

Sketch

Volume 25, Number 2

1959

Article 16

Looking For Religion

M. J. Miles*

*Iowa State College

Copyright ©1959 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

Looking For Religion

M. J. Miles

Abstract

Wait. Hold your head high and wait. Fear not. Only listen to the sky...

Ten o'clock came. The sentry at the gate called and said he could see the staff car with big gold stars heading for the gate. One of the junior officers called the honor guard to attention, and the rest of us manned our posts.

I was stationed at one of the vehicles and soon I saw the General and the Captain coming towards me, led by Sergeant Valerius. When he spoke his breath smelled strongly of Juicy Fruit. I looked at him. He was covered with sweat. I could see a few red welts starting to reappear along the edge of his collar. While the inspectors checked the vehicle, I noticed he had backed up against the edge of another vehicle and was gently rubbing back and forth on it, a look of contentment on his face. The man sure had guts.

The brass seemed pleased with what they saw. Valerius pointed out that the vehicle was in better shape than when they received it, and pulled out the records to prove it. The ink was hardly dry on the paper.

As they left, I noticed the Sergeant was using his close-legged shuffle. If you weren't looking for it, you would hardly notice his casual movements as he scratched around.

Needless to say, we passed the inspection with a superior rating. The Captain was happy, the General was happy, Valerius was happy. The General said it had been a long time since he had seen such a sharp outfit. There was one thing, though. The First Sergeant had better let a doctor look at him. It appeared, by the way he walked, that he might have piles.

As for the Sergeant? Well, he's retired now. He has a little business on the side, just to keep him busy. He's taken up exterminating, specializing in ants. Those who know say he's got a sure-fire method.

Looking For Religion

Wait. Hold your head high and wait.
Fear not. Only listen to the sky
And keep a space within for something great.

— *M. J. Miles, Sc.* '58