



With the Colors

Nov. 23, 1943

Private Roy Woods writes the Press from "Somewhere in the Southwest Pacific" under date of November 8: "It has been quite some time since I have written to you, and since I had an hour or so leisure time this afternoon I thought I would try to scribble a few lines.

"I am still getting the Press fairly regularly. It is quite a treat to receive it. There is always a lot of news to read in it that my folks and my wife don't have space to write me about. I had a pleasant surprise last Thursday evening. I was reading an old magazine and thinking of home when Marion Burcham Jr. walked into the tent. I knew he was on the island, but didn't know where.

"He is a radioman gunner on a Mitchell B-25 medium bomber. He is doing a swell job. He was headed for Australia for a few days furlough. I hope to see him again in a few days when he gets back from Australia. It was only the second time since being overseas that I had seen anyone from home. The other one was Vern Kittle, whose parents live neighbors to my folks down close to Shamrock.

"We are beginning to have summer in earnest here again now. My wife and folks write that it has begun to get pretty cool on that side of the equator now. It sure would be nice if we could get a few degrees of it down this way. Anyway I have something to write about that the people there can't. I have a small garden planted. I have been having radishes for quite some time and hope to have tomatoes and watermelons before long.

"If the folks around home think meat rationing is tough and the price a little high, here is one that I think will top the prices there. Yesterday one of the fellows from my outfit was in a native village and tried to buy a pig that weighed about twenty pounds. The native said sure he would sell, and said, 'Give me ten pounds and take the pig.' Ten pounds is equal to about \$32.20. One dollar and sixty-one cents per pound on the hoof isn't bad. I guess the farmers around home would like to get those kind of prices for hogs.

"We get pretty good coverage on the news down here. I think we can look for Germany to fold up this winter. It will take quite a bit longer to rout the Japs off these islands. I noticed in one issue of the Press, (July 16 issue) that the old timers said that hunting Japs and squirrels was about the same. My advice to the squirrel hunters would be not to bank too much on that.

"I have been squirrel hunting several times and I never saw one that would shoot back at me. Besides I think we should have more respect for the squirrels than to make a comparison between the two. It seems like I have gabbed about long enough, so will give this the old clock treatment and wind it up. Give my regards to all."

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Private Ralph C. Schackmann of near Newton has been accepted for pre-flight pilot training by the United States Army Air Corps and has been sent to the San Antonio, Texas, Aviation Cadet Training center. He was previously attached to a Military Intelligence unit at Camp Maxey, Texas.

Ralph is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schackmann of northeast of Newton. They have three other sons in the Armed services, Clarence F. Schackmann, United States Naval Training Station at Farragut, Idaho, Joseph L. Schackmann, United States Army, now overseas, and Herman E. Schackmann, United States Army, Sheppard field, Wichita Falls, Texas.

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Corporal Jacob D. Finn writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Flinn of Latona vicinity, from somewhere overseas in the European theatre: "I just got back from dinner. We had steak, mashed potatoes and gravy. It sure was good and I was hungry. We played games this morning and I don't know yet what we'll do this afternoon."

"I've never received any mail since I've been here; I don't think any of the boys have, but it'll come. We have a nice PX (post exchange). We can buy beer, ice cream sundaes, doughnuts and everything just like we used to have at Scott field. I had my hair cut last night and I look like Uncle Ura Stroud now."

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Captain J. Hal Connor, and his son J. Hal Connor Jr., an Air Corps cadet at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, are now both in the Army. Captain Connor, a son of County Superintendent of Highways S. A. Connor of Newton,

is on leave of absence from the Northern Illinois Teachers' college at DeKalb, where he is head of the English department, and young Hal was a student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, when he enlisted. Captain Connor was a lieutenant in World war I and received the Croix de Guerre with silver star for bravery in France.

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Private Joseph W. Klingler, who has been stationed in Alaska for the past twenty-eight months, has been home on a twenty day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Klingler of near Wakefield. He will return to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he has been assigned to the Fourth Infantry.

Private Leo Klingler, who is stationed with the Air Corps at Chanute field, Rantoul, also spent a few days visiting his parents.

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Private and Mrs. Paul Jones have been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones of Wade township and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Jones of Wheeler. Private Jones is in one of the Armored divisions and has been moved from Texas to Virginia. Mrs. Jones will reside at Blackstone, Virginia. She is the former Wilma Lewis.

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Private First Class Austin E. Dorn has returned to his battery in the 485th AAA (Air Warning) battalion, after a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dorn of near Bogota. He surprised them when he arrived. The battalion is on desert maneuvers near Los Angeles, California.

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Private First Class Coy K. Ellison has been here on a furlough from Fort Lewis, Washington, visiting his mother, Mrs. Ina Ellison of Olney and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kirts, a relative of Sainte Marie and his girl friend, Miss Maybelle Andrews of Newton and friends.

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James H. Dunnigan is now at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, where he is taking his "boot" training. He will probably get a chance to try out for foot ball and basket ball teams. He likes the Navy fine so far, he writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. U. Dunnigan of Newton.

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Sergeant Donald Dufrain has returned to his battery in the 485th Antiaircraft Artillery battalion, after a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Dufrain of Newton. He came and went by airplane.

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As Delmar L. Salyers, 318th College detachment, Logan, Utah, sends us a copy of the 318th Air Scoop, published at Utah State Agricultural college. It has many items about the detachment.

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Lawrence "Mud" Lee has been here on a twenty day furlough with his mother, Mrs. Ed Lee of Newton. He is on a PT boat in the Navy and has been in both the Atlantic and Pacific waters. He is well and feeling fine.

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Private Harry Cornwell has been spending a furlough with his father, Eugene Cornwell of Newton. He is stationed at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, thirty miles south of Indianapolis.

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Private First Class Paul Jean Reep is spending a week's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Verner L. Reep of Newton. He is stationed at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

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Mrs. Paul Brackett of Newton has received a cablegram from overseas from her husband, stating he was "all well and safe."