



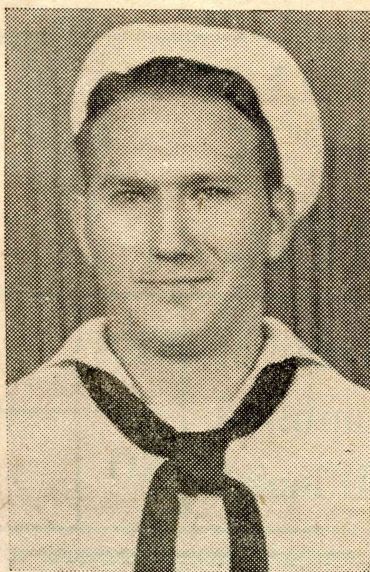
With the *April 10,* *1945* Colors

Fireman Second Class Oscar James Boehl, who was 21 years old last September, has been in Hawaii since January. He was graduated from Oblong high school in 1943, then worked with his father on their farm in the Bend until he entered the Navy last July 1. Part of a recent letter home follows:

"My mail is coming in now. I am fine. We get liberty every other day while we are here. Yesterday at the USO, I weighed 145.

"Here it is just like it is in May or June back home. It's that way all the year round here and it sure is pretty. The lawns are green and people seem to keep things clean and looking good. I think on the average they have more and better automobiles over here than back in the states and evidently they get gasoline to drive them, too.

"I've even seen civilians driving jeeps and other Army cars. You can also buy radios, watches, cigarettes and many things that seem to be hard to get back home. Things are pretty expensive, as is usually found where there are lots of servicemen.



"We went to the beach the other day. The submarine base has a large building there with lots of games. It is prettier than any I've seen in the states. I believe there is also a nice beer garden for service men.

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"Frank Bailey's brother is here too. I haven't seen him nor haven't heard from Mike Rennier since I left New Orleans."

His brother, Sergeant Vincent B. Boehl, 24, is at Huntsville, Alabama, in a ground crew of the Air Corps. He has been in the army since July, 1942.

Sixth Army Group, France.—Attesting to the skilled medical care wounded Americans receive on the western front is one surgical achievement of the 117th Evacuation hospital—fifty brain operations without one death.

This 400-bed hospital, following the advance of U. S. Seventh army troops in General Jacob L. Devers' Sixth army group, has treated over 5,000 patients during three months of combat operations in France. Fifty-six per cent of all admissions were surgical cases and forty-four per cent medical.

"A battle casualty is received here from six to eight hours after he is wounded," explained Lieutenant Colonel Alfred P. Thom of Washington, D. C., hospital commander. "He receives first surgical treatment and his physical condition is improved for safe transport to general and station hospitals where final surgical care is administered. Some patients are completely cured and returned direct to duty from here."

Captain Walter E. Boehm of New York, N. Y., brain surgeon, recently operated on four soldiers whose heads had been completely penetrated by bullets. In a matter of days, they were well on the way to recovery. Major Kenneth E. Kipp of Monroe, Michigan, maxillofacial surgeon, has restored many mutilated faces to normal, skillfully replacing the destroyed bone and tissue by plastic surgery.

The 117th unusually operates from fifteen to twenty-five miles behind the front. Once, however, the hospital was set up in buildings just vacated by a German hospital staff, only six miles from the front.

Members of the hospital staff in-

clude, Second Lieutenant Mildred C. Krone, nurse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krone of Dieterich.

*Apr. 10, * * * * * 1945*

Private Glenard Strole, who is in Germany with the Combat Engineers, writes his mother, Mrs. Dale Strole of Newton vicinity, under date of March 13: "I am well and in the best of health. I have been over here a long time and will be glad when its over and a lot of us can come home.

"I wrote and told you I was in the Combat Engineers. It's a pretty rugged life sometimes. I have seen plenty of sights since I've been over here and some I wouldn't want to see again. I'll have lots to talk about when I'm home again. I saw Max Aten from Hidalgo and hardly recognized him.

"When I was in France and Belgium, I could use my French but here in Germany we can't talk to the people. I still study my French in my spare time."

Friends may write him in care of his parents.

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The Press is in receipt of a bundle of papers from Sergeant Russell Harrison, containing several copies of the Continental edition of Yank and the Paris edition of the New York Herald-Tribune. The latter has only two pages, due to paper shortages.

Yank is an Army weekly, written and edited by enlisted men for the rank and file of the Army. The Herald Tribune was revived after Paris was liberated, after having ceased publication when the Germans declared war on the United States. It is a typical American newspaper, presenting American news and editorial viewpoints to soldiers and civilians in France, Belgium and Germany.

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R. Don Higgins, SSML 3/c has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Mae Higgins of near Newton. He had been in the Naval hospital at Long Beach, California, for five weeks, after being on a ship for two months. Since his return he has been sent to Treasure Island, San Francisco, California, for reassignment.

He spent Easter Sunday with his aunt, Mrs. Harry Brooks at San Jose, California, whom he hadn't seen for fourteen years. He started home on his mother's birthday, March 5 and left on his own birthday.

*Apr. 10, * * * * * 1945*

Staff Sergeant Byron Barthelemy of Chanute field spent Sunday with his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Compton of Newton. This is the first time they had seen him in seven years. He is now taking a sixty day course in a technical specialists school at Chanute.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Barthelemy of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. D. L. Barthelemy of West Liberty is his grand-father.

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Radioman First Class John Neal Mason has reported to the Motor Torpedo base at Melville, Rhode Island. He has been with the Thirteenth Power Torpedo boat squadron in the Southwest Pacific for several years. He wears six battle stars on his campaign ribbons and saw service on invasions from the Aleutians to New Guinea.

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Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Reynolds of Newton have received word that their son, Private Ray Reynolds, is now somewhere in Germany with a tank battalion. Their other son, Roy Reynolds, gunner's mate third class, who is on the battleship, U. S. S. New York, was in the battle of Iwo Jima. Both are well.

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Mr. and Mrs. Luther R. Clark of Yale had the pleasure of hearing their son, Corporal George A. Clark, who is stationed at Atlanta, Georgia, with the control division of the Army Paymaster's office, take part in the program, "Town Meeting of the Air," broadcast from Atlanta, Thursday night.

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Corporal Vernon Swager, who is now on Luzon, has sent his father, Charles E. Swager of Boos, several souvenirs, including a native bow and arrow, a Jap flag with four bullet holes through it and a Jap bayonet. Vernon was well at the time of his last letter.

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Wayne David Barkley, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Barkley of Danville, writes his grand-mother, Mrs. Mary Ruth Barkley of Yale, from the South Pacific, where he is serving aboard a destroyer escort. He said he was well but rather homesick.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Clark of Newton have received a letter from their son, Seaman First Class Sylvan Clark. He writes that he is fine only awful busy. He is a radar operator on an L. S. T. somewhere in the Southwest Pacific.

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Glen B. Smithenry of near Boos was recently promoted from private first class to corporal. He is serving with the 749th Railway Operating

battalion in Europe.

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Virginia Graham is spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. Erma Graham of Newton. She is in the Waves at Washington, D. C.

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Lowell Stanley, seaman first class, left Friday for Norfolk, Virginia, after spending a seven day leave here with his wife and children at Newton.