



With the Colors

10/27/44

The U. S. S. Texas, the pre-World war I battleship which suffered a direct hit from a German battery on her conning tower off Cherbourg, but went on hurling fourteen inch shells at the Nazis, is back home.

Flagship of the U. S. battleship division which included the Nevada and the Arkansas, also back in the United States, the thirty year old Texas is being refitted at the New York Navy Yard, Brooklyn, and soon will again be on the high seas ready for more action. This time crew members hope it will be against the Japs.

While the 30,000 ton Texas is being refitted in New York, long awaited and well-earned shore leave is the lot of the approximately 1,700 officers and men who make up her crew. Wearing ribbons testifying to service in the American and European theaters of war, the officers and blue-jackets are taking leaves in three groups, visiting their home communities all over the country. Among these are Warrant Officer Joseph Schuch and Seaman First Class Kenneth Williams of Newton.

Under command of Rear Admiral Carleton F. Bryant of Searsport, Maine, the bombardment group which included the Texas and the other two battleships made a notable record of accurate and damaging gunfire against shore positions in the Normandy, Cherbourg and Southern France actions. The French cruisers Montcalm and Georges Leygues, and at Cherbourg the British cruiser Glasgow were also under Admiral Bryant's command and the Allied vessels lent important assistance in the operations.

It was during the Cherbourg bombardment that the Texas, which had been repeatedly straddled by enemy gunfire, took a 9.6 inch German projectile square on the conning tower. Its explosion killed the helmsman and gravely wounded several other men on the navigating bridge, but left Captain Charles A. Baker of Washington, D. C., commanding officer of the battlegroup, Lieutenant Commander L. P. Spear of Berkley, California, navigator, and others on the bridge, uninjured. Captain Baker continued fighting the ship from the conning tower, where the executive officer, Commander Jose Cabanillas of Richmond, Virginia, was stationed.

In the same action the Texas took another 9.6 inch shell from a German gun, this one an armored-piercing projectile. This penetrated the hull forward but failed to explode and came to rest in an officer's state room. In addition the ship's company also extinguished two fires which broke out aft. The battle damage was later repaired in an English yard.

The Texas was also in on the Southern France operations, in which American naval fire again played a vital part in the landing operations, and earned a "well done" from the Army.

The Texas was launched in May, 1912, at the Newport News Shipbuilding Company yard and has been in commission since March of 1914. She is a sister ship of the New York.

During World war I the Texas served in European waters and was present at the memorable surrender of the German imperial high seas fleet.

In this war she has served on At-

lantic convoy duty and has been in on three invasions. In the African invasion of November, 1942, she was the flagship of Rear Admiral Monroe Kelly, now commandant of the New York Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York.

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Among those graduating from an intensive course of Basic engineering training at recent service school exercises at Great Lakes was Burl A. Manuel, 25, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Manuel of Wheeler. This blue-jacket was selected for his specialized training on the basis of his recruit training aptitude tests scores. Graduates from the twenty specialized courses taught here at the Service schools are sent to sea, to shore stations or to advanced schools.

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Sergeant Loren Harvey, who has been here on a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mose Harvey of near Newton for the past four weeks, returned to duty on Thursday. His plane was shot down over Romania and he was a prisoner for sixty-six days before he made his way back to the American Air Force in Italy. He has had little to say about his escape.

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According to word received by Mrs. Delbert E. Dow, her husband, Corporal Dow, has arrived safely in England. His wife is the former Helen Wilson of Biloxi, Mississippi.

Corporal Dow was home in September and enjoyed a short furlough with his wife and mother, Mrs. Pearl Galloway. He is in the Air Force and is a gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress.

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Two Jasper county men were among those graduating from the intensive courses of specialized training at recent Service schools ceremonies at the United States Naval Training Center at Great Lakes. They were: Arthur C. Pickens of Wheeler, and Harold E. Alvis of Newton, basic engineering.

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Quincy L. Allison has completed the twelve weeks radio operators' course at the Engineer school at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and has been promoted to a technician fifth grade in the Engineers. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Allison of Newton, and is married and has one son. His wife is the former Joyce Portlock.

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Mrs. Lavella Bennett of Kokomo, Indiana, writes that her brother, Wilbur L. Mulvaney, is somewhere in the South Pacific. "He says he is fine, but, of course, he is a little homesick and wants his friends to write to him. They may write in care of my address, 226 West Monroe street, Kokomo, Indiana."

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Seaman Second Class William Cantwell Jr. has been spending a few days' leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Cantwell of Newton. He is being transferred from Illinois Normal university, Normal, to Rice institute, Houston, Texas, for further training.

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Private Wilford French of Camp Hood, Texas, arrived Thursday morning for a visit with his wife and children Keith and Marlene of 202 Goble avenue, Newton. Wilford was inducted into the Army at Chicago in June. This is his first furlough.

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Mrs. Ruby Clark Hays and son, Seaman Second Class Will Hays have been visiting at Newton this week. Billie is in the Navy, and has just completed his boot training at Great Lakes.

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Staff Sergeant Paul Rubsam, who

received a broken leg in the Normandy invasion battles, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rubsam of Newton. He was struck just above the ankle by shrapnel. After treatment in a hospital in England, he was flown to the United States.

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Mrs. J. E. Nichols Jr. of this city has just received a letter from her husband, Corporal Nichols, telling her that he recently met Master Sergeant Glen Bogard, formerly of near Gila. The two men have met somewhere in India and have gone for a plane ride together.

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Mrs. Victor Reisner of Jewett has received a letter, from her nephew Sergeant Harold D. Griffith, stating that he had landed overseas, and is stationed somewhere in England.

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Private Charles J. Woodard has returned from a fourteen day furlough with his wife and family. He was stationed at Camp Polk, Louisiana, and is now ready for overseas duties.

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Mrs. B. L. Adkins has received word from her husband, Fireman First Class Adkins that he is in the Naval hospital in San Diego, under observation for a throat condition.

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Seaman Second Class Lawrence Gifford is expected home from the Naval Air base at New Orleans, for a ten day leave with his wife and daughter at Willow Hill.

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Private Gerald Ellis of Newton is now overseas with a Military Police battalion, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ellis of Newton, have learned.

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Corporal Clyde Boyd is spending a furlough with his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irley Boyd of near Yale.