

With the Colors

10/9/42

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Mineo of Newton have received word from their son, Aviation Cadet William L. Mineo, that he has been classed as a pilot and will begin his training soon. He said that in a recent visit to San Antonio, Texas, he visited the Alamo and writes as follows:

"It is right in the center of town, I can't think of the proper words to express how I felt about it or to describe the place. Perhaps the best description would be to say that I felt like I was in a holy shrine and filled with reverence. For that matter, it is just what I called it, a shrine, in two different ways. Not only because of the Americans who were killed there, but also because it used to be a Catholic mission about two hundred years ago.

"As soon as you enter the door you enter an atmosphere of quiet and respect. Also just inside the west door, which is the main one, is the place where Davy Crockett, the last of the survivors, fell with about fifty or more Mexican bullets in him. Around him and every other slain man were piles of dead Mexicans they had killed before they died.

"The little garrison of 150 to 200 men held off about 5,000 Mexicans for twelve days, in 1836, before they were finally defeated and they fought to the last man. The Texans could have deserted or abandoned the fort at the start of the fight, if they wanted to but that would have left many people helpless and made a loophole for the Mexicans to attack Sam Houston's army, if I remember correctly, so they chose to stay and fight to the last man with one exception.

"Colonel Bowie was the commanding officer of the Alamo but was sick in bed, so Colonel Travis took over the actual command. He was only 27 years old. Travis called the men together and drew a line on the floor with his sword and stood across the line from his men. He then told them the circumstances of the case and said if they wanted to stay and fight to the last man to step across the line where he stood.

“Every man stepped across the line except one man, named Rose, who climbed over the wall and made good his escape through the Mexican lines. Colonel Bowie and four or five other men in sick beds asked them to have their beds moved across the line to indicate that they wanted to fight too. If Rose hadn't gotten through the Mexican lines no one would have ever known of much of the doings, as no man was left alive after it was over.

“One woman and her baby were spared and a Negro servant boy of hers escaped. They were put on a horse and sent to General Sam Houston, after the fall of the Alamo, by the Mexican General Santa Ana to tell of the defeat.

“Along the walls are pictures of the heroes and placques telling of their lives and episodes during the conflict. Before they all died these few men had killed nearly 2,000 Mexicans, I believe it was. Anyhow they took a deadly toll of the enemy. After Santa Ana had stormed the fort and killed them all, he had their bodies burned. A week or so after that his army, although vastly outnumbering the Texans, was routed by Sam Houston at San Jacinto and he was captured to end the struggle.

“In the museum show cases were knives, papers, clothes and various articles of the different men who died

there. Also the visitors' books from 1898, with "Teddy" Roosevelt's and Leonard Wood's signatures, and several articles like that of historic interest. The four main heroes were Crockett from Tennessee, Travis and Bonham from one of the Carolinas, I believe, and Bowie from Massachusetts. We spent over an hour in there just looking at the place and reading of the events.

"After we had taken in every nook of the Alamo, we went to a show. The inside of that theatre was the most beautiful one I've ever seen. The ceiling was a night blue with fleecy clouds and lots of twinkling stars. If a person didn't know differently, he would think the theater had no roof and he was actually looking up into the sky at night. The walls were built out like cathedrals or Spanish castles, and it was stunning to say the least. The architecture is all Spanish and practically indescribable."

Ralph R. White of Rose Hill has been promoted to sergeant in the Ninety-Eighth Infantry division at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

Gerald Michl, who has just completed his "boot" training in the United States Navy, is spending his furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Michl of near Newton. The Michls have two other sons in the service, Maurice in the Navy and Raymond in the Army.

Private Oliver Leslie Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Jones of Newton vicinity, has been enrolled in a special course of instruction at the Signal Corps' school at Camp Murphy, Florida. Private Jones was selected for this specialized training on the basis of his aptitude.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Edward Girhard of Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Lieutenant Charles Edward Girhard, who is attached to General MacArthur's headquarters at Melbourne, Australia, stating that he was well and was sending a picture of himself taken with a kangaroo.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Crouse of Sainte Marie vicinity are in receipt of a letter from their son, Ira "Buzz" Crouse, stating that he had been promoted to technical corporal in the Ordnance corps. His address is Corporal Ira Crouse, Company E, 128th Ordnance regiment, Second battalion, MS & E, Pine Camp, New York.

Word has been received from Delbert Bickers, who recently enlisted in the United States Navy, that he has been sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Chicago, for his basic training. Delbert is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bickers of south of Newton. Another son, Will Bickers, is in the Army and is stationed at Camp Swift, Texas. Bill has been confined in the hospital with a throat ailment since being inducted into the service.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kasserman of Newton have just received word their son George Kasserman Jr. has completed his basic training at Camp

Wallace, Texas, and has arrived at his new camp Saturday for his final schooling in officers' training. He expects to complete school around December 18, and will then have ten days leave, before reporting for duty. His new address is Corp. George Kaserman Jr., Battery 29, Second Platoon, A. A. S., O. C. D., Camp Davis, North Carolina.