

Blood and Fire



CAMP
EDITION

Vol. 1. No. 28

63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

December 25, 1943

MORE DANCES ASSURED 63D MEN BY \$1,000 USO CONTRIBUTION

**\$1,000 a Month Will
Bring Girls to Camp
From McComb, Natchez,
Baton Rouge and
Other Nearby Towns**

Announcement that the National USO will allot \$1,000 a month to transport girls from nearby towns to 63d Division dances was made Friday as the result of correspondence between Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, and Chester I. Barnard, president of the United Service Organizations.

The allotment of funds, unusual in that the girls may be transported to other than USO buildings, will be used to charter transportation to and from Baton Rouge, Natchez, McComb, Gloster, Woodville, Centreville, Liberty and other neighboring towns.

240 Girls Weekly

Approximately 240 girls will attend two dances weekly at Division recreation halls from January through March.

Because of its isolation from large centers of population, Camp Van Dorn was selected as only the third camp so far to be granted such an amount by the USO.

Gen. Hibbs met with Barnard and Maj. Robert K. Lieding, Division Commander, at the camp.

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Big Surprise, Mom for Dinner

Since you can't be at home for Christmas, what would be the next best thing? Have Mother with you? As a surprise!

Of course! And that's exactly what happened to Pvt. Leon H. Sparling, 19, of Company E, 255th Inf. His mother, Mrs. Hazel W. Sparling, RFD No. 1, Schuylersville, N. Y., arrived this morning to spend the holidays with her son, and to symbolize the Mothers of the 208 men in Co. E.

Mrs. Sparling is the guest of the men in Co. E. She was greeted on her arrival by Col. Paul E. Tombaugh, Commanding Officer of the 255th, and she will tour Camp Van Dorn, all because Lt. Cecil M. McLister, Executive Officer of Co. E, had an idea.

The boys can't go home and the Mothers can't all visit their sons in camp, Lt. McLister thought, so why not have every man in the company chip in a dollar each and

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861st Radio Operator Used to Be Opera Voice

**Frank Richert Heard at
At Many Division
Activities**

One night several weeks ago as members of the BLOOD AND FIRE staff were working in the office backstage in Div. Arty. Rec. Hall, a few yards away a group of wagon soldiers were picking out tunes at random and having an old-fashioned jam session. Suddenly a tall, bespectacled soldier cleared his throat and, at a signal from the pianist, began to sing in a rich voice the "Ave Maria."

The soldiers sitting around the hall, and the BLOOD AND FIRE staff all stopped what they were doing and listened as the familiar strains filled the building. When he finished there was a moment of silence, and then he began another

(Continued on Page 2.)

Natchez Party Recalls Past For 63d GIs

The City of Natchez plucked a page from its colorful past and made it live in brilliant tableaux for men of the Blood and Fire Division and other units from Camp Van Dorn Tuesday night at the City Auditorium. The soldiers were guests of the Natchez Garden Club at a Christmas party and dance.

The pageant, which preceded the dance, was presented in a brilliant Christmas setting. A gaily decorated Christmas tree stood in the center of the floor, while the balconies were festooned on greens and Spanish moss tied with large red ribbons. Azaleas, a flower prevalent in Natchez in the Spring, were clustered about the stage.

Welcomed by Club Leader

Following a welcome to the servicemen voiced by Mrs. Robert Wood, president of the Garden Club.

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Six Foot Christmas Card at 255th Inf.

Down at the 255th Infantry Rec. Hall there's a six-foot Santa all dolled up in his tin hat and with a Blood and Fire Insignia on his sleeve—he's gayly walking along the road wishing all comers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This particular red-coated figure is familiar to all Division members, for he was depicted on the Division's official Christmas card.

He was designed by Pvt. Raymond L. Valente, Sv. Co., 255th. In civilian life Ray was an artist who did visualization and lettering for national advertisements. Ray worked for one of New York's art studios which took accounts for all the big advertising agencies and national advertisers. He studied art at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, and congned his abilities to commercial work.

He is married, and his wife, Anna, lives in Bellerose, L. I. His present work down at the 255th keeps him busy illustrating training aids helping to build a realistic terrain board, and lettering the helmets of members of his regiment.



SELF-EXPLANATORY is this message from Combat Team Blue. At left is Pvt. Raymond L. Valente, who designed Division's Christmas card. The six-foot enlargement of Valente's four-color card was painted by Pvt. Robert McCowie, also of 255th Inf. After photo was taken the men really went to town on the Christmas tree, further stringing it with red and green festoons and additional lights.

Foss, Guadalcanal Hero, Now With 63d Inf. Div.

**Was With Outfit That
Relieved Marines on
Pacific Isle**

You probably know the story of that U. S. Marine Corps flying ace, Maj. Joe Foss—who did great guns out in the Southwest Pacific—but did you ever hear of Pvt. Daniel L. Foss, who was one of those foot sloggers of the U. S. Army who relieved the tired Marines at Guadalcanal and fought on to wipe the Japs off that important little island? At Guadal Dan got a belly full of Jap warfare and a chest full of Jap .25 slugs before he was forced off this hard-won American isle.

Now he's recovered from his wounds and ready to smack back hard at the foe. He's now serving Co. F, 253d Inf., and he's proud to be back with an infantry outfit.

Consolidated Holdings

"The Marines did a splendid job at Guadal, but they were worn out when we finally got there to relieve them," Foss said. "It was the Infantry, fresh from a session of jungle training in New Caledonia, which consolidated the American holdings and finally kicked the Japs off the island."

Foss was an assistant BAR gunner—one of those fellows with an inglorious but important task of keeping right up with the automatic rifle and relieving the gunner when necessary. "We were holding a thick strip of jungle against enemy attacks the day I got mine, he said. The BAR gunner was fagged out and crawled into my fox hole while I relieved him on the piece; it had been a fairly quiet day up to the moment the Japs rushed us. I felt a sharp blow on my chest and could feel my shirt all wet. I felt sick.

"I crawled the few feet to the hole where my buddy was and found him there with both knees

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PVT. DANIEL L. FOSS

Wounded N. African Vet Visits Brother in Camp

**Pvt. Tipton Was Wounded
In African Battle and
Sicilian Campaign**

Lt. Roy E. Tipton, Co. K, 253d Inf., received a letter from his 19-year-old brother Denville who'd left his hunting knife in the body of a Nazi soldier in Sicily. The letter was printed in BLOOD AND FIRE two weeks ago. On Friday Denville surprised his brother by bobbing up at camp, and he spoke to a number of the 63d Division doughboys in an appearance at Theater No. 1.

The personal appearance of the lanky Kentuckian on the stage was more dramatic than many of the

CHRISTMAS IS HOLY NIGHT FOR 63D MEN

**Catholics and Protestants
Held Services Last
Night and Today; Jewish
Boys Take Guard, KP**

Christmas Eve took on a fitting religious aspect throughout the Division and camp areas, as thousands of soldiers attended Protestant and Roman Catholic religious ceremonies at what—for most of them—was their first Christmas Eve away from home.

Division Chaplain Robert H. Clarke, announced yesterday that there will be a Protestant Episcopal Eucharistic service at 2330 for all service men, their relatives and friends. The service will be held at Chapel No. 7, and will be conducted by Chaplain Ernest Phillips.

Two Midnight Masses

For Roman Catholics in the Division there were two Midnight Masses. Assistant Division Chaplain William J. Guinan celebrated Mass at Theater No. 1. This Mass was preceded by a 25-minute carol concert by members of the Division Band and choristers.

The Mass of the Angels was sung by a 30-man choir, with Pvt. Stephen Smith, soloist. This was the first Gregorian Chant to be heard at a Division Catholic service.

At the Combat Team Blue Rec. Hall Midnight Mass was celebrated by Chaplain William Poeppering. Both Masses were high Masses.

Protestant Services

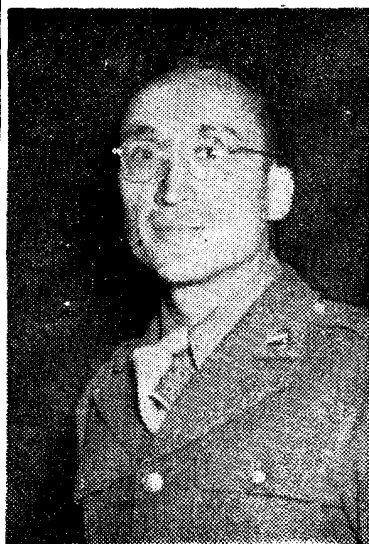
Christmas morning Protestant services were held at 0900 at Chapels 7 and 10, at 0930 at Chapel 8, at 1000, Chapel 6, and at Chapels 5 and 8 at 1030. Roman Catholic Masses were celebrated at 0800 at Chapels 5 and 10, at 0900 at Theater No. 5, Chapel 7 at 1000, Theater No. 1 at 1030, and Chapel No. 10 at 1100.

Jewish boys of the Division, led by T/5 Morris Klass, of Division Hqrs. Co., volunteered to take Guard and KP duties for Christmas so that no Christian enlisted men in the Division need miss his Christmas devotions.

Service Club Programs

Both Service Clubs have donned appropriate red and green Christmas finery, lacking only Christmas trees to have a 100 per cent home-like atmosphere—and the trees would be present were it not for the rigid fire laws enforced at Camp. At Service Club No. 1, where a large formal dance brought girls from Natchez, McComb,

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PVT. FRANK RICHTER

movies which flash across the screen. He told of his "home life" for five months in Tunisian foxholes, of four days when his group of American infantrymen were cut off from their food supply and were so weak they could hardly eat at all when the mess truck finally got through to them.

Was in Tunisia

Young Tipton was present at the taking of the famed Hill 609 in Tunisia, at the battle of Fondou Pass, where he was hospitalized 14 days, and participated in the taking of Sicily, where he was again wounded.

"Most of you have already had as much training as I had when I went into combat," he told the

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Wounded Vet Sees Brother; Talks to Men

(Continued From Page 1.)
 men of the 253d Inf. "Maybe you're just like me, too; in another way, I didn't take my training back here in the States too seriously. I shot expert with the M1 on the range, but I didn't like digging foxholes much, and bivouacking gave me a pain in the neck."

"But let me tell you this," he continued. "As one soldier to another I can tell you that you'll never learn too much about taking cover or about digging right in as soon as you stop marching—no matter where you are, or how tired you are."

"I got the best training a man ever got—and I got it in combat."

He paused and lifted his pants leg to show a bandage which covers a foot-long wound from a Nazi bullet which is still draining. "I've got this bandage on my leg today because I didn't completely learn the lesson I was taught in the training you fellows are now going through at Van Dorn. In training I was taught to keep down, but I stood up one day at the wrong moment, and, ping, a Nazi plugged me."

Shoestring Tourniquet

"The leg was bleeding like hell, and it looked for a while as though I was going to bleed to death. They tell you in first aid to use your belt for a tourniquet in such a circumstance, but I'd broken mine a couple of days before. I thought fast and untied my shoestring and used a live cartridge to tighten it round my leg. Then I sprinkled some sulfanilamide powder from my first-aid packet on the wound, and bound it with the gauze which I'd carried around in my cartridge belt since basic training."

"Since the wound didn't hurt much, I crawled back to the aid station and they fixed it up some more and then evacuated me by air to Oran, then Casablanca, and finally I was put aboard a ship and sent back to the States. I must be an infantryman clear through, 'cause I certainly didn't like that plane ride."

"I'm proud, and you, too, should be proud you're an infantryman. You're a real soldier, and, believe me, in this war there's plenty of dirt behind our ears, 'cause we're constantly digging foxholes. Our battles were 90 per cent hard work—marching, digging, stealing out at night on combat patrol. Only about 10 per cent of the battles were actual fighting and there was no glamor about it—just tough, sweaty work."

Hit the Ground

"You learn pretty quick that the best way to protect yourself is to hit the ground and get into a foxhole, if you can, and when you're out on a combat patrol and find an enemy machine gun nest you toss a grenade or two at them and blow them to hell. You learn, too, never to let them drive you into positions they've already got their



WHY CAN'T WE DO THIS MORE OFTEN? ay the boys, but not Lt. Andrew Romaniszin, 63d Division Postal Officer, who's had quite a busy time these recent pre-Christmas weeks. Photog Bill Schiff bearded him in his den this week to get this shot of the Lieutenant puzzling over an address. This is a part of one morning's incoming mail.

mortars zeroed in on. Mortar fire is the thing you're most afraid of, and the Nazis use plenty of it. "I was scared. Cats crawled around in my stomach for hours the first time I was under enemy fire. First you pray, and boys I mean pray—then when the bullets are passed, you get mad and curse. It's pray and curse, pray and curse—that's battle for you."

Pvt. Tipton was one of 25 American doughboys who captured 1,700 Italian soldiers at Palma, in Sicily. "We put the officers in the town jail, and their enlisted men in the jail courtyard and mounted a guard over them," he said.

In the battle of Hill 609, Tipton's outfit built fires to attract the attention of the Germans, while two other American battalions poured lead into the Nazi flanks. We lived in foxholes from January through May 8, with an occasional week's rest when the Quartermaster's would get our pup tents up to us. You froze by night and got thoroughly baked by day.

Gen. Hibbs Serenaded By 255th's Choristers

The recently-organized Glee Club of the 255th Inf., initiated a caroling tour of the regimental area, by first serenading Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Div. Commander, last Wednesday night. Accompanied by Lt. Mike Naddeo, under whose supervision the singers were organized, the choristers, directed by Pvt. Elmer Savage, sang the old familiar Christmas hymns.

Last night at dusk the singers toured the regiment, visiting each battalion area to lead all enlisted men present in 15 minutes of community singing.

Former Thurston Helper Now an 862d Supply Sgt.

Most supply sergeants are tough customers who are able to freeze an impatient rookie in his tracks with a cold stare or a brusque wave of the hand. S/Sgt. John A. Rice, who rules the supply room of Battery B, 863d Field Artillery Battalion, has powers even more strange and occult: with a facile flip of the fingers he can metamorphosize himself into thin air, or elevate himself to the rafters and mock his incredulous caller from that exalted pose—all of which scares the pesky yardbird half out of his wits, and keeps him forevermore from the supply room.

Sgt. Rice has not yet tried these feats at Camp Van Dorn, but he threatens to unleash his magical powers whenever the situation in the Battery B supply room becomes too desperate. And Sgt. Rice—who in appearance is a slight, chubby, mild-mannered man—means it. He is sure of himself, for he learned his magic from the master, the late, great Howard Thurston. Rice, who has been in show business for 20 of his 37 years, spent four of the most illuminating seasons of his career assisting and understudying the fabulous Thurston.

Disappearing Act

It was Sgt. Rice who jauntily rode the white steed out on the stage, pranced it nimbly before the entranced audience, and then, with a flick of the great man's wrist, had himself and mount wafled out of sight. Five times a day the young John Rice disappeared into the nether regions—the transitions were so quick and so numerous that frequently he didn't know himself whether he was living in the visible or unseen world.

It was Rice who, three times an afternoon and twice of an evening, held Pauline Thurston's ankles as her husband grimly sliced her in two. Irene always miraculously survived, and Rice invariably got through the ordeal without a drop of blood being splattered on him—just how the feat was accomplished he will not say. There's a code among magicians against revealing these juicy trade secrets.

Used as Decoy

Rice was always the youngster in the audience who yelled "It's a fake!" and was promptly booted out of the theater by the ushers, when Thurston needed someone to distract attention from what was happening on the stage. And when the great man called for volunteers from the audience to go behind the footlights and inspect his activities, Rice always managed to be the first on the stage—modestly he admits to making the initial inspection, and strangely the audience thereafter remained ignorant of just how Thurston made with the magic.

Rice got into the show business the hard way. After school days in North Adams, Mass., where he worked as a reporter on a local newspaper in his off hours,

he moved to Boston, got a job as an usher at the Orpheum Theater. Soon he moved up to be chief of service—supervisor of all the ushers, porters, cashiers and assorted personnel.

Taught Dancing

Mornings he supplemented his income by teaching ballroom and



S/Sgt. John A. Rice

tap dancing at the Richard's studio. Later he left the Orpheum and spent two lucrative years—working on a percentage basis—as a full-time instructor for Richard's (Continued on Page 7.)

Christmas Eve Observed Here

(Continued From Page 1.)

Woodville, Centreville, Liberty and Gloster Thursday night, carols were sung Christmas Eve. Pvt. Paul Taubman, former NBC pianist and organist, officiated and was supported on the dais by Mrs. Taubman, former stage songstress. A combination carol sing and variety show was scheduled for Christmas Day.

A pageant featuring men of the Division was given at Service Club No. 2 Friday evening. Miss Elizabeth, librarian, at the club, has planned a dramatic reading of Dickens' "Christmas Carol," with music, at 2000 Saturday. Pfc. Kurt Steinbart will be in charge. The club has been decorated with colored lights lent by officials of Centreville.

Holiday Atmosphere

Throughout the Camp and Division areas gayly-lighted Christmas trees have bloomed this week, lending a holiday atmosphere to the rather grim war training the men are undergoing on the Mississippi hillsides. At the 718th F. A. Bn., there is an entire block lined on both sides with Christmas trees before each barracks, and at CT Blue Rec. Hall, there is a six-foot replica of the Blood and Fire Division Christmas card beside a 20-foot Christmas tree. Outside other Rec. Halls, there are also lighted trees, and before the Chapel of Santa Barbara, of Div. Artillery, there is a replica of the Nativity Scene.

Mess Halls and Day Rooms throughout the area have been decorated with festoons of holly and mistletoe, and red and green shades hide many an ertswile glaring light in Christmas-decorated mess halls this year. Today is the big day for the Division's mess sergeants, who were tested at Thanksgiving time when they served superior turkey dinners, but who wholeheartedly assure the men that they will set new high standards of culinary art with their Christmas birds.

The Division Christmas dinner—which will be served as the noon meal—calls for creamed celery soup, roast turkey with sage dressing and giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, snowflake potatoes, fresh vegetables, lettuce salad, hot rolls and butter and mince or pumpkin pie. There will also be assorted fruits, candy, nuts and coffee.

At some mess halls company members have joined in plans for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day parties, which will feature company entertainment, dancing and drinks.

Three great commands under Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall are: Commanding General Army Ground Forces—Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair; Commanding General Army Service Forces—Lt. Gen. B. B. Somers; Commanding General Army Air Forces—Gen. Henry H. Arnold.



I WAS THERE, Pvt. Danville Tipton tells brother, Lt. Ray E. Tipton, Co. K, 253d Inf. Danville recently wrote letter published by BLOOD AND FIRE which gave invaluable tips on combat techniques of the infantryman. He's back recuperating from wounds received in North Africa and Sicily.

The Wolf by Sansone



New Officers Assume Command of 63d Units

Lt. Col. Warren Commands 254th; Baier His Exec.

Seven high-ranking officers moved to new positions within the 63d Div. this week as the result of assignment to new stations last week of four commanding officers and an executive officer of Division units.

The seven with their new assignments, are:

LT. COL. JOSEPH H. WARREN, commanding, 254th Inf.

LT. COL. JOHN M. UNDERWOOD, executive officer, 255th Inf.

LT. COL. EDWARD A. BAIER, executive officer, 254th Inf.

MAJ. DONALD C. BEERE, commanding, 861st F. A.

MAJ. JAMES H. LIGHTFOOT, commanding, 862d F. A.

MAJ. ROBERT W. LONG, commanding, Hq. Sp. Trps.

MAJ. ANTHONY C. MAIER, executive officer, 861st F. A.

Col. Underwood moved from command of Hq. Sp. Trps. to the 255th. A graduate of the United States Military Academy in 1929, he has seen service in the continental United States, the Philippines, Panama and Trinidad.

Born May 12, 1907, at Bellefontaine, O., he attended high school in Cleveland and Marietta College before entering West Point. At the Point he was a member of the glee club, choir and gymnas-tics team.

With Philippine Scouts

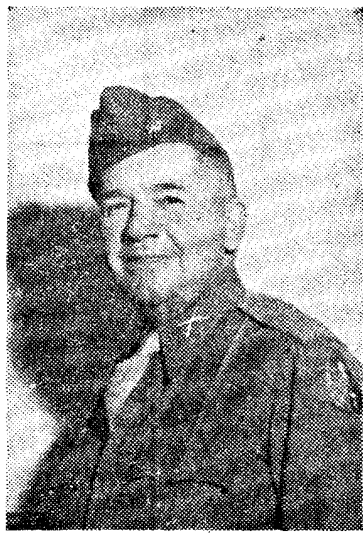
Commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation, he was sent to Ft. Missoula, Mont., where he spent two and one-half years with the 4th Inf. He then went to the Islands with the 57th Inf. and served with the celebrated Philippine Scouts, who brought the latest honor on their name in the Bataan campaign of 1942.

In 1935 he returned to the States for a course at The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. He then was assigned to Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyo., where he was a company commander and regimental adjutant. At Ft. Warren he served on the test board examining maneuvers from which sprang the modern "streamlined" division such as the Blood and Fire.

In 1940 Col. Underwood went to Panama as a company commander in the 33d Inf., and shortly after Pearl Harbor he was assistant chief of staff, G-3, in Trinidad. He joined the 63d Div. last August. His adopted home town is New Boston, Tex., and he married the town's postmistress last January.

Maj. Beere, youthful West Pointer who has been executive officer of the 861st F. A., succeeds Lt. Col. Thomas H. Eckfeldt at the 861st. Maj. Beere was born at West Point May 19, 1916, son of an Academy mathematics instructor who now is military commander at Purdue university.

He was educated at public schools in Boulogne-sur-Seine, France; at Immaculate High



LT. COL. JOSEPH H. WARREN
Commanding, 254th Inf.



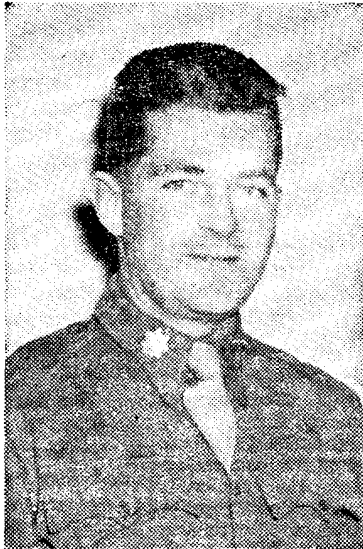
LT. COL. JOHN M. UNDERWOOD
Exec. Off. 255th Inf.



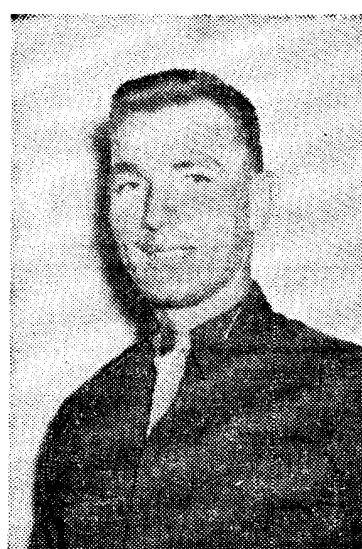
LT. COL. EDWARD A. BAIER
Exec. Off. 254th Inf.



LT. COL. T. H. ECKFELDT
Left 861st F. A.



MAJ. D. C. BEERE
Commanding, 861st F. A. Bn.



MAJ. JAMES H. LIGHTFOOT
Commanding, 862d F. A.



MAJ. A. C. MAIER
Exec. Off. 861st F. A. Bn.



MAJ. ROBERT W. LONG
Commanding, Hq. Sp. Trps.

School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.; at Phillips Exeter Academy, and for a year at Princeton University before he entered the United States Military Academy in 1935. He was graduated from the Point in the upper one-third of his class in 1939.

He became a first lieutenant in 1940, captain in February, 1942, and major in September, 1942. An expert horseman, he has ridden at the Ft. Sill Horse Show as a representative of the Gunnery Dept. He is married and has an 11-month-old son, Donald Butler.

Was Gunnery Instructor.

Maj. Lightfoot, former S-3 of the 718th F. A., succeeds Lt. Col. Chester R. Rouillard at the 862d. Born March 21, 1911, in Rockdale, Tex., he attended Texas A. & M. College and the University of Texas. He received a reserve commission as second lieutenant and, after working for an oil corporation, was called to active duty in November, 1940.

He served with the 36th Div. until February, 1942. From then until last March he was a gunnery instructor at The Field Artillery

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63d PTD Under Major Farr Finds 'Light Duty' Jobs

Latest unit to be formed in the 63d Division is the Provisional Training Detachment, recently formed under command of Maj. Frank B. Farr to utilize the best aptitudes of men not physically qualified to undergo the rigorous training of this type of combat division.

The PTD was organized by order of Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, and has already found suitable jobs for more than a score of men whose aptitude might otherwise not have been fully utilized by the Army. "The purpose of our detachment is to rehabilitate and reassign men who can reasonably perform some duties in the Army," Maj. Farr said yesterday. "This is not a discharge center, and only those men who do not meet the minimum requirements of the service will be discharged. So far we've found very few of these."

The order which established the PTD said the detachment officers would "process enlisted men who, because of physical and mental disabilities, fall within the provisions of Circular 293, WD, 71943."

Can Make Four Dispositions

In accordance with the order, one of four dispositions can be made by the Board of Officers which is composed of Lt. George G. Guiteras, Division Surgeon and President of the Board; Maj. Farr, Lt. Samuel Imperato, AG Office, and W. O. J. G. Robert S. Kenney.

These dispositions are:

1. The enlisted man may be returned to his parent unit for duty and assignment with the recommendation of the board.
2. He may be reassigned to another unit within the Division where, due consideration being given his physical condition, his inherent or acquired skills may be used.
3. The enlisted men found to be unsuitable for continued assignment within the Division, but who are capable of rendering useful military service in other units, will be processed under provision of Par. 29, Circular 293, WD, 1943.
4. Those men who are found to be physically unable to perform useful military service in any assignment that can be

reasonably made available, will be discharged under the provisions of AR 165-360.

The PTD consists of 436 enlisted men, and is staffed by ten officers. It is now divided into two companies which undergo a daily training schedule which includes class work, dismount drill and calisthenics.

Special attention is given to men physically unable to perform the more strenuous duties and no man is required to do anything which would aggravate his condition.

The PTD is situated in the area formerly occupied by the 3d Bn., 255th Inf. The area has been unused for quite some while and before setting themselves to their daily schedule the men thoroughly policed the area and have already decorated a 20-foot cedar Christmas tree with 175 colored lights and floodlights.

Maj. Farr said that "The spirit and morale of this group is splendid. I thought I might have a few 'goldbricks' but I haven't been able to spot any because every man here has co-operated and is doing his best. They play baseball, volleyball and other group games and though all of them are handicapped in some way, they try hard."

The officers on the PTD staff include Capt. Howard E. McAleer, Lt. Morris Cwibel, Lt. Charles E. Adams, and Lt. Hamlet R. Carter.

863d Prepares Swank Menus for Christmas

A printed Christmas dinner menu, done up in the form of a greeting card which the proud GI can send to the folks back home, will be an added feature enjoyed by Btry. B. of the 863d F. A. Bn. at the traditional feast.

The meal itself is substantially the same as that served in other mess halls, but the menu, printed in handsome green on an expensive antique paper, is quite a novelty. Each man will receive five copies, Lt. Norman J. Williamson, Btry. Commander, reports. The cards were printed free of charge by an anonymous friend of the Battery in Baton Rouge.

861st Singer Heard at Night

(Continued From Page 1.)

selection, greeted at its end with spontaneous applause.

He probably didn't know it at the time, but from that moment on Pvt. Frank Richert was a marked man for the BLOOD AND FIRE staff—they watched for him at the rehearsals of the Div. Arty. Chorus, and dawdled on their typewriters while waiting for his solo selections. Finally, they decided to trace their musical interest further, and do a little checking up on Frank's pre-induction life.

Known as Francisco Richi before the footlights, Frank studied for 11 years before making his first professional appearance. He has sung throughout the United States and Europe. While leading the chorus in the opera "Aida" one day, he was told that he could not appear on stage with his glasses, and being very nearsighted, Frank found himself in his stately garments leading the chanting and bumping into pieces of scenery which he could not see until he was upon them.

Overworking in his operatic career, Richert had a nervous breakdown and was forced to retire from opera for two years. During this time he learned presswork and took out a card with the pressmen's union, but his heart lay in music and he turned to the less strenuous work of radio and electrical transcriptions.

He recorded many classical works for RCA and the Harmony Music Co., of Chicago. Today he's still mixed up in radio, but in a different sense—he's radio and telephone operator of Charlie Battery, 861st Field Artillery Battalion.

He is married, and his wife, Dorothy, lives in Chicago. He may be seen and heard throughout the Division area building up the morale of the men with song.

24 HOUR PHONE SERVICE

The new telephone room at Service Club No. 1 is open to soldiers 24 hours daily, it has been announced by Mrs. Avaril Broderson, club hostess. Six telephones are available and entrance may be gained through the side door of the club after 2200.



PROUD MOTHER is Pfc. Helen F. Terry, as she looks admiringly at corporal chevrons worn by her son, Gale. Mom, who is attached to Wac Detachment No. 1 at Ft. Riley, Kan., isn't at all fazed because she is outranked by her son who is with Co. D of the 254th Inf. Pfc. Terry is staying at Guest House No. 2. When the war is over mother and son expect to return to their home in New York city.

Blood and Fire

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EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS OF THE 63D

Merry Christmas, say we of BLOOD AND FIRE, to everyone in the 63d Infantry Division.

We know that many of you are spending your first Christmas away from home. It's a bitter pill to swallow. But you're here because you believe in Christmas—and Hitler and Tojo don't. You are preparing to fight a holy war that you and yours may enjoy long lives of peace and the many holidays together.

It's gratifying to note that the rigors of discipline and the drabness of an Army camp have not dulled your interest in celebrating Christmas in the manner to which you've been accustomed. All over the Division area are Christmas trees decorated and lighted, holly, mistletoe (a nostalgic touch there), and the preparations for church services and feasting.

Carolers went about the area spreading their good cheer on one and all. The Christians celebrated according to their beliefs. Many Jews, in a fine spirit of assistance to their Christian buddies, took over work details for Christmas Day. Chaplains held special services which drew more than the normal congregations.

Many of the more fortunate soldiers have parents, wives and sweethearts visiting them. Those lucky individuals are sharing their folks with buddies whose families were unable to be here. One company selected a mother from names placed in a hat. That mother was brought from far-off New York by the company, adopted as Company and Regimental Mother. That instance was symbolic of the magnanimous feeling of brotherhood that prevailed throughout the Division.

Many extra hours of effort went into the large-scale decorating in and around day rooms, mess halls and orderly rooms. That effort spoke more than words could tell. It showed that Americans at peace or at war are determined to live their lives as they see fit. They will not submit to the slave world of Hitlers and Tojos. They believe in Christmas—they want Christmas—and they'll have it.

Christ was born that the sins of the world might be washed away; that man might be given another chance.

The 63d Infantry Division, and all the Allied power behind it, was born that the evils of the dictators would be destroyed and the world given another chance for peace—for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, freedom from fear.

It is belief in Christ and the ideals founded and fostered by Him that ever leads Christianity in a crusade against evil.

Keep up your crusade, keep having your Christmases, keep always before you the ideals and faith of Christ—and, in the words of Tiny Tim:

"God bless us, everyone."



News from Here and There

PASADENA, Cal.—Howard Madison Davis, 82, one of the founders of the American Tin Plate Co. and the Weirton Steel Co., died here. He retired in 1930.

LOS ANGELES—Deanna Durbin, who said two and one-half years ago that "my career is not half so important as my marriage," has ended the marriage. The 21-year-old singing star was divorced from Lt. (j.g.) Vaughn Paul, former assistant director on her pictures, and sped back to her studio to continue the career.

INDIANAPOLIS—Wm. G. (Will) Irwin, 77, Indiana banker, industrialist and philanthropist, died of heart disease in his office at the Indiana National Bank, of which he was president. He was Republican national committeeman from Indiana in 1938 and one of the original supporters of Wendell L. Willkie for president.

YONKERS, N. Y.—Mrs. Carmella Sarricchio Topazio, 26-year-old assistant clerk of a draft board here, has been arrested by the FBI on charges of destroying the files of her fiancé and her brother-in-law. The FBI said she destroyed the files of Joseph J. Topazio three times and managed to stall off his induction. Then they were married in November after a six-year courtship.

FORT LEE, N. J.—Police who went to the aid of an ailing recluse summoned the Bergen County SPCA for assistance. There were 37 hungry, sick dogs in the house.

GALLUP, N. M.—The watches and clocks of the Wren Holman home are all in the repair shop, and neighbors have to help Holman get to work on time. He's the watch repair man.

LANSING, Mich.—The State Board of Aeronautics has granted a certificate of convenience and necessity to Great Lakes Greyhound Skyways, Inc., for the operation of two types of helicopter bus service terminating in Detroit. The routes applied for are between downtown Detroit and nearby commercial airports and over Greyhound bus routes in the state.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—When Gov. Spessard Holland couldn't get his usual grapefruit at a local hotel he ordered prunes, saying he'd rather eat them than California grapefruit. A fellow visitor at the Municipal League meeting then reminded him that prunes come from California, too.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The ashes of Julius Earl Nicholson, veteran conductor for the Alabama Great Southern Railroad, will be buried alongside the A. G. S. tracks at Rising Fawn, Ga., where he spent his boyhood years. A fellow worker will carry out the wish, expressed in Nicholson's will.

LANSING, Mich.—State Representative Stanley J. Dombrowski of Detroit, is under sentence to serve 3½ to 15 years in the state prison as a result of his confession to perjury before the one-man grand jury investigating reports of legislative bribery. He named State Representative Walter N. Stockfish of Hamtramck, as the man who paid him \$350 to vote against the anti-chain banking bill. Francis P. Slattery, Grand Rapids banker, was bound over on a grand jury warrant charging him with having attempted to bribe a member of the legislature.

KANSAS CITY—A new major orchestra was launched here with the opening concert of the new Kansas City Philharmonic, under the baton of Efrem Kurtz, internationally celebrated conductor, who made his debut as permanent conductor here.

VALDOSTA, Ga.—W. H. (Bill) Warwick, only present city councilman defeated in the Democratic primary, inserted an advertisement in the Valdosta Times thanking the persons who voted for him and adding: "As for the 575 persons who did not vote for me, I think they used good judgment."

TULSA, Okla.—Eight prominent Oklahomans have been indicted on charges that they conspired to defraud textbook purchasers by controlling prices and official adoptions of the texts. Among those indicted were A. L. Crable, state superintendent of public instruction, J. T. Daniel, former speaker of the state house of representatives, and the presidents of Oklahoma A. and M. college and Panhandle A. and M. college.

DETROIT—The Ford Motor Co. has rebuffed demands of the UAW-CIO for higher wages for approximately 160,000 employes throughout the country. The company declared its willingness to meet with the union but reminded the union that the Little Steel wage line has not yet been discarded and declared it doubted the value of negotiations for a general wage increase at this time.

TOLEDO, Ore.—A merchant accepted a check on the Lincoln County bank. Later he discovered it was no good. The bank has been closed 10 years, and was located right across the street from the merchant.

DUBUQUE, Iowa—Six women are serving on the Federal jury—the first time women have served in this district, although they have been eligible since 1920. Judge George C. Scott, who retired after 21 years on the bench, had instructed clerks to exclude women from jury lists, but November 23 a visiting judge ordered a new jury list drawn from names of both men and women.

The Sky Pilot Says It

PEACE ON EARTH TO MEN OF GOOD WILL

By Maj. William J. Guinan,
Asst. Div. Chaplain

Many had been the visitations God made to the world, and each time for a definite purpose. Another visitation was in store for man. By many God was unknown, by some despised, by all badly served and little or lightly thought of. Now His time had ripened to its fulness. And so, while the world slept in the silence of the midnight, the Kingdom of God stole upon the world as silently as the footsteps of the dawn steal down the eastern hills.

The simple, unworldly shepherds, whose hearts were pure, whom the world had not spoiled by its wealth and pleasure, they who toiled away from the great highway where the noisy folly of the world pursued its march, upon them the vision burst and the Angel said "Fear not, for I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. For there has been born to you today in the town of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, Peace to men of Good Will."

Fear not, and Peace—such is the keynote of Christmas. What a thought in a world with all its encircling doom of hate, of war, of brutality, where man's inhumanity to man is so cruelly demonstrated!

The hope of the world is in Christ. Man must go back in all simplicity to the crib of Bethlehem if he would restore his spiritual moorings. He must fear only the evil, and love the good. To go to Christ, the font of goodness, is to be of good will and to be of good will means one is ready to do God's will. When man wills to do that, then and only then will he enjoy that peace which surpasses all understanding. Such is the real meaning of Christmas.

G. I. Jingles

MELODY IN 4 F

(With apologies to Bill Shakespeare, Hamlet, et al.)

To see, or not to see—that is the question—
Thus spake the lad at his physical inspection—
Whether 't is nobler, or whether 't is not
To sham a poor eyesight that I've not got,
'T is a cinch in a pinch, 't will save the day,
Else all these mad rogues will have me in 1-A.
So perhaps 't would be wise to assume the disguise
Of a lad who no more can depend on his eyes—
So he tried—all in vain—to sing the refrain
Of a man whose good health, has gone down the drain—

But alas and alack, such goldbricks as he
Soon all find themselves in the infantry,
And an infantry such as the 63d
Where the AP's and AT's all give him the bird—
And today as he hikes, sweats, and runs out of
breath,
Sweet visions have left him—of life in 4-F.
—Pvt. Herbert Arbitblit,
255th Inf.

THE LOST SNAFU

(With Apologies to E. A. Poe)

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was early in September
That I got a little notice saying "you have been
selected."
I knew they were not jesting, so I went without
protesting,
But clinging to the feeble hope that I would be
rejected.

There I met the many sawbones, and from arches
up through jawbones
They passed me very quickly and waved me
toward the door.
They knew what I was thinking, for with steady
eyes unblinking
They gazed upon my paling face and snickered
"nevermore."

"But," said I, in tone remorseful, "I am not at all
resourceful
So, I'd likely be a millstone in the fast and
modern war,
And the very feel of khaki in a month would drive
me wacky."
But their faces never altered as they chanted
"nevermore."

So now I am a doughboy, but still a snafu slow boy
And my sergeant has some gray hairs that he
never had before.
He says, "You're the king of dopes here, will you
never learn the ropes here?"
And I scan the ground beneath me as I murmur
"nevermore."

—Pvt. Loren Mork,
Mq. Co., 3d Bn., 253d Inf.

DIVISION SIDELIGHTS

718th F. A.—Lt. George W. Putnam is filling the vacancy created by the transfer from S-3 of Maj. James E. Lightfoot to another battalion. . . . High mark with the carbine last week was made by Pvt. Frederick Plumridge, Service Btry., who scored 190. Not a man in the battalion holod and final tabulation showed 18 per cent expert, 40 per cent sharpshooter and 42 per cent marksman. . . . Brutus, a dog described as having human eyes, has been adopted as official mascot of Btry. A. . . . Pfc. Robert E. Lee was top man on the carbine range for Btry. A with 185. He hails from Albany, Ore., and is not related to the Confederate leader. . . . Nine new non-commissioned officers have been added to the battalion roster. Promoted to corporal were Pvt. Richard Lurie, Pvt. Gerald W. Dunne and Pfc. John F. Gillespie, all of Btry. A; Pvt. Alfred J. East, Btry. B, and Pfc. Norbert G. Heintzel and Pvt. Paul J. Browne, both of Btry. C. Promoted to T/5 were Pfc. Theodore L. Kazanoff and Pvt. Henry J. Vincent, both of Service Btry., and Pvt. Charles W. Cameron, Hq. Btry. . . . Serv Btry has redecorated its dayroom to make it both a place of relaxation and a classroom. A false ceiling of white cloth now hides the rafters, wall-board painted white adds light to the room, pictures of pretty girls add interest and distinction, and the rear of the room has been set off as the orientation center.

203d Engrs.—1st Sgt. James Canning of Co. C has a new man to keep on the ball. He is James Francis Canning, the sergeant's first-born, who weighed in at seven and three-fourths pounds when added to the morning report last week.

Div. Hq. and Hq. Co.—BLOOD AND FIRE'S editor, Tom Hoctor who had a narrow nocturnal escape recently when he stumbled into the wrong bed and started an argument with its occupant, had another brush with danger a few evenings ago. Crossing the valley between Division Headquarters and his barracks, Pvt. Hoctor found the path blocked by a cow. Peacefully grazing in the moonlight, the animal refused to clear the way. When Hoctor advanced in an ill-advised proposal to pat her flanks, Bossy lowered her head, glowered at the editor through limpid brown eyes and tossed her horns. Hoctor found the longer way 'round was the shortest way home. . . . Promotions of two men in Division Headquarters and six in Hq. Co. were announced this week. Pfc. Morris Kiass, assistant to the Division Chaplain, was raised to T/5 and T/5 George R. Lukacs, of the Publications Sec. of the AGO, to T/4. The following privates were promoted to Pfc.: William H. Barnett, Joseph Moore, Harold J. Olsen, Eddie A. Thompson, Harry W. Wilkins and John Wozniak. Moore is a clerk in the Hq. Co. orderly room; the other five are cooks.

254th Inf.—Lt. Elroy Lemaster, commanding Co. M, and Cpl. John J. Zaro, of the same company, are celebrating new arrivals in their families, David and Ernestine, respectively. . . . Recent promotions in Co. M are those of Lts. Nathan Sprintzin and Richard Carter to first lieutenant; Cpl. Walter E. Hoar to sergeant and the following Pfc. to corporal: Algernon J. Keith, Milton Kosmin, Nicholas Nemeth, Anthony Mottola and Harry McGuff. . . . Capt. Emmett Creighton, Co. L, has returned from a two-week course at Aberdeen, Md. . . . Promotions in Hq. Co., 2d Bn., raised the following men from private to Pfc.: William E. Feigley, Walter C. St. Clair, Dale A. Stephenson, John Tura, Robert E. Kinton, Marvin F. Hogg, Harold W. James, Gordon W. Wenzel, Leonard W. Theodore, Charles B. Eddy, Ralph A. Grande, Douwe Stuurman, Fred R. Bauer, Joseph S. Koliboski, Mario A. Rizzolo, John J. Wolek, Arthur D. Tamaszewski, Kurt O. Steinbart and John DeVincentis. . . . Men of the message center of 2d Bn. Hq. threw a chicken dinner in Centreville last week for Sgt. John Kramer, their chief, who is leaving for OCS at Ft. Benning, Ga. Pfc. John Kern will succeed him as message center chief. . . . A new plan for testing telephone lines in small communities has been accepted by the Bell Telephone System. It was designed by Pfc. Leonard W. Theodore, of the 2d Bn. Hq. wire section, in civilian life a central office switchman for the Pennsylvania Bell Telephone Co.

255th Inf.—Non-coms of Cannon Co. started a fad at the Thanksgiving dinner when they served as table waiters for privates and their guests. The idea worked so well it is being repeated for Christmas and is being adopted by several other companies. . . . Lt. Harold E. Wymer has joined the officer ranks of Anti-Tank Co. . . . Of 186 men who fired in Co. C, every man qualified on every weapon except one man who holod on the BAR. . . . Sgt. C. W. Moon, Cannon Co. is the father of C. W., Jr., six pounds, seven ounces, born in the station hospital at Ft. McPherson, Ga. . . . Pvt. Sidney Leib is using the rule-of-thumb to measure his GI haircuts. He instructs the barber to trim his hair so it will be "about normal length at furlough time." . . . New Pfc. of Co. G are Julius Mamlock, Ora Wilder and James Wilson, all cooks. . . . More than one-third of all the men in Co. L who fired the 60-mm. mortar for record made 100 per cent, highest record in the battalion. . . . Pvt. Norman Conine, of Hq. Co., 3d Bn., made expert on the M1 and shot 230 out of a possible 300 on the 37-mm. anti-tank gun to make highest score in the regiment, while Pvt. Ray Puckett scored 91 per cent with the pistol, best score in his battalion. . . . Lt. John Blair is new executive officer of Co. I, where 1st/Sgt. Oscar D. Smith has moved from Hq. Co., 3d Bn., to replace 1st/Sgt. Marvin C. Hayline, now with the Provisional Training Detachment.

863d F. A.—Pfc. Robert E. Bartels observed his twenty-first birthday by sleeping on a bivouac on the coldest night thus far this winter. He claims the weather did not bother him because he remembered that he was now a man. . . . Promotions of the following privates to Pfc. were announced this week: Frank Chadra, Jr., Raymond S. Huber, Matthew F. Maggiore, William H. Moore, Bernard W. Radziewicz and Clyde L. Schutz. Pvt. Norman W. Saum was promoted to corporal. . . . Pvt. Vannar Makinen started from camp to be with his wife when their first child arrived. The stork beat him, however, and he got home to find himself the father of a nine-and-one-half-pound son, Donald John.

253d Inf.—S/Sgt. John W. Trimble, supply sergeant for Hq. Co., 3d Bn., joined the ranks Dec. 10 when he married Miss Marie E. Richardson, of Baton Rouge, at St. Anthony Church in her home city. . . . Cpl. William Flynn, Co. A, has been promoted to sergeant.

63d Recon. Trp.—Pvts. Robert C. Avelis and Edward F. LeBoeuf profited the most from Monday night's bivouac. They set up their tent far out of reach and the troop moved out while they were sleeping. A 12-mile hike in the cold night brought the lesson home. . . . The troop rated 93.33 per cent in intelligence and reconnaissance subjects, in a test given last week. . . . The new vehicles seen dashing hither and yon are M8 armored cars, items of issue for the Recon. Trp., and eventually will replace the M3A1 scout car issued for training purposes. Eighteen troopers are taking specialized training in the care, operation and maintenance of the new vehicles. They will share their knowledge with the remainder of the organization later.

Girl Shortage Fails To Halt 718th Dance

Despite the fact that circumstances beyond their control prevented a number of girls from coming from Baton Rouge for the Christmas dance of the 718th F. A. last week-end, the spirits of the wagon soldiers and their guests were not dampened. Practically the whole battalion, including Lt. Col. Frederick T. Unger, commanding officer, turned out at the Division

Artillery Recreation Hall to dance with about 30 girls from Woodville, Centreville and Liberty.

The Div. Arty. Rec. Hall, scene of the dance, was lavishly decorated in Christmas colors, and refreshments were served. Of particular note was the cake baked by Pvt. Miniski of B Btry., 718th F. A.

Army Ordnance financed the first heavier-than-air machine which the Wright Brothers put into operation at Kitty Hawk in 1903.

Men of 254th Dine Dance, as Guests Of Ferriday Maids

The boys of the 254th Inf. enjoyed the hospitality of the Military Maids at Ferriday, La., for the second time this season last Saturday night. The Maids and townsfolk played hosts to a large delegation from the regiment at a turkey dinner and dance at Ferriday High School.

This was the second occasion on

Officers Get New Commands

(Continued From Page 3.)

School, Ft. Sill, Okla. He joined the 63d Div. last spring.

Maj. Long, executive officer of Hq. Sp. Trps., moved up to succeed Col. Underwood. Maj. Maier was S-3 of the 861st F. A. until his appointment as executive officer.

Lt. Col. Joseph H. Warren returned to the 254th Inf. this week after a three-month tour of duty with the 255th. Since graduating from West Point 25 years ago, he has served in many capacities in many climes, spending most of his time since Pearl Harbor instructing officers and men.

Born in Dallas, Tex., in 1895. Col. Warren studied engineering at the University of Texas and entered West Point in 1916. His class was graduated just 11 days before the Armistice and its first field duty consisted of a three-month tour of the Western Front battlefields.

After assignments at Camp Pine, Ark., and Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., he sailed for the Philippines in 1924 with Hq. Co., 57th Inf., then Gen. Douglas MacArthur's command. He recalls maneuvers on Bataan, at that time a peaceful, rugged area inhabited chiefly by pagans.

He returned in 1928 to attend the Signal School at Ft. Monmouth, N. J. He commanded Hq. Co., 16th Inf., at Governors Island, N. Y., from 1929 to 1932, following which he served in Panama.

Attached to the 13th Inf. at Newport, R. I., when war broke out in Europe in 1939, he went to Ft. Benning as an instructor. He stayed there until 1942 and joined the 63d on its activation. He was executive officer of the 254th until September, when he was assigned to the 255th.

Col. Warren makes his off-the-post home in Woodville. He and Mrs. Warren have two children, both born in the Philippines. Their son, Joseph H., Jr., is a cadet at West Point and their daughter, Helen, is a student at Randolph-Macon College, Lynchburg, Va. Miss Warren arrived this week to spend the holidays with her parents.

which the citizens of the town entertained the men of the 254th. Last month the boys were guests at a similar affair at Ferriday and they, in turn, entertained the girls at the CT White Rec. Hall three weeks ago.

Turkey and Fixin's Immediately upon leaving the convoy Saturday the men were ushered into the High School cafeteria, which was gaily decorated in bright colors and with miniature Christmas trees on the long banquet table. Members of the Maids bustled about attending to the hungry soldiers and each man received a heaping plate of turkey and fixin's, and seconds were not uncommon.

Following the feast the 254th's orchestra struck up a lively tune and the grand march, led by Lt. Lawson S. Kately, 254th's Athletic Officer, and Miss Bess Pierce, captain of the Ferriday Military Maids, was under way. Miss Jenny McLin, program director for the Servicemen's Center at Natchez, who led a large delegation of Maids from that city to Ferriday, directed the march.

Legislator Welcomes Men

During an intermission between dances the Hon. George P. Bullis, member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, welcomed the men to Ferriday, stating that it was a privilege to be of service to the men of the 63d, and that the citizens of Ferriday would always be glad to extend the hospitality of the town to soldiers of the Blood and Fire Division.

In reply Lt. Kately stressed the deep appreciation of his men for the hospitality shown by the Ferriday citizens and expressed the hope that the friendship existing between soldiers and townspeople would be a lasting one.

Much of the credit for the success of the affair goes to Mrs. Mary Harrison, sponsor of the Military Maids.

MOTHER VISITS AS SURPRISE

(Continued From Page 1.)

thus raise enough money to pay the expenses of one Mother? Lt. McLister got the approval of Capt. David Wedderspoon, Company Commander, and together they explained the plan to the men, who adopted it enthusiastically. It was to be a surprise gift for one of them.

The name of each man was written on a slip of paper and put in a box. Then, in the presence of Company officers, 1st. Sgt. Victor D. Miodzik and Sgt. Richard L. Peine drew out five names, one of which was to be the lucky mother and the other four alternates. Mrs. Sparling's name was the first drawn.

Through the co-operation of the American Red Cross, Lt. McLister made travel arrangements for Mrs. Sparling, who arrived at McComb at 6:58 this morning. There, she was met by Capt. Wedderspoon, Lt. McLister—and her son. When he saw his mother get off the train,

Natchez Recalls Ante-bellum Days For Men of 63d

(Continued From Page 1.)

Club, the first of the series of tableaux depicting holiday scenes in the Natchez of the '50s, was presented.

Children and their parents garbed in the quaint costumes of the period stepped from a large frame on the stage and gathered about the Christmas tree. Children's Christmas parties in the South were usually held in the morning so that the afternoon and evening might be devoted to grown-ups.

Pretty members of the Military Maids demonstrated how Southern belles celebrated Christmas at boarding school. Choosing partners from among the soldiers they danced a Virginia Reel to the music of a string ensemble.

Scenes From Pilgrimages

Court scenes which featured the Confederate Ball of past Pilgrimages were recalled when former queens attired in elaborate hoop-skirted gowns, paraded before the audience. Another scene typical of the Pilgrimages was a ballet presented by young ladies trained by Miss Treeby Poole, well-known Mississippi dancing teacher.

Tuesday's event preceded the regular holiday program scheduled for the week-end arranged by the staff of the Servicemen's Center. This afternoon servicemen and women have been invited to dinner at several homes in the city.

Tonight Co. G of the Military Maids will sponsor a formal dance at the Auditorium from 2000 to 2400, and on Sunday afternoon an old-fashioned Christmas party with Santa Claus distributing gifts to the soldiers will terminate the three-day program of activities. Members of the Natchez Chapter of the DAR will entertain touring servicemen and women at Rosalie, ante-bellum home and headquarters of General Grant during the siege of Vicksburg.

William Y. Kester, director of the Servicemen's Center, will supervise the party Sunday and Miss Jennie McLin, program superintendent, will have charge of the dance tomorrow night.

it was Pvt. Sparling's first knowledge that he was the lucky soldier. Capt. Wedderspoon arranged for the "special detail" accompanying him on a trip.

Mrs. Sparling was greeted at the entrance to Camp Van Dorn by Col. Paul E. Tombaugh and the Drum and Bugle Corps of the 255th Infantry. She was presented a bouquet of gardenias as a gift of the regiment.

A full schedule of entertainment and sight-seeing has been planned for Company E's Mother, who will leave for her home Monday.



SOUTHERN BELLES wearing the costumes of the '50s join with men of the 63d Division in singing Christmas Carols at the reception and dance given by the Natchez Garden club for soldiers of Camp Van Dorn at the City auditorium last Tuesday night.

TIPS FROM TERRY FIED --THE 'OLD SARGE'

This week I'm going to talk about two things: popularity contests and your chances of getting shot at in this war. I was as red in the face as hell the other day. The Division Testing Team plucked one of my squads out of the air and put it through a simple little squad in the attack problem. The squad made a lousy showing, and I'm going to tell you why. It was because the chap who was squad leader didn't have what it takes to make his squad do what he wanted them to do.

I say "who was squad leader" because he ain't anymore. I saw to that. He issued a nice order, too, but I reckon he figured like a lot of other folks around here that there was where his job ended, because he did exactly nothing to see to it that the order was carried out.

I said to him, "why in the hell didn't you take that squad of yours by the neck and make them do it right?" "But, gee, Sarge," said he, "if I did that they'd think I was a rat." Said I, "This ain't no pop-

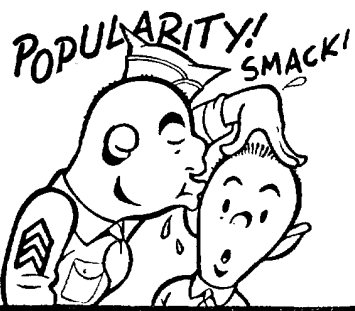
me them chevrons!" The old man backed me up, too. So my tip to you NCO's is that if you've got to be a rat to run that squad, then be one.

I honestly think that some of you guys are crazy enough to believe those daily newspaper headlines which have the end of this war "just around the corner," and



that you'll be home in time for the spring plowing. Take it from me, you'll be nearer right if you count on digging foxholes in the fall, a long way from that farm of yours.

As for those who are in on the show, Germany and Japan are just about as much licked as Joe Louis was in the 13th round of his fight with Billy Conn. You'll be doing yourself, the Division, your family and the country a lot more good if you'd stop letting your false hopes interfere with your training and just assume that sooner or later you're going to be ducking bullets and that you'd better learn how now while there is time.



ularity contest. This is war. Give

Foss, Guadalcanal Hero, Now With 63d Inf. Div.

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shot through. Being a half-pint, I'd dug my hole deep enough for me, but my buddy was a long drawn out drink of water and he'd crawled in and gone to sleep in a sitting position with his knees drawn up under his chin. A single slug had shattered both of them.

Picked Up by Medics

"Our outfit was pinned down in that spot by machine gun fire but I managed to crawl through the tangled growth and even though I passed out a few times, I finally managed to be picked up by the medics. My buddy—his last name was Courtney. I never did know what his first name was—was picked up and they told me later that they'd cut off both legs in a vain effort to save him.

"I'd always heard that those Jap .25 slugs stung like BB shot, but the one that drilled me left a hole in my chest you can stick your fist in."

The day after he was picked up, Foss was removed to a ship bound for the Fiji Islands. After a short rest there he was returned to the United States for convalescence at Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, Calif., and later at the Percy Jones General Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich.

Shelled by Jap Navy

"When the Army first landed at Guadal we were 'welcomed' by two air attacks, one at high noon while we were just getting into our Higgins boats, the other at dusk. That same night the Jap Navy sent some shells at our beachhead, but we'd been warned by our intelligence men and had already hiked 15 miles inland. That was the last the Americans heard of the Jap Navy on the island, for that night our own Navy stepped in and drove the Japs out. Without the terrific shelling our naval forces gave the

S-Sgt Shanahan Marries Miss Helen O'Sullivan

It's Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Shanahan now following the recent marriage of S/Sgt. Patrick Shanahan of Co. C., 263d Engineer Combat Battalion, to the former Helen O'Sullivan of Lowell, Mass.

The couple's marriage was the culmination of a romance which began when both were children. The Shanahans are making their home in McComb.

Jap positions, I can't see how we'd ever taken 'Canal."

Pvt. Foss, who has been awarded the Purple Heart, was inducted in June, 1941. Following training at Camp Roberts in the 80th Tr. Bn., he was sent to the 134th Inf., part of the 35th Div., then stationed at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., was later assigned to the 164th Inf., 34th Div., with which he went overseas.

Cannon Co. Wins 254th Orientation

Because they combined comfort, beauty and intellectual stimulus the day room and orientation displays of Cannon Co., 254th Inf., were judged best among all companies in the regiment by Captain Elmer Gross, acting regimental orientation officer. Both dayroom and displays are the handiwork of Lt. H. M. Michael, orientation officer, and Pvt. Robert F. Cooper, his assistant.

Other commendations went to Regimental Hq. Co., where Lt. R. G. Couillou and Pfc. Gino Bardi have maintained an intimate and scholarly dayroom. On one wall is a mural by Cpl. George Barnes, depicting Roosevelt and Churchill.

Company D came in for special credit for transforming its dayroom into a place of learning and relaxation in a short space of time. Lt. A. J. Ledner and Pfc. Samuel Clark are responsible for the orientation work. Pfc. Clark, collaborating with Pvt. Chapman, an artist, designed an attractive war-progress corner of which targets Berlin and Tokyo are conspicuous components.

"Orientation has gone a long way from the haphazard tacking up of a map on the wall," commented Capt. Gross. "Now the men are really getting to know the facts about the war."

Lt. George S. Hoar, regular orientation officer, returned Monday from a two-week course at Washington and Lee University, where he attended orientation school.

In the heart of the Mojave Desert, Marines rehearse abandoning ship. The "ship" is a 15-foot-high platform paralleling a water tank.

Once a Magician Now a Sergeant

(Continued From Page 2.)

ards. Meantime, he worked up a dancing act with Irene Hinkle, one of the two identical Hinkle twins, old friends of his from North Adams. Rice and Irene subsequently danced together for two years—playing night clubs in winter, and the Orpheum vaudeville circuit in the summer.

Finally the big break came. Thurston, in desperate need for a pair of attractive female twins for his act, heard of the Hinkle sisters. He sought them out, pleaded, cajoled, finally persuaded them and Rice to come with the act. Followed four profitable, highly educational years for Rice, from 1927 to 1930. Then the master took sick, and Rice went back to vaudeville hoofing. The last job he held before coming into the Army, 18 months ago, was head of the Boston commercial research activities of Ross Federal, Inc., a theatrical concern.

Army Success Story

Rice hasn't the slightest idea how he happened to be assigned to the field artillery, and eventually to supply. But he has had a happy career in the Army. He became a Pfc. after basic training and two months later was upped to staff sergeant. He came to Battery B of the 863d from the 923d Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Breckenridge, Ky.

Rice still hankers after the theater. He, too, has a private post-war aim: Heir to many of the secrets of the Great Thurston, he wants to materialize bigger rabbits out of even more impressive top hats, and make whole troops of fleet ponies disappear into thin air. Five times a day.

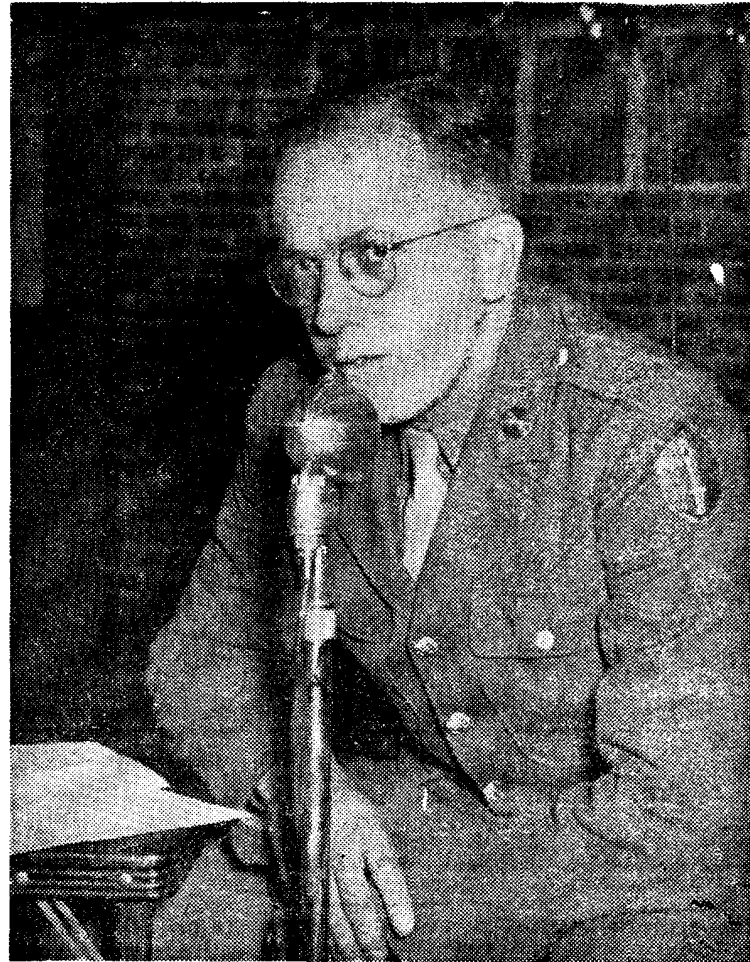
—By Pvt. Erwin Ross, Btry. B, 863d F. A. Bn

NCO Club of CT Blue Holds Yuletide Party

Emphasizing the Christmas atmosphere with gay lights and decorations, the NCO Club of Combat Team Blue held a Yuletide party at the clubhouse, 17th Ave., and 23d St., last Wednesday night.

Each feminine guest was presented with a wrist corsage as she entered the door. Civilian workers on the post, and wives of members attended.

Pvt. James Kelly was master of ceremonies, and a short period of entertainment which included songs by Joan Reed, was presented. Pvt. Danny Mendelsohn and his orchestra furnished music for dancing.



GOOD EVENING, FOLKS, says newscaster Pfc. Samuel Clark, who gives a news summary four times weekly at Service Club No. 2. He's heard Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 1930 and at 1915 Sundays.

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Pfc. Clark Gives Newscast, Refutes Rumors at Club 2

Soldiers who visit Service Club No. 2 after chow during certain evenings each week have been pausing to listen to a digest of the news emanating from the public address system in the lounge. The voice behind the mike is that of Pfc. Samuel Clark, Co. D, 254th Inf. who does a nightly newscast Monday, Wednesday and Saturday nights at 1930, and on Sundays at 1915.

The newscasts are the outgrowth of suggestions made by soldiers that a news program be started. Mrs. Avaril Broderson, hostess at the club, made inquiries and found Pfc. Clark, who conducted a similar program in civilian life over WGAL, Lancaster, Pa.

Recently a novel feature was added to the program. It was decided that one of the best ways to

discount the host of rumors which have been floating about camp concerning movement of the division from Van Dorn, would be to expose the rumors and refute them.

With this object in mind a "Rumor Box" was placed in the lounge and G. I.'s invited through a placard to drop in their particular latrine rumors for the week. Blood and Fire's recent editorial was also placed on display. The idea went over and prizes have been distributed to soldiers contributing the best rumor for each week. Pfc. Clark makes a public award following his newscast Saturday nights.

Pvt. Boutwell Winner

Last week's winning rumor was submitted by Pvt. John H. Boutwell, Co. A, 254th Inf. His rumor was to the effect that there would be no furloughs after training. In refutation of this Pfc. Clark read an official statement from regimental headquarters to show that furloughs would be granted following Corps Tests.

Other rumors reported were that the 63d will move to Ft. George G. Meade, Md., that the division will remain here until July or August, and that Camp Van Dorn will be converted into a prison camp.

Besides helping to disseminate the news of the day and to refute rumors, Clark has also been active in the orientation work of his company in the 254th. He is assistant to Lt. Alfred J. Ledner, orientation officer.

Clark, who taught history and conducted current events classes at Franklin and Marshall academy and Franklin and Marshall college, Lancaster, Pa., was instrumental in preparing an attractive orientation display in the Co. D dayroom. Assisted by Pvt. Sydney Chapman, a commercial artist from Detroit, Clark prepared a three-map board, complete with streamers leading to important geographical points. The theme is flanked by pictures and news items of the European and Asiatic theaters of war.

Gloster USO to Hold Christmas Program

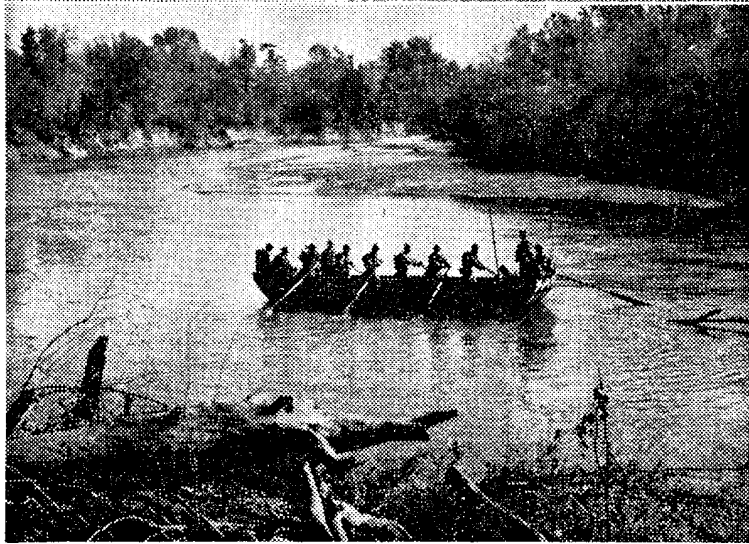
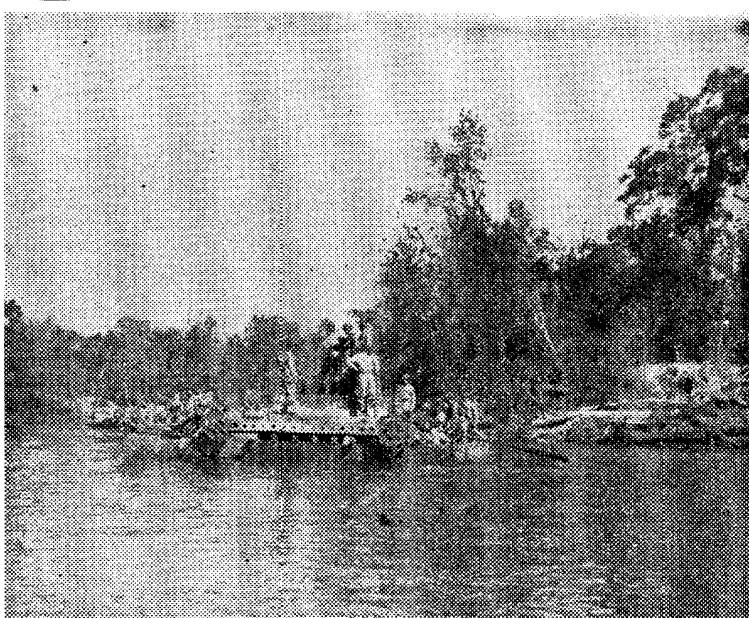
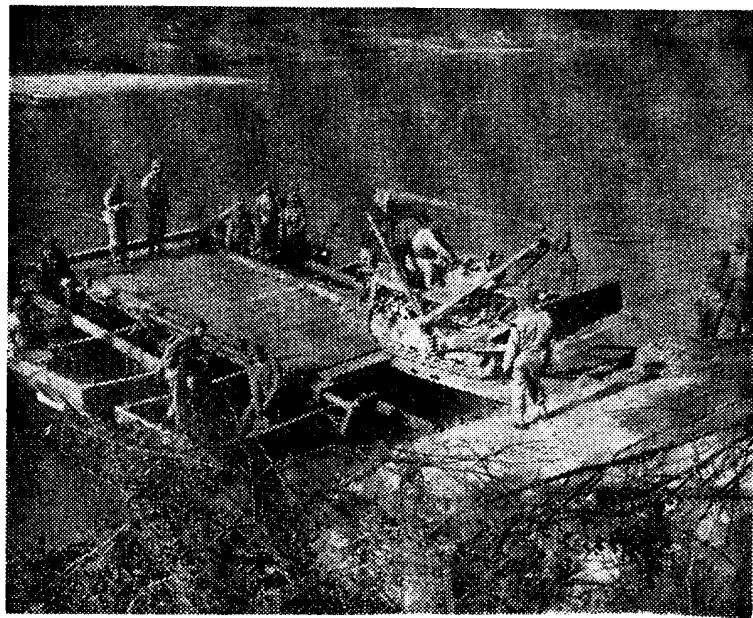
Special programs for enlisted men and their wives who will be in the vicinity of Gloster this week end have been planned at the Gloster Servicemen's center, Miss Helen M. Stephenson, director, announced today. A Christmas eve open house was held at the center, with punch, cookies and home-made candy furnished by Gloster women. On Saturday a Christmas party and dance are planned, at which refreshments will be served and small gifts will be distributed to servicemen under a Christmas tree.



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USO Allotted \$1,000 to Foster Dances

\$1,000 A Month For 63d Dances Given by USO



STREAM CROSSINGS are a cinch to these hard-working men of the 263d Engrs. Their technique is to load a bulldozer on a section of the bridge (upper left); then to float the machine across the stream to clear a landing on the other side (upper right), while the bridge sections are being joined. Bottom photo shows six husky oarsmen rowing one of the pontoons which float the bridge.

(Continued From Page 1.)
sion Special Service Officer, to work out details of the dances. The weekly Wednesday dances at Natchez have been discontinued and, instead, young women will be brought from Natchez as guests of the Blood and Fire Division on Friday evenings. Saturday night dances will continue in both Natchez and Baton Rouge.

Requested Entertainment
Gen. Hibbs wrote the USO in September, asking that some entertainment be provided the men of the Division while they are at Camp Van Dorn.

Pointing out that the camp is more than 50 miles from any large city and that transportation facilities are inadequate, the General wrote:

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

The appearance here of Dinah Shore, who flew from Hollywood late in September especially to visit men of the Division, was a direct result of Gen. Hibbs' appeal. The USO and the War Department Special Service Division have promised to send top-notch radio, screen and stage talent to come at more frequent intervals.

American vs. German News 'Broadcast' to 255th Inf.

The dramatic contrast between American news of fact and the truth and German news twisted to distort fact and mislead those who read or hear it was brought out vividly in the first of a monthly series of forums Monday in the CT Blue Rec. Hall. The series, dealing with the war and the individual soldier, was drawn up for the 255th Inf. by Lt. Ralph B. Bond, regimental orientation officer, who recently returned from orientation school at Washington and Lee University.

"Why This Is Our War," was the theme of the first forum, and the subject was discussed by three enlisted men whose backgrounds qualify them to comment.

Causes of War
Pvt. Issahr Appleman, Co. D, 255th, spoke on "The Causes of the War"; he was followed by Pvt. Isidor Gordon of Hq. Co., explaining "Why We Aid Our Allies." Pvt. Leonard Carlin, also of Co. D, vivified the fundamental differences between the warring nations in his exposition of the subject, "Ideas in Conflict Between the Axis and the United Nations."

The talks were followed by a 15-minute discussion period, during which the speakers answered questions from the floor.

Preceding the commentaries, a simulated American and Nazi news broadcast emphasized the contrast between the two concepts of news. First, a news summary was read by the American announcer in crisp, clear, factual phrases. Then, in the hysterical tones of a Nazi announcer, the same news summary was read with its German interpretations and twisted interpolations.

The summary presented by the broadcasters was a review of the latest events from the war fronts; thus it served the double purpose of conveying information and demonstrating propaganda technique.

The part of the American news commentator was played by Pvt. Harold Bolton, and the German propagandist by Corp. Garry A. Bahrich, who was born in Germany.

The news scripts were written by Pvt. Elliot Sanger, Jr., who, before entering the Army, was a radio news writer.

29 Men of 255th AT Co. Are Promoted to Pfc.

Twenty-nine men of Anti-Tank Co., 255th Inf., were promoted this week to Pfc. first class, according to an announcement made by Capt. Robert C. Stuart, company commander.

The men receiving the ratings are:

Pvts. Ronald C. Auld, Murray Balter, Philip J. Cronin, Russel H. Dixon, Joseph E. Ferenc, Edward T. Ferguson, Frank Filippek, Edward Goodman, Carl E. Hallstrom, Early W. Kipp, Walter J. Krueger, Henry H. Lenkowski, Robert Loudermilk, Patrick H. Majors, Frederick A. Martin, Marlin L. Merrill, William E. Mindock, John F. McQuillan, Peter C. Penneaco, Carl H. Peythress, Jr., Arthur P. Purdy, Leon L. Sanders, Anthony J. Sayotovich, Thomas G. Sherwood, Gervis W. Snow, Walter W. Stetter, Chester S. Warakomski, John H. Wrentz, and Walter E. Zielinski.

Jewish Soldiers Win Praise For Taking Christmas Details

Jewish soldiers of 63d Div. volunteered to forego Christmas pass privileges and took over many work details of their Christian comrades during the Christmas week-end.

An offer made on behalf of a majority of the enlisted personnel of the Jewish faith was accepted by Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, who directed in the Daily Bulletin that the voluntary contribution be accepted wherever possible and commended the Jewish men for their "considerate and soldierly action."

The offer of the Jewish soldiers was made through T/5 Morris Klass, assistant to the Division Chaplain.

"The men of the Jewish faith appreciate the full meaning of Christmas to our comrades," Klass wrote Gen. Hibbs, "and wish to help as many of them as possible to be released from duty to celebrate this holiday in their homes, in the surrounding communities or in camp, as the case may be."

"The majority of the Jewish enlisted men under your command have expressed voluntarily the desire to inform you that we will not request the privilege to go on pass for the Christmas week-end, thus making available the maximum number of passes for others. We further volunteer to take the work details of our individual friends and bunkmates who wish to be relieved of these for the Christmas week-end."

In his reply, Gen. Hibbs said: "I desire to express through you to the men of Jewish faith my appreciation for their voluntary action. I have issued instructions that their offer be accepted wherever possible in the same fine spirit in which it was made."

"An essential aim of military training is securing co-operative effort. The soldierly example of your group in offering this co-operation is worthy of emulation by all groups within the Division."

Whatsinaname Dept.

Worried about the liquor shortage and need some booze in a hurry?

The solution's simple, put in a call for Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 255th Inf. You'll find one Pvt. Hilary Booze.

However, you won't have to hang up in hilarious gales of laughter. You can sober up on 'he spot.

Pvt. Manuel Sober is also attached to Hq. Co.

GI Chorines Score Hit in 254th Show

Rolling in the aisles would have prevailed at the CT White Rec. Hall Thursday night, Dec. 16, if the aisles themselves were not packed with GIs who attended "Hurlique Burleque," the 254th Infantry's riotous musical revue.

Under the guidance of Cpl. Les Heath and Pvts. Mac Scheering and Joe Dolan, the presentation sent the jammed house into spasms of laughter. So overwhelming was the reception that Lt. Lawson S. Kateley, officer in charge, has promised to have the performance repeated again.

Two production numbers, "The Ziegfeld Girls" and "The Beach at Waikiki," featured the show. The "gorgeous" chorines made up of the 254th's own talent stole the show from under the noses of such stars as Bonnie Lauxague, Pat Patanella, Les Heath and Joe Dolan.

"I Wanna Get a Wife," an original double-entendre skit, provoked great mirth, and Sgt. Bernie Evans scored a hit with "A Pretty Girl Is Like a Melody," and "I'll Be Home for Christmas." Eleanor Heath, master mistress of the marionettes, was loudly applauded for her work with the dolls.

It remained for Dorothy McHale, Blood and Fire's songstress, to capture the fancy of the audience who encored her innumerable times.

Signal Men S For Big Party

A gala party and entertainment attended by girls from Baton Rouge and Liberty, will be staged by members of the 563d Signal Co., tonight at Special Troops Rec. Hall, starting at 2000.

Members of the Signal Company have been busy preparing the hall for the party and the entire barren structure has been transformed with colored lights, streamers and other Christmas decorations.

A variety show will precede the dancing in which a girls' dancing troupe from Baton Rouge will present several numbers, and Miss Mannie Rupert of Baton Rouge, will sing.

Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Div. Commander, and other members of the general staff have been invited to attend.



YANK VS. NAZI is this means of presenting news to men of CT Blue developed by Lt. Ralph B. Bond, 255th Regimentation Orientation Officer. Yank newscaster at left is Pvt. Harold Bolton; his Nazi countered is Cpl. Garry A. Bahrich. In the background are Pvts. Assahr Appleman, Leonard Carlin and Thomas Carmichael, discussing "The Causes of War."