

Blood and Fire

Vol. 2, No. 27 - 63D INFANTRY DIVISION, CAMP VAN DORN, MISS. - December 16, 1944

Hq. Btry. Wins 862d Title

Led by Cpl. Don Ecelbarger and T/5 Frank Wilklow, Hq. Btry. defeated Btry. C, 25-17, Thursday to win the 862d F.A. basketball championship.

Ecelbarger scored the first basket of the game and accounted for a total of 19 points. Wilklow netted nine.

Only the first quarter was close; after that the victors had complete control of the game and won almost as they pleased.

At half time the score was 10-3 in favor of the champions and at the end of the fourth period it was 17-9.

In the final heat Btry. C staged a desperate rally, but its eight points fell short of tying the winner.

SERVICE CLUB 1 HOLDS LARGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The lounge of Service Club 1, elaborately decorated for the occasion, was the setting last night for a Christmas dance.

Music for the dancing was furnished by a 63d Div. orchestra.

A lighted Christmas tree, evergreens and holly wreaths composed the decorations.

Girls from nearby towns were guests.

Battalion Commander Singer at Party

Banks of evergreens and the Star of Bethlehem formed the motif for a party given by Co. C, 363d Med., in Special Troops Rec Hall last week-end.

Highlight of the evening was the rendition of "The Man on the Flying Trapeze" by Lt. Col. Paul V. Kiehl, battalion commander.

Other vocal entertainment was offered by a trio composed of Cpl. Harold Western and Pvts. Paul C. Stark and Wesley Bradley.

Sunny Dunham Entertains GIs

A demonstration of what the jazz purists might call "good horn" was given by Sunny Dunham Thursday night as he and his musicians played to a capacity audience at Theater 1.

Tommy Randall sang "White Christmas" and "Together" and Carolyn Gray, eye-catching songstress, was heard in "The Trolley Song" and other popular numbers.

Charles Chan, a Chinese comedian, late of "Hellzapoppin'," sang "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." Prof. Backwards, in aca-

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Serv. Btry. 863d, Honored in Review

63d Div. Arty. units were to parade today in honor of Serv. Btry., 863d F.A., recently named winner of the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque.

Brig. Gen. E. J. McGaw, Division Artillery commander, was to make the presentation.

The plaque used for the ceremony was made by Cpl. Harrison V. Blass, Btry. A. An official plaque also will be received from Washington.

The award was made for the battery's record over a period of six months and for its exceptional performance in supplying the battalion while it was at Ft. Sill in July.

Ordnance Company Cites Its Record - - -

Three Blood and Fire organizations now have won the Meritorious Service Unit Award --- the 63d QM Co.; Serv. Btry., 863d F.A., and the 763d Ord. (LM) Co.

Each of the awards was for the period May 1 to Nov. 1 this year.

Members of the ordnance company pointed out this week that performance and morale remained high in the company despite frequent losses of personnel to other organizations.

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CAMP VA

BLOOD AND FIRE

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EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT IT

Next to the ever-pressing question on the progress of the war, uppermost in the minds of GIs in this part of the country right now is: When is it going to get warmer? It was only a few short months ago that we were asking: When is it going to get cooler?

Men of the Division, most of whom hail from northern cities... just can't understand it when the temperature in Mississippi drops below 40 degrees. The trouble is that the old phrase, "The Sunny South", has been sadly over-worked up north. The result is that many a man was dismayed when the mercury took a nose-dive to 26 recently.

The fact of the matter is that it does get cold in the South in winter. Sometimes the frigidity rivals that of northern climes, but here the cold does not last. Tomorrow may be like a day in June.

Most northerners claim they feel the cold here more than they do at home. There are contributing causes to this unhappy state. At home most men are used to vastly different living conditions than they find in the Army. Steam heat is much more effective than a space heater.

After all, of course, there is no place like home, a fact which many soldiers have found out only since they joined the Army. We might say with Francis Thompson:

"Which of us has his desires, or having them is satisfied?"



ONCE OVER LIGHTLY

By T/5 Sy Bernhard

Bad news for the enemy... The Sixth War Loan drive went over the top as every single one of previous war loans have... The memory of Pearl Harbor drove the sales well over 14 billions.

Hitler is getting even more unpopular in the United States... Some prisoners in Atlanta went on strike because they were forced to be near some Nazi saboteurs...

With Yenan Chinese Government of the North and Chiang-Kai-Shek's Central Government getting closer together perhaps some information on the Yenan group is pertinent... Their two armies number 474,476 regular troops and the people's militia trained as guerrillas is about two million strong. They are poorly armed with rifles and mortars and some heavy equipment captured from the Japanese. They grow their own food and raise and manufacture material for their uniforms. A unity between the two Chinese governments would release these troops - and they are well-trained - for combat on full scale against the Japanese. Lt. Col. Carlson, of the famed Marine Raiders, was once a member of the Chinese "Communist" Army of Yenan and learned his guerrilla tactics from their leader, Mao-Tze-Tung.

Church Schedule

PROTESTANT

Chapels 5, 6, 7: 1000.

Chapels 5, 6: 1100.

Chapel 7: Luth. Com.,
1100.

Sunday Even. Weekdays

Chapel 6: LDS, 1800.

Chapel 6: Chr. Sci., 2000.

Chapel 1: SDA, 1930 Fri.

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.-"Sunday Dinner for a
Soldier": Hodiak, Baxter
Winninger.

SUN.-MON.- "The Woman in
the Window": Robinson,
Bennett, Massey.

TUES.-"Ministry of Fear":
Milland, Reynolds.

WED.-THURS.- "Farewell My
Lovely": Powell, Shirley
Trevor.

FRI.-"Belle of the Yu-
kon": Scott, Gypsy Rose
Lee, Shore, Bob Burns.

THEATER 5

(Starting Time 1900)

SUN.-MON.- "Sunday Dinner
for a Soldier."

TUES.-WED.- "The Woman in
the Window."

THURS.-"Ministry of Fear."

FRI.-SAT.- "Farewell My
Lovely."

TOP BOWLING SCORE

Top score to date in
the 862d F. A. pin league,
is a 219 rolled by T/5
Frances Kovac in a recent
match.

LETTERS FROM OVERSEAS

Fighting in the jungle is rough but American soldiers can take it, says Cpl. Perry H. McMahon, formerly of Btry. A, 863d F.A. Cpl. McMahon, now a combat correspondent with the infantry, wrote of his experiences to Cpl. James Andary, also of Btry. A.

"My first encounter with the Japs was a fiasco," Cpl. McMahon said.

"I didn't get a chance to take any shots, being so badly frightened and diving my face too far down in the jungle topsoil. When I did rise up to get a few in, a machine gun started firing over my head and leaves began to fall on me. I thought I was gone or soon would be going to the happy hunting ground.

"I went on many patrols while on Bougainville. Patrolling in the jungle is rather rough. You carry 10 days' rations, K stuff, and two canteens of water. When behind the Japs you dig in every night and have to keep watch but in the daytime you have fun even in the Jap territory, but there is little talking.

"The scouts have the worst time of it out on the points. The Japs usually wait until the platoon is right on top of them before they open up and the scouts, if there are to be fatalities, usually get it. When the going gets hot, the best sergeants, that is, the real leaders, go out as lead scouts and send the kids back. I saw this happen many times.

"Before I forget it, I hope your outfit steers clear of Guadalcanal. That is the stinkhole of the Pacific--flies, mosquitoes, mud and stink. Bougainville is much better. The climate is ideal and it has the best surf bathing I have encountered.

"Bougainville is mountainous, has more jungle than New Guinea but it has been fixed up so that it is perfectly safe from the standpoint of health.

"I have traveled some in the South Pacific. New Caledonia is great as far as climate goes. It is sub-tropical.

"There is tremendous hope that the war will be over, even against Japan, sooner than experts predict.

"We are so much superior to the Japs in equipment and our firepower is so terrific that when we get them in a place where we can turn it loose they just don't have a chance.

"Jungle trails are hard and rough. The heat is terrific and you will be soaking wet for days at a time. The jungle has a stink and rot to it that you won't like but you will find that you can do it.

"I have travelled as much as 16 miles over trails which in places went up mountain faces almost 45 degrees. We had to dig steps and go on all fours, and we had to ford swift rivers but most of the guys made it and went another 10 miles the next day, then up a hill at a nest of Japs."

Engineers Dance Ordnance at Unit Parties

A series of parties was staged this week by units of the 263d Engrs.

Last night Co. C held a dance at the CT White Rec Hall, with the 144th Inf. orchestra furnishing the music. Members of the Girls' Battalion of Baton Rouge were guests.

Co. A men also danced last night at Special Troops Rec Hall. A 63d Div. orchestra played.

The Huddle Room of the Istroma Hotel in Baton Rouge was the scene last Saturday of a dance given by the 1st Plat. of Co. A. Sgts. William Dolosic and William Sweeney and Cpl. Nicholas Delale made the arrangements.

BOWL GAMES - - -

Here are the bowl games for New Year's Day:

ROSE BOWL (Pasadena)--- Southern California vs Tennessee.

ORANGE BOWL (Miami)--- Georgia Tech vs Tulsa.

SUGAR BOWL (New Orleans)---Alabama vs Duke.

COTTON BOWL (Dallas)--- Texas Christian vs Oklahoma A. & M.

Sealed Lips Save Ships!

(Continued from Page 1)
More than a score of former 763d men are serving in Europe with another division, and a large group of small arms repairmen was sent to a division now in the Pacific. Seven men of the company were discharged to receive appointments as warrant officers and nine others went to OOS.

The 763d Ord. Co. was activated at Aberdeen Proving Ground in March, 1943, and joined the 63d Div. at Camp Blanding. Its motto is "Firepower to the Front."

Show - - -

(Continued from Page 1)
domic robes, made the reverse spelling and pronunciation of words sound easy.

SERV. BTRY. WINS IN 862D PIN LEAGUE

Led by Cpl. Kenneth Hughes, who bowled 200 for high single game, Serv. Btry., 862d F.A., won three games from Btry. C in an inter-battery bowling match this week. The victors rolled a high team total of 878.



REMEMBER that "greeting" you got from your draft board? When a Jap youth is called up for military service, the commander of the company to which he will be assigned writes a letter, which says, in part: "Greetings to the Father and Elder Brother. We have learned that your son and brother will shortly experience the greatest joy and satisfaction possible to one of our nation by joining soon our sacred company. We congratulate you."

862d UNITS STAGE PARTIES AFTER GAME

Men of Btrys. B and C, 862d F.A., held informal parties in their respective mess halls Thursday night following a basketball game.

Music for the Btry. B affair was furnished by T/Sgt. Edward Wisniewski, of the 144th Inf. S/Sgt. Walter Cantabery and Pfc. Stanley Cellem entertained.

A floor show presented by T/5 Joseph Reese, Sgt. William Hungerford, and 1st/Sgts. John Schnaitman, Btry. C, and William Swiney, Btry. B, led the entertainment for Btry. C.

MALE CALL

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

