



With the Colors

11/3/44

Private First Class Eldon Dewhirst writes: "There was a nice crowd at church this morning. I thought the sermon was good. The service was held on a hillside. It reminded me of Jesus teaching the multitudes on a hillside. Sometimes I think services are more impressive when they are held outdoors.

"We had a good breakfast this morning. We sure appreciate a bed of straw over here. I don't know what we'll do when the straw is all hauled into the barns. I still remember my first night in France. We slept (and I mean we slept) under an apple tree on a lot of green apples that had fallen off the tree. I guess if a fellow is tired enough he can sleep anywhere in any position."

"At long last, the Twenty-eighth division, doing one of the best combat jobs of any unit in the American or any other army, has been granted combat recognition. Stars and Stripes, official American army newspaper, confirmed the division's battle recognition in the following story:

"First Army Headquarters.—Pennsylvania's Keystone division, the Twenty-eighth Infantry, has headed straight for Germany to falter the defenses of the Siegfried line after their triumphal march through the streets of Paris, it was disclosed today when the outfit was released for publication for action through September 20.

"After capturing Percy, St. Sever, Calvados and Gathomo and other objectives south of St. Lo, following the breakthrough in that sector, the twenty-eighth pushed eastward to capture Gor and participate in the cleanup of the German pocket west of the Seine. Conchos, LeNeubourg and Elbouf are also listed as having been freed by the Keystone outfit.

"In its actions south of St. Lo, the Twenty-eighth became known as the 'Bloody Bucket division,' partly because of the red, bucket-shaped Keystone flash worn by the men, and partly because of a captured German officer who thought the patch might stand for that after he had seen how men of the division fought.

"Formerly commanded by Lieutenant General Omar N. Bradley, the division now is led by Major General Norman D. Cota, former assistant commander of the Twenty-ninth division. Before embarking for overseas service, the outfit participated in maneuvers in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Louisiana and Texas. Before coming to France it trained several months in South Wales and Southern England."

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Miami Beach, Florida, November 1.
—Staff Sergeant Loren L. Harvey of near Newton, has arrived at Army Air Forces Redistribution Station No. 2 in Miami Beach for reassignment processing after completing a tour of duty outside the continental United States.

Medical examinations and classification interviews at this post, one of three redistribution stations operated by the AAF Personnel Distribution Command for AAF returnee officers and enlisted men, will determine his new assignment. He will remain here about two weeks, much of which will be devoted to rest and recreation.

Sergeant Harvey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mose Harvey of near Newton, was a gunner in Italy. His wife resides at Griffin, Indiana.

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Second Class Petty Officer Wilmer J. Raef is home on a thirty day leave, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Raef of near Boos. He has been serving in the Mediterranean area for the past twenty months. His sister, Mrs. John E. Welker, accompanied him home from Chicago to visit relatives.

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Gerald Field has been a guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irl Field of

Newton, this week. Gerald is an officer candidate at the Naval contingent at Notre Dame university, South Bend, Indiana. He was in the Navy before Pearl Harbor and was a radio-man with the fleet for months.

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Seaman Second Class Ed Foltz of Kentucky and a friend, Miss Patricia Collins of Norfolk, Virginia, have been spending a few days leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Foltz of Newton. Seaman Foltz will return to Memphis, Tennessee, for re-assignment.

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Among those graduating from an intensive course in Fire Controlman training at recent service schools exercises at Great Lakes Naval Station was Burton L. Bevis of Peoria, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Bevis of Newton.

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Lawrence Gifford, seaman second class in the Transportation department, is spending a ten day leave with his wife and children of Willow Hill and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Gifford of Yale.

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Private Ray Harvey Reynolds, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Reynolds, is home on furlough from Camp Hood, Texas. He will return to another camp November 6 for advanced training.

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Private Earl Webb is here on a furlough from Camp Hood, Texas, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester E. Webb of near Newton.

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Francis Bailey, seaman second class, is spending a fourteen day leave with his parents and relatives.