

June 8, 1945

Dear Gang:

Here we come again with some more news of you fellows in the Service. I want to thank you for all your swell letters, which I will try to pass on in part to the rest of the Gang. Vern Rayley expresses the general idea of your letters, so I will quote from his letter: "The letter was one of the most interesting letters I have ever received. We fellows in the Service are scattered all over the face of the Earth, and it is impossible to keep in contact with news of each other, except through the good work of people like you. Believe me, we wonder of the whereabouts of each other often. It is also great to hear from the old gang in the Best Fire Department in the U.S.A. Keep up the good work, and give our appreciation to those who help you." Don Kirsch, who was wounded in France, says: "It is really interesting to read about the fellows you haven't seen or heard about in months." So fellows, get us the news of what you are doing and we will pass it on. LT. VICTOR D. BROWN, JR., was killed in Germany April 28th. He had been overseas since February. The tragic news came to his folks on May 8th (V.E.Day) about an hour after two letters, one written on the 27th of April. His father, Captain "Vic" Brown had returned from Europe last fall, and is now at Engine 9. Our sincerest condolences to the father and mother. CAPT. "BOB" LILLIS, is now home on an Emergency Leave, on account of the death of his wife, who was buried in Portland May 26th. Bob was stationed at Menlo Park, so that he could be near her, after taking a course at Stanford University in preparation for an assignment overseas. Bob has many friends in the Department, who feel as I do, and we extend our sincerest sympathies.

KENNETH GITHENS, writes to Shipley, "When Joe (Stalin) drove up to the barb wire, they turned us loose." Kenneth is awaiting transportation, and will probably be home before I get this letter mailed.

REINO HOCKERT, is also free from a prison camp in Germany, and will also be home soon. Hal Simpson reported that the brother of his son-in-law, who was in the same place, had arrived in New York, and no doubt Reino is with him. FRANK W CRABTREE, Bkr 2/c dropped by to say "Hello" the other day. He is in the C.G.U. at Camp Parks, Calif. Frank thanked me for the Fire Department Calender, as the Bakers work the same shifts in the navy, and it was very welcome. He spent 18 months in the S.W. Pacific, one month of that on the Island of Bora Bora, which is 26 miles around and has a mountain 2200 feet high. Frank saw Albert Elder in the S.W. Pacific and again at Mare Island. Elder (now a Lt.) is in the Phillipines, and Frank is in an Outgoing Unit, so maybe they will meet again.

F/O GORDON N. CLARK, writes from L.A.A.F. that he is finally slated to join a Combat Crew, and use some of his training to lower the morale of the Japs. He says: "I should be writing my congressman asking him why the Army pulled me out of a P-40, made me a flying instructor in twin-engine advanced training, and then gave me a B-17. I can't convince the crew members that it would be fun to try a slow roll." (If you are serious, fly down to Strother Field, and Billy Fisher might agree with you). Gordon was home on a "Delay enroute" some time ago, but hopes he will see some of his fellow Smoke-eaters without having to come home to do it next time.

C.P.O. "Dick" (L.F.) SLATER, writes from Everett, Wash. and calls my letter a Scandal Sheet (Maybe I'd better write you a private letter and tell you some). It was typewritten, and I wonder if Dick has developed some new talents, or--- period. Uncle Sam decided that Dick had too much experience as a Fireman, so he is no longer a Photographer, but belongs to a Photographer's Club, and has some good pictures (Now I am interested). Dick was sent to Brooklyn N.Y. and Corpus Christie, Texas for further training, and served on an 80-foot Patrol vessel for awhile. At the present time he is in charge of Fire Fighting in that area.

VERN RAYLEY, Mo. M.M. 1/c, writes from the "Crossroads of the Pacific", that he made a couple of Liberties with Terry Schrunk and Ossie Forbes, in the last few months. Vern was on a P.C. for about a year before he was transferred into the Fire Fighting program and has been stationed there for a year and a half. Living conditions are good, but it is not home, and he can't get relieved so he can have a rotation Leave. Hopes to get sea-duty again, on a Salvage Tug. Vern said, quote, "When you see Ernie Grenfell, tell him I hope his arms are better, because he must have broken them, and if he is not too busy catching all the Salmon and Trout in Oregon, I would like to hear from him."

DALE GILMAN, C.Mo.M.M. was in to say Hello a few days ago. Dale is still stationed in Rhode Island, and at the present time is just "Awaiting Orders", and looking up some old friends. Dale looks good, but his future plans are uncertain.

LT. JACK PETERS, of Engine 9, phoned me the other night. He asked if this was the Henry Rich, that wrote letters to all the Firemen. When I said yes, he said: "This is one of the Firemen". Jack wasn't in the Department very long before he left in 1942, but did locate one friend, Bob Moore, who he went through Basic with at Santa Anna, but hadn't heard of since. Jack is instructing in P-40s at Luke Field Arizona, and was grounded overnight here. Said he hoped it rained for a week. Jack will be at Luke Field for another six months, he thinks. Maybe he will take his next cross-country flight down to Colorado and see Bob.

LT. JOE M. SCOTT, sent one of the Ship's Mascot's pups home to his mother for her Birthday. From his mother, we learn that the Pup, an Alaskan Spaniel of a creamy or honey hue, arrived. She had named him Skipper, but he still answers to the name of Salty, which is what the crew of the Ship that brought him to the States called him. Also they spoiled him by playing too rough, as Skipper (or Salty) likes to tear anything he can get his teeth on. Joe's nephew (one year old today, May 26th) and the pup are great friends, however.

T/4 EVERETT BILYEU, writes from Fort Lewis, where he is a member of a Construction Battalion of Engineers, made up of fellows with different trades in Civilian life. His job is the Demolition work. (You are not the fellow in a story I heard that blew Grandpa up, are you?) He says: "Where we are headed, the Engineers spend about thirty percent of the time in the Front Lines." Heard that Everett pitched a No-hitter last week in a softball game, fanning 18 out of 21. The softball players and fans sure hope nothing happens to that pitching arm.

LT. A. V. ELDER, writes from a F.P.O. San Francisco, address, where he is attached to ACORN #30. He enlisted in the C.B.'s in April, 1942 and spent 14 months in the S.W. and Central Pacific. Commissioned in Nov. 1943, he was attached to the Mre Island Fire School for a while, and is now back out there. Note, the (j.g.) has been discontinued.

LT. DONALD KIRSCH, was home, and writes that he is now at the McCaw General Hospital at Walla Walla, Wash. He was with the 79th Infantry Div., in France when he was wounded, and has had a little trouble, but is coming along O.K. now. When he reports back to the Hospital, he says he may be put on limited service, or retired. Visiting Henry Burns' father, he says he is looking forward to seeing Hank again soon.

HARRY LANDRU, writes from Okinawa, that he hasn't "Felt so good for a long time. Since I have been overseas, we have been pretty close to the Equator, and here we wear a heavy wool shirt and a sweat shirt. Two other fellows and myself have a fox-hole, nine feet by nine feet, three feet deep, with sand bags piled around the edges, and a rigged up tarp over the top. We sleep in the Fox-hole so we don't have to get up when they raid us at night. The food is fair, if you can call C.K.J. and 10 in 1 rations good, but so much better than we had on Bouganville. We have lots of fresh bread and coffee. We don't eat any of the home grown vegetables as the way they fertilize things are not the best." Harry also sent me some "Invasion money," saying that they have trouble getting to town to spend it. He said, "Buy a beer on me". Also

"Say hello to all the boys, and tell them I hope to get home this year. You follows can write sitting down, but we have to write on our beds" (A plumber like Harry not making a writing desk, I can't understand.)

ARTHUR D. KITTO, Sea 1/c writes from an A.P.O., that after that Sage Brush Deal, he too would like to see some sage brush, but all they see is Hula Skirts. Being as he couldn't send me a picture of Sage Brush, he sent a picture of the Gang at Engine 1. (A bunch of wolves watching a pretty girl walk by) I haven't seen anything like that, although there are times you could knock some eyes off with a stick. It seems to me that one thing you didn't like about Engine 10, was there weren't enough girls walking by. That is really built up out there now, with the lot in back, full of Defense Houses.

PFC BRUCE FRENCH, writes from the Lido Road in Burma, that they are darned (?) near lost in the jungles. Says Bruce: "Drove a bull dozer on the Road, which is now finished, but can't tell more about my work. After seeing some of the Mountains over here, out little old mountains at homewill look like Mole Hills. Words cannot describe the Road, and I still don't think it is possible. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the World." Bruce also said if anyone at home wanted to trade places with him, he was willing. Norman Howard was over there when Bruce was here, and said he had already traded places with Bruce, and he was satisfied. As you know, Norman is back, working as Fire Investigator.

RUSSELL DUHRKOOP, writes from France on May 3rd, that as soon as they arrived in France, and the word got around, the Heinies all started to quit. (Too bad they weren't over a long time ago). At that time there were a lot of rumors and confusion, and he could not give any information.

THE BROTHER-IN-LAW, received the pictures of the Sage Brush, and said in a letter to his Mother: "Rich must have misunderstood about that Sage Brush. I wanted to see some, with my own little eyes, not pictures of it." He is in the signal gang, and I guess they all got a big laugh out of it. He had a nice experience a while back when my nephew, who is on an Aircraft Carrier, came aboard one day for a visit. One has been out since October 1943, and the other since August 1944. Sure hope that these letters help to get some of you together. Thanks again to Bill Lotz for the pictures of the Sage Brush, we did our best to make him happy, Bill.

JOE SCHLECHTER, now Fireman 1/c on an Aircraft Carrier writes to his wife, that he wanted to get a tan, like some of the Top-side sailors. Well Joe lays around on the topside in his shorts one afternoon, but didn't get tan, just a little red. When he went on duty below decks, in the Engine Room, he found out that his tan was a little better than he thought at first, and got better (or worse) all the time. We hope Joe gets a tan, so people will know he has been out in the South Pacific, but let us know, and we will send you some Sunburn lotion the next time you try.

Had an interesting letter from my nephew (on an Aircraft Carrier) about visiting my Brother-in-law, (on a Battleship) He says, quote, "Yesterday was May Day according to the Calendar and the Sun, but there weren't any May Poles or little Girls with May Baskets. I was lucky and got to buy some Razor blades that are a lot more efficient and less painful than the FAMOS brand we have. Also I conveniently only had a "Twenty" and they had no change, so Lee loaned me a Buck and had an expression on his face of having heard that song before, and didn't ever expect to see his Dollar again.***And when he tells me about his being out here for nine (9) months, I just blow on my nails, and tell him about my eighteen (18) months, and how he should get some time in, etc., etc.," It was the first time either of them had seen anyone from home.

PVT. RAYMOND R. DUNFORD JR., writes from Las Vegas that he has one more week of Ground School and then some more gunnery training. They have five of their crew together, and are going to Lincoln Nebraska for further training, and he said he is going to look up Lt. A. Trumbull, but the said Lt. has moved to Texas, and expects to go overseas soon. However Gordon N. Clark is there, so maybe he will see someone from home after all.

PVT. ELMER W. HOCKERT, from Eng. 25, is now at Fort Lewis. He writes "I don't know whether I am in the Engineers or Medics, but they are giving us enough training that we could be anything. Haven't heard anything about my brother (Lt. Reino Hockers, who has been a prisoner of war in Germany since October 8th, 1943), but expect to hear any day now.

TOMMY NUGENT, P.F.C. (C means civilian), is home after over three years in the Navy. Just talked to Tommy on the phone, and after being home for two days, he is just wondering where to start on his Spring House cleaning at home. So far he is just resting and trying to get used to being a civilian. Will have Tommy's story later.

SGT. ROY H. TRASK, (Son of Harry Trask) is stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. Roy enlisted in March, 1942, took his Basic in Missouri, then to Pennsylvania, and to New Orleans, from where he was shipped to his present station? He was home on furlough last February, the first time he had been home in twenty months.

CPT. JAMES R. AIKEN, of the Marine Corps, writes from Okinawa to Henry Bushman of Engine 28. "Landed on Okinawa April 1st. Ernie Pyle was with us on one invasion. Just rec'd your letter dated December 15, 1944., so our mail is not very regular. Am writing this in a jungle hammock, and it is raining very hard right now. Have been resting for a week. Regards to all the gang." Gordon Clark asked for your address which we have sent to him, Via Captain Jordon of Engine 12. (One of your showers is in full swing right now May 23rd)

PVT. JOE PECCIA, of Engine 4 is now at Camp Roberts in Co. D, 21st Infantry Trg. Bn. Joe left here some time in March. Engine 4 had a letter from him recently, saying they were getting the "Works".

SGT. DONALD N. GREEN, with the Hdgrs Btry of the 95th Div., Artillery, writes to Pete Suhr saying that they were pretty busy, as he had put 3000 miles on a jeep during April. There was so much doing that he couldn't begin to describe it (Censors permitting). Asked about Reino Hockert. He had received my first letter, but as yet had not seen anyone from the P.F.D.

LT. WALTER NICKELS, writes from Washington D.C. Walt is conducting tests for Firefighting and expected to see Dale Gallaher. We can't say much about what he is doing, but know the he is doing a good job. He helped fight twelve ship fires in the Mediterranean, and from the "Scuttlebutt", we know that he did a good job of it. Walter says, quote, "On the Army Point system, I would have 81 points, the only thing is, I am in the Navy instead of the Army, and wouldn't want to get out until the job is finished, anyhow. There is still a lot to do, and I am gaining a world of experience on Shipboard Fire Fighting."

CPL. JAMES KARLE, writes to the Civil Service (City Citations) giving them a new address, which they gave to me, and thanking them for the paper. James is now in a Service Company, and to quote Captain Stinsman, "Now he will have to go to work."

City Citations is put out by the girls in the Civil Service Office, and is sent to all City Employees in the Service. Mrs. McWain is the editor, and our old friend Mrs. McDowell, who has been in the office since November, 1921, keeps track of all the addresses, and a good job she is doing. Mrs. McDowell has a son in the Navy, in the Pacific, a daughter in the Waves, and another son that has been called up for his physical. Of course she knows most of you. The entire office from Mr. Marion down are doing a good job of sending out City news, they are always glad to hear about any of you.

DON GREEN, writes from Warendorf, Germany, that he didn't do much until he got in Patton's Army in October, and from then on, they were busy. They took sixteen of the Forts, and two-thirds of the City. Then across Loraine into Saarland. Then they joined the ninth Army for the Roer River crossing, and their last Combat assignment was the capture of Dortmund. Since then they have been handling P.W.s and refugees. Hoping for a furlough in the States before they take off for the Jap War. He hopes to run across someone from the P.F.D.

1ST. LT. BOB ODGERS, (might be Captain now), whose mother cuts the stencils for these letters is now stationed in the Phillipines area. He is with the 8th Fighter Group, and has had fourteen months overseas, starting in New Guinea, most of the Phillipine campaigns, Formosa, and his biggest thrill was a trip to Chungking China. Now he says they have nurses, Wacs and Red Cross girls where he is stationed and can get a cup of coffee and donuts.

WALTER KULJU, F 1/c from Engine 22 writes that he is having a hard time getting very far away from the States and closer to the Japs. He says, quote: "Maybe I'll soon have a lion by the tail, I hope, but if you or any of the fellows think they are missing anything, I don't agree. I think I did more for the War effort by working a couple of call shifts at Engine 10 last February, as they had two runs in one day. I have a P.F.D. painted on the back of my shirt, and have been hailed by quite a few guys from the City of Roses, but no one that I knew personally. Tell the Gang at Engine 22 that I would like to hear from them, (They said they would like to hear from you too) Am still hoping to see someone from the P. F. D."

CPL. THOMAS F. HUGHES, (Volunteer from Eng. 10) writes from Germany on some of Hitler's private stationary. He and "Tommy" Thompson are good friends, and almost got together last fall, but moved before they could make connections. Said the only Fireman he knew in my last letter was Larry Duhrkoop, but he enjoyed it just the same. That letter is really a souvenir and is something. Hope he and Tommy Thompson can get together now.

RAY HALGA, in a letter to Dave Beeson, says that he is moving, and will send his address just as soon as he has it. Ray has been in Florida, but don't have much information on what he has been doing.

ALL THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES ARE % P. M. NEW YORK N. Y.

SGT. SODUS E. ADAMS-39340056, 2093 E.A.F.F. Plat. A.P.O. 650
T/4 A.W. BUTTS-39340949, 1660 E.U.D., Hqs. Co., E.T.D., A.P.O. 887
1ST. LT. JAMES D. BEEBE-0-804987, 93rd T.C. Sqd. 439 T.C. Group, A.P.O. 133
P.F.C. W. BRAUTLACHT-39313186, Det. H-3, G-3, Co. G, 3rd E.A.C. Dept. A.P.O. 658
S/SGT. MELVIN L. CAMPBELL-39340298, 2089 E.A.F.F. Bat. A.P.O. 520
LT. J.V. COLOMBO-0-1042263, Hqs. Repl. Trg. Service, A.P.O. 494
SGT. LARRY KOCH-19121210, 46th Gen. Hospital, A.P.O. 419
CAPT. C.H. LENNEVILLE-0-534065, G-5, Sec. Hqtrs., 3rd U.S. Army, A.P.O. 403
MAJ. JACK LOWE-0-323140, Air Defense Div., Sup. Hqs., A.P.O. 757
P.F.C. EDWARD C. LAWRENCE-39321051, 361 Infantry, Co. M., A.P.O. 91
LT. KENNETH PUTTKAMER-0-755423, 84th Bomber Sqdn. 47th Bomb Group, A.P.O. 650
SGT. L.P. ROSS-39334707, 2142 E.A.F.F. Plat. A.P. O. 133
PVT. WARREN T. SMITH-39094175, 345 Inf., A.T. Co., A.P.O. 448
P.F.C. CLAYTON L. THOMPSON-39342954, Hq. & Hq. Co., 3rd Rep. Dep., A.P.O. 153
LT. JAMES TIMMONS- 61st T.R.P. Car. Group, 53rd Sqdn., A.P.O. 133
SGT. A.H. WISMER-39340054, 2088 Eng. Const. Plat., A.P.O. 520
PVT. HENRY HOFFMAN-39481063, Co. A, 423 Infantry Regt., A.P.O. 443
CPL. JAMES I. KARLE-39338741, 455th Hdqrs Base Service Sqdn., Air Svc. Group A.P.O.
SGT. RUSSELL DUHRKOOP-39341802 1494 Eng. Maint. Co., A.P.C. 228
SGT. BERNARD R. BOLF- H.Q. Co., 607 T.D. Bn, A.P.O. 230
CPL. THOMAS F. HUGHES-39327439, Co. A., 692 T.D. Bn., A.P.O. 230
S/SGT. EMMETT R. DELANEY-39339872, 2089 E.A.F.F. Plat., A.P.C. 520
PVT. BRUCE FRENCH-39342527, Co. F., 330 Eng. Regt., A.P.O. 218
S/SGT. CARL GREGG 2126 E.A.F.F. Plat., A.P.O. 559
SGT. DONALD N. GREEN-19135653, H. Q. Battery, 95th Div. Artillery, A.P.O. 95
SGT. VIRGIL DOUGLAS-39325380, 2020 E.A.F.F. Plat, A.P.O. 557
LT. COL. JOE CARSON, 6th C.A. Unit, A.P.O. 658
MAJ. HARRY S. DORMAN, S.H.A.E.F. Mission, Belgium, A.P.O. 757
CAPT. WILL E. GIBSON-0-532584, Det. D-2, B-2, Co. B. 1st E.C.A. Reg. A.P.O. 658

ALL THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS ARE % P.M. SANFRANCISCO, CAL.

CFL. JAMES E. AIKEN-897066, H&S Btry, 3rd Bn, 15th Marines, 6th Div. U.S.M.C.
 WELBY W. CUTLER, Mo. M.M. 1/c, Navy 60, Fleet P.O.
 LT. LARRY DUHRKOOP, Capt. of Yard Office, Navy 128, Fleet P. O.
 ROBERT EDNER, B. M. 2/c, U.S.S. Nashville (C.V.-43), Fleet P.O.
 LT. (j.g.) ALBERT V. ELDER, Acorn #30, P-12, Fleet P.O.
 C.O. FARBER, Sea 1/c. U.S.S. Ingersol (D.D.-652) Fleet P.O.
 OSWALD W. FORBES, Mo. M.M. 1/c U.S.S. P.C.-804. Fleet P.O.
 CAPT. WILLIAM J. FIGUE-0382129, Hqs. Co. 1st Bn, 162nd Inf, A.P.O. 41
 THOMAS W. FULLER, M.M. 1/c, Co. A.B., 98th N.C.B., Fleet P.O.
 M. L. GREENMAN, B.M. 1/c, 97th N.C.B., Sec. 1, Draft 8, Fleet P.O.
 1ST LT. ROBERT F. GREEN-O-770252, 392 Bomb Sqdn. (h), A.P.O. 959
 LT. GEORGE R. HARPER-O-1325493, Co. C, 541st P.I.R., A.P.O. 14628
 RAY L. HAIGA, Sea 1/c F. Div., U.S.S. Intrepid (C.V.-11), Fleet P.O.
 LT (j.g.) WILLIAM H. HAMPTON, U.S.S. Gridley (D.D.-380), Fleet P.O.
 SGT. MELVIN E. JOHNSON-19135326, 1039 Sig. Co. Service Group, 57th Ser. Grp. A.P.O.
 ARTHUR DEAN KITTO, Sea 1/c, U.S.S. Cleburne (A.P.A.-73), Fleet P.O.
 WALTER W. KULJU, F 1/c, A.O.B., Navy 128, Fleet P.O.
 HARRY B. LANDRU, C.S.F. U.S.N. C. B., 71st Bn, Co. D., Fleet P.O.
 LT. R. I. MARKWART-O-757591, 822 Bomb Sgdn, 38th Bomb Group, A.P.O. 70
 SGT. MERRILL MEIGS-39328778, 511th Parachute Inf., Co. H., A.P.O. 468
 LT. GERALD B. MIDDLETON-O-537709, Hqrs 207th F.A., A.P.O. 17937
 GORDON A. MORTERUD, Ph. M. 1/c, Hdqrs Co., 2nd Bn. 22nd Marines, Fleet P.O.
 LT-COL. G.H. MUNDT-O-297745, 356 A.A.A. S/L Bn., A.P.O. 72
 CAPT. ROBERT M. MITCHELL-O-414646, Hqs. Co., 188th Paragliders, A.P.O. 468
 JOHN NEELEY, C.Mo. M.M., A.B.R.D., Boc 15, Navy 128, Fleet P.O.
 JOSEPH W. NEELEY, Ph.M. 1/c, U.S.S. P.C.-1120, Fleet P.O.
 ALBERT M. OLIVERIO, C.M. 1/c, U.S.N.C.B., 81st Bn. Co. D-4, Fleet P.O.
 M.N. Palmer C.M. 1/c, N.C.B. 106, Co. 9, Section 1, Box 3015, Fleet P.O.
 PVT. BRETT E. PHELPS-934483, U.S.M.C.R., V.M.F.-211, M.A.G. 12, F.M.A.W. Fleet P.O.
 VERN A. RAYLEY- Mo. M.M. 1/c FireFighter's School, Commandant Navy 128, Fleet P.O.
 LT-COL. JAMES RIOPELLE-O-297884, Hqrs. 28th A.A.A.Group, A.P.O. 958
 ROBERT E. ROBINSON, B.M. 1/c, U.S.S. Y.P. 399, Fleet P.O.
 SAM SPRANDO, B.M. 1/c, 6th Special Co. C-3, C/D Detach. Fleet P.O. Home on leave now
 ASHLEY STATHOS, R.T. 2/c, U.S.S. Ozark (L.S.-V-2), N. Div. Fleet P.O.
 LT. TERRY SCHRUNK, U.S.S. Ticonderoga, (C.V.-14), Fleet P.O.
 GORDON E. SLOAT, R.E., Radio Lab, Navy 131, Fleet P.O.
 J.A.SCHLECTER, F 2/c, U.S.S. Kasaan Bay, Div. A, Fleet P.O.
 CAPT. RALPH SARGENT-O-396676, Port Command, Base K. A.P.O. 72
 WARD E. SVART, S.M. 1/c U.S.S. Smith (D.D.-378), Fleet P.O.
 CAPT. TOM C. TURLEY-O-369923, Dist. Hqrs. A.P.O. 961
 LT. EDWIN L. WILLIAMS, 675th Bomber Sqdn, 417th Bomber Group, A.P.O. 704
 ROBERT L. WITTS, Rdm 2/c, U.S.S. R. K. Huntington, (D.D.-781), Detail, Fleet P.O.
 JOHN M. WISE, A.R.M. 1/c, V.P.B.-15, Fleet P.O.
 LT. W.F.WHITE, Jr., Utility Sqdn #12, Fleet P.O.
 JAMES P. YORK, T.M. 2/c, U.S.S. Markab, 6th Div., Fleet P.O.
 LT. JOHN H. BALHMAN, U.S.S. Monterey, Fleet P.O. (Chief Clerk's son)
 EDWARD G. GRENFELL, Sea 2/c (Bill's boy) U.S.S. Kula Gulf (C.V.E.-108) Div. R. F.P.
 SANFORD T. MILLER, JR., Ph. M. 3/c U.S. Navy Base Hospital #10, Navy 135, F.P.O.
 (Son of Ted Miller, Eng. 1)
 W.T. NUGENT, JR., B.M. 2/c, U.S.S. Darke, Boat Div. 159, Fleet P.O.
 LT. ROBERT R. ODGERS, 35th Fighter Squadron, 8th Fighter Grp. A.P.O. 321, O-745483.
 (Son of Violet Odgers, Cousin Terry Schrunk)
 PVT. WM. E. PHILLIPS, Hqs. Co. 1st Bn, 1st Marine Div., Fleet P.O.
 (Son of Ernie Phillips of Eng. 32)
 FREDDIE CHRISTENSEN, Sea 1/c U.S.S. Portunus, Fleet P.O. (Son of Chris at Eng. 15)

The City rules regarding returning to duty in the Department are as follows: First, report for duty at the office within 40 days after being released from military service. Fill out a simple form. You then will be sent to the City Doctor for a medical examination and if you are physically fit to perform the duties of a fireman, you will be assigned to duty. All those who are crippled through loss of limbs, etc. will be assigned to duty other than fire fighting duty if they are able to do the work required.

The boys in the Department are quite happy about two extra days off per month that was allowed by the Council beginning July 1st. This will make 4 days off per month. It will be taken in two 24 hour shifts each month. This settles an argument that has been going on since 1931, when the Council passed an ordinance granting 4 days off per month but allowed only two on account of the depression.

Our fire loss so far this year has been about average, but last year was an all time record for Portland, \$2,700,000.00. Fire Marshal Roberts said he made two records while he was Fire Marshal, the lowest over a ten year period and the highest for one year.

The food situation on the home front is quite acute, especially meat. It is really scarce, and it is not uncommon to see a line of people over a block long trying to get one package of cigarettes or one chicken. That doesn't mean anybody is going hungry. There seems to be as much food as ever in other lines and tobacco is really not essential. The best part of it is no one gripes about it. The general trend is anything is O.K. so long as it will help the war effort and get the boys home.

Henry has limited my space, so will close, wishing all of you the best of luck and will be glad to see you back on the job.

Edu Grenfell

Well, fellows, as you see, Chief Grenfell has written you a letter, but I'll still get in the last word, (this time).

CHIEF B.M. SAM SPRANDO, walked in the Engine House yesterday, and will be home for thirty days, after over two years on Bougeanville.

I have included all overseas addresses that I have, and will give the addresses of the fellows in the States, in the next letter, and make any changes that we receive. Several of you are pretty close together, and we hope these addresses help you locate someone from home. Hoping you are all well, and that it won't be too long until you can be home, I remain,

Sincerely,

Henry Rich

Henry Rich

905 S. W. 4th Ave.
Portland 4 Oregon

P.S. REINO HOCKERT, arrived in Portland this morning.