



With the Colors

Dec. 7, 1943

Headquarters, European Theater of Operations.—One hundred and fifty soldiers from Illinois are in an armored unit that never leaves the ground—but they are as well acquainted with the importance of pre-battle “briefing” as their brothers in the Air Force.

These tank men, in their pre-invasion program, are becoming experts in every tank job, not just one. A tank driver knows the gunner’s job, the gunner knows the radioman’s job, the radioman knows the tank commander’s job—and so on down the line. Any crew member can take over any other member’s job if the need should arise.

A lesson derived from the campaigns in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy are being applied here in preparation for the coming assault from this direction.

Officers are making sure that each member of the crew will know the exact mission of his individual tank. That’s where the pre-battle briefing experience comes in. Each tankerman is becoming a proficient map-reader. When possible he is shown the ground he must cover, the obstacles he must surmount and the potential traps he must avoid. This is done when observation posts and sufficient time exists.

Soldiers manning the medium tanks are receiving intensive instruction in indirect firing. Tank guns are used like field artillery pieces, with forward observers directing the fire at targets which the tankers themselves cannot see.

Teamwork with infantry and artillery units is the secret of success by an armored unit, with the tankers delivering the power blow, “the Sunday punch.”

Corporals George S. McColley and Noah Bunton of Newton are in this group.

Miss Pauline Mulvaney came home Tuesday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mulvey of near Lis. She is employed in a defense plant as an instructor in Aurora. She left Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ivan W. Mulvaney. He had a few days off and came home to visit his parents and other relatives. Ivan is with the Navy and is stationed at Naval Air Station at Patuxent River, Maryland, in radio testing.

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First Lieutenant Glenn E. Davis, son of Mrs. Merle Davis, was in Newton a few hours last week. He is a combat flyer and is stationed at Bowling Green, Kentucky, taking tactical advanced battle combat training. Glenn says our new planes are a pilot's dream, a push button aeroplane, and that they power dive from 625 to 750 miles an hour with ease, are quick on maneuver, and a deadly combat weapon to use on our enemies.

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Lieutenant George W. Kasserman Jr. of Newton and Private First Class Paul E. Faltemier of Sainte Marie have been ordered overseas to the European theater of operations. The former is in an Anti-aircraft Artillery battalion and the latter is in a Depot Repair Squadron of the Army Air Forces.

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Mr. and Mrs. James Parker were pleasantly surprised last week, when they received a recording of the voice of their son-in-law, Private Glenn

Stanley, who is stationed at Camp Roberts, California. He says he has gained weight, likes Army life fine and asked them to give his regards to all his friends.

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Corporal Harold L. Coleman, son of Lee Coleman, Wink, Texas, formerly of Willow Hill, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant at the Army Air Base at Kearney, Nebraska.

Sergeant Coleman has been in the service eleven months.

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Private First Class Robert J. Pinnell, nephew of Mrs. Robert Lindsay of near Hunt City, writes that he has arrived safely somewhere in the Southwest Pacific area. He left the States around the first of November.

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Mr. and Mrs. William L. Ewald are the parents of an eight pound boy, born Sunday morning in a Waukegan hospital. Mrs. Ewald is known here as Aldythe Hunt. Her husband is in the Navy.

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Odle King, who was recently discharged from the Army after several months service, wishes his former buddies a Merry Christmas.

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Tom Spencer of Newton has been promoted to corporal. He is in Company M, 117th Infantry at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

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Sergeant Gilbert Harris is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Harris of Newton.