

Blood and Fire

Vol. 3, No. 3

63D INFANTRY DIVISION

February 24, 1945

Five Silver Stars To Men of 63d

Awards of five Silver Stars and 23 Bronze Star medals to men of the Blood and Fire Division have been announced.

The Silver Star was awarded to 1st Lt. James A. Undine, La Grange, Ill., Co. A, 255th Inf., and 2d Lt. James S. Settineri, Syracuse, N.Y., Co. H, 254th Inf.

The same medal previously was pinned on an officer and two enlisted men of the 254th Inf. by Maj. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, commander of the 3d Div. The recipients were Lt. Frank H. Lookabaugh, Watonga, Okla., Co. D; S/Sgt. Harold Gray, Jr., East Orange, N.J., Co. E, and Pvt. Albert E. Devlin, Pittsburgh, Co. I.

The Bronze Star was awarded to two officers and 21 enlisted men. The officers are Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Harris, Rockmart, Ga., Assistant Division Commander, and Col. Carl H. Jark, Beatrice, Neb., executive officer of Division Artillery. Both were commended for meritorious service in connection with operations from Dec. 8 to Feb. 5.

Get Bronze Star

The Bronze Star was awarded to the following men of the 254th Inf.: T/5 Urban A. Recker, Toledo, O.; T/5 Noe I. Manzano, Battle Creek, Mich.; Pfc. Raymond C. LaChance, Dickinson Center, N.Y., Pfc. Oren C. Beaver, Morganton, Ga.; S/Sgt. John N. Nardone, Wakefield, Mass.; T/Sgt. Joseph J. Jarek, Amsterdam, N.Y.; S/Sgt. Willard Brown, Lowmansville, Ky.; Pfc. William R. Loeschen, Chicago; Pfc. Edward J. Dunikowski, Danbury, Conn., and Pvt. Kenneth W. Cutten, Poughkeepsie, N.R.

The following men of the 255th Inf. will receive the Bronze Star: T/3 Richard Keegan, Brooklyn; Pfc. Emanuel Clausen, Lock Haven, Pa.; S/Sgt. Robert E. Niemeyer, Colville, Wash.; S/Sgt. John E. Calkins, Draught, Mass.; Pfc. Christopher W. Barker, Raleigh, N.Y.; Cpl. George J. Blackwell, Meridian, Miss.; Pfc. Louis K. Stevens, Salisbury, Md.; Pfc. Jack E. Hug, Kansas City, Mo.; T/5 John J. Stefanko, Catskill, N.Y.; Pfc. Charles W. Hemann, Rocky River, O., and Pfc. John J. Donellan, Jersey City, N. J.

Brief descriptions of the action which resulted in the awards follow, together with the time and place of the action:

LT. UNDINE: Achen, Jan. 3. Made reconnaissance of town «with utter disregard for personal safety.» Later led two platoons of his company, Co. A, 255th Inf., in counterattack. Assu-

(Continued on Page 4)

254th Praised for Role In Colmar Liberation

High praise for the combat efficiency and achievements of the 254th Inf. during the Colmar operations was expressed this week by commanders of organizations to which the regiment was attached and by its own Division commander.

Helping close a pocket in the Vosges Mountains and helping liberate the city of Colmar was the big assignment handed the 254th when it moved south from its first encampment near Haguenau soon after Christmas.

*Well, Anyway, Gang,
It's BLOOD AND FIRE*

As though it weren't complicated enough just soldiering over here, we had to go and put out a paper in a native printing plant.

The staff of BLOOD AND FIRE manages with high school French and Rathskeller German, but our linguistic ability does not extend to technical expressions of the printing craft. So we work by sign language, the same way you do when you're trying to get Madame to do your laundry.

Our printers lost most of their truly fine equipment to German looters. Their working day is shortened by power failures and by the curfew. They are unable to make any engravings; hence no pictures this week.

Combat exigencies permitting, the paper will appear regularly on Saturday in the future. Today we could get only green paper and a small size. But it's BLOOD AND FIRE, and «maybe we're lucky it comes out in English already.»

Wacs Now Act as MPs, At Van Dorn's Gates

If you ever wonder what's happening back at Van Dorn, and if you're not getting any letters from there, here's some dope, as of late January:

There is not much there but Station Complement. Wacs are working as MPs on the main gate.

Businessmen of nearby communities have asked the Army no to close the camp.

Service Clubs 2 and 3 are closed, and Club 1 cheers when a customer approaches. Guest House 2 is closed. The movies are working on a sharply curtailed schedule.

But it's still Van Dorn. A Wac announced her engagement to a member of Station Complement the other day, and busloads of Natchez girls still were going to small dances there.

During the Colmar drive, the regiment took more than 1,000 prisoners and killed or wounded as many more. It also captured considerable German materiel.

Its commander, Col. Joseph H. Warren, was awarded the Bronze Star on the recommendation of the veteran 3d Div. — to which the 254th was attached — and the Awards and Decorations Board of the 63d Div. already has awarded one Silver Star and 10 Bronze Stars to men of the 254th for gallantry and meritorious service during the campaign.

«Superb Actions»

The 254th was «particularly outstanding» in the operations which liberated Colmar and drove the enemy to the east bank of the Rhine, Maj. Gen. F. W. Milburn, commanding the XXI Corps, wrote. (The regiment was attached to a unit of that corps during the campaign.)

Commending the regimental commander, officers and enlisted men of the regiment, he said, «their actions were superb and they reflect the finest traditions of the Armies of the United States.»

Similar praise was voiced by Maj. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, commander of the 3d Div.

«The 254th Inf. has played a most important role in this successful operation,» he said. «Every mission assigned has been accomplished. The regiment has fought with outstanding gallantry and perseverance. The 3d Div. salutes all members of the 254th Inf. as worthy comrades in arms. We are proud to have been associated with you and we regret your departure.»

Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, praised the 254th and expressed confidence that it would continue to serve as it has in the past.

Training Pays

Gen. Hibbs addressed men of the 254th for the first time since their arrival overseas and said: «This is a great unit. I and the rest of the Blood and Fire Division are very proud of you.»

(Continued on Page 4)

Blood and Fire

BLOOD AND FIRE is the official newspaper of and is published by and for men of the Blood and Fire (63d) Infantry Division, APO 410, c/o PM, New York. Capt. George Pavlicek, Division Information-Education Officer. Editor: T/4 Thomas A. Hoctor. Staff Writer: T/4 Stoddard White. Staff Cartoonist: Cpl. Gill Fox. Staff Photographer: T/4 William Schiff. NOTICE: Material in this newspaper is uncensored and may not be sent through the mail. This newspaper must not be allowed to fall into enemy hands.

Once Over Lightly

By T/5 Sy Bernhard
(Division Artillery)

War fronts are almost like movie stars . . . headlines today and then under the classified ads on page umpty-nine a few weeks later . . . Forgotten like that are the 200,000 Japs on the many islands by-passed by the great MacArthur army and left to be dug out of caves and mountains on Bougainville and New Guinea . . . Nazis too . . . some 145,000 still in the isolated ports along the western coast of France like Nantes, St. Nazaire, etc. . . . supplied by U-boats or raids into the countryside and left to the FFI for «ultimate disposal» . . . Pigeons are coming in for more than the old chestnut «for the rich they sing, for the poor . . .» Recent hot oil shows that the birds have been carrying about 96 out of 100 war messages. . . They can hit a record speed of 75 miles an hour. . . There are two to four birds on every Allied plane and the RAF attributes the saving of 65 pilots to the speedy carriers. . . Of course, being GIs, the pigeons require a little emergency furlough now and then. . . baby pigeons. . . but they're back on the job again. . . Lots of people sneered when the Army started its correspondence school, but USAFI has enrolled 850,000 GIs already and gets 1100 new students every day taking courses ranging from air conditioning to Japanese. . . Two hundred GIs have gotten their degrees from American universities while in the service. . . and its not for rear echelon Joes either. . . A doughfoot up in a foxhole was found doing his trigonometry lesson knee-deep in trench foot weather . . . GIs will agree with LIFE's selection of Bill Mauldin as the outstanding cartoonist of the war . . . Maybe Joe and Willie will shave now in the next strip . . .

254th's One-Man Army Wins Battle Commission

A technical sergeant who captured two armed Germans even though his carbine was frozen has been awarded the Silver Star and promoted to second lieutenant — the first battlefield promotion in the 63d Div.

He is James S. Settineri, who entered service from Syracuse, N.Y. Lt. Settineri has been reassigned to lead his old platoon in Co. H, 254th Inf.

Settineri started his one-man offensive on the morning of Jan. 27 when he assumed command of the platoon when its leader was injured. He directed the capture of an enemy pillbox and then left his men and contin-

Good Hunting Across Saar

253d Patrol Bags Mess of Kraut

How a well-rehearsed raid across the Saar paid off in the bagging of 13 Kraut artillerymen is told in a report from the 253d Inf. A combat patrol from the 3d Plat of Co. L accompanied by a machine gun crew crossed the Saar into Hanweiler, Germany, early one morning recently. Its mission was to clear from houses on the opposite bank any Germans known to have entered during the night.

Led by Lt. Martin Mathis, Houston, Tex., and T/Sgt. George Snead, Norman, N. C., platoon crossed the river and under cover of a smoke screen moved up the principal street of Hanweiler.

One squad from Co. L, led by Lt. Mathis, proceeded to search houses on one side of the street while another group led by Snead took homes on the opposite side. The Germans opened up with strong mortar and artillery fire late in the morning but this did not deter the patrol, although it did knock out their assault boats on the river bank.

Snead and a portion of his squad started to search a house far up the street. Three men, Sgt. Glenn Hopp, DeWitt, Mich., and Pfc. Ward Stewart, Lewiston, Pa., and John Eugenio, Bronx, N. Y., remained outside.

Hopp saw a German peek out of cellar window and fired at him. The men inside tossed a grenade downstairs. Stewart threw another through the window. The Jerries tossed one back which landed at Stewart's feet but failed to explode. Eugenio pitched another grenade through the window, but the Krauts retaliated with one of their own and Eugenio received a slight wound in the hand.

Suddenly six Jerries led by a sergeant came running out of the house with their hands raised. Mathis asked how many more were in the cellar and the German said seven. Pfc. Enslamo Vallareal, San Antonio, Tex., fired over his head and the German summoned the remaining enemy.

In the meantime observers on the opposite bank hastily organized a rescue party composed of men from the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoons of the 3d Bn. who crossed the Saar and brought off a portion of the patrol while Cn. Co. of the 253d silenced the German mortar fire. The second rescue party had trouble and its first attempt to recross the stream with the German prisoners almost ended in disaster. The craft was almost swept over a nearby dam. A third attempt proved successful, with all prisoners being loaded safely.

300 in 254th Receive Purple Heart to Date

Nearly 300 men in the 254th Inf. have received the Purple Heart since the first one was given to T/5 Albert E. Elder, Co. M, on New Year's Day. Elder reported back to duty three weeks later. Every company in the regiment has given one such award and some enough to give to an entire platoon.

Regimental Leaders Receive Combat Badges

In a brief ceremony at the Staff Officers' Mess, the Combat Infantryman Badge was presented to the three regimental commanders by Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, last week.

Recipients of the award were Col. Edward P. Lukert, 253d Inf.; Col. Joseph P. Warren, 254th Inf., and Col. Edward A. Chazal, 255th Inf.

Fast Cable Service For Men of 63d

Personal cable service — sometimes as rapid as 24 hours — is offered to soldiers serving under the 6th Army Group (including the 63d Div.) through its own EFM Center and mobile radio station.

This service is separate from the regular theater-wide cable service available through Radio France in Paris. It provides for personal cables from this area to the United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

«We believe that we have an unparalleled service to offer our troops in rapid transmission of personal messages to those at home,» says Capt. Jerry R. Wiles, of the group postal office. «On numerous occasions 24-hour service to the States has been reported. Operators clear all messages the same day they are received. Return messages are filtered in New York direct to our own mobile receiver in our area.

«We have transmitted messages from troops here and have received answers from the folks at home in 36 to 48 hours after filing here.»

The service is available through unit EFM cable officers. The rate for fixed-text EFM messages is 25 francs. Sender's Composition Messages (SCM) also are available at higher rates.

It's YOUR Life — «The enemy often splits his night patrols into two groups, one to harass our front lines with MG fire, the other to penetrate our position. The infiltrating group tries to determine our exact positions from our fire against the first group.»

Division Sidelights

254th Inf. — S/Sgt. Dick Honnson, Co. M, emulated the celebrated Sgt. York of World War I when he took 32 Jerries out of a pillbox single-handed . . . Pfc. Harlen B. Erdmann, Co. E, used his feet to take a prisoner near Colmar. Moving forward on the attack, Erdmann tried hopping over a Jerry foxhole but missed and landed on the head of a hiding Kraut. Erdmann climbed out and one of his buddies ushered the German to the rear. . . . T/3s Bernard Evans and Donald Farnsworth of the Medics learned to duck quickly while at the front. The pair went out to procure some coal in a village when they heard two shells burst nearby. They paid no attention until a grizzled tankman raised the hatch of his buggy and shouted: «You guys must need that coal awfui damn bad: «The Medics made for the nearest cellar. . . While bringing in a casualty who had suffered a flesh wound in the buttocks, Pfc. Harry Bradley, Woodrow Reed and Willie Fair of the Medics found their jeep unmanageable. Just at that moment German mortar fire started to concentrate in the area. The three Medics piled out of the jeep and then looked around for the patient. They discovered that he had taken off under his own power, leaving them with an empty litter . . . Pfc. Harold Factor had a close call. A fragment from an 88 shell lodged between his helmet liner and headband. He carries the fragment for a lucky piece . . . Upon returning to his unit from artillery OP duty, Lt. Leslie C. Hurt, Cn. Co., found a cablegram announcing the birth of a son in Virginia. Other proud papas in Cn. Co. are Sgt. William A. Magee and Sgt. Edmund R. Boyd. Capt. Robert A. Scruton, former personnel officer, has taken command of Co. B, while Lt. Julian Perkinson has been advanced to the post of Chief of Personnel.

253d Inf. — Scenes and conditions have changed since the regiment left the States, but Cpl. Howard Connolly is still pursuing his art in the regiment's orientation setup. Back in the Red Rec Hall Connolly's striking posters won him much acclaim. He has duplicated some of these in France. Connolly had a staff of assistants in the States but all have scattered. One of them, ex-Pvt. Russell Stetler is a John Q. Civilian again back in Roxboro, Pa. Sgt. Ray Neri is at Keesler Field and Pvt. Phil Gurka, who posed for a Connolly mural in the Rec Hall, is assistant to Chaplain John Fournier, 3d Bn. Connolly was an illustrator and commercial artist in New York prior to entering the Army . . . The men of the regiment don't have to reach Baden to enjoy the baths. «Bogan's Baths» is the name given the regimental mobile shower unit which services all units . . . It's 2d Lt. Robert Arnott now. The ex-T/Sgt., who played a smart game at shortstop on the regiment's baseball team and who crooned with the band, received his commission recently in the ETO . . . Co. E lost popular T/Sgt. Al Kanuha, who lost a foot when he stepped on a mine. Kanuha is a veteran of the Army, having served in Hawaii and the Philippines before Pearl Harbor. —

718th F. A. — A former member of the 718th, Pvt. Angelo Calabrese, who appeared in several 63d boxing shows in the States, was one of the top men on a card of bouts at Marseilles recently. Fighting under the name of «Young Tony Galento», Calabrese, now on duty at Delta Base, lost on a technical kayo . . . Pvt. Steve Bernat, Btry. B, has been named battalion photographer . . . S/Sgt. Joe Pillar, Btry. B, is now first sergeant and Sgt. Paul Burden is chief of the firing battery . . . Recently promoted to staff sergeant is «Cy» Joyce, Hq. supply sergeant.

862 F. A. — First man in the battalion to promise cigars to his buddies was Pfc. Harold Dahlquist, who received a cablegram announcing the arrival of David Reed Dahlquist back in Taylor Falls, Minn. Capt. John P. Wadoslawsky is the father of a boy born Feb. 2 at Johnstown, Pa. . . . T/4 August Massey, Btry. B's motor sergeant, and his brother, Cpl. Caesar Massey, a fireman in the Transportation Corps, met for the first time in three years recently. Caesar moved to the ETO 31 months ago with the first railroad unit to leave the States. He was in the process of evacuating German-speaking Frenchmen from a small town in Northern France when the Nazis engineered their breakthrough. Massey and 29 other Americans spent four days in a cellar dodging Nazi patrols before escaping to the American lines. . . Pfc. Stanley Cellum had the hell scared out of him while on guard recently. It was pitch black outside and when he startled a halfwild porker the halt-bang, halt-bang series started popping . . .

63d Ren Tr. — Two proud papas are strutting around the area these days in the persons of S/Sgt. Edward F. Veron, whose wife Rose, became the mother of a boy Jan. 28 at Newark, N. J., and 1st Sgt. Charles H. McCain, Birmingham, Ala., who has a son, born to Mrs. Margaret McCain Christmas Eve.

Div. Hq. and Hq. Co. — Four members of Div. Hq. form the nucleus for an overseas stork club. T/3 Larry Rounds, AG Sec., reports the birth of a daughter Jan. 26 to his wife, Doris, at Columbia Station, Ohio. T/5 Forrest Holts, AG Officers' Section, is the father of Diane Susan, born to Mrs. Evelyn Holts Jan. 17 at Peoria, Ill. Lt. Samuel Imperato, Division Classification Officer, is the father of a girl born Jan. 16 at New York City. Latest to become a daddy, albeit for the second time, is that noted Poland China breeder of Union County, Ind., T/4 Marion Huntington of the Postal Section. He reported a son Howard Shideler born to Mrs. Ruth Huntington at Richmond, Ind., Feb. 2. . . Recent promotions in Div. Hq. were those of T/5 Harold A. Michaelsen, Division Chaplain's assistant, to sergeant and T/5 William Cushman, *G-3 Sec., to T/4. . . . Two members of Div. Hq. Co., T/4 William G. Schmidt and Pvt. Henry M. Irwin, met relatives in France. Schmidt, a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., met his brother-in-law, Lt. Edward W. Mac Farland, a special service officer, while on pass in Marseilles. Pvt. Irwin, of Winterville, Ga., was reunited with his brother, Coyle, also a private, in Luneville, recently.

63d Patch Unites Brothers in France

The flaming shoulder patch of the Blood and Fire Division was instrumental in uniting twin members of a GI family from Rye, N. Y. in a French town.

When Pfc. Anthony Pasquale, 398th Inf., learned that men wearing the insignia who were passing through the town were from the 254th Inf., he set out to locate Cannon Co. where he found his twin brother, Pfc. Bill Pasquale, whom he had not seen in three years.

The Pasquale family feels it has a monopoly on the Army's Pfc. All four sons are in the service and each wears a single stripe. All four are overseas. Bill spent two years in the Canal Zone before joining the 63d, Tony has been overseas with the 100th Div. since last fall and like Bill, wears the Combat Infantryman Badge and one star. The oldest brother, Frank, boasts four years' service in the Pacific Theater, while Rocco has served a hitch in the Canal Zone.

11 254th Noncoms Are Commissioned

Eleven noncommissioned officers of the 254th Inf. have been made second lieutenants and assigned to other units of the Seventh Army. They distinguished themselves in combat and were recommended for commissions by Col. Joseph H. Warren, regimental commander.

Two of the new officers made the grade from corporal. They are Robert C. Jones, Detroit, and Daniel W. Galbraith, Altoona, Pa.

Two others are former members of the Army Air Forces. They are David J. Larmon, Bronx, N. Y., Hq. Co., and Jacques A. Harrison, Whitefish, Mont., Co. E.

Others who were commissioned were T/Sgt. James E. Burson, Los Angeles, Co. F; T/Sgt. John F. Daly, Toledo, O.; Cn. Co.; S/Sgt. Lyle A. Atwood, Limestone, N. Y., Hq. 2d Bn.; T/Sgt. Robert Roy Wilson, Rochester, N. Y., Co. E; T/Sgt. Lew Christensen, Ogden, Utah, Hq. Co.; and S/Sgts. William Lovelace, Cambria, Ill., and Thomas P. Coughlin, both of Co. H.

Snappy Happy Landing

Death took a holiday in the midst of war recently when a jeep containing two members of the 862d F.A., together with a case of live grenades, plunged down a 40-foot railroad cut in a mined area. The only injury was that suffered by Pfc. William Wright, Sv. Btry., the driver, who received a laceration of the head when struck by the case of grenades.

Wright and Pfc. Richard Peters had just delivered mail to Sv. Btry. The jeep plunged through a hedge and down the bank. The roof hit higher ground as the vehicle fell and this caused it to land upright near the tracks with its motor still running. Bridge guards assisted the men to the roadway and Wright's injury was treated by an aidman.

Silver Stars

(Continued from Page 1)

med leadership of adjacent platoon when commander was killed.

LT. SETTINERI: near Jepsheim, Jan. 27. Action told in another article in this issue. Received battlefield promotion from Technical Sergeant.

LT. LOOKABAUGH: Colmar campaign, Jan. 26. Platoon leader, carried wounded comrade a half mile through intense mortar and MG fire to safety and then to battalion aid station, saving the man's life.

GRAY: Colmar campaign, Jan. 24. Volunteered to infiltrate through our own lines past the MLR and to within 30 yards of enemy under constant mortar and MG fire to observe and direct mortar fire of his own company.

DEVLIN: attack on Hill 216, Jan. 23. Cleared paths in a mine field to seven separate wounded men. Felt through darkness under concentrated mortar and MG fire until all were reached and evacuated.

JAREK, BROWN, RECKER, MANZANO, LOESCHEN, LA CHANCE, DUNIKOWSKI, BEAVER and CUTTEN: In Colmar Forest, Jan. 27. Men were members of wire crews. Under heavy mortar and artillery fire, men laid communication lines from Reidwahr to Jepsheim during night attack when telephone was only communication between regiment and battalions.

NARDONE: In Jepsheim attack, Jan. 28. A mortar observer, Nardone was working with group of riflemen. Saw 12 Germans slipping out of a building. Leaped forward, covering them with his rifle. Gradually moved from one to the other, at the same time covering the avenue of approach with rifle in his free hand, disarmed the 12 and turned them in.

KEEGAN: Near Holbach, Jan. 16. An aid man, Keegan voluntarily accompanied a patrol. Went to wounded man on hill under heavy small arms fire. Gave aid, obtained help and removed patient from danger.

19 Officers Promoted In Ranks of 254th Inf.

Nineteen promotions among officers of the 254th Inf. were announced recently by the Seventh Army. These include the advancement of Edward W. Van Auken to captain in the Medical Detachment.

Eighteen second lieutenants promoted were Charles E. Ball, Lyman M. Hutchins, Jr., and William P. Stanton Co. M; Fred B. Goldt, Thomas R. Kelly and Milton Seltzer, Sv. Co.; William D. Lundberg and Arthur J. Munari, AT Co.; Thomas H. Beagle, Co. B; Floyd L. Edsall, Co. C; Elmer S. McKee, Co. D; John M. Mingos, Co. A; Alfred J. Hepler, Cn. Co.; James F. Jordan, Hq. Co., 1st Bn.; Frederick C. Krings and Orrin S. Maybee, Hq. Co., 24 Bn.; Byron W. Frierson, Co. H, and Lewis E. Bracy, Jr., Hq. Co.

CLAUSEN: Near Achen, Jan. 3. Company aid man, Clausen neither ate nor slept while platoon was under fire for 36 hours, taking care of all wounded around his position, making hot stimulants and easing those who were fatigued.

NIEMEYER, CALKINS, BARKER, BLACKWELL, STEVENS, HUG, STEFANKO and HEMANN: Near Achen, Jan. 3. Members of mortar squad. Held their positions covering a draw leading into town. Town later overrun and all protection withdrawn. Squad held position until enemy was within 25 yards. Driven away, squad moved to rear, took up positions and, co-ordinating fire, inflicted many casualties upon the enemy.

DONELLAN: Achen, Jan. 3. A platoon aid man, Donellan was captured in a surprise attack. Attended wounded Americans at German CP. When friendly artillery shelled CP at dusk, Germans withdrew, leaving Donellan to care for wounded under fire. Later located his unit, obtained new supplies and asked to be returned to his assignment.

254th Praised

(Continued from Page 1)

Through its six weeks of combat experience, the general said, the regiment proved the worth of its training in the States.

The regiment's first assignment when it was attached to the 3d was to help hold the division's front. At the peak of the winter cold the regiment moved into the hills northwest of Colmar and took over a defensive sector while Allied troops got ready for the grand offensive to eliminate all Krauts west of the Rhine and south of Strasbourg.

The regiment's first objective when the offensive was launched Jan. 3 was to capture Hill 216 and continue to the Colmar Canal. A hundred well-dug-in Germans protected by an extensive mine field were holding the area, but men of the 1st Bn. dug them out. Meanwhile 3d Bn. troops came around the right flank to clear the enemy from its positions on the rear side of the hill.

Take 600 Prisoners

Jepsheim, a Nazi stronghold of considerable local importance, was the next objective. Crossing an icy stream northwest of the town, the 1st and 2d battalions began their attack, but failed to gain control the first night. They regrouped and made a concerted effort the next day which put most of the town in American hands. On the third day, with all three battalions in action, the town finally was liberated. More than 600 prisoners were taken in this battle.

Then the 254th moved into the last phase of its offensive, crossing the Rhone-Rhine Canal northeast of Colmar and reaching the bank of the Rhine itself. It patrolled an eight-mile stretch of the river dividing France from Germany until it was released from its attachment to the 3d and returned to the 63d Div.

The Bronze Star was awarded Col. Warren for «meritorious service in direct support of combat operations.» It was presented by Gen. O'Daniel at a ceremony at the regimental CP in Colmar Forest.

During the week of Jan. 22-28 Col. Warren often worked as long as 18 hours a day. Through what the medal citation called «superior tactics and personal supervision, long hours and hard work,» the attack upon and occupation of Hill 216 was made possible.

After this assignment he had the arduous task of taking Jepsheim and ridding it of the enemy. At all times during this period Col. Warren's OP was subjected to heavy mortar and artillery fire. On many occasions he visited personally the forward areas, as far as company and platoon CP's, to co-ordinate his fighting team.

It's YOUR Life - «Be sure to clean cartridges and clips before jumping off on a mission. When crawling or jumping in and out of foxholes your ammunition gets caked with mud.»

medal and certificate sent to nearest of kin.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER: Awarded in lieu of a medal earned more than once. Bronze Cluster for each additional award; Silver Cluster for five Bronze Clusters.

Fruit Salad Department

Because of increasing interest in awards and decorations, following is a statement of the requirements for Army awards:

MEDAL OF HONOR: Awarded in the name of Congress to persons in action with the enemy who distinguish themselves by gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, with conspicuous action outside the realm of duty.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL: For exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility.

LEGION OF MERIT: For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

SILVER STAR: For gallantry in action not warranting the Medal of Honor or DSC.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS: (To members of the AAF) for he-

roism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. The heroism must be voluntary action in face of great danger above and beyond the line of duty.

BRONZE STAR: For heroism or meritorious achievement or service (not involving aerial flight) in connection with military operations against an enemy. Requirement less than that for the Silver Star or Legion of Merit but must be accomplished with distinction.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL: For heroism involving voluntary risk of life but not actual conflict with the enemy.

AIR MEDAL: (Not limited to the Air Forces). For meritorious achievement in aerial flight.

PURPLE HEART: For persons serving with the Army who are wounded in action, provided the wound necessitates treatment by a medical officer. Only one award for wounds received at the same instant. Trench foot does not merit the Purple Heart, but severe frostbite is considered sufficient. Also awarded after death, and