

This Page is a regular feature of the Monday edition of the Semi-Weekly

THE SERVICE JOURNAL

Correspondents and others having items for the SERVICE JOURNAL will please mark "Service" and place on separate sheet from other items. —Service Editor

Plattsmouth Man In The 100th Division

SIXTH ARMY GROUP, FRANCE. —The 399th Infantry Regiment of the 100th (Century) Division set some kind of record for the speed with which it said goodbye to the East River and hello to the Rhine.

Some of the men in the regiment marched down Fifth Avenue in New York City to help inaugurate the 5th War Bond Drive, and they were in action on the U. S. 7th Army front in Eastern France when they read about the results of the same drive.

Arriving in France on October 20, the men, commanded by Col. Andrew W. Tychson of Maddonsfield, N. J., spent several days assembling their equipment and regaining their land legs.

The came the order to move up, and for three days and nights the regiment rolled toward the front. The men dismounted from their vehicles one night—and the next morning they were in the lines.

They had relieved a veteran regiment that had seen service in Sicily, Italy, Anzio and Southern France, and they took over a sector that was one of the toughest along the entire front.

Serving with this noted organization at the front is Chris Zimmerman, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Zimmerman of this city. Chris has been in active duty as the dispatch from the headquarters shows, along the battle lines in France and Germany.

Cpl. Stephen Devoe Home for Christmas Holiday

Cpl. Stephen L. Devoe, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Devoe, of Lincoln, is now at the family home to visit over the Christmas season with the parents and sister as well as with his friends.

Cpl. Devoe was wounded in France some time ago and after being hospitalized in Europe was returned home and spent a short time at the U. S. general hospital at Staten Island, New York.

He is being transferred to the Bushnell General Hospital at Brigham City, Utah, expecting to report there after the visit with the home folks and receive further treatment.

Kenneth Armstrong Is Now Given Flying Rating

Mrs. and Mrs. Fred Armstrong of this city were very much pleased Saturday evening when they received a telephone call from their oldest son, Kenneth Armstrong, who is a member of the air service.

The call came from Des Moines, where Ken had conveyed a plane from his base at Roswell, New Mexico. He sent greetings to the friends and the best wishes for the holiday season as he was not anticipating being able to be home.

He is now flying as he just recently received his rating and likes the new responsibility very much.

Richard Sell Home For Short Furlough

Sunday Pvt. Richard E. Sell, who has been stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, in an anti-aircraft training force, arrived home for visit of ten days with the home folks. Pvt. Sell is enroute to Camp Maxey, Texas, where he will report after the stay at home. He likes Fort Bliss very well, it being but seven miles from El Paso, the metropolis of the southwest Rio Grande valley district.

The Sell family have contributed a great deal to the war effort in every way, especially in the line of personal service, four of the boys of the family being in the armed service. S. Sgt. Carl Sell, who is now at Rapid City, South Dakota, has only recently been returned home from overseas where he completed a great many missions over enemy territory. Two other brothers, Melvin and Eugene, are in the armed service also.

Midshipman Allan White Home from Annapolis

Midshipman Allan White is enjoying a holiday visit here at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry White, and with the many friends.

He arrived from Annapolis at the week end and will spend a few days here before returning to the naval academy where he is completing his last year.

Cpl. Stuart Smith Writes From Station in India

Mr. and Mrs. Royal Smith of this city, were delighted Monday to receive a letter from their son, Cpl. Stuart Smith, who has been in the armed service since September 24, 1943.

The letter came from far away India, where Cpl. Smith has been with the air corps since in February, 1944, it brought the news that he was being promoted to sergeant in his organization.

He has not had a furlough since being called to the colors and the family have been very pleased that he has been able to keep in touch with them by mail even though unable to reach home.

He states that the weather is more pleasant now where he is stationed and not so hot as it was for the earlier part of the year. He is feeling fine and like everyone, in service and out, is hoping that he will be back home one of these days.

Sgt. Richard Heschar Is Reported Seriously Wounded

The message was received Friday night by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Heschar, of Murray, that their son, Sgt. Richard Heschar, had been seriously wounded in east France, but did not give the nature of the wounds.

Sgt. Heschar has been overseas for a six month period and has been up in the active fighting of the American offensive.

With the family at the time the message was received was their son, Lt. John D. Heschar and wife who are visiting here during the leave of Lt. Heschar, from his active duties in the U. S. air corps.

AT RADIO TRAINING SCHOOL

Lloyd R. Scott, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Scott, Sr., Rt. 1, Union, Neb., was enrolled recently in an intensive course at the Radio Naval Training School located on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Selection to attend the specialty school was made on the basis of his recruit training aptitude tests. The course includes the operation, function and maintenance of radio transmitting and receiving equipment, and the sending and receiving of messages in international code.

Successful completion of the course will see the Bluejacket graduate as a qualified radio operator with the fleet.

NEBRASKANS GET TOGETHER

A short time ago a group of Nebraskans, stationed in the southwest Pacific had the pleasure of a get together at an American Red Cross Service club on one of the islands. The meeting was one of pleasure for all of the boys, many old friendships renewed, new ones formed among the men. One of the members of the participants in the Nebraska day gathering was Pfc. Raphael Toman of this city, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Toman.

T-5 Fornoff and wife Here from Fort Knox

T-5 Walter Fornoff and Mrs. Fornoff are here for a visit with the many old friends in the community while T-5 Fornoff is enjoying a furlough from his duties at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. Fornoff will visit in this community and on their return are expecting to drive back if possible to have the car at Fort Knox for use as Mrs. Fornoff resides off the reservation and the car will make it easier for T-5 Fornoff to go from home to the fort and back.

Ralph Johnson Home From Pacific Service

Ralph Johnson, who recently returned to the United States from his service in the Pacific islands, is home now for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Johnson, as well as the sisters.

Ralph has not been well and was hospitalized overseas and when reaching the United States and has just been released from the Great Lakes, Illinois, hospital.

He is feeling much improved but misses very much the boys and girls that were with him in school, most of all of the boys now being in the armed services.

Local Men Meet On Gualacanal

Richard O'Donnell, who has been located in the southwest Pacific since being taken into the army, writes of a very pleasant experience that he had recently.

Richard is stationed on Guadalacanal, attached as cook to one of the large hospital units and just a short time ago had the pleasure of meet-



Richard O'Donnell, former Captain Donald Rainey, formerly of this city, also Bob Austin, a former school friend of Richard. The occasion was one of great pleasure and the swapping of news from the home front by the young men.

Richard is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. O'Donnell and was a carrier for the Journal for a great many years. Another son of the O'Donnells, Jack, is stationed in Italy where he has participated in most of the armed activities.

Walter Sikora Is Given Fine Promotion

The many friends of Walter Sikora, who is now in the United States marines and serving in the southwest Pacific, will be interested to learn that he has been promoted to the grade of corporal. Walter has been in the Pacific for some time and is pleased that his service has won for him the coveted stripes. Cpl. Sikora is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sikora and a son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hirz.

S-Sgt. Ralph Anderson Transferred to New Mexico

S. Sgt. Ralph Anderson with Mrs. Anderson and their small daughter, Sharon, were here over the week end, visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Mason.

S. Sgt. Anderson has been stationed at the Lincoln airport for some time, he has just received orders transferring him to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. They are expecting to leave in a short time for the new post of duty.

Sgt. Car Sell and Wife Visit in City

Staff Sergeant Carl Sell and Mrs. Sell are here from Rapid City, South Dakota, to enjoy a furlough visiting with their relatives and many old friends.

S. Sgt. Sell is now stationed at Rapid City at the air base as an instructor, being assigned there after his extensive tour of duty in Italy.

While here they are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ferris, parents of Mrs. Sell and with the mother and other relatives of Sgt. Sell.

Young Coastguardsman Is Home for a Visit

John Aschenbrenner, Stc, of the United States coastguard, is home for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Yardley and his many old school friends and associates. John has been in the Pacific service and this is his first visit home in many months.

RETURNS TO NEW MEXICO

Sgt. Donald A. Nearhood who has been here visiting his mother, Mrs. Anna Nearhood since December 2nd, departed Monday evening for Roswell, New Mexico. He has trained to serve as a radio operator on a B-29 and expects soon to receive his assignment for foreign service.

Young People Are Married In Omaha On Wednesday

Miss Irene Lucas of Omaha is Married to Ylc Thomas Gradoville in Church Ceremony

The marriage of Miss Irene Lucas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas of Omaha, to Ylc Thomas Gradoville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gradoville, Sr., of this city, took place Wednesday at Omaha.

The wedding was celebrated at 8:15 Wednesday morning at the Assumption church, with Father Barta celebrating the nuptial mass.

The bride was attended by Miss Delores Becker, while the groom had as his attendant, Stc John Aschenbrenner, a school friend and associate, now home on leave.

Following the wedding the bridal party was entertained at the home of the bride's parents at a very charmingly arranged wedding breakfast and later the members of the group had their wedding dinner at Johnny's cafe.

The bride has grown to womanhood in Omaha and where she has a very large circle of friends, and is known to many local young people.

The groom is now at home on leave from the Pacific area, where he has served for the past three years in the United States navy. He was born and brought up in this city. During his high school career he was active in the athletic circles of the school. Graduating in 1941 from the local school he shortly afterward enlisted in the United States navy.

With the expiration of his leave here, Ylc Gradoville and his bride, will leave for the west coast, where Mrs. Gradoville will make her home during the time the husband is in service.

Donald Cotner Visits Islands of the Pacific

One of the naval veterans that has the opportunity of enjoying the Christmas season with the home folks, is Donald D. Cotner, CPO Musician, who arrived Sunday to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cotner for a thirty day period.

Donald has spent thirteen months out in the Pacific and during this period of time he has been in all of the struggles that the American fleet have participated in.

His service has taken him to almost all of the islands of the Pacific from the time that his boat left Pearl Harbor last December. Incidentally Dan states that he did not see a white woman after they left Pearl Harbor until the return to the west coast two weeks ago.

While he is rated as a musician in the navy, he had but two opportunities to give his sax a working out, as the ship was mighty busy with the task of helping rout out the Japs, participating in the island bombardments.

The islands visited a various times reads like a directory of the Pacific, the New Hebrides, Solomons, Gilberts, Marshalls, Carolines, the Marianas including Guam, Admiralty, the Pelew and finally the campaign in the landing on Leyte.

Don has been through a lot of air attacks in the various campaigns attacks that have lasted for hours.

Receiving his leave home Don came to Los Angeles and from there made the trip by plane to Washington, D. C., meeting his parents in Omaha for a few hours visit. He made his trip back from Washington by train and is going to have a real time visiting with the home folks.

Captain Tritsch Will Enjoy Christmas Home

Mrs. Florene Palacek departed Monday evening for Springfield, Mo., where she will visit her brother, Captain Marvin Tritsch, at the O'Reilly General hospital.

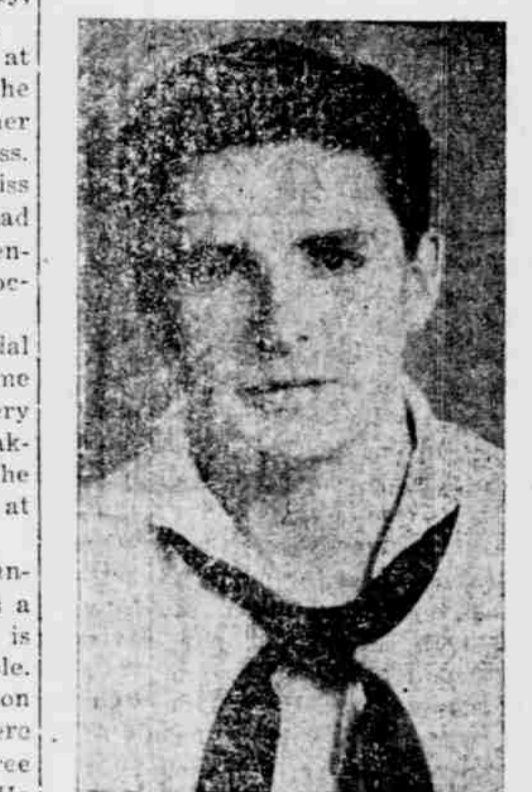
Captain Tritsch, who is there receiving treatment, will accompany the sister back to Plattsmouth and spend the Christmas holidays here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tritsch.

Captain Tritsch, who was in service in the Pacific with the dental corps, was taken dangerously ill and was brought back to the United States by plane several months ago for a very critical operation at the Springfield hospital.

Leonard Bashus Home From Hawaiian Islands

Leonard Bushus, seaman 1c, United States Coast Guard, is home for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bashus and his many old school friends here and in Omaha.

Leonard left here two years ago after completing his boot training and this is his first leave home in this long time. He has been stationed in the Hawaiian islands on light-house duty since arriving at Pearl Harbor.



He likes the country very much and his long station there has given him a fine opportunity of meeting many of the sailors and coast guards from this section that have passed that way on their way to and from the southwest Pacific.

Mr. and Mrs. Bashus have four of their sons enlisted in the armed service, Leroy and Leonard being in the coast guard, Edward in the Marines and Jackie who has just recently enlisted in the navy, so they have surely given their full share of devotion to the country as have so many of the residents.

Member of Princeton Crew Home on Leave

Edward Kubicka, Plattsmouth young man, a member of the carrier Princeton crew, returned home Saturday evening for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kubicka, Sr., and to have a thirty day leave from his very exciting service in the southwest Pacific.

This is his first trip home in seven months, months that have been filled with real service, at many points in the Pacific theatre of warfare.

Edward served from the battles of the Marshall islands down to and including the invasion of the Philippines when the Princeton was in the heat of the struggle and damaged so that it was sunk by the Americans themselves.

With the task force Edward also participated in the softening up process of Guam and the battle of Saipan in which they covered the invasion forces in their attacks on the Japanese.

The adventure of the campaign has taken him on the raids near the Formosa island base of the Japanese, one of the chief blows against the Japanese.

One of the few liberties that the young man enjoyed was a rest camp at the Marshalls for a short time.

In the long months of his service Edward has had the opportunity of meeting only one of the Plattsmouth sailors, Joe Highfield, who he met at Pearl Harbor.

Eddie is a graduate of the local high school in the class of 1943 and while attending school was a carrier of the Journal for several years and also engaged at the H. M. Soennichsen store. It is a real treat to see him back home again to enjoy his Christmas season among the old friends.

Tom Gradoville Is Home for Holiday

Tom Gradoville, Jr., Ylc, who has been in the Pacific service for the past two years, is home for a visit with the family and old friends. Tom is looking fine and enjoying very much the visit back in the peaceful surroundings of home after the active duty at sea. He had the opportunity of meeting James D. Brown, of this city, while on a leave at Hawaii and the two enjoyed the visit very much.

Ralph Hilt Back For The Christmas Holiday

Tuesday Ralph Hilt, Yeoman 3c, of the United States navy, arrived in Plattsmouth to visit here with the friends young and old, on a leave from active duty on the west coast.

Ralph has been through a great deal of experience since he laid aside his work here and entered the United States navy, undergoing his basic training at Farragut, Idaho, and was then assigned to service in the Pacific area. He was a member of the crew of the Abner Reed that was sunk several weeks ago and was rescued from the sea by men from other ships in the vicinity.

The parents who are now living in Omaha were greatly alarmed for a few days when the report was first received but were reassured by a message from Ralph that he was O. K.

Ralph is visiting the parents at Omaha but is expecting to spend a great deal of the time with the old friends here.

Lincoln Man Receives Commission in Belgium

Staff Sgt. August G. Sitzman, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. August Sitzman, Sr., of Lincoln, has just been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the air corps at his headquarters in Belgium.

Sgt. Sitzman set his tiny plane down on the field at his battalion bivouac in Belgium on October 17th after completing his last flight as an enlisted man. When he returned later for his flight he was Second Lieutenant Sitzman, the first enlisted man in his battalion to have received a direct commission.

He was recently awarded the air medal for flying 35 combat missions in France between August 15th and September 15th.

He graduated from the Lincoln high school in 1936 and attended the University of Nebraska and operated a tire shop before he entered the armed service October 5, 1942.

The parents of the young officer are residents of this city where they resided for a great many years. The mother is the former Ethel Miller.

Bill Jensen Is Awarded Bronze Star

T. Sgt. Bill C. Jensen, former Plattsmouth resident, who recently visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Jensen, of Superior, Nebraska, was awarded a bronze star medal.

This information came to Superior from the Eighth Air Force Fighter station in England.

The medal was awarded for his work as a fighter airplane chief, at a ceremony held at a fighter station. Presentation was made by Brigadier General Murray C. Woodbury, commanding the 66th fighter wing.

Sgt. Jensen, who has since returned to the States, served 19 months with the 78th Fighter Group, commanded by Colonel Frederic C. Gray, Abilene, Texas. This group flies P-47 Thunderbolts escorting Eighth Air Force heavy bombers on their missions against targets deep in the Reich, and bombs and strafes Nazi communication and supply lines.

Accompanying the award was the following citation: "For meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. The proficiency with which T. Sgt. Jensen performed his duties enabled the airplane he serviced to attain an outstanding record on combat. Despite the handicap of working under adverse conditions and with frequent shortages of equipment, he expertly and efficiently supervised all repairs and quickly returned his airplane to perfect operational condition. The technical skill, initiative and unstinting devotion to duty exhibited by T. Sgt. Jensen is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces."

T. Sgt. Jensen graduated from Plattsmouth High school in the class of 1934, and was subsequently employed by the H. K. Morris Company, Ford dealers in Superior. His wife, Mrs. Velva V. Jensen, lives in Sunnyvale, Cal., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Jensen at 348 East 4th St., in Superior.

DISCHARGED FROM SERVICE

The Cass county selective service board has been notified of the honorable discharge of two Cass county men from the armed service. These are John Henry Pointer, Weeping Water, from the navy and Harold Timblin of Alvo from the army.

Urish Boys Write From Pacific Area

Mrs. Lorine Urish of this city has just received letters from both of her sons, Pvt. Virgil Urish and John Urish, Stc, both of whom are in the Pacific area.

The letter from "Bud" as he is so well known to the Friends follows:

"Dear Mom and Folks: Well it has been a few days since you have heard from me but everything is O. K. here.

"Received all of your Christmas packages all right. Thanks a million. No Mom, we are not short on cigarettes, we get all we want. Please send some more Journals though. All the packages arrived safe and undamaged, also received the package from Hugo and Dora all right, also got one from Omaha and one from Hollywood. So you see I received plenty of Christmas packages. Also received a letter from John Schutz the other day and got a Christmas card from George Blotzer. Am hoping to answer them after I finish writing to you. It sure is hard to write a letter here as there isn't a thing you can write. Well I'll be able to tell you a lot when I get back.

So far I haven't run into anyone I know. Say is Joe Hauseladen still in California and is he in the same old outfit? Is Harold Stewart still home? I remember the girl he married. She's a very nice girl.

Oh yes, I also received a swell letter from John and Gus Cloidt. It was sure good to hear from them.

Well I suppose the weather back home is pretty chilly now. Boy you never get cold here. I don't know what cold weather is like down here anymore.

So grandpa and grandma had their 50th wedding anniversary. "Congratulations." I hope they will have many, many more. Gosh Mom I never could remember anything like that. Can't even remember any birthdays.

Well Mom, I guess this is all for now. I'm feeling fine as could be. Sure hope I can get home soon, sure miss the old place.

Boy we are sure giving the Japs hell.

All my Love,
Bud

John, writing from an unnamed station in the Pacific says: "Dear Mother:

I have just received your letter, it was sure good to get it. Well I was sure lucky this week, because the mail sure came in. I got your package with the soap and shave lotion and powder in it. I was sure glad to get it, because I was out of everything. Thank you very much for the box.

Tell Holly I got his letter and one from Bud, so I have a lot of letters to write again.

So grandpa and grandma are married fifty years. I hope they get fifty years more in and they still keep on feeling fine.

Say mother, tell Rilla Gopen and family thanks for the Christmas card.

Well Mother, I am feeling fine and everything going along fine. Tell everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from me.

With Lots of Love,
John E. Urish

Leonard Sikora Has Discharge from Army

Cpl. Leonard Sikora, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sikora, of this city, has been discharged from the United States army, word received here by the Cass county selective service board states.

Leonard is at this time at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he is visiting with Mrs. Sikora, a corporal in the Woman's Army Corps.

Leonard has been in the military police units of the army since induction in the service and was for a long time stationed on duty at Omaha.

Returns to Farrigut

Darwin Rhoden, AC, has returned to Farragut, Idaho, where he has just completed his "boot" training in the navy. He has spent several days here at his home. He is a son of Mrs. Blanche Rhoden and a brother of Pfc. Earl Rhoden, who is now serving with the 7th army somewhere in France.