



## With the Colors

Jan. 19,  
1943

### THE DESERT SOLDIER

Private Jesse Wells writes from Camp Cooke, California, sends this poem:

Contributed by the Keep 'Em Rolling Battalion.

I am sitting here and thinking of the things I've left behind;  
I would hate to put in writing just what is in my mind.  
We have dug a million ditches, and cleared off acres of ground.  
We have drunk our beer and whiskey in every honky-tonk in town.  
But there is one consolation, gather round me while I tell,  
When we die we'll go to heaven, for we've done our stretch in hell.  
We have built a million kitchens for the cooks to burn our beans.  
We have stood a million guard mounts and we've cleared the camp latrine  
We have slept at night with scorpions, we've peeled a million spuds,  
And killed a million snakes and ants, who tried to steal our grub.  
When our work on earth is over, then our friends behind will tell,  
When they died they went to heaven, for they've done their stretch in hell.  
When the final taps are sounded, and we lay aside life's cares,  
And we stand our last inspection on the shining golden stairs.  
The angels, they will welcome us, their golden harps will play.  
We'll draw a million canteen checks, and spend them in a day.  
It is there we'll hear St. Peter tell us loudly with a yell,  
Come in boys from the desert; for you have done your stretch in hell.

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Mrs. Theodore Fear of Urbana, formerly of Willow Hill, is enthusiastic about the Navy and rightfully should be, since all of her three children are in the Navy. Her daughter, Ensign Marjorie Fear, who was recently home on short leave, received her commission in the Waves and was assigned to active duty on January 8 at Smith college, Northampton, Massachusetts.

She received her A. B. degree from the University of Illinois in 1940 and M. A. degree in 1941. She earned several scholastic honors while in school, being elected to Alpha Lambda Delta in 1937, and Phi Beta Kappa in 1939. She has been a teacher of English at Macon Community high school since 1941.

Cecil D. Fear, first class petty officer, has been in the Navy since 1939. At the present time he is taking an advanced course in the Fleet Welding school at Norfolk, Virginia.

Mrs. Fear's other son, "Mike," who is also a graduate of the University of Illinois, having received his B. S. degree in civil engineering in 1942, is in officers training at the United States Naval academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and will be commissioned an ensign upon graduating.

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Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 18.  
—Herbert Bruce Street, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Street of Wheeler, who is enrolled in the United States Naval training school for machinists' mates on the campus of the University of Minnesota here, will soon be prepared to man the engines on one of Uncle Sam's fighting warships.

He is taking a sixteen week course which includes instruction in the operation and repair of main and auxiliary engines, drainage and distilling plants, evaporators, pumps, and other mechanical equipment of a modern ship. Upon completing the training he will be eligible for promotion to a petty officer rating.

Approximately 500 blue jackets are stationed at the Naval Training school here. All were selected upon the basis of aptitude tests taken during their recruit training.

Leland E. Conley of Newton, a son of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Conley, is here on leave after receiving the gold bars of a second lieutenant in the Medical Administrative Corps Officer Candidate school graduation at Camp Berkeley, Texas. An erstwhile staff sergeant, Lieutenant Conley is a graduate of the University of Illinois.

The graduating class is the first of the new semi-monthly groups to complete the Medical Administrative officers training of the Medical Replacement Training Center Officers Candidate school. Following a recent announcement by the Surgeon General of the Army, 1,000 soldiers will be commissioned here monthly during 1943.

When they complete their intensive three months' course, the Medical Administrative officers take over non-medical functions formerly performed by Army doctors, thus re-

leasing the doctors for purely medical and surgical duties. The MAC's are assuming supply, training, personnel, and other administrative jobs.

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Urbana, January 11.—Ensign John Yelvington, 23, son of Judge and Mrs. Milo D. Yelvington of Newton, was graduated from the Diesel school for United States Naval officers on the University of Illinois campus here. He now awaits assignment to duty with the fleet.

Before enrolling in the ten week course in the operation and maintenance of diesel engines, he attended an indoctrinational course at a Naval Training school which stressed physical conditioning, and a midshipmen school which familiarized him with seamanship, navigation, gunnery, Naval customs and traditions, and correct Naval procedure.

Appropriately 300 Naval officers are receiving training in advanced diesel engine theory here, and nearly 1,500 enlisted bluejackets are enrolled in two other schools for signalmen and diesel operators.

Ensign Yelvington is spending a few days leave with his parents, before being assigned to duty.

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Max McClane, a machinist's mate second class, United States Navy, is now at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia. He writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grover McClane as follows: "This is a large camp about half completed. We're in barracks, sleeping on cots for the present. From the talk around camp the fellows don't have a lot of hard training, mostly work details.

"We are about fifty miles from Richmond, Virginia. That's the closest city. There isn't much of a chance to get out of the camp on account of transportation. We are about twenty miles from Newport News."

His address is Company B-4, Battalion 68, Camp Peary, Williamsburg.

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Mrs. Daisy Mulvaney of Terre Haute, formerly of Newton, writes: "I just received a letter from my son, Joe Cummins, stating that he had been transferred to a Landing Craft school, Destroyer Base 5, San Diego, California. 'You have probably been in the news reel the boats running up on the beach and landing troops. Well, that is our job. We have been practicing landings today. I came in with my hair full of salt from the spray from the ocean.' Joe said. He has a little girl 5 years old March 27 next and when she says her prayers at night, she always finishes by saying 'Dear God, keep my daddy safe and bring him home to me'."

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Sergeant Ira A. Crouse, Pine Camp, New York, writes: "I like the Army life fine, although this is the coldest place I have ever seen. We have about three feet of snow and its snowing hard now. It has drifted until one can't tell the exact depth. I also wish to thank all my friends for the birthday and Christmas cards I received. I am always glad to hear from anyone at home.

"My address is Sergeant Ira A. Crouse, Company E., Second battalion, 128th Ordnance M., S. & E. regiment, Pine Camp, N. Y."

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Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Cunefare received a letter from their son, Corporal Freeman Cunefare, that he is confined to the hospital with a badly sprained knee. His address is M. P. Company 1607, S. U., Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Their son, Aviation Cadet Noel A. Cunefare, has been moved from Nashville, Tennessee. His address is Squadron H., Group 5, Maxwell field, Alabama.

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Private John M. Acklin writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Acklin of Newton vicinity, from North Africa: "I am o. k. It has been (censored) but now it has cleared off and is real nice. This is sure some country here. The natives will do most anything for a couple of cigarettes. The people here are Arabs and French." The letter was dated December 5 and arrived a few days ago.

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Corporal Estle I. Short has been transferred from Camp Young, California, to Camp Polk, Louisiana. His birthday is February 5. His address is Corporal Estle I. Short, Company A, 741st Tank Bn. (M), Camp Polk, Louisiana.

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Carl Stanley of Granite City, formerly of Newton, writes that his son Corporal Rush Stanley, has been transferred from Bar Harbor airport, Maine, to Grenier field, Manchester, New Hampshire, where his squadron is awaiting orders.

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Private Wayne C. Lee, United States Marine Corps, a son of Mrs. Ed Lee of Newton, is now at the Marine Corps base, San Diego, California. His address is School Group 2, Class 13-43, Barracks 46 NTS, San Diego.

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Private Paul J. Reep of Newton, who has been at the Armorer's school at Lowry field No. Two, Denver, Colo-

rado, was graduated Friday and will be sent to a bomber squadron in the next few days.

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Camp Stewart, Georgia, January 18.—Post Headquarters today announced the promotion of Private James W. Beebe of Newton to the grade of technician fifth grade. He was advanced to his new rank on the recommendation of his battery commander. Post authorities pointed out that his promotion was based on his attention to duty and his soldierly qualifications.

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Robert Harold Dhom, 18, year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dhom of near Newton, has enlisted in the Navy as a radio operator. He was in Effingham for an examination, Monday.

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Clifford Warfel, who is in the Navy, is home on a furlough visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Warfel and his grand-mother, Mrs. George W. Davis of Newton.

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Private Irvin G. Winterrowd has been transferred to the Ninth Technical School squadron (special), Barracks E268, Fort Logan, Colorado.