



With the Colors

11/28/44

James Picquet, aviation machinist's mate, first class, United States Navy, has returned to duty in the Pacific. In a recent letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Picquet of Sainte Marie, he tells of meeting many of his buddies from his former outfit, with whom he served for two years in the South Pacific area. He also met several of his old buddies from the squadron he trained with in Pensacola, Florida, back in 1941. He says, "It's sure good to get back in an outfit with some of your old buddies."

Mr. and Mrs. Picquet received a letter last week from their other son, Eugene Picquet, aviation ordnance-man, first class, United States Navy, who is also on duty in the Pacific area. His letter in part stated: "We have just received permission to write home that we took part in the invasion of the Philippines and also the battle in Leyte gulf. I can't give you any particulars, but we were under attack for several days by both sea and air. We were lucky in many ways, but as you already know, our fleet and air force gave them plenty. I came through o. k. with no bad results, except for loss of sleep and rest. We were at our battle stations five days and nights."

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Private Harold R. McCoy has been graduated from the Army Air Forces Flexible Gunnery school at Tyndall field, Palm City, Florida, one of the largest schools of its kind in the Army Air Forces Training Command. Upon his graduation, the soldier received a pair of silver wings signifying that now he is ready to take his place as a member of the combat crew of an AAF bomber.

At the gunnery school, he was trained in the operation of .30 and .50 caliber machine guns, first on ground ranges and later in the air, learning by simulated aerial battle conditions how to blast enemy fighter planes from the sky.

As an aerial gunner he will join thousands of his "teammates of the sky," carrying the attack to the enemy in all parts of the world as guardians of America's heavy and medium bombers.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. McCoy of Yale.

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Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Wilcox and son, Robert Travis Wilcox, chief pharmacist's mate, United States Navy, of Greenup were the guests of Rev. and Mrs. E. LeRoy Steffey of Newton, Thanksgiving day. It was a real Thanksgiving, for Robert, who has been in the Navy four years, the last two years in the Southwest Pacific, returned to his home Sunday night for a thirty days leave. He has seen action in Guadalcanal, New Guinea, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, and the Admiralty islands. He will report to his ship the middle of December.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Luther Lawler and daughter spent Sunday evening with Mrs. Delmar Lawler and son and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Clark and family of Newton.

Lieutenant Lawler has just returned from England where he completed his missions over Germany. He was bombardier on the lead plane and had many thrilling experiences. His crew received a Presidential Citation for "meritorious action on D-day."

While in England he visited his brother, Sergeant Delmar Lawler, who is serving in a Medical unit there.

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Paul Utiey, who has been on a furlough from the South Pacific area, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Utley, returned Sunday to Mayo hospital, Galesburg. Paul says, "It gets pretty tiresome looking at cocoanut trees."

It took him twenty-one days to get to New Guinea and only thirty-six hours to get back to San Francisco on one of the big Army transport planes.

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Billy Ray Bond, seaman second class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bond of Chicago, formerly of Jasper county, was home on a nine day leave from Great Lakes Naval Training Center before being transferred to an air base in Oklahoma.

If anyone wishes to write him his address is: Billy Ray Bond, S 2/c, North Base B. R. 7A, Norman, Oklahoma.

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John F. Rawlings of Bogota has been promoted from private first class to corporal (technician) it has been announced by the Tenth Mountain Quartermaster battalion of the Tenth Mountain division at Camp Swift, Texas, with which he is serving.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Phil

Rawlings of Bogota.

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Advancement to pharmacist's mate, third class, "for meritorius conduct in action when he displayed outstanding courage in helping to evacuate the wounded from the front lines," has been granted Clarence A. Phillips, son of Mrs. Albert Phillips, 216 East Wilson street, Newton, the Navy has announced.

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Mr. and Mrs. Sam Wilson of near Newton have received a letter from their son, Private First Class Lloyd Wilson, who was recently reported wounded. He said that he was burned from the waist up but was convalescing nicely. He is in the Marines and was injured on one of the Pacific islands.

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Private Aubrey Chesnut has been discharged after about nine months service in the Army. Recently he has been stationed in South Dakota in the Black Hills. He will resume his occupation as rural carrier on Route Four, Newton, in the near future.

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Private First Class Donnace Emery of Newton writes Earl R. Reese of Newton that he is back with his Engineer company and is serving as a cook. He was wounded in July and was in a hospital in England, but is now in France.

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Private First Class John T. Newlin has been spending a furlough with his father, W. F. Newlin and family of Northwest Wade township. He saw much service in the Southwest Pacific, but is now stationed at Fort Reno, Oklahoma.

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James Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilson of Newton, has been promoted to carpenter's mate second class. He has been in training at Norfolk, Virginia, but is expecting to be sent to sea soon.

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Technical Sergeant Edward L. Huber of the Army Air Forces is returning home after thirty-three months overseas in the Southwest Pacific for a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Huber of near Sainte Marie.

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Private First Class Thomas B. Ochs of Camp Atterbury, Indiana has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ochs of near Sainte Marie.

Private Ochs was recently returned from France where he was wounded July 23.

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Private First Class Cloyce Purcell has been discharged from the Army after two years service. He was wounded in the hand at Guadalcanal, and after recovery, he has recently been at Camp Maxey, Texas.

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Clifford Warfel returned to the Atlantic coast, Sunday, after spending a short leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Warfel of Newton. He is in the Navy and has just returned from a convoy to Europe.

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Private W. L. Gruenewald has returned to Camp Lee, Virginia, after a short furlough with his wife and children at Newton. He has been at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

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Eugene Reich has received a medical discharge from the Navy after two weeks' service, because of poor eyesight.

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Captain and Mrs. Paul Nix of Granite City are visiting relatives at Wendelin and Ingraham. He is stationed at the ordnance depot at Granite City.

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Robert Douthit, son of Mrs. Dora Douthit of West Washington street, who has been employed in Indianapolis, recently joined the Marines.