



With the *Feb. 20, 1945* Colors

Private First Class Victor R. Phillips of Newton, who is in Germany with an Anti-Aircraft Artillery battalion, writes: "I have started to receive copies of the Press so thought I'd write and let you know. I read Lieutenant Geier's letter in one edition and can verify all his statements. In fact most of these towns will have to be built from the ground up. The Artillery and Air Force does a pretty thorough job.

"As you know we had a little stir around here a while back, but everything is under control now and moving the other way. We were very instrumental in assisting some of Hitler's aces to join that ever increasing Germany underground army (six feet under). It was a lot of fun while it lasted.

"We get to go back into Holland once in a while for a rest. It usually winds up that we need a rest worse when we get back than we did before. We are all sweating out passes to Paris, but unless my luck changes for the better it may be this time next year before I make it. I'm just hoping by that time to spend one in Paris, not France but Illinois, if I should want to.

"From the way things have been progressing who knows but what I might. Although it will take a lot longer to get the boys home than it did to get them over here, some of us can now start counting in months instead of years.

"Will have to close for now. Say hello to all my friends for me. That is if Uncle Sam has left any of them around 'till now."

* * * * *

From headquarters of the Twelfth Air Force in Italy comes word that the B-25 Mitchell bombardment group to which Sergeant Roman M. Lidy of Dieterich is assigned as an airplane mechanic-gunner has been cited again by the War Department as a Distinguished Unit, this time for the sinking of the Italian cruiser Taranto in La Spezia harbor, September 23.

Carried out without loss of aircraft and with no casualties despite a formidable concentration of anti-aircraft guns, the brilliant attack frustrated German attempts to move the Taranto into position to block the entrance of this vital harbor. The group was previously cited as a Distinguished Unit for outstanding close support missions flown in Tunisia and Sicily in favor of the British Eighth and American Fifth and Seventh armies.

* * * * *

Staff Sergeant Sylvan M. Kocher has returned to Keesler field, Biloxi, Mississippi, where he is preparing for overseas shipment, after spending a two weeks' furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kocher of near Newton. Sergeant Kocher was formerly stationed at Selman field, Monroe, Louisiana, where he worked as propeller overhaud specialist in a subdepot.

His brother, Corporal Theodore Kocher, from Lockbourne Army Air Base, Columbus, Ohio, was home on a three day pass to join him on his visit.

* * * * *

Technician Fifth Class Harold L. Romack has returned home for a thirty day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Romack of Mattoon, formerly of near Newton, after serving twenty-nine months overseas in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations.

Word has been received from Private Bernard O. Romack by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Romack, that he is recovering from a broken leg in a hospital in England.

* * * * *

Private Leonard Beavers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Beavers of West Liberty vicinity, was operated on Thursday for a hernia. He recently entered the army and was assigned to the Infantry at a camp in Texas, but the hernia developed and he was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for hospitalization.

* * * * *

Snow was quite a thrill to the convoy of patients from the South Pacific, who arrived recently at Billings General hospital, Indianapolis. Among them was Technician Fifth Grade Roscoe Cummins of Newton, who served with the Cavalry on the island of Leyte. He was wounded while making the advance with a rifle squad on the island. He is formerly of Oblong. His wife is the former Leona Thompson of Newton.

* * * * *

Mrs. Wilford French of Newton is in receipt of a letter from her husband, dated February 8. "I will write you a few lines to let you know

I have landed safely somewhere in France. I am just fine, and I hope you and the children are the same. Sure had some ride; got seasick, but not bad I guess. Have some snow here. Will write more next time.

* * * * *



Private Donna Bailey

the former Donna Emery, daughter of Frank Emery of Newton, who is now in the Wacs. Her husband, Hildreth Bailey, is in France with the Army.

* * * * *

Private Robert D. Ferguson of Willow Hill has been on a furlough from Mayo General hospital at Galesburg, visiting his wife at Decatur. He was wounded in action in Germany, October 23 and was first hospitalized in Belgium and then in England, arriving in the United States, February.

He has been in the Army since July, 1943, and received his training at Camp Wallace and Camp Hulen, Texas, Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, and Fort Meade, Maryland. He was sent overseas in September, 1944.

* * * * *

Mrs. Kenneth Jones of Newton has word from her husband, Machinist's Mate Third Class Jones, that he had burned himself with a welding torch. He has recovered from a fractured wrist received some time ago. Kenneth is in the Navy and is stationed in the Pacific.

* * * * *



Private First Class W. F. Ragon who recently received his wings as an aerial gunner at Harlingenfi, Texas, Army Air Field. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Ragon of Willow Hill vicinity.

* * * * *

Mrs. Hallie Jones of Chicago and Clifford Merritt, gunner's mate, second class, have been spending a few

days with their sister, Mrs. Norval Wheat of Newton. Miss Peggy Wheat of Olney was also home over the week end.

* * * * *

Seaman and Mrs. Leo Bruner of Willow Hill are the parents of a baby girl, born February 4. She has been given the name of Gloria Lee.

Leo has been shipped out from Great Lakes to Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island.

* * * * *

Fireman John Calvin Jourdan is home on leave, visiting his mother, Mrs. Ed Jourdan of Newton. He has been on an aircraft carrier in the Western Pacific area.

* * * * *

Francis Burton Hall, seaman second class, is spending a thirty day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Aldridge of Mattoon, formerly of West Liberty.