

Serving Uncle Sam

Edited by Margaret Magee



Lt. Richard S. Klover, navy man from Salem, is awarded the Air Medal by Vice Admiral G. D. Murray, commander of the air force Pacific fleet, at a ceremony held at the naval air station at Barber's Point, Oahu, T. H. The medal was awarded Klover for meritorious acts while participating in aerial flights as a pilot with a carrier-based dive bombing squadron. (U. S. navy photo.)

Holman Promoted

Mrs. Charles E. Holman has received word of the promotion to aviation mechanic's mate first class of her son, Charles P. Holman, now stationed at the naval air station at Pasco, Washington, after two years of service in the South Pacific with the naval air arm.

Holman, a graduate of Salem high school and a student at the University of Oregon at the time of entering the service, January 14, 1942, wears the Good Conduct Medal.

Falls City—Memorial services were held at the Christian Church Sunday night for Billy Leibrant. Clarence Hemick was in charge, assisted by Dale Harter and Richard Paul. Billy was the oldest son of Mrs. Wm. Tice and was killed in action recently while on sea duty.

Home for a short leave from the navy were Fred Dornhecker and Paul Murphy.

Ensign Valera Elizabeth Amort, route 6, Salem, who was commissioned recently in the navy nurse corps, has been ordered to active duty June 13 at the naval hospital, Shoemaker, Calif.

Dallas — Pfc. Robert Rider, now stationed in the Philippines, is recovering from shrapnel wounds in the arm, a letter from him to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Rider here states. He has been overseas in the South and Southwest Pacific for 18 months and is with a searchlight crew of an anti-aircraft battery. Previously he was cited for killing several Japs who attacked his outfit on another island.

St. Paul—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Smith have received word that their son, Carl Eugene (Gene) Smith, who is stationed at a naval air supply depot in the Pacific, was, on April 1, promoted to storekeeper third class from seaman first class. Smith was a member of the Salem Victory Volunteer group that arrived at Farragut to begin boot training on D-day. He left for overseas in October, 1944.

Home on emergency furlough granted because of the sudden death of his year-old son, Harold, is Tech. Sgt. J. H. Forrest stationed at Fort Worth, Texas. The sergeant arrived by plane Tuesday morning to visit with his wife and daughter, Gayle, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Forrest, and a sister, Miss Polly Forrest.

On Furlough

Eight men from this section of the Willamette valley were among the 80 officers and enlisted men from Oregon who the first of the week left Fort Lewis homeward bound on rotation furloughs and leaves.

The men were Tech. 5 Earl M. Rutherford of route 7, Salem; Cpl. James C. Armprist of route 4, Salem; Master Sgt. Vincent M. Genna of 1835 North Summer street; Sgt. Stanley Alexander of Silverton; Master Sgt. Earle O. Filsinger, Jr., of Albany; Staff Sgt. George N. Crowley of Corvallis; Pfc. Walter J. Baseley and Sgt. Jean R. Munyon, both of Lebanon.

Finishes Course

U. S. Naval Air Station, Astoria, Oregon—Salem navy man recently completing the course of instruction in PBM-line maintenance school at this naval air station was ACMM Elwyn Edward Zahradnik, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Zahradnik of route 3, Salem.

The sailor, who will report to Alameda, Calif., where he will become part of a combat aircraft service unit ready for duty in a forward area, has been in the navy for two years and eight months. A mechanic with the army before entering the service, he previously was on duty at the naval air station at Pasco, Wash.

Expects Leave

Expected soon to arrive home on leave from his naval duties is Lt. Vernon Gilmore, former physical education instructor at Salem high school, who since November, 1942, has been aboard a ship in the South Pacific as an executive officer. The naval officer's wife and daughter, Patricia, have been making their home in Portland, while he has been on sea duty.

Dallas—Pfc. Richard Ediger was wounded in action in the last days of fighting in Germany and has been awarded the Purple Heart, according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Ediger, former residents of Dallas who now reside near Dayton. No word has been received as to the nature of his wounds. He was with Gen. Hodges' First army and was in the first crossing of the Rhine at Remagen.

After spending a 45-day convalescent furlough here with his wife, Sgt. Arnold Ebert has returned to Baxter, General hospital at Spokane, Wash., for an operation as a result of wounds received in Germany on November 24. He was accompanied by his wife and they will make their home there until his release from the hospital. Sgt. Ebert returned to the States in February after being in the European theatre with the first infantry division 29 months, and participating in six campaigns.

Lebanon—Lt. (j.g.) Hamilton S. Morton was graduated from Southeastern university, Washington, D. C., on May 31. Lt. Morton will go to the naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., for four months training in hospital routine.



Three Pharmacist's Mates, all of whom served with the Second marine division, reinforced, during the seizure and occupation of Jap-held Tarawa, receive the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon from Capt. Jesse W. Allen, (MC), USN, medical officer in command, at the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, Calif. The three are (left to right) Ph. M. 1. c Owen D. Mays, of Hood River, Ore.; Ph. M. 2. c Gordon R. Edwards, of San Diego, and Ph. M. 2. c Herbert H. Gill, of Woodburn, Ore. (Navy photo.)

On Bond Tour

Hopping from city to city in the western part of the United States is Lt. Nedry (Ned) Burris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Burris, who Tuesday evening hopped from Pendleton to Salem for a short visit with his parents.

The Salem flier, who started his tour in Chicago and has since been to Denver, Reno, Cheyenne and Pendleton, arrived back in the States in November, 1944, after completing 50 missions with the 47th medium bomber squadron of the 4th air force, operating out of bases in the Gilbert, Marshall and Caroline islands.

The wearer of the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, he was in combat for 13 months and during that time flew a total of 286 combat hours.

Also a flier but on a marine transport is the brother of Ned, Second Lt. Jack Burris, who for two and a half years has been with the marine air corps. Jack, now stationed at El Centro, Calif., expects to be ordered to overseas duty in a few months. For two and a half years previous to being sent to the California marine base he was an instructor at Corpus Christi, Texas.

Silverton—Concern is felt for the safety of the youngest son of Mrs. Margaret Wittrein, Pvt. Robert L. Wittrein, who landed in England in June, 1944, and was sent to France sometime in July. His mother's last personal letter from him was dated November 5 and a government notice was received early in January stating that he was wounded November 8. At this time his address was Company "G", 104th Infantry, APO 26, C/o P. M., New York. The Red Cross had been unable to locate the soldier and the last official message was a reply from Washington, D. C., saying that, as of May 2, they had no information on file but would make every effort to trace the whereabouts of Wittrein.

The mother hopes that men returning from the European area, may bring her information concerning her son.

Scio—Pfc. Arlie Smith, U. S. cavalry, who has been visiting relatives and friends in Scio area and at Detroit and Indiana, plans to return to Fort Lewis, where he has been hospitalized for some time. He has been in the service nearly three years, approximately two years of which were spent overseas, from which he returned about a month ago. Arlie spent a winter at Scio some years ago as a compositor in the Tribune office.

First Lt. J. T. Lowers was with Hodge's first army in Germany at last account. Lt. Lowers was among the soldiers trained at Camp Adair.

Seaman 1. c Melvin Finegan, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Finegan of Scio, is spending a leave with relatives and friends in this community. He has been in navy service out of San Francisco for some time, but recently has been notified to report at Seattle.

Dale Shearer, brother of Claud Shearer, formerly of Scio, is reported eligible for release from service with approximately 89 points, mostly for overseas army service. After returning to the States he was at Fort Lewis for a time, later being transferred to Camp Houston, Texas. He has been in service about three years.

First Lt. and Mrs. Ralph Badger and sons Larry and Dale

are visiting at the home of Mrs. Badger's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rolla Shelton. Lieut. Badger spent 31 months overseas and is home on a 30-day convalescence leave from Camp Maxey, Tex.

Cpl. Robert E. Pletka, son of Mrs. Lucille Pletka of Scio, has been transferred to Smoky Hill field, Salina, Kansas, from Connecticut.

Norwood Visits

Spending a three-day leave in Salem recently with his wife and two children was Q3/ Clifford F. Norwood, who after arriving in San Francisco from Okinawa, where he was on V-E day, came north by plane.

Norwood, a salesman with the Pacific Fruit and Produce company before entering the navy in April, 1944, has, while in the Pacific, been at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Guam, Saipan, Tinian and the naval recreation center at Ulithi. This was his first visit home in over 11 months. The sailor received his boot training at Farragut and attended quartermaster school at Gulf Port, Miss.

While Norwood has been in the service his wife and children have been making their home at 1147 D street with Mrs. Norwood's parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Jones.

Word has been received by Dr. and Mrs. C. L. Blodgett of the promotion to private first class of their son, Corydon Blodgett, now stationed on Okinawa, where he is attached to the 96th division. The soldier's wife, the former Lois Phillips, is making her home in Portland, where she is on the staff of station KGW.



Staff Sgt. Billy Garrison

Garrison Arrives

Held prisoner of war by the Germans from January 4 to April 29, Staff Sgt. Billy Garrison Monday arrived in Salem to spend a 60-day furlough with his wife, the former Evelyn Turner, and the couple's small son, Billy Leonard. Garrison, who in November, 1944, left for overseas service, was a member of the 70th division and trained at Camp Adair.

Armprist Arrives

After two and a half years of service in Africa and Italy, Cpl. James Armprist arrived in Salem Friday to spend a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Armprist. The corporal, a mechanic with a heavy squadron of the 15th AAF, left for overseas shortly after entering the service and spent a year in Africa, before being sent to Italy.

With the 38th Division on Luzon—Pfc. Ralph J. Harding of Salem, Oregon, army combat correspondent with the 151st infantry, 38th division, has just been promoted to technician 5. Harding, the son of Mrs. Andrew Mauritsch of Ballston, entered the army in February, 1945. Overseas for the past 17 months, he wears the Combat Infantry Badge, the Philippines Liberation Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with three battle stars.



Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence M. Byrd that their son, S Sgt. William (Bill) Byrd, who was wounded in action by a grenade on Luzon early in May and went to the hospital, is back in combat. He was in the hospital about a week. The grenade seared his side with shrapnel.

Fort Lewis, Wash.—Reverting to inactive status June 30 will be a Salem, Oregon, air corps officer, First Lt. Dwight K. Runner. The lieutenant, who for the past two years has served with the AAF, will enroll at Oregon State college, when he returns to civilian life.

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Returns "From the Dead" (P)—Lt. Harold W. Goad, 27-year-old army flier listed as presumed dead last fall, was reunited with his wife Helen, 23, at Portsmouth, O. In the belief Goad was dead, the wife wed Ens. Robert A. McDowell in Long Beach, Calif., in December, but plans to have that marriage annulled.