

Television Officer Explains Shortage Of Filmed Shows

Considering the size of the defense budget, the average American might be hard to convince that most agents acting for the armed forces haven't mazzuma in plenty to toss about with both fists. So when one of these agents comes around with hat in hand instead of a bankroll, perhaps it is not surprising that he should be met with the cold shoulder and the steely eye.

Such is the plight of Lt. Col. Mel Williamson, a « beggar » on behalf of servicemen stationed overseas.

As radio-television chief in the office of the Defense Secretary, Colonel Williamson is in charge of the 18 low-power TV stations the armed forces have set up in far parts of the world. Servicemen stationed in places like Thule in Greenland have little contact with the world they knew and the chance to watch some television shows has been a godsend to them.

The shows must be on film, so Colonel Williamson asks the advertisers, networks and producers to lend him their kinescope recordings and films when they have no further commercial use for them. Most advertisers, who sponsor 154 of the 181 programs the armed forces would like to telecast on their stations, have granted permission for their shows to be used. Including commercials.

But at that point the colonel has to start begging. He has to get the actual film from the networks and the producers. And it isn't easy.

Here's what one big producer told Williamson in this connection, according to a recent interview carried by TV Guide: « Don't give me stuff about Thule. The war's over. The Armed Forces pay for trucks; let 'em pay for film, too ».

Unfortunately, the colonel has no budget for film. So he argues with the owners to this effect: after a kinescope recording, or an extra print of a film show, has served its purpose, it is of no use to anyone BUT the armed forces.

The result has been disappointing.

« I've watched them destroy 30 to 40 prints of a show I'd been begging for » he said. « I've been told by a network that there were no prints available of a show I wanted, and then heard one of the people who work on it admit there was a packing case full of prints in his office. I couldn't get one of them ».

The picture has not been a uniform black. Desi Arnez goes out of his way to provide prints of « I Love Lucy », « December Bride » and other shows he produces. The American Tobacco Co. makes a special kinescope recording of « Your Hit Parade » so that troops overseas can see the show promptly.

During one recent week, the radio-TV branch received just over a third of the 154 shows that had been cleared by advertisers. In the long run, this meant that troops in remote parts of Alaska (for example) wound up with only six hours of new material that week.

As Williamson put it: « Obviously, money would cure all our ills, but it seems sort of odd to have to pay for something that is going to be destroyed, as in the case of kines, or a print that has already seen its full life expectancy ». (Reprinted from Army Times)

Shift Affects Four Generals

Washington — Reassignments for four top Army generals to be shifted when U.S. Far East Forces are placed under the Commander-In-Chief, Pacific, in Hawaii next July 1, have been announced.

General Luman L. Lemnitzer, who has been both Commander-In-Chief, United Nations Command in Korea and the Far East Command in Tokyo since June 1955, will become Army Vice Chief of Staff in Washington.

General George H. Decker, Deputy Commander-In-Chief, U.S. Forces Europe, will relieve Gen. Lemnitzer as Commander-In-Chief, United Nations Command, with headquarters in Seoul. Gen. Decker also will be commander, U.S. Forces Korea, and Commanding General Eighth Army.

General Williston B. Palmer, Vice Chief of Staff since May 1955, will assume Gen. Decker's post in Europe.

General Isaac D. White, now AFPE and Eighth Army Commander will become Commander-In-Chief, U.S. Army, Pacific (AFPS)



CATHOLIC

Sunday:
0900, Mass in Post Chapel.
1730, Mass in Post Chapel

Wednesday:
1500, Father Louis in Chaplain's Office for consultation.
1530, Catechism Class in Post Chapel.

JEWISH

Friday:
Service held at sundown in the Asmara Synagogue, 11 Via Lorenzini. Kagnew Station personnel of this faith are cordially welcome.

PROTESTANT

Sunday:
0900, Receiver Site Service.
1000, Sunday School with preschool children in CINTIA PX Concession building, school-age children in Dependents School.
1000, Adult Bible Class in TV station studio.
1100, General Protestant Service in Post Chapel.
1830, United Youth Fellowship meeting in Post Chapel.
1930, Vesper Services in Post Chapel.

Wednesday:
1530, Junior Choir rehearsal in Post Chapel.

Thursday:
1930, Senior Choir rehearsal in Post Chapel.

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sunday
1400, Meeting in Post Chapel.
1900, Fireside at SP3 Rouse's quarters (1st and 3rd Sunday).

Book Shelf Previews

The latest shipment of new books received by the Post Library was one of the most diversified collections imaginable. The fifteen new volumes range in scope from farcical humor to underground intrigue, and from an informative essay on safe driving to the latest adventure of the famed Mr. Moto.

Perhaps the most publicized of the books is « Last Angry Man », a best selling novel by Gerald Green and spirited satire on the television industry.

« Incredible Ivan Kreuger », by Allen Churchill, is the biography of one of the world's greatest swindlers; it is the story of his fantastic financial manipulations which enabled him to outwit bankers, kings and governments throughout the world.

Humor is amply provided by « Road to Milltown; or, Under the Spreading Atrophy », another collection of tongue-in-cheek commentaries on life by that master punster, S. J. Perelman.

For those interested in man's constant struggle for freedom, there's « East German Rising », in which author Stefan Brant recalls the dramatic happenings of June 17, 1953, when the people of the East of Germany rose up against their oppressors; this account by one who was actually on the spot tells the story of the mounting controls and impositions that led to the uprising, the events of the day and after. A book that could well have a profound effect on the intelligent reader's driving habits is Paul W. Kearney's « I Drive the Turnpikes and Survive ». He carefully explains why driving on America's new super highways is different and how the driver can combat fatigue, highway hypnosis and other deadly hazards.

Not to be forgotten, of course, is the aforementioned Mr. Moto who makes an unexpected but delightful return to the detective wars in John Marquand's latest offering, « Stopover: Tokyo ».

Also included in this month's selections are: « Lucky Larabee », by Brand; « The Naked Sun », Asimov; « Guns of Navarone », MacLean; « The Fruit Tramp », Williams; « Opportunist », Yourd; « Blue Camellia », Keyes; « For Love of Marta », Winter; « The O.S.S. and I », Morgan; and « Fire Trap », by Cameron.

Army Sets High Standards For Future Reenlistments

Washington — The Army has established new standards for reenlistment after April 19, 1957. These higher standards will require reenlistees to score a minimum of 90 in at least three aptitude areas of the Army Classification Battery.

Under the revised requirements devised to provide the Army with higher quality career soldiers, the test scores will reflect the individual's potential in specific occupational fields. The Armed Forces Qualification Test given at the time of induction no longer will determine eligibility to reenlist, the Army said.

The aptitude areas scored rate capabilities in the occupational fields of electronics, combat, motor, precision and electrical maintenance, clerical, graphics, general technical, special assignments and military crafts.

Reenlistees excepted from the new policy include those in grade E-4 through E-7, with less than 10 years service, possessing aptitude in at least one area and who are approved by the Department of the Army; individuals with 10 to 20 years service and who are acceptable to unit or higher headquarters; soldiers awarded the silver star medal or higher decoration; partially disabled combat wounded veterans; enlisted men holding reserve or National Guard commissions and Lodge Act enlistees who are otherwise qualified.

Reenlistments under these exceptions will not be accepted after 20 years active service for other than Medal of Honor winners. The Army also said, effective April 20, 1957, individuals previously exempt from physical examinations at time of reenlistment now must be examined (AFPS)

KAGNEW GAZELLE

4th USASA FIELD STATION

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