

Service Notes

Private Helen M. Phelps was home on a short furlough from Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, to visit her mother, Mrs. Harry Levensky.

March 25, 1945
Germany

I received the Enterprise today for the first time. Believe me, it brought me back home, "in dreams." After what I saw to day I don't think it will be very long before we will all be home with our families. I am sorry I can't tell you what I did see, but maybe it is just as well.

I was talking to a priest today, and he was watching our Artillery land in another town and he said to me, "Soldier, I wish this awful war would end," so you see the people over here feel the same way we do.

I have been in England and Holland, and have fought in France, Belgium and now Germany. Of the five countries I have been in, I think Holland is the cleanest, but the people in Belgium are the most hospitable. While in Belgium my friend and I stayed with an elderly couple for two days. When we had to leave they cried like little kids. They sure were swell to us.

We don't stay in one place very long any more. In fact, we are moving along with record speed.

That seems to be the idea—keep the Jerries on the run. I have been very lucky so far, and hope I remain with me throughout the rest of this silly war.

Our division paraded through Colmar, France, the day Gen. De Gaulle presented the colors to a new French army. There were pictures of it in the N.Y. papers, but I haven't heard if they were in the Detroit papers, or not. Our Division had some pretty stiff opposition on the outskirts of Colmar. The country around there is hilly and grape vineyards wherever you look. The hedge rows in Belgium, and the grape vineyard in France made it pretty rough going for the doughboys, but as you know, by now, we don't take no for an answer.

I will close for this time, thank you very much for the Enterprise. I will be looking forward to receiving it each week.

Yours truly,
Pfc Leon Robinson.

Private Walter T. Schweizer Jr., who has been stationed at Fort Bragg for the past 17 weeks, is now home on a delay in route, and he will leave for the coast next week. He will be at home to his friends and relatives Sunday afternoon and evening, April 15.

Word has been received from Hugo Pearson that he has arrived in France.

April 4, 1945

Dear Sirs:
Just a few lines to let you know I am still around. Have been receiving the Enterprise regularly since I came overseas and enjoy it very much.

I had the pleasure of seeing Bill Holmes over here in Italy. We had a swim that about old times.

I want to say hello to all my friends, and am hoping we will all be together soon.

Thanks again for the paper.

Sincerely,
T/Sgt. Thomas E. Barber

Out At Sea

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you again for sending the paper, which I think I haven't done in a couple of years.

Well, I am back in the Pacific again after a tour of good duty in the Atlantic, where a fellow can hit some liberty towns when he gets in port.

About three years ago we could not get as far as we are now by a long shot, but things have changed quite a bit in the last three years.

The first week of January we pulled into a port and one afternoon my name was called over the loud speaker system to report to the quartermaster, and to my surprise my brother Wayne was there to meet me. We talked a bit about home and how we wish we could be back there now. It was a very hot day and knowing that it might be snowing in Michigan made me wish we were in that state now.

I got permission to go ashore to his base the next day and since I hadn't received any mail in two months I read a few of mother's letters to him. When I had mail he called that afternoon, and getting a letter from mother and the good old Farmington Enterprise, he gave me the paper to take back to the ship. It was good to read about the home town after two months of no news from home. I have been receiving mail quite regularly in the past month, and just received the January 11 edition of the Enterprise. Sunday was Easter and it makes my birth in the Navy. Hope the next will be at home.

Barton Smith, RM 2/c

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell received flowers at Easter from her son, Ernie, who is in Australia.

From a B-29 base of the Twentieth Bomber Command, India, comes the following story:

"Superfortress '691' of the Billy Mitchell Group, XXth Bomber Command, had no other trouble than dodging tropical thunderstorms on the outward flight of recent mission to Singapore. It was over the target and on the return to base that a variety of troubles developed and forced 1st Lt. Harris G. Clark, Jr., to bring his ship home on three engines, and with the brakes, flaps and landing gear inoperative. It was a close call, but the pilot made it.

"On the bombing run over the target, '691' and other superforts in the formation were attacked by Tojos, Zekes and Oscars, but the enemy fighters were driven off by B-29 gunners. Ground bat-

teries sent up a stream of lead all about the planes, and several Japanese warships in the Strait of Johore joined in the barrage with their anti-aircraft guns. For a while the air was filled with exploding shells.

"During the few minutes required for the target run, '691' was hit several times by the attacking planes, one of the hits knocking out the main and emergency electrical systems and hydraulic lines. At the same time the navigator, 2nd Lt. Benjamin Ardman was wounded in the leg, but Sergeant Irlan K. Blanton, radio operator, promptly and effectively rendered first aid. After leaving the target, six Jap fighters initiated another attack, but the B-29 pilot headed into a cloud bank just before the enemy planes could get within effective range.

"With the navigator wounded, 2nd Lt. Homer H. Stanyon, bombardier, took over the job of directing '691' nearly 2,000 miles to home base. As they finally approached their field after some 18 hours of flying on the long mission and with the gas supply running low and one engine feathered, Lt. Clark called the tower for permission to make a straight-on emergency landing instead of circling the field first. It was then he discovered his flaps would not work, his brakes were useless and only the nose wheel and the right gear would come down. After making two and a half turns around the field trying without success to get the left gear down, Lt. Clark decided to risk a landing without it. The plane came in smoothly, hit the concrete on the right wheel and rolled almost to the end of the long runway before tipping over on the left wing. The plane suffered some additional damage as a result of the one-wheel landing, but in a short while it was ready to fly again against the Japs.

"Others in the crew included 1st Lt. Charles R. Oldenburg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Oldenburg, 23942 Piaget Avenue, Lt. Oldenburg is captain of Superfort '691'.

Ruth L. Bacon, of the American Red Cross, who has been stationed at Coffeyville, Kansas, for some time, has been transferred to the Station Hospital at Stuttgart, Arkansas. She writes that she is so glad the Red Cross War Fund drive met with such success in Farmington, for the need is indeed great.

Mr. and Mrs. Park McKelvey have received a card from their son, Terence, who has been missing in action since December 21st in Belgium. He is now a prisoner of war in Germany. Terence is 24 years old, a graduate from Farmington in 1938, and has been overseas since January, 1942.

First Lt. and Mrs. McKelvey spent an Easter leave with his parents. He returned to Texas for reassignment.

Dear Sirs:

I just received my first copy of the Enterprise. I was very glad to hear some news from home. I enjoy reading the Service Notes. As a member of the Farmington High School, I also enjoy reading The Blue and White. We are not doing much right now.

I want to take time now to thank the Enterprise staff for sending it the home town newspaper. Keep sending it. Cheerio for now.

Millford Pierce, S 1/c

Don Murphy of 23700 Orchard Lake Road, and Carl R. Markham of 37521 Grand River Cut-Off, have arrived at Navy Yard Pearl Harbor, to assume duties as civilian war workers. They have signed contracts to remain at this large Naval base for 18 months to support the great Pacific Fleet. They are residing in the large civilian housing area adjacent to the Navy Yard which is operated by

the Navy for the thousands of workers.

Norman Davidson, ANM 3/c, is home from the South Pacific area after 17 months overseas service, to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Coyt, 18315 Brentwood. Norman attended school at Clareville and Farmington. Following his period of leave, he will report to Chicago, for four months of advanced schooling.

Word has been received that Private Arleigh Hanna, who is with Patton's 3rd Army, has been promoted to the rank of Private First Class. The same promotion has also been granted to John Bedson.

Mrs. Herman Gerds received a lovely Easter plant, as a remembrance from her son, S/Sgt. Herman A. Gerds, Jr., now stationed somewhere in Germany. She also had an Easter remembrance from another son, S/Sgt. Les C. Gerds who is in the South Pacific area.

LOCAL STUDENTS STUDY HISTORY OF FARMINGTON

(Continued from Page One)
January, 1918, coming back in December. He was the vice-president of the Warner Dairy Company. Fred M. Warner started the Warner Cheese Company. On August 16, 1917, Harley Warner married Dorothy Sloum. They had two children, Frederick Maltby and Dorothy Susan. Mr. Warner was active in community improvements. He was a director of the Farmington State Savings Bank, and treasurer of the Farmington Improvement Company. He was a Free Mason, and a member of Farmington Exchange Club, American Legion and several other clubs. He was also active in several other companies. In college Mr. Warner was active in basketball and baseball.

"Due to all the interesting material we received we could say you in all of it. Our class found this a very interesting topic. It was hard to believe there was so much interesting historical material for such a small town. We believe Farmington has a rich, cultural past, and a progressive, bright future."

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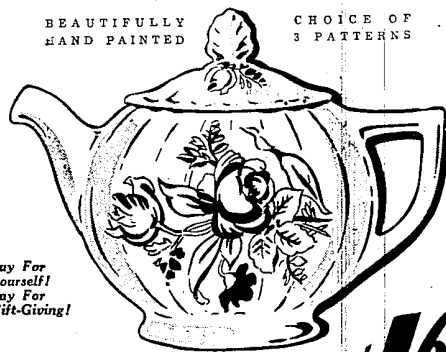
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