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## Suspended Sentence To Free Jailed Veteran For VA Mental Care

By George Beveridge

A World War II veteran serving a term in the Alexandria jail was to receive a suspended sentence this afternoon, so he can undergo treatment for mental illness at a Veterans' Administration hospital.

VA officials, it was learned, asked the court last Friday to release the man, identified as an Alexandria resident who lost a leg during the war, so he could be treated at the veterans' neuropsychiatric hospital at Perry Point, Md. But he had to be kept in jail until a bed could be found for him at the overcrowded hospital, the agency said.

The incident came to light yesterday, when John L. Golob, national commander of the Disabled American Veterans, told reporters at a news conference that a mentally ill veteran is being held in a prison "near Washington" because VA could not find a bed for him.

Mr. Golob, who would not name the veteran or the prison, had commented that "wholly inadequate" numbers of beds in veterans' hospitals in certain localities are forcing detention of a number of mentally ill veterans in jails until beds can be found for them.

Dr. Robert H. Lowry, chief medical officer at the VA Washington regional office, refused to identify the case here or name the jail where the man is being held. Officials said laws forbid them to name individuals in such cases as a protection of veterans' personal rights.

A spokesman for Dr. Lowry, however, said "a judge in the court where the veteran is being held" has agreed to suspend the man's sentence, if he is hospitalized.

A check of nearby courts revealed the veteran was sentenced by Judge Marion D. West of the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. He was arrested October 30, police said, and charged with assault and disorderly conduct.

Judge West, who identified the

## Battle of Newark Becomes War Of Nerves as Invaders Miss Tide

By the Associated Press

NEWARK, Nov. 14.—The heralded engagement between the battleship New Mexico and Newark's "squirrel navy" was postponed today after the decommissioned dreadnaught arrived outside the harbor three hours behind schedule, too late for the morning tide.

The Coast Guard reported that the towing company whose tugs are bringing the venerable vessel into port said the ship now is due to enter the harbor on tomorrow morning's tide.

At 6:35 a.m. a spokesman for the towing company said the 30,000-ton dreadnaught stood five miles southeast of Ambrose Channel lightship in tow of two tugs. Her progress was hampered by strong headwinds during the night.

The tiny defending force, two 30-foot fire launches armed with chemical sprays and fire hoses, manned "battle stations" at dawn, determined to prevent the decommissioned dreadnaught from keeping its rendezvous with a Newark scrapyard which city officials say she must not reach at any cost.

Mayor Vincent J. Murphy has said continued scrapping of vessels in the port endangers a \$70,000,000 port improvement program.

man as an amputee, said he had agreed to suspend the veterans' sentence this afternoon. The VA will transport him immediately to Perry Point, he said. This was confirmed by VA.

The judge said the same veteran was before his court on similar charges several months ago. No sentence was imposed, he said, on an understanding with VA that the veteran would be kept under medical care until he is adjudged cured by doctors.

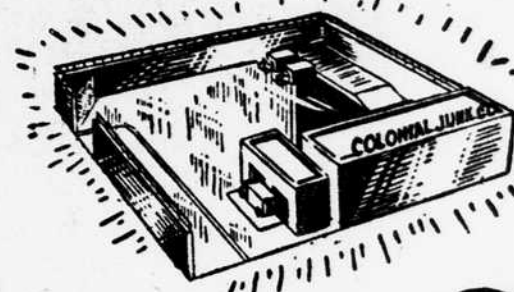
VA refused to comment on the previous incident, but pointed out the agency does not have power to keep any mentally ill patients under treatment without their consent, unless the patients are committed legally to institutions.

demanding John E. Baker, editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican, in a wire to Mayor Murphy. "She was queen of the fleet. . . . If you are unwilling to give this honorable ship a decent burial, we shall institute action that she be floated up the Rio Grande to lie in state at the Port of Espanola—which is frequently dry."

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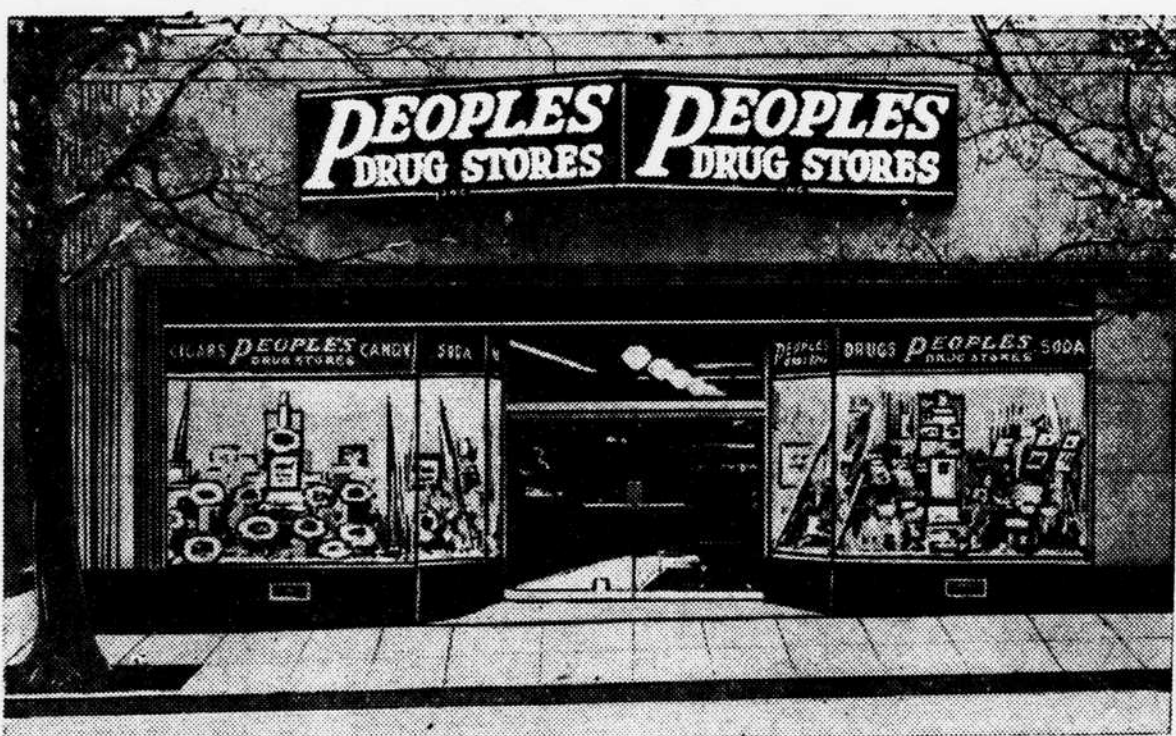
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