



## With the Colors

12/5/44

Corporal William W. Jones writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Jones of Falmouth vicinity, from France: "I haven't had much time to think of writing letters lately; have been on the go almost day and night. I am feeling fine but get just a little sleepy sometimes. I suppose you have heard where the Ninety-fifth division is by now. We are in the Third army and in the battle of Metz.

"I hope that long before you receive this letter Metz will be in our hands. I can't tell you all that has been going on but it has been some noisy place. The towns around here are torn to pieces; not a building left standing. The only places left to live in are the cellars and most of these have water in them when it rains. I don't know what the people are going to do when they start moving back and find everything destroyed.

"We could get plenty of souvenirs if they weren't so hard to carry. There is almost anything you could think of lying around. The stores here have lots of things in them and most of it is German. It isn't like the other parts of France which had been in German hands that I have been in."

He enclosed a clipping from Stars and Stripes: "With the U. S. Third Army—The Ninety-fifth 'Victory' division, released today as a unit of the Third army advancing in Lorraine, has piled up a record for heroics that rivals many a veteran division in Europe.

"A lieutenant, leading a platoon in one of the division's first attacks, was wounded and paralyzed from the hips down. He asked a couple of his men to hold him up while he led the unit on to its objective. Later, at the aid station, he requested that all of the other wounded of the platoon be taken care of before the medics attended him.

"One of the division's first patrols, led by a sculptor from Alaska and a policeman from New York, took five hours to clean out a comparatively large town. During the fight the policeman, Lieutenant Pat Harrington, became so exasperated at the house to house fight put up by the Germans, that he dashed out to a street intersection and shouted for them to 'come out and fight like men.' The sculptor, mild mannered Lieutenant Max Lewis, said, 'The bullets flew and Harrington shouted, but the Germans didn't come out, so we went in after them.'

"On another occasion, a battalion commander and a sergeant went after a German machine gun. The sergeant was killed. The lieutenant colonel kept on after the gun and knocked it out.

"The Ninety-fifth, command by Major General Harry L. Twaddle, formerly G-3 of the War Department, was activated at Camp Swift, Texas,

in July, 1942.

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Private Marcell Hanson, who is now in the Philippines, sent to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hanson of near Newton, the following letter given to him by his commanding officer. There are several boys from Jasper county in this same company.

Subject: Organization of Positions.

"To all personnel of this Antiaircraft Automatic Weapons battalion:

"Personnel of this battalion have to date performed in a very efficient and commendable manner. We were fortunate enough to have time to properly emplace and effectively fortify all our weapons before any conceived enemy attack. After that we were fortunate to get a considerable number of enemy aircraft operating within our effective range.

"The coolness, intelligence and efficiency of our gunners are a source of pride to all members of the battalion. The record we have made here has not been equalled by any unit in any engagement in the Pacific. This record could be made only with the proper care and use of our weapons and the intelligent application of the knowledge gained in training.

"Now that we are in positions which we will likely occupy for some time it is only right that we should:

"Complete emplacements which will offer maximum protection to men and equipment in action.

"Make such other improvements in arrangement as will add to the convenience of the operators and the efficiency of the unit.

"Maintain and rehabilitate all materiel so that it will be in shape to perform in future engagements.

"Organize bivouac areas and provide for the comfort of the men, sanitation, cleanliness and orderly arrangement, all of which contribute to the morale and efficiency of any unit.

"By maintaining the same high standards to have always maintained we can show, for all to see, that the outstanding record we have made is merely the normal thing for an outstanding outfit and that the right way is the way we are in the habit of doing things."

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Corporal Don Emery, who is a cook for an Engineer Company in France, writes the Press: "I've been over here almost two months now. At times things are pretty rough and sometimes they're easy. The first three weeks I was in France I slept in a pup tent, and the mud was ankle deep as it rained every day. After that we had a nice trip; I mean by that, an interesting trip.

"I saw many towns such as (censored), Rheims and Paris. I was in Paris about four hours. In fact, my friends and I ate breakfast of C rations under the Eiffel tower. It was very interesting. After we arrived at our destination, we were pretty well pleased, after our pup tents. It happened to be an unoccupied German garrison.

"My friends and I found many souvenirs that the Germans had left, but no passes to a nearby town. That was what we all wanted. Finally we got passes but for a few hours only, and then we carried our rifles and arms. At the present time another cook and I are cooking for a platoon of men. We have it very nice where we are at.

"My room is steam heated, with electric lights and it's a very nice place to work. We also have shows. (Censored). Some of the latest films are shown. I think all the guys go just to see the American nurses.

"I wish all my friends in Jasper county a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

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Fifteenth Army Air Force in Italy. —Staff Sergeant John Schuch of northeast of Newton, waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator, has arrived overseas and is flying combat missions in the Mediterranean theatre of operations.

Sergeant Schuch is assigned to a veteran Liberator group commanded by Colonel James B. Knapp of San Antonio, Texas. The group has flown more than 150 combat missions against enemy aircraft factories, oil refineries, rail installations, and other strategic targets in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Italy.

Among the targets the group has helped destroy are the Regensburg and Wiener Neustadt aircraft factories, the Steyr ball bearing works, the Ploesti oil fields, and the Hermann Goering tank works.

Graduating from Newton Community high school, Schuch was employed as a carpenter prior to entering the Army on September 30, 1942. Sergeant Schuch received his radio training at Scott field, Belleville, and his gunner's wings at Harlingen, Texas.

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Two Jasper county men are receiving their initial Naval indoctrination at the United States Naval Training Center, Great Lakes. Their recruit 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 duty at sea.

When their recruit training is completed, these men will receive a period of leave. They are: Raymond Lawrence Yager, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray J. Yager of Route Five, Newton, and Russell Leo Howard, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lester Howard of Rose Hill.

of those times.  
Dec. 5 \* \* \* \* \* 1944

Roy N. Hauk, who is stationed at North Fort Lewis, Washington, writes: "It has rained a lot the last couple of months out here. It comes in light showers and as a slow steady rain. It will clear up several times during the day. You don't hear any thunder or see any lightning here. I am with a motor company and they have one of the largest motor pools here at North Fort Lewis in the United States."

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Earl Jones of Newton has been promoted from chief petty officer to warrant officer in the Coast Guard, and assigned to a ship on the South Atlantic patrol. He is expecting to be sent to Warrant Officer's school for six weeks and then reassigned.

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Sergeant Ray Griffith of Yale has received an honorable discharge from the Army and has returned home. He had about completed his training when he developed rheumatic fever, but has now largely recovered and is feeling pretty good.

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Mrs. George Bickers has received a letter from Private Bickers, written November 20. He was in England, and said the country there was lovely, but that we were much farther advanced than they; that their trains looked like toys to him.

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Leland Fred Chaney of Newton is now aboard a destroyer in the Pacific. He has recently been in Panama and along the coast of South America, but is now at Pearl Harbor, headed for duty in the Western Pacific.

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Corporal Quincy Allison of Newton is now somewhere in England, his wife has learned. He is a radio operator with a tank battalion. He was well and feeling fine.