

Major Stith's victory ribbon of the first World War shows three battle stars, and his Mediterranean-European theatre ribbon of World War II, shows eight campaign stars. He also wears a unit citation awarded to the unit for outstanding work in close support of the infantry in Tunisia and Sicily; and an oak leaf cluster for sinking a German battleship in La Spezia harbor.

Major Stith is now on thirty days leave and reports for duty at Santa Ana, California.

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Mrs. Hulteen just phoned and said not to mail George's Rebound to him; and that looks to us as though he might be coming home soon!

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The day that you boys have been fighting for since Pearl Harbor is here. I do not know how many more Rebounds will be necessary. Certainly I have made up in bulk what I have lacked in promptness in getting this Rebound to you. I have had a very difficult time getting it out, but I assure you that we will not let any of you boys down, even though you do not return to the states for quite some time. These communications, of necessity, will be more brief, but we will give you boys, (on the various occupation areas) the news as it comes to us.

But, the home front is not all rosy. The peace, for which we are all so thankful for, came so suddenly that it disoriented business in its kaleidoscopic change. It is predicted that eight million men will be out of work by the time snow flies. But, the psychology of business, by this time, is firm and optimistic. Your Commander in Chief is doing a great job in dropping many controls and clearing the track in a splendid reconversion program. In the next month, we will have millions back for work, so you boys who are still in the service, don't race your motors. I know how you feel, naturally you will say, "Who are these guys to give us this kind of advice?"

When you do get back and take advantage of the educational angle of the G. I. Bill of Rights, you doubtless will have the "best go" so far as the benefits to the servicemen are concerned. That much talked of two thousand dollar loan is largely a myth. It sounded good, but practically, you can't borrow two thousand dollars from any bank, or anybody else, unless your individual credit is good for two thousand dollars. Your service record may be good for some things, but these bankers won't loan money on that. But the educational advantages will pay off.

The authorities say that we will have a depression, but the call for much mental anguish will not be like the 1930-33 depression; not as bad or as pessimistic, but it will be plenty tough on people while it lasts. War orders were cancelled so rapidly and so many factories were closed that naturally millions of people are out of work. About nine months from now the authorities think that we will be on the biggest upswing of prosperity that we have ever faced, and this prosperity will continue for at least five years.

How unlike the period following the last World War. The boys came back, they were out of jobs, prices were high, and they had to pay twice as much for a suit of clothes as when they entered the service, and there were no jobs to be had. This time it has got to be different.

New automobiles will be pegged at their 1942 prices. Of course, the black market boys are reaping a bonanza now, because people are paying any price for a car.