



Ten Forty Times

DELMAR, NEW YORK



TWELFTH EDITION

MARCH 1968

DON'T SHORT SELL AMERICA AND ITS EFFORTS IN VIETNAM

For those who feel they need facts to support their position against the doubters of our Nation's actions in the Vietnam War we take the liberty of presenting a letter to the editor of the Albany KNICKERBOCKER NEWS. It was printed the 14th of last month. It was written by Major Andrew E. Andersen, Jr., USMC., who is the Inspector Instructor for the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve in Albany.

Since he came to Albany about a year or so ago, Major Andersen has been doing an outstanding job in telling the public his experiences in Vietnam and shedding light on the many clouded reports coming from that war area. He has done more to bolster the morale of the home front than for what credit he has been given for it. For an active military duty officer he is to be commended for his forcefulness in promoting the patriotism that should be coming from our statesmen and some community leaders who, unfortunately, show a weakness in this respect.

Major Andersen was a guest speaker at Blanchard Post last October. He is scheduled to speak at the March 29th meeting of the Albany County American Legion to celebrate the Legion's birthday.

This is Major Andersen's letter:

I hesitated writing you because of my feelings about "letters to the editor" writers. However, Executive Editor Robert G. Fichenberg's recent column titled "Why We Keep Getting Surprised in Vietnam" will not permit me to let it pass without rebuttal.

He is correct in his basic assumption that some American armed forces based their counter-ambush tactics on earlier experience rather than learn from General Giap. I feel any military man can learn a great deal from reading the works of his enemy. "Know yourself, win a battle; know the enemy, win a thousand battles" is a valid though often forgotten quote of Sun Tu. As long as we are citing Oriental authors, let's cover the subject objectively:

Mao Tse Tung: "The world can only be reshaped by the gun."

Lin Piao: "Political power grown out of the barrel of a gun."

Ho Chi Minh: "My soldiers are my best diplomats."

Vo Nguyen Giap: "If the interests of the free world led by the United States can be forced out of Vietnam, then the interests of the free world can be forced out of any place else in the world."

Vo Nguyen Giap: "We consider the United States an extension of the battlefield in Vietnam."

And today the hand of General Giap is indelible in the operations not only near Khe Sanh but throughout South Vietnam.

Mr. Fichenberg's allegations that American forces are continually surprised by the VC or NVA forces will not stand the test of experience nor statistical data on ambushes and meeting engagements in Vietnam.

The Marines have fought over 175 battles of battalion size or larger in Vietnam and, as you citizens have grown to expect

continued on page six

RABBI ROTH TO SPEAK

"Go To Church" Breakfast Chairman, Past Commander Bill Johnston, has an acceptance from Rabbi Alvin S. Roth to be the guest speaker at the Post's annual Breakfast on Sunday, March 24.

Making the arrangements for the event with Bill are Bud Mosmen and Past Commander George Butman. The Breakfast, at 8:00 a.m., will be served by the Post Auxiliary.

This event is keyed to the opening words of the Preamble to The Constitution of The American Legion, "For God and Country...". To put this thought into action, Blanchard Legionnaires should bring their sons and male friends to this Breakfast. Servings are \$1.00 per person.

Erin Go Bragh

Blanchard Post's annual Irish Night dinner and dance takes place on Saturday, March 16.

Co-Chairmen for the event are Ollie Palmer and Bill McGoey.

The corned beef and cabbage dinner servings commence at five-thirty p.m. Dinner tickets are three dollars a plate. They're going fast.

The dancing, with music by Marv Hirschburg, starts at 9:30 p.m.

BLANCHARD CALENDAR

MONDAY, Mar. 4 — The Post Affairs Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.;

Regular Post meeting at 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, Mar. 16 — Irish Night Dinner and Dance

MONDAY, Mar. 18 — The mid-monthly Post meeting at 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, Mar. 19 — Blanchard Auxiliary meeting and Birthday Party

SUNDAY, Mar. 24 — "Go To Church" Breakfast at the Post, 8:00 a.m. Guest speaker: Rabbi Alvin S. Roth.

MONDAY, Mar. 25 — Board of Directors meet at 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, Mar. 28 — County Legion meet at Ruane Post, Cohoes, 8:30 p.m.

BIG STRETCH TO HOME

Vice Commander-Membership Chairman, Bill Campbell, is looking for 80 dues payments, either new, renewal, or re-instatement, to make the Post's quota. With only a few months of the Legion year left, the pressure mounts to make the goal. Only once in recent years has the quota not been met. There is no reason to believe it will be short this year. It would be to the credit of our Post to again make and accede our membership total. If your dues is still unpaid, let this serve as a reminder to get it in pronto. If you know of prospective members, and there's ever so many available, do your duty as a good Legionnaire and encourage them to join. If you need help call Bill or any of the Post officers.

Membership Meter

Help Us grow
761 Quota
Your Help
will bring
this up from
641 presently

Coming Events

The annual testimonial dinner honoring the Department Commander has been set for Saturday, April 6 at the Scully Post in Albany. This happens to be the home post of Department Commander Ed Delehanty.

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Auxiliary President's Corner

As explained in the post-script in this column last month, the proposed date of the Auxiliary's 37th Birthday Dinner had to be changed due to the combined meeting of the Auxiliary with the Post in February. Now all plans are definite. On March 19 in the Post Rooms we will be served a delicious smorgasbord which will be catered. Post Commander Sidney Kaplan and Mrs. Kaplan will be our honored guests.

We will have a double treat that evening. After the cutting of the cake and the traditional birthday wishes, Miss Marjory Reid, our Community Ambassador, will show slides and tell of her adventures last summer in Peru. Miss Reid is a fluent speaker. Her presentation is as knowledgeable and colorful as leafing through an article in the National Geographic magazine.

You won't want to miss this entertaining evening. Reservations must be made by the 15th of March. But don't panic! A member of the Calling Committee will contact you during the first or second week of March. We look forward to seeing all our members at the Birthday Dinner.

The Indoor Sports' Day is an annual event held at the Post, for which the Auxiliary volunteers as chef. This year, on February 3, 60 guests ate hot lunches prepared and served by the following lovely hostesses: Anne de Heus, Maurie Flannigan, Norrine Cooke, Helen Reynolds, Zen Campbell, Margaret McQuirk, Edna Rooney, Viola Knapp, Irene Van Wormer and Maud Hafley. Tip-toeing in the kitchen the night before, Esther Cooke packed the refrigerator and arranged the furniture in the dining room.

The Blanchard Post extends its, "Thank you" to all the girls who donned aprons that Saturday.

President Helen Reynolds was the special Valentine of Cub Pack No. 258, which the Auxiliary sponsors, when she was invited as their guest February 14 to attend their Blue and Gold Dessert at the Junior High School.

Another February event was a dance held on the 10th floor of the VA Hospital. Members who waltzed, tangoed, etc., and who served sandwiches and coke are: Mary Conner, Esther Cooke, Helen Reynolds and Maud Hafley.

Department President Mrs. Bernard Kennedy will make her official visit to Albany County on March 14. She will be entertained at a dinner that evening at the North Albany Post Rooms. Past County President and Past Unit President Maud Hafley and President Helen Reynolds will attend. If you would like to join them call President Helen to place your reservations.

Zen Campbell, Membership Chairman, would like to introduce these new members to our readers: Ruth Burns, Claire Ehmann, Lenore Smith and May Smith. We are pleased that you joined our organization and we look forward to meeting you more informally at the Birthday Dinner.

Marcia Rosenfield

They Have A Job

Post Commander Sid Kaplan has named Past Commander Ed Costigan to be chairman of the Nominating Committee. Serving with him to come up with a slate of officers for the coming year are Past Commanders Harold Barkhuff, Rodger Fryer and Joe Von Ronne along with Warren Moessner who has served the Post and the Legion in many capacities.

This committee has a deadline to meet with their choices for up-coming nominees to be made known to the Post in the May issue of the TEN FORTY TIMES.

Who's, What, Why = Success

I won't is a tramp.
I can't is a quitter.
I don't know is lazy.
I might is waking up.
I will try is on his feet.
I can is on his way.
I will is at work.
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FOR THE YOUTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Keeping in step with the American Legion program for participating in Boy Scout activities our Post can be credited for these two counts.

On February 26 Commander Sid Kaplan presented our Post-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 58 with its charter for this year. The ceremony occurred at the Post with Scout enthusiast and Blanchard Legionnaire Larry McArthur presiding.

Following its action begun a few years ago Blanchard Post will furnish the funds to purchase the trophy and ribbons for the Helderberg Scout District Swim Meet. It will be the eighth annual meet and takes place at Bethlehem Central Senior High School on March 9. About 200 Boy Scouts take part in the event. Blanchard Post Commander Kaplan will present the awards to the winning swimmers. Blanchard Legionnaire Gifford Lantz is a member of the Helderberg District Committee for the Boy Scouts.

KINDNESS DURING LIFE

I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.

I would rather have one pleasant word
in kindness said to me
Than flattery when my heart is still
And life has ceased to be.

I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true
Than tears shed round my casket
When this world I've bid adieu.

Bring me all your flowers today —
Whether pink, or white, or red;
I'd rather have one blossom now
Than a truckload when I'm dead.

HEARD 'ROUND TOWN

Forced to be a witness against a friend charged with larceny, yet unwilling to call his friend a thief, he said:

"I wouldn't say he's an out-and-out thief, but if I was a chicken and I saw him loafing around, I'd sure roost high."

A sailor, while placing flowers on a grave in a cemetery, noticed an old Chinese placing a bowl of rice on a nearby grave. Cynically he asked, "What time do you expect your friend to come and eat the rice?"

The Chinese smiled and replied, "Same time your friend come up to smell flowers."

A friend of ours was being examined for the Army. "Any physical defects?" asked the doctor.

"Yes," replied the draftee. "No guts."

The salesman rang the doorbell and the door opened revealing a 9-year-old boy puffing on a long, black cigar. Trying to hide his amazement, the salesman said, "Good afternoon, sonny, is your mother in?"

The boy removed the cigar from his mouth, flicked off the ash, and said, "What do you think?"

SCUTTLEBUTT...

I was told "Scuttlebutt" was too mild and to spice it up a bit — Soooooo!...

Someone should ask Hughie Stowers what the little Japanese girls asked him while he was in the midst of saluting an officer on the street during his duty tour in Japan — (WOW!!!)...

What girl has the sexiest smile at the Post Pub? Can't say her name but her initials are D. R. She can be seen on Friday nights in the company of her spouse...

Our Sergeant-at-Arms, John Brady, is batting 1000 with the pole on which the Post's Colors are mounted — he's reported to have tapped someone with it at each meeting he's attended and advanced the colors. Blame it on the close quarters...

Congrats to Bob Smith for the nice job he did at the February 5 meeting substituting as Adjutant in the absence of Merv Atwood...

Showtime coming up and a lot of guys and gals are needed to make up the show. Add your name to the list that's posted by the bar. Our producer-director duo, Edith and Jerry Romano, old pros in show biz, assure us we'll have a lot of fun.

The Thinker

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WE WERE THERE

Blanchard Post was among the six out of the thirty Albany County American Legion posts present at the Four Chaplains Memorial Service at Chancellors Hall in Albany on February 18. The service was presented by Jewish War Veterans of the United States Albany Post 105. It was their third annual service which is combined with a Brotherhood Award. This year the recipient was Albany's Philip Schuyler High School Principal Ben M. Becker.

At the ceremony our Post's colors were carried by Past Commander Edward J. Costigan and Vice Commander Walter Van Wormer. They were accompanied to the program by Post Commander Sid Kaplan and his wife, Mary. Your Post's Al Woehrle, Albany County Vice Commander, was the only staff officer from the Albany County Legion present.

Presentation of the award, a plaque citing Mr. Becker for his achievements in promoting the cause of brotherhood in the community, was made by Catholic Bishop Edward J. Maginn of the Albany Diocese.

Bowling Notes

Ken Stinson was back to the top of the Bowling League last month with a one-point lead in his see-saw battle with Walt Van Wormer.

Point-wise here's how the league stood then: Coast Guard, 51; Marines and Tanks, 47; Artillery, 45; Engineers, 44½; Navy, 41; Infantry, 38; and Army, 37½.

This year Blanchard Post may have an entry in the New York State American Legion Bowling Association Handicap and Scratch Tournament to take place at Seneca Falls on the week-ends from March 30 to May 19.

ATTEND CHURCH SUNDAY

A GOOD ICE PARTY

An added feature to this year's Ice Carnival held last month was the Skidoo rides Gus Williams gave to our young guests. That the event was a successful and happy one is shown in this letter of thanks Commander Kaplan sent to Blanchard Legionnaire D. Cady Herrick:

On behalf of the members of the Nathaniel Blanchard Post, the children and the grown ups who enjoyed the use of your pond on Saturday, February 10, I extend to you our sincerest thanks.

Our annual Childrens Ice Carnival is a worthwhile community event which would not be possible if it were not for your generous approval of our request for the use of your premises. I hope that you may be compensated for your generosity in the knowledge that through you a large group of children had a "fun" afternoon.

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YOUR VALUE

An individual is worth a little more than a dollar. His body, broken down into its chemical parts and sold commercially, a person weighing 160 pounds would have that much value. A man weighing 140 pounds contains enough fat for seven cakes of soap, carbon for nine thousand pencils, phosphorus enough to make two thousand match heads —

Magnesium for one dose of salts, iron to make one medium-sized nail, sufficient lime to whitewash a chicken coop, enough sulphur to rid one dog of fleas, and water enough to fill a ten-gallon barrel. Chemically studied, the human body is not worth very much.

Frank Jackson

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Most people know that our popular sandwiches were named for the 18th Century Earl of Sandwich who loved card games so much he didn't take time to eat, except for snacking on slices of meat between slices of bread. Did you know that "mahonaise" was a new sauce created by the Duke of Richelieu to celebrate his victory in the Battle of Mahon in 1756, and now is our "mayonnaise"? King Charles II of England's favorite meal was the loin roast, and he knighted the meat, creating the Sir Loin steak. Our hamburger and frankfurter are named for the German cities of Hamburg and Frankfurt.



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ONE SOLITARY LIFE . . .

Here is a man who was born of Jewish parents in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying — and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life . . .

THE GENTLEMAN

It is almost a definition of a gentleman, to say he is one who never inflicts pain . . . The true gentleman carefully avoids causing feelings of restraint, or suspicion, or gloom or resentment, his great concern being to make everyone at ease and at home. He has eyes on all his company, he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant and merciful towards the absurd, he can recollect to whom he is speaking, he guards against unreasonable allusions, or topics which may irritate, he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never wearisome. He makes light of favors when he does them, and seems to be receiving when he is conferring. He never speaks of himself except when compelled, never defends himself by a mere retort, he has no ears for slander or gossip, he is scrupulous in imputing motives to those who interfere with him, and interprets everything for the best. He is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personality or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates ill which he dare not say out. From a long-sighted prudence, he observes the maxim of the ancient sage, that

we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend. He has too much good sense to be affronted at an insult, he is too well employed to remember injuries, and too indolent to bear malice. He is patient, forbearing and resigned, on philosophical principles, he submits to pain, because it is inevitable, to bereavement because it is irreparable, and to death because it is his destiny. If he engages in controversy, his disciplined intellect preserves him from the blundering discourtesy of better, though less educated, minds, who, like blunt weapons, tear and hack instead of cutting, who mistake the point in argument, waste their strength on trifles, misconceive their adversary, and leave the question more involved than when they found it. He may be right or wrong in his opinion, but he is too clearheaded to be unjust, he is as simple as he is forcible, and as brief as he is decisive.

John Henry Newman

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DON'T SHORT SELL AMERICA AND ITS EFFORTS IN VIETNAM

continued from page one

pect, have never lost one. It is a source of pride to me that an average month in Vietnam sees the following actions by Marines.

- 10 major operations of battalion size or larger.
- 4,932 sorties by fixed-wing aircraft.
- 11,400 small unit patrols and ambushes.
- 35,186 sorties by helicopter.

Your Marines are busy. Additionally, in the past few months, the Marines have clobbered the best part of three crack NVN divisions. 10,000 Marines are involved in this alone.

Have we made progress in Vietnam?

My knowledge is generally restricted to the Marine areas, but there are many examples of progress in that region that mean something to me. Here are a few:

— 76 villages have defense forces today that had none a year ago.

— 51 villages have a mayor who is willing to live there, whereas none of them had a mayor at all a year ago.

— The annual rice tribute exacted from the people in this area by the Viet Cong is down by 60 percent.

— There have been 117 schools built in the last year.

117,000 people, in this one area of five provinces, elected to flee the Viet Cong during the past year, and put themselves under our protection. When the members of a Vietnamese family choose to abandon all of their possessions, to leave their traditional home and to turn themselves over to a group of strange Americans, they are, in a real sense, voting with their lives. 117,000 have done it in a year, and in the First Corps area we now have over 280,000 of these refugees who have become disenchanted with the Viet Cong.

There are other similar indices. They all impel me to the conclusion that we are making progress. They all tell the same story; that the real war is among the people. The Viet Cong are gangsters, oppressing the people. We are digging the gangsters out, slowly. The people understand and—also slowly—are coming to appreciate it.

Here are a few of the ways we go about it:

We harried the gangsters with 88,000 anti-guerrilla patrols day and night, we never left them undisturbed. It cost them 3,500 dead guerrillas and 1,500 more guerrillas surrendered.

Additionally, we know that ultimately the Vietnamese are going to have to be able to protect themselves from the gangsters, so we work at improving their own basic military competence. To do this, we have organized what we call combined action platoons—two thirds Viet-

namese local militia, one third Marines. The platoons are completely integrated.

The men live, eat, sleep and fight together as a unit. Our Marines teach, inspire and guide their Vietnamese counterparts, to the end that they are able to make a real contribution to the security of their home hamlet. A year ago we had only five such units; today we have 62 and 12 more forming.

During the past year they conducted over 20,000 offensive patrols and ambushes, and I can tell you, the Viet Cong do not like it. Truly, it is one of our sharpest weapons, because the people themselves understand the implications of a U. S. soldier who is willing to get down into the mud, shoulder to shoulder with a little militiaman in defense of a village.

Another innovation that has helped us is the "Kit Carson Scouts". Last year, about 1,500 Viet Cong surrendered in the Marine area. Out of those who have surrendered, we have found some whose hatred of the Reds is so great that they are willing to risk guiding our units in combat, pointing out where the enemy is, or pinpointing his installations. We build these men up, equip them well, recognize their achievements with awards, show them that we are in the game with them. It works.

Mr. Fichenberg's diagrams from Bernard Fall's book, published in 1961, are valid for the time period discussed in the book—1946-1954. However, any attempt to compare them with the period 1965-68 is like comparing a 1946 auto with a 1968 model. Counter ambush actions, firepower and mobility are the difference.

The French were ambushed again and again on Route 1 because they were road bound, unable to move quickly with force by air. Today the helicopter, fixed wing fighters, and mass artillery make the ambush a double-edged sword. Let me demonstrate how the 2d Battalion, VNMC ambushed on Route 1 turned an ambush into a rout of the ambushing NVA battalion.

At the ambush site, on the western side of Route 1 the elephant covered high ground comes down to the road, on the eastern side of the highway a depression of 6 to 8 feet in depth and about 15 feet wide gives way to a 6 foot railroad embankment. The ambush was initiated by mortars and recoilless rifle fire hitting the convoy, followed by automatic weapon fire.

The counter-ambush action taken by the lead two companies of the battalion was the immediate assault to the west upon the ambushing force, thus closing the range and rendering ineffective the mortars and recoilless rifle. To the eastern side, the remaining two companies mounted an aggressive attack to dislodge the NVA forces there. The battalion command group led by Lt. Colonel Minh at-

continued on page seven

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DON'T SHORT SELL AMERICA AND ITS EFFORTS IN VIETNAM

continued from page six

tacked through the mine field and up the railroad embankment. There, despite the loss of Lt. Colonel Minh, the wounding of the U. S. Marine advisor and the loss of the majority of the command group, they were able to dislodge the NVA forces there.

Within five minutes after the ambush had been triggered, U. S. artillery and air strikes were hitting the fleeing NVA forces. Within 30 minutes, a company of U. S. Marines had been helolifted and dropped to the west of the fleeing NVA. The result of this "surprise" was the loss of the courageous little Lt. Colonel Minh and about 30 of his fellow Vietnamese Marines. However, by body count, over 279 North Vietnamese were left on the ambush area.

In conclusion, Mr. Fichenberg's blanket statement that we are continually getting surprised is not valid and does an injustice to the skill and courage of the American serviceman and undermines our effectiveness there. If he had taken the pains to research after-action reports he would have realized his generalization does not stand the test of inspection.

I am sure he will also feel the one example I have presented does not disprove this theory; however if he desires, I can document a year's worth of after-action reports from the delta to the DMZ to further disprove his generalization.

I sincerely hope that the editorial policy of THE KNICKERBOCKER NEWS will be objective enough to print this rebuttal in its entirety. I am also aware that THE KNICKERBOCKER NEWS is in business to sell newspapers, but I cannot help but wonder why its editorials continually sell Americans and America's effort in Vietnam short.

OUR ADVERTISERS DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT

Some Good Notes

Commander Kaplan for the Post received a thank you note from Father Juniper Alwell of St. Anthony-on-Hudson for the upright piano which for some time served its purpose at the Post lounge. Wrote Father Juniper for the seminarians at Chi Rho Hall, "Since our previous piano was well on its way out, we indeed appreciate the one you so kindly gave us."

The Post has been donated another piano for the one it gave away.

LET THIS GIVE YOU A LIFT

After the Indoor Sports party at our Post last month Commander Kaplan received this letter from Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Levins of Green Island:

Just a brief note to say heartfelt thanks to you, Mike, all the post members and the auxiliary for the wonderful afternoon of Saturday, February 3.

The luncheon was delicious and the entertainment tops. This was the first time we attended and assure you it was a most enjoyable and pleasurable afternoon.

To know there are adults and high school students who are so thoughtful and kind that they would sacrifice their Saturday afternoon for the handicapped is most comforting — it gives one a feeling of mutual understanding and offsets the sense of loneliness and the "who cares" attitude of some misguided individuals.

Again, deep appreciation and all blessings for you and yours from Ellen — the youngest Indoor Sport — and her truly grateful parents.

A good portion of the entertainment for the party came from the Bethlehem Central High School student-musicians under the direction of Blanchard Legionnaire Sam Bozzella who is Chairman of the music department in the Bethlehem Central Schools.

For his part in the program this letter was sent to Sam by Commander Kaplan:

A formal letter of thanks for you and your groups participation in the entertainment of the Indoor Sports Club at the Blanchard Post on February 3 seems terribly inadequate.

I do realize that a large amount of compensation for your time and talent was derived from the knowledge that you gave pleasure to a group of people who needs a lift occasionally.

Please be assured that the members of the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post, its Ladies Auxiliary and the members of the Indoor Sports Club enjoyed to the fullest the musical entertainment your young people provided.

I'd like to add my warm personal thanks for your part in a program of which I was very happy to have been associated.

Third Place For Us

In the Albany County American Legion Oratorical contest in late January our entrant, Roger Ekirch, was chosen third best of the five entrants.

Jack Pellettier and Marge Hauesser say

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