

LETTERS HOME:

Boys:  
If you wish to know the Army just join it and learn the easy way, and a good cross section I would suggest the Engineers. They are the brains, builders, the demolishers and the fighters for the good old U. S. A. We once as Infantry, do an engineering job and then proceed as infantry. College one crams the night before exams—in the Army one learns by trying each night and doing the work by day and sometimes by night. We a night compass night problem. This was a three mile hike through woods swamps and briars with nothing to guide us but the north pole. The up I was in got lost and were out about half an hour late—our first mile got off before dark in about twenty minutes. We got up to do a twenty-mile hike before breakfast—so why should you gripe about checking the spots in the plant? Our pack and equipment weigh pounds. There is consolation: the war wont last more than ten years.

I got another physical exam and found that my weight had dropped 208 to 187. I have clothes that were once too tight and there is room for Obie to get in with me. My field jacket would look good on Charlie—only a 44. I am lying with my feet on my pillow—the reason is that in the Army the feet are more important than the head.

Warner Bros. came around to make pictures. They are making the "Fighting Engineers". If you see it watch me run across a ponton foot bridge that our platoon, about 20 men, put up in five minutes. All the stuff I see I have done and if nothing happens will do again in O.C.S. I dread making ice to build bridges—cold wet feet aren't so healthy. I'll never complain again.

Hope to see you soon. I am hoping to get home between courses for a few minutes at least.

Your old pal and now acting Buck Private  
HOUSTON W. KITCHEN

Dear Mr. Wells,  
I remember when I left Ecusta you asked me to write and let you know where I was located. I have been a long time in writing this to you but have been on the "go" most of the time.

After leaving Fort Jackson, S. C., I went to Camp Grant, Ill. and from there I came to Fort Bragg.

I was very happy to receive the copy of the Echo I got a few days ago. I do thank you for it. When I started reading it, it seemed like old times.

I trust the plant is running full time and wish that I was back there. Well all the boys "hello" and hope to see them soon.

Sincerely,  
THOMAS D. BROWN (Pvt.)

Dear Mr. Wells,  
I have been meaning for some time to write to you since you said to let you know when we were permanently located and the Echo would be sent to us. I've thought many times how much I would like to see the Echo since I've been in the Army.

I am looking forward to the time when the war is over and I can be home again and with the hope of being at Ecusta, for I know how fortunate a person is to be an Ecusta employee.

I hope that everything is still well at the plant and that it continues to produce. I hope also that nothing hinders production for without cigarettes wrapped in that good paper I don't know what the Army would do.

With the best of wishes for you all,  
Sincerely,  
ALBERT F. KIMSEY (Pvt.)

Dear Mr. Wells,  
I am stationed at Drew Field, Florida, receiving my basic training. At the present time I am in a Signal Corps. which is under the Army Air Force. This field is situated just a few miles from Tampa.

I don't have a great deal to write about except that I'm pretty busy and plenty tired at the end of each day.

I want to thank you again for your kindness while I was at Ecusta. I would like to see the folks there and hope that everything is running smoothly.

Sincerely,  
Jack D. Morgan (Pvt.)

Fort Monmouth, N. J.

Dear Mr. Wells:  
Received your letter and a copy of the Echo this week. Appreciate it greatly and, needless to say, enjoy reading it during my few spare minutes.

I am on the move again. Am hanging my hat at Ft. Monmouth for the present, but will be on the move again on or about the 15th of October. Thanks for everything.

Very truly yours,  
"AL" WHITE  
(James Allen White, Sergeant)

Dear Mr. Straus:  
We are really experiencing some Florida weather down here. It is not that even while sitting in the shade you perspire as if you were out digging a ditch or something. Most everyone down here is suffering from the heat rash. One good thing is that it cools off at night and you have to sleep with a blanket over you.

We left our old station last Saturday much to our sorrow. Orlando is a beautiful place and more like a country club than the Army. Our new base is out in the open country and with a little hard work I believe can be made just as nice as the one in Orlando.

I sure enjoy reading the Echo every month, even though it does make me feel sort of blue for wanting to be back up there with the gang. I am the only one at this base outside of my brother who has ever been employed by the Ecusta Paper Corp. I like to hear of the new things Ecusta is doing and how the boys are who left there for the Army. This isn't the best life in the world, but I think it will make everyone appreciate their home a lot more than they did before the war and appreciate living in a land like ours where they can come and go as they please.

I don't know whether I will get another furlough before the war is over or not, but in case I don't I hope to receive the Echo every month. So I'll get a furlough or the war is over, keep old Ecusta rolling and I will be back with you some day.

Sincerely,  
SPUD CARPENTER

Wakeland, Florida

Ecusta Electric Shop,  
Pisgah Forest, N. C.  
Hello Men,

I am in the Army now! After taking examinations at Fort Jackson, I was assigned to the Air Corps.

Can you beat this? We are staying in a classy resort hotel here in St. Petersburg. We drill in beautiful parks in the heart of the city. I still think that I am dreaming!

Hope everything at the plant is O. K. We don't have it, too easy here, however, as the drilling sure is tough and hot. A lot of boys are dropping out but I'll stay in there if it kills me. Won't some of you fellows write me?

DOUG  
C. D. NEILSON

St. Petersburg, Florida

To "C" Shift,  
Electrical Dept.  
Hello Fellows,

Would have written sooner but haven't had much time up until now. I was shipped to Camp Croft, S. C., from there to Fort Jackson, S. C., and from there to the air base where I am now located. I will probably be here for some time but you can not tell where you are going from one day until the next.

The air corps is sure better than the regular army but it is still pretty tough. We have been drilling today and will drill for five weeks along with working on the planes.

I haven't been able to get out any at all on account of being in quarantine. I have two more weeks and then I can get off some at nights.

If any of you fellows have enough patience, look on a map and see if you can find this place. I doubt it, for Daniel Boone and Kit Carson got lost bringing us into this place. Well it is a new field and we only have about five thousands, all of whom are in the air corps. From the twenty-nine of us that came in here together, six of us received a Special rating, so I guess I am lucky as I had to come anyway.

I sure miss all the guys but I hope you can stay out of the army. The planes fly around here like black birds all night. The only difference in the planes and the mosquitos is that the planes have marker lights. The gnats are almost as bad.

Hope everything is OK at the plant and that I will be able to see you soon.

Tell all the fellows on "C" shift to write me.  
As ever,  
BEN RICKMAN

Moultrie, Ga.

Clearwater, Fla.

Dear Mr. Kappers,  
Well, here I am in the Army Air Corps and, boy, is it plenty tough! The climate is swell and the marching almost gets the best of me, but I am about over that. I sure wish you were here just for one day and you would know what I am talking about.

How is everything going around Ecusta. Are you having lots of work? I sure wish I were back there with you but I won't be for some time I guess.

Tell all the boys "hello" for me and tell Mr. Bagwell I have a bushel of new jokes for him. The Army is full of them—we have nothing to do at night but tell them.

I am a Machinist in the Air Corps and will take 19 weeks of schooling and five weeks of blue-print reading. We had to take tests to get in and boy were they tough!

Sincerely,  
/s/ Hubert E. Medford

Orlando, Fla.

Dear Echo Editor,  
Just a line from the sunny south to let you know that I'm receiving the "Echo" on schedule and am enjoying it very much. Would like to read some gossip on Shift A Machine Room. Am wondering if Speed Roe, Jack Sterling and Bubber are still carrying on in their former manner? Am wondering if Jack still stays in the dog-house-Ha-ha.

I understand you are about to publish my picture in your paper. Just a word of warning: Any resemblance between it and my former self is purely coincidental.

Thanks again for the interest shown by Ecusta and its employees to the soldiers in the service. I'll remain

Faithfully yours,  
Vince  
Edward Vincent Drake,

Norfolk, Va.

Hello Mr. Kappers,  
Hope this letter finds you O. K. and still with Ecusta doing your part in producing cigarette paper.

Thought I would write you a line and wish al lof you success and happiness (especially the boys in the shop) and to let you know how much I appreciate and loved working under you and with the boys.

An ex-Ecusta employee,  
Eugene McCall

P. S. If you would like to answer, my address is on the envelope.

To Mr. Wells:  
Since there is a change in my address again I thought I had better let you know so I won't miss a copy of the Echo. I really look forward to receiving it each month and always read it from cover to cover.

Guess everyone had a grand time at the picnic on the 4th. Sure wish I could have been there. I had hoped to get back from Texas in time to spend the 4th at home but I did not leave there as soon as I had expected to. I did not get here until the afternoon of the 4th so there was no chance to spend it at home.

We are living in tents here which is not so good but I'll probably be glad to see a tent before this war is over. Otherwise things are going along pretty good for me. We are following a pretty stiff training program now but we all know the harder we work now the better able we will be to meet the situation "over there".

I hope to be able to get a pass and spend a few days at home before long but until I do give my regards to all the Ecustans and "KEEP 'EM ROLLING".

Sincerely,  
HUBERT BATSON

88th Inf., Fort Bragg, N. C.