

Returned Snyder County Soldier Tells Harrowing Tale of Jap-Rat Hunting

(Continued from page one)

the time for the repulse. United Nations forces began pushing the Japs back, back, back into the sea.

Allied advance was tedious, grueling. Those Japs were tenacious, and refused to surrender. At length, the time for our famed drive over the Owen-Stanley Range!

Sergeant Bogar was in the only regiment to cross those mountains—and it took them 57 terrible days!

One sunup they were confronted by 1500 Nips. American artillery was good, and accounted for 1450 of them.

The 50 remaining helped dig a hole for their comrades. A steam shovel was run in from the lines to scoop the yellow bodies into the pits.

Then a strange thing happened. Those 50 survivors of the ill-fated group knelt at the edge of the grave, their heads bent down.

What on earth were they doing? Skillful interpreting revealed that the big bosses back in Tokyo had warned the Allies.

What a consternation they experienced, when they were called back from the pit, taken our prisoners of war.

The tomb was sealed with New Guinea earth. Then the Yanks placed this sign over the grave: "THIS IS AS FAR AS THE JAPS GOT!"

Days were long and hard. It was the rainy season, and most of the time the heavens poured their wrath on advancing Allies.

Thus the Yanks advanced. At night, would come the command, "Fall out!"

Food was a laugh, too. Our men got their animal rations, once in 24 hours—maybe.

Only eight hours "til chow," the commander would cheer. The soldiers fought, anticipating that time.

But eight hours passed, and still the "meal" hadn't arrived from the rear.

Only two more hours, now," the commander would exhort. And so the advance continued.

The units' uniforms, after several days of Owen-Stanley combat were not from Esquire.

ensanguined shorts, and in a couple weeks, no shoes! The rain continued barefooted.

into fierce battle, plunging through slime and muck without shoes! Soon feet were matted masses.

And the bugs were devilish. In the night, they'd swarm down upon sleeping troops.

in five minutes they would eat a hole in the flesh, as large as a nickel.

Sergeant Bogar carries such scars. Fever ravaged camps. One "old fellow" (32) wilted with yellow fever while crossing the range.

The medical corps had been unable to keep up with the advance. A comrade volunteered to care for the elder afflicted one. He was to keep the vigil until . . . But they perished.

"Greater love hath no man than this, That he lay down his life for his friends."

—John 15:13.

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Dealers in All Kinds of Grains BELLEFONTE, PA.

You may remember the corporal, who had visited Jay's home before the two went overseas.

He lost his mind crossing New Guinea. He's somewhere in a Western hospital, now.

One day Sergeant Bogar took 40 men on a charge. In five minutes 28 lay dead!

Demons of treachery, too, were those Japs. If they were ambushed some would gibber English and yell, pleadingly.

"Hey, buddy, come out. I'm in distress," or something to that effect; and if a soft-hearted Allied man heeded their plea, and "come out," it was curtains for him.

Some Japs committed hari-kari. Others didn't. But if an especially sincere group of Nips was captured, each one of them would take out a hand grenade.

After 57 days, the Owen-Stanley were crossed. Then the Allies had an open coast route against the Japanese bases. But that was no picnic.

Our Sergeant witnessed a Ripley. A buddy aside and a little ahead yawned. A yellow sniper shot. The bullet whizzed in one cheek and out the other, without touching tooth or tongue.

So that crafty American lay low on his face. Several seconds, and the plundering Jap screamed out, crawling full length, to the body of his "victim."

He aimed to remove the Yankee's clothing as a souvenir. But Mr. U. S. A. was too cunning for Mr. J. A. P.

The Ally had grabbed a secure hold on his rifle, with an especially firm grip on the bayonet. Bogar saw the Jap start to tear at the clothing. Then he beheld the yellow man's face distort in agony.

Three times the little fellow groaned, love-like. That American bayonet ripped him from abdomen to chest.

Smiling, despite the holes in his mouth, the Yank crept back to his own lines—satisfied.

After several more battles Sergeant Bogar got his. That was after the battle of Buna, in which he won a gold star for a major combat.

A 1000-pound bomb hit the earth, killing some in his group, and knocking Bogar unconscious. For five hours he lay there on the rain-soaked battlefield with a fever raging high. Eventually, he was picked up, placed in a jeep, and taken to the rear.

After four days in the field hospital, he was sent to Australia for about five months more recuperation. Then, he was started home.

But his thrills were not ended. Their ship, filled with wounded men, caught fire in mid-ocean. Panic prevailed for any excitement is a hardship for battle-fatigued.

However, the fire was extinguished, and Bogar unconscious. For five hours he lay there on the rain-soaked battlefield with a fever raging high. Eventually, he was picked up, placed in a jeep, and taken to the rear.

Said his commander, "Go home and hold your head and your shoulders high! You've done a fine job!"

So now he's home with three war theatre ribbons, his good conduct citation, his major battle star, his sergeant's stripes, and his four gold chevrons for four six-month periods of overseas combat.

But sometimes, when he's seated at home, he'll hear a strange noise. Then he'll turn his head, cautiously—ever so cautiously—and listen, and listen. He takes no chances!

By V-Mail From Iceland. Dear Sir: Just wish to send my regards to all the members of the Centre Democrat office, and to thank you also for the paper I am still receiving up here in Iceland as I did before I came. It is a real treat, and I sure do look forward to it.

Most of the people from back home since I left good old Bellefonte, but I hope to send them all my best Christmas wishes, thru your paper, if it's possible.

There are quite a number of Centre county boys here. Donald Crook is one. Before joining the army, he was a runner with a bit. He is from Howard.

I can say I was lucky before I left the States. I spent seven days with my wife and daughter at Spring Mills.

Yours truly, PVT. ARTHUR D. EMEL, Cannon Co., 29th Inf.

Receives Promotion. The promotion of Howard L. Walk, Jr., from the rank of private first class to corporal has been announced by Lt. Col. Ralph Wienbroer, commanding officer of a Service Group at Barkdale Field, La.

Cpl. Walk is the son of Mrs. Mary J. Walk of Port Matilda. He enlisted in the army on Nov. 2, 1942, and prior to being transferred to Karksdale Field was stationed at Miami Beach, Florida.

At present he is on duty as a cook. Before joining the army, Cpl. Walk was employed by the Penna. R. R. Co.

Completes Basic Training. According to announcement, Crider William Clevelantine seaman second class of Washington, D. C., formerly of Bellefonte has completed his basic recruit training at Sampson Naval Station New York, and has been granted leave. Upon his return to Sampson, he will be eligible for further assignment which may qualify him for a petty officer rating.

Mother Notified. Notice of the wounded in action in the Mediterranean area of war of Pfc. Harold F. Emehiser, has been sent by the War Department to his mother, Mrs. Lottie M. Emehiser of Lock Haven.

Son Is Wounded. Corp. Donald J. Poorman has been wounded in action in the Mediterranean area of war, according to information released by the War Department. He is the son of Mrs. Margaret Poorman of Renovo.

Reported Wounded. The War Department has notified Mrs. Mary A. Brown, of Phillipsburg, that her son, Pfc. Clyde Brown, has been wounded in action in the Mediterranean area of war.

Is German Prisoner. The War Department has announced among his list of Pennsylvanians who are held prisoners of war by Germany, Pvt. L. William R. Harry, son of John I. Harry, of Clearfield.

HONOR ROLL

Receives Wings



Pfc. Lee N. Rogers, Private First Class Lee N. Rogers, son of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Rogers, Bellefonte, R. D. 2, was one of a class of aerial triggermen recently graduated from the Harlingen aerial gunnery school, Texas, and is now classed among the qualified "Sharpshooters of the Sky."

Medical Detachment With General Clark



Cpl. Paul N. Schaeffer, Corporal Schaeffer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Schaeffer, of Buffalo Run Valley, was inducted March 1, 1943, and is now a part of the Medical Detachment at Port-Slocum, Washington. Before entering the service Corporal Schaeffer was employed at the Swartz Machine Shop in Bellefonte.

Gets Higher Rank



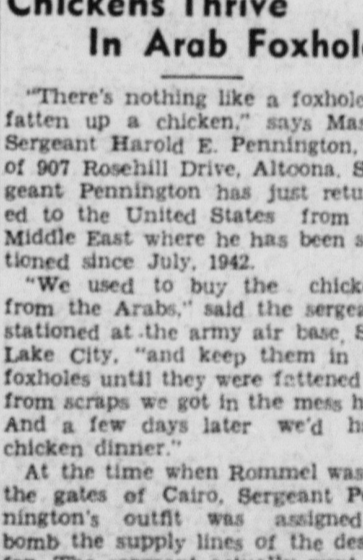
Pvt. Donald L. Shank, Private Shank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Shank, of Coatesville, who had been in North Africa, is now serving with the Fifth Army in Italy. His address is Pvt. Donald L. Shank, 33758232, APO 464, 29th Bn Co. B, care postmaster, New York.

Pilot Trainee



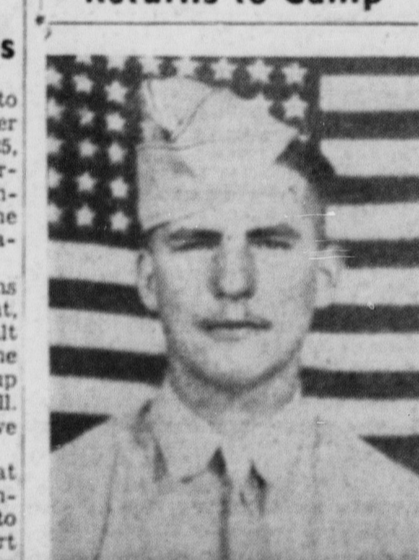
T/S Mervin Lucas, Technician Lucas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lucas, of Milesburg, having received a diploma in radio intelligence and radio communication, has been promoted to T/S. This is his second promotion since he was inducted into the Army March 20th. Lucas volunteered for service on his 18th birthday and was sent from New Cumberland to North Camp Polk, La., where he is now in training with the Armored Engineers Bn. He also is taking another eight weeks' course in radio intelligence.

Chickens Thrive In Arab Foxholes



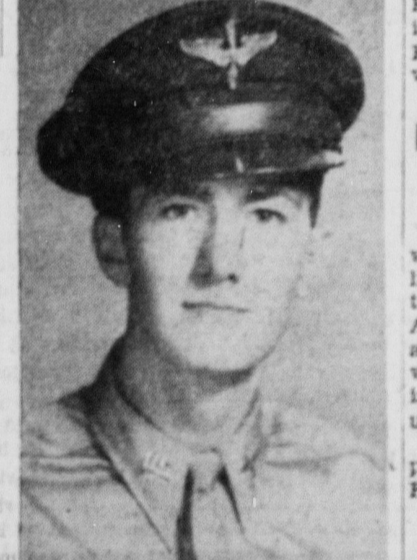
"There's nothing like a foxhole to fatten up a chicken," says Master Sergeant Harold E. Pennington, 25, of 907 Rosehill Drive, Altoona. Sergeant Pennington has just returned from scraps we got in the Middle East where he has been stationed since July, 1942.

Returns to Camp



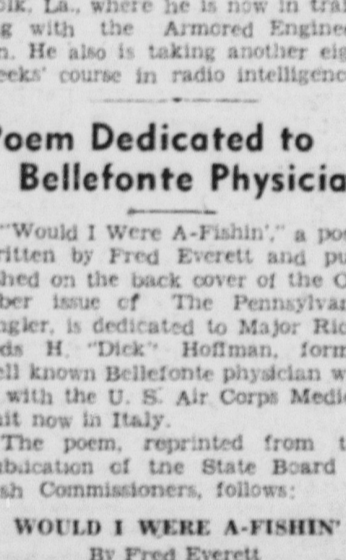
Pvt. Foster J. Sayers, Private Sayers has returned to North Camp Polk, La., after spending a fifteen-day furlough with his mother and his many friends.

Poem Dedicated to Bellefonte Physician



"Would I Were A-Fishin'," a poem written by Fred Everett and published on the back cover of the October issue of The Pennsylvania Angler, is dedicated to Major Richard H. "Dick" Hoffman, former well known Bellefonte physician who is with the U. S. Air Corps Medical unit now in Italy.

Philipsburg Sergeant "Pours it On" Nazis



One American mortar crew on the Italian front had such a perfect set-up that they "hated" to see the Germans pull out!

APPRECIATES NEWSPAPER

Salina, Kans., Nov. 23. Editor, Centre Democrat: I have a few words of appreciation for your publication. I am not much of a writer, so will ask you to excuse my clumsy way of expressing myself.

SOLDIER WOUNDED IN SICILY NOW IN U. S.

Pvt. Earl Sunday, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sunday, of the Evergreens, State College, has arrived in New York where he is a patient in a hospital. He expects to be moved to a hospital in Pittsburgh soon.

Pvt. Steve Baranak's Birthday Brings Box

Pvt. Steve Baranak, whose home town is Clarence, will look back with joy and pride to the day his friends and buddies helped him celebrate his 21st birthday.

LT. ALTERS TAKES PART IN AIRBORNE MANEUVERS

Second Lt. Max F. Alters, Bellefonte, is one of the officers of the Air Force I Troop Carrier Command participating at Camp MacCall, N. C., this week in large scale maneuvers involving an entire division of airborne troops.

Discharged From Hospital

Sgt. Paul Harding, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Harding, of Chester Hill, Phillipsburg area, has been discharged from the hospital at New Delhi, India, after being confined there six weeks with typhoid fever.

Awarded Air Medal

Marlin V. Heffner, 27, aviation radioman of Sunbury, has been awarded the air medal for participation in the rescue of survivors of an Army Flying Fortress which crashed on the Greenland ice cap a year ago.

Home on Furlough

Pfc. Steve Praskewich is spending a fifteen-day furlough with his wife and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Loose, and their son, Joe at Rogersville Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Praskewich expect to make their home in Missouri after the war.

Promoted to Captain

Winfield Erb of Phillipsburg, was promoted from First Lieutenant to Captain on October 5th. He has been stationed somewhere in England with the Air Forces for the past five months.

Picture in Full Color Features Yale Message

"My Country 'Tis of Thee," an impressive painting with a Christmas message of love and hope to those fighting on distant battlefields, will be featured in the December 19th issue of The American Weekly.

Phillipsburg Soldier Wounded

Pfc. Clyde Brown, son of Mrs. Mary Brown, of South Phillipsburg, has been wounded in action in the Mediterranean area, according to an announcement by the War Department last week.

Worry of FALSE TEETH

Don't be embarrassed by loose false teeth slipping, dropping or wobbling in your mouth. A little PASTERITH on your teeth will hold them in place.

Advanced in Rank

Eugene Thomas Bertram, 19, of Bellefonte, R. D. 1, has received an early promotion in the Navy as a result of his past civilian training.

THE POET'S CORNER

TO YOU, MY SON, MY SOLDIER BOY. I am writing to you tonight, son, And praying for you, too. Trusting that God in Heaven, Will keep you smiling through.

And so it will be passed around, And you, my little son, Will say—Well, I'll be bound.

THE HOME PORT. How like a ship sailing uncharted seas, In a lonely man with faith in his Lord, Who pursues his course in apparent faith, With his mind and heart in perfect accord.

THE BRAVE AT HOME. By Thomas Buchanan Read. The wife who guards her husband's home, Mid little ones who weep or wonder And bravely speaks the cheering word.

THE CALL OF HOME. What is the power that draws man home, As a magnet is drawn in a magnet's field; Home to the land that his forebears tilled.

ONE AMERICAN MORTAR CREW ON THE ITALIAN FRONT HAD SUCH A PERFECT SET-UP THAT THEY "HATED" TO SEE THE GERMANS PULL OUT!

Philipsburg Sergeant "Pours it On" Nazis

One American mortar crew on the Italian front had such a perfect set-up that they "hated" to see the Germans pull out!

BETTERS to the Editor

Lakewood, Ohio, Dec. 4, 1943. Gentlemen: I am enclosing herewith \$1.50 for my son Sgt. Harry Clark, who is now stationed in England and do not think he will read your paper for sometime to come.

QUICK RELIEF FROM Symptoms of Distress Arising from STOMACH ULCERS DUE TO EXCESS ACID

Free Book Tells of Home Treatment that Must Help or it Will Cost You Nothing. Over two million bottles of the WILLARD TREATMENT have been sold for relief of symptoms of distress arising from Stomach and Duodenal Ulcers due to Excess Acid.

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Pilot Expected Home

Word has been received from First Lt. Ray Warnock, Jr., medium bomber pilot on the Italian front that he is out of combat after more than 50 missions.

Prisoner of Japs

Among eight Pennsylvanians listed by the War Department as prisoners of war held by Japan is Cpl. Lee D. Stephens, whose mother resides on Route 2, Milliflung.

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HOWARD GRANITE WORKS FRANK WALLACE, Prop.