

OUR FIGHTING MEN

s/Sgt. Robert E. Lee, Co. B, 85th Infantry, APO 345, c/o PM, New York, is a member of the same outfit to which James Muir was attached. Bob got his too, shrapnel wounds in the knee while rescuing a wounded buddy in the Po Valley region. His letter follows:

"Italy, April 25, 1945.

Hello Everybody:

I hope you haven't given up hope of expecting to hear from me. I know it's been a long time that I've been receiving my copy of The Scotch Plainsman. I received my first copy back in the States. That was quite a while ago. It was really wonderful. Now that I'm overseas it's even more wonderful.

I don't know why I haven't written sooner - I meant to. Maybe my teachers were not far from wrong when they said I was lazy. I hope I'm forgiven for not writing sooner.

Every time I get a copy I read the letters the other fellows have written. It's nice to know that all your old friends are all right.

It hit me pretty hard when I heard about Jim Muir. Every time we saw each other (which was very often) we had something to talk over about The Scotch Plainsman. I know he liked the paper a lot. Jimmy and I had been together for two years. Scotch Plains should be very proud of their Sergeant Muir. He was a damn good soldier. You can't find them any better anywhere.



I was wounded in the "Po Valley" the day we pushed out of the mountains. I was hit in the knee. It's not bad and I'll be up in no time.

As you know by now, I met my brother in Rome. We had four days to gether with Easter Sunday thrown in. We had a wonderful time talking all about good old Scotch Plains.

I want to say hello to all my friends. Keep Scotch Plains as wonderful as it is now and we'll all be back home soon. Goodbye everyone and lots of luck on your paper.

You're all OK. Sincerely,
Little Bip (Lee)."

Here's a newsy letter from Wilbur L. Santo Salvo, MASG-48-MGAS, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Calif.

"Hi Eds:

I have just received the April issue of The Scotch Plainsman which gave me great pleasure. I have been receiving them regularly and hope to continue doing so for the duration. Thanks for sending me my copies of your "BIG" little paper.

From it I learn that our hometown buddies are scattered all over the world and doing their jobs well. The

fighting men from Scotch Plains (with a little help from the rest of the Army) sure brought the war in Europe to a screeching halt. Here's wishing you all a speedy return to the U. S. and let's all hope that V-J day will soon be declared so we can all come back to good old Scotch Plains, N.J.

Here's something our Chit-Chat Editor might be interested in. I've been married about two years. Carmela, my wife, is from Detroit, Mich. We have a son, Billy, who is ten months old and we plan to make our home in Jersey after the war.

Well, I guess this is all I can say, so I'll say So Long and Lots of Luck to all you fellows wherever you may be. Don't forget me on your mailing list, Ed's. Santo."

Sgt. Louis G. Ochse, 20221318, Co. A, 3110 Sig. Sv. Bn., APO 887, c/o PM, N.Y., wrote us back in March and sent us a copy of Stars and Stripes, Paris Edition of March 16th, in which the feature story was that of the awarding of the Presidential Division Citation to the 101st Air borne, of which his brother Henry is a member.

"Dear Folks:

"Just a few brief lines to let you know that the Scotch Plainsman arrives faithfully.

Your January issue arrived yesterday and I observed a request for either Yank or Stars and Stripes. I am enclosing a copy of today's S&S.

I might add the division that has been cited is represented by at least one local boy, - my brother, Harry. Perhaps there are others from town. Again thanks, loads, and keep up the good work. Sincerely, Louis G. Ochse"

It was only two short months ago that Lester Bernardo wrote us that he had been transferred from the QM Corps to the Infantry, and here's a letter from Germany indicating combat experience that placed obstacles in the way of his reading The Scotch Plainsman. Lester is with Co. B, 38th Infantry, APO 2, c/o PM, NY.

"I received two papers just as the order came to move out. I didn't have time to read them beforehand so I took them with me. We caught Jerry napping and took our objective with out a casualty. When we had gotten our security set up and I was just about to catch up on a little home news, Jerry counter-attacked. He kept us busy all night with his big guns and potatoe mashers. I didn't get a chance to read the paper until after Jerry's dawn attack the next day. It seemed as though he didn't want me to get any news from home. But I did. Thanks a million."

Gates W. Daniels has had a nice promotion and is now Chief Warrant Officer. He's with H/S Co., of the 1313th Engrs., Com Z, ETC, APO 513, c/o PM, NY 4, NY. He V-mails:

"I must admit I have been quite slow about writing but at last I've gotten around to it. The speed of travel and rapid progress of the front has kept me very busy.

I have been receiving my copies of the Plainsman regularly. I wish to express my sincere thanks to each member of your staff as it has been a great pleasure to receive such complete news of home and my friends in the service. It is so pleasing to learn the people back home are putting forth such a splendid effort to speed the wars' end.

Your paper has enabled me to contact many of my friends whom I had never hoped to hear from again until I returned home. I landed in France a month after "D" Day with an Engr. Construction Regt. We have been following the Armies across France, constructing roads and bridges for the vital supplies of war to pass over. It has been a very interesting experience for me. Although we are not really a combat outfit we have been under enemy fire many times. I would give nothing for the education and adventure derived from such an experience, although things have been very difficult at times.

I am the Motor Transport Officer in my unit. That alone has been an interesting job as we have many pieces of construction equipment, aside from a number of trucks.

On many occasions we have made things and improvised to an extent that one could only picture them in a dream.

On the first of December, 1944, I received an early "Christmas" gift. Maybe I shouldn't say gift, But I was so well pleased I considered it as such. Next to coming home it was the best I could have wished for because on that day I was promoted to the grade of Chief Warrant Officer.

I would appreciate it so much if you would pass on my best wishes to all my friends in the service. Do hope many of them will remember me when they think of the class of '38 at good old SPHS. Hoping to be home soon but only after the job is finished and well done. Sincerely yours Gates W. Daniels, CWP, AUS."

Sgt. Donald J. Cowan, 42012758, Med. Det. 85th Mt. Inf., APO 345, c/o PM, NY, is attached to the same outfit as Bob Lee whose letter appears on these pages. If you fellows have not already met, maybe this issue will bring you together.

"Dear Staff:

I recently received the last Scotch Plainsman in which the article appeared on the help you are giving in facilitating voting. I read the paper from cover to cover even though I don't know the majority of people mentioned. It sure is a swell idea and I know that people who have lived in the town longer than I and are in the service are certainly thankful for it.

As you can see by my return address, I'm with the 10th Mountain Division that recently came out of the hills and had a rat race across the Po Valley.

If there is any way I can help you out while on this side of the ocean, don't fail to call upon me.

One thing that might help is the change of my address."

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