

The Genesee News

E. D. Pederson, Publisher, 1946, September 7th

Dick Scharnhorst Home

Dick Scharnhorst, stationed at the Ephrata Army Air Base, now on orders, received a three-day pass over the past week end and came to Genesee to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Scharnhorst. Dick expects to be on the move soon, but does not know where he will be going.

Ewald Lettenmaier Home Transferred to Air Corps

Ewald (Snuffy) Lettenmaier, who arrived home August 29, after leaving Naples, Italy August 13, made a record crossing of the Atlantic, only to find that he's now a member of the air corps, which is no great surprise to him. He entered the service in April, 1944, and became an artilleryman at Camp Roberts. He then went to Camp Van Dorn, Miss., where the army picked on him for an infantryman. Snuffy went overseas as a replacement in November, 1944 and landed at Naples, darn near freezing to death between 20-mile hikes. The replacement depot to which he was assigned was in Purple Heart Valley where he remained six months. The army then sent him north to Leghorn Valley for a month and put an M. P. brassard on his arm, but it was back to Naples, and the end of the war.

Ewald will have 30 days at home and then report to Santa Ana, Calif., to see what the air corps has for him to do. He is ready for almost anything he said. One of his jobs while in Italy was in a dental clinic, so he is prepared for whatever comes. Italy became a good place to soldier after cessation of hostilities, but he believes the Italians would like to see American soldiers leave. Those who were in unfavorable circumstances before and during the war, find conditions against them today, while those who had good homes and money before the war are doing pretty well now. People living in cities are hungry and it was noticed that those engaged in agriculture or living in small communities were ready to harvest a good crop and have assurance of something to eat at least. Naples was not too hard hit by the war. The port section and the ran yards are a shambles, and a few government buildings were damaged. Ewald thought that the greatest damage to Naples was done by the retreating Nazi forces. His quarters in recent months were just a few blocks from the beautiful Naples post office which was damaged by a time bomb placed by the Hitler forces. Railroads are operating after a fashion in Italy, and Ewald said he rode a box car from Leghorn to Naples at a speed of about 15 miles per hour. The black market is flourishing and anything made in America brings high prices. Cigarettes are the equivalent of \$2.00 a pack, and a chocolate bar is worth a dollar.

Six Year War Ends

World War II ended six years from the date it started on September 1, 1939, when Hitler sent his forces smashing into Poland.

The invasion was made without a declaration of war, but on September 3, 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany.

Italy entered the war against Britain and France on June 10, 1940. France signed an armistice with Germany on June 22, 1940. Exactly one year later, on June 22, 1941, the Germans invaded Russia.

The war spread to global proportions with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. Germany and Italy declared war against the United States on December 11, 1941.

Italy was the first big axis power to quit, surrendering unconditionally to the allies September 8, 1943. The European phase of the war ended on May 7, 1945, with the surrender of Germany.

Russia entered the war against Japan on August 8, 1945. Two days later the Japanese announced they were willing to accept unconditional surrender terms if Emperor Hirohito were permitted to remain in power. The allies agreed to accept the surrender on August 14.

September 1, 1945, six years to the day of the start of the war, the Japanese surrender was signed formally in Tokyo Bay.

Meet On Okinawa

Relatives here have learned that Floyd Heppner and Leland Emmett, both stationed on or near Okinawa, have met and had a long and enjoyable visit.

American Heroes - by Woody Cowan

Investigating in War Bonds with their increase in value each year judged against the courage of Lt. J. L. Knight, Weatherford, Texas, 124th Cavalry Reg., seems insignificant, but it helps supply our fighters with weapons. Facing heavily defended Jap positions on the Burma road, Lt. Knight led his men through dense jungle and secured their objective. Reconnoitering the area, he found himself in a horseshoe formation of concealed Jap pillboxes and threw grenades, destroying four. Wounded, he saw that those in his command were protected until he died. A medal of honor was awarded Lt. Knight posthumously.

Sgt. Springer Discharged After 41 Months In Army

Staff Sergeant Wyverne Springer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pearle Springer of Sterling, Ill., was honorably discharged from the army August 21, at Camp Crowder, Mo., after serving 41 months. He entered the service March 21, 1942 at Spokane. He was sent to Fort Lewis, then to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic. He drew aviation school at Tulsa, and then was sent to an Allison engine specialist school at Indianapolis before going to Peterson Field, Colo. He was assigned to the 10th Photo Reconnaissance squadron and was at Oklahoma City at Will Ville, Kans., where he was with the 379th Base Unit.

Wyvern was technical supply sergeant before being discharged. He lived at Genesee from 1932 to 1937.

Don Springer On Move

Mrs. Don Springer returned home Tuesday from Portland where she visited her husband for two days. Pvt. Springer left Genesee August 29 for Camp Adair, Ore., following basic

training at Camp Roberts, Calif., and a furlough at home. He is now assumed to be on his way overseas.

Sgt. James Abraham Home Gets Discharge In Texas

Sgt. James Abraham, with 151 points for discharge eligibility, was handed that coveted piece of paper, denoting honorable service in the army, July 22, at Fort Bliss, Texas. After returning from overseas he was sent to Alamogordo army air base in New Mexico. It will be remembered that it was near this air base that the atomic bomb was first tried out. James said the men at the air base heard the sound and some saw a cloud of light hover in the skies for a time. He said he did not hear the explosion, but those who did hear it, were told that an ammunition dump had blown up. The first atomic bomb experimental explosion took place on a desolate part of New Mexico and over a range of mountains from the base. The ex-sergeant was with the Bomb Group of the 15th Air Force which served in Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia and Italy. He entered the service in October, 1941 and was overseas for 33 months. He was authorized to wear the Mediterranean-ETO campaign ribbon with 15 battle stars and the Presidential Unit Citation with one cluster. In the final months of the war in Europe, James was a flight chief and turret specialist.

Russian Thanks Dean

Kenneth F. Dean has received a postal card from a new friend in Russia. Several months ago Mr. Dean donated a heavy overcoat to the Russian Relief, and those who accepted the donation at Moscow asked him to place his name and address in one of the pockets. The person who received the coat thanked the donor and expressed a sincere feeling of friendliness. The note was penned in English, with the exception of the word for "overcoat."

Lee Johann Coming Home

Sgt. Leander Johann, member of the 653 Bomb Squadron, 25th Bomb Group has advised that effectively immediately and until further notice to discontinue sending him mail. From this it is assumed that he is on his way to the States, or may have already landed at the east coast. He has been stationed in England, but was in Iceland when he first went overseas.

Two others whose papers have been ordered discontinued are Capt. Wayne Hampton and Pvt. Harry Tuttle.

Russell Gray, wounded in aerial combat in the ETO received an honorable discharge from the air corps last week and is now at the home of his parents near Culdesac.

John Theissen Back Home After 31 Months Overseas

Direct from Peleliu, one of the tiny islands of the Palau group, almost on the equator, comes Cpl. John Theissen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Theissen. He arrived in the States August 19, remained at San Diego for 11 days and arrived home Tuesday evening after stopping over in Boise for a few days. He has 30 days at home and will then report to Farragut Naval Station for a physical recheck, and further processing, and perhaps a discharge.

John enlisted in the Marine Corps in October, 1942, and was shipped to Honolulu in January, 1943, to remain for two months. He then headed south and stopped at New Caledonia

before landing at Townville, Australia to stay for 10 days. His unit then moved to Milne Bay in New Guinea, and later landed on one of the islands of the New Georgia group. Up to this time John had been through 58 Jap air raids. His first combat was at Cape Gloucester in the New Britain Islands, and then it was the Russell's. Recalling those tough days of the war, John said he had boarded 14 ships, and remained on one for 58 days. He has sweat through 126 Jap air raids, and his unit fired in about half of these raids.

Finally, it was the island of Peleliu, that small body of rock two and a half miles long and averaging about a mile in width. Bloody Nose Ridge, will al-ways be remembered as one of the tough spots in Marine Corps history, and it was the viewpoint from which one might look over the entire island. There were a lot of Japs on the island and they made use of the numerous phosphorus mine tunnels. While the map shows but a tiny spot for all of the islands in the Palau group, American forces landed on but one, Peleliu, and each of the islands or atolls had Jap garrisons, which at times at-tempted to come ashore at Peleliu to reinforce the troops which had been cornered and driven underground by the Marines. At times the Japs were successful in landing a few hundred men but they paid a big price, and the loss of American lives was not light.

As American fighting men gradually advanced from one island to an-other John's unit moved along for air protection. Among the numerous islands mentioned there was also Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Cape Cedis and others

John was with the 12th Antiaircraft Battalion, a part of the Third Amphibious Group which was attached to the First Marine Division. He is authorized to wear three battle stars, Presidential Unit Citation and Navy and Marine Corps Unit Citation ribbons and campaign ribbons for the Asiatic-Pacific and American Theatre areas.

He was on his way home on surrender day and was at Pearl Harbor when first word came that the Japs were willing to call it a day.

Roy Wedin Discharged

Roy Wedin, a first sergeant, who entered the service in February, 1941, and was overseas in the South Pacific For 28 months with the 32nd Division, assigned to a medical corps unit, received his discharge at Fort Douglas Saturday and arrived home Sunday night. He was back in the States September, 1944, and after reporting to Santa Barbara, Calif. for reclassification, was sent to Fort Lewis and assigned to the chemical warfare section of the army service forces. While he was at Fort Lewis, his wife lived at Tacoma, and she came direct to Genesee when her husband went to Fort Douglas for his discharge.

“If any noble Japanese soldiers use hand grenade to commit beautiful harikari, instead of conventional sword, it will be held against him.”

SCHARNHORST IN HOSPITAL

Clarence Scharnhorst S1/c, who was on a navy craft hit by a mine is now at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Long Beach, Calif. He writes:

"Dear Pete:

"Well, I've moved again. Yesterday I came up to the hospital for ear treatments and to have my back straightened out. This is a real nice place, but it sure gets tiresome laying around. I will be here for about five weeks and then I don't know what they will do with me. I have seven major battle stars now, and one more coming for the Borneo operation.

"I bought a car and drove to Los Angeles, Hollywood, and up through Beverly hills and down to San Fernando Valley. It was sure a swell trip. Well, Pete, I have a new address. Here it is: Clarence Scharnhorst S1/c, U. S. Naval Hospital, Ward B-2, Long Beach, Calif.

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Wants Drafting Stopped

Rep. Compton I. White, (D.-Idaho) said today (Sept. 5) he had tele-graphed President Truman urging support of legislation halting draft-ing of men under 24 years of age.

"The sacrifice of the education of our American youth is too high a price to pay to police foreign lands when they are so many of mature age that will volunteer to fill the ranks of the American occupational forces," the congressman said.

Compton White, if nothing else, is consistent in his war record. He man-aged to get into the wrong committee to make a report not many months ago, and outside of that he has not accomplished much in the prosecution of war or peace. Perhaps he forgets that a lot of boys who are still "out there" and "over there" have already given up school time, while others have given everything. White's words continue to make one believe that the war was won in spite of many of our congressman who voted themselves an increase of non taxable pay.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Aherin write from Phoenix, Ariz., that they expect to return to Genesee soon, and request that the paper go to the former's brother, Kenneth Aherin.

Mr. Aherin has been at Phoenix During the war as a flight instructor.

A GOOD JOB FOR JOE?

...you bet there is!

Remember Joe? Of course we do! He was one of our best troubleshooters, and since he went trouble shooting for Uncle Sam we've missed Joe a lot. Yes, we heard that a Jap mortar shell put Joe out of action for awhile ... that was a tough break, but Joe has stamina and courage he'll make the grade, and come through smiling that same old friendly smile.

Will we have a good job for Joe here at Washington Water Power when he is ready and wants it? You bet we will! Joe has experience, "know how," and initiative, and these things have

value in a well-run business. Yes, we need and want Joe, and will have a job for him-a good job he will like.

**The Washington
Water Power Co.**

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