

Our Men . . .

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have had warm rooms and clothing. The weather where I am now is almost exactly as it is around Heppner—although I suspect it rains more here in spring and summer. "I had a nice warm shower bath a while ago and I feel good. It was quite an uncommon treat."
Andrew M.

AT a TROOP CARRIER BASE OF THE 12TH AIR FORCE—Staff Sgt Joe E. Aiken, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Aiken, Heppner, Ore. is busily sewing on his fifth

overseas stripe after completing more than 30 months overseas duty with a veteran troop carrier group of the 12th air base.

Aiken is an administrative specialist with duties that play an important part in the work of his group, which includes the flying of ammunition, arms, food and personnel up to the front lines, the air evacuation of the wounded, and during invasions, the towing of gliders carrying airborne infantry, and the dropping of paratroopers behind enemy defenses.

For distinguished service performed in the India-Burma theatre,

his group has been awarded the War Department Unit citation. His group has also given outstanding performances in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy and southern France.

WITH THE AVIATION ENGINEERS IN ITALY—Charles E. Kirk of Heppner, Ore., a Technician Fifth Grade, (Corporal) in an aviation engineer unit building bases for near theatre of operations, was recently awarded the Good Conduct medal for his exemplary behavior, fidelity, and superior performance of duty. In addition he was also awarded the Automotive Mechanics badge, for successfully completing a course in automotive mechanics as prescribed by the army.

Cpl Kirk, the son of Mrs. Mary Kirk of Heppner, Ore., entered the service in October 1942. Upon the completion of his basic training at Fort Lewis, he was assigned to a training center at Atlantic City, N. J., where he stayed until he was shipped overseas in July 1943. To date he has seen 18 months of active duty in Italy, Corsica and France as a diesel mechanic with the aviation engineers.

In addition to his newly awarded Good Conduct medal and Mechanics badge, he also wears the European, African, Middle East Campaign bar on which there are three Bronze Battle Stars for participation in various major campaigns in the Mediterranean Theatre of operations.

HE WAS IN "BELGIAN BULGE"

Visitor here a couple of days this week is Capt. Robert L. Fuiten, who came from Forest Grove Wednesday evening to visit his brother, Sheriff John L. Fuiten and family. Capt. Fuiten is home on furlough pending further assignment to duty after going through the thick of the fight along the Belgian border, particularly in the December campaign when the Germans attempted to push the Allies back to the sea. This paper contained an account of Capt. Fuiten's exploits at that time and it is your reporter's opinion that it is far easier to obtain information from the army news service than it is from those about whom they write.

IN GERMANY

Sgt. Harlan D. McCurdy is with the 29th division, Ninth army, which has been much in the news recently. Harlan went across in September and has been in Germany since Dec. 1. All was well with him as of Feb. 12, the date of a letter written his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan D. McCurdy of Heppner.

HE'S PETTY OFFICER 3/C

In an item about Alton B. Christenson last week the Gazette Times gave his rating as Seaman 3/c. Alton was promoted some time since to the rank of Petty Officer 3/c. The error was made through lack of proper information and we received a letter this week from Alton's mother, Mrs. Chester Brown of Monument, giving his correct rating.

RETURNING TO BASE

Pvt Gene Majeske will return today to Fort Lewis after spending a furlough at home. Gene is in an overseas replacement battalion. He and his wife and Mrs. A. J. Majeske were Heppner visitors Tuesday.

IN PHILIPPINES

Mrs. Sarah French received a letter Wednesday from her son Pfc Earl Crismon, informing her that he is in the Philippines. Earl has seen a lot of the Pacific war theatre since war was declared on Japan. This was the first letter Mrs. French had received for several weeks.

OVERDUE LETTER ARRIVES

Evidence that the campaign in Italy is far heavier than news dispatches indicate is found in the fact that the engineer corps has little time for correspondence. Mrs. Mary Kirk can testify to the lack of letters for this week she received the first one since October from her son, S Sgt Charles Kirk who is with the engineers in Italy.

WAR PRISONER RETURNS

Mrs. Caletta Jordan of Umatilla has been notified that her brother George Lamreth, formerly of Lexington, who was taken prisoner by the Japs when Wake island was captured, has been released and is now in Portland. Lamberth, stepson of the late Louis Marquardt, was a civilian worker on Wake when the Japs arrived.

EVACUATED TO HOSPITAL

Relatives have been informed that Ralph C. Neill of Hermiston recently was evacuated to a hospital in the East Indies following the shattering of his left arm in the Philippine campaign. Neill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dee Neill of Hermiston and a nephew of L. D. Neill of Heppner. He was a student at Northwest Christian college in Eugene when he volunteered.

MISS ADKINS PROMOTED

Mrs. Laura F. Driskell has received word that her daughter, 2nd Lt Hazel L Adkins, has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the Woman's Army Corps. She is at present stationed at Sioux

City, Iowa.

END VISIT HERE

Lt. and Mrs. William Barratt left this morning for Oswego, Oregon to visit Mrs. Barratt's parents for a few days before returning to Texas. Lt. Baratt will have a few more months of intensive training in the infantry prior to going overseas.

RETURNS TO McCAW

Cpl Donald Robinson returned to McCaw General hospital at Walla Walla the first of the week after a month's visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Robinson. He enjoyed a short visit in Portland, too.

ON 30-DAY LEAVE

A. G. Schunk, AMMR 3/c, arrived the last of the week from Guam to spend a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs. Albert Schunk.

BACK TO FARRAGUT

Joe McLaughlin and John Ledbetter returned to Farragut Tuesday after spending their five-day boot leave at home. They will be given new assignments. John was accompanied by a girl friend, Miss Evelyn McFerrin of Couer d' Alene.

Star Reporter

Friday-Saturday, March 2-3

Barbary Coast Gent

Wallate Beery, Binnie Barnes, John Carradine

The adventures of a former robber who turns honest for sweet love's sake . . . just the type of Beery comedy to cause many chuckles.

PLUS

Fugitive From Sonora

Western with Don Barry and Lynn Merrick.

Sunday-Monday, March 4-5

Bowery to Broadway

Maria Montez, Jack Oakie, Susanna Foster, Turhan Bey, Donald Cook, Ann Blyth, Louise Albritton, Leo Carrillo, Frank McHugh, Andy Devine

An impressive array of talent in a story packed with rags to riches thrills. . . and spiced with tunes of yesterday.

Tuesday, March 6

Red River Valley

Gene Autrey at his ridin' fightin', singin' best. A re-release.

PLUS

Dead Man's Eyes

Lon Chaney, Jean Parker, Paul Kelly. An inner sanctum mystery.

Wednesday-Thursday, March 7-8

Kismet

A lavish Technicolor fantasy with Ronald Colman and Marlene Dietrich. Also in the cast are James Craig, Edward Arnold, Hugh Herbert.

PLUS

MARCH OF TIME: Report on Italy

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