



With the Colors

6/27/44

Private Cletus H. Resch writes from Camp Claiborne, Louisiana:

I am sitting here and thinking of the things I left behind,

And I hate to put on paper what is running through my mind,

We've dug a million ditches, and we've cleaned ten miles of ground

And we've drunk our beer and whiskey in every joint in town.

But there is one consolation. Gather round me while I tell:

When we die we will go to heaven, for we've done our stretch in hell.

We've built a million kitchens, for the cooks to burn our beans,

We've stood a million guard mounts, and we've cleaned the damn latrines.

We've washed a million mess kits, we've peeled a million spuds,

We've marched a million miles or more with mud smeared on our duds,

We've killed a million centipedes out of our snow white sheets,

When our work on earth is finished, then our friends will surely tell,

That we've surely went to heaven, for we've served our stretch in hell.

When final taps are sounded and we've laid aside life's cares,

We'll stand our last inspection on the shining golden stairs,

The angels there will welcome us a harp we'll sweetly play,

We'll draw a million canteen books and read them in a day.

And then we'll hear St. Peter tell us loudly with a yell,

Take a seat boys, from Claiborne you've sure done your stretch in hell.

Guy C. More, a son of Emery More, formerly of Newton, writes his aunt, Mrs. E. O. Waggoner, from New Guinea:

"I sure was exceptionally glad to receive your letter. Since, due to circumstances, I've been unable to write you. I thought perhaps you would stop writing until you heard from me. However, the sweet person you are, you have kept writing and I'm glad. I really enjoy your letters. So please keep writing and I'll write every chance I get.

"I tried to look up John Smith yesterday. I find he is on his way home on the rotation plan. So you will be seeing him soon, possibly before you get this letter. He will be able to tell you everything we have been doing. I haven't seen Gobbel but he is close by, in the same battalion. Will try to look him up in the next couple of days. He is o. k. I asked about him from some boys in his company, and he is doing all right.

"I'm still looking forward to that chicken dinner. I hope you are all well and happy."

He has a brother, Glen More, in a camp in Southern Illinois.

Private James N. DeVore, recently of Camp Polk, Louisiana, has arrived safely in New Guinea. He writes that the country is hot, swampy, between the mountains, and there are lots of jungles. Anyone wishing to write him can acquire the address of his parents.

June 27, 1944

Private First Class and Mrs. Paul Wheat are spending a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wheat of Newton. He is being transferred from a Florida air field to the east coast.

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Corporal Paul J. Reep has been transferred to Geneva, Nebraska, a new field, where the Army Air Force has a number of the new B-29 Superfortress bombers.

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Glenn Sunderland Jr., a Naval V12 student, is here for a few days visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn

H. Sunderland. He will go to Duke university, Durham, North Carolina, for further training.

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William Cantwell Jr., who is with the Navy V-12 unit at Normal university, Normal, is spending the week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Cantwell of Newton. He is an aviation student.

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Staff Sergeant Charles Schiller has been transferred to Company A, 540th Amphibious Tractor battalion, Fort Ord, California. He served in Hawaii earlier in the war.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy McCall of Newton have received a letter from their son, Private John Lloyd McCall, who has been in the Southwest Pacific for the past sixteen months, saying he was in good health again, after spending three months in a hospital. He has received the Good Conduct medal and his company (Coast Artillery) has received a presidential citation for work done on Guadalcanal.

Another son, Technical Sergeant James McCall, is with a Medical Collecting Company in England, and hasn't been heard from since the invasion started. A third son, Seaman Second Class Vernon McCall, is attending Navy Radio school at Farragut, Idaho.

June 27, 1944

At the San Antonio, Texas, Aviation Cadet Center, potential pilots, bombardiers and navigators are receiving preflight training to prepare them for aerial instruction and duties as aircrew members in the Army Air Forces, among them Ralph G. Schackmann of near Newton.

The future fliers are subjected to a rigorous ten week program of instruction covering physical, academic and military training. At the Cadet Center they study maps and charts, aircraft identification, small arms and other subjects while being conditioned physically for the long training period ahead. Bombardiers, navigators and pilots receive the first five weeks of preflight instruction as a group, then are separated for specialized training.

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Private Urban Volk writes: "I thought I would drop you a line or two, just to let you know that I am o. k. I received my first mail, since I left the States, yesterday. I sure made me feel good to hear from home once again. I haven't received the Press since April 18.

"I am somewhere in England. I

could tell you lots about this country also the people, but I will just skip it now and wait 'til I get back. I guess by now you have already heard the latest news. So all I will say is to wish us all over here the best of luck and maybe we soon will be back home again. I haven't much time to write; also stationery is very hard to get over here, but I am always glad to hear from my friends back home or I might say old Newton. I want to take the opportunity now to thank you all for writing to me.

"I will now sign off hoping this finds everybody well back home."

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Charles Cowger, seaman first class, is home on leave with his family at Hidalgo. He is stationed at Camp Peary, Virginia. After being in "boot" camp at Great Lakes for four weeks, he was pulled out of his company and sent to Camp Peary as an instructor, where he will be for some time yet. He likes his work fine.

For any friends who wish to drop him a few lines, which will be greatly appreciated, his address is Area D-3, Barracks 107, Platoon 60, Camp Peary, Virginia.

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Mr. and Mrs. Perry Bruner of Willow Hill have received two letters from their son, Seaman Second Class Glen L. Bruner, stating he is well. Glen is on a mine sweeper, serving with the Atlantic fleet.

Another son, Seaman First Class Luther J. Bruner, serving on the Pacific, was well when last heard from.

A son-in-law, Master Sergeant Lloyd E. Shook, is serving with the invasion forces in Europe.

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