



With the Colors

5/2/44

Sergeant Louis E. Mascher writes the Press from North Africa: "I have time for a few lines to you tonight to let you know that I'm getting the Press right along and am really appreciating it a lot. It makes me feel as if Jasper isn't so far away after all. As I had friends in just about every corner of the county, it always makes me feel good to hear from them even if it is through the medium of the Press; so I say lets have more of what goes on in our dear county. We really eat it up over here.

"As you know I'm still in radio. Wish I could tell you the nature of my work but am afraid the censor would frown upon it, so I will have to omit that from my letter. It is a little different from the ordinary run of radio work though.

"Right after my arrival over here I traveled for the outfit and I completely covered North Africa as our squadron has detachments scattered all over and it was necessary to keep them in supplies and equipment. I covered the ground by motor, most of the time by truck, sometimes by Jeep or weapon carrier. I got so I practically knew every Arab in North Africa by their first name. To prove that I was really on the go. I covered thirty thousand miles in three months time.

"It was really interesting work, as I got to see a lot of country, and could see a lot of the fellows who came over with me. I knew them all as we had all been instructors at Scott field and Chicago.

"I will say that anyone making the statement that it doesn't snow in North Africa sure doesn't know his Africa very well, as I was out in two of the worst blizzards I ever had the displeasure of being in right over here on the dark continent. The snow got so deep it made driving impossible, so you can see that it isn't all sunshine over here.

"Since the beginning of my stay here in this land of Mohammedans, I have only seen two fellows from home. Paul Stanley came down from Sardinia to spend a week with me and visit around. I also ran into Tommy Marshall in town one day. We had quite a talk and I promised to go in to see him again but just haven't as we are kept fairly busy here at the station, and as the A. A. C. S. is a pretty important branch of the Air Service, we try to keep on the ball.

“There was an article in the January 24 issue of Time magazine that gives a pretty good idea of what the A. A. C. S. does. Perhaps you may have read it. It sounds a little far fetched in some parts but believe me most of those things are possible and quite probable in the A. A. C. S.

“Tell all the folks back home to keep up the good work and we fellows over here will do our part to hasten the day when the Newton Press can be mailed to me, addressed to Newton, Illinois, instead of North Africa. I would be glad to hear from any one back in Blue Jasper and you have my word they would get an answer to their letters.”

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Another class of qualified radio operators had been graduated today by the Communication Department of the Armored school at Fort Knox, Kentucky, among whom was Private First Class Robert F. Fear, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Fear of Willow

Hill.

Their arduous fourteen weeks' labors behind them, the graduates have returned to their units in armored divisions and separate tank battalions throughout the United States. There they will play an important part in the signal communication system which controls units on maneuvers and in combat.

Each soldier in the course learns the International Morse code, the "dit-dah" alphabet, and progresses through radio procedure and a study of radio sets. Final phase is field operation, in which radio sets are operated from scout cars under simulated battle conditions.

The Communication Department is one of eight in the mammoth Armored school, "university" of the armor-raiders. The school rolls off its human assembly lines each year many times more trained technicians than the average civilian university or college.

*May * 2 *, * * 1944*

Corporal George A. Clark of Yale writes: "Yesterday I was assigned as a replacement to the newly reformed 68th Finance Disbursing section. There are no openings in the T. O. for promotion, so I suppose I'm a corporal for the duration, but there are things worse than that.

"Finance disbursing sections as they are formed here are mobile finance offices and are primarily intended for overseas movement. Supposedly the group when and as formed will stay together for the duration, though this does not always happen, as the 68th was presently reformed, and they do not always go overseas.

"My new address is: Corporal George A. Clark, 68th Finance Disbursing section, Company F, First battalion, F. T. C., Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana."

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Corporal C. D. Brinson of Willow Hill, who was wounded in the Marine assault on Jap held Tarawa, writes his sister, Mrs. Carl Flynn of Newton, from somewhere in the South Pacific: "I mailed you a package this morning. In it was something for each of you. You will have to divide it the best you can. I also sent a Purple Heart in the package that I was awarded for being wounded on Tarawa. There is also a slip of paper telling about it.

"The Second (Marine) division got a Presidential citation for the battle of Tarawa. I rate to wear a Presi-

dential citation bar with a star on it and a South Pacific and Asiatic bar with a star on it and a Purple Heart bar. It will be quite a collection if I ever get to wear them. I had a two day leave a couple of days back and had a nice time."

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Aviation Student Charles R. Lewis, a son of Supervisor and Mrs. Charles E. Lewis of Wheeler, has arrived at the Northwestern Oklahoma State college at Alva, Oklahoma, for courses of Army Air Forces instruction lasting approximately five months prior to his appointment as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Forces. During this period he will take numerous academic courses as well as elementary flying training, after which he will be classified as a pilot, navigator or bombardier and go to schools of the Flying Training Command for training in these specialties.

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Seaman First Class Wesley E. Jones of Willow Hill writes the local Navy station, that he is stationed at a Southwest Pacific base. He says it rains a lot down there and his bunch got wet coming off ship to the shore base. The base is a nice place, although new and still being built up. "We are sleeping in tents with nets over us, and the mosquitoes are plenty big and lively. We have a band and a show here at the base at night, and it's a nice place. Thank the American Legion for my courtesy card. Over here it sure comes in useful."

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Sergeant Clayton Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Wright, graduated Friday from the ASTP at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. His company was one of the last to complete their work there. He yet doesn't know whether he will be sent back to his old regiment in the Eleventh Armored division or given some special duty but expects to be transferred in the next few days.

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Corporal Harold Webb writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Webb of near Newton, that he has returned to his base in North Ireland after having made a trip to London to deliver some dispatches. He had four or five days furlough in the city and was in a small air raid. He found some interesting sights.

He will soon have two brothers in the service.

May 2, 1944
Seaman First Class Robert B. Stan-

ley, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Stanley of Evansville, formerly South Muddy township, is now in a hospital at New York, recovering from pleurisy. He was at sea for four months and was returned to the hospital March 1. Friends may write him at Ward 51, U. S. Naval hospital, St. Albans, New York.

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Specialist First Class and Mrs. Dale Robinson were over Sunday guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Robinson of near Hunt City over the week end. Dale is now acting company commander over a group of Naval students at the University of Chicago.

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Private First Class Dewey Grove Jr. writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Grove of West Liberty vicinity, that he is now in New Britain with the Marines. He is well although he finds the weather hot and the mosquitoes thick.

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Private Raymond A. Swisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Swisher of Newton vicinity, would appreciate a few lines from anyone that cares to write him. His address now is Private Raymond A. Swisher, 432d M. P. E. G. company, Fort Eustis, Virginia.

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Marion B. Nicholas, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nicholas of Kansas City, Missouri, has been promoted to chief ship's cook. He is a grand-son of Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Martin of Hunt City.

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Don Strole spent a short leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Strole northwest of Newton. He has returned to Sampson, New York, where he is training for the Navy.

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Private Irl Franke writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Franke of Newton, that he is now in New Guinea and is well. He is with an aviation engineer battalion.

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Private Earl D. Wilson is at Wheeler on a furlough with his wife. He is stationed at Camp Wolters, Texas, and has been in the hospital with sore throat.