

Trenton—Day By Day!

All branches of the armed forces are represented on Federal Judge Phillip Forman's staff. Keeping a watch over the private chambers of the Judge is a former Marine Corps sergeant, Samuel M. Rabinowitz. The man who serves the Judge as a bailiff and court crier is a former Army captain, Clifford R. Moore. Back in the conference room, poring over legal documents and law reports is an ex-Navy lieutenant, Clifton C. Bennett who knows how it feels to have a Kamikaze strike his ship. They form a trio that harbors no war talk. It is very easy to see why.

The senior member of this brain trust is Rabinowitz who wore a staff sergeant's chevrons during the war years. At the age of 44 when most men of his age were guarding the home front, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, went through 10 torrid weeks of combat training at Parris Island, S. C. and emerged a sadder but wiser man. He boasts that he was one of the oldest and one of the shortest men in Parris Island. He didn't get any medals for this qualification. But he learned how to fight and that is important in the Marine Corps. However, he doesn't think there is much future to the job.

Rabinowitz thought he was an old man in boot training until one night, after three weeks of training, the recruits were permitted to attend a movie in the camp theatre. Immediately he spotted a "shining bald head" down front. To himself, he said, that could belong to only one man and that one came from Trenton. Rabinowitz investigated and met up with Jack Moss, several years older, who was going through his own training. The reunion was as joyous as Marine Corps ethics permitted.

Bennett, who likes to style himself a "New Jersey boy of North Carolina extraction" and whose home town is Wadesboro, N. C., decided that the Navy was best suited for his qualifications. It didn't take him long to find out that there were several things about a ship with which he was quite unfamiliar.

After graduating from a naval training course at Princeton, he was assigned to a desk job in New York. The work paled on him, he grew a little impatient with the title of chairborne commando, and applied for sea duty. He got it in such large quantities, and in so many different parts of the world, that he became a trifle confused. First it was convoy duty across the Atlantic between the United States and North Africa on a destroyer escort, certainly no luxury liner.

Later he turned to the Pacific and it was at Okinawa that the reputation of the Kamikaze suicide pilots of the Japanese air force was borne out in a remarkably vivid manner. One of these little monsters struck his ship squarely and solidly, causing considerable damage. "I've been gunshy ever since," says the former lieutenant who is known as "Click" to his friends.

It was at Leyte Gulf that a coincidence caught up with him. Back in 1943 he had attended the Princeton naval training school

with Frank Thompson Jr., son of Mrs. Beatrice Thompson, secretary of the Mercer County Tuberculosis and Health League. At Leyte, after months of strenuous action at sea, the crew of his vessel was given a respite. Bennett headed straight for the 7th Fleet Officers' Club with one thought in mind. To get a bottle of cold beer, something he hadn't had for a long time. And who do you think had the same idea? That's right. Lieutenant Thompson. Another reunion.

We now come to the junior member of the brain trust, Cliff Moore, former school teacher, former field artillery captain and now a law student at Temple University at night. Moore has had plenty of army life and is glad that it is all behind him. A member of the National Guard since 1935, he was called to active duty as a first lieutenant in January of 1941. After training at Fort Dix his outfit was sent to New York to guard that city against sabotage. This was the 372d Infantry, nicknamed the Subway Commandos.

His company had charge of guarding the bridges across the East River between Union Square and 96th Street, together with the subway emergency exits. One of the duties was to guard the French liner Normandie. On February 7, 1942 the army turned the craft over to the Coast Guard, and Moore's outfit was sent back to Fort Dix. Two days later they were recalled. A fire had broken out on the giant liner and Moore's company was stationed on a pier along the skyway drive where he had a good view of the burning craft.

As a member of the 600th Field Artillery of the 92d Division, he was sent to Africa in September of 1944, took part in the Rome-Arno battle, the battle for Northern Italy and the Po Valley engagements. He was wounded twice at Genoa and has the right to wear the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and three battle stars on his ribbons. Here, too, is another coincidence. Three of the men in his outfit were students in a class that he taught in Lawnside where he was a teacher from 1935 to 1940. Moore was mustered out of service on March 18, 1946, with the rank of captain.

The three men have a common interest in law. Rabinowitz, who is now 48 lives at 521 South Warren Street, is a graduate of Trenton High School, Class of 1916. He attended Princeton University and graduated from Wayne University, Detroit in 1928 where he received his law degree. He was admitted to the Michigan bar during the same year. His present position is that of personal secretary to Judge Forman, who, by the way, is a veteran of World War I. The Navy, to be sure.

Bennett attended Duke University and received his law degree from the University of North Carolina, and is now an attorney-at-law of the State of New Jersey. He looks like a younger edition of Supreme Court Justice William Douglas but wishes that he knew as much law as the Justice does.

Moore, who hails from Magnolia where his father is a physician, is a graduate of Glassboro State

Teachers College. He is studying law now at Temple University, but law is only one of the many subjects in which he is especially interested. Music, literature, history are subjects dear to his heart. He is even an expert on pipes. For some time he has been active in the affairs of the American Veterans Committee, an organization which he believes is destined to play an important part in the future of the country's economic future.

Now, a final word in passing. If you happen to have business in Judge Forman's chambers and you also happen to be an ex-marine, confine your shop talk to former Sergeant Rabinowitz. If a Navy veteran, make for the conference room where former Navy Lieutenant Bennett is located. And, if of the army, former Army Captain Moore is your man. But don't get them together at one time. It's not healthy.

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