



With the Colors

8/15/44

Mrs. Flora L. Reece of 6230 Woodlawn avenue, Chicago, 37, writes: "Friends in Jasper county may be interested to know that my nephews, sons of the late Walter T. Laws and Mrs. Laws of Chicago, are all in the service.

"Corporal Joe M. Laws is in the Signal Corps in France. They are the men who construct and maintain all communication lines so that the all important messages can get through. In one letter he said: 'I'm not where they are shooting at me. At times I've been fairly close but never less than one-half or three-quarters of a mile.' More recently he has been placed as a 'trouble shooter.' A trouble shooter has charge of a small group, perhaps four men. They locate and put in order difficulties that arise in the communication system.

"Private George W. Laws is at Camp Barkeley, Texas, and will finish basic training there Wednesday. Leonard O. Laws is an aviation metal-smith second class, in the Navy. He has been in the Southwest Pacific for several months. Since June 1 he has been hospitalized with rheumatic fever. Last week he arrived at San Diego hospital after what he termed a very pleasant five and one-half day trip from Pearl Harbor. He was a bed patient all of the way but said they were treated like kings.

"Walter Laws Jr., Naval aviation cadet, is at Corpus Christi, Texas. He is in the last lap of his several months of intensive training. In a recent letter he said. 'I suppose you've heard of Satan. It seems that he's trying to buy Texas from the U. S. A. 'cause his place is nothing compared to this.' (Referring to the heat)."

Staff Sergeant Russell Harrison of Newton writes from England: "After sleeping on the ground or a concrete floor all week I found a bed to be too comfortable last night as I had a kink in my back when I got up this morning.

"I was issued a new pair of 'hob nail' shoes and I sound like a cavalry charge when I walk. They are easy

on the feet but slippery when walking on concrete.

"I seem to have the job of keeping Uncle Sam's 'playthings' in working order and ready for use when needed. They cost over \$2,500,000. So you can see that they are hardly toys.

I have received a promotion since I last wrote and I am now a T/3 instead of a T/4.

"I ate a meal with an English outfit recently and met a lot of fellows from Illinois. I am writing this on my knee and trying to listen to the radio at the same time. One of the fellows is trying to help out the radio by singing but it was much better before."

The promotion of Harold K. Bailey of Newton from the grade of private first class to that of technician fifth grade has been announced by the Headquarters depot of the Ninth Air Force Service Command unit to which he is attached, somewhere in the European Theatre of Operations.

Corporal Bailey, who is a cook with an ordnance ammunition company, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bailey of Newton. Prior to entering the armed forces in July, 1942, he was employed as a punch press operator by the Ingersol Disk and Steel Mills, at 120 South Halstead street, Chicago.

The Ninth Air Force Service Command acts as a handle for that deadly whiplash of American medium bombers and fighter planes which flicks out through European skies to sting and slash the harried Nazis. It supplies, maintains and repairs all equipment, feeds, clothes, arms and transports all personnel for America's vast tactical air force in the European Theatre of Operations.

*Aug. 15, * * 1944*

Private Neil Romack, who is in France with an Infantry company, writes his mother, Mrs. H. N. Romack of Newton: "We are back in a rest area. I sure feel safer now. I have sure learned how to pray since I have been over here. I sure hope we don't have to go back up to the front lines again. Maybe we won't now. I don't think this war will last much longer.

"I didn't celebrate my birthday very much this year. We did have a little cider to drink. They have plenty of that. Every house has two or three big barrels in them. People over here drink it instead of water. Not a bad idea at that."

* * * * *

Corporal John H. Maxwell writes that he is at sea now, and has left Saipan in the Mariannas where he landed June 7. He says the Japs can

shoot pretty well and use a dual purpose gun and mortars, but that when the American planes spot them they are soon put out of commission.

"When he landed on Saipan, the Japs came over each day and bombed our outfit, but when I left it was quiet." His outfit saw lots of fighting as it was an amphibious landing party and helped establish our beach-heads in the Marianna islands.

* * * * *

Corporal and Mrs. Earl Elder of Fresno, California, are spending a twenty-one day furlough with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fouty of Willow Hill vicinity, and Mr. and Mrs. Felix Elder of Sullivan. Corporal Elder is stationed at the Air Service Command Training Center at Fresno and will return to camp on August 23. Mrs. Elder will make an extended visit with her parents.

*April * Aug. 15, 44*

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hippler of near Newton inform us that their grandson Ivo Ray Dhom has enlisted in the Army Air Corps Enlisted Reserve. He was accepted in July and will be called into active service some time after his eighteenth birthday.

Ivo Ray is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Dhom of Willow Hill township.

* * * * *

Corporal Sylvan Robards is spending a few days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ohmer Robards of Boos. He is enroute to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where he is being transferred into the Infantry after thirty months at Fort Knox, Kentucky, with the Armored Force demonstration regiment. He is a cook.

* * * * *

Corporal John Henry Smith is here from the Southwest Pacific on a thirty day furlough. He has been joined by his wife, who is in the Wac in North Carolina. Corporal Smith, a former trucker, has been twenty-seven months in Australia, New Guinea and other islands in the Southwest Pacific.

* * * * *

Eugene Lang, ship's cook third class, United States Coast Guard, has been ordered to Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Virginia, for training in amphibious warfare. This is the amphibious training base for the Atlantic fleet. He was married a few days ago.

* * * * *

Private First Class William Dewhirst and Private First Class James Dewhirst of Newton met about two weeks ago in France, where they are

with the United States Army. They had about ten minutes together. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Dewhirst of Newton.

*Aug. * 5, * 1944* ↙

Private First Class Forrest Wagner is spending a thirty day furlough with his father, Frank Wagner of Newton. He has been overseas in the South and Southwest Pacific with the Marines for thirty months and has seen some hot fighting.

* * * * *

Edwin D. Lee, ship's cook second class, spent a short time at home with his wife and children, last week. He was called to report back immediately to his ship at Galveston, Texas. He expects to be shipped out soon.

* * * * *

Apprentice Seaman Edward Foltz of Berea, Kentucky, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Foltz of Newton.

* * * * *

Corporal Roscoe Bunton has returned to South Carolina after spending his furlough at Newton. He is in the Coast Artillery.