

THE OUTPOST

Where those at home and the men and women in the armed services from the Back Mountain Region—in camps and on the fighting fronts—keep contact with their fellows throughout the world.



FROM FIELDS AFAR

Never Get Used To It
Dear Editor:
I guess you thought I'd forgot all about you back there. Well, I really haven't. They keep us pretty busy over here all the time, but when I get the Dallas Post, I always have time to read it. I'm really glad to get it here, too, and hear that most all the folks back home are okay and keeping things going. It is almost Xmas Eve here, and I received the Post today. It is a pretty old issue but no matter how old it is, it still makes me feel good to get it. I'm sending you my new APO so maybe I can get it a little sooner from now on; I'm hoping so anyway. I'm sitting here in my truck now, operating radio and switchboard, and there is plenty of excitement overhead; but we see that all the time over here. They say you can get used to it, but I still haven't seen anybody yet that said he was used to it; I don't believe I ever will. We go through a lot and do a lot, but our main subject is the folks back home and wishing we all could be there. I've still got my same job, truck driving. Well, hoping to get another Post soon and also see you all.

An old Pal,
Ben, Jr.
APO New York, N. Y.
● We've thought of you often, Ben, since you were in to see us and wondered where you were. It's good of you to write and let us know that you got a Post just be-

fore Christmas Eve. If we could have planned it, that's just when we would have wanted it to arrive. I know you are working hard because a fellow as big as you are has to do an awful lot of excavating when he digs a foxhole. Norm Smith is about your size. He told me he always had to start digging his about two hours ahead of the other fellows. Good Luck to you.
—Editor.

In Muddy Italy
Dear Howard:
Boy, oh boy, about time I better write the Post a letter. How's everything been? I certainly miss the Post and I really know now why the boys that have been overseas really appreciate it all the more!

Good gosh, what happened to the D.T.H.S. this football season!! Well, I'll bet they go to town in basketball!! What say, Borough? I'm now in "Sunny Italy"; —only thing, we never see the sun. It rains here most the time and really is Muddy!!! People here are really bad off—They need clothing and food bad. I know they'll never want to see war again.

Our "B-24 crew" has two missions in now. About time we do something for U.S. with all the training we've had. It's OK!

Want to say "hello" to all the "gang" home and in the service, and wish you a Happy New Year!
2nd Lt. Harry C. Snyder
Somewhere in Italy

P. S. Did you get to see Bill's wife? She's really something!

● There was a mix-up or I'd have seen her. Probably Bill was just a little bit dubious about what might happen. I think I said something to him once about politicians always kissing the babies, but editors kissed the brides.—Editor.

In The Philippines
Dear Howard:

I received the clipping from the Post from home. As you see I am in the Philippines and it has been about four months since I received the last Post. I don't know whether the address was correct or not so I enclosed it. I would really appreciate it if I could continue receiving it.

The climate here is a little different than it is at the present at Harvey's Lake. I imagine they have a lot of snow and ice, but here it is as hot as can be. Another thing is the rain. We are having the rainy season now and I am hoping that it will soon end, because it really makes a mess of things. But one of the gooks (natives) tells me it will end in January.

The natives are very peculiar and very hard to become accustomed to. They speak very little English and that makes it very hard for us to talk to them. They live in little huts made of bamboo and weaved cocoon leaves; although they are pretty nice.

I want to thank you for sending the Post and I hope it will catch up to me soon.

Hoping you all had a very Merry Christmas.

I remain,
Cpl. Ted Davis
Philippine Islands
● You and Ken will have seen a lot of the world to talk about when you get together again. It's good he's out of the mess for a while. Doing our level best to get the Post through to you fellows in the Philippines, but supplies and ammunition have preference over newspapers when it comes to cargo space. Good Luck.—Editor.

From Germany
Dear Friends:
Today I received the first issue of the Post that I have received in over two months. It certainly was a great pleasure to sit down and read it. The only trouble was it was the September 29th issue. I wish that I could get them more regular.
Ours was amongst the first outfits that landed on French soil directly from the States. Seeing quite a bit of France, I then was moved into Belgium, then Holland, and now Germany. Holland was the scene of our first combat, now seeing it here in Germany.
In all my traveling over here, I haven't once run into any of

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CONTACT

For Service Men



Presidential Citation

An eighth air force bomber station, England—Staff Sergeant Calvin B. Culp, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Culp of Lehman Ave., who is serving here with the veteran 306th Bombardment Group as a ball turret gunner, has been awarded the Air Medal for "exceptionally meritorious achievement," it was recently announced by his commanding officer, Colonel James S. Sutton of Findlay, Ohio.

As the ball turret gunner of a Flying Fortress, the duties of Sergeant Culp are to protect the "under-belly" of his air craft, and, in an emergency be ready to take the place of the radio operator. Many Nazi fighters have felt the sting of the twin machine guns in the ball turret as it slowly turns in constant readiness.

The efforts of men like Sergeant Culp recently received official recognition when the First Bombardment Division, of which this group is a part, was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, for "extraordinary heroism" displayed in carrying out the highly successful attack on the enemy aircraft plants at Oscherleben and Halberstadt, Germany, despite extreme fighter opposition.

Sergeant Culp was a student at Dallas Borough High School before his entry into the Army Air Forces.

Gets Good Conduct Medal

Pfc. Maude H. Jones, daughter of Richard M. Jones, RFD 1, Dallas, has been awarded a Good Conduct Medal at Patterson Field for "exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity" at Patterson Field during her first year of military service. She is on duty at the regional hospital.

Boice Is Tail Gunner

15th AAF in Italy—Cpl. Howard S. Boice, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Boice, Route 1, Dallas, Pa., has recently arrived overseas and joined a veteran 15th AAF B-24 Liberator Bomber Group. He is a tail gunner on his liberator.

He and his crew are now participating in attacks on enemy targets in Northern Italy, Austria and parts of Yugoslavia. At present the group is engaged in repeated attacks on German lines of communication running from Austria thru the Alps and into the Po Valley. Other missions carry them to enemy channels of escape in the Balkans.

On these operations the group is adding to an already long record of attacks begun two years ago, from bases in Palestine. Since then it has been moved ahead with every major allied advance to its present location in Italy.

Cpl. Boice is a graduate of Lehman High School with the class of 1942. He was an outstanding forward on the basketball team, and played the drums in the school band.

Prior to his entry in the Army Air Forces, he was a diamond drill helper, employed by Sprague & Henwood Construction Co., in Scranton.

He received his Aerial Gunner's wings at the AAF Gunnery School, Fort Myers, Fla., in July, 1944.

Promoted to Sergeant

Headquarters 102nd Infantry Division—Frank S. Smith, son of Mrs. Gertrude Smith R.D. 1 Dallas has been promoted from Private First Class to Sergeant. Sgt. Smith is a squad leader with the 102nd Infantry somewhere in Germany.

Third Oak Leaf Cluster

An Eighth Air Force Bomber Station, England—Second Lt. Charles W. Kern of Alderson has been decorated with a third Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" on more than a score of combat missions over Europe as B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 351st Bombardment Group.

Army Warns Against Letters to 'Missing'; Says They Endanger Soldiers Still at Large

Washington, Jan. 13—A warning has been issued by the War Department that the lives of American soldiers listed as "missing" in action might be endangered by letters written to them through the medium of the International Red Cross directory service.

In a request to the public to stop this practice, the department explained that a missing soldier might not have been picked up by the enemy or might have escaped after capture. Although letters to the Directory Service are blamed by censorship regulations, and the service is required to return them to senders, there is always a possibility that such letters might get through censorship, according to the department. In cases of this kind they would serve only to notify the enemy that a soldier was free in its territory.

The department emphasized that the only function of the directory service, whose headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland, was to transmit mail to prisoners of war for whom there was no known mailing address. Usually there is a time-lag of six weeks to two months between the time the Germans report a man to be a prisoner of war and the time that his permanent camp address is given.

The department got these directions:

1. Do not address any correspondence to a soldier in a "missing-in-action" status.
2. If you have the address of a prisoner of war, write directly.
3. Use the services of the International Red Cross directory service ONLY if a soldier has been reported a prisoner and the camp is unstated.

The citation accompanying the award read in part: "The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this officer upon these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

He is the nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Fay Williams of Alderson.

Completes Gun School

Fort Myers, Fla.—Pfc. Charles L. Barnes, son of Mrs. Ernest L. Barnes, of Huntsville, has graduated from the AAF Training Command's Flexible Gunnery School at Buckingham Field Fort Myers, Fla., and is spending a furlough at his home here.

Now qualified as an aerial gunner, he will soon become a member of the Army Air Forces' bomber crews and will receive his crew training at an operational training field in the United States then go overseas.

Now In Italy

15th AAF in Italy—Cpl. Joseph P. Girvan, 27 whose wife, Mrs. Dora Girvan, lives on Lake St., Dallas, recently arrived overseas and has joined a B-24 Liberator Group as a gunner. He is the son

of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Girvan. He and his crew are now participating in attacks on enemy targets in Northern Italy, Austria and parts of Yugoslavia.

After graduating from Dallas High School in 1934, and prior to his entry into the Air Force in November, 1943, he was employed as an installation salesman for the Congoleum Nairn, Inc., in N. Y.

He was graduated from specialized Gunnery School at Laredo Tex., in July, 1944.

Rice Wins Combat Badge

The Commanding Officer of the 2nd Infantry Division has awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge "For superior performance of duty in combat on the front lines in France and Germany" to Corporal Howard S. Rice, aged 22, of Lehman.

Cpl. Rice is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rice. He has been in the service for two years and was last employed as a lineman with Sordoni Construction Company. He is a graduate of Lehman High School.

With Famous Polar Bears

With The Fifth Army, Italy—Pfc. Joseph C. Wallo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wallo, is a member of the 339th "Polar Bear" Regiment, which recently shattered the vitals of the vaunted Gothic Line, taking Italian peaks as high as 3,400 feet east of Highway 65 and Futa Pass.

The 339th Infantry Regiment is in the 85th "Custer" Division, part of Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr.'s, Fifth Army.

The 339th landed in Italy last March 15 after a training period in North Africa, and was the first unit of the 85th Division in the line when it was committed to action the following day.

Under command of Colonel Brookner W. Brady, Los Angeles, California, the "Polar Bears" have repeatedly captured strong cores of enemy resistance, rocky mountain peaks above the cloud level and strong points nestled behind curtains of intense fire, minefields, barbed wire and earthworks.

When the Fifth Army offensive opened up last May 11, the 339th raced ahead on the Tyrrhenian Sea coast, shattering its objective in the Gustav Line. Having passed through Sauri, Formia, Itri and Fondi in rapid succession, the 339th, supplied by mule and human pack trains, passed 12 miles undetected over rugged mountain terrain and surprised the strongly fortified hillside town of Sonnino. The Sonnino garrison was completely cut off and Highway 7 thus sealed off south of the Pontine Marshes.

The 339th passed through Rome June 5, crossed the Tiber River and took a brief rest. It went back into the line to hold a stretch along the Arno River near Florence.

In crossing the Gothic Line, the 339th broke through at some of the most firmly held points, moved on to capture Mt. Coloreta, dominating Firezuola, and subsequently took Mt. LaFina, Mt. Ribele and Castle-vecchio.

Colonel William T. Fitts, Jr., Warrentown, North Carolina, recently took command of the 339th. The "Polar Bears" got their name in the World War, when they fought in waist-deep snow along the 400-mile front between Arch-

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FROM CAMPS AT HOME

Texas Garden Spot
Dear Sir:
I have been moved, as you can see by my return address, and thought I had better notify you as to the change, so I will not miss any copies of the Post.

I have enjoyed the home-town news immensely in the past and hope I may continue to enjoy them in the future.

I am sorry I haven't dropped you a line before this to tell you how much I appreciate the paper.

I am too new on this field to be able to inform you as to my full duties, but I do know that my stay will be quite interesting.

This field is really beautiful, and the city of San Antonio is supposed to be the garden spot of Texas.

Until a later date then, I remain sincerely yours,

Bob Pickett, A/S

Randolph Field, Texas

● Good to get your note, Bob. You are at a swell field. Had a nice note from your folks in the Safety Valve in last week's Post. A lot of good boys from Dallas Township have received their flight training at Randolph Field.—Editor.

Having A Good Rest

Dear Editor:
As I begin to write this letter I have one thought in mind. Are there anymore G. I.'s that are going to remark on what they find in this letter? I'm living a pretty easy life so perhaps I can enjoy reading a "Beef" about that after they read my letter. Sarcastic, ain't it?

I arrived down here in Richmond, December 7th, after enjoying a very fine furlough at home. I was to be reassigned to some permanent station, but upon receiving my medical here, I was put in the hospital where I still bide my time. It has been a pretty good rest in here and I am certainly enjoying it.

Our mornings are taken up by swimming or playing basketball. In the afternoon, we have three class-

es. The first; an art class in which we make various things out of nylon, leather, etc. The second class is woodcraft. The third is a movie in which we see current events and G. I. movies. It's a pretty interesting program and so far has taken the dullness out of my day.

The nights are spent at a movie or a party. The Red Cross gives the parties and occasionally has a dance for us. So you see I'm enjoying myself.

The only opportunity I have had to read the Post since being in the States was on my various visits at home. I do wish I could continue to have it sent to me here. I'll enclose my present address.

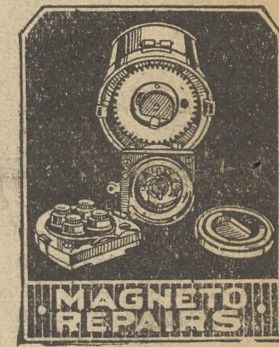
I guess there isn't much more to write about at the present time, so I'll bring these few lines to a close hoping to be on the receiving end of the Post soon.

Oh, by the way! The Marine's recent letter that I read in the Post hasn't changed my idea of the Chinese. I also lived and worked with them.

Sincerely,
Bob Price
Richmond, Va.

● Don't know any one who deserves a rest more than you do, Bob, so if any more sarcastic remarks are forthcoming we'll squelch right off. Of course you can have The Post down there. All that we needed was the address. Now that we've got it, The Post is on the way.—Editor.

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