



With the Colors

10/24/44

Mr. and Mrs. Alva M. Allen of Newton have received a letter from their son, Carl C. Allen, radio technician first class, who is somewhere in the South Pacific. He is well and is kept very busy.

He said: "Our ship is the old standby—we have been standing by here in the Pacific for almost a year now, without even a glimpse of the states."

Mr. and Mrs. Allen also received two letters from their other son, Private Don A. Allen, who is in the Field Artillery somewhere in France. He is well and getting along o. k. He also sent a poem he would like to have put in the Newton Press. It was written by Sergeant Eugene Davis in his outfit and Don said "every word of it is the truth."

Don't Envy Us

If you at home, hate the old routine,
And find it hard to keep on the beam,
"Nothing to do—no place to go—"

Don't envy us in the E. T. O.!

Did you ever live for a grave-like hole,
Filled with water and filth and mold
Not even daring to lift your head,
While 109's strafed overhead?

Have you ever heard the chatter of
Jerry's gun,

Where fifty reports blend in one?

And from this screaming sale of lead
Your buddies fall bleeding and maimed
and dead?

Have you passed the hulk of a burned
out tank,

The funeral pyre of some gallant
Yank,

Or caught the sickening, sweetish
stench,

If you come too near some half filled
trench?

Did you ever carry big boxes of M-54,
'Til tortured muscles could stand no
more?

Then maybe hear of the counter-
attack,

That you and your buddies and the
guns turned back.

Did you ever slide from your blankets
too

Wet and clammy with rain or dew,
To send round after round to the
fleeing Hun,

A hail of steel from American guns?
Did you ever wake in the dead of the
night,

With tracers crisscrossing both left
and right,

Or hear the thin whine of an 88,
As it sang its murderous song of
hate?

So take it easy, don't gripe and
moan.

How lucky you are to be back home!
Even if "Nothing to do—no place to
go—"

Don't envy us in the E. T. O.!

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Seaman Second Class W. Frank Turner, who is in the Navy off the South Atlantic coast, sends the following poem:

Laments of a Seaman Second
Months I've spent in trying,
Trying hard to make a rate,
And after taking loads of progress
tests,

I am here to state, that
I'll always be a seaman,
A seaman second class;
A rambling, roving sailor,
That the board will never pass.
Now when first I joined the Navy,
In nineteen forty-three,
I thought it would be gravy,
And a hero I would be; but
Alas, alack, my dreams fell through;
My abilities aren't needed,
I'm slinging hash for the whole damn
crew,

Constantly unheeded.
Here I am in whites again,
With three full months in store,
Wearing gear like the pajamas,
I had before the war; yet
I'll wear the chosen clothing,
Without a groan or cough,
And when they get dirty, I'll tell
everyone

That's where the white's worn off.
Of all the men in the Navy,
Who could cause me plenty of grief,
There's only one who has turned the
trick;

It's the guy I call the chief; but
When this war is over,
And they cease with shot and shell,
I can go back home again,
And the chief can, "do as he likes."
Oh, I've told you all my troubles
My miseries to abate
But before I end this ballad,
Again I wish to state, that
I'll always be a seaman,
A seaman second class,
A rambling, roving sailor,
That the board will never pass.

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Lieutenant Mildred Krone of the
Army Nurse Corps has been assigned
to overseas duty with an evacuation
hospital unit and is in the surgical
unit and is now somewhere overseas.

Lieutenant Krone is a daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krone of Diete-

rich, a graduate of the Dieterich and Effingham high schools, and the St. Anthony hospital Nursing school of Terre Haute. She served several years in the government hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana. From there she was transferred to Hines hospital in Chicago, where she served until her enlistment in the Army Nurse Corps.

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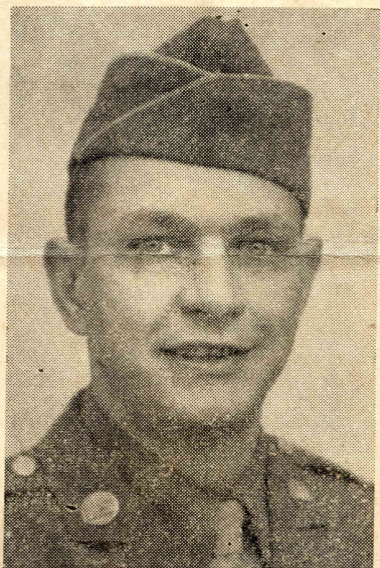


The sailor hiding behind the "brush" above is Machinist's Mate Second Class Garland A. Diel, who is spending a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Diel of Grove township, after having been at sea for several months.

He has been in the Atlantic ocean and expects to go to the Pacific when he returns to his ship. He is well and is enjoying his visit.

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Corporal Medford Wetherholt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Wetherholt of near Wheeler, who is in Germany with an Engineer battalion, writes: "It has been over a week since I have written you, but I haven't had much of a chance to write, although I have been receiving a lot of mail from home. I have received one of the boxes of candy that you sent and I have still one candy bar left from it."



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"The Belgian people really treat us swell, mom. They give us coffee, cake, cookies, apples, plums, and drinks such as wine. I even had dinner in one home the other day. Their homes are very nice, too.

"I am somewhere in Germany now, so you see, I have been getting around. I still receive the Newton Press, and I always like to read the home news in it, even if it is a little late in getting here.

"I haven't received the other box of candy that you sent, but I should get it any time now. Some candy from home sure goes good too, even if we do get a lot of candy in our rations."

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A meritorious advancement to coxswain has been received by Francis B. Hall, son of Mrs. Edwin Aldridge of Mattoon, formerly of West Liberty.

His promotion was authorized by the commander of the Northern Attack Force for "meritorius conduct in action against the enemy when Hall, despite great danger to his own person, efficiently performed his duty fighting fires while the ship was being constantly showered with shrapnel and exploding ammunition."

Hall, who is 19 years old, enlisted in the Navy on June 4, 1943 at Chicago.

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Private and Mrs. W. LeRoy Gruenewald of Newton are the parents of a ten pound son, their first son and second child, born Friday night at Effingham hospital. Private Gruenewald is in the Army at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Ross of Newton are grand-parents.

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James Doerr has received orders to report to the Naval detachment at Alma college, Alma, Michigan, November 1, and will leave in a few days. He has been transferred from class V5 to class V12A. He enlisted several months ago and has been awaiting call.

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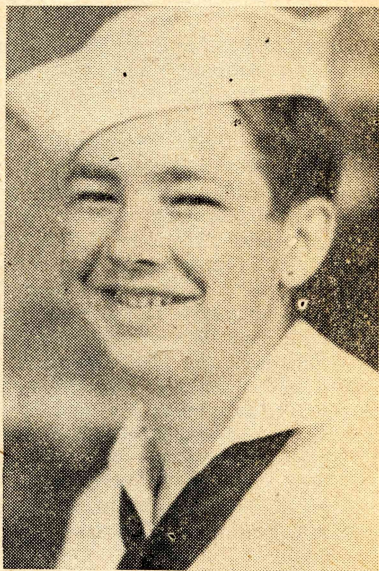
Miss Clara Null, 21, of 823 South

Van Buren street, Newton, was graduated recently from the Naval Training school (Yeoman-W) on the Iowa State Teachers college campus, Cedar Falls, Iowa. The completed course of study included shorthand, typing, Naval correspondence, records and forms, and current events.

Experience gained through her new assignment will enable her to win further advancement.

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Mrs. Velora Pruett Woods of Arcola, formerly of near Bogota, writes that she has received a letter from Mrs. Helen A. Hill of Washington, D. C., about her son, Seamon First Class Leslie Doyle Woods, who is stationed at the Solomons branch, Washington. Mrs. Hill says:



"I have sent you by parcel post a package for your son. Hope it arrives in good condition. Your son has been in my home, having been brought here by an older seaman, who evidently taken him, 'under wing' and that is how I became involved in this little affair, as I told him I would mail your package.

"I wish to state that having a son in the Navy just a little past 18 years of age, I really feel sorry for these kids and like to assist wherever I can. Your son has been a very nice little gentleman when in my home and I believe he will also be that way at other places."

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Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Ira S. Brooks have been spending a ten day leave with Mrs. Brooks' mother, Mrs. Fred H. Specht of near Newton. He has been stationed at Champaign for the past two years as an instructor at the Navy Diesel Engine school.

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Sergeant Ray Griffith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Griffith of Yale, is in a General hospital at El Paso, Texas, recovering from rheumatic fever. He was bedfast sixty-eight days, but is now able to be up part time. Friends here hope for his speedy recovery.

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Sergeant Marion Hall of Oklahoma City returned to camp, Sunday, after spending a seven day furlough with relatives in Jasper county. He is the son of Ralph Hall of south of Newton.

Mrs. Lowell Cramer is home from Charlotte, North Carolina, where she visited her husband, Private First Class Cramer, who is stationed at an Army Air field nearby.

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Private First Class Herndon Dhom writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dhom of near Newton, that he is now at Darwin, Australia. He is in the Army Engineers.

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Seaman First Class Virginia A. Graham is here on leave from Washington, D. C., where she is stationed with the Waves.