

News From Our Many Employees In Service

DIVISION RATES RUSSIAN AWARDS

A letter from Pfc. Warren R. Alexander is headed "With the 'Railsplitters'," Stederdorf, Germany. He writes, "I spent VE Day at a reinforcement center. We were glad it was over, but not very gay about it, for most of us held too many memories of pals who had sacrificed all, that the day might come . . . We were guarding a V-1 bomb plant until a few days ago. This division took Hanover in their drive across Germany. This company was the first to go on front lines from the division, first to make contact with the enemy, first to receive a Purple Heart, first to receive a battlefield commission, first to receive a silver star and bronze star. Also out of 28 Russian awards to the division, we received three.—Not a bad record."

TOWN NOT WRECKED

Pfc. Wade M. Scruggs writes from Germany, "We are in the town of Speyer; came here after leaving Belgium. It is a very pretty town, and one of the few that hasn't been completely wrecked. I have been receiving the Echo regularly, and have a few friends who enjoy reading it as much as I do. Roy Johnson is one; his home is in Pisgah Forest and he used to work for Mr. Patton in his store . . . Give my regards to the boys in the Pulp Mill."

ALSO WORKS GRAVEYARD

W. H. Medford, F 1-c, is stationed at Ft. Pierce, Fla., and writes, "This leaves me fine, but longing for a few whiffs of old Carolina air. It's very hot here, now. I am still firing these boilers—firing with oil, now, and it's much cleaner, quite interesting and not too hard. We surely get in enough hours. (Oh, yes, graveyard, too). Send regards to the Boiler Room for me. Also to the Police Force. I have often wanted to express my thanks to them for their kindness shown me on my visits to the plant. It means a lot to a guy to see good courtesy again."

MEETS RETURNEES

From Camp Blanding, John A. Hamlin, WO jg, USA, writes, "I completed the administrative course at the Adjutant General's school, Camp Lee, Va., on June 20, and received my assignment here at Camp Blanding. Have never seen a place as hot—not a bit like W. N. C. I am in a position to see some of the boys coming back from overseas, but haven't seen any Ecusta boys yet."

16 MONTHS ON TRAIN

From Bournemouth, England, Sgt. Chas. B. Peevy writes, "I haven't been in combat, but have been doing my 'bit' for the wounded men on the hospital train to which I am attached. I'm rather glad there aren't so many trains running through Brevard, 'cause if someone should ask me to take a train ride, I might punch him in the nose, after living on one for sixteen months. I am stationed in a lovely town on the beach, not too far from London. We go swimming in the ocean, but I wish it were the lake at Camp Sapphire. Here's hoping to visit you people in the next month or so for a few days."

Sgt. Charles Russell Dreams About His Buddies

"I'LL BE THERE NEXT YEAR"



COMPLETED 5th INVASION

William E. Green, GM 2-c, says in a letter from the Pacific, "I receive the Echo a month or so late, but regularly. It's just like reading a long letter from all the employees of the mill. I read it from front to back, then from back to front, to see if I've missed anything. We have quite a few boys on here from N. C. who have been around Brevard on several occasions, and they read it, too . . . Since I last wrote, we have completed our fifth invasion. We were at Okinawa on April 1st. I have been in the Carolines for a month, but it isn't the Carolines I wanted."

SEES 800 BODIES

From Germany, T-4 Melvin L. McCormick writes, "It has been very hot here, but this time only from the weather. I guess everyone was happy to hear of the war's end. We were, here, but our celebration was mild, as we still have one to go . . . I saw some of the people the Germans had murdered; they had just dug 800 bodies up from a pond. I haven't yet seen one of the camps . . . I am near Gettling, in the Carpathian sector of the Bavarian Alps."

TAKE TURNS FOR PATROLS

Sgt. Clarence W. Israel writes from Germany, "I am now stationed in the town of Langen, about ten miles south of Frankfurt on Main. We have been cleaning equipment part of each day. We swim, play ball and go to movies for recreation. Each battery takes turn for guard and patrols. That comes round every four days for my battery . . . I hope to be seeing the mountains of N. C. in the near future. Say hello to the gang for me."

USED TO HEAT

J. M. Mims, EM 3-c, writes from the Pacific, "It is awfully hot here, but I'm used to it now, and it doesn't bother me. Thanks for sending the Echo. I enjoy it very much. Best of health and good fortune to all."

In Hospital Unit



SGT. CHARLES B. PEEVY, above, is attached to a hospital unit near London. The picture was made in a London studio. Charles has been assigned to a hospital train for 16 months; he has been overseas almost two years, but expects to come home soon. Charles was employed in the Machine room and entered service in May, 1943.

SAW PRISON CAMP

We hear from Pfc. Oscar L. Gasperson, in Bemberg, Germany, "This is a real pretty country, where it isn't torn up. Some of these towns are nothing but a trash pile. We came through some of the prison camps that the Germans had had our boys in, and it was awful the way they were treated. I sure like to get the Echo; it makes a body feel better to get the home news. Tell everyone hello for me, and I hope to see you all soon."

LIKES MIAMI

1st Sgt. Ray M. Winchester writes from Miami Beach, "Enjoyed my visit with you all very much; just hope it won't be too long before I'm back to stay. Having a wonderful time, but it's a bit warm here (but definitely!)"

CROSSED ELBE

Cpl. Dewey S. Winchester is in the Third Army, part of the Army of Occupation, and is stationed in Pleinfeld, Germany. He writes, "I hope to leave Europe in the next thirty days . . . When VE Day came, we were in a large city, Schwerin, in northern Germany. It is not far from the Baltic Sea. We were working with the British and were part of the only American troops to cross the Elbe. The German troops gave up in that sector three days before VE Day. Then we came to Nurnberg, which was a 550 mile drive in three days. We are now 30 miles to the south in a small village. We have a fair set-up, as we are living in hotels. There is plenty of beer and hot sunshine, but we can't take a walk as the Army is afraid we will fall for the girls over here. Hal . . . Keep the paper rolling until we return."

PEACEFUL—BUT FOR SHARKS

From the Pacific, J. E. Allen, MoMM, writes, "We are cruising around out here the farthest from home I've ever been—a good 10,000 miles . . . The water here is a bright blue, and almost as clear as a fresh water lake. When it is calm, you can see bottom 75 to 100 feet down at times. Sometimes when we are anchored out, we go swimming off the fantail of the ship. It's quite a bit of fun, although I never can keep from thinking about sharks. We always keep a fellow on the ship with a rifle, just in case any come around . . . If you run into any of the old Beater Room gang, tell them to drop me a line."

COOKING EXPERIENCE

Pfc. John F. Drake writes from Wiesbaden, Germany, "I imagine it is really beautiful back home now, and I sure wish I could be back at Ecusta working. I am well and getting along fine, and I am still cooking. Maybe when I do come back, I can get a job in the Cafeteria. I surely hope it won't be too long, for I'd sure love to see W. N. C. one more time."