

Marine Lieutenant Vividly Describes Reaction to Battle Says You Feel As If Bones Are Frozen But You Drip With Sweat

Lee R. Page is sharing with PILOT readers an interesting letter from 25-year-old Lt. B. S. Royster, III, of the Marine Corps, who trained at New River. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Royster, Jr., of Oxford and his father was an army captain in World War I. Lt. Royster's letter, dated December 28, tells more in detail of just how war affects one than any we have seen. It follows, in part:

"Since I reached Bougainville (yes, censorship has finally relaxed and we can tell something about it) only three of your letters have reached me. I expect more when mail comes up again.

"Now as for the action I saw on Bougainville, I can tell you in a general way what has been done. First, you have never known what cold, stark fear is. I have known it for the first time in my life. Your being afraid of lightning and thunder is nothing but fright. The fear I have known on several occasions can hardly be described, but I'll try.

"First, your heart feels like a large cold stone about the size of a millstone. You move forward into rifle and machine gun fire, and you can't see where it comes from. You try to shrink as small as is possible. You feel cold all over as if your entire body were void of blood, and as if your bones were frozen, but you actually drip with sweat.

"You see your men hit and wounded, some killed, and you can think of no plausible explanation why you, too, weren't hit. About then, the man next to you is hit, and something hot starts at your head and proceeds to engulf your entire body. It is some strong stimulus that first makes you so mad you could kill anything in your way. Then you realize you have to do something and quickly. You become suddenly very calm and effective. You think logically and act quickly—under those circumstances you are at your best. You never lose or forget that dreaded fear, but you know you can't remain flinched down under their fire, and regardless of fear, you do what you are ordered, and what you think is best.

"In war there are no heroes and no cowards. All are filled with a great fear, but a few are not quite strong enough to know fear and yet face it and carry on.

"I think I have told you that there are no boys in the world like our boys. I've seen them killed, and hit and wounded by small fire arms, grenades, mortars, and artillery, yet never in the six weeks have I heard a single cry or complaint. They come out with bad wounds in very high spirits.

"On one occasion a scout was hit by sniper fire. A fire line was built up, and under the cover of friendly fire, the stretcher bearers got him out. When he came by me, I said, 'How badly are you hit?' He threw up his hand, raised his head and smiled, and said (and he was a badly wounded man), 'Not bad, Sir. I wasn't so lucky that time, was I?' 'And the Japs expect to beat boys like that!

"The main trouble is you can't see them. I don't mean it's hard to see them, or it's nearly impossible to see them. I mean you can't see them at all. As a matter of fact, I've never seen a live Jap who I can say was killed later. I know we have killed a lot of them, too. You can't scare them off. You have to kill them. Our artillery has done that to an astounding extent.

"About the worst time I've ever spent was a night some days back when we were pinned down in a swamp. The water and mud was between waist and shoulder deep. The Japs were thirty yards in front of us. We could hear them whistle, chatter, run around and chop trees all night. We could not smoke, clear our throats or cough, as this would give our position away. That's where these boys' training really showed up at its best. They want you to fire

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WELCOME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE

On February 4, 5, and 6, Friday through Sunday, the 2,800 USO's are holding Open House. The public is cordially invited. Your husband or son has probably mentioned what USO means to men in uniform (monthly attendance at USO clubs and lounges is over 30,000,000 and at USO Camp Shows, 2,000,000)—so come in, look around, get a first-hand impression.

W. H. Chambers Rotary Club Speaker

W. H. (Bill) Chambers, District Governor of the 188th District, Rotary International, was the guest speaker at Friday's Rotary luncheon at the Highland Pines Inn.

Governor Chambers told the Rotarians that on an official visit, it was customary to discuss club problems and how to meet them.

"But I want to talk to you, though, about something that is very near to me, and I believe will be near to you," he said.

"It began as a hobby with me," he continued, "but as it developed, and the possibilities of its meaning to the youth in the community became apparent, other clubs have adopted it as an objective. I offer it to you as a very worthwhile and major club objective."

The plan offered as a major Rotary objective was then outlined by Rotarian Chambers. Every four weeks in each community, the Rotary Club would have an outstanding boy selected from the Senior Class in High School. The selection to be made by the Principal of the High School, and on the basis of merit alone. The boy selected would become a Junior Rotarian, and for four weeks meet with the Rotary Club at its regular weekly luncheon.

"In that manner," said Rotarian Chambers, "The Junior Rotarian would become acquainted with the aims and objects of Rotary, its ethics, and its ideals. But much better, you Rotarians would become acquainted with the outstanding youths in your community and from such acquaintance have a better understanding of their hopes and ambitions. We often complain that we don't understand our youth of today, but perhaps the youth of today could, with justice, say that they don't understand us.

"Let's see that we establish a close relationship with our Junior Rotarians of today, based on a mutual understanding of purposes and objectives, and ideals, for he is tomorrow's leader for a better community, a better America and a better world."

Joe Deberry, who has just returned from Kentucky, presided at the meeting and presented Governor Chambers.

Earl Sprague of Bridgeport, Conn. and N. A. Wells of Rochester, N. Y. were visiting Rotarians.

FIREMEN GET EIGHT CALLS WITHIN FOUR DAYS

The Southern Pines Fire Company was called out four times Saturday and once on Sunday. Two still alarms Saturday morning sent the men to a grass fire at Maine and Ashe Street, and then to South Bennett Street near Morganton Road. At 2 o'clock the alarm sounded for a woods fire between Barber's Lake and McDeed's Creek, and at 5 o'clock for the same fire which had crept to the Midland Road east of the creek.

At four o'clock Sunday afternoon, a grass fire near the Laundry on New York Avenue, again brought out the men.

Two more alarms were turned in on Monday afternoon. The first, at 5:15 o'clock was for a fire in the deep gully north of the Garner house on Bennett Street, and the second, for a brisk grass and brush fire on the north side of Young's Road near the town line. The fire here reached such proportions as to endanger dwellings in the vicinity.

Then again at 5:15 Tuesday afternoon the firemen were called to the block between Pennsylvania and New Hampshire Avenue west of Leak Street for another brisk brush blaze.

Waist Gunner on Flying Fortress Comes Through 25 Bombing Missions Uninjured

St. Sgt. John C. Blue Returns From England After Distinguished Service

Back in the States from England after twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied continental Europe on which he served as a gunner on a Flying Fortress, 23-year-old Staff Sergeant John C.

Blue, son of Lonnie Blue of Jackson Springs, has not one scratch to show for his encounters with the enemy. But he says that he did come pretty near getting killed one day . . . not by a German, but by a fall from a bicycle as he was on his way to clean his guns . . . had to stay in the hospital two weeks with head knee and elbow injuries.

Sergeant Blue has been in the service eighteen months. When questioned as to where he received his training he obligingly set out to name the places, but after going through Utah, California, Texas, Wyoming and Kansas, found it simpler to say that he had trained in forty of the forty-eight States.

Leaving America on April 20, 1943, he landed in England the 11th of May. His first mission over Germany was on June 22. Sergeant Blue named a number of places that he had been over, including Bremen, Keil, Hamburg, Hannover and others. He went on one raid over Onslow, Norway, and on one to Poland which required ten hours, a record distance for a Flying Fortress.

Twenty of his missions were made with the same pilot, Lt. W. W. Dunlap of Lubbock, Texas, with whom he had trained. Sergeant Blue explained that he was sick and missed five missions with Lt. Dunlap, but they were together December 5th on their twenty-fifth. Two of his missions were made in a group in which Clark Gable was serving as a gunner.

Sergeant Blue in December was awarded the coveted Distinguished

AERIAL GUNNER



S. Sgt. JOHN C. BLUE

Flying Cross with the following citation: "For extraordinary achievement while serving as Waist Gunner on twenty-five bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Blue, fighting from his gun position has ward off many enemy attacks and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Blue on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

In addition, Sergeant Blue has been awarded the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the E. T. O. and A. T. O. service bars and the good conduct ribbon.

After spending some time at his home, Sergeant Blue left last week to report Friday at Miami Beach, Florida.

Newly Created Town Planning Board Is Offering Prizes for Betterment Ideas

Plans for Meeting Post-War Changes Are Wanted; Contest Ends February 29

The Town Commissioners, after giving much thought to the economic changes the Town is certain to face at the conclusion of this war, has appointed a Planning Board consisting of John M. Howarth, chairman, Dr. William C. Mudgett, Norman Shenk, L. V. O'Callaghan and Howard F. Burns.

The Planning Board held its first meeting Wednesday evening, January 26th, to consider the applications from three Airlines that are interested in serving this community in the very near future, and to make a study of the needs and requirements of the Town in order to prepare for the change that is likely to come about.

The Planning Board, after going into many worthwhile projects and needs for future development, decided to sponsor a contest in which the people of the Town will be given an opportunity to present their ideas and views on the subject.

Through the Chamber of Commerce, the Board is offering as first prize a \$50.00 War Bond, a \$25.00 War Bond as second prize, and \$10.00 in War Saving Stamps as third prize to the persons submitting the most practical and valuable plans for the future development and betterment of the Town. The winning suggestions will be published in the Pilot.

The following rules will govern the contest, which opens on Friday, February 4th, and ends February 29th:

All entries shall be postmarked not later than February 29th. All papers must be legibly written or type-written on one side of plain standard size, 8 1/2 by 11", stationery, and shall not exceed 1,000 words.

Each entry must contain the name and address of its author, and should be mailed to the Post War Planning Editor, The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina.

The contest is open to everyone

TO MR. ANONYMOUS

We appreciate your communication and would like to run it in our "Public Speaking" column next week if you will send us your name. We will not print the name in the paper if you do not wish us to, but we must know from whom communications come as it is against our policy to use anonymous articles.

—The Editor.

Horse Show Sunday at SP Country Club

Sunday's gymkhana at the Southern Pines Country Club horse show grounds promises to be of unusual interest and is expected to attract a large number of entries and spectators.

Six events are scheduled. A special feature will be a class for middle and lightweight hunters to be run over a picturesque course of brush and timber jumps. There will be an open jumping class, a class for men in uniform, one for junior horsemen, a class for amateur riders, and a potato race.

Mrs. Thorne Smith of Millbrook, N. Y., will be the judge and Mrs. Frances Van Houston, wife of Lt. J. A. Houston, will award the ribbons.

There will be no charge for parking space, but an offering will be received for the American Red Cross.

including Army families and visitors giving constructive ideas and suggestions.

The judges of the contest will be Mayor W. Duncan Matthews, Struthers Burt, R. L. Chandler and N. L. Hodgkins, and the decision of these judges in selecting the winning suggestions will be final.

FREE TICKETS

The Carolina Theatre in Southern Pines, in promotion of the Fourth War Loan Drive, announces that free passes good for matinee or night performance at the local theatre on Wednesday, February 9, will be given to each person purchasing a bond in Southern Pines between February 1st and 9th.

The Sunrise Theatre is giving a ticket to every purchaser, good for any show to February 15th.

Citizens Are Urged to Buy War Bonds To Limit of Ability

Moore County Now Has About Three-fourths of \$532,000 Quota

Southern Pines, which last week reported bond sales in the amount of 40 per cent of its quota, has jumped to approximately 75 per cent; Pinehurst has climbed from 75 to 85, and Robbins, which last week had only about one third of its quota now reports 80 per cent, according to figures given out Thursday by County Chairman E. C. Stevens. Mr. Stevens thinks that the county as a whole has raised 75 per cent of its \$532,000 quota. Late reports from other towns have not been received, but Aberdeen, following its big bond rally, will probably have interesting news to relate.

The Carolina Power and Light Company has allocated a considerable amount to Moore County from its bond purchase and the State of North Carolina, which has invested a large sum in Fourth War Loan bonds, has credited Moore County with \$43,500 of the amount. Both theatres are giving passes to bond buyers and splendid co-operation is being given on every hand.

There is keen rivalry between the Women's Division and the E. C. Stevens office. The women, \$7,000 ahead last week, are now \$7,000 behind. The two branches have sold a little more than \$100,000 worth of bonds.

The Chairman urges that every citizen support the drive to the limit of his or her ability. Time is getting short; only eleven more days remain before the closing date and Moore County must not lag behind.

Couple Under Bond In Muse Robbery

A preliminary hearing was given the soldier and woman being held in connection with the robbery of Royal P. Muse last Monday, and they were bound to Superior Court under bond of \$1,000 each on a charge of robbery from the person.

The woman, who gave her name as Ruby Minor, 24, of High Point, has been in jail in Carthage for about two weeks. The soldier, booked as John W. Lyle of California, was turned over to Sheriff McDonald by Camp Mackall authorities last Friday.

Both admitted being with Muse on Saturday night before he was found dead in his car at Sanford, and the woman testified that the soldier robbed him, but he denied this. They are expected to be tried at the May term of criminal court.

CONCERT

Thomas G. McCarthy, who will give a concert at the Southern Pines Library Sunday at five o'clock, may have been heard by many of you last Sunday when he played with the New York Symphony over N. B. C. Mr. McCarthy will present an all-Gershwin program for the Birthday Open House of the USO.

He has studied at Columbia University, St. Cecilia's College of Music in Rome, and with the well-known Pietro Yon and Giuseppe Boni. He was on the faculty at Pope Pius X School of Music in New York. He was, before his induction, associated with the Columbia Broadcasting System and with the National Broadcasting Company. His wife is Celia Ross of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

McNeill Gets 25 to 30 Years in Prison for Killing Michael

Tenders Plea of Guilty of 2nd Degree Murder of Local Taxi Operator

Pvt. Willie McNeill, Negro, of Sanford and Camp Mackall, was last Friday sentenced by Judge A. H. Gwynn to serve from 25 to 30 years in State Prison for the second degree murder of Oscar Michael, taxi operator of Southern Pines.

McNeill, who following the fatal stabbing of Michael early in November had confessed his guilt, tendered a plea of guilty of murder in the second degree, which plea was accepted by the State. There were no eye witnesses to the crime.

The substance of McNeill's version of the affair was that he engaged Michael to drive him to West Southern Pines and when Michael stopped at the wrong place he cursed and told him that he knew that wasn't where he wanted to go; that Michael resented this and got over to the back seat to fight him and he stabbed him in self defense. However, it is said that there were no marks on McNeill.

Sherwood Brockwell Is Kiwanis Speaker

By Howard F. Burns

Sherwood Brockwell of Raleigh, State Fire Marshal, in an address to the Sandhills Kiwanis Club at its luncheon Wednesday at the Pinehurst Country Club informed the Kiwanians that fire losses in North Carolina in 1938 reached an all time low, but in 1943 jumped to a high of \$1,000,000.00 a day in the United States.

He urged the Kiwanians to inspect fire hazards in their homes and places of business, pointing out that it is now impossible to secure building materials and furnishings in replacement. He declared there has been evidence of sabotage in World War Two, calling attention to the big fire at Fall River, Massachusetts, in which one of the country's large supplies of rubber was burned. Another great loss was the high octane gasoline fire in Indiana and still a third was the grain elevator fire in another part of the country. He cautioned against the danger of large storage tanks of gasoline in some of the cities in North Carolina and the possibilities of sabotage that might be committed in their destruction.

Mr. Brockwell further informed the club that many of the fire departments of North Carolina had lost many firemen to the armed services. Continuing, he said it is almost impossible to secure a double jacket fire hose and other fire equipment and it is more important today that the people of the State guard against fire hazards as the departments in many cases are handicapped at the present time more than during the pre-war days, pointing out that fire losses are not only the loss of the building but the loss of employment and the loss of business which in many cases amounts to a three to one ratio.

The speaker was introduced by John Ruggles. Leon Seymour, chairman of the National Salvage Campaign, reported that the County had turned over 1,500 pounds of old clothing.

JOHN W. FRANK, 80, DIES AFTER ILLNESS

Funeral services for John William Frank, 80, who died Friday in his home at Niagara, were held in Cudde Church at 2:30 Sunday afternoon with the Rev. Troy D. Mullis officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Frank, the son of J. W. Frank, was born in Essen, Germany, and came to the United States at the age of sixteen years. A resident of Niagara for thirty years, he is survived by his widow and a son, J. B. Frank of Lumberton.