

Plattsmouth Soldier Writes Of New Guinea

Cpl. Joe Kvapil Tells of Island Where Americans and Australians are Fighting

In a very interesting letter to Miss Josephine Rys, Cpl. Joe Kvapil tells of life in New Guinea and a description of that once lovely land that has been the scene of much of the Pacific warfare.

My first view of New Guinea island was from the blue azure sky as we came in from Australia over the amazing Coral Sea. The Coral Sea is a magnificent sight at first glimpse. The water, the day we were flown over it was a deep blue, a blue that reminded me of a Royal blue, the shade that royal gowns are lined with. The recent coronation of George George VI was the shining example of this shade in use. The sea from above, is in my opinion one of the seven wonders of the world. The Coral beds are in some instances miles and miles in length. In some spots they are well below the surface but can be seen in all their splendor through the crystal clear water. In other places the coral breaks through and the icy-like shimmering waters break over and causes to form the oddest shaped breakers and whitecaps that I have ever seen along either the Atlantic or Pacific coast lines of the United States. The whitecaps dance and twist to a strange rhythm all their own. Most parts of New Guinea are covered with dense rain forest, hot steamy jungle, with eerie green twilight. In drier places, however, there are sometimes stretches of open grasslands or savannah. This tropical grass, usually coarse and from four to six feet high, in the distance looks like wheat. Natives in some places burn the grassland once a year as a method of hunting wild game. The rain forest, with its tall trees, occasional vivid flowers, tangled lianas, and interlocking maze of roots, seemed lifeless at first, but we realized that it is teeming with life. The island, like nearby Australia, has various kinds of Marsupials, that is pouched mammals. There are several types of small kangaroos in New Guinea, none of them more than three feet high. The commonest ones are tree climbers. Other Marsupials are woolly, slow-moving creatures like the cuscus, about the size of an opossum. There are many types of bats, including the giant flying foxes, fruit eaters with a four foot wing spread. Rats are plentiful too, some over two feet long. There are many varieties of snakes including poisonous kinds. Some of the big lizards look quite ugly but are harmless. The place here is alive with ants, cockroaches, flies, wasps, sand flies and other bugs. Scorpions and centipedes many times hole up in our shoes or clothes. Colorful butterflies include the giant bird winged variety. The most striking creatures in this region are the birds. Their voices in the early morning sound like a regular jazz band. There are hundreds of kinds ranging from the big black flightless cassowary, four

and five feet high, whose kick is as dangerous as a stallion's, to the beautiful yellow and red plumed birds of paradise. The feathers of the paradise birds were once the basis of a wealthy trade, until the government stopped the killing of these birds to save them from extinction, so I was told. Around sundown flocks of noisy white cockatoos circle over roosting trees. There are dozens of kinds of parrots and pigeons. On New Guinea lives the beautiful crowned pigeon, a smoky gray bird as big as a small turkey and delicious to eat. The megapode, or brush turkey, is also good eating, it buries its eggs in large hillocks of earth. Oh, how I would like to take a parrot back home with me when I leave this place. Although there have been thermometer readings in the sun as high as 125 to 135 degrees the temperature along the coast in New Guinea rarely rises higher than 95 degrees in the shade or sinks below 72 degrees. Inland it becomes increasingly cool the higher you climb. There is plenty of rain, especially from November to March. When it rains in the island it really does rain, even though the downpour doesn't usually last long. You can hear the rain coming from a long way off, heavy and dull just as if someone had turned on a whole lot of shower baths, and when it hits it is like a wall of water. As a result the rivers have a nasty habit of rising 10, 20, or even 30 feet in a short time. Campaigning in this island is no picnic. We're often steamy and sweaty and muddy; in fact conditions are about as bad as on any battle front in the world. But the island is not bad by any means. The native islanders, too, are just as anxious as we are to have the Japs thrown out. Bombs and guns have wrecked their houses and gardens, killed their relatives, and made many exiles from their homes. So long as we do nothing to shake their confidence in us, they give us every help possible. It obviously makes a great deal of difference under conditions of jungle warfare if the local inhabitants are friendly rather than hostile. Friendly natives have saved the lives of many of our airmen who have been shot down in

isolated places. Many natives have fought bravely on our side, and some have received military decorations. Others have helped as guides, carriers and stretcher bearers or have given food to soldiers temporarily cut off from sources of supply. Some time ago a friend of mine and I drove to the American cemetery in the area I am stationed at. The plot of ground where 22 of the fallen heroes lie is beautifully arranged and neatly kept up. Each grave bears a shining white cross. At the top of each cross is nailed the deceased soldier's dogtag. About the center of the cross is lettered in black paint the name of the soldier, the state where he came from, his serial number, the rank that he held at the time of death and the date of his death. Overlooking the cemetery is a flag of the United States. Fortunately there is no one from Nebraska who is buried in the cemetery. Of interest that I haven't mentioned in many of my previous letters is the fact that a woman who calls herself "Madam Tojo" (The Japanese propagandist) keeps us well informed of the action concerning us that never occurs. For instance, at one of the times that we were bombed she stated over the radio (and we can get Tokyo real well over the radio here) that a certain number hit on the ground. All her figures were fantastic. Incidentally, censorship forbids me to disclose the figures she broadcasts. In other words the Japanese propaganda is just exactly that. Just propaganda and nothing else. On Dec. 5, 1943 "Madam Tojo" threatened to bomb us on Dec. 7, 1943 to a greater extent than Pearl Harbor and vowed, as usual, that the Japs would retake the large part of New Guinea which we now hold, but they never showed their greasy smiling faces. "Madame Tojo" speaks the most perfect English. She probably was born and raised in the United States and educated in one of our best universities. What I mean to say is that the "old lady" really spreads it on. If you recall, a large part of the Japanese success in winning their war with Russia several years ago was purely propaganda. I can't tell you where in New Guinea I am stationed at but I be-

Buffett Enters Race

In filing for the Republican nomination for congress in the Second District, Congressman Howard Buffett issued the following statement: "Eighteen months ago, I became a candidate for congress under extremely unfavorable circumstances. I was politically unknown and without office-holding experience. I had no organization no financial backing, and no support from special interest groups. "Campaigning among the people, I found they shared my hope for better management in Washington. The spontaneous enthusiasm and support of the people brought about a victory at the polls. "As your representative, I have tried to keep faith with you. I have vigorously opposed the bungling that delays victory and the return of your loved ones. I have fought against inflation and bureaucratic controls. They crush the honest man and allow the bootlegger, chisler, and

black marketer to run wild. Only a return to free and honest business methods in America can prevent moral collapse. "If reelected, this fight to save freedom in America for our soldier boys and our children will be continued."

Holy Week Services

Henry J. Van Dusen, writing in the Saturday Evening Post of January 29th, says the churches of Europe "thought to be soft and broken have turned out to be Hitler's toughest opposition in occupied Europe." He says further, "Today in these countries the church is the only unshattered voice of truth, the only unshattered champion of the oppressed and persecuted." "The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord," without Him there is no hope for a better world. Passion week this year, more than ever, should be reverently observed by all liberty loving people." At its last meeting the Business Men's Ad club voted to sponsor another downtown Holy Week service. A committee was appointed and

plans for building an adequate and suitable program was begun. Easter this year falls on April 9th. Holy week services therefore will be Monday through Friday, April 7th. This will be a citywide observance in which all the churches and all the people are invited to participate. Anyone having any suggestions for the services will please refer them to the president of the club, Orville Neilsen.

November Term Jury List

B. W. Gibson, Weeping Water; George Barn, Plattsmouth; John J. Toman, Plattsmouth; Myrtle Robertson, Eagle; Cora Campbell, South Bend; J. A. Boyd, Murdock; Ida Patton, Plattsmouth; Nellie Spangler, Plattsmouth; John W. Hendricks, Plattsmouth; Virginia Pearl Cole, Plattsmouth; Anna J. Rauth, Weeping Water; Lois Tefft, Avoca; Nellie Wehrlein, Plattsmouth; Harry D. Fischer, Eagle; Louis Allgrayer, Jr., Weeping Water; Edna Erickson, Greenwood; Myrtle Phillips, Eagle; Louis F. Hennings Plattsmouth; Ella Atchison, Elmwood; Betty Phipot, Nehawka; Edith H.

Thiele, Nehawka; Elizabeth Hennings, Plattsmouth; Earle Amick, Plattsmouth; Mollie Gobelman, of Plattsmouth.

Boy Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 367 met last night at 7:30 p. m. in the basement of the First Christian church. The scoutmaster, eighteen boys, and Reverend Taenzler were present. We came to attention at 7:30, gave the scout law, sang "America" and then gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. We began our business meeting. All of the scouts are supposed to bring their equipment for the merit badge show next week. Two of the new boys, Bobby Cappell, and Glen Hamilton, passed all of the requirements to become a Tenderfoot scout. This gives us a total of six new scouts for the Investiture service to be held on Sunday, February 13, 1944. The whole troop has to register on February 8, 1944 and so we will all register on that date. Bernard Dow, Scribe

BACK THE ATTACK WITH BONDS

PUBLIC AUCTION

As I am selling out and moving to Nebraska, I will sell on the Gale Mills farm, 1/2 mile south and 1/2 mile west of Pacific Junction, or 1/2 mile north of the Sweet Corn dump, on

Tues., February 8

COMMENCING AT 12 O'CLOCK SHARP—LUNCH BY THE BAND CLUB LADIES

65 HEAD OF LIVE STOCK

5 Head of Horses 5

1 sorrel mare 3-years-old, wt. 1450, well broke and a good one; 1 sorrel gelding, 3-years-old, wt. 1300, green broke; 1 smooth mouth gray horse, wt. 1450; 1 bay mare, 9-years-old, wt. 1350; 1 bay horse, 6-yrs-old, wt. 1350.

26 Head of Cattle 26

6 head of Guernsey-Swiss cows, 2 of these are twin heifers, both fresh last spring and will freshen again soon; 1 big Holstein cow, giving about 6 gallons of milk now, fresh last November; 2 spotted cows, Guernsey-Holstein, one fresh last November the other will freshen in June, both milking now; 1 Guernsey cow, 6-yrs-old, fresh since October; 1 black Jersey cow, will freshen in June, milking now; 1 yellow Guernsey-Holstein, 6-yrs-old, milking since November; 1 Purebred Guernsey bull, 2-yrs-old; 1 heavy springer Guernsey heifer; 2 long yearling Guernsey heifers; 6 heifer calves from May to January in age; 1 black steer, 9-months-old; 4 roan heifers, wt. about 700 pounds, to freshen soon.

30 Head of Hogs 30

25 late fall pigs; 5 black Poland sows, bred to black Poland boar first week in January; 1 black Poland boar, fall yearling.

Farm Machinery, Miscellaneous Items

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| 1 AC combine 5-ft. 39 model. | 1 hay rack | 8-ft. section for John Deere elevator |
| 1 John Deere 4-section harrow, new | 1 wagon box | Malloite seperator, electric drive |
| 1 Little Genius 14-in tractor plow | 1 John Deere light box wagon | Marshall 4-can milk cooler |
| 1 Van Brunt 12-hole press drill | 1 Western 8-ft. land roller | Wood burning tank heater |
| 1 Dempster rotary mold board lister | 1 planter press, 2-row | 20-gallon iron kettle |
| 1 Stoughton 60-bu. spreader | 1 Deering 11-ft hay rake | 10 or 12 tons Alfalfa hay in barn |
| 1 McCormick-Deering 2-row Go-Devil | 1 hay sweep | Hog waterer on barrel |
| 1 McCormick-Deering 10-ft. tandem disc | 2 sets of good work harness and collars | Several hog troughs, barrels, iron drums, 1 small tank |
| 1 McCormick horse mower, 5-ft. | 3 rolls slat cribbing | Sun Beam wood burning circulating heating stove |
| 1 roller bearing truck wagon | 2 rolls wire cribbing | Oil buring circulating heater |
| | Some 1x12 boards and galvanized roofing | |

TERMS OF SALE—CASH or see your banker before the sale. No property to be removed until settled for.

W.L. Lechliter, Owner

REX YOUNG, Auctioneer GLENWOOD STATE BANK, Clerk



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Wescott's