



With the Colors

Jan. 12, 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ed Jourdan of Newton are in receipt of a letter from Miss June Petrie, Australian girl friend of their son, Leonard M. "Bill" Jourdan, United States Army Air Forces. She writes under date of December 11:

"First I guess I had better introduce myself. My name is June Petrie, I am 20 years of age and work as a stenographer. My home is now in (censored), as I work here, but my folks live in a town about ninety miles from here, where my father is a bank manager.

"I hope the address is not cut out of this letter as I would like to hear from you; but one never knows these censors. They have a good old game with the scissors at times, it seems.

"It is very warm here today as our summer is fast approaching now. We should not complain, though, as up until now the weather has been really mild. The weather this year all through has been most unseasonable—in keeping with world events. When the boys tell us of your white Christmas at home it sounds out of place as it is always so hot here. No doubt the boys will notice a great difference in the different countries this time.

"This town is the capital of this state of (censored)—and this state has the best climate; or at least we think so. Right now the boys are complaining of the heat so we console them by saying, 'Wait until it really gets hot,' and with that thought I think they almost pass out.

"There is really not a lot to do since petrol (gasoline) has been rationed so severely. It seems that everyone has had to put his or her car away for the duration and ride in trains or trams. Theatres, dancing, swimming and suchlike are the only amusements. Theatres close here about 11:00 o'clock at night and all street cars usually stop about midnight except on Fridays and Saturdays, when they run a little later.

"On Sunday nights now there are a few dance halls open and also some theatres. This all helps to make the boys happier, as it is rather miserable, I should think, for them to be just wandering around with nothing set to da.

"I play the piano when I manage to find a little spare time and in cooler weather I like to play tennis. I have not been swimming yet this summer but will probably do so at any time now. I hope to go down to one of our coastal resorts in about two weeks from now for the week end. One of my girl friends is going on leave, so I will be able to spend one week end at the seaside with her.

"Helen, another girl friend, and I went to a dance last night and had a most enjoyable time. At most of the dances now lots of girls have learned to jitterbug. Personally, I don't care much for it.

"I will write only a short note this time as I am at work and have stolen a few minutes to type this. I hope to hear from you some time and learn something of what you do over there. Bill is o. k., but has not heard from you, though."

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Great Lakes, December 30.—Victor H. Dhom, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Dhom of near Newton, will start the New Year by giving all his efforts to a training program planned to condition him to fulfill one determined resolution—to defeat the Axis wherever he may engage them—as he undergoes recruit training at the United States Naval Training Station here.

He is receiving physical training which will mould him into a rugged fighting man ready to assume full responsibility for a job aboard one of Uncle Sam's fighting men-of-war. He will learn the fundamentals of seamanship, and naval procedure, and take a series of aptitude tests designed to serve as a guide in assigning him to the type of work for which he is best qualified.

Upon completing recruit training he will be granted a nine day leave.

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Major Earl J. Yates, commanding the Twelfth battalion, Armored Force Training center, Fort Knox, Kentucky, has this to say of Private John Hauk of Newton, in commending him for his work in firing a machine gun:

"Due to the mental alertness, and conduct during the course of instructions, a thorough knowledge of correct machine gun firing was attained by Private Hauk. The machine gun reacts in direct proportion to the mechanical skill with which it is operated.

"Private Hauk fired a perfect score of one hundred and twenty-eight possible points during his practice instructional courses on the .30 caliber

machine gun. His performance with a machine gun verifies that anyone who is mentally and physically fit can become a good soldier. Praise for trainees of this type becomes a privilege."

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John Alec Connor, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. O. Connor of Newton, and Lyman Edward Burtch Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Edward Burtch of Willow Hill, has started his first "cruise" in the Navy as recruits at the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes. Here they are being prepared for rugged life at sea through participation in the Navy's vigorous physical hardening program. They are learning the fundamentals of seamanship and Naval procedure, and taking a series of aptitude tests designed to help place him in the type of work for which he is best qualified.

Upon completing recruit training the new bluejackets will be granted a nine-day leave, at which time they probably will be home.

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Appleton B. Clark, son of Mrs. A. B. Clark of Montrose vicinity, has begun an intensive course of study in aviation mechanics at Amarillo Army Air field, Amarillo, Texas, one of the newest schools in the Army Air Forces Technical Training command.

He will spend several months at this great mechanics' school, and upon graduation will be sent to one of Uncle Sam's air bases, there to do his part in keeping America's "Flying Fortresses" harassing the Axis. In addition to mechanical training, his course here will include army discipline and courtesy, military drill and physical exercise to put him in the peak of condition.

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Aviation Cadet Hugh H. James, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. James of Newton, has entered the Army Air Forces Pre-Flight school (navigator), Monroe, Louisiana. Trained navigators are graduating by the hundreds now and soon will be finishing in thousands at the Navigator school.

Navigators guided bombers to hit the Jap fleet at Midway, showed General Doolittle the best route to Tokio and guided our flying fortresses to vital spots in the Solomon Islands. Without them, the bombers would be speeding masses of destruction rushing aimlessly through the sky. The navigator gets 'em there and gets 'em back, through weather, rain, hail, and fog.

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Private Raymond A. Swisher, Company C, 769th Military Police batalion, Fort Custer, Michigan writes: "I'm at Fort Custer, Michigan. I have been here three weeks, I was in Fort McClellan, Alabama, six weeks. I leave here in two more weeks.

"It is rather cold up here and it snows about every day." It is zero

most of the time. We are inside most of the time. We have eight classes a day six of them inside and two out in the snow.

"I don't mind the cold as it is a dry cold. I go to Battle Creek about two times a week. This camp is about six miles from Battle Creek. There is one boy here from Newton, but he is up the road about two miles.

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Mr. and Mrs. Guy Simpson are in receipt of a letter from their son Wayne Simpson that he has been transferred from Seattle, Washington, to Columbia, South Carolina. His address is Private Delbert W. Simpson, Company A, 693rd, Qm. battalion, A. P. O. 312, Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ives and daughters, Miss Norma and Mrs. Argola Walk spent the week end in Chicago with Burl Ives, who is in the Irving Berlin all soldier show, "This Is the Army." They also attended the show. Burl sent his best regards to his many friends.

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Corporal Vincent Huber of Camp Livingston, Louisiana, is spending a few days furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Huber of near Sainte Marie. They are in receipt of a cablegram that their son, Corporal Edward Huber, had landed safely in Australia.

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Kent Funkhouser left Sunday to join the United States Coast Guard. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Funkhouser of Newton.