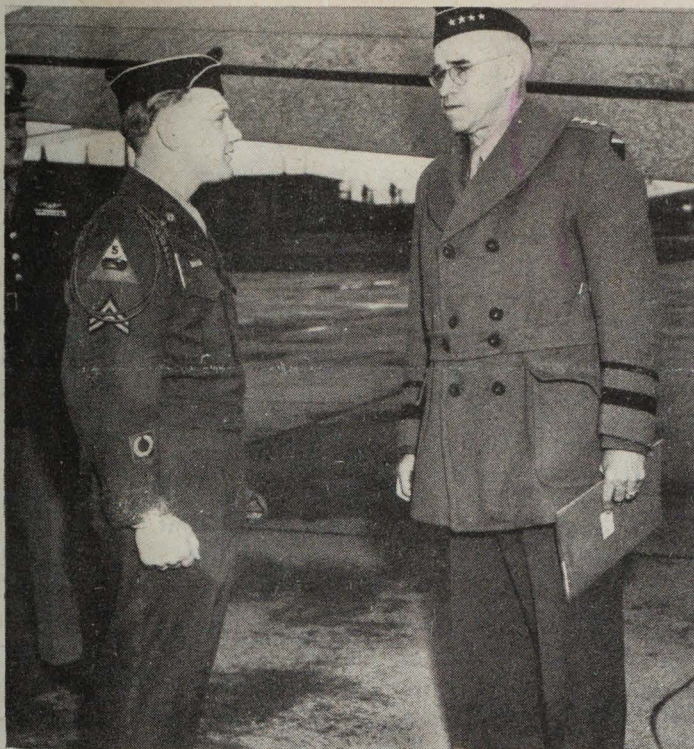


General Bradley Eyes Fort Snelling For Vets Ad.



Talking to General Omar Bradley, chief of Veterans Administration, after he landed at Wold Chamberlain field last Wednesday, April 3rd, is Cpl Eugene Lamm, 21, of 3329 Forty-fourth Ave., S., Minneapolis. Cpl Lamm served under General Bradley in the Second "Hell on Wheels" and the Fifth Armored Divisions and fought in three major battles—the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe campaigns. His unit was the first foreign division to be presented the Fourragere from the Government of Belgium for its participation in the Battle of the Bulge in 1945.

Cpl Lamm, who re-enlisted for three years last November, left Fort Snelling a few days ago for Camp Hood, Texas, to join his old division.

Fort Snelling was honored last Wednesday, April 3, by the visit of General Omar Bradley, chief of the Veterans Administration who came here on an inspection tour of VA facilities here on this post.

One of his first stops after arriving here was the Post Field House, one of the buildings taken over by the VA. The Post Field House—formerly the center of Fort social and athletic activities—has been transformed into a huge office filled with rows upon rows of desks. Other fort buildings have been loaned to the VA, but at present are undergoing remodeling.

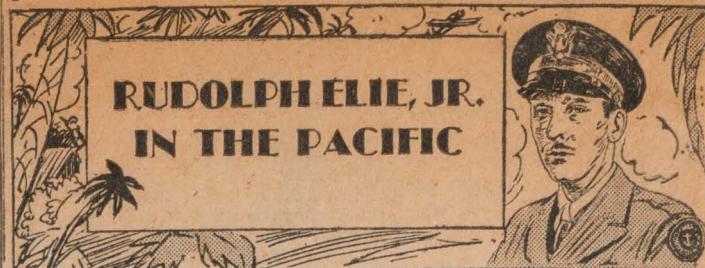
Visits Service Club

Although his one day visit here was "booked full", the "Doughboys' General" took time out during the evening to visit various places of interest around the Fort with Colonel Harry J. Keeley, Post Commander.

One of the stops included the Service Club. EMs there were surprised and startled to see the four star General as he passed through the sub-Post Exchange located in the basement of the building. He also visited the lounge on the first floor and saw the ballroom located on the second floor of the Service Club.

Two of the most surprised persons were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hassett who live at the Service Club. They acted as hosts to General Bradley and Colonel Keeley when they dropped in for a social call. Mrs. Hassett is the Club Hostess and Mr. Hassett is the Post Athletic director.

Tabbed the "Doughboys' General" he is one of the best liked Generals in the ETO and as Cpl Eugene Lamm who acted as an orderly during the General's tour says, "He's tops."



'Snafu' Jap Language Incapable Of Expressing 20th Century Ideas

By RUDOLPH ELIE, JR.

TOKYO (Delayed) —To give you some idea of the complexity of Japanese thought and character and of the dangers of laying down a too hasty policy concerning the occupation of Japan or the re-education of the Japanese, I will have to tell you about the Japanese language.

Of course to many Americans any language but English is absurd, thus anybody who doesn't speak English is manifestly a nincompoop. This is a foolish and even a dangerous notion but it springs largely from the fact that few if any Americans have any practical need to know a foreign language, whereas in Europe, with language barriers on all sides, there is a very practical reason for learning another tongue—and it comes a lot easier under such circumstances too.

JAPANESE INADEQUATE

Until the Pacific war, however, nobody but a few Lafcadio Hearn would have thought of learning Japanese. It was much easier to let the Japanese learn English. But now it is necessary for many Americans to know Japanese and know it so well there can be no necessity to employ tricky Japanese middlemen to "translate" the directives of the American command. It is absolutely essential that there be no misunderstanding between us. And this is a really formidable task because it is evident that the Japanese do not really understand each other. They just haven't got a language capable of expressing the ideas of a 20th century world.

The trouble started about 1500 years ago when the Japanese, who didn't have any written language at the time, appropriated Chinese characters to express their own quite different language. Characteristically, they didn't really understand the true nature of the thing they had stolen, and they proceeded to foul it up completely. It's been getting fouler and fouler ever since.

For Chinese characters, though originally picturegraphs, had by the time the Japanese took them over, become very stylized and stood for sounds rather than pictures; one sound to a picture for the Chinese language is monosyllabic. The Japanese language, however, is polysyllabic like our own. Thus if the Japs had merely used Chinese characters to represent various syllables they'd have been more or less all right. But they had to go the Chinese one better: to some of the characters they assigned meanings and to others sounds. As a result the confusion was (and is) terrific as it was very hard to know whether a character was to be given its Chinese meaning with Japanese sound or Chinese sound with Japanese meaning.

When it became evident 800 or 900 years ago that a snafu was in the making, the Japanese scholars got together to straighten things out. So they invented what they call "kana" or abbreviated symbols which, when used with a given character, gave the clue as to whether the character was a sound or a meaning.

The result is that today, even the best-educated Japanese cannot be absolutely sure of the meaning of any written text old or new, nor can he express himself to anyone with perfect clarity and understanding. His mind is muscle-bound with characters, long before he begins learning how to cope with (let alone compete with) the ideas of the western world he so desperately wants to imitate. And because his written language is so incredibly clumsy he has a desperate time trying to express new words or concepts in writing. For example, he named the bicycle a "self-moving wheel." With the motorcycle he had to scratch around a bit and finally came up with "self-moving, self-rotating wheel," while a motor vehicle became a "self-moving, self-rotating very heavy wheel."

The spoken language is crammed with indirections, subtleties and vagaries. "Good morning," literally translated, is "honorably early." If you say "It is hot today" you are actually saying "Honorably hot augustly is." When you say "book" you are saying "root of a tree," and it is up to the listener to decide from the way you said it whether you meant book or the root of a tree. (In English, of course, we have many similar situations, but none to compare for instance with "kan" which has 30 different meanings ranging from "sinister plot" to "indescribable joy.")

"HEADACHE DOES"

If you want to tell somebody not to do that or "lay off," you say "honorably abstaining deign." If you ask "What's his name?" you put it this way: "That person as honorable name is for, what that say?" If you want to know how far it is to the next city you ask: "Here from front of honorable town till mile number as for what about is?" However, if you have a headache (and if you're Japanese it seems to me you'd have a perpetual one) you merely grunt "Headache does."

But my favorite (and I must confess I copied it out of an old travel guide) is the following conversation between master and servant:

Master: Bath has forthcome?
 Servant: Still forthcomes not.
 Master: When honorably deigns forthcome?
 Servant: Forthcomes accordingly.
 Master: When shall have forthcomes informing condescend.
 Servant (bowing): Having been reverential.

So you see, we are up against a terrible language barrier aside from the ideological aspects of the situation. Everything about the Japanese language lends itself to deceit, cunning, imperfect understanding in the transaction of the most ordinary business. So the problems of how we as a people are to make ourselves clear to the Japanese, how we are to convey to them our ideas and our ideals when even they themselves cannot perfectly convey their own ideas to each other, is an enormous challenge to us. We cannot hope to change Japan overnight even if we could be sure exactly what changes should first be made.

Sgt. Barnes sent this