



## With the Colors *June 8, 1943*

Harlingen Army Air Field, Texas, June 7.—More qualified aerial gunners were graduated last week from the Harlingen Army Air field, and in the large class was John Schuch Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schuch of near Newton.

He is one of the men who will handle the deadly machine guns aboard the Army's big bombers—a key job as the Air Forces continue to blast the enemy around the clock all over the world. For it's the aerial gunner—at his post in the tail or turret—who provides most of the protection while the rest of the crew performs its destructive duty.

At brief exercises here he received a diploma and silver gunner's wings. Completion of the course and another technical course, such as radio operation, automatically entitles him to sergeant's chevrons. Unless retained as an instructor then, he will be sent immediately to a combat team.

While at Harlingen he fired every type weapon from B-B guns to aerial machine guns. He was instructed in remedying the malfunction of guns, aircraft identification and the trick of "leading targets." He climaxed his course by firing on towed targets from Texan training planes and medium bombers.

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Fort Knox, Kentucky, June 7.—Upon orders of Major General Alvan C. Gillem Jr., acting commanding general of the Armored Force, a new class of soldier students has reported at the Armored Force school to take a special course in the Wheeled Vehicle department as blacksmiths and welders. Among these is Sergeant Dale C. Snearly, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Snearly of Yale.

The Armored Force school, of which Brigadier General J. A. Holly is commandant, trains the thousands of officer and enlisted technicians who perform the specialist tasks in the Army's mobile, powerful Armored divisions. One of the largest technical schools in the world, it graduates several times more students each year than the largest civilian universities.

The school operates on two seven-hour shifts six days a week. Men on the first shift rise at 4:30 a. m. and are in their shops and classrooms at 6:00 o'clock. As they leave at 1:00 p. m., the second shift marches in behind them and works until 8:00 p. m.

The wheeled vehicle department trains the student mechanics in the intricacies of keeping peeps and jeeps, trucks and scout cars rolling in combat.

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Byron K. Warren, son of Mrs. Bessie Warren of Hunt City, is training for a post as an electrician's mate in the Navy at the Naval Training school for electricians on the campus of Purdue university at LaFayette,

Indiana. He was included in a class of 150 bluejackets who started the sixteen week course last week after being selected for the school through a series of aptitude tests taken during recruit training.

Upon graduation the highest ranking men will be promoted to third class petty officer ratings and the remainder will be designated as "strikers," meaning that they will be eligible for similar promotions upon obtaining further experience on active duty.

The course will consist of instruction in mathematics, electrical theory and laboratory, and wiring, along with advanced military drill and physical conditioning.

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Dale Robinson, first class petty officer, who is stationed out of Navy pier, Chicago, is home on a short furlough. Dale has crossed the Atlantic and Pacific several times and has been in four major engagements.

He was a member of a crew of a bomber that was shot down in the North Pacific and for four days and three nights, the crew of eleven men floated around in rubber life rafts until rescued.

He says it's a queer feeling to have the tail shot off your ship (plane) at 15,000 feet and to parachute down to the ocean below you. He is now eligible for membership in the "Goldfish Club" mentioned in the Press last week.

He is now a specialist in airplane engines at the Navy school at Navy pier. He was accompanied here by his wife.

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Corporal Warren E. Hunt of Rose Hill has been assigned to duty with the United States Army Air Forces following his graduation last week from the Camp Curtiss Air Training school, operated by Curtiss-Wright Corporation, airplane division, Buffalo, New York.

As a member of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Detachment stationed at the school, Corporal Hunt has been given specialized instruction in the maintenance and repair of either the famous P-40 pursuit ship, or the C-46 Commando, the largest twin motored cargo ship in the world in preparation for service with a skilled ground crew.

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United States Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida, June 7.—Lowell W. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Brown of near Bogota, recently graduated from the Aviation Machinist's Mate school here. He enlisted in the Marines, September 18, 1942, and was sent to San Diego, California, for indoctrinal training before being transferred to the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Jacksonville.

He is now a qualified aviation mechanic and will probably see service with a Marine aviation detachment.

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Lawrence "Mud" Lee, arrived home Friday for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Ed Lee of Newton. He is coxswain (third class boatswain's mate) on a submarine chaser and has been doing convoy duty in the South Atlantic. Besides his regular rating he has a specialty rating as an "expert rifleman" in the Navy. He likes the



Navy fine, but says when it's all over he is coming back to Jasper county.

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Private Eugene H. Hartrich writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand L. Hartrich of Sainte Marie, that he is well although he recently had his ankle injured. He is in North Africa with an anti-aircraft artillery regiment. He said he used an axe handle for a crutch. He has seen some fine Arabian horses and would like to bring one of them home with him.

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Corporal Eugene Michl is spending a seven days' furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Michl. He is in the Third Armored division at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, near Harrisburg, and says they have been having small arms practice recently. He was interested in the double egg at the Press office, which was found by his parents recently.

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Sergeant Lou E. Mascher, who has been an instructor at Chicago radio school for the past eight months, has been sent to Kearns field, Utah, a ferry command and bomber supply base. There he expects to make the Army Transport command. Sergeant Mascher with 220 other instructors from the Chicago school has been ordered into foreign service.

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Private Robert Scott is spending a furlough with his mother, Mrs. Mattie Scott of Newton. He is connected with a tank repair battalion and says they have trucks whose motors are as large as a small room to handle the twenty to seventy ton tanks and their equipment. They go out and haul them in for repair.

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Lieutenant (s. g.) Harold G. Leffler of Newton has been transferred from New York City to Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he is in charge of the United States Navy Training unit for V-12 trainees at Wabash college. He has recently completed a course at Columbia university, New York City.

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Private Bobby L. Bower is spending a short furlough with his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Bower of Newton. He is in a Military Police battalion and is stationed close to New York City. He frequently hears the tramp of soldiers as they go aboard ship for transfer overseas.

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Staff Sergeant Charles Schiller is spending a few days with relatives near Willow Hill. He wears three campaign bars, showing service before Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. He is a member of the 676th Tank Destroyer battalion cadre at North Camp Hood, Texas.

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Victor Fehrenbacher, who is in the armed forces, has been visiting relatives and friends in the vicinity of Wendelin, the past week.

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Corporal Lowell Cramer, is visiting his wife at Newton for a few days. He is enroute from Fort Crook, Nebraska, to Paris, Texas, where he will attend an engine school.

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Ralph Ochs of Newton is now in Australia, according to letters received from him.