

LETTERS

(Continued from page 2—Sect C.)

and yards away. At another time, in port, three midget subs were destroyed in the immediate vicinity, one of them about two thousand yards off the port beam. It is hard on the "Old Lady's" ribs to have destroyers dropping depth charges close aboard but she much prefers them to torpedoes. It is also distressing for the crew to see one of our own ships flaming not too far away as testimony of what can happen. We have had the Nips so close to us that we have felt quite conscious of Divine protection. They could be no closer to us—and still miss. Of course we know that the "Old Girl" can "take it." She does not have to prove it to us.

Not very long ago two men were standing on the quarter deck watching a Jap dive bomber climb into the sun as the ship began firing. Suddenly the Nip was lost in the sun just as he started to dive. They decided to get behind armor as quickly as possible. One hesitated a moment and the other passed—right over the top of him—leaving a heel print about half way down his back. Snuggled down behind the armor, the first man murmured "Lord, I know your hands are on my shoulders, but I did not realize you had put on so much weight." The bomber made a hit not far away, but no harm came to the ship.

During the last few operations things have quieted down and most of the "glamor" comes from fueling destroyers as they come alongside. We have done this so much that now the boys break out a big canvas sign with "Welcome to AO-BB57, Oil and Gas, Hot Dogs and Ice Cream." An "AO" is a tanker. On the canvas, beside the gas pump, is pictured a beautiful (?) girl attired in "brevities." The visiting destroyer personnel have quite a laugh on us. Recently we had some fun at the expense of a "poor little" de-

stroyer pup. As the "can" came along side the dog walked the deck in solitary grandeur—the canine king of the Pacific Ocean Areas. One of our carpenters had an idea and a little spare time. He constructed a wooden dog on wheels; the next time we fueled this destroyer the pup discovered that his regency was apparently being challenged! He spent most of the operation barking insulting remarks at the wooden dog pulled around by one of the sailors. Some of the men laughed at the pup's antics and anger that we could not tell whether they were laughing or crying. With laughs far and far apart this one made up for many.

Life in port has been quite except on occasion. We have had excellent movies, our softball team with thirteen wins and our basketball team have had an opportunity to take on the teams from other ships; our boxing squad has stretched its winning score to seven team victories, and our mail is coming regularly. Our food is excellent and life not too difficult. Only one thing would make our happiness more complete; the official news that our work was done and we were homeward bound. Of course we want to finish it once and for all so that it need not be done again.

We hope that this letter reaches you in time to say "Happy Easter." We expect to be very busy at that time, now that we have the Japs on the run, but if you keep us in mind in your prayers we know that we shall be safe.

"Hey Bud! How about the Old Lady! I've a new coat of paint and a couple of new planes. As a matter of fact I look pretty good and am all stocked up with provisions for a hundred days at sea. Tell them to remember the Old Gal!" All right, folks kindly remember the "Old Gal". She has a tremendous wallop in her for the enemy but she is very good to "her boys." We are proud of the old BB-57—The U. S. S. South Dakota.
A Friend,
RAY BARRINGTON, S1/c.

Germany
March 25, 1945

Mr. Wilson:

It has been quite some time since I was in Roanoke Rapids so I thought that I would drop you a few lines to find out how all the boys are doing.

Mother sends me the Herald each week and it is really a bright spot in mail call for me.

I would like very much to hear from all the boys that I used to run around with if they will write.

I suppose you know by now that we were the first Infantry Division to cross the Rhine River. Jerry is really on the run but I wish the people back in the states would not be too optimistic.

Enclosed is an Easter card from the Division.

I guess you know Major Jimmy Sears is here too. Going to look him up when I get a chance.

I have been alternating between forward observing and excoating the battery. I have seen both ends of this war and all I want is to end it quickly so we all can return home.

Wish you would tell Mr. M. D. Collier hello for me.

Was out riding on the Autoban Hiway, Hitler's super road, and it is a nice road but not so nice as some of ours.

Will close for now, wishing and hoping for a quick end of the war.

Sincerely,
S/Sgt. Rufus Smith,
A. P. O. 78
C/o Postmaster,
New York, N. Y.

Rev. Topping Will Speak

Reverend R. L. Topping, 915 Hamilton Street, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at the Belhaven High School on Sunday morning, May 27, in the Christian Church at Belhaven.

Mrs. Orren Dowd of Greenville, Miss Estelle Knight, of Durham, spent several days with Misses Ruth and Viola Glover recently. was a guest of Miss Hazel Cobb recently.

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RABIES VACCINATIONS

PURSUANT TO AN ACT OF THE 1935 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA, and amended by the 1942 General Assembly, an ACT to prevent RABIES in North Carolina, I will be at the places designated and at the time mentioned below to Vaccinate Dogs against RABIES for the year 1945.

The prices during these clinics will be one dollar each, seventy-five cents of this amount will be credited on your dog tax when our certificates are presented to your tax collector.

Please make a note of the time and place most conveniently located and have your dog at these clinics.

You may also bring your dog to our office at any time during this time for inoculation.

MONDAY, APRIL 23rd

Halifax (W. G. Bass Store) 1 to 2 P. M.
Crowell's (X) Roads 2 to 3 P. M.
Caledonia Prison Farm (Main Office) 3 to 4 P. M.
Pierce's X Roads 4:15 to 5 P. M.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24th

Darlington 1 to 3 P. M.
Henry Willey's Store 2 to 3 P. M.
Bellamy's Store 3 to 4 P. M.
Heathsville 4 to 5 P. M.
Mr. Sam Lewis' 5 to 5:30 P. M.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th

Aurelian Springs (Crawley's Store) 1 to 2 P. M.
J. R. Liles Store 2 to 3 P. M.
Airlie 3 to 4 P. M.
J. A. Chichester's Store 4 to 5 P. M.
Anderson's X Roads 5 to 5:30 P. M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26th

Information Filling Station 1 to 2 P. M.
H. L. Faucette's Store 2 to 2:30 P. M.
Charlie Colley's Store 2:30 to 3 P. M.
Matthew Martin's Store 3 to 3:30 P. M.
Bullington's Store 3:30 to 4 P. M.
Kingtown (Cain's Store) 4 to 4:30 P. M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27th

Littleton (Mitchell's Old Store) 12:30 to 2 P. M.
Bobbitt's Old Store (Roper Spring) 2 to 2:30 P. M.
Hawkins Chapel Church 2:30 to 3:30 P. M.
Pittard's Store 3:30 to 4:30 P. M.

MONDAY, APRIL 30th

Guy Moss' Store (Littleton Road) 1 to 2 P. M.
Hanibal Shearin's Store 2 to 3 P. M.
Banty's Store 3 to 4 P. M.
J. M. Sykes Store (Burton Street) 4 to 5 P. M.

TUESDAY, MAY 1st

Roanoke Rapids (Old Fire House, 2nd Street) 2 to 5 P. M.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2nd

Rosemary (Rear Patterson's Old Store) 2 to 5 P. M.

THURSDAY, MAY 3rd

South Rosemary (Medlin's Store) 1 to 2 P. M.
Shell's Old Store 2 to 2:30 P. M.
Allie Powell's Store 2:30 to 3 P. M.
Robert Powell's Store 3 to 3:30 P. M.
Hornertown (Morris Store) 3:30 to 4:30 P. M.
Roanoke Junction (Esso Station) 4:30 to 5:30 P. M.

DR. W. A. CARTER

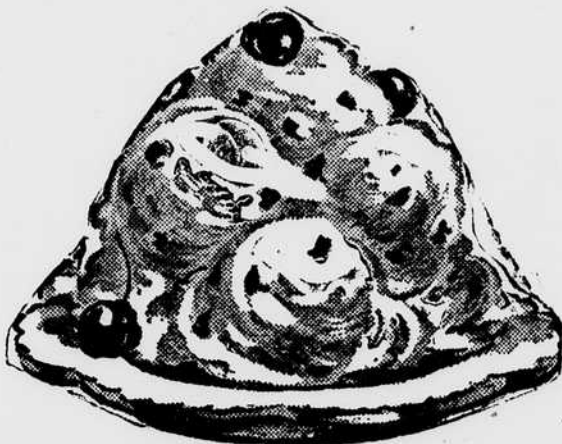
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