



## With the *21. 2,* Colors *1945*

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gorrell of near Bogota, who are employed at the Soldiers and Sailors Children's school at Normal, have received a letter from their son, Neal Gorrell, who is in New Guinea with the Signal Corps, dated January 14 and 15:

"It is rather early in the morning to be writing a letter, but it is a nice morning, for New Guinea, and I feel in the letter writing mood, even though there is nothing new to write.

"It has been terribly hot and dusty for the past few days. The road, about fifteen feet from our tent, was at least four inches deep with good old sandy dust. Last night it rained a big rain and cooled off just a little. We were certainly glad for that. I told George that we would have to imagine that the dust was snow. Some one said yesterday that the temperature goes over a hundred every day, but thank goodness it doesn't seem that hot. We've been having some real cold drink for dinner almost every day.

"There was a USO show here last night. We didn't go, but some of the boys who did said that it was good. Irving Berlin was there and several got his autograph. Wish now that I had seen it, but those places are always so crowded that it's hardly worth the effort.

"How are my letters coming through? Yesterday I received your letter that was written the day before Christmas. Some of the boys had letters that were postmarked as late as the fourth of January, which isn't bad at all.

"The PX got a large shipment of magazines yesterday, so George and I bought a supply of reading material that will last us for a while. I saw in Yank magazine that families that had all their sons in the Army and only one left alive could request that he be returned to the continental United States.

"I couldn't think of anything else to write yesterday so I put this aside and did some sewing. I worked almost all day cutting a sun-tan shirt down to make a little jacket. First I cut the tail off to about the belt length, hemmed it around the bottom, then made it form fitting by making two pleats in the back. Finished it off by putting a half belt across the back. Looks pretty neat if I do say so myself. Some of the boys are wanting me to make one for them."

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Corporal John W. Nichols writes Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burton from France: "Thank you so much for your nice card and letter I received this morning. I am afraid my address has changed quite a bit but the letter got here at the same time as one from mother, written the same day.

"I consider myself pretty fortunate. I really had more than I could eat at Christmas—turkey and all the trimmings. It was very nice. I had just come back from a few days' tour of Paris not long before.

"Christmas eve there was an all night dance—typically French. They start dancing about 9:00 and don't quit until 5:30 the next morning. I am just about to get back on my feet again after all that. About the only Christmas that could have been better would have been one at home.

"I'm not exactly homesick yet, for I know it is no good. I do think that we have been here long enough for a few days at home but they are working on that, too. It all takes time—time that is precious to young men, especially those that have as yet to get their start."

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Private First Class Joseph Derixson, who is in the Southwest Pacific with a Quartermaster regiment, has written his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Derixson of Newton, that he is now in the Philippines. "I have met lots of people, most of whom can speak English. They are very nice people and have been treated very bad by the Japs. The Japs took everything they had and the poor people were about starved and had no clothes. They are sure glad to see the Americans.

"I have had many exciting experiences, the kind I can tell my grand-children about if I have any grand-children."

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Fifteenth AAF in Italy.—Harry F. Gipson, 19, of Hidalgo has been promoted to the rank of sergeant. He has recently arrived at his overseas station and is a waist gunner on a Fifteenth AAF Flying Fortress based in Italy.

A graduate of Newton Community high school, Gipson was employed by the Greenup Manufacturing Company

before his entry into the armed forces. He earned his gunner's wings at the Kingman Gunnery school, Kingman, Arizona, in July, 1944. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Gipson of Hidalgo.

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Seaman First Class Bertie E. Sparks, Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, New York, is spending a sixteen days leave with home folks, after spending a few days with his brother, Lowell Sparks and family of Tolon.

He and his mother have arrived in this vicinity for a visit with Everett Foster and family. They will go from here to the home of his brother, Ernest Sparks and family of Kansas. Bertie will then go to Champaign to see friends. After visiting there, he will return to Brooklyn.

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Mrs. Emma Carlton of Willow Hill has received a letter from her son, Edmond, "Speck" Orr, stating he had been promoted to corporal. Speck wishes to thank all for the nice Christmas greetings he received from Jasper county. He has served for thirty-three months in the South Pacific as a member of an evacuation hospital unit.

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Seaman Second Class Leo Kerner Jr. and Electrician's Mate Third Class LeRoy Wakefield left Tuesday to report back to duty after spending a leave with relatives here.

Leo Jr. is in the Seabees and is training in the states. LeRoy has been overseas for the past sixteen months.

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Corporal Clem Brinson, who has been here on a furlough, is leaving Saturday for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he will be stationed at the Navy Yard. He served many months overseas with the Marines and participated in several assaults on Jap held islands, being wounded at Tarawa.

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Private Logan Utley is spending a furlough with his wife at Newton, after having been in France and England. He has been stationed at Palm Springs, California, recently. He says that many French and English cities are just a pile of brick bats and dust.

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Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Wattleworth of Newton have received a cablegram from their son, Captain Kent L. Wattleworth, from a part somewhere in the Pacific area.

Dr. Kent is with the 831st Medical Air Evacuation squadron.

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Calvin French has been home for a furlough with his wife and other relatives at Newton after completing more than fifty missions over Germany and German occupied territory with the Army Air Forces.

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Corporal Homer L. Smith wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otho Smith, he was fine and wished to thank his friends for the many nice birthday and Christmas cards he received. He is somewhere in England.

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Private First Class Bernard Cummins is now in France, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Frank Cummins of Newton, have learned.

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Sergeant Robert McDaniel writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold McDaniel of Yale, that he is well. He is in France.