

Osceola Soldier Is Hero In Repulsing Jap Drive

Six soldiers with the Dixie Division on Morotal recently made a daring attack on a tower and effected a rescue. One of these was Corporal Steve Demchak, husband of Mrs. Pauline Vaughn Demchak, of Sandy Ridge. The story is told in this manner:

It was 0500, not yet light. Roosters in the nearby village were crowing. Then the Japs hit. Coming down through the village, the 50-odd plunderers created panic among the natives. Many of the villagers were slain; a few Japs lost their heads from machete blows.

But it was not the village the enemy was interested in—it was the company of 31st Infantry Division soldiers bivouacked at the far end of the flower-lined main street. Down the beach, down the street and around the community at the jungle's edge they approached the American position in three columns. The Japs armed with machine-guns, rifles, mortars and grenades, not to mention TNT for demolition work.

Three G. I.'s on the lookout from a tower in front of the small company perimeter gave the alarm. Then the shooting started. One man in the tower was killed when a Jap sprayed the perch with his machine-gun. The other two men, though wounded, stuck it out and directed mortar fire on the enemy below them.

Corporal Steve Demchak and a buddy, Corporal John Lentz, of Lima, Fla., left a machine-gun which they had been firing and moved out into the open under fire toward the tree. Lentz, who now had a tommy gun, killed one Jap as they advanced.

The engagement lasted until 0720 and when it was all over 15 natives and 10 Japs were dead. Only American loss of life was that of one of the trio in the lookout. The enemy had dragged uncounted numbers of his dead and wounded away with him in his retreat. Nine G. I.'s were wounded, none critically.

Demchak, whose parents live on Route 1, Osceola Mills, has been overseas more than 10 months and has participated in two campaigns. Previous to making the landing on this island he saw action in the Kakie-Sarmi area of Dutch New Guinea.

Julian R.D. Sergeant Has 60 Month Service Record

S/Sgt. Max D. Miller, of Julian, R. D. 1, has arrived at the Asheville, North Carolina, Army Ground and Service Forces Redistribution Station, where he will spend approximately ten days awaiting reassignment to duty.

S/Sgt. Miller has returned from 60 months service in the C. F. A. and will have access to all recreational facilities while he is at this resort town, including among others, swimming, golf, tennis and mountain climbing. Full hotel service will be extended to him. The furnishings in the rooms and lobbies have been retained and the mess halls are converted hotel restaurants.

The primary mission of this station, which is under the command of Col. Ulric N. James, is to obtain maximum possible utilization of returned troops in future assignments.

This mission is carried out through painstaking physical and occupational examinations.

Processing will take about two days and following that his time will be his own. If he wishes to play ball, he may, and if he wants just to sit and relax, he can. Within a few miles of the redistribution station he can visit such scenic wonders as Bridal Veil Falls, Chimney Rock, Mount Mitchell (the tallest peak in Eastern America), Nantahala Gorge, the Cherokee Reservation, Lake Junaluska and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

He earned battle stars for taking part in the campaign at Pearl Harbor. His branch service is Signal Corps and he served with the 7th Air Force.

His mother resides at Julian, R. D.

Milesburg Girl Is Training in Georgia

A former chemist, Pvt. Rayliss A. Sholl of Milesburg, who recently enlisted in the Women's Army Corps, is studying defense against chemical attack as a part of the basic training program at the Third WAC Training Center, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

Pvt. Sholl, upon completion of the six week military indoctrination course, will be assigned to a medical technician's job in an army hospital.

A chemist at the Titan Metal Company in Bellefonte, prior to enlistment, the new WAC attended the Pennsylvania State College.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Sholl, Water street, Milesburg, the new soldier was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Women's Society of the Methodist church.

Invaders Yield To "Christian" Natives

By a Coast Guard Correspondent

Shortly after the Marines landed at Emirau, Coast Guardsman Philip Pitkan, of Denison, Iowa, and a group of Leathernecks were accosted by natives who spoke little English.

"They asked us to sing, so we broke loose with the Marine Hymn," recalled Pitkan.

"After he finished they applauded and yelled happily. Then we asked them to sing.

"To our astonishment they sang 'Onward Christian Soldier' as beautifully as I've ever heard it sung. They must have learned it from a missionary.

"You can bet we gave them the greatest applause they ever heard."

Smullton Soldier Gets Promotion

Promotion of Corporal Dean R. Matter to Sergeant has been announced recently at 12th Air Force Headquarters. His wife, Helen, resides at Smullton.

Sgt. Matter is flying as radio gunner with a veteran B-25 Mitchell group in the Mediterranean area and has flown many missions over Italy and France. His group has distinguished itself in all the campaigns in the Mediterranean, and has supported six amphibious operations and has been awarded a War Department unit citation for its outstanding service in battle.

Pfc. Fryer Slightly Wounded

Pfc. Ralph E. Fryer, son of Mrs. Mary Fryer of Flemington, was slightly wounded Dec. 26 in Belgium, according to a War Department message to his mother last Thursday. Pfc. Fryer, who was serving with the infantry, was wounded in the back by shrapnel and is now in a hospital in England. He informed his family in a letter received last week, before the official message came. He went overseas in late October and moved into France in December.

Read the Classified ads

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Postal Worker



Richard Newman Baird, S 1/c
Seaman Baird, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Baird of Milesburg, left March 13, 1944, for basic training at Great Lakes, Ill. Upon his completion he was sent to a school in Chicago for special training and later transferred to San Bruno, Calif. He was next sent to Los Angeles, then to Shoemaker, and again returned to Bruno where he is at present located and employed in the postoffice of his Command.

Seaman Baird, a graduate of the Bellefonte High School in 1943, is the husband of the former Carmen Hess. The young couple have one son.

On Submarine



Charles H. Atcherson, S 1/c
Seaman First Class Atcherson of North Penn street, took his boot training in Bainbridge, Md., and after completing it was sent to Pensacola, Fla., for Baker School course from which he graduated the last of September, 1944. His next assignment was New London, Conn., for submarine training. On November 27, 1944, he was transferred to Portsmouth, N. H., to the submarine of which he is now a member of the crew.

Seaman Atcherson has recently been spending a furlough with his mother, Mrs. Anna Atcherson, who is spending the winter with her sister, Mrs. Esther Eaton, of Buffalo, N. Y. Before entering the service Seaman Atcherson was employed at the High street Scaffler Food Store.

Centrally Located Gun Control on B-29

Centrally controlled remote multiple-gun power turrets and pressurized cabins are only two of the many features of the new B-29 Superfortress, a plane with more electrically operated mechanisms than any previously built. The first bomber with enough fighting power to fly unescorted through a hornet's nest of enemy fighters, the B-29 has five multiple-gun installations. Its central fire control system, produced by General Electric, includes computers which automatically corrects various factors while putting the fire directly on the target. As many as three of the turrets can be controlled and fired simultaneously by a single gunner from a single sight; never before could a gunner control more than one turret.

Wounded in Belgium

Sgt. John McKedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John McKedy, of Morrisdale, was slightly wounded in action in Belgium on December 26, according to a telegram received from the War Department. Sgt. McKedy is a nephew of Mrs. Harry Neubauer of Phillipsburg, and was formerly employed at the Neubauer market.

Son in Hospital

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Beschler of Loganton, received word that their son, Sgt. Ross E. Beschler, who became ill Dec. 7, with bronchial pneumonia while on the front line in Germany with an infantry division, has been taken to a hospital in England.

Sgt. Strouse Recovering

Sgt. Richard S. Strouse is recovering from wounds, according to recent letters received by his family. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Strouse, Mill Hall, R. D. 1, were notified Jan. 8 that he was seriously wounded in Germany Dec. 20. Sgt. Strouse has been in France since shortly after D-Day and has been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. He entered the Army in September 1943, and trained at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., before going overseas where he served in the 79th Division.

THREE BLOOM BROTHERS SERVING IN ARMED FORCES



Pvt. Donald L. Bloom

Shown above are the three sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Bloom, of Pleasant View, north of Bellefonte, who are serving in the armed forces. The parents last week received a War Department message revealing that Pvt. Donald L. Bloom, 21, who was with a field artillery observation unit, has been missing in action in Belgium since December 17, the day after the German breakthrough on the western front.

Donald entered the service on January 19, 1943, and at New Cumberland was assigned to the field artillery and was sent to Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. Later he was sent to a field artillery observation school at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and in August 1944 was sent overseas, arriving in England. Later he was assigned to active duty on the front.

Pfc. William Bloom

Later he accepted a position at the laundry of the Centre County Hospital and was employed there when he was called into the armed forces. Pfc. William Bloom, who was 25 last November, entered the service in November 1942 and received training at Camp Rucker, Ala., where he was assigned to a medical unit of the Third General Hospital.

He went overseas in May 1943, landing in North Africa, where he then served about four months in Italy before being sent into France, where he has been located ever since last August.

Cpl. Mahlon Bloom

Cpl. Mahlon Bloom, aged 29, entered the armed forces in March 20, 1943, and received training in North Camp Polk, La.; San Antonio, Texas; New Orleans, La., and finally in New York City before being sent to England in October 1944. He originally was with an armored division, but was transferred to an amphibious force last February. He is in England at present.

Cpl. Bloom attended the Spring township schools and attended the Bellefonte High School for two years before he was examined for military service. While awaiting a call to report for training he was employed in the Bellefonte A & P Super Market.

None of the three Bloom brothers is married. The family includes two younger brothers, Herbert and Dale, both at home. Their father is engaged in the retail coal business in the Bellefonte area.

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Paratrooper



Pvt. C. Robert Casher
Pvt. Casher is the 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Casher of Clarence. He was inducted into the Army March 23, 1944, and at the reception center was assigned to the infantry, receiving his training at Fort McClellan, Ala. He then joined the paratroopers and was sent to Ft. Benning, Ga., for six weeks of training, after which he received his wings and was granted a 14-day furlough. At the end of his leave he returned to Fort Benning for two weeks of advanced training, and immediately afterward was sent overseas and is now serving in New Guinea.

Pvt. Casher is married to the former Mary Thyer of Clarence. His wife and three-year-old son are residing at Reading, Pa. He is a graduate of the Snow Shoe High School class of 1940. Prior to entering the service he was employed by the Snow Shoe Knitting Co. A brother, Paul, also serves in the U. S. Army.

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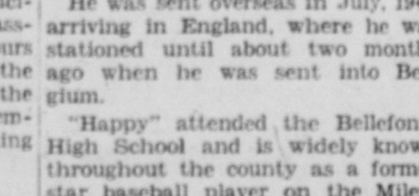
Milesburg Pilot Gets Two Awards



Lt. James G. Wallace
The Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Clusters for both awards have been presented to Lt. James G. Wallace, Jr., at the headquarters of a Combat Cargo Group of Maj. Gen. Horace C. Davidson's Tenth Air Force, EAC. Lt. Wallace's father, James G. Wallace, Sr., lives in Milesburg.

A pilot with the Combat Cargo Group which operates as a member of the Tenth Air Force against the Japanese throughout the India-Burma theater, Wallace has participated in 206 missions and has amassed a total of 824 flying combat hours during his seven months in the theater. He is a graduate of the Bellefonte High School and was employed as a bricklayer before joining the Army Air Forces.

Reclaims Planes



Sgt. Arthur E. Shutt
Sgt. Shutt, better known as "Happy," is now located in Belgium where he is assisting in salvaging damaged airplanes and in repairing them for further use when possible.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shutt, of Runville, and entered the service in September, 1942, at Ft. Niagara, N. Y. He attended an AAF airplane mechanics school at Seymour-Johnson Field, N. C., and the Wright Engine School at Patterson, N. Y., before receiving further training in Alabama.

He was sent overseas in July, 1943, arriving in England, where he was stationed until about two months ago when he was sent into Belgium.

"Happy" attended the Bellefonte High School and is widely known throughout the county as a former star baseball player on the Milesburg team. He is unmarried and prior to entering the service was employed in New York.

Among his duties in the service as a member of a mobile field unit is to "rescue" damaged airplanes from isolated emergency fields where they may have come down. They then make repairs so the plane can be ferried to a base for a major overhaul.

Meets Cousin in England

First Lieutenant Harold Drury, of Phillipsburg, met his cousin, Sgt. John Goss, and spent two days with him recently in London. Harold looked up John's address and then went to his camp. John was married several months ago and the two spent the two days in London together at the home of John's wife, Harold went overseas in November while John has been over for three years.

Returns After Furlough

Pvt. Richard H. Shearer, who has been spending a five day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shearer of Blanchard and other friends, returned to his new post at Fort Meade, Md. Pvt. Shearer has had word from his other brothers, Pvt. Thomas Shearer, Belknap, and Cpl. Harry W. Shearer in England.

Girl for Grahams

Sgt. and Mrs. Grover Graham, of Blanchard, are parents of a daughter, born Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Lock Haven Hospital.

Spring Mills Lieutenant Returns from Combat Duty

Lieutenant (junior grade) John R. Zubler, U.S.N.R., of Spring Mills, has returned from a tour of combat duty in the Pacific, where he was the pilot of a Navy PBY Catalina flying boat.

His "Black Cat" squadron—so called because its aircraft are painted pitch black—is believed to have established a record for shipping sunk by flying boat units. It sank 103,500 tons of enemy warships and merchant vessels and damaged 53,000 tons on 34 night raids against the Philippines and Netherlands East Indies.

Among the ships liquidated were a 10,500-ton tanker, a 10,000-ton freight-transport, a 9,000-ton sea-plane tender, two 8,500-ton merchantmen, a 6,000-ton light cruiser and four 1,400-ton armed escorts.

Operating from New Guinea earlier in the year, the "Black Cats" sank an additional 23,000 tons and damaged 15,000 tons.

The squadron logged thousands of combat flight hours during the Marianas and Palau Islands campaigns.

Flying three types of missions, the Navy aviators sought out the enemy deep in his own territory, protected our ship movements and escorted crippled warships to a safe haven.

Although the primary function of patrol squadrons is now attack, "Cook's Tourists" made fighting opportunities for themselves during the Marianas campaign when they engaged eight enemy ships, damaging three and probably sinking a fourth. They encountered Jap planes 17 times while on patrol.

During the successful Saipan invasion Mrs. Zubler, on a regular variety of tasks, including special photographic and reconnaissance sorties, anti-submarine patrols and mail runs.

Numerous difficulties caused a few planes to make forced landings at sea, but quick-thinking pilots and crews kept casualties at a remarkably low figure.

Lieut. Zubler, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Zubler, of Spring Mills, entered Naval Aviation in December 1941, and won his wings in September 1942.

Did Premonition Prompt Soldier To Call His Wife?

Some people believe in premonitions. Others don't.

But whatever it was that motivated Pfc. Harold J. Zuber to make that long distance call from Florida just before he set out on overseas duty, seems fateful.

Last week, his wife, the former Jean Finkbeiner, of 1152 Park avenue, Williamsport, learned that he was killed in an airplane crash in the China war theater on December 19.

She remembered the last time she heard her husband's voice. It was while she was a patient in the Williamsport hospital, convalescing following the birth of their son, Michael, whom Private Zuber never saw.

The private called the hospital from Miami, Fla., and asked whether it would be possible for him to talk with his wife. Told that it was not, because it was only four days after the birth of the baby and she was still confined to bed, he did not give up.

Moved by the urgency of his request, nurses obtained permission to place Mrs. Zuber on a litter and wheel her to a telephone.

That was the last time she heard his voice.

There are some who say that Pvt. Zuber had a premonition.

Sgt. Budinger Has Long Service With Engineers

Sergeant William S. Budinger, Jr., of Coatesville, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Budinger, of Snow Shoe, and Technician Fourth Grade Clyde J. Harber, of Downingtown, R. D. 2, recently completed two years of overseas service with a veteran Aviation Engineer Battalion in the Mediterranean theater of operations. It was but a few days after D-Day that the first contingent of this battalion landed in the battered harbors of North Africa. Men and equipment were hardly safe ashore before put to work building their first airfield. Twenty hours later, the 60th airfield was completed. Following the advance of the front lines the unit leap-frogged across North Africa, through the rain and mud in Morocco, over the scenic Atlas mountains of Algeria, and into the stifling heat of Tunisia, building another field at every halt. And when a hurried call for more airfields "up front" reached them they made their longest jump, 1000 miles in 6 days. Moving deep into Tunisia the unit was given the task of constructing 20 airfields for the forthcoming airborne invasion of Sicily.

A FUTURE DAY

The days are long and endless
Since my man has gone away
Life will be dull and dreary
Until he comes home to stay
He's got a job that he must do
Before he can return
He's doing things that a year ago
He thought he'd never learn
He's trying to do the best he can
By giving all he's got
Trying to undo the devastation
That an ignorant people wrought
My soldier, and others like him,
May now be far away
But we must live for the future
And a brighter, happier day
A day when cruel madness
Will be vanquished from the earth,
And peace and fine democracy
Will have a greater berth.
So if your's feeling lonesome, too,
Just think what lies ahead;
Erase that frown and dry those tears
And try to smile instead.
—Mildred White Steele

Buy War Bonds and keep 'em!



Your Studebaker dealer is a good man to know

THROUGHOUT the war, Studebaker dealers have become recognized more and more as useful members of their communities.

In order to do everything possible to keep cars and trucks in service, they constantly endeavor to get new and better tools and equipment. They continue to train their mechanics in special procedures worked out by Studebaker factory experts. They gladly supply the public with reliable information on wartime regulations covering motor car and motor truck operations.

Studebaker dealers realize the war is far from over yet. They will gladly continue to do everything they can to help you keep your car or truck rolling.

THE STUDEBAKER CORPORATION

S. H. POORMAN GARAGE
S. Water St. Bellefonte

Studebaker... Pioneer and Pacemaker in Automotive Progress