

OUR FIGHTING MEN

that have been published in the Scotch Plainsman taking most of my attention. Also, that Pat Caruso, Arch Spencer, Jack Millwater and many others have earned a chest full of ribbons in place of the touchdowns they used to make around this time of the year.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and kindness in sending me The Scotch Plainsman. I have been processed and given a final physical. Good luck! M/Sgt Tommy Thompson."

Lieut. Thompson, Bombardier, Wins Air Medal

2nd Lt. Lester F. Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Thompson, 14 John Street, has been awarded the Air Medal, according to an announcement received by The Scotch Plainsman from an 8th Air Force Bomber Station in England.

The decoration was conferred for "meritorious achievement" while participating in bombing attacks on war plants in Germany and on Nazi military defense points and communication lines in support of the Allied Armies of Western Europe.

Lt. Thompson is the bombardier on an 8th Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress. His wife, the former Miss Manis E. Richardson, lives at McLouth, Kans.

A graduate of SPSHS, Lt. Thompson was a student at Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kans., before entering the service in March, 1943. He received his wings and commission last January at Deming Army Airfield Deming, N. M.

A brother, M/Sgt G. Thomas Thompson Jr., is stationed on the West Coast, and another brother, Warren Thompson, enlisted recently. A third brother, Raymond W., was granted an honorable medical discharge from the Army several months ago.

From 'Somewhere in France', Pfc. Walter E. Johnson (42018776), 542nd Pt. Co., 507 Bn., APO 562 c/o P. M. New York, says:

"I'm now trying to adapt myself to this French weather. I must say it doesn't agree with me at all. It is very rainy and windy most of the time. Nevertheless, I'm a soldier and so far I can't kick.

I've received every issue of The Plainsman and I must say I enjoy them very much. It's something to look forward to each month. So far it has helped me locate several friends and I hope it continues the good work.

Howard Wynn is over here with me; also my brother Robert, who as yet I have not located. He's in the 3137 QM Service Co. but there is no direct way of finding him. I was on the right track when we were in England but we moved so that put me right back where I started.

I regret now that I didn't take French in high school. It would have been a great help - but then perhaps I'd have gone to the South Pacific - so what's the use.

I also enjoy reading those letters written by various fellows in the service and there's very few of them that I don't know.

I was in the class of '39 and I often think of those who were my classmates at dear old Scotch Plains High. I sincerely hope this war will end soon so we can return home to those we left behind."

Pvt. H. L. Ochse writes us from 'Somewhere in Holland' where he landed as a paratrooper in the invasion of that country.

"Have just received my issue of The Scotch Plainsman but would like to give you my new address since I have been overseas since July. At present I am fighting in Holland as I jumped in the invasion of Holland. Jumping in combat was sure exciting. However I guess you all know how it was from the papers. Chasing these Krauts out of Holland is sure fun. My present address is Pvt. H. L. Ochse (42101212) Co. G - 501 Parachute Inf. APO 472 c/o P.M. New York. So until the next issue of The Plainsman, I hope all is well in Scotch Plains."



CHASING THESE KRAUTS OUT OF HOLLAND IS SURE FUN

Donald W. Cowell S 1/C (AMM) Hedron, FAW-3, c/o FPO New York, writes:

"Your swell paper came in this morning's mail. I'd like to thank you all for the time and effort you contribute to the publication of it. It's rather hard to keep in touch with all the fellows you used to run around with but through The Scotch Plainsman we're able to find out just how each one is faring. You're doing a 4.0 job, keep it up! (Thanks, Don we'll try to continue to earn that rating).

I'm not permitted to disclose my location although my folks do know where I am at. I can say that it's warm, the swimming is fine, and every now and then, when I get very ambitious, I can climb a coconut tree and knock a few down to munch on.

The towns are interesting but not as beautiful as the travel agencies back in the States claim them to be. The prices on all articles are much higher than the actual value. When you go into a 'bazar' to make a purchase you must always act as if you are just looking over the stock. Finally when you see what you want you start haggling over the price. That's where the fun comes in. It takes a lot of persuasion sometimes but it's worth the time for the reduction in price. For instance, the other evening I went into a 'bazar' to do some Christmas shopping. The merchant wanted \$37.50 for the articles

I was buying - so we talked turkey and I finally got them for \$23.00.

Not having lived in Scotch Plains so very long, I find the stories of old Scotch Plains very interesting and I'm probably learning more about my home town now than I did before I entered the service."

Douglas Rausch is attached to the 426 Repl. Co., APO 709. c/o P. M. San Francisco, and writes:

"I have received The Scotch Plainsman twice now and in the second one I seem you mention my brother Pfc Charles M. Rausch and myself. Whoever gave you information on me I guess did not know I am a corporal. To start with I have been a cook from the first day. I can't say just where I am now but have been in some tite places. I have been in New Guinea. I am very glad to receive the little paper and to see what some of the old gang are at. The only one I have met in 18 months over here was Al Bormann who was killed in New Caledonia. You might look up the date of his death which I can't write and how it happened. 'Hayseed Doug.'"

M/Sgt. Alfred A. Bormann was killed in an electrical accident while working long hours overtime on the installation of a new radio circuit. The story of his death was told in our first issue. We repeat the letter addressed to his mother, Mrs. Helen Bormann, by the Adj. Gen. of the War Department.

"The War Department takes this opportunity to inform you that United States Army Camp located in New Caledonia, South Pacific Area, has been named "CAMP BORMANN" in honor of your son, the late Master Sergeant Alfred A. Bormann, who died as the result of an accident on 27 October, 1943.

This is but a small indication of the boundless admiration and love which Master Sergeant Bormann's fellow soldiers hold for his memory but it will live as a symbol of his unselfishness and devotion in his services to our country."

MOTHER HEARS NOW SON DIED

Mrs. B. H. Borman, of Old Raritan Road, writes to tell us that as a result of a suggestion made by The Scotch Plainsman, she has been able to learn the circumstances under which her son Lt. Albert F. Von Block met his death in Italy in July.

Lieut. Albert F. Von Block was leading his platoon in Company A, 133rd Infantry in an attack which was going as planned when an artillery shell landed nearby killing him instantly. He suffered no pain.

Mrs. Borman writes "It has been a comfort to me to know this as I had not heard a word from anyone about how he met his death. I still had hopes it was a mistake and he may have been a prisoner but now I guess I'll have to accept it. I want to thank you and the staff of The Scotch Plainsman for helping me secure the information that I desired."

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