



With the Colors

June 24,
1943

Raymond W. Wagner Jr., of Newton vicinity was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army of the United States upon successful completion of the Officer Candidate course at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, last week. Lieutenant Wagner is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Wagner of Route Three, Newton, and is here on a short leave.

The new lieutenant was inducted into the army on September 30, 1942, and served with the units at Camp Croft, South Carolina, before going to Officer Candidate school three months ago. He held the rank of Corporal before being commissioned. He is a graduate of Newton Community high school.

At the Infantry school, the world's largest institution of its kind, the local officer took a three months' course to fit him for his now responsibilities. The course covers the technique of handling all the varied modern infantry weapon and the tactics of leading small infantry units in combat. It also includes study of many varied subjects which future officers must know along the lines of administration, military law, etc.

The men who attend the Officer Candidate schools are the best privates, corporals and sergeants from the entire army, selected by their superiors for outstanding intelligence and qualities of leadership. During the course even the mildly incapable are weeded out, so that the men who graduate with commissions are America's finest soldiers, fully qualified to be the leaders in our new army.

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Private Robert James Lynch writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lynch of Ingraham:

"Gee, it is good to be back in the U. S. A. after being in battle. I am in a hospital in Utah. This is a good place when you don't feel good, but don't worry about me, for I am getting along fine. I'm just a little sick at my stomach.

"I am a lucky man, but I lost a lot of my friends at the battle front. I have seen lots of dead men.

Tell the kids not to worry, for I am o. k. and have plenty to eat and a good bed. That is more than I have been used for the last nine months. I have slept on the ground in mud and water but I am back in the United States, doing fine."

For those who wish to write to him, his address is: Private Robert James Lynch, Ward 28, Bushnell General hospital, Brigham City, Utah.

His parents had previously been notified by the War Department that he had been wounded in action.

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Private First Class Fred O. Carr, son of Mrs. Emma Carr of Hidalgo, has just been graduated from the parent radio school of the Air Forces Technical Training command at Scott field, Belleville. During the intensive training period Private Carr received instruction in radio operation and mechanics and is now qualified for duty as a member of a fighting bomber crew.

Since Scott field, part of the vast network of the Technical Training command schools under Major General Walter R. Weaver, is devoted solely to radio the destination of Private Carr may be a more advanced radio school, a gunnery school, or an operational training school, where he will receive instructions as part of a bombing "team."

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Harold G. Leffler were week end guests of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Wattleworth of Newton, and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Roy Leffler of West Liberty. Harold is in charge of the Navy's V-12 training contingent at Wabash college, Crawfordsville, Ind.

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Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Katro of Newton have received word that their son, Buryl Katro has been promoted to corporal. He is with the Army Air Force at Eglin field, Florida, and has been stationed there since September in the special service department.

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Private First Class Roscoe H. Miller returned to Camp Carson, Colorado, Friday morning, after spending four days at home with his mother, Mrs. Edith Miller and family of near Newton.

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Private Joseph Gregoire is here on a furlough from Camp Sutton, North Carolina, on a visit with his mother, Mrs. Rene Gregoire of Newton. He expects to be sent overseas in the near future.

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Sergeant Delbert Wayne Simpson has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Simpson of Bogota, and relatives and friends in St. Louis. He is on maneuvers in Tennessee.

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Private and Mrs. Leo H. Brummer of Rantoul were here over the week end. He is stationed at Chanute field there.

Corporal Vernon C. Swager and Private Harold Colvin write from "Camp Clipper," California: "We just want to say hello to the guys and gals back at the old town, especially the gals. We are stationed on the Mojave desert in California at the present time. Things are tough at times here, and it gets mighty hot, 135 degrees in the shade and no shade. To make a long story short, if you really want to know what the Mojava is like, just crawl in a red hot cook stove and shut the oven door. Just two Slap Happy Soldiers."

*June 29 * * * * * 1943*

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Chapman and sons of northeast of Newton have received a letter from their son, Sergeant Andrew Chapman, postmarked in North Africa, June 10. He writes:

"I haven't heard from home for so long. How is everyone? I guess all of you folks feel better now that the war is over, over here. I saw a lot and a lot of it I don't want to see again, although I have had a lot of fun."

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Corporal Ralph Watkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Watkins of near Newton, has been assigned to an engineering detachment at a United States Rubber Company school at Detroit, Michigan.

Corporal Lowell Cramer of Newton has been assigned to the Eleventh Reconnaissance squadron (Fighter), APO 182, Los Angeles, California. His squadron is on desert maneuvers.