



Corporal
Rodolfo P. Hernandez, U.S. Army
Medal of Honor



0200 HOURS! Suddenly the pre-dawn blackness on Hill 420 split into crashing geysers of flame. Yelling, firing, hurling

grenades, a horde of Reds pushed up the hill toward G Company.

A hot fire fight began. It lasted several hours. Finally, out of ammunition, G Company began to withdraw. Corporal Hernandez stayed, throwing grenades and firing his remaining rounds.

Then his M-1 jammed. Fixing his bayonet, he leaped out of his foxhole. They found him in the morning, wounded, ringed with enemy dead. He had stopped the attack—*alone*.

"A man couldn't fight at all," says Corporal Hernandez, "if he weren't fighting for good things—peace, and a job, and a chance in the world. That's why I'm thankful to all the people who've put so many billions into Defense Bonds. For I believe Bonds are a stockpile of prosperity. A guarantee to men like me that we can come home to a secure future."

★ ★ ★

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LETTERS

Excess Reserves

DEAR SIR:

I have noted with interest your discussions of the problems of feeding future populations and the incongruity of the present domestic surpluses in the United States while the majority of the people in the world are on the verge of starvation. Now I hear that the Department of Agriculture has abolished these surpluses.

Apparently the people on the policy making levels of American agriculture have come to a realization of the importance of the previously existing surplus problem. The surpluses according to the USDA are now going to be called "excess reserves." Well, the way I see it: "A rose by any other name would smell the same," and I don't like the odor of this little exhibition of semantic gymnastics. Whether we call the tons of grain rotting in the liberty ships on the East Coast for lack of elevator space surpluses or excess reserves, the fact remains that we have more than we need or can use.

This new excess reserve concept could get us in trouble too. You people seem to think that the problems of American agriculture are the problems of the future—an idea which apparently is rather general down there in Washington. What about this stored grain and the problems of the present? Excess reserves seems to imply that we have too great a supply of many commodities even for the future. It is all very interesting to hear people discussing these problems of feeding our growing population in the future, feeding the rest of the world today, and then on the other hand the current glut of back-breaking surpluses.

These scientists are constantly announcing new and more efficient methods for production of agricultural commodities—why not a little more thought on using for our better welfare the commodities we're already producing and a little less accumulation of excess reserves for 1975 or 1984?

CRAIG N. BULGER
Chicago, Ill.

Program of Fertilizer And Soil Division Praised

DEAR SIR:

Congratulations are in order for the officers and other members of the ACS Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry. The program for the division's annual meeting in Chicago, Sept. 9 to 11, as published in AG AND FOOD, Aug. 5, appears to be one of the finest that group ever has presented. A number of favorable comments made by members of the fertilizer industry concerning the high

technical quality of that program indicates this writer is not alone in his opinion.

The program appears to be well balanced in respect to the subjects covered. Of particular interest should be the papers and round-table discussion on the application of surface active agents to fertilizer manufacture. Although surface active materials are finding fairly wide use, the advantages cited are not particularly well understood and in many cases apparently are not attainable. It is hoped that the discussions at the ACS meeting may offer clarification of some of the rather vague ideas now existing.

With ever-increasing quantities of fertilizer being required to help in filling the food and fiber needs of a rapidly growing population, the fertilizer industry has launched into one of the greatest expansion programs in its 100-year history. Hand in hand with this program of physical expansion is a concrete realization of a greater need for application of newer and improved methods of manufacture.

The active interest being shown in the ACS meeting and other technical meetings of its kind is but another demonstration of growing attention to new advances in manufacture and technology by members of the fertilizer industry. Never before has the industry been so conscious of technical developments. This is further attested by the lively response to announcement of the forthcoming demonstration of the TVA-developed continuous ammoniator at Wilson Dam, Ala.

The mutual interchange of information made possible by good technical meetings is of great benefit to all workers in the field of fertilizer and soil chemistry. The AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY is to be commended for the part it plays in making possible such meetings.

EDWIN C. KAPUSTA
National Fertilizer
Association
Washington, D. C.

First Reach for AG AND FOOD

DEAR SIR:

You have done a fine job on the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY, and you and your staff are to be highly complimented on a job well done. Most of us hate to see a new scientific publication make its appearance, but in this case, it's a pleasure to reach for this one first. Keep up the good work.

S. H. MORRISON
Associate Professor
College of Agriculture
The University of Georgia