

Writer Cheers Lonely Farm Boy In Army With Regular Letters

By AGNES C. O'DELL

I read, published letters from our service men and hear by Tyson read them over the air every day. I am impressed with the beauty of most of them and the accuracy of my English and almost literary quality of the great majority but I also find tender points and a certain charm between the lines of my adopted soldier's letters.

In the "Public Letter Box" of one of our daily papers, I found a letter which read "We are six privates stationed at an air base who have no one to write to. Won't someone send us a line?" It was signed by six soldiers. There was a certain pathos between the lines and as Kate Smith reiterates every day, "If you don't write, you're wrong." I wrote to each one of the six. This was quite a job—to be equally entertaining to six buddies who might share their mail. I do not know just what kind of correspondents they hoped for. They might wish for other civilian boys or maybe some gay, young girl. However, I was entirely frank with them all—confessing to my maturity and gray hair.

Prompt Reply

I never heard from five of them but the one whose name had been signed first to the note came through with a prompt reply. He writes: "Hello, Mom—I hope you don't mind me calling you that. I don't know any other way to start. I am answering your letter because you sound like a good sensible person and that is what I boys like to hear from. Most of the letters sent to us aren't as homey feeling as yours and us boys sure appreciate people like you. My brother is here, too. He's only eighteen and I am twenty. We hope we will stay together in the hanger for him than to be put to the way the Army flows things. He gets nervous when they're in the army. Our barracks is sure full of hungry guys and if anybody gets anything to eat we all get some. I beg to ask you, here is my answer."

I replied quite promptly and for the last few months we have kept up a lively exchange of letters. I asked him if he had a real mother and he wrote, "Dear Mom—Yes I have a mother but she is a long way off and I have nine brothers and six sisters younger than me. My folks live on a farm back east. I was born and raised on a farm and sure hope to go back there when we settle this business. The cookies were swell. I don't know just how to tell you how swell they were. You would have to be here and see the boys eat them. Thank you very much."

Elegant Stationery

The stationery that he wrote me on was very elegant—blue with a diamond piece of blue string which one pulled to open the envelop. The paper had an embossed camp insignia at the top. Of course, I was impressed and told him so.

Next letter said, "The letter paper is pretty good. It is about the box but of course we like to use the best for our Mom. Anyway, we get it cheaper than civilian stationery. My brother has been sick and has got behind me in his classes so maybe he won't be able to catch up to me. We may be leaving this soon, thank God! The sooner we are on our way the better. We are the fellows that keep 'em from the same as what you back there do, too. The sooner we all get going the sooner it will be over. So long for this time."

The inconsequential errors in spelling or grammar only make the young soldier more appealing to me. A small dotted "i" is really more personal and handsomely modest.

I asked him to tell me more about his work because I understand that the technical school where he is stationed is the finest in the country and here is an untutored farm boy almost ready to graduate.

"Dear Mom—I like your letters a lot and hope to copy them for you. Am studying to be a mechanic—one of the guys that's behind the flaps—that keeps an eye there with the birds."

Misses Trees, Grass

"Boy, that box of cookies was swell. A lot of the boys and I like it except there is too much sand and there isn't any trees except in towns. I miss the trees and the green grass. I always took them for granted at home I guess. I felt sort of a rage feeling and didn't know what was the matter at first. It was because there was no trees. I'm getting so I don't know what a tree looks like. Boy, I sure am going to appreciate them once I get back there again. Another thing I miss is water—good, clean water. There is only one river around here and that is so muddy it doesn't look like water. Up home we had a river run right past the farm where we could go fishing and swimming and even row a boat. Boy, I surely do miss it. We used to catch some right good fish there."

Well, I'll take off now. As ever, I'll be glad to hear from you. I sensed a touch of homesickness in this one so hurried off as shyly reply and drew a margin line to illustrate how when we were out sketching, our car became wedged between rocks in a farm's doer yard—rocks that were by the farmer to keep cars off of grass. I sketched the pretty sky, line on the farm buildings and also how our car had to be towed, we in it at an angle of 45 degrees, etc. I also asked him if he had ever read the lovely poem of Joyce Kilmer, "Trees."

"Some Artian"

"Well, here I am again. Yes, I did know about that poem—I heard it in school a long time ago and I have forgotten it. You could send me a copy of it if you care to. Say, you sure are some budding artist. I'll have to turn toward the house instead of toward the barn I would think it was our farm at home. I got your letter last night and an answering it right back. Your letters do that to me. One of the boys who had a friend of mine is writing to you. I've been telling some of the guys see your letters and how interesting they was. You would like him if you know him."

The letter from the friend came on the same mail. This buddy was so different a type. Apparently a Southerner, he started out right warmly.

"My dearest Mom—How is my dear lady today? My pal and myself are in the same barracks. I'm from Alabama and he's from the north but we are together all the time. After reading your sweet letter, it made me think of home and all the good people I left there. So I decided to drop you a line and say hello and tell you how the sun sets behind the mountains and makes a wonderful picture—the light red crevices around and behind the blue mountains. Love—"

I replied like a good "Mom" and did my best but have never heard from him again. My first soldier keeps me on my toes with his prompt almost weekly letters.

Tells About Family

I asked him to tell me more about his family—tried to draw him in out.

"Good, my mother's eyes are grayish brown too. It would be a long story to tell all about my family but I can give you at least a preview of it. I guess, there is nine of us kids all alive and

Guard Beach



Nazi saboteurs who may be landed from enemy submarines will face the fury of this Great Dan, who is the loyal companion of the coast guard station on a sandy stretch of beach near Charleston, S. C.

WALT DISNEY'S "DUMBO" AT THE BIRMINGHAM THIS SATURDAY MATINEE

Save Over 250 Gallons of Oil with clean filters. Don't throw away dirty filters. We clean and treat them. **75c each** Ask About Our Postal Service **Eston Airconditioning Home Filter Service** 1801 Mack Centre, mile west of 7 mi. Phone TUledo 2-9832

Still Recruiting For Cargo Vessels

Lt. Gerard W. Cross, regional director for the United States Maritime Service recruiting offices in the states of Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky announced today that under a special ruling, recruiting for cadets in the Merchant Marine Cadet Corps will continue without conflicting with War-Manpower Commission regulations, and that a special drive to enlist 500 future officers from the tri-state area is under way.

Candidates for officer training must be unmarried United States Citizens between 18 and 23. However, average waivers may be given to applicants who submit

evidence of having completed studies in an accredited college or university. An allowance of one year in age may be granted for each academic year completed. A maximum of four years credit may be allowed.

Entering as midshipmen in the Merchant Marine Reserve and the United States Naval Reserve, the new recruits train for 18 months, six of which are spent aboard a merchant ship for practical experience.

Descriptive pamphlets and applications can be secured by applying at the United States Maritime Service Office, Hatfield Building, Detroit.

A German educator says arithmetic, even, can be taught from a Nazi point of view. For illustrations, consult any battle communique.—Chicago Daily News.

Deer Face Winter Under Handicap

LANSING — Michigan's deer herd is beginning the winter with a double handicap, in the opinion of the state conservation department's game men.

Deer are reported going into their winter yards a week to two weeks earlier than in recent seasons because of heavy early snows that stayed, and the big 1942 fawn crop, following the excellent survival last year because of the mild winter, may leave a population that will tax winter food supplies in critical areas.

FIRE LOSS LOW

Fire loss in Birmingham for December has been estimated at \$125.

JANUARY 1943

The sky is full of silver stars tonight. And little diamonds sparkle in the snow. To see the lovely winter world alight! The sky is full of silver stars tonight! How much I wish that all the world was bright. That everybody everywhere could know the sky is full of silver stars tonight! And little diamonds sparkle in the snow.

Most Appropriate

Nazis, who can't eat all they order in cafes are told to pocket the left-overs. Blueberry pie goes best, probably, with a serge suit.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Uncle Willie Mullins says—

One of my biggest investments in War Bonds. I expect on putting at least 10% of all my earnings into War Bonds from New Year's, etc.

Don't forget to save waste cooking fat. Strain it into a container, keep in a cool place until you have a pound and take it to your butcher.

Get Your Vitamins Naturally... Eat More Fruits and Vegetables

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGES

200-220 SIZE Dozen **39c** 126 SIZE DOZ. 49c

ICEBERG HEAD LETTUCE 48 SIZE **2 Heads 23c**

SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT 80 SIZE **6 For 29c**

FLORIDA ORANGES 250 SIZE **2 Doz. 49c**

CRISP-SWEET CARROTS A REAL BUY Bunch **5c**

AVOCADOS 2 For **19c**

DELICIOUS APPLES MICH. NO. 1 **3 lbs. 27c**

200-210 SIZE TANGERINES 2 Doz **39c**

MICHIGAN U.S. NO. 1 POTATOES 15-Lb Peck **45c**

NEW CABBAGE 3 lbs. **19c**

TENDER GREEN BEANS 2 lbs. **29c**

ROASTING CHICKENS 4 LBS. AND UP **39c**

SHOULDER CUT VEAL ROAST 1 lb. **23c**

ROAST BEEF & PORK LOAF **50c**

BULK PORK SAUSAGE **31c**

FIRST OF THE SEASON FRESH SMELT CAUGHT UNDER THE ICE **1 lb 21c**

FRESH STRIPED SEA BASS CUT TO ORDER **1 lb 25c**

SALMON STEAKS **1 lb 29c**

LARGE SHRIMP FOR SALADS OR COCKTAIL **1 lb 27c**

DEE-LISH Dill Pickles 2 Quart **30c**

Sweet Pickles Quart Jar **28c**

LIBBY'S PLAIN Pickles 5-1/2 Qt. **21c**

QUEEN OLIVES 1/2 Doz. **21c**

IVORY FLAKES 1/2 Pkg **22c**

GOOD LUCK Pie Crust 1/2 Pie **11c**

SNOWBERRY Cake Flour 2 1/2 Qt. **23c**

MICHIGAN BEef Sugar 1 lb. **6c**

ANN PAGE Macaroni 3 7-oz. Pkts. **11c**

ANN PAGE Spaghetti 1 lb. Pkg. **9c**

MICHIGAN Navy Beans 3 1/2 lb. Pkg. **23c**

WEEKS Tar Soap 3 Bars **14c**

STALEY'S CUBE Gloss Starch 12-oz. Pkg. **8c**

WRIGHT'S Silver Polish 8-oz. Jar **25c**

LUX TOILET Soap 3 Cakes **19c**

PALMOLIVE Soap 3 Cakes **19c**

SWAN FLOATING Soap 3 Large Cakes **28c**

FAIRY Soap 1 Cake **2c**

NEW RINSO 1/2 Gall. **55c**

LYE Flakes 1 Lb. Pkg. **22c**

CONCENTRATED Super Suds 1 Large Pkg. **21c**

MARVEL ENRICHED, DATED BREAD 3 lbs. **29c**

JANE PARKER DOUGHNUTS PLAIN OR SUGARED Doz **12c**

FUDGE TUN LOAF CAKE 15-Oz. Cake **19c**

FRESH ORANGE LAYER CAKE 22-Oz. Cake **31c**

FRESH DINNER ROLLS 12 in a Pkg. **6c**

CHANGE NOW TO A&P COFFEE

For these important reasons:

- FRESHNESS IS VITAL...** A&P Coffee is Custom Ground just right for your own coffee pot.
- NO BETTER COFFEE AT ANY PRICE...** The experts who select America's most popular coffee report that no other coffee can give you more good cups per pound than A&P Coffee.
- FROM PLANTATION TO YOU—DIRECT...** A&P buys direct, sells direct. Join the thousands who save up to 10c a pound.

MILD AND MELLOW EIGHT O'CLOCK 2 lbs. **41c**

RICH AND FULL BODIED RED CIRCLE 2 lbs. **47c**

VIGOROUS AND WINTY BOKAR 2 lbs. **51c**

MAKE A&P YOUR COFFEE HEADQUARTERS

IONA Flour 5-lb. Bag **75c**

SUNNYFIELD Pancake Flour 20-oz. Pkg. **5c**

SUNNYFIELD Rolled Oats 48-oz. Pkg. **17c**

MELLO-WHEAT Cereal 16-oz. Pkg. **9c**

KELLOGG'S Corn Flakes 18-oz. Pkg. **19c**

NEW WALNUTS 1 Lb. Pkg. **24c**

IONA Tomato Juice 46-oz. Can **20c**

CAMAY SOAP 3 Cakes **19c**

DURKEE'S Salad Dressing 18-oz. Bottle **33c**

MERC-OX Bouillon Cubes Pkg. **9c**

COOL CIGARETTES Ctn. **1.24**

WISCONSIN MILD CHEESE 1 lb. **32c**

QUALITY DOMESTIC SWISS 1 lb. **42c**

DELICIOUS GOLD'N RICH 1 lb. **42c**

PART-ETT CHEESE FOOD 2 6-oz. Pkgs. **37c**

SUREGOOD OLEOMARGARINE 2 lbs. **31c**

A&P ESTABLISHED 1857

CLOROX 2 Qt. Bots. **37c**

16-Oz. BOTTLE, 10c

CRISCO 3 lb. Can **69c**

1-LB. JAR, 25c

FOR VICTORY WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

AVAILABLE AT ALL A&P SUPER MARKETS

Learn to Remember Names, Practice on Ours—

La Measure Bros.

SINCE 1897, DETROIT'S LEADING LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING PLANT

Phone: BIRMINGHAM 1-1022 NO TOLL CHARGE