



With the Colors

Sept. 18, 1945

Master Sergeant Dwight L. Huddlestun writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Huddlestun of Yale vicinity under date of September 7: "I've just returned from witnessing the official surrender of the Ryukyu islands by the Japanese to General Joseph Stillwell. It was held in the Tenth army area by the flagpole and was effected without anything more than the usual ceremony.

"I was within a dozen feet of the Japanese as they marched away, single file, to our jeeps, which they entered and were driven to some unknown destination. The Japanese delegation of around ten men were unarmed, but were well dressed and wore fine leather boots. Their uniforms were of a brown material resembling gabardine.

"They showed no emotion, except when they were getting into the vehicles, when we rushed up as near as possible—six or eight feet—to give them a last view. One or two evinced some annoyance that they should become objects of curiosity apparently. All were short but one and he was a slim person who must have been six feet or over in height.

"Twelve of our giant 155's mounted on tanks poked their long muzzles skyward in the general direction of the participants and a long line of Sherman tanks with muzzles depressed fronted the area. Formations of high flying Superforts, then B-24's and last a series of low flying Thunderbolts, Mustangs and Corsairs added to the color of the ceremony.

"Perhaps you'll see the ceremony in the newsreels — but I imagine every thing for days to come will feature the "surrender" put on for MacArthur. The Japs wore a lot of medals.

* * * * *

With the Twenty-fifth Infantry (Tropic Lightning) Division on Luzon:—A squad leader in "K" company, Twenty-seventh regiment of the veteran Twenty-fifth Infantry (Tropic Lightning) division on Luzon island in the Philippines, Sergeant Maynard R. Brackett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Brackett of Dundas vicinity, has been promoted to the rank of staff sergeant. His wife resides in Browns.

Staff Sergeant Brackett, a veteran of seventeen months overseas service, entered the Army, January 7, 1943, and received his basic training at Camp Roberts, California. Later he served at Camp Hulen, Texas, and Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. He sailed for overseas, April 1, 1945 and joined the Tropic Lightning division on Luzon in May. He participated in part of the 165 consecutive days of combat experienced by the Twenty-fifth division on the central plains and in the rugged Caraballo mountains of the island.

He is entitled to wear the Combat Infantryman badge, the Asiatic-Pacific theatre ribbon with one campaign star, the Philippine Liberation ribbon with one star, and the Good Conduct medal.

* * * * *

Technical Sergeant Merl Q. Vanderhoof, son of Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Vanderhoof of Newton, who served twenty-two months in the European theatre of operations as an engineer gunner, has arrived at the San Antonio, Texas, district, AAF Personnel Distribution Command. He wears the Air medal ribbon with three clusters. He was a prisoner of war in Germany.

He will spend approximately two weeks at the redistribution station undergoing records and physical processing in preparation for a discharge or reassignment to duty in this country.

During his stay here, this combat veteran who was assigned to San Antonio upon completion of a sixty day leave at his home, will be duty-free and have at his command all of the many recreational and educational facilities made available to returned airmen by the Personnel Distribution Command.

* * * * *

Ensign George D. Bevis is home for a twenty-one day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Bevis and brother Bill of Newton. George received his commission and Navy wings of gold at Clinton, Oklahoma, on September 11, and will report to Alameda, California, for Naval Aid Transport duty.

His mother went to Oklahoma to be present at her son's graduation, visiting a niece at Tulsa, a sister at Shawnee and friends of Ensign Bevis at Weatherford. They will go to Peoria for the week end to be with other members of the family, Mr. and Mrs. John Knezovich and Mrs. Burton Bevis, whose husband, Fireman Third Class Bevis, is on the PGM 24 with Halsey's Third fleet in or near Tokyo bay.

* * * * *

Aboard the Transport Grimes in Tokyo Bay.—Christopher M. Mineo, water tender, first class of Willow Hill, sailed into Tokyo bay aboard this ship, with the first occupation forces on the conquered soil of Japan.

A few hours before General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's triumphant arrival at Atsugi airfield, the Grimes landed a contingent of Marines on the beach at Futtsu Saki, on

the eastern shore of Tokyo bay, after moving past the silenced Jap batteries of 16-inch guns.

The Grimes, flagship for Transport Division 60, previously had participated in some of the major Pacific operations, including Ie Shima and Okinawa. On her first important mission, she braved shore gunfire to evacuate troops from Iwo Jima.

* * * * *

On the Transport Meriwether in Tokyo Bay.—Claude A. Lemay, a fireman, first class of Wheeler, recently sailed into Tokyo bay aboard this ship, with the first occupation forces on the conquered soil of Japan.

A few hours before General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's triumphant arrival at Atsugi airfield, the Meriwether landed a contingent of Marines at Futtsu Saki, on the eastern shore of Tokyo bay. The ship moved past silenced Japanese batteries of 16-inch guns and unloaded the first Marine occupation force.

The ship took part in the conquest of Okinawa. Her crewmen are credited with shooting down a Jap suicide plane and with the rescue of a number of sea survivors.

* * * * *

Eugene N. Picquet, aviation ordnanceman, first class, and his bride, the former Miss Jimmie Ruth Ross of Bishop, Texas, are now in Chicago, where Gene is awaiting his discharge after serving more than four years with the Naval Air Force.

He returned to the United States in July, after sixteen months of active duty aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific theatre of operations, where he served as aerial gunner in a Navy bomber. He wears on his campaign ribbons, five bronze and one silver battle stars.

Eugene and Mrs. Picquet recently visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Picquet of Sainte Marie.

* * * * *

Among the first American fighting men to enter the city of Tokyo was Private First Class James DeVore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pearl DeVore, of Newton. DeVore, a veteran paratrooper, joined the Eleventh Airborne division at Camp Polk, Louisiana, and has participated in the New Guinea, Leyte and Luzon campaigns. He is a graduate of Newton Community high school, and prior to induction was employed by the Cantwell Fountain Service.

* * * * *

Howard J. Nagle has been promoted from captain to major. He served with the Signal Corps of North Africa and Italy. Major Nagle is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Nagle of near Willow Hill and his wife is the former Elizabeth Nagle of South Muddy township. He was an electrical engineer for the Northern Illinois Public Utilities Company before entering the service.

* * * * *

Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Ira S. Brooks, are home from Williamsburg, Virginia. Chief Brooks, has received an honorable discharge, after serving with the Navy for the past three years. He was an instructor in amphibious landing craft and was in charge of a group of boats, at the Naval Training Center at Camp Peary, Virginia.

* * * * *

Harrison W. Brown, who has been stationed in Egypt with the Army, has sent the Press a copy of the Egyptian Mail, dated July 28, 1945, which contains the results of the British election. Practically the entire paper is taken up with the results and its interpretation. The results in each of the districts for the house of commons is given.

* * * * *

First Lieutenant and Mrs. Fred Alcorn are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Alcorn of Newton. Lieutenant Alcorn is just home from overseas, where he was with an Army postal unit. Mrs. Alcorn is an Army nurse and has been stationed in Charleston, South Carolina, recently.

* * * * *

Aviation Machinist's Mate Third Class and Mrs. Arthur L. Baker and son Thomas Clark of Hutchinson, Kansas, spent a few days of his leave with her mother, Mrs. Nora E. Mahaney, and other relatives and friends near Newton last week.

* * * * *

Technical Sergeant Leslie L. Isley has been discharged from the Army after more than three years service in this country and along the Canadian northwest. He was an instructor in Ranger tactics at Fort Benning, Georgia, before being sent to the northwest.

* * * * *

Private Paul Griffith is spending a fifteen day furlough with his parents, Supervisor and Mrs. Alfred Griffith of Boos. He has been a typist clerk at Sheppard field, Texas, and is being sent to a commercial college at Sedalia, Missouri.

* * * * *

Private First Class Chester E. Semple of Janesville, Wisconsin, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Evan Semple of near West Liberty. He is guarding a prisoner of war camp there.

* * * * *

Chief Machinist's Mate and Mrs. Ira S. Brooks are home from Williamsburg, Virginia, where he was stationed with the Navy. He has received a discharge.

* * * * *

Staff Sergeant Paul G. Wheat recently had a well deserved six day rest at the Fifteenth Corps rest center at Nancy, France.