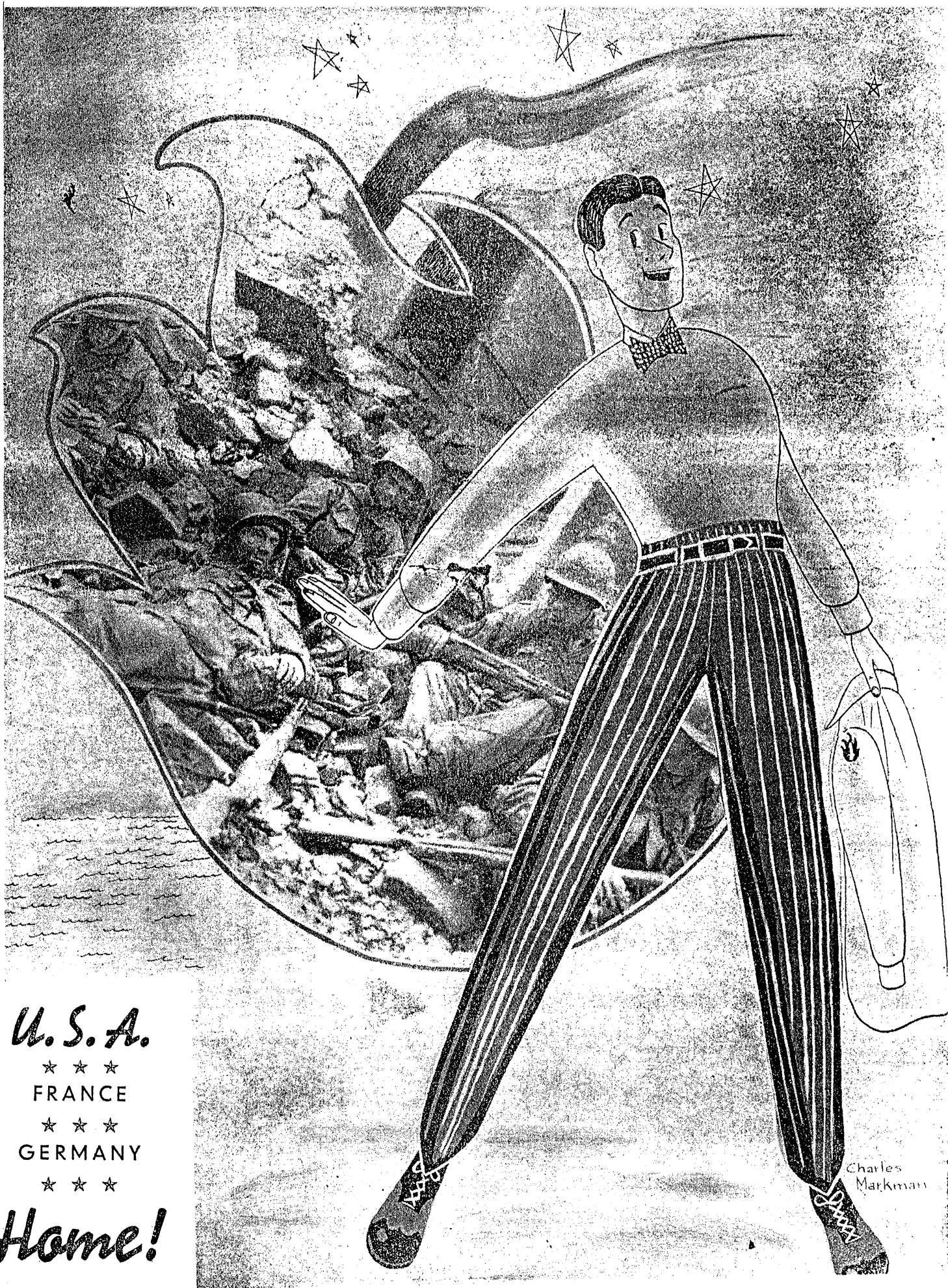


BLOOD and FIRE

SOUVENIR EDITION

63d Division News
Wednesday - August 29, 1945
Vol. 3 _____ No. 28
Bad Mergentheim, Germany



U. S. A.

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FRANCE

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GERMANY

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Home!

BLOOD AND FIRE

63rd Division News

Vol. 3 No. 28

In Germany

29 August 1945

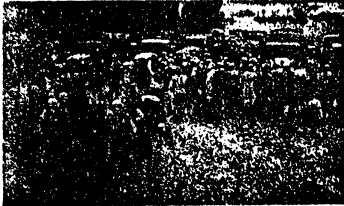
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T/5 Elmo O. Stafford and Pfc. James Adshead, Associate Editors; T/4 Louis Pomerantz, Feature Editor; Pfc. Sidney Tatz, Sports Editor; T/5 Raymond Wachter, Staff Writers; Sgt. Charles Markman, Staff Artist; Pfc. Levie Jackson, Photographer, Pvt. George Hall, Jr., Photographic Technician; Unit Correspondents: Pfc. James Knight, 253d Inf; Pfc. James Truvver, 254 Inf; Pfc. George Hann, 255 Inf.

EDITORIAL

They come . . .

. . . and go



The guns of the Blood and Fire Division have been silenced, the men who fought with the 63d through France, into Germany, have been scattered to the four corners of the ETO. Some fortunate ones have already gone home. Others will never see home again. To those left behind in Alsace, at the German border, on the banks of rivers, in forests, at the mighty Siegfried Line, the men who battled and died with the division, we pay our respects. They did a job. They did it valiantly and courageously, ever true to the traditions of a free nation and the spirit of a fighting unit.

Peace reigns once more and thousands of war-weary men turn toward home. The 63d Division, its combat duties completed, now becomes an instrument for the redeployment of thousands of high point men back to the United States. They have come from other combat outfits, divisions with proud battle records, and they have become members of a division that takes a back seat to no one in the matter of fighting spirit and glorious accomplishment. The Blood and Fire patch is an insignia to be proud of, an emblem of distinction.



Many men who trained and fought with the 63d have been transferred to other units to await their chance for a return to the United States. To them we say good luck, and wish them a speedy trip home. To them goes the duty of carrying on the traditions of the Blood and Fire Division wherever they may be. The days of waiting will be difficult ones, but the reward is great, and to each individual falls the task of doing the tedious job cheerfully. The spirit of Blood and Fire must be carried on to other outfits, for it is the spirit that has typified a fine organization with a fine record.

The lessons learned with the 63d during training and during combat will stand us in good stead in our remaining days in the Army and also in our post-war lives. We have learned teamwork, discipline, alertness, we have learned how to live.

Time will heal the wounds, mental and physical, of a long and difficult war. But the pleasant memories will remain, memories of true friends, of jolly times, of jobs well done and lessons well learned. In years to come you can say proudly and fondly, "I fought with a combat outfit. I fought with the 63d!" —J. A.

Ah . . . Peace, . . . It's wonderful!



The end of the war was great news to a lot of the men of the 255th Infantry Regiment. Even more so now that they know they will be going home somewhat sooner than was anticipated. T/Sgt. Jerome T. Flynn, a 91 pointer from Lexington, Ky., and S/Sgt. Manning Hamilton, also 91 points and from Boston, are happy about the whole thing. Says T/Sgt. Flynn, "I was beginning to think we were going to rot in this army!"

Thanks a Lot!

The Staff of BLOOD AND FIRE wishes to take this opportunity to thank all unit correspondents and commanders for the cooperation shown in the submission of material for BLOOD AND FIRE for the Souvenir Edition and in past issues. We are sorry that space and time limitations make it impossible for us to give a more complete coverage in pictures and stories about your men and your unit.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation for the fine cooperation shown by the officers and enlisted men of Headquarters 63d Division, by giving us

timely stories to print for the benefit of our readers.

Blood and Fire will be printed in staging areas, on ships, or wherever it is required as we proceed from here to the States, hoping to give you the latest news and feature stories as they pertain to you — the men of the 63d Division.

If this is our last time to meet, we would like to say, "Here's wishing you the best of luck as you return to your homes and to life as civilians."

THE STAFF OF BLOOD AND FIRE.

The Chaplain's Corner

By WILLIAM E. PATRICK, Division Chaplain

Our Sufficiency is of God

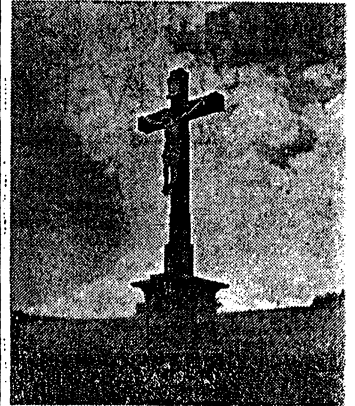
From time to time trade publications and other periodicals give considerable space to articles such as ran years ago — "Letters of a Self-Made Man to his Son". In those letters ran a characteristic bit of self-delusion in which many prominent and successful men indulge, namely to be blissfully unaware that the endowments of nature and contributions of nurture helped to make them the men they became. After all "the rock from which they were hewn and the pit from which they were digged" had something to do with the results.

No one will ever answer satisfactorily how much nature contributes and how much training or environment, which we call nurture, contributes. Some sons of great men turn out well, others reflect only discredit on their ancestry. The ancestry worship in which some Americans indulge has its laughable side. Blood will tell, we say, but often descendants who join societies because their immediate forbears did something important in the dim past, are guilty of coasting too much on the laurels of their parents and grandparents. So blood will tell, but often it seems as if it does not tell much.

Ah . . . education, training, nurture, environment . . . that is what we need. True a good environment, as much as education as we can acquire, — all are tremendous helps. But Plato exploded the idea that knowledge, education, training, etc, is necessarily virtue. Read what Socrates, (Plato's mouthpiece) says in "The Symposium". One of the tragedies of life overseas is the spectacle of not only men of little education but also college graduates giving the lie to the statement that "Knowledge is Virtue". Certainly the VD rate would be much lower if men were not smitten with the idea that "knowledge is virtue".

What we are, screams so loudly that people cannot hear what we say. What you and I are today is based on a combination of factors, drawing from nature and from nurture.

The thoughtful man will not boast of being "a self-made man". The obvious answer would be to say, "are you proud of the job you have done in this 'self-creation'?" Some men are geniuses. They are able to exist without tapping the reservoirs of spiritual help, but that is not



true of most men. We need the strength the support that comes from a power greater than ourselves. Our self sufficiency is not enough. The men's hospitals are full of men and women who lives would have been lived on a more even keel, had they not tried to be too self sufficient. It is not a sign of weakness to put your trust in God and pray to God for help.

No man has such a vast encyclopedia of knowledge so that he can say I know all the answers. There is a large field of unexplained phenomena which knows all the answers. There is a large field of unexplained phenomena which man's ken has not yet invaded. "The Lord hath said in his heart there is no God" sang the psalmist.

America, the Beautiful

"O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America, America, God shed his grace on thee,
And crown they good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea."
—Katherine Lee Bates.

SPOT WISDOM: The world steps aside to let man pass who knows whither he is going. (An Indian saying).

Chaplains Play Vital Role in 63d Success

by Fr. William J. Guinan, Asst. Divisional Chaplain

On May 7, 1943, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert H. Clarke, a Congregational minister, and Chaplain (Major) William J. Guinan, a Roman Catholic priest, reported to Camp Blanding, Florida, to organize the Chaplain's Section of the 63d Infantry Division, then in the process of activation. Since that day to this the Division has witnessed a turnover of fifty two chaplains, the sole survivor of the original group being Chaplain Guinan.

Most of the Chaplains came directly from the Chaplain's School and received their training in the field with the Division. As they became seasoned to military life they were transferred to the various theaters of operation. In all cases the chaplains adjusted themselves to the rigors of the military with an ease that surprised themselves. For the transition was quite a severe one since by the nature of their life and habits they were not trained for life in the field. And because of the splendid manner in which they adapted themselves to their new surroundings, they were better able to counsel the troops who were but lately arrived from civilian life. Their religious program was carried on under conditions unlike anything they had experienced in the past. No longer in some beautiful church, with a swelling organ, and a fine choir to accompany them, they found their church in the open fields, and their altar frequently was the hood of a jeep. It was more like the missionaries of old, and the chaplains realized more fully the significance of the words: "where two or more are gathered together in My Name, there am I in their midst"

Chaplains in Combat

And so it was from training to combat the chaplains held services under every possible condition. It was not always easy to reach the men, and in some instances when the advance was so rapid it was impossible to make the rounds so that every man could have the consolation of religious services. But the Chaplains

did the best they could under the circumstances. The final appraisal of the work rests with the men whom they served, for they alone know the value of the chaplains to them.

During the course of combat Chaplain (Capt.) Edwin U. Monroe, a Baptist, was killed in action while on a mission of mercy. Chaplain (Capt.) Raphael H. Miller was wounded, though not seriously.

One of the happiest experiences will be the contacts established between the men and the chaplains, an association and friendship that shall last as long as life itself, and the help and inspiration that one received from the other will be a happy reward for the chaplain's work in the Army.

254th Regt. Notes

Tears filled some of the boys when they departed from the "Old Blood and Fire" yesterday. Most of them had seen action all the way with us. Their last remark was, "We will see you in civvies".

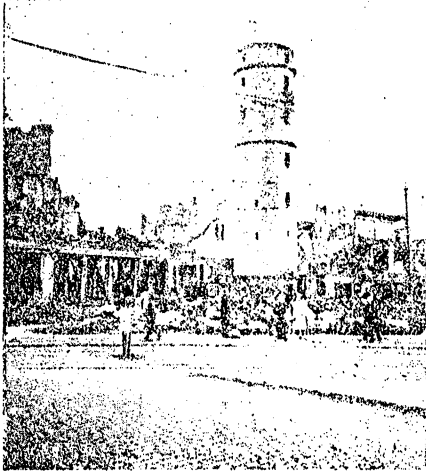
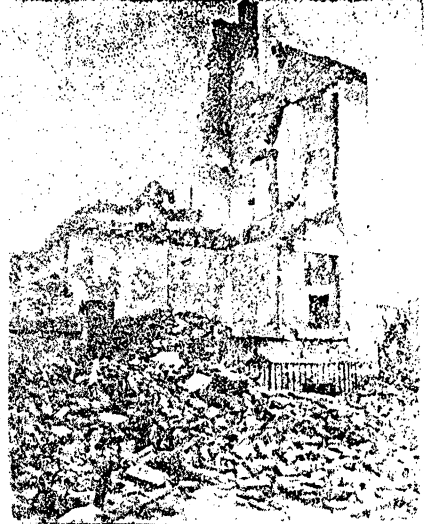
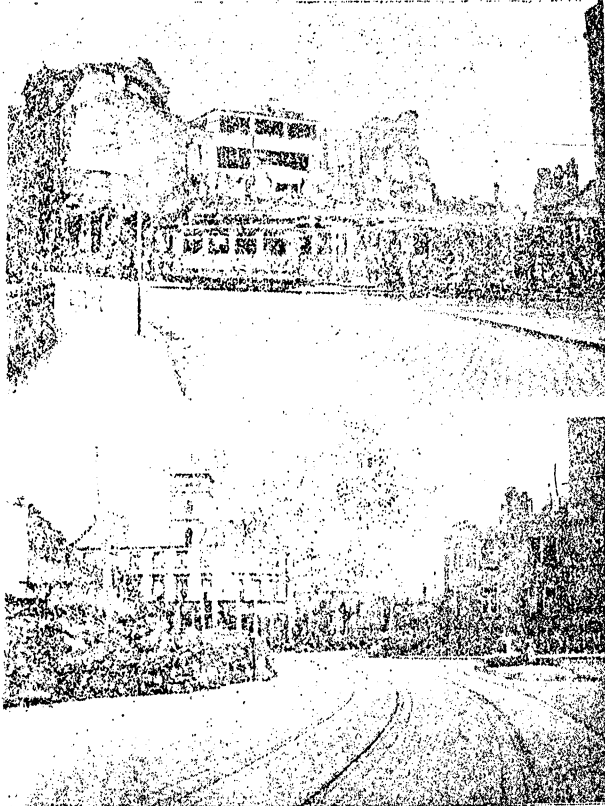
Our new CO has camera fever. Many nights the fellows wondered what we were going on in his quarters and the answer, "working in the dark room". We of the company appreciate the developing service he gives us FREE!

The GOON SHOP, operated by three stooges of the Company is open for membership. This applies to all men who wish to re-enlist after discharge. President of the Club insists on an interview before personnel are allowed to join.

On the serious side Hq Co, 3d Battalion, recently dedicated its new athletic field in Welkersheim to the memory of Amasa J. Shaver, Jr. Pfc. Shaver was member of the A & P Platoon throughout his training in Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi and his period of combat prior to his death on January 27, 1945. Shaver was very popular with the officers and men of H because of his consistent good spirits and enthusiasm. No matter what the situation he had a ready joke.

When the 3rd Battalion was engaged in the bitter fighting to take and hold Riedwin, France, Pfc. Shaver was carrying ammunition up to the line companies when he was killed by a piece of "88" shrapnel. Mrs. Shaver lives in Cneonta, N.Y.

The Promise Fulfilled... "to bleed and burn"



Upper left: Two civilians inspect the ruins in Königshofen and point out the fact "That is Hitler and the War"; Lower right: A 63d GI gives part of his noon meal to the German boy waiting with his tin bucket. The other four pictures represent the catastrophe that has fallen on thousands of Europeans. These particular shots were taken in cities of Germany and show a vivid cross-section of the wreckage resulting from the bombings by the Air Corps and the thousands of artillery shells that rained upon these towns when the battle was being fought in this section of Germany.



Cities, Scenery Of South Germany Please Travelers From 254th

A group of high point men of the 254th Infantry recently spent an enjoyable seven days on a trip through Southern Germany and Austria. Leaving Creglingen on Monday we drove to Munich where an English speaking guide led us on a tour of the main points of interest in the city. Among these were the old beer garden where the Nazi Party held its first meetings, and, in the public square, shrines built in memory of the first sixteen martyrs of Nazism who were killed there in the demonstration that placed Hitler in jail.

From Munich we went to Chiem See to see thirty million dollars worth of splendor in fourteen rooms of the massive summer home of Ludwig II, eighteenth century king in Bavaria.

Next stop on the itinerary was the ancient festival city of Salzburg with the oldest church in Germany, built in 517 A. D., a musty old castle built in the 17th Century and many other fine old cathedrals.

One of Salzburg's greatest claims to fame is the fact that it is Mozart's home town.

Hitler's lair in the top of the mountains is almost completely shattered, but it was easy to see that he had planned a long stay there. I liked the view through what was the living room window, but it has now been demolished by fire.

Königssee, lying along towering mountain peaks about six kilometers from Berchtesgaden, was the next stop. There we went for a sight seeing trip around the lake in a motor launch.

We spent some time at Innsbruck buying souvenirs and looking over this fine old Austrian city, located in the heart of the Tyrolean Alps. It is one of the real highlights of the trip.

Brenner Pass was a little disappointing. Its importance is due mostly to the famous meetings held there but we all enjoyed the scenic beauty of the ride from Innsbruck up through the mountain valley that has now been made famous because of the railroad built there to make it a convenient meeting place for Hitler and Mussolini.

Garmisch Partenkirchen, gay resort visited by thousands in pre-war days, and

scene of the Winter Olympics, was the next stop. Boasting one of the highest railroads in the world and some of the very best of skiing country, this area contains some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. The two days we spent there passed all too quickly and we enjoyed every minute of our stay. The Red Cross Club there is a 'must' of the tour.

Mad King Ludwig of Bavaria spent eight years of his life in a little seven million dollar Schloss that is certainly one of the gaudiest spectacles in the world and most of the glitter is real gold. Elaborately decorated inside and out, set among beautiful formal gardens and towering mountains, it will be one of the things we shall remember as long as we live.

Oberammergau, last stop on the tour, has been made famous by a truly magnificent portrayal of the life of Christ. The last performance was attended by 470,000 people and the residents of the town open their homes to the visitors to provide them with lodging.

Then we turned toward home with the hope that all who leave this lovely country will not forget it, and that those who wish to make the trip will have the opportunity.

Preparations For Trip To States Occupy Time Of 861st Bn. Redlegs

Following the classification of the Division as a Category IV unit, the 861st Field Artillery was re-organized the last part of July with Lt. Col. James P. O'Connell, Jr., as commanding officer. Approximately 200 men with more than 85 points were assigned to the battalion from the 84th, 100th and battle hardened 36th Infantry Divisions.

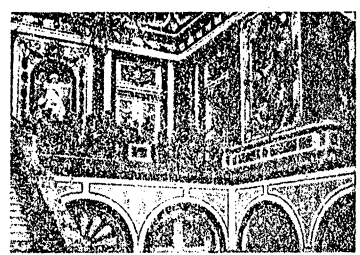
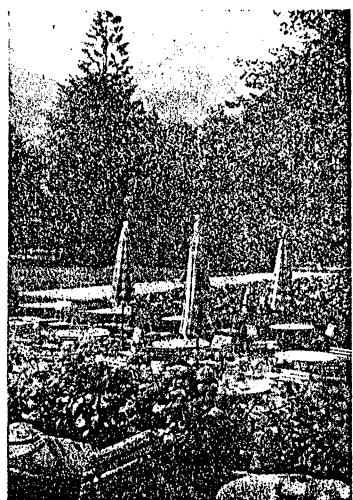
On 30 July, the Information and Education Program opened with a tinkle of a little school bell and 140 persons tucked their books under their arms and headed for the Battalion School at Assamstadt. The school was under the direction of Captain Paul C. Evans, ably assisted by Staff Sergeant Frank J. Kroemer. Although the subjects were offered initially, the program was expanded to include a total of eleven different courses.

Following receipt of notices placing the Division on an alert status for shipment to the United States — and home, the battalion again reached its normal strength of 479 enlisted men and 36 officers. Many old friendships were renewed following the arrival of personnel from units of the Corps and Army who had the required points for shipment home.

As the date grows nearer and need for movement to the port, the battalion has only six members left who entered combat with the 861st Field Artillery Battalion. The remainder of the personnel came from units with whom they did not serve in combat. Despite having to leave our friends with whom we fought this war, we are all happy to be members of the 861st, for within thirty days we shall be home to stay . . . or so they tell us.

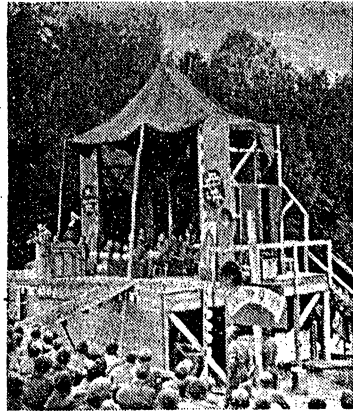
On left is a scene at beautiful Garmisch Partenkirchen, Middle Photos show one of the elaborate rooms in the palace of the Mad King of Bavaria; below is the ruins of Hitler's Eagle's Nest at Berchtesgaden; on right is the famous peace which adorns a hall in the palace of the Mad King of Bavaria.

Photos by Don Pacl





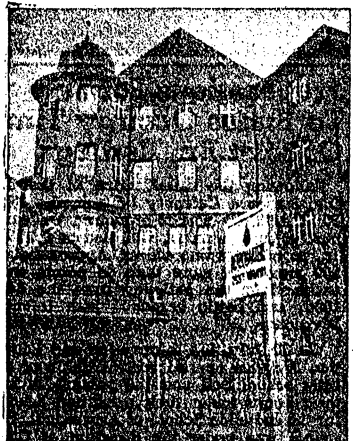
Service Club, 255th Inf.



Anderson Bowl, 254th Inf.



Service Club, 253d Inf.



255th Regimental CP



Service Club, 253d Inf.



63d MP Information

255th Marks Time With Clubs, Sports, Classes

Space will not permit a full history of the activities of the 255th Infantry, either in combat or since V-E Day. It is advisable, then, to present a brief resume of the highlights of post-combat days in the 255th.

Soon after V-E Day Service Company was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for "superior performance of duty" from October to April.

The Regimental swing band, directed by Pfc. "Pop" Merrill, A.T. Company, resumed operations, gave out with a series of hot concerts for enthusiastic audiences. Later the band was transferred to Seventh Army Special Service to give other units a sample of music in the 255th manner.

Led by fleet-footed S/Sgt. Pete Monsanto, Company "D", the 255th trackmen ran away with honors in the Activation Day Field meet. The same day the 255th baseball team trounced the 263d Engineers to clinch the Division championship.

The Regimental communications platoon established radio station WGI, the first such wired broadcasting system in the ETO, and went on the air with a variety of news and music for the listening pleasure of the men in the Kunzelsau area.

Sweeping changes in personnel saw the departure of Col. James Hatcher, Regimental Commander, who was replaced by Lt. Col. Ralph Lashley.

Clubs sprang up all over the regiment with four opening in Kunzelsau alone. These included Duffy's Tavern and The Brass Rail, the EM Club in the Regimental CP and the NCO Club in the Block Hotel. All served a variety of wines and beer with occasional liquor rations and featured fresh pretzels turned out by a bakery in town. Special Service in cooperation with the Red Cross Clubmobile girls redecorated the theater and opened a service club with coffee and doughnuts on tap several days a week.

First Battalion dedicated Meadows Memorial Park to the memory of Cpl. Theron Meadows of Hq. Company, First Battalion, who drowned while swimming in the pool at the field.

The announcement that the 63d is headed home was received joyfully by the men of the 255th. Many of the original members of CTB have departed to other divisions, and familiar faces are few and far between. However, the spirit and the traditions of a fighting regiment remain the same, and all men look forward happily to a trip home and a return to civilian life.

After a magnificent job accomplished in combat the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque, awarded by the Division Commander for discipline, military courtesy, and superior performance of duty, was presented to the Medical Detachment, 255th Inf.

Men of the 3d Battalion, Headquarters Company, have been enjoying fine swimming these days as a small river runs close by the CP that takes care of the situation very well. The fishing part, however, is a little slow and the use of hand grenades is out. There has been no legal limit, however.

Some sort of a record was set by the 255th Regimental Post Officer because on July 2nd, \$25,000 was pushed over the counter to T/4 Dennis Dillon, T/5 E. Manuel, and T/5 Andrew Waverk who did all the work making out the money orders. Said Dillon, "Most of the money came from high pointers who were looking out for the future".

The NCO Club of Hq. Co., 3rd Battalion opened July 27th and the elbow benders have been getting plenty of practice with the beer, wine, and an occasional whiskey ration.

Regimental Headquarters had one of the finest classes in the Division area with its Cooks and Bakers School. Cpl. Joseph Lunsford, who was in charge, taught a number of ex-combat men to make with the cuisine in six days. Funny thing though, most of the fellows who participated in the class were married men. What's the matter fellows? Afraid the little woman won't please?

1st. Bn. — After a long weary time overseas most of us are going home. One can easily see this around the house where Pfc. J. Leonard Levin lives in Weissbach. Levin, a switchboard operator and possessor of 99 points, sits all day long on his bed, fully dressed, wearing full pack and clutching his small suitcase of personal belongings in one hand. When questioned he replied just want to be ready, that's all, — just want to be ready. News of Japanese surrender has naturally struck all the men differently. Yesterday one man was heard to ask "what will I do now? I've never been anything but an orderly and before the Army, I can't remember!" ... We all have our troubles.

Colonel Earl Wheeler, Division Chief of Staff, made an official visit to the 255th Service Club last Tuesday to see if everything was going along all right. And to be sure, the club was in order and the Colonel was very pleased.

Veterans of 254th Inf. Tell Tall Tales of Past

"Thank God, it's over, even if we do have to worry about points." Yep, that seems to sum up the thoughts of the men of the 254th Infantry but between chats about home the boys find pleasure in tall-tale-tales.

"I think that most everyone in the company talks about the roller-coaster-jeep rides Clarkie used to make from the Battalion CP to the Rhine, where "E" Company lay on one side of the river, and watched the Krauts stand reveille on the other," relates Sgt. James E. Crow. "I can never forget Pfc. Duty one night around Dorsbach, Germany. His platoon had gone forward to take the small town and about two the following morning, he came running into the CP quite out of breath. I asked him trouble, but he insisted there was none. "Well, why are you running, there's no shelling".

Duty replied, "Well, I kept saying to myself as I walked back alone down that dark road — 'Duty, you've got to be brave.' - Yep, I was brave, but my feet were thinking differently."

The faces in the Second Battalion area become daily more strange to the original men in the outfit. The men who saw the Second Battalion through its heyday will remember it not just as a military unit that takes orders and carries them out but as something warm and almost human where everyone worked and fought together, where men worked with each other. That was the original intention of Lt. Col. Bryan, CO, 2nd Battalion.

Since VE-Day a majority of the 254th men have taken time out to rest up after the toils of battle and they find many things to keep themselves occupied ... not only in the I and E Program but in their clubs, ballgames, and watching the frau-lains go by ... all help to do the trick.

1st Lt. Fredrick L. Grey is keeper of the

keys of the store of drinks of the 254th offered in the nineteen branches of the club scattered throughout the regiment. The clubs are operated by a board of regents composed of a representative from each battalion and a president, vice president and secretary ... This group makes the over-all decisions and helps toward equitable distribution of liquors, etc.

Each branch has its own staff and program committees and the specialty is fancy drinks to keep the boys happy. S/Sgt. Victor F. Konarski, formerly of Co. L, opened up a new club and bar regently for the NCO members of Hq. Co., Third Battalion. Konarski and his assistant Pfc. Charles A. Dely, decorated the club with a nice arrangement of crepe paper.

Members of L Company presented their version of "A Midsummers Night Scream" in the Love Company Playhouse the night of 17 July 1945. The play was given in honor of Captain William L. Bessinger, who transferred to the 36th Division. The play was produced and directed by S/Sgt. William W. Black with an all GI cast. The audience, composed of the rest of L. Co. and Cannon Co, 254th, enjoyed the show very much. After the show all members of the NCO had a song fest over their beer ... The music was provided by the Love Company Orchestra consisting of a violin, mandolin and a guitar.

"H" Co ... The rain we've had in the last few days has reminded some of the boys of the days we spent on bivouac in Camp Van Dorn, where rain was plentiful. ... Some of the fellows in the Company are engaged in a sort of a guessing game, guessing the name of the ship that will carry the Division back home ... Pfc. Nardone our new Mess Sergeant is really doing wonders in the kitchen with the slim rations the company is drawing and the boys really appreciate it ... Only yesterday we had beans, bean soup, bean salad, and more beans.

Div. Arty Boasts Splendid Record Of Fire Missions

The 63d Division Artillery, under command of Brigadier General F. McGaw, supported the doughboys of the Division from the crossing of the River in early February, through the south of the Danube, in the closing days of the war in Europe.

In the attack on the Siegfried Line Div Arty, with nine artillery battalions attached, let loose such a volume of intense and accurate fire, that this impregnable wall was quickly reduced to our own division, as well as an arm division, swept through the breach started the race to the Rhine.

Later, after the artillery had supported the 45th Division in crossing the Rhine the 63d met and crushed the famed SS Division. During this encounter, artillery not only forced these SS troopers to retreat under a withering fire, but also supported our Division, advancing over a front thirty miles wide. One battalion even assumed an infantry role by protecting a portion of the front from which the infantry had been withdrawn and at the same time supported one half of the division front.

To the men in the foxholes and the artillerymen, the forward observers, the heroes of the war. Time and again they covered themselves with glory several even gave their lives that their comrades in the front lines might that ever welcome curtain of fire.

F. O. sergeant, after his lieutenant had been wounded and the section surrounded and cut off by the enemy, continued to adjust the fire of the Division and Artillery, and meanwhile gave such a fine account of the action, that the Division and Division Artillery Commanders, listening on their radios were able to get a complete picture of the battle direct it to a successful conclusion. Needless to say, the sergeant was highly commended, and he was soon commissioned a lieutenant. At another time F. O. lieutenant suffering from wounds found himself only officer remaining with an infantry company depleted less than thirty men. He assumed command and refused to retire to the aid station until after the company, in fierce combat had taken its objectives from a numerically superior SS force. He died in the station.

In the short period of three months 63d Division Artillery fired over 130,000 rounds of ammunition and proved itself to be an outstanding unit of the successful "Blood and Fire" Division. In the conquest of Germany, it fulfilled its duty and promise, — "Can Do".

Recons Look For Happy Days After Combat Experience

John J. O'Keefe

At Camp Van Dorn, outside the city of Centreville, the 63rd Recon Troop hung their shingle just one block from the WAC's quarters. After plenty of training the troop was alerted for shipment overseas.

Two weeks after debarkation at Antwerp we joined our division in Saar. The first job for the troop was to put counter reconnaissance screen which maintained to the Siegfried Line. Here platoons set up forward observation posts where they directed artillery fire on enemy positions and installations. On the night of the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line we lost our beloved Capt. Thomas R. Lt. Robert Allen, T/4 Whitting and Patterson. The next morning we had a new commanding officer from the Cavalry.

For the months to come and until relieved by the 36th Recon Troop we moved fast and far. At times the platoons attached to each of the infantry regiments and as a troop we filled in gaps on the right and left flanks of the division.

About the first of May our troop moved to Königshofen, Germany their happy home. Today it is the place where high point wait for that chance to go back to States. We have also established in little German town our Club Recon-De which has proved about the finest club in the 63d Division. On the opening night the boys entertained the cast of "U. Central Park" and the whole party had time of their lives.

Soon now, the Recon will return to States and it will become only a memory to the men who loved the outfit with in combat and in these few months since VE-Day.

Ordnance Swamped As Division Begins Trek To Port And States

Alerting of the 63d Infantry Division for redeployment to the United States was good news for everyone, but it brought an enormous problem to the personnel of the 763d Ordnance (LM) Company.

Although some Ordnance equipment had been turned in to supply depots prior to the alert, there still remained literally mountains of equipment to be turned in, with a very limited time in which to work.

Under the supervision of the Division Ordnance Officer, Lt. Col. Frederick C. Johnson, and the Supply Officer, Lt. John B. Bosak, the task was undertaken with eagerness, for this was to be the last step towards home.

With the inevitable paper work and arrangements handled by the Division Ordnance Officer, details were taken care of by T/Sgt. Robert Flaspohler, Tec 3 Daryl Morrow, Tec 3 Alexander C. Kaempfer, Tec 4 Francis Campbell and Tec 5 Clyde Wisenburt, men familiar to all the supply personnel of the Division. These men, who have so faithfully provided the Division with major items of Ordnance equipment throughout the period of combat, remain to take it back.

Farewell to Germany

When this job is finished, the only items remaining in the hands of troops will be a quantity of general purpose vehicles to be turned in at the port of embarkation, and sufficient weapons for necessary guard duty.

While there has been a lot of work, there has still been sufficient spare time to enjoy the facilities of the Grand Central Club, where wine, women and song are nightly attractions. Under the supervision of the club's genial director, Sgt. DeMasi, a dance was held on Saturday night, 18 August.

The personnel of this Company are proud to have served the fighting men of the Blood and Fire Division, and it is with a great deal of pleasure that we say "Farewell to Germany" at long last.

718th Has Varied Program Since V-E

Toward June's end, in accordance with directives received from higher headquarters, the 718th FA Battalion began receiving high point men from other divisions and Corps. Wherever possible low-point men from the BLOOD AND FIRE Division were shipped to the outfits from which the other men had transferred. Among the first arrivals were men from the 84th "Railsplitter" Division, 86th "Black Hawk" Division, and the 100th "Century" Division. The largest number of the 718th's incoming men arrived on the last three days of June. They were from the 155th FA Battalion of the 36th Division, veterans of five campaigns in four countries. The majority of these men could boast a record of over four hundred days in the lines. Later arrivals included complements from the 18th FA Bn, 978th FA Bn, and the 391st AFA Bn of the famed 3rd "Spearhead" Armored Division. These men were in the fast-breaking, pocket encircling, type of warfare which contributed so much to Germany's end. The last group, arriving after V-J Day, came from the 426th FA Battalion.

Anticipating that the Division would not sail until late fall, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Keithly, then commanding the 718th, ordered that maximum stress be placed upon the Education and Recreation Program, for Category IV personnel.

An Intra-Battalion Softball League was organized, competition was keen, and the third set of games in a round-robin tournament were in progress when the rainy season forced curtailment. In addition, horseshoes, volleyball, and badminton, were featured in the program.

Under the joint direction of Capt. Shelton S. Bridges, and Capt. Robert Reynolds, a unit school was established within the Battalion. In the large CP building in Boxberg the lower floor was converted to class rooms. A variety of courses were offered including, Salesmanship, Review Arithmetic, Small Business, Spoken French, Livestock Production, Crop Management, Photography, Welding, and Auto Mechanics.

The school opened on July 30th and was well attended until receipt of the alert order. The student body numbered 162 at the close of the second week and one block, or twenty hours, was covered by each instructor.

With the V-J redeployment changes, the Battalion packed in preparation for shipment to the Port of Embarkation at Le Havre.

"Carmen", "Redcat" Top Activities of 253d Inf.

If all the news concerning the 253d Regiment were to be printed, it would take far more than the allotted space. Therefore we will present a brief review covering the highlights of the Regiment's activities since V-E day.

June 15, 1945 . . . The 253d production of "Carmen" opened at the Rathaus in Tauberbischofsheim. It was a GI version whose only relation to the original was a vague similarity to the plot. Cpl. Weiner, assisted by Sgt. Joe Pollock, Co. "K", directed "Carmen" which was under the supervision of Lt. Robert T. Bogart, 253d Special Service Officer.

At a ceremony held at the former Nazi airport near Wertheim, General Hibbs, accompanied by General Harris and Col. Morris D. Edwards, awarded Silver Star decorations to members of our Regiment.

Cerasulo Field near Wertheim was dedicated to the memory of S/Sgt. Ralph Cerasulo, of Co. "G", who was killed in Germany on April 2, 1945.

June 22, 1945 . . . Two lucky 253d GIs were with General Eisenhower when he returned to the United States, and shared in the joyous welcome accorded him on his arrival home.

July 2, 1945 . . . On this date, the Regiment opened its I and E program of instruction for Class IV personnel, offering two groups of courses in practical subjects.

July 7, 1945 . . . Lt. Herbert Gelspan, formerly associated with the Hal Roach Studios in Hollywood, joined the 253d Special Service section as assistant to Lt. Leonard G. Moyer.

July 21, 1945 . . . A library service for Combat Team Red troops was opened on the third floor of the Regimental CP.

July 28, 1945 . . . Captain Walter M. Lee, adjutant of the 253d throughout its combat period, left CT Red to take over a new post with Division G-1.

A search to undermine and check any attempt of the beaten Nazis to rise in hidden groups took place in Tauberbischofsheim and all the other towns of Germany, resulting in many startling disclosures and embarrassing revelations.

August 4, 1945 . . . The twelve French lovelies from Sarreguemines, France, came to entertain the boys of the 2nd Bn. and dance at the newly opened Service Club.

August 11, 1945 . . . February Flophouse had a gala opening here in the redecorated Tauberbischofsheim Schloss. The converted castle provides the GIs of the 253d, with hours of enjoyment and a variety of that good old "firewater" they can't get elsewhere. Dances, ping pong, music, and plenty to eat, help make the club one of most popular places in these parts.

August 13, 1945 . . . "Babes and Babies" contest began with prizes offered to the winners. GIs send in pictures of their wives, babies and sweethearts for publication in "Redcat".

862d Important Cog In Siegfried Line Battle

After leaving the U.S. early in January, the 862d F.A. Battalion arrived at Marseille, immediately prepared for combat firing missions and 3 February found them in position near Siltzheim, France.

Within a short time it became apparent that the 862d was to assume an important role in the cracking of the Siegfried Line. On 15 March the stage was set, and the battalion, in direct support of the 254th Infantry, let loose. There were numerous and varied firing missions and all personnel worked hard as the artillery pounded pill boxes, enemy personnel, machine guns and field pieces. The communications sections, especially the wire crews, did a superb job in maintaining vital links between FOs and firing batteries.

On 17 March the unit received its first counter battery fire as the Germans resisted fiercely but vainly and 254th crashed through.

Last days in combat

A week later the battalion was placed in support of the 45th Division to aid them in crossing the Rhine, a job awarded because of their excellent performance in the Siegfried attack.

During the month of April the 862d kept busy chasing Jerry in the "rat race" across Germany, moving constantly to keep in range of the fast-fleeing enemy. On 29 April the 63d was relieved by the 36th and this proved to be the 90th and last day of combat for the battalion.

Now with Lt. Col. Lightfoot replaced by Lt. Col. Perez for the journey home, the 862d joyfully prepares to end its career, satisfied with the execution of a job in a highly satisfactory manner.

The 253d Infantry pioneered in a new field after V-E Day by publishing a newspaper, the first such regimental periodical in the 63d Division.

On 1 June, T/5 Joseph L. Gucci and Pfc. Maurice D. Portman approached Lt. Charles P. Horn, I & E Officer with their plans. Lt. Horn was enthusiastic and conferred with Col. M. O. Edwards, Regimental Commander and Capt. Walter M. Lee, Adjutant.

Given the go sign, Gucci and Portman began collection of news and with the aid of company reporters assembled copy for the first issue. By deadline time the editors discovered they had enough material for an eight page paper.

The name "Redcat" was chosen because it represented Combat Team Red. Gucci contributed a column, "My Achin' Back" and Portman wrote a series of combat experiences entitled, "From An Infantryman's Notebook". News from the company reporters went into a column called, "Lip Flipper".

Cpl. Howard Connelly, regimental artist, drew the masthead for the paper and Pfc. Walter A. Lauf sketched a series of cartoons.

Gucci, a successful poet and magazine writer in civil life, wrote the regiment's history and a poem, "Geography of War" for the first issue. Six weeks later he left for the Army University Center at Shrivensham, England where he is now teaching. Portman departed on a temporary assignment with Seventh Army Special Service where he worked as a publicity man. In his absence, George Spither assumed the duties of editor until he left last week for a job with Military Government.

The 21 July edition of "Redcat" introduced a new column, "Hubbah, Hubbah". Material came from units within the regiment, choice bits of gossip about the men, written by the men. It got off to a fair start, but agained momentum and became the backbone of the paper. The idea for such a column came from Capt. Aubrey V. Watts, I & E Officer, who urged wider participation by the units of the regiment. Now each company in the 253d Infantry is represented by a reporter and a column in every issue of "Redcat".

With shipments depleting the 253d of its old timers, a feeling of skepticism over the newspaper's fate was expressed. Lt. Col. George F. Spiegel, who took command after Col. Edwards joined Seventh Army Headquarters, made it plain that he favored continuation of "Redcat". His attitude was shared by Sgt. Samuel Replansky, I & E assistant, who took over the editorship to assure continued publication.

As the 63d prepares to leave Europe, "Redcat" continues to publish, keeping apace with the closing chapter in the history of Blood and Fire.

Quartermaster Kept 'Em Rolling For 63d Doughs

The Blood and Fire Quartermaster trucks bear the tactical symbol of the wheel and they have lived up to their symbol because in combat as in post-war, they have supplied this division with the best in transportation facilities, clothing and equipment, gas and oil and the "prima" item, Class I-FOOD.

The 63rd QM suffered just one fatality since hitting the ETO and this occurred after the war's end when Pfc. Edwin Layne of Pikeville, Kentucky was fatally injured in a jeep accident on the Mosbach to Adelsheim road in the line of duty. When the subject came up to name the athletic field for the QM sportsters, the name of the late Edwin Layne was mentioned to the men and since then, Edwin J. Layne Memorial Field has borne his name.

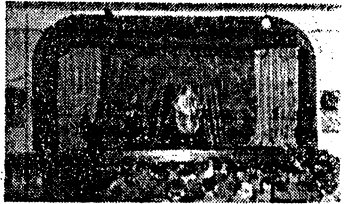
The QM Company was the first unit in the Division to win the Meritorious Service Award and that was awarded to the unit in the States. They were also the first unit to win it for the second time and it occurred here in the ETO.

Being among the firsts in many things, the QM was also the first outfit in the Division to be awarded the Good Conduct Medal.

Ogden, Utah (CNS) — Chosen as rodeo foreman because of his superior riding ability, William Wood rode into the center of the crowded arena at a dignified canter, then fell from his horse, breaking his arm.



Road to Kunzelsau



Div Arty Theatre, Lauda



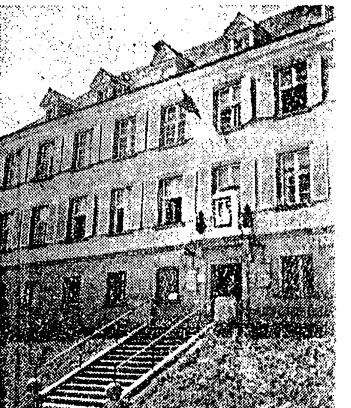
"REDCAT" Staff, 253d Inf.



Radio Station WGI, 255th Inf.



763d Ordnance Co.



253d Regimental CP

Division Ball Team Includes Semi-Pro, Minor League Stars

S/Sgt. Earl M. Petersen, 255th Inf., catcher and manager of the team, is better known to Division baseball fans as "Red". The veteran backstop is the team's mainstay, and he deserves credit for doing a fine job. "Red", who in addition to having one of the best arms in the league, is a powerhouse at bat, and can really clout a ball. "Pete" hails from Riverside, Cal., and played ball for the Sacramento club of the Pacific Coast league. In Sept., 1943, he joined the Division at Camp Can Dorn, Miss.



S/Sgt. Frank Lanzetti, 255th Inf., held down shortstop for the "Blood and Fire" though he finished the season at third base. Frankie, a speed demon on the base paths, a superb fielder and a dangerous hitter, was signed by the N. Y. Giants upon graduating Seton Hall Prep, South Orange, N. J., and was sent to the Springfield club of the Eastern league for seasoning where he played heads-up ball. Lanzetti, who hails from Hoboken, N. J., joined the 63d in Sept., 1943.



S/Sgt. Jack Dooley, 254th Inf., the "Smiling Irishman", played a bang-up game both at third base and at second, for the "Blood and Fire", and has a high fielding average. As a hitter, Jack gave the opposing pitchers plenty to worry about. Dooley, who hails from Wilkes Barre, Pa., played baseball with the Bucknell University nine, and tried out with the Wilkes Barre team of the Eastern league. He entered Van Dorn in Sept., 1943.



S/Sgt. "Boots" Zelasko, 255 Inf., is the hard hitting, slick fielding second baseman of the "Blood and Fire" nine, also having played shortstop toward the end of the season. The peppery little infielder's steady stream of chatter kept the team on their toes, and his extra base hits helped gain us many a win. "Boots", who hails from Chicago, Ill., formerly played with Tulsa, of the Texas league, and went to Van Dorn in May, 1944.



S/Sgt. Tony Mottola, 254th Inf., who holds down first base for the "Harrismen", is quite a boy in the field, and his recent return to form as far as batting is concerned was demonstrated when he belted a homer against the 106th Div. in a recent game. Tony has been handy with his bat most of the season. A native of Tuxedo Park, N. Y., he played semi-pro ball there, and entered the Division in Sept., 1943.



Pfc. George Powles, 255th Inf., alternated at first base with Mottola, and did a darn good job. A good fielder and a consistent hitter, Powles displayed during his playing for the 63d the form that made him a top-notch player with the San Francisco club of the Pacific Coast league. George, who comes from Oakland, Cal., reported to Van Dorn in Sept., 1944.



Sgt. Douglas McDougall, 255th Inf., is a darn good backstop, and the reason he hasn't seen more action this season is due to the fact that a sore foot has kept him inactive, but when he started against the 12th Armored team, recently, he got two of the team's four hits, showing his ability with the bat. Doug, who hails from Queens, New York, played high school and semi-pro ball around New York, and in May, 1944, he joined the 63d Division.



Cpl. Sergei Freeman, 255th Inf., auxiliary leftfielder, didn't play too much this season, but when he did, "Chuck" (as he is called by his team mates) performed admirably, getting two hits against the 12th Armored, and helping score the team's runs. "Chuck" is quite a long way from home, for he claims Los Angeles, Cal. as his birthplace. He played baseball at the University of California, and in April, 1944, he joined the "Blood and Fire" Division.



Pfc. William Wynne, 254th Inf., center-fielder of the team is quite a fly-chaser, and a ball has to be hit hard before it gets away from "Winnie". Bill did some timely hitting this past season, and did a splendid job as the lead-off man for the team most of the schedule. "Winnie" is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., where he starred on his high school team. He joined the 63d Division in June, 1944 at Camp Van Dorn.



S/Sgt. Frederick Shoemaker, 255th Inf., who holds the left field spot on the team, is one of the team's big guns, being one of the "Blood and Fire's" steadiest hitters. His three hits helped beat the 1st Armored nine recently. Fritz, as he is called by his team mates is quite a hand at shagging drives hit to left field, and we can imagine that the Gloversville team of the Canadian-American league certainly were glad to have him on their team. The "Shoe", a resident of Philadelphia, Pa., entered Van Dorn, in May, 1944.



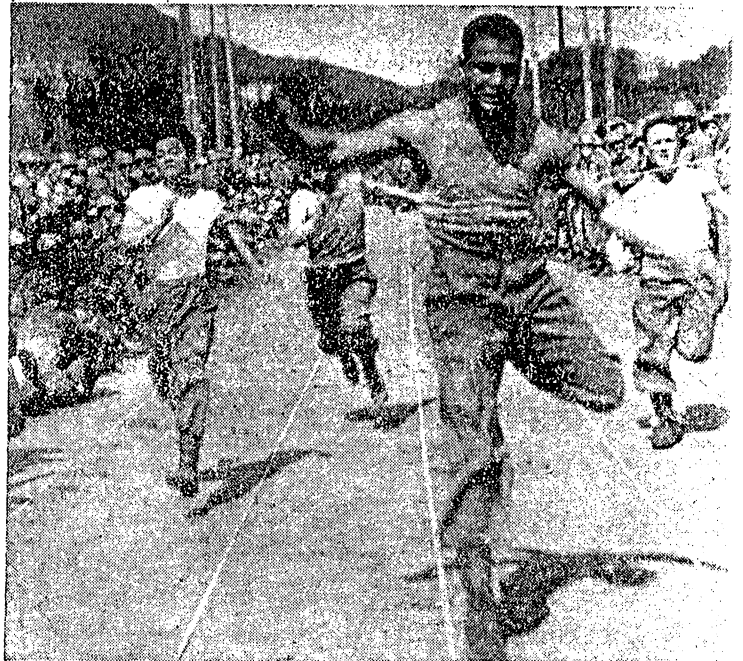
S/Sgt. Sal Stampiglio, 255th Inf., our rightfielder, is quite a versatile ball player, for in addition to being a good fielder and hitter, he has also played third base position for the team. It seems that in addition to being quite a baseball player Sal is quite handy with the ping-pong racket "Stamp" a citizen of Perth Amboy, N. J., played semi-pro ball around New York, and in May, 1944, he joined the 63d Division.



T/Sgt. Tom Quinn, 255th Inf., in addition to being one of the team's catchers, and official score-keeper, is also the highest ranking man on the team. The "Hoosier Hot shot" really put in a season's work warming up pitchers and was a valuable aid to "Red" Petersen in giving the team their infield practise. Tom, who hails from East Chicago, Indiana, is darn proud of his home state, and keeps reminding us that East Chicago is not in Illinois. He joined the 63d in April, 1944.



Speedster Shows His Heels!

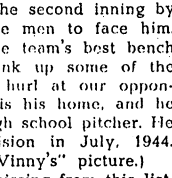


Breaking the tape is S/Sgt. Pete Monsanto, Co. "D", 255th Regt., as he wins the 50 yard dash with ease at a recent track meet, held as part of the Organization Day program. Monsanto also starred in the 1944 meet at Camp Van Dorn.

Pfc. Dominick "Lefty" Pecchia, 255th Inf., is one of the team's best relief hurlers, for when ever one of the pitchers gets in a tight spot, old "Lefty" can be counted on to get him out of the jam. Dom is the only left-handed pitcher on the squad, and when he isn't playing, amuses himself by jockeying the opposing players. Our southpaw star hails from Chicago, and pitched on his high school team there. Pecchia joined the 63d Division in May, 1944.



S/Sgt. George "Vinny" Vinson, is one hurler the 12th Armored will not forget so easily. In addition to holding their sluggers to two hits in six innings, he retired the side in the second inning by striking out all three men to face him. Vinson is one of the team's best bench jockeys and can think up some of the choicest epithets to hurl at our opponents. Detroit, Mich. is his home, and he starred there as a high school pitcher. He joined the 63d Division in July, 1944. (Sorry we haven't "Vinny's" picture.)



There are names missing from this list, for they are no longer with us, but we haven't forgotten them. We refer to our two mound aces Johnny Alusik and Walter Higgins. These two were responsible for the majority of our wins, and Alusik's no hitter and Higgins near no hitter will not be forgotten by 63d Division rooters. We'll miss our heavy hitting rightfielder, Stafford, our scrappy catcher, Mercurio, and other players who left.

Sgt. Bill McNeil, 254th Inf., veteran baseball fans, for he is one of the team's ace hurlers. The 1st Armored only tallied once against him in a recent game, and the other teams in the league found it hard to get base hits off his pitching. In the game with the 1st, he proved his hitting ability by getting two safeties. Boston, Mass., his home town, was also the scene of his semi-pro ball playing. He came to the 63d in January, 1945.

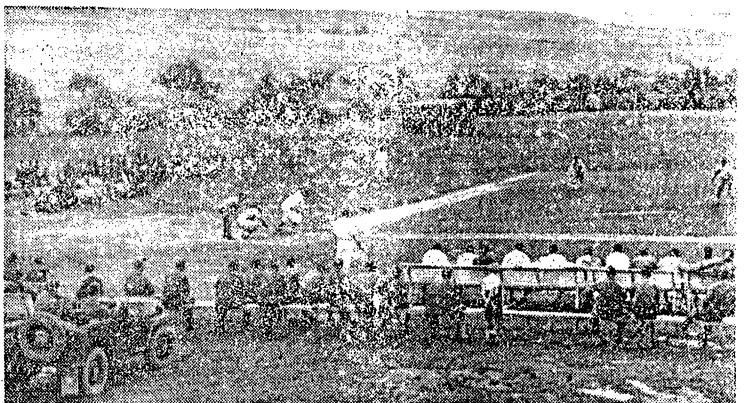


Pfc. Bill "Gunder the Wonder" Haag is one of the team's regular hurlers, and old "Rosy Cheeks", as his opponents call him, would have had a fine record this season if the breaks weren't against him. As far as we are concerned, he's good enough for our team any day. Bill is a Fond du Lac, Wisconsin resident, and he played ball in the Wisconsin state league. He joined the Division in March, 1944.



In conclusion, let me pay tribute to a fine bunch of ball players and to their coach, Lt. Walter Howell, for although not so high in the standings, they still were a fine team. We take our hats off to you: "Blood and Fire" nine.

It's A Base Hit!



Wally Lamraconi, 12th Armored, pitches to right in a recent game between the 63d Div. nine and the 12th Armored "Hellcats" at Bad Mergentheim. Ball can be seen on its way to right field.

SPORTSLANTS

By Pic. Sidney Tatz

Inasmuch as this is my last column, I figured that I would take a chance and express an opinion as to the outstanding "Blood and Fire" stars in the various fields of sports. This opinion is based on my views and the views of others who have watched these men in action. You are welcome to disagree. Okay? Let's go!

Starting off with baseball, I'll pick big "Red" Petersen, veteran catcher and manager of the 63d Division baseball team, as my choice for the "Blood and Fire's" outstanding ball-player. The red-head's batting prowess, his bullet-like peg to second, his steady affect on pitchers and his managerial ability rate him the honors in baseball. If any of you GIs have seen him in action, you will agree with me.



When it comes to swimming, Johnny Simpson, 862nd F.A. Bn., deserves credit for being the Division's best bet in the water. Johnny has won numerous swimming and diving tournaments, his latest triumph being the acquisition of the Seventh Army Diving crown. A shoulder injury kept him out of the ETO tourney, and I doubt he would have been beaten had he participated. When it comes to aquatics, Johnny Simpson is our man!

With tennis as my next subject, and with thoughts of lovely Ann Summers with tennis racket in hand (and in a sweater) kind of giving me a biased view, I'll start by picking her as best female player around here, but when it comes to males, George McIntosh, 253d ace, is tops. George proved that recently when he walked off



with the Division Elimination Tourney, and strengthened the proof by his swell showing in the Seventh Army Tennis Tourney, where he qualified to go to Wimbledon with the team. Anybody disagree with my choice?

Softball is perhaps the most popular sport in the Army. This game produces many stars, but our Division softball team has one player who stands out above all the others. I am referring to Burl Hintze, of the 863d F.A. Bn. Burl tossed three no hitters during the past six weeks and has compiled quite a knockout record. The guy can make a softball talk, and he can play on our team any day.

Swinging over to boxing, I find that the Billy Conn show and the recent boxing bouts put on by the 253d Regt. were all that the Division offered in the line of fisticuffs since we landed in the ETO. Nevertheless, I will come out with Pat McNamara, 254th Regt. boxing coach as my pick for the best man in that sport. Pat's 53 wins as an amateur, and his swell showing against the much heavier Billy Conn are the basis for my decision. Pat, incidentally, is a middleweight.



And so I close this last sports column of "Blood and Fire" with the thought that although we didn't win any championships in baseball or softball, it still was a pleasure to cover the various athletic teams of the Division. Bon voyage!

Shipments of high point men last week brought men from 106th Infantry Division, 46th FA. Group, 1175th Engr. Combat Group, 654th TD Bn, 55th and 52nd Ordnance Groups, 110th, 447th, and 553rd AAA Battalions, 1st Signal Bn, and 57th Signal Bn.

Frustrated Frauleins

By Kerwin



I just want to see if you eat like a rabbit

Rail Splitters

(Continued from Page 15)

was fought to enable the "Railsplitters" to hold the all-important city.

However, they didn't stop there; they went on to take such towns as Marloie, Grupont, Verdanne, Befie, Magoster, Devantave, Gouvy and Ourthe, to mention just a few. Much could be written about the Battle of the Ardennes and still all couldn't be told about the sufferings and the hardships the men went through. Thank God we won't have to do it again!

Early February saw the "Railsplitters" back at the Roer river waiting to make the jump across. The day was the 23d and the hour was 0330. The 1st Battalion, 334th Infantry took off in boats to reach the other side and then for the next ten days the "rat race" to the Rhine was on, during which time the 84th accounted for more than 9000 Germans killed, wounded or captured. For their part in this great accomplishment, the 3d Battalion, 334th Regiment received the Presidential Unit Citation.

Six days after the initial jump off across the Rhine the 84th jumped off again, this time spearheading the Ninth Army with the 5th Armored Division, bypassing Munster to take Bielefeld and Herford and reach the Weser river at Minder. From there the attack continued to the northeast toward the next objective, Hannover. All three combat teams were committed to do the job and on the 10th of April it was completed. Four days later forward elements reached the Elbe river in the vicinity of Wittenberge, only 48 miles from Berlin. Finally, on 27 April, contact was made with Red Army, and as far as the "Railsplitters" were concerned the war was over. The men saw everything that day as German men and women took desperate chances to get across the river to surrender to our troops. Women, stripped bare, swam the icy river to get away from the Russians. There were some embarrassed GIs, but what could they do?

After the war was over the division was placed in Category II and moved to the vicinity of Heidelberg where they are at the present time. What the future holds for the "Railsplitters" is uncertain, but what ever it is, you can be sure that it will be a job well done.

Blind Medic Commissioned

Valley Forge Hosp, Pa (CNS) — S/Sgt George W. Stafford, 24, of Petersburg, Va, blinded near Leipzig by an anti-tank mine, was commissioned a 2d lieutenant in the Medical Administrative Corps. He had been recommended for gold bars while serving in the Medical Det. 311 Inf., 78th Div. The commission had been granted and was on its way through channels to his echelon when he was hurt.

Blackhawks

(Continued from Page 15)

river for a week, the 86th was relieved by the 82d Airborne Division, crossed the Rhine at Bonn and placed in position at one side of the Ruhr Pocket. Then followed fierce fighting to mop up the remaining German forces in the Ruhr. The last of the mopping up operations took the 86th to the town of Ludenscheid.

By this time the front line had moved far into Germany, and the Blackhawks made a 300 mile trip across country to join the final stages of the Battle of Germany. After fighting across the Danube at Ingolstadt, the division turned from Munich toward the Austrian border to meet the fast-moving Russian Army. It was at Oberndorf, Austria that the news of German capitulation reached the Blackhawks.

After V-E Day the 86th pulled back to Weinheim, Germany and there received orders to prepare for immediate redeployment to the Pacific via the United States. The division embarked at Le Havre, sailed for New York and was the first full division to return to the States.

Now the Blackhawks are at a West Coast port, ready for shipment to the Pacific, a situation similar to that in which they found themselves less than a year ago. But the time between, including 42 days of combat, service in four Armies, and two quick trips across the Atlantic, have provided a wealth of memorable experiences for the men of the 86th Division.

Centurymen

(Continued from Page 15)

organized resistance. But at Heilbronn, the Nazis turned and put up a savage fight, reminiscent of the battle at Bitche. Eight days of house-to-house struggle and the virtual flattening of the town were necessary before the Centurymen could report success.

The drive of the Century continued through Lowenstein, Backnang and Schorndorf, finally stopping east of Stuttgart as the division went into reserve. Victory in Europe found the 100th in reserve, looking back on a series of rich achievements with a feeling of deep satisfaction in having done a job of which they can justly be proud.

The 63d Division Advance Party left for the Le Havre Staging Area Tuesday, August 21st.

A mimeographed edition of Blood and Fire will be published on the boat on the way back to the States.

1st Battalion and the 3rd Battalion of the 254th Infantry Regiment have been awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Presidential Citation.

T-Patchers

(Continued from Page 11)

last. Never to be forgotten by T-Patchmen or war historians are names like Mt. Samucro, Mt. Maggiore, Mt. Lungo and Mt. Rotundo. Then came the life-consuming Rapido River crossing planned in conjunction with the establishment of the Anzio Beachhead. There was yet Cassino and Monastery Hill. It seemed like neither winter nor war would ever end.

Rat Race To Rome And Beyond

In May 1944 the 36th Division was sent to Anzio where two weeks later, by the clever infiltration of the 141st, 142nd and 143rd Infantry regiments behind the enemy lines at Velletri, the last German stronghold defending Rome, they paved the way for Fifth Army's entrance into the Eternal City. The T-Patchmen continued the rat-race in pursuit of the krauts as far north of Rome as Pombino inflicting a heavy toll on the enemy in men and equipment, before being pulled back for a rest and preparations for a new assignment. For his valor at Magliano Homer Wise won the C.M.H., while Jim Logan won a D.S.C. for his actions at Velletri.

Invasion Of Southern France

Early in July 1944 the 36th Division moved to the familiar hard-won plains of Salerno where Maj. Gen. Walker bid farewell to his hard-fighting veteran team before assuming a new assignment. Under the new command of Maj. Gen. John E. Dahlquist the T-Patchmen were put through an intensive period of invasion and amphibious training. On 10 August the 36th Division shoved off from Naples harbor for the beaches of Southern France. This second invasion was different. Unlike Salerno, the Air Corps and the Navy paved the Infantrymen's way with incessant preparatory bombardment. When the LCIs and LSTs unloaded the men on the beaches near San Raphael the situation was not half as bad as was expected... and they were expecting the worst for they hadn't forgotten that Salerno "deal!"

One week after D-Day found the 36th Division fighting deep inland more than two hundred miles from the beach. After chasing the Germans up the Rhone valley the T-Patchmen had trapped the German 19th Army and ripped them to shreds in the famous Battle of Montellimar. For his bravery at Montellimar Lt. Stephen Gregg was awarded the C.M.H. The unmerciful winter weather in France was reminding of the ugly Italian winter. Tricky tree-to-tree fighting in the Vosges mountains during severe snowy weather made life unreasonable. The Lost Battalion, First Battalion of 141st Infantry, was cut off in the forest for six days and seven nights without supplies of any kind when the crack fighters of the Japanese American 442nd R.C.T. rescued them.

Then came the unforgettable crossing of the Moselle River... and the Battle of St. Marie Pass which opened the gateway to the Alsatian plains. Nor is the struggle for Colmar forgotten. For his heroism there, Pfc. Gerald Gordon received the C.M.H. Christmas Eve found the 36th Division pulling watch on the Rhine, preparing to pull out of the line, but the Germans strong threat to break through the Corps sector made rest impossible as the three combat teams of the 36th Division were sent to different threatened positions around Hagenau, Saverne and Strasbourg. The enemy attacks were smashed.

Final Actions

After holding precious defensive positions in the Hagenau sector, the T-Patchmen carefully chose the right moment to make its final push from France across the Moder River line, driving through Wissembourg and piercing the Siegfried Line. Entering Germany in March, the veteran 36th Division was the first 7th Army unit to reach the Rhine.

Upon completing security missions and a well earned rest in Kaiserslautern the T-Patchmen returned to combat which carried them deep into the Bavarian Alps of Austria. Among the many important prisoners of war captured by the 36th Division were Admiral Horthy, Field Marshall von Rundstedt, Hermann Goering, Sepp Dietrich (No. 1 SS General), Reichsminister Frank (No. 1 War Criminal of Poland); Max Amann (Publisher of Mein Kampf); and Air Marshall von Griem. The more elite French prisoners liberated included French Generals Gamelin and Weygand and the prominent Daladier and Reynaud.

Having helped make some of history's greatest chapters of this war, the 36th Division's four hundred days in combat, its five major campaigns and two amphibious invasions have given the T-Patchmen the much earned, long desired right to return to a peaceful, civil way of life.

Sinker Service Makes Big Hit With GIs

Red Cross Girls Do Important Work In Maintaining Morale

"Hey, Joe, coffee and doughnuts! And American gals!" The company had just come back off the line after seemingly endless days of mud, filth, misery and danger, and spirits weren't any too high. Both the smell of hot coffee and fresh doughnuts, the sight of a lovely, clean English-speaking girl can do wonders for a guy's state of mind. And that is the primary purpose of the Red Cross Clubmobile girls in combat.

The men of the 63d Division have been blessed with as fine a group of Red Cross girls as can be found anywhere in the Army and their gratitude is great. For these girls have brought a touch of home to the grimy, bearded combat men to whom home is so so far away and yet so terribly close.

Men of the division had long been impressed by the Red Cross Clubmobiles and by Red Cross Clubs scattered throughout the ETO at rest camps and with other divisions. Finally in February the first Clubmobile girls appeared at the Blood and Fire Division, and began dispensing good cheer and good food to the battle weary soldiers. None of the original group remains with the division.

In March a group was assigned and several of the girls consider themselves 63d veterans, having served "coffee and" to the boys for nearly six months. And all the girls feel the same about the men of the 63d. Combat is over now and the boys have proved that behind those boards and dirty ODs were a good many true gentlemen. Give the doughfoot a chance to get "sharped up" and he changes a great deal. As Helen Stafford, who left the division last week after being with the boys since March, put it, "The 63d Division is the best and the fellows in it are the best friends I have. In fact, I'd go any place in the world with any of them."

Followed the boys

During the war the girls followed units of the Blood and Fire Division from France through the Siegfried Line, into Germany and finally across the Danube to where the division was relieved. Back in their occupation territory around Bad Mergentheim, the girls went to work with a vengeance to set up clubs and recreational facilities for the boys. The result is a chain of Red Cross Clubs in units of the division that are the most popular and well attended places in the area. Clubs with sinker service four days a week have been established in Kunzelsau, at 255 Headquarters and at Tauber-bischofsheim, 253 Headquarters. In addition, a club at Division Headquarters at Bad Mergentheim operates every day. And the clubmobiles make daily trips to units not served by regular clubs.

The gals get a big kick out of entertaining the boys. As Billie Stutzman, one of the newer additions to the group, says, "You meet so many interesting people!" And of course, the boys enjoy being entertained by the ever pleasant, vivacious blondes and brunettes who wear the powder blue uniform of the Red Cross Clubmobile Service.

The gals admit, too, that occasionally the boys polish up the old line and use it. Ruth Manning, who hails from the hill country of Northern New Jersey, reveals that she has often heard a would-be Casanova croon, "Y'know, you look just like my sister . . ."

Good - humored

The girls call a variety of places home. Brown haired Birdie Bayles is from Sacramento, California. Mary Opp, the always gay blonde resides in Detroit. Representing New York is Eleanor Jones, of the feather bob and broad grin. A State of Maine booster is that blonde glamour girl, Joan Brown, while slim, sophisticated Wilma Stutzman is a native of Illinois.

One thing many GIs wonder about is the unflinching good humor of these women who have voluntarily given up careers in the States to come overseas to bring a touch of home to the fighting men. Don't they ever get out of sorts? Don't they ever get awfully tired of being pleasant? Joan Brown answers the question this way: "After riding in the back of a three-quarter for several hours, getting covered with mud or dust, or nearly freezing to



The Red Cross Girls from left to right are: Mary Opp, Eleanor Jones, Billie Stutzman, and Joan Brown, who are being royally entertained at the Club Recon-Devous, sponsored by the men of the 63d Reconnaissance Troop.

death, we often wonder whether it's worth it. And then we'll pull up to a unit, some GI will make a wise crack, the rest will rush for the coffee and doughnuts and we know darned well that we have nothing to complain about. The GIs are the ones with the good humor and the smiles, and we realize that it's a privilege to be able to help out just a little bit. Their response more than repays for any unpleasant things we might have to do."

Some enlisted men have expressed the opinion that officers too often monopolize the Red Cross girls. Speaking to the girls strictly off the record, watching them over a period of time with special attention to the officer angle, and speaking to EM who have been entertained by the girls, it is easy to see that some men have been misinformed. The girls with the 63d Division undoubtedly lean over backward to avoid being classed in the "officers' girls" category. And they have succeeded. Ask the guys who know them.

Now that the Blood and Fire Division is going back home, the Red Cross girls who have followed the boys through combat and stuck with them in the occupation period will stay behind. They will be transferred to other areas to continue their morale boosting. But they confess that there will always be a spot in their hearts for the combat soldiers who wear the flaming sword of the 63d Division.

255 Service Club

The 255th Service Club formally opened for enlisted men of that unit August 3rd. The club is open from 1800 to 2200 on week days and on holidays from 1200 to 2200. Coffee and doughnuts are served at 2200 each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday by American Red Cross clubmobile girls Miss Birdie N. Boyles and Miss Ruth Manning.

Located on the balcony of the building occupied by the club is a 700 book library containing books on travel, history, fiction, modern novels and fine arts together with magazines and writing tables.

WACs To Take Over Hotels Vacated By 63d in Mergentheim

Two hundred WAC's will move into the buildings occupied by the Division Headquarters when the 63rd Division pulls out of the Mergentheim area. The 200 WAC's are a part of the 1st Air Division, which has been in England since June 15, 1942, being the first operational bomber unit in the ETO. The Air Division flew their first mission over Europe August 17, 1942, and the last one was flown April 25, 1945.

Lt. Col. Robert P. Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff Administration is in charge of the advance party, who are at present occupying a section of the Division Headquarters building. The 1st Air Division will control all heavy bombers of the occupation forces in airfields from north of Frankfurt to south of Munich. The station complement here in Bad Mergentheim will have 175 officers, 500 enlisted men, and 200 WAC's making up a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Signal Company, MP Company, Station Complement Squadron, and an Army Air Force Band.

Major General Howard M. Turner is commanding general of the 1st Air Division and Brigadier General Bartlett Beaman is Chief of Staff.

The Air Division Headquarters will probably have control of the entire town of Bad Mergentheim with the 36th Division Artillery patrolling the roads up to the city limits.

Sacramento (CNS) — A 30-day jail sentence was imposed on a Sacramento woman for threatening to burn the house of an evacuee Japanese-American family unless they left the building. The sentence was the first of its kind imposed on a local resident for threatening Nisei who have returned to the West Coast.

Movies, Variety Shows Help Brighten Lives Of 63d Division Men

One of the few bright spots in the combat soldier's life is the opportunity to see a movie or a show. An hour of relaxation in the midst of the fighting is something that everyone looks forward to. Unfortunately, tactical situations do not always permit movies to be shown. However, during the time the 63d spent on the line, Special Service, succeeded in getting films to the units in a variety of places in France and Germany.

Small town theaters, town halls, railway stations and ~~gas houses~~ served as substitutes for Paramounts and Loews States. Often the dialogue was punctuated by the sounds of battle not too far away. The conditions were poor. Buildings were cold, generators failed, film broke, but still the doughs enjoyed what they saw and heard.

In the relatively static situation along the Rhine in Alsace and at the Saar, it was possible to show movies quite often, but when the Blood and Fire Division took off like the proverbial bird to chase Jerry and bring him to his knees, it was next to impossible to stop for movies.

With the end of the war, a standard program was arranged and theaters were conditioned for use throughout the division. Through regimental Special Service sections regular movie programs have been put into effect, and now it is possible for the men to attend a movie almost every night in the week. Some are brand new, others are older, but all are entertaining. The average GI's taste runs to musicals and comedies and Betty Grable or Rita Hayworth invariably draws a huge crowd.

Live Shows Popular

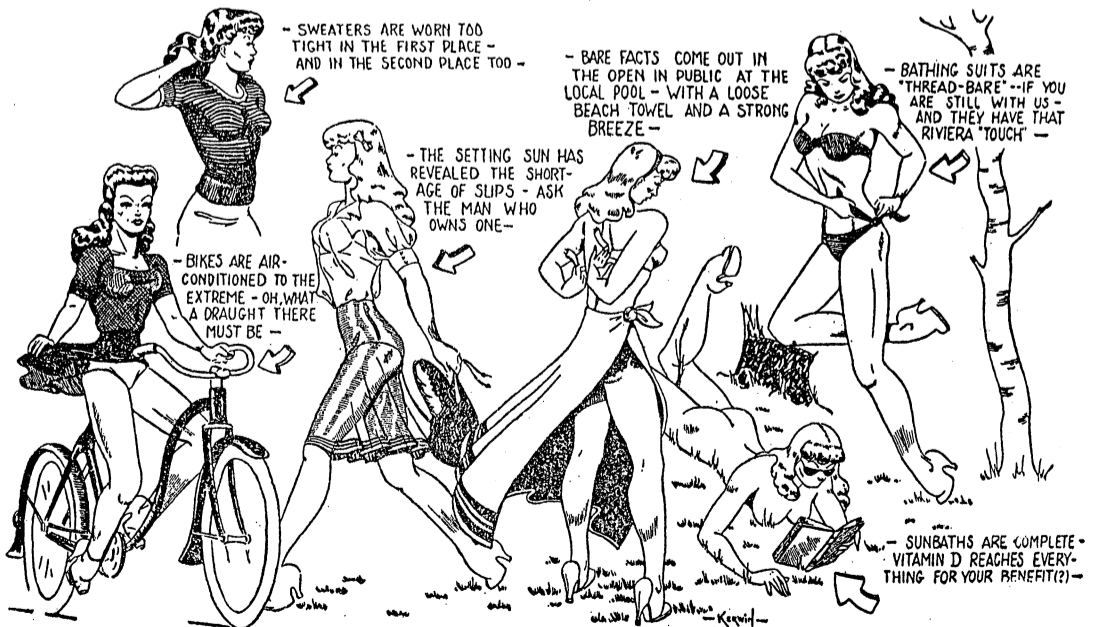
Movies are not the only form of entertainment dished out by Special Service, for through the cooperation of USO Camp Shows the division has been able to enjoy a wide variety of live talent shows. The first such performance was presented last March when glamorous, Marlene Dietrich, she of the gorgeous gams stopped to entertain the men of the 253d Infantry in the town of Kirkel. Singing, dancing, and displaying the shapely shafts that brought her fame, La Dietrich won the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to catch the show.

Following Miss Dietrich's program there was a lull in personal appearances that was broken only by occasional shows by the division dance band. With the end of hostilities the entertainers came thick and fast, some good, some superlative, all giving their best for the boys. And the boys showed their appreciation with crowded halls and loud applause.

The early shows were small units, "Good Morning, Judge", "Something For the Boys", "All American Varietys" and several foreign shows, featuring the cream of French and other Allied Nations performers. Those were the smaller shows, but most men remember better the big (Continued on Page 14)

Frustrated Frauleins

by Kerwin



An American Traveler Looks At Germany

**Veteran Actor Touring
With USOCamp Shows
Writes of Div. Area**



With the exception of the girls, the character who attracted the most interest in the recent run of "Up in Central Park" for the men of the 63d was undoubtedly blustering, mustachioed Senator "Boss" Tweed. The man who made Tweed seem so realistic was the only person in this cast who also played in the original Broadway production, veteran actor Watson White.

During his stay in Bad Mergentheim Watson White became a familiar figure at the "Blood and Fire" office, and his jolly good humor, his amazing store of anecdotes and his almost paternal interest in the men of the Division prompted the staff to elect him an honorary member. Before leaving he consented to write his impressions of Bad Mergentheim for publication in the paper.

Harvard Man

Watson White was born some time in the last century of "not very poor and slightly dishonest parents" in Cambridge, Mass. He attended Harvard College, received his A. B. there and then worked a year on the old New York Sun before going to Law School. Blackstone failed to appeal to him, so White left school at the end of his second year to play the juvenile lead in "The Blindness of Virtue". This was only intended to be a publicity stunt, but his performance pleased the producer and White returned to play the role the following year.

Then followed a series of appearances in Broadway successes, plays which have gone down as classics of the American Theater. These included David Belasco's production of "The Auctioneer" which starred David Warfield, and John Galsworthy's "Justice" in which John Barrymore played the lead. In addition to his work on Broadway, White acted with several stock companies.

In the role of Second Lieutenant, White went to France with the 117th Infantry of the 30th Division as part of the A.E.F. in the first World War. Demobilized in France, he remained there, married a Parisienne and, with the exception of three years in the U. S., lived in Gay Paree for 22 years.

Return to Theater

White attended the Sorbonne, worked as a sculptor and exhibited his works at "Salon des Independents" at the Paris Exposition in 1937. His intimate knowledge of The City of Light led him to write "The Paris That Is Paris" which was published in 1925 by Scribners.

With his wife he left Paris in June, 1940, just three days before the Nazis moved in and from Lisbon was able to book passage back to the United States.

Home again, White returned to the theater, played summer stock and then appeared on Broadway in "Western Union Please", "Under This Roof", "Mr. Sycamore", "Ramshackle Inn" with Zazu Pitts, "Lower North" and the original company of "Up in Central Park".

His description of Bad Mergentheim contained in a letter to a friend follows:

Dear Jim:

I hope you have thought occasionally, "What has become of that son-of-a-gun?"



For my part, I have often said to myself, "Why not write to Jim?". Now, lo and behold, it rather looks as though I were writing to Jim.

This U.S.O. troupe has travelled about American Occupied Germany for some weeks now and a chronological account of our tour it would read like a guide book anyway, for since "The Paris That Is Paris" I suffer from a professional deformation that way. Don't say I didn't warn you!

Following the Biblical injunction and dipping down my net where I am, this, friend Jim, is Bad Mergentheim. There are two distinct communities, the medieval town of Mergentheim with its gables, its wrought iron signs and its pretty, winding, geranium-brightened streets, and the Bad, the Spa, the watering place, the ville d'eaux.

The setting of this last is a peaceful park of great trees, seemingly about as far from war's alarms as a peaceful park can be. Skirting it are the buildings which housed the baths and the bathers as well-upper baths, lower baths, middle baths, baths to soak in, waters to soak up. But this is post-war Bad Mergentheim. Now, to tamper with Omar:

"General Harris and the Eagle keep

The courts where Hans Fritz gloried

And drank deep!"

The Casino, or Kursaal, is now the theater for movies and U.S.O. shows; its reading and writing rooms have been taken over by the Red Cross and an enchanting garden of marigolds, roses and oxeid daisies — the color scheme is rather German — and walks of flagstones, which come as near to being irregular as anything in this ordered land, enchant GIs as well as passing players susceptible to gardens.

Grau Atmosphere

Countless booths, once no doubt colorful and gay with the solid national gaiety, sold, if we are to believe the sign, cigars, tobacco, hair cuts and coiffures, jewelry, sports clothes, photographs and all the thousand and one utterly useless luxury articles devised by the ingenuity of rapacious man for the exploitation of his fellows at their most gullible moments, the idlers of a water place in quest of a digestion. But the fat purchasers who sought to undo in four weeks the result of forty eight weeks of overeating and overdrinking until it was time to overeat and overdrink for another forty eight

weeks are underneath the sod or in Switzerland, if they are lucky, in concentration camps if they are not. Gray tin shutters cover the erstwhile gay kiosks where only the signs remain.

"To have money isn't everything" runs a German proverb, and now they add, "You must also have it in Switzerland!"

The khaki clad figures who stride energetically along the curving paths of this drowsy park belong to the 63d Infantry Division. These men saw bitter fighting in the Colmar pocket, pierced the Siegfried Line beyond the Saar, and swept across the Rhine in a month of the toughest sort of fighting through hilly, wooded country laced with rivers and finally pursued the Germans to the Danube.

Beyond the Park lies the interesting medieval town of Mergentheim. Since it is axiomatic that one can't understand the present without knowing something of the past, I entered a bookstore in an attempt to find out what made Mergentheim tick. The proprietor told me he was forbidden to sell guide books to the military, but in a compartment across from the Public Relations office, delicately designated by the French "the little place", I found a pamphlet by the Herr Doktors Sieber and Reitz on "The Mineral Springs of Bad Mergentheim". Since its somewhat tattered condition appeared to indicate that it was pinch hitting for "The Stars and Stripes", a fellow-feeling for guide book writers impelled me to rescue it from impending ignominy and bear it off.

Mergentheim, the Herr Doktors relate, enjoyed in the Middle Ages a rich and turbulent history. It reached its apex of prosperity and splendor in 1526 when the ancient and powerful German Knights established themselves in the imposing and extensive castle we see today. At this time many fine churches as well as "Prachtbauten" ("Georgous Buildings") were erected. But Napoleon in 1809 dissolved the Order of German Knights and Mergentheim again became an unimportant Wurttemberg village. Nearly a score of year after the Little Corporal departed came another era of prosperity.

Curative Springs

A few rods from the P.R.O. you can see the effigy of a shepherd, a staff in one hand, the other protecting a member of his flock, while his gaze is riveted on something he has just discovered. It is a spring, a salt spring. The shepherd, evidently an enterprising shepherd, later persuaded the town fathers undertake some costly drilling which resulted in the present-day Wilhelms Spring and later the Karls Spring, named after the Crown Prince of Wurttemberg, and a bath house and an establishment for drinking the

waters were erected. The curative value of the springs was quickly proven and the list of ailments which they cure, if we are to believe the Herr Doktors Sieber and Reitz, is very extensive. Jim, my boy, if in your old age you suffer from kidney troubles, or the old liver gets a little sluggish, or your stomach's kicking up or you have the GIs, if you're overweight or a diabetic, come to Bad Mergentheim — it's your cup of tea, or rather your cup of water.

And when you've drunk and bathed your fill you can explore the old town. The castle you can hardly miss. You will surely see the market place, the gabled houses with wrought iron signs and weather vanes and dominating the square, the colorful Rathaus with its stepped gable. As you wander about the twisting streets you will note in almost every house the niches containing Madonnas or saints. But you mustn't miss, over door of a vine covered house in the Funkengasse, leading east from the market place, a carved wooden plaque depicting the youthful Christ presented by his parents at the Temple. This is really a fine work of art — a museum piece. "Long before perfection of technique is attained", old Charley Moore used to tell us, "sincerity of feeling is lost". But here are both.

You are now near the Burgstraße, also heading east from the market place and as you pass it the man's head with lots of hair — lucky dog — above two escutcheons is worth a glance. Near the castle a sign on a well-proportioned building with decorative ornaments over the windows relates that Beethoven lived there in 1791. Beyond the castle gate at the entrance to the tiny Pfarrgang an apothecary displays an impressive effigy in wrought iron of a Crusader, recalling the Order of the German Knights who once had their headquarters across the road. And before you leave you must be sure to stroll down an alley which I stumbled on while playing "Hunt the A.P.O.". It is called the Turkengasse and it is one of the world's most delightful little wiggly streets, aflame with glowing geraniums.

Jim, I suggest that along about the chirping age of 80 we visit Bad Mergentheim and as we roll to the waters in our wheel chairs we shall think of another Bad Mergentheim, of this region once bathed in blood and fire when the tough fighters of the 63d Division fought tough battles over tough Suabian terrain many years ago.

So long, Jim,

W. W.

Chief of Staff



The tall, distinguished Chief of Staff of the 63d Infantry Division, Colonel Earle G. Wheeler, is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and was born in Washington, D. C. Following his graduation, he served four years with the 29th Infantry at Fort Benning Ga., and in 1936 he attended a regular school course at Fort Benning. In June 1937, he arrived in Tientsin, China, where he served with the 15th Infantry.

Subsequently, he served with the 3d Division at Ft. Lewis, Washington, as an instructor at West Point and as an aide to Major General Fred L. Walker of the 36th Division. Later he attended the Command and General Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3 of the 99th Division, leaving that organization to become Chief of Staff of the 63d Division in March 1943.

Colonel Wheeler often assumes command of the 63rd Division when the Commanding General is absent from his post. The welfare of the enlisted men is uppermost in his mind and he's apparently never too busy to discuss an enlisted man's problem with the enlisted man concerned, making him one of the most popular officers in the 63d Division.

253d Infantry



Lieutenant Colonel George F. Spiegel, 253d Infantry Regimental Commander, came overseas with the 100th Division, and it was with that unit that he earned the Silver and Bronze Stars that he wears so proudly.

Col. Spiegel resides in the fair city of Baltimore, Md., and is a Reserve Officer. He went back to active duty in 1938 and 1939, and in 1941, he was recalled to the service.

His recent statement in the "Redcat" made after the Japanese surrender was quite stirring, and the following excerpt from that paper concluded the message:

"... It will long be the greatest pride of my life that I have had the privilege of being associated with this Army. I am equally proud of having had the honor to command this regiment upon the day when the purpose for which it was brought into being was accomplished. I salute you, Lt. Col Spiegel."

Ex-Div. Arty Leader



Brig. Gen. Edward J. McGaw

Commanding General



TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 63d DIVISION

On the eve of your departure from the 63d Division, I wish to thank each and every one of you for the fine spirit and cooperation you have shown in combat and in the occupation of Germany. Most of you are new to the high traditions of the Blood and Fire but we welcome you with open arms. To the old men and to the new men in the division I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for allowing me to serve as your commander during days just past and in the joyful days ahead. And as you face the future with your hearts high, I want to say, "Farewell, good luck and Godspeed."

FREDERICK M. HARRIS
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

Personal Interest in Men, World Wide Service,
Feature Varied Army Career of 63d Commander

Brigadier General Frederick M. Harris assumed command of the 63rd Infantry Division upon the departure of Major General Louis E. Hibbs, having served as Assistant Division Commander since the unit's activation in June 1943.

After intensive training in camps in the States, General Harris accompanied the first units of the 63rd Division when the unit left for overseas. It was he who commanded Task Force Harris during those first tedious weeks of combat and during the breakthrough of the Siegfried Line. At that time he spent much of his time in the forward areas and in one of the Regimental OP's.

When the Siegfried breakthrough was accomplished, General Harris, with a smaller Task Force Harris, swiftly moved through the gap and hastened forward for the historic link-up with General Patton's Third Army.

General Harris takes a personal pride in the Division and the men who make the Blood and Fire the live wire that it is. The wholehearted interest the General has in his troops is shown in a recent order to his commanders - "... and that enlisted men whose problems cannot be solved by subordinate commanders be permitted to

present their problems, if need be, to (General Harris) in person."

After graduation from West Point in 1920 he followed a tour of duty at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. and was assigned to the 29th Infantry.

In 1926 he was sent to China where he was in Tientsin when Chiang-Kai-Shek, then an unknown revolutionary, attacked the area. Among his duties was the guarding of the international trains which had to go through periodically. Often opposing armies would cease hostilities until the train had passed through.

Back in the United States in 1929, General Harris spent two years with the First Division and in 1931 he became an ROTC instructor at Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, remaining until 1936. From 1936 to 1942, the general was stationed in the tropics spending two years in Puerto Rico and three in Panama where he was Assistant Chief of Staff of the Panama Canal Department. In May 1942, he was transferred to the Latin-American Division of the Military Intelligence Service where he remained until he joined the 63d Division.

General Harris has four children, three daughters and one son.

Former Div. Arty Head
Noted For Mathematical
Mind, Boxing Prowess

Brigadier General Edward J. McGaw, who led the 63d Division Artillery through the early training at Camps Blanding and Van Dorn and through the combat days in France and Germany, recently left the division to return to duty with the War Department in Washington.

A member of the class of 1920 at West Point, General McGaw first went to the Field Artillery Basic School at Fort Knox, Ky. While serving at Schofield Barracks in Honolulu he won the lightweight boxing championship of the islands and gained an opportunity to try out for the Olympic boxing team and a trip back to the States. Although he lost out in competition for the team, he was able to remain in the U.S. with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington.

After spending five years as instructor of mathematics at West Point and tours of duty at various camps and posts throughout the U.S., General McGaw went to Washington as assistant to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, at the Army Ground Forces Headquarters.

In June, 1943, he took command of the 63d Division Artillery upon its activation at Camp Blanding, Florida.

General Hibbs Led 63d
From Activation Until
End of Combat Mission

Major General Louis E. Hibbs was designated as Commanding General of the 63d Infantry Division, to be activated at Camp Blanding, Florida, February 21 1943. He accomplished much by training his men and leading them in combat in France and Germany, fulfilling the mission of the Blood and Fire "... to make the enemy bleed and burn in expiation of their crimes against humanity."

General Hibbs terminated his tour of duty with the Blood and Fire Division July 22, 1945 and returned to Washington for a new assignment.

Before the activation of the 63d, General Hibbs served with many well known units and personalities. During World War I he commanded the 5th Artillery Battalion and later became Chief of Staff of Artillery with II Army Corps.

From 1919 to 1922 he was on duty at West Point as Adjutant and Aide to General McArthur and in February 1942 he was assigned to the 36th Division upon its activation at Camp Blanding. He was commanding general of the 36th Division Artillery and remained with that unit until his assignment to the 63d Infantry Division.

General Hibbs is a graduate of the United States Military Academy.

254th Infantry



Col. Joseph H. Warren, or "Tex", close friends call him, is the gallant of the fighting 254th Regt.

Residing in Dallas, Texas, he at the University of Texas. In 1919, graduating from the United States Military Academy, he saw service in Panama later in the Pacific, where he commanded a company of Philippine scouts. In World War I, he served in Italy as a second Lieutenant in the infantry.

Having been with the Division since activation, Col Warren assumed command of the 254th Regt. on December 16, 1944. Lt. Col. and received his promotion as Colonel on May, 5, 1944.

With 27 years of active service, he has the permanent rank of Lt. Col. and in recognition of his work, he wears the Star Medal with three clusters, the Croix de Guerre with palm, the Legion of Honor and the Presidential Unit Citation.

255th Infantry



Lt. Col. Ralph C. Lashley assumed command of the 255th on Friday, 13 October, succeeding Col. James M. Hatcher who left for the U.S. and separation from the Army.

The 255th commander graduated from West Point, and then served two years with an Infantry company in the Philippines. Following his tour of duty in the Pacific, Col Lashley spent three and a half years in armored divisions and became an instructor at the Army Force School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He came overseas with the 63d Division as executive officer of the 253d Regiment.

Col. Lashley's home is in Richmond, Indiana.

Former C.G.



Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs who led the "Blood and Fire" Division from its activation through the toughest of combat in the ETO

The Story of Blood and Fire....



The original of this photograph, showing the emblem of the BLOOD AND FIRE, and explaining its significance was sent to Washington, London and Quebec. On it were obtained the signatures of the participants at the Casablanca Conference, late President Roosevelt and Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, former admiral of the British Fleet, former prime Minister Winston Churchill, General Marshall, Admiral King, General H. H. Arnold, General Sir Alan Brooke, Air Chief Marshall Sir Charles Frederick Portal, Vice-Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten and Lt. Gen. Sir Hastings Ismay, British Minister of Defense. This priceless collection of signatures is now in War Department archives framed under heavy glass.

Tracing the Path of the 63d Division to Victory

The BLOOD AND FIRE Division will soon become a chapter of history... a great and glorious history of a unit and its men, who helped drive Nazism and Fascism from the world... a history that will perhaps help the world to remember, in years to come, that wars are fought by men and blood and fire... and to help the leaders of all nations to insure a permanent peace on earth.

In June, the 63rd Infantry Division was placed in Category IV, meaning the division would be disbanded after being used as a vehicle to transport high point men back to the States. Consequently, many men of the division have transferred to other units in all parts of Europe, where they continue to inspire their comrades in the rich tradition of BLOOD AND FIRE.

The 63rd Division is now made up of all types of men from all types of units in the Seventh Army. Most of these men have proven themselves great fighters in units that have done much on the battlefields on the continent of Europe.

It is for these men that this story of Blood and Fire is told — a story that is already written in blood from the Colmar Pocket to the peaks of the Bavarian Alps.

This is a part of the story of Blood and Fire and the 63rd Infantry Division's role in achieving victory in Europe. The rest of the story is told in those left behind in the wooded hills and valleys, on the stony plains, and at the river banks. Those men who did not see the final victory... and in the prideful determination of their comrades in arms to keep the soldier's faith, remembering the battle still to be fought to insure a lasting and final peace, for the future.

The division was conceived at the Casablanca Conference to execute the challenge and promise of Casablanca and to make our enemies Bleed and Burn in expiation of their crimes against humanity, and was born at Camp Blanding, Florida on June 15, 1943.

To guide the new-born division through the intricacies of preparing for combat and to lead the way in the battles to come, Major General Louis E. Hibbs was appointed by the War Department as Commanding General. To assist him in this tremendous job, Brigadier General Frederick M. Harris was made Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General Edward J. McGaw was made Division Artillery Commander and Colonel Earle G. Wheeler was made Chief of Staff.

A staff and cadre was formed with Lt. Col. John E. Brooks as G-1, Lt. Col. John M. Hardaway, G-2, Lt. Col. Morris O. Edwards was made G-3 and Lt. Col. Frank T. Ritter was made G-4.

After extensive cadre training the division was moved to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi in August and the job of molding a fighting unit into one big team was begun, with marches drilling rifle ranges, orientation lectures, obstacle courses and all the thousands of things that help to build and strengthen a combat organization.

Task Force Harris

Finally the rigid training schedule was completed and the division was alerted for shipment overseas. Excitement ran rife throughout the division and everyone, packed furiously, bade their families, sweethearts, and friends a sometimes tearful farewell. The 63rd Division "Victory Queen", composed of three Infantry Regiments, the 253rd, 254th, and 255th and a skeleton Division Headquarters sailed from New York on the 28th of November, 1944.

Marseilles, December 8th. We sailed into the harbor and saw for the first time the destruction and devastation brought on by war. Everyone was amazed and impressed by that first sight, and a silence fell over the division. So this was France, the land of beautiful women, laughter and free flowing champagne. The ragged civilians, the bustle of the great port, and the dejected prisoners-of-war employed in unloading and clearing the rubble and debris belied our visions of what we thought France would be like.

After ten days of unloading and drawing additional necessary equipment, we left Marseilles and went into the line along the Rhine River north of Strasbourg, under the VI Corps where we saw our first days of combat in a defensive role as "Task Force Harris" commanded by Brigadier General Frederick M. Harris.

On December 28th, the 254th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Joseph H. Warren, was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division on the north flank of the "Colmar Pocket". While there, the 254th spearheaded the 3rd Division's drive to reduce the "Pocket" and covered themselves with glory, receiving a Presidential Citation, the Croix De Guerre, and the warmest praise from the commander and men of the Third Division, for the spirit, ability, and enthusiasm of the 254th, shown in the bitter cold and against the savage defense put up by the elite German troops attempting to escape capture and annihilation.

The 253rd Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Edward P. Lukert, was attached to the 44th Infantry Division on December 29th. Two battalions went into defense position south of Sarreguemines and the Third Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. John Smoak, defended the right flank of the 44th Division at Gros Rederching.

Offensive Halted

The 255th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Edward J. Chazal, was attached to the 100th Infantry Division, also on the 29th of December, and went into defensive positions south of Achen, defending the left flank of the 100th.

During the afternoon of December 31st, the first wave of the big German New Year's Eve counterattack was launched against the 3rd Battalion, 253d Infantry, north of Gros Rederching and was thrown back with terrific losses to the Krauts. They came again at midnight and in much greater strength, forcing the 3rd Battalion to give way to the sheer impact of power and effected a penetration that was stopped by the 255th Infantry. The following day, the 255th Infantry counterattacked and retook Achen and on January 2, 1945, the 3rd Battalion, 253rd Infantry launched a counterattack and retook Gros Rederching and restored the lines. This was a wonderful achievement for green troops against the best the Germans had to offer. By now the Germans had grown to fear the fighting spirit and aggressiveness of BLOOD AND FIRE men.

By February 8th, the remainder of the division had been brought over, including Division Artillery Headquarters, 861st FA Battalion, 862nd FA Battalion, 863rd FA Battalion and the 718th FA Battalion. The infantry regiments and artillery battalions were assembled and the Division assumed command of its first sector at Sarreguemines, France under XV Corps and began its operations that were to make it one of the "crack" divisions of the U. S. Army.

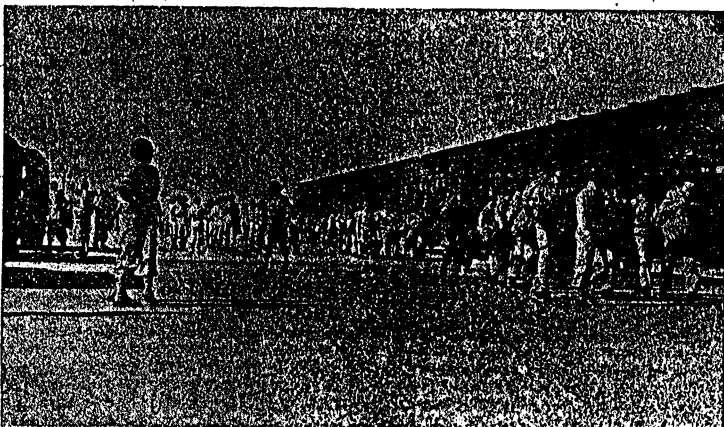
In to Germany

The 63rd forced its way across the Saar River February 17th, and became the first unit in the Seventh Army to re-enter Germany. This was only a prelude to things to come as the division continued its attacks and reached the vaulted Siegfried Line east of Saarbrücken.

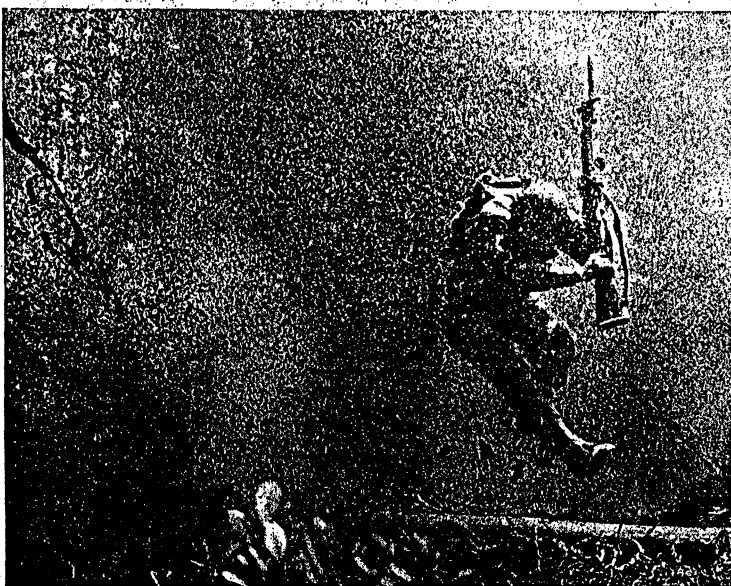
March 15th marked the beginning of the end of the German Army because on this day a full scale attack was launched against the Siegfried Line. Again BLOOD AND FIRE proved its mettle by being the first unit of the Seventh Army to break through. This was accomplished by prodigious effort and the closest kind of teamwork. The tanks waiting in the rear were turned loose and were able to dash to the historic link-up with the Third Army. Closely following the armor was Task Force Harris, which took every advantage of the confusion and disorganization of the enemy and captured over a thousand prisoners of war in one morning and seized the key town of Neunkirchen and moved swiftly to the north of Homburg.

At this time the rest of the division was brought up and assembled near Homburg. The division artillery was attached to the 45th Division to support the amphibious crossing of the Rhine River. As soon as our troops landed on the other side of the river, the 63rd was on its way again crossing north of Worms. The BLOOD AND FIRE

(Continued on Page 1)



Soon after Activation Day, June 15, 1943, the 63d Division received thousands of men to train and make ready for the combat days ahead. Most of these men joined the BLOOD AND FIRE at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi.



The division received the most rigid training possible while at Van Dorn and it included tactical training on obstacle courses, where the men sweated out live ammunition.



Soon after the 63d Division reached the front lines north of Strasbourg in December, the 254th Infantry Regiment was attached to the 3rd Division in the Colmar Pocket and found out what warfare was really like. The 254th covered themselves with glory ...



5... The fighting 63rd was back to the Rhine River ... There was a momentary halt while the XV Corps established the bridgehead across the Rhine ... and the men of the Blood and Fire were off ... this time to finish the battle... but there were several battles still ahead of them...

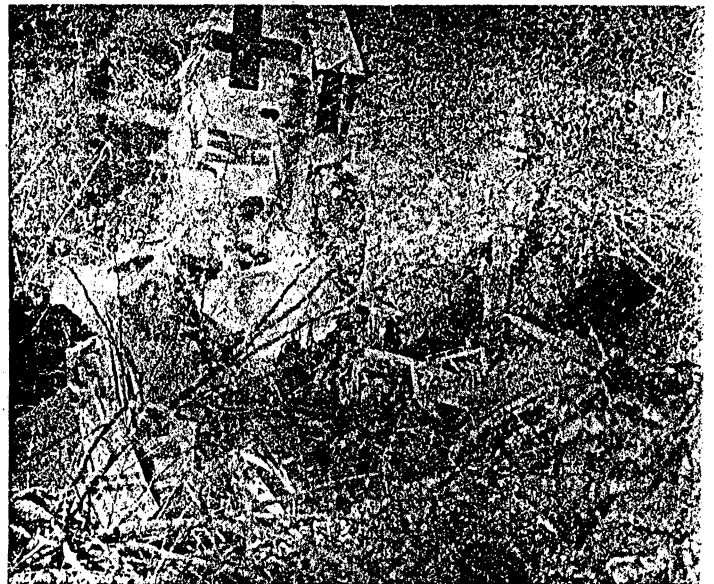


9... stranded in Reppo Deppo near the Rhine River ... but the boys ahead were doing all right. After a swift dash south ... the 63d hit the Danube on April 25, crossed the river and resisted a furious counterattack near the town of Leipsheim ... Then came the Wertach River and the Lech River ... The doughboys captured thousands of prisoners ... and artillerymen captured hundreds more ...

A Pictorial History of the



2... and won the Presidential Citation for this action. In February the last of the division came overseas and the Blood and Fire, as a unit, assumed command of the first area in the vicinity of Sarreguemines, France. After a bitter battle near the town, the division became the first unit of the Seventh Army to re-enter German



6... behind them lay a broken German army which had lost an untold amount of equipment and men ... but the Wehrmacht was still not ready to give up. The 63rd seized the city of Heidelberg, cleaned the remaining Krauts out of Mannheim ... and started the pursuit southward ...



10... Countless stores of enemy equipment were taken by the fighting men of Blood and Fire ... Truly, the historic phrase of the Casablanca Conference ... "to make the enemy Bleed and Burn in retribution of their crimes against humanity" was being fulfilled ... After the bitter battle at the Danube River the veteran soldiers moved onward, capturing Landsberg, opening a gateway for other troops to enter Austria ... At the Bavarian Alps the 63rd Division, after 125 consecutive days of combat was relieved by the 36th Infantry Division.

63d Inf. Division in Combat



3... At dawn on March 15th, the Blood and Fire Division poised and launched another attack... the most important of their career... the breaking of the Siegfried Line, which the 63d Division accomplished... the enemy suffered a large amount of casualties...



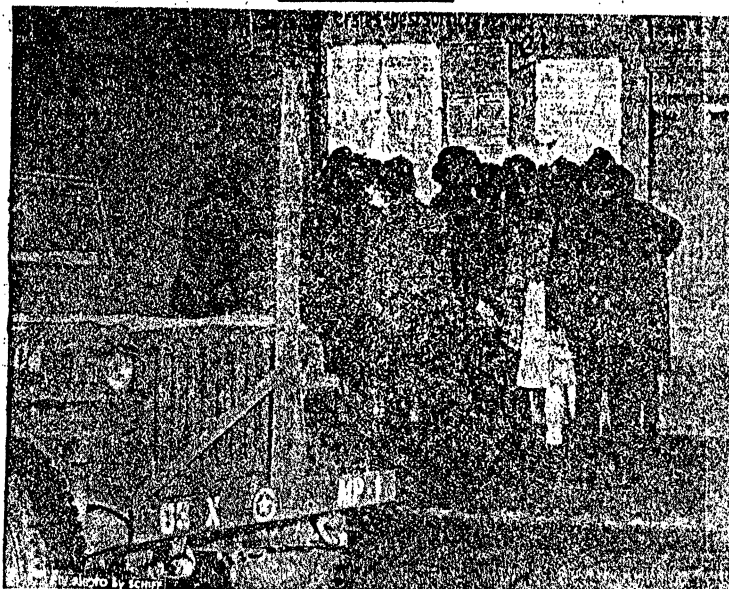
4... The doughboys looked through the gap in the Siegfried Line and wondered what was ahead for them... it didn't take long for them to find out... already their forward troops were making history in a swift dash across the German Palatinate for the link-up with Patton's Third Army.



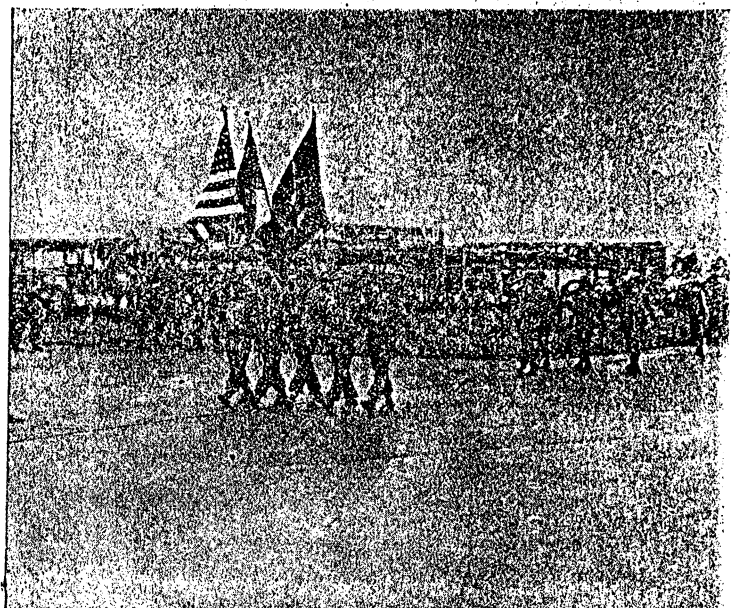
7... Occasionally the boys found a good place to stop and rest, but it wasn't often because these men knew they had a job to do... The Krauts made a desperate attempt to hold a line at Hellbronn and for a week they were successful... the 17th SS Panzer Division was thrown in front of the 63rd...



8... the 253rd Infantry Regiment soon ripped them to pieces, however, and the race was on again... At Schwabisch Hall, the enemy tried to stem the overwhelming forces coming upon them but to no avail... the race continued... Supplies traveled long distances over rough roads... Replacements scheduled for front line duty found themselves...



11... The Division was then assigned to the mission of controlling an area around the German city of Bad Mergentheim... patrolling the streets... searching German homes for concealed weapons, evidence of sabotage, and black market operations... all this, the men of the 63rd Division took in stride... There was a lot of spit and polish as the division strived to attain the maximum in military discipline in order to impress the German people with our mighty army and equipment... to let them know that they were beaten on all counts by the men of Blood and Fire.



12... There were many awards given to the deserving heroes of the division... Parades were held... the Army Education Program was started to prepare the men for civilian life... athletics were stressed to keep the men in physical condition for life ahead... All this was accomplished by the 63rd Infantry Division... and now, as the men turn their eyes homeward... they think of the men that will be left behind... "In the wooded hills and valleys, on the stony plains, and at the river banks, those who did not see the final victory..."

The Story of Blood and Fire

(Continued from Page 11)

AND FIRE men drove south, capturing the famous university city of Heidelberg and cleaning out the remaining Krauts from bomb torn Mannheim. The Huns were now really on the run so the 63rd broke out of the Seventh Army bridgehead at the Rhine and by turning east the division averaged twenty to thirty miles a day in the race to the Neckar River. After a forced crossing at Neckarelz, a small village near Mosbach, our south flank was just north of Heilbronn, where the Germans were putting up a desperate and fantastic defense. To protect the north of Heilbronn, the Germans had placed one of their elite divisions, the 17th SS Panzer Division, on the east bank of the Jagst and Kocher Rivers near Unter-Greisheim. Attacking them was the 253rd Infantry Regiment, now commanded by Colonel Morris O. Edwards. Here some of the bitterest fighting of the war took place.

The Germans made a desperate attempt to defend this area but the German 17th SS was ripped to ribbons by the matchless fighting spirit of the 253rd Infantry Regiment. The 255th expanded the bridgehead and turned the armor loose to outflank the Heilbronn positions and cause the city to fall.

Meanwhile, the division continued its relentless pursuit of the enemy, who turned again at bay north of Schwabisch Hall. Once more the men of BLOOD AND FIRE shattered all resistance and turned the armor loose for the third time, racing behind it, the doughboys captured thousands of prisoners and countless stores of equipment.

The armor veered away from the 63rd Division to aid an adjacent division but the BLOOD AND FIRE men continued to roll, capturing hundreds of towns and villages. They arrived at the Danube River on the 25th of April catching the Germans completely by surprise so the courageous doughboys quickly forced a crossing at Gunzberg and Leipheim.

At Leipheim, the bridge was still intact, and a platoon from Co. "B", 254th Infantry raced across the bridge, ripping out wires as they ran but in spite of their heroic action, the stunned Krauts were able to blow the charge still connected and damaged one section of the bridge against the south bank of the river. Here a terrific counterattack supported by armor was repulsed by the 63rd boys and the bridgehead was expanded and the race was on again.

That battle at the Danube River was the last organized resistance that was encountered by the men of the BLOOD AND

FIRE and the Germans were completely defeated there as they had been since the gigantic offensive started March 15th. From here on out, it was a race to round up isolated groups.

The Wertach River was crossed and two bridges were seized intact and the advance continued. Then came the Lech River and it was crossed. General Hibb's veterans seizing one bridge intact. Landsberg was captured, outflanking Augsburg, key city to Munich, and we reached the Bavarian Alps. Here the 36th Infantry Division relieved the 63rd and continued the pursuit of the enemy in to Austria.

The battle was fought and won by the veteran division from the doughboys fighting in the mud and filth of their foxholes, and the artillery boys firing thousands of rounds upon the enemy, to the officers and men who did the intricate planning at Division Headquarters. And other units of the 63rd Division did their part in bringing on the defeat of the German Wehrmacht 763rd Ordnance 263rd Engineers 63rd Quartermaster 363rd Medical Battalion 63rd Reconnaissance 563rd Signal Company and the 63rd M. P. Platoon all these units had an important role in direct support of the combat operations. Each of these units had a job to do and they came through with flying colors.

When the 63rd Division was relieved at the Alps they journeyed back to the area around Bad Mergentheim, Germany to take up a security mission and to govern an area covering three German counties.

The record of BLOOD AND FIRE speaks for itself. We fought across the Saar, through the Siegfried Line and across the Rhine, through the Odenwald, across the rugged mountains north of the Danube, and crossed the Danube to the snow covered Bavarian Alps.

As the left division of VI Corps, we fought east from the Rhine for three weeks of continuous day and night fighting during which we seized over four fifths of the ground taken by VI Corps. We broke the back of the German 17th SS Panzer Division and forced the enemy to abandon the Heilbronn Line.

Blood and Fire has made a name for itself. We have helped bring the German Army and the Nazi War Machine to its knees and bring happiness to millions of people in occupied countries, completing the history of Blood and Fire fulfilling the promise of Casablanca .. to make our enemies Bleed and Burn in expiation of their crimes against humanity.

254th Color Guard



Unit Citation Is High Achievement In Career of 254th

For its valiant aid to the 3rd Infantry Division in the closing of the Colmar Pocket last February the 254th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation in a formal ceremony August 3, 1945, at Reid Field in Creglingen. Brigadier General Frederick M. Harris tied the battle streamer on the regimental colors and also pinned the Presidential Unit Citation Badges on the members of the color guard.

The action for which the 254th Infantry was awarded the citation is described in the following order: "... the 254th Infantry Regiment, fighting incessantly from 22 January to 6 February, 1945 in heavy snowstorms, through enemy infested marshes and woods, and over a flat plain crisscrossed by numerous small canals, irrigation ditches and unfordable streams, terrain ideally suited to the defense, breached the German defense wall on the northern perimeter of the Colmar bridgehead and drove forward to isolate Colmar from the Rhine. Crossing the Fecht River from Guemar, Alsace, by stealth during the late hours of darkness of 22 January, the assault elements fought their way forward against mounting resistance. Reaching the river a bridge was thrown across but collapsed before armor could pass to the support of the 30th Infantry on the far side. Isolated and attacked by a full German Panzer Brigade, outnumbered and outgunned, these valiant troops were forced back yard by yard. Wave after wave of armor and infantry was hurled against them but despite hopeless odds, the regiment held tenaciously to its bridgehead. Driving forward in knee-deep snow which masked acres of densely sown mines, the 3d Infantry Division fought from house to house and street to street in the fortress towns of the Alsace plain. Under furious concentrations of supporting fire, assault troops crossed the Colmar Canal in rubber assault boats during the day, seized large quantities of booty then slashed through to the Rhine-Rhone Canal and the Rhine toward Neuf Brisach bridge. Synchronizing the attacks, the bridge was seized and Neuf Brisach captured by crossing the protecting moat and scaling the medieval walls by ladder. In one of the hardest fought and bloodiest battles of the war, the 3d Infantry Division annihilated three enemy divisions, partially destroyed three others, captured over 4,000 prisoners, and inflicted more than 7,500 casualties on the enemy."

Special Service

(Continued from Page 8)

names who have appeared before the Blood and Fire division.

Benny Big Hit

Almost 10,000 spectators turned out to greet Jack Benny, Martha Tilton, Ingrid Bergman and Larry Adler when they presented a show at Anderson Bowl in Weikersheim.

For a solid week the hit Broadway musical comedy "Up in Central Park" played to packed houses at the theater at Bad Mergentheim. This was followed by "Night Must Fall", a thrilling mystery drama, which pleased large audiences.

Much of the credit for the fine schedule of shows that has been presented since V-E Day must go to T/4 Carleton Wiggins who has arranged for the programs and acted as master of ceremonies for several of them. Wiggins has arranged schedules, made contacts and provided a much needed spark to the Special Service program in the division.

63d Div. Will Deactivate In United States

The 63d Infantry Division will cease to exist, except on paper, upon arrival at the first staging area in the States. The division will not be formally de-activated because it will be more like a disintegration. The men and officers will be sent to Separation Centers and Reception Centers all over the U. S. to receive furloughs and discharges or reassignments, leaving the remains of the 63rd Division in a lot of paper, laying on desks and tables in the staging area. This paper-work will become the responsibility of the Adjutant General's Office in Washington to see that all the books are closed out, leaving the 63rd only a memory to the men who fought under the brilliant red and gold colors of BLOOD AND FIRE.

The 63d Division, the first division to be de-activated during this war, was activated June 15, 1943 in Camp Blanding, Florida. After a brief training there, the division was moved to Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi for increased training in preparation for the trip overseas.

December 8, 1944 the forward units of the division moved into the harbor at Marseilles, France and a little over a week later were committed to battle along the Rhine River north of Strasbourg. After making history as a fighting unit during the dash across Germany to the Bavarian Alps, the division was assigned a security mission in the Bad Mergentheim area.

In June the division was put in Category IV, meaning that it would be de-activated after being used as a vehicle to transport men with over 85 points back to the U. S.

The news that the 63d Division was alerted for shipment to the United States came August 15. It was a surprise to most men especially low-pointers who had prepared themselves to accompany the Blood and Fire back to the U. S. Most high point men had given up hope of reaching the States before late fall. Divisions were shipped home right and left, containing thousands of men who had been in the ETC from two to six months leaving the combat men of two years and more growing more veteran every day.

With the news of the shipment, officers and men immediately went to work to ship out 4500 low-pointers scattered through the division area and to ship in 9700 high point men to round out the 15,456 men allowed by the War Department for the shipment home.

As yet no sailing date has been given for the 63d but units will start the overland movement to Camp Lucky Strike (near Le Havre) September 1, 1945. It is expected that the men of Blood and Fire will stay in the staging area for one week to make further adjustments on personnel records and to check the thousand and one details required in such a vast move of so large a portion of troops. The last move of the 63d Infantry Division.

I and E Establishes Extensive Program For High Point Men

Since July when the Information and Education Section of the G-3 Office established a separate program to secure maximum effort along the lines set up by the Army Education Program, the I & E staff recorded splendid progress. In addition to the usual functions such as new bulletins and maps on the Division C-1 Board, the distribution of I & E Material etc. the small group launched a full time Information and Education Program for Category IV men.

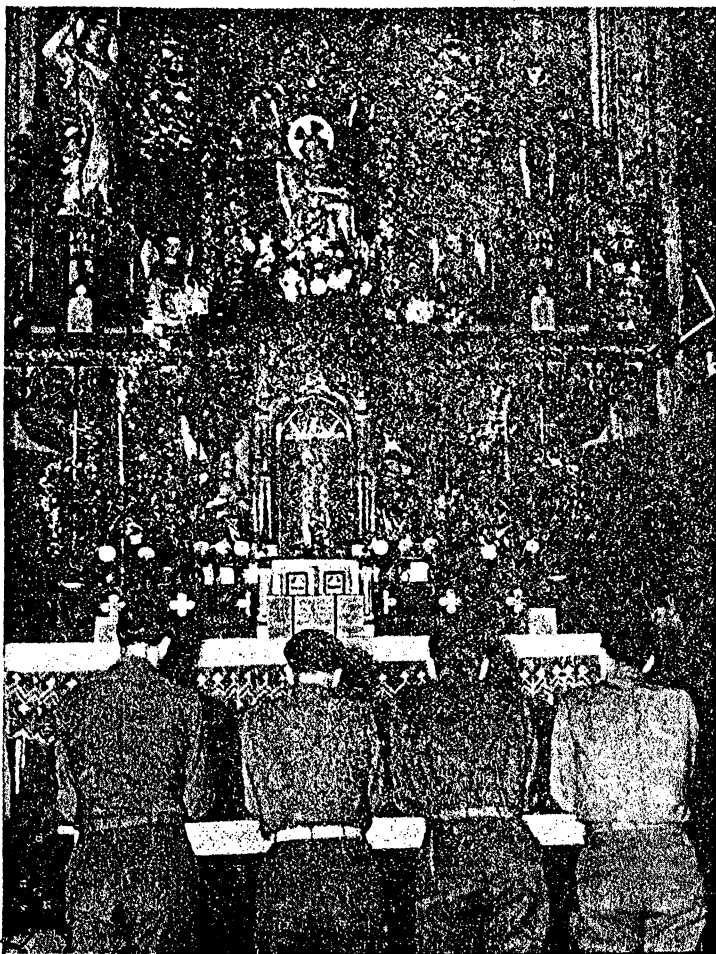
By the end of the month schools had been established to operate under the regular AEP plans. The initial enrollment of 2,498 students included registrants in 165 classes covering 45 different courses.

For the benefit of high point men wishing to follow higher educational courses the I & E Section arranged for the attendance of 24 men at French civilian universities and another 33 men at the Arm University Center, Schrievanham, England.

Preliminary to the establishment of the regimental and divisional schools instruction classes for discussion leaders were held on July 11, 12 and 13th. In addition to these another triduum was devoted to classes which aimed at the adequate training of potential instructors on the 16, 17 and 18th of the month.

When the Japanese armistice resulted in the 63d Infantry Division becoming States bound organization these divisional schools had completed their first block of 20 hours in all the courses. This record reflects the energy and efforts of the I & E personnel: Capt. Paul O. Hughes, 1st Lt. Nelson C. Trefgar, Sgt. Robert E. Thacker, and Tec 5 John M. McClellan.

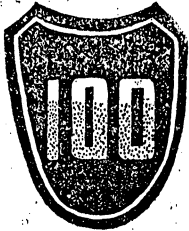
... unto thee praise and thanksgiving ...



Like many other men in the 63d Division on V-J Day, these four doughboys offer their praise and thanksgiving to the heavenly Father.

Combat Veterans From Battle Wise Divisions Now Wear Blood and Fire Patch for Trip Home

Century Men



It was a bleak November day in 1942 at Ft. Jackson, S. C. when Maj. Gen. Withers A. Burress accepted the colors of a new division that was to make history in the war against the Nazis. This was Activation Day for the 100th, Century, Division.

Then followed a period of rigorous basic training that whipped the 100th into a first class fighting outfit. High spot in the early days of the Century Division's history was the assignment that sent men to guard 253 miles of Atlantic Coast Line rails where the late President Roosevelt traveled while making his nationwide inspection tour.

Maneuvers in Tennessee in mid-winter, a move to Ft. Bragg, and the honor of being chosen to march down Broadway in the Infantry Day parade in June, 1944 were other outstanding events in the Stateside training of the division.

Finally, the unit was alerted, moved to an East Coast POB and embarked at New York for a trip to Marseille and combat.

Twelve short days after the first elements of the 100th arrived at Marseille they were thrown into action against the Wehrmacht. That was on 1 November, and by 9 November the full division had relieved the 45th Division and begun the tough Vosges Mountain campaign.

Green though they were, the Century men became the first American unit to crack the German winter defense line near Racon-l'Etape. In less than two weeks of fierce, bitter fighting in miserable weather in rough terrain the division had contributed a major part to the breaching of the hitherto impregnable Vosges Mountains, crossed the Meurthe river and paved the way for VI Corps to drive to the Alsatian Plain.

Battle for Bitché

By 26 November the Vosges Campaign was virtually completed and the Century Division was ordered north to take up positions before the Maginot Line. It was here that the men of the 100th first heard of the fortress town of Bitché. It is a name, a place that no one who fought with the division can ever forget. Wingen, Lemberg and Mouterhouse were taken in face of stiff resistance and all three regimental combat teams prepared to attack Bitché.

The three strongest forts in the Maginot Line, a series of strongholds that had never fallen to an attacking force, a natural barrier nestled in a valley surrounded by high hills — this was the situation that faced the Century men. For over a week the 100th attacked only to see their relentless attempts foiled by the impregnable fortifications. Nothing but direct artillery fire forced the Germans to move underground so the Century doughs could advance. With grenades and dynamite the combat engineers and doughfeet succeeded in taking a part of the fortress.

The Battle of the Bulge caused the withdrawal of units from the Seventh Army sector and forced the 100th to relinquish their hard-won gains. A German spearhead drove through in the Bitché sector and smashed at the Century men, now in a defensive position. A stubborn defense against superior forces by the division stemmed the Nazi onslaught in the Rimling area and left the 100th in a salient where the division held until flanking units could regain their lost ground.

In March the Century men jumped off again and in two days of powerful thrusts completed the job they had been forced to abandon in December, the capture of Bitché, the first such successful attack in the history of the fortress.

After a brief stay at Bitché the division took off again, dashed through the Siegfried Line and whipped through to the Rhine, in a lightning advance that captured hundreds of prisoners and many towns.

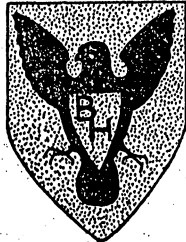
Continuing across the Rhine, the Century Division moved rapidly in the "rat race" that took place after the shattering of (Continued on Page 7)

Black Hawks

The 86th, Blackhawk, Division but for a sharp turn of events in the European war would probably have been set up somewhere on the path to Japan by this time.

In February, 1943, the division was activated at Camp Howze, Texas. A note of sadness pervaded the activation ceremonies, for the man who had drafted the plans and set up the machinery for training the Blackhawks as a fighting unit, General Anderson, had passed away shortly before.

Under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Harris M. Melasky, the 86th completed basic training at Howze, then took part in the



big Louisiana maneuvers, after which some time was spent at Camp Livingston, La.

In preparation for combat in the Pacific the division was sent to Camp San Luis Obispo in sunny California for amphibious training. Von Rundstedt's counter attack in the Ardennes in January 1945 caused a sudden and drastic change of plan.

Equipment, supplies and men were re-routed, boats unloaded, plans quickly altered, and the men of the 86th piled onto troop trains that were to carry them to the East Coast for shipment to the ETO. A short processing period at Camp Miles Standish and then the division set sail for Le Havre.

Immediately upon arrival infantry units of the 86th were attached to other divisions already on the line, and in the Battle of the Bulge the Blackhawks received their baptism of fire, suffered their first casualties.

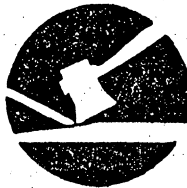
The division was finally reorganized and given a mission on the Rhine before Cologne. After holding a position on the (Continued on Page 7)

Rail Splitters

Many high point men of the Blood and Fire Division were originally "Rail Splitters" from the 84th, commanded by Maj. Gen. A. R. Bolling, and much credit is due them for the fine job they did in the ETO.

Activation day for the 84th was 15 October, 1942 at Camp Howze, Texas. Then, as now, it was composed of the 333d, 334th and 335th Infantry Regiments; 325th, 326th, 327th and 909th Field Artillery Battalions; 309th Combat Engineer Battalion; 309th Medical Battalion; 84th Signal Company; 84th Quartermaster Company; and the 84th Reconnaissance Troop.

After extensive maneuvers and training in the Louisiana maneuver area, the doughs were finally ready for the big test, and by 1 October, 1944 they were in England. Another month's training there and the division was quickly deployed to the front. On the morning of 18 November at 0700 the 334th Infantry jumped off to take Prummern, Germany, and soon after the 333d moved out to take Gellenkirchen. That was a day never to be forgotten. From there the 84th, tagged "Hatchetmen" by those who knew, moved out to join the Ardennes battle.



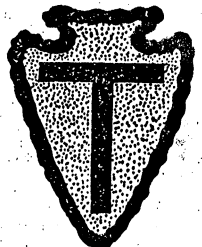
The Battle of the Bulge was considered by most experts one of the roughest engagements fought in the ETO, due to the fact that the weather was below zero most of the time and snow and ice made it tough going not only for the men but for the armor, plus the fact that some of the Germans' best panzer divisions faced the "Rail Splitters". The "Terror Division", another name acquired by the 84th, moved into Marche on the 20th and 21st of December, not knowing just what was in store for them. But they were soon to find out as a bloody and furious battle (Continued on Page 7)

T-Patchers

Paradoxically enough, one of the most reserved and "quiet-like" division insignias, the blue arrowhead T-Patch of the 36th Division is symbolic of one of the roughest, most rugged and most veteran divisions in the E. T. O. Now while many a battle wise point-happy T-Patchman sweats out the last few weeks prior to the often dreamed of boat ride home, he must chuckle to himself upon recalling the near forgotten days back in the States when rumors prevailed to the effect that the 36th Division would never go overseas.

For a while it seemed true. The National Guardsmen from Texas who comprised the majority of the division's strength had been training in the States for almost two years. Replacements from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and many other States which had brought the Division up to full strength had trained together more than a year. The men were ready to believe that rumor about not going overseas when one unearthly hour on 1 April 1943 the "Texas" Division loaded up on troop trains and left Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. That same April Fool's Day they lugged "A-Bags" up the gang planks of waiting troop ships. They shoved off the next day. On 13 April the T-Patchmen unloaded at Oran, North Africa, where one month later the campaign ended with the division still uncommitted to combat.

The following months brought intensive amphibious invasion training with countless "dry runs" along the beaches of Porte aux Poules and Arzew, about thirty miles from Oran. Boat lists were being completed



even while Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower reviewed the 36th Division on 30 August.

Invasion of Salerno

On 5 September 1943 the T-Patchmen left Oran harbor headed for Italy, knowing it was no "dry run". Their departure was no secret, for enemy reconnaissance had reported the movement. At 1830 on 8 September the most exciting moment of the trip came with the radio announcement of General Eisenhower's "Hostilities between the United Nations and Italy has terminated, effective at once". The spurt of joy and the wishful thinking created by the announcement was almost completely forgotten when at 0330 of 9 September, H-hour on D-Day, the 36th Division commanded by Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker stormed the beaches of Paestum under fire, overcoming prepared beach defenses and reaching its initial objective. For the first time since 1918 an American Division struck at the mainland of a major enemy nation. Here was the first breaching of "Hitler's Fortress Europe". For their great deeds at the beachhead Pfc. Jim Logan of Co. I, 141st Infantry was awarded the C.M.H. and Tech. Sgt. Manuel S. Gonzales of Co. F, 141st Infantry was awarded the D.S.C.

Mud, Men and Mountains

Hard winter months of bitter mountain fighting and intimate relations with incessant Fall rains and mud made for miserable living and dying in the months ahead.

The Battle of Altavilla for the important heights overlooking the beaches and surrounding country below was a bitter game of "give and take" in lives. For their heroic deeds at Altavilla C.M.H.s were awarded to Tech. Sgt. "Commando" Kelly of Co. L, 143rd Infantry, Pvt. William Crawford of Co. I, 142nd Infantry and Lt. Arnold Borkland.

Meanwhile First Battalion of 143rd Infantry, Able Battery 155th Field Artillery and 133rd Field Artillery joined Col. Darby's Rangers for a second amphibious operation participating in the capture of Naples. The Salerno campaign was a costly experience for the T-Patchmen but the Germans paid even more heavily. It was the beginning of the end of Hitler's "Fortress Europe". Following Salerno were battles for seemingly endless mountain heights, each new one bloodier than the (Continued on Page 7)

Frustrated Frauleins

by Kerwin



Get off the table, Mabel — them three marks is for beer

Defense Platoon Does The Work-They Say

by Stanley Jankowski, Pfc, USA and Felix Salela, Likewise.

The composition of Division Headquarters Company is roughly this — Defense Platoon, Special Platoon, Headquarters Platoon, and all the "G's"; also included is the Defense Platoon. The CO is Captain Walter J. Kerwin and whistle blower is 1st Sergeant John J. Pyne.

1st Lt. Roy W. Beilowski is the platoon leader of the Defense Platoon. During hostilities his platoon's job is presumably, to protect the CP in the event of a breakthrough. S/Sgt "Pop" Hurley, is the wide awake platoon sergeant and is never out of his sack long enough to say something nice about. He won't be awake to read this so, to hell with Pop.

The real backbone of this sterling group is its first-squad. This squad is mainly composed of Stanley Jankowski and Felix Salela (both of Chicago). These two men certainly deserve to be at least Corporals. (Modesty forbids further mention of this touchy subject — S. J. and F. S., co-authors).

The cooks are contained in the Special Platoon. This platoon is very much misunderstood — this is because they (the cooks) so rarely cook. The food they give us is good (here on this point, we allow our imagination to roam). However, in the opinion of many, much money could be saved if we were allowed to graze. One of our character cooks is Pfc. Fred Kidman. This worthy does a commendable job of cooking when he gets around to it. Unfortunately, all of his night hours and most of his sober ones too are taken up by a lovely known as a K-ration Kate. Some rebel named Davis is the Mess Sergeant.

The leader of the Special Platoon is 1st Lt. Robert A. Baughman. His job is to dig latrines (portable, special-deluxe two seaters, of course). Naturally, being an officer his is the supervisory capacity. In addition to the above mentioned, the C-Ration artists are under his jurisdiction.

The cream of our little Hq. Co. family are our distinguished pencil pushers of the Division Headquarters offices. More familiarly known as the Zebras, their little discussions at the mess tables are out of this world (they also cause some of us to stand up while we eat) and one can gather many pearls of wisdom if one is unfortunate enough to be within hearing distance. It is in the Division Hq that all the strategy is planned. One can readily see that the stripes on the personnel of Div. Hq. are the result of sweat, blood and Yes, Sirs!

In summary, we must modestly point out that the real foundation stone of Headquarters Company is its Defense Platoon and the nobles who comprise it. These stalwarts carry, in effect, the burden of this division. Their versatility is obnoxious . . . so are they (Pfc — indeed! — S. J. and F. S., co-authors).

An example: An order to repair a screen comes out of the stars (one on each shoulder), it is kicked around by Colonels, Majors, etc. Finally after bearing each officer's stamp of approval it behooves the Defense Platoon to do the deed. By this time, in addition to the screen, twelve garbage pits must be dug, the area policed, three pianos moved and enough coal hauled to keep Bad Mergentheim warm for a winter.

We would discuss at this point the Hq. Co. Non-Com Club but who the hell wants to talk about a non-com except a non-com (this is not a hint — Pfc. S. J. and Pfc. F. S., co-authors).

Special Service Ends Successful Program

With the closing of all Division movies on the 30th of August, The Special Service program will come to a close after seven weeks of surprisingly large expansion. All athletic activities came to a close with the breakup of the Division baseball team on August 25. Running into many tough breaks, the ball club lost every game in the second half of the season. The loss of Higgins, Alusik and McNeil because of slow healing sore arms was the greatest factor in the showing made by the team. The Division softball team concluded its schedule on August 20, with seven victories against four defeats. Hintze, star pitcher from the 863d F. A. Bn, was the shining light.

In the unit competition within the Division, all units had organized softball, volleyball and horseshoe teams, with many of the more enterprising units even organizing touch football teams. All three regiments had baseball teams, the best team being the 254th. All units were keeping records of the amount of competition and spectator interest within their respective units, and incomplete reports showed a remarkable rise in the number of contests and in the amount of hours spent in activity. Constant shifting of personnel and a slight shortage of equipment hampered the program, but with the arrival of five large truck loads of all types of equipment on August 11, the tempo of activities was stepped up.

After its revision, the Special Service section was set up with the following personnel: Major Angelo J. Conte, Special Service Officer and supervisor of all activities; Lt. Walter R. Howell Jr., Athletic Officer and coach of the baseball team; Lt. John Meier, Supply and Administrative Officer; and Lt. Cecil Ritchie, Post Exchange Officer and co-ordinator of the of the Stars and Stripes delivery.

T/4 Carleton Wiggins was the director of all entertainment assisted by Corp. Henry Clements, and radio technician Pfc. Lewis Russell.

In the Athletic section, T/Sgt. William Warneke, ably assisted Lt. Howell, with Pfc. William Hultman taking care of the publicity angle, and Pfc. Frank Hill handling the clerical work of the office. S/Sgt. Harold Hardy is the man who worked day and night trying to provide the units with the necessary equipment.

In the Post Exchange section, Lt. Ritchie had as his assistants, T/4 Samuel Snyder as chief of the section, Sgt. Moses Mizell, warehouseman, T/5 Herbert Vogel, accountant, and Pfc Jackie Fanaris, assistant warehouseman.

Incidentally, those beautiful signs that have been observed around the Special Service Headquarters are the work of T/5 Eugene Buckley.

The only activities that are planned on the way home are shows and movies on the boats. All boxers who have been practicing for the Division boxing tournament are urged to stay in shape in order to participate in the shows planned on the trip home.

BLOOD AND FIRE STAFF
WISHES YOU
THE BEST OF HEALTH
AND LUCK
IN THE FUTURE

"Strike Up The Band"



The 63d Division Band parades down the field at one of the beautiful military ceremonies held in the Bad Mergentheim area.

VICARTY Combat History Includes Three Landings

Former members of VI Corps Artillery are now an integral part of the 63rd Division since the exchange of personnel between the two units. Men from the veteran Corps Artillery participated in three major amphibious landings on the continent of Europe, including such hot spots as Salerno, Anzio, and Southern France.

VI Corps Artillery was originally organized near Rabat in Africa and was commanded by Colonel Edward M. Emundson. The men who made up that original Corps Artillery were drawn from the veterans of the campaigns of North Africa, since the majority came from the 1st Armored Division. Other members came from replacement centers in Africa and joined the Corps Artillery at Salerno. Two of these men are now in the Blood and Fire — T/5 Floyd Christianberry, switchboard operator at 63rd Divarty, and T/5 Elmo Stafford, former ammunition clerk.

The conglomeration of men managed to do a magnificent job in spite of the fact that they had received no training as a unit. The first stop after the Paestum Beaches at Salerno was Battipaglia. While the British Tenth Corps fought for Naples, VICARTY struck toward the center of Italy in the very heart of the Apennines where they remained for the next seven months fighting perhaps the most rugged battles of the war supporting the doughboys out in front.

The Volturno River was reached and crossed and then came Ciaizzo, Dragoni, and Prata. The artillery constantly supported the infantry units just ahead, sending thousands of rounds of ammunition into enemy positions.

New Year's Day, 1944, found VI Corps Artillery moving back to the small town of Maddaloni, north of Naples, to prepare for the landing at Anzio. And January 23rd the artillery (supporting the 3rd Division) made the historic landing, meeting no resistance those first days.

All men know the story of Anzio, one of the toughest beachheads of the war. There no man was safe for four long weary months . . . where any man could stand on the beach and see the German artillery shells falling in the water between the beaches and the ships standing off shore.

VI Corps Artillery was there, accomplishing one of the finest missions of any Corps Artillery in this war . . . historians will decide that . . . but the men of artillery braved all kinds of dangers, day in and day out, night after night, to give the doughboys at Mussolini Canal, on the outskirts of Cisterna, and at the factory near Aprilia, the closest support possible against the almost overwhelming odds.

"B" Btry, 863d Holds Div. Firing Record

'B' Battery was the first battery to fire a round into Germany and holds the Division Artillery record on concentrated fire. Number four gun fired twenty-four rounds in two minutes during combat in France.

Cpl. Nagle was in the 63rd Division prior to its shipment overseas. He left the division then for overseas duty and is now back with 'B' Btry, coming from the 36th Division. Nagle has 101 points so he'll ride the 63rd back to the States as a potential discharger.

Cpl. Bradrick, our I and E NCO, is one of the few original 63rd men in the battalion going back with the division. He's been in two theaters of operations — here and the Pacific and has 91 points.

'C' Battery, 863rd FA, has had quite a change of personnel. The old members have been scattered to the four corners of the U.S. Army. Some have traveled to the far Pacific, some to Berlin, and others to various outfits in the ETO. They have been replaced by veterans of the 36th, 84th, 100th Division Artilleries and 18th FA Battalion. The only familiar face who remains in 'C' Btry, is Sergeant Ray Sitter.

Most of us in the battery are new but we have made warm friendships with those who have gone before us and were disappointed to see them go. We will endeavor to stand by the name and traditions of old Charlie Battery.

Hq. Btry, 863rd. Through a maze of rapidly changing events and first sergeants, Headquarters Battery was knocked down for the count 'by that news you love to hear'. The electrifying flash "HOMEWARD BOUND" has the boys really sweating. So to help ease the trying period we visited the local brewery where one can see Adams and Schwartz calling each other vile adjectives over their game

After endless weeks of blood, sweat and tears VI Corps Artillery, now commanded by Brigadier General Carl A. Baehr, was among the first troops to enter the ancient city of Rome. The push continued until at San Marinello, VI Corps Artillery was relieved by IV Corps Artillery and the veteran artillerymen returned to Naples to prepare for the landing on the River Coast in Southern France.

When the landing was made, Corp Artillery followed the veteran 3rd, 36th and 45th Divisions, giving support when needed. Belfort Gap was reached and in the foothills of the Vosge Mountain VICARTY was at home after the valuable schooling received in the mountains of Italy.

Later came the battle of Alsace along the Rhine River, Soultz, Haguenau, Wissembourg, the withdrawal to the winter line at the Saverne Gap and the attack, on March 15th, which proved the beginning of the end for the German Wehrmacht.

Driving through the German Palatinat to the Rhine, the fall of Heidelberg, Mosbach, Schwabisch Hall, Weizheim, Blaubeuren, Ulm, Danube River, Kaufbeuren, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen at Innsbruck, Austria, all came in rapid succession for the men of VICARTY.

Soon after VE-Day VI Corps Artillery was assigned to an area south of Munich in Starnberg. There the men enjoyed the peaceful life taking a delightful respite after 500 days of sweating out the great variety of entertainment that was has to offer.

In July VICARTY took up a security mission north of Mannheim and was in charge of the VI Corps Redeployment Command.

In June VI Corps Artillery was placed in Category II and slated for a Pacific assignment and the high point men were transferred to Category IV units to await shipment home for discharge from the Army.

Many of these men are still waiting but their dreams are getting better all the time. S/Sgt. William Gregg will return to Akron, Ohio, T/5 Arthur Quick will undoubtedly return to life as a Merchant Marine, T/5 Bill DeMuth is just going back, and T/4 Howard B. Assante has stated that he plans to re-enlist in the Army as soon as his ninety day furlough is completed.

Other men present with the 63rd Division from VI Corps Artillery include T/5 "Snag" Haraway, Pfc. Cleo Bullock, Pfc. Palacios Guadalupe, and T/5 "Tiny" Simpson.

Major Earl D. Schroeder, assistant G-4 at 63d Division Headquarters, performed the same duties with VI Corps Artillery. Major Charles F. Stubbs is Assistant S-3 at 63d Divarty and Capt. Paul C. Evans is I and E Officer of 861st FA, Battalion.

of casino. Some of the first three graders were observed vying for the attention of the two belles, who grace the drab interior but up to date the only chimes heard ringing are those of the local church. We also picked up a hot rumor that the town of Heckfield was being invaded by the Schnapps Commandos.

During the few months that the "new" 863rd lads have been together, many fast friends have been found and though "going home" is lettered on everyone's mind there should be a little sadness at the POE. Happy voyage everyone . . . you've earned it!

Litter Bearers Perform Difficult Job in Combat

By far the most difficult job of the 363d Medical Battalion was that of the litter bearers up front with the infantry. These men performed their arduous and dangerous tasks with quiet courage that earned them the praise of the doughboys. In the "Battle of the Quarry" near Gudingen, one of the grimmest small unit fights of the war, the litterbearers of the battalion went along with the men who did the fighting. Three were wounded trying to evacuate their patients under heavy small arms and artillery fire.

In all the time the division was on the line, the Clearing Station processed more than 6000 casualties, close to half of whom were battle casualties.

It would not be fitting to conclude a story of the 363rd Medics without paying a tribute to the ambulance drivers, affectionately known as "hash-wagon hackles" who driving by the seat of their pants through blackout over heavily shelled roads never had an accident or lost a patient.