

PSYCHOLOGY

# Why Men Marry

Six reasons may be given by men when they tell you why they married or why they want to marry, psychologists tell the returning serviceman.

By Marjorie Van de Water

► "DEAR JANE: Will you be my valentine?"

When GI Joe writes this, the-duration-and-six-months from now, what sort of girl will he pick? And how can he be sure that he will not be getting back from a global war only to start a marital war in his own living room or bedroom? Will his own combat nerves, if he suffers from them, get in the way of his happiness at home?

These and many other questions of interest to the soldier or sailor either when he gets ready to come home or as he reads this year's crop of sweet valentine greetings are discussed in a forthcoming book on "Psychology for the Returning Serviceman," prepared by a large group of scientists and servicemen for the National Research Council and Science Service, and soon to be published by the *Infantry Journal*.

Love, marriage, and happiness in the home are the topics of only a few of the chapters of this book on everyday psychology, which also discusses such personal problems as how to get a suitable job, how to learn new industrial skills, how to get well and build up mental as well as physical health, and how to get along with certain special disabilities that may result from war wounds.

## Six Reasons Given

Six reasons may be given by men when they tell you why they married or why they want to marry, the psychologist-authors tell the returning servicemen. Here they are:

**Comforts.** A man likes good home cooking. He wants a fire to sit beside with his feet up in the evening. He wants the buttons sewed on his shirts.

**Sex.** A man needs an outlet for the powerful sex drives within him. And it is much better for many reasons to have a legitimate outlet—one that won't get him talked about, one that is safe from disease and other entanglements, one that is respectable.

**Pride.** A man may marry a good-looking or charming woman in somewhat the same spirit that he picks out a good

car or builds a nice house. He is proud to be seen with her. He gets a thrill out of introducing her to his friends.

**Companionship.** An unmarried man will have very little chance to share the intimate thoughts of his life, his private troubles and problems, his personal successes. There are lots of jokes about how women gossip, but all the same a wife is sometimes the ideal person to tell things to. And with a good wife a man can enjoy life; they can have good times together. And when troubles come, sharing them with someone close makes the troubles bearable. Such companionship makes life richer.

**Social Position.** Marriage is important to a man's standing in the community and in the eyes of his employer. Married men are often considered more reliable, more steady as workers than single men. There is good reason for this: A man with a wife and perhaps children dependent upon him is not so likely to take chances as a single man is. He is not so likely to leave a good job and go off somewhere looking for change or adventure. And the fact that a man has assumed the responsibilities of marriage is some evidence that he is a responsible kind of person. In addition, the married man is in a position to entertain his friends and acquaintances in his home, and that is important to social standing.

**Love.** A man may feel that he wants to marry simply because he has fallen in love.

These are all good reasons for marriage. They are the reasons you may already be aware of. But actually you seek marriage for a great many other reasons that you may know little about because they are deep-hidden reasons that are a part of your nature.

In marriage you find the fulfillment of cravings that you may never have clearly understood. You may know that as a single man you are somewhat restless and discontented. You go around looking for something without ever finding it. You can't seem to "settle down." Maybe you play around with one girl after another, hoping that each one will give you something you need for your

contentment; but none of them do, and so you soon say goodbye. Maybe you try one job after another. Or one town after another.

Then at last you meet the girl and you quit running around. Home is where she is. Your heart is there with her.

What are these cravings? One of them is sex, not just in the narrow sense that you want physical relief; you may have got that outside of marriage. It is sex need in the much broader sense that includes a desire for everything that you have associated with good women ever since you were born. You need some affection, kindness, someone who has a genuine interest in you. You need the care that is like the care a good mother gives, all the warmth of a woman's love. And you need to express your own tender emotions. You need to love.

Men have opposite sides to their natures, equally human. Sometimes you want to tear things up, to rip them apart, to smash and crush and hate. But it is also important for a man to build, to create, to make things grow, to protect and to love. The two drives, although conflicting, are not separate; they are all mixed up together.

War offers many men plenty of chance



**WRITING HOME**—When he writes to the girl friend, what is he thinking of? Some men think they marry for sex, some for comforts, but all are probably led by things they do not understand. This photograph of a sailor writing aboard a warship was taken by a U. S. Navy photographer.

## Do You Know?

Lack of *iron* in early life of swine is the forerunner of many of the infections to which they are subject.

Modern *face powder*, in addition to coloring and perfume, includes substances such as kaolin, talcum, starch, siliceous earth, zinc oxide, zinc stearate, titanium oxide and magnesium oxide.

The *wild cabbage*, a plant of the French invasion coast and other places in the western edge of Europe, is the reputed ancestor of the many forms of cultivated cabbage and kale.

Nearly 20,000,000 *fur-bearing animals* were taken in the United States and Alaska during 1943; the fur catch was worth approximately \$100,000,000 to the trappers.

A *Danish mechanic* made his first solo flight in a stolen German plane and was shot down over Sweden, only slightly injured, where he is now treated as a civilian refugee.

Several hundred American *muskrats*, imported from the United States into Siberia in prewar days, acclimated quickly and their offspring have furnished tens of thousands of skins for Russia in the past few years.

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to destroy, to blow things sky high. There is plenty of chance, too, to hate and to kill. There is also building in war—construction of bridges, barracks, machines. But war is mostly a business of destruction. In the service you may have had plenty of chance to be a fighter, but mighty little to be a lover. No man's life is complete without a chance for both.

And so soldiers and sailors often go home to "gang plank" weddings and some don't even wait to get home but marry in foreign lands. It is mostly a strong need that impels them, and the reasons that their minds figure out may not be the really important one.

And the need is not one simple urge, but many of them tied together. You need marriage because when you are married you find satisfaction for your tender desires. But you also need marriage because it is permanent—it means the end of running around, of uncertainty and change. You want to strike roots.

And you may want marriage because you have a need to father children whether you ever realized it or not. You want new life to come into being bearing your likeness. That is the only way you can survive beyond your allotted years on this earth. It is your hope for immortality among mortal beings.

Not every soldier and sailor will return home and immediately find the right girl and get married. Some will not be able to marry or, if they do marry, will not be able to find happiness in it. For some a long period of adjustment may be necessary before they can be reasonably sure of being a good husband.

If you happen to be one of these, you won't be alone. There are understandable reasons why war experience should make it harder for some men to find and keep a wife.

*Science News Letter, February 17, 1945*

co-pilot, and an alternate two-ton load of rolling mechanized equipment. Design changes increase the useful load of the glider 500 pounds over previous similar models, "up" the towing speed from 150 to 180 miles an hour, and provide better crash protection for the crew.

Built by Waco Aircraft Company, the CG-15A has a high-wing fuselage formed from steel tubing and covered with cotton fabric. The wings and tail surfaces are made of wood. It has a wing spread of more than 62 feet and an overall length of more than 48 feet.

The nose of the new glider is one of its most outstanding features. Sealed with clearvision panels, it affords greater visibility and more convenient controls. Reduction of power required to tow the glider at speeds exceeding 100 miles an hour was made possible by clipping 20 feet from the wing-span of the earlier model, the CG-4A.

The predecessor of the CG-15A, the CG-4A, spearheaded the invasions of Sicily, Normandy, Holland and Burma, and set a pattern of achievement as well as one of construction for the new glider.

*Science News Letter, February 17, 1945*



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### AERONAUTICS

## Glider Carries 16 Men, Designated as the CG-15A

➤ A GLIDER with a nose that opens like a giant mouth is one of the youngest members of the Army Air Forces family of motorless aircraft. The result of more than three years of research, the new glider has a strongly reinforced nose section, clipped wings, and landing gear with improved shock-absorbers.

Designated as the CG-15A, it will accommodate 16 men, including pilot and