

Old-Time Soldier Poem

The following old-time poem, published by request of Pvt. Milford E. Fetzer, was the property of his grandfather, Michael W. Fetzer, a veteran of the Civil War.

TO MY SOLDIER FRIEND

I am sitting here to-day in my little shelter tent, So far from friends away while my thoughts are homeward bent; I am thinking of the good times of days that's past and gone, And as of smiling, happy faces, as 'em the sun shone on.

One year or more has passed away since I did first become A soldier in the army to defend my good old home, I've been fighting for that good old flag for one year now and more, Where the musketry does rattle and the cannons loud do roar.

From your young soldier friend, HOWARD E. GORDON, Comp. 1, 51st Regiment, P. V.



Serving in Italy



Pvt. Calvin Shutt

Pvt. Shutt, son of John C. Shutt, of Bellefonte, entered the Army on June 20, 1942, and served in the invasion of Africa and Sicily.

State College Man Awarded Air Honor

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Womer, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Womer, of East Beaver avenue, State College, Pa., was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for action as a member of a bombing crew over Europe.

Presentation of the nation's highest air decoration was made on May 4 by the colonel commanding Staff Sgt. Womer's air group while a major read the citation it is reported.

The State College flier has been serving as a tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress of the Eighth Air Force operating from an English air base. It is believed he is approaching the 55-mission mark, at which time it is expected he will be sent back to this country.

Womer enlisted in the Army Air Corps on December 5, 1942. From New Cumberland he was sent to Miami Beach, Fla., for his basic training. Six weeks later he was moved to the Air Force Technical School at Buckley Field, Colo., where he was promoted to first class private.

On April 17, 1943, he completed his course at Buckley Field and was made a fighter aircraft armorer. He then attended an aerial gunnery school at Tyndall Field, Fla., and was stationed at Salt Lake City, Utah, for a time. He then took a training at Pyote and Dalhart, Tex., before being sent abroad in November of last year.

The State College flier has visited his home only once since entering service, during his furlough received between assignments to the two Texas airfields. His mother visited him in Philadelphia shortly before he was sent overseas.

Staff Sgt. Womer was graduated from the State College High School in 1942. Before entering the service he worked for his father, a building contractor.

Spends Furlough at Home Private first class and Mrs. John R. Hassinger spent week's furlough with their respective parents, Mr. and Mrs. George C. Hassinger, and Mrs. Rice, mother of Mrs. Hassinger. Pfc. Hassinger completed his duties at Fort Benning, Ga., and is reporting to Fort George Meade for new assignment. Mrs. Hassinger is employed at the shipyards at Philadelphia.

Arrives on Foreign Soil James E. Twist, Pfc. 2/c, U. S. Navy, son of Mrs. Oliver Twist of Philadelphia, has arrived safely overseas.

Brothers Meet in England Pvt. Max Humphrey, of the Combat Engineers, and Pvt. Paul (Bunny) Humphrey, of the Field Artillery, finally caught up with each other in England. Max is remembered as one of Philadelphia's ablest athletes and Bunny is remembered as the baby athlete who hung suspended on a clothesline by one hand before he was five months old.

Promoted to Sergeant Donald D. Raymond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Raymond, of 17 South Thomas street, Bellefonte, now stationed at Woodward Army Air Field, Woodward, Oklahoma, has been promoted from Corporal to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Raymond, a machinist in civilian life, entered the Army in October, 1942. He is a supply clerk at Woodward Field.

On South Pacific Duty Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Meyer have received word that their son, Pfc. Fred C. Meyer, has arrived safely overseas with the Marines. He has been in service for six months and until recently was stationed at San Diego. He is now somewhere in the South Pacific.

Three Sons and Son-in-Law in Armed Forces



Alvin H. Pifer



Kenneth E. Pifer



S/Sgt. Nevin W. Pifer

Three sons and a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Pifer, of Howard, are doing their part in the U. S. armed forces to hasten the day of victory.

Alvin H. Pifer, 29, torpedoman 2/c, oldest of the sons, enlisted in the Navy in March, 1942, and received his boot training at Newport, R. I. He spent several months at San Juan, Puerto Rico, then was sent back to the United States to attend the submarine school at the submarine base at New London, Conn.

After completing his work there he was sent to Hawaii and is now aboard a submarine somewhere in the Pacific.

Alvin is married to the former Louise McCloskey, who is living at Howard during her husband's absence.

Kenneth E. Pifer, 22, gunner's mate 3/c, enlisted in the Navy in September, 1942, and received boot training at Great Lakes, Ill. He was graduated there in gunnery on March 15, 1943, and was sent to the Naval Training School at Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif., graduating there as a gunner's mate 3/c on June 19, 1943. From there he was sent to Boston, Mass., where he was assigned to a destroyer and is now serving aboard that warship in the South Pacific.

The two older Pifer boys are graduates of the Howard high school, and Nevin was a student there. All the boys were employed by their father in the lumbering business before entering military service.

The Pifer's son-in-law is Frederick C. DeVictor, who entered the Navy on January 28, 1944, and received his boot training at Sampson, N. Y. From there he was sent to the Fleet Service School at Virginia Beach, Va., and has been assigned to duty aboard a warship which is to be commissioned today, May 25. Frederick is married to the former Sarah Pifer who with the couple's two children are residing at her parental home in Williamsport.

In addition to the three sons in the service, Mr. and Mrs. Pifer have another son, Gerald, aged 12, and two daughters, Edna, 13, at home, and Payne, 16, who is attending a school in Williamsport.

America motto: "The war first, in everything."

FARM CALENDAR

Timely Reminders From The Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture

Check Starter Parts—To keep the tractor running efficiently all parts should be carefully checked, say agricultural engineers of the Pennsylvania State College. Such items as oil filters, air cleaners, water cooling systems, and other motor parts are extremely important. The tractor is only as good as its parts.

Peel Pulpwood Now—Nearly all species of trees used for pulpwood now have the bark loose enough for peeling, remind extension foresters of the Pennsylvania State College. Various types of bark-spreading tools are used, depending on the kind of wood and locality. There is a strong demand for pulpwood.

Keep Calves in Barn—Calves are not sufficiently developed to handle enough pasture grass for good growth until they are 12 months old. Dairy specialists of the Pennsylvania State College say that calves that are kept in and barn fed will grow out much better and can be bred to freshen at about 24 months of age.

Turkeys Eat Buckwheat—One of the best-suited grains for a short-time pasture and forage crop for turkeys is buckwheat, say Penn State poultry specialists. One acre of common buckwheat will take care of about 50 turkeys.

Guard Milk Flavor—Proper management of pasture feeding is essential to maintain good flavor of milk, Penn State dairy specialists point out. Take cows off pasture several hours prior to milking to prevent off-feed flavors in milk, they urge.

Use Buckrakes—Our Pennsylvania farmers are finding that they can use the new, sturdy buckrakes for many jobs besides haying, report Penn State agricultural engineers.

Big business leaders proclaim the virtues of the American system of free enterprise, based upon competition. It's good, especially if we can find a method of insuring competition.

Beginning Test Training

Pvt. Robert Paul Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Thompson, 141 N. Spring street, Bellefonte, is now beginning medical and psychological tests, classification and training at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss. This Army processing is designed to determine his qualifications as a pre-aviation cadet. Upon successful completion of this phase he will be sent either to a college or university for five months of further study or directly to a pre-flight center for cadet training, depending upon his previous academic background.

Son is Prisoner. Toner R. Griffith, of Philadelphia, R. D., has received a telegram announcing that his son, Lieut. Leonard Griffith, is a prisoner of war in a German camp. Lt. Griffith, who was stationed in England, was shot down while on a mission over Germany.

Nurse Is Captain. Eva M. Demchak, of Osceola Mills, has been promoted from first lieutenant to captain in the Army Nursing Corps, the War Department has announced.

ROMOLA. There were 52 present at Sunday school on Sunday. There will be a Memorial service at the Romola Church of Christ on Sunday, May 28 at 2:30 o'clock. Everybody welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Francis of Jersey Shore, are spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Heverly.

Friends of Mrs. Chester Butler are glad to hear she is getting along fine in the Lock Haven Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher of Sunbury, called on Mr. and Mrs. John Heverly, Saturday evening.

James Heichel of Michigan, is spending a few weeks with his brother and family of Big Run.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Bowes and children spent Sunday at the Lloyd Weaver home.

OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE



EDITOR'S NOTE:

All of Wrigley's Quality Brands—Wrigley's Spearmint, Doublemint and "Juicy Fruit" chewing gum—are now being shipped overseas to our men and women in the Armed Forces. Owing to a shortage of raw materials brought on by the war, the Wrigley people aren't able to make enough Quality Gum for us here at home and the boys overseas, too. So, although they can't give you your old favorite brands of chewing gum right now, they are giving you this column of news about your friends and relatives in the Armed Forces.

Home on Furlough Staff Sergeant William Kermelley is spending a 22-day furlough at his home in Philadelphia after serving in the South Pacific 28 months. He enlisted in the Air Corps on January 2, 1941.

Familiar things give all of us everywhere a pleasant feeling. When our boys overseas see the Wrigley's Spearmint package they've been acquainted with so long, it's like hearing from home. And they don't have to test it out for good taste and chewing satisfaction. They know what the quality is going to be—it's never been changed.

Promoted to S. Sergeant Alla S. Mellow, of Allport, was recently promoted to staff sergeant somewhere in Italy. He is a tall gunner and assistant radio operator on a Flying Fortress and has been on a number of bombing raids.

Gets Good Conduct Medal Private first class John G. Drogan, who is serving with the U. S. armed forces in Europe, was recently awarded the Good Conduct Medal. Pfc. Drogan's home address is Bellefonte, R. D. 1.

Wins Silver Star Among 48 men of the 36th "Texas" Division to receive silver stars from Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker at Allied Headquarters in Naples, was Sgt. Gordon Shaffer, R. D. 1, Lock Haven. The general said that their drive to bridge the Rapido River earlier this year has never been excelled in "fortitude and bravery."

Remember the old saying, "None genuine without this signature"? It still goes for Wrigley's Spearmint chewing gum. When you read the name "Wrigley's" on the pack, you can be sure that the quality is the same as it always has been. Lots of things are changing fast these days, but not Wrigley's Spearmint.

Send your letters and news to the Wrigley Editor, care of The Centre Democrat.

Poets' Corner

The following poem entitled "Mother" was written by Gunners Mate third class Kenneth E. Pifer, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Pifer, of Howard, who is serving aboard a U. S. destroyer in the South Pacific:

MOTHER In a little village far, far away, You are getting up to begin another day. You are in the kitchen cooking "chow" For the younger ones who don't know how.

Edna and Gerald and Daddy, too, All eat a hearty breakfast cooked by you. As they leave the house, one by one, You feel proud of every daughter and son.

"See you later, Ma," or "So Long." Mom, is what they say, As they start out to face another day. There you cook and work around our home, For the young ones growing, the older ones grown.

Work and play, joys and sorrows form the day. Then early to bed where you dream away. I know how the days come and go, "Mom," I can picture you living every one.

All over the world in this month of May, We're honoring you, Dear Mother, on Mom's Day. But it will take more than all the days of all the years To explain a love, borne by humans, cemented by tears.

Alvin, Nevin and I have left for a-while, But we haven't forgotten your kindness or your smile; And we are all looking forward to the day When, somewhere, somehow, we will be home again.

My words are too hollow, the subject too dear, The way we all feel just can't be expressed here. When we gaze upon your dear face We know no other can take your place.

So please remember, Mother, when you are sick or blue, That we all love and think of you, Whether we are near you or far, far away. As far as we are concerned, every day is Mother's Day.

Awarded Three Medals Pvt. Leonard Gardner, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner, of Osceola Mills, has been awarded three medals during his overseas duty. He has the medal of the North African campaign, a gold star for the battle of Salerno, and the army's good conduct medal. He has been overseas for one year.

Decoration Day

★ 1944 ★

The Same Spirit . . . With a Different Meaning

In a swiftly changing world, traditional holidays take on a new significance, and while, on this Decoration Day, we pay our accustomed tribute to those brave men who have fought our nation's battles in the past, we do it with a sharing of tribute for those who are fighting our fight NOW . . . in this war . . . for the very fundamentals of human life.

And in this war, as in no other conflict, we on the home front in every walk of life . . . in every sphere of business share the burdens and the responsibilities. In proportion to that sharing . . . to the sacrifices we make, will this war be shortened . . . our fighting men return victorious.

Wolf's urges you, on this Decoration Day, 1944, to take stock of what YOU are doing to win this war . . . and again urges you to BUY MORE AND MORE WAR BONDS and thus perhaps, make victory possible before another Decoration Day is here.



Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, Penna.

Bellefonte Man In Specialized Training

Harry H. Curtin, son of Mrs. Harry Curtin, of Bush Arcade, Bellefonte, is one of a group of specially selected soldiers assigned to study sanitary engineering at the University of Illinois under the Army specialized training program. Pfc. Curtin formerly attended Penn State College and Texas A. & M.

His training at the university is in the new Sanitary Engineering laboratory, recently completed, and in other laboratories and classrooms under regular members of the university faculty. He lives in one of the fraternities taken over as Army barracks, and eats in the Army mess hall into which the former ice rink has been converted.

Though the Army specialized training program has been greatly reduced, selected men such as Pfc. Curtin are being trained for specialized jobs by the staff and facilities of the university.

Arrives in India. Pvt. Raymond Krollman has sent a cablegram to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Krollman, of Drifting, that he has been transferred from North Africa to India. As driver of a bomber truck, he writes that it is hard for him to get used to driving on the left side of the road. He has been in the service since April 17, 1942.

Promoted in England. Mrs. E. G. Frye of Philadelphia has received word that her husband, who is stationed in England, has been promoted from staff sergeant to master sergeant. He has been in the armed forces since Sept. 28, 1942, and has been overseas since the first week in October, 1943.

For Victory: Buy Bonds

Officer Tangles With Eleven-Foot Python

Between Japs and huge snakes life on New Guinea isn't so pleasant and that's first hand information from Capt. Albert W. Freeman, of 119 West Tenth street, Tyrone, formerly of Altoona. He is a medical officer of an air corps unit.

One night at about ten o'clock he says, "I decided to go about the area and inspect the tents to find out whether or not the boys were using the mosquito netting.

"Armed with a flashlight, I started out and I had gone through several of them with good results. As I stepped out of one tent, I had momentarily turned out my flashlight, and as I put down my left foot, I felt something soft rub against it, and I felt immediately that all was not right. Suddenly there was a low hiss-s-s or p-p-s-s! I turned on my flash and jumped at the same time, and there was a huge rock python. I had stepped on it as it was coiled on the ground. Of course I yelled and everyone came running. I hit it twice on the head with no particular damaging effect, and he coiled up under the tent. Huge is no word for it. One of the boys got his carbine, shot it twice, and still it seemed unharmed, and then another hit it squarely on the head with a tent pole, and after about ten smashing blows, it merely raised above the ground.

"In the middle it was about five inches thick and measured about eleven feet long. I felt like Stanley in Africa. Today they have taken a picture and skinned it, so perhaps I can send you a shot of it sometime."

Arrives on Foreign Soil James E. Twist, Pfc. 2/c, U. S. Navy, son of Mrs. Oliver Twist of Philadelphia, has arrived safely overseas.

ESSENTIAL WAR WORK WITH A FUTURE

Skilled Mechanics . . . Apprentice Mechanics

If you are looking for essential war work with a future—a job that won't end with the war—here's an opportunity you should investigate.

GOOD PAY—the highest prevailing rates in town for your type of work.

GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS—We treat our employees right; give them every opportunity to become more valuable and to advance with us. We're very busy, but congenial. You'll like working here.

We need both experienced, trained automotive mechanics as well as apprentice help who like automotive work and want to learn. Apply in person.

See Dan Grove between 8:30 a. m. and 6 p. m., or phone Bellefonte 2719 for an evening appointment.

Dan Grove Motors Allegheny and Bishop Streets Bellefonte