

Rev. Marvin Vick, Person Minister, Praises USO Work

Chaplain, In Army, Says Importance Of Work Cannot Be Under-Estimated

More Than A Dozen Person Boys In All Parts Of World Echo His Sentiments.

A number of Person County and Roxboro boys have expressed their approval of the USO. The USO retains 54 cents out of every dollar collected in the United War Fund Drive. A few soldiers are located in isolated spots and on tiny islands and elsewhere where it has not been possible for the USO to operate, but the USO is now operating and has clubs in Iceland, Alaska and other out posts.

The National association supports the USO clubs in camps, and towns, railroad stations and even sends shows to entertain boys while they are on maneuvers. It is a great work and we cannot let our boys down on the home front, says Gordon C. Hunter, Person Chairman.

Some of the letters he has received are published below, as follows:

Mr. Gordon C. Hunter,
The Peoples Bank
Roxboro, N. C.

Dear Mr. Hunter:
Your letter, after traveling from Roxboro to Oregon, to Texas and finally back to Oregon reached me this morning. You see the box number which you had was my wife's mailing address and she has moved to Texas to stay with my family while I am on maneuvers. She forwarded the letter to me here in central Oregon to the maneuver area.

I am unhappy to learn that any minister would criticize the work being done by the USO. I never fully realized the value of the USO until my organization moved sixty-five miles from the nearest community. With thousands of men concentrated in an area thus removed from any form of entertainment or relaxation the USO is our only contact with the life we lived prior to our army duty. As often as is possible the USO man drives into our area with a movie, candy, games, writing paper and a victrola. You cannot realize fully the value of this until you have experienced it. This service of the USO is worth everything to the men and is only one of the outstanding contributions they are making to make the life of the soldier more livable. The only regret that I have is that we do not have ten times as many mobile units serving the men in the field.

If you have ever been a stranger in a small town totally unprepared or unwilling to receive an increasing population of men you can readily understand another valuable contribution being made by the USO. When all movie houses are filled to capacity, all eating houses sold out of food and every church satisfied with its own responsibility there still remains an open door at the USO Service Mens center. Every man knows that there he will find a welcome, some warm food, someone to sew buttons on, possibly a muchneeded bath and a spirit of friendship and love for which he is starving.

Any criticism could only come from someone who has never experienced the loneliness of being a soldier or who has never investigated the wonderful job that they are doing. As a minister of the Gospel day: give us more USO services.

You have my permission to publish all or any part of this that may aid your cause. I do not feel that I have said enough in defense of the USO program, but the real value of it is something that is so close to your heart that it is impossible to justly describe it in writing. I wish I could justly describe in writing the reaction I had as I sat together with about six hundred men out here in this wilderness of sand and sagebrush and enjoyed the USO movie; but the real value is deep down in my heart and cannot be fully expressed in any language.

Your Friend,
Marvin Vick,
Chaplain's Office
415th Regiment
Camp Adair, Oregon

Sept. 14, 1943

Dear Mr. Hunter:
I received your letter of August 13 today and glad to see the interest you people are taking toward the soldiers (or service men). The letter had been to a about six different places and finally caught up with me, although it did skip about two places I had been.

The USO to service men is the nearest thing to a Mother I would say. They are always willing to help in any they can. In

cities where they are backed up by the citizens the soldiers get meals and lodging free, if they need it had enough to drop around. Small places they get things at cost which is half the amount it would cost.

They also are at stations and all they can to help in information and serve hot coffee and sandwiches.

I sure hope the people in Roxboro will back up this cause and I know they will to show their appreciation of the service men. Most of them have a son or brother in the service, which other people are doing their best to show them a good time.

They also have a variety of entertainment which I forgot to mention and probably some other things.

You may express this in better words as you see fit, as I just can't get it over as good as you but you get the meaning.

Yours very truly,
Cpl. Willie R. Richardson

August 21, 1943
Desert Training Center,
California

Dear Sir:
The USO has done and is doing great things for the boys in the service. It really is of great help to us. It provides us with movies, dances and recreation halls, etc. I personally think that the USO is a great idea. Every town near an army camp has a USO. I hope your drive is a great success. I'm sure it will be.

Yours truly
Pfc. James A. Satterfield

Dear Mr. Hunter:
I could hardly refuse the request of yours to write and give my impressions of the USO clubs since they have meant so much to me and the rest of the fellows that I know here in camp.

All of the USO clubs that I have had the privilege of coming in contact with have been heaven sent to the homesick soldier. To be truthful about the matter, the USO is the nearest thing to Home that I have been able to find since being in the Army.

When we made the trip out here from Fort Jackson we stopped at Vicksburg, Miss. and were served coffee or lemonade and doughnuts by ladies from the USO. Later, on arriving at Fort Worth there was a club set up in a part of the railway station and they served us refreshments furnished us stationery, writing materials, books and magazines. There the hostesses were very friendly and talked to us of their boys in the Service. Those kind ladies really helped lift our spirits because all of us were becoming more homesick with each passing mile.

That night we arrived in Brownwood and were allowed to visit the USO. There we were allowed to take baths, write letters, read, and play different games. We enjoyed the baths there the most as we had been on the train for three days and we were slightly on the dirty side.

Since being at Camp Barkley I have had the opportunity a number of times to visit the USO clubs in Abelin. All of them are located in spacious building with enough room for many types of entertainments. Inside is a large bulletin board which contains a directory of all churches in town, writing tables with stationery, comfortable chairs scattered about, a nice sized library containing novels and biographies, magazines and newspapers; a soda fountain, ping pong tables, a radio and piano. Also there are shower facilities for the men.

The USO also sponsors many other things such as dances, swimming and fishing parties, free movies, and only last Sunday night I was fortunate in attending an ice cream party which was put on by the USO.

When I was a civilian and was called on to contribute to the USO it never occurred to me what such things meant to the men in Service. Since then I have come to realize that it is one of the best contributions anyone could make to any cause.

I have talked to a number of fellow soldiers and they heartily agree with me on the good benefits of the USO. When you get the chance to go into town there is no problem as to what there is to do because the USO is always at your service.

I hope to impaign
I hope the Campaign in Person County will go over with a bang, let the boys from home

who are scattered all over the world know that you are backing them to the limit.

Yours very truly,
Pvt. James C Brooks
Camp Barkley, Texas

Dear Mr. Hunter:

I am pleased to learn of the United War Fund Drive being put on by Roxboro and Person County. These funds go for a very worthy cause and I hope everyone supports the drive 100%.

In Alexandria, Louisiana, the nearest town to this camp, we have three USO clubs operating. One is under the management of the Salvation Army, another under the direction of the National Catholic Community service, and the third, which is the largest, is operated by a non-sectarian management. These clubs have auditoriums, libraries, writing rooms, soda fountains, and the largest one even has rooming accommodations for the friends and relatives visiting the enlisted men. These clubs have been of great service to the married enlisted men by helping them find living quarters within their financial means.

These clubs have been invaluable in helping to furnish much-needed recreation to soldiers in this camp. They cooperate with the Army Service Clubs here in camp by furnishing groups of young ladies, properly chaperoned, for dances and other social functions.

I know that these USO clubs and the Service Clubs and organ-tremendously in building up the high state of morale that exists in this Regiment. Our Regimental Chaplain and our special Services Officer are high in their praise of these clubs.

Good luck in the drive.
Sincerely yours,
S. B. Satterwhite
Major, 411th Infantry

August 28, 1943

Dear Mr. Hunter:
Since I came into the army, almost a year ago, I have been at four different army posts. I have had considerable time and opportunity to visit various USO's and Service mens' centers.

In each organization, I have found a vast number of hostesses. These girls are doing everything they can to raise the morale of the service men, Dancing, card games, ping pong checkers, chess, etc. are to be found at all clubs which we service men all enjoy.

The USO organization offers many other form of recreation than I have mentioned above. They have various sporting events in which a service man may take an active part. In addition to that, they offer a homelike atmosphere, showers, lounges and reading of all kinds.

I wish you every success in the United War Fund Drive and I sincerely appreciate the good work the people are doing back home.

Yours truly,
Pfc. Rupert C Jones
883rd. Preflight Sq: Tng. (P)
SAACC, San Antonio, Texas

August 2, 1943

Mr. Gordon Hunter,
Roxboro, N. C.

Dear Sir:
Just received a letter from my brother, D. W. Ledbetter, of your city and he mentioned the USO was putting on a drive for funds and gave me your name as Chairman of this drive. So if you don't mind I'm writing this letter with the hope that my endorsement of the USO both at home and abroad may help you in this drive. It has been my misfortune to be wounded, as a result I've

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OCCASIONALLY, I wake up in the morning with a headache. It sometimes wears off along the middle of the forenoon, but I don't want to wait that long, so I drink a glass of sparkling ALKA-SELTZER. In just a little while I am feeling a lot better.

Sometimes the week's ironing tires me and makes me sore and stiff. Then it's ALKA-SELTZER to the rescue—a tablet or two and a little rest makes me feel more like finishing the job.

And when I eat "not wisely but too well" ALKA-SELTZER relieves the Acid Indigestion that so often follows.

Yes, Alka-Seltzer brightens my day. It brings relief from so many of my discomforts, that I always keep it handy.

Why don't you get a package of ALKA-SELTZER at your drug store today?
*Large Package 60¢, Small 30¢.

spent several months in hospitals in North Africa, and England and now I'm home again and have progressed far enough along that I am able to use a wheel chair, and that is where the USO Comes in. We have quite a large auditorium here at the Percy Jones hospital. In the past week since I have been able to get around have been two very first rate entertainment shows put on and paid for by the USO and to anyone who has had to spend a long period in confinement of a hospital or military camp, why they must know the job and good that the USO's are bringing to us. If it were just possible that you folks back home could see the eagerness with which we look forward to these shows, and listen to the wild, unrestrained applause each performance brings forth, you would feel repaid a thousand times and over for any contribution you have made or hope to make in this drive. I end this letter with three cheers for the USO and a successful drive.

Sincerely,
Pvt. Frank M. Ledbetter
Note: Pvt. Frank M. Ledbetter of Statesville, N. C., who is the brother of Toby Ledbetter, had one leg shattered in a tank in North Africa. He was removed from the Tank and while on his way to an ambulance was machine gunned twice from the air by the Germans. He was hit several times before he could be placed in an ambulance.

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September 2, 1943

Dear Mr. Hunter:
With reference to your letter regarding the activities of the United Service Organization, I have visited the USO's in Oklahoma, Texas and Florida and can say without a doubt that they are certainly doing a fine and thorough job of providing good clean fun, recreation and quarters for the Service men who do not have sufficient funds to look for entertainment elsewhere. Also the USO camp shows are a source of good entertainment for all of us who have had the pleasure of seeing them.

I am sure that every dollar the people of Roxboro and Person County give toward this cause will certainly bring joy and relaxation to the heart of

Dear Mr. Hunter:
You have asked me to express in my own words, just what the USO means to the men in uniform. I have not taken a survey of opinion but I can tell you what it means to me personally. The fact that I have been in Iceland well over a year automatically makes me a member of the Nut Club so you readers can take this letter with a grain of salt.

When I was back in the States (it seems a hundred years ago) I used to attend these shows often. I've found them to be excellent entertainment. It was quite a novelty to see a film and then have the character appear before your eyes in person. It brought you a lot closer to them and when you saw another of their

films, the measure of entertainment was multiplied. They are fine shows and a worthy cause.

Now here's where the rub comes. With all the form of entertainment that is available in the States, why don't they send these shows over-seas? To a man back home, is just another show to be forgotten the next day. They don't live in his memory, for each day is something new and alive for him. Why should he even want to remember last night's show when he will see another just as good tonight? The only form of entertainment that we have is a portable movie projector and a few 1918 films. I remember last February we had a show and the boys still laugh and talk about it.

If the folks of Person County are going to plan on supporting this fund, why not insist that it be spent where it will do the most good? I'll be coming home shortly, but there are other fellows who are coming to relieve me that are going "NUTS".

Sincerely yours,
Clifton E. Milam

September 2, 1943

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many native sons. It is surely the job of the home front to do all they possibly can to keep them happy while they "keep em flying".

Sincerely,
Guthrie Gentry

August 21, 1943

Dear Mr. Hunter:

I was indeed very happy to learn of the USO drive for funds that my neighbors and fellow citizens are sponsoring. We have no USO clubs here but there is a Red Cross service club which has ample recreational facilities. It has been a long time since I have been inside of a USO club but I haven't forgotten the many evenings that I have spent enjoying myself. Most of us were far away from home and the USO came to be a second home. Their dances, and their club recreational facilities such as bowling, movies and athletic activities were a great factor in boosting our morale. Their friendly hospitality and home atmosphere are things that we will always remember about the USO.

Sincerely,
Ursal C. Yarborough

329 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, N. C.
Sept. 20, 1943

Dear Mr. Hunter:

While I was home last week, I heard of the work you are doing for service men through your local USO. Unfortunately, to my dismay, I was amazed to also hear some criticism of some phases of the USO's work. Of course I realize that criticism of that sort can only come from certain misguided quarters, who

depend on gossip and hearsay for their "facts" and information. Nevertheless, we in the army, coming up against realities and actual facts, feel so strongly about the good work USO is doing, that I can't resist writing you to add my little word of encouragement. I've been in the army almost three years, and it has been my invariable experience that the good, decent soldier is grateful for the splendid recreational facilities, and for the opportunities for meeting the better type people, that the USO offers.

Whenever I think of the USO, I think of a buck private I once saw who showed fifty dollars to one of the USO matrons, saying, "This is what the USO made possible for me. It's a present for my folks fiftieth wedding anniversary". If the USO hadn't offered that soldier a good wholesome place to go for his recreation, he would undoubtedly have spent his money in beer taverns, dance halls and the like, instead of saving that money from his then meagre pay. That particular soldier is no better nor worse than the great majority of the men in the army. Of course we have a certain small minority, which, as most minorities do, spoils the record of the rest, and perhaps spoils your good work also, but surely it must be realized that similar difficulties arise in civilian undertakings.

In the army it's said that the great majority of the men need only the proper influences and circumstances. I, for one, believe that the USO goes a long way in (turn to page seven, please)

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