



Blood and Fire



Vol. 3, No. 11, May 19, 1945



The Blood and Fire Band brought VE Day to Bad Mergentheim.

The Black Goes to the Left

There is a right way and a wrong way to wear the European-African-Middle-Eastern Theater ribbon, and now that nearly everyone in the 63d Div. has some fruit salad for his shirt or blouse, here are the rules as quoted from the AR by CWO Theodore W. Oliver, general clerical assistant in the Adjutant General's Office:

The EAME ribbon is worn with its black band toward the left arm. If it is worn with the black to the right it is upside down. Until the wearer serves in another theater, the EAME ribbon should be worn at the extreme left of all ribbons, because campaign ribbons follow medals in precedence and are worn in the order of theaters in which the soldier has served.

Medal and campaign ribbons are worn in rows of four, the most important at the top and left. If you have five ribbons, wear four in a row and the most important one alone in an upper row.

In descending order of importance, the ribbons likely to be worn by Blood and Fire men are: Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense („Pre-Pearl Harbor") Medal, and campaign ribbons. If you have a ribbon for the American Theater, wear this between the „Pre-Pearl Harbor" ribbon and your new EAME ribbon.

VE Day Joy Soft Pedaled in 63d As Men See War Only Half Won

VE Day found the Blood and Fire Division out of the battle lines and on a security mission. Because the Division still has a task to perform and because the war with Japan has not been terminated, there was no formal observation of the capitulation of the Germans.

The gradual disintegration of German fighting power, indicated on all sides following the 63d's breakthrough at the Siegfried Line, took the edge off final surrender news, but in regiments and batteries and at Division Headquarters there were many informal celebrations.

Most elaborate of these was staged

Six Division Staff Officers Promoted

Promotion of six Division Staff officers has been announced.

Three captains were advanced to major. They are Michael Baymor, Air-Ground Liaison Officer; Leon M. Goldensohn, Division Neuropsychiatrist, and George Pavlicek, Division Information-Education Officer.

Two first lieutenants became captains: Edward E. Hittle, office executive for the Division Surgeon, and James F. Lonergan, Assistant Judge Advocate.

George A. Brown, Jr., aide-de-camp to the Assistant Division Commander, was promoted from second to first lieutenant.

by the members of Division Band Monday evening, the eve of official VE Day. Following repeated unofficial announcements that Germany was reported to have given up, the full band, together for the first time since the 63d came overseas, formed at the CP and marched to the town square of Bad Mergentheim.

Square Thronged.

The band was followed by jeeps crowded with GIs eager to blow off steam and the sound of martial music brought soldiers and villagers on the run. Soon the square was thronged with cheering GIs and perplexed Germans.

The village priest arrived on the scene and Chaplain William J. Guinan told him the war had ended. When the townspeople heard the news some cried, others looked glum, still others appeared indifferent. The only Germans who thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings were the children. They flocked around the band and followed it wide-eyed through the park on its return to the CP.

Poles, Czechs, Russians and other displaced persons awaiting repatriation cheered lustily and waved bottles of wine. Two British Tommies, Sgt. Alex Skedd and Cpl. Jack Gardner, of an Air Formations Squadron stationed in town, hopped on an MP jeep.

(Continued on Back Page)

AWARDS

(For economy of space, the words „company“ and „battery“ have been eliminated from unit designations.)

Oak Leaf to Silver Star

861st FA.

Lt Spencer T. Hockaday, B, Lanexa, Va.

Silver Star

254th INF.

* Pfc Robert S. McDuffie, K, Andover, Mass.

* S/Sgt John W. Studer, F, Lakewood, O.

Lt Billy J. Armstrong, H, Houston, Tex.

Sgt Harold A. Dodge, I, Hardwick, Vt.

Pfc Nester M. Higgins, E, Alma, Mich.

Lt Jacob E. Gendler, Hq 3d Bn, Waco, Tex.

Pfc Earl C. Simpson, E, Boonville, Ind.

T/5 Edward L. Pratt, Med, Rensselaer, N.Y.

861st FA.

Pvt David Abrams, Hq, Houston Tex.

Pfc Clifford D. Ferdig, B, Elk Point, S.D.

Cpl Leon J. Gillett, B, Grand Ledge, Mich.

Pfc Alton C. O'Malley, A, Chicago.

862d FA.

Capt Robert R. Hurd, Hq, Woodward, Ala.

Oak Leaf to Bronze Star

861st FA.

Pfc Lacy Tackett, A, Pikeville, Ky.

Pfc William R. Egan, A, New Haven, Conn.

Cpl Vaughn H. Mountz, B, Carlisle, Pa.

Capt Robert W. Addy, Hq, Inglewood, Calif.

263d ENGR.

* Lt Donald Johnston, A, Milwaukee.

Bronze Star Medal

Heroic Achievement

253d INF.

* Sgt Edward J. Butler, Jr., I, St. Louis.

* Pvt Jessie A. Smith, I, Dallas, Tex.

Pfc James E. Herrmann, Jr., B, Mt. Washington, Md.

T/Sgt Donald O. McKinnon, B, Ashland, Wis.

Cpl Leonard W. Mentzer, Med, Pilot Rock, Ore.

Pfc O'Connor D. Mitchell, H, Angier, N.C.

Pfc Charles T. Muckenfuss, Med, High Point, N.C.

Pfc Andy Pearson, H, Miamisburg, O.

Pfc William H. Pollard, Hq 2d Bn, Knoxville, Tenn.

Cpl John A. Viuhkola, Hq 2d Bn, Mayzer, Ore.

Pfc George R. Ferron, B, Brooklyn.

Pfc Carl B. Frazer, Jr., H, Houston, Tex.

Pfc Matthew J. Hendle, B, Chicago.

Lt Robert W. Selton, Hq 1st Bn, Forest Hills, N.Y.

Capt Angelo E. Pilla, E, Milford, Mass.

Pfc James C. Hendricks, I, Jacksonville, Fla.

Lt Dwight R. Crandel, D, Moline, Ill.

S/Sgt Otto W. Ashworth, Jr., I, Bloomsburg, Pa.

254th INF.

** Pfc Charles A. Karnik, Med, Olivia, Minn.

T/Sgt Howard E. Homrig, D, Appleton, Wis.

Pfc Franklin D. Kernells, I, Waterloo, S.C.

Lt Frederick J. Kroesen, Jr., E, Burlington, N.J.

S/Sgt John E. Kule, Med, Hawthorne, N.Y.

S/Sgt Harold K. LaCrosse, F, Fair Oaks, Ind.

Lt Elmer S. McKee, D, Harrisburg, Pa.

Cpl William O. Meyer, G, Dayton, O.

T/4 Warren W. Orlick, Med, Monroe, Mich.

Pfc Albert J. Orsini, Hq 3d Bn, San Mateo, Calif.

Cpl Earl F. Parker, Med, Durham, N.C.

* Posthumous Award.

** Missing in Action.

Sgt Louis E. Sica, F, Philadelphia.

Pfc Harlan H. Spinks, Hq 3d Bn, Allenville, Mo.

Pfc Charles D. Struder, Med, Jackson, Tenn.

Pfc John F. Werner, Med, Claffin, Kan.

S/Sgt George B. White, F, Jackson, Miss.

Pfc Clifford L. Wise, E, Sidney, O.

T/5 Robert B. Atkins, Med, Georgetown, Del.

Pfc Robert J. Boskoski, E, New Britain, Conn.

Sgt Wayne W. Burgess, F, Sebring, O.

Pfc Marshall R. Christopher, Hq 3d Bn, Delano, Calif.

Sgt Fred Clarke, E, Fall River, Mass.

Pfc Harold A. Dorn, F, Fond du Lac, Wis.

S/Sgt Eben N. Feenstra, E, Aliquippa, Pa.

T/5 Russell G. Fincham, Med, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Pfc William R. Gass, Med, Greenville, Tenn.

T/5 Earnest B. Gilliland, Hq 2d Bn, Memphis, Tenn.

861st FA.

Pfc John C. Sullivan, A, Pleasantville, N.J.

Sgt Thomas M. Goodrich, A, Fort Plain, N.Y.

Cpl Harry L. Tindall, Hq, Bad Axe, Mich.

T/5 Charles W. Southerlan, Hq, Bloomington, Ill.

Pfc Buron E. Nails, B, Buchanan, Ga.

Cpl Walter F. Milke, A, Philadelphia.

862d FA.

Cpl Saul B. Newton, A, New York City.

Pfc Stanley L. Cellum, B, Philadelphia.

863d FA.

T/Sgt Arthur J. Purcell, Hq, Montrose, N.Y.

S/Sgt Harry J. Murphy, Hq, Albany, N.Y.

T/4 James S. Davis, B, Tarrant, Ala.

Cpl Ralph C. Carlson, Hq, Detroit.

63d RCN TR.

T/4 Gerald D. Lewis, Elkhart, Ind.

Lt (then S/Sgt) Edward F. Veron, Newark, N.J.

T/5 Wallace G. Black, Madison, Wis.

T/5 George M. Cohen, Chicago.

822d TD.

Sgt Albert R. Burch, B, Warren, O.

740th TANK.

Lt Homer B. Tompkins, C, Milton, Fla.

Sgt Willie Morris, Jr., C, Abilene, Tex.

Sgt James E. Lewis, C, Tyler, Tex.

776th TD.

Lt George H. Ritter, C, South Rockwood, Mich.

Meritorious Service

253d INF.

Co. H—

* Cpl Luther H. Baldwin, Moundsville, W. Va.

* Pfc Bill W. Clark, Graceville, Fla.

* S/Sgt Richard J. Keenan, Suffern, N.Y.

** Pfc James T. Meyers, New Augusta, Ind.

** S/Sgt Roy V. Johnson, Kirkland, Wash.

** Pfc John W. Jones, Baltimore.

Pfc Henry R. Wynn, Conway, Ky.

Cpl Marvin H. Wiggins, Jacksonville, Fla.

Pfc James H. Shepard, Glade Water, Tex.

T/Sgt Edward Rome, Cleveland.

Sgt Leonard Rajacki, Cleveland.

Pfc Ray Linder, Iuka, Ill.

Sgt Milo I. Goss, Jr., LaGrande, Ore.

Pfc Charles R. Detwiler, Philadelphia.

Lt Robert T. Bogan, Sv, Marion, Mich.

Capt John E. Gill, Regtl Hq Co, Trenton, N.J.

Capt Robert C. Fruit, Hq Co 2d Bn, Danville, Va.

254th INF.

Pfc Walter O. Flory, Hq Co 3d Bn, Lebanon, Pa.

861st FA.

Capt Ralph R. Perlman, Hq, New York City.

Capt Richard L. Dooley, Hq, Cincinnati.

Lt Gerald F. Nowell, Hq, St. Paul, Minn.

(Continued on Next Page)

Division Sidelights

Hq Btry., Div. Arty. — After several misfires, Pvt. John Anderson, of Woodruff, S.C., met his younger brother, Belton, a machine gunner in Co. H, 253d. Every time the redleg brother, driver for Col. Carl H. Jark, Div. Arty. exec, got to the Red area, he was told his brother was out on the firing line. Finally, Belton just stood at a bridge and waited for a convoy in which his brother was riding. So the Andersons were reunited after 10 months.

T/5 Donald Brady, medic extraordinaire, is suffering acutely in this desert of available femininity. His only recourse is to gaze at the photo of that Natchez beauty he hopes to get back to after it's all over. As he always says, "Of course, the kid's crazy about me".

Three men were sweating out that cablegram telling them they are fathers. WOJG Joseph Donahue, of Philadelphia was getting discouraged, but T/4 Doyle Stockton, Rouge River, Ore., and T/5 John Andruska, Camden, N.J., are just waiting.

Pfc. Percy Dumont, Cincinnati, is going to violate radio procedure one of these days and give out with a dit-dot-dash about that gal whose picture adorns his radio truck. He's deeply in love-but he's never even met the gal!

63d QM Co. — New member of the company has the same name as the movie star, but spells it Cpl. Allan Ladd.

To improve the expert efficiency transportation service that the combat QM is giving the Division, half tracks are now in service in addition to other vehicles normally on duty.

563d Sig. Co. — Lt. Carlos Benoit, Emporia, Kan., and members of his radio relay team, Sgt. Gerard Turner, Bronx, N.Y.; T/4 Daniel DePaola, Newark, N.J.; T/4 Raymond E. Harmon, Chelmsford, Mass.; T/5 Andrew W. McCaw, Jr., McKeesport, Pa., and Pvt. Arthur H. Stickle, Woodburne, N.Y., were setting up a radio station on a high hill near the Danube when a huge jackrabbit broke from cover and ran for it. Everybody grabbed his carbine and blazed away. In spite of the firepower the bunny got away, but almost immediately thereafter a white flag was seen waving from some bushes and out came 16 hungry Germans yelling "Kamerad!"

253d Inf. — The newsbreak cherished by all newspapermen, the one that comes just before an edition goes to press, came for T/5 Joe Grucci of the I & E Office recently. Just as he was about to prepare the

news summary for the following day, Radio Hamburg announced the death of Der Führer. Grucci immediately stopped the Ditto machine, "replated" and came out with an extra before the BBC broadcast the news to the world.

862d FA. — Most of his companions are aware that T/4 George Behlen, Hq. Btry. radio operator from Columbia, S.C., likes a glass of schnapps now and then. They also know that he enjoys developing his own photos. In order to indulge in both pleasures he generally carries the necessary liquids. In the hurry of movement recently he felt the need of bracer and carelessly reached for a bottle. One gulp told him schnapps could not be confused with hypo. He became violently ill and after a session at the medics decided to label his bottles hereafter.

Another one of those unexpected but wholly satisfying reunions took place recently when Sgt. Irwin D. Waring, of Oneonta, N.Y., overseas 15 months with the 452d Ord. Evac. Co., began passing vehicles marked with the 63d numerals as he rolled along the road in his huge retriever. He promptly started making inquiries for his brother Wilbur, a T 5 with the 862d. His search was rewarded and the two got together after a lapse of two and one-half years.

718th FA. — Cpl. Henry Grass, Btry. B, who hails from Bridgeport, Conn., knows a little more now about mysteries of nature. Summoned from his bed early one morning not long ago he was startled to learn that an excited frau wanted a veterinarian in a hurry. Grass in his ignorance and excitement asked if the bovine owned by the woman was going to have a "cow". After the obstetrics had been performed he found out that a 50 pound calf had been born.

254th Inf. — S/Sgt. Larry McGowan, Co. A, of Philadelphia, calls the girl whose picture hangs on his wall "Rhyme". Queried he admitted she is Miss Thelma Arietta, of Nyack, N.Y. "She rhymes with everything that is beautiful," is his explanation.

Pfc Peter Sonts, Hq. 1st Bn., has all the qualifications of a first class butcher. Sonts first showed his proficiency in the Colmar woods when he dished out venison and rabbit. At Jepsheim his specialty was chicken. In Ennheim he distinguished himself by slicing a pig into the proper portions. When last seen he was riding a horse, and the men of A & P Platoon have been carefully watching their chow ever since. (Continued on Back Page)

'Missing' Son Turns Up at 718th

Back in Camp Van Dorn, Pfc. Earl Heard, Btry. A, 718th F.A., whose home is in Portland, Ore., used to talk about his son Robert, a sergeant, whom he had not seen for two years. Robert was with the famous 3d Div., which fought all the way through Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Only a few weeks ago the boy's father sadly told his fellows his son had been reported missing in action. It was a hard blow for a man almost 40 years old and away from home.

Then it happened. The battalion crossed the Danube and went into position at Schwab München. The next day tired and dirty doughboys wandered into Btry. A's CP. One of them was Sgt. Bob Heard. He had been freed from a prison camp and had heard the 718th was in the vicinity. Father and son were reunited in short order.

Faint Heart Ne'er Won This Battle

When Kraut hunting, it is customary to have one's piece loaded. Pfc. Cleadus Johns, of the 436th AAA Bn., whose home is in Hickoria, Ark., almost learned this axiom the hard way after he and some companions had surrounded a shack in which Kraut snipers were believed to be hiding.

Johns was making his way cautiously around the side of the building when suddenly he was confronted by a German proceeding in the same manner from the opposite direction. Johns, a veteran of the ETO, did not hesitate. He jammed the muzzle of his rifle into the Heinnie's stomach and pulled the trigger. Only a dull click resulted. The German was apparently more surprised and unstrung by this than Johns, because he fainted dead away.

AWARDS

(Continued from Preceding Page)

862d FA. T/3 John M. Paulishen, Med, Seymour, Conn. Lt. (then 1st/Sgt) John F. Schnaitman, C, Marshall, Mich.

DIV ARTY. T/4 Sidney Sanderson, Hq Btry, Brooklyn. Cpl Coman V. Hamilton, Hq Btry, Penrose, N.C.

DIV HQ. Lt John E. Coxe, ADC, Walker, La.

BLOOD AND FIRE is the official newspaper of and is published by and for men of the Blood and Fire (63d) Infantry Division, APO 410, c/o PM, NY. Maj. George Pavlicek, Division Information-Education Officer. Editor: T/4 Thomas A. Hoctor. Staff Writer: T/4 Stoddard White. Staff Cartoonist: Cpl. Gill Fox. Staff Photographer: T/4 William Schiff. BLOOD AND FIRE uses Camp Newspaper Service material; republication of credited material prohibited without permission of CNS, 205 E. 42d st., NYC. 17.

Material in this newspaper is uncensored and may not be sent through the mail. This newspaper must not be allowed to fall into enemy hands.

VE Day

(Continued from Page One)

"We've been in the bloody thing since the start, and we're glad it's over," said Skedd in a broad Scotch brogue.

In the regiments informal parties were held. The 254th I & E office immediately published "Hot Copy".

The 255th Inf. observed VE Day with a formal retreat parade by Hq. Co. with Lt. Col. James F. Hatcher, regimental commander, taking the salute.

To the average infantryman who slogged and fought from the Saar to 60 miles beyond the Danube, VE Day was just another day. All appeared glad the fighting in this theater is over, but their joy was tempered by the realization that Japan still is far from whipped.

The thoughts of many a foot soldier were expressed by Sgt. Roger J. Farley, of North Adams, Mass., a rifleman in Co. E, 254th Inf., when he said: "It's good that it's over here but we've got to finish off Japan first before we're through. The sooner I get home to my wife the better."

Sidelights

(Continued from Page One)

863d FA. — Pfc. Andrew O'Brien, Btry. A, who lives in Mount Vernon, N.Y., has that nostalgic look in his eyes these days. He misses the crack of bat against ball and the "thunk" as the ball buries itself in the Catcher's mitt. Andy used to be a top pitcher for Jack Coffey's Fordham University team before he joined the colors.

255th Inf. — Two journal clerks, Pfc. Walter Petty, of Webster Groves, Mo., and Walter M. "Red" Austin, Palestine, Tex., were guests at a surprise formation the other evening. At the formation, conducted by Sergeant-Major William Huggins, the pair were presented with T/5 stripes for which they have been bucking mightily for many months. T/5 Albert Barviak, of Chicago, and T/4 Stephen E. Hornyak, of Wallingford, Conn., were guards of honor. Members of the kitchen personnel sang "Ach, Du Lieber Augustine".

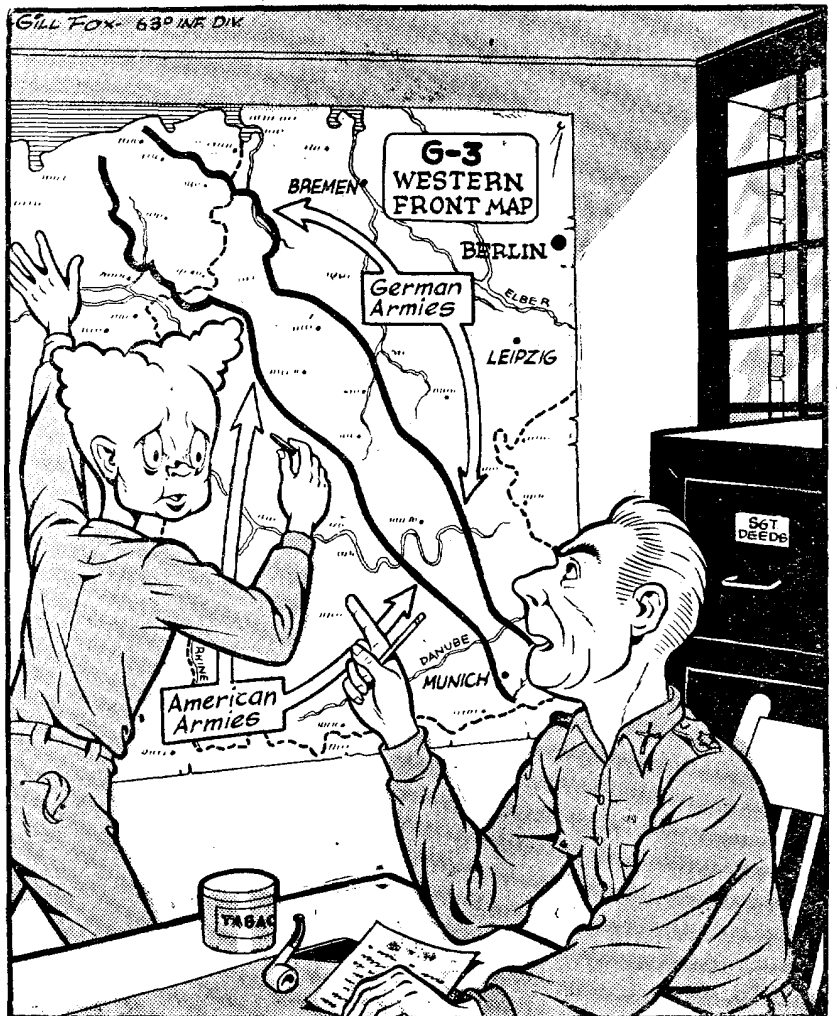
Div. Hq. — Promotions of two enlisted men were announced this week. Robert W. Vander creek, AG Office, went from T/4 to T/3, and Pfc. William H. Willard, of the APO, went to T/5.

Win Streamer

With more than 65 per cent of the men in each unit holding the Combat Infantryman Badge, the three regiments in the Division and each of their battalions and companies have been awarded the Combat Infantrymen's Unit Streamer.

Bernie Blood

By Gill Fox



"I think you'd better leave out those two pockets of resistance up north.."

Horrors of Nazi Concentration Camp Seen By Division Artillery Staff

A typical Nazi concentration camp overrun by the 36th Div., which relieved the 63d shortly before the end of the war, was visited by Brig. Gen. E. J. McGaw, Div. Artillery commander, and his staff. This account of the camp was written by the Division Artillery I & E assistant, who accompanied them.

By T/5 Sy Bernhard

It was a small camp, this one a few miles north of Landsberg, a kind of minor league one, a Centreville among the larger Nazi concentration camps of Dachau, Buchenwald, Maidenek, but its horrors were no less unbelievable when we looked upon them, no less revolting in its inhumanity.

The camp, one of nine in the immediate vicinity, stood a few hundred yards off the main highway to Landsberg, a city of about 60,000 ordinary German people. A double barbed wire fence enclosed the compound about 300 yards square. At each corner midway between the ends were guardhouses, once holding SS men and their machine guns.

Once 70 narrow roofs covered with dirt stood above ground, above the underground huts where the prisoners lived. Now some 35 were left; the others had been burned in the last effort to remove the terrible evidence.

Near two large graves were neat

rows of the dead—287 of them—lying not in the peace of the dead, but in grotesque positions, their forms in tense contractions of agony. These were forms, not bodies, for the skin was drawn so tightly over the protruding bones that even the old were unwrinkled.

Beyond the compound, about an eighth of a mile off to a small wooded area, 35 had been machine-gunned by their SS guards in what seemed to have been an attempt to crawl to safety. There was no dignity in their death, either.

Some of the dead were young, boys of 15 or 16, but in death all looked old and worn. They had been killed on Friday, but on this cold Tuesday afternoon there was no smell of death here. It had fled this camp and the others and hovered like clouds over the cities of Germany and over the heads of the German people. The smell of death was in the air of peaceful German cities now.