

# TORRANCE LOSER IN BATTLE FOR COURT

## 578th Packs Bags For Japan



A FINAL CHECK . . . Checking out on "Tommy" guns are Cpl. Loren D. Steele, 1320 Cota avenue; Sgt. Joseph D. Alvarez, of 1836 West 247th street, Lomita; and Pfc. Eugene Fredrick, of 1553 West 220th street, all members of Company A, 578th Engineers. The checkout on the "Tommy" guns is one of the last phases of training at Camp Cooke.—(Herald photo)

By JACK O. BALDWIN and REID L. BUNDY  
Managing Editor and City Editor of the Torrance Herald

In spite of rumors to the contrary and a pocketful of overseas sailing orders, we would say that the 165 Torrance men in the 578th Combat Engineer Battalion are in high morale. This is a conclusion at which these reporters arrived following a two-and-a-half hour inspection and picture taking tour of the local National Guard outfit now stationed at Camp Cooke.

**SAME GRIPES**  
Although the boys know they are about to sail for Japan probably sometime this month,

same gripes we heard the last war and the war before that—and which probably will be heard in the next war.

"How's the chow?" we asked. "It's okay," was the general answer.

Before we left Torrance we had heard the boys were out of shoes and the chow was "lousy." There were enough shoes lying around to outfit an army. For lunch last Friday the boys were given a main course of broiled fish. Across the browned seafood lay a couple of strips of crisp bacon. The usual vegetables completed the meal. In our opinion a normal and customary Friday menu.

**FREE HAND**  
We took off for Camp Cooke, approximately 90 minutes flying time from here, in a three-place Cub Cruiser. Our pilot was Bob Fleiger, owner and instructor of the Eagle Aviation Flying school at the Torrance Municipal airport. From the moment Fleiger

landed at the flight strip at the camp, we were impressed with the freedom given us as members of the press. We looked where we wanted, asked what questions we wanted, and photographed what we chose.

Before leaving Camp Cooke Major Worth Landin, former Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce publicity director and presently serving as the 40th Division Public Information officer, took

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## FLU TOLL PAST PEAK

### Flu 'Bug' Hits Most Families

If you haven't caught the "bug," you can consider yourself either very healthy or very lucky.

Although statistics indicate the current influenza epidemic appears to be on the wane, few families have escaped having at least one member of the household "down with the flu" during the past several weeks.

Best advice on how to avoid the virus was offered by Dr. Mary B. Dale, chief of the division of communicable diseases for Los Angeles County. She says:

"Stay away from people who have the disease. It is highly contagious."

Due to the fact that most persons have not called in doctors and are "sweating it out at home," the official report of the county office is considered to be far under the number of persons actually suffering with the virus.

Only 146 cases have been reported throughout the county, although the disease is considered of epidemic nature and should be reported to the county. Many doctors, the county official said, do not consider the disease serious enough to be reported.

No deaths have been accredited to the disorder, Dr. Dale said.

Columbia Steel Company and



REMEMBER? . . . In the event you have forgotten, this photo of Gerald Mobley, a deputy collector of internal revenue, should remind you that the deadline for filing 1950 income tax returns is due in by midnight tonight. Mobley works in San Pedro, lives in Lomita, and figures the tax for Torrance residents. What a headache!—(Photo by Jack Baldwin)

## New Court Goes To Redondo; Two Judges for Area

By action of the County Board of Supervisors Tuesday the Torrance city court, and seven other courts in this area, were abolished and reformed into one court with two judges.

The court, once proposed to be located in Alondra Park, will be located in Redondo Beach. The new district will be known as the South Bay Municipal Court District.

Action by the supervisors took away the judicial robes of City Judge Otto B. Willett and Judge John A. Shidler, justice of the peace of the Gardena township.

Abolished also were the city courts in Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, El Segundo, Palos Verdes, and Gardena.

The Inferior Court Reorganization Plan, authorized by the people who voted into effect Proposition No. 3 at the last election, is estimated to save taxpayers \$250,000 annually.

Starting next January 1 the program will be put into effect in stages. By 1953 the entire plan is to be in operation.

In all the number of judges in the county was reduced from 117 to 80.

Abolishment of the eight courts in this district creates a race for the two appointments to the newly organized municipal court. Both Judge Shidler and Judge Willett are eligible for the appointment.

Local lawyers and civic leaders had recommended the Supervisors create at least four municipal court departments. The opinion was split, however, as to where the court building should be located. Some favored a single location with all four judges under one roof. This was the plan advanced by those who favored the Alondra Park site. The other opinion was that one of the four judges hold court within the city of Torrance. The other three would be assigned to other locations throughout the South Bay Municipal Court District.

## City Promises To Close Dump Within One Year

At the present rate of operation the site now used by the city as a dump will be graded, grassed and landscaped into a park-like tract within a year, City Manager George W. Stevens reported at a meeting of the Torrance City Council.

Stevens' remarks were made during an informal hearing at which several residents bordering the dump asked the council to close the dump.

The city manager said he was in the process of negotiating for a new dump site.

Councilman Nick Dralle suggested that the city use a pit on Standard Oil property in West Torrance or use the huge hole above Walteria for a dump.

Read at the meeting was a letter from Dr. Roy Gilbert, head of the County Health Department. He said that a survey conducted March 6 at the city-owned dump at Plaza del Amo and Western avenue did not show an acute infestation of rats in the dump. He said his inspector failed to flush a single rat during his nocturnal inspection of the dump.

Residents in the area complained to the council that the area was infested with rats, flies and other insects, and that the area was a health menace. They also said that the pit created a hazard for children in the area. Odors from the pit were another objectionable characteristic of the project. The group further labeled the dump as unsightly.

Dr. Gilbert reported that weekly inspections of the area would continue, and that if rats were found they would be poisoned.

Stevens said that the Park Department would spray the area to decrease the fly menace.

**Bells Punctuate Vacation**  
When school bells chime this Friday afternoon they will remain still until 8 a. m. March 26 when they once again shall ring to summon some 4500 Torrance school children back from Easter vacation.

## Lives to Tell About It: 44,000 Volt Line Hits Local Man

One Torrance man experienced quite a jolt this week, a 44,000 volt jolt to be exact, and lived to tell about it.

Victim of the unique experience was Emil Schimmick, 31-year old crane operator at Columbia Steel Company.

Schimmick who lives (still) at 1618 1/2 West Carson street, took a charge of electricity equal to 20 times the amount used in the electric chair and escaped with only a burn on his right hand.

**'NO HERO'**  
The local worker "pooh-poohed" earlier reports that his experience was the result of an effort on his part to be a hero.

According to Schimmick he was carrying a steel cable from the middle of Highway 101 near Eubank street in Wilmington, a short time after the auto struck a light pole last Saturday night. Schimmick said he was walking toward the curb with the cable which had supported the street light when a fireman allowed the open and broken end of the light socket to drop into the water at the curb. A short across the 44,000 volt lines resulted.

**AUTO SHEARS POLE**  
The tangled mass of power and cable lines occurred when an auto sheared off a pole in a spectacular single car accident shortly after midnight last Saturday.

Schimmick, who witnessed the crash, was helping police and firemen clear the street when the electrical phenomenon took place. A harbor district policeman, Jack M. Needham, received a burn from the line when it fell across his hand while taking a report across the street from Schimmick.

Four persons were injured in the auto which caught fire following the crash. The local man said the auto burst into flames from sparks from the engine's ignition system. He said the high voltage lines did not cause the fire.

**FOUR OTHERS HURT**  
Injured in the crash was Mrs. Helen McDowell Northrup, 27, of 14709 Gramery Place. She was taken to the Harbor Gen-



HAIR-RAISING TALE . . . Emil Schimmick, a crane man in the open hearths at Columbia Steel, examines his head to see if there is any curl left in his hair; or even hit, after witnesses said it stood on end when he was hit by a 44,000 volt electrical shock early Sunday morning. He suffered third degree burns on his hand.—(Herald photo)

## Inspector Finds Most Derricks Meet Standards

"So far I have found no operating oil well derricks in the Torrance field which fall so far below our standards that they need be torn down," reported William Hobba, safety engineer with the Division of Industrial Safety of the State Department of Industrial Relations this week.

Hobba reported that since February 27th he has inspected 48 derricks and has made 165 recommendations to the various operators to correct unsafe conditions which he labeled as "minor."

Idle wells, of which he found eight, do not come under state jurisdiction. Disposition of non-operating wells is a matter for the City of Torrance to decide, he pointed out.

Likewise, one-man wells on which no one is employed, other than the owner, do not come under state jurisdiction. Hobba said he found only four or five pumping wells which came under city jurisdiction.

Of the 165 recommendations made to operators of the wells the most frequent was the order to lighten or add more guy wires to the derrick.

## Torrance Policeman Honored in Korea

Corporal Robert C. Wright, who is now on leave from the Torrance Police Department, has recently completed the newly established Corps Combat Patrol Leaders School in Central Korea, according to a dispatch sent to the Herald this week.

Officials in Korea said Wright, a 7th Infantry Division squad leader, was selected to attend the school on the basis of his demonstrated leadership and aggressiveness in combat. Corporal Wright is now in the S-2 (Intelligence) Section of 2nd Battalion, 51st Infantry. His duties include questioning of prisoners of war and accompanying the battalion's infantrymen on patrol.

A veteran of World War II, Wright enlisted in the reserves here on March 27, 1949, and was recalled to active duty in September 1950. He joined his present unit in December.

During World War II Wright served in the European Theater with the 8th Armored Division. He participated in the campaigns of Central Europe, Ardennes, and the Rhineland. He is entitled to wear the Bronze Star for valor.

His wife, Carol Lea, lives at 1921 West 222nd street, and his mother, Mrs. Pauline J. Wright at 713 Madrid.



ROBERT C. WRIGHT . . . Honored in Korea

## Local YMCA Buys VFW Building; Move in April 1

The VFW building was sold this week to the Torrance YMCA, at a fraction of its original cost, a spokesman from the veterans' group announced this week.

Cost of the building, \$6,400, was underwritten by a group of local citizens. James G. Caldwell, who acted as liaison for the VFW officers said the building "cost three times that much."

The project was made possible through the efforts of a committee headed by John Steinbaugh, principal of Torrance High School. A board of trustees composed of Sam Levy, B. T. Whitney, and Dr. Rollin Smith was appointed to administer the affairs of the building transaction. Serving on the committee also was William H. Tolson, a member of the Torrance Board of Education.

According to L. Milton Isbell, executive secretary of the

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