

6-29-43

NYNB

Colorado Men in the War

Soldier in Africa Likes Ernie Pyle

"If you have read Ernie Pyle's column in the paper you will have the inside story on what is happening over here," writes Corp. Rito Hernandez, formerly a miner at Mount Harris, now with the infantry in Africa. A sister, Josephine, lives at 1000 Sherman st. at 1000 Sherman st.

"Pyle covers it very nicely and his column is one of the favorites over here. It is hard for me to put across to someone else, especially by mail, what one feels to be a target for the big guns as well as rifles and machine guns. It is like being in another world.

"Shells burst with an ear-splitting noise. We call them a 'Whistling Annie.' They burst into thousands of small pieces, each one able to destroy a human life. For every shell shot at us, they received many, many times more of our own. Incidentally, I got me a 'Jerry,' just to make up for some of the swell boys we lost.

"As for death, the first casualty gives you a shock. After that, though disagreeable, it becomes an every-day occurrence. Funny how cheap life becomes at times like this. However, it is much worse to see those men carried out who will be cripples the rest of their lives.

"We didn't shave in two weeks—we didn't bathe in over four weeks—I have not been to any town in four months. And what do we read in the papers? Strikes everywhere, walk-outs, people kicking because they don't make enough money, or because they can't have all the gasoline they want, shorter hours, and many more things. Believe you me, send some of those people over here and let them go through what we have, just for two weeks. They would be glad to go back and work harder, for less money, and would not strike, walk out or have such petty complaints. If they could see what was left of Bizerte, they would thank their lucky stars they live in a country like ours, and

there would be a lot more put into the war effort."

* * *
Staff Sgt. Wayne C. Walker, 2524 Champa st., with a bombardment group in India, has been awarded an Air Medal for meritorious achievement. The citation reads: "From Feb. 4, 1943, to April 13, 1943, over Burma, Thailand and the Andaman Islands, Sergeant Walker participated, as an aerial gunner, in combat missions of more than 100 flying hours in heavy bombardment aircraft. His devotion to duty, and co-operation, as an essential and vital part of the combat team, has contributed much to the successes characterizing these operations."

* * *
Corp. Everett Howard Breidenstein, driver for the Yellow Cab Co. in Denver more than five years, is with an anti-aircraft division of the coast artillery in North Africa.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Breidenstein, 2637 Grape st.