

Radio Interview, Scranton, PA
June 14, 1946
Frank Langan's Enlistment Live

SCRIPT FOR WGBI

ANNOUNCER: WGBI sounds the opening note of Regular Army Recruiting Week in Scranton. Recruiting Week begins today, Flag Day, and continues through June 21. It is sponsored by the Regular Army Recruiting Office, 136 Wyoming Avenue, and by the city of Scranton.

ANNOUNCER: The purpose of Regular Army Recruiting Week is to explain the purpose and needs of the peace-time Regular Army and to explain the job opportunities which the Regular Army presents.

MAYOR HANLON: I am Mayor Hanlon. As a veteran of World War I, I recognize the local as well as the national problem which we face in rebuilding our Regular Army. Many Scrantonians feel as I do - that we must not again lapse into a condition of unpreparedness. It is Scranton's job, as it is the job of every city and community in the country, to support the Army in peace-time just as we all supported the Army in war.

MISS PENNONI: Just a minute, Mayor Hanlon. I am Mary Pennoni. I am a secretary in an office downtown in Scranton and I want to ask you some questions about this Regular Army that you are talking about. My brother was overseas during the war. He was away for three years. My brother is back now and the

war is over. Now that we have won the war, why do we have to keep on having a large Army?

MAYOR HANLON:

Miss Pennoni, the Army has several missions to perform and each of them is as important as winning the war in the first place. The Army's missions all over the world are to guard the victory we have won so there won't be another war in twenty-five years.

MISS PENNONI:

What are some of the missions of the Army that you say are so important?

MAYOR HANLON:

As always, the first job of the Regular Army is to provide a strong, alert peace-time force for the defense of the country. In this atomic age this Army is equipped with all kinds of highly technical engines of destruction. Our scientists have developed radar, rockets, jet propelled planes, and the atom bomb itself; but we must have hundreds of thousands of men not only to use these weapons but many men to maintain them. This job of national defense was never more important than it is today because never before in a peace-time world has there been so little peace. Everywhere we look, nations are at odds with each other. With such trying days as these facing us, we must maintain our defenses with a strong Regular Army.

MISS PENNONI:

Mayor Hanlon, what other jobs does the Regular Army have to do?

DAVID OWEN:

Perhaps I can answer that, Miss Pennoni. I am David Owen. During the war I was a staff sergeant with the Medical Section of the 109th Infantry of the 28th Division. After seeing the fierce, war-like spirit of many Germans, I know that we must maintain an Army of occupation for many years in Germany. You know, they say that these days veterans don't care about any of the big national issues. They say that we are not thinking about the nation's problems. Of course, I can't speak for all the G. I.'s in Scranton, but I know this, that there is a great problem of occupying the defeated countries, Japan as well as Germany. And because I saw what I did in Europe, I am one G. I. that knows we must keep a strong Regular Army. Does that answer your question, Miss Pennoni?

MISS PENNONI:

Yes, I believe it does. I think I see now why we must keep our Army strong in peace-time. I believe that we must keep our defenses up; that we must be prepared at a moment's notice to defend ourselves in an atomic war; and then too, we can't let the job of occupation down.

MAYOR HANLON:

Miss Pennoni, this is Mayor Hanlon. I hope that all

Scrantonians will come to feel as you do about the need for a Regular Army. Here's the Recruiting Week proclamation that I wrote on behalf of Scranton citizens.

ANNOUNCER:

"Whereas the Army of the United States won a great victory in World War II, and "Whereas there is an urgent need to continue the replacement of veterans of the War, and "Whereas an inescapable obligation rests upon the United States to maintain by occupation forces the victory it has won, and "Whereas there is a need to dramatize the mission of and the opportunities in the Regular Army.

"I, James T. Hanlon, Mayor of the City of Scranton, hereby designate the week of June 14 through June 21 as "Regular Army Recruiting Week in Scranton."

"I further commend the support of all Scrantonians in working for a new and powerful Regular Army and express my sincere hopes for the success of "Regular Army Recruiting Week in Scranton," June 14 through June 21."

(Music background on reading of proclamation.)

FRANK LANGAN:

I am Frank Langan, a student at Technical High School. Spare time I have worked in the Mercy Hospital, and I am learning all I can because someday I hope to study medicine in one of our great universities and become a doctor. My father and I have often talked of the long years ahead in pre-medical and medical schools. It is a costly course, isn't it , Dad?

MR. LANGAN:

Yes, Frank. The seven years of college and post-graduate work required in becoming a doctor are mighty expensive, especially with the many laboratory fees and costs for delicate instruments. In fact, it is so expensive that I am afraid we can't afford to put you through college and medical school, son.

FRANK LANGAN:

Dad, I know that those seven years of college work are expensive and they are beyond the possibilities of a lot of fellows like me, but I am sure I can make the grade if I only had the chance.

DR. LARKIN:

Perhaps I have a suggestion that will help you, Frank. I am Dr. Larkin. I was an Army doctor during the war. I was a Colonel and a division surgeon in the Southwest Pacific through several campaigns. A number of my men are now back in school studying the courses they wanted under the G. I. Bill. The G. I. Bill is saving these young men literally thousands of dollars. Have you looked into the possibilities of going through medical training under the G. I. Bill? You know, Frank, as a medical student some years ago, I knew of the difficulties that faced a lot of my classmates who had a desire to gain a fine education. The trouble was that their funds were limited. If they had had the financial advantages of the G. I. Bill, they would have had a better chance of succeeding in medical school. I am glad to recommend the G. I. Bill to you, Frank Langan, and to any young man who wishes to secure an education which would otherwise

be impossible.

FRANK LANGAN:

Dad, a Regular Army job with the advantages of the G. I. Bill after my enlistment sounds good to me.

MAYOR HANLON:

Mayor Hanlon speaking. This G. I. Bill sounds good to me, too; but let us ask Captain Galpin of the Regular Army Recruiting Office what sort of a job you can get, Frank, to further your education while you are in the Army.

CAPTAIN GALPIN:

Frank has told me that he wishes to enlist in the Regular Army for three years to get the maximum of forty-eight months of educational time under the G. I. Bill. A three-year enlistment entitles you to choose any branch of service. I'd recommend the Medical Department of the Regular Army. In the medics you will have an opportunity to get a background of medical experience. There are many interesting jobs for which you may qualify, such as medical administrative specialist, medical technician, or surgical technician.

MR. LANGAN:

This is Frank's dad and I want to ask a question. Many Army men are now back in schools these days. I want to know what sort of a record these ex-G. I.'s are making in college after their Army experience. How about it, Father W. Coleman Nevils of the University of Scranton.

FATHER NEVILS:

I am pleased to say that veterans who are now attending classes are doing an exceptionally fine job in their studies. We at the University were glad to find that the

years that these boys spent in the service, even in wartime, have not been so strenuous that they are prevented from doing good work. The University of Scranton is continuing to accept veterans who wish to enroll under the G. I. Bill. I, too, am happy to indorse the G. I. Bill. And, Frank, we shall be glad to consider your application for pre-medical training at the University of Scranton after your Regular Army service.

MR. LANGAN:

Now that we have the advice of Dr. Larkin and Father Nevils and information on the Regular Army from Captain Calpin, I'd say that an Army enlistment is a smart thing for you, Frank. What do you say?

FRANK LANGAN:

I think it is a good idea, too, Dad. I'll not only get the advantages of the G. I. Bill to cover most of my medical school expenses, but I'll also be able to gain practical experience in the Regular Army Medical Department. Also, I hope to save some money while I am in the Army. What do you think, Mayor Hanlon?

MAYOR HANLON:

I know Jim Langan and his son, Frank, and I am glad to sponsor Frank as a candidate for the Regular Army. I feel that he is fully qualified for enlistment and I am sure that he will make a good soldier, don't you think so Captain Calpin?

CAPTAIN CALPIN:

I, too, know of Frank's qualifications and I find that he is eligible for enlistment in the Regular Army.

FRANK LANGAN:

Frank Langan speaking. I am ready to go now. Can I be sworn in today?

CAPTAIN CALPIN:

Yes, you can, Frank. Right now, if you like.

FRANK LANGAN:

I am ready.

CAPTAIN CALPIN:

Raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I, Francis Joseph Langan, / a citizen of the United States, / do hereby acknowledge to have voluntarily enlisted / this 14th day of June, 1946, / as a soldier in the Regular Army of the United States of America / for the period of three years / under the conditions prescribed by law, / unless sooner discharged by proper authority; / and do also agree to accept from the United States / such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing / as are or may be established by law. / And I do solemnly swear / that I will bear true faith and allegiance / to the United States of America; / that I will serve them honestly and faithfully / against all their enemies whomsoever; / and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, / and the orders of the officers appointed over me, / according to the rules and articles of war.

CAPTAIN CALPIN:

You are now a member of the Regular Army, Pvt. Frank Langan.

MAYOR HANLON:

Good luck to you, Frank.

FATHER NEVILLS:

I know you will be successful in the Regular Army.