Men in Service

Editor's Note—Men in the armed forces, and parents, are invited to send us news of the boys' whereabouts and activities. Service men, scattered about the country, are hungry for news of their friends. Even the address of a newly-placed inducted man is of interest.

Life in North Africa Described by Pilot

Germans and Italians aren't the only worries our forces in Africa have to contend with, now that summer has arrived, according to word from First Lt. John K. Martin, Mitchell bomber pilot, to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Martin. Kirk writes:

"The weather is getting hot now and the North African insects are descending on us in droves. Fortunately, most of them don't sting, but they are all over everything—buzzing and crawling and being annoying in an insect way generally. There are here some of the biggest bugs I ever have seen. There is one wicked looking beetle as large as a quarter; and all the ordinary versions of insects grow half again as big as their American cousins. There is one very tough type called a scorpian that stings and has a speed of 30 miles an hour. They actually get mad and attack; and they are forever crawling into our shoes. What a place!

Arabs Are Tough

"Then there is the ever present trouble with the Arabs. Not with the ones right here with us, but those who live back in the hills. The Arabs in the cities are peaceful. But the French never have succeeded in controlling the tribesmen and they are tough. The Berbers never have admitted being conquered. They are a fierce and treacherous people and hate Christians. The history of the district I now am in is probably the bloodiest in all the world. The old Sultans—and some not so old—made Torquemadas and the Inquisition look like sissies. At nearby Marrakech the walls are stained red by the blood of a hundred thousand Senegalese captives, and the gates of the city are built on their skulls. One Sultan boiled the 20 sons of his predecessor in oil; then threw the old boy himself into a pit with 77 (a holy number here) starved rats. Another Sultan tossed a rival into a glass cage with millions of ants, who very definitely won the ensuing fight. Our sympathies are with the French officers who at times use pretty extreme measures to enforce laws.

"Our biggest and best rumor is that after the campaign in Africa ends we will go to India, Alaska, China, England, Australia, Italy, etc. Take your pick; join the air force and see the world. Personally, I'm willing to leave here for something new, and best of all would like a few pokes at the Japs. A lot of guys I know are fighting mad because of the execution of our fliers by the Japs.

Nazi Transport Downed

"Do you recall reading of the big massacre of German transport planes? Well, a group of us were just finishing an affair and a brawl which didn't wind up very well for the Nazis' war effort, when not so far away there appeared a huge flock of enemy air transports. Our fighters were upon them in less time than it takes to write this and the greatest mass air murder in history was over in a few minutes. It was estimated that day alone cost the Axis 200 planes. You have a picture at home taken of three of us at Randolph Field. One of the boys is Bob Wiseman, Grand Rapids, a fighter pilot. He got four Nazis that day—three transports and a fighter plane.

"Some time back a German prisoner told me we were suckers to believe they had lost Stalingrad. At that time the Germans were sullen and nasty and chesty. But the last I have seen are well deflated."

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GO TO MO.

FT. LEONARD WOOD, Mo.—Pvts. Norman L. Johnson, Ruffner street, and Howard L. Griffin, both of Birmingham, who recently entered military service, have arrived at the Engineer Replacement Training Center here for an intensive training program in preparation for combat engineer duty.

Training will include basic subjects like close and extended order drill, manual of arms, rifle marksmanship and combat principles as well as the functions of military engineering—use of tools and equipment, building of roads and floating bridges, demolitions and construction of roads and obstacles. Soldiers go from here to tactical units or to special training or officer candidate schools.

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FOURACRE HOME

Lt. Donald Fouracre, who recently received his wings as an AAF pilot, has arrived home on a 15-day leave. June 10 he will leave for Austin, Texas, where he will receive further training as a transport plane pilot. His parents live at 191 Townsend.

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BOTH SONS HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. MacGregor, of Ann street, received a real surprise when their two sons were given leaves and were able to be home at the same time. Corp. Robert MacGregor, of the chemical division of the Army Air Force, arrived last Tuesday from Reno, Nev., and John MacGregor, fireman third class, was graduated from Great Lakes Naval Training Station Friday and came home Saturday. They will both return to their posts this weekend, John to await orders to report for motor machinist training.

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GOES TO OCS

LYNBROOK, N. Y.—Sgt. Douglas G. Thom, 22, son of George Thom, 1619 South Bates, Birmingham, has reported to the anti-aircraft artillery officer candidate school at Camp Davis, S. C.

Thom was message center sergeant at New York Civilian-Schools Area Headquarters, Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, here at the time of his appointment. On completion of a strenuous three-months' course, he will be commissioned a second lieutenant.

After enlisting in the AAF Technical Training Command May 5, 1941, Thom was sent to Scott Field, Ill., radio school in the AAFTTC. He subsequently graduated from the TTC administrative school at Fort Logan, Colo., and served as orderly room clerk at Keesler Field, Miss.

Prior to assignment in Lynbrook, Thom was in charge of the mail room at Roosevelt Field, Long Island, N. Y., an aviation mechanics school in the Technical Training Command.

He is a graduate of Baldwin High School, Birmingham.

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Classifications, May 20, 1943

Vincent J. Holbel, p; Arthur J. Hunter, p; Joseph B. Hefler, p; William J. Watson, Jr., p; Thomas O. Moore, Jr., p; Robert L. Spaulding, vol, p; William J. Mittlebrandt, p; Donald R. Webb, p; Orville C. Setter, p; Douglas E. Webb, p; Richard T. Cushing, p; Gregor P. Affleck, p; Robert K. Edmonds, 4-A; Wiley F. Amburgey, 1-A; William G. Gerber, 1-A; Thomas C. Tucker, vol., 1-A.

John E. Brown, 2-B; Erich H. Jansen, 1-C (H); Walter E. Thulin, 1-C (H); Clyde H. Peabody, 1-C (H); Ralph T. Bethards, vol., 1-C; Ernest E. Mann, 1-C; Ward A. Jury, vol., 1-C; Robert F. Richardson, 4-F; Robert Burrell, 4-F; Edwin Cischke, 4-F (H); Cornelius Grier, Jr., 4-F (H); Wilson Jones, 4-F (H); Howard Gillard, 4-F (H); Charles R. Toole, 4-F (H); Ulrich R. Peltier, 4-F (H).

William B. Plate, 1-A (H); Frank O. Wilson, 1-A (H); Lester A. Shimmel, 1-A (H); Wesley W. Martin, 1-A (H); Clarence W. Presell, 1-A (H); William C. Schultz, 1-A (H); Forbes S. Hascall, 1-A (H); Karl R. Kocher, 1-A (H); Paul J. Turner, 1-A (H); Ollie A. Ellison, 1-A (H); Harry A. Williams, 1-A (H); Elbert F. Boyd, 1-A (H); Malcolm Yerkes, 1-A (H); Percy F. Northrop, 1-A (H); Walter S. Thompson, 1-A (H); Eugene B. Flint, 1-A (H).

James T. Sims, 1-A (H); Dick F. Clifford, 1-A (H); Onesime LeRoux, 1-A (H); Maurice A. Clausen, 1-A (H); Edward C. Churchill, 1-A (H); Christopher W. Fleming, 1-A (H); Harrison L. Cook, 1-A (H); Leonard Spaeth 1-A (H); August A. Heitzman, 1-A (H); Claude T. Owens, 1-A (H); Romer W. Jeu De Vine, 1-A (H).

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Classifications, May 24

Roy E. Olson, Vol., 1-A; Robert M. Roth, Vol., 1-A; William C. Shaughnessy, Vol., 1-A; George E. Marin, 1-C; Robert J. Hill, 1-C; Earl E. Cappel, 1-C; Edward T. Boardman, 1-C; Carl J. Good, 2-B; John F. Adams, 2-B; William F. Douglas, 2-B; James D. Robinson, p; Jack B. Lyons, p; Edward E. Bissell, Jr., p.

Decision Of Appeal Board

Frank Altman Jr., 2-B.

Ceville H. Mason, 1-A (H); Henry G. Stoll, 1-A (H); Wilbur E. Holtz, 1-A (H); Carl E. Heussner, 1-A (H); John W. Fleischer, 1-A (H); Edward F. Stephanek, 1-A (H); Chester A. Parson, 1-A (H); Rogers I. Marquis, 1-A (H); Theron M. Hall, 1-A (H); William P. Stannard, 1-A (H); Charles A. Pokorny, 1-A (H); Rasmus B. Nielsen 1-A (H).

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Classifications, May 28

Frederick T. Cushing, 1-A; Robert T. Benson, vol., 1-A; Arthur W. Bull, 1-A; Frederick R. Sevin, 1-A; Elmer W. Huyser, 1-A; William H. Mead, 2-B; Noel S. Walker, 2-B; Orville W. Croy, 2-B; Clayton C. LaMotte, 2-B; Leonard F. Liberda, p; Wallace A. McLay, vol., p; Robert B. Hinshaw, p; A. C. Doebler, p; Richard C. Raymann, p; Robert C. Jay, p; Harry J. Klingler, Jr., p; Edward G. Boblen, p.

Thomas A. Remick, p; John Davis, Jr., p; Donald A. Taylor, p; Lester W. Gadeua, p; Donald MacShane, p; Jay D. Teachout, Jr., vol., p; Robert C. Neumann, p; William E. McElhaney, p; Eugene K. Wheelock, p; Paul J. Henneberry, p; William S. Spiegel, Jr., p; Richard T. Bynum, p; Kenneth O. Serre, p; John D. Klee, p; Kingsley M. Brown, Jr., p; Byron E. Ellis, Jr., p.

Richard J. Soss, p; Renwick E. Knox, p; Claude A. Phelps, Jr., p; Herbert A. Doyle, p; Charles E. Coe, p; Walter J. Hans, p; Emory C. Clippert, p; Rodger B. Emmert, p; William R. Kent, p; Douglas B. Fletcher, p; William Murray, Jr., 1-A (H); Errett L. Anderson, 1-A (H); Stuart M. Gastren, 1-A (H); James I. Ford, 1-A (H); Harold C. Tyler, 1-A (H); Roy J. Meader, 1-A (H).

Herman J. Schick, 1-A (H); Hugh W. Hitchcock, 1-A (H); George D. Clark, 1-A (H); William W. Tuten, 1-A (H); Paul M. Bradbury, 1-A (H); Dewey Montgomery, 1-A (H); William J. Renshaw, 1-A (H); Frank J. Veprek, 1-A (H); William Wright, 1-A (H); Edward E. Hopper, Sr., 1-A (H); Charles E. Galloway, 1-A (H); Donald B. McLouth, 1-A (H); Carl J. Stockamp, 1-A (H); Ernest W. Kurth, 1-A (H); Ellis A. Kowinsky, 1-A (H); Ulysses S. Ackles, 1-A (H); Laurence R. Burroughs, 1-A (H); John T. Burdick, 1-A (H); Paul H. Shaver, 1-A (H).

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IN FLORIDA

James W. Price has recently been made a corporal and is in limited service with the Army at St. Petersburg, Fla., where he has clerical duties. Corp. Price, the son of Mrs. Beatrice Price, of Grand Rapids, formerly of Birmingham, and R. J. Price, of Detroit, worked at Van's Pharmacy in Birmingham for five years.

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GOING INTO ARMY

Earl Mudge, Daines street, has been accepted for Army duty and will entrain June 11 for Fort Custer.

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GOING TO WASHINGTON

Lt. William L. (Jack) Nolen, USNR, is home on nine-day leave, prior to assignment to Washington, D. C., for temporary duty. He is in the Shipboard Fire Protection Consultation and Advisory Service. He went into the Navy in February, going first to Fort Schuyler, N. Y., and subsequently was stationed at Boston and New York City.

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ASSIGNED AT SEATTLE

Lt. (j.g.) Fred T. Clifton, who went into the same work at the time of Nolen, has been stationed at Seattle, Wash.

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Editor, The Eccentric:

Having recently spent two weeks in Florida, where I was accompanied by Miss Frances Wimsett, I would like to share with your readers our experiences of three days in an Army camp.

We went from a little town in Florida named Stuart, to Camp Murphy, Fla., both of them being located along the East Coast. We went by bus, and were met upon our arrival at the main gate of the camp by Corp. George W. Forester, my son, who took us to the provost marshall's office. We were questioned and finally given passes, which entitled us to come and go as we wished.

Stay at Guest House

Corp. George had made reservations for us at the guest house, located on the camp grounds. The reservations were for three days which were three very happy ones. We had our meals at the camp cafeteria, where Corp. George was at liberty to join us, this of course enabled us to spend more time with my son, of which we enjoyed every minute.

Camp Murphy is a radar school in the Signal Corps. All the men there go to school, and they have two shifts, a day shift and a night shift. The men are kept very busy going to school and studying. George went to school from 2:45 p.m. to 11:45 p.m. His commanding officer excused him from reveille while we were there so he could be with us all morning, and also have dinner with us.

Mrs. Hart was our hostess at the guest house, a lovely and most interesting lady. we will never cease being grateful to her for the hospitality she extended to us. Mrs. Hart had lived on Hobelsland, which is near the Camp, or 45 years and she told many interesting things about the island. Her husband was from North Carolina and as a young man he wanted adventure, so he started out in a boat with home-made sails, he had reached Jupiter, Fla., when a Florida blow was coming so he decided to tie up the boat for the night. In the morning the boat was gone, so he started walking along the shore and finally came to Hobe Island. It seemed so beautiful and peaceful there that he decided to stay. He married Mrs. Hart and they lived together there until his death, a period of 43 years. Shortly after Mr. Hart's death, Mrs. Hart sold their home to Edsel Ford for a winter home. She then moved to the guest house of Camp Murphy and became the hostess there. She walks over to Hobe Island rather frequently, as do the soldiers. She went over there one day while we were there and came back with her arms loaded with all kinds of flowers gathered from the grounds of the beautiful estates on this island. To reach Hobe Island from the camp the men walk for about 10 minutes to reach Indian River, where they take a small ferry across the river, then another 10 minute walk to reach the ocean. If it is too rough in the ocean to swim there is a large outdoor pool on one of the estates which the owner has given the soldiers permission to use whenever they wish.

Ingenious Yankee

One interesting thing Mrs. Hart told us about was what her mother-in-law told her. She told her that she had hid the silver in the well to keep the Yankees from getting it, and then her son married a Northerner, and the Yankee got the silver after all!

MRS. GEORGE W. FORESTER
560 W. Brown St.

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LT. GOODE HOME

Lt. Robert L. Goode, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Goode, of Fairfax road, arrived Friday from Randolph Field, Tex., where he received his wings in the Army Air Force last week after completing his training at Foster Field, Tex. He will spend his ten-day leave with his wife, Mrs. Goode, of Pontiac, and his parents.

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BALDWIN GETS CITATION

Pvt. George E. Baldwin, Jr., an instructor with the 670th Bombardment squadron, Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, received a citation when he and several mates dived for the body of a pilot who was killed when his plane crashed in a pond.

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GETS HONOR

Dick Flannery, Naval aviation cadet, has completed his pre-flight training at Prescott, Ariz., and was made adjutant of his unit, highest cadet honor. He is the son of Mrs. George E. Baldwin, Sr., Orchard Lake.

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HERE FOR 5 WEEKS

Ensign Charles E. Reutter, Jr., and wife and daughter, are at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Baldwin, while the ensign studies guns at Pontiac Motors.

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IN FLORIDA

Robert L. Spencer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Spencer, Hardale road, Bloomfield Hills, has been appointed an ensign in the aeronautics service of the Naval Reserve, and has left Boston with his wife and six-month-old daughter for Pasadena, Calif., where he will begin training. He is a graduate of both the University of Michigan engineering and law colleges, and has engaged as a patent attorney in Boston.

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SURPRISE VISIT

Corp. Kenneth Greene surprised his wife and parents with an unexpected visit, arriving Saturday by airline from Warrenton, Va., where he is acting sergeant in the Signal Corps. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Green, Hazel street, honored him at a small dinner Wednesday night. He leaves Friday.

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CALLED UP

Norman James, Jr., whose parents live at 887 Wimbleton, was called to active duty on his 18th birthday and sent to Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio, to join an Air Force technical training detachment. He hopes to continue in meteorology, for since February he has been taking the AAF course at Kenyon College.

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ARRIVES IN J. B.

Frank R. Grosvenor, Jr., whose parents live at 667 Pierce street, has arrived at the Air Forces replacement training center, Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and writes that the food is "swell." He was employed by The Eccentric when inducted.

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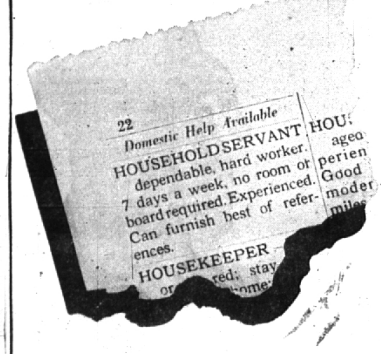

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