



With the Colors

5/19/44

James E. Boldrey, metalsmith first class, who is with the Seabees, the famed Naval construction battalions, writes his sister, Mrs. Hansel Brackett of Newton, that he has landed again on another island. He says: "I can tell you now I have been on Bougainville for five months and on Guadalcanal before that.

"It was plenty tough there but is safe here. We had a lot of bombings and shellings there and lived in fox-holes most of the time. I'm still not sorry I'm in the service although it's pretty nice to be where the bullets aren't whistling all the time.

"This island is one of a group. I can't say what group. It is small, though. There are a lot of coral reefs around this island. We just killed a coral snake about four feet long and four inches in diameter.

"I sleep in a jungle hammock that has a netting that zips all around and a waterproof top on it. I have mine between two trees right on the edge of the 'Ole Pacific.' It's very comfortable to sleep in, even if it leaks a little when it rains too hard.

"We had our first fresh meat 'steak' today, the first in a long time. Boy, it was sure good after eating jungle rations. You see when we move like this it is some time before we are set up to have very good chow. We only bring enough to get along with. For instance, I have only one change of clothes so I have to wash every other day."

Another brother, John Woodrow Boldrey, fireman first class, stationed at a Navy submarine base in the Hawaiian islands at present.

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Mrs. Daisy Mulvaney of Terre Haute, formerly of Newton, writes that her son, Joseph Cummins, machinist's mate second class, United States Navy, is now back in the United States receiving treatment for arthritis, incurred while serving in a Naval repair base somewhere in the South and Southwest Pacific. He is now in Ward 818, U. S. Navy hospital, Oakland, 14, California.

He has been in the hospital since February 14. Supposedly the arthritis resulted from the dampness at Florida, New Georgia and other islands where he was based at times.

Mrs. Mulvaney is a delegate to the convention of the Ben Hur Life Association at Indianapolis next week. She is keeper of tribute (treasurer), having been elected at Elkhart, Indiana, last year.

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Royal L. Brooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Brooks of Rose Hill, has completed his course of studies as an aviation mechanic in the Army Air Forces Technical Training school at Amarillo Army Air field, Amarillo, Texas.

His graduation from this technical school now fits him for airplane maintenance and he will be sent to some air base where he will assist in keeping America's Flying Fortresses in the air for Allied victory.

In addition to completion of the schedule of academic and practical studies as an aviation mechanic, he has been thoroughly drilled in military tactics and defense and a course of physical training that has conditioned him to meet all requirements of an American soldier.

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Staff Sergeant Roe C. Reed writes his father, Sherman Reed of Newton, from the Admiralty islands, where he is acting first sergeant of a Quartermaster Depot Supply company. He has been in the jungle almost a year and hopes to return to the United States before long. He is well but doesn't like the climate.

"I saw Sam Utley the other day. He was the first boy I've seen from home for about two years and it sure was a surprise to see one of the fellows again."

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Captain Leland E. Conley wired his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Conley of Newton, this week of his arrival at Birmingham General hospital, Van Nuys, California. He has recently been in a hospital in the Owen Stanley mountains in New Guinea, after service in the New Guinea campaign. He is in the Medical Administrative Corps and is thought to be suffering from malaria or similar disease, although he may have been wounded.

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Corporal Vern W. Barthelemy, a son of Mrs. Frank Barthelemy of Decatur, and a grand-son of Daniel Barthelemy of West Liberty, has recently been placed on the active flying list as an aerial photographer. Corporal Barthelemy, who enlisted in the Army Air Forces in June, 1942, is now flying over Japanese held territory in the South Pacific.

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Mrs. Frank Worthey left Newton, Monday, for California, after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Worthey, her husband's parents. She was accompanied by Mrs. Lloyd Brown of Mount Vernon. They will join their husbands, Coxswain Worthey and Seaman First Class Brown, who are in the Navy on ships based on the Pacific coast.

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Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wilson of Newton have received word that their grand-son, Private First Class Charles Weber, is now under treatment at Letterman General hospital at San Francisco, California. He is suffering from some tropical fever which he incurred while fighting in New Guinea or adjoining islands.

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Private Noel D. Chapman of Camp Roberts, California and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Chapman of Alerton visited his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Chapman and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Huddlestun of near Newton, last Thursday. At the end of his furlough, he will report to a camp in Texas.

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Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Carl Chapman of Richmond, Virginia, are the proud parents of a baby boy, born May 7 at Grace hospital in Richmond. He has been named Bryce Eugene. Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Ferguson and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Chapman of Willow Hill are grand-parents.

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Private First Class Quincy Lee Allison is visiting his wife and little son and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Allison of Newton. He is now at Camp Ellis near Peoria with the

Army Engineers, after having been receiving schooling at Fort Crook, Nebraska.

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Lieutenant Donald J. Weber, who was recently operated on somewhere in England, is again back with his Cavalry regiment. He wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weber of Newton, that he met General Ike Eisenhower while in the hospital.

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Technical Sergeant and Mrs. E. E. Chilton, Sergeant and Mrs. M. A. Messer and Mrs. James Chilton were guests of Dr. and Mrs. D. H. Riley a couple of days last week. They were enroute to Norfolk, Virginia, from San Francisco, California.

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An Eighth AAF Composite Command Station, England—From school teacher to Master Sergeant is the story of Delbert M. Blair, now serving as sergeant major in the post headquarters at this heavy bomber base in England.

Entering the Army in February, 1942, and coming to the British Isles shortly afterward, Blair rapidly rose through the ranks until he reached the highest enlisted grade in September, 1943. Although his work is not so spectacular as that of the bomber crews, without men such as Blair the AAF could not function as the smooth-running, hard-hitting team that it is.

As sergeant major, Blair's responsibilities are many. Working directly under the base adjutant, it is one of his jobs to coordinate the vast amount of paper and administrative work necessary to the proper operation of a large bomber station—he must see that the myriad of directives regulations and other correspondence from higher headquarters reach the proper offices for action. Likewise, correspondence originating at this station must pass through his hands to be sent by courier through the proper channels of communication.

In itself, this is a full-time job but, in addition, Sergeant Blair supervises the message center, file section and special orders department at the base. In spite of the complexity of his duties, this soldier says, "I enjoy my work and I particularly appreciate serving overseas in this capacity."

Sergeant Blair is a son of Mr. and Mrs. James Blair of Route Two, Newton. Before entering the Army, he was employed by the Wakefield school board as a teacher. A 1936 graduate of the Newton Community high school, the sergeant attended the Eastern Illinois State Teachers college. His brother, Lowell D. Blair is now serving in the Merchant Marine.

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Private Leo A. Klingler, a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Klingler of

Wakefield, who is now in England, has participated in a course designed to bridge the gap between training in the states and soldiering in an active theatre of war. At one of the Air Service Command stations known as Control Depots, Private Klingler was carefully processed by classification experts who make certain that he was well fitted for the job assigned to him.

Security training, personal hygiene, a talk by a special service officer informing him of facilities for healthful recreation and a lecture by the chaplain are all in turn a part of the soldier's preparation for duties overseas.

His next station will be one for which America's fighting planes take off to smash the Nazi war machine.

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Walter Lewis is receiving his initial naval indoctrination at the U. S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes.

His "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 recruit to determine whether he will be assigned to a Naval Service school or to immediate active duty at sea.

His recruit training completed, the seaman will spend a period of leave at home.

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Orla Houser, gunner's mate second class, who is stationed with a Patrol Torpedo squadron, operating in the Southwest Pacific area, writes Ray E. Everly of the United States Navy Station, that he is well and has seen a lot of jungle country. While the fleet was up in combat area, he says they saw "fireworks" several times. The motor torpedo boats are very fast and close in on the enemy destroyers and troop transports at close range to fire torpedoes and fifty caliber machine gun bullets.

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Chief Radioman George Warner Graham came Friday afternoon for a surprise visit with his mother, Mrs. Erma Graham of Newton. It was his first visit home since 1939 and he made the best of the four days that he had here. Chief Graham is serving out of Miami, Florida, in the Navy, after having worked out of the Naval operating base at Key West, Florida, for several years.

He is serving his second enlistment in the Navy and is one of the old timers in the present enormously enlarged seven ocean Navy.

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Don Ward, a Naval aviation student, is home on leave from Athens, Georgia, for a short visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ward of Newton. He doesn't know just when he will be called back, for he will be transferred to a new school, having finished the course at the University of Georgia.

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Staff Sergeant Cloyce L. Hunt is spending a few days furlough with his wife and his mother, Mrs. Homer Hunt, at Newton. He is stationed at Fort Sheridan near Chicago. Cloyce was bitten on the left hand by a snapping turtle he was showing George Neese how to dress but the injury was minor.

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Lieutenant Vincent Dewhirst, who is located somewhere in England, cabled his mother the following Mother's day greetings: "My love and greetings on Mother's day. I wish we were together on this special occasion. All my best wishes for a speedy reunion. All my love."

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Private First Class Roy N. Hauk, who is in the Army Service Forces branch of the Army at Camp Sutton, South Carolina, left Friday after a short visit with his relatives and friends. Mrs. Hauk accompanied Roy back to Camp Sutton. Roy is in an engineering detachment.

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Gordon Blade, machinist's mate first class, United States Navy, is spending a leave with his wife at Newton and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Blade of Hidalgo. He has made many trips across the ocean and has a short leave while his ship is in port.

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Kenneth L. Brooks, fireman first class, who was here on a few days leave, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Broks of near Newton, left Thursday night for California. He expected to report back to his ship yesterday morning.

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Miss Virginia Graham, who is in the Waves, is here on a furlough visiting her mother, Mrs. Erma Graham of Newton, and her brother, Chief Radioman George Warner Graham, who is here from Miami, Florida.

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Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. H. H. Bibby and son John Watts are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Watts of Newton. Colonel Bibby is stationed at Madison, Wisconsin. Mrs. Bibby is the former Harriett Watts.

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Private and Mrs. Dale Weber of Fort Knox, Kentucky, have been visiting relatives and friends in Newton and Bogota. Private Weber has been

transferred to another camp.

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Privates Robert J. Crotty and Dale Phillips of Newton have been sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for training in the Field Artillery.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Gene A. Barthelme spent last week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Barthelme and family at Sainte Marie.

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