

I'M IN THE ARMY NOW

By

Cpl. Whitt N. Schultz



New Camp

Special to the Highland Park Press

SOMEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES—

Every time the trains' wheels clicked against the rails I knew I was getting further and further away from Highland Park. I had kind of a sinking feeling at first. But . . . I had asked for overseas duty many times. And now I was on my way. To where? I still don't know.

Uncle Sam, supported by your taxes, transported me to this camp. The trip wasn't too bad.

Yes, the Pullman was a bit old and musty; my upper berth was kinda hard and slightly shaky; and the service was typically war time with the customer always wrong.

READS AND READS

What do you do on trains when you're traveling great distances?

I read, too. I bought a newspaper every time we stopped. I'm getting more anxious nowadays to read those peace headlines. Then, too, I wanted to see how many appointments President Truman had; how Secretary of State Stettinius was getting on with his peace conference; and how the war in general was progressing — particularly in the far West.

I talked with fellow passengers who told me all about their sons in the services. I tried to sleep — but Mr. Pullman doesn't make his chairs too comfortable. I looked out the window at seven different states as we passed through them. But I kept saying to myself:

"Surely these places are scenic. But Illinois and Highland Park are so much nicer."

LONG RIDE

Finally, after 40 long hours on the train, I arrived at the depot in the little town outside of which this camp is located. (I'm sorry I'm sorry I can't tell you where I am. If I could that awkward sentence would be shorter and clearer.)

Along with several other soldiers, I was driven to this beautifully situated post. We got here about dinner time. We were immediately rushed to the mess hall and we had a tasty meal. Then we began what is known here as "incoming processing." That's still going on — at least it was when this was written. After we complete "incoming processing," we start "outgoing processing."

"We won't stick around here long, I'm sure."

BARRACKS BUDDIES

I'm assigned to a barracks with

some other fellows who are on the same project. Our barracks boss comes from Racine, Wis. He's 26 years old and classified a flight chief. For the last 38 months he's been keeping P-38s flying out on the coast. He's a serious fellow and I'm certain he'll be a good overseas companion.

A 23-year-old crew chief from Bartlesville, Okla., is another barracks "buddy." He's always smiling and takes the unpredictable Army well in stride. And that's quite an achievement.

"HIGHLAND PARK IS SWELL!"

There is a corporal who comes from Chicago.

"Sure, I know Highland Park. It's a swell town," he said.

I know we'll be friends. He knows a good town when he sees one.

From Greenville, Ala., comes a 31-year-old crew chief. He was a drug store clerk before the war. His wife's name is Eleanor. One day he and his first lady are going to have a baby. But not right now, I guess. After the war for sure, though.

GOING BACK TO COLLEGE . . .

There's a mechanic in our outfit who hails from Arlington, Mass. He was studying mechanical engineering at Ohio State — then Uncle Sam pointed at him. He's returning to college at war's end, he says.

When I meet other fellows assigned to our project, I'll tell you about 'em. In a way they're like your sons, your friends. We're all just civilians in uniform, a trifle homesick, and anxious to get our job done and return to Central Ave., U.S.A.

Now I've got to show this piece to the public relations officer who hails from Des Moines, Ia. He's got to look this over and clear it for publication in The PRESS.

You'll hear from me again next week.

er and snakes rank high among the disagreeable features of this outpost, and he hopes he has seen his last of the place. At the last of this month he will report to Miami, Fla., for further orders.

John Kittermaster, USN, 18 son of Dougal A. Kittermaster, 651 Waverly, is at present stationed at Great Lakes where he is receiving basic training.

Forrest Rose, Jr., P.O. 1/c, USCG, who has been doing convoy work on a destroyer in the Atlantic area, recently spent a few days in town with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Rose, 717 Glencoe, and his wife, Agnes. His small daughter, Peggy, will be two years old in July.

Mrs. Mildred Haessler, 1737 Rice, received a telephone call from her son, Lt. Eric, Sunday, stationed at the time in Houston, Tex. Lt. Haessler is in charge of the engineering department of operations of the amphibious training forces in the Pacific area.

Pvt. Harold Frauenhoffer, who is stationed at Tyndall Field, Fla., is spending a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Frauenhoffer, 15 S. Green Bay. His brother, Pfc. Anton, Jr., of the armored artillery, is at present stationed in France.

Robin C. McFadden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robin K. McFadden, 124 N. First, is receiving basic training at Great Lakes. A member of the June graduating class, he will receive his diploma at that time. He is 17 years old.

Tony Rabattini, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Rabattini, 334 Highwood Ave., Highwood, is a member of the navy and is awaiting his call to training. Aged 17, he is a high school junior.

Sgt. Wm. J. Bjork, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Bjork, live at 242 Sard, Highwood, credits his metal-covered Bible with saving his life. While serving in Luxembourg, he was struck in both arms by shell fire. A bullet which grazed his chest just over his heart, was deflected by the metal-covered Bible in his pocket.

The sergeant, whose wife and two children live in Evanston, is spending a 30-day furlough in this vicinity from the Thayer General hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

ABOARD USS ALBERT W. GRANT AT SEA — Siro Capitani, 23, fireman 1/c, USNR, son of Angelo Capitani, 124 Maple, Highwood, is aboard this 2100-ton destroyer, now back in action after undergoing repairs for damage received in the battle of Surigao Strait.

The night she was damaged the Grant assisted in the sinking of a Fuso-class battleship, scoring hits with torpedoes.

The Grant was commissioned Nov. 24, 1943. She played an in-shore role in landing operations at Hollandia, New Guinea; Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas; at Palau; and at Leyte in the Philippines. For her accuracy at Saipan and Tinian, she won the nickname of "Sniper Ship."

Pvt. Charles E. Enstrom, with an anti-aircraft artillery battalion in Manila, has been promoted to the rank of T/corporal. The corporal, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Enstrom, 121 S. Central, Highwood, was inducted into the army in November, 1943, and left for overseas over a year ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Thompson, 1949 Northmoor, have received a letter from their son, S/Sgt. Albert, former prisoner of the

Nazis, telling of his escape from his captors during a 52-day march between prison camps. He and a buddy watched their chance and were able to make their escape, returning to allied lines April 9.

S/Sgt. Thompson, a gunner, was captured after his bomber was downed in Austria last August. He is now in a hospital in England, recuperating from his harrowing experiences.

Pfc. Bruno Nannini, 30 months overseas, and a veteran of seven rugged major campaigns in the European and Mediterranean areas, is reunited with his brother, Cpl. Evo for the first time since Feb. 1942, at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Nannini, 238 Llewellyn, Highwood. The wife and small son of Cpl. Evo, of Wellesley, Mass., are also present.

On May 21, Cpl. Evo will report back to his base in Columbia, N.C., and Pfc. Bruno will report on June 14 to Ft. Sheridan.

Pfc. Bruno Coppi, USMC, 22, who has served for two years in Hawaii and Midway, is spending a 30-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ettore Coppi, 223 Evolution, Highwood.

A brother, S/Sgt. Lido Coppi,

of the army infantry, who has served at New Georgia, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, New Zealand, Fiji and New Hebrides, is now stationed on Luzon.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENTER ARMED SERVICES

Among the high school students to enter the armed services recently are: John Picchietti, Jr., sophomore, of 727 Central avenue; John Wood of 291 Laurel avenue; Robert Stanley, 174 Hazel, Robert Winton, 2377 Pierce, Ray Crovetti, 329 Highwood avenue, Highwood, four seniors, all for the navy; and Francis Fiore, 240 S. Central, Highwood, for the merchant marine.

NINETY AMATEUR STAMP COLLECTORS AT GT. LAKES

"STAMP FOR THE WOUNDED," the only activity sponsored by the Red Cross which has cost that organization nothing, added 20 new members to its list at Gt. Lakes Naval hospital last week. These wounded veterans greatly appreciate the stamps contributed by their civilian friends. Send your contributions to The PRESS to be handed on to "STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED."

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GET BEHIND THE MIGHTY 7th WAR LOAN

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This advertisement for the 7th War Loan sponsored by the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois

IN THE NATION'S SERVICE

Willard Thomas Jones, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Jones, 308 Walker avenue, is receiving his initial naval indoctrination at the Great Lakes naval station.

His recruit training consists of instruction in seamanship, military drill and general naval procedure. During this period a series of aptitude tests will be taken by the recruit to determine whether he will be assigned to a naval service school, to a shore station, or to immediate duty at sea.

Lt. Harry A. Parkin, USNR, of Naval Ordnance Research laboratory, Washington, D.C., has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Harry A. Parkin, 168 Central. He returned to duty last Saturday.

His brother, Lt. Richard Rex Parkin, USNR, assisting with a military government division serving under Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., is with the 10th army in Okinawa Jima, in the Pacific area. Both men have been in service since 1941.

Philip, the third and youngest son of the John A. Lemmons, 418 Glencoe, whose 18th birthday fell upon Mothers' day, this year, has left for Sheephead Bay, N. Y., where he will undergo training from 8 to 14 weeks for the U. S. Maritime service.

Pfc. John, 22, who entered the service in December, 1940, has seen 38 months of overseas duty in the South Pacific area. Possessor of the Purple Heart, he is now with a newsreel photo company, a branch of the army signal corps.

Pvt. James, "Jim," 19, in service for over a year, has been in the European area since last September. He is now with one of General Hodges' armies in Germany.

1st Lt. Gertrude A. Lewis, daughter of Mrs. A. P. Lewis, 334 Park avenue, 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

where her next assignment will be determined.

Lt. Lewis served 19 months as a nurse in the Alaska theater.

Before entering the service in August, 1943, Lt. Lewis was a nurse.

The promotion to first lieutenant of James B. Kerr, pilot, stationed at the Deming army air field, has been announced by Col. F. D. Gore, commanding officer. Lt. Kerr is a son of David Kerr, 53 N. Second St.

Lt. Kerr has been nearly three years in service, entering in Nov., 1942, and receiving his wings and commission in October, 1943.

He is a graduate of Highland Park high school and attended Northwestern university. Prior to entering service he worked as accountant at Abbott laboratories.

Sgt. Norman Durment, who entered the U. S. army in November, 1941, and trained in Hawaii, is now in action on Okinawa, according to a letter received by his sister, Mrs. Guerdon Worth, 245 Prairie, Highwood.

Sgt. Durment has fought in the Gilberts, the Marshalls, and the Mariannas, and was wounded at Eniwetok when he stepped before an officer to shield him from enemy fire as the Americans landed.

Of the 1938 class at Highland Park high, he was known as an outstanding athlete.

A sister, Cpl. Ruth Durment, of the WAC, is stationed in Wales.

T/5 Guy Bernabei, veteran of Pacific warfare, is spending a furlough at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dominick Capitani, 51 Maple, in Highwood. Bernabei's parents were visiting in northern Italy when war broke out, and since then he has heard from them only through the Red Cross.

With the first contingent of the American troops to land in Australia, in February, 1942, he later spent 14 months with the medical corps in New Guinea, of which place he appears to have a very poor opinion. Rain, torrid weath-