

WITH THE BOYS IN MILITARY SERVICE

Pvt. Arthur Leob, who is in the Air Corps stationed at DeRidder, Louisiana, visited Ecusta recently while on a furlough. He is an instructor now and Bob Bolt, our landscaper, was also located there. Art's address is 317th. Hq. & A. B. Sqd., DeRidder Army Air Base, DeRidder, La.

Lieut. Bob Bolt also paid us a visit recently. He is in the infantry. His work takes him back and forth from Camp Polk, La., to Fort Knox, Ky. His address is 48th. Armored Infantry, Fort Knox, Ky.

Ernest Burch, former chief inspector, who left for service in October, 1942, was another visitor here. He has completed training in the Quartermaster's Corps at Camp Lee and has recently been transferred to Transportation. His address is Pvt. Ernest Burch, Co. D, 491st Port Bn., Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pa.

D. L. Thorne, a Machinist Mate 1st Class in the Navy, was a recent visitor at Ecusta. D. L. has been assigned to convoy duty in the Atlantic, and has just returned from his third trip to Africa. The funny little colored ribbon he wears over his breast pocket with the tiny star on it has a triple meaning. One half the colors denote Convoy duty, the other half of the colors are for being in the invasion of Africa and the tiny star is for having participated in a major battle. He was in the battle of Casablanca. D. L. says when there is a submarine attack he begins to see the Negro Chaplain's viewpoint. He said on one trip over they had a bunch of negro soldiers on board and at night he often went down to hear them sing spirituals and hymns. He said they sang morning and night but at night the Chaplain preached and the Negro services were much more interesting than the ship's movies, but one night during the sermon there was an alarm on the ship and as usual everyone supposed there was a submarine attack. They all began to scam but as everyone scuttled for the gangway the negro chaplain quietly admonished, "Now, now, Brethern, just take it easy. De Lord is either fo' you or agin' you." And after all, that is a rather comforting way of looking at things.

TECH. SGT. JOHN SOUTHER arrived safely in North Africa sometime in January according to word received from him by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Souther of Horse Shoe. Since arriving overseas he has received two medals, "The Flying Medal" and the "Oak Leaf Cluster". Before joining the Army Air Corps in December, 1941, he was employed in Machine Booklet Department of Champagne. He writes that mail is sometimes slow getting to him but he would like to hear from friends at Ecusta and would like very much to receive the Echo, which he enjoyed very much before leaving the states.

Congratulations

Moultrie H. Smyth, formerly in the Maintenance Dept. in the Machine Shop, is now in Rhode Island but from information received from his wife, is expected home in a few weeks, at which time he plans to visit Ecusta.

We were also notified that "Moot" is now the proud father of a 7 lb. 10½ ounce son, William Hutchinson Smyth. Congratulations! And from the boys in the shop, "Many thanks for the cigars. We enjoyed helping you celebrate."

No cigars yet from Carl Hendricks, ex-machine tender, who is over there in the Memphis, Tenn., Naval Training Station. He's another proud father of a fine son. Mother, Tim Cray Hendricks, and baby Michael are doing very well indeed and it would seem a fine time for Carl to get a furlough and come see them—and us.

LETTERS HOME:

January 9, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

Safe and secure here in California. I am on a 9-day leave from camp now but it is too far from home to get there and back in that time. It is a swell place here in Los Angeles and Hollywood where I am spending my leave; it is nice and warm, pretty flowers and green grass. I expect to be shipped out soon after we get back to camp. I appreciate all the letters and the paper you sent. Nothing means more to a service man than mail and news from home. My new address is permanent and I will receive mail addressed there whether I am in the states or in foreign service.

Well, best of luck always and keep everything moving smoothly at Ecusta. We boys in service will keep fighting and will be thinking of you and the fine plant which is established there.

Yours truly,
LEWIS TOWNSEND.

February 16, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

I received your letter today and was very glad to hear from you. I want to let you know that I am receiving the Echo now. I got the November issue soon after I last wrote you, and the December issue last week. I surely do enjoy reading it. My address is slightly changed now. However I am still at the same place.

It seems that the Government has stopped all mail service other than V-mail to the boys in the Army. So far it hasn't affected the Navy or Marines. We have direct air mail service out of here. So far I have had one letter reach home in six days. That is very good to travel about nine thousand miles in that length of time.

There are two other fellows from Brevard in the Marines in this vicinity, but I cannot mention their names. One is a First Lieutenant and is in this group. We have a little visit quite often. The other is Pfc and is about thirty-five miles from here. He was one of my best friends when we were at home. I have only been able to see him once.

Well, I must close for this time. Give my best regards to Mr. Wilbur and the fellows in the Pulp Mill.

A Leatherneck,
JAMES T. WILLIAMS.

March 7, 1943

Dear Mr. Bob:

I am sorry that I haven't written you sooner but I just haven't had time. They are really working us and you have so many bosses here you just can't dodge them all. I am studying Gunnery and am liking it fine but would really like to be back at Ecusta. I am not sure yet but I think I am going into the Armed Guards and if I do I will be home on my leave about April 3rd. Boy, it's cold here. I haven't seen the ground except two days since I have been here and it's still snowing hard.

Tell all the fellows I said "hello" and that I will try to see them when I come home. Mr. Bob, I really enjoyed working for you and maybe after we finish this little job I can come back.

My address is:

DOUGLAS P. DeBRABANT,
A. S. S. V.
Company 156, USNTS
Camp Green Bay,
Great Lakes, Ill.

Dear Mr. Wells:

Hope that I can finish this letter, they keep you going from five A. M. until you have a chance to go to bed. Believe me this man's Army keeps you on the move.

Wish I could cook one more cook of flax and maybe that will be possible in the near future. I sure do miss all of the boys and all that Ecusta did for me. It sure is a swell place to work and all of the men are regular fellows. Not like the most of them that you meet, and MR. STRAUS is one in a million. I wish there were more men like him and this world would be a better place to live in. Be sure and give him my best regards.

This place is sandy and it is a good thing too. If it were not I am afraid we would have mud up to our knees as much as it rains here.

I am sending my pass card and would like for you to send my check and Bonds too if it is not too much trouble. It is a long time between pay days in the army. Pay day is not like once a week and it wouldn't do you any too much good anyway for there is nothing that you can spend it for here in the Army. However it comes in good to have.

How about sending me the Echo and then I will be able to keep up with the people through Ecusta.

Yours truly,
PVT. DAVID M. BLACKWELL
593 Technical School Sq.
Flight 663
Keesler Field,
Mississippi

February 1, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

We have really started to work now. We are going from six in the morning until ten at night. The planes here are just a little heavier and faster than the ones that we flew in C. P. T. They are technically L 3 B's, Aeroncas.

This is not an Army camp at all. It is controlled by a civilian, but army officers are in command. We are right in the middle of town, so we don't have any worries about getting to go to town.

We are only here for one month and I have about two more weeks. We go from here to another pool and wait around to go to another school which will be basic glider. We have been informed if we get through here that we will probably finish all of it.

Tell all of the folks there hello for me and that I would like to hear from them.

By the way, tell Walter Straus that I would like to beat him another game bowling.

Respectfully Yours,
A/S DAVID SAMS
24th A.A.F.G.T.D.
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

At Keesler Field



PVT. Z. CECIL SMATHERS before volunteering in the Army Air Corps in October was employed as Shift Supervisor by Ecusta. Cecil was first stationed in Nashville, Tenn., and is now at Keesler Field, Miss., but expects to be sent on any day according to a letter from his mother.

Refining "D"

Several changes in personnel have taken place, and are continuing to be made, on our shift, for the past few weeks. New faces are replacing the familiar ones in many instances. We heartily welcome all our newcomers and wish our old friends the best of luck in their new fields, even tho' some of them may be destined for battlefields.

Quite a few of our members have been taking their week's vacation. They report working hard on the farm in some cases, but each and every one seems full of good spirit (don't be misled) when they return to work. Fred Bishop, Bill Wells, and Fred Wallin were among the number who had vacations recently. Our sympathy goes to Mr. and Mrs. Alton Hubbard whose baby died recently. The infant was found dead in bed.

"Speedy" is located at Keesler Field, Mississippi—"Keep 'em flying," "Speedy," old boy, and we'll do our best to "Keep 'em smoking."

Fred Bishop is leaving us soon for service with the tall man in the high hat and whiskers on his chin, who'll probably be needing many of us as time moves on. We'll miss you, Fred, good luck, always!

Latest reports indicate that our Red Cross drive for war funds here has gone over in a big way—here's hoping it will be one hundred per cent plus for Ecusta.

Plant a "Victory Garden!" Get Bill Wells to tell you the latest joke about rationing.

Quit worrying about your draft status—"Uncle Sam" will probably get us all anyway, sooner or later.

Keep on the alert for signs of spring.

Be proud you contributed to the Red Cross war fund.

Make your ration points last as long as you can by eating with your friends.

Keep buying Bonds and Stamps.

Have Burgin Kilpatrick tell you the names of Transylvania "Runts."

Write to our boys in the armed Service.

Be good to your wife and children, they are valuable at income tax time.

Take life easier, you'll live longer.

So long,
KING

We extend our deepest sympathy to Fred Fendley whose mother passed away March 18th in Seneca, South Carolina.

Arthur Bowen, of the Job Printing Department, is confined in Transylvania Community Hospital following an operation. A speedy recovery, Arthur!

Don't Forget Those Victory Bonds!