



With the *3/14/44* Colors

Corporal Marie Koeble writes Miss Isabelle Hines of Newton from Fort Belvoir, Virginia:

"It seems like a long time ago, and little did I dream the time would go by so fast. Yes, I have been in this women's army over a year, and even though we all are anxious for this to be over and enjoy a nice private bedroom with ruffled curtains at the window and matching spread on the bed, I almost dread to see the parting of the ways for our company. It will be a year next week that we arrived in Belvoir, and a number of us are still here together, having even gone through Administrative school in Des Moines in the same class, so that now, we just seem like one happy family, and I know I will miss them.

"Oh yes, we have our gripe sessions, but we also have our good times too. And for a group of women living so close together (double decker beds spaced only a few feet apart) I think we get along in grand style. When one is ill, there is really a big family to wait on you, as I found out during my long siege in the hospital. And as far as having a good time, you should see and hear the place on Monday nights when we are all confined to our area. I have heard many say that they have a better time on Monday nights in the barracks when all are home than any other night.

"It is a good thing we are not located in some residential district of a city! But by the time for lights out the BP soon has all the noise calmed down to whispers which gradually fade away into peaceful slumbers, and by 6:30 the next morning you will see all the same girls lined up beside their bunks in newly pressed uniforms, beds neatly made, foot and wall lockers open and neatly arranged and the whole barracks shining with cleanliness, all in readiness for the weekly inspection by our company officers. Of course the barracks are inspected daily, but on the other days of the week they do it after we are gone to work.

"Once a month, either the general or colonel has the inspection of the company. This usually calls for still more extra work, such as we had last week. And in connection with last week's all those that were in a year or more and had not committed any serious infractions of the army rules were given a "Good Conduct" ribbon. So on Monday night we practiced for an hour or more on the drill field so the formation would be perfect, then we went back and cleaned the company area.

"After all this, we woke up the next morning to find a layer of snow on the ground and it rained and snowed all day, so that evening after work, the colonel presented the ribbons to us in the barracks with very little ceremony. Yes, now we are all be-decked out in ribbons and look like a veteran from overseas. Last fall all those that had been in the Waac and re-enlisted in the Wac was given a green ribbon, and now we have a red "good girl" ribbon, as we call it.

"Since I last wrote you I have also added another stripe on my sleeve, so that I now have the rating of technician fifth grade. It came as quite a surprise, having just changed jobs on my return from sick furlough.

"This is only the seventh of March and already we have had snow twice this month. But spring should be here soon, as I noticed on my last

trip to Washington that the green grass is trying to put in its appearance in places. And this is really a beautiful spot in the spring and fall. Some parts of the post are probably not so picturesque but the Army certainly gave us a lovely location. We are on the old side of the post, off one corner of the main drill field. On one side of this field is the flag pole, while the other three sides of the field is flanked by massive brick buildings set back in well kept lawns and shrubbery.

Off to one corner can be seen a wooded section, and in among the trees can be seen the Wac barracks. Except for the Motor Corps, most of our girls work in these brick buildings, one of them being the post headquarters, so that we are very close to our place of work. I often stop and wonder if we really realize how fortunate we are in living so near our work and on such a beautiful post. When you see this particular part of the post, visitors say it reminds them of a college campus."

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Bluejacket Lowell E. Slater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Levi A. Slater of Yale, was graduated last week from the Naval Training school (Aviation) at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Navy pier, Chicago and received recognition as eligible to qualify for the petty officer rate of aviation machinist's mate third class.

The graduate was sent to the specialty school on the basis of his recruit training test scores which indicated aeronautical ability.

Navy pier's school offers instruction for both aviation machinist's mates and aviation metalsmiths. Airplane motors, wiring and assembly comprise the machinist's course; metalsmiths learn the maintenance and repair of the airplane structure. Both groups received instruction in the principles of flight.

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It is reported that Corporal Erban Hartke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Hartke of near Dieterich, was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army on March 2, exactly two years after the date he was inducted.

Erban spent eighteen months in the South Pacific battle area and participated in action at Guadalcanal, and the New Georgia islands. He contracted tropical malaria from which he has not as yet fully recovered. He recently spent three weeks with his parents while on a furlough from the O'Reilly General hospital at Springfield, Missouri, where he had been receiving care and treatment since his return to the states.

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Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Miller of Willow Hill vicinity are in receipt of a letter from their son, Corporal Glenard E. Miller, written after he arrived back at his base in the Hawaiian islands after participating in the assault on the Marshall slands.

He said he was well and feeling fine, and enjoyed reading the Presses, which had arrived in the meantime, even if they were late. He hadn't had any mail since December 14.

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Sergeant Francis Kinsel, United States Army Air Force, Charleston, South Carolina, talked to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kinsel of Newton, by telephone, Saturday night. He told them he had been promoted to sergeant that day. He said he had been quail hunting some and had had good luck. He added fishing was good there also. His wife is with him.

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James Picquet, aviation machinist's mate first class, United States Navy, is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Picquet of Sainte Marie, and other relatives. He participated in battles on Guadalcanal and other islands in the Solomon campaign and elsewhere in the

Southwest Pacific.

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James Edward Thompson, aviation machinist's mate first class, is here from the Naval Air Station at Alameda, California, visiting his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thompson. He is back in the United States after serving during the Guadalcanal campaign.

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Private Ennis D. Frazier has been transferred from Keesler field, Mississippi, to Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, where he is in the 309th Bomber group, 426th Bomber squadron. He writes that he likes it fine there.

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Announcements have been received in Newton of the birth of a son at the Coleman hospital in Indianapolis to Sergeant and Mrs. Ralph Elston. He has been named Ralph Warren II. Sergeant Elston is in the Air Forces in England. Mrs. Elston is the former Deloris Frost of Indianapolis.

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Private First Class Paul Jean Reep is spending a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Verner L. Reep of Newton. He has been at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, with the Army Air Force.

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Sergeant Russell F. Desch, son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Desch of Indianapolis, is assigned with the Air Corps in a Quartermaster Service group, stationed in England.

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Dale Boxley, aviation machinist's mate third class, United States Navy, is spending a short furlough at Newton with his wife and baby, born recently.

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Private Wayne Billman is now overseas somewhere in England. He has just written his aunt, Mrs. H. M. Davis of near Hidalgo.

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Corporal and Mrs. Rene C. Donnelly of Chicago are spending a two weeks furlough with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Huber of Sainte Marie.