

Letters From Ecusta Employees Now In Service

LIKES BRITISH ISLES

May 9, 1943
British Isles

Dear Sir:

I am sorry that I have not written to you before now, but we are a mobile unit and our address changes often. We are still in the British Isles and man, it is beautiful at this time of year. A fellow really can't imagine there is a war going on. When he wakes up in the morning in a valley surrounded by snow capped mountains, the sun beaming down, birds singing, sea gulls keeping an eye on his every move, it just makes him a little home-sick for those mountains, that's all.

Tell all the folks we are doing fine and hoping to be home soon. I hope the folks don't get too irritated at the rationing. They should be here for a while. We just have to get used to doing without the luxuries we enjoyed so freely. These folks are taking it like real soldiers; no gum, no candy, no ice-cream, no eggs, no white bread, cigarettes are 42 cents per package of twenty, and lots of other things. It just makes you admire them a whole lot.

I have been getting the Echo all the time and I sure do appreciate it. It gives me a lot of pride and comfort. I only hope I can continue my employment with such a swell company some day. Give my regards to the cafeteria bunch, and more power to the band—we have a nice one.

Sincerely,
C. D. CAGLE, SC 1-c USNR

LEARNING TO BAKE

Fort Flafler
Washington

Dear Mr. Wells:

I apologize for not having answered your letter before now, but I just haven't gotten around to it. I really appreciate hearing from you and thanks a lot for the Echo. It sure is a swell little paper.

Sure wish I could be back now to help in the victory garden project. I know that it will be lots of fun; one guy trying to have a better garden than his neighbor.

I hope to leave soon for a two months cook and bakers school. I really like baking and it really is a good job to have in the army. Don't know just when my furlough will come up; sometime this summer I think. I want to come to Ecusta to see the gang in the finishing department.

The folks are having fun at the square dances, I know, and I really want to get in on one when I do come home. Am looking forward to the day when I can get back to Ecusta to my job again. Please write soon.

Sincerely,
JOHN F. DRAKE, Pvt.

STATIONED AT MANTEO

May 13, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells,

Received the last copy of The Echo okay and I look forward to getting it each month.

I am stationed at Manteo, North Carolina, which is located on Roanoke Island, a sand dune the Navy tried to take away from the mosquitoes. It's doubtful, yet who won the battle? Seriously though, it's not a bad place. Its history is quite interesting. The famous "Lost Colony" is located here, and it is also the accepted belief that the first white person, Virginia Dare, was born here.

Remember me to the gang.

Sincerely yours,
ELBERT L. CHAPMAN

Ecusta Employees In Military Service



PVT. JAMES McCORMICK formerly employed in the Inspection Department of Ecusta, left us in September, received his wings as a qualified parachutist, and is now overseas.



PVT. MAJORINE S. BEVACQUA, who has been with the company since 1922, worked in the Finishing Department here, left on August 21, 1942, and is now stationed in Jackson, Miss.

FLASH GORDON WEDS

May 12, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells,

First of all, a million thanks for the Echo. I have received it most every month since entering the service back in July, 1941. I enjoy reading all the little news items and the letters from the boys in the service. Through the Echo, I receive so much news that I would not get otherwise.

Now to let you and my other friends at Ecusta in on my good news. I have taken unto myself a wife, she is the former Miss Helen Reeves Hensley, of Sylva and Asheville, daughter of the Rev. B. S. Hensley of Sylva.

The marriage was solemnized in a ceremony April 20 at the First Baptist church in Spartanburg, S. C., with the Rev. E. Gibson Davis, D. D., officiating.

Mrs. Gordon is a graduate of Mars Hill college and Asheville college, and is a teacher in the Buncombe county schools.

I am still working with the Division Chaplain's Office and getting along very well. Our food is above the average here. It won't be so many days until we will be taking to the field though.

With personal good wishes to all, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
FLASH GORDON

TELL EVERYONE "HELLO"

March 20, 1943

Dear Sir:

I'm just writing you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the Army and doing very well for myself so far, and hope to come back one of these days in the near future and work for Ecusta again.

Mr. Wells, I would have answered you sooner but I am pretty busy with Army life and I guess you will understand.

Many thanks for sending the Echo to me every month. I enjoy reading it a lot.

Be sure to tell all the boys I said "Hello." I am on convoy duty right now and don't have very much time to spare.

I must be closing for this time, and wishing you and all the best of luck in the future, so long and write whenever you have time.

Sincerely yours,
JOHN C. SPROUSE (Pvt.)

WILL GO TO SCHOOL

Fort Hamilton, N. Y.
March 25, 1943

Hi Folks:

Still at Fort Hamilton, the country club of the Army, but not for long, as I am awaiting orders to go to school.

About three weeks ago I signed, along with 15 other fellows, for Army Administration School, which I believe is at Mississippi State College. Two weeks ago I found out that I was among six fellows who were selected to go. The course is for eight weeks, but if there are any advanced courses when I finish, I will stay there and take them. Some people think I am crazy for leaving such a swell place as Fort Hamilton (it sure is swell getting home as often as I do) but when one has too much time on his hands, it's bad for the mind. I believe all the fellows will agree that the sooner we get going the better. We don't know where we go after completing our course, but it will either be back to Fort Hamilton or bye bye.

As you all probably know I am working in the Quartermaster Office as a stenographer in the Legal Department. It sure is a lot different from bobbins and booklets. The work was quite difficult at the beginning, because after swinging mops and carrying rifles it was difficult trying to pound a typewriter. All my work is done for the Colonel's signature and he is very particular about form and does not stand for typographical errors. Military correspondence is quite difficult to catch on to, but once it is conquered the letters are very neat-looking. Oh well, us girls have our troubles.

The next time you hear from me I will probably be in Mississippi, but knowing the speed with which the Army moves on such things it will probably be a month, a year, or never. Oh hum, who cares, I have a lot of time on my hands and have no place to go for about two years.

Tomorrow is our lucky day, we get a half day off. (They are going to let us sleep until 6:15 a.m.)

Best regards to all.

Ex Civilian
BEN BAKOWSKI (Pvt.)
(New York Office Employee)
Station Complement

HAS "LITTLE JOB" TO DO

Fort Jackson, S. C.
April 18, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

I received my first Echo a few weeks ago and hope you will continue sending them, for I really enjoyed that one.

Hope everyone there is well. Wish I were back myself but we have a little job to do first, and then perhaps we'll get to come back.

Tell Mr. Eversman "Hello" for me and that I'd like to be back trying to toot that clarinet. Also Bob and Charles Colwell and Ed Matheson if they aren't in the Army now. I haven't heard.

I'm pretty busy now. I've been attending a radio school and they don't allow us to rest very much, but I like it.

Well, guess I'd better close the station. Tell everyone in the band and in the Finishing Department "Hello" for me also.

Respectfully yours,
PVT. ED. W. ERVIN
Reg. Hq. Co., 399th Inf.

LIKES THE NAVY

Bainbridge, Md.
April 6, 1943

Dear Bob (Kappers):

Thought I would drop you a few lines before bed time.

I like the Navy fine. Sure am having a swell time but don't like to get up as early as we have to. They call us at 4:30 in the morning.

How are you getting along? Fine, I hope. Hope to be back on leave in five more weeks and I will drop around to see you all.

Tell all of the boys "Hello" for me and to keep the old mill humming. Sure would like to be back there and don't guess I can 'til this war is over, which I hope won't be long.

Boy, they sure put us through up here, and the weather is cold as heck, but they dress us warm, so it is not so bad after all. Only our face gets plenty cold.

There are over a hundred boys in this barracks and we sure do have a heck of a time when we are off in the afternoon.

Well, guess I had better close this time for it is only five minutes 'til lights out.

Hoping to hear from you soon. Tell the boys my address if any of them care to write.

Yours truly,
RICHARD LANCE, USNR
Co. 1146, Bks. 123
U. S. N. T. S.

GETS PROMOTIONS

Dear Sir:

I received the stationery you sent to me Christmas and I certainly appreciate it a lot and received some of the Ecusta papers, The Echo; and I certainly appreciate reading them. I learn a lot about what you are doing and I hope you continue to help the service men. This is some of the stationery you sent me and I certainly do enjoy writing letters when I have good paper to write on.

Well, to tell of myself, I enjoy being in the service and fighting for what we all want, peace. I think I have done pretty well in the service. I am now a Second Class Petty Officer and I hope to go higher and believe I will. I am an Aviation Orderman Second Class. I would have written sooner but I have been terribly busy. Please excuse my delay in writing.

Your friend,
CAMERON A. HOUK.