



With the Colors

May 11, 1945

Floyd and John Wooden, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Wooden of Peoria, formerly of Bogota vicinity, recently met in the Hawaiian islands, after the latter's ship, a Naval transport, had just returned from landing



troops at Okinawa. Floyd is with an Infantry division in Hawaii, where he has been stationed for fourteen months.

Floyd wrote: "I have a big surprise. Johnny is here now. I was with him yesterday afternoon. He sure does look good. He said he got his part of the Japs."

A Ninth Air Force Bomber Base, France—Staff Sergeant Marion E. Crouse, 20, of Bogota is returning home on leave after sustained combat operations in the European Theatre. He is an aerial gunner in a Ninth Air Force light bombardment group in France.

His unit, the 410th Light Bombardment group, played an important role in the tactical air operations which spearheaded the thrusts by Allied armies into Germany.

Operating in direct cooperation with the Allied armies, the 410th has dealt crippling blows against Nazi supply lines and communication centers just behind the German lines, harassing the enemy and blocking his movement of supplies and reinforcements to the front.

A graduate of Newton Community high school, Sergeant Crouse was engaged in farming prior to his entrance into the Army in February, 1943.

He is a son of Mrs. C. C. Fuson.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Ping, who live east of Willow Hill, have heard from their oldest son, John Ping, who has recently landed on Okinawa, in the Rhyuku group. He is with the Signal Corps and took his basic training at Fort Ord, California, and remained there for six months, then went to Camp Bowie, in Texas, and overseas.

He landed first in Hawaii, where he remained a short time. This is the first word his parents have received for two months.

Their youngest son, Jimmy Ping, writes from Luzon, where he is with the Field Artillery that he is in the hospital. He said: "Don't worry, nothing serious. They can't keep me down. This is a nice place, really nice after coming down out of those mountains."

Paul Watts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Watts of Newton, who was a sea-going soldier in the three years that he was in the Army, has received a discharge from the service and is now a crew member on a merchant ship. He was in New York over the week end, when his ship was in port.

Paul was employed on an Army ship as a member of the crew. He was on an ore boat on the Great Lakes before entering the armed forces.

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Staff Sergeant Vincent F. Huber, who was recently liberated from a German prison camp by advancing American armies, is home on a sixty day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Huber of Sainte Marie vicinity. He served nineteen months overseas with the Infantry.

He lost fifty pounds in prison but has regained forty of them. For a time his stomach refused food after he was rescued.

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Private Gordon Stanley left today for Miami Beach, Florida, to a Reassignment station, after a twenty-one day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Stanley of near Newton. He expects to be placed in limited service. His left arm was

badly broken in an accident in the Aleutian islands and he has been hospitalized for a year.

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Corporal Fred Burton has returned to Fort Benning, Georgia, after spending a two weeks' furlough with his wife and other relatives and friends in Newton, Hillsboro, Pittsfield and Lincoln.

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Charles Weber, a grand-son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wilson of Newton and Mrs. Roxie Weber of Bogota, is in Hines hospital at Chicago, suffering with malaria, which he contracted during the twenty-eight months he spent in the Southwest Pacific with the armed forces.

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Mrs. William Crouse received a Mother's day greeting cablegram from her son, Sergeant Ira A. Crouse, who is with Patton's Third army in the European war area. Ira has been overseas twenty-one months.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Lowell Blair are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Blair and other relatives in Jasper county.