

OUR FIGHTING MEN

From "Somewhere in New Guinea" S/Sgt Carl B. Bomhoff (32778293), USS Mercy (AH-8), c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif., writes,

"I want to add my vote of thanks for the issues of The Scotch Plainsman which have been reaching me regularly. Your October issue came today (December 30th).

"Believe me, it is good to get some news about people I knew in SP. and Farwood. Judging by the addresses of some of them, they are some where near me now, but I probably will be unable to locate any of them since this ship rides at anchor offshore.

I had a letter from John Lansing sometime ago, but I see by the Plainsman that you have more recent news.

John Cartwright wrote to me from a destroyer somewhere in the Pacific.

My assignment keeps me on a hospital ship, manned by a Navy crew; but the hospital aboard is operated by Army medics. We have made a number of trips to Leyte, arriving there the first time on D plus 4. The fire



works in those parts at that time were somewhat more violent than a welcome for a white "red-crossed" ship need be.

Naturally I look for patients from near home, yet in a way I hope that there will be none, at least among the seriously wounded. However, so far, I have come no closer to S. P. in this search than Newark and Union.

Best wishes for the continued production of the paper and the continuance of my name on the list!

Incidentally, if you can arrange to have this war end this year, it will be appreciated."

Pfc. Mauro Donatelli, Marine Det. USS Hornet, 7th Div., FPO, San Francisco, Calif., greets us with,

"Hi Ya Friends!
"I've been receiving the paper quite regularly. I don't have to tell you how much I enjoy it. Not long ago, I was very much surprised, when Dick Gere of Farwood, bumped in to me aboard ship. He'd just come aboard as a replacement and had no idea I was there. We exchanged all the dope and as Dick was a few issues still behind on The Scotch Plainsman I let him borrow mine.

Soon after Dick came aboard I was accidentally wounded in both legs. A few days in the sick bay fixed me up and I'm up and around again now.

"There's one thing I'd like to see in our paper very much and that's a few views of good old Scotch Plains.

"So long and keep sending the paper. Mauro Donatelli, USMC."

"Whistle" Lansing, (Lieut. J.V.A) (O-827466) 41st T.C. Sqd., 317 T.C. Grp., APO 565, c/o PM San Francisco, Calif., is one of the few servicemen your Managing Editor knew in the pre war days. Whistle writes:

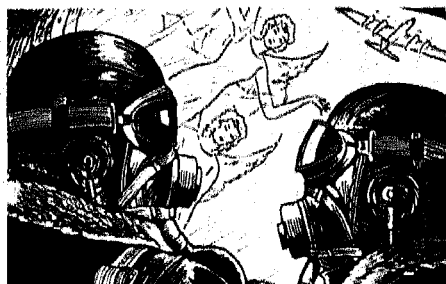
"I guess you've heard by now that I'm flying C-47s in Guinea and I do not like them at all. At present I'm 12,000 ft up so pardon the scrawl

"About the best thing I can say for this racket is that I've landed on every strip from Sydney to Morotai Island and thus got a chance to see some of the gang from Scotch Plains. In the short time (6 months) I've been over here I've seen Len Poole 4 times and Charlie Bond, Mike Strom-ick and Warren Beach once each. Speaking of school friends, I've received a long letter from Carl Bomhoff of SPHS who is on a hospital ship making runs between the States and Guinea.

My mother wrote and said you had a lot to do with making the Scotch Plainsman a success. Will you absorb and pass on to the rest of the staff my thanks and indebtedness to you all for it? I can't say as I like any part in particular - it's great from beginning to end and I have no ideas as to how it could possibly be made better!!

There isn't a whole lot I can tell about this side of the sphere that you haven't heard from others except that flying is the best angle as far as soldiering is concerned. I wouldn't trade it for a "gravel agitating" ground job for all the rice in China. However, this isn't exactly the plane I had in mind when I started flying. I've tried to transfer but it's like trying to light a match in a hurricane - no results! I've got about 450 hours and am checked out as first pilot but still am the only man in the squadron who uses the seat all the way up and forward, the rudder pedals all the way back and a cushion behind me to boot. I'm a strapping 5' 6" (chuckle).

"We'll be moving up north soon. As a matter of fact, our ground echelon has started up by boat so at present we are living more crudely than usual. It's not as bad as it might sound and Mrs. Lansing's little boy John is sure to come home to pester the County some more.



"The biggest hazard we have to overcome is weather and Jap bombs. Of course, where I'm stationed now we have no troubles with the Japs, but in a couple of months I'll be making with the fox hole and helmet.

"I am not about to start waving a flag and tell you how we're all trying hard so we can come home.

You all know that already. Let me tell you this is a hell of a place to live - as far as I'm concerned - they can give it back to the parrots mosquitos and Japs. As a matter of fact, it would be a good idea after we hike through Tokyo to stick all the Japs here - six feet under!

"I suppose I've about worn out my welcome as far as you and the postman are concerned, so I'll turn off for now. All the fellows from home look like they haven't been over-worked or under-nourished a day in their lives. It was especially good to see Poole because he and Checchio were my closest friends through school. I hope you can decipher this and keep The Scotch Plainsman coming! It's a swell thing you and the rest are doing with that paper. There isn't another one as good in the S.W.P.A. Gratefully, John Lansing."



Here's a letter from Whistle Lansing's across-the-road neighbor, Cpl. H. J. Nichols (12180305) 446 Bomb Sqd., 321 Bomb Grp (M), APO 650, c/o PM - New York, written in Corsica.

I have long intended to write and thank you for the really swell work you are doing with the paper and feel that this belated note of gratitude can hardly express my appreciation for the enjoyment I've gotten from all the issues I have received.

"I am assigned to a B-25 Mitchell Bomber outfit on the island of Corsica. I am flying as enlisted bombardier which is often an interesting job and seldom dull. After I frown the required number of missions I'll be returned to the States for a furlough. Of course this adds immeasurably to the pleasure of flying

So far I Haven't met a soul from Scotch Plains or Farwood since I've been over so I can't give you a bit of news about any of the other boys. Do you know of any other of the fellows stationed on Corsica - would like to meet someone from home.

"Thank you again for the paper. It really fills the bill on what I want most - news from home.

"Best - Janney Nichols."

(We hope the printing of your APO address, Janney, will prompt some Scotch Plainsman to get in touch with you for an old gab-fest).

Here's a letter from Tony DeGrisotofaro, SK 3/C, USNB Navy #3245, Dept. C, FPO, San Francisco, Calif.,

"Received the paper about four days after I arrived on this Island. It sure was a big surprise to me.

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