



# Blood and Fire



Vol. 3, No. 14, June 9, 1945

## Fighting 'Hard Way' Brings Silver Bars

The staff sergeant who was mortar observer for imperiled Co. M, 253d Inf., noted that the German counter-attack had forced withdrawal of two supporting companies. Ahead a company of Krauts was advancing, backed by seven tanks.

Frank C. Rose, the 24-year-old observer who since has become a first lieutenant commanding Co. G, seized his rifle and poured a continuous stream of lead into the approaching Germans. When 17 clips were consumed, he turned to a box of grenades, which he used up in the half hour it took to halt the enemy.

All this was last New Year's Night just outside Gros Rederching, in Lorraine. Three months later Rose, a second lieutenant, was attached to Co. H. in command of a platoon of heavy machine guns sent to support Co. G. attacking before Stein, on the border of Baden and Württemberg. The enemy was resisting furiously and one man in particular was taking heavy toll of our troops.

Lt. Rose directed S/Sgt. James P. Kelley to lay down a base of machine gun fire on the troublesome German. Meanwhile the lieutenant left his foxhole and picked up a hand grenade as he approached the German. But the ring came loose and the  
(Continued on Back Page)

## No Linen Displayed, So Redlegs Take Town

Late one moonlit night during the famous "rat race" to the Danube, Baker Btry., 862d FA, and its reinforcing self-propelled gun team halted on the edge of a suspicious village — suspicious because it did not display the conventional sheets and table cloths on its flagpoles.

Lt. Bill Gray rounded a corner to take a look and startled a uniformed German who immediately ran off. The lieutenant rushed back to Capt. Charles Gildersleeve with the information. The SP was called up, squads were organized from among willing cannoneers and a rush call was radioed for infantry.

The SP lumbered up to a commanding position in the main street and opened up on a barn that appeared to contain some of the enemy. Terrified Krauts poured out of practically every house in the village.

By the time the infantry came tearing up to the "rescue," Btry. B had taken 29 prisoners, plus seven wounded patients and two doctors from the German aid station.

## 63d to Mark Second Anniversary With Field Meet Next Friday

The 63d Div. will mark the second anniversary of its organization with a field meet, combat drill and other events Friday at the athletic field located in the DCP area at Bad Mergentheim. The day-long program, sponsored by Division Special Services, will be opened by an address by Gen. Hibbs.

### Sad, But True

Van Dorn dies hard.

Despite several apparently authentic reports that the Mississippi camp has closed, it now appears still to be open.

Correspondents in Adams and Wilkinson counties report that, as of late May, there still was a station complement (including Wacs) at the camp, that residents of Centreville hope Van Dorn will be used as a training camp for redeployed troops, and that the Servicemen's Center at Natchez had been closed but now has reopened with an increased appropriation from the city treasury. Troops from Camp Shelby are its chief guests now.

## Music, Songs Feature 254th Variety Show

A new variety and musical show by the 254th Inf. Special Services office has begun to make the rounds of the companies under the management of Cpl. Les Heath, master of ceremonies, and T/5 Gordon Bland, director of the regimental band.

The program opens with three songs by S/Sgt. Seymour Barkowitz: "Rugged But Right", "My Blue Heaven" and "Accent the Positive". Audience participation was induced by a "band quiz", the contestants guessing titles of theme songs.

Pfc. George (Scotty) Ireland delivered a burlesque lecture on aircraft identification and T/3 Bernard Evans, Med. Det., sang "I Dream of You" and "Saturday Night". Sgt. Dick Sorenson, trumpeter, played "Ave Maria", accompanied by Pfc. Don Smith at the piano.

Barkowitz and Heath teamed up to do a Van Dorn favorite, "Clean the Latrine", and they and Cpl. Joe Raynor presented a skit, "Double Exposure".

### 69 Advanced in 255th

The promotion of 69 enlisted men was announced recently by the 255th Inf. Eight were advanced to technical sergeant, 26 to staff sergeant, 32 to sergeant and three to technician fifth grade.

From that time until late in the afternoon athletes of the Division will vie for passes to Brussels and other prizes as the softball, baseball, volleyball and track championships of the 63d are decided. A special running track, jumping pits and a diamond will be constructed by the 263d Engr. Bn.

### Combat Drills

In addition to the athletics there will be combat drills by the Division's three combat teams and an exhibition of bridge building by regimental units. The swimming pool will be available for swimming all day and there will be entertainment at the Recreation Palace, in the same area.

Military security and space limitations will prevent all men in the Division from being present at the exercises but battalions and batteries having winning teams in unit competition have been invited to the meet. The 363d Med. Bn. will enter a company for competition with regimental litter teams.

Playoffs to determine softball, baseball and volleyball champions in regiments, artillery battalions, the Engineers and Special Troops start tomorrow. All preliminary competition must be completed by next Thursday.

### Meet Officials Named

Marshal of the meet will be Gen. Hibbs. Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Assistant Division Commander, will be referee. Clerk for the day will be Col. Earle G. Wheeler, Chief of Staff.

The program:

0930: Address, Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander.

1000—1100: Softball championship.

1000—1200: Military Meet:

Events: Light and heavy MG (in and out of action). 60 mm.  
(Continued on Back Page)

## French Bestow New Honor on 254th Head

Col. Joseph H. Warren, commander of the 254th Inf., has been notified by 6th Army Group that he has been awarded the Chevalier Order of the Legion of Honor, on recommendation of the First French Army.

The award, made because of the 254th's activity under the French during the Colmar campaign, comes only a few weeks after Col. Warren and four other officers of the regiment received the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

# AWARDS

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

## Silver Star

### 253d INF.

T/Sgt William R. Schultz, A, Lima, O.  
S/Sgt Herschel J. Logan, G, Hot Springs, Ark.

### 254th INF.

\* Sgt Abe W. Ensz, G, Buhler, Kan.  
\* Pfc Keith Morgan, E, Gloversville, N.Y.  
\* Pfc John D. Vanwinkle, E, Temple, Tex.  
Capt Robert E. Farrell, Hq, 2d Bn., Iowa City, Ia  
Capt James R. Hyde, K, Confluence, Pa.

### 255th INF.

\* Capt Dana deP. Whipple, Jr., E, Hempstead, N.Y.  
Cpl Harold J. Herman, Med., Bronx, N.Y.  
Lt (then S/Sgt) John H. Kerins, D, Farrell, Pa.  
Lt John A. Tate, I, Pulaski, Va.

### 862d FA.

T/5 Norbert J. Guindon, C, Escanaba, Mich.

## Bronze Star

(Heroic Achievement)

### 253d INF.

Pfc John M. Shoemaker, G, Birmingham, Ala.  
Lt William A. Kirchhoff, K, Trenton, N.J.  
Sgt Charles J. Baggett, A, Maud, Tex.  
T/Sgt William S. Brown, A, Portland, Me.  
Lt Thomas W. Carroll, A, Little Rock, Ark.

### 254th INF.

Sgt Anders H. Laurene, Hq, 3d Bn., Kenilworth, N.J.  
Lt Harold K. Pierce, I, Port Orchard, Wash.  
Pfc Elmon S. Rice, Jr., Hq, 3d Bn., Cartersville, Ga.  
Sgt James S. Scarpati, E, Brooklyn.  
Lt Adolfo F. Smuck, Hq, 2d Bn., New Orleans.

### 255th INF.

Pfc John J. Roskos, G, Hiller, Pa.  
S/Sgt William E. Arnold, Jr., H, Columbus, O.

### 363d MED.

T/4 James P. Conlin, A, Bronx, N.Y.

### 822d TD.

T/5 Wilbur G. Chester, C, Montrose, La.

(Meritorious Service)

### 253d INF.

T/Sgt Norman Kaphan, Hq., Brooklyn.  
T/Sgt Aubrey M. Rogers, Hq, 1st Bn., Muncie, Ind.  
Chap (Capt) George W. Almond, Hq., Fort Calhoun, Neb.  
Sgt Harold S. Quarles, Hq, 3d Bn., Huntington, Tex.  
Capt Robert M. Young, Cn., Macon, Ga.

### 862d FA.

T/4 Fred A. Nourse, Hq., Middleboro, Mass.  
T/4 Joseph P. Fleming, Hq., Tewksbury, Mass.

### 718th FA.

Capt Edward H. Culver, A, Providence, R.I.  
T/5 Harvey A. Heyden, A, Elmhurst, Ill.

\* Posthumous Award.

Cpl Earl J. Kreider, B, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Capt Jarvan T. Hall, B, Haleyville, Ala.  
Capt Robert D. Dondanville, C, Chicago.  
Cpl Marion L. Spry, C, Elkhart, Ind.  
T/Sgt Wilbur K. Brown, Hq., Chuckey, Tenn.  
T/4 Donald D. Randall, Hq., Church Hill, Ida.  
Maj George W. Putnam, Jr., Hq., Fort Fairfield, Me.  
Cpl Donald R. Lindstrom, Hq., Chicago.  
Capt Thomas J. Kennedy, Hq., Lawton, Okla.  
Maj Burnside E. Huffman, Jr., Hq., Columbus, Ga.  
Pfc Walter S. Grella, Hq., Plymouth, Pa.  
1st/Sgt Thomas H. Campbell, Sv., Philadelphia  
Lt George R. Armour, Sv., Massillon, O.  
T/4 Henry J. Vincent, Sv., Garden City, Mich.  
Capt Patrick A. Fusco, Sv., Batavia, N.Y.

### 363d MED.

1st/Sgt Walter F. Gavigan, C, Vineland, N.J.  
S/Sgt Arthur H. Miller, A, Tulsa, Okla.  
S/Sgt Alfred F. Rehm, A, Paterson, N.J.  
Capt Roger H. Sondag, Hq., Canton, S.D.  
T/5 George Sturm, C, Los Angeles.  
S/Sgt John F. Barry, C, Quincy, Mass.  
S/Sgt William J. Bartos, C, Passaic, N.J.  
S/Sgt Benjamin F. Butler, Jr., A, Greensboro, N.C.

### 63d QM Co.

1st/Sgt Austin R. Hull, Columbia City, Ind.

### 563d SIG. Co.

T/5 Frans G. Nilsson, Longview, Wash.

### 63d MP Plat.

Sgt Williams S. Nevling, Beccaria, Pa.  
Lt Earl O. Schaper, Portage, Wis.  
T/5 Robert W. Wherry, Covington, Ky.  
S/Sgt Charles T. Witham, Somerville, Mass.  
Lt Richard M. Andersen, Beatrice, Neb.  
Cpl Herbert J. Berkovitz, Flushing, N.Y.  
Sgt Alan J. Butler, Brooklyn.  
Cpl William J. Controvillas, New Britain, Conn.  
S/Sgt Blaine L. Fulton, Cresson, Pa.

### BAND.

T/4 Arlton D. Landers, Richmond Hill, N.Y.

### HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS.

Capt Charles Cornett, Diablock, Ky.

### DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

#### G-2 Sec.

T/4 William Schiff, New York City.

#### G-3 Sec.

M/Sgt Louis Beaumont, Hopatcong, N.J.  
M/Sgt Thomas J. Floyd, Huntsville, Ala.  
Sgt Paul C. Smith, Youngstown, O.  
T/4 Harry Goodman, Philadelphia.

#### I & E Office.

T/4 Thomas A. Hoctor, New Rochelle, N.Y.  
T/4 Stoddard White, Detroit.  
T/5 Albert E. Lewin, Los Angeles.

#### Chaplain's Office.

Sgt Harold A. Michaelsen, Pullman, Wash.

## Silver Star to Smith

An error in the May 26 issue of BLOOD AND FIRE caused names of two members of the Med. Det., 255th Inf., to be incorrectly listed in the tabulation of recent awards and decorations.

The name of Pfc. Warren D. Smith, of Graham, N.C., was included among Bronze Star Medal winners, whereas he has been awarded the Silver Star. The name of S/Sgt. Paul Cizmar, of Youngstown, O., was listed under another regiment.

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 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.

## Yanks Are Uninvited Guests in Town

Lt. Charles P. Horn, of Summit, N.J., who is now the 253d's I & E officer, and his driver, Pfc. Clarence Dalton, Big Stone Gap, Va., "liberated" a town in the vicinity of Heldenfingen without realizing their accomplishment.

It was a chill night and the hands of their watches pointed to two in the morning as the pair searched for the regimental CP at Döttingen. Tired and cold, they decided to stop at a farmhouse. A sleepy-eyed German answered their knock. His sleepiness vanished at the sudden appearance of American soldiers.

In his stumbling German, Lt. Horn explained that they were cold and wanted to warm themselves. The confused German, pleased that this

was all that was asked, nimbly set about making a fire. He even put chairs in front of the stove for his unexpected guests.

The Americans remained in the farmhouse for almost an hour while their host sat silent and perplexed.

When he arrived at the CP and looked over the S-3 maps, the lieutenant discovered to his astonishment that the vicinity in which he and his driver had been the preceding night was the 254th's initial objective for the following day. The town of Heldenfingen and its environs had yet to be taken.

Leaflets left near Manila by the thorough Japanese propagandists were addressed: "To Dead American Soldiers".

# Fighting

(Continued from Page One)

pin remained in the grenade. Lt. Rose quickly opened fire with his carbine and killed the German.

Thus, after four harrowing months of fighting in which he was, in succession, staff sergeant, tech sergeant, second and first lieutenant, the former Olean, N.Y., machinist can look back with satisfaction when he says:

„I did it the hard way. It seems I just got tied up in situations and was lucky enough to get out of them.“

But his men and former buddies do not regard his successes that way. They recall his nimble decisions under fire when his and their lives were at stake. Once, after he had assumed command of Co. G, he led 60 men of the company to the edge of Stein, but a swift surveillance told him there were more of the enemy than his weary doughs could handle. Just as stealthily, he led a withdrawal.

Lt. Rose is strictly a Blood and Fire product. Inducted Sept. 17, 1943, he went directly to Co. M of the 253d. He made staff the next June. He became a tech last January and won a battlefield commission Feb. 17. He is married, and Mrs. Rose now lives in Rochester, N.Y.

## Red Cats Nine Trims 407th Ordnance, 21-3

Every man of the 253d Inf. baseball team got a chance in the lineup last Sunday at Hardheim as the Red Cats took the very long end of a 21-3 score from 407th Ord.

The game, first in the formal season for the Cats, gave Manager Hal McCullough a chance to shape up his team. He divided the pitching between T/5 Bill Garland, Sv. Co., and Pvt. John Hewitt, Co. M. Star both behind the plate and at it was Catcher Paul Wilder. The Co. I sergeant made five hits in six times at bat, driving out two singles, two doubles and a home run.

## Anniversary

(Continued from Page One)

mortars. 57 AT gun. Cannon competition, infantry regiments. 105 and 155 howitzers (in and out of action). Run, creep, crawl, grenade throw. Engineer competition. Litter bearers race.

**1300—1400: Volleyball championship.**

**1400—1630: Track and Field Meet.**

Events: 50, 100, 220, 440-yard dashes; 880-yard relay; 440-yard relay; baseball throw, high jump.

**1630: Baseball championship.**

PWs held in the continental US did 44,000,000 dollars' worth of work during the first three months of 1945.

It is 6771 miles from San Francisco to the Philippines.

# The Wolf

by Sansone



## Thrills of Boxing Ring Eclipse Those of Combat for 255th Athlete

Tommy Murray's varied and interesting career reached a peak while he was repairing wire under the guns of the Siegfried Line, but his first love remains the sport world and his best stories come not from combat but from the boxing ring.

Murray, a Pfc. in Co. D, 255th Inf., was born 32 years ago in Chicago and raised in its tough stockyard district. He earned his first nickels selling papers, and fighting for his corner led to more formal fisticuffs, first in the Golden Gloves tournaments and then as a pro.

A lot of Murray's friends in the Army don't know that he gave Barney Ross, later a world champion, a good battle in a Chicago amateur bout. Turning pro, Murray headlined many a boxing show, particularly on the West Coast, under the name of „Smiling Kid Irish“. He fought such top-notchers as Freddie Steele in Seattle and traveled down the coast to meet Young Corbett III in Fresno and to appear in main events in Hollywood.

Murray used to work out with the Seattle baseball team just for fun. In 1938, in an emergency, he caught a couple of games against Los Angeles. He still talks about Freddie Hutchinson's high, hard one.

When he began to slow up a little for the ring, this versatile Irishman went into the woods for Weyerhaeuser, the great wood products corporation. Alternating in the forests and the mills, he built himself up physically, considered a comeback and returned to Chicago. He forgot about boxing, however, when

he became a member of the Crane Co.'s large organization, and was working for that firm when called in the draft.

His busiest day came in March, during the Siegfried attack, when he went up to an OP, dodging shells, shrapnel and machine gun and rifle bullets, repairing wire as he went. After a breather with the forward observer, he gathered eight prisoners and led them back through a field of fire. Another brief rest and he carried 81-mm. mortar ammunition all afternoon.

## Sidelights

(Continued from Page Three)

**253d Inf.** — A chance remark by a guard near the regimental CP at Tauberbischofsheim resulted in a meeting between Pfc. M. D. Portman, Co. G, and his cousin, Pvt. Ben Pores, Regtl. Hq. Co., who had not seen each other for 17 years. Portman, passing the CP, heard the guard mention the name of Pores, who became a regimental MP after coming to the regiment from an IRTC. The cousins last saw each other in 1928 when Pores' family moved from Cleveland to Stockton, Calif.

## Bandsmen Form Ensemble

To demonstrate their versatility, a dozen bandsmen have formed an informal string ensemble, using music they found in the concert hall of the hotel which houses the CP. Classical „jam sessions“ for their own amusement eventually were carried to the Headquarters Co. mess.

## Division Sidelights

**Div. Hq. and Hq. Co.** — A recent visitor at the EM mess (he hasn't changed; he came at mealtime and went back for seconds on cake) was Marty Cardillo, clerk-typist in Division Special Services when we were at Van Dorn. Cardillo transferred to the camp special services office before the Division left Mississippi, and subsequently came overseas with an engineering outfit which requisitions real estate. He is stationed in Würzburg.

The speed-up in mail from the States is giving brand-new fathers quick service with the news. M/Sgt John McAvoy, G-2 Sec., was able to throw a party in Bad Mergentheim only four days after the birth of a daughter, Barbara Ann, to Mrs. Norah McAvoy May 28 in White Plains, N.Y. The baby, who weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, is their first child.

**T/5 Joe Yezulinas, IG Sec.,** is convinced that English as spoken by the British and the version used by Americans are two distinct tongues. A chap approached Joe recently and said rather swiftly, „I say, can you direct me to the ordnance depot?" Joe says the words came out of the stranger's mouth so fast that he thought he was listening to German and so replied, „Nicht verstehen". A look of amazement spread across the face of the other as he exclaimed; „I say, man, can't you speak English?"

**63d MP Plat.** — Another first child is William (but not Jr.), son of Cpl. William Controvillas. The boy weighed in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces, when he was born to Mrs. Eleanor Controvillas May 25 in New Britain, Conn.

**Hq. Btry., Div. Arty.** — The babies must have heard about the 12 points and started rushing things. T/5 John Andruszka, Camden, N.J., was notified that John, Jr., had arrived. WOJG Joseph Donohue, of Philadelphia, has a new daughter, Patricia. The radio section's T/4 Doyle Stockton, of Rouge River, Ore., discovered his son couldn't tune in on that frequency—Darryl Lee made his appearance May 13.

**255th Inf.** — The regiment's swing band is back in operation with Pfc. Marlin „Pop" Merrill, of Buffalo, who directed the 16-piece affair back at Van Dorn, holding the baton. Other members of the outfit are Pfc. Frank Trowbridge, Aachen, S.C., bass; Pfc. Bob Colton, Minneapolis, and Justin D'Alessandro, Belmont, N.Y., and S/Sgt. Bob Kutschen, Oberlin, O., saxophones; Pfc. Bill Kendall, Davenport, Ia., bass; Sgts. Ralph Marcorechio, Youngstown, O., sax-

ophones; Pfc. Bill Coffill, Boston, drums; T/Sgt. George Duley, St. Louis, trombone, and Pvt. Joe Barry, New York City, vocalist.

The only fireworks in the Division on VE Day probably were provided by a discharged SS trooper who was firing a Very pistol with great abandon in the vicinity of T/5 Alex Seigal, motion picture maestro of the regiment. Seigal, a resident of Pittsburgh, was playing catch with Maj. William Davis, Mound, Minn., and Lt. Ralph Bond, of Cleveland, when the Heinie started his shooting. Seigal made a dash for the Kraut and disarmed him.

**718th FA.** — Maj. James Unger, brother of Lt. Col. F. T. Unger, battalion commander, came to visit him recently, only to learn that the colonel was hospitalized at Frankfurt, only 30 miles from the major's organization.  
(Continued on Back Page)

An estimated 70% of materiel in Europe can be used against the Japanese.

## Chow in Rear Area Objective for FOs

The forward observer team of Btry. A, 862d FA, still ribs Sv Btry. about the relative dangers of observer's posts and rear areas.

Following a long stretch up front, the FO team was resting with Sv Btry. several miles to the rear. They were astonished to see the Service men playing safe and carefully observing dispersion rules; though no aircraft were apparent, the chowline was generously spaced out.

At the next meal the FOs played safe, too. Working their way to within 50 yards of the kitchen, they suddenly advanced by leaps and bounds, taking advantage of every tree and bush. They won their chow without a single casualty.

### Co. L, 254th Wins, 5-4

Four runs scored in the first inning enabled Co. L. to defeat Co. M, 5-4, to win the softball championship of the 3d Bn. in the 254th Inf. The losers made a strong bid for victory in the fifth inning but were unable to tie the score. Each team registered four hits.



President Truman fastened the Congressional Medal of Honor about the neck of T/Sgt. Jake W. Lindsey, of Lucedale, Miss, 100th infantryman to receive the award in this war. A total of 223 of the medals have been awarded in World War II, of which 162 have gone to the Army, 33 to the Navy, 27 to the Marine Corps and one to the Coast Guard.