

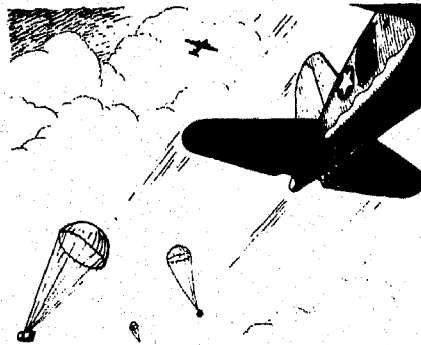
OUR FIGHTING MEN

Here's a letter from Sgt. A. J. Lowrie Jr., 32240187, Co. A, 555 SAWB, APO 595 c/o PM, NYC, packed with both laughs and with messages of serious import. We understand Sgt. Lowrie is a cartoonist - how about some cartoons, Sarge?

"Dear Folks: Germany 1/23/1945

"I can't stand it anymore! I've received five or six copies of The Plainsman and I really think it is swell and always have, but I'm just too lazy to write and tell people those things! You would think every letter I wrote wore ten years out of my life the way I ration them. Inidentally, if you can't read this letter, maybe "Mich" Hand Sims from little ole Fanwood can decipher it. She is one of my few and bestest correspondents (all due respect to my wife).

"As I am not the old "Bull Shooter" I used to be, this letter should appear very modest as to who is winning this war - but ask Les Thompson if he has any respect for front "line-radar" when he makes those missions into our front yard.



"We hit the Normandy beach as substitutes and have been playing first string ever since as the original team had a little too much opposition at a memorable spot at same beach.

"June sixth happens to be my birth day - and I never saw so much fireworks just because I reached my twenty fourth year!!!! I had a lot of doubts about making it twenty five and I'm not kidding.

"I guess there will be quite a few stories exchanged over a brew when this is all over. Here's an example of destiny - a troopship next to our boat on D-day was sunk by a Nazi sub. Not a single casualty! Two hours later --- the same troops were practically one hundred percent "mort" in the hottest landing one would ever want to see. If the people back home could have seen what happened to our Rangers and Airborne troops, they would have been less trouble on their labor fronts and cigarette counters. It just amazes me, to say it mildly.

"I'm not doing much here myself but I'm just glad I am here. Every time I had a furlough in the States, I used to receive those "Why aren't you overseas looks" from people whom it really didn't interest. Now I get those "Why the hell don't you go back where you came from" looks from another nationality.

It's all a great game (if you like to play rough). Our outfit has been in France, Holland, Belgium and Ger-

many - including a slightly exciting episode in (censored).

Well, since you are not the Chaplain, I better call off this TS slip and get back to The Plainsman. My buddy likes the letters you publish so well that he copies them and changes the names and answers all his church and home town newspapers that way. (No, I'm not copying one of his!).

We really have the life. We have a little house of our own - completely furnished ---- compliments of the Hitler Household Appliance Corp. and when things get dull, he drops a couple of eggs in our back yard to liven things up a bit. I never tell my wife anything like that. I told her I watched a tank battle in Caen, France, from an observation plane with a Canadian pilot friend of mine and she was quite peeved. So now I merely say - "The weather is fine -- no letter today - I love you; be home soon".

Well here I am right back in the "Bull Shooting" groove again so I think I'd better close as I am trying to break myself of this habit. Good luck on your future publications and to all my friends in the different services. P.S. In brief, I am receiving my copies of the "Plainsman" quite regularly and enjoy them very much. All the best."

Capt. W. Frankel, 216 AAA Gun Bn. APO 758, c/o P.M., New York, former SP dentist, writes:

"May I thank you for the Scotch Plainsman. It is as fine a home link as I have found overseas --- outside of a friend in the flesh.

"Although North Plainfield has been my home, I find that my memories, plans and hopes for the future largely reside in Scotch Plains.

"Wherever we go, whether they speak Arabic, French, Italian or German, the civilians like American medicine and dentistry. We have a problem handling the patients that pour into our clinic.

"Basically my work in the army remains that of civilian life. I fill teeth, extract teeth and restore teeth.

"Besides giving me (they insisted on it) a tour of Africa, Italy and France, I've worked with a general hospital, a line infantry division and now an AAA gun battalion.

"Wonder what Scotch Plains will be given for topping its World War bond record? Maybe you can get a couple of bull dozers. We can use them to push aside snow or fallen trees. Sincerely, Woodrow Frankel."

- Dick Lidgate was wounded in Germany and is now in Ward 24, Tilton General Hospital, Fort Dix, N. J., from where this letter comes:

"Just a couple of lines to tell you how much I appreciate The Scotch Plainsman. I've just received the December issue, the first I've seen. It has followed me half way across the world but even though the news is old, it sure is swell to hear where all the fellows are. Even tho we get lots of mail from our friends and family, somehow it's hard to keep in touch with all the people I

went to school with.

"I was wounded November 18th in Germany while fighting in the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Armored Division. Since I've been in the Army I haven't met anyone I knew, so you can imagine my joy at meeting Don Meyer in the hall here at Tilton. I don't think I've seen him since we graduated from SPHS in '37. Of course we had old home week and exchanged all the news we could remember.

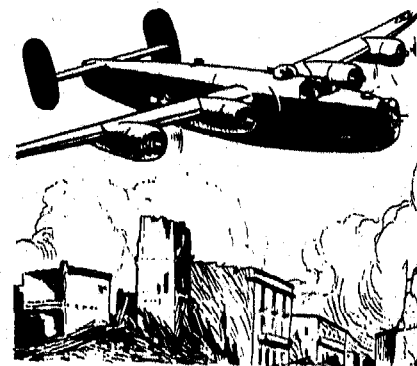
"If you people at home could imagine the joy the boys overseas must get out of The Scotch Plainsman, your efforts would be well rewarded. Keep it up! Sincerely Dick Lidgate"

Sgt. William Reiley, Co. B Maint. Bn., 2d Armored Div., A.P.O. 252 c/o PM, New York, writes:

"Just received another issue of your Plainsman. Having been overseas over two years, it is good to see the old hometown in there pitching and doing its share.

"It's great to read that the boys whom you have lost all contact with are okay and doing their share and then some. Through your paper I have located four home town boys - Jimmie Higginbotham and I have been very close together in Africa, Sicily and most of the time here. Elmer Curren, Bill Gellmer and Anthony Suriano are also here and now we kinda swap news about the town of our dreams.

"It is good to see how the people are doing their share in the WarBond drives. We here know it is those bonds which are saving lives and making this war shorter. As we turn the pages we see the foot-ball team is still going strong. We here know they can't win them all. Keep trying. The last page and home town



news we see the people of Union County still know a good man when they have one. Was happy to see our sheriff lead the whole county in the past election. And then comes the sad part -- no more pages.

I want you to know that isn't the end of the paper. We reread it a dozen times before the next issue arrives - afraid we might have missed something ---- and then we know it's time to throw the old one away.

We can only say thanks for the wonderful paper and keep it rolling.

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