

BETTER MEN



**The Story
of
Neighborhood Boys Club**

**Alumni
in
World War II**

**Edited By
Ray Donner**

**For my oldest brother,
Sergeant Clarence Donner, who served
in the U.S. Army for more than three
years during World War II, mainly in
Iran with the Persian Gulf Command.**

CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
INTRODUCTION	1
CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM ROBERT BUEHLER (1943)	4
SERVICE PAPER EXCERPTS	6
NBC HONOR ROLL FOR WORLD WAR II	32

BETTER MEN

NBC ALUMNI IN WORLD WAR II

INTRODUCTION

It was October 1942. The United States had been at war with the Axis powers for almost a year, and the tide of battle was still flowing with our enemies. But America was mobilizing, and all across the country the citizenry and industry were gearing up for the mammoth struggle ahead. The sleeping giant was aroused from the economic lethargy of the Depression years and from the isolationism spawned by disgust with the First World War and its cynical aftermath. America was on the move.

A wave of patriotism swept across the land. Everyone wanted to do his or her own part in the war effort. Nothing was too good for the boys in service.

This spirit came to be reflected in a very unique way at the Neighborhood Boys Club (NBC). Founded by Robert Buehler and Dick Valentin in 1931 and located in Paul Revere Park on Chicago's northwest side, the NBC promoted good citizenship and sportsmanship through a team-centered, neighborhood program. It was highly successful because of its excellent program and leadership and, above all, because it was great fun.

By the time of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, several thousand boys had already had the NBC experience, and most of them were of perfect draft age. Many volunteered; many more were drafted.

One of Robert Buehler's brothers was in the Navy and was engaged in a letter exchange with some of his former university classmates. Mr. Buehler discussed this idea with Dick Valentin, and they decided to publish and distribute what came to be called the NBC Service Paper to all former NBCers in the Armed Forces. The first paper came out on October 15, 1942. Many people participated in the publication and mailing of this paper over the years, but the key players were Dick Valentin and Jim Desherow who wrote or edited most of the articles and letters.

The Service Paper reprinted letters from NBC men in the service, periodically published their name and address lists, reprinted stories of the past from NBC's own weekly paper -- the "Monkeyshines" -- and kept everyone up-to-date about what was going on currently at NBC. As the war progressed, the bi-weekly Service Paper became more sophisticated in its presentation and format and included such things as reprints of old team photographs.

The Service Paper became extremely popular among NBCers in the service and among their families as well. It was a big morale booster and was highly valued, especially by those overseas who waited for it expectantly at mail call. Because of the address lists, many former NBCers were able to track down and have reunions with old teammates and other Club members in odd corners of the earth. By the end of the war, more than 500 NBC alumni in the Armed Forces were receiving the Service Paper.

As time went by, more and more letters were reprinted in the Service Paper. Many were heavily censored for security reasons, but enough was said to convey an intimate view of the war as it progressed. Some of the most graphic and moving letters came during the latter part of 1945 when the war was won and security was no longer a consideration. Typically they started off with: "Now I can tell you what I was really doing."

And were they going places and doing things ! They were serving in the islands of the South Pacific, in Australia, in China, India, Burma, in North Africa, in Iran, in Sicily, in Italy, in France, Belgium and Germany, and even in Alaska. They were soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coastguardmen, doctors, engineers, riflemen and tankers. You name it; they did it. They participated in many of the great battles of the war -- Guadalcanal, Tarawa, the Anzio beachhead in Italy, and D-Day in Normandy. One was even involved in work on the atomic bomb in Los Alamos, New Mexico. All of this from Depression-reared boys from a relatively small geographical area on Chicago's northwest side. These boys, now men, wrote repeatedly what NBC had meant to them and how it had helped them become better men and better soldiers.

All the Service Papers still exist and are generally legible, even though the old blue mimeograph pages are gradually fading away like General MacArthur's old soldiers. They are important historical documents and deserve full exploitation in a professional manner. What is reprinted on the succeeding pages is meant to be a first step in that direction. The articles and letters have been edited for the sake of clarity and brevity, but the attempt has been made to maintain accuracy and the true sense of the originals. Some questions remained unanswered, however, because details of situations were not always available until considerably after the war had ended, when the Service Paper no longer was being published. If there are any errors, particularly on the Honor Roll list, that is the cause.

This modest reprint effort centers on NBCers who were killed, wounded, captured and missing. They deserve to be remembered above all else. Sadly, seventeen were killed, and a greater number were wounded. Happily, several of those reported missing were later learned to have been captured and eventually were liberated. Heroic NBCers were awarded many medals and citations, and many were recognized for their leadership qualities and rose through the ranks to become officers. One, Bob Hoskins, was even awarded a rare battlefield commission in the Marines for gallantry in action on Iwo Jima.

Although all grieved for every boy lost, the deaths of Martin Joyce and Steve Klinger had a particularly strong impact on the NBC family, as was reflected in the subsequent touching letters about them. Marty was killed at Guadalcanal, and Steve died in Sicily. Clearly, their

contemporaries thought the world of them. Marty was the first NBCer known to be killed in action (January 2, 1943). Actually, John Zurowski was killed at Bataan in early 1942, but this was not known until much later. On March 5, 1943 a flag pole dedication was conducted at the newly named Joyce Square bounded by Hoyne, Leavitt, Bradley and Grace streets near where Marty had grown up.

Marty, Steve and the others who made the supreme sacrifice for their country symbolized all that is good and true and selfless in America. We know they were proud to be from NBC, and we are proud that they were. This booklet is dedicated to their memory and to the other NBC boys who served and sacrificed during WWII and in Korea and Vietnam.

Ray Donner
Arlington, Virginia
Spring 1997

Neighborhood Boys Club
2501 Irving Park Road
Chicago 18, Ill.

CHRISTMAS, 1943

Dear Fellows,

CHRISTMAS this year bears a gift from you far finer than any I have received in the many years we have known each other. A little over a year ago you were just a pleasant memory of a bunch of kids I used to know. I could only picture you as you once were playing league or football, hanging around the clubhouse, moving around with your gang living in a world that more or less revolved around Paul Revere Park. I had often thought of you, wondered what you were doing, wondering whether N.B.C. had helped to make you better men. I had sort of given up hope of ever again seeing or hearing from most of you. Then I had a little experience. My brother who went into the Navy about two years ago told me of a letter exchange that he and a group of his classmates had. He thought it was a great idea and so did I. I told Dick about it and he was sold. From that was born the N.B.C. Service Paper. Now I no longer have to just think of you in memories. You are real again. Through your letters we at home again live with you, learn of your everyday experiences, travel with you all over the world. Who in this country receives letters from every war front, from every branch of the armed service, from every part of the world -- and best of all, from fellows they know? There are damned few that do and nobody I know except Dick, NBC and myself. If that doesn't add up to be one of the finest Christmas presents to be thankful for, then I am all wet in thinking that you are damned-sight better men that I ever had hoped for in my most ambitious moments.

Where I once worried about ways to help you fellows, I now find you have reversed the table on me and you got me working my fool head off trying to do a better job to be a better man. You have and are accounting for yourself in good style every day. It is up to me to do my best to match it. When the war is over and we gather around the banquet table (to which you have already been invited) I want to be able to prove that I am a better man because of the inspirations you are giving me through your letters. It is up to me to prove my worth you fellows are doing every day.

On the home front, so far as N.B.C. is concerned, things have not changed much. Christmas play at Lane High School next Sunday.



High point winners strutting around the clubhouse. Indoor and basketball coming up. New asphalt tile floor at the clubhouse. Things are just about the way you left them. That, of course, is what you want, for you are fighting this war to keep things such as NBC going. If it was good for you at one time, it ought to be good for the kid who is there now. For everyone of you there is some guy like you around there now. Different names, different fellows, but the same kind of a guy.

Leaders are hard to get as so many of the older fellows are working. Because of the shortage Dick is spending a lot of time in the clubhouse. The office work is pretty heavy so he has acquired an assistant in the form of a secretary -- blond, 5 feet 8 inches, blue eyes and lots of visible reason for all fellows on leave to drop in for a visit.

Victor Adding had its annual Christmas banquet in the Marine Dining Room at the Edgewater Beach last night. The 1300 Victorites took over the whole place. There is only one other party that could top it. That is our Victory banquet so be sure and be there.

Six men from NBC gave their lives in 1943. That is a high percentage. More than twice what it is for the country as a whole. The law of averages should break the other way in 1944. If it does, no new names will be added.

I have been doing a lot of research and development work here of late and starting next week expect to make some exhaustive test of new instruments in a B-17 that the air corps is turning over to us for that purpose.

I wish I were able to remember each one of you in a separate way for Christmas. I am afraid that is out for I find it would be quite a job. I have a dozen nieces and nephews that think a bachelor uncle is a guy who gives big Christmas presents. They are going to get big ones this year - the best they ever got -- WAR BONDS!

The V Mail Christmas cards have been a big success. As fast as they come in Dick puts them on the bulletin board at the clubhouse and the kids sure go for them.

Since you fellows have become world travelers, Paul Revere Park is just a speck. Not so long ago it was a big part of your world. Traveling is one of the greatest things that a man can have happen to him. It convinces him in no uncertain terms that some where a spot that could even be the neighborhood around Paul Revere Park is really the greatest and only spot in the world.

Wherever you are this Christmas I hope you will find a cheerful crowd and that the New Year will bring its greatest gift in the form of World Peace and your speedy return to your homes.

Sincerely,

Robert Buehler



N. B. C. SERVICE PAPER



MARTY JOYCE KILLED IN ACTION

Marty Joyce, former member of the Ramblers and By-Oaks and one of the boys with whom we have been corresponding regularly through our Service Paper, was killed in action in the Southwest Pacific on January 2, 1943.

Marty was one of the most popular boys in the NBC during the years 1931-35 and played on the first team in the Boys Club. He was an excellent all-around athlete, starring in basketball, baseball and football. He was a member of NBC's Junior American Legion baseball team in 1934, and he held NBC's 75-Yard Dash record in the 15&16 year old class for several years.

We know Marty was a loyal and courageous soldier as he lived up to the NBC ideal of "For Better Men." He gave his all in the performance of his duty, and his memory will be our inspiration to carry on to victory and avenge the supreme sacrifice he has made. Our deepest sympathy to his family in their bereavement, and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

January 29, 1943

JOHN ZUROWSKI KILLED IN ACTION

We have been informed by Carl Costanza of the Trojans that one of his former teammates, John Zurowski, was killed in action defending Bataan. A Gold Star is displayed in the window of his home signifying that he gave his life for his country. Carl described Johnny as an ever-smiling pitcher and outfielder who was a great asset to the Trojans, and who will be remembered, as he lived, a good sport; and how he died, a real hero.

March 12, 1943

SERVICEMEN'S HONOR ROLL

The April NBC Servicemen's Honor Roll, which is proudly displayed in the Club House, Park Fieldhouse and Club Office in the Victor Adding Machine building, now includes a total of 326 former Boy's Club members' names.

April 9, 1943

FROM : Steve Klinger (Midgets)

WHERE: Africa

Yes, I should have written a long time ago to thank you for the most welcome Service Paper. I certainly enjoy them a great deal.

After hearing what happened to Marty Joyce, I just had to write. One can never tell who's next. That's why I'm writing this letter. Those who are yet to come into the Service must be prepared. Most men don't know what hardships they must undergo when they go overseas. This is not a pipedream; just ask any of the fellows who are overseas away from their homeland.

As for Marty, many Germans will bite the dust on account of him.

May 7, 1943

FROM: Lawrence Dietz (Cobras)

WHERE: Brooke General Hospital

Unfortunately, I received the last copy of the Service Paper while in the hospital. You see, I was transferred since the last time I wrote, and my new station is at Cuero, Texas, which is one of the Air Force's primary flight schools. The job I held was that of a Progress & Elimination check pilot.

At 11:20 A.M. on July 1st, I was giving one of the cadets a progress check ride. The last maneuver of the ride was a practiced forced landing from which we spun in. Our altitude at the time of entering the spin was 300 feet above the ground. I got on the controls as quickly as possible and managed to stop the spin, but I was unable to make a complete pull-out.

The cadet suffered a smashed face and many body lacerations. All I got was two broken ankles, a dislocated jaw and lacerations. Oh yes ! I also lost part of my gold bridge in the deal. The crack-up happened just four miles from the home airfield.

July 16, 1943

STEVE KLINGER KILLED IN ACTION

Stephen Klinger, former coach of the Midgets and member of the Ramblers, was killed in action in Sicily on August 5th.

We can truly say that Steve was one of the few boys around whom the NBC was built. He was a natural leader and a real organizer. He was the first coach in the NBC, and he was the first boy to organize a younger group of boys -- the Midgets. We will never forget the pep talks that Steve gave to this team at special meetings and on evenings before important games. His heart and soul were truly for the Midgets in every respect. He taught them how to play as true sportsmen should.

Steve was a fine athlete himself, as he starred on St. Michael's High School football team besides taking part in all sports at NBC. His enthusiasm and love for competitive sports will always be remembered.

Steve Klinger and Marty Joyce were classmates in St. Benedict's elementary school and graduated together in 1931. They played together on the same team in the NBC, and they both gave their lives this year in the cause of freedom. Steve was in the 15th Infantry, and Marty was in the 132nd Infantry.

May Steve's sacrifice be a guiding light and inspiration for victory to all our boys in the Service. Our deepest sympathy to his family in their bereavement, and may God grant his soul eternal peace and happiness.

September 10, 1943

CHARLES TIRIO WOUNDED IN ACTION

Charles Tirio, former member of the Midgets, was wounded in action in the Southwest Pacific area last month, possibly at Guadalcanal. Charles' brother Louis is stationed at McChord Field, Washington. We will inform you as soon as any further information is received on Charles. We all wish him a very speedy recovery.

September 10, 1943

MARTIN JOHNSON KILLED IN ACTION

We have just been informed that Martin Johnson, member of the Sparks in 1935, was killed in action in the South Pacific area on June 29th. Marty was in the Marines and was with the toughest fighting group -- the Raiders. He was only in Service eight months and was never fortunate enough to get a furlough. Marty was well known and liked around Paul Revere Park, and we know he will be deeply mourned by his many friends in NBC. Our deepest sympathy to his loved ones, and may God grant him eternal peace and happiness.

September 24, 1943

FRANK SPERL DIES FROM INFECTION

Frank "Buddy" Spert, former member of the Cardinals, died this week from a tooth infection. Frank's parents just received a telegram today, and details are not known as yet. Frank was one of the most popular boys in the vicinity of Coonley School and was very well liked by his many friends in NBC. At the time of his death, he was attending a Navy Pre-Flight School in Del Monte, California. Our deepest sympathy to his parents and friends, and may his soul rest in peace.

November 5, 1943

KEN LEWAN JOINS UP WITH UNCLE SAM

Ken Lewan, who has done a fine job since taking over the duties as NBC Program Director last September, was inducted into the Army several weeks ago and will leave for Ft. Sheridan on Monday. Ken is the fourth NBC Program Director to go into the service of our country. The others are Ray Baumhart, Bill Krienitz and Russ Koepke.

November 19, 1943

FROM: Frank Lauten (Dragons/Midgets)

WHERE: Alaska

"Steve Klinger Killed in Action" -- are the five words which gave me a shock I will never forget.

Not our Steve, that laughable, lovable guy with the booming voice.

Not our Steve, who took a handful of boys and made a fine team of them.

As I read on, the truth came home to me. It was our Steve. I say "our Steve" because he was known by practically all the boys of NBC in his day. He, with his clean sportsmanship and drive, made himself known to all. To the last moment, we can rest assured, he was in there fighting. I can picture him up in front urging the boys on. No, I'm not trying to add glory to one gone; I just know Steve. He was Steve no matter where you met him. The broad smile may have been the only thing lacking when his time came.

We, who may be fortunate enough to return home, must remember these boys -- Steve, Marty Joyce, Marty Johnson -- and those who may be unfortunate enough to join the ranks of the glorious dead. We, who know they will never walk the paths of Paul Revere Park, enjoy the clubhouse, the gym and clean sport, would like to see a monument of some sort erected in the park they loved.

In closing, I wish to extend my sympathy to his loved ones and repeat these three words which are for Steve and Steve alone -- A Wonderful Guy.

November 19, 1943

FROM: "Peanuts" Meyers (Dodgers)

WHERE: New Bern, N.C.

Right now I'm at Mitchell Field which is just two miles out of New Bern. I'm in a fighter squadron which won't be doing any fighting for quite a while. We're an entirely new outfit. Most of the pilots are just out of school as are all, or rather most, of the mechanics. But it won't be too long, I hope, before we're ready.

I've heard that Clarey Schroeder, who pitched softball for the old Dodgers, was wounded in Italy. I thought I'd mention it in case you didn't know. That way, the rest of the Dodgers, wherever they are, will know about it. I don't know how serious it is because his folks only received a telegram.

I'll be missing the NBC Christmas Play at Lane Tech it seems, but I hope to get a five-day pass and get home to see it.

December 3, 1943

FROM: Martin Costanza (Trojans)

WHERE: Guadalcanal

I want to thank you again for your kind efforts to make my life in the Service easier because of the Service Paper.

I had known for some time that my dear friend Marty Joyce had passed into the great beyond, but I was unaware until the day before yesterday that he met his fate here at Guadalcanal. I was reading through my NBC Service Paper when I was surprised to find an article describing the circumstances of his death. So I spent all day yesterday looking for the grave of our dear friend, and my search was not in vain for I did find his burial place. It is in one of the newer cemeteries. He has a small tombstone and a nice, new white cross. The cemetery is very uniform, but I'm going to see if I can fix it up a bit. I don't know if I'll be allowed to do any work on it, but I'll soon find out,

Dick, I'm sure the Joyce family will find it comforting to know that Marty's resting place will receive the best of attention. I do not know their address; so please let them know. I'd be very pleased to fulfill any requests they may have, and I would be very happy to hear from them.

Note from Dick Valentin: Marty, I sent your letter to the Joyce family today, and I know they'll be very pleased. It certainly is a consoling thought to all of us that somebody from our Club will be looking after

the burial place of one of our dearest members. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness.

December 3, 1943

LOUIS TIRIO DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Death struck once more within the ranks of NBC servicemen, this time claiming the life of Corporal Louis Tirio on December 18, 1943. His mother was at his bedside in an Army hospital in the state of Washington when he died. A solemn military funeral mass was held at St. Benedict's church on December 24th, and he was laid to rest in Mount Carmel cemetery. Louie had been suffering from an intestinal ailment ever since his high school days, but he was inducted into the Army two years ago because there was no external evidence of his sickness. Although Louie was in a very weak condition, he was very proud of being in the U.S. Army, and his only regret was that he could not be on the fighting front with his brother Charles, wounded in action at Munda.

Louis was a member of the Midgets from 1931-35 -- on the team coached by Steve Klinger. Louis was an outstanding athlete and played on one of the finest baseball teams ever turned out at NBC -- the 1933 championship American Legion team. His record in the 220 dash, established in 1935, still stands today. Louie was one of the boys who helped in establishing the fine reputation NBC has of presenting the best Boys Club Christmas Program in the city today.

Our club motto "For Better Men" certainly was accomplished in the short life of Louis Tirio. May his memory be an everlasting inspiration to all of you in distant parts of the world to lead a life which will always stand you in honor with God and your country.

Our deepest sympathy to his family in their bereavement, and may God grant his soul eternal peace and happiness.

December 31, 1943

FROM: Matthew Salpietro (Wolverines)

NEWS FROM THE BOYS ON FURLOUGH

WHERE: APO San Francisco

A lot of things have happened to me since I last played with the Wolverines at NBC. I am now overseas after six months training in San Diego, California, and I've been here six months which makes me an old salt in the Marine Corps.

I'm a tank man. We march, drill, go on hikes, and work on tanks. The commander calls me a gunner, but I'd rather be called a jack-of-all-trades, or a sailor and soldier, because I've been on many ships (big and small), stood guard (four on, eight off), drilled, marched and went on hikes in rain, snow and blistering heat, fired many weapons and took them apart.

I've just about had all the traveling and training I want. Soon you'll hear of another Marine in battle, and when we hit them, you can be sure those Japs will stay hit for good.

I would like to say hello to Hank Hanrath who was a good buddy of mine way back in '33, to Ray Meck (the life of the party), and to Tony Rebel.

December 31, 1943

MATTHEW SALPIETRO KILLED IN ACTION

We are very sorry to inform you that Matty Salpietro, member of the Wolverines from 1934-37, was killed in action in the invasion of Tarawa.

Matty was in the U.S. Marines, and his indomitable spirit was reflected in his last letter published in the December 31st edition of this paper.

In addition to being a member of the NBC, Matty was a member of the Lakeview Torches, most of whose members are former NBCers. He was well known and liked in the area around Bell School where he lived most of his life, and we are sure that he will be deeply mourned by his many friends.

Our deepest sympathy to his family, and may God grant him eternal peace and happiness.

January 28, 1944

It's really a thrill to pick up the phone or even more so to have some fellow suddenly open the door at the Club House for a visit when we think he is out at sea or in some distant spot far from home. We fortunately had that pleasure several times during the past few weeks and thought the rest of you fellows might be interested in reading about some of their experiences.

Dick

RED ROTHERMEL of the Spartans during 1932-34 joined the Navy two years ago and in short order went to sea as a gunner on a merchant ship. Twice within a short time Red was forced to abandon ship in favor of a lifeboat after being torpedoed. In one case, 60 men jammed into a lifeboat meant for 25 or 30. Almost all survived after being lost at sea for six days before being picked up by a destroyer. Hunger and heat made this a real ordeal, not to mention the menacing presence of sharks. After being rescued and after a short furlough, Red was assigned to a destroyer which took part in the invasion of Tarawa. Red said his experiences around the world were worth a million, but he was still looking forward to attending the Victory Party that Mr. Buehler plans to have after the war is won.

PAUL KEES of the Giants is stationed in Virginia and is a radio man in the Naval Air Corps hunting down submarines in the Atlantic. On one mission, Paul's plane was credited with sinking a German sub, but, on another, his pilot was killed when they crash-landed. Luckily, Paul got out with just a few scratches. By the way, Paul is still a teenager.

RED ANDERSON is in the Navy and just returned from Ireland on leave. Red's ship encountered a terrific storm on the way back to the States which blew everything not tied down right off the decks of the ship. Red got to be an expert in bailing.

DR. FALLS HERSHEY of the Ghosts during 1931-35 dropped in for a visit enroute from Boston to New Orleans. Hersh is now a Lt. J.G. in the Coast Guard and was headed for his new post where he will

be his ship's physician and surgeon. His ship will be commissioned shortly, and it's the Doc's job to purchase all the equipment necessary to set up a first class hospital on board.

RAY "SKIP" BAUMHART, who was a member, leader and program director at NBC from 1933-43, is our most frequent visitor, being stationed at Northwestern University under Navy auspices. Skip always gives us a helping hand, and we'll really miss him when he is transferred.

AL HEITMAN of the Blackhawks won a combat star for taking part in the fierce battle with the Japanese at Attu, and then had an easy time of it at Kiska because our air force had pounded the island for several days before the landing. Al had been in Alaska before the attack on the Aleutian Islands.

GEORGE TRAVERS of the Rockets is in the Navy and has been on patrol duty in the Atlantic for the past two years. George did such an excellent job that his commanding officer recommended him for officer's training. George received his commission as an ensign several weeks ago, and we know he will make a fine officer.

FRANK MUELLER of the Cubs is leaving for special training as an aerial gunner. Frank is enthused about flying in one of those big B-17s and figures he will be overseas within three months. His last comment before leaving was: "Don't ever stop sending that Service Paper!"

BERT DREYER of the Owls has had many interesting experiences at sea aboard a destroyer escort. He has stopped at ports in Bermuda and at Casablanca and Bizerte. His ship also had patrol duty off Salerno and Sicily.

January-March 1944

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

MARTIN JOYCE SQUARE DEDICATION

On Sunday, March 5th, the intersection at Bradley and Hoyne was dedicated as Martin Joyce Square in memory of Marty who gave his life at Guadalcanal on January 2, 1943. Mr. Fred Gilson was the master of ceremonies and was assisted by Reverend Fasnacht and by the alderman Bob Burns. A current NBC boy, Fritz Hebeker, placed the NBC star emblem at the foot of the flagpole in tribute to Marty. The NBC choir of 30 voices sang the Star Spangled Banner and closed the program with God Bless America.

March 10, 1944

JAMES CAVANAUGH MISSING IN ACTION

James Cavanaugh, a former member of the Wildcats, has been reported missing in action in Italy since January. This sad news was received in a telegram from the War Department last week. Jim left the U.S. just a year ago this month when he was sent to North Africa. During his stay there, he volunteered to serve with the Rangers, known as the toughest fighting outfit in the Army. Jim was a fine athlete and played third base on the NBC City Championship American Legion team in 1935. We will notify you through this paper as soon as any further information is received.

March 24, 1944

FROM: Robert Knaus (Blackhawks)

WHERE: South Pacific

Our outfit just came back from hitting the Japanese air and sea strongholds in the Roi and Namur Islands of the Marshall Island chain. And believe me, we really hit them hard. Marty Joyce is avenged. I'm enclosing some Japanese money taken

from a Japanese Imperial Marine on Namur Island who was quite dead (so solly).

March 24, 1944

FROM: Andu Schnepf (By-Oaks)

WHERE: Guadalcanal

I received the Service Paper dated December 31 yesterday and while reading it noticed that Marty Joyce's brother John receives this paper. Please ask him if he would like a photograph of his brother's grave which I hope to have printed soon. I said a few prayers at Marty's grave which is well taken care of. I have a lot to say, but it will have to wait until I get home.

March 24, 1944

GENE SRIVER MISSING IN ACTION

It is with deep sorrow that we must again report that one of our boys, Lt. Gene Sriver, has been missing in action for several months.

Gene was a member of the Spartans from 1932-36 and was one of the mainstays of his team. In Gene's last letter to the Club, dated January 4th, he wrote: "The situation is about the same, still flying. I have 11 missions in now and won the Air Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster. Good luck to you all in the coming year."

We will report any further information as soon as it is received.

April 21, 1944

JIM CAVANAUGH A PRISONER

Jim Cavanaugh is safe ! Jim was reported missing in action since last January, and his mother was just notified from Washington that he is a prisoner in Germany and in the best of health. It was the best news we have heard in many months, and we know this announcement will bring joy to Jim's many friends from NBC.

May 5, 1944

GENE SRIVER A PRISONER

Lt. Gene Sriver of the Spartans has been reported to be a prisoner in Germany. Gene has been missing since January, and the notification of his safety came as great news. Gene is a bombardier, and was shot down over Germany.

We also had a very pleasant visit from Mrs. Cavanaugh whose son Jim is a prisoner of war in Germany like Gene. She let us read the first letter she received from Jim who wrote that he had been hospitalized about ten days after having been captured. He is fine now, however, and sends greetings to all his friends. Jim requested that his mother save all the NBC Service Papers for him; so he can catch up on all the news when he returns home.

May 22, 1944

FROM: Anthony Rebel (Dragons)

WHERE: South Pacific

I guess you have heard that "Frenchy" Hoskins and I met by accident and found out that we were in the same battle. He was only about 70 yards away from me during the fighting. He sure has a lot of swell souvenirs, but our Japs didn't have much of anything. Actually, I was not really looking for anything, except that bullet with my name on it.

That's one thing I hope I never find. It sure ain't a picnic out here, and believe me, don't trust what you see in the movies -- it's way worse. I can't write about anything in detail; so I guess I'll have to keep it as a story until I get back. I have a lot of swell pictures I can't send, but I'll bring them back too.

P.S. I hear I'm the father of a cute set of twins and can't wait to see them.

I didn't forget Matty Salpietro.

May 22, 1944

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAT !

Congratulations are in order to Pat Franklin, formerly of the Gales, who recently was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He reported this matter-of-factly in a recent letter to us.

Pat's letter:

I just received Edition #38 of the NBC paper yesterday. I read the write-up you had on me, and I want to thank you for the nice comments.

I have some more good news for you, and it's good news for me. I completed my tour of 30 missions today. Now I'm sweating out a boat ride home; that is, if they don't make me stay over here as an instructor. I have the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

It's too bad about Gene Sriver being missing in action, but, if I know Gene, he'll turn up somewhere. I lost one of my buddies on the same day, January 4th. I just got word that Gene is a prisoner of war; so we should be hearing from him soon.

I got letters from Bob Stitt and Mike Tanascu this past week. Bob wants to get into the fight over here, and Mike and I want to come home. I sure would like to walk into the Club House right now !

June 16, 1944

WILLIAM ERBACH KILLED IN ACTION

William Erbach, member of the Ramblers during 1931-32, was killed in action in the Southwest Pacific last month. A telegram reporting his death was received by his folks last week.

Bill will always be remembered for his wonderful play on the gridiron at NBC. He played tackle, and seldom was there a play that went through his side of the line with much success.

Bill was one of the original members of the Boys Club and was a teammate of the late Marty Joyce and Steve Klinger. All three boys were classmates at St. Benedict's and graduated in 1931.

May Bill's sacrifice be an inspiration for victory to all our boys in the Service. Our deepest sympathy to his family in their bereavement, and may God grant his soul eternal peace and happiness.

July 1, 1944

WILLIAM LAUTEN MISSING IN ACTION

It is with deep sorrow that we must again report that one of our boys, Lt. William Lauten, is missing in action. Bill was a member of the Dragons from 1933-37 and is remembered as one of the outstanding batters on his team. We hope and pray that Bill will turn up safely, and may God grant our wish. Bill's most recent letter, dated June 1st, was received recently and is as follows:

I moved from Peterson field and am now in England. The route we took over was very interesting and scenic. We flew over the islands of the Carribean, the jungles of South America, the vast South Atlantic, and the deserts of Africa.

At the present time, I'm engaged in taking trips over Europe on bombing missions. The European countries look very quiet and peaceful until the flak barrages are thrown up at you. Then the picture changes. Our crew has been very fortunate so far. We only have one flak hole in our plane; I hope it's the

last. I'm piling up missions pretty fast, and if this pace keeps up, I'll be finished in a couple of months.

July 1, 1944

FROM: Red Anderson

WHERE: Aboard the U.S.S. Nevada

The Office of War Information has given you more information about the historic D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6th than I could hope to include in one letter. It may be of interest to you, however, to hear about some of my personal experiences. Hollywood could not reproduce them.

Several hours before H-Hour, the sky was lighted by plane-dropped star shells. Tense minutes passed. We thought about the dangers from the German-laid mines all about us in the water.

We waited to learn who had lighted the sky -- friend or foe. Then came the drone of hundreds of bombers, and soon exploding bombs falling on eight miles of the land in front of us made our ship vibrate. Our Air Force was at work despite the ack-ack tracers that made beautiful patterns against the sky.

Soon after dawn, a Messerschmitt flew out of a white cloud bank and met tracer fire from a P-47. As the American plane roared by, a Spitfire appeared and continued firing at the crippled German plane, finally sending him down in flames. By this time, we could see mines erupting, and geysers around the ships told of shore batteries firing on the invasion fleet.

The hours melted into days and nights. By day, the allied transports could be seen extending from horizon to horizon. While Allied bombers and fighters worked overhead, our guns responded to location data on enemy positions. A message from Fire Control stated: "Your fire is blasting the turrets from their tanks," and "The enemy hasn't been seen since your last salvo."

What a thrill it is to know that the radio and newspapers have given you a good account of the excellent performance of our ship. The officers and

men of this ship did a fine job, and I am proud to be aboard.

Till you hear from me again, keep praying; your prayers are being heard.

July 1, 1944

FROM: Anthony Rebel (Dragons)

WHERE: Saipan

As we fought our way up a mountain on Saipan, we passed by Bob Hoskins's outfit. I didn't see him, but the guys said he was all right. I've seen and done things I'd rather not talk about yet, but one funny thing happened I'll tell you about.

It was about four days after we had landed. We came across a shell hole with muddy water in it. We started to use the water to clean ourselves a bit, and I said, "I wouldn't jump into that mud hole if the whole Jap Army came." Just then - ZING - a sniper opened up on us from about 50 yards away. In we went, mud or no mud. Five of us in a shell hole. It just proves that the Japs have no manners. We were rescued by a flame-throwing tank.

Yesterday, we raised our flag over Saipan. It was an awful battle, but we couldn't lose. This is one place that couldn't be taken without the Marines. The natives on this island were sure glad to give up, but the Japs held them in huge caves until we eliminated the Japs.

Bob Hoskins could sure tell you some good stories. I'm going to see him as soon as I can.

July 28, 1944

FROM: Bill Beigl (Royals)

WHERE: France

I'm in good health and hope you are all the same, but I have some bad news for you. My Royals

teammate Bob Simpson was killed in an airplane crash in California. He had been serving with the Navy in the South Pacific and was supposed to get a furlough soon. I'd like you to put this in the paper so the other fellows can be informed.

I am serving somewhere in France, and it is quite a nice country. I'm getting used to the French money, which is a lot easier to learn than English money.

We have been kept quite busy here working on guns. I don't mind it at all. I think this war will end soon; at least I hope so.

July 28, 1944

FROM: Richard Meck (Cobras)

WHERE: Saipan

Here I am on the island of Saipan taking it easy. Oh yeah ! But here is some news. Yesterday, three NBC servicemen had a swell reunion. Bob Hoskins, Tony Rebel and I got together for a bull session. Boy, what a treat for all of us. It really was swell.

We've all been around here since D-Day on Saipan, and we're all still in perfect working condition. My outfit landed the assault troops. It really was something when the Japanese opened up with artillery, mortars and small arms fire, but that didn't stop us.

August 11, 1944

FROM: Robert Hoskins (Panthers)

WHERE: Saipan

Things are calm out this way again, and, yesterday, 1,300 miles from Tokyo, three former NBC members met and really had a bull session - Dick Meck, Tony Rebel and myself. We spent all afternoon talking about old NBC events -- the Father &

Son Banquets, the Memorial Day Track Meets, the Christmas Plays at Lane Tech, American Legion baseball, and, of course, all those hotly contested table tennis tournaments. For a while, we all thought it was 1936, believe me. Dick is in the Army, and Tony is a fellow Marine. Both are doing a fine job.

August 11, 1944

FROM: Tony Rebel (Dragons)

WHERE: Saipan

I really have some swell news to tell you all. I had to pick up some radio parts yesterday, and I stopped at an outfit which I recognized. It was Dick Meck's. He was only a short distance away, and, boy, was I glad to see him. We had a swell chat, and then Dick got on my truck and went back with me to my camp. We then went over to see Bob Hoskins, and did we ever surprise him. I found out from Dick that he had seen plenty of hell too. He was with the 2nd Division on invasion day. We were only about 200 yards from them.

Bill Schmaltz was also in the invasion. He was a cook on board one of the transports.

I guess I don't have to tell you about the Saipan invasion. Believe me, it was as bad as you've heard, and even worse when you had to be in it. I know I'll never forget what I've been through or what I've done. I hope that Dick's, Bob's and my luck holds out; so we all can meet again back at NBC.

August 11, 1944

FROM: Henry Schultz (Cobras)

WHERE: Saipan

Seeing as how the Red Cross came through with some blank V-Mail sheets, we can get to write more.

All is well here on Saipan. A rough fight while it lasted, but I came through without a scratch. It was different from either the Canal or Tarawa. They took good care of us this time. We had plenty of chow, water and cigarettes at all times. Too bad I couldn't locate Dick Meck or Bill Groth while I was in Hawaii.

August 11, 1944

FROM: Ted Zukowski (Spartans)

WHERE: France

I enjoyed seeing part of my recent letter in the Service Paper. As you can imagine, I didn't have much time on my hands on D-Day and those difficult days afterwards to write to all the fellows I know. So I'm happy to see my message come to the attention of all the fellows who know me personally, and who may have been wondering if I took part in the invasion after practicing in Texas, Iceland and England for the past three years. Yes, I was busy on D-Day !

Strange things happen in wartime, making one feel more and more that it's a small world after all. Just a few days ago, I found my big brother John here in France on duty with the Air Corps -- I hadn't seen him since Armistice Day 1941; so you fellows can well appreciate the great joy shared by John and myself when we firmly shook hands, held each other in a brotherly embrace, and said in unison: "Well brother, good to see you, and how in the hell are you !"

August 25, 1944

HOSKINS WINS SILVER STAR

In a recent letter to his mother, Bob Hoskins enclosed the Purple Heart and Silver Star he received for his heroic actions on the island of Saipan. The

Silver Star was awarded to him for taking over the duties of his lieutenant, who was seriously wounded during the intense fighting. Later on, Bob was wounded for which he received the Purple Heart. Bob is now in a rest camp somewhere in the Hebrides Islands. Congratulations Bob, and here's hoping this short lay-off will do you a world of good. You certainly deserve it.

September 8, 1944

JERRY ORGLER COMING ALONG NICELY

Lieutenant Jerry Orgler, formerly of the Dragons, is now in a rest camp as a result of being shot through the foot on July 15th in France. His mother told us he is coming along fine, which will be good news to his many friends. His outfit landed in France on June 8th, and our bet is that Jerry did plenty during that hard fighting.

September 8, 1944

DICK ERHARDT MISSING IN ACTION

We deeply regret to report that another of our boys is missing in action. First Lieutenant Dick Erhardt, formerly of the Owls and Panthers and NBC chess champion for several years, has been missing since August 7th on a raid over Hungary. Dick was the pilot of a Liberator bomber and was attached to the 15th Air Force operating from a base in Italy. In Dick's last letter to us dated June 18th, he said he had 13 missions to his credit, and that the going was pretty tough. He said the flak was very heavy, and that the German fighters were not sitting on the ground wasting their time.

Dick has been married a little over a year, and became the father of a baby boy last month. His wife has been in touch with the families of the rest of the crew, but up to now none have heard anything since

receiving the first telegram.

Let's all hope and pray that Dick and his crew will emerge from this safely.

September 8, 1944

FROM: Donald Menzenberger (Marines)

WHERE: France

Well, the Texas has done it again. We were in the front line of this latest invasion against the Germans in southern France, and we came through without a scratch. As in the Normandy invasion, we laid down a bombardment preceding the landing of the troops. Later, we acted as naval artillery for the Army when they ran into trouble, but they moved inland so rapidly, we hardly had to fire after the initial bombardment.

Our main target in this operation was a battery of five nine-inch guns. We stood out about five miles and blasted them out of existence. We fired at them continuously for an hour and twenty-five minutes, at the end of which time all activity in that area ceased. When we moved in closer the following day to look at our targets, we saw clearly through binoculars that the gun emplacements were located on the side of a hill, about halfway between the water and a beautiful villa, which the Germans had undoubtedly used for living quarters. These guns had been in such a position as to cover the invasion beaches.

We withdrew at night, and were not bothered as much by enemy planes as we were in northern France. Only one enemy plane was seen approaching our ship, but he soon changed his mind when we opened up on him with anti-aircraft guns.

I can't tell you much more about it, but I can tell you this: I wouldn't trade one foot of U.S. soil for everything I've seen on this side. I should be on my way home before too long unless our troops have reverses, which I don't expect.

September 8, 1944

FROM: Frank Lauten (Midgets)

WHERE: Aleutian Islands

The NBC Service Paper was the first to inform me of my brother's misfortune. My sincere thanks to NBC for the kind words in tribute to my brother.

To date, I have little to add. We still do not know Bill's whereabouts. This we do know. The incident took place off the coast of Granville, France. German fighters intercepted Bill's plane, and he was shot down. Returning pilots reported seeing seven or eight parachutes leave the plane as it descended. It was June 8th at 10:30 A.M. We hold every hope that Bill is safe, and my thanks go out to all who are hoping and praying with me and my family.

I can't understand why death is striking in that one class of St. Benedict's -- the class of '31. Bill Erbach was the third, and the news of his death was a great shock to me. I offer my deepest sympathy to his family.

September 8, 1944

BILL LAUTEN REPORTED SAFE

Bill Lauten is safe ! That was the good news received by his family several days ago in a telegram from the War Department. Bill is a prisoner in Germany, but no doubt this won't be for long the way things are shaping up at present. Our many NBC boys fighting their way through the Siegfried Line have an added incentive to hurry up the job because they know such fellows as Bill, Jim Cavanaugh and Gene Sriver, who all played together in the same years at NBC, are anxiously awaiting their liberation. Bill had been missing since June 8th when his plane was shot down over Granville, France.

September 22, 1944

JOHN PAULUS WOUNDED

John Paulus, a member of the Blackhawks during 1932-35, has been wounded in action in France. John was one of the most active boys in NBC. We hope his wounds are not too serious, and that he will have a very speedy recovery.

September 22, 1944

TOM MOYLES RECEIVES THE PURPLE HEART

Tom Moyles, former member of the Robins, was wounded while fighting in the Palau Islands. A bullet pierced one of Tom's lungs, and he is recuperating in a hospital in New Caledonia. Here's wishing you a speedy recovery Tom, and , with all your fighting spirit, we know you'll be up and around again very soon. Tom was awarded the Purple Heart for gallantry in action.

December 1, 1944

FRANK MUELLER MISSING IN ACTION

Frank Mueller, former member of the Cubs and Cavaliers and only 19 years old, is missing in action somewhere in Europe. Frank just left for overseas duty about six weeks ago, and in his very first mission as a gunner on a B-17 failed to return to base. We sincerely hope and pray that Frank will be reported safe in the next news received.

December 1, 1944

TOM NOREK MISSING IN ACTION

Tom Norek, formerly a member of the Mohawks, is missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Although only 20 years old, Tom is a lieutenant and pilots a fighter plane. We received this brief information from the Norek family this week. Let us all join them in praying for Tom's safety.

December 1, 1944

JOHN MCCLORY WOUNDED IN FRANCE

John McClory, better known to his many NBC friends as "Sonny Crowe," has been wounded in action in France. No details were received, but we'll pass on more information as soon as we get it. Let's hope his wounds were not serious, and that he is well on the road to recovery. Johnny was a member of the Midgets and Dragons in the NBC.

December 1, 1944

DON KAUFMANN WOUNDED IN FRANCE

Don Kaufmann, member of the Vagabonds in 1931-32, was wounded in France in July. Don was one of the better football players at NBC and was also an outstanding indoor softball pitcher. Here's hoping that Don's wounds are not serious, and that he will have a full recovery soon.

December 1, 1944

TOM NOREK IS DEAD

Lt. Tom Norek of the Navy Air Force, who was reported missing last month, is dead. This is the sad news received by Tom's parents from one of his

buddies during a recent visit. Tom was taxiing his fighter plane down the runway of his carrier when his plane received a direct bomb hit. This was to have been Tom's last flight before getting his furlough to come home. Tom's courageous fighting days are now over, but his spirit to win in stiff competition will always live in NBC and stand as an example to the boys to never give up. We are proud to say that our motto "For Better Men" was truly expressed in Tom's short life. May God grant him eternal peace and happiness.

January 5, 1945

CARL KOLLER MISSING IN ACTION

Carl Koller, formerly of the Cobras and Clarions, has been missing somewhere in France since December 1st. This sad news was received by his parents the day after Christmas. Carl was one of the most active boys in NBC and was an outstanding star on the diamond. His great hitting and fighting spirit were key factors in bringing the American Legion City Baseball Championship to NBC in 1936, as well as the City Championship title to the Clarions in the Metropolitan League in 1941. Let us trust in God that our prayers will be answered that Carl is safe.

January 5, 1945

DICK ERHARDT A PRISONER OF WAR

Dick Erhardt, who was reported missing in action last September after being shot down over Germany, is definitely a prisoner of war. Although we had heard of Dick being a prisoner several months ago, we hesitated to publish it until the information was confirmed. Here's hoping Dick at least gets the pleasure of playing a few games of chess to pass the time away. Most of you fellows will remember that Dick

was the chess champ in his days at NBC, and, as a true sport, never boasted about his many victories.

January 5, 1945

KEN LEWAN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Ken Lewan, who was NBC's Program Director during the latter part of 1943, was seriously wounded in Germany on November 30th. Ken's mother was notified by the Red Cross that his wounds were of such a nature that made it necessary for both of his arms and one of his legs to be put in casts. Later on that same week, Ken's mother was notified by the War Department that Ken had been seriously wounded. While in the States, Ken had received an appointment to West Point, but unfortunately he was ill when the semester started but was promised by the West Point Board to be recalled for the next semester. Luck just doesn't seem to be with Ken, but anyone with his determination to get ahead is bound to be successful in the end. All the kids in the Club have been notified about your misfortune Ken, and we're sure that their prayers for your speedy recovery will be answered.

January 5, 1945

JAMES MARMITT RECEIVES PURPLE HEART

Jim Marmitt, former member of the Hawks, was recently awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received in Germany. We'll inform you as soon as we receive further details. Here's hoping your injury isn't serious Jim, and that you'll be up and around again in the near future.

January 5, 1945

FROM: Ken Lewan (Giants)

WHERE: England

Just a short note to say hello. They've got me covered with plaster; so I'll have to dictate this. I had a swell ride in a C-47 from France to England where I am getting further treatment.

February 2, 1945

TED LOESCH MISSING IN ACTION

Ted Loesch, who was one of the most loyal members of the Rangers during the years 1936-41, has been missing in action somewhere in France since December 16th. Ted's parents received this notification from the War Department on January 7th. They will keep us posted on any further information they receive. Ted is only 19 years old and is with the 346th Infantry Division. It is our sincere hope that we will be able to give you some good news about Ted in the near future.

February 2, 1945

KEN AMBULE MISSING IN ACTION

Ken Ambule, who played with the Dodgers in the years 1935-39, has been reported missing in action in the South Pacific since October 20th. Ken is an ensign in the Naval Air Corps and piloted a twin engine bomber. Let's all pray that Ken's name will appear among those reported safe.

February 2, 1945

DON SCHAEFER WOUNDED IN ACTION

Don Schaeffer, former member of the Marines, was wounded in action in Germany on December 19th. His mother dropped us a note during the past week and stated he was recovering from shrapnel wounds. Best of luck to you Don with our best wishes for your speedy recovery.

February 2, 1945

GEORGE OWENS WINS THE PURPLE HEART

George Owens, one of the staunch members of the peppy Robins through the years 1936-40, recently received the Purple Heart for wounds suffered several months ago. George is the third member of the Robins to receive this award, the other two being the Moyles brothers. The Robins are really showing that same old fighting spirit which they had when they were kids in the Club.

February 2, 1945

HERMAN LANGE INJURED

Herman Lange, former member of the Tigers, was injured on December 22nd when the bus he was riding to town from camp went over a 50 foot cliff somewhere in California. Although suffering a broken jaw and bruises, Hermie was very lucky because several passengers were killed. Here's hoping that all those sore spots heal up in a hurry, and that he has a full recovery.

February 2, 1945

FROM: Ray Baumhart (Owls & Bulldogs)

WHERE: Massachusetts

When I received Edition 53, I really felt low. Tom Norek dead; Carl Koller missing; Ken Lewan seriously wounded; and Dick Erhardt a prisoner. There was war, stripped of all its coloring and shown for what it is -- the closest thing to hell that man, in his lust for power, can create.

My feelings are all mixed up -- my prayers are offered for those four grand fellows, my sympathy to their parents, my hatred is aimed at the methods and objectives of our enemies, and my determination is to do the best job in my power so that this needless bloodshed will end.

I think that all of us not on the actual battle-lines at the present time should call to mind the fact that Uncle Sam has given us a job to do, and it is our duty to perform that job (whatever it may be) to the best of our ability. Only in that way can we feel that we're playing square with our teammates now in the front lines.

Let's all tighten our belts another notch, and give our country all we've got. And let's not stop until we've won the war in both oceans and the peace that follows.

February 2, 1945

FROM: Chuck Adam (Eagles, Owls, Hawks)

WHERE: Philippine Islands

Well, here I am after another big hop across the water. I spent New Year's and Christmas on a boat, and it wasn't too nice.

The boat trip was uneventful until the last few days when Jap planes started attacking us. At first, only one or two, but then more. The sky was black with flak from the ack-ack guns as our escort kept careful watch over her brood. I must give the U.S. Navy credit for being good shots, and the Navy fighters too. They knocked down a lot of Jap planes. This one evening when all the planes came over, one

came in and wasn't spotted until he was right over us. Then all hell broke loose. Every boat in the convoy opened up on him, and it looked like the Fourth of July at Soldier Field. Usually only the escort ships will fire, but the troop ships will too if they are attacked. Well, here was this one Nip floating in the hail of lead with a bomb under each wing. He pointed his nose down at one of His Majesty's Royal Australian ships and went into a suicide dive. The ack-ack made him turn; so that, before crashing, he just scraped our ship with his wings. You never saw so many scared guys in your life.

Before we landed in the Philippines, we expected a lot of opposition on the beaches, but we found out after landing that the Japs had taken off some days before. They even left their planes on the airfield for lack of fuel. I did get to see some Jap prisoners brought back from the front, and they looked pretty mournful.

The Filipinos are very happy the Americans are back and to be getting food again. The only clothes they have is what they buried. Last Sunday, they decked themselves out in their finest for church. Most of them are very religious, and there is a big stone church in every town, many of them having been built by the Spaniards.

February 16, 1945

FROM: Ray Schaefer (Marines)

WHERE: England

Well, in a few minutes our ship heads back to the good old U.S.A. Our passengers number around 1,100. The majority of them have been wounded and are returning home for discharges. They have done their duty and are going home.

Incidentally, my twin brother Don may be coming home soon too. You see, he was wounded recently and is now in a hospital over in France. His wounds, I believe, are similar to Ken Lewan's. Don was hit in both arms and his left side. I knew Don's luck could not hold out forever in the infantry. I'm glad though

that he is out of it; maybe they'll send him home and discharge him.

Don said he was pretty lucky at only being wounded. Just before the shell landed, Don and his buddy had crawled into a fox hole. He felt the blast a moment later and knew immediately that he had been hit, as his arms and side were growing warm and wet. His buddy got it in the leg and kept screaming for the medics. Don shared his wound tablets with his buddy, but they didn't seem to have much effect. Before Don could get more, he grew dizzy and fainted, but he recovered consciousness a few minutes later. He called over to the next fox hole for more wound tablets, but the guy took one look at Don and leaped back into his fox hole. I guess Don must have presented a pretty gruesome picture with blood and dirt all over his face. So Don managed to crawl over, got some tablets, and returned to his fox hole, giving his buddy what he had. Don then told his buddy that he was going for the medics, but Don's buddy pleaded for him to stay. Of course, the guy needed immediate attention; so Don headed back for the medics. He found his commanding officer shortly after and told him what happened. The C.O. said he'd get the medics, and sent Don off in an ambulance. I only hope his wounds aren't too serious. His letters sound pretty cheerful; so I guess he's okay.

As for us on the U.S.S. Black, our luck continues to hold. This last trip was pretty exciting though. The destroyer escorts were dropping ash cans all over the place, especially in the English Channel near Le Havre, France. During December, the Germans sunk three American transports and the Leopold, a large English transport. A tanker in our convoy hit a mine near Le Havre, but managed to continue.

February 16, 1945

FROM: Bob Stitt (Gales)

WHERE: England

I got wounded fighting with Patton in Germany a few days ago. I'm feeling fine, although I guess I'll

be laid up for a couple of months here in England. The fighting is sure rough up there, and I really feel for the guys still slugging it out. We were fighting in two feet of snow and had to carry blocks of TNT to make our fox holes. Boy, anybody who thinks he has it rough should get up there with the dogfaces for a few days. I got hit with shrapnel from a Jerry 88.

February 16, 1945

CARL KOLLER, PRISONER OF GERMANY

Carl Koller, former member of the Cobras and Owls who was reported missing last December, is a prisoner in Czechoslovakia. This wonderful news was received by his parents last week. His father was overjoyed when he recognized Carl's handwriting on the envelope, which assured them of Carl's safety. Up to that time, they had not received any information from the War Department; so you can imagine the thrill they got from that letter. If any of you wish to write to Carl, you will have to use the regular form furnished by the War Department and address it to him as follows:

PFC Carl John Koller
Prisoner of War No. 311432
Lager-Bezeich M-Staml, IVC
Deutschland - (Allemagne)

March 16, 1945

CITATIONS TO WENDLEND & KRIENITZ

Lt. Ted Wendlend and M/Sgt. Bill Krienitz have both been awarded the Bronze Medal. Ted, platoon leader of a combat engineer unit, received the medal for advancing beyond friendly lines to demolish five houses near a town in Germany last October. The engagement, during which Bill displayed unusual courage and coolness, took place last summer while Allied troops were fighting to capture the Myitkyina

air field in upper Burma from the Japanese. At the time, Bill was a First Sergeant in the advanced echelon, which was scattered and under heavy enemy fire. Most of you will recall that Ted played with the Rockets at NBC, and Bill was with the Midgets.

March 16, 1945

FROM: Joseph Haas (Midgets)

WHERE: England

I'm convalescing in a hospital now in England. My outfit is still in Germany doing their share in pushing the Germans back where they belong. Yes, Herb Preiner is doing his share too, and I want to congratulate him for being awarded a citation for bringing a patrol back safely from enemy lines.

I'm feeling pretty well of late, and I don't think it will be too long before I'll be on my way back to the front lines. As for the weather here in England, it rains and rains and is too soggy to suit me.

March 16, 1945

MIKE HUJER MISSING IN ACTION

Michael Hujer, formerly of the Rockets and one of the most active members of NBC, is missing in action. This sad news was received by his parents from the War Department on March 17th. Mike has been in the Navy for more than two years, serving on board a sub-chaser operating in the Atlantic. He took part in the D-Day landings in France and wrote interesting letters to us about his experiences. In one of his letters, Mike said his biggest thrill in the NBC occurred when Mr. Buehler presented 4th Year "For Better Men" awards to him and his two best pals, Clarence Zygowicz and the late Clarence Soby. As most of you will remember, the three of them were

always together in their six years at NBC. Let's all pray and trust in God that our prayers will bring a happy announcement about Mike's safety in the near future.

March 30, 1945

TED THURMAN WOUNDED IN ACTION

Ted Thurman, formerly of the All Stars and the Bears in NBC, was wounded in the leg by shrapnel while fighting with the Marines at Iwo Jima. Here's hoping that Ted will recover in a short time, and will be able to get around as well as ever.

March 30, 1945

VINCENT TURCO IS DEAD

Vincent Turco, member of the Panthers during the years 1934-38, died on March 21st in England. Vince was wounded in action in Germany and, as complications developed, he was unable to regain the necessary strength to recover. Vince, as you will recall, was a fine team man. He was one of those kids who thought only of his team, and he seldom missed a game, whether the chance for victory was great or small. His pleasant smile as a youngster was reflected in the character of his life and was a splendid endorsement for the NBC goal of building better men. May the supreme sacrifice Vince made be an inspiration to you boys all over the world, and may God grant his soul eternal peace.

April 13, 1945

A SLIP OF THE LIP CAN SINK A SHIP

FROM: Ed Jensen (Wolves)

WHERE: England

I've written to the Boys Club before from France and Germany, but I've been wounded and am now in an Army General Hospital to recuperate here in England. I appreciate your sending me the overseas Monkeyshines as it has enabled me to find the addresses of some of my old pals and buddies.

April 13, 1945

ED SCHMIDT HOME

Ed Schmidt, former member of the Owls, stopped in at the Club for a visit last week after spending many months in a hospital in England. Ed was wounded during the Normandy Invasion, and, after recovering sufficiently, returned to his infantry unit in the First Army. On December 2nd, while fighting in the Huertgen Forest, Ed was seriously wounded again. After lying in a shell hole for hours in a weakened condition from loss of blood and fearing that he had been passed by and forgotten, Ed summoned up enough strength to climb out of the shell hole and walk to safety. After his home leave, Ed will go to another hospital in Iowa for further recuperation. Best of luck Ed.

April 13, 1945

VERN SIMMONS WOUNDED IN ACTION

Vern Simmons, former member of the Torches and an employee of the Victor Adding Machine Company, was wounded in his right arm and leg by shrapnel at Okinawa in early April. In a letter from Vern to his parents, he stated he was evacuated by plane from Okinawa to the Mariannas and is now in

a Navy hospital. Here's hoping you are on the road to recovery Vern. Good luck !

April 22, 1945

ED KIEWITZ KILLED IN ACTION

Ed Kiewitz, a former member of the Robins in 1937-38, was killed in action on April 12th in Okinawa. This sad information was received by his mother from the War Department on May 2nd. Ed was 25 years old.

Ed made many friends when he was an NBC member because of his pleasant personality and good sportsmanship. He took part in all sports, but he excelled in baseball, being one of the best infielders in his league.

In Service for two years, Ed was attached to the 96th Division. In his last letter to the Club, Ed said his outfit was one of the first to hit the beach in the invasion of the Philippines, and that it was quite an experience for him.

Ed exemplified the motto of our Club "For Better Men," and we know that his supreme sacrifice will be justly rewarded by God.

May 11, 1945

V-E DAY IN CHICAGO

Victory-in-Europe Day (V-E Day) in the Windy City turned out to be V-E Days. The people in Chicago were a little mixed up as to which day it really was. Rumors had been flying around for a week that the war in Europe was over; so the people were a little dubious. Factories and offices had closed on Monday before the President had made his speech, and people crowded the churches. Many of these people went back to work on Tuesday, but others stayed home. What a mix-up !

Editor's Note: Germany capitulated on May 7th, but the official surrender was signed early in the morning of May 8th. Later that morning, President Truman made the announcement of the surrender to the American people by radio.

May 11, 1945

NEWS ABOUT PRISONERS

Dick Erhardt, formerly of the Panthers, and Kenneth Lund, of the Robins, have been released. Dick had been a prisoner of war since last summer, while Ken was released several weeks after having been captured. Dick was the pilot of a B-24 bomber with the 15th Air Force, and Ken was a bombardier. Both had been shot down over Germany.

Jim Cavanaugh is safe and can hardly wait to get back for one of those good home cooked meals. Here's hoping we will hear the same good news about Carl Koller, Gene Sriver, Bill Lauten and Donald Hyerdall.

May 11, 1945

AL HAAG SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Al Haag, although not actually an NBC member, was always regarded as such because of his interest in and contributions to NBC activities and also because of his many NBC friends. Al was wounded for the second time in Germany several weeks ago. Details are not available, but here's hoping that Al will have a complete recovery.

May 11, 1945

JOHN FRAY AT MCGUIRE HOSPITAL

John Fray, member of the Spartans during the years 1932-35, is back in the States after being seriously wounded in Germany on March 26th. John was in command of five tanks when a German shell injured his arm so badly that an amputation was necessary. Knowing of John's determination to be a leader in all his endeavors, we're sure that John will overcome this handicap. If any NBCers are in the vicinity of his hospital, you may visit him there or write to him at McGuire General Hospital, Ward 59, Richmond 19, Virginia.

May 11, 1945

KEN LEWAN DOING FINE

Ken Lewan, who was wounded in the Huertgen Forest in Germany on November 30th, is improving very rapidly at Vaughan General Hospital in Maywood. Ken was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster for gallantry in action. After spending four months in various hospitals in France, England and Wales, Ken received the good news that he was to be transferred back to the States. He traveled in a C-54 airliner all the way from Wales to New York and then continued on to the Municipal Airport in Chicago in a C-47. The entire trip took only 21 hours in flying time. Considering that Ken was run over by a Sherman tank and wounded in 14 different places by large and small pieces of shrapnel, he is doing very well and most likely will be able to walk again within a few months. Kids from the Club have paid Ken a number of visits and have been fascinated by the war stories related by Ken and his recuperating roommates. Ken asked us to thank everyone for their kind letters and good wishes. He is unable to write yet due to hand injuries, but you can be sure he'll do so as soon as possible.

May 11, 1945

BOB HOSKINS PROMOTED

Bob Hoskins recently received one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed on a soldier. He was promoted to a lieutenant in the Marine Corps right on the battle field on Iwo Jima for gallantry in action. Congratulations Bob for doing such a splendid job !

May 11, 1945

HOWARD WIRSEN WOUNDED

Howard Wirsen, formerly of the Lions and Bruins, was wounded on April 12th in Germany while serving there with his infantry unit. Howard is now recovering in a hospital in England. Here's wishing Howard a speedy recovery and a quick return to the good old U.S.A.

May 11, 1945

MIKE HUJER REPORTED SAFE

Mike Hujer, former member of the Rockets who was reported missing in action several months ago, is now reported to be safe. His parents had received a notice from the War Department that Mike was declared dead, and you can imagine how happy they were to receive another telegram just a week later informing them that Mike was safe, had been held captive in the Channel Islands, and had just been released. Mike's ship was hit by fire coming from two German barges last February and appeared to have been sinking. Actually, five of the sailors, including Mike, stuck with the ship and managed to beach it, but they were immediately taken prisoner. Now that Mike has been released, his family is planning a big homecoming celebration.

May 25, 1945

ROBERT RIBBON IS SAFE

Right after Robert Ribbon was reported missing in action, NBC received a letter from him stating: "Please send the rest of my copies of the Service Paper to my home because I'm leaving Italy for good, I hope. I consider myself very lucky because our plane was shot down on April 20th, and our crew was taken prisoner. We were liberated on the 4th of May. I would like to say hello to my brother Allen in the Pacific."

May 25, 1945

MYRON COOK IS DEAD

Myron Cook, who played with the Gales during 1934-37, is the fifteenth member of the NBC to lose his life in the service of our country. Myron's plane was downed over India, and the wreckage was later found in the jungle. No other details are known, except that Myron was planning on returning to the States for a furlough after having completed 52 missions over enemy territory. May God grant him eternal peace and happiness.

May 25, 1945

BILL LAUTEN LIBERATED

Bill Lauten, who was shot down over Germany last summer, has been reported safe and is supposedly on his way home. This is wonderful news for all his friends at NBC, as well as for his family, and we hope other missing boys will be reported safe too.

May 25, 1945

FROM: Bob Hoskins (Blackhawks)

WHERE: The Pacific

Just arrived back at rest camp after the Iwo incident, and decided to catch up on my mail.

I was given a parade last week and awarded a field promotion to second lieutenant from my original rating of gunnery sergeant. Lt. General A.A. Vandergrift, Commandant of the Marine Corps, presented me with the promotion, and I'm the happiest "shavetail" in the whole Marine Corps. Of course, I am pleased with the medal, but I would rather have the commission because a field promotion is almost impossible in the Marine Corps.

I saw Tony Rebel (Dragons) a few days ago, and he is looking fine. I sure wish I could have seen Red Anderson while he was out at Iwo; I just keep missing him.

May 25, 1945

FROM: Lee Kledzik (Rockets)

WHERE: The Philippines

I am now in the vicinity of Baguio, the summer capital of Luzon. It's a rough go out here. The Nips are a determined bunch, but eventually we will prevail. This terrain is quite different than Chicago. After living in Chicago all my life where it is plenty flat, it's hard to get used to the high hills here.

Just recently, I was decorated with the bronze star for taking care of some wounded men under enemy fire. The big thrill of it was having General Joe Stilwell pin it on me and shake my hand. I always have admired this general for his work in China. He still wears that old campaign hat of his.

I know that Red Boyd is on this island, but I can't locate him.

July 6, 1945

FROM: George Hackbarth (Cobras)

WHERE: New Mexico

I guess you can put a title on this letter called "now it can be told." I suppose the Chicago newspapers are filled with President Truman's announcement of the greatest of all secret weapons -- the Atomic Bomb. Yes, my mail was strictly censored because the A-Bomb was one of the most closely guarded secrets of the war. Now that it is no more a secret, I can tell you I was feverishly engaged in the experimental staging of this bomb. In fact, I made some of the vital parts of the one which destroyed Hiroshima. It is hard to believe, but we are entering a new age. Those comic strips like Buck Rogers are about to be realized.

We knew the Germans were also far advanced in developing an A-Bomb. We worked hard to complete it before it became a weapon of the dictators because if it were in their hands they could rule the world. By the grace of God and the fine job the boys did in destroying German factories, we won the race. We now hope to use it as a weapon of lasting peace. The power of the weapon is so great that it cannot be comprehended. I am sure it has shortened the war. Well, so long for now, and good luck to all.

August 24, 1945

FRANK MUELLER IS DEAD

Frank Mueller, former member of the Cubs and Cavaliers, was killed in action on November 6, 1944. This sad news was received recently by his parents. Frank had left the States only six weeks before the tragedy occurred. He was assigned to a B-17 Flying Fortress crew as a gunner, and his plane was shot down over Hamburg, Germany while on a bombing mission.

A Memorial Mass was offered for him on Thursday, November 29th in St. Benedict's Church. Frank spent most of his boyhood days at NBC. His fine character was an endorsement for the Neighborhood

Boys Club whose objective is to build better men. Let us all remember Frank in our prayers, and may God grant him eternal peace and happiness.

Chairman of the Social Committee; Red Anderson, Chairman of the Publicity Committee; and Vern Riha, Chairman of the Sports Committee.

December 14, 1945

TED LOESCH IS DEAD

Ted Loesch, who was reported missing in action in France on December 16, 1944, was recently reported as being killed in action. Ted was only 19 years old at the time of his death and was attached to the 346th Infantry Division.

While a member of the Rangers during the years 1936-41, Ted was always a true sportsman and was the type of boy the NBC strives to develop,

In remembering Ted, let us say a prayer for him, and may God grant unto him eternal rest.

December 14, 1945

BIG TURNOUT FOR FIRST NBC ALUMNI DINNER

The first annual meeting and dinner of the NBC Alumni drew a big turnout at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in November. The members, mainly recently discharged veterans, showed plenty of enthusiasm and interest in the Alumni, which has been in the organizational stage these past few weeks.

There was music, laughs and community singing at the dinner, as well as guest speakers. Principal speaker of the evening was Mr. Robert Buehler, founder of the Neighborhood Boys Club. Other speakers included Mr. Leo Wolins and Mr. Jake Nickels. A comprehensive social and athletic program is being planned for the organization, and, in that respect, reports were made by the officers pro tem who are: Ray Bartlett, President; Bert Lawrenz, Vice President; George Maruschak, Secretary and

December 14, 1945

Editor's Note: The NBC Service Paper continued throughout 1945, despite Japan's surrender on August 14th, because many members of the Armed Forces remained in Service waiting for discharge. Some were on occupation duty in Germany, Japan and elsewhere. Discharged NBC Servicemen began arriving home in large numbers in mid-1945, however, and by the end of the year were putting out their own publication -- the NBC Alumni News, which in format and content was quite similar to the NBC Service Paper. Before long, the alumni had formed a bowling league and a ping pong team, and were making plans for many other activities. Thus, the NBC Alumni Association was a direct outgrowth of World War II and NBC's response to it. The NBC Alumni News ran articles and letters of interest in the same manner as the Service Paper. Some are reproduced below and bring to a close the story of the NBC boys in World War II.

"YOU AND ME"

TED THURMAN recently received his discharge from the Marine Corps, after accumulating 120 points and being in four major invasions in the Southwest Pacific. Ted was awarded several citations, including the Purple Heart.

TOM MOYLES, who was seriously wounded in the South Pacific, was discharged recently, and he will be married on Thanksgiving Day.

TOM DIESCHBOURG received the Air Medal for meritorious service while transporting men to

Okinawa during the last days of the war.

RED ANDERSON will receive his discharge from the Navy next week. The last letter he wrote was the 98th received from him during his Service years. To him goes the honor of being the CHAMPION LETTER WRITER !

October 1945

FROM: Rudolph Guttosch (Cubs)

WHERE: Japan

I was with the Third Fleet when the final strikes were made on the Japanese homeland. I had a cruiser as my resting place for that job, and as soon as the peace was declared, they shifted me around from the Astoria to the Randolph, and from there to the Cowpens and then the Shangri La, where we finally came to rest for a couple of weeks.

We did quite a bit of flying off the Shangri La, and covered all the preliminaries to the Japanese surrender aboard the battleship Missouri from the air. We did reconnaissance missions over Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka and the Japanese battleship Nagato. Then we covered the fleet in Sagami Bay, the first meeting between us and the Japanese aboard the Missouri, and the Army landings at Atsugi. Then we flew in from the Shangri La and landed at Yokosuka, after first covering the initial landings at this base. While we were covering these landings from the air, a couple of other units with photographers were covering these landings from the beach, where they waited for the marines to come in for their landings.

The next day, we went out over the Nagato, which was still anchored in the bay, and photographed the damage that was done to it by our Navy planes that had hit it while she was still in dry dock. The superstructure looked something like a sieve, except that some of the holes were larger than others. We went to Yokohama one day to take some more photos. There isn't much left of the place except downtown and, even there, most of the buildings were blasted.

I am presently on the staff of the Commander of Minecraft, Pacific. Our job is to cover minesweeping operations around the Japanese Islands.

October 1945

FROM: Red Anderson (Midgets)

WHERE: U.S.S. Iowa #61

Read it and weep. This is my last letter (98th) because I am on my last lap home. Windy City -- stand by for an extra gush of wind because I'm going to blow my top when I get there !

I was transferred to the U.S.S. Iowa when we got to Pearl Harbor, and what a beautiful ship it is, but I'll still take the "Old Mare." The Iowa is going to Seattle from here, and then I'll board a train to Great Lakes for my discharge.

There were about 17 of these man-o-wars leaving Pearl Harbor together, and it was quite a sight to see. There were at least 1,000 planes of all descriptions flying above us, and what a break it was not to have to shoot at them! We paraded past the famous Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head. It may be in the newsreels.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Buehler, Dick Valentin and all their helpers for sending us that swell NBC Service Paper. It was indeed my best piece of mail, and it kept my morale sky high. I could fill this page and then some telling you about all the pleasure it gave me, but I guess you know that without me telling you.

October 1945

FROM: Marty Costanza (Trojans)

WHERE: Sasebo, Japan

We pulled into Sasebo Harbor September 23rd, the second day of the occupation here. Our battalion

is still on board ship tied up to the dock waiting until our camp on shore can be completed, We are moving into an old Japanese administrative building, and all of the facilities have to be installed.

I went ashore yesterday, but the town of Sasebo is still off-limits for anyone not on official business. There are SP's and MP's all over the place.

The Japanese people know they are conquered; I mean there isn't any doubt in their minds. They bow and salute us when we pass. They smile at us and don't look as hostile as I figured they would after the occupation of their homeland. Many Japanese people around here took to the hills during the first days of the occupation, but large numbers of them, with big bundles on their backs, are now coming back to their homes. Evidently, they had fled for fear of what might happen to them, but now they are reassured. One Japanese said many people had left Sasebo after the second atomic bomb had exploded at Nagasaki, about 40 miles from here.

The GIs are really in their glory souvenir hunting, and I picked up a few trinkets. But all I really want to do is get back to the good old U.S.A. again. I have plenty of points for discharge; it's only a question of time.

October 1945

FROM: Sam Cassato (Marines)

WHERE: California

I got my wings five months ago down at Corpus Christi, and since then our VTB Squadron had been training and waiting to join an Air Group. I reported to San Diego last month, and we were finally put in Air Group 98. We were alerted for sea duty, but instead were sent here to Oxnard in the A.G. 98 Detachment. The future is very uncertain for us, but I do believe we will be sent overseas shortly to serve a tour on patrol duty.

I haven't met any NBC fellows out here, but I hear quite often from Joe Zimmerman. Joe had some very unpleasant news, telling of Herb Pokorni's death in Italy. I was also very sad to hear about Dick

Beier's death.

I would like very much to know if anyone has Bud Clark's address. Joe and I are both wondering where he is and why he hasn't written for so long.

October 1945

FROM: George Zukowski (Gales)

WHERE: Hankow, China

Our squadron (the 322nd) arrived here at Hankow on the fifth of October. Our last operation was to haul the Chinese 92nd Army to Peiping (Beijing). Upon arrival, the Chinese were to disarm the Japs and relieve the U.S. 6th Marines stationed there. Those marines are a great bunch of guys. They were in battle from island to island in the Pacific. We finished the job of hauling 40,000 tons of equipment and personnel twenty days ahead of schedule. Our work will be well rewarded because we expect to return stateside very soon. Trusting that Chicago is just as I left it.

December 1945

FROM: Charles Adams (Owls)

WHERE: Honshu, Japan

This is my 19th day in Japan. We landed here on September 25th when bringing in the fighting 33rd Division ashore with us. It really seemed strange to make an invasion like that without having the Navy tearing the place apart with those 16 inch guns. The bombardment is a real show in itself; so this was a piece of cake.

The city of Wakayama was honored on July 29th with a fire raid by 100 B-29s. That is the end of a very short story. There just isn't any city left after that one raid. One little section on the east side of

town is where the thousands of homeless have gathered.

I suppose a lot of the fellows are home now or on their way. Rumors are strong about being home for Christmas, but we still have 90 point men with us, and I only have 63 points.

All of us Chicago boys lost pretty heavily on the World Series, but it was a good series anyway. I hope to see everyone soon. Good luck.

December 1945

FROM: Donald Menzenberger (Marines)

WHERE: U.S.S. Texas

I have been very grateful to receive the NBC Service Paper during the past two and a half years. I have read stories from NBCers about their ships, planes and tanks, and about what they did.

I thought you would like to hear about the U.S.S. Texas, the ship I'm on. She was launched at Newport News, Virginia on March 12, 1914. She is very old, but she is one of the Navy's fightingest ships. She has flown an admiral's flag since 1941; in that year it was for Admiral Ernest J. King. She was the flagship of the Atlantic Fleet then. I came aboard ship in June 1943. The Texas has had many duties, and we've seen many places and done many things, usually in cooperation with the U.S.S. Nevada and the U.S.S. Arkansas.

Operations of the Texas against the enemy include the following:

Sixteen patrol and convoy operations in the North Atlantic.

Invasion of North Africa.

Invasion of Normandy and the Cherbourg battle.

Invasion of Southern France.

Capture and occupation of Iwo Jima.

Capture and occupation of Okinawa.

The Texas is the only battleship to have engaged the enemy on the coasts of Africa, Northern and Southern Europe and in the Pacific. Wherever this war has been, she has been. The total of ammunition

expended in battle was 6,258,083 pounds of steel and explosives.

I'm more than proud to be serving aboard the Texas, but I am looking forward to seeing you all again back home.

Thanks again for the Service Papers. They're swell.

December 1945

FROM: Leonard Nattinger (Ghosts)

WHERE: Antwerp, Belgium

It's been quite a while since I've written to the Club, but, when I received the edition of the Alumni News discussing the proposed Alumni Club, I knew what pen and ink should be used for.

I'm heartily in favor of an Alumni Club because it can achieve a world of good for years to come. It will rekindle friendships from days gone by and rebuild the competitive spirit we once had as boys,

The most important thing though will be knowing that there will be an NBC for boys in the many years to come. Watching a ball game and seeing the young kids of 8, 10 or 12 with their eyes filled with excitement, and seeing the keen competition while the kids learn the meaning of fair play and how to become better men -- well, that does something to my insides as I know it does to all former members of NBC.

Therefore, if an Alumni Club will be instrumental in giving an opportunity to these lads, let there be no hesitation in its formation.

December 1945

END

NBC HONOR ROLL
OF
ALUMNI WHO DIED DURING WORLD WAR II

RICHARD BEIER

MYRON COOK

WILLIAM ERBACH

MARTIN JOHNSON

MARTIN JOYCE

EDWARD KIEWITZ

STEVE KLINGER

TED LOESCH

FRANK MUELLER

HERBERT POKORNI

THOMAS NOREK

MATTHEW SALPIETRO

ROBERT SIMPSON

FRANK SPERL

LOUIS TIRIO

VINCENT TURCO

JOHN ZUROWSKI