

Now In The Navy



SECOND CLASS SEAMAN FLOYD BUCHANAN, formerly employed in the Champagne Shipping Department, left September 9, 1942 for service in the Navy. At present, he is stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. Let us know if you are receiving your copy of the Echo.

LETTERS HOME

FORMER ECUSTA MEN EXPERIENCE THRILLS IN SINKING OF THE "WASP"

Dear Mr. Wells:

November 1, 1942

Have meant to write but just haven't gotten around to it. Since you heard from me last my address has changed, I'm in Pennsylvania now. It sure is a swell place. I'm going to one of the Naval Radio Schools. We sure get the best around here. It's very hard to catch on to, but is very interesting. While I was on leave some time ago, I really enjoyed seeing the boys I worked with and the Personnel. I hope to come back around on my next leave. I suppose the Plant has quite a number of boys in the armed forces by now—Quite a number were in when I was there.

If you would change my address I can continue getting the Echo. I would get it at the old address but it would take much longer. I have seen several boys who use to work at the plant, lately; they all talk about it. They really like it and want to go back as soon as this war is over.

Well news is kinda short at the present, so I'll close now. Tell all the boys hello.

Yours truly, TROY R. DRAKE

Dear Mr. Wells:

October 7, 1942

Received the Echo today and sure was glad to get it. It was the first news I have had from Ecusta. The Refining news took my interest most.

Mr. Wells it seems as if that address of mine was mixed up, or maybe I made a mistake in it. It is A.A.F.T.T.C. Basic Training Center No. 4, 579 Tech, Sch. Sq. T-S.G.S., Miami Beach, Florida.

Just a few lines to let you know my new address.

Sincerely yours, DEBOIS EDMUNDSON, Pvt.

Dear Mr. Wells:

October 12, 1942

I received your letter of September 10th, yesterday and certainly was glad to hear from you. I received the supply of cigarette papers some time ago but I have been so busy that it just slipped by mind to write and thank you for your generosity. I thank you very kindly for the cigarette papers as they certainly came in handy.

I also thank you for sending me the Echo, as it was the first one that I have received since leaving Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

I hope that Ecusta has enjoyed a prosperous year so far and will have many a prosperous year to come.

I am feeling fine and enjoying myself up here. Wish that you could be here to help me enjoy this climate.

Yours truly, JAMES C. GEVEDON, Pvt.

Dear Mr. Wells:

October 19, 1942

My Medical Corps School is just about out and I will be glad. The school is fine and the course is very good.

I enjoyed the Ecusta paper very much. I would like to get another one next time there is an extra one around.

Mr. Wells, I don't know anything to say for myself. I hope you and your family are all well and happy.

Well, I'll stop now.

Yours truly, WILLIAN EUGENE HAYNIE

Dear Mr. Wells:

October 21, 1942

I am sending you my new address, because I like for the Echo to reach me without too much delay. I am sorry that I was unable to furnish this information sooner (as requested).

I do not have much news of interest at this time, but I hope to have more news of our new camp soon after arrival there. I am also looking forward to a nice visit to Ecusta in the very near future.

We are leaving this desert camp soon. The weather is turning very cool at night here now. It would be a great pleasure to return to the mountains of N. C. to watch the change created by nature this time of year. I miss the trees so much because the mountains here are bare of growth.

I go now to await the Echo.

Yours truly, C. W. ISRAEL

Dear Mr. Wells:

Oct. 5, 1942

I wish to thank you at this time for the nice letter which was received some time ago along with the August copy of the Echo. I received the September issue Saturday, October 3rd. It gives me great pleasure to pass the hours off duty reading the Echo. I hope it will always come to me without delay, wherever I may be called to go.

Mr. Wells, since you mentioned in your letter that part of the Flax used at Ecusta was raised near El Centro, California, it came to me of having seen some of the flax just after it was cut and baled. They have large open shelters to store it in, for curing I guess. It was between the Saltin Sea and El Centro. I wondered at the time what it could be.

I hope to visit Ecusta very soon while on leave. I go now to await the next "Echo".

Sincerely yours, CLARENCE W. ISRAEL

Dear Mr. Wells:

October 25, 1942

I want to thank you and those responsible for the September copy of the "Echo", which I have received.

The "Echo" sure made me feel happy. I read it and it brought back memories of the good old days when I worked with you all, the finest bunch of friends I ever had and I hope to be back with you all some day.

I didn't get a chance to write to you sooner because I've been on the ball (army way of saying on your toes) since I came here six weeks ago. My basic training of six weeks ended yesterday and I am proud to be a soldier. It has been tough going, but I like it and feel swell, and I hope to get a chance to knock "hell" out of the Japs.

Regards to all my friends. I remain,

Sincerely yours, MAJORINE BEVACQUA, Pvt.

Harold McNeely And Edwin Hollar Visited Plant Recently After Sinking

Harold Fisher McNeely, former first helper in the Refining Dept., and Ed Hollar, who worked in the Champagne Gunning Dept., were on Uncle Sam's modern aircraft carrier, Wasp, when it was sunk on Sept. 15, just off the Solomons Islands. However, they escaped without injury and were recent visitors at Ecusta.

The two men arrived about a month ago but were unable to discuss the ship's sinking until the Navy officially released the story.

Three torpedoes were fired at the \$20,000,000 aircraft carrier and the ship caught fire. McNeely was in his bunk asleep at the time. The impact was so great that many of the men were knocked off their feet and others out of their bunks. McNeely grabbed his clothes and ran for the deck. About 45 minutes later the order was given to abandon the ship.

Wearing life belts, they went down the ropes and into the water. About three hours later he was picked up by a boat and later was sent, with the entire surviving crew, which amounted to about 90 percent of the total, back to the United States. Ed's experience was about the same. The two boys who had enlisted in the Navy at the same time, didn't see each other again for about 12 days.

In discussing the significant event, Harold was quiet and calm, and didn't seem to be the least bit excited. He said U. S. destroyers circled them as they swam in the water and released death-charges to get the Jap subs.

The two men joined the Navy last January, and took their training at Norfolk. They went on the Wasp last February and had been on it since that time.

Harold is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. McNeely, of Lake Toxaway and has a grandfather who lives in Brevard. He was in the signal corps. Ed, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hollar, of Brevard, and Harold have been together all of the time since they entered the Navy last February, except the 12 days they were separated following the sinking of the ship.

The boys have returned to their duties and expect soon to be aboard another carrier.

Writes Long Letter



PRIVATE JAMES R. GLANVILLE, formerly employed in the office, left Ecusta July 11, 1942, for service in the Army. Jimmy received his basic training in the Quartermaster Corps at Camp Lee, Virginia, and is now stationed at Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, California. We enjoyed your long letter, Jimmy, and are looking forward to hearing from you soon again.

What Is Civilization?

by ROBERT SPROUL, President University of Calif.

Civilization is not the earth, or the products of the earth, or the structures of stone and steel that men have built upon the earth. These are only evidends that civilization makes possible. . . civilization does not belong to any single country. It cannot belong to any single country. It belongs to the world. Civilization is the heritage of ideas that men of every part of the world and of every time have invented, experimented with, and found worth preserving.

Egypt, Babylonia, China, India, Greece, and Rome built the foundations of modern civilization long before America was discovered. The countries of Europe elaborated upon these foundations and bequeathed them to us. We have used all the ideas that came to us from the rest of the world in synthesizing our still limited contribution. We shall need the ideas of the rest of the world in the future even more than we have the past.

One might say that all the people of the world are stockholders in a large corporation whose assets consist solely of ideas. We may call this business Civilization, Incorporated. It is the most peculiar business on earth, a noncommercial, non-profit enterprise, in which all the stockholders are customers, and all customers are stockholders. . . The nature of this corporation is the future of mankind on earth.

Do you remember the old joke about the dinner party. If the soup had been as warm as the wine, and the wine as old as the chicken, and the chicken as fat as the hostess, it would have been a good dinner.

Well, for that matter, if the soup were as substantial as the old manager and the corned beef as lean as the new manager, and if you got the head on a plate instead of in the hash, would I go for that luncheon.

And speaking of animals, it is safe to say that whatever the British do to the Ghandi, they wont get his goat.

You hear a lot about blockbusters these days. They are bombs so big they bust a whole block. Congress busts 'em worst of all.

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A hundred pound hog when he gets ready to kill it. . . Jim Dalton says the rabbits are getting real "vibrant" and that it will soon be time to start blasting away. . . We have the new men on the shift, Willie Strenth, Maurice Burch and Floyd Hils. Glad to have you, fellows.