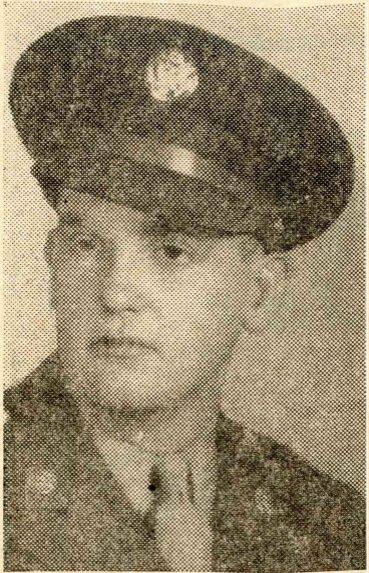




With the Colors *Jan. 5, 1945*



**Private Maurice L. McCormick**

Who was awarded the Bronze Star and recommended for the Silver Star in rescuing wounded under fire in France.

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Private Wayne Shull writes Harold A. McNeas of Rose Hill, from New Guinea.

"I will drop you a few lines to say hello. We arrived at our destination, October 18, and I was not surprised that it should be New Guinea. The islands are almost as I had them pictured to be, which isn't pleasant at all. It isn't too bad now, though, but I guess a person can get used to anything when he is there long enough.

"We are located in fairly good terrain, considering the rest of the island. The island is mountainous but there are not too many jungles around this particular location. It has been raining all day as it generally does and I have been just reading and sleeping. The rest of the boys as well as myself have been doing a lot of souvenir hunting. We have found several interesting things.

"The natives are hard to trade with as they have known us too long. Very few of them can speak English and none of them can speak it fluently, although you can understand what some of them say.

"I have met several Australians and have found them very interesting to talk to. We haven't gone into operations as yet for we are awaiting assignment, which I think will be in the very near future. I guess that is all for now and in closing I am wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

New Delhi, India.—Staff Sergeant John R. Catt of Willow Hill has been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action several months ago in North Burma, according to a recent announcement from Major General W. E. R. Covell's Service of Supply headquarters in the India Burma Theatre of Operations.

Sergeant Catt is a member of a Combat Engineer unit which saw plenty of action against the Japs this year during the battle for the strategic north Burma town of Myitkyina. One day the unit was working on the Ledo road and the next day they were flown to a forward air strip and informed that they were about to live up to their name of "Combat Engineers." And they gave a good account of themselves.

Staff Sergeant Catt was inducted at Camp Grant twenty-nine months ago. While in the United States, he served at Camp McCoy, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He has been overseas thirteen months, and in the India Burma theatre for the past year.

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Private First Class James W. McCoy writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCoy of near Yale, from Southern France:

"I enjoyed the trip coming over. We had good food and I had a good bed. I read most of the way, both on the deck and in my bunk. It's nice to watch the waves as you go gliding by, but the best trip will be the one coming back home.

"Every French home we pass the whole family comes out shouting and waving frantically. Their thin faces show the marks of the German cruelty, but they are so happy to see the soldiers from the United States. The buildings are very old. I find it very interesting and I'll have a lot to tell you when I get home. The churches are very beautiful, although I haven't seen inside them yet.

"I'll be so glad to hear from my friends. My address may be obtained from my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCoy, Yale, Illinois. I wish every-

one a Happy New Year."

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Technical Sergeant Cloyce L. Hunt, former circuit clerk of Jasper county, was called the "personality of the week" by the Fort Sheridan paper, the Tower.

"Technical Sergeant Hunt's present job is acting top kick for the special training unit, Company F. No matter how much excitement or confusion there may be around, Sergeant Hunt is always found in a calm and collective state . . . ready to take care of you with a pleasant voice and smile. His knack in getting 'long with his men' is probably attributed to his wide experience with people in his political experience.

"When Hunt has time, he likes hunting and fishing . . . However he's a busy man 'round the post these days . . . His evening are taken up with his duties as manager of the post bowling alleys."

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A telephone proved an effective counterattack for Cloyce King of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a grand-son of Mrs. Lydia Bartley of near Newton, recently when he was pinned down by German snipers while laying telephone lines in France. He remembered his telephone and called into headquarters and a few artillery shells silenced the snipers.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. William King, formerly of Jasper county, now of Cedar Rapids.

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clapp of West Liberty vicinity have heard from Captain George L. Clapp of Pasco, Washington. He entered the Army in November, 1942, and was assigned to the Transportation Corps. He is now at a reassignment point and sees to shipping materials overseas. He enclosed a picture of his wife, whom Mr. and Mrs. Clapp have never seen.

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Applications for enlistment in the Navy have been made to the local recruiting station by Jack D. Ragsdale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Ragsdale of Newton vicinity, Herbert P. Henderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Henderson of Newton vicinity, Frank J. Rubsam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Rubsam of Newton, and Robert Babbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Babbs of near Falmouth.

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Mrs. Nellie Salyers has received a letter from her son, Private Delmar L. Salyers, who is in the Parachute Infantry, stating he had arrived in France. He was in hopes of seeing his brother, Corporal Eugene Salyers, also in France with the Mechanized Cavalry. Delmar has another brother, Jesse Salyers, at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

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Technical Sergeant William Jennings Jones has gone to California for reassignment after a three weeks' furlough with his wife in Jasper county. He served twenty-seven months in the Southwest Pacific.

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Lieutenant Neil Fisher returned to Camp Robinson, Arkansas, Tuesday, after spending the holidays with his uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Franke and children.

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Private George "Babe" Colwell is home on a furlough with his wife and family. He is being transferred from the Ordnance to the Military Police and may go overseas soon.

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Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Higgins of Newton have received word from their son, Private First Class Paul A. Higgins, that he has arrived safely overseas somewhere in England.