



With the Colors

Jan. 23,
1945

Captain Howard J. Nagle writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Nagle of Willow Hill, from Italy:

"Well, the new year has started and I'm hoping the war with Germany will be over before so many months of this year have passed. The American First and Third armies have certainly taken a beating and have lost heavily in men and materia, but it seems that they are slowly stopping and starting to push back the Germans. The war in Italy is still one of fighting in the snow and bitter cold of the Appenines mountains. We have Indian and South African troops there who never saw snow before. You can imagine how they enjoy it.

"I still am subject to my eye-head trouble and believe that something is definitely wrong with my eyes.

"I just returned from a few days in Rome. There certainly is no other place in all the world which can impress one quite as much. Although there a short time, I made the most of it and saw all the 'high spots.' Compared with other places in Southern Italy, including the big city of Naples, it is almost like going into another world. There is no destruction such as one sees in other places, except in the outer parts of the city. The city is clean, the people are well dressed and the city is generally very modern.

"I saw the old Roman aqueducts, city walls and the remains of the temples, public buildings, etc., built by the ancient Roman emperors such as Julius Caesar. I saw the Coliseum, the big amphitheater, where gladiators and beasts used to fight and where Christians were put to death. There were some fine buildings and monuments which were erected by Mussolini.

"The high spot in Rome is St. Peter's cathedral and the many other things to be found within the Vatican city. St. Peter's defies description. It is the largest church in the world, its dome being about 630 feet high. Inside St. Peter's, the Sistine chapel and the Vatican museum are to be found the finest and most noted pieces of art in the world.

Most of the works of Michelangelo, Raphael and Bernine (paintings and sculpture) are there. In the museum one can find the only records fol-

lowing man's efforts to become civilized from earlier than the time of Christ. I managed to get in for an audience that his holiness, the pope, held with allied troops. He blessed two sets of rosaries I had bought for mother and grand-mother (Mary Staley). I shall send them soon and know you will treasure them. The pope talked to us in English—he speaks several languages.

"I saw also the famous cathedral of Rome, now called St. John Lateran and St. Paul's cathedral. Those two with St. Peter's are the best known churches in the world, and are the scenes of very important events in the Bible.

"I heard a part of Mass at two different time sat a big church, St. Mary Maggiore, which was near by hotel. The dome of this church has on it the gold which Columbus sent back to the queen of Spain after he discovered America. He sent it to pay her for sponsoring his venture to the new world.

"Shops are full of beautiful things, and I bought a few things to send back, including alabaster book ends with statutes of horses' heads. The people are pretty hungry, though, and are more interested in food than anything else. Inflation is terrible. For example, a store clerk offered to give me a 140 lire (\$1.40) piece of jewelry for a candy bar. Cigarettes are worth 80 cents to \$1.00 a pack.

"I certainly hope to go back with more time to see Rome. I also was down in some of the famed catacombs, where Christians used to have to bury their dead."

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Corporal George A. Clark of Yale writes from the Army Engineers division office, Atlanta, Georgia: "It's been nearly a year since I've written you a letter. Since then a good many things have happened in the world at large and to most of us as individuals. For me, the time has passed both fast and slow. Yesterday, I completed twenty-three months in the Army and wouldn't be at all surprised if I complete thirty-six before I get out. There's going to be a goodly lot who have at least two hash marks before the war is won.

"I was stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, as an instructor in basic training at the Army Service Forces Training center until August, when, along with many others, I was transferred to the Brooklyn Army Base terminal at Brooklyn, New York. During most of my time under the New York Port of Embarkation, I was a personnel clerk for the postal battalion.

"During my three months in the New York area, I took full advantage of my opportunities to see famous

radio broadcasts, Broadway plays, the Stage Door Canteen, Times square, Fifth avenue, and all other points of interest. I viewed the bodies of Wendell L. Willkie and Alfred E. Smith as they each lay in state, saw Times square on election night, swam in Long Island sound, attended a double-header in Yankee stadium, becoming the proud possessor of a souvenir base ball, took a tour by boat of inner New York harbor, and viewed Little Old New York from the 102nd story of the Empire State building.

"I got to know the place rather well, and it isn't so awe inspiring or complex to a Jasper county farm boy as I had expected—if I thought anyone was really interested, I'd write more.

"About the middle of last November I was forced to take a sad leave of crowded Manhattan. A TWX direct from the adjutant general requested or ordered my transfer to the South Atlantic division, Corps of Engineers. Coming down I went sightseeing in historic Philadelphia and spent a full two days in our nation's capital. I visited Washington's monument, Arlington National cemetery, the capitol, library of congress, Mount Vernon, etc.

"November 18, found me in Atlanta, Georgia. Here I work in the control branch of the office of the Division Engineers. I rewrite, revise, and redraw functional organizational charts for this big office. I'm the only enlisted man here—the rest are civilians and officers, but perhaps I'd better not say how many.

"I've been here two months. If anyone wants to get the low-down on Dixie just write me—I can tell 'em, but why should I bother to write it here if no one's interested."

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Four Jasper county men are receiving their initial Naval indoctrination at the United States Naval Training center at Great Lakes, in Company 27, 44th battalion.

When their recruit training is completed, these men will receive a period of leave. They are: Charles F. Ginder, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Ginder, John McFarland Jr., son of John McFarland, and Robert H. Dhom, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Dhom of Newton, and Walter R. Urfer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Urfer of West Liberty.

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Private First Class Hugh James is returning to McCook field, McCook, Nebraska, today, after a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. James of Newton. He is a Link trainer instructor for the Army Air Forces at McCook field.

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Lieutenant Bess Wilson, who is sta-

tioned at a hospital in Italy, has sent her father, N. A. Wilson of south of Newton, a couple of Italian "shin-plasters." They are small bills for one and five lira and are lithographed in green and yellow.

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Seaman First Class Warren L. Stanley is spending a ten day leave with his wife and family in Newton. He is being transferred from an LST ship at San Diego, California, to Norfolk, Virginia.

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Seaman Second Class Eugene Fear is home on a leave from the Navy, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fear of Newton.

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Charles C. Cowger of Hidalgo has been discharged from the Navy. He is suffering from ulcers of the stomach.