

OUR FIGHTING MEN



READING LETTERS FROM OUR FIGHTING MEN

Frank O. Henschel, Lieut. USNR, is one of the many Naval Air Transport service pilots who is enjoying the now rather common experience of having an early breakfast in England and a late supper in the U.S. on the same day. Lieut. Frank writes us from his base-Squadron VR-1, NAS Patuxent River, Md.,

"Your fine publication has been arriving and I have thoroughly enjoyed each issue. As so many other recipients have already reported, it furnishes the type of information we are all interested in. The time and hard work involved in making each edition possible are indeed sincerely appreciated.

When I entered the Navy in June 1941 to commence flight training, little did I realize that I would be now piloting four-engine transports on the trans-Atlantic run. In the past two and a half years my duty has involved flying the many routes of the Atlantic Division of the Naval Air Transport Service. This is the Navy's airline which serves the far-flung bases and units of the Navy on a regular schedule basis.

The first "group" service letter received by The Scotch Plainsman comes from the 573rd Ordnance Ammunition Co., APO 403, c/o P. M., New York and reads:

"For the past three months now, we have been receiving the Scotch Plainsman and words can't express how glad we are to receive the bits of news which is gathered from all sections of the town. We have often wondered what had happened to many of our friends whom we knew were serving in the Armed Forces, but we did not know their whereabouts. Now through the efforts of your small paper, many of us have been brought together and are now corresponding.

"You may not have heard of our outfit - the 573rd Ord Amm Co., but I'm sure you will at some future date, - that is if credit is given where credit is due. For these boys are really doing a hellava job in keeping the front lines supplied with ammunition - an item which anyone knows is a vital part of any war.

"Arriving shortly after the invasion, we have been constantly on the move. I was very sorry to hear of some of the Scotch Plains men who have been lost in action. I knew most of them, especially Carol Meyer who was a member of our graduating class of '39.

Keep up the good work of supplying the boys with the news they want to hear from the homefront and I'm sure we won't fall short of our part of the bargain in our effort to never let our men go lacking. Sincerely

T/Sgt McKenzie Gillis
S/Sgt Horace Westbrook
T/4 George McCray
Pvt. Howard Frazier."

From France, comes a letter from Pvt. Herman Kaiser (42007115) Btry. C - 386th AAA Bn., APO 654 c/o P. M. New York:

"I am writing you a few lines to thank you for sending me the town paper each month. I don't know very many people in town but I sure will get acquainted when I return from the war.

"My wife and I have our own home at 2233 Pine Terrace. At the present time it is occupied by my older brother, his wife and their first child.

I was inducted on August 20th, '43 and have been overseas a few days less than 8 months. Things are going well here. I spent five months in England and while stationed there I managed to see London and a few other cities. I haven't had a chance to see any important places in France as yet.

We are all doing our very best to win this war and return home to our loved ones and our dear friends. My wife is living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Robertson and family of 2328 Coles Ave., and she is doing her best to keep me happy by writing to me every day. The letters sure do mean plenty to a fellow who is so far from home.

The weather hasn't been too good lately. We have had quite a bit of rain and it is starting to get fairly cool. I will have to close for today. Good luck - Good health and God bless you all always.
Your friend and neighbor
Hermann Kaiser."

Another newcomer to Scotch Plains Charles M. La Fleur, S 1/C, USS Carberra (CA-70) L Div., c/o FPO San Francisco, writes:

"To the people of Scotch Plains I am you might say a total stranger. I moved there in May '43 but left the same month for the Navy. All in all I spent about fifteen days in my house there. The last four days were spent in January '44 after which I left for overseas duty in the Pacific. I have been out here for ten months so far and have seen a bit of action. Of course, I can't say where I was or what I did because this is the Navy.

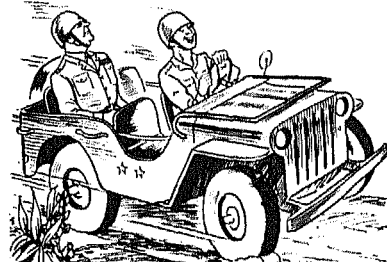
I have noticed that the people of Scotch Plains have purchased a "HELL DIVER". They did a grand thing. The Helldiver is one of the Navy's newest and best planes out here. I want the folks to know that the Helldiver is doing a good job on the Japs.

The Plainsman has been coming pretty regularly out here and I enjoy reading them. Please keep them coming."

Pvt. Conrad J. Kitz is attached to the HQ 122 QM Co., (CAR)HQ UK Base Com. Z, APO 413, c/o P. M. New York. His wife is doing a swell home-front job in the office of the local war plant of Fred Chemidlin (Midlin Models) and we want Conrad to know that her capable assistance is responsible in part for the success of the many drives - War Fund and Community Fund - Red Cross and War Bonds. Conrad writes:

"I just received another issue of The Scotch Plainsman: I enjoy reading it very much and I look forward to receiving each copy. I find the town news very interesting. Also it interests me to find our fellows in every theater of operations.

I am in a Motor Transportation Co. Our duties are to drive high ranking officers on various assignments all over England. Thanks again for the news from home - it's swell."



I DRIVE HIGH RANKING OFFICERS ON ASSIGNMENTS ALL OVER ENGLAND.

M/Sgt Tommy G. Thompson (33164936) is attached to Co. C-3rd Bn. ASFPD, Camp Beale, Calif and writes:

"It may interest you to know that I have received my Scotch Plainsman regularly even though other publications sent me, such as Westinghouse News, etc., do not always "get thru". Isn't this typical of the spirit of Scotch Plains as I knew it to be? To succeed where others fail seems to start in Scotch Plains High School and carries on thru War Bond Drives and other civic activities. I think it is all a result of close cooperation that can only be found in a friendly home town.

You cannot realize the value of the letters you publish in your paper. We Scotch Plainsmen are really scattered around the world. My old football teammates from the G.O.P.'s and SPHS seem to be in so many places that I have been wondering why I have not met some of them. Maybe it is because I had no way, until now, of knowing where they were located and consequently was not on the look out for them.

I did meet "Hank" Bluhm in Aberdeen, Md., and we bought each other a couple of "cokes" - nothing else gentlemen! We swapped news and yarns. Hank does not know I am at Camp Beale, Calif. I left so suddenly (Army style) that I couldn't say "so long Bud."

I naturally find my brother's letters (Lt. L. F. Thompson, England)-

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