

The Servicemen's Letter

Hi Fellas:

Two men are being added to the Air Mail list this week and one man taken off. Fred Burbank is in the Mediterranean by now and Jim Meredith is supposed to leave for Cuba about the 15th.

Fred wrote a letter to his sister after he reached Gibraltar and she turned it over to me for news. Here are some paragraphs from his letter — "We arrived here at Gibraltar at about 10:00 on Saturday morning. It sure is a big hunk of rock setting out there. It seems rather strange when you go out on deck here. Spain on one side and Africa on the other. I never thought that I would actually be seeing these places except in travel folders. Our next port is Sardinia, I guess. Then where — who knows, not me."

"I didn't get a chance to go ashore over here but did manage to take a few pictures of the rock. I also have a couple of rolls which I took while we were underway."

"When we arrived here yesterday we got a dispatch saying that our mail was coming by plane from Algiers, but then a storm came up and grounded the plane in Tangiers. So consequently we didn't get our mail until today. So hereafter we will have a mail call about once a month. Boy that sure is a change from twice a day."

The rock looks real pretty over there tonight. They have it all cut out in tiers with buildings on each level and at night all the way up. Real pretty."

Boy this last week has sure been a hectic one. Radar watches coming in were a mess. About um-teen million ships on our PPI scope all at once, plotting them on the DRT and maneuvering board and reporting them to OTC every three minutes. Then the day and night before entering port we had to fix all of our liberty cards and make up our watch list. I worked from 6:00 Friday morning until 10:30 that night. Went to bed until 11:30 — got up and went on Radar watch until 4:00 — then special sea detail at 7:00 until 11:00. So all in all I got about 6 hours of sleep in all of last week. More fun."

Fred also included in his letter quite an interesting description of the town and rock of Gibraltar. He wrote that they had to make up one of these for each new port they visited. His description follows: "Gibraltar, town (1931 pop 21,372, including garrison), constituting a British crown colony. Gibraltar is built at the northwestern end of the Rock of Gibraltar, which is one of the Pillars of Hercules. The rock itself forms a peninsula of Spain, at the east end of the Strait of Gibraltar, the strait from—8½ to 25 miles wide joins the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic. The peninsula is connected with the mainland by a low sandy area of neutral ground. West of the peninsula is the Bay of Gibraltar, an inlet of the strait. There is a safe enclosed harbor of nearly 450 acres. The highest point of the rock is 1,408 ft above sea level. The length is 2 3/4 mile. The southern terminus is Eiroua Point. The rocks of Jurassic limestone and contains caves in which some valuable archaeological finds have been made. The name Gibraltar derives from the Arabian name, Jebel-al-Tarik (mount of Tarik, which dates from the capture of the peninsula by the Moorish leader Tarik in the year 711. The Spanish captured the peninsula in 1309 and held it until 1333, when it was taken by the Moors. In 1462 the Spaniards regained it. The English have maintained possession of the peninsula since 1704, though it was subjected to unsuccessful sieges by the Spanish and French in 1704, by the Spanish in 1726, and again by the Spanish and French in 1779-83. The town is a free port, and because it is a fortress, its civil population is kept small. Most of its laboring class live in the neighboring Spanish town of La Linea de la Concepcion. Gibraltar serves as a port of call and coaling station and handles some transit trade. During the First World War it was used as a naval station. Its importance increased during the Second World War, largely because of Italy's entrance into the war on the side of the Axis and the fall of France. Its fortifications were strengthened and an elaborate system of underground tunnels constructed. It was subjected to bombing attacks throughout 1940-41 but no important damage was done. The population is composed mostly of Italians, Maltese and Jews, the Spanish having migrated in a body when the British took control, though a Spanish dialect is the native language. Access to Spain is over a narrow neck of land known as the neutral ground. The harbor is entirely artificial. Sections of the rock are inhabited by Taillines Barbary Apes, which have a keep-

er designated by the British Army. Legend has it that if the apes leave the British will lose the rock. Mr. Churchill personally intervened to save the ape colony during the last war. Local currency is the British pound. Some articles may be bought very reasonably, since Gibraltar is a free port, and hence there are no import duties on most commodities."

(Whew — that was longer than I thought. Wouldn't that be a job to look up and get out one of those every time you hit port?)

Jim Meredith wrote from Philadelphia just before his ship pulled out for Newport. "Well I guess it is about time I checked in. We are still here in Philadelphia but are leaving Wednesday for Newport, N. I. for 10 days and then to Cuba for six weeks cruise and A.S.W. training. (that's anti-sub warfare)

"They have transferred me from the evaporators to the No. 2 throttle so that's a break for me. I am on watch now and there isn't much to do as we are just standing auxiliary watches, on the pumps and generators."

"How is old E.J. coming along. I sure miss it. I would give anything if I were back there instead of on this Sea Canoe."

"I have been playing quite a lot of baseball this summer. They have made a catcher out of me. So far we have won 2 and lost 3. Not too good but it's a pastime."

"I haven't had a paper for about a month now. I don't know what the holdup is but that's the Navy for you. Take care of yourself and say 'Hello' to any of the old gang for me."

Your paper really should have been getting to you, Jim. I checked your address after receiving your letter and find it all OK. You will be switched over to the Air Mail this week so maybe they will come through better from now on."

The April 25th issue of the Herald which was addressed to Alfred Hosler has been returned marked — Returning to the U.S. So — I'll try to find out for you when and how he's returning."

Ken Richards has been enjoying himself running around town on his 26 day furlough before taking off for overseas. Ken, like Bob Mosher, has been assigned to an Air outfit and is to report to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for shipment overseas when his furlough is up. Ken has been trained in carpentry and I guess his folks are keeping him a little busy while he is home."

Bob Anderson made it home via plane to Chicago and then via thumb to the good old E.J. That's about the two extremes of methods of travel. The thumb is far the cheaper, though. Bob says it cost him around eighty buck for that plane ride but that it was sure worth it. I don't know just how long Bob is going to be home but he said he had orders to report back to his ship at San Diego. I'll have a good talk with Bob and give you more news of him next week."

Bud Cummins is another sailor who has been making his presence known around here this past week. Bud has an emergency leave of ten days. Buds grandmother passed away last week."

Bob Farmer has another new address this week. He's been shifted to another squad and is now in a barracks just a short way from the new quarters of Larry Streeter. They are having a big time together down there at Scott AFB. Anyone wanting to write to Larry can do so by addressing the letter in care of Bob. Bob has several weeks of school yet but expects to be home in the latter part of June. Bobs new address is: A/3c Robert C. Farmer, AF 16 379 489, 327 Stu Sqd, Box 82, Scott AFB, Illinois."

Ed Drapeau has arrived at his new base and his new address is: A/3c Jean E. Drapeau, AF 16 402 928, 3637 Maint Sqd, Mather AFB, Sacramento, Calif. You've landed in the same base as Lawrence Elsworth, Ed. He is in the 3535 Maint Squad. How about you two getting together and composing a letter to me telling me all the woes of a poor Pfc (Whoops — A/3c) in the Air Corps."

A new man to us this week but not a new man to the Army is Pvt Joseph M. Belzek, US 55 261 293, Co. E, 8th Bn, MRTC, Camp Pickett, Virginia. I came across Joe's address this past week and was very surprised to note that I did not have it before this as Joe had been in for over two months. How about a letter, Joe. Give us the lowdown on what they're training you for."

Ivan Nemecek writes home that he is having a big time down there on the Mediterranean with his camera. The natives — he calls them Gooks — just love to have their picture taken and will pose in every possible posture. It is so dry there that when they had a rain a few weeks ago the native ran around afraid of it — they

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called it a miracle. Ivan gets his mail about once a week. They have a plane a week carrying mail to and from them. Sometimes the letters come through very fast. But if he should happen to just miss the plane for that week it might take two weeks for the next letter to come through."

Here's an interesting letter to Ernest Pinney's mother from the Commanding Officer of Ernie's company over in Korea. It is concerning Ernie's recent promotion. "It is a privilege and a pleasure to inform you that your son, Ernest, has been promoted to the grade of Sergeant in the United States Air Force."

"Since joining Flight 'D' 3rd Air Rescue Squadron he has conducted himself in an exemplary manner. His efficiency and skill as Senior Aircraft Hydraulic Mechanic has contributed immensely toward the accomplishment of our mission."

"We of the 3rd Air Rescue Squadron feel that Sergeant Ernest H. Pinney is an asset to our organization and to the United States Air Force. Very truly yours, s/ Harry G. Peterson, Lt. Col., USAF, Commanding."

Congratulations — Ernie."

Here's one for the book. About the time that we were mailing out Christmas packages to the men overseas Ellery Inman was getting ready to leave Korea for the states. His package was shipped out with the rest and somewhere on the route they crossed paths. Ellery came home and had his furlough — was reassigned to Fort Riley and then when his wife presented him with a new baby he came home on an emergency furlough. Well — just the day before he left back to camp here comes his belated and travel-worn Christmas package. It had followed him back to Japan from Korea and then all the way home here. And it was all there and in good condition. He said the fruit cake was surely good. Isn't that one case in a million?"

Vale Keller, down at Brookley AFB in Mobile, Alabama, has an interesting sounding training course. He is studying to be an Air Steward. The way Mrs. Keller described it to me was that he was studying to learn the proper method and distribution of loading a plane. That is just the course that he wanted and he is real interested in his new work."

Well, by this time Janet will think that I'm quite a windjammer. Guess I'd better sign off. (Janet — to you men — is the littlest girl who has to bear with me through all this)

So Long,
"Jake" Snyder

Grass And Legumes Hold Key To Meat And Milk Supplies

"Grass and legumes hold the key to more meat and milk in Michigan and in the United States as well," according to R. W. Bell, farm crops authority at Michigan State College.

Four big reasons have been summarized by the MSC agricultural specialist to back up this statement. Bell says the first is that "as pasture, hay and grass silage, grasslands provide the main raw material for production of livestock products, especially beef, dairy products, mutton and wool."

He points out that in the period 1941 to 1946, pasture and hay provided over 61 percent of the nutrients consumed by all classes of livestock in the United States.

The second reason that grasslands are of such importance is the enormous potentialities they hold for increased feed production. Even with the limited knowledge we have today, much of the unimproved land in Michigan could be converted to grow highly productive grass and legume crops.

A third reason that grasslands hold the key to more meat and milk is that on much of the cropland of the state, grasses and legumes will produce more total digestible nutrients per acre than will corn and other feed grains, at lower costs and with greater returns for an hour of labor.

The fourth reason is that improved grasslands are necessary in crop rotation to maintain top production of other crops in that rotation. No other cropping system has yet been devised for Michigan agricultural that will maintain the organic matter of the soil except rotations that include adequate quantities of grasses and legumes.

"These facts have been proven by experiments and by the experiences of Michigan farmers," Bell points out. He adds an invitation to farmers of this county to learn more about the place of grasses and legumes in their farming operations by attending a special Grass Day program scheduled in June.

Nearest Grass Day program scheduled is June 23 in Emmet County, at the farm of Kenneth Base, 5 miles SW of Petrozsky.

container will give instructions so there was no difference in yield during the other year."

And if you have had trouble with moles in your yard, why not take in after them at the same time. Chlordane will kill the grubs and its grubs that the moles come to the surface to catch. Use of chlordane also helps in the control of crab grass, Rebmman has found. Mixing four ounces of pure chlordane with the solution of 2.4-D and water for each 1,000 square feet will do the job. One application of chlordane may kill the grubs for several years since it remains in the soil.

Rebman issues the usual warning of picking a still day to prevent the spray solution from drifting on shrubs, roses or other plant materials.

Ed Rebmman, county agricultural agent, made the statement after conferring with Dr. Glen Reed, Michigan State College, Extension Veterinarian, about the disease that has broken out in several parts of Michigan and has farmers through the state worried.

In the dried form these anthrax spores have to be boiled at 270 degrees for 10 minutes to kill them. Once they gain entrance into the body of an animal they multiply rapidly by simply splitting in two parts over and over. In a short time the blood stream is completely contaminated.

The spores make dams in the capillaries and their by-products destroy surrounding body tissue, making holes in the circulatory system. These holes cause internal bleeding and clots. They destroy the blood directly and ruin it.

The animal then has trouble getting its breath, and may pant, puff and show other sign of labored breathing. When the animals realize that something is wrong they may "act a little crazy." The more acute form of the disease usually results in death before symptoms can be recognized.

County agent Rebmman warns farmers to contact their local veterinarian in case they suspect the disease. One Michigan farmer recently lost several animals because he didn't check when a cow died from anthrax.

The time is here to kill those dandelions and other broad-leaved plants in your lawn advises Ed Rebmman, county agricultural agent.

If you kill them before they bloom and spread seed, your troubles in another year will be lessened, Rebmman asserts. He recommends spraying with 2,4-D, which is available at drug stores, hardware stores, filling stations and garden supply stores.

For use around homes he recommends the amine form of 2,4-D which is slightly less potent but certainly more easy to control than the ester form. Mix at a rate of one ounce of actual 2,4-D in one gallon of water for use on 1,000 square feet of lawn. That's an acre about 10 feet square. If the 2,4-D you buy is labeled "50 percent 2,4-D" that means you will need to double the amount. The

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late rains gave sufficient moisture so there was no difference in yield during the other year."

But to avoid the risk of this being one of the two years when waiting may decrease yields, Pettigrove recommends plowing now. The difference hinges on the moisture content of the soil. The soil stores up moisture from spring rains to be used later in the season by the growing crop.

If the green manure crop is left to grow too late, it will use

then the soil will be dry when plowed. When you plow in the late in the dry soil, they are apt to germinate late with a poor yield. On the other hand, if the green manure crop is plowed early enough, the soil will be moist and the beans will make normal growth and give a high yield."

Use a moistened dish mop to get inside the coils of bed springs, suggest Michigan State College home economists. To catch the dust from the springs, try putting moistened newspapers underneath.

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