

ACCORDING to G.I. JOE

Lt. Bob Currin III paid us a very pleasant how-de-do. Bob just in from Foster Field, Texas where he won his pilot wings. A fine kid, only 19 years, with a splendid past record in Edgecombe. Excellent family and was a leader in Highschool and Boy Scouts. Loves his commission and despite his 14 months' service, is cheerful and all set to go. Can't beat lads like this, not in a thousand years.

You should have seen old Joe Wagner with his wings when he blew in! He has won his commission for flying, is as husky as Babe Ruth, and boy the beam on that map of his! Don't blame you, neighbor Joe - get in there and give 'em hell, as you did on the gridiron. We all will watch this boy with interest.

Had a short talk with G. P. Miller who is at home on furlough from Gordon-Johnson of Fla. Miller is in a very interesting branch of the service, Harbor Craft of the Amphibious Dept. He is an electrician and says he likes his work fine (G. P. married Catherine Lancaster, very efficient assistant to health officer, Dr. W.K. McDowell)

The H.F.N. was signally honored by a visit from William Furman Mathis now holding medical discharge from US Navy after 2 yrs. service. William was a tail gunner of a dive bomber and attached to the illfated Aircraft Carrier Wasp. He was aboard her in the Solomons when she was attacked and sunk by a pack of Subs. Saying that he was on the flight deck when orders came to go over, his jump was 84 feet. He had on Kapok life preserver that saved his life since he was knocked out on striking the water. He remained in the shark infested waters for 8 hrs., suffering sharpnel wounds and terrible shock. William was awarded 6 Campaign ribbons, 6 stars and purple hearts. His rank was 3/C Petty Officer. His description of the bomb decks and bomb loaded planes, exploding along with thousands of gallons of fuel oil, will long remain with us. William married pretty Alice Ellis of Leggetts and has beautiful red headed baby boy.

Ching Marrow, a swell guy, takes it on the chin right on at Embarkation Camp Shanks. Has seen lots of youse guys passing thru. Rotarian Ching's brother, Buck, ex Detroit American League pitcher, with shipyards at Newport News.

Remember good-looking Sam Dunn? Well, he paid us a visit after 4 years in Service, three spent with Marines. Is with First Marine Division, 2 years in S. Pacific, was at Guadalcanal and Cape Gloster - new Guinea and really tells hair raisers. Rank now Ph. Mate 1/c M.S.N. When in Pacific saw "Eleanor", Joe E. Brown, Gary Cooper but says best time of all is "mail time". Saw Vincent Batts out there. Glad to be back (on rotation plan) but could take more if dealt out to him.

Buddy Everett on Shore Patrol at Norfolk tells this one - that he and another guy on motorcycles picked up suspicious car on Hampton Blvd. - a chase resulted - says speedometer hit 100 m.p.h. went thru stop light at 87 m.p.h. - that car had 3 sailors aboard and finally wrecked at high speed tearing up car but not injuring sailors. Car proved to be stolen job Buddy, you can have all this you want but not us. Says his brother Dick was in French invasion.

In conversation with Lee Ruffin and remarking that I was a member of the Army of occupation in World War I, spending six months in Germany, Lee replied that he also was a member of the same Division, the Fifth. Lee was with a machine gun company and I was with the 21st Field Artillery. Incidentally I was a member of the pitching staff of the 5th Division baseball team and really toured Europe. Some of you Joe's might see my tracks up around Coblentz when you cross the Rhine.