

OUR FIGHTING MEN

Staff/Sgt. Nicholas T. Di Quollo (32769559) Co. A - 1393d Engr. Const. Bn., APO 709 c/o P.M. San Francisco, Calif. writes a very interesting letter from Guadalcanal.

"I'm sorry I haven't written sooner to thank each and every one of you for making it possible for us in the armed forces to read about the home town. I haven't met anyone from home since I've been on the island.

We are kept pretty busy here on Guadalcanal. I'm now in the 1393rd Engr. Const. Bn. The work is hard and the hours are long. We work seven days a week and have hardly no time to ourselves.

The Army is working wonders here. I'm sorry I can't tell you just what we are doing. Two years ago, this island was nothing but a hell-hole, full of swamps, jungles and mosquitos. Today it is one of the biggest bases in the South Pacific. Swamps are filled up; and the Malaria Control is doing a great job in doing away with man's deadliest enemy in the world - the malaria mosquito.

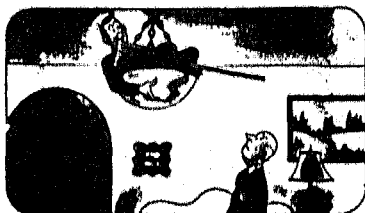
There are some points of interest here, most of all, the battle-grounds and the cemetery. The natives speak English - thanks to the missionaries. They are very friendly and have a great respect for the American soldier.

It was a great surprise to me when I hiked through the jungle to the native village and heard music - American music! I asked the Chief who taught them those songs. He replied "the missionaries and boys who would go to the village to visit." Their favorite songs are "Show Me the Way to Go Home" and "You Are My Sunshine". And believe me they can sing.

The news I've been waiting for was the opening football game at the high school. It was a great day for the boys who played on the team that dedicated the new field with a victory. Speaking as a sportsman, I know how they felt; how the boy felt who scored the first touchdown. The memory of that first game will never die from their minds. Congratulations! Keep up the good work.

Again may I thank you for sending me the Plainsman - a great paper from the BIGGEST little town in Jersey - My home. Good luck and good news. Nick Di Quollo."

S/Sgt. Wilber Palmer of Trenton Avenue is a radio operator and waist gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He and his fellow crew members were part of a squadron cited by President Roosevelt for the successful completion of important missions over Germany. Congratulations, Wilber!



THIS WORK FRANK BLYVEN
"My job on the plane is like this!"

On the colorful letterhead of the Persian Gulf Command, S/Sgt. George Bardolf (32461753), 670th Port Co., T. C., APO 795, c/o P. M., New York, writes from Khorram shahr, Iran,

"I have just received the September copy of The Scotch Plainsman and want to thank you for the swell little paper you are putting out. I've seen a number of hometown papers but none compares with ours.

I noticed that my two brothers have written to you so I'll make it 100% for the Bardolf family in the service.

I've spent the last eighteen months overseas with the last sixteen in Iran. Being at a port I have met a number of fellows from around our area but only a couple that I knew.

I have no battle stories to tell because our job is keeping Russia supplied with fighting material but I could tell you about the heat which runs as high as 170°."

The Scotch Plainsman treasury is richer by a 20 franc note which Pvt. John J. Flynn (42015605) GFRS HQ Co. APO 153, c/o P. M. New York, sent us from Belgium. Coming in the midst of the 6th War Loan Drive, John's letter is particularly opportune.

"As I opened the last paper two things caught my eye, the first was the picture of the airplane (Hell-Diver) and the second was the story of the Bond Drive. I can see that plane doing lots of good for us in this war. I'm very proud to belong to a town of such good American people. I know it makes us boys feel deeply grateful to our people who are doing such a wonderful job for the ending of this war. From me and the rest of the gang - thanks a million for helping us.

Please say 'hello' to Joe LaCosta and his family for me and to Officer Harold Hill also.

As for the war news over here, the boys are doing a bang-up job on the Hun. As for myself, I've been cooking for the boys and was I enjoying it too. But they had me transferred to special duty. Very soon I hope I will go back to cooking for the boys (I'll make a good house wife when I come back). Thanks for the addresses of Jack Millwater and Vincent Ferrucci I shall write them tonight. I enjoyed the swell poem written by Miss Barbarita. Hope some more copies of this swell paper come my way."

Pvt. Wm. K. Ostrander, Co. L, 376 Inf. Regt. APO 94, c/o P.M. New York addresses us,

"Dear Fellow Townsman:
Just a word of appreciation for the newsy paper from an infantry replacement who has been shifting around from depot to depot without receiving much mail but who somehow manages to receive the issues of The Scotch Plainsman.

They are very, very welcome, I assure you, and for that reason want to give you my new address having been assigned to a unit at long last.

Richard Enz, S 2/C, NAS Boathouse Norfolk, Va., writes,

"A few weeks back someone on your staff asked me to get the ball rolling with some war news. It's too bad I'm not the one to start it. Try one of my brothers; they can really say some things about this war.

My twin brother is on a D.D. some where in foreign waters; my young brother Albert is learning more about the PBM's and PEY's.

Helmuth, another one of my young brothers, is somewhere in New Jersey after being overseas for two years. He was stationed in Australia and can tell you more than I will ever be able to.

I am stationed at NAS Boathouse in Norfolk, Va., and can proudly say I am doing my part. But, way down deep in my heart there's no place like home and with my wife. If there is someone in Scotch Plains complaining about the Town, send that person to me here at Norfolk. I'll take that poor someone through the City of Norfolk and he or she will proudly go back to Scotch Plains and live happily forever."

A. Leslie Leonard, Av. Mech. Mate Inst. 3/C drops us a short note from Jacksonville, Fla., where his address is TTS - Bks. 8, NATTC.

Just a note to give you my address and to thank you for the paper. I enjoy it a lot and hope you'll keep 'em coming.

Have been acting as instructor in aircraft instruments since last May. All in all it has been pretty good duty. My wife and youngster joined me down here a couple of months ago which has made Navy life even more bearable.

Am on the "available" list though which means orders any day now. Who knows what's next? Best of luck to all the boys. A. Leslie Leonard."

Grateful acknowledgment is made of letters from the following:

Pvt. Lester L. Bernardo
655 QM Gas Sup. Co.,
APO 17000, c/o PM - New York

Cpl. W. R. Franklin (32918339)
Co. A - 94th Engr. Regt.
APO 667 - c/o PM - New York

Sgt. Louis W. Jones (32240097)
Sgdn. C - 902 AAF-BU (Pac)
AAF-TAC - South Fighter Command
Orlando, Florida

Charles La Fleur S 1/C
USS Carberra (CA-70) F Div
c/o FPO - San Francisco, Calif.

Pfc. William E. Lashley USMC
26th Marine Depot
5th Field Depot, Sup. Serv. FMF
Pacific, c/o FPO, San Francisco

S 1/C Neal Nelson (813-86-27)
Base Co. 24
c/o FPO - San Francisco, Calif.

Cpl. Paul S. Severance (12136280)
Co. C - 3118 Sig. Sv. Bn.
Supreme HQ - Allied EF
APO 757 - c/o PM - New York

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