

Blood and Fire



CAMP
EDITION

VOL. 1. NO. 24

63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

November 27, 1943



HOME-MADE "Punkin Pie" was made yesterday for boys of Co. F, 253d Inf. by a mess sergeant who's a mother herself. Photo shows Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, division commander; Col. Paul W. Mapes, commanding 253d Inf.; Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, Arty. commander, and Mrs. Della Curran, who came down from her bakery shop in Bennington, Vt., to bake 70 pies and 50 dozen rolls for the boys. Her husband, T/5 Peter G. Curran, is the company's regular baker.

Ferriday Citizens Fete Men of 254th At Dinner, Dance

Real Southern hospitality came to the 63d Division last week-end when the 254th Infantry was "adopted" by the town of Ferriday, La. Every company in the regiment was represented in the large convoy which went to Ferriday High school Saturday night in answer to an invitation to a dance sponsored by Ferriday Military Maids. As the doughboys filed into the decorated auditorium they found an old-fashioned Southern turkey dinner spread for them with "all the fixin's."

There were 100 beautiful girls, tastefully dressed in old crinolines and hoop skirts, and following the dinner the men repaired to the school gymnasium where the six-piece dance orchestra of the regiment played for the evening.

Not only the girls were present, but also their fathers, mothers, brothers and cousins, for it was the first time that Ferriday, or any other town in this vicinity, had invited a regiment to participate in such a party.

Following the evening's festivities the men were conveyed to the Army Recreation center, Natchez, where they passed the night. They remained in Natchez for breakfast.

Miss Jennie McLin, head of the Military Maids of Natchez, of which the Ferriday company is an affiliate. Mrs. Mary Harrison, sponsor of Ferriday's troop, and Miss Bess Pierce, their captain, were in charge of social arrangements. Lt. Lawson Kately, special service officer of the regiment, was in charge of arrangements for the doughboys.

The regimental orchestra included Pvt. James Decembrino, Glenn Wyatt, D. De Vincentis, Jack Campbell, Frank Marach, and Edward Bland. During intermission Don Pablo entertained at the piano, and the Misses Jean Horn and Marilyn Pasternack sang for the group.

Hill Billy Outfit Will Entertain 63d

Coming to Division Rec Halls, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, will be Chester Standford's Kentucky Mountaineers. The Mountaineers will provide plenty of hill billy music together with comedy acts. Last week the Nat Rodgers show, "Stepping High," played at the Rec Halls. The Rogerettes, pretty chorines, the Aerial Lazelles, Jack Murrel, comedian, and other acts enlivened the presentation.

Some Stuffin'

Men who've passed the neighborhood of Battery C, 861st F. A. Bn. have doubtless heard the strumming of ukulele artist Bill Zaccagni, who plunks out a mean tune whenever he gets his hands on his baby git fiddle.

Those who know Bill say that he has a wicked scar on one of his strumming fingers, and here's the story behind it:

Bill was a taxidermist in civilian life, and skinned squirrels and such. One day a muscular reflex on a squirrel he was stuffing caused the dead animal to clamp its teeth firmly on Bill's finger, nearly severing it from its owner. To this day, Bill bears the scar of his encounter with the ghost of a squirrel.

USO Show Features Comedy Team

"Town Topics" is the name of a USO show which will be presented before members of the Blood and Fire Division at Theaters 1, 3 and 4, respectively, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night, Dec. 6, 7 and 8, starting in each instance at 9:30. Only one performance will be given nightly.

The show will feature Joe and Jane McKenna, comedy and acrobatic team which formerly was heard over NBC. Peggy Marlowe, a dancer at the Hurricane Club in New York City, and who was with Ted Lewis' orchestra at one time, will also headline the bill.

Other performers will be the Duvals who present a clever juggling act; Stephen Dale, a singer of ability and Godfrey Muth, pianist and music conductor.

Another USO show, "Just for the Ride," concluded a run at Camp theaters last Saturday, Nov. 20.

Division Presents Show at Natchez

"Hy'a Chum," a tuneful revue presented by Division Special Service with the assistance of members of the Military Maids of Natchez, was presented Friday night at the Natchez auditorium before a large crowd of citizens of the community.

The 40-man Division Artillery chorus which made its debut in a concert last week, the 253d Inf. Orchestra, Jackie Parris, skat singer, and members of the cast of recent radio shows, combined with Military Maids to present a colorful musical presentation.

There's a War--AN EDITORIAL

There's a war going on— Sounds silly to say that—to remind anyone of an everyday fact brought to his attention by newspapers, radios and the constant rigors of the mobilization training program.

Yes! it sounds silly, but many of us either forget or just don't realize that Uncle Sam, his nephews and nieces overseas, and you and I are all in the same war. Overseas our men are fighting that war. Over here we're preparing to fight it. Our main preparation—the part most essential to forging a great combat division—is the training of the individual soldier. Each and every man must know his part to perfection. There must be no time lost, no item left out of the repertoire of tricks with which he'll play the game of war. The only chance for the soldier to complete that education is during basic training. If he misses an essential point then, he'll probably never pick it up.

THERE MUST BE NO TIME LOST from basic training and for that reason the War Department, the Third Army and 63d Infantry Division have rescheduled training originally planned for 25 December 1943 and 1 January 1944. The holidays, falling on TRAINING TIME, made it necessary, if Christmas and New Year's Days were to be holidays, to make up that "lost" training on other days.

Thanksgiving Day has just gone by—and you had to work—you had to follow that M. T. P. Perhaps you've read in newspapers or magazines or in a letter from home that Joe and Tom and Frank were going to be home for the holidays. That might be—but those men are not smack in the process of assimilating the education of an M. T. P. They're either men who've completed their M. T. P. or non-combatants not destined to walk in the paths of the Combat Soldier.

Interpretation of Section VI, Circular 215, War Department, dated 16 September 1943 as pertains to this division is as follows:

1. During the period 11 December 1943 to 11 January 1944, not to exceed 20 per cent of enlisted men of units of this division will be granted passes at any given time.

2. Passes granted at Christmas will be effective on completion of duty 24 December and will terminate on 26 December.

3. Passes granted at New Year's will be effective on completion of duty 31 December and will terminate on 2 January 1944.

4. Class "A" passes will not be honored during the period 11 December 1943 to 11 January 1944. Soldiers will be furnished a written pass definitely stating destination, time of commencement, and time of termination of pass privilege. Not to exceed 3 per cent of men granted passes will be permitted to go to points (New Orleans and Vicksburg, for example) beyond the usual visiting radius. Normal radius is bounded by Baton Rouge, McComb, Natchez, all inclusive.

The transportation systems of the country are already overtaxed by passenger traffic and delivery of essential war goods. It is little wonder then that the stringent War Department order has curtailed passes and limited travel. Railways, buses and trucking companies are doing a Herculean job that only America is capable of. Give them credit and help them by not making unnecessary demands. Your chance to travel home is in the offing. When it arrives, furloughs will be handled on a percentage basis,

(Continued on Page 4.)

200 Men to Woman Says GI Back from Iceland

After 14 months of detached service with the Iceland Base Command, where there are 200 men to every woman and the favorite snack is "Horseburger," Cpl. Donald P. Rhodes, Co. M, 253rd Inf., considers Camp Van Dorn a verdant haven.

"It's paradise," he eulogized as he picked out a bunk strategically close to the first platoon stove.

"Despite the parkas and mukluks we wore, I'm not yet completely thawed," he explained.

In Gen. Lear's Command

Cpl. Rhodes, a husky farmer from Barron, Wis., enlisted April 7, 1941. After basic training in Co. M, 2nd Inf., Ft. Custer, Mich., he was assigned to Gen. Ben Lear's Second Army and survived four months maneuvers in Louisiana and Tennessee. After a short stay at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., he left this country for Iceland April 8, 1942.

(Continued on Page 3.)



CPL. DONALD P. RHODES

THANKSGIVING DAY OF WORK; NIGHT OF FUN

More Than 1,000 Guests
Visit Camp and Participate in Turkey Day Festivities

Yesterday was a day of work for officers and men of the Blood and Fire 63d; firing went on all day on the ranges, doughboys dug foxholes, wagon soldiers trekked out with their field pieces, and Ordnancemen busied themselves with greasing and washing vehicles and general maintenance work. But at 1630 the soldiers put away their tools of combat and after a quick sponging off and a switch into A uniforms, they emerged in full splendor for turkey with all the stuffin's and a gala Thanksgiving night celebration that was held throughout the entire camp.

Last night's atmosphere was definitely different from the business-like war training that is usually the order of the day at this post. Throughout the day details had slipped off to rec halls, mess halls and dayrooms with rolls of colored festoons, cornstalks, and even mistletoe, and when the men streamed into their mess halls for the turkey dinner—held through the Division as an evening meal so as not to interfere with the training program—they found that almost every mess hall in the Division had been transformed so that it bore a regular nightclub atmosphere.

Gaily Bedecked Hall
At the 563d Signal Co., for example, T/4 John A. Contos, mess sergeant, administered to his sizzling birds while men of the company strung up garlands of pine boughs and mistletoe, and made lamp shades and wall decorations from dried corn husks and cornstalks.

The standard menu throughout the Division was as follows:
Fruit Cup
Roast Turkey with Dressing and Gravy
Cranberry Sauce
Mashed Potatoes Buttered Peas
Corn Tomatoes and Lettuce
Crisp Celery Assorted Pickles
Hot Rolls-Bread Butter
Pumpkin Pie
Apples Grapes Candles Nuts
Coffee
(Continued on Page 7.)

Bandsmen Hold Wedding Duet At McComb

McComb residents weren't seeing double last week when they saw a pair of 63d Division doughboys and their brides leave first one church and then another. It was straight stuff, and both times the exits from the churches represented another less Benedict in the division.

Pfc. Charles Jones and Pvt. Mike Bryan, both of the Division Band, had been thinking over marriage for a long time, and finally hit upon the novel dual wedding. They brought the Misses Bess Sutherland of Tulsa, Okla., and Virginia Hiller of New York, to McComb and made all arrangements.

First the couple went to the McComb Baptist church, where Charlie and Bess were hitched; Mike and Virginia acted as best man and maid of honor. Then the foursome traipsed over to the McComb Methodist church, where Mike and Virginia were spliced, with Charlie acting as best man and Bess as matron of honor.

After a five-day wedding trip both bandsmen have returned to the ranks; their wives are setting up house in McComb.



FAMILY AFFAIR was Thanksgiving dinner for the Blood and Fire boys, their wives and children. Photo above, taken at 563d Signal Co. is typical of scene at all Division messes last night when the Turkey and all the trimmin's was passed out. Left to right are: Capt. Gus Stewart, Mrs. Beuldine Rickard, John Harold Rickard, Jr., (just helping himself to a heaping spoonful of one of the swellest GI meals he'll ever see), Lt. Harold Rickard, Sr., Lt. L. A. Patrick, Mrs. Patrick, Lt. John A. Beauvais and Lt. A. Anderson. All officers and enlisted men and guests ate in the same mess hall at Signal Co., and enjoyed free smokes and other "extras" in addition to the standard Thanksgiving menu. Mess officer of the company is Lt. Howard A. Jackson. At left, Gen. Hibbs peeps into oven to check up on turkey "off the bone" at one Division mess hall,

Utility Musician in 253d Once Taught in School

There've been "utility men" hanging around baseball clubs for years. They're fellows who can always be relied upon to fill in at any given time for any position. Now we've found down in Co. C, 253rd Inf. a "utility musician." He's Pvt. James Pearce, Bloomsburg, Pa., who can at a moment's notice, drum up a merry bit of percussion, chatter with a clarinet, blow a big bass horn, or swing it with a sax.

Jim is a Welshman by birth, coming from that famous mining town of Nanty Glow. When he was 10 his father brought him to the USA and to the hills of Pennsylvania, which are no slouches either when it comes to mines. While he was in his early teens Jim decided on a musical career for himself, and struggling against almost unsurmountable difficulties, he soon found himself teaching others.

Supervised Music Program

Upon his graduation in 1940 from the Susquehanna University School of Music, he inaugurated and supervised a music program for the Coaldale High school, tending the music educational needs of 1,500 children in the five consolidated schools of Pennsylvania's Columbia county.

Every day, five days a week, he supervised the vocal lesson plans for 300 children, teaching them instrumental theory and practice. Music had never played a part in the daily curriculum in these schools and Jim organized mixed choruses and orchestras. He himself had played in the Kulpmont

High school's first band not many years ago.

The supervision of music for all five schools became a war casualty after two happy and fruitful years



PVT. JAMES PEARCE

when gas and tires got short, and it was impossible to make the rounds afoot. He resigned most of the work, and retained only the position at Coaldale.

Under his direction a 48-piece concert and marching band was organized at Coaldale High school. The band earned sufficient money to purchase colorful uniforms for all its members; but the only uniform that Pearce is wearing nowadays is a khaki one.

Tip For Men: Take Up Radio As Future Job

Here's a tip to men of the division who are handy with things mechanical: Electronics, with its unlimited potentials, is the industry of the future.

Tipster to the division is Capt. Ralph R. Perlman, commanding Headquarters Battery, 861st F. A. Bn., who gets his information straight from the feedbag, for he was a radio writer before his entry into the army.

Though he taught English history for two and a half years after receiving his Master's degree from Columbia university, Capt. Perlman left the classroom for the opportunities provided by the radio field. He has written advertising for a number of important nationally-known productions, including Crime Doctor, Johnny Presents, What's My Name, The Green Hornet and the Lone Ranger. He is also author of a number of commercial slogans, including "It's Time to Shine," used by a large shoe-polish concern, and "Be Happy, Go Lucky," used by the American Tobacco company.

While continuing his writing career, he also was able to study in his spare time, and in 1941 when he entered the armed forces he had almost attained his Doctor of Philosophy degree. Commissioned a second lieutenant in August, 1942, he was made first lieutenant last February, and a captain last month.

A series of radio broadcasts designed by the Ninety-Eighth division to aid in the orientation of troops used programs he wrote dealing with the Polish campaign and the fall of Norway. These brought him praise from Division Comm. Maj. Gen. Ransom, and from Army public relations officers in Washington.

While at Camp Breckinridge, Ky., Perlman introduced a method of lesson planning for military training which he had developed as a teacher. The method proved of great value in training new instructors as well as inexperienced cannoneers and were adopted by the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla.

Capt. Perlman is serving the 861st in a dual capacity, acting as staff communication officer as well as battery commander. In the few moments he has to call his own, he may be found pecking away at a play he is writing, playing the sax or listening to new material for his collection of witty tales.

Division Soldiers Give Show at Gloster H. S.

Soldiers of the Blood and Fire Division presented a variety show at the Gloster High School last Tuesday night. The Hep Cat Band played during the show and Jackie Parris and Arnold Spector sang. Pvt. Jack Ballin, performed on the harmonica and Pvt. Joseph Pollock entertained with imitations.

Sgt. Jack Bracken of Division Special Service was master of ceremonies.

Sgt. Who Fought at Guadal Hopes Div. Will Hit Nazis

There's one wagon soldier in the 63d who hasn't seen the movie "Guadalcanal Diary" which played here this week, and who hasn't even read John Hersey's best seller. He's Sgt. Russell M. Fink, Battery C, 718th Field Artillery Battalion, and the reason he isn't going out of his way to read up on the exploits of the American doughboys and Marines at Guadal is—that he had enough of it in the seven weeks he was there.

The Sarge, a soldier of medium height, with just the shadow of a moustache dancing over his upper lip, says he was one of the Army mop-up men who moved into the island to clean up the remnants of the shattered Jap forces. Military security prevents mentions of the outfit he fought with there.

Didn't Know Destination

"I'd been out in the Southwest Pacific for about ten months, when we headed out from the Fiji islands for Guadal. We didn't know where we were going, but we'd heard of the New Guinea and Guadalcanal campaign, and we figured we were heading somewhere into it.

"The boat trip was only four days, and we were packed in like commuters on a Dayton bus. The weather was hot and sticky, and there wasn't much to do. I guess we grabbed every wink of sleep we could on the way up, for we knew

that once we landed there wouldn't be much of that going on.

"Mess lines ran almost steady from morning to night, and there were occasional groups playing games. But for the most part we just sat and talked and laid down and slept.

Beautiful From Distance

"First sight of Guadal was wonderful. It's really a beautiful spot, but after we once got ashore we got over that. Our ship arrived about 0800 and we piled off to shore on TLC's and assault boats. About an hour later the Jap morning patrol flew over pretty high. First thing we knew our fighter planes zoomed up and chased them back home.

"We'd been on the island for two days when a bunch of night bombers came over us and our anti-aircraft really had a time. In that one fight they shot down four of the big Jap planes, and when the ack-ack boys got tired our own night fighters chased the Japs away again.

"All over the island we could see the wreckage of Jap planes and equipment, and among the gnarled old trees and tangled vines you could pick out little mounds with simple wooden crosses which marked the American advance. Many of our boys are lying in the cemeteries we've established on the island, but a lot of the graves (Continued on Page 3.)



READY ON THE FIRING LINE is a familiar cry to the Division's doughboys by now. This picture shows Sgt. John Phillips, Div. Hq. Co., coaching one of Div. Hq.'s men in sitting position with carbine.



QUEEN OF 363d Medics chosen at last night's Thanksgiving dance was pretty blonde Jean Little, a neighbor of ours from Batou Rouge.

Not Many Women Up Iceland Way Says Div. Sgt.

(Continued From Page 1)
The second day out he was named corporal.

The deadly monotony of life on the bleak isle was broken only by sporadic visits by enemy reconnaissance airplanes.

"Usually they came in very high, two black specks against the Northern Lights, intending to photograph our installations. They came at noon when the brilliant Arctic sun's reflection on the snow almost blinded our A. A. batteries," he explained.

Brought Down Nazis

"But when we were issued green sun-goggles we brought down several German planes and captured many pilots. The enemy airmen were hospitalized and then sent to British or American prison camps," he added.

Cpl. Rhodes, who was Acting Transportation Sergeant charged with the loading and dispatching of 23 trucks, has several times fought off enemy planes with a .30 Cal. M. G., with which he is an expert gunner.

"Just routine," he shrugged. "I couldn't think of anything except to get them before they got me."

Whisky \$30 Bottle

Excepting the Red Cross theater, there's little entertainment for the boys in Iceland. Even G. I. beer is scarce, and whisky is \$30 a bottle. One soldier sold a dollar watch for \$25.

"The women are outnumbered 200 to 1 and when first landed we were unimpressed with their charms. Six months later, however, they seemed much more enticing.

Russian Ponies

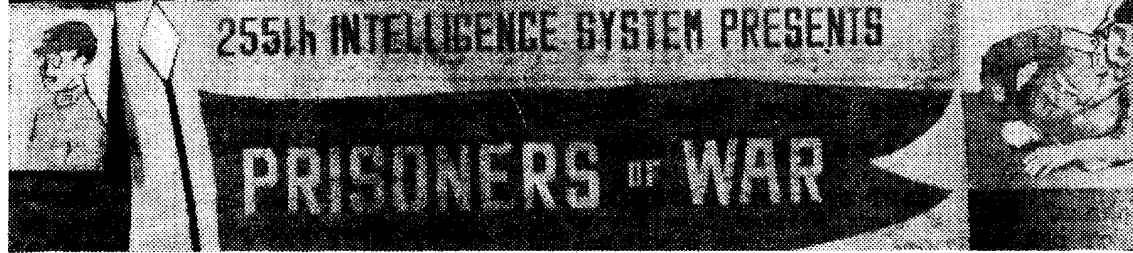
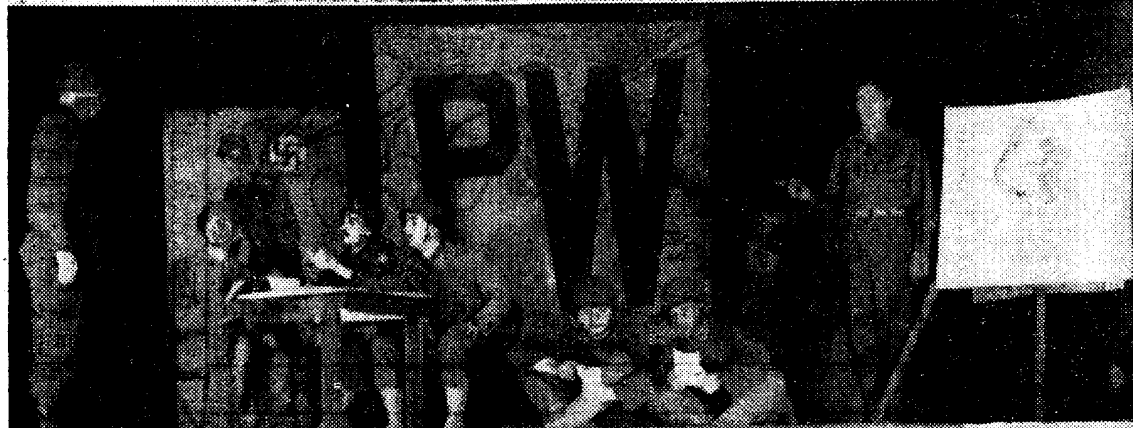
Long haired ponies, the only ones that can stand the climate, have been imported from Russia, and roam in great herds, as do our cattle. Used as a substitute for beef, they are the only change from dehydrated eggs and potatoes that a G. I. can enjoy outside camp. "Horseburgers" with pickle or onion, is the most popular after-theater snack in the I. B. C. Many soldiers have tried to ride the critters but finally gave up when several of the men were bitten by the vicious little animals. Eight hundred lbs. of pure vitriol, they refuse to work with another pony.

"American cigarettes are only 50c a carton and they have helped to promote our friendship with the British "Tommys" who give us ale in exchange," he added.

According to Cpl. Rhodes, the 40-hour week is unheard of in Iceland and "We worked every day, including Sunday, and we built our own huts and carved out our own roads," he added.

Allergic to Chemical

Cpl. Rhodes was returned to the



UBERGEBEN!—which in English means sur-render, is what Intelligence men of 255th Inf. are ordering captured "Nazi" prisoners in demonstration this week which highlighted regimental intelligence program. Left to right are Pvts. Robert Bockis, John Bibb, Harry McDaniel, Corp. Gary Bahrlich, Pvt. Jennings Hamon and Pvt. Henry Boschert. In lower photo, the captured "Nazi" portrayed by Boschert, is interrogated by an intelligence team comprising (left to right): Pvt. Irving Weschler, Lts. Anton Vaitonis and Dana Whipple, Pvts. William Turanski and Isadore Gordon, Capt. Wilbur Davidson, Regimental Intelligence Officer, who acted as narrator.

DANCE AT GLOSTER

The Servicemen's Center at Gloster will be the scene of a dance Saturday night, Nov. 27 from 2030 to 2330. Open house will be held at the Center Sunday afternoon and evening. All men of the Blood and Fire Division are invited to attend.

U. S. because of a peculiar allergy to the chemical composition of the gas mask, which the TBC wears a half hour a day.

After a few days at Halloran General hospital, Staten Island, N. Y., he went to Billings General hospital, Indiana. He reported to Camp Van Dorn November 23d, after a convalescence on his farm in Wisconsin.

The farm is being ably tended by his mother and eight sisters. Cpl. Rhodes' father, Walter, having died shortly after his son's enlistment.

Sgt. Who Fought in Guadal Hopes Div. Will Hit Nazis

(Continued From Page 2)
could at that time be found throughout the woods marking the day-by-day progress of the battle.

Torrential Rains
"It rained most of the time—about 75 per cent of the time, and when it wasn't raining the sun shone down with a vengeance which almost steam-baked the men in the damp jungle growth. The mud was measured in feet, not inches, and with the exception of a few Anzac pilots who were helping out the air forces, the American fighters were the only white men on the whole island. The few natives who'd managed to escape from the Japs had been moved into the interior for safety, but we did

come across them every once in awhile."

Sgt. Fink was returned to the United States to attend the Officer Candidate School, Ft. Sill, last June, but was knocked out of the course by a tough case of malaria which he'd picked up at Guadal. He asked to be voluntarily relieved from the course and reassigned to a combat unit when he recovered. He joined the 718th last month.

"My next fighting? That's up to the officers who ship us, but I've had a belly-full of swamps, and Japs, and mud. I'd like to be heading across the Atlantic this time—for a good crack at the Nazis."

63d Sergeant Killed 24-Foot Trinidad Snake

Reader, if you're afraid of snakes and wriggle in your GI shorts and your hair stands on end when you read about 'em, why just stop reading now. This is a report about a snake that was a snake.

Sgt. Harry M. Orr, Hq. Sect. Med. Det., 254th Inf., is newly arrived from Trinidad, B. W. I., where he has been soldiering for the last two years. This week he told men of the detachment here who were complaining about the poisonous snakes found hereabouts, of some of the reptiles he encountered in Trinidad.

"We were out in the jungle on patrol one day," the sergeant said, "when we saw ahead of us a giant python, 24 feet long. We stalked him from the rear, and, at a given signal of our squad leader, the entire patrol jumped the snake, all of us grabbing the long body with our bare hands.

"The boa is not a poisonous snake, but it's strong, and it kills its prey by constricting its body muscles, thereby getting its name as a constrictor. This one which we tackled was a tough one, and big enough to swallow a hog whole."

Latest War Books At Camp Libraries

In keeping with the orientation program instituted in the division and in military units throughout the nation, the Camp Croft libraries have set up special Orientation Sections with current reading material, both pamphlets and books, to meet this demand. Table displays provide easy access to prominent books on various subjects included in the program.

Among the outstanding books available are:

"The Battle Is the Payoff" by Ralph Ingersoll. This book deals with fighting in the African campaign. A soldier writes his reactions and argues for tougher training as best assurance for survival. "The Axis Grand Strategy," Ladislav Farago, reveals startling information on the military and political plans of the Axis.

Concise, challenging answers to vital questions concerning the war, and our active participation, are contained in "America Organizes to Win the War," a handbook on the American war effort.

One of the most popular books of the current season is "Into the Valley," by John Hersey. This is brilliant reporting of a battle in Guadalcanal. It reveals the feelings of soldiers engaged in the fighting.



From the
63d INFANTRY DIVISION

Here It Is! 63d Division's Official Xmas Card

This year the 63d Division will have an official Christmas card, sponsored by BLOOD AND FIRE. On the left is the cover design of the single-fold card, and on the right is the appropriate inside design. The card will be printed on heavy card paper in four colors.

Order your cards through your first sergeant, who will compile your company or battery orders.

Infantry Regiments, Field Artillery Battalions and separate battalions will send consolidated reports to Lt. David H. Duffy, Division Public Relations Officer, by 1200 Wednesday. Phone ext. 2532.

Cards will be delivered at least 10 days before Christmas.

2 for 5c



Blood and Fire

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EDITORIAL

(Continued From Page 1)

spread over a period of time, to lessen the burden on transportation.

FURLOUGHS—those wonderful and seemingly elusive bouquets handed to deserting soldiers—will be granted to men of the 63d, but only after completion of the M. T. P.

Some of us remember the Thanksgiving Day in 1941. We weren't at war then. We were on maneuvers in the Carolinas. Did we celebrate Thanksgiving? You bet we did. We celebrated it on a Sunday, turkey and all. We thought it rather silly at the time but those highly trained, well disciplined divisions maneuvered without a let-up until Sunday. Most of those divisions, engaged then in a grand-scale maneuver battle, have since made great names for themselves in Africa, Sicily, Italy, on Guadalcanal, New Guinea and in the Aleutians.

On every battlefield and outpost and in every camp where United States forces are engaged or stationed—Thanksgiving dinner was served. We here were able to sit at a mess hall table and enjoy ours. In many parts of the world our soldiers had their turkey brought to them in marmite cans—cans that kept the turkey warm on the trek from field kitchens up to the front lines. They didn't eat by daylight or the warm glow of electric bulbs—they ate in the dark at anywhere from 10 P. M. to 3 A. M. That is, they did if the supply trains weren't blown off the map, the kitchens survived and the food carriers weren't picked off on their way up to the front.

The chance for success in all these ventures depends greatly on how well those men at the front have learned their lessons—how well they assimilated their basic training. Every move they make, every action they take is predicated on the education they as individuals gained during their M. T. P.

The American soldier of today is better trained, better equipped and better cared for than any other fighting man in the World. But individually he has his problems. We here must consider our problems only insofar as they do not concern the grand plan for victory. There will be no real Thanksgiving, no Christmas, no New Year, until victory is achieved.

Our buddies at the fighting fronts can't take time out for a holiday and we here are preparing for the day when we too will be an integral part of the battle line-up.

Remember, when you get restless for a visit with the folks at home:

THERE'S A WAR GOING ON.

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Last Saturday night many men of the 254th Infantry were "adopted" by the town of Ferriday, La., in one of the finest demonstrations of Old Fashioned Southern Hospitality that we've ever heard of. To Mrs. Mary Harrison, sponsor of Ferriday's Military Maids, and her captain, Bess Pierce, and to the ever-friendly Jennie McLin, director of the Natchez Military Maids, with whom the Ferriday girls are affiliated, we give a hearty salute.

They must know how lonesome doughboys get here at Van Dorn, and they know the best way to set us back on our feet. We only wish there were more folks like them—all over the world.



News from Here and There

Three Graves Point Way To Errors in Training

CAMP STEWART, GA. (CNS)—One unit stationed here has a novel and rather grim way of impressing its personnel with the need for thorough and serious training. In the unit area there are three realistic graves.

"This man knew too much," says a marker over the first one.

"This man knew too little," says a second.

"This man was lazy," the third reads.

'White' Was Black When This Sentry Challenged

TENNESSEE (CNS)—A sentry guarding a bridge for a unit of the Second Army on maneuvers here was told to cry "White" if anyone approached. If the party didn't give the proper countersign, "Smoke," he was an enemy.

At midnight a figure approached. "White!" cried the sentry.

"No suh," came a voice from the darkness, "Ise cullud."

Swooncrooner Sinatra Soon to Be in Service

JERSEY CITY, N. J. (CNS)—Frank Sinatra, the swooncrooner who excites very young maidens has been classified 1A. The draft board probably won't send greetings till about January 15. Incidentally, the swooncrooner is expecting his second child.

Jackie Cooper Enters V-12 at Notre Dame

SOUTH BEND, IND. (CNS)—Jackie Cooper, former child actor, has enrolled as an apprentice seaman in the Navy V-12 school at Notre Dame.

Razor Blades in Trees Help Snag Climbing Japs

GUADALCANAL (CNS)—Marines stick old razor blades in trees for Japs to cut their hands and feet on when they shin up to snipe.

Escaped Nazi Prisoners Return After Blizzard

WINNIPEG, CANADA (CNS)—Nineteen Germans escaped from a war prison camp here last week, spent the night in a blizzard and returned the next day, happy to be "home" again.

Saint Becomes General In Argentinian Army

BUENOS AIRES (CNS)—The Virgin of Mercedes, patron saint of Argentine land forces, has been made an honorary general of the nation's Army.

Shampoo Clears Soldier Charged With Murder

PINEVILLE, KY. (CNS)—Pvt. Paris Kelley's brown hair proved in court that he was not a murderer. Arrested as the blonde haired killer of Jack Campbell in a Middlesboro bar, Kelly won a directed verdict of acquittal after Judge J. S. Forester ordered him shampooed to determine, if his hair had been dyed. Vigorous scrubbing left his hair still brown.

Army Generals Average 51 Years of Age

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The average age of the 1,114 generals in the U. S. Army is 51 years, which is one month younger than the average age of the generals on active duty when World War I ended.

125,000 Sick, Wounded Flown to U. S. Hospitals

A recent report received in this country states that in 20 months of war 125,000 fighting men, sick, and wounded have been flown from combat areas to hospitals here in the United States.

Another report from the Army Air Force Surgeon's office says that the 12th Air Force alone flew 25,000 wounded from Africa and Sicily without a single accident, and with only one death en route.

New Shoulder Patches For Overseas Soldiers

Army personnel at European theater headquarters are wearing a new victory shoulder patch, it was disclosed recently. The oval-shaped patch has a dark blue background on which appear two red lightning bolts fringed in yellow forming a "V," symbolizing victory as well as the union of Allied ground and air forces.

Masons Hold Meeting Sunday Night at 1900

Members of the Masonic club of Camp Van Dorn will meet Sunday night, Nov. 29, at Building T-8413 (Court Martial Building), which is located between Five Points and the Billeting Office, at 1900.

The Masons held their second meeting, since organizing, last Sunday afternoon at the same building. Pvt. John Witmer, president of the club, presided.

It was decided at Sunday's meeting to hold regular gatherings on the second Thursday and fourth Sunday of every month at 1800. Any serviceman in Van Dorn who has not completed all of his degrees may contact any of the organization's officials or call at any of the regular meetings in order to obtain particulars on how they may complete their degrees.

The Sky Pilot Says It

BY CHAPLAIN NORMAN R. OLSEN
Special Troops
63d Infantry Division

IN HIS LIKENESS

One can tell the country to which a coin belongs by the image or superscription which it bears. Man bears the divine image, and thus belongs to Him. This is the message of the Bible and the teaching of the Christian religion. That may seem like an audacious statement, but it is true.

Man at his best does reveal the divine image. Notwithstanding any defacement of the coin, he is still of great worth to God. Think these thoughts over and over again—"I belong to God"; "I bear His image in myself"; "I am of great worth in His sight." You and I cannot acknowledge our relationship to, or our dependence upon God, without its having a profound effect upon us for good.

The tragic aspects are those of lost and defaced coins. One is of little use until found again. The other has been marred by accident or intent, and the image is no longer clear.

People are like that! You and I separated from God; like the lost coin, can be of no use until we find Him anew. But we have the assurance that if we seek Him with our whole hearts we shall surely find Him. In fact, we are found by Him.

Marred coins may be redeemed at full value, and circulated anew after re-minting. Individuals may come to God in repentance, in a sincere regret for past mistakes and sins, and get a fresh start in life. The scripture tells us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This should awaken a response in us. Here is the old, marred coin made like new. This is God's desire for all who bear His image and likeness. It can happen to you and to me.

G. I. Jingles

BABY GIRL

A little girl was born today,
Born in a world of storm and strife.
Her soldier dad was far away,
Learning a new, strange way of life.

Learning to kill, to wound and maim,
To knife in the dark, to creep and crawl
Through mud and slime; the one big aim
Was now to conquer—once for all.

When all this is over, the lust for power
Forever destroyed, the enemy vanquished
And ground into dust, then will come our
Great day of rejoicing, evil banished.

A little girl was born today,
And though her Dad is far away
She'll grow up fine, and strong and gay,
To greet her Dad some glorious day
—By Pvt. Sid Vepp,
Hq. Co., 2d Bn., 254th Inf.

READY, CAPTAIN?

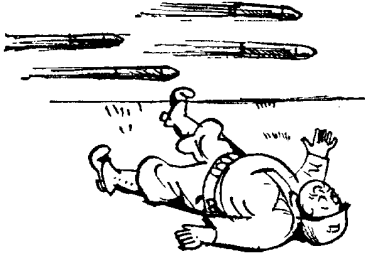
Are your men ready, Captain?
In arms and biceps strong?
Are your men steady, Captain,
In arms and biceps strong?
Within their hearts—observant,
Keen, intelligent scouts
Versed in the art of creeping,
Not easily subject to routs?
Do your men know their trenches—
The fox-hole and the slit?
Know how to get up and run,
And make use of their first-aid kit?
Are your men ready, Captain,
To flank on either side,
To pick up and fire any weapon;
To act as a platoon-guide?
Do they know their gases,
The various kinds of smells?
Do they know their aeroplanes
And how to avoid the shells?
Are your men ready, Captain,
To outmaneuver the Japs?
Can they read a compass,
Orient themselves on maps?
Is your company ready, Captain—
Rid of those who shirk,
Punks, AWOL's, yard-birds?
If you've neglected your work,
You are too young to die.
—By Sgt. Dominick F. Salerno,
Co. F, 255th Inf.

BUCK PRIVATE'S BEEF

This MPT it seems to me, in bitter frustration
Is 10 per cent of something real and 90 simu-
lation.
And so I wonder why they can't to make the thing
perfection
Try to get the proper slant and simulate in-
spection.
By Loren Mork, Hq. Co. 3d Bnd., 253d Inf.

TIPS FROM TERRY FIED --THE 'OLD SARGE'

One night last week I was walking down 13th Ave. with nothing much to do. When I came opposite the Div Arty Rec Hall I heard music inside, so I went in and I was mighty glad I did for I heard a fine program being put on by the Artillery Chorus. As I sat back in the darkness listening to their song and watching their intent young faces I got to thinking of what a fine bunch these Artillery men are and what a swell idea it was to have them live side by side with us doughboys.

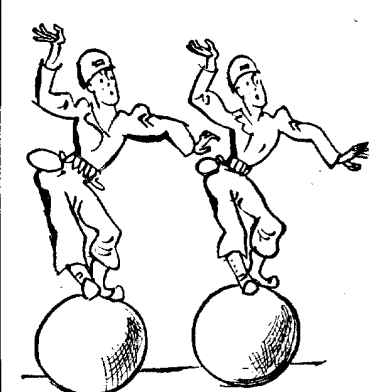


In all my years of service I've never before had the chance to get to know the folks who make the holes in the enemy line for us Infantry men. As a matter of fact, either one of us would be in a hell of a fix without each other. Always before the Artillery have had their area and we've had ours. On maneuvers we knew they were back there someplace and in action the sound of their stuff passing overhead gave us a mighty comfortable feeling, but that was as far as our contacts went.

But here in the 63d my outfit is right alongside an Artillery battalion. Nights I drink beer with them in the NCO club and I see them at their work every day. I've made some damned good friends with them and long ago they've gotten to be home folks to me. They're a soldiering outfit too, believe me. We're going to work with these same people and you can't tell me that later on in maneuvers and in combat we aren't going to be a better team because we know and trust each other.

Everyday I see lots of NCO's who are on the ball, but I see some who are not. I used to have an old Company Commander who called the latter "glorified privates." According to him they wore chevrons, drew NCO pay, did no KP and no work, and he was an expert at getting rid of them. He used to say that the NCO's in a company were like the spark plugs in an automobile. He'd say: "When you have a bad spark plug it raises hell with your car and you can't get rid of it fast enough. Same thing with a poor NCO. Nothing will ruin a company quicker. That's why I get rid of them fast."

The type he hated most was the one who soldiered to beat hell when he was around but at no other time. "Hell," he'd say, "in combat I can't be everywhere at once. I've got to have NCO's who'll function when I'm not there." You NCO's must remember this. If you can't or won't man-handle that squad, section or platoon when no officer is present you might as well be a silhouette target as far as being of any help to your outfit is concerned, and the sooner



your chevrons take flight the better off it will be. This is a damned good tip to those NCO's that the shoe fits: Get Busy!"

DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

253d Infantry: Effective November 20 were the promotions of twenty-seven men of 253d Anti-tank Co. to privates first class. Of the group, seven have had previous military service and twenty are trainees. They are: Pfc's William M. Bickal, Leo J. Brenner, Lewis C. Canary, Shearl W. Clem, Jack K. Drews, Corbin Foster, Arthur J. Gagnier, James E. Garner, Irwin H. Gold, Henry E. Heake, Jink W. Jones, Fred S. LaRue, Ora E. Lebew, Albert L. Martin, Albert E. Muhl, Jr., Francis X. McGovern, Wesley A. McMahon, Bruce G. Parker, Robert J. Peters, Silvio E. Petriciani, Claude J. Rada, Marshall W. Schiewe, Samuel Siegel, Albert R. Siegfried, Joseph V. Summers, Willard G. Thalgot and Earl W. Wetzel.

Acting Corp. Phil Cianfro, Co. A, has a new set of "camouflaged pajamas" which blend with mother nature's covering while making nocturnal strolls. . . . Pfc Piper of Co. A. Pvt. Keith Russell, who is reported to foot a terrific clarinet, seeks other musicians in the regiment to join with him in jam sessions. . . . Pvt. Albert Aldi suddenly threw down his shovel and ran over to Acting Sgt. Bill Edwards the other day: "Sergeant, I've dug three feet and I've struck water," he wailed. "Well, whatta yer squawking about," retorted Edwards. "You've got running water in your apartment."

There are seventeen happy faces in Co. C, resulting from Pfc. promotions. . . . First battalion record for transition firing was established by Lt. Charles E. Davis' men of the first squad, third platoon. . . . they're all sharpshooters or experts. . . . Sgt Louis D Tirelli and Pfc. Burton I. Swan carry their Blood and Fire in the form of warm hearts for girls they've left behind them. . . . Corp. Vernon J. Hart, company clerk, is the pal of all the married men of the company for all the extra things he's done for them. . . . Pvt. William Grogan has returned upon completion of his studies at the Armorer's Artificer's School, and Pfc. Francis Silski has been assigned to the Division Ranger School.

Message Center, Communications Platoon, 3d Bn., has passed the

(Continued on Page 7)

Beware of Thefts Of GI Checks Say Officials

861st F. A. Bn. Officer Says Electronics Will Have Bright Future

Doughboy, if Uncle Sam is sending an allotment check to your wife or mother, draw a ring around this article and send it home in your next letter.

The U. S. Secret Service has issued a warning to all soldiers and their dependents that many Army allotment and allowance checks are being stolen.

The majority of these thefts have been done by thieves who have followed mailmen around their routes and noted in which apartment mailboxes the easily identifiable government allotment checks are being deposited. At a later time, when no one is watching, the thief returns, forces these mailboxes, and helps himself to the substantial check inside.

Helpful Hints

The Secret Service has been keeping a watchful eye out for these crooks—but to aid the doughboys' families in preventing the theft of their checks, the Secret Service has issued the following helpful hints:

1. Write to your family to have some one at home on the day your check is due—as they usually arrive on the same day each month. If someone is at home to remove the GI check from the mailbox as soon as it is delivered, no one can steal it.

2. Make sure your family has a deep, strong mailbox with your name printed on it in big letters, and make sure it's kept locked.

3. If possible, have the mailman ring twice, or otherwise signal when he's carrying the monthly Government good news.

4. Tell the folks to notify the postmaster immediately if they plan to move. They can get a regular form for this from the postman.

Cash Checks Same Place

5. Your family should make a point of cashing the allotment check at the same place each month. This will make identification considerably easier. Merchants have been cautioned not to cash government checks for people they don't know. Better even than cashing the check in a local store is for you to have the folks back home arrange to deposit the check regularly at the local bank and draw upon the account as they need the money. If they deposit the money, however, make sure that they know the rules of the bank regarding the withdrawal of funds—some banks prohibit drawing upon a check for a stated period of time, and require as much as 90 days notice before an account may be fully withdrawn.

6. Warn them never to fold, pin or mutilate their government checks.

The Secret Service urged all soldiers who have dependents receiving allotments or allowances to send this notice home.

FOUND

If Eddie L. Booker, ASN 33519608, of Hamboro, Va., will call any time during the day at the Blood and Fire office, Division Artillery Rec. Hall, 13th avenue at 15th street, he can have the "dogtag" he lost last week.

Former Federal Archivist Learns How to Pack Japs

Pvt. Wilken W. Henderson, anti-tank Co., 253d Inf., is learning how to pack away Germans and Japs these days out on the ranges of Camp Van Dorn, and he's finding it a far cry from the packing away he's been doing for the last two years as assistant archivist of the Treasury Division of the National Archives.

For those who may not have caught up with their wartime read-

interested historians the prices of land during the Revolutionary war.

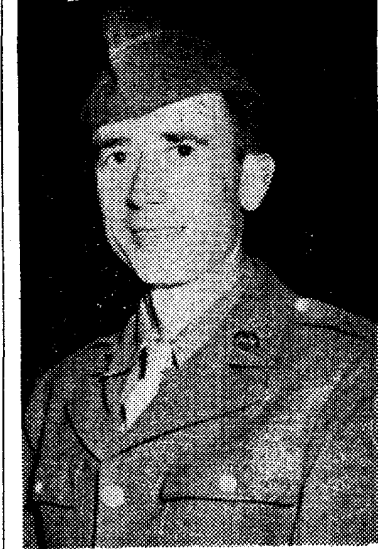
Kept Citizenship Records

To war industries anxious to determine the citizenship of workers who came to this country more than two score years ago, and who did not have documentary evidence of their birth in their possession, Henderson was able to supply photostats of existing records in the old Custom's files which were filed when the workers first entered the USA.

One of the last projects Henderson worked on for the National Archives was compiling information relative to Alaskan waters, and in his researching on this project he examined a number of ships logs from old vessels which sailed the Yukon during and since the Gold Rush.

Aside from his regular duties, Henderson edited "Archi-Views," a monthly paper published by and for the staff of National Archives. Prior to this position, he taught high school for four years at Lincoln, Ill.

—Pvt. Samuel Siegel, AT Co., 253d Inf.



PVT. WILKEN W. HENDERSON

Nine Men Attend Service Course

Nine men of the Blood and Fire Division, four of them from Division Special Service, returned Saturday from Ft. McPherson, Ga., where they attended a week's session at the Special Service Soldier's Show School. The party, in charge of Sgt. Stewart B. Farmer, of Special Service, left last Saturday, Nov. 20.

While at the school the group was instructed in the methods of presenting shows in the field, the proper way to improvise the back of a truck for a stage, and methods used in lighting field performances.

In addition to Sgt. Farmer, the following men attended the session:

Sgt. Robert W. Peters, Div. Special Service; T/5 Martin J. Cardillo, Div. Special Service; Cpl. Fred S. Weiner, Service Co., 253d Inf.; Cpl. Leslie B. Heath, Serv. Co., 254th Inf.; Pvt. Joseph Dolin, Hq. Co. 1st Bn., 254th Inf.; Mordecai H. Bauman, Service Co., 255th Inf.; Norman C. Kies, Div. Special Service, and Seymour J. Bernhard, Hq. Btry., 63d Div. Artillery.

Theaters Schedule

Theaters No. 1 and 2	
Starting Times:	
No. 1 at 1845; No. 2 at 1810	
Nov. 27	Banjo on My Knee, with Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea and Buddy Ebsen.
28-29	Whistling in Brooklyn, with Red Skelton and Ann Rutherford.
30	Hands Across the Border, with Roy Rogers and Ruth Terry.
Dec. 1-2	His Butler's Sister, with Deanna Durbin, Franchot Tone and Pat O'Brien.
3-4	There's Something About a Soldier, with Douglas Drake, Evelyn Keyes and Larry Parks.
Theater No. 5	
Nov. 28	Gateway for Tomorrow, with Margo, Wally Brown and John Carradine.
29	Banjo on My Knee, with Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea and Buddy Ebsen.
30-1	Whistling in Brooklyn, with Red Skelton, Ann Rutherford, Itags Ragland.
2	Hands Across the Border, with Roy Rogers and Ruth Terry.
3-4	His Butler's Sister, with Deanna Durbin, Franchot Tone and Pat O'Brien.

READING, PA. (CNS)—Former Marine Sgt. and Mrs. George Kocher have named their infant daughter Marine Corps Kocher.

ing, the National Archives are the vaults of the nation where priceless documents of historical interest and permanent value are stored.

Has Bill of Rights

The National Archives cover all departments of the government and the articles filed range from the original copy of the Bill of Rights to passenger lists of immigrants who have arrived in the United States on steamships as long ago as 1919.

The Treasury Division, with which Henderson was affiliated, had in its custody the records of such organizations as the U. S. Coast Guard, N. Y. Customs House and Income Tax reports and records of insolvent National banks. It was the responsibility of Pvt. Henderson to see that requests for information from the documents stored within his division were properly taken care of. He supplied authors with research material which they needed for books they were writing, gave congressmen source material for reports, and on one occasion gave one group of

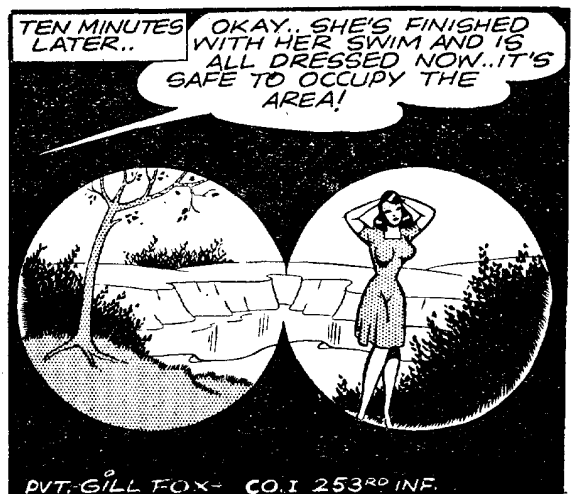
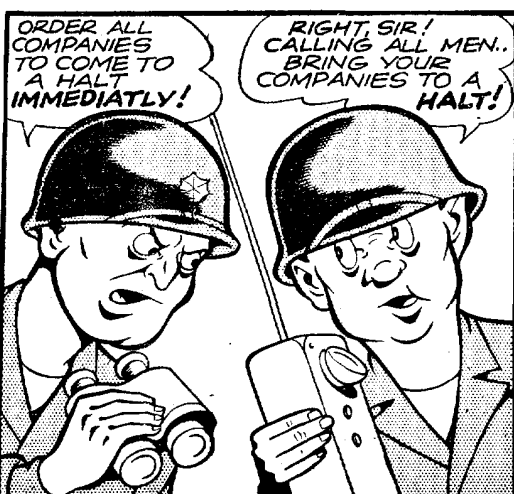
Fan Mail Follows Ex-Radio Singer

When Pvt. Martin Shopp dropped out of the well-known singing four, known as the "Tennessee Ramblers" to answer the summons of the Army, his fan mail followed him. Now a member of Co. D, 253d Inf., Pvt. Shopp receives batches of mail weekly from admirers who listened to his voice along with the others on the radio quartet.

Shopp started his career on the airwaves in 1933 as a singer and played with several popular dance bands. In 1938 he became a member and part owner of the Ramblers, who made their debut over CBS networks in the East and in the South.

Besides singing on the radio the Ramblers, led by Shopp, were signed for important roles in two of Gene Autry's pictures and another picture for Tex Ritter.

BERNIE BLOOD



PVT. GILL FOX - CO. I 253RD INF.

No Advances Allowed

By GILL FOX



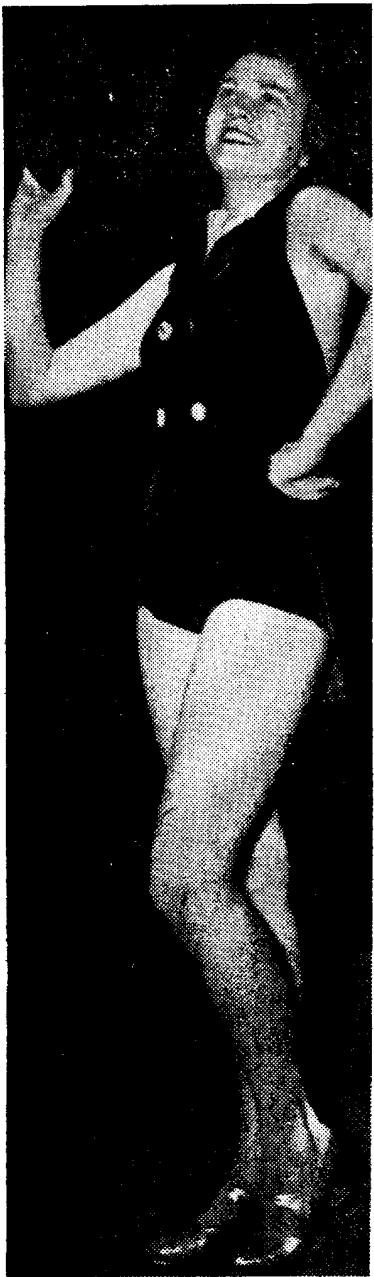
NEW ORLEANS, LA.—A lot of Americans' thoughts have been going up in smoke, and the result has been a shortage of smoking tobacco throughout the country.

CHICAGO, ILL.—Elton Bertell Moray, 30, of East St. Louis, Ill., will have a year and a day in jail to think over his posing recently as a returned captain of the staff of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in Africa.

KANSAS CITY, MO.—A new soda-jerker was puzzled when a customer ordered bicarbonate of soda and water. Looking at the dazzling array of pumps, she asked "What flavor do you want?"

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.—The Army announced this week that 13 additional hotels which have been used as barracks for Air Force trainees are being returned to their owners.

PEORIA, ILL.—Rep. Howard J. McMurray, D., Wis., told Peorians this week that the American economic system "will die unless we build an international political system under which it may operate."



A DIFFERENT TURKEY TROT is this done by the Rodgerettes, who are now familiar figures at Camp Van Dorn, where they come every other week to dance for the boys.

Co. F, 254th First With Perfect Record

The first company in the Division to claim 100 per cent qualification on the range is Co. F, 254th Inf. The company is commanded by Capt. Eugene Farmer.

Champion shot of the company's doughboys was Pvt. Santo D. Minutoli of Boston, Mass., who fired 195 out of 210 possible points. Close behind him was Pvt. Gerald E. Gandee of Portland, Ore., with 191.

Of the 163 men who fired the M1 for record, 46 qualified as experts, 71 sharpshooters and 46 marksmen. Average company score was 170.5.

In the company's weapon platoon, 19 men fired the carbine for a total of five experts, nine sharpshooters and five marksmen.

High honors of the platoon were shared by Privts. Robert G. Gibson, North Bergen, N. J., and Martin J. Stevens of Chicago, who turned in identical scores of 183 out of a possible 200 points.

The 119 men of the 60 mm. mortar section qualified on their tests with 13 experts, four first class runners and one second class gunner. There were 15 light machine gun men who qualified and 36 who scored with the Browning Automatic rifle.

Combat Soldier Is Radio Theme

True to a tradition which has carried over from the stage to radio, that the show must go on, the 63d Division radio broadcast over WWL, went on five minutes late last Sunday because a transformer fell from a pole outside Theater No. 1 cutting off the power.

While the script was being cut to conform to the shortened time, engineers of the New Orleans station quickly plugged the line from the microphones into the regular electrical circuit in the theater and the broadcast went out over the airways as usual.

This Sunday's broadcast will have for its theme the "Combat Soldier." Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Div. Commander, will speak during the program.

63d Div. Worked All Day; Celebrated Last Night

(Continued From Page 1.)

However, some of the mess halls made additions to this, in the form of GI beer, wine, after-dinner mints, and free cigars and cigarettes for the men.

Improvise Mess Hall

At Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 253d Inf., where men have been eating al fresco since they do not have a mess hall of their own, Capt. William A. Drake conceived the idea of utilizing one of the unoccupied classrooms of nearby Co. A for dinner, and the Headquarters men borrowed tables, mess gear, etc. from other outfits.

Adding to the note of gaiety at the camp last night was the presence of thousands of relatives and friends of the servicemen. At all messes there were wives, mothers, fathers, and children present to add a homelike touch to the turkey day celebration.

outstanding passes of wives and relatives who live near the post and frequently visit their menfolk during evening hours.

Sgt's Wife Cooks Meal

Over at Co. F, 253d Inf., T/4 Peter G. Curran is pardonably proud of his baking, which his men claim is the best in the camp. But he claims that even his best performance was topped by a guest baker yesterday—his wife Della, who came all the way from her bakery shop in Bennington, Vt., to make home-made pumpkin pie for "her boys" at Co. F.

On an afternoon inspection tour of Division mess halls, Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander; Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division Commander, and Division Artillery Commander Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGaw, dropped into the mess hall and sampled one of her 70 pies and some of her 50 dozen rolls. Said Gen. Hibbs: "Swell!"

Div Arty Holds Jamboree

In the evening large numbers of the soldiers and their guests attended shows and dances held in regimental and combat team rec halls. Lt. Richard O'Connell, Division Artillery Special Service Officer, said that the crowd which packed the Div Arty Rec Hall was one of the largest to attend a function there. On the evening's program were three boxing bouts, between representatives of differ-

254th to Entertain Girls of 3 Towns

Girls, 100 of them, from Vicksburg, Natchez and Ferriday, La., will be guests of members of the 254th Inf. Sunday, Nov. 28, when Regimental Special Service sponsors a dance in the afternoon and dinner at the mess halls in the evening.

Cpl. Leslie Heath of 254th Special Service, is chairman of a committee on arrangements. He is assisted by Sgt. Abe Kanig, Cpl. Hauss and Pvt. Nathan Guttman. Lt. Lawson Kateley, Special Service Officer, will direct the activities.

ent batteries of the 718th F. A. Bn. There followed a musical program in which the new orchestra of the 718th made its debut and in which they played four original songs which have been submitted as entries in a contest to select the song of the battalion. Pvt. William Federer sang the lyrics. The 718th Glee club sang "Hi Ya, Chum," title song of a show which men of the Division will be presented tonight in Natchez.

There followed a "Beat the WAC" program, in which men of the 718th competed in a question-and-answer contest against girls of WAC Det.

Officers and men of the 363d Medical Battalion attended a dance at Special Troops Rec Hall, at which the first of a series of Division unit sweethearts was chosen as Queen of the Ball. Miss Jean Little of Baton Rouge, a pretty blonde, was the choice of the pill rollers.

One of the many organizational bands, the recently organized 253d Inf. orchestra, passed the evening in a tour of company rec halls playing "one-night stands" for small parties in the different halls. They played repertoire of hit parade tunes as well as other popular numbers requested by the men.

Woodville Girls Give 3-Act Show

A three-act stage presentation, "Miss Jimmy," was presented at T. T. Blue Rec. Hall Thursday night by a dramatic organization composed entirely of girls from Woodville, Miss.

The show, an old favorite which had a run on Broadway, was well received by the soldier audience.

"Miss Jimmy" was the second theatrical performance to be presented for men of the 255th Inf. and the 863d Artillery. Two weeks ago girls of the Episcopal college of Vicksburg, Miss., presented "Letter to Lucerne."

DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

(Continued From Page 5.)

Division Communications School courses 100 per cent . . . they were all seen standing at present arms the other afternoon paying respects to the 1941 Chevie sent to Sgt. Norman Krim.

718th F. A. Bn.: Pvt. Jack Walsh of Battery B grabbed the coatless figure passing him on bivouac one recent frosty night. "Hey, Bud, whatcha do, forget yer overcoat?" Then he realized the man in his arms was Maj. Lightfoot. "Who's that sad sack," chirped in Pfc. Jack Yarsky in passing. . . . Topkick Quincy Gilbert is an expectant father and has been so busy pacing the barracks and puffing cigar smoke that some of his men wonder if he hasn't already consumed the whole box of handouts he laid away. . . . S/Sgt. Clarence Hamby's wife was storked recently; it's a girl. . . . The sergeant also received Good Conduct medal in recent ceremony at his company.

Recon Reports: There ain't no subways, report the Reconns after night reconnoitering the nearby hamlets of Peoria, Olio and Glading. Reports indictae Glading has one two-story house; Peoria two houses, a church and gas station, and Olio, two houses. . . . Sgt. Bill Hotaling is one of the busiest Reconns in the troop and is also champ when it comes to quick changing his uniform to get to the movies. . . . Drivers of those tanks and armored cars which run all over the post on company demonstrations and which have run over most of the Division men in fox-hole problems are driven by Reconns S/Sgt. Page W. Solliday. Sgt. Bill Hotaling, 49, 1st Lt. William Boman.

254TH INFANTRY—Representing Co. L in the forthcoming regimental boxing bout will be Privts. Frank Matarese, Avielle Intravia, Robert Olson, James Burke and Pat Romeo. There's a 7-weeks-old pup in Co. L which the fellows are seeking a name for. Anybody got any suggestions? . . . He'll be company mascot . . . Mrs. Stanley Businsky, of the Baltimore Businskys, is visiting hubby here this week.

Male Call



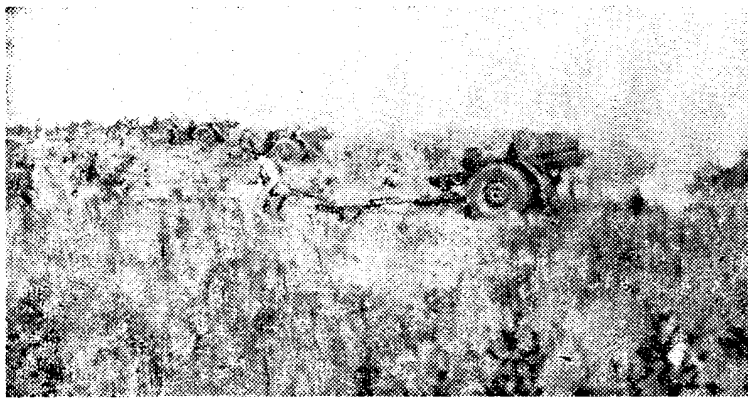
By Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"



Nick In The Tool Of War



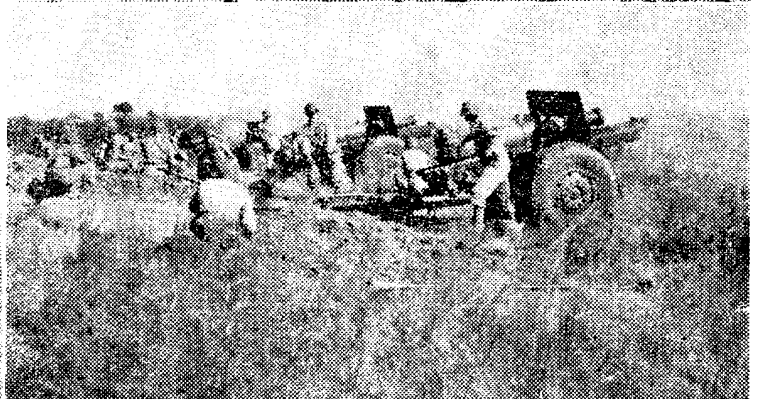
Thunder Over Camp Van Dorn



TWELVE 155 mm. howitzers of the 718th Field Artillery Battalion went on range last week here. Signal Corps Photog went with them and took these pictures of the first big guns of the 63d Division firing at Van Dorn.



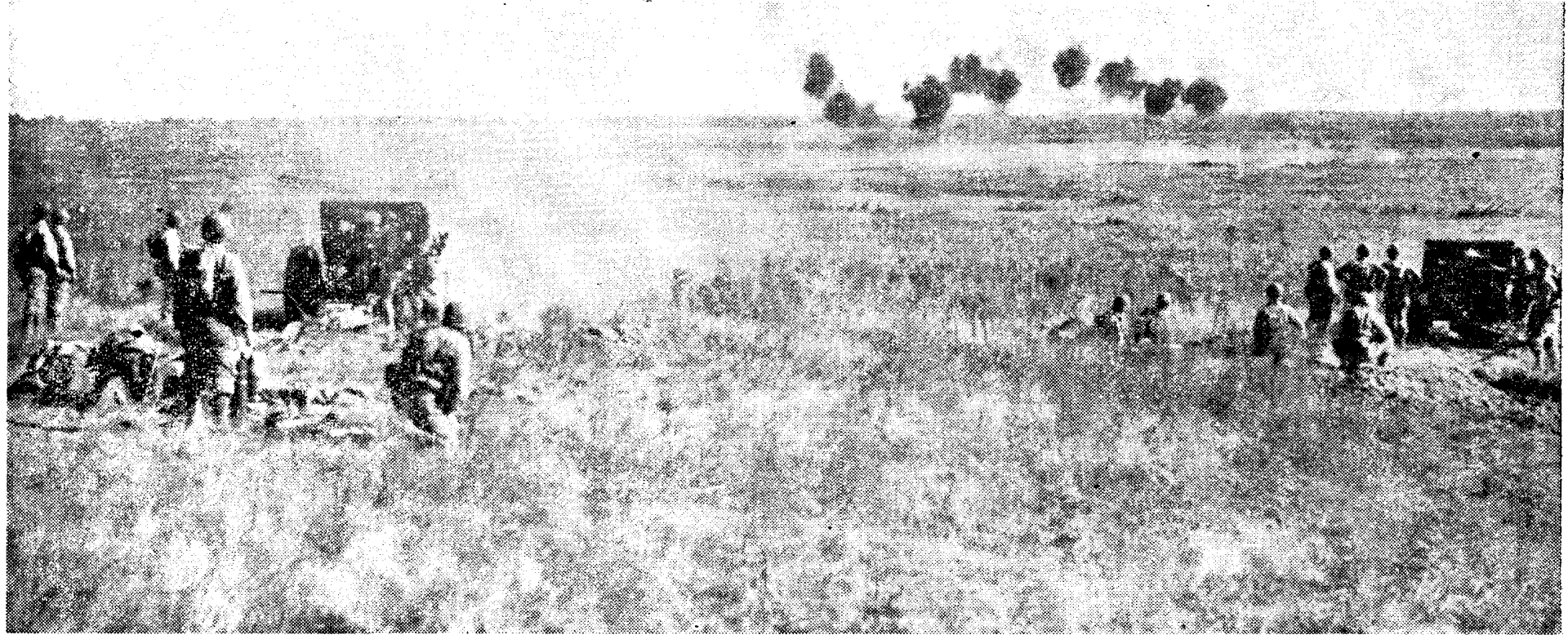
ABLE BATTERY is shown above in closeup just as the lanyard was pulled by gunner in foreground. At left is No. 2 gun of C (Charlie) battery just as projectile is leaving gun.



GETTING READY to ram shell home is non-com at left in B Battery gun crew. Above, the gun has just been fired and projectile may faintly be seen a few feet from the muzzle.



C FOR CHARLIE Battery whips into a battery concentration of firepower. Photographer has caught exact moment of firing, even before the two crew chiefs have completed the downswing of their arms, which is the signal to fire. At right is No. 2 piece, B. Btry., in almost full recoil, with soldiers sticking their fingers in ears to deaden the thundering noise. Guns fired several miles from camp could be heard throughout the camp area.



TIME FIRE brings a battalion concentration on an area target with shells bursting low in the air on the horizon some 800 yards from cameraman. Rising dust under shell bursts is dirt being kicked up by the shell fragments as they rip into the ground surface.