

# News From Former Employees Now In Service

## LIKES BETTER "THEM THAR HILLS" IN N. C.

Lewis Townsend, CM 1-c, writes from Camp Parks, Calif.: "... Life here in the States is somewhat different from what I found in the North Pacific. California, although praised too highly, is not too bad a place. I have liberty quite often and get out to see several quite interesting places and I have had a lot of fun. While living more or less a nomad life around Frisco, Richmond, Stockton and other places on Southward Los Angeles, I have been interested in seeing some of the industries, manufacturing centers ... I have been through two three shipyards, one aircraft factory, and other kinds of manufacturing centers and defense plants. Haven't seen any place I like as well as Ecusta ... I like California but I'd just as soon be spending my time up here in 'them thar hills' of W. C. ..."

## HAS AIR MEDAL WITH CLUSTERS

S. Sgt. Conley McKinnish writes from somewhere in the European theatre: "... Nice to know the people at home are on the beam. You should hear the boys when they read about strikes back home. Here's hoping Ecusta will stay the same peaceful place ... more a happy family working together ... I expect to be back in the U.S.A. before so long. Have the air medal and three oak leaf clusters. Have seen and had some interesting experiences since I left the States. After it is all over, I wouldn't have missed it for anything. But right now I can't think of anything better than getting back home ... Just returned from rest home in Southern England. What a wonderful week! They call it 'the flak house'—gave us civilian clothes; juice in bed at 8:30; breakfast at 9:00; Red Cross girls to entertain us; swimming, striding and all kinds of games. You can't realize how much a fellow over here can appreciate a deal like that ..."

## FLYING LIBERATORS

Sgt. Charles Holcombe writes from Italy: "... I am getting along here. Combat is a little rougher in the States but a lot of fun you can make it. I am still flying Liberators and already have seven missions in ... All they do in Italy, as far as I can find out, is grow grapes and make wine. That I don't like about it is they crush the juice out of the grapes with their feet. We are living in conditioned tents with running water when it rains. (Hal) Well, isn't so bad once you get used to it. I would still love to be back in that good old W. N. C. ..."

## CAMPED NEAR VOLCANO

Cpl. Hovey Waldrop writes from the Pacific: "... There hasn't been much action since I last wrote you. I was on one patrol and some of the boys knocked off the Nips. Just my luck not to get shot though. We had some dogs with us. They sure are trained well—just like bird hunting. They shoot back sometimes. We had an earthquake last night but it didn't hurt anything. There was a funny feeling for a while though. We are camped near a volcano and hear one pretty often ..."

## Visited Recently



PFC. VINCENT J. DIXON, of the U. S. Marine corps, recently visited Ecusta after 7½ months duty in the South Pacific where he was wounded. He recently was on Guam and trained at Guadalcanal. Pfc. Dixon was wearing a ribbon for a wound received and for Asiatic-Pacific theatre of war with a star for a major campaign. Prior to induction he was employed in Ecusta's Inspection department.

## Fights In France



CPL. LEE REID is now in France and is assigned to an anti-aircraft unit. Cpl. Reid was formerly employed in the Inspection department at Ecusta and entered the service in November, 1942.

## IN SOUTH PACIFIC

Ellis Cauble, S 2-c, writes from New Caledonia: "... I didn't stay at Camp Peary, Va., very long after returning from my boot leave. I left there for California, was there three weeks, and on to New Caledonia. I am getting along fine and like this place ... There are several of the boys here in the South Pacific with me that I went through boot with ... Tell all the boys in the Beater Room hello for me ... I got a card from J. E. Mims some time ago ... I guess Reece, Clark and Shuford are also gone from there (Peary) ..."

## Gets Several Awards



T-SGT. ED E. VASSEY, JR., above, of the Army air corps and formerly employed in the Machine Room, recently visited here during a 21-day furlough. T-Sgt. Vassey, an engineer-gunner on a B-24, was overseas eight months and completed 32 bombing missions. He wears the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, four Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct medal and ribbons for European and American theatres of war and a ribbon for American defense.

## Stationed In Italy



T-SGT. JOHN REID is stationed in Italy. He has been in service two years and has been overseas eight months. Before entering the service he was employed in the Gumming department.

## EXCITEMENT OVER IN NEW GUINEA

Pvt. Laurence Richardson writes from New Guinea: "... Well, all the excitement is over over here in New Guinea. I wish I could say that about everywhere but I realize we still have a hard fight ahead of us ... Haven't received an Echo in quite some time ... Guess that is because my APO changes so much ..."

## GETS ENOUGH CIGARETTES

Cpl. Lee E. Reid writes from France: "... Things are pretty tough here but we manage to make out O.K. We have been getting enough cigarettes to get along pretty well here, thanks to you people at Ecusta ..."

## WALDROP HAS FINISHED SPECIALIST TRAINING

Pvt. Fritz Waldrop writes from Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri: "... I have been expecting a furlough ever since I finished my specialist's training at Ft. Belvoir, Va., in August. I am still wondering if they are going to keep me in school for the duration. I have had several valuable courses since I finished basic in January. About all the excitement I have had during my year in the Engineers has been studying chemistry, math, map reading, construction, etc. I visited several filter plants while in my water purification course, but few were as well equipped as Ecusta's ... I am still with the same company of boys, made up of A.S.T.P. boys and boys from different specialists' schools. As yet we are not even assigned ... I come in contact with lots of German prisoners of war here. They are very interesting to talk to and try to be friendly. Probably they think it is to their advantage now. My wife has been continuing her work as secretary to the Engineer Board. Needless to say, we are both looking forward to being back at Ecusta if and when it is possible ..."

## IN GUAM INVASION

William Everette Green, GM 2-c, writes from the South Pacific: "... I can't say where I am, but it is plenty hot ... I noticed in the Echo where several of the boys were in on the invasion of France. We were supposed to be in on that but they needed us in a flotilla here in the Pacific, so we came over here. We hit Guam instead. Five of us fellows from home made that invasion; four were in the army and I was in the navy ... I have collected quite a few souvenirs from Guam. I have a Jap rifle, a helmet, a gas-mask, a uniform, some money, and quite a few small articles that belonged to the Japs ..."

## BELIEVES HE IS ON HOME STRETCH NOW

Pfc. Charles H. Moss writes from France: "... Looks like I will make all the countries over here yet. First England, then Africa, Sicily, Italy, and now France. Somehow I believe I'm on the home stretch now ... I got to visit Rome and Vatican City while in Italy. Rome is a very beautiful place but I believe I like France better—it reminds me somewhat of Western North Carolina. Things are moving so fast a fellow hardly gets used to one place, but what I have seen is really beautiful ..."

## HOPES TO WORK FOR ECUSTA

Pvt. Fred Laughter writes from Fort Monmouth, N. J.: "... Tell the Ecusta employees hello for me and I wish I could be back at work there myself but I guess I will have to wait until this war is over, and I hope it is over soon too, so I and the rest of the boys can go to work, preferably for Ecusta ..."

## PICKED GRAPES IN ITALY

Pfc. Raymond Nicholson writes from Italy: "Yesterday I was out picking grapes and made a pig of myself eating them. Today I received my PX rations which contained candy and drinks. Pretty good stuff! I am well. "Say hello to the folks in the Chemical Lab. for me."