

Sgt. "Hap" Rackleff Compares Okinawa With Coos County

The Sentinel is permitted to print the following letter which Sgt. Ellis (Hap) Rackleff of Arago, now with the Marines in the Pacific, wrote to his friend, Herbert Carl of Arago:

Hello Herb: If you could look out from Bandon about 5,000 miles you might be able to see me but since you can't I'll give you a short note on Okinawan agriculture.

The soil is mostly a sticky red clay and its natural fertilization must have been depleted centuries ago. In comparison the Vetter place at Arago is an extensive farm. The principal crops are beans, cane, rice, and sweet potatoes. Rice is handled similar to cranberries except that it is flooded much more of the time.

All livestock, including people, are housed practically under the same small house, which is usually constructed of stone and mud with thatched roofs. Since the island has no fences all livestock is tied and fed by hand. Goats supply all the milk.

Women are still the principal beasts of burden and carry loads on their heads that I wouldn't even consider hauling in a wheel barrow.

The timber is mostly scrub pine and that is nearly all gone.

Wheat is check-rowed as we would plant corn and I have not seen any wheat over 18 inches high. It is picked by hand and threshed when the wind comes up.

Will be able to tell you much more upon my return home—whenever that may be. Best regards, Hap.

In a letter to his mother, Mrs. E. L. Detleson of Coquille, the following paragraph tells a little about what Hap is doing over there:

"My job is: I am responsible for all wire communications of this Bn. We are in artillery and must maintain touch with the infantry. This all entails much traveling between units and plenty of headaches but little, if any, actual contact with the enemy. I met Ernie Pyle just before his death while riding in a jeep behind the front lines."

Son of Carl Morrison Saw Fight Action in Italy

A news item to the Sentinel written before Germany's unconditional surrender, at a 12th AAF P-47 base in Italy, says that 2nd Lt. Robert E. Morrison is a 12th Air Force P-47 Thunderbolt pilot now blasting enemy communications, motor transports and gun positions in support of the current 5th and 6th Army offensives in northern Italy. He is the son of School Superintendent Carl E. Morrison of this city.

Flying with a formation of P-47 Thunderbolts of the 57th Fighter Group of the 12th Air Force's 22nd Tactical Air Command, Lieutenant Morrison's flight bombed the town of San Giovanni and completely leveled ten buildings occupied by enemy troops. Each P-47 made six strafing passes, setting aflame more than 300 bales of enemy material on a loading platform, destroying a horse-drawn vehicle laden with ammunition and killing enemy personnel in fox-holes and slit trenches nearby. Overseas since February,

1945, Lieutenant Morrison has flown 25 combat missions.

A former student of Oregon State College, Lieutenant Morrison enlisted November 14, 1942, and was commissioned, June 27, 1944.

Albert Oerding Receives \$20 Award At Mare Island

A former resident of Coquille, Albert T. Oerding, recently was presented with a cash award of \$20.00 award was made by Mare Island Navy Yard, California, the largest repair and shipbuilding center on the Pacific Coast. His suggestion of a "trymite cutting machine" has already received widespread use on this great Navy Yard.

Oerding, before he came to Mare Island, was employed in his brothers' corporation, Oerding Industries, Inc., as a carpenter and clerk. His brothers, George, Walter and Harry Oerding reside in Coquille at the present time, also his sister, Ida.

While working on Mare Island, Oerding makes his home at Sonoma, California, with his wife and two daughters.

Lawrence Hatcher Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster in England

Sergeant Lawrence F. Hatcher, B-17 Flying Fortress nose gunner and son of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Hatcher of this city, has been awarded an oak leaf cluster to his Air Medal, it was announced recently by his group commanding officer at an Eighth Air Force Bomber Station in England.

Sgt. Hatcher was awarded the cluster to his Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" on a series of combat bomber missions over Germany, while flying with the 92nd Bombardment Group, oldest Fortress group in England.

Sgt. Hatcher graduated from Coquille High School in 1935, and was employed by Geo. R. Johnson before entering the Armed Forces in December, 1942.

Coquille Seaman Helped Sink Two Jap Bombers March 18

A delayed news item from a new U. S. cruiser, somewhere in the Pacific, says that Jack E. Earley, seaman, second class, 20-year-old grandson of Mrs. Amanda Summers, of 747 North Heath, Coquille, helped take this new ship into battle for the first time on March 18 against the Japanese.

Her guns sent two Japanese bombers crashing into the sea not far from Japan, and the carriers she defended so well are free to launch their planes.

Yesterday, "business as usual" was the plan of the day, and outwardly the officers and men carried on as if they had no notion of the imminence of battle. But they all knew that just over the horizon lay the mainland of Japan.

Norman Ricketts Is Now In The Philippines

Pfc. Norman M. Ricketts, whose parents live at Coquille, has arrived in the Philippines and has been assigned to the veteran 32nd "Red Arrow" Infantry Division.

Pfc. Ricketts, who entered the Army in June, 1944, and went overseas in Jan., 1945, has been placed

in a Bn. Hq. Co. in the 32nd crack 130th Infantry Regiment.

He is the son of Mrs. Jack Scorby of Coquille and the husband of Arlene May Ricketts. Pfc. Ricketts is the father of two children, Ronald and Judy Arlene.

Ole Chard Now Back In The United States

S/Sgt. Ole J. Chard, brother of Orville Chard of Coquille, has arrived in the United States on furlough from the Pacific Theater of Operations, where he served 23 months with the Army Air Forces, with the 7th Bomber Command as Gunner on a B-24. He completed 40 missions, totaling 402 combat flying hours.

Lieut. Virgil Arrell Is Again Decorated in Italy

Second Lt. Virgil H. Arrell, 25, of Coquille, B-24 Liberator pilot, has been authorized to wear a second bronze cluster to his Distinguished Unit Badge as a member of the veteran 451st Bombardment Group (H) of the 15th AAF in Italy. The group has three times been cited "for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy."

The 451st received its latest battle decoration for an August 23rd attack on the Markersdorf Airbase, Vienna, Austria. Its previous two battle streamers were for 15th Air Force missions over Regensburg, Germany, and Ploesti, Rumania.

Lieutenant Arrell graduated from Coquille high school in May, 1940, and arrived in the Mediterranean theatre last January.

Phone 222R, to Art Hooton for your electrical wiring and repair needs. He is located north of the ball park on the Fairview road. tfs

Mrs. Frank Cox, Sr., Buried At Bandon Last Saturday

Mrs. Frank Cox, Sr., passed away in the Providence Hospital, Portland, Oregon, at 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning, May 8.

She was born Maggie Prock in Olalla, Oregon, July 13, 1875, and her family moved to Curry county when she was a small child. From there she moved to Coos county in 1908, where she had since resided.

Mrs. Cox was united in marriage to William E. Neil in 1892. To this union were born five children: Mrs. Ina Blausler of Bandon, Mrs. Una Miller of Portland, Tom Neil of Lewiston, Idaho, and Ed Neil of Eugene, Oregon; also a baby boy who died in infancy.

Mr. Neil preceded her in death in 1899 after which time she was united in marriage to Frank Cox, Nov. 11, 1902. Two children were born to them: Frank Cox, Jr., of Coquille, and LaVern Trot of Bandon.

Mrs. Cox was a member of the Legion Auxiliary and a woman who had spent much of her active life being helpful to others in cases of need. She will be greatly missed by her relatives and friends.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Frank Cox; six children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren; one brother, John Prock of Smith River, California; three half brothers, Jim and Alfred Haft of Sixes, and Roy Haft of Port Orford; also two half sisters, May Wallace and Clara Matheny of Port Orford.

Funeral services were held at the Baptist church in Bandon at 2:00 p. m. Saturday afternoon, May 12, Rev. Edward Stubbs, officiating. Interment was in the Odd Fellows cemetery at Bandon.

Calling cards, 20 for \$1.00.

The girl who was seen carrying away articles from the Halfway Service Station rest room Tuesday afternoon, May 1, please return them at once and nothing more will be said

about it. She was seen driving the car away from the service station.—Mrs. Roy Smith. 17ts

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