



## With the Colors

2/29/44

Private Maurice Heady of Bogota was one of a group of infantry soldiers, all of whom have seen action in the most important battles in North Africa, who have arrived in England to help train troops preparing for the invasion of Occupied Europe.

Many of the men participated in the initial landings in November, 1942, and fought for the beaches, airfields, strategic heights and old forts in Morocco and Algeria. Later, many of the doughboys saw their first action against the Germans in Tunisia.

In the Maknassy campaign the Americans were confronted with superb defensive positions of the enemy installed in heights. Artillery pieces including 88-millimeter and 210-millimeter pieces, mortars and machine guns covered the wadis and draws in the barren flats occupied by American units.

For two weeks the men attacked repeatedly, repulsed several counterattacks, kept the Germans under constant surveillance and denied them valuable observation points.

These soldiers were among those who forced the enemy to bring up many truck loads of reserves from the Afrika Korps, accomplishing its mission of drawing strength from the Nazi when they could least afford it.

Last April and May, these same American infantrymen ripped through the tortuous matted vegetation of the Sedjenane valley djebels in Tunisia, killing, capturing and unceasingly pushing the enemy out of the hills guarding Bizerte. Others of the men were in action at Faid pass, Kasserine pass, El Guettar, Ferryville and elsewhere.

At the conclusion of the Tunisian campaign, many of these soldiers paraded before King George VI and Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark.

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### Lamentations of a Seabee

A seabee sat on a sand dune, silent  
and glum,

Stripped to the waist and burned by  
the sun.

He was tired of life and the ache in  
his bones,

Sore at the world and hating the  
tones

Of the wind in the palms and the  
pound of the sea,  
The screech of bombs everlastingly.  
It was always like this in those far-  
away lands,  
Where they followed Marines, picks in  
their hands.  
They built the new airfield, put up  
barracks and docks,  
Blasted out channels, dug up the  
rocks.  
It's hammer and shovel; put in new  
gear;  
Rivet and weld; there's no one to  
cheer,  
And if all the Jap armies come down  
on your back,  
Just grab a machine gun and give  
'em a crack.

—George W. Terwilliger  
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Sergeant Fay Bixler, who has been attending school, receiving promotions to corporal and then to sergeant, writes Orval Selby of Willow Hill: "I hope you had a nice Christmas and so did I. I was invited to the home of some British friends here and sure had all the best, but I missed the folks, anyway. I've spent a year and a half in England now and it looks like I'll be here some time yet.

"Our base ball team sure did a swell job this season, winning the Eighth Air Service Command championship and was second in the 'little world series' of the British isles. I think we won forty-seven games and lost eight all season, and even the eight were very good games.

"I only pitched twelve games but was lucky enough to win all but one of them. I felt good this year but sort of went down on my batting average. Anyway it sure isn't what it used to be. I sure do wish this thing would end tomorrow."

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Corporal John O. Davison writes the Willow Hill Methodist Sunday school from "somewhere" in New Caledonia: "Your (Christmas) greeting arrived today. It is wonderful to know you are thinking of the boys across. I wish I could be there to attend services. My work and other things considered prevents me from attending services like I should, which I regret very much. This especially is a great test for one's will power, so here's hoping we can keep our minds clear and bring something back home worth while and adjust ourselves to useful lives at home.

"I might add that I am "somewhere" in New Caledonia and have

been to Noumea. Everything is rather interesting after all. I wish each and everyone the best of success in the future. Tell everyone hello. Letters are appreciated and help out a lot."

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Wesley E. Jones of Willow Hill has completed his "boot" training at the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes and is spending a short furlough with his parents and friends. Wesley is a welder and says he may be sent to sea soon, or to one of our advanced naval bases. He likes the Navy fine and says it's a grand opportunity for any young man.

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Sergeant Samuel Utley of Mattoon, formerly of Newton, writes from the Southwest Pacific that his outfit is based behind the lines. He is in a signal battalion in an active combat area. He says the climate is hot and wet all the time, for it rains about every day. He added "Be sure and write to the soldiers often as mail means a lot to the boys down here."

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### **The Song of the Seabees**

We're the seabees of the Navy,  
We can build and we can fight,  
We'll pave a way to victory,  
And guard it day and night.  
And we promise that we'll remember  
The seventh day of December;  
We're the seabees of the Navy,  
Bees of the seven seas.

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Staff Sergeant Lowell B. Story is now stationed at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, with the 110th General hospital. He saw service in England, North Africa, Sicily and Italy before being returned to the United States. He says he expects to be there all summer or longer.

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Leland E. Conley, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Conley of Newton, has been promoted to captain. He is a medical administrative officer with a Hospital unit in New Guinea. In a letter to his parents, he reported he was well.

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Edward Foltz Jr. is spending a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Foltz and family of Newton. He is a Naval Aviation student at Berea college, Berea, Kentucky, and is home between semesters.

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Glenn Sunderland Jr. is spending a week's vacation from Normal university at Normal, where he is a Naval V-12 student, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn H. Sunderland of Newton.

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Sergeant Wilfred C. Harrison, a son of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Harrison of Mattoon, formerly of Rose Hill, has now been sent overseas with a hospital unit.

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Mr. and Mrs. Loren Lester are here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Platz. He is in the Army at Mineral Wells, Texas.

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Private Charles Kenneth Wilson was home over the week end with his wife and baby near Newton.

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Private Bernal Connett of Oblong, who is stationed at Camp Ellis, near Peoria, was a guest of Miss Corda Woods of Newton, Sunday.