



With the Colors

Oct. 29,
1942

Staff Sergeant Donald L. Cramer writes the Press from McClellan field, California, where he is in the 303rd Depot Repair squadron, Army Air Force: "Can soldiers have pets in the Army? It sounds like a rather foolish question, doesn't it, but the answer is 'yes.'

"Fortunately our squadron fell heir to two nice dogs. Maybe I should say instead of 'heir,' the little innocent animals were taking their morning walk and we just kidnaped them. Anyway one is black named Furlough, the other is brown and white with a very excellent brown nose. As a result his name is Brown Nose. We did have a cat also named Three Day Pass but being of the more reserved type and not caring for so much company, the little thing disappeared, much to our dislike, in thin air.

"Furlough and Brown Nose keep our morale blooming. They've been with us nearly three months now and share all our blues, homesickness and headaches. Both their shoulders are broad and apparently they understand all our troubles. In addition to all that, they are our bodyguards. It seems as if they knew every soldier in the organization, for if a 'feather merchant' comes by, they begin to storm right now. (A feather merchant is a civilian employe at an Army camp). Only a few days ago a 'feather merchant' was passing by with Furlough and Brown Nose following him and raising holy ned.

"Upon preparing to move to this base from Reno, Nevada, we began to wonder how we would take our stand-bys. No one seemed to know, but at the last minute, Brown Nose was discovered under the coat of a soldier and boarding the plane for the trip. Furlough was a little less fortunate for a ride, for he found himself riding over the mountains in a jeep. What a ride for two little dogs!

"Now our big worry, dear editor, is just how we can take them overseas. Radios have been dismantled and the parts carried across by many different individuals. You know such things are not permitted to go. I'm afraid though the dismantling of two little dogs cannot be considered. Probably our only solution is to lease them to some other organization for their enjoyment until our return.

"Now you see, dear editor, soldiers can have pets. They are a great help too. Don't you think so?"

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Sergeant Lowell Willard Brown, aviation machinist's mate, United States Marine Corps, has returned to Cherry Point, North Carolina, after a ten day furlough. He spent the greater part of his leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Brown of near Newton.

He is now doing mechanical work on planes while waiting on flight training. He is a graduate of the Aviation Mechanics school at Jacksonville, Florida.

Willard appreciated and enjoyed his friends and relatives calling to see him, and the dinners they gave for him. All of his brothers and sisters managed to be home with him. Sergeant Brown, his mother and Mrs. Max McClane left Friday morning for Knightstown, Indiana, where they stayed Friday afternoon and night and visited his two brothers, Henry and Jack Brown, who live there.

Saturday morning Willard took a Navy transport from Stout field, Indianapolis, to Washington, D. C. and took a train from there to his base in North Carolina.

His address is Sergeant Lowell W. Brown, A. E. S. squadron 46, M. C. A. S., Cherry Point, North Caroline.

Victor M. Everett writes his mother, Mrs. Jesse O. Snell of Rose Hill vicinity, from Courtland Army Air field, Courtland, Alabama: "I am down at the flight line. I have to fly tonight and will probably be through around 4:00 o'clock in the morning. We have seven and one-half hours after we finish before we have to meet any formation. The planes here are up in the air almost twenty-four hours a day. Someone is flying every night. I think I will fly every other night.

"I went on a cross county trip this afternoon. I flew for three hours and ten minutes without getting out of the plane, and was really tired when I arrived back here. I guess I was lucky in getting back here. Sometimes some students don't make it back to this field and have to land in some farmer's meadow.

"There were three legs to the trip. I went to three other fields, approximately 320 miles. I didn't find one of these at the correct time. I go

to school three hours a day, and have finished all of the subjects except meteorology or the study of the weather."

*Oct. 29 * * * * 1946*

Private Joseph Gregoire writes from India, where he is in a Quartermaster Truck regiment: "Only a few lines to let you know that we, Dan Diel and Bob Allen, arrived safe in India some time ago.

"All of us are feeling swell and here's hoping all of our good old Jasper county friends are the same.

"As this is the monsoon season, there is plenty of rain about every day. The sun is really hot although I guess it is cool compared to what it will get later on.

"Many things here seem funny to us, but I believe the fact that the Indians carry things on their heads is one of the quaintest. I guess everyone has heard about the sacred cows of India, anyway it is sure the truth except in some places.

"I don't have much time now so I guess this will have to be all until later. I'll close saying that I hope to hear from all of my friends back home."

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Private Ed Faltemier of Sainte Marie writes the Press under date of October 22: "I'm taking this opportunity to thank you for the paper which I'm receiving very regularly. It's about the best morale builder that any soldier can get.

"I see by the Press that the fellows from Jasper county are in all parts of the world. I am in the Hawaiian islands, which at the present time is far from being the paradise which the pictures show it to be. I met Richard Hunzinger, who is also from Sainte Marie. He is assigned to an ordnance group, which has been a very interesting job for Dick and makes time fly by.

"I am an airplane mechanic, which is a very interesting job. After a lot of Army schooling, I am finally putting my knowledge to a much needed benefit."

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Corporal Virgil Bliss is here on a furlough with his mother, Mrs. Cecil Jones of Newton, who is critically ill, and his wife and baby. He has been on an island in the Aleutians with the Alaskan Defense Command for more than a year, but expects to be sent to school in the United States.

He says the weather in the Aleutians is all that is said about it. It has never been zero since he was there, but there is constant fog. The plane he came on had to take off in an impenetrable fog.

His island has been very peaceful, with no Jap air raids, and he says the morale of the boys is high, although some of them have been there for three years without a furlough.

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Sergeant Ralph R. White of Rose Hill vicinity has arrived at the Greensboro, North Carolina, Basic Training Center of the Army Air Forces Eastern Technical Training Command, where he will undergo a course in physical conditioning and instruction in military fundamentals.

Before entering the Army last March he was teacher of the Wilson school in Jasper county and had attended the Eastern Illinois State Teachers college at Charleston.

*Oct. 29 * * * 1946*

LaDonne Mitchell, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Frank Mitchell of near Newton, has been promoted to seaman first class, United States Navy. He is stationed at Washington, D. C.

Voris L. Henderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bland Henderson of Grove township, has been promoted to gunner's mate third class, United States Navy, after completion of a training course at Great Lakes Naval Training Station and is awaiting orders to be sent to sea for duty.

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Private Jyles H. Bales writes from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, that he is being transferred to Camp Carson, Colorado, where he will be in a Quartermaster Pack Company. "I've been in Oklahoma for three months. I've taken a course in horseshoeing, and am leaving today to join my old troop at Camp Carson, Colorado.

"My address will be Private First Class Jyles H. Bales, 252nd Quartermaster Pack Company, APO 360, Camp Carson, Colorado."

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Corporal Arthur Lobmier, who was severely injured in the American attack on Attu island in the Aleutians, and who has been in an Army hospital at Walla Walla, Washington, recently, is expected home in a short time. He received a back injury when a shell or bomb explosion overturned the jeep in which he and several others were riding. He is much better now.

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Mrs. Robert Rugh of Clarion, Pennsylvania, is spending a couple of months with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Batman of Newton, while her husband is undergoing special training in the Navy. Lieutenant (junior grade) Rugh was manager of the Clarion plant of the

(Continued on Page Five)



With the Oct. 29, Colors 1943

(Continued from Page Four)

Owens-Illinois Glass Company and has entered the Navy as an engineer office.

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Christopher M. Mineo, water tender, second class, United States Navy, has returned after a recent eight day furlough with his mother, Mrs. Martha Mineo of Willow Hill vicinity. He has been decorated for participation in the battle of Pearl Harbor and two campaigns against the Japs, having enlisted in the Navy prior to our entry into the war.

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Paul Raef of Kankakee has received a letter from his brother, Maurice Raef, who is with the United States Army in North Africa, stating that he has been promoted from corporal to sergeant. He added that he likes it fine there and has been seeing a lot of country. He asked that all his friends be told hello.

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James and Don Brotzman of Sterling Colorado, grand-sons of Mrs. A. P. Kittle of Newton, are both in the Army and Don is now in the Southwest Pacific. They are sons of Mrs. Harry Brotzman, the former Ruth Kittle, and have visited here several times.

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Kenneth Jones has returned to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia, after a visit with his wife and family at Newton. He is in the Seabees and expects to be sent overseas in the near future.

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Private First Class Forrest Farley has been moved to Fort Sheridan. He says he likes it fine there. His address is Private First Class Forrest Farley, 1662nd Service unit, Barracks 650, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

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Private First Class John F. Cummins has returned to camp after a short visit with his mother, Mrs. Saidee Cummins. He is at Camp Ashby, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

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Wayne Sowers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Sowers of Wheeler, has received an honorable discharge from the Army.