

OUR FIGHTING MEN

"I read about John Van Nesa being out here somewhere so I looked him up. We had a nice long chat and he looks as good as ever. He was supposed to come down and see me today but I guess he couldn't get off.

"We have had a few busy nights; those nips mean business. There isn't much I can write without giving military information so I'll sign off. Hope you will continue to send me the Plainsman."

S/Sgt H.L. Jessperson III, 32623292 Co. D, 604 Eng. Cam. Bn., APO 339 c/o PM, New York, V-mails us from Holland

"The September issue of your most interesting opus has just reached me up here in rain-soaked Holland. In



the letters that you have received many words of praise better expressed than mine but even though this letter is redundant, mine shall be added to your growing list of admirers. Your paper has been the closest printed source of home news to me in over two years. Sgt. Kirchofer of Scotch Plains and I used to have lengthy discussions as to what street was what and who was the man that lived in such and such a house. No one ever won an argument could not be settled. But after being contaminated by the Limeys, Frogs, Belgians, Germans, Luxembourgiens and Hollanders so that our thoughts were no longer coherent, The Plainsman has cleared up many a rusty spot in our minds.

"The BIG PROBLEM to us now is who is Margaret Little? Having lived in the neighborhood for twenty years or more, my problem and Bill's is how did we ever miss her? Off the record the blouse design was fascinating, even tho' our recollection is shaky.

"I wish you and the staff a Merry Xmas and hope the New Year will bring the Plainsman more often."

Theo. E. Euz S 1/C (FCR) "O" Div. USS Caperton, DD 650, FPO San Francisco, Calif. gives us an idea of the length of time it takes the Plainsman to reach some destinations.

"I have received a good number of copies of The Scotch Plainsman. We who receive the paper so far from home really appreciate it very much and cannot thank you enough or tell you in words how much it means to us. It is a wonderful sight to see the photos of the people at home and the men and women in the service.

I enjoyed seeing the photo of all the mothers and am sure that the boys and girls whose mothers were shown were proud to see them there. It is a relief to see them enjoying their selves which they must have done

that day. I am speaking of a few months back for the paper came quite late. It must have gone half way round the world for although it was mailed in July I didn't receive it until December 10th but it got here and that's what counts.

"Dick Preussner drew a fine picture of that island out here. I say drew because I have been on the same island and he described it as an artist would (Palau group). In her last letter my wife informs me that she has met Mrs. R. Preussner. I was close to meeting him here. I know his brother Victor and wife Barbara.

"I look up all the Pacific addresses and try to see the fellows whether I know them or not. I was glad to read about the Millwater boys and the good news about the Higginbotham fellows and Joe Blotner.

"Let's see what the Police force looks like. I did know a few members of the force. I see they are doing a fine job keeping the accidents down.

"To end my letter I say with all my heart, "You have a fine paper and it keeps us very happy and very, very close to home."

Corp. B. W. Beach Jr. (3276961) HQ CO. 2d Bn., 187 Paraglider Inf., APO 468, c/o PM, San Francisco, Cal., got his first taste of action in the Philippines and writes,

I received the Sept. Issue of the town paper enjoyed it very much.

I have seen my first bit of combat and witnessed many unforgettable things. It feels funny to be dry again and to eat hot meals from a field kitchen. I walked through mud and climbed mountains that were passable in places only by man. You will probably hear more about it in the news.

Please let the folks know I didn't forget them and I will write to all my friends when it is possible. Thanks again for the paper and best wishes to all."



Sgt. R. Caruso (32003298) 517 Ord. Co. HM (FA), APO 503, San Francisco, Cal., tells us of his activities and of the many townsmen he has met.

"I am "somewhere in New Guinea" with the 517th Ordnance (Heavy Maintenance) Co., and we're working long hours to keep the equipment rolling to the boys on the front lines.

"While here I met several of my fellow townsmen; John Cirioli, Warren Beach, Whistle Lansing, Charles Bond, Adolf Hauck, Finny Miller, Emil Hoffman, John Short, Steve Cichone and also some fellows I know from Westfield and Plainfield.

We talked about the games the

field club played before it had to break up and also about the high school football and basketball games.

Our Base Ordnance has a cracker-jack team and I was fortunate enough to be one of the first string boys after several days of strenuous practice in this hot climate.

We played a game last week and it was a thriller from the beginning to the last out. There were over \$2000 worth of bets on the game so you can just imagine the crowd that was there.

I guess most everyone knows my brother Pat who was outstanding with the field club team and quite an athlete in high school. He was stationed about 200 miles from me and when he heard I was here he pulled a few strings and spent two weeks with me. It was good to see him after three years. He's now back in the States after spending 32 months here in the tropics.

I'm sending you a copy of a poem on New Guinea which I would like to have you print in our town paper."

(We'll save the poem Ralph, - and publish it in a future issue.)

Sgt. Adolf Hauck (32148632) HQ Co Sub-base K, APO 72, c/o PM, San Francisco, Cal. writes,

"I just received your September issue of the Plainsman which was forwarded to me here in the Philippines. Anything that can speed the arrival of your paper certainly means a lot to me so I'm sending you my change in address. I can easily say that of all the home town servicemen's papers that reach the fellows overseas, "The Plainsman" has no equal. You're really doing a good job with a neat paper and it seems that you must go to a great trouble to make up each issue as you never omit anything that is of interest to us.

"I notice in a lot of the letters you publish some of the boys have been fortunate enough to meet fellow Scotch Plainsmen. I was lucky to run across an old friend while at APO 503. Before I left Guinea Ralph Caruso and I met several times. On one occasion we spent a few hours running over various issues of The Plainsman and engaging in long nostalgic conversation. There was another home-towner in his outfit whose name is Broadwell. I hadn't known him previously but he struck me as being a nice guy. I guess that must be the Scotch Plains in him.

"The biggest news I've received since leaving the States was that of the birth of my daughter, Marie, on the 22nd of October. She's living with my wife in Elizabeth now and that's where I'll return when this is over. However, my post-war plans aren't leaving out the old home town and I intend to see a lot of it.

"Give my regards to everyone and my sympathies to our amiable Police Chief. The Yanks didn't win this year either and everything isn't running true to form. What is running true to form though is the Allied successes over the Axis. It's heartening to read about the home town's contribution and enviable record in this respect.

"I'm certainly glad that there is a Scotch Plains, and, too, that there is The Scotch Plainsman."

This column sponsored by
JOHN MOREL
Plumbing & Heating
Park Ave., Scotch Plains

This column sponsored by
H. L. VANCE
Florist
321 South Ave. Westfield