



# N. B. C. SERVICE PAPER



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## DRAGONS 1934

### THE DRAGONS

The story of the Dragons really begins with the Cobras. Back in 1932 the Dragons and Cobras were one and the same, and there weren't any Dragons. However, during the 1933 baseball and softball seasons it became more and more evident that there was too much talent centered in the one club and so the members decided to split up into two teams. I don't know how they determined which half would retain the original name and which half would select a new one, but anyway we'll concern ourselves with the group that became known as the Dragons.

The first sport for the new team with the old members was football. Although the record indicates they won and lost some games before they met up in competition against their former teammates, the Cobras, none of their previous games produced "Monkeyshine" articles. For obvious reasons the Dragon-Cobra rivalry became one of the most spirited in the history of the N.B.C. and the Dragons were the first to taste the sweet fruits of victory by defeating the Cobras 6 to 0 in the initial contest. The game was decided in the last minute of play when Charles Hohmeier passed to Frank Lauten for the only score. Incidentally, this Dragon-Cobra competition produced a feature attraction for the N.B.C. Thanksgiving Day Football Classics for several years and all of the games were real thrillers.

Their last game of the 1933 football season was against the Cardinals and ended in a scoreless tie. The Dragons missed winning the game when Charlie Hohmeier, who had been a consistent ground gainer all day, broke into the clear with no one between him and the goal and then with a certain touchdown within his grasp, suddenly deliberately stepped out of bounds for no apparent reason. Charlie explained his action to his screaming teammates by saying, "I lost my shoe and the ground hurts my foot!"

That Dragon-Cobra rivalry produced several upsets as well as a lot of competition. This is evidenced by the report of an indoor game between the two teams in February 1934 when the Cobras were right up with the leaders and the Dragons were in last place. The Dragons won the game by an 8 to 7 score in extra innings.



Back Row: Alfred Kiesler, Ralph Cuny, Charles Hacker, John Crowe, Orville Sperling.  
Middle: Henry Jarosch, Walter Schmalz, Tony Rebel, Jack Wallner, Robert Schaefer, Lawrence Schroeder, Frank Hohmeier.  
Front: Charles Hohmeier, Gerard Orgler.

The Dragons won their share of championships too, and a list of them follows: Junior "B" Division baseball championship in 1935; they ended the regular season in a tie with the Blackhawks and Flashes and won the resultant play-offs to wind up with a record of 13 wins and 4 losses. Junior "B" Division indoor in 1936 with the remarkable record of 19 wins in 20 games; and the Junior "B" softball honors in 1936 with 7 wins in 8 games.

In Charles Hacker they had one of the Leagues all-time great baseball pitchers with two no-hit games to his credit. The first was against the Blackhawks in 1935. The Dragons won by a 7 to 0 score. Charles' repeat performance came in a game against the Flashes in 1936, and although they didn't get any hits, the result of walks and errors produced a run.

The aforementioned story of the Dragons is by no means complete, but it does provide a few of their more exciting and humorous experiences in the N.B.C., which are typical of a lot of others they enjoyed while active members of the Club.

By  
Jim Desherow

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CARL KOLLER RETURNS TO STATES

Carl Koller, who was a prisoner of the Germans in Czechoslovakia, returned to the States last week. As far as we know, he is in good health.  
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From:  
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Lt. Norbert Weishaar (0-2047536)  
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S/Sgt. Howard Wirsén (36683031)  
Det. of Patients Ward E - 6  
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Sgt. Martin Zagone (36045226)  
373rd AAA S/L Bn. Hqs. Bty.  
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Jos. Zimmerman (16168845)  
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N.Y., N.Y.

From: Joe Kathrein  
Where: Virginia

I've been kept busy for the past year chasing around the Atlantic. At present I'm getting some shore duty going to school here in Norfolk. This is a hell of a place to get sent to school but it's much better than taking a beating at sea on a "four stacker" (a destroyer).

It certainly is plenty hot down here, but I'm hoping to lose a few pounds of this excess weight I'm carrying around.

When school ends I'll probably be reassigned to another ship. My old ship has been converted into an A.G. and is no longer a fighting ship. That means they can't use me aboard, as all the torpedo tubes have been removed. I'd sure like to get aboard a new "can".

Lots of luck to all the fellows and here's hoping we'll all be home soon.

From: Fred Begley (Robins)  
Where: India

I am now at a new base and the last place was heaven compared to this. We are 55' above sea level and the temperature during the day is about 125 degrees.

As for sports, there aren't any. It's just too hot. About the only sport is ping pong which a couple of fellows and myself play at night in the day room.

I am over here 23 months now and expect to be back home in about another three months. That is if our rotation ever comes through.

I read in the Northcenter News where my old teammate Buddy Moyle is getting a try-out with the Cubs. Buddy, I wish you all the luck in the world, because I know it is the one ambition you always wanted and here is your big chance.

Cards or letters were received from Clarence Stahlberg, Walter Miller, Ed Jensen, and Herb Hoeschen.

ED, who's in England, says, "Hello" to Vince Jaeger and Harry Fandre.

HERB, who has 77 points to his credit, hopes to be home by Christmas. (We hope so too.)

WALLY sent his picture. There's no need to say just how much we appreciate that! Thanks, Wally.

GUS WIEHOFER also came across with a picture. Our collection is slowly but surely increasing, and we hope that at sometime or other we shall have a picture of each and every one of you. Added to

Added to our souvenir collection was another gas mask. HERMAN HOFFMAN sent this from Germany. We have two from Germany now and one from Japan. Thanks to ATHAN ZOGRAPHOS for the German currency and AL SCHEMIG for the 95th Infantry Division Journal.

NOTE: Starting with the next issue we're going to make the Service News more like the kids' paper, the Monkeyshines. We're starting a new column--YOU AND ME. This will include such items as promotions, Servicemen about town, weddings, and any other interesting facts. If you know something you believe would interest the rest, send it in for the YOU AND ME column!

From: Robert Nickels (Pioneers)  
Where: Philippines U.S.S. Meade 602

I finally arrived at my ship a few days ago after having been assigned to it in Hawaii.

I saw quite a bit of the Philippines while following it around. Unfortunately, I didn't see any of the fellows from the Club. There are surely a lot of them out this way. I've seen John Kneip's ship several times but haven't as yet been able to get to see him.

I saw Skip in Frisco just before I left and also met Gail Owens on the transport going to Hawaii. It's really great to meet fellows like that. Right now I'm hoping to meet my brother Bill out here some place.

Tom Dieschbourg is out here somewhere. I wanted to look him up but didn't have a chance. Say, Tom, if you see the 602 come out and see me.

While travelling around I crossed the line and after being duly initiated became a shallback. The four or five days before we crossed reminded me of some of the water fights that went on in the park. One noticeable difference though—we had no hose to fight back with.

From: Joseph Haas (Hidgets)  
Where: Germany

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still getting your paper regularly and do enjoy reading it a lot for there are quite a few good articles in there that I like to read from the fellas I went to school with. Fellas like Red Anderson, Ray Hackl, Herb Preiner, etc. I've been trying to find out about Herb Preiner, but as yet I haven't been able to because I was in the hospital for so long. I heard several stories about him and will try to find out more about him. Thus far I'm in the best of health and hope you're of the same nature.

According to the latest rumors I'm expecting to be home sometime in August. Then perhaps I'll have the opportunity of seeing you all again before I go to the C.B.I., but by then a lot sure can happen, so here's hoping it's all over over there before too many of us get there.

I'm not doing very much here now, just policing up Germany.

From: Bill Anders (Mercuries)  
Where: ??????

As you know where I was last stationed I used to visit with Willard Groth another of the former M.B.C.'ers, but now I've got a lot of water between us. Willie and I had some great times while I was stationed there. We were right across the road from each other and we used to eat together occasionally.

Over here I'm able to play ball, and what a team we've got! No stars, just a bunch of guys who love to play baseball rather than eat or sleep. We've lost but one game in ten and that one was close—1-0. You can bet the other team (cont on top page)

was really hot that day.

Tell Bert Lawrens I think that he is doing a mighty swell job. May the baseball season be a success. I would like to know how the field meet turned out and if Bill Krienitz gave an exhibition. I would have liked to have been there to run the mile, my specialty.

From: Dale Arvidson (Hawks)  
Where: Pacific

We've been working pretty hard and I haven't had much time to do anything. The mud is pretty thick and deep and Jap bombers cause us a little inconvenience, otherwise things are really on the stick. I received a couple of

I'm glad to hear that Ken Lewan is recovering fast and also that Bill Krienitz is home on furlough.

"Hello" to all the Hawks wherever you may be, and how are you doing, Moe? Gosh, I missed you twice while on furlough.

From: Gus Wehofer (Cobras)  
Where: Germany

Well, two down and one to go. I just finished reading the M.B.C. Service paper and Chicago must have been the place to be on V-E Day. I spent V-E day in the hospital taking penicillin shots. No, not for what you think. I had jumped from a jeep while a jerry plane was trying to make a target of us and my MZ with all of Germany to land on, had to land on the big toe of my left foot. A week later I had a fever of 105 and found out my foot was infected. After losing my toe-nail and spending seven days in the hospital, I am back to duty.

It looks as if we are due for a long boat ride to make the slogan true "Join the Infantry and see the world" from a fox hole.

I am finally sending a snapshot. It is yours truly in a German SS uniform. I am having my wife drop the flag off at the clubhouse one day soon.

From: Herman Hoffman (Spartans & Ghosts)  
Where: Germany

From what I've heard & read the European war was officially terminated this morning. As far as I'm concerned, it ended with the surrender of Munich. It seemed very strange to get that town so easily. We were hitting quite a little resistance on the outskirts of town when all of a sudden someone said they surrendered. It was regarded as just another rumor at first but time showed it was true. Munich was hit pretty hard by the air corps but it wasn't a complete loss. I guess the people got word about what happened to Bamberg and Nurnberg and decided they didn't want their homes to end up in a big pile of bricks on the street.

We heard stories about the people fighting the soldiers and it seems there may be something to that story. We stayed in Munich awhile and patrolled the streets and then moved out. We are now outside of that city taking it easy. We had to guard prisoners one night, but since then have been taking it easy. Eat, sleep, and roam around and of course a little drink now and then is always in order.

From: Martin Zagone (Tonkas)  
Where: Philippines

Everything out here is going along about the same. I got to visit Manila, that is what is left of it and it's alright if you have the money to throw away.

We didn't have much transportation out here, so when we moved up here we picked up a couple of trucks the Japs left behind & put them back into use. They are trucks that they took from us when they took over the Island. It seems they weren't in any hurry to leave here though, for before they left they took all the important parts out. All they left was the engine block, the chassis and the cab, so we had to hunt around for carburetors, starters, generators, and distributors and coils. So far we have had two of them on their feet and going along pretty well. The first one we built was a ten and a half Chevy dump. We had that about 3 weeks and someone I think needed it more than we did and they stole it. A few days ago, even with the new paint job on it, they still couldn't hide all the evidence and we found it again. The second one we finished ran for two weeks and blew out a rod, so we hope to repair it. We have started on the third and fourth ones, but there are still a few parts missing.

Well, here I am on my forty-first month overseas and still waiting to see home. Before I was sweating out rotation and it didn't help and now I guess I'll just have to sweat out this point system.

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From: Ted Platis  
Where: Pacific

I'm out here in the Pacific and for a while I thought I might find Lee Kledzik or some of the boys stationed on the islands out here, but it's hard to get ashore. Besides, when we are in port, there usually is work to be done on our boilers and that's where we come in.

It sure would make me feel good if I could meet some of the boys out here. I haven't seen any of my pals for over a year and a half. Well, maybe things will turn to the good soon.

I read in the Service Paper that you would like to know what we boys are doing out here, so I'm going to give you as much dope as I possibly can within censorship regulations.

It's over a year now that we headed out of Majuro bound on a mission that was to bring us closer than any USN ship had been to enemy territory since the beginning of the war.

Our group was fairly sizeable, but we knew that on the important part (for us) of the mission, we would have almost no company.

Being placed in commission on December 15, 1943, our record from the shortness of time between commissioning and combat is probably not matched in the entire Navy, as far as major combatant ships are concerned. We all know too well that our combat services have been unbroken since that date.  
(cont)

I can now give you some facts on our movements up to and including March 15, 1945. The rest you can presume that we were in or else read your back papers. Here is the dope as accurately as I can give it to you.

We were commissioned on December 15, 1943. Underway January 17, 1944. This consisted of our shake-down cruise, back to the yard for a few minor overhauls and out again, headed for the Pacific.

We spent two days in San Diego taking on soldiers, sailors and Marines with trucks and tanks. We dumped them at Pearl Harbor and after taking on supplies we left and headed for Majuro, Marshall Is. All this time we were in combat waters, but the real stuff didn't start until we left Majuro on our volunteer mission. Things we have gone through and done since then made that trip seem like mere child's play.

We steamed north past Marcus Is., this is where we broke away from the rest of the group and were on our own. It was a strange feeling, and we were very happy when we joined up with the rest of the force again. This was the beginning of our strikes and they haven't stopped yet.

We made strikes on Marcus and Wake Is. in May 1944. Then on Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima and Iaha Jima just after Marcus and Wake. Also, strikes on Saipan, Tinian, Roc and Guam until the 15th of June, which was D - Day on Saipan. We supported the occupation and capture of Saipan, Tinian and Guam. We also were in the first Philippine sea battle just off Saipan.

We bombed Palau and Yap Is. in August & September striking at Pelleliou, Anguar and Dabelteap, supporting the capture and occupation of Pelleliou. Then strikes on the Bonins, hitting Hah Jima, Chichi Jima and Ragan.

The latter part of September we anchored in Eniwetok for supplies. We engaged in strikes on Formosa, Okinawa and the Philippines. Made strikes on Formosa, Luzon, and Leyte for days, then supported the capture and occupation of Leyte and Samar.

We engaged Nip fleet off the island of Luzon in Oct. Then we made more strikes on Luzon, bombed Manila. This lasted through the latter part of November. We anchored in Guam.

In December and January, '45 we made strikes on Mindoro and Luzon and supported the capture and occupation of Mindoro and Luzon. Back into port for supplies and out again. Entered China Sea and steamed south to make strikes on Saigon and Kamrahn Bay (French Indo-China). Made strikes on Hainan, Hongkong, Formosa and Okinawa. We were the first carriers to make strikes on Tokyo, besides the old Hornet with Doolittle.

We supported the capture and occupation of Iwo Jima. These strikes and invasions lasted until March 1, '45. Our last strike that I can tell you about was on Okinawa and other islands in the Ryukyu group about March 1st and lasted until March 15, 1945.

There you have it. There's more but no can say.

I would like to say "hello" to Lee Kledzik, Rocky Boyd, Bob De St. Saxe, Bob Harsch & the gang.

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12 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN THE N.B.C.

BASEBALL TEAM FIRST CHAMPIONS: The Eagles won their first championship in the League by defeating the Mercuries by a score of 15 to 13 in our slow pitching softball tournament. The game seemed to be well in the Mercuries hands when the score showed them leading 13 to 9 at the start of the 7th inning, but at this point of the game, the Eagles put on one of their usual big innings and before the rally was checked 7 runs had crossed the plate. The Mercuries started the last half of the 9th with Bathie & Radcliff leading off with singles, putting the tying and winning runs on base but the next three batters Klein, Groth and Piets were unable to produce the necessary punch for victory. George Goebel led the murderous attack for the Eagles by belting out a clean drive to left center for his first home-run in organized competition and also hit safely in three other appearances at the plate. Besides batting his team to the championship, George played a fine game in right field handling all of his many chances perfect. Omar Cook also played a fine part in winning this game by batting out 3 singles and a triple in five times at bat. After winning their first championship, the Eagles feel very confident that their team will be a real menace to all opposition from now on.

LEAGUE TEAM IN FIRST PLACE: At present our team is in first place with two victories and no defeats. Members of the team are as follows: Henry Stamborad, "Blind" Groth, "Sonny" Anderson, and Verna Rika of the Midgets--"Woody" Dunwoody and "Powerhouse" Goebel of the Eagles, "Dreamboy" Blaidistel, George Havelin, Arny Anderson and "Wacener" Noesges of the Ravens--Willard Groth of the Mercuries, Norman Kramer and William Krauss of the Ghosts, and "Lefty" Louton, and Louis Fizio of the Cobras.

12 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN THE N.B.C.

SPARTAN MATTERS FROM SONG 22 - 12: The Spartan Fathers sure had a swell time trimming their kids last Wednesday. Mr. Ekstrom hit a single, two doubles and a triple, while Mr. Sandquist also proved to be a real slugger with 4 hits. The gang was not satisfied with 9 innings but played 13 until it was too dark.

WILDCATS DEFEAT CARDINALS: Herb Furson returned to his old form today by pitching the Cats to a 2 to 1 victory over the Cardinals in their first game. Herb allowed only 3 scattered hits, walked two and fanned nine.

RED ANDERSON HURLS "NO-HIT-NO-RUN" GAME: Pitching the first game of the season for the Midgets, and also hurling his first game in the N.B.C., Red Anderson hurled a No-Hit-No-Run game against the Rams. Red struck out 12 men and passed only 1 in his 11 to 0 victory. Jim Walshear hit a home-run for the Midgets besides getting 3 passes.

12 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN THE N.B.C.

TROJANS WIN FIRST GAME: The Trojans, champions of 1934 baseball played the first game of our season last Saturday and got off to a good start by defeating the Wildcats by a score of 8 to 0. Ed Biering pitched a fine game by holding the Wildcats to three scattered hits while fanning 7 men. Bob Schmidt and Bob Noesges were the only Cats to drive out safe hits. Ed Meas pitched a good game for the Wildcats holding the Trojans to 6 hits but two of these hits were bunched in the 2nd with a walk and an error for two runs and again in the 6th they made 3 hits together with a walk and two errors for a total of 3 runs. Hasbakh was the leading batter with two hits in 3 times at bat.

BLACKHAWKS WIN HOCKEY TITLES: The Blackhawks won the 1935 Field Hockey Championship when they beat the Cobras winners in the "A" Division two straight games, the first by a score of 5 to 1 and the second by a score of 3 to 1.

9 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN THE N.B.C.

BOYS' STAFFS TO RUN IN CITY FINALS: The north-section finals of the Chicago Park District Track Meet were held at Lake Shore Park last Saturday. In the young division Bert Deehring won the 50-meter dash and the broad jump. Bobby Joyce placed. In the 14-year & under group Paul Wisch won the 400 meter dash and Dick Mack and Travers placed in the 50 meter. In the 17 year & under class John Christi ran a swell race to win the 400 meter dash. These boys are all from N.B.C. and will run in the City finals, which will be held at Soldiers Field on Saturday.

FERRIERS WIN OPENING GAME: The Ferriers won the season opener when Reinhart hurled to defeat the Owls by a score of 10 to 7. Bob Schmuckenberg, the first man up in the game, opened the season with a home-run, and also hit another later in the game to lead the winner's attack. Jack Wikel pitched for the Owls and displayed a nice curve ball, while Dreyer was the leading hitter with 2 out of 3. Dick Erhardt hit a single and double and played a nice game at first for the losers.

8 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN THE N.B.C.

KNIGHTS DEFEAT ACES: Pounding the Aces' pitchers for a total of 21 runs, the Knights were able to move into first place. Both teams seemed to be evenly matched until the game went into the 9th inning. At this point the Knights went ahead and scored 7 runs to clinch the victory. Reinisch, Knight, Loh and Asher were the sluggers for the winners and Ray Jaworski and John Johnson for the losers.