

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 11th engineer battalion, 37th division.



Mr. Miller

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 fanatics 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 the infantry got and how many we did. Anyway, it's still not safe around that well, and 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 Bierau of Baltimore had just been relieved when I saw them, after four uneventful 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

hole the size of a small table, and then the infantry cleans out any Japs left below, with grenades and rifle fire. Our squad blew holes in six or eight rooms."

"One of my men on this job saw a Jap who apparently was about to toss a grenade and shot him. This was Cpl. Parley Owens, Grundy, Va."

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 grenade."

Fighting Bridge Builders
"Some guerrilla called my bluff and handed me a grenade. So I crept up from the left while the others covered me. I had pulled the pin in the grenade. As I looked in the door of the shelter a Jap looked out."

"I saw him—cock his pistol, so I threw the grenade and ran. It went off but it didn't kill him. I heard him tap a Jap grenade on his helmet—that's the way they start the fuse—and I figured it was my time to start duckin'. But he blew himself up with his grenade. Blew his pistol all to hell, too, but I got a Jap flag off him."

**Youth a Seasoned Vet at 19;
Serves Overseas 3 Yrs. 9 Mos.**

By LEE LINDER
United Press Staff Correspondent
CLEVELAND, March 20—Three years, nine months and 14 days overseas—that's the "in action" record of a Cleveland boy who joined the army when he was 15.

Pvt. Harold Lee Gerson, now 19, is home today for the first time since June 4, 1941. And the only change is that he's a little taller, 55 pounds lighter and has tattooed dancing girls on each arm.

He donned the khaki of Uncle Sam to be a diesel mechanic and to see the world. But he admits he has yet to see his first diesel engine. "And I'd still like to travel," he says, though he was en route to Hawaii 10 days after "I fibbed about my age and got into the army."

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

How does a 15-year-old boy enlist 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 shrunk 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 poured lead at us day and night."

Home for 21 Days
Pvt. Gerson got the purple heart in this 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, little time to tell the folks of "near-

HOUSE PROBES PAPER WASTE

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.

If Secretary Claude R. Wickard is as smart as I think he is, he'll read up on orchids, their care, culture, and value in the prosecution of the war.

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 explaining.

"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 (he 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

by four years of war and hell." It's going to be hard to forget the death and destruction "the lousy snells and the terrific, shattering noise of shell-fire."

He recalls stopping in an Indiana town, en route home with 15 other buddies back from Pacific fighting.

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 cement had been softer. Some of the fellows dove under tables 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."

Sailor Rescued at Sea to Visit Here

SEAMAN J. C. ROBERT JESSE LAMBERT, who drifted in the Pacific three hours with a broken leg and fractured spine, "expects to be home this week to visit his wife and children at 111 N. Miley ave."

Seaman Lambert, who is in the Farragut naval hospital in Idaho, was standing watch on a landing craft off Leyte when a flare burst near his ship, silhouetting the craft.

"Before a person could count to 20, we received a hit," he said. "The blast blew me over the side." Because of his broken leg and back, the Indianapolis sailor could not swim. He floated three hours in his life preserver and then was picked up by rescuers.

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 little cubicles.

'Don't Bring a New Book'
This caused Rep. Charles A. Wolpert 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, a 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.

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This spring it's a gay colored coat for smart juniors as this one in gold, mint and melon. Made of all wool, it has sweetheart lapels, slit pockets, open vent back and throw-over-shoulder straps. Sizes 9 to 15.

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Slim, trim tailored, quality rayon slacks. Just right to play in and they pack so easily! Navy, brown and black in sizes 10 to 18.

Wear a smart rayon gabardine loafer jacket to compliment the slacks. Red, blue, kelly and brown with checkered back, sleeves, lapels. Sizes 12 to 18. \$7.98

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GET EXTRA RED POINTS!

Save used fats
for your country!

Keep saving *all* used kitchen fats. Your country urgently needs them . . . to help make medicines, parachutes, synthetic rubber, munitions, paints and soaps for military and civilian uses.

So keep up your good work. Save every possible drop of used fats. Remember, for each pound you turn in, you get 2 red ration points!

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BLOUSES—Downstairs at AYRES



Definitely Heading Into
Spring With Gray

\$3.98

Gray—it's perfect for your Easter hat because it's so flattering, fashion-right and graciously blends with other spring colors. The visor brim gray felt, sketched above, has a flicker of white pique and is ideal to wear with a suit.

Other gray hats from \$2.00 to \$5.00

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BATTLE OVER

Wholesaler's
Fight

(Continued)

officially questioned constitutionality. "This law was throwing the tributors from and from one said the association statement issued by Greenlee.

Automatic wholesaler permission was being terminated on grounds that the protection of constitution.

The law's sponsor review of actual organized labor mission was "theory."

"The wholesaler's statements constituted a legitimate investment law is to destroy without hearing. They feel that they are in other business state under it be subjected to action."

Greenlee
The association "all out" again apparently still intentions, on the officers, to control flavored agency.

Final action submitted res on May 1. Mr. M. mer patronage error McNutt.

Local Rep been striving Riddle, former chairman, int secretaryship.

One of the political "con Heintzelman, dent, was ab

Democratic session proper built the beer and natural privilege of

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