

IN THE... ★ Nation's Service

Scheelar Among Ex-Head Hunters Salem Youth's Colorful Letter Tells of 'Uninteresting' Life on Pacific Isle

"We live such uninteresting lives..." With this statement Elmer L. Scheelar, Ph M 2/c, prefixes a letter to one of his Salem high school teachers, Lena Belle Tartar, telling something of life "out here" on a Pacific isle:

"Today is a bright, moderately warm day with just enough breeze to keep the air from becoming sultry. We live on a hill rising abruptly from a lagoon which gives us full advantage of every bit of coolness in off the water. From where I sit writing in my tent I can see over the tops of surrounding palm trees out to the lagoon's large expanse dotted with many smaller islands, but dominated by a large island whose height is due to the presence of an extinct volcanic cone rising nearly 5000 feet. All this makes as inspiring a sight as can be found anywhere."

Few Drab Tones

"Vivid contrasting colors is the tendency in these islands, there are very few dull drab shades. The sun shining on the water brings the many colors caused by the coral formations extending from the bottom to the smooth surface to view... every shade of green and blue. Nature does put on a turbulent luxurious show for us and we are enjoying every bit of it."

"We have accomplished our task and have contributed our share to the success of the action in this area. Now we can begin to relax and view the results of our labor. Our 10 months, thus far, of combat duty has been difficult and exacting, but just because of these conditions I consider my time well spent and invaluable. What better training could a fellow, like myself, just out of school, want than this? One lesson gained is a complete change in my sense of values and appreciation... the little things taken for granted because I had always had them aren't to be had here."

"At first we had hardships and our life was rough, but now, all that has been improved. We have quite a civilization 'out here' in this wilderness. The thing we enjoy most, next to receiving news from home, is our nightly movies. There we have a shark-barracuda-crocodile-proof swimming pool which provides relaxation and exercise. A special department, in fact, provides and directs all recreational activities on our base."

from maintaining a library to organizing competitive games between units.

Appreciates Holiday Fare

"The food is good, not much variety, but on important days, like Christmas, we have excellently-prepared selections... like roast turkey, dressing, apple pie and ice cream. You ration-regulated civilians are to be thanked for this."

"The natives in these islands are of the Melanesian group and are our good friends. They are gifted in wood-carving, weaving and inlaying shell designs and we do quite a bit of trading with them for samples of their art."

"Before the war the Seventh Day Adventists had a mission not far from us and they seem to have done much good in the 15 years of their existence. Before they came these people were still head-hunters, but seeing them now it is hard to believe for they have learned civilized ways fast... too fast I sometimes believe when they strike a hard bargain while trading."

More than 1000 officers and men of the navy's ship repair unit program, most of whom were skilled tradesmen in civilian life, are receiving special instruction at the Philadelphia navy yard in how to get a damaged ship back into fighting trim as quickly as possible.

Included in the group is Buster Wilton Branham, motor machinist's mate, second class, 26, of Salem, Ore.

Branham has served for 34 months in the south Pacific theatre. Before enlisting in the navy in March, 1941, he was a tractor operator for the forest service.

FORT GEORGE WRIGHT, Wash.—(Special)—PFC. John Savage has reported to the AAF convalescent hospital here after 34½ months in the Southwest Pacific theatre where he served as a truck driver with the army air forces. He is the son of John P. Savage of Toledo, Ore.

Salem Air WAC Gets Ride Home In B-25 Bomber

PFC. Ellen Morley of the Women's army corps is here on furlough visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. U. H. Morley of 3790 Center st. The Salem WAC is stationed at Moody field, Ga., where she serves as secretary to the advisory training board. She enlisted in the



PFC Ellen Morley
—Bishop Photo

army air corps at the army recruiting office in Salem and received her basic training at Ft. Des Moines, Ia.

"Being stationed at an Army air base has its advantages," Private First Class Morley stated, "as I have been fortunate enough to secure rides in army planes on my last two trips home. The first time it was in an AT-10, an army training plane, and this time in a B-25 bomber."

During the Fifth War Loan drive last year the Salem WAC was chosen as "Miss Moody Field" and was crowned at festivities in the post theatre, by Capt. F. C. Giber.

Prior to her enlistment in the army air forces, Miss Morley worked as a receptionist at the Marion county health department offices.



Maj. Gen. Norman Kirk, surgeon general of the U.S. army, and Col. Oreta Culp Hobby are shown above planning the recruiting program for army medical technicians. The present all-out recruiting drive for 103 WAC medical units for work in army hospitals has been set as the immediate number one corps objective by Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff, U.S. army. The purpose of the new WAC recruiting effort is to enlist and train for assignment to 60 army general hospitals in this country a sufficient number of women to make up 103 WAC medical units. Each unit will be composed of 100 women, some medical clerks and stenographers; but the majority of them will be trained in technical schools and on the job as medical and surgical technicians. They will help care for the 35,000 sick and wounded soldiers being returned to this country each month by assisting the army doctors and nurses. Lt. Edith Di Re, recruiting officer at the army recruiting station, 211 postoffice building, Salem, said Friday that the response given the medical department program by women from this area has been encouraging but that many more women are needed to assure proper care for the nation's wounded soldiers. (Official U.S. Army Photo).

Collier on Leave

TURNER — Alvin Collier, fireman 1/c, is home on a 26-day leave for the first time in nearly two years. He entered the navy February 17, 1943, and was at Farragut for eight weeks, after which he had a seven-day leave. Since then he has been in the Atlantic theatre of war and took part in the invasion of France last June.

WITH THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, Western Front — Cpl. George A. McKinley of 539 North Winter st., Salem, Ore., is a member of the 101st airborne division whose commander, Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, answered "nuts" to the German demand to surrender in encircled Bastogne. After seven days of complete envelopment, without support or supplies, a corridor was established and the 101st had completed another chapter in its historic march through World war II.

Blood Donors Go From Pedee to Dallas Unit

PEDEE — Fritz Kerber, Mrs. Lund and Mrs. Arnold of Ritner were blood donors at Dallas Friday. The health officers visited the Pedee school and vaccinated for diphtheria. Clinton Riestes was in Independence for merchandise for Mrs. J. P. Simpson this week.

MILL CITY—June A. Downey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Phillips, Mill City, was graduated March 19 from the U.S. naval training school at Stillwater, Okla., as a seaman 1/c, striker for yeoman, and has been assigned to active duty at the receiving station in Norfolk, Va. She was a student at Willamette uni-

versity and enlisted in the Waves last October.

SWEGLE—After spending their furloughs at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Peffer on Hollywood drive, Don Peffer returned to his studies at Amarillo, Tex., and his friend, Pvt. Charles Dalton, went to Ft. Lewis.

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Lt. Philip Thomas Kilian, (top), pilot of a B-25, was wounded on his 38th mission in the south Pacific area and is now hospitalized in Colobes, the war department has notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Kilian, 2816 State street, and his wife, who lives in Portland. Lieutenant Kilian was last in Oregon in November, 1943. His brother, Joe C. Kilian, ship's cook 1/c, left Friday after visiting his parents here and his wife, the former Vera Nett, who lives in Portland. He has been 25 months with the Construction Battalion of the navy and is returning to California for reassignment.

JEFFERSON — Donald Gil-mour, petty officer 1/c, has recently spent a 15-day leave here with his father, Jake W. Gil-mour, and has gone on to Pensacola, Fla., where he is stationed.



Alvin E. Ewing, son of Mr. and Mrs. Audrey H. Ewing, 780 North 14th st., has been promoted to first lieutenant. He is automotive maintenance officer with an ordnance and supply maintenance company of the 13th AAF service command in the Dutch East Indies.

FORT DOUGLAS, Utah, March 24—(Special)—Lucille M. White, 738 S. 13th, Salem, Ore., today was called to active duty with the army nurse corps and soon will report to Madigan General hospital, Tacoma, Wash., for basic training. The Salem nurse, recently commissioned a second lieutenant in the ANC, will be assigned to duty at Hammond General hospital, Modesto, Calif., upon completion of training.

SILVERTON — Norman Eastman of the Seabees and Mrs. Eastman are now at Camp Pars, Calif. They made the trip down by car and were delayed four hours in the vicinity of Mt. Shasta by deep snow on the highway. Eastman spent a 30-day leave here. Mrs. Eastman was employed at Silver Falls Timber company mill office while her husband was in service abroad. She plans to remain with him as long as he is in the states.

PFC Robert L. Huff and his wife, the former Ivah W. Kelso, have been visiting Mrs. Eliza K. Kelso, 1091 Elm st., Salem, stopping here enroute to his training base at Guber, Okla.

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