



With the Colors

Nov. 12, 1943

Staff Sergeant Bruce Gorrell, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gorrell of Olney, formerly of Bogota, writes from England: "We still have good eats and really we have no reason to complain in any way, as one cannot expect things here to be like they were in the states. One can understand why we are fighting for the good old U. S. A. after one is over here. Of course we are on rations, but everyone is nowadays, but we have all we need.

"Our weather here is somewhat different than Illinois, but we are getting used to it, as one finds many things that he must get used to anywhere he goes.

"I went to the Westminster Abbey, where I attended church. The rites there are mixed and I thought the sermon was good. The place itself is very old as it was started around 1065, but I don't know when it was completed. One must see it to realize how sacred it is. I also went through St. Paul's cathedral and it was really interesting, and it is also a treasure within itself. I saw the tower of London, White Hall, the Royal mint, Victoria and Albert museum, Imperial Institute, Queen Victoria memorial, Buckingham palace, the Albert hall, the House of Parliament, where the famous Big Ben clock you have heard strike the hour over the radio, the admiralty, the tower bridge that crosses the Thames river, the custom house and the White club, which is the richest and most famous club in London.

"The changing of the guards at Buckingham palace is really a ceremony to see and I enjoyed it all. I also rode the double deck bus and the underground trains and also the taxis. We had a guide who had an open air taxi pulled by a horse and seven of us went on the tour. Right down the heart of London and the people really got a kick out of us in the taxi wagon. It had three rows of seats, which nine could crowd in, rubber tires, rubber running board and it was painted black and red, with a black horse pulling it.

"The parks with memorials in them were worth seeing. One must see all of this to appreciate what mankind has built."

Second Lieutenant Leon D. Goldsmith writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell O. Goldsmith of Wakefield vicinity, from Northern Ireland: "There isn't really a lot of news, other than what you get by way of the newspapers and radio. In view of the fact that I have a rather meager scope of subjects, I may repeat myself and you may find different ones of my letters containing the same things.

"We were able to promote a radio and that is really a big source of entertainment. We get the local news and news from the states. We also get some very good music. I have listened to the London Philharmonic orchestra several times. We also hear music that is all-American—records from some of the popular orchestras and bands in the states.

"Last night we listened to "Command Performance," a program dedicated to the armed forces, which originated in the United States. One thing noticeably absent from the radio programs is the advertising.

"It gets cool here despite the fact the grass is always green and the flowers are still blooming. It is said the people here always expect to have a bouquet of roses to grace the table on Christmas day. The long growing season is, of course, due to the climate being influenced by the Gulf stream that originates along the Florida coast and brings the warm water across the ocean up along the British isles.

"So far I have had very little contact with the local folks, but they seem a very cheerful and friendly people. I hope I'm not confronted with anything to cause me to change that opinion. By now I feel that I'm about to be promoted to the fifth grade in the subject of money of the English variety. It is quite different from our system. For example, a haircut costs me one shilling and six pence, which is equivalent to 30 cents. The crown (\$1.00), the pound (\$4.03), shilling (20 cents), penny (2 cents), and two (shillings) and six (pence) or the half crown (50 cents) are some of the pieces we have to deal with."

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Aviation Cadet Paul W. Vanatta writes: "I have now been transferred to Avon Park for my primary training. This is really a beautiful place and I don't mean maybe. They refer to this primary school as "the Coun-

try Club of the Air Corps." They've not kidding either.

"We have very nice barracks, good food and a beautiful lake 100 feet away for either rowing, swimming or fishing. The latter is poor.

"My address is: Aviation Cadet Paul W. Vanatta, Flight A-1, Class 44E, 61st FDT - AAFCPS (P), Avon Park, Florida."

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Sergeant Eugene E. Hall recently of Camp Forrest, Tennessee, is here for a fifteen day furlough with his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Hall. His company is now moving to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, where he will go at the termination of his furlough. He is in the headquarters company.

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Berl Ives was a week end guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ives of Hunt City, enroute to New York City. Berl, who was an original member of the cast of the play, "This Is the Army," has been discharged from the service and is returning to New York to reengage in radio work.

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Mrs. Maggie Semple of Newton received a letter from her great-grandson, Albert Levitt, saying he was well and happy and would be seeing her when the war was over or maybe sooner. Albert is in the Navy serving aboard ship somewhere in the Atlantic.

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Dale M. King, seaman second class, is here from the Naval Training Station at Farragut, Idaho, spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ona King of Falmouth vicinity.

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Sergeant Sylvan Robards is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ohmer Robards. He is stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and has a fourteen day furlough.

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Word has been received from Private Kenneth E. Eck, that he has landed somewhere in England and says he is fine and likes it very well.

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Irvin Roberts, who is in the Navy, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Roberts of Newton.