

BUFFALO

BUGLE

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BUFFALO BALKS AT ROTATION

A 26-year-old Master Sergeant, having accumulated more than 64 points, will begin a long journey home next month.....against his will.

This is his story.

M/Sgt. Frank M. Catha, a BUFFALO medic, veteran of more than 19 months combat service in Korea began his military career in September, 1950, just two short months after the Korean conflict started.

Though Frank was adept in pugilism and played baseball, football and various other sports while in high school, he was turned down by the Army and Navy when he tried to enlist because of a compound fracture of his right elbow during early childhood. He cannot straighten his right arm.

"I heard that the National Guard 773rd Heavy Tank Battalion was preparing for activation, so I joined them without too much difficulty," he explained. "I signed up with them that morning and by afternoon the unit had been called to active duty; I was in."

Completing his initial training, he asked for and received orders to attend the Army's Medical Field Service School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Sixteen weeks later he graduated as a competent medical aid man and within a month he found himself on orders for the Far East and duty with Medical Detachment, 70th Tank Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. He arrived in Korea in July, 1951.

As a combat medic, he traveled with the Division through such battlegrounds as Ujonbu, Yonohon, Kumhwa, Chorwon, and it was in this sector in November that he was wounded in his leg and arm by mortar shrapnel. Returned to a rear aid station, Catha refused to be evacuated to Japan; but while his wounds healed, he and his division were pulled off the lines and sent to Japan.

After two months of duty in Hokkaido, he became restless and volunteered to return to Korea.

"At the time I was wounded I felt like I was doing something; then we pulled out," the tall, good looking sergeant exclaimed. "I wanted to finish doing my share."

Armed with a letter from his former Stateside commander, then leading the 73rd Tank Battalion, Bayonet Division, Sergeant Catha was accepted and given the job of Tank Company First Sergeant.

IN KOREA

Outnumbered American Sabre Jets blasted four Russian-built MIGs to destruction in raging, high altitude duels Saturday.

The Fifth Air Force said that probably another MIG was destroyed and two more damaged in the furious aerial battle just south of the Yalu River, the boundary line between North Korea and Red Manchuria.

"I remained there for three months, but the job was too tame and too far back; so I joined the BUFFALO Regiment as platoon sergeant of Collecting Company."

Once there he asked for duty "on the line" and was sent to the first battalion as a combat medic. In August of 1952, he was recommended for the Bronze Star for valor displayed in intense action on "Sugar Loaf Hill." His quick thinking and action saved the life of a fallen BUFFALO comrade.

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CO Col. William L. Hardick
OIC 2nd Lt. Gus Chambers
Editor PFC Robert W. Reichheld

SPORTS

Mike Jacobs, a onetime newsboy in New York slums, who rose to become the first international boxing "czar" in ring history, died in Miami Beach early yesterday. Death was caused from a long heart illness.

John Landy's heralded try for the world's first four minute mile failed Saturday in Perth, Australia.

Running on a grass track for the first time the 22-year-old Aussie was timed at 4:04.2, far below the world mark of 4:01.4 seconds set by Sweden's Gunder Haegg in 1945.

Maureen Connolly and Julie Sampson of the United States added to their list of Australian titles Saturday as they annexed the women's doubles in the South Australian championships, beating Mrs. Athiele and Miss H. Angwin of Australia, 6-4 and 6-1 in the final.

Men's doubles were rained out.

The U.S. Military Academy announced Saturday that the colorful Army-Notre Dame football series, suspended after the 1947 season, will be resumed in 1957.

Chunky Mel Ott, the personable, goose stepping outfielder who slammed his way into baseball's Hall of Fame and won thousands of fans with his warm smile, hung up his spikes for good Friday.

Manager of Oakland of the Pacific Coast League for the past two seasons after 22 years with the New York Giants, Ott said his building construction firm on the West Coast now requires his complete attention and he is deserting the dugout for an executive's desk.

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CATHA CONTINUED----

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"Unquestionably," a battalion surgeon remarked, "Sergeant Catha's actions were above the call of duty, because it was strictly on his own volition that he left the aid station and went into the field."

Catha, sensing that rotation was near, applied for an inter-FECOM transfer to enable him to prolong his stay in the Far East. It returned disapproved. Again it was submitted and this time when it returned rejected, his unit placed him on the rotation list.

"I would like very much to remain in the Far East," Catha said. "I've learned a lot while in the Army. I like to travel and the Army has really satisfied my desires."

Asked what plans he had if and when he rotated to the United States, Catha replied, "Since I've had no luck transferring within the Far East, I plan to ask for duty in Europe as soon as I return." He has three years more to do on his present hitch.

Sergeant Catha comes from a family steeped in the traditions of the military. Strange as it seem he has had two sisters and two brothers who saw service in the United States Navy. He is the only member of the family who has been in the Army.

"I have," Catha added, "64 points now and I'd like to make it 99."

By Ed Dorsey

IN KOREA----

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Allied fighter-bombers, meanwhile, dumped high explosives on rail bridges and blasted a troop concentration near the east coast and bombed and strafed Communist frontline positions on the western sector.

On the ground, Allied raiders killed and wounded 50 Chinese Reds in a pre-dawn hit and run raid against 150-175 Communists holding a knoll northwest of "Porkchop Hill" on the northwestern front. UN Infantry defenders threw back three Red probing attacks along the front, driving off 20 Chinese who assaulted an advance position southeast of Kumsong, beating off a similar attack on "Capitol Hill," in the same sector, and smashing a North Korean platoon that hit west of the "Punchbowl" on the eastern front.