

News From Former Employees Now In Service

WANTS MACHINE SHOP NEWS

Cpl. J. C. Gevedon writes from Alaska: "... I work graveyard shift here and have very little to do. The most I ever do is write letters and read and also keep a watch over three generators ... Why is it that the Ecusta Machine Shop never has any news in the paper? All the rest of the departments do, but not the Machine Shop. I would like to hear some from there once in awhile ..."

TRANSFERRED TO KENTUCKY

Sgt. Walter R. Davis writes from Camp Breckinridge, Ky.: "... I have been attending Quartermaster School at Camp Lee, Virginia, where we had a course in Administration and Supply ... Since I returned to Camp Breckinridge, I have been assigned to the Quartermaster Property Office in the Requisition Section ... It was most interesting to learn of Dewitt Drake. He is a special friend of mine and we were inducted into the army the same day ..."

IN JUNGLES OF NEW GUINEA

Pfc. Rastus Smith writes from somewhere in New Guinea: "... I guess you wonder what kind of place this is. It's a jungle that consists mainly of coconut trees, several types of wild animals, plenty of mosquitoes and several other insects. There are no white women here. There are several natives, who are very friendly. It sure is plenty hot during the days, but the nights are nice ... There isn't very much I can say, except we are doing a fine job over here, and I feel that you all back home are doing a swell job too. Yes, it is true our enemy is tough, but we are tougher and much smarter ... Tell all of my friends I said hello and to keep buying more bonds and we'll keep 'em on the run ..."

IS NOW CORPORAL

Cpl. Edward J. Hill writes from the Peterson Army Air field, Colorado Springs, Colo.: "... I enjoyed the visit I made to the plant while I was home ... I saw a lot of new faces ... But it was fun to walk through the plant, watching others do the things I want to do just as soon as I can get back ... Things move slowly in the Air corps. I have been advanced to Corporal as a Christmas present from Uncle Sam ..."

REGARDS TO MILLWRIGHTS

Sgt. Harold E. Torrance writes from England: "... Hope everything is going nicely there in the mountains ... Sure have seen some of the country since I was enlisted in the Army, and of all I've seen, it's still North Carolina for me ... Give my regards to the Millwrights on C shift and my very best regards for the plant and the personnel ..."

PART OF ECUSTA FAMILY

Pfc. Calvin C. Raxter writes from Sioux Falls, S. D.: "... To know such people are backing you it makes a fellow do just a little more and keep on going when the going gets tough. He realizes how much he has to train for and fight for ... We still feel like we are in the Ecusta family; sitting across the table from the boss eating Christmas dinner. (Well, we can dream, can't we?) ... I'm taking radio mechanic training and will finish in a few weeks and then where? M. S. (Military Secret) ..."

BOTH FORMER ECUSTA EMPLOYEES



JOHN H. BUCKNER, Gunner's Mate 2-c, and his wife, the former Orias Wilde, are now in Rhode Island, where he is stationed as an Instructor at the P. T. base. He was an Ecusta Inspector before he left in 1942 to enter the Navy and she was employed in the Hand Booklet Department. John writes that he likes the Navy but he would also like to be back at Ecusta, that he is "always anxious to know what the folks back home are doing."

In North Africa



SGT CLYDE R. ALLISON, has recently been stationed at Wendover Field, Utah, but is now somewhere in North Africa. Before entering the service he was employed by Champagne as a gumming operator; he left September 18, 1942.

IN CHARGE OF LAUNDRY

Pfc. Edward Pitts writes from North Africa: "I am still in North Africa and getting along fine. The weather is getting bad, raining and is very cold at night ... I am in charge of the laundry here which is a pretty good job when you don't have to be out in the rain and mud. I have visited several places and have seen lots of interesting things since I've been here. Now I am ready to move on, especially if we could be headed for New York. Won't be too soon for me ..."

Now On Ocean



FRANK G. RHODES, Jr., Seaman 2-c, is now on a destroyer. We learn news of Frank, Jr., from his father, who is a foreman in the Machine Room. Before going into the Navy, March 17, 1943, Seaman Rhodes was a member of the Landscape Crew at Ecusta.

ENJOYS SMOKES

Pfc. W. Glen Simpson writes from somewhere in Italy: "... We really enjoy our smokes and, as you know, cigarettes are rationed to us boys ... I've been in Italy for about a month. Spent three months in Africa ... I am looking forward to this racket ending soon and getting back to the States ... I still say Western North Carolina is the best place I've ever been and Ecusta is the best place I've ever worked ..."

WONDERS IF THE CHEM. LAB. STILL EXISTS

Ted Bryan, PhM 3-c, writes from a Fleet Post Office, San Francisco: "... I like the little paper swell but I think someone should wake up the Chem. Laboratory. Where is their little comical bit? I would like to know whether they still exist or not ... On the edge of the jungle we do have palm trees, and the tropical moon does look swell. I think with Ecusta's wonderful dance music and some of their beautiful white girls this life would be wonderful ... We don't have any towns or villages ... The native men visit us and talk with us ..."

ATTACHED TO BRITISH ARMY

S-Sgt. Ben Bakowski writes from somewhere in England: "... I was attached to the British Army for several months and really met a swell bunch of boys. I ate and slept with them, and also enjoyed their company during time off. It was a grand experience which I shall not forget. I am now back with the American Army attached to Headquarters in London. There are many things I would like to say about my experiences, but will only say I am glad to be wearing an American uniform ... We all had an opportunity to see Irving Berlin's show "This Is The Army," which we all enjoyed. Outside of letters from home, these shows help keep up our morale, and I hope it won't be too long before we can see another (on Broadway) ..."

SLEEPING ON FLAX

Pfc. Jim McCormick, who was in the Parachute Infantry, writes from somewhere in Italy: "... I am sleeping on a bale of flax. The flax in the raw sure reminds me of old Ecusta and the fellows there ... I have been on the move and not much time to rest. We jumped in the Sicilian invasion and also in Italy ... Sure would be good to be home again. Just two years ago the Japs pulled their dirty trick ... I see by the paper where there are a lot of boys over here from there but I haven't seen any of them yet ..."

IS GASING BOMBERS

Pvt. Paul E. Merrill writes from the Army Air Field, Las Vegas, Nevada: "... I sure like this old desert and I like the Air Corps too, of course I had rather be at Ecusta, but since this is impossible I suppose I will have to perform my small part of duty as well as I can ... I am awfully lucky to get into a line of work I like. I am driving a 2,000 gallon gasoline truck, gasing bombers—and that is something too, for it isn't everyone in the Army who has a job he enjoys doing ... Give my regards to the boys in the Refining Room on A shift ..."

SNOW ALMOST EVERY DAY

Cpl. G. Earl York writes from Tobyhanna, Pa.: "... My biggest shock was reading of the death of Ted Gentry and I know you all miss him as a friend and a very valuable employee as well ... The winters here aren't very much like ours there because the temperature has gone down as much as 35 degrees below zero and that is too cold for me. Snow almost every day now ... I'm still doing statistical work and find it very interesting; I hope to see more action one of these days, but I can't count on it too much ..."