



# With the Colors

*Feb. 27, 1945.*

Seaman First Class Harold E. Kelly, stationed in Guam, sent this poem to his mother, Mrs. Anna Kelly of Willow Hill:

## We Who Stay at Home

When you were just our little boy on  
many a night we crept,

Unto your cot and watched o'er you,  
and all the time you slept,

We tucked the covers round your  
form and smothered your pillow  
too,

And sometimes stooped and kissed  
your cheeks, but that you never  
knew.

Just as we came to you back then

through many a night and day,  
Our spirits now shall come to you—  
to kiss and watch and pray.  
Whenever you shall look away into  
God's patch of sky,  
To think about the folks at home, we  
shall be standing by,  
And as we prayed and o'er you when  
you were wrapped in sleep,  
So through your soldier danger now  
the old time watch we'll keep,  
You will not know that we are there,  
you will not see or hear,  
But all the time in prayer and  
thought we shall be very near.  
The world has made of you a man:  
the work of a man you do,  
But unto us you still remain the baby  
that we knew,  
And we shall come, as once we did on  
wondrous wings of prayer,  
And you will never know how oft in  
spirit we are there,  
We'll stand beside your bed at night,  
in silence bending low,  
And all the love we gave you then  
shall follow where you go.  
Oh, we were proud of you back there,

but we are prouder now,  
We see the stamp of splendor God has  
placed upon your brow,  
And we who are the folks at home  
shall pray the old time prayer,  
And ask the God of mercy to protect  
you with His care,  
And as we came to you of old, al-  
though you never knew,  
The hearts of us, each day and night,  
shall come with love to you.

—A Mother

\* \* \* \* \*

Sergeant Ralph E. Watkins writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Watkins of Northwest Wade township: "It's Monday so I must write again. I have plenty of time today. I have today off; also had yesterday. I didn't do anything much yesterday, guess I will spend most of today writing letters, as I have about a half dozen to answer.

"I have done quite a lot of traveling this month so far. I made a trip down to Naples a couple days ago. I put up in town some place; just a couple other guys and myself. Mar-

as far as Mattoon is from home.  
Transportation isn't so good around



seilles is much better, but I don't  
yet through very often. It's about

here; the only travel is by our own transportation (truck and planes.) No civilian transportation is available. Not like England. It is o. k. here except for social life which isn't good at all. I'm slipping, only one French girl has wanted to marry me. In England too many. She wants to go to the states.

"I don't think I told you about the citation for the Normandy invasion. They have given me a Good Conduct medal. I can also wear wings too. This is all authorized.

"The Good Conduct medal is for a year's service. It used to be three years. The bronze star for the invasion of Normandy will be worn on the European Theatre of Operations ribbon. The wings are for more than one hundred fifty hours in the air (as crew chief in my case). Some as radio operators, others as gunners and so on. Also have two overseas stripes. One for every six months of foreign service."

— P. —

Buy War Bonds and Stamps.