



This German paratrooper, captured by British First Army soldier near Sejeanne, Tunisia, submits to a frisking.

Red Cross Drive Only \$400 From Quota With Large Gifts to Come

With only about \$400 to go—\$402.59 to be exact—volunteer workers here hope to wind up the Red Cross War Fund Drive with the \$7500 quota reached next week without the assistance of an anticipated several hundred dollars still to be allocated to the campaign by war workers in several industries.

The drive has netted an official, accredited total of \$7,097.41 up to late yesterday afternoon, according to reports given The Herald. Chairman Hillman Lee believes that a re-check will disclose a few hundred dollars more in contributions which have not yet been properly credited because of the limited staff in charge of this phase of the work.

Chairman Lee said he does not know when the industrial workers will announce their donation to the War Fund but he expects it within the next several weeks. Meanwhile, the volunteer workers are making a final check of their territories in order to gather in every cent possible for the continued support of the Red Cross.

The weekly-week report on the progress of the War Fund campaign, as reported to The Herald, follows:

Table with 2 columns: Date and Amount. Rows include March 15 (\$1,696.00), March 25 (\$2,186.53), April 1 (\$1,435.35), April 8 (\$1,488.85), April 15 (\$350.68), and a TOTAL of \$7,097.41.

Contributions reported during the past week were as follows: Previously acknowledged, \$6,766.73. Bank of America Employees 48.00, Mrs. May Smith and Son 25.00, Women of the Menorah 20.00, Pacific Performing Co. 15.00, R. E. McOaker 15.00, Ideal Ranch Market 10.00, Mrs. Madeline Green 10.00, Mrs. J. B. Pitman 10.00, Torrance Cleaner Co. 10.00, E. P. Padden Food Locker 10.00, W. E. Bowen 10.00, Canadian Legion Post 17.00. \$5 Donations . . . \$65.00.

This Week At the Model Victory Garden

By FRED BLAKE City Park Superintendent. . . who is available for consultation at the community plot, El Prado and Cravens ave., 10 a. m. to 12 noon daily, Monday thru Friday.

Some of the vegetable plants in the Model Garden are now large enough to thin out. Beets and carrots were not thinned as the common practice is to utilize the young green beets and carrots for food after they have become a little larger.

As there was an over-supply of turnips, they were partially thinned, leaving the balance to be thinned at a later date.

Ordinarily beans do not require thinning, but because of heavy germination, several plants were removed to lessen danger of fungus diseases due to over-crowding.

The garden received the usual care in weeding, cultivating, irrigating and pest control.

Helen Thompson Found Dead In Hotel Room Here

Believed dead between 18 to 20 hours, the body of Mrs. Helen R. Thompson, 49, was found in her room at the Park Hotel late Monday morning. Death was believed caused by heart failure.

Mrs. W. McKenna, manager of the hotel, told investigating police that she saw Mrs. Thompson Saturday afternoon and she complained that her head hurt. Mrs. McKenna offered her assistance but Mrs. Thompson said she had often suffered from severe headaches and was going to bed.

No one saw her on Sunday but Mrs. McKenna, concerned over Mrs. Thompson's failure to leave her room, said she stepped at the door and heard her inside about 5 p. m. Mrs. Thompson, widow of Ed Thompson, well known automobile agent, who died in July, 1940, had been doing practical nursing and other work here. She leaves a daughter, Mrs. James Weatherly Lawrence, who was married in October, 1942, and who now lives in Chicago.

Drivers' Tests Begin Here; Next Session Scheduled April 26

Scores of motorists appeared at the city courtroom Monday when the first of a series of regular sessions were held for examination for drivers' licenses. Harry Rose, senior examiner for the Department of Motor Vehicles, was in charge of the work, assisted by W. P. Doll, examiner, and Mrs. S. A. Baumgartner.

Service Clubs Arrange Boys' Week Program

In observance of National Boys' Week, members of the Torrance Rotary and Kiwanis clubs will hold a joint meeting Thursday night, April 22, at the Woman's clubhouse. Each member will be host to a high school boy who will be selected by Principal Harold Perry.

Hospital Reports Receiving 1,774 Patients In '42

A total of 1774 patients were received at Torrance Memorial hospital during 1942—536 more than in 1941, according to a report made at the annual meeting of members last Friday.

The patient list included 769 for surgery, 630 for obstetrical care, 272 for medical care and 97 accident cases. The hospital, now in its 18th year of distinguished service to Torrance and adjoining communities, was the birthplace of 628 babies last year, the report disclosed. The births arrived at an average of 52 a month.

An average of 37 patients were bedded at the hospital daily in 1942.

Officers Are Re-elected. Officers were re-elected at the annual session. They were R. R. Smith, president; Grover C. Whyte, vice-president; Donald Findley, secretary; Mrs. Charles A. Curtiss, assistant secretary; and Dr. John W. Freeman, treasurer. Members of the directorate are Mrs. N. E. Jamieson and Dr. Roy E. Fleisher, who were re-elected, and Mrs. L. C. Miller, O. A. Kresse and the officers.

The hospital has been obliged to finance its operation since December, 1942, without benefit of endowment payments provided by the will of the late Jared Sidney Torrance. The trust income was supplied by rentals from the Brack Shops on West Seventh st., in Los Angeles but because of the large number of vacancies in the building, no funds have been available for distribution. Prior to December, the trust benefits averaged \$500 per month, it was reported.

It was noted that there has been a general rise in pay for members of the staff since Nov. 1, 1942. Certified for many years as one of the institutions in the United States and Canada approved by the American College of Surgeons, the hospital is also endorsed by the State Board of Health and as a member of the Associated Hospital Service of Southern California it offers group hospitalization benefits to local workers affiliated with the A.H.S.

COUNCIL MEETING. An adjourned meeting of the city council is scheduled for 4:45 p. m., next Tuesday, April 20.

Local Draft Board Ready to Induct Fathers

All Single Men Exhausted; 317 Married Men Reclassified

The only single men in the Torrance, Lomita and Gardena district covered by Selective Service Board No. 280 who are not in the armed forces are some 25 high school students whose induction has been deferred until June, those found physically unfit for service and some who are deferred because they are working at war essential jobs.

This was disclosed this week by Mrs. Doris Watson, chief clerk of the board, who also announced that 317 married men with children were reclassified from 3-B to the new 3-A status Tuesday night. They will be subject to induction in the near future. In the meantime, the armed forces this year with virtually every physically able man between 18 and 38 years old who has no cause for individual deferment.

The total number of servicemen from this district 1746—includes 856 who have been inducted and 790 who are listed as of April 1, Mrs. Watson said.

"Fathers" Re-Defined. New classification cards are to be sent out to those who were formerly listed as 3-B's, according to instructions received from Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey. The major revisions in draft classifications were made in Torrance to follow the national program which proposes wholesale drafting to meet the goal of 10,800,000 men in uniform before next Jan. 1.

The only grounds for deferment after the ban against calling fathers is lifted—possibly some time around July 1—will be farm work, individual essentiality in non-agricultural work and the possibility that induction would mean "extreme privation and hardship," according to instructions received by the local board from Director Hershey.

Broadening of the draft definitions of "fathers" to cover men

Pearl Harbor Attack Still Vivid; Bob Berry Eager to Serve Again

The next time you buy a War Bond or Stamp, or are asked to contribute to the Red Cross, U.S.O. or any other war agency—or even if you run short on your ration tickets—think of Bob Berry.

Bob was graduated from Torrance high school and joined the Navy. He was at Pearl Harbor. Now he is at home in Costa Mesa slowly recovering from battle injuries and out of the service with an honorable medical discharge.

There's one thing he wants to do, according to a letter he wrote to Miss Irene Mills, one of his former Torrance high school teachers. And that is: "If this war is still on when I get well and my eyesight improves, I'm going to buy me another Jap hunting license."

When War Started. Bob's letter, in part, follows: "I am very sorry to say that I am no longer in Uncle Sam's service. I was wounded in action against the enemy and was discharged with an honorable medical discharge. I could probably tell the school a lot of the things and places I have been and done and will give you a little idea of it here.

"On Dec. 7, 1941, I was at Pearl Harbor when the battle started. At the time I was in my bunk fast asleep when I was suddenly awakened by a tremendous pounding. At first I thought I must be dreaming but then the ship's general alarm sounded and I knew it wasn't any joke—it was war. The first thing I did was to try to get to my clothes but I didn't have time. All I had on was one unlaced shoe and a pair of under shorts.

"I hurried as fast as I could to my battle station but I found that all the water tight compartments were closed, so I had to go up on the main deck to get to my battle station. As I passed the officer of the deck he ordered me to a gun station which was a 50-caliber machine gun.

"Knocked Down By Bombs. "During all this time we were under heavy bombardment from the air. When I looked up the air looked like it had a swarm of bees in it. I had never seen so many planes in my life. The devils would come down at us, release their bombs and go right back up again.

"Fighters were strafing the decks of the helpless ships. Torpedoes were being fired at us time after time. It was very exciting, heartbreaking and terrible. (Continued on Page 4-A)

Following are the revised classifications for selective service registrants as announced Monday in Washington, D. C.

Classification table with 2 columns: Classification and Definition of Classification. Rows include 1-A (Available for military service), 1-A-O (Conscientious objector available for non-combatant military service), 1-C (Member of land or naval forces of the United States), 2-A (Man necessary in his essential civilian activity), 2-B (Man necessary to the war production program), 2-C (Man deferred by reason of his agricultural occupation or endeavor), 3-A (Man with child or children deferred by reason of maintaining bona-fide family relationship), 3-C (Man with dependents who is regularly engaged in agricultural occupation or endeavor), 3-D (Man deferred because induction would cause extreme hardship and privation to a wife, child or parent with whom he maintains a bona-fide family relationship), 4-A (Man 45 years old, or over, who is deferred by reason of age), 4-B (Official deferred by law), 4-C (Neutral aliens requesting relief from liability for training and service, and aliens not acceptable to the armed forces), 4-D (Minister of religion or divinity student), 4-F (Physically, mentally, or morally unfit), 4-H (Men 38 to 45 now deferred because their age group is not being accepted for military service. (This group is being reclassified in case of eventual call.)

New Draft Classes Listed

The next contingent scheduled to go to Los Angeles for final physical examinations include 11 men who will leave from the Torrance Civic Auditorium next Monday morning, April 19.

Five Honorably Discharged. Two Japanese-Americans who formerly resided in Gardena and who are now in internment camps, have been approved for armed service but they have not yet been accepted, the Torrance board has learned.

Five men who have served in the armed forces have been honorably discharged "for the convenience of the government" and are now believed working in essential industry. They are: Richard Harold Stuck, 26220 Governor st., Lomita. William Alfred Reece, 808 1/2 Amapola ave., Torrance. Alfonso Edwardo Cordero 23516 Narbonne ave., Torrance. Costas John Maheras, 2041 Pacific Coast highway, Lomita. Albert Dewey Thompson, 3714 Spencer st., Torrance.

Ten Delinquents Sought. Mrs. Watson also disclosed that Selective Service officials are seeking 10 men who are listed as "delinquents from induction." Seven are Mexicans and they are believed to have fled to Mexico to escape armed service. The delinquents and their last known addresses are: Celestino Encarnacion Ariaz, 4011 1/2 Spencer st., Torrance. Felipe Tostao Magana, 203rd st., Torrance. Wilbert Elmer Harlow, Clark Stadium, Hermosa Beach. Anacio Garcia Acero, 203rd st., Torrance. Ramon Rodriguez Bejar, 1520 Cedar st., Torrance. Jack Claude Stout, El Monte formerly of Amapola ave. Gilberto Soto, Sanger, Calif. John Wilbur Schattilly, 2017 West 263rd st., Lomita. Alfonso Sacorro Herrera, 1227 West 168th st., Gardena. Henry Cordova Hernandez Naco, Ariz.

City Bus Fares May be Raised; Report Awaited

Torrance municipal bus fares may be increased here soon if Councilman George V. Powell's recommendation of Tuesday night is adopted.

Powell informed the council that "we ought to increase the bus rates to the amount charged by other bus companies" and stated that "we cannot continue to run on the present rates." He suggested a meeting with C. Z. Ward, bus manager, and Ward was instructed to compile all available data on bus revenues and patronage for a session set for next Monday night, April 20.

High praise of the Torrance bus service was written to the council by Hugh B. Johnson of South Figueroa st., who tempered his commendation of the "skilled and courteous drivers and generally satisfactory service" with a suggestion that schedules be maintained without interruptions due to mechanical difficulties.

Survey Report Requested. He said that the service has been impaired by late arrivals or sometimes even the discontinuance of a scheduled run because of mechanical trouble and suggested that special effort be made to keep the equipment in repair at all times.

Mayor Tom McGuire in commenting on Johnson's letter said that the city is "contemplating repairs on the equipment." Bus Manager Ward informed the municipal board that the Torrance War Industries Committee was currently engaged in making an exhaustive traffic survey and he suggested that this committee be asked to submit its recommendations for improved transportation. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was instructed to ask for this.

Ward was authorized by the council to serve as the city's representative on the War Industries Committee, succeeding Pat MacDonnell, former city housing coordinator who is now director of War Housing.

PITTSBURGH GUESTS. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Carr of Pittsburgh, Pa., were weekend guests of Mrs. Joseph McKenna of the Park hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Poor have arrived from Gardena to make their home at 1529 215th st.

Rush for Priorities Leads to Mix-up on City's Lot Auction

By MICHAEL STRASZER. There was a time when a prospective purchaser of land went out and looked at the property, checked its boundaries, sampled the soil, noted the drainage, determined the facilities and, most of all, assured himself that the seller's title was in order.

"Those days are gone forever. Tuesday night saw the "new order" in property sales at its war-boom peak when the city council found itself all balled up as a result of starting the auction sale Monday night of some 65 tax-delinquent lots here to which the city has not yet received a tax. The city held both tax claim and quit claim deeds to some of these lots and on the others held options to pick them up as tax-deeded land from the county.

But it was the third group of 65 lots, said to be the "best in the city" and all of them located north of Carson st. in the western part of Torrance, which developed the "new order" mix-up that prolonged arguments until nearly 10:30 p. m. Tuesday.

Harry Whitman of the Associated Assessment Engineers who have been handling the process of returning tax-delinquent property to the city tax rolls by sale of the properties at auction, explained.

"Priorities Reason for Rush. "The lots in this group are parcels on which the city has no apparent right to purchase tax deeds or convey merchantable titles because options to purchase them from the county had not yet been secured by the city."

Nevertheless, the council went ahead Monday night with the auction of these properties and bids totaling approximately \$20,000 were entered. However, because of some reason which was not clearly stated Tuesday night, the actual "sale" of the titleless land, if the transaction can be termed that, was postponed for two weeks.

And that's what caused the prolonged discussion Tuesday night.

The prospective purchasers, several of whom entered bids for more than one of the lots, apparently were not concerned over the titles—what they wanted was immediate decision that their bids were definite options to buy—and when the titles are secured by the city. The reason for the rush act was that the War Production Board had announced that there were 1025 building priorities available in the Torrance area.

Individual Buyers Speak. And those priorities were going like the proverbial hotcakes. J. H. Pine and his wife, William Bannerman of the California National Builders, Sam Levy, J. Hugh Sherfy, "Jack" Barrington and others were eager to purchase those 65 lots but they wanted an official commitment from the council that they held options so that, as Pine and Bannerman often repeated: "We can rush down to the War Production Board tomorrow and file applications for priorities before it is too late and they are all taken."

Just as the council appeared to be ready to give Messrs. Pine and Bannerman the go-ahead signal for their W.P.B. dash, Sherfy, Levy and Barrington inquired as to their status. "Could they too receive the same recognition as the representatives of the building firms? Would their bids be considered options for the purpose of snapping up the elusive priorities?"

Two Weeks' Delay. The council was about to grant their request as individual purchasers when someone mentioned that the basis of the whole exchange of the properties was the original auction and that there were several bidders on some of the lots. What about these prospective purchasers? Could each one claim an option to buy from the city and speed

(Continued on Page 4-A)

CD Members Called to Meet Here Tonight. All members of the Torrance Civilian Defense Corps are urged by Police Chief John Stroh to attend the "all-out" meeting and program at 7 o'clock tonight (Thursday) at the high school assembly hall. Next Monday night at 7 o'clock a regular meeting of the Auxiliary Police will be held at the city council chambers.

22 Lots Sold for \$7000. The auction sale of two other parcels of 22 tax-deeded lots for approximately \$7000 was completed Tuesday night when the council voted to accept the offers made the previous night. The city held both tax claim and quit claim deeds to some of these lots and on the others held options to pick them up as tax-deeded land from the county.

Apartment-Block in W. Torrance Given City Okay. Permitting the construction of the first major multiple war-housing project in the city of Torrance, the city council Tuesday night approved the recommendation of the City Planning Commission that 10 lots between Hickory and Greenwood sts., and Eldorado and Sonoma aves., be rezoned to permit the structure.