

Blood and Fire



Vol. 1. No. 27

63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

December 18, 1943.

Men of 63d Acclaim Joe Louis as Champ Pays Visit to Camp

Sgt. Joseph Louis Barrow—the same Joe Louis whose fists won him \$2,263,784 in the boxing ring, but who abandoned the sport to join the United States Army in 1942, was hailed by men of the Blood and Fire Division when he paid a flying visit to Camp Van Dorn Friday.

Accompanied by big Sugar Ray Robinson, Cpl. Walter Smith, Pvt. Georgia Jackie Wilson and George Nicholson, with whom he has sparred in countless exhibitions in the Southwest Pacific and in other theaters of operations, the Champion arrived in Camp shortly after noon from Camp Polk, La.

Visits Hospital

The Brown Bomber visited the Station Hospital early in the afternoon where he signed autographs and gave a short talk to the patients.

Later in the day before a huge crowd of soldiers who jammed their way around the ring, The Bomber staged an exhibition of sparring and bag punching, and followed this with a talk on physical fitness. At the outdoor arena the champion stressed the necessity for combat soldiers to be in top physical condition in order that they be prepared for the difficult tasks which may confront them in the future.

Stage Exhibition

Louis was given a rousing reception when he visited the Rec. Hall of the 364th Inf., the Camp's Negro regiment. The Champion promptly donned the gloves and staged a lively workout with his sparring partners. The Bomber worked lightly but the power which he used to lull many an aspiring candidate for his crown into slumber, was evident to the spectators.

Following this appearance Louis and his entourage was whisked over to the (T White Rec. Hall (Continued on Page 6.)



Col. Paul W. Mapes
★ ★ ★



Col. Stanley R. Putnam
★ ★ ★



Lt. Col. Randolph Gordon
★ ★ ★

4 Commanders, Executive Officer Are Transferred to New Stations

Four commanding officers and one executive officer of 63d Div. units received assignments at new stations in an order published Thursday.

They were:

COL. PAUL W. MAPES, commanding, 253d Inf.

COL. STANLEY R. PUTNAM, commanding, 234th Inf.

LT. COL. RANDOLPH GORDON, executive officer and former acting commanding officer, 254th Inf.

LT. COL. THOMAS H. ECK-FELDT, commanding, 861st F. A.

LT. COL. CHESTER R. ROUILLARD, commanding, 862d F. A.

Name Temporary Commanders

Under the same order, Lt. Col. Joseph H. Warren was relieved of his assignment with the 255th Inf. and assigned to the 254th, and Lt. Col. Edward A. Baier was transferred from the 253d to the 254th. Col. Warren will command the (Continued on Page 2.)

Shrapnel in Hands Recalls African Fight to Sergeant

Literally harder than "nails" is 1st Sgt. James H. George, Co. A., 253d Inf., whose memory of action against the enemy in Sicily is constantly prodded by shell fragments embedded in the flesh of both hands.

Proud owner of the Purple Heart and Purple Heart cluster, Sgt. George, who was also wounded at El Guettar, North Africa, has been "too busy" to have the metal extracted.

200 Pounder

The six-foot, 200 pound veteran, whose hair is tinged with gray, is still being kept busy in his company where he is substituting for hospitalized 1st Sgt. Hubert Reda.

Sgt. George enlisted in the Coast Arty. in 1926 and spent three years in Honolulu before being honorably discharged in 1929. He immediately re-enlisted and went to the 2d Inf., 5th Div., Fort Wayne, Mich., where he stayed until 1940. He was made 1st Sgt. upon his transfer to the 29th Inf., 9th Div.

He left Fort Dix, N. J., Sept. 23, 1942, when his outfit joined the great armada which landed Nov. 8th in French North Africa.

Took Airport Without Shot

"We landed in the half-light of African dawn without any trouble. We advanced on our objective, an airport, which was taken without a single shot from our side. A nervous French sentry fired one shot which went wild," he related.

"Afterward we had the privilege of guarding Lt. Gen. Mark Clark's HQ," he continued, "and after two months we were sent to El Guettar.

"On April 8 we were attacking and the Germans, though retreating in other sectors, were fighting bitterly for a hill which was being used for observation by their artillery. We started through a wadi at the base of the hill and soon were on open ground. The enemy artillery dropped shells on us and, as I advanced, I felt a sudden tearing at my leg, which gave way. I had been hit by shrapnel."

Three Cents Next Week

Copies of BLOOD AND FIRE usually can be mailed home for 1½ cents. However, because the special Christmas issue next week will consist of 20 pages of drawings, photographs and feature articles in addition to the regular news section, home-going copies will require a three-cent stamp, according to the APO.

"On July 14 we sailed from Bizerte with Lt. Gen. George Patton's Seventh Army and landed at dusk at Licato, Sicily, Sept. 15."

"From Licato we advanced northwest, taking Agrigento, Sciacca, and finally stopping at Marsalla, while an armored division pursued the enemy east to Palermo. It was tough, foot-soldiering all the way and we went 13 days without rest, living on C rations, when we could get them. Water was not too plentiful but in the mountains we could usually find a puddle of rain water here and there.

"The natives were genuinely glad to see us and the Italian soldiers were even happier.

"We've been waiting five days for you," they said, "What kept you?"

"After a five-day rest we finally got to ride in a truck back along the coast to Ceremi, near Mt. Aetna, where the British 8th had met stiff resistance.

Wounded at Troina

"After we took Ceremi some of the boys ganged up to exchange congratulations. The Germans promptly dropped a shell into the group, killing 6 and wounding 13. There was no 'ganging up' after that.

"I got the shrapnel in my hands in the battle to take Troina, 12 (Continued on Page 2.)

Baton Rouge Crowd Cheers 63d Musical

'Emergency Furlough' Presented by Division Special Service and Louisiana State University Co-Eds

Sparkling musical numbers, excellent singing and colorful settings made "Emergency Furlough," a musical comedy revue presented by Division Special Service, a hit Friday night as it opened a two-night stand at Baton Rouge High school.

The show, in which men of the 63d Div., co-eds of Louisiana State university, and Baton Rouge residents participated, is being presented to raise funds to bring groups of entertainers from Baton Rouge to Camp Van Dorn.

Just the thread of a plot held the revue together, but it was enough to present Sgt. John Campbell, of the Division Band, as the hero, and Miss Weslyn Stephens, of Baton Rouge, as the heroine. It followed them musically and wittily through a love triangle.

Dust Highlights

The singing of Sgt. Campbell and Miss Stephens in several duets highlighted the show. The antics of Pvt. Arnold Spector, Sgt. Jack Bracken and Pvt. William J. Federer provided comedy that sometimes bordered on the slapstick.

Nostalgic numbers such as "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "You're Devastating," were well presented by the principals and the Division Artillery Glee club which provided background harmony for the duets sung by Sgt. Campbell and Miss Stephens. The artillerymen also brought applause with their "What Do They Do in the Infantry?"

Supporting the lead were Miss Polly Wade, of LSU, who made a very convincing and attractive Fifi, a French maid, and Miss Rosemary Fuhrmann, also of LSU, who played the part of Mary Lou. (Continued on Page 3.)

Bartering KP Can't Be Done, Sad GIs Learn

Pvt. William Crass, Cannon Co., 255th Inf., is a red-faced soldier today, and a wiser one.

Manager of a branch bank in civilian life, Crass recently saw and took advantage of an opportunity to make an honest three dollars by doing a half day of KP one Sunday recently for Pvt. John Tompkins, who was making an honest two dollars by taking the original KP assignment of Pvt. Jesse Lewis.

Pvt. Tompkins borrowed two dollars from Pvt. Crass, and went to a movie with a date, while Pvt. Lewis slept and Pvt. Crass labored on the pots and pans.

But next day, Capt. Robert M. Young, their commanding officer, heard about the deal and called it off before any payments were made—except the two dollars Tompkins borrowed from Crass. On top of that, the CO. dished out to each private an extra day of KP—on Sunday.

"To impress on you the fact that you can't buy and sell duty in the Army," he explained gently.

"Ain't I the dope though!" Pvt. Crass moaned. "I sure hope Tompkins pays me back my two bucks."



ONE, two, three, kick! Pvt. Arnold Spector (left), and Sgts. John Campbell and Jack Bracken indulge in a bit of high jinx in "Emergency Furlough," presented by Division Special Service Friday night at the Baton Rouge High School. Pvt. Spector produced the show, Sgt. Campbell played the male lead, and Sgt. Bracken directed the dancing. The show will be repeated tonight.

Jungle Christmas Broadcast Theme

Christmas Day in the jungles of the Southwest Pacific will be the theme of Sunday night's Blood and Fire Division's broadcast over WWL, New Orleans, from 1800 to 1815.

The dramatic sketch, "Christmas Tree," written by Pvt. Albert Lewin of Division Special Service, deals with an American soldier sniper lodged in a palm tree on the lookout for Japs. He detects one hiding in the undergrowth and tries to persuade him to reveal himself.

Division Chaplain Robert H. Clark, will deliver a short talk, and Sgt. John Campbell, tenor, of Division Band, will sing "Come All Ye Faithful," accompanied by Pvt. Paul Taubman. Pvt. John Lyman will portray the American soldier, and other parts will be handled by Pvts. Cy Bernhard and John Larkin.

Baltz of 863d FA Played 'Nursemaid' to Opera Stars

Pvt. Robert E. Baltz, of Battery B, 863d Field Artillery Battalion, is a stubby, sturdy, very masculine figure of a man, but he won't haul off and sock you if you remind him that he used to be called "nursemaid to the stars." He will only smile faintly and look homesick.

For Baltz, who for 20 years was the one-man promotion outfit that brought music and the finer arts to the muscular city of Pittsburgh, is the intimate of most of America's top-flight concert artists, orchestra



Pvt. Robert E. Baltz

directors, operatic crooners and assorted prima donnas. He was the fellow that got the stars to town, soothed their tempers, doctored their imagined ills, warded off the curiously seekers and kept the high-strung lads out of each other's hair.

Brought Culture

For two decades Baltz imported 20 to 30 artists a season and when he finished had made the city of smoke and grit a cultural oasis in the heart of industrial America. Lily Pons, Lawrence Tibbet, Nelson Eddy, John Charles Thomas, Serge Koussevitsky, famed leader of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Frederick Stock of the Chicago Symphony, and the great Paderewski are only a few of the many big names that each year responded to Baltz's enticing offers.

His troubles only began when they signed on the dotted line and marked a date on the calendar. Nor was it ever any chore selling out the house for a big name. But to make sure that his stars appeared, in good health and proper mood to perform, was another matter.

Koussevitsky used to stop the orchestra in the middle of a number if a patron arrived late. Baltz had no trouble keeping the average late-comer marking time in the lobby until the first movement was over, but it used to take all his persuasiveness and ingenuity to keep some of the moneybags of Pittsburgh from making a belated but fashionable entry.

Tried Many Stratagems

Sometimes Baltz would station himself outside the entrance to the boxes and beseech the bejeweled ladies to wait a trifling

minute. When he realized that this was likely to fail, he tried other stratagems. Keys to box doors were unexpectedly lost, and once Baltz recalls with a devilish gleam in his eye—he had a maid trip up a dowager in the powder room, which allowed "Kousse" just enough time to complete a number.

"John Charles Thomas was one of the nicest, most democratic guys I'd ever hope to meet," Baltz recalls, but they always used to have trouble with him because of his habit of snubbing well-meaning, wealthy folk—financial backers of the concert series—who were desperately eager to meet him. He'd prefer to swap stories with the stage hands.

Brandy Did Trick

And then there were the female stars who were forever taken down with imaginary ills on the day of the concert. Baltz refuses to allow publication of the lady's name, but is rather understandably proud of his feat—by means of a silver tongue and a ready brandy bottle—with a famous concert singer who frequently had an attack of migraine two hours before she was scheduled to appear. Baltz always managed to get her into a glowing, mildly inebriated state, and then she'd wow the customers.

Baltz, who is now 38 and balding, was a stripling just out of high school when he started in show business. He began as a program boy, and then an usher at the Nixon Theater in Pittsburgh, soon worked up into ticket salesman and later assistant treasurer. Shortly afterward, he left the Nixon establishment and went into free-lancing promotion. Today his dealings with the artistic great are only memories, although Pvt. Baltz, now a cannoneer, nostalgically wishes that he could do similar work in bringing entertainment to the lads in the army.

Religious Services

- Protestant Services**
 Chapel No. 8, Episcopal communion service, 0815.
 Chapels No. 6, 7, 8, 10, 0900.
 Chapels No. 5, 6, 8, 10, 1000.
 Chapels No. 7, 8, 1100.
 Chapel No. 5, 1815.
 Chapel No. 7, 1630.
- Lutheran**
 Chapel No. 8, 1100.
- Weekday Services**
 Chapel No. 5, Thursday, 1830.
 Chapel No. 7, Thursday, 1915.
- Mormon Services**
 Sunday
 Chapel No. 8, 1400.
- Roman Catholic Mass**
 Chapel No. 5, 0800.
 Theater No. 5, 0900.
 Chapel No. 7, 1000.
 Theater No. 1, 1030.
 Chapel No. 10, 1100.
- Evening Mass**
 Chapel No. 5, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1830.
 Chapel No. 5, Novena Miraculous Medal, Monday, 1830.
 Chapel No. 10, Monday to Saturday (except Thursday), 1830.
 Confessions at chapels, 1900-2000 Saturday.
- Jewish Services**
 Chapel No. 1, Friday, 1930.
 Chapel No. 7, Friday night, 2000.
- Christian Science Reading**
 Chapel No. 1, Sunday, 1100.
- Seventh Day Adventist**
 Chapel No. 9, Friday, 1930.

SUCH IS OUR ENEMY

A Canadian infantry platoon was officially declared to have been "murdered in cold blood" by Nazi machine-gunners from ambush when it moved forward to accept the surrender of a group of German riflemen.

The words, according to an Associated Press report, were contained in a message which the Canadian commander sent to all his troops on the Moro river front, warning them to be on guard when taking prisoners. Headquarters was advised that when the Canadians went forward to round up the Germans, who had raised their arms, they were met by a withering machine gun fire from the flank.

Every man of the platoon was killed.

Men of 255th Inf. Get Award, Ratings

In a special ceremony Monday afternoon, Lt. Col. Joseph Warren, administrative officer of the 255th Inf. presented Good Conduct ribbons and noncommissioned officers ratings to men of the Service Co. Also attendant at the presentation were Capt. George C. Whitney, Service Co. commander, and W. O. (J. G.) Robert E. Herzler.

Remarking as he presented the ratings that the men receiving them would remember the day as one of the proudest of their lives, Col. Warren also pointed out that the recipients of the awards should serve as examples for their fellow soldiers.

"They are worthy of your respect," he told the men, "and you should follow their lead in application to duty."

The following promotions of enlisted men to Pfc. were also announced.

Pfcs. Theodore A. Allen, Charles W. Colderwood, James Dorner, Edgar C. Fertig, Ernest R. Grotfend, James C. Jeffrey, John G. Keyburn, Adam W. Kosobicki, Harold R. Mickey, Leon L. McCormick, Walter Parmentur, Harry S. Reed, Matthews Skora, Burton F. Smith, Ellis Stutman, Raymond A. Wichter, Edward M. Winchester.

253d Band Plays At Natchez Dance

The 253d Inf. orchestra provided the music as soldiers of the Blood and Fire Division attended a formal dance at the City Auditorium, Natchez, last Saturday night. On Sunday the same orchestra was heard over the afternoon broadcast from the Servicemen's Center.

Two tours of old homes were conducted for soldiers on Sunday afternoon. A group of some 25 soldiers visited Edgewood, ancestral home of Mrs. S. H. Lamdin, which is six miles from Natchez. Edgewood was built in 1851. Adjacent to Edgewood is "Mount Repose" built between 1790 and 1800 by the Biseland family which settled the section known as Pine Ridge. Following the visit the tourists were entertained by members of the congregation of the Pine Ridge Presbyterian church, oldest of its kind in the Southwest, having been organized in 1807.

The second tour encompassed Rosalie, Connelly's Tavern and Stanton Hall, all of which are in the heart of Natchez.

Pvt. John Ronan, 254th, Marries Miss Helen Neary

Pvt. John F. Ronan, Co. F, 254th Inf., and Miss Helen Neary, both residents of Chicago, were married Sunday, November 5, at Chapel No. 7. Chaplain Joseph J. Morrell performed the ceremony. Mrs. Ronan has returned to Chicago where she will make her home with her mother, Mrs. Michael Neary.

Prior to the wedding members of the 3d platoon, Co. F, entertained Pvt. Ronan at a bachelor dinner, Friday, November 3. Among the guests were Lt. Robert J. Canright, platoon leader, who was promoted from second to first lieutenant on the same day.

Entertainment was furnished by Pfc. Louis Sica, and Pfts. Joe Mancuso, David Lipschultz and James C. Smith. Pfc. Simon Helman was master of ceremonies.

4 Commanders Transferred From 63d to New Stations

(Continued From Page 1.)
 regiment and Col. Baier will be executive officer.

At the 253d, Executive Officer Lt. Col. Marion W. Schewe will assume temporary command. No executive officer has been named.

No announcement has been made as to who will assume the commands left vacant by Cols. Eckfeldt and Rouillard.

Col. Mapes is the son of an Army officer and the grandson of a Civil War officer. He has seen action in many major engagements of World War I and in many parts of the Western Hemisphere, was a member of the famed Infantry Rifle Team and captain of the Olympic Rifle Team, and was a full colonel in the Air Corps.

He was born 50 years ago in Nebraska City, Neb. As is the case with many children of Army families, he spent four years of his boyhood in the Philippine islands. There he developed his intense interest in rifle marksmanship.

He entered the service as a second lieutenant in 1916 and served in Europe during the first war with the 2d Div., remaining with the Army of Occupation. Subsequent assignments were as an instructor of a Texas National Guard regiment, in the Canal Zone, at Oregon State College, at Schofield Barracks, T. H., and at Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyo., and Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. Before joining the 63d he served with the Air Staff of the War Department. He became a full colonel in the Air Corps October 2, 1942.

A regimental review honoring Col. Mapes was held Thursday evening.

Col. Putnam received his early battle training on the gridiron, where he starred for Northwestern and was named on the Big Ten conference team. That was back in 1917 when Stanley Putnam gave up football to join the Army. He attended the 1st Training Camp at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1917.

Next it was an assignment to the 57th Inf. of Texas, which later became part of the 15th Div. The 15th remained in Texas until dissolved after the Armistice.

After release from the Army he returned to Northwestern as assistant football coach for two years. He left Northwestern to coach football and teach tactics at Culver Military academy. In 1937 he was with the United States Social Security Board in Jamestown, N. Y., District.

Col. Putnam is married, has three children and lists his home town now as Albany, N. Y.

Former Guard Officer

Col. Gordon was born in Forest City, Ia., October 25, 1895, but claims Madisonville, Ky., as his home town. He was in his junior year at the University of Michigan Law School when he joined the Kentucky National Guard in June, 1916. After serving on the Mexican Border he was mustered into Federal service with the Guard in 1917 and served in this country as a lieutenant during World War I. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Regular Army at the end of the war.

He later served in Panama with the New York National Guard, in Los Angeles, as commanding officer of the Arizona CCC District, at Phoenix, Ariz., Camp Maxey, Tex., and Camp Blanding, Fla.

Col. Eckfeldt was among the original officers selected when the Blood and Fire Div. was organized. He had been with the 1st Div., the "Fighting First," in England during World War I and was stationed at a Quartermaster depot in one of the European theaters. In the Army 27 years, he came up through the ranks. His home is in Fitchburg, Mass.

Col. Rouillard, a former National Guard officer, came to the 63d at Camp Blanding. He had been an instructor in tactics at The Field Artillery School for 18 months before joining this division.

Here's a New Rating, Boys, GI Is 'Promoted' to CQ Post

Many a man has gone to the big city or come into the Army, only to be embarrassed by a "local boy makes good" item in his home town newspaper.

Good-natured soldiers of H. and S. Co., 263d Engrs., laughed when Cpl. Joe Welch received the following clipping from the Gardner (Mass.) News, but their thoughts of A/Cpl. Aura were not tinged with envy for his embarrassment:

All unsuspecting, the civilian editor had printed this:
"GARDNER YOUTH HAS DANGEROUS JOB IN ARMY"
 "Herbert Aura, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Carl A. Aura of 73 Leamy street, who was recently promoted to acting corporal at Camp Campbell, Ky., is spending a nine-day furlough with his parents. Acting Cpl. Aura has just completed a three-month specialized course on digging and testing foxholes. During this period he has been in constant danger due to the fact that light, medium and heavy tanks have been rolling over the foxholes he has been testing. . . . Upon his return to Camp Campbell he will be promoted to Charge of Quarters."

Shrapnel in Hands Recalls African Fight to Sergeant

(Continued From Page 1.)
 miles away. We'd advanced to a hill 500 yards away from, and overlooking the city, and had dug in



Sgt. James H. George

at 300. We'd encountered little resistance except for Italian patrols, most of whom were hiding under rocks,

"We fought all day, but the Germans put on a stubborn counter attack and their artillery drove us off the hill. I didn't know I'd been hit until we had reorganized and were ready to storm the hill again.

"Our anti-tank outfit and artillery batteries gave the Germans a good lacing before we advanced and we had little trouble taking Troina. Later I reported to an aid station, where I was told to return for removal of the shrapnel."

Beat British to Town

After a five-day rest Sgt. George and his outfit advanced on Randazzo. "After being pinned down by tank fire for a day," he related, "our artillery really blasted them, and we moved into the city without opposition."

"We beat the British into town by 50 yards," he grinned.

Sgt. George was then returned to bivouac, 40 miles from Palermo where the doughboys guarded tunnels and bridges against sabotage.

He returned to this country November 7, just one year after he landed in Africa, and after short stays at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., and Fort Harrison, Ind., he reported to Camp Van Dorn December 8th.

The Wolf

by Sansone



Overseas Veteran Among 273 Cited At 254th's Review

Among the 273 enlisted men of the 254th Infantry who received Good Conduct Ribbons from Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division Commander, at a retreat parade Thursday, Dec. 9, was 1st Sgt. Lawrence Poe, Co. K, who had previously won the Silver Star for gallantry in action against the Japs at Guadalcanal.

The Good Conduct Ribbon is awarded in lieu of the Good Conduct Medal, which is not now available.

Those receiving awards were: 1st Sgts. Peter P. Bunde, Co. G; William M. Fitzgerald, Hq. Co.; Robert R. Hermann, Sv. Co.; and Lawrence H. Poe, Co. K.

T/Sgts. Arthur L. Gomon, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Harold B. Lenz, Sv. Co.; Andrew J. Runk, Hq. Co. 2nd Bn.; Harry Tennent, Jr., Med. Det.; Carl H. Weber, Hq. Co. 2d Bn. S/Sgts. Arthur J. Beer, Med. Det.; Cecil G. Bennett, Co. A; Manny Besso, Co. L; Wilbur H. Bralley, Co. I; Thomas J. Carroll, Co. I; John Chando, Co. H; Lew. F. Christensen, Hq. Co. 3d Bn.; Randal R. Clary, AT Co.; Charles E. Cole, Sv. Co.; Clarence H. Corey, Med. Det.; Woodrow W. Curtis, Cannon Co.; William A. Dumschatt, Hq. Co.; Bernard V. Dunne, Hq. Co.; Howard L. Edwards, Co. G; Leonard H. Elfr, Co. F; Gordon D. Everett, Co. A; Paul C. Farran, Sv. Co.; John V. Guariglia, Co. D; Donald C. Guilmon, Co. D; Henry G. Honmann, Co. C; William A. Hood, Sv. Co.; James J. Hughes, Hq. Co.; Joseph J. Jarek, Hq. Co.; Alvan M. Kenah, Med. Det.; Charles D. Kuhnner, Hq. Co. 3d Bn.; John E. Kule, Med. Det.; Stanley A. Kundzicz, Co. C; James McFarlane, Co. M; Caton J. Marconi, Co. P; Allen L. McCroskey, Hq. Co.; Bernard Miller, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Joseph W. Moore, Sv. Co.; William C. Otto, Jr., Co. B; John A. Peck, Cannon Co.; George E. Perro, Co. A; Henry J. Petrowski, Co. G; Kendall W. Sagen-dorf, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; James F. Samples, Co. K; James S. Settineri, Co. H; Harold E. Sibley, Co. K; Thomas O. Smith, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Elmer J. Strotzkamp, Co. A; George S. Trojanowski, Co. D; Daniel J. Walsh, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Robert M. Ward, Co. H; Wilson D. Wood, Hq. Co.; Hubert V. Woods, Co. D; Adam S. Yonko, Co. M.

T/3 Carol E. Canine, Med. Det.; Ricardo Ganul, Med. Det.; Bernard M. Evans, Med. Det.; Ralph P. Held, Med. Det.; Raymond R. Mainini, Med. Det.; Isaac A. Oikoff, Med. Det.

Sgts. Lyle A. Atwood, Hq. Co., 2d Bn.; Wilmer J. Bacon, Co. L; Tucker J. Bell, Co. C; Martin Blum, Sv. Co.; John P. Bowen, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Ernest E. Brooks, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Howard H. Brown, Co. A; Willard Brown, Hq. Co.; Stanley B. Bush, Co. H; William Caraban, Hq. Co.; Almo A. Cecchini, Co. B; Edward L. Davenport, Sv. Co.; Vincent M. DeCasino, Co. C; William J. Dempster, Co. E; John DiVoglia, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Willard F. Dragon, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Theodore J. Dutchinos, Co. F; Argo M. Enory, Co. C; Victor P. Fihl, Co. C; Joseph A. Fiore, Co. C; Thomas H. Frazier, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; James J. Gorman, Co. E; Henry Greenberg, Co. I; Jacob A. Grogan, Cannon Co.; Robert G. Hagemann, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Allen Hammett, Co. G; Alexander C. Hodges, Co. B; Clifford H. Hodges, Cannon Co.; W. Hoffman, AT Co.; Quentin S. Holley, Co. A; Kenneth W. Horning, Co. M; Charles H. Jenkins, Co. I; Abe Kanig, Co. I; Tony S. Kavana, Co. F; James B. Keel, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; John P. Kramer, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Francis J. Lacasse, Co. D; Leo J. LeBeau, Co. B; Samuel K. Levine, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Theodore Levin, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Lawrence J. Leyburn, Co. E; Linden W. Lundstedt, Co. H; Joseph F. Mang, Co. H; Daniel J. Marcone, Co. L; Orlando Garcia, Co. I; Michael A. Matz, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Patrick McNameara, Sv. Co.; Eugene A. Meyers, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Ralph J. Mooney, Co. D; John V. Nichols, Co. D; Harry B. Nolen, Co. M; Willard N. Nutter, Cannon Co.; Charles J. Olson, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Earl G. Outko, Med. Det.; Elliott Pawlak, Co. A; Robert R. Peters, Co. M; Michael Prahada, Co. F; Robert Proseck, Co. F; Edward Radziejewicz, Co. A; Daniel J. Roldan, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; John Riggsbee, Co. B; Alva G. Roberts, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Maritica W. Runyon, Co. K; Russell J. Schenk, Co. I; John E. Smith, Co. G; Joseph J. Siskowski, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Joseph E. Smith, Co. E; Chester W. Stafford, Co. B; Lawrence E. Stubaas, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Joseph Tuce, Co. G; Herman A. Vincent, Co. D; Robert R. Wilson, Co. E. T/4 Nicholas Amarino, Sv. Co.; Robert W. Blanchard, Sv. Co.; James R. Cargilo, Co. M; Alton Chaney, Co. B; David Cohen, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Aldo E. Elfo, Co. C; Richard J. Farrell, Med. Det.; Albert H. Fournier, Hq. Co.; John L. Galis, Co. D; Morris Goldberg, Hq. Co. 3d Bn.; Daniel W. Henderson, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; James W. Hill, Sv. Co.; Edward C. Hine, Co. H; Ethel P. Hollingshead, Hq. Co.; David S. Jacobus, Hq. Co.; William E. Kennedy, Co. M; Eugene P. Kerns, Co. D; William J. Kinsella, Co. M; Joseph Kuscher, Co. A; George W. Levy, Co. K; Max Matjczyk, Hq. Co.; George D. Metches, Co. L; Vernon H. Miller, Med. Det.; Howard W. Newton, Co. K; Vincent Nichols, Co. E; Daniel J. O'Connor, Sv. Co.; Joseph E. O'Connor, Med. Det.; Michael Pace, Hq. Co.; George W. Pease, Co. I; John T. Reynolds, AT Co.; Clarence Rochester, Co. A; Raymond F. Rondina, Cannon Co.; Augustus Ruggieri, Co. G; William J. Ryb, Co. D; William A. Sandstrom, Hq. Co.; Edgar A. Wood, Hq. Co. 1st Bn.; Roy W. Sherman, Hq. Co. 2d Bn.; Robert E. Smith, Co. H; Bashio J. Specio, Co. I; Rudolph C. Stanikovic, Med. Det.; Colving Starling, Co. L; Jung S. Thung, Co. G; Gerald E. Wesley, Cannon Co.

Cpls. Nick Yukmanovich, Co. I; John Baka, Med. Det.; Jack B. Basile, Co. G; John W. Crofts, Co. G; Richard R. Deily, Co. C; Joseph A. Flanagan, AT Co.; Lloyd Kleese, Co. B; Glenn B. Limer, Co. K; Raymond J. Lowe, Jr., Hq. Co. 2a Bn.; Kenneth D. McCain,



DUO in "Emergency Furlough" consists of Miss Weslyn Stephens of Baton Rouge and Sgt. John Campbell, 63d Div. Band. Miss Stephens is the ingenue and Sgt. Campbell the hero in the show Friday night and tonight at Baton Rouge High School.

Frigid Hall Fails To Stop NCO Dance

Despite the frigid atmosphere which no amount of stoking of the furnace could dispel, the non-commissioned officers of CT Red staged their pre-Christmas dance Thursday night at CT Red Rec. Hall. Both sponsors and guests were fittingly attired to combat one of Mississippi's coldest nights to date. Bundled to the ears in overcoats, jackets, scarfs and woolen caps, the gals and GIs had a rousing good time as they dined and danced to the music of the 253d's orchestra. The bandsmen, despite the torrid music, were forced to handle trumpets and saxophones with woolen gloves. A large delegation of WACs and girls from the civilian dormitories attended the affair.

Pvt. Bert Moore, Irish tenor, sang several selections and Pvts. Manny Rosen, a tap dancing specialist, and Alfred Nawrocki, accomplished accordionist, did a clever routine together. The CT Red NCO Club, S/Sgt. George Muller, steward, sponsored the affair. S/Sgt. Ed Pieters handled the arrangements.

Overdose of Drug Cause Of Two Detroit Deaths

DETROIT—A coroner's jury reported that two recent deaths in Harper Hospital resulted from an overdose of a drug administered intravenously and said they were due to negligence on the part of a drug manufacturing company and lack of care in dispensing and administering the drug. The deaths were those of Mrs. Mary Deming, society matron, and Samuel Bloom, tobacco merchant. Testimony was that, by mistake, a form of the drug intended only for external use, and 600 times stronger than the form for internal use was administered hypodermically.

Canned Smoke Helps Navy to Save Vital Oil

NEW YORK—The can industry has provided the Navy with a new weapon—chemical-filled cans that produce smoke screens for the protection of convoys and naval surface forces at a saving of vital fuel oil. The containers, combining the features of the pre-war paint pail and the metal smudge pots used in orchards, are in production at Toledo, Ohio.

Cartridges for the Army carbine weigh only half as much as standard ammunition for the Garand or Springfield.

Baton Rouge Hails Division's Colorful Musical Comedy

(Continued From Page 1)

A scene at a Service Club dance served to introduce such entertainers as Pvt. Gilbert Vitale, who performed feats of magic; Cpl. Joe Pollock, who brought applause for his clever impersonations of war leaders and other prominent figures, and a chorus line of pretty girls from Baton Rouge.

A fashion show at "Madame Maxine's" was staged by beauties from LSU. Young women participating in this number were: Rose Butler, Martha Claire Vann, Evelyn Payne, Lynn White, Bettye Babinzer, Barbara Wyatt, Lynwood Giseland, Jeanne Ellis, Hildamae Riely and Joan Benjamin.

The musical direction and arrangements were under the direction of Pvt. Paul Taubman, former NBC organist and pianist. Sgt. Robert Peters was in charge of publicity and the entire production was under the supervision of Maj. Robert K. Lieding, Division Special Service Officer.

363d Medics Lead Division Spot Check

Proving they not only know how to give a man a shot in the arm, but also how to give a machine a shot of grease, the 363d Med. Bn. this week led all other units in motor vehicle maintenance.

Results of the spot check on Division conveyances found the Medics with a mark of only 0.5 per machine. Tied for the next best record were Div. Hq. Co. and 253d Inf., each with an average of 1.1 deficiencies.

The motor vehicle maintenance personnel of the Division are fighting with increasing determination against the little deficiencies that creep in and try to make a vehicle their home. Consequently the various Blood and Fire units lowered the average from 2.6 to 2.4 on the last completed inspection.

The records of the other outfits as shown by this latest report find 763d Ordnance and 255th Inf., each with an average of 1.8; 862d P. A. and Div. Arty. Hqs. Btry. with 2.0 each; 861st P. A. with 2.3, and the 63d Rec. Trp. and the 263d Engr. Bn. with 2.5 each.

STAR XMAS SEAL SALESMAN

Pvt. Warren W. Orlick of the 254th Medical Detachment has been proclaimed star Christmas seal vendor in the regiment, having disposed of 2,000 stickers despite the smallness of his company.

BLYTHE FIELD, CALIF. (CNS)

—WACs stationed here recently trimmed the male soldiers in a close order drill contest.



NEW YORK—Winds that reached gale strength and 15-degree temperatures marked the beginning of the week and the winter's first intense cold spell here. Below-zero temperatures were reported from other points in the state and in New Jersey; at Owls Head, N. J., it was 24 below. Cold clamped on the seaboard from Maine to Virginia and was accompanied by heavy snow in upstate New York and by sharp snow flurries, sleet and icy roads in parts of Jersey and Westchester county. High winds in New York city knocked down signs, felled pedestrians and drove a Liberty ship aground in the Upper Bay. The wind reached 75 miles an hour—the force of a hurricane—to set a velocity record at LaGuardia Field.

PONTIAC, MICH.—Because the Rev. Leland L. Marion, pastor of the Christian Temple, one of Pontiac's largest churches, misused gasoline rations, he was ordered to surrender his ration books and deprived of all gasoline for 90 days. Members of his congregation picketed the county OPA office after the ration originally was reduced. Because of speeches made at a rally in the temple to "protest the abuses and persecution being worked by OPA tyrants," the Wayne County CIO Council charged the speakers with "treasonous" utterances and asked the government to take action against them.

DETROIT—Dr. Frank Kelly, internationally known surgeon and a former member of the Detroit Board of Health, is dead.

CHICOPEE FALLS, Mass.—Listed as missing in action for almost two years, John L. Houlihan, Jr., 22-year-old PT boat torpedo-man who risked his life while evacuating the president of the Philippines, has telegraphed his parents. "Home for Christmas." His mother had not heard from him since November, 1941.

SEATTLE—Two NCOs and chaplain from the Ft. Richardson Army Air Base in Alaska have arrived here with a shopping list and \$1,600 contributed by officers and men at the base for Christmas gifts for Indian and Eskimo youngsters at Anchorage.

NEW ORLEANS—Approximately 40 truckloads of decaying fruit and vegetables were to be left in the streets and gutters of the French Market section "to teach merchants and peddlers not to dump culis on public property," Deputy Property Commissioner Michael J. Kelly announced.

DETROIT—The 48-hour week, which the War Manpower Commission imposed on the four-county Detroit industrial area April 1, has resulted in a saving of more (Continued on Page 8.)



PRETTY nice dress Elyse Knox, Universal star, is wearing in this picture. Elyse herself, incidentally, is quite an eyeful.

Blood and Fire

Official Newspaper of the
BLOOD AND FIRE (63D)
INFANTRY DIVISION
Camp Van Dorn, Miss.

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EDITORIAL

We of the 63d have already started our fight. We're fighting basic training. We've got him floored for the count. We've got to keep him there. After we've come through successfully there are bigger and tougher fights ahead. There's advanced training and maneuvers, small, then increasingly larger until the grand-scale Army "Battle." After that the battle will be real—and for keeps.

Stop now, and think. Are you preparing for that fight to the finish—that destiny which the 63d will carry out until unconditional surrender is reached? It's a personal thing, this being prepared. Each man must come out of his shell and realize that for the duration he has become a cog in a machine. A cog in a machine doesn't sound like a personal thing—but unless each and every man does his part the entire machine bogs down.

There is much in which to be interested in this life of the Infantryman. First you become trained as an individual soldier. That takes months, and when the training is over—it's only the beginning. Next must be trained the squads, the platoons, the companies, the battalions, the regiments, the combat teams and finally the division. That training encompasses a series of engagements between squad and squad, platoon and platoon, and so on up until the 63d in full strength is pitted against other divisions. When the division has proven its mettle against other divisions it will then be ready for the Army maneuvers.

Through all of that training there are opportunities for officers and enlisted men to keep learning, to add to their knowledge of warfare, to iron out the rough spots, to win advancement. All have a marvelous opportunity to learn—to learn about other men, and more important—to learn about themselves.

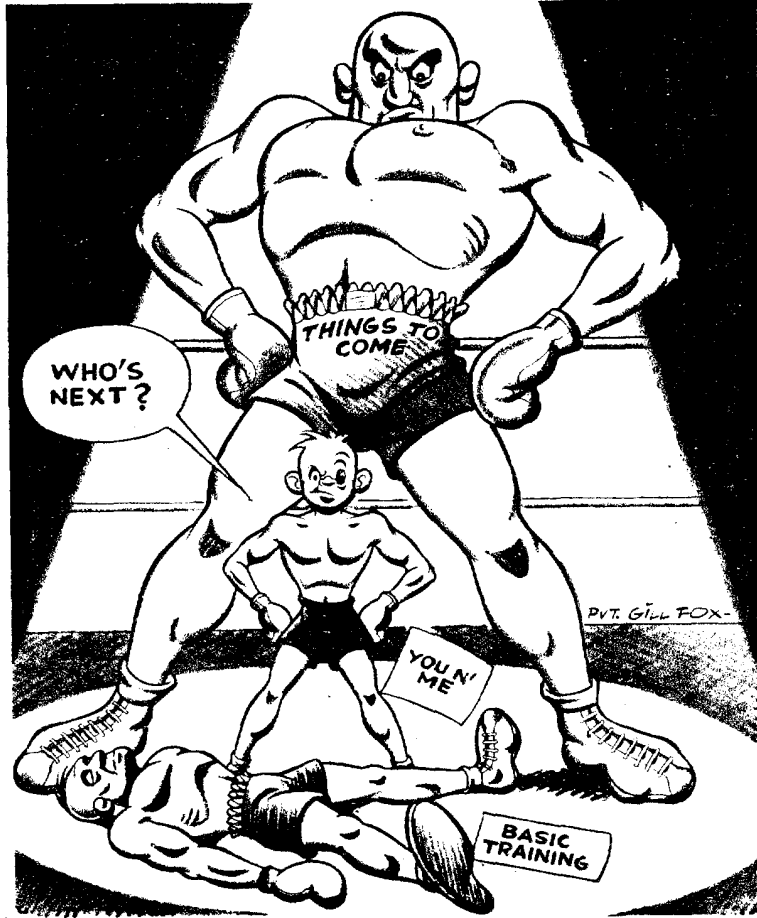
Civilian life provided little opportunity in its cloistered ways of choosing companions for man to learn about his fellow man and about himself. Thrown into the Infantry, hundreds of men from all walks of life brush elbows, eat, sleep and work together. The clerk learns how the laborer lives and the laborer might show the professional man how to assemble a weapon.

It's all part of the fight. First you must realize that you are part of a gigantic plan for victory and as such—no matter how big you think you are—you are but a minute figure. When you've mastered yourself to that extent you've made a good start.

During the rest of your basic training and all the training to follow, strive to fit yourself into the niche that's been picked for you. When the entire Division is clicking as a well-oiled machine, we'll have a powerful battering ram that will smash open the doors to Berlin or Tokyo.

Keep fighting until victory is won. Don't wait for the victory to drop into your lap. It will come only with force. We'll make peace—but we'll make it with bayonets and shells and hand grenades and bullets.

And the spirit of each 63d man should be to maintain that peace—no matter how many bullets we have to expend to do it.



News from Here and There

ASTP Reduces Number Of Student Soldiers

WASHINGTON—The War Department has announced that the Army Specialized Training Program "is not in process of liquidation," although the number of soldier-students assigned to colleges in the program is now being reduced. Approximately 140,000 men now are assigned to ASTP.

Secretary of War Stimson said: "The number of soldiers assigned will be changed from time to time so as to accord with the needs of the Army and the available manpower. It is now being reduced—but may later be either increased or still further reduced as the exigencies of the military situation or military training make advisable."

Baron Rothschild, 22, Is Now Private in Army

LOS ANGELES—Baron Gilbert Rothschild, 22-year-old member of the famous European banking family, has a new title—Private in the Army of the United States. He arrived at the Ft. MacArthur Reception Center as a volunteer.

Officer Orders Mask, Gets One to Fit Horse

MOUNTAIN HOME, IDA.—Lt. Joseph Kozioski, chemical officer at the Army Airbase here, ordered an M-4 gas mask from the supply depot at Ogden, Utah, expecting to get a new lightweight type mask. He received a gas mask for a horse.

Soldiers, War Workers See Each Other Work

CAMP ATTERBURY, IND.—More than 200 Indiana war workers accepted an invitation to spend a week-end here to live the life of a doughboy and observe training of the 30th Inf. Div. In a similar experiment several months ago, war workers from Detroit were guests at the camp and later took Atterbury soldiers on a tour of the war plants so that soldiers could watch their armament in production and production workers could see how and where it is needed.

Air Corps Candidate Was 'Official Greeter'

MIAMI BEACH—Interviewed by an Army Air Forces classifier, a former lunch-room counter man described his old duties as: "To greet customers, ascertain their wishes and convey this information to the cook."

WACs Stand Dental Drill Better Than Doughboys

FT. MONMOUTH, N. J.—The WACs stand up under the dentist's drill better than soldiers, Capt. S.

L. Crasson of the post dental clinic says. "The WACs come prepared for the worst," he said, "and are surprised that it doesn't hurt more, while soldiers expect to be let off lightly and are surprised if they are hurt."

Air Cadet Gets Early Party for Christmas

TIFTON, GA.—The Cheshire family of Atlanta celebrated Christmas more than two weeks early. Aviation Cadet Joe Cheshire, stationed at Abraham Baldwin College here, was informed he would be "in transit" by Christmas, so his parents, brother and grandmother loaded up the family car came to Tifton and staged a Christmas party, tree and all, in a hotel.

Eating Corn on Cob Is Hard for Briton

CAMP STEWART, GA.—A British soldier visiting here was introduced to corn on the cob at a local mess. He studied it a minute, then gingerly picked it up. "Hold it in both hands and eat it like you play a harmonica," an American sergeant explained. The Briton looked puzzled. "And what," he asked, "is a harmonica?"

Payline Gag Works Well As GI Gets Needed Help

CAMP BLANDING, FLA. (CNS)—Pvt. Peter Glod and a couple of other guys were drafted to move a batch of equipment from one building to another. A pal passed. "Where you going?" he asked. "Payline," said Glod. A small mob heard this exchange and immediately fell in behind Glod. All were welcomed cordially by the officer in charge of the detail who gave them each something to carry although it wasn't a pay envelope.

Male Air WAC Recruiter Gets Whack From Girl

DENVER COL. (CNS)—1st/Sgt. Robert E. Payne walked up to a pretty girl on a street corner here, tipped his hat and said, "Pardon me, miss." That as far as he got. The girl turned around and whacked him. She didn't know he was a member of the Air WAC recruiting team here.

Soldier and Wife Write Although 300 Yds. Apart

CAMP RUCKER, ALA. (CNS)—Although Sgt. Russell E. Harris and his WAC corporal wife are quartered only 300 yards apart, they write letters to each other three times a week. "We have very little time together," explains the sergeant.

The Sky Pilot Says It

HAPPY IS THE NATION THAT HAS FAITH

By Chaplain Joseph J. Morrell, 253d Inf.
Faith, as we know it, gives to a people morality, joy of life, power of resistance, self-confidence, and love of enterprise.

Let us think what it means to a people, what it means to a nation, if it possesses self-sacrificing, honest, virtuous—in a word, religious citizens. Citizens who fulfill the duties which their positions in life require of them till their last breath, fulfill them because their faith tells them that this is the right thing to do. Citizens whose shoulders are weighed down by many cares, anxieties, and much work, but who bear the burdens of daily life smilingly, and in so doing become the pillars of their state.

Benjamin Franklin was right when, in 1817, he made his memorable declaration. At a session of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, a certain difficult problem had been under discussion for a long time and seemed insoluble. Franklin arose and admonished that human affairs are directed by God. He said: "That if not even a sparrow falls to the ground without His will, a nation cannot hope to rise without His aid. Happy is the nation that has a religion, that has faith."

Therefore, when we assert that the man is happy who has faith, we speak of a living and life-giving faith; of a faith that is a form of living, a force that molds the lives of men. A believer is a man with a pure soul; a believing nation is a virtuous, industrious, and vital nation.

G. I. Jingles

THE SONG OF THE FIGHTING MEDICS

(Tune—MacNamara's Band.)

"Oh! We're the fighting Medics
From the 63d we hail
And when we have a job to do
We're never known to fail.
When it comes to GI soldier-boys
We are the latest word
We're the smartest, we're the hardest
In the fighting 63d.

"We frown upon the Infantry
The Engineers we cuss
Artillerymen are sissified
When they're compared to us.
We just ignore the Signal Corps
And give them all the bird
We're the toughest and the roughest
In the fighting 63d.

"We brave the strongest enemy
Without a gun in hand
For we're the gravest, bravest gang
In this or any land.
We save more livers, limbs, and lives
Than any bunch you've heard
For we're the pride and glory of
The fighting 63d.

"Thru mud and mire, Blood and Fire,
Always on the go;
For where you find a wounded man
You'll find a Medico.
We never stall, we're on the ball;
We've speed and skill unheard
We're the healing tools of fighting fools
The fighting 63d."

—By Pvt. Alvin M. Laster,
Co. D, 363d. Med. Bn.

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe,
She had so many children she didn't know what to do.
But the draft board discovered her little herd,
Now they're training as Rangers in the 63d.

—By Pvt. Herbert Arbitblit,
Hq. Co., 3d Bn., 255th.

Washington—The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans' organizations have thrown their support behind a movement for pre-peace enactment of soldiers' bonus legislation as part of a mustering-out pay bill.

A spokesman for the American Legion declared that "it was not a party to any groups representing the veterans whose insistence on further hearings on an adjusted compensation bill" has been blamed for delay in enactment of discharge pay legislation.

DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

63d Recon. Trp.—Recent promotions include those of Pvt. Charles D. Tetley to corporal and Pfc. Robert E. Blume to T/5. Tetley, a former Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer employe, is troop dispatcher and Blume is the mail orderly. . . . S/Sgt. Alexander M. Sims has switched from mess sergeant to platoon sergeant and has been succeeded in the mess by Sgt. McAfee. . . . S/Sgt. Edward F. (Mike) Vereon, who has the questionable distinction of owning the "troop car" (he generously lends it to men going on pass) is a former 1st Div. soldier, having seen service both on the North American continent and in Hawaii. Prior to his induction he was sergeant of police for a New Jersey shipbuilding concern. . . . A/Cpl. Charles A. Earheart is a former operating vice-president of the Pittsburgh Convention and Tourist Bureau. . . . Sgt. Francis L. Carriero was an elevator operator in Waterbury, Conn. There he had the leisure to become the troop's expert on sports statistics, to which lore he has added the knowledge required of a car commander and a gas non-com.

363d Med.—Men of Co. D have started their own company bulletin board newspaper, "The Medic." From its first issue comes news of 1st/Sgt. Charles H. Robertson's marriage; promotions of Pvt. Charles Scherry to Pfc. and A/Cpl. and Pfc. Henry Lasasso, Jesse Ames and Fred Smith to T/5; Driver-Mechanic medals to Sgts. Laurance Guarisco and James Zozzaro; the arrival of Sgt. Zozzaro's wife, who is working in the neighborhood PX under her maiden name, Douglas Silverthorn; the arrival of a seven-pound son in the family of Pvt. Joe Dyer, and the hot guessing going on in the "Fall of Rome" pool, in which Cpl. Elias Nasser, Hq. Det., will award a cartoon of cigarettes to the man making the nearest guess to the date.

254th Inf.—Capt. James C. Creal, of Anti-Tank Co., resumed the company command Dec. 11. Capt. Creal left the company while it was at Camp Blanding, Fla., to attend an officers' advanced course at Ft. Benning, Ga. 1st Lt. Charles F. Timmons, who had had charge of the company, will go to Benning after Christmas to take the same course. . . . High man in carbine marksmanship in Hq. Co., 3d Bn., was S/Sgt. Willie C. Kelly, with a score of 189. Runners-up were Pvts. Frind and Pilingo, with 183 and 180, respectively. All three are in the Ammunition and Pioneer Plat. Another feather in A. and P. Plat.'s cap is a score of 93 per cent in the division test on the MTP to date. . . . Recent promotions in Hq. Co., 3d Bn., were those of Pfc. George Casey to T/5 and the following privates to Pfc.: William T. Anderson, Robert W. Bailey, Robert L. Beckman, George J. Bolak, Homer O. Clark, Edwin B. Eckman, James M. English, George F. Gorman, Joseph L. Hornberger, Robert D. Houston, William B. Kelly, Robert B. Kline, Edmund Rudzinski, Willard D. Wharton, Omer L. Williams and Walter R. Wood.

255th Inf.—Men of Hq. Co., 1st Bn., are challenging other units to match the pile records of 37 headquarters men. The company had 18 experts, 11 sharpshooters and eight marksmen. . . . With several other mail orderlies and postal clerks from the Division, Pvt. William D. Darlin, Co. A mail orderly, is assisting the 3d Army APO at Leesville, La., during the holiday rush. . . . Lt. James P. Clark, of Co. A, is attending an officers' advanced course at Ft. Benning, Ga. . . . New first sergeant of Co. A is Thomas C. McGuire. He came to the 63d from Camp Beauregard, La. . . . The fortunes of battle and real estate in Italy have extra significance for Pvt. Thomas G. Piacenza, of Co. G. He owns a 200-acre farm in Benevento, Italy, and the nearby town of Piacenza was named for his family. Both towns are near present battle lines. . . . S/Sgt. Louis Kaminski, Co. G mess sergeant, has acquired a new cook, but not for the mess hall. He and Miss Gracie Allen (not to be confused with the radio star), of Baton Rouge, were married Dec. 2 in Miss Allen's home town. . . . Mrs. Frank Sherman, wife of a private in Cannon Co., has come from Pittsburgh to visit her husband and is staying in McComb. Pvt. Kenneth L. Johnson, of Co. E, brought his wife the 3,600 miles from Portland, Ore., for a brief visit. Others anticipating the holiday arrivals of their wives are Pvt. Allan Livingston, Co. A, of Chicago; Pvt. Raymond Codd, Anti-Tank Co., of Detroit, and Pvt. Elmer Johnson, Cannon Co., of Rockford, Ill. . . . 1st Sgt. Peter Pehanich, of Nokomis, Ill., formerly of Div. Hq. Co. and now top-kick of Hq. Co., 3d Bn., is celebrating the arrival of a son, Robert Peter. The boy, born Dec. 2, is Sgt. and Mrs. Pehanich's first child.

863d F. A.—Pvt. John S. Benassi, of Hq. Btry., returned from an emergency furlough to report that Pvt. Arthur C. Agresta's shingle still swings on a rusty hinge back in Jersey. Agresta practiced law there for the last eight years. . . . Pvt. Theodore J. Denz, Hq. Btry., bobbed the first time he fired a carbine, making a measly 106, and came back with 176 to make expert. He is assigned to aviation observation with the battery and is an expert on aircraft identification. . . . Good Conduct Ribbons have been recommended in Btry. A for S/Sgts. Willard E. Ballou and Herman Junge; Sgts. Albert J. Dittoe, Winfred C. Glidwell and Clyde M. Wall; T/4s David P. Bricker and Paul Massotti, and Cpl. Howard E. Brent. . . . Btry. A finished on the carbine range with two experts and 29 sharpshooters; two firers were Pvts. Anthony Masiwechuk and Howard Napier. . . . It probably Winfred C. Glidwell and Clyde M. Wall; T/4s David P. Bricker and when Pvt. Carl A. Weiler, Btry. A, drew a set of fatigues he found the previous owner had had exactly the same last four digits of the serial number as Weiler. . . . Medics started at the top and worked right to the bottom with Pvt. Charles E. McFarland, Btry. A, when he went on sick call. He reported with a sore throat, and the medics found he had the worst case of flat feet they had seen in weeks. . . . Btry. A has a new married non-com, Cpl. James H. McGill, of Wadley, Ala., having married Miss Rebecca Stevens, of LaFayette, Ala. They are making their home in Norwood, La. . . . The five Andrews brothers of Durham, N. C., are scattered over the globe. Sgt. Thomas W. Andrews is taking care of motors in Btry. A here; Pfc. Edgar is somewhere in England; brother Wade is in the South Pacific; S/Sgt. Walter L. is on maneuvers in Louisiana, and Pfc. Vernon R. has a New York APO address and is still en route. . . . Pfc. Eugene Snitzer, Hq. Btry., is showing his barracks mates a picture of himself and his wife published in a Detroit magazine. He was general cook in a large Detroit restaurant before entering the Army. . . . Another picture go-

(Continued on Page 8.)

255th Outfits Hold Christmas Parties In Two Dayrooms

Cannon Co. and Service Co., 255th Inf., ushered in the Christmas season Wednesday night with two gala parties in their respective dayrooms. Highlighted by the visit of Colonel Paul E. Tombaugh, regimental commander, the evening was enlivened by the charm and vivacity of WACs and civilian girls of Post Headquarters.

Presiding as master of ceremonies for the Cannoneers, Capt. Robert M. Young introduced the four men whose recent M1 firing gave them highest scores among the company's experts. The four were: Sgt. Peter Peysner, A/Cpl. Elmer Roberts, and Pvts. Percy Straw and Frank Kuugis. Capt. Young then presented the Cannoneer octet, headed by S/Sgt. Jimmy Kellett, who led in mass singing of popular songs and Christmas carols, following which Pvts. Kelly and Cronin entertained with skits from their professional repertoires.

In addition to Company officers, prominent guests included Major Henry D. Reed, Assistant Executive Officer, 255th Inf.; Capt. John F. Bishop, S-3; Lt. Wallace Tuttle, Adjutant; Lt. J. B. Beach, Lt. Allen M. Burdette, Jr., Lt. Mike Naddo and Lt. Harry A. Taylor.

After welcoming the WACs to Service Company's party, Capt. George C. Whitney called on Pvt. Mordecai Bauman to present the entertainment, for which musical accompaniment was furnished by Pvt. Denny Mendelsohn and his orchestra. T/5 Andy Wavrek, Pfc. Ernie Grotefend and Pvt. Bill Tota did a specialty number featuring the guitar and two harmonicas and T/5 Jimmy Paul did a trumpet solo. Pvt. Dominick Di Gregorio gave several dramatic recitations.

Dancing and refreshments attracted the attention of guests at both parties throughout the evening.

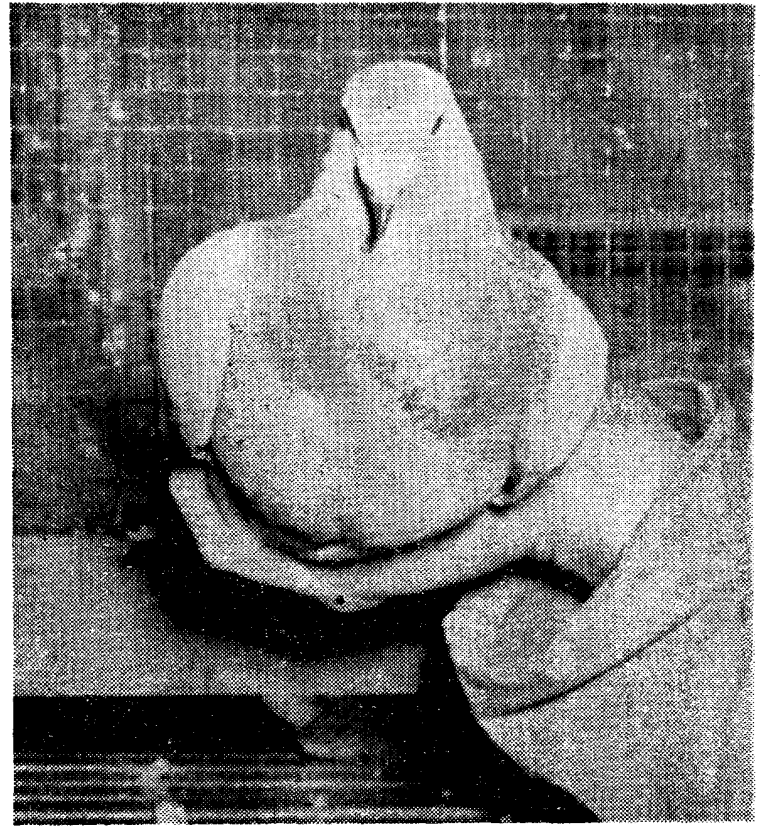
Legion Condemns Coddling Dodgers

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—State commanders and adjutants of the American Legion went on record condemning any and all forms of coddling or favoritism for draft law violators, conscientious objectors or anyone else impeding the conduct of the war, at their annual meeting held here in November. Representatives from the 48 states asked the War and Navy Departments to see that the honorable discharges, received by conscientious objectors who render limited but not combat service be plainly marked "qualified service" so they would never be confused with the honorable discharges of fighting men.

They asked that Congress see to it that persons convicted of evading selective service do not receive nominal sentences and get paroles before the termination of the war. They renewed their recommendation that concentration camps for Japanese be placed under control of the Army.

SONGFEST AT McCOMB

Soldiers of the Division are invited to a sacred songfest held at the First Presbyterian Church of McComb each Sunday afternoon at 1500. The songfests are sponsored by the McComb City Ministerial Association.



SQUAB LEADER of the Blood and Fire Division's 50 combat pigeons is "Red." The pigeons are assigned to the 563d Signal Co., for training as messengers with combat teams. The birds are wards of the 283d Signal Pigeon Co., of Camp Claiborne, La.

Homing Pigeons Taught Messenger Roles in 63d

One of the least publicized and consequently least appreciated phases of combat training is progressing daily in a building about five feet square in the midst of Camp Van Dorn.

Here, in a field close by headquarters of the 563d Signal Co., 50 homing pigeons are doing chores that will inculcate them with the instincts of the message carrier and give them training necessary to add their bit to the storied heroism of birds in battle.

"The use of pigeons in warfare has been passed off too often as something that went out with World War I," said Maj. Charles W. Gibbs, 63d Sig. Signal Officer, by way of evaluating the part these feathered "soldiers" are playing.

"Few persons are aware of the extent to which these message carriers were employed in the action at Dieppe," he said. "They were the sole means of communication for several hours prior to the actual raid."

"And too little credit has been given them and the men who breed, train and employ them in combat for the part they have had in Africa, Sicily and Italy."

The birds here are wards of the 283d Signal Pigeon Co., which has its headquarters at Camp Claiborne, La., and are employed in field training of Blood and Fire combat teams. The detail entrusted with development of the message carriers is headed by Lt. Thomas E. Dixon and comprises Pfc. Stanley Mackiewicz and Pvts. Donald J. Hebert and Eugene A. Zdawczyk.

Resemble Common Variety

To the average person, the birds bear close resemblance to the common barnyard or court house variety of pigeon. An experienced pigeon fancier such as Mackiewicz, however, can spot the difference almost as soon as the birds become visible to the eye. For one thing, the wings and

feathers are longer than those of the ordinary pigeon.

"You can note a difference in the way they fly," Mackiewicz said. "They're the most graceful things in the air."

Much care is given to their feeding. They develop a stamina which enables them to stay in the air from 10 to 12 hours.

Short Flights

"In civilian life we have had racing pigeons' travel as much as a thousand miles," Mackiewicz said. "In the Army, however, the birds usually are employed in flights of 35 or 40 miles."

"We have not, as one wag suggested, got around to mating these birds with woodpeckers so they could tap out messages in Morse code, or crossing them with parrots so they could deliver messages orally," Maj. Gibbs laughed, "but we have had some interesting experiences with them here."

"The Reconnaissance Troop recently took three birds on one of its problems. A delay caused the troop to reach its problem area after dusk. Rather than hold the birds, for which there was no further use, the Recon set them free. "Unknown to the troop, however, these particular birds were trained to travel in daylight only. Some pigeons can travel either by night or day, but not these three."

Birds Were Injured

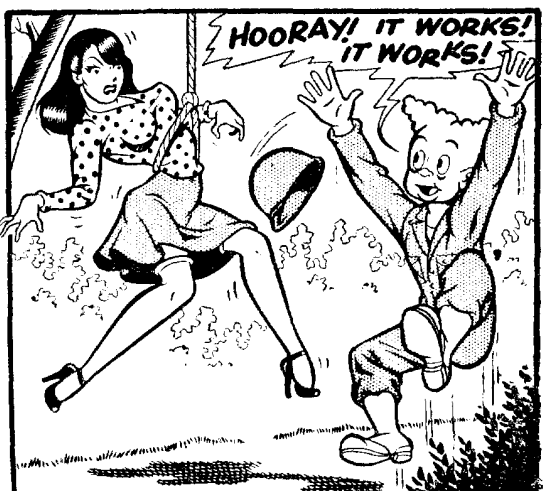
"Two of the birds finally made their way back to the loft, much the worse for wear. The third arrived the next day, its head and breast badly cut, probably as the result of striking a wire in its flight."

The bases for successful training, which is begun when they are about a month old and is continued for six months or more, are hunger and the mating instinct. The birds never are allowed to eat all they want.

Students of homing pigeons never have found the secret of the strange power that enables the

(Continued on Page 7.)

BERNIE BLOOD



A Pick Up

By GILL FOX

Pvt. Gill Fox 63d Div HQ

Heavyweight Champion Referees Division Bouts

Men of 63d Acclaim Joe Louis as Champ Pays Visit to Camp

(Continued From Page 1)
where a card of five bouts was being staged by fighters from the 253d, 255th, 254th, Inf. Regiments and the 861st and 863d F. A. battalions.

The Bomber received a loud ovation from the large crowd present. Joe expressed his happiness at being able to make an appearance at the camp and then proceeded to referee a couple of the bouts.

A welterweight, lightweight, light heavyweight and two heavyweight battles were staged. In the welterweight battle Cpl. George Barnes, former Golden Gloves star, of Hq. Co. 254th Inf., met Pvt. Phil Molina of the Cannon Co., 254th in a return bout. In the previous encounter Barnes won a close decision from his foe.

Pvt. Joe Gamilla, Co. I, 255th, encountered Pvt. Maurice Dowd, Co. C, 253d in the lightweight battle, and Pfc. Mike Monsanto, Co. D, 255th, faced Pvt. Frank Lane of Co. C, 253d. Both tipped the beam at 170 pounds.

In the first heavyweight encounter Pvt. Jay DeHaven, Btry. B, 863d F. A. collided with Pvt. Don Cunningham, AT Co., 255th Inf. The second heavyweight encounter pitted Pvt. Al Koontz, Btry. A, 861st against Pvt. Lewis Wilhelm, Co. C, 254th.

Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division Commander, and Gen. Edward J. McGaw, Division Artillery Commander, were judges and Lt. Shaima refereed the bouts.

Joined Army in '42

Louis joined the Army at Governors Island, New York City, in January, 1942. Shortly after induction he became an instructor in physical fitness and was assigned to tour Army camps throughout the United States and in many of the theaters of operations.

During his visits to United Nations outposts in the Pacific area and in the African theater, the Bomber proved to be one of the most popular of all entertainers to visit troops. He was particularly appreciated by troops in the Southwest Pacific.

During his career in the professional ring Louis compiled a record which no other fighter has ever achieved. In 57 fights since July 4, 1934, the Bomber blasted 49 opponents via the knockout route, and won seven others. He was knocked out only once, by Max Schmeling, who scored a knockout after 12 rounds of fighting at New York City's Yankee stadium, June 19, 1936.

Louis knocked out Schmeling in the first round in a return bout at New York, June 22, 1938.

254th Basketeers Top Ordnance Five

A second-quarter scoring surge gave the 254th Inf. basketball team a lead which enabled it to defeat the strong 129th Ordnance combination, 16-20, at the C/T White Rec Hall Sunday night.

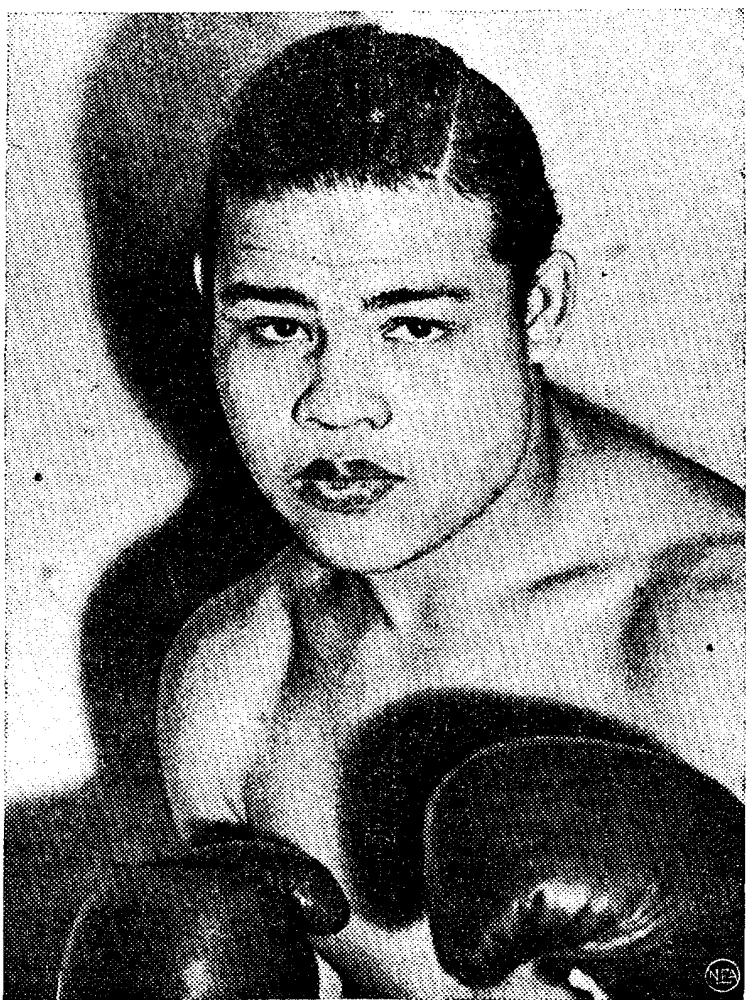
The Infantry ran into some mighty stiff competition before achieving its second triumph in as many starts. However, that show of strength before the first half's end created such a handicap for the Ordnance crew it was never able to take the lead, although making a real battle of it all the way.

The 254th put on a 20-goal attack for the customers. Pvt. Jack Wojciehowski leading the victors with six of them. However, individual laurels accrued to Pvt. Vernon Cavington, who dropped in five goals and four fouls for a total of 11 points.

The line-ups:

254th Inf.	G	F	P	129th Ord.	F	G	P
Svenski, f.	3	1	7	Habgas, f.	1	0	2
James, f.	1	1	9	Shawco, f.	2	1	5
Pickwitz, g.	3	1	7	Vanson, f.	1	1	3
DeLott, g.	1	1	2	Cavington, c.	5	1	1
Milisz, g.	1	0	2	Yancy, g.	2	1	5
Wojcieh, f.	6	1	13	Carp, g.	0	0	0
Foley, f.	1	0	2	Stofinski, g.	0	0	0
W. Smith, f.	1	0	2	Ortugler, g.	0	0	0
Hrenski, g.	0	0	0	Alfani, f.	0	1	1
Powser, g.	0	0	0				
Totals	20	6	46	Totals	11	8	30

Referees, Storbaki and Sullivan.



(SGT.) JOE LOUIS (BARROW)

KEN HIGGINS, 253d, MADE COURT CHAMPIONS IN MICHIGAN SCHOOL

When choice scholastic coaching jobs are being handed out after "for the duration and six months" is just a memory, Pvt. Ken Higgins of Co. C, 253d Inf., is one man who should be able to write his own ticket.

Higgins, now attending Combat Intelligence school, walked out on



Pvt. Kenneth Higgins

one of the sweetest coaching spots in his native state, Michigan.

State Class C Champs
Athletic director, coach and history instructor at Decatur High School, the 29-year-old sharpshooter saw his basketball teams win "Little Eight" conference titles four out of five years and add the Michigan State Class C title during the seasons 1941-42

Hi Bithorn, big righthander who won 18 games for the Chicago Cubs last year, has been assigned to the Naval Air Station in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Bithorn, a native Puerto Rican, was inducted last month.

Alex Campanis, formerly of the Brooklyn Dodgers and now of the Navy, is gunning for a chief petty officer's stripes. He's now attending a Naval physical fitness school at Camp Peary, Va., and it he completes his schooling successfully, he'll become an instructor with the top noncommissioned rating.

Bill Veeck, president of the Milwaukee Brewers in the American Baseball Association, has joined the Marines and is taking his boot training at San Diego, Calif.

and 1942-43. Under Higgins Decatur teams won all but one of 66 games the last 47, of them in a row.

The young coach makes light of his achievements. "It has been a matter for argument for some time whether a coach makes the team or the team makes the coach. Well, in my case there was no point in arguing. That bunch of Dutchmen averaging over six feet in height could have made any coach," he declared.

Star in High School

Ken can speak authoritatively. He left his mark on both sides of the ledger. He was on All-Conference teams in basketball and football as a player at Eaton Rapids High. Majoring in education at Albion College, didn't permit him to concentrate on sports, but he did find time to play baseball well enough to land a berth on the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association's second team.

He's almost as modestly proud of that fact as he is of having been president of Albion's chapter of Delta Sigma Phi, national fraternity, and also of the fact that he played basketball under Dr. Leopold Voltner one of the few men having a Ph. D in physical education.

Rangers Win Close Game From Engineers, 19-14

Led by Helm and Huber, the Rangers' basketball team took over Co. A, 263d Engrs., 19-14, in a closely fought game Saturday night.

Due to the goal-making of its two stars, each of whom dropped in four shots from the floor, the Rangers built an 11-7 lead by half-time and defended it over the rest of the distance.

The lineups:

Rangers	G	F	Pts	Co. A Engrs	G	F	Pts
Huber, f.	4	0	8	Robinson, f.	2	0	4
LeFank, f.	0	0	0	Saull, f.	1	1	3
Helm, c.	4	1	9	Jordan, c.	2	0	4
Carlo, c.	0	0	0	Dodd, g.	1	0	2
Chico, g.	1	0	2	Edshaw, g.	0	1	1
Walt, g.	0	0	0	Johnson, g.	0	0	0
Greak, g.	0	0	0				
Totals	9	1	19	Totals	6	2	14

Lt. Tom Harmon ex-Michigan gridiron great who was rescued by Chinese guerrillas after being shot down by Jap Zeros last month, sent this telegram to his parents back home in Ann Arbor, Mich.: "Arrived safe and sound. Don't worry. Everything in perfect shape."

253d Five Has College Stars

When the call for basketball material went out in the 253d several weeks ago, the CT Red Rec. Hall was overrun with GI's yelling, "Hey . . . I played semi-pro in New York," or "I played forward on the Notre Dame team of 1940."

But it wasn't all just yelling, for these men were speaking the truth. Pvts. Tom Messinec, and John O. Hanlon both starred with well-known New York semi-pro teams, and Pvt. "Buck" O'Laughlin, 6 feet 7 inches, played with Notre Dame.

Outstanding ball handler and dead-eye is Pfc. Frank Hooper, Hq. Co., who was an athletic instructor at Washington State College, Sgts. Ray Neri and Jim Rosi are veterans of the game, as are Sgt. John Poggi and Pvts. John Costello, Ken Decker and Jim Slaughter. Slaughter is the No. 1 boy on the crack Co. C five. The 253d Red Cats are coached by Pvt. Sam Mack, Co. H who formerly played on the Wilkesburg, Pa., college team and by Capt. Richard Cox, 253d S-2 officer.

254th Five Defeats 241st in Overtime

The 241st Station Hospital basketball team almost made good its claim of having a better team than the 254th Inf. varsity Tuesday night, finally losing for the second time to the foot soldiers, 33-31, in an overtime game played at Five Pts. Rec Hall.

In their previous meeting the Regimental five had matters pretty much its own way as it ran up a 33-14 victory. This time, however, the Medics held the lead until about a minute before the end of the regulation game, having achieved as much as a 16-8 lead at half-time.

Eventually, the Infantrymen tied the score at 25-25 and in the extra period out-scored the Hospital team by playing their best ball of the game.

Feature of the contest was the four-man scoring duel among 1st Lt. Denver Mitchell and M/Sgt. George Smith, for the Medics, and Pvt. Harold James and Pfc. Steve Suienski, of the 254th. Smith was the ultimate high scorer, bagging six of his team's 15 field goals.

The lineups:

254th	G	F	Pts	241st	G	F	Pts
James, f.	4	0	8	Mitchell, f.	4	0	8
Fahey, f.	0	0	0	Bholz, f.	0	0	0
Wh'iski, c	1	0	2	Wheeler, f.	2	0	4
Suienski, g.	5	0	10	Berry, c.	0	1	1
Galb'th, g.	4	1	9	Smith, g.	6	0	12
DeLellis, g.	3	0	6	Cline, g.	0	0	0
				Geaung, g.	3	0	6
Totals	17	1	35	Totals	15	1	31

Primo Carnera, the giant Italian who once held the heavyweight championship of the world, is a prisoner of the Nazis in Italy, according to a report from the front. Carnera is said to have been captured and held on a charge of fighting against Fascist forces.

Btry. B, 863d, Tops Hq. Btry., by 27-10 In Court Tourney

Play in the Blood and Fire Division's basketball tournament waxed hot and heavy during the past week when more than a score of games were played in the various leagues.

Competition in the four leagues of CT Blue was keen and in the Red League, Btry. B 863d F. A., won its second game by defeating Hq. Btry. 27-10, in a last period rally which netted six field goals. The all-around floor play of Sgt. Dunlap and Pvts. Shutz, Andre and Berlin of the victors featured the game. Shutz led the scoring with eight points.

In the Blue League, Co. D, with Pvt. Vern Muller netting eight counters, defeated Co. A, 23-19. Pfc. Walter Dansmore of the losers tallied 13 points which was high for the contests. Co. F had a hard time with Co. C but won out, 31-26, as Sgt. Emery Farkas showed the way with nine markers. Pvt. Larry Dematt of the losing team led both sides with 12 points.

Other scores in the same CT were: Hq. 1st Bn. 30, Btry. 14; Co. D 31, Co. E 13; Co. H 27, Co. G, 19; AT, 33, Medics 13; Co. B 23, Co. E 14; Co. A 23 Co. C 25; Co. F 22, Co. B 9; 3d Bn. 20, Hq. 2d Bn. 16; Hq. 1st Bn. 24, Hq. and Hq. Co., 9.

In CT White, Co. I defeated Co. L, 20-14, as Sgt. Vincent McFarland tallied 10 points.

One of the closest games in the Green League was that played between the Ordnance and the Rangers. After trailing, 15-10, at the close of the first period, the Ordnance five came through to triumph, 32-28. McClue of the victors led the scoring with 18 points on nine field goals. Helm of the Rangers was second with 12. Co. B of the 363d Medics nosed out the 263d Engineers' H. and S. Co., 19-17. Play was close all the way with (Continued on Page 8.)

He Picks All-America Players the Hard Way

NORFOLK, NEB.—For the past 14 years, Dr. Lucien Stark of this community has ventured upon a task which even the most experienced of sports announcers might find difficult, selecting an "All-America" football team bearing players with names the pronunciation of which would stump the most erudite.

For the 1943 name team, Stark proposed Cittadino of Duke and Athenania, Navy, ends; Yanousch, Iowa, and Hapanowicz, Penn., tackles; Zych, Wisconsin, and Tollenare, Kansas State, guards; Szymanski, Notre Dame, center; Kasprzak, Dartmouth, quarterback; Dellastadiou, Missouri; Dimancheff, Purdue, halfbacks, and Sajnaj, Illinois, fullback.



PASS that resulted in a touchdown is about to be flung by Fullback Charlie Hudson of the 255th Cannon Co., which defeated the Military Police Platoon eleven, 12-0, last week for the touch football title of the Division. That play was rather rough is testified to by the fact that Pvt. Blackburn of the victors is shown sprawled on the ground during the scrimmage.

TIPS FROM TERRY FIED --THE 'OLD SARGE'

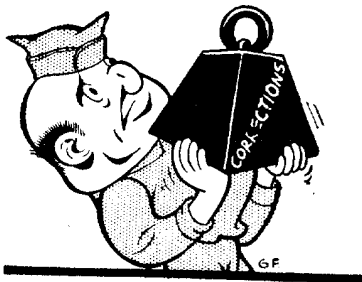
I'm going to take up where I left off last week because in my humble opinion helping these instructors to get you youngsters started off right in this tactical training is about the best way I can help you, my outfit and the Division.

This morning the Company Commander had the 1st platoon go through a problem while the other platoons looked on. At the critique he asked those who had observed to tell him what was wrong. We just about took that platoon apart, because it really had made lots of errors. After we had finally finished the Captain said: "O. K. I see you know how it should be done. Now I'm going to let you try your hand at it." And, do you know, the other platoons went out and made over again almost all the errors of the 1st platoon!

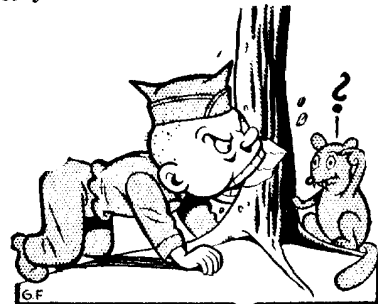
You just can't learn this use of cover stuff the easy way of watching somebody else do it. You got to do it yourself. It takes "blood, sweat and tears," believe me. But the rewards are great if you learn to do it right. You'll probably live a lot longer than the guy who doesn't.

But the point I want to make to you instructors is that all those

job, and were surprised as hell when they were told later that they were lousy. You instructors take a tip from an OLD SARGE: Get busy ahead of time and fix up a damned good demonstration. Make it correct in every detail. Forget about putting in some wrong things in order to bring them out. You'll never be able to get ahead of all the errors, anyway. Then let the outfit see it. Then put them through it slowly while you and your assistants go along with them and MAKE CORRECTIONS ON THE SPOT. That will really give you some ammunition for a critique. Make 'em stand up and tell what they did wrong. Then make 'em go through the problem again, and you'll find



that there'll be a big improvement. While I am talking to you instructors I might as well get something else off my chest. It's about making corrections. Most of the time when a man does something wrong he thinks he's doing it right. If you stand there and watch him do it wrong and say nothing he'll think he's doing it correctly and you may be signing a delayed death warrant for the poor guy. I call this murder. Think of this when that umpt... squad goes through that problem and you're tired and hungry.



men were working like beavers; thought they were doing a good

the inquiring line

Q. I'm a paratrooper and I've been ill and hospitalized a month. Am I entitled to my additional parachute duty pay during this period?

A. If your illness was contracted in line of duty or brought about through injuries received in a parachute jump or training accident you are entitled to additional pay for a period not to exceed three months.

Q. Who is eligible to wear the expert infantryman badge?

A. This badge is awarded to infantrymen, including officers, who have attained the standards of proficiency established by the War Department for infantrymen or have exhibited a satisfactory performance of duty against the enemy. The combat infantryman badge, a higher award, is made for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy.

Q. How do Army Specialized Training Students submit their applications for Officer Candidate School?

A. ASTP trainees may apply for OCS during their training period. Their applications will not be processed nor will the applicant appear before a board of officers while he is assigned to a training unit. Upon his separation from the

unit, the application and recommendations will be forwarded to the new unit, to which he has been assigned. That's where it will be processed.

Q. How long must a man serve in the Navy before he can wear the good conduct medal?

A. The good conduct medal in the Navy is awarded to men who have completed at least three years of their six-year enlistment, providing that they have maintained a high rate of proficiency. In the Army the good conduct medal is awarded to deserving soldiers after a year's service.

Q. My kid brother is not quite 18 years of age. He graduates from high school next June. When does he have to register with his draft board and when can he enlist?

A. He will be eligible for enlistment on the same date he must register with his draft board—his 18th birthday.

Q. I received a certified disability discharge from the Army and since have lost my discharge papers. Where can I get proof of my service?

A. Write to the War Department in Washington and be sure to enclose your dates of service, rank, the unit in which you served and your former serial number.

Natchez Citizens To Hold Christmas Parties for GIs

Citizens of the city of Natchez, through members of the Natchez Garden club and the staff of the Servicemen's Center, are planning to entertain men of the Blood and Fire Division in the true spirit of Christmas next week.

Two big events are scheduled. Tuesday night, December 21, the Natchez Garden club will entertain over 600 men of the 63d plus additional complements from other units at Camp Van Dorn, at a reception and dance at the City Auditorium. One of the Division's best dance bands will play and refreshments will be served.

Party Friday Night

Starting Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, the Servicemen's Center will sponsor a series of activities devoted to the soldiers. On Friday night there will be a Christmas party at the Center starting at 2000. Informal dancing will be held and there will be refreshments.

On Christmas Day service men and women are invited to take Christmas dinner with Natchez families. Inquiries may be made at the main desk at the Center concerning invitations.

Company G of the Military Maids, of which Miss Edna Parker is captain, will sponsor a dance on Christmas night at the City Auditorium. Military Maids of Ferriday, La., and Fayette, Miss., will be present also. Dancing to the music of the 254th Inf. orchestra will start at 2000 and will end at 2400.

To Distribute Gifts

An old fashioned Christmas party on Sunday, December 26, at 1530 will bring the holiday activities to a close. There will be a Santa Claus who will distribute gifts to each service man and woman present, and Christmas carols will be sung. The party and other events will be broadcast over Station WMIS.

At 1700 Miss Allene Dicks will conduct a tour of Rosalie, antebellum home which was General Grant's headquarters during the siege of Vicksburg. Visitors will be guests of the DAR.

Members of the staff of the Servicemen's Center are: William Y. Kester, director; Miss Jennie McLin, program superintendent; Miss Natalie Luscombe, musical director and Mrs. Ruth Stewart and Miss Treeby Poole, hostesses.

Pigeons Trained As Messengers

(Continued From Page 5.) birds to get their bearings home. Experiment, however, has proved the pigeons are deprived of this ability to orient themselves if their ears are covered with adhesive tape.

The pigeons, like every combat outfit, also have their "squad leader." He is known as Red. Proud and confident, Red usually gets the call when the day's schedule calls for a real pigeon-sized job.

PARCEL POST SERVICE

As an aid to men of the Division, A. P. O. No. 410 will remain open until further notice for parcel post service only. Men are urged to make early use of this opportunity.

Firepower higher than that of any other American infantry rifle is possessed by the Army carbine.



MEN FROM MARS? No, Lt. Albert Birch (left) and Sgt. George Berry of Div. Chemical Warfare, demonstrate the method used in decontaminating a shell hole impregnated with mustard gas. Lime mixed with dry earth is used to do the job. The garb is weird, but it protects the soldier from contact with the burning vapor.

Our Enemy-Germany Topic Of 254th Orientation Forum

Inaugurating the first "Town Hall" orientation forum in the 63d Division, four enlisted men of the 254th Inf. staged a discussion of "Our Enemy—Germany" for the benefit of each of the three battalions last week. The talks and question-answer period are part of a broad orientation program being conducted by the regiment under the direction of Lt. George S. Hear.

The first presentation of the program on Thursday afternoon, December 9, at Theater No. 5, was attended by the 2d Bn. Special guests included Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division Commander, and Col. Stanley R. Putnam, commanding the 254th.

Qualified Speakers

The four men selected to participate in the discussions have been active in their respective company orientation programs and have high qualification by virtue of their academic background and journalistic and radio experience as well as travel abroad.

The first phase of the economic processes at work, was discussed by Pvt. Samuel Clark of Co. D. Pvt. Clark outlined the Nazi party technique of squeezing out of existence all middle classes and labor elements who failed to support their party objectives. "The upper Junker classes were not harmed by the Nazis," he declared. Pvt. Clark, in civilian life was professor of history at Franklin and Marshall college. He did graduate work at Brown University and was a radio newscaster for the past three years.

The military background of Germany was presented by Pvt. Douwe Stuurman of Hq. Co., 2d Bn. A Rhodes scholar at Oxford during

1933-36, Pvt. Stuurman was a frequent visitor to Germany and saw the spread of the Nazi doctrine during the early years of Hitler's regime. Before entering the Army, Pvt. Stuurman was professor of philosophy and literature at California State University.

Germany Still Strong

He warned the assembled soldiers not to think that the war is soon to end. Quoting facts and figures from a recent report by Maj. Gen. George Strong, U. S. Chief of Military Intelligence, he traced the potent strength of Germany even at this late stage of the conflict. While the German people themselves are not militaristic, the Junker philosophy had been impressed upon them for more than a century, he pointed out.

Pfc. Gino Bardi, Hq. Co., 254th, an anti-Fascist journalist and former student at the University of Florence, Italy, presented a political analysis of the Nazi methods and aims. He stressed the reality of the Nazi plan to subjugate inferior peoples to the super-race. Pfc. Bardi credited Russia with staving off a catastrophe for world civilization and pointed to the Roosevelt-Stalin-Churchill meeting as a portent of the unity that now exists among the major Allied powers.

Must Be Well Informed

Opening the discussion with a brief statement on the importance of orientation to the American soldier, Pvt. Nathan Guttman of Service Co., moderator, stated that the "American Army is not only the best trained and best equipped, but must become the best informed." Pvt. Guttman, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, has spent ten years as a journalist (Continued on Page 8.)

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"

Tasty Dish On The T/O



Men Overseas Show Increased Interest In Army Schools

Soldiers overseas, as well as those in training camps and stations in this country, are showing an increasing interest in continuing their education, according to results of a survey made public by Maj. Gen. Frederick H. Osborn, director of the Morale Services Division.

Interest was expressed in such subjects as engineering, economics, the liberal arts and the sciences. Courses in all these subjects, and many more, are provided by the Armed Forces Institute.

Through the institute, an Army organization, enlisted men and women are encouraged to advance themselves within the Army and as a preparation for a return to civilian life. Nearly 70,000 men and women in service are utilizing a few hours of their off-duty time each week for study through the institute. Some are working for promotions, others for high school diplomas or college degrees, still others for a better job after the war.

Correspondence courses are issued through the institute by high schools, technical schools and leading colleges and universities. More than 3300 high school and technical subjects are offered, in addition to 343 subjects offered by 82 colleges and universities.

A soldier may start taking a course by sending a \$2 enrollment fee to the U. S. Armed Forces Institute, Madison, Wis. There are no additional fees or textbook charges and the student may take as many courses as he desires.

Officer Sends Frozen Bombs Away by Hand

ENGLAND (CNS)—When the bomb release mechanism on a Flying Fortress froze, Lt. William F. Piekarski, 20, of Lowell, Mass., left his precision bombsight in order to pry out the bombs with a screw driver from the bomb bay where the temperature was about 50 degrees below zero.

To release the bombs Lt. Piekarski had to lean across the open bomb bay doors while holding on with one hand. He sighted his target with his naked eye. An icy gale lashed across his face and he was groggy from lack of oxygen but another crew member tossed him an oxygen "bubble" just in time to keep him from collapsing.

LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT
Last week BLOOD AND FIRE printed a poem under GI Jingles, "A Photograph of You," underneath the title was printed "author unknown." One of our readers has thrown light on the identity of the author. The poem was written by Grace E. Light and appeared last year in the Boston Post.

DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

(Continued From Page 5.)

ing the rounds is that of Pfc. Michael Mauro's five children. Because of the number of dependents, the Mauros draw more from the Government than a second lieutenant. He is in Hq. Btry. . . . Pfc. Leonard Cohen, of Hq. Btry., has been promoted to T/5.

253d Inf.—Lt. George Groshan, Co. H, reassigned, has been replaced by Lt. Horace R. Hansen, from Ft. McClellan, Ala. . . . Lt. Loomie Bresler, Co. H, became the father of an eight-pound boy. . . . Lts. Harold J. Cohen and Frank R. Wells, Co. H, have exchanged their gold bars for silver. . . . Co. C's supply sergeant, August J. Mazzarello, recently received word of the death of his mother. . . . Two Ptes. in Co. C, Griff Murphy and James W. Patrick, have been promoted to corporal.

861st F. A.—Promotions announced last week in Hq. Btry. include Pfc. Horace R. Nash to corporal; Pvt. Wallace C. White to T/5, and the following privates to Pfc.: Norman E. Allen, Michael V. Altrudo, Edward Andisman, Virgil C. Beason, William Bednar, James G. Cullen, Jr., Kenneth R. Filippello, Lee W. Fisher, Dominic J. Memofi, Nathan Pinkowitz, Wilbert G. Short and Frank R. Valles. . . . Barracks No. 1 developed two new fathers when girls were born to the wives of Ptes. Meyers and Bradowicz. . . . Pvt. Leonard Glaser, Btry. 'A, whose home is in South Bend, Ind., led carbine riflemen of his battalion when he chalked up a score of 188, only one point below the Division record. Btry. A recorded 11 experts, 45 sharpshooters, 34 marksmen and not a single bolo. . . . Men of Sgt. Richard Tanatoro's section got in some actual practice in direction laying last week on the moving target range. They fired 40 rounds from a sub-caliber 37-mm. gun mounted on the section's 105-mm. howitzer. The section scored five hits out of five shots on the first series, eight out of ten on the second and seven out of eight the third time. . . . Lt. Robert W. Stewart, Jr., was high man in carbine qualification of Service Btry, with a score of 181. He was followed closely by Sgt. Edward Zuzek, with 179; Pvt. Jacob Gesek, with 178, and Pvt. Leon Becker, 176. The battery had an average of 159. . . . Of 429 men firing the carbine, only two in the carbine battery failed to qualify. The 427 included 47 experts, 192 sharpshooters and 188 marksmen.



BIG THREE of the Allied Nations, Premier Josef Stalin of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of England, are shown as they met at Teheran, capital of Iran, during their five-day conference which sealed the doom of Germany and her partners in crime, including what's left of "Axis" Italy.

255th Inf. to Show Movies on Russia

The heroism of the Russian people and the stirring defense of their country will be depicted in three films to be shown under the auspices of the Special Service office of the 255th Inf., Sunday night at the CT Blue Rec. Hall. The program is part of the Film Festival series which is being sponsored by the regiment.

The first two films in the presentation, "Soviet School Child" and "One Hundred Million Women," tell of the sacrifice and hardship the women and children are enduring in their war-rocked country and of the great contribution these women are making toward the war effort of all the United Nations.

The third film, "Wings of Victory," a full-length feature, gives the life story of the Soviet flier and hero, Chkatov, describing his early training in the Russian Air Force which led to his flight across the North Pole to the United States in 1937.

At the inception of the series last Sunday, at which 500 were present, Lt. Reuss of Co. I gave a short talk on United Nations unity, following which four films honoring Great Britain were shown.

The leather heel of the new felt Army boot for Arctic weather is attached by wood pegs, eliminating metal nails which would conduct cold into the boots.

Btry. B, 863d, Tops Hq. Btry. By 27-10 Score

(Continued From Page 6.) The Medics leading 12-9 at the half.

Other scores in the Green League were: Ordnance 21, QM 18; Div. Hq. 21, Signal Co. 17; Co. A, 363d Med. Bn. 30, Co. A, 363d Engrs. 15; Co. C, 363d Med. Bn., 58, Co. B, 263d Engrs. 6.

GREEN LEAGUE							
Div. Hq.	G	F	P	Sig. Co.	G F P		
Needle, f	1	1	3	Oakes, f	1	0	2
McAvoy, f	0	0	0	Lovely, f	0	0	0
McCabe, f	1	0	2	Eagon, c	5	2	12
Stracuss, f	0	0	0	Hosky, g	0	1	1
Alvis, c	5	0	10	Boord, g	0	0	0
Whitefield, g	1	0	2	Zylozinski, f	1	0	2
DiBaggio, g	2	0	4	Prowsick, c	0	0	0
Totals	19	1	21	Totals	7	3	17

Ordnance							
G	F	P	QM	G	F	P	
Hannon, f	0	0	0	Mayrhoth, f	1	0	2
McGue, f	4	0	8	Vagenus, f	0	0	0
Orn'ski, c	4	2	10	Brendg'rd, c	2	1	5
Giek, g	1	1	3	Geiger, g	2	1	5
Tirrell, g	0	0	0	Povlish, g	1	0	2
Noble, f	0	0	0	Garruto, g	1	2	4
Harmuth, f	0	0	0				
Dunn, g	0	0	0				
Totals	9	3	21	Totals	7	4	18

Rangers							
G	F	P	Ordnance	G	F	P	
Hannon, f	4	0	8	McGue, f	9	0	13
Lil'N'kup, f	1	0	2	Hannon, f	0	0	0
Capretto, f	0	0	0	Harmuth, f	2	0	4
Helm, c	5	2	12	Orn'ski, c	2	2	6
Sachs, c	0	0	0	Giek, g	0	0	0
Grescak, g	2	0	4	Johanson, g	0	0	0
W'ith'm'w, g	0	0	0	Tirrell, g	3	0	4
Toney, g	1	0	2				
Gicho, g	0	0	0				
Totals	13	2	35	Totals	15	2	32

C/T BLUE LEAGUE							
Hq. 255th	G	F	P	Robins, f	5	0	10
Lanzetta, f	2	0	4	Bigelow, f	1	0	2
Dond'anna, f	4	1	9	Jannusch, f	0	0	0
Bieber, c	3	0	6	Williams, c	1	0	2
Baccelli, g	3	2	8	Litt, g	2	1	5
Jacobs, g	0	0	0	Whek, g	0	0	0
Kings'v'r, g	0	0	0	Moyer, g	0	0	0
				Wildner, g	0	0	0
Totals	12	3	27	Totals	0	1	19

Co. E, 255th							
G	F	P	Co. C, 255th	G	F	P	
Howell, f	3	0	6	Weinstein, f	4	1	9
Weinstein, f	2	0	4	Kumstat, f	1	3	5
Doss, f	1	0	2	Dematt, c	1	2	15
Gambin, c	1	1	3	McGill, g	0	0	0
Parkas, g	3	3	9	Chelekis, g	0	0	0
Pollino, g	2	3	7				
Totals	12	7	31	Totals	10	6	25

Co. D, 255th							
G	F	P	Co. A, 255th	G	F	P	
Devault, f	3	0	6	Dunsmore, f	6	1	13
Juda, f	3	0	6	Geiger, f	1	0	2
Mueller, c	4	0	8	Gasser, c	0	0	0
Biese, g	0	1	1	Stam'glio, g	2	0	4
Atkinson, g	1	0	2	Ordway, g	0	0	0
Monsanto, g	0	0	0	Protin, g	0	0	0
Sabine, g	0	0	0				
Totals	11	1	23	Totals	9	1	19

C/T WHITE LEAGUE							
Co. E	G	F	P	Co. F	G	F	P
Marshall, f	4	0	8	Bowen, f	2	0	4
Roberts, f	1	0	2	Mavconi, f	1	0	2
Sorkins, f	2	0	4	Linett, c	1	0	2
R'g'nck, c	3	0	6	Glass, g	0	0	0
White, g	0	0	0	Baron, g	0	0	0
Labak, g	0	0	0	Kling's'tb, f	0	0	0
Hanley, f	0	0	0	Allen, g	0	0	0
Patrick, f	0	0	0	Scott, g	0	0	0
Suarez, g	0	0	0	Woolsey, c	0	0	0
Parber, f	1	0	2	Kubus, f	2	0	4
				Wild, g	0	0	0
				White, f	1	0	2
				Stockmal, g	1	0	2
Totals	11	0	22	Totals	8	0	18

Mapping of huge areas of hitherto-uncharted country was done by the Coast and Geodetic Survey from Army Air Forces photographs.



(Continued From Page 3.) 000, and overall employment in the area has increased at the same time. Present WMC estimates are that there are 780,000 in manufacturing and 500,000 in non-manufacturing work in the area.

PORTLAND, Ore.—A Liberty ship bearing the name of Ralph W. Barnes, first American war correspondent killed in action, was launched at the Oregon Shipbuilding Corp. yards. Barnes, an Oregonian, was killed in a bomber crash in Yugoslavia in 1940 while covering British forces in Greece for the New York Herald-Tribune. He was 41 years old.

NEW YORK—The New York City Center of Music and Drama, which Mayor LaGuardia called "a dream come true," is officially open. The center provides a 30-week season of music, art and drama at low prices. Lawrence Tibbett, baritone, and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra were featured at the opening.

EDENTON, N. C.—The town council is faced with the problem of whether the Chowan County court house clock shall continue as the municipal alarm clock. It was regulated a year ago not to strike between 10 p. m. and 7 a. m. When all-night striking was resumed early this year, two factions arose. One says the all-night chiming prevents sleep; the other claims it is necessary because of the wartime shortage of alarm clocks.

CALUMET, Mich.—The Canadian freighter Sarnian, which went aground in a gale off the Lake Superior coast, broke amidship and the crew had to abandon the vessel. Coast Guardsmen rescued the crew.

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF. (CNS)—Thieves stole and ate several lobsters in the California Marine Laboratory. When police discovered the theft they issued a warning to the culprits: "See a doctor, quick. The lobsters were inoculated with germs."

NEW YORK (CNS)—After her husband had disappeared into a crowd at Pennsylvania Station, Mrs. Catherine Rice, a visitor from Miami, Fla., became so panicky that she started to give \$5 and \$10 bills to passersby, pleading with them for help to find him. She had given away \$1,500 of a \$2,500 roll she carried in her handbag before police restrained her, called an ambulance and had her removed to a hospital. Hubby still is missing.

NORWICH, CONN. (CNS)—Someone put the bite on 1,000 sets of false teeth in a local dental laboratory. Police are seeking the thief.

OKLAHOMA CITY (CNS)—A youth stole Mrs. S. E. Vaughn's parked car. But Baby Vaughn, who was cradled in the back seat, set up such a holler that the thief drove the car back to the place he had found it. There he was arrested by police accompanying the child's mother.

EVANSTON, Ill.—Fred Young, juvenile officer of the police department, usually makes children calm as lambs, but he is pretty docile himself now. He phoned the chief to say he had been ordered to bed after his right hip had been injured while practicing judo with his 16-year-old son.

NEW CITY, N. Y. (CNS)—Three men were arrested here for hunting with bows, arrows and klieg lights.

LITTLE RIVER, Kan.—The Citizens State Bank wants to rid itself of its depositors. W. H. Burke, president of the bank, asked depositors to withdraw their balances by December 31, explaining that banks "can function just as well without depositors." The bank will continue to offer all other normal services.

Co. D, 363d Medics Score High on Exam

A high score received by one unit of the 363d Med. Bn. was pointed to this week by Division medics in refutation of the popular theory that the "pill rollers" lead a very easy Army life.

It was announced that in a pre-MTP examination conducted by the G-3 office, Co. D of the medical battalion had received a score of 96.6.

Medics used this score to point out that they are not just "pill rollers," but are a group of men being specially trained to do a certain job in addition to going through the same types of basic and advanced military training as the rest of the Division.

Medics do not receive rifle drill, but they do go through training classes, infantry drill, bivouacs and marches.

In one recent class in the newly-formed Medical and Surgical Technicians School, practical demonstrations in dissection were given by Capt. Harold Long and Pfc. Germer von Scorebrand. The demonstration, conducted on the carcasses of two dogs taken from the post pound, was intended to teach the nature of various internal organs, and their structure and relative position in the body as compared to that of a human.

'Enemy Germany' Is Forum Topic

(Continued From Page 7.) and traveler, visiting Palestine and Europe in 1938.

At all three battalion assemblies, many soldiers were quick to throw questions at the panel of experts.

Gen. Harris and Col. Putnam expressed admiration for the quality of the presentations and urged the continuation of a lively orientation program.

Chaplain Houghtaling concluded the meeting with brief remarks on the cultural and religious values at stake in the war and the importance of fortifying the spirit of our men with facts and faith that this is a true war for survival.

On the stage a huge map of Europe served as a background. The next discussion, on Japan, will take place during the Christmas week.

MPs Aid Bronx Postmen During Christmas Rush

NEW YORK—For two weeks those "MP" brassards on the sleeves of 125 soldiers will stand for "many packages." The military policemen have been sworn in at the Bronx post office to assist as drivers of parcel post trucks and, in a few cases, for house-to-house delivery during the Christmas rush. They will receive no extra pay, but \$1.50 per day as ration allowances.