

WITH THE BOYS IN SERVICE

Dear Raymond:

The news from the North where General Rundstedt made his successful counterattack is now good news. With this change in news we fellows over here are wondering if the pop on the home front will lapse into the old complacency and false sense of security, cautious and almost oblivious to the fact that while the news is good, it is because men over here live and die in misery to make it so.

Now the home front news tells that the 6th War Loan Drive has been oversubscribed by several billions of dollars. We have our own unanimous idea as to why this happened for only a few days before General Rundstedt's great offensive when many at home were foolishly hoping for a quick and easy victory, early defeat of Germany, our newspapers at home reported false that this latest war bond drive would be subscribed to. The men here are asking, "Was it necessary that a catastrophe occur before people at home would give freely of their money while men here give their lives freely for the same cause?"

Recently Representative Sheridan of Pennsylvania visited this Theatre of Operations. Apparently he never visited the fighting soldiers for this anger has been tempered since. Rep. Sheridan made the following statement: "I have visited more than a million and one half soldiers overseas and not more than a hundred said that they would want to go home before this war was ended over there. Just who those million and one half soldiers were no one over

here seems to know. Do they realize in comfortable establishments in Paris or other cities? Our army newspapers over here have been loaded with protesting letters from these fox hole soldiers. No single statement in this war has produced so much anger and lowered troop morale as much as this false one—Yes, a very false statement indeed.

I can speak for the fighting soldiers and say that if there are a hundred fighting soldiers over here who would refuse an opportunity to go home for a short or long visit then these hundred men are already in confinement because of insanity.

Having had the most unusual opportunity, for a combat man, to visit three days in Paris I can have no doubt that there are thousands of men and officers over the sea, but far from the battlefield, who have no special desire to go home until this war is ended. And why should they? These men now enjoy more comforts, larger incomes, less arduous duties than ever was their pleasure in civilian life. All these pleasures in complete absence of hazard! In Paris where there remains even now much of the pre-war gaiety the songs of war are never heard and little discussed.

The soldier on the "fighting" front does ninety nine percent of his complaining by comparison. He complains, and justly so, that he suffers hardships, inconveniences and dangers continuously with never the sight of relief while others of equal or, in many instances, superior physical condition continue in their safety, comfort, and leisure.

The "fighting" man in the infantry is especially bitter because he sees no effort toward achieving a just compensation for his suffering. These inequalities, true, that a year ago, the man who fights the enemy hand to hand was given a Combat Badge and ten pitiable dollars per month increase in pay. True, the rifle man fares better in this than in the last war—but if an innocent man had five years of his fifty years prison term reduced, does it follow that justice has been rendered? If there was no special privilege or compensation granted to men in other branches of the services I sincerely believe the doughboy who's life is much more miserable and equally or more hazardous by comparison, would expect none but would do his job uncomplainingly because "it is a job which must be done." Since special privileges and compensation are granted to others, can he be blamed for wanting them also?

The long-suffering G. I. Joe of the fox hole in this war feels he is the forgotten man of this war as his father was in the last. He can get for the life that is in him see why he cannot have a rest period in the states after a certain number of combat days as his fellow soldiers in the Air Corps has after a certain number of combat flight missions. Nor can this miserable soldier of the rain

and mud and mud and mud understand why Pancho, Alibon, and Air Corps troops should receive a hundred dollars more per month than he as a "hazard" pay. This is an impossible question to answer. The fighting ground soldier expects more than beautiful words of praise which neither brings him relief and rest nor monetary remunerations commensurate with his labors.

The general impression of the soldier "up front" is that this is a "Total War" and that since the fruits of victory will be shared by all, it is only right that those should be a more equitable suffering of privations, hardships and hazards necessary to achieve these fruits. While people on the home front are not required to suffer hardships and privations the soldiers here feel that there should be no complaining at home if labor, business and the home were regimented and drafted when necessary to do so to hasten victory.

There is no sympathy here for the strikers on the homefront when striking at this dangerous period of the war can only prolong war and consequently lengthen the death list here. Coming as the average soldier does, from the element of society which comes at least a part of its livelihood "by the sweat of the brow" he can fully appreciate the inequalities, and injustices which many working people at home have endured. But, even though the soldier sympathizes he is sickened by the news of strikes at this critical period.

The soldier here believes that if he can endure and exist on cold beans, hash and stew while fighting a mortal enemy in the most miserable weather and over the worst of terrain that there can be no reason for complaint by home folks when there is a shortage of "luxury" foods or commodities with only a pleasure value. The soldier here detests those letters from home which read: "We, too, are suffering privations. Cigarettes are almost impossible to buy. We can get only one bar of candy per purchase. We can no longer indulge ourselves with our tri-daily coca cola and the steaks are tougher and being cut more thinly each day." You wouldn't ask why he is disgusted by such selfish complaints if you had seen him in his selfless life here. This same soldier is made to wonder for what he fights when he learns of black marketing at home and believes that the only thing lower than the man who operates a black market is the man who makes that

selection business paper by his purchases in it.

These are the things the soldier here thinks about and discusses with his friend. He knows the pre-war life—he left behind and hopes now that he can return to find it unchanged, unless for the better and shows great concern over news which indicates the contrary.

Capt. Phil (Doc) Padgett, Med. Det. 142nd Inf. APO 26, c-o P. M., New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Lynch:

Again I'm writing you and notifying you that I have changed my address. It is slowly getting monotonous. I wish they would make up their mind and get me settled down for a little while.

We were transferred from N. C. on the 15th of January and arrived in San Diego, Calif., on the 18th of Jan. It's a pretty swell town but as far as I'm concerned they can give it back to the Spanish. I've heard a lot of people say that they wanted to travel all over the West well I once said the same thing. I traveled over the West but I want to see it once more and that's when I go back to the good old East Coast. And then if I want to travel over the West a gain I want to do it at my own expense.

I haven't received a Herald since the first of January, but my other ones will be transferred from N. C. I hope.

I would appreciate it very much if you would print my address in the Herald, and maybe some of my friends will write me because I lost my Sea Bag on my journey West and all my addresses are in the Sea Bag. It will show up eventually. But I wish it would hurry up because I could use the contents of the Bag.

Very truly yours,
Pvt. Charles E. W. USMC 520487, S and T R School Sed. Co., Sed. Bn. Marine Corps Base San Diego, 40, Calif.

Dear Mr. Lynch:

It has been sometime since I have written the Herald. I still like to read the best little paper in the State. I have been getting the Herald regularly and share it with Captain Padgett, Huffstetler, and Eugene Mathis, that is whenever we can get together.

Before going any further I would like to thank those who sent Christmas cards and packages. I had a surprise not so long ago

when Captain Padgett told me that he had talked to a boy from home. After he told me that it was Eugene Mathis, I began to think but could not place him. So I waited until I knew where his Company was stationed of then I went up to see him. Of course everything turned out O. K., and I had quite a talk.

Since I have been overseas for 21 months Eugene had to do all the talking. I think I have caught up with him by now.

Capt. James L. Bennett, 34380187 Med. Det 142 Inf. APO 26, c-o P M New York N. Y.

Macdonia Mission Baptist Church Growing

(By Rev. R. C. Franks, Pastor)
Macdonia Mission Baptist Church, better known as Archdale church, but of course it is no more Archdale Church, it is Macdonia Mission Baptist Church, and since Macdonia has taken it over there has been many souls saved. Macdonia is only holding the church until it gets strong enough to carry on for itself. We have a good consecrated man for our superintendent of Sunday School. All so good consecrated teachers. We have Sunday School each Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Preaching at 8:00 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend these services, and especially every family living in the Archdale community who appreciate a church being in your community to attend these services and we would be glad to see you and all your family there each Sunday. It would make us feel even like carrying on the work over. Remember, the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "Work while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work."

Rev. R. C. Franks, Pastor
Route 2, Kings Mountain.
Anyone wishing my service may address me as above.

THE WINNANI
Kid News
Ad-Mos
Sun Day
ADS

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If you suffer from rheumatism, try this simple treatment. Get a package of Ridge Clinch Compound, a 1 week supply today. Mix it with a quart of water, add the juice of 4 lemons. It's easy, pleasant and so useful at all. You need only 1 tablespoonful two times a day. When you get 48 hours' continuous treatment—rheumatism is obliterated. If the pain does not quickly leave, Ridge Clinch will see you through to try to get rid of your rheumatism. Ridge Clinch Compound is for sale and recommended by **KINGS MOUNTAIN DRUG CO.** And Drug Store Everywhere

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And plenty of it is needed. The way to get your money to the fighting fronts is by buying U. S. War Bonds. Buy as many as you can, whenever you can. They are the safest and best investment in the world. You can get them at this bank. Let it never be said that we at home failed to "pass the ammunition".

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They're using it through, too. All of the 45,000 men and women of the Southern Railway System are handling tougher, heavier jobs than ever before. Handling them cheerfully—because they know that their work helps speed the day of Victory, and the coming era of peace and prosperity for the whole Southland.

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