



## With the Colors

May 7, 1943

Private James McCoy writes from Camp Claiborne, Louisiana: "I decided to drop you a few lines to let you know I am receiving my Press o. k. and to let the folks up there in Jasper know how I am getting along down here in the 'sunny south.' Between now and the last time I wrote you my basic training ended. I am now taking some advanced training.

"I expect to get a furlough starting May 16 and ending the May 28. I certainly will be glad when that day rolls around. It will be over six months since I have been home. I shouldn't kick, though, as many of the boys are so far away and so busy taking care of the Japs and Germans they can't even think of a furlough. Anyway it's going to please me very much to set foot on Illinois soil again.

"The weather down here is like July up there in Illinois. It gets nice and cool at nights, however.

"I heard the president last night. He sure has a difficult situation upon his hands. If you want a soldier's viewpoint about John L. Lewis, I think he is a very dangerous man to have running loose while a serious war is going on, in which the outcome either spells life or death for our freedom. If this is his way of 'getting even' with President Roosevelt, then I think it's an underhanded dirty trick to pull at a critical time such as we are in now.

"I understand that it is necessary that there be a union and that's all well and good, but there is such a thing as carrying it a little too far. In this case much, much too far. He is taking the sting out of all our victories and will continue to do so if he isn't stopped. There is surely some way of dealing with men like him. I'll drop the politics, but this being on my mind, I had to get it off my chest. Most all the fellows think the same way.

"Next Sunday being Mother's day, our thoughts turn to the real hero of them all. Living or dead she will be foremost in our minds this week and next Sunday. We are all grateful that we have the chance to fight so our mothers can once again live in a world of peace and continue breathing the air of freedom in this great land of America.

"I close now and send my regards to all."

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Private Paul O. Baker has been promoted to the rank of private first class at the Dyersburg, Tennessee, Army Air Base. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Baker of Yale.

He attended the Oblong high school and graduated in 1942. He entered the Army in November and has been stationed at Dyersburg since December.

One of the newest in the Army Air Forces chain of bases which are training and equipping men and planes for the "victory offensive" in the several theaters of combat, the Dyersburg base has been built in the cotton fields of West Tennessee.

Here the men of the Air Force keep planes flying night and day to speed the time when ships will head east, west, north and south to dump their loads of TNT on enemy forces.

Operating on the theory that all work and no play makes a poor soldier, the base is well equipped with recreational facilities, and three nearby towns have developed USO centers. Included on the base are a new gymnasium, a modern theater showing the latest and best sound pictures, several post exchanges, a chapel, a station hospital, and completely furnished "day" rooms for each squadron where soldiers may read, play and relax in their off moments.

Private Charles Schackmann, who is in the United States Army Air Force, is home on ten days' sick leave. He is stationed in the Catskill mountains in Northern, New York, and has recently been in the hospital with pneumonia. He caught a cold enroute from Florida to New York and this developed into pneumonia. He says the food is good and he'll soon regain the twenty-seven pounds he lost while in the hospital.

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First Lieutenant and Mrs. Kent L. Wattleworth and little son David Kent are visiting his parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Wattleworth of Newton. Dr. Kent is a flight surgeon with the Third Observation squadron, United States Army Air Force at Keystone Heights, Florida, and expects to be sent across in the near future. He is well and looks fine.

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Captain and Mrs. Homer Kasser-

man are here on leave from Oakland, California, where he is stationed at the United States Army Quartermaster Corps overseas base. He looks fine and appears to be heavier, although he says he isn't. It is the first time he has been back since he went into the Army a year ago. Captain Kasserman is a veteran of the last war and has a son, Private Homer Kasserman Jr., in the Army Air Force.

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Private First Class Howard D. Chesnut, Company G, 123rd Infantry, Thirty-third division, Los Angeles, California, a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Chesnut of South Muddy township.

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Mrs. Emma Carlton of Willow Hill has received a letter from her son, Private Edmond B. "Speck" Orr, who is somewhere in the Southwest Pacific, stating he was o. k. and to tell all his friends hello. He said he had received six copies of the Press all at one time and added "Boy, was I ever glad to get them, I think I read every word in them, even the want ads."

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Lowell T. Drake of Los Angeles, California, is stationed as Arlington, California. Arlington is an induction center and is sixty-five miles from Los Angeles, where his wife, their baby son, Lynne Eldon, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred F. Drake reside. He began his service in the Army, March 20, 1943.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thompson of Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Machinist's Mate James Edward Thompsan, United States Navy Air Force, stating that his squadron had moved into huts on a Southwest Pacific island. They had been living in tents and now find the mosquitoes less bothersome.

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Mr. and Mrs. Louis Worthey of Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Frank Worthey, stating that he was starting home on furlough today. He has been in the United States Navy for several years and has been seeing much action in the Pacific ocean against the Japs ever since Pearl Harbor.

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