



With the Colors

8/11/44

Private First Class James M. Devore writes: "As I have plenty of time to write letters, I thought maybe I should write you, the best home town paper. I'm in New Guinea. It's really some place to be. We have a lot of queer things here. Natives and such.

The natives are black and small. One queer thing is that they are all mostly red headed. Their clothing is very scarce. The climate is hot and sultry, with plenty of rain.

"We live in hutments with something like open air tents. For entertainments we have shows, boxing matches, ball games and just sit around and talk. Our days are pretty full. Our training schedule is really a rough one.

"Our food all comes from Australia. It's all either dehydrated or canned. We've had fresh meat about three times in two months.

"The money here is based on the English system. It's really a brain rocker, sometimes. Pounds, florins, shillings, etc. The penny is about as big as a half dollar and the half penny is even larger. I'd like to receive some mail from my friends back home."

Write in care of the Press office.

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Jerry W. Chapman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Chapman of near Hunt City, is preparing for duty with the amphibious forces aboard an LST (landing ship, tank), one of the biggest ships in the Navy's invasion fleet.

He has been assigned to the crew of an LST at the Amphibious Training base, Camp Bradford, Virginia, where he is going through the strenuous training required of bluejackets who man the beach-hitting tank carriers.

Heavier than a modern destroyer, the 300-foot LST lands assault troops and equipment directly onto enemy beachheads, under the protective bombardment of heavy warships and Navy planes. Despite its size and weight, the landing vessel is designed to navigate shallow approaches to hostile beaches, spilling its troops and tanks ashore through huge bow doors.

Camp Bradford, where he is stationed, is one of a group of bases operated by the Amphibious Training Command of the Atlantic fleet along the eastern seaboard. The Bradford base alone is readying thousands of Navy men to operate the ships of the amphibious fleet, fast growing toward its year end goal of 80,000 new landing craft.

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Private First Class Delbert E. Dow, who is stationed in Rapid City, South Dakota, has written his wife that he has been promoted to the rank of corporal.

In a recent letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brooks, Kenneth L. Brooks fireman first class, says: "How are you all? I am feeling fine. I sure had a nice time about a week ago. Marcell Hanson, Carl Price, Virgil Price and Bill Loy and I were all together for about two hours. We used to run around together, so we really had a nice time.

"Robert Gass and Marcel Martin were there smewhere, too, but I didn't get to see them. This meeting of old friends doesn't happen very often where a lot of us are now.

"We had four big rains here this afternoon. This is about all I can write you about so tell every one 'hello' for me."

Kenneth is on active duty on a mine sweeper near some islands, somewhere in the Pacific.

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Corporal Vernon C. Swager writes from somewhere in New Guinea:

In the Mud!

Ho, for the life of an all night spree,
With a beautiful blond perched on
your knee;

Damn this life where you sink to your
knees—

In the "mud!"

Ho, for the land where white men
thrive,

Where each is happy with home and
wife.

And you see no trucks with four
wheel drives, stuck

In the "mud!"

When at last the Japs have been
chased to hell,

And democracy is once again the
goal,

They'll sink this place, I've been told,
In the "mud!"

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Donald Edward Koontz, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Koontz of 316 Liberty avenue, Newton, is receiving his initial naval indoctrination at the United States Naval Training Center, Great Lakes.

His recruit training consists of in-

struction in seamanship, military drill, and general naval procedure. During this period a series of aptitude tests will be taken by the recruit to determine whether he will be assigned to a Naval Service school or to immediate active duty at sea.

His recruit training completed, the seaman will spend a period of leave at home.

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Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Baker and son Tommy have recently returned to Newton from Minot, North Dakota, where Mr. Baker was employed as a ground instructor on the Navy V-5 program at the Minot State Teachers' college. At the close of the V-5 program there, he was transferred to the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Florida, as an aviation machinist's mate third class, after a three weeks' class, after a three weeks' leave visiting in Newton and in Salem with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Garner. Mrs. Baker and Tommy will remain with her mother, Mrs. Nora E. Mahaney for the duration.

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clapp of near West Liberty have received word from their son, Marlin Clapp, who is in New Guinea, stating he had made a little move the day before, and now was with the bunch that he had been in training with in Idaho.

He added he had begun to get mail and it sure made him feel good to get letters and a birthday card, but said he never had a birthday cake or ice cream over there.

He said he hadn't seen a woman since he left the states, but they had pretty good shows.

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Among those graduating from an intensive course of Basic Engineering training at recent service schools exercises at Great Lakes Naval Training Center was Berthal L. Adkins.

This blue jacket was selected for his specialized training on the basis of his recruit training aptitude test scores. Graduates from the twenty specialized courses taught here at the service schools are sent to sea, to shore stations, or to advanced schools for further duty.

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Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Beverlin of Newton received a telephone call Sunday from their son, Staff Sergeant Samuel Beverlin, stating that he had arrived in California and would be home in a few days on a furlough. He has been in the Marines in the South and Southwest Pacific for twenty months and has seen some of the hardest fighting against the Japs.

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Private Basil Auteberry of Camp Blanche, New Orleans, Louisiana, was called home to attend the funeral of his grand-father, James H. Yingst of Rose Hill. While here he also visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Auteberry of Newton. His birthday is August 22 and he will be 20 years old. Those who wish to send him greetings may obtain his address from his parents.

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Sergeant Ivan Elston, son of Mrs. Owen Lewis of Kankakee, has arrived overseas. Sergeant Elston has a brother in the Army Air Corps, Sergeant Ralph Elston, now in England.

Sergeant Ivan Elston, formerly a welder at Minneapolis, Minnesota, was previously stationed with the Army at Coffeyville, Kansas.

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Carl E. Tolliver, fireman first class, United States Navy, recently visited Technical Sergeant Virgil E. Price, stationed in Hawaii with the Army Air Force. Several boys from Jasper county held a picnic together recently. Virgil has been in the South Pacific for three years.

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Sergeant Glen W. Stanley, Troop Transport Command, who is stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland, has been spending a few days with his wife and son Jeffrey, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Stanley. He left Sunday for his post taking his wife along for a few days visit.

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Mrs. Berthal L. Adkins attended graduation exercises at Great Lakes, Monday, in which her husband graduated from Basic Engineering school with the rating of fireman first class. He is enroute to San Diego, California, for advanced schooling in Internal Combustion engines.

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Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Smallwood have received a letter from their son, Dale Smallwood at Maxwell field, Alabama, stating that he is fine and has been qualified for pilot. He was classed as an upper classman and will finish up there in five weeks.

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Ralph Schackmann is home for a furlough from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schackmann, and other relatives. It is his first furlough in seventeen months.

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Private First Class Tom Yockey spent Wednesday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Courtland Yockey of Willow Hill. He was here on a sev-

enty-two hour pass from Camp Bowie, Texas.

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Earl Marvin Michl and James Max Miller of Newton and Verl Eugene Cooper, Robert Glen Rhodes and Robert Wendell Walters of Greenup have enlisted in the Navy. All are 17 year old boys.

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Mrs. Emma Carlton has received a letter from her son, Private First Class Edmund "Speck" Orr, stating that he was o. k. and feeling fine. He said to "tell everybody hello."

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George W. Moran, formerly of 835 South Van Buren street, Newton, has been promoted to the rank of corporal at the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Wheeler, Georgia.

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Private First Class Robert Fear of Camp Bowie, Texas, is spending a furlough with his wife at Oblong and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Fear of Willow Hill.

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Don Gordon Strole, fireman first class, who is serving in the United States Navy, has been transferred from Gulfport, Mississippi, to Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Sergeant Maurice L. McCormack writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy McCormack from France, that his home is now a foxhole with a pup tent over it.

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Private First Class James Laugel is here on a fourteen day furlough with his parents, Postmaster and Mrs. P. B. Laugel of Newton.

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William C. "Billie" Hays is now an apprentice seaman with Company 1650, United States Naval Training Station, Great Lakes.

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Ross J. Grove of Great Lakes is spending a "boot" leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Olin J. Grove of West Liberty.

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Private First Class Leroy Gruenewald is spending a furlough with his wife and daughter Jean of Newton.

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