

# ★ OUR CITIZENS IN SERVICE ★

By ANN CONNELL

## Woman Marine on Duty At El Toro Air Station

Transferred from Atlanta, Ga., recently, PFC Eunice Mary Elliott of Eugene has taken over her new duties at the marine corps air station, El Toro, in Santa Ana, Cal. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Elliott of 343 Fifteenth Avenue east, she had been serving at the marine recruiting and induction office in Atlanta.

Private Elliott, who was leading lady in several of Eugene's Very Little Theater productions, is a graduate of Eugene high school. She attended the University of Oregon and was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority as well as Beta Sigma Phi, honorary.

At the time of her enlistment in the corps in February, the Eugene marine woman was employed in the office of the army quartermaster general in Washington, D. C. A brother, Lieutenant Charles J. Elliott, is a member of the army ski troops.

## Major Childers Tells Of New Guinea Fight

A letter from Major Gerald Childers, formerly of Eugene, to his parents, Rev. and Mrs. S. E. Childers, now in Santa Cruz, Cal., reveals details of interest. From "Somewhere in New Guinea," and dated July 12, it reads as follows:

"Dear Folks: I suppose I can tell you now what I've been doing lately without getting you all upset and worried. I've seen my first battle from pretty close range and came through OK. It's all finished now, and we sent quite a few Japs out on a visit to their emperor.

"This battalion turned out to be a bunch of fighting fools, and our battalion took the piece of ground that finally broke the back of their resistance. The Japs are pretty tricky, but don't let anybody tell you they won't run when you get them started. Our boys acted like veterans. I saw one big bruiser pick up a Jap and throw him over a cliff, after we got to the top of the hill. He followed that by picking up a machine gun, tripod and all, in his arms and walked into a bunch of Japs, mowing them down on the way. He was pretty mad.

"We dug in on the hill for four days and nights and let the Nips beat themselves to death against our defense. They would get all hopped up on saki and make night attacks, screaming and yelling, and only succeeding in getting themselves blown up. A few of them committed suicide with hand grenades—it's O.K. with me if they all follow suit! We found a few cases of saki after the fight was over, so a couple of boys went on a binge and wrecked a truck, just to have something to do.

"It's pretty boring around here now. All we do is lie in the sun and go swimming. I'm back on the regimental staff as intelligence officer now. I think I'd rather be in a battalion where you get a closer crack at the Nips, but you can't have everything. I'm mighty proud of this outfit, and to be one of the battalion that did most of the fighting. Don't start worrying and let your imagination run away with you—they haven't scared me very much yet, Gerald."

Major Childers was wounded on New Guinea during the fighting there in June. He is a brother of Capt. Don Childers, who was taken a prisoner of war of the Japanese on Bataan.

**STALEY IN ENGLAND**  
Corporal Thomas H. Staley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Staley and husband of Mrs. Muriel June Staley, of Trent, who recently arrived in England, has been assigned to work as an assistant crew chief, repairing and maintaining aircraft on an eighth fighter command airfield.

Corporal Staley is an alumnus of Pleasant Hill high school.

This is the Chaffee family, father and two sons. Nathan Chaffee, metal-smith 1-c, followed his sons into service, joining the naval construction battalion in October of 1943. He is at Camp Parks, Calif., as an instructor in blacksmithing and foundry work. He formerly was a machinist for the Eugene Water Board at the stand-by plant. Robert Chaffee, center, the eldest son, now is in Australia, and formerly was in New Guinea. Prior to shipping overseas in March of this year he was an engineering student in ASTP at University of Alabama, and trained in chemical warfare at Camp Sherman, Ala. He entered the service in February, 1943. PFC Richard B. Chaffee, second son, now is at Camp Leonard Wood, Mo. He is a member of the Trailblazers cavalry division, and had been at Camp Adair since his induction in July, 1942, until the 70th was moved to Missouri. Nathan Chaffee was prominent in Boy Scout leadership before his enlistment. Mrs. Chaffee, who has joined her husband in California for the present, is a former county president of P.T.A.



## Charlotte Plummer Given Commendation

Official commendation of the work of Tech. Sgt. Charlotte L. Plummer of Eugene for her work as leader of the marine corps women's reserve band at Camp Lejeune, N. C., has been made by Col. J. Ogden Brauer, head of the women's reserve schools, to the commanding officer of the women's reserve battalion. The commendation reads as follows:

"1. It is with distinct pleasure that this occasion at the end of the fifth month of the organization of the marine corps women's reserve band is taken to commend to you Sergeant Charlotte L. Plummer for her example of superior leadership as director of the MCWA band since 11 December, 1943.

"2. The band under the highly able direction of Sergeant Plummer has contributed in a high degree to the success of the many ceremonies held within this activity, and on the many occasions of official visits to this command.

"3. Only through untiring effort, sound musicianship, ability to lead personnel as well as a deep pride in her work, could Sergeant Plummer have brought the MCWR band to the high and unique position which it now holds in the marine corps.

"4. Sergeant Plummer, by virtue of her demonstrated high character, her splendid leadership, ability and special talents has proved to be a credit to herself, to her organization, and to the marine corps women's reserve schools. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that a copy of this letter of appropriate notation be attached to her current service record.

"Signed: J. Ogden Brauer."

## Before-the-Battle Letter Comes from Local Man On Eve of Guam Fight

Lt. Robert Fish, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Fish of route 1, Eugene, took part in the invasion of Guam, and the following letter from him, written the night before the battle, has real poignancy, reflecting the stress of the situation:

"Dear Folks: "It is 2000 (10 p.m.) here and 0400 (4 a.m.) back on the west coast. I am sitting in the ward-room writing this letter and most of the other officers are doing likewise. For some of them it will probably be their last letter home. Tomorrow morning we hit the beach at 0830 (8:30 a.m.) in the assault wave on a strongly defended position. I have just come from the troop compartments where I had a last minute talk with my platoon on objectives, tactics and many other bits of information that every man, down to the last private, must know. We are now about 50 miles from the objective and if one goes up on the bridge he can see the shell bursts and also the block busters. It is a very awe-inspiring sight and every man is hoping the Japs will be so disorganized and dazed that the landing will be unopposed, but such is not the case as has been proven many times. The little yellow — dig in and fire from positions that are so well camouflaged that you have to see the muzzle flash to detect their whereabouts.

"We have good intelligence on our objective and know it is going to be tough. My platoon was very serious tonight although they have been under fire a few times before; the same tenacious and seriousness of purpose always prevails before a landing. They know their job as well as any marine and nothing can stop them once an order is given. In the marine corps there is no such thing as failure to carry out an order, or cowardice in the face of the enemy.

"My only regret is that by this

Cpl. Ralph E. Parkhurst will complete his training as an aerial gunner in September, at Tucson, Ariz., where he is taking the final phase of combat training. A former student of Eugene high school, and son of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Parkhurst of Eugene, he entered the service in February, 1943. He has been stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., at Buckley Field, Colo., and Lowry Field, Colo., and at Harlingen Field, Tex., before going to Tucson. He was raised to corporal when graduated from the Harlingen gunnery school, and is scheduled to be a sergeant when the present course is completed.

William W. Rulter, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Rulter of Oakridge, has been in pilot training at Kelly Field, Tex. He entered service in July, a year ago. A former student of Eugene high school, he was graduated from Baptist University at Shawnee, Okla., a five-month college preparatory course, in December, 1943.

Lt. Richard M. Averill, son of Major and Mrs. W. S. Averill of 1745 Fairmount boulevard, is an instructor in advanced flying at Randolph Field, Tex., following his graduation and commission as a second lieutenant in the army air forces in May.

**SMITH PROMOTED**  
Lt. M. Joy Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Smith of Norkensia, recently has been promoted from second to first lieutenant. He is stationed in England with a heavy bombardment group, in the capacity of special service officer.

## Cottage Grove Man Promoted in Rank; Organization Cited

Promotion of Robert G. Woolcott, 23, of Cottage Grove, to the rank of first lieutenant has been announced at headquarters of the twelfth air force in Italy.

Now serving as a bombardier in a combat-seasoned medium bombardment group of B-25 Mitchells in the Mediterranean theater, he went overseas in March, 1944.

The Cottage Grove bombardier's present organization flew as a member of the allied bomber and fighter-bomber team that helped break the stalemate on the Adolph Hitler line below Rome. Shattering attacks on viaducts and rail and road bridges virtually starved the enemy of supplies and enabled the ground forces to thrust him back far above Rome.

This veteran group was cited recently by the war department for outstanding support of the British eighth army in Tunisia and Sicily, and the American seventh army in Sicily. It also flew many missions against targets in the Balkan countries.

Lt. Woolcott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Woolcott, live at Cottage Grove.

## Sergeant Wheeler Has Third Award of Medal

15TH AAF IN ITALY—Technical Sergeant Verden W. Wheeler, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil H. Wheeler, route 1, Creswell, has been awarded a second oak leaf cluster on the air medal for continued meritorious achievement while in aerial flight.

Sergeant Wheeler, radio operator-gunner on the crew of a B-24 Liberator, was graduated from the Pleasant Hill high school in 1942, and prior to his enlistment in the army in December, 1942, he was employed as a carloader and lumberjack by the Lewis Lumber company.

time tomorrow some of them may be dead but we all know that the harder we hit the Japs the sooner the war will be over.

"My letters have been rather infrequent of late but in the near future I will probably do better. "BOB"

## 'Reliable Babe' Brings Crew To Safe Landing

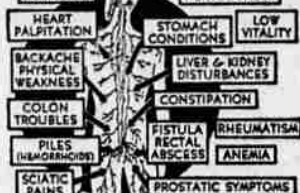
Old "Reliable Babe" lived up to her name, according to Co-pilot First Lieutenant Leith J. Oglesby, 1391 Moss street, when she got her crew home in spite of being damaged, from a recent assault on rocket installations in enemy-occupied France.

Piloted by First Lieutenant Nick Furnace of Belton, Tex., the heavy bomber was hit by anti-aircraft bursts over the target, knocking out its hydraulic system which controlled the landing brakes and landing gear. It also shot out the left outboard engine, damaged the right inboard engine and the ship's gyroscopes.

Attempts to mend the hydraulic lines failed, but as they neared England, the pilot ordered two parachutes to be attached to the waist windows, to act as emergency landing brakes, and the landing gear to be cranked down by hand. As the wheels of the bomber struck the runway, the parachutes were opened and the ship came to a halt halfway down the landing strip, a perfect landing.

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First man to climb out of the ship was Lieutenant Oglesby, who declared "Reliable Babe" to be proud of it.

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Your community is calling you. To assist in the immediate harvesting of Lane County's important bean crop.

## Tomorrow Morning—Monday

Free transportation provided from Swartz parking lot, corner of 10th and Charnelton, 7:00 A. M. to 7:45 A. M.

Standard pay for all picking Men, women, and children are needed Children who so desire will be assigned a supervised platoon.

Bring your lunch

## YOU CAN HELP! Invite Your Friends

Peak harvesting of bean crops will start tomorrow morning, August 14. Many more pickers will be needed. Is your home-front war-time job opportunity. Let's get our crops go to waste!

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