

Letters From Ecusta Employees In Service

NOW IN "BLACK HILLS"

Fort Meade, So. Dak.
Dear Mr. Wells:

Have just been reading the Transylvania Times and seeing some news items about Ecusta reminded me that I have not informed you of my new address. I left Ft. Bragg February 10th arriving here on the 15th. We have a very nice post here in the "Black Hills" of South Dakota and have found that the people are very friendly and nice to the soldiers.

I understand that Brevard has had some pretty cold weather this winter but I doubt if it can compare with what we have had here. We have had plenty of snow and the temperature has been down to thirty and forty below several times. The weather is very changeable, being nice and warm one day and within a few hours being sub-zero again. It looks as if spring is here now. For more than a week now we have been able to go about our duties in our shirt sleeves.

I hope this finds things going fine at Ecusta. I am expecting to get a furlough within the next month and spend a few days at home again.

My last copy of the Echo showed a picture of my brother, Homer, and his address was given as Camp Walters, Texas. He has been in Alaska for more than a year now and probably does not have much time to write. I have had only one letter from him in nearly five months now and it came about a week ago. He must be pretty busy there for he said he had not had an opportunity to write.

Give my regards to all at Ecusta.

Sincerely,
HUBERT E. BATSON, S-Sgt.
Medical Detachment
88th Glider Inf.

ENJOYS ECHO

Los Angeles, Calif.,
June 6, 1943.

Dear Mr. Wells:

I received the paper and was glad to get the news from the plant. I sure would like to be there at some of the dances. I know I would have a good time.

Just keep sending the Echo; I sure enjoy it especially reading about the boys in the service, so keep up the good work and I know we all soon will be back with you. Good luck.

ALBERT J. SHOOK.

ATTENDING SCHOOL

Camp Lee, Va.
June 8, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

Just a few lines to let you know my address. For the present I am at Camp Lee, Va., and will be here for eight more weeks attending mess sergeant's school. I finished four weeks of basic training this past week of hard work, marching and drilling every day.

Sure would like to see the boys on A shift in the bleach room. The army probably has most of the ones that I worked with by now.

Is Tom Couch still there? I sure would like to see him and also Medford Chapman. I don't have very much time to read but would appreciate a copy of the Echo. I will try to take the time to read that.

Sincerely,
Pvt. Franklin C. Justus, Jr.
10th Q.M.T.R., Co. E, T.646
Camp Lee, Va.

SEVEN CRASHES IN FOUR DAYS

68th AAFFTD
Jackson, Tenn.
May 27, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells,

I received the Echo several days ago that was forwarded from Maxwell Field; I sure was glad to get it. I haven't had much spare time since I have been here learning to fly this PT 27. We are on the go 15 hrs. every day and about 30% of the boys in my class have already washed out. I passed my first check and hope to stay with it to the end.

There have been seven crashes here in the past four days but we are getting used to them now. Two of my best friends crashed in mid air just in front of me yesterday and really demolished both planes and cadets. I am doing my best to be a good flyer but am already looking forward to being back at Ecusta as soon as the war is over. Hope to hear from you and all of my friends as often as possible. I will only be here thirty more days.

Sincerely,
Ben Rickman

IS PHASE CHIEF

Wheeled Vehicle Dept.
Armored Force School
Fort Knox, Ky.

Dear Mr. Wells:

I'm ashamed for not having let you know about my recent change. When I stopped by a couple of months ago I was on my way to Fort Knox to teach in the Wheeled Vehicle Department. Now I'm settled, I can tell you, in more detail, what I am doing. I am a phase chief. Our school is divided into nine phases: basic engines, carbonation and electricity, line engines and trouble shooting, chassis and three phases of maintenance. We run in two shifts. The shifts are from 6 A. M. to 1 P. M. and 1 P. M. to 8 P. M. Right now I am on the afternoon shift. I am fortunate in that I have a maintenance phase since it is almost like being with a unit in the field. Our work is the same. I don't have much actual platform teaching; most of my work is supervision and administrative work.

I certainly have enjoyed recent issues of the Echo. I studied the map showing the Victory garden plots and know just exactly what might be expected from the soil in each. I wish I were there working with you on them. I certainly do have a nice Victory garden. I am one of the few in the army that has enough spare time to grow a garden.

I was promoted to captain recently. Am lucky, I guess. Please give my regards to everyone.

Sincerely,
BOB BOLT.

ONE OF OUR V LETTERS

Dear Mr. Wells:

Will write you a few lines tonight to let you know I am getting along OK. Received the January issue of the Echo last night and sure was glad to get it.

My address changes so much lately, I have trouble keeping you posted on it. Sure would like to see all my friends at Ecusta. Cigarettes sure do come in handy here, so keep the paper rolling and tell everyone hello. Best wishes to all.

Sincerely yours,
HOVEY WALDROP

Lieut. In Air Corps



LT. CHARLES RUFFIN WILKINS, above, is a second lieutenant in the U. S. air corps, stationed now at Wendover Field, Utah. He entered the service in January, 1942, and was sent first to the Orlando, Fla., air base, where he had his basic training. He was then transferred to the Greenville air base, where he was promoted to master sergeant. He entered officers candidate school at Miami Beach, Fla., in January of this year. Prior to entering the service he was employed at Ecusta corporation plant. He is the son of Mrs. Madge O. Wilkins, and the late Charles P. Wilkins, of Brevard.

ENJOYS THE ECHO

Fort Bragg, N. C.

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am sorry that I haven't written you before now, but haven't had time. This Army life keeps you so busy that it is almost impossible to write very often, but will write as often as possible.

I am liking the Army fine. I certainly appreciate your favors. Here is hoping that I will be able to return to Ecusta as I enjoyed my previous work there.

I enjoyed the Echo while I was employed at the plant and would appreciate receiving copies of it.

Thanking you again, I remain
Sincerely yours,
WILLIAM T. GASH Pvt.
D-7-3 F.A.R.T.C., Bks. 483

NOW ON "X" ISLAND

Wesley G. Cromer CM 3-C
53rd N.C.B., Co.B., Pl.4
Fleet Postmaster
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Mr. Wells:

We're here in the South Pacific on that wonderful Island X you've probably heard of. I can't tell you anything about the place because it's a military secret. I can tell you this—there is a severe shortage of blonds and red heads.

We go to town once in a while and eat our fill of sardines and cheese sandwiches followed by copious draughts of lemonade without ice. It's a great life!! The natives are all foreigners—there is not a yankee among them.

Drop in and see us—anytime!!
Your friend,
WESLEY

He—Would you say "Yes" if I asked you to marry me?
She—Would you ask me to marry you if I said I would say "yes" if you asked me to marry you?

IN THE AIR AS MUCH AS ON THE GROUND

537th Bomb Sqd.
Army Air Base
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Mr. Wells,

As I am forwarding my new address I would like to express my appreciation for each and every edition of the Echo I've received. I have enjoyed reading it very much.

I will be leaving here soon for foreign service as my combat training is just about over. We've really been kept busy lately, however I like my job fine. I am flight engineer on a B-24 (Liberator) bomber. For the last two months I have spent about as much time in the air as I have on the ground.

I will have to make this letter short as I'm due for a flight in a few minutes. But I do want to take time to thank you and everyone at Ecusta for the kindness shown me while I was there.

Sincerely,
Sgt. R. Weldon Misenheimer

NOW IN NEW GUINEA

April 5, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

This is to let you know that I received your nice letter, which I appreciated very much.

The December issue of the Echo reached here a few days ago. I sure was glad to get it; even if it was a little old, it was news to me. The new Echo sure is nice.

I am in New Guinea now. There is not much to do here except write letters or read. There is not much to write about, but I like to write what I can for I like to receive letters.

Thanking you again for the letter and for making it possible for me to receive the Echo, I will close.

Sincerely yours,
William H. Laughter

PRAISES ECUSTA

Camp Houze, Texas
June 2 1943

Dear Mr. Wells,

At last I will get around to writing again. I really enjoyed getting back to the mountains for a few days; seeing my friends there at Ecusta again. That is the place I will always remember and long for. I am getting along fine even if we are working hard. I hope it won't be long until we can all be back at Ecusta as in days gone by. It is a wonderful place to work and words can't express the praise due it.

Thanks a million for the Echo. It is our only way of keeping up with happenings at Ecusta.

As ever,
Pfc. Warren R. Alexander

WAITING TO BE SHIPPED

June 5, 1943

Dear Mr. Wells:

I've thought for sometime I'd write but haven't gotten to it until now.

First I'd like to thank you for sending me the Echo. I get much enjoyment from reading it and learning of Ecusta employees now in service.

I don't know how long I'll be here. I have finished my basic training and am waiting now to be shipped to some school. The time can't come too soon to suit me.

Give my regards to all my friends.

Yours truly,
Pvt. Raleigh T. Waldrop