



# With the Colors *D. C. Turner 31, 1943*

Daniel C. Turner, seaman first class, United States Navy, writes the Press from an unnamed Southwest Pacific base, under date of December 16: "Today I celebrated my twenty-fourth birthday out here in the Southwest Pacific, I can't tell you where, and I have thought all day about the day I spent in Newton a year ago. To top it all off I received my Newton Press for my birthday present.

"Lots of things have happened since I was home. I was married shortly after I arrived at San Francisco and now I have a son. When I'll get to see him is beyond me or anyone else except the Navy, I guess.

"I'd give just about anything to get back to the little old dead town of Newton, for it is just home. No matter where home is, it is home always. That is why we are out here to keep it as it is—a place to come back to that is decent."

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Robert Burgund sends his wife the following poem from overseas:

## **1920th Truck Company**

Here we are full of fun,  
Our trucks are always on the run,  
We've hauled everything under the sun,  
From a pint of gas to a load of guns.  
Our trucks are always on the go,  
It makes no difference if it's mud or snow,  
If there is anything to haul,  
We are always ready to go.  
We haul your bombs,  
Also your gas,  
We will keep on hauling,  
'Till the war is past.  
We have drivers from every state,  
They will not stop 'till they are through Hitler's gate.  
They love everything; 'neath the blue sky,  
And are coming home in the sweet bye and bye.

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Another class of skilled tank mechanics trained to keep the big General Shermans, General Grants, and their little brothers, the light tanks, roaring into combat, has been graduated this week from the Armored School Tank department at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Graduates included Corporal Clarence W. Wade, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wade of Sainte Marie.

During their training in the Tank department the soldier students worked with the same tools issued to field crews and under the conditions they are likely to encounter in the field. They studied the mechanisms of the various tanks, from track to turret, tearing them down to learn how to keep them moving in combat.

The Armored school, one of the largest technical institutions in the world, is commanded by Brigadier General Joseph A. Holly. It graduates many times more students each year than the largest civilian universities or colleges.

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Dale King writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ona King of Falmouth, from the Naval Air Station at Seattle, Washington: "It is now about twenty minutes of 7:00 p. m. and I am sitting here in the writing room writing this letter. I haven't been doing much today. I wish I could of been home to help butcher and eat some of that tenderloin. Yes, I rather think that was making pretty good time butchering.

"Glad to hear you have been having nice weather. I haven't seen any

snow since I was back in Farragut in boot camp.

"I don't know for sure but I heard that Julius Pearman went somewhere to go to Armed Guard school. I think that is a very short school about four or five weeks, I think. Myself I don't care for it. I left him in O. G. U. (out going unit) back in Farragut."

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Aviation Cadet Gordon E. Martin spent his Christmas furlough at home visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Martin of Yale, and other relatives and friends. Gordon left Saturday for Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is taking an advanced course in meteorology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Gordon was a student in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois before he enlisted in the Army. His address is A/C Gordon E. Martin, Hayden 107, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Private First Class and Mrs. Oral King, and Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Ferguson were Friday afternoon callers at the home of Gordon and family. Oral recently returned from Africa after a year's service with the Ninety-second Armored Division. He is well, and looking fine.

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Sergeant John F. Weber Jr. writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Weber of Newton, that recently while driving his jeep along the road in North Africa he picked up two soldiers. One saw his identification tag with the name Weber, and asked, "Are you from Newton, Illinois?" When Bud answered, "Yes, I'm John Weber's son." The other replied, "I'm Quincy Vanderhoof's boy." He was Technical Sergeant Merl Vanderhoof.

They hadn't known each other in Newton, and meeting in North Africa was one of the war's oddities.

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Technical Sergeant Chester F. Shedlebower recently spent a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shedlebower of Willow Hill and his sister, Mrs. Wilson Baker and family of Yale. He enlisted in the Air Corps in April, 1941, and has been serving as a radio operator and aerial gunner. Due to ill health he was recently given an honorable discharge.

During the time he has been in service he was awarded four medals. He was enroute to his home and wife in Delaware.

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Corporal Ralph E. Watkins writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Watkins of Newton vicinity, from overseas where he is with an Army Air Force Ferrying squadron: "I haven't been into town yet and don't know much about things here. I think most of us boys are going to give what candy and gum we get to the children around here. Their eyes really sparkle when you give them some."

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Mrs. Al Stanley of Newton was very pleasantly surprised last week when her nephew, Technical Sergeant Alex Leary of Rochester, New York, made her a visit on his way home from Louisiana. He spent three days with her. Sergeant Leary expects to be shipped out of this country early in January. The Leary twins visited in Newton several times when small boys.

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Hidalgo, December 29.—Miss Virginia Caudill, who has visited here a lot, was in that serious train wreck in North Carolina, two weeks ago. Her back was injured, but she was able to help give first aid. Miss Caudill is a Spar, and was on her way home to Decatur for a Christmas furlough. Her mother is Mrs. Myrtie Hutson.

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Private Eugene Holt visited his

brother, Jesse Holt of Newton, this week, enroute back to an Army camp in North Carolina, after visiting his wife at Gary, Indiana. He was late and missed his train to go on his furlough and this was the train which was wrecked a couple of weeks ago with the loss of many lives.

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Private First Class John Flanagan, who is in Iran, writes his parents, City Officer and Mrs. Tom Flanagan of Newton, that he is well and feeling fine, and that Bobby L. Bower is also well. They are now separated by a hundred miles, although formerly were in the same company.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Harold G. Leffler, returned to Crawfordsville, Indiana, Monday, after spending Christmas day at the home of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Wattleworth, and Christmas evening at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Leffler of West Liberty.

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Private Lon Cleaver Jr. was here from Camp Grant, Rockford, for a short Christmas furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Cleaver of Newton vicinity.

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson of Fort Knox, Kentucky, spent Christmas day with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wilson of West Liberty and that night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sparks of Bogota. They returned to camp, Sunday.

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Eugene Mitchell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orval O. Mitchell of Kansas, who is in the Navy, stationed at Farragut, Idaho, was home for Christmas. He received a telegraph to return Monday to Farragut, preparatory to being sent to school. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell are former Jasperites.

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Corporal Wilfred C. Harrison of Mattoon left Tuesday afternoon for Atlanta, Georgia, where he is stationed. Mrs. Harrison accompanied him.

His address is Corporal Wilfred C. Harrison, 62nd General hospital, care Lawson General hospital, Atlanta, Georgia.

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Jack Hutson arrived home Tuesday morning. Jack has been on Kiska for a long time. He hadn't heard from his folks in three months. This was a very good late Christmas gift for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kin Hutson of Hidalgo

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Mr. and Mrs. Neal Fehrenbacher of Ingraham vicinity received a cablegram from their son, Private First Class Edwin C. Fehrenbacher, who is somewhere in Australia, wishing them all Happy Holiday greetings.

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Virginia Ann Graham called her mother, Mrs. Erma Graham of Newton, to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She has been promoted to seaman first class in the Waves.

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Corporal and Mrs. Florent J. Fear returned to Texas where he is stationed after a fifteen day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fear of Newton.

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Private First Class Harry Swick is home on a fifteen day furlough, visiting his mother, Mrs. Inez Eaton, now of Chicapaigh, and his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Greenwood of Falmouth, who are both ill.

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Private First Class and Mrs. Richard L. Worcester Jr. have been visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Worcester and Sheriff and Mrs. A. H. Parker of Newton, this week. He is a medical student at Chicago.

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Corporal George W. Phillips, who is in North Ireland with a Medical battalion, writes: "Just a line to let you know that I am among the living.

There isn't much to say or that I can say, so I'll make this short."

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Major Medfred S. Riley is spending a few days' leave with his wife and children and his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Harbin S. Riley. He has been at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

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Corporal Tom Spencer has been here on a furlough from Camp Atterbury, Indiana, with his wife and baby and other relatives.

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Corporal James N. Beebe, who has been with the Seventh army in Sicily for the past five months, has been moved to Sardinia.

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Private Burnell Connett of Oblong was home over Christmas from Camp Ellis near Peoria. Camp Ellis is a prison camp.