



With the Colors

June 22,
1945

With the Seventh Infantry division on Okinawa, June 14.—Major Melville L. Combs of Napponee, Indiana, formerly of Hidalgo, believes this home island of Japan is nearly as beautiful as Indiana, but he places a lot of emphasis on the "nearly," so one gets the impression he'd rather be back home in Indiana.

The major, a tank battalion executive officer, recently had a close brush with death while sitting in a combat zone and admiring the terraced landscape. Advised to take cover, he neglected to for some time and it was less than a minute after he sought the haven of a hole that a shell exploded near the jeep, ripping a hole in the seat he had been sitting in.

The officer, whose wife, Mrs. Doris E. Combs, lives at 402 North Hartman, Napponee, has been commended for the performances his tanks have turned in during the battle for Okinawa.

Major Combs was born and raised in Hidalgo. His mother, Mrs. Maude Combs, still lives there. He has been in the service four years.

Major Combs helped to invade Okinawa, Easter Sunday. To date he has been in the lines eighty-two days with only twelve days rest. The mud has been about three feet deep with much machinery bogged down.

Private First Class Clyde Jackson of Hidalgo is also in the same division.

Major Combs has 110 points towards release but doesn't think he will get a discharge.

* * * * *

Sergeant Ira A. Crouse writes his mother, Mrs. Flora Crouse from Reims, France, that he is just fine and quite busy now. He is no longer working with the maintenance division but is a unit dispatcher. He says he has the Normandy, Northern France, Germany and Ardennes campaign stars and has been in the service thirty-seven months, twenty months overseas. He hasn't the slightest idea when he will get the big ride to the good old U. S. A.

* * * * *

Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Schwarzlose, daughter Catherine and son Staff Sergeant Thomas Schwarzlose of Staunton are visiting Mrs. Ella Clark and John Clark and Floyd Clark and families of Newton. Staff Sergeant Schwarzlose has just returned to this country after having been liberated from a German prison camp. He is a grand-son of Mrs. Ella Clark.

* * * * *

Master Sergeant Ardell Heady arrived in the United States, Wednesday, and was sent to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. He served thirty-four months overseas with a Photo Reconnaissance squadron stationed in North Africa and Italy. He will visit his wife at Winsor, Connecticut, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Heady of near Newton.

* * * * *

Carpenter's Mate First Class Marvin Marshall is spending a leave with his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marshall of Newton. He is with the Seabees and has been engaged in construction work on a Pacific island base for the Navy. His brother, Chief Yeoman Thomas Marshall, is also here on leave.

* * * * *

Fireman First Class Hubert Bloomer has returned to Virginia after a twenty day leave with his wife and children at Newton. He served eleven months in the European Theatre of Operations, and probably will be assigned to the South Pacific.

* * * * *

Lieutenant John J. Yelvington was visiting his parents, Judge and Mrs. Milo D. Yelvington of Newton this week. Lieutenant Yelvington, who has been assigned to a naval vessel in the Atlantic, is being transferred to the Pacific.

* * * * *

Mrs. Wesley Andrews of West Liberty has received word from her son, Elvin Williams, that he has passed his physical examination for the armed forces, and expects to be called in thirty days.

* * * * *

Radioman First Class John Neal Mason of Newton is now stationed at Newport, Rhode Island. He saw service in the Pacific for over two years. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Mason of Newton.

* * * * *

Private First Class Tilford Nebergall Jr., formerly of Yale, writes his wife at Casey that he has returned to France after having been hospitalized in England. He is a motion picture operator.

* * * * *

Raymond "Pat" Gregory, who has

been stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, has received a discharge from the Army. He has been visiting at Newton and later will return to his home at Salem.

* * * * *

Gunner's Mate Third Class Orla Houser of Newton has been assigned to a destroyer leader at Norfolk, Virginia. He served for two years in the New Guinea area.

* * * * *

Corporal John H. Maxwell of Newton, who is a cook on Okinawa, was all right when he last wrote his sister, Mrs. Charles Holt of this city.