

Tourists Paid Heavily For This Free Tour

Whatever the disadvantages, Blood and Fire men can console themselves with the knowledge that the towns and countryside in which they are currently sweating it out form a part of the country that tourists used to spend thousands of dollars annually to see.

This part of Württemberg and its neighboring states are parts of the ancient kingdom of Franconia. It is rich not only in scenery, but in history. Many castles, churches and old homes looked down on fighting in the Thirty Years' War; the Tauber, Kocher and other streams flow through towns that date back nearly 10 centuries.

Most famous of the nearby cities is Rothenburg, known to tourists all over the world as one of Germany's oldest and most beautiful towns and one of the few completely walled towns still standing. The proprietors of the first castle there held the title of „kitchen master" of the Holy Roman Empire, and Rothenburg was the scene of bloody fighting for power and possession in the 1500s.

Annual Festival

In peacetime Rothenburg held an annual festival commemorating one of the biggest drinks in history. When a general named Tilly captured the town in the Thirty Years' War he prepared to destroy it and execute the entire town council. A whim made him decide to pardon everyone on condition one of the aldermen was able to drain the old imperial goblet full of wine.

The burgomaster succeeded in this enormous feat and the event is marked in moving figures on the ancient town clock. Rothenburg is noted for its many old gates and buildings; the Easter Saturday air raid destroyed the roof and interior of the famous old town hall, but left the walls standing.

Bad Mergentheim in recent years became one of Europe's celebrated mineral water luxury resorts, like White Sulphur Springs or Hot Springs, Ark. It also is noted, however, for the fact that from 1219 to 1809 it was the headquarters of the Order of Teutonic Knights (Deutschordensritter), who seated the grand masters of their order here for the last 284 years of their occupation.

The knights built an imposing castle and beautiful church (Roman Catholic during their occupancy, now evangelical). The castle now houses Military Government and municipal and Landrat offices, and is in excellent repair. There are two other handsome churches in the town. Patrician houses and formal gardens recall the riches of the court attendants of other times, and many are of museum-like interest, such as the house where Beethoven

wrote for a number of years under the patronage of the German court.

Famous Castles

The old Franconian family of the Hohenlohes had its castle in Weikersheim; in peacetime the building was a tourist mecca because of its baroque architecture and its collections of porcelain and Gobelin tapestry. The town figures in many old prints showing Franconian history. Another notable castle is that in Erbach, which was rebuilt in the Sixteenth Century on the site of a very ancient castle.

The town of Adelsheim dates from 1239: Its handsome old chapel was built in 1489 for the Barons of Adelsheim; it now is closed.

Admirers of wood carving used to journey to Creglingen to see the world-famous Marien-altar in the Thirteenth Century church. The altar is the masterpiece of the wood-carver Riemenschneider.

Lauda was the home of celebrated wines. The city dates from 1344, and is famous for its towers which bear old coats-of-arms and inscriptions. The beautiful old half timbered architecture of Tauberbischofsheim always was a tourist attraction.

The Odenwald and the valleys of the Main, Neckar, Kocher, Jagst and Tauber are dotted with many other ancient towns, each in a geographically beautiful setting and each with at least one point of historic interest.

Gold Star Added To QM's Plaque

The 63d QM Co. has been awarded the gold star to the Meritorious Service Plaque for the period Nov. 16, 1944, to May 15 for superior performance of duty. The presentation was made at a retreat parade in Bad Mergentheim recently.

During the period Nov. 16 to Jan. 4 the company performed the task of completely refurbishing and outfitting the remainder of the Division for movement overseas in a superior manner, the citation said.

The company gained its additional honor for efficiency in keeping the Division's troops supplied during the operations which started with the cracking of the Siegfried Line. During that time the company averaged more than 90 per cent of its vehicles operational.

63d Library Open

A library containing 500 new volumes of history, fiction, biography and the arts, together with leading magazines, will be opened at the Recreation Palace at DCP this week. Adjoining the library is a writing room with individual sections.

Sgt. Edward J. Twomey, of Revere, Mass., a graduate of Boston College, has been appointed librarian. The project will be under the supervision of Division Special Service.

Library hours will be from 1400 to 1600, and 1800 to 2100.



FIGHTERS in a lost cause, these German soldiers, were among the last prisoners taken by the 63d Div. as it drove beyond the Danube.

AWARDS

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

Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star

Capt Wilbur S. Brown, Co. B, 253d Inf., Cincinnati.

Silver Star

253d INF.

S/Sgt Frank B. West, C, Kershaw, S.C.

Lt Norman M. Hansen, D, West Yellowstone, Mont.

254th INF.

* Lt Oscar E. Ireland, F, Martin, S.D.

* Pfc Thomas E. Sheppard, F, Lewisburg, W. Va.

** T/Sgt Donald W. Harper, C, Leigh, Ia.

Sgt Fred B. Halyard, G, Quincy, Mass.

Pfc William Edwards, F, Indianapolis.

Pfc John Haulon, F, Inland, N.Y.

Lt Albert L. Smithson, Jr., F, Fall River, Mass.

Maj Howard S. Wilcox, Hq 2d Bn, Columbus, Ga.

T/Sgt Allen Hammett, G, Memphis, Tenn.

255th INF.

Lt John D. Townsley, Jr., Med, Kansas City (also awarded Bronze Star).

Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star

(Heroic Achievement)

Pfc Thomas C. Eimutus, Co. H, 255th Inf., New Haven, Conn.

(Meritorious Service)

T/5 Wilbur L. Waring, Hq. Btry., 862d FA, Oneonta, N.Y.

* Posthumous Award.

** Missing in Action.

Bronze Star Medal

(Heroic Achievement)

253th INF.

T/Sgt Robert J. Stupp, A, Cleveland Heights, O.

Pfc Johnny B. Moreno, F, Wellington, Kan.

T/5 John B. Wiencko, G, Ozone Park, N.Y.

254th INF.

T/Sgt Roman B. Rieke, F, Los Angeles.

Hq. Co. 3d Bn.

Pfc Harley J. Swickard, Straughn, Ind.

Pfc Arthur L. Smith, Birmingham, Ala.

Pfc Chester J. Jedlikowski, Gary, Ind.

Pfc John R. Steiner, Bellaire, O.

(Meritorious Service)

254th INF.

T/4 Louis A. Blissett, Sv., Kalkaska, Mich.

T/5 Richard Pabian, Sv., Algonquin, Ill.

255th INF.

Lt John D. Townsley, Jr., Med., Kansas City (also awarded Silver Star).

63d QM Co.

Lt Thure A. Lundgren, Chicago.

563d Sig. Co.

Lt Carlos E. Benoit, Emporia, Kan.

263d ENGR.

M/Sgt Frank C. Barry, H&S, Litchfield, Ill.

Second Oak Leaf Cluster to Air Medal

Lt Harry G. Green, Hq. 861st FA, Bradford, Pa.

Band Goes Longhair In Symphony Concert

The 63d Division Band, which already had produced two military bands, a concert band, three dance bands and a string ensemble, further demonstrated its versatility during the last week by breaking out a 22-piece „little symphony“ orchestra.

The first European concert, held Sunday night in Bad Mergentheim, also was the occasion for the appearance of three outstanding soloists, two of them already well known to the Division. They were T/5s Paul Taubman and Arnold Spector and Miss Sophie Sarby, a Greek soprano who has been living in Germany in recent months.

An Anglo-American audience more than filled the Recreation Palace theater at DCP to hear the concert, which was under the baton of T/5 Samuel Berger, a conductor usually seen at other Blood and Fire Band performances either as drum major or as pianist.

Attentive Audience

The attentive and appreciative audience justified the judgment of the artists that there is room on Division stages for an occasional presentation of music on a level higher than vaudeville.

The „pop“ concert program included Von Suppe's overture, „Morning, Noon and Night“; two pieces by Helmund, „Russian Gypsy Orchestra“ and „Russian Sleigh Ride“; two waltzes, Strauss's „Blue Danube“ and Tchaikovsky's „Sleeping Beauty“, and Ailbouts „Imp at the Blacksmith“.

The Taubman-Spector team, best known throughout the Division for a long record of performances as straight man and buffoon, stepped back Sunday night into the roles in which they had established reputations before they entered the Army, and appeared as solo artists.

Taubman, a Canadian-American pianist and organist who already had achieved success in New York cafes and night clubs, was heard in four piano solos: Brahms' Waltzes in A major; „Konzertstück (Concert Piece)“, by Von Weber; a potpourri of popular American dance selections, and a Gershwin medley arranged by the artist. He also doubled in strings with the orchestra, playing the cello for the first time in five years.

„Rosalinda' Scene

Spector, a comic opera actor and singer well known on the New York musical stage, introduced his GI audience to his favorite role from „Gay Rosalinda“, the American version of the German comic opera, „Die Fledermaus“. In song, dance and pantomime — and in the first tail-coat seen on the Bad Mergentheim stage in months — he recreated the role of the aristocrat reliving an amorous and alcoholic party. His encores were the song of the village idiot from the operetta, „The Bartered Bride“, and „Water Boy“.

Miss Sarby, who has appeared on numerous Continental concert platforms both in and out of Greece, opened her program with „Belia“, (Continued on Back Page)

SSO Named Major To Top Promotions

The promotion of Capt. Bernard H. Levkoff, of New York City, Division Special Services officer, to major heads a list of 17 63d Div. officers promoted this month.

Twelve officers were promoted from first lieutenant to captain. They are: Leroy J. Crane, Div. Hq. Co.; Antony M. Marine, ADC to the Division Commander; John E. Coxe, G-3 Sec.; Marcus J. Smith, Jose G. Sugranes and Murray C. Zimmerman, all 363d Med. Bn.; Earle A. Johnson, Jr., and Bruce Raffensperger, both 253d Inf.; Richard L. O'Connell, Hq. Div. Arty.; Fred A. Tworoger, 861st FA; Minor N. Powell, 718th FA, and Casimir R. Mayes, 162d FA.

Four were advanced from second to first lieutenant. They are Arleigh G. Meyer, 253d Inf.; Burrell M. Allen, Hq. Div. Arty., and Robert W. Armstrong and Sylvester R. Smith, both 255th Inf.

Medics Volleyball Champs

Defeating the team representing Co. I, 21-4, 21-3, Medics of the 1st Bn., 254th Inf., won the regimental volleyball title Sunday.

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THE NIGHT WAS FILLED WITH MUSIC when a representative group of Russian singers and dancers recently performed for Division troops. Pretty Claudia Cheronovskaya sings a Russian folk song in costume with Director Kasimir Cleskevitch at the piano.

Russian Artists Bring Colorful Songs To GIs

Soldiers of the 63d Div. are fully aware of the fighting qualities of Soviet soldiers, but they never have witnessed them in action. However, Blood and Fire men did see and hear talented Russian artists in a brilliant musical presentation sponsored by the Seventh Army and presented through Division Special Service.

The artists, singers and dancers, were captured when the Nazis invaded Russia and they were forced to perform for the German army. Most of them are products of the musical conservatories of Kharkov and Kiev. The director and accompanist for the vocalists, Kasimir Oleskevitch, is from Kiev, as is Mme. Mosoha, accompanist for the dancers. The MC, Andre Dubovenk, announced the numbers in English taught him by Pvt. Senior B. Auld, New York City, manager and coordinator of the show for the Seventh Army.

Soloists, brilliantly costumed dancers and scenes from operas gave variety and brilliance to the presentation. Outstanding was the per-

formance of Mme. Shermitinskaya and Sergi Kobarijtsky in a scene from the Russian opera, "The Outlaw Cossacks".

Vivid folk dances were executed by Bulhakoff and Sovchenko, while Lebedenko and Pietrovich performed "The Dance of the Cossacks". A modern touch was introduced when the pair presented a tango and an interpretive dance.

Miss Eugenia Peetrovich, soprano, opened the entertainment by singing selections from "The Gypsy Baron" and "Maria Smiles". Claudia Cheronovskaya, an eye-catching blonde, sang "Troika" and "The Meadow" in costume. Mme. Alexandra Muhina presented a gypsy song and "Chileta", a Mexican folk song. Alexandra Konko, introduced as the Kate Smith of Russia, was heard in "Goodbye" and a gypsy folk song.

Two excellent baritones, Sergei Svedchenko and Ivan Panamareof, were heard in familiar songs. Mr. Svedchenko sang a number from Tosca and an Italian song, "Mama".

Engineers Dedicate Bowl to Anderson

The memory of S/Sgt. James W. Anderson, of Wilson, N.C., first member of the 263d Engrs. killed in action, is perpetuated in the Anderson Bowl, an 800-seat theater erected in a natural amphitheater near Weikersheim.

The entire engineer battalion attended dedication ceremonies last Saturday evening at which Lt. Col. Jack L. Coan, battalion commander, paid tribute to the sacrifices and ideals of Sgt. Anderson and others killed in action. Sgt. Anderson, a member of Co. C, was killed in one of the early drives in Germany near the Blies River.

Combined efforts of all the engineer companies built the bowl on a hillside. Its large stage is colored in pastels and includes side lighting and a canvas dressing room. The bowl was designed by T/Sgt. Morris H. Gordon, of Chicago, of the battalion S-2 Sec., assisted by T/4 Karl Fink, of New York City, H & S Co.

After Col. Coan's dedicatory speech, the roll of engineers who died in battle was called by companies. A ruffle of drums followed the reading of each name.

The evening concluded with a stage show featuring one of the Blood and Fire dance bands. Individual performers were T/5s Arnold Spector and Paul Taubman; T/4s John Campbell and Artie Engler, and Rene Hoch, Swiss DP accordionist now employed by Division Special Services. "The Ballad of Roger Young", which has been gaining popularity as a tribute to the infantryman, was presented as an instrumental number.

Pfc. Walter C. Konopka, Co. C, won a pass to Paris as a prize in the musical quiz conducted during the stage show.

Honor GI Musician

Cerasuolo Field is the new official name of the 253d Inf. athletic grounds, a former German airport at Wertheim. A large white sign with blue lettering proclaims the field's dedication to the memory of Sgt. Ralph Cerasuolo, of New York City. A former band leader and member of Xavier Cugat's orchestra, Sgt. Cerasuolo led the 253d Inf. Band at Camp Van Dorn and in Europe. He was killed by machine gun fire near the Neckar River.

255th Medics Get Plaque

The Meritorious Service Unit Plaque, awarded by the Division Commander for discipline, military courtesy and superior performance of duty, has been presented to the Medical Detachment, 255th Inf.

Mr. Panamareof was heard in the Toreador song from "Carmen" and "Aurora".

A scene from "The Merry Widow" was presented by Mme. Muhina, Alexander Kassian and Sovchenko.



BLUE STREAK, S/Sgt. Pete Monsanto, Co. D speedster, is the hope of the 255th Inf. in the sprints in today's track and field meet, a feature of Organization Day. He is shown winning the 50 yard dash in the regimental track meet held recently.

63d's Patch is Symbol Of Promised Victory

The red and gold symbol of a promise made more than two years ago at Casablanca is borne by men of the 63d Infantry Division as they engage in the "sure, and joyous execution" of the promise to make the United Nations' enemies "bleed and burn in expiation of their crimes against humanity".

As Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, the man who designed the emblem, predicted, it has made its wearers marked men. The Wehrmacht came to know it only too well, and other American outfits quickly learned to respect its significance.

The name "Blood and Fire" and the Division's insignie originated with Gen. Hibbs, who has commanded the 63d since its activation. The insignie is a sheet of crimson flame upon which is emblazoned an up-turned golden sword. Blood tips the point of the sword.

Inspired by Promise

Gen. Hibbs developed the emblem in consultation with heraldic experts of the War Department. The name was inspired by the promise of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, made at the Casablanca Conference in 1943, the year in which the 63d Div. was activated.

Subsequently a card showing the emblem and explaining its significance was sent to Washington, London and Quebec. On it were obtained the original signatures of the

participants at the Casablanca Conference, 10 civil and military leaders of the United States and Great Britain. When the Blood and Fire Division entered combat this priceless collection of signatures, framed under heavy glass, was placed in War Department archives for safekeeping.

Two of the signatures already are irreplaceable, because they are those of men who have died subsequent to the conference: President Roosevelt and Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, former Admiral of the British Fleet.

Famous Signatures

Around and between the printed lines on the card are, besides those of the two late leaders, the original signatures of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill; Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, United States Army; Admiral Ernest J. King, Admiral of the Fleet; Gen. H. H. Arnold, commanding US Army Air Forces; Gen. Sir Alan Brooke, then chief of the British imperial general staff; Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Frederick Portal, then chief of Britain's air staff; Vice-Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, at that time Britain's chief of combined operations; and Lt. Gen. Sir Hastings Ismay, chief of staff to the British office of Minister of Defense.

It is 17,500 miles from the ETO to the Philippines via Suez.

255th Tops Three Foes On Diamond

With Bill Haag, former minor league hurler, and S/Sgt. George Vinson carrying the burden, the 255th Inf. baseball team registered three triumphs recently. In a home-and-home arrangement the Blue nine defeated the 254th Inf. team, 6-4 and 12-3, and trimmed the 253d Engr. outfit, 11-9.

In the first game with the 254th the Blues bunched hits in the fourth and fifth innings to score six runs. Haag started the game and yielded only one run. He was relieved in the fourth and Pfc. Fran Pecchia, Pvt. Bill Stieve and Vinson finished the game. The losers outhit the winners, 9-6.

Haag pitched shutout ball for five innings in the second game and was relieved by Vinson, who gave five hits. Sgt. Fritz Shumaker sparked the attack with four hits in four trips to the plate. Sgt. Mike Zelasko collected three hits.

Seven runs in the first inning helped the Blues clinch the victory over the Engineers. The losers were held scoreless until the fourth, when they counted once. In the final inning McManus, who was in the box for the victors, weakened and walked four men. This, coupled with a hit and two errors, gave the Engineers six runs. Pecchia came to the rescue without a warmup and held the Engineers at bay.

Monsanto Seeks Win In Today's Sprints

Men of the 255th Inf. have an outstanding representative for honors in today's track and field meet in the person of S/Sgt. Pete Monsanto, of Co. D and The Bronx. Sgt. Monsanto carried off the individual scoring honors in the recent regimental meet at Künzelsau and was a star in last year's meet held in connection with Organization Day at Camp Van Dorn.

At Yank Field in Künzelsau, Monsanto won both the 50 and 220 yard dashes, and ran anchor on the winning 440 yard relay team. Sgt. Calvin W. Mason, also of Co. D, won the 100 yard dash. The 880-yard relay was won by a quartet from Co. F.

Winning battalion in the meet was the second with 84 points. The 1st Bn. placed second with 83½ points, and the 3d Bn. was third with 30.

Capt. Burdett Advanced

Capt. George Burdett, of Atlanta, Ga., a graduate of the US Military Academy, Class of 1943, has been appointed S-3 of the 2d Bn., 255th Inf. A former CO of Co. G, the captain is succeeded in that command by Lt. Eldon C. Kunze, of Bellville, N.J. Both Capt. Burdett and Lt. Kunze joined the 63d at Camp Van Dorn.

Division Sidelights

255th Inf. — M/Sgt. Michael T. Moran, Sv. Co., whose home is in New York City, returned recently from England where he visited relatives north of Manchester. Moran, who was born in England, last saw his home locality 20 years ago.

The opening of the EM Club at Regimental Headquarters was a well attended affair with T/4 „Shorty“ Goodman dishing them up. Goodman has a civilian MOS for doing the same thing for Childs'.

When Co. H failed to appear for its scheduled game with Co. D, a pickup team of officers and enlisted men gave the Dog team a workout. Stars for the officers were Capt. Stewart, AT Co., and WO Dobson, of RSO.

Div. Hq. and Hq. Co. — When „I Found a Home in McComb“, song written by M/Sgt. Ray Pisani, G-1 Sec., was given its world premiere at the Recreation Palace a group of conspirators arranged to have a bouquet of flowers presented to the composer. They obtained a willing DP but found it difficult to explain to him what they wanted. He spoke only Russian. Finally exhaustive research by T/3 Joe Rodgers, Classification Sec., produced a Russian-speaking GI and the plan went off in fine style.

While men of Div. Hq. and Hq. Co. were awaiting inspection a friendly sparrow perched himself on the muzzle of the M1 held by Pfc. George Liebert. The fuzzy little fellow even permitted the men to tickle him under the beak. He then took off and alighted on S/Sgt. Bill Pillsbury's carbine.

Recent promotions include those of Sgt. Arthur M. Christiansen, G-2 Sec., of San Francisco, to technical sergeant, and T/5 Carl Voegeli, of Toledo, now driving for Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, to T/4.

T/5 William F. DeGrasse, I & E Office, wrote a note to the servicemen's paper issued by Carson's, his former employer in Chicago. Telling the home folks about an office he had occupied, he wrote: „Right over my desk was an oil painting of Adolf.“ To this the editor added: „He's with the 63d Div.“ Now DeGrasse doesn't know whether the parenthetical remark referred to Hitler or to himself.

The same DeGrasse and T/5 John D. McClellan, of Detroit, were interested spectators at a religious procession. They turned their curiosity on a small boy and asked, in careful German: „Why are they having a procession?“ Quick as a flash, the kid replied in English: „I guess it's Sunday!“

718th FA. — New fathers have blossomed in the battalion. Sgt. Salvatore Alleca, Brooklyn, is the father of a boy, Salvatore, Jr., and T/4 Hein, of the Bronx, is the father of a girl, Mary Margaret. Both men are in Hq. Btry. Sgt. Harold Cole, West Nyack, N.Y., received word that „Bud Jr.“, arrived six days too late to help boost the sergeant's points.

253d Inf. — It was hats off to Pfc. Willie Browning of George Co. Browning gave up his pass to Nice so that T/4 Mike CiCicco could go instead. Mike's father died not long ago and Browning felt the trip might be more beneficial to his companion.

T/5 (Bucky) Walters of Regtl. Hq., who hails from Hoboken, N.J., prides himself upon his ability to recognize voices over the telephone. He proved this recently when some kibitzer said, „This is Gen. Hibbs“. Walters' wits weren't at their sharpest, but he couldn't be fooled so he blandly replied, „Glad to hear from you, Sir, my name's „Bucky“. His deduction was correct; it wasn't Gen. Hibbs.

Men of the regimental I & R Plat. who reconnoitered Neckar-gemünd before the regiment entered the town more than two months ago went back to it last week for a party. Wacs and other guests enjoyed the platoon's reminiscences as they went back over ground covered for more warlike purposes.

Hq. Btry., Div. Arty. — Brooklyn-ese has been found at long last in Gerabronn, where the Jersey City Corporal, Richard (The Baron) Bruno found an old German trying to swap „foists, poils and ersters“ with him. The old bird spent about 40 years in the States, most of the time in Brooklyn.

„Ferocious“, the Survey Section's pooch guarded by Pfc. Nick Gentile of Long Island was the cause of a gig in the recent inspection. The pup couldn't read the gig sheet about housekeeping.

Pfc. Howard Van Dyck, of Philadelphia, alighted from a three-quarter-ton after his trip to Paris with words of praise for the city. He even declared he has decided to forsake the Main Line and get a garret on the Left Bank.

254th Inf. — Although Lt. Lawrence Childs, former first sergeant of Co. B, possesses two gold bars, he would swap them for six gold ones sported by his brother, T/5 Arthur, who sports his on his sleeve. Arthur has been overseas 37 months, 12 of which were spent in Scotland, 11 in the ETO and 14 in Iceland. He is anticipating a return to the States in the near future.

(Continued on Back Page)

Wandering Minstrel Is „Find' For 63d

The 63d Div. has an entertainer discovered quite by accident by T/5 Paul Taubman of Division Special Services. While riding along the highway recently Taubman noticed an individual making his way on foot, an accordion case slung over his shoulder.

Taubman stopped his vehicle and asked the wayfarer to play a tune. The youngster obliged with „Sweet Sue“ and when Taubman heard the first few bars he knew the boy had something. He immediately whisked him into the truck and bore him in triumph to the Special Services Office.

The accordionist, René Hoch, a Swiss, was a top-flight performer for Radio Stuttgart before the war. The Nazis kicked him out of his job because he showed a preference for American jazz, including „Tiger Rag“, which he literally tears to pieces. Hoch went on the road and even played in Berlin, but he was continually hounded by the Nazis. He married a girl in Ulm and was on his way there when picked up by Taubman.

Hospital Cheats Medics Of Chance to Deliver

It has long been the ambition of medics of the 1st Bn., 254th Inf., to assist in the birth of a child. On several occasions Capt. Edward Van Auker, battalion surgeon, has been consulted by expectant mothers but always the battalion was on the move before the stork arrived.

One day recently, however, it looked as though their ambition might be realized. The battalion was notified that the stork was hovering over a house not far from the bivouac area. Capt. Van Auker, T/3 Donald Farnsworth and T/4c Stanley Driedric and Merton Bergman hurried to the home in an ambulance. They found the expectant mother had left by horse-drawn vehicle for Crailsheim Hospital.

Overtaking the wagon, they transferred the patient to the ambulance and beat the stork by five minutes.

Lapinsky Sparks Co. L To 254th Softball Win

Sparked by the fine pitching and batting of Pfc. Tofil Lapinski, of Detroit, Co. E defeated Co. L, 3-1, to win the 254th softball championship. The victory was the 14th straight for the champions.

Lapinski pitched almost airtight ball for seven innings and drove in the winning run. During the season he hurled three no-hit, no-run games and only once did any opposing team score more than two runs against him.

Of the total of voting age in the armed forces, 30% cast absentee ballots in 1944.

Yank Gets Drop, So Krauts Yield

When Pfc. Tony Kauzlarich, Co. K, 255th Inf., was mining coal back in Mystic, O., he never dreamed that some day he might be unexpectedly rooting out a group of Krauts from a dug-in position in the battle zone.

Jeep driver Kauzlarich and Pfc. Charlie Holland, Ripley, Miss., were sent out one night with the password for the 2d Plat. When they spotted 20 men dug in some distance off the road, they assumed they were Yanks.

Leaving Holland in the jeep, Kauzlarich sauntered toward the group. As he approached the nearest hole containing three men he was halted by a strange voice. Realizing he was in the midst of trouble, he unslung his carbine and three astonished Krauts meekly dropped their weapons and raised their hands. Keeping them covered, Kauzlarich backed slowly toward the jeep, the Jerries following. Meanwhile the other Germans fled in confusion and ran right into the 2d Plat. Kauzlarich marched his charges to the company CP.

Sidelights

(Continued from Preceding Page)

Cpl. Danny Tyrell and Sgt. Curly Roberts have a slogan, "38-80 or Fight". Explanation: Roberts has 38 points and Tyrell 80.

Men of the medical detachment have expressed different reactions following trips to Paris and London. Pfc. Leon Rodgers returned from his stay in the French capital not overly impressed by the gaiety of Parisian life. "It's a nice place", says Rodgers, "but, as the old saying goes, see America first". "On the contrary", says S/Sgt. Alvah Kenah, "Paris is really OK. The food is good, the accommodations fine and, last but not least, there's no end to the supply of liquors and spirits for a price!" Cpl. Wayne Noll found London much to his liking. He also found cokes and sundaes "delicious".

Band

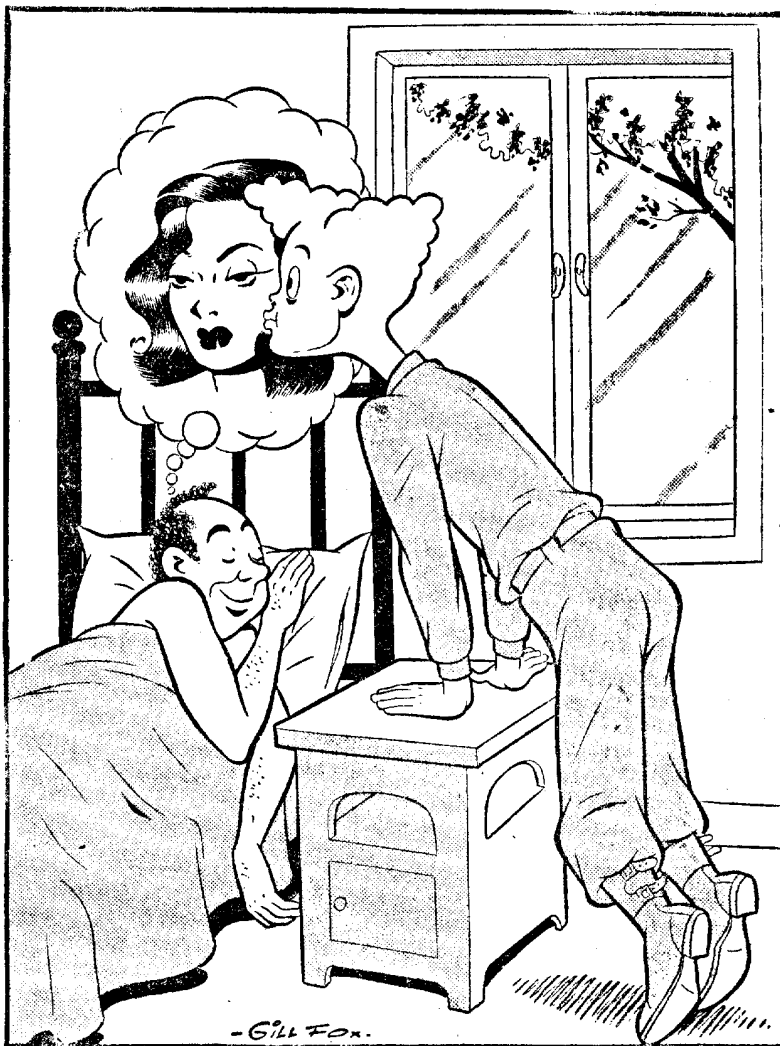
(Continued from Page Four)
from Lehar's operetta, "The Merry Widow". She followed this with "Maytime" and the aria, "Una voce poco fa", from "The Barber of Seville", and encored with a Spanish tango.

Taubman was accompanist for both Miss Sarby and Spector.

On its martial side, the band appeared last week for the first time in a new dress parade uniform. It played a retreat parade for Headquarters Special Troops in gold helmets, white pistol belts and white leggings.

Bernie Blood

By Gill Fox



"Victory in Europe" Combat Story of 63d

"Victory in Europe", the story of the 63d Infantry Division's 125 days of combat in France and Germany, is told in a 14-page souvenir booklet to be distributed to every officer and man of the Division.

Printed in several colors, the booklet contains a two-page detail map showing the exact route of the Blood and Fire from the Saar River to south of the Danube, including every town and city. This "path to victory" map shows the wide swath cut by the 63d through the Palatinate, Hessen, Baden, Württemberg and Bavaria. Eleven decorative panels highlight incidents of the

action, from the smash across the Saar to the capture of Landsberg.

Another schematic map in color shows the 63d's drive in relation to the whole European campaign.

The title page of the booklet tells the story of how the Blood and Fire got its name and insigne from the Casablanca Conference. Two pages contain a short history of the Division's operation in Europe, the rest of the story is told in reproductions of messages from Gen. Hibbs and in commendations from higher headquarters.

Issued from the Commanding General's office, the booklet represents the combined work of several staff sections, including G-2, G-3, I&E and the Division Quartermaster.

The booklet was prepared with the idea that most men will wish to send it home to show their families and friends where they have been and to provide themselves with a permanent record of the 63d's Victory in Europe. It may not be mailed free, but APO 410 has announced that postage in a sealed envelope will be 9 cents for first class mail and 30 cents for air mail. (A single-page letter may be included in the envelope under the first class rate.) At the unsealed third class rate postage will be 4 cents.

V-Air Mail Sends Letters Home Fast

Notice that V-Mail bearing air mail stamps will receive preferential handling has been received by APO 410. This mail will be handled before ordinary V-Mail and the finished photographed letter will be given air mail service in the United States.

It is 14,000 miles from the ETO to the Philippines via the Panama Canal.