

With the Colors

July 16, 1943

Private Harry F. Haggard writes his mother, Mrs. Rena White of Rose Hill, from California: "I will try and drop you a few lines while we are waiting for the trucks to come back from camp to pick us up. We are down here at Indio, California, unloading our equipment. Our camp is twenty-six miles up in the mountains from here, and what a place this is. I almost wish we were back in Texas.

"We left Camp Hulen, Texas, Friday afternoon at 2:45 and arrived here Monday about noon. We saw some pretty country all along the way. We came through El Paso, Texas, across New Mexico, and Arizona into California. You have heard about Tucson, Arizona, being such a nice place. Well, mom, it is the prettiest and cleanest place I ever saw. A lot of their homes are those little adobe houses, as I believe they call them, all with tile roofs. They are kept painted and have lots of shrubbery around the houses.

"Another pretty sight was the Old Missionary prison at Yuma, Arizona. It is kind of up on the mountain and looks to be a thousand years old, but it is still in use. There were guards posted on the highest peaks all around the prison. They are armed with machine guns. You could look at almost any peak and see a guard sitting there.

"Out at the edge of Yuma a bunch of Indians live. They have a beautiful church built on top of one peak and there are caves all around below. I don't know if they live in the caves or not but I saw a couple of Indians going into one. All the rest of the way from Yuma here were Army divisions of every kind on maneuvers.

"I guess they were from this camp for there are sure a bunch of fellows around here. They have the Anti-Aircraft, Infantry, Air Corps, Tank division, Engineers, Mechanized Cavalry, Half-track divisions and Lord only knows how many others. "They call this camp the Desert Training Center and I sure believe it. All you can see is a little sage bush and bare mountain peaks. Of course, it is a pretty sight for one that has never seen the mountains before, but I imagine it will soon get old after about the first hike we have to take.

"How would you like to be out here where it is 120 degrees around noon every day and then freeze at night."

His address is Private Harry F. Haggard, 485th AAA (A. W.) battalion, APO 183, care Postmaster, Los Angeles, California.

Wilbur L. Mulvaney, seaman second class, United States Navy, writes: "After finishing my recruit training at Farragut, Idaho, I was transferred to the University of Idaho at Moscow, Idaho, to go to Radio school. I just started to school here last week and it is really swell here.

"The university is located in Moscow, about ninety miles from Farragut, but the climate is entirely different. At Farragut it rains about every other day and here we have been having nice weather. It is getting hot now as summer is just beginning. There are 600 sailors here taking a sixteen week course in radio. They are teaching us to be radiomen aboard ship and the work is really interesting. We go to school from 8:00 in the morning until 6:30 in the evening. That is a lot of time in school but it is worth it.

"We are staying in college dormitories with four men to a room. Chow is prepared and served by civilian employes and they really feed good here. It is more like being in college than in the Navy, but physical fitness before chow every morning reminds us.

"Here is my new address, so if any of my friends care to write, I'd be glod to answer them. Wilbur L. Mulvaned, S 2/c, Room 117-W Willis Sweet Hall, U. S. Navy Radio school, University of Idaho."

Clarence L. Doerr of Newton is in receipt of a letter from his nephew, Captain C. Hesse, a member of an American Army Air Force bomber squadron, in the Southwest Pacific. He tells of a recent seven day leave in Australia, and continues: "A source of entertainment to us is a particular radio program we are sometimes able to pick up from Tokyo. It is the 'Zero Hour,' a Jap propaganda broadcast, directed at all the allied forces it can reach. Of course, it is in English.

"It consists of some of the latest American music and news and comments. One of the best pieces of baloney we heard on the program was a boast that on a certain raid which our

planes made on one of their bases they shot down a large number of Liberator bombers. It just happens our squadron made that particular raid and all our planes returned safely.

"They claimed they shot down more planes than we actually sent over the target. Once the program was concluded with 'Remember, every cloud has a silver lining . . . and if you look you'll see the rising sun.'"

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Another class of skilled tank mechanics, trained to keep the big General Shermans, General Grants, and their little brothers, the light tanks, roaring into combat, have been graduated from the Armored Force school tank department at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Among the graduates was Corporal Harold D. Griffith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omer E. Griffith of Rose Hill.

During their training in the tank department the soldier students worked with the same tools issued to field crews and under the conditions they are likely to encounter in the field. They studied the mechanisms of the various tanks, from track to turret, tearing them down to learn how to keep them moving in combat.

The Armored Force school, one of the largest technical institutions in the world, is commanded by Brigadier General J. A. Holly. It graduates many times more students each year than the largest civilian universities or colleges.

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Sergeant Ira A. Crouse is here on a furlough from Normoyle Ordnance base, San Antonio, Texas. His father, William Crouse of Sainte Marie vicinity, is in a critical condition at St. Anthony's hospital, Effingham, suffering from kidney trouble. He has been placed under an oxygen tent.

Sergeant Millard K. Newlin is spending a furlough with his mother, Mrs. Chester Beard of Gila vicinity. He was one of a cadre which will train units at Camp Atterbury, Ind., near Indianapolis. Millard has spent fifteen months in Iceland and was happy to get back to the United States, where they have some trees. He will be in the Medical battalion at Camp Atterbury.

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George McKimmy, formerly of Rose Hill, writes: "We left the station yesterday headed for Corpus Christi, Texas, and are now in North Carolina. We are on a Pullman and another fellow and I have a private room. Everything is modern with two beds, wash basin and toilet in the room. The train does so much jerking around I can scarcely write. There is sure some pretty country here — large pine forests, a lot of tobacco, corn and cotton fields, but I haven't seen a watermelon patch yet. The porter just called chow and they don't have to call me twice."

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Captain Francis A. Richards has returned to his post at Edgewood arsenal, Maryland, after six weeks duty in the office of the Chief of Chemical Warfare, Washington, D. C. Included in this duty was an investigation trip to the middle west, which gave him the opportunity to spend the Fourth of July week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Richards of Newton.

Sergeant Bertrand F. Richards, who is studying languages at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, was also a home visitor over the National holiday.

Mrs. Nellie Wheeler of Lincoln is seeing the Jasper County Fair and visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gass of South Muddy township. She has in her possession some Japanese paper money sent to her by her son, Joe Warren Wheeler, who has been in the overseas Army, but is now in a United States hospital. He was pictured in a recent news reel, which showed him as the third man making a landing.

July 16 * * * * * 1943

Private Raymond Swisher writes that he has been transferred to Camp McCain, Mississippi. He says it's mighty hot down in the cotton country and the red sand sure looks different than Jasper county soil. He would like to hear from all his friends.

His address is Private Raymond Swisher, 432 MP, E-G, Company, Internment Camp, Camp McCain, Mississippi.

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Albert Frank Levitt Jr., seaman second class, returned to Chicago, Tuesday, after a two weeks' furlough with his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Semple of Newton, and other relatives. He doesn't yet know where he will be sent next. He recently completed his "boot" training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

July 16 * * * * * 1943

Corporal Cornelius Volk writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Volk of South Muddy township, from Australia, where he recently landed. He added that while it was winter in that part of the world, the weather was just like summer. He is well and enjoyed the trip.

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Private Edgar Huddleston of Clovis, New Mexico, spent Thursday and Friday of last week with his mother, Mrs. Levi Huddleston of Yale. The remainder of his furlough was spend with his sisters, Mrs. Elmer Hollensbe and Mrs. Max Hollensbe of St. Louis.

July 16, 1943

Private Walter E. Newkirk of Yale vicinity will have a birthday July 23, and would enjoy hearing from his friends on that occasion. His address is Company 8, 929th Signal battalion, ASC, APO 182, Unit No. 1, Los Angeles, California.

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Robert Davidson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Davidson, has been transferred to Rhode Island to a Naval Air Station as an electrician.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gass of Springfield are attending the Jasper County Fair and visiting relatives.

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Corporal Norman E. Nicholas of West Liberty is now on desert maneuvers in California. His address is Battery D, 485th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Air Warning battalion, APO 183, Los Angeles, California.

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Private Harold Cramer of Camp Grant, Rockford, spent the week end with his wife and son of Yale vicinity. His address is Private Harold Cramer, 1633 S. U., Company C, T-174, Camp Grant, Illinois.

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Technical Sergeant Sylvan "Shine" Robard is here on a furlough visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Omer Robards of Newton. He is a mess sergeants at the Armored Force school at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

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Captain Herman E. Gardner writes that he is now in command of a Field Artillery battery at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He and Mrs. Gardner reside at 212 Claiborne avenue, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

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Rex McClane, who is with our Air Forces in Australia, writes that they sure are using some large and powerful air equipment in that theater of war. Rex does repair work on damaged bombers and transport planes.

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Private Thomas Spencer is here on a furlough with his wife and baby son, Thomas Mark, and his mother, Mrs. Elmer Townsend. He is stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia.

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Don Ward, seaman second class, is spending a nine days' furlough with his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ward of Newton and vicinity. He has completed his boot training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

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Norman Benefiel of Fort Jackson South Carolina, has a ten day furlough which he is spending in Newton with his parents, Mr. and Mrs Ernest Benefiel and family.

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Private Ray A. Weber has been to Michigan State college, East Lansing, Michigan, where he is studying engineering with the Army Special Training unit.

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Private Donnace Emery, who came Saturday for a visit with his father, Frank Emery of Newton, was called back to camp Sunday.

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Duane M. Sims has been assigned to company 908, Camp Porter, United States Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois.

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Private First Class Fred O. Carr has been assigned to Provisional squadron E, Army Air Base, Salt Lake City, Utah.