



With the Colors

6/30/44

Private First Class Marcus M. Rife writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Rife of Wheeler, from somewhere in France:

"I will drop a line, as I have a few minutes, to let you know I am now somewhere in France and am just fine at the present. There is nothing for you to be excited about. Of course, I can't say what is going on here, but if you are listening to the news, which I know you are, you know more than I do.

"I had a rather unusual meeting yesterday with a friend of mine. It was none other than Chester (Gump) Bailey. I mean to tell you that was one happy meeting.

"I just walked up on him. He didn't recognize me at first, and he was so surprised, as I was also, that we could hardly speak. He didn't know me with my hat on and I would most likely have been the same way, but he had his hat off. He is sure fine and the same old Gump as always."

* * * * *

An outstanding honor, the Expert Infantryman badge, has been awarded to Leslie L. Isley of the 254th Infantry regiment, Sixty-third division, Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi.

To receive such an award it was necessary to be "tops" and qualify in such things as individual weapon, transition firing, crew served weapon, grenade course, as well as complete familiarization firing, the prescribed twenty-five mile march, physical fitness test, infiltration course, participation in close combat course, and cities course.

- He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Isley of Newton.

* * * * *

Two Newton men are receiving their initial naval indoctrination at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes. Their "boot" training consists of instruction in seamanship, military drill and general naval procedure. During this period a series of aptitude tests will be taken by the recruits to determine whether they will be assigned to a Naval Service School or to immediate active duty at sea.

Their recruit training completed, these men will spend a period of leave at home. They are: Royce Don Higgins of Route Five, and Jesse North Jourdan.

* * * * *

Aviation Cadet Mac D. Cramer, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cramer of Yale vicinity, was graduated from the Army Air Forces Pilot school at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, Tuesday, as a second lieutenant. He was a member of class 44-F of this Twin Engine school.

Lieutenant Cramer is a graduate of Casey high school, class of 1942, where he won athletic honors. He will now wear the silver wings of a flying officer.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Evan Semple of West Liberty are in receipt of word from their son Chester E. Semple, stating that he landed somewhere in England. He said the "last three days of the trip was rough and bounced us around a little. Some of the waves came over the front of the deck of the ship. Tell the rest of the people around home where I am, have them write."

They can obtain his address from his parents.

* * * * *

Mrs. Emma Carlton of Willow Hill has received a letter from her son, Private First Class Edmond B. "Speck" Orr, stating that he has been awarded the Good Conduct medal, given to soldiers who, since Pearl Harbor, have completed a year of exemplary service, upon recommendation of their commanding officer.

"Speck" has been stationed in the Southwest Pacific for the past two years and this is the first word received from him for six weeks.

*June * * 30, * 1944*

Staff Sergeant Frank York of Camp Wheeler, Georgia, is here spending fourteen days furlough with his wife and little daughter, his parents and other relatives and friends. Sergeant York is being transferred from Camp Wheeler to a camp somewhere in Maryland.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jones and Private and Mrs. Paul W. Jones spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Eber Whitehurst and family. Paul is home on furlough from Camp Lawton, Washington. He and his wife will return to Camp Lawton about the first of July.

* * * * *

Mrs. Elmer Townsend of Newton is in receipt of a letter from her nephew, Lieutenant George W. Kasserman Jr., stating that he was well. He was with the initial wave which landed in France, June 6 on D-day. Her son, Corporal Tom Spencer, was still in

England subsequent to D-day.

* * * * *

Sergeant and Mrs. Dorris E. Scott and daughter Pamela of Madison, Wisconsin, are spending a fifteen day furlough with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Westendorf and family and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. Scott of Newton.

* * * * *

Lieutenant and Mrs. Herbert A. Mason were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dhom last week. Mrs. Mason is the former Florence Dhom. They left Saturday morning for Edgewood arsenal, Maryland.

* * * * *

Berthal L. Adkins, fireman second class, who is stationed at Great Lakes in Basic Engineers school, spent the week end at Willow Hill with his family.

* * * * *

Private First Class Carl Flynn of San Luis Obispo, California, is in Newton this week, visiting his wife and other relatives and friends. He is a former resident of Willow Hill.