

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. We will maintain a special file on the boys, for honor to their friends. Even the address of a newly-placed institution may be of interest.

Lt. R. F. Waugaman Awarded Air Medal

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England—Second Lieutenant Robert F. Waugaman, 25-year-old B-17 Flying Fortress pilot, and the son of Mr. S. H. Waugaman, 601 Fairfax street, Birmingham, Mich., has been decorated with the Air Medal for courage and high achievement in action while paving the way for allied armies into the Reich with bombs.

Lt. Waugaman serves with the veteran 390th Bombardment Group, crack Eighth Air Force unit, which holds a war record for destruction of enemy aircraft by a lone group in a single engagement, having shot down 63 German fighters over Munster, Germany, on Oct. 10, 1943. The group has been cited by the President and shares in another Presidential award for aiding in the Third Air Division's epic attack on key Messerschmitt plants at Regensburg, Germany.

Prof. and Mrs. Howard D. Crull, former local residents and now living in Port Huron received a very pleasant surprise the other day when, attending the showing of "Winged Victory" at a Port Huron theater, they discovered their son, Second Lieut. Howard D. Crull, Jr., now a bomber pilot in the South Pacific, was a member of the graduating class, filmed at Stockton Field, Calif., and the time was May, 1944, when Lieutenant Crull received his commission and his wings. Prof. Crull is a former superintendent of schools in Birmingham.

IN NAVAL HOSPITAL

Neal (Dannie) Danvo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Danvo, 1569 Bannville, and a former truckman with the Eccentric, is in the U. S. Naval hospital, San Diego, Calif., recovering from injuries to one of his legs, and from an operation which followed. The youth has the classification of Mo.M.M., 3/C, USNR, and has been in naval service since October, 1943. He served in France, Italy and North Africa on an APD boat. His last visit home was last Christmas time when his ship was in an American port for repairs and supplies.

"Every Landing Is A Crash," Says Pfc. Buckeridge of the Airborne Troops, Who Fought Through North Germany

With the capture of Epsom by the U. S. 17th Airborne Division, attention has again been drawn to the exploits of the men of the most modern type of fighting force—the airborne troops. One of the men who gets to the scene of battle through the air in a glider is Pfc. Justin P. Buckeridge of Birmingham, who in recent letters to his parents here has recounted some of his latest experiences in the fighting in western Europe. Following are excerpts from his letters:

Belgium, Jan. 14—"Am now sitting in the corner of an old Belgian farmhouse room. A fire, built up in this I spent a comfortable night. I am now melting some snow in which I hope to wash off the mud. I have had to wash my hands which will make me feel better than I have for days. Trying to keep warm yesterday in a house and the others turned up. Often wonder how civilian life that, the things but no matter how bad it is, a few always turn up. Well, the message center is in their kitchen, bunched around a metal wastebasket in which a fire fire took the chill of the place. We were covering up the pileable French with the just-popped-in owners—a mother and two kids. They watched us tear strips of wood off the ceiling for our fire, they looked over the table and I had mud in the wall and they took it all bravely. But when the mother saw grandpa's photo on the wall ripped by machine gun

holes, she broke down and cried. We gave the kids chewing gum but what they need is food and clothes."

FRANCE, Feb. 15—"May now tell you that I am in a rest area. However, I have been in this situation before and what a "rest" you get. There is a liberal mess policy and a complicated training schedule. Inspections, inspections, hikes, inspections, and more inspections. They call it rest! They put the old military pressure on so that the war weary "dough" just off the line wonders if guns or salutes are winning the war."

FRANCE, Feb. 17—"Don't worry about the glider crashes; every combat landing is a crash but the old glider can take a lot. "I don't know how cold it was where I was in January but the snow wouldn't pack and when you wear heavy "dough" footie, it was plenty cold."

FRANCE, Feb. 18—"To tell you the truth, Mr. I don't pay much time in thinking about the civilians back home, I have things happening to me that require much more thought. For instance,

when I was on the line I spent most of my time digging and improving foxholes. If I was getting shell I would listen to where such shell fell and try to figure out where the next one was likely to fall. A couple of days and nights of this and I am so tired that I do very little thinking about anything except how to keep alive and get some sleep."

FRANCE, Feb. 23—"Got a little package censored today containing a little news from the village of Condigne in Southern France. At the time this was secured, we held the hills in the rear and the Japs were on the hills in bags. Condigne was shelled occasionally, first by us, then by them. In between, parties from either side take turns minding what is left of the houses. This was the smallest of about 10, the biggest of which stood about a foot high."

FRANCE, March 5—"I didn't have trench foot but had frozen feet. There is a difference. Trench foot is neglected while frozen feet is accidental. And I had the very best in footwear, the ShoeFace. But I spent the night in a very

bad situation. I didn't know how cold it was until the next day when I changed socks and found that I could feel my own hands on them. However, stambled around on them another week before the similitude of cold, both feet, etc. finally got me down."

Pfc. Buckeridge was discharged from the hospital on March 30 and shipped to return to his unit, the 104th Glider Infantry of the 17th Airborne. In his last letter, Pfc. Buckeridge enclosed an official citation released March 15, commending his unit for its part in the capture of LeMay, France, last Aug. 16, after a 24-hour battle that began on D day, Aug. 15. This battle was unique in that glider troops alone were engaged on our side; a battalion of about 600 men captured more than 700 German prisoners and large quantities of material.

A Pontiac man, Capt. Arthur Holstein, well known in Birmingham, is a medical officer of Buckeridge's unit and has been in every battle with him. The medical officers and staff travel in gliders like the combat men and land with them at the scene of battle. Captain Holstein received his commission at Fort Benning, Ga., and trained as a paratrooper medic. After an injury received in a training jump he transferred to gliders. Glider troops have the same extra risk pay rate as para-



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Word was received from F/O Edward Quinn last week by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Quinn of Henrietta street, that he had been on two missions over enemy territory. Having left for overseas on Easter, he found himself in Northern Italy only a short distance from his brother, Cpl. Alvan J. Quinn, who is an aerial photographer and waist-gunner in the 12th Air Force. Alvan has been in Italy for over a year and recently was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious service in combat duty. The two brothers hope to meet on foreign soil.

REPORTED INJURED

Lieutenant Charles W. Lewis is in an American Army hospital in Northwestern France suffering from a bullet wound in the leg. The injury was received while the pistol of another officer was accidentally discharged. Lieutenant Lewis is with the Troop Carrier Command of the Army Air Force and lately has been engaged in shooting a plane bringing burrcans out of German prisons of war. He received his wings in May of 1944 and went overseas last fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Lewis, 272 Hawthorne.

Ret. Raymond McBride, veteran of the Marine battles of Iwo Jima, arrived home Saturday to spend about a month with his wife, Mrs. Della McBride, 18 West Maple, and ten days with his wife, Petty Officer 2/C Sallie McBride of the Spans, who arrived home Friday from New London, Conn., on a 10-day leave from her duties as the Coast Guard cadet. Sergeant McBride spent 26 months battling the Japs and this is his first "out-home" in three years. He will report for duty at Solonson, Md., about June 5.

The Japs Destroy Many GMC "Ducks" and Trucks Each Day



OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS PHOTO FROM IWO JIMA

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