



With the Colors

Jan. 1, 1943

Private Kenneth Wilson writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wilson of Newton, from Fort Lewis, Washington: "I am fine except for my feet. Well your dream was true. (Mrs. Wilson dreamed he was sick). I was confined to my cot for a week but they are better now. We took a hike December 24. We walked four and a half miles in thirty-seven minutes. That is 140 steps a minute and is what they call a forced march.

"The boys fell out like flies. There were only four in my platoon finished and I was one of them. The sergeant said 'That a boy, Wilson. Show those young boys what an old man can do,' for I'm about the oldest man in the company and the young fellows call me Pop about half the time.

"I have just finished mess; not a bad dinner. I'm just off of k. p. Had four days of it. We're only supposed to have three days of it at a time but being Christmas week we had to do an extra day. They have transferred ten of the boys from this company to another company. They say all of the fellows over thirty are going to the M. P's., and will take the young fellows out of the M. P's. and put them in the Infantry. I don't want to be in the Military Police.

"I received my Christmas box o. k., and cards and present from many people in Newton. Tell them thanks for them. I didn't know I had so many friends."

His address is Private Kenneth Wilson, Company F, 71st Infantry, APO 44, Fort Lewis, Washington.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jourdan of Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Private Leonard M. "Bill" Jourdan, United States Army Air Forces, who is in Australia, in which he says: "I'm o. k. and feel fine, and am still having a pretty good time. I really had a good time on my birthday. I had a three day pass and I'll tell you some day where I went and what I did; at least I'll tell you part of it anyway.

"I haven't received any of your packages yet, but I did receive one from Ruby (his sister, Mrs. Kieth Mooney of Evansville.) She sent me a carton of cigarettes. I also received four papers the other day. They were about a couple of months old, but they were pretty good reading anyway. I received one letter from Doc (his brother, Lloyd Jourdan), but he didn't tell me much about himself; didn't say what branch of the service he was in or what he was doing. There is a lot I would like to tell you but these cockeyed Army regulations won't let us say anything at all."

His address is Private Leonard M. Jourdan, Company B, Eleventh R. C. D., APO 925, care postmaster, San Francisco, California.

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Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fear of Newton received a letter from their son, Florent Fear, who is stationed in Maryland. He says: "I am sorry I have waited so long before writing again, but I keep pretty busy. Today is Sunday and I have just finished my washing. I sure would like to come home for Christmas, but I have only a three day leave, so I won't be able to come.

"I have been acting as instructor in driving, and teaching other boys to drive. I drive just about anything—motorcycles, jeeps and trucks of all sizes, over roads that are worse than the bottom roads at home, up and down banks where the truck nearly stands on end, but what a thrill we get for you know I sure like to drive.

His address is Private Florent J. Fear, Company C., Fifth Ordnance Training battalion, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland.

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Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Baker of Yale are in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Baker's brother, Chester Shedlebower, stating that he has been promoted from the rank of corporal to staff sergeant, effective December 22. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and is a radio operator and aerial gunner.

Staff Sergeant Chester F. Shedlebower is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shedlebower of Willow Hill and is stationed at Dover, Delaware.

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Mrs. Ed Jourdan of Newton is visiting her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Kieth Mooney, and her son, John Calvin Jourdan at Evansville this week. She accompanied another son, Lloyd E. Jourdan, when he returned to Fort McClellan, Ala., after a furlough from the Army with his parents over Christmas. He has recently been transferred from the Infantry to a truck battalion.

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Corporal Ralph W. Elston, who graduated from the Army Air Force Training Detachment school at Indianapolis, December 24, returned to his base at McClellan field, California, Monday night, after a visit with his grand-father, N. J. Elston of near Newton.

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John F. Cummins, inducted as a volunteer with the last group of men from Jasper county into the United States Army, is in training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, with the 101st Mechanized Cavalry. He is the only son of Mrs. Saidee Cummins of near Newton.

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Lieutenant Daniel Wayne King, United States Army Air Forces, Walterboro, South Carolina, was an over Christmas visitor with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ona King of Falmouth vicinity. He returned Sunday.

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Private Leo LaFief, who had been visiting his wife and daughter for ten days, left Tuesday for Utah, after having successfully completed a course in ammunition at the Savanna Ordnance school, Savanna.

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Corporal Francis Kinsel returned to the Air Base at Almagordo, New Mexico, Wednesday, after a visit here with his wife and other relatives.

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Private John Passalacqua of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is visiting his father, Vincent Passalacqua, and family of Newton.