

OUR FIGHTING MEN

The Scotch Plainsman "TREASURE ALBUM" is our most precious possession. It consists of the letters (already numbering nearly 100) which we have received from you service folks. It is our plan this coming fall and winter to arrange 'Scotch Plainsman' reading nights at which your letters will be shared with local organizations and neighborhood groups, large and small.

SO KEEP 'EM COMING - we look forward to each mail as eagerly as a lassie does her sweetheart.

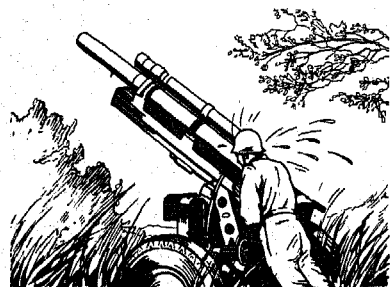
Lack of space compels us to omit the third installment of the story of The Scotch Plainsman staff.

R. S. Di Donato, M.M.S.2/C, 71st, USN - C.B. Co. A-5, c/o Fleet P. O. San Francisco, Calif. writes his appreciation of The Scotch Plainsman and adds:

"I thought I would tell you about some of my experiences with the USN Construction Battalion. I joined this outfit November 18, 1943 and left on my birthday for training. I took my training at Camp Perry, Va., Camp Endicott, R. I. and Port Hueneme, Cal. I had a rating of Fireman 1/C and was promoted to MM 3/C. On July 6, 1944 I was made MMS 2/C.

"From the west coast we set sail for Soma Island where we dropped anchor for a week after which we left for New Hebrides where we stayed another week. Moving on we spent a month at Guadalcanal. Our big day came when we went to Bougainville with the Marines and built an air strip out of swamp land.

"I must hand it to the marine raiders. Without them it would have been impossible to do our job. We did the building of the airstrip and the Marines kept the Japs away and really gave them hell. We finished



"MARINES REALLY GAVE JAPS HELL."

the strip in record time - 29 days. We were under shellfire, bombing and strafing all during our first job there. In all, we built three air strips in our five months on Bougainville. We left there for Island X where we dropped anchor for a few days. We are now in the Admiralty Islands.

The girls in town will be grateful for the news contained in the letter from Edward J. Nowak, M.M.S., 2/C, CBMU 517 - Navy 225, Fleet P.O. San Francisco, who dispels the illusions created by the movies in picturing the South Sea belles as a glamorous bunch. Ed writes -

"The paper makes for fine reading out here in the tropics where native lassies are not Dorothy Lamour-ish - nor so exciting to the eye. My capacity is that of evening representative of the Island X Power and Light Company."



"NATIVE LASSIES ARE NOT DOROTHY LAMOUR-ISH."

Many Scotch Plains boys are in Italy and if there is anything we of The Scotch Plainsman staff can do to help you meet each other, you have only to let us know and we will do our utmost to accomplish it. In the following letter from Sgt. W. Hartmann (12135320), 455 Bomb Group, 742 Bomb Squad, APO 520, c/o P. M., New York, a way in which we can help is pointed out.

"I am located in the 15th Air Force in Italy. If there are any other Scotch Plains boys with a 520 APO, I would appreciate your informing me."

The very next mail brought a letter from Cpl. William Lowell (322 40133), 302 Ftr. Sq., 332 Ftr. Group APO 520 c/o P. M. New York, reading in part --

"I am somewhere in Italy and when I received the news it was the first time since I've been overseas that I have heard anything from the old home town."

If you fellows should get together, tell us about your meeting. You might as well make it a real gathering and include these fellows who also have 520 APOs. Why not take a picture for reproduction in the Scotch Plainsman.

T/Sgt. Olaf Larsen (32166516)
1436 Ord. S&M Co. AVN
38th Service Group - and

Pfc. Erwin H. Ross (32185376)
HQ & HQ Sqn. - 62 Ser. Group.

In spite of their many pressing social and business engagements, the boys in Italy find time to send us some interesting correspondence. From this area, Cpl. Vincent Perrucci, Personnel Sec., 168th Inf., APO 34, c/o P. M., New York, has this to say:

"Just recently I received your second issue of the Plainsman and was very happy to have received both of them. I am waiting anxiously for the next issue as I know it too will contain many bits of news about the men

and women of Scotch Plains that will be of very much interest to all of us way over here in Europe.

"Not so very long ago, our regiment was getting a new group of replacements when I had a hunch that I might just by sheer chance meet someone I knew. I was standing out in front when someone called me by name and was very surprised to find there before me Robert Meyer of Mountain Ave. He and I greeted each other like a couple of lost brothers and afterwards had quite a chat. He is the one person from Scotch Plains I have met in my seventeen months overseas. William Seal and Jack Millwater are both over here some place but I have not met them. I received a letter from Lt. William Lee over in Africa recently and I suspect that he also is now over here in Italy.

"I was very glad to hear that Scotch Plains went over so well in the 5th Bond Drive. It's spirit like that which will help us all to get back to what we left in Scotch Plains."

"Please excuse the mistakes of this typewriter as it is an Italian set captured from the Germans recently."

Also from Italy, Pfc. Alden Lambert (12078400) Co. C - 310 Med. Bn. APO 85, c/o P.M. New York, writes:

"As you may or may not know I'm located in Italy with the boys who made the big push. It was plenty rough at times but never let it be said that you can stop the American soldier when he sets out to do anything, - even to taking one of the largest cities in Europe. Incidentally Rome is a beautiful city and a friendly one. If there are any boys from home in Italy, I would love to have them drop me a line."



"ROME IS A FRIENDLY CITY."

From Saipan, in the thick of the fighting, comes a letter from Pfc. Stanley Krempa, whose mail address is Co. L - 165th Inf., APO 27, c/o P.M. San Francisco, Calif. His letter brought to The Scotch Plainsman the first trophy from any fighting front -- a 50 sen, yen or something occupation note 'captured' on Saipan.

"Writing you a few lines to let you know that I appreciated receiving the home-town paper and love to read of all the men and women that I used to know who are now in service. **** It has been close to three years since I have had a furlough. We are the old outfit which during the last war was called the Fighting 69th and it looks like this outfit is keeping up its name. I am sending my best regards to all the fellows and girls