

With the Colors

11/3/42

Chicago, November 2.—Seventy-one Illinois men graduated here Friday from Midshipmen's school at Abbott hall and were commissioned ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve.

The new junior Navy officers, who underwent an intensive three month's training period, are now qualified for duty with the fleet as navigation and engineer officers, and as experts in seamanship and gunnery.

Approximately 600 men comprised the class—one of the largest groups to graduate to date—and all have received orders to report for duty immediately. Among them was John Julian Yelvington of Newton.

John, who will be an engineer officer aboard some naval vessel as yet unknown, has been spending a few days leave with his parents, Mayor and Mrs. Milo D. Yelvington.

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Fort Knox, Kentucky, November 2.—The Armored Force school, where the tens of thousands of technicians for the Army's hard-hitting armored divisions are trained, today had rolled another class of tank mechanics off its fast rolling human assembly line.

Among the graduates, announced from the offices of Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers, chief of the Armored Force, were Private Estle I. Short, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alva I. Short of Willow Hill.

To earn their diplomas, the men studied the motor and driving mechanisms of various tanks, tearing them down piece by piece to learn how to "keep 'em rolling" afield. During their course, they worked with the same tools issued to field crews and were asked to imagine that the shiny concrete floors of their bustling shops were sand, to form the habit of keeping their equipment in boxes.

The Armored Force school, of which the tank department is only one of nearly a dozen sections, is headed by Brigadier General Stephen G. Henry, commandant. Now one of the largest technical schools in the world, several times more students than the number graduated from any civilian university or college pour out of its shops and classrooms each year.

The tank department is headed by Colonel Frederick L. Thompson, as director.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thompson of near Newton are in receipt of a letter

from their son, James Edward Thompson, who is in a United States Navy patrol wing section, stating that he is in the Solomon Islands. He said his station was on top of a building in a Solomons air field, manning a fifty caliber machine gun. He added that the Japs were good flyers and had plenty of "guts."

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Private John Maxwell writes Ray E. Everly that his company is on desert maneuvers and that the sand scours everything clean. The temperature is about ninety degrees Fahrenheit and at night you sleep under two wool blankets. John is a first class cook and company baker and says he will bake thirty pies for Thanksgiving dinner. He would like to have a few birthday cards from friends, as his birthday comes on Armistice day, November 11. His address is Private John H. Maxwell, 36396300, Company B, 68th Armored Regiment, APO 235, "Desert Maneuvers," care postmaster, Los Angeles, California. John's slogan is "Keep 'em cookin' and well fed."

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Garland Diel of near Newton, who recently joined the United States Navy, is in training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Chicago.

Delbert "Pickle" Bickers is home on a furlough from Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Chicago. He has completed his "boot" training.

Private Urban Ochs returned to the desert camp near Indio, California, Friday, after a fifteen day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ochs of near Sainte Marie. His division has been on desert maneuvers.