

Soldiers Share in Unusual Adventure

By HERBERT E. SMITH

ON a pleasant Saturday afternoon in August a small but sturdy Army craft cast off from the Army Basin pier at Brooklyn, New York, and pointed her stubby nose out through the Narrows and into the broad bosom of the heaving Atlantic.

The steamer was the **General John McE. Hyde**, a former river craft held in reserve at the Brooklyn base. Her destination was Manila, P. I., with brief stops at Key West, Guantanamo; Kingston, Jamaica; Balboa, Panama Canal Zone; Honolulu and, possibly, Guam.

The unusual feature of this 12,000-mile journey is the fact that the vessel, of a mere fifty tons displacement, was due to be refueled at sea by the transport *Kewanis* which was scheduled to accompany her from Panama to Honolulu, and by the transport *Mtigs* which will convoy the small craft from Honolulu to Manila.

This refueling was planned to be done at sea when climatic conditions permitted; the transfer of fuel and fresh water was to be done from either alongside or astern, depending upon the kind of sea running at the time. From Brooklyn to Panama the *General Hyde* was scheduled to make the run "on her own."

The entire trip promised to be interesting and possessed of an unusual adventurous tinge.

And sharing in the pleasures and thrills of the trip as the steamer stood out to sea were three enlisted men of the Regular Army—Sergeant Frederick H. Gibbs, of the Medical Department at Large, and Privates Carl F. Fornelius and Joseph A. Kohout of the Signal Corps.

Sergeant Gibbs will be "Doc" to the crew of twenty-five aboard the *Hyde*, and Privates Fornelius and Kohout, radio men both, will take turns at the key of the wireless board, keeping the craft in constant touch with nearby ships and land stations.

The *General Hyde*, built in 1922, has been held in reserve at the Brooklyn base for some time, and proceeded to Manila under War Department orders placing her in the Manila-Corregidor run and other service on Manila and Subic bays. Captain Frederick J. Haggerty, master of the *Hyde* on this re-fueling run to Manila, will remain in command of the craft upon arrival in Manila, and the crew of the sturdy little steamer will also serve her in Philippine waters. Captain Haggerty and the crew were all recruited from among the personnel of the U. S. Army transport service.

Equipped with steam-tight bulkheads, shutters, hatches, a breakwater bulkhead on the fore-castle head, four lifeboats and rafts, an emergency towing hawser and bridle, the *General Hyde* was declared to be perfectly seaworthy for the long journey when she left the Brooklyn pier. She is 150 feet long, has a 28 foot beam and 12 foot depth, has an indicated horse-power of 900, and can develop a speed of 18 miles per hour. Leaving Brooklyn, she had 15,000 gallons of oil—the craft being an oil-burner—which would give her a certain cruising radius of ten days, which, even with adverse weather conditions is ample time in which to reach Panama, where the convoying craft, the *Kewanis*, will join her for the trek from there to Honolulu.

"Way For the Engineers!"

Enthusiastic baseball rooters of Fort Humphreys, Virginia, carried White of the Engineers nine off the diamond on their shoulders recently at the conclusion of a thrilling contest between the Engineer School team and the fast Fort George G. Meade (Md.) squad. The game developed into an intense pitching duel between Rahn, on the mound for the home nine, and Wagner for the visiting Meade nine, with victory finally perching on the Engineers' banner when White came through with a timely hit in the last inning to make the score 3 to 0 in favor of Fort Humphreys.

By this victory, Fort Humphreys extended its winning streak to seven games. This team has suffered no defeats and it now assured a play-off with the winners of Group II of the Third Corps Area League—consisting of teams from Fort Hoyle, Edgewood Arsenal, Holabird Q. M. Depot and Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Engineers proved the class of Group I—Fort Washington, Headquarters, Washington District, Fort Meade, Army Medical Center being the teams in that circuit with Fort Humphreys.

In addition to cleaning up among soldier nines, the Engineer aggregation has taken several good civilian teams into camp, including such rivals as the

Metropolitan police nine of Washington, and the Navy Yard and Naval Hospital teams, leaders of the strong Government League in the Capital.

Miniature Golf at Army Post

Company I, 28th Infantry, has gone "Tom Thumb golf," too, according to a Fort Sam Houston, Texas, flash. The infantrymen are constructing a nine-hole miniature course on their parade ground, with many novel obstacles.

Members of the company will be allowed to play free, while other soldiers and civilians will be assessed a small playing fee.

