

THANKS TO HEADQUARTERS

Published herewith are two letters that speak for themselves. One is from General Russell, inviting Mayor LaGuardia's attention to an outstanding act of bravery on the part of a member of the New York Police Force. The patrolman in question is a former Marine. Mayor LaGuardia replies, expressing his astonishment at the way the Marine Corps keeps track of men who have been paid off. A great many of us are likely to take this fact for granted, forgetting the labor involved. Many times readers of this publication have written in, requesting the whereabouts of some Marine who had long returned to civil life. We, in turn, ask headquarters to supply this information. In only a few instances have they been unable to do so. Our amazement at this ability has worn off, but not our appreciation. This appears to be a splendid opportunity for THE LEATHERNECK to thank Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, for all its cooperation, past, present, and to come.

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS

Washington

28 August, 1935.

MY DEAR MR. LAGUARDIA:

Upon my return to Headquarters after a vacation, there was brought to my notice a matter which I most earnestly commend to your attention.

It appears from reports that on the night of July 5, 1935, a member of your Police Department named Harry H. Loftwich distinguished himself by capturing the assailants of an ex-convict gunman, who had just been shot down on New Utrecht Avenue near Seventy-eighth street, Brooklyn. It also appears that this officer, wholly unaided, effected the capture of the two men held responsible for the death of the gunman and the wounding of three by-standers. It is apparent that his prompt action in the face of possible death perhaps saved the lives of other by-standers who might have been struck by stray bullets.

The matter was brought to my attention because Officer Loftwich was a former member of the U. S. Marine Corps, having served two enlistments during and after the World War. Loftwich had an excellent record while in the Corps, and when finally discharged held the rank of corporal.

It is always a pleasure for me to note such acts as that of Officer Loftwich, especially when they involve the efforts of former members of the Marine Corps. The Corps is always glad to point with pride to former members of the service who make such creditable showings.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

(s) JOHN H. RUSSELL,
Major General Commandant.

Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia,
Mayor of the City of New York,
New York, N. Y.

CITY OF NEW YORK

Office of the Mayor

August 30, 1935.

Major General John H. Russell,
Commandant,
U. S. Marine Corps,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR GENERAL:

I have your letter of August 28, 1935, with reference to Patrolman Harry H. Loftwich. I am always pleased and happy to hear of the meritorious conduct of any of our police officers. I am bringing your letter to the attention of the Police Commissioner so that the special services of this officer may be credited to his record.

I cannot resist this opportunity of noting how the Marine Corps always keeps track of its men. I suppose that as these boys pass away a special recommendation from the Marine Corps is passed to St. Peter himself.

As a great admirer of the Marine Corps I must say that you have the best *esprit de corps* of any branch of the service that I know of.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
(s) F. H. LAGUARDIA,
Mayor.

CLIPPED NEWS FLASHES

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World War, during which she acted as escort to submarine chasers. Placed out of commission in 1919, at the Mare Island Navy Yard, she later was sent to Pearl Harbor to be used as station ship.

In 1928, when the name *Chicago* was assigned to one of the 10,000-ton cruisers authorized in 1924, the designation of this old cruiser was changed to *USS Alton*.

SMOKER AT PHILLY YARD

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did his best to stave off defeat, but in the fourth pumping Joe Talap won by a Technical K. O., after the reserve sergeant showed signs of buckling in two.

At this point an intermission was called, which sent the members of the assemblage scurrying toward the refreshment stand. I went but that's all that happened. It looked like a string of world series devotees on opening day.

In opening the last portion of the fights, Lt-Col. Anthony (Tony) J. Drexel Biddle, famous over the world as a sportsman, acted as the third man in the ring. Despite his advanced years Colonel Biddle sent the next duo through their paces. Joe Boris and Andy Fedak, both weighing in at 174 pounds did their act under the five-round rules.

My notes gave Boris, of the Marines, the fight all the way over Fedak, due to his consistent work both at long range and in close when Fedak tried to tie him up.

For five rounds Boris bore in to give Fedak a thorough going over, but at the end of the tiff the judges disagreed and Colonel Biddle gave Fedak the fight. And

all along I thought Boris had given Fedak the fight, which only goes to show we boys are at least consistent when it comes to picking a winner . . . remember the boys like Ed. Neil and Hype Igoe who said Baer all the way. Well, I had the same trouble.

This brings us to the final bout. Mike Burak, a well built lad weighing 185 and representing the Marines, went in against Paul Hoft, the present Atlantic Athletic Union champion of the heavyweight division, who came in at 195 pounds. Hoft towered over Burak, but the opening gong brought out a crouching fighter who knew it was quick or never. Burak went to work with a will and during the first round he had Hoft doing the covering-up act and in a bad way with a flurry of punches that found their mark with consistent regularity. At the bell ending the first round Burak was pounding Hoft all around the ropes.

Coming out in the second round Burak bore in relentlessly with both hands plunging into Hoft's mid-section. Then Mr. Hoft went into action with his long arms flailing. Burak, not to be outdone, waded in to meet Hoft's attack and ran into an oncoming uppercut that sent him to the canvas for the count. Which ended the show.

Surely everyone on hand should extend a word of thanks to Colonel Manwaring, who made such an excellent show possible.

SEA-GOING

Salt Lake City News

(Continued from page 36)

Along during the month of May, we spent several weeks out at the Rifle Range firing for qualification. This year only thirty-nine men fired for record, and out of the crowd, twenty-four qualified as sharpshooters and experts. A few days later 16 men fired the B. A. R. for record, twelve were experts, three were sharpshooters and one marksman. There were only four men who fired the pistol for record and all four made expert. Not a bad bunch of trigger-squeezers, eh?

During the time off we were in the thick of the hottest inter-divisional baseball championship fight the ship has ever had. The Marines waded through the Top Side League to take the pennant and in the finals met defeat after a hard struggle to the champs of the Below Deck League. And the trophy which has rested so gracefully in the Marine compartment for every year since the first contest for it, was moved to other quarters. With several new prospects for next year's team, we are already planning to regain this trophy then.

A few days later the lines were cast off and the ship returned to San Pedro for a short stay. Then she cruised up to Bellingham, where all hands received a great welcome and all hands had a swell time. From Bellingham the "Queen of the Seas" moved over to Tacoma, and now several of the boys are planning to spend their next cruise in Tacoma. Then down to Bremerton for a couple of days. At Bremerton we were honored with the visits of several old timers who are now on the Outside.

Leaving Bremerton we came down to Seattle, and there all hands agreed that it was about the best port of them all. As the boys were beginning to think of Frisco again, we moved up to Port Townsend for a visit of a few days and were all set to return with the Fleet. But suddenly we received the news that we were selected to represent the U. S. Navy at the International Fleet Week at Victoria, B. C.

BROADCAST FOR THE DECEMBER LEATHERNECK
SHOULD REACH THE EDITORS BEFORE NOVEMBER 8TH

November, 1935