

# Blood and Fire

Vol. 1. No. 29

63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

January 1, 1944



CAMP  
EDITION

## DIVISION HOLDS FIRST FULL REVIEW

### 63d Men Welcome New Year With Services, Parties

Religious watch night services conducted by Protestant chaplains of the Division, and social gatherings for servicemen at the service clubs in near-by communities, helped usher in 1944 last night. Today both Catholic and Protestant chaplains scheduled services for the soldiers at post chapels.

Men on pass visited Natchez, Baton Rouge, McComb, Gloster, Woodville, Centreville and other towns in the vicinity of Camp Van Dorn. USO clubs and other organizations which devote their attentions to providing entertainment for the soldiers staged parties and dances.

#### Party Is Held

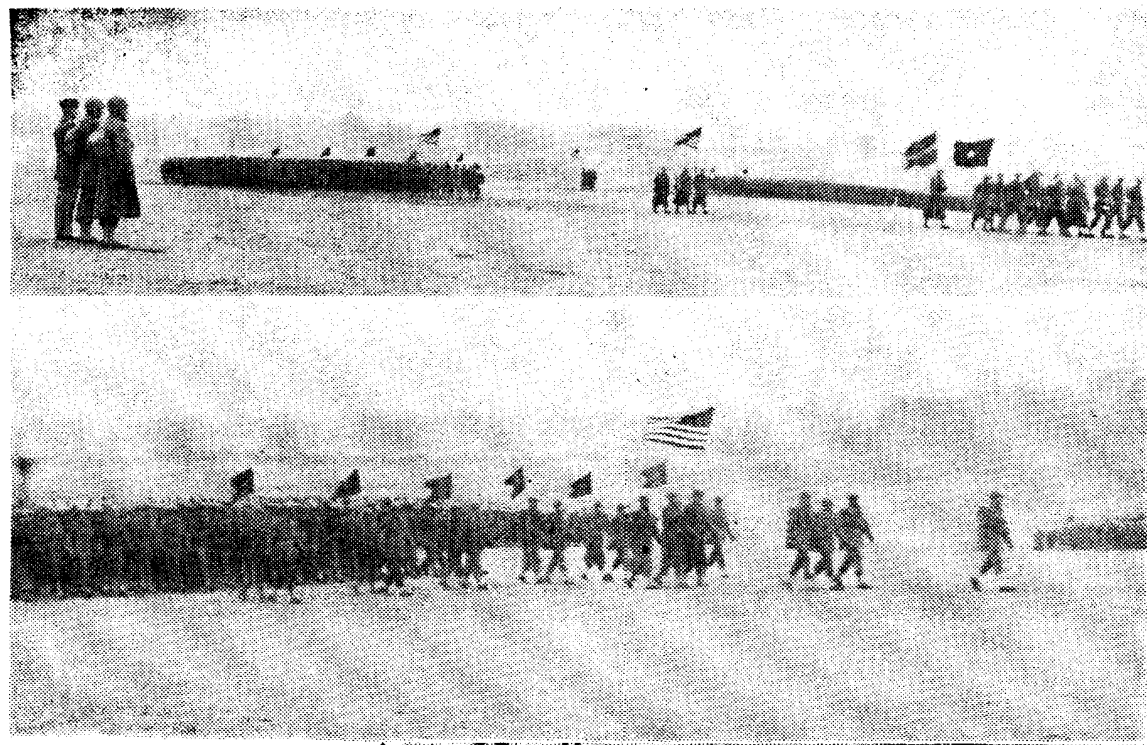
At Service Club No. 2 last night a New Year's eve party was held at which girls from McComb, Liberty, Gloster and Centreville danced with soldier partners to tunes played by an orchestra from the Third Army unit formerly attached to the 363d Inf. Dancing was held from 2100 to 2430.

Natchez came to the fore for the soldiers again last night and an informal party attended by a large gathering of men from the Blood and Fire division and members of the Military Maids, welcomed in the New Year. Dancing was held and refreshments served.

#### Formal at Natchez

Tonight Co. A of the Military Maids, captained by Miss Agnes Phillips, will sponsor a formal dance at the City Auditorium, from 2000 to 2100. Music will be furnished by one of the Division's leading dance bands. Tomorrow afternoon at 1605 Division entertainers will be heard in a special New Year's broadcast over WMIS, and a tea dance will be held from 1700 to 1900 at the Servicemen's Center. Refreshments will be served.

At Baton Rouge the USO sponsored a formal dance at its clubhouse on St. Louis St., from 2000 to 2400. Tonight the same agency will hold a large dance at the Community Club on Florida St. There will be open house at the USO all day tomorrow with refreshments served men of the armed forces throughout the day. In the evening a variety show and community singing will conclude the weekend program.



### 63d to Present Dramatic Sketch On Air Tomorrow

The 15 minute broadcast sponsored by the Blood and Fire Division will be heard over Station WWL tomorrow night from 1800 to 1815. Men from Division Special Service will enact a brief sketch entitled, "From These Honored Dead."

The story deals with two soldiers manning a machine gun emplacement on the Italian front. One, Pete, portrayed by Pvt. John Larkin, discusses with his companion, Joe, played by Pvt. Albert Lewin, his opportunities for marriages, advancement in business and other advantages which were curtailed by the war.

The soldiers are under fire by the enemy during their brief discussion and the theme has been developed into a dramatic climax by the writer of the script, Pvt. Cy Bernhard.

Sketches similar to the one described above are presented by men of the Division every Sunday night over WWL at New Orleans. Division Special Service under Maj. Robert K. Lieding sponsors the programs.

### Gen. Hibbs and Staff on Hand For Big Parade

In the first display of its full fighting strength, the 63d Infantry Division paraded in dismounted review Wednesday afternoon.

As all the units which make up the Blood and Fire Division passed in review before Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, the Division Commander saw his entire command assembled on one field for the first time.

Occupying a position beside Gen. Hibbs was Col. R. E. Guthrie, post commander.

Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Asst. Div. Commander, moved to the reviewing stand from his position as Commander of Troops, and Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, Div. Arty. Commander, joined the reviewing officers when artillery units passed by.

#### All Under Arms

Officers and men of each regiment and battalion wore the olive drab "B" uniform with overcoats and light field packs. All were under arms. Officers, according to their rank, carried pistols or carbines; enlisted men carried rifles, carbines and automatic rifles at sling. The riflemen marched with bayonets fixed and bared.

Mrs. Hibbs, wives of other officers and enlisted men and several hundred other civilians and officers of non-Division units gathered on the Parade Ground west of the Division Artillery Recreation Hall to witness the review.

Regimental and battalion commanders stationed their troops on the west side of the field at 1450. Reviewing officers stood on the opposite side, in front of Gen. Hibbs' two-starred red standard and the red and blue 63d Div. standard with its Blood and Fire insignie. In the center of the field flew the single-starred standard of a brigadier general, indicating that Gen. Harris had taken his place as Commander of Troops. Gen. McGaw's standard flew at the head of the artillery column, beside it the red and yellow standard of 63d Div. Arty.

#### Honors Rendered

The bugler sounded "Attention" (Continued on Page 7.)



ON REVIEW is the Blood and Fire Division in its first full dismounted review held Wednesday at Camp Van Dorn's parade ground. At top, Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, Div. Arty. Commander, leads his men down the field before the Division and post commanders. In middle, one of the Division's Infantry Regiments faces the reviewing party, and at bottom, Division Commander Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs is shown, flanked by Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Asst. Div. Commander, and Col. R. E. Guthrie, Post Commander, as the colors passed them.

### Here 18 Years GI Discovers He's Not Citizen

Although he has been a resident of the United States for 18 of his 20 years, Pvt. Alexander Southerland of Btry. A, 718th P. A. Bn., only became a citizen recently when he took the oath at Vicksburg, Miss.

Pvt. Southerland's story is a strange one. He came to the United States from Scotland with his parents when he was about one year old. His parents became citizens but forgot to have Alex naturalized. As time progressed the matter was forgotten and Alex labored under the delusion that he was a full-fledged citizen.

It was not until he attempted to enlist as an Air Cadet last year that it was discovered that Alex was not a citizen and was therefore ineligible. He was called to the Army last September and assigned to the Blood and Fire Division. He immediately applied for citizenship papers.

"You can't miss anything you thought you already had," said Pvt. Southerland. "I've always been as good a citizen as anyone else and I'll fight like hell to prove it."

Sailors afloat on life rafts have been rescued through messages carried by pigeons.

American troops in the Fiji Islands group have a "No Telephone Day" occasionally, on which they must use other forms of communication.

### 63d Doughboy Finds Sister After 17 Years Separation

The vigilant hope of a sister that she would find her lost brother was rewarded on Christmas day at Camp Van Dorn, when Miss Sarah L. Kellerhouse, Buffalo, New York, stood face to face with Pfc. George H. Kellerhouse, Med. Det., 255th Inf., for the first time in seventeen years.

The happy reunion took place at the NCO club of "C" Blue, where friends of Pfc. Kellerhouse arranged for him to see his sister, whom he was not even certain he would recognize. He did recognize her, however, and the first words he said to her were "Gee, sis, last time I saw you, you weren't much higher than this!" It developed that "sis" was bigger than "bud," because Miss Kellerhouse is two years older than her soldier brother, who will be 30 in April.

The almost two decades of separation from his family began for Pfc. Kellerhouse when his mother died in 1917 and his three

sisters and one brother were put in an orphanage and he was "farmed out" to a farmer near Hudson, New York. He worked on the farm until he was 21, then left and went from one job to another till he was drafted in May, 1942.

His sister, thinking the War department might know something of her brother's whereabouts, wrote a description of him and asked if he were in the Army that she be given his address. The answer came back that her brother was at Camp Blanding, Fla. They exchanged letters, making certain of identification, and she invited him to spend his furlough with her in Buffalo.

In the meantime, she decided to surprise him, and the visit to Camp Van Dorn resulted in their happy reunion.

Miss Kellerhouse left Monday for her home in Buffalo. Pfc. Kellerhouse can hardly wait for his furlough now that he's found he still has a family.

### 'Mom' Meets Her Regiment As Gift Surprise to Men

Mrs. Hazel W. Sparling, mother of Pvt. Leon H. Sparling, Co. E, 255th Inf., was back at her home in Schuylersville, N. Y., today after passing the Christmas holidays with her son at Camp Van Dorn as the guest of "Santa Claus." At the invitation of Old St. Nick, Mrs. Sparling climbed aboard a fast train last week and sped to Van Dorn. She arrived Friday morning.

Col. Paul E. Tombaugh, Commanding the 255th, met Mrs. Sparling and she smilingly accepted the appointment as "regimental mother" for the holidays. The 255th Drum and Bugle Corps serenaded her.

Immediately following her reception, Mrs. Sparling was driven by Capt. David Wedderspoon, Co. E Commander, to Service Club No. 2, where she had breakfast.

Highlight of the weekend of activities planned by 1st. Lt. Cecil M. McClister, executive officer of

Co. E, was the Christmas dinner in Company mess, where Mrs. Sparling was guest of all the 298 men and officers of Co. E. In a short talk to the men, she told them how happy she was to be with her son for Christmas dinner and to represent all the mothers of sons in the service everywhere.

#### Inspiration of Lieutenant

This Christmas visit of Mrs. Sparling was the result of an inspiration on the part of Lt. McClister, who thought that since the men couldn't visit their homes for the holidays and their families couldn't be with them, the next best thing would be to have one mother present to represent all their mothers. Lt. McClister and Capt. Wedderspoon got together and explained the plan to the men, who adopted it enthusiastically.

Each man in the Company con-

(Continued on Page 5)



M/SGT. RAY PISANI of Division Headquarters pauses in the midst of a hard day's work to view the creche erected before the Chapel of Santa Barbara by soldiers of Div. Arty. Santa Barbara is patron saint of artillerymen.

## This Is a Wonderful Spot Says GI After a Letter

Pvt. Richard Knudtson, Cannon Co., 255th Inf., was a bit blue one day recently. He'd been on a long march, it was cold and rainy, and Knudtson just felt bad, anyway. Then in the mail came a letter from his cousin, Pfc. Joseph E. Mancewicz, an M. P. "somewhere in Iran."

Knudtson read, and as the letter spread out before him his eyes bugged like a frog's.

"During the summer heat, the thermometer goes as high as 160 degrees and the flies are so bad that we have to talk close-lipped to keep them from flying down our throats. When the bugler gets ready to blow he first has to dip it's mouthpiece in water to cool it, and the water bubbles like it's boiling. A man can launder his shirt on the way to a shower and have it dried before he finishes his bath."

Knudtson wiped sweat from his brow, and read on:

"At night, the temperature drops to 125 or 130 degrees and we boys used to sprinkle water on our beds to cool them, but it didn't really do any good.

"During the winter time it's just as bad. Things are the opposite. It gets extremely cold and we get plenty of rain. The rainy season starts some time in December and it pours almost continuously until April. Everything is clammy and dank, and mud and water ooze everywhere.

"Brother, this is really a hell hole, and it stretches in barren, desert desolation for mile after weary mile, as far as the eye can see."

Pvt. Knudtson thoughtfully folded his letter and put it in his pocket. Then he arose, smiling.

"Give me that pack, full field," he almost said. "I want to go marching through this beautiful country. I've never appreciated it before," he almost added... almost, but not quite.

## Religious Services

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

#### New Year's Eve

#### Watch Night Services

Chapel No. 7, 2315.  
Chapel No. 6, 2330.  
Chapel No. 10, 2350.  
Chapel No. 5, 2315.

#### Sunday

Chapel No. 8, Episcopal Communion Service, 8:15.  
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

#### New Year's Day

Chapel No. 5, 0800.  
Theater No. 5, 0900.  
Theater No. 3, 1030.  
255th Rec Hall, 1130

#### Sunday

Chapel No. 5, 0800.  
Theater No. 5, 0900.  
Theater No. 1, 1020.  
255th Rec Hall, 1130.

#### Evening Mass

Chapel No. 5, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1830.  
Chapel No. 5, Saturday, 1830-2000, confessions.

#### 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.

A romance that began on the campus of Indiana University led to the altar Wednesday evening when Lt. Mike Naddoo, athletic officer of the 255th Inf., married Miss Mary Jane Klas, of Hamilton, O.

## Britain Topic Of Town Hall In Third Panel

The third of the series of "Town Hall Meetings" fostering the 254th Inf. orientation program will feature the subject, "Know Your Ally: England, and the British Empire," at Theater No. 5, Tuesday, 1000 to 1130 and Friday, 0730 to 0900, and, 1000 to 1130.

Pfcs. Gino Bardi, Douwe Stuurman and Samuel Clark, who elaborated on the subject "Know Your Enemy: Japan" at the meetings of Dec. 28 and 31, will again present economic, political and military highlights.

With Pvt. Nathan Gutman in the role of moderator, the 254th's group of experts thoroughly broke down and re-assembled their topic.

### Japan's 'Excuse'

Gutman sent his board of reviewers on its way by pointing out the reasons underlying the Japanese choice of Dec. 7, 1941, for the start of the attack on the United States and its allies.

His mention of the barriers of language, custom and meager military information passed the "ball" on to Clark, who plunged ahead with a learned discourse on the enemy's industrial background and its present set-up.

Clark maintained that the roots of fascism first took hold in Japan's national life as a consequence of the economic depressions of 1931 and 1937. These set-backs gave the military its excuse for the invasions of Manchuria and China, he said.

"Japan is far from bankrupt," contended Clark, who conducted history and current events classes at Franklin and Marshall College prior to his entrance into the service. "The United Nations must destroy not the Japanese army and navy but its commerce and transport facilities, its sources of raw materials and its industrial centers before the economic collapse of our enemy is to be achieved."

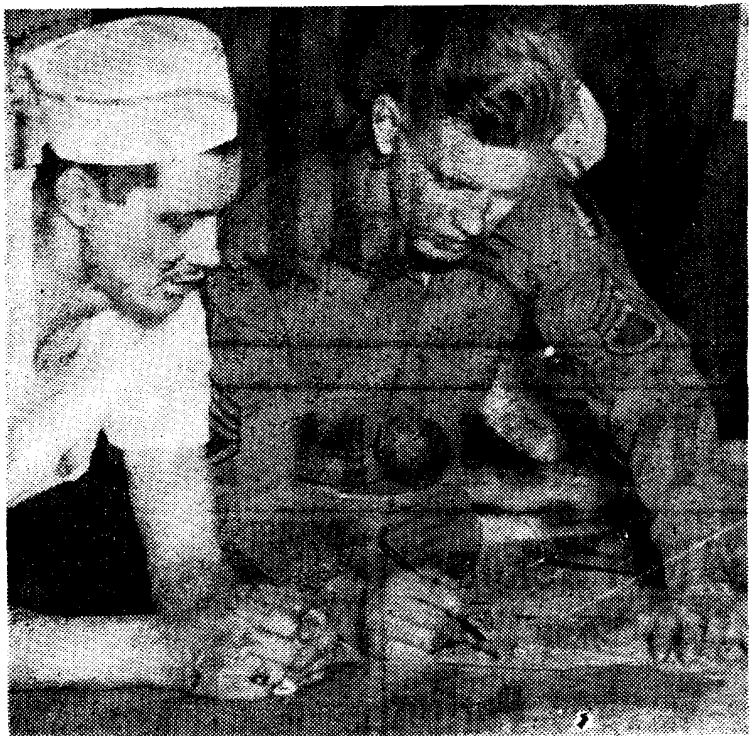
### Hope for Democracy

Stuurman, a former Rhodes scholar, traced the rise of the military and naval cliques, showing the part that customs, self-discipline and the mental processes of the Japanese played in the increase in domination of the national life by these groups.

In conclusion, Bardi, an anti-fascist journalist and former student at the University of Florence, advanced his theory that democracy never has had the opportunity to flourish in Japan.

"Once the imprisoned liberals of Japan are freed, there will be hope for sowing the seeds of democracy among that people," Bardi said. "You need no better proof that the Japs can be real members of a democracy than in those soldiers of our own who are of Japanese extraction."

"However, so long as that nation is dominated by the military, democracy will wage a losing fight," Bardi said.



PLANNING TODAY'S MENU for Officers of Division, Staff is S/Sgt. Arnold C. McDonald, Div. Staff mess sergeant (right), who is discussing the big meal with first cook Harold J. Olsen. They plan a super meal today.

## Mess Sergeant, Boxer, McDonald Was Cook at 8

Presiding over dinner today in the Division Staff officers' mess hall, as he does three times a day will be "Mickey" McDonald, 21-year-old mess sergeant who has been a cook himself since he had to stand on a box to reach the top of the range.

S/Sgt. Arnold McDonald is a former cook, waiter, bartender and Golden Gloves and Diamond Belt boxer who holds that there is dignity even in kitchen police.

He contends that, though KPs must work hard in his mess hall, they also must have adequate breaks and plenty to eat. He even has said on occasion that a KP is entitled to more and better food on his day of work than anyone else in the Division.

### Brought Up in Kitchen

Sgt. McDonald was brought up with a frying pan in his hand. The family lived upstairs over his father's restaurant in the Adirondack resort of Glens Falls, N. Y., and Mickey hung around the restaurant most of his spare time.

When he was 8, he was seasoning mashed potatoes and stirring gravy, standing on a box beside the range. At 10 he pulled a regular shift in the restaurant, because one day the regular cook quit and Mickey's father said, "I guess it's up to you, son."

He became second cook in the Queensbury hotel in Glens Falls and in his teens left home for work in larger restaurants and hotels. In the summer he cooked at the Fort William Henry Hotel at Lake George.

In 1939 he joined the CCC and immediately was sent to the Army Cooks and Bakers school at Shenango Forks, Pa., from which he was graduated as a first cook and student baker.

After his induction into the Army in November, 1942, he was assigned as an orderly to Maj. Gen. Paul L. Ransom, commanding the 98th Div. at Camp Breckenridge, Ky. McDonald moved to the division staff officers' mess in three weeks and has been in the same kind of mess hall ever since.

Like most Army cooks and mess sergeants, Sgt. McDonald wants to have his own restaurant after the war. Of the two kinds of restaurant he knows, he says:

"The Army cook has a bigger problem. Often he does not have the ingredients he would use in making a dish back home, and he can't just run across the street for them. He has to do more and better planning of his meals and, because he works on a strict ration schedule, he can't use tomorrow's rations for tonight's supper.

"Cooking the same meal for the 'customers' is more difficult, in one respect. In civilian life if a man didn't like your place he didn't have to come back. Now we have to please all those who eat here."

### Boxer at 16

The sergeant's life outside the kitchen has been spent chiefly in the ring. He got his amateur boxing license when he was 16. In 1939 he won in the flyweight novice class in the Golden Gloves tournament in Albany. In the Diamond Belt bouts he lost out in the open class for the Northern New York State Championship.

In 42 fights he has been kayoed twice and lost three decisions. His Army weight, 148 pounds, put him in the welterweight class for his last fight.

He came by his boxing naturally. His father, Curtis McDonald, was both cook and boxer, too. Under the name of Teddy O'Brien, he became welterweight champion of Quebec and represented Canada in one fight in England. His 18-year-old brother, Douglas, a Marine Pfc. now somewhere in the Pacific, has lost only one fight in 50 in the ring.

### SOME SHOOTING!

No less than 28 experts resulted when 62 officers and men of the 263d Engineer Combat Battalion fired the carbine for record recently, as Capt. John U. Fehr, medical officer of the Bn., chalked up a sensational 190 out of a possible 200, highest score in the division reported to date.

Runner-up honors went to M/Sgt. Carl D. Turner who fired 189.

Both scores topped previous high marks for the battalion which were scored by Sgt. Heziakiah Howard and 1st/Sgt. Gordon A. Barrett at Camp Blanding, Fla.

## The Wolf

by Sansone

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"What are you staring at, soldier! Haven't you ever seen 'Mae Wests' before?"

## Carnegie Hall, St. Paul's Old Haunts of 253d NCO

St. Paul's Choir and Carnegie Hall are a pair of awe-inspiring names in the field of American music, but they are even more familiar to S/Sgt. Robert L. Arnott than his barracks and mess hall.

Almost since the day he stepped off a boat from his native Scotland, this NCO of Co. M, 253d Inf., has enjoyed one rich musical experience after another. Many of them came to him as a member of the famous all-male choir in its appearances in New York's hallowed auditorium.

### Lives in Brooklyn

Bobby Arnott was a youngster when he left Glasgow for his present home in Brooklyn. His sweet child soprano blended admirably into the spirituals that were the specialty of the St. Paul choristers. He became a featured member of the choir at 13 and remained a member—though running a gamut of voice changes that eventually found him a tenor—until his induction into the Army.

Arnott's musical career, however, was not confined to the choir. He studied voice under James Crowley, who had been a pupil of Deems Taylor. Then, in company with

three other members of the choir, he set about creating a quartet.

### Rehearsed Two Years

It took two full years of rehearsals, corrections and alterations to blend those four young voices to the satisfaction of their owners. But the quartet was heard by Mitchell Ayres, leader of a popular dance orchestra, and promptly signed as members of his organization. Thus were born the "Knights of Harmony" who sang with the Ayres band throughout its lengthy appearance at the St. George hotel in Brooklyn.

Music, however, was not the searant's sole interest. With the legendary caniness of a Scot, he visualized a day when his voice no longer would support him, and he turned to banking.

That's why, when Bobby comes marching home again, he will resume a curriculum of the American Institute of Banking, as well as a place with the old gang on the stage of Carnegie Hall.

NEW YORK (CNS)—Joe Petrotto, 24, who operates an elevator at Selective Service headquarters here, was arrested—for evading the draft.

# Men Observe Christmas in Camp and Town

## Church, Social Activities Mark Yule Week-End

Officers and men of the 63d Div. made good use of their Christmas holiday by celebrating in camp or in neighboring communities.

Large crowds of servicemen, their wives and friends began the holiday by attending church, both at Protestant services and Roman Catholic midnight masses.

At Service Club No. 1, gaily decorated under the direction of Miss Gwendolyn Dean, hostess, Christmas carols were sung Christmas Eve and Christmas night by soldiers and their friends. The Christmas Eve program was directed by Pvt. Paul Taubman, former organist and pianist for the National Broadcasting Co. He was assisted by his wife, a former stage singer. In addition to the carols, soldiers also took part in a variety show on Christmas night.

### 'Christmas Carol' Read

A dramatic reading of Dickens' "Christmas Carol" was held at Service Club No. 2 on a Christmas Day program directed by Pfc. Kurt Steinbart. Decorations for the club were lent by the people of Centreville.

Throughout the camp there was an air of gaiety. At the recently-established Provisional Training Detachment, a gigantic cedar was decorated with 178 lights. A large pecan tree in the camp barracks area was among the dozens of other Christmas trees exhibited.

Mess halls, recreation halls, orderly rooms and day rooms took on a holiday atmosphere with red and green festoons and streamers.

### 500 at Natchez

Nearly 500 soldiers took advantage of week-end passes to enjoy the hospitality of the Natchez Servicemen's Center. The center has "A Home Away from Home" as its motto, and Director William Y. Kester and his staff did their utmost to see that every doughboy had as homelike a Christmas as possible.

An informal party was held at the center on Christmas Eve, after which junior hostesses of the center escorted soldiers to midnight mass at St. Mary Cathedral, where the Bishop of Natchez celebrated a pontifical high mass.

Arrangements were made to invite every soldier at the center to Christmas dinner at some Natchez home.

The dance orchestra of the 254th Inf. provided music for one of the largest dances of its kind held this year, a formal ball in the City Auditorium sponsored by the Military Maids of Natchez.

### Britons Visit City

The party was not restricted to 63d Div. or Camp Van Dorn personnel, but was open to all servicemen visiting the city. Midway in the celebration, a group of sailors and noncommissioned officers of the British Navy, passing through the city, dropped in to celebrate the Yuletide with their American comrades-in-arms. The Britons said their welcome so far from home made this one of their happiest war Christmases. The dance opened with the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and ended with "God Save the King."

Santa Claus came to the center during a Christmas afternoon program at which gifts were presented to all servicemen present. The program, which was broadcast by radio station WMIS, included brief addresses by Mayor William J. Byrne; Walter T. Abbott, chancery clerk of Natchez, and Charles F. Engle, former president of the Mississippi State Bar Association.

Thomas Reed, secretary of the Natchez Association of Commerce, who revealed that he will enter the Army soon himself, was master of ceremonies.

Pvt. Eugene Annone, Co. I, 254th Inf., sang several selections in imitation of Donald Duck, and Pvt. Walter Roehenek, Hq. Co., 3d Bn., 253d Inf., played the harmonica. They were introduced by Pvt. Harry Frommermann, Hq. Co., 79th Ord. Bn.

The volume of V-mail exchanged between the United States and Army personnel overseas during November broke all previous monthly records. APOs handled 40,428, 360 V-mail letters.

"A Merry Christmas to One and All . . ."



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS were men of the 63d Division in camp and neighboring towns last week. Above left is Pvt. Eugene Annone, Co. I, 254th Inf., who imitated Donald Duck in WMIS broadcast Sunday. To his right is shown "Santa Claus" giving gifts to servicemen at Natchez Servicemen's Center. Center left is scene at Mess No. 2, Division Headquarters Co., where some of the boys brought their musical instruments along to add to the festivities as the men gathered round their turkey dinner. Above, Royal Navy ratings and petty officers join with the soldiers at Natchez City auditorium dance held Christmas night by Military Maids.



## Promotions and Higher Pay Given 275,000 Infantrymen

Recognizing the hazards and responsibilities shouldered by the infantry, the War Department has given approximately 275,000 enlisted men in specified infantry jobs promotions effective December 13 it was announced last week in Washington.

The promotions call for pay increases ranging from \$48 to \$216 a year. The changes, which authorize the advancing of enlisted men in existing positions under present infantry tables of organization, have already been forwarded to units in the United States and abroad, the War Department announced.

### More Suitable Reward

"The increased grades will provide a more suitable reward as well as supply the means for more careful selection of non-commissioned combat leaders," Lt. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Chief of Staff, said.

Outstanding in the promotion order directed to all theater and area commanders was the authorization for the advancement of one-half of the privates in certain designated units from privates to privates first class.

Others given the one-grade boosts were assistant squad leaders, from corporal to sergeant; squad leaders, from corporal to sergeant, or from sergeant to staff sergeant, according to grade authorized before the new order; section leaders, from sergeant to staff sergeant; platoon sergeants, from staff sergeant to technical sergeant, and battalion sergeant majors, from staff sergeant to technical sergeant.

### Specified Units

Units in which the promotions were ordered include the following:

Infantry cannon company; headquarters and headquarters company, infantry battalion; infantry

rifle company; infantry heavy weapons company; infantry anti-tank company; headquarters and headquarters company, armored infantry battalion; rifle company, armored infantry battalion; headquarters company, battalion; headquarters and headquarters company, glider infantry battalion; glider infantry company; headquarters and headquarters detachment, mountain infantry battalion; mountain infantry rifle company; mountain infantry heavy weapons company; headquarters and headquarters company, ranger battalion; ranger company.

## 63d Gets First Jewish Chaplain

Assignment of the first Jewish chaplain to the 63d Div. was made known this week with the arrival of Lt. Aaron Kahan.

Chaplain Kahan has been assigned to Chapel No. 8, in the 254th Inf. area. He conducted his first services at the chapel and at Theater No. 1 on New Year's eve. "It is unusual for a division to have the full-time services of a Jewish chaplain," Lt. Col. Robert H. Clarke, Division Chaplain, said, "but because of the unusually large number of soldiers of the Jewish faith in the 63d Div., I requested that one be assigned here."

Jewish services were conducted until October by Rabbi J. Marshall Taxay, of the United Temple, Terre Haute, Ind. Rabbi Taxay was brought here under the auspices of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Since his departure services have been conducted by T/S Morris Klass, assistant to the Division Chaplain, with Chaplain Clarke and others delivering sermons.

## Santa Barbara, Patron Saint, Is Honored by Arty

Special tribute to Santa Barbara, the martyr for whom Chapel No. 6 has been named, was paid by artillerymen in December, for it was in that month in the fourth century that she was beheaded and became a martyr for Christianity.

According to legend, the patron saint of artillerymen was so beloved by her wealthy father that he secluded her in a tower to prevent suitors from discovering her great beauty and claiming her hand in marriage.

In the tower she secretly learned the teachings of Christianity and when workmen came to build two windows in the tower, she instructed them to build three.

In answer to her father's displeased query she answered: "Know that through three windows doth the soul receive light—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; and the Three are One."

Furged, the father drew his sword to slay her. She escaped but later was thrown into a dungeon. The father denounced her publicly for becoming a Christian and she was condemned to be scourged and burned. Giving up trying to shake her faith, her father took her to a mountain and cut off her head with his sword.

### Protectress Against Firearms

"But as he descended the mountain," says the legend, "there came on a most fearful tempest, with thunder and lightning, and fire fell upon this cruel father and consumed him utterly, so that not a vestige of him remained." Because of the sudden and vio-

lent nature of Santa Barbara's death and that of her father, she became the protectress against thunder and lightning, firearms, gunpowder and sudden death.

It is believed that field artillerymen chose her as their saint in the 14th century, when cannon balls were first propelled by gunpowder. In most of her statues there is a tower in the background, frequently compared to the observation post. Invariably there are cannon at her feet. The crimson mantle which usually adorns her shoulders may be compared to field artillery's color, red.

## GI Finds He's Papa Following Cryptic Message

Pvt. Alex H. Seigal, Sv. Co., 255th Inf., is the father of a baby daughter, but for a while recently he wasn't quite sure despite the receipt of a telegram telling him of the happy event.

It seems that Pvt. Seigal's wife, Bea, was in a Pittsburgh hospital awaiting the stork. His cousin Dorothy, whom the stork had just visited, was also in a Pittsburgh hospital.

Seigal was busy officiating basketball games in the CT Blue Rec. Hall when he was handed a telegram which read:

"Baby girl. Mother and daughter fine. Dorothy."

Seigal scratched his head and in a puzzled tone exclaimed:

"That's fine, that's wonderful, but whose baby is it? Am I a father? That's what I want to know. Am I a father?"

Frantic telephone calls to the Smoky City finally brought the assurances that he was a proud papa.

# Blood and Fire

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

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Pvt. Thomas A. Hactor..... Editor  
Pvt. Edwin H. Brown..... Associate Editor  
Pvt. Stoddard White..... Staff Writer  
Pfc. Paul Parris..... Staff Writer  
Pvt. Gill Fox..... Staff Cartoonist  
Pvt. William Schiff..... Staff Photographer  
T/Sgt. Harding S. Ericson..... Distribution Mgr.

## EDITORIAL

### YOU MAY BE SORRY

Some day, perhaps in the not too distant future, members of this Division may be fighting on some distant Pacific island or on a European battlefield. We probably will sustain ourselves on battle rations C, D and K, as have thousands of American doughboys in the various theaters of this war.

Perhaps, as we lie in some foxhole, with our sustaining but meagre field rations in hand, we may think back to the days of Camp Van Dorn and the warm mess halls with their ample offerings of hot food.

Today we hear the mess sergeant's screams when we throw out hot food. Tomorrow we may be wishing we had those scraps. It would be well to think now how other American soldiers feel at their battle stations.

When the cook dishes out your food today—if you don't like it, or can't eat it, don't take it.

Every spoonful of the food you scrape from your plate into the GI can is a spoonful that might better have been shipped overseas.

Army authorities estimate that the total food wastage of our soldiers in the last year would have served meals to more than 2,000,000 men.

### SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Southern Hospitality earned fame throughout the United States many decades ago. That it has been maligned by a few misguided soldiers does not matter; during the holidays the Southerners of Mississippi and Louisiana have more than established their right to a place in the hearts of those of us from other parts of the country.

Although, of course, the number of 63d Div. men who wanted to enjoy the hospitality of nearby communities has been curbed by the limits of the training program, nevertheless some 500 managed to get to Natchez over the Christmas week-end. There, both in the hospitable Servicemen's Center and in private homes, they found men and women (many of them parents of servicemen) eager to make Christmas as homelike as possible. Lavish public entertainment was followed by invitations to sit down to dinners in private homes, and not a few soldiers were house guests in Natchez.

Baton Rouge has opened friendly arms, not only to the 63d, but to other soldiers, sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen as well. Public facilities are generous, and many a soldier has come back to camp telling of a delightful week-end spent in a civilian home.

In the neighboring small towns—Woodville, McComb, Magnolia, Ferriday, Centreville, Gloster, Crosby, to name but a few—the story is the same. Here, where there are but a few hundred persons and every able young man left for Army or Navy months ago, many a father and mother are hungry to entertain a soldier in the hope that somewhere some other parents are doing the same for their sons. The daughters of these families, too, have happily and unselfishly given up many an evening to come to camp or to play hostess at dances of their own.



## Around America

**NEW YORK**—A report that a "sneak air attack" might be attempted over the holiday week-end kept 19,500 key personnel of military and civilian defense units on the alert Christmas Eve and most of Christmas Day. The Eastern Defense Command announced the alert had been canceled Christmas night, three hours after it had reported that "protective measures" had been taken.

**DETROIT**—The Barlum Hotel invited servicemen, and their wives if they were in the city, to spend the entire Christmas week-end, from Friday afternoon to Sunday night, as guests of the hotel, with both rooms and meals free.

**HATTIESBURG, Miss.**—Funeral services were held Wednesday for Gov. Paul B. Johnson. The 63-year-old governor of Mississippi died Sunday after a series of heart attacks which began Nov. 2. He was succeeded immediately by Lt.-Gov. Dennis Muhphree, who serves as governor until Jan. 18, when Gov.-Elect Thomas L. Bailey, of Meridian, is inaugurated.

**DYERSBURG, Tenn.**—Officers said nothing when they discovered non-coms had been raiding a squadron mess hall icebox at the Army Air Base for hamburger parties. The "hamburger" turned out to be ground horsemeat for the squadron's four guard dogs.

**NEWKIRK, Okla.**—For several months Marvin Myers had felt a vague dissatisfaction with the tones from the bass horn he played in the high school orchestra. He poured hot water through the big horn and dislodged a boy's shirt.

**DENVER**—Colorado may not need a special legislative session to pass a law giving soldiers the right to vote. The attorney-general has learned the state has such a law, passed in the territorial days of 1865.

**ATLANTA**—A carton of cigarettes—a Christmas gift to Lt. C. H. Van Buren—was delivered to him at the Ft. McPherson station hospital. It was the right season—but the wrong year. An uncle sent the gift last year. He mailed the cigarettes to Cairo, but before they arrived, Lt. Van Buren was gone. The cigarettes followed him to Eritrea, Palestine, Sicily and Texas before they caught up with him here.

**HARRISBURG, Pa.**—Although some Pennsylvania soldiers are applying for renewal of their automobile driver's licenses, commonwealth officials point out that the new state law provides that all men and women in the services will have their licenses validated for the duration of the war. After the war they may receive a license for the then current year, regardless of the fact that the usual three-year period of grace without re-examination may have expired.

**NEW ORLEANS**—A board of Camp Harahan officers continued their investigation of the sinking of an Army J-boat Dec. 17 in which 25 soldiers were drowned in Lake Pontchartrain. Five victims were listed by LaGarde General Hospital as seriously injured. About a third of the 65 soldiers admitted for treatment of injuries and exposure returned to duty within a few days.

**NEW LONDON, Conn.**—Quoting Tennyson's poem about the brook which flowed "to join the brimming river" and which went on "forever," Common Pleas Judge Abraham S. Bordon has decided that Hunt's Brook in Waterford is entitled to do the same. He enjoined Henry Schacht from stopping the flow of the brook so as to cause it to back up on neighboring land.

**NEW YORK**—Thomas Joseph McCarthy, who composed the lyrics for such hit tunes as "Alice Blue Gown" and "Rio Rita," died here. He was 58 years old.

**NEBRASKA CITY, Neb.**—Cpl. Arlin Klingenberg, of Syracuse, Neb., had more mail than he could handle when he landed on the Pacific Coast after a second round trip on a hospital ship. Waiting were 106 letters from home, 100 copies of the Nebraska City newspaper and six Christmas boxes.

**CAMP LIVINGSTON, La.**—A corporal here wrote the camp newspaper, asking: "If I'm captured, does my pay stop?"

The answer: "No. It accumulates and will be waiting for you when you get back. Allotments go on, too."

"P. S.—But don't get captured."

**BIRMINGHAM, Mich. (CNS)**—Maid-seeking Mrs. Richard J. Covey ran this ad in a local paper: "Wanted: Maid. No cooking, cleaning, serving or laundry. Taxi to and from work. Loan of mink coat Thursdays and Sundays. Maid's duties to answer phone and create impression of luxury. Must be willing to eat such meals as mistress prepares."

**BOONVILLE, Mo. (CNS)**—J. W. Krause, manager of a shoe factory, addressed the local Loans Club on "Shoes and the Benefits of Walking." Then he walked home. Someone had stolen his car while he was making his speech.

**BOSTON (CNS)**—Emily McIntyre, a waitress, found a wallet containing \$91 and a woman's picture in a downtown cafeteria. She turned it over to police who located its owner, CPO Stephen Byork of Philadelphia. Elated, Byork said: "All I want is my mother's picture. The girl can keep the \$91."

# The Sky Pilot Says It

## GATES OF FAITH

By Chaplain Norman R. Olsen,  
Special Troops

In the city of Lowell, Mass., there is a network of canals used to divert water from the Merrimack River for waterpower for the cotton mills. A 22-year-old engineer named Francis constructed them about 90 years ago. While the canals were essential to the growing industry, Francis was concerned else they became a means of destruction of property if ever the river reached flood heights. Friends told him he need not worry. "That will never happen here," they said.

Unconvinced, he proceeded to build a safety gate at the entrance of the main canal. It was a large wooden gate 28 feet square and four feet thick. This was suspended in a frame above the channel by means of a large iron hook fastened in the top. In an emergency, the hook could be cut, dropping the gate firmly in place, thus preventing any more water from entering the canal system. Other engineers scoffed at the idea, for they believed it would never be needed. They called it "Francis' Folly."

For 84 years the gate hung there unused. Then, in 1936, the floods came. The canals could not contain the vast amount of water now pouring into them. The business center of the city was in danger. Then someone thought of "Francis' Folly." The gate was released and dropped into place as snugly as if it had been newly built. The waters were turned back. Much of the city was saved.

We need foresight in preparation for the flood-tides which come into every life. Build a strong faith in God. As surely as we do it, He will not fail us when the storms come. Let some call our faith "folly." If storms lie ahead of us, it is our only hope.

## TOAST TO THE MEDICS

There's a shining gold caduceus  
On the clothing that we wear  
As we talk of blood and agony  
Of slaughter over "there."  
Then we fill the vessels high again—  
The G.I. liquid flows—  
And the glasses lift the table 'round  
To toast the medicos.

Our clothes are never shiny  
Where the soldier rests his gun.  
And we never ask for glory  
When the victory is won,  
But our hands are tough and calloused  
From the litters that we hold  
And we know the world would toast us too  
If e'er our story's told.

For us there is no bragging  
Of the enemy we've killed,  
Of the daring midnight charges,  
Or the broken gaps we've filled.  
But the deaths we've seen and lives we've saved  
Would fill a book or two—  
And many's the time our clothes were red  
Where the blood has soaked them through

We've hugged our bodies to the ground  
And crawled through mud and snow.  
We've dug our heads into the sands  
Where bullets whistled low.  
Then we've heard them hail the infantry  
And the gallant show they made,  
With n'er a word of work we've done  
Or a laud for the part we've played.

Our weapons are the bandages,  
The hypos, and the swabs;  
The tourniquets, the surgeon's knife,  
Perfection at our jobs.  
So toast again to the sulfa drugs,  
To the plasma we have used;  
And now to the sterile dressing  
On the wounded, maimed and bruised.

Our battle cry is "Corps Man,"  
And we're proud to bear the name  
Though we bask behind the glory  
Of the other soldiers' fame.  
So we'll lift our cups among ourselves  
And toast the savior crew,  
For we know the men who live through us  
Will toast to the Medics too.

—By PVT. ALVIN LASTER,  
Co. D, 363d Med. Bn.

In spite of what you're told,  
It is not because she's cold  
That the pretty maiden wears a  
pretty sweater;  
It not only keeps her warm,  
But also fits her form,  
And think of the attention THAT will  
get her!

# DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

**63d Recon. Trp.**—Love of horses prompted Sgt. Lorenzo D. Laughlin and a few other high school classmates to join the horse cavalry of the Texas National Guard in his native Dallas, July 3, 1939. Three years later they were doing 25-mile hikes over the hills of New Caledonia, the horses left behind. The outfit hit New Caledonia in the rainy season and, says Laughlin, "mosquitoes as big as horse flies dragged you around in the mud," while the men ate dehydrated food, slept always on a slope because the island was so hilly, and found liquor cost \$25 a quart. After a round of hikes, the horses arrived; a skinnier batch of mounts the troopers never had seen, but they soon rounded out. Although Laughlin hoped for action with his mount, he and 17 others were shipped back to the States where, after a turn in Texas, he found himself with the mechanized cavalry of the Blood and Fire . . . "Christmas present" promotions, dated December 23, came to many privates and Pfc. on the troop. Promoted to T/5 were Pfc. John J. McManninen, Charles E. Earheart, Thomas G. Dolan and Adam Karatkiewicz and Pfc. Wilbur E. Foraker, Howard A. Heward and Frank R. Sale. The following privates were advanced to Pfc.: John M. Albrecht, Robert M. Armstrong, William H. Beebe, Lloyd J. Charbonneau, George M. Cohen, Henry B. Crampton, John W. Everett, Eldon T. Glade, Joseph C. Greenstadt, John J. Grimm, Harry N. Kayarian, Norman R. Manees, Leo C. Petroski, George C. Reed, William B. Reihl, William F. Tracey, LaRoy R. Wolfe and Raymond C. Young. . . . Pvt. Louis Tuccino doesn't think it is Christmas without a dish or two of homemade spaghetti, so he brought his wife, Stella, from New Jersey and she and he staged an Italian dinner in the mess hall. Their guests were Pvt. and Mrs. Dave Goldberg, Pvt. and Mrs. Anthony Margotta, S/Sgt. Edward J. Bednar, T/4s Vincent Cecere and Theodore Katsavos and Pfc. Fred Vanley and Francis G. Matushek.

**Div. Hq. and Hq. Co.**—Nearly half the enlisted men of Div. Hq. are guessing that the big blow against Europe's western coast will come in February or March. In a pool conducted by T/4 Robert Lewis, of the AGO, 78 enlisted men and two warrant officers recorded their personal opinion for a \$20 pot on the nearest correct date. Guesses ran from New Year's day to August 2, 1944. . . . Christmas promotions in Div. Hq. were those of Pfc. John M. Strom and John L. Witmer, both of Finance, to T/5, and Pvt. Carlton Blake, of the Judge Advocate General's Office, to Pfc. . . . Nineteen men of Div. Hq., Hq. Co., and the Medical Detachment, received Good Conduct Medals this week in an order issued by Maj. Robert W. Long, commanding Hq. Sp. Trps. They were S/Sgt. John D. Warren, Hq. Co., supply sergeant; Sgt. Charles R. McLenen, T/5 Martin L. Crawford and Pfc. George E. Lohr, both of Transp. Plat.; T/5 Bernard H. Walter, assistant Hq. Co. clerk; Pfc. Obrey C. Duke and Wayne E. Kennedy, both of Defense Plat.; S/Sgt. William A. Pillsbury, G-1 Sec.; T/3 Robert Watson, AGO; T/4 Marion J. Huntington and Pvt. Thomas W. Moyer, both of the APO; Pvt. William J. Controvillas, G-2 Sec.; T/5s Wade C. Barton and Albert C. Cornell, both of Finance; Pvt. William H. Blackmore, G-3 Sec.; Pvt. Thomas A. Hoctor, Public Relations Office, and S/Sgt. Ray L. Anders, Jr., Med. Det.

**718th F. A.**—Recent promotions to T/5 in Hq. Btry. include the names of Pvt. Charles W. Cameron, of the wire section, and Pvt. Walter O. Bauman. . . . A/Cpl. Chester Carsten, of Hq. Btry., received two special Christmas presents. His wife paid him a surprise visit from Atlantic City, and his paternal grandfather, who served on the famous Federal ship monitor during the Civil War, celebrated his hundredth birthday at Christmas. . . . B and C Btrys have made an even trade of officers; Lt. Donald F. Silvertooth goes to C and Lt. Charles Barnett to B. . . . Recent promotions in Btry. C include: Pfc. Norman E. Tarpinning and Paul J. Brown and Pfc. Robert V. Fischer and Norbert G. Heinikel, all to corporal; the following privates to Pfc.: Irving J. Clenk, Raymond O. Hagen, William G. Phelps, Bernard Ryukus, George H. Roberts, Daniel H. Wall, Eugene Moore and Luz R. Mellyzoa. . . . T/4 Harry Brooks, chief of Wire Section No. 2 in Btry. A, now is chief of the 4th Sec. Cpl. Ralph Szymanski is new chief of wire. . . . The promotion to captain of Lt. Charles N. Hayslett has been announced. Capt. Hayslett has been commander of Btry. A since the activation of the Division. . . . Changes in assignments of officers announced by Lt. Col. F. T. Unger, battalion commander, include the following: Capt. Javan T. Hall, former commander of Btry. B, to be acting battalion executive officer; Lt. James A. Hart, Jr., to be acting commander of Btry. B, and Lt. Charles H. Barnett to become reconnaissance officer of Btry. B. . . . Lt. and Mrs. Fred Trout made a handsome couple on the floor of Stanton Hall at Natchez's Christmas dance for officers.

**263d Engrs.**—Six officers of the battalion have exchanged their gold bars for silver ones. The new first Lieutenants are Benno R. Knirsch, Jr.; George P. Pilkington and James G. Campbell, all of Co. A; Gustave Laffel and Luther Hart, both of Co. C, and Stanford Rayne, Jr., of Co. B.

**254th Inf.**—Yule bells and wedding bells rang together on Christmas Eve in Co. C. In a simple ceremony in Chapel No. 7, Pvt. Albin T. Arvidson and the former Miss Jeanne Earl were married by Chaplain Ernest A. Phillips. The couple met in Chicago, where Arvidson was an insurance broker in civilian life. The bride and groom were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Michael DeBuino, Pvt. and Mrs. Arvidson will make their home at Stanton Hall, in Natchez. . . . Nine promotions in Co. C were announced last week. Cpl. William R. Dove was promoted to sergeant; Pfc. Nester Higgins, John Guenther, Frank Rozzo, Nicholas Castranova and Earle Davis to corporal, and Pfc. Joseph Longo, Walter Lesko and Alton L. Call to T/5. . . . Ten NCOs of Co. C have been awarded the Good Conduct Medal. They were S/Sgts. Henry O. Homann and Stanley A. Kundzicz; Sgts. Tucker J. Bell, Vincent M. De. Casino, Argo M. Emory, Victor P. Fill, Joseph A. Fiore, Jack C. Basile and Richard B. Deily, and T/4 Aldo E. Elfo. . . . Pvt. Franklin C. Knepp, Co. G, has been promoted to Pfc. . . . Pvt. Ernie Smith, Co. L, was understandably puzzled when he received 15 rolls of wallpaper in the mail. Things cleared up when a letter from home told him each roll was a sample of the paper used in redecorating his house.

**252d Inf.**—Among recent promotions in Co. A is that of Cpl. Frank Kozlowski to sergeant. . . . Pfc. James I. Gannce and Richard L.

(Continued on Page 7.)

## Chapel Decorations Reflect Kindred Interests of Trio

Behind the elaborate holiday preparations at Chapel No. 3 is the story of Chaplain Lester J. Houghaling's three assistants, bound together by a common interest in music, art and horseback riding.

Veteran of the trio is T-5 Walter Tetreux, who has had 21 months of Army service. Born in Cleveland 34 years ago, he attended the Cleveland School of Art, specializing in ceramics and designing, and assisted at exhibitions and art lectures. He owns a substantial collection of paintings, prints and old books and hopes to own a fine art shop some day.

**Visited Scandinavia**  
In 1938 Tetreux visited the Scandinavian countries, collecting old European glass, silver, etchings and music boxes.

T-5 Paul E. Fries is of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Born in Allentown 28 years ago, he received his degree from Pennsylvania State College and received additional training at the State Teachers College and Bucknell University. He worked as a public accountant, payroll clerk and high school teacher.

With two friends, Fries toured Europe by bicycle in 1937, visiting England, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and Holland on one of the Youth Hostel programs which permit young people to travel cheaply and conveniently through many European countries as well as in the United States. Fries is chiefly responsible for the choir at Chapel No. 8.

**Accomplished Pianist**  
Youngest of the trio is T-5 Stoddard M. Lincoln, who is 18. He was born in Portland, Me., and raised in Scarsdale, N. Y. An accomplished pianist, he studied at the Juilliard School for three years under Sascha Gorodnitzki. He has played several original piano concertos with New York orchestras, and several of his compositions have been sung in concerts.

All three men, members of Service Co., 254th Inf., are busy not only in the religious sphere, but in the handling of many more worldly problems. They wrap packages for soldiers, cash checks and even read and write letters for men of their regiment.

## 718th Soldier Has New Twist For Shell Game

When Btry. C, 718th F. A., runs low on ammunition, Capt. Robert D. Dondanville, battery commander, should be able to say: "Cooper, make us a few shells."

Pvt. Clark Cooper, of Charleston, Ill., spent the 18 months before induction turning out 155-mm shell casings, exactly the type he now fires from Btry. C's big howitzers. He does not mind the change, either.

"I wrote the boys at the plant that I'd rather shoot them than make them," he says.

Cooper was a turret lathe operator.

"We worked in one huge room in the plant, in which all the operations were assembled," he says. "It was just one long assembly line, in which hunks of steel came in one end and shells went out the other. I got the pieces of steel and cut them to shape on my lathe. Every 45 seconds a new one would start on its way."



**REGIMENTAL MOTHER**, was Mrs. Hazel W. Sparling (right), shown as she greeted her son, Pvt. Leon H. Sparling, Co. E, 255th Inf. Men of Co. E raised the funds for Mrs. Sparling's trip.

★ ★ ★ ★

## 'Mom' Meets Her Regiment As Gift Surprise to Men

(Continued From Page 1)

tributed a dollar to defray the expenses, and the name of each man was written on a piece of paper and deposited in a hat. Then, in the presence of officers, 1st Lt. Victor D. Miodzik and Sgt. Richard L. Peine drew out five slips of paper. The first name drawn was Pvt. Sparling's and his mother was able to accept the invitation, but he did not know he was the lucky soldier until Mrs. Sparling arrived Friday morning. The men had agreed in advance that the visit should be a surprise gift for all.

Before leaving for her home Monday morning Mrs. Sparling expressed her appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the officers and men of the 255th.

"It was a wonderful experience, one that I shall never forget," she said. "I hope that Santa Claus will always be as good to me, and, of course, the greatest gift he could provide for all Mothers next Christmas would be to bring their sons home to stay."

## Exhibition of Fox Cartoons at Library

An exhibit of original drawings by Gill Fox, BLOOD AND FIRE cartoonist, will be held at Service Club No. 2 starting tonight and continuing for one week. Shows will be original drawings of Bernie Blood, and editorial cartoons which have appeared in the division newspaper this fall and winter. Fox, who was editor of a comic magazine prior to his induction, will exhibit also a series of comic book covers which he did in civilian life.

## 99th, Former Van Dorn Tenants, Mark Activation

**CAMP MAXEY, TEX.**—The 99th Inf. Div., first tenants of Camp Van Dorn, Miss., celebrated two notable events in its history recently. On Nov. 12 the transfer from the Louisiana maneuvers to this post was completed. On the 15th the first anniversary of its activation at Camp Van Dorn was observed. Commanding the Checkerboard Div. is Brig. Gen. Walter E. Lauer, who was chief of staff of the 3d Div. in the invasion of Africa.

## No 'Jinx' for 63d

Camp Van Dorn was jinxed this week—but not the way it had looked for.

Jinx Falkenburg, beautiful and athletic "pin-up girl" was scheduled to make personal appearances here Tuesday and Wednesday.

However, inclement weather grounded the plane in which she was being carried to this part of the country. Consequently, scheduled appearances at Harding Field, near Baton Rouge, and at Camp Van Dorn have been at least temporarily postponed.

## 255th Doughboy Has Good Reason To Look Twice

If Pvt. Rudolf Armbruster of Co. M, 255th Inf., looks twice at the enemy before he shoots him, let's not be too hard on him. Here's the reason why:

In 1927, Pvt. Armbruster was living in Baden, Germany, with his father and mother, four brothers and sister. There, in the small town of Pforzheim, where he was a jeweler, he saw the early evidences of the Nazi growth that was to be, and so, unable to find steady employment, he left for the United States—to be exact—Hillside, N. J.

A short while later, his sister and one of his brothers also left the fatherland and came to the U. S. His parents and three brothers, however, remained in Germany.

Today, the United States is at war with Germany and Pvt. Armbruster is in the infantry of the United States, while his brothers, Robert, Otto, and Kurt are in the infantry also — of the Nazi Wehrmacht.

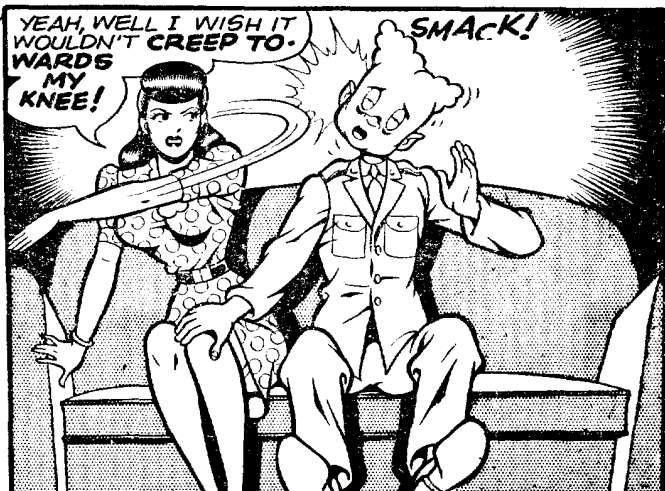
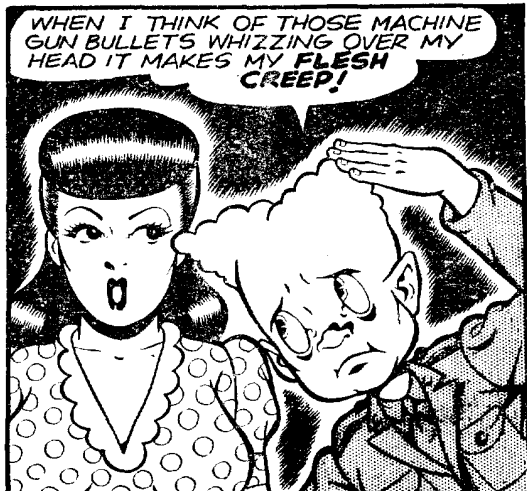
## LOST DOG

Mrs. Carolyn S. Merrill, PO Box 12, Natchez has written BLOOD AND FIRE asking this publication to try and locate her lost fox terrier, "Bobbie," a family pet. Mrs. Merrill thinks the dog might have been taken back to Camp by some soldier, thinking it a stray dog. "Bobbie" is a purebred white and brown fox terrier with a white "V" on his forehead. He is small and has smooth short hair.

## BERNIE BLOOD

## Advance Repulsed

By GILL FOX



# 110 Division Athletes at Sugar Bowl Game

## Leaders in Four Sports to Watch Tulsa Play Tech

Members of division championship teams in football and touch football, boxers and some basketball players, are in New Orleans today watching the 10th annual Sugar Bowl game between Georgia Tech and Tulsa.

In all, 110 tickets were distributed as equally and fairly as possible by division special service to the various company units, which in turn determined the recipients.

**On Winning Teams**  
Basically, those singled out for the awards were soldiers who had participated in the athletic activities of the Blood and Fire 63d and had subsequently had the good fortune to be members of the winning combinations.

Specifically, among those receiving tickets were the members of the 255th Regt. Cannon Co., touch football champions; Div. Hq. Co., softball champions; 254th Inf. C-T White football champions, and individual boxers and basketball players, who while uncrowned as yet, have been stamped with the brand of champions.

Enlisted men wearing the Blood and Fire insignia will be among an expected throng of 15,000 men admitted without charge, or at reduced rates, through the auspices of various civil organizations.

### Tulsa Is Favored

Tulsa, coached by Henry Franke, is the slight favorite to win today's game against Tech. The Golden Hurricanes went through their regular season unbeaten. Johnny Butler, former Tennessee star, and Camp Wilson, ex-Hardin-Simmons ace, are rated high in the Tulsa lineup. Tech will have Johnny Prokop, sensational all-around star.

While Tulsa had a tough schedule, many experts believe that Georgia Tech after playing, among others, Notre Dame, Duke and Navy, had the tougher schedule and should therefore come out on top today.

## Rose Bowl Tops Today's Contests

With the traditional Tournament of Roses game between the University of Washington and Southern California expected to top the list for attendance, with 96,000 fans, six bowl contests are on the sport program today throughout the South, Southwest and West.

Louisiana State's all-civilian team will battle its old foe, Texas A. & M. in the Orange Bowl at Miami. The meeting will be the second between the two teams. Last year the Aggies defeated the Tigers, 28-13. In the Sugar Bowl at New Orleans, Tulsa's 4-F's play Georgia Tech's formidable team. Randolph Field's Flyers meet Texas University in the Cotton Bowl, and Southwestern of Texas plays El Paso in the Sun Bowl. The Oil Bowl makes its debut at Houston with Arkansas A. & M. playing Southwestern Louisiana.

In addition to these attractions the annual East-West game will be played at San Francisco.

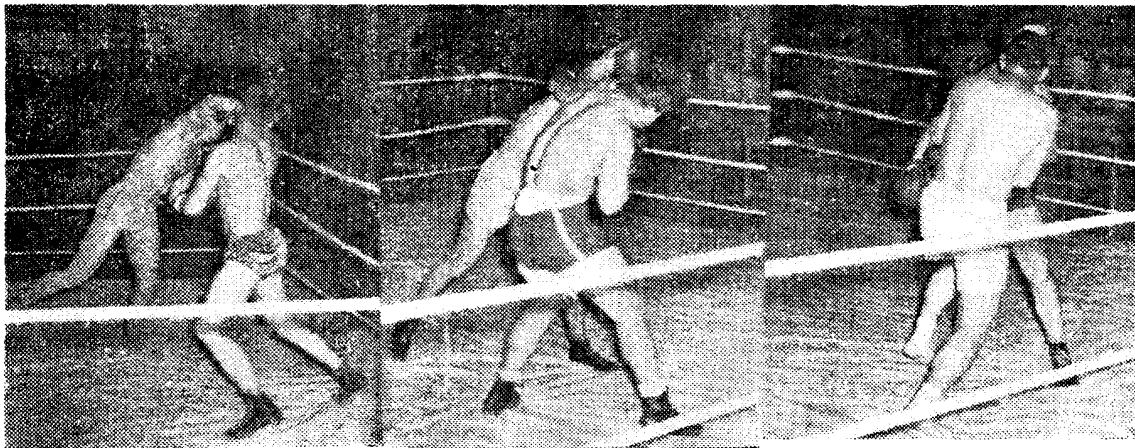
## 254th Tops Div. Hq. On Court by 66-22

The powerful 254th Inf. basketball team added another victim to its slate when a 66-22 victory was registered over Div. Hq. five at the CT White Rec Hall, Sunday night.

The lineup:

254th Inf. (66)	Div. Hq. (22)
James, f	Alte, f
Whiskie, f	Mackey, f
Sewski, c	Deteron, c
Galbath, g	McCabe, g
Wright, g	Stolz, g
Price, f	
Price, f	
Peski, g	
Hayes, g	
<b>Totals</b> 66	<b>Totals</b> 22

Connie Mack, Jr., 31-year-old son of the 81-year-old owner and manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, assessed his physical the other day at the New Cumberland (Pa.) recreation center.



**ABOVE**, Gunboat Digidio of C Btry., drives a right to Gunner Wilson's jaw in second bout at the recent 718th F. A. Bn. smoker. Digidio took decision.

## Batove Wins by KO On Arty Fight Card

In a manner that won the full approbation of Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGraw and Lt. Col. Ferdinand T. Unger, Judges, Pvt. Joseph C. (Smookey Joe) Batove knocked out Pvt. Arthur R. (Mike) Massarelli in the third round of the bout featuring a 718th F. A. Bn. inter-battery smoker, last Thursday night.

Batove was pushed from post to post for the better part of two rounds at Div. Artillery Rec. Hall. Bleeding from the mouth and nose and his legs bent at the knees, he held on while more than 600 cannoncrews cheered his game fight.

And then it happened. "Smookey Joe" nailed Massarelli with his "Sunday punch," a right to the chin that stopped the Hq. Btry. scrapper in his tracks. For the rest of that second round and through the early part of the third, Massarelli was catching instead of pitching.

A right and left to the head put Mike down for a short count in the fast session. Shortly after another combination of punches to the head ended the thrilling fight.

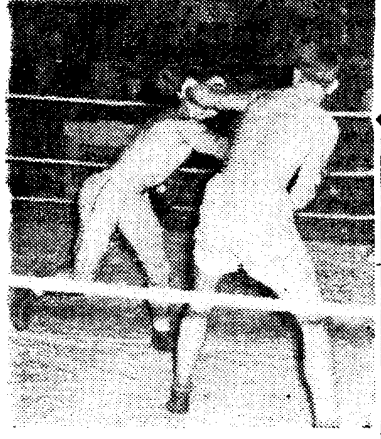
The knockout was one of five dished up for the delight of the Artillerymen by Lt. Ralph Shuman's ring squad. Other winners on kayoes were Pvt. John H. Lee, Jr., Hq. Btry., Cooper R. McCoy, C Btry., Paul Badone, B Btry., and Harry Hall of A Btry.

The results:  
Pvt. John H. Lee, Jr., Hq. Btry., 145, knocked out Pvt. Joseph Guzzardi, B Btry., 145, second round.  
Pvt. George V. Digidio, C Btry., 116, won decision over Pvt. Pedrone J. Wilson, Hq. Btry., 143, three rounds.  
Pvt. Wesley Cain, Hq. Btry., 166, won decision over Pvt. Robert R. Ronk, A Btry., 161, three rounds.

Pvt. Paul Badone, B Btry., 211, knocked out Pvt. Harvey M. Shields, Hq. Btry., 215, second round.  
Pvt. Richard Peters, B Btry., 173, won decision over Pvt. Wilbur Harrington, C Btry., 198, three rounds.  
Pvt. Samson, Hq. Btry., won on default from Pvt. Graham, C Btry.  
Pvt. Cooper R. McCoy, C Btry., 166, stopped Pvt. Charles W. Cameron, Hq. Btry., 167, one round.  
Pvt. Allan Stein, C Btry., 171, won decision over Pvt. Roscoe Creswell, A Btry., 173, three rounds.  
Pvt. Joseph C. Batove, C Btry., 139, knocked out Pvt. Arthur R. Massarelli, Hq. Btry., 198, third round.  
Pvt. Harry Hall, A Btry., 161, stopped Pvt. Joseph J. Bryan, C Btry., 162, second round.  
Judges: Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGraw and Lt. Col. Ferdinand T. Unger. Referee: Lt. Ralph Shuman.

## Barkowitz, Seminski Lead Scoring in CT White Loop

Cpl. Seymour Barkowitz and Pfc. Stan Seminski are staging a real battle for high scoring honors in CT White basketball competition and consequently are keeping Co. H right at the top of the American League standings.  
Each of the high scoring basketecers has amassed 25 points in two loop contests and currently stands three markers above the next highest point-maker, Pvt. Joseph Beane, of Anti-Tank Co. Seminski boasts the most field goals, 12, one more than Barkowitz. Beane's work, incidentally, can possibly be ranked on a par with that of the other pair since he is a member of a team that lost its first two league starts.



**DOUBLE ACTION**, in top photo Joe Batove, C Btry., lands right to the stomach of Mike Massarelli, Hq. Co. Batove polished off his foe in the third round. Lower photo, Ronny Ronk, A Btry., takes a healthy cut at Killer Cain's jaw and missss. Cain, Hq. Btry., came back to take the duke.

## Servicemen Get Boxing Award

The Edward J. Neil Memorial Award, given each year by the New York Boxing Writers' Association to the man who has done most for boxing has been awarded to the 4,019 boxers serving the U. S. armed forces.  
Previous winners of the award, which is made in the name of Eddie Neil, a war correspondent killed in the Spanish Revolution, were Jack Dempsey, Billy Conn, Henry Armstrong, Joe Louis and Barney Ross.

Among the 4,019 boxers now in the services are all the award winners save Armstrong and also such "name" fighters as Gene Tunney, Jim Braddock, Max and Buddy Baer, Lou Ambers, Freddy Apostoli, Billy Soose, Benny Leonard, Midget Smith and Augie Ratner.

Eighteen boxers have been killed in action, seven are missing in action and 25 have been wounded.

One-A in the draft are the New York Football Giants' towering tackle, Al Blozis, former Georgetown University All-American, and the Washington Redskins' Bob Seymour, halfback.

**MIXING IT**, Stuffie Shields of Hq. Btry. and Bull Badone, B Btry., mix it up. A moment after picture was snapped, Shields was floored by a knockout.

## 253d Cats Repel 129th Ord., 31-19

Showing to advantage at the foul-line, the fast-improving 253d Inf. Red Cats upset a favored 129th Ordnance five, 31-19, at the CT Red Rec Hall last week.

The victors, coached by Capt. Richard G. Cox, Regimental S-2 made good more than half their 16 tries from the 15-foot marker. The Ordnance, mean-time, blew 19 of its 11 throws thus losing the opportunity to overcome the Red Cats' 11 to 9 advantage from the field.

Despite the Red Cats' superior fire-power the game was nip and tuck. The score changed hands several times before the infantry won a 13-12 halftime lead. With the resumption of play, however, the Red Cats, led by Pfc. Frank Hooper, really poured it on and pulled away to a comfortable margin of victory.

The lineup:

253d (31)	G F Pts	129th Ord.	G F Pts
Decker, f	1 1 3	0	0
Costello, f	0 0 0	0	0
Hillman, f	0 0 0	0	0
Neri, f	1 1 2	0	0
McNeal, f	0 0 0	0	0
O'Leary, c	1 1 2	0	0
Poggi, c	1 0 2	0	0
McMon, g	2 1 5	0	0
Rosi, g	1 0 2	0	0
Hooper, g	4 5 12	0	0
Slyger, g	0 0 0	0	0
<b>Totals</b> 11	9 31	<b>Total</b> 0	1 19

Referee: Joseph

## Co. M., 254th Rallies To Down Service Co.

Co. M, 254th Inf., put on a second-half rally to beat Service Co., 12-8, in the C-T Rec Hall last week.

Trailing 8-5 going into the last period, the eventual victors threw a tight defense around their opponents to set them down without an additional point. Meantime, the entire M Co. five contributed something to the common scoring cause and pulled from behind to win.

The triumph was the second in two starts for the victors.

DIVISION BASKETBALL LINEUPS											
CT White						CT Blue					
Co. I	G	F	P	Reg. Hq. Co.	G	F	P	Co. K	G	F	P
Leefer, f	0	0	0	Kuhn, f	3	0	6	Olsavick, f	6	0	0
Dwan, f	0	0	0	DeLellis, f	1	0	2	Tingle, f	6	1	13
Noyellend, f	1	0	2	Coram, f	2	0	4	Yeagans, c	4	0	8
Self, c	2	0	4	Baynes, f	0	0	0	K'Jewitz, g	0	0	0
Padleba, c	0	0	0	Pfifer, c	4	0	8	Kryder, g	0	3	3
DeLoach, g	0	0	0	Williams, g	2	0	4	Amos, f	0	3	4
Anderson, g	0	0	0	Powser, g	2	0	4	Herman, g	0	0	0
Stewart, g	1	0	2	Galbraith, g	2	0	4	Totals	12	4	23
Leonardi, g	0	0	0	Knight, g	0	0	0	Battery A	8	6	8
<b>Totals</b> 4	0	0	0	Jones, g	2	0	4	863d F. A.	G	F	P
				Totals	17	1	35	Battery B	8	6	8
								863d F. A.	G	F	P
								Ballou, f	2	2	6
								Thorne, f	2	0	4
								Hogan, c	1	0	2
								Izzolino, g	0	0	0
								Winehalid, g	2	0	4
								Wienberg, g	0	0	0
								Litenberg, g	0	0	0
								Lauth, g	0	0	0
								<b>Totals</b> 7	2	16	
								<b>Totals</b> 12	4	3 11	

## Fast Games Mark Action in CT Blue; A Btry. Upsets B

CT Blue teams gave their followers plenty to cheer about and at the same time moved along to a clearer picture of the ultimate champion among them as the Division basketball tournament raced through another week of fast play. An upset 16-11 victory which A Btry., 863d F. A. scored over Btry. B Tuesday night enabled Hq. Co. 1st Bn. to move into undisputed leadership in the League's Red circuit.

Co. K Wins, 28-25  
However, it was Co. K's 28-25 victory over the Medics that provided followers of the tournament with their real thrill of the week. The Medics seemed to have anesthetized the Kays as they coasted through to a 14-5 lead in the first half. K Co. pocketed the leather for only one field goal in those first 20 minutes.

Whatever antidote was used on the Kays between halves, it had the desired results. Led by Pvt. Tingle, who scored that one first-half goal, the Infantrymen zeroed in for 11 brackets. They slowed the Medics' gallop to a walk, wiped out their nine-point deficit, and romped home with a comfortable advantage.

H/S Co. Trails Leaders  
A stirring 22-18 victory over the 63d QM. Co. enabled H/S Co. Engrs. to stay within reach of Div. Hq., the Green League leaders, Tuesday night.

Tied at 8-3 following the first half of their game at Special Trps. Rec. Hall, the Engrs. staged a seven-goal flare-up with the resumption of play to achieve their second triumph in three starts.

Most of the Green League entrants were in action during the week. The 563d Sig. Co. played and won two games during that time, first withstanding a second-half rally to beat Co. D 363d Medics, 27-19, and, in a later game, found the range for 22 field goals to register a 45-32 decision over Co. B, 263d Engrs.

Co. B, 363d Medics bowled over the M. P. five, 26-11, while the Rangers achieved their first triumph in the form of a 20-9 decision over C Co., 263d Engrs.

Hq. 3d Bn. Victor  
Outstanding among CT Red League battles was the 27-24 conquest registered by Hq. Co. 3d Bn. over Co. I on Tuesday night. Each team banged a dozen goals through the netting but the Hqs. combination added its margin of victory at the foul line while L Co. blew all its free throws.

Other results in this circuit were Co. H, 28; Co. F, 19; Co. G, 1; Hq. 2d Bn. 0 (forfeit); Co. K, 22; Co. M, 17; Co. A, 22; Co. C, 11; adn Hq. 7st Bn., 20; Co. B, 15.

Play in CT White produced easy triumphs for Reg. Hq. Co. and A Co. over Co. L and B, respectively. The Regimental five walloped I Co., 38-8. The A Co. victory was by a score of 35-13.

## Barnes to Face Molina In Return Tilt Thursday

Leather-pushing soldiers of CT White will put on their second set of scraps in their Rec. Hall starting at 2000 Thursday night.

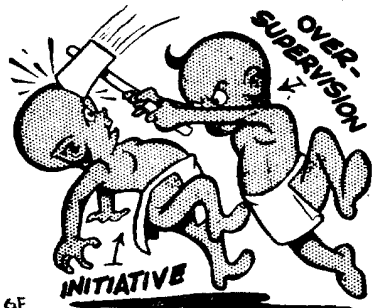
A card of eight bouts has been arranged by Pvt. Nat Silverstein, former New York gym director, who gave the boys a thrill-packed show a few weeks ago. Topping the program are return matches between Pvt. Simon Schera and Pvt. Walter Feasel, and between Cpl. George Barnes and Pvt. Phil Molina.

Their meetings highlighted the earlier show. Spectators will do well to get half as good a pair of scraps this time.

- The card:
- Pvt. Bob Olson vs. Pete Monstano
  - Pvt. Simon Schera vs. Pvt. Walter Feasel
  - Pvt. James Burks vs. Pvt. Larry Labella
  - Pvt. Jim Tate vs. Pete Battros
  - Pvt. Jim Gaybrant vs. Frank Materese
  - Cpt. George Barnes vs. Pvt. Phil Molina
  - Pvt. Caesar Hotchkiss vs. Pvt. Guillo Manfredi
  - Pfc. Louis Wilhelm vs. Pvt. Bill Lackey

# TIPS FROM TERRY FIED --THE 'OLD SARGE'

I used to have a Company Commander who had some pretty definite ideas about the development of initiative both in NCO's and privates. Probably as a result of his own experience in the Army, he believed that the greatest killer of initiative was over-supervision.



He had been a lieutenant for about 15 years when the CCC came along in 1933, and had never had a chance to do anything on his own until then.

"Those were the happy days," he'd say, "I drew camp site in the heart of the Rockies 300 miles from District Headquarters. I was the only officer and did I have fun! I built that camp from the ground up and for the first time in my life learned what it feels like to be a King on his throne. Think of having to wait 15 years to find out whether I had any initiative, and all because I had been supervised to death. That's why I give these boys a chance early, and when I find that seed of initiative in a man, I cultivate and watch over it like a farmer with his cotton crop!"

His favorite remark: "Initiative"

is something a leader has got to have. Without it he's just a silhouette target with insignia on it," and he had a pretty good home-spun definition of it too! "When a man has got enough git up and git to weather the fear of doing a necessary job and does it when there's no one around to tell him what, when or how to do it, then he's got initiative."

In combat I don't care how good your CO is he can't foresee all the things that are going to happen and tell you NCO's what to do. He'd be able to walk on water if he could, and his chances are dead against his being around when they happen. If you just sit there on your fanny and do nothing because



of that you ought to be tried for aiding and abetting the enemy.

You young NCO's think this over and if you feel you won't be able to take that bull by the horns and do something when you're on your own you'd better turn in your chevrons now, and if I may be so bold as to offer a suggestion to you CO's, I'd say give 'em a chance now.

## Division Review Assembles 63d On Drill Field

(Continued From Page 1.) at 1459. One minute later the band played "Adjutant's Call." After the troops had presented arms, the honors, consisting of ruffles and flourishes and the "General's March" were rendered the reviewing officer.

Gen. Hibbs and his staff snapped to salute at the first note of the "General's March" and held the salute until the last note.

Then, as Gen. Harris gave the command, "Pass in Review," the bugler blew the traditional three notes of the "sound-off," the Division Band struck up the famous march, "Garry Owen," and the column led by the 255th Inf., stepped off.

After the head of the column had completed a right turn and a left turn, Gen. Harris moved into position in front of the troops and the entire Division swung past the reviewing stand.

### Guidons in Salute

Guidons dipped in salute as each battalion passed Gen. Hibbs. The band swung out of its place at the head of the column, counter-marched and faced the reviewing stand. There it played various marches throughout the remainder of the review, interrupting them with ruffles and flourishes as the Colors passed by at the heads of the units.

Gen. Hibbs' staff at the reviewing stand comprised all officers of the General and Special Staff. Gen. Harris' staff consisted of his aides and Lt. Col. Morris O. Edwards, A. C. of S., G-3, who was adjutant for the day.

The troops were formed in regiment-in-line, with battalions in mass formation of 20 files. Behind the infantry regiments marched artillery, engineers, medical units and Headquarters Special Troops in that order.

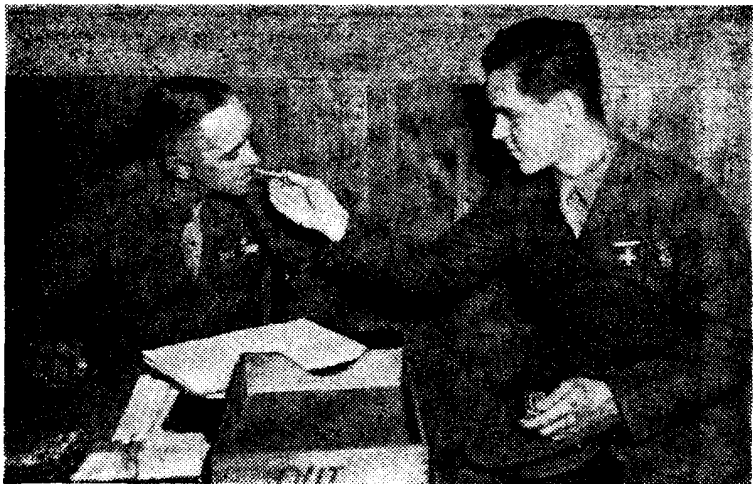
In addition to the three regular battalions, each infantry regiment formed a fourth battalion composed of unlettered organizations. A provisional regiment consisted of Special Troops, including the 363d Med. Bn. and 263d Engr. Bn. and two other battalions formed from signal, ordnance, reconnaissance, quartermaster and Div. Hq. troops. Division Artillery formed four separate battalions.

### C-T White Marquee Created in a Week

Many have seen and admired the Star Spangled marquee which decorates the exterior of the CT White Rec. Hall. Few have done so, however, with the realization that its creation was a marvel of planning and execution.

The job of designing, building and mounting the two section silhouette was accomplished in one week. The stream-lined, modernistic pattern was the brain-child of Lt. Charles Bender, Police and Prison officer, and the plans were developed and executed by Pvt. Gene Wilson, Syd Chapman and Harold Hughes.

The top section, five feet high and eleven feet long, has a cut-out athletic figure at each end of red, white and blue letters reading "Rec. Hall." The lower section, 15 feet long and a foot high, has the lettering "Combat Team White" and is bathed in a bright light that makes the display visible for a great distance.



FIGHTING MEN—Leatherneck and combat soldier—met during the holidays as Marine Pfc. Louis E. Hibbs, Jr., came to Camp Van Dorn to visit his father, commanding general of the Blood and Fire division.

## Nazis 'Talk' Secret Weapons Yankees Make and Use 'Em

While Hitler's "secret weapons" have in the main been just words, the United States Army and Navy have developed a line of ordnance that far surpasses anything the Nazis are known to have.

Airplanes, ships, armored vehicles and foot soldiers are employing ordnance sensations so amazing that their development has astounded the world of science.

And, while building up our "Sunday punch" for that all-out assault on Hitler's European fortress, our experts also have been devising ways and means of taking the Nazis' best blows in the least harmful manner.

"There are hundreds of new developments, some refinements and others revolutionary in nature," discloses Rear Adm. W. H. P. Blandy, during whose tenure as chief of the Naval Bureau of Ordnance much of this progress has been made.

"Some of the latter, which carry as much of a sock as a German radio-controlled bomb and acoustics homing torpedo, have been in actual use in the war for many months. Even their purpose cannot be revealed.

"When the full story finally may be told," Adm. Blandy said, "it will be recognized that many of our secret weapons rank higher than those of the enemy.

"One weapon in particular," the Adm. disclosed, "was labeled 'impossible' by a famous European scientist, yet, nevertheless, has been perfected and placed in use with telling effect against the foe."

Another arms whose efficacy has been proven is the 75-mm. plane cannon now mounted on Mitchell bombers. This sockeroo destroyed a Jap destroyer with a single mighty volley, according to reports.

There also is in use, in the field of anti-aircraft arms, a gun which will shoot higher than any plane can now fly.

And, among tanks, we now possess a 57-ton item which is big enough and tough enough to knock out any known similar item the enemy can place in the field.

All in all, your Uncle Sam seems to have weathered that "knock-down" of December 7, 1941, in fine shape and is now ready with an assortment of punches that in due time should have Hitler, Hirohito & Co. really slap-happy.

GULFPORT, Miss.—Ten deaths have been recorded and two others are in a hospital as the result of an explosion and fire which wrecked the wood reduction plant of Phoenix Naval Stores, Inc. Property damage was estimated at \$250,000.

### Arty Chorusmen Are Strong in Wind, Limb

Strong arms as well as strong voices mark the Division Artillery Chorus.

Halfway through their Christmas concert at the Centreville USO, the choristers were halted by a sergeant who came in the building looking for help. His car, he explained, had slithered into a ditch because he had failed to see the chorus' trucks parked by the muddy road.

Hastily shuffling the program, Lt. Richard O'Connell, Div. Arty. Special Service Officer, left a soloist on the stage and led 30 other singers outside. While the soloist entertained the audience the men righted the car and sent the sergeant on his way. Then they brushed off their hands and returned to their concert.

## Engineers Stage Christmas Party

What began as a dignified and almost formal Christmas Day party for H-S Co. of the 263d Engrs. in its Mess Hall, took a unique turn and its ending, the "joint rally was jumping."

The men had heard the Holiday messages of the Nation's leaders read to them by their Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Jack L. Coan, and grace had been said by Lt. Col. Robert L. Clarke, Division Chaplain, who was the guest of honor.

The meal progressed albeit uneventfully, until someone started a carol and all joined in. For S-Sgt. Wilbur Horton, in charge of the mess, that was all that was needed.

Pvt. Harry Henninger was sent for his guitar and Pvt. Jack Nord was dispatched for his clarinet. That sort of combination required the drummer's helper and consequently, Pvt. Clifford Elberson brought his "skins" to the festive board.

For Sgt. Horton, however, that wasn't enough music. "This is 75 per cent of our company band," he pointed out, "we may as well have it all here." Within a few minutes six huskies had carted the piano into the room.

## DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

(Continued From Page 5.)

Wilson have been keeping Anti-Tank Co. in the limelight with their entertainment at Service Club No. 1. Gaumer plays a self-created combination mouth organ and guitar. Wilson's forte is magic. . . . Co. D's Pvt. Short is smiling again, and incidentally, back at song-writing since the addition of a piano to the company day room furniture. . . . The boys at Co. C are still chuckling to themselves since Pop Halajian's entertaining dancing at the Christmas Day party. And several of the boys are wearing much-satisfied looks as the result of promotions. Among them are T/3 Harry Salisbury, S/Sgt. Louis D. Tirelli, Sgt. Jason Deaton and Cpl. Thomas Macejak. . . . Co. L claims its day room to be the finest in the regiment. It is equipped with a pool table, piano, ping-pong table, game room, reading corner and orientation display.

255th Inf.—Baby boys were Christmas presents to two members of the 255th. Martin, Jr., was born in Aurora, Ill., to the wife of Pvt. Martin Honaker, Cannon Co., three days before Christmas. A son was born to Mrs. Robert A. Lamkins, Jr., wife of the Service Co. lieutenant, in San Francisco, Dec. 26. . . . Five finalists in the rope climbing contest sponsored by the 255th athletic office were selected at elimination trials in the CT Blue recreation hall Tuesday. Five men are eligible for the \$25 War Bond offered as a prize to the enlisted man who can get up a 20-foot rope in the quickest possible time. The finalists are Cpl. Frank Szoloz, Co. D; Pvt. James Chandler, Co. E; Pvt. Rex D. Witmer, Co. H; Pfc. Richard Dick, Co. M, and Cpt. Foy Phillips, Cannon Co. Fastest time in the eliminations was 7½ seconds, scored by Witmer and Chandler.

### CT White Fans See Old Films

It's not "any port in a storm" for the boys of the 254th Inf. Through the offices of Special Service Officer Lawson Katley the Combat Team White Rec. Hall has been converted into a theater for every Saturday night for the showing of screen classics of days gone by. The series is entitled "Saturday Nights."

The boys the topkick left behind

over the week end may sit in the audience behind thick Havana stogies if they wish, booing the villain, and cheering the hero in good old Western thrillers. The movies are free and have developed a steadfast following among the men of the 254th and their buddies in the 862d F. A.

### Renfrew Rides Again

Among the films already viewed in the series are "Renfrew of the Royal Mounted," "Tarzan and the Green Goddess," "The Six Shooting Sheriff," and "Hot Curves."

## Male Call 'by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates" In Attacking, Never Take Terrain For Granted



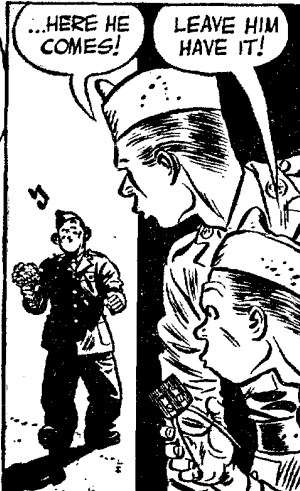
SORRY, GENERALS, I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU TONIGHT... I HAVE A DATE WITH ONE OF THE BOYS IN THE 25th!

AW, GEEZST, MISS LACE...



THE 25th... THAT'S THE NEW OUTFIT NOT JUST MOVED IN! THEM GUYS GOT A NERVE COMMANDEERIN' OUR CHICK!

HEY-LET'S GET LOUIE'S CLIPPERS AN' NUDE-UP THAT GOONIE'S NOGGIN'! IT'LL LEARN THEM TWENTY-FIFTHS TO LAY OFF!



...HERE HE COMES!

LEAVE HIM HAVE IT!



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**JANUARY 1944**

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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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**FEBRUARY 1944**

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**MARCH 1944**

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**APRIL 1944**

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**JUNE 1944**

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**JULY 1944**

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**AUGUST 1944**

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**SEPTEMBER 1944**

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**OCTOBER 1944**

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**NOVEMBER 1944**

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**DECEMBER 1944**

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By HOWARD CONNOR

