



With the *2/25/44* Colors

Kenneth L. Brooks, fireman third class, on a mine sweeper somewhere in the Pacific for the past several months, has been back in California, the last two weeks, while his ship was in dry dock. In a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brooks of near Newton, he says:

"While I was cleaning some of the parts of one of the diesel engines something went wrong and I was overcome by the fumes. As there wasn't any doctor on our ship the boys were pretty scared.

"There happened to be another ship in the dock and there was a doctor on it, and he finally brought me around, but he said in two or three minutes it would have sure been too late.

"I am feeling better now. We are out of dry dock now, but don't know whether we are staying here awhile or going out to sea again."

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Mr. and Mrs. James Holt of Willow Hill have received a letter from their son Andrew Holt, who is in the United States Army, stating he had recently visited Mr. Holt Sr.'s cousin, Harry Taylor, who is in the Hawaiian islands, near Pearl Harbor. He has resided there for twenty-five years, but after the attack on Pearl Harbor he sent his family back to the states.

It was quite a treat for Andrew to have all the milk he could drink while there. Harry was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Taylor, formerly of Willow Hill, and attended school there. Many will remember him.

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Private First Class Lloyd E. Jourdan of Newton writes from "somewhere" in the Southwest Pacific area, where he is with a Quartermaster Corps Refrigeration unit: "I will drop you a few lines and let you know that I have reached my destination. We had a very enjoyable trip. It has rained about every day since our arrival. I have received quite a bit of mail from the states and hope that all of my friends will keep writing to me. I will say hello to everybody back home and hope to see them all in the near future."

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Second Lieutenant Noel A. Cunefare, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur O. Cunefare of near Gila, is now a member of a Flying Fortress crew receiving intensive training at Alexandria Army Air Base, Alexandria, Louisiana, before being sent overseas to a combat area.

At the Alexandria base are more than 250 officers and enlisted men from every theatre of war who are acting as instructors. These veterans direct crews through training conditions that simulate actual combat.

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Carl R. Bowers of Hidalgo and Hubert W. Bloomer of Newton are new recruits at the United States Naval Training Station, Great Lakes. They are now receiving instruction in seamanship, military drill, and naval procedure. Soon they will be given a series of aptitude tests for determining whether they will be assigned to one of the Navy's service schools, or to immediate active duty at sea.

Upon completing their recruit training, these men will be home on a nine day leave.

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Private Harold Eubank has been transferred to Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, for further training. He writes: "I have been transferred to a different camp and it is a very nice one. I like to read the items in 'With the Colors' because you can find out where a lot of the kids you know are. I sure like to get letters.

"My address is Private Harold Eubank, Company M, 330th Infantry, 83rd Division, APO 83, Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky."

*Feb. 25 * * * 1944*

Orla Houser of Newton writes his wife that he is back where he first landed, presumably Australia. He is a gunner's mate third class on a motor torpedo boat and has recently been based in New Guinea.

Orla is well and feeling fine now, although he once had dengue fever.

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Private First Class and Mrs. Harry Hester Jr. are visiting his mother, Mrs. Harry Hester at Newton. He is in a Military Police battalion at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. His father, Harry Hester, is being treated at the Illinois Central hospital in Chicago for heart trouble.

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Lieutenant (j. g.) Glenn Bayles was a visitor this week with his mother, Mrs. R. E. Bayles of Newton. He was being transferred from the Naval

Air Station at Ames, Iowa, to Atlanta, Georgia. He is a flying instructor for the Naval Air Force.

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Corporal John A. Flanagan writes his parents, City Officer and Mrs. Tom Flanagan, that he is well and feeling fine. He is in a Military Police battalion in Iran and doesn't get to see anyone from Jasper county often.

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Private First Class Robert Pinnell, who is in a Combat Engineers battalion in the Southwest Pacific area, writes his mother, that he is well and feeling fine, but that it is very hot with rain every day where he is located.

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Private Raymond Swisher has been spending a short furlough with relatives at and near Newton. He has been in Michigan in a Military Police battalion and is expecting to be sent overseas in the near future.

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Staff Sergeant John Schuch Jr. has been here on a furlough from Chatham field, Georgia, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Schuch, and his brother, Ensign Florent J. Schuch.

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George A. Cline has been promoted to sergeant, he writes his mother, Mrs. Pearl Cline of Newton. He is well and feels fine. He is in England with the United States invasion force.

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Jim DeVaney, a yeoman first class in the Coast Guard, is now at sea on a destroyer doing convoy duty, his wife wrote friends at Newton.

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Private First Class Donald Max Romack is here on a furlough, visiting his wife and baby. He will report to Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Corporal Robert Rohr is somewhere in China, according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rohr of Newton.