



## With the Colors

11/2 4/44

W. H. Jones, aviation ordnance-man, first class, who is serving in the Pacific on an aircraft carrier, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto W. Jones of Willow Hill:

"This is my day off. I could have gone over to one of the little islands here in the bay on a recreation party, but I thought I'd rather stay here and sleep. I worked until 2:00 o'clock this morning, and night before last I worked until 4:00, so I slept all morning and this afternoon I am devoting to writing letters.

"For some obscure reason the fleet commander has sent a dispatch to us telling us we can write home about our part in the battle for the retaking of the Philippines. Of course you were right when you figured I was out there. I was also in the carrier division that stopped the enemy from attacking Leyte gulf, the escort carrier group that you read all about in the papers. It is or rather was, I think, the first time in naval history that carriers of any size ever engaged an enemy in surface battle and the unthought of thing, turned them back defeated. We routed and turned them back to where they ran face to face with larger more powerful American forces.

"It seems strange that they should let us write home of this—the papers can tell you more of what happened than I, I suppose it is because the enemy knows in detail as we do the outcome and previous conquests. They probably don't yet have any specific data hence we can write of this conflict and not of others. I'm glad they let us write. I imagined you were greatly distressed when you read the papers, not knowing for sure where I was and reading of the escort carriers engaged. I am and was in no immediate danger even when their shells from long range guns were dropping near us."

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Clyde Jackson writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle S. Jackson of Hidalgo, from Leyte island in the Philippines: "I was sure glad to hear from home and that everything is all right. I am doing o. k. and never felt better.

"It is warm here and quite a lot of rain but I'm living in a grass hut that I had the natives build, and it doesn't leak a drop. I imagine it is plenty cool in Holland where Paul is. I haven't had time to write him yet. I guess it is time for cool weather at home too. I hope it isn't so bad this

year.

"I expect it will be awhile before I get my Christmas packages so maybe it will be all right. I am getting plenty to eat, so don't worry about me.

"There isn't much use of sending any jelly or anything like that is I get all of it I want. The natives do a lot to help out. They also wash my clothes but we have to pay for it, though. I got myself some of this Philippine money so make out o. k.

"I'll put in some of the Japanese money. You can keep it for me.

"I'll write again in a few days. I should get some mail again between now and then. I also got a rating the other day, it helps out a lot."

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Koontz of Gary, Indiana, spent Saturday night and Sunday with Assistant postmaster and Mrs. Leo O. Koontz and daughter Leatha Lou.

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Private Paul R. Ping writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Ping, that he is on Leyte island in the Philippines and that he has the best foxhole in the whole hemisphere.

He was in Australia for a year, then moved to New Guinea, and then somewhere in the Dutch East Indies, going from there to the Philippines.

Private James C. Ping has been moved from Fort Benning, Georgia, to Fort Ord, California.

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In a letter written to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brooks of near Newton, Kenneth L. Brooks states he had just received the first letters he had had from home for almost three months. He is well and was recently promoted from fireman first class to motor machinist's mate, third class.

Kenneth has been in the Pacific the past six months, and is thought to be somewhere near the Philippines, at present.

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Virgil Foster of Kankakee was called to serve his country November 18. He is taking his training at the United States Naval Training Center, at Great Lakes. He is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Foster of Kankakee, formerly of Winterrowd vicinity, and the oldest grand-son of Mrs. L. P. Clagg, better known as Mrs. M. O. Workman, and Mrs. Clara Foster. He has five uncles in the service.

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Lieutenant Herschel A. Jones of Courtland, Alabama, Army Air base spent Sunday in Newton with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Jones. He flew to George field, Saturday, and expected to return Sunday but due to weather conditions he stayed over until Monday afternoon, when he took off from George field and returned by way of St. Louis and Memphis, Tennessee, to Courtland.

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Sergeant Tim Holt returned to Oklahoma, Monday, after spending a fourteen day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Holt, and

other relatives near Willow Hill. Sergeant Holt had spent twenty-seven months overseas and says that it is good to be back in the good old U. S. A. again.

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Private Tony Passalacqua is home visiting his wife and baby after eighteen months in the Aleutian islands. He is wearing the Good Conduct medal and the Pacific theatre ribbon with one star. He says he enjoys it after being gone so long.

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Corporal and Mrs. Harry Hester Jr. are visiting his mother, Mrs. Harry Hester of Newton, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Watkins of this city. He is stationed at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

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Seaman Second Class James M. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Miller of Newton, who is stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, is home on a nine day leave. He returned to camp Thursday.

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Byron Eugene Sachau and Gene Lowell Cougill of Greenup and William Floyd Milam of Oblong have enlisted in the Navy.