



## With the Colors

5/23/44

### WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

By Lieutenant Dean Shatlain

What did you do today, my friend,  
From morn until dark?

How many times did you complain  
The rationing is too tight?

When are you going to start to do  
All of the things you say?

A soldier would like to know, my  
friend,

What did you do today?

We met the enemy today

And took the town by storm.

Happy reading it will make

For you tomorrow morn.

You'll read with satisfaction

The brief communique.

We fought, but are you fighting?

What did you do today?

My gunner died in my arms today;

I feel his warm blood yet.

Your neighbor's dying boy gave out

A scream I can't forget.

On my right a tank was hit,

A flash and then a fire;

The stench of burning flesh

Still rises from the pyre.

What did you do today, my friend,

To help us with the task?

Did you work harder and longer

Or is it too much to ask?

What right have I to ask you this?

You probably will say.

Maybe now you'll understand;

You see, I died today.

\*Lieutenant Shatlain, tank commander, wrote this poem on the battlefield of Africa. He amputated his own foot with a jackknife and thought he was dying when he wrote these lines. He was rescued by the Americans after about two hours of hiding.

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Private Harold McCoy writes from Drew field, Tampa, Florida: "It's really hot down here; hotter than it ever gets up there. There are two fellows from home down here. One of them is Lyle Winter from Rose Hill; the other fellow's name is Rubsam.

"I haven't seen Rubsam for a good while, but I see Winter every day. I used to run around with Winter before I came to the Army.

"I am going on operational training soon. We will live in 'pup tents' and get a taste of the 'real army.' I am on the track team here in the 552nd.

I am supposed to run next week. Athletics help out a lot in this Army.

"There is a large air field here, mostly a B-17 base. Planes fill the air twenty-four hours a day. Like all the rest of the fellows, I will be glad when I can come home to stay. I'm not homesick, though, and I am getting along o. k. I am always glad to get letters from anyone at home.

"My address is Private Harold R. McCoy, Company D, 552nd S A W, Bn, Drew field, Tampa, Florida."

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Lieutenant John S. Wright of Newton writes from North Africa, where he is with the Signal Intelligence Service, that he recently returned from a vacation at an oasis in the desert. "I just recently returned from a wonderful four day leave in Bon Saada, an oasis town. It was quite a different world from the north part of Africa, where, while irrigation is necessary in many places, the rich valleys are very productive and intensively cultivated.

"I still look twice, although I have been here five months, when I see six yoke of oxen pulling one plow, with a horse to head them.

"Curiously enough, our small camp had three Newton officers in it for a brief moment—Fred Alcorn, Howard Nagle and myself. Small world."

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Private Wendell L. Gruenewald of Newton is attending the Adjutant General's school at Fort Washington, Maryland, undergoing eight weeks of intensive training in Army administration procedures.

Fort Washington, headquarters of the Adjutant General's school, is situated on the banks of the Potomac river sixteen miles from the nation's capital. Since 1634, or for more than three centuries, the site of the fort has played a prominent role in American history.

Here, officers, enlisted men and Wacs are trained in the executive and administrative functions of the nation's largest business — the Army of the United States.

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Paul W. Vanatta, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merl M. Vanatta of Rose Hill, will be a member of the twenty-fifth class of aviation cadets to graduate from Columbus Army Air field near Columbus, Mississippi, today. He will receive the silver wings of a flying officer and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces.

Lieutenant Vanatta entered pilot training last year, and attended flying schools at Avon Park, Florida, and Macon, Georgia, before his graduation at the advanced flying school near Columbus, Mississippi. Before he enlisted for pilot training he had attended the University of Illinois, McKen-

dree college and Furman university.

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Chief Petty Officer Earl Jones was in New York the past week after another trip in a convoy into the Mediterranean region. He spent Easter Sunday in Bizerte and Tunis and had an exciting time when the German flyers attacked and set a merchant ship on fire.

They fought fire for fourteen hours and towed the ship twenty-three miles into port at Bizerte, saving it. It was loaded with war goods. Earl left last Saturday on another convoy. He called his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Jones while in port.

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Leland Fred Chaney is receiving his initial naval indoctrination at the United States Naval Training center, Great Lakes, Illinois.

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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Aviation Cadet Hershel A. Jones will receive his wings and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces at Turner field, Georgia, today, and will be home for a ten day furlough. Herschel has qualified to fly any of the heavy twin engine planes and will be assigned to another field on his return for further training.

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Sergeant and Mrs. Richard E. Vickers are the parents of an eight pound, nine ounce son, born at Effingham hospital Sunday night. Postmaster and Mrs. Paul B. Laugel are grandparents, Mrs. Vickers being the former Jean Laugel. Sergeant Vickers is in Sardinia.

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George Bickers, who has been stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, is now at the Armored Training Center at Camp Polk, Louisiana, and is doing fine. He says it's sure lovely country down there, and he would love to stay if his family was with him.

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Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Dhom of near Newton have heard from their three sons, Sergeant Henry L. Dhom and Privates Ralph and Raymond Dhom. All were well and feeling fine. Henry L. and Ralph are in England and Raymond is in the South Pacific.

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John A. Connor, gunner's mate sec-

ond class, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. O. Connor of Newton, that he was in the Marshall islands during the recent fighting. He is thought to be back at an American Naval base again, although he hasn't written and said so.

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Mrs. Ed Jourdan received a letter from her son, Private Leonard "Bill" Jourdan, Friday which took only six days in transit from Guadalcanal. He is in a Bomber Repair squadron and was well when he wrote.

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Sergeant and Mrs. Lee Shedlebower and daughter Carolyn of Atlanta, Georgia, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Shedlebower of Sainte Marie and Mr. and Mrs. John McCormack of West Liberty vicinity.

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Private Kneffler Fulk is spending a fifteen day furlough with his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Fulk of near Ingraham. He has been at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and is being transferred.

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Frank Emery of Newton received a Father's day cable from his son, Private First Class Don S. Emery, who is in England. He wished him love and best greetings.