



With the

Colors *January 5,*
1943

New London, Connecticut, January 4.—Donald Hovey Wigall, 21, machinist's mate second class, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Wigall of Newton vicinity, has completed basic training at the Submarine school at the Submarine base, New London, Connecticut, for duty with our growing fleet of underseas fighters.

The new submariner will be entitled to wear the twin dolphin insignia of the submarine service after further experience aboard a submarine during which he must demonstrate to his commanding officer that he is fully qualified to carry out the duties of his rate. The insignia is regarded as a mark of distinction throughout the Navy.

He was a student of Newton Community high school, lettering in football, and was graduated in May, 1939. He had recruit training at the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, after joining the Navy, April 16, 1940, and has seen action aboard cruisers in the attack on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, at New Guinea and in the Kiska bombardment.

"I chose submarine service," he said, "as I wanted that type of duty since entering the Navy. I prefer serving aboard smaller craft, because there's more chance for advancement with smaller crews, and the pay is better."

The Submarine school, the only one of its kind in the Navy, is attended by a picked group of men who must pass special physical, mental, and psychological tests.

The school work takes place not only in classrooms and laboratories, but also in numerous training submarines in which students master the actual techniques of operating the powerful fighting craft.

Many students at Submarine school already have seen battle as members of surface ship crews before volunteering for submarine duty. Others are fresh from training stations, but all graduates are sure of action once they are assigned to a submarine due for offensive patrol. Large numbers of recent students now are serving in submarines which have sunk enemy naval or merchant vessels.

The following article from the Pasadena, California, Star-News tells of the flying experiences of Ensign Byron L. Lough of Altadena, California, a son of the Rev. and Mrs. O. W. Lough, formerly of near Wakefield.

Three ribbons awarded for gallantry have been won by Ensign Byron L. Lough, son of Rev. and Mrs. O. W. Lough, 505 West Atlanta street, Altadena, who is flying a Navy patrol plane in the Aleutians. On one occasion recently he brought in his ship after it had literally been cut to pieces by machine gun and anti-aircraft fire of the Japanese.

"I am stationed at Dutch Harbor but go out on regular patrol duty over the place where the Japanese have effected a landing," he writes. "I patrol out one day, land and take on gas, sleep in the plane and then patrol back next day, flying twenty-two hours out of the two days. Every third day I go to the place where the Japanese are located. I've seen a few Japs and when their planes come up after us we dive into the clouds and evade them.

"When we spot their ships we give their location by radio and our subs fix them up. There won't be many Japs there much longer. It's a rather rugged life we're leading here. I sleep when I can between twelve and fourteen hours and eat when I can. I have won three ribbons and when I come home I'll have a lot to tell you. I thought once my time had come. We all landed safely but our plane was in threads."

His address is Ensign B. L. Lough, V. P.; Patrol Wing 4, care postmaster, Seattle, Washington.

Byron was a basket ball star at Pasadena Junior college and was a member of the varsity squad at the Naval Flying school at Pensacola, Florida. He was graduated and commissioned as an ensign last May.

Byron with his parents have visited friends and relatives in Jasper county on numerous occasions.

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Sergeant Gordon D. Crouse writes Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shew of Bogota from Camp Young, California: "I received your greeting and handkerchief a few days ago. As greetings are hard to get hold of around here, I guess I'll write a letter instead. I have received several greetings and they are still coming in. I'm o. k. and the weather here is nice compared with what I hear about the weather in Illinois. It hasn't rained here to speak of and hasn't got very cold so far.

"It has only been cold enough to freeze one night and that was light. You have to wear a jacket two or three hours in the morning but after that you don't need it until 8:00 or 9:00 o'clock at night. It seems rather strange but nice to be in a climate where fruit grows in the heart of the winter and the grass is green, where there is grass. You won't find any grass closer than thirty miles from the camp or fruit groves, but they sure look nice when you are out traveling around and run across them.

"The valley to the west of us is about all irrigated and has nice fruit groves of all kinds."

His address is Sergeant Gordon D. Crouse, Company B, 741st Tank battalion (m), Camp Young, Indio, California.

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Chief Quartermaster Howard "Duke" Resch has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Will Resch, and friends at Newton. He was recently promoted to chief, after serving on a destroyer in Alaskan waters, and more recently has been at San Francisco, California, awaiting assignment to a new ship. He is a veteran of Pearl Harbor, having been aboard a destroyer when the Japs made their treacherous attack, and saw the bombs falling about him in the harbor. "Thank God, they were after the big ones," he said, in recalling it.

His ship has been patrolling the waters about the Aleutian Islands, and he said he had seen much but couldn't tell it until after the war. He was in the Navy when the war started, having enlisted two or three years before.

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Corporal John S. Maxwell, who is on desert maneuvers with the Sixty-eighth Armored regiment in the California desert, writes: "I am thankful to my friends for the nice cards and presents. I will try to answer all of them but just now I came back from my sister's in South Gate, California, and tomorrow we are going on a four day problem, so I haven't the time. I hope you will read by thanks to you. I thank every one of you again.

"You would be surprised how many people you meet in Southern California are from Jasper county. I saw about as many people I know in Los Angeles as I would have at home. Tell all the boys hello."

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Sergeant Dorris L. Scott of Truax field, Madison, Wisconsin, and Sergeant Delbert Whalin of Barksdale field, Louisiana, who enlisted in the Army Air Forces together a year ago, met for the first time Saturday in Newton, where both had furloughs. Sergeant Scott, who is in the headquarters, was visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. Scott of Newton. He was married to Miss Marianna

Westendorf of Newton, Saturday afternoon. Sergeant Whalin, who is a crew chief on a B-26 bomber, in charge of its maintenance, was visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merl C. Whalin of Rose Hill, who moved to near Libertyville, Saturday night.

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Mr. and Mrs. George Acklin of near Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Private John Acklin, who is in North Africa. He says: "This is some country over here. Tell dad they work most any kind of animal they can get. They use a mule and a camel or a mule and an ox or a camel and an ox to plow with. The native chief comes around about every day to see how we are getting along and to bum a cigarette or two, or anything we have to give him.

"We left New York, November 1 and had quite a trip. The weather here is warm through the day and real chilly and damp at night."

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Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Schmidt of Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Jerry Schmidt, stating that he has been promoted from private first class to corporal. He is with the 54th Station hospital in Fort Ord, California, and is one of the A-cooks. He sends his thanks to everyone for the lovely Christmas gifts and cards, and wishing everybody a Happy New Year.

His address is Corporal Jerome P. Schmidt, 54th Station Hospital, Third platoon, Main Garrison, Fort Ord, California.

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Hershel Jones writes Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Jones of Newton that the weather is fine in Florida. Christmas day he played badminton in shorts and T-shirt and got up a sweat. He met Mr. and Mrs. Kasserman Jr. in the middle of Jacksonville on Christmas day, so they had dinner together. Hershel has charge of one wing of the repair building in the Air Corps Camp at Jacksonville.

His address is 1303 Edgewood avenue, Jacksonville, Florida.

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Private LaVerl L. Kennedy, who is stationed at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, spent Christmas day with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Kennedy of Lis. He is in the 44th A. R. Band, which has about sixty members. He says he has a fine group of fellows in his barracks and likes army life very much.

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Second Lieutenant Hubert O. Romack is spending a few days leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Romack of near Falmouth. He was just graduated from the Signal Officers Candidate school at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He will report for duty at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Monday.

Private John W. Lake is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Lake of near Ingraham. He is a grand-son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Parker of near Bogota. His address is Private John W. Lake, Company B., 701st M. P. battalion, Fort Custer, Michigan.

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Second Lieutenant Harvey Jourdan Jr. is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Jourdan of near Newton. He has just graduated from Randolph field, Texas, in advanced training, after completing his preliminary training at a California air field,

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Corporal and Mrs. W. K. Ostrander spent the holidays visiting home folks here, and at Clinton. They returned New Year's day to the sunny southland. Corporal Ostrander is stationed at Camp Rucker, Alabama.

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Private Darrel Price, who is in the 306th Engineers of the Wildcat division at Camp Rucker, Alabama, is spending a few days furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Price of near Newton.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Richards of Newton are in receipt of word from their son, Bertrand Richards, that he has been transferred to the 1606th Service unit at Camp McCoy, Madison, Wisconsin. He has been playing the organ at the regimental chapel recently.

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Lieutenant Herman Payne visited his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Babbs of Newton, during the holidays. He is stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in the Artillery school. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Payne of Vandalia, formerly of Newton.

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Corporal Harold Webb, Seventh Port Headquarters Company, TCAB, Charleston, South Carolina, is spending a few days furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Webb of near Newton. He is in the Quartermaster base at Charleston.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Fred B. Alcorn of Charleston, South Carolina, are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Alcorn of Newton. Fred is stationed in the post office at the Charleston base. He was recently married to a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps.

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Private Tony Levitt writes a card from Jacksonville, Florida, where he spent last Sunday and says, "This Florida weather is fine." He would like to hear from his friends. His address is Private Tony Levitt, Battery A, 30th F. A. Battalion, Camp Blanding, Florida.

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