



With the Colors

Dec. 17, 1943

Lieutenant John S. Wright is now in North Africa at the Signal Force Headquarters where Captain Howard J. Nagle is the traffic chief for the Signal Corps communications department. Mr. Wright writes: "This is a completely different country. England and the United States are different but their differences are subtle in comparison to the contrasts between either and this strange, half oriental, half occidental country.

"One sees modernistic buildings, the latest fashions, tramways, modern cars and people out of the Bible with little donkeys no bigger than a good sized dog. Most of the country I've seen—not much—is highly cultivated and green, except the vineyards which are leafless now. Roses are blooming and the groves are yellow with oranges and tangerines, a welcome sight to one coming from citrus starved England. My voyage was without incident, pleasant and more like a pleasure cruise than anything else."

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Aviation Cadet Paul W. Vanatta, United States Army Air Forces, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Vanatta of Rose Hill, is undergoing his primary flight training at Lodwick Aviation Military academy, Avon Park, Florida, where the Sixty-first USAAF Training detachment is under supervision of the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command, Maxwell Field, Alabama.

Cadet Vanatta was a track letterman at the Newton Community high school, from which he was graduated in 1939. At the time of his entrance in the Air Forces he was a student at Fruman university, Greenville, South Carolina. He is a member of Phi Sigma fraternity.

Prior to his transfer to Lodwick he underwent training with the C. T. D. at Duquesne university, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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Lieutenant Leland Conley writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Conley of Newton, from New Guinea, where he is with a hospital unit: "Here in New Guinea the tropical heat never lets up excepting around 3:00 or 4:00 a. m. It is easy to read about tropical climate but one will never know just what it is until you have lived in it. At our back door is the jungle with its flocks of parrots and tropical birds of every description. The tangle of vines, ferns and vegetation is so dense it is indescribable.

"We also have plenty of coconuts and jungle fruits of all kinds. Our front door is the beautiful bay, the most picturesque I have ever seen."

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Mrs. Paul Dodd of near Newton has received a letter from her nephew, Sergeant Ivan Elston, asking that she have his address changed on his Press. He says he sure enjoys reading news from home. He is attending Pilot school at Coffeyville, Kansas, and adds that he would love to spend Christmas back in Jasper county but can't this year. He closed his letter wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

His address is Sergeant Ivan Elston, 366th Base Headquarters and Air Base squadron, Army Air Force Pilot school (basic), C.A.A.F., Coffeyville, Kansas.

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Dorris McDowell writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. McDowell of Newton, under date of December 3, that he has been promoted to ship-fitter first class. He is well and is feeling fine. He is in a Southwest Pacific area and added that he recently received a bundle of Presses—the issues since July — that day and almost went without something to eat to read them. His ship had been traveling around so much that his mail didn't catch up with him.

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Wagy's Cafe at Newton wishes all the boys in the service a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There are sixteen former employes in the armed forces, including Bobby L. Bower, Melvin Chapman, Donald Danforth, William Faller, Warner Graham, Leonard Jourdan, Buryl Katro, Lawrence and Wayne Lee, Ira Lewis, John Maxwell, Colmore Miller Jr., Eugene Miller, Raymond Snider, Victor Wagy and Albert Wells Jr., on all the continents and seas.

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Lieutenant Alexander D. C. Byers, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, class of 1942, is visiting Miss Carolee Arnold and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence F. Arnold of Newton, this week. Since graduation he has been on active duty in the

Pacific and has twice been reported missing in action. He just recently returned to San Francisco and is en-route to the east coast to enter Naval aviation training.

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Clifford Huff is spending a twenty-one day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Huff of Newton. He has been seeing service in the Pacific for many months and is glad to be home. He met his brother, Lieutenant Gerald Huff, United States Marine Corps, at San Francisco, California, and says the latter hopes to be here soon. Gerald was with the original Marine landing on Guadalcanal.

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Private Edward Ray Foltz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Foltz of Newton, was one of fifty-six new Navy V-12 trainees entering Berea college, Berea, Kentucky, with the beginning of the new term in November.

He is a graduate of the Newton Community high school and is classified as a freshman. There are 286 apprentice seamen now enrolled in the Berea Navy V-12 unit.

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The Press is in receipt of a Christmas greeting from Private First Class Donnace H. Emery of Newton, who is somewhere in England. It was sent V-mail and bears the picture of "Private Bregar," the cartoon comic, holding a letter from which the censor has cut out several words leaving the message "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

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Harlen Seesengood of Newton, who has been in training at Scott field, Belleville, for a year, has been accepted for pilot training by the Army Air Force and is now at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. He has been under quarantine for several days as a result of a measles outbreak.

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Private Eugenia Beucherie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Beucherie of near Boos, who recently joined the Wacs, will be interviewed over radio station WBBM, Sunday, at 12:15 p. m. She was sworn in Tuesday and expects to leave for training soon.

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The Press is in receipt of a Christmas greeting from Captain Howard J. Nagle, Signal Force headquarters, North Africa, sent V-Mail. It bears a picture of a soldier and sailor facing an arch, bearing the words Allied Force.

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Chief Petty Officer Howard "Duke" Resch is spending a furlough with his mother, Mrs. William Resch of Newton. He has been on a destroyer in the Aleutians and is getting another new ship, his second in the past year.

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Mrs. Grover Eugene Weck Jr. has received word that her husband, Private First Class Weck, was in the invasion of the Gilbert islands and is o. k. Private Weck is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Weck of Newton.

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Corporal Freeman F. Cunefare has been here on a furlough from Fort Sheridan, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cunefare of near Newton. He is in the Military Police battalion there.

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Corporal John H. Maxwell is spending a few days' furlough with his mother, Mrs. Joseph Maxwell of Newton. He is a cook with a Tank battalion in California and expects to be sent overseas in the near future.

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Corporal Freeman F. Cunefare of Fort Sheridan has had a three day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cunefare of near Newton. He is in the Military Police there.

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Sergeant Russell Harrison, who is with an Ordnance battalion, has been sent overseas, as he expected when he was here on furlough recently.

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A/C Ralph C. Schackmann is now at San Antonio, Texas. His address is Class 44-H, Gp B, Squadron 17, AAFPS, SAACC, San Antonio, Texas.