

Wilfred Wasson's Letters to His Mother

The following is from letters written by Sgt. Wilfred C. Wasson of the Army Air Forces, stationed in England for the past several months to his mother, Mrs. Bess Wasson. Here are his letters in part:

Eastern England, May 5, 1945
Dear Mom:

Got your letter yesterday. So you have a yellow Dutch Iris, well, you should see the daffodils and tulips the Dutch people have. We fly so low over there when we are dropping food supplies that we have to come up to get over the churches. They always stand outside and wave at us even if the German's didn't like it. When we come over they even let school out so they can watch. In one place they went so far as to wave Dutch flags at us. Then we see bunches of Nazi soldiers standing around but they never wave. I think someone would have shot them if they had, but we have been given orders not to shoot at anyone when on these missions. Did I tell you that they fired on us after making a treaty with us to allow us to fly these supplies to Holland? But we are just waiting for the day when we could come over here with a load of bombs and blast Nazis out of Holland.

May 7, 1945
Now they have surrendered and not only the Dutch were waving but Germans were too. I saw one group of German soldiers stamping a Nazi flag into the ground. Just think, those same guys were trying to kill us a few days ago and now they wave at us when we fly over. WHAT A WAR! I don't know what they are going to do with us around here now but we have all volunteered for the South Pacific, but do not know what will happen. Just think, no more flak, no more fighters, no more Jets to worry about. Maybe I can get rid of my gray hairs now. Oh, what a life. Tomorrow is officially V-E Day. This is a happy day over here for these people. You should see the flares they are setting off tonight. The church bells are ringing all over England tonight for the first time since the war started. The 309th Bomb Group (mine) is celebrating its 300rd mission on May 12.

May 21st
The mail system over here is all mixed up since the war is over. We are not getting any at all except what was already here. I guess I can tell you about some of my missions now. I have seven altogether. The first was to Munich and there was plenty of flak and some fighters, I saw one Me-109 go right in back of me with two P-51's right on his tail. They got him a little out there. Our next mission was to Madgeburg. That was the worst we had. They had told us there wouldn't be great opposition but there were B-17's, P-51's and German ships falling all over the sky. There was one German Jet (Jet propelled aircraft) came in on our tail but he didn't get us and I did not get him. He was so close

I could see the pilot's face as he turned away. No other ships got that close and I am glad they didn't. One B-17 right next to us went down and there were fighters going down in flames all over the sky.

There was one B-17 from another group that I will remember all my life; he had lost one engine and was out of formation and was losing altitude. The Jets jumped him and there was a real battle. I saw him get three Jets and then he went into a spin, spinning all the way to the ground, where he blew up. We watched them all the way down but no parachutes came out. Let's talk of some other things.

Guess I had better get to bed so I can get up in the morning. Good-night and say "hello" to everyone for me. Love, Wilfred.

Harold Stevens To Have Thirty-Day Leave At Home

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stevens, have received word from their son, Harold, that his vessel docked at San Pedro last Friday and that he will be in the United States for at least three months. In about a month he will be able to come home on what is called "survivors leave," for 30 days. Harold has been in the Navy since April last year and was one of the crew of a vessel which was badly damaged by the Japs out in the Pacific but was still able to get home for repairs.

Harold was radar operator on a new vessel, the Zellars, and the following dispatch in the daily press tells of how it was damaged and of the loss of life:

Death and damage aboard the USS Zellars was disclosed by the navy today as the destroyer docked at Roosevelt naval operating base, a gaping hole in her superstructure inflicted by a three-man Japanese suicide bomber attack off Okinawa April 12.

Lt. Charles Smylie, Rose Point, Mich., fire control officer, related that 34 men were killed, 36 wounded and two reported missing when the Jap bomber skipped a bomb of about 1,000 pounds into the Zellars, then crashed on deck, killing the three Japanese.

Three Jap bombers concentrated an attack on the destroyer, which had been aiding the Okinawa landings by bombardment for 19 days, Lt. Smylie said.

Ralph N. Duncanson, C.H.S. Grad, New Second Lieutenant

Ralph N. Duncanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Duncanson of Portland, who formerly lived in the Coquille valley, and who is with the 104th Timberwolf division in Germany, was recently commissioned as second lieutenant in the Army, after serving as a technical sergeant. He was promoted for actions during the Rhine river offensive and is with a combat company. He went over seas last August.

Ralph is a graduate of Coquille High School and was a student at U. of O. when he entered the Army in April, 1943.

Mrs. Cotton's Three Sons All Now in Hospitals

Mrs. Mabel Cotton of Sitkum Route, Myrtle Point, received word the past week that her son, Gene, was seriously wounded on Okinawa. One leg was severed between the knee and ankle by enemy fire, and he is hospitalized in Hawaii. Mrs. Cotton has three sons in the service, Gene, Raymond and Ivan, and all three are hospitalized at the present time by wounds received in action. Raymond was shot through the arm, while Ivan, who was recently married during his leave at home, entered the hospital after his return to his station for further treatment of the terrible burns on his hands received when his ship was sunk. Ivan was on the "Saratoga" when she went down.

Don Chase Lost 45 Pounds In Three Months as Prisoner

Floyd Chase has received a letter from his brother Don, who resided here before entering the Army, that he has been released after being confined in a German prison camp for three months. His physical check up after being freed showed that he was in good condition, although he had lost 45 pounds while a prisoner. He is waiting his turn to be returned to the United States but the War Department has notified Floyd that Don will be home soon.

James Higgins Is In An Hospital In Colorado

Pvt. James Higgins, husband of Mildred Higgins of Coquille, is a patient at the U. S. Army Convalescent Hospital at Camp Carson, Colo.

Pvt. Higgins was with the 30th Infantry Division in France, and was awarded the Purple Heart and the E. T. O. Ribbons.

Word From John Kirk Received By His Parents

A letter has been received from John E. Kirk by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Kirk of Sitkum. John was working on Wake Island and has been a prisoner since the beginning of the war. He is held at Takuoka Camp, Japan, and he stated he was in good health and looking forward to being with them again.

John Leatherwood Receives Distinguished Flying Cross

For extraordinary achievement while participating in an attack upon Trento, Italy, January 20, 1945, Technical Sgt. John E. Leatherwood of Myrtle Point, and aerial gunner with the 340th B-25 Mitchell bomber group, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Brig. Gen. Robert D. Knapp, Mitchell wing commander, made the presentation. Sergeant Leatherwood's wife, Mrs. Sara Leatherwood, lives in Myrtle Point with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Parker P. Leatherwood. On more than 90 combat missions his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty have reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Samuel A. Booher of Bridge Shot in Leg On Luzon

Mrs. Virginia Booher of Bridge has received word that her husband, Pfc. Samuel A. Booher, who was recently awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal by the Philippine Government, was wounded in the leg by gunshot

on April 20, on Luzon, and is to be sent to the States for hospitalization. Calling cards, \$5 for \$1.00.

Sgt. Clarence N. McNair has written his wife that he is now stationed in Linz, Austria.



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| Kitchen Craft Flour A home type flour for all home baking 5 lb. 27¢ 10 lb. 49¢ 50-lb. sack \$2.25 | Sunkist Lemons 5 lbs. 64¢ | CAULIFLOWER—White Solid Heads—lb. 24¢ |
| Sperry Flour Drifted Snow, 25-lb. 1.18 50-lb. 2.35 Flour Harvest Bloomer , enr. 25-lb. sk. 90¢ 50-lb. 1.79 Cake Flour , Swansdown 2 1/2-lb. pkg. 26¢ Shortening , Snowdrift (30 r. pts.) 3-lb. jar 68¢ Sno White Salt Plain or Iodized 26-oz. pkg. 7¢ Beet Sugar Stamp 36 5-lb. 32¢ 10-lb. 63¢ Sugar, Powdered or Brown 1-lb. pkg. 8¢ Baking Powder , Clabber Girl 2-lb. can 23¢ Baking Soda Arm & Hammer, 1-lb. pkg. 3 for 25¢ Tenderoni Van Camp's 6-oz. pkg. 2 for 15¢ | Juley Valencia Oranges 5 lbs. 54¢ | SOLID CABBAGE—Crispy Fresh—lb. 6¢ |
| Corn Starch , Argo Brand 1-lb. package 8¢ Westag Flavors Vanilla, Lemon, 1/4-pt. bottle 10¢ Mapleine , Crescent Syrup, Maker 1-oz. bottle 17¢ Food Colors Schilling's Assorted, pkg. 4 bottles 23¢ Chocolate Syrup Siler's Brand 20-oz. jar 27¢ Honey Broadshaw, Beeville, Farmer's Gold, 2-lb. 54¢ Puffed Raisins , Sun Maid 15-oz. pkg. 14¢ Morning Glory Oats reg. & quick 20-oz. pkg. 12¢ Cream of Wheat reg. & quick 28-oz. pkg. 22¢ Puffed Rice Quaker Sparkles 2 1/2-oz. pkg. 11¢ | Edwards Coffee reg. or drip 1-lb. jar 28¢ Nob Hill Coffee 1-lb. bag 23¢ 2-lb. bag 45¢ Airway Coffee 1-lb. bag 20¢ 3-lb. bag 58¢ Herbhey's Cocoa Nourishing 1/2-lb. pkg. 10¢ Tea Canterbury, Orange Pekoe, black 1/2-lb. 43¢ Tomato Juice Libby's Fancy (20 pts.) 47-oz. 24¢ Bunny No. 3 Can 10¢ (28 pts.) Blended Juice Blend O'Gold No. 3 can (18 pts.) 18¢ Orange Juice Full O'Gold Brand No. 2 can 20¢ Hi Ho Crackers 1-lb. pkg. 21¢ Bread Mrs. Wright's White or Wheat 1-lb. loaf 13¢ Crescent Mustard Yellow, Zesty qt. jar 14¢ | CELERY—Utah Type Crisp, Green—lb. 16¢ |
| | | WHITE ONIONS—California Wax—3 lbs. 24¢ |
| | | NEW GREEN PEAS—Sweet Tender—lb. 16¢ |
| | | TOMATOES—From Texas Lb. 20¢ |

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| Rib Lamb Chops (7 pts.) Grade A, lb. 43¢ Grade B, lb. 39¢ | Leg of Lamb (7 r. pts.) Grade A, lb. 38¢ 3/4 34¢ Half or whole | Jer Rubbers Regular and Top Seal 1-doz. pkg. 4¢ |
| Lamb Roast Shoulder sq. cut (6 pts.) Grade A & B, lb. 34¢ | Spiced Luncheon Meat (8 pts.) lb. 53¢ Spiced Ham (10 pts.) lb. 55¢ Mincled Lch. Meat A. C. (6 pts.) lb. 37¢ Fillet of Sole, Petrol lb. 39¢ Frozen Smelt, round lb. 13¢ | Kerr Jer Tops Lids, 1 dz. pt. 3/25¢ Caps, 1-dz. pt. 21¢ |
| Lamb Breast Also neck and shank (1 point lb.) Grade A & B, lb. 31¢ | King Salmon Troll caught—sliced lb. 44¢ | M. C. P. Pectin Powdered Pectin 3-oz. pkg. 9¢ |
| | SPICED HERRING , 14-oz jar each 43¢ | Parowax Wax Jelly Sealer, 1-lb. pkg. 2 for 25¢ |
| | SALT MACKEREL , no pts., lb. 33¢ | Deviled Ham Cudahy Brand (1 red pt.) 3-oz. can 14¢ |
| | FRESH OYSTERS , no pts. pint 65¢ | Swift's Prem Canned Lunch Meat (6 r. pts.) 12-oz. 32¢ |
| | | Ivory Soap White Floating Soap 3 large cakes 29¢ |
| | | Palmolive Soap Toilet Soap Bath Spa, 2 cakes 19¢ |
| | | Lifebuoy Soap Stops B. O. 3 cakes 29¢ |
| | | Shredded Wheat Fibisco Pkg. 11¢ |

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GLAZED FRESH STRAWBERRY PIE

4 cups fresh strawberries 1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup water 2 to 3 drops red food coloring
4 tbsp. cornstarch

Wash and hull strawberries. Fill baked 9-inch pastry shell with 3 cups whole berries. Crush remaining 1 cup berries; cook with water 5 minutes; strain. To make glaze: Combine sugar, cornstarch, and salt; add to strained juice; and cook 3 minutes, or until thick and clear, stirring constantly. Add butter or margarine and red coloring. Cool slightly. Pour glaze by spoonfuls over fruit, being careful to coat all thoroughly. Chill. Serve plain or garnish with whipped table cream or ice cream and whole berries. Makes 1 9-inch pie. Serves 6 to 8.

PAN-FRIED CHERRIES
An excellent accompaniment to meat or poultry.
2 tbsp. butter or 4 tbsp. brown margarine
2 cups cherries

Melt butter or margarine in heavy frying pan; add cherries and sugar; cover, and cook slowly 15 minutes, or until cherries are tender. Serves 6. Note: May pit cherries before pan-frying.

Safeway Homemakers Bureau JULIA LEE WRIGHT, Director

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