

Camp Van Dorn Marks First Anniversary

Blood and Fire

VOL. 1, No. 15

63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

September 24, 1943

DINAH SHORE FLIES TO SING FOR 63D

News From Your Own Home Town

BALTIMORE (CNS)—Marshall Spearman thought he could avoid induction into the Army by eating his draft card. It didn't work. He was fined \$10 in police court for disturbing the peace.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (CNS)—Harvard College undergraduates have threatened to strike for more and better food. Contending that their chow has reached an all-time low they are clamoring for sandwiches of cream cheese, peanut butter and jelly.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (CNS)—A girl had a date with a young man and he failed to show up. The next day he called and explained. He got married instead.

CHICAGO (CNS)—A commercial high school here has a new course which includes instruction for gals in the application of leg makeup.

DENVER, Col. (CNS)—A Chicago woman walking against a red light was stopped by a cop. She then called him a hayseed and said they didn't have "hick" pedestrian regulations like that in the Windy City. She was fined \$30 in city court.

Post Commandant Reviews Year's Progress of Camp

Col Guthrie Relates History of Camp Since Opening

Camp Van Dorn was one year old on Monday. Chill winds and driving rains forced cancellation of a schedule dress parade of the station complement and WAC detachment, but as he sat in his little office on Seventh Avenue, Col. Guthrie, Post Commandant, reflected that considerable changes have been made in the appearance of the camp in that time.

"The first construction work was begun in June, 1942," Col. Guthrie said. "And workers came out to the site from Centreville, Woodville, McComb, and Baton Rouge to rush the buildings to completion. I moved to McComb several months before the camp was completed, and so did a number of other officers who were to be assigned to the post. The Camp was made ready for occupancy on the very day of activation, September 20. On that day the advance party arrived and moved into the Division Troops and Station Complement areas.

"Those first few days were a little hectic," Col. Guthrie continued.

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This is Dinah Shore—blond-haired Sweetheart of the 63d. She didn't do any swimming at Camp Van Dorn, but BLOOD AND FIRE likes this picture anyhow.

STAR OF RADIO SINGS, REVIEWS, MEETS OUR BOYS

Dinah Shore, who flew from Hollywood Wednesday to visit the Sixty-Third Division men, has taken over the entire camp. Unanimously voted "Sweetheart of the 63d" by the enlisted men themselves, she has passed the past two days in our midst—dancing, reviewing units at work and in the field, and meeting the enlisted men and officers over teacups and at chow.

Dinah came as the result of Maj. General Louis E. Hibbs' request to the president of the United Service Organizations, in New York City, that some entertainment be provided the men of the 63d Division while they are at Camp Van Dorn.

Other Stars Coming

The U. S. O. and the War Department Special Service Division have promised to send top-notch radio, screen and stage talent to camp at more frequent intervals. The Special Service Division is also expected now to authorize use of money to transport girls to dances in other than USO Buildings. This will mean that the USO will now be able to charter buses to bring sufficient numbers of girls to Camp Van Dorn from McComb, Natchez, Baton Rouge, and the smaller towns in the vicinity, to hold Division dances.

In his letter to USO President Chester I. Barnard, Gen. Hibbs pointed out that the 63d is now in a camp which is more than 50 miles away from any large city, and that there is negligible rail transport and inadequate bus transport between the camp and the three nearest cities—McComb, Natchez, and Baton Rouge.

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Gen. Van Dorn, A Fighter Would Be Proud Of 63d

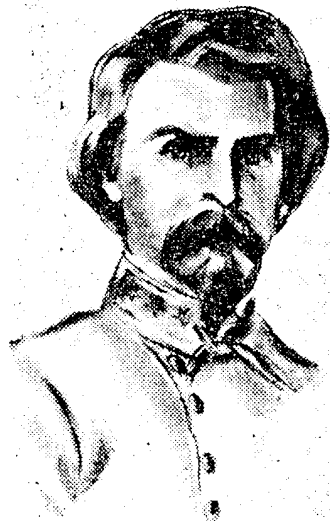
If General Earl Van Dorn, hero of the Mexican War in 1848, intrepid Indian fighter, and one of General Lee's commanders in the Civil War, were living today he would indeed be proud that Camp Van Dorn had been named in his honor. He would probably be particularly gratified that the 63d Blood and Fire Division was stationed here because he was that kind of a man—a soldier through and through.

General Van Dorn was a Mississippian, born at Port Gibson in 1820 of Dutch descent whose forebears settled in New Jersey but some of whom migrated to the Southwest when that territory was ceded by Spain to the United States.

Entered Point at 16

From an early age the future leader had a burning desire to take up the profession of arms. His ardor prompted him to write ex-President Andrew Jackson asking him to secure an appointment for him at West Point. His desire was gratified and at the age of 16 he entered the Academy.

Van Dorn was a model stu-



MAJ. GEN. EARL VAN DORN

dent and was so devoted to his studies that not once during his four years did he leave the Point to visit his family. The following excerpt from a letter written

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CONVOY TO TAKE 550 TO CONTEST

Five hundred and fifty Blood and Fire Division football fans will have an opportunity to see the college grid season inaugurated in this section of the Southwest tomorrow night when a special convoy is scheduled to leave Camp Van Dorn at 4 o'clock, for Baton Rouge. There Louisiana State University's Tigers and the Bulldogs of the University of Georgia, 1943 Rose Bowl champions, meet in a game scheduled to start at 8 o'clock.

Choice seats on the 40-yard line, at 55 cents a head, are available to the GI's of the Division. Tickets may be procured through unit commanders, according to Lt. Bernard Levkoff, in charge of athletics for Division Special Service. Admission prices for persons other than servicemen will

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Sgt. Kunnen of 861st Weds Miss Gallaway

M/Sgt. Peter H. Kunnen, of Fremont, Mich., sergeant major of the 861st F. A. Bn., and Mrs. Kunnen are making their residence at McComb, Miss., following a brief honeymoon. Mrs. Kunnen is the former Ann Gallaway of Evansville, Ind.

The couple were married at Evansville, Sept. 12, by the Rev. Charles Zapp in a church ceremony.

EAGLE FEATHERS

With trainees drawn from all sections of the country it appears that Battery A, 863d F. A. Bn., will be an outfit with feathers plucked from all parts of the Eagle.

No less than 22 states and the District of Columbia are represented among the new members of the Battery. From the Far-West, Washington and Oregon, to Massachusetts, from Utah to Louisiana, and from Vermont to Mississippi and Texas, reception centers have sent men to swell the ranks of the Cannoneers.

USO Opens Centreville Building For Use of Men

Without a word of fanfare or publicity, Centreville opened the doors of its U. S. O. Club this week. The building, erected one block south of Main Street on a plot given to the Government by the townspeople, is the first recreational center for servicemen in Centreville.

Managing Director B. Maurice Byrne said that there will be a formal opening of the club at some future date, but that need for the center was felt to be so great that he opened it to the troops as soon as the building was turned over to him by the Federal Works Agency last Wednesday. It was coincidental that the U. S. O. should open on the first

anniversary of the opening of Camp Van Dorn.

"Our program of daily activities will begin probably this weekend, with the shifting of the popular Quiz Program from the Woodville USO extension to the new Centreville building," Mr. Byrne said last night. "I personally am interested in quiz shows, athletics, dancing and discussion programs, and have found that the majority of the servicemen who have visited our Woodville and Gloster branches have been interested in the same subjects," Mr. Byrne continued.

"We have made provision for these things, and for other forms

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Individual Classification Is Secret Of 63d

CIVILIAN JOBS BIG FACTOR IN ASSIGNMENT

Some of you new men who have just joined the 63d Division and who have only recently come into the Army from civilian occupations ranging from dishwashers to bank executives, may wonder just how the Army arrived at its decision to put you in the exact place you're now occupying.

Here's the story, as told to BLOOD and FIRE by Capt. Carl R. Mahder, Division Classification Officer:

At the same time that a group of new men are first being bedded down in a temporary reception barracks, their records arrive at the big black 254th Infantry Recreation Hall, which has been serving as headquarters for Capt. Mahder and his staff. Once the manilla envelopes arrive, the Form 20 is removed. This is the big yellow card upon which the Reception Center interviewers recorded the soldier's civilian occupation, educational background, hobbies, and sports. To this information has also subsequently been added the scores of the individual in the Army General Classification Test, and other aptitude tests he might have taken at the Reception Center.

Work Night And Day

Capt. Mahder's staff sit at long narrow tables day and night. Before them, where they can note at a moment's glance the required strength in any of the 148 specialist jobs of the division, are large charts, blackboards and diagrams. There are also lists of military jobs to which civilian specialists are convertible.

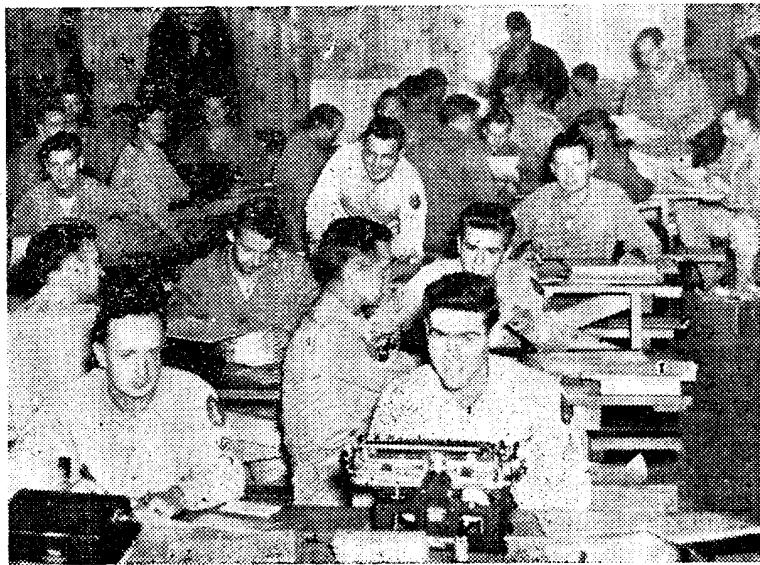
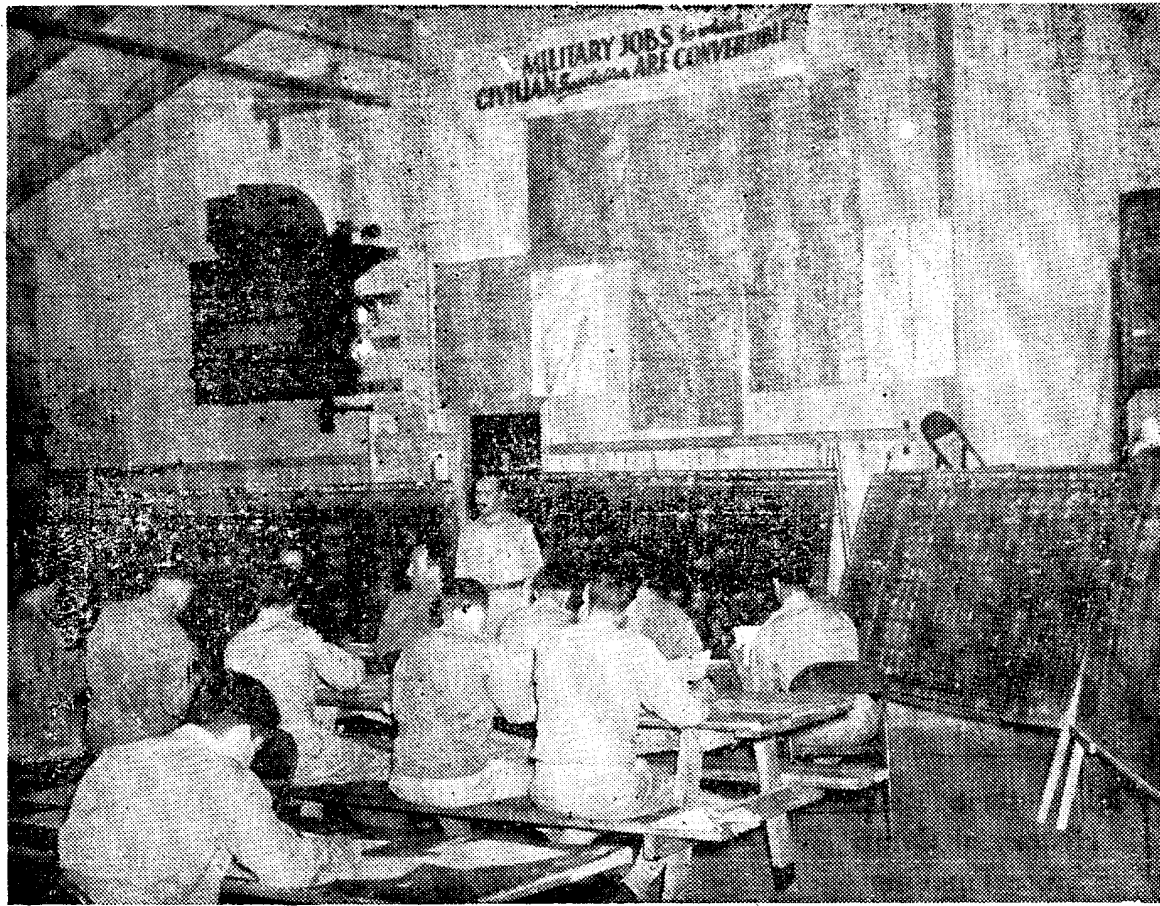
As each new batch of Form 20's arrive they are sorted by this group according to the education, specialized training and aptitude of the individual. For example: twenty machinists might be assigned to the Division in a single shipment of men from a Reception Center. Their cards would be sorted together and placed with the records of other machinists who have similarly been assigned here. When all sorted together, these cards would be turned over to a non-commissioned officer, who works under the close supervision of Capt. Mahder and a staff of six other officers.

Supply Greater Than Demand

Now, it so happens that in the case of men who were civilian machinists, the supply is greater than the demand. Although there are a large number of men who might be sent here from Reception Centers who might qualify in this specialty, there is but one opening for a machinist on the Division's Table of Organization. Capt. Mahder makes every effort to select the man with the best qualifications for the particular openings, frequently calling in and personally interviewing all men who qualify. In addition to civilian background, some of the Army jobs call for other qualifications, such as certain weight limits, height restrictions, or physical stamina and learning ability.

"Since we obviously could not give all the machinists who come to the Division the one position called for in our Table of Organization, we try as far as possible to give them assignments in units where their background may be valuable," Capt. Mahder said, "the others might be assigned as machine gunners, cannoneers, aviators, mechanics, or other mechanical jobs."

"There are some Army jobs for



Here's Capt. Carl R. Mahder (as sketched by staff artist Ulfert Wilke, at lower left. Photos above and at right show officers and men of the Division's classification section as they work on records of new arrivals. U. S. Army Signal Corps Photos

which we receive no ready-trained men, and their requirements call for men with certain skills and high rate of learning ability which will enable them to acquire additional knowledge and skills to perform these duties. One of these tasks is that of the fire instrument control operator, which is non-existent in civilian life. This job requires a man with a high arithmetical or mechanical aptitude and high rate of learning ability.

No I. Q. In Army

"There is no such thing as an 'I.Q.' in the Army Classification System," Capt. Mahder continued. "The Army General Classification Test is indicative of the soldier's rate of learning ability and he in Grade I or in Grade IV, once he has mastered or learned his job, his performance can be expected to be the same. The only difference is in the length of time it will take the individual to learn this task."

Once Capt. Mahder classifies a man, he is assigned to one of the eighteen units of the Division, and upon the arrival of the recruit's records at the individual regiment or battalion, or other special unit, the unit personnel officer in turn makes a further classification as to what company or battery the individual soldier will be assigned.

Even at this point, classification of the individual soldier is not

Former Ohio State Quarterback Now Classifies 63d Division Men

Classification Officer of the 63d Division is short, moustached Captain Carl R. Mahder. An athlete of no mean proportions when he was at Ohio State University, Captain Mahder was first string quarterback of the varsity eleven. He was also a member of the boxing team. He was graduated from

completed, as the soldier must yet be interviewed and placed by his company or battery commander. For specialists this is almost automatic for no company will have assigned to it more than the requirements as given in the Table of Organization, unless there is overstrength.

Finally Assigned

Thus, through this long process of sifting and classification the individual recruit finds himself assigned to a place in a platoon of a company which is part of a battalion of a regiment of the division, which, as a whole, is part of the Third Army.

The fact that he is now assigned to a given job, however, is no guarantee to the specialist that he will hold that job, for it is still expected of him that he continue to acquire new skills and techniques and to perform in accordance with high standards. Should he fail to keep up with

Ohio State with an AB in Public Administration and Economics, and later received his LLB in law at Georgetown University and studied at the National Institute of Public Affairs.

Captain Mahder has traveled extensively in Germany and Austria and on leaving the National Institute he worked with the U. S. Department of Agriculture as an economic analyst.

A 2d Lieutenant in the ROTC at Ohio State he was called into Federal service in March of 1942. After a short course at Ft. Benning, Ga., he was assigned to the 80th Infantry Division at Camp Forrest, Tenn., where he worked in Division Headquarters and as a unit personnel officer.

He left Camp Forrest for a short time to attend the Adjutant General's School at Fort. Washington, Md., and on his return was ordered to observe the activation of the 66th Division at Camp Blanding, Florida, prior to reporting with the 63d.

these standards, he will be re-assigned. He will be continually observed by his company or battery commander in this connection.

RADIO BEAMS GI'S SAVINGS FROM OVERSEAS

By Camp Newspaper Service

Radio is used by U. S. soldiers to send money home from overseas because they can't find any place to spend it. War bonds may be purchased by radio also.

This service, which is provided free of cost, was authorized in March for all officers and enlisted men in overseas service except those in Alaska, Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone and Puerto Rico where other methods of transmittal are available readily.

System Approved

Yardbirds in whose pocket money burns large brown holes have found this system of radioing their dough home right down their alley. During one week in May, when the plan wasn't well advertised, less than \$200,000 was sent home by 1,700 soldiers. A few weeks later when the men got wind of the service more than 9,000 soldiers sent home a total of nearly \$1,000,000.

This plan is as simple as hiding under the barracks when the KF call is out. Here's how it works:

Not Less Than \$10

Money may be transmitted to an individual payee such as your mother, your landlord or your pet Doberman Pinscher or to a bank or other institution. You may send as much money as you want but not less than \$10. You pay it to your personnel officer who turns it over to a finance officer. A radiogram is then sent either the finance office in Jersey City, N. J. or San Francisco, Calif. according to your overseas location. Checks are then written at these finance offices and mailed to the payees.

Speed is the big advantage in this radio method. Transmittal by radio takes a couple of days. By mail it might take months.

Purchasing Bonds Easy

In buying war bonds by radio the soldier pays his personnel officer for them, designates who will receive them and the bonds are delivered in no time at all. GIs abroad bought more than \$25,000 worth of bonds in this way during one week in June.

The use of radio for transmittal of money by military personnel is supplementing postal money orders which still may be used by soldiers or by persons who want to send money to soldiers overseas.

Send Treasury Checks

There are other ways of providing financial aid to GIs going overseas or returning home. If your family wants to send you some moo they can use treasury checks. A soldier can exchange cash for treasury checks which may be issued by any Army disbursing officer. Treasury check may be cashed by any disbursing office in the U. S. or abroad whenever the soldier needs dough.

The travelers check is still another method of acquiring scratch. Soldiers may buy these checks and cash them through disbursing offices whenever they wish.

TRUE LOVE DEPT.

Pvt. Edward P. Wheeler, Co. 1, 254th Inf., received 18 air mail letters from his girl friend last Friday. Wheeler is now second only to Pvt. Charles Jones, also of the 254th, who holds the record for air mail sugar reports—20 in one day.

PRIVATE LETTERS

Folks:

Whew! I've just completed the busiest week of my life. I sure wish were a cross between a centipede, an octopus and Superman. Interviews, "right face, forward march," physical exams lectures, movies, police detail, "squad halt, fall out." As Churchill might say: "Never have so many done so much in such a short time." If the old promise "variety is the spice of life" is true, then I certainly am living.

The day following my arrival I was assigned to a combat company, interviewed, classified, placed in a platoon, issued my equipment, and with my head still spinning at the speed of army procedure, taken out for close order drill. My platoon Sgt. was the instructor. He's a little short fellow, been in the Army about three years and bellows commands like a bear. Every time he says "halt" you're tempted to look behind you and make sure the barracks isn't toppling down on your head.

One of his first lectures was a five-minute oration on the art of field tripping (tearing down) a cigarette. That night in the barracks, Slim, our company comic whom I mentioned in my last letter, mimicked his lecture so well I had him write it out. Here it is.

"Grasp the nicotine bon-bon between the thumb and index finger of the right hand and at the center. While the thumb and fore-finger of the left hand rip the strip of rice paper, delicately but firmly, from the center. Sprinkle the tobacco liberally over the terra-firma, roll the remaining paper into a compact ball and nonchalantly flip over the left shoulder." All this means, Dad, that in this army we don't throw butts on the ground!

"Hey Joe, fall out for M. P. duty," said the corporal first thing next morning. I stuck on that plastic bucket which is called a helmet liner and which is worn most of the time down here, and followed Slim out the door. I found most of the company already lined up across the end of the company street, and soon I was introduced to the buck private's P.

"No, Sis, M. P. doesn't mean "Military Police," at least it doesn't in the morning. It Means "Morning Police," which is an entirely different type of work.

In the Army you don't pick up all trash and butts, etc. . . . you leave it up . . . which is the same thing in the long run. I found out right away that while I thought the previous night that the Corporal and Slim were humorous in describing the regulation manner of disposing of cigarette butts, they were really teaching us something that might someday save our lives.

"One of the sergeants, who has a service ribbon showing that he's been in action in both the Pacific and North African theatres of operations, told us that if we get in the habit of removing every trace of our occupancy of any area now, we'll keep that habit when we get into combat areas. He said that outfits have given away their positions by dropping cigarette butts carelessly on their trail, or leaving refuse behind them when they bivouaced for the night.

"I also learned on this particular police detail that I should get a walk back to the Post Exchange and put my empty "Coke" bottle in a cardboard or wooden carton when I'm through drinking it. I learned the hard way, and I guess I just left myself open for it. Last night I'd had a dozen "Cokes" and had taken them into the little outdoor garden which has picnic tables and benches. When I finished I just put them on the ground, with a lot of other bottles. This morning I picked them up—along with about 500 other bottles that other fellows had left. And all because I was too lazy to walk a dozen steps or so to put them back in a carton! Well, my tired back is the result.

It's just about time for lights out. Morn, so I'm gonna blow you a kiss and sign off now. Love, your Joie.

TIPS FROM TERRY FIED --THE 'OLD SARGE'

This week I have a real tip for you youngsters who would like to have chevrons sprout on your sleeves. The other day the Old Man assembled the non-commissioned officers, gave us copies of a "Catechism for Non-Commissioned Officers", and went over it carefully with us.

The bomb shell came after we had told him that we fully understood it. He produced his fountain pen and had each of us sign on the dotted line. And did that signature mean plenty. Just read paragraph seven of it below.

All the same, it's about the best summary of what an NCO should be that I've seen in 20 years of soldering. If you can live up to it, you're bound to be a good non-com. There ain't no loop-holes.

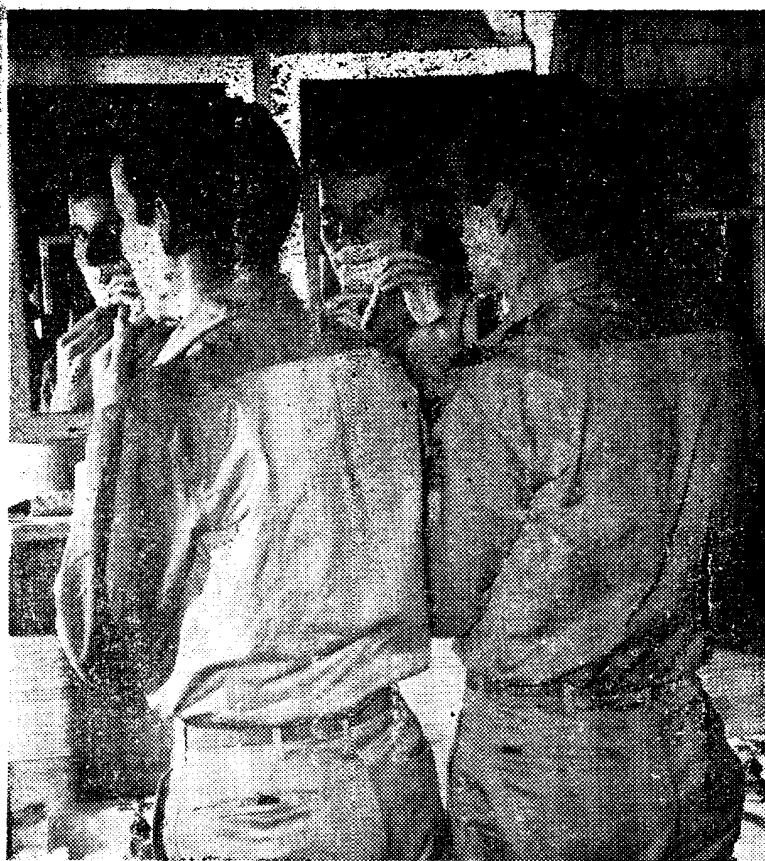
Incidentally, it will probably have a sobering effect on some of you who think that all an NCO has to do is wear the chevrons, sign the payroll, and spend the money.

Here it is, boys:

1. I realize that the status of non-commissioned officer carries with it additional responsibilities, and that in accepting the honor of appointment as a noncommissioned officer it becomes my duty to carry out these to the best of my ability. These include study and preparation for the next higher grade as well as instruction of my subordinates with a view toward their filling my grade.
2. I am responsible for the training of the men under my command or combat.
3. I am responsible for the appearance and conduct of the men under my command at all times, on or off duty, on or off the reservation.
4. I am responsible that the arms, equipment and clothing of the men under my command are kept in the best possible condition, and that any loss or damage is promptly reported.

5. I am responsible for the police and neatness of the area in barracks, camp, or bivouac to which my command is assigned.
6. I will at all times be on the alert for errors and violations of standing orders and regulations, on or off the reservation, and will correct them without hesitation. This has special reference to members of the 63d Infantry Division, and to their errors and violations with respect to dress, saluting, military courtesy, personal habits, and soldierly conduct.
7. My signature below means that I fully understand the foregoing, and that I enter on my status as a noncommissioned officer with the firm and sincere intention to live up to the foregoing and to make myself, and keep myself, the fully competent combat leader of the group placed under my command.

MEET THE JONES BOYS OF BADIN, N. C.



Shaving themselves their first morning as members of Co. D, 254th Inf., are Clyde and William Jones, identical twins from Badin, N. C. William was first assigned to Co. E, but his twin, Sgt. whose name was also Jones, gladly got permission from headquarters for a transfer which put the twins in the same company. Said Clyde: "We've always been together, even switching ourselves around sometimes when we went out on dates." Said their new Sgt: "Guess I'll have to put one in blue fatigues, the other in green. Then I'll be able to call Blue Jones or Green Jones and know who'll answer." Both were athletes at Mars Hill Junior College, Asheville, N. C. before their entry into the Army. Their dad is a North Carolina police chief. U. S. Army Signal Corps Photo

SNAFU PROTECTS BROWNE'S REP. IN SAM VERSUS ED BELT MIXUP

The Yardbird put down the paper. "Them poor officers," he said "I kin not see how they kin stan' it."

"What's that, Snafu?" Pvt. Ed Brown, BLOOD and FIRE's Associate Editor asked.

"This unionform business. I kin not keep up with it. Foist they wear belts; then they don't. Then the Army comes up with a new coat. I kin not keep up with it."

"I don't know why you should worry about it so much, Yardbird," Brown told him, "Styles won't affect you much."

The Yardbird was slightly offended.

No Experience

"Me lad," he explained to Brown, "What you need is faw-sight. I been informed that that there OCS Bore toined me down fer the reason only that I ain't experienced enough, bein' in this here Army only two years eight months. All I need is experience, ole boy, experience. I espeak to have no trouble nex' time."

Brown covered a yawn.

"Ho-hum," he said.

"Go ahead and yawn, me lad," Snafu told him. "They will come days when you will yawn at attention in me presence, ole boy." Brown yawned again.

"Awright, me lad," Snafu said, turning back to his paper, "But I yam still goin' to prepare fer this here officer business. This here yardbird ain't goin' to be leff unprepared when they pin those ole gole bars on his sholders. Not this yardbird."

The Yardbird scanned the paper for a while.

Tch, Tch

"Tch, tch," he said, "I see where Ed Brown belts ain't GI no more. Y'know," he said looking up, "I yam sorta gonna miss the ole Ed Browns."

"Sam Browne, Yardbird, Sam Browne," Ed Brown corrected him.

"Are you tryin' to woik your name into this?" the Yardbird

inquired.

"No," Brown told him, "My name is Ed Brown."

"Then why the hell are you tryin' to woik your name into this here belt business?" the Yardbird wanted to know.

"I'm not, Snafu," Brown answered, "I'm merely informing you that the name of the belt is Sam Browne, and my name is Ed Brown."

The Yardbird was annoyed.

"Look here, Chum," he said, "I poisonally don't care what your name is. All I want to know," he continued his voice rising in anger, "is where you get off tryin' to woik your name into this belt business."

He strode up and down furiously.

NEW REPELLANT FOE OF MALARIA

By Camp Newspaper Service

A shortage of quinine caused by the Japanese occupation of Java, has caused the Army to come up with a new insect repellent which will not only ward off the pestiferous mosquito but will also aid in the defeat of malaria.

The chemical, the formula for which is still a military secret, is already safeguarding the lives of American soldiers and marines in the mosquito-infested jungles of the Southwest Pacific.

Jewish Soldiers To Mark Holidays

Special Jewish religious services marking Rosh Hashonah, the Jewish New Year, will be held at Chapel No. 1 at Sundown Wednesday, it was announced today. Conservative service will be held at Chapels 1 and 10 at 1930 Friday, while the Orthodox service will take place at Chapel No. 1 at 2030 Friday.

The High Holidays will extend from sundown Wednesday to Friday and soldiers of the Jewish faith will be granted passes to attend services and partake of the hospitality offered by Jewish families in nearby communities. Arrangements for transportation and lodging may be made through Mr. Samuel Shuster, local representative of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

"Crook!" he flung at Brown. "Thass the doitiest thing I ever hoid of. It's contemptable," he said with scorn.

"But, Yardbird," Ed Brown said, "I'm not trying to work my name into anything. I'm just trying to tell you that the correct name of that belt is the Sam Browne belt, and that my name is Ed Brown."

"Oh," said the Yardbird, "Thass different, ole pal. Thass a hearse of a different aspeck. I gotcher wrong, ole chum."

The Yardbird settled himself in his chair again and picked up his paper.

"It still breaks me heart to see the ole Ed Brown belt go. It's a heart breaker, Sam, ole pal," he said regretfully.

"Now see here, Yardbird," Brown said firmly, "my name is not Sam, but Ed Brown."

The Yardbird's eyes flashed forth fire. He pointed his finger at the Associate Editor in wrath. "Crook!" he thundered.

The Wolf by Sansone



"I love the backstroke, don't you?"

Blood and Fire

Official Newspaper Of The
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EDITORIAL

Not Pretty-Adequate

Camp Van Dorn is not a pretty place. It was not made to be pretty. It was constructed a year ago for a purpose—the training of efficient, tough, combat soldiers. As an Infantry Division we cannot compare the conditions under which we must live, and the rigors which we must undergo with those of units with less difficult missions, with roles less stern. Our is a mission that calls for a Spartan existence.

If we are to fulfill our mission, if we are to fight successfully, we cannot live in any other manner.

When the 99th Division was activated Camp Van Dorn did not present the appearance it does now. There was one paved road running through the Camp. Other roads existed mainly on maps. Walking consisted mainly of a contest with mud.

Quarters were inadequate. Some members of the Division lived in buildings covered only partially with roofs.

Movies such as we enjoy here were not available. They had only 16 mm films.

And last Christmas their two Service Clubs burned down.

That was Spartan existence with a vengeance.

We cannot compare our conditions with those the 99th possessed when they entered Camp Van Dorn last Fall. We have adequate roads, reasonably comfortable quarters, new Service Clubs, and a host of comforts the 99th did not have for most of their stay.

Any time we think that life is getting too rugged for us, let's think of the 99th and what they went through.

And let's thank God we weren't here at the time.

Thanks, Dinah

Thanks to Dinah Shore for traipsing all the way from the peaceful hustle and bustle of Hollywood to this out-of-the-way theatre of operations camp. Life's been more than a little monotonous for some of the fellows here. Particularly those who've been unable, for one reason or other, to travel the 50-odd miles to our nearest cities of any size, McComb or Natchez. But Dinah was a good hypo for us all. The 15,000 soldiers and WACs who heard her sing at the Open Air Theatre Wednesday afternoon and evening will long remember her flaming hair and golden voice, and those gracious kisses she blew to us. Dinah's visit opened up a new era for the Sixty-third: an era in which we'll go about our daily tasks with renewed vigor. And let's hope that, as the USO promises, we'll have more and more and more visits from screen, stage and radio stars. For at Van Dorn we've certainly almost as far away from our families as we would ever be were we overseas.

PUTTING THE SCREWS ON



News From Here And There

FATTY GRUB

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. (CNS)—Twenty-five pounds were gained by Pvt. Harry E. Maura during his 10-month "hitch" in the Army. Maura, who enlisted on his 17th birthday, was discharged from this Post recently as underage.

Indiana Sponsors Servicemen's Bonus

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS)—State Sen. Charles A. Phelps of Ft. Wayne has asked the Governor to call a special session of the legislature in January to vote a State bonus to Indiana men in service. Sen. Phelps proposes a \$20 monthly bonus with an extra \$5 a month for overseas service.

WACs Start Training As Medical Aides

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (CNS)—A total of 145 WACs have begun training at the Army-Navy General Hospital here. They are the first such group to attend an Army school for medical technicians.

Present plans call for the training of 1,000 WACs as medical, surgical, X-ray, dental and laboratory technicians to serve with the Army in hospitals in the U. S. and overseas. The course for X-ray, dental and laboratory technicians will last three months and that for medical and surgical technicians, two months.

Death Dives Destroy Rumanian Oil Wells

MIAMI, Fla. (CNS) — T/Sgt. Frank Kozak of Carbondale, Pa., arrived here from Africa recently with a story of how the crews of two Liberator bombers deliberately sacrificed their lives by diving their planes into Ploesti oil field targets.

Sgt. Kozak, a crewman on a Liberator, said that the two planes, almost out of control, were aimed at vital targets in a suicide dive by their pilots, who made the sacrifice "to shorten the war." One plane hit and destroyed a refinery and the other shattered an important cracking plant, he said.

KEEPING 'EM FLYING

LONDON (CNS)—Twenty American girls are members of the British Air Transport Authority, an organization of 600 girl fliers who deliver planes from the assembly line to Royal Air Force squadrons all over the British Isles.

In Army 10 Years, Never Had Furlough

SAN JUAN, P. R. (CNS)—F/Sgt. Joe Nittiskie, stationed here, has been in the Army 10 years and he's never had a furlough. He enlisted in Pleasant Valley, N. Y. in 1933 and spent less than six months of his service in the continental U. S.

Recently he married a Puerto Rican girl and now he's lost interest in getting a furlough. "I'm saving up my time," he says, "for a big vacation after the war."

NEW OVERSEAS ARMY STANDARDS

WASHINGTON—The War Department has announced that Army enlisted men who have any of the following defects will be considered as disqualified for overseas duty: Neuropsychiatric condition of any kind, hernia, perforated eardrums, class one dental conditions, defects below the minimum standards for induction for limited military service as prescribed by MR 1-9.

BRITISH DROP SAM BROWNES

LONDON — The Sam Browne belt, which has been a feature of the British army officer's uniform for 70 years, has been officially retired owing to the scarcity of leather.

CANNED MOONSHINE

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC (CNS)—Marine PFC Norman Peterson of Atlanta, Mich. built a still of empty cans, kegs and a steel coil from a wrecked bomber. Into the still he poured canned peaches and the resulting concoction, says Peterson, "was the best peach brandy in the Solomons."

The Sky Pilot Says it

By Chaplain William J. Guinan
Division Headquarters

From Strife Begets Virtues

One of the most inspiring characters of the 20th century was Joyce Kilmer. Chouched in a trench in France, his beautiful letters to his charming poet-wife have been an inspiration to countless readers. Nor has time dulled the luster of their beauty. They still serve to inspire the most cynical of men.

He saw more genuine virtue in the men around him than he had ever seen in the so-called literary cliques who cracked their cynicisms and laughed over their smart obscenities in Broadway cafes. He was quite certain that the wounds and death he saw around him were not as frightful as the perversions committed unblushingly by those back in the States. He was not uncertain that a man had a better chance to save his soul and find his God on the battlefields of France than in many a degenerate, though always ornate and fashionable resort of Cafe Society.

Virtues do rise out of war. Not only does the worst cancer come forth, but the grandest virtues flower. Some men have run amuck when given a gun, yet many a selfish fellow learns an unselfishness which he never dreamed himself capable. Out of war came Red Cross. Many a man self-centered and unfriendly has learned comradeship. Disorderly lives have mastered discipline; untrained wills have grown orderly in obedience.

Leadership has developed in the most unexpected characters. The grouching critter will hold a pill-box and never whimper. Why? Because patriotism has such a gripping power over him that he rises to heights of devotion and generosity undreamed of formerly.

Such should be the goal of every soldier of the 63d Division. It can, it will, it must be.

G. I. Jingles

MIMI O'GRAPH

BY THE BARD OF BROOKLYN

We've no women in our T. O.
We've no WACs upon our staff;
Still we've got an Irish lassie—
With the surname of O'Graph.

She's a wonder for a woman,
She can't talk; she'll only sing—
Though she pours out thoughts and orders
She can't say a single thing.

Her center's clothed in flannel,
And her sides with glossy steel;
A GI Joan of Arc is she
Mounted on her inky wheel.

She's very undemanding
In her food and in her drink—
For her entree she takes paper,
For dessert a sip of ink.

She's sometimes coyly vulgar—
When in the middle of a roll,
She'll grind her little cylinder
And bare her ink-black soul.

She's a woman; you can't doubt it,
She's a gossipmonger bold;
And the rumors that she seizes on
She multiplies a hundred-fold.

She's a diva with a temper
You can't pacify with mink—
She'll strip her stencil off her back,
And spit at you with ink.

Yet, we couldn't do without her—
Little Mimi O'Graph—
She's the darling of the Army
And the sweetheart of the staff.

On Monday, while Camp Van Dorn was celebrating its first anniversary, General John J. Pershing, commander in chief of the AEF during the First World War, celebrated his 83d birthday at Walter Reed Hospital, where he lives when he is in Washington.

Under a recent War Department Circular (No. 192) there will no longer be mail orderlies. Though their duties remain similar, they will now be known as mail clerks.

In the recent issue "Soldiers' Guide to Italy" American doughboys are warned not to try to pick up a respectable girl in Italy. "A number of German came to an untimely end in trying to do that," the booklet says.

63d Division Troops Aid In 3d War Bond Drive

GEN. VAN DORN WOULD BE PROUD OF SIXTY-THIRD

Continued From Page One to his widowed sister, Octavia, April 6, 1841 typifies his martial spirit:

"I wish I were in active service, that I might write of hairbreath escapes in the deadly breach, and such things from the field of war. This piping time of peace to one of my vocation is trying, and I long with a great longing for something to dissipate a heavy cloud of melancholy which hangs over me."

Graduated in 1842

His desire for action in the field was soon to be fulfilled. He was graduated from West Point with the Class of 1842, which numbered among its members men who were to become outstanding in the military history of the nation. Shortly after being commissioned a second lieutenant he married the only daughter of Colonel Godbold of Mount Vernon, Ala. At that time Van Dorn was 23 and his bride 16.

War with Mexico flared in 1846 and Van Dorn was a lieutenant attached to the 7th U. S. Infantry. It was during this struggle and during the subsequent campaigns against the Indians on the plains of Texas that the future Confederate general was to attain his greatest fame.

His name was frequently mentioned for gallantry in action and during the storming of Chapultepec, he was among the first to scale the wall and with his sword to cut his way into the citadel. He was with General Quitman at the battle of Monterey, and entered the city of Mexico with Gen. Winfield Scott. He was wounded at Belen Gate. He emerged from the struggle Brevetted-Major and with several swords and a silver service, gifts of the State of Mississippi, Port Gibson and Clairbon County.

Indian Campaign

Two regiments of cavalry were organized for the defense of Texas against the Comanche and Apache Indians in 1855, and Earl Van Dorn along with such distinguished leaders as Jos. E. Johnston, George B. McClellan, J. E. B. Stuart, Albert Sidney Johnston, Robert E. Lee, George H. Thomas and John B. Hood were enrolled in its ranks.

Van Dorn distinguished himself by his courage and ability in the campaign against the Indians. He was wounded severely while pursuing a group of fleeing redskins and was saved by the heroic action of a sergeant who interposed his own body between the Indians and his commander.

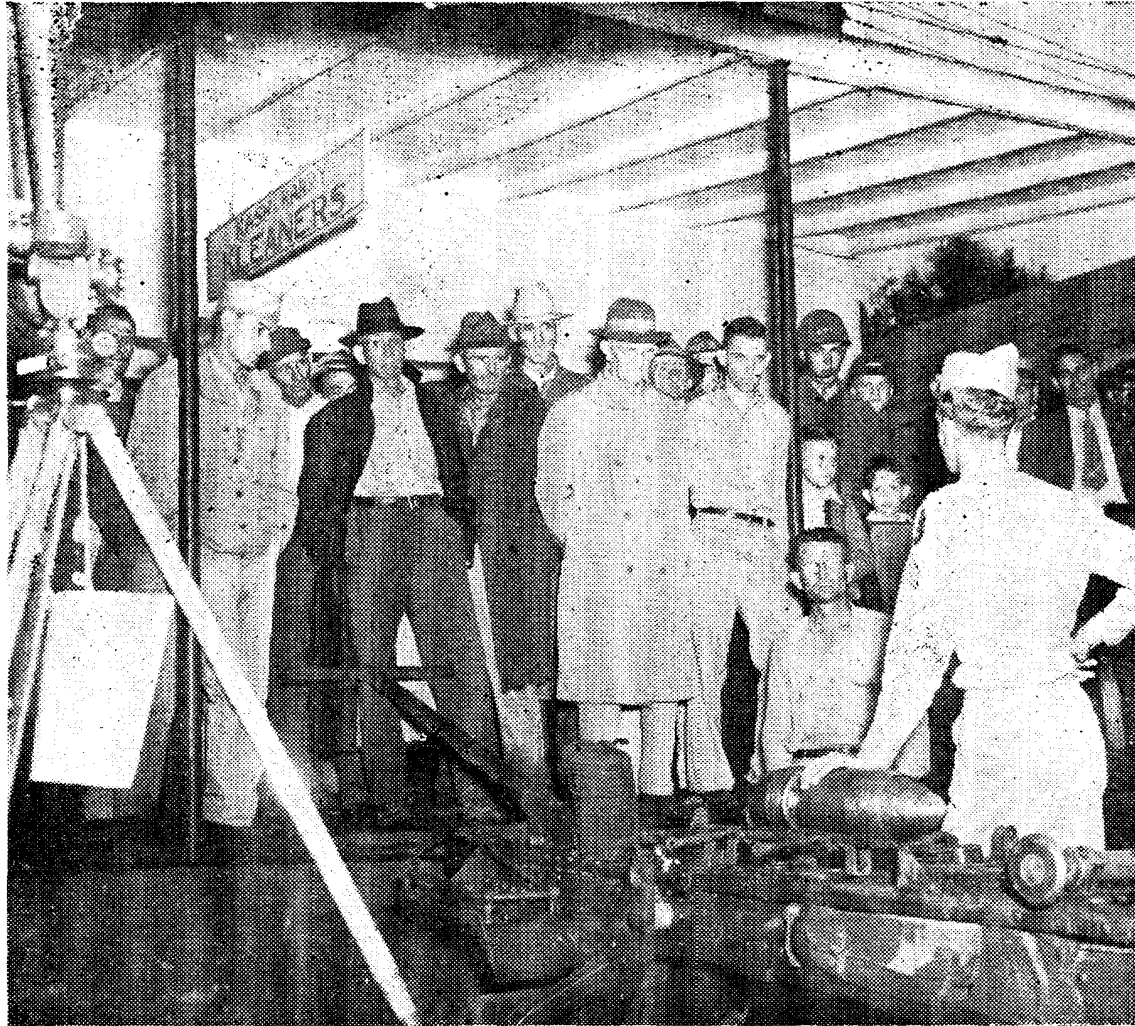
Once again his native state hailed him as a hero upon his return from the Indian campaign and the Natchez Democrat of that time pointed with pride in the following article:

"This gallant young officer in consequence of his brilliant action on the frontier of Texas, in which he achieved a complete victory over a superior and well-trained force of Comanches, is attracting the public attention and many encomiums from the press. We rejoice at it, for he is well known in this community."

Joins Confederates

The burning question of states rights came to a head in 1861 and Mississippi, along with her sister states seceded from the these lost by fire.

CENTREVILLE RESIDENTS HEAR ABOUT 63D'S BIG GUNS



Sgt. Paul Sheehan, of Battery C, 718th Field Artillery Battalion, tells Centreville residents how his 155-mm. howitzer operates, and how much their war bonds contribute towards the purchase of similar guns in photo above. On the right, 21-months-old Mark Maneles doesn't seem very interested in the bond his mother, behind cashier's cage, has just bought for him. He should know that in ten years it will be worth \$100. Mark is son of Lt. Maneles, of 862d F. A. Bn.

Union. Major Van Dorn followed his state and resigned his commission in the U. S. Army to enter the Confederate service.

His military career which had been on the ascendancy prior to the Civil War suffered during the struggle, and although he became a Major General with such leaders as Pierre Beauregard, Bedford Forrest, and others under his command, he was never quite able to prove his ability as an outstanding commander. His career was cut short by his death in May 1863.

Van Dorn, then a colonel, was outstanding at the outset of the struggle. He engineered the capture of the U. S. steamer "Star of the West," at Galveston, Tex. This was the first naval prize of the war taken by the Confederacy. He subsequently negotiated the capture of two other Federal steamers, and was acclaimed throughout the South for his daring and skill.

Not long afterwards he was promoted to the rank of Maj. General, and after a brief stay in Virginia was assigned to the Trans-Mississippi theatre.

Cut Grant's Supply Line

His direction of the defenses of Vicksburg, in 1862, and his action in stalemating Grant's advance by cutting the Union leader's supply line at Holly Springs, in northern Mississippi, caused the Federal forces to withdraw and lift the siege. For this Van Dorn was highly praised and Mississippi voted him a sword.

He was not long to bask in the light of acclaim however. In order to prevent the enemy from obtaining information on the movements of his troops, Van Dorn issued Order No. 9 imposing



martial law throughout Mississippi. This brought a shower of condemnation upon him and he was subsequently relieved of command at Vicksburg and placed in charge of a cavalry unit.

Following swiftly upon this setback came the action before Corinth. Gen Van Dorn commanded the attacking Confederate forces which suffered a severe defeat. He demanded a court martial and was cleared of charges of inefficiency.

Shortly thereafter while at his headquarters at Spring Hill, Tenn., he was shot in the back and killed by a resident of the town on May 7, 1863. The murder was shrouded in some mystery and the perpetrator was never captured.

CRYSTAL GAZER

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (CNS)—No. 1 optimist in the U. S. Army is an American prisoner of war in Italy who last April wrote to officials at the Naval Academy here requesting two tickets to the Army-Navy game in November, 1943. The Navy complied and it appears, now that Italy has surrendered, that the GI may see that game after all.

Will the 63d Division topkick who found his son in this Division please contact BLOOD and FIRE.

ODB SETS MARK IN DISBURSING FAMILY CHECKS

A new record for the disbursement of family allowance checks to dependents of soldiers was set by the Office of Dependency Benefits, as the unit began its second year under the Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act of 1942, the War Department revealed recently.

Family allowance checks numbering 2,779,194, and amounting to \$133,929,436, were mailed to dependents of servicemen this month. This contrasts with the 36,000 family allowance checks totaling \$4,500,000 sent out by the ODB in Sept. 1942.

Besides the family checks, ODB, this month, mailed 1,194,332 checks for voluntary Class E allotments of pay and dependency Class E allotments, bringing to 3,974,126 the number of checks sent during the month and \$210,000,000 the amount of money represented by the checks.

Twelve hours after the current checks became payable according to law, the record volume of disbursements were in the mail. This cut in half the time required previously for mailing checks. The new record was made possible through employment of a newly designed double window envelope which permits each check number to be visible at all times.

A total of 21,653,646 family allowance checks have been sent through the mails since the first one was dispatched by ODB a year ago, and 10,017,930 checks for voluntary Class E allotments of pay and dependency Class E allotments, or a grand total of 31,671,576 checks.

Sgt. Anthony A. Masella of "B" Battery became a proud father with the arrival of a 5 3/4 lb. baby girl on September 6, in New York City.

DEMONSTRATION TOMORROW SET FOR WOODVILLE

So successful was the demonstration put on by the officers and men of the 63d Division in Centreville and McComb last Saturday when units were dispatched to air in the Third Victory Loan Drive Campaign, that plans have been made to send additional demonstration units to Woodville and Brookhaven, Miss., tomorrow, and to Baton Rouge, La., Tuesday.

Supplementing the 63d Division's participation in the War Bond Drive at Baton Rouge will be units of Army Air Force detachments at Harding Field, La., and civilian groups. The Woodville demonstrations, however, will be provided solely by the 63d Division.

In Woodville equipment is to be displayed prominently in the various business establishments of the City. In the heart of the City will be a display of thermite bombs and other chemical weapons.

From 1300 to 1415 the Division Band will play incidental music, and will then parade around the Court House to the water tower, then to the bank, ending up finally in the Court House Square, where a concert will be given.

Instrumental in arranging the Woodville display was the Brasfield Commercial Bank. Judge Stockett of Woodville was responsible for the arrangement of the main booth.

Scout cars will carry men of the 63d Division to Brookhaven where they will bivouac for the night. A dance, arranged by local civilians, has been planned for the men, it was announced. 63d Division, enthusiastic citizens of Centreville subscribed to \$30,000 worth of bonds last Saturday as the Third Victory Loan Drive got under way.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Protestant Services

- Chapel No. 6, 253 Inf., Lutheran Service, 0900.
- Chapel No. 7, 254th Inf., 0900.
- Chapel No. 8, 255th Inf., 0900.
- Chapel No. 10, Div. Artillery, 0900.
- Chapel No. 5, Div. Hqrs., 1000.
- Chapel No. 6, Protestant Service, 1000.
- Chapel No. 8, 1000.
- Chapel No. 10, 1000.
- Chapel No. 7, 1100.

Roman Catholic Mass

- Chapel No. 5, Div. Hqrs., and Special Troops, 0800.
- Chapel No. 6, 253rd Inf., 0800.
- Chapel No. 7, 254th Inf., 0800.
- Chapel No. 10, Div. Artillery, 0800.
- War Dept. Theatre No. 1, 0900.
- Chapel No. 7, 1000.
- War Dept., Theatre No. 1, 1030.
- Chapel No. 6, 1100.
- Chapel No. 8, 1100.
- Chapel No. 10, 1100.

Weekday Services

- Chapel No. 5, Mon. to Fri. 1830.
- Chapel No. 6, Mon to Sat. 1815.
- Chapel No. 7, Mon. to Sat. 1830.
- Chapel No. 5, Novena Miraculous Medal, Mon. 1830. Confessions all chapels, 1900-2100 Sat. night.

Jewish Services

- Chapel No. 10, Div. Artillery, Friday night, 1930.
- Chapel No. 1, Friday night, 1930.
- Chapel No. 1, Friday night, 2030.

Wednesday Night

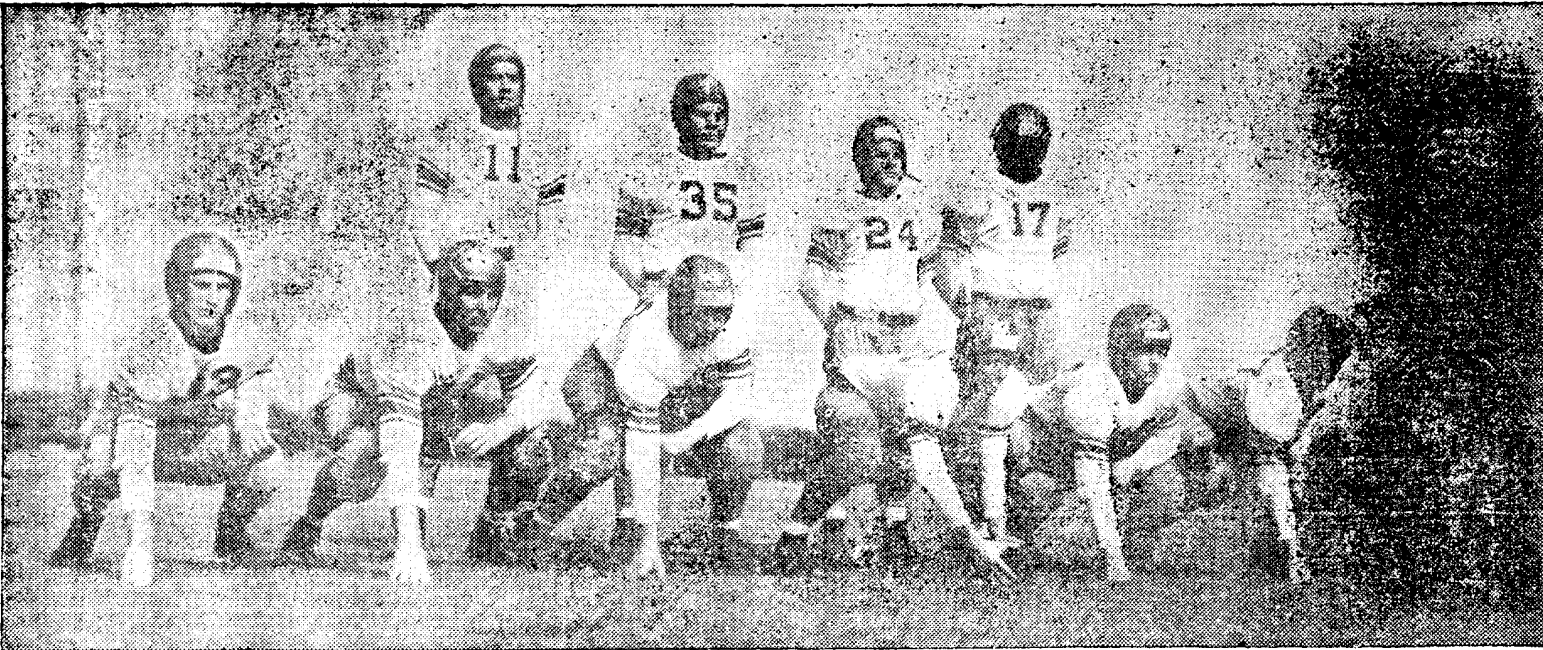
- Chapel No. 1, Services for High Holidays starting at sundown.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Replacing Lt. Fred Z. Nichols as Pay Officer at Fort Harrison, Ind. is Lt. Leon J. Penny.

Doughboys Will See LSU Play Georgia Tomorrow Night

Louisiana's Fighting Tigers Ready for Opening Contest



Here is the probable starting lineup for the University of Louisiana foot ball team which faces Georgia in the opening game for the Tigers tomorrow night at Baton Rouge, La. (L.R.) Charley Webb, Joe Hartley, Peter P. Glezola, John Christmas, Carl Janneck, Ralph Hunt, and W. R. McClelland. Backfield (L. R.) Joe Nagata, Bill Schroll, Marion Wolfe, and Steve Van Buren

CONVOY TO TAKE 550 TO CONTEST AT BATON ROUGE

Continued from Page One

be at \$1.75 and \$2.50.
Louisiana State's grid team, which is composed of a nucleus of veterans built around youngsters fresh from high and prep schools, will be tackling a formidable foe in the Rose Bowl champs. Georgia has already one victory under its belt, scored last week over Presbyterian College. In that performance the Bulldogs displayed surprising strength in line and backfield, despite the pessimistic attitude taken by coach Wally Butts prior to the game.
The Tigers have been forced to construct a new team around such veterans as Joe Hartley, 210 pound senior of St. Petersburg, Fla., Joe Nagata, Marion "Cookie" Wolf, and Steve Van Buren. Nagata, Wolf and Van Buren are backs and their performances thus far indicate that they will be hard men to stop tomorrow night.

Tigers at Full Strength

Coach Bernie Moore has been plagued by injuries to several of his linemen but latest information indicates that all of the invalids have recovered sufficiently so that they will be on deck for the opening game.
The coach has been concentrating on the line and in perfecting his backs on blocking on kicking plays. Georgia demonstrated a speed and dash in its line which makes it imperative that the defensive eleven present good protection for its kickers and passers.

At center the Tigers will have one of the lightest men in years, Ed Claunch, a freshman from Haynesville, La., scales 167, but he has displayed considerable fire and ability on the defense which may discount his lack of avoirdupoise.

The starting backfield for Louisiana will probably consist of Van Buren at tailback, Bill Schroll at fullback, Nagata at wingback, and Wolf or Barney at blocking back.

All of LSU's home games will be played at night. Rice will be the next opponent on Oct. 2, Texas A. & M. will follow on Oct. 9, and Texas Christian U. will conclude the home stand on Oct. 30. The Tigers will also play Naval trainees at Memphis Oct. 16, Georgia in a return game at Columbus, Ga., Oct. 23, Georgia Tech at Atlanta, Nov. 6, and will conclude with Tulane's Green Wave at New Orleans, Nov. 23.

A football autographed by members of the Louisiana State and University of Georgia teams, will be auctioned off between the halves of tomorrow night's game between LSU and the Bulldogs. The proceeds will go towards the Third Victory Loan drive.

Soldiers To Hear Series Broadcast

Soldiers overseas as well as those on the home front will, if they are within listening distance, hear a regular play-by-play account of the forthcoming World Series which start in New York City, Oct. 5. "Red" Barber, the "Verse of Brooklyn," will tell the story of the games according to Mutual Broadcasting System, which will short wave the games to all fronts.

Grid Leaders In Colorful Week-end Card

Outstanding teams in college grid circles, many of them made top-heavy with power through the special training courses instituted by the Navy, will collide tomorrow and Sunday in war-time sports spectacles.

Notre Dame, Southern California, Army, Navy, Georgia Tech, Northwestern, California, Tulsa, Dartmouth and Ohio State unveil their elevens in an effort to match Michigan, Duke and Purdue, last week's victors.

In the East, Army, with a strong backfield, plays Villanova, while Dartmouth, bolstered by many stars faces Holy Cross in a Sunday game. Princeton and Penn are expected to provide fiction aplenty tomorrow, and Colgate plays Rochester, conqueror of Yale. The Bulldogs face the Coast Guard Academy.

Besides the LSU-Georgia game tomorrow night, Duke's powerhouse meets Richmond and Georgia Tech tackles North Carolina.

The Mid-West will fling Ohio State, 1943 standout, against Iowa's Seahawks, Northwestern's steamroller against Indiana, and Michigan will toy with Western Michigan (formerly Kalamazoo Teachers). Purdue and Marquette, both unbeaten, tangle at Milwaukee.

Officers Compete On Links Today

Officers of the 63d will meet on the golf links today as Division Special Service sponsors the first Blind Bogey tournament over the links of the McComb Country Club at 1700.

Special prizes will be on hand for the tournament victor and for those executing the longest drive and the longest putt. Because a prospective entrant lacks clues will be no reason for him to remain away from the tournament. Arrangements have been made at the club house to supply clubs to all who desire them.

Whit Wyatt of the Dodgers blanked the Braves, 3-0, with one hit, Sept. 8. It was the fourth time in his major league career that he had been deprived of a no-hitter by a single blow. His efforts resulted in the 11th one-hitter of the 1943 season.

SOFTBALL RACE IS POSTPONED, TOURNAMENT TO START MONDAY

Bad weather, the shifting of sections of Division troops, and the appearance of Miss Dinah Shore in Camp has caused a postponement of the second Division softball tournament for the Pepsi-Cola trophy, it was announced today by Special Service. The tournament, weather permitting, will swing into action Monday afternoon.

A total of 24 teams have been preparing for the competition which is expected to be hot and heavy because of the influx of material from among the trainees. Many of the teams will be bolstered by star players who have been outstanding in civilian sporting circles.

The 254th Infantry team, which won the championship in the previous tournament, will enter a strong aggregation while the 863d F. A. Bn., ten runner-up for the honors, will be out to improve its performance and will be gunning for the championship.

In addition to the first prize, a trophy will also be presented to the team finishing second in the tournament.

Big Ed Levy, six-foot, five-inch Newark Bear outfielder, has been sworn into the Coast Guard and has reported for duty at Manhattan Beach, L. I., station.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- East**
 - Dartmouth vs Holy Cross
 - Army vs Villanova
 - Navy vs. N. C. Pre-Flight
 - Princeton vs Penn
 - Pittsburgh vs Notre Dame
 - Yale vs Coast Guard Academy at New Haven.
 - Rochester vs Colgate
- South**
 - Georgia vs Louisiana State
 - Georgia Tech. vs North Carolina
 - Duke vs Richmond
- Mid-West**
 - Ohio State vs Iowa Seahawks
 - Northwestern vs Indiana
 - Purdue vs Marquette
 - Great Lakes N. T. S. vs Iowa
 - Wisconsin vs Camp Grant
 - Michigan vs Western Michigan
 - Minnesota vs Missouri
- Far West**
 - Southern Calif. vs UCLA
 - California vs St. Mary's

* Sunday game.

Bill Skiff of New Rochelle, N. Y., will manage the Seattle club of the Pacific Coast League for the fourth season next year. His contract was renewed after he had pulled his club up to finish in third spot following a bad start.

Stan Musial Is Leading Fielding Ace

Stan Musial, the batting star of the St. Louis Cardinals, looms as the possible destiny man of the coming World Series. His presence in right field for the Cardinals gives the Red Birds a decided edge over the Yankees despite the presence of "King Kong" Keller in the outfield of the Bronx Bombers.

Last year Musial failed to impress in the series with the Yankees, batting .222 and getting nothing better than a double. Last year in the regular season he hit .315 including 10 homers, 10 triples and 32 doubles.

This year Stan has improved one-hundred fold. With only two weeks left of regular play he is batting .356 and has collected 13 homers, 18 triples and 44 doubles. He has knocked in 75 runs. Keller, in comparison has hit 28 homers and has a batting average of .271.

The world champions St. Louis Cards gave the New York Yankees, their opponents in the forthcoming World Series, something to think about recently when they chalked up five victories in a row using three left handers, Al Brazle, Harry Brecheen and Max Lanier, to win four of them.

Off Again, On Again, Gone Again-Ferguson

Ever since he was a little shaver, Lyle Ferguson, Recon Troops trainee, wanted to be a jockey. He attained his goal all right but fate and the Army combined to thwart him in one of the greatest ambitions of his career, to ride in a feature event at one of the big-time Eastern tracks. Like the celebrated Finnegan, he was off again, on again, and gone again before the chance was presented more than once.

Lyle learned to ride at his parents' farm in Nebraska, but he was taught the fine points of flat racing by a California horse breeder who gave the lad a job as exercise boy on his ranch.

Wins Aboard Brown Jade
The 105-pound youngster took readily to the saddle and it wasn't long before he had a leg up on

Brown Jade, of the Ross Cooper Farms, considered to be one of the best race horses bred in California. He was aboard her in three races and in the first, a \$50,000 top-flight event at Hollywood Park, he booted her home ahead of the field.

The Nebraskan ranged between the Coast and his home state, racing at Del Mar, Calif., Long Acres, Oregon, and Aksarben, near Omaha, Neb. Most of his races were claiming events for purses ranging between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Big Chance in '40
It was during the winter of 1940 that he came nearest to realizing his ambition to ride in the East, when he was chosen to pilot a California entry in a feature race at Tropical Park, Fla. Lyle says he was mightily

elated over the prospect of riding at Tropical before Eastern sports fans, and eagerly awaited the day of the race.

Prior to the day he was to ride, Ferguson consented to do a favor for a friend and exercise the entry of another stable. While jogging about the track his mount became restive, reared and threw him, breaking his leg. He was out of competition for almost a year and his chance to ride in the East was gone.

Ferguson won over 96 races before his induction into the Army a short while ago at San Diego, Calif. Although reared in the Mid-West, he has become a true "Native Son," and when the war is over desires to return to the West Coast where, some day, he hopes to own his own stud farm.

COL. GUTHRIE REVIEWS YEAR AT VAN DORN

Continued from Page One

ued. "When I moved into my office it was little more than bare outer walls. The interior was not yet finished, and workmen were still hammering at the exterior lathing.

"We found only one road through camp, the old one from Centreville. Today we have a fine concrete highway which bypasses Centreville leading towards McComb, and we have also roads leading to Natchez and Baton Rouge, as well as those connecting with the smaller towns in the vicinity. The Camp itself also has a number of well paved roads connecting the main residential and work areas of the Camp, and other roads leading to the present maneuver and training areas."

Col. Guthrie said that the site of Camp Van Dorn was one of great interest in the South, as it contains a number of former large plantations. Although no major actions were fought in this immediate vicinity during the Civil War, troops did pass through the area, and minor skirmishes might have been fought on portions of the present campsite.

Many Old Cemeteries

Included among the territory purchased by the government for this camp were a number of old schools, churches and cemeteries. One of these cemeteries is located right behind the house on Seventh Avenue currently occupied by Gen. Hibbs. This small cemetery, though an old one, has been kept up until recent years. The tombstone inscriptions indicate two burials as late as 1935. Other cemeteries dot the maneuver area, and under a group of stately trees right behind 63d Division Headquarters, Col. Guthrie said, there is reputed to have been a large slave cemetery.

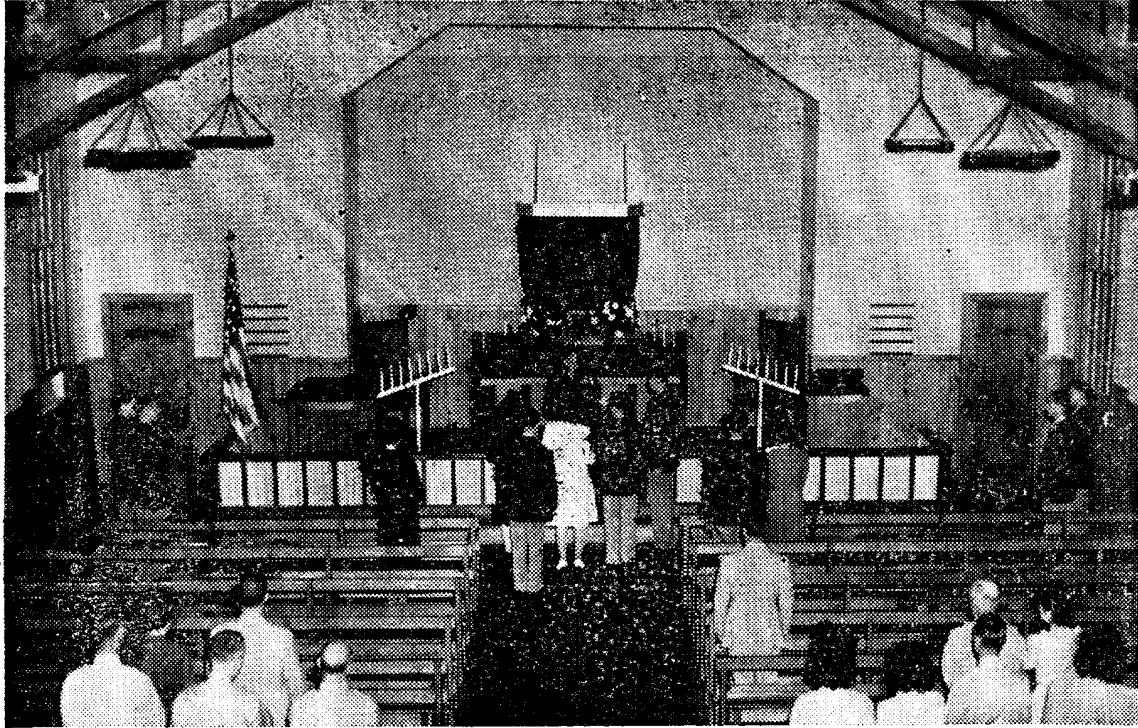
Though most 63d Div. soldiers have seen little of the Camp except the residential and work areas, these actually form but a small part of the entire Camp.

Col. Guthrie said that there is a considerable area set aside for maneuvers, as well as for artillery and other firing ranges.

Service Men Welcomed

A year ago, when the first members of the 99th Division cadre first came into the neighborhood, they were greeted with enthusiasm by the residents. The Centreville U. S. O. held a large drive for funds to erect a servicemen's club. The township contributed a piece of property and negotiations were made whereby the Federal Works Agency would construct the building. It was fitting that this structure should be made available to the servicemen and women on the first anniversary of the opening of the camp.

JUST AS THE CHAPLAIN MADE THEM MR. AND MRS. LEWIS



Here's the scene at Chapel No. 7 last Saturday evening as Division Chaplain Robert H. Clarke married the former Miss Peggy Bak and Captain Edward A. Lewis, OMC. Immediately following a reception at the Camp Van Dorn Officer's Club, the couple left for a week's wedding trip.

STAR OF RADIO SINGS, REVIEWS, MEETS OUR BOYS

Continued from Page One

on Rouge, during peak loads. In pointing out the dire need for more shows and other entertainment General Hibbs said:

"I can not but contrast our situation with that of camps in the vicinity of large centers of population. These latter naturally profit by the availability of recreation and entertainment available outside of USO sources, but profit also by reason of a high degree of civilian participation in USO activities, which results in their USO facilities being provided in large measure. This camp by virtue of its isolation suffers on all counts."

Bogging down on the highway between McComb and camp, when the car in which she was being driven to camp ran out of gas, Dinah said she was tired from her flight and from working on a picture, which she has just completed. She said that after her Camp Van Dorn visit she would fly back to California and more work.

"I think Camp Van Dorn is the best Army camp I've been to," Dinah said last night after her fourth singing appearance at the camp in two days. "Not so much because of the camp, but because of the fellows here. I'm going to ask all my friends when I get back to Hollywood to make sure to come down here to see the Sixty-third. Anytime you come to New York or Hollywood while I'm there you boys come and see me. I love you all."

Financed Own Trip

Cost of the trip, incidentally, came out of Dinah's own pocket.

This morning, before she left to catch her Hollywood bound plane at Jackson, Miss. she watched members of the Ranger Platoon take the German village in the maneuver area.

In a letter from USO President Barnard to General Osborn of the War Department Special Service Division, Mr. Barnard wholeheartedly endorsed General Hibbs plea to make "an exception" of Camp Van Dorn by sending in more than a pro-rated share of entertainment and help in providing more dances for the men.

"This," commented General Hibbs, "is another example of the USO's wide-awake policy of service."

Mr. Barnard's letter, in part, states:

"I have been greatly concerned of late with this aspect of Camp Shows, and I feel that shows are not being scheduled frequently enough at points remote from cities or other large centers of population, and although too frequently near heavily populated centers which have many other forms of recreation and entertainment available."

400,000 MEN NEEDED THIS YEAR TO GIVE ARMY HITTING STRENGTH

That the Army needs 400,000 additional men before the end of this year to bring it to its required 7,700,000 strength was brought out this week in Washington during the discussions of the Wheeler Bill, which would ban the drafting of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers. The discussions were many and varied, but from them came the information that at the recent Quebec Conference President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill made plans for attacks—possibly on more than one new front, but that the U. S. Army needs more trained men to carry out those plans.

Spokesman for the Army was Lt. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Chief of Staff. He said to the Senate Military Affairs Committee:

"To carry out the strategical missions which were determined upon at the Quebec conference, the Army must reach by Dec. 31 of this year a strength of approximately 7,700,000 officers and men

This includes 190,000 nurses and WACs. The collapse of Italy does not affect these figures. The approximate strength of the Army on Sept. 1, 1943, was 7,300,000. Inductions for the rest of the year will probably vary from 145,000 to 175,000 a month.

Sgt. Clevenger Tops 862d F. A. Promotions

Outstanding among 16 enlisted men promoted to higher grades in the 862d F. A. Bn., last week, was the cook of B Battery, Sgt. Bennie Clevenger, who was advanced from T/5 to T/4. In announcing Clevenger's promotion at a meeting of battery non-commissioned officers last Thursday, Battery Commander Lt. Gordon Jarrett said: "This is a most deserving promotion to one who is probably the most popular man in the battery, not only for his cooking but for his personality as well."

The following men were named privates first class: Hqrs. Battery—Cletus J. Campbell, William Torick, Julius S. Waxmonski, Enoch Taylor, Russell C. Monroe, John B. Cummings. A Battery—Peter A. McKeon, John P. O'Reilly, Walter A. Switzer. B Battery—Jack Brady, William Grey, Adolf M. Looman, August J. Massy. Service Battery—Frank L. Lopez, and Craig W. Cusick.

Inquiring Reporter

It was revealed in Washington this week that there are already 800,000 fathers in service. The Inquiring Reporter this week asks SHOULD PRE-PEARL HARBOR FATHERS BE DRAFTED?

T/5 Arnold Worme—if it won't work a hardship on a family I think they should draft fathers. They should have just as much to fight for as we single men, even more I think.

Pvt. Robert E. Gerrish, 563d Signal Co.—No preference should be shown in a war like this. We are all together and we need every man we can spare. I do not think they should be exposed at the front, however, they might be employed at home in some capacity and thereby release single men for the front lines.

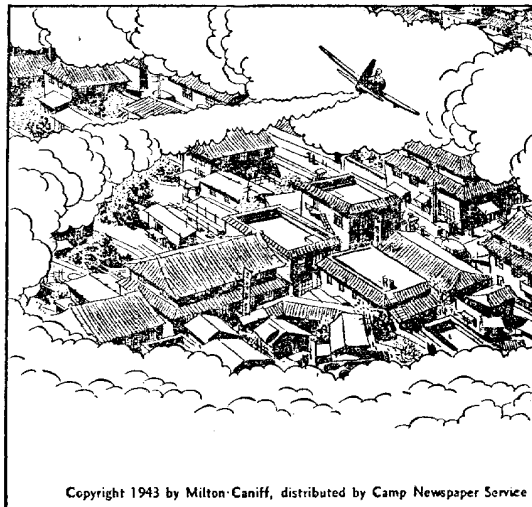
Pvt. Norris Stansfield, Hq. Co.—No I do not think they should draft pre-Pearl Harbor fathers. They have enough single men around to fill the ranks. Usually such men have small children as well as their wives depending upon them and they can ill be spared from their homes.

Sgt. Edward Bain, Service Battery, 718th F. A.—No I do not think they should draft fathers in that category. I think they have enough men in the army already to fill all requirements without drawing on men with growing children.

Male Call



by Milton Caniff, creator of Terry and the Pirates



Magnetic Azimuth



BERNIE BLOOD IS COMING TO B & F

Creator of New Comic Draws Strip Nightly At Camp Van Dorn

Bernie Blood, a newcomer to the 63d Division will make his initial appearance at Camp Van Dorn next Friday. Small, blonde and definitely in a daze at his transition from civilian life to the Army, Bernie will arrive in the first of a series of weekly comic strips in next week's BLOOD AND FIRE.

Bernie is going to be a typical Blood and Fire boy. He'll go through the same training program, his creator hopes, that all trainees go through. He'll go through the obstacle course, get the hook, and do K. P.

Coming is Heralded

Bernie is the creation of Pvt. Gill Fox, Co. I, 253d Inf. He made his first appearance in camp yesterday, when notices announcing his forthcoming appearance were posted on company bulletin boards.

Fox, whose father was a Brooklyn milkman, is a nocturnal artist. He drags himself off from his barracks at the end of each day's training and slips into a camp chair at the Public Relations Office, where he passes almost every spare minute battling out scenes from Bernie's Army life.

Born in Brooklyn—he won't say how many years ago—Fox went to school in Glendale, L. I. and graduated from New York's Textile High School. He followed his high school work with a post-graduate course in life drawing at Washington Irving High School, and took a job as animator for the Max Fleischer studios.

Gave Betty Boop Haircut

While animating a film on Betty Hoop one day, Fox completely forgot to fill in two annoying little curls which used to swing in over the flirty little filmstress's eyes. Those two curls had always been a nuisance, Fox said, and because he forgot to put them in on a long sequence of film, the originators decided it might be a good idea to give Betty a haircut. When the film was completed Betty Boop's new

Telephone Company Opens Lounge

COMFORT OBJECT OF NEW FACILITY AT SERVICE CLUB



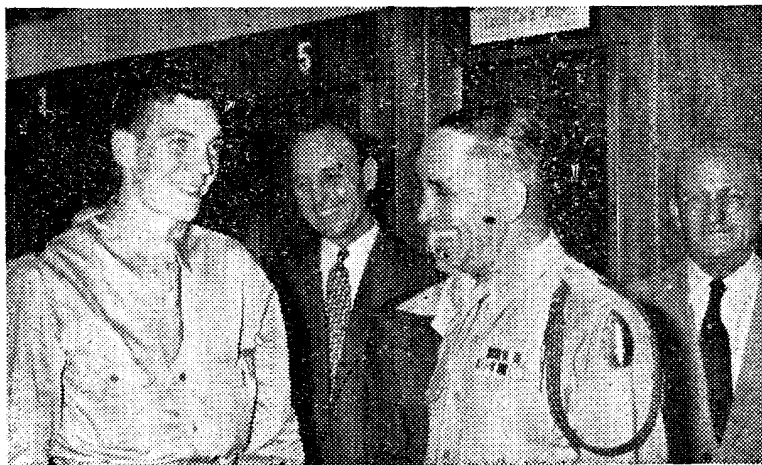
Officials of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, Camp Van Dorn, and the Sixty-third Division gathered together last Thursday evening at Service Club No. 1 to open a new telephone lounge.

Soldiers wishing to call long-distance may now go to this lounge, on the second floor—above the library—and place their calls with the operator on duty. When the call is completed, the operator pages the soldier in the lounge. This is the first lounge room of its type in this district. It was constructed at the telephone company's own expense as an added service to servicemen.

Officials of the telephone company offered Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs a free call to anywhere in the United States as the first call from the new lounge. Gen. Hibbs said he would prefer to turn the call over to one of the newly arrived buck privates in the Division, whose parents did not even know where he had been shipped to from the Reception Center.

The private, chosen at random from among new arrivals, was William Larson, of Kearny, N. J., whose mother unfortunately did not have a telephone. He called his girl friend, instead, and found, to his surprise, that his mother was visiting his girl's house. They were surprised to hear from him, as the last they'd heard from him he had been at the Fort Dix, N. J., Reception Center.

In addition to the comfortable writing tables and chairs, the telephone lounge has magazine and newspaper racks stocked with a variety of current publications. Telephone directories of the major cities of the United States will also be available to servicemen at this lounge.



U. S. Army Signal Corps Photos
Shown in top photo is the new telephone lounge opened by the Southern Bell Telephone Co. at Service Club No. 1. Soldiers may sit and read while waiting for long-distance calls to be put through. Lower photo shows (left to right) Private William Larson, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 255th Inf., talking to Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, who gave him free-call privilege. In background (left to right) are J. H. Thompson, Mississippi plant manager of the telephone company, and J. C. Hay, Mississippi State telephone manager.

bob was adopted as standard for the film.

Gill had another favorite to work on while he was with the Fleischer studios—that was Popeye, the sailor man. He used to get a kick out of Popeye's sea-going antics on dry land, even now when he's doing KP, or other arduous tasks, Fox wishes he could get the same effects from spinach his cartoon character could.

Theatre To Be Used For Catholic Services

Because of the increased attendance at Sunday masses it has been found necessary to hold two of the services in Theatre No. 1. Assistant Division Chaplain Guinan announced that masses will be held in the theatre at 0900 and 1030. Confessions will be heard before each mass.

Corp. Joseph Valenti, Hq. Battery, 861st P. A. Bn., became Sergeant last Friday and Pvt. James Lynn of the same Battery, and Pvt. William A. Wrobel of Service Battery, were named T/5's.

USO OPENS CENTREVILLE BUILDING FOR USE OF MEN

Continued from Page One
of entertainment. Ping-pong tables have been ordered, as have a voice-recording machine, juke box, radio and motion-picture projector. These should all be on hand within a short period."

The Centreville USO is not one of the standardized government clubhouses, such as are found near most Army camps. It is a small one-story white frame building of colonial style with a main social hall 77 x 56 feet and a small attached sunporch. There are also offices and shower facilities. The interior of the building is finished in yellow stucco, with marbled tile floors. The social hall contains a number of masculine and comfortable leather chairs.

The snack bar which runs across one end of the social hall has not yet opened, nor have the 400 books for the library yet arrived, but Mr. Byrne has on hand a number of parlor games, and soldiers are already making use of the writing stands with their familiar free USO stationery. For servicemen who remain in Centreville over night, the USO will offer free shower and shaving facilities.

The new clubhouse is located at the corner of Joseph and

Theatre Schedule

W. D. THEATERS NO. 1 AND 2
(Starting time—No. 1—18:45; No. 2—18:10)

- SEPT. 25 My Kingdom for a Cook—Charles Coburn, Marguerite Chapman.
- 26-27 Thank Your Lucky Stars—All star cast.
- 28 Fired Wife—Diana Barrymore, Robert Paige.
- 29-30 A Lady Takes a Chance—Jean Arthur, John Wayne

OCT. 1 Holy Matrimony — Gracie Fields, Monty Woolly.

THEATERS NO. 4 AND 5
(Starting time—No. 4—18:45; No. 5—18:00)

- SEPT. 24-25 I Dood It — Red Skelton, Eleanor Powell.
- 26 The Fallen Sparrow — John Garfield, Maureen O'Hara.
- 27 My Kingdom for a Cook—Charles Coburn, Marguerite Chapman.
- 28-29 Thank Your Lucky Stars—All star cast.
- 30 Fired Wife—Diana Barrymore, Robert Paige.

Conyer Streets, and is easily reached from Main Street through the alley next to the Victory Cafe. Direction markers will be placed over the week-end.

863D F. A. NOTES

Man bites dog? No, even more spectacular than that! 1st Sgt. does K. P. duty! The first day fillers arrived, 1st Sgt. Cecil Patterson of Headquarters Battery, was caught short on K. P.'s and had to fill in himself for a few hours. Soon, however, an unfortunate victim was located to fill in but not in time to prevent a severe blow to the pride of Sgt. Patterson.

Friend meets friend when Lt. Charles D. Brown of Service Battery, a member of the reception team found Pvt. Robert T. Mallard in a group of recently arrived fillers. Lt. Brown and Pvt. Mallard had not seen each other since they worked together for the Revere Copper and Brass Co. in Detroit in 1941. Pvt. Mallard was assigned to the 253d Infantry.

'17 ENGINES WORKING

Back in 1917 the United States sent over to France 20 American-built locomotives which hauled trainloads of ammunition and other supplies to the French fighting front. These were the so-called "Pershing" type of Army locomotives. Recently American troops in North Africa spotted some of the same 20 locomotives—hauling supplies to the Allied Forces in North Africa. They are now once again under American operation, having been taken over by the U. S. Army Transportation Corps.



Sitting in the Co. I dayroom, 253d Inf., is Pvt. Gill Fox, shown as he makes preliminary drawing of BLOOD AND FIRE's own new comic strip, Bernie Blood, which makes its initial appearance in next week's issue.