

WITH THE

COLORS *Aug. 11, 1942*

Staff Sergeant Neil W. Strole of the 308th Bombardment Squadron, Savannah Army Air Base, Savannah, Georgia, writes Mr. and Mrs. Emery L. Strole of Newton vicinity, telling them about the base. He has been in the Air Corps for two years, receiving his training at Chanute field, Rantoul.

"We have gas lamps in our tents now," he wrote, "so I'll have a better chance to write. We've been sleeping in tents ever since we arrived here. They're scattered all around through the pine trees in a big woods outside the main gate. The sun sure is hot. We would roast if it weren't for the trees.

"It has rained almost every day we've been here, and our old tent leaks like a sieve. One time the fellows forgot to loosen the ropes and all the stakes on one side pulled up and let the tent cave in.

"These wods sure are dark at night and of all the noises that come out of it, I never heard before. Joe and I went to the show the other night and like to never found our tent when we came back. The snakes, lizards, toads, turtles, bugs and mosquitos are plenty thick.

"Someone kills a snake about every day, and they're always putting turtles or something in someone's bunk. Then there are chameleons which look like lizards. They change their color whenever they're on different colored background. We've been catching them and keeping them for pets.

"It is quite a walk from my tent to the shower and also the mess hall. We eat out of our mess kits now, and have to wash them ourselves, in big cans of boiling water. The food is pretty good if you're able to pick the sand out of it. We have ice water to drink all the time.

"The cooks keep a large lister bag full all the time. It hangs from a big limb, and has little faucets at the bottom to fill the canteens with.

"Bill and I went to church uptown this morning; the Bull Street Baptist it is called. It sure is a nice church. I got the Newton Presses you sent at noon today and I've been reading them about all afternoon.

"A little negro boy comes out here every day selling peanuts. One of the boys plays a French harp and we give the little boy nickles to dance and sing. One day the boys were marching, and the leader had the little negro to give the commands. It was really a show and everyone got to laughing so much they had to stop. He said he was going to join the Army when he got big enough."

Private Gordon D. Crouse of Company B, 741st Tank Battalion, Camp Young, Indio, California, writes: "After traveling five days by train we landed here in the mountains, with plenty of sand. It is twenty-six miles to the nearest town. The weather is pretty hot in the day time, but nice and cool at night. We have just spent one night here and the talk is about going 'dear' hunting."

Walter M. Oursler, a son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Oursler of near Newton, joined the United States Navy last week.

Leonard M. Jourdan spent Sunday and Monday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ed Jourdan of Newton. He is in the United States Army Air Force and is stationed at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis.

Sergeant Andrew Kerner of the Sixth Armored division at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Kerner of northeast of Newton. He is a tank driver.

Harold Webb, who has been employed as bookkeeper at the Peoples State Bank for the past two years, enlisted in the United States Army at Mattoon, Monday. He will report at Chicago, Wednesday for induction.

Arthur Lobmier, who recently enlisted in the United States Army, is now in Company C, Eighty-ninth Infantry, Camp Roberts, California. He served overseas in the first World war and later was in the United States Army Air Force in the Philippines.

Mr. and Mrs. Ohmer Robards of Newton have three sons in the armed services now. These are Paul Robards at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Sylvan Robards at Fort Knox, Kentucky, United States Army, and William Robards, who enlisted in the United States Navy last week, and is now at Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Chicago.