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63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS.

September 23, 1944

'Khaki Kapers' 63d's Best Revue, Draws Huge Crowd

Coming to Camp Van Dorn by way of McComb and Natchez where it was presented before appreciative audiences, "Khaki Kapers," the 63d Division musical revue, drew an estimated crowd of 12,000 GIs to the Open Air Theater Wednesday night.

The audience saw one of the finest shows sponsored by Division Special Services. Talent old and new strode across the boards. Pretty girls from Natchez lent an air of charm to the scene, and T/5 Irwin Levy, billed as Senor Lee, stopped the show with banter and his songs.

With Burns and Allen

Levy, a recent addition to the 1151st Eng. Co., appeared with Burns and Allen on the radio and was with Paul Whiteman and Artie Shaw. He made his first public appearance at Camp Van Dorn in the 63d show Wednesday night and he was easily the hit of the program. When he first appeared with a guitar slung over his shoulders he declared banteringly that he was ready to sing 50 or 60 songs. He sang a few, some in Spanish and others in English, and the audiences always roared for more.

Outstanding also was Pvt. Lewis Ballatore, billed as "rubber legs." Ballatore and his wife were outstanding eccentric dancers before the war and appeared in several pictures for Warner Bros. His back somersault at the conclusion of which he landed on one leg, concluded an outstanding performance.

T/3 Gail Peek, known as the "Human Pretzel," who has an intimate knowledge of the interior of footlockers, demonstrated his ability as a contortionist by emerging from a locker and after apparently impossible feats of music.

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254th Band to Play At Natchez Tonight

A new march dedicated to the Blood and Fire Division and composed by Pvt. Alex Shapiro, will be featured on a program of dance music by the 254th Inf. orchestra when it plays for the formal dance at the City Auditorium in Natchez tonight. The dance is open to all service personnel and is sponsored by the Natchez Military Maids.

Tomorrow afternoon CT White men will be heard over WMIS in the Sunday afternoon broadcast from the Servicemen's Center.



HIGHEST AWARD this nation can bestow for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor, was awarded last Saturday on the 63d Div. parade ground. Mrs. Myra Boudreaux Olson received the medal, awarded posthumously to her husband, Capt. Arlo L. Olson. Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, is shown making the award in the presence of Brig. Gen. E. J. McGaw, Division Artillery Commander.

Hero's Widow Gets Medal of Honor

In the presence of high military officials of this area and hundreds of civilian and military spectators, Mrs. Myra Boudreaux Olson, of Baton Rouge, received here last Saturday the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to her husband, Capt. Arlo L. Olson, of Toronto, S. D.

Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, represented the President in awarding the medal at a parade of six representative battalions of the 63d Inf. Div.

Artillery liaison planes swooped overhead as infantry, artillery, engineer and medical battalions paraded in honor of a gallant infantryman to whom had been paid the highest honor this nation can award for valor.

With Mrs. Olson and Gen. Hibbs at the review were high-ranking officials of the Division, Camp Van Dorn, the XXI Corps and Fourth Army.

(Not in the reviewing party but keenly interested in the ceremony was at least one 63d Div. soldier

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Payday Bargain

The biggest bargain when the eagle screams next Saturday is a renewal of your subscription to BLOOD AND FIRE.

Subscriptions of men who were fillers last September and October expire Sept. 30, and payday is the time to renew them.

A 50-cent subscription from every man guarantees the 63d Inf. Div. six more months of BLOOD AND FIRE, the weekly GI newspaper edited by and for men of the Division, containing Miss Lace, The Wolf, Bernie Blood, Sgt. Terry Fied's Tips, sports, hometown news and stories and pictures about your own organization.

Pick Up Those Shoes, Centreville Shop Warns

Several dozen pairs of civilian shoes owned by soldiers have been left in the OK Shoe Shop, Centreville, for more than six weeks. To clear the shop, the proprietor has warned GIs that any shoes not claimed by Monday, Oct. 2, will be sold for repair charges.

U. S. Approves Veteran Tuitions

WASHINGTON—Tuition of at least \$10 a month, \$30 a quarter or \$40 a semester for the college education of war veterans will be guaranteed by the Veterans Administration.

Acting on the advice of leading educators, the bureau has also decided to permit state and municipal colleges to charge "non-resident" tuition for all veterans, regardless of whether they are residents.

In reaching these decisions Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, administrator of veteran affairs, recognized the low cost of tuition in most tax-supported institutions and yielded to the requests of state educators that the "customary tuition" provisions of the GI Bill of Rights should not be interpreted strictly.

This announcement will not affect money for board and lodging, which is paid directly to the men.

Gen. Hines said that 10,000 veterans had applied for training; that 5,600 had already been held eligible and that 422 were at present attending colleges.

90-Day Break On Jobs Asked For Veterans

Selective Service Seeks 40 Days More For Returning Men

WASHINGTON — You'll have 50 extra days to get accustomed to civilian life before you have to go back to your old job, if Selective Service has anything to say about it.

Appearing before a House Military Affairs subcommittee, Lt. Col. Francis V. Keesling, Jr., testified that Selective Service favored legislation which would allow veterans 90 days after discharge to apply for their former jobs instead of the 40 days allowed by present law.

It is the contention of Selective Service that returning veterans should have the same job seniority as if they had remained at work. According to the Selective Service interpretation of the law, if a veteran left an open shop and returned to find it closed, he would get his job back without joining the union.

Both of these issues have been challenged by some branches of labor and may be argued out in court.

WMC Exemption

A further proposal by Rep. Ellison of Maryland that all veterans be exempted from all War Manpower Commission restrictions is being considered by Selective Service.

Selective Service was victorious in the first test of the Selective Service Act last week.

Sitting in Philadelphia, the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the amendment to the act which requires employers to reinstate returned veterans. The unanimous decision orders the General Cable Corp. of Perth Amboy, N. J., to reinstate Dr. Albert E. Kay, former Army doctor, as the company's medical director.

A Captain in Army

Dr. Kay enlisted in December, 1942, and attained the rank of captain before he was discharged for physical disability.

Refusing to rehire him, the company claimed that he was an independent contractor rather than an employee. It also contended that, since an employees' health association

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Man Who Helped Kill 50 Japs Now Drives a Jeep in 253d

A 50-Jap man is driving a jeep in Co. H, 253d Inf. He is Pvt. Chester A. Abernethy, 26-year-old farmer of Halfway, Ore., who climaxed ten months of rugged campaigning in New Guinea by zeroing in on a stubborn Jap pillbox at Buna with an 81-mm. mortar and letting fly with a bull.

"Artillery tried to hit the Jap pillbox and knock it out," Abernethy relates, "but they couldn't seem to get the range. So we zeroed in on them. It just took one shell from our mortar to really wreck that Jap pillbox. Inside it, dead, we found 50 Japs. One shell killed them all."

Abernethy was one of the tough infantrymen who made the 16-day trek over the Owen Stanley range when Gen. MacArthur decided to throw everything he had into one desperate punch in New Guinea. From the mountains the long, battle-marked trail led to Buna.

Heavy Casualties

"When we came out of Buna after capturing the airfield," he says, "you couldn't quite make a company out of the men left in our regiment. There were just about 100 of us left."

It was at Buna that Abernethy picked up his only wound, an ugly scar where a Jap bayonet furrowed his left arm.

"That Jap that got me with his bayonet?" he says. "It was funny about that. About 250 of them broke through our front lines. We didn't even hear them.



PVT. CHESTER A. ABERNETHY

was a coal-black night. We were in foxholes just outside of the Buna airstrip. The landing field was in sight.

"The first thing I knew something jabbed me in the arm. I was in a two-man foxhole beside our 81-mm. mortar. I looked at my buddy. Then I felt blood on my arm. The Japs had evidently sneaked into our positions, made some passes at us and then beat it.

Didn't Fire a Shot

"I didn't fire a shot. We were under orders to hold our fire so as not to give our positions away."

His outfit battled 2½ months to capture the Buna airfields.

"The Japs were mostly underground," he explains. "They were in pillboxes, carefully camouflaged. Our main concern was to keep our guns dry. We'd oil them and cover them with our raincoats. You'd use your shelter half to cover the ammunition and sleep in your muddy foxhole with what you had on. We slept by day. And we hauled rations and ammunition by day. We fought by night."

Five Months of Rain

The rain was really a problem.

"It rained every day for five months. Some days the sun would come out for half an hour or so. Our clothing was always wet. We didn't change. Our foxholes were waterlogged. We didn't have any extra clothes to change into even if we wanted to."

Ex-254th Drivers Riflemen at Front

Letters received from former members of Service Co., 254th Inf., reveal that many former drivers and mechanics are serving on the battle fronts as riflemen.

Pfc. Jerry Markarian, in a V-Mail letter to Cpl. Francis J. Henry, tells of meeting many ex-Service Co. men on French battlefields:

"I've been through most of the big towns here and they are pretty well pulverized. Every night is a problem for me when the 'Heinies' come over and our ack-ack opens up on them. Palermo's outfit ran the Krauts out of St. Malo and they are still running. I hope you won't have trouble reading this note because we haven't got a dayroom."

Another letter from Pfc. Joseph W. Thompson to T/5 James Hickman compares France favorably with England.

"I am in France now and have been here a while but I like it better than England," he writes. "Walker, Bristol and Allaire are the only old Service Co. boys with me. Well, I haven't driven a truck since I left, so you can imagine what we are—plain riflemen. And it is rough. I can't speak French so you can see how far I get with the French girls, ho, ho."

90-Day Break

(Continued from Page 1)

tion of which Dr. Kay had been medical examiner had engaged another physician and refused to take Dr. Kay back, it would be more beneficial to the employes if the same doctor were medical director for both groups.

The court ruled that the law does not say a returned veteran must be an employe, but is intended to protect "a position in the employ of an employer" and that Dr. Kay held such a position.

'Capricious Rulings'

One point of the ruling held much meaning for veterans who might return to similar tangles.

As to the company contention that there would be "loss of efficiency" and "additional expense" if separate doctors were employed by the company and the employes' association, the ruling said that if such a claim were upheld it "would defeat the main purpose of the law and limit its operation to merely capricious or arbitrary rulings."

Ft. Monroe Employe Lives in Davis' Cell

FORT MONROE, Va.—Jefferson Davis' prison cell in the Fort Monroe casements has an occupant now for the first time since the Confederate president was imprisoned there 80 years ago.

The new tenant, a product of the housing shortage, is Mrs. Catherine Rowe, employe of the Fort Monroe Officers' club and widow of a soldier.

KNOW YOUR GENERALS



Brehon Somervell, Genius of Supply



LT. GEN. BREHON SOMERVELL

The most notable victory of the war probably never will be recorded by name in history books nor will memorial trumpets echo its fame on days of national reverence.

The vital, ever-fluctuating behind-the-scenes victory was that of the Battle of Supply. Directing every move in its constantly-changing fortunes, from the building of the great and widely-scattered training camps to the dumping of tons of vital equipment on the battle-torn beaches of France, was Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, now commanding general of the Army Service Forces.

When war burst on America our much-vaunted Economy of Abundance suddenly seemed to come apart at the seams. Where the day before there had appeared to be bewildering surplus of everything, the day after Pearl Harbor it became apparent that there wasn't nearly enough to satisfy everybody.

Demands Heavy

Civilian production authorities, war industry leaders, the Navy and all of the affiliated arms of our great war effort filed their demands for material, and none of the estimates was modest. And the Army was in its toughest mood and wanted plenty of everything to protect the men who were going to storm the beaches and take the trenches.

In such a bedlam of demands, of course, the situation immediately changed from the military to the political. And the Army was to bless the lucky stars of the God of Battles that it had just the man who could get what it wanted—and damn the torpedoes!

The man was Brehon Somervell and, by chance or by intention, he was the man the moment demanded. He had just finished placing the training camp schedule on the high road to success, ticklish job that involved numerous delicate contacts with civilian methods and civilian prejudices. Prior to that he successfully administered the WPA in New York, a task that called for the patience of Job and the forgiveness of the angels.

Everything but Fighting

He plunged into his complex task with characteristic tact and energy. Under him in the Service of Supply was, as he himself put it, "everything but the actual fighting."

SOS received raw recruits (service commands), fed, clothed and housed the Army (quartermaster), built the camps and roads and bridges (construction and engineers), paid the troops (finance), served as policeman and judge (provost marshal and judge advocate), provided the weapons of war and serviced them under fire (ordnance), ran the communications (Signal Corps), moved supplies and troops (transportation), took care of the wounded (surgeon general), gave spiritual comfort to the troops (Corps of Chaplains), and directed the activities of more than a million civilian employes.

His first triumph was in the Campaign of Priorities when, out

of the chaotic clashing of dozens of patriotic interests, he managed to administer his tremendous SOS and at the same time organize the supply for the highly secret North African expedition of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had followed him by a year at West Point. That this gigantic achievement was carried out successfully in the face of the unprecedented demands made on Gen. Somervell will ever remain one of the bright spots of American military history.

After achieving that in the heat of early wartime, even the supplying of the Invasion of France seemed easy, yet compared to it the building of the Pyramids was a pleasant and light-hearted diversion. And after that came the problem of supplying our triumphant forces through a few smashed and choked-up ports and by lighter to the beaches.

Gen. Somervell's achievements since June 6 have been a masterpiece of logistics and when we roll into Berlin it will be in his vehicles and on his tires—his by right of superhuman effort and miraculous delivery.

Story-Book Career

Gen. Somervell's career has more than a few story-book touches. Graduated from West Point in 1914, sixth in a class of 106, he was among the top 15 gazetted to the Engineer Corps, most-sought appointment at the Point.

When World War I broke out he was on vacation in Paris and immediately was impressed into service at the American embassy as assistant military attache. A War Department order brought him back to the States until 1916, when he was transferred to the Mexican Border. He followed Pershing into Mexico on the prosaic business of building roads.

When we tackled Germany he was assigned to a piece of thankless drudgery, sweating over ammunition dumps, depots and barracks. His work won him the DSM, but he had still to hear a hostile shot.

"I'm not going home with that on my record," he told his commanding officer when he was shipped to France, and forthwith he headed for the front in a borrowed car.

He reached the front the day before the Meuse-Argonne offen-

sive started and was given the job of a G-3 officer who had just been captured. Here he heard his hostile shots and furthermore won the Distinguished Service Cross for a dangerous and daring reconnaissance 500 yards beyond the American outposts.

In occupation days he was stationed at Coblenz, where he married an American YMCA worker and plunged into the study of economics, which was to become an absorbing passion with him.

Expert on Turkey

Recalled to America, he put in a tour of duty in the district engineer's office in New York Harbor and was an assistant on a League of Nations survey of navigation on the Rhine and Danube. After that it was rivers and harbors back home again until 1933, when he made an economic survey of Turkey for the fiery Kemal Ataturk. Turks still compliment him by describing him as the man who knows more about Turkey than the Turks.

From the Middle Ages of middle Turkey it was not an unreasonable step into the world of boondoggling and Alice-in-Wonderland that was the WPA. Gen. Somervell was appointed WPA consultant for the Southeastern States and then WPA administrator of New York City, a job that had licked seven good men before him.

In this fantastic world Gen. Somervell managed to keep his sanity and his job and, what's more, turned in a pretty smart piece of work. And his achievement in this world of confusion made him the obvious man to handle the Herculean job that the war was to bring to the Service of Supply.

Out of all this emerged the Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell that we have today. On some foreign beachhead on some distant day, when you reach to your cartridge belt and find an extra clip in it, and you think thankfully that there are many more such clips around for you to use, you can say a prayer for Brehon Somervell. For he was the man who put them there.

The eruption of Mt. Cleveland in the Aleutians recently caused the Army to withdraw its personnel from Chuginadik Island.

Gen. Bradley Up For Higher Rank

WASHINGTON—Nomination of Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Commanding General of the 12th Army Group in France, for promotion to the permanent rank of major general from his present permanent rank of brigadier general has been sent to the Senate by President Roosevelt, the War Department has announced.

The recommendation for the promotion was made by Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, in recognition of Gen. Bradley's outstanding accomplishments on the battlefields of Northern France.

Assigned to the European Theater of Operations in September, 1943, Gen. Bradley was appointed commander of American troops in that theater by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, last January.

Sent to the Senate by the President at the same time were the nominations for promotion to temporary lieutenant general of Maj. Gens. Thomas T. Handy, chief of operations, War Department, general staff; Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., commanding the VI Corps in Southern France; and Daniel I. Sultan, deputy commanding general, China-Burma-India theater force.

Nominated for temporary promotion to major generals were these lieutenant generals: Frank D. Merrill, leader of "Merrill's Marauders"; Joseph W. Byron, director of the Army's Special Service Division, and Edwin D. Patrick, Norman D. Cota, Eugene W. Fales, Robert W. Douglass, Francis B. Mallon, Gilbert X. Cheves, Cyrus R. Smith and Maurice Ross.

Hero's Widow

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who had fought with Capt. Olson. He was Pvt. Edward L. Colburn, Co. L, 254th Inf., himself the wearer of the Silver Star. Colburn met Mrs. Olson later and told her some of the incidents in her husband's intrepid drive through the mountains near the Volturno River.)

The attractive young widow, who has a nine-month-old daughter, was visibly moved as Gen. Hibbs attached the medal to the blue ribbon she wore around her throat. Mrs. Olson was presented to the Division Commander by Brig. Gen. E. J. McGaw, Division Artillery Commander.

Col. Earle G. Wheeler, Chief of Staff, read the citation in which President Roosevelt told how the 22-year-old infantry officer wiped out two Nazi machine gun nests and led his company through the mountain passes in 13 days of continuous combat last October.

"The Medal of Honor is this nation's highest award for valor," Gen. Hibbs said. "Capt. Olson's gallantry and achievements on the field of battle are an inspiration to all men. The officers and men of the 63d Infantry Division are greatly honored to have been chosen to participate in this ceremony paying homage to a great and gallant infantryman."

CHICAGO (CNS)—A couple of Bing Crosby fans broke into a music store and stole 300 recordings of Crosby's version of "L'Amour Toujours L'Amour."

A live 2,000-pound bomb dropped on Croydon, England, in October, 1940, was discovered recently 30 feet deep in a garden.

THIS WON'T BE NECESSARY



if YOU KEEP YOUR TRAP S-H-U-T!

The Wolf

by Sansone

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"Hey you! FALL IN!"

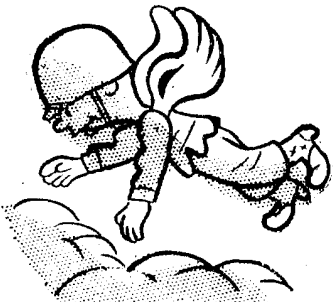
Tips From

Terry Fied

The Old Sarge

Well, folks, I've got to admit that after my outfit had gone through those regimental exercises last week I was a sadder but wiser man.

After watching my squads perform on the parade ground with that half distance combat drill I thought they were pretty hot and would kind of automatically apply it in the field. But I suppose it was some sort of a fool's paradise



I was enjoying, because for the most part squad leaders seemed to forget that it gave them a damned fine method of handling their squads and didn't make any use of it.

I don't care if the umpires did say that we did a fine job; I was there, Charlie, and I saw enough mistakes to make me realize that regardless of how much time we had to get set to go places it ain't enough and it never will be as long as we have a lot of glorified privates commanding squads (a glorified private is a noncom who draws the pay and wears chevrons but has never realized his responsibilities as a noncom).

They say that this division has some of the finest noncoms in the business. This may be so but we've still got a fair sprinkling of the

kind I've just been talking about. As a matter of fact, I found that I have damned few who really took hold when the captain and yours truly weren't around—or when they thought we weren't.

As it was, my conscience almost hurt me over the number of times I'd go busting away from a platoon sergeant or squad leader and then sneak back to see how he was doing on his own. There were exceptions, but as a rule the story was usually about the same: When left on their own the tail immediately began to wag the dog—the squad took command of the squad leader instead of his commanding the squad. A popularity contest got under way right off with the squad leader trying like hell to get the votes of his squad.

Funny thing, the squads usually did better when they were off by themselves than they did when they were a part of a platoon. When they were working under the platoon leader the spirit seemed to be, "It's the platoon leader's baby now—not mine," and they relaxed against their difficulties right off and I hate to say it, but for the most part the platoon leader let them get away with it.



It has been my experience that an outfit is never any better than its leaders. Noncoms who function when the platoon leader doesn't are as scarce as hen's teeth.

So I would like to pass out two tips this week, the first to you platoon leaders. Don't try to run the whole show yourself. Don't get out there in front of the scouts because if you do you are going to get bumped off right away. Handle that platoon through those squad leaders and give them a chance to do their stuff. Knock off those that can't.

As for you squad leaders, remember that the squad of yours is your family and that you are the papa. You've not only got to look out after yourself but after them as well. The combat drill gives you three older sons to help you run the family. Discipline it and make it click in combat. My tip to you is to make hay while the sun shines and take command of that squad because it ain't going to be shining long.

Surplus Vehicles For Sale Here

More than 200 vehicles, including weapons carriers and command cars, will be sold at Camp Van Dorn, October 19—but it will be hard for you to get one.

No jeeps or sedans are included. Sales will be made only to dealers on a name-in-the-hat basis, although the dealer may resell the vehicle on the spot. (The ceiling price on a half-ton weapons carrier, for instance, is \$435.24.)

The sale is part of a nationwide disposition of 30,000 assorted Army vehicles declared surplus for training purposes in this country and not fit for combat use.

The names of all dealers present October 19 at the Ordnance Maintenance shop will be placed in a hat. The first name drawn will be given first choice in the sale of 117 half-ton weapons carriers, 30 command cars and miscellaneous vehicles.

Tea Dance Scheduled For White Tomorrow

A special tea dance for men who will remain in camp during the current week-end will be held at the CT White Rec Hall tomorrow afternoon with the 254th Inf. orchestra furnishing the music. Dancing will be held between 1430 and 1730. Military Maids from Natchez will be present.

Letters to the 63d From Overseas

'GREAT AND RUGGED' CHINA

China and its people as they have impressed themselves on the sensibilities of a bomber pilot stationed "just over the Hump" are graphically described in a letter to T/5 and Mrs. William Mertz from the latter's brother, Capt. Paul E. Brosius.

Mertz is with the 263d Engrs. and his wife is a nurse at Station Hospital.

"This is the fifth day of rain and my fifth day closeted in this room," the captain writes to explain away any "stir crazy" notions which may enter his readers' minds. "This week I have averaged 15 hours of sleep, read eight books, smoked countless cigarettes and have seen visions of Pennsylvania." (His home is at Herndon, near Sunbury.)

"The monsoon is supposed to be ending now, but by all outward appearances it is just starting. Everything is wet and red; no matter where you look in this room there is the red trace of China soil. It is the stickiest mud I have ever seen. It just stays with you until you feel like part of it.

"So, here I am, just an old stick-in-the-mud.

"My impressions of China and its people are still the same after three months in this land. It is a great, rugged land. The people, though small and unimpressive in appearance, are just as great and as rugged.

"Recently, several of us made a trip into town. You have never seen such dirt and filth in any city in the States. Every Chinese habitation has its peculiar, distinctive odor . . . although it is said not to be typical of all Chinese towns. I have been told the sea-coast towns are quite modern.

"It was amusing to see how we attracted attention without being aware of it. As soon as we parked our jeep there were a hundred Chinese surrounding us. When we stopped in a shop and became engrossed in our transactions, I'd turn around and find us encircled with 30 or more curious and smiling faces.

Mail Call

What do you hear from your buddies overseas? The fellow in the next bunk might be interested in what's happening to them, seeing that the something is going to happen to him pretty soon. We'd be interested in looking over any letter you've received and, possibly, in printing excerpts from them. Just drop them in your company mail box, addressed to BLOOD AND FIRE, Hq. 63d Div., APO 410, Camp Van Dorn, Miss.

"One day I was challenged by the sight of a coolie carrying two pails of water. I tried it . . . but learned there was an art in walking them balanced on the shoulders. You must take short, quick, springy steps or you get drenched with every step.

"Another day we tried unsuccessfully to climb an 800-foot peak. There are many such peaks around here, of all sizes and shapes. Some rise up just like ice cream cones; others have a gentle slope up one side and then drop straight down on the other side. There is little vegetation on them . . .

"The best of the land is occupied (by the enemy) and that is why we depend almost entirely on the longest supply line in the world for such things as mail, food and cigarettes. That is what makes life so seemingly tough to us that are here."

The story of what has happened to a member of the G-4 section of 63d Div. Hq. in the year following his transfer to the Army Air Forces flexible gunnery school is told in a letter from S/Sgt. Chester F. Lang to his cronies here.

Hit on First Raid

Dated August 31 in Italy and addressed to M/Sgt. Pete Needle, Lang gives a detailed picture of the going normally experienced on

bombing raids against such heavily defended targets as the Ploesti oil fields in Romania.

In part, it reads: "I now have six combat missions in and five sorties and you can bet your bottom dollar it is rough.

"I sometimes wonder why in hell I ever left your good influence and that of Col. Ritter (Lt. Col. Frank T. Ritter, A. C. of S., G-4), but I guess this is really where I belong.

"The crew I am with is up for three Purple Hearts and two Distinguished Flying Crosses. Naturally, it had to be my luck to get wounded on a raid to the 15th Air Force's roughest target, Ploesti.

Ship Shot to Hell

"Our ship, 'Umbrigo' (which means 'drunk' in Italian) was shot to hell. It was a wonder we ever got back without bailing out. The entire hydraulic system in our ship was shot out by flak, the thing we dread most. In addition to other mechanical injuries, we had three wounded men on board. I was one, with flak fragments in my arm and side and two broken ribs . . . it could have been worse as planes alongside received direct hits by 88-mm., 105-mm. and 155-mm. You can bet again, those German bastards can shoot . . .

"Yep, in a lot of ways I would like to be back in the infantry and attack by ankle express. It sure is a lot safer . . .

"I did a lot of studying, finally checking out as a first engineer, and I am now waiting to get my own crew and my tech sergeant's rating. My plans don't stop there, as a commission is not too hard to get providing a fellow works for it and really wants it . . . I do . . .

"By the way, on the mission on which we got shot up, our names and the story about us got in the home-town papers. How about that?"

Saw 17-to-1 Ratio Of Jap Casualties

Being a personnel sergeant-major did not rob T/Sgt. Anders M. Johnson of the chance to see close-up fighting in which his Yankee mates knocked off the Japs at a rate of 17 to each American casualty.

Sgt. Johnson, of Serv. Co., 254th Inf., is back in the United States after serving two and one-half years in the Pacific with two of his brothers. The three Johnsons joined the Montana National Guard in 1940, took their basic training together and went overseas with the 41st Div. two years later.

The Johnsons—Anders, Anton and Edward, all sergeants—spent six months with the 41st during their training period in Australia and helped spearhead the landing at Soputa airstrip in the Buna area. Their regiment was cited as being the first to come to grips with the Japs.

After landing in New Guinea the day after Christmas, 1942, they were down over the mountains in C47s and helped turn the tide in the battles which stopped the Jap program of expansion.

Johnson had a chance to see some of the Jap prisoners rounded up.

"The few we could take alive were so skinny and weak they could hardly walk. Some of the high-ranking officers we captured were graduates of American colleges," he said. "While the Japs are good jungle fighters, our men matched them and inflicted 17 casualties to each of our own."

There are special recreation camps for our troops in Australia and the 41st had a short rest in one of them. One course given GIs in Australia is malaria control.

"The natives of New Guinea were almost 100 per cent infected with the disease and it was hard to control," Sgt. Johnson said. "One was lucky if he didn't get an attack."

On this point he spoke from first-hand experience. He had one attack himself. His brother Ed had seven and is still hospitalized in Australia. Anton escaped infection.

Applications from the armed forces for National Service Life Insurance have passed the 100-billion-dollar mark.

Nine Combat Units Receive Honors

WASHINGTON—Award of battle honors to nine combat units, to one for the third time in this war, have been announced by the War Dept.

The thrice-honored outfit is the First Engineer Combat Bn. which won its latest award in France on D-Day when, under heavy fire and working at times ahead of the Infantry, it cleared a beach exit through anti-tank ditches, road blocks and mine fields and opened a vehicle transit area inland. Previously the battalion had been cited for action at Gafen, Tunisia, and for action in other area in the Tunisian campaign.

Battle honors "in the name of the President of the United States and as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction" were awarded to Troop A, 8th Cavalry, and these Infantry outfits: First Bn.; Co. G, 180th Inf.; Cannon Co., 16th Inf.; 1st Bn., 16th Inf. (two citations); 2d Bn., 16th Inf.; Co. K, 18th Inf.; Div. Hq. and Hq. Co., 82d Airborne Div.

Movies, P. A. Systems Ordered for Field Use

Motion picture and public address system equipment costing more than \$6,000 has been ordered for Division units for their use in the field. Capt. Bernard H. Levkoff, acting Division special services officer, announced this week.

Five 3,000-watt generators with radio shielding, five sound motion picture projectors and five P. A. systems have been ordered, to be distributed to special services offices of Headquarters Special Troops, Division Artillery and each combat team.

Rented films will be shown to troops when they are away from War Department theaters, Capt. Levkoff said. The equipment is expected to arrive late in October or early in November.

The Navy has developed a new salt water soap which obviates the use of distilled water in big ship laundries.

Singed!

Two of the best-groomed men—\$4.90 worth—in the 254th Inf. can be found in Serv. Co. T/4 Henry J. Presley had a half-hour workover in a post barber shop recently, getting hot and cold towels, oil, singe, massage and the works for \$2.05. Not to be outdone, M/Sgt. Lawrence Gankendorff sat down in the chair a few days later and ordered the full treatment. He reached a new high in fancy scalp work; the bill for rebuilding the master sergeant was \$2.85.

Religious Services

- PROTESTANT SERVICES**
 Sunday
 Chapel 7, Episcopal Holy Communion—9:30.
 Chapels 6, 7, 8, 10—9:00.
 Chapels 5, 6, 8, 10—10:00.
 Chapels 5, 6, 7, 8—11:00.
Sunday Evening and Weeks Days
 Chapel 5, Sunday, Church of Christ Service—20:00.
 Chapel 8, Sunday, Evening Service—18:30.
 Chapel 7, Monday, Bible Study—19:30.
 Chapel 6, Wednesday, Bible Study—19:00.
 Chapel 8, Thursday, Evening Prayer—19:30.
- ROMAN CATHOLIC SERVICES**
 Sunday Masses
 Chapels 5, 10—9:00.
 Theater 5—9:00.
 Theater 1—10:30.
 CT Blue Rec. Hall—11:00.
Week Day Masses
 Chapel 7, Tuesday, Thursday—18:30.
 Chapel 10, Monday, Tuesday, Friday—18:30.
Confession
 Chapels 7 and 10, Saturday—18:30 to 20:00.
- JEWISH SERVICES**
 Friday
 Hospital—18:30.
 Chapel 7—20:00.
Sunday
 Chapel 9—11:00.
Yom Kippur Services
 Chapel 8—Tuesday, 18:30, and Wednesday, 08:00 and throughout the day.
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICE
 Chapel 6, Sunday—20:00.
LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICE
 Chapel 6, Sunday—18:00.
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
 Chapel 1, Friday—19:30.

Commodore Perry introduced rail transportation in Japan when he set up a model line in 1852 on the beach at Yokohama.

A pint of glycerine goes into the making of a pound of nitroglycerine.

Draft Rolls Ample, Says Gen. Hershey

WASHINGTON—It will not be necessary to screen new men to supply the needs of the armed forces for the remainder of 1944.

Required replacements will be more than filled by men already in Class I-A and new 18-year-olds, it was announced by the office of Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, draft director.

According to Gen. Hershey, 690,000 physically able men will be available from these sources as against the estimated need of 600,000.

In a letter to all draft board members giving the outline of supply and demand up to January 1, next, he stated that Class A, as it stood on July 1, was furnishing by far the bulk of "available." From this group, after allowing for rejections and deferments, men are expected to be available in this proportion: 18-25 age group, 345,000; 26-29 age group, 80,000; 30-37 age group, 55,000.

This totals 450,000 and to this are to be added 210,000 expected to be inducted from those becoming 18, about 35,000 per month.

Chaplain Casualties 98, 26 Killed in Action

As in World War I, the Corps of Chaplains has suffered heavy casualties in front line service with American forces, Lt. Col. William E. Patrick, 63d Div. Chaplain, said this week.

A War Department report gives the following high casualty ratio for the small corps:

Killed in action, 26.
 Wounded in action, 38.
 Detained by enemy, 33.
 Missing in action, 1.

Members of the Corps have received 173 decorations in this war, as follows:

Distinguished Service Cross, 6; Silver Star, 40; Soldier's Medal, 6; Bronze Star, 21; Purple Heart, 64; Croix de Guerre, 3, and Legion of Merit, 29.

In addition to battle casualties, there have been 43 non-battle deaths among chaplains.

Blood and Fire

BLOOD AND FIRE is the official newspaper of the Blood and Fire (63d) Infantry Division and is published weekly by and for men of the Division. Offices in Public Relations Office, Division Artillery Recreation Hall. Telephone: 744. Address communications to BLOOD AND FIRE, 63d Infantry Division, APO 410, Camp Van Dorn, Miss. This is an official Army publication and accepts no paid advertising. BLOOD AND FIRE receives Camp Newspaper Service material. Republication of credited matter prohibited without permission of CNS, 204 E. 42d, NYC 17. Editor: T/4 Thomas A. Hoctor. Staff Writers: T/5 Stoddard White, Cpl. Paul Harris, Pvt. Arthur Hansl. Staff Cartoonist: Cpl. Gill Fox. Staff Photographer: T/5 William Schiff.

BIRTHDAY SALUTE

This week Camp Van Dorn celebrated its second birthday.

In camp there were subdued ceremonies of observance, but on far-flung battlefronts wherever commands ring out in English men were celebrating unknowingly the anniversary in a more concrete way, adding to the might of the United Nations the invaluable lessons they learned during the grim months of training in Mississippi.

No one will ever call Camp Van Dorn a pleasure resort. Those who look back on it in future days will never be able to think of it more kindly than as a sort of advanced School of Hard Knocks; yet the physical drubbing it has given many men will insure their return safe and whole of limb to their homes on some happy and distant tomorrow.

As a camp it has been admirably administered. We in the Division who have taken advantage of the little icing the camp officials have been able to put on the hard cake of Army life are more than appreciative. In looking back, when we have the perspective to see what a hard hill of beans the camp administration has had to hoe in these incredibly topsy-turvy times, we will appreciate more fully just how much the little that has been available in this cockeyed war world.

On the health side, further, the camp has protected us admirably. In the worst malaria belt in the country, the malaria incidence has been remarkably low. Fire losses have reached an irreducible minimum. For several weeks recently not an alarm was turned in throughout the camp. Wise preventive measures paid off superbly.

We who have lived in it for some of its two years of existence have come to know the camp as more than a typical collection of rough barracks and warehouses in a remote corner of a remote state. Camp Van Dorn in operation has been a constructive spirit that has guided us as gently as possible through some of the worst months a man can know—the period of his change-over from the frills and furbelows of civilian life to the necessary toughness of Army life.

On its second birthday we salute the camp.

IT'S YOUR PAY

This is a good time to remind you again that you alone are responsible for your own equipment.

It is your duty, of course, as a soldier to keep your equipment in good condition. Fouled rifle barrels and burned blankets have a natural way of showing up on Statements of Charges and a ruined rifle barrel can knock hell out of a couple of months' pay.

Soon you will be issued a couple of arms-full of new equipment. You should watch over it as tenderly as you did your old gear and remember that only on the battlefield does accountability for your equipment end.

Here a word of advice might be helpful to trustful innocents who still believe that they are living in the best of all possible worlds.

Don't leave your gear around where some muzzler who might have been short on the last showdown can pick it up. All he has to do is turn it into the Supply Sergeant to avoid the justified deduction from his next pay. He'll save the money but, boy, you'll pay it. And it'll hurt much more than if you had lost it on your own hook, because you'll know damn well that you're paying for your own foolishness.

It's all right to trust your buddies but don't be a sucker for some bad apple that turned up in the barrel. You're supposed to be a man now, so get wise.



"Willens, you know the regulation about pictures of nude women in your tent!"

News of Fighting Men

Gets Fee on Book Falling From Skies

MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho—Sgt. William Berry, in charge of the Mountain Home Airbase library, was walking toward the mess hall when he was nearly struck by a book falling from the sky.

Noting the volume was from his library, Berry checked his records, learned the man who last borrowed it was aloft in a bomber and awaited until he landed. As soon as the crewman stepped out, Berry presented a statement of charges backed up by the battered book as evidence. The flier paid.

Home-Cooked Chow Just a Pipe Dream

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—M/Sgt. Bernard C. Sheehan, stationed in England, asked his parents in Springfield for some cooked spaghetti and chow mein. They sent it in a specially prepared tin can.

Sgt. Sheehan heated it before opening—it tasted fine. He repeated the process with a second can he received, but this was a disappointment.

It contained pipe tobacco.

Bridges Fewer in Lyon, But Fun Continues

LYON, France—The Nazis blasted the bridges in this river-bound city before they left, but its residents have discovered they can get across military bridges by hitchhiking rides with army trucks that have a traffic priority. And because the GI drivers frequently find themselves buried under a passenger cargo of laughing femininity they usually find an excuse to cross the river several times a day.

Drinks Called Food For GIs in N. O. Cafe

NEW ORLEANS—Four travel-worn soldiers limped into a Vieux Carre restaurant on election day and took their seats at a table. A waiter approached and one of the soldiers asked: "Is that true about what I read in the papers? That no drinks can be sold today because it is election day?"

The waiter thought for a moment and then replied: "That's true about barrooms all right. But this really is a restaurant. I won't sell you a drink, but if you boys would like to have a nice cocktail to eat I think I can serve you."

Navy Women OK'd For Overseas Duty

WASHINGTON—Legislation to permit WAVES, Women Marines and SPARS, the feminine compo-

nents of the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, to serve outside the United States has been passed by the House and sent to the White House.

However, only those who volunteer for service in Hawaii, Alaska or the "American area" outside the continental limits may be so assigned.

The legislation does not change existing laws barring assignment of the women to foreign service.

100 Homes Offered To GI Wife and Baby

KANSAS CITY—Mrs. Catherine Gentes, wife of a service man and expecting a baby, had been hunting for an apartment for six weeks without success. The Kansas City Star learned of her plight and printed her story.

Result: She spent 11 consecutive hours on the telephone, and received more than 100 offers. Said one indignant salesman, offering her a room in his home, "We have a brand new baby ourselves and even have all the equipment."

Please, No Coconut; Give This GI Raspberry

CHICAGO—Pvt. Robert T. Young, one of the first Chicagoans to enlist in the Marine Corps after Pearl Harbor, arrived home after 21 months in the South Pacific and made only one request of his mother:

"Please, mom, no coconut and no pineapple for me—give me the raspberry." Raspberries are out of season, but Mrs. Young says she managed to supply her son with all he can eat.

Five-Foot-Two Marine Is Killed in Action

PHILADELPHIA—Francis E. Kelly tried for nine months to squeeze his five-foot-two frame into the Marine Corps, but repeatedly the recruiters rejected him for lack of height. Finally he obtained a special waiver and enlisted. Last week the Navy notified his family that Philadelphia's shortest Marine had been killed in action, on Guam.

GI Dogs' Bill of Rights: Free Licenses for Life

LOS ANGELES—Canine war veterans in Los Angeles will get lifetime license tags, suitably inscribed and free from annual fees. The Los Angeles city council ordered such an ordinance drawn after Councilman Harold Harby declared: "These dogs merit the gratitude of all citizens for their outstanding service in anti-sabotage work, life saving, enemy detection and carrying messages and supplies under fire."

The Sky Pilot Says It

By Chaplain Wilbur C. Hall
(255th Inf.)

These are the days that require great courage from all of us—courage to face life or death or eternity; courage to keep faith in God and his moral universe through all that would frustrate it; courage to believe that God is good, that He cares for us and that His purpose still holds to build His Kingdom of love and brotherhood and peace upon this earth; courage to believe that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator and Redeemer of the world.

After the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of the people of Israel in their journey out of Egypt. God spoke to the new leader and said to him: "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:9).

When your time comes to face the reality of battle you may expect to have fear, for that is natural in such a situation. You may, however, have great courage. When the men were nearly ready to leave their boats in the initial invasion of Tarawa, one of them turned to his chaplain and said, "Chaplain, aren't you afraid?" The chaplain replied, "Somewhere I read something that has helped me a great deal. I pass it on to you and hope that it may help you also. It is simply this: 'Courage is fear that has said its prayers.' I am not ashamed to say that I do have a feeling of fear over what we are about to face—but I am not really afraid, for I have said my prayers."

Well, that is it—one man, when he faces hardship and tough going, will turn and run because fear has control of him. Another man facing the same situation will feel the same fear, but instead of running away he fights even harder because courage has control of him. A coward is not determined by what he feels, but by what he does. Just so a man of true courage is determined not by his talk but by his actions. The man who knows that God is with him whithersoever he goes will be strong; he will have real physical, moral and spiritual courage; he will not be dismayed, for he knows that "he who fights with us is more than he who fights against us"; he knows that he is on God's side and that ultimately is the side of victory—victory in this life and in the life which is eternal.

Once Over Lightly

By A/Cpl. Sy Bernhard
(Division Artillery)

Section VIII news from the Nazis . . . When Romania fell and Bucharest was on the point of capture, the Nazi Minister to Romania grabbed a weapon and killed everybody in the office . . . clerks, stenographers, messengers . . . Then this Baron von Killinger (no pun) entered his office . . . faced a portrait of Adolf . . . stood stiffly at attention . . . and committed suicide . . . What won't Der Fuehrer make men do next?

Although it's two weeks old, the story in TIME called "Murder, Inc." tells the worst story of the war best . . . Read it for an account of how scientific the master race is in the pursuit of cruelty . . . Lublin was worse than Lidice . . . The last sentence is a rallying cry wherein an old peasant woman says . . . "I hope you Americans won't be too soft on them" . . . Don't worry, lady . . . don't worry . . .

War is Hell Dept. . . . Since 1940, more than 107,000 homes in London have been destroyed by air attack and well over one million damaged. That's like making the City of Philadelphia absolutely homeless.

File with Gen. Patton Stories Dept. . . . As long as the colorful Third Army Commander lives there will be stories . . . The latest one had him dashing into France waving a \$1,000 bill offering to bet he'd reach Germany first . . . "Blood and Guts" says he was in France incognito . . . and anyway, he's never even seen a \$1,000 bill . . .

Hats off to the Navy Dept! . . . The latest battleship to win honors is the USS Nevada which is almost in itself the story of America at war . . . Knocked out of action at Pearl Harbor, it has just returned from five months of action in the Atlantic and Mediterranean theaters . . . It was in on D-day and came out without a scratch . . . In the fight for Cherbourg, it was straddled 27 times by German gunners . . . but . . . it wiped out infantry, artillery, and tank units of the enemy in 20 minutes and secured the beachhead . . . it was 15 miles out at sea and pumped lead on targets only 500 yards in front of ground troops . . . and all officers and men stayed at battle stations for 80 consecutive hours during the invasion . . . That's a helluva good team we got on our side . . .



DENVER, Colo. (CNS)—When a nude woman wandered into their apartment and asked if she might take a bath, the owners of the apartment said yes and then phoned the police. Cops arrived, wrapped the intruder in a sheet, and took her to the station house where she explained that she had "a drink or two—and then everything went blank."

GALLUP, N. M. (CNS)—Hopi Indian dancers had completed plans for their annual supplications for rain at Shungopovi and Shipaui-lavi, but things started to go wrong right away. First, the Indians had trouble obtaining a snake priest. Then the antelope priest was tossed into jail for refusing to clip his sheep.

INDIANAPOLIS, (CNS)—A sleepy burglar broke into a loan office, helped himself to \$300 and then lay down on the counter for a nap. Several hours later a cop awakened him gently and led him away to the station house.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—One Memphis department store is looking for 1,000 residents with two left feet. The store recently received 1,000 pairs of shoes—all for the left foot.

NEW ORLEANS (CNS)—Charles C. (Peppy Charlie) Carey marked his 85th birthday recently by pedaling his bicycle 70 miles. Peppy Charlie averages 200 miles of bike riding a week.

PITTSBURGH (CNS)—When 200 pounds of ice fell off a delivery truck, a passing cab driver stopped his cab, picked up the ice and placed it in the back of his cab—in the lap of a lady customer.

TEANECK, N. J. (CNS)—Charlie Kuchar and Pete Allen were seated comfortably on a pile of lumber in the rear of a truck when a strong gust of wind blew Charlie, Pete and the lumber out of the truck and dumped them in the road 30 feet away. "It was like a glider flight," said Charlie.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y.—A dead fish held a live swan captive for several hours on Chautauqua Lake. The fish had escaped from a fisherman with a half-swallowed plug and a hook on the plug pierced the webbing on the swan's foot.

KANSAS CITY—J. Harry Jones, the Star's city hall reporter, has been eating at a lunch room in the city hall ever since it opened. It's one of those places in which the cash register occasionally rings up a star with the check—which means it's on the house. Jones' star finally came up when he stepped in to buy a penny box of matches.

CT White Actors Give Show for Officers

Entertainers sponsored by CT White Special Service office presented a floor show at the monthly dance held at the CT White Officers' club last Saturday night. Highlighting the program was Miss Ellie Shaw and her mariettes, Cpl. Harry Taub, scat singer, Pfc. Richard Gottlieb, acrobat, and Cpl. Gilbert Vitale, magician. T/5 Leslie Heath, was master of ceremonies.

If you tell where you're going you may never get there!



SNACK BAR at the Centreville USO is one of the club's most popular features. Of the 20,000 soldiers, wives and girl friends who visit the center monthly, three-fourths are estimated to be customers for northern coffee, sandwiches, candy, cigarets and soft drinks. The snack bar is open from 1700 to 2200 from Monday through Friday, 1400 to 2230 Saturday and 1300 to 2200 Sunday.

Jump for Gen. Marshall 'Grounded' Paratrooper

It was Pfc. Paul Wilder's 17th jump—and a proud moment.

Watching him was Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, and a distinguished array of high Army personages.

It was no time for things to go wrong, but as usual at moments like this they did. Wilder's parachute tangled with the cord of another chute 50 feet up and both paratroopers nose-dived to the ground.

The other soldier received a broken nose. Wilder, unfortunately, landed harder and when they inventoried him at the hospital the doctors found that he had a fractured back and numerous minor injuries.

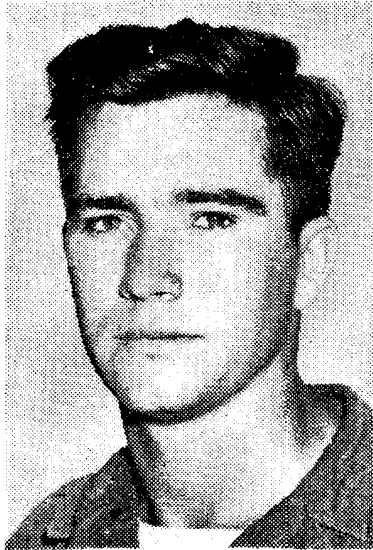
Today, after months in a hospital, much of it in a complete body cast, Wilder is back in service, but no longer with the paratroopers. He is a rifleman in Co. I, 253d Inf., and from now on he'll fight with both feet on the ground.

If you want to know how it feels to plummet to the ground supported by nothing but a thin patch of silk, ask Wilder.

"Strangely, you don't have any sensation of falling," he says, "until you are about 250 feet from the ground. Then the ground starts rushing up. It seems to be moving faster, faster and faster between your legs. The closer you come to the ground the faster you seem to be moving. By the time you are within 100 feet of the ground your goose is cooked—you are either going to land in one piece or you're going to plow up a bit of earth.

"You don't make any changes in your body position after you've dropped to within 100 feet of the ground. It takes you four or five seconds to fall that last 100 feet. That's about the height of a ten-story building.

"The first jump doesn't feaze you. You kind of lose your stom-



Pfc. Paul Wilder

ach. You're frightened—don't let anyone tell you anything else. You're thrilled, too, but you're more curious than scared.

"It's your third or fourth jump that is hardest—and the ones after that. Because by then you're always worrying about something, whether you'll hit a crosswind near the ground, what kind of terrain you'll be landing in, whether your lines will get tangled or whether you'll land in water. You can think of a thousand and one things while you are shuttling through space at 14 to 20 feet a second."

Wilder entered the paratroopers four days after he came into the Army. He trained at Camp Toccoa, Ga., Camp McCall and the Ft. Benning jump school.

Before coming into the Army Wilder caught for two years with the Decatur, Ill., Commies, a Class B team in the Three-Eye league. He is one of the heaviest hitters on the 253d baseball team.

Fears for Malaria Plague Groundless

WASHINGTON—Quieting public fears, Maj. O. R. McCoy, Army authority, has declared that there is little danger of any serious epidemic of malaria in the continental United States traceable to soldiers returning from malaria battle-fronts.

Maj. McCoy is Chief of the Tropical Disease Control Division in the Preventative Medicine Service of the Office of the Surgeon General.

According to recent reports, the malaria situation among soldiers has improved to a point where the effectiveness of combat units is no longer seriously threatened so long as "atabrine discipline" is properly maintained. Nevertheless, some civilian authorities have indicated their fear that the return of malaria victims to the mainland might cause new epidemics or re-establish the disease epidemically in areas which have not known it for several years.

Such fears are unjustified, Maj. McCoy says. He says there is no reason to presume that mosquito control work, on which our principal dependence for malaria control has been placed, will not continue to operate effectively despite the presence of returned soldier victims.

Another fear of the American public—that malaria, once acquired lasts for a lifetime, is unfounded, the Preventative Medicine Division of the Office of the Surgeon General pointed out.

NEW YORK—A subway train got lost, badly confusing approximately 80 early bird passengers—including service men and war workers—who found themselves speeding under the west side of New York when they wanted to be on the east side. A switching error at the Hoyt St. station, Brooklyn, was responsible, the board of transportation said.

863d Tells Tale Of Stay at Ft. Sill As School Troops

What an artillery battalion goes through in the process of being "school troops" and winning the full-hearted commendation of the commandant of such a military installation as Ft. Sill, Okla., is contained in a detailed account of the 863d F. A.'s activities since it left Camp V. Dorn for detached service July 15.

Prepared by T/4 Leonard H. Cohen of Hq. Btry., and forwarded to BLOOD AND FIRE in anticipation of the many questions bound to crop up among members of the 63d Div. following the battalion's return next Tuesday, the correspondence is highlighted by a description of the post and the duties in which the men of the 63d were engaged.

The trip to Ft. Sill was uneventful except for the temporary loss of a flatcar containing two trucks. Within two days of their arrival at the school the men were quartered, all materiel was unloaded, mess halls were in operation and the S-3 Sec. under Capt. Aubrey M. Garrison had dispatched its first group of men on a "school requirement."

Cohen writes of the awe with which the 63d's detachment regarded Ft. Sill. For most of the men in the battalion, Van Dorn had been their first and only Army camp. While others had been to other camps, to the majority of these this also was the first sojourn at a fort, or permanent installation.

56-Year-Old Post

Ft. Sill was activated in 1888, and has a historical background. A group of hills known as Medicine Bluffs or Dispensary Hills is its outstanding landmark.

One of these is known as Geronimo Hill. It was here that the now legendary Indian chief tricked pursuing United States cavalry troops into plunging over the sharply cut northern side of the hill. For this and other crimes, Geronimo was confined to the top of this same landmark for 20 years and there he finally died a natural death.

The fort is composed of five areas and there are enough amusements and attractions to keep the men there without making trips into the nearby town of Lawton.

The 863d's mission was to work in conjunction with Field Artillery School headquarters. Schools teaching all sorts of subjects vital to the operation of a field artillery unit are located at Ft. Sill. The battalion was temporarily attached to the 42d Div. artillery, the famed Rainbow Division of World War I.

Fire for Student-Officers

The first school requirement was fired by Btry. C under the command of Capt. James H. Richards, Jr. Later, the entire battalion fired an exercise under direction of Capt. Edward F. Winter, S-2.

One of the problems fired was for an Officers' Advanced Course. The class was composed of students holding rank from first lieutenant to full colonel and the problem was under the control of these student-officers.

Each officer in the class took the part of artillery observer. It was his duty to fire specific types of problems likely to confront an observer in combat. Each section of Cohen's battery, which is commanded by Lt. Sherman T. Kumpf, (Continued on Page 7)

Male Call

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

Pets Beget Whet Threat



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Champions Win Opening Football Game



HEADLIN' for the touch-football season's first touchdown above is Cpl. Phil Lyons, 255th Inf., Cannon Co. halfback, as his team opened defense of the Division championship with a 20-6 victory over the regiment's medical detachment. A moment before starting his headlong dash for the goal line Lyons caught a pass thrown by Cpl. Chester Antosiewicz at the Medics' 28-yd. line.

Cannon Co. 255th Inf., Tops Medics As Division Elevens Start Play

With an enthusiasm born of confidence in their respective teams, soldiers of the 63d Div. this week plunged into the second touch-football championship tournament.

Not all organizations were able to field teams but those that did produced games that were surprisingly well-played in light of the absence of opportunity for practice.

Cannon Co. of the 255th Inf. opened defense of the championship with a 20-6 victory over the regimental Medical Detachment eleven. In the same circuit, Co. B nosed out Co. D, 7-6, and Co. M sent Co. I to a 13-0 defeat.

CT Red, bidding for places in the Division softball and baseball play-offs, temporarily shelved its grid-iron activities in order to concentrate on the diamond. CT White, however, got off to an early start in developing formidable challengers for the football crown when Co. I topped Co. K, 19-6, and Btry. A of the 362d F. A. beat Service Btry., 7-6.

Among the combinations seeing action, Cannon Co. surely stood out as the team to be beaten for the title. Although only three members of the team which defeated the MP Platoon to win the 1943 championship were in the starting lineup against the Medics, the present combination operated with plenty of power.

Coupling a decided weight advantage to a fast-breaking offensive built around Capt. Robert Young and Cpl. Chester Antosiewicz, the Cannoners broke into the scoring in the first period. A pass which gained 28 yards sent Cpl. Phil Lyons across the goal line and Capt. Young rushed the ball for the extra point to account for a 7-0 first-half lead.

That portion of the game clearly established the Cannoners' superiority but by way of removing any doubt existing among the Medics, the champions went on to outscore them two touchdowns to one in the second half.

The victors' last pair of touchdowns, incidentally, went to two holdovers from the 1943 eleven, Capt. Young and Cpl. Len Atkood. Don Sesink, a shifty ball-carrier, made the Medics' touchdown.

Btry. A's victory over Serv. Btry. rivalled the Cn. Co.-Medics game in interest. The regulation tilt ended in a 6-6 tie. Each team was given four downs to rush the ball in accordance with Division rules and the "Able" boys sent the ball over the goal line to receive the deciding point.

Table with columns for Co. I 255th (19) and Pos. Co. K. 254th (6). Lists players and their positions, including Peak, Borowezki, Fox, Stanton, Roy, Beires, Wawida, Mueckler, McKeever, and Jenkins.

Score by periods: Co. I 7 0 6 6-19; Co. K 0 0 0 0-6. Touchdowns: Peak, McKeever, Vola. (scub for Jenkins); Rogers. Point after touchdown: Peak (rush). Officials: Pvt. William Pownall, S/Sgt. J. Bythe.

Table with columns for Cannon Co. (20) and Pos. Med. Det. (6). Lists players and their positions, including Cotton, Summers, Derrick, Atwood, Hartwick, Buk, Brezani, Young, Antosiewicz, Lyons, and Jacobsen.

Score by periods: Cannon Co. 7 0 7 6-20; Med. Det. 0 0 0 0-6. Touchdowns: Lyons, Young, Atwood, Sesink. Points after touchdown: Young (rush). Officials: Lt. Bowers, Cpl. Laughlin.

Table with columns for Btry. A, Pos., and Serv. Btry. Lists players and their positions, including Eisen, Santora, Yackanich, Hodges, Buckley, Lindsay, Langenberg, Vandernoont, Brag, Perotti, and Horn.

Score by periods: Btry. A 0 0 6 1-7; Serv. Btry. 0 0 0 0-6. Touchdowns: Johnson, Buckley. Extra period score: Eisen. Officials: Sgt. Martin and Cpt. Howard.

Rice Institute, beaten 58-0 by Texas U. last year, is being picked to win this season.

All-Stars Defeat Esler Field Nine

Unsuccessful in three previous attempts to whip the Esler Air Field nine, 63d Div. baseballers massed all their strength against the Pliers at Natchez last Sunday and came through with a decisive 6-1 victory.

With Pvt. Jimmy Mendel, of the 763d Ord. Co., on the hill for the All-Stars, the doughboys picked up the lead in the fourth inning and clinched the game with a five-run flareup in the sixth. The rally drove the Pliers' Lt. Bill Anderson from the mound and brought the victory CTS White and Blue had previously sought.

Mendel set down the team from Alexandria, La., with five hits, baffling the Esler batters with a deceptive slow curve. His battery mate, Sgt. Earl Peterson, of the 254th Inf., led the assault on Lt. Anderson with three hits in as many trips to the plate, and Sgt. Tony Mattola, 254th, and S/Sgt. Ray Koehler, 253d, contributed to the winning cause with additional timely hitting.

Koehler put the All-Stars in front in the fourth when he singled and eventually came home on Petersen's first hit. The 63d nine went along on that slim margin until the sixth when Mattola applied the finishing touch to Lt. Anderson's losing effort by poling a homer over the left field fence.

1943 Softball Champs Ousted From Playoffs

The 63d Div. will have a new softball champion. Division Headquarters, winner of the title last year, bowed out of further consideration for the crown when Co. C, 363d Med. Bn., achieved a 12-7 victory over the titleholders although making only five hits.

Table with columns for Div. Hq., A, R, R, H, Co. C, A, B, R, H. Lists statistics for players like McCabe, Yeznas, Monk, C. Gal'r, Seacat, Fin'gan, Gr'son, Needle, Hewitt, Pit'le, Wherry, and totals.

Score by innings: Co. C, 363d Md. 310 008 0-12; Div. Hq. 102 021 0-7.

He Should Know!

Interviewed in the Caribbean, Cmdr. Gene Tunney told a GI reporter that Jack Dempsey would have stopped Joe Louis had both met in top fighting form.

"Dempsey licked anybody he could hit," Tunney said, although he himself was hit by the Manassa Mauler and won. "And Louis, for all his speed of hand, is slow on his feet. Dempsey would have nailed him for keeps."

Athletics' Hurler Is War Prisoner

Phil Marchildon, a Canadian who pitched for the Philadelphia Athletics before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942 and was reported missing after a flight over Kiel, has turned up a prisoner of war in Germany.

After his purchase from Toronto of the International league, Marchildon won 10 and lost 15 games for the Athletics in 1941. He had plenty of stuff on the ball but his weakness was in controlling it. Despite this, the next year he led the Athletics' pitchers with a record of 17 won and 44 lost.

Byron Nelson, lord of the pro golfers, who set a new money-winning record this year, also hit every score from 63 through 73 at least once.

Football Teams Nosing Into Sporting Picture

Although the three-cornered race for supremacy in the American League claims the attention of sports fans and the World Series is still in the offing, football will win part of the spotlight today when college elevens from coast to coast start play.

As was the case last season, the sport is not the purebred thing it was before the war. The preflight schools and others infused with talent from the military have changed all that.

Most of the leading games are scheduled for the Middle West, but the East will open its campaign with two major rivals colliding when Syracuse faces Cornell at Syracuse.

Michigan, which defeated the Iowa Seahawks, 12-7, last Saturday, plays Marquette today. Indiana faces Illinois and the Seahawks play Minnesota.

In the West the headliner will be the game between UCLA and the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. UCLA is being hailed as the 1944 Rose Bowl eleven. Other Pacific Coast games will pit Washington against Willamette at Seattle; St. Mary's Pre-flight against College of the Pacific at Stockton, and California against St. Mary's at Berkeley.

Besides the Cornell-Syracuse clash, the East will have Colgate playing Sampson Naval; West Virginia facing Pitt; Villanova vs. Scranton; Tufts vs. Coast Guard Academy and Bucknell vs. Muhlenberg. The last named teams played last week with the Bisons beating the Mules, 24-7 at Allentown, Pa.

In other games last week, Indiana and Illinois had little trouble against Ft. Knox and Illinois Normal, respectively. Harvard nosed through to a 19-12 decision over little Tufts, Scranton beat F. and M. and Ursinus topped Swarthmore.

CT Blue Advances In Softball Play

Co. I, 255th Inf., moved into the final round of the Division second-half softball championship with a 14-6 victory that eliminated Co. E, 253d Inf., from the playoffs.

Carrying CT Blue's hopes of making the championship series an all-Blue affair—Co. H, 255th, won the first half title—the winners of Wednesday's game went ahead in the fourth inning and stayed there until the finish. They topped their winning efforts with a six-run rally in the last inning.

Until the seventh, the game was either team's. The Blue ten went into play minus the services of its outstanding pitcher, Sgt. Lovell Smith, who had hurled several no-hit games. The CT Red champion consequently amassed nine hits off Pvt. Charles Olskey and was only two runs behind when the seventh started.

Then, with two out, the magic went out of Pfc. John Mangan's pitching. The Co. I batters drove the ball to all corners of the lot and before the 253d hurler could retire the third man, the Blue entry had six more runs and Co. E was whipped.

Table with columns for Co. E, 253d and Co. I, 255th. Lists statistics for players like LaV'ria, Fay'ld, Poggi, Cartrell, Osh'ne, Ap'gate, R'iger, McGuire, Clever, Mangan, and totals.

Weekend Baseball May Decide Title

Baseball, in the Division, will give its full gasp this weekend before expiring for the season in the playoff for the 63d's championship.

CT Red, second-half pennant race leader, plays the 718th F. A. nine today in a game having a direct bearing on the Division championship. If the Redcats win, a thing they failed to do in the previous meeting between the teams, they will have qualified to play CT White for the title. The latter won the first-half race.

Should the 718th repeat its victory over the Red nine, the second-half race will be thrown into a three-team tie involving both of today's principals and CT Blue. The Blue team and the Artillery each have lost two games. The Red dropped its first game in 13 starts when beaten by the 718th, 6-3, last week.

It is possible that the ultimate tie may involve only CT Red and the 718th. At Natchez tomorrow, CT Blue and CT White will conclude the series of Sunday games scheduled for Liberty Park at 1530. Should the White club win, the result will be the elimination of the Blue from the second-half race.

Photo-Finishes Made Foolproof at Track

Horse race bettors who contended the photo-finish camera "favored" the horse nearer the camera have lost their chief arguing point.

A New York race track recently added a mirror which enables the camera to take both sides of a finish, thus enabling the judges to arrive at a more positive decision.



PUTTING in a kick at home plate during the first inning of the Division Baseball League game between CT Red and the 718th F. A. last week, Pvt. Robert Almstrom (12) sends ball flying from the grip of T/5 John Mecurio, Artillery catcher, and scores Redcats' first run. The 718th rallied in the next inning to tie the score and eventually won, 6-3.

Division Sidelights

Div. Hq. and Hq. Co.—There will be no more crossword puzzles by T/4 James F. Dickinson, G-2 Sec., in BLOOD AND FIRE. Sgt. Dickinson, transferred out of the Division last week, was the last of a group of five intelligence personnel who trained with the I. & R. Plat., 253d Inf., worked in the G-2 Sec. and called themselves "Kerr's Irregulars." Walter Kerr, former foreign correspondent, was transferred to another Government agency and is now overseas. James P. McMahon, Jr., former North Bergen, N. J., lawyer, still is in Camp Van Dorn, in 12th Hq., Fourth Army. Arthur Van Horn, former radio man, is with the Overseas Broadcasting Unit, ASF, in Los Angeles. Lawrence W. Naylor, a former missionary in South America and FBI employe in Washington, is at Ordnance OCS. Before he entered the Army, Dickinson had been a credit investigator and an instructor at a naval prep school... Div. Hq. Co. has sent four men to Infantry OCS. They are S/Sgt. Gilbert C. Oliver, Sgts. Robert Bartholomew and Fred Lillenkamp and Cpl. Jackson W. Piercy... Word from T/4 Arnold B. Wyllins, formerly in the G-1 Sec., now in the Pacific: "Very well satisfied, not a bit sorry, wish you were here," he wrote a friend in Division Headquarters. Sgt. Wyllins is in the AG Sec., Hq. Tenth Army.

253d Inf.—S/Sgt. Andrew S. Nelson is 38 years old and father of two children, but he's seen 18 months of combat in Italy, wears four battle stars, earned the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's badge. He fought at Anzio, in Africa, in Sicily, at Salerno and in the last part of the Tunisian campaign. Wounded by shrapnel from a Nazi mortar, he jumped into a foxhole which was deep enough. S/Sgt. Nelson now preaches to his buddies "Dig 'em deep!" S/Sgt. Nelson's closest call, though, was when a German 81-millimeter shell landed two feet above his head, plowed a furrow in the ground and bounced away without exploding. At Anzio, he fought 24 days without rest... Cpl. Roy E. Steinhauer, Hq. Co., 1st En., company clerk, gave the laugh to that business about the postman only "ringing twice." On his 25th birthday, he received 18 letters and two packages—a new high for the company... S/Sgt. Louis Milewicz, Jr., and Cpl. George Reid came to Co. G four days apart. They're going to OCS together. S/Sgt. Milewicz hails from New Jersey; Cpl. Reid from Cleveland... 1st Sgt. John J. O'Connor, new topkick at Co. G, is the proud papa, at the age of 36, of a baby daughter, born in Chicago. With four years in the Army, 1st Sgt. O'Connor came into infantry from coast artillery... T/5 Saul Held, Co. G, was in Quebec when President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met there. He didn't see the world leaders, but spied many evidences of their presence, including special military guards... Off to OCS are S/Sgt. James E. Bazemore, S/Sgt. Norman L. Fisher, Sgt. Robert R. Sparks, T/4 Walter H. McKenney, Sgt. Pasquale A. Schifino, Jr., and Cpl. Benjamin Greenfield. S/Sgt. Fischer saw action in Alaska and the Aleutians, and Cpl. Greenfield came to the 63d a year ago as a rookie.

254th Inf.—New all-weather maps are being created for outdoor orientation work under the direction of Lt. William E. Brick. Pfc. Gene Wilson has outlined the work, while T/5 Nathan Guttman and Pvt. Charles Tattie, both of Serv. Co., are doing the spray painting on the four-color work... Lt. Julian E. Parkinson has been made assistant regimental personnel officer following Lt. Charles Cornett's transfer to Special Troops; The Medical Detachment has completed another six-months period without a single AWOL. Maj. Glatzer points out his detachment's record has been spotless since it arrived at Camp Van Dorn... A boxful of that delicacy of the bake-oven, strudel, arrived with Mrs. Melvin Eubent on her visit from Baltimore to spend the Jewish holidays with her husband, a T/5 with Serv. Co... First casualty among former members of the Medics was Pvt. Theodore Szubski, who was killed in France. Other "graduates" of the detachment are spread across the world's battlefronts, with Pvt. Charles Turi, who was wounded in France, now in England; Pvt. Michael Yankowitch in France; Pvts. Ira Cobb, William Meehan, Morris Rozner and Pfc. Louis DeSchaaf in Italy. The latter is now an MP. Pvt. John Badini also is in England, while S/Sgt. Harry Orr has wound up in India and S/Sgt. Robert O'Daniel in New Guinea.

863d Tells

(Continued From Page 5)

Jr., functioned as it would have in an ordinary field problem except that officers took over certain jobs.

Wire was laid from all gun positions to the OPs and from the OPs to the CP, under direction of Sgt. Lawrence C. Richard. Radio communication was operated under the direction of S/Sgt. Adolph E. Seeber. All communications were under control of Lt. Charles E. Adams. T/Sgt. Harold L. Moragne plotted all fire in the Fire Direction Center, and the Survey Section operated under S/Sgt. Vincent C. Immel.

It was not all work for the "visitors." Oklahoma City, Ft. Worth and Dallas were within visiting distance. Two swimming pools, golf courses for enlisted men and officers and tennis courts provided opportunity for recreation apart from that normally available in service clubs and post exchanges.

Button your lip!

Theater Schedule

THEATERS LAND

Starting Times: No. 1, 1845; No. 2, 1810 (Saturday, Sept. 23, through Friday, Sept. 29)

SAT.—"Sweet and Low Down," with Linda Darnell, Jack Oakie, Benny Goodman and orchestra.

SUN.—"Kismet," with Ronald Colman, Mariene Dietrich, James Craig and Edward Arnold.

TUES.—"A Wave, a Wac and a Marine," with Sally Eilers, Elyse Knox and Richard Lane; "One Mysterious Night," with Chester Morris, Janis Carter and George E. Stone.

WED.—THURS.—"The Merry Monahans," with Donald O'Connor, Peggy Ryan and Jack Oakie.

FRI.—"Til We Meet Again," with Ray Milland, Barbara Britton and Lucile Watson.

THEATER 5

Starting Time—1900 (Saturday, Sept. 23, through Saturday, Sept. 30)

SAT.—"Cassanova Brown," with Gary Cooper, Teresa Wright and Frank Morgan.

SUN.—"Sweet and Low Down," TUES.—WED.—"Kismet."

THURS.—"A Wave, a Wac and a Marine" and "One Mysterious Night."

FRI.—SAT.—"The Merry Monahans."

Let's get where we're going—don't talk!



"SAY IT AGAIN in English," says T/5 Paul Taubman (right), master of ceremonies, to Spanish-speaking T/5 Irwin Levy (Senor Lee) who proved the hit of "Khaki Kapers" when the 63d Div. show was presented at the Open Air Theater Wednesday night.

6-Ft-6 Athlete New Executive In Divarty



COL. CARL H. JARK

It was almost a homecoming for Col. Carl H. Jark when he assumed his duties this week as executive officer of 63d Div. Arty., succeeding Col. John Mesick.

Col. Jark was the founder of the Field Artillery OCS at Ft. Sill, Okla., in July, 1941, and he found many of his former students now officers in the Division.

The new executive officer, who is 6½ feet tall, distinguished himself in athletics at West Point, where he was graduated in 1929. He broke the existing world record in the discus throw at the Drake Relays in 1929 when he hurled it more than 158 feet.

After serving in Hawaii and at Ft. Bragg, N. C., as well as at Sill, Col. Jark filled two other important missions for the War Department. An expert in gunnery

'Khaki Kapers'

(Continued from Page 1) cular control, wedged himself again into the narrow confines of the box just to show it could be done.

Well-Balanced Program

The program was well-balanced throughout with music, magic by clever T/5 Gilbert Vitale of the Med. Det., 255th Inf., tumbling by Pvt. Richard Gottlieb of the 1288th Engrs., who had a long stand at Radio City Music Hall, impressions of famous personages by T/5 Joseph Pollock, Co. K, 253d Inf., and by T/5 Leslie Heath of CT White Special Service who pulled the strings that caused his marionettes to perform uncanny stunts to the accompaniment of music from the orchestra.

T/4 John Campbell, the Division's outstanding singer, was heard in the "Student Prince Serenade." The Soldier Chorus presented two selections, and Pfc. Irwin Rochlin of Division band, a tenor, sang "I'll Be Seeing You."

The presentation was brought to a hilarious climax when 12 attractive members of the Military Maids of Natchez acted as models in a fashion revue. The audience enjoyed them but was amazed and delighted when four GIs clad in feminine clothing minced out on the stage. Sgt. Harry Marks of the 253d Inf., ex-vaudevillian, closed the show with some fast patter and an impression of Joe Penner.

The show was arranged and directed by T/5 Paul Taubman of Division Special Services who acted as master of ceremonies. Taubman, former radio pianist and organist, was heard in "Begin the Beguine." The 63d Div. White band provided the background music for the acts.

The revue will be presented at the Central High school, Vicksburg, next Friday night.

and mortars, he was an AGF observer in the South Pacific for 15 months and then was assigned to the G-3 Sec. of AGF in Washington.

Cannon Company Masses Fire With Artillery

The unusual operation of massing the fire of a cannon company with that of a battalion of light artillery was performed in the 63d Div. this week, perhaps for the first time outside combat.

Guns of Cannon Co., 253d Inf., fired with those of the 861st FA. The operation of brother elements of CT Red was witnessed by Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division Commander; Brig. Gen. E. J. McGaw, Division Artillery Commander; Col. Edward P. Lukert, commanding the 253d Inf., and Col. Carl H. Jark, executive officer of Division Artillery.

It is not the normal mission of a cannon company to mass with the artillery, but it may be done under exceptional circumstances. One of these occurs when there is a deficiency of artillery, such as occurred once at Anzio. There all available cannon companies were "drafted" to help pour fire onto German positions.

Other Instances

Another exceptional circumstance under which the "doughboy's artillery," the 105-mm. cannon, would be massed with regular artillery is that in which a combat team is in reserve. It never is policy to keep supporting weapons in reserve, and in this case the cannon would go into action.

In the third instance observation might be so poor that the cannon company could not perform its normal mission of direct support of infantry and would have to call on the combat team artillery for its firing data.

The cannon company's 105s are smaller and shorter-barreled than the 105-mm. howitzers of the artillery, and have about two-thirds the range of the artillery. Adding them increases the strength of the artillery battalion by 50 per cent.

In this week's problem, Lt. Col. Donald C. Beere, commanding the 861st, fired one of his batteries and then massed all three batteries and the one company on the artillery's data. Then Lt. Seth Peatross, commanding Cannon Co., fired his company's guns and executed the unusual performance of infantry firing artillery, bringing in all four firing batteries on the infantry's data.

Standardize Commands

For further co-ordination of the combat team units, fire commands of the infantry and artillery have been standardized so they use the same commands, and a man of either unit can pick up a telephone and understand the other unit's signals. This standardization was suggested by Col. Lukert.

The rassing of cannon company fire was first elucidated last February in a training memorandum issued by Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibb, Division Commander.

The memorandum provides that "when ammunition above the organic load of the cannon company can be spotted at the cannon company position, and when the cannon company can be so employed without interference with its normal mission of close support of its artillery, it may be placed under command of Division Artillery for the execution of massed fires."

Under the memorandum the artillery is made responsible for providing ammunition and for direction of cannon company fire. The artillery also provides the necessary survey and communications, computes the base angle, provides computed data from its fire direction center and transmits fire command by data sheets or its own communications.

Bernie Blood

WE FLASH TO SOMEWHERE JUST OVER THE GERMAN BORDER TO WHERE AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE PENETRATED.



Ersatz Lover



Gv GILL FOX



The 63d—From Training to the Final Victory



The 55-by-25-foot Combat Soldier mural unveiled this week at Special Troops Rec. Hall.



Details of two phases of the mural are shown here. Left, the last of the seven phases painted, showing the victorious homecoming of the soldier. Models for this phase were M/Sgt. John McAvoy, G-2 Sec., and Sgt. Kay Cartwright, WAC Det. Right, a detail of the basic training phases, showing two soldiers firing the 81-mm. mortar.

Chaplain to Show Pictures of GIs

Chaplain Aaron A. Kahan, who created a mild sensation in certain quarters in New York City last year when he displayed pictures of soldiers at Camp Van Dorn to their relatives in a hall hired for the purpose, is ready to repeat the performance.

On Tuesday and Wednesday night following Jewish services marking the Day of Atonement, Chaplain Kahan plans to take still photos of those gathered at Chapel No. 8. All present will be asked to leave their names and the names and addresses of relatives living in and around New York City at the chapel. All military personnel regardless of their religious affiliations are invited to the chapel.

During the week of Oct. 15 through the 20th, Chaplain Kahan will invite all relatives of friends and those attending Chapel No. 8 to be present at a New York City hall. He will show the pictures taken at Camp Van Dorn and will take motion pictures of the gathering in New York which he will show at the Camp upon his return.

DES MOINES, (CNS)—Miss Jessie M. Parker, state superintendent of public instruction, has asked teachers to quit singing "The Beer Barrel Polka" at school assemblies. "It isn't exactly the proper song for children," she said.

Three battleships, veterans of World War I, saw action in the Normandy invasion. They are the Arkansas, Texas and Nevada.

63d Div. Unveils Mural Believed Largest in Army

What is believed to be the largest mural painting ever done in an Army camp in this country received its finishing touches this week and is on view at the Special Troops Rec Hall.

Designed by Cpl. Gill Fox, BLOOD AND FIRE staff cartoonist, and executed in oils by Fox and three other outstanding 63d Div. artists, the mural measures 55 by 25 feet and covers an entire end of the hall.

It tells the story of the combat soldier, from basic training to Victory, in seven scenes.

The left-hand three scenes depict incidents in basic training, including a heroic figure of a rifleman throwing a grenade, an infantryman charging a dummy and two men firing a mortar. The entire center of the mural shows a great transport docked at night, with soldiers mounting the gangway. The right-hand three scenes show a landing on a Pacific island, contact with the enemy, and the final victorious homecoming.

Cpl. Fox designed the entire mural and painted the "Victory" phase and the larger heads of men and the lone woman. T/4 Richard C. Thomas, Hq. Dtry., 861st F. A., suggested and executed the color scheme, painted some figures, all backgrounds and all mechanical instruments. T/4 Thomas Deeds, G-3 Sec., painted uniforms and some figures, and Pvt. Howard L. Van Dyck painted uniforms.

The predominant shade of the mural is green, but it is done in 10 shades and tones. It took the

four men four months to paint. They worked on a scaffolding constructed by the 263d Engrs. Much of the work was done under extreme conditions in summer temperatures as heat rose in the rec hall and nearly smothered the artists working under the roof. Sgt. Thomas lost 12 pounds in the course of the work.

Because of limited time allowed the men—each of whom had other regular duties—they did not work with a master pencil sketch, as is customary, but designed the mural directly on the plasterboard wall, conferring on its details as they went along.

Two living models—M/Sgt. John McAvoy, G-2 Sec., and Sgt. Kay Cartwright, WAC Det.—were used for the "Victory" phase. They did not pose directly for the artist, but posed for photographs from which Fox worked. T/5 William Schiff, BLOOD AND FIRE staff photographer, took seven different photographs of the pair before obtaining an expression that suited Fox for the feminine character.

Other scenes were modeled on BLOOD AND FIRE photographs of the Division in its early training here and at Camp Blanding, Fla.

ON FIRST SYLLABLE

The correct pronunciation of the name of the man who developed the US Rifle Cal. .30M1 is GARE-und. The accent is on the first syllable, which rhymes with "care." The whole word rhymes with the grammatical word "gerund."

Shaky Adolf Swings A Nice Gutter Ball

SOUTHERN FRANCE—The Germans should know by this time that they can't knock the Seventh Army down like tenpins, but—

On the Nice front, they tried a weapon which consisted of a Teller mine with a time fuse inside a round, oversized wooden casing that resembled a bowling ball.

On several occasions they tried rolling these balls toward advancing Americans, but the balls bounced off into the shrubbery.

Former 254th Officer Reported Killed in Action

Another former member of the 63d Div., Lt. William E. Culp, Jr., was wounded in France and died on Aug. 12, according to word received here by Capt. Nicholas C. Black, of the 254th Inf.

Former executive officer of Hq. Co., Lt. Culp came to the Division from Camp Wheeler, Ga., and left for overseas duty last April. He was the 254th regimental gas officer and took a prominent part in the 63d's athletic program.

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