

April 3, 1945.

Dear Gang:

This letter is an effort on our part to let you know what the members of the Portland Fire Department in the Service are doing. Some of the information will be incorrect and not up to date, but the next letter will be from the letters that you write. If you know the whereabouts of any of the fellows, send us their addresses, and what they are doing, and we will pass it along to the rest of the gang. We are not enclosing any addresses, but will send any address that is requested.

PVT. CLAYTON THOMPSON, has been in Belgium since late summer. At the last writing he was doing M.P., in a replacement pool.

FIRST LT. ROBERT E. MOORE, (Eng. 22) was doing a lot of flying in India and China. After a year overseas, he was home for thirty days, last November, and is now at Ouray Colorado.

CAPT. "BILLY" FISHER, was flying a Fighter Plane over Germany for months. He made 108 missions, and was credited with shooting down 15 Nazi planes. He was home about Xmas time. Said he would like to see what the Japs have, and I'll bet he would if he got the chance. He's the same Billy Fisher.

PVT. HAROLD SEELY, (Eng. 8) was in on the Normandy Invasion, and ran into some tough luck. He is now at Bushnell General Hospital, Brigham City, Utah. We hope it won't be too long until you can be coming home, Harold.

LT. TERRY SCHRUNK, has seen a lot of action on one of our large Aircraft Carriers in the Pacific, in the firefighting end of it. Terry saw plenty of action, but when they hit a hurricane that the old timers claimed was the "worst storm in fifty years", Terry thinks they didn't go back far enough. Terry is now home on a short leave. By the way- Terry's cousin, Mrs. Odgers, who works in the Fire College, cut the stencils for this letter.

ASHLEY STATHOS, is a radio man on a landing craft. In a letter to Mel Wilkenin, he said he had taken part in the Luzon landings. He might have been in on some others too.

LONGINOTTI, retired last October, and the boys gave him a nice farewell party. We will miss Tony, now that he has moved to the Beach, and wish him "good fishing".

"GIB" MONTAGUE, still comes into Eng. 1 every day looking for Tony, and is always asking about you fellows. He says to remember him to you all.

PVT. BRUCE FRENCH, (Eng. 4) is driving a truck somewhere in India, and might be moving to China. He writes that the cows are Sacred in India, and have to sin before they are taken to the Temple, and after some kind of a Ritual, they are sold to the Army for beef. What "Brick" Fisher wants to know is: "What does a cow have to do to sin." Bruce says that you can't chase the cow out of your Barracks, but mentions fresh cream for the coffee.

LT. KENNETH O. GITHENS, is a prisoner in Germany. (Is a member of the Caterpillar Club, and was making his 50th mission when shot down). He writes that where he is, is a good place to sober up, and wishes Shipley of Eng. 7 was there. By the way, Shipley broke his wrist a while back "Carrying some apples down stairs". We don't doubt your word, Ship, but were the apples in a box?

DAVE JOOS, (Eng. 23) has spent over a year in the Central Pacific area, in a Firefighting Unit, and is now in the Camp Parks Fire Department, in California.

CPL. JAMES KARLE, (Eng. 4) has spent about a year in an Engineer's Aviation Firefighting Force in England, and since the Normandy Invasion has moved to France, says a letter he wrote to Captain Stinson.

S/SGT. A.H. WISMER, (Eng. 4) is in the Firefighting end with the Engineers in Italy.

GORDON MORTTRUD, who left with Commander Tillman, has seen service in all parts of the world. The last letter to Harry Williams said he was in the South Pac.

SODUS ADAMS, (Eng. 4) was in on the Normandy Invasion, and is working in a Fire Damage Control Unit with the Air Force. Last heard from, he was in France.

LT. COL. "RIP" RIOPELLE, was home about Christmas time, after serving three years in the Central Pacific Area. "Rip" was at Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack, and his Company got credit for shooting down a Jap plane.

LT. R.J. MARKWART, (Eng. 17) received his wings, and has been instructing at LaJunta Field, and in South Carolina. Is now assigned to Bomber Duty in the South Pacific, as reported in a letter to Joe Schiwek, who is now Sr. Capt. at Eng. 1.

HARRY LANDRU, Chief Shipfitter in the C.B.'s, has been in the South Pacific for a couple of years. Last known whereabouts were the Phillipinos, but where the Marines have gone Harry's outfit has followed up. His main job is to install the plumbing, and Harry said a lot of the plumbing would not pass the City of Portland inspection. They use what they find, and make the rest.

CPL. EARL A. ROBERTS, of the Marines, ran into some tough luck on Saipan, being wounded in the leg and foot by a mortar shell fragment. He is now in the Navy Hospital at Oakland Cal., and says in a letter to Louis Hicks of Eng. 1, that he hopes to be furloughed home soon.

CHIEF MO.M.M. DALE F. GILMAN, was in the Mediteranean Area for quite a while, and is now in Rhode Island. Dale has been recommended for a commission.

J.D. KITTO, from Eng. 4, is in the Fire Department at the Naval Sta. at Pasco Wn. My Brother-in-law, who is on a Battleship in the Phillipine Area, said in a letter that he wants to see some sage-brush. If Kitto will take some pictures, I'll send them on.

SEA. 1/C RAY L. HIGGA, (Eng. 24) has completed his course in Fire Control School, in Florida, and is awaiting assignment.

WALTER E. PARMENTER, (Eng. 4) is in the Fire Department at Farragut, Idaho.

LT. HENRY L. BURNS, (eng. 4) went to Quantico, made 2nd. Lt., and has been shipped to Central Pacific for further assignment.

PVT. W.C. PATHEAL, (Truck 8) left sometime in February, and is now training at Camp Walters, Tex.

PVT. BENJAMIN Z. STEELE, (Eng. 1) left in October to train at Camp Walters, and hurt his ankle. He is out of the hospital now, so three more months of Basic for you Zeke. Zeke writes that he is keeping in practice by telling the kids about Oregon. Says that when we have a Forest Fire here, people have to dig Fox-holes to keep the animals from running over them.

PRIVATE HENRY HOFFMAN, (Eng. 1) who left with Steele, has completed his Basic, and is now home on furlough. Will probably get his "Sailing orders" as infant replacement when he reports back.

B.M. 1/c SAM SPRANDO, (Truck 8), has been in the South Pacific for about two years.

JOHN W. DUFF, (Truck 8) has been at Farragut since summer. He was in charge of athletics, and has completed Fire School, and now waiting assignment.

LT. KENNETH PUTTKAMER, (Eng. 26), has been in Africa, Italy, France and Corsica Island. He has completed 53 missions, and on one of them, had the windshield shot away, a three inch shell hole, but none of the crew were injured.

LT. COL. WILLIAM B. MCKINLEY, (Eng. 1), spent about seventeen months over seas. He has been in all the Mediteranean countries in charge of Firefighting Units. Bill was home on furlough about October, and since then has been to Princeton University for a three month course on Allied Military Government, and is now awaiting assignment. Al Nohl still has your wheel-barrow, Bill.

S/SGT. CARL GREGG, (Eng. 3), in a letter to the Gang, says he is still at an Air Field in England, working at his old trade of fighting fires.

ALBERT R. CAROCCI, (Eng. 3), in a letter to Pete Leinweber, says he is an instructor at the Navy Fire Fighter's School at Treasure Island.

P.F.C. ELMER WARREN, (Eng. 3), is with an Armored Division, which news paper accounts credited with the taking of a bridge across the Rhine.

ENSIGN JACK C. GRENFELL, (Eng. 1), after many months in the Central Pacific, was recommended for a Commission, and is now at Vallejo Cal., awaiting assignment.

CHIEF MO.M.M. JOHN NEELEY, (Eng. 7), is in charge of a Fire Department in the Central Pacific. John just recently made Chief.

VERN A. RAYLEY, MO.M.M. 1/c (Eng. 2) left here with the Oregon Avengers. From Ernie Grenfell comes the information that Vern has been in the Alaska Area, the South Pacific, and is now in the Central Pacific.

CAPTAIN HARRY WHITE, left here with the 41st Division, and was in the South Pacific for 28 months. Harry was home on furlough last fall, and is now attached to I.R.T.C. at Camp Hood, Texas. Capt. White was formerly at Eng. 4.

SGT. WALTER T. WHITE, (Eng. 22) has been in the Alaska Area for eighteen months and is in charge of an army base Fire Department.

CHIEF WAYNE H. HARVEY, (Eng. 2) was in the Navy before Dec. 7, 1941, and was at Pearl Harbor when we were attacked. Since then, he came to the Mainland for a few days, and sailed again without a leave, and has been in the South Pacific since. Hopes to have a leave soon, and from Johnnie Davis, we hear that he has seen plenty of action.

S/SGT. EMMET R. DELANEY, (eng. 7), writes to Homer Johnson that he is being kept busy on Fire Damage Control work at an Air Field, somewhere in Italy.

LT. JIM TIMMONS, (Eng. 7), has been flying transport planes in the European Area. He took some of the Paratroopers over during the Normandy Invasion. The last letter to the gang at Eng. 7, said he was flying supplies in, and the wounded out.

PVT. BRETT PHELPS, (Eng. 7), is in the Marine Corps. He had been in Australia and in the last letter, said not to look for a letter soon, as he was leaving for parts unknown.

PL. SGT. OLIVER W. BAKER, (Eng. 9), was in the South Pacific for twenty-three months. Saw action at Bougainville, the Marshall Islands and Guam, that we know about. After a leave home last December, he reported to Astoria, where he is in charge of Marine Guard at the Navy Air Base.

T/4 WILSON BUTTS, (Eng. 38), (Swan Island, has been overseas about six months with the Engineers, and is now in a Fire Department in Paris.

TOM RAMSEY, (Eng. 7) has completed his "Boot" training at Farragut, and is now attending Quartermaster School. Will shortly be assigned to sea duty.

SGT. DONALD N. GREEN, (Eng. 25), is with Patton's Army, in the Artillery.

FRED MONSON of the F. A. T., after taking up Radio in the Air Corps, has been discharged from the Army, and has resigned to go to work for Western Elect. Co.

S.P. 1/c HERBERT H. FABER JR., is in the Coast Guard, and had charge of the Fire Fighting School here in Portland for a year and a half. Went to Fire School at Baltimore, Md., and is now stationed at Beaver Ammunition Dump.

LT. REINO A. HOCKERT, is another member of the Caterpillar club. He was shot down in a raid over Germany Oct. 8, 1943, which was about his 22nd or 23rd mission. The plane exploded, and he was the only member of the crew that lived. He was a Bomber Pilot, and has been a Prisoner of War in Germany since parachuting to safety.

MAJOR JACK LOWE, (Eng. 1), is in Chemical Warfare, and has been in Italy, and now in France. In a letter to Charlie Ferris, we hear the the "Major" part is recent.

THOMAS W. FULLER M.M. 3/c, (Eng. 9), sent the gang a souvenir, which Devaul is making into an ash tray for the house. Thomas made the landing on Tarawa, and is now somewhere in the Central Pacific.

LT. JERRY MIDDLETON, (Eng. 25) has been training to fly observation planes to spot Artillery Fire for both Army and Navy. When home on furlough last fall, he was sure he was going overseas soon.

CAPTAIN "VIC" BROWN, after three years and six months in the service, is back at Engine 9. Vic has served in Alaska, England and France. He was Aid to Mayor Riley, during the Mayor's visit in England.

LT. VICTOR D. BROWN JR., who subbed in his father's place at Engine 9, is now in an Infantry Division, somewhere in Europe.

(R.E.) G. W. SLOTT, (F.A.T.), is somewhere in NewGuinea, from a letter to Charlie Ralph at the F.A.T., we hear that he is in charge of a Headquarters for Radio Servicing in the South Pacific.

SGT. MERRILL A. MEIGS, (Eng. 8) is with the 11th Air Borne Division, in the

Phillipines. He made the Jump on Leyte, and may have jumped on Luzon. In a letter to Norman Howard, he said that he got four Japs on Xmas Day, and three probables. (I'LL bet you don't have any trouble getting a hunting pardner when you get home) Flash -- in a rest camp- Had tip of finger shot off - Hope it wasn't his trigger finger.

RALPH A. AMATO, CAPTAIN, (Eng. 8), was appointed at Eng. 8 while he was in the Army. He was in the Army at Bataan when the war started, and is believed to be a prisoner of the Japs, but no word has ever come through about him. His name was not among those released so far.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. FIGUE, (Eng. 24), left in 1941 with the 41st Division, and has been in a lot of campaigns, all the way from New Guinea to the Phillipines, where he is now according to a letter to Richard Kent of Eng. 11, Bill is now acting Major.

RICHARD M. KENT, is back at Engine 11 after over two years in the C.B.'s. as a B.M. 2/c. He served in the Alaskan and South Pacific areas,

LT. RALPH MILLER, (Eng. 25) has really been around. Ralph has spent a lot of time in the Alaskan Area inspecting Fire Fighting Equipment.

RAYMOND SEIBERT, (Eng. 8), is just about thru his "Boot" training at San Diego.

CHESTER E. KLOCK, (Eng. 8), is in the Fire Department at Sand Point Navy Sta.

CAPTAIN L.C. SMITH, (Eng. 8), also left here with the 41st Division. His outfit was the only Artillery Unit, and he saw a lot of Action in New Guinea and the Islands in the South Pacific. He was home on furlough a short time ago, and is instructing in Heavy Artillery at Camp Lewis.

GALE R. BUCHANAN, (Eng. 24) is Sea. 1/c in the Coast Guard and is now on a Fire Boat somewhere near Ketchikan.

ROBERT L. WATTS, (Eng. 21) has been going to school studying Radar, and has been assigned to a Destroyer, probably for duty in the South Pacific.

JAMES P. YORK, T.M. 2/c, has been in the Central and North Pacific, and is now doing some salvage diving, somewhere in the South Pacific. Has only had five days leave, which was about Xmas, 1943. Sure hope that he brings his diving gear home, and maybe he can find some of the salmon gear I lost on the bottom of the Willamette River. Speaking of fishing, we have been having a lot of rain the last couple of weeks, and at present the river is plenty muddy. Some good Salmon fishers are needed right now to help the Red point situation at Engine 1. Maybe other places too.

SGT. ARCHIE CATO, (Eng. 21), put nineteen months with an Army Engineers Amphibian Outfit in the South West Pacific, and says as most Firemen do, he wound up in charge of a Fire Fighting Unit. He got out on the over-age deal, and is now back at Engine 21. Of course most of you know that they built an addition North of Eng. 21, and moved the Disaster Unit and the first Aid Car down there.

C.P.C. JOHN L. MAHON (Eng. 21), is a Radio Operator with the Coast Guard, and stationed near Portland.

CLIFFORD R. LANDIS, (Eng. 21), as far as known, is with the Fire Department, and the Naval Training Center at San Diego.

ENSIGN WILLIAM R. COCHRANE, (Eng. 21), attended Officers Training School, and is now in Navy Fire Fighting.

CHIEF C.M. TED W. MCARTHUR, (Eng. 21), is back at Chemical 1, after two years, four months in the C.B.'s. loaned out to the Navy. Fifteen months of that was in charge of a Fire Dept. on an island in the Central Pacific. Among the fellows he saw in his travels were, Bill Mitchell, Don Sloan, Elder of Eng. 3, Jack Jones, Larry Duhrkoop, John Nooley, Dave Joos and Johnny Walker (Patty Bird's son-in-law), who is a civilian war worker in Honolulu, and was there when we were attacked Dec. 7, 1941. He lives near Marine Fire Station No. 2, and was always glad to see any of the fellows from the Portland Fire Dept. Ted said he enjoyed the stories that Johnny told about the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and that Johnny really made him feel at home.

COMMANDER RAY TILLMAN, (Drill Tower), has spent many months in active service, and Ray will have to send us the story. In a letter to Chief Grenfell, Ray says he is now stationed on the East Coast, but has requested active duty in the Pacific.

CAPTAIN "BOB" LILLIS, (Eng. 28), has been in California, the South and East, and is now going to school, studying for work in Allied Military Government and will soon have a new assignment.

NORMAN H. HOWARD, (F.M.), has been in India, Burma and way points, and Eng. 1 was the first place he hit; after getting off the Bus. He said "Hello" and was on his way home. It was Xmas Eve when he arrived, and he was going to surprise them at home. He is now at Spokane, Wn.

a/s MANLEY D. MILES, (Eng. 24), is in Boot Camp at San Diego, Cal.

LT. ALFRED TADDEO, has been doing combat flying from a Carrier in the South Pacific and is now in Florida. Alfred was appointed after he was in the Service, and we were lucky to find out about him. My nephew is on the same Carrier you were on, so the next time you are in Portland, Alfred, drop around.

BUICK O'HALLORAN, of Eng. 17, is with the Fire Department at Camp Farragut, Idah

SGT. RUSSELL DUHRKOOP, (Eng. 4), was at Fort Lewis Fire Dept., and then several other Army Camps around the country, including school at Paris Texas and Columbus Ohio. Out of a clear sky, he got orders to go back to Texas, and learn to dig Fox-holes again. Russell is now at, or was, (as Chief Roberts puts it) at Camp Swift Texas, but will be leaving for over seas duty soon.

JACK JONES SP (P) 1/c, (Eng. 13), has been in the Central Pacific Area. Jack was home about Xmas and is now at Manchester Wn., at the Navy Fire School.

A.J. NORRIS M.M. 1/c, is at Camp Parks Fire Dept., in California.

MELVIN L. GRAVON, (Eng. 11) is a Chief Steward in the Merchant Marine. He was given a Military Leave of Absence right after the war started, and has made five trips to the South Pacific, Alaska, and South America. Would sure like to be with you, Melvin, but after the Navy turned me down, and I had to study to get a Second Mate's License, the City had changed the rule for Military Leaves of Absence for the Merchant Marine, but Chief Grenfell has offered to put me on the Fire Boat. After reading and hearing about some of the storms, maybe "Second Mate" on Truck 1 isn't such a bad berth at that.

FIRST SGT. LARRY KOCH, is with a General Hospital in the European Area.

ENS. FRIN DES BOUILLONS, spent 23 months on an Island in the South Pacific. Recommended for a commission, he went to University of Arizona, and is now at Mare Island, awaiting assignment.

LT. DON SLOAN, spent 18 months in the Central Pacific. Recommended for a commission, went to University of Princeton for indoctrination, and then spent seven months in England and France. Don says he was just a day late in seeing some of the fellows. He is now at Manchester, awaiting a new assignment.

LT. (j.g.) Wm. Hampton, left here with Gene Tunney, in March 1942. He received his commission in September 1943. The last eleven months has been spent on a Destroyer in the South Pacific. He took part in the Leyte and Phillipine landings. Bill was caught in some nice storms, and said you can believe anything they tell you about rough weather. He is now home on leave.

CHIEF B.M. TOMMY NUGENT, is now at the Manchester Fire School. Tommy enlisted when his son Tom Jr. was reported missing in the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Luckily, the report was false, but the Navy had another good fighter. Tom has seen his boy but twice since then. Both of them have been in the South Pacific, the boy on a ship, and Tom on an Island for 21 months.

T/SGT. JAMES M. FITZGERALD, (Eng. 27) was with the Fighting Red Devils of the Marine Air Force, in the South West Pacific for about 17 months. He is now at Murray Mo., for advanced training.

CAPT. JOHN ROONEY, (Eng. 1), is missing in the Burma India Area. John was in the Alaska Area, took part in the bombing of Attu and Kiska Islands, where he was credited with sinking two ships. He then went to Florida as an Instructor. His next assignment was to the Burma-India Area.

Just got thru listening to the W.S.C.--Oregon play off for the right to go to Kansas City. Oregon won, 39--37, and it was a very thrilling game, right up to the last gun.

PVT. WM. E. PHILLIPS, son of Ernie Phillips of Eng. 32, would sure liked to have been there. He played for Oregon last year. He subbed for a time in Dist. 3. He is now with the First Marine Div., and his father says "He is out there somewhere, that's all we know".

LT. DONALD KIRSCH, is another that was probably listening to the game tonight. Don played basketball and baseball for Oregon State College, and the Portland Fire Department. Don took his Officer training at Fort Benning, was sent to Wisconsin, from where he left for overseas. Five months later he ran into some tough luck, being wounded in the back with schrapnel. His mother reports that he is making a normal recovery, and is now in the Barnes Hospital, Vancouver

WILLIAM A. GRENFELL SEA. 1/c, has completed Radar, Radio and Gunnery School, and is now training in Florida for Operational Flying. He and Alfred Taddeo are at the same base.

EDWARD G. GRENFELL, SEA. 2/c, has completed his "Boat" training at Farragut, and is now awaiting assignment. If he has his way, he will be on a Carrier,

CHIEF CLERK HARRY BAHLMAN, really had a thrill a couple weeks ago when he saw the picture "Fighting Lady". His son, Jack was in the picture, and in one of the scenes, Jack had to move fast. Jack has been on a Carrier in the South Pacific for 20 months.

RAYMOND R. DUNFORD JR., is taking his Basic at Kessler Field, Mississippi. He has been assigned to Gunnery and Mechanic school, but he says he can hear the Infantry marching right on his heels, he writes that any stories about Mississippi mud isn't exaggerated.

JOHN M. WISE, A.R.M. 1/c, has been flying on Navy Patrol Bombers in the Atlantic Area for about eighteen months. Was home on furlough about last Thanksgiving, and has been assigned to the South Pacific. Hopes to run into a brother he has not seen in three years. Jack, do you remember the time somebody wore the Watchman's shoes at Eng. 15?

CAPT. CHESTER ALLYN, left here in August 1941 from Eng. 4. They put him to work fast, going to Cal. in the Air Corps, as Ass't. Quartermaster. Then to Texas and overseas to North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He served under Bill McKinney, who had charge of firefighting, while Allyn had the Air Fields under him. After a year in that area, he came back and was released in August, 1944, under the over-age rule. Now Junior Capt. at Eng. 20.

Chief Grenfell recently celebrated his 40th year of service in the Portland Fire Department. The Chief has been very helpful in getting this letter out. He is always interested in the latest news from you fellows, and sends his best wishes. Brick Fisher just handed me another address. Brick has been a great help in getting this letter on the way, and is a nice fellow to have in your corner. In fact it was swell, having the entire Fire Department in "my corner", for it is only thru their efforts that your addresses and this information could be assembled. This letter carries the best wishes of the entire personnel of the Fire Department. Al Nohl was on the phone many days, chasing down addresses, and even got Mike DeCicco out of bed on a Sunday morning, try to get a nephew's address. Mike said to call his sister, which Al did, only to find out that she had twenty two (22) nephews in the service, but Al got the one he wanted. Well fellows, this has been fun writing to you. Digging out this information has really been interesting to me. Due to lack of space, I have not mentioned all of you, but will have the rest of the fellows located in time for the next letter. Once more I will ask you to send addresses of the men we might have missed, and any information regarding what they are doing, or have done. Any addresses or information desired will be sent to you upon request.

Sincerely yours,

Henry B. Rich
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