

## Farewell to the Monmouth Message

By Melissa Ziobro, CECOM Command Historian

A version of the article appeared in the 17 December 2010 *Monmouth Message*.

Today marks the last print edition of the *Monmouth Message* newspaper, which since 1950 has provided the Fort Monmouth community with news, information, and even laughs. Prior to the *Monmouth Message*, post newspapers *Dots and Dashes*, *Signal Corps Message*, *Signaleer*, and *Signal Corps Message and Signaleer* did the same. The U.S. Army CECOM Historical Office maintains a collection of these papers in both hard copy and newly created digital files. Both hard copy and digital files will transfer with the CECOM Historical Office archive to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in March 2011, where they will continue to be preserved as part of CECOM and Team C4ISR's Signal Corps/communications-electronics heritage.

### *Dots and Dashes*

According to Signal Corps Bulletin Number 35, August 1926, publication of the *Dots and Dashes* newspaper commenced at Fort Monmouth (then called Camp Alfred Vail) in October 1917. The paper measured roughly 10x12.5, slightly smaller than today's 11.5x15 *Monmouth Message*. The oldest *Dots and Dashes* newspaper in the CECOM archive is dated November 21, 1917. This edition is marked volume 1 issue 5. The CECOM Historians have had no luck finding volume 1 issues 1-4.

The November 21, 1917 paper is truly an in-house publication, from its irreverent humor to its typographical errors. Troops had been at Camp Alfred Vail just five months when the YMCA printed this edition of its weekly "medium to spread cheer and carry useful and interesting items of information." Later papers highlighted, in addition to news from abroad, entertainment available to Camp Vail Soldiers, the local communities' propensity for "adopting" troops, and sports (considered an important part in conditioning post personnel as well as a provider of entertainment and relaxation). Readers today would enjoy looking at the cartoons and advertisements of the day.

The January 15, 1919 edition of the *Dots and Dashes* would be the last. The second page reads, "For a year, two months, and fifteen days *Dots and Dashes* has acted the role of Town Crier for Camp Vail...Its issues have been looked forward to with interest by many within and without the camp. Soldiers who have left here to take sterner parts in the great war have found the little paper following them...It has been with them in the very front, and has kept an unbroken line of communication established between the battle fields of France and the north Jersey shore, at home."

A large gap exists in the CECOM Historical Office's newspaper collection from 1919-1942. Former Fort Monmouth historian and Signal Corps museum curator Helen Phillips' 1967 *History of the Signal Center and School* mentions an Army chaplain assigned to the base who "initiated and edited a weekly camp paper from June 1922." But after a nationwide search, the CECOM Historians have never found any papers published during these years.

# DOTS and DASHES

A medium to spread cheer and carry useful and interesting items of information.

Published Weekly by the Y. M. C. A. at Camp Alfred Vail, Little Silver, New Jersey

Vol. 1.

Wednesday, November 21, 1917

No. 5

## Y. M. C. A. FUND GOING "OVER THE TOP"

As we go to press reports coming in seem to indicate that the campaign conducted during the past week for \$35,000,000 for the continuing and extension of Y. M. C. A. War Work will be a real success and perhaps go away over the mark. Monday morning found the totals recorded at \$30,000,000 with prospects of big jumps during the day. The amount seems to some persons to be quite large but with calls coming for service from almost every country in the war it is possible that \$35,000,000 may be even too little.

Four special representatives sent to France by the Y. M. C. A. War Fund Committee cabled this report to headquarters:

"Not until we have gone personally over the field had we any conception of the tremendous responsibility which General Pershing has committed to the Y. M. C. A. In this critical hour helping the men to be true to the highest American ideals may be a deciding factor in winning the war and keeping steadfast to the spirit and aims of its founders the men who will in the future direct the destiny of the nation.

"Facing hardships, unaccustomed conditions, lack of comforts and restraints of home, our men need instant help, which the Y. M. C. A. can give only if able men, supplies and the means to support its work are given in lavish measure by the whole country. This Winter is bound to be a critical time for thousands of splendid young Americans.

"For their sake, and in their name, we call for volunteers and the money to provide them with the help and comforts they so richly deserve. The Y. M. C. A. stands for a touch of home in a strange land."

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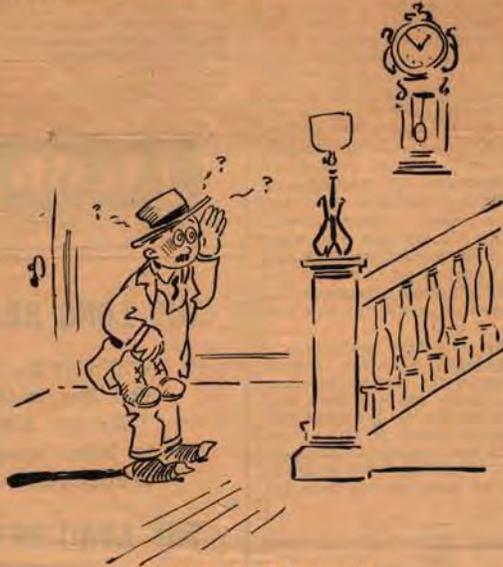
## Y. M. C. A. HAS NEW

### BULLETIN BOARDS

During the past week several new bulletin boards were completed and delivered at the Y. M. C. A. building ready to be set up there and at one or two other places in camp. The heading on the boards reads "Current Events" and the body of the boards will contain a list of the events and entertainments scheduled to take place at the Y. M. C. A. building. One board will be set up in the Post Exchange where it is expected to attract a great amount of attention.

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\* \* \* \* \*  
\* SEND DOTS AND DASHES \*  
\* TO \*  
\* THE FOLKS BACK HOME. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*



Getting In After Bed Check

## FOUR CLUBS FOR UNIFORMED MEN NOW OPEN IN NEW YORK.

Already four of the eight clubs to be opened for soldiers and sailors in New York which were mentioned in our last issue, are in operation. The privilege of the club houses include many things of service and information and recreation, some of which are reading and writing rooms, pool and billiards, shower baths, canteen, information regarding lodging, transportation, and entertainment.

The locations of the clubs are: National Service Club No. 1, 421 Seventh Avenue, opposite Pennsylvania Station. National Service Home Club No. 2, 529 Seventh Avenue, near 39th Street. National Service Home Club No. 3, 17 East 41st Street, near Grand Central Station. Soldiers' and Sailors' Home Club, 93d Street and West End Avenue. Any man in uniform is welcomed.

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## CAMP POST CARDS SOON.

Arrangement has been made for the taking of a number of the good photographs and the printing of post cards of the camp. The cards will no doubt fill a long felt want and it is expected that a great many will get into the mails shortly after they are put on sale. They will be sold at the Post Exchange and Y. M. C. A.

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The world takes its hat off to the man who will not bow to the inevitable.

## COMEDY CLUB TO RETURN.

The New York Amature Comedy Club was so pleased with the reception given them last Thursday night at the Y. M. C. A. building that they have promised to return some time in the near future. It was felt that their act of pantomime given last Thursday was not readily understood by some of the fellows—being a form of acting seen very little on the average stage, although a great many of the audience proved their understanding by their interest and applause. A note of appreciation is due Mr. Borden through whom the Club was brought to camp.

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## Now We're In It—Let's Go To It.

Reports coming from France during the past week or more have proved conclusively that America is really in the war—physically as well as financially and morally. We don't like to think of any of us fellows having to leave this good old world real soon—but if in the course of events it becomes necessary—let's go to it with a smile. Grit your teeth, pray to God Almighty, that if you've never made a success of your life before, that you may make it now.

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The enlargement of the officers mess hall has been completed and will be in use in a few days. For some time past there has been a need for larger quarters, the present room often being crowded to capacity.

## Y. M. C. A. IS BIGGEST MOOVIE EXHIBITOR

Since the beginning of the war the Y. M. C. A. has stepped into the forefront of the motion picture world in that it has become the world's largest motion picture exhibitor.

At more than 200 different places in the country in excess of 400 projecting machines are in operation from one to six nights a week, running off the four to five million feet of film now shown weekly. When the full quota of buildings and tents called for are in operation, 7,500,000 feet of film will be required weekly. That is, each week the Y. M. C. A. will show in its hundreds of stations the equivalent of a film 1420 miles long, a picture capable, in other words, of spanning the distance from Omaha to New York. The Y. M. C. A. is now showing more film at more places every night than any other one agency; it is the biggest moving-picture exhibitor in the world. At one station alone for instance, more than 150 programs have already been given, more than a million feet of film used.

A brand-new attraction in the military and naval movies is soon to make its appearance in the form of a soldiers' and sailors' own weekly motion picture. This film will be similar to the commercial films of the same type, but will feature matters of particular interest to enlisted men. Doings in other camps, outstanding military and civil events, interesting happenings in affairs of state, both in and out of Washington; as many European war pictures as can be obtained and incidents "back home" are some of the subjects to be included.

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## GAS AND FLAME BATTALION BEING ORGANIZED FOR ARMY.

English military officers who are expert in the offensive and defensive use of gas and flame methods of warfare, originally introduced by the enemy and now effectively employed by the allies, are instructing the officers and men of the Thirtieth Engineers, Gas and Flame, at Camp American University and important secret tests are being made in practice work there.

American soldiers, largely recruited from the ranks of such civil professions and trades as chemical and mechanical engineering, explosive and gas manufacture, plumbing, and carpentry, are being trained to meet enemy fire and fumes with flame and deadly gas.

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Congratulations are in order to Lieutenant Colonel Kumpke on his advancement and transfer from the National Army to the Signal Corps of the U. S. A.

## *The Signal Corps Message*

The first *Signal Corps Message* newspaper of which the CECOM Historians are aware is dated April 29, 1942. It states that it was “edited by the Public Relations Office Personnel of Fort Monmouth for the Officers and Men of Fort Monmouth” and published weekly by a local private publisher. The papers measured roughly 17x21, much larger than today’s *Monmouth Message*.

The April 29<sup>th</sup> paper makes no mention of being the inaugural issue, and it is marked volume 1, number 3. The CECOM Historians borrowed this paper from the Monmouth County Historical Association and scanned it. The next available paper, part of the CECOM collection, is dated August 5, 1942.

Again, news of the Signal Corps and greater Army at home and abroad filled the newspaper’s pages, along with plenty of advertisements and comics such as the *Sad Sack*. In the 1940s, photographs appear in the papers. Popular pin-up girls regularly made the pages. While this might seem unbelievable today, pin-ups were ubiquitous during the war years. The papers also exhibit a striking viciousness toward the enemy, drawing on both the racist and xenophobic attitudes common of the period.

The last *Signal Corps Message* known to exist dates August 9, 1946. It does not mention being the “last,” so the CECOM Historians are uncertain if any issues were lost to posterity.

The name of the paper reflects Fort Monmouth’s reputation as the Home of the Signal Corps at that time.

(scroll to next page)



## *The Signaleer*

During WWII, increased missions required the Signal Corps organizations headquartered at Fort Monmouth to branch out into the surrounding communities, purchasing and leasing numerous local sites for temporary use. The Signal Corps Ground Signal Agency (SCGSA) in Bradley Beach, NJ was one iteration of the Signal Corps Radio Laboratory started at Fort Monmouth in 1917. The SCGSA received permission to publish its own newspaper, the *Signaleer*. The first edition of this roughly 10x14 paper debuted on January 18, 1945. The paper was published “in the interests of SCGSA military and civilian personnel” and was “written, edited, and reproduced within the Agency.” The weekly paper was the “official medium for the dissemination of vital news to all concerned, with everyone invited to contribute...”

The last issue of the *Signaleer* known to exist is the August 15, 1946 edition. It does not mention being the “last,” so, again, the CECOM Historians are uncertain if some any issues were lost to posterity.

But, as stated, there are also no *Signal Corps Message* newspapers known to exist after that date, either. It is possible that printing of both the *Signaleer* and *Signal Corps Message* were suspended during these weeks pending the debut of the *Signal Corps Message and Signaleer*.

## *The Signal Corps Message and Signaleer*

By September 27, 1946, the *Signal Corps Message* and *Signaleer* had formed the combined *Signal Corps Message and Signaleer*. Content remained the same as in the predecessor papers. The size mimicked that of the *Signal Corps Message* for most of the paper’s existence. The last issue of this paper known to exist is dated April 14, 1950.

(scroll to next page)

# The SIGNALLEER

SIGNAL CORPS GROUND SIGNAL AGENCY



VOL. 1, NO. 1

BRADLEY BEACH, N. J.

18 JANUARY 1945

## SCGSA GETS ITS OWN PAPER!



*Attention!*

### SCGSA TO ISSUE AUTO PLATES AND DRIVERS LICENSES

In order to facilitate the securing of automobile and driver's license renewals by military and civilian personnel of this Agency without the necessity of taking time off, such renewals will be handled by the Housing and Transportation Section and the Housing and Transportation Clerk in each Personnel Field Unit, commencing 1 February 1945.

Effective that date, application blanks will be available in Personnel Field Units. The completed forms, together with check or money order payable to Department of Motor Vehicles, State of New Jersey (money orders should be payable at Long Branch Post Office) should be returned as soon as possible thereafter to the Housing and Transportation Clerk, who will issue a receipt and transmit the application and remittance to the Motor Vehicle Registration Agency.

The Motor Vehicle Registration Agency will commence the issuance of licenses on 1 March 1945. As soon thereafter as the licenses



It pays to suggest! Three Camp Evans employees receive cash awards for timely suggestions found to be of immediate and practical value to SCGSA. Lt Col John W. DeWitt, Director, Camp Evans Signal Laboratory, presents ideas for Victory awards to Catherine B. Bamford, \$5; Alfred Holtum, Sr., \$250; and Alecia C. Travis, \$25.00.

are issued, Housing and Transportation will pick them up and distribute them to applicants upon surrender of receipt.

No applications for renewals of automobile or driver's license can be accepted after 15 March 1945. Appearance in person at the Registration Agency is required in all cases of those with out-of-state licenses purchasing New Jersey plates for the first time.

**BUY AND HOLD WAR BONDS!  
KEEP ON BUYING THEM!**

TO BE PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY

With this issue, The Signaleer, official newspaper of the Signal Corps Ground Signal Agency, makes its initial appearance for the military and civilian personnel of SCGSA.

The Signaleer is published in the interests of SCGSA military and civilian personnel and will be written, edited, and reproduced within the Agency. The newspaper will serve as the official medium for the dissemination of vital news to all concerned, with everyone invited to contribute articles and ideas so that the publication will be literally of, by, and for the Agency in the fullest sense of the word.

Publication will be on a weekly basis, with a circulation sufficient to provide a copy for each officer and civilian within the Agency. Distribution will be made each Thursday, the date of issue.

Lt Col Arthur Eugene Burt, Administrative Executive Officer and Chief, Service Division; Major Clarence Chamberlain, OC, Office Service Branch; and Major Charles Christian, OC, Personnel Branch, will supervise the Signaleer.

Officers engaged in the active preparation of the newspaper include Lt John Rottini, Detroit Fiscal Officer, in the capacity of staff cartoonist; Lt S. Cohen, Publications Officer; Lt T. P. Morgan, OC, Field Operations and Civilian Morale Group; and Lt W. Wilkins, OC, Reproduction, Ft. Monmouth. All officers will contribute their collective talents in addition to their regular duties.

*continued on page 4*

### This Week's Adolf Hitler Story

London (CNS)—Although the worries of war are turning his hair gray, the eyes of Adolf Hitler still "beam with youthful radiance," according to an article prepared by Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels for publication in *Das Reich*. "Never does a word of deception or of base intent cross his lips," the Goebbels' article adds. "He is truth itself."

### CONGRATULATIONS FROM OUR CO

It has been the good fortune of this installation to obtain approval from higher authority for a weekly periodical. This is but one of many steps being taken to foster a spirit of unity throughout the laboratories. We are working together as a single unit with but a single objective in mind, "To do all in our power to win the war as quickly as possible."

All personnel of the Agency are enjoined to cooperate to the fullest extent of their ability in making this periodical a source of pride and pleasure to all. With that spirit of cooperation which is so typical of this Agency, we are sure that "The Signaleer" will be second to none in its field.

Victor A. Conrad, CO, SCGSA

**SEND IN THE NEWS**

As you can see from his congratulatory note, our own Commanding Officer wants to see the Signaleer rate with the top newspapers in its field. There's only one way we can accomplish this and that's by digging down deep for all the news we can corral from our own particular section and passing it along pronto to proper channels, either to our personnel field unit counsellor, or else mailed directly to the Signaleer, Building 133, Dormitory Area, extension 639. If your section is having a party, someone's leaving for the service, someone has returned from the service back to his or her old job, news of former SCGSA employees on the battle-fronts or in other essential industries, if someone in the section has won an award, etc., all are along the lines of news items vital to the Signaleer. We are anxious to see that each installation gets plenty of space representation but the responsibility for getting that news in will rest with the personnel who must go journalistic in a big way. If you've had any professional newspaper experience we can use your talents all the more--so let's hear from you real soon. Remember, we've got to have lots of news to keep going on a weekly basis, and since everyone connected with the Signaleer is handling the newspaper assignment as additional to their regular duties, time is of the essence in getting the sheet together each week.

Note!

# The Monmouth Message

Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Monmouth Message* debuted on May 9, 1950. The paper initially measured roughly 17x21. The tabloid size used today was adopted with the February 24, 1972 edition.

These papers are a delightful read- an often whimsical "stroll down memory lane," if you will. But they are also a one of a kind, concrete resource for students of military, Fort Monmouth, Signal Corps, CECOM, and C4ISR history, and social history in general. Kudos, Monmouth Message and predecessors, for all you've done for the community past, present, and future!

PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY FOR FORT MONMOUTH PERSONNEL

# MONMOUTH MESSAGE

HOME STATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

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ADOPTS NINE-POINT OBJECTIVE PROGRAM, COMMITTEE OF FIVE TO SELECT CHIEFS

**SJA SECTION HAS VETERAN OF WW I & II**  
CORPORAL SAYS FIRST OCCUPATION WAS 'TOUGHER'

**WOMAN'S CLUB EFFECTS OFFICERS**  
PLAYS FLOWER SHOW FOR JUNE 7

**POST SOLDIER MAKES STEAM ENGINE MODEL**

**PEARL HARBOR VET WINS 3-DAY N.Y. PASS PLUM**

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DELEGATES FROM YARDOUS LOCALITIES HERE MAY 13

**HISTORIC EVENT TO BE WITNESSED BY CIVILIAN, MILITARY DIGNITARIES**  
CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES VISIT EXHIBITS MAY 15

**PROGRAM FOR ARMED FORCES WEEK**  
ARMED FORCES COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION DAY

**WARRANTS TO SHOW IF JOB TESTS PASSED**

**ARMED FORCES WEEK**  
100-1000 Refreshments and Souvenirs  
100-1000 Welcome and Installation  
100-1000 Premier Showing of Two Signal Corps Films  
100-1000 "Message to the Signal Corps"  
100-1000 Luncheon Period  
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**SOLDIER WELFARE THEME OF SSO MEETING IN L. B.**  
ADOPTS NINE-POINT OBJECTIVE PROGRAM, COMMITTEE OF FIVE TO SELECT CHIEFS

Representatives to Monmouth County will elect a three-man committee to coordinate the annual objective program, scheduled for the second meeting of the Board of Signal Corps Officers, which will meet in the Signal Corps Club on May 13.

The committee will be headed by Capt. J. J. Kennedy, assistant commander of the Signal Corps, and will include Capt. J. J. Kennedy, assistant commander of the Signal Corps, and will include Capt. J. J. Kennedy, assistant commander of the Signal Corps, and will include Capt. J. J. Kennedy, assistant commander of the Signal Corps.

**SJA SECTION HAS VETERAN OF WW I & II**  
CORPORAL SAYS FIRST OCCUPATION WAS 'TOUGHER'

Cpl. William F. Blaker, of the Signal Corps, who is now serving in the 1st Signal Corps, has been elected to the Signal Corps Officers' Association. Blaker, the director of the Signal Corps Officers' Association, has been elected to the Signal Corps Officers' Association.

**WOMAN'S CLUB EFFECTS OFFICERS**  
PLAYS FLOWER SHOW FOR JUNE 7

The Signal Corps Officers' Association will hold its annual flower show on June 7, at the Signal Corps Club. The show will be held at the Signal Corps Club, and will feature a variety of flowers and plants.

**POST SOLDIER MAKES STEAM ENGINE MODEL**

A steam engine model, built by a former Signal Corps soldier, will be on display at the Signal Corps Club. The model was built by a former Signal Corps soldier, and will be on display at the Signal Corps Club.

**PEARL HARBOR VET WINS 3-DAY N.Y. PASS PLUM**

A former Signal Corps soldier, who served during the attack on Pearl Harbor, has won a three-day pass to New York City. The pass was awarded to the soldier for his service during the attack on Pearl Harbor.



**ALL STATES TO BE REPR'SEN'D ON AFCA DAY**  
DELEGATES FROM YARDOUS LOCALITIES HERE MAY 13

On Armed Forces Commissioners' Association Day, Sunday, May 13, P. M. Monmouth will be host to delegates from all 48 states. The delegates will meet at the Signal Corps Club, and will discuss the needs of the Signal Corps and the Signal Corps Officers' Association.

**HISTORIC EVENT TO BE WITNESSED BY CIVILIAN, MILITARY DIGNITARIES**  
CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES VISIT EXHIBITS MAY 15

The Signal Corps Officers' Association will hold its annual exhibit on May 15, at the Signal Corps Club. The exhibit will feature a variety of Signal Corps artifacts and will be open to the public.

**PROGRAM FOR ARMED FORCES WEEK**  
ARMED FORCES COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION DAY

The Signal Corps Officers' Association will hold its annual Armed Forces Week on May 13-15, at the Signal Corps Club. The week will feature a variety of activities and events.

**WARRANTS TO SHOW IF JOB TESTS PASSED**

The Signal Corps Officers' Association will hold its annual job tests on May 13, at the Signal Corps Club. The tests will be held at the Signal Corps Club, and will feature a variety of job tests.

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