

# Blood and Fire

Vol. 3, No. 6, March 17, 1945

## Device to Detect Schu Mines Sought

Men of the 63d Div. have an opportunity to prove their genius and at the same time to be of service to their comrades and perhaps themselves. Lt. Col. Glenn Y. Williamson, Division Chemical Officer, is seeking a solution for the detection of the treacherous Schu Mine.

Col. Williamson says many experts have been working on the problem, but what is needed is a simple, practical solution — one that each soldier, each squad or platoon can use first, to detect mines without casualties, second, to remove or destroy them. To date artillery, mortar, machine gun, rifle, pistol, flame thrower, WP grenade and primacord have been tried with varying results. Experiments have also been conducted with different kinds of roller pressure devices.

Men with ideas on the subject are instructed to send their plan to Col. Williamson.

## 863d Awards Kraut With Division Motto

At least one Kraut opposing the 63d had the Division's motto, «to make the enemy bleed and burn,» impressed upon him recently. It seems that Lt. Julius Stevens, Altoona, Pa., 863d F. A. air observer, spotted an enemy vehicle crowded with personnel. He immediately brought the HE down upon them. His effect was excellent but he requested a round of WP just to make sure. As it turned out, his judgment was sound. Immediately thereafter, he spotted a Kraut streaking across the terrain with his clothing ablaze.

## The Baron Becomes «Un Coiffeur»

The ways of the galloping cubes with numbers and the cards with pretty pictures are unfathomable, as Cpl. Richard (The Baron) Bruno, Hq. Btry., Div. Arty., can testify. Combat has changed the scene, but not the Baron's luck. Back in the States, the Baron always managed to have a roll, despite his losses, for his civilian enterprises continued to keep him in the style to which he was accustomed.

The Baron came by his name more or less honestly, for when the «where are we going» routine interrupted the games of mischance on shipboard the Baron dropped the heavy hint that he hoped it was Italy where he claimed to have a villa.

Nothing feazes the Baron. No day-room in Van Dorn was safe when the battery needed an item for its recreation room. The Baron always got what was needed when all other sources failed. And now the Baron is

open for business again as the battery barber.

Finding a deserted barber shop in a partly demolished building, the Baron has converted it into a local branch of the snazzy Terminal Shops. It is complete with magazines, a home-made «lean-back» chair, stove, electric lights and a new invention that permits hot and cold running water. The Baron is recouping his losses with super-de luxe shaves and shampoos.

Although the Baron has not impressed local beauties with his hair-setting skill (fundamentally because his French «derlict» is different, he says), Fifth Avenue luxury has hit the local redlegs rich with the pretty money. The Baron is on his way back to the chips again, but he's dealing with dusty heads and wiry beards. As he himself so ineptly puts it . . . «You can't be particular who you segregate with.» Yep, the Baron is open for business.



SNIFFING hot lead as it passes under one's nose isn't pleasant, as Lt. Clarence W. Cyr, Niagara, Wis., will testify. An observer for the 861st F. A., Lt. Cyr was wounded when a Nazi rifle bullet grazed his nose. He is being treated at an aid station by Lt. Fred A. Tavoroger, Chicago.

## Quarry Became Pit of Hell To Men Who Battled There

The «Battle of the Quarry,» militarily speaking, was scarcely more than a skirmish. It will be remembered only as an unforeseen delay in a small operation — except by the men of Co. C, 253d Inf.

Southeast of the Badenland village of Gudingen lies this quarry, cut in a substantial hill. It is about 700 yards long and 500 yards wide. A narrow-gauge railroad runs around the bottom of the steep sides. In short, it is an ordinary commercial limestone pit — but to what is left of Co. C it was a pit of Hell.

Back at the regimental CP an officer said «there's nothing in the book that tells you how to fight in a place like that.» The men of Co. C learned how to fight in a place like

that. For 72 hours they learned to stand in the bottom of that pit while, as one of them said, «the damn Jerries looked right down your throat.»

The company cleared the quarry, but the enemy got back at night. Small arms fire broke out anew within those stone walls.

Co. C began to endure a screaming, reverberating nightmare — the worse because daylight brought no surcease. From the German side of the cliff-top machine guns chattered and mortars spoke. Somewhere to the left the enemy brought up self-propelled guns. From the right, up a sparsely-wooded slope, 75 mm howitzers hurled shells into the quarry. Arching into the pit came a rain of rockets and 150 mm and 81mm steel.

As though the crash and echo and flying splinters of steel were not enough, the rock itself added to terror, horror and danger. Nearly every shell and rocket shattered the brittle limestone and sent stone shrapnel flying about. Every projectile became 10.

American machine guns were stationed in draws, but the Nazis huddled in virtual forts of stone and logs. PWs said later they had been ordered to hold the quarry at all costs, though they did not know why.

Something like 108 men of Co. C began that battle. Two score finished it. Not all the rest were casualties in the military sense, but fit for duty were only two-score men, uninjured

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# 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)

The underground and guerrilla war has not been confined to Europe alone, for much of our success in the amazing Philippine campaign belongs to the Filipinos themselves. Gen. MacArthur needed to maintain close liaison with the guerillas before his landings and rendezvous arrangements had to be made.

After the time and place for the submarine bringing supplies was set by radio, the guerillas would sweep down from their hideouts at night, occupy the designated coast town while the submarine would surface and unload stuff. There is evidence that the Japs knew what was going on — once they attacked a guerilla-held town when a sub was still on the surface . . . But they couldn't stop us . . .

Stories are coming out of captured Cologne . . . The civilians got to calling the air raid siren, «Mr. Meyer's Hunting Horn» — a crack at Goering, who once said that if Cologne ever was bombed by the Allies, they could call him «Mr. Meyer.»

Air power KO'd Cologne's industry, but not by destroying the buildings alone. All but 2,000 of 9,000 workers quit one plant because of the terror of Allied bombings. And the third largest city of Germany gave the rest of the Reich a kind of object lesson — when the chips were down, all the Nazi officials scurried away without making any kind of arrangements for the civilian population's existence.

## Soldier's Medal Goes To Pair in 253d Inf.

Two Blood and Fire men who saved three comrades from drowning in the Saar River have been awarded the Soldier's Medal. It is believed to be the first time this decoration has been awarded by the 63d Div.

The men are T/5 Robert H. Joseph and Pfc. Donald R. Wilson, both of Rgtl. Hq. Co., 253d Inf. Joseph's home is in York, Pa., and Wilson's in Williams, Ind.

The two were assisting members of the 253d's Battle Patrol in crossing the river near Sarreguemines on the night of Jan. 25 when they heard cries for help. They found four men whose rubber boat had capsized in the icy river. Without regard for their own safety and despite warnings that the ice would not hold them, Joseph and Wilson rescued three of the men. The fourth was lost under the ice.

The Soldier's Medal is awarded for «heroism involving voluntary risk of life but not actual conflict with the enemy.»

The OPA is preparing to reduce clothing prices at home by 6 per cent.

# Looting Banned By 63d Order

Warnings that goods may not be exported from Germany were posted this week on frontier bridges in the 63d Div. area. The warnings called attention to the fact that our troops are operating in territory under control of the Supreme Commander, AEF.

Other recent bulletins from headquarters call attention to orders against looting and taking material from enemy-owned buildings, whether or not the soldier intends to export the goods from Germany.

«The looting or pillaging of houses is theft,» Gen. Hibbs said in a letter to unit commanders and staff officers. «The taking of items of intrinsic but little practical value (silver spoons, watches, pictures, etc.) is immediately open to suspicion.

«All enemy public property found in areas under our control automatically becomes property of the US. Conversion of such property to private use is punishable under the Articles of War.»

«Looting and wanton destruction will not be tolerated in the conquered territory of Germany,» a Seventh Army directive said. «The fact that the act is committed in a active combat area is not an excuse.»

## Report from Natchez

A recent report from Natchez, where today a 63d GI was wont to spend happy hours at the Service Center or dancing at the Auditorium, has it that members of the Military Maids miss the Blood and Fire Division so much that they are contemplating changing the name of their organization to the «Lonely Hearts Club.» However «hope springs eternal in the human breast,» as the poet says, and they are re-decorating and refurbishing the Center. There still are other GIs in the Deep South.

Careless handling of vehicle tires is sabotage.

# Awards

## Bronze Star

### DIVISION ARTILLERY

Brig. Gen. E. J. McGaw, Silver City, N. M.

### DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

Maj. Leslie W. McMahon, Asst. A.C. of S., G-4, Maj. Gen. Staff, Tex.

### 253d INF.

Lt. Col. Ralph O. Lashley, Exec. O., Richmond, Ind.

Maj. George W. Davis, S-4, LeCompte, Tex.

Capt. Walter M. Lee, Adjutant, Providence, R. I.

Capt. Herschel N. Burton, Co. L, Moberly, Mo.

S/Sgt. Leon E. Gambardella, Co. E, New Haven, Conn.

Pvt. James R. Forsyth, Co. E, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

### 254th INF.

Lt. Henry Kuczynski, Med. Det., McKee's Rocks, Pa.

S/Sgt. Joseph A. Beauregard, Haverhill, Mass.

### 255th INF.

Col. Edward A. Chazal, Arlington, Va.

T/5 Edward R. Dollard, Med., Jersey City.

Lt. Robert L. Brown, Co. F, Chicago.

Pfc. Jean R. Landis, Co. E, Hartford City, Ind.

Pfc. Jack L. Miller, Co. E, Fireco, W. Va.

Pfc. James E. Thompson, Co. E, Quitman, Ga.

## 253d Pix Preem Socko--Big BO

The world premiere showing of American movies on German soil for the 63d took place in the Kleinblittersdorf Palace, Wednesday (7). Managed by the 253d Inf. Special Service Office, the theater now is presenting two shows daily.

Opening ceremonies were presided over by T/5 Fred Wiener, former Hollywood actor, who set his footprints in a picture of Hitler. The opening was not attended by the following movie stars: Rita Hayworth, Hedy Lamar, Ginger Rogers or Bob Hope. Mickey Rooney also was not present. Wiener's latest picture now is appearing on his mother's dresser.

## Maj. Tucker, of 254th, Is Lieutenant Colonel

The promotion of Maj. Robert E. Tucker, 1st Bn. commander, to lieutenant colonel heads a list of 23 promotions among officers of the 254th Inf. Col. Tucker is a graduate of West Point and participated in the landing of US troops at Oran. He was assigned to the 254th while the regiment was training in the States.

In the 3d Bn. Capt. Thomas F. Adams, executive officer, was promoted to major and Lt. James R. Hyde was named captain and commander of Co. K. Six other officers now rating two silver bars are Herbert H. Bailey, liaison officer; Gerald M. Barbour, Med. Det.; William E. Brick, T. & E. Officer; J. C. Coss, Co. I, Robert A. Scruton, commanding Co. B, and George E. Rogerson, Co. E.

## General Gets a Present

A cigaret container made from a German schu-mine box was presented to Maj. Gen. Louis E. Hibbs, Division Commander, by Col. Jack L. Coan, Division Engineer, last week. The lid of the box bore a plate from a salvaged German 75mm shell. Material for the container and the plate were salvaged on D-plus-2 near Hanweiler, Germany. Workmanship on the box and engraving was done by members of the 286th Engr. Bn.

Sgt. Edward H. Patterson, Co. E, Alexandria Bay, N.Y.

Capt. Willard J. LaMorte, Hq. Co., 1st Bn., Bronxville, N.Y.

Sgt. Thomas W. Murphy, Jr., Co. F, Yonkers, N.Y.

Pvt. Ellis E. Moss, Co. G, Ellamore, W. Va.

Pfc. Jerry Young, Co. G, Howard, Pa.

S/Sgt. Robert E. McClurken, Co. L, Philadelphia.

S/Sgt. Peter A. Muschiano, Co. A, Cranston, R. I.

T/4 John P. Bellina, Med., New York City.

### 63d QM Co.

Lt. Charles J. Soderquist, Dearborn, Mich.

### 486th AAA (AW) BN.

Lt. Col. Alvin H. Schutz, Hopkinsville, Ky.

### 253d INF.

Lt. Col. Morris O. Edwards, Salt Lake City.

## Soldier's Medal

### 253d INF.

T/5 Robert H. Joseph, Regtl. Hq. Co., York, Pa.

Pfc. Donald R. Wilson, Regtl. Hq. Co., Williams, Ind.

# Division Sidelights

**Div. Hq. and Hq. Co.** — There's no rest for the weary. S/Sgt. Tom Gallagher, of New York City, and Sgt. Joe Summers, of Philadelphia, both of the G-4 Sec., found that out recently. Summers climbed into bed — a real bed — when, bam! it collapsed and Joe and bedclothing had to be untangled. Gallagher, on CQ, lay on his rude pallet on the floor and zipped up his fastener. Then the phone jangled. Tom tried a fast pull out the zipper jammed. He finally was forced to emulate the man in the sack race by hopping to the phone.

Paris in the spring or any old time is all right with T/5 Carl Voegeli, of Toledo. The Hq. Co. motor corporal made a recent trip to the city on the Seine and says the gals don't dress any smarter on Fifth Avenue than along the Champs Elysees. Many of 'em can speak English too, which makes it nice.

The shop jeep driven by S/Sgt. George Baschore, motor sergeant of Div. Hq. Co., has a distinction. On its side a tablet reads: «Presented to the US Army by the employees of McKesson & Robbins, Inc., Newark, and McKesson Liquor Co. through the purchase of War Bonds.»

**254th Inf.** — Pfc. Harold A. Dorn, of Elkhorn, Wis., values his ~~precious~~ Bible more than ever. During the Jobsheim action he was helping evacuate a wounded tankman when a burp gut slug caught him in the chest. When they ripped open Dorn's shirt they found the metal-covered Bible had deflected the bullet so that Dorn suffered only a slight wound.

Pfc. William Meyer, Co. G, was ordered to help clear some enemy bunkers. Crawling forward in the face of small arms fire, his platoon leader, who was at his side, was fatally wounded. Meyer started for an aid man. During his search another man was wounded next to him. Meyer attributes his escape to the power of prayer.

**862d F.A.** — Wood chopping for a chic little Jo-Jo has become the daily pleasure of T/4 Dick Baker, of New York City. «She manicures my nails and shampoos my hair,» says the headquarters radio expert.

Pfc. Bill Clifford, of Akron, O., Btry. A's able agent, has been strutting around with his chest inflated because of a letter he received from his gorgeous gal friend. She casually mentioned that she had been chosen queen of the freshman class at Ohio State University.

Throwing his two stripes around has become increasingly difficult for Pfc. Stanley Cellum, Philadelphia. Two other men in Baker Btry.'s Fifth Section recently gained his exalted status. «Uncle Stanley» made buck sergeant during his first hitch, back in the 20s, and it's sort of rough being just a private of the upper brackets.

**255th Inf.** — The best dressed bazooka team in the 63d is what the men of AT Co. claim for T/5 James (Red) Thomson, of Philadelphia, and Pfc. Joel Paris, of Pontiac, Mich. This swank pair does its Kraut hunting in a couple of collapsible opera hats.

S/Sgt. Fred Martin, Schenectady, N.Y., returned to AT Co. a brand-new lieutenant. Before leaving to obtain his bars Lt. Martin was chowhound-in-chief of the company. Upon his return he was loaded with the duties of recon, motor and mess officer. He is now, «Chow hound, Sir.»

Thomas (Shorty) Gordon, AT Co. mess sergeant from Charlotte, N.C., received a commendation from Division for his excellent kitchen. He has been in the Army three years and all three of his children, Thomas, Anna-Lee and Derrell, were born since he entered the service.

**863d F.A.** — The radio is a great invention, but Maj. Edward W. King, S-3, is wondering how a broadcasting company learned of his promotion before he was officially notified. It seems Mrs. King was listening to a news broadcast at their home in Denver, Colo., when she heard the major's promotion announced. She wrote him a congratulatory letter which arrived in the ETO two days before the major was notified.

T/5 Frank Pezzutti, Hq. Btry., whose home is in Jersey City, heard of men being promoted on the spot, but had no reason to believe such an honor would be conferred on him. He was amazed one day recently when he received salutes from all enlisted men whom he passed. He discovered the reason shortly thereafter. He had put on a field jacket owned by Maj. Samuel Hawes, battalion executive.

**263d Engr.** — The stork made two members of the Bn. happy recently. Col. Jack L. Coan, Division Engineer and commander of the battalion, is the father of a boy born in Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 23. T/4 Leo S. Voit, of Co. A, also is rejoicing at the birth of a son in Cleveland March 2.

The amount of musical talent in the battalion is amazing. Take, for instance, those expert ivory-ticklers, T/4 Carl Schorn, La Porte, Ind., and T/4 Fred Bross, West Orange, N.J. When they sit down at a piano they really get music out of it. Both are in H. & S. Co. Then too, there is Pfc. Harry Hennigger, of the Med. Det., from Mahanoy City, Pa., who plays and sings.

**718th F.A.** — T/5 Dave Diamond, Bronx, N.Y., goes the honor of bringing in the battalion's first German prisoner... It's now S/Sgt. Paul Burden, Deergrove, Ill., and Cpl. Earl J. Krieder, Lebanon, Pa.... Sgt. James D. Bell, Pasco, Wash., was surprised by a visit from his brother-in-law, Lt. Richard James, 744th Ord. Ci.

# Division Shifts 4 Top Officers

Staff and command changes affect several high-ranking officers of the 63d Div. this week.

Lt. Col. Morris O. Edwards was transferred from the post of A. C. of S., G-3, to command of the 253d Inf. He succeeds Col. Edward P. Lukert, who was transferred to the Ground Force Reinforcement Command in Paris.

Lt. Col. Robert S. Redfield, most recently in command of Headquarters Special Troops, became A. C. of S., G-3. Col. Redfield formerly was assistant G-3. Another former G-3 staff officer, Maj. James F. Bishop, becomes Headquarters Commandant and CO of Special Troops. Maj. Bishop, most recently assigned to the 255th Inf., has been on special duty in command of the Reinforcement Training Battalion.

The RTB now will be commanded by Maj. Ross E. Stokely, on SD from the 255th.

Another Division staff officer was promoted last week from first lieutenant to captain. He is Sidney M. Cooley, of Springfield, Mass., Division contracting and purchasing officer.

# Girls of Deep South Miss the 63d, Suh

The last piece of mail received by BLOOD AND FIRE in the States was a letter addressed to all men of the Division from Miss Gladys Pellandini, president of the Girls' Battalion of Baton Rouge. It will evoke pleasant memories of social life in Mississippi and Louisiana:

«I am taking this means of writing to thank the entire personnel for their many courtesies extended to the Girls' Battalion. We have attended many lovely dances at your camp and always have been treated with every courtesy, and we have considered it an honor to have been issued so many invitations these past few months.

«We have all, both in a group and as individuals, made many friends during these social gatherings and it is with deep regret that we must soon say goodbye.

«Let me say 'thank you' for my girls as well as myself, and this is from the bottom of our hearts. We shall miss each and every one of you. Wherever you may be, God bless you all.»

# 254th Gets Officers

Five new officers have been added to the rolls of the 254th Inf. One, Lt. John R. Mayhew, was with the Blood and Fire Division in the States but served with the 3d Div. overseas until the arrival of the 254th. Another former 3d Div. member assigned to the 254th is Lt. Fred S. Blake, Med. Det. Other new officers assigned to line companies are Lt. Charles Rosenbloom, Holyoke, Mass., Co. G; Lt. Donald Berman, Brooklyn, Co. K, and Lt. Charles F. Hagen, Manhasset, N. Y.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has rejected all Constitutional amendments on the revival of Prohibition until servicemen return home after the war.

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and able to stay on their feet in former German dugouts, behind big rocks and in foxholes for three days.

Command of the company changed at least twice as officers were wounded. At the end there were men who did not know who their CO was. The story of Co. C was told by a man picked to carry food:

«When I go back for chow I don't know anyone any more.»

The company has lost five aidmen since it came to France and Germany. The only one left is Pfc. James Cullinane, of Boston. He has been hit twice.

Of the normal five men, Sgt. Allan Peterson's mortar squad had only two left. His gunner was Buster Davenport, of Mertzon, Tex.

At the end, the «Battle of the Quarry» seemed to have been a fight between teen-agers. In one squad of Co. C all the men are 19 except one who is 35. The Krauts were even younger. Four who looked 15 or 16 stumbled down the broken rock with a wounded comrade. The German dead (a correspondent said he never had seen so many in one place) were only boys.

The last afternoon Capt. Herbert Houghtaling, battalion adjutant, told some of the men that Co. C would be relieved that night. Sgt. Peterson, a small, husky 19-year-old from Pottstown, Pa., almost folded.

«Relieved!» he gasped, «I never thought I'd hear a word that sounded so good!»

## Gates Swing Groovey

The Division White orchestra, which kept the hepcats jumping back in Van Dorn, broke out the instruments and is entertaining battle weary doughs on this side of the water. The band, under the baton of WOJG Harold Polakoff, toured units of the 255th Inf. recently, playing for both large and small groups of men according to the tactical situation in the area.

T/4 Artie Engler, scat singer, presented a unique version of «Don't Cry, Baby», and followed with his old favorite, «Wanna Big Hot Mama.» Sgt. John Campbell, tenor, and Pfc. Irvin Rochlin, baritone, complete the program of popular ballads.

We move on wheels — Remember your tire pressure.

## 255th Hikes Grades of 51 in Regiment

The promotion of 51 enlisted men has been announced by the 255th Inf. Among them Sgt. Theodore C. Clayton has been named first sergeant of Hq. Co., 2d Bn., and T/Sgt. Michael T. Moran, Jr., has been promoted to master sergeant in Sv. Co.

Others promoted were: to technical sergeant, S/Sgts. Thomas E. Quinn, Co. A; Glenn W. McClintock, Co. D; William B. Shuman, Co. G; Joseph H. Bray and Harry C. Ream, Jr., Co. F; James E. Ford, Co. I, and Sgts. George E. Duley, Cn. Co., and Anthony J. Grudnoski, Hq. Co., 2d Bn. To staff sergeant, Sgts. Neal Walk and Ray H. Marchington, Co. A; William Betz, Co. C, and Fred Wharmby and Edward H. Patterson, Co. E, and Cpls. Edward C. Herron, Co. D, and Virgil C. Worley, Hq. Co., 2d Bn.

To sergeant, Pfc. Floyd Davis, Jr.,



«Sure, I tell myself 'Keep Cool,' but I got no character.»

## No Good «Pour Papa»

Two copper engraving plates of the Blood and Fire emblem, intended for two-color reproduction on post cards, were stolen recently from the truck used by the Information-Education Office. Apparently, wrapped in white paper, they looked like chocolate or «cigarettes pour Papa» because, a few days later, a doughboy of the 253d Inf. found a French child playing with them on the sidewalk and returned them undamaged. The post cards will be off the press soon.

## Bernie Steps Out, Hits 45th Div. News

«Bernie Blood» is making new friends. The jaunty central figure of Cpl. Gill Fox's cartoon, familiar to BLOOD AND FIRE readers for the last 16 months, soon will appear also in the 45th Division News.

High praise for Fox's cartoon came from Sgt. Don Robinson, editor of the Thunderbirds' celebrated newspaper. Requesting permission to use «Bernie Blood,» he wrote: «This is the only cartoon feature I've had any desire to use since we lost Bill Mauldin in Italy about a year ago.»

Sgt. Mauldin is considered the greatest cartoonist this war has produced. The 45th lost him to higher-echelon publications where he is amusing the whole Army.

## What About Frostbite?

The morale of one of Hitler's SS troopers facing the 255th reached rock bottom recently, so he surrendered to Pfc. John Copeland, Co. H, of Dade City, Fla., The «Superman» swam the icy Bleis and then walked barefoot a thousand yards to gain the sanctuary of our lines. He was anything but unhappy when Copeland offered to escort him to the rear.

More than ever now, the enemy is listening.