



## With the Nov. 2, Colors 1943

Seaman Second Class Virginia, Ann Graham, Waves, writes the Press from Washington, D. C.: "I will try to write you a few things about how we Navy girls live, but I am not good at writing letters.

"We call the floors the deck, the rooms the barracks, the walls bulkheads, the beds bunks, and the kitchen the galley. It really seems funny to talk that way and you would laugh at us back home and probably wouldn't know what we were talking about.

"Last Sunday was Navy day and it was really a wonderful day to us. We had all women's services out to our barracks and we all marched together and sang songs to each other. After parade and program we held open house. Visitors could come in and see our new barracks (home to you people). I have something very interesting to tell you people.

"Tuesday morning I was reading the Newton Press in the lunch room, and a man kept looking at me and the paper. I couldn't imagine what was wrong. Finally he came over and asked me if I was from Newton, Illinois, and I said 'yes'. He was Ogle Burris, an employe of the Naval Observatory here, father of Robert and Mary Burris, whom you all know. Robert is in the Navy now.

"Mr. Burris did not know my name. It was really swell to talk to some one from back home, from good old Illinois and to talk about the people we both know. I met a man from Effingham and he knew my brother-in-law over there.

"I was sick for a couple or three days and part of it might be homesickness, but I am getting along pretty good. I really miss you all and wish I could come home soon, but have my doubts. I wish you would all write and I would do my best to answer. I hope this finds you all well and you all be careful.

"We in the service, as well as you, hope this war will soon be over and we can be coming home again. I am studying for my rating."

Her address is Virginia Ann Graham, Waves Quarters G, Room 209, Florida Hall, Arlington, Virginia.

Corporal Fred M. Hoecherl, who is in Sicily with a Field Artillery battalion, writes his mother, Mrs. Paul Hoecherl of Willow Hill vicinity: "I received six letters today and my tent partner, Tony, got two. I sleep under his part of the tent and he sleeps under mine. His part leaks and mine don't. You see it takes two shelter halves buttoned together to make a complete tent. He wanted to sleep under the left side, so that put him under my half.

"I saw farmers going to the field this morning, packing plows on their backs, so you can imagine about how heavy they are. There isn't much to them and they are made of wood. They had a boat dragging along. I told the boys that 'I wish my dad could see those plows and the way they plow and work the ground.'

"One thing about this country. You don't worry about shucking corn, because they don't raise any. I haven't seen any peas or soy beans over here, either.

"For dinner today we had canned chicken, dehydrated potatoes, butter beans, catsup, bread, apple butter and mixed canned fruit. We have a shortage of sugar the same as you but it don't worry us any."

Three Newton young men reported for duty in Navy schools, Monday. These were George Bevis, who has been here on a furlough from Indiana State Teachers' college at Terre Haute, after he had completed sixteen weeks there, Glenn Sunderland Jr., who went to Illinois State Normal university, Bloomington, and Edward Foltz Jr., who went to Purdue university, Lafayette, Indiana.

George and Ed were both enlisted as Naval aviation cadets under section V-5, but have been transferred to V-12, general officers' training, for their special schooling. They will probably be transferred later to the aviation training groups for induction as pilots. Because the ocean has no landmarks, Naval aviators must be better navigators than airmen operating over land and their schooling takes longer.

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Corporal Dayrel Stortzum writes from Camp Claiborne, Louisiana: "I just received the Newton Press here at camp and the first thing I look for is 'With the Colors'. I see where there are lots of my pals from Jasper county are across. Tell Corporal John H. Maxwell to just add another one to his list of four going overseas,

making it five, counting myself.

"I sure would like to hear from some of my soldier pals. I am working on caterpillar tractors now. It is actual experience and an interesting job also a future in it for later on. Well so long pals and friends. Write to a lonesome soldier.

"My address is: Corporal Dayrel Stortzum, 686th Provisional Training regiment, Camp Claiborne, Louisiana."

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Private Loren Waymoth, who is a medical detachment in Alaska writes: "I wish to thank my friends there in good old Jasper county for the swell cards I received from them. I got a lot of pleasure looking over them. It sure means a lot, for a soldier to get mail and especially overseas.

"We get to see several shows here, and they are shown here as soon as in the states. In fact I just got back from seeing 'Coney Island.' That just about makes up the entertainment we have, except for two USO shows that have been here.

"I hope everything around there is fine, and here's waiting for the time we'll all be back."

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Dale Smallwood, who recently enlisted in the Air Force, left Camp Grant October 9 for Keesler field, Biloxi, Mississippi. Since being there he has passed his tests and is ready for his basic training. He passed the test for flying duty and was put in class I for pilot training. He says the weather is swell and likes it very much. His address is Private Dale Smallwood, 58th Training squadron 117, Keesler Field, Mississippi.

Dale is a son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Smallwood of Chicago, formerly of Newton, and is a brother of Harold Smallwood of this city.

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Mr. and Mrs. John R. O'Dell of Yale received the following letter from their son, Joseph O'Dell: "I am all right, I had a pretty nice trip coming across, although it got pretty tiresome. This is the first time I have had time to write or I mean the first chance.

"I reckon Don is still in Florida. I haven't received any mail since I have been in India but suppose I will before long. Tell everybody hello for me. This isn't such a bad place here, so don't worry. I hope to be back home before too long."

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Kenneth S. Adkins, seaman second class, spent a seven day furlough with his wife, Charlotte, in Santa Barbara, California, recently. Kenneth completed his boot training at San Diego and has been placed in the United States Naval Hospital Corps school. He says Navy life is swell and that he gained twelve pounds the first six weeks.

Mrs. Adkins is employed as a receiving clerk and typist in an essential industry at Santa Barbara.

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Corporal Andrew Chapman writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Chapman of near Newton, from Sicily, where he is with the United States Army. He says he is well and hopes to be home by Easter. He added that cigarettes are scarce there.

He participated in several battles during the conquest of Sicily. The letter was written September 30.

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James Harold Dunnigan, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold U. Dunnigan of Newton, has applied for enlistment in the Navy. Quite a few lads of 17 years old are taking advantage of the United States Naval Reserve enlistments and the opportunity for getting into one of the Navy's forty-nine trades, Ray E. Everly stated Monday.

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Daniel A. Beals of Montrose, who is attached to a Naval Construction battalion (Seabees) in the Aleutians, has been promoted to machinist's mate first class, in recognition of his ability in his work, his devotion to duty and the part he played in the military operations in the Aleutians.

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John W. Utley, a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Utley of near Newton has been promoted to sergeant.

His address is Sergeant John W. Utley, Battery B, 555th AAA AW Battalion (M. BL.), APO 403-A, care Postmaster, Shreveport, Louisiana.

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William Ray Bunton, a son of Ben Bunton of near Newton, went to Springfield, Monday, to take his final examination for enlistment in the Navy.

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Corporal Leo LaFief has returned to Wendover, Utah, after spending a fifteen day furlough with his wife and daughter at Newton.

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Mrs. Edith Utley received word that her husband, Private Logan E. Utley, has landed safely overseas.

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Sergeant Bertrand Richards has been given a discharge from the Army, after being hospitalized at Camp Grant and Camp Custer, Mich-

igan, following complications resulting from influenza. He is expected home soon.