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Comics, Drawings & Articles  
by and about  
Sgt. Homer Provence

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## **Message from the Editor**

Although we are at the end of October, and moving into November, this issue is actually the summer 2020 edition of the *Arkansas Military History Journal*. After COVID-19 closed the Arkansas National Guard Museum for three months during the spring, we are trying to get back on track with the journals. Therefore, the winter issue came out last spring!

We believe we have an interesting edition for you. Camp Pike/Robinson has had at least two Medal of Honor recipients come through the post, with the possibly three. Recent Ouachita Baptist graduate Emily McGee researched those Medal of Honor recipients and her work is featured in this issue. Ms. McGee interned at the Arkansas National Guard Museum during the summer and fall and did an outstanding job. We believe she has a bright future! In addition, cartoonist SGT. Homer Provence, who came through Camp Robinson during WWII, created some wonderful sketches and cartoons that reflect his humor during the war. We think you will particularly enjoy his work. Finally, I have included a part of a chapter I wrote about Camp Pike in WWI. Here, I focus mostly on the training at the post.

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# Medal of Honor Recipients from Camp Robinson

Camp Joseph T. Robinson, since its creation over 100 years ago, has had thousands of soldiers pass through its gates. Inevitably, there would be some exemplary soldiers present here. During World War II, two Arkansans proved themselves and their actions to be above and beyond the average soldier.

By Emily McGee



*Camp Robinson during WWII*

## Maurice “Footsie” Britt

Maurice Lee “Footsie” Britt was born in Carlisle, Arkansas, on June 29, 1919, to Morris Lee and Virgie Britt. Britt’s family later moved to Lonoke, where he graduated high school in 1937, as valedictorian and senior class president. Britt excelled in both academics and sports. As a senior, he served as captain of the football, track, and basketball teams. Britt received an athletic scholarship from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where he earned letters in basketball and football. He was also a sports editor for the student newspaper, *Arkansas Traveler*, and a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Britt married Nancy Mitchell of Fort Smith on June 8, 1941, and received his degree in journalism the next day.<sup>1</sup>



*Maurice “Footsie” Britt  
Photo courtesy of WikiTree*

At graduation, Britt received an Army Reserve Commission as Second Lieutenant of Infantry through ROTC. He was granted a partial deferment to entering active duty until after the 1941 football season, and played for the Detroit Lions until entering active duty at Camp Robinson in December 1941.<sup>2</sup>

Britt’s Medal of Honor citation reads: “For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Disdaining enemy hand grenades and close-range machine pistols, machine guns, and rifles, Lt. Britt inspired and led a handful of his men in repelling a bitter

<sup>1</sup> Ellen E. Withers, “‘Footsie’ Britt (1919–1995),” *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, October 2, 2020, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/footsie-britt-2459/>.

<sup>2</sup> “Maurice Britt,” *Wikipedia* (Wikimedia Foundation, August 16, 2020), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice\\_Britt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_Britt).

counterattack by approximately 100 Germans against his company positions north of Mignano, Italy, on the morning of 10 November 1943. During the intense firefight, Lt. Britt's canteen and field glasses were shattered; a bullet pierced his side; his chest, face, and hands were covered with grenade wounds. Despite his wounds, for which he refused to accept medical attention until ordered to do so by his battalion commander following the battle, he personally killed five and wounded an unknown number of Germans, wiped out one enemy machine-gun crew, fired five clips of carbine and an undetermined amount of M-1 rifle ammunition, and threw 32 fragmentation grenades. His bold, aggressive actions, utterly disregarding superior enemy numbers, resulted in capture of four Germans, two of them wounded, and enabled several captured Americans to escape. Lt. Britt's undaunted courage and prowess in arms were largely responsible for repulsing a German counterattack which, if successful, would have isolated his battalion and destroyed his company.”<sup>3</sup>



*Lt. Britt receiving his Medal of Honor in 1944*  
*Photo courtesy of WikiTree*

Britt received his Medal of Honor on the University of Arkansas football field during the 1944 commencement ceremony.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Britt also received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the British Military Cross, and the Italian Medal of Military Valor.

After losing part of his right arm in Italy in early 1944 and participating in a war bond tour, Britt received an honorable discharge on December 27, 1944.

Maurice Britt was the first infantryman awarded all top four combat decorations of valor awarded by the US Army during World War II.<sup>5</sup>

Britt gave the dedication speech for War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on September 18, 1948. He eventually settled in Fort Smith and began working for a furniture company owned by his wife's family. While there, Britt and his wife Nancy had three children: Andrea, Maurice Jr., and Nancy Lea. In 1963, Britt moved to Little Rock to open his own aluminum manufacturing business. He eventually divorced Nancy and married Patricia Allbright in 1966. They were married until her death in 1993.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> "Maurice Lee (Footsie) Britt: World War II: U.S. Army: Medal of Honor Recipient," Congressional Medal of Honor Society, accessed October 12, 2020, <https://www.cmohs.org/recipient/maurice-lee-footsie-britt>.

<sup>4</sup> Withers, "'Footsie' Britt (1919–1995)."

<sup>5</sup> "Maurice Britt."

<sup>6</sup> Withers, "'Footsie' Britt (1919–1995)."

Britt switched political parties in the 1960's and ran for lieutenant governor under the Republican ticket with Governor Winthrop Rockefeller. Britt served two terms from 1966-1970. At his election, Britt was the first Republican lieutenant governor elected in Arkansas since Reconstruction.<sup>7</sup> In 1971, President Nixon offered Britt the position of district director of the Small Business Administration, a position which he served in until 1985. Britt ran for the Republican nomination for governor in 1986 but failed to secure the nomination. Britt died on November 26, 1995, and is buried in the Little Rock National Cemetery.<sup>8</sup>



*Britt, far left, pictured with Rockefeller, center  
Photo courtesy of Little Rock Culture Vulture*

## William H. Thomas

William H. Thomas was born on January 13, 1923 in Wynne, Arkansas, to John and Jessie Thomas. Thomas' father was a lumber mill worker, and the family moved around the Delta region quite a bit, until eventually settling in Brinkley by the mid-1940s. Thomas also worked in the lumber industry and in farming. He attempted to enlist in 1943, but was denied due to a heart condition. He eventually succeeded, entering active duty at Camp Robinson in April of 1944.<sup>9</sup>

Thomas was a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) gunner with Company B, 149<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Thirty-Eighth Infantry Division. Thomas was soon sent to Luzon in the Philippine Islands.<sup>10</sup>

Thomas' Medal of Honor citation reads: "He was a member of the leading squad of Company B, which was attacking along a narrow, wooded ridge. The enemy, strongly entrenched in camouflaged emplacements on the hill beyond, directed heavy fire and hurled explosive charges on the attacking riflemen. Pfc. Thomas, an automatic rifleman, was struck by one of these charges, which blew off both his legs below the knees. He refused medical aid and evacuation, and continued to fire at the enemy until his weapon was put out of action by an enemy bullet. Still refusing aid, he threw his last two grenades. He destroyed three of the enemy after



*PFC William H. Thomas  
Photo courtesy of The Hall of Valor Project*

<sup>7</sup> Wolfgang Saxon, "Maurice Britt, 76; Helped Shift Arkansas Politics," The New York Times (The New York Times, November 29, 1995), <https://www.nytimes.com/1995/11/29/us/maurice-britt-76-helped-shift-arkansas-politics.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Withers, "'Footsie' Britt (1919-1995)."

<sup>9</sup> Mark K. Christ, "William Thomas (1923-1945)," Encyclopedia of Arkansas, February 17, 2020, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/william-thomas-5778/>.

<sup>10</sup> Christ, "William Thomas (1923-1945)."

suffering the wounds from which he died later that day. The effective fire of Pfc. Thomas prevented the repulse of his platoon and assured the capture of the hostile position. His magnificent courage and heroic devotion to duty provided a lasting inspiration for his comrades.”<sup>11</sup>

Thomas died on April 22, 1945, and is buried in the Phillipines at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.<sup>12</sup>

On August 30, 1946, the USS *Rixey*, a casualty transportation ship, was renamed the USNS *Pvt. William H. Thomas* in honor of Thomas. The ship was eventually sold for scrap metal in 1970.<sup>13</sup>

The Arkansas National Guard Armory in Wynne was renamed the PFC William H. Thomas Armory in 2003 in honor of Thomas.<sup>14</sup> The armory was closed in 2015.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> “William H. Thomas: World War II: U.S. Army: Medal of Honor Recipient,” Congressional Medal of Honor Society, accessed October 12, 2020, <https://www.cmohts.org/recipients/william-h-thomas>.

<sup>12</sup> Christ, “William Thomas (1923–1945).”

<sup>13</sup> “USNS Pvt. William H. Thomas,” USNS Pvt. William H. Thomas | MARAD (Maritime Administration, October 2018), <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/history/gallant-ship-award/usns-pvt-william-h-thomas>.

<sup>14</sup> Christ, “William Thomas (1923–1945).”

<sup>15</sup> Ashley Smith, “Wynne Residents Discuss City Council Agenda Items,” <https://www.kait8.com>, January 24, 2017, <https://www.kait8.com/story/29539128/wynne-residents-discuss-city-council-agenda-items/>.

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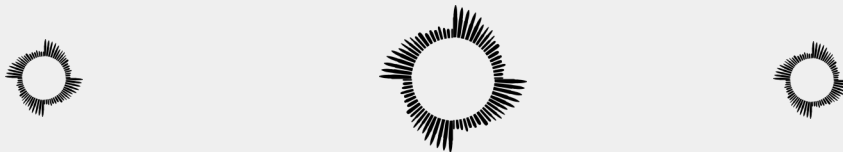
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# Camp Pike and the Preparation for War

By Dr. Raymond D. Screws



This article is from a longer chapter entitled “‘To Carry Forward the Training Program’: Camp Pike in the Great War and the Legacy of the Post,” in *The War at Home: Perspectives on the Arkansas Experience During World War I*, Mark K. Christ, editor, University of Arkansas Press, 2020.



Camp Pike was awarded to the Little Rock area in 1917, as an Army training post shortly after the United States entered the Great War in April. Camp Pike was one of 32 new military posts built in 1917, to train soldiers for WWI. During the summer, the army changed its numbering system for its divisions and Camp Pike became the training site for the Eighty-Seventh Division, which consisted of the states of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. At the end of August, before the first troops arrived, the new commander of the Eighty-Seventh, General Samuel D. Sturgis Jr. was on post. Major John Fordyce, the Construction Quartermaster, wrote to his father that “I am very impressed with him as a broadminded man as well as an efficient military officer.”<sup>1</sup> Sturgis, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1861, was promoted to Major

General when he took command of the Eighty-Seventh Division at Camp Pike. On September 2, General Sturgis inspected the new post and said he was impressed with the progress of construction. At that time, it was disclosed that Camp Pike could accommodate 30,000 men.<sup>2</sup>



Sixteen Little Rock men were selected to be the first of the Eighty-Seventh Division to arrive for training at Camp Pike.<sup>3</sup> On September 5, 1917, troops arrived on post to begin training as part of the Eighty-Seventh Division.<sup>4</sup> By the end of the month, 23,000 men were on post.<sup>5</sup> When Private James Harris Atkinson, with whom we started our story, arrived at Camp Robinson in 1918, he was “issued two good pairs of shoes, two shirts (woolen), two pr. trousers, 3 pr. socks, belt, hat, two suits, underwear, comb, brush, two woolen blankets, 2 towels, toothbrush, soap, 1 pr. leggings, mess kit, knife fork spoon, cup, bed sack.”<sup>6</sup> And this was typical of all soldiers. In addition, the training doughboys (as the soldiers were called) were encouraged to live chaste lives. Speaking at several of the YMCA buildings on post in January 1918, Dr. Clement G. Clark, who was touring several military training cantonments throughout the country, told the men, in his then “famous address” called “Sex-Life and Patriotism,” to live clean lives as “a duty they owed to their God, their country, the women they may marry and themselves.”<sup>7</sup>

A number of men were discharged from the Eighty-Seventh Division throughout 1917 and 1918 for physical problems.<sup>8</sup> By the end of January, 7.6% of the men from Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi had been discharged.<sup>9</sup> To help the men stay healthy, General Sturgis wanted each company at Camp Pike to participate in athletics. The general approved plans for competitions for regiments and the entire division. “Every man in athletics” was the slogan.<sup>10</sup> In November, athletic equipment arrived on post to be placed in all the barracks, although the items were temporarily quarantined because of a measles outbreak. Sporting events were difficult to conduct because of the constant coming and going of men. But the events were still managed.<sup>11</sup> In February, the first baseball



Camp Pike baseball, 1920

game was played at Camp Pike between soldiers. Some of the men had even played professional baseball.<sup>12</sup> It is possible this game was played at the newly constructed Belmont Field, which was built by the owner of the local minor league team, the Little Rock Travelers.

Sports were good for morale and fitness, but military training was also required. Trenches were dug on post to emulate the conditions the men would experience when they fought in France.<sup>13</sup> In May 1918, a machine gun school was opened at Camp Pike.<sup>14</sup> Some unusual training was also provided at Camp Pike. For example, the Signal Corps experimented and trained in several methods to send messages, including homing pigeons. Pigeon training took place in the northwestern area of the cantonment, with signs that said “keep out.” Eighteen soldiers trained at the Field Battalion Headquarters, of the 312th Signal Corps. Most of the birds came from the Boston, Massachusetts, area.<sup>15</sup> The *Trench and Camp*, the post newspaper, revealed that anyone caught shooting a homing pigeon would be fined \$100 and sentenced to six months in prison.<sup>16</sup>



General Sturgis was ordered to a new post and transferred from Camp Pike around December 1, 1917. Brigadier General R. C. Van Vliet was named acting commander of the Eighty-Seventh Division and it was assumed that he would be appointed as the new commander.<sup>17</sup> However, Van Vliet was never named as the new permanent commander of the division. In mid-March 1918, more than 20,000 men of the Eighty-Seventh Division participated in a review. General Sturgis, who had just returned from an inspection assignment in France to again take command of the Eighty-Seventh, led the review. He was gone for more than three months, but once he returned, General Sturgis remained with the Eighty-Seventh and deployed with the division as its commander later in the year. The review was in honor of Sturgis’s return from France. It was the largest military ceremony ever held in Arkansas up to that point, and General Sturgis was accompanied by General J. B. McDonald from the Inspector General Department in Washington DC. The *Trench and Camp* proclaimed the review “a beautiful spectacle.” In addition to the soldiers, about 4,000 people from the area came in automobiles to witness the review.<sup>18</sup>

African Americans also trained at Camp Pike in segregated units, such as the Field Remount Depot No.

351 of the Auxiliary Remount Depot No. 317.<sup>19</sup> The first African American troops arrived at Camp Pike in October 1917, with a total of just over 1,400 during the month. A year later, the number of African American men on post reached a high of 11,267.<sup>20</sup> In the summer of 1918, twenty-seven African American second lieutenants from Camp Pike were sent to a new Department of Central Officers' Training School to be educated in leadership. The goal for these men, taken from several units, was to have them lead black troops by replacing white officers.<sup>21</sup>

One of the most significant incidents at Camp Pike during World War I involved African American soldiers. Captain E. C. Rowan, a white officer from Mississippi, was court-martialed for refusing to follow a direct order from a superior. Rowan refused to line up his white company during the morning parade because black companies were also there in formation. At his court-martial, Rowan's defense was that "he would have had to violate a strict military ruling—would have injured the self-respect of his men—had he carried out the order....Captain Rowan pleaded that the order in itself was illegal in that it violated the 'custom regulation of the army.'"<sup>22</sup> Rowan was found guilty in his court-martial and dismissed. This was the first time in American history that a white officer was court-martialed in an issue involving race.<sup>23</sup>

Native Americans also trained at Camp Pike, although not in segregated units. One such doughboy was



Choctaw Joe Green, who provided information about a typical training week to the superintendent of the Indian School he had attended. He wrote, "I have been in the army almost two months, drilling eight hours a day five days a week. Saturday and Sunday we have as holidays." But the first day of the weekend was not just for personal time. Green

explained that "Saturday morning we stand rifle inspection. So far I have passed this test. Some of the boys fail and get extra duty." Green also saw other Native Americans while training at Camp Pike. "I saw some of the Chilocco [Indian School] boys here three weeks ago. I was certainly glad to meet them. They were: John Johnson [Seminole], Albert Barcelo, Martin Jackaway and Nelson Cooper. I had begun to think I was the only one here from Chilocco and was glad to see these old schoolmates."<sup>24</sup>

A noteworthy case involved Peter Defoe, a Chippewa from the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota.



Defoe believed that he was not legally drafted into the army because Major General Enoch Crowder, who was in charge of the Selective Service, made the decision that Native Americans who kept their tribal affiliations active were not to be included in the military draft. Defoe attempted to be released from military service even before his transfer to Camp

Pike from Camp Dodge in Iowa. However, as indicated in an article published in *The Tomahawk*, the White Earth Reservation newspaper, General Crowder's mandate did not apply to Defoe. Because of the Nelson Act of 1889, the White Earth Chippewa accepted allotments from the federal government, which also constituted citizenship. In addition, according to *The Tomahawk*, an amendment made it perfectly clear that Indians of "mixed blood" were undoubtedly citizens of the United States. The paper indicated that because Defoe was of mixed heritage, he was subject to conscription. The paper also offered these words: "Our advice to Mr. Defoe is to stand by his enlistment and serve his country loyally as a good citizen, for citizen he is."<sup>25</sup> Indeed, Peter Defoe did continue to serve in the army and was killed in action on October 1, 1918, in France and is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in that country.<sup>26</sup>

When men arrived for training, they were quarantined for ten days to help prevent the spread of disease. The men were also vaccinated for a number of diseases such as smallpox. However, precautions such as quarantines and vaccinations did not prevent all diseases from spreading. By early 1918, Camp Pike had a high rate of venereal disease, so much so that the post led all army posts in this category. And levels of other diseases at the Arkansas cantonment were close to being the highest in the country. Measles socked the post particularly hard.<sup>27</sup> But even a month before troops arrived at Camp Pike, a construction worker was discovered to have smallpox and was quickly sent to quarantine.<sup>28</sup> Of course, the close proximity of men, especially because they arrived on post from a multitude of places, hastened the spread of diseases. Unsanitary conditions could be a health hazard as well, but at the end of August 1917, an army health inspector indicated after visiting the camp that sanitary conditions were very good.<sup>29</sup>

By December 1917, however, the death rate at Camp Pike from diseases was extremely high. Even by mid-November, there were 571 cases of measles on post.<sup>30</sup> Even malaria was reported.<sup>31</sup> However, in December, Major General W. C. Gorgas of the Medical Corps visited Camp Pike and erroneously said that the death rates at cantonments should not inspire fear.<sup>32</sup> Then in February 1918, to compound the problem, Camp Pike experienced a pneumonia outbreak.<sup>33</sup> Men were quarantined until they were no longer considered contagious. However, the



worst was yet to come. On September 23, 1918, influenza was discovered on post. This was the beginning of the great Spanish flu epidemic that spread throughout the world in 1918 and 1919, killing millions. The number of influenza cases at Camp Pike quickly

rose, even while officials attempted to downplay the epidemic, despite the realization that by the end of September, the post hospital had already treated more than 7,600 patients.<sup>34</sup> Finally, on October 3, the post was placed under quarantine, and officers were included a few days later. In fact, the hospital was so crowded with cases of influenza that infected men were placed in barracks with those not sick, exacerbating the problem.<sup>35</sup>

The first half of September saw seventeen new influenza cases a day check into the post hospital, but that soon tripled. By the last part of the month, around a thousand new flu cases reported to the hospital, which had 2,000 beds. About 1,400 influenza patients arrived from Eberts Training Field, located in nearby Lonoke County. To make matters worse, sixty-two of the 240 medical personnel at the Camp Pike hospital contracted the disease. By the time the epidemic ran its course, 466 had lost their lives from Camp Pike and Eberts Field. Camp Pike was one of the worst-hit military reservations in the country.<sup>36</sup>

In May 1918, Congress passed a new law that allowed men who were not citizens to become naturalized if they were soldiers, suspending the previous requirement of five years of residency. Soldiers at Camp Pike took advantage of the new law, as did most of the other military training cantonments across the country. For example, between May and December 1918, more than 3,000 naturalization petitions were processed. Only two were denied by the judge, because the men were from China. During those years, Asians born on foreign soil could not become American citizens. Of the men naturalized at Camp Pike, more than 22% were from the Scandinavian countries,

and another 22% were from Eastern Europe. Close behind were men from Italy at 18%. Most of these men were not living in Arkansas when they joined the army.<sup>37</sup>

In August 1918, the men of the Eighty-Seventh Division were sent overseas. Most of these men came from Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. However, in 1918, men from Tennessee and Iowa were also sent to Camp Pike to train as part of the Eighty-Seventh Division. General Sturgis led the Eighty-Seventh in France. During two consecutive months during the late summer and early fall of 1918, more than 54,000 troops were on post at one time.<sup>38</sup> Most doughboys received six months of training in the United States, and then usually had around two months' more training overseas. As a rule, once soldiers were committed to the battlefield, or trenches, as it were, they were sent to a sector that was not so intense for a month before being moved to the real battle zone.<sup>39</sup> And this was most likely the case for the men of the Eighty-Seventh.

Thousands of men trained at Camp Pike during the Great War. After the Eighty-Seventh deployed, the



cantonment was used for replacement training and, after the War, Camp Pike was utilized as a demobilization post for the Third Infantry Division. Around 105,000 soldiers demobilized at Camp Pike. Beginning in 1919, the Third Division, in partnership with the Knights of Columbus, established Camp Pike College on post to help returning soldiers with their transition into civilian life. Courses

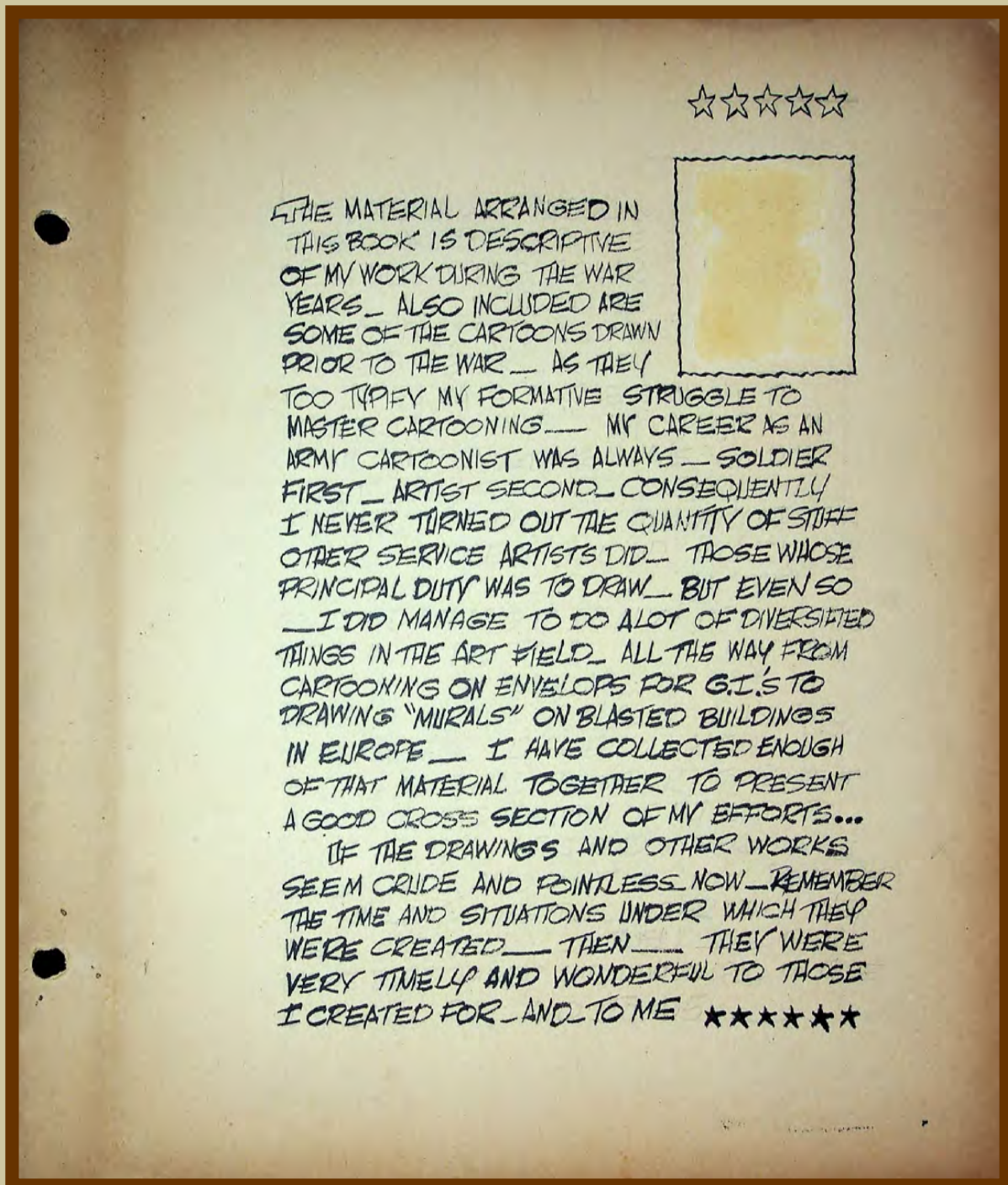
covered such areas as motor mechanics, sheet metal work, carpentry, and plumbing. In addition, there were courses offered in bookkeeping and dramatics, as well as a class in Americanization. It is important to remember that 1919 was the year of the first Red Scare in America, and understanding what it was to be an American was deemed important, even to those born in the country.<sup>40</sup> In 1922, Camp Pike was given to the State of Arkansas and used by the Arkansas National Guard until 1940, when the US Army took over the post again. By that time the post had been renamed Camp Robinson. After the Second World War Camp Robinson went back to the Arkansas National Guard.

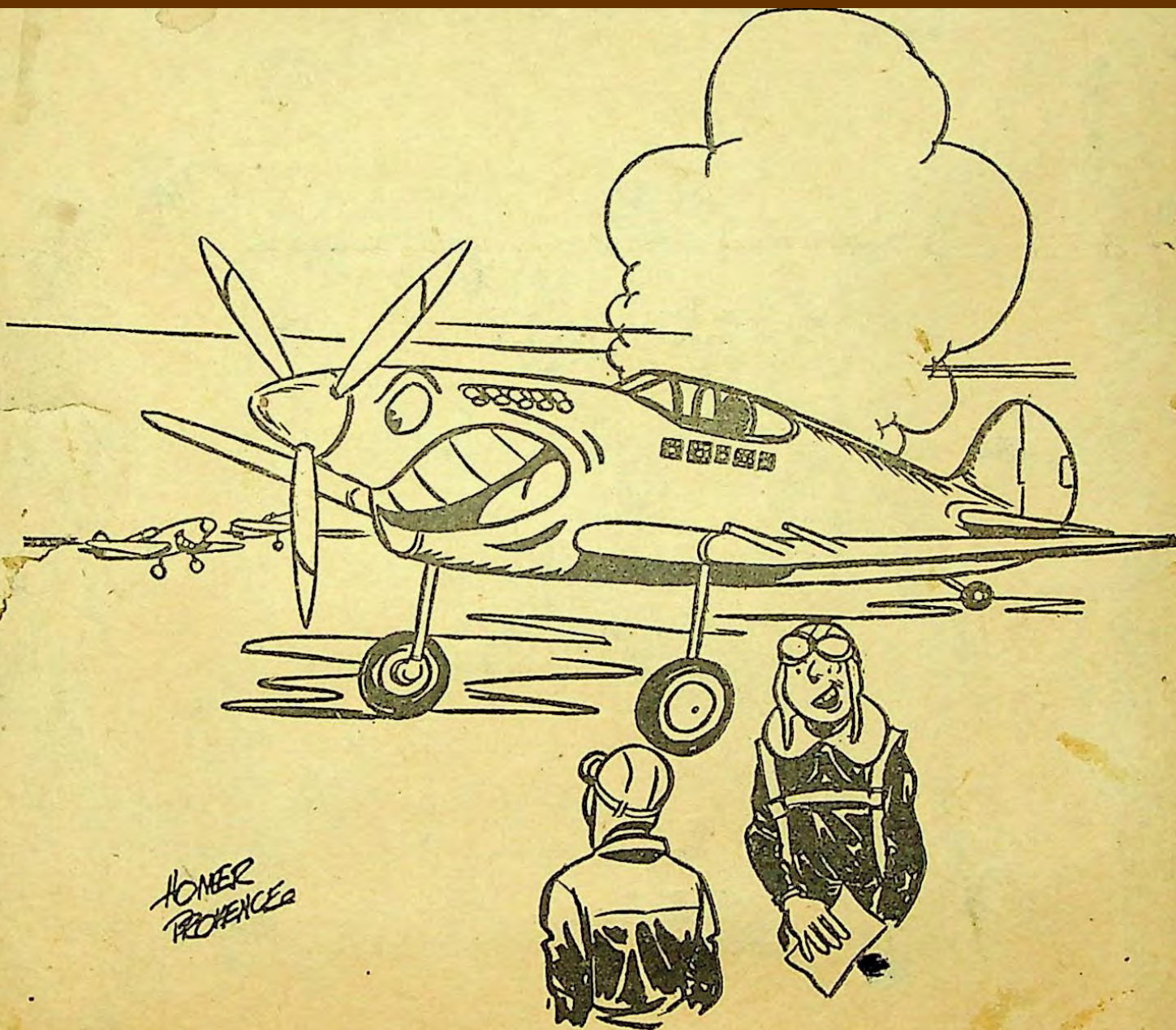
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31. *Arkansas Gazette*, November 26, 1917, 4.
32. *Arkansas Gazette*, December 10, 1917, 1.
33. *Arkansas Gazette*, February 4, 1918, 8.
34. Kim Allen Scott, "Plague on the Homefront: Arkansas and the Great Influenza Epidemic of 1918," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (Winter 1988): 323–324.
35. Scott, "Plague on the Homefront," 329.
36. Camp Pike Exhibit.
37. Desmond Walls Allen, "1918 Camp Pike, Arkansas, Index to Soldiers' Naturalizations," 1988, 3.
38. Unpublished document, information derived from Center for Military [History](#) .
39. Ayres, *The War With Germany*, 25.
40. "Camp Pike Exhibit."

# Comics, Drawings & Articles by and about Sgt. Homer Provence

Sgt. Provence trained at Camp Robinson during WWII. He was in the 2/137th IN, 35th IN DIV. Many of his drawings reflect the life of soldiers during WWII. Items in this pictorial display were in a scrapbook containing original cartoons and sketches from 1940-1945. The scrapbook was placed on loan to the Arkansas National Guard Museum by Officer Larry K. Behnke of Cabot, AR, the nephew of Provence.





"IT EVEN SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME, SOMETIMES!"

# AS YOU WERE!

(By Sgt. Homer Provence)

# A Remarkable Trick!





# 2 DAY PROBLEM

BY S/SGT HOMER PROVENCE N  
14<sup>TH</sup> CLASS



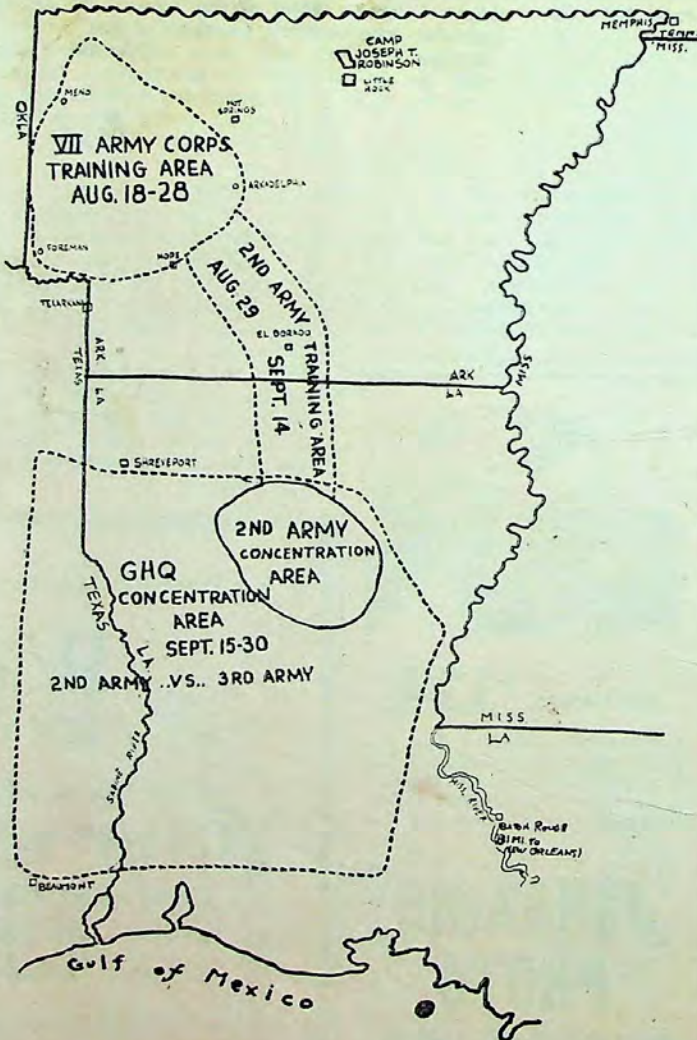
A TYPICAL  
WELL HEATED  
REST TENT ALONG THE COURSE



"I SEE THAT  
SAM NEUTRALIZED ANOTHER BOOBY TRAP!"



# Maneuver Areas



Starting August 9, troops of the 35th Division will move Southwest to the VII Army Corps Training Area to prepare for maneuvers there August 18-28. With no cessation in the war games, the 35th will move Southwest through the strip designated "2nd Army Training Area" to the concentration area in Louisiana. The 2nd Army battles the 3rd Army in the zone labeled, "GHQ Concentration Area" from September 15 to 30.

## Cartoon Mystery is Solved



"Dear, the Colonel Wants You to Teach Him Your Battle Tactics." That is the line that did not appear under the above cartoon in our issue of May 16, thus causing great bewilderment among our readers, who, lacking experience in marital matters, failed to see its marital significance.

## Maneuvers Edition

# The Covered Wagon

OF THE  
35TH  
DIVISION

CAMP ROBINSON  
NEWS DIGEST

Vol. 1, No. 18 September 12, 1941 Price 5c

## AS YOU WERE!

(By Sgt. Homer Provence)

## BOOBY TRAP!

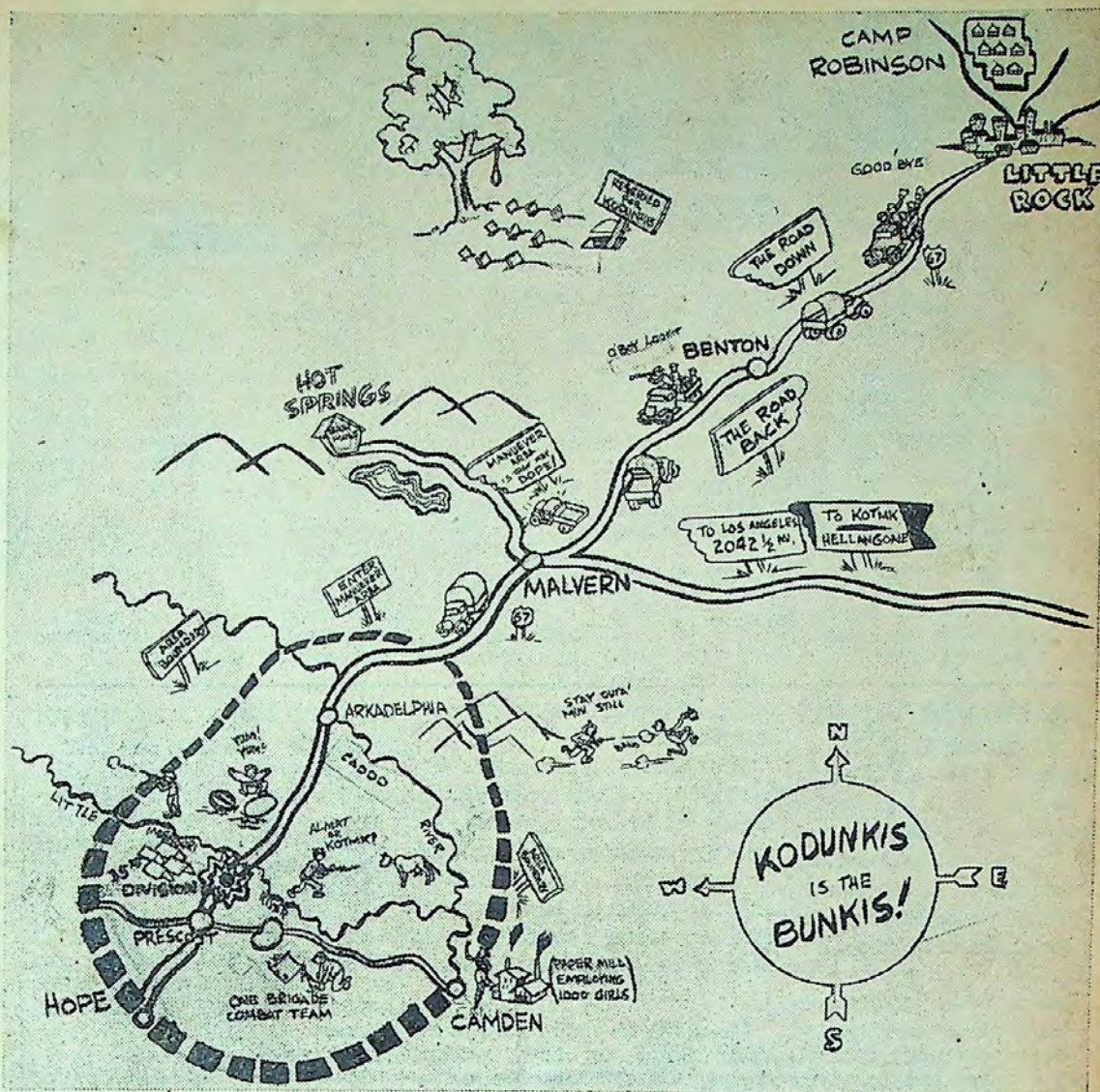




BACK IN 1941 - SOME 10 MONTHS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR - I WAS PREVAILED UPON TO CREATE A COMIC STRIP FOR THE FLEDGLING CAMP ROBINSON PAPER - BY CHET SHORE... CHET WAS MY COMPANY COMMANDER AND A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER IN CIVILIAN LIFE - IT WAS HE WHO NAMED THE STRIP - AND SO I CREATED MY FIRST COMIC STRIP - THE FIRST STRIP RAN FROM THE TOP TO BOTTOM OF THE FRONT PAGE - FROM THE SECOND STRIP ON - IT RAN IN THE CONVENTIONAL MANNER - ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES ARE SOME OF THOSE STRIPS //

Southwestward Ho.

...Kotmk or Bust.



The cartoon is a black and white line drawing. At the top, a banner reads "the AMERICAN PUBLIC". Below it, a crowd of people is shown in a stadium-like setting. In the center, a race track is labeled "NATIONAL DEFENSE". Several runners are on the track, each representing a different military branch: "INFANTRY" (leading), "SIGNAL CORPS", "ENGINEERS", "ARTILLERY", and "MEDICALS". A runner in the background is labeled "ARMY". The cartoon is signed "H.P." in the bottom left corner.

New Keep 'em Happy chapters were formed this week by newspapers at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., Ft. Bliss, Tex., Ft. Riley, Kans., and Camp Shelby, Miss. First reports are that the girls in those areas are as enthusiastic as our own.

Some girls (and letters prove that 35th men have girls in practically every state) want to know if it'll be all right for them to send cakes, cookies and candy to soldiers. Tell 'em about it, men.

A soldier-to-be in Lambert, Miss., wrote that he is deeply interested in the club and wanted an application blank so his girl can join as soon as he is in uniform.

And then a lot of girls are writing not only for application blanks but for the name of some soldiers they can "Keep Happy." Wow!

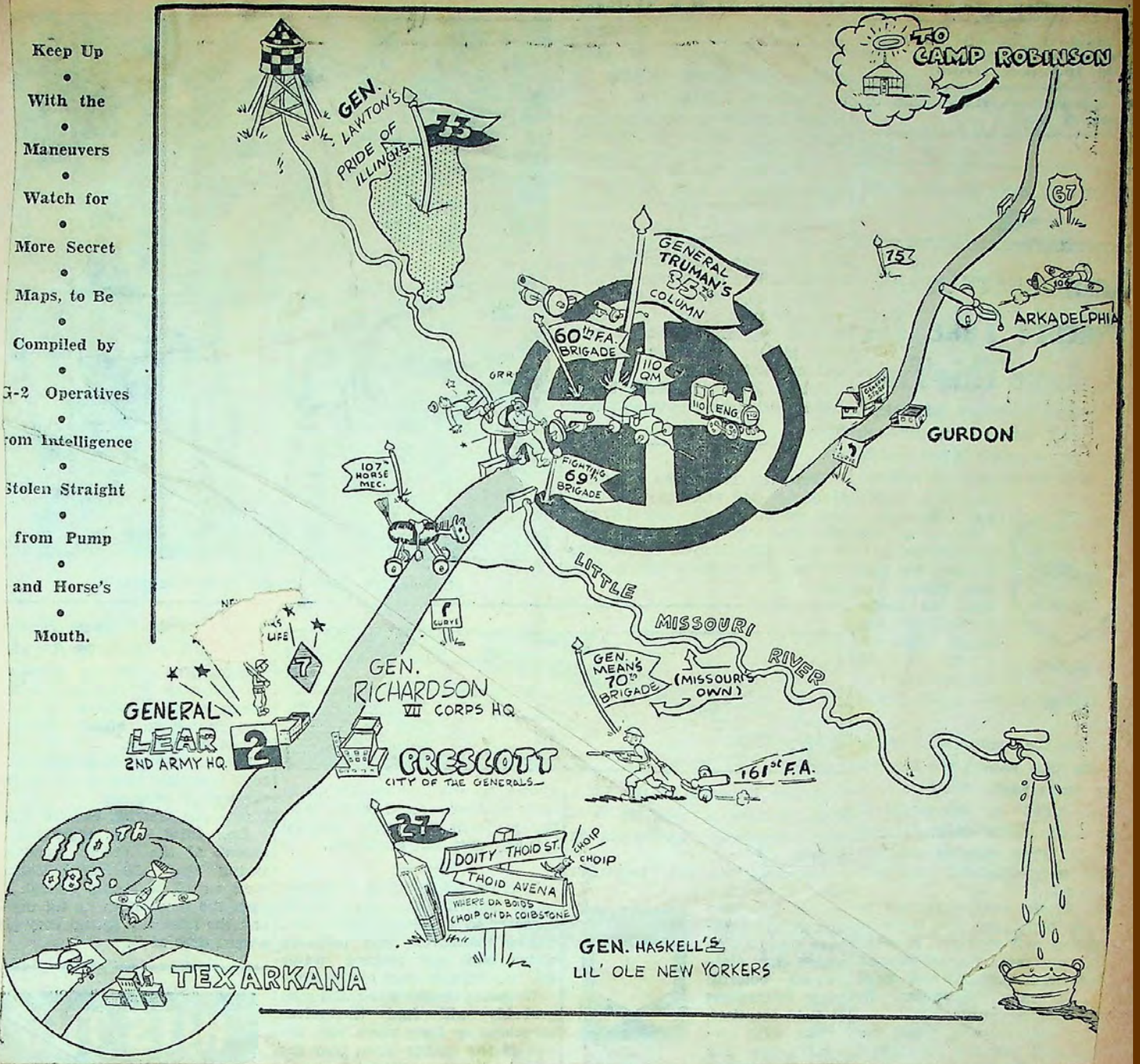
[illegible]

HARRY "HYPER" HANCOCK, Gen-  
 eral assistant and authority on  
 subjects ranging from human-  
 itarianism to FBI dress uniforms,  
 will have a new field with quali-  
 fications of his own. They are  
 when General is as  
 good as dead.  
 He commands Mr. Fowler,  
 whose assistant is (Gen. Hy-  
 per)

[illegible][illegible]

# PART OF THE ARKANSAS OFFENSIVE ... SITUATION ON AUG. 15 1941

Keep Up  
•  
With the  
•  
Maneuvers  
•  
Watch for  
•  
More Secret  
•  
Maps, to Be  
•  
Compiled by  
•  
G-2 Operatives  
•  
from Intelligence  
•  
Stolen Straight  
•  
from Pump  
•  
and Horse's  
•  
Mouth.



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