

Letters From Our Boys in Service

South West Pacific Area
March 22, 1944

Dear friend:

I got your letter just before I left Australia and haven't had a chance to answer until now. I was very glad to hear from you again. It seems we do a lot of moving and each time we move things don't get any better. Where we are now many things are disagreeable, such as the weather and living conditions. The climate is hot when the sun shines and there place as to rain. I am usually wet in the winter has nothing on this all the time either from the rain or sweat. Well it could be a lot worse. We live in squad tents and our rations are mostly canned, except a few days ago we started to get frozen beef which sure tasted good after eating so much canned hash and salmon. We now get free cigarettes, matches, candy, gum and shaving cream. Well that helps out a lot. We don't have any towns here to go to so we can't spend any money.

I wash my clothes in a little creek that flows by our tent. We also bathe in it. There are a few little fish in it and they are getting quite tame as we feed them. We built our own camp from a patch of kunas grass and brush. It looks pretty good now.

Yes Australia has farms somewhat like ours but not modern like ours. A lot of them are quite away back in the bush such as my relatives were. But they have left the farm now as the boys are all in the American army and the dairy farm is too much for the old folks and the two girls. They are trying to get back to the States and I think they will make O.K. People here in Australia raise about the same things they do in America with the exception of bananas, pineapples and papaya and other tropical crops. They raise a lot of fruits and vegetables the same as ours but they don't have the same flavor, ours tastes a lot better. I think Australia is one of the largest food, meat and butter producing countries in the world according to the population which is only 7 million. They supply England with a lot also the Allied Armies in the area. Yes, Australia has many hitings that are rationed. Many things that they got from the States before the war, they don't get at all now.

Yes, I knew Stan Gibson. I'm glad he got to go back for a while. You ask about me coming back soon. Well there doesn't seem to be any chance. The rotation plan passed by congress for overseas soldiers with 18 months over is in effect here, but it is pretty slow. I am eligible with 21 months overseas duty but there are so many with much more time than I. So they go back first, naturally.

I got a Xmas card dated the 10th of December from Milt and Maud a couple of days ago. So you can see how the mail situation can be sometimes. I also got a letter from Ben and Gerry Graham. Ben is about to be inducted, perhaps by this time.

My brother Chris has been shipped from Ft. Lewis at Seattle to the East coast somewhere. Verna has gone back to Medford and is staying with her folks. I don't know her address as yet. My other brother just had another furlough home from Virginia. I guess the boys in the State get a furlough about every 6 months.

The trip over here from Australia on the ship was unexciting, with nothing happening. We had very good chow while on the ship. We had to sleep on the decks without bunks. The farther we get from the States the less accommodations we get. Oh well such is army life.

"Jungle Jim"—Ernie.
Ernie Speaker was well known in Central Point having attended the Central Point schools.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Powell:
Just a line to let you know how much I appreciate your sending me the Central Point American. I have intended to write and thank you for quite some time, but since our "operations" have been rather rapid and extensive, I haven't even had time to write my folks as often as I should.

The American is a swell little paper, and the good old home town news is really appreciated out here, as our recreation facilities amount to almost zero. The only thing we can do is go to a show once in a while since we hit port for a few days rest. Since we have no projector abroad, we are further inconvenienced by a trip to another ship.

All things considered however, it is not such a bad life after all. The poker and crap games keep the boys interested. We have a good ship service store, and library, and the excitement of a trip keeps it from being boring, to say the least. Lots of action, and more thrills per

minute than you can shake a stick at.

Thanks again for the paper, I sure appreciate it.

Sincerely
Harvey Taylor Sm 2/c
USS-LSI-466

ENTERTAINS CLASS—
Mrs. Etta Lacy entertained her Sunday school class with an Easter party last Saturday afternoon. An Easter egg hunt was enjoyed. Mary Jane Matthews assisted Mrs. Lacy in serving jello and cookies. It was an extra jolly occasion to hear the children's report.

Letters to Nephews
By Ella H. Leonard

Dear nephew:
"What are you afraid of?" dad giggled as he threatened to jiggle the ladder. "That board is good and strong. You are perfectly safe." The behavior of that ladder is not conducive to confidence in it. Watching it seemed good insurance on his part. If it was merely sitting on a chair. This waiting on coats to dry drove out a paint job so. I'm planning on straight apricot for the woodwork, half and half with white for the ceiling and walls, and drift blue for the dade (whatever that may be. In this case, it is recessed areas.)

In my youth we never knew of a kid being taken before a court for delinquency. Hoover says, "Nobody was ever in jail or plotted a crime when fishing." Maybe the nearness of creeks and river had something to do with us. A bent pin for a hook, lead pounded on the twine string for, a sinker, a strong willow pole, and how we would fish in the clear water. "Don't move or he will see you!" Between us, we always had the makin's.

Fishin'! The darker the night, the harder the rain, was the right time to go salmon giffin'. China creek, not a broad jump wide, was lousy with them. Right in town. . . . Over in Clonoe where the wave crests were black with surf trout. . . . Getting crabs and abalone at Mendocino City. A girl in camp dancing a one step with a huge crab hanging to the big toe of the other foot. . . . Throwing a far line from high cliffs. What is caught! What difference does it make if we catch anything. We feel the desperate need to get away from

the things that are and be alone for a while. Our thinking clears. Our souls are refreshed. Jangling nerves are calmed. We gain control of ourselves again and become more livable again. The tall redwoods, the hurrying river, the talking ocean, how they call. How they renew a right spirit within us, cleanse and purify. Our yearning to escape, our feeling of being sapped out finds its answer in fishing, don't you think?

Some of these up hair-does brought to mind one of high school days long ago, when hair was long. It was waved in front. The hair was tied tight on top of the head; twisted, and at a loop tied at the same place. The length of hair left was wound flat around the loop, making a knot on top of the head. Imagine! Ain't style wonderful!

David found the cat's cup and proceeded to eat out of it, then turned it up and opened his mouth like a beer-guzzler pouring it down. He is the sweetest thing. . . . A stunt he pulls is to spread his feet, put his head on the floor, and peek between them as he jabbars at you. And smart (Those kids are all smart. Too smart sometimes, dad says.) David was playing around the house. He went to the kitchen and appeared in the door to the front room with a Lint package in his hands. I didn't

know what Lint was. "What have you got, honey?" was said to David. "Haven't you better put it back where you got it?" He stood sober as a judge a bit, turned, and marched straight back to the kitchen and put the box back where it belonged. And marched right away again. He seems to understand so well, tho he does not try to talk.

This psychology stuff for child correction is duck soup for Slaty. How I used to try it in school and go home night after night to weep over its failure and say to myself, "Haven't I been good enough to them? Where have I failed?" One day the kids were told, "Now if there is any more weeping to be done, YOU will be the ones to do it." And a strap was applied. And the sun came out. Quinine is bitter, but tons are being used. And so must the switch.

Bob has been transferred to the Harbor Craft Co. in New Orleans. It is the new transportation corps which has growth out of the QM corps, to take supplies to the men who have established beach heads. "Even the woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head." Can we do less? Mark 7. 14-23. I must run. Lovingly, Aunty.

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Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14

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