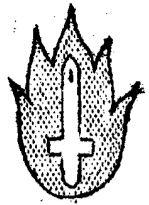


RESTRICTED



# Blood and Fire



Vol. 3, No. 2 - 63D INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 410, U. S. ARMY - February 10, 1945

## V-Mail is Fastest, Says Postal Officer

Don't complain to the mailman. The company, battery, battalion and Division postal clerks are just as eager as you to get letters from home.

Base post offices in the ETO handle hundreds of times the amount of mail handled by a base post office in a States training camp. The office which handles mail for this Division handles it for an entire army.

Added to this tremendous burden of mail is the problem of shipping, naturally complicated by the necessities of combat. For instance, when the German "Christmas offensive" broke in the West, air mail and every other kind of mail was sidetracked, naturally, to make space in trucks and planes for critically needed ammunition.

In addition, our own APO now cancels all outgoing mail and sorts it by states and cities. This work, formerly done by the base post office when we were in the States, immeasurably increases the duties of the APO and the volume of work handled.

Here are some suggestions and information from Lt. Andrew H. Romaniszin, Division postal officer:

1. Use your own judgment as to whether to use V-Mail, air mail or ordinary "free" mail. For the time being V-Mail has proved the fastest. It may not always be fastest but it is the surest and generally faster than other forms. Only official air mail and official

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## BLOOD and FIRE Greets New Units

This edition gives BLOOD AND FIRE opportunity to welcome units newly attached to the 63d Infantry Division.

This is our official newspaper, issued weekly since our activation 20 months ago, and we invite and welcome your contributions of news and feature articles. Send them by messenger, through Message Center or by mail and address them to "Information - Education Office, Hq. 63d Inf. Div."

BLOOD AND FIRE appears in mimeographed form for the present, but will return to printed editions as soon as conditions permit.

## 254th Chaplain Killed in Action

To the 63d comes the sad distinction of having the first chaplain in the Seventh Army to be killed in action.

Chaplain Edwin U. Monroe, a first lieutenant, was fatally injured Jan. 20 when struck by a fragment from a shell which landed in the road near the jeep in which he was riding. The driver of the vehicle escaped injury.

Division Chaplain William E. Patrick officiated at funeral services Jan. 23 at a U. S. Army military cemetery.

Chaplain Monroe was born in 1915 in Harrisonville, Mo., the son of a Baptist minister. He was a graduate of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and studied at two

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## Four Decorated In 436th AAA

Four medals for heroism and meritorious conduct were awarded Tuesday to members of the 436th AAA (AW) Bn., now attached to the 63d Div.

The presentations were made at the battalion CP by Maj. Gen. Wade H. Haislip, commander of the XV Corps, in the presence of Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, 63d Div. commander, and Brig. Gen. Paul P. Kelly, 7th AAA.

The Soldier's Medal, for heroism not in action, was presented to Capt. Ira R. Fisher, Jr., of Beaumont, Tex., and S/Sgt. Ira J. Quirk, of Boston, both of Btry. D.

A gasoline stove exploded and started a fire Nov. 8 in the supply and orderly rooms, severely burning four soldiers who were checking ammunition. A fifth soldier in a far corner of the room would have burned to death or suffocated in the flame- and gas-filled building had not Capt. Fisher extinguished some of the flames and Sgt. Quirk twice entered the building to rescue the soldier.

The Bronze Star, for heroic achievement in Italy last May 13, went to Cpl. Norman C. Mattke, of Milwaukee, Hq. Btry. His vehicle was stopped by another which had struck a mine, and he drove back over a road from which 38 mines were removed later to warn a truck column.

The Legion of Merit was awarded to T/Sgt. Robert L. Clerkin, North Vernon, Ind., for service in Italy from January to June.

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# BLOOD AND FIRE Medals

BLOOD AND FIRE, is the official newspaper of the 63d Infantry Division. This publication is RESTRICTED and may not be mailed. Editor: T/4 Thomas A. Hoctor. Staff Writers: T/4 Stoddard White, Cpl. Paul Parris. Staff Cartoonist: Cpl. Gill Fox. Staff Photographer: T/4 William Schiff.

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The Silver Star, for gallantry in action, was awarded at the same ceremony. It went to S/Sgt. Benjamin R. Whitlaw, North Augusta, S.C., Co. A, 180th Inf.

When Whitlaw's platoon leader was severely wounded Oct. 18 near Freimontaine, France, the sergeant ran through heavy machine gun fire to render assistance, then assumed command of the platoon and led it forward in a successful attack on enemy positions. His conduct was responsible for the neutralization of three machine gun positions and enabled the company to seize its objective.

## Postal Info.

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V-Mail take precedence over a serviceman's V-letter. V-Mail films always are flown across the ocean. In addition, whenever possible, V-Mail letters before and after processing are flown—even though they do not bear air mail stamps.

There is little or no purpose, therefore, in putting an air mail stamp on your V-Mail. (If your home is in the South or Far West your relatives may gain time by sending you their V-Mail by air mail, but for nearer places ordinary postage will be just as rapid.)

There is another reason for using V-Mail. Approximately three dozen 100-pound sacks of mail can be compressed into V-Mail negatives which take only the space of a small handbag. Seventeen hundred letters go on a roll of film the size of 16-mm amateur film rolls. This means room for more mail to go by air.

2. When mailing parcels home, include the address and a list of the contents both inside and outside the package. A tremendous number of parcels break open in transit. If a list of contents is inclosed and written on the wrapper, the New York post office can reassemble the contents and save you the loss of a gift.

Your parcels must bear the words "Bona Fide Gift" on the wrapper; this will enable them to pass the U.S. Customs. Although there are limitations on the size of package which may be sent you, you are governed only by ordinary U.S. parcel post regulations as to size and weight of the parcel.

## 126 Get Purple Heart

The Purple Heart has been awarded to 126 members of the Division for wounds received in action against the enemy, records of the Awards and Decorations Section of the AG Office showed this week.

The list covers the period Dec. 27 to Feb. 6, but is not complete for any of the infantry regiments. Awards usually are made by hospital commanders, and complete lists of these awards have not been received by the Division.

Of the total, 76 were listed by the 255th Inf., 41 by the 253d and nine by the 254th. The 254th's figure, however, covers only the first three days of February.

## Chaplain

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Southern Baptist seminaries. He was commissioned last May. From July to Oct. 20 he was chaplain of the 253d Inf.

Another casualty among 63d Div. chaplains was Chaplain Raphael H. Miller, Jr., 255th Inf., who was wounded Jan. 3. The Purple Heart has been awarded to the chaplain, whose home is in Indianapolis.

## NAZI TRICKS

The German soldier is taught to put a shot through his helmet to increase the impression of being dead.

## MALE CALL

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

## COOKED BY A HALF MARK

