

News From Former Employees Now In Service

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

Pvt. Garnett H. Buckner writes from an Army Air Field, Amarillo, Texas: "... I am away out here 'deep in the heart of Texas,' trying to learn to be an airplane mechanic ... Tell all the boys hello down in the Bleach plant and the Refining room, and keep making those cigarette papers ..."

DIFFERENT IN ENGLAND

Pvt. Cortez Hyder writes from somewhere in England: "... I am in England now and I like it fine here. I am staying in an apartment in town. The people here seem to be very nice and friendly. They have names for some things here that are called different names in the U. S., and their money, as you already know, is different from ours. Such things are hard for us who come over here to get accustomed to at first. They seem to have very nice weather here ..."

STEPPING STONE TO TOKYO

Pfc. Rastus Smith writes from New Guinea: "... I am sorry I can't tell you what we are doing but when you see my new A. P. O. number it will explain that I have taken another stepping stone to Tokyo ... This letter leaves me in the best of health at the present time ... Thanks for Jack Morgan's address. He is in the area someplace, I am quite sure ... If he is in New Guinea there is a possibility of my getting in contact with him ... I received the Echo and it sure is a swell paper. I've read it several times and I also let my buddies read it. I save most all of them and read them over again. They bring back memories of Ecusta ... Tell all the old gang hello for me, and when they are asked to work a few extra hours, for them not to complain about it. The going is tough here. Men fighting and dying for our country ... I'll close for we have no lights ..."

STATIONED AT LITTLE CREEK

Howell Medford, Fireman 2-c, writes from Little Creek, Va.: "... I am here at Little Creek, Va., at Chesapeake Bay. I am in the repair division and will be in this branch for quite some time. This is a nice base. At this writing I am working in the engine department ... I will be glad when this is all settled so I can be back with Mr. Finck and sticking fire in those boilers again. I think Ecusta is a swell place to be. We are still smoking and thanks to Ecusta for making it possible for us fellows in the services to smoke good cigarettes ... Tell Mr. Finck and Mr. Baker hello, and give my regards to the Boiler Room ..."

NOW IN ENGLAND

Sgt. Melvin McCormick writes from somewhere in England: "... I have changed places several times since I was here last and I am now in England somewhere ... All is well with me now and hope the same is true there. Except where it has been bombed, this is a very pretty country—except for the weather ..."

HAS ENGLAND ADDRESS

Pfc. DeBois L. Edmundson writes again from England this time: "... It has been a problem to keep up with my own address lately as it changes so often ... The Echo is more interesting to me than the home town paper because I have so many friends there ..."

Stationed In Va.



PFC. LENSY C. SANDERS is now stationed at Richmond army air base, Richmond, Va. He entered the service May 27, 1943, received his basic training in anti-aircraft artillery at Camp Stewart, Ga. He was formerly employed in the Finishing department.

Is In The WAVES



NANCY M. DAVIS, WAVE, former Finishing department employee, is now stationed in Washington, D. C. She has completed her boot training at the Bronx, New York. This is her sixth month in the service. She writes to give her regards to the Finishing department.

LIFE IN PACIFIC NOT LIKE POSTERS SAY

Pfc. Vincent Dixon writes from somewhere in the Southwest Pacific: "... The relentless march of time has covered about two months since I last heard from you or received a copy of the interesting little paper known as the Echo ... I am now stationed somewhere in the Southwest Pacific. However, the life here is a slight contradiction to the tropical poster sign back home. I often think of Ecusta the fellows and the nice times we used to have ..."

IS BANGED UP

Cpl. Frank D. Drake writes Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.: "... Where I am now is certainly different from the places I have been. Now I'm a little banged up but am hoping it won't be too long before I return to the States ... Thanks for remembering me. It helps a great deal—perhaps more than you think ..."

REMINDED OF ECUSTA

Jesse Gillespie, S 2-c, writes from the Naval Training Station at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.: "... I have about four more weeks here and I imagine they are going to keep us plenty busy from now until we graduate. I have started night operations now and I sure do have a time getting enough sleep ... I have classes from eight o'clock in the morning until five o'clock in the afternoon. Then we start operation classes at six thirty and they last until around midnight. It kind of makes me think of working shifts there at the plant ..."

AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE AT ITS BEST

Sgt. Albert Kimzey writes from somewhere in England: "... You asked if I sent the farthing. No sir, I didn't send it and if it was in the envelope it must have got ten there through mistake on a censor's desk. That coin isn't commonly used. I got one to keep as a souvenir ... I must say that with everyone at Ecusta, the provision for, interest in, and fellowship with all, that the plant takes is our American way of life at its highest ..."

U. S. WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Sgt. Lawrence Tipton writes from somewhere in Italy: "... I am now in Italy and I am sorry that I can't tell you some of the things I have seen here, but after being in Africa, Sicily and Italy, I am sure that there is no place on earth that will compare with the good old U. S. A. in any way. And that is worth fighting for ... Tell all the people there to keep the good work up because a cigarette to a man who smokes is next thing to his food ..."

were moving forward. Bombers over Lae and Salamaua softened the way for the Aussies and Yanks. Salamaua fell September 14, 1943. American bombers moved over Lae and wiped out the Japanese headquarters. Lae fell September 16, 1943.

Finschafen, Sattleburg and Sidor fell to the Allies. From New Guinea our troops landed on New Britain capturing Cape Gloucester. Rabaul has been bombed daily for months and this great base is slowly being reduced.

It is a long trail from the thirty-two miles north of Port Moresby but it is surely leading to Tokyo front yard.

CPL. MORGAN SHOWS WHAT WE DID!



From New Guinea To Tokyo, As Visioned By Cpl. Morgan

By CPL. JACK D. MORGAN

(Editor's note—This article was written especially for The Echo by Cpl. Morgan who is somewhere in New Guinea.)

In August, 1942, the Japs were on Guadalcanal. The reason they wanted this island was to establish a base from which the convoy routes from the United States to New Caledonia, New Zealand and Australia could be harried by planes and submarines.

That was important to the Japs because if they couldn't cut that line of communication, their hopes of preventing the building of an arsenal and attack base in Australia would diminish.

Then the Nips had a big movement in mind. By occupying the whole of New Guinea they would be at the front door of Australia. They would, with the capture of Port Moresby, the Allies' main base in New Guinea, have a strangle hold on Northern Australia.

Along the northern coast of New Guinea, the Japs had Wewak, Madang, Saidor, Finschafen, Lae and Salamaua.

They quickly knocked off Buna

and Gona and started their main drive for Port Moresby. They pushed to the point of thirty-two miles from the Allied base. By this time Japanese invasion money, to be used in Port Moresby and Australia had been printed.

Then the Australians and Americans counter-attacked. Bloody fighting resulted and the Japs were driven from the Papuan area of New Guinea across the Owen Stanley mountains.

Port Moresby is the capital of Papua, the western section of the island. On the east coast lay Buna and Gona. Sprawled between them were the Owen Stanley mountains.

Pushing the Japs across the mountains, the Allies didn't stop. Yank infantry invaded and captured Buna and Gona in a blood-spattered battle. The Allies now held Port Moresby, Milne Bay, Buna and Gona. The Japs held the rest.

In the meantime Guadalcanal, Malaita and Santa Christobal fell to the American Marines in the Solomons.

1943 gave us a different picture from the previous year. The Allies