



With the Colors

7/21/44

Private William Dale Bickers, who is in a Port battalion overseas in the Pacific, sends his mother, Mrs. Perry Bickers of Ingraham vicinity, the following poems:

To My Dear Mom

I went to church today,
It was just a simple service;
We would sing a hymn, then pray;
The chaplain preached a simple sermon,

About the Grace of God,
And about His dear Son,
Jesus, the Son of God.

I don't know what it was
That led my thoughts away
Back home to loved ones dear
As I went to church today.

The organ was so tiny,
Yet sounded majestically.

The choir—there was no choir
When I went to church today.

I just thought you'd like to know
That, as in days gone by,
I worshiped God in church today.

And that's the reason why
I'm writing you this letter
From so very far away,

To let you know, dear Mom,
That I went to church today.

—Chaplain John E. Early

Mother's Medal

I left her standing by the train,
Smiling through tears of grief and
pain;

My striped collar showed the trace
Of tears from that beloved face.

I wondered then why she should
fright,

For wasn't I prepared to fight
For victory, freedom, peace and love,
Protected by my God above?

For days I thought of her standing
there,

Her smiling face, her graying hair,
'Till God helped me to realize

They mystery of those tearful eyes.
Dear mother, yours is the hardest

fight,
For yours is the misery of sleepless

nights,
And dragging days in the house alone,

Watching for mail and the silent
phone.

And when at last peace reigns o'er
the world,

You'll stand at the station, your flag
unfurled,

To receive the medal that you have
won:

The loving smile of your homecoming
son.

—Charles E. Melvin

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Marvin Goebel, who is in New Guinea with the United States Army, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Goebel of near Gila under date of June 18: "I will write you a V-mail letter to let you know that I am still kicking and am all right and still in there swinging. This paper is damp but I hope it will photograph properly. I got a big bunch of Newton Presses the other day, so I had to catch up on the news for a few days.

"There were nine but were of scattered issues. One was December 29 and the last was March 28. I saw where Willis Diel had a close call and received a medal.

"I have been through quite a lot in the last thirty days. It's begun to pass over a little now but I stood it fine. My health has been good; in fact, I've never even had a headache in the last three weeks.

"I haven't received many letters in the last thirty days. I did get one bunch, seven in all, during the struggle. I hope to get some more mail soon, as writing letters is hard to do if you don't get any answer to them."

Maurice Michl, S. C. 2/c and Mrs. Michl of Wilmette and Mrs. Ruby Kraft, son Bobby and little daughter Linda Rae of Northbrook left Sunday for their homes after spending the week with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Michl and sister, Fay Waterstradt. Maurice expects to go overseas soon. He has been at the Glenview Naval Air Base as a cook for the past two years.

The Michls have two other sons in service, Sergeant Raymond Michl in the Army, stationed somewhere in Australia and Gerald Michl, E. M. 3/c, in the Navy, stationed somewhere in the Pacific; and a son-in-law, Private First Class Lewis Waterstradt of the Marines stationed in California.

July 21, 1944

Sergeant Estle I. Short of Willow Hill writes from France that he was in the first wave that landed in France. "I wish you could see France," he said. "It sure is a pretty place. Everything is so green and poppies are blooming in the wheat-fields and all over. Of course some of the people aren't so friendly but they can be tamed.

"I just had a haircut and a shave a few minutes ago. Now all I need is a good hot shower, but I don't now when or where I'll be able to get one of them."

He has just been made tank commander and promoted to the rank of sergeant.

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Louella Kincade Null arrived at Hunter college, Bronx, July 13 to take her "boot" training in the Waves. In a letter received by her mother, she adds: "Give my name and address to all my friends and tell them to write, I will try and answer. I am awfully busy here."

Her address is Clara Kincade Null, A. S., Regiment 37, Lab building, Naval Training school (W. R.), Bronx, New York, 63, N. Y.

Louella is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Kincade of South Newton. She attended Newton Community high school, graduating with the class of 1941.

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Clarence Halterman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Halterman of Villa Grove, formerly of near Hunt City, enlisted in the Navy twenty-five days before his eighteenth birthday. His address is Apprentice Seaman Clarence Wayne Halterman, Company 1530, United States Naval Training Center, Great Lakes.

He graduated from the Villa Grove high school with the class of 1944 and was a member of the F. F. A., being a contestant from the Villa Grove chapter at the state swimming contest the last two years.

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ances Edward Thompson are the parents of a ten pound son, born at Effingham hospital, Wednesday evening. He has been named Robert William. Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. Dyke Dillman and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thompson of Newton are grand-parents. Mr. Thompson is with the Navy Shore Patrol near San Francisco, California. He was an aviation machinist's mate with the Marine fighters during the attack on Guadalcanal in 1942 and 1943.

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Mrs. Raymond K. Harms has received word that her husband, somewhere in England, has been promoted from the rank of first lieutenant to that of captain in the Army Air Forces. Captain Harms and his brother, Walser Harms, entered the service three years ago this month and received promotions to captain within a few days of each other, Walser on June 24 and Raymond on July 1.

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First Lieutenant Charles B. Musgrave of Oblong was co-pilot on a heavy bomber which made a recent daylight raid on Yap island in the Pacific. The raid by the bomber group caught the Japs by surprise and fifteen enemy planes were destroyed on the ground, besides blasting great holes in the runways of the air strip.

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James Picquet Jr., aviation machinist's mate, first class, United States Navy, left Monday after spending a week's leave at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Picquet of Sainte Marie. Jim is now stationed at the U. S. Naval Air Station in Ottumwa, Iowa.

July 21, 1944
Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Gordon Ward is here on a ten day leave from Great Lakes Naval Training center, visiting his family and other relatives. He says he often sees Harry "Stormy" Parr of Newton, who is on security watch at the center.

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Mrs. Drexler Dana of Newton is in receipt of a letter from her husband, stating that he has seen two of the robot or "buzz" bombs in England but none has landed close enough to him to even jar the windows. Lieutenant Colonel Dana is now on the general staff.

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Dale Slack, seaman first class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Slack, has been home on a fifteen day leave from the Southwest Pacific, where he has been for the past fifteen months. He has been serving on a transport and brought back several souvenirs, Jap shells, cigarettes, etc.

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Technical Sergeant Virgil E. Price writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs.

Everett Price of near Newton, that he has been transferred back to Hawaii after having been in the South Pacific. He is in the Army Air Force.

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Private First Class Wayne Lee, who is in the Marine Corps in California, was a visitor at Newton this week, while on a furlough. His sister, Mrs. Everett Jones and daughter Jocelyn of Salem came Tuesday to visit him. She will return Saturday or Sunday.

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Corporal Ferdinand L. Shedlebower has landed safely in England with an American General hospital, according to a letter received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shedlebower of Sainte Marie. He has been in the Army since November, 1942.

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Corporal George S. McColley writes that the French girls are prettier than the English girls, which shows that he is now in Normandy. He is a technician with an Armored division.

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Mail Specialist Floyd "Whiskers" Portlock is in the hospital at Treasure island, San Francisco, for a checkup and treatment for an old back injury, an outgrowth of carrying the mail at Newton. He is now in the Navy.

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Mrs. Garland Williams has received word that her husband has been promoted to motor machinist mate third class. He is at a submarine base in Australia.

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Sergeant and Mrs. Edward Parr have purchased the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Rought on Liberty avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Rought are moving to Litchfield, where he is manager of two theatres.

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Sergeant James Robert Maxwell came Friday to be at the bedside of his mother, who is ill at Union hospital, Terre Haute. Sergeant Maxwell has been stationed in Hawaii for

the past two years.

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Corporal George A. Clark is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Clark of near Yale. He is stationed with the Finance center at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis.

July 21, 1944
Private First Class Donald Lowe spent the week end with his mother, Mrs. C. C. Lowe and daughters of Willow Hill. He reports hard training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

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Chriss Mineo, water tender second class, left Sunday for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he will enter a Naval school. He is finishing his fourth year of service and has seen much action in the Pacific.

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Oscar J. Boehl, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Boehl of the Bend, is receiving his "boot" training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. He is in Company 1474.

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Lawrence Gifford, seaman second class, returned to Great Lakes, Sunday, after spending his "boot" leave at Willow Hill with his family.

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Sergeant Tim Holt is now stationed at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. His address is Company B, 797 B. N. F. A., Camp Chaffee, Arkansas.

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Sergeant and Mrs. Charles Schiller are the parents of twin sons, which arrived Saturday in California.

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Corporal William Roy Danforth of Newton is now overseas with a General hospital. He is an Army cook.