★ OUR CITIZENS IN SERVICE ★

By ANN CONNELL

British King Gives Awards U. S. Officers

Captain Delmar Newman of Eugene and other officers of the 41st division, which won fame for its heroism and that of its leaders in the Australian and New Guinea campaigns, have been awarded British military decoration by King George VI, according to word received here by local friends.

A clipping from the Sydney, Australia, Morning Herald, carried the following announcement: "Canberra,—The King has conferred appointments and awards on 13 members of the United States army for service in the southwest Pacific. The awards and citations are:

Officer, Order of the British Empire, (military division), Lt. Col. G. P. Cochran; Lt. Col. H. G. Maison; Lt. Col. H. A. Taylor.

Commander, Order of the British Empire, (military division), Colonel B. R. Peyton.

Member of the Order of the British Empire, (military division),—Capt. M. M. Casper; Major (then captain) W. W. Hill; Major (then captain) G. Munkres; Capt. Delmar J. Newman.

Distinguished Service Order—Col. D. W. Hutchinson, air corps; Lt. Col. E. D. Brockett.

Air Force Cross—Lt. J .L. Herbert; Lt. Q. E. Raizer.

Distinguished Flying Medal—Staff Sgt. R. A .Parrott.

Springfield Brothers Both Home Same Time

Bob and Byron Eastman, brothers who were wounded in different war zones, arrived home in Springfield within 24 hours last week.

Sgt. Bob Eastman, 23, "walked in" on his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Eastman, of route 1, Springfield, last Thursday. He has been in the army for five and a half years and recently returned from the Philippines area where he fought as an artillery man under Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He is to return to Barnes General hospital at Vancouver, Wash., this week.

His brother, PFC Byron Eastman, 25, who came home the following day, was with the fifth army in Italy. He also served in Africa and England and as a replacement for a time in France. Following a 45-day furlough, Private Eastman will report back to the hospital. If he is discharged, he says he expects to become actively connected with the Boy Scouts.

Americans have a mania for collecting souvenirs, the private says, and both boys have plenty to prove it.

A third brother, Rex, 27, is with the army air corps in the European theater of operations.

The Eastmans moved to Eugene from Klamath Falls over a year ago.

BLAIS IN STATES

First Lt. Lewis D. Blais, whose parents live at 2615 Friendly street, Eugene, has arrived in the United States on leave from the European theater of operations, where he served eight months with the army air forces. As pilot of a B-24 Liberator, with the 8th air force, he completed 30 missions and 265 hours of operational combat flying.

SECOND LT. ALLEN A. KIRK was commissioned January 4 upon successful completion of the officer candidate infantry school at Fort Benning, Ga. He enlisted in the army in November, 1942, and served with an engineer company as a corporal before being commissioned. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Kirk, 51 Adams street. He attended the University of Oregon, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

CAPT. TED E. REED, former manager of the Standard station at Sixth and Blair streets, recently received his advancement in rank from first lieutenant, in France. He is serving in a tank division, and has been in several engagements in the combat area. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Reed of the Chula Vista dairy farm. His wife and two children now are living in Salem.

Corporal Adams Trains At Sioux Falls School

Cpl. Bruce G. Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. George O. Adams, 351 Tenth Avenue west, has been assigned to the AAF training command radio school at the Sioux Falls (S.D.) army air field, for training as a radio operator-mechanic. Upon completion of a 26-week course, he will be fully trained to take his place as a member of a highly skilled bomber crew of the army air forces.

Corporal Adams has been stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., Minter field, Calif., Pecos, Tex., and Ft. Logan, Colo., since he enlisted in the army in October, 1942. At the University of Oregon he had three months of ROTC training.

Adams was graduated from Eugene high school in 1940, and was employed by the Southern Pacific railroad company as a clerk before entering the service.

Local Man In London With Military Police

Pvt. Clay Baxter, who wears the purple heart, is back in action—with the military police in London.

The former well-known Eugene clothier suffered wounds in the legs while in action with the infantry in France some months ago. He reported to the replacement center Christmas day and was assigned to the M. P. division covering London. He is living in a hotel three blocks from Buckingham Palace and already has met a Eugene acquaintance—Sgt. Wayne Harbert.

Pvt. Baxter, whose address is Co. C, 735 Military Branch, APO 413, NYC, has been overseas since last summer. His wife, Mrs. Virginia Baxter, and their young son, live in Eugene.

Eugene Major Now Commands Squadron

It has been announced from his overseas headquarters that Major Oral W. Lee of Eugene, has been appointed commanding officer of a squadron of the famous 314th troop carrier group of the U. S. troop carrier forces. His squadron has been awarded the Presidential citation for the great part that it played over France in operations during and since D-Day.

Major Lee is a veteran with the troop carrier forces having flown during the operations in Africa, invasion of Sicily and the Italian campaign before coming to England to take part in the para-troop drops on France and lately participating in the most massive drop of all times on the fields of Holland near Arnhem. He is the recipient of the air medal with two oak leaf clusters, awarded for "outstanding achievement" during serial flights against the enemy, and also recently was awarded the distinguished flying cross.

Major Lee attended Fresno State College, Fresno, Calif., before he entered the army in January 1942. He won his wings after graduating from flying school at Stockton, Calif. His parents, are Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lee of Crow Stage route.

What Does Boy At Sea Think? Here Are His Own Words In Letter

On a patrol ship at sea off San Diego harbor, Lawton A. Hull, seaman 2-c, spent his first New Year's eve outside the United States, and wrote home his thoughts as he reviewed the year.

"Well, here it is," his letter said, "the last day of the most momentous year of my life. During that year I became no longer a juvenile; I graduated from the public schools; I heard of MacArthurs invasion of the Philippines; I joined the armed forces; I first heard of B-29s, which could fly over Japan, dropping tons of bombs, and return to their bases; I read of the German V-2 rockets, that travel many times the speed of sound (perhaps those comic-strip artists weren't being so fantastic after all); I saw all sorts of traditions and records broken when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected for a fourth term as president.

Thus his thoughts ran on; he thought of the parting of friends—some to the services, some continuing their educations, some paying the supreme sacrifice, some marrying, some earning a living in civilian life.

"Yet all of them are interested in reaching the same immediate objective—to bring peace and order into this world of strife and turmoil as soon and efficiently, and justly as possible; so that they can be free to live their own lives as they see fit, and to gain what happiness they can, out of the short period of time which they are allotted on earth in this life.'

"Perhaps all of us don't always know just exactly how that happiness is to be had, but we want the chance of seeking it."

So mused a U. S. sailor on New Years eve.

Fourth Cluster To Medal Goes To Lt. J. Andrews

First Lt. Joseph V. Andrews, 23, Eugene, pilot of "Lucky Lady III," a B-17 Flying Fortress of the 452nd bombardment group, has been awarded a fourth oak leaf cluster to the air medal for "meritorious achievement while taking part in 8th air force bombing attacks on vital German industrial targets, and on nazi military strong points, in support of advances of allied ground forces.

Andrews, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Andrews of Eugene, was a material expediter for the Vega Aircraft corporation in Burbank, Calif., before entering the AAF in October, 1942.

He is a member of the 3rd bombardment division, which was cited by the president for its historic England-to-Africa shuttle bombing of Messerschmitt aircraft factories at Regensburg, Germany.

SEAMAN RETURNS

Buddie Delmar Saxon, fireman 2-c, has returned to the naval base at Farragut, Idaho, after spending a five-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Saxon, route 4, Glenwood. He finished his course at Farragut on January 6. Saxon, who is 18, attended Springfield high school.

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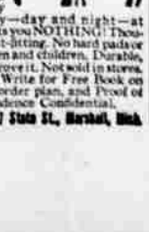

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DECORATED—S/Sgt. W. M. Brown, 25, formerly of Creswell, is shown above receiving the air medal from Lt. Col. H. V. Maull, acting commanding officer of Myrtle Beach army air field, S. C. The air medal was presented to Sergeant Brown for "meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over Rapope airdrome, New Britain, October 18, 1943." Son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Brown, route 1, Creswell, he attended Eugene vocation school for two years.

STAFF SGT. ELMO L. McDOWELL, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. McDowell of Eugene, received his promotion to this rating in the field in Italy, for excellence of his work as aircraft electrician for his service squadron. He entered the army in August, in 1942.

PFC LYLE A. WALTHROP, 19, formerly of Drain, is the son of Mrs. Erwin Kneebone of Waldport. He is with the U. S. marine corps in the south Pacific, and was on Saipan. He entered the corps in the fall of 1942.

Captain Shaw Reaches Miami En Route From CBI Theater Of War

The big air transport command plane, bringing men home from overseas duty, settled on the runway at Miami army air field and a dream came true for a Eugene captain. He was on home soil and soon he would be home again.

Capt. William B. Shaw, 44, 2169 Onyx street, Eugene, has served 13 months in the China-Burma-India theater with the 705th railway grand division as aid to the railways of China. Before entering the service, Captain Shaw was a railway supervisor. He is the son of Mrs. K. B. Shaw, of Montgomery, Ala.

Major George Pratt Has Infantry Badge Award

Major George Pratt, former Eugene insurance man, and a graduate of the University of Oregon, recently was awarded the combat infantryman's badge for exemplary conduct and meritorious service during operations against the Japanese on the island of Guam. He also was engaged in the insurance business in Portland, where his wife and son now make their home.

Major Pratt is an intelligence officer in the army regiment of the 77th division which was first to go over the reefs in the assault. Wading through 500 yards of water on D-Day, the major immediately set to work upon reaching shore. Most of the troops came ashore under cover of darkness, and were subjected to a Jap counterattack before they were fully entrenched. During the melee that followed, Major Pratt rendered valuable service rallying the men, and personally accounted for one Jap at point-blank range with his pistol.

For the remainder of the three-week long operation, the regiment was continually on the line against the Jap. This was the first action in which the 77th division participated, and they received high commendations from the marines with whom they operated.

Air Medal Awarded To Lt. Shirey Of Eugene

First Lt. Clair L. Shirey, Eugene, navigator of a B-17 Flying Fortress of the 95th bombardment group, has been awarded the air medal for "meritorious achievement" while participating in 8th air force bombing attacks on German targets. In support of advances by allied ground forces on the continent, they have bombed industrial targets, airfields, supply dumps, and gun replacements.

The AAF navigator, son of Mr. and Mrs. Karl L. Shirey, 108 Washington streets, is a graduate of the University of Oregon, and formerly was employed by the Consolidated Freightways company at Eugene.

Lieutenant Shirey's Fortress group led the first American bombing attack on targets in Berlin, and was cited by the President for its outstanding bombing assault on railroad marshalling yards at Munster, Germany, in October, 1943.

Sgt. Terry's Group In Italy Builds Bridges

Sgt. Duane J. Terry, 970 Olive street, Eugene, is a radio operator for the 313th combat engineer battalion, which has built roads and bridges in the mud and mountains from Cassino, and the Garigliano river to the Po valley since joining the Fifth army in Italy early in 1944.

The 313th has turned mule paths and trails into "main supply routes" in supporting the 88th "Blue Devil" division's infantrymen in their drive through the Gustav and Hitler lines, the liberation of Rome, and into the formidable Gothic line.

An example of their work occurred late in September, when the rain-swollen Santerno river washed out the sole road link to the 88th on Mount Battaglia and near Castel del Rio and two companies of the 313th. In high wind and rain and under enemy shell-fire, they strung a line across the gorge and sent vitally needed food, medical supplies and ammunition to the stranded fighters. The next day the engineers put an assault boat ferry into operation, making possible delivery of a larger volume of supplies and evacuation of seriously wounded infantrymen.

The battalion went overseas in December, 1943.

M. Sgt. Shirley Wisdom With Bombers In Italy

Master Sgt. Shirley L. Wisdom recently arrived at his destination overseas and joined a B-24 Liberator group in southern Italy, where he now is in the engineering section of his squadron. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Omar L. Wisdom, live at Cheshire, and his wife and daughter, at Thief River Falls, Minn.

A graduate of Siuslaw high school, Florence, Sergeant Wisdom was employed by the Yellow Fir lumber company, Cheshire, prior to his entry into the armed forces. He received his technical training at the Curtis-Wright technical institute, Glendale, Cal.

His veteran bomber group, one of the oldest in the Mediterranean theater, initiated its combat operations on August 1, 1942, blasting the port of Mersa Metruh, Egypt, then used as a supply base for Rommel's Afrika Korps. It then moved ahead with every major allied advance, participating in the Egyptian-Libyan, Tunisian, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. It now takes part in the devastating attacks on Hitler's Europe.

Staff Sgt. Zeitner Commended For Acts

WITH THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION, HOLLAND — A Eugene paratrooper who assumed command of his infantry platoon when its commanding officer became a battle casualty, and led the unit in a successful defense against a German attack, has been officially commended by his commanding officer.

The paratrooper is Staff Sgt. Herman R. Zeitner of route 2, an assistant platoon leader in the 505th parachute infantry regiment, who won the commendation for his courage and leadership during the airborne landings in Holland. He is a veteran of landings in Sicily, Italy and Normandy also.

Sergeant Zeitner's platoon was defending the right flank of a company position against a German night attack when the platoon leader was wounded. After assuming command, he moved among the men making sure that each was well dug in, though he was under enemy fire all the time.

When the Germans attacked at daybreak, he led his men in capturing a nazi captain, killing nine men and wounding others and forcing the enemy to withdraw. Only one of his men was slightly wounded during the battle.

Corporal Arthur Hill Visits Home At Lowell

Cpl. Arthur R. Hill, 28, enjoyed a short furlough at home recently with his mother, Mrs. Isabelle Hill, Lowell, and his two sons, who live with their grandmother. Hill, who farmed before he entered the service in December, 1942, is stationed with the aviation engineers at Geiger Field, Wash.

After basic training at Camp Kohler, Calif., Corporal Hill was a motor instructor there for several months. Before his transfer to Washington, he was stationed for training at four other camps, at Lompoc, Santa Barbara, March Field, and Fresno, Calif.

Shackelford Family May Boast Of Three Sailors

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Shackelford, Wendling, have three sailors in their family. One son, Melvin L. Spellmire, 29, a coxswain, now is on a destroyer in the south Pacific. He entered the navy in September, 1942, and has seen service in the European theater of operations.

Another son, William E. Shackelford, 23, motor machinist 1-c, attended machinist's school at San Diego and Mare Island in California. He is on duty on a repair ship. The two brothers last saw each other at a chance meeting in Europe during May, 1943.

The third service man is George J. Ehlers, 28, storekeeper 2-c, now at an advanced Pacific base. Ehlers' wife is the Shackelford's daughter, Martha, and she at present is making her home with them. Ehlers enlisted in the Seabees in October, 1943, and took his basic training at Camp Peary, Va.

Spellmire, Shackelford, and Ehlers all are graduates of Mohawk high school.

Second Air Medal To Staff Sgt. Wayne Lewis

AN 8TH AAF STATION, ENGLAND, — Staff Sgt. Wayne G. Lewis of Eugene, 31-year-old radio operator-gunner on the crew of a B-17 Flying Fortress, recently has been awarded an oak leaf cluster to the air medal. He won the decoration for "courage, coolness and skill" and his outstanding performance of duty during a number of eighth air force attacks on German war targets.

Before entering the army air forces in June, 1941, he was employed by the U. S. postoffice as a mail carrier. He is the son of Mrs. Susan B. Lewis of Eugene. Sergeant Lewis' wife, Mrs. Margaret C. Lewis, lives at Stockton, Calif.

The gunner won his wings at Kingman gunnery school in April, 1944.

He is now a member of the 486th bombardment group, a unit of the third bombardment division, the division cited by the President for its England-Africa bombing of the Messerschmitt plant at Regensburg, Germany.

FARSTAD IN GREENLAND

PFC Floyd L. Farstad, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Farstad, 590 Twelfth Avenue west, is overseas with the army air corps in Greenland. After his graduation from Sweet Home Union high school in 1943, the family moved to Eugene. Farstad entered the service in April, 1944, and took his basic training at Buckley Field, Denver, Colo. After advanced training at Chanute Field, Ill., he was sent to Presque Isle, Maine, prior to going overseas.

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BATTALION COMMANDER—Lieutenant James E. Townsend, USNR, son of Dr. H. S. Townsend of the Philosophy department at the University of Oregon, now is serving overseas in the fourteenth naval district as battalion commander of the largest base of Negro sailors the U. S. navy has any place in the world. (Official U. S. Navy Photograph.)

Son Sends Ashtray Made From Bullets To Mrs. Hilliard

An interesting war souvenir has been received by Mrs. C. R. Hilliard, 855 Washington street, from her son, First Lt. Charles Luverne Hilliard. It is an ornamental ash tray, formed from bullets and shells. The base of the tray is from a 105 m.m. shell; the standard in the center is a tracer shell from a machine gun, and a small ornamental plane on the standard, which may be spun about at will, is fashioned from other bullets of varied sizes.

Lieutenant Hilliard, who is 30, is a graduate of Eugene high school in the 30's. He formerly worked for the Standard Oil company, and entered the service in September, 1942.

In a recent letter written from the Philippines, where he was in a rest camp since the fighting in his sector was finished, Hilliard told about "the bright aspect of war" he had yet seen. After a long and rugged march cross country, they found the natives willing to help them, and secure food to supplement their rations. A lad of 15 acted as "house boy" for the lieutenant. The native did all the cooking, water carrying, and bargaining for foods such as sweet potatoes, suckling pigs, chickens, bananas, and rice tamales. For a table cloth he gathered large banana leaves, 6 by 3 feet. The meals there were feasts.

Lieutenant Hilliard was enjoying sleeping on a cot, instead of in a foxhole, but said he expected to be moving ahead.

COMBAT BADGE AWARDED

Mrs. Jeanne Cheesman has word that her husband, Pvt. Jack Cheesman, has been warded the combat infantryman's badge for exemplary conduct and skill under enemy fire. Private Cheesman has served in two campaigns on the Palau islands. Before entering the service in November, 1943, he was employed by the Eugene Plywood company. The infantryman trained at Camp Roberts, Calif., and went overseas in June, 1944. He was stationed on the Admiralty islands before his combat duty.

PVT. J. NORRIS [illegible] 1312 Mill street, [illegible] resides, recently was [illegible] from the engine [illegible] course at the AAF [illegible] ing school of the [illegible] nautical corporation [illegible] erson, N. J. He was one [illegible] mechanics selected to [illegible] course.

Four Sons Of Cob[illegible] Pair Wear Uniform

Four sons of Mr. and [illegible] M. Mallott of Coburg, [illegible] armed forces, and three [illegible] are serving overseas. The [illegible] Pvt. Warren D. Mallott, [illegible] AAF mechanic in New G[illegible] entered the service in [illegible] 1942, and has been [illegible] months.

Charles Floyd Mallott, [illegible] entered the navy in J[illegible] is serving as a seaman [illegible] destroyer. Joshua J. "Jim[illegible] lott, 22, also a seaman [illegible] sea with the submarine [illegible] He joined the navy in [illegible] fall of 1941. In July, [illegible] Kenneth Mallott, 18, en[illegible] army air forces. He [illegible] training in radio work [illegible] sin.

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