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PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES H. MCGEE  
UNITED STATES ARMY

for heroism:

Private First Class James H. McGee distinguished himself by heroism on 28 March 1964, in Seward, Alaska, while assigned to the Seward Recreation Center. On the day after the treacherous earthquake which devastated Alaska, Private McGee unhesitatingly volunteered to participate in a rescue mission to evacuate a severely injured crewman from a fuel vessel which had been subjected to explosions and fire while anchored in the debris choked channel of Resurrection Bay. Despite the aftershocks and the violence of the turbulent waters, he joined the rescue party in a twenty-foot launch that had been washed ashore. Throughout the two-mile trip which took two hours, he displayed perseverance and rendered invaluable assistance in guiding the rescue craft toward the hazardous vessel to reach the victim. After the injured seaman was lowered into the launch, he again displayed complete disregard for his own personal safety by willingly remaining aboard the fuel tanker because of the limited weight and space capacity of the rescue boat. Private McGee's heroic action and deep concern for his fellow man are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



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A 15 655 075

Place: Ohio

Caucasian

L Svc: Ohio

Approved by: ADB 2 June 1964

Sta: Admin Spt Co, Admin Svcs Bn, APO 949, Seattle, Washington

For: Chief of Information, Attn: Chief, News Branch

Documents Processing Section, USACSC (AGAS-O)

Awards Board Section

CO. DAVID B. GOODWIN

MAJ. L. E. HANCOCK, AGC



**PERMANENT**

# McGee recalls '64 earthquake

It was 11 years ago today that Private First Class James McGee found himself aboard a small launch heading out of Seward Harbor to rescue an injured seaman from the gasoline tanker "Alaska Standard".

Today Sergeant First Class McGee looks back on the event as just another duty following the Good Friday Earthquake of 1964.

Working at the Seward Recreation Center that year, McGee had just sat down to eat when the strongest quake in U.S. history struck. McGee said, "When the quake hit, my only thought was to get the hell out of that mess hall."

Working with fellow soldiers the next day in an effort to get tidal-wave and quake-torn Seward back in shape, a

call came in from the "American Standard" that they had an injured man who needed medical attention.

The ship had been tied to one of Seward's major dock-side installations when the quake and its 30-foot tidal wave hit. Huge storage tanks began to explode around the tanker and her crew stood rooted with horror as flaming debris rained down on the gasoline laden tanker. Somehow the ship did not catch fire and was able to put to sea.

Two crewmen from the ship who were left ashore took the call and requested aid in getting a small boat they had found into the water..

Although the tanker was within sight of land it took the five men over two hours to work their way through the debris.

"We were going to just help them get the boat into the water, McGee said. "But once we got it going we decided to go out to the ship with them."



**McGee**  
factory could have been under the water " said McGee.

None of the five men knew how much fuel was aboard. But they picked their way through debris and fire-choked channel.

Picking up the injured sailor and refueling launch McGee and others worked their way back to shore where ambulance waited. their actions McGee and his two buddies were awarded the Soldier Medal.

*Thought you'd like the article in the Paper about Jim Helen*

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Picking up the injured sailor and refueling the launch McGee and the others worked their way back to shore where an ambulance waited. For their actions McGee and his two buddies were awarded the Soldiers Medal.

"We were going to just help them get the boat into the water, McGee said. "But once we got it going we decided to go out to the ship with them."

"I sat in the front of the boat with a long pole feeling for anything below the surface in front of us. For all we knew a factory could have been under the water," said McGee.



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## Songwriters get chance at fame

If you've always dreamed of writing a song and having it hit the Top Ten, here's your chance.

The Los Angeles United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) Council has arranged for military personnel to enter the 1975 American Song Festival.

The festival is the only international songwriting competition held in the U.S. Aspiring George Gershwin, Mac Davies and Burt Bacharach can compete for \$25,000 in cash and merchandise. Contest officials believe these are the largest prizes offered in any creative competition.

Entrants do not need to know how to write music; each song is to be recorded on a cassette tape.

Amateurs need not worry about competing against professionals; they compete separately.

The festival has six categories: rock; easy listening/middle of the road; country; folk; soul, rhythm and blues; and gospel. A special Bicentennial song competition is also featured this year.

Besides the cash prizes, songwriters have the added bonus of having their compositions heard by leaders of the music industry. Past winning songs have been recorded by well-known artists.

Further information, applications and instructions may be obtained by writing The American Song Festival, P.O. Box 57, Hollywood, Calif 90028. All entries must be postmarked no later than June 3, 1975.

## Chapels named

Chapels One and Two on post now have been officially named. Chapel One in Building 3 is now the Ft. Richardson Chapel, and Chapel Two in Building 638 is the Snowhawk Chapel.

# Catharsis

### Cash lost

A PRIVATE lost \$40 when his wallet was lifted from a dresser drawer in his cubicle, March 20. The wallet itself was valued at \$15. The theft is being investigated by MPs.

### Bomb threat

BUILDING 650 was the site for a bomb threat last week. Fire Department Dispatch notified the MP desk at 8:43 a.m., March 20 that a bomb was to blow up at

### Theft

An individual was charged in the thefts of several items from six persons, March 19. The E-4 was accused of stealing, among other things, a camera, gloves, mukluks, a 50-foot nylon rope and VB boots. Most of the items were recovered from the SP4's room. All of the items were unsecured at the times of the thefts.

### Pistol accidents

while performing guard duty. The soldier was treated at EImendorf hospital for a minor flesh wound and admitted for observation.

### Pipe found

KONOCTI, Fl. Rich's only contraband detection/patrol dog, was instrumental in the apprehension of an E-4 for possession of marijuana last week. While conducting a barracks search,

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