

# With the Colors

Nov. 27,  
1942

Private Jesse L. Wells of Newton, writing from the Mojave desert in California, says: "Perhaps I should of written sooner but just neglected it, we have been pretty busy for the last six weeks, repairing tanks and trucks, getting them in condition for our five hundred mile convoy trip back to Camp Cooke. We completed our maneuvers October 15 and were very successful, so successful that we are regarded as one of the best armored divisions on the west coast. Maneuvers were pretty tough, but as you know we Yankees can take it, and like it.

"We are having some nice weather out here in this beautiful country of sunshine and roses. The temperature stays around seventy-five to eighty-five in the daytime, and goes down as low as forty-five and fifty at night. It gets pretty chilly at night, but we have bed rolls to sleep in, therefore we rest very comfortable.

"Our camp is situated in the heart of the Mojave desert and it is entirely surrounded by mountains. About five hundred yards from camp is the Colorado river; just across the river is the state of Arizona. Our closest town is Needles, California. It has approximately three thousand inhabitants, most of whom are Mexicans and Indians.

When Saturday night comes around every soldier and his brother goes to town. About the only ones left are the captain's dog and the chaplain. If you wish to buy anything other than beer, you have to line up and wait, as if you were in a chow line. Usually the restaurants and stores have to close up long before closing time because they have sold out of everything from paper matches to chewing gum. About the only thing they have left is a couple of good looking waitresses and a colored dish washer.

"How's everybody back there in the old burg by this time? I hope to get back and see the old gang sometime in the near future. Give everyone my best regards."

His address is Private Jesse Wells, Company A, Maintenance battalion, Fifth armored division, A. P. O. 255, Camp Cooke, California.

Private John S. Lee, Battery A, 903rd Field Artillery battalion, Camp Butner, North Carolina, writes his mother, Mrs. Ed Lee of Newton, that he is located about fifteen miles from Durham, North Carolina, and is learning to shoot the 105 millimeter howitzers. He says "the 903d field artillery battalion is attached to the seventy - eighth division infantry, known as the Lightning division. This division, which was famous during the first World war, was reorganized about four months ago.

"This division is a complete unit in itself, in that it has infantry with ordnance, military police, airplanes, etc. The division will move out as a whole. We expect to train about three months.

"The barracks here are new and nice double deckers like those at Rantoul. They have a bathroom inside and are funace heated. The grub is o. k. The climate is a trifle damp and cold but not bad for November. I'd like to see snow on December 25."

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Private Lawrence C. Huber, Camp Livingston, Louisiana, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Huber of West Liberty, writes: "Would like to notify you as to a change in my address. I can't possibly explain just how important reading the Press is to me. Besides telling me the news back home, it tells me just where all the boys in the armed forces are located.

"The army life is o. k. after you get yourself adjusted to it. I've had the good fortune of finding a few boys who live close to Newton. Two are Ralph Curtright of Sainte Marie and Henry Burcham of Newton. We talk about home quite often."

His address is Private Lawrence C. Huber Hq. & S. Company, 103d Engr. Bn. (C), A. P. O. 28, Camp Livingston, Louisiana.

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Six men have made application to join the United States Navy and two to join the United States Coast Guard, Ray E. Everly, local Navy recruiting officer, states. These are John Calvin Jourdan, and Carl Eugene Tolliver, apprentice seamen, Donald Eugene Dufrain, Howard Riley and Victor Leonard Wagy, aviation cadets, and Don Wayne Ward, radio technician, Navy; and Kent Laverre Funkhouser and Robert Leonard Scott, Coast Guard.

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Miss Nila Pearl Rutherford, who has for the past three years been stationed at Letterman hospital, San Francisco has been transferred to Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, California. Miss Rutherford has recently been promoted from second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps to first lieutenant.

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Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Gorrell of Newton have gone to Houston, Texas, where they spent Thanksgiving with their son, Frank Gorrell, who is a radio technician in the United States Navy. Frank, who has suffered from arthritis for several years following an injury to his hip, is in the hospital again.

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Private George F. Smith of Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Smith of Willow Hill, and other relatives and friends. He is with the ordnance H. M. Company Q, at present time, working in the mail service. He returned Tuesday night.