

Ifkovits, John
Brothers { Frank
in Service { Eddie
 { Louis

Northampton Soldier Recounts Experiences While in Aleutians

SEP 1 1944
Private John Ifkovits, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ifkovits, 364 E. 11th Street, town, is home on his first furlough since entering the Army over 33 months ago. Private Ifkovits spent 29 months in the Aleutians and following completion of his furlough will spend 17 weeks at a basic training camp in this country, Fort Lewis, Wash.

"Johnny" is one of four brothers in the service, and was attached to an engineering company while in the Alaskan islands. These engineers did pioneering work from Dutch Harbor as far as Adak. For months they had no outside diversion whatsoever, no movies, no entertainments, no cigarettes or fresh foods. They ate only the fish they caught and canned foods.

For long periods they received no mail and seldom saw white women. They kept in contact with the outside world by the use of a battery radio-set which had to be recharged by use of a hand-turned windmill. Despite their long gloomy days and nights of continuous rain, fog, and mist, the young soldier is none the worse for his experience. He did add that he "gained weight since being home."

Pvt. Ifkovits said conditions have altered considerably since his first arrival in the Aleutians, and that more thought is being given to the soldier's entertainment.

Brothers in the service are, Corporal Frank, in France; Sergeant Eddie, in Panama; and Private Louis, in Italy.

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