



With the Colors *8/5/44*

Kenneth L. Williams writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Williams of near Newton: "Well the Texas has done it again. We were in the first wave of this latest invasion against the Germans, and have come through without a scratch. As in the Normandy invasion, we laid down the bombardment preceding the landing of the troops. Later we stood by to act as artillery for the army if they should run into trouble, but they moved so rapidly we never did fire after the initial bombardment.

"Our main target in this operation was a battery of five 9-inch guns, and we stood out about seven miles and blasted them out of existence. We fired at them continuously for an hour and twenty-five minutes, and at the end of that time all activity in that area had ceased. The second day we moved in close enough to have a good look at what had been our target, and also to get an idea of what that section of the coast was like.

"By using glasses we could see where our target had been. The gun emplacements were located in the side of a hill, about half way between the water and a beautiful French villa, which the Germans had undoubtedly taken over for living quarters. These guns were in such a position as to cover the invasion beaches further along the shore, and also the entrance to a small harbor.

"This section of the French coast was famous in peace time as a summer resort, and there were many beautiful homes and apartment hotels all along the coast. Some of them were destroyed because the Germans were using them as observation posts, and as emplacements for machine guns.

"We withdrew at night, and were not bothered as much by enemy planes as we were in Northern France. Only one plane was seen to approach

the ship, but he soon changed his mind when we opened up on him with our anti-aircraft guns.

"You have probably already seen in the papers that this landing was accomplished with the aid of ships from all the allied nations, and this is literally true. There were ships of all kinds, all over the horizon, and we even saw ships flying the Greek flag. Most of us had never seen a Greek flag before, but were delighted to know that the gallant Greeks at last had a chance to strike back at the Germans. The French were also very much in evidence, and there were two French cruisers and three French destroyer leaders in our particular task force.

"I can't tell you more about it now or about the other places I've been, but I can tell you this: I wouldn't trade one foot of United States soil for everything I've seen on this side. I should be on my way home before long unless our troops have reverses, which I don't expect. Give my love to everybody, and don't worry."

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Mr. and Mrs. Alva M. Allen of Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, Radioman Carl C. Allen. He is in the South Pacific. The day he wrote the letter he had been on liberty leave and said was the first time he had set foot on dry land since April.

They also had a letter from another son, Don A. Allen, who is in England. He went over there some time in July and says the people are very friendly. He had been invited into some of their homes and said they were so kind and good to him; made it seem more like home.

He added he had received three Newton Presses which he enjoyed very much.

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Corporal and Mrs. Russell L. Chapman have been spending a fifteen day furlough with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Chapman, and other relatives and friends in Detroit, Michigan, and with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sowers of Jewett. They visited relatives and friends in Hidalgo and Greenup. They have returned to Camp Wolters, Texas, where Corporal Chapman is now stationed.

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Dewey R. Connor Jr., aviation ma-

chinist's mate first class, is visiting his wife and baby at Newton and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey R. Connor of Effingham. He has been on a PBY (patrol bomber) in the South-west Pacific area and was recently cited for work in rescuing American flyers who were down at sea.

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Charles Edward Girhard has been promoted to major in the United States Army, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Girhard of Newton, have learned. He is a code expert on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur in Australia and has been in the Army for four years.

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Coxswain William Garner, a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Garner of near Latona has landed on the west coast after service in the South and South-west Pacific. He is expected home on leave in a couple of weeks.

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Aden Sempstrott, a son of Guy Sempstrott of Willow Hill, is home on furlough. He is being transferred from Virginia to the Personnel Replacement depot at Camp Reynolds, Greenville, Pennsylvania.

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Private Charles R. Lewis Jr. an on the line trainee at the Army Air field at Frederick, Oklahoma, has returned to camp after a fifteen day furlough with his parents, Supervisor and Mrs. Charles E. Lewis of Wheeler.

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Machinist's Mate Second Class Sherman Fallert, son of Mrs. John Fallert formerly of West Liberty, is spending a ten day leave with relatives in Olney and Newton vicinity.

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Gordon Blade, machinist's mate first class, is spending a leave with his wife at Newton and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Blade of Hidaigo.