

Steinbeck Says Greatest Complaint Of Soldier Is Lax Mail Service

Finds It Takes Almost a Month For Air-Mail Letters, Builders of Morale, to Reach Africa; Warns That Time for Correction Has Arrived

(By John Steinbeck) (Special to the Herald-Tribune and Charlotte-Town Guardian. Copyright, 1943, New York Tribune Inc.)

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH AFRICA (Via London) — The greatest complaint one hears in the field now is the length of time required to get a letter from home. The first hysteria of getting into the war is over now and the first mistakes are being corrected, mistakes that were inevitable. Army inspectors are traveling about. Perhaps it would be well if some of these inspectors looked into the mail situation. There are many stories, whether correct or not, of mail bags lying on the docks in New York for weeks. The truth of the matter is that it takes nearly a month to get a letter from home, whereas ships arrive much quicker than that. Many people at home write to their men using air-mail stamps. These are expensive and the fact that they are being bought at all means that there is some desire for speed, yet an air-mail letter still takes three weeks to a month to arrive.

Many Never Arrive At a time when our shipping losses were many and our planes were not coming in great numbers there was some excuse for this. But we are told that these conditions no longer exist. Campaigns are undertaken at home to get people to write to soldiers and then the letters are late, and many of them do not arrive at all. If letters are important as builders of morale, it would seem that the greatest care and dispatch would be used to get them overseas and delivered.

Everywhere the same complaint: "The last letter I had was dated July 15 and here it is the middle of August. God knows what might have happened since then." Ammunition to Morale Letters are good but they are

much better if they are received after they are written. It would seem that the mail system to the armed forces needs an overhauling. Perhaps a little inspection and a little correction of laxness would help. If the letters are not to come by air mail the people who spend money on air-mail stamps should be told that. The American postal service has a fine record for speed and accuracy. Our people have been trained to expect service. Soldiers who know that ships are coming and airplanes are coming become a little angry when they know that their letters are not receiving the attention they deserve. These letters are ammunition to the morale of the overseas forces. It would be well if they receive the same attention that bullets do.

Time for Correction If the bulk of our Army overseas were in front-line combat, it would be a different thing. Food and ammunition are the most important things in the world of fighting, but the great mass of our Army is engaged in moving supplies, in training at fixed bases, on guard at outposts, and these men do not get their mail while any part of it is new.

This is the time for correction and this would be a very good time for a close scrutiny of the whole Army mail service. The sending up of letters to soldiers, the inspection of facilities and the correction of laxness is a job the Inspector General's office should undertake immediately. It has been demonstrated that letters from home have a very powerful morale value, probably the greatest morale value of all. If this is so, then it is only reasonable that the Army will move these munitions as rapidly as they do the supplies of destruction. This is a constant complaint by soldiers. It would be well to look into it.

Sanatorium Radio Address

By Mr. Elmer Murphz Summerside, P. E. I.

I am one of lucky ones. That may seem a strange remark to those who know that I was a patient in the Provincial Sanatorium for three years, and that while there I had three major operations and three minor ones along with many other complications including, of all things, the shingles. But I have been lucky and this is the reason. Five days after I had been diagnosed as having tuberculosis I entered the sanatorium as a patient. Very few people in this province, are that lucky. Very few of those unfortunate enough to contract tuberculosis are able to receive immediately the treatment that they should have.

To-day I am able to work. While I do not know what the future has in store I do know why, under Providence, I have reached this stage on the road to health. Correct diagnosis, immediate treatment under the kind care of a specialist, plus the necessary facilities for laboratory and X-ray work, and if necessary—and it was necessary in my case, and is in a great many cases—facilities for surgical treatment. All things which can only be obtained in a properly equipped sanatorium. As I said before I have had the benefit of all these things and for that I am grateful to many persons and organizations. But, as I also said before I have been one of the few. And in this land of democracy no person or group should be privileged. Therefore it is wrong that this should be denied to some. I having benefited, want to do my part that justice may be done to the state has a duty here, and it is up to us as citizens to demand that those whom we raise in power carry out their duty. I know, I am talking to many people to whom this problem seems very remote. I must confess it was remote to me before I took sick. But it may be your turn tomorrow. Tuberculosis can strike very fast. If you, or someone close to you is stricken, as can happen any day, then the problem will be remote no longer. It will be close, terrible, tragically close.

Many times have I as a patient in the sanatorium seen a new patient come in. Then his relatives and close friends come to visit him. They are bewildered at this thing that has so suddenly struck in their midst. Immediately they want to know all about it and what they can do about it. It is now a personal problem to them. Most of them have never been in a sanatorium before. To them it was only a building along the road. But they will be in it often now. Tomorrow you may be in one of those groups. Why wait till then to become interested. Now is the time to act and perhaps prevent a tragedy in your own home.

The red, white and blue colored wire ribbon you see on the laps of civilians these days denotes they're soldiers of Canada's Reserve Army.

Six members of the British Army in the British West Indies were among officer candidates at a recent course at the Officers' Training Centre at Brookville.

ALWAYS TIRED — Yet Sleep Didn't Help!

Doesn't it feel swell to wake up in the morning clear-eyed, refreshed, full of pep? Yet so many, especially over 40, get up tired all over, with aching joints, never really feel their best. The reason is usually a common complaint—a sluggish system, get back pep and spirit with the natural power of BILE BEANS. Bile Beans are so gentle they're called "The Medicine Cop." They clean up your entire system by stimulating flow of liver bile, so essential to good digestion and health. You, too, can enjoy that "glad-to-be-alive" feeling every day. Try Bile Beans. Over 7 million boxes used last year, convincing evidence shown every day they are helping others.

W. A. MacLeod, Kinross, P. E. I. who graduated Aug. 5th in the P. E. I. Course 79BX Bombers

BELL RIVER SCHOOL CLOSING

The closing of Belle River School was held and the pupils presented with the following promotion certificates and prizes:

Senior Department

Grade X—Kathryn MacKenzie, Catherine Compton, John Compton, Louis Nicholson, Marion Blue, Grade VI—Walter Bell, Marion Bell, Doris Bell, Alfred Cook. Grade VII—Margaret Compton. Certificate of standing in the year's work were also presented to the following Grade ten pupils:—Everett Compton, Grover Compton, Tena MacMillan, Chris Cook, Margaret MacWilliams, Marjorie Nicholson, Annie Emery.

MacLean Method Writing Certificates:

Senior: Chris Cook, Kathryn MacKenzie, Tena MacMillan, Annie Emery, Marjorie Nicholson, and Catherine Compton. Progress: Margaret MacWilliams. Prizes for highest standing in—Grade X—Kathryn MacKenzie.

Grade X Jr.—Everett Compton.

Grade VIII Examinations—Eddie MacKenzie.

Grade VIII work throughout the year—Catherine Compton.

Grade VII—Walter Bell.

Grade VI—Margaret Compton. Perfect Attendance for school year, Marion Bell.

Junior Department Honor Roll in year's work:

Grade V—1. Priscilla Bell; 2. Wanda Blue.

Grade IV (Sr.)—1. Lorne Bell; 2. Waldo Blue; 3. Audrey Bell.

Grade IV (Jr.)—1. Joyce Compton; 2. Gladys Cook; 3. Shirley Cook.

Grade III—1. Betty Bell; 2. Angus Bell.

Grade I (Sr.)—1. Marion Stuart.

Grade I (Jr.)—1. Donald MacKenzie; 2. Bobby Nicholson; 3. James Nicholson.

MacLean Method Writing Certificates:

Junior: Priscilla Bell, Wanda Blue.

Primary: Mary Beaton, Richard Cook, Donald MacKenzie, James Nicholson.

Progress: Lorne Bell, Angus Bell, Betty Bell, Joyce Compton, Gladys Cook, Shirley Cook, Bobby Nicholson.

Special Writing Diploma, Marion Stuart.

Prize List:

Grade V—Priscilla Bell.

Grade IV (Sr.)—Lorne Bell.

Grade IV (Jr.)—Joyce Compton.

Grade III—Betty Bell.

Grade I (Sr.)—Marion Stuart.

Grade I (Jr.)—Donald MacKenzie.

Special prize for highest average, Betty Bell, 94 percent.

Prizes awarded by the teachers, were presented to the pupils at the home of Mrs. Stillman.

Chairman of Trustees. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered by the parents to the teachers, Misses Margaret MacDougall and Mary MacNeil for their untiring efforts and tangible tokens of appreciation were presented to the teachers on behalf of the pupils by Kath-

WEST ROYALTY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The August meeting of West Royalty W. I. was held on the 26th at the home of Mrs. Stillman. Prizes with six members and three visitors present. A former member Mrs. Leo Chown was welcomed back. Collection amounted to 76c. It was voted \$10 to be given to the Chinese War Relief Fund and \$5 to be presented to the teachers on behalf of the pupils by Kath-

WINSLOE NORTH W. I.

Mrs. A. D. Shaw entertained Winsloe North Women's Institute at her home Aug. 18. Meeting opened with Ode and Creed, followed by minutes of the July meeting, and Roll Call answered by 10 members. Money passed in on the cushion raised the total to \$10.65. The comm. reported cotton bought for completing quilt tops, and bill for same was presented and paid. The Secy. reported a Sympathy Card sent, and receipt to hand from Save the Children Fund. The School comm. reported towels and soap needed. It was decided

Chinese War Relief Campaign

to anyone sick in the district. Mrs. Albert Younker, School Comm. Mrs. Albert Younker, Program Comm. Mrs. Earl Clark and Mrs. Walter Robertson. Mrs. Albert Younker and Mrs. Claude Crawwell were appointed to buy clothing to send to Local Convention to the amount of \$5.00, and Mrs. C. L. Gudmund and Mrs. Arnet Shaw were appointed to attend the convention. Next meeting was invited to meet at the home of Mrs. Albert Younker. Roll Call to be answered with a flour bag. Coll. amounted to 75 cents. Contest were won by Mrs. John Carter and Mrs. Claude Crawwell. Meeting closed with the King. Lunch was served by the hostess. (Patriot please copy)

Chinese War Relief Campaign

China's war against Japan started its seventh year on July 7 last. Since July 7, 1937, when the treacherous, power-seeking Japanese started their war of aggression, China has resisted amazingly—and suffered terribly. What do you think of when somebody says "China." Do you think of beautiful Chinese tapestries and porcelain, or "The Good Earth" you saw on the screen with Louise Rainer and Paul Muni, or jade and lotus blossoms? Not you think of none of these things. Into your mind's eye, instead, springs a picture of rubble that was once a house, and a Chinese child crying pitifully for the mother stretched lifeless beside it. That is what you think of when you think of China—and that is why the Chinese War Relief Fund (China and to rebuild its Japlahah) is asking Canadians to give \$1,000,000—terred structure of life. Will you give \$50 to help relieve suffering in your bit towards that million?

Chinese War Relief Campaign

Men skilled in 94 trades linked with railroading—com workers to crane operators—are in units of the Canadian Railway Troops. CANOE TO ENGLAND Many Netherlands have escaped Nazi domination by canoeing



Send your youngsters back to school warm and well dressed as ever. We have the long wearing clothes they like — look best in. Three piece suits that scoff at zero temperatures, reversibles, fur trimmed coats, hundreds of tub easy cotton dresses, cosy sweaters they'll prize for chilly classrooms... all sturdy, all primed for healthy happy school days, and they're priced for mother's thrifty budget too.

Tonny Three Piece Suits, Coat, Leggings and Hat, Zero outdoors. They're teeny warm in our sturdy suits with fur trimmed coats. Sizes 4 to 12. Price \$12.95

Coat Stars with the School Crowd. School-days holidays, these are the coats they love. Reversibles, chesterfield, and fur trimmed coats, sizes 7 to 14x. Prices \$11.95 to \$20.00

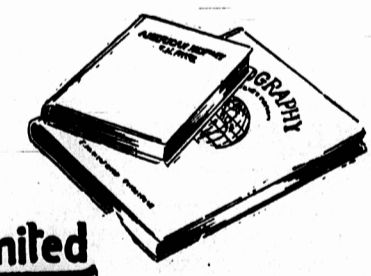
Sweaters Shirt 'N Skirt Mix-Ups. Mix-ups make them happy. Keep them warm and cosy. Silk plaid and solid color skirts, crew necked Jerseys, shirts, blouses. They stretch school wardrobes and mothers' budgets too.

Cotton Goes Back To School. Fresh sturdy cottons that are tops with school girls. Mothers too. These cotton dresses wear endlessly, tub like magic, plaids, checks, solids, dirndls, piques and natty nautical cottons. All tiny priced.

Girls Skirt and Shorts for Gym Wear. Plain navy cotton slacks and skirts with navy slacks and shorts with fancy red and white trim. Sizes 7 to 14x.

QUALITY AT THRIFT PRICES

MOORE & McLEOD Limited



JOINT POLITICAL MEETINGS THIRD DISTRICT OF KING'S

BALDWIN'S ROAD — Friday, September 3rd
BRIDGETOWN — Monday, September 5th.
CARDIGAN — Wednesday, September 6th.
MONTAGUE — Friday, September 10th.
NEW PERTH — Monday, September 13th.

All meetings at eight o'clock P.M.

(Sgd) LESLIE HUNTER
WILFRED WATTERWORTH
JOSEPH G. CAMPBELL
H. F. MacPHEE