



With the *6/6/44* Colors

Corporal Ferdinand L. Hartrich writes from Italy to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hartrich in Sainte Marie: "We've been pretty busy and still are and you know what at. I can tell you now I was in the battle of Cassino. I thought I was pretty lucky that the Jerries didn't have any lead with my name on it.

"Then the malaria germ got me down; slept in too many mudholes, I guess. I was in the hospital eleven days, lost ten pounds. Everyone was swell to us there, but I'm back on the firing line and glad of it. I missed my buddies you know.

"These Frenchmen over here are fighting fools. I hope they get a little credit back there, but of course they have all G. I. equipment. We are still 'sweating,' the big invasion. Everybody's wondering what's holding it up. We hear the beachhead forces are on the offensive again. and with Cassino ready to crack, a great day is in the offing.

"Maybe it will have happened by the time you get this; why, we may even be in Rome. If some people back there thought this should have happened long ago, what a pity they couldn't have seen this battle ground.

"I'm hoping you're all well. Don't worry if you don't hear from me often, we've big things to do."

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Private First Class Charles R. Weber is under treatment at Mayo General hospital, Galesburg, for malaria and yellow jaundice, acquired during his twenty-eight months of service overseas in the Southwest Pacific. His mother, Mrs. Pearl Daus of Elgin, who visited him last week, writes that he is slowly improving but is not allowed visitors except from his immediate family.

He was brought to the United States in one of four hospital planes which transported seventy-three patients, several of whom were litter cases.

Charles was a member of National Guard Company I, 129th Infantry, three years when inducted into federal service in the spring of 1941, and received his training at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Later he was trans-

ferred to the 132nd Infantry and was among the first troops to land in Australia. He was later stationed in New Caledonia, the Fiji islands and the New Hebrides islands, and was in combat in Guadalcanal and New Guinea.

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Lieutenant Herschel Jones left Friday evening for Maxwell field, Montgomery, Alabama, where he will be assigned for training with B-17 and B-24 bombers, Flying Fortresses and Liberators. He expects to be there twelve or thirteen weeks before going to the war zone. He has been at Newton for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Jones.

Another son, Lieutenant Wayne D. Jones, has been assigned to the 57th Infantry Training battalion at Camp Wolters, Texas, after special training at the Infantry school at Fort Benning, Georgia.

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Lewis J. Jenkins Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Jenkins of West Liberty, was recently graduated from the Naval Air Technical Training Center located at Norman, Oklahoma. While at the Norman school he studied the aviation specialty field for which his recruit training aptitude tests showed he was best suited.

The newly graduated man is now awaiting active duty orders either to sea or to a naval base, where after further experience in his new trade the blue jacket will be eligible for a higher promotion.

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Radioman Second Class Neil Mason is visiting his sister, Mrs. C. R. Obermeyer and family and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Eph Mason of Newton and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Mason of Vincennes, formerly of Newton. He has been on a PT boat in the Aleutian islands and has seen lots of service against the Japs in that area.

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Ensign Ralph E. Swisher of Indian Head, Maryland, was in Newton, Tuesday night, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Swisher. He reported to the naval base at Los Angeles, Monday. He is with the Mine Disposal Corps, and said he was on his way to Tokyo and would be back in a year.

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Private Tony Levitt, who has been in an M. P. outfit at Fort Custer, Michigan, has been transferred to the 20th Engineering Training Company at Camp Ellis. They expect to be sent overseas soon as a replacement unit.

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Private First Class Kenneth Wilson

is spending a week's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wilson, and his brother, Albert Wilson of Newton. He is stationed at Camp Phillips, Kansas, where he recently went after maneuvers in Louisiana.

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James Bruner, seaman first class, who is in the Navy in the South Pacific, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bruner of Willow Hill, that he is well and hopes to be home on a furlough in the fall.

Another son, Glen L. Bruner, seaman second class, who has been doing duty with the Coast Guard in South Carolina, is now at sea with the Navy.

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Private First Class Delbert Wilson of Newton is back on duty again at Camp Fannin, Texas, after having undergone an operation for gallstones. He was critically ill for a time but is now much better and is expected home on a furlough soon.

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Lieutenant John S. Wright of Newton, who has been in North Africa with a Signal Intelligence unit, has been in Italy for the past month. His unit was transferred to the Italian mainland to be closer to the battle area.

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Corporal Paul J. Reep is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Verner L. Reep of Newton. He accompanied three other soldiers as far as Evansville, after which they went to their homes in Ohio and Indiana.

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Lieutenant Paul Robards is spending a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ohmer Robards of Boos. He has just completed an advanced course in the Medical Administrative Corps of the Army.

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Corporal James N. Beebe, who is in Sardinia, writes that he is o. k. and things are going along as usual with his outfit. He looks forward to the Press as it carries so much news from home.

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Private First Class R. D. Ferguson of Willow Hill is now at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, with Company I, 144th Infantry, having been transferred there from Camp Hulen, Texas.

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William J. Mendenhall of near Newton has been promoted from corporal to sergeant in the European theatre of operations. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Mendenhall.

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Private First Class Lon Cleaver Jr. of Camp Grant, Rockford, spent the

week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Cleaver of near Newton.

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Private Aubrey Chesnut spent the week end at Newton with his wife and family. It was Mrs. Chesnut's birthday.

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Private Elmer Dalton, who is stationed at Madison, Wisconsin, spent the week end with his wife and son of Newton.

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Sergeants Stanley Hynes of Newton and Don Hartrich of Sainte Marie are in Italy with a General hospital. They recently sailed for Europe.

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Corporal Leo LaFief is spending a furlough at Newton.