

# *Texans Give Aid to Conversion Of German Plant*

BY KENNETH L. DIXON,  
Associated Press Staff Writer.

GERMANY.—Two sports-minded American officers have started re-converting one small portion of Germany's erstwhile war industry.

CAPT. JOHN PFITSCH of Tyler, Texas, and Lt. Cassius M. Lea of Fenton, Mich., are using a former German 88-mm. shell factory for production of baseball bats.

In the small town of Tungerhutte the two officers of the 35th Division were walking through the factory when they saw a number of woodworking machines and a sizable stockpile of hardwood. Their 448th Antiaircraft Warning Battalion needed baseball equipment, now that the shooting is over.

Soon a makeshift production line was working and the first bats began appearing—ones that would be hard to beat even back home. They were trade-marked Pfitsch Lea Tungerhutte Bat which admittedly is plenty of trade-mark for any bat.



808 J. Robertson  
Tyler, Texas,  
May 26, 1945.

Dear Dr. Allen,-

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of Jayhawk Rebounds No. 15, and to express our appreciation for them and for your continued kindness to John. We have enjoyed reading the Rebounds very much indeed.

John's flair for publicity seems to continue. I am enclosing a clipping, copies of which have come in from various sources including one in German from the N. Y. Staats Zeitung.

Recently while Officer of the Day in the Regimental Dispensary I had as a patient James R. Porter who had shortly before arrived from K. Y. He is a brother of Lieut. Bill Porter



who was at Kansas in recent years and who is now at Fort Benning. I sent young Porter into the hospital with a bad cold and he got out eight days later, but since that I have not heard from him.

Again thanking you for your kindness and with kind regards from Mrs. Pitkin and myself, I remain,

Sincerely,

Alfred Pitkin.





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101

FROM

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Pvt. Francis Peterson

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ASN-17149414 2nd Plt.

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Co. D 63<sup>rd</sup> Inf. In. Bn.

△

Camp Walters, Texas

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Camp Wolters, Texas  
May 27, 1945

Dear Doctor Allen,

I am very sorry that I haven't written sooner, but time here is pretty well occupied. This is the first Sunday since I have been here that I have had off. All of the other Sundays we have had baseball games. I am on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Bn. team. We play other teams around camp and teams at Fort Worth, Dallas and Weatherford. Next Sunday, 3 June 45, we play Texas Christian University. Our pitcher won twenty games for the San Francisco Seals last summer and our left fielder played under the Brooklyn farm system. I haven't been playing regular, but I have been in almost every game. So many players have semi-Pro and more experience than I have had.

This Texas heat is really getting bad. Some fellows have already passed out on hikes. It hits a hundred quite frequently, but it is swell to play baseball in.

Being located in Company D, 63<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Tn. Bn., I have hit a very familiar place. My uncle took his training here two years ago and was also a cook here for a year. By his letters I knew quite a bit about this place before I arrived here.



-2-

This is really a nice camp. During training hours we show a lot of dislike toward it, but I believe the majority will hate to leave. Three weeks from today we go on maneuvers and then our Infantry Training will be over. I have signed and passed all paratroop qualifications and so I'll go to Fort Benning sometime around the first of July. I have also passed O.C.S., but getting the appointment after paratroop training is next. The opening for eighteen year olds is hard to get. My age seems to be my only set.

After the second week here I was made a squad leader, so I am a Corporal during training hours. I have eleven men besides myself in my squad. I don't draw K. P. or any details, except to be responsible for a group of men. It gives me a lot more pull when it comes to passes or favors. Our platoon leader, Lt. Studrud, lives just a few miles from my home town. He has helped me considerable in getting off toward O.C.S.

Boy, it hardly seems like three months since we were having basketball practices in Koch and Robinson. I have wished so many times that I was back at K.U. I have only touched a basketball once since 2 March 45 and



that was here in the sports arena. The floor is about the size of the one in Hoch, but there is no comparison as to which is the better.

One fellow stationed here with me played on the Nebraska ball team last winter. We get together quite often. Most of the fellows here in Company D are from California and they know very little about the midwestern schools.

Have you heard from "Whity" since he left K.U.? I have written him several times since we said goodbye, but he hasnt answered as yet. I would sure like to see him again.

This C. R. T. C., (Cinfantry Replacement Training Center), is sure a mechanically operated outfit. Every officer is bucking for a higher rank and just as long as their slates are clean and every thing operates on time, good and well. As a result of this, much of our training is a bluff. The only time we really learn anything is when the "heavy brass" is around.

I have received the last two Jawhawk Rebounds. I sure enjoy reading them. I'll close for now, promising to do better in my correspondence.  
as ever  
Pete



June 4, 1945.

Mr. H. C. Palmer,  
Chanute Junior College,  
Chanute, Kansas.

Dear Coach:

I am glad to know the boy's knee is getting  
along nicely. If I can help in any way, please command  
me.

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.







May 26, 1945.

Captain John A. Pfitsch,  
448 AAA (AW) Bn.,  
APO 339, c/o P.M.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Johnny:

Accept my thanks a million times for this wonderful memento of the squareheads' capitulation. It was mighty nice of you to think of me, and I assure you this sword will always adorn one of the prize spots in my household and it will be because you captured it and sent it to me.

We are longing for the time when you will be back with us and we can put in words the things we cannot now say.

Again, with appreciation and sincerest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



C E R T I F I C A T E

1. I certify that I have personally examined the items of captured enemy military equipment (mailed by) (in the possession) of Capt John A. Gutsch that the trophy value of such items exceeds any training, service or scrap value; that they do not include any explosives, firearms or parts of firearms and that the (Mailing) (possession of) thereof is in conformity with the provisions of Sec VIII, Cir 217, WD, 1 June 1944, and the existing regulations of the theatre commander:

2. The items referred to are:

1 sword (German Hussar)

John A. Gutsch

(Signature)

Capt GAC

(Rank and Branch)

448 AMB (AW) Bn

(Organization)



PASSED FREE  
U. S. CUSTOMS  
KANSAS CITY, MO



CERTIFICATE

I have personally examined the items contained in this package and all items included herein were acquired by the shipper by bona fide purchase, or are authorized war trophies.

*James A. Gutzwiller*  
Signature

*Capt*  
Rank

*198th Ass (Av) Bn*  
Organization



Dear Doc -

Just remembered I hadn't written for some time and thought I might not have time to write in the near future, so I'm getting this off to let you know I'm still going strong. Our morale is tops now 'cause we're on the move. If we can keep it up for a while this war won't last too long. We are clicking, so you can expect anything.

I don't think I have told you before, but recently I changed grade again. Hope I can live up to all expectations. At least, I'll be in there trying.

We had opportunity lately to play some softball. I think I had the first organized softball league in Germany. We won, too, Doc, so I'm happy. Now we're back slugging it out and I think we have the power to do the whole job this time. Give my regards to everyone and write when you can.

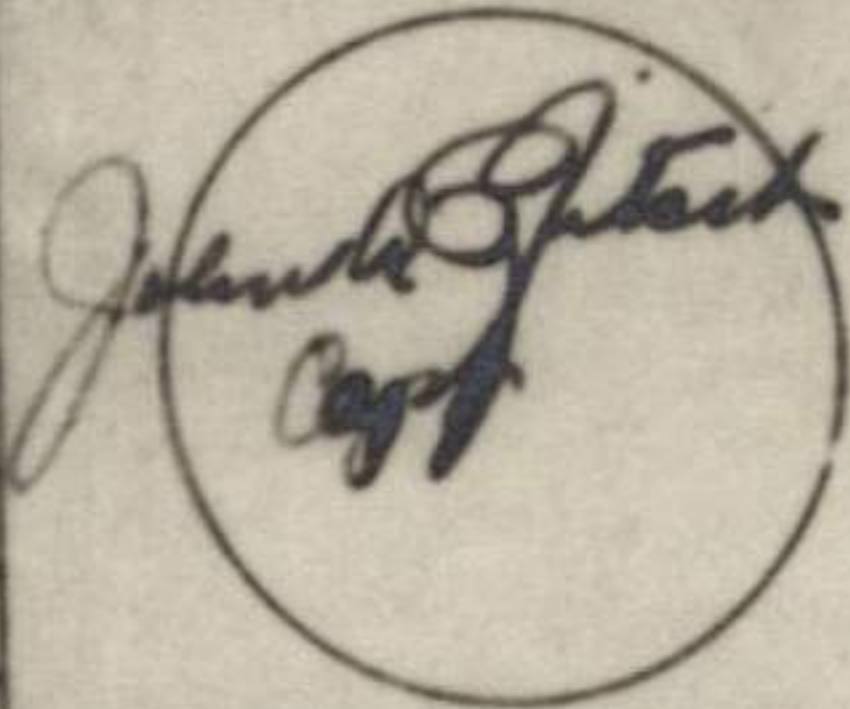
John

(Capt. John A. Pfitsch)



Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. \_\_\_\_\_



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To

DR. FORREST C. ALLEN  
PHYSICAL ED. DEPT  
UNIV. OF KANSAS  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

From

Capt JOHN G. G. G. <sup>0109728</sup>  
(Sender's name)

448 AAA (REV) BN  
(Sender's address)

APO 339 G. P. M. NY

28 Mar 1945

(Date)

Germany

Dear Doc,  
Just remembered I hadn't written for some time and thought I might not have time to write in the near future so I'm getting this off to let you know I'm still going strong. Our morale is tops now cause we're all on the move. I can keep it up for a while this was word last too long. We are checking so you can expect anything.

I don't think I have told you before but recently I changed grade again. Hope I can live up to all expectations. At least I'll be in there trying.

We had opportunity lately to play some softball I think I had the first organized softball league in Germany. We won to Doc, so I'm happy. Now we're back shugging it out and I think we have the power to do the whole job this time. Give my regards to wagon and write when you can

John



Germany

6 Mar 1945

Dear Doc,

Your last Rebounds arrived a week ago and it was grand. I'm afraid your head lined me a little more than I deserve. There are so many men who do deeds so much greater + who are never recognized at all that it sometimes makes me almost ashamed to accept such tributes for such minor work. But thanks a lot anyway, Doc. I appreciated your thoughts.

We are now with the 9th Army masters of the 3rd, and well on our way to the final prize. It's good to be in Germany dishing out the medicine that these Jerries have been dealing out so long. They don't like it either, strange to say. We are seeing lots of civilians nowadays and they aren't so happy with the situation either.

We find the condition of the country seems to be pretty fair however and the people weren't by any means starving to death and boy are they a hard headed bunch. Hitler's propaganda



is very warm to behold and he seemed to have had a big stick over the people that I have observed. I'm more than ever sure that war was the only way and it's wonderful to be the guy who is delivering most of the punches.

I see in the Stars & Stripes where Iowa State beat you for the Championship. That's tough doc but I think your boys did fine. Better probably than anyone had hoped for. I only wish that last game had been played in Hoch. I'd bet it would have been a different story.

Maybe some of the boys can be back next year to play another year for you. I sure hope so. I'd like to check a few "sacs" myself right now.

I set up ~~at~~ Post camp for the boys in the Division a couple weeks ago. It kept me pretty busy for a couple of weeks, but it was a beauty when it was finished. The "doughs" are crazy about it and I got a great kick out of doing it for them.

Well doc I'd better sign off. I'm enclosing



a few pictures taken when we were in the battle  
for the Bulge. (German counter attack - 16 Dec 1944)  
I'll try to do better the next time.

Since hope Blacus gets up here close enough  
for me to see him while he is over here.

Give my regards to all the gang, especially  
Mrs Alley, Mrs. Hulter, Mrs Webster, Mr Falken-  
stein + Henry Shank -

Sincerely,  
John



March 30, 1945.

Captain A. Pfitseh, M.C., A.U.S.,  
808 S. Robertson,  
Tyler, Texas.

Dear Doctor Pfitseh:

I was delighted to read your letter and to know of the additional citations for First Lieutenant John A. We are mighty fond of that boy and he has the stuff that it takes to get the job done.

We will see that this appears in the next Rebounds. Our admiration for John has always been great, and any small kindness that we extended to him was most deserving, I assure you.

I was very happy to hear from Mrs. Pfitseh, and to you both my sincerest regards.

Cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



808 S. Robertson,  
Tyler, Texas.

Mar. 26, 1945.

Dear Mr. Allen, -

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the latest copy of Jawhawk Rebounds which like the previous issue we have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. No one can measure the pleasure and inspiration that you are giving your boys in the armed forces around the world with your "Rebounds". John has expressed his appreciation of them many times in his letters.

Today another document has come from Germany and I am enclosing a copy for you. John's last letter was dated Mar. 10th and he was getting along nicely.

Thanking you for your many kindnesses and with kind regards from Mrs. Pfitsch and myself,

I remain,

Sincerely,  
Alfred Pfitsch



COPY

Citation for the Bronze Star Medal  
(Oak-Leaf Cluster)

To First Lieutenant John A. Pfitsch, 01047728, Coast Artillery Corps, 448th AAA AW Battallion, for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Holland and Germany from 14 February to 26 February 1945. In the establishment of the 35th Infantry Division Rest Center at Treebeek, Holland, Lieutenant Pfitsch by initiative, ingenuity, and an unlimited capacity for work overcame almost insurmountable obstacles in the acquiring of necessary facilities, equipment and services. His organizing ability and enthusiasm, inspiring those working with him, resulted in a superior and outstanding Division Rest Center. Lieutenant Pfitsch's efforts and his devotion to duty reflect credit upon his character as a soldier and have brought credit upon his unit. Entered military service from Texas.

GO No. 16  
Hq 35th Inf Div  
9 Mar 45

COPY

HEADQUARTERS 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 35 U S ARMY

General Orders  
No. 16

9 March 1945

EXTRACT

Award of Bronze Star Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster)

Pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, dated 22 September 1943, as amended, in addition to the Bronze Star Medal and bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster previously awarded, a second bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to the following;

First Lieutenant John A. Pfitsch, 01047728,  
Coast Artillery Corps, U S Army.

For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States in Holland and Germany from 14 February to 26 February 1945. Entered the military service from Texas.

By command of Major General BAADE:

OFFICIAL:



Would be glad to meet  
the "young Chancellor" if he  
pitches out this year.

Jan. 9, '44  
64 La Verne  
Long Beach, Calif.

Joe Miller - Rasmussen  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Say where are we  
letting the others get a  
head start this year.

Nice picture of high  
school line up in  
last Sunday's paper.

I could think of nothing  
I'd like better than to see a fast  
K.U. game out here. They used to  
lope along out here till we nearly  
got the willie watching them - but  
hope our gentle rozz is doing some  
good.

Rasmussen at City Auditorium  
could probably be coaxed to get stage  
set up for a few university games.  
Just helped install a floor furnace for us.

## Basketball Scores

By Associated Press.

**EAST**  
N. Y. District Coast Guard 64, Lido Beach Navy, 45.

**MIDWEST**  
Illinois Wesleyan 69, Western State Teachers 56.  
Great Lakes 52, Valparaiso 38.  
Lincoln A. A. F. 67, Ottumwa (Iowa) Navy 26.  
Oberlin 62, Wooster 50.  
Western Union 37, Buena Vista 31.  
Baker 30, Emporia Teachers 26.  
Pittsburg (Kan.) Teachers 60, Phillips U. 42.  
Calvin 48, Alma 45.  
Olathe (Kan.) Naval Air Station 41, Winter General Hospital 38.  
Scott Field 81, Washington (St. Louis) 41.  
Minnesota 49, Purdue 44.  
Centralia 44, Parsons 26.  
Kansas State 44, Rockhurst 38.  
Iowa State 50, Nebraska 38.

**SOUTHWEST**  
Waco Army Air Field 61, Mexico 24.  
Blackland Army Air Field 47, Southwestern Texas 39.  
South Plains Army Air Field 97, Childress Army Air Field 52.

**WEST**  
Washington State 46, Oregon 36.  
Montana School of Mines 68, Fort Douglas 48.  
Camp Carson 49, Peterson Field 31.  
Buckley Field 63, Fort Logan 41.  
Fort Warren 66, Fitzsimons General Hospital 55.

**SOUTH**  
Georgia 37, Clemson 30.  
Tulane 36, Jackson Barracks 27.



Has "Suds in Your Eye" hit the dramatic department back there or is that strictly a California way of people getting on their feet? Our little Community Players are supposed to be working on it now.

I'm wondering what happened to Cox - former basket ball hero in 30-31.

Please tell the Endowment Assoc. that I hope to play with our fairly newly acquired land in Kansas doing the dearest best possible in memory of the one who passed it on and hope to live a little longer yet without giving it away. How many of you at the asso. know how to take care of such anyway? Most of us work for what we get out here.

And please tell Olin Templin that if he starts paying for his graduate magazine (he should back up his "baby") I'll be glad to also. It's D.W.S. this year for me, with no pay but taken in easy trade unless my capabilities are greatly needed. For those in war aid, we'll be watching our basket ball scores & keeping our fingers crossed.



May 23, 1945.

Mr. Neal Prochaska,  
R. R. 2,  
Silver Lake, Kansas.

Dear Neal:

I am asking that the University send you a catalog and I am also sending you one of our physical education booklets which describes our four-year major in the School of Education.

After looking these over won't you write me and tell me, for your and my benefit, that you are coming to K.U. this summer or certainly this fall.

It was good to see you and have a visit with you, and I trust that you will follow in the footsteps of your father by enrolling at the University of Kansas.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



April 26, 1945

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Director of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doc:

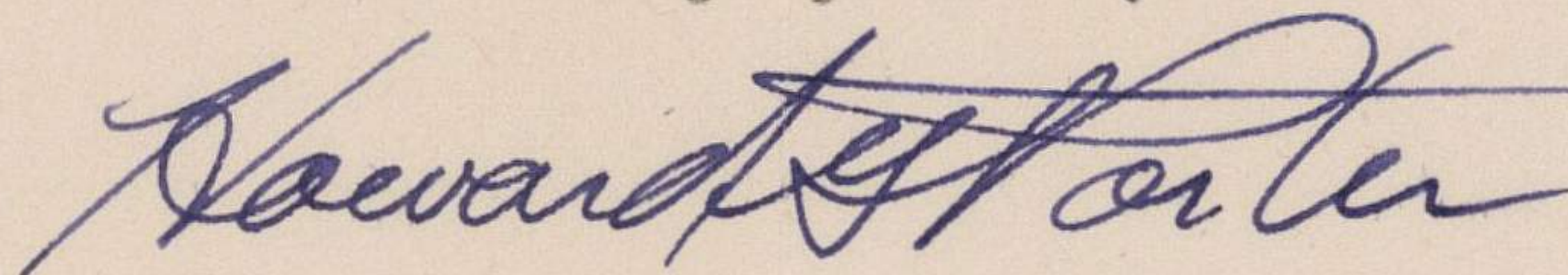
Thank you very much for the fine letter you wrote to Mr. Cobb.

After reading the copy, I am convinced that you should get a stock of buggy whips and head for Detroit. If that doesn't get the job done, I don't know what it will take.

This has been a very nice setup at Wichita and they offered me a \$200 raise, but I still think I can show these guys that the Allen system will work in high school as well as in college.

I am deeply grateful for your prompt response to my call for help.

Sincerely yours,



Howard G. Porter

HGP:JS



May 12, 1945.

Lieut. Don Powell,  
315th Serv. Group, Box 2,  
APO 210, c/o P.M.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear "Potsy":

A short note from Fred Ellsworth states that 1st Lieut. Don "Potsy" Powell is lying in a hospital in China with a sprained ankle from volley ball.

We are sending you our last Jayhawk Rebounds and some extra copies for your perusal during your weary hours. We are also putting you on our mailing list so that you will get the future copies. We recall your activities in intramurals.

Lots of good luck to you, Potsy.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH  
Enc.



air  
mail

Lt. Light. to Phelps, 257R  
U.S.S. Comabee  
% P.O.  
San Francisco



April 13th 1945

Dear Doc Allen -

I have just received my first copy of the 'Rebound'. (Mail service is a bit screwy out here). I can't tell you how pleased I was to have your note saying I was now on the mailing list. I have read it from cover to cover and feel almost as if I had had a visit in Lawrence. Dad keeps me pretty well posted on the games and scores but it was fine to read a first hand account of it and also to hear about many former students.

I have only been in Lawrence for two short visits in the three years I've been in the Navy and both of them have been in the summer time. So you can see I'm ready and anxious to see a good basketball game played in the Kameau room.

I have been on this same ship for 2 1/2 years now during which time I've seen just about everything there is to see in the Pacific. Frankly, I'm just a bit tired of so much water and so little land and believe I'll never be dissatisfied with



Kanaka Lagia.

My ship is an excellent carrier (baby flat top) and whenever we have the space available the hangar deck is turned into a floating gymnasium. It's not at all unusual to find a boxing match, 2 volleyball games, 2 badminton games, a basketball game and 2 men working on the trampoline and juggling bags all going at once. It's a wonderful boon for both the mental and physical welfare of the men and keeps them un-usually to combat the overwhelming boredom caused by weeks and weeks at sea.

I must get to work now, but I had to take a few minutes to thank you for including me on your list.

Sincerely yours

Don Phelps, '38

Lt. (jg) D. O. Phelps, USNR  
U.S.S. Copakee  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco