



## With the Colors

Feb. 16, 1943

Private James W. McCoy, Company K, 410th Infantry, Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, writes:

"I sure enjoy every bit of news that is in the Press and look forward to getting it every time. I enjoy especially the column "With the Colors" very much. I get all the low-down on all the boys who are in the Army from Jasper.

"Since I was inducted in the Army, November 11, I have been down here in Camp Claiborne for around two months. I spent a little over five weeks at Camp Grant, Illinois. I left there December 18 and have been here since then.

"I like it o. k. down here. I have been my company's bugler ever since I have been here. Being a bugler isn't such a bad job, except I have to get up pretty early. I get up at 4:45 in the morning.

"I have just recently finished firing on the range. I get a sharpshooter's medal. I was lucky I guess. I should have, though, I was firing the best gun in the world.

"I found out a few days ago that there was another boy from Jasper county down here, Will Mendenhall, but I haven't had time to find him yet.

"I play in the band here. The band plays for a parade almost every afternoon. I have found out that the bugler doesn't just blow his horn. He has to know everything the rest of the men know and more, too. He is used as a messenger also, so I am getting training in decoding messages and how to send them. I like this part of it fine.

"My basic training will be over pretty soon. I don't know just what is coming up then. I want to say hello to all my friends up there in and around Jasper county. I am always glad to get letters from anyone up there around home. I am not, however, so prompt in answering as my training keeps me on the move most of the time. I guess it agrees with me though. I have gained over twenty pounds since entering the service, I weigh over 160 pounds now and am not fat either."

His address is Private James W. McCoy, Company K, 410th Infantry, APO 103, Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoecherl of Willow Hill, have received the following letter from their son, Corporal Fred M. Hoecherl, who is with the United States Army in North Africa:

"I received six letters from home today and four copies of the Newton Press. They are at least a month old but I enjoy reading them.

"I would like to tell you all about the trip but am not allowed to do so. We left the States October 23 and landed in (censored) French Morocco on November 8. We were on the water thirty hours before they told us where we were going. Our time is about six hours ahead of yours so you were probably eating breakfast about the time I set foot on African soil. I can't tell you about the landing but things happened that day I shall never forget. Two boys in our battery were injured, one was sent back to the States, and the other one to a hospital here. He is with us again here.

"I figure that I have traveled approximately 10,000 miles during the last year and have seen many interesting things.

"I received all the Christmas boxes Thanks a million. We can't buy candy here at all but candy and cigarettes are issued quite often.

"The weather is very mild, about like the month of May back home. I saw one native plowing with a camel and cow for a team. They use wooden plows. When riding a donkey the natives don't use a bridle but instead guide him with a stick.



"The people here burn charcoal and alcohol in their automobiles instead of gasoline. Mass was not held this morning on account of rain. It was postponed until about 6:30 p. m. Mass is held out in the open.

"Well I must say that you should be mighty thankful that you live in the good old U. S. A. I hope to get back there some day. Write often as I like to hear from home."

\* \* \* \* \*

Private Charles F. Hall writes: "I received the first copy of the Newton Press, Friday and was very glad to get it. I like to read the news from home and what the other boys from home are doing. We are really going through our basic training. We walk from 8:00 to 12:00 almost every day. We have a twenty-five mile hike scheduled for this week.

"We are training on the forty millimeter guns and the fifty caliber machine guns. We use both M-1 rifles and the Springfield. We go on the range for the first time this week. We have to learn to identify all types of planes as that is our mission to shoot down enemy planes.

"We have an obstacle course to get us toughened into it. We are really getting tough and are building our muscles solid. I have gained seven pounds in the twenty-one days, I have been in the Army. If I had my choice of states I'd sure take Illinois. I like the Army just fine and I am getting along swell."

His address is Private Charles F. Hall, Battery C, 485th Coast Artillery battalion (AA), Camp Hulen, Texas.

\* \* \* \* \*

Victor Maurice Everett, son of Mrs. Jesse O. Snell of Rose Hill, vicinity, is now enrolled as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Forces Pre-Flight school for pilots at Maxwell field, located on the outskirts of Montgomery, the capital of Alabama.

Here the new class of cadets is receiving nine weeks of intensive military, physical and academic training preparatory to beginning their actual flight instruction at one of the many primary flying schools in the Army Air Forces Southeast Training center.

He attended Newton Community high school and was a baker in civilian life. He was accepted as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Forces on September 10, 1942, at St. Louis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Marion Burcham Jr., son of Marion Burcham of Newton, stationed at Columbia Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, with the Army Air Force, has been promoted from private to staff sergeant. He recently was transferred from Fort Myers, Florida, to Columbia, and previous to that was stationed at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Sergeant and Mrs. Burcham have been spending the past week with Mr. and Mrs. Marion Burcham and family at Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Harrison and other relatives and friends, returning to South Carolina, Saturday.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Matson received a letter February 12 from their son Glenn D. Matson, United States Navy, dated January 28. He is somewhere in the Solomons.

He wrote he received the hunting knife a few days before and a lot of Christmas folders a week or two earlier from some of the people back home that he thought had forgotten him. He says the weather is nice there and he has passed the examination for boatswain's mate, second class, which is two stripes.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. George Diel of Gila vicinity have received a letter from Captain Jephthah E. Turnage, United States Army Chaplains Corps, stating that their son, Sergeant Willis D. Diel, was a regular attendant at church services at Myrtle Beach Bombing range, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He was a member of Harman Methodist church near Gila.

\* \* \* \* \*

Corporal Giles Meinhart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Meinhart of Island Grove, who has been located at Fort McClellan, Alabama, the past five months, is now stationed at Camp Hood Texas, where he is taking officer's training. His new address is Candidate Giles Meinhart, Third Company, O. C. S. regiment, Tank Destroyer school, Camp Hood, Texas.

Private Irl Franke is now at Westover Air Field, Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, where he is in the Headquarters Company, A. B. Engineers battalion (aviation). He reports that he likes it at Westover field, which is a relatively new field not far from Springfield, Massachusetts.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sergeant Donald Weber reported for duty at Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, Monday morning, and after a short time there will be sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, for Cavalry training. He has been attending the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, where he was in the R. O. T. C.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. W. S. Rice of Oblong, formerly of Hidalgo, states that she has received a letter from Private Harry Dulgarr Jr., who is now in the Army at Columbia, South Carolina. He said he liked it there.

\* \* \* \* \*

Corporal Louis Mascher has been spending a few days' furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Mascher of Newton. He is an instructor in radio at the Army Air Force school in Chicago.

\* \* \* \* \*

Miss Bessie B. Wilson, a daughter of N. A. Wilson of Newton vicinity, is now a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps, stationed at O'Reilly General hospital, Springfield, Missouri.

\* \* \* \* \*

Private Bobby L. Bower was here from Camp Swift, Texas, over the week end, called here by the death of his uncle, Ezra Hamilton.

\* \* \* \* \*

Private Donald R. Short has been assigned to the Nineteenth CML battalion, Camp Sibert, Alabama.