

# OUR FIGHTING MEN

which burned night and day. During the King's visit we were permitted neither to smoke nor to eat pork.

Ibn Saud is a big Arab, 65 years old, and has had, maybe, 150 wives, though he has adhered to the Moslem custom of having but four at one time. He grew up with the determination to reconquer the lands lost by his father, so at 20 began fighting his way back. He has continued his rule for 45 years and brought order to disordered peoples. Now he's the greatest living Arab ruler. I know you must have read about him in the newspapers and magazines, but I thought I would tell you anyway."

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A letter from T/5 Charles Wood, (32386077 - 743rd MP Bn., Co. B, APO 528 c/o PM, NY.) written in Casserta, Italy, goes:

"Hi Everybody:

"Just wanted to say hello and that I have just received my new copy of The Scotch Plainsman. In reading it I have come across many familiar names of old friends. Now that the war is over here in Italy, I'm looking forward to returning home soon.

I have been overseas now for two years. Have had a year in Africa and one in Italy. Had a few narrow escapes but for the most part everything has been calm and placid. So, for the time being, that is all. I hope to drop in on The Plainsman very soon."

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## SCOTCH PLAINSMAN HELPS REPAIR DAMAGED PLANE

Pfc. Nicholas A. Ruggieri, of 327 Westfield Road, an aircraft sheet metal specialist with the 15th Air Force Service Command in Italy, was one of a group of men who accomplished a near-impossible feat by repairing a flak-damaged Liberator Bomber recently, according to an Army press release.

The Liberator Bomber, aptly named the "Consolidated Mess", a veteran of more than 40 combat missions, was caught in a hail of flak while dumping its bombing load on an objective in southern Germany and limped slowly home to a major air base for repairs.

Pfc. Ruggieri and his group of sheet metal specialists called upon to repair the surface damage, noticed more than 100 holes in the fuselage and wings, varying from a pit mark to a jagged hole in the belly about three feet in diameter. In one wing alone, the repair crew located more than 60 holes. Knowing well that new wings have been installed for less damage than that, the repair

crew decided to match their skill with the Nazi destructionists and decided to patch the ship.

In less than three weeks, the aircraft was out of the hangar and on the flight line test. Pronounced perfect enough to return to combat and renew its onslaught on future objectives, "Consolidated Mess" thumbed her nose at the salvage yard and roared back to her home base. A miracle to a layman, and it was just a hard task for Pfc. Ruggieri and his crew of soldier workers and another successful job to an already imposing total.

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Neal Nelson, SK 3/C, Base Co. 24, c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif. tells us of his work in the Navy in the Admiralties where he is now stationed.

"I received the last issue of The Scotch Plainsman a few days ago and was indeed glad to receive it. I will try to give you a brief outline of my Navy life overseas.

First of all let me say that life in the Navy isn't what you civilians picture it to be. It is true that we have a great many exciting moments but otherwise everything else you hear is pure "scuttlebutt" (gossip to you civilians).

At the present time I'm stationed somewhere in the Admiralty Islands. Prior to this I have been stationed in New Caledonia and New Guinea. Most of these islands in the South and Southwest Pacific resemble each other a great deal.

I have been advanced to the rate of Storekeeper 3/C, but my duties vary - the exact duties I'm unable to disclose. I find them very interesting and hope to accomplish some thing in my future days.



As my time is limited, I must sign off but before I do, I want to congratulate you all on the splendid job you are doing in helping the war effort. Pray for our speedy return. Unfortunately I haven't met any of the boys from the old home town although I have met a few

boys from Plainfield. They sure enjoy reading the paper. Enclosed you will find a snapshot of me taken here in the Admiralties.

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## Pfc. H. J. FRITZ GIVEN CITATION FOR BRAVERY

For courageous and exemplary performance of duty while participating in combat on the Western Front, Pfc. Howard J. Fritz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fritz of 1977 Highway #29 has been cited for an action that occurred in October, 1944, while serving with the Fifth Army in Italy.

The commendation reads in part: "While operating under direct mortar and artillery fire, in utter disre-

gard for his own safety, Pfc. Fritz on Oct. 3 and 4 installed and maintained essential telephone wires from his battalion's guns to the liaison officer's headquarters and forward observers with the infantry.

"Working in the black of night over narrow, slippery mountain trails, Pfc. Fritz struggled through the enemy shellfire to instal his equipment. Frequently the telephone lines were blown out by enemy fire, yet Pfc. Fritz continued to repair the damage at great danger to his life, so that vital communications between the infantry and artillery would be intact.

"His actions reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces, and has won for him the respect and admiration of all his comrades and officers of his battalion," the commendation concluded.

Overseas since March, 1943, Pfc. Fritz has participated in the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. Entering the service in Nov. 1942, he trained at Fort Bragg, N.C., and other camps in this country before going overseas. His wife, the former Miss Angelina Matteis, resides with her parents at Raritan.

His brother Sgt. Robert Fritz, has been overseas for 15 months and is now with an armored division of the Ninth Army in Germany. Another brother, Charles Fritz, motor machinist mate, third class, USN, is stationed at the U S Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Florida.

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## INDUCTED IN ARMY

Among the latest group of men reported by local Draft Board 4, as entering the Army, June 29, were: Wilford R. Boykin, 204 Richmond St., Robert E. Mann, 328 Westfield Road, and David C. Winston, 11 Kate St., all of Scotch Plains; and Dickinson R. Kearney, of 26 Chetwood Terr., Fanwood. Just as soon as their families send us their service addresses, we'll see that The Scotch Plainsman is mailed to them regularly.

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Pfc. John K. Garman writes that The Scotch Plainsman follows him all over the Pacific and that it is finding him now on Tinnian where he is keeping busy handling ordnance.

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Seaman 1/C, Anthony E. Cerullo, Armed Guard, S/S Isaac Delgado, c/o FPO, San Francisco, writes that even though he is not a resident of Scotch Plains he enjoys The Scotch Plainsman and is grateful that his name is on our mailing list. He enlisted in the Navy from North Plainfield and was thrilled when they accepted him after his second attempt.

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T/5 Edward H. Mann, of Hetfield Avenue, is a member of Co. A of the 134th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion which was recently awarded the Star to the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque by direction of the President.

The 134th was the first unit in the 12th Armored Division to receive such an award and was also the first unit of the 12th to be given the plaque.

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