



With the *aug. 7, 1945* Colors

Raymond Wagner Jr. of Newton writes his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wagner of this city, from Burma:

"How is everybody back there in old blue Jasper. I guess you all had a fine time out at the fair this year. I would have liked to have been there. It has been a long time since I've seen a fair or anything else as far as that goes. I sure feel a lot better about the mail situation. I got two letters from you yesterday and two from Pat.

"I guess you noticed that I'm captain in the Army of the United States now. How about that? I was surprised myself so don't think I knew it before. It really came as a surprise to me. It was dated July 16, ten months and twenty-five days after I was promoted to first lieutenant. That is not bad for here. I was only recommended for it just three weeks ago. I guess I'm one of the youngest captains in the Infantry, so that is something. I hope I'm not here long enough to get another.

"The Japs are sure taking a beating over there now. The news sure sounds good, but that is sure what they need. We have heard rumors that they are looking for peace, but have never seen anything definite.

"We had fried chicken yesterday. It was really good. They were wild chickens. We had twenty that we had killed with shotguns. We had a lot of fun killing them, had a jeep with the top down and windshield laid down, driving around in the rice paddies. That makes a good hunting vehicle. These chickens are not as big as ours but are very wild. We had ice cream last night for supper, not bad either."

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Second Lieutenant Herschel A. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Jones of Newton, is now enrolled in the B-29 transition flying school at Maxwell field, Montgomery, Alabama, as a Superfortress pilot, the leader of the three-man team which handles the flying controls of the giant heavy bombers.

B-29 pilots are selected from the top ranks of flyers who have had experience in four-engine airplanes. The pilot's course lasts six weeks here, and during most of that time they train with the three-man "command crew" which also includes a co-pilot and flight engineer, because it requires three men to handle the flying functions of the complex aerial battleship. After graduation, this crew ordinarily gets advanced combat training with additional crew members and then goes into combat as a unit against the Japanese.

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Sergeant George A. Clark, who is in the Army finance office at Atlanta, Georgia, sent a poster to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Clark of Yale, which is being distributed by the American Red Cross in the southeastern part of the United States. It is entitled "How Your American Red Cross Assists in Handling the Six Principal Needs of Veterans." It bears two pictures of him, selected by Red Cross officials from among the photographs of fifteen men in the Atlanta headquarters.

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Mr. and Mrs. Perry Chesnut of Bogota are in receipt of a letter from their son, Private First Class Ivan Chesnut, stating that he had been promoted to corporal, and was stationed in Manila as mechanic. He sent a box to his wife at Newton containing a pair of Japanese slippers, a billfold and a fan.

He also said he had eaten his first dish of ice cream which cost him \$1.00 for two dips.

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Corporal George S. McColley, Technical Sergeant Ralph Dhom and Sergeant Henry L. Dhom, who were in the Third Armored division throughout the battles of France and Germany, have been transferred to the headquarters company of an Ordnance Maintenance battalion in France. All three are expecting to return home with discharges in the near future.

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Private First Class Charles Woodward has been discharged from the Army after thirty-nine months' service overseas with the 135th Infantry of the Thirty-fourth division of the Fifth army in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. He wears the European, African, Middle Eastern Theatre ribbon with five battle stars.

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Corporal Raymond V. Dhom is on his way to the United States after over two years service in the West and Southwest Pacific with a Field Artillery battalion.

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Boatswain's Mate Second Class

Francis B. Hall has returned to the Pacific area after five months in the United States. He had spent seventeen months in the Pacific previously.

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Loren Heady has been home on a visit with his wife at Willow Hill. He is under treatment at Mayo General hospital, Galesburg, for wounds received to his leg in France.

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Staff Sergeant Morris R. Smith of Willow Hill has received a discharge from the Army. He was a typist clerk in the finance department.

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Private James R. Green has received a discharge from the Army at McClosky General hospital, Temple, Texas.

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Seaman Second Class Gerald F. Bunton is in a Naval hospital somewhere in the Pacific, his wife, who resides at Mattoon, has learned.

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Corporal George Eaton is on his way home from the Southwest Pacific where he has been stationed.