

# Blood and Fire

Vol. 2, No. 25 - 63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS. - December 2, 1944

## Engineers Graph Army-Navy Game

Action in today's Army-Navy football game will be made realistic for men of the 263d Engrs. by means of a grid-graph set up in Special Troops Rec Hall.

The board is constructed to represent a miniature gridiron, goal posts and all.

A lighted football will move up and down the field as each play is picked up from the radio broadcast of the game. The broadcast will start at 1245.

Capt. Isaac T. Avery, Jr., conceived the idea of the board and T/5 Karl Fink supervised its construction.

## UNBEATEN MEDICS HURL CHALLENGE TO CAMP TEAMS

Co. C, 363d Med., defeated Co. B, 23-18, in a basketball game Monday night.

The victory, second of the season for Co. C, inspired the team's management to challenge all teams in Camp Van Dorn to a game or series of games for the camp title.

In another game Co. A swamped the 563d Sig. Co., 54-23. The winners held a 24-4 lead at the half.

## Gen. Eisenhower Sends Autograph

T/5 Welter C. Smith, Jr., Hq. Btry., 862d F.A., is the possessor of Gen. Eisenhower's autograph and a reproduction of the unique Invasion Staff shoulder patch.

The autograph came in a letter thanking Smith for his greetings on the Allied supreme commander's birthday.

It will join Smith's collection of 700 signatures obtained in 14 years. The collection already includes autographs of Presidents Coolidge, Hoover and Roosevelt; international statesmen, members of Congress and well-known present-day cartoonists.

## Men Of QM Company Receive Awards.

Insignia representative of the Meritorious Service Award were presented to more than 100 men of the 63d QM Co. at a retreat ceremony Wednesday. The insignia, a golden wreath embroidered on a two-inch square of green cloth, may be worn on the right sleeve of the OD shirt, blouse or overcoat, four inches above the cuff.

The awards were presented by Lt. Col. Henry P. Duvall, Division Quartermaster.

A plaque, which has not yet arrived from Washington, will be presented to the company later.

The award was made on authorization of the War Department.

## Training Law Hearings Soon

There is little question in Washington but that one of the first legislative acts of the 79th Congress will be thorough hearings on bills calling for some form of compulsory military training.

Congress convenes Jan. 3, one month away.

Enactment of a compulsory military service law which would become effective immediately on termination of the war doubtless will be the subject of hearings.

President Roosevelt has expressed himself as favoring some form of national service. He has not expressed himself for military service in particular, but has revived his repeated praise for the accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

# BLOOD AND FIRE

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## APOLOGIA

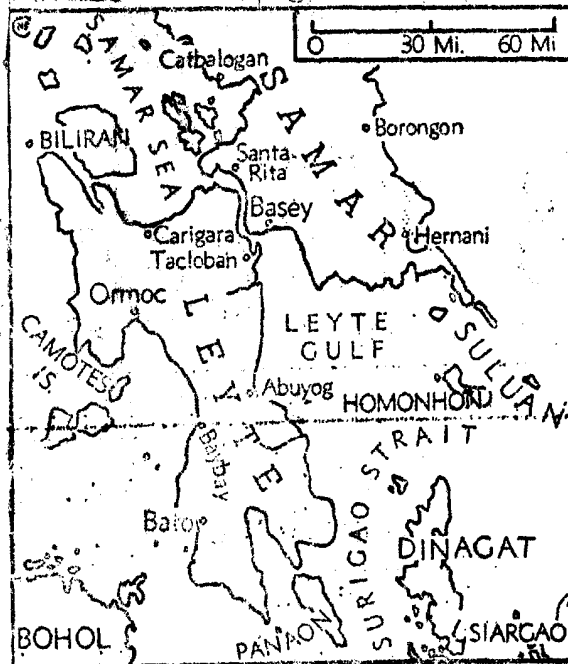
One of our more vexed readers asked last week, "Why doesn't BLOOD AND FIRE fold up and die a natural death?" Another, more reserved, commented that the Division newspaper had "deteriorated."

To critical readers of our recent four-page duplicated efforts, we can give two answers. First, we shall not "fold up and die" because it is our duty and pledge to provide a weekly newspaper for the 63d Inf. Div. as long as military conditions permit and the need exists.

Second, we agree that we have "deteriorated" from the days of eight- and 12-page letterpress newspapers printed by the thousand and distributed with a free hand -- deteriorated in appearance, perhaps, but not in news content and, we hope, not in interest. Partly because of condensation, we are printing a larger percentage of 63d Div. news than ever before, but size and appearance reflect serious shortages of both paper and labor.

As the broad general appearance of the paper declines the staff is no happier than the readers. But it is possible that you will see BLOOD AND FIRE in even stranger forms in the future. Whatever the medium, BLOOD AND FIRE will continue to appear whenever possible; it remains our pledge to give you, under garrison or combat conditions, the best possible newspaper with the most news about the Blood and Fire Division.

Philippine Battleground



In the center of this map are the island and gulf of Leyte, in the central Philippines, scene of the chief ground action in the Pacific.

## ONCE OVER LIGHTLY

By Pfc. Sy Bernhard

The black day is almost here again and the third year completed... Dec. 7, 1941... The Red Army's first winter offensive had rolled up gains and almost one-fifth of USSR territory was won, Hitler cried... Dec. 7, 1942... Dakar, the threat to Brazil on the African coast, was open to the Allies... Hitler wept.

Dec. 7, 1943... The pincers around the Nazi Army facing Stalingrad was nearly complete... Hitler screamed...

Dec. 7, 1943... The conference at Tehran had ended and the three great Allies proclaimed their unity to the world... Hitler moaned... Dec. 7, 1943... A United States Navy Task Force had attacked the Marshall Islands... Hirohito very unhappy...

Dec. 7, 1944... Hitler and Hirohito wish they had "stood in bed."

This war's GIs are evidently better behaved than their fathers' 22,000 courts martial already chalked up... This is a lower percent than last time.

Bad news for our enemies... more War Department supplies are produced in a single day than in the year 1940.

## Division Sidelights

263d Engr. -- Members of the Castle Club, the Engineers' MCO club, held a dance last Saturday night on the Heidelberg Roof in Baton Rouge, said to have been the first GI dance there in months. The members and their 120 guests, girls from Baton Rouge, danced to music provided by musicians from the battalion. Officer guests included Lt. Col. Jack L. Coan, battalion commander, and Mrs. Coan; Capt. John Teunisson, Jr., and WOJG Seymour Rubinfeld. M/Sgt. Chelce C. Ashcraft, Jr., was chairman of the party, assisted by 1st/Sgt. John A. Lucek, Co. A; S/Sgt. Roy Barker, Co. C, and T/4 Joseph Shopmaker, H&S Co. The club members remained overnight in Baton Rouge and returned to camp Sunday in chartered buses.

363d Med. -- Two new company commanders took up duties in the battalion this week. Capt. Frank Cole took over Co. B and Lt. John W. Courtney Co. A... T/Sgt. James Colbert; Co. D, has been made first sergeant of Co. B... Stork Club: A girl to Co. D's T/3 Harvey Wheeler and Mrs. Wheeler; a girl to Hq. Det.'s T/5 Stephen Hutzaluk and Mrs. Hutzaluk... Yuletide Cheer: Co. B held its second annual Christmas party last night in the Special Troops Rec Hall. Guests were 100 members of Sigma Omicron sorority, from Baton Rouge.

Div. Arty. -- Mrs. Grace Bruno, wife of T/5 Richard Bruno, is visiting him this week; he was released from Station Hospital the day she arrived... To eliminate the "subway rush" on portraits, Pvt. Howard Van Dyck is getting payments in advance.

718th F.A. -- The battalion held its Autumn Dance last night at Div. Arty. Rec Hall, with music by a Division orchestra. Girls from Woodville, McComb, Gloster, Centreville and Liberty were guests. T/Sgt. Kenneth Bloomer, Hq. Btry., was chairman of the dance committee, assisted by S/Sgt. Seymour Gross and Cpl. Bernard Rymkus, both of Btry. C.

862d F.A. -- Cpl. Elmer House and T/4 James O'Reilly won three-day passes in Btry. A for winning the weekly orientation quizzes... Pvt. Niel Vanderhoot puts his jungle suit to good use during Btry. A football games. He "unzips" the suit to trap a pass inside the cloth. The reason is a broken finger he received several weeks ago playing football... An "art exhibit" by Pvt. Larry Manauer is attracting attention in the wire section of Hq. Btry. The one-man show consists of informal sketches of battery life drawn by Manauer in his spare time... S/Sgt. Robert Haughey, Hq. Btry., whose home is in Bayside, L.I., and T/4 Margaret Louise Reed, of the WAC Det., were married recently in Garry, W. Va... Maj. Georgie P. McCord is the father of an eight-pound-eight-

(Continued on Page Four)

## Church Schedule

### PROTESTANT

Chapel 6: 0900.  
Chapels 5, 6, 7: 1000.  
Chapels 5, 6: 1100.  
Chapel 7: Luth. Com., 1100.

### Sunday Eve.-Weekdays

Chapel 6: LDS, 1800.  
Chapel 6: Chr. Sci., 2000.  
Chapel 1: SDA, 1930 Friday.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

#### Sunday

Chapel 5: 0800.  
Theater 5: 0900.  
Theater 1: 1030.

#### Weekdays

Chapel 5: 1830 M-W-F.  
Chapel 5: Confessions,  
Sat., 1830-2000.

## Theater Schedule

### THEATERS 1 and 2

(Starting Times: #1, 1845;  
#2, 1810.)

SAT. - "Lost in a Harem":  
Abbott and Costello.  
SUN.-MON. - "Wilson": Knox,  
Fitzgerald, Mitchell.  
TUES. - "Alaska": Lindsay,  
Taylor, Carradine; "Murder  
in the Blue Room":  
Cook, Gwynne, McDonald.  
WED.-THURS. - "To Have and  
Have Not": Bogart, Bac-  
all, Brennan.  
FRI. - "Dark Waters": Ober-  
on, Tone, Mitchell.

### THEATER 5

(Starting Time 1900)

SUN.-MON. - "Lost in Harem."  
TUES.-WED. - "Wilson."  
THURS. - "Alaska"; "Murder  
in the Blue Room."  
FRI.-SAT. - "To Have and  
Have Not."

### BLANKET VICTORY

Btry. C, 862d F.A., turned in a blanket victory in volleyball Monday night when it beat all others in a battalion round robin tournament.

## Battery C Leads Arty Court League

Scoring impressive wins in two games, Btry. C defeated Btry. B, 22-9, and Serv. Btry., 12-4, Monday night as the 862d basketball league opened at Div. Arty. Rec Hall.

Pfcs. Norwin Dixon and William Benz led Btry. C with eight and six points respectively. Pvts James Mallon and Harold Dahlquist topped the victors in the clash with Service with six and four points, respectively.

In a third contest Cpl. Don Ecelbarger led Hq. five to a 20-2 rout of Btry. A by scoring 11 points. Pfc. Jerry Mangano netted seven markers for the winning team.

## Sidelights

(Continued from Page 3)

ounce girl, Jean Ann, born Nov. 7. Maj. and Mrs. McCord have a son, George, now three and one-half years old.

63d QM Co. -- Miss Dorothy Cain, of Vicksburg, became the bride of Lt. Elden J. Carson, of Pilsner, Neb., Thursday night at the First Baptist Church in Vicksburg. The best man was Lt. Charles Farmer, a one-time QM Co. officer now with the 516th QM Grp.

WHATTHEHELL! DEPT. -- Something new has been added, but nothing taken away.

Lt. Lewin Kobic, 263d Engrs., was pooh-poohing the habits of the grenade launcher.

"Don't worry about it," he said. "It hasn't any kick--just a RECOIL!"

BERNIE BLOOD



## Globe-trotting Chaplain Writes From India.

In the following letter to Division Chaplain William E. Patrick, Chaplain L. J. Houghtaling, formerly with the 254th Inf., describes his trip to a base in India:

"I am going on my second week in India. I am still not settled because I have not reached my permanent station. I am waiting to conclude my trip. Even by air the trip has been a long one.

"I left the States on Oct. 16, stayed five days in Brazil and spent almost a week in West Af-

rica. We crossed the whole continent of Africa, mostly desert and mountains -- no jungle. When we crossed the Red Sea I told the boys on the plane we were making better time than Moses.

"If any of the boys get orders to fly tell them to wear their ODs no matter what anybody tells them. It's cold up there regardless of how hot it may be on the ground.

"This has been a vacation except that travel is tiresome. I have been swimming at beaches halfway around the world."