

### With The Boys In Military Service

We had a surprise visit recently from our former Quality Supervisor in the Machine Room, Charles Cooke. He was ferrying a bomber from Baltimore to Matagora, Texas, where he is training aerial gunners at Foster Field. Charles has been promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant and expects overseas duty soon. Congratulations, Charles, and hurry back

Bill Daly, formerly of the office force, who volunteered in the Marines with Harry Reese in December 1941, is now a corporal. Congratulations, Bill! We are sorry to hear Bill has been ill with malaria in a base hospital out there somewhere in the Pacific area, but it is good to know he is now much improved. Bill says, "It's the heat and bugs that get you—not the Japs." We surely do sympathize with all you boys, Bill, and wish we could box up a lot of our good old mountain air to send specially to you. Tell Harry to let us hear from him too. Best of luck to you both! Clean 'em up and come back soon.

L. E. Bagwell, formerly Backtender in the Machine Room, paid us a visit on the first of April. L. E. has been out of the states for over 13 months and for over 9 months didn't stop long enough to give the mail service a chance to catch up with him. He was in South Africa for a time and went from there to Egypt where he spent a few days enjoying the sights. He visited the zoos, the cathedrals and pyramids and said he enjoyed every bit of it. On his return trip L. E. came back by way of South America. Being a Navy man has given him a taste of jungle, desert, and salt water among other things pleasant and otherwise, but he said that the biggest thrill of all was getting back home. We agree 100% and enjoy seeing the boys on furlough as much as they enjoy getting back to the Blue Ridge.

L. E. left for N. Y. April 4th where he expects to embark for further adventure overseas. Best of luck to you, L. E.!

Charles Ruffin Wilkins, brother of Mary Paxton of the Personnel Office, was a Chemical Helper and left Ecusta in January of 1942. He was stationed at Orlando, Fla. Air Base and Municipal Airport, Greenville, S. C., and took Officers' Training at Miami Beach, Fla., where he graduated a Second Lieutenant on April 16th. Congratulations, Ruffin!

Following is a letter from W. E. "Buddy" Neill, office boy, who left Ecusta February 20th to enter the service.

Dear Miss Ricker:  
Received the copy of the Echo in good condition and really do thank you for it. Bob Anders is in the same hut with me and I don't know which one of us enjoyed it the most. The Coast Artillery seems to be o.k. and I like it pretty well. That must be because I am having it pretty easy. I am Mail Orderly now and am off every other Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The Battery leaves on a 50 mile hike tomorrow and is to be gone for a week but since I am mailman I stay at camp.

Tell everybody I said "Hello" and to drop me a line.  
PVT. W. E. NEILL  
H. Q. Btry.  
112 C. A. Bn. (A.A.)  
Fort Bliss, Texas.

Our records indicate that Captain Thomas E. Ramsay, former Laboratory Supervisor, and Charles Mitchell, former Vacuum Washer Operator, are also at Fort Bliss.

Olan Hall of the Chemical Research Department, left Ecusta April 15th to report at N. Y. City for induction into the Navy. Olan recently received his commission as Ensign in the Navy and before leaving for New York he spent some time with his family at Saluda, N. C.

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### Souther And Tate Shoot Down Planes

Sgt. John D. Souther of Horse Shoe is credited with having shot down one or more German Messerschmitt 109's in North Africa, and Sgt.



SOUTHER

Gerald Tate of Brevard, who is a waist gunner on an American bomber in North Africa, shot down a fast Regiane Italian fighter.

Souther was formerly employed in the Champagne Machine Booklet Service and Tate in the Ecusta Machine Room. Both boys trained at Keesler Field, Miss., and were later sent to North Africa, where they have been for some time. Tate volunteered in October, 1941, and Souther in December of the same year.

We are proud of these boys and their achievements and wish them the very best of luck!

### Gets Italian Plane



Sgt. Gerald Tate of Brevard, who is waist gunner on a Flying Fortress, shot down a fast Italian plane in North Africa about two weeks ago.

### LETTERS HOME

Co. L, 1st CWS Tng. Regt.  
Camp Sibert, Ala  
April 7, 1943

Dear Mr. Straus:  
Thank you for your nice letter of March 30th. I know that you have so very little time in which to do so much; therefore your kindness is doubly appreciated.

There is much of interest which could be said of the Chemical Warfare Service here but perhaps it is better that the Axis find it out the hard way. When I jumped out of an Army truck into a mudhole here last October, the first order was "This is Camp Sibert. Build it!" For a while camp life was what may be termed ideal in reverse. We are now changing gears and should be running in high very shortly.

After completing basic training, I was retained here as an instructor, in which capacity I am still serving. Very soon however, I hope to get a furlough and take full advantage of that hearty welcome you have waiting for me.

The Echo has been invaluable in keeping me up-to-date with news of Ecusta. Naturally, the office gossip is my specialty. In this connection, Mr. Wells, please note my address as above for the next issue. Kathleen might also want to change her cards.

My kindest regards to all and thank you again, Mr. Straus, for remembering me

Yours,  
JIM DIXON

### LETTERS HOME

870th Chem Co, AO, M & H  
Herbert Smart Airport  
Macon, Ga.

Dear Mr. Wells:

Your letter of March 9 was forwarded to me from Texas and finally reached me this week. As you see I am now practically back in my back yard being only about 300 miles from Brevard. If I ever get a 3 day pass I'm going to try to get up there.

I've been quite fortunate so far in Army life. To begin with, I landed in the branch of service for which I thought myself best qualified, namely, Chemical Warfare Service. I had the advantage that came with ROTC training from college days. This last, I believe, has helped me get my first rating so that I'm now Pvt. 1/c.

Yours truly,  
PFC EDWIN G. ROTHBAUER

March 20, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

I received your letter of February 22nd several days ago but it took it 24 days to reach me. At times mail is plenty slow but there is nothing that I can do about it. I received the January Echo and am looking forward to the Feb. issue. Every time I get the paper it seems to me that I am at Ecusta. That is exactly why I am taking this course. I am preparing myself for a better position in the post-war world and I hope that my training will not prove a disappointment to me.

Must close for the present but am looking forward to the time when this is all over so that I can be home again.

Sincerely,  
JAMES P. GEVEDON

Btry A. 32-A A.R.T.B.  
A.S.N. 34609316  
Camp Wallace, Texas.

Dear Mr. Wells:

Just a few lines to let you know I haven't forgotten Ecusta or the friends I left behind me. Boy, I sure would like to be with you all but just can't give up the Army now. I like it pretty well, and had a nice trip out here to Texas. It sure is hot but I can take it.

The Army is just what one makes of it and I'm one that's going to do it. Wish you'd give my address to all so I might hear how things are getting along at the plant. Would like the Echo too. Had better close now and get some sleep. This drilling is killing me.

Best wishes to all,  
PVT. GEO. J. SMITH

D Battery 385th  
CABN (AA) (AW) (SEM)  
Camp Edwards, Mass.

Dear Mr. Wells:

The Army sure keeps a fellow busy. I am up here at Camp Edwards, Mass., taking my basic training in the Coast Artillery. Thought when I first got here that we would have very cold weather but we sure have had some very nice weather for this time of year.

Tell all the fellows "hello" for me. Sure wish I were back working with you all now. The Army life is pretty tough at times but I don't mind because my country called for me and I'm glad I'm able to do my part. I'm sure most of us feel that way. Keep things rolling and maybe some day soon we who are in the service can go back to our civilian life and join you at Ecusta again.

Sincerely,  
PVT. ARTHUR C. HYDER

Hq. & Hq. Sqd. 2 A. F.  
Fort George Wright,  
Spokane, Wash.

Dear Mr. Wells:

Received Echo today and enjoyed hearing from Ecusta. It also was read by Robt. Gates, a boy from Brevard. Thanks to those concerned with sending it to me.

A Former Phys. Lab. Tester,  
ED HILL

"There's a boy called George Stewart working here. May I see him? I'm his grandfather."  
"You've just missed him. He's gone to your funeral."

### Anti-Aircraft Gunner



Herschel Galloway, S 2/c, who formerly worked as Inspector in the Inspection Department, left Ecusta at Christmas time last year and is now taking anti-aircraft gunner training at Little Creek, Va. We noted your change of address, Herschel, and will see that you get your copy of the Echo each month.

### INSPECTION D

Well, another April Fool's Day has come and gone and did Oscar get fooled by rewinder No. 14 calling him! . . . Lucy says the reason she was wearing colored glasses was that she was used to working graveyard and just couldn't see in daylight . . . Anyone desiring a first class corn cob pipe should see Hugh B. . . . More charming young ladies have joined our dept.: Frances Davis, Lillian Jones, Mary and Willie Prince. We hope your stay will be a long and pleasant one . . . The high cost of hair cuts has dampened the spirits of some of the boys but not Kenneth Mc. He doesn't hesitate to plank down a dollar for a hair cut plus some snake oil hair tonic for good measure . . . Fred R. says that after using every known brand of soap he really hangs out a white wash now . . . Since Bing Crosby entered the service Paul L. has vocalized daily. In the course of a week or two Bing will be the forgotten man . . . One day Whitmire had the pleasure of working on rewinder No. 13 and sang "Wait 'Til The Sun Shines Nellie" all day. (Who's Nellie?) . . . Tom McCormick has gone to the service. We're sorry to see you go, Tom, but get us a German and a Jap and hurry back. We'll be waiting for you . . . Irene says the R.A.F. has bombed Hamburg so often they should be about ready to add "er" to the city . . . Ada seems very happy these days . . . Sorry to  
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### OPEN FORUM

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1940, the writer has found about 200 arrowpoints, ranging from perfect specimens to fragments, four stone axes, one fragment of a pottery bowl, and friends have given him other relics including a red stone pipe.

I recently wrote to a museum devoted exclusively to Indian art and learned in their reply that the stone from which the pipe was made is probably catlinite, which has only once source and that is Pipestone, Minnesota.

Several of the more perfect points in my collection are of a flinty sort of stone, probably argillite, while the majority are made of white quartz. I once found a fragment of a large yellow quartz arrowpoint in the gravel driveway of a service station in Brevard and later found a perfect point in white quartz just outside the gatehouse at Ecusta.

There is an added interest in taking walks in the country if you keep on the alert for artifacts. I for one will never be satisfied until I have a perfect specimen of each of these relics from the stone age of the American Indian.

RALPH ERSKINE.