



## With the Colors

May 4, 1945

Seaman Second Class Robert H. Dhom is in Gulfport, Mississippi, taking a twenty weeks' course in radio operation and theory. Upon graduation he will join the fleet or some advanced base as a radio operator.

He writes: "We had a little war and robbery down here last night and I thought for a little while I was a gonner, but everything turned out o. k. I have a top bunk and just as I started to lay down a couple of Mississippi ants tried to throw me off. While I was fighting off the ants a couple of cockroaches carried off one of my blankets and my pillow.

"After I had fought off ants and cockroaches and was wondering how I was going to get up to my top bunk, as I was very tired, a couple of mosquitoes kindly came along and gently lifted me up and let me softly down into my bunk and tucked me in for the night. When I started to thank them, one of them said, "Forget it chum," that is just payment for the pint of blood we got last night."

\* \* \* \* \*

A Twelfth Army Air Force P-47 Base in Italy.—Staff Sergeant Paul E. Stanley, son of Noah A. Stanley of Newton, now wears five bronze battle stars on his theatre ribbon for having taken part in five major campaigns—the Tunisian, Sicilian, two phases of the Italian and Southern France.

Sergeant Stanley has shared the dangers and hardships of life in a fast moving tactical fighter group, which has been awarded the War Department unit citation for outstanding performance of duty.

Overseas more than thirty months Sergeant Stanley is with a veteran fighter bomber group of the Twelfth Air Force, which is actively engaged in dive-bombing and strafing of enemy military installations in the Po valley and the Brenner pass.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. L. R. Sills of Huntington Park, California, has received a telephone call from her son, Private First Class Robert C. Curtis. He had landed in Long Island, New York, after being flown from Paris, France, and landing in the States, April 24.

He will be in a hospital at Jackson, Mississippi. He is in a cast and will be for several weeks. He was wounded March 11 in Germany with General Hodges' First army. Mrs. Henry McKinney of Bogota is an aunt of Private Curtis.

Robert is a son of Nelson Curtis of Champaign. Mrs. Sills is the former Nell Cornwell of Newton.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jesse N. Jourdan, who is with a Navy postal unit in the Philippines, writes the Press under date of April 24: "I have met three Newton boys here—Rex McClane, Don Conley and James Dunnigan. I had a long visit with each fellow. I see Rex about once a week as he is only a couple of miles from here.

"The rainy season is over now and it is fairly hot. We have been living in tents but now have barracks. This base is in a native village and it has a fairly large population with several stores, cafes and novelty shops. I am going aboard ship soon as Navy mail clerk."

\* \* \* \* \*

Private First Class John B. Bush, who is in a hospital in England, writes his wife in South Muddy township: "Here I am again, as you can see, at another address. I'll be here about three weeks and then I hope to get back to my outfit, but that is uncertain.

"I don't get my mail as regular as I should but guess that is because I have been moving around so much. I will send you the Purple Heart some time next week. I think that I will be getting a twenty-four hour pass. Tell everyone hello for me. There isn't much to say so I'll close."

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. William C. Hovey has received a letter from her husband, Private First Class Hovey, telling her that he has been in combat on Okinawa. He is in a Field Artillery unit of the First Marine division and landed on Okinawa Easter Sunday.

He spent eighteen months overseas during the earlier phase of the war and saw action at Tulagi and Guadalcanal.

Mrs. Hovey is the former Edna M. Swisher. She is now employed by the Caterpillar Tractor Company at Peoria, where she worked before her marriage.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lyman Burtch Jr., who has been in the Navy in the Pacific for the past two years, has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman E. Burtch of Willow Hill. His mother made a

trip to the Pacific coast to meet him and before she arrived he obtained a leave and they returned home together.

\* \* \* \* \*

Wayne Burgener, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Burgener of West Liberty vicinity, reported to Springfield, Tuesday, for enlistment in the Navy. He had previously been accepted and was home awaiting call.

\* \* \* \* \*

William Bogard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bogard of northwest of Newton, reported to Springfield, Thursday, for enlistment in the Navy. He had previously been accepted.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lieutenant Wayne D. Jones left Wednesday and expected to be sent to the Burma area of operations. Mrs. Jones is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira May of near Newton.

—P—

Lieutenant Herschel Jones was a week end guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Jones of Newton. His brother, Lieutenant Wayne D. Jones, was here for a visit before going overseas.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Navy Life

In civilian life, you had your own way,

No orders to carry out day after day;  
You get out of bed whenever you please,

No one to come around howling  
"Reveille."

You didn't have to shine your shoes,  
Or get up every morning for GQ's;

You ate your food whenever you pleased every day,

And wasn't put on report by the chief MA.

And the food you ate, by all means  
It wasn't day after day, cornbread  
and beans.

Although the Navy life isn't so bad,  
Civilian life I would just as soon had.  
And after we've finished our job over there,

We will all come back for a short  
glass of beer,

And to our sweethearts, folks, and the rest,

And tell of our hunting trip way out  
in the southwest.

One thing for sure without any fear,  
The way things are looking,

We'll be home by this time next year.

—Paul V. Birk, S 1/c (SF)