



## With the Colors

April 23  
1942

Ray E. Everly, Navy recruiter, has just received a letter from Orla Houser, seaman first class, United States Navy, somewhere in Australia. He writes: "Here I am somewhere in Australia, just waiting to get a good crack at the Japs. I am at present at a rest camp and am enjoying myself very much. I have gone through a jungle at this same place.

"I weighed 140 pounds when I enlisted and I now weigh over 168 pounds, so you see the Navy really feeds swell and all you want to eat. I have put in for third class petty officer, and hope I make it o. k. We had a grand time coming over here and gave the fishes a good feed. I was lucky as I never got seasick.

"We have a wonderful bunch of officers and have had all the way through. The people here are real nice to us, and we are becoming familiar with their money by now. Tell all the gang hello for me, and if they want a real service they just can't beat the good old United States Navy. I'm sure after the fall of Japan, Germany and Italy we will have a better world to live in.

"Will tell you all about my travels and experiences when I see you in person. Keep the home fires burning because I'm sure coming back when this is all over. Tell all my friends to write to me. Mail from home helps a lot way out here."

His address is Orla Houser, U. S. Navy 715, care Fleet Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

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Kenneth "Pete" Johnson left Wednesday after a short furlough at Newton with his wife, Mrs. Bette Lou Johnson, and his brother, Pat Johnson of Newton. He is in the United States Marine Corps and will go to South Carolina and then to Virginia for officers' training. He has been in the service about a year. Pete is a former agricultural teacher at the Newton Community high school and his wife is a member of the faculty here.

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Lieutenant Karl Kuechler, a son of Mrs. F. W. Kuechler of Casey, formerly of Hidalgo and Newton, writes his mother from North Africa: "Don't worry about me as I am perfectly all right and am feeling the best I ever did. I like it over here. The sun sure has tanned my face and neck. The weather here is fine and the countryside is very similar to Illinois but is much more beautiful; soft rolling hills covered with all

types of vegetation. It sure is pretty and I wish you could see it.

"The food is very good here. We get the best of meats but the vegetables are canned or dehydrated. Little or no native produce is used. You sure can't spend any money around here. There is nothing to buy, but I don't need anything, however. We expect to have movies soon and a post exchange. I had an exceptionally fine boat trip and I enjoyed it the most of anything in the Army."

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Carl C. Allen was home on a few days leave from the Navy, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alva M. Allen and relatives and friends. He is at New York now. He will have Radar work when he gets back. Another son, Don C. Allen, is in the field artillery. He has been moved from Yakima, Washington, to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

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Mr. and Mrs. Earl Heady of near Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Staff Sergeant Ardell Heady, who is in Colonel Elliott Roosevelt's photographic group of the United States Army Air Force on the North African war theatre, stating that he had a new job. "I can't tell you what it is," he added. He is well.

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Captain Howard J. Nagle spent the week end in Jasper county with his wife, who is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Mahaney of South Muddy township, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Nagle of near Willow Hill. Captain Nagle is expected to go overseas with a United States Army Signal Corps unit in the near future.

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Private Paul J. Reep has been transferred from Muroc Air Base, California, to the Army Administrative school at Los Angeles. He is living at a hotel and marches five blocks to school.

His address is Room 416, Margann Hotel, 735 South Hartford avenue, Los Angeles, California.

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Private First Class and Mrs. Robert Rohr of Santa Maria Air Base, California, and Miss Susan Rohr of Decatur were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. Rohr of Newton, their parents. Bob is stationed at Santa Maria in the Army Air Force.

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Ralph Shinn, who has been in the United States Army for nearly a year, is home, having been discharged as over age. He will return to his farm south of Newton.

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Private Harry Cornwell has been visiting his father, E. E. Cornwell of Newton, and other relatives. He is stationed at an Army camp in Florida south of Jacksonville.