

Between 1942 and 1945, the “**Servicemen’s Bulletin**” publisher, Ed Bell, received more than 100 letters each month from local Santiam Valley men and women stationed throughout the U.S., Europe and the Pacific. Their letters, along with items of local news, were shared in the *Servicemen’s Bulletin*, with some issues exceeding 50 pages.

Due to the sheer volume of material, we have selected the following Bulletin excerpts to represent the varied experiences and perspectives of those who served, as well as what life was like on the Stayton-Sublimity home front 70 years ago.

Sharon Barnes  
May 7, 2013

## **The Servicemen’s Bulletin - 1943**

### **From Volume 1, No. 4, dated January 20, 1943:**

**CORPORAL LEONARD LULAY** from Virginia says “I’ve seen quite a bit of the good old U.S. this past year—the most interesting to me was a visit to Washington D.C. We spent over half a day in the Capitol building and still saw only a small part of it. And of course, here in Virginia there are many historical spots. To preserve these places and the ideals that those men of old dreamed of is pretty important.”

**PVT FLORENCE (Squeak) BEITEL** writes from Alaska that “I am getting along swell. Plenty of the wrong kind of excitement. I am in Communications and like it. You remember years ago when a plane went over, everyone rushed out to look up and see it—well, it’s the old days again here, the sound of a plane means eyes up—believe you me.”

**PVT LEO SUSBAUER** writes from sunny Florida that “This is the fifth camp I’ve been in since I entered the Army in May. Came here from Texas after a trip through the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, through Louisiana, Alabama into Florida. The many beautiful lakes, swamp waters and the small pine trees look good to us.” The boys around Sub are looking for “Suzie” home on a furlough before long.

**GENE BUTLER** from San Diego, Calif. says “I’m getting along fine. I’m through boot camp now. I get to see **George** about twice a week, and it’s swell having your brother so near. George and I went to town the other day and did we ever have fun.”

**NORBERT PIETROK** from Norfolk, Virginia says “I’m in the repair crew now. **ED HAWORTH** is in the same camp. I’ve met a swell Southern ‘gal’ and her drawl has me fascinated. She laughs at the way I talk too. Says it’s too ‘fast.’ Putting in 10 hours a day, seven days a week.”

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For the first time since we’ve sent you this little bulletin, it contains a death notice. We write it with profound sorrow, made deeper by the knowledge that nearly every community must lose some of its fine young men before this war is over and more than ever deep prayers for your safe and swift return fill our hearts. **PRIVATE HERBERT LULAY** died while on duty with the U. S. Army while in Australia.

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**TREVOR STAYTON** is home again and helping his Dad in the sand and gravel business in Stayton. Trevor has received a medical discharge following three months in the hospital in Washington. His illness followed service in the tropics.

When LT. **“DOC” DOZLER** could not get home, his good wife Dora and the kids went down to spend a week with Doc in California. Sort of furlough in reverse.

The Knights of Columbus of our Council lost one of their outstanding members when **Mike Mauer**, our Lecturer, lost his life in the floodwaters of the Willamette while clearing wreckage from the piers of the Marion-Polk County Bridge at Salem. Mike’s body was found one week after he drowned.

The Catholic Daughters and the Knights of Columbus are making preparations again to entertain a group of the soldier boys from Camp Adair, Oregon on January 31st, for a dinner. On Christmas day this was done, and 42 of the boys came over in two army trucks for Christmas dinner, going to various homes of the Knights and Daughters and DID they have fun. The boys were mostly from New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and some from Louisiana. They liked it so well they want to come back again.

### **From Volume 1, No. 7, dated May 18, 1943**

“Drew” Lambrecht closed his meat market for the “duration” due to shortage of meat supplies.

The Stayton Alumni Association cancelled all plans for the annual homecoming this year and purchased a \$100.00 War Bond as a counterpart of the cancelled activities. The tire and food situation, as well as the absence of so many members made it seem advisable.

School in Stayton is now over for the year. Graduates from High School include—Raymond Boedigheimer, Floyd Booze, Wm. Fair, Bob James, Earl Kirsch, Lawrence Kirsch, Robert O’Connor (who has already left for service with the Marines), Virgil Schuetz, Donald Teeters, Bill Thomas. Of these, several will be in some branch of the Armed Service within the next month.

**ANDY SILBERNAGEL** had ten days at home and the places he has been since his last trip home read like an advertisement for a trip "around the world." Chile, with its Spanish flavor, Australia with its American soldiers and English citizenry, and darkest Africa all impressed Andy a lot. From here he reported back to Maryland for service.

Back home to take their places as essential workers are Henry Van Handel and Arnold Zimmerman of Sublimity, both over the 38 year age group.

Ernie Riesterer shares a letter received from his brother **BILL RIESTERER**, stationed in India. He says they have only English cigarettes and they aren’t worth a damn, even at 45 cents a package. He is in the Medical Corps, enjoying life and thinks the natives okay. They seem to think all Yanks have lots of money.

George Bell received a letter from **D. GEORGE COLE** (Stayton) in Australia, enclosing a label from a carton of Santiam Beans, a generous helping of which he had enjoyed for dinner that night.

About a month ago....a registrant of local Board No. 3, Marion Co., who had been sent to Hood River Conscientious Objectors Camp, mailed his draft papers back to the board at Stayton with a letter saying he was leaving the camp and had “no further use for the papers.” 21 days later the F.B.I. picked him up in New York City and he is now serving three years in a Federal Prison.

The Order of the Purple Heart inscribed on the back “For Merit” has been posthumously awarded Private **Earl Thorp**. His mother, Mrs. Amanda Thorp Griffen of Stayton has received a letter from the Chaplain that says “Earl was buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery in New Guinea.”

**HERMAN LINDEMANN**, C-3 – “Still in Army Administration, at a replacement center now. Many men coming and going. One thing I’ve learned in the Army – you can get kicked in the pants from both ends. My best wishes to all of the other boys.”

**AUX. CATHERINE BRAND**, in Louisiana writes “I am now assigned to Mess No. 3 and get quite a thrill out of baking for 300 WAACS. Apple pie is still the favorite when we can get apples. The girls here are gradually being assigned to new posts, as we get ready to take our places in the Army.”

**PVT JOHN WALZ** writes “We have been getting ready to take our physical fitness test—this to consist of a 9 mile hike, to be completed in 2 hours with full pack (a weighty object after the first mile), then 33 push-ups – then a 75 yard piggy back ride, and last, if you are still with us, to throw a ball fifty yards. We’ll hope practice has made me perfect.”

**CPL LEO MINDEN**, South Pacific, writes that “I have seen quite a bit of action in the past few months but right now the mosquitoes are our worst enemies. The natives are very friendly, and are fast becoming accustomed to American ways. Some of them are even wearing G.I. shoes.”

**CPL TONY BEITEL** in Oklahoma writes that “I am assigned to Field Artillery Mechanics School. During peace time this was a 9 months training period but is now condensed to two months. We study all the weapons used by the Field Artillery, their ammunition, maintenance and proper storage. Weather nice.”

**AUX VIRGIE R. BRADLEY** (former Aumsville Postmistress) writes from Kansas that “we had a special guest, Franklin D. Roosevelt, for Church on Easter Sunday. We had to get up early to go to Mass to get back here to ‘fall out’ for parade, then we marched, stood at attention, etc., until 11 o’clock. In Church, he sat directly in front of the WAAC contingent. The service was outdoors and the weather perfect. In the Army everything is done by rule, of course, and even with 25,000 people there was never any confusion or congestion.”

**PFC VINCENT (TWINKLE) STARR**...Tennessee, writes that “we have spent sixteen days in the woods, and are now to go on a week’s trip—just moving around. We got a good look at the President today. We had spent the last three days practicing for a review, but none of us knew it was for F.D.R.”

**RICHARD (DICK) DUMAN** – F2/C – NEW CALEDONIA – “I am stationed on a small island here, I have duty every other day, 24 hours on and 24 off. I am running a 100-ton barge now. (Captain – ha, ha.) We haul cargo to and from merchant ships. The duty’s okay, but poor liberty. Only natives and French and my French is worse than **Henry Silbernagel’s**. No whiskey here but do have a beer garden if you want to wait in line half a day to get two bottles of warm beer.”

**PFC RICHARD O’CONNOR** in the Pacific Islands writes that “I am in perfect health, am well fed and clothed. What more can I ask except to be home with you all once again. **EDDIE KREITZER** echoes my sentiments and as censorship forbids my saying anymore ---

**ALBIN G. ETZEL**, S.M.3/C – California writes “Well, I’ve had my first sea trip and even if the bow was under water part time, I enjoyed every meal – so it’s Albin Etzel, Sailor from now on – I liked it. We took our boat at Portland, so Teddy came down and we did the town the night before we sailed.

Lodge Notes – Oregon’s Knights of Columbus quota in the last War Bond Drive was \$142,000.00. The last reports show that our loyal Knights in Oregon went far over the top. So far, over \$675,000 has been attributed to their activities.

**From Vol. 1 – No. 8 – June 22, 1943**

Another Month! Another Bulletin! And your interest in this little paper continues to amaze us. But as long as you want it – we'll do all in our power to see that you get it – and you keep on writing, and you boys in foreign service whose correspondence is limited, just have your folks drop in and let us know how you are and what you are doing so we can tell the other boys about you.

Local Items

Mrs. Marie Shields has headed the recent successful Red Cross drive in Stayton to collect “Junk Jewelry” for shipment to the armed forces for bartering with the natives.

Amandus Frank of Sublimity and Mill City purchased the Kintz and Ditter sawmill and the Hattie Arnold Residence in Stayton. He will move his family here immediately and will operate his new mill independently of the Frank & Etzel mill in which he is a partner.

The local strawberry crop is very poor. Many fields already through picking and the cherries are scarce and of poor quality. Continued cold weather and rain do not promise any relief. Haying has not yet been started to any extent and a great deal of the grain is estimated to run under last year's harvest.

Fishing suffers too. The local creeks are poor. The river is plain “no good” and from Marion Lake alone comes reports of fair catches. Several fishermen have tried Eastern Oregon. Many more the coast streams but all have returned with empty baskets.

The school boards have not succeeded in filling all vacancies around here yet. The small schools are considering sending their pupils in to the larger schools. Stayton still needs two more teachers and Sublimity one more.

The Stayton Lions Club is bringing a successful “Old Key” drive to a close – the metal is valuable as scrap.

G. W. Ayres, formerly of Brownsville has been elected Superintendent of the Stayton Schools and with Mrs. Ayres will move to Stayton as soon as possible. Marcel Van Driesche of St. Paul has accepted the position as teacher and coach in the Stayton High School for next year also.

Hard liquor is becoming increasingly scarce. One pint a week, and that's your limit, and no special permits for parties, lodges or conventions. Stayton has had a local beer shortage, there being none in town the last three Sundays. Liquor permits have raised in price, from 50 cents to \$1.00, and Pete Deidrich is out of them.

Ed Keech is 20 lbs. thinner and a much sadder man since “Mumps” took Ed a round.

SERVICE NOTES

AUX. **CATHERINE BRAND** spent several hours in Stayton, she was being transferred to Seattle. Her visit was uneventful but when sister Josephine started to drive her to Portland everything happened. A flat tire – a clogged gasoline line, etc. until Catherine in desperation “thumbed” a ride on a passing truck and managed to “make connections.”

PVT **RAYMOND H. HOLZFUSS** (formerly of Lyons) now in Nebraska...Not too crazy about the Army, but is a man's job and he's willing to do it.

**CYRIL LYONS** is invalided home from North Africa and at present is in an Army hospital in New York.

**FREDERICK LAU** writes from North Africa that he has been to the front and that war is not beautiful in any of its aspects. He has made a hobby of studying wrecked German radio equipment that has come his way.

(And now the paragraph we never want to write) **MERRILL VAN CLEAVE**, West Stayton and graduate of Aumsville schools, Torpedo-mans Mate, second class, assigned to a submarine which has operated in the Pacific war zones has been reported "missing in the performance of his duties" according to a telegram received from Washington.

**DONALD BENDER**, of Jordan, scheduled to leave in the next draft call, received an unexpected furlough – he just broke his arm, cranking a tractor.

#### SERVICE LETTERS

**RICHARD DUMAN**, S 2/c, tells us from that lonely island of New Caledonia out in the Pacific "Boy I wish that somebody would see somebody who could do something about getting somebody from Jordan stationed down here with me. I feel sort of lost down here all by myself. I haven't seen anyone who ever heard of the Santiam Valley since I left the U.S.A. After this war is over it sure won't take me long to see somebody about getting one Dick Duman out of this hole. I've often thought to myself and wondered 'where so-and-so is' and then in the Bulletin I read, Africa, China, Australia, New Guinea, Alaska, India, and Texas, but I hope and pray that one day we'll all be back in Oregon again."

**PVT LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** – Foreign Service – writes that this is "Sunday the 13th and I'm on K.P. duty. It's hard to write, there's a lot that I can't tell and little that I can. The weather is hot. We had some Stayton Beans and some prunes canned at Lebanon. Tasted good, too."

**PVT WILLIAM J. SPENNER** (Private Willie) writes from Alaska that he "Saw Uncle **Tony Van Handel** and had a nice visit with him. He's doing okay for an old logger. I'm fine, myself, and that's all there is to write."

**J.C. BERGER** (Chub) S.C. 2/c – Hawaii, tells us in letter that "As you probably know, **FRANK WELTER**, **RAY STEFFES**, **AL STUCKART** and I have spent several liberties together lately. It seems strange – Ray, Al and I lived so close together so many years and never knew each other. We do now."

**CPL TECHN LAWRENCE M. WOLFE** writes from North Africa that "The boys are surely scattered – hope we can all get to Oregon again soon. It's hard to know any girls here. They speak the wrong language here."

**NORBERT J. PIETROK**, A.M.M. 3/c, in California writes that "Fourteen months in the Navy, ten on the East Coast and I'm glad to be here even for a short while. The best break I had was a visit with my brother Vincent. We are leaving this camp to go to another where we are to be issued clothing and rifles."

**FRANCIS D. LOTT**, F. 1/c, Pacific Islands, "Here I am on Island X, somewhere in the Pacific and that is all that I can say. I am with a Seabee Battalion and like my work very much."

**P.F.C. ROBERT STUCKART** in Iowa, "I'm here in a hospital, suffering from rheumatic fever. There are about 500 patients here, many from overseas, recovering from wounds as well as disease. We are treated swell, and the nurses are plenty O.K."

**CLARENCE SCHWINDT**, P. 2/c, at sea, "I haven't been in any battles yet, this isn't that kind of a ship, but our submarines have really been doing a lot of good fighting for us. Met **Bill Bender** and was surely glad to get some firsthand information from 'back home.' I wish I could tell you more, but can't."

**PVT WM. J. RIESTERER**, India, "Here I am in the jungles where you see a few elephants, lots of monkeys and snakes. We killed two King Cobras, one that was five feet long, (nice little pets we have). The weather here in one way reminds me of Oregon, lots of moisture. India isn't at all like people and books say it is, the natives are friendly but they have the mistaken idea that all Americans are wealthy, in fact they rate even a private with a Maharajah and raise the price of every item we try to buy."

**AUX. VIRGIE BRADLEY**, Kansas, writes "This week we start wearing our summer uniforms. Sunday my sister, a friend and I went to dinner, I enjoyed it although W.A.A.C.'s aren't supposed to go out with officers. Sister was recently promoted to 1st Lt. and I feel that is quite an honor, as promotions are slow in the nurse's corp."

**HAROLD (Sonny) WOLF**, at sea, "It didn't seem right when I landed in San Diego and **George Butler** wasn't there. I ran into **Dean Christensen** on the street though, and it was a pleasant surprise. Our last trip I talked to **Ray Steffes** twice over the phone and was within two miles of **Connie Breitenstein**, but as badly as I wanted to, I couldn't get connected up with him. I attended an Easter service that I will never forget. I had heard of the Natives devotion to church, but it was the first time I had ever witnessed a group of them at a religious service. They came in and sat flat on the deck, and their faith was so evident that it was a lesson for all of us. As nearly as I could tell every one of them received communion."

**CPL. RAY STEFFES**, Hawaii, "I'm feeling fine and dandy and am still Morning Report Clerk at Headquarters....My most earnest prayer is that next year I'll be home working in the good rich earth of Oregon again."

**PVT LEONARD J. SCHUMACHER** in California says "I have been back in the Mountains with a crew of 11 men and 4 Cats, building fire trail. The ground is plenty steep and I turned a Cat over the first day. I jumped clear when I saw she was going. We are at the top now and ready to start down. The trails we build are 100 ft. wide and will be 10 miles long. We live the life of real soldiers here, and last night when my partner and I broke camp we found two rattlesnakes coiled up at the head of bed —from now on I look before I sleep."

**SGT. LEO J. ZUBER** in North Carolina tells us that the "Temperature stays around 110° here so swimming is a favorite sport. Only three blocks to the beach. I have 6 student cooks with no previous training under me and it's quite a job to make cooks out of them in a short time --- but maybe they'll get by."

**PVT ANTHONY A. BRAND** in Texas writes that "...I had quite an experience, it was just after guard mount and I was still wearing my leggings (something we never wear off the post) when they came after me to guard the guy who was carrying some post funds to the bank. I had a sawed-off riot gun and the toughest look on my face that I could muster and we started out. I must have been good, for the little kids started following us and by the time we got to the bank it was a regular parade and when we went inside they stared through the window. I was standing with my gun at side arms when I noticed them watching so I brought my gun to Port arms. I guess they thought I was going to shoot because they scattered and we saw no more of them."

**SGT. ANDY J. SLAVKOVSKY**, in the Pacific Islands - (a second letter) and a very welcome one reached us tonight from Andy - - "It would seem the Santiam Valley is represented in every quarter of the

globe alright, but I'll bet most of the boys give a wistful thought occasionally to the fishing streams, dances and parties at home. I'm no exception—and now that I know it's spring at home, there's a strange tug at my heart and a longing for the beauty of my valley in full bloom."

**ANDY J. SILBERNAGEL**, S 1/c, says that "I really had a swell visit with **CLARENCE SCHWINDT**. He came and stayed one whole day on our ship, had chow, and talked of home."

Two of the boys who have been most faithful in writing have no letters in the exchange this month. They are **ALBIN ETZEL**, whose last letter home was dated over seven weeks ago, and **LEONARD LAMBRECHT**, whose last letter bore the date of March 10th. We humbly pray that they are safe—and our prayers for the safety of every one of you are deep and constant.

We would like to have as many letters as possible from you boys as many of the other boys writing ask about you and are anxious to know where you are and what you are doing.

In conclusion, we sincerely trust that you have enjoyed this little bulletin. We have tried to make it interesting for you. This is your paper. Any suggestions that you can give us will be greatly appreciated, for we want to make it what will be the most interesting to you, so tell us. We will be looking forward to that letter from you during the next month,  
Best of luck, The Editor and Publisher

### **From Volume 1 – No. 9 August 10, 1943 (July-August Issue)**

Here's your Bulletin. Later than usual but we have a good excuse this time. Your Editor and Publisher both worked in concessions every night during the "Spree" week for the Firemen – and we really worked. We should call this your "Harvest Bulletin" for wherever you may read it, in far and foreign lands, here at home all is as you remember it – the truck loads of bean pickers, the car loads of "cannery ladies" go each morning to work, a goodly number of transient pickers occupy the Herman Darley, Merle Crane and Larry Goss campgrounds. Fred Hottinger, Dave Aegerter and Curt Kraskenewski have their combines running now, and Silbernagels, Etzels, Basls and Ferys and many more have their binders going from early dawn until dark. The crops are good and the weather perfect for harvest season – clear hot days and cool nights.

### LOCAL NEWS

The teacher problem in Oregon this year is very serious. None to be had.

Several families from the Linn County side of the river have petitioned the Linn and Marion County courts to take steps to prevent the Santiam River from further changing its course as it is seriously threatening to do. Several acres of farm land were washed out last winter. The Courts give them little promise of relief.

Tony Minden of Sublimity has purchased the Jacob & George Schmitt Ranch. It has been operated by Alvin Schmitt, a brother of the owners. It was part of the original Henry Downing land grant and has belonged to the Schmitt family since 1890.

### SERVICE NOTES

**HENRY DEIDRICH** after 8 months in Guadalcanal and 30 days in a hospital in California getting rid of a malaria bug is home for 30 days...is eating all the special things mother can manage to get now.

**RALPH ETZEL**, son of Mike Etzel of Salem, formerly of Stayton, has been reported as a prisoner of Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Neitling of Sublimity have received word that their son, PVT **ALOYSIUS NEITLING**, a prisoner of Japan, taken in the Phillippines, has been transferred to Hoten Camp, Mukden, Manchukuo. The Neitlings have received no direct word from their son since his internment.

It having proved impractical to keep the Memorial Board on Main Street in Stayton posted with the names of all men in the service from this area up-to-date, the board has been re-decorated and now bears the name of those killed in action or reported missing. Attractive shrubs have been planted in front of the plaque and a flower box placed at the base is kept with fresh flowers. The board now bears ten names, those of – **Jack W. Berry, George N. Hallin, Dale Robert Hoeye, Herbert Lulay, Alfred Francis Meyers, Earl A. Miller, William Sphoon, Earl Thorp, Merrill Van Cleave and Iane Matthew Weinberg.**

Word received by Stayton Friends would indicate that **AL ARCHER** is still on Guadalcanal.

The Stayton Cannery is in dire need of help – men. They are 100 short during this busy season. The businessmen of Stayton have been helping out nights. The bean crop must be saved.

Stayton is very short of housing facilities. Plans are being worked out where it is possible through the War Manpower Commission to have 10 or 15 new homes built.

#### SERVICE LETTERS

**EDWIN R. WULF**, ARM 3/c in the Pacific War Zone says that “Since leaving the States in March I’ve seen a lot of the world and am beginning to appreciate what it means to be related to Uncle Sam. Recently I was able to take part in and have a taste of revenge, and was ‘it good.’”

**FRANKLIN A. WELTER** C.M. 3/c - in Hawaii said that “The war news has been a lot more encouraging to us lately. I imagine Hitler and Tojo are sorry they ever fell for those daydreams of a few years ago.”

**C.C. SCHAEFER** (Cecil-Squeak) 2K 3/c writes from Pasco, Washington that “reading in the bulletin of the real job that some of the boys are doing it makes jobs like mine seem pretty mediocre. But training fliers to do their job when they are in combat zone is necessary. Our base is out on the desert and hotter than h--- now but we get in lots of flying hours and that’s important.”

**HAROLD E. (GENE) RUSSELL**, Cox. (from Marion) now out at Sea, writes that “We didn’t get our first mail until 2 months after we left the states. I had a funny feeling when I saw that shoreline slip below the horizon. We’re painting our craft now and there’s a lot to her.”

**ALBIN G. ETZEL** – “Across the Drink” – writes two letters this time and there were more censor holes than letter when they arrived. Anyway, Albin, we appreciate the fact that you tried to tell us the news. He writes that “I never thought that this Fern Ridge farmer would see so much water. It’s okay as long as I don’t have to jump in and play tag with the sharks....Met one of **HERBIE LULAY**’s friends at Mass this A.M. Wherever Herbie went he left friends who will never forget him and the good he did while here.”

From **JERRY MARKING**, building ships in San Francisco....He and Jimmy O’Connor have an apartment together now. Jerry meets many of the sailors back with their ships for repairs and so far only one ship, the U.S.S. Laffey, lost in the Solomons, has failed to return.

**From Volume 2 – No. 1, SEPT. 20, 1943 – OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

The beans are “winding up” and the Cannery is busy now with prunes. Harvest is over and soon “fall plowing” will be under way. It’s been a good year here on the whole, and we are grateful. Hunting season is later than usual, opening on Oct. 1, but the problem of gasoline and ammunition are still unsolved puzzles. The extensive maneuvers being carried on in Eastern Oregon by the Army has driven many Mule Deer across the Cascades – the first time within the memory of white men this variety has crossed the range in any number.

**PVT LEONARD SCHUMACHER** – Coming up from Los Angeles on the train a very pretty girl and her good-looking companion sat across from Leonard and they visited. Come to find out it was Betty Grable and friend. The luck of some guys.

**SGT FREDERICK (FRITZ) LAU**, at last report “somewhere in Sicily” was a member of the radio transmitter crew pictured in the magazine “Electronees” and the scene is also printed in “Fortune” magazine. Should you run across one of these magazines, Fritz is the man behind the “tommy-gun.”

**PVT FRANCIS MACK** from down in hot Texas tells us that “It’s hot here but I like hot weather – all we do is clean guns and have close order drills but the chow’s good so no beefing. **CONNIE ROBERTS** and I are in the same barracks and was I ever surprised to meet **LEONARD LULAY** a few days ago, we took in a show and talked of the good old days.”

**HAROLD (SONNY) WOLF** writes that “I’m still seeing some of the world – in fact an article in a Navy magazine listed our ship as second in miles traveled in her class and fifth in the entire fleet. I couldn’t ask for a better ship or better duty. In fact, I’d never be satisfied with shore duty again.”

**SGT JOHN NUTTMAN** from North Africa tells us that “I suppose you can tell by the papers that things are moving fast here. The only liquor here is some native stuff, we call it ‘Wogg Juice.’ It contains a little of everything, including linament. Just a few drinks and you can climb 60 ft. up a 40 ft. pole. I hear that my brother **LEO** is coming across. I sure hope he has the best of luck, he’s a swell guy.

**PFC GEO. E. BASL** from Colorado says “They made a movie of our camp and its troop titled “Mountain Fighters” and I hope Mom and Dad and all of you get to see it.”

**PFC HARVEY D. WEITMAN** in the South Pacific writes that “I’m on the same rock as **FRANCIS LOTT** and learned of your Bulletin from him. I’ve been with the Marines since Dec. 29, 1941 – after 7 weeks in the States I landed in Pearl Harbor and after 18 months was transferred here. I don’t mind the work as it makes time pass. Lately I’ve been doing a little fence building (not the kind you build back home).”

**FRANCIS D. LOTT**, M.M. 2/c in the South Pacific writes that “the bean harvest time found me missing all the activity connected with getting a crop of beans in and made me wonder if ever again I’d be growing Blue Lakes. I guess none of us can really be sure of what’s in store for us. I hear that **CHUB BERGER** and **MAX STAYTON**’s outfit is moving down this way. Sure hope so.”

**CPL RODNEY JELECA** another Florida exile says “...advanced basic training keeps us busy and in addition camouflage, digging slit trenches, fox holes, machine gun nests, takes all our spare time, if any.”

**PVT HAROLD SHEPHERD**, from the hills of Kentucky writes that “I’ve been assigned to the armored replacement training center...this former schoolteacher must learn half-track, trucks, jeeps, peeps,

medium and light tanks and M-4 tanks and guns – Garand M-1, 30, 50,75 Machine Guns. 22 weeks of this and we are ready to replace a fighting unit across the seas.”

**LT GEORGE E. MIELKE**, Ft. Benning , Georgia jots that “I’ve just completed a three week intensified course in demolition. We’ve handled every kind of military explosive and learned to blow up anything of military value. I made 2 jumps in this course with 16# of T.N.T. strapped to each leg.”

**VIRGIL EUGENE SCHUETZ**, A.S. - Idaho - says “here I am at Farragut, working like hell but enjoying it a lot. This Navy is really tops....we do a lot of marching with rifles, it’s a thrill to march with a couple thousand sailors while a good band plays....”

**PETER SCHWINDT**, Elect. U.S.N. – U.S.S. Rigel – writes that “We on the Rigel never hit the same place twice and are never allowed to mention our location for a lot depend on this ‘old scow.’”

**RICHARD F. DUMAN**, F. 2/c – South Pacific says “here’s one on me. I am now on ‘mess cooking.’ The Army calls it K.P. – but by any name you peel spuds and wash dishes and you discover what the advertisements mean when they say ‘dish-pan hands.’ I don’t mind the job – but this island, I’d tell you what I really think of it but I can’t spell the word.”

**PVT WM. A. LAMBRECHT**, Ft. Benning, Georgia – writes that “The trip to Georgia was very instructive, for I’ve never traveled much in my life except between the covers of a book....There are now about 2500 of us former R.O.T.C. students here waiting for our classes to begin. I desperately hope I don’t ‘wash out’ as I’ve waited so long.”

Staff Sgt. **A.J. SLAVKOVSKY**, South Pacific writes that “...Harvest must be over now and I’m wondering about ‘my farm’ and ‘my crops’ and longing for home.”

**FRED JOSEPH SCHWINDT**, S. 1/c from out in the Atlantic Waters says “Here’s another round-the-world sailor. I’ve crossed the equator 4 times in 5 months and getting to feel like an ‘old salt.’ Went ashore on Island X and took a bus trip around, got seasick as the dickens....”

**LOUIS SCHWINDT**, A/S – Farragut, Idaho (a new Navy man), writes that “Two weeks in the Navy now, and I’m all for the Navy....**BILL BUSCH** and I left Portland together and were assigned to the same company. Poor Bill spent 2 days in the hospital after the double typhoid shots.”

A/C **ORVILLE B. LULAY** from San Antonio, Texas writes that “since I last wrote you I’ve sweated out classification which consists of a six-hour mental exam, a psychomotor, and a 64 physical exam. I got through okay and was classified as a pilot and am now in pre-flight. Hazing has been abolished and cadets are not supposed to have K.P. duty but they get around that by calling it ‘Mess Management.’”

**VINCENT P. PIETROK** – U.S.S. Portland – says that “we haven’t had a liberty for 3 months now but we manage to have a good time. We have movies every day and all kinds of magazines to read. Yes, and I have a nice beard now – three months’ growth. Good luck to all the boys!!”

**PVT MATTHEW GERSPACHER**, Camp Adair, Oregon writes that “There’s a whole new division to be trained at once – the 70th Infantry. I’ve been assigned to it. I’ve been here only one day so it’s all ahead of me. I don’t know what I’m getting into really, but I’ll bet I find out.”

From **DANIEL GEORGE COLE**, C.C.M. (known to Stayton people as our George), comes the most interesting letter about New Guinea, in which he says that “Many of the natives here have gone to missionary school, they speak good English and don’t steal or work on Sunday. I have a friend named

'Gana,' he is head-man of a village near here. I wanted a picture of him with his family. When he told his wife what I wanted she started for the house as fast as she could run. I thought she didn't want to have her picture taken but he explained she had gone to put on her 'good dress' – so women are the same the world over....”

**From Vol. 2 – No. 2, Nov. 1, 1943**

The last Cannery whistle blew on September 29th, ending the season that started with strawberries on June 1st. The pack this year was the largest in history, and included 2700 – 50-gallon barrels of cut beans for the Campbell Soup Co., as well as 230,000 cases of beans. Last crop packed was prunes. Construction of the new unit on the old Thorp place will get under way at once, and new machinery has already been ordered.

Ration Book No. 4 is being distributed in all the schools this week. This book is designed to cover a great variety of commodities and to last some time.

Fire that was discovered about 1:30 A.M. by a passing motorist completely destroyed the Malone General Store in Aumsville. The Aumsville Fire Department had some difficulty with their pumper and Turner, Sublimity and Stayton Fire Departments responded to their call for help. Cause of fire is undetermined.

We want to give a very large “THANK YOU” to Teddy Etzel who has faithfully helped us get this paper out to you. Teddy has always been one of the most willing workers in our organization. So – Thanks, Teddy – Thanks a lot!!!

**BILL BENDER**, a member of the Merchant Marine has encircled the globe since last we saw him, touching at the ports of Hobart in Tasmania, Aden in Arabia, Alexandria, Port Said, and Suez in Egypt, their convoy made up at Malta and they docked in New York. He sailed from Portland in Oregon.

**AL AMOS** was Chief Cook on BILL'S boat and there were “no squawks” from the crew.

**SGT WM. BREITENSTEIN** – still in California fixing the generals' cars and the privates' jeeps, was home on annual leave. He looked swell and paid us a real visit. BILL is blessed with the Breitenstein gift of making words paint pictures and we enjoyed his stay a lot.

**ALVIN SCHMITT** of Stayton, was in Stayton for a few hours displaying the most hideous mustache we've ever seen – trying to hide the split lip he received in Hoboken, N.J., according to his story, when he and **ANDY SILBERNAGEL** went on a “bender.”

**ALVIN J. SCHMITT, JR.**, formerly of Sublimity had 10 days at home...He looked fine and would have a hard time convincing anyone that Louisiana was as hard on a guy as he tried to make us believe in his letters.

**LEONARD LAMBRECHT**, who contracted malaria while in New Guinea has received his medical discharge and is home now....He recently addressed the Lions Club of Stayton and gave them a words-eye picture of jungle fighting.

As far as we know, **LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** was the first local boy to reach Italy. He wrote his folks on Sept. 23, and while he could tell them little of his actual experiences, assured them he was well and things could be much worse.

PVT **LYLE RAY** writes that he was sent from Fort Lewis to Mississippi for “boot camp.” It was Lyle’s first real trip and he enjoyed it all, the Negro Porter, the daily candy bar, his first sight of the Mississippi, the Colored people and the cotton balers, all new and interesting to a kid from an Oregon farm.

PVT **AL. NEITLING**, Japanese prisoner interned at Mukden, Manchoukua, sent a postcard to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Neitling of Sublimity in which he says “I am okay and still full of life and I hope you are well and are not worrying about me. Say ‘Hello’ to the rest of the relatives for me. Also notify them I am okay. For return letter and gift packages consult the Red Cross. Hoping and praying I will see you soon, Love – Al.”

On Sunday, Sept. 24, the Sublimity Fire Department played a soft ball game with the soldiers of the Salem Air Base. The winners? Sublimity, of course, Score 10 to 9.

**WM. (SNOOKS) BASL** has been raised to Master Sergeant. He is now stationed in Africa and finds the heat oppressive.

Orders to report for induction on Monday, November 8, have been received by **ELMER ETZEL** of Stayton and **NEIL DICKMAN** of West Stayton and **WALTER SMITH**, formerly of Stayton.

While **D. GEORGE COLE** told us he was sending a copy of their New Guinea camp papers, all we received was a polite note from the censor telling us he had “deleted” same.

T/5 **BEN R. PFUND** – England – “The customs and speech of the English people are very different from ours, when we arrived we had a difficult time with the language and the money. Now the English mothers are complaining their children are speaking American.”

**LAWRENCE A. WALZ**, U.S.N. says “I had the good fortune this trip of going aboard several enemy ships. Altho they are built similar to ours, and have fixtures on them that were made in America, they still have that Oriental touch to them. . . . On one ship I was stationed on we had to kick the rats out of our sacks to sleep, the Japanese must have had to kick them off their tables to eat. I added to my collection of shells and ammunition and some of the boys made rings and bracelets from metal from the Zeroes gas tanks.”

S/SGT **MATT MERZENICH** – Somewhere in the South Pacific – “I’m in a signal radio company and can’t tell you of my work. I enjoyed seeing **RALPH LULAY**’s name mentioned in the Bulletin. We were together at Camp Roberts in the early part of ’42. That is, we were in the same company but he spent most of his time in quarantine, measles, I believe.”

SGT **RAYMOND THOGERSON**, Syracuse N.Y. – “...Maybe I shouldn’t complain, Syracuse is a very nice city and I like it here but the objective of every soldier is to be ‘over there.’”

P.F.C. **ROBERT M. STUCKART** – Sioux Falls, S.D. – “Well, it looks like I’m fighting the war in a hospital. . . all in all I’ve been out of the hospital nine days since last April. . . It’s rheumatic fever, bad stuff.”

F.C. (**Clarence**) **SCHWINDT**, F. 1/c, U.S.S. Sperry, writes – “...I certainly wish I could tell you something about what our subs are doing, but you wouldn’t believe it anyway. That’s about all except I haven’t seen a girl in four months.”

PVT **LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** – Somewhere in Italy – “...seeing a lot of different things every day. Some not too pleasant. I like the weather here better than Africa and the people are more sociable. We had a shower the other night, first rain I’d felt since I left the states.”

SGT **DON HANKEL** – Ft. Sumner, New Mexico – “...the farmers around this country have been using Italian War prisoners for help. They say they are good workers and glad of the opportunity to work. We are getting ready for a bunch of German war prisoners on this field. I am kinda curious to see what Hitler’s supermen look like.”

PFC **JESSE H. MURPHY**, North Africa, writes that “Maybe you don’t think I’d like to get home and sink my teeth into some good pork – go out into the woods with my brother John – see my little nephews start on their way to school – walk into mom’s kitchen and smell dinner cooking – that’s all I really want. The little things, the familiar things and this time of year with the holidays just around the corner, I want them worse than ever, but I’m still kicking and full of spirit.”

### **Serviceman’s Bulletin – Excerpts from 1944**

[The following “Servicemen’s Letter Exchange” excerpts were taken from an undated *Servicemen’s Bulletin* missing its cover. Based on the content, we believe it is the **January-February 1944 issue.**]

#### RANDOM NOTES

According to a Japanese short wave announcer, PVT **AL NEITLING**, a Japanese prisoner of war, is well and sends his family greetings.

**JAMES J. O’CONNOR**, S.H.S. sophomore and brother of BOB and DICK of Stayton, has been accepted for service in the U.S.M.C. and is awaiting call to active duty.

**BERNARD (BOB) STEWART** is in Stayton and is reluctant to describe the sinking of his ship, the “Liscome Bay.” Bob was on the deck of the ship when the torpedo struck. After taking to the water a second torpedo, which finished the ship, sent gasoline and oil and wreckage helter-skelter. The ship went down in 13 minutes. Bob received minor burns and leg injuries. [The aircraft carrier Liscome Bay was part of the task force lost during the taking of the Gilbert Islands on 23 November. The ship went to routine general quarters at 05:05 as flight crews prepared their planes for dawn launchings. At 05:10 a lookout shouted: "Here comes a torpedo!" The torpedo struck abaft the after engine room and hit the aircraft bomb stockpile, causing a major explosion engulfing the entire vessel and sending shrapnel out 5,000 yards. "It didn't look like a ship at all", wrote Lieutenant John C. W. Dix, communications officer on the U.S.S. Hoel. "We thought it was an ammunition dump....She just went whoom — an orange ball of flame." At 05:33, Liscome Bay listed to starboard and sank, carrying 53 officers and 591 enlisted men down with her. Only 272 of her crew of 916 were rescued. Those rescued had managed to reach the deck after the initial torpedo impact. The bomb stockpile exploded minutes later, possibly due to the second hit.]

A telegram was received from the Field hospital director at Wendover Field, Utah ...that S/SGT **ERNEST HUNT** had parachuted to safety from a crashing plane about 54 miles from Wendover on Jan. 5. Suffering only a sprained ankle, Ernest was one of five who were able to parachute to safety; six members of the crew perished.

Because it is our first descriptive letter from Italy and we think of interest to all of you, we are going to print S/SGT Tech **FREDERICK G. LAU**’s letter in full:

Not so Sunny Italy

Dear Friends: Just received the Sept. 20th Serviceman's bulletin and an admirable bit of editing it is. Forthwith I send my subscription fee but am curious as to the frequency of publication.

Why do the boys in the States write about the beer they had? I haven't had any since Africa where I traded the Navy boys. Of course we have wines, cognac, rum and some prospects of some German brew in, I hope, the near future. Speaking of wine, one of the boys investigating the basement of a shelled house tripped on a step and plunged headlong into some liquid, discovering too late that a 1000 gal. barrel of liquid grape had broken and inundated the area. How about that?

The Italian people are very kind and invite us to their homes for such food and all the wine they have. After traveling from Casablanca to Bizerte, from LiCata thru Palermo to Messina, and from Salerno to ? and still on the front, I have reached one definite conclusion - never let war enter your country- it's a bit of Hell.

If we seem to move slowly at times don't be impatient. The American soldier can take it and serve double. The artillery and air force are doing an excellent job but the German army cannot be underestimated either. They shoot back as even I can attest. Our duck season never closes - ammunition in plenty and eager gunners who spend the entire day waiting for the Foch Wolfe and M.E. 109s to appear and then all Hell breaks loose and the sky is filled with slugs. We throw everything but the kitchen sink at 'em. They hate our 50 Cal. machine guns and always lose some planes on venturing too close. I have seen German airfields and railway centers that have literally been ploughed under by our bombers. The German prisoner who said that he would rather be hung by the heels than face our artillery - they describe our long tom shells as "whispering death" and after hearing them pass overhead I'm inclined to agree.

My work as radio maintenance technician is quite interesting and in some respects more complex and diversified than my civilian experience. Always some gadget to build that will expedite our work so time never drags. Instruments in front of me now are built entirely of German and Italian radio parts. S'funny, I have never operated a radio since becoming a part of the regular army though I was trained for such duty.

On reading the letters of the other fellows I notice a singularly uniform opinion that Oregon is a most desirable spot – yea, man! I want top place on that list and will throw a teller mine at any dissenting voice.

I have yet to contact any G. I. that I knew at home although I have become acquainted with a number of Oregonians. How I wish I had my sleeping bag which was lost at Casablanca - my advice to any G. I. about to embark for the European theater, buy or steal a bag and guard it with your gun. Front line soldiering is quite different from the training camp variety and many a surprise awaits the newcomer. My prize possession is an electric razor, and don't let them see the portable radio that you hide in some convenient place. For radios are worth a fortune over here, which puts the royal flush in the radio technician's hand. Heh.

I've learned to swear in four languages, practicing my German now. Time to hit my Simmons innerspring (the protective screen from an Italian Switchboard) so season's greetings and Auf-Wiedersehen to my friends in the K.C.'s - I still remember those Jordan picnics which I attended with the Sound System – FRITZ LAU”

AMM 2/c **NORBERT J. PIETROK** - "I am still in the South Pacific and like it a lot. It's a nice place here and a lot of coconut plantations. We have occasional earthquakes, and when it does rain it comes down in sheets.”

PVT **FRANK MACK** – “**CONNIE ROBERTS** and I have neglected writing, but as my halftrack is in the repair shop I haven't any excuse, We are in Louisiana on maneuvers and aside from eating at all hours and freezing at night all is well.”

S/SGT **A. J. SLAVKOSKY** - c/o Fleet Post Office, S. F. - "Several days back I got the surprise of my life when **AL STUCKART** walked up to me and said 'You are Andy Slavkosky, aren't you? I guess we've both changed a little in the past three years.'"

PVT **MIKE LACKNER** – "They have me penned up in Wyo., the coldest spot in the country. Uncle Sam gave me a lot of clothes but at times I wish that he had given me a lot more. I put on a suit of summer and winter underwear, two pants, two shirts, and a jacket and an overcoat and I thought I was going to freeze. I surely hope that they don't get the idea in their heads to send me to Alaska. If they do it will be the last you will ever hear from me."

**EDWIN A JAMES**, AMM 2/c - "Well I met my first 'pre-war' friend, **CLARENCE SCHWINDT** and for 5 solid hours we talked and it sure seemed good – only we found out about **JACK SHELTON** and that seemed hard to realize. Your article on the deer hunters nearly got me down, there is nothing in the world to compare with a genuine Oregon deer hunt."

SGT. **RAY DAOUST**, Australia - "I just missed **DURREL JORDAN**. I arrived in Australia from New Guinea on Friday and received a card from **DURREL** arranging a meeting for Monday, but he failed to arrive and I later learned that his outfit moved out on Sunday. I'm not the one for believing in miracles, but believe it or not they gave us a furlough over here, the first that we have had for over two years, and most of us made up for the past. I took mine in Sydney which is the largest and most nearly American city in Australia. I spent seven days of heaven there but I won't claim to have acted like a saint."

**G. H. HAWORTH**, AM/c - "I'm flying from place to place now, which makes this old Pacific seem a little smaller than when traveling by ship. We had turkey for our holiday dinner and it seemed mighty good after being on a diet of mutton and Spam."

**L. MAX STAYTON**, South Pacific - "I can't say where I am but I think it is as close to Hell as I will ever get. Boy, is it ever hot. It was 128° in my tent yesterday. The natives are very interesting people, some of them work for us and they are the finest specimen of men that I have ever seen. Here comes a native friend of mine, he is going to write a few words to you.

Hello Ed, My name is Foy. I like the Sea Bees fine. They are swell fellows.

I am helping them on the Job, FOY LAVATA

He is 17 years old and plenty O.K. - Best of luck to all the fellows."

CPL. **LEO V. NUTTMAN** - South Pacific - "I'm sitting under a tropical tree eating some fruit cake my Mom sent me, all I need is some beer and a three day pass. We have regular religious service, held outdoors, and we all go to Communion each Sunday. For the first time I truly realize the need of my religion."

LT. **N. J. KRANTZ** - "I've traveled a long way since my last letter. We're back for a rest now and the Lord knows that we need it. We spent a rough time fighting, the enemy is tough, but we are tougher. Will be mixing it soon again. I can thank Almighty God for His protection. It makes you sit up and think when you see men snuffed out all around you and yet you yourself not suffer a scratch."

P.F.C. **JESSE MURPHY**, North Africa - "This sure is some country...the main crops are from the vineyards, some olive groves and a few oranges that now are just beginning to ripen. I'm glad for I have had none since I left the States. We recently had Santiam Beans – they are a long way from home too. Father —, our Chaplain said in his sermon Sunday that he never knew the meaning of the word 'overburdened' until he saw the way the natives load the little donkeys. They pile stuff on them until they can hardly stand and then jump on and ride."

**PETER SCHWINDT**, Elec. U.S.N - U.S.S. Rigel – “My brother FRED dropped in here a few weeks ago and I took a boat and went over to his ship and brought him aboard here for dinner and showed him around a ‘working ship.’ He was surprised to say the least to find me where I am and said he and the rest of the family thought me many thousands of miles from here.”

**PVT LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL**, Somewhere in Italy – “I am well and having new experiences every day, some not so pleasant. I have given up trying to find anyone that I know. Sometimes I think that I am the only Oregonian in Italy. I’ve read where the boys in the Pacific made rings out of Jap gas tanks; I’ve made myself a ring from a Jerry ME109 propeller for a souvenir. Tell all the boys Hello for me.”

**CPL. LEROY M. CHRISMAN** - Somewhere in England - "I can't tell you anything because of regulations. We are under very strict censorship and very strict rationing. The climate here is very much the same as at home, I am hoping that thru the Red Cross I will be able to meet some of the other boys.”

**P.F.C. LEONARD SCHUMACHER**, Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif, - “I completed a course in Aviation Engineering at Fort Belvoir in Virginia and pardon my pride but I was second in a class of 76 men, my average was 97.2. I liked Virginia and had the opportunity of visiting Washington, D.C. I met a girl from Nampa, Idaho, nearly a hometown girl, and so I had a guide to show me the city. She knew where all the interesting places were and I enjoyed it a lot. There was another Oregonian at school, a boy from Portland but he knew Stayton well as he used to haul flat rock from Goode's Corner. His name is Dale Noble.”

**FRED SCHWINDT**, S1/c – Pacific – “I was fortunate in meeting my brother **PETE** in New Guinea. I hadn't seen him in 7 years. He has been in the navy 15 years now and will be eligible for retirement in another 5. I didn't see **DICK DUMAN**, we went by his station but did not stop.”

**ALVIN M. SCHMITT (SCHMITTY)**, S1/c - "I suppose **ANDY SILBERNAGEL** has told you our news. We saw **DICK DUMAN** the other day and boy was he ever surprised. **DICK**, **ANDY** and I all left Salem for the Navy together but they split us up in San Diego and that is the last that we saw of **DICK**. The first thing, he asked me where my ‘hideous mustache’ was. Well, Ed, you win this time, I shaved it off. But just wait until I get home I'll put some hot pepper in your whiskey or something to get even with you....”

**RICHARD F. DUMAN**, F1/c - U.S.N. R. - "Boy, here is one for the book. This noon when I got finished serving chow I came back to my hut and was standing there wondering what to do, when a voice behind me says ‘What you doing, **DICK**.’ I turned around and I'm telling you my eyes nearly fell out of my head and I was left speechless, for there stood good old **ANDY SILBERNAGEL** and with him **SCHMITTY**. Boy, I'm telling you I was never so happy. We talked all afternoon of the good old times, it's too swell a feeling to describe in words.”

**ANDREW J. SILBERNAGEL** 3 S1/c – “Just a line to let you know that we had another safe landing and everyone is feeling fine. **SCHMITTY** and I just walked in on **DICK DUMAN** and boy was he surprised. He was almost speechless but tickled to see us. We talked of home, and the home folks and **DICK** showed us his island. **DICK** has gained a little weight and looks swell.”

T/5 **BEN R. PFUND** - England - "Is it true that eggs still have shells on them in the states? Some of the boys say that everyone knows that eggs only come in tin cans and are powdered. The other boys say that they can remember when eggs came in shells. No fooling we haven't seen a real egg for ages and the powdered ones, phooey.”

**SGT JOHN WELZ** – Desert Training Center, Calif. – “We have a job to construct 10 ammunition dumps with 140 men, that shouldn't take long and then only the army can answer that. I'm nursing a sweet cold, and hot days and cold nights are no help.”

**CPL DOMINIC J. DUMAN** – “I haven't one thing to gripe about, I'm on the good old west coast. I came here on delayed transfer that gave me some time to spend at home and after a year without seeing the folks that was perfect. I had a swell present from the Etzel cousins, a record with greetings from all of them that I wore out the first day that I got it I played it so often....”

**ELMER EARL HUMBARGER**, E. M. 3/c - U.S.S, Pennsylvania - "Thanks a million [for the Bulletin]. It was an interesting afternoons reading.”

**R. W. (BOB) JAMES**, S 2/c - Norman, Okla. – “We at last had some real rain, must have been caused by so many Oregonians being in one spot praying for a little ‘Oregon Dew.’ It is about time that they sent us another Stayton man, when **VERNON BERGER** left us **EARL KIRSCH** came to stay a little matter of 18 weeks, and then came **DOUG YEOMAN** who is preparing to leave us this week.”

**BYRON W. CHAMP** MH2/c – “I am in ~~Censored~~ — somewhere. Wish I could tell you more but I can't. I'm well and busy and at times homesick, but I guess we all are.”

**SGT. T. R. LELACK** - Southwest Pacific – “I have been overseas 33 months, and I wish that I could tell you of some of my experiences but the censor and I do not see eye to eye in this matter, so you folks keep the home fires Burning and we will give them Hell over here.”

**ALBIN G. ETZEL**, S.M. 3/c - On the Sea - "This is quite a dairy country down here and they have swell cheese but they never heard of good old limburger....As far as things go here there isn't any change, one day is just like the next, you don't even realize you are floating on an almost bottomless pan of water.”

**CPL. V. J. (VINCE) ETZEL**, Alaska – “I left my old camp about three weeks ago, and on a stopover I had an appendicitis attack and I was never so glad to get a needle stuck into me so they could start cutting. Spent 10 days in the hospital but am getting around pretty good now, soreness doesn't seem to leave very fast up here, too cold or something. Seemed strange to be in a hospital and have a nurse take care of you after 15 months living as a hermit. I had to laugh when I read about **JOHN NUTTMAN**'s ‘Wugg Juice’ but I guess that most of these forsaken places are the same. Here we have a pretty good recipe that you stir up yourself if you are in good with the cooks. We call it ‘Thunder Juice’ and it's sure full of surprises. We left camp as an advanced party but it looks now as if we will bring up the rear but, we don't know where.”

**CPL RAYMOND H. HOLZFUSS** - Kearney, Neb. - "I am in the hospital for a while, had an abdominal growth removed and am getting along O.K. We have been issued our sheepskin lined clothes and they feel darn good. The units here are being rapidly broken up and a lot of the boys are going overseas, so everyone and everything is in a hurry.”

**CPL LAWRENCE K. WOLFE**, Somewhere in Italy – “One thing about Italy, I don't have to look twice to see if it is male or female. They farm here with handmade plows, and oxen are commonly used to pull the machinery, altho I see some horses. The ancient Roman ruins, and the many old castles and churches, many of them constructed of native stone and generally built on a hill, are very interesting. I visited one castle that was over 1000 years old. Everywhere is evidence of the deep religious convictions of the Catholic country, statues and crosses are most frequent along the roads. Can anyone tell me what a good bed with a mattress is like? I've slept on the ground so long that it is getting soft. On the subject of sleep, do any of you know a cure for snoring? My next door neighbor snores so loud that he threatens to shake

down my 'buddwa.' Did you ever walk in your sleep? I must have, or if I didn't the big hole moved during the night, anyway I was in the bottom of the thing, but no damage."

**CPL J. L. SHIELDS**, North Africa – "Every Arab here has a cart in which he seems to pile all his earthly goods and then jump in the middle and start to beat his poor mule. I have seen an American 'cat' plowing in a field thru which ran a Roman aqueduct over 2000 years old, and in good repair - may God grant we build a peace that will last as long as the stone aqueducts of the Romans." And a second letter says "I'd like to tell you a short story about a souvenir hunter, one G.I. found a pair of field glasses in a still smoking battlefield. Knowing the danger of picking up things he carefully tied a wire to the glasses and let out the wire to a safe place, a short trench about 20 yds. away. Resting in the trench he pulled the wire. The trench blew up, and the Germans had won in a small way. His buddy seeing what had happened figured the glasses safe and today had no hand."

**CPL GEO. L. BUTLER** - Aleutian Islands – "Censorship has been lifted so I can tell you where I am but not what I think about it. Snow and wind and ice, and snow and wind and ice - not a show, not a dance, not a girl...Mail comes thru O.K. and the Christmas packages have been arriving but so far not a single pint of whiskey and every guy has had his fingers crossed. We don't do a lot of work, mainly stand guard duty since we cleaned up the place and dug in for the winter. We have made several souvenirs from wrecked Jap material that will be interesting to bring home. We occasionally have the opportunity of attending Mass, a walk of about 2 miles over ice and snow with a strong wind blowing. That walk is penance for anything."

**PVT ANTON P. PIETROK**, Camp Roberts, Calif. – "...We have been practicing on the rifle range. I did O.K. with the M1 but not so hot with the BAR, also doing some bayonet practice and hand grenade throwing. Boy, you haven't much time to get rid of it after you pull the pin."

**FRANKLIN A. WELTER**, C.M. 3/c - Hawaii - "...I read where FRITZ LAU said that the boys in Italy don't like the strikes. Well, that goes for every man on the Islands too. It not only slows production but helps keep up German morale."

**L. O. (JIM) BOYLES**, SC 2/c – "...Christmas is over and it didn't seem like Christmas to me. Still in the same old place, and as I haven't poisoned anyone yet, they gave me 2nd class rating recently. A special 'Hello' to my fellow cook, **CHUB BERGER**."

**CPL LEO V. NUTTMAN** - South Pacific – and a second letter arrived this morning - "...moved since the last time I wrote and can tell you that I was on New Hebrides. These South Sea Islands are Hell....It was pretty rugged here for a while, but is getting better."

The Mobile Blood Bank of the Portland Chapter of the Red Cross will be at Sublimity on Monday, Jan. 24th, at which time 180 local signers will donate blood for blood plasma. Response has been splendid and the people most anxious to do their small bit in alleviating the sufferings of those in the service. The Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus are sponsoring this program.

Interest in any program for the interest of you servicemen goes far beyond any creed and we are highly indebted to the parents, the public and particularly the Ministers of the local Churches for their offer to us of help in editing this bulletin. We mention particularly Rev. Kenneth Knox, Church of Christ; Rev. J. A. Rook, Methodist Church; Rev. Willard Buckner, Baptist Church and Rev. E. A. Roys of the Assembly of God Church, as well as our Chaplain, Father Scherbring and local Catholic Pastors, Father Sniderhorn, Fathers Bauer and Schneider.

Added thanks to Bobbie Bell, our faithful printer, and Teddy Etzel, printer's devil, and trust that you will forgive our errors and sins of omissions and commissions. For your information this issue used 10,000 sheets of paper, which stacked on the floor reached to the top of Ed. Bell's Philco radio and we hope that 275 servicemen will enjoy it. *May Neitling*, Editor — *Ed Bell*, Publisher

**From Vol. 2 – No. 6, May 12, 1944**

Local News Notes

St. Mary's Catholic Church was crowded to capacity when Solemn Requiem High Mass was held for George A. Smith....In 1922, [George] with some others, organized the Stayton Canning Co. [now known as NORPAC], and he acted as field manager until 1927 when he was elevated to manager, a position he still held at the time of his death. His wife, the former Mary Doerfler, survives as do five children: Fernando Smith; Mrs. Germaine Shelton; Mrs. Zelpha Grover of Stayton; Mrs. Gertrude Pendleton of Seaside; and Walter Smith of Caldwell, Idaho.

The funeral services of Peter T. Etzel were held Monday, May 1, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Sublimity...[He] had lived in his present home on Fern Ridge for the past 51 years and...[was a] director of the Stayton Canning Co. until four years ago ill health forced him to curtail all his activities...Mr. Etzel was married to Philomena Duman of Stayton, and she with the following children survive: Leonard, Theodore, Peter A., Philomena C., Matilda of Stayton; Mrs. Kenneth (Louise) Porter of Aumsville; Albin Etzel, SM2/C, U.S. Navy; and Cpl. Vince Etzel.

The 9 room home of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Basl, on the Coon Hollow Road, was completely destroyed by fire about 9:00 o'clock in the morning of May 3. A very few items of furniture were saved, and loss was placed at \$4,000. The fire department in Stayton was contacted, but Mayor Lawrence Siegmund, carrying out an order of the town council refused to send the fire truck out. The Sublimity truck was then called and gladly responded but arrived too late to save the main building. The American Legion Auxiliary arranged a miscellaneous shower for Mr. & Mrs. Basl.

The Stayton Fire Department in an effort to place equipment at the disposal of the farmers, who after all, are an essential and integral part of this community, voted to place \$1,000 in a fund to purchase additional equipment.

Construction is going rapidly forward on the terminal being constructed for the Wright Truck Line. The frame work is up now, and finishing will go ahead immediately. The building will measure 70' along Second St. and 90' along Water St. using frame type of construction, with asbestos shake siding and an oval roof. The plans provide for office space, loading docks, storage rooms and a repair shop.

At a recent school meeting the voters authorized the purchase of the 21 acre site on W. Locust St. as an athletic field.

Harry Mason of Mill City was killed April 7th, while employed as an oiler by the Mill City Mfg. Co. His sleeve caught in a revolving pulley guard while he was standing on a stepladder in pursuance of his duties. He was whirled around the shaft his body being mangled beyond recognition.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mertz are expected to arrive very shortly from California to make their home in Stayton. They purchased the former Oliver Forrette place.

Anthony Minden received a fractured zygoma bone when hit in the left cheek by a whirling electric drill. Dr. Beauchamp stated that in all the years of his practice it was the first case of this nature he had had. Hospitalization was required.

#### AMERICAN LEGION NOTES

Hello gang,

....As a rule, “unsung heroes” are poor singers, so I am singing for a couple of them and a score of assistants...the last time your Bulletin went to the mails it was my pleasure to help assemble the finished sheets...Mrs. May Neitling and Mr. Ed Bell who read your letters, condense the contents and reprint your newsy comments; gather your local items; interview the members of the various churches and compile in the small space what I consider the finest piece of work I’ve ever seen....Ed called me up and asked me to come to his house one evening and help bind the Bulletin. I had never been to any of the final stages of getting the paper out and was amazed at the efficiency of the set up. Each page was in separate piles and the girls and Ted Etzel pranced around the long table and picked up a sheet from each pile in regular order and brought them to Ed and May who straightened and prepared them for stapling. The Chief Stapler Vincent Mertz...and his 5th assistant – yours truly – stapled the sheets together. They were folded and placed into envelopes and you know the rest.

John Nightingale...has had to paint some restricted parking signs on 3rd and Ida streets heading south because no fooling – spring is here, and the curb sitters must be shown some consideration. I don’t understand how you boys could handle the problems you are faced with if it wasn’t for this group. Of course, there are a few stuck-up ones who stand up and lean against the walls, for fear of getting wrinkles on the seat of their breeches....

George Keech’s cherry orchard is in full bloom and sure in an eye full coming down the hill from Fern Ridge or Sublimity....Dogwood, Oregon Grape, Squaw Bush and the rest of the familiar shrubs add their white, yellow, red and orange colors blending gracefully with the browns and greens.

Farmers are busy putting in their crops to assure you of a bountiful harvest this fall. Saw Lindsay Wright, falling and bucking a lone maple tree at the corner of 2nd and Water St. Van Nuys out grubbing the weeds out his cabbage patch. A lot of logging going on in Stayton...Haven’t heard any printable stories of late. I’ll have to contact some of the real storytellers.

...may God bless you – Sincerely  
CHAS. V. JOHNSON

#### SERVICE NOTES

**WILLIAM R. BUSCH** sends from the Naval Air Technical Training Center a complete booklet entitled “We Keep ‘Em Flying” and we learned a great deal ourselves and the people who have enjoyed it so far have expressed surprise at the work that you boys do. It is pretty hard for us civilians to really appreciate your task and its magnitude.

Excerpts from several letters from **FRITZ LAU** in Italy – “We are dug in like everyone else. We have what practically amounts to an underground house. Knocked off some bed springs and double decked them, electric lights, radio, stove, electric fan and two feet of dirt on the roof. You don’t need persuasion to get beneath a solid roof when the flak zips by. After living in a field for the length of time that we have you learn to make yourself as comfortable as possible. The pictures and stories in the National magazines tell an excellent story of the battle front here, much better than I am permitted to say. (This letter was from Nettuno Beachhead.) I remember a large industrial school we ransacked – a few bombs had fallen on it and killed 3 or 4 Italians – a bit smelly but it takes more than that to stop us. I still think that a

deceased cow or mule smells worse than a human. "Herman" is throwing a few big ones tonite, they make the "purtiest" Bang! Oregon and Washington predominate in this radio crew, 2 from Washington, 2 from Oregon and do we give the Easterners a bad time. A character sketch of this crew would read like the dossier of a madhouse. Plenty of mud but the snow is confined to the high ground as yet. We very definitely have Long Johns as we call them and a good thing they are. The Italian women are always willing to wash your clothes if you give them some soap. You might see some publicity on this outfit in the future – not sure – all the front line outfits get it – kind of a wait your turn proposition. Spring has arrived at this beach head where I have been enjoying a "vacation?" Just like the Fourth of July only we don't celebrate what you would call a safe or sane Fourth.... We figure we'll have to take out naturalization papers on our return home."

A recent article in the Capitol Journal and in the Oregonian told of the four Forrest Mack boys who are now in the services. These boys were all born and spent their early years in Stayton. **ROY**, 30 yrs., is now a corporal technician in the army medical corps and is stationed at Camp Santa Anita, Calif. **AUSTIN J.**, 27 yrs., has been in England for the past six months, was recently promoted to Lieutenant, and is a deputy group leader. He has taken part in 22 missions over the continent and wears the Air Force medal as well as four oak leaf clusters. Lt. **FORBES MACK**, 25, entered the Army in Feb. 1942, spent some time in the Aleutians and after graduating from officers candidate school was assigned to Camp Carson, Colo. where ski troops are stationed. **ROBERT S. MACK**, 18, enlisted in the Navy in June 1943, has attained the rank of petty officer 3/c as a gunner's mate.

Mrs. Clara Rauscher received her first letter in several months from son **RAY RAUSCHER** who is with the Secret Service, that he was in England, that he was able to be up ten minutes a day on crutches, that he had had his first glimpse of the sun in many months.

P.F.C. **CHARLES LONGFELLOW**, formerly of Mill City and whose parents now reside in West Stayton was home on a 20 day sick leave from Modesto, Ca., where he had been under treatment for malaria contracted in New Guinea.

LT. **RAY SPANIOL** son of George Spaniol, spent a recent weekend in Stayton. He has been in the hospital at Memphis, Tenn. for the past several months after serving 10 months in Africa and Italy. He went into Italy at the time of the Salerno invasion. He is to report back for duty in a few weeks.

**WALTER L. SMITH**, son of the late George Smith, has received a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and will report for special training at the University of Arizona in Tucson. It is expected that his work will be in chemistry or food inspection lines.

A commendation for "your aggressive spirit and desire to come to grips with the enemy, your coolness and fearlessness under fire...the commanding officer desires to commend you on your outstanding performance of duty..." has been given to **VILAS HAROLD**, son of Mr. & Mrs. Raleigh Harold of Stayton. During the action for which the citation was issued, enemy ships were sunk in a running night engagement fought at high speed against a heavily escorted convoy in the south Pacific area.

**FRANCIS LEFFLER**, gunners mate 3/c in service aboard merchant vessels, has chalked up about as many sea miles as any lad from Stayton. He has been around the world three times, his favorite spot on foreign soil is Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The airport is at the harbor's edge within three blocks of the city center. Bombay was "bad enough," although there were many interesting sights including the sacred cows.

**HENRY (BUD) BARKMEYER**, S2/c, spent his furlough, after completing "boot camp" at Farragut, at home...his mother said, "why, he was glad to go back, wanted to see what the future holds."

**DON BENDER** up from Texas for a brief furlough, looked well despite several weeks in the hospital battling pneumonia. His greatest disappointment, that his leave ended before **Mike Lackner** or **Andy Silbernagel** got home. In fact, I'd be tempted to stay if it wouldn't make it tough on the rest of my gang, said Don. Good Soldier, say we.

SECOND LIEUTENANT **ROY J. RICE, JR.** HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION, having failed to return from a mission over France on April 25th....He went overseas only a few weeks ago as a co-pilot of a Flying Fortress.

Word has been received from the war department by Mr. and Mrs. Otto Nelson of North Santiam that their son S/SGT **BOB NELSON** IS MISSING IN ACTION over Yugoslavia, since April 15th.

In cooperation with the war effort in the saving of gas and tires and food stuff it was voted at a special meeting of the Stayton High School Alumni association that there will be no annual homecoming this year. They did, however, say that when this war is over and victory is ours, through your efforts, that good old Stayton High School will hold one of its biggest homecomings in years. To you Alumnus who read this bulletin, claiming Stayton High as your Alma Mater, keep this in mind, hurry back to us, so we can enjoy the best homecoming of years.

#### SERVICE LETTERS

CADET **MARY BRAND** – Eugene, Ore. – “During these first seven weeks of my nurse's training I have spent most of my time studying. We also have 16 hours of “Nursing Arts” practice with patients in the hospital each week. So far I have been very lucky about caring for patients with boxes of chocolates on their bedside tables.”

SGT. **ALBERT F. BASL** – Fort Ord, Calif. – “I never thought I would say it, but I would rather be in Texas than here, and I'd rather be on the ranch running the tractor than in Texas, and I'd rather be seeing my girl again than all the rest. That is the worst of a furlough, you just get home and see and do all the familiar things than mean so much and then you are back in Camp. I returned thru Denver to Texas, saw **Georgie Basl** for a little while and had a swell visit, then was transferred here where I am still doing the same kind of work in a garage and enjoying California's famed liquid sunshine.”

**D. G. COLE**, C.C.M., Oakland, Calif. – “...Here I am in the hospital and can't get out. When I first got here they didn't pay much attention to me (I look O.K.) so I was getting along fine.... In the beginning, back in New Guinea there were no instruments when I was taken ill, so I was sent to Brisbane to have a test made there, the machine they had was out of order, and by the time they had it fixed I was ordered to the states 'for further study and final disposition.' Well, not having disposed of me, they are now starting 'further study.' One difficulty here is the constant changing of doctors. I have been in Ward 61-A now for three months and 6 days and have had 6 doctors, some of whom I never even learned their name.”

PVT **LAWRENCE B. SILBERNAGEL**, Italy – “It has been a long time since I wrote you but I really have a good excuse this time, if I could only tell you.”

P.F.C. **DONALD M. THAYER** – England – “I am in England now, and I notice by the Bulletin that several more of the boys are here too. I personally find it a lot like home, it is beautiful this time of year; the people are friendly, but seem to be living about 40 years behind our times. I think some of the other boys have mentioned the rationing here, it is surely far more strict, and many more items rationed than in the States.

**G.W. SCHACHTSICK**, Pacific Islands – "...To date I haven't seen one fellow from home, but Ed Kreitzer's outfit...but I didn't see Ed. Talked with a number of his outfit and he can be proud to be a member of such a tough outfit – I mean they can take it and dish it out and they have had a rough assignment...We have just about completed 3 months on this rock and I have read that we enjoy moonlit cocoa-nut groves. So far we haven't seen such scenery, but get plenty of hot sun, sand, dust, and strong winds to blow it in our faces...How is the election going, fellows, in your various outfits – opinion is quite divided in ours. Mine, personally, is reserved for the present."

**CLOYD CALVIN HARRELL SK 2/c** – Pacific Islands – "...I guess Spring has hit Stayton now...But as for these Solomon Islands, they never have any winter...I didn't know that it could get so hot outside of Hell...I had 14 days leave in Sydney, Australia, it is a beautiful place, and so much like the States that I think it should be called 'the little U.S.A.' About 99% of the automobiles are American made, all the movies are American, they know our movie stars as well as we do. They like Yanks over here very much, that is except the Aussie soldiers and they don't have much use for the Yanks as they take all the Aussie girls away from them. I had a hard time with the money the first couple of days and after that it was simple. I was surprised that they don't take our money in our own Canteen and Red Cross. I visited the Bank of New South Wales while I was there, one of the tellers took me thru and when I left I had many souvenir forms that they use thru-out the bank. I asked the teller, by the way, his name was Bell, how many branches they had. He said 'Not so many since the war, we have only 660 now.' I was afraid to ask him how many they had before the war – and the Commonwealth Bank is larger than the Bank of New South Wales."

**JACOB O. SIEGMUND**, A.M. 2/c – Pacific – "...I haven't sewed on any new stripes but, not bragging, I have one award that I am very proud of. I received the Presidential Unit Citation last Saturday for being on the U.S.S. Enterprise in 1941, we had a few tough times on board and it seems alright to have something to show for them..."

CPL **LEO V. NUTTMAN**, Pacific – "The Serviceman's Bulletin is interesting, but I was very glad to leave my last copy when a Jap Artillery shell came my way, and I abandoned the Bulletin for a fox-hole. The shells landed in our company but miraculously the damage was slight. Bombing raids have ceased altogether. Don't let anybody tell you that combat is fun or exciting. It isn't. Spent some time down on Guadalcanal."

**From Vol. 2 – No. 7, June-July Issue 1944**

**Honor Roll**

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

**Herbert Lulay**  
**Merrill Van Cleave**  
**Alfred Meyers**  
**Earl Thorpe**  
**Jack Berry**  
**Dale Hoeye**  
**Ralph Solbert**  
**Robert Bass**

**Milton Bell**  
**Jack Shelton**  
**Wm. Sphoon**  
**George Hallin**  
**Earl Miller**  
**Matthew Weinberg**  
**Norman Gillespie**  
**Leonard Waters**

**Missing in Action**

**Billie Huffman**

**Austin (Nitch) Mack**

SERVICE NOTES

**JACOB OLIVER (JAY) SIEGMUND**, Aviation Metalsmith's Mate 2/c has been presented with a citation in the name of the President for "outstanding performance aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise.

**LT. LEONARD WATERS** was killed in an airplane crash in India on June 14th...He had left the states on May 20th, piloting a Thunderbolt.

AMERICAN LEGION NOTES

Dearest Gang,

Here it is, summer officially arrived June 21st. Didn't seem much different than the 20th or 22nd.

Your younger brothers, sisters, cousins etc. have been busy picking strawberries, and doing right smart at it. Little Jack, barely 8, made \$4.00 one day and most of it is going into War Bonds and stamps. All along the road you see groups of eager youngsters with their mothers or older sisters and brothers awaiting the truck that will pick them up and take them to Johnnie or Ted Etzel's, to Heaters or Basl's or some of the other berry growers. Garbed in all sorts of outfits from Dad's overalls to Ma's old dresses, you remember. The season has been ideal for berries, no extreme heat, cool mornings and frequent showers.

The in between brothers and cousins are working at the cannery, and except for a few pensioners our curb sitters are noticeable for their scarcity. Really not time for any able bodied person to be standing idle. Saw Mr. Van Driesche weighing berries at the cannery platform, also Joe Spaniol emptying crates onto the belts. A great many improvements have been made at the cannery, really looks like something.

Beans are coming along fine, stringing is going on. Some haying going on but the weather has been rather unsettled until this week. Mr. Keech's cherries look fine and so do the gardens of the energetic Victory gardeners. I didn't plant much this year as I haven't much time to take care of it.

You see the Linn Lumber Co. sold out to the Mt. Jefferson Co. We finished up on Thursday and the following Tuesday Mt. Jefferson's mill burned down, or up. The Browning Amusement Co. will be here for a streamlined Bean Festival the first week of August. We are trying to keep the Festival alive till you get back. Plans are to hold open air dances at the old Tennis court near the Community Bldg., part of the proceeds to help defray some of the expenses of ye Bulletin. Ed plans on having his "jingle board" operating at the festival.

Sunday morning saw Julian DeJardin and his family making homemade ice cream. As usual Julian was doing all the hard work, ask Maxine.

Elmer Hastings, you remember good old Elmer the barber, now barbers at the shop near the fire hall, and has reconditioned the place and added a Neon sign.

Ruby Hughes the young lady who used to cheerfully serve you at the Bon Ton but for the past year has been dishing out gas ration coupons told me of an incident which occurred to her and warned me not to say a word about it and of course I won't. Ruby was on her way to work one morning and met a gentleman who was carrying a sack on his back. Ruby is quite shy and not having been formally introduced to the man merely gave him one of her million dollar smiles and in reply received a smile and, would you believe it, a full sized - oink - oink. Very much embarrassed Ruby couldn't believe her ears.

You see, the stranger's pig had gotten away and he was endeavoring to return it home in his sack. Due apologies.

Fourth of July finds us in the midst of the fracas and very fittingly the Bulletin pays tribute to all those who have sacrificed and are sacrificing everything to keep these United States what the founders meant it to be. Our trust is in God and our prayers are for you,

CHARLES JOHNSON, Adjutant

#### SERVICEMEN'S LETTER EXCHANGE

**PVT RICHARD DURRELL JORDAN** – New Guinea – “The last time you heard from me was while I was still at rest camp. I have moved twice since then and taken part in another landing here in New Guinea. These landings give a thrill within a thrill, you don't know what is going to happen until it does happen...Met **GENE RUSSELL**, I wasn't camped very far from him and I used to go over and eat good Navy chow. It was the first time since I have been in New Guinea (and that has been a long time) that I have had a beer, ice cream or Coca-Cola. I sure have to hand it to the Navy....”

**A/C RALPH LULAY** – Foster Field, Texas – “I hardly know where to start...I'm in my last month of advanced now and expect to have my wings in June, barring the unexpected; my cousin **ORVILLE LULAY** received his wings the 23rd of May; he finished at Mission, Texas, about 200 miles from here. This AT-6 is a wonderful airplane and sweet to fly. We had a low altitude cross country today at 200' – seemed just like a legal buzz job. Next a cross country at 20,000 feet. We've been doing a lot of 6 ship formation flying and the ride usually ends in a rat race.”

**1ST SGT DON D. GOODE**, U.S.M.C. – “Dear Bulletin: Have had another sea voyage – now on a different spot. Am sure Stayton fellows are here but where is my Bulletin to lend me aid in locating them? Can't do much without addresses you know. Did you get my last letter? Wrote **TECH SGT TIM DOZLER** – who's as close-mouthed as the 'Bulletin.' Come on, Tim, how about a line to me....Our news would seem to indicate that 'ole **BENNY PFUND** and a couple of dozen more Yankees have started a bang-up finale on Adolph's front stoop. Good-luck, good hunting and may success attend you, Ben. Kinda think our gang down here has Tojo in range, from radio reports that we got today – maybe Henry Ford isn't too optimistic after all. Feeling great but could do with some ice water. I won't say it is hot here, just closer to Sol than I am used to being. And I used to think bucking bales on **GEORGE BOEDIGHEIMER'S** crew made me sweat! Shucks, those were polar expeditions compared to this. The little man who turns off the light in our refrigerator had better move over when I get home. Warmly yours, Don. Hi Mom and Betty.”

**RICHARD F. DUMAN**, M1MM2/C – Pacific – “Well, I almost thought that I was going to come home last month, in fact I was really sure I was coming back but it seems like I sort of never got there for some reason or other. Maybe – next month, or the month after or maybe 6 months from now.”

**LT WILLIAM A. LAMBRECHT**, Fort Bragg, N.C. – “My letter is late but whether you know it or not you really get your [ ] worked off in this man's army. I have had my own platoon to instruct and have been on the Division Anti-Tank Testing team for the past two months...Tomorrow is another big day in the anti-aircraft range, firing the 57 M.M. Anti-tank guns at moving targets. To fire this gun costs \$50.00 and we have to blast 1000 rounds tomorrow.”

**T/SGT NORBERT (DUBS) DOZLER**, Alexandria LA – “...Of the original forty crews (400 men) that I used to fly with there are only 6 known to be alive – 2 in England and 4 in the States. Two more I have never heard from. The last word that I got from the mother of our original tail gunner – he got his over Bulgaria. Had four German ships to his credit tho. There is a lot of forgotten heroism here at our field

even, everything except the Congressional Medal. It doesn't seem to mean much to the natives here, our boys are still kicked around...and the prices charged in this town are past being criminal. I read in the bulletin where the boys would like to be back in the States, I see how they react when they do come back. In their own home town where they are known they receive a truly and justified welcome but outside of that – just another damn soldier. The West Coast, thank God, has a good reputation and I hope they keep it clean. Still prefer Shepherd Field to any I have seen. Haven't done any flying since last October.... I lose a man to the hospital every now and then, our mosquitoes against whom we have no protection except killing have soon infected by malaria from all the corners of the earth. Parasite medicine shall certainly be a problem to the doctors after the war. I'd like to say right here that I was very glad to hear from **D.G. (DANIEL) GOODE**, good luck to you fellow, and **BOOTS LAMPMAN**, lucky you, in the Navy. They really make one work in this outfit, it's really rough when some second looie – usually about 19 yrs. of age – tells you what a poor soldier you are. Don't they ever learn that they can't scare anyone. Used to say that the P.F.C.'s and the second louies would win this war, seems the P.F.C. are smarter these days and enjoy the struggle with us on the sidelines. Sorry if I've tread on some officer's toes but remember your appointment reads "acting temporarily" like the rest of us and maybe before long we'll all be in the same chow line together – minus uniform. Glad to hear some of the boys are getting advancements....Don't ask me how the ratings are handed out in the army, every time I recommend a good P.F.C. or a Corporal they hand the rating to some jerk who should be on permanent K.P. Have men in my bunch who are really good and have sweated out a corporal's rating longer than the man who O.K.'s the recommendation has been an officer. If anyone can figure a solution to this they deserve a medal. So you see why it is hard for me to write a letter, when I know who is staking their whole life on a chance that isn't worth a plugged nickel. Some theaters of action are less dangerous than the others, and here in Louisiana, where we haven't passed the pages of the civil war in our history, the least danger of all – yet I surely wish this mess were over with. The infractions in the ranks of labor are most prominent but large manufacturers certainly don't keep their houses any cleaner. Too bad too, as there will be a lot of answers the fellows will want to know later."

LT **ALBERT DOZLER**, Arlington, Cal. – "We have around 500 Italian prisoners at camp now. Albert extracted 21 teeth for them one day. The next day some of them came back with the group that were to be taken care of that day, pointed to Albert and said 'Go-Him-Good.' Albert got quite a kick out of it. We haven't seen anyone from around Stayton in the camps here but the 'Welcome' mat is always out. **ANDREW FERY** was here to see us on 2 different occasions and we enjoyed having him...Bryce and Albert just came back from a baseball game, Red Ruffing, pitcher, Harry Danning, Catcher and Stevens first base, all from the National League. Said Stevens was outstanding. 'Doc' & Dora."

T/SGT **ANDY J. SLAVKOVSKY** – South Pacific - "Nothing out of the ordinary this time. One just goes on existing, existing, and working and waiting. The heat, mosquitoes and the sea are always with us. I feel rather beat up tonight for I've had a hard week and to top it off I got rained out of my bed last night, so I'll cut this short."

T-3 **FREDERICK (FRITZ) LAU** – Italy – "A tardy letter for the bulletin from a beach head G.I. and a photo of the writer in his favorite corner. (The snap, an excellent one, showed Fritz surrounded by uncountable radio gadgets.) I have received all the Bulletins to date and enjoy the letter column, particularly those who write of their African experience. What a lovely place, North Africa. The only mosquitoes in the world that carry flares on a mission and destroy your protective net with incendiaries. Where the flies share your food and the lizards your bed. The huge pile of straw or brush moving mysteriously down the road with an Arab woman or mule at the core. I never decided which could carry the heavier load. The magical metamorphosis of tin cans in the hands of Arab artisans. The greedy natives who excavate sump holes immediately the troops leave an area and the unpleasant mistakes they occasionally make. The utilitarian role of the famed Arabian robe including that of a portable outhouse. The nocturnal habits of the natives and their mysterious appearance in the most desolate and apparently

uninhabitable country. The amusing mixture of slang and oaths the native children picked up from the G.I.'s and the amazing rapidity with which they learned. The sharp practices of the tradesman which sometimes rebound – one chap in this company purchased a helmet full of walnuts and on discovering that most were spoiled persuaded the salesman to eat the lot. A motley variety of watches displayed by one peddler and how I used to incur his ire by sorting out the good ones for my friends. We always set price ceilings on eggs, oranges and other edibles. The French roads that reverse the old theory that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. Charcoal burning vehicles and the horrible odor from the exhaust plus the fact that French drivers are madmen. Erosion control in the hill country that might open the eyes of some U.S. farmers. A camel and a horse working side by side in a field, some of the beautiful stonework by the native masons. Enough of Africa and on to a few random observations... The ghost city of Palermo at night a few hours after surrender. The tree ripened lemons and the white grapes on the North Coast of Sicily. Many of you have probably read of the rough sea encountered by the invasion fleet during the Africa to Sicily crossing – I had the ill fortune to be a passenger on an LCT, the roughest riding craft of the lot. The other night our artillery dropped some extra big shells on the Kraut lines – the Krauts thinking an air raid was in progress opened up with an AA barrage. Ernie Pyle, one of the few columnists who rates ace high with the front line soldier, his stories of the beach head are excellent. One of the boys on hearing one of the Kraut shells whistle by said ‘Gosh, that was a tired old shell’ – the big ones sort of sigh, hard to describe....Time to retire to the cave so – Auf Wiedersehen, Fritz”

**OMER J. (BUD) ROBERTS** – Bremerton, Wash. – “I’m still at Bremerton doing shore patrol duty...and it’s really a job putting in 48 hours of this duty a week besides our drills, classes, etc. I’ll be leaving for an unknown destination in about three weeks, makes me realize how lucky I have been to stay here so long.”

**CPL LAWRENCE M. WOLFE** – Italy – “I might mention that should some of the boys coming home from overseas duty fail to have table manners that Emily Post might expect, don’t hold it against them. After all – 2 and 3 years on the ground with a spoon and out of cans make a difference. Never in my life had I heard a real genuine live cuckoo bird until a few days ago. For two days I wondered where or who had a cuckoo clock that went off at 6 A.M., on the third morning discovered the bird.”

**T-3 FREDERICK G. (FRITZ) LAU** - “The beachhead boys generated a high head of steam in those four months and couldn’t be stopped when the word came to go. One saw such destruction inflicted on the German Army in Tunisia but here was terrific. A Junkman’s paradise. I’ve spent enough time in Rome to gain a fair impression of the city and to hit the historical high spots. Only the outskirts of the city and the rail yards were damaged – as far as I know nothing of historical importance was harmed...I had the pleasure of visiting St. Peter’s Cathedral...I know little of the Catholic religion, and cannot understand the significance of many things that I saw but can appreciate in my small way the artistic quality of the work that has been done in this building....Rome itself is the most modern and progressive city that I have seen over here, the people are a bit hungry but have not suffered as some of their neighbors. I wish I could put on paper some of the experiences we have had in the past few months. I’ve been amused, astounded, amazed and just plain scairt....Best wishes from a Romini’ G.I., Fritz”

**CLOYD CALVIN HARRELL**, S.K. 2/c – South Pacific – “The Invasion news is good news for all Democratic people as is the news on all other fronts, but at the same time you can’t help from thinking of all the kids that are being killed in this so called “Good News.” Things are certainly looking better for us every day and I don’t think the Japs or Germans are going to enjoy the next six months, if it is at all within the power of the Yanks and their Allies to have it otherwise – and I think it is within their power.”

**GILBERT W. SCHACHTSICK** – South Pacific - “Our days here are numbered and of course we are in a jovial mood. I hope it will ultimately lead us back to the States and to Stayton for me. Being confined

to such a small area for five months begins to get monotonous. It is rather amusing at times to get a report of the gripes of some of the outfits now coming in on relief – with most everything set up to make living conditions comfortable. Our job has been much longer than anticipated and considering our setback I think a swell job was done. Let us all hope and pray that this mess will soon be over and we can return to the best place in the world – the U.S.A.”

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WITH THE FIFTH BOMBER COMMAND AT AN ADVANCED BASE IN NEW GUINEA – Keeping Uncle Sam’s fighting planes in flying condition is an important job in this theatre, and the ground crew service men whose task it is to service the big bombers are breaking maintenance records every day. One of these men, M-SGT **HENRY A. DUMAN**, 24, of Rt. 1, Scio, is a flight chief in the squadron that had a greater percentage of aircraft available for combat during the month of April than any other squadron in the fifth bomber command. As a flight chief, Sgt. Duman superintends maintenance work done by the crew chiefs and mechanics of three A-20 bombers in his unit, the Heart squadron of “The Roaring 20’s” group. As a result of the maintenance record he helped establish during April, the “Roaring 20’s” were enabled to strike heavily at Jap strongholds in this theatre during the final rounds of the New Guinea campaign. Ninety two per cent of the Heart Squadron’s aircraft were available for flight during that month and 59 per cent were employed on 192 sorties over enemy territory. SGT. DUMAN joined the army Oct. 13, 1942 and was assigned to the “Roaring 20’s” when the group was activated in Oct. 1942. He is a graduate of the airplane mechanics school at Sheppard Field, Texas. Before the war, he worked in the woods, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Duman of Scio, two brothers **Richard** of the Navy and **Edward** of the Paratroops are also in overseas duty.

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#### **From Vol. 2 – No. 8, August 1944 Issue**

IT’S HARVEST TIME IN OREGON and from Fern Ridge where echoes the sound of Teddy Etzel’s threshing machine, to West Stayton where uncounted numbers of men, women and children gather tons of beans every day, to the Stayton Cannery where during the day and through the long night hours the crops are packed (over one-half of it for consumption by our armed forces and allies), is evidence of the climax of the year, the harvest season.

Mingled with the sorrow that time and war inevitably bring is our knowledge that it has, after all, been a good year. Crops have been bountiful, and much activity has marked our daily paths.

Peak of the summer season is the Santiam Bean Festival, well attended this year, and the Browning Amusement Co., brought in two acres of fun and merriment, with the Saturday night dance the largest social gathering in the Santiam valley for a long, long time.

With leaves beginning to turn and restriction on ammunition being loosened a little, “Hunting Season” is now being eagerly looked forward to.

***Soldier rest! thy warfare o’er,  
Dream of fighting fields no more;  
Sleep thy sleep that knows not breaking,  
Morn of toil, nor night of waking.***

**1st Lt. Billie Huffman** reported missing in action over Denmark on February 20th, has been killed in action according to official word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Huffman of Rt. 1, Stayton.

**PFC Elmer Smelser** was killed in action in the South Pacific area, according to telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Smelser of Aumsville. No details were given. Elmer was a former student of the Stayton schools and was serving in the Marines.

**Dale Berry, F.C. 2-C** was killed in an accident at Pearl Harbor, July 23, 1944. No details were given. He was 26 years of age and enlisted from Mill City on Jan. 6, 1942.

**Pvt. Harold Robbins** was killed in action July 17th while serving with the Army Medical Corps in Italy. Born at Turner and a student of the Marion grade and Aumsville High Schools. He entered the service on November 1, 1942. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Robbins.

#### **MISSING IN ACTION**

**2nd Lt. Robert Inglis** is missing in action near Corsica according to a war department telegram received by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Ward Inglis of Stayton. Date of the action was given as July 20th, and no further word has been received.

#### **WOUNDED IN ACTION**

**Sgt. Lyle Ray** was slightly wounded in France (shot through the shoulder), and is now in a hospital in England according to a telegraphic advise received by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Louie Ray, Rt. 1, Scio.

**Pvt. William Holtorf** of the first special service force, was wounded on May 28th in Italy and is hospitalized there. Pvt. Holtorf entered the service in May, 1942 and served in Alaska before going to Italy. Mrs. Holtorf and daughter reside in Stayton.

**VERL TODD SHELTON** underwent his fourth critical operation in recent months at the Veterans Hospital in Portland.

**D. GEORGE COLE**, recently honorably discharged by the Navy Seabees, has been employed by the city as marshal and has assumed his duties.

Gilbert Wourms has re-opened his meat market in the Klecker building after being closed for two years due to wartime necessity.

George H. Bell, Stayton realtor, held lucky ticket No. 44932 in a war bonds sale promotion drive, and now is driving a shiny 1942 Chevrolet.

The City Council has authorized the purchase of 200' of new fire hose, with the addition of this footage, aged hose will be transferred to the hose cart, providing 450' thereon, for use in emergencies that might arise, such as the big truck being out of town. Chief Chris Neitling reported that whenever the truck leaves town the cart will be hitched onto a motor vehicle and parked at the city hall ready for any call.

Controversy that has been going on for months is reaching an equitable solution with the council and the fire department meeting together and working out their differences. The council voted to allow the fire truck to go to the aid of outlying districts, chief point in the differences of opinion between the two groups, and both have pledged themselves to work together to make the plan a success. We are glad to see this move, as we are a little community and only by working together can we be the successful community that we want to be.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Geil had their car stolen from in front of their home between 11:00 P.M. and 12:30 Tuesday night. Mrs. Geil told Marshall Cole that she heard the dog barking vigorously but had assumed that he would scare the prowlers away. The ignition key was in the car. The car was located in a garage at Rainier, Ore. a total wreck, evidently having been turned completely over. The car is now being searched for fingerprints.

Pilfering of the cannery workers cars has become a serious problem, gas, lunch pails, coats, gloves, and valuable records have been taken from the cars parked at the cannery.

#### AMERICAN LEGION PAGE

Dearest Gang,

With the Fourth of July past and also the Bean Festival is now history again, ye scribe has a hard time figuring where to start. The Fourth was celebrated very serenely with no fireworks, and very little noise. Most folks spent the day at home, a few ventured to the beaches and many of Stayton's folks were at Salem where a celebration was held. Browning had their concessions, Merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, etc. It also was a crowning event in the County wide Bond Drive, Marion County going over the top on this date. For Stayton it was also quite a day, because our good friend George Bell, the guy who runs the best real estate office in town, won the main prize - a 1941 Chevrolet - taking it away from Salem. We were proud. George was so excited when he appeared on the platform to acknowledge his appreciation, durned if he didn't jab his chew of snooze into the microphone instead of his mouth, George isn't a bit selfish with [his new car], he will let you look at it.

Plans were formulated to hold the Bean Festival and it takes a lot of work to get this activity moving, especially with the world in chaos as it is today. The Festival committee, under the guidance of Irwin Parberry, President, and Mrs. Lorraine Brown (Albus), Secretary, started the program rolling by having the Browning Amusement Company bring in their group, which was largely augmented by numerous concessions. The Firemen and Legion joined in the operating of the hamburger stand. No ration points on hamburgers or hot dogs. Ed Bell had his jingle board proceeds going towards the mailing and expense of this Bulletin. To me, the efforts of May and Ed will always be the greatest contribution toward a civic deed, and I'm sure 362 of you in the service will agree with me. No thought of personal gain or reward, just an unselfish application of time and money so that you may be closely tied with your own beloved community. Nationwide notice will be made of the fact starting as a 1-page circular in 1942, until now it is the 36 page periodical you receive. Big cheer to Bobbie Bell for cranking out 25,000 sheets for each issue.

Getting back to the Festival, the town turned out en-masse (Ed says bunch would have sounded just as well,) and laid the favorite dance floor for the third time on the old tennis court. Joe Fisher was in there supervising the job, and Joe supervises - he does just that. After the sections were in place Joe found out that some of the boards were missing and realizing even if the dancing would be fast, a few of our friends might fall, so we started scouring the county for flooring. Earl Smith, who runs the

Freres Building Supply (most of you remember it as the Murphy Gardner Lumber Co.) didn't have any. Angus Ware being chairman of the dance committee put his scouts to working. One bundle was found in Albany, Ted Freres had 2 boards in his basement and I found a bundle in Dallas, so the floor got put together. One casualty occurred during the floor laying, the fire truck drove over a cat and killed it dead. Must have been its 9th life. Professor Ayers got a sliver off a shovel handle and Virg Tuel nearly singed his curly locks with the torch. He was burning the weeds with a blow torch. After the arduous task, out of nowhere appeared a case of beer.

Opening night was a good one....Harry Humphreys was pink lemonade king, Chris Neitling was big chief. John Christenson was onion grinder upper; Oscar Hagen, coffee maker, Fred Dickman, hamburger maker after, Harry Stupka frizzled the dissected bull meat on a hot plate, Virg Tuel appropriately manned the hot dog spot. The other nights valiant crews of firemen and Legionnaires manned the stand and coupled with Ed's high class advertising and his relief man, Marc Landon, kept the crowd informed of its delicacies. Proved a very successful venture as did all the other concessions. Dances were held on Thursday and Saturday and were well attended, especially the Saturday night one. Then, weather permitting, we are putting on one for the benefit of the Bulletin. So let's hope it doesn't rain. I could go on for weeks about the festival, but I'm afraid we had better switch to something else.

The curb is lined from Matthews corner clear down to Frey's grocery with old curb sitters and they have signed up some new ones as there are a lot of strange faces among the dear gang. Seems funny to see John Nightingale behind the counter in Siegmund's market, but we wish him well in his new venture. Stayton loses a swell cop. His successor is Geo. Cole, recently discharged from the Sea Bees, has taken over the job and we feel certain he will make good. By the way he is joining our Post as a member. Lindsey Wright has his new terminal completed and it sure looks swell. Doc Fehlen is up town a great deal of late and I asked him for a remedy for a cold. He told me to go home, take off my shoes and sox, fill my mouth with cold water, place my feet by an electric heater, remain in this position till the water in my mouth boils. Sure is a cure for colds.

Was lunching in a restaurant the other day, and was hoping the raucous tones of the Juke box would end, when suddenly the notes of a new song sounded. Perhaps I was a bit sentimental, but the words of this song stuck in my memory as one of the most beautiful thoughts that could be conveyed. The song was "As Long as I have you". The boys and girls in uniform are sacrificing their all so it remains for us to be true to them.

Coming over the hill from Salem, you know where you break over the brow and a panorama of the Santiam Valley, the Waldo and Silverton Hills appear in view, one is filled with many emotions. At this time of year the golden fields of grain vie with the growing corn, the brown plowed fields and a background of darker green produced by the firs, cedars and hemlocks. A few splotches of red is shown by the vine maple. It makes one feel small in the presence of our Creator. Colors and conditions no mortal can match.

More reports later in next issue.

So long for now,

CHARLES V. JOHNSON

#### SERVICE NOTES

M/SGT **WILLIAM F. [SNOOKS] BASL**, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Basl of Rt. 1, Stayton, is serving with a B-24 Liberator squadron that has been cited for "distinguished and outstanding performance of duty in completing 30 aerial combat missions against the enemy without loss of an aircraft or crew. Many

of these missions were accomplished in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire and formidable opposition from enemy fighters. "The tenacity of purpose and exemplary efficiency displayed by both ground and combat forces of the squadron reflects great credit upon themselves, the squadron, and the United States Army Air Force," the citation continues. M-Sgt. Basl is a member of the engineering department in the squadron; has been one year overseas; made a trip to North Africa with the group, also stationed in Iceland for short period. Crew chief on the Liberator "Eleanor," which has completed 25 missions without turning back. One other brother in the service **ALBERT BASL** of Fort Ord, Calif.

MRS. **ROBERT NELSON** of North Santiam received the first direct communication from her husband, a prisoner of Germany since early April.

PFC **HAROLD LONGFELLOW** writes his parents that he is now on Saipan. This was the first letter they have had since February. Harold's explanation was that "I can't write and shoot Japs at the same time, so I'll shoot the Japs first."

PVT **LAWRENCE KIRSCH**...was lucky enough to have his furlough coincide with his birthdate and his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Kirsch entertained 26 young people to honor the occasion.

**WILSON STEVENS**...was on the U.S.S. Block Island when it was sunk by a direct hit by two torpedoes. At that time the Block Island had a record of 18 sure kills and 12 probables and they sank the submarine that fired on them before abandoning ship. They were picked up and landed in Casablanca. Wilson had on fatigue clothing, one 5 cent piece in his pocket and a waterproof watch (that stood the test) that had been his wife's Christmas present.

Mrs. Alvin Schmitt...brought son **ALVIN SCHMITT JR.**'s last letter in, written Somewhere in France it reads: "...This morning I was riding along in a Peep, I was watching the vehicles and the Units they were from, as usual. All of a sudden, to my surprise, I saw a vehicle from the outfit that **ED ZIMMERMAN** and **VINCE STARR** are in. Quick as a flash, I looked up on the back of the truck, and then I really did get a surprise, as Ed was sitting right on the back end. Both of us saw each other at exactly the same time, and I'm telling you both of us started moving. By this time the Peep driver knew what was going on and we turned back to where Ed was. He is still the same old Ed and looks very well. I asked about Vince and he said that he was O.K. and that his part of the outfit had passed thru that part of the country the day before. By this time the vehicle that Ed was riding in had to move on, so we parted almost as fast as we met. At least we had 5 minutes together, altho as I sit here writing you it seems that we were together for only a few seconds. I enjoyed seeing and talking to him more than I can tell you."

**RAY STEFFES** was chosen as a member of the Honor Guard on the occasion of President Roosevelt's recent visit to that Island base. He had a good "look-see" at our commander-in-chief.

**ALBERT BASL** slipped into his home one night while the folks were in Stayton, and went upstairs to bed thinking to give them a surprise. When the younger brothers returned they were warned to keep quiet and tried, but they were so full of questions and so much whispering went on that Mother became suspicious and went upstairs to see what all the disturbance was. We saw Albert and his fiancée Philomena Etzel at the carnival one night, and Phil's looks were testimony of her pleasure in having Al home, even for ten days.

From the FORT ORD PANORAMA, received from **ALBERT BASL** - "Pvt. Bert Sather of Tacoma, Wash., a paratrooper who fought in Sicily and on the Normandy beachhead without receiving a scratch, has been returned to London for hospitalization as the invasion's oddest casualty. A cow fell on him in a fox hole."

“Announcement is made of the award by the Theater Commander of the LEGION OF MERIT to... **FREDERICK G. LAU**, Signal Corps, Technician Third Grade, Third Signal Company, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 8 November 1942 to 15 January 1944, during the Moroccan, Sicilian, and Italian Campaigns. Lau...not only performed in a superior manner in his normal duties in the radio repair section, but also further distinguished himself by notable achievement on his own initiative. He made possible the repair of badly needed radios and mine detectors, which otherwise would have been useless, by first making the necessary parts for and repairing a wrecked generator of foreign make, thus providing the necessary power for this and other essential work...His devotion to duty and skillful performance aided immeasurably in keeping in operation much vital field equipment. By Command of Major General O’Daniel”

#### SERVICE LETTERS

**PVT DONALD A. BENDER**, Camp McCoy, Wis. – “I received my Bulletin and to my surprise saw **GEORGE BASL**’s name in it. I took off for his outfit and found him in the P.X. refreshing himself with a good cold bottle of Schlitz. I had him swamped for a bit. We didn’t know each other too well at home but, believe me, we got acquainted fast.”

**CHARLES F. MIELKE**, S1/C – Submarine Div. – Address X – “...I’m slowly getting used to living out of a can and the thing that I miss most is fresh milk. I guess if I ever get back to the good ole’ U. S. A. I’ll buy a cow and get drunk (on milk I mean). I thought **FRITZ LAU**’s letters were excellent, he should have been a writer instead of a spark chaser. I’m not bothered by the female sex at all, there just ain’t any to bother me. All we can do is look at pin-ups and dream.”

T/5 **BEN PFUND** – Somewhere in France – “...This is certainly beautiful country but it has been really torn up by bombs and big guns. Some of the towns are knocked flat. You should see the equipment that the Jerrys had to leave behind. The fields, the woods and the towns are simply loaded with it...”

1ST SGT **DON D. GOODE**, S.W. Pacific – “...Spent yesterday...back in the jungle, looking over evacuated Jap camp sites. Have a Jap sniper’s .25 caliber rifle and some ‘live’ ammunition for same – have a bit of ironic action in mind for a little later! Our gang gives out with good news from France – hope we can put out some from here in near future. Saipan is secure and a good step nearer ‘Destination Tokyo!’ Get on the ball **TIM DOZLER!**”

**VIRGIL EUGENE SCHUETZ**, S.O.M. 3/C – S.W. PACIFIC – “We have about cleaned up the present area, but will probably move on to keep the little yellow devils on the run. We are getting a little relaxation now which is really good for the nerves...I was very sorry to hear of the death of LT. **LEONARD WATERS**...he was one swell guy. Glad to hear that **DICK O’CONNOR** made it home on leave. He certainly put in his time to earn it...This operation was a new and sometimes pretty rugged experience for me, but I have learned you can’t give these little sons of heaven any chance at all. Believe me, we are not giving them even a slim chance here...”

SGT **JOHN R. NUTTMAN** – India – “...Can’t say exactly where I am but it has been a hot place lately – both ways. Quieter now, only a light raid once in a while...We have our mascot now, a baby monkey, took a couple of days to tame it, but now you can’t keep it away. It will ride on your shoulder and hang on to your hair...I have been in three years this month and it is over a year since I had a furlough. I hope I don’t have to put in a full two years, there is too much in that little town of Stayton that I am missing.”

**PVT WM. H. HAMBY** – Europe – “It is very hard to write about anything other than the fact that I am still O.K. We are just a little busy taking care of a few accumulated details on this half of the earth.

Reading the Bulletin is just like walking down Main Street and 'shooting the breeze' with everybody you know."

**RICHARD J. MCRAE**, M.M. 2/C – New Guinea – "...we just recently landed on our new base, spelled with a capital N in Dutch New Guinea. There are still plenty of Sons of the Rising Sun around. At the time of the invasion the Japs left in a hell of a hurry, and didn't have time to take their supplies and provisions along. So due to a shortage of smoking tobacco, we were issued Jap cigarettes."

S/SGT **ERNEST E. HUNT**, Salina, Kansas – "...I'm flying with the new B-29 now, it is a fine ship and I feel certain will bring about the downfall of Japan sooner than we expect, and that is all I can say about it. I hope all the boys are doing well and have lots of luck."

**ALFRED V. AMOS** – South Pacific – "I'm writing this at sea, and the rolling of the ship makes it difficult...I'm chief cook on this ship and everything has been going well, in fact some of the boys are getting fat, so guess that I will get by. Sure wish I was there in Stayton right now...I'll tell you about the trip when I get back."

LT. **FRED A. LINDEMANN**, England – "...Everyone is very anxious to know 'how are the folks and everything back in the States' and do they still know there is a war on or are they still striking?' That question has been asked me by nearly every one I have talked to."

LT. **DAREL D. LEWIS**, Italy – "...Since I left Fresno I've sure been on the go. To Lincoln, Neb.; to Boise, Idaho; to Topeka, Kansas to the New England States. I am now the co-pilot of a big shiny ----, I'm not too strong for being a co-pilot but someone has to sit in the right seat, so it is O.K. I only wish I could introduce my crew to Stayton. I've heard of cooperation and mutual respect and feeling between the members of combat crews but was never able to comprehend it until I became part of one. There are ten of us altogether and a sweller bunch of men were never born. It gives you a feeling of what we are fighting for, everyone was a stranger to each other 3 months ago, don't cross one now or you have 10 soldiers to whip. I think it is the greatest organization that I have ever been a part of."

SGT **DON HANKEL**, Harlingen, Texas – "...I have my right hand cut rather badly – bandage makes writing a little difficult. I won't get the Purple Heart for it either as I received it by falling on a broken beer bottle....I am a flight engineer on a B-24 and am to take my gunnery training here preparatory to going across."

LT. **RUFINA C. PARRISH [SILBERNAGEL]**, England – "...Been out biking a couple of times lately, usually cycle through some small village and visit the old church there. This country was apparently pretty well covered by the Augustinian Friars about the 11th century, altho now these buildings are Church of England. Gives one an almost queer feeling to wander thru their churchyards and find headstones of people whose lives were lived before we were even more than a few struggling colonies....One building was built in the 1100's and the poor box was inscribed 1043...."

SGT **JOHN WELZ** – Somewhere in France – "...I guess the war is progressing as well as can be expected, at least that is what I read in a paper I managed to get my hands on, once in a while I hear the war news over the radio but such luxuries are few and far between. I'm getting used to living in a fox hole. I never felt more like a worm in my life. Mother Nature certainly affords a good shelter when one is needed."

T/5 **GEORGE E. BASL**, Camp McCoy, Wisc. – "I met **DONALD BENDER** thru the Bulletin, that is he found me. I hadn't read my copy and didn't know he was here. It was a real surprise, we had a nice visit and then I called on him tonight and we are planning a weekend liberty together. Several of us were

invited to a house party Saturday night and a beach party Sunday in Milwaukie. This is the best serviceman's town I have ever been in. The girls are nice, and really treat a fellow swell. How can we complain when those guys over there are doing such a swell job. I hope I get to go over and build a few bridges for them."

**GILBERT W. SCHACHTSICK**, S.K. 1/C – Hawaii – "We are back in Honolulu again...Needless to say we are glad to be off the rock where we spent five long months. Back to civilization and much better food – and much more of it. We surely made gluttons of ourselves the first day we had fresh lettuce – something that we had not had since we left. Our trip back took longer than we anticipated but was pleasant except for being very crowded. Brought back a number of Marines wounded on Saipan. It surely must have been tough going there and it will be much tougher from here on....My desire to get home to my family has doubled, but if we make it in 1944 we will be lucky...."

**T/SGT ANDY J. SLAVKOSKY**, South Pacific – "...Wish I could tell you more of the story side, but then I'd have an argument with the censor and those arguments are strictly one sided. Still, if you have been following the papers well, you have the general idea. Still healthy and beginning to cast an occasional covetous thought into the future where my furlough glimmers like a thin spring moon. And it most likely will be spring before I get home. It sure is going to be a strange experience. Thought the Honor Roll front page appropriate and to the point – even if it does hurt, it's a proud roll."

**CPL CHET REYNOLDS**, South West Pacific – "Things have been happening pretty fast the past three months. I am in action, and so far everything is O.K., with nothing much to worry about. I hope the old town is the same as when I left, for that is the way I want to find it when I come back. Hoping that is not too long."

**RT. REV. MSGR. E.J. FLANAGAN**, Boys Town, Nebraska: "I very much appreciate your kindness in sending me a copy of your local servicemen's bulletin, sent through your Knights of Columbus council. It was a fine little paper, and I can well realize how much it means to those boys who are away from home and hungry for news of the little things that are going on in their old community and among their old friends. I enjoyed reading it, and want to thank you for the privilege of having seen it. With kind personal regards and best wishes."

#### **From Vol. 3 – No. 1, November-December Issue, 1944**

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**PRIVATE NORVAL V. CARTER**...was killed in action on October 24 on Leyte.

**T-5 LEONARD F. LULAY**...was seriously wounded in fighting in France...and died the same day as wounded....His cousin **Herbert** was the first casualty from this valley.

**S-SGT CLEMENS LAMBRECHT**...died on Oct. 9, 1944 from injuries received Oct. 8.

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#### Local News Items

Florent Frichtl, 15, was seriously injured in a hunting accident during the deer season and after several weeks stay in the Salem Hospital is now at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland for observation. Ralph Geil, Gregory Frost, Ronald Van Handel, Robert Juel and Rev. Louis Radakowski were in the group.

Stayton's quota in the Sixth War Loan is \$100,000.

Dogs are now free to roam the Stayton streets from Sept. 1 to Mar. 31, by a 3 vote margin in the recent election.

Wilbur Porter has modernized and rearranged his radio shop. The record department is now in modern self-service cabinets. Miss Zola Morgan of Salem is clerk, and Ernst Lau carries on in the repair shop.

Mrs. Mike (Mathilda) Neitling, 54, died Monday, Nov. 20th while en route to a Salem hospital. . . .son **ALOYSIUS** [is] a prisoner of war of Japan since the fall of the Philippines [and] is now in Hoten Prisoner of War Camp in Manchukuo, Japan. Another son **LEE** was killed when on a routine flight from McChord Field. It was a source of grief to the family that the first communication in over a year from Al should have arrived two days after his mother's death.

On November 22nd at 8:30 o'clock at a nuptial high mass, Muriel Gries and Walter Hafner exchanged their marriage vows at St. Boniface Catholic Church, before an altar decorated with mountain fern and chrysanthemums. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Gries and the groom the son of Mrs. Elizabeth Hafner and the late John Hafner. The bride's twin sister, Marcella, was maid of honor, and her other two sisters Marjorie and Donna Lou, and the bridegroom's twin sister Mrs. Juanita Lahr were her other attendants. Best man was Max Hafner, brother of the bridegroom. Frank Lahr, Ted Etzel and Richard Cremer were ushers. Servers of the mass were twin brothers of the bride, Jackie and Jimmie Gries.

During this week the Switchboard officers at Stayton purchased a new \$3,000 electric dual switchboard, which will be delivered from Chicago within 180 days. It is a dual board so that two operators can work at the same time. Josephine and John Brand our local operators are very pleased as it will speed up the efficiency of their work at least 50%. The old board is too small for the large volume of new business.

#### AMERICAN LEGION NOTES

##### Merry Christmas!

Scattered all over the globe the thoughts of the entire community are with you and we are eagerly awaiting your return. It is much easier for us to keep our chins up and our privations are not worth mentioning when compared with yours.

December entered with real spring-like weather and really doesn't seem possible that the temperature can remain so high. Bought me a gallon of anti-freeze but haven't used it yet. We had about a week of cold weather, but since then it has been warm.

Was in the Rendezvous (I wish Matthieu had called it something else,—I can't spell the word) and overheard one of the curb-sitters talking to himself. Finally another C.S. came in, listened awhile and walked over to C.S. #1, who was everlastingly spouting off. "Henry, what are you talking to yourself so much?" - "I'm not talking to myself, I am talking to the O. P. A. [Office of Price Administration]."

The streets are cleared for parking now and we will be awaiting the return of spring for our beloved gang to line the curbs again. The greatest philosophy is taught by these folks, and we love them. Lives are relived, memories kept alert by recounting the experiences of the past, tears are brushed away as if by magic, and the comedy and tragedy of life are brought out by these characters whom we all know and revere. What would any American town of our size be without the ex-storekeeper, the retired farmer, doctor, painter and all the rest who make up Elmwood or in our case - Stayton.

A great deal of potential expansion is expected for Stayton and vicinity. Mt. Jefferson Lumber Co. is speeding their mill to completion and numerous logging outfits are operating. The Cannery did a land-

office business and Vince Mertz doesn't know this but he has started something in my young life. You see he has been asking me to help him on the stapling of these Bulletins and I have been watching the operation closely. I believe after a couple of years, he will let me help him on it. Marc Landon, of course, couldn't keep his hands off the machine and made me very envious.

Francis O'Connor is looking chipper as usual. Ran onto C. A. Beauchamp in the Bon Ton one evening. He wanted to eat something but didn't know what. The girls suggested everything from pep Wheaties on up. "No, no, I guess not," says C.A. "how about an omelet?" Fine. Checking up, the girls on duty didn't know how to make one. After coming out of a huddle, they held another consultation. Finally, Babe Willadson, chief chef and manager showed up and an omellette was stewed. Come to find out C. A. wasn't sure if he wanted it or not, anyway he was forced to eat it.

We have some good duck hunters here, and also some good game wardens — someday you'll know about this. I bought me a B.B. gun so am rehearsing on my farm. Chris Neitling suggested I get a machine gun for the pheasants and ducks.

The lights are on at Doc Smith's place all the time now so beer must be flowing more freely. It's nice to see all the places lit up (with lights, I mean) and Stayton is a dandy place...I have my heart there.

I am curious to know how, when and where you will be celebrating your Christmases. Could you jot down this memorable date...so we can compile a record of your Christmas, whether the gifts from home arrived and in what condition?

You will be getting a swell Bulletin in spite of the fact that May and Ed are swamped, they never fail you, Warmest Christmas and New Year's Greetings,  
CHARLES V. JOHNSON

#### SERVICE NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Leffler were informed by telegram Oct. 31 that their son PFC **CECIL LEFFLER** had been slightly wounded in the fighting in Italy. Later advises were that Cecil had his leg broken by shrapnel and the leg was badly shattered. He is still hospitalized in Italy and will be sent to the States for further care.

**SGT ELGIE BERG** of Lebanon died from wounds received on Guam...He was with the 3rd Marine division.

Latest advises from **LYLE RAY** is that he is still in an English hospital and that his arm and shoulder are slowly responding to treatment.

**PAUL SCHARINGSON**...of Elkhorn has received a medical discharge. He served for the past many months in the India-China theatre.

In a letter...**ELDRED BURTON** stated he was on his way home from the Dutch East Indies. His family is hoping he can share the Holidays with them.

**ED KEIDEL** paid us a visit on his recent furlough. He looked fine and said that he had spent the past two years in the Mediterranean area, aboard a battleship. No bad luck. He had only 4 days at home, then to Boston and his next assignment.

Award of Bronze Star Medal to SERGEANT **JOHN R. WELZ**...On 26 June 1944...nearing an intersection Sergeant Welz noticed a German patrol of eight men, immediately firing on them he possibly saved the whole patrol.

**CHARLES MIELKE**, RT 3/C, has been assigned to duty aboard the submarine Scabbardfish in the Pacific. His brother, LT. **GEORGE MIELKE**, is a paratrooper in England.

**RICHARD O'CONNOR** is now in Stayton having been given a medical discharge from the Marine Corps. Dick is enrolling in Oregon State College School of Forestry in January.

Word has been received here that LT. **CLIFF PHILLIPS** of the Army air corps has been killed in action over Germany. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Nye Phillips now of Barkeley, Wn. Lt. Phillips had been overseas only fifteen days. There are many relatives in the Mehama, Lyons sector.

### SERVICE LETTERS

**L. F. SERGEYS**, B.M. 2/C – Underwater Demolition...writes that "...We have really done our share of traveling since we left the states. We were in the invasion of the Marianas and also Palau. Saipan was the worst island we hit. Anyone that had been there will really take their hats off to the Marines."

S/SGT **RAY FREY** writes from New Guinea that "mentally I've written you several times but that doesn't do a very good job of paying my bulletin subscription price. I am afraid I am not able to write you a very interesting letter, at least, not as interesting as some of the fellows that are seeing action. My life on this island has become quite routine. No excitement.—I'll take that back—about a week ago while the latrine detail were cleaning out the latrine they caught it afire and it burned to the ground. Outside of that everything has been quite peaceful. From the way the bulletin reads the war has been striking hard and close to home. I was certainly sorry to learn of **LEONARD WATTERS**, **ELMER SMELSER** and last reports from home of **BOB INGLIS** being killed. It seems hard to believe and will remain so until we all get home, then we will realize what has been happening....Have I or **NEIL FISCHER** written since we met up with each other? Anyway we got together through the addresses you published in the bulletin. At the time I saw him we were not stationed more than two miles from each other. We had a swell visit shooting the usual breeze when meeting someone from home."

M/SGT **KEITH M. TAYLOR**, A.S.N. writes from Italy that "LT. **DARRELL LEWIS** called upon me the other day and we cussed the war and discussed Stayton and vicinity for one half a day. I plan to see him this week once more. I have been in a lot of places where I see my friends are now stationed, England, Africa, Egypt, Iran, Russia and now I am in Italy. Have hopes to get on an airplane with destination Santiam Valley some day."

Mrs. Alvin Schmitt of Stayton shared with us the letter she received from her son, **ALVIN L. SCHMITT, JR.** in which he writes that "here is something that I can tell you which will probably be very interesting to you folks. I just found out this evening that I could write about it. I am in the 3rd United States Army under General Patton. As you know now, I am a long, long ways from where I saw **ED ZIMMERMAN**. I am sure that he and **VINCE STARR** are still close to me, however I haven't seen any of them since I ran into ED. I still keep looking for them though. No, Mom I didn't get the scratches where I saw ED. It was quite a ways from there. Wow, as I told you in several of my letters don't worry about that, as I am perfectly okay and feeling fine."

Mrs. Bill Basl, mother of M/SGT **WM. BASL**, was just in the store and shared part of her letter with us in which Bill says that he is going to take a 48-hour pass and go to London or else look up **GEORGE BASL** if he can. He writes that "Oh boy did I get lit to the gills several nights ago while I was in

Edinburg. Wow. We had a party here on the field for our group last night, for completing 200 missions – that also was a pretty wet night, free beer and I got just about a snoot full. Oh, yes, three other fellows beside myself in our squadron were awarded the Bronze Star medal...so I guess I'll have to go out and celebrate that.”

T/5 **GEORGE F. BASL** – England – “I was sorry to see the names on the honor roll, they were a swell bunch of fellows. It has been really nice around here the past few days. I'm beginning to like the beer and find the girls are very nice and friendly. I went to a dance the other night, had a good time but nothing like the dances at Sublimity Forester Hall. Wait until the old crowd is all together, you'll think a cyclone hit the Santiam Valley.”

LT. **WAYNE PHILLIPS** writes us from France...”Hello Gang...I had a pleasant surprise the other day. I received my first bulletin since I have been overseas. It was full of real news for me. I have had very little mail since I have been overseas. I imagine you heard, but I had a little tough luck about 2 months ago. [See following article.] I spent about a week or so on the wrong side of the line and my boys kinda figured I'd had it but I surprised them and came walking home. I picked up a Purple Heart in the deal but I was back in action in a month. The fur is really flying over here now and I think we are doing some good. I hope they fold up pretty soon so we can start home. The winter is here now with quite a bit of snow and it makes things pretty rough....I met my brother **CLAUDE** over in England some time back. He is flying C-47s and is getting along pretty well. I am still flying the P-38 and it's still my favorite airplane. The mail situation is hopeless over here. Keep the Bulletin coming. Best wishes to all – **WAYNE.**”

“**Pilot Who Dodged 24,000 Shells,**” by war correspondent Ivan H. Peterman and originally published in the Philadelphia Enquirer. [This article covers the August 17, 1944, exploits of fighter pilot **WAYNE E. PHILLIPS** who grew up on Coon Hollow, east of Sublimity.]

“Toward evening when our artillery fire began to wreck the Nazi convoy, he broke away from his captors, streaked through a field, hurled himself into a slit trench. Four days and four nights he remained in the hole while 24,000 shells from our big guns poured over him and around him. At the end of the fourth night when the firing stopped, he picked his way over German bodies toward the United States Army lines.

“When the war is over and the boys come home, this is the story that will be told by **LIEUTENANT WAYNE E. PHILLIPS**, perhaps the most shot-at soldier in Uncle Sam's fighting forces. It is one of the stories you will hear from time to time about the battle of the punchbowl, that deathtrap near Chambois, where two German regiments practically were annihilated by the United States Artillery.

“Those who manned the guns on the saucer-like rim of the curious topographical depression will tell about repeatedly seeing direct hits from the great guns. Almost, they will say, they could fire by direct sight as if Hollywood had staged the battle – a rare thing for artillerymen who usually see nothing of the targets. Even so, spotter planes hung just over the Germans to make sure none escaped.

“But of all the stories that are told, Lieutenant Phillips' will be the most fantastic.

“It was his first mission as pilot of a Lightning fighter plane, his first flight over enemy line, his first real look at the war. He was filled with confidence as he climbed into the P-38 and took off for a column of Nazi tanks and trucks in convoy in the vicinity of the Argentan pocket. In fact, he wished the folks back home in Stayton, Oregon, could be there to see him.

“As he approached the area, Phillips noticed black puffs about the skies and realized the enemy was putting up flak. Before he could finish his job his left engine began to smoke. Trouble developed in the controls. He knew his plane was damaged and afire. Eyes full of smoke and unable to see the ground, he struggled for altitude, rolled over the cockpit's edge, pulled the ripcord of his chute. It jerked as enemy flak ripped it; then he drifted down almost atop another pilot on the ground.

“As he cut loose from the shrouds, a German SS kid raced forward, jerked back the bolt of his rifle, took aim at a distance of ten yards. ‘I knew it was all over unless I could distract him,’ said Phillips, ‘so I

shouted the only German word I know, *achtung*. He whipped to attention, clicked his boots and stood rigidly. That saved my life.’

“The next thing he was searching my pockets. He took everything but my wrist watch which was far up my arm under my jacket sleeve. Another boy ran up and fired over my head to scare me. After that they took me to an SS headquarters where officers questioned me on our positions and strength. I told them I was a flier and knew nothing of that.’

“After they had taken the Lieutenant’s compass and pencil they placed him in a truck with another American pilot. Next morning the Germans hurriedly loaded headquarters into vehicles and set out for some destination which kept the men wondering, but which was undisclosed by officers. Nor did the officers reveal that they were surrounded by United States forces.

“Phillips and the other pilot, with a couple of British prisoners, were put into an ambulance as flunkies. ‘We had fourteen Germans – they were in terrible shape – and one by one they died. The pilot and I tossed their bodies out. New casualties were put in the ambulance.’

“In the trap and without a chance for escape, the Nazis began to treat their prisoners better, realizing no doubt that they might have to surrender themselves. They even returned the P-38 pilot’s insignia. When the artillery began as night came on, it drove men off the road and wrecked the convoy.

“It was then that the two Yanks dove through a hedge and ran into a field where Phillips took cover in the slit trench. During the four days and nights he lay there, United States Artillery shells made a slaughter pen of the punchbowl.

“The young officer thought he must go insane while shells hit less than 25 yards away, while big ones carved trenches near him. Germans caught in the open field were killed like flies. When there was a lull in the firing, Phillips would reach out and gather in a few heads of wheat, his only food. His water was an inch or two of rain at the bottom of the hole.

“After midnight on the fourth night, no more Germans moved about the field. When he knew the firing was finished, he made his way over bodies to the road. He estimated the dead at 4,000.

“Two miles ahead, at the edge of the area, he found a house still undamaged, hid in the chicken coop, slept until midmorning. He ate ravenously of food given him by the French family, then ran for cover in a nearby woods when he heard vehicles approaching.

“Phillips could see that the vehicles bore the white star of the Allies but were manned by men whose uniforms were the German olive drab. He was afraid to be seen. When finally he came out of the woods, they shouted *Polonaise* in welcome. They were Poles with United States equipment.

“The worst part of the shelling, Phillips said, was its effect on the mind. ‘It seemed I would go insane from concussion. I saw Germans, with their eyes glazed, acting crazy under it. An artillery observer, Corporal Jim Taylor of Charleston, South Carolina, later told me the Germans were unable to talk when they were captured. Some were nervous wrecks. Such was the effect of the explosives pitched into the punchbowl.’

“Taylor was one of the 26 Ranger survivors from the battle of Anzio beachhead who was learning artillery details. He declared that our men could see each time shells struck a vehicle or convoy in the punchbowl; and after a certain amount of firing our command would ask the Germans by radio if they wanted to quit. But the SS officers would not permit the men to give up. So the killing continued until nearly two regiments were demolished.

“After I had my stomach filled and got more rest, I met some Yanks on a wire truck. They wanted to go back to see the dead Nazis,’ Phillips said. ‘I took them over and we were sick looking at bodies. The place was jammed with dead horses used by the Germans to haul wagons, and with dead cows. Of course, each of us got a souvenir Luger pistol. I went out on a Nazi motorcycle which wasn’t much damaged.’

“Never has there been anything like that dramatic fight. And in the story of the battle, Pilot Phillips will probably be commemorated as the soldier who outlasted 24,000 shells.”

SGT. **JOHNNIE WELZ** writes us another long letter from Germany, dated Nov. 16, and says that “we are on a rest period for a few days. It’s really nice as we have a good house with plenty of heat and real

mattresses to sleep on. I guess it's a reward for what we've gone through and for what we have to go through before this is over...It's been raining every day for the past two weeks, also sleet, hail and snow and mud, through which we have to jog and live...I don't know when I'll be able to write again, but let's hope and pray it'll be a peace-time letter."

T/3 **FREDERICK G. LAU** - "Since my last letter to the Bulletin I have had the pleasure of attending another premier performance, with an orchestra seat as usual. To our relief the Luftwaffe did not harass the unloading which was a bit difficult due to a shelving beach. The poor old shop truck plumped down in four feet of water while I screamed with rage but found no damage done, fortunately. Considerable fishing was done by the sailors who were fortunate enough to be close to the beach. Engineers setting off the beach mines planted in the shallow water were responsible for the dead fish. I did not see any game warden intervening. With preparations for the landing in Southern France and the fox and hound chase through that country there has been little time for correspondence till now. I'm going to make the censor unhappy but the army has a word for it. The fox was a sad specimen when he reached the Fatherland, limping badly and much fur missing. Some say it was only his spirit that returned but he must have some brothers with awful big teeth. The F.F.I. [French Forces of the Interior] has been of real assistance in our drive. On more than one occasion we have seen them in action and are glad they fight on our side. Rough on the Jerries. This signal company has taken a number of prisoners who were hiding from the partisans. Atrocities committed by the S.S. seem to be authentic from many conversations with the French. Very pleasantly surprised the other day. **LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** happened to be near and saw our sign. We had been in the same theatre before but just never happened to make connections. I'm happy to say I could offer him a couple of good hot meals, a picture show and other useful items. Darned if he didn't remember the car radio I once installed for him. He hasn't enjoyed an easy life over here and has had some unpleasant experiences. I was almost ashamed to let him see our way of living. He has a perfect right to call me rear echelon but is too much the philosopher to be bitter. While we were talking the Krauts were throwing things not too far away so you can see it's a relative proposition. He probably won't say much about it but he's made a considerable contribution to the general misery of the Wehrmacht. If any reader of the Bulletin should happen to see a 3rd Sig. sign - let him stop. I have almost convinced one of the shop crew on the merits of the Northwest. He was born in Europe and has traveled over much of the Globe as a musician but since living in New York has never been west of Jersey. He spent several months in the Division band where he encountered an almost solid Northwest bloc. Because of his knowledge of radio we stole him from the band who didn't appreciate the theft too much. At any rate he immediately encountered four other Northwesterners and their unyielding opinion. After thinking it over he said to me, 'you must have something in your State for I've never encountered a group of men who were so sincere in the praise of their home.' And the battle of States goes on, no holds barred and plenty of sniping. Those of us in the front line service units with our G-2 connections in every outfit garner a large number of battlefront tales which we know to be true. My nomination for the most shivery tale concerns a 3rd. Div. artillery observer who was posted in one room of a house, a short distance from his side two Kraut tanks were shooting it up. His artillery was a half mile the other side and directly in line with his post. He called for fire over the house but overshot. Noticing the room he was in had large opposing windows in line of fire he corrected the coordinates, scrambled to one corner and ordered the boys to fire. The shells went thru the windows and room without touching him and scattered Kraut tank all over the landscape. The Infantry who work with this particular artillery outfit have great faith and trust in its ability which probably explains the story better than anything. I don't know, think I'd have given the fire-order from the basement. While we are on stories here is another. One of the infantry outfits occupied a hill overlooking a town. When it became light enough to observe they were surprised to see the Jerries doing close order drill in the streets. The American G.I. is famed for his sense of humour so with the help of the artillery they indulged in a practical joke. The inhabitants of a small village told this: the Jerries worked like beavers to set a large gun, just as they finished a rather large G.I. shell sailed in and scored a direct hit, first shot. Then came the fire for effect. The show closed promptly."

PFC. **ROBERT GOMER** – “I was pulling my regular hitch of K.P. a few days past. In the storeroom I happened to notice a can of prunes marked ‘Santiam.’ I examined it and found it was canned by the Stayton Cooperative Cannery. So Stayton products get around.”

**H.E. WALT**, S. 2/C....writes that he “has been receiving the Bulletin and sure enjoy it very much....Everyone on board reads it, I think last month’s issue is still going around. Even though the fellows don’t know anyone, they like to hear what they have to say. I am aboard the U.S.S. (censored). I should be sailing very soon. Am a Radar Man and the work is very interesting.”

Our first letter dated in Germany was received from SGT. **JOHN WELZ**...in which he said he got the bulletin last week and like a present from God it was just what “I had been waiting for these past weeks. Honestly, it does me more good than shooting twenty Germans. The weather for the past three weeks has been lousy. It’s really a nuisance to have wet feet all the time but that’s the way it is. I don’t mind a few puddles on the road but when it runs into my foxhole and I have to sleep in water I do feel a little disgusted. We also have good times. The other day I saw a U.S.O. show and yesterday a movie.”

CPL. **W.J. (CONNIE) BREITENSTEIN**....writes from New Britain Island that “on this isolated dot in the vast Southwest Pacific we have everything pretty well bottled in our favor and intend to keep it so....Some ships I’ve been on ought to be aired, fumigated or something. I can figure that Guadalcanal is just good for one thing; make the Japs live there after this fracas is over. The Hollywood version of these islands is a myth.”

PFC **NICK CLASSEN** writes from...(USMC) Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif., that “...I’m going back to war again this morning. I went up to see my C.O. yesterday and told him I was tired of this place and wanted to do a little rat hunting in the Philippines. Regards to all.”

CPL **LAWRENCE M. WOLFE** – “France - This is a pretty nice country after Africa and Italy, but I can’t say that the ground is any softer, and besides - now one really has to sleep with one eye open, the Jerries aren’t playing. The French beer tastes about like our soda and water back home. My best regards to all.”

LT **DARELL D. LEWIS** – “I guess I’ll just have to report that I’m just sweating the war out. I’ve only been on one mission in over a month. I can’t figure out what they are saving me for. I’ve been visiting and had visitors both since last I wrote. I went to the 38th Fighter group and saw M/Sgt. **KEITH TAYLOR** of Lyons. Saturday and Sunday **LEONARD TITUS** spent the day with me. We really had a long chat....”

CPL. **EDWIN K. HAWORTH** – “I guess you will really be surprised to hear from me, I have sort of lost all contact with everyone from home. I have had quite a few experiences since hitting France, some of them too close for comfort, but have managed to stay in one piece and hope to finish in that way. I imagine there are quite a few of the local boys over here but haven’t had time to look around. Been here 5 months and busy every day.”

CPL. **CLEM KRANTZ** (this is the first letter we have received from the Philippine Islands) – “I never was good at handing out excuses but it is pretty hard to find dry paper around here now. I’ve been wet so much of the time lately that I almost feel uncomfortable when I get dry. The people here were very glad to see us. I can’t say I blame them, they really had it rough while the Japs were here. No clothes to wear and very little to eat.”

SGT. **DON D. GOODE** U.S.M.C.R. – South Pacific – [Sending Christmas greetings to the other readers of the Bulletin.] “...it seems strange to contemplate that most of you were just youngsters as I remember you. You’re men now! I’ve good reason to be fully aware of that fact. I’m glad I wasn’t too old to get into this lash-up because I’m proud to bear arms in company with the likes of you.”

PFC **HERMAN BUSCH** – “Just to let you know that I'm still alive and kicking. Especially the latter! I received the Bulletin. Boy it sure is a morale booster. You can't imagine how much good you are doing with it, I surely thank you for it. Keep it coming. There isn't much new around New Guinea. I have been made a machine gunner. Or assistant rather. We got a new one and I had to clean it up last night. It sure is a job cleaning the grease off of it. After so long a time they have decided the glider infantry deserved extra pay. Now we get flight pay or half of our base pay not to exceed \$50.00 per month extra. It helps some. Ringing off.”

PFC **WM. J. SPENNER**, Oklahoma, says that “I've been back in camp a week today and can't really say that I am glad to be back although they aren't hurting me any. We work seven days a week now and it's rough. We did get off this afternoon but it must be a mistake or something. We cuss and raise heck because they train so much but it takes a lot of training to make an Infantryman. He has to walk almost every place he goes and be in good enough shape to fight when he gets there. I'm feeling fine and wish I had another furlough waiting for me. Tell the gang 'hello.'”

M/SGT **HENRY DUMAN** writes from New Guinea that he also did a little “hunting this year, not Japs, they've moved to healthier regions, it was wild boars this time. I did get to see 4 of them, but didn't get a shot at any of them. Had a pleasant surprise this afternoon. **ELDRED BURTON** dropped in to see me, sure was swell to talk to someone from around good old Jordan again. I also got to see **CLEM KRANTZ** several weeks ago. He was stationed here on the same base with me for a couple months before I knew he was here....Well, I've got my first year overseas about in now, sure hope it won't run into 30 months for me as it has for **ELDRED BURTON**, that's a long time to have to spend in a place like this.”

T/5 **JAMES BARESCH** – “...I'm still on top of the ground and quite alive. Although I've lived in foxholes at times and there were times I was...wishing they were a damn sight deeper. Have been in France about three months and must say as far as the country and climate are concerned I much prefer them to England, and while I can't understand the native lingo worth a hoot, I find the people have a friendlier attitude. The best drink I've found is Champagne and I'd like to send a bottle to you but I'm afraid the censor would censor the inside out.”

**ALBIN G. ETZEL**, S.M. 2/C, S.S. (**CENSORED**) – “...Stayton has fighting men everywhere now and over here the Japs are after us all the time, and we have to keep on the move and hope that we can stay away from them. We are hauling fuel for the fighting ships and if we get hit I won't have to write any more letters....Next time you get to putting those Bulletins together, think of me. I sure think of you guys all around that table, and wish I was there.”

## **Servicemen's Bulletin Excerpts – 1945**

### **From Vol. 3 – No. 2, January-February, 1945 Issue**

**PRIVATE CLELL CRANE** died in action on the Western European front early in December.

**P.F.C. JAMES W. DAY** was killed in action in the South Pacific in July 1944 and is buried on Guam. His mother was not advised of his death until early February.

**SGT. FAY HUMPHREYS** died in the fighting in Luxembourg February 8.

**IN MEMORIAM**

*The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.*

**ROBERT BASS  
MILTON BELL  
NORVAL CARTER  
DALE BERRY  
JACK BERRY  
NORMAN GILLESPIE  
GEORGE HALLIN  
DALE HOEYE**

**BILLIE HUFFMAN  
ROBERT INGLIS  
CLEMENS LAMBRECHT  
HERBERT LULAY  
LEONARD LULAY  
ALFRED MEYERS  
EARL MILLER  
HAROLD ROBBINS**

**JACK SHELTON  
ELMER SMELSER  
RALPH SOLBERT  
WILLIAM SPOON  
EARL THORPE  
MERRILL VAN CLEAVE  
LEONARD WATTERS  
MATTHEW WEINBERG**

Home Town News

The War Production Board has allowed the Santiam Farmers Union Coop. a building permit for a 100x120 foot warehouse, modern seed and feed grinding and mixing plant. Work will begin almost at once, Irvin Schumacher, Pres., announces.

R. R. Ricks, formerly of Klamath Falls, has opened a welding shop in the Jake Missler blacksmith shop.

War Production board certification has been obtained for erection of a 112 x 240 ft. precooling and cold storage building by the Stayton Canning Co. Co-op. The structure of tile and concrete will be on the former Thorp place east of the Cannery, with a 30' driveway between the new and old building. Cost is estimated to be \$100,000.

The annual meeting of the Stayton Switchboard Assn. was held and all officers were re-elected: Geo. A. Susbauer, Scio, President; F. A. Zimmerman, Stayton, Vice-President; Edw. J. Bell, Stayton, Secretary-Treasurer; Verry D. Scott, Sublimity, F. A. Zimmerman and P. J. Etzel, Sublimity, directors.

Receipts at the Stayton Post Office were 21% higher than 1943, a volume of \$13,455.48.

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American Legion Notes

“... [the] Bon Ton has its usual gang and Pike's Rendezvous is also a favorite trysting place. The Gem under Ernie Ingram's management is also a popular spot. Of course you know that Hattie (Arnold) has taken over Dave John's Lunch counter and you can get a real treat there. The other business concerns are operating about the same. Richard O'Connor recently discharged from the Marines is proving himself quite a salesman at the Santiam Hardware. Ed Bell is taking things very easy, never too busy and only puts in about 26 hours a day, no Saturdays or Sundays off. John Nightingale and Irwin Parberry still can peddle the bull - meat. Gib Wourms is doing alright with Ed Klecker next door taking care of the groceries. Gabe DeJardin is beginning to look like a working man, he gets about as grimed up as Joe Harris. Of course Virgil Tuel can look like a beau brummel because he makes Bob Schachtsick do all the work. Julian DeJardin and Cliff Likes are peddling hardware and Lawrence Spraker still hurries around on his bike. Charlie Burmester will tell you how to get the most mileage out of your shoes. Jeweler Boitz will put a new motor in your alarm clock if you can find one. Of course Wendell Weddle will put you away and Doc Pintlor will pull your tooth as well as your leg. We will skip the next building and stop at Elmer's barber shop. I haven't had a chance for a haircut there for some time. The Star Theatre, the best show house in town. Of course Beauchamps drug store still sells drugs though you wouldn't know it. Baldwin's and Van's have a stock of safety pins now. The post office, ah the dear post office. If you boys could see the group there, seriously the post office holds a charm for me. There the emotions of dear ones can be analyzed and as much as the letters from home mean to you it is an even bet that your answers are as eagerly anticipated. George Bell has lots to sell, I mean a lot of lots. Inglis is no longer in the old stand,

he became high hat and moved on to the main drag. He will be bothered with curb sitters now. Joe Harris and Walter Heinrich operate a complete shop in the old building. We must not forget our best pal Dr. Beauchamp. Jake Spaniol still plumbs plumber's supplies. Walt Frey has donated space in his store windows for the display of your souvenirs and hardly a moment goes by but what someone is not standing nearby gazing at the array of different articles sent by you. Mr. and Mrs. Shields put out a tempting assortment of pastry. Jack Rauscher operates his famous pool hall but familiar faces are missing. Lester Smith entertains with Rummy and beer. Around the corner Mountain States [Power Company] is generally lit up. I mean the office is. Schlies Bros. fixes Dodges, Fords and go-carts. The Stayton Woolen Mills still makes blankets, etc. Fred Albus has redecorated his store and it sure looks nifty. Should you need your gizzard out or cold cured Doc Anderson is back at his old stand. John Christensen runs the best (and only) Standard Oil Station in Stayton. He will, by coaxing, fix up your flivver, I know because I've tried it. Adrian Hermens has improved his Clipper Station and of course his Missus runs it. Dave Johns operates the service station and tire repair part of the Associated station. At Claude Lewis's if your car burns gas or hay he, with Taylor Cooper and Dick Wyman can fix you up. Doc Dozler has fixed up a swell dental office near his home so if your teeth should bother you, you may have them repaired before proceeding into town.

An enlargement is proposed to the Cannery which will keep it abreast with the best in the land. Farmers are already beginning their spring plowing and berry growers are getting the vines trained for another season.

The Stayton [American Legion] Post put on their annual Stag feed and guests were invited. A lot could be said about this but, we will discuss that when you get home. It doesn't seem the same with all you boys absent.

Well it is nearing the dead line for us to get this to Mae so here's saying so long. May God bless you.  
CHARLES V. JOHNSON, adjutant

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#### HOWELL COMMUNITY NEWS

A recent letter from PFC. **C. W. McCALL**...told of having been in Luxembourg and of being on the front three weeks and getting his feet frost-bitten. P.F.C. **LAWRENCE KIRSCH** of Mehama, with the First Army, last wrote of being in a rest camp in Holland. On February 1, **EARL L. KIRSCH**, A.O.M. 3/C telephoned from San Diego that their PB-4Y1 (Liberator) was ready for the hop and it is hoped they hopped safely. **MONTE MORRIS** and **ORVILLE POOLE**, Privates, still together and now in Italy, find it not too unpleasant. [Monte and Orville were partners when they worked in the woods for Arch Kimsey, and also went through basic training together.]

Mrs. Hattie Arnold has received word that her son CPL. **ROY CHANCE** was injured in Luxembourg on Jan. 12th.

Miss **MARJORY TEETERS** of Mehama...is now at Camp LeJeune taking her basic training as a woman Marine. Her sister **DOROTHY** is a WAVE, and her brother **DONALD** is in the Army Air Corps.

PFC **WALLACE SWANSON** was wounded in action in December. Wallace is with the Timberwolf Division and is somewhere in France.

T/5 **FLOYD DAVIDSON** is home after 3-1/2 years in the Pacific service.

## SERVICE NOTES

Among American army prisoners moved from Formosa to Manchukuo, as disclosed in a recent war department list, was Brig. Gen. **ARNOLD J. FUNK**, who was born in Stayton August 13, 1895; was graduated from Oregon State College in 1916 and accepted an army commission in 1917. He commanded Philippine scouts in Bataan.

LT. **DONALD TURNIDGE** of Jefferson is a prisoner of war of Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Inglis have received confirmation that the wreckage of LT. **ROBERT INGLIS**'s plane, together with that of the German plane with which he was in combat, was found with oil slicks on the Dalmatian coast shortly after the action in which Bob was reported missing. No signs of crew bodies of either plane were located. Bob had communication to his command that he had shot down his enemy, what happened later to wreck his plane remains a mystery.

First Lieutenant **GEORGE MIELKE** is in a hospital in Belgium following injuries received in Belgium on January 14th.

2ND LT. **FRED A. LINDEMANN** has been awarded the Air Medal in recognition of meritorious achievement in aerial flights from July 1944 to Sept. 20 1944.

S/SGT. **ERNEST HUNT** arrived in Stayton to be at the bedside of his wife and was with her several days before her death. In coming home young Hunt travelled 8,000 miles by plane from Saipan where he has been serving as a radio operator aboard a B-29 bomber. Hunt's crew has completed three missions over Tokyo....Ernest has been confined to the hospital in Seattle since reporting back for duty and his condition is quite serious.

LT. AND MRS. **ROE D. CRABTREE** met in Italy after a two year separation and were together for several days. Mrs. Crabtree is serving as a flight nurse.

LT. **WAYNE E. PHILLIPS** of Stayton, veteran of more than 15 missions over the Seigfried Line and the West Wall is now one of the ninth air force P-38 Lightning pilots.

From **MARC LAMBRECHT** Crew Letter No. 7, U.S.S. South Dakota..."We arrived here in plenty of time to join the ships that were going to give the Japs...a little headache. And we were no aspirin tablet. We saw considerable action prior to the landings – but no opportunity to unlimber our guns. All of the shooting was done by our anti-aircraft batteries. After our first strike, we dropped back to fuel and then hit again....Twice during that time we were annihilated – said the Japs – but because we are burning vitamin pills in our boilers the ship came right back again after each annihilation....Some time ago we were under attack by torpedo planes...and they were closing fast. The men in the repair part, the fire fighters, hospital corpsmen and those not directly concerned with firing the guns were ordered to lie flat on the deck. The planes kept coming in and our guns kept grinding out a kettledrum symphony of noise and exploding steel....Suddenly the firing ceased abruptly, the loudspeaker announced that the remaining planes had turned away. There was a moment of silence as we picked ourselves up off the deck. A youngster, he was not more than 18, turned to the chaplain. "You know, chaplain, they say that this doesn't give you religion out here, but it sure as hell improves what you have." You have read, we know, of the sinking of the U.S.S. PRINCETON. That made us feel particularly sad as we have operated with her so much. The Princeton had a splendid crowd of boys and their pilots were second to none."

Hope that their son P.F.C. **ELMER SMELSER** might be alive in some hospital was abandoned by his family when two of his buddies visited their home telling them all about where Elmer had been and what

he had done....Elmer was in action in Guadalcanal in December. He next went to New Zealand to recover from malaria and a leg wound, his next action was in the Gilbert Islands, he came through Tarawa without injury. After a rest at Hilo, Hawaii he was sent to Saipan and was in action from June 15th to 28th. While on a volunteer mission to locate a Jap machine gun, he was hit by machine gun fire in the back near his hip, he lived one hour and was conscious all the time. Elmer was known as one of the best automatic rifleman in his battalion. He was laid to rest in the second Marine Division Cemetery in Saipan.

1st LIEUT. **DAREL D. LEWIS** has been missing in action over Austria since January 20....Darel received his commission as a pilot in March 1944, going overseas to Italy....He was recently awarded the Purple Heart....Last word radioed from Darel's plane was that they were bailing out, the territory [was] extremely difficult...and the weather was extremely cold....several months may elapse before any further word may be expected from Darel or any of his crew members.

The Editor and Publisher of this Bulletin is grateful for the citation that was broadcast over...Portland Radio Station KGW on New Year's morning, in which your *Servicemen's Bulletin* and your faithful staff were commended for their part in the war program....A few weeks later framed certificates were received...signed by the governors of Washington, Idaho, California and Nevada as permanent commendation for work performed.

The Knights of Columbus Council of Jacksonville, Florida have written us for all information, etc., as they are interested in starting a bulletin for their servicemen similar to ours.

Mrs. Aurora Champ wrote us a letter [about] her son, SGT. **FAY E. HUMPHREYS**..."the last letter that I have received from him was dated Jan. 5, 1945, somewhere in France. He was well and okay. His company had their Christmas dinner in a building where they had a fire. That in itself was a treat, he said....He has been with General Patton's Third Army since they went into France the latter part of June, 1944." [Sgt. Humphreys was killed at Luxembourg February 8, 1945.]

After a short furlough **ROLAND DARBY** was hitchhiking out of Topeka, Kansas and a car picked him up. To his surprise the party in the car was none other than Alf Landon of Kansas, presidential candidate of former years and former governor of Kansas.

**HERMAN BUSCH** is now back in the states, convalescing from an attack of "Jungle Rot," which he suffered during his long months of service in the South Pacific.

Word was received by his parents that PVT. **ARCHIE CHAMBERLIN**...is now in a hospital in France convalescing from Pneumonia.

#### LETTERS

From somewhere in Luxembourg on Feb. 3rd, PFC **HAROLD J. SHEPHERD** writes us that "I've just been feasting on my November-December issue of the Bulletin. They are tops. You should see our cozy little room at this stop. We boys have a room all to ourselves which is splendid. A stove and sink were already intact. We scrounged around and found a davenport a-la Luxembourg style and two or three rugs — really it's plenty comfy. From somewhere we got a radio, so now it's news and jive whenever we want it. Yes, we still have to make our own beds and wash the mess kits. My poor mind can't understand all that goes on. I've seen whole herds of fine looking cows lying along the road dead as everything. Horses are popular targets, too. Maybe it just happens, but I doubt it. I shudder to think of the dire results of the after-war effects. Herds can't be built up quickly. I long to see someone from Stayton and up the valley....Our Christmas mail and packages arrived in very good shape, if they were a little bit late. The

Oregon mist which we have been receiving is quite welcome. The snow and ice have all disappeared. The tanks should be able to make a little progress now....The Christmas messages from the Fathers and Ministers are inspiring. I enjoyed every one of them. The Legion page certainly deserves a bouquet, Mr. Johnson writes with such humor, spirit and sincerity....All is well with me, I look forward to that day when we shall have a big get-together at Stayton, Most sincerely thanks – Harold.”

ENSIGN **JANEA WILEY**, U.S.N.R., U. S. Fleet Hospital...somewhere in Guadalcanal, writes that “we flew up and had a very pleasant and interesting trip. Routine for those that are used to it, but it was my longest flight. The Hospital here is in a grove of date and coconut palms. May possibly be familiar to many readers of the Bulletin. Am fortunate in having duty in one of the operating rooms, do mostly orthopedic and emergency work. Received your last Bulletin the day I left Fleet Hospital 105.”

**MURRAY SHAMPANG**, Jr. A. S., U. S. Naval Hospital at Farragut, Idaho wrote his folks in Stayton that he has been in the hospital about three months, suffering first from scarlet fever and now rheumatic fever, although he has been an “up-patient” for three weeks and improving right along. He and **ELMER FEHLEN** (who is also a patient there) were out on liberty together around Coeur D'Alene Lake and Spokane.

CPL **W. J. (Connie) BREITENSTEIN** writes us from somewhere in the Philippines that “after sort of an enforced prolonged delay the opportunity has come for me to scratch a few lines and send them adrift your direction. The news of recent, pertaining to the latest Pacific hop, is I suppose well known by most people. Don't know whether or not it is worthy of mention but I happened to be part of an assault force that hit this island. Naturally the Filipino people welcomed us with outstretched arms. Almost to a man they prefer Americans and even those whose associations with the Nip look shady, usually clear well because it is many times the question of whether or not the family would eat. The Philippine people are definitely satisfied that the liberation policy the Japs offer is not what it is soft-soaped to be. This place certainly has it over many of the small isolated Pacific isles, in many respects. Was glad to get here, as the damp humidity of some former islands tends to mildew one's brain. Understand some of the hometown fellows are roundabouts. There is always that slight possible chance of meeting up. At the present time however, we have our hands full chasing die-hard Nips. We are capturing much of their equipment and also making good use of it ourselves. The category runs from trucks to stationery. Many of the fellows have the Nips to thank for some gadget that they have obtained. Presently some noise is going on around. Ours has theirs drowned most of the time and the Nip manages though to lob one at us now and then, for us to dodge. Am on duty these wee hours of the morning, keeping abreast of all that is happening. The night has been sort of quiet. With this amount of prattle, which I think is enough, permit me to lay aside this borrowed Pen.” The letter, envelope, etc. must have went thru a ship wreck, for it was all water soaked, but readable.

SGT **LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** on Feb. 14th wrote us that he was "very sorry to hear about **LEONARD LULAY**, he sure was a swell fellow and he will be very much missed by us all when we return home...I am well and going strong. Just had a letter from my brother and he is going to port of embarkation. I hate to hear it but I think he will make out okay against those Japs. I don't think this will last too much longer, at least we hope it won't.”

**FRANCIS D. LOTT**, M.M. 1/C writes that “I have been visiting with **AL ARCHER**, **LEONARD JORDAN** and **GIL SCHACHTSICK** every time that the opportunity arises. All the fellows are looking well, but like everyone else have but one thought, and that is to have this mess come to an end so we can all come home....The news sounds favorable for the Allies from all fronts, so it shouldn't be so much longer before this is all over. No doubt there will be many great battles before it is finished, but it seems to me a more peaceful method could be used to settle all differences. From all reports I have heard, the bean growers seem to have done very well this past year. Guess I wouldn't hardly recognize the cannery,

such a large addition has been built on. We get quite a few green beans to eat but I don't think that we've ever had Santiam Beans. At least I wouldn't think Stayton Cannery would pack such a mess as comes out of the cans. Lots of thanks to everyone who helps in the publishing of the Bulletin—it's swell reading."

T/5 **BEN PFUND** writes us on Feb. 6th that "The Bulletin arrived yesterday, I guess it chased me all over Europe before it caught up with me. We have been very cold here, snow stayed on the ground for almost two months. It was bitterly cold during this period. We have traveled many miles in the past two months, some of the time we rode in those famous 40 and Et cars, which the boys rode in during the last war. Have seen a number of buzz bombs recently, they make a lot of noise and travel at a very high rate of speed. Belgium seems to be the most modern country we have been in so far. Many of the Belgians spoke quite a lot of English which makes it easier to get around. Hope to get an 8 hour pass soon. If I do, it will be the first one in over a year."

**CHARLES MACK**, U. S. M. S. T. S., Section 4-3, Avalon, Calif. (a new inductee), writes us that "I have not had much time on the water yet but it starts Feb. 19th. We are going out for a week on a training ship. It's just a rust tub with about 20 coats of paint over it. There is around 600 on this tub...."

**MERLE JOHNSON**, S. U. 2/c writes from the Western Carolines, South Pacific that "We have finally arrived at our destination after an uneventful trip outside of my being seasick nearly every day out. Didn't know that one could get so sick. We stopped over in Oahu long enough to see some of the gang from Stayton and vicinity. Got to see **FRANK WELTER, CHUB BERGER, MAX STAYTON** and a few more of the boys. They all look fine but all anxious to get back to dear old Stayton. We had a few bottles of suds and a good old fashioned bull session. Please send me the Servicemen's Bulletin, have missed it very much since I left the states. The weather is the next thing to Hades when it isn't raining, but us webfoots don't mind a little rain. The nights are cool so that we got plenty of sleep. This island has no mosquitoes but they have their share of gnats that almost drive you nuts. Better hit the sack. Good night and good luck to all."

PFC **WM. J. SPENNER** (formerly Private Willie) writes us from France that "I just received your last Bulletin, and it looks mighty good to me. It helped me to find out I wasn't very far from **TONY BEITEL**. I didn't stay in that place long enough to get to see him tho. We sure move around a lot. The moving is okay but the idea of walking sometimes gets tiresome. I've been in some combat since I come to France—it's rough. It's been cold here most of the winter, but it seems to be warming up some now. It was raining last night (Feb. 1) instead of snowing for once. I hate the rain about as much as the snow because rain means mud and I hate mud. Good luck to all."

From "somewhere in Belgium" we received a splendid letter from CPL **EDWARD N. ZIMMERMAN** who wrote that "We didn't have much in the way of Christmas, as at that time the Jerries were causing us a certain amount of trouble, and we were all too busy to take time out to celebrate the great day. We have had some really cold weather here this winter, and the sooner spring comes the better I will like it. I was sorry to see that you had three more gold stars on your honor roll last month. **LEONARD LULAY** and **NORVAL CARTER** were both inducted on the same day that I was, so those two and **HERBERT LULAY** makes three of our bunch that won't be coming home after the war."

CPL **ALVIN SCHMITT JR.** writes us from "somewhere in Luxembourg" on Feb. 8th that "I received the December Issue of the Bulletin ten days ago, and believe me, it is tops. The mail was pretty slow in reaching me for a while, as I haven't been in any one place for a very long period of time, as you can see for yourself, but it has really been pouring in for the past few days, and I sure hope that it keeps up. I have received six letters from Ethel in the past two days, so I am feeling great tonight. I also received a letter from her brother **BILL RIESTERER** (India) day before yesterday, and he sent me a picture of himself setting in a chair with a stubby of Schlitz in one hand, and a cigarette in the other. He still looks

like the same old Bill to me, and he still has that happy go-lucky look in his eyes. I haven't heard from **ED ZIMMERMAN** or **VINCE STARR** for some time. Everything is okay here, and I am feeling fine. The weather is a little warmer now, and the snow is gone for the present but it can rain here too.”

**HAROLD WOLF**, G.M. 3/C, U.S.S. (Censored) – “Christmas Day was quite an event for us, seven of us got together and the time we had! Together were **JERRY MARKING**, **DALE CHAMP**, **CHUB BERGER**, **FRITZ STUCKART**, **FRANK WELTER**, **MAX STAYTON** and myself. Saw the old ship that I used to be on but would have missed seeing Jerry if I had gone aboard. Not much I can write.”

From **DON GOODE**, SGT. USMCR - "I'd like to extend **FRITZ LAU** a few words of appreciation too. I wonder how many of the other Bulletin fans have enjoyed his messages as thoroughly as I have? Apparently he's not only a very 'savvy' guy on communications, but also a very capable correspondent. His letters attain a remarkable clarity of description. I've read every one of them two or three times, sometimes aloud to others in my tent. His letters should someday be very susceptible to broadening into a darned good book. Evidence indicates that he's been just about every place where the action was hottest, from Africa on northward. Gulliver's Travels would be a mere pamphlet compared to the travelogue **FRITZ** could write....Many of those writing in to the "Bulletin" express deep regret at the loss of some of our boys. I've experienced this end of the loss and can only say for these departed ones that my regret is confined mostly to those loved ones of theirs back home. There strikes the shock and sorrow.....out here such events constitute the immortalizing of the deceased; they've gone away, true, but in what a triumphant manner! I've expressed this somewhat this way to my Mother; No man wants worry and anguish from his people at home nearly as much as he desires their pride in him. It wouldn't be human not to sorrow for these losses, but their spirits will rejoice with early substitution of pride for remorse. My sympathy is sincerely offered those at home who no longer receive letters from overseas. There's so little to be said to relieve their bereavement. Greetings to all Staytonite Service people, where ever you are. Am looking forward eagerly to your next issue.”

**PFC CARL E. STOUT** writes "Germany could be one of the beauty spots of the world but it will take years to develop the country now."

**G. R. STEINER** QM 3/c. U.S.S. (Censored) "Been seeing a lot of this old world lately but compared to home it is lousy. Time passes fast. I'd like to send you a souvenir but there is nothing here but rhumba girls."

**ROBERT A. BANKSTON**, Aer M 2/C – “In a very few short months I shall have my time in overseas and shall then be able to pay a visit to the paper. I was very sorry to hear about my very good buddy **Elmer Smelser**.”

**CPL. LAWRENCE WOLFE**, ASN writes...”I am plenty close to the Jerrys. It almost reminds me of Cassino, by the roar of the Guns, etc. I believe old man Hitler is about finished.”

**LT. WILLIAM A. LAMBRECHT**, A.S.N. "In a City Hall Somewhere in France - Well, tonight I am sitting at the Mayors desk of this village. The Mayor being pro-Nazi took a powder when we came in. You can probably picture me sitting back in a soft chair, my feet on top the desk and smoking a pipe. But the windows break now and then and not from the wind blowing hard either. Last night I slept on top the desk, just knock off the ink-bottles, pens, papers etc. and lay your bedding roll on top. Brother, I slept like a baby. The night before I had my C.P. set up in a school house back in another village, and I took the occasion to examine the school books, etc. They were really teaching German, language, history and all, there were books devoted entirely to the Hitler gang, and the Nazi symbols were everywhere evident. They had films of Hitler, and use of gas mask, hand grenades, short rifles, etc....Getting late, but must say

there isn't any use trying to sell the German soldier short, he is smart and tricky, and my personal feelings are a little bitter and hard but my reasons are good. Season's Greetings to all the fellows."

**PVT WILLIAM RIPP** - "...I've been in the Army six months now and it really doesn't seem that long. The guys that I have been with are shipping out soon, but I'm in the hospital following the bus accident. (Billy was injured while traveling in a public bus from Camp to Salinas, the bus went over a 55 ft. embankment, killing 2, and injuring 8 passengers. Bill suffered a fractured skull...he is now fully recovered.)

**ROBERT E. BELL**, GM 2/C – “I am now attached to a North African base many, many miles from anywhere in general. ...Am doing some very interesting work in which my knowledge of French and Spanish are quite useful. My work isn't of heroic nature but occasionally there are enough physical dangers to make it exciting at times. From the few contacts I have had with some German prisoners I can tell you this; whether they think they have already lost the war or not, they nearly all have one hope in common....that they'll make it next time. I sincerely hope the people at home know that.”

**SGT. NEIL F. DICKMAN** – “Left the States in September and flew back to England....I'm in the 97th Bomb. Group which was the group first to bomb Germany so is quite an old outfit. If I'm lucky I may finish my tour of duty and get home this summer. If Germany holds out that long; if not, well, I s'pose I'll be coming home via the Pacific.”

**T/5 V. J. ETZEL** - "Am now in France where a man plays for keeps when he plays. A person lives an outdoor life here. Reminds me of when I was in Alaska where you wash every three days. You never saw such crazy drivers as these Frenchmen."

**PFC. ANTON P. PIETROK** - "I am in a hospital now somewhere in England and get to stay in bed all the time. They've certainly got some good doctors and nurses over here....”

**FLIGHT LT. V. SNODDY** - RCAF Overseas, England. "Received the July and August editions of the Bulletin within two days of each other and it's really been swell finding out about the old gang- -what they are doing and where they are serving. Despite the fact I enjoyed it so much it gave me a good dose of homesickness. Was extremely sorry to hear about **MILTON (TINKLE) BELL**. We used to play baseball together for dear old Stayton High. Received a letter from **GORDON SHIELDS** not long ago, dated last July. Ironically enough, at the time of writing we were on adjoining islands--Corsica and Sardinia. Have been sorta lone wolfing it during my service career. Spent four months with a New Zealand Squadron here in England (a grand lot of fellows) then we went to the Middle East and helped to form a Royal Airforce Squadron (twin-engine night fighters and intruders). Sorta moved up with the tide and eventually got as far as Sardinia. Am now in England doing a six months' rest period from operations as a pilot gunnery Instructor...and finding it pretty dull, incidentally. Refuse to say anything about the English weather. The censors wouldn't pass it anyway! Would like to see somebody from home."

**PVT LAWRENCE F. KUIPERS** – “I am now on an island in the Pacific and that's about all I can tell you for military reasons. I guess I've really found a home in the Army and am not a Casual any more as I am now attached to an outfit and I think it is a darned good one. Hello to everybody."

**SGT LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** – France – “I ran across **FRITZ LAU** some time ago. Suppose he has written you about it by now. I hardly knew him at first. We spent the day together and I've seen him once since then. I am a tank commander now with four men under me. We get along swell but sometimes we get into an argument and I usually lose as I am the only guy from Oregon in this outfit. Fritz gave me a radio....Sure works good, too. He's one swell radio tech. Heard my brother **ANDY** was home again. He sure has been lucky.”

CPL **DAVID S. CHANCE** – France - "Our outfit has seen a lot of France since we hit the beach. For a while we followed one of the combat units but we are now with an evacuating hospital and we are more settled. These evacuating hospitals and their medical officers are doing a wonderful job in this war. They are turning out more and more men who will be able to go home as whole men not cripples. When I was assigned to the Medical Corps I was rather unhappy about it but I'm not now. I'm proud to be a part of such a wonderful, helpful department. The only thing I can't understand is why the Germans get the same excellent treatment in our hospitals as the G.I.s. I guess it is because that's the good old U.S. way of doing things."

T/5 **GERALD V. CHRISTENSEN** – "France ...**BEN PFUND** left us sometime in October and I haven't seen him in more than two months. Expect our two regiments will come together again within a month. We should have plenty to talk about. Tell **FRED LINDEMAN** I see plenty of C47s. Say, Fred, any time you see a bunch of GIs and Germans working together you can (censored) well figure it's us. We're known as the 'German's Companions.' We have done nearly everything the Army has to offer from building roads to ship docks. There is only one thing which I hate to do and that is clearing mine fields. (Censored) They have a new field method and new types of mines in every field. Nice work for anyone with jumpy nerves. Was stationed at Cherbourg for a long time. You should see the buildings which were gutted by fire. The Germans burned all the buildings they could and those that wouldn't burn very well were blown to pieces. Say hello to all the old gang."

**L. A. WALZ** (Car.) AGC – "Since the ship came into port I have had the opportunity to spend several liberties at home, including Christmas & New Year's. Enjoyed both very much...I missed seeing my brother **ED** by one week. I haven't seen him for two and a half years."

PVT **H.J. SHEPHERD** - "France...Mud, goeey, smelly, sloppy stuff is everywhere about. Heavy traffic intensifies the stuff. These people have a habit of piling manure right out in the front yard along the road which doesn't help the situation. Apples are plentiful hereabouts. Cellars, attics, basements are full of them. We 'requisition' a pan of them regularly. Luckily, we have been billeted in small villages recently. The houses may not be all in one piece but we are fortunate, I know. To be shelled by Jerry is bad enough but when friendly artillery starts laying it on that's something. Recently it happened to us. I said to myself, 'I'll bet a nickel **LEONARD PURVIS** is doing the calculating!' By the way, with the use of numberless gadgets, wires, connections and such, we have radio music piped into our room. Last night we heard Glenn Miller and company, also a group of Victor Herbert's popular numbers. The boys are really playing leap-frog with Tojo and company in the South Pacific. That's what makes America; boys who can prove their values. Our hats are off to the infantry; you never saw a braver, harder-hitting group. When they go trudgin' by all thoughts of griping quickly pass. Recently had an opportunity to observe a group mounted on a tank just before the push began. They were like stone-faced Indians sitting there; many of them were going out to give their all. When better soldiers are made, the infantry will make them. My sympathy goes out to the old people of this country; they really have it pretty tough. Their homes destroyed, possessions scattered to the winds, cattle dead - all in all it must be most discouraging. However, they persevere. You can see them patching the roofs, removing the rubble, trying once again to return to normalcy."

From somewhere in "Belgium" we received a swell letter from **ED HAWORTH**, CPL – ASN, saying "... Have had quite a little excitement lately, had to do a little 'strategic withdrawing' as the Krauts call it... was pulled out of Bastogne to a new location, just before it was surrounded. Those boys from the 101st Airborne did a swell job there. Have the Germans going the other way now and hope to be in Berlin soon."

**NORRIS LEROY HUNT**, R.M. 3/C, from the New Hebrides Islands – “Now I know what they mean by a tropical rain storm. We live in little huts. Framework up about 6 feet covered with screen and a screen door. We got initiated into the Ancient Order of the Deep and the Ancient Order of the Date Line when we crossed the Equator and International Date Line. First they ran us through a canvas tunnel and shot salt water all over us with a hose. Then they took us up on a platform and set us on some chairs. There they spray vinegar in your mouth and chop your hair all up. They have steel plates on the chairs so as electricity is tingling through you all the time. After they get through messing with you there they dump you over backward in a nice cold saltwater pool. They duck you a couple of times in that and then slide you down a greased canvas covered board on your stomach and paddle you all the way down. They’re paddling you all the rest of the time but everyone is running around so fast it is hard for them to hit you. After it is all over you are shellbacks. They chopped our hair up so bad you can imagine what it looked like so we had the rest cut off and now we look like a couple of boots again. Don't worry about me for I'm getting along fine and am in no danger. Tell everyone Hello for me.”

From Eastern France, dated Feb. 11, we received a swell letter from SGT. **LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** saying he “was very sorry to hear about **Leonard Lulay**. He was a swell fellow and he will be very much missed by us all when we return home.”

From somewhere in Germany, **PFC GEORGE BASL**... writes us that "there isn't an awful lot to write except that I am getting along swell. Am living in a house these winter days, really glad of that, the way the snow falls around here. There are 3 of us in this room, have a stove and plenty of coal, table and chairs, lights, but the bed—that is a honey—a regular bed and springs, with an innerspring mattress, really it is good after mud and floors. Isn't so bad to work out all day with this to come back to. Attended Mass today, sure do have a swell Chaplain, he's just like one of the fellows as far as action goes. As far as Germany goes it doesn't look so hot, just slightly mussed up, with more to come. I can say one thing for them, they'd been a great deal better nation if they would have thought of something besides war."

#### **From Vol. 3 - No. 4, May – June 1945 Issue**

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*

**P.F.C. JAMES O'CONNOR** was killed on March 17th in the performance of his duty on Iwo Jima.

**SGT. ALVA ANDERSON** died February 28th from wounds received on Iwo Jima.

**PRIVATE LAWRENCE V. CRANE** was killed in action on Cebu March 30th.

#### Home Town News

Under the leadership of Reverend Father Jonas, the Stayton Catholic Church is making plans for a three-room addition to the St. Mary School building as soon as arrangements can be made. It will be ready for the coming term. The school at the present time is overcrowded with over 150 students.

During the funeral service of our Commander-in-Chief and President, Franklin Roosevelt, all stores in Stayton closed at noon, some re-opened after the funeral hour; others remained closed. There was no show at the Star Theatre. In the schools, special patriotic programs were conducted on Friday.

Leland Keithley of North Santiam has just completed putting out five acres of peppermint.

Sixteen miles of highway between Mill City and Detroit have been made possible and construction is to start as soon as possible by a grant of \$300,000.00 by the Oregon State Highway Commission. The highway will parallel the Santiam River. This will be a replacement of that now very poor part of our Salem-Bend Highway system.

"The most welcome, happiest sight of all was the Golden Gate bridge at San Francisco as we came into port on a clear, sunny morning," **AL AMOS** told the Lions Club...The homecoming concluded a 10 months voyage as chief cook aboard a merchant marine vessel chartered as a troop carrier engaged mostly in the New Guinea area. Al pointed out that food shortages were prevalent in those regions as well as at home.

Mrs. Grace Neibert, postmaster, has added 54 new lock boxes to the Stayton office. The expense had to be borne by Mrs. Neibert as it is the practice that postmasters must equip their own offices.

M. J. Martin of Silverton will be manager of the newly organized Santiam Farmers Union Cooperative store in Stayton which will be ready for operation on August 1st. It is being built on property near the Minten's Dairy, with Pat Gorman in charge of building the warehouse.

#### AMERICAN LEGION NOTES

The hearts of millions were gladdened by the news of Germany's surrender. Mothers, wives, sweethearts, have reasons for rejoicing, but there still are a great many burdened hearts, awaiting the final ending of the Pacific struggle. However, we are proud of your job and will be glad when the great day comes.

A lot of new ground is being cleared for beans and the addition to the cannery sure looks fine. In fact I was offered a job picking beans so news may be scarce when I take this job on. Near Porter's place and all along Shaff Road the evergreen briars have been bull dozed and sure make a great improvement. Along the West Stayton - Aumsville road a lot of clearing has been done. The county hasn't been able to get many of the ditches cleaned out and they make a swell hiding place for Pheasants and quail. In spite of the backward spring the countryside is clothed in Nature's grandest raiment. The lilacs are gone but other flowers are stepping to the front. Snowbell, Oregon grape and wild roses, with Scotch broom brightening up the roadsides with it vivid yellows and oranges. The trees are in full leaf, and with glistening dew make just about the grandest picture one would ever care to witness.

So, fellows, you see it is all here just as you left it.

The sun is coming up in full view with only a few wispy clouds dotting the eastern horizon. Mt. Jefferson is white with snow as far as the peak is visible, as we haven't had any warm weather to melt any of it there are no bare spots on the snow peaks.

I noticed some of the bean growers planting their beans, which will mean bean picking, bean canning and Bean Festival. A festival will be held, but sure wish this could have been the one where all of you could have taken part. However, we are praying that Hirohito's day is not very far off, and celebration of the event will be in line.

The post membership is now 160 and as that was our quota we feel very proud of our gang. A new home is sorely needed and to that end we are bending our efforts. A great many of you don't know "why the American Legion," and though the posts are enlightening you, a brief outline may not be amiss. Organized in France in 1918 by a group of veterans who saw the need of an organization which would build into one body all the veterans regardless of rank, color, race or creed. To enable them to preserve the memories and incidents which at the time seemed trivial, yet as the years rolled by would become sacred to all who wore a uniform. No veterans' organization at the time embodied all, whether they served full

time at the front or were trained and drilled and ready to leave the camps in the States, so the Legion made provision for all Honorably discharged veterans to become members. Of course, the 91st division licked the Germans, but the 41st and other divisions stood by and the boys who were destined to remain in the States weren't even soldiers. We forgot the Navy and Oh yes, there were the Marines, so after a few years of heated discussions we realized that each one had played his part and any reflections cast upon the unlucky stay-at-home were soon forgotten. True some still held a grudge against a certain group, but over 1-3/4 million men see eye to eye, and the Legion has ever had the welfare of the disabled and unfortunate veterans and their families close. Perhaps our opinions differ at times but when the going is hard we all pull together. World War #2 veterans are joining and we are hoping all returning boys will join some veteran's organization and an invitation is extended to you to take over the Legion.

R. H. Sagnotty (Saggie) has taken over the store at Mehama and Roy Philippi is a full-fledged tire man. This is becoming quite a busy town and with Mt. Jefferson Lbr. Co. starting soon will make quite a town out of Mehama.

With the return of World War #2 veterans a V. F. W. post is proposed for Stayton. This will provide a unit for those wishing to affiliate. Drew Lambrecht and John Gries are the organizers.

The curb sitters haven't been too prominent as yet, but we hope the rain lets up soon or we'll run out of philosophy. Even Ed Bell will be griping then.

So long-

CHARLES V. JOHNSON

#### HOWELL COMMUNITY NEWS

...The end of war in Europe has aroused much hope and speculation concerning the speedy return of our men but nothing definite is known except that many will get a furlough home before being sent to the Pacific....The men in the Pacific where silence is still necessary cannot tell much of their locations or activities but **VICTOR LOOSE**, E.M. 1/C writes from Iwo Jima that they have graduated from living in foxholes to tents...and there is also a laundry that washes their clothes and blankets each week. He visited a Jap town where nothing remained but the concrete floors and foundations. In the Jap gardens they found watermelons, cantaloupe, eggplant, summer squash, radishes and tomatoes growing. Some tried to transplant the tomatoes to their own camp with doubtful success...

#### SERVICE NOTES

Deaths of three servicemen all well known in the Santiam Valley has been reported by the War Department. They are: T/SGT **OSCAR ODDEN** who died in Italy on April 14th....STAFF SGT **KENNETH (DUTCH) MCDONALD** killed while on duty assigned to his aircraft carrier....PFC **EDWIN POWER**...killed in action with the Marines on Iwo Jima Island, Feb. 20th..

**EARL L. KIRSCH** A.O.M. 3/C..."missing in action," and for security reasons further information will be delayed.

2ND LT. **CLAUDE A. PHILLIPS** has been awarded his fifth bronze battle star at a troop carrier base in the European theater of operations.

Reported missing in action in Belgium since December 22, PVT **ORLIN F. MOSER** is now on his way home after having been held in a German prison camp.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Longfellow have received word from their son, CPL **HAROLD LONGFELLOW** that he received shrapnel wounds in the arm, inner leg, and above the ear in the fight on Iwo Jima.

Harold was only on the island two hours but stated it was longer than any other month he had ever lived, the fighting was so fierce.

**CLEM KRANTZ** who arrived in Fort Lewis on what was to have been a routine furlough, found that under the "point" system he was eligible for discharge from the Army. Clem, with 88 points to his credit, has returned to his farm in Jordan Valley and is planning on restocking it and operating the farm.

**HERBERT (BUD) GESCHER** who suffered shell-shock during the Philippines invasion...is at a permanent base in the Pacific awaiting orders.

**ERNIE HUNT** who flew several missions over Japan as a member of a B-29 crew has received a medical discharge after spending several months in a hospital in Seattle.

...Among the last War Prisoners to be released from camps in Austria was the name of **DARREL LEWIS** of Stayton. There were indications that some of the prisoners were in poor physical shape. Family and friends anxiously await direct word from Darrel.

T/5 – **DESMOND H. FUSON**, Marseille, France, May 9 1945 – "Dear Friends of the Bulletin: What a pleasant surprise it was to receive the Servicemen's Bulletin the day the war was over. I just got back from a trip to Germany and believe me, that country isn't worth a cent to anyone. Nearly every building has been hit or in some way damaged, but I don't feel sorry for any of the people. If it hadn't been for them I'd have been in the good old U.S.A....last night in Marseille was just like the Fourth of July back home. It was very beautiful to stand and watch all the colored flares light up the sky and the noise was terrific. This lasted for quite some time, but it was something worth celebrating about. It was something I had been waiting for quite some time. There is just two other things I'm waiting for, they are: for the South Pacific war to end, and for my getting home once again."

T/5 **VINCENT ETZEL**...recently in the Alsace Lorraine country in Europe, was called out in the middle of the night by a farmer there to assist in delivering the farmer's cow of a calf. Vince reports that mother and calf are doing as well as can be expected, considering the medical care.

CPL **RICHARD L. GRAY** – "Okinawa Jima...have been in the Pacific nearly 29 months. Saw action in Cape Gloucester, Pelelui and Okinawa. Plenty of shells flew overhead this morning but, luckily, they were all Tojo-bound. Landing here was very easy and the beach was secured without a shot but the fighting sure began about D plus 6 and has been fierce ever since....Have to make a few improvements on my foxhole before dark so as the Aussies say, Ta Da ...."

T/5 **BEN PFUND** – "...we have moved to Holland...The actual want in this country is hard to believe. A lot of these people really are suffering from lack of food....The citizens seem to have all the money they need but it won't buy anything because there is nothing to buy. I asked a lady to do some washing for me and she said she didn't want money for the work because she had enough but she wanted something to eat...."

S/SGT. **JOHN WELZ** ...."Germany,..The night I got the Jan-Feb issue I was just getting ready to go to our bridge over the Rhine to take my shift. We had been going for three days and three nights with only a few hours of sleep and not too many meals. When the Remagen bridge fell it put all its weight on us. By that, I mean that the traffic handled by us was doubled or tripled demanding 24 hour guard. It wasn't too bad building that bridge because they didn't shell us too heavily. They mostly threw air bursting shells at us and so the hand of God again played an important part in our war. We will never be able to thank Him enough for His protection."

**JIM BAXTER**, SOM. 3/c - With the invasion of Iwo Jima I have seen quite a bit of the Pacific in these last six months. There were all sorts of hell around that small Island of Iwo. I saw our battleship pump shell after shell in and very often hit the mark, making a big explosion. Our planes were continually dive-bombing and strafing. One night we had an extra large air raid; we stood by very nervously. I was scared and I am not ashamed to admit it. We never had a casualty and I am sure glad. I hope we are always this successful."

PFC **JOSEPH E. FRICHTL** - "Marianas...I saw in the last bulletin that **GLEN FRANK** must be on this island and I plan to look him up on my next day off. I've been out and watched the B-29's take off for Japan a few times and also have watched them come in a time or two. It sure is a beautiful sight."

LT. **WM. A. LAMBRECHT** - "...From now on I'll have to wear a Class A uniform to impress the German people and will probably have my own government vehicle. Our job is to take over German cities and enforce military government. Our first move is to install a Burgermeister or Mayor and tell him to get things running again, etc., appoint a new Chief of Police, a food commissioner and public health supervisor, etc. You plaster proclamations or regulations setting forth the terms of the occupation on walls, etc....I am glad I am now out of the front lines."

T-3 **FREDERICK G. LAU** - "Third Division opened the cover of this war history at Casa Blanca and is now collaborating on the final chapter. After a short rest near Nancy, we, with another veteran division, pulled a line buck on the Siegfried barrier, broke through in short order and have been moving like a top afire. It isn't necessary to listen to the news; we're too busy and too far ahead of it. We deserved a rest after 6 months on the line since landing in France. Combat time for the division totals over 400 days and the mileage on this repair truck reads over 5,000. The truck had 80 miles on the speedometer when it hit Africa and it doesn't move unless the division moves. Decorations and citations have been so profuse they mean little to the men. Not to say they haven't been earned, for they have, but everyone is a bit tired of war. 22 medals of honor to date with several men holding every decoration given by the Army. Last December after helping the French capture Strasbourg (the Nazi arm bands came from the Strasbourg Gestapo H.Q.), we joined the French 1st in the Colmar Sector to stifle any flanking ambitions. Never as bad as Anzio but still a bit rough. Came the weather break, the sector was mopped up. While we were near Colmar I read in the Stayton Mail that **ROBERT DEJARDIN** had received the Bronze Star and was in the 3rd. No mention of his unit so I threw out my dragnet. The same day I learned what unit he was in, they were trapped by Jerry tanks and shot up. I darn near gave him up but dropped a note anyway and, sure enough, he came to visit me. Had spent close to a day hiding in some very cold water - a rugged customer, this DeJardin. **LAWRENCE WOLFE** is with an attached unit but has had no opportunity to visit me as yet. I've repaired radios for his company, talked to his friends and received a letter but no visit. I have a little announcement to make that may surprise a few people:

March 3rd I married MARCELLE DIDIER  
at Rambervilles, Vosges!

I met her last November when my company was there and spending the winter in the Vosges country enabled me to visit her quite often. I was fortunate in obtaining a week's leave for my wedding which I spent at her home. Nothing to remind me of the Army except my uniform. Her family and friends were so very kind to me that it beggars description. Between her rapidly growing knowledge of English and my wee bit of French we have little difficulty. My decision to marry a French girl was carefully and, I might add, sleeplessly debated but our mutual feeling was too great to forget. With her personality she should have little difficulty adapting herself to a strange country. Now I am unwinding the red tape necessary to send her home and at the same time sweating the Pacific Theater. My ETO ribbon has 7 stars and I need the Asiatic with a few more stars to complete the collection.

I acknowledge Don Goode's kind though undeserved compliment. I must admit that I have seen a good bit of this moss and am amused at Don's allusion to Gulliver's Travels. Having read the unabridged version and spending considerable time in Africa and Italy, I can find considerable similarity aside from a

satirical view. In nowise do I offer this as a challenge but I think I could shock even the blasé Don! -- In our travels through the heart of the FFI country it was impossible to overlook the punishment dealt to women who fraternized with the Germans. A woman sans hair is an extraordinary spectacle. I remember one in particular who had patches of skin missing—resembling nothing more than a sheep after careless clipping. This letter could go on and on but I fear it would hasten my execution rather than stay it....Bon chance to youse guys and gals – from Deutsches Reich (Klein) ---Fritz."

**S. H. WEITMAN**, Q.M. 3/c, USS (Censored) – “I share the bulletin with another fellow aboard the Dirty D, from Turner, and we really get a bang out of it. The only fellow from home I've seen in my 3 years of Navy life is **LELAND MANNING** of Lyons. Took part in the invasion of Iwo Jima and the two Naval raids on Tokyo. Luck has been along so far and has carried us past several floating mine fields. If you were walking in the woods hunting, and there was a bull in front of you and a bear behind you, which would you shoot first? ....Shoot the bear...you can shoot the bull any old time....I've shot enough for now. Thanks for the bulletin.”

**LT. NORMAN CAREY** - "Germany....Dear Friends of the Home Land (how I would love to be there)... I have been doing a lot of fighting lately and don't like it any better than anyone else. We are now back for a short rest and I hope it turns out to be a rest. I just crawled out of a bath tub and I really feel like a million dollars. It is the first bath I've had in a long time and it was worth the wait. We are supposed to contact the Russians one of these days but I think someone beat us to it. I have seen enough of the Germans, though, so I don't care much....We usually have pretty good places to stop in this country because we kick the people out and live in their homes. Right now we are living in an apartment that is pretty nice. It is one of the first places they have electricity. We have all the comforts of home. The German army seems to be getting worse all the time. The other day we picked up some soldiers that were only 12 years old. That is hard to believe but it is the truth. They were crying like the babies they are. We ran into a trap one day and got shot up pretty bad and lost several vehicles and some equipment but I have been mighty lucky in most of the scraps and hope to keep that way. I was sorry to hear about some of the boys who have been lost in action. It is a very high price we must pay for victory. Let's hope the Bulletin carries a minimum of gold stars. Hello to everyone and good luck."

**CPL JERRY MERTZ**, ASN, 798th Engr. Forestry Co. - "Here on Guadalcanal we are in the 'lumber business' operating two sawmills at full swing. Logging operations are carried on in thick jungle and we produce lumber from all types of tropical hardwoods. The majority of fellows in this outfit are veteran woodsmen from Oregon and Washington and all agree that logging and sawmilling out here is pretty poor work as compared to doing it back home.”

**LAWRENCE A. WALZ**, Cox. Armed Guard Unit, SS (Censored) – “You can really see some of the hell holes of creation in these bug infested islands. Last night a bunch of mosquitos came over and they roared so much they picked them up on the radar and caused an alert but when they came in it was as bad as a flight of Zeros strafing. Could really go for a bottle of cold beer just to soak up this cotton I've been chewing on for the past couple of months.”

**PFC. ANTON P. PIETROK** - "I've been pretty busy doing nothing but move around since the last time I wrote, I had a seven day leave when I was in England and I spent it in London. If any of the boys have been there they know how it is...especially at Piccadilly Square.... all the beer you want to drink and WOMEN....I don't know where they all come from. Now I am in France working at this hospital. Maybe I will get home this year."

**MARCELLA M. FRANK**, H. A. 1/c, U.S. Naval Hosp. Staff, Wave Quarters - "My work here is hard and takes 12 hrs. out of a day. I have only 9 malarial infested patients now where I used to have 27 to 40

to feed. I have two very good helpers that work 8 hrs. a day. The Navy really goes for cleanliness. The red tape gripes me a little but I really love the Navy."

**1ST LT. F. A. LINDEMANN** - "Haven't had time lately to write due to our swift advances across Germany. Our outfit took part in crossing the Rhine river at Wesel and since that time we have been following up the troops with gas, supplies, and bringing back wounded and our men that have been liberated. We are stationed out in the heart of the old battlefields of World War I and there are trenches and shell holes for miles around. The graveyards around Verdun and here, from this and the last war, are kept in fine shape and the monuments and things put up by the American Legion are well kept. Germany, as much as I have seen, is a mass of wreckage and rubble. Every town of importance has been demolished. Rheims is about the distance from home to Salem away. I see **CLAUDE PHILLIPS** quite often. He looks good and seems to be enjoying himself. As you know I have a young son born March 5th."

**T/5 GEORGE BASL**...Germany "The country here is just one large, rolling plain for miles, dotted with their chimneys and factories and a stream now and then. Can't say much about my present activities except that I'm helping to keep 'em rolling for the Ninth Army. Can say I have been in on bridge building operations, wire stringing (to tangle them up), some road repair and digging replacements. I can say I've seen just all I want to see and am looking forward to settling down in one spot. I'm the only guy from Oregon in my battalion so I have quite a time but I'm right in there pitching."

**JOE MCCOY F-1/C**...says "This place is a small island about three miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. There isn't a single tree left standing since the battle took place here a couple of months ago. The whole island is filled with shell holes but even so it feels darned good to have your feet on honest-to-God soil again....Suppose you have received the news of the biggest amphibious landing ever to take place. Think it pretty good work for the 'little broken-down Navy' Japan says we are."

**CPL. TONY BEITEL** – "Germany....There are some pretty nice towns here and then also some that are flattened out level with the surface looking like hell broke loose on them."

**CAPT. FRANCIS M. FORRETTE** – "Germany....We were at the Ruhr and Rhine bridge heads and haven't stopped yet! We've had some good and some bad times but we've had a lot of luck too. It's hard to realize but I'm starting my 5th year in this Army, and may it all end with peace throughout the world."

**PFC HARVEY F. SYVERSON** wrote us that "...I was wounded in action on March 23rd, in Germany, nothing serious...I consider myself lucky in that respect because a Kraut 105 mm shell lit practically in my lap. That was the closest of many close calls that I have had....The war seems to be just about finished over on this side of the world. I won't shed any tears when it does end, but on the other hand, the celebrating will have to wait awhile. The German civilians are pretty hostile in this section yet. They don't like us and as far as I'm concerned, the feeling is mutual....Regards to all, I must get busy."

From England came a news report as follows: "For meritorious achievement during eight Air Force bombing attacks on German military and industrial installations, **SECOND LT. ALLAN C. SWOBODA**, co-pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress...has been awarded the Air Medal.

From the Marianas comes report that for meritorious achievement during the Mariana campaign, **SEABEE CMM E. E. ARCHER** was awarded the Bronze Star.

Mrs. Wm. Basl, mother of **M/SGT WILLIAM F. (SNOOK) BASL**, brought to us a copy of his camp paper in England, in which an article reads as follows:

“With the return of N Nancy Bar from the mission on the 14th of April, M/Sgt. Wm. F. [Snook] Basl and crew of the 567th witnessed the successful completion of 160 combat missions on the aircraft assigned to them, the last 84 having been completed without a mechanical failure, to win the nomination as the Maintenance Crew of the Week. The crew, which consists of Sgt. Stuart J Metz of Min., Sgt. Lynn F. Chatelain of La., and Cpl. Michael J. Sarsfield of Mass., has been operating together since shortly after the group arrived in the ETO [European Theater of Operations]. When the Group made its second trip to Africa, M/Sgt W. Basl accompanied his ship there and returned, only to lose it on the Gotha mission, 24 February, 1944. Since that time he has had three ships, the present one now having amassed a grand total of 70 missions without an abortion. Bill Basl, an Oregonian by birth, resided on a small farm there until entering the service at Fort Lewis, Washington, 15 October 1941. He sweated through Sheppard Field for 19 weeks and AM training and went to Tucson where he became a cadre member of the squadron. His maintenance work has always been of the highest type, and his leadership and personality has put him high in the esteem of his fellow workers.” Congratulations, Bill – More power to you. We are proud of you.

**PVT DON A. BENDER** – “...I was out exploring a small town near here (in France). What did I find? Not much, some sour wine and about 25 G.I.s to every girl, counting all the girls from 8 to 80. I just found out tonight that I had a ride with **FRED LINDEMANN'S** outfit, altho I didn't know it at the time. Darn, I had a feeling that there should be someone around here that I knew.”

**SGT PAUL M. STUCKART**...Germany...April 29th – “...We have been on the go for the last six weeks, seeing a lot of country the hard way — walking. We have taken a lot of prisoners, those white flags look good when we go thru, some places are just covered with them. It has been raining the past week and crops are starting to grow. They have a lot of grain in this part of the country, the people all live in towns, they have very few lone houses, they go from town and work their farms. Czechoslovakia, May 8th – Well I guess the war is over with over here and I know everyone is really glad. It surely hung on a long time after everyone thought it couldn't last much longer. There are quite a few people here that can speak English fairly well, and from them we learn that the civilians here were fed up too. We were in Austria a few days ago and that makes nine countries I have been in counting the U.S.A. The weather was pretty nice today and we just laid around in the sun, that sure feels good after being on the go for a month and a half, very seldom did we sleep in the same place for more than one night. We had the first hot meal from the kitchen in over a month, eating mostly K rations gets pretty tiresome. We got PX rations today including 5 candy bars, 1 package gum, and for the boys that smoke plenty of cigarettes....The large cities are all blown up but the small towns are in pretty good shape. It seems out of place to be able to walk down the street without your helmet on.”

**CPL. ROLLY W. SMITH** - "...Thank God, the European war is over. Now that it is, maybe I can tell you more than I once could. After being with Searchlights continuously in the States, N. Africa and at Foggia for two and one half years, we finally went North and became Combat engineers. We are with about the oldest engineer outfit around. From what soldiers have written and told you I assume you know just about what our duties consist of. Making and repairing roads, building Bailey Bridges and clearing mine fields. Boy! deliver me from mines, trip wires and booby traps. Those krauts are treacherous and mines dangerous. We made a couple of records on Bailey Bridges. But I guess we have been pretty lucky. Our greatest misfortune was in losing 1st, Lt. Frank O'Donnell, one of our best officers. He was killed by a sniper bullet. We thought all the Jerries planes were gone over here. On two nights a few came over us and I learned right then a searchlight can do a darn sight more good than we used to think. We felt kinda helpless out there under a black target. We helped the infantry troops over the Po, too. Well, we have seen some country since we have been in the engineers. Cities up here are pretty, Lecco, Bergamo, Milan and Turin. We are in a big three story building, we can look down on the street and see canoes on the water and see street cars going by. Yes, it's nice here but I'd much rather be in Oregon.”

**SGT. WM. BREITENSTEIN** – “Yesterday the Easter Bulletin finally caught up with me, and I delighted in reading it all. What a difference between the very first edition and the ones of late. I remember reading my first one in '41 as I was pulling guard duty close to El Segundo in Calif. At that time I didn't have slightest idea that 3-1/2 years later I would be reading it in Czechoslovakia almost 7,000 miles away, but now I think the Bulletin has reached its peak in travel and maybe now it won't be long it can dwindle down to '41 size. All we are anxiously waiting for now is demobilization, but we have one more clean-sweep to make first. I must admit the run around in Europe has meant an awful lot to me, I didn't know the farmers still tilled the soil with a team of milk cows, wore homemade wooden shoes and the women wear shawls with their hair parted in the middle. I'll take my living in the good old U.S.A. True enough the country is scenic and the weather now is very nice, but the spring birds don't sing to waken you in the morning as bird life is very limited over here. I guess too many people have to live first. Some towns show hardly any signs of war then again some are ghost towns. Electricity is minus in this town so mostly for light we must resort to candles and mine is about burned down so I must call this quits.”

**LT. WILLIAM A. LAMBRECHT** – “I have been in Military Government. The past few days we have been in this Austrian city of 80,000. We were present at the surrender of a whole German Army that had been fighting in this sector. It was quite a sight to see the German Field Marshalls as they asked for peace terms. The people of Austria were certainly glad that the U.S. Army got in here rather than the Russians. They seemed to take the attitude that our arrival meant they were liberated the same as France. I now live in a beautiful hotel with hot water, beautiful beds, overstuffed chairs and have servants. Yipee! What a set-up. My next duties are to get all public utilities and industry that is not concerned with war material back in production, so today was inspection of the public water system for this lordkoies, or county. I went high up into the Alp Mts. by a cable railroad to the water plant, there are large tunnels 300 to 400 feet into the mountains and water from springs is purified naturally by this method. I should like to tell you a little of my last problem in international relations. In Wurthen, Germany I had 6000 displaced persons, French, Poles, Russians, Czechs, Belgians etc., they were all in a German military camp where we could guard against killing and looting.”

**CPL ROLLY W. SMITH** – “Italy – May 5th – As you know fighting has ceased here in Italy. Everyone went wild when the news hit. Going thru cities you can now see our flag flying, and in every window are the red, white and green Italian banners. These people of Italy are as happy as our own soldiers. If there is one brand of happiness any greater than the other it is from the country people and the kids.”

**PFC CLIFFORD P. LAUX** – “Now the war here has ended things are much better for us. It is about the first time I've been able to enjoy a good night's sleep since I came over, always before you were likely to move out either on line or in the attack. At present I'm in Austria and I must say the country here is about as beautiful as any I've ever seen....”

From **LT. NORMAN F. CAREY**...Germany April 30th, 1945 - "...Since you last heard from me we have travelled a great distance. Everybody is looking for the war to end but we fight on. The resistance is light in our sector right at the present. I have been in plenty of tight spots but have always managed to get out without a scratch. I am still in one piece due to the poor marksmanship of the Germans who are on the firing end of these burp guns. They can sure throw the lead. We walked into a trap once and ended up by getting six of our jeeps captured. I gave my life to the Krauts about a dozen times before I got out of there. We were going to be brave soldiers and fight the enemy in a big way but when we saw a couple of tanks coming at us we decided to head the other direction because we had nothing to fight with except a few pistols and carbines. They would hardly penetrate a heavy tank like that. We had no troops with us. It was the second trap we had walked into. Right now we are on the front lines but getting a good rest. We haven't had any fighting for over a week...I have been with the third army and am just as far east as Berlin but have given up hopes of seeing the place as we are too far south. I haven't run into any fellows

from home as yet but I haven't given up hope. One of my brothers is over here and I hope to see him someday.”

PFC **RAYMOND BARRICK**...writes from Germany on April 30th that "the war over here looks as if it is about finished but believe me the dirty work done by these Germans will go down in the memory of every soldier that has seen action. I have been in a front line outfit for over 6 months and I have seen the remnants of Germany's once powerful army and I can say that they are learning the lesson they asked for. It is not near what they have coming....”

Mrs. Evelyn Jordan of Stayton, mother of PCT. **LEON C. JORDAN**...received the following telegram, dated May 3rd - "The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son, Pvt. Jordan, Leon C, was slightly injured on Luzon 19 Apr 45..." On April 26th, Leon wrote a letter to us, which we received May 10th, in which he writes "Don't tell Mom, but I am in the hospital. I am quite alright, however mighty jumpy at times, but not bad. I wish I could tell you more but I hardly think it would pass the censor. Undoubtedly you know all about plasma and the miracle it performs. Miracle isn't good enough for it, if only people could see what it does. This isn't a sales talk to get more donors, but what I think of plasma, I have seen it in action. Give my regards to all, from the Philippines."

We understand that during the Iwo Jima battle, **HAROLD WOLF**, **GENE BUTLER**, **LEONARD NEAL** and **JIM O'CONNOR** were all close to each other and doing their bit.

Article appearing in a Burma paper, under a picture reads as follows: BURMA SURGERY using an operating table made of bamboo and parachute lines, members of an American Portable Surgical Hospital apply a plaster cast to the leg and body of a Chinese soldier wounded in battle for northern Burma town of Bhamo. Working immediately behind the lines these units travel over jungle trails with the troops. Pictured from left to right are - S/SGT. **ED. J. SHERMAN**, Aumsville, Oregon; Major D. A. Sunderland, Nashua, N. H.; Capt. H. E. Heymann, Corpus Christi, Texas; Corp. J. J. Monoivoir, Bryan Texas, and Dr. A. Joseph, civilian physician from Bhamo. (Sig. Corps. Photo)

PFC **HAROLD J. SHEPHERD**...writes from Germany that "...Germany is so completely different from the other countries where we have been. Low rolling hills, forested sections, gorges, with fast running streams, industrial cities, in fact, it's very much like our own country. Houses are modern and you see more bath tubs than in all the other previously visited countries combined. What a pity that such a rich, far-seeing country should throw its resources to such a waste on war. We have music now. One of the boys found a phonograph with many records. Anything from swing to Beethoven's fifth. We also have several American records which special service furnishes. Ed, you never saw the like of 'Doc' Deidrich's cough syrup in your life. There's any amount and quality or name...Wish I could slip you a bottle....

"I'm beginning to think there are no Nazis left. Everywhere you go it's 'me Polish,' 'me Rushy,' 'me Swede.' Then you go in the attic and in the cellar and find enough Nazi gear to equip a regiment. No Nazi--- a big pile of that stuff out behind the barn, I says.

"Recently I had an opportunity to examine and inspect some captured railroad guns. They are built on specially constructed railroad cars with much reinforcing. The camouflage job is perfect on them. They are loaded mechanically and the barrels look like a smoke stack. I shall be content to see and hear no more of the likes of them.... Patton has been going so fast it's all we can do to keep up. Armor always goes first and this is the tank battalion. I'm not complaining tho, we shall soon be rubbing noses with Uncle Joe's boys [the Russian troops], then it will be heigh-ho for the Wilhelmstrasse and Berlin. Even tho our early spring weather has gone it isn't too bad....All of the flowers and shrubs are blooming beautifully, it makes me think of our own valley."

Report came to our office that **LAWRENCE SILBERNAGEL** has been slightly wounded and is in a hospital in England. His folks believe it will only be a short time and he will be out and around again in the interest of winning the war.

CPL **LAWRENCE M. WOLFE** – “Deep in Germany..... I have seen many homes of Germany inside, and about 3/4 of them had a crucifix and a picture of Our Lord and Mary. I can't quite figure this whole thing out but the Nazidom has, no doubt, had their hands on the whole affair. The people seem to be very friendly although I am not taking any chances.”

SGT. **DON GOODE**, USMC – “Okinawa Jima...enclosed find a piece of invasion currency purchased for the operation now. (We're 325 miles from Japan.) To me, it is of small value since most of the shops and stores in our area are heaps of rubble and desolation. This island is picturesque and very evidently of oriental cultivation. I'll tell you more about it when the bombing, strafing and shelling has been knocked off somewhat. D-Day here was some combination...Easter, April Fool's Day, my first invasion beach and my wife's birthday....I won't soon forget it, either....”

PFC **DALE M. BASSETT** – “Philippines....Not much going on here at present. Every once in a while our planes come over and drop some Iron rations on the Japs. Artillery is booming most of the time. Am working with a chaplain so, consequently, I don't get into very much trouble. Not like the experiences I had on New Britain, New Guinea and (censored). Sometimes I feel a little like a Gold-Brick because this job has been like a vacation to me. However, the Chaplains have a pretty tough job and they are sure doing a lot of good work. Chow time...am going to get my ‘corn willy.’”

PFC **WM. J. SPENNER**, Germany – “Some nice farm country here and every inch of it has some kind of crop in it... mostly grain to make their black bread; it seems to be the main dish here. I'd starve on the stuff but have eaten it more than once. The people on the farms have enough to eat it seems. They have all kinds of liquor and some danged good cider too. The beer in Germany beats the stuff the French had a dozen ways. Tell the Gang hello for me.”

Cpl. **JOHN KUIKEN**, Seattle – “Our business is very poor up here as there doesn't seem to be much demand anywhere for the ack-ack; however, we're still expecting to get an APO most any time. Had a military review recently for presentation of Silver Stars to several boys returned from the Pacific theatre. We're hoping the war will soon be over; however, the biggest battle to be won is to come...that of drafting a peace that last longer than the 1918 one did...Good luck to everyone.”

CPL **ED ZIMMERMAN**, ASN, writes from Germany “I am okay. I figured my points and find that to my sorrow after 3 years in the service I am still short. I can see now that I made a big mistake, in the years before coming into the army, instead of raising hell I should have been raising a family, as another 36 points would bring me home.”

SGT **DARRELL S. (“DUTCH”) HAYWARD** – “My career in the Army has not been too colorful but it has been educating and exciting. Have seen very little action, even if I was in the battle zone at different times. Was inducted at Port Lewis in February, 1942, and from there I went to Edgewood Arsenal, Md. and took my eight weeks basic training in Chemical Warfare Service. From there I went to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where our company was organized and activated (6th Chem. Depot Co.) going from there to Fort Dix, N.J. I went directly to Scotland and to the southern part of England. After spending five and one-half months in England I was sent to Africa. All this taking place in 1942. In Sept. of '43 I left Africa to go to Italy. It was after two months on Anzio Beachhead that I was sent home on the rotation plan. I enjoyed my delay en route after which I was sent to Fort Lawton on July 11, 1944. Most people, when they hear about Chemical Warfare Service, have no conception as to knowing that there has been no gas used in this war, and they believe that it is a very idle branch of the service. On the contrary, records

will show that this branch has been very active and useful in the outcome of different engagements. Outside of poison gases, we throw smoke screens, throw shells with 4.2 mortar and also throw incendiary bombs from planes, such as they are now doing to Tokyo. Smoke screens were used in building the bridge across the Volturno River in Italy, amongst shell fire. Smoke screen was used to cover the entire Anzio Beachhead, to make poor visibility for the enemy. All points of the Anzio Beachhead were in plain view of the enemy and it was required to use something like that so that they could not see what was going on. It was the use of the 4.2 mortar that helped save the landing at Salerno, Italy. That weapon was called, by the Germans, the American's secret automatic weapon. It was through this branch that the incendiary bombs were used in Berlin and Tokyo. So, you can plainly see that Chemical Warfare Service has not been idle during this war. So far, gas has not been used but it is a very comforting thought to know that this Army has the best in gases and the best protection in case gas is used against our troops. It is not that I am boasting or trying to build C.W.S. up as one of the largest branches or the best. It is not a popular unit among the troops because it is uninteresting to them. To my notion, people should know what to expect from their Army in anything that may come along. They can rest assured that their Army has the best of everything. While my duties have not been very colorful, my life has been rather exciting. While in Anzio, I was constantly under fire of heavy artillery...while it is nothing like what most of the men are going through it certainly gave me an idea what war is like. Seeing over one hundred women and children being blown and burned to death makes a man want to see the enemy punished to any degree. One bomb was dropped at an intersection where three double-decked buses had stopped. It was a busy morning and the buses were filled with women and children. Only a few escaped. We had to walk through blood, bits of bodies and burned corpses. The scene will always remain in my mind....."

Servicemen's Bulletin, July – August 1945 Issue

## VICTORY!

BEFORE THIS BULLETIN WAS MAILED, THE WAR ENDED WITH JAPAN,  
AND OUR JOY IS TEMPERED ONLY BY OUR REMEMBRANCE OF ITS COST

**VIRGIL E. SCHUETZ**, May 17....."Was in the Invasion of Iwo Jima and, as you know, it was pretty hot. Was close enough to get a good look at the beach and know what the boys on the beach went through. I saw **Jim O'Connor's** outfit hit the beach and was wishing Jim all the luck in the world. I was in the Philippines awhile back at the Islands of Leyte and Samar....On Easter Sunday I had a ringside seat for the invasion of Okinawa and it was really something. Can't describe my duties during the invasion but got a good look at the beach. Our troops hit the beach and moved inland without any interference to speak of but we kinda caught the devil the first night from enemy aircraft. From D-Day on the Jap planes...came over night & day and all hours. All in all it was kinda hot up there and I won't mind at all if I never go back. Was sorry to read in my Bulletin of the death of one of my classmates, **Lawrence Kirsch**; he was a swell guy. I know it is tough on his folks and wish to extend my sympathies....Tell all hello for me. Am okay and waiting to get back."

Central Pacific

1 July, 1945

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

Of all the letters I have ever written in my life, none have hurt me as deeply as this letter I am writing to you to inform you exactly how **JIM** died on March 17, 1945, on Northern Iwo Jima. I am glad and thankful that I am able to give you these facts, for there may be some comfort to your extreme sorrow in knowing that your son died a hero's death with no suffering.

To begin this story probably I should tell you how I came to be Jim's platoon commander. I landed on Iwo with the shore party as a replacement officer, and several days later was sent to Co, H, 28th Marines, The company had suffered heavy casualties, and "was in need of replacements." It was then that I took

over the organization of which Jim was a member. You know how some people take a sudden liking to others - that is the way it was with Jim and me, we rapidly got to be the best of friends. He was one of the best men I had under my command, one of my favorites. We accounted for quite a few of those fanatical Japs, in revenge of our many friends who had suffered at their hands. We both hated them as no humans had ever hated other humans. We seemed to agree on lots of things, and if the situation had not turned out as it later did, we would have been good friends long after Iwo was just an unpleasant memory.

On 17 March our company was in the advance. We had gone only a few yards when we ran into a Jap emplacement filled with snipers. It was impossible to get very near because they threw hand grenades at us. With the rest of us covering him with our rifles, Jim came forward with his flamethrower and successfully destroyed the emplacement. Naturally the Japs were unable to resist, for had one stuck his head up to fire, he would have been met with a rain of bullets from our weapons. Then we were able to move on. Soon we came to a cliff where we could look down, and there were a few unsuspecting Japs in front of their caves. We killed several of them and the others ran into their caves. Again Jim used his flamethrower to deal out misery to the Nips. He really did a good job. By then there was no more fuel available for the flamethrower, so Jim picked up a rifle and some grenades to help us. He was about 50 feet to the right of me when he saw a Jap running toward a cave. Quickly he threw a grenade and stopped the Jap. But just then a Jap rifle cracked, and Jim fell back. Immediately we were at his side—but it was too late—the bullet had gotten him right in the heart. When I radioed back to the C. P. [Command Post] that Jim had been killed, the entire company was shocked. We all liked him. Carefully we carried his body back for burial. Though they were still in the midst of fighting, I saw tears in the eyes of my men. And there were some in mine.

That night, as we dug our foxholes with Japs still sniping at us, I remembered the day ... and what had happened. I swore that if I ever got off that island I would write you these facts, for I know Jim would have wanted me to.

Several days later I almost caught a sniper's bullet in my head. It pierced my helmet but somehow just missed. Long ago I had decided that the outcome depended solely on fate.

When Harvey Taylor showed me your letter and clipping the other night, I was shocked to hear that Jim was only 16. Up to that time I had thought that he was 17 or 18, which is awfully young. I am only 22, myself, and consider myself young.

I know, Mr. O'Connor, that no words I say can in any way reduce your sorrow in the loss of Jim. But, always remember, that death came quickly, and he did not suffer for one moment. Other men suffered for days and weeks before death. Jim died doing his duty, and I know that he had no regrets as he passed on.

Jim has been recommended for decoration by the Marine Corps for doing a good job, which is a small but glorious way of saying, "Here was a fine American boy who gave his life for his country..."

If there is ever, any way in which I can help you, please do not hesitate to call upon me at any time.

Very sincerely yours,

*Lt. Johnson*

P.S. I would appreciate a picture or at least a copy of the clipping about Jim. I want to save it in remembrance of one of the best all-round boys I have ever known.

(EDITOR'S NOTE - The foregoing letter was received from Lt. Johnson, a commanding officer and particular pal of Jim's, addressed to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis O'Connor of Stayton. Since the publishing in the last bulletin of Jim's death, it is remarkable the numerous letters we received offering sympathy to the family and citing the high esteem in which he was held with those that knew him. He made a lasting friendship with whomever he associated.)

The following account of the 12th Divisions battle activities was broadcast on 17 April 1945 by the Seventh Army radio station, and the transcript was sent to us by **PERRY CLIPFELL**, a member of this division: "The 'mystery division,' the armored spearhead of much of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's drive to the Rhine, today was revealed as the 12th Armored Division. Borrowed from the Seventh Army to

augment Patton's thrust into Germany, the 12th Armored led the Third Army drive to the Rhine cities of Ludwigshafen, Speyer and Germersheim. Commanded by Maj. Gen. Roderick R. Allen, the 12th was termed the "mystery division" since it was one of the few units taking part in the gigantic push which could not be mentioned by name in the press for security reasons. Known as the Hellcat Division, the 12th halted only when the Jerries had been pushed across the Rhine, and contact had been made with the Seventh Army forces driving up from the South. The division averaged from 220 to 225 miles a day in its swift forward movement. In the space of one week from March 18 to 25, the 12th took dozens of towns, captured approximately 6,000 prisoners and disarmed half as many more, sending them back to surrender to trailing infantry outfits while the armor pushed on...."

LEONARD FRANK, S 1/c USS LST – "...May 30...I suppose you know that BILL received a knee injury during the fighting on Luzon. I have two invasions under my belt. Those Jap shells landed pretty close the first nights on the beach at Zamboanga and Terehan. Luckily we didn't see any enemy planes; we were stuck on the beach. Those Aussies are some guys. The first thing they did was to build some fires and brew some tea. I don't know how that helps but from what I know about Australian tea I think that it makes them fighting mad. Leonard."

LT. **WILLIAM A. LAMBRECHT**...Austria....June 5...."Am now in Military Government of Austria and my function is to help repair all public utilities and industry..." (Ed. Note: Bill enclosed...a snap taken in France showing a family of three moving their only remaining possessions along a scenic road... Papa and Mama are atop a team drawn wagon filled with their few belongings and Sonny is perched atop a smaller pint-sized wagon which is followed by another horse. Willie sez, "These are the people who really know what a war is like. The only things they own are in the wagons. Many don't even have that.")

S/SGT **JOHN WELZ**...Germany...May 22. "It's over for good over here, Ed, and the changes are very noticeable. Both the country and people have changed. I think they've learned a part of their lesson, but they still have more to learn. Many changes have taken place in the G.I.s too. We aren't the dirty, bearded, tired, nasty looking men we used to be. No---the beard is shaved off and frequent trips to the showers and clean clothes have made a big difference. We even go so far as to shine our shoes and clean our rifles. I'm half expecting a furlough before going to another theatre. All we can go by is rumor but they all sound good...."

**C.L. BOWERS** in the South Pacific mailed to his good wife a label off a can of Stayton Canning Company "beans" with the wording in his handwriting "Got this off a can of beans. You can tell the folks back there that Stayton vegetables also feed the Navy!!!!"

PFC **RAYMOND SILBERNAGEL** (Jordan)...is in the hospital after receiving a gun-shot wound in the chest, but is feeling much better....His brother, **LAWRENCE**, who was also injured in action...expects to be home on furlough by the Fourth of July.

SGT **DON D. GOODE**, USMCR, Quartermaster Section, Pacific, writes that he "regrets that I've been forbidden to explain some of the reasons for this change of duty. I'm not in the least unhappy about it though since it offers plenty of opportunity to be of use here. Doubtless my new address will have meaning to a number of the fellows that are in this particular area in the Pacific. If so, I hope to thunder they'll look me up. I know Alma Fulton's husband is here, but have been too busy to try finding him. Perhaps later we may be able to organize an 'Oregonian's Day' as they did in Honolulu recently...they say the results of that plan were more than pleasing in bringing together men and women who hadn't the slightest notion they had so many friends (even relatives) in that area. I must remember to advise that I had a visit with SGT. MAJOR **CHAPMAN**, whose home (when home) is at Turner. He's related to a number of Robinsons in our locality. Perhaps some of the readers of the Bulletin will know him. Even meeting someone from nearby home is very pleasant....you'd be surprised! With the E.T.O. secured,

we're wondering out here what the effect will be in securing our section of the war. Gosh, I had no notion when I enlisted in the Corps that I'd be drawing "longevity pay" before getting out of the service. And I'm not interested in increasing the percentages of this sort!!! I'll be one of about ten million others who'll be gloriously happy to see the, final scenes of this war! Again re-expressing my gratitude to the 'Bulletin' and what it means to me personally."

A big surprise to the Bulletin staff was that on June 11th walked into the office none other than our good friend **HENRY (Bud) BARKMEYER**, now on furlough for a few days. BUD has been seeing duty in Burma, India, and God knows where.

LT. **WM. ARCHIE RANKIN**, Postal officer, says "Here I started out this morning full of wim, wigger, and witality (no remarks) and you folks sure raised Hell with my day. Yep that's right, my May-June issue of the Bulletin landed here this morning. Naturally nothing can be accomplished until one reads everything from cover to cover. You asked me that I keep a check on **CATHERINE BRAND**, and **BOY** I sure am. Have checked on her for several Sundays and that checking period always seems to come about mealtime. Mighty good food in those parts. She's doing a wonderful job, and is very well thought of by all who come in contact with her. As I wrote some time ago the B-24s and B-25s have left this field, and we are now are training B-29 crews. They come from overseas, and take a 30 day training period, and then return overseas. Our first class finished the first of this month, (June) and were back to their stations overseas using what they learned here..."

PFC **H. J. SHEPHERD**...May 20...Germany – "Of late we have been resting, cleaning up, just being happy in general after Mr. Churchill's announcement. Hooray! We have left ye old village of smelly manure piles for a land basking in fresh cut hay and honeysuckle odors. We're now being 'beeg operators' in this village. We've taken over the civilian communications system....The last issue of the bulletin was up to standard in all ways. Again Mr. Johnson's comments were appreciated; the clergymen did a mighty fine job, too. I'm going to make it my personal business to thank each one of them and I'm also going to run down this Mr. Johnson when I come home and give his hand the firm G.I. howdy...P.S. We're near Passau."

Same Guy [**H.J. SHEPHERD**]...14 June...Vilshofen, Germany – "We were here a week, camped nearly on the bank of the Danube and I didn't even know it was the famous river. It's a wide, slow moving stream and very dirty with an accompanying stench. Truthfully, I think Mr. Strauss must have been full of schnapps when he composed all of that delightful music. Each morning we drive about 8 miles to Osterhofen where the switching central is located and where we work. I enjoy the ride very much. Across the river are the ruins of an old castle I'd delight in exploring. At the 7th Eng. where we eat, there is a new dishwasher fresh from the states. He's an ex-circus man and a perfect goof. The first few times I saw him he was ravenously devouring razor blades and broken light bulbs. I'm praying that he continues wrestling with the pots and pans and doesn't start cooking! What a strange shortage...I've noticed several letters in 'Stars and Stripes' concerning the difficulty in obtaining American flags. I know it's true in our battalion, too. We have only one for the whole group. It's at H. Q. Old Glory really means a heap to us and we surely hope something is done to remedy this situation."

T/4 **Thomas F. Owen**, EQ. Btry. – "Am still in NC...not telling any secrets I think we've a limited time here. Maybe I'll get across the water after all. I surely have been waiting for it a long time. Certainly would like to be having some of those strawberries they're picking at home now. Eat a few for me...Fred"

T/5 **JAMES BARESCH** writes us "Right now I'm back here in France again. My outfit was more or less split up into small groups, but temporarily. At present I and six other fellows are in Hochfelden, a U. S. Cemetery here, where we all are honour guards. Today I made a trip to Pont-a-Mousson to get a load of crosses. While there I drove out to the Limey U. S. Cemetery, which is about 8 miles from Pont-a-

Mousson and while there I found out that **LEONARD LULAY** is buried there, as I visited his grave (Plot J, Row J Grave 58). Hochfelden is about 25 miles from Strassbourg (that's where I'm staying) we have 3-room in a private home and there is 'bocoup' drinks here, 'bierre, vin and cognac' in this town. Now as for myself, never felt better, that is as far as my army life is concerned. Well this is it, so, 'Bon chance' to you, Ed, and all the boys. Au Revoir."

**RAYMOND STEFFES**, wrote his parents to contact the O'Connor family of Stayton, secure some films, and that he would take some pictures of the grave of **JAMES O'CONNOR** who is buried on Iwo Jima.

**CHAS. E. WINSLOW**, R.M. I/o, U. S. S. - Y.M.S. writes us on August 8th, that "Fourteen forwarding addresses brings, still well preserved, the Servicemen's Bulletin for which I express grateful appreciation. I see names of a host of friends and acquaintances—so many in fact, I pause to wonder just why I moved from the Stayton vicinity. The chances are very good that my civilian job will afford me the opportunity to return as the Bonneville project is definitely moving in your direction."

**LEONARD FRANK**, S. 1/c, U. S. S. - L.S.T. writes "just a few lines to let you know that I received the May-June bulletin and was very interesting. I sure hope that the war ends before the gold star lists gets any larger. It is just too bad that those Japs haven't any sense. Let's hope that atomic bomb does the trick, either by fear or destruction. It is just hard telling which way would be better in the long run. I don't know if you had the same broadcast or not; but I will write it down in case you didn't. The navy announced that Tokyo Rose was awarded the meritorious service medal for entertaining our men over here. She also has permission to describe Admiral Halsey's riding the Emperors White Horse through the Streets of Tokyo. She ought to enjoy that immensely. Well, I can say that I got within 200 miles of my brother, **Bill**. I wasn't able to get in touch with him. Telephone communications aren't good enough for that. I saw some guys from his outfit and they were going to look him up if he is still out here. He expected to leave for the states the first part of August. He has 96 points and intends to use them for a discharge. I don't blame him a bit. I would do the same thing. I am still looking for someone from around Sublimity, without much success. I did manage to see one of the **Russell** boys some time ago. I forgot what his first name was but he was a B. M. 1/c. So long for now."

**JAY SIEGMUND**, C.A.S.U. is now home on Furlough (Aug. 15), and is fine. He is coming in one of these days and give a good story for the bulletin.

PFC. **ANTHONY GERSPACHER**...."We had a pretty nice trip aboard ship....On H-hour the ship was about 14 miles off shore. There were some Jap planes and quite a few of ours overhead, as we went over the side, down the net, into the Higgens Boats, came into about 400 yards of the beach and there we transferred into amphibs because of the coral reefs. The amphib I was in made it to shore alright. The beach is a few yards wide, then there is a seawall made of rock and coral about 15' high to keep the soil from washing down...I had some pretty close calls but made it alright so far. One night, awhile back, a Jap threw a grenade in the foxhole a buddy and I were in on machine gun watch – it killed him instantly and I got by without a scratch."

SGT. **E. E. HUNT** – "Saipan.... We had a raid on Sunday night and one on Monday. On the Monday raid we shot down 13 Jap planes. My crew had gone on two missions to Tokyo in B29s....They bombed Tokyo from here twice and we watched them take off. It took four hours from the time the first one got off the ground until the last one left and they took off one right after the other."

S/SGT **ROLAND C. DARBY** – "...We are situated somewhere in the South Pacific with the idea of helping bomb Japan off the face of the earth...."

T/4 **GEORGE F. BASL**...writes us from Hildesheim, Germany "I should have plenty of time to write now that the war is over but seems like I'm just as busy as ever...This is about as pretty a town as I have seen in Germany. All tree shaded, with parks all around the outskirts. Oh yes, and plenty of pretty girls, which is very tempting to a soldier, but...there's always in the back of your mind that these people are the cause of us being here. No matter how peaceful they may seem now. It's really hard to believe that these people could have done the things they have. Unless you see with your own eyes some of the sights I never want to see again...I only hope that the Pacific battle is over before too many of the fellows numbers are up. I got so I'm afraid to look at the honor roll. I always try to picture these fellows as I last saw them. The ones I know real close will always live on. I never used to think much of life and death. Since I've been over here, death is so near, I've realized just how precious life is. To think how we used to gamble with it behind the wheel of an automobile seems very foolish. I guess I'm in one of these moods, Editor, so had better sign off. Best of luck to all."

PFC **WILLIAM SPENNER**...sent a letter from Austria dated May 24 in which he says "The SS are the orneriest dang guys I ever saw when it comes to getting caught. I guess they know they'll get shot anyway. You will know the reason why I don't mind killing those b(censored)s after you read what is on the news bulletin I'm sending along with this letter. Willie"

[The news bulletin is a 42nd Rainbow Infantry Division WORLD NEWS piece by T/C James W. Creaseman, describing the horrors American soldiers encountered while liberating 32,000 prisoners at Dachau. The last paragraph reads "...These tortured dead can only be avenged when our world is aroused so much by what was uncovered at Dachau and what has been discovered at all the other Dachaus scattered-throughout Germany, that never again will any party, any government, any people be allowed to mar the face of the earth with such inhumanity."]

T/SGT **RAYMOND C. DAoust** – "The mail has been a little slow in catching up with us but last week I received three copies of the bulletin. It took me two days to read them but enjoyed every minute of it. Many thanks to the whole staff. Have been in two Philippine landings since last writing...just where I'm not at liberty to say as yet. At the present my biggest ambition is to get home and, if possible, out of the Army. I think 38 months overseas should warrant at least the first part..."

PFC **LEON C. JORDAN** – "June 16...The bulletin really gives a boost. Hate to see the deceased list, though. Been capturing quite a few Nips but the majority are Formosans and Koreans and, occasionally, a few Manchurians. They are awfully poor and almost dead from starvation. Be seeing you...Pink."

CPL **L.V. NUTTMAN** – "At the present time I am in the Cagayan Valley in Luzon. Now I can say that I was on Bougainville during the attack. Was also on the Hebrides where I missed **GLEN HAWORTH**, then to Guadalcanal, to New Guinea, the Admiralties and now here. Saw Clark Field during the battle and saw Manila burn. That is a town destroyed as no other town has been with the exception of some in Europe. Went to Baguio, which the 33rd Div. took. I have only 63 points so probably it will be a while before I get home unless a furlough comes up...Leo"

PFC. **CLARENCE WILLIAMS**...June 25...Germany – "I am around Munich but 15 mos. of this country with manure beside kitchen doors, etc. is enough. Hello to everyone at home and to the servicemen 'n women."

**R. L. PHILLIPS** S 2/c, USS Trenton ...June 26 – "Am settled now and have been pretty busy. I want to join in paying tribute to **JIM O'CONNOR** for he was 4.0 and he was a man at 16 and a symbol of American spirit...Raymond."

**PVT MONTIE J. C. MORRIS**...Italy...June 17 – “A few days after the war was over we moved in on the Austrian border at Presia Pass – right up in the snow-covered Alps. Now we're north of Trieste a few hundred miles. We're doing guard duty and are involved in a training program now. I guess we have to keep in good condition to keep up with the 10th Mt. Div.”

**HOWARD G. NAUE**, G.M. 3/c, USS Onslow...July 4 - "Although we have a little excitement occasionally, things have calmed down considerably. News from the Santiam Valley sounds good. Would I ever enjoy a little trout fishing."

**CPL STAN CHANCE**...Oslo, Norway...July 1 – “We are in Norway until the people are able to establish a government and organize an army. We also came up because the German troops here wouldn't surrender to the Norwegians. The German excuse was that Norway didn't have an organized army to which they could surrender. We are stationed in the suburbs of Oslo and are able to go to the city every day. The people here are swell to us. There are a lot of very nice looking girls...most of them blondes and a large percentage of them speak English. Some of the boys have expressed an interest in bringing one of the blondes home. We expect to be here about six months. After that, who knows? We may be lucky enough to be sent to the good old United States. On the boat up here I ran into a M/Sgt. **LYLE VETERS** who hails from Lebanon. He is the first fellow I've met from near home with the exception of **MILO KLEIWER** who came in with me. We've been together all the way. I truly appreciate the bulletin."

**CAPT. GEORGE E. MIELKE** writes from France "just a few lines to let you know of my change in address. The 17th Airborne Division is being broken up, so I was sent here to the 13th Airborne Div. My duty here, which I start tomorrow, is assistant regimental S-3. I certainly hated to see my old outfit broken because it was one of the finest in the business.”

**PFC CLIFFORD P. LAUX** – “June 21...in our most recent push just before the war’s end in Europe we were on a task force which rode in tanks and T.D.s. There where we stopped for the night, far in the Kraut’s rear areas, we had good electric lights. Guess we advanced much faster than they anticipated and didn’t give them time to cut the wires. Before, a candle was about as precious as gold and we lay hold of every one we could find...Right at present I am fairly close to **WILLIE SPENNER** but can’t seem to get a pass to see him....”

**PFC FAY BATES**...Philippines...June 26 – “We’ve had a few tough spots but most of us made it okay. It is about all over here where I am now so we have it pretty nice for a while. I wonder if people at home can visualize the war as it might be brought to their front door.....towns like Salem are completely wiped off the map and Stayton would be nothing but a small pile of ashes. It sure is a different view when you get in and see it....”

**T/5 L. H. SCHMITT**...Le Mans, France...June 27 – “Shortly after V-E Day we were still going strong; in fact, our capacity of 1650 beds were better than two-thirds filled and we were really sweating to keep up but we managed somehow...Please give Mr. and Mrs. Ira Kirsch my deepest sympathy for the death of their son **LAWRENCE [KIRSCH]**. We will miss him a great deal.”

**SGT CHET REYNOLDS** – “Philippines...June 23...Have been very busy lately. Ho! I’ve a good three inches of water in my tent now and it’s still raining. Who was the guy that said he liked dehydrated food? Brother, he can have my share! Maybe I’ve been here too long. 40 months makes it pretty old but I’m thankful I’m still in one piece. How few there are who really know how close our freedom was to being lost. I give a lot of credit to the air corps even though I’m in the infantry.”

**GEORGE STEINER**, QM 2/c USNR, USS Peerless – “Saw **BOB CREASON**'s ship but didn't have an opportunity to see him. Did talk to him bv blinker for a few minutes, though. I'm on a mine sweeper and

we have a fairly constant routine that makes the time go faster and what I mean it can't go too fast for me. Saw the carrier Franklin awhile back. She was really a mess but it's hard to realize what went on aboard her for she was on an even keel and under her own power."

**D.M. DOWNING**, RT 3/c, USS Colorado – "15 June...I had not received my mail for two months because of my transfers so when I came aboard I went to the post office in hopes that some might be waiting for me. My heart nearly stopped when they handed me the Easter edition of the bulletin and 57 letters."

PFC **JOE SCHLIES**, "Czechoslovakia – "...nothing much to write about around here. I have been here since the fighting stopped, and looks like I will be here for some time yet. Are having some good weather now, and all the farmers are making hay."

PVT **JAMES W. McGILL** - "I am now working as a combat correspondent with the job of finding and writing combat stories to be sent to the individual soldiers hometown newspapers. My beat covers approximately 900 men and officers wherever they may be fighting. It is an interesting job and a lot of fun getting the fellows to talk of their experiences. My life in the army has been quite varied for I have gone from rifleman to mortar man to radio technician and now this Public Relations job."

**ROBERT M. WALLS**, SF3/c - U.S.S. Rio Grande, Philippines – "Received a copy of the Bulletin today, sure was glad to get it. Always makes me Homesick for Oregon when I get them, and I actually think that is a wonderful sickness to have. Sorry I haven't written sooner but there is little that we are allowed to write with the censor's approval."

LT. **M.L. DAKE** – "Philippines...I'm still flying fighters (Corsairs) out here and so far have flown over 60 missions...Perhaps you know I'm in Joe Foss's old squadron out here and it's really a pretty swell outfit to be in, too. Merlin."

A late report just received is that **FLOYD WOLF**, son of William Wolf of Marion is missing in action in the sinking of the Indianapolis.

We enjoyed a very pleasant visit with **JAY SIEGMUND**, who is home on a thirty day furlough from the Navy, after serving a number of years in active work in the Pacific, principally at Saipan. We enjoyed reading the official commendation which he and his crew received in October 1944 in the Marianas campaign in which they showed a 94% average. He is stationed on the U.S.S. Pocomoke...Jay looks swell and the entire community is happy to have him back with us on furlough, he has made a splendid record for himself and his country.

**LYLE RAY** is now situated on the Danube in Europe and says it is about the size of the Willamette. His arm still bothers him some. Gets to see a show every night. Showers two to three times a day.

**GERALD P. MARKING** SF 2/c U.S. Ship Repair Unit – "**LELAND MANNING**, after spending a couple of hours trying to track me down last Friday, finally located me at our beer garden and we had quite a visit. Haven't seen him since but hope to tomorrow. Saturday noon I saw a big red headed bruiser standing out ahead of the building and a good block away knew darned well it was **LOUIS SCHWINDT**. He hadn't been gone over half an hour when **DICK HERMENS** and **DICK SCHUETZ** came in but we had only time for 'hello, how are you and goodbye.' Tonite the two of them stopped by the shop for a few minutes and, to their surprise, actually found me working. It's going to come in handy having somebody to vouch for the fact that I really work up a sweat once in a while. RED and I spent a couple of hours with **MONK MONTGOMERY** too. Am rather curious to know whether or not any of the local boys overseas have seen any more of the fellows from home than I have so am listing the ones I have seen

since I have been here. May miss a few **FRITZ STUCKART, HAROLD ETZEL, BOB GEHLEN, FRANK WELTER, LEROY MONTGOMERY, HAROLD LONGFELLOW, HAROLD DUMAN, CHUB BERGER, MAX STAYTON, GIL SCHACHSTICK, PETE BURCH, HAROLD WOLF, MARC LAMBRECHT, VIRGE SCHUETZ, LELAND MANNING, DICK O'CONNOR, JIM O'CONNOR, MERLE JOHNSON, VERNON SINCLAIR, LEONARD GISLER, DON LULAY, RAY SILBERNAGEL, DICK DUMAN, DON PHILLIPS, DALE CHAMP, BUTCH SHELTON, BOOTS LAMPMAN, GORDON LAMPMAN, CHARLES BOUCHE, ED THOMPSON, JIM SNOWHILL, DALE HARRIS, WAYNE BAILEY, GENE BUTLER, BOB CREMER, BILL RUETTIGERS, R.W. MASSEY, DICK HERMENS, DICK SCHUETZ AND RED SCHWINDT.** If any of the fellows can beat that list I would like to know about it. Hope to see a lot more when the other boys hit here."

SGT. **DON D. GOODE**, USMCR, Marianas Area Pacific – “Was evacuated quite suddenly from my first island to be brought to this one for hospitalization. About the worst reaction I've so far noticed from my recent experience is purely mental; has to do with my nickname being altered from ‘Pop’ to the ‘Old Man’ I suppose if I ever get hit again and live to talk about it these young guys will start calling me ‘Gramps.’ My satisfaction with this post isn't slightly prompted by the wonderful chow we get here. Now I know where all the foodstuffs that you folks at home are doing without are going...a goodly lot of it winds up right here on this Island and, well, thanks, because it tastes mighty good after field rations for so many months. Wrote to **DESMOND FUSON** today congratulating him on his promotion. This latest issue has a letter from CPL. **RICHARD L. GRAY** wherein he mentioned knowledge of my outfit. Queer thing about that...the very morning when I didn't duck quick enough I had intended dropping by his Battery to locate him. They shoved me around too fast after being hit to even think of trying again. It'll be quite a time now before I'll have an opportunity to search for him since I'm now non-combat. My left kidney was somewhat displaced and shows extreme resentment to a variety of activities I used to indulge in...however, it is improving rapidly now. I miss the gang in the 3rd Armored Amph. Bn. but this is good duty, too. Thanks again to each and every one of your Staff, DON.”

(DON sends bouquets to the Staff - ‘Ed, May, Rose, the Jordan girls, as well as all the others you've named as contributing persons to this longest letter from Home.’ Thank ya for all them kind woids, Don. No foolin' any little part we have done we've all been glad to do.)

#### HOMETOWN NEWS

During the early part of June permission was granted by the National Housing Authority for the building of approximately 30 new homes in the Stayton area which also includes Mehama, Lyons and Mill City. The maximum sale price and monthly rent for this locality has been fixed at \$7,000 and \$65 respectively. In Stayton during the month of July the Freres Lumber Company and other private individuals have commenced their construction program with 7 new homes being erected.

The establishment of a rural fire district which will include Mehama on the east, Marion on the west, half-way between Sublimity and Stayton, and within three miles of Scio to the south, is now fast nearing completion with petitions being circulated throughout the district by those interested. It is expected that this district will be completed by September 1.

A large number of bean growers in the West Stayton irrigation district have installed electric power pumps to be used in irrigating beans by overhead sprinkling systems instead of the former method of using ditches. Recent installations have been made by the following: C.H. Barley, Arthur Biles, R.R. Van Orsdel, Ed J. Glidewell, Lawrence Clark, Merle Crane, Gilbert Brothers, Hoffman Brothers, Otto Nelson,

William Towery, W.V. Chamberlain, L.C. Keithly, Clarence Gavette, Harold White, Joe Williams and E.R. Clark.

It is estimated several weeks will be required to repair damage to approximately 60 feet of flume work completely destroyed at the Mountain States Power Company Jordan plant when a huge rock rolled down the ravine and hurtled through the trestle. Although the Jordan plant was put temporarily out of operation, this will not interfere with service elsewhere since it is only an auxiliary plant. The damage occurred in the early part of June.

During June of this year Mrs. Anna Stayton celebrated her 94th birthday with her usual duties around her home and garden and receiving callers as well as many greetings through the mail. Mrs. Stayton was born in 1851 in Virginia and came to Oregon shortly after the Civil war, over the plains. Her family settled near Salem and later on she married Drury Stayton, son of Drury Stayton who named this city. Mrs. Stayton has lived alone for many years. But two of her children are now living, Mrs. Dale Shulberg, Salem and Gilbert Stayton of Washougal, Washington. Mrs. Stayton attends church every Sunday. She is a member of the Baptist Church in Stayton, which her father assisted in organizing.

The Hamman Stage Line recently purchased two new 29 passenger buses which are used on the Salem-Bend run. Both buses are painted red with a silver trim, the motor is in the rear.

Lulay Bros. sawmill, 15 miles S.E. of Stayton was completely destroyed by fire on August 5th. Richard Schrick, an employee of Lulay who lives adjacent to the mill was the first person to reach the fire. He found the flames coming from the vicinity of the boilers, he gave the alarm calling other mill employees, and the pumpers of Stayton Fire Department, Roaring River Logging Co., and the Forest Patrol. Water was taken from the mill pond and Stayton's pumper put out about 120,000 gallons. It took several hours to subdue the fire and the glow could be seen as far as Sublimity. Beside the mill, the machine shop, work shop, blacksmith shop, logging truck and tractor were all destroyed. William, Albert, Nick, Joe and William Lulay and Nick Heuberger are owners, and according to them no accurate estimation of the loss has yet been made. Only definite rebuilding immediately planned is the machine shop.

Mrs. Alva Anderson has received the Purple Heart and a bronze star, included with campaign ribbon and presidential unit citation, in recognition of the work of her husband Marine SGT. **A. ANDERSON** who lost his life on Iwo Jima.

Work is progressing rapidly on the new Sublimity high school building and dedication has been set for September 9th. Archbishop Edward D. Howard has granted permission for an open-air mass, weather permitting, this arrangement makes it possible for all friends of the parish to attend the solemn requiem high mass. The spacious dining room in the gym basement will be used, to serve the homemade sausage dinner. This commodious room will seat 500 persons at one time. In the afternoon a pleasant social time is being planned.

The Stayton Methodist Church celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its founding on August 12th with a program of music, talks and a history of the church. 50 years of service to a community is worthy of commendation, our sincere congratulations to this pioneer organization.

Mrs. Jessie Thomaston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Myers of Lyons, and **ALVIN H. SCHMITT**, U.S.N., son of Mrs. Theo Mouser of Stayton were married in San Francisco, July 31, at a quiet church ceremony.

The new \$100,000 cold-storage unit recently completed by the Stayton Canning Co. Co-op. is now in operation. Two large storage rooms are for berries, and two will be used for brine beans.

There is an extreme shortage of help in the bean fields this year. Many fields will not be harvested due to this shortage. Also the cannery is short of help.

#### IN AND AROUND SCIO

**BUD, WILFRED** and **DELBERT MASTER** were all home on furlough at the same time. Two of the boys hadn't seen one another for two years.

#### SERVICE NEWS

LT. **LEONARD IRA** is expected home this week. Lt. Ira was a German prisoner for some time, made his escape and was hospitalized in England until his return to the States.

LT. **WILLIAM J. RIPP** is now stationed in China near Kuming. Billy has been in the India theatre for some time and flew from India into China.

**HAROLD J. SHEPHERD**, former principal of Stayton Elementary School, is now with the 17th Division in Germany.

The homecoming of CAPTAIN **FRANCIS MATTIEU FORRETTE** was awaited with special interest in Stayton as it was hoped he would have some word of his lifetime friend LT. **DAREL LEWIS**, missing in action since early this year. Capt. Forrette could add nothing to the information in the hands of Darel's parents and his wife.

SGT. **CALVIN K. DIVELY** has been awarded the Asiatic Pacific decoration...and is now in Stayton following 38 months overseas duty.

PVT **ROBERT L. SMITH** has been slightly wounded in the fighting in the Pacific.

**RICHARD (BILLY) MAUD**, ARM 3/C...was killed in the Pacific somewhere near Japan. He was buried at sea May 12.

#### HOME ON FURLOUGH

**CECIL SCHAEFER** "wouldn't take a million dollars for this experience, and wouldn't buy any more of same for a nickel if the choice was his."

**KEITH MOORE**, former P.O.W., is spending 60 days with his parents in Detroit.

**CARL STOUT** is home for the summer. Carl has been hospitalized since March when he was wounded in the fighting in Europe.

S/SGT **ROBERT NELSON**, for 14 months a P.O.W. of Germany, spent a 60 day furlough with his parents.

**CALVIN CLAY KIRKLAND**, MM3/C, one of the 178 survivors of a destroyer that was sunk off Okinawa when she was hit five times in seven minutes when caught in a coral reef, visited his family in Mehama while on leave.

#### SERVICE NOTES

LT. **FRANCES SANDSTROM**, flight nurse and wife of LT. ROE CRABTREE has been featured as “cover girl” on two magazines of national circulation. Lt. Sandstrom was one of the first nurses to land in Normandy after D-day. Her present job is on ATC planes flying the Atlantic with casualties destined for hospitals in the United States.

SGT **ROY CHANCE** is being hospitalized [after losing] 4 toes from one foot, and one from the other as well as having had his hands frozen. The injuries were incurred in Germany.

**JOE McCOY**, F1/C, USN suffered a concussion on May 11, 1945 while serving in the Asiatic area. Later advice is that Joe is making a satisfactory recovery.

**RAY SILBERNAGEL** is in the hospital in Guam, it is understood here that he was injured in the fighting on Okinawa and that it has been necessary to cut two ribs out. **ANDY SILBERNAGEL** was also in the battle of Okinawa.

**EARLE CHAMP** wrote that he had been able to locate the grave of his brother **FAY**, that it was well taken care of, and that he had taken some pictures to send to their mother. The cemetery was 3 miles outside the city of Luxembourg.

The Purple Heart was awarded posthumously to **JAMES O’CONNOR** who died on Iwo Jima.

CAPT. **FRED M. SMITH**, formerly of Coon Hollow, after 2-1/2 years in Italy and Sicily is now stationed as an instructor in Georgia.

PVT **JACK HELVEY** of Gates has recovered from shrapnel wounds and is back in active service.

**VILAS HAROLD** F1/C was transferred from two submarines later reported lost, the last one being the Trigger.

SGT. **CHARLES K. CRANE**...has been awarded a Presidential citation for a bombing in June 1944. Stationed at Naples, Italy with the ground crew of the 15th Air Force for 14 months, Sgt. Crane has also been on the receiving end of a bombing. On their trip over a bomb ripped the front end of their boat but they managed to get to port.

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CITATION  
AWARD OF BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER  
TO BRONZE STAR MEDAL

STAFF SERGEANT **JOHN R. WELZ**...for heroic achievement in action against the enemy from 23 February 1945 to 25 February 1945 in Germany...Throughout this operation he was under enemy fire but the courage and coolness displayed by this enlisted man encouraged the men working under him.

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STAFF SERGEANT **TINY H. ROTEN** reported as missing in action since Dec. 6, 1944, was killed on that date in Luxembourg. His mother, Mrs. Rosa B. Roten of Lyons had received a letter in April from the Personnel Officer of the 60th armored battalion, Roten’s outfit, that the platoon to which he had been assigned had been in a defensive position near Beaufort, Luxembourg and on that day was completely surrounded by the enemy and Roten had not been seen since that time. Official word of his death was sent by the War Department in June...In addition to his mother, Sgt. Roten is survived by his wife and small daughter, whom he never saw.

**SGT. DARRELL HAYWARD**, 34, was buried from the Mill City Presbyterian Church with military services...Sgt. Hayward, who has been stationed at Fort Lawton, Wash. since returning from overseas duty, was drowned July 11 in Lake Wilderness, near Fort Lawton. He and some friends had gone into the lake for a dip. The sergeant, who could not swim, waded beyond his depth, within four minutes he had been pulled ashore and two crews worked for more than three hours with an inhalator and resuscitator. Sgt. Darrell Starling Hayward, familiarly known as "Dutch"...had lived in Gates and vicinity for 28 years...[he] served overseas for 23 months in North Africa and Italy and was a veteran of the Anzio Beach invasion.