

Heckman, Ralph F.

A. E. F. BATTALION HAS GOLDFISH FOR MASCOT

NOV 10 1942

**Cpl. Ralph F. Heckman, of
Hecktown, One of "Oscar's"
Keepers He Writes Parents.**

That an American Engineer Battalion located "Somewhere in England" has adopted a goldfish as its mascot was received in a letter and newspaper clipping sent home by Cpl. Ralph F. Heckman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heckman, of Hecktown, Easton R. D. 3.

Cpl. Heckman, who previous to his entering the service had been employed in a bank, is one of the goldfish's keepers and a close friend of its owner, Sgt. Jack H. Miller, of Georgia. Cpl. Heckman received his promotion shortly before he embarked for England, his letter reveals.



CORP. RALPH F. HECKMAN

The newspaper clipping tells the story of "Oscar, the Mascot Goldfish." It was carried to England in a whisky bottle filled with water in a gas mask. It is probably the widest traveled goldfish in the world, for its journeys have totaled more than 11,000 miles. Its daily treat is a swim in its owner's water-filled steel helmet.

In an interview during a day's travels with the English reporter, the newspaper clipping revealed that Miller and Heckman were pleased with the way the English people had received them, and confident of an early victory over the Axis.

The reporter wrote after his day's travels among the Americans that he was impressed with their (the Americans') confidence, sincerity and friendliness and the ease with which they established themselves to English manners and customs.

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