

OUR FIGHTING MEN

us. I have been overseas only a couple of months, but does it seem like years. The weather here right now is the rainy season and it lasts about three months. All you can see is mud.

"Our first stop was Pearl Harbor. Only stayed there two days. I can't tell you where I am now. Over here we don't use American money; we use nothing but military currency. Here are a few pieces of it. The fifty Yen note equals a nickel and the one Yen a dime. There also is a twenty Yen (two dollars); ten Yen, one dollar; five Yen, fifty cents and one Yen, a penny. It's a little hard to get used to at first.

"We are living in tents and soon will have wooden decks and electric lights. The only type of pleasure we have is movies every evening and the best of all - SLEEP.

"Met a colored boy over here who is from Scotch Plains. All I know is his last name is Williams. Did I feel good!



"We are going to get our first ration of beer today since we left the States, -two cans a man for three days. Also got our first ice-cream and steak this past Sunday. Were we glad.

"Well I guess that's all for now. Hope I will hear from you and please don't forget the paper. Dick."

(ED. NOTE: When your mother sent us a card saying you hadn't received your papers Dick, we mailed a second set. When they all turn up, you'll have Scotch Plainsmen in profusion.

If The Scotch Plainsman really makes W. T. Reilly Co. MM 3c, USS-LST #893, FPO, San Francisco, Calif., feel as he says in his V-mail letter, then all this work we do is really worth while:

"Dear Editor:
"When I entered the service I was a comparatively new resident of Scotch Plains but after reading your very newsy servicemen's publication, I feel like one of the "old timers". I've seen many a home-town servicemen's paper aboard ship but yours seems to be more complete and homey. The impression I get when I read the paper is that I'm standing at Park and Westfield Avenues and just talking to the people who walk by.

If you get a chance, will you say hello to Chief Erholm and Mr. Lawler for me. I'll appreciate it and would also like to hear from them once in a while.

I know it would speed delivery of The Scotch Plainsman if you would note my new address. I think I'll have it for the duration now and sure hope my next address will be S.P.-N.J.

"That about covers all I can say at this point except to reiterate that I enjoy the publication immensely and you are certainly doing a bang-up job."



Jimmy Higginbotham is, as he expresses it, "sitting on 109 points" waiting for a chance to get back to Scotch Plains and resume his civilian status. Under date of July 19, he writes from Ingalstadt, S. Germany, where he is stationed with the HQ. Co., 9th Inf., APO 9, N.Y.:

"Hi Folks:

"I have just received my June issue of our own little paper and was glad to hear that all of our boys who were prisoners of war have returned and that a few others have already been discharged. As for myself I'm sitting on 109 points waiting for a quota to bring me back to good old Scotch Plains and a chance to try civilian life once again.

"I'm having things very much to my liking now - swimming and ball-playing take up most of my time. Since the great argument has been over, I have taken many scenic trips thru the Alps and visited Hitler's home located on one of the highest peaks in this section of the Alps.

"Food and living conditions are improving every day and we are enjoying more recreational activities so you see I am not having it too bad while waiting for my ship to come in.

"Hoping to see you all soon, I am,
Just Higgy."

Higgy also sent us copy of a letter written by General Bradley to the troops of the First and Ninth Infantry Divisions. While Higgy doesn't comment on the letter, we suspect he is proud of his association with one of the units mentioned.

TWELFTH ARMY GROUP
Office of The Commanding General
APO 655
U. S. Army

10 May 1945.

TROOPS OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIV.

This May 9th that passed was too big a part of your life to crowd it with recollections. It belongs to you and the world as the day on which the German war was ended. However, May 9th has a greater meaning for

men of the First and Ninth Infantry Divisions. In recalling the day in future years, you can remember with great pride that it marks not the first, but the second unconditional surrender of an enemy you fought valourously for thirty long months.

From the waddies of El Guettar where the First and Ninth Divisions fought shoulder to shoulder against crack elements of the Afrika Korps to the final surrender of German forces to the American Second Corps on May 9, 1945, the Tunisian campaign was an epoch, fashioned largely in the bravery, skill and achievements of your two divisions.

American troops advancing through the minefields of the Sedjenane and on the road to Mateur, gave our Nation its first great land victory of the war, and the world its first great unconditional surrender of large-scale German forces.

Since then I have followed your red numeral of the First Division and your tricolored insignia of the Ninth across the sands of Sicily, past the defenses of Troina, over the beaches of Normandy and through the hedgerows to Cherbourg. Side by side, your two divisions have fought the German army 700 miles across the Continent to the inevitable and final defeat of the German nation.

The American Army is studded with splendid divisions. But rarely have two teamed so expertly; never have two divisions fought longer and harder with greater skill or courage.

Sometimes you may have felt forgotten. Sometimes you may have felt, as fighting soldiers do, the endlessness of our long road to Germany. Now that you're here, however, and now that many of you are ready to go home, I want you to know the gratitude of your Nation.

And as your Commander, I want to share with the millions of your friends and champions throughout the Army, their pride in your unsurpassed and monumental achievements.

Signed: O. N. Bradley
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding."

Another Navy man, also in the Pacific, Theodore C. Richter, USS-PCS 1460, FPO, San Francisco, Calif., takes time out to write:

"Dear Editor:
"Hope this letter finds you all well in our little town of Scotch Plains. It has been quite some time since I've been there and believe me I'll never leave once I pull in and I think that won't be long, maybe I hope when the bird season opens up this fall.

"What I really wanted to say was about Johnny Long. I think he has a good idea in mind about keeping our paper going after the war. I'm with Johnny Long all the way.

"We just came up from Okinawa and made a stop at Leyte. They say we

(Please turn to page 7)

This column sponsored by

SONOCO PRODUCTS CO.
Garwood, N. J.

This space sponsored by

PEOPLES BANK & TRUST CO.
Westfield, N. J.

Ask your neighbors and friends to subscribe to THE SCOTCH PLAINSMAN P.O.Box 473, Scotch Plains