



## With the Colors

6/16/44

Staff Sergeant James M. Jourdan writes from Iran: "It has been quite some time since leaving Newton for the Army, so I will try and drop a few lines your way. I am now as you know overseas and have been for eighteen months. I have been in the Army almost forty months and traveled quite a lot.

"I first left Newton for Chicago where I was examined and sent to Fort Sheridan, where I was classified. Of course, they ask one what he would like to do in the Army, but you can bet your last dollar nine out of every ten don't get what they want.

I asked for the Infantry, Heavy Artillery, Engineers or Air Corps, but landed in the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Warren, Wyoming, where we took seventeen weeks of hard training, and God only knows how many training schedules since. I was then sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for a month or so and then went to Arkansas and Louisiana for maneuvers. I came back in November, stayed until June and was sent to the swamps of Florida, where I stayed for three weeks.

"I was then sent to the Carolinas for maneuvers. I came back to Florida for four days, then was called out to Tennessee maneuvers. We were called off of Tennessee maneuvers, went back to Florida, stayed about three weeks, then were sent to California where we stayed for nine days before leaving the states.

"I arrived in Iran in January, 1943, just after the British and Russians took Iran. We drove through deserts by following their one single line of communication, where I am now in the heart of Iran desert. Since being here the Army has built many modern roads, warehouses and mud buildings for the soldiers to sleep in, and set up many modern lines of communications. We have with much sabotage, stealing and hijacking by the Persians, most of whom are German sympathizers.

"I have fought this desert heat for seventeen months, the temperature running from 80 to 184 degree. I have seen many queer things and places which I can't mention until after the war. I have killed many gazelles and wild boar for fresh food. The things I have seen the soldiers do over here, I wouldn't thought it possible, especially in the desert.

"I have seen many countries which as a poor man I couldn't have seen in civilian life. I guess the hardships were worth it, for it all has been for a good and just cause knowing freedom which I hope will be everlasting. All I ask of the army is get me out of this heat while I have a few marbles left and for those boys who are in the states just thank their lucky stars they aren't over here. I guess almost everyone here has tried one way or another to get in real action, but I guess this is a very important thing and I can see that getting Russia supplies has helped very much in this war.

"I will mention a few of the places I have been, Pearl Harbor, New Zealand, Australia, India, and Iran. In Iran I have visited Diful, Andimeshk, Ahuag, Teheran, Gum, Kraueishaw, Skaush, and the Caspian sea.

"I have visited, Daniel's tomb, the Great Persian rug factory, saw the city of the blind, the bridges which were built by Alexander the Great

and many other historical places. In about two or three weeks my mother will receive around two hundred pictures I have taken over here, so if you like, you may see them and put what you like for a time on display in your office.

"In the past week I have located, Bobby Bower, John Howard Ross and a Smith boy from Willow Hill and am on the track of Delbert Kerner. You might tell all hello in Jasper county, and now I will close hoping to be back in Illinois before too long. This letter leaves me in good health."

Anyone wishing to write him may obtain his address from his mother, Mrs. Josiah Jourdan of Newton.

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Private James W. McCoy writes from Camp Gruber, Oklahoma: "I have been participating in a series of Army shows in Oklahoma City the past five days. The "Rainbow" or Forty-Second division of which I am a part, of was called upon to furnish part of the show up there so we took our forty-eight state flags and around forty U. S. flags, our Band and Drum and Bugle Corps. All in all there were about five hundred of us. We were in three shows and a capacity crowd of 25,000 packed the stadium each night. The event was launching the Fifth War Loan in Oklahoma.

"I received a good letter from Everett Hill today. He is probably in England, and I hope he is safe and sound. He was in on the big show probably. I knew him, when I went to high school at Willow Hill. I have a number of friends over there in England. My prayer is that they come out of that awful mess and return to Willow Hill and their homes some time in the near future.

"Fate has kept me on this side so far. I got quite a jar when I was pushed out of the Air Corps. I was in something that I liked then but as the old saying goes, you can't have everything. I am in a good Infantry division now and can't complain and I wouldn't anyway. Not when my own buddies are over there giving up their lives, that we might live in peace on this side. I know we all are praying for them over there, that they may be victorious in this awful struggle."

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Recognition as eligible to qualify for the petty officer rate of motor machinist's mate third class came to Bluejacket Rennie E. Brackett of Newton, during recent graduation ceremonies at the Naval Training school (diesel) located at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Navy pier, Chicago. He is now a fireman first class.

At Navy pier the newly graduated man received fundamental instruction in the operation and maintenance of internal combustion engines and their auxiliaries.

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Private First Class Albert C. Helregel, son of Mrs. Frank Helregel of Sainte Marie vicinity, and Private Joseph L. Coleman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Coleman of Willow Hill, were expected to arrive in the United States this week for furloughs. Both are among the men being sent back after service overseas.

Private Coleman is in the Air Corps and has been in the European Theatre of Operations, and Private Helregel is in the Field Artillery and has been in the Pacific area.

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Private Donald Roy Swick writes his mother, Mrs. Earl Swick of near Newton, from Fort Sill, Oklahoma: "I have charge of the day room this evening, so there isn't much to do. We have easy chairs in here and a radio. I have a dental appointment tomorrow. They are going to fix my teeth up. I need about six filled, I think.

"The camp was sure in a uproar the morning the invasion started.

They had sirens on, making all the noise they could about 2:00 o'clock in the morning."

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Samuel A. Drake, machinist's mate second class, arrived last week at a port in Rhode Island after being located for a year in the Caribbean sea area. He is a member of a construction battalion maintenance unit, all of whom returned to the states.

He is here for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Emma Drake and other relatives, enjoying a furlough of thirty days, after which he will receive another assignment.

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A seven pound, eleven ounce son, their second child and son, was born Monday at the Methodist hospital, Indianapolis, to Captain and Mrs. Kent L. Wattleworth. Captain Wattleworth is now stationed at Gulfport, Mississippi, with the Army Medical Corps. Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Wattleworth of Newton are grand-parents.

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Private Paul William Jones has returned to the United State after fifteen months in Alaska, and was expected home for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jones of Lis. He has been doing serology work for the Alaskan command of the Army.

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Private First Class Delbert R. Eveland of California is spending a seventeen day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Eveland of Newton vicinity. His brother, Private First Class Merle Eveland, who has been in the South Pacific two years, is well.

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A son, Donald Clyde, was born Friday to Mr. and Mrs. Don Danforth of Newton at a San Diego, California, hospital. Don is in the Navy and was on the Aircraft Carrier Lexington when it was sunk in the Battle of the Coral Sea in 1942.

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clapp of West Liberty vicinity have received word from their son, Marlin Clapp, who is in the Navy, stating that he is recovering from the mumps. He is based on New Guinea and recently saw a wild monkey.

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Private First Class Floyd Ferguson left Tuesday for Camp Forrest, Tennessee after a thirteen day furlough with his wife, Mrs. Martella Ferguson

and his parents. Floyd was in Lawson General hospital, Atlanta, Georgia for the last nine months.

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Private Gordon Stanley writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Stanley of West Liberty vicinity, that he is now at Fort Lawton, Washington. He left the United States in August, 1942, and has been in Alaska and the Aleutian islands since that time.

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William Walter Fasnacht Jr., son of Rev. and Mrs. Walter Fasnacht of Newton, left Thursday evening for Springfield, where he was to report for service in the Navy. He recently enlisted before his eighteenth birthday.

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Captain Leland E. Conley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Conley of Newton, is now under treatment at Nichols General hospital, Louisville, Kentucky. He is convalescing from a spinal ailment he contracted in the New Guinea jungles.

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Chief Petty Officer Francis Long was a visitor with his mother, Mrs. Frank Long of Newton, this week. He is with the Navy Air Transport Command