

# Blood and Fire

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**FREEDOM** from Nazi slavery comes to this Russian woman liberated in a German town by 63d Div. soldiers. She is assisted from a sub-basement hiding place by Chaplain William P. Grunow, of Oakland, Calif., Division Artillery chaplain.

## Capture by 63d GIs Puts German General in Civvies

The first German general captured by the 63d Div. was returned to civilian life faster than any doughboy ever got through a separation center.

Today Ernest Robert Carl Rodenwaldt is back in the cloistered halls of Heidelberg University, out of uniform, looking far more the man of science he really is than the general-major (equivalent to brigadier general) he was when doughboys of 3d Bn., 255th Inf., brought him in.

### «Eminent Scientist»

At the Division CP it was discovered what an important figure the Blood and Fire soldiers had taken. Scarcely more a real general than any one of the doughboys who had captured him, he was really a scientist whose eminence in Germany had given him his rank.

Gen. Rodenwaldt was professor of hygiene at the 500-year-old university, inspector of hygiene for the German armed forces (including, sometimes, the navy and air force) and was an internationally-known authority on sanitation and tropical diseases. For 13 years he had been inspector of malaria control for the Netherlands East Indies government in Batavia and Sumatra.

Division officers, with the concurrence of Seventh Army headquarters,

decided he could, be of greater service in Heidelberg than in a PW cage. Lt. Col. John M. Hardaway, A. C. of S., G-2, told the general he would be expected to return to civilian clothes and resign his commission

### «Matter of Honor»

«I can take off my uniform at your order, said the white-haired, ruddy-faced professor, who is in his late sixties, «but I cannot relinquish my rank. Only my chief in Berlin can sever me from that.»

The general was told he would have to forswear allegiance to Germany.

«It is a matter of honor and conscience that I cannot do that,» he said. «I swore allegiance to the Kaiser in the last war, then to the Democratic Republic, then to the Führer. The German government is my government.»

His honor finally was satisfied and he was sent back to his laboratory after giving the following parole:

«I agree to neither aid or comfort agents of the present government of Germany, except in my professional capacity of physician, and will abide by the rules and regulations of the representatives of the Allied Government as a civilian.»

## 263d Engineer Led Armor Into Reich

It was the 6th Armd. Div. which surged through the breach in the Siegfried Line created by the blood and toil of the 63d Div. to complete the rout of the Line's German defenders. But it was an officer of the 63d, Maj. Allen W. Sanders, Jr. of Savannah, Ga., 263d Engr. and his party who spearheaded the attack launched by the 6th and who led it to Homburg.

The major, accompanied by T/4 Kenneth Donaldson, Gillespie, Ill.; Pfc. Alan Hamberg, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Pvt. Norman Katz, New York City, all of the Recon Section, were in the vicinity of Ober Wurzbach, when the armor rolled into sight.

Believing the armored unit would find the services of an engineer officer of great assistance, Maj. Sanders and his party preceded the advance in a jeep.

The Blood and Fire soldiers were riding in the wake of dust and smoke caused by exploding demolition charges set off by the enemy. In the vicinity of Limbach the advance party surprised three German soldiers who were about to touch off tremendous explosive charges which they had placed beneath the roadway. Seeing the Americans, the Krauts took to their heels.

Maj. Sanders, alone and unassisted, went forward and cut the caps from the charges.

The column continued to roll through enemy territory and reached Homburg, which fell with little resistance.

In addition to the important feat accomplished by the major and his party, the engineers filled and by-passed with treadway bridges four road blocks, breached one anti-tank ditch, captured six prisoners and obtained valuable information for the Division G-2.

## Col. Hatcher Named Commander of 255th

Six high-ranking staff and line officers of the Division were affected in transfers to new assignments announced recently.

Lt. Col. James F. Hatcher, executive officer of the 254th Inf., became commanding officer of the 255th Inf. He succeeds Col. Edward A. Chazal.

Lt. Col. Marion W. Schewe, executive officer of the 255th, went to the 254th in the same capacity. He was succeeded in the 255th by a former battalion commander, Lt. Col. John R. Smoak.

In the G-3 office, Capt. Joseph H. Hughes, Jr., liaison officer, became Assistant A. C. of S., G-3, succeeding Maj. Glyn W. Pohl, who was transferred to the 253d Inf.

## Blood and Fire

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### Once Over Lightly

By T/5 Sy Bernhard  
(Division Artillery)

READING THE MAGAZINES OUT LOUD . . . The New Yorker tells the story of a questionnaire recently handed GIs at a French base. One of the questions was «What is your main Army occupation?» The answer from one Joe was «Cooking meats.» The next question was, «What did you do during the last seven days?» The soldier's sorry answer to this one was, «Cooked vegetables.»

Liberty tells the unusual story of the International Migration Service—a-lost-and-found bureau for dislocated civilians. It was started by nine American women after World War I left thousands of families separated. Walls throughout Europe bore names and addresses in the hope that some later traveler would find the writer.

Founded with a capital of \$32.77, the service now is supported by contributions from nations all over world. The problem of returning people to their homes will be a gigantic one. Conservatively, 30 million people are estimated to have been caught in the war's whirlpool. Right now there are some 40,000 homeless kids in Switzerland.

The story of a super-salesman and the guy responsible for «tear off the boxtop and mail it in» campaigns that fill the airwaves is told in Coronet. Ray Morgan, who started out by winning a pony for peddling the Saturday Evening Post, ran a box-top and rummage sale for a coffee company that pulled in 167,000 attempted phone calls in 15 minutes. His rules are—Give it away; give 'em bargain; play on superstition awaken their curiosity—and you too can make a million.

### Kraut Boasts Echo Hollowly in GI Ears

German propaganda designed to cause goose pimples on the flesh of Allied troops and force them to back-track off the sacred soil of the Herrenvolk is no longer even cheap entertainment for soldiers weary of battle and eager for anything in the way of a change.

So it follows that men of the 1st and 2d Platoons, 255th Inf., failed to get more than a snicker when the Krauts directed a public address system their way just before the Seigfried breakthrough. «I'll Be Glad When You're Dead You Rascal, You» was the signature number.

What follows would almost have made the GIs cry in their beer if they had any at the time. A strong Teutonic voice stated we already had taken all of France, and what more did want? The answer was not long in forthcoming.

## Heidelberg, City of Romance, Escapes Ravages of Conflict

Raise the shutters of the fancy shops, pull down the air raid shelter signs, stock the famous student drinking places and substitute classy white-gloved Kraut cops for the MPs on traffic duty, and you never would know there was a war in Heidelberg — if the retreating Germans had not blown up the centuries-old Friedrichs Bridge across the Neckar River.

When the 3d Bn., 255th Inf., crossed the Neckar in a motley fleet of row-boats, foldboats and engineless motor-boats to capture Old Heidelberg, the 63d Div. took not only its largest city thus far, but one of the most beautiful and historic in Europe.

### Home of Electors

Doughboys now stand guard in front of buildings of the 500-year-old university and the even older Heidelberg Castle, where the Electors of the Palatinate — the rulers of this part of Germany — lived. Jeeps and armored cars squeeze through narrow streets familiar to tourists and other thousands who know Heidelberg from «The Student Prince.»

Famous for its student duels, its beer songs and its castle, Heidelberg was a city of 80,000 before the war. Accustomed to tourists and students from England and the States — hundreds of foreigners attended the

celebrated university in peacetime — many civilians in Heidelberg speak excellent English.

Heidelberg apparently owed its comparative insulation from war — its buildings were, in the main, untouched by shell or bomb — to the fact that it was a hospital and convalescent center for the German army. There were an estimated 12,000 patients in the city's military hospitals.

### Unconditional Surrender

The Americans refused a German request for something less than unconditional surrender of the city. Thereupon the Nazis produced a map with the co-ordinates of all the hospitals and were promised none would be damaged if the Americans were not fired on.

The Nazis kept their bargain to protect their own men, but later, from outside the city, they threw shells onto the New Heidelberg end of the blown-up bridge, scene of many traditional student festivals. At least one shell hit an American battalion aid station, killing two medics.

German civilians are No-Buddies. Watch that phone talk — don't give yourself away.

## Awards

### Silver Star

#### 253d INF.

Capt. Edward B. Scullion, Hq. Co. 3d Bn., Norfolk, Va.

T/Sgt. Arnold W. Smiley, Hq. Co. 3d Bn., Newport, Ind.

#### 254th INF.

Pfc. Sidney J. Montgomery, Co. M. Caddo Mills, Tex.

S/Sgt. Leon Robinson, Co. M, Houston, Tex.

### Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star

#### 263d ENGR. BN.

Pvt. Robert D. O'Keefe, Co. B, Rosston, Ark.

### Bronze Star

(Heroic Achievement)

#### 253d INF.

T/Sgt. Forrest J. Downey, Co. K, Alexandria, Ind.

T/Sgt. Boyd R. Hollis, Co. H, Martinsburg, W. Va.

Pfc. Joseph A. Onufer, Cn. Co., Philadelphia.

Pfc. Walter E. Harmon, Co. G, Bluefield, Va.

Sgt. Forest H. Shoulders, Co. H, Palestine, Ill.

S/Sgt. George M. Wasem, Peoria, Ill.

Pfc. David M. Philipps, Co. G, Los Angeles.

Pfc. Frank D. Rubino, Co. G, Irvington, N.J.

Sgt. Oreion P. Thielen, AT Co., West Allis, Wis.

Lt. John P. Weisensee, Regtl. Hq. Co., Sioux Falls, S. D.

Lt. Edward L. Stewart, Cn. Co., Buffalo, N.Y.

#### 254th INF.

Maj. Thomas F. Adams, Hq. 3d Bn., Corvallis, Ore.

#### 255th INF.

\* 1st/Sgt. Gideon W. Wilson, Co. A, Huntington, W. Va.

T/5 Carmen V. Abruzzese, Med., Bangor, Pa.

S/Sgt. Earnest Cline, Co. K, Simon, W. Va.

Pfc. Thomas M. Cody, Co. K, New York City.

Pfc. Thomas J. Teets, Co. K, Vanceburg, Ky.

Pfc. Elmer V. Owens, Cn. Co, Southgate, Ky.

Pfc. Richard J. Yoch, Med., Cleveland.

1st/Sgt. Albert Wessels, Co. B, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Pfc. Walter A. Cybulski, Co. A, Hamtramck, Mich.

Pfc. Leonard Bernstein, Co. K, New York City.

S/Sgt. George R. Dodson, Co. K, Cleveland, Ark.

T/Sgt. Conley K. Harrell, Co. K, Washburn, Tenn.

Pfc. Delbert D. Howell, Co. K, Hockoria, Ark.

Pfc. Edward F. Korowlotny, Co. K, Waterbury, Conn.

Pfc. Paul A. Lettang, Co. K, College Point, N.Y.

Sgt. Billie J. White, Co. K, Talladega, Ala.

Pfc. Donald L. Williams, Co. K, Rock Island, Ill.

#### 861st F. A.

Lt. William C. Lumpkin, Jr., Btry. C, Tuskegee, Ala.

T/5 Raymond F. Massey, Hq. Btry., Pleasantville, N.Y.

Sgt. Lee W. Fisher, Hq. Btry., Woodmere, N.Y.

Cpl. John Gainer, Btry. B, Detroit.

Pfc. Leroy J. Hines, Btry. A, Ewing, Ill.

T/5 Kenneth R. Ronk, Btry. A, Urbana, Ill.

Lt. Clarence W. Cyr, Btry. A, Niagara, Wis.

S/Sgt. Richard J. Dawes, Btry. B, Lawrence, Kan.

Lt. Winiford F. Emerson, Jr., Btry. B, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Lt. Joseph W. Finch, Sv. Btry., Youngstown, O.

#### 863d F. A.

Cpl. James G. Andary, Hq. Btry., Detroit.

#### 363d MED. BN.

Pfc. Oscar N. Tolson, Co. C, Cincinnati.

#### 263d ENGR. BN.

T/5 Albert J. Coughlin, Jr., Co. B, Los Angeles.

T/5 Walter L. Nelson, Jr., Co. B, Morriston, Ark.

#### 822d TD BN.

Capt. Howard W. Pollard, Co. A, St. Louis, Mo.

### Soldier's Medal

#### DIV. HQ. CO.

Cpl. Joseph W. Liberato, Philadelphia.

\* Posthumous Award.

## Division Sidelights

**263d Engr.** — Even the German dogs are eager to give up to the Americans these days. Pfc. Don Edwards, of H. & S. Co., who hails from Redlands, Calif., picked up a cute German Shepherd puppy recently and brought him back to the water detail.

**253d Inf.** — T/Sgt. Archy Bayer of Co. B, from Rochester, N. Y., was an unwilling sleight-of-hand artist recently when a piece of shrapnel cut his raincoat and passed along the palm of his hand.

Pfc. Leo Del Gado, Co. C, from Cleveland, was visited by his brother Rudolph recently. Rudolph is a veteran of North Africa, Sicily and Anzio. Two other Del Gado brothers also are in France.

**Co. B** has organized an orchestra. It consists of T/4 Theodore Przyborowski, Cleveland, harmonica; T/5 John Ryder, Rutherford, N. C., guitar; Pvt. John Farny, Evansville, Ind., mandolin, and T/4 Edward Fischer, Albany, N. Y., harp.

Four members of Hq. 2d Bn. found a tank which previously had been abandoned in the heat of battle. Ex-tankmen Lt. George W. Myers, of Thomasville, Pa., and Sgt. Leland Matlock, Springfield, Mo., assisted by Sgt. Stephen Gruber, Philadelphia, and S/Sgt. William B. Fogli, Chicago, tinkered with it and got it to run. Now its being operated against the Krauts.

**254th Inf.** — Pfc. Nathan Rosen, of the Medics had a fast shuffle recently. While resting after a severe cold he was afflicted with a pain in the chest. He was bundled into an ambulance and taken to the Collecting Company's station. His temperature was 95.6 and he was whisked away to a clearing company. Following an examination Rosen, who was feeling fit by this time, was piled into a truck and taken to the RTB. Despite his protests, he was issued new equipment and was about to start training as a rifleman when the mistake was rectified and he was returned to his old job.

**862d F. A.** — Back in the States Pfc. James Mitchell, Washington, D. C.; Larry Hanaeur, Chicago; Joe Volpe, Brooklyn, and John Petraglia, New York City, became so enthralled with Lauren Bacall after her performance in «To Have Or Have Not» that they sent her a letter profuse with admiration and praise. A gorgeous photo of Lauren arrived the other day, drawing many sounds of appreciation in the battalion.

A beautiful quart of Scotch, the gift of his nephew, who is a lieutenant in the Tank Corps, came to Pfc. Bill Wise, Charlie Btry., from Jackson, Ga. It was sitting on the floor in his quarters when some children rushed in with a huge basket of laundry. In their haste to please the Americans, they knocked the precious bottle over and it broke.

Cpl. Henry Skaug, Minot, N. D., gave a command performance on the violin before a select few in a ruined house as the battalion OP was being established. Attired tastefully in waterproof trousers, suspenders, OD shirt and top hat, he stood in a flashlight spotlight and scraped out «Love's Old Sweet Song.»

**255th Inf.** — Such popularity must be deserved, Pvt. George Bueckler, Co. M, of Pittsburgh, is easily the most popular man in the 3d Plat. He received nine packages of good things to eat which he shared with his comrades.

Sporting new staff sergeant stripes, former T/4 Anthony Perrotti, of Brooklyn, is showing men of Co. H how 15 years of civilian cooking experience can pay off in the Army. He's building up clientele for his post-war restaurant.

Came the termination of the Lenten season, the staff of 3d Bn. expected the air to be rent by mighty oaths. Capt. Williamson, S-1, wagered Lt. Charles B. White, S-2, and Capt. James Boyd, Co. K CO that he would refrain from cussin' during the period. The chaplain has been called in to arbitrate in many instances, but the captain stands a good chance of snaring the 1000 francs.

**863d F. A.** — T/5s Charles E. Protira and William E. Schwartz, Able Btry. are enjoying enforced rests. Seems that each of them had steel enter one side of his helmet and emerge on the other. «A miss is as good as a mile», says Protira.

Pfc. John Harvie, of the Medics is an excellent aid man, as his buddies will testify, but he probably never will be an artist. The proximity of Easter caused John to sketch a bunny on a letter he was writing to his mother. The letter was returned by the censor who suggested that the drawing looked more like that of a jackass than a rabbit.

**63d QM Co.** — Several bets were paid off in the 3d Plat. recently when Pfc. Carmen Marino received a cablegram announcing the birth of a daughter.

Col. Elmer Thompson, former Division Quartermaster and now quartermaster for the XXI Corps, visited the QM Co. recently and was impressed by the operations and results produced by the 63d QM.

**Div. Hq. and Hq. Co.** — T/Sgt. Jackie Whitfield and his Commando Ten composed of men in AG are to date undefeated on the diamond. They defeated the 255th Personnel section twice, 11-7 and 7-6; the combine personnel section of Div Arty, 18-0, and Special Troops, fell despite the heroic slabwork of M/Sgt. Len Pitterle.

Other news from DAC has it that T/Sgt. James Handjis is the father of a boy, James, Jr., born Feb. 26 at the Natchez Sanatorium. Cpl. Tom Moyer, of the APO, also is a proud papa. Tom, Jr., was born Feb. 18 at Pensacola, Fla.

## 255th Unit Leaders Receive Promotions

Three battalion commanders in the 255th Inf. have been promoted to lieutenant colonel; three first lieutenants, one a chaplain, named captains and 15 second lieutenants advanced to first lieutenant.

The new lieutenant colonels are Robert C. Forbes, 1st Bn., Harrisburg, Pa.; Edward P. Thompson, 2d Bn., Faribault, Minn., and Maurice K. Schiffman, 3d Bn., Butte, Mont.

Lts. James F. Clark, Detroit, and Manahiem Siegal, New York City, were named captains, along with Chaplain Raphael H. Miller, Jr., of Indianapolis.

The following officers were advanced to first lieutenant: Denzil V. Bergman, Robert S. Black, William F. Bonds, Fred W. Bondurant, William C. Cullen, Edward G. Fox, Richard E. Hartmann, Raymond B. Miller, John O. Nelson, James J. Ryan, Wesley L. Tennant, Virgil D. Walter, Charles B. White, Edmundo Martinez, and Frank J. Shepherd.

## KO By Remote Control

The big drive to breach the Siegfried Line was on and the telephone lines to the 254th CP were sizzling. T/5 Octavio Prieto, of the regiment's wire section, was working on a switchboard installed in a foxhole.

Prieto found he didn't have enough hands to hold the wires he was transferring to a new board and answered the phone at the same time so he was forced to hold the loose ends of the wire in his mouth. The next thing he knew he was on his back looking up at the switchboard.

Someone turned the crank that generates the juice for the phone and Prieto received an electrical haymaker in the mouth akin to the Brown Bomber's Sunday punch.

DON'T BE A FALL GUY for apparent Nazi friendliness — Don't Fraternalize.

## Seibel, Sable, Schnapps

When Pfc. Henry Seibel, of Paterson, N. J., first met Sgt. Gene Sable, of Savannah, Ill., Seibel was a civilian returning from a gorgeous New Year's Eve celebration. Sable was stationed in Paterson. Along came the draft and Seibel was in the Army, stationed near Sable's home in Savannah. Sable's folks heard about it and made sure Seibel was a frequent guest for Saturday night dinner.

However, all sweet dreams must come to an end. Both Seibel and Sable eventually came overseas, Seibel with Sv. Btry., 862d F. A. They corresponded and found out they were both in France. Recently Seibel was doctoring the ankle of a civilian whose ax had slipped when he glanced up. Who should be standing there but Sable? What a reunion! To top it off, the grateful civilian hobbled up with a bottle of happiness, and it was Seibel, Sable and Schnapps.

# Marlene Displays Those Famous Gams

BERNIE BLOOD

By Gill Fox

«Geez, it's Marleen Deetrick,» yelled a GI as his eyes bugged out. He wasn't dreaming, either.

Marlene Dietrich, sultry-voiced owner of the world's most famous pair of legs, her gorgeous figure poured into a gown encrusted with golden sequins, swept onto an outdoor stage at Kirkel recently to entertain men of the 254th Inf.

Berlin-born Marlene has been overseas a year entertaining soldiers in battle areas. Her tours are sponsored by the USO.

Accompanying Miss Dietrich were Fred Lightner, brother of Winnie Lightner, former motion picture comedienne and Broadway star; Joe Marko, singer; Lynn Mayberry, harmonica player and comedienne, and Pvt. Jack Grant, pianist. The Division's Red orchestra also entertained.

Miss Dietrich has played before thousands of soldiers of the First and Ninth armies and her appearance was not the first on German soil since coming to the ETO.

«I have no plans for picture-making until the war is over,» said the Hollywood star. «I am interested only in entertaining the soldiers and I will continue to do so in any theater until my services are no longer needed.»

On her way to the Division area Miss Dietrich stopped at the Siegfried Line at the sign erected by the 263d Engrs. which informs all that they are «passing through the Siegfried Line through the courtesy of the 63d Division.»

She participated in a mind-reading skit with Lightner and sang three songs, «She displayed her versatility by playing «Song of the Islands,» on the musical saw.

All during this time the eager GIs were anxiously awaiting the unveiling of the famous gams. Finally Miss Dietrich pulled up her dress, revealing to the eyes of the appreciative audience not only as neat a pair of limbs as they ever clapped eyes upon, but also the flaming 63d shoulder patch which somehow had found its way to a delicately embroidered garter.

## No Knife and Fork?

Capt. Silas Barton, Co. F, 254th Inf., wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but he's glad he had one on the hip recently. A piece of flying shrapnel embedded itself in his pistol holster. The steel penetrated the leather easily but was stopped by the spoon which the captain had stuck in the sheath.

## Moving Does It

If you have moved at all in the last few days, you will understand the problem of trying to publish BLOOD AND FIRE from anything but a portable printing plant. We may miss a week now and then, but we WILL publish as regularly as is possible under existing conditions. We dislike moving as much as anyone, but we offer our readers the same consolation we offer ourselves — as long as we keep moving it's all to the good.



## Bazookas, Grenades Effective Weapons When 254th Unit Mops Up German Towns

Carry plenty of bazooka ammunition and white phosphorous grenades and don't be afraid to use them.

Such is the advice for town fighting given by men of Co. C, 254th Inf., who mopped up two German towns in a couple of days before moving on to the Siegfried Line.

«Have faith in the bazooka,» says Lt. John P. Brown, of Miami, Fla., the company commander. «Shoot it through the walls of houses, through floors into cellars.

«Use the WP grenades to set buildings on fire and to run Germans out of houses and strongpoints. Clean out a town from top to bottom as you go. Don't pass through and leave any enemy for anyone else to liquidate.»

**Be Fair, Not Soft**  
The company's recipe for dealing with civilians in a German town follows Gen. Eisenhower's pronouncements — «Be fair, but let them know you're conquerors. Don't let them play on what they think is American softness.»

When it mopped up Ensheim, Co. C locked up all civilian men under the age of 50, on the theory that they were of potential military value to the Nazis. It segregated all other civilians, keeping them under guard and away from PWs until CIC and Military Government officials could pass on their eligibility to remain in their homes.

Co. C, which already had taken Hartungshof, surprised Ensheim. There was hot food on many dinner tables and fires were still burning in the stoves when the riflemen moved in, beside and ahead of tank support. There was no artillery preparation.

«There was moderate resistance in Ensheim until we began to move in at a rapid pace,» Lt. Brown said. «Every street had a road block. But we flushed a lot of troops and two tanks or self-propelled guns which ran away.

### Took 300 Prisoners

We took about 300 prisoners. Of these 120 were in full German army uniform. Some were in broken uniform — they wore army shoes and civilian shirts and hats, for instance; it looked as though they had been trying to change into civilian clothes — and the rest were in civilian clothes but wore Volkssturm armbands.»

The secret of clearing a town rapidly, Co. C says, is the old training manual business of «fire and movement.»

### 254th Commissioned 'Em

A recent issue BLOOD AND FIRE carried a story which indicated in both head and text that the 255th Inf. had commissioned six enlisted men. It was the 254th Inf. from which these men were commissioned second lieutenants.