

WITH THE COLORS

9/25/42

McClellan field, Sacramento, California, September 14.—Ralph Elston, nephew of Mrs. Paul Dodd of near Newton, is playing an important part in "Keeping 'em Flying" as an airplane ground crew mechanic stationed here in the Army Air Forces at Sacramento Air Depot.

Efficient, capable men with the ability to study a variety of highly specialized technical subjects and not, as in days of old, men with a "knack for mechanical things" are required these days in one of the least publicized but most important tasks in the Air Forces, ground crew work. These are the type men being trained in the mechanics' school and shops at this field.

The days of haphazard servicing of army aircraft are gone forever and now when a ship rolls up to the line for an inspection, Private Elston and other members of the ground crew literally tear it to pieces and then rebuild it under the watchful eye of a crew chief. Nowadays 10, 25, 50, and 100 hour checks, each one more thorough, are required by Air Forces regulations.

From every corner of the United States and from every walk of life come the men needed to keep the flyers flying. No fair weather job, plenty of "blood, sweat and tears" are the lot of the mechanics who are on the job twenty-four hours a day, always on call to service and overhaul an airplane for takeoff within a few hours.

Miss Wanita Garnier has received a letter that Private Medford R. Wilson of the United States Army is in England. He stated it was very cold there.

Dr. Harry Ireland, a captain in the United States Army Medical Corps, was a week end guest of his mother, Mrs. P. H. Ireland of Bogota. He has been assigned to a new camp in Georgia, near Atlanta.

Kenneth Johnson, who is in the United States Marine Corps, stationed at Burns City, Indiana, was a week end visitor with his wife, Bette Lou Bails Johnson of Newton. Pete looks like the life agreed with him.

Florent Schuch, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schuch of near Newton, left Monday for Carbondale, where he reported for instruction as a flying cadet in the United States Navy. He enlisted and was accepted several months ago but wasn't called until last week.

Corporal William Faller is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Faller of Newton. He has been at Fort Brady, Michigan, and is on his way to the Infantry Officers' Candidate school at Fort Benning, Georgia, as a cadet. He has been in the Army for several months.

James Lee Diel, son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Diel of Newton, who enlisted in the United States Army, August 18, is now in training at Camp Toccoa, Georgia, with the parachute infantry. His address is Private James Lee Diel, Company E, 506th Parachute Infantry, Camp Toccoa, Georgia.

Private John Maxwell, who is stationed at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, writes that he is enjoying life in the Army. He tips the scales at 150 pounds and will soon be a cook sec-

ond class at the Bakers and Cooks school. He says the Army "chow" is mighty nourishing and expects to be transferred to a camp in Kentucky soon. He will take a month's additional training and become a first class cook or a mess sergeant.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kinard are visiting his mother, Mrs. W. F. Newlin of near. Mr. Kinard, a machinist's mate second class, United States Navy, was a member of the crew of a ship making up the Pacific fleet and participated in engagements at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Marshall and Gilbert Islands, Marquessa Islands, the Wake Island raid, and other actions with the Japanese. He is being transferred to submarine duty and will report to the submarine base at New London, Connecticut, in a few days.