

# FORMER TEACHERS WRITE LETTERS OF WAR TIME WORK

Mar. 9, 1944

BETTE JOHNSON WORKS IN WHITE  
HOUSE; HUSBAND IN THE  
SOUTH PACIFIC

Pat Johnson is in receipt of two interesting letters this week, one from his brother, Lt. J. K. "Pete" Johnson, who is serving with the United States Marine Corps, and the other from Lt. Johnson's wife, Mrs. Bette Lou Bails Johnson, who is working in Washington, D. C.

In her letter Mrs. Johnson says she is working in the White House, but adds that "this is not as glamorous as it sounds, for we really work."

"I sit at a typewriter all day long, with very few breaks," she says. "but the people with whom I work are grand.

"We are in the mail room in the executive office. Right above us is the President's office. I've seen his private swimming pool and theatre in the same building. I have even been treated for a cold in the office of Dr. McIntyre, the President's physician."

Mrs. Johnson's duties are connected with the "March of Dimes" that have been forwarded to the White House to help in the infantile paralysis campaign.

Lt. Johnson does not tell of his location in his letter to his brother, but the way he describes the conditions as to the weather and the mosquitoes leaves little doubt but that he is in the southwest Pacific. His letter follows:

"Dear Pat: I am sorry about being so slow in writing from my new location but current work has kept me very busy. I have been teaching for the past ten days and the teaching is much more concentrated than any I have done previous to now. The pupils are swell and quick learners, which is more than I can say for the teacher.

"I have been in excellent health, although climate adjustment is difficult. I'll sure have a lot of weather dope to tell you when I return.

"The mosquitoes here are very numerous, very active and very intelligent. To prove their mental abilities it is necessary to observe them, which is very easy because of their size. When I first arrived I would get out of bed under the netting on the same side every morning. I noticed after a few days, they were all on one side every morning when I crawled out. I started using both sides to crawl out so they split half and half and use some sort of signal to show the other half the side I was using. I now have a slit gun that has them baffled. They stay just out of range until I put it down, but by threatening them I can get dressed before they launch an attack."

Both Lt. and Mrs. Johnson are former teachers in Newton Community High School.