



## With the Colors 12/12/44

Private Raymond Swisher, an M. P. overseas in Europe, writes under date of November 25.

"Hi, friends back in good old Newton. A line to let you know I'm o. k. and hope you're all o. k. I'd love to be in good Newton once again. It's not like home over here, in any way, and war's no fun.

"Of course, some folks don't know the meaning of the word war. We do over here. We go day and night, rain or shine, and seven days a week. And talking about rain we have a lot of it; about ever day. I've seen the sun two days out of sixty.

"It's true we're not here to have fun. We're here to do our duty to help win the war; and we do it, and it's rough and tough. Where I'm at I can't say. All I can say I'm in a Military Police Enemy Guard Company. I see a lot of prisoners of war, young and old, boys and girls from all countries.

"I've not seen any one here from Newton, It'd really be nice to see someone here from home. I had a two day pass, and I had a nice time. I can say I've been in the world's largest city. Some nice cities here, but some not so nice to see, due to the war. Bombs can really make things look bad.

"I've been across the sea five times in six months, but when we do make a trip to the states we don't stay there but a few days. Three days are about as long as we are there. I really have a time while I'm there; eat and rink. We don't get much candy or anything here. We had a nice Thanksgiving turkey and all the rest.

"The folks back home think they are rationed. Yes, they are, but if they were rationed like the civilians are here, they'd know the meaning of the word rationing. Here's a little idea: They get six ounces of sugar a week, one egg a month, one ounce of candy a week and that only for kids under the age of 10 years. No gum or any-think like that.

"Their pay is low and everything is high that they buy, but they are happy and hope for the day to come when the war is over.

"Well, my friends, there's a lot I'd like to tell you but can't so I'll close and hope that the censor o. k's this. Goodbye and keep Newton on the ball until I get back."

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An Eighth Air Force Service Command Station, England.—Staff Sergeant David R. Firebaugh, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Firebaugh of Newton, is entitled to wear two overseas chevrons on his sleeve, having served with the Army Air Forces in England for over one year. He is an aircraft sheetmetal inspector who okays the work of busy hangar-line mechanics at this strategic air depot, so sleek fighter aircraft may soon again take to the skies against the enemy.

Sergeant Firebaugh joined the Air Force in September, 1940, and received basic training at Chanute field, Illinois. He has been with the Eighth Air Force Service Command in England since September, 1943.

Sergeant Firebaugh was formerly a student at Eastern Illinois State Teachers college, Charleston.

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Corporal Ralph E. Woodard, a mechanic on a B-29 Super-Fortress, who has been stationed at Fresno, Cali-

California, has returned to his new location at Fairmount, Nebraska, after spending a fifteen day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Woodard of near Montrose, and other relatives and friends at Montrose, Mattoon, Decatur and Chicago.

Another son, of Mr. and Mrs. Woodard, Private First Class Charles Woodard, is somewhere in Italy. In his last letter, written November 11, he was well, and was back of the lines resting. He had been on active duty since June 20, after recovering from wounds received on February 6. He has been in service three years on November 26, and overseas since May 1, 1942.

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With the First Cavalry Division on Leyte.—Staff Sergeant Cornelius H. Volk of Bogota has been promoted in the field to his present rank, it has been announced by the commanding officer of the Seventh Cavalry regiment.

Sergeant Volk, an acting squad leader in a mortar section, took control of his mortar section when his section leader was wounded in action.

Before the war Sergeant Volk worked for his father as a farmer in Jasper county. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Volk of Bogota.

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A United States Army Base in the Southwest Pacific.—Corporal George Eaton, a son of Mrs. Sue Eaton of Newton, is with the Fortieth Infantry division. He is a messenger dispatcher with a signal outfit, which is a rather important job in an emergency, to say the least. He has been on several Pacific islands during the past two years, and will have a real story to tell when he returns.

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Dewey R. Connor Jr. is spending a leave with his wife and baby at Newton and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey R. Connor of Effingham. Mrs. Connor Sr. is quite ill, following a nervous breakdown.

Dewey is a machinist's mate first class in the Navy and was with a patrol member squadron in the Southwest Pacific.

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The Press is in receipt of an air mail Christmas greeting from Private First Class Lloyd E. Jourdan, showing a GI standing on a tropical isle shouting "Merry Christmas" to the folks back home. He is in the Southwest Pacific with a Refrigerator company.

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J. C. Metheny of Rockford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Metheny, formerly of Grove township, is in England with the Ninth Air Force. He writes wishing his Jasper county friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Lieutenant Herschel A. Jones was home on a five day leave over the week end. He returned to Courtland Air field, Courtland, Alabama, Sunday, where he will have a class of new pilots for B-24 Liberator bombers.

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Sergeant Kleon Snearly writes his uncle, Millard McCoy of near Hunt City, that he drove the first tank into Germany in his division, which is with the American First army about Aachen.

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Private First Class Loren Heady, who was wounded in France, is spending a furlough here. He was struck in the right foot and has been in a hospital. He is a son of Mrs. Josie Hicks of near Headyville.

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J. W. Wagy and the Wagy Cafe wish everyone in the armed forces a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and a quick ending of the war. May the boys come home soon.

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Mrs. John Whightsel of Newton vi-

cinity is in receipt of a letter from her son, Private First Class Marcell Martens, stating that he has been promoted to corporal.

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Pharmacist's Mate First Class and Mrs. James Edward Chrisman of Peoria, where he is stationed in the Coast Guard, were here over the week end. His mother, Mrs. J. E. Chrisman of Bloomington, and his sons Jimmie and Dannie, who have been here visiting Mrs. Chrisman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Crowley of Newton, returned home with them.

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Mrs. Charles Smith of Marion has received a letter from her husband stating that he has arrived safely in the Panama canal zone. Mrs. Smith is the former Maxine Gregor of Newton.

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Earl M. Michl, after completing his boot training at Great Lakes, has spent a nine day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Michl and family of Newton.