

# News From Former Employees Now In Service

## A. R. C. GAVE YULE PROGRAM

Cpl. Raymond Nicholson writes from Italy, "The snow is pretty deep here, and guess it will be for some time . . . The American Red Cross had a big Christmas program for all the fellows in the hospital . . . I always look forward to receiving the Echo and enjoy reading it."

## BELGIAN WEATHER BAD

"Weather pretty bad," writes Pfc. Ernest Gasperson, from Belgium. "But guess it could have been worse. There has been snow on the ground for about a month, but not very deep . . . Wish all at Ecusta a prosperous New Year."

## SHIP IN INVASIONS

In a letter from Leyte, R. N. Davis, MoMM 1-c, says, "I have been plenty busy; this ship has been in two more invasions on different islands here in the Philippines . . . Tell all Machine Room, D shift, hello."

## ENJOYS READING ECHO

Pvt. O. L. McKelvin writes from Camp Wheeler, "I have received two issues of the Echo, which I enjoyed very much . . . Tell the fellows in the Machine Room hello for me, and I'm looking forward to the time when we can be working together again."

## TREAT TO VISIT PLANT

"It was a treat to visit Ecusta," writes Pfc. Vincent Dixon, from Naval Proving Grounds at Daldren, Va. "Although there were many new faces, it was still good to be back again . . . I'll be looking forward to receiving the Echo, as I'm very much interested in the things that happen at home and at Ecusta."

## PLENTY OF SNOW

Sgt. H. E. Torrance writes from Belgium, "We are having plenty of snow here—just lots of it . . . We were fortunate to receive a commendation from our colonel of engineers corps. It made us feel good to know that our work is helping to win the war and so are the home folks."

## ROUGH IN BELGIUM

Pvt. Oscar L. Gasperson would like to be back here. Writing from Belgium, he says, "It's pretty rough here. I'm hoping to find some of our friends, but haven't so far. Tell everyone hello for me, and keep 'em rolling."

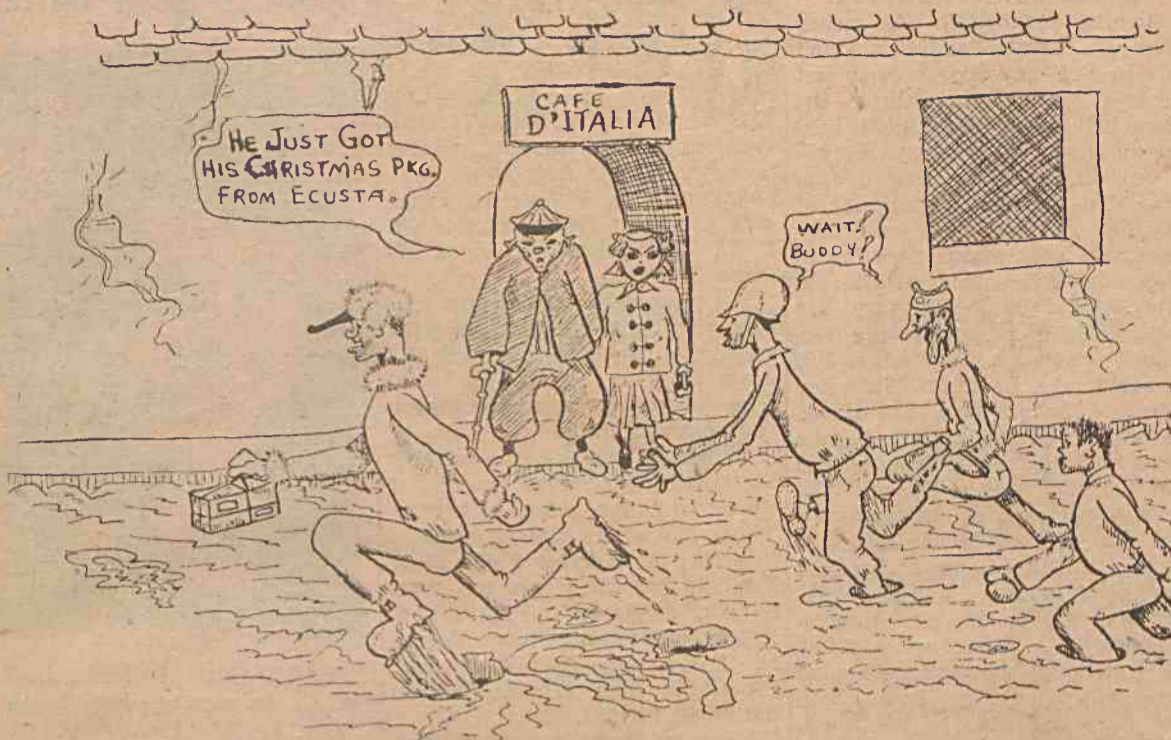
## WEARS BRONZE STAR

1st. Lt. C. Ruffin Wilkins has been authorized to wear a combat bronze star for his participation in the battle of Normandy. A previous group, of which he was a member, received a Presidential citation. At Ecusta, Lieutenant Wilkins was employed in the Chemical Laboratory. He has been in service three years, and in England for some time.

## STUDYING FRENCH

Lt. Ansel R. Jones studying French, he writes from France; "or at least enough to carry on a limited conversation. I'm making slow progress, probably because I don't study hard enough . . . Five-year club is a swell idea. I enjoyed Mr. Straus' address. A sincere business man, with the interests of his employees at heart . . . the breakthrough looked pretty serious here for awhile, but things have looked up tremendously lately."

## Former Echo Cartoonist Is On The Job In Italy!



Besides giving us some idea of the mud and life in Italy, Cartoonist Charlie Russell who is now stationed somewhere on the Italian mainland, tells us something of the pleasure and excitement caused by the receipt of the Christmas package from Ecusta. Charlie is a radio operator and waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator. He re-entered service in July, 1943, and has been in Italy since last November. He was a beaterman at Ecusta and his wife works in the office.

## Killed In Action



**CPL. CHRISTIE "CHRIS" COSTANZA**, who was reported as missing in action since Dec. 25 in Belgium, has been confirmed as killed in action on the same date. Cpl. Costanza was employed in the Finishing department. He entered service in July of 1943, and trained at Ft. Knox, Ky., and Ft. Meade, Md. In March, 1944, he went overseas and was in France, Belgium, and Germany as a light tank driver in the "Spearhead" division. His wife, the former Desie Patterson, is employed in the Finishing department. A brother and three sisters reside in New York.

## NO TIME FOR PLEASURE

Troy A. Drake, coxswain, writes from the S. Pacific, "In the past few months we've been plenty busy, going from place to place, and after all our travelling it doesn't leave much time for pleasure; besides over here, there's no place to go if you could . . . One thing the fellows enjoy most is mail call . . . I've been in the following invasions so far: Sicily, Salerno, Saipan, Augaur and Leyte."

## Reported To Meade



**CPL. LAMAR HAMILTON**, U. S. Infantry, above, returned to Ecusta January 17. Formerly an employee of the Landscape crew, he was inducted May 20, 1943. After basic training at Camp Stewart, Ga. Cpl. Hamilton had advanced training in Orlando, Fla., and Camp Stewart, Ga. He reported to Fort Meade, Md.

## SAW SIEGFRIED LINE

From somewhere in Germany, Sgt. Joe Roy Johnson writes, "Have passed through France, Belgium and Holland after leaving England, and if someone thinks war isn't an awful thing, they should just be with me. I have seen part of the Siegfried line—it's really tough going . . . Best wishes to all—especially the Beater Dept."

## COLD WEATHER STARTS

Pvt. Atlas O. Jackson writes from Belgium, "Things are pretty rugged here, as the cold winter has begun and that doesn't stop the big war wheel from rolling, making the going plenty tough . . . Would I love to be back now and have a nice little hunting spree."

## WITH BLUE DEVILS IN ITALY

Cpl. Raymond Nicholson is one of the fine Western Carolinians and a former Ecustan who has achieved fame. Corporal Nicholson has been in the army two years. He is serving with the 313th Medical battalion, supporting unit of the 88th Blue Devil Division of the Fifth Army in Italy, which brought down wounded from Battle Mountain. The unit gained valuable experience before the Italian spring offensive began. Ambulances of the 313th, every one of which was later to be damaged by German fire, were driven in blackout under enemy fire and over wild mountain country. Litter bearers evacuated the wounded. The 313th distinguished itself in the drive on Rome and the battalion participated in the drive on Volterra and to the Arno River. Litter-bearers made hauls as long as 12 miles as the 88th crossed the Gothic line and sustained its heaviest casualties.

## P. I. SURPASSES NEW GUINEA

Lt. J. A. "Al" White writes from the Philippines, "We have named our location 'Coconut Grove', which it is, and about 15 minutes by foot to the beach . . . The Philippines surpass New Guinea (where we spent four months) in every respect. The people here are wonderful—willing to help in any way except Sunday, which is filled with worship in the morning and cockfights in the afternoon. However, they are very happy that we 'have returned.' Apparently the Japs gave them a pretty rough time."

## IN ON ISLAND CAMPAIGNS

"Studying' anti-sub warfare," says Burder Teague, S 1-c, in a letter from the South Pacific. "My superior officer said I had more brains in the tip of my finger than in my whole head . . . Was in on the Palau and Philippine campaigns . . . Our boys gave a play on another ship lately. The fellows just raved for an encore and even dared us back . . . We have a swell crew and officers."