



With the Colors

9/26/44

Lieutenant John S. Wright, who is with the Signal Intelligence division, writes: "I was in Rome recently and had quite a sightseeing spree. I drove out the Appian way, 'via Appia Antica,' which, in places where the modern coating of asphalt had worn off, showed the Roman construction, large blocks of stone. Along the pine shaded road dozens of remains of tombs, now piles of flat Roman brick with pieces of marble adornment although a few have nearly complete inscriptions. As they fell into ruin, others used parts of older tombs in constructing new ones, or walls, houses and barns. Indeed, some of the houses along the way are tombs hollowed out and added to.

"Quite a different sort of burial took place in the catacombs, which are also along the Appian way. Here, deep in the ground along narrow dark corridors, sealed off to prevent the violation of dead by the pagans, were buried the early Christians and martyrs. Here were the first resting places of the bones of St. Peter and St. Paul. At the church of San Sebastian, one of the entrances to the catacombs, was discovered a house or the remains of a house in which were many terra cotta tablets with the names of St. Peter and St. Paul on them.

"Of the many churches in Rome which I've visited, the most beautiful is St. John Lateran, one of the five great churches of Rome and the seat of the popes before St. Peter's. It is done in the heroic style of the Renaissance like St. Peter's but had a thoroughness in following the pattern which makes it somewhat austere. There are huge statues of the apostles of either side of the nave done by pupils of Bernini, a very rich gold and the blue ceiling and a number of very attractive chapels, each with excellent use of colored marble. These are the cloisters of the pre-Renaissance church, very nice, with mosaics in Byzantine style."

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H. L. "Red" Thompson of Robinson, former twenty-third district commander of the American Legion, has been promoted to lieutenant commander in the Navy and given command of a flotilla of amphibious landing ships. He is at home on a few

days' leave before going to his new assignment on the Pacific coast.

He served in the submarine forces in the first World war and is believed to have been the first man enlisted in the Navy after the declaration of war, having been sworn in at almost the exact hour that congress passed the act.

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Mrs. Nellie Salyers is in receipt of a letter from her son, Corporal Eugene Salyers, who is now serving in the Mechanized Cavalry in France. It was the first letter she had received for some time. Enclosed in the letter were some German stamps.

Eugene has two more brothers serving in the armed forces, Private Jesse Salyers of Camp Davis, North Carolina, and Private Delmer Salyers of Fort Benning, Georgia.

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Seaman Gerald Field spent a week end leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irl Field of Newton. Gerald was a radioman at the Pacific fleet headquarters before being sent to Midshipman's school at Notre Dame university, and previous to that was on destroyer at the time of Pear Harbor.

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Seaman Second Class and Mrs. Doyt Hamilton are spending a few days in Newton. Doyt is a Navy truck driver at San Diego, California, and says that he does the same thing in the service he did in civilian life.