

Letters From Our Boys in Service

April 21, 1944

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Powell:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you again for sending me the American. I really look forward to getting the next copy as I am able to keep up with that goes on in the fair city.

I especially enjoy the letter from other boys in the service and to know where they are and just what great sights they are seeing. I also enjoy reading the letters that MILDRED SWAIN writes telling about the things in Brazil and it is all very interesting.

So far I have not had a chance to do much traveling but hope that some day may get to see some of the rest of the country around here.

I have had the chance to visit one of the Mosques that they have here and found it very interesting and at the time I was there a few of the Arabs were there for worship. Some of them are very religious and have certain times during the day that they pray and no matter what they are doing they will stop and take off their shoes and face toward Mecca and bow down for prayer. We had to remove our shoes before we entered the Mosques too.

Have been to see Richard Jewett twice and it was rather strange that we were so close to one another and still it took us nearly fifteen months to find it out.

Seemed to have filled the page so will have to stop for now.

Sincerely

Roland Hover.

April 24, 1944

Dear Friends,

I have just received my first Central Point American since "I have been overseas. It is really as pleasure to be able to read about the home news. It also helps to get ones mind off his work and duties.

I am now somewhere in Italy. Of course I can't tell you just where but I assume you that I have known more comfortable places in which I would rather be. If the people at home (in the U.S.) could see things as they are here, they wouldn't complain about the little inconveniences of rationing. Over here there just isn't anything to ration. And the next time you have anyone speak of "sunny Italy" just ask them if they have ever been in Italy.

I do wish to thank you for the paper and send my regards to friends in Central Point.

Sgt. Norman Hansen

LETTERS FROM OUR BOYS—

Somewhere in Italy

Dear Folks:

Well, Easter is past and I hope that the prayers asked throughout the world will be answered speedily.

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I have spent a far better Easter than I did last year. I spent that day near Arzu, Algeria in a bad dust storm. We were taking hard mountain training and were expecting to go to Tunisia any time. The uncertainty of not knowing where or when we were going bothered me worse than the action itself.

I have visited a place here in Italy where 5000 Christians were put to death by wild animals during the early growth of Christianity. The world has always been very brutal but at least we people have passed that stage where we pay admission to see such mass murders.

I can tell you that I saw the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and it was a wonderful experience, seeing the smoke rise miles in the sky; just like a huge forest fire, only a thousand times bigger. The molten lava sure spreads death and destruction. The mountain stopped its "belching" just in time.

I went to a big musical concert the past week; a 62 piece orchestra. You know how I always turned the radio off when those "high class" concerts came on the air. Well I am glad to hear that type now. The musicians were elderly people and were good.

The weather is getting more like summer, and I am feeling better. Keep writing the good letters.

Best Wishes to All,

Sgt. Cleo H. Young 39300776

A.P.O. 9372

c/o Postmaster

New York City, N. Y.

Letters to Nephews

By Ella H. Leonard

Dear nephew:

It's a wonder company didn't come and catch me: the occasion was propitious. The kitchen linoleum was just scrubbed and rinsed on hands and knees. I'm somewhat soppy with honest sweat. My hair got on end. How could it! And these housedresses fastened down the front are the jinx. One has to assume so many divers positions. Either, buttons go ZING! or the snaps pop open. (And for one not to know enough not to wear her

good slip. . . My sakes, it looks pled from the paint soaking thru the dress from squirming over the ladder top.)

Dad is gone for a few days, so advantage is taken of it to revarnish the kitchen floor. It was cleaned with soap and water and then rinsed. Remembering last year and the 2 weeks it took for the varnish to dry, the hardware man was called to find out if it was advisable to try to varnish tonight. And my land, am I glad. He informed me I had done the wrong thing in using soap as the varnish is affected chemically by it, and is made sticky instead of drying. He advised me to do the job over, washing the floor with a sal soda solution, then rinsing in clear water. And let the floor dry overnight before varnishing. He also told me never to stir varnish, as it made it full of tiny bubbles. These would burst after being applied and do a poor job. That has happened to me, but I didn't know what caused it. Nor my neighbor women either.

Sissy came in red-faced and sore. "Don't you put that rope on the gate post any more!" she ordered. "I had to crawl under. Don't you do it again." Both gates had been shut to keep David in the yard. Sissy is beginning to express herself quite emphatically. When we were going to the Park yesterday, she got wrothy and pert at me. I said, "Another exhibit like that and I'll swing you across my knee and put an application on your roundy." She gave me a plagued, sidewise look. Am I going to miss the kids when they leave for Camp Lewis in a week or so! They are regular kids with the common naughtinesses and sweetness cropping out. Smart as whips. The other day we had some teachers here. Sissy gave the allegiance pledge beautifully, for them to hear. I think both will say it at service Mother's Day. Robin speaks it as if he knew what every word meant.



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His soldier daddy has them give it at the dinner table. Sissy generally is wiggly and twisty. But Robin stand so straight, and gives it with deep sincere intonation.

David reminds us at times of the plaint of a small boy visiting an elderly lady. "My mother won't let me have any dog," he said. "She says they are so wettable." But I love to have him with me. His mother accused me of being partial to him. It's only that he is a baby. What is dearer than to have him come running with arms raised high for me to take him up. His limberness, the way he can do the split when climbing. . . The hearty laughs he gives one is a tonic. We went over where it was muddy by the walnut, dipped up his spoon full, put it in his mouth, spit it out on his hand, and swished his hand on his pant-leg.

The Voters Pamphlet is out for the primaries. All my life there were candidates on it to choose from. This year there is no choice. Four years ago the ticket showed the strong hand of the machine but there was some choice. Now, it is as if orders had been issued that no man was to be put in office only one subservient to Roosevelt; that this election gives no one else a chance. Working people have worked until they are too tired to think. They've trusted the Government to do right. Politicians have taken advantage of their failure to think things out of their trust, and have put over on them the dirtiest deal they ever had, and found the ripe opportunity to tie their hands. Have we been sold

down the river? What is political chicanery? When your thinking gets turned loose on our country, what will break loose?

"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might," is my prayer for you. Fervently, Aunty.

A SMILE

Who can tell the value of a smile, It costs the giver nothing But is beyond price to the erring and relenting. The sad and cheerless, the lost and forsaken, It disarms malice, subdues temper, Turns hatred to love, revenge to kindness And paves the darkest paths with Cems and Sunlight.

By Joe A. Mann

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