

Eckert, William F.

# Meets King, Queen And Churchill On V-E Day in England

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JUN 1 1945

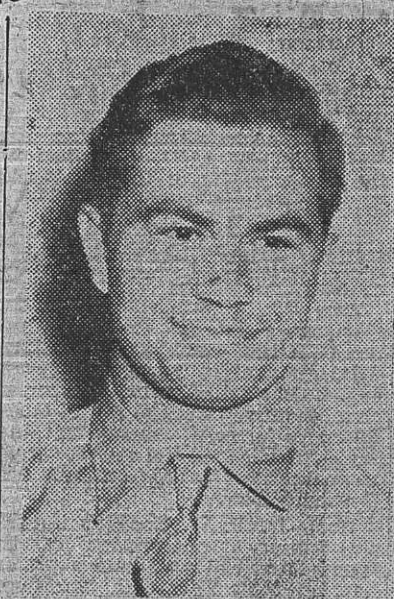
*Local G-I, Mowed Down by Nazis,  
Home on Furlough*

Pvt. William Frederick Eckert, wounded infantry soldier recently returned to the United States for medical treatment, had only one story to tell the press when interviewed yesterday afternoon.

Relaxing in an office chair with his lame foot extended, Pvt. Eckert literally jumped from his seat in describing V-E Day in England. "Look", he said, "this is the hand that shook the hand of the King and Queen of England—and Churchill too! All of us wounded soldiers were taken from hospitals in Paris to England when V-E Day came. There was wild celebration all over. I was in Piccadilly when Churchill broadcast the official proclamation and that's where the hand-shaking took place. We all traded our Army pay for shillings and I had a riotous time. I still can't remember what happened!

Pvt. Eckert was wounded by machinegun bullets on the shores of the Rhine River, where he was in action with the 78th Infantry Division of General Patton's Army. Pvt. Eckert's division tried to make bridgeheads across the Rhine and were attacked several times by the Jerries who bombed and strafed the barge bridges. "Once," stated Pvt. Eckert, "a Jerry came down for the kill and our fire got him. He tried to bail out and we machine-gunned him right in half."

Eckert donned olive drab May 28, 1943, and completed his training at Camp Stewart, Ga., Camp Gordon, Ga., Orlando, Fla. and Fort Meade, Md. He went overseas March 13, 1944. His wife resides at 1029 Elm Street. Three brothers-in-law are also serving, Cpl. James Spangler, in China S 1/C Carl, with the Seabees in the South Pacific, and Chief Petty Officer Bob, some-



PVT. WM. F. ECKERT

where in the South Pacific.

Pvt. Eckert, who formerly worked at the Bethlehem Steel Company, intends to return there should he receive a discharge upon completion of his furlough and return to Camp Stewart, Ga. The young soldier's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Karney Eckert, resides at Catasauqua.

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