



With the Colors

May 28
1943

John Maxwell writes from Camp Cooke, California, where he is an Army cook: "I am very sorry I haven't written sooner, but you know the Army. We have been doing lots of field work and as we are close to the ocean, we are on the alert one week in every month and the rest of the time I am kept busy.

"We have two new cooks, and I am teaching them how to bake and if I don't watch, I believe one by the name of Adams from New Jersey will be teaching me. I just got three letters and the Newton Press and to show you how much the boys in the service appreciate the Press, I put my letters to one side, and the first letter I saw in 'With the Colors' was one from Roy Woods. I see where Frank Worthey is home.

"Well, all I can say is if Frank fights in the Navy like he use to playing ball it won't be long until he has the Germans and Japs whipped. Tell him I said hello. I am looking for an air mail letter from Roy Woods as I just wrote him. Jesse Wells was over a couple of weeks ago and he said he had sent for the Press. "I see where John Connor is in the Navy. There are four boys here from Jasper county, so I see them every once in a while and we talk about old Jasper very often. I got a letter from Martha (Mrs. Charles Holt, his sister) and she said the river was up.

"Well, just so it doesn't dry up, because after the war I hope my old bunch can get together for a week and talk this war over. I have been on the range and I got three medals, one for the .45 Colt pistol, one for .30 caliber machine guns, one for the new army carbine. Would I ever like to have one of those carbines. They're a real gun. You can't miss with them.

"What happened to Kenneth Wilson and John Hauk? I haven't heard from them for some time."

Dean F. Fehrenbacher, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Fehrenbacher of Dundas vicinity, is a member of the first basic pre-meteorology class to study at Hamilton college, Clinton, New York, under the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command program to train weather officers for Army Air Forces combat units.

On completion of the twelve month course at Hamilton, Dean will be eligible to attend one of five universities conducting advanced meteorology courses under AAF Technical Training Command supervision. When he graduates from the advanced course, he will be commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces and assigned to a tactical unit of the AAF to provide pilots with valuable weather information.

Students, chosen on the basis of their aptitude for mathematics, are high school graduates with at least two years of mathematics and one year of science. At Hamilton they receive the equivalent of five years of college mathematics during the one-year course, in addition to other sciences and pertinent subjects.

A graduate of Olney high school, Dean was attending the University of Illinois at the time of his enlistment.

Private Donnace Emery, who is in Company C, 372nd Engineer regiment, is now in Dumas, Arkansas, helping with the flood control. They have the first battalion of the 372nd there.

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Notification of his promotion to the rank of captain from first lieutenant has just been received here by Francis A. Richards, who resided at 216 South Van Buren street, Newton, before entering the Army.

Captain Richards, who taught chemistry at the University of Nevada at Reno, until January, 1941, when he began his Army career, was born and raised in Newton, a son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Richards. Following his graduation from Newton Community high school in 1935, Captain Richards attended the University of Illinois, and received his bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Nevada in 1942, after his entrance into the armed forces.

His first promotion was from second lieutenant to first lieutenant, occurring September 10, 1942. Official date of his promotion to captain was May 4, 1943. He has been stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, the principal post of the Chemical Warfare Service, in which branch he holds his commission. His duties at this post have been mainly with the internal security and intelligence division, a strategic department of any military establishment.

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Miss Elnora L. Fasnacht of Route Five, Newton, has been commissioned a third officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She was selected for officer training on the basis of her ability and record of work as an auxiliary in the WAAC. Third Officer is the WAAC equivalent of second lieutenant.

She will be assigned to an executive position immediately taking over a non-combatant Army job releasing a soldier for combat duty, or participating in the expanded WAAC training program, which eventually will replace a full field Army with trained womanpower in behind the lines Army jobs.

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Edmund B. "Speck" Orr, who is on a Southwest Pacific island, writes: "To one and all who so kindly remembered me with a birthday greetings, I want to sincerely thank you. I wish I could thank you personally, but I can't do it. I am o. k. and feeling fine. Again I thank you one and all for the nice cards. Will be seeing you all again."

Sergeant Leonard Shedlebower of Camp Roberts, California, and Private Ferdinand Shedlebower of Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, left Saturday morning to return to camp after spending their furloughs with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Shedlebower of Sainte Marie.

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Second Lieutenant and Mrs. Donald Weber left for Fort Riley, Kansas, today, after spending a few days leave at Newton with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weber of Newton, and her parents at Robinson. He will report to an officers' casual group for assignment to some cavalry unit in the United States Army. Don was commissioned last week after completing a course of training in the Officers' Candidate school at Fort Riley. He said that ninety out of one hundred twenty-three men in his class were commissioned, the oldest being a 48 year old lieutenant from World war I.

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Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Wayne Lytle are spending a fourteen day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Lytle of Newton vicinity. Wayne was recently invalided home from North Africa after being wounded and suffering from shell shock, and has been at an Army hospital at Louisville, Kentucky. This is his second visit home since his arrival from the front and he looks and feels much better. He says he is sleeping fine now.

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Second Lieutenant Leland Conley is leaving today after a week's leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Conley of Newton. He will return to Camp Carson, Colorado, by way of Chicago. He expects his division to be sent overseas in the near future, as it completed its training schedule on April 30.

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Private First Class James McCoy is leaving for Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, after a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCoy of Hunt City vicinity. He is in the 132nd division, and may have some trouble getting back because of the high water in Arkansas and Louisiana.

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Private Arthur Lobmier, who was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident, supposedly in the Aleutian Islands, is showing a slight improvement, a message received by his brother, Frank J. Lobmier of Newton, from the War Department states.

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Private Arthur Lytle has returned from Kankakee, where he spent several days. He is here on furlough from Keesler field, Biloxi, Mississippi, where he is an instructor in the Army Air Force Technical school.

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Private Ralph E. Watkins was a week end visitor with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Watkins of near Newton. Ralph is attending an Air Force Technical school at Chanute field, Rantoul.

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Master Sergeant Dwight Huddleston is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Huddleston of Yale vicinity. He is in the medical detachment of the Twentieth Armored division at Camp Campbell,

Private R. F. Ratcliff was in Newton, this week, visiting friends. He is home on a furlough from an Army camp at Salt Lake City, Utah, and just looks fine.

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Corporal Norman E. Nicholas of West Liberty is now in Company D, 485th Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Air Warning battalion, at Camp Hulen, Texas.

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Private First Class Harlan Seesengood is leaving today after a ten days furlough with his wife at Newton. He is stationed at Scott field, Belleville.

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Corporal Jerome P. Schmidt, who is now in North Africa, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Schmidt of Newton that he arrived there May 11.

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Private Forrest Kinsel has been transferred from Camp Kearns, Utah to Lowry field, Denver, Colorado.