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1945

With the Colors: Jasper County IL Servicemen  
Overseas, 1941-1945

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5-1-1945

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# With the Colors *May 1, 1945*

## AND HE'S ONLY ONE

His head was bowed in reverence,  
As he knelt in silent prayer,  
Beside the ugly barbed wire fence,  
And hell that was everywhere.  
Then the soldier softly whispered:  
"My Father Who art in heaven,  
Please listen to my humble prayer,  
And help make our battle won.  
I'm only a GI soldier,  
From GI shoes to GI tie,  
A 'Government Issued' soldier,  
But my heart is not GI . . .  
I will work fight, if need be die,  
Helping to win and end this war;  
I'm sure You know the reasons why,  
And just what I'm fighting for.  
The right to simply worship Thee,  
The right to be alive and love,  
To walk among beautiful trees,  
'Mid mountains and the sky above.  
The right of my pretty wife,  
To plan and cook good things to eat,  
To have a home and happy life.  
To be queen of her house so sweet.  
The right of my little boy,  
To play base ball and fly a kite.  
His heritage of free man's joy,  
Are the reasons why I fight.  
Millions of GI soldiers,  
Many miles away from home,  
Fight for what I'm fighting for;  
Gee, I wanna go home.  
He quickly muttered "Amen"  
As he reached for his M1.  
I thought—"and he's only one."

Mrs. Ray Yager of Newton has received a letter from her sister, Mrs. Minnie Bickers of Champaign, stating that her son, Fireman First Class James E. Bickers, will undergo the third operation on his leg. He was wounded at Leyte in the Philippines, December 6.

He was on the U. S. S. Cooper when it was sunk. He received the Purple Heart medal two weeks ago from Captain J. F. Hays, while in the Naval hospital at Farragut, Idaho. He was just 19 last week and has been in the Navy three years.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ray Yager of Newton have received a letter from their son, Seaman Second Class Raymond L. Yager, stating he had landed safely in the Philippines. This is the first letter they had from him for six weeks. He said he was well and very busy. He is in the Navy sea-bees.

\* \* \* \* \*

Private Thomas Ochs is spending a ninety day convalescing furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ochs of near Newton. He was wounded in the right leg in France and has been under treatment at a hospital at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, near Indianapolis. He is gradually improving.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lieutenant Otis Maxwell is visiting

his wife and baby at Newton. He is an Artillery officer and saw service in North Africa, Italy and France and Germany, being overseas three years.

\* \* \* \* \*

An Air Service Command Depot, England.—Master Sergeant John E. Welker, son of Mrs. Mabel Welker of Newton, is taking advanced technical training with soldiers from all the United Nations.

Preparing for the final aerial smash-through over Germany, he is now taking intensive refresher courses in aircraft maintenance at this great repair and modification depot of the Air Service Command in England.

Training with him are soldiers in the uniforms of England, France, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Australia, Canada, America and other allies. They live and work together, learning to service battle planes now swarming over the continent. When they finish specialized training under the Air Service Command they'll be ready to rejoin fighting Air Force units at advanced bases in Europe.

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Sergeant Gordon D. Romack, 36, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Romack of Newton, has returned from service outside the continental United States and is now being processed through the Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution station in Miami Beach, Florida, where his next assignment will be determined.

Sergeant Romack served as a tank commander with the Third Armored division in the European theatre of operations. While there he was awarded the European campaign ribbon with three battle stars, the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat against the enemy and the Silver Star medal for gallantry in action.

Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution stations are located in various parts of the United States. Military personnel returning from overseas are processed through these stations before assignment to military organizations and installations within the United States.

Private First Class Lowell "Shorty" Adkins has arrived in the States after thirty-eight months in the European Theatre of war. He called his mother from New York, Thursday, stating they had just landed and would be home in a few days.

Shorty, a member of the famous Twenty-Eighth Infantry, saw action in Normandy, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and inside Germany. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Adkins of Mattoon, formerly of Newton.

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Aviation Machinist's Mate Third Class Wayne Kinder is spending a twenty day leave with his wife and 2 year old son and parents in Newton. He has been aboard an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific for the past nineteen months.

Aviation Ordnance Mate Third Class Marion Kinder of Norfolk, Virginia, is also home for a ten day leave.

Both are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Kinder of Newton and hadn't seen each other for almost two years.

\* \* \* \* \*

Louella Kincade, yeoman third class class, USNR, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Kincade of Newton, has returned to her home base in Memphis, Tennessee, after spending an eight day leave with parents and relatives in Terre Haute and Newton. Recently, she received a promotion within her department and is now the private yeoman to Lieutenant Commander Warren Doolittle, officer in charge of the ground school.

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