



## With the Colors

July 20, 1943

Russell Harrison writes Miss Ruby Martin from Fort Ord, California: "We left Monday morning, July 5, for Yosemite National Park. There were five trucks, a staff car, and a jeep in the convoy. One of the trucks had considerable trouble and we didn't get to our camp site until 6:00 o'clock p. m.

"We put up the tents and set up the kitchen and then everyone went on k. p. duty. Our supper was steaks, french-fries, tomatoes, bread, butter and coffee and it sure was good, too. As for our lunch we had only an orange and two sandwiches.

"The trip through the valley north of Fresno was very hot but the last forty miles were in the mountains and was much cooler. Our camp was on the valley floor at 4,000 feet elevation and the days were warm but the nights were cool.

"Tuesday morning we finished up camp and were free to wander around from 11:00 a. m. until 3:30 p. m. when the second convoy of 100 men came in to set up their tents. Wednesday we had reveille at 6:30 a. m. and then left camp at 8:00 a. m. on a truck trip of 112 miles over the park. A ranger was in charge of us and then took us through the museum, to Yosemite falls, Mirror lake, the fish hatchery, Bridal Veil falls, Glacier point and the big trees.

"We hiked about a mile through the big trees and we found that some were twenty-nine feet around and 280 feet high.

"Glacier point is 8,000 feet high and from there you can see as far as the eye can see. That night our band gave a concert and all of us had to go into formation.

"Thursday morning we took a four mile hike to Nevada falls. It was a three-fourths of a mile climb up and several weren't able to make it to the top. It took an hour and fifteen minutes and as we came down, the trail was almost too steep to keep on it. We then reached Vernal falls and from there we took a steep trail by the falls.

"The mist from the falls got us wet, but we didn't mind as the sun shining on the mist made a perfect rainbow and for four hundred yards we were in the midst of an ever changing rainbow.

"Friday morning we tore down our camp and cleaned up the site and after mess we started on the homeward trip and arrived at 8:00 p. m."

His address is Corporal Russell Harrison, 3104 Armored Vehicle Maintenance Company, 604 Ordnance battalion, Fort Ord, California.

Corporal Ralph E. Watkins writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Watkins of near Newton, from Santa Maria, California. "We finally made it out here; arriving at 2:00 a. m. this morning (July 11). We left Detroit at 4:45 p. m. last Tuesday and arrived at Chicago at 10:15. The train left at 11:30 p. m. but there wasn't even room to stand, so we stayed in the Y. M. C. A. over Tuesday night and left Wednesday morning at 10:15. We went through Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Northern Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

"The train from Chicago was fourteen hours late and I thought that we would have some swell explaining to do, but we didn't. I sent a telegram from Los Angeles telling of the delay but they didn't say a word. A wreck in Arizona caused a delay of eight hours.

"We are sleeping in tents with floors in them. We have a cot, mattress, two blankets, a comfort and a pillow. It gets real cool at night but is warm during the day. We are four miles out of Santa Maria. Everything here is camouflaged, buildings and all. It is supposed to look like a forest.

"My address is: Corporal Ralph E. Watkins, Casual Detachment, 483rd Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron, San Maria, California."

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Florent J. Schuch, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Schuch of Newton vicinity, has arrived at the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, Florida, for intermediate flight training. Late in February, he was sent to the Naval Air Station near Peru, Indiana, where he successfully completed the elimination training course some time ago.

Upon completion of the intensive course at the "Annapolis of the Air" Cadet Schuch will receive his Navy "Wings of Gold" with the designation of Naval aviator, and will be commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve or a second-lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve.

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Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Farley of Yale vicinity have received a V letter from their son, Private First Class Kenneth A. Farley, stating that he had arrived safely in Australia. He graduated as a pursuit armorer from Buckley field, Colorado, where he received his silver wings. He was later transferred to Hammer field, Fresno, California, and then to Kearns, Utah, from which point he was sent overseas. The V letter was the first word received from him since May 23. Kenneth enlisted in the Air Corps at Chanute field, December 10, 1942, and his parents have never seen him in uniform as he has had no furlough since entering the service.

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Major Byron Meurlot, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emile Meulot of Wheeler, has been spending a few days leave with his parents. He has been located in Honolulu, Hawaii, for a long time. He will go from here to Chicago where he will be for a time and then to Washington, D. C. Major Meurlot was in World war I as a

youngster, having enlisted when less than 16 years. After his discharge, he enlisted again in the Army and has been in it now more than twenty years.

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Private Dayrel Stortzum writes from Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyoming: "The Army life is swell; will make a man of any fellow. I am well and weigh 165 pounds now. I would like to hear from some of my old pals. This is a quartermaster camp.

"My address is: Private Dayrel Stortzum, Company L, First regiment, Quartermaster Receiving Center, Barracks 287, Fort Warren, Wyoming."

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Aviation Cadet Noel A. Cunefare son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur O. Cunefare of Montrose vicinity, has arrived at Freeman Army Air field, Seymour, Indiana, where he will continue his pilot training. Freeman field is a twin-engine advanced flying school. When Cadet Cunefare successfully completes the rigorous nine-week program he will receive his silver wings and be commissioned either a second lieutenant or a flight officer.

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Private Henry Burcham is here on a furlough from Camp Lee, Virginia, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Burcham of Newton. He says he feels fine and he looks well.

Raymond A. Ratcliff has been promoted from private to corporal at the Army Air Base at Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a member of the firm of Fryer & Ratcliff, oil well drillers.

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Sergeant Myrl Vanderhoof has returned to Harrington, Kansas, after a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Vanderhoof of Newton. He was being transferred from Pocatello, Idaho, to Kansas, and received a few days at home. He is a waist gunner and assistant engineer on a Flying

Fortress bomber. Quincy is a veteran of the Spanish American war.

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Private Wilfred C. Harrison has returned to Camp Grant after a week end furlough with his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Harrison of Mattoon.

His address is Private Wilfred C. Harrison, Company C., Fourth Platoon, 29th Medical Training battalion, Camp Grant, Illinois.

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Private First Class Robert McDaniel, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold McDaniel of Yale vicinity, is attending Mechanic's school at Fort Riley, Kansas. His address is Enlisted Student's Detachment, 54 EMC, Building, 875-T, Base Post Office, Fort Riley, Kansas.

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Wayne and Maurice Lee are here visiting their mother, Mrs. Ed Lee. Wayne, who is in the Marine Corps, will leave Wednesday for Santa Ana, California and Maurice will go on to Wyoming, where he is being transferred by the Sinclair Oil Company.

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Private Logan Utley is visiting his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Utley of Newton. He missed his brother, Private Melvin Utley, by one day. He is a mechanic in a Quartermaster Truck regiment at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

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Delbert Geltz, a son of Mrs. Joseph Geltz of Sainte Marie, was turned down by the Navy a few days ago when he tried to enlist because of his eyes, and will make application for enlistment in the Merchant Marine service.

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Henry Fehrenbacher, who has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fehrenbacher of Newton, returned to Chicago, Thursday evening. He has completed his "boot" training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

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The local Navy recruiting station reports that Donald D. Fithian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil D. Fithian, has applied for enlistment in the U. S. Navy, V-6 Naval Reserve.

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Corporal Kermit B. Cox is now at the headquarters of the 71st Reconnaissance group, Army Air Base, Laurel, Mississippi.