

House Queries Services on Promotions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (UP)—House investigators yesterday asked the Army and Navy for a complete list of officers who received "fluff" promotions which entitled them to more disability pay.

An official of the House armed forces subcommittee said "hundreds" of officers were promoted one grade just prior to being discharged for disability. Lifetime tax-free allowances paid in such retirements are based on 75 per cent of the highest pay received while in service.

Committee sources said meanwhile a handful of officers already have replied to its subpoena-backed questionnaire—and that a high percentage of those who answered admitted they were drawing pay checks in private jobs.

At least one officer, whose name was withheld, is making "good money" and the subcommittee may look further into his "disability," it was said.

The committee spokesman indicated it would be no reflection on any officer if he reports he is gainfully employed, but added that if an officer is drawing high pay in a job which requires considerable ability, the subcommittee may investigate his right to a pension.

Keyes Praises American Aid

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our job ahead and rededicate ourselves to faith in the American way of life."

AGRC Plans Festivities To Celebrate New Year

PARIS, Dec. 31 (Special)—The U.S. Army Graves Registration Command, the last of the military forces left in Northwestern Europe, will observe New Year's with parties, dances and dinners in France, Belgium, Holland and England, according to an announcement by the public information office here today. The scattered groups in Germany will be entertained at special parties.

At noon tomorrow Brig. Gen. H. L. Peckham, commanding officer of the AGRC, will receive the officers and their families at a reception at the Hotel Wagram, Paris.

Trieste Troops to Have Traditional New Year's

TRIESTE, Dec. 31 (S&S)—TRUST troops will see the old year out and the new one in in traditional Stateside style, with dances at all enlisted men's and officers' clubs through the wee hours of New Year's Eve and with receptions, official and unofficial, at homes on New Year's Day.

The biggest social event of New Year's Eve will be a dance marking the opening of the new game room at the 351st Regt. Officers' Club, with Col. Numa Watson and his staff as hosts.

On New Year's Day there will be an open house at the regimental club.

Rhine Flood Crest Moving Through EC; Main Recedes

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ing on schedule tomorrow. Most trains from France today were arriving late, they said.

Bremerhaven Barge Traffic Benefited by High Water

BREMERHAVEN, Dec. 31 (S&S)—Bremerhaven today laid claim to being one of the few EC areas, if not the only one, actually benefited

Barkley, Zone Diplomats Confer



Sen. Alben W. Barkley (D-Ky.), in center, confers on his arrival in Germany for a fact-finding tour with Robert Murphy (right), political adviser to Gen. Lucius D. Clay, and Carmel Offie, Frankfurt chief of the political adviser's office. Dismantling and the DP situation are among Barkley's tour interests. —S&S

Baby Carrying Ritual Spans 22-Year Period

FRANKFURT, Dec. 31 (S&S) Pamela Ruth, seven-day-old daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Frances Ruth, was carried down the steps of the 97th Gen. Hosp. in the arms of Col. Warren C. Rutter, the same man who carried her mother as an infant out of a San Francisco hospital 22 years ago.

Col. and Mrs. William George Brey, grandparents of the baby, and life-long friends of Rutter, watched the proceedings.

Brey is chief of foreign exchange deposits, and Ruth is in the same division. Rutter is with the budget and fiscal division.

Nation Greet '48 at Home

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (UP)—Bad weather and high prices across the Nation combined today to keep most folks at home to celebrate New Year's Eve. Night clubs expected their smallest crowds in 10 years.

Even the White House is having a hearthside New Year's party—it's first in 16 years.

The weather bureau predicted snow or rain for most of the Nation, with Florida the only state offering sure warm weather and clear skies.

Times Square in New York, where millions usually jam the 14-block area to welcome the new year when a huge lighted ball drops on Times Tower, was slushy with snow. Police anticipated the smallest number of celebrants in a decade.

'Miss Philippines' To Be Nun

MANILA, Dec. 31 (AP)—Evangeline de Castro, 17-year-old "Miss Philippines" who appeared in the Atlantic City beauty contest last summer and has been feted steadily since her return to Manila, announced today she will become a nun. "I am bored with social life and so many dances," she told the Daily Pacifican, an Army newspaper.

Molotov Asks 'Guarantee'

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Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Finland have come into force," Molotov stated, "one might think that the time has come to tackle the peace treaty with Germany... It is the U.S. who at present offers the most stubborn resistance."

Soviet Treaty Proposal Gets Chilly Reception in London

LONDON, Dec. 31 (UP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov's proposal that the Council of Foreign Ministers launch new efforts toward the German and Japanese peace settlements met with a chilly reception in London today.

The spokesman refused to comment on Molotov's obvious bid for another meeting of the Foreign Ministers Council. It is known many British officials share the view that last month's fiasco demonstrated that further meetings would be useless.

Rita Is Selected Miss Cheesecake

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smiles to the faces of thousands of GIs. She wowed 'em, in fact, and Weekend magazine printed three pages full of her.

Inside, the magazine devoted nine pages to singing the praises of Rita and explaining why she had become the "love goddess" of America.

The article pointed out that at least 6,000 Americans a week were busy writing her poems and prayers.

When the U.S. was testing its atom bombs at Bikini, her picture was pasted to an atomic bomb.

Rita was born Margarita Carmen Cansino, the daughter of Spanish-Irish-American parents, Oct. 17, 1918. Her parents, then living in New York, were dancers.

Production Urged By Van Wagoner

MUNICH, Dec. 31 (S&S)—Murray D. Van Wagoner, OMGB director, today recommended a New Year's resolution to the Bavarian people in an address over Radio Munich. "I recommend to you," Van Wagoner said, "one resolution that should not be broken. It should read something like this: 'I resolve to produce at least one good thing for my fellowman during 1948.'"

Beebe Leads Discussion

WURZBURG, Dec. 31—Brig. Gen. Lewis C. Beebe personally conducted an officers' Information and Education discussion at the Kitzingen Basic Training Center on the subject "Occupation of Japan."

Lovett Says UN Bars Support of Greek Reds

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP)—Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett said it would "clearly be contrary to the principles of the United Nations charter" if any nation recognized the newly proclaimed Greek Communist state.

Lovett said that if any of Greece's northern neighbors extends recog-

nition the "act would constitute open disregard" of recent recommendations in the UN Assembly.

At a news conference Lovett also said the issue of using more American aid funds to buy military supplies for the Greek army was under constant consideration by the aid mission.

Asked whether the U. S. was standing on the policy of sending only technical advisers instead of troops to help Greece resist Communist pressure, he replied the policy was to be related to the circumstances. He added he was unwilling to say at present what American policy might be in the future.

Responding to another question he said he knows of no discussions current with Britain to retain British forces in Greece. The agreement with Britain on this point early this year covered schedules which took into account certain conditions and circumstances, Lovett said. He declined to elaborate.

Relief Nears For Konitza; Rebels Retreat

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reach the town. Press dispatches which placed the Greek forces at two kilometers from Bourazani said the bridge there was still intact.

Guerrilla losses in the last two days were described as heavy, with troops finding more than 150 bodies.

Military observers said that Greek troop control of the strategic heights southwest and west of Konitza meant that the defenders were 90 per cent relieved.

Meanwhile, press reports from Komotini said that troops had finished mopping-up operations in the Rodopi area on the Bulgarian frontier where an estimated 2,500 guerrillas had resisted strongly with reinforcements from Bulgaria.

Truman...

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toward establishment of a common ground on which international problems could be resolved without bitterness.

The President wished all present at his news conference—and all the Nation—a happy and prosperous 1948.

He then gave expression to his hope for world peace, remarking that he hadn't intended to make a speech, but it looked as though he were going to do so.

Student Commits Suicide

PRAGUE, Dec. 31 (UP)—A 22-year-old student of existentialism took his philosophy very seriously and shot himself dead with a pistol, Monday.

New Japan at Hand, MacArthur Says

TOKYO, Dec. 31 (UP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur told the Japanese people in a New Year's message that the remodeling of Japan along democratic lines is nearly complete and future developments lie largely in their own hands.

"The design of a remodeled and reconstructed Japan is nearing completion. The pattern has been etched and the path laid. Development now lies largely in your own hands...," MacArthur declared.

He warned the Japanese that their path would not yet be easy and individual hardship would be inevitable. Some economic controls will be retained at least temporarily but will be removed as soon as possible, he said.

Two Top Positions Filled In 'Voice of America' Office

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (UP)—Two career Government officials were named to top posts in the State Department's Office of Information and Education exchange, which operates the "Voice of America" broadcast.

Leland Barrows, of Hutchinson, Kan., was named deputy director of the office and Charles W. Thayer, of Villa Nova, Pa., expert on Soviet affairs, was appointed acting chief of the International Broadcasting Division.

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