

Albert, George J.

SOLDIER TELLS HOW MUCH LETTERS MEAN

**Describes Disappointment in
Buddies' Faces When Mail
Doesn't Come.**

MAR 24 1943

The disappointment written in soldiers' faces as they turn away from mail call with empty hands is described in a letter received today from Private George J. Albert, son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Albert, 652 Spring Street, now on duty at Drew Field, Tampa, Fla. His letter follows:

To the Editor:

I would appreciate it considerably if you would publish the following letter. It is written to acquaint the public with the importance of their corresponding with their "men in the service." It may apply to the sweetheart, brother, sister, parents, wife or friend of him who has gone to serve his country. After all it may seem such an insignificant measure but from experience I believe it to be the greatest morale builder.

What is a letter? A few bits of information perhaps . . . the following poem describes it perfectly: What is a letter? Let affection tell—

A tongue that speaks for those who absent dwell;
A silent language uttered to the eye,
Which envious distance would in vain deny;
A link that binds where circumstances part,
A chain of feeling stretched from heart to heart,
Formed to convey like an electric chain
That mystic flash, the lightning of the brain,
And spread at once through each remotest link
The throb of passion, by a drop of ink.

I have stood in the mail line many a time—in cold weather, rainy weather and hot weather. I have seen men stand while names were called out—starting from the beginning of the alphabet, or vice versa—waiting for their name to be called. I have seen the sparkle in the eyes of those that received mail, and the sad, heart-broken features of those that did not. I have seen men run away from the mail window with joy at receiving word from their beloved ones back home, while others turned away with that unbelievable look upon their faces as though to say, "Have they forgotten already?"

Have you forgotten him who has taken up arms to serve for the safeguarding of the four freedoms?

Have you forgotten your holy vow to him that you will forever remember? I don't think you forgot—you are just putting off for tomorrow what you should be doing tonight. So write, write, write . . . until you get writer's cramps. Do this and you have helped to build up the spirit that must soon come face to face with the foe . . . and knowing that you have not forgotten . . . Victory is assured.

Pvt. George J. Albert.

Private Albert was inducted into the army October 24, 1942, after having previously volunteered as an aerial photographer with the Air Corps. Processed at Fort George G. Meade, Md., he was sent to Camp Lee, Va., for his basic training and transferred to Camp Charles Wood, N. J., for training in supply school, from which place he was ordered to Drew Field last February 12. He is assigned to a new signal aircraft warning battalion now being activated. Before entering the service he was employed as an expeditor in the forge specialty division of the Bethlehem Steel Company.

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