

With the Colors

11/10/42

Jack Slack, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Slack of near Bogota, is now stationed on Treasure Island, off the coast of San Francisco, California. He recently graduated at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

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Mrs. Cecil Jones of Newton has received a letter from her son, Virgil Bliss, who is somewhere in Alaska, with the United States Army. He says:

"I received a letter from you, written September 27. Our mail was held up, but things are straightening out now. It won't take so long to get it.

"I feel better than I ever have since I have been in the Army, and you needn't worry about me having warm clothes. We have the best that money can buy. We have a good mattress on our bed and a sleeping bag made out of feathers. You can sleep out in the snow and be warm. We sleep in tents but have plenty of coal to burn.

"We have things pretty nice. We sure are eating good. I weighed 189 a few days ago. I was down to the dock this afternoon catching starfish. I tied one on my truck radiator. When it dries I will keep it for a souvenir to show you. We can't spend much money here. The only thing we can buy is candy and cigarettes.

"The boys go out and catch seven and eight pound salmon with their hands, the water is so full of them. We have candles to read by, but today I found an old ore house with some lanterns in it. We have three in our tent tonight and it looks like downtown.

"I have four boys in the tent with me. They are a bunch of nice fellows.

One gets up at 4:00 in the morning to work in the kitchen. He builds a good fire for us. We get up at 6:00. I am driving a truck, hauling the food to the other companies. I like my job. It won't be long until we can all be home. There isn't any chance of us losing this war. Everyone here thinks it will be over sometime the first of the year.

"I would give anything to see you all, especially my baby. I know he has grown. I want Grace to have their pictures taken and send me one. Don't try to send me anything, for Christmas for there is nothing I need. If I get to eat Christmas dinner with you in 1943, I will be satisfied."

His address is: Private Virgil E. Bliss, 16084864, 349th Engineers, Company H. & S., APO 939, care postmaster, Seattle, Washington. He asks his friends to write, "as we sure need mail here."

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John S. Wright of Newton, who is in the Signal Corps Officer Candidate school at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, writes that the work there is interesting. "We have men recalled from Alaska, Iceland, the Carribean bases, Ireland and England. I was talking to a fellow the other day who was aboard the U. S. S. Wakefield (the former liner Manhattan) enroute from England to O. C. S. when it

caught fire," he said.

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Corporal George Staley, Company C, 715th Railroad Engineers, has been promoted to sergeant. He is an engineer on the Santa Fe railroad out of Clovis, New Mexico. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Staley of Newton vicinity.

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Great Lakes, November 9.—It takes strenuous conditioning to make a good fighter. Garland D. Diel, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. William O. Diel of near Newton, last week reported at the United States Naval Training Station here and is now participating in the Navy's vigorous physical hardening program to train for his biggest fight, against the enemies of the United States.

Instruction received in the new recruit's training program include military drill, seamanship, and customs and procedures of Navy life. Upon completion of the training period, he will be eligible for a nine-day leave, at which time he will probably come home.

Through a series of aptitude tests, the recruits may qualify for advanced training at one of the Navy's many service schools, or be selected for immediate active duty at sea or some other naval shore station.

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Paul Rubsam of Camp Indio, California is here on a fifteen day furlough, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rubsam and family.