

News From Former Employees Now In Service

SENDS ITALIAN AND GERMAN COINS

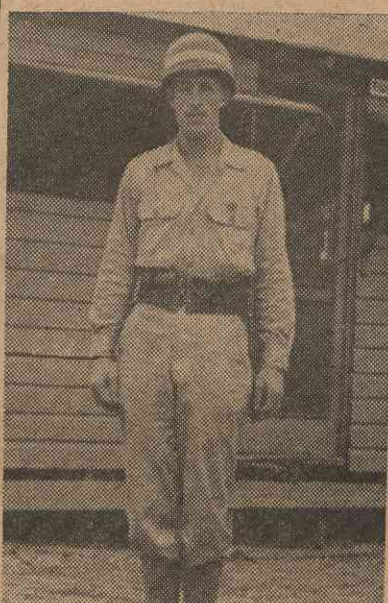
Mc. Raymond Nicholson writes from somewhere in Italy: "... I am sending you a coin which is made in Vatican City only. On one side of this coin is the Coat of Arms of Pope Pius XII. The keys on the coin represent Our Lord, Jesus Christ, presenting St. Peter, the first Pope of the Catholic Church, with the keys of His Kingdom. The dove represents the Holy Ghost, third person of the Holy Trinity. The olive branch represents peace. On the reverse side is St. Michael, the archangel, holding the faith of Christ. This coin is made by Vatican City mint. No person must have permission to enter there, same as a person going into another country. I received this coin when I visited the Vatican. I was fortunate in having an audience with the Pope and receiving his blessing. I am also enclosing German coins which are worth ten cents, and one cent German money isn't it to get..."

Missing In Action



1ST LT. WILLIAM "MAC" HEATON, above, is missing in action over Germany since Sept. 5th. Lt. Heaton, former Machine Room employee, had completed on Aug. 18th his 70th mission against Nazi defenses.

With The Infantry



PVT. LESTER BROWN, of the U. S. infantry, is stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla. In May, 1944, he was inducted into the service. He was employed as a back tender in the Machine Room.

HEARS BUZZ—DUCKS—EITHER P-38 OR MOSQUITO

Pfc. Harry Johnson writes from somewhere in Italy: "... I am still stuck here in Italy. The weather has been very favorable here this year but I'm sure hoping not to have to spend another rainy winter in this country... When you hear a buzz here you instinctively duck, for it's either a P-38 or one of these Italian mosquitoes... I wish to take this means to express my sympathy to the family of Mr. Rhodes, as he was one of my best friends and advisors while at Ecusta... I was not only shocked but grieved to learn of his passing... The news on all fronts at the present is good, but let me say that the group of people who forget their donation to the blood bank and to the Red Cross at this critical period will be very detrimental to the effort in trying to preserve and save the lives of many of our front line troops at this time. Make every effort to give, and speak to a friend about donating blood and money to this worthy organization to whom many of our boys owe their lives and deepest gratitude for smokes and other incidentals too numerous to mention... I have been fortunate to be at the right place at the right time to avoid becoming a casualty, though I spent some time (too much) at the Anzio Beachhead, when we didn't have the head and little of the beach... Cigarettes were a good companion to have at times like those... I have been reading in the magazines that cigarette paper is fast becoming of use in connection with plastic surgery... To my friends and associates at Ecusta I extend my best wishes and may I add that you are foremost in my thoughts with the exception of being there to work and live a normal life once more. I do hope some of you will find time to drop me a line, and be sure the Echo is mailed to me as it is my best and most waited-for letter of the month... Men at the front would appreciate it if each of you would mention them in prayer, for after all this will be the winning factor in this world of conflict..."

BOOK MINE SWEEPERS IN BEFORE D-DAY

Richard Lance, MoMM 2c, writes from England: "... We sure have been busy over here. Before D-Day we had to get ready for D-Day. We took the Mine Sweepers a day before D-Day to clear the beach from the beachhead. We went up and down that coast all day and night. It sure was bad while but we made out O.K. I didn't lose a boat. Then after we had an important job I write about but can tell you one day... For some reason I didn't receive the Echo but once I have been over here. Would you like to know how everything is going at the mill. Tell Bob and the boys. Just wish I were there now. But don't think it will be long before this war is over and all of us will be back home... I have met a few of the boys over here who worked at the mill. Sure was glad to see you... Keep up the good work and we will finish this war here before long..."

In Hospital Unit



CPL. JENTRY D. POLAND, the first draftee from Transylvania, is now with the 36th hospital unit in Southern France. He has been in service almost four years and overseas nearly a year. He was employed by the Yard Crew at Ecusta.

Seabee Is Wounded



DAVID LEE SIMMS, seaman third class in the Seabees, USNR, was wounded in action in the South Pacific on July 26. He is now in the fleet hospital and is thought not to be seriously injured. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Simms, of Brevard, Route 2.

IS ATTACHED TO ARMY TRANSPORT COMMAND

Pvt. Garnett Buckner writes from Santa Monica, Calif.: "... I was in Nevada the last time I had a chance to write, but now I'm away out here on the Coast, and I'm glad to say it is the first state I have liked since I left good old North Carolina... I can't begin to tell you how good it makes a fellow feel to read the news from home in the Echo and hear about the many good friends at dear old Ecusta... I am now going to school in the Douglas Aircraft factory and like it fine but had much rather be at Ecusta helping make that good cigarette paper. I am attached to the Army Transport Command now, and after school here, will report back to a field in San Francisco and from there be sent somewhere to help keep our transport ships flying and carrying supplies and equipment to our boys to help wipe out all the enemies of this wonderful country of ours..."

IS IN GUNNERY SCHOOL

Dale Orr, S1-c AMM, son of Mr. and Mrs. Volney Orr, Penrose, has finished his machinist school at Memphis, Tenn., and is now stationed at Jacksonville, Fla., where he is in gunnery school, after which he will have some weeks at some practical operations training base.

WITH EIGHTH AIR FORCE

M. Sgt. Maurice A. Paxton is in England with an Eighth air force Liberator station as a member of the ground crew. He had an active part in the construction of "The Grim Reaper," a B-24 Liberator, for take-off missions supporting the first landing operations in France on "D-Day." Before entering service in July, 1942, he was employed as a vacuum wash operator. Sgt. Paxton was stationed at Scribner Air Base, Hooper, Neb., before going overseas.

WITH AIR FORCE IN FRANCE

Pfc. Ernest Gasperson writes from somewhere in France: "... I am with the Ninth Air Force somewhere in France. Hope to be with you all soon... Please send the Echo if you have an extra. Sure enjoy reading it..."

ON SMALL DESERT

Pvt. Doug McCormick writes from Camp White, Oregon: "... I am still here at Camp White but am leaving soon. I hope to be sent closer home but will probably stay here on the West Coast the rest of my Army career... Had a nice letter from Cecil Wilson, an old Yard Crew buddy. He was at the 4th of July picnic and said he had a very nice time... Heard from Melvin McCormick yesterday and he is still in England but is kept awfully busy. He hasn't heard from Tom or Jim in a long time now either... We are having some awfully hot weather here now but can't expect much better on a small desert like this. The mosquitoes eat you up if you go to the river... I have been in this camp nearly two years (21 months), so it's almost like home to me..."

HELPED READY FIGHTERS FOR INVASION

Sgt. Earl T. Fullbright participated in "D-Day." As a member of the ground crew, he helped prepare P-38 Lightning fighters for the invasion. Planes had to be loaded with special preparations; parts had to be in perfect condition. The base at which Sgt. Fullbright was stationed was one of the first to be put in readiness for the invasion. He was Asst. Qual. Supervisor at Ecusta.

MEDFORD WRITES LETTER

Howell Medford, MoMM 3-c, writes from Little Creek, Va.: "I could never forget all you have done for me while I was working there for you as a Fireman in the Boiler Room. You have done so much for all of us fellows who are in the armed forces. Let me say thanks a million for all your kindness and the many things you have done for us. As a company, Ecusta is tops, and always will be... Let me say about us and do for us as much as you can. We are still your employee... Best regards to fellow workers in the Dept..."