

This Page is a regular feature of the Monday edition of the Semi-Weekly

:- THE SERVICE JOURNAL :-

Correspondents and others having items for the SERVICE JOURNAL will please mark "Service" and place on separate sheet from other items. —Service Editor

Letters Tell Of Terrors Of Air Raid Warfare

Island of Malta One of the Heaviest Bombed Places of Earth—Now Is Peaceful

Rt. Rev. Monsignor George Agius, pastor of the St. John's Catholic church, has just received a very interesting letter from a niece residing on the island of Malta that tells a little of the long days and nights of terror that the people of the island endured in the days when the British island was under the air raids of the Italian and Nazi airmen.

53 East Street, Valletta, 13, Oct., 1944

My Dear Uncle:

How pleased we were to get your P. C. a few days ago. Charlie has been speaking to me about you and wondering where you were. Here we are all well and at last free from bombs, but we had a very bad time. We had raids which lasted for twenty-four hours, the bombers kept on coming in waves and the only interval for another twenty-four hours was one hour in which we came up from our rock shelters to breathe a little fresh air.

For seven weeks we never dreamt of sleeping in our beds, we always went down to our shelter. We spent three years of the war at a house in Babzan, we had our own shelter there, but often our windows and doors were blasted and once a bomb missed us by one garden.

After all these bombs there came even worse than the bombs. We all grew very thin and looked very pinched.

Poor Charlie came to Valletta to his work, blitz or no blitz, without his work, blitz or no blitz, without Porte des Bombs.

We have undergone a great strain indeed. Now things are better, but we both have to work very hard, because life has become a very expensive matter so Charlie can't take a holiday and as for myself I am lucky to have a worthless maid so I have to do double the amount of work she does, to keep a house decently, besides looking after the children and cooking too sometimes.

You know besides Gorge, who is now ten years of age we have a little boy of four who is called Joseph. Gorge goes to a nun's school. I wanted to send her to a boarding school, but Charlie does not like it. Of course please God I hope to send Joseph to a college later on.

Your family is very well and in as good health as could be expected. We miss Zia (aunt) Manann very much. She was very fond of both of us and the children. Lucille Marcell and Charlie's mother were Joseph's godparents and I hope you will be here when he is confirmed and be his godfather.

We are in a house overlooking the grand harbor, altho smaller than the one we had it is very airy.

How nice of you to be able to spend your holidays in such marvelous places I hope this war will soon be over and you will be able to come and see us again. Next time you come over you must spend more time in Malta providing buildings have been rebuilt.

With Love and Best Regards From Us All,

Yours Affectionately,
Sabina Cassar

Cpl. Devoe In Utah Undergoing Treatment

Plattsmouth friends of the L. S. Devoe family, now of Lincoln, will be interested in learning that their son, Cpl. Lowell S. Devoe, Jr., is now at the Bushnell General hospital at Brigham City, Utah. Cpl. Devoe was wounded while in service in the European theatre of operations several months ago. He has been back in the United States for the past few weeks and was first stationed at a hospital at Staten Island. The address of the young soldier is Ward 22 at the hospital.

Returns to Texas

Sunday evening Sgt. Clinton Nearhood and wife departed for the south where Sgt. Nearhood is stationed at Midland, Texas, in the air service. They have been enjoying a visit at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hough and Mrs. Anna Nearhood for the past few days.

Sgt. Harold McFarland Awaits Re-Assignment

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Dec. 5.—(UP)—Sgt. Harold D. McFarland, 20, of Plattsmouth, Neb., has arrived at Army Air Forces Redistribution Station No. 2 in Miami Beach for reassignment processing after completing a tour of duty outside the continental United States.

Medical examinations and classification interviews at this post, pioneer of several redistribution stations operated by the AAF Personnel Distribution Command for AAF returnee officers and enlisted men, will determine his new assignment. He will remain here about two weeks, much of which will be devoted to rest and recreation.

Sergeant McFarland, son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. McFarland, 1124 Lincoln Ave., was an armorer-gunner in the European theater. His wife, Mrs. Mary L. McFarland, resides at -212 So. 9th St., Plattsmouth, Nebr.

Cpl. Frank Kalasek Home from Iceland

Cpl. Frank C. Kalasek is home for his first furlough since he joined the armed service over two years ago, coming home from Iceland, where he was stationed for the greater part of the time of his service.

He states that in this country one doesn't know what cold, snow and wind can be until they have visited the bleak lands of the north Atlantic, snow often covering the huts of the American forces as well as the homes of the native residents.

On his way home from Iceland Frank lost fifteen pounds in weight as the result of the severe voyage.

Entertain For Lt. Hall Here on Leave

The members of the Hall family have been enjoying very much the leave home of First Lieutenant Dick S. Hall and in his honor a number of family dinners have been enjoyed.

On Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Major Hall and Lt. Hall were at Glenwood where they were guests of Mrs. Grace Hall, paternal grandmother of Lt. Hall, and Miss Grace Hall her daughter.

This noon the members of the Hall family were at the home of County Clerk and Mrs. George R. Sayles, the maternal grandparents of Lt. Hall. The members of the party comprised Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Lt. Hall, Miss Joan Hall, Mrs. Philip Campbell, of Omaha and County Clerk and Mrs. Sayles.

John Dunbar BM2-c In Pacific Service

District Judge Thomas E. Dunbar was in the city for a short time on Monday afternoon, stopping here enroute from Papillion to his home at Nebraska City.

Judge Dunbar had a short session of the court in Sarpy county and stopped here to sign a few orders that were demanding his attention. Judge and Mrs. Dunbar are very happy in having just heard from their second son, John Dunbar, BM2c. John is well known here and the many friends will be pleased to learn that he is doing well and is in the best of spirit. His ship has the distinction of having two Jap flags painted on their stack so they have been doing all right.

Captain Ed. Kalina Back in United States

Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Kalina of this city were overjoyed this week to receive a call from their son, Captain Edwin Kalina, from Alameda, California, informing them that he was back in the States for a thirty day leave.

He is visiting at Alameda with Mrs. Kalina and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. McCarty.

Captain Kalina will have been in the armed service three years in March, entering the service from the ROTC of the University of Nebraska and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He later served in California and Hawaii and then in the Pacific theatre of warfare. He has participated in some of the heaviest fighting of the island invasions.

Raphael Toman Writes from Pacific

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Toman of this city have received a very interesting letter from their son, Pvt. Raphael Toman, who has been stationed in New Caledonia for some time. Raphael writes:

Dearest Mother and Dad: I received your letter today, and was sure glad to hear from you. I also received the Service Journal and sure enjoyed reading it. If it weren't for the "Echo" and the news clippings that you send to me, I wouldn't have a vague idea as to what goes on back home.

I also received a letter from "Mutz" Sedlak today. He had been in Hawaii, but think he's up in the Southwest now. I have been keeping on the lookout for him, and think there are chances that I might see him one of these days.

I had to go down to the beach and swim 50 yards this morning. The



General's orders are that every man here must be able to swim at least fifty yards, so guess that's final. The distance is marked off by two rafts, but since there was a high tide this morning, we had to swim out to the rafts. The distance out is over fifty yards, so all in all, we had to swim a good 150 yards.

It's starting to get warmer out here now, and of course it decides to rain almost every day.

I haven't heard from "Slats" for quite some time now. John was landing troops up on Palau, but suppose that he has left there by now. He sure has been a lot of action since he has been overseas, and the way things are moving now, he'll probably be in on something before long.

I see where Nebraska hasn't had very much luck with their football team. A fellow in a tent next to me receives the college paper, which we commonly call the "rag", so we're keeping posted on the news back on the Nebraska campus. I happened to know this fellow back at school, when we went out for baseball together, so it was rather a surprise meeting each other here.

Well folks, I guess that's about all for now, hoping this letter finds you all in the best of health.

Your loving son,
Raphael.

New on German Front

Old school friends and many acquaintances of Warren Reed, former high school football and basketball star, will be interested in learning that Warren is now playing his part in the biggest game the United States has ever faced.

Letters received from him state that he is now on the German front and in plenty of action and doing his best to maintain his part of the great war.

Warren was a student at Denver university when he entered the armed service, the R. G. Reed family moving to Denver from this city after his graduation in 1939.

Son Reported As Prisoner By Berlin

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tasler of this city have received cards and a letter from persons in several parts of the east country telling of a short wave Berlin radio broadcast.

The message tells of hearing from the German radio that Pfc. Charles Tasler, Jr., is now a prisoner of the German forces, is now at one of the prison camps in that country. The broadcast gave the serial number of Charles and confirms the first word received that he was a prisoner and not missing in action as was reported.

These radio broadcasts are given frequently and prisoners from all sections are reported from time to time, the reports picked-up by short wave reception and the parents and relatives notified.

Service Of Lt. Taylor Covers Many Battles

Plattsmouth Naval Officer Has Seen Service on Every Type of Ship But Subs

Lieutenant (jg) Oliver E. Taylor, who is here for a ten day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Taylor, has a naval record that reads like a saga of the ancient sailors that roved the seven seas in the service of their country.

Lt. Taylor entered the service after leaving school in 1934 and from that time on he has seen service on every type of war ship that flies the flag of the United States except the submarine.

This service of ten years, the latter part of which have seen plenty of action, has earned for this gallant and fearless officer a rest from active sea service, for a land assignment. In this respect it now permits Lt. Taylor to tell something of his service on the seas. Since Pearl Harbor he has been in the thick of the scrap and has served constantly since that time on the carriers of the navy, the large ones and the smaller carriers that served as submarine foes on every sea.

The battles that Lt. Taylor has participated in started with Pearl Harbor, the defense of Guadalcanal in 1942 when the Americans made their first landing in the Solomons and were attacked by the Japs, Bougainville, Salamues Lea. In the battle of the Coral Sea he was in service on the Lexington, the carrier that was destroyed in one of the greatest naval clashes with the Japs, the Midway blows at the Japanese fleet, the Santa Cruz battle where the naval power of the United States was challenged by the Japs.

Lt. Taylor has fought around the world with the exception of 700 miles, a record that few members of the naval force can boast.

He has ribbons for service in every theatre of warfare, these are liberally studded with combat stars. He also has a presidential citation and a good conduct award for his service.

An interesting touch of local color occurred some ten days ago as Lt. Taylor was preparing to leave the carrier on which he was serving, for shore duty, a young ensign came on board to take over some of the duties handled by Lt. Taylor, and it was a great surprise when he found it was Ensign Charles Gradoville, a son of Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Gradoville, formerly of this city. He will serve as one Plattsmouth young man relieving another.

Lieutenant Taylor is expecting to be located on the west coast where Mrs. Taylor is now making her home.

Flight Officer John H. Jacobs, who has been at the military hospital at Bocaraton, Florida, is for some time, is still there and undergoing treatment. Word from the hospital states that the young man is still under observation and the exact cause of his illness has not been fully determined. John has been in the hospital for the past several weeks.

To Visit at Home

Pfc. Finnice I. Galloway, who has completed thirty-two months service overseas in the Asiatic Pacific theatre of operations, is to have the opportunity of a visit here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Galloway. Pfc. Galloway is scheduled to arrive at Camp Bowie, Texas, on or about December 9th, where after a few days checkup he will be sent onto the home here.

Friends Have Meeting

Recently while in an unnamed port James D. Brown, SIC, had the pleasure of meeting an old friend and schoolmate, Harry Shiffer, Jr., also in the naval service. The two had a most delightful time in the reviewing of news from home and of the mutual friends back here in Nebraska.

Harry is looking forward to a leave as he has been out in the midst of the Pacific warfare and may have a chance to come back to the states and visit his home.

Jim, however, is not looking forward to an immediate leave, but is hoping that his turn may not be too far away.

Parents Enjoy Visit with Son

Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Cotner received a call from Omaha that their son, Donald Cotner, M3c, was passing through Omaha on his way to Washington and would be grounded there for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Cotner at once drove to Omaha and enjoyed a three hour visit with the son at the Omaha airport before resuming his journey on east. Donald will spend two or three days in Washington and expects to be home for a thirty day furlough.

PLATTSMOUTH COAST GUARDS MAN IN PHILIPPINES

Coast Guardsman John Slatinsky, gunners mate, third class, of Plattsmouth, Neb., secures his gun aboard



the Coast Guard manned invasion transport on which he served in the invasion of Leyte Island in the Philippines. Slatinsky also saw action in the Marianas Island invasion.

Major Hall Family Has Happy Reunion

This week end is a very pleasant one for Mr. and Mrs. Major I. Hall at their farm home south of the city, their children being home for a reunion for the first time in many months.

First Lieutenant Dick Sayles Hall of Camp Shelby, Mississippi, is home for a nine day leave with the home folks, and this is bringing the family group together as Miss Joan Hall, the daughter, who is teaching at Verdigrée, Nebraska, arrived Friday night to spend the week end with the brother and parents.

Lieutenant Hall is with the 94th Chemical Warfare Bn, at the Mississippi army camp.

Lt. Carter Minor Is Interned In Europe

The message has been received here by Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Pollock, of the fact that their grandson, Lieutenant Carter Minor, has been interned in a neutral country in Europe.

The news came through the American Red Cross to the parents, Mr and Mrs. L. O. Minor, of Kan-kakee, Illinois, and the members of the family here.

Lt. Minor is a member of the air corps and was sent overseas in October where he has since been on active duty. Earlier in the year he was recalled and he remained until the final orders were received.

The message has come as a great relief to the family to learn Lieutenant Minor is safe altho interned. "Cart" has many friends here that will be pleased to hear of his safety.

Still in Naval Hospital

Edwin Hiber, AS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hiber of this city, is still at the naval hospital at Great Lakes, Illinois, where he has been for the past several weeks. Edwin had a very severe spinal operation and some of the leading surgeons of the country participated. The young man is feeling some better and hopeful that he might be given a release for the Christmas holiday season.

ALL OUT FOR VICTORY

The government is asking you to store your winter supply of Coal NOW to save transportation for war material later on. So see us now for your next Winter's Coal.

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A TRIBUTE TO JIMMIE MAUZY

A pledge to remember Jim who gave his life. If people think the government is expecting too much, take a look at the casualty lists in the papers any day.

There are many good reasons for all of you to buy more and more and more bonds—the names of Plattsmouth boys who have made the supreme sacrifice, in the service of their country.

I saw Jim's name there the other day, yes, Jim Mauzy with that winsome smile and sunny manner. How well I remember this blue-eyed boy, who took life seriously. He loved life, was full of plans and ambitions for the future. He wanted to be a pilot, loved the freedom of the skies. Yes, Jim got his wish but he's dead now. But—No!! Jim is not dead in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He stands as a symbol of courage and devotion to that cause which he gave his life.

There are lots of Jims all over America, from Main Street, Knob Hill and the other side of the tracks. Many of them died as Jim did, but there are millions of them still out there, fighting for the right to come home again to peace and security.

But they need HELP. They cannot do it alone. They've got to have the support of their loved ones back home.

We may find it hard, but it can't be as hard as learning to speak German or Japanese.

Lets prove to Jim that we still remember him and are keeping faith with him.

—By Mrs. Robert Reed, Denver, Colo.

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KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS

Glen Woodbury Tells Of Beauties Of Sunny Hawaii

Former District Court Reporter in Letter to Mrs. F. R. Guthman and Miss Minnie Tells of Island

Glen Woodbury, who served as district court reporter until joining the naval construction forces, has written a very interesting letter from the Hawaiian islands telling of his observations on a short shore leave that he enjoyed. His letter was sent to Mrs. F. R. Guthmann and daughter, Miss Minnie:

23 October 1944
Sunday we left the base at 8:30 and drove through Honolulu and on up to the Pali (cliff) which is about a two-mile drive from town. The drive takes you through the beautiful residential district of town and on up the mountain. At the summit you are in a draw between two mountains and the wind is terrific—you can't run against it and hardly walk. The strange part of it is there seems to be no explanation for the extremely high velocity wind unless it is the draw. You can stand in the wind and see trees a block away without a leaf stirring.

From the top of the Pali the road winds and winds down a steep incline—worse than any I've ever been on but we made it in fine shape. From the bottom we drove through a rich valley growing bananas, papayas and avocado pears—we filled ourselves—the bananas have a strange taste—at least, strange to me—seemed sort of rubbery and not too good. We drove through three or four small towns or villages to a side road that pointed to Sacred Falls. We drove down this side road approximately a mile through acres and acres of sugar cane and finally stopped at the end and got out and walked for at least another mile through a dense jungle with only a foot path, crossing a small stream eight or ten times and finally reached the falls. The falls itself isn't anything in comparison with others I've seen, but it is between two mountains extending almost perpendicular on both sides. At the bottom of the falls there is a pool about 25 feet in diameter—about the kind where you would expect to see Dorothy Lamour—but she wasn't there, nor was anyone else. We spent about an hour here and at our lunches and then started on for Mormon Temple—a very beautiful edifice with luxurious gardens surrounding it. (A funny thing, it seems that every stick in the ground has a bloom on the end of it.) The building wasn't open but we spent some time around the grounds and then started on. About two miles further down the road a group of Hawaiian boys were diving for pennies and we stopped for a time tossing in coins and taking pictures of the kids there. The road continues more or less along the coast, ducking in and out and back up into the mountains and then we came to a very beautiful beach and we stopped and had a dip in the blue Pacific—and it really is blue—the sky is anemic looking in comparison. I spent about an hour hunting an interesting form of seashell and was lucky to find one—they make necklaces out of them here. You have to feel around rocks for them and then bury them in the sand and let the ants eat the insides out and then shine them—I'll try that again when Uncle Sam lets me off. We left the beach about 5 P. M. and started back across the island and went past miles and miles of pineapple fields. When we reached the base we decided it was too early 6 P. M., so on back through Honolulu and out around Diamond Head—the homes are a sight for sore eyes out this way—Janet Gaynor's, Doris Duke Cromwell's, etc.—we went around Diamond Head and Koko Point and stopped and watched some Jap fishermen and then back up the long steep hill through the Pali from the opposite direction and quite a sight it was at night—millions of lights below like diamonds in black velvet and a faint glimpse of the ocean in the distance. It was really a trip I'll never forget but now I've seen everything there is here and so there will be nothing but work from now on except an occasional swim at Waikiki, which isn't what you'd expect.

Keep Buying War Bonds