



With the Colors

Jan. 4,
1944

James W. McCoy writes: "I want to write a few lines to thank all of you nice people for all the nice Christmas greetings and wonderful letters you sent me during the holidays. I received some of the finest letters any boy could hope to receive. I only hope I am worthy of all the nice things that were said about me.

"They will make me try to that much harder and they have given me a great source of encouragement.

"I received letters from people I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, who also read my letters in the Press. I will get all of them answered in time and that still goes when I said I would be delighted to hear from anyone at anytime.

"I want to thank Auntie Lou for her kind words. I guess she was right when she said I was a home sick boy and I surely try to be a christian. I make a bad, stumbling attempt at it at times, but I'll always try.

"I was stunned by the sad news of my dad's cousin, Veta McCoy's sudden death. She and Millard, her husband, were very good friends of mine. She will be missed so very badly and I hate to think of not seeing her when I come back.

"That is the way with life, thought. There is only a thin thread connecting this world and the next. We never know who's next.

"I am going to talk to my mother and dad on the phone New Year's eve if I can get through o. k. It sure will be good to hear their voices again. They were going to try to get me Christmas but I don't think they could get through. I guess I'll stay up to see the New Year come in this year.

"I believe some awful bloody pages of history are going to be made in this next year of 1944. The casualties will be many. It's going to be the testing hour for all our soldier boys as well as all of their loved ones at home. We are going to fully realize the awfulness of war. From all these strikes we have been having.

"Again I want to thank you all for your fine letters and presents. A very Happy New Year to you all."

Staff Sergeant Irvin Winterrowd, who is in New Guinea with an Army Air Force squadron, writes Mrs. Eugene Winterrowd: "I received two letters today and from the tone of them I don't think that you know I am no longer in the States. I am a very long way from the States. I estimate the distance to be about 10,000 miles and in order to see me you would have to cross the Pacific and the Coral sea, but to be more explicit, I am in New Guinea.

"However, when we landed on this side of the world we put in at Sydney, Australia, and from there we went to Brisbane, Australia, and then from there to this place. From Brisbane to here was one very rough boat ride and one I never care to repeat except on the return trip and then I guess anything will be o. k.

"I didn't mind being in Australia so much but the people were nothing like the Yanks and there are so many things that they do differently than we do that it made it rather hard for me to get used to, but now that I am away from there and in a worse part of the globe, I realize how nice it was

there.

"Here in New Guinea the weather is hot and the climate seems to be damp most of the time. The clothes have an odor to them that isn't as pleasant as it is durable. Throughout the day it is hot and dusty and about every night you can expect rain. We are located on the ocean and the breeze from the water helps cool the nights and make them better for sleeping.

"The bugs are plentiful and the lizards are in abundance but the mosquitoes are not too bad here, although we do have plenty. They are big and their bite is equal to their size."

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Virginia Graham, seaman first class in the Waves, writes from Arlington, Virginia: "This was my first Christmas away from mom and I hope it is my last one, and all the others, although I had a very nice Christmas. We had a party at the office at 2:00 o'clock. We all went over to the cafeteria and sang Christmas carols. Santa was there with a gift for each of us.

"At our barracks we had a very beautiful tree in the lounge. Each mate (roommate) exchanged gifts and we had a stocking for each. I have a Santa stocking with my name on it. Christmas morning we all had breakfast in the lounge, and we had snow for Christmas.

"I want to thank my friends for the beautiful cards and gifts, I really enjoyed them all. We all hope to be home for next Christmas. I am getting along pretty well and trying to do my part the best I can.

"I was made seaman first class on December 11. In the Army it would be corporal. I am trying to get on my new rating before I come home.

"There have been some changes made at the barracks. At first when I came here there were five hundred and at the present time we have over one thousand Waves. They have taken our private rooms from us and threw it all into one big one. I am getting used to it now but at first it was hard.

"I hope this finds you all fine. Be careful to start the New Year out right."

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Aviation Student Norman L. Benefiel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Benefiel of Newton, has been transferred from Miami Beach, Florida, to Rochester, New York, where he is attending the Rochester Business Institute. He says that he likes it fine. His address is A/S Norman L. Benefiel, 51st C. T. D. (AC), 300 Alexander street, Rochester, New York.

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Private Ellsworth Dale Tate has returned after a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Tate of Bogota vicinity. He has been transferred from Camden, Maine, to ACF Replacement Depot No. 1, Fort Meade, Maryland.

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Apprentice Seaman William Ray Bunton, Company 2016, United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, writes Ray E. Everly, local Navy recruiter, that the Navy is fine and he likes it o. k.

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Staff Sergeant Robert Dillman is spending a furlough with his parents, Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. Dyke Dillman of Newton. He is stationed at an airport near Macon, Georgia, with the Army Air Force.

Private First Class Harold W. French, who is a truck driver on the Alcan highway, wishes to express his thanks for the many Christmas greetings sent to him by friends and relatives.

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Private First Class Robert Worcester is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Worcester of Newton. He is here on a short furlough from Storrs, Connecticut, where he is receiving schooling.

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Corporal Homer L. Smith from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is spending a ten day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otho Smith and other relatives of Willow Hill, vicinity.

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Private Robert Geltz of Sainte

Marie has been transferred from Camp Livingston, Louisiana, to a Southwest Pacific base. He is in the Infantry.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. V. Floyd Jones have been spending a short leave at Newton. He is stationed at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at an Army Air Base, and she is teaching near there.

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Private First Class Melvin Utley is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Utley of Newton. He is in the Demonstration regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia.

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Corporal Paul Yaw, who is stationed in Hawaii with the United States Army, writes Howard Clark of Jewett vicinity that he is well and feeling fine.

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Seaman Roy Reynolds is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Reynolds of Newton. He has been on the Atlantic.

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Private Quincy L. Allison was here over New Year's for a visit with his wife and baby and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Allison of Newton. He is stationed at Fort Sheridan.