

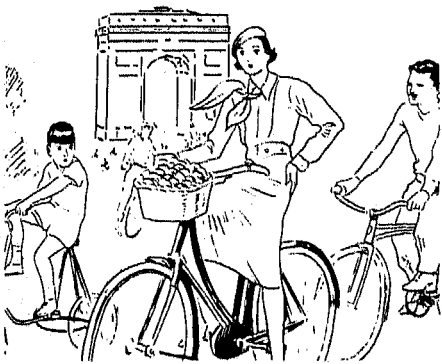
OUR FIGHTING MEN

A letter from Paris, written by Sgt. Louis G. Ochse, 20221318, Co. A 3110 Sig Sv Bn., APO 887 c/o PM, N.Y. contains an interesting question, the answer to which we will try to print in a future issue.

"I have finally gotten to write to you and express my sincere thanks to all of you. Yes, it is great hearing from all of you and learning the locations of my friends.

Say - what has happened to the first boys of Scotch Plains who were called into service back in Sept. 15, 1940? They are Bruce and John Mac Cormick, Donald Adair, Joseph Poliseo, and Major William Walker. You see I used to be with all of them that first year in Dix until I was discharged in Sept. 1941.

Well, I have been in Paris for awhile with a short stay in Belgium and, of course, England. I sure miss that place.



Paris is OK. You gals sure would go crazy with all this Chanel No. 5, Guerlain Schiaparilli about. Should have said that in the past tense as it is as scarce as hens' tooth.

The city has many monuments but there is one monument I want to see bad and that is the cannon at Front St. and Park Ave. I mean that.

I met Andy Loeffler Sr. some time back. He was still in those lovable "civies". Since then we have had many bull sessions. Sure is great meeting someone from home. I also met Arthur Perucci back in Normandy.

Will you please let me know if Miss Edith Higgins is still at SPHS? If so, will you please extend to her my kind regards. (She's still there Louis and will read your message in this issue).

Will close now wishing you the best. Glad to see the town has done so well in the bond drives. Keep up the good work."

Russell J. McGonnell B.M. 1/C is one of the Fanwood boys to whom the Fanwood Defense Council has mailed the last two issues of the Plainsman. Russell writes from the U. S. Naval Hospital, Ward B, Mare Island, Cal.

Outside of a 3-day visit in June I've been away since 1938 when I joined the Navy. I have enjoyed and learned a lot during my six years of service.

I am getting a medical discharge for total disability and I must say I hate to leave this outfit.

I have been reading in the Plainsman about a number of very good

friends of mine - fellows I haven't seen for the past six years.

When I got back to Scotch Plains in June and asked about these old friends of mine, I learned they were in Europe, North Africa, Australia and the different islands. I could not believe such a small community could be so thoroughly cleaned out.

While reading Cpl. Henry E. Bluhms article I noticed he mentioned sending insignia to you for the paper's office. I believe it's a good idea. At present being in a hospital it is hard for me to get some new ones so as soon as I can I will be very glad to send some.

I am sorry to say that when I get paid off, which will be in the near future, I intend to live in Long Beach on account of the severe winters back home. I hope to visit Fanwood and Scotch Plains at least once a year. I must say I enjoy reading The Scotch Plainsman and will look forward to the next edition. My sincere thanks for this news from home. Mac."

One great joy which our work on The Scotch Plainsman brings us is the knowledge that through its pages so many of our boys in distant parts have been able to arrange meetings and to write each other. A letter from Cpl. G. E. Stoecker (32275562) 38th ADG HQ Sq. APO 528 c/o PM, N.Y. prompts this thought:

"It has been quite sometime since I wrote you and told you of the many pleasant memories that I have derived from your monthly edition of The Scotch Plainsman and how eagerly I look forward to the following editions. It was thru this paper that Cpl. Francis Nowak, of Old Raritan Road and I got to corresponding with each other. We have not yet gotten to see each other as there are many difficulties barring the way. However, I think that there is a remote chance of our stumbling into each other. I hope so for I have yet to run across anyone from the home town even after two years of overseas service. It hardly seems possible, does it? Charlie."



From northern Italy, Pfc. J. A. McCarthy (32060187) 53d Ord. Am. Co. APO 464, c/o P. M. New York, writes:

"I have just received and read my first copy of THE SCOTCH PLAINSMAN but it is not the first copy I have seen. Sgt. Erholm has shown me several other issues and was thrilled with the one which contained his mother's

picture; one couldn't blame him. He and I are quite chummy and have seen quite a bit of each other since he has been over here.

My wife has sent me a copy too. She was one of those sweet Scotch Plains gals but now she is strictly Fanwood for that's where she lives now.

I have met two Fanwood boys in my travels - Walter Huckins back in Africa in the hospital just before he returned home and another former Fanwood boy, Alfred Babcock. You may know him. He went to SPHS. He went to school there with my wife.

I see an address in your paper of a lad who isn't too far from me. He is Kenneth Hopfel. I have a few buddies in his outfit.

If it is possible I would appreciate it if I could have some addresses of lads in this theatre, or with the same APO. I could look them up and if they have less time over here than I they could tell me how the States are.

I sure do thank you for your paper and I hope to be included in your mailing list. If there are any fees for subscriptions I am only too sure my wife would be glad to take care of that for me. Sincerely, Mac."



SGT. JAMES MUIR KILLED IN ITALY

Sgt. James C. Muir, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Muir Sr., of E. Front St., was killed instantly by enemy artillery fire on Feb. 23rd while in combat fighting in the Apennine Mountains in Italy.

News of Sergeant Muir's death was first received by his parents from the war Department on Mar. 9. Overseas but a few weeks prior to his death, he was a member of the 85th Regiment of the 10th Mountain Infantry Division.

A graduate of S.P.H.S. where he served as president of his senior class, Sgt. Muir was attending Norwich University, in Vermont when he joined the Enlisted Reserves in March, 1943. He went overseas in January. An outstanding athlete in high school, he also served as junior assistant scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 22.

Capt. Charles M. Gordon, chaplain of Sergeant Muir's regiment wrote to the Sergeant's parents (in part)

"He was buried with fitting religious services and full military honors in an American Military Cemetery in Northern Italy."

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