

Veterans Are Home After Many Months Overseas

11/4/44

Captain Paul E. Birch, a veteran of twenty-eight months overseas, is visiting his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Birch of Ingraham vicinity.

He is a veteran of six campaigns—Libya, Tunis, Sicily, Italy, Southern France and the Balkans, and has been awarded the Presidential Citation with two clusters and the Bronze Star medal for meritorious achievement in combat.

He was born and raised in South Muddy township, and was graduated from the Effingham high school and the Eastern Illinois State Teachers' college. At the time of his enlistment in the Army in September, 1941, he was teaching at Clay City.

Technical Sergeant Marion Burcham Jr. of Newton was expected home today, after many months overseas with the United States Army Air Force. He was awarded the Air Medal last December for meritorious achievement as a radioman-gunner during flights over Muschu and Kaiiru islands during which a Japanese vessel was sunk.

He has already arrived at Fort Sheridan and will be granted a furlough to spend at home before returning to duty, probably in this country.

Awarded Combat Badge

With the Thirty-seventh Division in the Southwest Pacific.—Private First Class Raymond M. Chaney, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto W. Chaney of Yale, vicinity, has been awarded the Combat Infantryman badge for service in combat against the Japanese.

Chaney earned the badge—a silver rifle on an Infantry blue field imposed on a silver wreath—for his part in helping defeat Jap assaults on Hill 129, Bougainville island.

Overseas twenty-six months, he has served also in Fiji, New Hebrides and Guadalcanal.