

Letters From Boys Serving The USA

Hq. & Hq. Squadron
61st Air Base Group (Sp)
Eglin Field, Florida
November 22, 1941

Mr. Max Campbell, Editor,
The Perquimans Weekly,
Hertford, North Carolina.
Dear Max:

After a week's leave of absence and a very much enjoyed visit to Hertford, I again take up my work which in comparison to the great cog wheels of the Service is minute although multiplied by 1,500,000 men in uniform makes one realize that the life and the soul of each individual is held of supreme value. It's with this individual value that our moral and physical defenses against the forces of threatened aggression are mounting daily in magnitude and effectiveness, magnifying our proud belief that it is the right of all people to live out their lives in freedom and with an equal treatment for the laws of democracy will always burn brightly in our hearts. I admit I felt rather indifferent before putting on my uniform, but since that first day I realized what my uniform means, my impassive mind changed to be very patriotic.

A number of people asked me, while on my recent visit to Hertford, why I had stopped writing to The Perquimans Weekly. So today, I'm writing this letter for the purpose of answering a number of questions asked me while there. My anticipation of a long letter caused me to bring a portable typewriter out here to the Eglin Field Golf Association club house, where I'm now sitting on the veranda facing the cool breeze and overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. The club house, golf course, and inn constitute a two million dollar development now rented to the Army for one dollar a year, and free to the enlisted men who are golfers. The natural layout of the background of palms and pines, together with the contour of the terrain, makes this, in my estimation, the most beautiful golf course I've ever seen, and as a championship course is reported to be one of the best in the country. As I sit here and see the people pass by, I think of the ironic part of life this nation is leading compared to that of other nations in this much troubled world. There is not a sound within hearing that's not filled with contented excitement, excitement other than the occasional outcry of the vehement golfer. Looking out on the bay I see a number of sail boats, polished keels, with forestaysail and mainsail at full wind. On the beach, in front of the club house, on the wharf that reaches far out into the water are the ever present fishermen with serious faces, while to the left of the club house are the tennis and badminton courts where the sound of shrill laughs and yells from the fairer sex, while receiving their daily sun bath, reach the ears. Inasmuch as I spend a large part of my free time at the club, I could probably keep on writing about it, but to answer a few of those questions:

The question that most people ask is the one that every soldier is most interested in. How is the food and how is it prepared? I can only answer that question from the experience I've had at this post. The food is of much finer quality than would ordinarily be expected. It is unprepared in large quantities and there is always a wide variety, changed daily,

from soup to dessert, served cafeteria style. The following is a menu of our Thanksgiving Day dinner just passed: although this was prepared as a holiday menu, we are still served meals in proportionate size and variety: oyster stew, oysterettes, shrimp cocktail, premium crackers, roast young turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, Virginia baked ham, snowflake potatoes, candied yams with marshmallows, buttered corn, creamed peas and carrots, boiled string beans, sweet mixed pickles, sliced dill pickles, lettuce salad, sliced tomatoes, celery, radishes, cranberry sauce, Thousand Isle dressing, parker house rolls, rye, whole wheat, raisin and plain breads, grapes, apples, oranges bananas, nuts, mince meat and pumpkin pies, caramel cake, fruit cake, hot chocolate, milk, coffee, cream, tea and favors. What kind of presents do the soldiers enjoy the most? From my experience and from evidence gathered by talking to other fellows, the answer to this question is toilet articles, such as razor blades, soap, toothpaste, hair tonic, bath cloths, towels, skin lotion, etc. There is always the ever welcome present of a cigarette lighter for it seems that matches are always a scarcity with soldiers. Cartons of cigarettes are nice presents too, although most people think we can buy them without tax. We pay about one cent a package less. In some instances I've known parents to send their sons money with which to buy cigarettes saying that they could buy them cheaper on the post than they could be bought in civilian life. This is a mistake for in the case where the soldier has spent that \$30.00 a day once a month he invariably goes out for a spree when he receives such cigarette money and later buys cigarettes on credit. Boxes of home-made candy and cookies are always appreciated. One of the most important things is the receiving of frequent letters from friends, mail call being a highlight of the day. How is the morale of the Army? This question could be answered differently by each division of the Service and in every locality of the nation. In the Air Corps the morale is very good due to the fact that there is a purpose and a goal to our work and training as well as many new experiences every day. In other branches of the Service the morale might not be as high for the soldier has no diversion from training and really has no goal to reach in many instances, not knowing whether he is to fight or pass his enlistment in time spent as man power in the Service.

I was asked numerous questions about the hardships reported by soldiers. Most of this hardship grumbling comes from the maneuver areas. The Government provides adequate clothing, housing, medical attention, and feeds well for all its enlisted personnel. Therefore, you could hardly compare life on an Army Post in barracks with that of living in the woods on maneuvers. The Army must work its men hard—it must prepare them, harden them, so that they will be able to meet and conquer the hardships that they may face in the future. When men are taken from civilian pursuits and prepared to fight for their country, they must give up comforts of home life. There has always been the will of the American people to help their country in its greatest aggression.

With the ending of these Thanksgiving holidays, one is retrospective of the American history. From the first day of settlement, this country of ours was built by men who worked hard, long hours clearing, improving

370 Men From North And South Carolina Join Navy November

A total of 370 men from North and South Carolina enlisted in the Navy during November, Lt. Comdr. McFarland W. Wood, officer-in-charge of Navy recruiting in the Carolinas, announced here today.

Aided by the recent newspaper advertising campaign, the Raleigh station enlisted young Carolina men for service in every branch of America's two-ocean Navy. The November total fell below the record-breaking October enlistment of 553 men, but rose far above the November, 1940, total of 274 recruits.

There were 122 men enlisted as apprentice seamen in the regular Navy, Commander Wood said, with 26 Negroes enlisting as mess attendants, and five sailors reenlisting in the regular Navy. A total of 28 men enlisted in the Naval Reserve with petty officer ratings, with other reserve enlistments being: Class V-2 for aviation machinist's mate, 29; Class V-3 for communications training, 7; Class V-4 for clerical duty, 6; Class V-6 for general mechanical training, 134; Class V-7 for mid-

shipman officer training, 1. Eleven Negroes enlisted in the reserves as mess attendants, and there was one reserve reenlistment. The Charlotte sub-station led the main station at Raleigh and the 10 other sub-stations by taking 62 men during November. Raleigh was second with 55 recruits. Florence and Greenville led South Carolina with 35 and 26 men, respectively.

"There are still plenty of vacancies in Uncle Sam's growing Navy for alert, intelligent young Americans," Commander Wood asserted. "The regular Navy or naval reserve offers free trade training worth \$1,500 with nearly 50 trades and vocations to choose from. There is good pay with regular increases, good food and plenty of it and a complete outfit of free clothing on first enlistment.

"The Navy gives its men free medical care, including regular dental attention, and offers the finest sports and entertainment any man could ask for. Travel, adventure and thrills await Navy men, as well as a successful future and a career in the fleet that will lead to a liberal retirement-pay for regular Navy men."

and settling in the comparatively short space of 150 years, showing us the tremendous task that was accomplished by those that died for their liberty just as we are working for ours now. If a person could and would think of these things before making known his "up-to-date" hardships, I believe there would be less said about such.

In true patriotism, I'll end with the slogans "Keep 'Em Flying," "Keep 'Em Rolling," "Keep 'Em Firing," or whatever slogan the division of the Service uses that the sons of American Fathers are now training in.

Sincerely,
JACK KANOPY.

TAYLOR THEATRE

EDENTON, N. C.
WE HAVE THE SHOWS

Friday, Dec. 12—
Bing Crosby, Mary Martin,
Rochester and Carolyn Lee in
"BIRTH OF THE BLUES"

Saturday, Dec. 13—
Roy Rogers in
"JESSE JAMES AT BAY"
"Dick Tracy vs. Crime" No. 1
Comedy

Sunday, Dec. 14—
Edw. G. Robinson and Laraine Day
in
"UNHOLY PARTNERS"

Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 15-16—
Henry Fonda and
Barbara Stanwyck in
"YOU BELONG TO ME"

Wednesday, Dec. 17—
Double Feature—10c and 22c
Sidney Toler in
"CHARLIE CHAN IN RIO"
Joan Davis in
"TWO LATINIS FROM
MANHATTAN"

Thursday-Friday, Dec. 18-19—
Claudette Colbert and
Ray Milland in
"SKYLARK"

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Umplett announce the birth of a daughter, born Saturday, December 6, at General Hospital, Norfolk, Va. Mother and baby are doing nicely.

Red Cross Chapter Ships More Garments

Mrs. Leigh Winslow, chairman of the Red Cross sewing project for the county, announced this week that the local chapter had completed and shipped to National Red Cross headquarters the following list of garments: 10 boys' gray flannel shirts; 26 boys' flannel shirts; 25 hospital shirts; 15 babies' sleeping garments; 4 pairs of mittens, and 13 complete baby layettes.

This shipment of clothing made by the local chapter is the third since the sewing project was started several months ago. Two other shipments have been made previous to the one this week.

Chicks . . Chicks

Now is the time to put in a brood of Chicks. We have a hatch of each Friday of New Hampshire and Barred Rocks. Prompt delivery. U. S. Approved.

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- KENNEDY—17 jewels, yellow or pink gold filled case, Guildite back. Newest style. 75c a week.
- VERI-THIN VICTORIA—17 jewels, yellow or pink gold filled case, Guildite back. \$42.50
- VERI-THIN LAN-CEA—17 jewel Precision movement, yellow or pink gold filled case. \$47.50
- BRIDAL DUET—3 fine diamonds in each richly styled ring! A real value! 75c a week.
- BIRTHSTONE FOR MEN—Solid vul. low gold mounting. 50c a week.

*The Christmas gift that's perfect for someone close to your heart is a fine Gruen Watch—voted the most beautiful of all the watches in the world by America's most respected fashion designers.

*REGISTERED TRADE MARK

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EDENTON, N. C.

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Here's the smart way to do Christmas shopping—do it all at one time—all at one place and save yourself time and \$\$\$.

Among the many special values on our counters you'll find just what you're looking for—and at the right price.

SPECIAL VALUE GIFT COLOGNE 98c

A large size bottle attractively gift wrapped. Will make an ideal gift for her.

- Perfume In Gift Box \$1.00
- Compact With Lipstick \$1.00
- Beauty Set Powder, Rouge, Lip Stick \$1.9

SHE Will Like These!



HE Will Like These!



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IN SPECIAL BOXES FOR GIFTS

- In Gift Box Shave Set 98c
- Quality Bristles Brush Set \$2.00
- \$15 Value Razor \$7.20
- Imported Briar Bowls Pipes \$1.50
- Two-pound Tin Tobacco \$1.25
- Pen and Pencil Set \$2.00
- Tobacco Pouch \$1.00
- Watch Chains from \$1.00

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