



With the Colors

Sept. 28,
1943

Private Bobby L. Bower writes the Press from Iran, under date of September 10:

"As I have written you before from India, I thought it would be interesting to all of you that John Flanagan and I are now in Persia or Iran, as it is now known. First I want to thank all of my friends for the letters received from you. Although they were two months old, they sure mean a lot to a fellow over here.

"I really had a field day yesterday on letters, receiving some fifty-five, mostly from home, but also from other friends.

"It is very warm here and was 145 degrees Fahrenheit, I judge, yesterday, so if you folks back home are suffering at 90 degrees, that is cool. The natives here too are very queer and are very dirty and most of them have body lice or some other disease, so you sure don't know how to appreciate good old United States and especially good old Newton.

"There is a lot of fruit in this country, mostly dates and figs, and you could pick them from the trees if you cared to. The money here reminds me of wallpaper and would decorate a house very nice. The lowest value is reils, which is about three cents in American money. The water to drink here is very warm so we soldiers buy jugs made from clay, which cools the water at all times and helps very much. I haven't received any Presses as yet, but am sure looking forward to it and when I do the whole company will want to read it. That is the way it is. We get so hungry for something to read.

"I think John Howard Ross is in this nitch of the world so he can sure verify what Flanagan and I have said. The eats are very good here and we also have rationing on cigarettes, candy and gum.

"Where are some of the boys now? I haven't heard for so long, I have lost track of them. How are those Cardinals coming out? I know they will win the series. Well, I just heard the whistle blow for chow so that means some more good eats and I sure can stand it tonight.

"Hoping this letter finds all of you in the best of health and all of you write when you have time."

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Corporal Arthur Lobmier, who is being treated at the United States General hospital at Walla Walla, Washington, following serious injuries received in the American conquest of Attu island in the Aleutians, writes Raymond Gaede, commander of Jasper post, American Legion, of Newton, of which he is a member as a veteran of the first World war, enclosing \$3.00 dues:

"Lieutenant H. B. Henninger Jr., who lived near Love Ford, is a mess officer here. He just gave me a large roll of Newton papers. I read the Presses. I don't get around so well yet, but I am starting in growling again and that's a good sign I will be better soon.

"The men in this hospital are young. It is their first time at striking the enemy, but I find them hard to beat in telling wild stories. I used to try to tell a wilder tale but now I just smile and let them blow like the whales do.

"I would like to see all the members of the post but maybe next year I will be with you again. On my rounds in the Aleutians I stepped across a stream at night and something hit me on the leg. I noticed the fish were feeding up in the fresh water, so I dropped in an old bag and came out with about twenty pounds the first grab."

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Lead and copper "mining" is currently under way at Chanute field branch of the Army Air Forces Training Command. Scene of operations is the post pistol range, where the protective mound of dirt behind the targets has been removed to a depth of four feet and the metal is being screened out.

Lieutenant William G. Baldwin of Houston, Texas, director of the school of small arms firing, estimates used bullets will yield fifteen tons of lead and copper for salvage. Soldiers will screen the dirt before completing the salvage. Lieutenant Baldwin claims thirty-five to forty pounds of dirt yields twenty to twenty-five pounds of lead.

The salvaged metal is no indication of the soldier's marksmanship. Whether the bullets hit the target or miss, they lodge in the mound which has served as a protection since the new range opened several months ago.

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Private Dayrel Stortzum of Newton writes from Camp Claiborne,

Louisiana: "Well, here I am in old Louisiana now. I was sent here from Wyoming a month ago. I sure wish I was back in Illinois.

"No state is like the home state. Tell all the young soldiers when they get in the Army they see lots of country but not a bad life, though they sure aim to make a man out of you; also let you learn a trade.

"I start to school in another week learning to be a diesel mechanic. Tell all my pals and friends to write to a lonesome soldier. This is seventeen miles from any town, so I will look for some fan mail."

His address is Private Dayrel Stortzum, 686th Engineers' Equipment Company, Eighth Provision Training regiment, Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

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Sergeant Donald "Fuzzy" Dufrain writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Dufrain of Newton, that there were three thousand motor vehicles and 20,000 men in desert maneuvers a few days ago in the California desert. It was blackout driving, he said, and they had to get there with maps. When his unit returned to base, they found they had left one man asleep at the last bivouac. He added that they had the trip to make by map and compass and he didn't know how they made it.

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Captain and Mrs. Walter R. Oneal of Madison, Wisconsin, and Rev. and Mrs. J. I. Oneal of Marshall were guests of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Kasserman of Newton, last week. Mrs. Kasserman and Captain Oneal are children of Rev. and Mrs. Oneal. Rev. Mr. Oneal, who was pastor of the Central Church of Christ of Newton a quarter of a century ago, has been seriously ill for the past two years. This is the first time he has been able to visit his daughter in that time.

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Private and Mrs. Richard L. Worcester Jr. returned to Chicago, Sunday, after spending the past week with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Worcester and Sheriff and Mrs. Albert H. Parker of Newton. Dickie is in the Army Special Training unit at the University of Illinois Medical school at Chicago, taking instruction in medicine.

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Sergeant Clarence J. Ochs, son of Mrs. Charles Savoy of Sainte Marie, having demonstrated, through faithful and exact performance of duty, efficiency through capacity to produce desired results, and whose behavior has been such as to deserve emulation, has been awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal.

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Corporal Howard Jourdan is home, having been given a discharge from the Coast Artillery, United States Army. He received punctured drums in both ears recently when a shell in a heavy coast defense gun prematurely exploded in the gun barrel. Eight out of fifteen men in the gun crew were discharged because of injuries.

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Lieutenant Fred B. Alcorn, son of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Alcorn of Newton, has been transferred from Colton, California, to the Port of Embarkation, Boston, Massachusetts. His wife, Lieutenant Minnie Alcorn, Army Nurse Corps, is stationed at Charleston, South Carolina.

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Private First Class J. E. Nichols Jr., who has been home on hospital leave from Fort Custer, Michigan, returned Thursday. After a twenty-four hour check up there he left for Bradley field, Connecticut, where he will receive his basic training.

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Ensign Florent J. Schuch is now in California, receiving advanced flight training in a Navy Patrol bomber. He graduated from the Naval Air station at Pensacola, Florida, and was commissioned an ensign and was ordered to the Pacific coast.

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Private James Rubsam returned to Camp Crowder, Missouri, Sunday, after spending a four days' leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rubsam of Newton. He is attending a Radio school there.

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