



With the Colors

Oct. 2, 1943

Leonard Vincent Dewhirst, of near Wakefield, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army of the United States, Friday, upon successful completion of the officer candidate course at the Infantry school at Fort Benning, Georgia. Lieutenant Dewhirst is a son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Dewhirst and a grand-son of Mrs. George Birk of Wakefield vicinity.

The new lieutenant was inducted into the army on August 29, 1941, and served with the 87th Infantry battalion at Camp Roberts, California, before going to the Officer Candidate school three months ago. He held the rank of sergeant before being commissioned.

The new officer is a graduate of Sullivan high school in Chicago, where he was prominent as a senator in the school's government body.

At the Infantry school, the world's largest institution of its kind, the local officer took a three months course to fit him for his new responsibilities. The course covers the technique of handling all the varied modern infantry weapons and the tactics of leading small infantry units in combat. It also includes study of many varied subjects which future officers must know along the lines of administration, military law, etc.

The men who attend the Officers Candidate schools are the best privates, corporals and sergeants from the entire army, selected by their superiors for outstanding intelligence and qualities of leadership. During the course even the mildly incapable are weeded out, so that the men who graduate with commissions are America's finest soldiers, fully qualified to be the leaders in our new army.

Private Walter E. Newkirk writes his mother, Mrs. Nellie Newkirk of Yale vicinity, from the Army Air Base at Thermal, California: "We have moved to another part of the camp and have lights in the barracks now; also two stoves. It's warm here when the sun shines but it gets cool at night. I like the place o. k.

"We have been hauling gravel and making some walks from the barracks to the mess hall and other business places. We put in several telephones around here in the camp, put most of the wire underground. We may get the job laying underground cable.

"There are lots of dates growing around here. They grow on palm trees. There are also some orange and grapefruit trees around close. We have lots of fruits to eat; also lots of mutton, had some kind of mutton for supper.

"They say there are lots of coyotes around here. I haven't seen any of them yet, but a person can hear them at night. Some of the boys who went home for Christmas without a pass have just been back a few days. They say they are going to get seven days of k. p. for each day they were gone.

"There are a number of civilians working here, putting up more new buildings and hangars and towers, and making landing places for planes. There have been some more soldiers moved here the last week. I am o. k. but haven't been to town yet."

His address is Private Walter E. Newkirk, Company B, 929th Signal battalion, Army Air Base, Thermal, California.

Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, January 30.—Private John W. Nichols of Rose Hill vicinity, who recently entered military service, has arrived at the Engineer Replacement Training center here for an intensive training program in preparation for combat engineer duty.

Training will include basic subjects like close and extended order drill, manual of arms, rifle marksmanship and combat principles as well as the functions of military engineering—use of tools and equipment, building of fixed and floating bridges, demolitions and construction of roads and obstacles. Soldiers go from here to tactical units or to special training or officer candidate schools.

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Mrs. A. C. Kaufmann of Sainte Marie now has two daughters in the service, one in the Army Nurse Corps and the other in the Waves, Navy auxiliary. Miss Marie Kaufmann reported for duty as an Army Nurse at Camp Atterburg, Indiana, January 26, and Miss Clara Kaufmann will report for training in the Waves at Stillwater, Oklahoma, on February 12.

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Private Omer Morris Tobias Jr., a son of Mr. and Mrs. Omer M. Tobias of Newton, has been assigned to Battery A, 485th Coast Artillery, Camp Hulen, Texas. He is at present in the

hospital for a check-up. He was severely ill several years ago with rheumatic fever, although he has apparently completely outgrown all effects of the disease.

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Private John Hartrich returned to Camp Breckenridge near Morgantown, Kentucky, Sunday afternoon, after a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hartrich of Sainte Marie. Private Stanley Hynes, who had been spending a week's sick leave at Newton and Sainte Marie, accompanied him. Both are in the Twenty-fourth Evacuation hospital unit.

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Private Delbert Chapman, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Chapman of near Newton, has been assigned to the Headquarters battery of the 485th Coast Artillery (antiaircraft) battalion, Camp Hultn, Texas.

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Paul G. Hunzinger, machinist's mate third class, United States Navy, a son of Mrs. Ella Hunzinger of Sainte Marie, is now assigned to a cruiser in the Pacific ocean.