

News From Former Employees Now In Service

EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

The following letter from a Private in New Guinea refers to the cigarettes which are sent to the fronts bearing a stamp stating they are contributed by the men and women of the Ecusta Paper Corporation, makers of the cigarette paper:

Dear Sirs:

I am at the present time detailed to the Red Cross in a combat area. I am writing to your employees to thank them for the cigarettes they have donated to the boys overseas.

Although the Army makes it a point to keep the soldier supplied in combat and a short time thereafter, the materials of war have an understandable priority.

When the boys are "hurtin'" for a smoke they sure appreciate the Red Cross and you, the people who make their work possible.

Yours truly,

David F. Cummins (Pvt.)

HAS BEEN OVER FRANCE AND GERMANY

Tell everyone I know "hello" for me.

I am now at an operational base in England, where I've been for only a few weeks. There are a lot of things that we don't get, but otherwise we're making out pretty good.

We've been over France and Germany a few times, and it's pretty rough. We're busy since the invasion has begun.

Write when you can.

As ever—

John Lyday (S. Sgt.)

IS IN FRANCE

There isn't much to write about France because I haven't been here long enough to see much of it, but I guess I'll know what it looks like before I ever get back home. What I have seen of it sure is not like good old North Carolina.

I haven't seen Captain Bolt in the last three days. This must be the point where we part.

We are in a camp now for replacements. From here we go to a unit and battle and then, if we're lucky and it ends soon, I hope it's home.

Tell all the folks back at Ecusta I am thinking of them and hope some day I'll get to see them all again, and I hope that isn't too far off.

Chris Costanza (Pvt.)

PROMOTED TO T. SGT.

Staff Sgt. Clyde "Speedy" Jones was superintendent of the Refining Room before entering service in Feb., 1943. He was recently promoted from Staff Sergeant to Tech Sergeant. He is a crew chief on a B-24 stationed somewhere in Italy.

HOT WEATHER THERE

New Guinea

I was just thinking how wonderful it would be to be back at Ecusta, so I decided I would drop you a few lines.

I am in the best of health. It's a beautiful day here—sun shining bright and pretty, and just as hot as ever.

Rastus Smith (Pfc.)

NOW AT NORFOLK, VA.

Cpl. Thomas Dan Edens recently visited in Brevard. He was employed in the canteen before entering the service in February, 1943. Cpl. Edens was formerly in Farmingdale, N. Y., but is now stationed in Norfolk, Va.

Sgt. Fred Hutchinson Has Seen Much Action In European Theatre Of War

Former Gumming Operator Has Literally Been "Keeping Them Flying"

A NINTH AIR FORCE TROOP CARRIER BASE, EUROPEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS — Tech Sergeant Fred J. Hutchinson, former Ecustan, is now with the ninth troop carrier command of the Ninth Air Force in the European theatre, after seeing service in North Africa, Sicily and Italy during the past fifteen months.

One of Champagne's gumming operators, he left its employ to join the ranks as a volunteer in December, 1941.

Realizing a long standing desire to become an airplane mechanic, he now literally "keeps 'em flying." As flight chief he is in charge of all maintenance on several big C-47 airplanes. A brake specialist too, he fixes them so that no pilot need run out of runway when "coming in hot."

In North Africa he was engaged in flying duties, was awarded the Air Medal for flying as crew chief in the spearheading troop carrier flight which hauled paratroopers into Sicily on D-Day.

A veteran overseas unit, his troop carrier organization, now a part of the Allied Expeditionary Air force, carried fighting Yank paratroopers into the Cherbourg Peninsula on D-Day.

Asked about his favorite pastime in the ETO, he replied quickly, "reading the Echo," which he receives regularly.

READS ECHO UNTIL "WEE" HOURS

Care of Fleet Post Office New York

Thank you for the first Echo I have received since I've been overseas. Was so thrilled I stayed up most of last night reading the news that makes me think of home very much.

Wasn't surprised a bit when I saw that Divola C. and Bill N. were engaged.

Sure would have liked to have been there for the Fourth of July picnic — to win the underwater swimming contest like I did last year!

Any letters anyone will write me will be very gladly received.

Keep up the good work in buying war bonds, and some day we will all be home together.

Yours truly,

Virgil L. Barrett (S1-c)

INFORMATION ON THE McCORMICKS

Pfc. Thomas N. McCormick, who is in a Port Company, has been in France for some time now, and among his first mail was the June Echo, which he and his buddies enjoy so much. He likes France fine, but says living in a foxhole is no picnic.

Sgt. Melvin McCormick and Pfc. James McCormick were in England the last we heard while Pvt. Douglas McCormick was still in Camp White, Oregon. The above are all brothers.

Their sister, 2nd Lieut. Juanita McCormick of the Army Nurse Corps, has recently arrived in the States from Corsica and is now on leave at home.

Sees Real Action



TECH SERGEANT FRED J. HUTCHINSON, former Ecustan, now airplane mechanic in a IX Air Force Troop Carrier squadron in the European Theatre, struck a pose (above) for a street photographer while "doing the town" in a small city near his base in Sicily when he was serving there. (Official photo, Ninth Air Force.)

CAN GET BANANAS THERE

Somewhere in New Guinea I received two of the Echoes this past week and was more than glad to get them for they are really a lot of company over here in the jungle.

Boy, it is hot! There are plenty of coconut and banana trees here. We have cleaned up two places in the jungle and got up our tents—6-men tents.

I was very disappointed when I did not get my furlough from Camp Cooke. Well, tell my friends and fellow workers hello for me and keep up the good work, for our job will soon be finished and we hope to join them again.

So, until we meet again—

As ever—

Ben H. Bishop (Sgt.)

IS IN TRAINING CENTER

Fort Knox, Ky.

I am getting along fine. How is Ecusta going these days? Gosh! I miss that place—it's just like home to me.

I like this place. I am in the Armored Replacement Training Center, and it sure is a nice outfit.

Tell all the boys to write when they have the chance. Good luck to you and all of Ecusta.

Your friend,

Oscar Gasperson (Pvt.)

APPRECIATES ECUSTA

Corsica

I arrived here on Corsica and have flown a bit already.

I enjoyed reading the Echo while I was in the States, and I would appreciate seeing one once in a while over here.

After seeing the type of paper they use in foreign cigarettes, one really appreciates your product.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Vannah, Jr.,

(Flight Officer)

Sgt. David Sams Is War Prisoner

A telegram from the Red Cross to the parents of Sgt. David Sams in Mars Hill, N. C., advises that David is a prisoner of war in Germany. Sgt. Sams recently had been reported as missing in action over Germany. A tail gunner on a B-24 he received the air medal on July 15th after completing 31 missions over enemy territory. He had been commended by his commanding officer for his bravery, optimism and spirit of co-operation. He was overseas in January, 1943, first in Africa and then to Italy. Before entering service, Sgt. Sams was employed by Ecusta as a Plant helper.

R. W. MUSE MISSING IN ACTION OVER GERMANY

Lt. Rex "Red" W. Muse, pilot of a B-24, has been missing in action over Germany since July 21st. He entered the air forces in November of 1942, trained at Maxwell Field, Ala., and Walnut Ridge, Ark. In October, 1943, he received his commission and wings at Freeman Field, Seymour, Ind. He was an inspector helper here.

FRANCE

France I have been in France for a while now, but haven't been able to travel around as much as I like.

We had a big "Fourth of July" over here. The townspeople turned out in full force with flags and flowers everywhere. Plenty of fireworks, too!

This living in one place and the other is getting me down. I'm glad when I can get back to the one spot in the N. C. hills.

Give my regards to all.

As ever,

Bob Bolt (Captain)

LONGS FOR BLUE RIDGE

England

I received our welcome letter while back but have been pretty busy getting settled down.

This country is a lot better than the other places, but nothing can beat the Blue Ridge Mountains. Hope it's not too long before we get a chance to see them again.

I haven't seen my brothers yet but hope to soon. There were a few boys I knew at the place I was stationed before, but I never saw one of them.

Keep up the good work.

Jim McCormick (Pfc.)

LOOKING FORWARD TO BERLIN VISIT

This leaves me and the Isle of Corsica fine as could be expected. I see why we are fighting and I'm proud of the good old American way. So tell all to thank their God and stop complaining.

I hope to visit Raleigh Waldron soon, the next day I can get off. I hope we can visit Berlin, and then return home.

Best of luck 'til this thing is over. Tell others to write.

Yours truly,

John Jackson (Cpl.)

SAW CAPTURE OF ROME

Pvt. Bill H. Nicholson was with the allied forces when Rome was captured. Pvt. Nicholson, formerly employed in the Canteen, is with the infantry somewhere in Italy as a soldier. He left Ecusta in August, 1943.