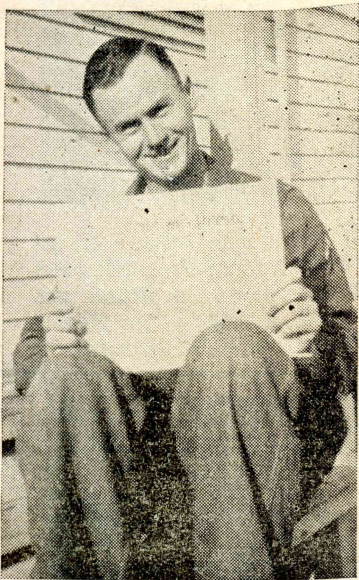




With the 4/11/44 Colors

Private First Class James F. Manning, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Manning of Willow Hill, enjoys read-



ing the Press, as may be seen above. He has been stationed at Camp Blanding, Florida, for sixteen months.

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Seaman Second Class Clarence F. Schackmann, who is somewhere in the West Pacific, sends us the following article, believed taken from a Honolulu, Hawaii, newspaper with the request that it be printed:

"I am writing to attempt to settle a problem, not for aid in one. I am referring to the millions of cheating wives and sweethearts back in the states, to say nothing of right here.

"However there is one angle that you couldn't know but every girl in the land should know before it is too late.

"In shower rooms, locker rooms and in my case, barracks, or wherever men and boys congregate there is usually only one topic of conversation, and that is women.

I wish everyone of these wives and sweethearts could spend a full twenty-four hours in an Army or Navy camp and just listen to some of these boys brag. I would be willing to gamble good War Bonds that everyone would hear her name mentioned before the day was over.

"You see, they just don't say 'I was out with a girl.' They have to swell their ego by telling the girl's name and address to prove it. They will also tell you anything you wish to know about her. If they were lucky enough to get pictures they match the photos to see just who is best man.

Of course, the mere fact that sooner or later the girl's sweetheart or husband is going to hear one of these stories never enters their head, or if it does, it doesn't matter. It is the latter which seems to be correct as far as I can see.

"After each story that is told someone would always say, 'If I had a wife like that I would beat heck out of her.' Or, 'Ask her if she has a girl friend for me.' Strange to say, it is usually the one who wants to beat her up who just got through showing a few letters from servicemen's wives or sweethearts.

"Take the case of one of my buddies as a perfect example. He had been corresponding with his sweetheart quite regularly. One day he received a letter saying she was very sorry but she had just married a soldier from a nearby camp. He was fit to be tied and swore to get revenge.

"A few days later he showed me a girl's picture. I asked if that was the girl he just lost and was ready to offer sympathy because she was quite cute. 'Oh, no,' he replied, 'this is another one I have been running around with on the side.' Great guy, hey?

"Still, a few days later he got a letter from the first girl who said she just realized what a mistake she had made. She found out she never loved the soldier now that it is too late and asked my buddy if he would please write as he used to. There is one soldier who is due to lose his morale soon.

"Can't these girls see that they are crippling the war effort? I know quite a few who already received divorce letters from their wives.

"In my estimation these girls and wives are as great a menace as enemy spies and the men who are dating them up are no better than these Japs we are fighting and should be treated as such.

"I hope this letter will reach a few of these disloyal girls and open their eyes before it is too late. I hope they can see what they are getting into and also what they are doing to the poor GIs on the battle front.

They can hasten the end of this war or prolong it. Thank God they can't decide the final issue."

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Private First Class Albert Helregel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Helregel of West Liberty vicinity, who has been in the Southwest Pacific for two years, is one of a number of Illinois men who are members of C battery of the American division, which has been pushing the Japanese back on Bougainville. This is said to be the only Army division to bear a name and not a number.

Hal O'Flaherty of the Chicago Daily News writes of them: "Here in the gun positions that are kept clean and orderly, with home made seats, well arranged and thoroughly protected dugouts, live artillerymen who proved on Guadalcanal and later on the islands leading up to Bougainville that the enemy cannot stand before their fire. With the bright sun beating down through the camouflage, the gunners stood ready when orders for a firing mission came through.

"While we waited, I stepped back and looked over the surrounding terrain. Nearby stretched miles of the heaviest type of swamp jungle, with clumps of trees outlined against a cloud flecked sky. And over to the east stood a range of blue mountains dominated by a smoking, active volcano. Birds sang with wierd notes and an occasional breeze swung the long trailing vines.

"These men are veterans now, most of them two year men. For weeks they have been under fire from Jap guns and their life has been regulated accordingly. They sleep on bunks sunk down several feet, with sandbags protecting them all around.

"Through one part of the camp runs a clear mountain stream in which the men bathe and wash their clothes. Their tents and bunks show how easily Americans adjust themselves to life out here. Order, cleanliness and the discipline of regularity goes down to minute details. Abundant health shows in most faces, although occasionally I could spot some who had had malaria repeatedly."

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Lois M. Weck, aviation machinist's mate third class in the Waves, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Weck of Newton, writes from the Naval Air Station at Norfolk, Virginia: "This is just a few lines to let everyone of my friends know where I am and how I like it. I'm sorry I didn't get around to see all of my friends when I was home on leave but time was so short.

"The Naval Air Station here in Norfolk is a very large and very busy place. For the last two months, I have been working on the night shift from 4:00 in the afternoon until 2:00 in the morning. Today I started the day shift. Being an aviation machinist's mate, I work in engine overhaul. These engines come out of planes from air stations all over the United States and the carriers which pull in here. Fortunately, several weeks ago, I got to see the new carrier Shangri-La launched. Also a friend of mine showed me all around his carrier, which was in port then.

"We Waves are certainly outnumbered by the sailors but they treat us swell. The ocean is so close, we plan on going swimming often this summer. There is a fine theatre and bowling alley here on the station for our spare time, which is all too rare.

"I would like to have been home to see Virginia Graham, but will try to get up to Washington to see her this summer.

"I would love to hear from any of my friends or anyone who wants to write. My address is Lois Weck, A. M. M. 3/c, Barracks U-63, N. A. S. Norfolk, Virginia."

Virginia Ann Graham, seaman first class in the Waves, writes from Washington: "I will try and write a few lines. I arrived back to the post fine, just seven hours late. I had a wonderful time while I was home but the days went too fast for me. I hated to come back.

"Yes, Newton has really changed. I could hardly believe it. If they keep on there won't be any Newton. Well, anyway it was good to come back and I will be very glad when I and all others can come home and stay. People at Washington didn't know that there was a Newton, Illinois, until I mentioned it, so for the last seven days I have been telling all about Newton, and how great it is, and how good a time I had.

"I came back and caught a terrible cold and had to miss work. I could hardly talk but am some better now and what weather we have too. I suppose that everyone back home is getting ready for their new Easter outfit. I think I will wear navy blue and white.

"We all went into our white caps with white gloves the first of April. We also are getting ready for our summer suits. They are new ones, grey and white seersucker. They are quite cute, a dress with a jacket and then our whites for dress, which are very pretty.

"I only wish that I could tell you more about my job. I like it very much. But I suppose that you all have heard of military secrets; well that is what my work is.

"I am always glad to hear from you folks; hope this finds you all well. Let's keep on praying that the war will soon be over."

*Apr. 11 * * * * * 1944*

Mrs. Cecil Chesnut of Newton has received a letter from her nephew Private First Class Ray Harvey Jr. of the Marine Corps. He never says where he is or what he's doing. He left San Francisco, California, February 8, 1943.

He added: "I'm getting along o. k.; never felt better in my life; getting so fat, I'll have to go on a diet when I get back. I have moved since the last time you heard from me. It's not a bad place; lots of palm trees, natives and stuff.

"When I get back you won't have to fix anything special for me; just some ham and beans. You asked if I liked V-mail. Well I don't. I can hardly read it at times. Well I'll close for this time."

If anyone wishes to write him, they may send the letters in care of Mrs. Cecil Chesnut, Newton, Illinois.

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Joseph Cummins, machinist's mate second class, formerly of Newton, has been in the hospital since February 16. He was recently moved from New Georgia island down through Bougainville to the New Hebrides islands. He wrote his mother, Mrs. Daisy Mulvaney of Terre Haute, that he saw his first white woman in eleven months there and that he was to be sent home but didn't know when. He didn't state whether he had been wounded or had developed tropical fever.

Herbert L. Ziegler, who has been home on furlough, is being sent to school and wasn't discharged from the Navy as stated in the Press last week. He will go to an Advanced Naval Electrical school after twenty months in the Pacific war area.

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The following poem was written by Private First Class Grover E. Weck, who is stationed on some island in the Pacific. He says he is in good health but is somewhat homesick to see his wife and son, Clarence Eugene, having never seen the latter.

To Mother

I know you're waiting, mother,
For what I have to say;
It's that I love you, darling,
And my letter's on the way.
I'm many miles across the plains,
Yes, I am far away;
But every night I kneel down,
And this is what I pray:
"God bless my darling mother,
Protect her 'til the day when
Chub and I come marching home
again,
The winners of the day."

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Private James C. Ping, who has been transferred from Camp Mackall, North Carolina, to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, is spending a twelve day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Caude Ping and his sister Helen of near Willow Hill. He will go for a few days visit with his two sisters in Chicago.

He is with the airborne division in the paratroops and has made twenty-one jumps.

He is the youngest of the three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ping, all of whom are in the service. John, the eldest, is in Fort Ord, California, and Paul is an MP, stationed somewhere in Australia.

*Apr. 11 * * * * * 1944*

Lieutenant John S. Wright of Newton, who is in North Africa, recently had an unusual experience, he wrote his wife. He was driving along the road some distance from the city where he is stationed when he saw a dead Arab along the road. The body was completely naked.

He reported to the French authorities and they in turn to the Arab officials. The man had been murdered by some band of Arabs and was stripped of everything he owned, including his clothing.

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Cletus H. Resch of Newton has begun his military training at the Transportation Corps Replacement Training Center at the New Orleans Army Air Base this week.

Private Resch will train here fifteen weeks, six weeks in basic military subjects and nine in specialized departments of the Transportations Corps. Prior to this induction at Fort Sheridan, March 11, he was a locomotive fireman employed by the Illinois Central railroad.

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Eugene Lang, ship's cook third class, United States Coast Guard, is spending a furlough with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Rauch of Newton. He is stationed at a Coast Guard shore station in Massachusetts, after having been on the off shore patrol for several months hunting subs.

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Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Davidson have received word from their son, Robert Davidson, electrician's made third class, that he has been transferred from New York to somewhere in the

South Pacific. He is assigned to an aircraft carrier. He has just returned from Trinidad.

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Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hanson of Newton have received word that their son, Private First Class Marcell Hanson, who has been in the South Pacific, is in a hospital with a broken bone in his foot. Any of his friends who wish to write him can get his address of his parents.

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Private Glenn Stanley writes Albert Wilson of Newton from Fort Meade, Maryland, where he is in Battery B, 17th battalion, Fifth regiment, Army Ground Forces Replacement depot: "I was in Baltimore, Saturday. It sure is some place, is wide open and the sky is the limit."

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Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Harrison of Mattoon, formerly of Rose Hill, have received word that their son, Sergeant Wilfred C. Harrison, has landed in England. He hopes to find some of his Newton schoolmates.

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Staff Sergeant and Mrs. William Glass have been spending his furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Glass, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith of Newton. He is stationed near Duck Hill, Mississippi.

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Lieutenant Otis Maxwell has been promoted to first lieutenant in the field artillery. He has been in Italy for several months.

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Corporal Technician Raymond Gregory is visiting relatives at Newton while on a furlough.