

DEAR FOLKS:

I have been receiving the N. & W. MAGAZINE for the past few months and have enjoyed every page of it, especially the articles concerning the men who were employed by the railroad and are now serving in the different branches of the

armed forces. I'll attempt to give you a picture of my life over here.

I've been in the service since January 6, 1942, and I haven't regretted a minute of it. My first six months were spent in the States when I attended school at Chanute Field, Ill., and at the Boeing Aircraft plant in Seattle, Wash. During that time I traveled from the east to the west coast and back again. I'll never forget the few days I had at home, visiting



Sgt. J. F. "Pete"
Cossell

all my friends on the freight line at Roanoke Shops. I noticed a picture of the line in one of the MAGAZINES and it surely made me homesick.

I didn't remain in the States long. I landed in England in September, 1942, and have since accustomed myself to the English people and their money (the latter was a headache at first) but I don't guess

I'll ever get used to the weather. Having been here 19 months, I've seen quite a bit of the country. It is really beautiful. Incidentally, I just returned from seven days leave which I spent in Edinburgh and London. Scotland is really a beautiful country. I wish I could send you some of the pictures I took but restrictions do not permit it.

Most of my leaves were spent in London because I like the city life. I've seen more than one scare that this war has brought to the largest city in the world. I don't believe we realized just what was going on over here and how well the people are

During my visits to London I've met quite a few of the boys I knew back home. We've had a wonderful time talking over old times. Only last month I ran into Julian Spillan. He is a lieutenant, but we talked to one another just like we would have if we'd met on Jefferson Street in Roanoke. I believe Julian worked in the Boiler Shop at Roanoke Shops with his father, who is foreman of that shop. I've tried to meet boys that I once knew back home and I've had quite a bit of luck.

When I first came in the service I met John Divers who worked in the Signal Department. During our training we were separated and I didn't see him again until I landed here in England. He has since returned to the States and I envy him. I used to take the home-town papers to him and the N. & W. MAGAZINE and we got a big kick out of them because we were from the same town. We felt like we were still working on the N. & W.

I might say a few things about the entertainment we have here. I saw in the newspaper, recently, that a drive for the Red Cross was going on back home. If the people only knew what the Red Cross has done to make us comfortable they would contribute more than the quota called for. They've given us places to sleep while we're on leave, kept us well supplied with coffee and doughnuts, and other helpful things too numerous to mention. We always get some kind of entertainment to keep our minds occupied during our time off. Only last week I had the pleasure of seeing Joe Louis in person. Yes, I got his autograph and also that of Adolph Menjou. I've also seen James Cagney, Martha Raye, Carol Landis and Kay Francis.

You might be interested in knowing a little about my work. I'm an oxygen specialist, which isn't exciting, but it has taught me something that might be of use

to me in the future. I service the planes and see that they are in perfect condition before they take off. It's just one of those jobs that isn't in the news. I have to work all hours and I never know when I'll have to roll out of bed—but I don't really mind because we have a job to do and the quicker the better for all concerned.

I often think of the day when I can return to Roanoke and take up my work where I left off. I feel like I've still got a hand in the operation of the railroad because my father is still working there in the Cabinet Shop, at Roanoke Shops. He has been with the N. & W. ever since I was a kid. I worked under "Pete" Cadd. He's a grand guy and I hope to be back with him soon.

Give my regards to all the men on the freight line, and tell them if they'll "keep 'em rolling" we'll "keep 'em flying."

Sgt. J. F. "Pete" CASSELL
Somewhere in England
(Roanoke Shops employee)