

News From Former Employees Now In-Service

WITH THE "BEACH-JUMPERS"

The first copy of the Echo I received came like a bolt from the blue and was certainly a help in filling in those odd moments in boot camp. If the other Ecusta boys in service enjoy the Echo as I do, then you are doing a real job in helping to keep their morale up.

I am with the amphibious forces—what we call "beach-jumping." Here we are being taught to use all sorts of small arms and guns. When I finish I will be sent to an LST for duty.

Now let me write a little about my brother. He worked for Ecusta in the Inspection Department for a short while. Perhaps you remember Bill Pearce? He went into the army about five months after I went into the navy, and was shipped over to Italy five months later. Nearly a month ago he was cited for gallantry in action and given the Silver Star. He was in at Anzio Beachhead and the breakthrough into Rome. Needless to say, I'm green with envy.

Good luck to all of you at Ecusta.

Yours truly,
Richard W. Pearce,
(Radio Technician 2-c)

SHORT WEEK FOR SOLDIER

It's always good to hear from friends back home. Letters play an important part in the morale of the men overseas.

When I wrote you last I was on the Island of Corsica. Since that time I have come back to Italy. I have had the pleasure of visiting a few of the towns and cities—among them, Rome. It is really a nice place. Reminds me most of the States of any place I've been over here. It isn't a place I'd want to live—so don't worry, I'll be back at Ecusta as soon as we can finish up the job, and I don't believe it can last too much longer.

It's nice to learn Ecusta is in full swing. I know 48 hours seem long to some who work there, but to a soldier it would seem a short week. When we are on the job we are lucky if we get a half day each week, and are subject to call 24 hours out of the day—not to mention the pay! So you do see what a wonderful place Ecusta is.

I noticed the June issue of the Echo was mailed to me first class. I appreciate this as it came through in about the same time as a letter. It is a paper we all look forward to receiving as much as a letter.

Remember me to my friends at Ecusta and Brevard. Keep the paper moving because the boys do enjoy their cigarettes.

As ever,
Raleigh T. Waldrop (Pfc.)

SAW HOLY FATHER IN ROME

Somewhere in Italy

I've just received the May edition of the Echo, and I am enjoying it very much. I was surprised to find my picture in the paper.

I have visited Rome and got to see the Holy Father.

Sincerely,
Raymond Nicholson (Pfc.)

IN TANK BATTALION

Pvt. William W. Gillespie is now in Italy with an armored tank battalion. He was with the allied forces in the capture of Rome, Italy. Pvt. Gillespie has been overseas 11 months. He left Ecusta in 1943, had basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and Camp Campbell, Ky.

A Flying Tiger



S. SGT. W. BRUCE PETTIT, above, is a member of the "Flying Tigers," now stationed in China. As a radio operator on a B-25 Mitchell bomber, Sgt. Pettit has been overseas about eight months. He was employed by Ecusta as a Chemical Laboratory helper and was inducted in August, 1942.

Now In England



SGT. HORACE SMITH, above, is now stationed in England with a heavy bombardment group. He was one of the first Ecustans to enter service—in April, 1941. He was a third hand in the Machine Room.

In The Infantry



PVT. TED SCHEPKOWSKI, of Brevard, is in the infantry somewhere in Italy. He has been overseas around two months and in service since last January. He took his basic training at Camp Wheeler, Ga. His wife, the former Miss Rachel Orr, is in Brevard with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Orr. Pvt. Schepkowski was employed in Champagne's Hand Booklet Department prior to his induction in the army.

SENDS GREETINGS TO HIS BUDDIES

% Fleet Post Office, New York
I want you to know how much I appreciate you people sending me the Echo. Although I haven't written to you lately and you never knew my correct address, I received the Echo just the same.

I noticed in my last letter from home where you now have Air Mail stationery made like cigarette paper. It makes a guy feel good to know people at home are backing him.

I would like to say hello to the old shift in the Machine Room and also to my Machine Shop buddies.

So thanks again for the Echo, and good luck to you all.

As ever,
Hale Siniard (Shipfitter 2-c)

Sister Takes Place



R. M. "MIKE" MYERS, Chief Petty Officer, re-enlisted in the Navy in February, 1942. Before Pearl Harbor he served three and one-half years in the Navy. Myers has participated in three major naval battles in Atlantic and South Pacific areas. Since he has been stationed in San Diego as instructor. He was employed in the Inspection Dept. Incidentally, his sister, Evelyn Myers, has taken his place in Inspection, same shift and same machine.

ROME, BERLIN—THEN HOME

Somewhere in Italy

After a long round-trip, I arrived safely in Italy. I've seen a good many places our boys have gone through, and what a sight!

I hope to get to Rome, to Berlin and home soon after. I'm with the Aviation Engineers—a sort of Seabee outfit of the Air Corps. I had no idea this is where I'd wind up, but the army is full of surprises. I trained for one thing, then do a hundred others.

Good luck, and be sure to say hello to all in the plant for me.

Sincerely,
Tony Sansosti (Pvt.)

ENJOYS FURLOUGH

Washington 25, D. C.

I was blessed not very long ago with a 7-day furlough which I very naturally spent in the hills of North Carolina. There should be more furloughs and longer ones in the army, but we want to work harder and get this thing over sooner.

I want to say here that it made me feel very good to see so many familiar faces on my visit there. It wouldn't seem right going home and not visiting Ecusta, because Ecusta is part of home. I read about the bond reports, and as I have written you before, it is a great boost to any person in any uniform to know that the folks back home are helping as much as you folks are. These things will not be forgotten when we come home and puff those blue stars out of our windows.

Please don't take my name off the Echo mailing list ever! Getting the paper is like hitting the jackpot at mail call.

Must stop now. Duty calls.

Sgt. Mary Rickman

P. S. No letter is complete without a P. S., so here is mine. I celebrate an anniversary August 5—one year a buck sergeant, and am I tough?

LST REALLY ROLLS

Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, N. Y.

I have been receiving the Echo and it has been appreciated. It is like receiving a long letter from home, only it is more than any letter. It would take page after page to bring the news the Echo does.

I want you to know I enjoyed my visit through the mill on March 21st. It made me want to go to work again.

I am aboard my ship now. We have left the States. Boy! We have had some weather—it has been as high as 120 degrees. The sun shines in the day, then it clouds up and rains and the wind blows at night. I never saw a ship that rolled like this one does. I have been in the storms and the ship didn't roll like this one. You see, it has no keel and has a flat bottom, which makes it roll like the dickens.

Yours truly,
William E. Green (GM3-c)

IS AWAITING AN OPERATION

Remount Depot
Front Royal, Va.

I am in the hospital here at the Remount Depot, but will be moved out to some other hospital for an operation on my side—or that is what the doctor has told me. I haven't much strength to do any thing and can't sit up very long, but will try to finish this letter. I am wishing for the day to come when I can come back to Ecusta to work because it is the nicest place in the world for a guy to work and it is in the grandest state in the Union.

Give my regards to all the folks at the plant.

Sincerely,
William H. Tritt (Pfc.)

IS ON ITALIAN FRONT

Somewhere on Italian Front
I am getting along fine and in good health considering the conditions one has to go through. I will be glad when the war is over and I can be back in good old North Carolina once again.

Yours sincerely,
Raymond Nicholson (Pfc.)