

NEWS  
WHILE  
IT'S  
HOT!

# FANTASY-NEWS

the science fiction tri-weekly newspaper.

SPECIAL ISSUE - FANS IN THE SERVICE

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TEN  
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WHOLE NUMBER 172

## IN THE SERVICE

### Letters From Servicemen

Somewhere In the Caribbean  
15 Oct 1944

Dear Will:

I did so enjoy receiving your ltr of --- my God, it was half-a-year ago. And it was good to see old FN back in circulation once again. By the way, I am enclosing a long overdue dollar bill to cover cost of my sub, since the begining of the "rebirth".

The tropics tend to make the reader veer fr stf for some reason, but I still buy WT and an occasional AST, but the latter is becoming strictly schmaltz for my taste and I don't honestly think WT ever did get back on its feet after the death of Wright. But fear not for I follow the cherished paths still.

Am laying my hands on all and every anthology, a forbidden taboo in my civvy days. Alex Lang's "Ghosts Of the World" and "The Cadaver Of Gideon Wyck" (have you come across that one), Wollheim's "Pb Of Stf" and Stong's "Other Worlds", "The Moonlight Traveler" by P.V.D. Stern and this new "The Great Fog" by H.F. Heard, rather a disappointment, that is Heard's. Also that new RANDOM HOUSE wonder collection with two of Lovecraft. At last he is actually getting legitimate recognition, and I think ARKHAM will be owed a lot for bringing his name to light.

How did you like their new little "prospectus"? I got a big kick out of it. Of course, I have their three 1943 books with me, and have just ordered 1944's output.

I have been reading HPL's "Beyond the Wall Of Sleep" this past week, and was actually shocked that such trash came from him. That "Unknown Kadath" farce (so far as I've read) is more fanciful and less interesting than Grimm's. Some of the shorts were (Cont'd P.4, C.2)

## IN THE SERVICE Cont'd:

France

12 Sep 1944

Dear Bill:

I was peacefully snoozing in my tent when my bunk-mate crawled in and kicked me awake.

"You got mail", he growled, "I got no mail, o'mon, lessee what's in it".

So I opened the biggest and oldest envelope first, finding therein the dear old FANTASY NEWS.

I'm glad to see it, too, for it forms another link with the yesterday every G.I. likes to think about. Rest assured that we're doing our best to reduce the term of those "war-time exigencies" which make publication so difficult.

The paper, by the way, took quite a while to reach me, and the envelope is really a mess. You see, in January I was transferred and went to England. From there I hit France---and it looks rather as though Germany is the next stop.

My best wishes to you and your family, and luck to the FANTASY NEWS, Bill. We fantasy fans overseas really appreciate the work of you at home who keep stf alive for us.

Sincerely

Sgt Dirk Wylie

\*\*\*\*\*

North Camp Hood, Texas  
21 Sep 1944

Dear Will:

Received your sample copy of FANTASY NEWS and glad to see it once more. Hope you have a lot of success in your try at reviving FN and I wish you lots of luck at it.

Sincerely

Cpl Henry D. Goldman

## TO FAN MAG EDITORS!

We will trade subscriptions with you based on the price of your mag. A 10¢ mag will get a 3 issue sub to FANTASY NEWS, two 5¢ mags the same, etc. - Editor, FN



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BOOST S C I E N C E F I C T I O N  
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EDITORIAL by Will Sykora.

It warms this writer's heart to read the letters from our fan friends in the U.S. Armed Services. There is much humor and not a little pathos in nearly every line. Surprisingly, all of them are still interested in stf, and although many have been out of touch for more than a year or two, just as soon as they get a whiff of it again, they come back as strong or stronger than before.

Some of them have subscribed to this newspaper. Others are not able to. You may be sure they will all be taken care of.

It seems a small thing to do for these boys who are sacrificing their time, their jobs, even life itself, fighting for ordinary people like us against the vicious evils of fascist control by big business. If they win, - we, the people will rule. If they lose--- we will all be slaves, perhaps without any wages at all.

It has been a long time since Pfc Cunningham was able to continue his wonderful BSFWRS. While it is true that the British suffer an awful dearth of stf, our own American soldiers suffer likewise. This writer therefore makes this appeal to his fellow stfan editors and publishers: Can you send me at least one extra copy, possibly more of your fan mag? Or an old issue of a pro, condition immaterial? These will be sent to servicemen only, especially those not in a position to subscribe.

WATCH NEXT NUMBER FOR SURPRISE  
ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR SEMI-ANNUAL!  
get a press card-be an in reporter.

IN THE SERVICE Cont'd:

Dalhart, Texas  
3 Oct 1944

Dear Will:

Was quite surprised this afternoon to receive your letter dated July 27. Also the copy of FN. Your letter was addressed to my old basic training camp and since then I have moved around quite a bit. The letter had as much trimmings on it as a Christmas goose due to all the changes of address since you mailed it.

Will, I was damn sorry to hear about the tragedy in your family. There's nothing more I can say about this, but I'm sincerely sorry.

Thanks for the addresses of Jimmy and Van Houten. I'm going to write them today when I get the chance.

The only "town" I've hit so far that looked promising as far as stf is concerned is Denver. I even got desperate enough to try to look up Wiggins and Martin. However, Martin had joined the Navy and Wiggins had moved God knows where!

I'm going to land in McCook, Nebraska shortly so if you know of any fans in Nebraska, I'd very much appreciate their addresses.

Got home on furlough in July, finally after 13 months and had a bang up time gabbing with Sammy and the family and going to see Unger. My interest in stf which had declined slightly during the year in the Army due to loss of contact became very much renewed after that visit home and I've gone in for collecting stf and fantasy books with the barracks bag serving as a temporary bookcase till I can send them home. Should have quite a collection by the time the war is over (no doubt about that).

Am attached to a B-29 outfit and there's a good chance of going over within a matter of months. It's going to be a trifle hard to keep up with the fan field while on one of those tiny islands you read about and undoubtedly there won't be any magazine stands either, so it'll be rough.

Any chance of FN coming out again? Or is that (Cont'd P.5,C.1)



IN THE SERVICE Cont'd:

La Belle France  
19 Sep 1944

Dear Will and Frances:

Just a little note to let you know that I received your Aug 13 FN and the family photo. It boosted my morale a bit to see you all, even if it's only a picture. The little baby looks so adorable. God, it's a shame that had to happen.

FN looks all right, it brought back some of the good times we used to have. Will, you are the most persistent guy. I give you credit, though, if you have the time, it's all right.

Say, Will, I came across a copy of CORONET, the July 1944 issue, and it has an article about good old Gernsie (Hugo Gernsback, of course). It was a nice surprise to see it.

By the way, I got around to seeing Paris. Oh, Boy, what a town. Tell you all about it soon, I hope. That's all for now, Will.

Best of luck to you and the family.

Mario  
(Pvt Mario Racic, Jr.)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Key Field, Miss.  
5 Oct 1944

Hi Chum:

Arriving home on furlough yesterday, I found your letter re subscription to FN, and wish I had been here to get the copy you said you sent earlier, which was no doubt relegated to file 13 along with other mail "obviously not important enough to forward" to me.

I've gotten completely out of touch with stfandom in the past two years - what with keeping pretty busy punching a typer for Uncle Sam all the while. But had that several times about trying to get in touch again, but didn't know who was still going.

So I'm sending you the enclosed half-a-buck to start the subscription for however many issues it's worth; and will take it up from there later.

Sincerely

Pfc Edgar J. Gilbert

Readers! Please write and tell us how you like this issue of FN

IN THE SERVICE Cont'd:

APO Military Secret

Hello Again!

Your NEWS reached me from home and the enjoyment derived was very great. Will you send me further issues of your paper direct to my latest address? Conditions right at the moment make it impossible for me to send a money-order or cash, but I believe you'll take a chance until I'm able to remit. OK? (Perfectly ok, Donn-Ed.)

Aboard a transport recently, I read some science-fiction from the Chaplain's library: "Donovan's Brain", "Dr. Cyclops". Also some weird stuff: "Creeps By Night" and "The Uninvited". My wife has been buying and mailing ASTOUNDING S-F to me, which keeps my imagination burning with some of its pre-war brightness.

Yours for imaginative fiction  
Captain Donn P. Brazier.

\*\*\*\*\*

Merrie England  
14 Aug 1944

Dear Will:

Hello Will! How are you? How is everything going back there?

I received your letter and the NEWS. I am glad to hear that there are still some fellows keeping the publications going, and are keeping up the interest of the fans.

I will try to keep in touch with the fellows as often as possible. I would like to contact the fellows you mentioned in your letter, and if the opportunity arrives I shall.

I have been too busy to spend much time in that field since I arrived here. However, I did try to get some copies of the Pro mags but was unable to locate a stand that had any. I picked up three books by John Russell Fearn, and now even they have disappeared. So my luck must be bad.

Take care of yourself, Will. Best of luck, health and happiness. Give my regards to everyone. I will write again when I can impart some news.

Sincerely, Tom.

Sgt Thomas Whiteside.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS.



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