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Two Rivers, Wis.: Civic Understudies, May 1945

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The Sojourner

Dedicated to our Native Sons and Daughters Serving in the
Armed Forces of our Country



Volume IV

TWO RIVERS, WISCONSIN, MAY 1945

Number 5

Two Rivers Observes A Solemn V-E Day

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT

Plenty of rain makes for April Showers — but, oddly enough, we also have daily grass fires . . . Spring election returns all city councilmen to office . . . Voters also decide that dogs should be kept tied throughout the year . . . Red Cross Fund totals \$10,176 in the city . . . 9 from Two Rivers leave in draft . . . 50 mile gale almost blows Two Rivers away — well, it caused more than a little damage.

Bob Laurent interviews local boys in Philippines for a story in the Reporter; thanks, Bob — we've heard plenty of people say how much that was appreciated . . . Young boys start fire near Koenig School . . . Wonder why they chose a school ground? Remember when we nourished such thoughts? . . . Ben Neumann appointed new County Baseball Chief Carl Saubert retires after serving as rural mail carrier for 38 years . . . Purgold Boxers defeated by Green Bay . . . William Kapitz elected President of Hamilton Band . . . Polliwog Pageant at the High School has advance ticket sell-out . . . Ray Handy will again pilot our local Polar Bears.

Lt. Floyd Hallett receives silver star award in Italy . . . Spades, plowed ground and aching backs and shoulders remind us that Victory Gardens are being planted . . . The Reporter circulates "extra" announcing death of the President, April 12th . . . Thieves steal 350 pound safe from home That "stay-in-bed" day arrives — Friday, April 13th Gus Timm dies at local hospital . . . Old clothing collection begins today with the help of local church organizations Pvt. Earl Gates receives bronze star for action . . . Major league baseball opens April 17 . . . Did you hear about the little boy who plugged up all the holes in the fences because he didn't want his kid brother to grow up thinking this was good baseball? He wanted him to wait until the real players came home High School students "take over" city government for "Youth in Government" Day Capt. Khail's photo appears in new book at the local library entitled "Our Army at War" . . . Five busloads of fellows leave for physicals.

Phillip Zlatnik receives Eagle Badge at Scout Court of Honor . . . Purgolds win 2nd place in State track and field meet . . . C. J. Jansky announces the sale of his furniture and undertaking business to William Beduhn Reduction of traffic accidents helps city tie for third place in National Traffic Safety contest April 27 was the Mishicot Prom date — they had an oriental theme this year . . . Heavy frost at the end of the month damages fruit trees.

Your columnist is being rained out — so long! See you next month in the "heat" of Two Rivers in May.

V-E Day was being observed in Two Rivers as the Sojourner went to press, but it really wasn't very noticeable. In fact, if one of the pioneering LeClairs or Gagnons came back for a visit, we're sure they would have had to ask, "Why are the flags out?" The only other outward indications of a celebration were the taverns and meat markets being closed and a lot of school children running around. None of the public schools closed but they held special V-E programs.

In the evening, most of the churches held special thanksgiving services and they were more than well attended. The brown-out order was lifted and the storefronts and the theatre marquee were again ablaze with light. And on V-E Day plus one the twelve o'clock curfew was lifted and the taverns were again busy until one o'clock "entertaining" the citizens. Many of the people didn't care particularly; they said they felt much healthier when they just had to go home at twelve.

You're probably thinking that the people in Two Rivers felt no elation over the fact that the European struggle was over. It is true that they expressed no wild enthusiasm; for the most part they were just thankful that so many of their brothers, sons and husbands would be spared further suffering and hardships, and that some of them would be coming home. Many of them asked, "What is there to celebrate? This thing is only half over and we have a mighty tough job ahead of us." Yes, even though our opportunities are limited, we are working with you and praying with you for an early end of all the fighting so that all of you may come home for good.

V-E Day was observed in Two Rivers but there were no bells ringing, whistles and horns blowing. The people of Two Rivers observed V-E Day in their hearts.

STILL TREATING WITH "CANDY"

Last month we promised you an all-year birthday treat of printing the lyrics of the No. 1 song on "Your Hit Parade" each month. Accordingly, we printed the lyrics of "Candy." For some reason or other the American public likes "Candy" so well, that it is still No. 1. We had visions of just such "snags" when we made the promise, but we'll continue anyway and hope that next month it will change.

Incidentally, No. 2 is, "I'm Beginning To See the Light." Could the lifting of the brown-out order be the reason? (Ye writer has just discovered that in radio lingo, that is know as a "groaner".)

THE SOJOURNER

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The Civic Understudies

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BITS FROM THE BARRACKS

Dear Staff,

I guess if "Jerry" hadn't "zeroed" in on me I'd still be putting off writing this letter. I was hit the twenty-eighth of January so I'm getting used to this hospital life.

December 18th they threw us into the Bulge. We ran into everything from the crack First and Second S. S. Divisions to the Home Guard units. Parachute units aren't the same units we ran into at Messina in Sicily and at the Volturno in Italy. They later gained international fame at Cassino. They are all non-jumping units organized by Goering to keep up his esteem. He's got more Parachute Bns. now than he's got transports to jump them from.

After the Bulge, we got a short rest and crossed into Germany with the rest of them. I got hit the next day so I never had a chance to compare the famed Ziegfried fortifications with those I ran into in Sicily, Italy, France and Holland. Disappointed was the least you could say for me, but I got a little consolation in being off the fighting front.

I've been out of bed almost two weeks now, but I'm still having a little trouble getting around. I'm getting treatments at physical therapy, but I still can't straighten or bend my knee more than a few inches. Guess I can kiss the parachute troops good bye.

Was very much surprised to find Monica Rudie here. Also a Miss Gustaveson from Manty. Sure seems good to see someone from home.

I've some forty stitches and two chipped bones out of this deal, but I guess I didn't get hit hard enough to get Z. I'd (States)—every wounded man's hope.

Sure was glad to see a few words from Clarence Schepper—I hadn't heard from him for so long I didn't have the least idea where he was or what he'd been doing.

Here's a little request—how about a few words from Joe Lachowicz, Orlin Belonger, Vic Berger, Elmer Kaminsky, Bud Dallman, Roger Zuehl, Raymond and Clarence Schepper. Paul Capraro and Art Hoefert's conscience should drive them to writing once a year anyway.

All my last two month's mail is still in the posses-

sion of the Co. mail orderly so some of my friends will have to wait until I receive their mail before I answer it. Best of luck to all of you fellows and let's hear from you.

War news looks good, but in my opinion we'll be celebrating the 4th of July with the M. I. Hope I'm wrong though.

Pvt. Orville Martin,
Plant 4131,
U. S. Hospital, A. P. O. 68

Dear Staff,

I was only a resident of Two Rivers two years before I joined the army so I know very few of the people in Two Rivers. I enjoy hearing about them even if I don't know them.

I'm a surgical technician and work in the station hospital of Camp Roberts, Calif. My work is a pleasure because it is so very interesting. I would prefer working in a general hospital, but will be satisfied until such luck should come my way.

They always brag about sunny California. Well, I wouldn't trade one little corner of Wisconsin for all of California. I guess maybe I'm prejudiced.

I want to say "hello" to all you boys and girls over there and here. Good luck to you all.

If my brother Norman should be getting this paper, I'm sure his sentiments are the same as mine. He is a member of the Naval Amphibious Forces.

Pvt. Dorothy Paulus,
Camp Roberts, Calif.

Dear Staff,

I just received the February issue of the paper, and I read everything from the volume number to the bottom of the last page. For about fifteen minutes I was back in Two Rivers again and it was swell to read the letters from the rest of the guys. It was just like a big mail call. As a matter of fact, it was the most mail I've had in the past two months. Popular guy, ain't I?

At present, I'm just a "Sick-Bay soldier". I banged myself up about eighteen months ago and have had to have a couple of operations since. I only have a slight limp now, like a wet duck.

I met Bob Berger out here about a month ago. We talked about the old gang, and he told me that he had received most of his Sojourners which surprised me quite a bit. I hope that I don't miss out again. The mail around here is fouled up so that's probably the fault.

I like the pictures of the "Vet's" Post in this issue. It really is fixed up nice. I can't wait to bend elbows over that bar with a few of the boys. My tongue is hanging out already. It is kind of hard after two and a half years overseas. You know the old saying, "A loaf of bread, a jug of wine and thou." Well, that's me.

I think all the fellows are with me when I say there's nothing better than news from home, and you guys and gals are doing your darnest to give it to us. Don't think we don't appreciate it, because every time we get one of the papers, it makes us feel proud that we can call you our folks and that's from the heart, way down deep inside.

Well, It's getting late so I'll just hang my clothes on this line and hit the sack. Till next time so long and thanks a million.

Pfc. Thomas J. Gagnon,
Southwest Pacific

Dear Staff,

That long envelope surely is worth a stack of mail. I see the Army is taking most of the men from home. Army is better than the Navy, men. You won't be sorry. So far I have met Douglas Andrews in New Guinea; he's in the Navy. Also saw Howard Erickson of the Army. Howard and I have been traveling together since we met in France. We've been chasing the Axis. It isn't any fun and not a bit adventurous. I'm tired and have been only in the service a short time. I see by your paper we have company from home. Welcome here, boys, we have the tents put up for you. Many thanks to the sponsors and to you staff for the papers.

T/5 Anton Shesta,
Somewhere in Philippines

Dear Staff and friends,

I left the states last summer. Destination was England, an interesting country, especially the pubs. We then moved to France. Things weren't much to brag about there. Later moved to Belgium, and then Holland where we had our first taste of battle. Later on we were put in the ninth army, and have gone with the ninth all the way to the Rhine.

Well, so much for that. Gee, I sure wish I were in the cool city, a great town, but I hope to get there soon. Stan Waier and Al Behrendt are in the same outfit. I get to see Stan everyday, same old guy. I'd like hearing from you guys, meaning Clarence Schepper and the rest of the gang.

Pvt. Earl Gates,
Somewhere in Germany

Dear Gang,

As usual an apology is due you for the neglect I have shown toward you during these past few months. A promise to write soon sometimes seems like a New Year's resolution so easily made, yet more easily broken. Guess I'm just a poor correspondent.

Enough preaching for now—time for what little news there is. As is usually the case, things are relatively quiet. About the only thing that may interest you in the least is a little gossip on the leave I had recently spent in England. Was one of the few fortunates to be chosen to spend nine glorious days in the U. K.

To say that England was a beautiful sight to us is to say the least. Probably few, if any, of you have ever heard of Headcorn, Kent—to me it was the Two Rivers of England. Need I say more.

Before closing, I want to say a "happy hello" to brother Bob and to Rube Le Clair. All for now, so until the next letter and till we meet again—so long for now.

Cpl. Richard Suhr,
Somewhere in France

Dear Staff,

Since I have been getting that nice paper, I have been finding lots of my pals over here. My brother is somewhere close, but where, I don't know.

I bet the weather back there is cold, but, boy, it is hot here.

It's been a long time since I have written to you, but I didn't have much time to write, because we were always moving. Well, the Philippines are O. K. Boy, you can't miss anything. They have dances, and how. I am always over to a dance.

Pfc. John Mancel, Somewhere in the Philippines

Dear Staff,

Tonight looks like an ideal night to catch up on letter writing as it'll rain before very long. Might as well start dashing off a few lines in appreciation of our paper, the Sojourner. It's tops, to say the least.

Since my letter last summer, I've changed location to the Western Pacific. I don't notice any change other than it's hotter and rains more often here. Some of that cool Two Rivers weather would really hit the spot.

About three months ago, I met two fellows from Two Rivers. They were the first ones since I've been overseas. They are Lloyd Rice and Clarence Duvall. Don't know where they are now, but we'll all be back in the fair city before too long, I hope.

At present, my duties are in the office doing administrative work in the medical department. Corpsmen have a separate corps called the hospital corps. Some have duty in naval hospitals, others aboard ship, still others at air bases, and a great many like myself with the fleet Marine forces. When this tour is finished, a cruise aboard ship would be "right on."

Until next time, here's wishing the best of luck to you all.

John G. Weiss, PhM. 3/c,
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Staff,

I just received two copies of your paper so I guess it's time I got around to telling you I think it's really a wonderful paper. I've been overseas eight months and I haven't seen a friend from good old Two Rivers. I would like to say "hello" to all my friends, especially Harold Ott.

Pfc. Robert L. Ruelle,
Somewhere in France

Dear Staff,

That favorite paper of mine reached me today, and it made me realize even if there isn't much to talk about, you need letters to keep it coming. It's a good thing all the results aren't as dry as this.

We are doing a little serious packing. It seems like the four gold bars we're allowed to wear are going to be five and six and so on before many moons pass. It's been nice in the states (nights). The days I'm fed up with. None of us enjoy this Garrison routine. It's all right if you've never known any other—but we're ready to go again—where? The good Lord knows, but he isn't talking, not even to officers. We know to California, but from Frisco we are in the dark.

If we had our pick, we'd all choose Europe over the South Pacific. Not that things are better over there, just the thought of seeing something besides servicemen all the time helps morale. Still there are attractions down in the South Pacific too, if a fellow isn't afraid of a heavy sun tan. Ha Ha.

Going to the Philippines would be all right. My mother has a cousin who was recently liberated over there. He is an Army officer, what rank I have no idea. He sure must be above a lieutenant, because he's been in the Army for a number of years. Prior to the war he, his wife and two children lived there. His wife and children were removed before the war. They live in California. So regardless if I meet him or not by chance I might meet some of his friends. Hope he had a lot of them.

Cpl. Harold Olson, Fort Lewis, Washington

Dear Staff,

I received your February issue of the Sojourner and felt more than a little guilty for not writing sooner. Guess the reason was your notice on page seven. I'd hate to be one of the few who would cause you to cut the paper to a smaller issue. I've been receiving it so regularly for the past two and a half years, I know I'd miss it a great deal.

I came to this school after being aboard the good ship Tarazed for a little better than two years. Guess most of the fellows from home, stationed in the Atlantic, have heard of her. We operated in the Mediterranean for a while and made a few runs to the tropics. Before I left, I had heard the Deprey brothers were around our area. Now, I don't know them, but have a personal interest because one of them used to date my kid sister. So here's luck to you, fellows.

Guess I'll be able to attend that grand M. H. S. prom.—putting in a plug for good old Mishicot. We rate a ten day leave after graduating from this school. After I return, I'll know whether I've been accepted for the U. S. Naval Academy or not. Most probably not!

I'm more than a little worried about the site of that new depot. How can I get home from there? You didn't leave any directions in your last issue, but thanks for the warning, anyway.

Well, in the two years and eight months I've been in this outfit, I haven't met a soul from home. Who said it was a small world? I knew there were some of the fellows in England, but had no luck in finding any of them. Just like the proverbial needle in the haystack!

Wish I could write more, but I'd hate to take too much space, knowing your notice will be read by a few other fellows who might wish to put in their two cents' worth.

Roger C. Kaufmann, QM 1/c,
Camp Peary, Va.

Dear Staff,

Just recently my combat days with the 45th Division terminated and I would appreciate future issues of the Sojourner to be addressed to the new address.

Capt. Jerry Elliott,
Somewhere in France

Dear Staff and Friends,

This is something I should have done long ago. Forgive me, I'm not good at this explaining. May I just say it's very interesting finding out what goes on in Two Rivers and where all the other boys and girls are located.

Not being a native of Two Rivers except for a few years before entering service, makes me somewhat of a stranger, but a few of the boys whose hangout was the Waverly, Blue Ribbon, or Al Payettes must remember me. While I'm on this subject, this "Jungle juice" is not like any good beer. I'm always telling the boys what a real town Two Rivers really is, best beer, and some of the biggest "guzzlers!" How about it Larry, Bud and Bob? It also has the best of everything which makes life so nice.

Not much more I can say, but when the rotation plan ever catches up with me, Two Rivers, here I come. Best wishes to all everywhere.

Pfc. Albert Zeman,
Dutch East Indies

Dear Staff,

After being in California for nearly two years, I'd say it's about time that I sat myself down and told you how much I appreciate your little paper. One thing I can say is that it keeps a person up on the whereabouts of all the friends I used to have.

According to the dope I got from home, it's pretty cold there now. All I've got to say is that the snow and cold you get there is a lot better than the rain we've been getting for almost the past week. The Army issues rain coats, but all they're good for is to soak up a little rain.

Suppose I should tell you a little about the work that I've been doing since I've been out here. I'm in searchlights and if any of the boys from home are in an outfit like it they know that it's no fun. I've been on night duty ever since I hit this land of "liquid sunshine", and it's getting quite monotonous to be asleep with all my clothes on all the time. Really haven't got very much room to talk, because I'd say I was very fortunate to stay in the states as long as I have now.

I haven't heard anything from my good buddy, Bob Suhr, for a long time and wondered what has happened to him. The last I heard he received his A. P. O. Maybe I'll be following him one of these days.

Say "hello" to all the boys here and there for me.
Cpl. C. R. Lafond,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Staff,

Well, I guess we will be glad to come back to good old Two Rivers when this is over. I sure will be glad to see Lake Michigan again instead of these mountains. Our dugouts are pretty stuffy and crowded so we have to sleep in shifts. I sure will be glad when I can roll around in a bed again.

Say, Hank Mull, have you lost my address? You can get it very easy. I would like to know where you are.

Pvt. Darwin Dassey,
Somewhere in Italy

Dear Staff,

Just a few lines from your bed-side companion. This time I'm the patient, and I'm not too pleased about it all. Thank goodness I won't be here (in bed) over a few weeks. Seems like the weather and yours truly don't get along.

My orders came in and I'm now a member of the staff. I first came here for three months if you remember, but now I'm here for good. Once you are on the staff at the U. S. N. H., Charleston, S. C., you never do get away.

The hospital has their own newspaper now. Kay Kyser will be here Tuesday. Guess I'll miss him, but I saw him three years ago in Chicago, so I don't mind.

I had to do a story on Captain Watkins, a new doctor here. He hails from Minnesota and says he knows Two Rivers. For a while, I forgot all about the interview and talked Two Rivers.

The war news sounds so good it's hard to believe. Maybe we'll all be home soon after all. Sure hope so. Gee, where else can you see snow in July? But it does feel good without snow this winter.

Guess I'll take my pills and make myself comfortable for the night.

Charlotte Jaekel Johnson, Ph.M.2/c,
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Staff,

After having received your paper ever since it has been published, I believe it's about time I write and thank you for sending it and for the swell job you are doing.

I see where lots of the boys and girls write of the bad times they are having and how rugged. Let's see what I can write now with a brighter light.

After going through the usual basics, etc., in the States, I landed up at good old Fort Knox and spent a considerable part of my time there. Of course we had Louisville nearby with many added attractions, the usual movies, taverns, U. S. O.'s, and needless to say night clubs. It seems if a fellow looks he can really find things. Spent many pleasant week ends there with visits to historic spots in Kentucky such as Mammoth Cave, etc. Thought life was tough then, but it was a lark.

After due time, I went to other camps and by the usual routine procedure arrived over in sunny France. The only thing that was sunny was the "cider" of which we partook quite freely. I heard of an outfit nearby and therein found my cousin Chuck Daetz from Manty; and after a little further looking, we rounded up about twelve fellows from home including Dick Bero, the Risch brothers, Otto Blaha, and numerous others. We found a nice place with cider and had a good talkfest right then and there. All we heard was of this place or that place, and need I mention "girls" was the number one topic.

After going through France, we hit Belgium and I have seen quite a bit of it. Seems all the gals are looking for a boat ride, but Uncle put the damper on that. So they have to be content to get that American atmosphere by just being G. I. Joe's girl friend.

The Belgian beer isn't bad but nothing at all compared to our Kingsbury, Schlitz, Pabst and what have you. The people on the average are friendly and invite you in their homes for a hot cup of coffee or boullion which is like a vegetable broth. It certainly is good on a cold day. They are a grateful people, and if they have a bottle of cognac or champagne, they will sell it for practically nothing as they are grateful to the G. I.'s.

After spending much time in that country, I have entered Germany with it's \$65.00 non-fraternization question. I've seen what there is to see, destruction on one extreme and untouched parts of it.

At present, am in a beautiful valley with the slopes of these high hills covered with grape vines and need I mention there is plenty of wine. Have our usual glass or two of it each eve. My living quarters is a box car on a siding which is comfortably equipped with lights, stove, and a radio which right now is blaring out the good ole "Trolley Song."

All of my two years in service have been without someone from home nearby. I have been traveling alone in that respect, but when I'm on the road I always keep my eyes open in hopes of seeing someone who could be from good ole Two Rivers. It is seldom that I have ever met anyone. I did manage to get up to see my buddy, Al Bloom from Manitowoc, and we had a very happy reunion.

The weather here has been ideal, just like summer back home. It sure gives a fellow the old feeling of homesickness, but as long as nothing can be done about it we'll just have another wine.

Guess all the boys are either getting engaged or

married as soon as they return home. At least, that is what it seems like. Suppose competition will be quite keen after the boys all return. That's if they didn't get one of those 20,000 English girls or 10,000 Aussies I've been reading about. The closest I've been to the American girl was in Belgium. Seems like they all keep up with American customs, dress and habits. I can say that from experience.

Now, I don't know how much of this you can read or how much will pass the censors, but I've tried not to say a single gripe. There is a good side if a person will just stop and look around.

To you fellows who don't agree with me, let's hear what you have to say. I do realize there's a war on as some of you will undoubtedly say, but I've tried to avoid mentioning it in this letter in a direct way.

Cpl. Robert Thuss,
Somewhere in Germany

Dear Staff,

Through my acquaintances with several fellows from Two Rivers and also the Sojourner, I have come to know Two Rivers as if it was my home town. It seems when a bunch of fellows gang together the conversation eventually turns to the old home town and all the interesting things one used to do. Of course, many arguments are caused by one claiming his town being the best, but needless to say, the arguments are friendly.

I have been reading the Sojourner for quite some time and have found it to be not only interesting, but also to provide a few minutes of relaxing pleasures, especially letters from fellows stationed in practically every country of the globe. Through these letters it seems to bring the world much closer together, and it gives a clearer understanding of how people on the other side live.

I hope some day it will be possible to visit Two Rivers and also visit Elmer Krizizke, Earl Gates, Florian Zik and many others who have become my best friends during the past few years of my service in the Army.

Pvt. Bill Boyer,
Somewhere in Germany

(Ed. note: Thank you very much for your splendid comments. To have an "outsider" write us is really complimentary. The staff hopes to meet you some day, too.)

Dear Staff,

We finally have our hospital set up now, and are treating the boys to the best of our ability. They sure can take it with a smile. I'm glad I have an opportunity to help our boys, because I can see and believe what they are going through. I just hope the war is over soon, and we can all come back home again.

France as a whole is a beautiful country although it had been hit hard for a while. I expect to go to Paris soon, and do a little sight-seeing. There are a lot of historic statues to see, and some night life too.

I met Max Petrashek's brother here last week, and we sure talked of the old home town. Here's hoping he makes the States.

Best of luck to Jimmy Zelinski and Robert Koch and the rest of the boys. Well, duty calls so good bye till next time.

Pfc. Wesley Lesperance,
Somewhere in France

Dear Staff,

I haven't got much to say—just trying to do my part. I hope it's doing some good, because after this is all over I want to forget all about it. I know it's going to be hard.

The weather here in Belgium is very cold. I want to say "hello" to all the boys wherever they may be.

Sgt. Frank Siminski,
Somewhere in Belgium

"Hello" Frank" this is your brother saying "hello" to you from the Linotype. (Getting along fine). Best of luck to you, and all the other guys over there. "Ed"

Dear Staff,

I'm not doing much out here. Guess they'll let me tell you the latest place I've been though. It was Leyte, Philippines. By the letters in the January issue, I gather I should have run into some of the fellows or their ships as I was only ashore on Leyte for an afternoon. It was sort of a liberty. All you could do was walk up the beach a ways. They kept you out of the jungles and native villages.

That was a good article that Miss O'Connell wrote "Homecoming Servicemen Complete Fourth Guest Book." I also like the article that appears in every issue "Have You Heard That".

Albert Hansen, GM, 3/c,
Somewhere in South Pacific

Dear Staff,

Things are moving along like clockwork out here, and it all looks good to me. The censors wouldn't like it at all if I were to tell you where I am at the present time. I have noted many interesting things today. Certainly is nice to be able to see what one has been reading about in the news.

I happen to be able to find the time to write letters while being on watch. That's where I am right now. I have the mid-watch, and this is a good way to stay awake. Reading would only put me to sleep. I am one of the Captain's orderlies now. It isn't such a bad job as I had expected.

The front page of the February issue really surprised me. It contained the pictures of the V. F. W. I had seen a picture and story of it in a magazine, so I sent it home. Then in the next issue, I saw it staring right up at me again.

I haven't much more to say, so I will close by saying that I hope my old buddy, Art Swoboda, will drop a line to you sometime. He has seen some of the issues. I certainly don't want that good little paper of yours to be cut down on account of shortage of mail.

Milton L. Kanitz, S 1/c,
Philippine Islands

Dear Staff,

I have received your paper quite regularly since it originated, so I am past due writing to you. The paper was really a companion in the past twenty-seven months that I spent overseas, and it has kept me well informed.

The only fellows I have met since being over are Hilary Beth in England, Roy Wilker and Elroy Mull in Normandy. Saw Roy several months later in Maastricht, Holland. Roy should be or was home by now. Say "hello" for me-if you should see him.

Cpl. Claude F. Beitzel,
Somewhere in Germany

Hello Gang,

Don't be too surprised getting another letter from me, but I just had to write to someone, so I picked you. Got a letter from Dad. He said the weather was getting a little warmer. We surely can't wait until the war is over with, so we can all celebrate. Let's hope it's soon.

Since my last letter, I have some good news. Have been awarded the bronze star for heroism. Being an aid man, I really can't go into details, because it's not permitted. All I can say is that I'm very proud of the award.

I got a very interesting letter from a cousin of mine in Italy, Pfc. Merlin Rousse. He says he has seen many beautiful cities in Italy even though they are in ruins.

Give my regards to all the fellows.

T/5 Elmer Ruelle,
Somewhere in Germany

Dear Staff,

It's sure nice to get your paper and to read all the latest that is happening in the good old town, also to read the letters from all the boys. I enjoy reading about how they all are getting along and where they are.

Although I haven't been overseas yet, I am due to go in the near future. Since I joined, I was in Idaho, also got into Washington, then to Memphis, Norfolk, and now St. Louis. It looks like it will be west coast to east coast and back again.

I would like to say "hello" to my brothers, Dale and Leonard, in the Philippines, also to Jim Des Jarlais somewhere in the Pacific and to Ralph Feest in South Dakota. I hope you all are making out O. K.

Well, I will close for now and try to write a couple more letters. Keep up the good work, and I assure you I won't wait so long to write next time.

Lloyd F. Schumaker, AMM 2/c,
St. Louis, Mo.

Hello Sojourner,

A soldier who is so far away from home can still have the full amount of enjoyment in the matter of receiving mail. The mail orderly is important to all G. I.'s, and when mail is given out it is like a battle on the front lines.

A smile of happiness is always a big "dish" in the service. This little paper is a big favorite to all us G. I.'s so keep it coming this way.

Pfc. Lawrence Pellerin, Fort Douglas, Utah

Dear Staff,

I really hit it lucky the last week end. I had a three day pass and went to see my brother Bill who is taking infantry basic at Camp Robinson, Ark. I bumped into about twelve other guys from good old Two Rivers. There were Joe Schmitt, Jim Rhode, Frank Koppa, Lowell Clarksen, Floyd Gilbert, Merlin Jacquart, and a few others. It was just like old home week there for a while. I don't believe any of those fellows have gotten the Sojourner as yet including my brother.

I guess I'll have to hit the sack soon, so I'll close, as usual, looking forward to hearing from you people.

Pfc. Duane Mueller,
Scott Field, Ill.

P. S. Also would like to hear from Russell Luebke from "Somewhere in England" and some of the other members of the old Eagle's Club.

Dear Staff,

Received the March issue of the Sojourner today, and decided it was high time we wrote you a thank-you note at least. Hope you don't mind our writing this in cooperation but we decided to save a little space for another more important letter et one of more interest. (Et is Latin for "and"—we found out after a year's training!!)

Right now Jan et I are on nite duty—from 10:30 P. M. until 7:00 A. M. Really is nice work—quite the life—off all day long until 10:00 P. M. Of course, there are classes to attend et it is wise to catch a little sleep here et there, (that word "et" keeps sneaking in) unless you enjoy walking on your knees. We do get enough sleep—they tell us. These bags we carry around under our eyes are becoming—becoming bigger! Another good point about nite duty is that you are supposed to lose weight. (Does Mary Goeler have any size 52's????) Enough of that nite duty. (They don't seem to think so thought!!)

The other kids here from Two Rivers are fine—we've heard. We wouldn't know for sure tho, cause they keep us locked in a padded cell. Can't understand why, but they must have their reason! (Oh—what reasons!!)

The radio in our humble abode with it's brown beds, green lockers et dressing table, white curtains with pink bows, blue bedspreads, et pink candlesticks (otherwise known as the rainbow room!!) is now playing "I Walked In!!" The song continues with "I walked in with my eyes wide open"—that's a lie!! We swear there was a knife in our back! If you can figure that last paragraph out, you can join our club T. N. T. B. H. H. H. (The Nuttier The Better Hip Hip Horray).

By now you are probably wondering what hit us—or what we have been eating—or something. Well, we'll tell you—nothing!! We're like this all the time! That's why we live together—it says here in fine print!

Seriously, tho, we do enjoy getting your little paper very much even tho we aren't part of the armed forces. It's fun reading the letters from the fellows et girls in the service. Sure wish our job could compare to the ones they are doing.

It's getting late now so we'll have to close—much as we hate to. Thank you loads for sending us the paper, and good luck to all the fellows and girls. We hope we'll see you all very soon.

J. Tomcheck et L. Anderley,
St. Therese School of Nursing,
Waukegan, Ill.

Dear Staff,

Received your March issue of the Sojourner and sure was glad to hear all the bits from the boys in the service. All the fellows thought that the poems in the paper were very good. By the way, I met Walter Krause over here. Boy, was it good to see someone from good old Two Rivers. We really had a good long talk. Also read in the paper where Billy Buhk is near here, so I will make it a point to go and see him.

Would like for Roland Beitzel, Jerry Gunderson and the rest of the gang to write once in a while. Would like to say "hello" to all the gang and my brothers, Cel and Felix.

Lawrence "Cat" Antonie, PhM. 1/c,
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Staff,

I've roamed around quite a bit in the southwest Pacific and the Philippines since I've written last time about six months ago.

It seems I always moved just one jump ahead of the mail. I finally stopped long enough for it to catch up with me, and lo and behold I received the October, November, and January issues of the Sojourner in one day.

I've been in the Philippines for quite some time now, and I visited a number of Islands. The Filipinos were very friendly wherever I went. What struck me funny was the fact that many of the Islands have their own dialect. In order for a Filipino from one Island to understand one from another Island they have to speak English, which by the way is taught in schools throughout the Philippines.

Here a while back I put to good use the swimming lessons I was taught at good old Washington High. To put it briefly, the boat I was on was sunk and I spent some time in the water before I was picked up. I lost everything I had except the trousers and socks I had on.

The army is calling me again, so good luck you Two Riverites in the service, and you staff members—best wishes.

Pfc. Leo Kowalski,
c/o P. M., San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Staff,

I have never been much at letter writing but this A. M. I received my first issue of the Sojourner and I have never been happier than when reading about good old Two Rivers and the boys overseas. I ran across the letter my brother, Pfc. Ambrose Allie, wrote to the Sojourner. We're both in France, and at times I came mighty close to seeing him, but couldn't manage it.

I'm in the infantry, and I do say it gets tough at times especially on the attacks. I didn't have the privilege of marching through Paris, but did get in on the—(censored)—deal. Would like to hear from Cyril Walotkiewicz somewhere in France and Wesley Lesperance in England. I haven't met any of the fellows from Two Rivers over here, but by what I can gather there are quite a few over here in France.

We receive quite a bit of Army news, but nothing makes a fellow happier than to hear about the boys from home and the people we love there. Well, I've been rattling off like a cracked record, but will close now. Lots of health and luck to you all.

Pfc. Gerald J. Allie,
Somewhere in France

Dear Staff,

Our mail call today bore another pleasant surprise for me, namely, another issue of the Sojourner. This was the February issue and it was really welcome.

It has been some time since I last wrote, but circumstances prohibited me from writing before now. Since I last wrote I have added my name to the long list of Two Rivers fellows serving outside the United States, and right now I'd really give anything for a soda or malted milk at the M & M or at Gever's.

It was swell to read the articles about the fellows stationed all over the globe and to see the swell pictures of the Vets. You don't know how much pictures of home mean to a fellow and news from sections of the town. Lots of luck to all the fellows wherever they may be.

Sgt. Milton J. Brice,
Somewhere in Corsica

Dear Staff,

There aren't many things I can say about what's happening around here. In the nineteen months I have been over here, I have been on two invasions. I have also run into a couple of my old buddies from Two Rivers, Sarg Martin and Frank Polak. Boy, it was really swell to see somebody from Two Rivers again.

Keep up the good work, the paper is really swell.

Raymond Earl Ferry, GM 2/c,
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

Staff of the Sojourner,

As I sit here aboard ship and read the February Sojourner, I think back to the night when a few girls and Mr. Gunderson came into the print shop to talk over the idea with Mr. Schmeichel. To a person who knew this paper from the start, I cannot help but see how much it grew in such a short time. To me it seems like it was just a week ago that this all started, but I know it's longer. At this time I would like to take time out to thank the girls who started this fine paper, and to those who spend their spare time in keeping up this swell newspaper which keeps the boys up to date on what goes on in his home town.

But we just can't stop here, for no matter what you do this day and age there has to be someone on the end to pay the bill. We have to stop and realize the Veterans of Foreign Wars is on this paying end, and we can't leave them out.

I have been assigned to a fleet tanker and hope as we do our work that I may be lucky enough to get to see some of you boys from home. It would be a happy moment in my life just to see you fellows again.

Ira R. Ariens, S 1/c,
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Staff,

Just a few lines to let you know that everything is O. K. on this front. I'm becoming quite an authority on the different types of soil in Europe. No matter where you dig here or how far down you go you always end up with water in your hole. I'm in an out fit that's right on the heels of the doughboys and we do a lot of digging. We dig our own individual fox holes, a gun emplacement, and a dugout to live in while we're on duty on the guns. We try to live in houses when it's possible, but there isn't much left to the houses after we take a town. The "Krauts" play h--- with us with their 88's and "Charlie" comes around once in a while on a raid.

I want to wish all the luck in the world to the boys from Two Rivers in the 32nd and 95th. Keep up the good work.

The pictures of the taverns in the November issue looked good. How about one of Art Frenz's place on the Southside. They're charging us \$1.25 for a shot of Cognac over here.

Sgt. John Paulow
c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

Dear Staff,

Just a few lines in appreciation of the fine little paper I have been receiving from you. I am somewhere in Italy now after a short stay in the States on rotation. In closing I'd like to say keep up the good work and I hope to be back soon when this business is over.

Pvt. Elton M. Drier, Somewhere in Italy

Dear Staff,

Just received your issue of the February Sojourner. Ever since I received my first one, I always wanted to write a short note to you and the rest of the men and women who are in the service. This is the fifth or sixth one that I have received so it's about time that I get down to business and write. The paper sure gives me a good idea of what everyone from home is doing and where they are.

As for myself, I am in the Troop Carrier attached to the Airborne Army. I am at present Somewhere in France. Before I got here, I spent quite a bit of time in England. While in England, I sure wished I could have seen some of the fellows who wrote to the Sojourner and undersigned "Somewhere in England." I did see Mark Cope. We only had a couple hours to talk over the good old times. We wanted to get together again and spend a day or so, but it could not be managed.

I did get to France every now and then, but never did have time to see anyone. Now that I am in France I sure would like to see someone from home and compare notes.

Well, I guess this is about all for the present. Here's wishing all you guys and gals good luck, especially to all you Buehler boys.

Lt. Edward De Roche,
Somewhere in France

Dear Staff,

We are having perfect spring weather now, but when I arrived here it was cold and foggy. I met George Beitzel in our chow line the second day after I arrived in France. Since then, I haven't met any of the other home town boys. I hope to run into a few before long though.

I haven't seen much of France as yet. What I did see isn't so bad. I've seen some beautiful cities and lots of good dairy land. Some of the buildings and most of the churches are big and beautiful.

I don't have any interesting or thrilling stories to write as yet. I'll leave that up to the boys and girls who have been here longer than I. They deserve the space in your wonderful paper.

Good luck and safe return wished to all the guys and gals serving all over the world.

Cpl. Orval N. Schaden,
Somewhere in France

Dear Staff,

Sorry to have kept you waiting but we have been pretty busy and still are, but I have a few idle moments now.

Those pictures of the Vets Club in the February issue are very nice indeed. I can't wait until the time comes when I can go and see it personally. I also want to take this time to ask my brother Gerhardt why he doesn't write once in a while. I'm sure you (Gerhardt) can find a few moments to scribble a line or two. Let me know how you are and what's cooking. Also want to say "hello" to all the boys and girls in the services from the home town.

Since being in England, I can't wait till the time comes when I can get back to good old Two Rivers, and I hope to meet some or all of my old friends and celebrate.

Pfc. Elmer C. Diedrich, Somewhere in England