



With the Colors

4/14/44

Recent graduation ceremonies at the Naval Training school (Signals) at the University of Illinois, Urbana, saw Bluejacket Kent Eugene Ransdell, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ransdell of near Willow Hill, receive recognition as eligible to qualify for the petty officer rate of signalman third class.

Sent to the specialty school on the basis of his recruit training aptitude test scores, the bluejacket successfully completed a course in receiving and sending International code by blinker, searchlight and semaphore. He also received instruction in the use of the pelorus and navigator's range finder as well as instruction in the fundamentals of weather, tides, light and sound, optics and electricity.

The newly graduated Navy man is awaiting active duty orders to sea or to some shore station.

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Four Newton men are receiving their initial naval indoctrination at the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes. Their "boot" training consists of instruction in seamanship, military drill and general naval procedure. During this period a series of aptitude tests will be taken by the recruits to determine whether they will be assigned to a Naval Service school or to immediate active duty at sea.

Their recruit training completed, these men will spend a period of leave at home. They are: Harry C. Parr, 37; Floyd F. Portlock, 36; Edwin Davis Lee, 32; and Sanford J. Yates, 34.

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Marion J. Kinder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Kinder of Newton, was recently graduated from the Naval

Air Technical Training Center located at Norman, Oklahoma. While at the Norman school he studied the aviation specialty field for which his recruit training aptitude tests showed he was best suited.

The newly graduated man is now, awaiting active duty orders either to sea or to a naval base, where after further experience in his new trade the bluejacket will be eligible for a higher promotion.

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Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Babbs of Falmouth vicinity received a telegram, Wednesday, from their son, John William Babbs, stating that he had landed in California, and was enroute home. He is in the Navy and has been in the South and Southwest Pacific for the past two years as a gunner's mate. In a recent battle his ship was damaged and several men were killed and injured.

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Second Lieutenant and Mrs. Curtis Smith of St. Louis were guests of her uncles, Walter W. and Harry T. Payne of Newton, Tuesday. Lieutenant Smith has been placed on inactive duty after service in North Africa and Sicily. Mrs. Smith is the former Louise Yost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. (Lillie Payne) Yost of St. Louis.

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Private William Dale Coverstone writes his wife, Mrs. Lucille Coverstone and daughters, that he has been transferred from Thomasville, Georgia, to Harris Neck Army Air Base, Townsend, Georgia. He says he is o. k. but plenty of swamps and floods. He has a brother, E. L. Coverstone Jr., in the Marines, who is somewhere in the Southwest Pacific.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Harold G. Leffler of Crawfordsville, Indiana, are the parents of a six pound daughter, born Monday night. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Leffler of West Liberty and Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Wattleworth of Newton are grand-parents. Lieutenant Leffler is in command of the Naval V-12 detachment at Crawfordsville.

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Mr. and Mrs. Lester Webb of the wye north of Newton received an

Easter cablegram from their son, Corporal Harold Webb, stating that he was well and feeling fine. He is in Northern Ireland with a Port Headquarters company.

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Private George Bickers spent Easter Sunday with his wife and family at Willow Hill. He is stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Easter was his birthday.

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George A. Cline of Newton, who is in England with the United States Army, has been promoted from corporal to sergeant. He is a son of Mrs. Pearl Cline of this city.

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Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Robards have just received a letter from their son, Stanley D. Robards, somewhere in the South Pacific. He is o. k. He's been promoted to chief gunner's mate.