

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE



Willamette National Forest

Eugene, Oregon

November 26, 1943

Dear Friend:

With Christmas come memories of friends and former associates now in the armed service of our country. We are doing our best to keep the old Willamette running smoothly and efficiently in your absence. We miss you in the organization, but greater than that is the realization brought home to us of value of friendships which grow from teamwork and close association in an organization such as ours. We are proud of you, too, for we believe that wherever you are and whatever you may be doing, you will continue to give that same high standard and efficient type of service which you gave while on the Willamette. If guts is what it takes, we know you will have that too.

There has been considerable news on the home front since you left, and we thought that perhaps a sketchy summary of the highlights and happenings on the forest might be interesting and welcome to you. We quite naturally assume your regular mail from friends and relatives has kept you informed on the general run of community news.

The Willamette Forest has contributed very largely to the war effort by providing a log supply for lumber which, as you know, is one of the most important commodities at this time. Last summer, we improved and graveled the Fall Creek Road over which they are now removing a good grade of logs for war purposes. This will provide a winter chance and contribute in keeping lumber production on a wartime requirement basis which, without advance planning for the winter season, would undoubtedly decline to a dangerously low figure. We are also opening up a stand of noble fir in the Detroit District for airplane material for next season should the war continue. Willamette sales of stumpage surpass all previous records and stumpage rates soared to as high as \$8.85 per M.

Lester (Mack) McPherson, who is now heading up timber management work on the Willamette, has very few dull moments and is doing a bang-up job.

It goes without saying Hank White is getting a kick out of the additional road jobs and a little mud in his eye due to the heavy fall rains. He takes it all in good humor, however, and asks for more. You know Hank.

We had 73 fires last season, of which one reached 135 acres in size and the rest were A's and B's. This one Class D and six others started on the Southern Pacific right-of-way in the West Boundary and Oakridge Districts. The railroad is our greatest risk due to the increased transportation resulting from movement of troops and war materials. Elliott has smoke in his eyes, still trying to get a settlement with the Southern Pacific Company for cost of the 135 acre fire which the Forest Service took over. We had suppression crews located as follows: Detroit - 10, Fish Lake - 15, McKenzie Bridge - 10, West Boundary - 10 and Oakridge - 15 men. They were, for the most part, 16 and 17 year old boys, and were back in school when the bad fire weather arrived (after September 1) and we really needed them.

As previously stated, our organization does not stack up very well with the organization you were a part of, but we are making a go of it and should be satisfied with our lot compared with the fellows in the fox holes. All in all, we are getting along pretty well but we will be glad when we can again hear familiar voices over the telephone from the lookout and fireman stations as the going gets rough.

Well, guess we had better cut this off or the stenographers may use the eliminator. They cast a wary eye on long correspondence and reports, but the boss will take care of that for this letter is his suggestion and the sky is the limit where you fellows in the armed services are concerned. Anyway, guess we have just about reached the end except that we want to wish you a happy Christmas and the best of luck throughout the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

*J. P. Muckert*  
*R. A. Elliott*

*on G. L. G. form*  
*Chas. L. G. form*  
*H. G. White*  
*L. J. McPherson*



P. S.

I wish to add my personal greeting to all Willamette men in the armed forces. We miss every one of you and are looking forward eagerly to the day of victory when you'll return home and again assume your place in the normal scheme of things. Here's wishing you a very merry Christmas and happy and victorious New Year. With kindest regards, I am


Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. P. J.', written in a cursive style.

Dear Fellows:

We almost tripled our quota for the current War Chest Campaign. Much of this money goes to the U. S. O. and foreign war relief. We're investing about 11% of our salaries in war bonds and, during the last special drive, we invested over 40% for a month. There's soon to be another drive and you have our advance guarantee that we'll exceed our quota. These are ways in which we can back you up.

Good luck,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. P. J.', written in a cursive style.