

# OUR FIGHTING MEN



Prior to Pearl Harbor, living in an isolated corner of the Township cut off by Fanwood, our opportunity to meet Scotch Plains folks was somewhat limited. Since then though, we have come to know and respect hundreds of Scotch Plains people and our life has been made richer and fuller as a result. Highly treasured among our new-found friendships is that of the Rev. E. E. Peterson. If his daughter, Persis, is anything like 'Pete', we know we shall like her equally as well. Persis, who holds the rank of Sergeant with the 401 ASF Band, WAC, stationed at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, 9, N. Y. writes:

"Dear Folks:

"Thanks so very much for sending me your paper. Reading and re-reading it is just like a furlough, hearing from and about old friends now in all parts of the world.

"A very interesting feature is the short stories and excerpts from the history of the old town. I find this most enjoyable.

"Congratulations on your whole-hearted participation in the Fifth War Loan Drive. Here in New York, bands have to parade along the streets and rallies have to be held during which wounded soldiers have to beg the populace to buy bonds but in Scotch Plains people recognize this duty and privilege in not only meeting their goal but in going way over the top. I've always been proud of hailing from Scotch Plains, and now as I visit other towns and cities I'm even prouder and happier to be a part of my home town.

"Again thanks for the paper, and thanks for making it such a fine interesting collection of news."

\*\*\*\*\*

Cpl. Freeman E. Miller, 814 M.P. Co., APO 713, c/o P.M., San Francisco, writes an interesting letter from New Guinea, which we quote in full:

"My second copy of the Plainsman just arrived and I thought that I would write you a "thank you" note and also add a vote of confidence.

"We seldom get much news over here and the Plainsman seems to be the solution to all our problems. Every now and then I manage to get a copy of some of the local papers but they don't seem to have what I am looking for. What I want to know is "what gives" at home and where my friends are and what they are doing. I am sure that some of the other boys must share my sentiments. At any rate I know some of the boys here in Guinea do.

"In the past thirty months over here, I have run into several boys from town. As soon as the "hand-shaking" is over the first thing we do is get involved in a lengthy-"bull session" about home.

"Pat Caruso, who is in "A" Co. of our old outfit, and I have semi-annual meetings which last far into the night. As a matter of fact, one of our meetings is due soon and I hope to fly down to see him sometime in the near future. Have seen Arch Spencer a couple of times but since most of us are constantly on the go it is a little difficult to keep in touch with one another. About three months ago a troopship arrived from the States and one of the boys in the company told me there were some boys from Union County on it. This in itself was a great understatement - not boys from Union County, but boys from SCOTCH PLAINS - Shorty and Hoffman. I immediately talked them into going AWOL from the ship (Ed. note. Imagine an MP doing a thing like that) - and coming up to the company for a meal. I am afraid that they didn't enjoy the meal as much as they should as I kept "putting the pump" on them for local news. They are both north of here with an Ordnance Bn. Paper is gone - thanks again."

\*\*\*\*\*

A V-mail letter from Pfc. Joseph Puchel (32058564), Co. B. 165th Inf. APO 27, c/o P.M., San Francisco goes like this:

"Just a few lines to let you know that I received both issues of the 'Scotch Plainsman' and believe me, I was really pleased in getting them. First of all it had the news of the town right down to a T and that is something I always wanted to know. Second is, while I was on Saipan, I received the second issue but I did not have too much time to read it for when one is in action there are far more important things that have to be done. I don't have to tell you what they are. But in a fox-hole, a paper is a paper and it helps a lot, especially when its from the good old home town.



"IN A FOX-HOLE, A PAPER IS A PAPER."

"So thanks a lot for your efforts and keep up the good work. As far as seeing anyone from the home-town, there is only one that I know of and he is Stan Krempa who is in the same outfit. Please pass my regards to the Police force."

\*\*\*\*\*

S/Sgt. Charles L. Erholm (32385 998), A. T. Co., 349th Inf. APO 88, c/o P. M., New York, (brother of our genial Police Chief Harry) was rather

overcome with emotion when his copy of the July issue reached him in Italy.

"I can't begin to describe the feeling that came over me when I opened the issue and saw the smiling face of the sweetest gal in the world - my mother. As a morale builder for us boys over here I would say that these group pictures of our loved ones are the best. This issue tells me that Robert Nanz is located at Camp Gruber. My outfit originated there. We thought it was a hell-hole but believe me when I say it is a paradise compared to other places.

\*\*\*\*\*

T/5 Paul Kostyz (32204172), H.Q. Btry., 987 F.A. Bn., APO 230, c/o P.M., New York, also was pleasantly surprised to see familiar faces greeting him in the July issue. From the fighting scene in France, he finds time to tell us:

"I see in this month's paper pictures of my wife and my mother. I sure was surprised. I hope this war ends soon so that we all can get back home."

\*\*\*\*\*

Back to Italy again to pick up a letter from T/5 Kenneth Hopfel, 109th Ord. Co., APO 464 c/o P.M. N.Y. Here's an excerpt from it:

"It seems as if the Scotch Plains man is the only piece of mail that comes on time when other mail doesn't get through. It's nice to read your paper and see where your buddies are in this war. As yet, I haven't run into any of my old friends. I have seen their addresses here and there but have never caught up. Maybe this paper will bring many of us together."

\*\*\*\*\*

Pfc. John B. Long Jr. (32386035) is attached to the Camp Hqtrs. Unit of the 1252 AAF Base Unit, NAFD-ATC A.P.O. 396, c/o P. M., New York. He broadens our knowledge of things military by informing us that the Hqtrs. Unit is the Department of Work, and then continues:

"I just received my first copy of The Scotch Plainsman while overseas and the first thing I saw when I opened it was a picture of my wife in the front row. It was really a thrill to see her picture because this was the first mail I had in six weeks and I felt out of touch with the world and the folks back home.

"The paper may be small and the town small but it's a place we long to hear and read about. It's home to me."

"Under Army regulations we can't write about some things but if I could there are many interesting things I could tell you. For the present all I can say now is that I visited the hotel room in Casablanca where President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill held their conferences."

\*\*\*\*\*

Cpl. Arthur W. Leitner (32452703) 18th Field Hosp., APO 494, c/o P. M. New York, says:

"At the present time I'm stationed somewhere in Iran after serving in Iran for 18 months. If you have the addresses of any other fellow from town who are here in India,