

Nesom, Charles

Local Soldier Sends Jap Propaganda

JUN 27 1944

Picturing the American soldier as stealing the Australian fighting 'man's girl friend...appealing to American youth to revolt against war in order that he can spend his nights "beneath silvery moons' with a girl in his arms"...and other forms of Japanese-inspired propaganda are being sent home by soldiers as mementos of the Pacific war.

Among the Bethlehem soldiers who came across some of the propaganda leaflets and cartoons when the Yanks invaded a South Pacific island is Charles Nesom, a member of the Engineering Corps, who has been in service two years, most of which has been spent overseas.

Several cartoons and leaflets have been sent to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Nesom, 1964 Riverview Road. One pictures an American youth in a love-making scene and implores the young men to "remember the girl" and not to get into the war and be killed or wounded.

Another shows the American soldier carrying off an Australian girl while the Australians are fighting elsewhere...still another portrays a smiling Yank when he gets his A-1 rating and then later when he is wounded. It admonishes him to stay out of the war.

The folders were picked up by Americans after the Japanese had evacuated the islands of the South Pacific and are a part of the Nipponese plan to lower the morale of the soldier...but, in letters home, the chief accomplishment is to give the soldier a much-needed laugh, according to the Bethlehem engineer.

In the same packet in which the propaganda material was sent, Nesom sent several photographs taken from the body of a dead Japanese. The photos could be of the Jap's family, since they include pictures of several persons of various ages. The photos are marked with a hole left by the bullet which killed the soldier.

Nesom is a graduate of Dallas (Texas) High School and attended a college near Dallas. His father is in the employ of the government and a sister, Catherine, entered the WAC this month and is receiving basic training at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.

June 27, 1944