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# Blood and Fire

Vol. 1, No. 39

63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

March 11, 1944

## Division Artillery Unit Wins February Orientation Award

Display of Hq. Battery  
Judged Best Among  
Seven in 63d

Headquarters Battery 63d Div. Arty. was presented with the coveted Div. Orientation Award for February by Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division commander, at retreat parade ceremonies, Tuesday.

In addressing the Division's Redlegs, who were reviewed also by Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, Div. Arty. commander, and officers of the Louisiana State Guard commanded by Col. J. Perry Cole, Gen. Harris, rated orientation in the Div. as top-flight, declaring that the winning of the award was something in which there should be great pride.

### Thorough Exhibition

Selection of Hq. Btry. as recipient of the certificate, followed an inspection of seven exhibits by Gen. Harris, accompanied by Maj. Robert K. Leiding, Div. Special Services officer, last week.

The company day rooms visited by the General contained those exhibits which previously had been judged the best in their respective units. A month after the first Division award, which went to the now non-existent Co. C of the 17th, competition for the honor had taken on such keenness that the very marked improvement in (Continued on Page 5)

## Redlegs of 718th F. A. Bn. Stage Big Party At B Btry

A successful party was staged by members of B Btry, 718th F. A., Friday, March 3, at the Btry. day room. Music for dancing was furnished by Pvt. Bernard Haines and Charles Tortorello, and a buffet supper was served.

Pvt. Bernard Miller acted as master of ceremonies and Cpl. Henry Gross and Pvt. Dossie Trotter entertained. Short talks were made by Lt. James Hart, battery commander, and by Lts. Michael McKillop, Lewis Smith and S/Sgt. Blakely.

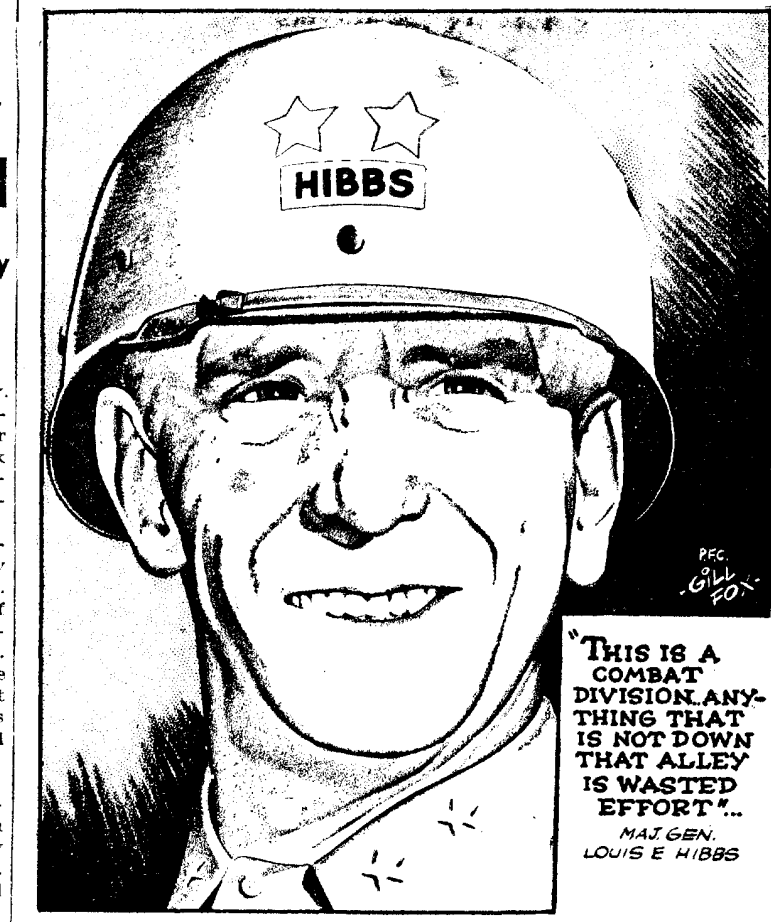
## Nationally-Famed Singer Bauman Is Now in 255th

It's something for a man in his early thirties to point to a position of national prominence in some one field of endeavor. Yet, the talents of T/5 Mordecai Bauman are so far-ranging that this member of Serv. Co., 255th Inf., boasts not only success as a singer but also as a dramatic actor, producer and director.

A graduate of the Juillard Graduate school of Music and Columbia university, Bauman has had his name associated with such outstanding exponents of the arts as Hanns Eisler, European composer; Lillian Gish, Clifford Odets, John LaTouche, Harold J. Rome, Earle Robinson, Edward J. Bronberg and Eunice Healy.

### With Lillian Gish

His professional dramatic career may be said to date from his appearance with Miss Gish in the Sean O'Casey play, "Within the Gates." Once launched on the "big time," his interests encompassed radio broadcasting, record making, concert singing (including a series of daily programs in Mexico City), direction and production of entertainment, and ultimately, fostering the works of



"THIS IS A COMBAT DIVISION. ANYTHING THAT IS NOT DOWN THAT ALLEY IS WASTED EFFORT"..  
MAJ. GEN. LOUIS E. HIBBS

## 'Our Destiny Is Combat' Gen. Hibbs Tells Division

Commanding General! Lauds Troops  
For ITP and UPT Performance;  
Predicts Rugged Future

The Sixty-third Division has its destiny as a combat Division—nothing else, and anything we do that it not right down that alley is wasted effort, Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, told officers and men of the Division last night and this morning in an address to Div. troops. It was the General's first address to all his men in several months, and due to the difficulty in assembling the men in

a centralized location, he traveled to several different areas to talk to them.

"Not long ago you completed the Initial Training Phase with great credit," Gen. Hibbs told the men. "I say this in view of the splendid record you made and with a good understanding of the mass of training that has been thrown at you. You mastered a difficult job well. Every man in the Division has a right to be proud of the results we achieved.

"You are now engaged in the unit training program," he continued. "This is characterized by being broken up with special schools, detachments away for special training, tests of all sorts, furloughs and leaves. I know that despite these difficulties, you will acquire yourselves with the same all-out effort you put into the ITP."

Gen. Hibbs pointed out that the changes which the Division has encountered during this phase of training will give the men training which will apply later when the Division enters combat.

### Division's Destiny

"I have brought this matter to your attention because I want you to be clearly impressed with the facts," he continued. "Our Blood and Fire Division is preparing for combat—nothing else. Meanwhile, we have met the situations (the changes during the present training phase) and are still an effective fighting machine. I want you to understand that our destiny is unchanged and is still that of a combat division. If you have heard any rumors to the contrary, I assure you they have no basis in fact. . . ."

Speaking of discipline within the ranks, Gen. Hibbs said: "To win a battle—just like in football—the orders of the commander must be obeyed promptly and efficiently. Otherwise we do not work together;

rather, we waste time and effort in different directions."

"All orders have a good reason behind them," he continued. "The training that you get now by obeying them will instill in you the habit of prompt obedience that is vital to success in battle. The entire chain of command, from the highest to the lowest commander, must function as one. You must train yourselves to obey even in the small things so that the team may hit hard and quickly in the crisis.

"Those who make up an army must do what they are told to do, or it is not an army."

### Obedience an Initial Step

He said that the habit of obedience was but the initial step in the moulding of a great combat division, and that something far greater is needed—morale, guts, pride and loyalty—which make failure an impossibility and obedience a pleasure.

"Morale and guts are built by a progressive toughening process such as you have been going through," he told his men. "They develop by learning to take it as often as it comes, and in company with your comrades, laughing off fatigue and discomfort—living with the zest and enthusiasm of that great American saying that 'the bigger they are the harder they'll fall,' pitying the faint-hearted who can't take it and rejoicing in that warm comradeship of the strong.

"This toughening up process you have been going through and lapping it up, and looking for more, has found you growing great in your will to win and in your confident knowledge of your right to stand shoulder to shoulder with your fellows," he continued. "Your (Continued on Page 7)

## Natchez in Spring Viewed By 63d Soldiers on Tour

Soldiers who find themselves in the South with the 63d Division are discovering the delights of spring in Natchez as the historic city on a bluff 300 feet above the Mississippi River comes to life again in a shower of petals from azalea, redbud, flowering peach, gladiolus, iris, wisteria and jonquil.

The gardens of Natchez, some formal and others running wild in their natural profusion, and the beautiful lawns are at their best in early March, as visitors pour into the small city to visit its famous old homes and other places of interest.

One of the nation's leading tourist meccas before the war, Natchez settled into the quiet of years ago (Continued on Page 8)

## Chaplain to Show Pictures Tomorrow

A few weeks ago Chaplain Aaron Kahan returned from New York City bringing with him motion pictures and still shots taken at a large gathering of parents and friends of Jewish soldiers attached to the 63d Division. Tomorrow night at 2000 he will show those pictures at the CT Red Rec. Hall on 13th Ave., in connection with a Purim party.

Chaplain Kahan, the only Jewish chaplain attached to the division, conceived the idea of taking motion pictures of men of the Jewish faith in the 63d Division, and showing them in New York City so that their relatives might actually see their boys on the screen. He did this early in February at one of the Division chapels.

On furlough in New York recently, the chaplain showed the pictures to a large audience. He photographed the gathering and talked with many parents of soldiers. He will show those pictures tomorrow night and deliver messages to many of the men in attendance.

## 263d Engineers Promote 12 Enlisted Men Here

Three non-commissioned officers advanced in grade and nine former privates first class became non-commissioned officers in the latest 263d Engr. Bn promotion orders issued by Lt. Col. Jack L. Coun, Division Engineer.

Cpls. Ronald C. Baker and George W. Darby became sergeants and T/5 Joe Shopmaker advanced to T/4.

Robert J. Ott and Frederick L. Wagner were made Cpls. and the following were made T/5s: Clyde A. Hummel, George H. Kiefer, Jr., David L. G. Locke, Robert H. Van Arsdale, Kenneth H. Daley, Chester R. Folckemer and Patsy J. Toriello.



T/5 Mordecai Bauman

young American writers and composers. Five years after his bow on (Continued on Page 5)



PROVOST MARSHAL of the 63d Inf. Div., is Capt. Thomas P. Reaves, who recently came to the 63d from Camp Polk, La., where he was with the Military Police section. Capt. Reaves has been in the Army for 17 years. He started service with the 29th U.S. Infantry at Ft. Benning, Ga.

## Panama Limited To Leave McComb On Early Schedule

A change in the departure time of the Panama Limited from McComb makes it necessary for soldiers taking this train to Chicago and other northern points to leave Camp Van Dorn early in the afternoon.

The northbound Panama Limited now leaves McComb daily at 1700. A bus of Moaks Bus Lines leaves camp at 1530 daily and is scheduled to arrive in McComb at 1700.

Ordinarily the bus will arrive a few minutes earlier than scheduled, but because the connection is so close, transportation officials advise would-be railroad passengers to take a bus which leaves camp at 1230 or one which leaves Centreville at 1245, arriving in McComb approximately 15 minutes before the departure of the train.

The Panama Limited is a full-fare train on which furlough tickets are not valid. Pullman reservations should be made in advance through Illinois Central Railroad representatives at the Centreville railroad station.

# KNOW YOUR DIVISION:

The RECONS, "Eyes and Ears of the 63d" Act as Division's Advance Scouts

The 63d Infantry Division is a complex organization of foot soldiers, artillery and even flying soldiers, all working as a co-ordinated battle unit. Because many soldiers are unfamiliar with the functions of units other than their own, BLOOD AND FIRE today starts a series of articles sketching the duties and activities of men in various outfits of the Div.

The "Eyes and Ears of the 63d" are the fighting men of the 63d Reconnaissance Troop—as hardy a band of mechanized horsemen as ever hopped inside an armored car.

The Recons—or "Keyhole Kids" as they are dubbed by Capt. Grover McLure—are the men upon whom G-2 will rely for much first-hand information about the enemy when the Division goes into battle.

It is easy to see, therefore, that the Recons play an important part in the Division's make-up. Riding in armed jeeps, armored cars and half-tracks, they operate in small mobile patrols well in advance of the Division's forward echelon.

### Trained in Woodcraft

They are trained in woodcraft and in the use of nature as a camouflage agent, for once the patrol has reached the point where it is considered unsafe to proceed farther by car, the enemy must be sought out afoot.

Essentially a reconnaissance unit, and not a battle force, the Recons will usually move under strict orders to infiltrate and observe the enemy, but not to meet him in combat. However, the Recons are trained in the use of all the infantry weapons, so that they may well take care of themselves should they be jumped by enemy forces.

Typical of the Recon's work is the recent problem in which patrols advanced against an "enemy" road block. Leaving their vehicles well concealed in bushes beside the highway, members of the patrols investigated the block by crawling to vantage points where they could observe the enemy construction, and also determine how it was protected. They found a blockade of trees and debris erected across the highway protected by a 37-mm. antitank gun and a machine gun nest. The Recons set themselves up in clumps of bushes and at a given signal blasted the enemy's protection with mortar fire and their own machine gun. They then investigated the road block to remove booby traps, and then removed the block itself.

### Many Overseas Veterans

Though they are quartered in camp—just a block away from the WAC barracks, the Recons have passed considerable time in the



READY FOR ACTION are members of 63d Recon. Trp. in their armored scout car (above) which has taken Recons. to an advanced position in training problem and is now hidden under tree. At left, Capt. Grover C. McLure, Recon. commander, applies greasepaint to Cpl. Alfred F. Hall, while S/Sgt. Edward F. Veron, already made up for night problem, watches. Note the Recons' camouflage uniforms and use of knit wool hats instead of steel helmets.

field. A number of the men have already served overseas, including the cadre who were together at Panama. The troop frequently moves to Homochitto National Park, choosing a greater distance as their bivouac than most Division units because of their great mobility.

Since the Recons are motorized cavalrymen, and many of them originally served in mounted outfits, they retain their cavalry organization as a troop, rather than

the infantry company organization. Some of the officers and men even retained their high riding boots and spurs until recently when regulation was discovered prohibiting such clothing.

Capt. McLure has great personal influence on his men, and since he's a tough all-around athlete, he has surrounded himself with men of this character. He and his junior officers frequently join the men in a tough game of football, or other rugged athletics, and in the evenings in the field his men will gather round him to hear of his experiences in Panama, where he was a sanitation officer. The men know their captain is tough, and hates simulation, and they respect his toughness, for they know that he's proud that he never asks any of his men to do anything he himself won't do.

## Cite 18 Non-Coms For Ranger Work

Citations were given 18 sergeants of the 254th Inf. this week by their regimental commander, Lt. Col. Joseph H. Warren, for conspicuous work at the Division Ranger School, where they took courses during February.

The course, designed to make the individual non-coms confident of their own capabilities in scouting and patrolling, demolition, fighting under combat conditions, and leading small units, give to the regiment a nucleus of highly trained individuals who know how to "kill to live." They will pass on their knowledge to other men in their respective companies.

These non-coms, following tests in military courtesy which will be given by the regiment, will be eligible for the recently established silver rifle "Expert Infantryman" award.

Col. Warren announced that two superior ratings had been awarded for work in the Ranger class. Recipients were Sgt. Thomas P. Coughlin, Co. H, and Cpl. Edward A. Husarz, Co. L. Excellent ratings were awarded to Sgts. William L. Krobot, Co. H; Alben P. Remski, Anti-tank Co.; A. M. Amory, Co. C; Andrew L. Carlin, Co. H; John

D. Williams, Co. H; William F. Klein, Cannon Co.; John D. Hughes, Hq. Co.; A. M. Mattola, Co. M; C. G. Plummer, Co. L; W. C. Noble, Co. G; C. G. Boudrie, Co. B; H. O. Wolverton, Co. F; J. M. Eyre, Co. K, and Leonard E. Klepp, Co. A.

## Yank Shows Picture Of 63d Parents in N. Y.

Parents of men serving in the 63d Division recently met Chaplain Aaron Kahan, Division Jewish Chaplain in New York City, to hear how their sons are making out at Camp Van Dorn. A picture of the session at New York's Central YMHA is shown in the March 17 issue of YANK, the Army magazine.

Shown in the February 26 issue of ARMY TIMES, a newspaper for army men widely read in the Div., is another article of interest to men of the 63d. It tells of the development of the Div. and the obtaining of the historic 63d Div. talisman—the insigne card auto graphed by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and military leaders who attended the Casablanca conference, from which Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs drew the Blood and Fire theme and insigne.

## 63d Div. Crossword Puzzle

(By M/Sgt. Edward Frazier, Div. Hq.)

1*	2*	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15			16					17			
18						19	20				
			21			22	23				
24	25	26		27		28			29	30	
31			32						33		
34			35						36		
		37				38	39				
40	41			42		43			44	45	46
47				48	49						
50				51					52		
53				54					55		

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <p>1. Ten minute break</p> <p>5. Strike sharply</p> <p>8. Large fish</p> <p>12. Persian post</p> <p>13. Period</p> <p>14. In a new way</p> <p>15. Overnight encampments</p> <p>17. City in Nevada</p> <p>18. Made beer</p> <p>19. Communication company</p> <p>21. Kind of cheese</p> <p>23. Color</p> <p>24. Earth</p> <p>27. Scolding severely</p> <p>31. Tavern</p> <p>32. Man's name</p> <p>33. New Orleans area (abbr.)</p> | <p>34. Judges at a game</p> <p>36. Hen fruits</p> <p>37. Sharp instrument</p> <p>38. Precipitation</p> <p>40. Lowly</p> <p>43. A rope</p> <p>47. Totals (abbr.)</p> <p>48. Friendly</p> <p>50. Round around</p> <p>51. Masculine name</p> <p>52. A permit</p> <p>53. Pens</p> <p>54. Finish</p> <p>55. Hole at a certain gain</p> <p><b>Down</b></p> <p>1. Family name</p> <p>2. Turkish official</p> <p>3. Salvage</p> | <p>4. Garden implement</p> <p>5. Legible</p> <p>6. Half a circle</p> <p>7. Weed-eat permit</p> <p>8. Range mark to be shot at</p> <p>9. Ceaseless</p> <p>10. National emergency not anticipated (abbr.)</p> <p>11. 61st Army Law (abbr.)</p> <p>16. United effort desired (abbr.)</p> <p>20. Asiatic country</p> <p>22. Measuring instrument</p> <p>24. Title of respect</p> <p>25. Unit</p> <p>26. Foot soldiers</p> <p>28. Heroine of "As You Like It"</p> <p>29. Strong ale</p> <p>30. Fuel</p> <p>32. Region</p> <p>35. Lives</p> <p>36. Overpowered by emotion</p> <p>39. In all cases (abbr.)</p> <p>40. Magazines (abbr.)</p> <p>41. Give off</p> <p>42. Body of water</p> <p>44. Infantry boys are rugged (abbr.)</p> <p>45. 'Foo</p> <p>46. Examine</p> <p>49. Males</p> |
|---|---|---|

Answers on Page 8

## Religious Services

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

**Sunday**  
 Chapels No. 6, 7, 8, 10, 0900.  
 Chapel No. 7, Episcopal Holy Communion Service, 1000.  
 Chapels No. 5, 6, 8, 10, 1000.  
 Chapel No. 5, Episcopal Holy Communion Service, 1100.  
 Chapel No. 8, Lutheran Service, 1100.  
**Sunday Afternoon and Evening**  
 Chapel No. 6, Concert Hour, 1530.  
 Co. A Day Room, 363d Med. Bn., 1815.

### Weekday Services

Chapel No. 8, 1900, Lenten Service.  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS**  
**Sunday**  
 Chapels No. 5, 10, 0800.  
 Theater No. 5, 0900.  
 Theater No. 1, 1030.  
 Chapel No. 10, 1100.

### Evening Services

Chapel No. 5, Monday (Novena, Miraculous Medal), Wednesday, Friday, 1830.  
 Chapel No. 10, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 1700.  
 Chapel No. 10, Tuesday (Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help), 1930.  
 Chapel No. 5, Wednesday, Stations of the Cross, 1830.  
 Chapel No. 10, Friday, Stations of the Cross, 1930.  
 Chapel No. 5, Confessions, Saturday, 1830-2000.  
 Chapel No. 10, Confessions, Saturday, 1600-2100.

### JEWISH SERVICES

**Friday**  
 Station Hospital, 1845.  
 Chapel No. 7, 2000.

### Sunday

Chapel No. 7, 1100.

### MORMON SERVICE

**Sunday**  
 Chapel No. 8, 1400.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING

**Sunday**  
 Chapel No. 1, 1100.

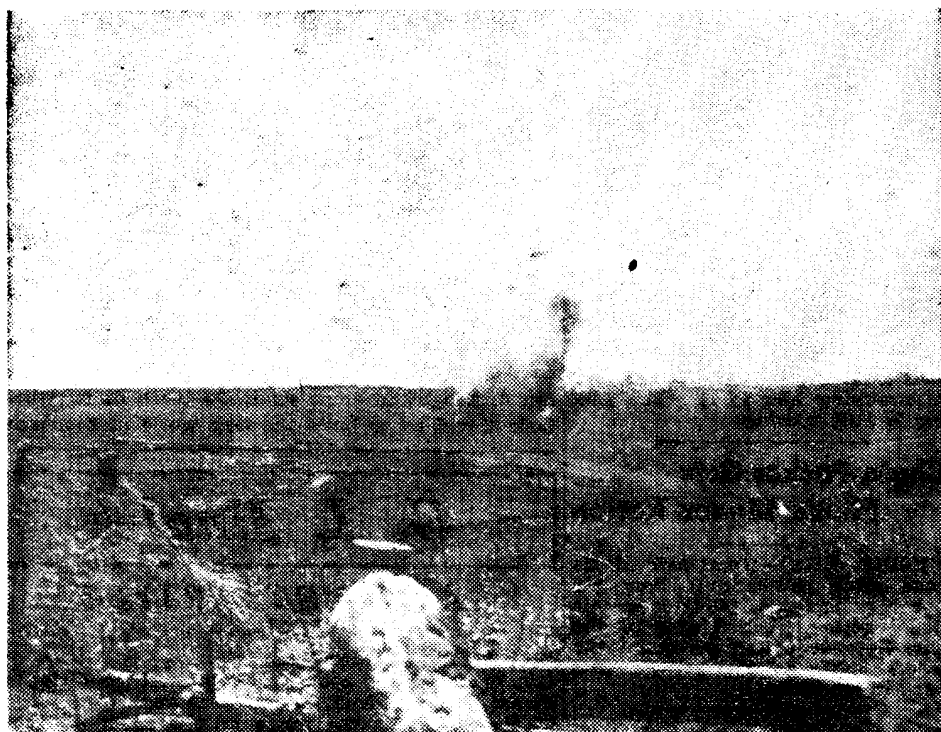
### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

**Friday**  
 Chapel No. 1, 1930.

## The Wolf

by Sansone





BATTLE EXERCISES involving units of the 63d Div., and attack bombers from Harding Field, have been in progress during the current week. Upper left, machine gun fire pins down enemy, while at right artillery fire helps to dislodge foe. The air force (left center) takes a hand and bombs bridge at rear of foe's position. The demolished bridge is shown above. At left men of two infantry regiments watch exercises as two Thunderbolts zoom overhead.

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## Planes Join Infantrymen Attacking Enemy Position

Co-ordinated ground and air attack on an "enemy" position was used for the first time in battle exercises held by units of the 63d Div. during the past week in the artillery impact area.

Attack bombers from Harding Field participated in the problem and served to demonstrate to thousands of Division troops who witnessed the exercise, the value of air support to a ground attack. The planes flew far behind the "enemy's" lines to bomb his communications and rearward installations.

The exercise called for a series of attacks by elements of an infantry company on a series of three low hills. After pinning down the "enemy"—by rifle and machine gun fire from the front, a partial envelopment from the left was executed and the foe driven from the first hill.

### Use Live Ammunition

Fire from 60 mm mortars was required to help dislodge the enemy from Hill No. 2, and an accurate pattern was laid down prior to the launching of a second enveloping movement which was screened by thick woods. The use of live ammunition made the problem realistic, and dynamite detonations on the hills, set off as the foot troops rushed to the attack, simulated return fire from the "enemy."

The third and final objective proved the toughest for the attackers and they were forced to concentrate fire from heavy 81 mm mortars on the hill and in addition artillery fire. Both the mortar and artillery laid down a heavy concentration of accurate fire which helped dislodge the enemy. The infantrymen once again moved in for the kill, assaulting from the flank.

Co-ordinating their assault with

that of the ground forces, the airmen unleashed a bombing attack on "enemy" concentrations in the rear of his lines. A wooden bridge crossing some marshy ground was practically demolished by a direct hit from a 250-pound bomb, testifying to the accuracy of the attack.

### Planes Strafe Area

In addition the planes zoomed low over the last hill on which the "enemy" was supposed to be making a stand and thoroughly strafed the area.

The battle exercises started Tuesday morning and continued through Friday. Among the spectators at the first day's exercise were: Brig. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander; Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division Commander; Col. John Mesick, Div. Artillery Executive Officer, and officials of the Louisiana State Guard, led by Col. J. Perry Cole.

Units from Co. B, 255th Inf., led by T/Sgt. Randall Davis, executed the infantry problem while the weapons platoon of Co. D, 254th Inf., laid down the mortar fire. Btry. A, 863d F. A. handled the artillery barrage. Capt. Frank Piontek, G-3 Sec., directed the attack.

### 255th Musicians Play

The 255th Inf. orchestra will make its first public appearance outside Camp Van Dorn tonight when it plays for the formal dance at the City Auditorium, Natchez. Tomorrow afternoon the band will be heard in a broadcast from the Servicemen's Center at 1605. Both programs will be supervised by members of the Recreation Staff of CT Blue.

## Division Fortified Area Blasted By Heavy Attack

Infantrymen and engineers combined efforts this week in a joint assault on the "Ft. Williamson" fortified area of Camp Van Dorn. The attack left three concrete pillboxes a shambles. It was one of a series of realistic battle exercises being conducted this week by 63d Div. units.

While other members of the 263d Engr. Bn. looked on a 12-man assault detachment of engineers moved into action against the "enemy" pillboxes in conjunction with infantry riflemen, mortar, and machine gun sections, and a bazooka team.

### Flame Throwers, Bazookas Used

As rifle fire whipped over their heads, the flame throwers, bazooka men and demolition squad moved against the fortifications, which were placed in such a position that they could screen each other with interlacing machine gun fire.

Under actual combat conditions fortifications such as these are first isolated by artillery fire, but due to local conditions, set charges were used to simulate artillery in this problem. These explosions pitted the ground in the area of the fortifications with large craters which gave the advancing troops protection.

Screened from "enemy" observation by smoke and controlled by

pyrotechnic signals, the assault detachment crawled towards the pillboxes with their special equipment. They concentrated on one fortification at a time, while the riflemen kept the theoretical enemy pinned down.

At a given signal representing the slowing down of our forces by the "enemy" machine gun fire, the mortar section swung into action against the positions. They soon effectively "buttoned up" the embrasures of the fort, which permitted the bazooka team to maneuver into an advantageous position for a broadside. As flame throwers moved in, the engineers brought up shaped charges, pole charges and satchel charges, which completed the destruction of the fortification.

### Role Against West Wall

Lt. Louis Koblick, Jr., who conducted the exercise, explained that the technique employed by the engineers in assaulting the fortifications is the Allies' answer to Germany's mighty West Wall.

The engineer assault detachment was led by S/Sgt. Daniel Stadnyk, of Co. C, 263d Engr. Bn., and comprised the following men of the same company: Sgts. Thomas Styles, Leonard Zimmerman, and George Darby, Pfc. James Aultz, and Pvts. Louis Casses, Max Fack-

ler, John Elliott, Frank Little and Joseph Kristofils.

The infantrymen, all from 1st Bn., 255th Inf., included: Cpl. Laurence Geiger, Pvts. Guy Turman, Earle Blanchard, Harry Sampson, Donald White, and Frank Testa, Pfc. Corson Shannon, Pvts. Orville Burkett, William Sendell, Leonard Marcus, Cpl. Richard Sweet, and Pfc. Henry Schindler, all with rifles.

Mortar men included: Cpl. Charles McCannel, Pfc. Daniel Lukotch, and Alphonse Gasser, Pvt. Sierbling Koons, Sgt. Chris Makas, Cpl. Byron L. Martin, Pfc. Frank R. Petit, Joseph Wroblewski, Pvt. Edward J. Mindzikiewicz, Cpl. Bernard Yeomans, Pfc. William H. Minner, Jr., and Fred W. Wagner, and Pvts. Walter H. Paige, Jr. and Frank V. Catatch.

### McComb to Hold Dance For Soldiers Tonight

The 11-piece orchestra of the 253d Inf., which played for the formal dance last weekend at Natchez, will be heard again tonight when it plays for a formal dance at the Servicemen's Center in McComb.

Miss Mary Lock, hostess at the Center, has arranged several specialty numbers and the Military Maids of McComb will act as hostesses at the dance.

I've lost an 8x10 full-color photograph of my wife and son, also a musical sewing kit, probably in Centreville or on Centreville bus. Pvt. Robert Abriel, Co. B, 254th Inf.

# Blood and Fire

Official Newspaper of the  
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## EDITORIAL

### PRAISE

For the first time in several months Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, spoke personally to his troops when he addressed them yesterday and today. In his talks the General recounted a number of things which have happened to the 63d since its arrival at Camp Van Dorn.

He recalled his promise then that the rugged training here would instill in every individual soldier a pride and confidence in himself. Today, with the ITP over and UTP in full swing, these things have already become obvious.

The spirit of discipline, proper dress, and organizational pride which has been instilled in the men can be noticed at a glance by others seeing our troops for the first time. This has frequently led to comments and praise from all sides.

There's something in the manner in which a soldier plants his feet solidly on the ground, sticks out his chest and looks at other soldiers and civilians with a grin in his eyes which sets that soldier apart as a member of the 63d. And the soldier who salutes with a spoken greeting is easily identified as a Blood and Fire man.

But General Hibbs promised a new phase in the Division's history—a phase of tough going, of long hours of training in the field under combat conditions. At the end, he promises the Division will emerge as lean, mean, tough, eager and able fighting men fully equal to American fighting men now in action around the globe.

That's an inspiring challenge, but one which will be gladly met by everyone in the Division.

### OUR PX

The Post Exchange is the soldier's department store—offering a wide variety of articles from razor blades to 3.2 beer. Soldiers find most articles for sale at "outside" prices, and some goods featured at prices considerably less than at civilian stores. What most soldiers fail to realize, however, is that each year PX profits are divided among the units purchasing goods at the PX branches. Remember, the PX is OUR store, and all profits return to US. Patronize the PX well, and at the end of the fiscal year there'll be a small mint of money returned to organization funds; let down the PX and you'll not only get a poorer selection of materials, but also that handy refund will be non-existent.

Donald Nelson, War Production Board chief, has decided to give small business a reconversion "break" over big plants by allowing small manufacturers in three regions—possibly more later—to return now to civilian production. Reasons given are that sub-contracts are more difficult to get because of the cut-back in munitions manufacture. limited surplus materials are available in some areas and the small plants may be able to scrape up the manpower they need.



## News from Here and There

### Five New Branches Are Opened by AFI

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The United States Armed Forces Institute has established new branches in five theaters of war to aid in the instruction of students stationed overseas, the War Department has announced.

The new branches are located in the Southwest Pacific, South Pacific, the Middle East and in the European and Alaskan theaters. They offer the same correspondence courses provided in the U. S. A. through Institute headquarters at Madison, Wis.

### Nazi Dogs Silenced By Canadian Canine

NAPLES (CNS)—Canadian troops on the Italian front were having a lot of trouble with German watchdogs, which had been trained to bark furiously the minute they heard or smelled Allied troops. Because of their barking, many patrols had to abandon their missions. Then one Canadian had an idea.

The next night he took a lady dog into no-man's land. There was no barking and in a half hour he returned to his own lines with the lady dog. A pack of enemy dogs brought up the rear, thoughtless of anything but love.

### Ex-Beautician Opens Shop in New Guinea

FORT MORESBY (CNS)—Back home in the town of New York Sgt. Richard Tarsias ran a beauty shop. Here in New Guinea he is doing the same sort of work. Incapacitated for further combat action during the Buna campaign, Sgt. Tarsias opened Port Moresby's first beauty salon at the request of Special Services. His customers are American nurses and Red Cross girls.

### Gen. Chennault Sees Japs Licked from Air

CHINA (CNS)—Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault believes that the Allies can destroy Japan from the air with only one-tenth of the air force now being used to wreak havoc on Nazi Germany.

According to a United Press dispatch, the commander of the U. S. 14th Air Force is convinced that if he can knock out the enemy shipping lanes in the South China Sea and Yangtze river and the railroads in Northern China, Japan's industry and her army will collapse "easily."

### Missing Finger Fails To Keep Him a Civilian

SEATTLE (CNS)—Lawrence Anderson enlisted in the Army the day after Pearl Harbor. He reported for duty the following April and was discharged immediately because of a missing trigger fin-

ger. Drafted last July, he was discharged again—for the same reason. Last week he received his muster-out check and in the same mail a letter from his draft board, reclassifying him in 1A. The finger is still missing.

### Chute Packer Gets Pilot's Liquor Ration

INDIA (CNS)—Home safe at his base after parachuting from his burning plane, a pilot drew his liquor ration, hustled over to the parachute shop and presented the whole bottle to the private who packed his chute.

### Captain with 11 Rocks Captures 11 Germans

ITALY (CNS)—Capt. Anderson Smith peeked into a cave and yelled: "Is anybody there?" "Yah," two Germans replied, walking out. Capt. Smith, unarmed, picked up two rocks. Out came a third German and the captain picked up another rock. He had 11 rocks in his hands when he marched his captives back to camp.

### Filipino Believes Army Will Get Him Home Fast

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS)—"Do you want to go into the Army?" the judge asked Simon Salting, a Filipino arraigned on a draft evasion charge.

"No," replied Salting, "I want to go home."  
He hesitated. "Maybe," he said, "I get home quickest if I join the Army. I guess I do that."  
P. S.—He is in now.

### Nazi Has Hard Time Getting Captured

LONDON (CNS)—A German pilot, the only member of his crew to escape when a bomber crashed near here, walked five miles through the English countryside before he could find anyone to surrender to. He finally persuaded an innkeeper to "capture" him and turn him over to the authorities.

### New Chief Marshals Named for Red Army

MOSCOW (CNS)—The Supreme Soviet has appointed two new chief marshals in the Red Army, it was announced here recently. Alexandrovich Novikoff, named Air Chief Marshal, and Marshal Nikolai Nikolayevich Coronoff, named Artillery Chief Marshal.

### 72 American Aviators Bag 554 Jap Planes

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC (CNS)—Seventy-two American fighter aces have bagged 554 Japanese planes in two years of action in this area, Fifth Air Force headquarters has announced.

# The Sky Pilot Says It

By Chaplain Howard D. Prather  
(255th Inf.)

"Maintain the Spiritual Glow," these four words, as Moffatt translates them from the letter of St. Paul to the Church at Rome, are a great poem. Paul lived, as well as pictured by his words, the possibility of having the spirit of Christ which makes the whole life glow. It is the highest of all fine arts to keep the spiritual glow from dimming. This spiritual glow can be maintained only by contact of the soul with God, who first brought light and warmth and power into life.

The alternative to maintaining the spiritual glow is inevitably a dying fire, a hearthstone of the heart filled with embers. In "Penguin Island," Anatole France describes a freezing globe. In that picture we see in imagination the last forlorn man shivering over a pile of dying embers and disappearance with him of all life and hope. It is a true picture of a freezing world on which the glow of faith has been allowed to die. It is also a true picture of the individual life when the candle of the spirit of God has flickered out.

In this day of war and hardship and suffering and sacrifice it is imperative that we as individuals "maintain the spiritual glow" of our lives. The sustained glow of a living religious experience preserves life from many conditions that would otherwise destroy it. We cannot hope for a new day and a new world to be born out of the present struggle unless we maintain through the present conflict that spark of the spiritual which shall be the first light to shine again in those of us whose task it will be to build the new world of tomorrow.

## G. I. Jingles

### A SOLDIER'S PRAYER

Oh, M1 Rifle, calibre .30,  
Gas operated, air cooled, you mustn't be dirty.  
Please be my friend tomorrow morn,  
'Cause I'll be at the range at the crack of dawn.  
Clip fed, semi-automatic, shoulder type weapon  
I pray to you, sincerely, for the best to happen.

Oh bolt, with firing pin, extractor and ejector  
Please function well on my firing sector.  
Locking lug, operating lug, ejector spring,  
Help me tomorrow, a high score to bring.  
Engage well the rim of the cartridge, extractor,  
And throw out the shell, my trusty ejector.

Hammer hooks from trigger lugs do release.  
When I squeeze, squeeze, squeeze the trigger-please  
Gas port and gas chamber, you're the whole works  
You see that the operating rod backward jerks.

Operating rod catch with accelerator attached  
To the clip release you are cleverly matched  
Follower rod, follower arm, follower and slide,  
Did I fail to mention you, bullet guide?  
I do not ignore you, do not feel hurt,  
You must always, I pray you, be on the alert.

Butt plate and woodstock, if thou wert broke  
What would I do for a vertical butt stroke?  
Except for the sights, the swivels and sling  
I think I've prayed to the whole damn thing—  
So be on the ball, my worthy M1  
And hit the bulls eye—May I expert become.

### SOMETHING TO FIGHT FOR

The loss of life and love and limb  
Seems now so far removed, so dim;  
But yet so close, so very near,  
The very thought of it brings fear.

But what matters it, the loss of one?  
As nothing, when all is said and done!  
The loss of one is not amiss  
In exchange for something great as this,  
This land of our's! For peace and bliss.

The land where love and loved ones live;  
We give it all we have to give!

Then we shall know that it was we  
Who kept it great and strong and free—  
A nation fairer than all the rest,  
That rose to meet the mighty test  
Between tyranny and liberty!

God make it so!

—Pvt. Leslie Wisuri,  
1 Cn. Co., 255th Inf.

### DRINK TO ME

(Parody on Ben Johnson's "To Celia")  
Drink to me only with thy canteen cup  
And I will pledge with mine—  
Grasp it thus firmly by the numbers  
And drink of that GI wine.  
The heat that from the soul doth rise  
Is THIRST—not love's fire burning—  
For this GI from a ten-mile hike  
Is only now returning.

—Pfc. Herbert Arbitblit,  
Hq. Co., 3d Bn., 255th Inf.

# DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

**255th Inf.**—A new note to the traditional "Keep Off the Grass" warning has been sounded by Lt. Roy R. May, Jr., commanding Hq. and Hq. Co. The company area, beautifully covered with grass and shrubbery, doubtless will remain that way, for Lt. May posted this warning on the bulletin board: "Anyone caught walking on the grass will be restricted until another man is caught walking on the grass." . . . Pvts. Peter M. Roth and Olin Champion, both of Hq. Co., 2d Bn., are celebrating additions to their families this week. Each has a new daughter . . . Pfc. Herman Albright, Hq. Co. 2d Bn., was married recently in McComb . . . Lt. George J. Evans, Co. E, has announced the birth of a daughter, Diana Sue . . . "Slip me the grip, brother," Sgt. Peter A. Peysler, Cannon Co., said to Pfc. Marlin Merrill when the two met for the first time. The reason was that both are members of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, Peysler in the Colgate chapter and Merrill at Syracuse . . . Co. G and CT Blue Medics entertained at parties in their company dayrooms this week. Special guests at each party were Wacs and civilian girls.

**863d F. A.**—Horseshoe champs of Serv. Btry. are Cpl. Herb Solomon and Pvt. Elmer Lanum. In a match with the battery champs, Sgt. Chester Coolidge and T/5 Lawrence E. Worline, they rang up four ringers—all this at 2000 one evening, when they really needed those yellow and green vegetables for night sight . . . Five recent promotions in Serv. Btry. were: Pfc. Clarence F. Eggiman to T/5, Pfc. Lester J. Finelli to corporal, T/5s Lloyd H. Moose and Orville H. Beadle to T/4, and Cpl. Parker M. Lee to sergeant . . . Sgt. W. C. Glidewell, Btry. A, is the father of a boy born in Centreville last week.

**Div. Hq. and Hq. Co.**—Pfc. Cortland Kuehnert, Hq. Co., became the father of a daughter, Jean Carol, born at Portland, Ore., the last day of February, Leap Year. Jean weighed eight and one-half pounds . . . T/4 John Pugh, G-3 Sec., former sergeant major of the PTD, earned the right to his first "fojey" Tuesday. He becomes eligible for longevity pay by virtue of a year in the Tennessee National Guard before he entered the Army two years ago . . . Recent promotions in the Ranger Plat. include those of Pfc. James R. Meade, Robert Bartholomew and Frederick Lilienkamp to corporal and Pvts. Peter J. Swayze, John Chockocki, John King, Charles Legate, Edward Hogan and Arthur Christie to Pfc. . . . After firing a machine gun from inside the hotel at the Nazi Village while Division staff officers went through the course, Pfc. George Grescak spent 24 hours recovering from his semi-deafness . . . Cpl. Robert Bartholomew is well on the road to recovery from appendicitis.

**Div. Arty.**—Pvt. S. J. (Cy) Bernhard, Hq. Btry., has left for the School for Special Service, at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., for a four-week course. Bernhard, assistant to the Div. Arty. special services officer, adapted the Army play, "Button Your Lip," to a musical comedy which will be presented in a few weeks.

**63d QM Co.**—Pfc. John Bremer, QM dispatcher, has been promoted to corporal . . . Sgt. Morris Jansson, of 1st. Trk. Plat., drove a staff car for Lt. Gen. Mark Clark, commander of the 5th Army when Gen. Clark was in the United States . . . QM now supervises two gas stations that supply gasoline to Division vehicles: the operators of the stations are T/5 Jack Vairette, Pfc. Cliff Back and Jimmy Rice and Pvt. Ray Ameijde . . . Lt. Raymond G. Larivee, Division Supply Officer, is the father of a baby girl, born in Detroit . . . Sgts. Jack Tener and John Arvary and Pvt. Jerry Benner are building up individual collections of shoulder patches.

**861st F. A.**—Highlights of the week were the following promotions: Pfc. Frank R. Nuendel and Sol Krinberg, both of Hq. Btry., to corporal; Pfc. Alvin Koch and Robert Carney, both of Btry. A, to corporal and T/5, respectively, and the following in Btry. B: Pfc. Edmund Musial and Gerald Smyth to corporal and Pfc. Edgar Dehn to T/5 . . . T/5 Fred Hansen, Serv. Btry., was married while home on furlough . . . T/3 Loren Banks, Med. Det., met his brother, Earl, recently for the first time since they were separated upon the death of their parents 19 years ago. Earl was adopted and taken to Dayton, Ohio, and Loren entered an orphanage at Lincoln, Ill. Recently Sgt. Banks was informed that his brother was discharged from the Army because of wounds received on Guadalcanal in December, 1942, and he arranged to spend a furlough with him.

**254th Inf.**—S/Sgt. Paul C. Farran Pfc. Fred Moffitt, both of Serv. Co., became fathers March 1, Moffitt for the second time. A girl was born to Sgt. Farran's wife in Atlanta, Ga., and a boy to Mrs. Moffitt in Baton Rouge. . . . Recently promoted to Pfc. in Co. A were Pvts. Harold M. Bauer, Frank S. Bobko, Frank A. Cerra, Joseph A. Cordeiro, Jasper L. Fisher, Miles W. Flinger, Dayton L. Franklin, Robert W. Fuller, Joseph S. Gegecki, Russell M. Harper, Vaughn D. Hillard, Norbert A. Jacob, Alfred Lurgi, Alto A. McNary, D. C. Musgrove, Roger B. Reese, Norman A. Rich, Raymond J. Sale, Frederick J. Sanders, Eugene E. Trescott, George F. Warren, Jr., and John W. Wasilewski. . . . Men of Co. E learned a valuable lesson on booby traps and, incidentally, provided considerable amusement for their teachers, Lt. Helmer Dewey and Cpl. Francis Valentine. Everything Co. E touched went off with a bang. Foot lockers "exploded" when they were opened. Screen doors became "deadly." Bed springs went off with a sharp report when the men lay down. Worst of all, the latrine, normally a haven of refuge, became a trap for the nerves, because an explosion came with literally everything the GIs touched in the building. . . . Recent promotions in Co. E include the following corporals to sergeant: William G. J. Boyer, Edwin A. Hicks, Paul R. Jarzynka, Albert A. Crowne, George H. Fodor, John G. Roehn and Thomas F. Gierlock, and Pfc. William M. Elgar to corporal. . . . Lt. James Dollar and Cpl. Kenneth Mancini, Co. G, were married while on their respective leave and furlough. . . . Pfc. Harold F. Smith received the personal congratulations of Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Asst. Div. Commander, for his orientation board, selected as best in the regiment. . . . Recent promotions in Co. G include: S/Sgt. Howard L. Edwards to technical sergeant; Cpls. Robert L. Ross, Daniel D. Dinges and John T. Brandt to sergeant; Pfc. (Continued on Page 7)

# Famous Singer Now in 255th Inf.

(Continued From Page 1)  
Broadway, in 1939, this native New Yorker made his formal debut as a concert singer at Town Hall. His performance was so well received that he was invited shortly afterward to appear at the Palace of Fine Arts in the Mexican capital. He went for a few appearances and stayed a season.

His most satisfying work, Bauman says, was that of helping youthful writers and composers achieve recognition. He entered into this phase of his career shortly after his return to New York from Mexico, associating himself with the New Friends of Music, the League of Composers, the Ballet Theater and similar organizations.

**Introduced New Composer**  
Charles Ives, an American musician practically unknown except to the limited circle of his friends who received his privately-printed songs, achieved merited attention after Bauman sang and introduced his work to the public.

When the U. S. entered the war, Bauman sought channels through which his talents might be directed in the common cause. He didn't have long to wait. The USO in Washington engaged him to organize a program of activities for men on leave in the Capital, much to the servicemen's enjoyment.

Bauman achieved prominence chiefly as a singer. He made albums of songs from Shakespearean plays and the compositions of the late George M. Cohan. CBS radioed a half hour program of his recordings and prior to his induction last year he appeared as soloist with the New York Philharmonic orchestra at a civilian defense pageant produced by Norman Bel Gedder, eminent designer, and Max Reinhardt, the world-renowned theatrical director.

Mordecai entered the Army September 1, and is now attached to the Athletic and Recreation office of CT Blue. He wasn't in the ODS long before he had produced an original show, "Strictly GI." His Christmas party for the 255th was a highlight of the holiday season.

Since then he has staged variety shows, sung at dances, weddings and religious services, appeared as featured vocalist of the recently well-received Gay Nineties Revue, and is currently preparing for a part in the projected United Nations Festival to be presented here shortly.

# Two XXI Corps Chaplains Visit Camp Van Dorn

Lt. Col. Yandell S. Beans and Maj. Thomas J. Conroy, XXI Corps Chaplain and his assistant, visited Camp Van Dorn this week to meet and confer with Division and Camp chaplains. Chaplain Beans came to the XXI Corps from the Tennessee maneuvers, and Father Conroy has recently returned to the United States from Alaska, where he was stationed for 18 months at Dutch Harbor.

Commenting on his experience in Alaska, where the GI Sunday may be any day in the week, Father Conroy said that "Our kids up there are all heroes. There aren't any atheists in the fighting forces there, and none of our men ever showed anything but brave determination to whip the enemy." He added that in his opinion Gen. Weather was a far more important enemy in the Alaskan theater than the Jap.

The United States Department of Labor was created in 1913.



# Division Artillery Unit Wins Award

(Continued From Page 1)  
the displays greatly impressed Gen. Harris.

Commendation for the excellence of their work was conferred upon the orientation officers and assisting enlisted personnel of the other competing units, Co. A, 363d Med. Bn.; Co. A, 63d PTD; Co. G, 254th Inf.; 63d QM Co.; Co. B, 263d Engr. Bn., and Co. L, 254d Inc.

## News and Its Meaning

Some of the items checked in selecting the winner were thoroughness and originality of presentation, utilization of available materials, lighting effects, artistic appeal and timeliness of news. The winner predicated its program upon the news and its meaning, information about our allies and enemies, reasons why we fight, and developing pride in Div. Arty.

A translucent star, electrically illuminated from beneath and featuring the daily news bulletin, was the focal point of the neat compact winning exhibit. The artistic result was achieved by Pvt. Howard Van Dyck. To Pvt. S. J. Bernhard went credit for probing such unique sources of information as the United Nations Information Center, the China News Service and foreign embassies for materials with which to elaborate on the issues of our time. Both men worked under the supervision of Lt. Harry H. Heck.

"The very marked improvement made in these displays since I last visited the company day rooms is most commendable," Gen. Harris declared after completing his inspection. "Much effort has been expended in this work and the results as a whole are gratifying."

"We recently selected 100 soldiers at random, a very representative cross-section of the members of the Division, and questioned them on current topics. The correctness of their answers averaged about 85%, which to my mind emphasizes the growing interest in and understanding of the work which we have undertaken."

## Commended by General

The excellence of some of the other exhibits was noteworthy. T/5 Leonard O'Connor, former NBC news editor in Chicago, was personally commended by Gen. Harris for the originality and clarity of the display which he had created.



**DIVISION ORIENTATION AWARD IS Presented** Pvt. Seymour Bernhard, Hy Btry., Div. Arty., by Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Asst. Div. Commander and head of orientation program. Above is winning display.

Enlargements of maps depicting the present battle lines in unusual detail, and a simulated movie house canopy with the legend, "Theater of War—Now Showing, 'The Fight of Your Life'", were particularly eye-arresting in this offering of the Medics.

The theme, "Know Why We Fight," was carried through expertly and cleverly in the 254th Inf's best exhibit at Co. G, while Co. A, of the PTD presented a very artistic successor to Co. C's previous winner in its unsuccessful attempt to withstand the rising tide of competition.

Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, Div. Arty. Cmdr., and Lt. Col. Joseph H. Warren, CO of the 254th Inf, this week presented certificates of merit to Hq. Btry. and Co. G of their respective commands for having the best orientation displays during the month of February.

Pvt. Seymour J. Bernhard received the award on behalf of Hq. Btry. from Gen. McGaw at a retreat ceremony this week, at which time Lt. Harry H. Beck, orientation officer, and Pvt. Howard Van Dyck, T/5 Richard Bruno and T/5 Anthony Paratore, assisting enlisted personnel, also were commended.

# BERNIE BLOOD



# Birds of a Feather

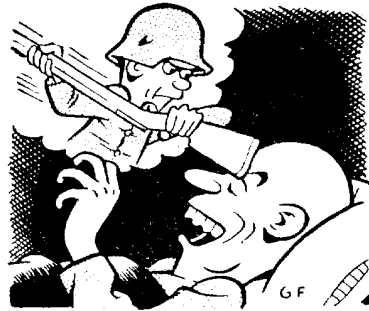
# By GILL FOX



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

Remember last week I told you about that platoon in my outfit that flunked its test ingloriously? Well, that must have been a weighing on my mind, because I had a hell of a dream the other night.

I dreamed that I was the leader of a platoon and we were taking one of those firing tests, only it was in Italy and for keeps, and what a nightmare it was. I would like to forget all about it, but I



have been holding on the details of what happened with the idea that if I gave them to you it might help you to avoid some of the pitfalls or foxholes or sumpin which I fell into.

Here it is and you dope out the mistakes! The scouts moved out of the woods and into the open and ambled across the road and up a long hill. I reckon the platoon felt like it ought to go along. Anyway it followed along at about fifty yards all bunched up with the men chewing the fat to beat hell. I don't know why I was there. I know it was all wrong but for the life of me I couldn't make myself do anything about it. Pretty soon the scouts disappeared over the hill and I heard firing.

The platoon kinda stopped of its own accord and everybody squatted down out in the open. I figured it was about time I issued some orders, so I called to my squad leaders to come over to me, and I said to them: "The enemy's over that hill; so are our scouts. We are going to form a skirmish line along with our scouts and blast the enemy out. Okay boys, move out!"

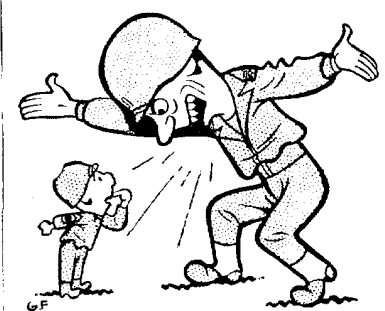
It occurred to me too late that maybe I should have made a little reconnaissance and let the squad leaders take a look, too, and maybe dope out a flanking movement. Anyway, pretty soon we did have a skirmish line on the forward slope and everybody was firing to beat hell; that is, all those who weren't lying still. And then somebody back in the rear obligingly dropped some mortar shells up there on the enemy and all of a sudden I realized that nobody was firing on us any longer from up

front and that we were just wasting ammunition a-shootin'.

So I yelled "Assault!" and everybody stopped firing and ran like hell toward the enemy position. For the first hundred yards everything was o. k. and I was just pinning that DSC on myself, when—Bloey! All hell broke loose from those Heinie foxholes. Ever see wheat cut with a scythe?

Well, that's the way my boys went down—those hit—which was most of them—and those missed, too, and me with them. I don't know how long we stayed there, but finally a lot of shooting and bullets whizzed overhead and when I got nerve to look up I saw a lot of our boys a-charging in on those foxholes from the flank and bullets from the ridge in rear of us were kicking dust up in our faces as they ran. I reckon the Company Commander had used his support platoon.

I will never forget the crazy look on the Company Commander's face as he said to me: "Well, Sergeant Pubar, I suppose you want me to have a critique and point out your



errors to you. Anyway, there's one of them," and he pointed to a dead Corporal alongside of me.

I woke up in cold sweat and thanked the Lord it was a dream. But, mark my words, that very same thing is going to happen to more than one platoon in this Division unless they mend their ways, and it ain't going to be a dream, either. It's going to be a long, long sleep. That's about the most serious tip I've ever put out.

## CT White Holds Dance

The 1st Bn., of the 254th Inf., held a dance Friday night, March 3, at the CT White Rec. Hall. Girls from Baton Rouge and Natchez provided partners for dancing.

The hall was decorated in festive style with a fancy crepe paper centerpiece. Colored streamers looped from the decorative piece to different points in the hall. A buffet supper was served during the course of the evening.

## 253d Band Plays At Natchez Dance

The 253d Inf. orchestra under the direction of Pfc. Ralph Cerasuolo, played for the formal dance Saturday night at the City Auditorium, Natchez, and was heard over station WMIS in a broadcast from the Servicemen's Center Sunday afternoon.

Green shamrocks decorated the balconies of the auditorium in keeping with a St. Patrick's motif. The grand march was led by Miss Edna Parker and Cpl. John P. Evans, Co. M, 255th Inf., and by Miss Ann Roans Robinson and Cpl. Richard Oswald of Co. C, 605th Engrs. Military Maids of Co. C were hostesses at the dance.

Highlighted by several instrumental solos Sunday's broadcast presented several of the leading hit numbers including "Your Perfection," "I Couldn't Sleep a Wink Last Night," "It Happens Everywhere," "Coming Out Party," "Without Your Love," and "Two O'Clock Jump." Sgt. Tom Cortese, trombonist, Pvt. Pete Karlovich, with the tenor saxophone, Pvt. Cliff Ditzel and his trumpet; guitarist, Johnny Abate, Cpl. Charles Rudibaugh, trumpeter, and Pvt. George Gialas, saxophonist, were heard in other selections.

Two tours of historic homes in Natchez were particularly well attended. On one soldiers visited Arlington, Ravenna, Montaign and Melrose and on the other, Stanton Hall, Rosalie and Connelly's Tavern.

## Field Sketches Wanted

Get out those charcoal sticks and soft pencils, boys. As the Division enters field training there are more and more opportunities for artists within the ranks to make sketches of their buddies "in action."

BLOOD AND FIRE welcomes all contributions of art as well as written pieces about men in the Div. Send them to: Editor, BLOOD AND FIRE, Public Relations Office, Div. Arty., Rec. Hall.

## New Mess Wagon Innovation of 863d

The ingenuity of the American soldier was convincingly demonstrated again recently when S/Sgt. Herman Junge, mess sergeant of Btry. A, 863 F. A. Bn., converted the jeep to use as a food wagon.

Motivated by reports from abroad of casualties sustained by troops congregating around field kitchens at chow time, Junge conceived the idea of using the jeep as a delivery wagon. In that way he would preclude the necessity for the troops ganging up at mess.

Accordingly, a rack was constructed with compartments to hold a sufficient number of mermite cans to feed the entire Battery and mounted on a jeep which sped from section to section during a recent bivouac and fed the men.

This method of getting food to the men is expected to have additional advantages. It will be possible to serve hot food to the troops although they may be several miles in advance of the field kitchen. The jeep will be able to get in and out of situations where in a lumbering field kitchen would prove inadequate.

## Gen. Hibbs Tells Division Combat Is Our Destiny

(Continued From Page 1) pride and loyalty have kept pace—that keynote of the soldier's faith which of his own conscience and for his own sake forbids him to let his unit or command down."

Gen. Hibbs recalled that in his last address to the Division he promised that the men would develop this pride and confidence in themselves and their Division. "These things mark you as a combat soldier and, moreover, the elite of these that are to be found in the infantry division."

### Unexcelled Opportunities

"Nothing has been spared to make a combat division of you, and you should take pride in the way you have responded. I know of no other Division that has had the opportunity to train for combat that you have had," he continued.

"You are on the threshold of developing into a great fighting team. You have drilled in small unit operations in a way that no others have approached. You have an accurate picture of the basic and proper use of firepower and movement. Most of you are already largely experienced in the common noise of battle and are able to move with quiet confidence in the presence of, even under the protective fire of, live ammunition—trusting your teammates in the skillful handling of their weapons."

"You have been taught the combat handling of your weapons with practically no pampering artificialities for safety reasons. Of these responsibilities you have acquitted yourselves most creditably.

"Things could have been made easier for you, but you would not have had them so, recognizing the logic in training, living, even eating the combat way. Things are going to be tougher yet—longer hours, increased effort—but you, yourselves, would not choose a softer course, for this way lies perfection of skill and the production of the will to win, and to carry on with zest and enthusiasm in the face of difficulties. This is morale, and when the competition is close, it alone is the thing you win by—by having the edge on the enemy in the matter of determination and guts which keeps you driving yourself until he crumbles."

Gen. Hibbs said there are still things which the individuals in the

Div. must develop. The physical ability of the bayonet fighter has hardly been touched, he said, and yet to be developed is the practiced skill of living continuously for extended periods under combat conditions. "You have yet to develop the long range physical and mental endurance that combat requires," he continued. "The development of this will be tough going for you, but at the end you will emerge the lean, mean, tough, eager and able fighting men that you must be to stand in full equality with your comrades."

The General cautioned men in the Div. to be on guard against becoming sloppy in individual performance while engaged in unit training, which he said will continue from now on. "Especially do I urge you to keep discipline and duty as matters of your own glad pride in being a fine soldier in a fine outfit. Hang onto your practice of saluting with a spoken greeting, your fine reputation for soldierly and gentlemanly behavior in civilian communities and your fine appearance in public. I say, as I have said before: Pick up your feet, stick out your chest, look the world in the eye with a grin, saying 'I am a combat soldier—what do YOU do to be proud of?'"

## Bandsmen Present Show at Hospital

One of the 63d Division dance bands, led by WOJJD Harold E. Polakoff, entertained patients of Station Hospital at the Red Cross Building Tuesday night.

The 14-piece band, one of the best in the Division, presented a variety of selections from jump tunes to the long hair variety. Sgt. John Campbell, former New York concert singer, was heard in two selections, "Serenade," from the Student Prince, and "One Alone," from the "Desert Song." Pfc. Irving Rochlin sang "Serenade in Blue."

Sgt. Arthur Engler, who acted as master of ceremonies, created much amusement by his imitation of Cab Calloway, singing "Minnie the Moocher," and with his "Jav: Jive," done in several dialects.

## DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

(Continued From Page 5)

John P. Vitka to corporal; Pfc. John G. O'Connor to T/5, and the following privates to Pfc.: Clyde McIntyre, Floyd R. Lawrence, Stanley J. Gibas, Walter H. Rageski, Albert J. Bleizeffer, Joseph M. White, Richard V. Moore, Joseph F. Shutay, John R. Connell, Jack I. Burns, Floyd F. Gehr, Woodrow Purser, Peter Bowes, Jr., Charles Brodi, Robert W. Redshaw, Thaddeus P. McGuire, Albert J. Young, Clifford W. Jaques, Kenneth B. Miller, James G. Taylor, George D. Roush, Albert P. Girardi, Walter R. Stretch, Erwin C. Thoele, Thomas J. Lynch, Enrico Montanaro, James D. Corona, Edward W. Zielinski, Harold E. Thiel and Harold F. Smith—Pvts. Roy Jordan, William Goury and Eugene Wilson, Co. K, have been made Pfc.... Capt. William L. Bessinger has succeeded Capt. Emmett H. Creighton as commanding officer of Co. L.... Promotions in Co. L include the following: Gerald M. Byrd, James Paton II, Herschel Lane and Bennett H. Lynch, all to staff sergeant; Thomas R. Cochran to sergeant; Victor L. Guindon to T/5 and Roy E. Lint to Pfc.



Q. Are airmen eligible to receive the Bronze Star?

A. Yes, under certain circumstances. The Bronze Star, newest Army award, is given "for heroic or meritorious achievement, in combat or in support of combat on the ground." It is expected that members of the ground forces will lead eligibility lists although airmen may win it too—but not in the air.

A. My wife receives a Class E allotment-of-pay. Should she include this money as part of her earned income on her income tax returns?

A. According to Brig. Gen. H. N. Gilbert, director of the War Department Office of Dependency Benefits, the answer is No. Army wives and other dependents of Army men and women, with a single exception, need not pay income tax on family allowances or Class E allotments-of-pay. The possible exception, says Gen. Gil-

bert, is the divorced wife who is receiving an allowance or allotment in payment of alimony. She should consult her local Internal Revenue Office for a specific ruling in her case.

Q. I'm a sergeant with three years of service in the National Guard and three more with the AUS. Should I receive longevity pay for six years or three?

A. For six years. Longevity pay is based upon a soldier's total service.

Q. Is a soldier required to salute captured enemy officers?

A. Yes, the Prisoner of War Section of the Provost Marshal General's office says that he is, and the Prisoner of War Convention rules adopted in Geneva in 1929 require that officers who are prisoners of war shall be treated "with the regard due their rank and age."

## Male Call

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



## What You Hear Is A Roamer



# Springtime Lures Soldiers to Historic Homes



HISTORIC NATCHEZ with its stately ante-bellum homes was a mecca for tourists before the war and now soldiers of the 63d Division who crowd its streets on weekends have found it to be most beautiful in springtime. Last Sunday a group of soldiers accompanied by several of the city's pretty girls, visited four of the old homes. Melrose (top left) the home of Mrs. George W. D. Kelly, stands in park-like grounds with sweeping lawns to the front. It is

a product of the late '50s. The gardens of Monteigne (upper right) are most beautiful in springtime. Center photo shows the beautiful front portico and entrance of Monteigne which was built in 1855 for Maj. Gen. William T. Martin of the Confederate Army. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. Kendall, Ravenna, (lower left) is long and low with galleries both front and back. It is the ancestral home of The Richard Metcalfs.



## Profusion of Blooms Greet Men of Division on Tours

(Continued From Page 1)  
Now hundreds of servicemen, chiefly from the Blood and Fire Division, spend each week end in the city, which has taken more steps than any other in the vicinity to entertain soldiers.

Tours of the two-score celebrated ante-bellum homes and other historic points are arranged each Sunday by the Natchez Servicemen's Center. BLOOD AND FIRE'S photographer accompanied one of these tours to four of the old homes last week and obtained the photographs on this page.

Although the city and civic organizations have taken several of the old buildings, those outside the city are for the most part occupied and are opened by their owners to visitors.

Monteigne, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kendall, was built in 1855. It was the home of Maj. Gen. William T. Martin of the Confederate Army. The home, of Swiss chalet design, stands on the original Spanish land patent.

### Arlington Built in 1820

Arlington, patterned after a Roman villa, was built in 1820 for Mrs. Jane White, eldest daughter of a pioneer French settler. Arlington's first mistress died the night it was completed. Much of the material for the mansion's construction was imported from Europe, and the garden was laid out by a British landscape artist. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Barnum.

Ravenna, built in 1836, is located on South Union street, near the heart of the city. The property re-

mains in the hands of the original family and now is owned by Richard I. Metcalf. The roof of Ravenna was lifted by a tornado in 1840. Noted for its beautiful wild grounds and profusion of trees, shrubs, vines and flowers, Ravenna is partially surrounded by thick woods. Through these woods came Confederate soldiers who visited their friends and relatives during the period when the city was occupied by Union troops during the Civil War.

Although Natchez history is most closely associated with the War Between the States, many of its homes and public and private buildings are much older, antedating the Revolution, and Natchez was a well settled village in 1700 and was garrisoned in 1716, two years before New Orleans was founded. It was the gateway to the Southwest and over it have floated the flags of France, Spain, Great Britain and the United States.

### Site of Indian Village

Natchez was built on the site of a village of the Natchez Indians, a race of sun worshipers considered ethnologically superior to most American Indians and akin to the Aztecs. In 1729 the Indians massacred the garrison at Fort Rosalie and in 1729 the French annihilated the Natchez tribe. The tragic events foreshadowed the fall of French rule in the Mississippi Valley.

The city was not in thorough sympathy with the Revolutionary cause, and soon after 1776 it became a haven for Tories and conscientious objectors. In the Civil

War it was shelled by Northern guns and Rosalie, one of its most beautiful homes, became Grant's headquarters during the siege of Vicksburg. Grant earned the good wishes of the city by ordering the beautiful old homes preserved, an order which accounts for the fact that today visitors to Natchez can see more of the historic past than in almost any other American city.

Although now linked to the "outside" world by modern highways, Natchez once was almost inaccessible except from the river. Sailboats and later the famous stern-wheelers plied the Mississippi, carrying cotton, tobacco and passengers from Natchez to the Gulf ports and the rest of the world. The city was the leading cotton port of the interior, and its commercial interest was reflected in a roaring settlement on the river bank known as Natchez-Under-the-Hill. Only one street remains of this community, which an anti-vicere crusade virtually wiped out.

The famous Natchez Trace, an interior highway running to Nashville, started here and travelers of pre-Civil War days rode horseback through the forests, stopping at night at widely-spaced inns. Construction of a modern scenic highway along the route of the Trace was under way when the outbreak of World War II stopped it.

Today Natchez is playing its part in war production, and several war plants are located in and near the city. Beside the occasional sternwheel freighter on the Mississippi the visitor may see motor barges carrying oil for war and Navy landing craft and minesweepers churning the water on their way from inland shipyards to theaters of war.

Transport planes flying fuel to China burn 3 1/2 gallons for every four gallons they carry in.

## CT White Actors Give Bivouac Show

The staff of the Athletic and Recreation office of CT White presented its first outdoor vaudeville show before men of the 120th Gen. Hosp., bivouacking in the field Wednesday night.

The entire presentation was staged on the back of a two and one-half ton truck with the benches removed. The performers found they had ample space in which to work and their voices carried well to the audience seated on the slope of a hill.

Cpl. Leslie Heath, aided by Pvt. Joe Dolin, acted as master of ceremonies. The "Foxhole Fugitives" of the 254th Inf., supplied the music. Dolin and Pvt. Gerry Datanella presented a humorous skit, and then a game of hats was staged in which five members of the audience were enlisted to assist in the performance.

Sgt. Bernie Evans, and Pvt. Al Carchio were heard in a duet and Miss Ellie Shaw, mistress of the marionettes presented her show. A string trio made up of Pvts. Jack Campbell, Glenn Wyatt and Pfc. Harry Dotterer presented several selections after which Dolin returned to do the "Little Nell" ditty which was one of the hits in the recent "Gay Nineties" revue.

### SPECIAL TROOPS DANCE

With girls from Baton Rouge as dancing partners and the soft music of a 63d Division band led by Don Pablo, members of the Division Special Troops held a dance last night at Special Troops Rec. Hall.

## Theater Schedule

THEATERS NO. 1 AND 2  
Starting Times—No. 1, 1845;  
No. 2, 1810

- March 11 "The Lady and the Monster," with Richard Arlen, Eric Von Stroheim and Vera Hruba Ralston.
- 12-13 "Lady in the Dark," with Ginger Rogers and Ray Milland.
- 14 "Trocadero," with Rosemary Lane, Johnny Downs, Bob Chester and orchestra.
- 15-16 "Passage to Marseille," with Humphrey Bogart, Michele Morgan and Claude Rains.
- 17 "Action in Arabia," with George Sanders and Virginia Bruce.

THEATER NO. 5  
Starting Time—1810

- March 12 "Chip Off the Old Block," with Donald O'Connor and Peggy Ryan.
- 13 "The Lady and the Monster," with Richard Arlen, Eric Von Stroheim and Vera Hruba Ralston.
- 14-15 "Lady in the Dark," with Ginger Rogers and Ray Milland.
- 16 "Trocadero," with Rosemary Lane, Johnny Downs and Bob Chester and his orchestra.
- 17-18 "Passage to Marseille," with Humphrey Bogart, Michele Morgan and Claude Rains.

### Answers to Puzzle on Page 2.

R	E	S	T	R	A	P	P	T	U	N	A
O	M	A	R	E	R	A	T	A	N	E	W
B	I	V	O	U	A	C	S	R	E	N	O
B	R	E	W	E	D	G	I	G	N	A	L
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R	E	F	E	R	E	E	S	E	G	G	G
		A	X	E	R	A	I	N			
M	E	N	I	A	L	L	A	R	I	A	T
A	M	T	S	A	M	I	C	A	B	L	E
G	I	R	T	K	E	N	P	A	S	S	
S	T	Y	S	E	N	D	T	R	O	T	