

1-21-1944

## With the Colors 1-21-1944

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## With the Colors *1/2 1/4 4*

Oliver Emmerich writes his uncle, William G. Emmerich of Island Grove, from Somewhere in Italy, under date of December 16:

"At last I'm getting around to answering some of your letters. And thank you for the candy. It really is good and that isn't all my words. Several other fellows think the same. We usually get a fair amount of candy, but most of it has been handled several times and you can imagine what happens.

"The handlers sort of get the first choice. The combat troops are the tail end. I'm seldom caught short. I happened to be where a truck was hauling all sorts of goods from a ship and all I had to do was ask the Arabs for some 'bon-bon' and they'd hand over plenty so long as the soldier in charge didn't see it. By the way 'bon-bon' is what the French and Arabs call candy. Anyway I had candy for a while. That was while I was in Africa yet.

"You asked about the people, their habits and what they think of us. As I see it they like the Americans fairly well. You see when we first arrived they'd give us fruit, wine and most anything. They soon found that every soldier had money in every pocket and cigarettes by the carton. Of course, that's what they thought and very soon everything they had to sell went sky high.

"The same thing is happening here. When we first came here the barbers would charge five or ten lire. A lire is equal to a cent in America. And now they ask thirty and up. The pay off comes when they ask for a cigarette. In no time flat there is a crowd around if you pull out a pack. Their smokes are so much weaker and scarce that ours are tops to them.

"In Africa I believe half the people are Arabs. They live in any kind of a hut. So many are just plain dirty tramps. They dress just like the people did in Bible times. Rags over their shoulders; sandals made of anything from grass to goat skin. I saw lots of them barefoot all summer and winter. The summer was very hot, but most always a nice breeze.

"I was in Tunisia most of the winter. It rained several times and it froze some. The rain was terrible. I don't see how anyone lived without getting sick. I've yet to have my first sickness overseas. Guess I better not brag. A friend of mine left this morning believed to have the flu.

"In the eastern part of Tunisia a number of the people were of Italian descent. The land is cultivated only in spots. They raise lots of wheat, olives, oranges, nuts, and vegetables. They irrigate many patches of land. Lots of the country is mountainous. It is a good place for sheep and goats but very little grass so the sheep are poor.

"It seems as if the French own the land and the Arabs till it. Most French live in town. The towns are old fashioned; lots of fancy stone work in the buildings. In the better part of town the buildings are nice and white. No smoke from heating systems and few factories, but then the poorer parts are terrible. I was in Ferryville around the very first. It was the nicest place I saw. The people were wild with joy. They lined the streets, waved, threw flowers and clapped their hands. A very impressive scene. I won't forget it.

"Over here the people all seem to be poor. They farm all the land except the mountains. It's very fertile. They raise wheat, some corn, potatoes, fruit, nuts, and oodles of olives. I never have had any macaroni. They say the Jerries took all their white flour.

"I almost forgot. Africa as well as here raises tons of grapes. It seems they use them all for wine. I sometimes think that's all they know, 'wine, women, and song.' Lately they've forgot the song. Really it's terrible how they act. I never would have believed it.

"I think you have a good idea about me coming back on a furlough. Wish everyone thought the same. I'm afraid my chances of that are very very slim, I'd feel safer saying after these Jerries are finished I'd have a chance of getting back—if I'm fortunate enough to make it through. One never knows, does one?"

"I had lots of close calls, but they never did wreck my nerves as it did for some. I'll say one thing anyone getting wounded certainly gets good medical care. I think our medicos are tops. The people back home have got to help also. So keep buying those War Bonds.

"So far in this war I've personally captured nine Germans with a 45 caliber pistol. I wish they'd all give up as those did. I think in time they

will. I'm guessing next summer. Don't get the idea they're licked now. Far from it. I never like to underestimate the enemy. He seems to be very very stubborn here in these hills. We're staying with him though.

"One thing which helps my money increase over here is the barbering I'm doing. I never thought I'd ever do any when I first started cutting hair. The fellow who did it when we first left the United States was crippled in the bombing raid in our first battle. He's in the states now. Then another fellow took over. He's in the kitchen crew and he doesn't like to do it very well. So the fellows who don't like 'wop' haircuts come to me. This last week I cut two days straight, very nearly sixty heads."

\* \* \* \* \*

Four huge new classes of the men who will pave the road to invasion with bombs were graduated Saturday from the West Texas Bombardier Quadrangle schools of the Army Air Forces Training Command at Midland, San Angelo, Childress and Big Spring.

"How to do the job when there's nobody to help you" is the subject taught cadet bombardiers at the combat camps of the Quadrangle schools. Here, student bombardiers learn to live on concentrated rations, dig fox-holes, take cover in bombing attacks and fly missions under the most exacting "front line" conditions.

Among the young bombardiers who won their wings was Second Lieutenant Don E. Meeker of Hidalgo, who graduated from Midland.

High ranking officials of the Army Air Forces have declared that these bombardier graduates have received the most complete schooling ever given bombardiers, and, officials said, "they are so fully trained that they are prepared not only to drop bombs where they will do the enemy the most harm, but to plan and supervise an entire bombing mission, from the loading of bombs to the carrying out of evasive action."

Hundreds of hours of practice bombing over prairie targets built to simulate actual enemy objectives have given these newly graduated Axis blasters bullseye skill in hitting the target. In classrooms and on an infinite variety of "synthetic" training devices, they are developed vital auxiliary skills in bombsight maintenance, meteorology, camouflage and camouflage detection, pilotage and dead reckoning navigation, target identification and aircraft and naval vessel recognition.

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Private William Aubrey Chesnut writes the Press from Camp Crowder, Missouri, where he is in training for the Signal Corps: "After spending four days at Fort Sheridan Reception center, I was assigned to the Signal Corps and sent to Camp Crowder, Missouri, for basic training and specialist school.

"This is the largest Signal Corps training center in the country. I don't know exactly what I'll do as yet, but I'm going to stay here seventeen weeks and probably by that time, I'll know.

"Most of the outfit are young fellows, who for the most part came out of schools for radio, telephone, telegraph, etc., operators and repairmen. They are from Chicago, Detroit, and New York mostly; and sound like foreigners to me. Naturally, of course, I'd much rather be home, but the treatment etc. here is o. k. Buy Bonds and get us home as soon as possible."

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Recognition as a "qualified striker" for the petty officer rate of motor machinist's mate third class came to Bluejacket James R. Mattingly, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Mattingly of Route Two, Newton, during recent graduation ceremonies at the Naval Training school (Diesel) located at the Naval Air Technical Training center on Navy pier, Chicago.

The bluejacket, now a fireman first class, was sent to the specialty school on the basis of his recruit training aptitude tests. At Navy pier the newly graduated Navy man received fundamental instruction in the operation and maintenance of internal combustion engines and their auxiliaries. Active duty orders to sea or to some shore station now awaits him.

\* \* \* \* \*

A recent recruit at the United States Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, is Harold Haven Boggs of Newton.

Now undergoing "boot" training, he is being indoctrinated into Navy life, and is being instructed in seamanship, military drill and naval procedure. He will be given a series of aptitude tests to determine whether he will be selected to attend one of the Navy's service schools, or will be assigned to active duty at sea.

Upon completion of his recruit training, he will be granted a nine-day leave.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Otis Maxwell are the parents of a son, Otis Craig Maxwell, their second child, born at a hospital at Taylorville, Tuesday

morning. Lieutenant Maxwell is now in Europe with the Army. Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Maxwell of Willow Hill and Mr and Mrs. Ed Foltz of Newton are grand-parents.

\* \* \* \* \*

Jasper Newlin was a Newton shopper, Tuesday afternoon. He stated that his brother, John Newlin, who has been with the American forces in the Southwest Pacific, is now in a hospital in California and expects to be placed in another hospital soon, which is closer home, probably in Iowa.

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Charles Ray Lewis, son of Supervisor and Mrs. Charles E. Lewis of Wheeler, has passed his examinations for Aviation Cadet training at George field, Lawrenceville. He left Newton with the group, Tuesday for Chicago, where he will be assigned to some school for training.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sherman Reed of Newton, received a letter Saturday, from his son Roe Reed in New Guinea, stating that he was o. k. and that the weather was rainy and hot there. He also received a letter from another son William who is in the Army in California. He says it is warm, there. Sherman has four sons in the Army.

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Corporal James Beebe of Newton, who is stationed in the Mediterranean theatre of war, writes Ray E. Everly that he is getting along fine and will be glad when he gets home so he can join the American Legion and get his feet on Jasper county soil again.

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Private Raymond Swisher, who is in the Military Police at Camp McCain, Mississippi, writes that they had a six inch snow down there but it soon melted off. The weather stays raw and cold, and is unlike the Mississippi weather generally.

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Staff Sergeant Stanley Hynes and Corporal Don Hartrich left Wednesday for Elkins, West Virginia, where they are with the Thirteenth Evacuation hospital. They are in the maneuver area, and often have injured men to care for.

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Chief Ship Fitter and Mrs. Maynard Honey are the proud parents of a daughter born at Mrs. Honey's home town, Lincoln, on January 10. Maynard is in the Navy on the Pacific coast.

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Chaplain C. C. Lowe of Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, who spent a fifteen

day furlough at Willow Hill with his wife and four daughters, started back to camp last Wednesday.

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Lieutenant Harold T. Heady writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Heady of Newton vicinity, from England that he is well.

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George Warfel, an apprentice seaman at Great Lakes Naval Training station, is convalescing following an operation for hernia.

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Private First Class Robert Fear has been transferred from Camp Bowie, Texas, to Camp Knox, Kentucky.