Ensign John Harwood Writes of New Visit to North African Port As His Ship Carries Supplies to East Front

Ensign John Harwood, USNR has again been heard from, this time in a North African port as his Liberty cargo ship carries supplies to the European battle fronts. He writes interestingly of that area:

30 May 1944

In A North African Port.

Birmingham Eccentric—

Regulations seem to differ in the various ports; here they say it is all right to mention that the ship is in a North African port, hence the heading. Here, it's so far so good; by that I mean that I and my crew have kept out of trouble, and the men seem to be having a good time, even the lad who was sure the place was no good before he even arrived!

Compared to Egypt, inflation has really struck this place. There is hardly anything left to buy, and the prices are outrageous. When you leave the dock area, swarthy individuals float your way and offer such bargains as $80 for a civilian suit; $10 for a hat; and $10 for a shirt. In other words, the black market is going strong. Cigarets bring 60c at package. That's all against the regulations of course, but there seem to be ways of circumvention for some.

This afternoon, camera in hand, I went into the Red Cross officers' club and discovered that a tour of the old native quarter was about to start, so along I went and snapped a lot of pictures. It was much the same as Egypt, for these people are all Arabs—all brothers under the nightshirt. The streets are just as narrow and dirty, and the people jabber the same way, and stare out at you from the same little shops. One interesting feature was the water sellers, who carry goatskins on their backs, filled with water. I got a picture of one. They will sell you a drink from a brass bowl; or, they will sell the whole skin of water to any housewife who is too lazy to go to the public spigot.

Arabs with more money than the average keep two or three wives, and if they get tired of them, divorce is very easy. We went into one Moorish courtyard, where women and men were standing around, waiting for their divorce action to come up.

There are two Medinahs here; the ancienne medinah, where the population is relatively mixed, and the nouvelle medinah, where only Mohammedans are allowed to live. Between and around them is the newer part of the city, and many of the buildings are surprisingly modern. Transportation is really quaint. There are horse-drawn carriages called "voitures de place," which means, a public hack; and also larger horse-drawn buses in which the people crowd also, there are electric buses, gasoline buses, and a few which burn charcoal. The latter have generators built on, and after the charcoal is ignited, the gases are piped into the engine. Fortunately, the ship is not too far from the center of town, so it is easy to walk, and thus see the local life and also avoid catching lice.

A Navy lieutenant (dental corps) paid us a visit today, and I put him to work extracting a suture from the gingiva of one of my men who had been operated on at Norfolk. (In plain language, he took a stitch from the lad's gums). The doctor was on a scouting mission; it seems that he is stationed up the line, and the force there had been reduced to eating spam, fried, baked, etc. The rear admiral in charge got tired of that, so he sent out our friend to see what food he could scare up, and thus he arrived at the George B. Seiden, where the welcome mat always hangs from the yardarm. We fixed him up, and feted him at dinner, which he liked so well that he stayed for supper and enjoyed a bit of beefsteak. It is surprising how the personnel stationed in these parts always manage to have business aboard at mealtimes. Well, the space is gone, so adieu!

Ensign John Harwood USNR

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Aviation Cadet B. Maynard Zimmerman flew home from St. Mary's College, California, arriving here unexpectedly Monday morning. Cadet Zimmerman has just completed his pre-flight at St. Mary's and is leaving Sunday to report at Livermore Naval Aviation Station, Calif., where he will enter his primary training. He is the son of Mrs. Thelma Zimmerman, 675 Vinewood.

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Sgt. Robert Shaughnessy, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Shaughnessy, 1539 Birmingham boulevard, arrived home unexpectedly last Thursday from Gulfport, Miss. He will return to Gulfport today where he is stationed with a combat crew of the A.A.F.

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Just pull out wick and VAPAIR will quickly drive out unpleasant smells.
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Paid Volunteers Wanted for Michigan Canneries
GOOD WAGES
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No Experience Required
"It's a Vacation with Pay"
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LOCAL UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

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.

IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA

At one of the largest supply headquarters in the Mediterranean theatre, with its multitude of incoming and outgoing messages, many of them dealing with the movements of vast quantities of materiel or large numbers of troops, these signal corps soldiers are performing one of the outstanding tasks of the war. Cpl. Harold A. Dean, son of Mrs. Hazel Dean, 540 Ann street and S/Sgt. Herbert E. Werner, son of Mrs. Leontine Werner, 776 Hazel street.

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Cpl. Shirley Hale, who has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Mary Hale, 187 Merrill, left Monday to return to duty at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. He had a 15-day furlough.

★ ★ ★

The Fisher home at 256 Abbey road has been a rather happy place lately and will be for another two weeks with Bob and Russell Fisher home on visits from their studies in connection with their naval services at Harvard. Robert was home for 10 days from naval R.O.T.C. studies and left again Sunday. Ensign Russell H. Fisher II came home Saturday after completing his naval communications studies at Harvard and will be here until about the middle of July when he leaves for the West.

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Alexander Lotero, seaman class, writes from Class 52-B-44, Barracks 157, N.A.T.T.C., Norman, Oklahoma, to say that he is stationed there after completing his training at Farragut, Idaho. He is attending aviation ordnance school at the naval air technical training center in Norman for four months. He receives the Eccentric and says "I sure enjoy keeping in contact with things at home." Mrs. Lotero and two children are at 1423 Bennaville.

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From Harvey E. Whalen, now of 1668 Las Lunos, Pasadena, California, comes word that his two sons, Sgt. Howard Whalen and Sgt. Henry Whalen, have just met in England. Howard writes that the Birmingham Twilight League still operates over there. His bunch played a benefit softball game at the village cricket club. He says the grounds are beautiful and the game was fun despite the spasmodic showers. He reports he has been billeted with a private family and that they made him feel like a member of the family.

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Pitt H. Walsh, Jr., Hospital Corpsman 2/c, son of Mrs. Ethel Walsh, 527 Ridgedale, has recently been transferred from the Great Lakes Naval Hospital to the Philadelphia Naval hospital.

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Pfc. James Schermerhorn, USMCR, returned to Jacksonville, Fla., Sunday to study radio and gunnery in the marine aviation training there. Schermerhorn has been in the Marines since last October.

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Pfc. Robert J. Fitzgibbon has returned to Camp Livingston, La., after spending a 13-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs W. E. McInnes, at their summer home on Clear Lake, Ind.

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A/S Bruce F. Randall, USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Randall, 1259 Dorchester road, has just completed a year of training in the Navy V-12 Unit at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, and is being transferred for officer training to pre-midshipmen's school, Ashury Park, N. J. Before entering the service he had completed one year of study at Denison.

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Raymond L. Dennis, S 2/c, has finished a five-months course of radio communications at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. He is now at the Naval radio station, frontier base, Morehead City, N. C.

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Watts Wacker, Frank Watts and Ed Brungraber left Saturday for Western Michigan College at Kalamazoo where they are enlisted in the V-5 Naval Aviation Program.

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AT REDISTRIBUTION STATION

Sgt. Robert J. Bliss, of Royal Oak, formerly of Birmingham, returned from service outside the continental United States, now is being processed through the Army Air Forces Redistribution Station No. 2 in Miami Beach, where his next assignment will be determined. Sgt. Bliss, age 22, served for one and one-half years in the Middle East and European theatres as a draftsman and supply sergeant. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Bliss, of 1820 Orchard lane, Royal Oak. A graduate of Baldwin high school, he attended Detroit Institute of Technology.

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COMPLETES PRIMARY

A/C Edward E. Hopper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Hopper, of Birmingham, was among the group graduated this week from the 56th AAF Base Unit at Decatur, Ala. The Army Air Forces school at Decatur is a primary flying school where Aviation Cadets receive their initial flying training. Cadet Hopper is a graduate of General Motors Institute, Flint. A brother, Lt. Robert S. Hopper, is also in the AAF.

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IN THE NAVY NOW

Ross W. Kelly and Vern O. Dougherty, of Birmingham, are now at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill., receiving their naval indoctrination.

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Pfc. Richard Green has returned to his army training at Pueblo, Colo., following his visit home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Green, Hazel street. A brother, T/Sgt. William M. Green, Jr., writes that he is now stationed in England. He is with the army engineers.

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LIEUT. COULSON HURT

News comes to Mr. and Mrs. Milton F. Coulson that their son, Lieut. Milton F. Coulson, Jr., of the Army Air Service, has been injured while on a flying mission out of an Alaskan base. The young officer writes that he had both legs broken but received no critical hurts. He pilots a pursuit plane.

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Hayride Party
For Reservations Phone B'ham 3405-J4
SADDLE HORSES RENTED
Ride for Your Health at
WOOD FARMS
"The Place to Ride"
5500 N. Adams Rd.

HE Deserves A Promotion

Higgins entered the race when George P. McCallum, of Ann Arbor, announced his retirement from the Senate.

Higgins has been a member of the House of Representatives for three terms, representing the First Oakland County District, the most populous in Michigan.

During his career at Lansing, Higgins has introduced and had written into law 51 bills. Higgins-sponsored measures have included many of extreme importance to all of the taxpayers of Michigan and some bills instigated to aid the residents of his district.

The new racing bill which will net the State of Michigan more than $2,000,000 in 1944 is a Higgins-sponsored measure. He also introduced legislation that plugged leaks in tax collections on automobile sales. He estimates that since this bill became law, it has netted the state $19,000,000. Secured home exemption bill for all disabled Veterans of World War I. Introduced amendment which gives home exemption to all Veterans of this war up to $5,000.00 valuation.

Higgins is a successful automobile dealer who has lived in Ferndale since 1924. He has been active in local affairs and is a former Ferndale City Commissioner, member of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors and chairman of the Oakland County Republican Committee. During the last general election in Michigan, he served as campaign manager for Judge Homer Ferguson, who was elected to the United States Senate.

Higgins' home is at 631 West Oakridge avenue, Ferndale. He has three daughters and a son who is a member of the U.S. Naval Air Corps.

Higgins believes that his experience in Lansing qualifies him for the Senate position vacated by McCallum.

HIGGINS FOR SENATOR

Give Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters To Sergeant Gordon Drumheller

Three bronze Oak-Leaf Clusters have been awarded to Technical Sgt. Gordon L. Drumheller, of 328 Brown street, by Lieut. General Millard F. Harmon, commanding U. S. Army Forces in the South Pacific. The first Oak-Leaf Cluster was awarded to T/Sgt. Drumheller June 10 for his work as an aerial radio operator-gunner from Feb. 28 to March 8, 1944. The second award, given for duty between the dates of March 11 and 19, was presented to Drumheller on June 12. The third medal was awarded June 13 for service from March 20 to March 28.

A bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained combat operational missions of a hazardous nature during which enemy opposition is met, or during which an area is traversed where enemy antiaircraft fire is effective or where enemy fighter patrols are habitually encountered. The missions for which the awards were given were with the 13th AAF.

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Here Is List of New Classifications For Men In Service

1-A—Available for military service.

1-A-O—Available for noncombatant military service; Conscientious objector.

1-C—Member of land or naval forces of United States.

II-A—Man supporting war effort.

II-B—Man in war production.

II-C—Man in agriculture.

III-D—Man deferred by reason of extreme hardship and privation to wife, child, or parents.

IV-A—Man deferred by reason of age.

IV-B—Official deferred by law.

IV-C—Registrants not acceptable for training and service because of nationality or ancestry.

IV-D—Minister of religion or divinity student.

IV-E—Available for work of national importance — Conscientious objector.

IV-F—Physically, mentally or morally unfit.

H—Identifying classified registrants over 38 years of age and under 45 years.

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WOUNDED IN ACTION

Lieut. Joseph C. Woolhouse, Jr., wounded in action in Italy on May 26, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Woolhouse, West Long Lake road, that he is recovering nicely in an army hospital in Italy and that he hopes for a leave to visit home shortly. The young Birmingham pilot was wounded in the head and had his jaw bone fractured during a battle in Italy. He pilots a freighter bomber plane.

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to harvest Michigan's 1944 War-time Crop
Michigan cherries, famous for flavor, are wanted by Uncle Sam for Army and Navy. Cherry producers need 25,000 pickers AT ONCE to harvest the crop.
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Will be arranged through your county agricultural agent. Get a group to go with you. But you must act at once—without delay!
For details phone
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An outstanding legislator for five terms; Auditor General for three terms, Vernon J. Brown has sponsored hundreds of bills aimed at economy in state and local government and saved the taxpayers millions of dollars.
He is a sincere champion of honest government.
His experience and ability to cooperate with all branches of state government eminently fit him for the important office of Lieutenant Governor. Vote for him.
PRIMARY ELECTIONS, JULY 11th

Vote for HOWARD R. ESTES
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES
"Ten million American service men and women are defending our right to vote. Let us show them we appreciate that right by voting."
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THOMAS for SHERIFF
Has Been Your Undersheriff the Past 3 Years
Oakland County Will Benefit By His
12 Consecutive Years of EXPERIENCE
- He has kept Oakland County free from Gambling and Racketeering.
- He has been commended by the former and present Michigan Liquor Commission.
- He has been commended by Circuit Court Judges for his fine work in apprehending criminals.
- He has been of great assistance in aiding Juveniles and setting them thinking straight.

Edward K. Thomas
(Undersheriff)

X Vote for Ed. K. Thomas Tuesday, July 11th for Sheriff