rep. Brown. "You might pick up a bargain."

"Yes, sir," said Canfield.

Here I'll end this dispatch; you don't catch me wasting paper.

### For Teething Babies

Your baby's fretfulness, stomach upsets and other discomforts during the difficult teething period can be promptly relieved by a harmless preparation known as Dr. Teeling's Teething Relief. Used by mothers with complete confidence for over 50 years. Dr. Teeling's Teething Relief is for sale at Haag Drug Stores and drug stores everywhere. Must satisfy or money back.

**It's Hard to Forget**

"We went into a store to buy some new clothes," he said, "when a fire engine came racing down the street. I would have dug a pretty nice fox hole in the floor if the element had been softer. Some of the fellows who were there two others smashed through the front window and the glass flew."

"It's hard to forget," Pvt. Gerson says, "home hasn't changed" and "it's swell to be back."

Then he turned to his mother: "I got a date tonight—with a real American girl!"

He Knows the Tricks.

The red-haired youth is a sea-soldier army veteran. He's been around—enough to know that the best Jap is a dead one."

How does a 15-year-old boy enlisted in the army? "It's easy," he laughed, "and I knew the tricks. I told the enlistment officer I was 18, but didn't have a birth certificate—because the courthouse in Beaumont, Tex.—that's where I said I was born—had burned down, destroying all the records."

Actually he had never been out of Cleveland before he signed an army enlistment blank.

**A Real Fighting Man**

When Pearl Harbor came, Pvt. Gerson manned a machine gun as Japs strafed Wheeler field and thought that maybe a 15-year-old boy would be better off in school. But an army clerical error fixed his age at 28 and he was in, "But really in."

In 1942 he landed in Australia. Months later he stormed ashore with Yank troops at Hollandia "and knocked a lot of teeth down Jap throats." He stood guard duty, with infected feet, in New Guinea; was hospitalized for two months in 1943 with malaria.

His 185-pound frame shrank to 130, mainly, he said, because of inadequacy of army's canned rations in advanced Pacific front lines.

"I went without food once for seven days," he recalled, "when Jap bombers pored lead at us day and night."

Home for 21 Days

Pvt. Gerson got the purple heart in the invasion of Leyte, two days after he hit the beaches. But he was out of the hospital and on his way to Mindoro when the "wounded" telegram reached his parents here.

On Mindoro he got his rotation furlough. He'll be home for 21 days, likely true to tell the folks of "near-

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