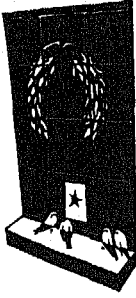


# OUR FIGHTING MEN



Another Christmas season nears and the thoughts of families, friends and neighbors are with Our Fighting Men and Women in all parts of the world.

TO ALL OF YOU the staff of The Scotch Plainsman sends Christmas Greetings and a pledge to continue the "newsletter from home" just as long as you want to read it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt. Anthony Suriano (32146063), Btry. B - 696th Armd FA Bn., APO 403 c/o P. M., New York, takes time out from his activities Somewhere in France to give Police Sergeant James Osnato some sensible advice. His postscript reads - "Tell Sgt. Osnato to take off some weight if he expects to stop those ground balls." The body of his letter reads,

"The September edition of The Scotch Plainsman is not the first I have received but I just haven't had time before this to take time out to thank you for sending it to me.

I can't tell you exactly where I am but I can say I'm Somewhere in France. I could think of a lot of other places I'd rather be but that's out of the question until this thing is over with.

The picture of Margaret Little brought back memories of my school days. I'd like to see more pictures of the boys and girls who are in the service now. Please continue to send the paper to me and say hello to all my friends. So long. Tony."

\*\*\*\*\*

Pfc. William Gellner (32302790), Co. A, - 8th Inf., 4th Div., APO 4 c/o P.M., New York, is rightly proud of his unit. He writes,

"The Scotch Plainsman has arrived again and I'm taking a break so that I can go right through the news. I don't miss a word in this most welcome paper.

When a fellow has been attached to an outfit for any length of time as I've been with the Famous Fighting Fourth Ivy Leaf Division, he feels proud of its accomplishments. The slogan name - FIGHTING FOURTH - fits it to a T. Any fellow with this outfit can sit himself down, smoke a cigarette or a pack and really fill up a nice fat writing pad with the story of what the Fourth has done since it left the States.

After being in England for a short time, we were the first Infantry to hit the beach of France on June 6th. Then we paved the way to Cherbourg and during the month of July we had ringside seats from which we saw the Air Corps, about four thousand strong, drop ton after ton of Bombs on German strongholds. It was quite a show! We then spearheaded the drive that brought us through the northern part of France. Sept. 6th found us going through Belgium and on Sept. 13th we were the first division to hit German soil.

They say war is where you find it

but with us, all along the way, Jerry has been just across the road.

We of the 8th Infantry of the 4th Division were awarded a Presidential citation for our gallantry. We wear it with a great deal of pride.

Give my best to everyone back in Scotch Plains and I hope it won't be long before I'll be enjoying a nice cool lager at Frank's Westside House.

\*\*\*\*\*

Randolph Field, Texas, is the present Army home of Pfc. H.O. Weidner, who is attached there to Sec.C-Pltn. II. He writes,

"Just a few lines to say hello and to thank you for sending The Scotch Plainsman which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I do believe it is the best thing you folks back home can do for all of us far from good old Scotch Plains.

I've been in Texas most of the 28 months I've been away and am working as a mechanic on planes here at Randolph Field. I've run into several boys from home in the past two years fellows like Red Archibald, Mich Mendallo, Roy Kurre and have two Scotch Plains fellows, Ed. O'Connor and T. Parise, here with me now. I might add that most Texans look at me as a confirmed Rebel now rather than one of them thar Yankees. That is O. K. with me as long as I don't have to apply for citizenship papers to get back to the home town.



MOST TEXANS THINK I'M A REBEL NOW!

In closing, I would like to ask a question. Which was first in existence, the Township of Scotch Plains or the Borough of Fanwood?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Back in our July issue, Herbert, we told of the founding of Scotch Plains way back in 1684, at which time Miss Fannie Wood, after whom Fanwood was named in 1876, could hardly have been more than a glint in her great-grandfather's eyes.

In the chronological order of events, from 1684 to 1794 Scotch Plains was a part of Elizabeth Town. From 1794 to 1878 it was a part of Westfield Township and in the latter year became a separate political unit with the name Township of Fanwood. The Borough of Fanwood was organized in 1895 but it was not until 1916 that the Township of Scotch Plains reverted to its original colonial name of Scotch Plains, in the interim the Township of Scotch Plains was known as the Township of Fanwood. At least that's the way we read it in the books. Hope this answers your question.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt. George R. Vernon (42001047), 719th Sqdn. 449th Bomb Grp., APO 520 c/o P. M., New York, writes,

"I've received three issues of The Scotch Plainsman, the first of which arrived after I came overseas. Believe me, I can see why the boys over here send you letters of appreciation for such a "Home-town Paper". It covers the news as to "what goes" at home. Like many of the boys from Scotch Plains I have a 520 APO. I would like to leave my address with you, and also one of another Scotch Plains boy, Larry Powers. I know Larry's location but haven't yet been able to see him. It is Cpl. Larry Powers (42101231), 722 Sqdn., 450th Bomb Grp., APO 520, c/o P. M., New York.

I'd like the page on which this letter is printed to be sponsored by the Park Lunch operated by my father. The bill for the advertisement will please be sent to me as it is my request for the sponsoring. Again, and many, many times thanks for The Scotch Plainsman."

\*\*\*\*\*

Letters from our WAC and WAVE contingents are far and few between but they do make up in content for their scarcity in numbers. Here's one from Pvt. Charlotte Ferris (A-222343) WAC Detachment, ASCTC, Fresno 2, Calif.

"I honestly have been meaning to write ages ago but this Army does keep one on the go.

Yesterday when I went to mail call I was delighted to see my home town paper. I always enjoy reading it and each month I look forward to its arrival.

You on the home front are doing a great job for those in service. All of us, and I'm sure I can speak for all, do appreciate it and feel mighty proud that we have folks back home willing and ready to back up up.

The Scotch Plainsman is at times my only means of hearing about those I went to school with years ago. It's a fine feeling reading of the goings on in your street, your school and your home town.

May I offer my thanks to you and here's hoping that this mess will soon be over. The best of luck to you. Sincerely, Charlotte."

\*\*\*\*\*

Here's a letter written or rather printed under extremely difficult circumstances by Thomas J. Hutchinson with the Navy at Norfolk, Va. "This is just a little note to tell you how much I appreciate The Scotch Plainsman. It's like another letter from home.

I am down here in advanced Radio Operator School preparatory to going out with the fleet.

I was sure sorry to hear about Nick Addamio. My deepest regrets to Mrs. Addamio.

Please excuse the printing but it is done with my left hand. I burned my right hand during the process of tuning one of our high-powered transmitters. Guess I'll sign off now. Please tell everyone 'hello' for me from dear old Norfolk - "crossroads of the Navy".

\*\*\*\*\*

This column sponsored by

TROJAN OIL COMPANY  
Clark Township, N. J.

This column sponsored by

SONOCO PRODUCTS CO.  
Garwood, N. J.

This column sponsored by

PARK LUNCH  
Park & Westfield Aves.