



With the Colors

9/1/44

Corporal Vernon Swager sends the following poem from New Guinea:
New Guinea

Here is the land of sunshine,
New Guinea is the name;
The times we are having,
It really is a shame.
And when we awake each morning,
And thoughts of home run through
our brain,
We hear a familiar pattering on our
tent top.

My gosh! That means more rain!
Then it is time to police the area,
We keep it neat and clean,
We do this ninety times a day;
It makes us want to scream.
When we think of all the hardships
That the fellows at home endure,
While we pick up our shovels,
And start digging our foxholes.
They say things are so hard at home,
That folks have to eat old steaks,
Pie, ice cream and candy,
And great big chocolate cakes.
They never get any salmon,
Hash or bully beef;
They only make 30 bucks a day,
They're almost on relief.
So we will stop our bitching and
Good soldiers we'll try to be;
And I'll bet all you 4-F fellows
Wish you could be here with us.

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Private First Class Lawrence C. Dhom, who is with the Marines on Guam island, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dhom: "Guam isn't such a bad place now that a fellow doesn't have to lay in a fox-hole and eat mud and sand. We really had a big rain last night. A couple of us boys put up a small tent. It was really too small for both of us, but it was waterproof and we didn't get wet.

"I like it better here on Guam than when we were at Guadalcanal. I have my hair cut very short. It's cooler that way and besides I don't have to comb it.

"You should see some of the pets we boys have. In our outfit there are two wild pigs and a white parrot. The pigs are black and white striped and brown and white.

"We're fine and hope everyone back there is the same."

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Private Albert Fisher of the Bend writes his sister, Mrs. Earl Elinger of Waukegan, from Italy, where he is with a bomber squadron: "You wanted to know how I liked the boat ride coming over here. Well, it got fairly old toward the last. Two weeks is a long time to see nothing but water. When we came along the coast of Africa the land sure looked good.

"The first thing that seemed natural when we came to Naples was an old sparrow's chirp. It has been raining here; rained last night and the night before, the first rain to speak of since I've been here. I spent three days in a little town up in the mountains. It was sure nice to eat and sleep in a private home. They

have mountains over here that have snow on them the year around."

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Mr. and Mrs. James R. Diel of Newton are in receipt of a letter from their son, James Lee Diel, stating that he was back in England and had been promoted to first sergeant and was busier even than in France. He was one of the American paratroopers landed back of the German lines in Normandy on D-day and fought his way back to the American landings.

Another son, Dan Diel, is in the Burma sector with the American army.

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Mrs. Oscar Peach of Lawrenceville, formerly of Sainte Marie, is in receipt of a letter from George M. Keller, written from a foxhole in France. He said they had been on the front lines but were now behind the lines in reserve. He added that they had been some awful sights and that it had been mighty tough going.

Before entering the service in 1941, George was employed in the Arthur Schwartz tavern in Sainte Marie.

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Lieutenant Daniel Wayne King was a week end guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ona M. King of Falmouth. He is a gunnery instructor at an Army Air Base at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Daniel Wayne was recently returned home after combat experience in the North African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns.

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Lieutenant (j. g.) and Mrs. John J. Yelvington were expected to arrive Thursday evening for a visit with his parents, Judge and Mrs. Milo D. Yelvington. Lieutenant Yelvington is an engineer officer in the Navy and has been on duty in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

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Private First Class James W. McCoy of Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, and Private First Class Harold McCoy of Drew field, Florida, have been spending furloughs with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCoy of near Yale.

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Seaman First Class Lewis J. Jenkins is spending a fifteen day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Heber Jenkins of West Liberty. He will return to Pensacola, Florida.

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Lieutenant Harold G. Leffler, who has been in charge of the Navy V-12 unit at Crawfordsville, Indiana, has been transferred to Millsap college, Jackson, Mississippi.

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Private First Class Kenneth Wilson a former employe of the A. & P. store in Newton, has been sent overseas with an Infantry division.

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Private Cletus Resch is here on a short furlough. He is in the 735th Railway Operating battalion at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.