

I'M IN THE ARMY NOW

By
Cpl. Whit N. Schultz



Awaiting Orders!

Special to the Highland Park Press

SOMEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES:

While awaiting my overseas shipping orders, I was granted a pass to visit the nearby capitol city. While there, it being Sunday, I attended a beautiful Episcopal church.

After services a sweet, elderly woman approached me.

(She looked much like a Highland Park mother.)

"Welcome to our Church," she said.

"Thank you."

"Are you going overseas soon?"

"Yes."

"Good luck. And may God be with you wherever you may go," she said, tears in her soft, brown eyes.

It was a nice, comforting thought for a soldier far away from his home.

ADD V-E DAY SCENES . . .

"Corporal, may I listen to President Truman officially proclaim V-E Day?" I asked a rugged drill instructor at dawn on that great day.

"Hell, no! V-E day don't mean a thing to us here! Our war is just starting! Fall in!" he bellowed.

Hours later, by word of mouth, I learned the war with the Nazis was officially over. Two-down. One to go.

CAN'T READ, WRITE . . .

We have a soldier — he stands five feet high — in our barracks who can't read or write. He has a hard time communicating with his girl. He's always trying to get one of us to write letters to her.

"Doggone," he said to me one night recently, "I was supposed to go to an Army school to learn how to read and write."

"What happened?"

IN THE NATION'S SERVICE

Fred H. Bjord, fireman 1/c, USN-I, aboard the USS Indianapolis somewhere in the western Pacific, whose wife, Mrs. Solveig Bjork, lives at 641 Glenview avenue, fought aboard this heavy cruiser when her big guns pounded the enemy at Okinawa to avenge the dark days of 1942 when they spoke only defensively against the then-dominant Japanese.

Recent exploits of the Indianapolis as a member of the potent Pacific fleet in attacks on Tokyo, Iwo Jima and Okinawa helped to erase memories of the desperate delaying actions of three years ago.

She was in on the February air strikes by carrier planes against Tokyo and hasn't missed an important Western-Pacific assault since then. Her gunners shot down six enemy planes at Okinawa and contributed to the pre-invasion bombardment of both Okinawa and Iwo Jima. In March she was part of the carrier task force that rained destruction on Kyushu and Honshu in the Japanese heartland.

From the war's early days she has fought the Japs — in the Aleutians, in operations leading to occupation of the Gilbert islands, in the Tarawa invasion, the seizure of the Marshalls, Eniwetok and Kwajalein, and in the Marianas campaign.

She helped blast the Japs at Saipan, Guam and Tinian, and was the first large American combatant vessel to anchor in Aspra Harbor at Guam since the war began.

During her actions against the Japs, the Indianapolis has downed nine enemy planes and sunk one transport.

Cpl. William Kopp, U. S. army, now stationed in Burma, who will complete three years of service in June, should be expected home soon, according to the rotation furlough plan. Martin E. Kopp, Jr., S 1/c, USN, who entered the navy a year ago, is stationed in the Pacific area aboard an aircraft carrier. They are the sons of Chief of Police and Mrs. M. E. Kopp, 1427 S. St. Johns.

Robert E. Evans, Ph.M 1/c, arrived in town last Saturday to spend a leave with his wife, the former Harriet Stivers, 222 McDaniels. A native of Muncie, Ind., he received his basic training at Great Lakes early in 1941. Overseas for over two years, he took part in the invasions of Tarawa, the Marshalls, Tinian and Guam.

Recently inducted into service are seven men from this immediate vicinity. Eugene I. Steele and Leonard L. Larson of Highland Park. Louis P. Fonfardini, Highland and Harold A. Root Jr. of Deerfield entered the army. For the navy were Albert Pigoti of

Highwood, and two high school seniors, Robert L. Francoeur and John J. Stroud of Highland Park, who are subject to call by the navy air corps.

An Engineer Command Battalion, Germany: — T/5 James M. Krueger of Highland Park, has completed 32 months of overseas service with the 834th engineer aviation battalion which has just been released from the censor's secret list along with other units of the IX engineer command.

An automotive technician, Krueger is serving with the battalion in Germany where it is constructing front-line airfields for tactical air-ground operations of the U. S. Ninth air force.

Grueger was employed by the Sunset Valley golf course before he entered the service in May of 1942. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Krueger, who live at 517 McDaniels.

Ens. Jack K. Heitman, USNR, is preparing for service with the navy's growing amphibious forces.

Now stationed at the Atlantic fleet's amphibious training base at Little Creek, Va., Ens. Heitman is training to serve as gunnery officer on an LSM (landing ship medium), the latest model in potent invasion vessels. When he completes his preparation at Little Creek, exclusive training ground for LSM crews, he will depart with his crew to take over a newly-built landing ship.

Ens. Heitman, whose wife and two children reside at 2408 Valley road, entered the navy in August, 1944. He was graduated from Duke university in 1936, and was formerly vice-president of the Heitman Trust Co.

S/Sgt. Caesar Pasquesi, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sante Pasquesi, 214 Railway, Highwood, is the first serviceman of Highwood to receive an honorable discharge under the new point system. He was married on May 15 to the former Leonora Belletini. He is slated to return to his job at Motor Parts and Machinery company, 515 Elm Place, which he left 49 months ago to join the armed services.

Ens. Primo Giannasi, NAF pilot, graduate of the 1940 class of the local high school, has completed his basic training with the B-29, and visited his mother, Mrs. Olivia Giannasi, 125 Maple, Highwood, en route to his advanced training base in Florida. He won his wings at Corpus Christi, in October, 1944.

T/Sgt. Evo Mini, who returned from Europe last March after completing 493 hours of combat service as bombardier and gunner, has left his rest camp at Santa Ana, Calif., and is now stationed at La

Junta, Colo., where he is instructing gunnery to B-29 crews. He is the son of Mrs. Julia Mordini, 321 Grove, Highwood.

First Lt. Richard "Plug" Thompson, former football and basketball star of the local high school, whose mother, Mrs. Wm. Hughes, now lives in Chicago, is expected home in June. A B-17 bomber pilot, Lt. Thompson was captured by the Germans when his plane was shot down there over a year ago, and since that time, until recently, had been imprisoned at Moosburg, in Germany. The thrill experienced by the American prisoners when their flag was raised over the Nazi prison camp can hardly be appreciated, according to a letter received by his father, Roy Thompson, Deerfield. The lieutenant was liberated April 29.

Sgt. Arthur Dubin, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dubin, 1 Shelldone Lane, has been lauded by a Chicago Daily News reporter, touring Okinawa, for his heroism on that battle ground. It was due to Sgt. Dubin's coolness and accuracy in directing fire from tanks and supporting weapons which drove back the enemy and resulted in the Americans retaining a newly-and dearly-won position there. Also a veteran of Leyte, Sgt. Dubin spent a ghastly night on Okinawa a few weeks ago between the Jap and American lines.

A third year student at the University of Michigan, Sgt. Dubin went overseas in July, 1944.

Pfc. Tony Crimo, 22, who entered the service in March, 1943, and spent 16 months in New Guinea and Dutch East Indies, is now a medical patient at the Vaughan General hospital, Chicago, to which he will return at the expiration of a 14-day leave which he is spending with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Crimo, 134 S. First.

Three birthdays were celebrated at the Lorimer household, 1251 Pleasant, last week, when Marine Sgt. Neil arrived home for a short furlough in time to observe his 25th birthday anniversary.

The birthday of his brother, James, almost coincides with that of Neil and his twin brother "Bill," also of the marines, who is now stationed in the Pacific area, where both boys have served in several engagements. Another brother, Murdock, of the merchant marines, is stationed in New York as instructor.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cameron, 659 Michigan, are expecting their son, Cpl. Tom, paratrooper and Purple Heart veteran, home from the European area soon, after which he expects to leave for the Pacific theater of war. Another son, Don, navy flight engineer, recently left for California after a two weeks' visit.

Mrs. Cameron received a call from another son, Joseph, aerographer's mate, on Mother's Day, before he left the west coast to board a carrier for duty in the Pacific.

Lieut. Homer Smith Reports From France

A letter received from Lt. Homer "Pee Wee" Smith, 21, formerly of Highland Park, who was captured by the Nazis after his plane was shot down last November near Metz, and is now liberated, writes from France that he is with five other Highland Park boys and is gaining weight rapidly. He expects to reach home the first part of June.

The letter, mailed from an American postoffice, the first received from him since Dec. 26, when his message was written on a prisoner-of-war form.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Smith Sr. now live in Chicago, a sister, Mrs. Naomi Clappitt, in Deerfield, and another sister, Mrs. Ruth Connolly, in Highland Park.

S-Sgt. Richard Perry Establishes a Record

The Presidential Unit citation, the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's badge, to say nothing of the Purple Heart, are the decorations awarded S/Sgt. Richard B. Perry, 22, within the short space of little more than two months. In the same length of time he has risen from the rank of private to his present station. He has been stationed in the European area since May, 1944.

Four brothers are also in service: T/5 Edward is stationed in Europe. Sgt. Alexander in Manila, Jack, S 1/c, USN, is in the Philippines and William, S 1/c, USN, in New York. They are sons of Mrs. Elizabeth Perry, 26 So. Green Bay, who also has two sons-in-law and one grandson in service. George Kay, P.O. 3/c, USN, stationed in New Guinea, is the husband of the former Genevieve Perry. William Altman, S 1/c, USN, husband of the former Louise Perry, is stationed in the Pacific area. Cpl. Ivan Fox, 23, son of Margaret Perry Bailey, of Skokie, was recently awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Germany.

Was the Picket Line Front Ever Like This?

The following excerpts are from a letter written to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Patterson, of Saunders road, Deerfield, by Pfc. Robert Patterson, who has seen active service continuously since the invasion of Normandy, with the First and Ninth armies, and now with the Third army. He describes the "battle of the bulge" as a terrific effort on the part of the Germans to stop the advance of the Americans:

"... One moment we would be taking a town and the next minute it would be behind our lines and we would have to go like the d— to get to the front. Front, I say, there line those last few days. One day my platoon was with a task force of tanks. We crossed the Issar river around midnight and moved forward all night. About daybreak we met resistance in a village and we laid siege to it, taking it. To show how some of the Hitler youth worked, a few hours after we had taken the town and moved on, another task force came up and had to shoot their way through. Some of the Hitler youth were manning a dual purpose 88 mm gun. The way the armor works is to bypass the little resistance pockets, leaving them for the infantry. (Robert drives a tank-destroyer.) All we had was armored infantry for our use and not enough to leave any to clean up. Regular infantry divisions were the follow-through of the armor. And don't think it was just mopping up, because we did little house cleaning. We just got on main highways and punched a hole in the Jerries' lines and poured through, looking mainly for his armor and artillery and knocking out his heaviest defenses. . . . We are attached to the 13th armored division of the 3rd army. This division came into its first action during the Battle of the Rhur pocket.

"Well, I guess the Germans by now know what we meant by unconditional surrender. They had the power when they first began, but instead of improving they let their equipment get out of date. . . . We have come a long way in the field of equipment since December of '41. . . . The Germans showed us a 'good time' during the 'battle of the bulge.' I can testify to that as our outfit was in the direct path of the center of the onslaught. As artillery, we were supporting the 99th infantry division as it pushed off in the attack. As usual the Germans did not come in with a follow through. When I think back now I sort of laugh. We all thought the 'krauts' were about out of armored artillery, and just about everything else, and first thing we knew they threw about 15 divisions at us. Was under constant fire both direct and indirect for 72 hours. Not to mention dive bombing and strafing and V1's and V2's. Near the end we were under small arms fire and were forced to withdraw. I say with conviction that those German soldiers were doped. Their infantry tactics were nothing like they should have been—of leaps and bounds. They came straight

on through the open, yelling like crazy Indians. The only way we could stop them was to kill them and that was done in plenty. An infantry unit was designated to cover a certain draw. They zeroed in light and heavy machine guns and all types of artillery. Seven times 'kraut' tried to break through — seven times his losses were so enormous that he finally gave it up. We would let them come up to within 50 yards and then saturate them with the machine guns and artillery. I never saw nor heard of such an ordeal. After the first German attempt, the white, snowy field was just a crimson splotch, with the grey-green German uniform thickly dotting the surface. It wasn't pleasant, but looked better than our first few setbacks of the bulge. Some day I'll write a book on something you should never see for your own good. War is hell! I have had enough.

Exmoor Club Will Sponsor USO Dance

The public is again invited to attend the Sunday evening variety show at the Highland Park USO on June 3. The program will begin at 8 p.m. Arrangements for the show have been made by Mr. H. L. Bergmann, of the entertainment committee of the Highland Park USO.

Special Party

On Tuesday, June 5, Exmoor Country club will sponsor a dancing party at the USO. Music will be furnished by the 344th army band from Ft. Sheridan. Members of an outgoing unit at Great Lakes will be special guests. During the band intermission there will be a variety show and refreshments will be served at 9:30.

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