



## With the Colors

7/28/44

How can I sleep upon a bed, with  
linen clean and white,  
When my dear son is lying in a fox-  
hole every night?

Although his eyes are heavy for the  
want of sleep and rest,  
The piercing light of bursting shells  
keeps fear within his breast.

How can he sleep when deadly bombs  
are dropping all around?

While his body feels discomfort on  
the wet, muddy ground?

I fear that he is cramped and ill with  
worry, and with pain.

Oh God, protect that son of mine and  
bring him home again.

I know sometimes he dreams of home  
and those he loves so well,

Then wakes to find it all a dream,  
by scream of shot and shell.

But when that happy day will come,  
and his silent room be filled

With laughter, footsteps, and with  
song,

The war noise all be stilled;

'Tis then I'll lay me down to rest

And sleep will come once more;

And life will be the same again,

Just as it was before.

—A Mother

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Mr. and Mrs. William E. Erwin of  
Flora, formerly of Newton, have re-  
ceived a letter from their son, Pri-  
vate William E. Erwin Jr., stating  
that he had landed in England and  
was fine, but very busy. He wrote  
that the English were very good to  
them and they had the best of food.

He added a person could start a  
riot in a town with a package of gum.  
He also said there were a lot of wild  
ducks, which were tame as chickens.  
He ran a duck down; they were so  
tame you couldn't make them fly.

"We were about five feet away  
from a big cock pheasant and stood  
and watched him a couple of minutes  
before he flew. I would sure like to  
have him or one like him mounted  
back home. They are even more  
beautiful than our ring neck pheas-  
ants. The English evidently don't hunt  
them for sport, for I can't figure out  
any other reason for their tameness."

Bill would be glad to hear from his  
friends and his address may be ob-  
tained by writing in care of Mrs. Wil-  
liam Erwin, 426 West Fifth street,  
Flora, Illinois.

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Private Chester E. Semple writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Semple of West Liberty: "Hello everybody. How are you at home? I am o. k. over here in France. I am assigned to a division at last. We are living in foxholes and eating K rations.

"Our mail is all messed up. They say it takes about fifteen days to get a latter here. I won't hear from you for a month yet. It's rough over here, but I am not alone."

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Staff Sergeant Ellsworth O. Tate,

son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Tate of Newton vicinity has written his parents that he met his brother, Private Clyde Tate Jr., in Italy. It was the first time they had seen each other for two and one-half years.

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Private Clyde Tate, who was wounded, was recently released from an African hospital and sent to Italy about six weeks ago. The extent of his injuries are unknown.

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Mrs. Wayne Kinder has received word from her husband that he has been promoted to aviation machinist's mate third class in the Navy.

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Mrs. Leroy Wakefield has received word from her husband that he has been promoted to electrician's mate third class in the Navy.

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Maynard Ireland, seaman second class, is visiting his family in Willow Hill after completing his boot training at Farragut, Idaho.

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Private First Class and Mrs. Ralph Dean Kelly of Camp Custer, Michigan, are visiting relatives in Willow Hill.

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Private James Smith, now stationed in Mississippi, is visiting his parents and other relatives in Willow Hill.