PARTY TO BE GIVEN FRIDAY FOR DRAFTEES

Albia Mayor Will Address Nine Men Leaving for Training

Mayor Charles B. Dearinger will be principal speaker at a specially arranged program to be given at the firemen's hall here Friday evening in honor of nine selectees, largest single group to be inducted into the army from Monroe county, who will entrain for Fort Des Moines at 3:10 a.m. Saturday.

An evening of entertainment is planned for the farewell party which will be climax ed with a midnight lunch at the Maid- Rite Sandwich shop. The local fire department, is cooperating in the festivities.

Men who will leave Saturday morning on the Wabash road are Ed McDonald, Bryan Clark, Frank Brozovich, Jr., Harry Davis' and Donald Frye, all of Albia; Lawrence Shilling, John Blomgren and John Heyland, all of Lovilia, and Thomas O'Brien of Melrose.

Source: Albia Union Republican, April 24, 1941 (0064_0_19)

Joe Ciska and Corp. Edward O'Brien of Camp Claiborne, La., Gerald Kearney of Camp Bowie, Tex., and Walter Maney of Camp Benning, Ga., arrived this week to spend the Christmas holidays at their homes here.

Source: Albia Union Republican, December 18, 1941

Sgt. Tom O'Brien Now Member of Hospital Staff in Italy
Overall Death Rate is Only One-Tenth of One Percent.

Sgt. Thomas J. O'Brien, husband of Mrs. Bernice O'Brien of Hiteman, Iowa, and son of Mr. John F. O'Brien of Melrose, Iowa, is now serving in Italy with a Station Hospital which has made an impressive record during almost two years of service overseas. During that time the total number of patients taken care of is somewhat over 3000% of the rated bed capacity of the hospital.

The hospital was activated at Fort Lewis, Washington, 15 July 1942, and reorganized 15 December 1942 at double its original size. It is literally a cross-section of America; the personnel come from all sections of the country, and included are American Indians and Chinese. The medical and dental officers are graduates of 18 different American universities and two European universities.

Old Timer

The commanding officer of the hospital is Colonel Frank F. Schade, M.C., who has been a Reserve Officer since 1930.

The organization sailed from the United States in March, 1943, and first set up the hospital at Constantine, Algeria. It moved to Italy in January, 1944, and at present occupies its second location in Italy. Although the building was not a hospital originally, it has been converted into one of the finest hospitals in the theater.

Low Death Rate

Figures cannot be given, but the overall death rate has been slightly over one tenth of one per cent.

The hospital has functioned both as a station hospital for the care of the sick and injured of the area in which it has been located, and in the chain of evacuation of battle casualties. Its versatility is further attested to by the fact that in addition to American patients, Canadians, British, Yugoslavs, Polish, French, Italians, and French Colonials have been treated. Sgt. O'Brien has been in the Army for 44 months and overseas for 16 months, serving in North Africa and Italy. Prior to entering the service, he was a farmer, employed by his father. He attended Melrose high school.
Thomas Ed O'Brien

Thomas Ed O'Brien, 79, of Albia, died Thursday, Nov. 21, 1996, at his residence. Services will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Albia, the Rev. Thomas Doyle officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Melrose with military rites.

He was born Sept. 20, 1917, in Albia to John F. O’Brien and Agnes McDonald O’Brien. He married Bernice Golden June 12, 1943. She died March 27, 1992. He retired from the Veterans Administration Hospital in Knoxville and had also farmed in Monroe County. He was a member of St. Mary’s Church, Knights of Columbus, VFW, and had served in the Army during WWII.

He is survived by three sons, Tom of Albia, Denny of Lovilia, and Dale of Oskaloosa; four daughters, Sharon Carder and Marlene Noland, both of Des Moines, Margaret O’Brien of Altoona, and Donna Whisler of Albia; 19 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; and a sister Theresa Welch of Romeoville, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two infant sons; four brothers; and three sisters.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday with a vigil service at 7 p.m. at the Gilbert-Nordstrom Funeral Home, South Chapel.

Memorials may be made to the Knights of Columbus Special Olympics.

Gilbert-Nordstrom Funeral Homes, Inc. is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Source: Albia Union Republican, November 28, 1996