



With the Colors *Oct. 2, 1945*

Coxswain William Cassel Garner writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Garner of Latona vicinity, under date of September 11, from Wakayama, Honshu, Japan.

"At last we did it. We are in a harbor, just about four miles from the city of Wakayama, 18,000 population. Our purpose in coming here is to evacuate about 20,000 war prisoners. We got here last night and so far as I know we will be here from one to five weeks. We are very busy, those people must be taken care of, and it is going to be a big job.

"Our ship is the headquarters for operations. Admiral Riggs is in charge. There are two hospital ships here, the Sanctuary and Consolation, also an aircraft carrier carrying no planes. The flight deck is to be used for bed space. Also APD's, DE's, and LSD's, and many smaller craft.

"The mine sweepers had to clear the mines before we could come in. A Jap pilot guided us in. Some Japs came out in a boat with him to meet us. They sure look like their pictures. They are treated courtesly, but they know their places.

"The weather is cooler here, and the mountains are beautiful. There are hundreds of terraces on the sides of the mountains. I may not be able to write for a while again. We are going to be very busy, and I am writing while I can.

"Here is really some news. On October 31, 1941, we were steaming down the channel in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on a very foggy morning, when we rammed and sank a schooner. I remembered the incident but never had thought anything about it. However, two days ago, a deep secret was revealed to us, and copies were written, telling about it. That schooner was loaded with seventy-five tons of dynamite and even though our bow plowed into the dynamite, and brass caps, it didn't explode. Officials say it was a miracle. If it had exploded, the Montpelier would be no more."

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Emery Cummins of Willow Hill have received word their sons, Lieutenant George Scott Cummins, and Carpenter's Mate First Class Hale E. Cummins, had a five day visit recently on Tinian island.

Hale is stationed on Guam, and Lieutenant Cummins on Tinian about 120 miles apart. At one time they were about four miles apart but didn't know it at the time. They missed each other between two and three hours in Hawaii.

After hearing from each other after landing in the Marianas, Hale asked for leave and transportation for a visit, which was granted after the Red Cross checked to ascertain if he had a brother on Tinian.

His leave came through on September 14. He left his camp at 7:30 a. m. on the 15th, boarded a C47 transport plane at 9:00 a. m., was on his way at 9:20 a. m. and landed at the air base on Tinian fifty minutes later.

In writing his parents, Hale said he had a swell five day leave and all the officers and men were grand to him.

Hale, a Seabee, has been in the service since February, 1945. Lieutenant Cummins completed seventeen years in the Navy on September 25.

* * * * *

Private First Class Ralph E. Mineo has been honorably discharged from the armed forces under the new point system. He had been in service four years, seven months and seven days, thirty-six months being spent overseas in the Southwest Pacific.

He served with the 160th Infantry of the Fortieth division through the Luzon, Bismarck archipelago and Southern Philippines campaigns, for which he received three bronze battle stars. He was awarded the good conduct medal, Philippine Liberation medal with one bronze star, and wore the Combat Infantryman badge, Asiatic Pacific theatre ribbon, American Defense ribbon and five overseas bars.

He brought back a Japanese flag he obtained in Luzon, which has a staff of five pieces each telescoping into the other.

* * * * *

On the USS Saugus. — Earl D. Birk, fireman, second class of Route Four, Newton, is serving on this vehicle landing ship, which recently landed occupation troops on Japan.

The Saugus, commissioned last February, traveled more than 25,000 miles in carrying troops to invasion fronts and casualties to rear areas.

Unlike an LST, she does not run up on the beach to discharge her cargo. A stern ramp lowers to permit amphibious tanks or "ducks" to be driven down and, from davits, her battery of landing craft may be launched.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Warfel of Newton have received word from their sons, Clifford and George Warfel, who are in the Navy, that they were recently clear across the world from each other. George is in Tokyo bay, Japan and Clifford was in Holland.

Elbert L. Urfer of Willow Hill vicinity has been discharged at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, after fifty-one months in the service. He was in the Field Artillery and saw service in Alaska for twenty-eight months. He wears

the Asiatic-Pacific theatre ribbon with one bronze battle star.

* * * * *

Private First Class and Mrs. Jack Ellsworth are the proud parents of a son, born September 22 at Summer's clinic. The little son will answer to the name of Darrell Wayne. Private First Class Ellsworth of the United States Marine Corps is now somewhere in the South Pacific. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Brackett of Dundas and Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Ellsworth of Newton are rejoicing over the new arrival. They are grand-parents.

* * * * *

Colonel J. R. Hamilton, a son of John T. Hamilton of Willow Hill, has been ordered to the Pacific with the Forty-first division. He served in Iceland and Europe earlier in the war.

Another son, Colonel R. C. Hamilton, is in Manila and expects to be sent to Japan soon with occupation troops. In fact, he may already be there.

* * * * *

Joseph Mulvaney of California visited his sister-in-law, Mrs. Daisy Mulvaney and son Joseph Cummins of Terre Haute last week. From there he went to Decatur to meet his son, Joseph Mulvaney Jr., who has been discharged after service overseas.

Joe Mulvaney is an overseas veteran of the first World war. He is a brother of Mrs. Mary Bever of Newton.

* * * * *

Sergeant Estle I. Short, a tank commander, has been discharged after service in the European theatre. He received the Purple Heart medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf cluster and the EAME theatre ribbon with one silver battle star. He was wounded in Normandy and again in Germany.

* * * * *

Specialist First Class Dale Robinson has received a discharge from the Navy after three years' service. He and Mrs. Robinson have been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Robinson of near Hunt City, before returning to their home at Oakland.

* * * * *

Radioman First Class John Neal Mason has received a discharge from the Navy after four years service in the West and Southwest Pacific, during which his ship participated in many actions and amphibious landings.

* * * * *

Staff Sergeant Ralph A. Dhom and Sergeant Henry L. Dhom have received discharges after three years in the Army, two years overseas with the Army after two years overseas with the Third Armored division.

* * * * *

Corporal Harry Seaton is home on a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Seaton of Rose Hill vicinity, after two years in India and Burma with the Railway Engineers. He has been discharged.

* * * * *

Staff Sergeant Lewis P. Jackson has been discharged after service in the European theatre as a tank mechanic. He has the EAME theatre ribbon with one silver and one bronze battle stars.

* * * * *

Private Ted Lowery of Portland, Oregon, who is stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, visited Mr. and Mrs. Rolla B. Cramer, and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Higgins and called on other friends last week.

* * * * *

Lieutenant (j. g.) Dale Huddleston of San Francisco, California, is spending a leave with his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ona Huddleston of Newton.

* * * * *

Corporal Victor E. White has received a discharge after service as a truck driver in Guadalcanal, Luzon and the Southern Philippines.

* * * * *

Corporal Clifford W. Clagg, a supply clerk, has been discharged after service in the Asiatic-Pacific theatre.

* * * * *

Burl Thomas has been granted a discharge from the Army.