

Devoted To The Interests Of The Fantasy Fan In The Armed Forces

THE Fan-Vet

Published monthly by THE FANTASY VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Commander: James V. Taurasi Secretary: Ray Van Houten

Volume I, Number 1

September, 1950

THE C.O.'S REPORT

Veterans of World War II know what it means to be isolated from science-fiction after years of activity in the fan field --- to be cut off without even the stuff to read.

Soldiers overseas are voracious readers, and science-fiction fans doubly so. However, for the average Joe, western, detective and other material of that type was not too hard to obtain. Science-fiction, on the other hand, was as rare as goldfish feathers.

This situation was discussed on the spot with heart-felt fervor during the summer of 1945, when one of war's amazing coincidences brought two very active science-fiction fans together in war-demolished Le Havre, France.

The fans were Jimmy Taurasi, a sergeant in a Medium Port Battalion, and Ray Van Houten, an RTO sergeant working with the French railroads.

Both of us had been overseas for many months, and we were ab-

solutely starved for even one issue of the lousiest stf pulp put out. The last stf mag either of us had seen was a copy of the slim and scarce British edition of "Astounding", and that issue was almost a year old.

We had friends and relatives in the US who could send mags to us, but for one reason or another this source of supply just didn't work out.

The idea struck us then that there should be some fan organization set up to handle this situation, a n organization that would act as agent for fan soldiers in obtaining mags and books and which could make outright donations of science-fiction and fantasy reading material to armed forces personnel whenever and wherever the need arose.

An idea for a fantasy fans' veterans' fraternal organization was also discussed, and it was only natural that the two ideas should eventually combine themselves.

The result was THE FANTASY

Membership in THE FANTASY VETERANS ASSOCIATION is open to all veterans with at least 90 days service, whose discharge was other than dishonorable, or present members of the armed forces who have served at least 90 days. Men and women, officers and EM, it doesn't matter. Interested fantasy fans should write to Secretary Ray Van Houten, 409 Market Street, Paterson 3, N. J., for a membership application form.

Besides the advantages of being fraternally associated with other people who share not only the hobby of science-fiction, but the experiences of military service as well, an immediate satisfaction in joining the FAN-VETS is the opportunity to perform real service to fellow fantasy fans in the armed forces.

VETERANS ASSOCIATION.

We first visualized the organization as a stand-by, far-in-the-future operation, and along these lines we began a very leisurely membership campaign, which has now built up a list of about twenty members. We figured that any real need for the services of the organization would not come for at least several years.

But now world events have drastically altered the timetable. The need of fan-soldiers for stf reading material, which they might not be able to get where they are stationed, could occur within months, and will certainly become greater before another year is past.

Therefore, we feel that the time to get going on this thing is right now.

There are many services that FAN - VETS can render to fans who get caught in the draft. We hate to think that fans this time will be in the same stf-less situation as we were, and we are sure that our fellow fan-vets feel the same way about it.

THIS YOU CAN DO NOW

If you have the present addresses of any members of the armed forces who would be interested in receiving stf and fantasy reading material, please send them to us.

We will contact this soldier sailor or marine and put him wise to what we can do for him.

We request that local and national fan clubs co-operate with us on this point and send us any service addresses that they have, and also to let us know when any of their members, or other fans in their area, enter the armed forces.

HOW WE CAN
TAKE CARE OF
OUR OWN BOYS

It is very difficult for a fan to keep his civilian enthusiasm for fantasy alive under the burden of military life.

It's a miserable feeling to be stuck in a camp somewhere, usually miles out in the sticks, with hardly a dog's chance for the personal contacts which have recently become fandom's great fascination.

But a drafted fan in a US camp is comparatively a lucky man to the Joe who gets packed off overseas.

While he's in this country, he can always get a mag or a book and he can always get a letter in three or four days when he's a bit more lonesome than usual.

But get to the other side, buddy, and it's a thousand times tougher. If you're lucky, there might be one other guy in your regiment who read a stf. mag once and he'll probably be more interested in cognac or saki.

The newsstands in Korea and Japan just don't handle AS or FFM.

Even letters take a week each way.

If you've never been in a situation like that, you can get only a small idea how much you'd give to be in good solid contact with fandom at home. The feeling that somebody is willing to make your life a little easier is worth more than gold.

And boy! How you'd haunt that mail-room waiting for your monthly copy of "ASTOUNDING" or "SUPER SCIENCE STORIES"!

Well, as things look now, more than a few fans are going to be in just such a position before

another year passes.

It will be a shame if fandom slights its own boys, and allows this war to create another batch of "forgotten men" when so little money and effort can do so much.

Here's what FAN-VETS has in mind to do ---

The fan overseas is in the worst position, so he should have priority; therefore, our primary service should be to keep the overseas fan in touch with the field here at home by sending him a periodic news bulletin, and also to see that he is sent at least one current stf mag every month.

We are very pleased to announce that FANDOM HOUSE, publishers of "FANTASY-TIMES", a twice-a-month newspaper devoted to the fantasy field, have agreed to put out a special armed forces edition to be distributed by FAN-VETS. FAN-VETS will also publish this monthly bulletin for all its members and other interested persons.

Pro mag publishers are now being asked to donate a number of free subscriptions to their stf and fantasy mags to be sent to fans overseas. Further subscriptions will be bought when the demand becomes great enough.

We have begun our mailing list, and all fandom is asked to aid in keeping it growing and up-to-date.

WE NEED HELP and we need MONEY. If you would like to take over a part of the work outlined here, or if you have a bright idea of your own that you think would fit into the FAN-VET picture, please drop us a line and we'll talk it over.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER to get into the act - if your interest is genuine, we're glad to count you in.

And we can use anybody's

ARTHUR RAPP JOINS U S ARMY

Saginaw, Mich, 21 July, (CNS) - Super - active stf. fan Arthur H. Rapp wrote to all officers of the NFFF today to count him out of fan activities for some time to come. He is joining the US Army and dropping out of stf. for the time being.

Art was the editor of "THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN", the official organ of the NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION, as well as a director of the club. He was also editor and publisher of the monthly fanzine, "SPACEWAYS".

We have also received word that the discharge from the Army of Bob Sheridan, well-known New Jersey fan-artist, has been held up for an indefinite period, due to the Korean situation.

WANTED

FAN OR GROUP of fans with duplicating facilities, to publish the monthly issues of THE FAN-VET. Copy and supplies furnished. Apply to secretary.

TWO FANS IN daily personal contact to take charge of FAN-VET mailing list. Typewriter necessary. Apply to secretary.

Labor and material for this issue of "THE FAN-VET" has been donated by FANDOM HOUSE, publishers of "FANTASY-TIMES". money, too! Might now it's needed for postage and supplies, etc, as well as to lay the foundation for future service.

This is NOT the last word on FAN-VET service and organization; many details and new lines of action are yet to be settled. We appreciate suggestions.

The address again is THE FANTASY VETERANS ASSOCIATION, c/o Ray Van Houten, Secretary, 409 Market Street, Paterson 3, N. J.

THE Fan-Vet

THE FANTASY VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Ray Van Houten, Secretary
409 Market Street
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