



With the Colors *Feb. 23, 1945*

Dale Wakefield, AMH 1/c, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wakefield of Newton:

"I am now finally situated and have very good duty. I am in one of the first or I mean the first bombing and fighting squadrons in the Navy designed for both jobs from the start. There are only seventeen men in our squadron, not counting the pilots. I am the hydraulics specialist in this squadron and all I am supposed to do is see that the work is done on the planes that pertains to hydraulics.

"We are at an auxiliary Air Station, and will be there for quite a while, until our pilots complete their training as a squadron. In this air group we have a dive bombing squadron, a fighter squadron, a torpedo squadron and ourselves.

"When we leave here we will go aboard one of the big carriers in the fleet. So far I consider myself very lucky for being in the squadron. A squadron in the fleet is the best duty a person can get and it is the easiest job and best duty I have had in the Navy.

"Boy this state (Nevada) is really wide open. There is a little town about nine miles from here called Fallen and about all there is in the town is gambling joints.

"They have gambling of all kinds there. Dice tables, roulette wheels, card games of all kinds and it is nothing to see a building the size of Kinsel's store full of rows of one arm bandits. All they use for money is silver dollars; you give a person a bill for anything you buy and you get back all silver. Reno, Nevada, is about sixty-five miles from here and the squadron had a day off and we all went there yesterday.

"Reno is the first city I ever visited that lived up to my expectations. It is just exactly like pictures, movies and people describe it. All the people do there is get married, divorced, gamble, drink, and try to find a hotel or place to live, because the town is crowded to the top with people from out of town.

"I really had a good time there visiting all the gambling houses and places of entertainment and I mean the town is just as I expected it to be and then some. It was just like going to a county fair."

* * * * *

Hale Edward Cummins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery S. Cummins of Wil-

low Hill has been inducted into the U. S. Navy Construction battalions. He applied for enlistment in the Seabees and was called to Springfield, January 17, for an interview and examination. He was sent to Chicago, February 1, where he was accepted and sworn in as a carpenter's mate, first class, and was put on inactive duty.

He received orders to report for active duty and left Sunday night, for Chicago, from where he will proceed to Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island, for indoctrination and training.

He and his wife, the former Dorothy E. Dodd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Dodd of Willow Hill, are the parents of a 6 year old daughter, Pat. Hale is a graduate of Newton Community high school, class of 1934. He has been employed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, for the past two years, seven months on the construction of George field, and the last seventeen months on a canal project in Florida.

Lieutenant Scott Cummins, United States Navy, who is stationed at the Amphibious Training base, Morro bay, California, is another son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery S. Cummins. He has been in the Navy continuously since he enlisted in September, 1928.

* * * * *

Second Lieutenant Donald Thomas Mason was a visitor with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Eph Mason and other relatives in Newton this week. He received his commission February 10 at San Marcos, Texas, Army Air field. He is a son of James Lowell Mason of Gary, Indiana, formerly of Newton, who attended the graduation exercises.

Donald resided in Newton as a lad. He graduated from the Lew Wallace high school at Gary in June, 1943, and entered the service in November of that year, receiving training at Omaha, Nebraska, Santa Ana, California, and San Marcos, Texas.

His brother, James L. Mason, is a fighter pilot in the China Burma India Theatre of Operations with the Army Air Force.

* * * * *

Seaman First Class Peter Victor Burgund left Tuesday morning for New York after a twenty day leave with his mother, Mrs. J. P. Burgund and family of near Willow Hill and his sisters, Mrs. Roy Sparks and children of Palestine and Mrs. Robert Knox and daughter of Northbrook. He visited friends at Watseka and Pittsfield.

"Pete" likes the Navy fine. He has crossed the equator twice.

Mrs. Burgund has two other sons in service, Raymond Burgund in Belgium and Philip Burgund in the South Pacific.

* * * * *

Boatswain's Mate Second Class Frank Worthey is visiting his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis

Worthey of Newton. He was on an aircraft carrier which recently participated in the battles of the Philippine sea and the other engagements about the Philippines.

Frank was a member of the crew of the U. S. S. New Orleans when the latter lost a portion of her bow earlier in the war.

* * * * *

Mrs. Herbert Henderson of Wheeler visited her son, Apprentice Seaman Herbert Paul Henderson, at Great Lakes Naval Training Station over the week end. He is in Company 18, Battalion 53, and will complete his boot training in three more weeks, nine in all. He is with three other boys from Newton and vicinity, Jackie Ragsdale, Frank Rubsam and Robert Babbs, and likes it fine.

* * * * *

Corporal Raymond Shryock, who has been visiting his wife near Newton, was taken to the George field hospital, Wednesday, for treatment for an ear infection. He was wounded by shrapnel in the head, hip and legs and was here on furlough from a hospital at Louisville, Kentucky.

* * * * *

Mansel Chester Allen Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Mansel C. Allen of South Van Buren street, Newton, has applied for enlistment in the Navy at the local Naval station, and went to Springfield for examination, Thursday. If accepted, he will be sworn into the service at once.

* * * * *

Private First Class Noel D. Chapman of Allerton has landed safely in France according to a letter received by his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Chapman of Hunt City. He stated they were having trouble understanding the French people.

* * * * *

Private First Class Victor Wagy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joy Wagy of

Newton, is now believed to be in the Philippines. He was well when last heard from.



Yeoman First Class Jim DeVaney is home on a visit with his wife. He is in the Coast Guard and has been at sea.