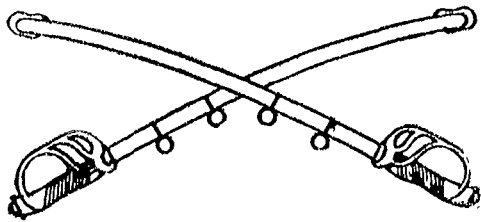
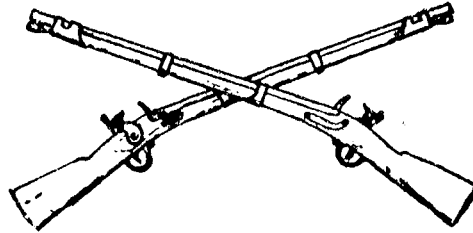


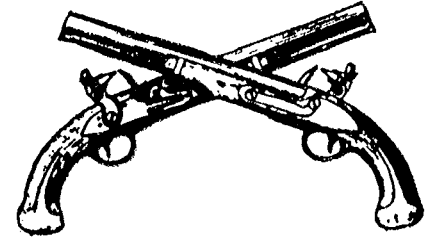
SPECIAL TROOPS



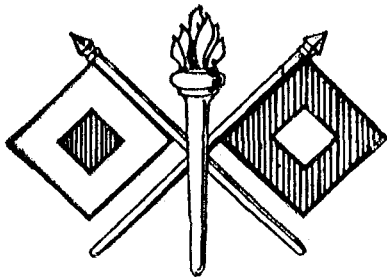
87TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP



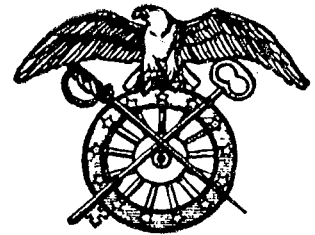
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 87TH INFANTRY DIV



87TH MILITARY POLICE PLATOON



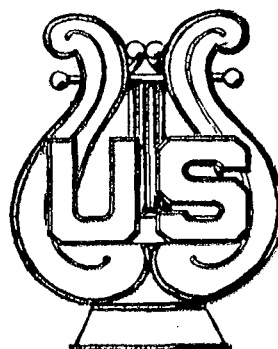
87TH SIGNAL COMPANY



87TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY



MEDICAL DETACHMENT SPECIAL TROOPS



87TH DIVISION BAND



787TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

87th INFANTRY DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS
87th Infantry Division
Fort Benning Georgia

6 September 1945

TO: The Men of Special Troops.

This is your book.

This is the record of your service, your efforts and your sacrifices while members of Special Troops units in a truly great infantry division. The data incorporated in this book are evidences of an exceptional spirit and stamina which grew and developed in those arduous days of training and which had their ultimate fruition in our accomplishments in combat.

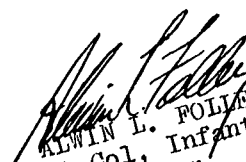
War, in itself, is not glorious. In a free society such as ours, the only glory to be found in war rests in individual willingness to make sacrifices for a just cause. That's why this book is primarily devoted to individuals.

It is significant that Special Troops, though composed of such widely diverging fields of service, should nonetheless have shown such an understanding of the meaning of teamwork. All the units of Special Troops toiled cooperatively within their separate spheres for that same ultimate goal, victory.

The photographs and historical material contained herein will grow in importance to you through the years, rekindling pleasant memories and recalling friendships born of mutual problems and sacrifices.

I am proud to have served as commander of Special Troops and am more than pleased that you have done your work well and uncomplainingly, in spite of serious handicaps.

Good Luck.


ALVIN L. FOLLEY,
Lt Col, Infantry,
Commanding.



ALWIN L. FOLLEY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, INFANTRY
COMMANDING

SPECIAL TROOPS

— ITS FUNCTIONS

The following pages present a comprehensive history of the 87th Division Special Troops and graphically illustrate the function of the various units—whose combination of necessary skills make possible the smooth operation of the entire division.

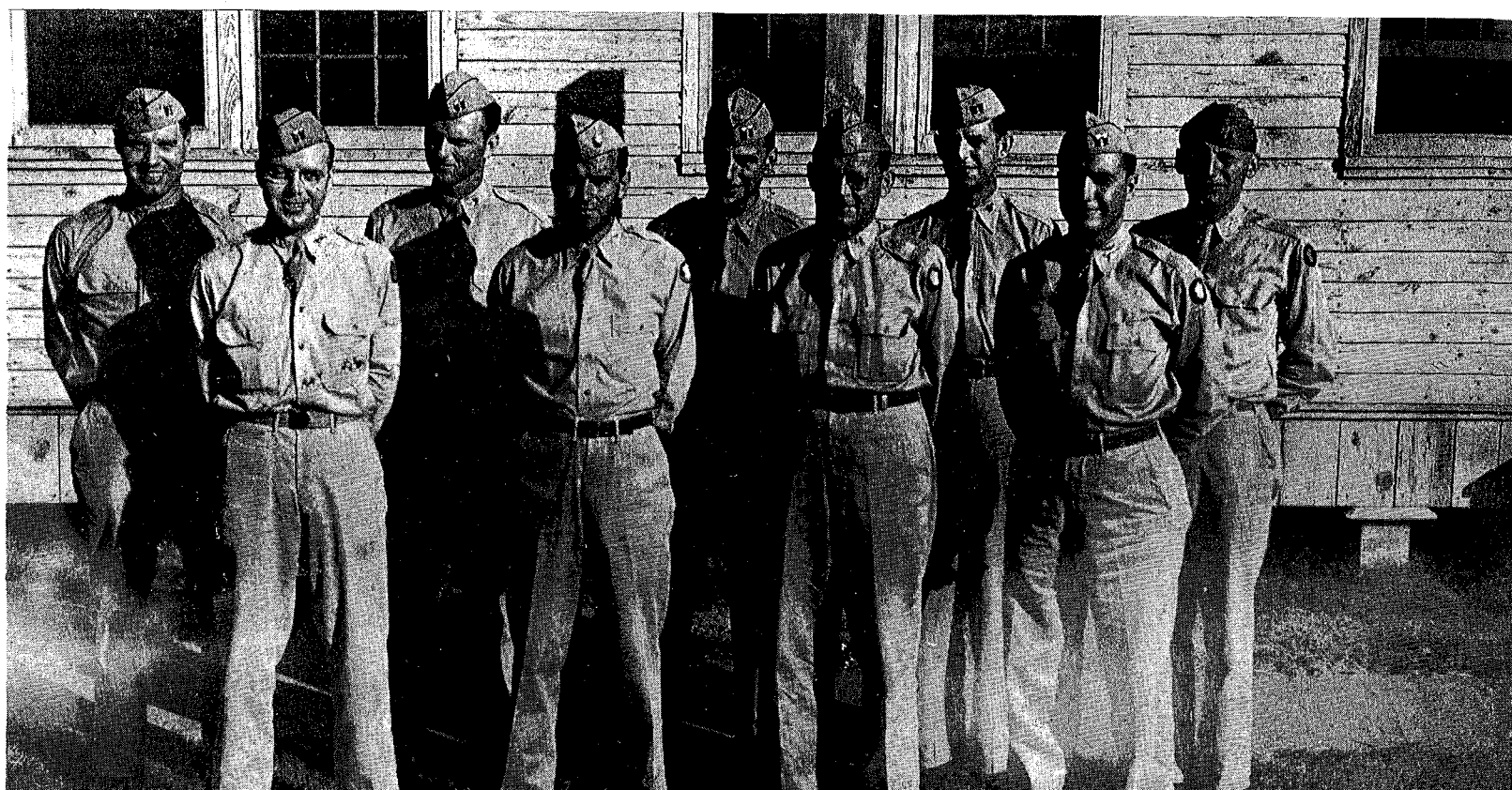
Approximately 1,100 troops—or, one out of every fourteen men of the division, fall under the heading of Special Troops. These men belong to Signal Company, that essential unit which maintains the important task of building communication; the Quartermaster Company, those men who bring forward the daily rations of food and clothing, and the Reconnaissance Troop, that brave little band of fighters who venture far into enemy territory, often in advance of the infantry, to bring back vital information about enemy movements.

Other units of Special Troops are the Ordnance Company, the “fixers,” who repair and maintain jeep, truck and gun parts; the Military Police, the boys who keep traffic rolling and enemy prisoners from “strolling”; the Medical Detachment, those friendly fellows who are always on call to help a guy out; the Headquarters Company and Division Headquarters men, the valiant “chairborne” outfit who spent many a weary hour keeping our records in top order, and, lastly, the band—finest division band in the army.

The following pages illustrate the work and play of these various units—from a cold winter day in '43, when the “rookies” arrived at camp, until September '45, when, as veterans of World War II, they are awaiting the time when once again they will be wearing civilian clothes.

SPECIAL TROOPS COMMANDING OFFICERS

Reading from left to right, Back Row: Captain Miller (M.P.), Captain Minckler (Signal), Captain Roland (Ordnance), Captain Rankin (Quartermaster), First Lieutenant Ortowski (Reconnaissance). Front Row: Captain Eggert (Adjutant), Lieutenant Colonely Folley (Special Troops), Major Batchelder (Medics), Captain Hinks (Headquarters).



HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS HISTORY



Headquarters Special Troops is the administrative hub of all Special Troops units. Though its personnel has usually averaged only three officers and nine enlisted men, it is a separate and distinct unit in itself.

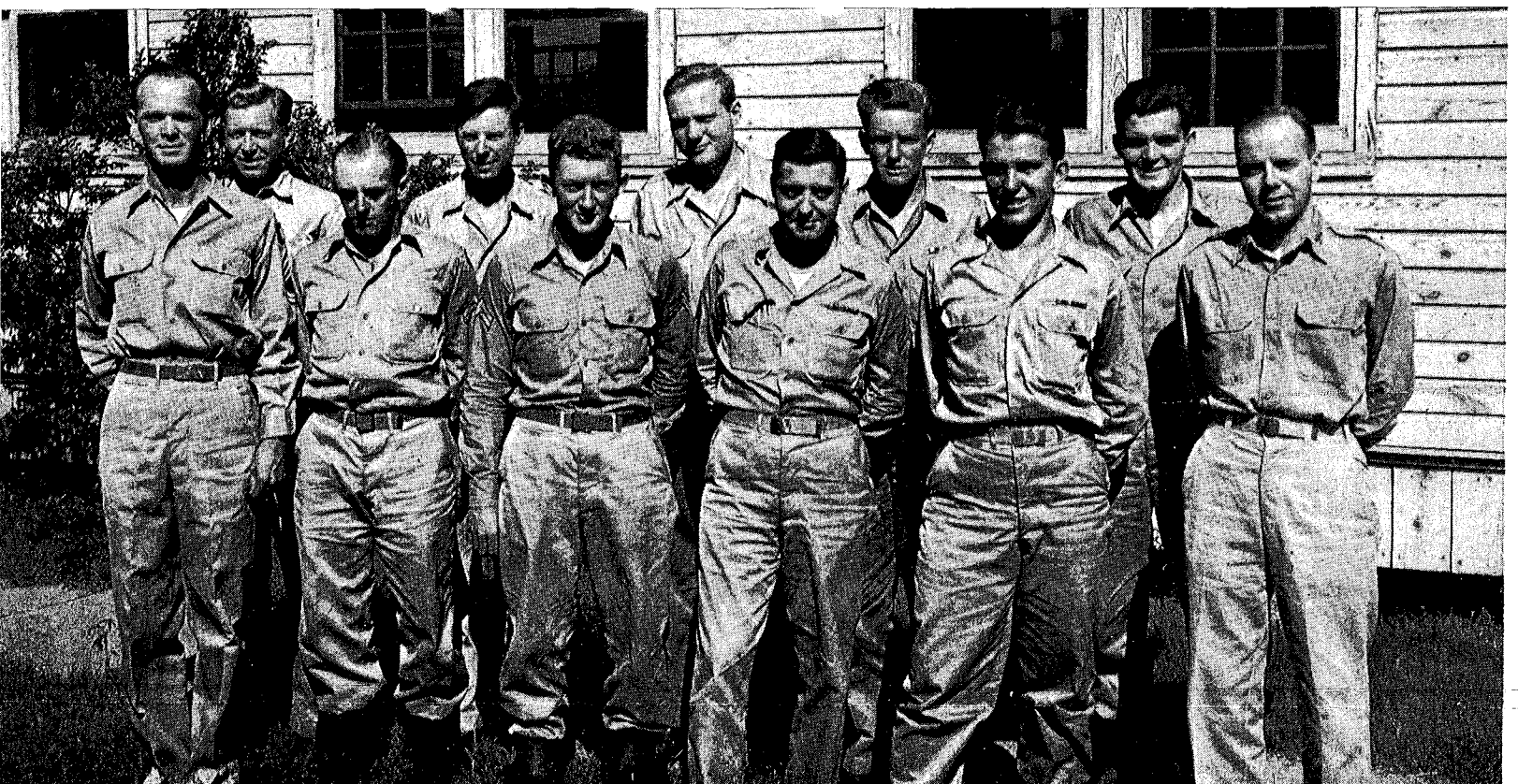
In addition to this basic staff, each organization in Special Troops supplies two personnel clerks who work directly under the supervision of the Adjutant. These are the Joes who recorded all your promotions, payments, commendations, misdemeanors, firing records, typhoid shots, transfers, decorations and sex hygiene lectures; in fact, practically everything that concerned your army life, including your point score. Their work was unending, often a matter of working nights and Sundays while the rest of us were on pass. But you'd have a hard time hearing any serious complaint from these clerks. It was an important and necessary job, and they knew it.

Headquarters Special Troops dates back almost to the Division's beginning. It officially came into being on 14 August 1943, with Lt. Col. James B. Evans as CO. T/Sgt. James E. Dickerson acted as sort of clerical midwife at its birth, and remained with the Headquarters as Sergeant-Major throughout its existence. In fact, Dick didn't miss a single day with "Hq Sp Trs," and when the headquarters was deactivated, the Army deactivated Dick too. He's now teaching school in Mississippi.

Major Alwin L. Folley was brought in from the 347th to be made Executive Officer. He became Commanding Officer in November of 1943 and, except for a period in the summer of 1944, has remained CO ever since. Major James B. Scott was in command during that four-month period, and became division G-1 when he was reassigned in October.

PERSONNEL SECTION, HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS

Reading from left to right, Back Row: T/5 Grosch (Signal), S/Sgt. Cross, Corporal Hagan (Headquarters), T/5 Dederer (Headquarters), T/5 Hamilton (Reconnaissance). Front Row: T/Sgt. Dickerson (Sergeant Major), Corporal Stouf (Ordnance), Corporal Parsons (Quartermaster), Sergeant Bishop (Reconnaissance), T/4 Kessler (Signal), Captain Eggert (Adjutant).



Major Folley became Lt. Col. Folley on 1 February, 1945, while serving in Germany. He was further rewarded for his untiring devotion to duty when the Bronze Star medal was given to him in March, 1945.

The first Adjutant, 2nd Lt. Lawrence E. McNutt, was replaced in December, 1943 by 1st Lt. John J. Cleary. Lt. Cleary was later promoted to Captain and given command of the 87th Reconnaissance Troop. His tragic but heroic death in France, just as the Division entered combat, was a profound shock to all the men in Special Troops.

2nd Lt. Herbert R. Eggert, of the 335th F. A. Battalion, became Adjutant in August, 1944, after serving as Personnel Officer and Acting Adjutant for several months. He became 1st Lt. in October, 1944 and Captain in May, 1945. He is holder of the Bronze Star medal for the extraordinary service he rendered overseas.

While overseas, the personnel office under Capt. Eggert travelled with Division rear echelon. Assisting T/Sgt. Dickerson was S/Sgt. Richard B. Cross, a former Recon. man. Cross received the Bronze Star in June, 1945, for meritorious service. Pfc. Joe Kubina served as Capt. Eggert's driver.

Lt. Col. Folley, assisted by Sgt. Thomas Coffey, and later, Sgt. Reginald Lockwood, were members of forward echelon. T/5 Don Dettmer was Lt. Col. Folley's loyal and able driver. Pfc. John Roach and Pfc. Glen Dillavou also served with the Headquarters in Europe.

Captain John H. Meister, Special Troops Chaplain since November, 1943, was awarded the Bronze Star for his services overseas. T/5 Walter Dunn and T/5 Charles Rhubarb were his assistants.

ROSTER...

LT. COL. ALWIN L. FOLLEY, Aberdeen, N. C.

CAPT. HERBERT R. EGGERT, 915 Pitt Road, Cheltenham, Pa.

T/Sgt. JAMES E. DICKERSON, Ripley, Miss.

S/Sgt. RICHARD B. CROSS, 1 Euclid Ave., Summit, N. J.

SGT. REGINALD G. LOCKWOOD, 47 Elinor Place, Yonkers, N. Y.

T/5 DONALD W. DETTMER, 3554 W. 120th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

PFC. JOHN S. ROACH, Springfield, W. Va.

PFC. ROBERT E. DOWNEY, Tyronza, Ark.

PFC. JOSEPH E. KUBINA, 2550 Taft Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.



This is Tec/5 Don Dettmer resisting temptation during the fraternization ban in Germany.

CONTRIBUTORS TO SPECIAL TROOPS HISTORY

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY: Pfc. Jack Binder, T/4 William Streeter, Pfc. Arch Vogel, Jr., T/4 Quentin Quigley; SIGNAL COMPANY: T/5 William Banker, T/5 Robert Ford; ORDNANCE COMPANY: T/5 Arthur Reinstein; QUARTERMASTER COMPANY: Sgt. Fred Curran; RECONNAISSANCE TROOP: Pfc. Winton Hughes, Pfc. William Pallman, Pfc. Richard Gray;

BAND: T/5 Morton Wayne; MEDICAL DETACHMENT: T/Sgt. Charles Longbella.

EDITOR: Cpl. John Orr; ASSISTANT EDITOR: T/5 Morton Wayne; BUSINESS MANAGER: Sgt. Harold Reilly, Jr.; ART EDITOR: T/4 Grose Evans.

ADVISOR: 1st Lt. Raymond Welch, QMC.

87th SIGNAL COMPANY



COMMUNICATIONS - ALWAYS



Company Officers of Signal Company.

HISTORY — 87TH SIGNAL COMPANY

It was February of 1943 and from near and far the trains rolled in and the men rolled out to be greeted by the barren wilderness of Mississippi. Yes, it was Camp McCain, the final destination of the troop trains which had brought the men from their respective reception centers to the home of the 87th Infantry Division, a division that had been recently reactivated on the 15 December, 1942.

A goodly number of these men found themselves assigned to the 87th Signal Company, though less than a handful had any previous experience with communications. Lt. Col. James B. Evans was the Division Signal officer and although Capt. Crowther was then the Company Commander, Capt. Crowther left for a more important assignment and 2nd Lt. John S. Nelson assumed command within a week or two after the arrival of the new recruits.

Mud up to one's knees and dust in one's eyes seemed to typify the weather in Mississippi during the late winter months. The new ones, however, learned to respect the bellow of the "Big-un"—M. P. Rogers and accept it in lieu of a bugle. "Long John" (a name the boys ascribed

to Lt. Nelson behind his back) assembled the company in the Rec. Hall one day to tell them to forget family, wives, and friends for they were in the army now. Reluctantly, perhaps, but still with some zeal and spirit the men started their basic training. Pantano and other drill sergeants from the cadre, were hung, drawn and quartered in everyone's dreams, as the haunting refrains of hut, two, three, four, became the symbols of the army's ball and chain.

Specialized Signal Training followed in the wake of basic. "Wild Cat" Cody chased up and down what was sworn to be solid mahogany telephone poles. It looked easy, but all the recruits ever got seemed to be splinters as they "burned" the poles. Charlie Ward revealed the inner mysteries of the EE 8-A, but to most of the recruits it was still a mystery and they preferred to leave it that way. Dit, dit, dah became a buzz in everyone's ears and to those who thought it was intended as a lullaby, Lt. Goodman handed a broom and a mop. "Sleepy" Sgt. Vinson taught the fundamentals of Message Center operation, with the admonition that message center was an agency to speed up the delivery of messages—not slow it down.

The "idle" hours were wiled away under "KP Pusher" Bill Morris—who'll never forget the two weeks at a stretch business. Little odd jobs such as latrine orderlies, officer's KP, and officer's barracks orderly also helped to pass the time. If a recruit was lucky he might get a pass to the thriving metropolis of Grenada, Mississippi (normal population 300; soldiers generally in town 20,000). If one could push aboard the 4:45 on a Saturday afternoon, they might be able to forget their army woes in Memphis over the week-end.

October of 1943 brought "D" series and to this day, October has never been forgiven. It was just a three-week warm up for maneuvers, but before it was over, everybody had managed to work up a "sweat." The "tenderfeet" (please note the promotion of the recruits) began to learn what made "brass hats." It took uncanny genius to find a 50 mile short cut over a five mile route. "Rest" the men learned was a command and not an invitation, as a good many put in from 48 to 72 hours at a stretch.

Just before maneuvers the company lost its Radio Intelligence Platoon to a Signal Battalion

Tec /5 Joseph G. Behrens Cleans Up His Clothes While Awaiting Deployment.



Tec /5 Thomas Craven Turns in His "Long Johns" for a Pair of Summer Shorts to Supply Sergeant John F. Lee.

and from the way the boys celebrated one almost got the impression that they didn't mind missing out on the forthcoming Tennessee picnic.

Those who attended the latter party, which by the way ensued for six weeks through December and part of January, at last had a suggestion to make to the Army Quartermaster Corps—bathing suits should be a required item of issue. Everybody hoped that Louis Bromfield would write a sequel to his book "The Rains Came" putting an end to the downpour, but nothing ever happened. "Butch" Regan unexpectedly had soup for Christmas dinner, when a downpour filled everyones mess kits with rainwater. Lt. Jacobs (more affectionately known as "Jake") tried a new way of rousing late sleepers as he serenaded them one morning with his portable radio. But all things come to an end and on the 14th of January, 1944, the battle of the red versus the blue finally drew to a conclusion.

Rumors had the Division going to practically every post in the United States, but after a 500 mile motor trip over the hills of Tennessee and through Georgia, the Signal Company with other units of the 87th found themselves at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. In comparison to McCain and Tennessee, Jackson looked pretty good. Personnel changes during the stay at Jackson were numerous. Lt. Nelson went to school, became a captain and on his return was appointed



Top—Big-Ten Rogers, First Sergeant.
Center—Shop Truck in Action.
Bottom—Butch Regan and His Kitchen on Wheels.

Assistant Division Signal Officer under Lt. Col. Evans. The command of the company passed to Lt. Dunn, to Lt. Weller, and back again to Lt. Dunn. Finally in September of '44, 1st Lt. Rex D. Minckler was appointed CO. Enlisted turnover was great too, as a number of men were shipped to replacement centers.

In the summer of 1944, furloughs came, and the men returned to find the division alerted late in August for overseas shipment. Old equipment was discarded, new equipment packed and crated and "showdown" inspections became a byword. Indeed, it seemed as though the clothes would be shopworn before they were ever put to use. Brass was polished, shoes were shined and hair "slicked down" and the outfit that would never go overseas found itself, on the 15th of October enroute to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

Kilmer brought "canned" lectures on boat drill, navigation, and deep sea fishing as well as the do's and don'ts of the way to act when taken prisoner. The condemned men ate heartily, until it was discovered that they would be around for about ten days, whereupon the army moved them to a mess hall where they had student cooks. Passes were in order then, and men discovered money could be spent faster in New York than in any other city in the States. An unexpected surprise in the form of a three-day pass, took most of those who lived within a thousand mile radius and sent them scurrying home.

When the day to leave Kilmer had come the Company boarded the rickety Jersey Central to ride to Hoboken, thence across the Hudson on a ferry to the New York point of embarkation. Loaded down under a mass of equipment weighing more than the men themselves, the Company trudged up the gang plank of the former French liner "Pasteur" a ship operated by Eng-



*Top—Cute—Are They Not?
Above—Nice Day, Isn't It?*

*Top—'Twas Rather Cool.
Above—Must be Amusing.*

*Top—Three of One Mind.
Above—Washing Up.*

lish personnel. With more men crowded into a compartment than there are people in a New York subway during the rush hours, the men prepared to bed down for the night. Many, however, were surprised to find that the normal sleeping position was to hang from the ceiling, in a strange affair called a hammock.

On the afternoon of November 4th after a night spent at anchor, the ship set sail. New Yorkers like Pandolfo, accustomed to riding back and forth on the Staten Island ferry, were duly impressed by the "Lady in the Harbor," as they suddenly realized that this ship wouldn't take them back on the same nickel.

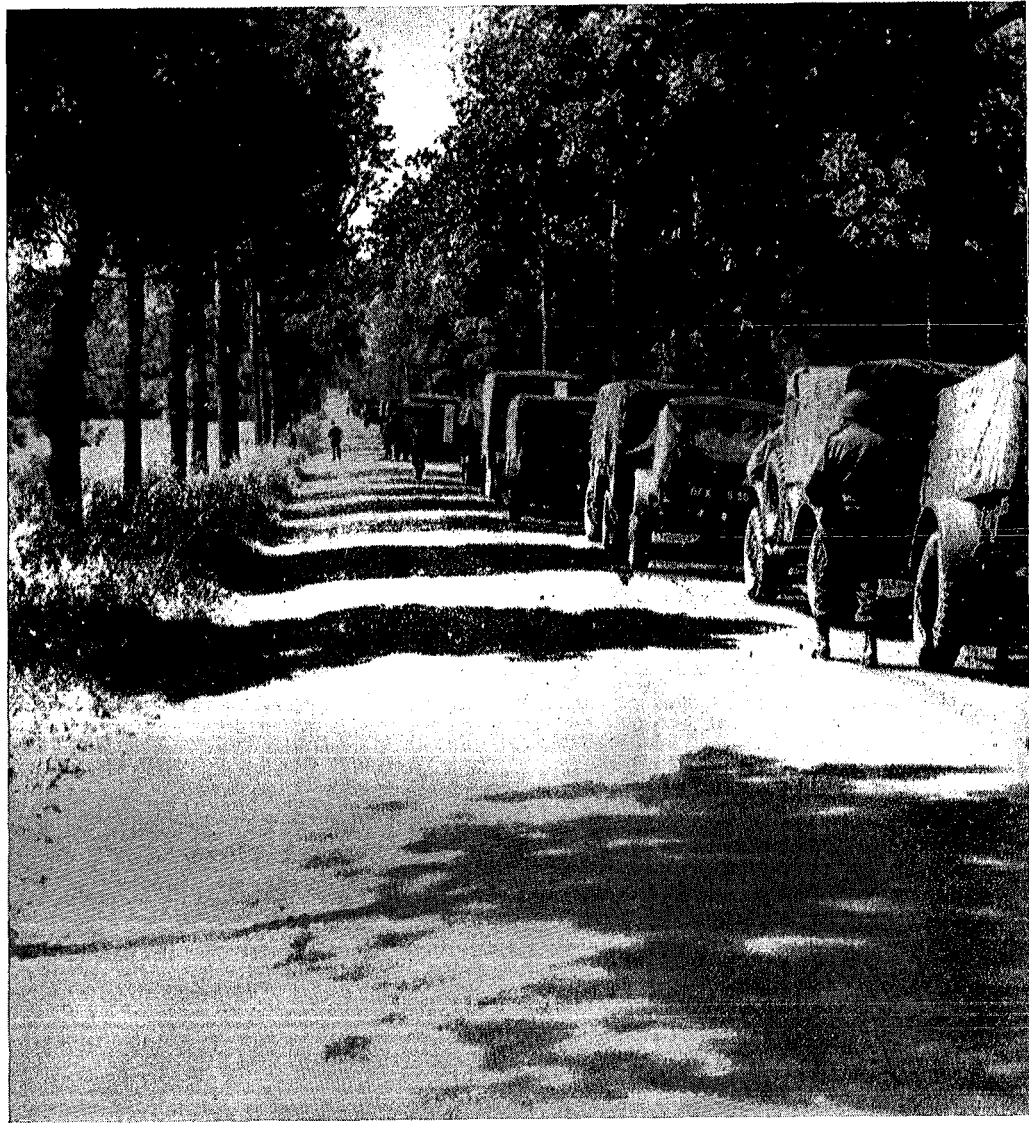
The first day out wasn't bad, but the second day all those who were still able, cursed the French shipbuilders, for the "Pasteur" tossed like a match stick. Meals, though unrecognizable as such, were served three times daily. American appetites and English cooking have absolutely nothing in common. Even "Limey" Hedges couldn't take the grub and preferred to "sweat out" the PX lines to buy cookies and coke. On the sixth day out, two British destroyers came

out to meet the "Pasteur," but disappeared again that night presumably to chase an enemy sub.

On the eve of November 11th the ship dropped anchor outside the harbor of Liverpool, England awaiting an opportunity to cross the "bar" of Tenneyson fame. It was not until the afternoon of the 13th, however, that the ship proceeded up the River Mercy and into its berth. Late that night, the troops debarked and made their way to a nearby troop train.

After about a two-hour trip, the train pulled into the station at Chelford, England, greeted by an incessant downpour—weather which was later discovered to be expected in England. Army trucks took the company to Peover Camp, New Knutsford. The low wooden beds with their straw mattresses looked strange but by that time any bed looked good to the travel weary troops.

Almost immediately the Signal Company assumed the responsibility for signal communications between the division units, which were spread out over the English countryside. Vehicles and equipment to complete the unit's readiness for combat operations were received, checked and put into operating condition. Meanwhile, in the evenings and over weekends men



A Break in the Trip While on Our Way Home.



Dinner Must be Late.



*Captain R. D. Minckler, Phil Stansbery, and Everett Lanham
Receive the Bronze Star from Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Evans.*



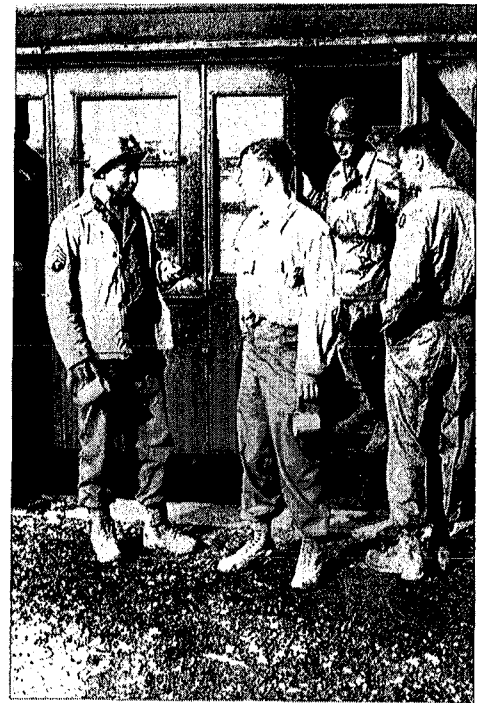
*Leslie M. Lee, Receives the Bronze Star from Captain
R. D. Minckler.*



Our Faces were Always Clean, Anyhow.



Good Hunting in Germany.



Where's Your Helmet, Soldier?

received passes to nearby towns to get their first taste of English pubs, warm beer, fish and chips and, of course, wherever the American army travels, feminine companionship. About the English pubs and warm beer little could be said, and about the English girls, a great deal could be said, but perhaps the less the better.

The stay in England was brief and on 26 November the main body of the company, leaving only a very small detachment to close out signal operations (although George Miller still insists it was a garbage detail, that was left behind), set out in motor convoy for a two-day trip across England and the Channel. Once aboard, the men found conditions somewhat crowded but a good deal more pleasant than on the "Pasteur." The food was good and sea sickness at a minimum. The Navy personnel aboard had heroic tales to tell of the "D" day landings. On the morning of November 30th, the French coast was sighted and the LST dropped anchor in the harbor of Le-Havre. Twenty-four hours later, orders to unload were received cancelling previous plans to move up the Seine River, and the debarkation began on a French beach. In moving through

LeHarve in motor convoy vivid first-hand evidence of the terrific destructive power of the Allied Air Forces was in evidence, as virtually every building within a two-mile radius of the waterfront was totally destroyed. It was a sight to be repeated many times through France, Belgium, and Germany, but the first scene left an impression long to be remembered.

The motor convoy moved to Saint-Saens, France and the company set up pup tents in what was known as the Red Horse Assembly Area. It was here the French "kids" began their haunting chant, "Cigaret pour papa, chocolat pour mama et bon bons pour moi."

In a few days, however, the Division received orders to move to Metz, the Signal Company making the motor trip in two days, stopping overnight in Chambley. The billets at Metz were the ex-Gestapo headquarters. Division artillery units joined those of other outfits in pounding at the few heavy forts that still remained in German possession. Metz, itself, was a strange city—it appeared neither wholly French nor wholly German. The men were extremely wary of the civilian populace.

On December 9th, the Division undertook a relief of the 26th Infantry Division in the Saar Sector. The Signal Company moved to Sarre Union, while operating personnel went on to Oermingen, France. By the 11th of December, the Signal Company had entered full scale combat operations. Throughout combat movement, no composite picture of the action of the company as a whole can be drawn, due to the wide separation of the company's sections; construction and radio teams operated with the regiments as well as with the Division CP; message center and T&T operated with Division headquarters; and the administrative and maintenance sections traveled with the company headquarters.

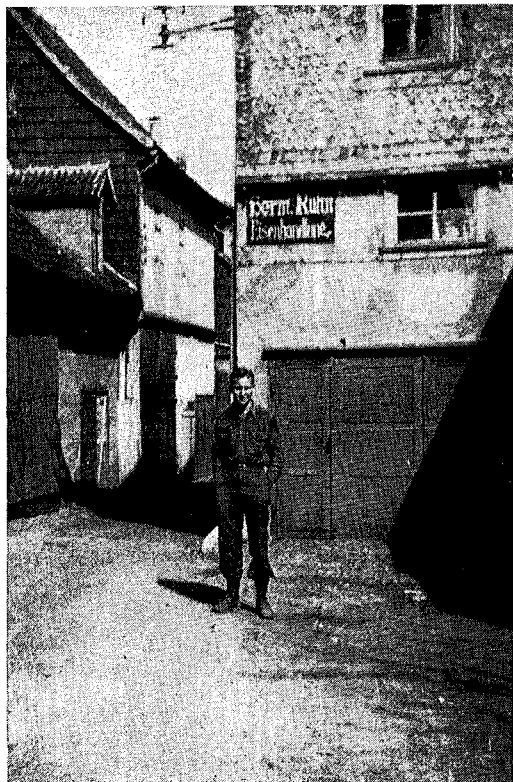
The fighting in the Sarr sector, took the company to Achen and then to Gros Rederching. In the latter spot, the Division Command Post received its heaviest shelling of the war being pounded by German 88's. Two members of the Signal Company became the company's first battle casualties when they were wounded by shrapnel—Tommy Accamando and Elwood Ashton. A bit of comic relief was offered that evening by Sgt. Rogers. He had been up visiting the CP when the shelling got rather heavy and he

decided to leave. He let out a typical bellow for Gahring his driver, which every one misconstrued as the cry of "Air Raid." Seconds later, he was surprised to find himself alone in a deserted street.

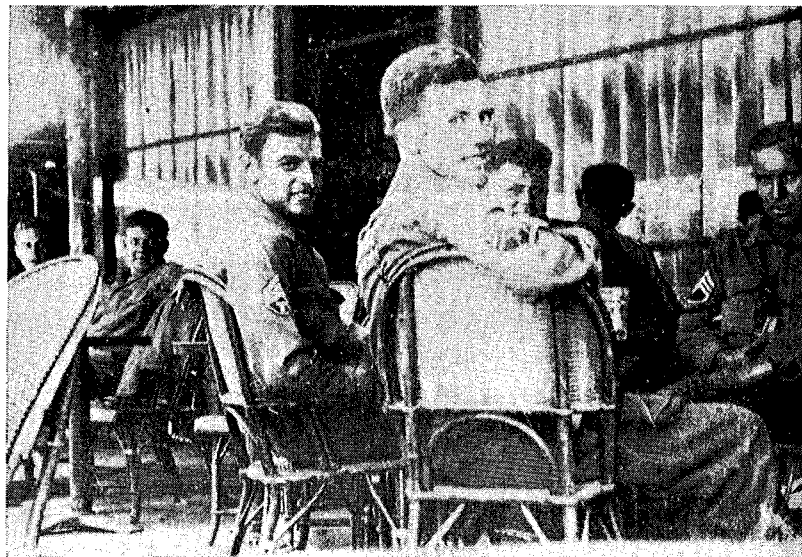
The following day, with the men still somewhat on edge, an American plane was fired on by local anti-aircraft batteries who had failed to identify it. Dave Monsour, who had been working in an open field made a dash for the nearest ditch, mistaking the bursts of ack ack for a fleet of German aircraft. Those who were working indoors mistook the firing for another shelling, and the men in DSO and Message Centers felt rather funny lying on the floor when they heard what all the excitement was about.

News of the great German counter offensive was received about this time and within a few days everyone knew that this was a major enemy effort and one that might very well lead to the disintegration of the Nazi armies could it be

Looking the Situation Over.



*Top—Let's Smile, Sergeant.
Bottom—Jive in the Rough.*





Fraternizing in Belgium—A. W. Schmelzer and Owen P. Connell.

turned into a German defeat. On the 23rd of December, therefore, the 87th Division was relieved in the Saar sector and the company began a long motor march to Dieuze, France. Here they spent Christmas Eve. The officers brought out their liquor rations and as best they could under the circumstances, the men proceeded to make merry. Christmas dinner was also served in Dieuze, though rather hastily, for the company was on the move again that afternoon to a field bivouac outside of Reims, France. Here almost 100 miles behind the front lines the men dug foxholes and for the first time dug in installations.

The brief interlude with the Division in SHAEF reserve did not last long, however, and on the 29th of December, the company moved in the direction of the German winter-offensive. A long bitter cold motor march—the constantly puffing pot-bellied stove in the rear of the crypt truck was the envy of the whole company—led to Bertrix, Belgium. Early on the morning of the 30th the outfit plunged into the Battle of the Ardennes.

Bertrix was a nice town, as far as Belgian towns go—on the surface not much disturbed by the war. If one had Belgian money, one could buy “Evening in Paris” perfume, and the local taverns were open with schnaps and a cold, if not particularly good beer. The people had an intense hatred for the Germans and welcomed the Americans with open arms. New Years was spent here, enlivened by whatever variety of liquor obtainable.

The German attack meanwhile had been contained and lengthening communication lines forced the company to move to Libramont, Belgium. Here they stayed for two weeks during which there was a considerable amount of snow. During this period wire lines were frequently strung overhead, a job which made the initial task harder, but in the long run saved many hours of trouble shooting by the determined construction teams.

From Libramont, the company moved to Freux La Rue and then into Luxembourg, stopping finally at Rodembourg. With action in this sector mainly defensive—the men began to receive passes to Luxembourg City. The latter city had not been damaged very heavily by the war, and the populace warm heartedly received American soldiers. It was a picturesque city and shutterbugs like Howard Ornstine had a field day with their cameras. Besides the customary “spirits,” Luxembourg City offered pastries and pies and something purported to be “ice cream.” It was one of the few places that the men had found since leaving England, where money once again had some value.

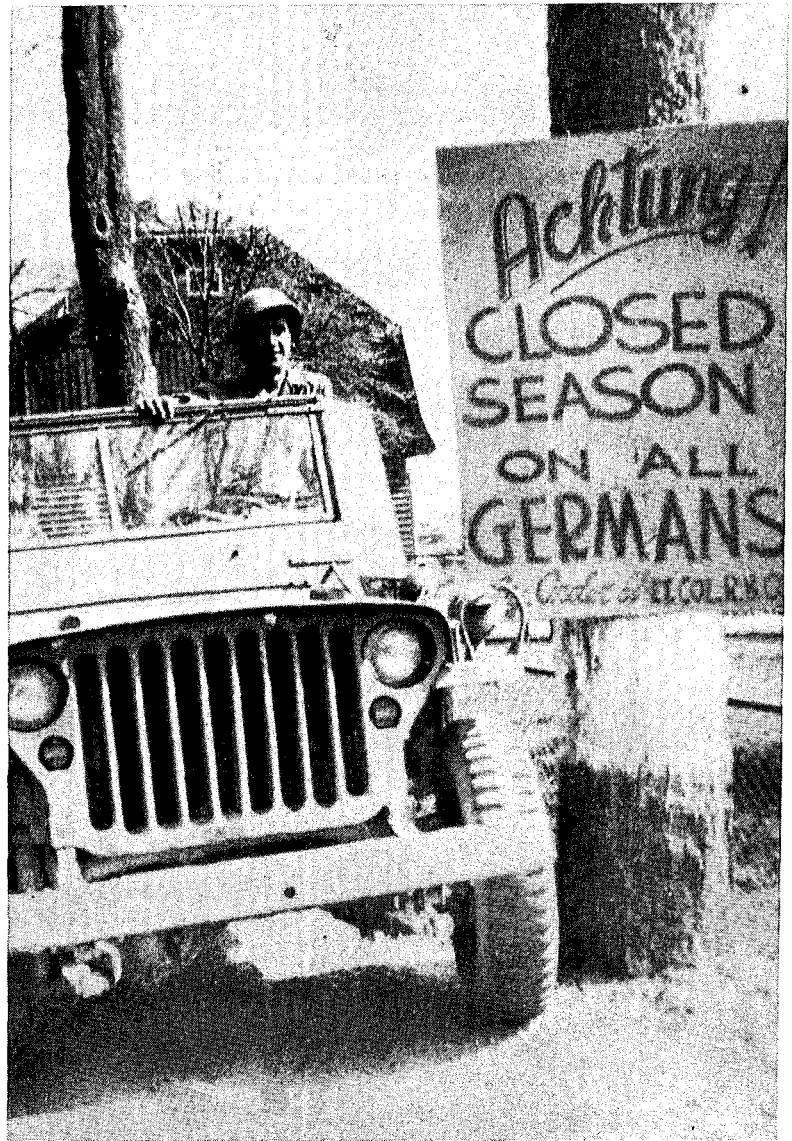
Friends in Belgium.



From Luxembourg, the trail once again led back into Belgium. The company stopped in Steinback and Gruflange, and passed through the far-famous cities of Houffalize and St. Vith, before stopping in the small town of Schonberg, Belgium, not very far from the German border. Schonberg was a mass of abandoned German equipment and the boys from the motor pool busied themselves by adding trucks, cars, and trailers to the company's rolling stock. The Division CP with operating personnel from the Signal Company meanwhile ventured a move to Auw, Germany. Rain and mud would have bogged down any sustained offensive, so the CP withdrew to Schonberg on 11th February and the Division's action was confined to the defensive. The next 15 days brought continued rain and groups of C-47's could be seen flying over daily dropping food, ammunition, supplies and mail to division units. The Division Message Center utilizing the liaison planes from the artillery initiated airplane messenger service between forward and rear units.

When the weather showed promise of breaking, the Division Command Post and the Company moved forward once again to Auw, Germany. The men moved into German homes, such as they were in Auw and got their first taste of what life inside Germany was to be like. Non-fraternization edicts came into force, although at this time, they were hardly necessary for the men distrusted the civilians and the civilians seemed to fear the American troops. A cable was discovered that seemed to be an important link in the communications of the Siegfried line. Lt. Col. Evans, Lt. Dunn, "Racehorse" Miller, and Phil Stansbury set out to locate the exact position of this cable and to cut the same. Although under constant enemy observation and enemy fire they accomplished their mission. All four later received the Silver Star for their gallantry.

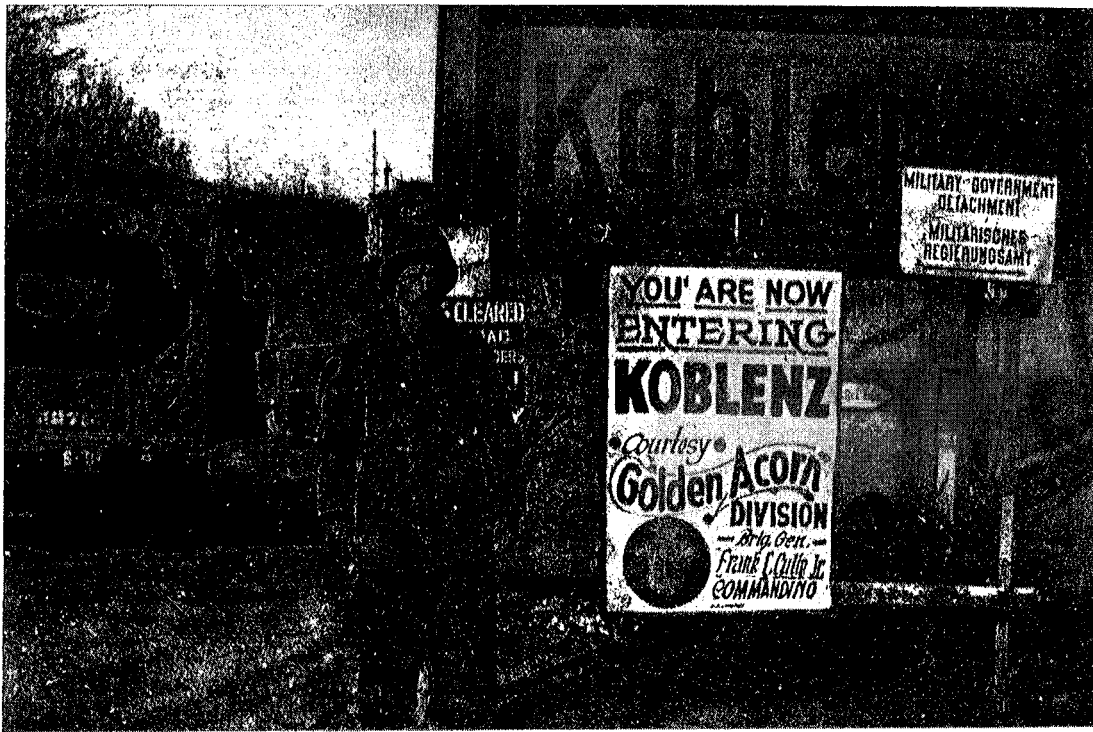
Early in March a breach of the Siegfried line was effected and the troops poured through with all the power they possessed. The Company stopped in Schonfeld, Germany and then traveled to Lissendorf. The men discovered another phase of combat operations in Lissendorf—"looting"—and they went at it with a zest and zeal not customarily associated with the army. They thought



The Sign Speaks for Itself.

first of the small comforts and later of the luxuries of living.

From Lissendorf, the Company moved to Bassenheim, Germany. Spring was in the air, and a few lucky boys managed to get passes to Paris, and came back with mouth-watering tales of the big city. But even in Bassenheim, most of the men were managing to make merry. Bassenheim may not have been the home of Mosel wine, but to most of the men it managed to serve the purpose as they uncovered large stores of wine in a nearby bottling company. Phil Jensen, who holds the company's reputation for having visited more bars in the United States than any other man, proceeded to have a riotously good time, during the week's billeting in that town. The Division, meanwhile, was engaged in the capture of Coblenz and the crossing of the Moselle River, a task which the Company managed with wire teams without experiencing any unusual difficulties. After the capture of Cob-



By the Courtesy of . . .

lenz, the Company turned to the task of crossing the Rhine River. It was frequently necessary for the wire teams to work under direct enemy observation across the river, while extending wire trunks to the river bank, thus inviting German .88 fire from the far shore to wound two men: WOJG Templeton and Charles DeBault.

In order to be directly behind the assault crossing of the Rhine, the Division Command Post and the Signal Company moved from Bassenheim to Gonderhausen across the Moselle River. The following day, the Division Command Post with the Company moved again—this time to Buchholz near Boppard. Units of the Company were billeted in the latter town in a large hotel and reconnaissance parties from the T&T section unearthed, of all things, a large wine cellar filled with pink and white champagne. It is reported that one individualist even took a bath in the same, but most of the men preferred to indulge in the more conventional manner.

The crossing of the Rhine went smoothly for all elements of the Company with three company wiremen being decorated for outstanding work in crossing with telephone cables in assault waves. Once across the river, progress was rapid with the Company moving on three successive days behind speeding task forces to Dachsenhausen, Katzenelnbogen and Weilmunster. Emphasis during this period was placed on radio communications, and division radio units under Lt. Wells sustained a terrific load without faltering.

So rapid was the company's advance that many pockets of by-passed Germans remained. In fact, on the 30 March, 1945, the operations sections were preparing to set up in Weilmunster only hours after the last German troops had been cleared from the town. One of these German pockets operating in the woods near a road bend, ambushed a Company Wire Construction group composed of the Construction Officer, Construction Chief and one wire team near Gravenweibach. During the fight which ensued, Ronnie Winget, Joe Petrillo and Joe Zabawa were killed; Lt. Dunn and Phil Stansberry were wounded; while Elmer Hilton and Harry Bozarth were captured by the ambushing party along with four company vehicles. Sometime later it was discovered that Elmer and Harry escaped and returned to military control, but they were never returned to the Company.

On 3 April, "jump teams" under Major Nelson (recently promoted from Captain) moved to Schwarzenborn up the Reichautobahn. The Division Command Post and the Signal Company, moving the following day, went on to Friedewald where the "jump teams" had hurriedly installed necessary communications. On 6 April an advance communications detachment under Lt. Col. Evans installed the Division Command Post at Schweina where the Company under Capt. Minckler joined them the following day. On 8 April Capt. Minckler again took "jump teams" for-

ward to Floh to establish CP communications and the Company moved into Schnellbach. After a reconnaissance of Tambach on 10 April the Company and the Division CP moved into that town. German resistance was fast crumbling and Division Task Forces were moving ahead very rapidly. The Division Command Post moved successfully to Grafenroda on 11 April, Remda on 13 April, Saalfeld on 14 April, Possneck on the 16th and Jocketa on the 18th. The Company meanwhile moved from Tambach to Stadtilm on 12 April, to Kirchrenida on 13th, to Possneck on the 15th and Jocketa on the 17th.

It was during this period, while the Company was moving in advance of the Division Command Post that it captured the majority of sixty-two German prisoners credited to Signal. With the ruins of Plauen captured by the Division and the Regiments on the Czechoslovakian border, forward movement was suspended until 6 May, 1945. During this period of inactivity on the front the majority of the Company was recalled to Jocketa, where they concentrated upon maintenance of vehicles and equipment, improving wire circuits and specialist training. Throughout this period of fast moving action "C" and "K" rations had been the main item on the daily bill of fare and the men craved real food once again. Hunting expeditions were organized and several deer were shot, while other men managed

to talk civilians out of chickens and eggs for the price of a chocolate bar.

Photography had become a major function within the company, as along with binoculars, pistols, and other souvenirs, the men accumulated a good many cameras, from the lowly "box" to the expensive Leica. Sid Hollander gave classes in photography and the company opened its own photographic service unit, to develop and process film for the men. Man for man probably there were more pictures taken in the Signal Company than in any other company in the Division.

Unexpectedly, on 6 May, the Division was given an offensive mission to the East. Consequently, the Division Command Post was moved to Falkenstein and the Company also moved the following day. It was here that the news of V-E Day was announced. The war in Europe had ended. Though the news was welcomed, it did not come as a surprise. The sense of unfinished business generally prevailed and thoughts turned to the war in the East and to the future plans for the Division. When the point system was announced everyone strove to count to 85, but very few managed to make the grade.

A temporary occupation area was assigned to the Division, covering the landkreises of Plauen, Schliez, Auerbach, Saalfeld and Ziegenruck. The company moved to Saalburg on the Saale River.

87th Signal Company in Saalburg, Germany.



Chow Line—Saalburg, Germany.




HEADQUARTERS 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 448, U. S. ARMY

21 May 1945

CITATION FOR THE MERITORIOUS
SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE

87th Signal Company, 87th Infantry Division, for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks and for the achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline from 20 September 1944 to 20 March 1945. Under the extremely difficult and frequently dangerous conditions of combat, the Officers and Enlisted Men of this company have maintained the Division Message Center and the wire and radio communications system at a high standard of efficiency at all times. Their untiring efforts, devotion to duty and high standards of military courtesy and discipline are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army.

By command of Major General CULIN:


H. K. WALLACE,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.



Joe Bertuglia and R. M. Gray—Paris.



*Top—Waiting on Train Time.
Above—Relaxing—Well, One is, Anyway.*



R. N. Hedges and Joe Bertuglia—Paris.

There wire personnel tackled and finally licked the tremendous job of linking the Division units widely scattered throughout the Division area. This necessitated rehabilitating existing civilian lines and several cable terminals and repeater stations, with the cooperation of civilian wire chiefs. On 21 May the Company was awarded the Unit of Meritorious Service Plaque for maintenance of "the Division Message Center and the wire and radio communications system at a high standard of efficiency" for the period 20 September, 1944 to 20 May, 1945.

With combat pressure somewhat lifted, the Company, while in Saalburg was permitted to relax somewhat. Swimming, boating, and fishing ensued. Perhaps, somewhat in advance of the lifting of the "non-fraternization" edict, the men cast glances in the direction of the German frauleins. An educational and training program also took place during this period, while the Division awaited assignment. On 28 May the Division was relieved by the 30th Infantry Division and the order for redeployment was received. Some of the high point men were transferred to other units to await shipment to the

States and discharges, while the remainder of the Division resigned themselves to 30 days in the States and shipment to the Pacific.

On the 15th of June, the Signal Company departed for the redeployment center, Camp Oklahoma City near Reims, France, where final preparations for the long journey home were made. During the twelve days spent at Oklahoma City, the men received passes to Reims and eighteen-hour passes to Paris. The latter perhaps were the most jammed filled eighteen hours most men ever spent. Paris in the spring is an unforgettable sight—the Seine, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs—Elysees, Notre Dame, the Opera House . . . the street hawkers, the sidewalk cafes, the bicycles, the girls that approach one on every block. No city in the world is quite like it. It was made even more colorful by the trading between GI's and Frenchmen in clothes, cameras, pistols, binoculars, watches and, of course, cigarettes.

On the 27th of June the Company loaded on a French railroad for the trip to Camp Lucky Strike, a staging area on the French coast. The time spent at Lucky Strike was spent mainly in

playing volleyball and softball and in restless waiting. Early on the morning of the 4th of July, trucks moved the Company to the docks at LeHavre. There the men boarded a converted cargo ship, the "Marine Fox" for the homeward trip.



The ship sailed that afternoon, with the Signal Company being "double loaded." This meant that some men had to sleep in corridors and on the open deck. The ship, being fairly small, pitched and tossed and rocked and rolled and sea sickness was again quite prevalent. The food was good and while special service activities were limited by the size of the ship, there were movies and one or two entertainments. Still the men were interested in only one thing, when the ship was getting in. The days dragged on, but finally on the 13th of July, with the decks loaded with noisy GI's, the "Marine Fox" berthed at Newport News, Virginia and debarkation began almost immediately.



Double-Loaders.

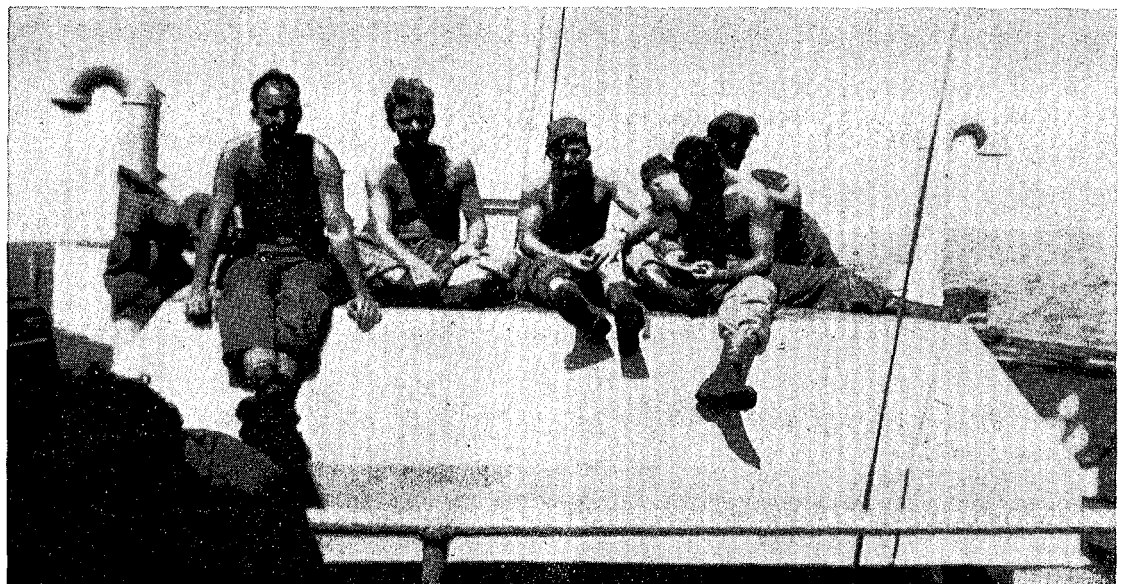
Camp Patrick Henry was the next stop. There the men found the camp operated with a surprising degree of efficiency and within 30 hours practically everyone was enroute to their respective reception centers. Another period of anxious waiting ensued before the men finally got their orders and at long last were on their way homes, with 30-day furloughs.

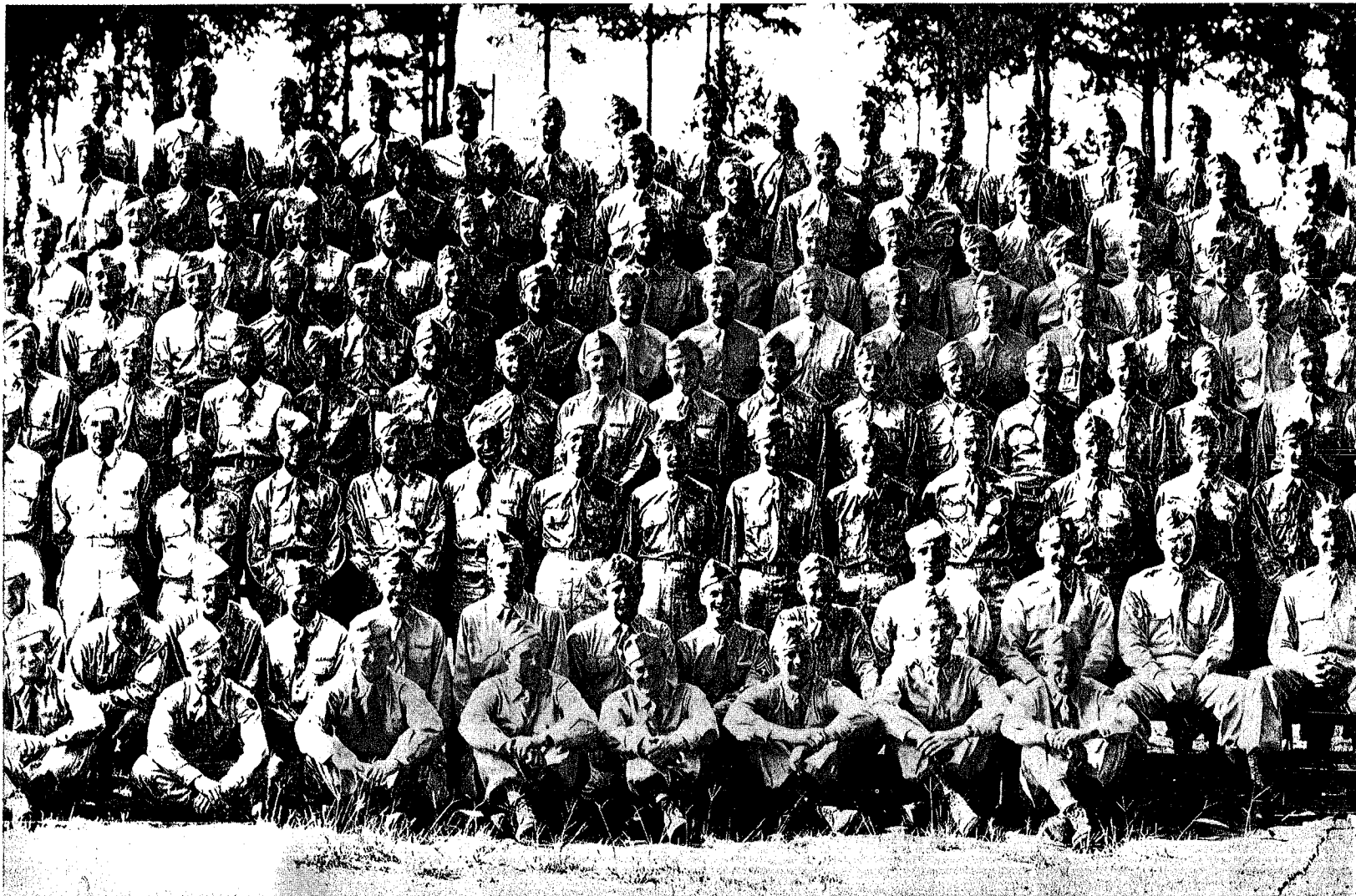
The Division reassembled at Fort Benning, Georgia late in August, but it was a different group of men that returned to rejoin the Golden Acorn Division, for while on furlough, Japan had folded up, and on August 14th had accepted American surrender terms. A few men went to serve with other outfits in the Army of Occupation. To others, revised point totals and lowered age limits put a discharge in sight. Still to another group, it meant shipment to other posts and stations for service in the States until their turn comes. But to one and all, it meant the end of a Division and a Company that was born in war and died in peace.





HOMeward BOUND...





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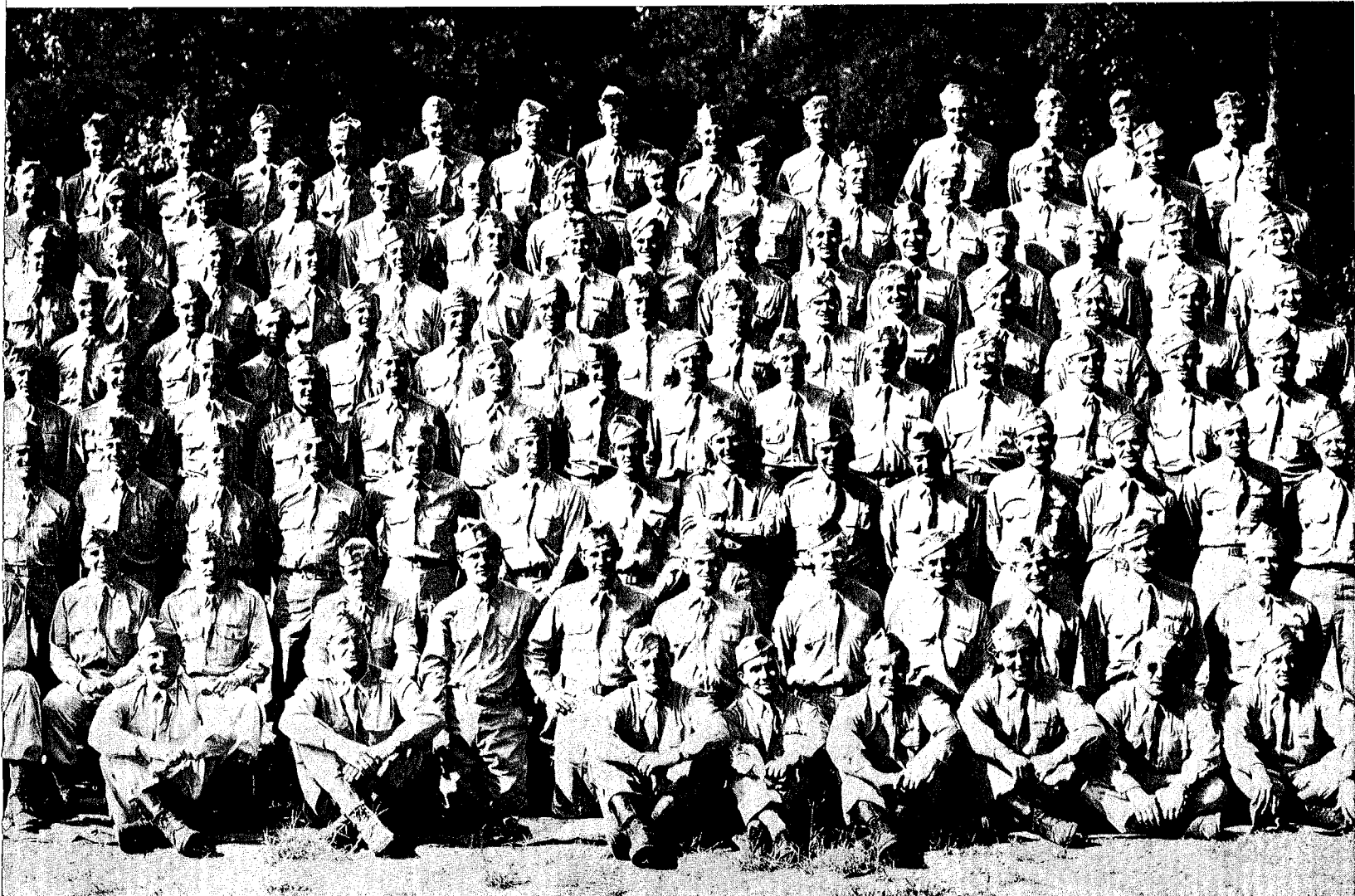
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 VALASEK, Joseph P., Farns Rd., Natrona, Pa.
 VANARTSDALEN, James W., Treviso, Bucks City, Pa.
 VESS, Chester A., 110 W. Chestnut St., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.
 VINE, Robert J., Wheeler, Mich.
 WAGNER, William E., 1004 S. 55th St., Omaha, Neb.
 WAIRE, Lester B., 19 Elita St., Tiffin, Ohio.
 WALKER, Joy A., 1056 N. Perry St., Napoleon, Ohio.
 WAMPLER, Julius E., Port Republic, Va.
 WEBER, Raymond F., Zoar, Ohio.
 WECKERLY, William J., 2600 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
 WELBORN, John E., Haddam, Kans.
 WERNICK, Harold I., 589 Lefferts Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 WESTFALL, Donald E., 131 Jefferson Ave., Greenville, Ohio.
 WHITE, Carl L., 603 Murray St., Alexandria, La.
 WHITE, Gordon G., 4513 Highland Ave., Chattanooga, Tenn.
 WIBLE, James L., 230 Waverly Dr., Tulsa, Okla.
 *WICKERT, Francis A., 5406 Verns St., Detroit, Mich.
 WICKHAM, Harry M., Box 132, Keokuk, Iowa.
 WILLIAMS, Clifford W., 420 S. 19th St., Lincoln, Neb.
 WILLIAMS, John E., Hobson, Mont.
 WILLIAMS, John L., 306 Mitchell St., Salisbury, Md.
 *WILLMAN, Maynard F., Waumakee, Wis.
 WILMON, James O., Box 865, Gladwater, Texas.
 WILSON, Aubrey J., 2979 Glenmore Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 WILSON, Thomas J., Hopedale, Ill.
 WINFREY, Thomas J., Corder, Mo.
 *WINGET, Ronald H., 5432 Lemon Grove Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. Deceased.
 WINTERS, Robert J., Rt. 1, Strausburg, Lancaster City, Pa.
 WHITERSPOON, Myril, 216 W. Allen St., Clinton, Mo.
 WRIGHT, James D., 2175 N. W., 78th St., Miami, Fla.
 YACKLY, Norman M., 2422 Durand St., Saginaw, Mich.
 *ZABAWA, Joe N., 5925 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, Ill. Deceased.
 ZANOLA, Claude, 1504 S. Byers St., Oklahoma City, Okla.
 ZAROBCHYCK, Sam D., 1358 Shakespeare Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 ZAPPONE, Frank F., 520 Prospect St., Berea, Ohio.
 ZIMMERMAN, Harry B., White Lake, S. D.

*Purple Heart
 **Bronze Star
 ***Silver Star

87TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP



SPEARHEAD



TROOP OFFICERS

Reading from Left to Right: Lieutenant Welsh, Lieutenant Hazeldahl, Lieutenant Ortowski, Lieutenant Benziger, Lieutenant Webb, Lieutenant Roshek.

HISTORY — 87TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

The Recon Troop was born in Camp McCain, Mississippi, on 15 December, 1942, per G. O. No. 1, Hq., 87th Inf. Div.

Of its original cadre, who were transferred from the 81st Division, only T/Sgt. Tonn, S/Sgt. Weishaar, S/Sgt. Wexberg, and Pfc. Moore remained until inactivation. Of its original officers, 1st Lt. Ortowski was the only one to be a member to the last.

Captain James W. Bost was the Troop Commander from the time of the cadre activation until 18 December when 2nd Lt. John H. Weber assumed command. The first filler troops arrived on 14 February, 1943 from Fort Hayes,

Ohio. The first of these was Cecil F. Beigh.

On 26 February, 1943, the Troop hit an all-time high of 221 men and officers. From then on, there was a steady reduction till the overseas shipment in November of 1944 when there were only 147.

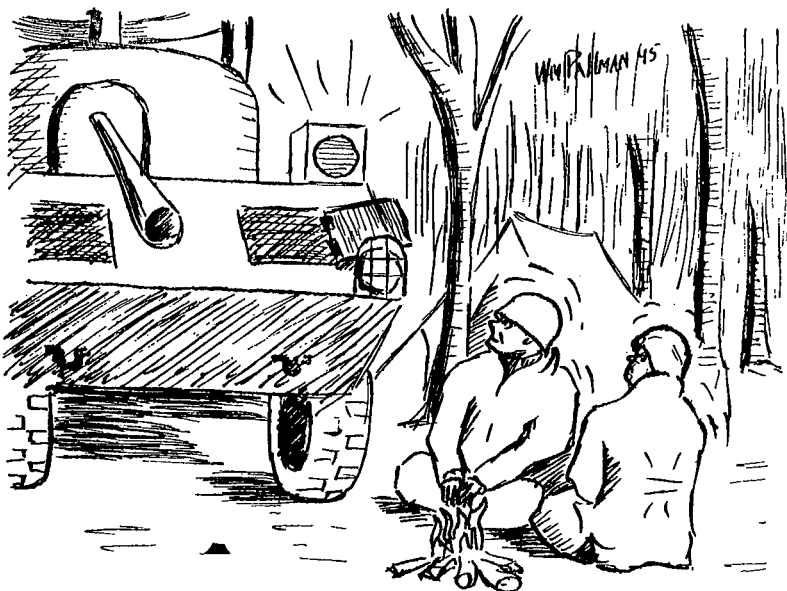
On 18 September, 1943, Captain Pearce W. Giffin assumed command from Lt. Weber. During September and October, many men transferred to ASTP and the Air Corps.

Basic training began in March and was completed in May. The Troop took I. T. C. tests during the first week in June, and the remainder of June, July, and August was spent in making numerous motor marches to Holly Springs National Forest in Mississippi for the purpose of conducting patrols and general training for bivouac.

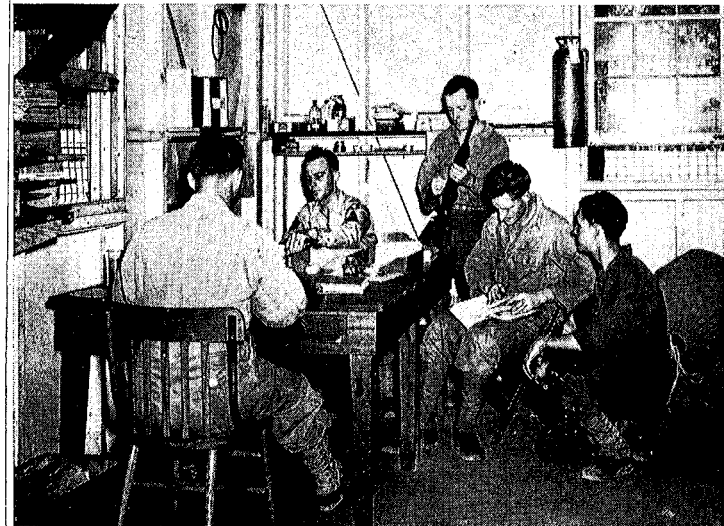
September of 1943 found us engaged in Corps Test R. C. T. exercises. We participated in "D" Series at Camp McCain during the last part of November.

We entered the Tennessee maneuver area on 2 December, 1943 and participated in Second Army maneuvers. Christmas found us camped out in the rain and pretty well down in spirits. Maneuvers ended in February, to be followed by some well-earned furloughs. Hurrah!

Returning to the old grind, this time at Fort Jackson, S. C., post maneuvers started the first of March. We were finally matured soldiers, enough, in fact, to send a cadre of 21 men and one officer to the 71st Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop in June. The rest of the summer was spent in usual garrison duties and road reconnais-



.....AND AS YOU SIT IN YOUR COZY LIVING-ROOM WITH YULE LOGS BURNING.....



Packing and Crating—Barney, Sergeant Wieshaar, Pallman, Bunyan, and Herman.

sance problems, coupled with night scouting and patrolling exercises, upsetting many other units' quiet evenings on bivouac. July and August of '44 brought furloughs again. Meantime, Izzy Nonken was heckling the doughs with his home-made broadcasting station.

On 19 August, we had our first fatalities of the war. Johnny Clark and Charles Sapp were drowned in a tactical water crossing problem on North Twin Lake at Jackson. Captain Giffin was reassigned and Captain John J. Cleary became CO.

On the same day, Lt. "Wild Bill" Roshek, Sgt. Hittle, and Sgt. Weishaar left for packing and crating school at Camp Gordon, Georgia. The Louisiana maneuver rumor blew sky high. We were going overseas soon, and we knew it.

Lt. Frank L. Culin, III, son of the Division Commander, came to the Troop in August. "Whitey" Walkokiak took over the mess hall but flatly refused to go to cook's school. Joe Voytish, Wayne Noble, and Lt. Ortowski learned how to cook dehydrated food.

On 4 September, Hutter was released for re-assignment to the hospital. "Ha, ha, ha, watch my side," he said.

A few days later, Kirby and Simmen blew their tops, took off in a jeep, and went to Camden, being AWOL for two days. Quote Simmen, "It was all Kirby's fault."

September and October were spent packing for shipment. Burley Clark was made First Sergeant after Jones was transferred. "Big Whoop" made Sergeant, took over the packing detail, and cracked his whip. Hickey Asher went to town in his gabardines and left his pass in his other pants. He got picked up by the MP's after curfew and was busted. Tex Vinson became a Private for bringing a quart into the barracks. We were all issued new clothes, winter clothes. We weren't going to the Pacific.



Le Havre.

In the last week of October we shipped to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, a POE. We were the last unit in the Division to board the train, so while we waited some of us got into a crap game. The Captain interrupted this and Cpl. Hughes was busted for gambling with Privates.

All M-8 drivers and half-track drivers were sent over first on a separate boat, the Robin Sherwood. The rest of us had three day passes. Some flew as far as Chicago and back.



"DID THEY LOSE SOMETHING!"



UGAR BEETS! HERE AH COME!!

We boarded the *Louis Pasteur* at 2345, 3 November, 1944. The 20 per cent increase began on 4 November. The *Pasteur* had once been French but now had a British crew. The chow was terrible and we slept in hammocks, on tables, and under tables. Everybody was sicker than poisoned puppies until the fourth day out. The boat looked better then. She had electric motors and sailed right along without convoy.

We landed at Liverpool, after lying in the harbor for a day or two, and then went to Wilmslow, England by train, arriving at Harefield Hall, a beautiful old English estate, at 0025, 14 November.

What a place, this England! It was wonderful, if you could "stand" it. We gorged ourselves on fish and chips and ale, without alcohol. It rained every day, but we got unpacked okay. Lt. Appler chopped his hand with a hatchet and went to the hospital. Cassity hurt his back and Taylor got sick, both also hospitalized. New jeeps and radios were given us, all equipment combat serviceable. Santucci was busted, so he asked for and got a transfer to the 346th.

Turkey for Thanksgiving. What a feed! Whitey had them roasted in town. The British couldn't figure out "Thanksgiving."

We loaded up and pulled out for Southampton on 27 November, convoying all the way. What a trip! The guys were already knocked out from working night and day and fell asleep driving. We had several accidents and left two half-track crews and Lt. Ortowski behind—way behind. They didn't rejoin until Metz. At Southampton we loaded onto LST 262. It was a swell trip across the channel. We lay in Le Havre port for three days, waiting for the beach to be cleared. We debarked at 1600 on the first of December and watched a bulldozer hit a mine. We then convoyed to the "Red Horse" assembly area, high on a windy hill in the muddiest field in France. We pitched an administrative bivouac at 2400.

On 5 December, we left for Mars La Tours, France, by convoy, and arrived late at night. Sgt. Townsend, the advance party had some billets for us, a chicken coop with the most beautiful hard dry concrete floor you ever saw. It looked like the Hotel Astor.

We left the next morning for Metz, arriving there at 1600. We took over an old Kraut barracks, cleaned it up, and moved in. Snipers were shooting all over town, and division artillery was pounding the hold-out forts. We had five guards on at a time, but there was no excitement.

On 12 December there were promotions for Hittle, Baumer, Stone, Johnson, Pearce and Madigan. On the same day, we left for the front.

Originally ordered to a town some distance behind the front, orders were changed en route and we landed in a little town called Gros Rederch-



Comraid With Some Belgian Friends.

ing, just this side of enemy territory. Captain Cleary assembled us by the side of a barn in the pitch-black night and said, "There were three Tiger Tanks at the edge of town at six o'clock tonight. Keep it quiet."

Ten minutes later, .88's began breaking all around the barn. Nobody had sense enough to get down in "der keller." We were too green.

The mud got deeper, and the shells got thicker, and things really got tough. Captain Cleary led a patrol out of Guiderkirch on 15 December to silence some Jerry machine gun nests. The patrol was fired on from less than 50 yards, and Captain Cleary was killed instantly. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Lewis was wounded in the back, and Swede Nelson was pinned down in a small creek and had to stay there all night. Lucas was also pinned down but managed to get out sooner. Pat Aherne carried Lewis across 150 yards of open terrain under fire and earned the first Bronze Star in the Troop. Lt. Ortowski took command by seniority.

That night, "Flash" Gordon was shot in the mouth. The next day, Gray got hit by shrapnel in the chest while escorting the General to the front. Lewis and Gordon were hospitalized, but Gray returned to duty. Lt. Culin was assigned to Division Headquarters, and Captain "Monty" Atwater took command of the Troop, at the town of Rimling.

On the 19th, Wirtanen got a chunk of shrapnel through his left arm and was evacuated. Things were getting tougher, a lot of men were getting trenchfoot, and everybody's nerves were getting tight. We didn't stand up to watch the .88's break anymore.

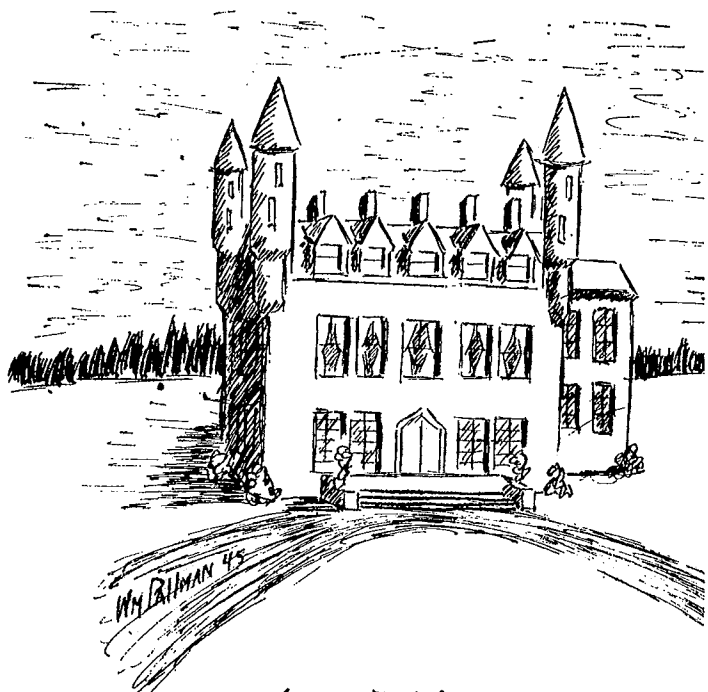
The Troop moved up to Erching and sent patrols into Germany day and night. We could see the Siegfried Line and were being shelled morning and night regularly. The mud was unbearable. Every road was a quagmire, and the vehicles were in tough shape.

We were relieved at 0730 on the day before Christmas and pulled back to Dieuze, France, arriving that afternoon. What a relief to be out of range of the eerie shriek of the .88's and the whoomp of mortar shells. After 12 straight days and nights of steady pounding, there were one dead and four wounded. We had been lucky.

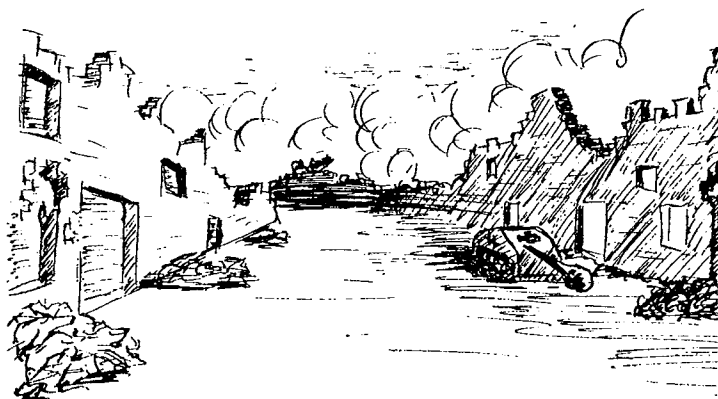
We went to church, Christmas Eve, in the chapel of the 102nd Evacuation Hospital in Dieuze. Everybody was talking about the German breakthrough in Belgium. We were treated swell and invited to the Christmas party later that night, and also to breakfast the next morning.

On Christmas Day, we moved out for the Division assembly area near Reims and arrived that night. We made a five-day stop, and our vehicles were thoroughly repaired. It was a good rest we all needed.

On the 29th, we left the assembly area and convoyed up to the "Battle of the Bulge." The Germans were still advancing and were in the



(BELGIUM)
CHATEAU, DE ROUMONT



- O -
" ST VITH "

WM RILMAN 45





Clingaman.



It was Cold—Hatfield, Regne, Phillips, Akers, Burkland, Markert.



Captain Monty.

vicinity of Libramont. The Troop spent the night in pup tents in a forest near Bertrix. It snowed all night, but at long last we were rid of the mud. The next day, we moved to a beautiful hunting lodge in the Ardennes Forest called the Chateau du Roumont.

We had no time for beauty. Division gave us a mission of holding the area from Libramont to Libin, an area ten miles long. We were 140 strong, less than half enough.

Contact patrols were going out night and day. It was terribly cold, and the snow was knee deep. On 2 January, 1945, the enemy was contacted near Val du Poix, and Cobb was wounded in the neck. He drove himself five miles back to the CP, unable to move his head, and reported that "Mule" Ingram and Johnny Lamond had been cut off and were taken prisoners.

There was very little enemy artillery in this section and that was some help. The Troop shot three deer and had venison steaks for a treat. The platoons were being rotated every day be-

cause of the cold. We finally got some combat boots.

Big Ben took over the Third platoon and moved into Smuid, Belgium. He would move back every night, and the Krauts would move in. When he went back every morning, they would take to the hills. That went on for three straight days.

On 7 January, we took our first prisoners. Stone, Metz, Gamble, and Helmberger ambushed and captured a three-man German patrol, one SS sergeant and two others. On the 9th, we moved out toward St. Hubert. The CP was in Bras Haut and was shelled heavily. The Second Platoon took Hattrival at 1530 on the 11th and the First Platoon entered St. Hubert at 2355 the same night. No casualties, but two civilians riding into town on bicycles were blown to bits on a mine in the road just ahead of the patrol.

On 13 January, the Troop was relieved in St. Hubert for a maintenance period on vehicles and radios. By the 15th everything was in shape. We convoyed to Trintange, in Luxembourg, where the CP set up in a beer joint. The Troop was on anti-airborne defense of Luxembourg City.

Later we moved to Weidig, Luxembourg, and patrolled along the Mosel River. It was colder than ever. Tex Vinson smashed another half-track and was transferred.

The 27th found us moving back into Belgium again, the Krauts were running, and we were after them. We stopped at Tovigny, and S/Sgt. McCoy, First Platoon leader, left for the hospital with a bad knee.

We pushed into St. Vith near the German border, and there wasn't a building left standing. Bilyeu rolled his jeep over and McAllister broke his arm. "Stump" Brower drove his jeep into a shell hole, and while he was gone for help, a bulldozer buried it without seeing it.

The first of February found us in Schonberg, Belgium. The bridge was blown, and the ice went out from under Cobb's jeep. The Engineers took 15 teller mines out of the snow just in front of the jeep. The Third Platoon took three

prisoners. The next day we crossed the border and helped take the town of Auw.

Our next mission was to take and hold the German town of Roth. On 3 February, Lt. Appler took his patrol into the town and was shot through both legs by a sniper with a burp gun. He later lost one leg. We took the town unaided at 2200. Cpl. Moore was hit in the hand by shrapnel. The next morning the First Platoon engaged a pillbox in a fire fight northwest of town, and Exley put two rounds of 37mm right in its side. Six PW's were taken. That afternoon and night, we were pounded by 88's and mortars, and Charles Ely was killed.

On the 5th we pushed to Laudersfeld, received more shelling, and moved up to Schlausenbach. Here we bivouacked in the woods, in the rain and melting snow. There wasn't a piece of dry clothing in the Troop. A new treat, the "Screaming Meemies," was unleashed on us there. They made a racket, but caused no casualties. Joe Roth and Hughes proved that two men could sleep in one sleeping bag that night.

Our next mission was Wilwerath, inside the Siegfried Line. "Take and hold," the orders said.

Wendell Clingaman was killed, and B. D. Miller shot through one leg, and a 12-man patrol pinned down in the town.

The patrol got out, Wolfe had a duel with his .45 against a German heavy machine gun, and Comreid and Lt. Moore were later decorated for heroism. Monty slipped and fell in the rain from the top of a pill box while helping to get the pinned down patrol out. He tore the ligaments in his left knee, and was taken to the hospital. Lt. Barham took over and moved the Troop back. We had failed a mission, the only one we ever didn't come through on.

The Troop was in terrible shape. One-third was in the hospital with wounds and battle fa-



Task Force.

tigue, one-third had bad colds and pharyngitis, and the rest had dysentery and were very tired. We were relieved, and moved back to Herresbach, Belgium for a rest. Captain Monty came back, but could hardly walk and was evacuated for good, Lt. Barham taking command of the Troop.

The Troop's vehicles were in deplorable condition, and the rest period was largely taken up with maintenance. The "WPA Crew" kept the road to Division Headquarters usable. The mud was knee-deep again.

Shear and "Commode-Head" Conover were wounded by shrapnel on 22 February, and were evacuated. Pyeatt accidentally shot himself through the leg with his .45. Three casualties while on a rest period. You can't win.

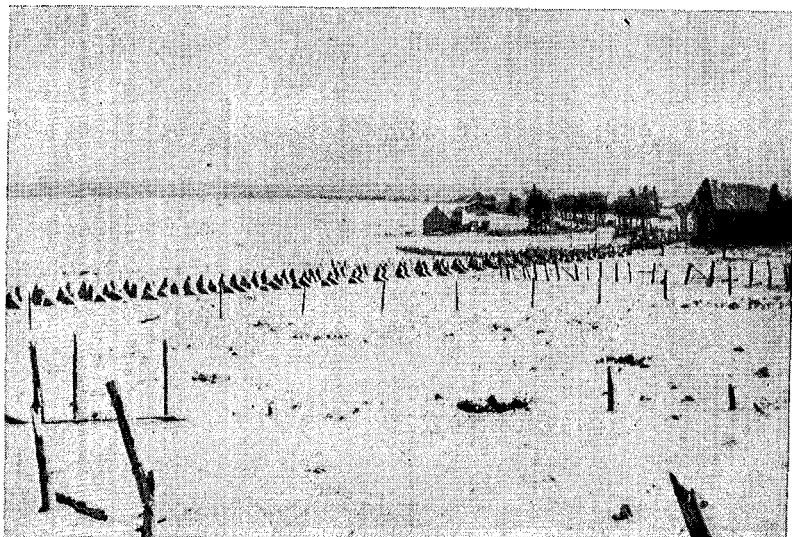
A patrol consisting of Lt. Barham, Lt. Moore, White, Oppenheimer, Stone, Kirby, Wolfe, Young, and Hughes left the Troop for three days, beginning the 23rd. Their mission was to make an observation patrol on the town of Stadtkyll, five miles behind the enemy lines. King, Kirby, and Oppy went through the lines at one place and White, Stone and Wolfe at another. Each group carried pigeons. Lt. Barham, Young and Hughes waited in a captured pillbox with the vehicles. The patrols were fired on again and again through the nights and were finally ordered to return. Jerry was too much on the ball.

On the first of March, the Troop was committed again and moved into the foxholes of George Company of the 347th. We held for George Company until the 4th.

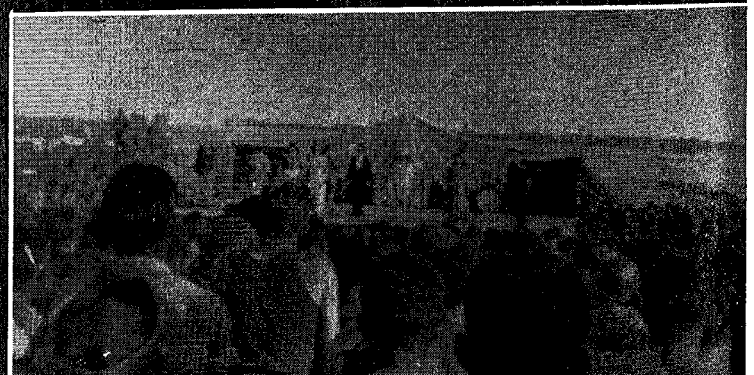
The 7th was a red letter day. Big Ben Benziger went back to Division Headquarters, and General Culin gave him a battlefield commission.

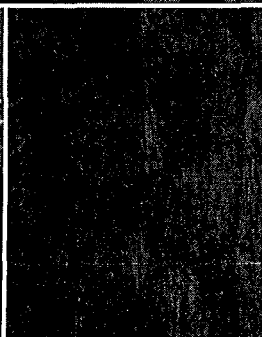
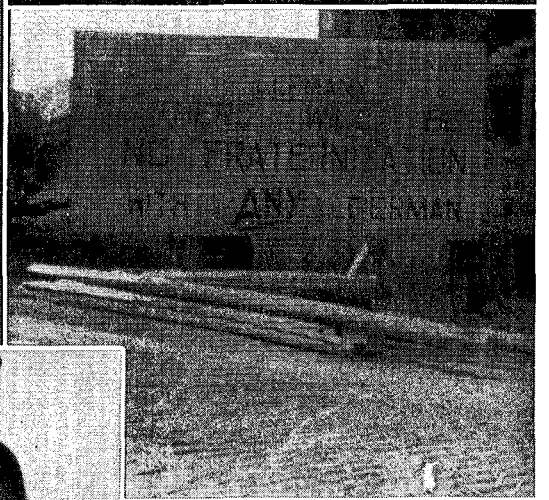
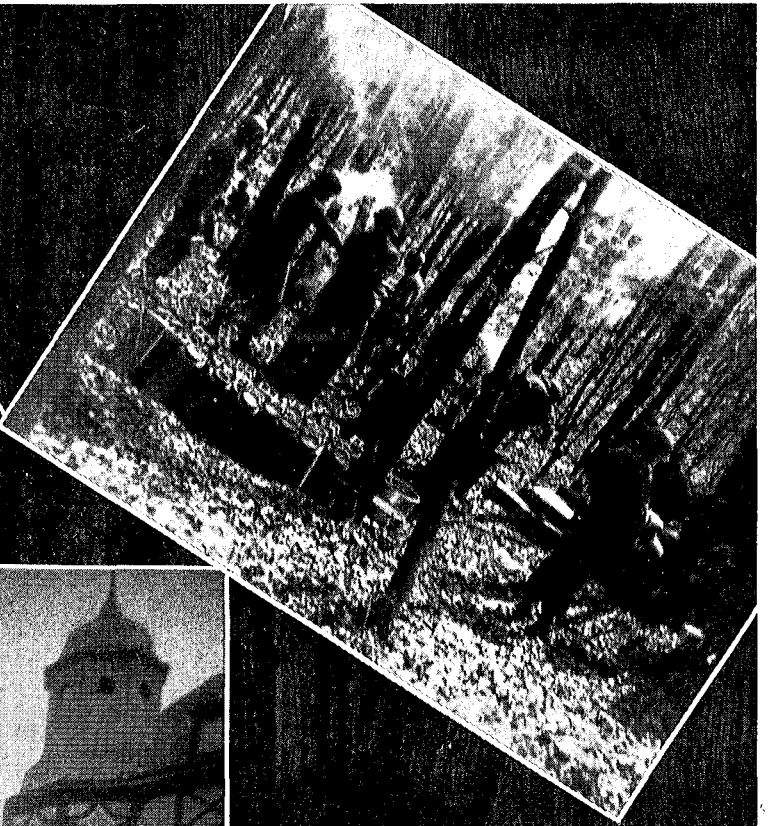
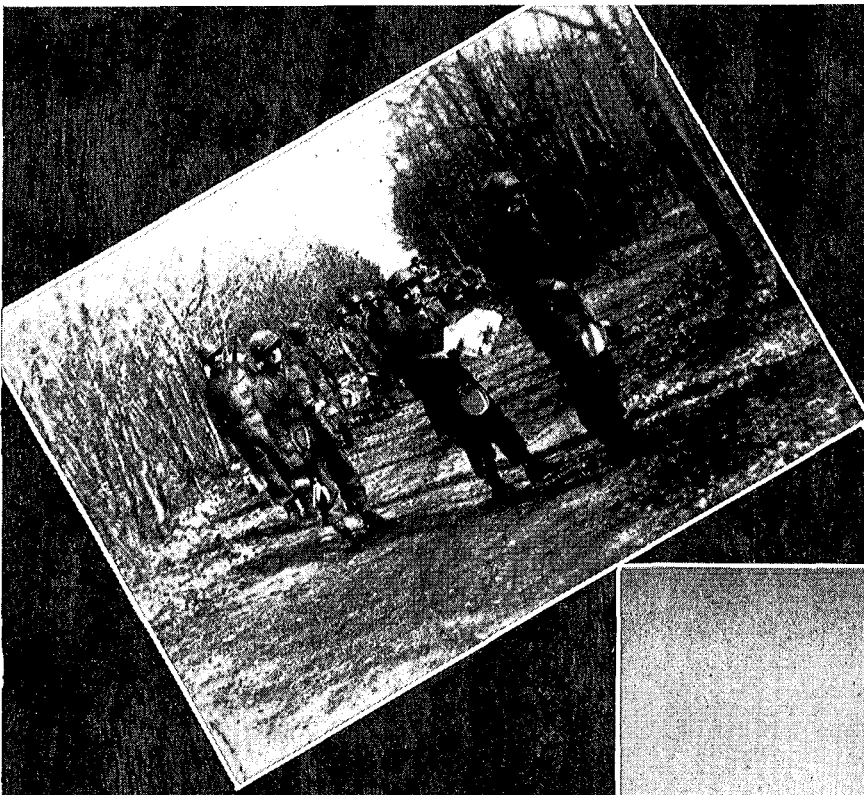
8 March brought a new kind of warfare for the Recon Troop: the Task Force.

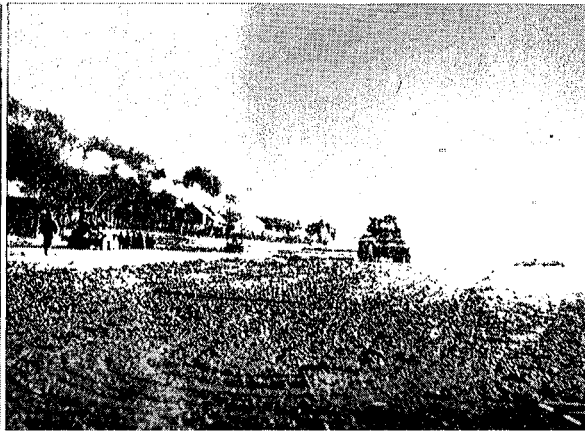
The Task Forces were large units of mechanized troops with Recon elements right out in front, spearheading. This was our kind of war. Hit and run tactics. More and more, it became



Inside the Siegfried Line.







Top—Task Force Sundt in Rudolstadt.
Above—PW's.

Top—They gave up after being blown out of Thierbach.
Above—Thierbach Burns as We Watch.

Top—More PW's.
Above—And Still More PW's.

hit and don't run, just hit and keep hitting. Drive till you fell out of your vehicle, or some obliging Kraut shot you out of it. Maybe you were lucky and just had it blown out from under you. The meagre armour of the Troop did jobs intended for tank battalions. We stormed pill-boxes, charged through mine fields, swept through towns at 50 miles an hour under concentrated fire, smashed enemy columns, encircled and trapped them, streaked out so far from the main body of Division that supply lines were drawn out miles beyond the realm of reason. We took more prisoners than could be counted, hundreds of towns felt our sting when they refused to surrender.

An overall picture of this task force period would be practically impossible to create, but here are some outstanding incidents each platoon likes to tell about and which they'll never forget.

FROM THE FIRST PLATOON:

On the first Task Force, we got off to a slow start. Two M-8's went out of action because of motor trouble. The remaining armored car was attached to the Second Platoon. After a seven mile advance to Lissendorf, Sgt. Reilly and two sections were sent to Gonnersdorf. Then they boldly stormed the town of Bergel. Under heavy machine gun fire, the town was taken. Advancing infantry troops relieved them, and they were ordered to Weisbaum in support.

Task Force Sundt moved out of Dachenhausen with the First Platoon out in front. Seven German towns fell to them in four hours flat. Many times, the "Driving First" outran their tank support.

On 28 March, the Second Platoon was stopped at Holzhausen by German 20-mm. fire. The first outflanked the opposition, captured the town, and raced on to the autobahn to establish contact with

the First Army pincer from the north. These were the first elements of the Division to link the First and Third Armies in this region.

While flushing the woods near Butzbach, "Orto," the First Platoon leader, captured an SS man singlehandedly and nearly popped the buttons from his shirt when he relieved the SSer of his Luger.

During the short break that followed, First Platooners under Lt. Webb, burned German OCS barracks and dynamited war equipment factories near Butzbach.

We got plenty of laughs from Goldie's helmet with the three stars, the salutes he got, and the one he didn't get from a real General. Akers and Hatfield had a field day in the knife factory that we captured, and many of the boys got some nice souvenirs.

On the next task force, the First Platoon was again assigned the leading position. After an artillery duel, Keefer gave us a bad scare when it was rumored that he had been killed. When he turned up a little later, just a little numb from cognac, we were all relieved. But it was in that same town that the whole Task Force found itself trapped and practically looking down the muzzles of nearby 88's. It was decided that each individual vehicle would make a separate run from the town to safety. On the way out, Scott's jeep had a flat and he stopped to fix it. What some guys won't do for a medal!

The First Platoon's loyalty is shown best by Cpl. "Mac" McGuire. When his foot was run over by an M-8 and he was evacuated, he hitchhiked thirty miles back up to rejoin his buddies.

On 12 April, Smith's and Madigan's M-8's were in a town near Rudolstadt and got thoroughly shelled by other elements of their own Task Force. In the confusion, Madigan smashed the

trunk full of loot on his M-8, and Balter's "borrowed" German radio decorated the pavement. This was forgotten after the town was taken and the liberated prisoners showered us with affection. Goldie was partial to the Serbs, but Matty and Ham were smothered with kisses by the Poles.

Hundreds of PWs were surrendering, and we still wonder if it was because of our might or because they wanted to hear a western song by Pappy Brooks, Tommy Cox, "Crosby" Walker, and "Ice Cream" Archibald. The Germans "gave" the platoon a great deal of photo equipment. How "Piggy" Lambert, Leone and Burklund could fight all day and print pictures at night still has us wondering.

After the bloody and costly fight for Rudolstadt, Moldy, "Shorty" Paul, and Ham raided the local police station and collected at least eight pistols apiece. The Task Force left them behind, and they wandered around town while the Krauts shelled it. In the meantime, the Task Force had captured the German garrison with hundreds of prisoners—plus eggs, ham, pickles and cognac. Mostly cognac.

It was at Rudolstadt that First Platooners really took note of "Doc" Axel. The way he walked in the open to a bazookad tank and carried its occupants to safety, and the way he went behind enemy lines to bring back two wounded Americans will always be remembered. He certainly earned his Bronze Star and cluster.

On 14 April, while moving through a wooded area on the Third Task Force, the M-8 was bazookad by a fanatic SS man hiding in the bushes. Lt. Ortowski, Moldy, Akers, and Luke were all wounded. Orto's heroic action as a leader inspired the whole platoon, and, as he and the crew were being evacuated, we vowed revenge. Revenge came sooner than anticipated. The Second Platoon hit heavy opposition in a small town the next day, and the First was called on to flatten the town. 96 prisoners, including one SS man, were captured.

Whenever enemy opposition halted a Task Force, Orto sent his chief scouts, Pasderyn, Phillips, and McGuire, to advance cautiously on the enemy.

On 17 April, in the vicinity of Plauen, the First Platoon liberated 500 cheering British prisoners. A quarter of a million dollars in gold was also taken, and the First Platoon was selected to run guard on it to Frankfurt.



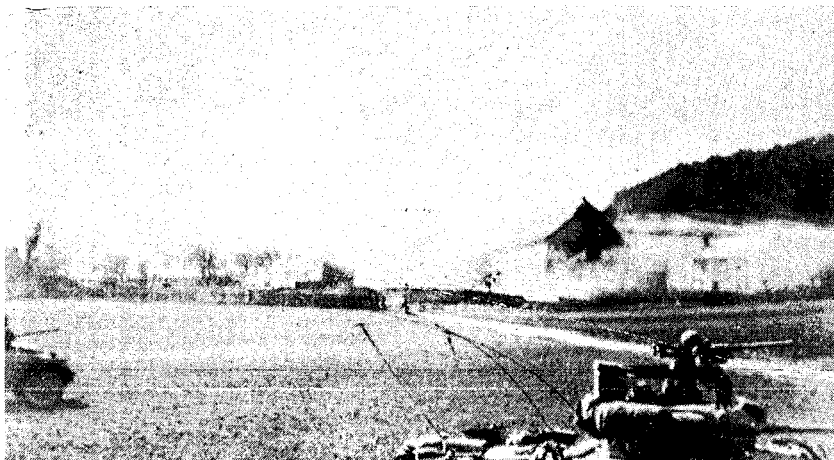
Washing Vehicles in the Mosel.

It was about this time that the platoon really perked up. B. D. Miller, one of the Wilwerath casualties, rejoined the platoon, his leg completely healed.

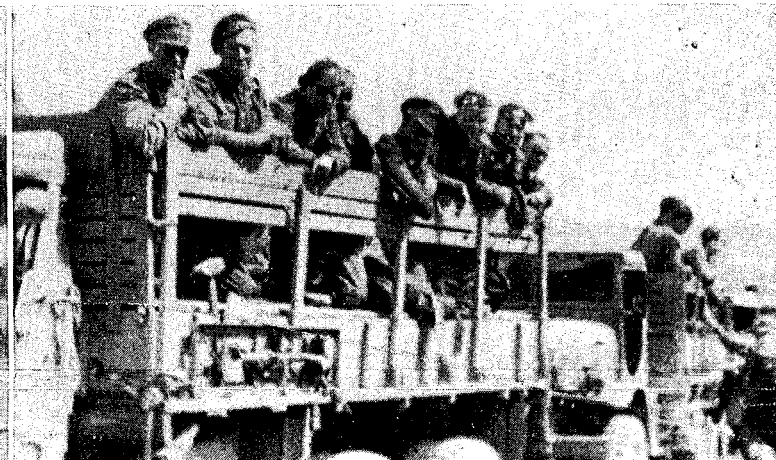
On 12 May, Elton "Combat" Palmer, joined us. He went on his first and last patrol on V-E day. Jack Rice also joined us at this time. He had been overseas 14 months and never fired a gun. Boy, but he could make a carbine shine, though!

Though the war is long over, some sights will always remain in First Platooners' memories. Things like . . . "Knucklehead" Creith making elaborate preparations for bed and then climbing into his bed roll with all his clothes on, complete with field equipment. Then to top it off, pulling his faithful M-1 in beside him and zipping up for the night . . . "Spearhead" Smith on a dismounted patrol, creeping and crawling for cover, raising his head over a log and looking square into the face of a Kraut, and then each running like hell in opposite directions . . . Jim Selby graciously serving "Bottle Baby" Madigan a drink from his deluxe bar in the rear of Mac's jeep . . . "Shorty" Paul coming down the road with a 6 by 4 Kraut with his M-1 jammed in the only portion of the Kraut's anatomy he could reach . . . Pat Aherne and Balter stooping over a gasoline fire, getting blacker by the minute . . . Tommy Cox relieving General Krueger (of Bastogne fame) of a bottle of scotch . . . "Bubble"

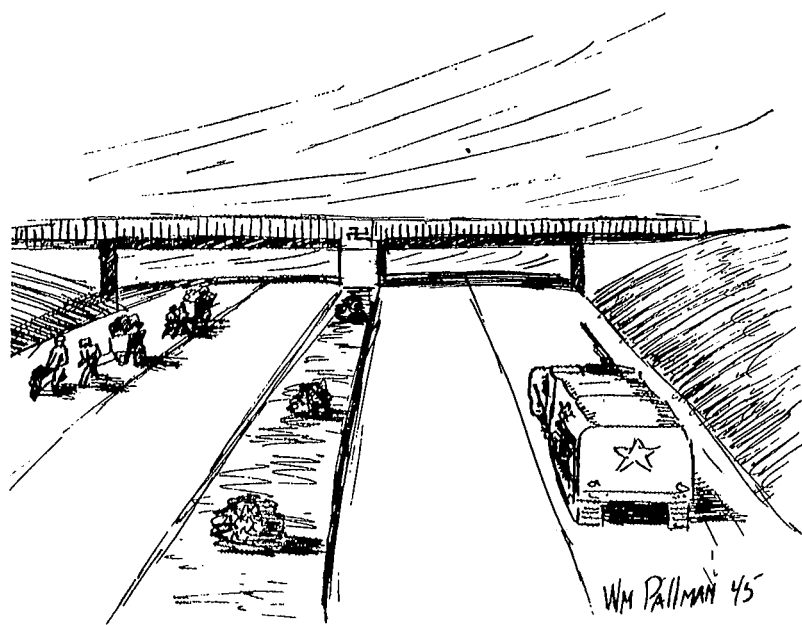
They Felt Our Sting.



Liberated British.



"AUTOBAHN - PATROL"



Schabow under the effects of cognac and five miles behind the front, jumping from his jeep at each halt and creeping and crawling to get those dirty so and sos . . . Reilly being kissed by the Russian Captain . . . "Hat Stacking" at the end of the day.

FROM THE SECOND PLATOON:

We'll remember, on Task Force Muir, when we drove through Lissendorf, how surprised and completely off guard the Jerrys were, still sitting at their dinner table. The bridge went up

in smoke and dust right in front of us. White won't forget the 150 gun on the other side of town pointing straight down the road less than 200 yards away. The first round passed between the upright antennas on the M-8, but they never fired a second; White and his 50 cal. machine gun saw to that. Later, Laughman was hit in the hand by a spent 20-mm. round.

The advance had been stopped cold by a mine field. Two medium tanks and a like tank of the 735th had been knocked out, trying to run the gauntlet, when our own "Trooper" Gibson ordered everyone out of his car and proceeded alone to make a road for the rest of us to follow.

We remember how cold the Mosel River was when we took our vehicles back to wash them and had our spring bath; also the "modesty" of the German civilians not watching us.

We recall the beautiful Schlaus Stoltzenfelts, on the Rhine below Koblenz, and the show the artillery put on reducing the town on the far bank.

We won't forget the night we lay above Bonpard, a few hundred yards from the Rhine, while the doughs battled their way across, so a bridge could be built for our armour. The 20-mm. fire fell thicker than rain.

The first night across the Rhine, Lt. King found an English-speaking woman from Brooklyn. Was he surprised! The air was thick with air bursts, but the platoon spent a quiet evening "inside," drinking the Kraut's milk and eating their eggs.

"Big Whoop" got a Luger, the prize of prizes, and many of the boys were collecting pistols, swords, cameras, motorcycles and more prisoners than anyone knew what to do with. We found

In the Field—Second Platoon.



Rhineland liquor much to our liking, but "Shorty" Williams' onions won King's favor.

Dark days were those when all there was between our M-8's and the German 88's was a small hump of ground. Hutto said, "Dat is *too close!*"

Heberlein and Shorty were hit in a barrage near Rudolstadt. All but three M-8's had taken cover in the woods and things were falling all around. Rensch raised up and moved to a sheltering rock pile, and *wham!* a shell landed where he had been lying seconds before.

The next day, "Trooper" Gibson was killed, and Lt. Moore badly wounded in taking Rudolstadt. An everhated panzerfaust fired from an upstairs window and killed at least ten German PWs in addition to the American casualties. Oppy, meanwhile, was having a private war with an SSer and rounding up more prisoners. Young was clearing houses and luckily both were out of the car, which was completely destroyed. There was a bitter street fight until dark and Laughman nearly burned out the barrel of his "50" while Hank hauled ammo from Beigh's half track.

The Krauts paid the next morning when they started sniping on infantry mortar positions. Stone, Laughman, Weigand, Hughes, and Farnham were in a building across from the one occupied by the snipers. They opened fire with everything they had. Seven Germans survived, a Major, a Captain, two Lieutenants, and three NCO's. A good catch, but a paltry comparison to our feelings of bereavement at "Trooper's" death.

White took the platoon after Lt. Moore's evacuation and led it through to victory.

"Big Whoop's" charmed car had its last close call, and a fragment of panzerfaust shell went through his helmet, inflicting a deep scalp wound.

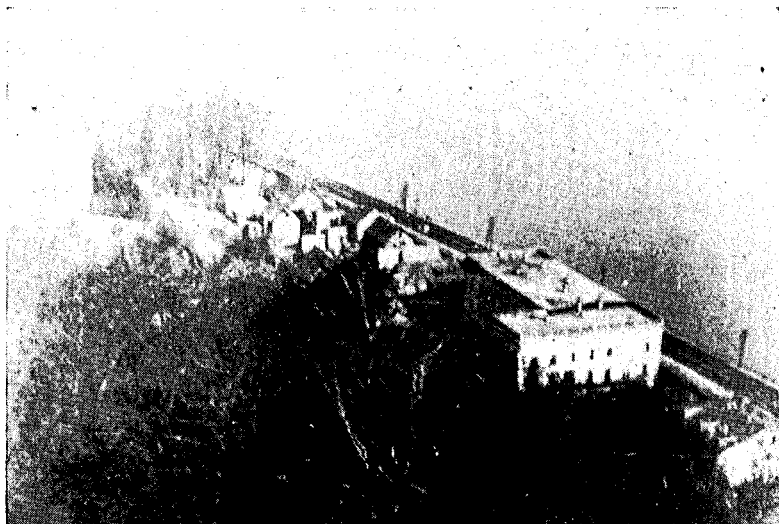
In the town of Thierbach, Oppy and Captain Nick arranged a surrender ultimatum to the hold-out German garrison. It was refused and we lost Captain Nick. Our vengeance was swift. We withdrew and leveled the town with direct fire from every gun in the Task Force.

Nuensalz won't be forgotten by Brakebill. A sniper bullet tore his helmet from his head, creasing his scalp.

The Jerrys retaliated in Bergen with sneak night attacks knocking out several vehicles. The platoon had a ringside seat for two night battles, but were unable to lend a hand.

We shall long remember the historic meeting with the Russians, two days after V-E in Dresden. They gave the platoon a roaring party that night. They gave us sauerkraut, raw fish, and a vodka chaser for breakfast the next morning.

Metz nearly had a stroke over General Krueger's monicle, but he couldn't have it . . . "D. J." and Rocky hauled some wounded men to the rear under heavy artillery fire. They were cited but never received medals . . . "That one got me" was Simmen's agonized cry, as a piece of shrapnel



Top—Kappelen On the Rhine.
Above—Wisesbaum.

caroombed off his helmet, leaving him unscratched . . . Spivey and the "Rookie" were late comers, but are well remembered.

FROM THE THIRD PLATOON:

We were the roughnecks.

We won't forget those task forces either. We were finally given a chance to operate in accordance with our training—spearheading for the armour. The towns we took in Germany reminded us of home and the small towns in the South, just a wide spot in the road and a few houses.

Ben took the first two prisoners of the Task Force and turned them over to "Chongo," "Bug," and "Stump" for return to the rear. These three were in favor of shooting them on the spot, but "the Beast" came along in time and took them back without any bloodshed.

In Lissendorf, Dudley Clark and Duthie fired on two retreating Krauts going up a hill. They went down and the two sharpshooters loudly ac-



claimed their marksmanship. Later investigation revealed there had been not two, but three Germans, but all were unscathed. The sharpshooters got a terrific horse laugh.

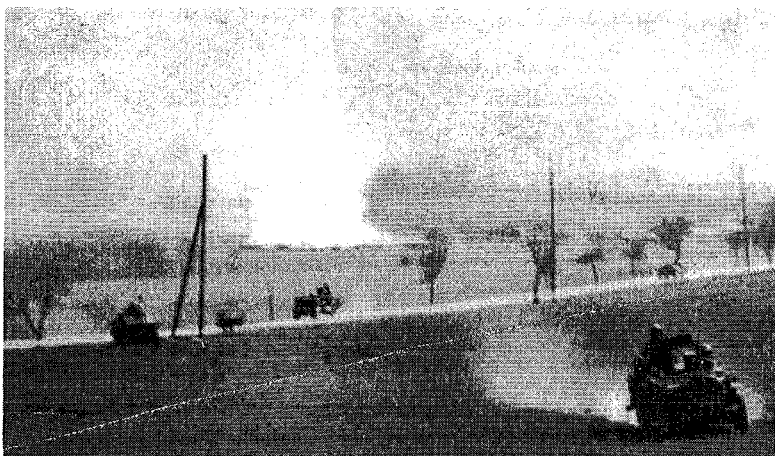
Weisbaum brought bad luck. We ran into a barrage of artillery that was unparalleled in our experience. During that barrage, we lost a buddy we'll never forget, Big Steve Slabak. Shrapnel got him.

In "Snipers' Valley," a sweet spot in plain view of the Germans across the Moselle, Big Ben got hit in the hand while on patrol. Later the same day, "Stump" was evacuated with blood poisoning.

We remember when "Bugeyes" Bilyeu got the Bronze Star for pulling out five vehicles which had been ordered abandoned by Lt. Barham. This also happened in "Snipers' Valley," a place we were glad to leave.

Kelly Clayton's love for a good hot fight and his fiery temper will be remembered by one and all.

Gangway!



The Third Platoon took Kapellan, just below Koblenz, and made Orto mayor. We took over the town's three-story hotel and were much impressed by our "Watch on the Rhine." (We were directing artillery fire.)

Hickey Asher, new to the Platoon, expounded on cleanliness and cooperation, but it didn't take him long to become one of the outstanding members of the "F. Y. B." Club. This was largely due to the influence of such characters as "Stump," "Chongo," "Brow," the "Beast," "Douche Bag," and "Bug." We go in for nicknames.

The towns we liberated were filled with French men and women slave laborers who went completely beserk and showered kisses and affection on the embarrassed members of the Platoon. Bilyeu, Duthie, Clayton, and Phillips were not so pleased, however, when the Frenchies got hold of their German souvenir box and burned up much of their wonderful loot.

In the battle of Rudolstadt, Julius "the Bug" Perri rescued a wounded doughboy while under heavy fire and received the Bronze Star for his heroic action.

At one instance, the Platoon became fire fighters first class. While clearing a town and taking some prisoners, someone threw a grenade into a barn and started a fire. It spread rapidly, and before long, German PW's and Americans were fighting side by side against a common foe, fire. When it was under control, the Germans complacently lined up in the road and continued on their way to the PW enclosure.

One night, while we were billeted just outside Nuensalz, Jerry took us by surprise and bazookad "Bugeye's" M-8. Once again, "beau-coup loot" was destroyed.

When we moved into a nice apartment house in Bergen, everybody did a little gentle scrounging. Phillips finally emerged from one room in a very sharp civilian sport suit.

FROM HEADQUARTERS PLATOON:

Headquarters was not as exciting as existence in the platoons, but we had our fun. We got a share of the incoming artillery, we hit a few mines, and we even had a couple of run-ins with the enemy. We prided ourselves on the fact that the Recon "rear echelon" was often far ahead of many forward CP's.

For the cooks, life was one eternal meal. Cook food, wash dishes, pack "mermaid cans," and cook more food. For Wayne Noble, all that was punctuated by his hair-cutting job, which took up most of his off-duty hours. Whitey Walk-

owiak, the mess sergeant, got the Bronze Star for his stubborn insistence on personally bringing hot food to the men on the front lines, no matter what the situation.

The mechanics were the unsung heroes of the Troop. Night and day, they worked to keep the wheels rolling and the tires inflated. We'll never forget Hittle's tires. He stole them off everything the Germans had, down to their trailers, but he kept us on the road. Sgt. Tonn, Phil Cohn, Hittle, Pearce, Slim Sumrall, and Shest will never forget those mine fields. They had two half-tracks and a jeep blown from under them. Their injuries included broken legs, punctured ear drums, burns and cuts. That was on Task Force Muir. We got a laugh out of Knobby's first motorcycle ride. Hittle warned him, but he crashed head-on into a hedge, before he learned.

The radio men were busy day and night. Sgt. "California" Wexberg was justly praised for the excellent communications he maintained in the troop.

Whitey owned the Troop mascot, a little dog named "Bitche," named for the French city of that name, of course. During one of the Task Forces, Whitey and Barney Gamm became too interested in a bottle of cognac and got left behind when the rest of us pulled out. They caught a ride the next morning on a hay wagon driven by an old German civilian, but somewhere along the route "Bitche" disappeared. Whitey figures she was taken prisoner by the Germans.

Hedrick nearly burned the kitchen truck up one morning while getting breakfast. O'Neill thought we were being attacked. What a riot!

John Orr and Richard Gray are remembered for their valiant service with the mail. We don't forget Bishop either, who was in Special Troops Headquarters, trying to get us paid, and looking after our records. We also remember the liaison team in Division forward where Sgt. Burt Townsend did such an excellent job.

After the Task Forces had successfully attained all their objectives, the Troop was withdrawn from the costly town of Bergen and pitched tents in a sloppy, muddy field near Nuen-salz.

On the Marine Fox—Madigan, Paul, McGuire, Selby and Reilly.



On 7 May, the horrible, grinding machine of war came to a lumbering halt.

A few days later, we were moved to Saalburg on the banks of a beautiful lake. We had excellent quarters in what had been a resort hotel. We boated, fished, cleaned equipment, went on Lt. Welch's fatigue marches, raised some mighty smoke screens from some abandoned German smoke-throwers, and hoped the Brass wouldn't come around and spoil it. Lt. Ortowski came back from the hospital all smiles, and soon he became our new CO. Morale in the troop hit an all-time high. We liked and respected our officers and found out they were pretty swell guys. Even Burley Clark, the first sergeant, turned out to be a darned good Joe. It was one of the nicest months we ever spent in this man's army.

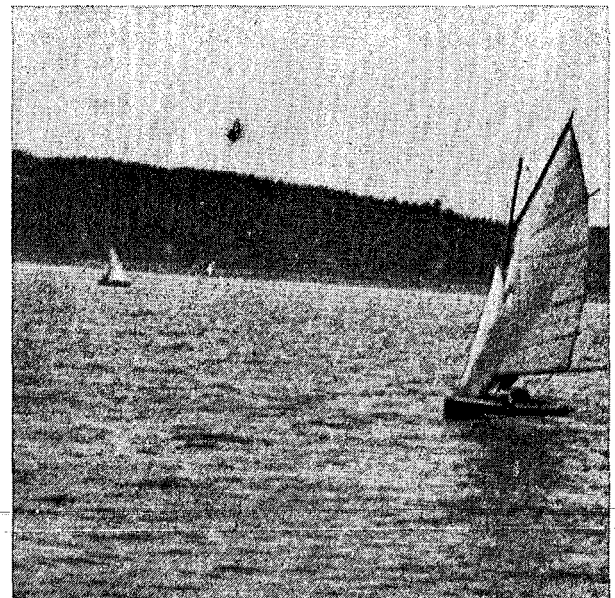
Surprisingly, things got better instead of worse. We went home.

We have only a hazy recollection of the tiring convoys back to France, the lazy but impatient days at Camps Oklahoma City and Lucky Strike, the brief passes to Paris, the sardine-like existence aboard the "Marine Fox," the steak and ice cream "welcome home" meal at Camp Patrick Henry in Virginia, and the horse laugh some one got when he mentioned that the war might be over before we were redeployed to the Pacific. We celebrated V-J Day at our homes while on 30-day furloughs.

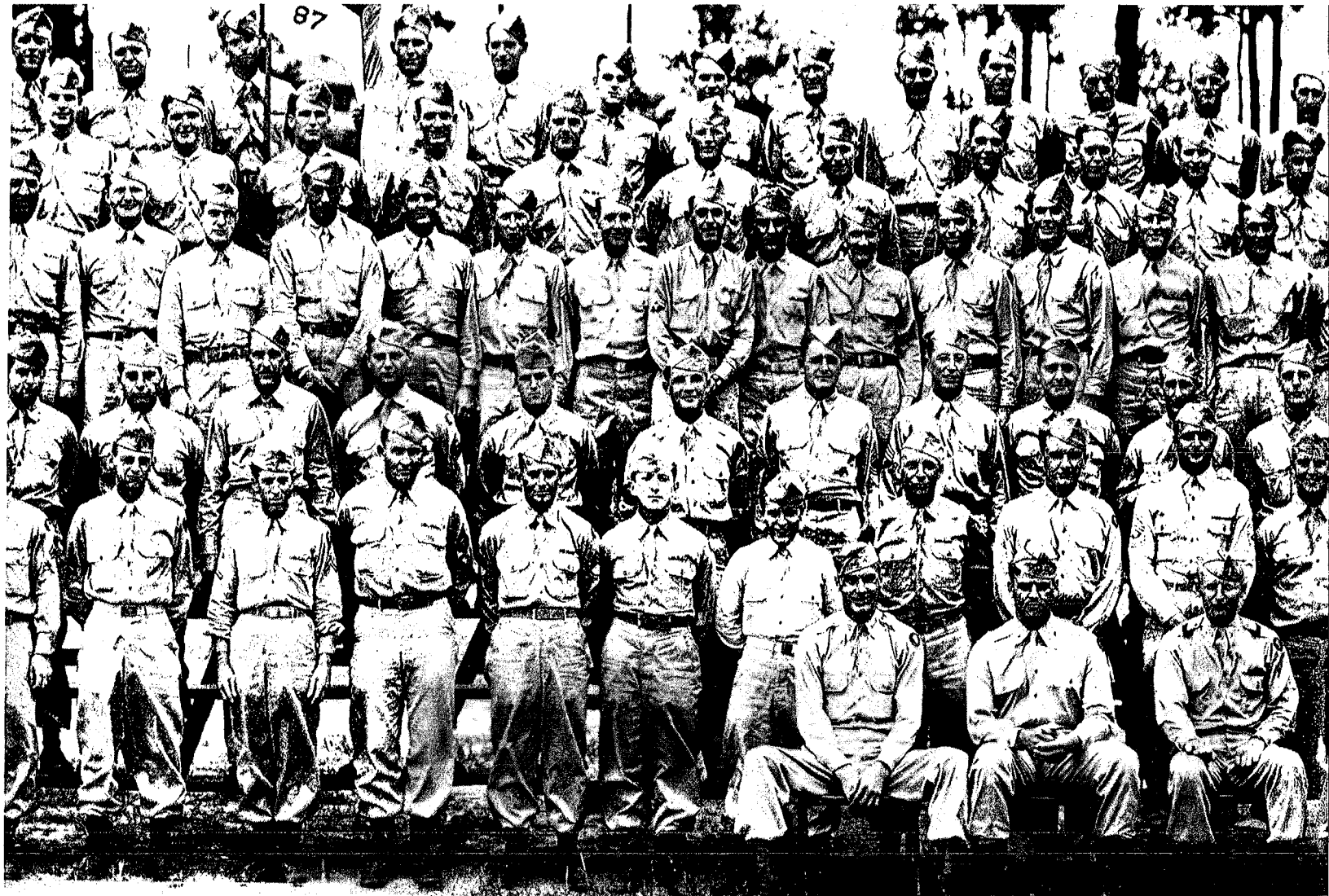
We reassembled at Benning with the world at peace.

The Recon Troop, black sheep to the end, died a natural death in September of 1945. It was a good organization and a great gang. Long echo its triumphs.

Boating.



Orto.



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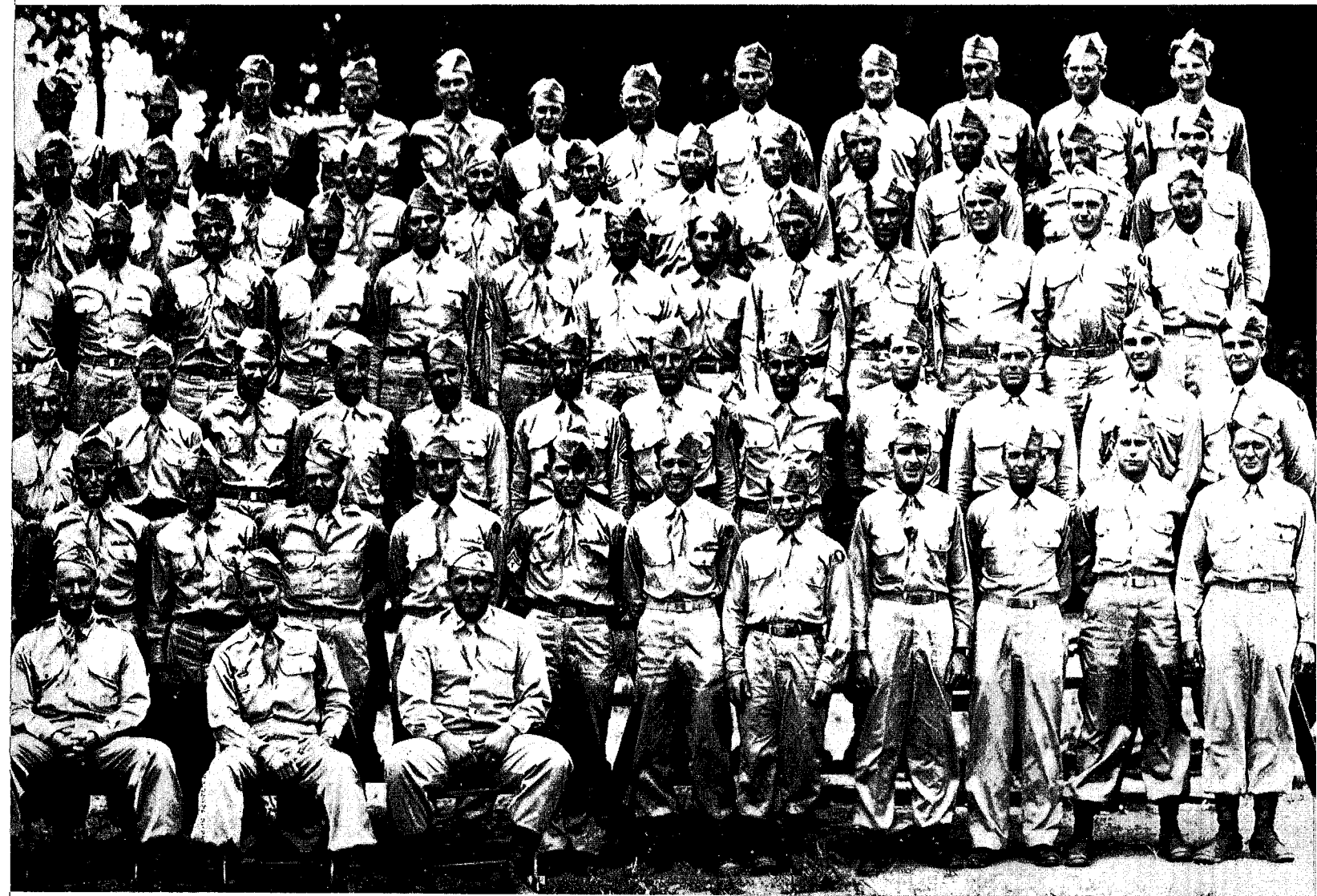
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*Purple Heart
**Bronze Star

***Silver Star
Name in Bold Face Indicates Killed in Action.



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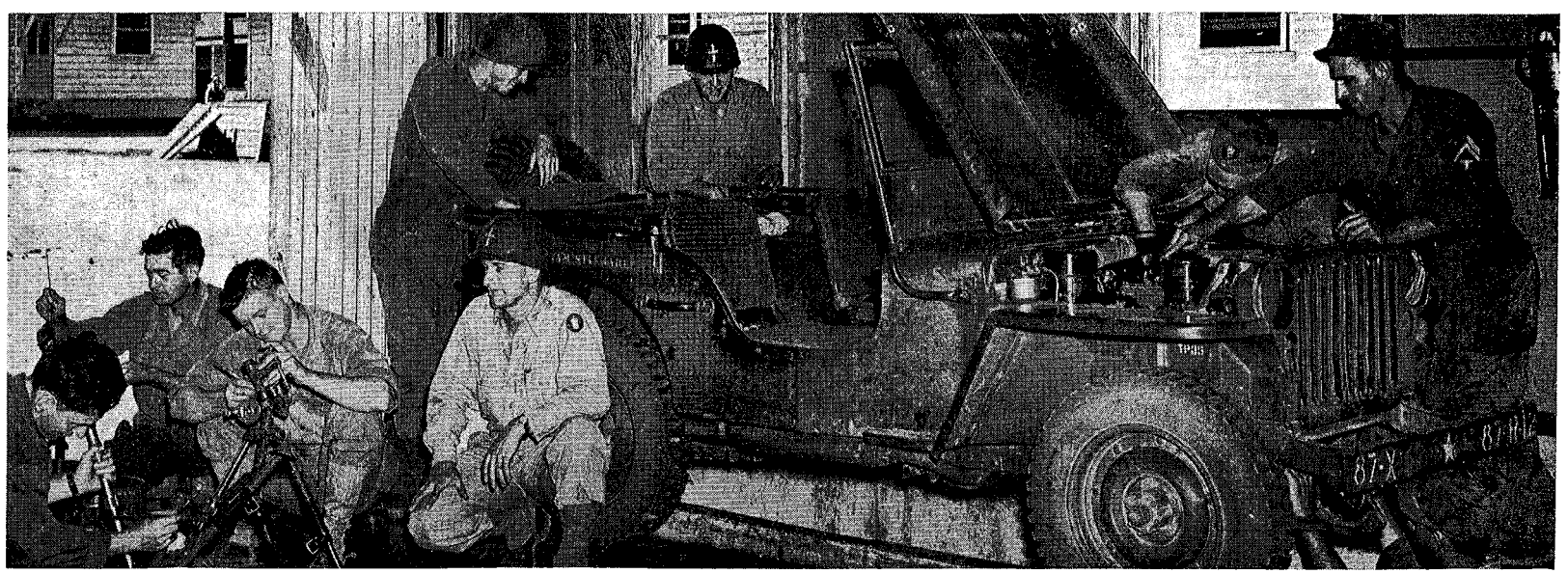
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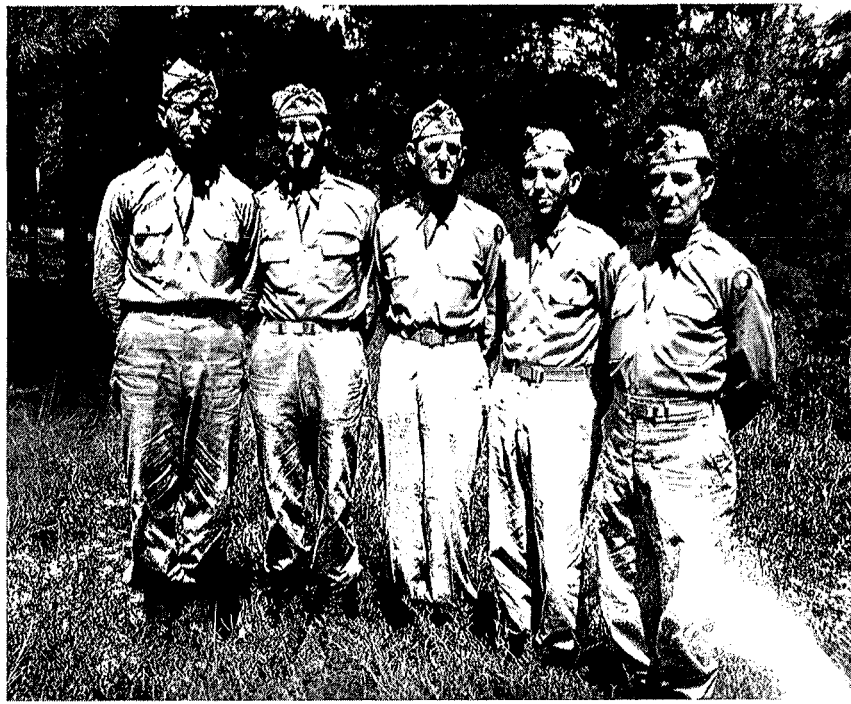
*Purple Heart.
**Bronze Star.



87th QUARtermaster COMPANY



MOVE'EM, FEED'EM, CLOTHE'EM



QUARTERMASTER COMPANY OFFICERS

Left to Right: Lieutenant Short, Lieutenant Welsh, Captain Rankin, Lieutenant Metzler, Lieutenant Carey.

HISTORY — 87TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

INTRODUCTION

This is the story of the 87th Quartermaster Company whose job it was to keep the Division supplied with means to live and fight. A Division is not only fighting men and their weapons, but trucks to move the men and "ammo" and men to drive the trucks. It is gasoline to keep them going. It is huge stack of rations—"B," "C," "K" and 10-in-1. It is men to break them down. It is clothing and equipment and the men to distribute them. The million in one items to supply a division.

This is the story of the men who did the job—and did it well—under every conceivable condition, from its beginning at Camp McCain, Mississippi on December 15, 1942, through 154 days of combat in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia, to the time of its inactivation at Fort Benning, Georgia, in September, 1945.

It was on a sunny Monday afternoon, November 8, 1942 when the 87th Quartermaster Company first came into being. On that memorable date eight officers and fourteen enlisted men arrived at Camp McCain, Miss . . . from the 81st Infantry Division at Camp Rucker, Ala. In the single story, black-tar-papered barracks and the muddy parade grounds

of the new camp, the 87th Infantry Division was born.

THE CADRE

The original cadre consisted of the following: Major O'Hair*, Capt. Jones, Capt. Baldwin, Capt. Peckham, Capt. Dingle (CO), 1st Lt. Coleman, 2nd Lt. Brooks, (Now Lt. Col.), 2nd Lt. McGwier*, M/Sgt. Keeler, 1st Sgt. Watkins, T/Sgt. Funk*, T/Sgt. Pearson, S/Sgt. Brooks, S/Sgt. Jaeger, Sgt. Karp*, Sgt. Luick*, Sgt. Moudy*, T/4 Kent*, T/4 Waites, Cpl. Harper*, T/5, Schwab and T/5 Taylor. Able and experienced, these men played a notable and influential part in the formation and development of the company.

*Men who served with the Company during its entire history.

ACTIVATION

One rainy month later the company was officially christened when the 87th "Acorn" Infantry Division was activated on December 15, 1942. General Lear was the principal speaker at the indoor ceremonies, which also featured several 87th "Vets" of World War I vintage. Three days later Major John E. O'Hair, Division Quartermaster, was appointed Lt. Colonel. In this capacity the Irish

Dean of ODQM served creditably until the inactivation of the Company nearly three years later.

NEW MEN

To Private Demand on January 5, came the distinction to be the first filler to join the organization. The first sizeable group arrived January 26th: Two officers, 2nd Lts. Harrison and Rankin, and 12 EM from the Army War Show, Cpl. Grimes, T/5 Jacobs, PFC's Wilhelm, Wilgus, Percy, Conway, Kinlein, Overby, Rextroat, Rosen, Pvts Macneal and Vernieri.

RECRUITS

Busy, hectic months were January, February and early March as the men came in to fill the T/O strength of 10 officers and 196 enlisted men. "HUP, TWOP, THREP, FOWAH!" Few of us will ever forget March 8, the beginning of 13 "rough" weeks of basic training. Few will forget Camp McCain, for that matter. Or Holly Springs bivouac area. Milestones: Duck Hill, Winona, Greenwood, Grenada and those wonderful week-ends in Memphis. In March we had our first change of CO's; 1st Lt. Brooks relieving Capt. Dingle.

ADVANCE TRAINING

Time disappeared fast amid activity-filled days and a full schedule, and on June 13th we took up unit training. "Boy, were we glad that basic stuff was over." "WHEW!" Now—field problems . . . chiggers, gnats and mosquitoes. September and October, 43 were big bivouac months—weeks in the field. Ration breakdown performed under black-out conditions, motor marches. Home! Home was in the field . . . and did those showers feel good when we did get back to camp! To top it off, beer was scarce at the PXs.

MANEUVERS

Finally, on December 1, 1943 the many months preparatory training terminated in "The closest thing to actual combat"—the Tennessee maneuvers. Despite snow, rain and mud—more rain and more mud, the men came through with flying colors. And supplies to Division came through "on the beam." Teamwork in action, and the Company chalked up another "well done." Between problems: Clothes to be washed, a helmet bath, the usual inspections, and week-ends in Nashville. Acting as Division QM umpire on DS during the problems was Capt. McGwier.



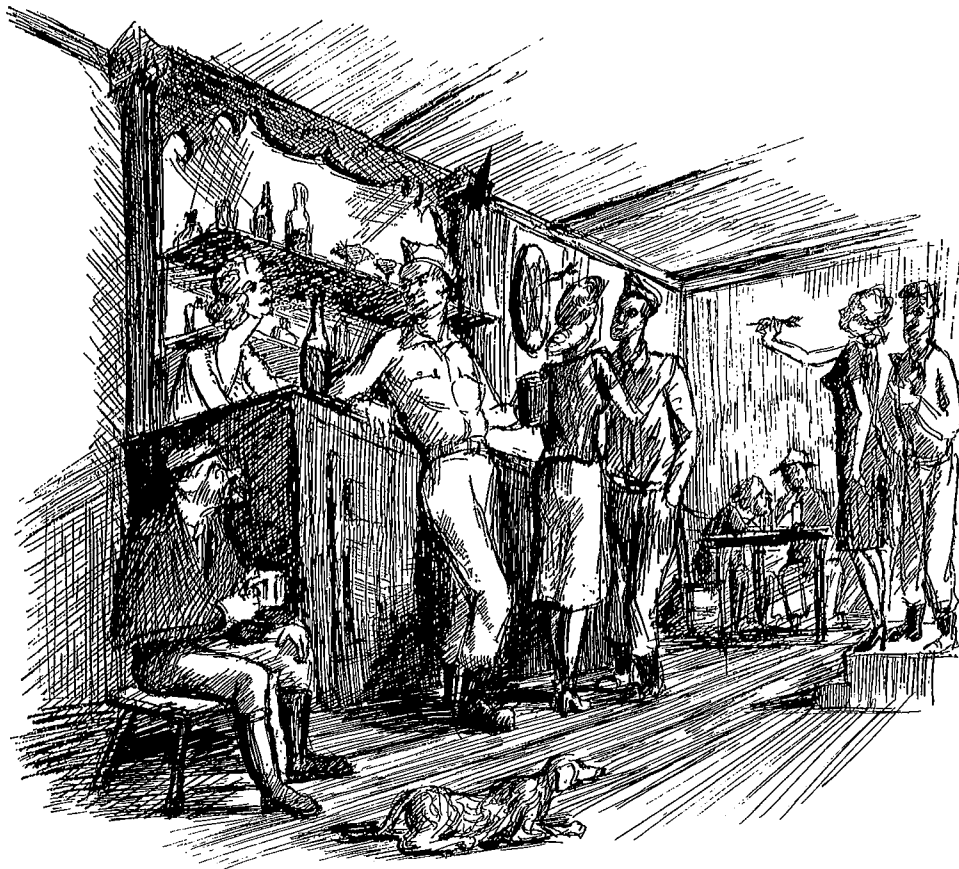
Ration Breakdown Under Cover—Training for Things that Came, at Holly Springs, Mississippi.

FORT JACKSON

Fort Jackson, S. C., looked like Shangri-la when we invaded the post January 27th. Two-story, permanent-style barracks with lawns. Quite a treat for sore eyes. "FURLOUGHES" and everybody was happy. Promotions: Lt. Keppard took

Training in Concealment and Dispersion at Camp McCain, Mississippi.





over the CO's reins February 2nd, and Capt. Brooks made Asst. Div. QM. Shortly afterwards, on April 10th Lt. Rankin assumed command, Caldwell jumped from staff to 1st Sgt. and S/Sgt. Karp added another "rocker." In June Major Brooks bid the company Au Revoir, and Capt. McGwier was promoted to Asst. Quartermaster. Last furloughs in July and August.

OVERSEAS

Louisiana Maneuvers were called off September 3rd, and POM became the company's bible. Crating and packing . . . Inspections and check lists. Company arrived in Camp Kilmer, N. J., October 15th. More processing. Security lectures. Three-day passes . . . Expensive New York. "This is it!" we exclaimed when we boarded HMS Louis Pasteur on November 3rd and waved "good-by" to the Statue of Liberty the following day. Many of us wondered as the ship cut through the gray mists, how long it would be before we would see her again. After nine days on the Pasteur, land looked mighty good when the Company landed at Liverpool, England. We moved in those queer compartmented coaches to Knutsford on the 13th, taking up house-keeping at the Thorny Hall Estate.

LIFE IN ENGLAND

Picturesque England with her tidy, emerald fields, historic castles and cathedrals, ubiquitous pubs—landscapes, variously beautiful but never spectacular.

Her pubs we remember best, dim, orange lights in the totally blacked-out village, the warm, subdued atmosphere, the steins of "Alf 'n' Alf" (Very unlike U. S. brew), the portrait-studded walls, the Cockney girls, cheerful, good-natured, the dart games.

Here we became acquainted with England—her people, and sombre, for the Pub was the social and recreational center of English life. In the pubs and quaint shops we also fought the battle of British currency, the Schillings, the Crowns and Thrupence. Fish 'n Chips became a popular G. I. snack-dish.

Here most of us first experienced the peculiar feeling of being in a strange land, some frankly were home-sick. The majority of the men enjoyed England though. They admired her attractive countryside and the indomitable spirit of her people. For war was closer now—the skies were alive with planes, black-out was mandatory, and some of us had seen the bomb-wreckage of Liverpool and other cities. We also noticed the extreme scarcity of

food and ordinary commodities. We were beginning to understand the meaning of "total warfare."

LANDING IN FRANCE

Two weeks later the Company left Knutsford by motor convoy, arriving at Weymouth November 28th. The following day we boarded LST 527 and began the voyage across the Channel. The trip aboard the LST was a pleasant one. The ship was clean, the quarters attractive—and the Navy really put out the chow. After a smooth but uneventful crossing the Company on December 2nd debarked at Le Havre, France, at 1330 and traveled via convoy to Esteville.

Home our first night on European soil was a century-old French chateau. It's spacious front lawn made an ideal ration breakdown site for S/Sgt. Davies' Service Platoon. Lt. Colonel O'Hair and T/5 Powell departed on the third to select a new location at Metz.

It was December 6 when the long truck convoy left Esteville. That night the company bivouaced at Mars Le Tour, arriving in Metz at 1500 on the fateful December 7th—just three years after Pearl Harbor. "Hell," we quipped "the war can't last long now—the 87th is here!"

SOLDIERING IN THE SAARE

A hot spot was wartorn Metz. Although the city itself had been taken several weeks previous to our arrival, a number of strongly-held forts remained in action, subjecting certain areas to sporadic shelling. Crossroads particularly were unhealthy spots. Nobody wandered around much at night unless they had business; the sharp "Ping" of sniper fire was

87th Quartermaster Convoy Moving Up to Metz.



a helluva uncomfortable sound. Driving black-out became a rugged and grim business.

Departing from Metz on December 14th, the company set up at Saare Union. Four days later orders, directing the company to advance to Moronville Farm, were received. This was to clear all roads for the movement of an armored outfit. At this point we were within 500 yards of the 345th Inf. CP. At 2200, December 18th, an alert for an expected German counterattack was sounded, ordering that this sector be held at all costs. Defensive positions and measures were immediately taken. The following day some of our trucks were shelled by 88s as the company pulled out to return to Saare Union, but caused no casualties. Happily, the anticipated enemy counterattack failed to materialize.

Christmas Eve Serenade: A truck convoy manned by S/Sgt. Davies, Sgt. Maus, Elzholz, Cpls. Rosen, Urbanek and Starr, Pvt. Vuckovic, Erps and McKinney, was shelled December 24th, while on the Christmas ration run to St. Avoir. The Jerries must have been full of Christmas "cheer"—their aim was wild. Of course, they weren't the only ones who did a little celebrating.

THE END RUN

Rundstedt's December breakthrough in Belgium caused the 87th Division to be switched to that sector to help stem that powerful attack. The Pattonmen's famous end-run from the Saar Basin around through France to Belgium is now history. On



Christmas night at 1900 departure from Saare Union was made for Beru, France. The 160-mile convoy trip during which our columns were alternately bombed and strafed by Jerry planes, was accomplished in bitter-cold weather at 1115 the following morning.

In the snow and pine woods outside Beru, approximately 8 miles from Rheims, the company set up a four-day bivouac and took up, in addition to supplying the division, the tasks of escaping enemy aerial detection and "trying to keep warm." Fuel became as important as food while Class II, under T/Sgt. Joe Karp, literally worked day and night oftentimes drawing and issuing the thousand-and-one items of clothing and equipment to supply the units. Wool gloves, socks and arctics became articles of vital importance—often spelling the difference between frozen hands and feet.

3rd Truck Platoon—Taken at Plauen, Germany.



THE BULGE

A definite improvement for the better was the next stop on December 30th, Chateau Amerois—78 miles north of Beru and six miles southeast of Bouillon, Belgium. The luxurious Belgian chateau furnished the best billets since the company's arrival on the continent.

Bertrix, Belgium became the next location January 3rd. A large railroad roundhouse was utilized for the supply depots and adjacent buildings as billets. "Best deal" of all was the shower unit which was set up in the basement for the use of the entire division.

During the ten-day stay at Bertrix, the roundhouse proved to be an excellent location for units drawing Class I, II, and III supplies as the Belgian winter set in and the weather became "colder than the ace of spades." Especially during this period did our mess department play a vital and important part toward maintaining the high morale and efficiency of the men. It was not unusual for S/Sgt. Andrew Carstens and his staff of culinary experts to feed as high as 400 men a day.

LIFE IN LUXEMBOURG

The liquidation of the German salient accomplished, General Patton ordered the 87th transferred to defensive sectors in Luxembourg. Accordingly, the company via truck convoy and Belgian train, made the 60-mile trip on January 15th, setting up installations in Itzig, Luxembourg. A warm, com-

BACK TO BELGIUM

We would have enjoyed a longer sojourn. However, on January 25th orders were received, directing the division to return to Belgium. The following day the company set up in the forest two miles outside Steinback, Belgium. The 60-mile move was accomplished in six inches of snow and zero temperatures.

Two days later a shuttle movement was made to the tiny, war-wrecked village of Halt, Belgium and on January 28th supply installations and billets were established. While at this location, the enemy was withdrawing to Siegfried line positions, necessitating frequent moves, loading and unloading and shuttle trips. On January 31st the company journeyed 15 miles to Gruflange, Belgium where division artillery was in action.

To remain within reasonable distance of the swift, advancing infantry, another move was made February 6 to a wooded area four miles northeast of Shonberg, Belgium. As the regiments had advanced to the Siegfried Line, the same day a second move of 14 miles was completed by QM to the Belgian border town Andler. A drive was launched on February 7th by Division Quartermaster to collect all items of equipment and ammunition discarded by American troops during the enemy's December offensive. The battlegrounds had been littered with equipment abandoned by the ill-fated 106th Division.

During the occupation of Andler, Mailman T/5 Johnny Raab was evacuated with possible fracture of left little finger and Mess Sgt. Carstens also left for a long sojourn at the hospital. Veteran M/Sgt. Keeler, evacuated with sacro-iliac strain, subsequently was returned to the States. On February 13th, Division Commander Brigadier General Culin

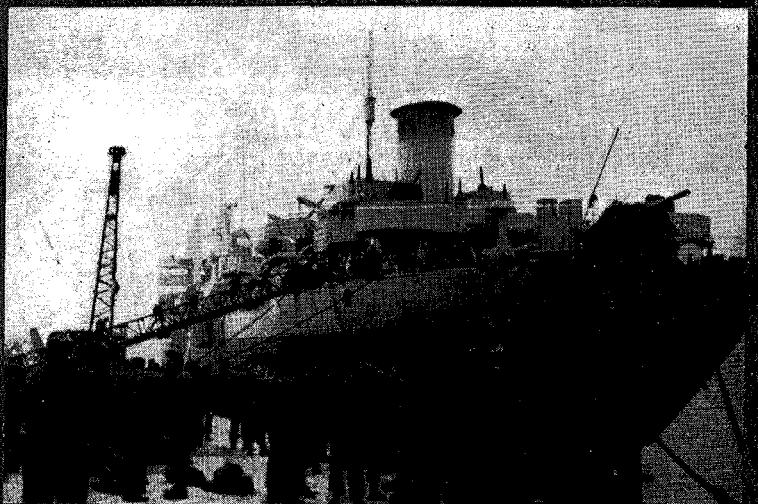
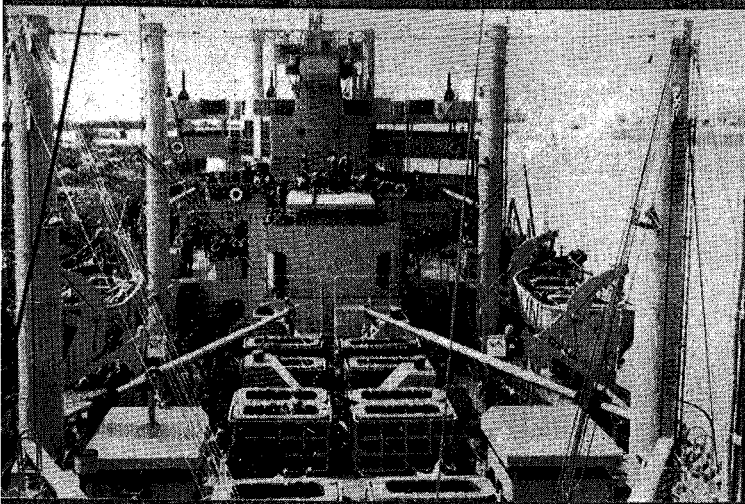
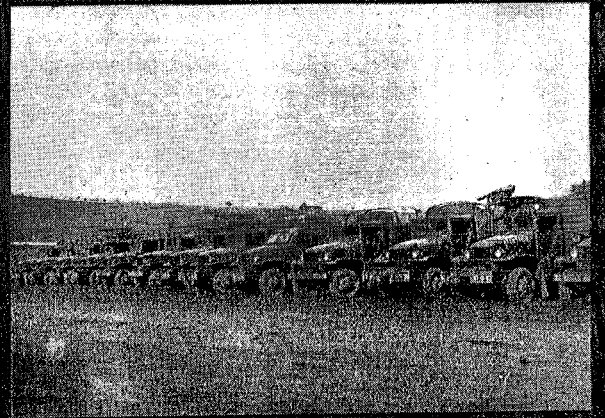
Issuing Rations to the Regiment.



Sergeant Elzholz, Corporal Tendam, Lieutenant Winburn, Pfc. Willgus, Corporal M. Snyder, and Private Barr.

fortable tavern was utilized as the mess hall, a barn employed for Class II, surrounding buildings for billets while Class I and III were established in a wooded area on the outskirts of the village.

We found the Luxembourgers a hospitable, neat and friendly people, the girls, attractive and interesting. Beer and cognac were available in limited quantities in the cozy cafes while over their radios one heard music and the news in every language in Europe. Life was considerably more bearable here, especially in comparison to the bleak, poverty-stricken existence of the Belgians. Unlike France or Belgium, the little country of Luxembourg escaped being looted and stripped of her food, fuel and wealth. Practically untouched by "la guerre," the Luxembourgers possessed fine, modern homes, ample food and necessities. Although their language was predominantly German, many of them spoke English fluently.







Crossing the Siegfried Line.

inspected the company area and the Class I supply depot two miles northeast of Andler, commending Lt. Billy Short and his Service Platoon crew on their installation.

CROSSING THE SIEGFRIED

Following "the breakthrough," Class I and III supply elements on March 6th pushed on from Andler to a point four miles south of bitterly-contested Roth, Germany, in order to better supply the on-rushing infantry. Finally, after nearly five weeks at Andler, the remainder of the company, joined by Class I and III at Roth on March 9th started the long-awaited entry through the shell-blasted Siegfried Line into the Reichland itself.

First stop over was Lissendorf, Germany on the Kyll river—a 25-mile gain. A welcome and heartening sight were the rows of white flags dipping from every house, and the people bewildered, gazing

uncomprehendingly at the never-ending procession of transport rolling irresistibly onward.

As the division's three regimental task forces sped on, exploiting the Kyll river crossing, a 55-mile expedition was completed to Ochtendung, Germany on the 14th of March. The company headquarters were located in a railroad station while ration and gas were set up in a nearby field. At Ochtendung, we were only about eight miles from the Rhine and Moselle rivers. Ironically, the best roads yet encountered in Europe had made possible the lightening swiftness of our advance to the Rhine river itself.

Taking advantage of the warm, early spring weather, a wash rack was improvised at Ochtendung, and all the trucks were brought up to tip-top shape. For meritorious service Lt. Colonel O'Hair was awarded the Bronze Star on March 15th—the first in the company.

MOSELLE AND RHINE CROSSINGS

Departure from Ochtendung was begun on March 23rd. Crossing the pontoon bridged Moselle river and its scenic valley, the company established bivouac in a wald several miles west of Gonderhausen, Germany. And two days later, rolling down the smooth, four-laned autobahn to a forested area, five-eighths of a mile from Kratzenburg, the company again set up for business. Establishing forward depots, Class I and III on March 26th pressed on to a point 1½ miles northeast of Filsen,

87th QM Convoy Rolling Along the Autobahn.



Germany, crossing the Rhine 48 hours after the division's assault elements. The same night 20 trucks under command of Lt. Carey, were dispatched to motorize the 2nd Bn. of the 347th Infantry in a forward move east of the Rhine.

Remaining elements of company crossed the frail-looking pontoon bridges, spanning the mighty Rhine, on the evening of March 27, setting up at an ex-labor camp, one mile northeast of Dachshenhausen. The kitchen stoves were still warm, indicating that the enemy had fled only a few hours previous to our arrival. Ration and gas depots departed this area and established supply points outside Kaltzenholzon, Germany on March 29th.

EAST OF THE RHINE

So fast was the progress, especially after the Rhine crossing, that many towns were completely bypassed by the infantry. In the village of Heringen—one mile from the "ration stacks" on March 29th, Lt. Short, S/Sgt. Davies and nine Service platoon men captured one enemy officer and 24 men.

Rolling onward a distance of 37 miles, the company's next encampment was Neider-Selters, Germany. Shortly after arrival three Wehrmacht soldiers surrendered, and a few days later the village Burgomeister committed suicide by hanging. While on a convoy run between Mullen and Bettendorf, enroute to Emmelshausen, Germany, Sgt. Blankenbaker and Pfc. Virgil Kent were wounded when their truck hit a trip wire, exploding a Teller mine. S/Sgt. Jack Phelan, in charge of the trucks, evacuated the two men to the 635th Clearing company.

On the night of April 1st an outpost guard on rations, Pvt. Thomas McKinney was assaulted by an enemy soldier, presumably seeking food for a group of SS-men reported to be in hiding in the vicinity of Neider-Selters. In the darkness and resulting confusion the enemy escaped while in the ensuing hand-to-hand struggle the guard received several, deep facial lacerations. For this action, McKinney was promoted to Pfc. and awarded the Purple Heart, bringing the company total to three.

CENTRAL GERMANY

Departure was made from Neider-Selters April 6th, and the company bivouaced along the Frankfurt-Berlin autobahn two miles north of Freidewald. Concluding two days of operation at this area, the company completed a 40-mile journey to



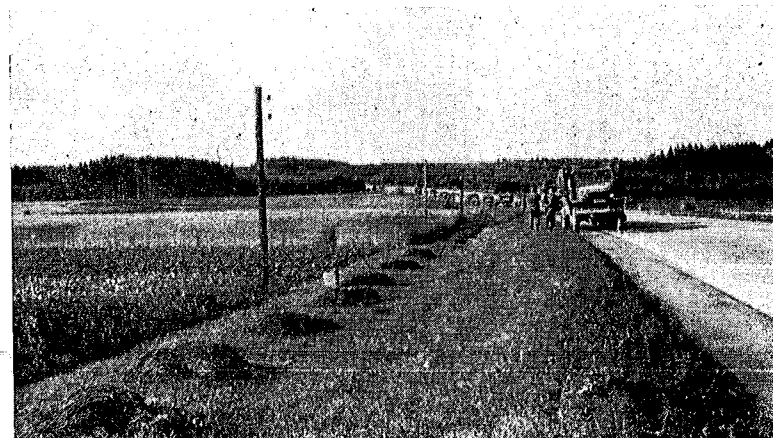
Chow-Call on the Autobahn.

Schweina, Germany, setting up supply depots in a lumber yard on the 8th of April. A scenic resort community, surrounded by forested hills, Schweina was one of the most beautiful cities we occupied in Germany.

Our travels continued three days later, April 12th, when the company stopped at Ohrdruf prison camp 1½ miles northwest of Crawinkle. Here we witnessed first hand the despicable conditions under which Nazi slave labor existed. Here we got a "good idea" of the Nazi system and were revolted by the grim evidence which so completely and thoroughly condemned it.

The following day a move to Stadtilm was ordered. A sprawling shoe factory was improvised for the supply depots. Here—crowds of liberated "Russki's" and "Polski's" lined the road leading into

Leaving Schliez, Germany.





*Top:—Convoy Into Deuschland.
Above—Leaving Schliez Wald, Germany.*

our area, singing, dancing and celebrating with wine and schnapps. A one-day stand in Stadtilm and we hit the road again, passing hundreds and hundreds of liberated laborers, trudging along the highway with their belongings piled high in small wooden carts or carrying their possessions on their backs. A pitiful spectacle they made. Yet the women and girls smiled and waved greetings while the men gave strange but smart salutes. An enormous textile plant at Schwarza, a few miles from the metropolis of Rudolstadt, made the next site. The buildings being relatively undamaged, this area was a "natural" location for supply installations and billets. For instance, a former cafeteria made an ideal mess hall where we sat on chairs and enjoyed the luxury of tables.

Further and further into the Reichland we pushed, striking easterly toward Czechoslovakia traveling a distance of 38 miles on April 16th, the



*Truck Platoon Hauling German PW's
at Plauen, Germany.*

company made a one-night stop-over at Schliez, Germany where a railroad yard was used for ration breakdown and gas depot. While here ten trucks were dispatched to the Division PWE (Prison of War Enclosure) to transport Wehrmacht prisoners to the Corps. PWE. On one move we passed a small valley almost completely filled with the solid grey-green mass of German soldiers. We had to look twice to believe our eyes so incredible was the view. MP's estimated that the valley PWE held from 30,000 to 50,000 prisoners.

Continuing onward the following day, our convoy moved 30 miles to Plauen, Germany, 11 miles from the Czechoslovakian border, establishing supply depots in the vicinity of German military barracks in the southeast section of the badly-kaput city. For the first time since Belgium on the 19th of April four of our trucks were strafed by two Jerry planes while moving a platoon of the 598th QM Laundry company. This action occurred on the highway between Jena and Armstead. Lead vehicle was hit, however, no casualties resulted.

On April 26 popular Irishman, Bill Dunlavey made Mess Sergeant, subsequently turning in a fine performance for the "chow hounds." While at Plauen, limited furloughs were granted: T/5 Halechko, Pfc. Schneiter and Pvt. McFarlane drew the lucky numbers for 7-day furloughs to the French Riviera while others secured passes to Brussels, London and Nancy.

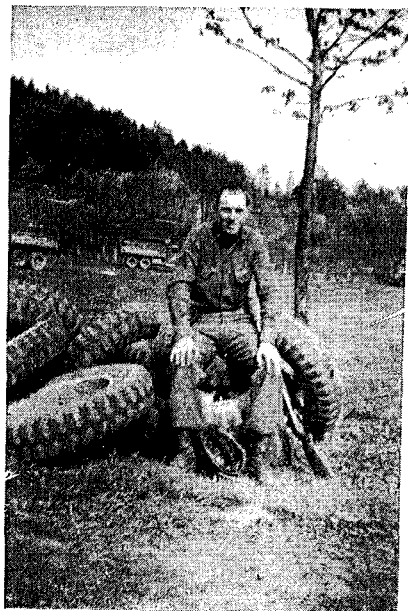
Finally, after innumerable rumors, "Victory in Europe" was officially announced with the signing of the peace terms at Rheims on May 8, 1945. There was little celebration among the men. "So what?" cracked diminutive "Doc" Spieker, "Where do we go from here?" That cryptic remark summed up the general attitude. After all, "There was Japan to lick yet," and the possibility of being among the occupation forces. All we wanted to do was to go home—and stay there!

On V-E Day, the company departed from Plauen, arriving at Falkenstein, Germany where we again utilized a railroad depot for operations. With the end of the war, the Division's assignment became one of occupation. Accordingly, on the 14th of May, the organization returned to its assigned area of Schliez, occupying a wooded area a mile southwest of the city. For exactly one month and a day, we remained bivouaced in this area. No war, no moving. This was the life! Just working, eating and sleeping. For entertainment there were occasional movies at night, one visit by the Red Cross doughnut-and-coffee caravan, and the sport of watching the frauleins and fraus hiking and bicycling along the adjacent highway.

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

In order to perform its mission efficiently and provide greater support to the Division, it became necessary to organize new sections, to perform extra duties and to service attached units. In time the

Corporal Harold Tendam Sitting on a Pile of "Flat" Tires at Plauen, Germany.



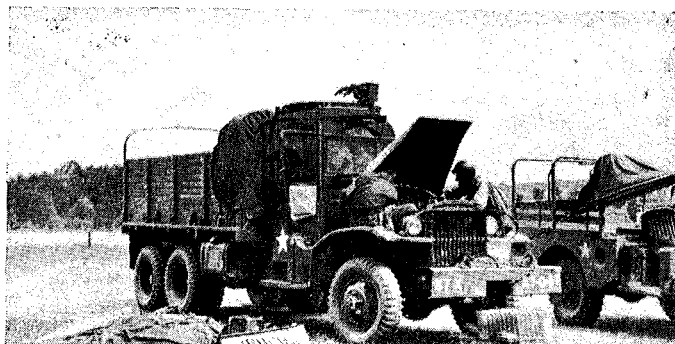
company grew to be literally a self-contained "city on wheels."

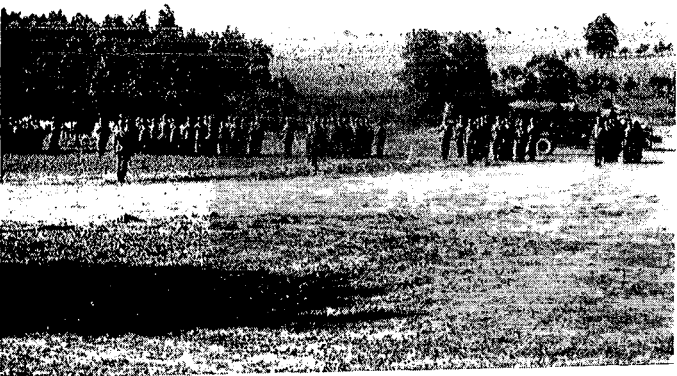
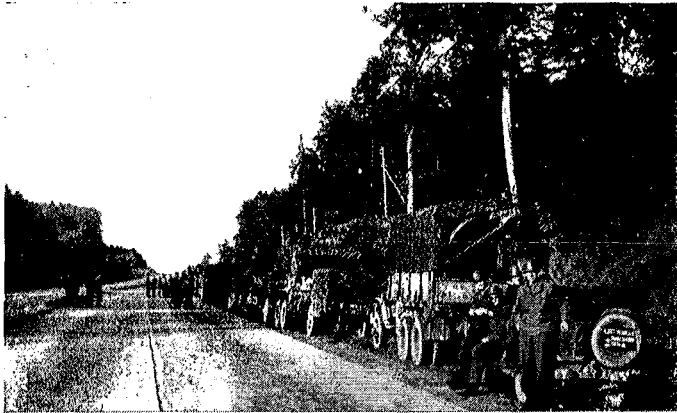
In addition to QM company itself, a Graves Registration section, in charge of T/4 Ophus, was organized to work with the Army-attached GRO section, totaling approximately 20 men. A RTD (Return to Duty) Point was set up to process, clothe and equip casualties returned to units from hospitals. This section was in charge of S/Sgt. Charles Schneiderhan.

A tire repair section, under Sgt. Baker and Cpl. Carna, was organized to keep the trucks a-rolling. During periods when heavy traffic over shrapnel-filled roads resulted in considerable "flats," this section repaired as many as 67 truck tires in an 8-hour period. Subjected to rain, snow and mud, the motor maintenance section, under Motor Sgt. John Kent, operated most of the time in the open field under many handicaps. However, due to their excellent work and efficiency, all dispatches went out on schedule.

Division Quartermaster supervised the laundry

*Below—Trouble-shooting in Combat.
Bottom—Pat Tantamonica and Buddy "Taking a Break" at Railhead; Germany PW's in Background.*





*Top—Overnight Bivouac on the Autobahn.
Center—Overseas We Had Inspections, Too.*

Bottom—Retreat in Reichland—87th QM Company at Retreat Formation, Schliez Forest.

and shower units attached by Army, and in addition, organized a section to operate a Division portable shower unit.

Shortly after arrival overseas, the Division APO was attached to the company, adding 50 men for quarters and rations.

In addition to their principle duties of hauling supplies and servicing the regiments, special troops and attached Army units, the three truck platoons —“always on the go”—were called upon to transport troops and haul Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons. Headquarters and Service Pla-

toons, issuing supplies in all kinds of weather, changed supply points as many as three times a day during the blitz-paced invasion of Germany. Necessitating frequent shuttle trips, a large reserve of Class I, II and III supplies was constantly maintained for emergency purposes.

THE ROAD HOME

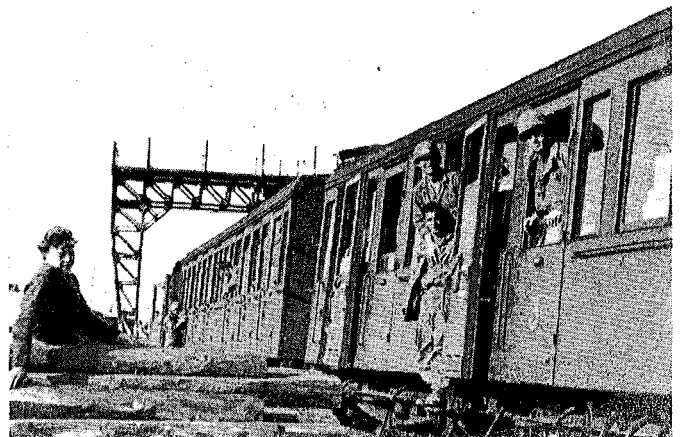
It was on the morning of June 15th when the three-mile convoy left Schliez, Germany, rolling south along the Frankfurt autobahn. It was a jubilant and unforgettable moment—the start of the long road home. The fact that the Division was scheduled to be redeployed to the Pacific theater made no difference. At least we would be home for 30 whole days, and “Well, anything could happen in the meantime.” Waving “Auf Wiedersehen” to Deutschland, we passed thru Luxembourg and arrived at Camp Oklahoma City, near Sissone, France on the evening of the 17th.” “Fast time? Boy, we really highballed it!” At Camp Oklahoma City: ETO Jackets, overseas stripes, decorations and insignia were issued and one-day passes to gay Paree. Remember Pigalle?

It was here that our CO, Capt. Rankin officially announced that the organization had been awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque. The Division General Order 172, dated 15 June 1945, read as follows:

“The Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded to the following unit:

87th Quartermaster Company, 87th Infantry Division, for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks and for

Chow Stop in France—Pfc. Ishkanian, S/Sgt. Schneiderhan and Pfc. McFarlane.



the achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline from 15 December 1944 to 30 April 1945. Despite adverse weather and road conditions, long distances between railheads and supply depots and strategical moves of the Division all of which greatly intensified their transportation and supply problems, the officers and enlisted men of this organization efficiently overcame these obstacles, and maintained a continuous flow of supplies to all elements of the Division. Their untiring efforts, devotion and high standards of military courtesy and discipline are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army."

Also during the encampment at Camp Oklahoma City, Major McGwier and Capt. Rankin received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service, making a total of three for the company of nine officers and 175 enlisted men.

Detraining at Ct. Valery, France, the organization arrived at Camp Lucky Strike at 0345 June 28th. Final preparations being completed on July 4th the organization aboard the USS Marine Fox embarked for the States. Docking at Newport News, Virginia on the 13th of June, the company moved by train to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia. The following day the men were broken down into groups and sent to separation centers where each man was given a 30-day recuperation furlough. While we were home, world events of cataclysmic proportions occurred, August 8—First atomic bomb. August 14—Nips fly white flag. World War II ends with formal signing of Peace Terms aboard USS Missouri, September 2, 1945.

Reassembling at Fort Benning, Georgia the latter part of August, the 87th Division received inactivation orders and was disbanded in September, 1945.

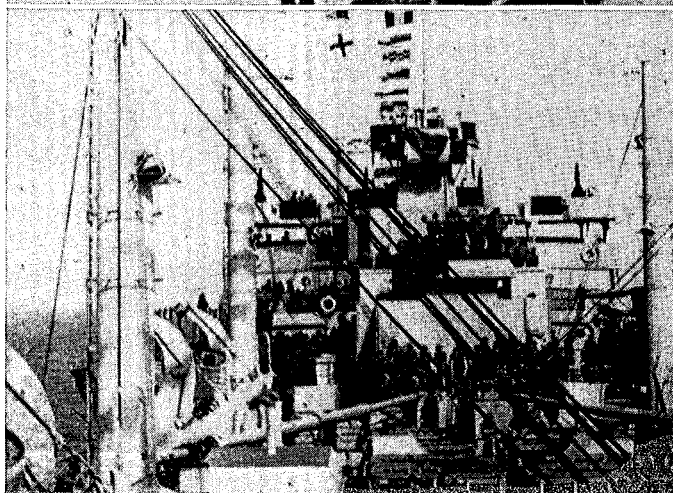
Members of the Third Truck Platoon.

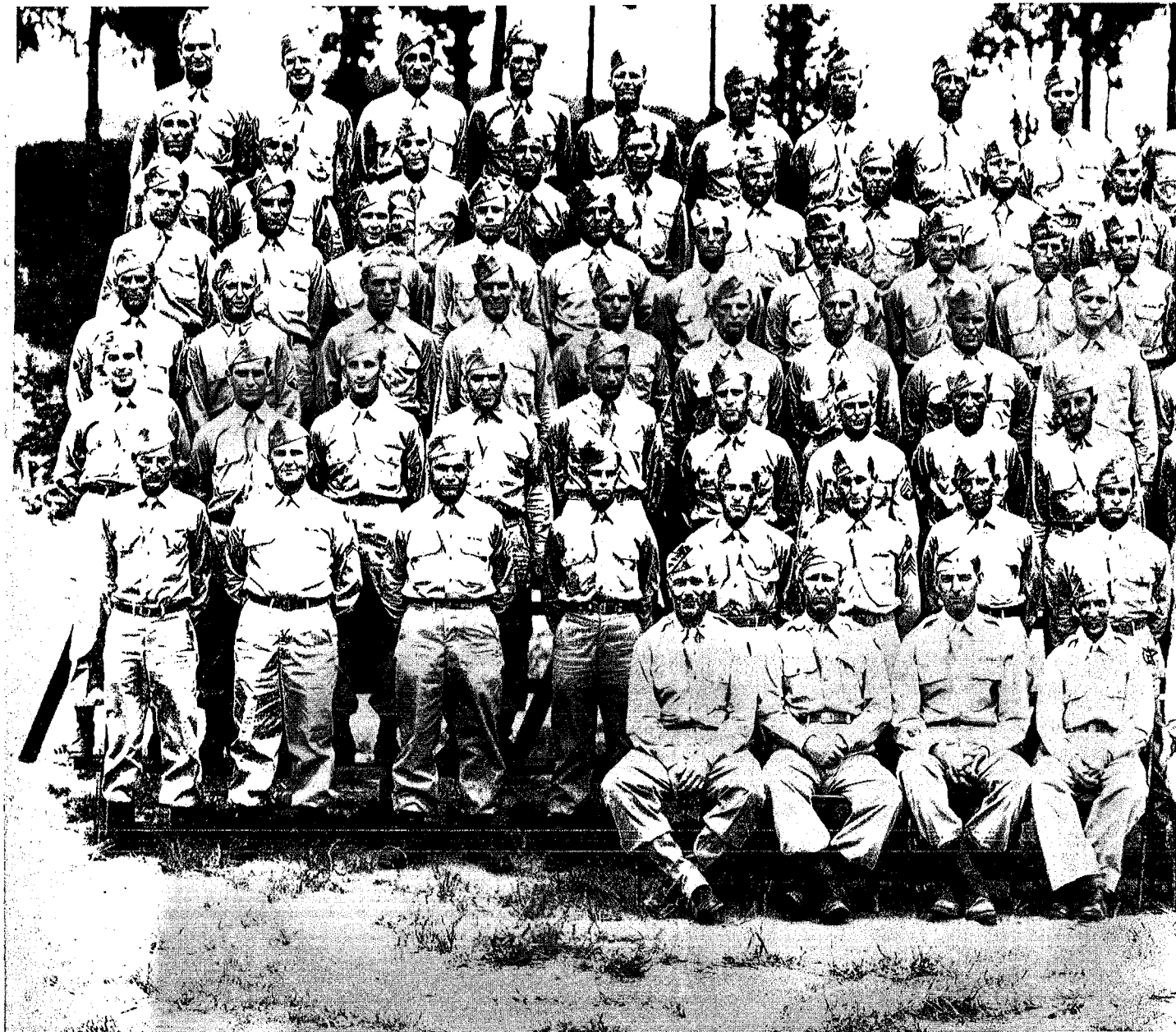


Life in the Raw.



*Below:—Pass in Parea—Alexander, Ishkanion, Curran.
Bottom—S. S. Marine Fox Homeward Bound.*





R O S T E R O F M E M B E R S

OFFICERS

**LT. COLONEL O'HAIR, Boston, Mass
 LT. COLONEL BROOKS.
 MAJOR JONES.
 **MAJOR McGWIER, Box 1606, Birmingham, Ala.
 **CAPTAIN RANKIN, 504 Roseneath St., Jackson, Miss.
 CAPTAIN HARRISON, 324 Cassedy Ave., Brookhaven, Miss.
 CAPTAIN CARSON, Germantown, N. C.
 CAPTAIN DINGLE.
 CAPTAIN BALDWIN.
 1ST LT. CAREY, 242 W. 45th Place, Chicago, Ill.
 1ST LT. KEPPARD
 1ST LT. METZLER, N. Jackson, Ohio.
 1ST LT. WELSH, 3424 S. Lowe Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 2ND LT. SHORT, 432 Sunset Ave., Dallas, Tex.

2ND LT. WINBURN, Fitchburg, Ky.

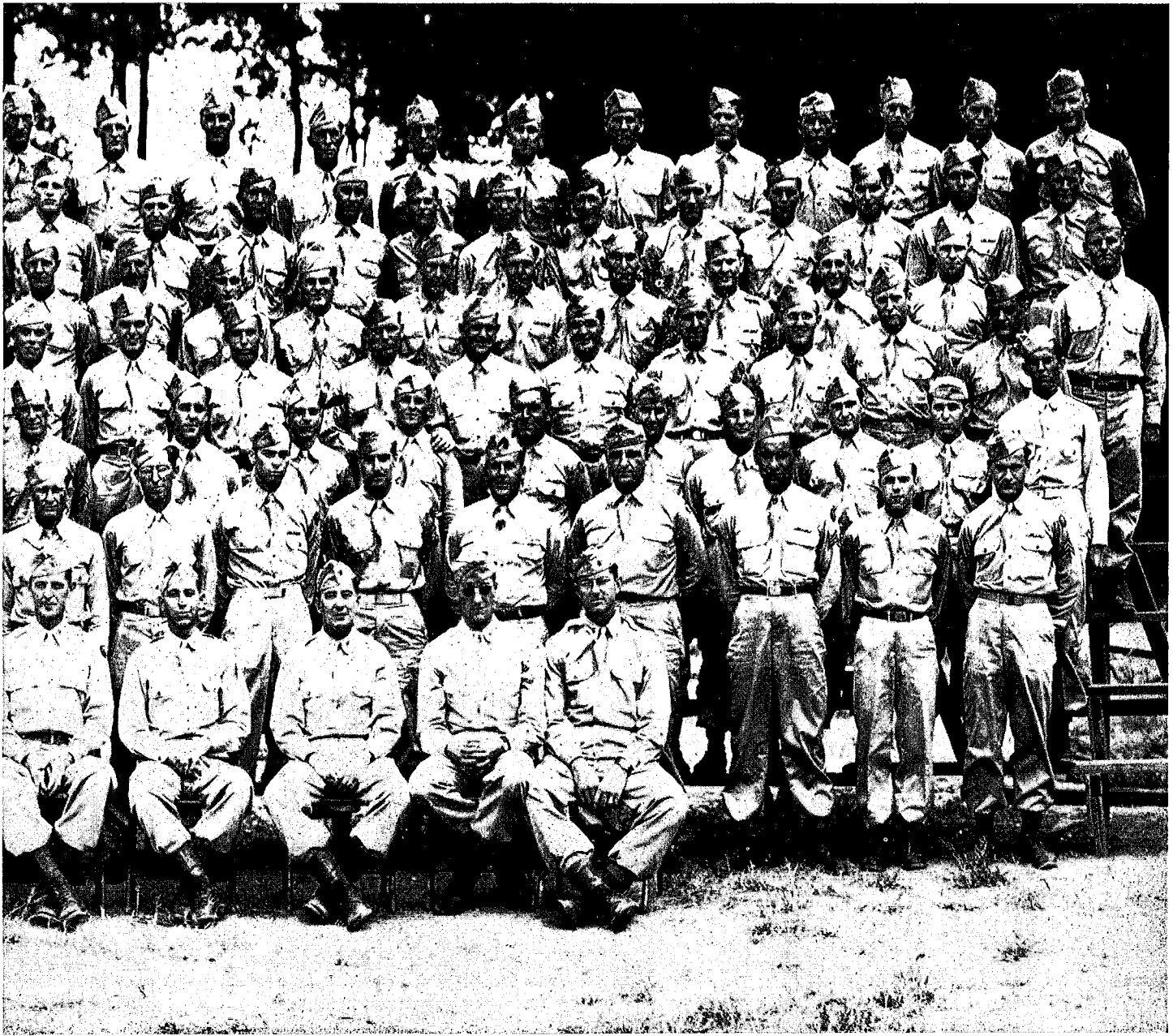
ENLISTED PERSONNEL

ADDISON, Richard C., 224 Sumner St., Elyria, Ohio.
 AGUILAR, Lionardo, Mason, Tex.
 AIKEN, Lawrence R., Sylvia, N. C.
 ALVAREZ, Enrique, Brownsville, Tex.
 ARNOLD, Rubin C., 4025 Pampas St., Dallas, Texas.
 BABBITT, Charles L., 100 E. Pearl St., Greenwood, Ind.
 BAKER, Harold W., Tamaroa, Ill.
 BARKDULL, Robert M., Route 4, Anderson, Ind.
 BARR, Kenneth M., Mountain View, Okla.
 BAXTER, William, 213 S. Jackson St., Bloomington, Ind.
 BEARDER, Howard E., Jr., 32 Halstead St., Newark, N. J.
 BISHOP, Robert L., 533 N. Warren, Freeport, Ill.

BIZUB, Thomas G., Rt. 3, Mason, Wis.
 BLUME, Helmuth C., Rt. 1, LeRoy, Minn.
 BONK, Walter, 304 Thompson St., Flint, Mich.
 BORDWINE, Ralph D., Gen. Del., Tulsa, Okla.
 BRADFORD, Orville G., Odd, W. Va.
 BRATCHER, Gova D., Rt. 3, Box 46, Caneyville, Ky.
 BRONSON, Abner M., Bartlesville, Okla.
 BURNER, Leo G., 2321 Iowa Ave. Connersville, Ind.
 CAMPILONGA, Frank J., 185 Bedford Ave., Merrick, Long Island, N. Y.
 CARNA, John, Box 41, Hillsville, Pa.
 CARROLL, James Y., Rt. 1, Pauhandle, Tex.
 CARSTENS, Andrew E. Jr., 1806 Grand Av., Davenport, Iowa.
 CASTELLUCCIO, Michael J., 38 Lake St., Spring Valley, N. Y.
 CHASE, Harry A., Prattsville, N. Y.

**Bronze Star

Deceased Indicated by Bold Face Type.



CONWAY, Joseph R., 6527 Greenview Ave., Chicago, Ill.

COOPER, Melvin R. E., Lucas, Kan.

COSBIE, Jonathan H., Jr., 510 Bellvue Ave., Daly City, Calif.

CRAYNE, Charles L., Jericho Springs, Mo.

CREAMER, George D., 1078 E. 5th St., Connersville, Ind.

CRONISTER, Marclan L., 470 Cypress Ave., Pasadena, Calif.

CURRAN, Frederick H., Moose Club, Spokane, Wash.

DAVIES, Daniel G., 28 Ash St., Newport, Ky.

DAVIS, James W., Ridgeland, Ill.

*DELAHOUSAYE, Willis J., Star Rt. 3, Box 643, New Iberia, La.

DOWNES, James A., Centreville, Md.

DUNAVANT, Robert L., Quitaque, Tex.

DUNLAVEY, William T., 7220 St. Clair, Cleveland, Ohio

DUNPHY, Joseph L., 3560 Mercer St., Philadelphia, Pa.

DUTKIEWICZ, John J., 5129 S. Latrobe Ave., Chicago, Ill.

DWYER, Joseph F., 785 River St., Troy, N. Y.

EISEL, Thomas E., 112 Cologno St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

ELZHOLZ, Glenn, 1526 W. Federal St., Youngstown, Ohio.

ERPS, Mendel H., 572 Vermont St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

FISCHER, Ernest L., 345 Rockaway Pkwy., Brooklyn, N. Y.

FITTERLING, John R., 619 Gordon St., Reading, Pa.

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FUNK, Clyde, 3014 California Ave., Everett, Wash.

GEORGESON, Darrall A., Rt. 4, Cass Apts., Madison, Wis.

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GITTINGS, Kinzie, P. 506 Palean, Keokuk, Iowa.

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HARPER, Aaron W., Barnard, Kan.

HARTNESS, William, Statesville N. C.

HARTWIG, Raymond J., Baileys Harbor, Wis.

HELMERICK, Marvin D., Box 193, Boswell, Ind.

HERNANDEZ, Patricio L., Box 502, New Braunfels, Tex.

*HILGENBERG, Lyle R., Bayard, Iowa.

HOFFNER, Ferdinand, Midway, Ga.

HOSS, William J., Newburg, Mo.

HOSTETTLER, Raymond K., 1717 Summit St., Toledo, Ohio.

HOWARD, Donald A., 120 Beaver St., Keene, N. H.

HUSS, Raymond K., 1224 Gruner Pl., St. Louis, Mo.

ISHKANI, Alexander, 6718 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

JACOBS, Frank W., 3727 Boarman Ave., Baltimore, Md.

*Purple Heart

JAMES, Calvin C., 217 W. 15th St., Bowling Green, Ky.

JEFFERS, Dale F., Forsythe, Mo.

JESSIE, Thomas G., Rt. 3, Corryton, Tenn.

JOHNSON, Robert J., 1159 Koowee, Dayton, Ohio.

JOHNSON, Vernon E., 15th & Idaho, Superior, Neb.

JOHNSON, Victor S., Norwood, Mo.

JUDD, Francis A., 111 E. Frederick St., Binghamton, N. Y.

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KNOX, Ronald S., 110 N. Royal St., Royalton, Ill.

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KULMAN, Chester F., 3313 E. Kirby, Detroit, Mich.

KYSER, Joseph R., 1537 S.W. Dolph St., Portland, Ore.

LADIKA, William J., Rt. 4, Winamac, Ind.

LANNING, William K., Rolla, Mo.

LeBLANC, Ray J., 125 E. Convent St., Lafayette, La.

LEE, Jim, 210 W. Noble St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

LIEN, Wallace A., Park River, N. D.

LOOKER, Kenneth L., 312 Broadway St., Washington Court House, Ohio.

LOSEY, Leonard J., 259 Clay St., Chillicothe, Ohio.

LUICK, Gordon C., Fairmont, N. C.

MACNEAL, Charles A., 242 S. East Ave., Baltimore, Md.

MARKEY, Lyle J., 1447 First Ave., North Fargo, N. D.

MARTIN, John W., 2216 Selzer Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

MATA, Steve G., 308 N.W. McKinley St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

MAUS, Henry J., Atkins, Ark.

MAYHOOD, Lou W., 1848 W. 66th St., Los Angeles, Calif.

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MICHNA, Edward S., 1345 150th St., Hammond, Ind.

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MOUDY, James A., Rt. 5, Dallas, Tex.

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PARK, Edwin N., Appleton, Mo.

PARSONS, Eldred G., Rt. 1, Nelsonville Ohio.

PAUL, Albert J., Cologne, Minn.

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RUH, Edwin, Mountain Parkway, Bound Brook, N. J.

RUPRECHT, Hilary A., Fulda, Ind.

RUSSELL, Earl C., 1606 Houran St., Flint, Mich.

SANBORN, Kenneth C., 433 E. Newall St., Flint, Mich.

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SNYDER, Marvin P., Rt. 1, LeChine, Mich.

SNYDER, Richard A., Nashville, Ind.

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STARK, Harvey L., Dewey, Okla.

STARR, Gilbert, Beulah, N. D.

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STRYKER, Joseph M., Fredonia, Kan.

SUCKUT, Vernon, Heaton, N. C.

TANTIMONICO, Pasquale, 125 Blackstone St., Providence, R. I.

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TENDAM, Harold L., 23 Ida Ave., Hamilton, Ohio.

THOMAS, John N., 4424 Vermont, Detroit, Mich.

TOMKO, John J., Jr., 1325 Beach Ave., Lakewood, Ohio.

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WESLEY, Eddie F., Parkers Prairie, Minn.

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ALMY, Glenn D., 618 Oakley Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

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CALDWELL, Harry P., 1346 W. 11th St., Erie, Pa.

CONE, Harold E., 712 Kewana Rd., Columbia, S. C.

EGAN, James L., 13 Lucretia Ave., Williamsett, Mass.

GLADSON, Amos L., Rt. 2, Pink Hill, N. C.

HASTINGS, Paul A., Sunset Ave., Russell, Kan.

KEELER, Horace, Rt. 13, Box 248-E, Parkland, Tacoma, Wash.

KENT, Virgil R., Rea, Mo.

LANE, Edward A., 516 W. Garland, Spokane, Wash.

McCOSKER, Joseph A., 838 N. 65th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

PALMER, Harry P., Mrs. Grace H. Palmer (mother), 3030 N.E. 25th Ave., Portland, Ore.

PIERCE, John, McClurg, Mo.

RAAB, Johnnie J., Rt. 2, Box 262, Victoria, Tex.

RECTOR, Clifford M., 413 S.W. 4th St., Abilene, Kan.

RUTHERFORD, George C., Jr., Box 187, Derby, Va.

RYNTZ, Joseph E., 4344 Coplin, Detroit, Mich.

WALMSLEY, James S., 2785 Sedgwick Ave., Bronx, N. Y.

*HOERNER, Martin, Glen Ullin, N. D.

*PINKUS, Charles C., Jr., 2707 E. Preston St., Baltimore, Md.

*Purple Heart

787th ORDNANCE COMPANY



KEEP'EM FIGHTING



ORDNANCE COMPANY OFFICERS:

Reading from Left to Right, Back Row: Lieutenant Adams, Lieutenant Massucci, Lieutenant Steder; Front Row: Lieutenant Schmittiel, Captain Roland, Lieutenant Richie.

HISTORY — 787TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

The story of Ordnance begins at the end, on the morning of May 7, in the courtyard of what had been a German garrison in the city of Plauen, Germany.

Ordnance didn't celebrate. Nobody had time. Throughout the Division, trucks still broke down, weapons still rusted. As the war machinery ground to a stop, it continued to disgorge the wreckage, the salvage, the captured enemy materiel.

German equipment still rolled in to Ordnance by the truckload, almost by the trainload. German soldiers gave up Mausers and Burp Guns and Pistols, and from civilian homes, from town Burgo-meisters, came ancient pistols, and sword canes, and knives engraved with swastikas and Nazi slogans.

Captain Charles Floyd, the Division Ammunition Officer, ambled out to the nearest highway,

halted a German convoy heading for the PW enclosure, shouted "Pistole," and collected more souvenirs than he could carry.

Meanwhile enlisted ordnance men celebrated Victory by inspecting the weapons of the boys who had done the job. And thus they started back into garrison life, looked once over their shoulders at the war, then forward toward their homecoming. Yet the clearest image they saw was of the beginning, when the 87th Division existed only on paper, when some Division troops were still wearing white shirts and red neckties, and fraternization cost only the price of a dinner.

Ordnance was the first full company to arrive at Camp McCain, Mississippi with the formation of the 87th Division. Activation date for the company was 15 November, 1942. Only cadre units filled out the rest of the Division at that date.

First commanding officer was Lt. Charles Floyd, Jr., later captain and Division Ammunition Officer. Under Captain Floyd, Ordnance men were put through their paces as Infantry soldiers, in addition to their other duties.

While the doughboys, 18 and 19 year olds fresh from drug stores and pool halls and class rooms, sweated through basic training, Ordnance trained all day, sometimes worked nearly all night.

New GI's who took their basic in Ordnance were led on hikes, or more often followed, by Sam Casimo, assisted by Steve Ornich, a big, puffing old Army man, who decided early in the war that the new Army was something different, and promptly got himself a discharge. They learned about small arms from "Mousey" Lucas, a graduate engineer hijacked into Ordnance, who took his revenge by spending two months in the hospital for every week with the company.

Training skirmishes included the battle of Duck Hill, a twice weekly climb up rugged slopes, that would have tried the agility of a mountain goat. An

even rougher encounter was the Battle of Memphis. Many Ordnance man raced or staggered or crawled down the hallways of Memphis hotels, in pursuit of pleasant ways to spend a week-end. Ordnance headquarters on a Saturday night moved to the Hotel Claridge in Memphis, 1st Sgt. James E. McInerney commanding.

Toughest battle of all was the struggle to come awake on Monday morning. Old Mac had the toughest time of all. And no Ordnance man ever forgot how Mac gave the company a few hundred push ups one Monday morning, in rapid cadence, all the while standing with his arms folded, legs spread apart, head sagging on his shoulders.

In December of 1943 Ordnance left for good the tar paper shacks of Camp McCain, the flat, dirty, barren land, the hostile smirks of civilian neighbors. Even maneuvers was something of a welcome relief.

Tennessee was wet, very wet, always wet. Rain fell nearly every day. Bunks were masses of soggy earth, spongy blankets, leaking shelter halves.

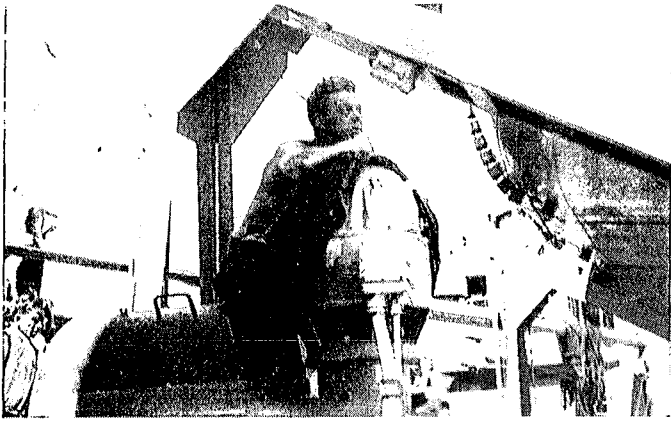
Nobody ever got dry. Work went on day and

T/3 Edward N. Britt and T/5 Vincent O. Broodwater Replacing Tube on 105 Howitzer.



M/Sgt. Ted Miller Hard at Work.



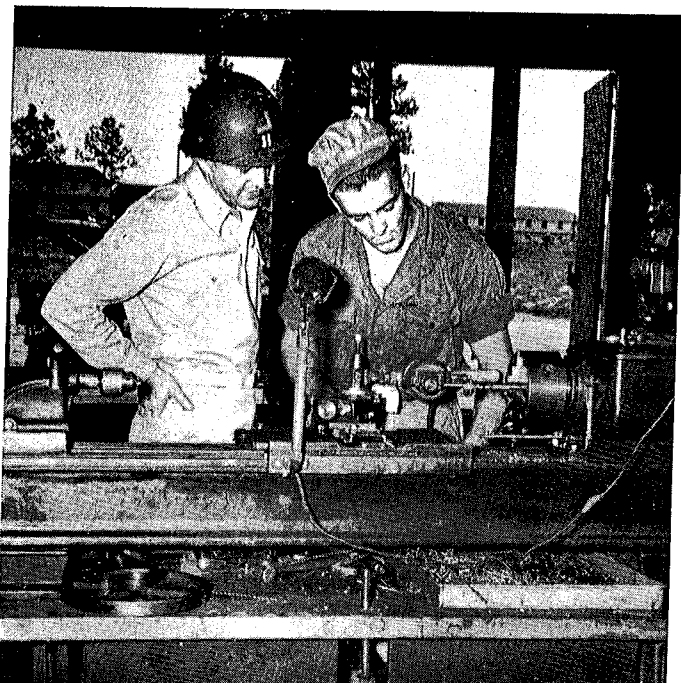


Louis Cowburn at Sea.



M/Sgt. Ted Miller Instructing Pfc. Stanley Horowitz on Drill.

Captain George L. Roland, Ordnance Company Commander, Observing the Operation of a Lathe by T/5 John E. Mowry.



night. Mechanics lay in the mud and the snow under trucks that had to go the next day.

On Christmas Eve a gigantic bonfire, a decorated tree, and plenty of beer lightened spirits, providing the first real break in the monotony of mud and work.

After manuevers came furloughs, then a trip to Fort Jackson, S. C., for more training, Captain George Roland, in command since October, 1943, directed further training, developing a company fully prepared to perform its tasks overseas.

The trip to Camp Kilmer, N. J., POE, was made in Pullmans, two men in a lower, one in an upper. One lad remarked that bunks were a little crowded, even though he'd found them more than wide enough when he traveled with his wife.

On November 3, the men boarded the HMT Pasteur, were packed into the hole behind barbed wire, and thus began their journey to the wars.

The Pasteur was a joke, a dirty story, a stench, a bucket of stew, a Limey accent, a rock and roll, roll and rock, back and forth, over and over, till our stomachs caught in our throats, and bubbled over, and we were hollow inside, and sick, and greenish brown, like seaweed caught in the ebb and flow of the tide.

Debarking at Liverpool, England, on November 13, Ordnance men felt their way through dark, narrow streets to the railroad station, gulped hot coffee and doughnuts served by pretty Red Cross girls, rode to their new station at Holmes Chapel.

After two weeks in that little English town, wet outside from the constant rainfall, and inside from mild and bitters, the company was alerted, drove to the channel, boarded an LST for the trip to the continent.

Troops landed from two LSTs on December 2, one party at LeHarve, the other at Rouen. Both convoys

converged on Pt. Rocquement, near St. Saens, France, set up shop in the fields of a French farmer who had a few months before been unwilling host to a German company.

A few days later, on December 7, Ordnance arrived in Metz, drove into the abandoned German garrison. Forts within the city were still under fire.

Continuous artillery and rifle fire through the night set the boys to firing at shadows, and one officer, it was rumored, carried his personal casket with him in a trailer.

The garrison was a wreck, a dead tribute to the efficiency of American artillery. Gaping holes were torn in the wall, roofs blown off, pieces chipped off iron railings. German military equipment (helmets, gas masks, ammunition, and wine) lay scattered throughout the wreckage.

French soldiers from a nearby barracks scavenged for food, though GI's were nervous enough to shoot at any form, and even to see if the safety was on.

Evidence in plenty, all in the German language, suggested that Metz was more German than French. Children spoke both languages, and even a little English ("Stop Firing"). In the shop were signs welcoming German soldiers to a dance in their honor in the "French" City of Metz.

On the 11th of December, Ordnance moved up to Saare Union, here did a quick and essential job for the medics, devising a way of carrying stretchers on jeeps to speed the evacuation of wounded.

Three days later they moved up to Oermingen, into a heavy load of work. Most parts for vehicle repair had to be stripped from wrecked trucks, or made in the company shop, necessitating double work on each job. Evacuation crews, led by Lt. Vincent J. Steder, hauled in trucks and guns im-

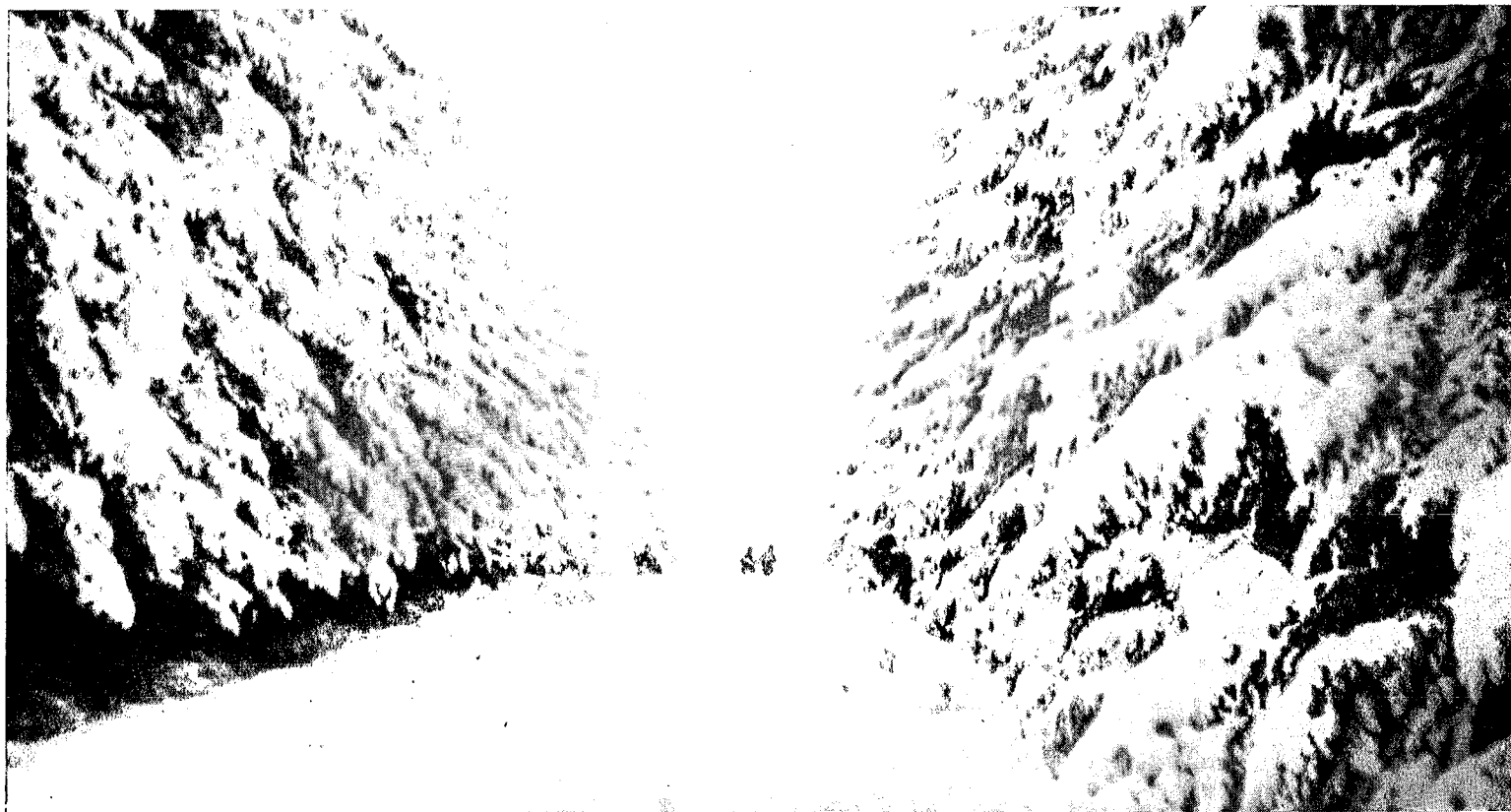


The New First Sergeant of Metz.



T/4 Millard Fillmore Repairs a Truck While Driver Looks on doubtfully.

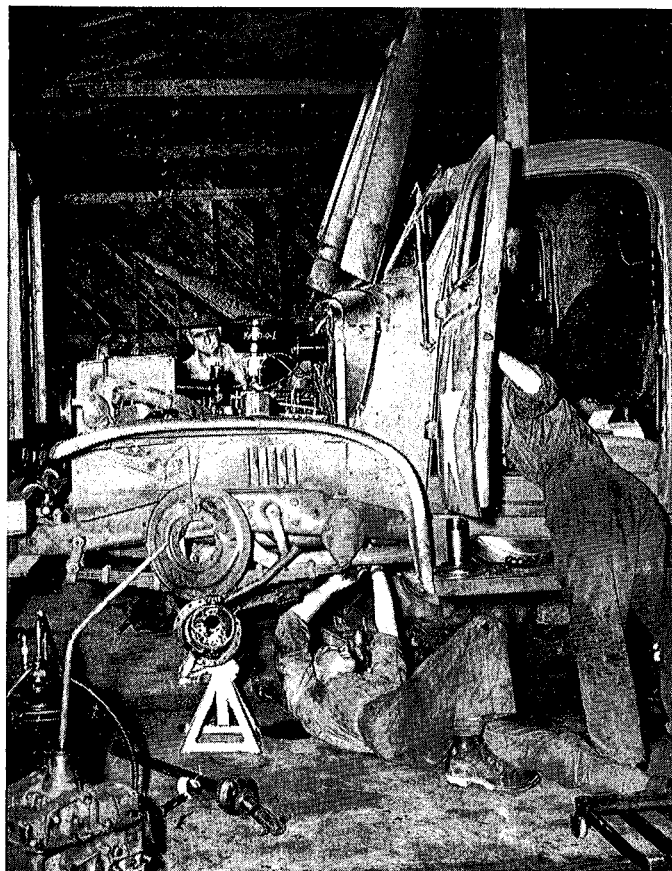




Company Area at Bullion, Belgium.



T/5 John H. Stuan Supervising Repair Work on a Truck in the 787th Ordnance Company.



mobile at the front, and even a couple of German half-tracks.

First casualties were struck by the "GI's", a military disease not usually written of in accounts of heroic action.

Contact parties rode out every day to service and supply Ordnance material to each unit of the Division, plus attached troops. Sam Casimo and Lawrence McGovern had the first look at a Nazi

S/Sgt. Jim Green With Mess Trailer Built From Salvaged Equipment.



when anti-aircraft brought down a German raider right over their heads.

Just before Christmas, word of Paratroop action on the First Army front created a scare in the Division, and Ordnance moved its GMC's to the hillside, with .50 cal. machine guns loaded for action.

In 10 days at Oermingen, Ordnance turned out 100 automotive jobs.

On Christmas Eve Ordnance officers split their liquor ration 130 ways, so that each GI had at least one swallow of good cheer.

After a wonderful Turkey dinner, Ordnance joined the Division convoy the next day, for deployment to Rheims, and thence to the Belgian front.

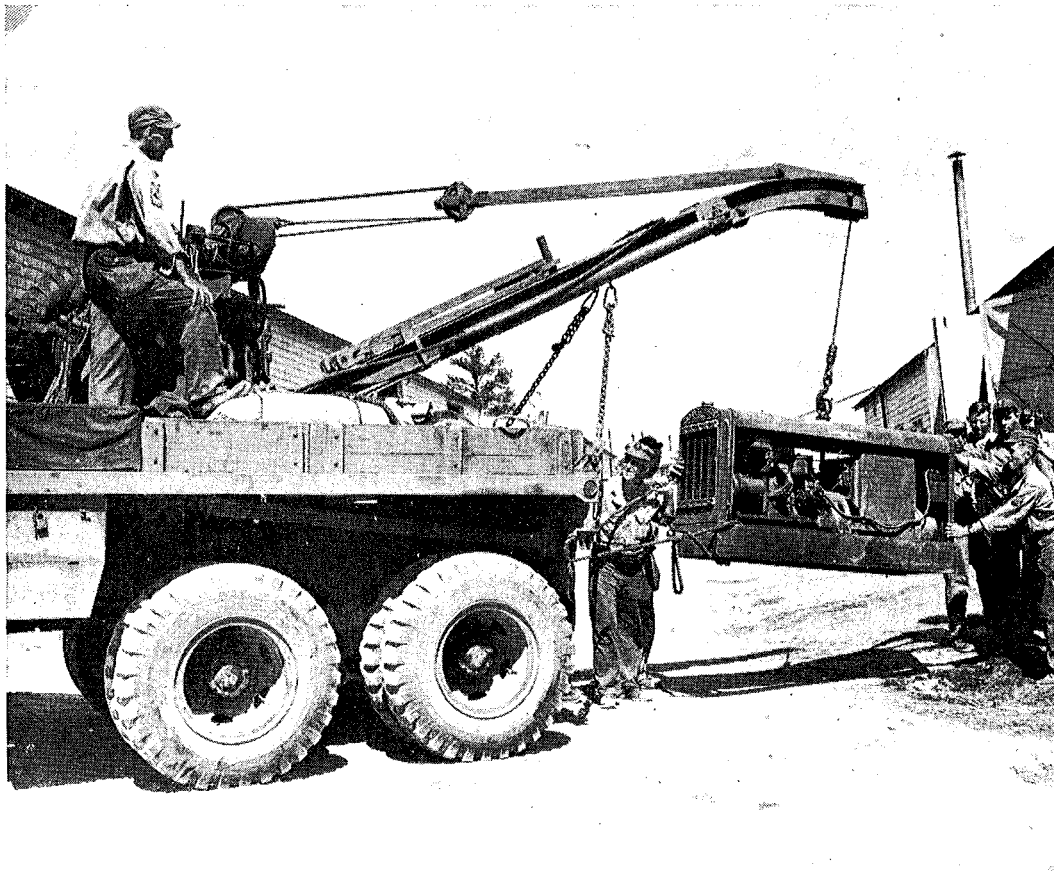
For a time, it was every man for himself in that wild ride back to Rheims. Trucks zigzagged in and out of the column, parked four deep on the road, fell out of the convoy. Drivers nearly froze to the



Captain George Roland and Corporal Schmoyer watching the Ball Go Up the Hill.

wheel, and Gordon Lewis froze his feet so badly that at this writing he is again in the hospital for treatment. On the 30th of December, the convoy turned northeast, sped 96 miles against biting winds to Bullion, Belgian. New Year's Eve celebrants were kept warmer by issue of sleeping bags, and a wine ration. Sleeping bags were later used as an outer garment on long, cold convoys, providing

787th Ordnance Company Men, Under the Direction of M/Sgt. Theodore E. Miller (Extreme Left), Operating a Crane.





Reading from Left to Right: Lieutenant Frank L. Culin, III, Colonel Grant Layng, Major General Frank L. Culin, Jr., Private Carl Camper, Lieutenant Colonel John J. Brown, Captain George L. Roland at the Presentation of the General's "Arizona."

the only sure means of keeping the body warm in an open cab. Cold feet, however, remained more prevalent than at a bachelor's convention.

Setting up shop in a Belgian factory at Bertrix, a few days later, Ordnance set to work in earnest to maintain and supply the doughboys fighting the critical battle to hold von Rundstedt's push. Working with bare hands, against cold steel, in zero weather, mechanics performed miracles of maintenance. They made skis for Division artillery liaison planes, produced one good jeep from 5 wrecks. Welding skill kept the big M5 Tractors on the road, and so maintained the mobility of the Division's 155 Howitzers.

Belgian civilians, including the factory manager,

cooperated 100%. GI's used tools and machinery hidden from the Germans behind brick walls, sealed shut, used plenty of coal and wood for their fires. The manager even opened the hospitality of his home to Ordnance officers. Other civilians offered for sale commodities more pleasant than legal.

Next stop was Sandweiller, Luxembourg, for 10 days, beginning January 15. Evacuation crews continued to cover a wide area in search of salvagable equipment.

Wrecker crews, led by Sgts. Joe Kurzeak and Walter McComiskey, performed essential and dangerous service, going up to front line positions to evacuate trucks and guns. Once they used several hundred feet of cable to pull a wreck out of a mine

field. Lt. Steder assigned himself the most difficult job, removed an unexploded shell from a vehicle in a town under fire.

Riding in Luxembourg City, Bill Brockmann, John Berry, Merritt Schmoyer and "Mary" were nearly hit by a German V bomb. As Brockmann said, it felt like being "hit in the face with a wet sheet."

The capital of this tiny Duchy, where GI's had their first passes, was a colorful place on January 23, the birthday of the Grand Duchess (who was still in the United States). GI's found an intelligent, alert people, nearly all of whom spoke English.

In a bar they discovered an old man who claimed as his birthplace Chicago, promptly showed a 1918 draft card to prove it.

First award was a purple heart to Fred Togger, for frozen feet suffered while driving Col. Snooks.

In Sandweiler, Ordnance soldiers slept in a room where for several years Luxembourg youths had hidden from conscription into the German Army. Grounds had been periodically searched by Gestapo men, without success. Workers showed us their cards and armbands of the Luxembourg resistance union.

In lieu of Nazis, deer and rabbits served as prize targets for trigger-happy GI's.

Next stop was Sandbach, Belgium, where GI's slept in dugouts built by the Germans, furnished with straw floors, stoves, log roof.

A few days later Ordnance moved up to St. Vith, ahead of Division artillery. Big guns firing within a couple hundred yards of the Ordnance bivouac shook the boys out of their beds for the first few nights, but they soon learned to ignore the sound and fury.

At Manderfeld, where Ordnance bivouaced for a month, mechanics could look up from their work



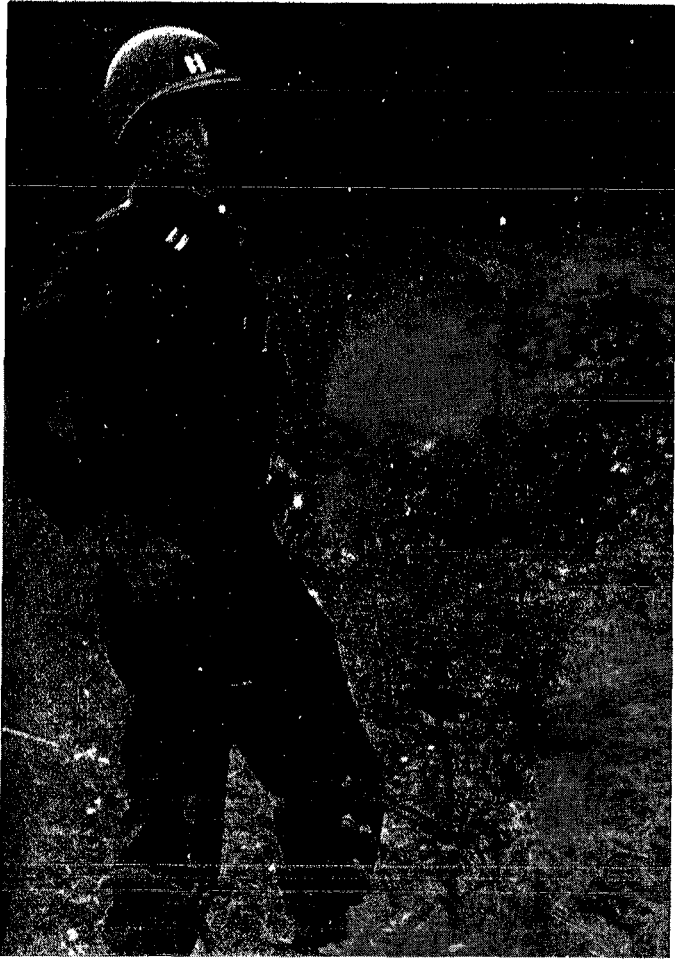
T/5 Joe LePage at Ease.

to see the pillboxes of the Siegfried Line only a couple hundred yards away.

On February 11, shells from 16-inch guns came in, overshooting, aimed probably at artillery installations just behind us. A piece of shrapnel landed in Millard Fillmore's bed, and for four successive mornings we had breakfast to the whistle of 380's coming in.

GI's and officers built dugouts here, though they seldom took advantage of them, preferring to sweat out 88's together with the chow line. One time, however, two of them raced for the same dugout at the same time, and the lieutenant was outranked.

Here Ordnance completed an outstanding job, the remodeling of General Culin's jeep, installing floor plate sirens, streamlined fenders, a plexiglass cab.



Captain George L. Roland.

A large part of the work was done by Carl Camper, who was present when the jeep was shown to the general, and personally congratulated on the fine job. Captain Roland, Ordnance CO was perhaps the first to notify General Culin of his promotion, (several weeks before he got it) when he gave him a second star for the jeep plate.

Another job was the construction of a road magnet, which, in the words of an official citation for the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque, "reduced the number of flat tires an estimated fifty per cent."

Supply lines were stretched to the breaking point. While supplies for the Fourth Division were being flown in, dropped by parachute, Ordnance materiel came forward largely through the energy and determination of a couple of T/5's, Joe LePage and Latt Stutts.

Daily they ground their GMC through the mud piled axle deep, over roads bombed to ragged trails, through the bottleneck at St. Vith. All day, every day, they were on the road. From one area, they

First Sergeant John R. Berry.



had to pass a crossroads at which hidden Germans had several times ambushed American trucks. When they hit that crossing, Joe clutched the fifty, and Latt just took off, flying low. No casualties.

On March 8, Ordnance crossed the border into Germany, stopped at the town of Junkerath, a ghost town abandoned by civilians, largely destroyed by artillery. Germans had carelessly left their wine behind. And this secret weapon was one that even the arms experts couldn't handle.

A week later, at Emmingenhof, Ordnance caught another taste of enemy fire, when a lone German plane strafed the area, without hitting any live target.

Here too Ordnance captured the first of more than 200 prisoners, Herman Becker, the Vienna born warrant officer, self-styled "King of the Krauts," investigated the papers of a German "civilian," found that he had been a Wehrmacht captain, had been in espionage school in Berlin.

Biggest haul of prisoners came just before the end of the war, in Schonberg, Germany. On their way to establish an Ordnance bivouac at Plauen, an advance party led by Capt. Roland spotted a couple of Heinie soldiers in Schonberg, whose citizens had not yet seen American troops. Capt. Roland and Mr. Becker led a raid into the woods in search of Heinies. As they drove back into town with their catch of half a dozen Nazis, there on a street corner sat Floyd Peabody, Shorty Wells, Bernard Brock, and a couple other GI's with 55 German prisoners. And as Ordnance marched the Germans out of town, in marched the infantry, with tank support, ready to attack.

Just a day previous to this catch, Ordnance men got 35 prisoners. Driving out of Rudolstadt to fix a power line, a platoon led by Lt. Richie sent out one party consisting of Peabody, Sgt. Vernis



M/Sgt. Herr Miller—Top hat, no tails.

Tromble, and Sgt. Frazier Covington. As they crossed a bridge in a little German town, Heinie soldiers appeared with their hands in the air, looking for someone to accept their surrender. When these first prisoners had been "taken," other Germans appeared to swell the crowd. Some were sick, some old men of the Volksturm, with only scraps of uniform to identify them as soldiers.

Other prisoners were taken under circumstances even less heroic. At Hersfeld, just across the Rhine, Sgt. Ted Miller stumbled into three German officers in a hut in the woods, when all he was looking for was a latrine. At Plauen, guards had to refuse to capture German soldiers unless they could produce positive evidence of their military standing. One persistent customer returned a half

dozen times before he finally convinced Donald Grise that he was a bona-fide Nazi soldier, and so entitled to be captured.

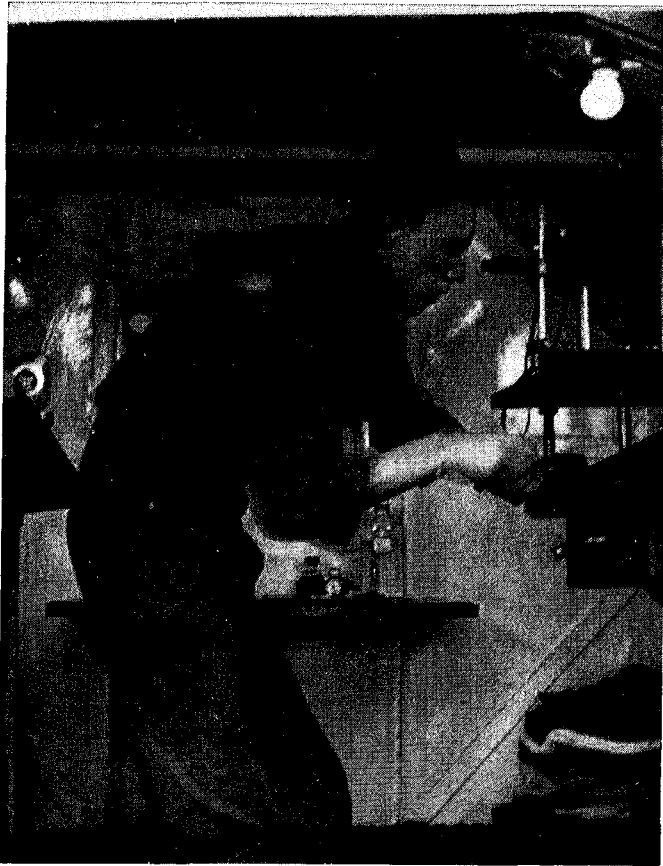
Guard duty kept Ordnance men at work every other night, in addition to their full time duties every day. But one time the guard paid off. At Rudolstadt, Ben Forman halted a civilian in the middle of the night, finally was forced to fire when the man refused to be questioned and started to run away. Forman put several holes in his head and body. Papers on the dead man identified him as a member of the hated SS.

All this time, the main job, service to the front, was not neglected. Combat losses of Ordnance materiel were replaced almost 100%, making the 87th Division one of the best equipped in the line. At the peak of operations, Ordnance gave 24-hour service in repair of trucks, artillery and small arms, often operating without any medium maintenance support. Most repair parts came from salvage. Battle loss was the chief source of supply.

In the first month of operations, over 2,000 rifles were salvaged, along with large quantities of every other weapon needed for the front. And every

First Lieutenant John P. Adams, Supervising Ordnance Company Repairs Being Made by T /4 Joseph W. Rosenquist and T /4 John Rausch.





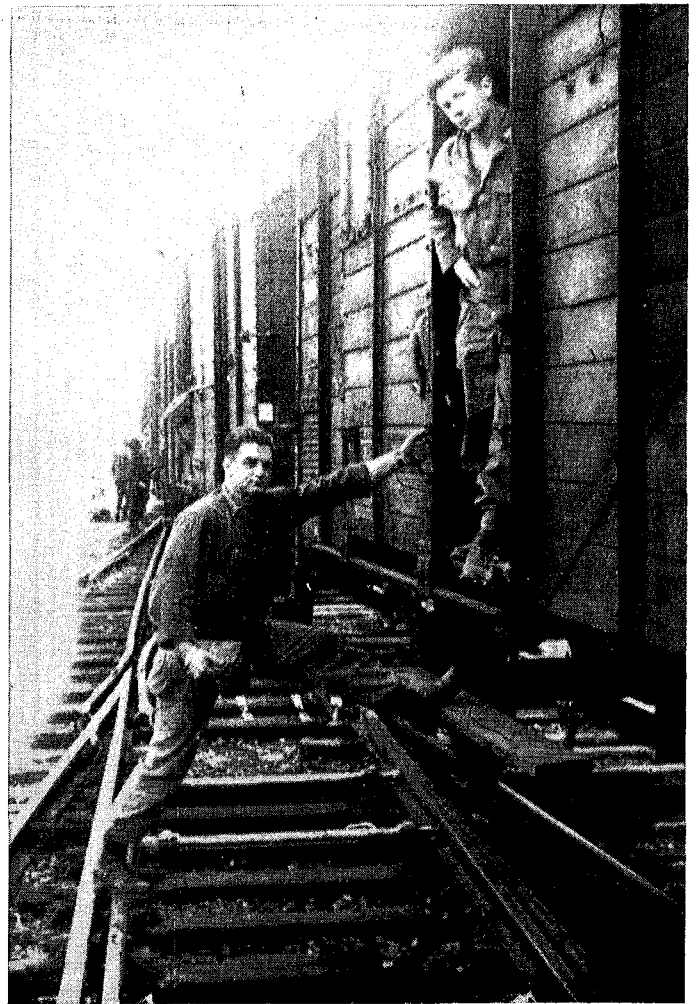
Whistle While You Work: Pfc. F. A. Peabody Collimates Binoculars in Mobile Instrument Repair Shop.

weapon was test fired at Ordnance before being sent forward.

During operations in the ETO, almost 1,500 major repairs to Division vehicles were completed by the 787th automotive shop.

Even while the war was on, it was impossible not to notice the peculiar behavior of the German civilian. At Emmingenhof, in the home of a German baron overlooking a feudal estate, GI's found fine religious paintings, and vile Nazi pamphlets. What master these people served, good or bad, it was difficult to know. Mostly they seemed to ignore the presence of GI's. Yet German women cooked for Ordnance officers, voluntarily, it seemed.

When the war ended, closer contact with civilians, probably spurred rather than hindered by non-fraternization rules, revealed a German "line" spouted in identical form by each German civilian.



T/5 Donald Grise and T/5 Joseph LePage Going to Bed in a Boxcar.

The story went like this—the German people were not Nazis, had never supported the Nazis, never knew what went on behind the barbed wire of concentration camps. The German people, according to the German people, welcomed the American soldiers, and couldn't we please stay and save them from the Russians?

Occasionally, however, a German admitted that he was a Nazi. At Schweina, the local industrial boss, before whom every citizen of the town stood at attention, told GI's that he had held official rank in the Nazi party. However, he assured them, he was really no Nazi at heart. He had only contributed his wealth, and his influence, and his work to the party so that he might retain his factories. He had only contributed to the murder of a few

million innocent people. He was not really a Nazi, he said.

First casualty was Robert Burkett, injured just before the Rhine crossing. Burkett stepped on a mine, had his left leg badly shattered.

On the afternoon of April 13, in the rail yards at Grofenroda, GI's learned of the death of the President of the United States, saluted the colors dipped to half mast.

Below, Top—Brannigan, Losing Forty Bucks.

Center—Ready to Go Home—Camp Oklahoma City.

Bottom—Casey Strikes Out. Joe LePage Misses Third One at Oklahoma City, France.



Liberated Launch—Private Leonard Ingram, First Lieutenant Rudolph Schmidtdale, Captain George Roland.

By the next day, Allied civilians already knew of our loss, and theirs.

Despite the Army, the GI's did manage a few moments of fun. Music was a big help. Even in the morgue-like atmosphere of the blacked out barracks at Metz, Massimo Mazzetti played the piano by candlelight. As the troops advanced they discovered other instruments. John Rausch got himself a trumpet, Bob Surabian a violin, Charles Zachemsky an accordin. Strangely enough, these pieces of German military equipment turned up anew wherever the company traveled. And with Harry Iacone to pound the piano, and John Brannigan on the drums, the boys managed a good show, often providing luncheon music for the company.

Other luncheon features were kegs of beer, procured locally, stored in a refrigerator car, and available throughout the day.

Zak provided full time photo service, turning out a volume of work for GI's of the company and officers of the Division.

Another source of fun was the adopted mascot Fritz, a war orphan of Bastogne. This little mutt traveled everywhere with the boys, shared their beds, their wine, even got drunk with them and tried to dig a hole in Latt Stutts' mattress. After the war had ended, Fritz was accidentally run over

by a truck at Auerbach, Germany. Medics provided treatment equal to that given any GI. A major performed the operation, after X-rays had shown broken leg and thigh. Nurses and other medical officers stood by. Even that wasn't enough, however, and a few days later Fritz just quit breathing.

Ordnance, seldom got close enough to the front to get shot at. Some wounds were self-inflicted, when GI's became Ordnance experts on foreign pistols they'd never seen before. Bob Surabian, now a civilian can laugh now about the times he nearly killed himself. Lou Binder had the narrowest escape. In the dining hall at Rudolstadt, he examined two new German pistols, pressed one to his temple, and pulled the trigger in mock suicide. Mc-McWhorter fingered the other gun, squeezed the trigger . . . Crack! One round whizzed by our heads. Another time, a sub-machine gun lying on a truck, bolt open, was jarred into action, fired 15 rounds into a truck under which Andrew Roberts was working.

A few hours after Ordnance had set up shop in Plauen, the evening news broadcast told us that the city had just been taken.

Special duty included the transportation of displaced persons to their own countries. Thousands of Russians were transported to Red Army lines in trucks driven and serviced by Ordnance personnel. An Ordnance officer, Herman Becker, served as supply officer for an entire camp of displaced persons, and Millard Fillmore received a letter from the commanding general for his work in a warehouse serving the military government.

Besides winning the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque, Ordnance men saw several of their officers and men decorated with Bronze Stars. These were awarded to Col. Snooks, Capt. Roland, Lt. Schmitt-diel, Lt. Adams, 1/Sgt. Berry, and Sgt. Miller.

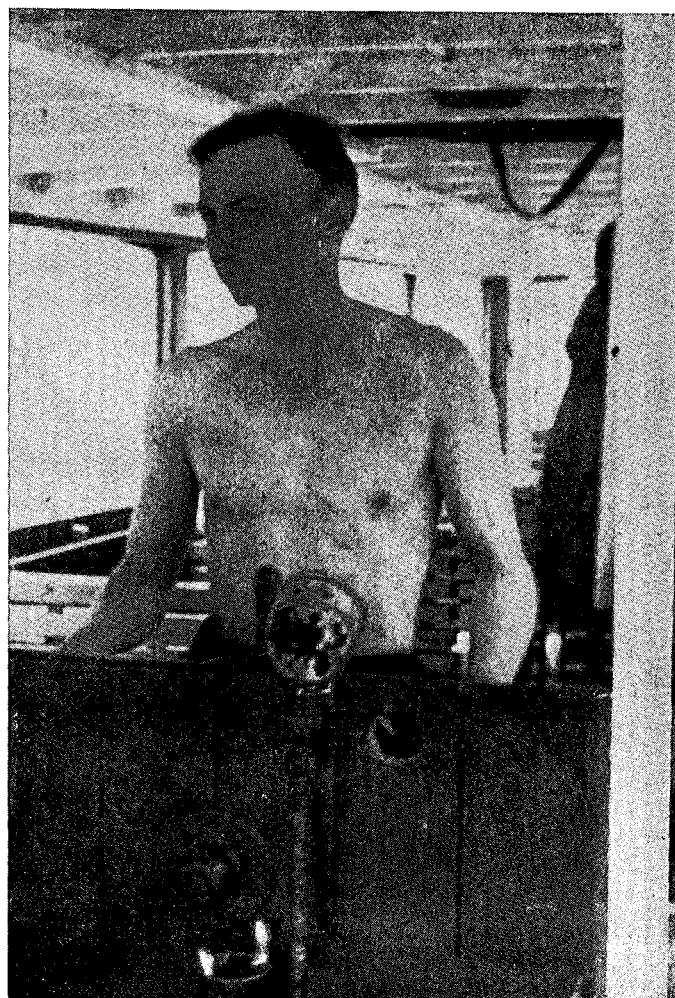


Left to Right—Surabien and Poole—Just Another Flat..

On V E day, the cameras came out of hiding and GI's snapped pictures of each other, of the garrison at Plauen, of Fritz. Then Ordnance moved again, to Auerbach, then to Schleiz, the last stop in Germany.

The prowl for Frauleins stopped only with passes to Paris, where only the language was different.

S /Sgt. Eugene Brockmann at the Helm of His Yacht.





Convoy Moving Into Aurbach on V-E Day.

On the 13th of June, Ordnance left Schleiz, for Oklahoma City, a tent camp near Rheims. After a 24-hour ride in forty and eights, they reached Camp Lucky Strike on June 26.

Duffel bags were packed tight, with loot on the



Fishing in Germany.

bottom, on the Fourth of July. At 0600 the company left camp drove to Le Harve, boarded the "Marine Fox" a converted cargo ship. Bunks were stacked five high in the hold, and the mess hall was so hot food had to be stuffed down at a gulp. Dice

Automotive Area, Schleiez, Germany.





Just Waitin' (Captain Roland Being Presented the Bronze Star.)

rolled all night, and green papers slid across the floors. It was a very profitable trip, for a few.

Hampton Roads, Va., was the first bit of American soil Ordnance men saw on their return on July 13. After a tremendous steak dinner at Camp

Patrick Henry, they were shipped to local reception centers, then home for "recuperation."

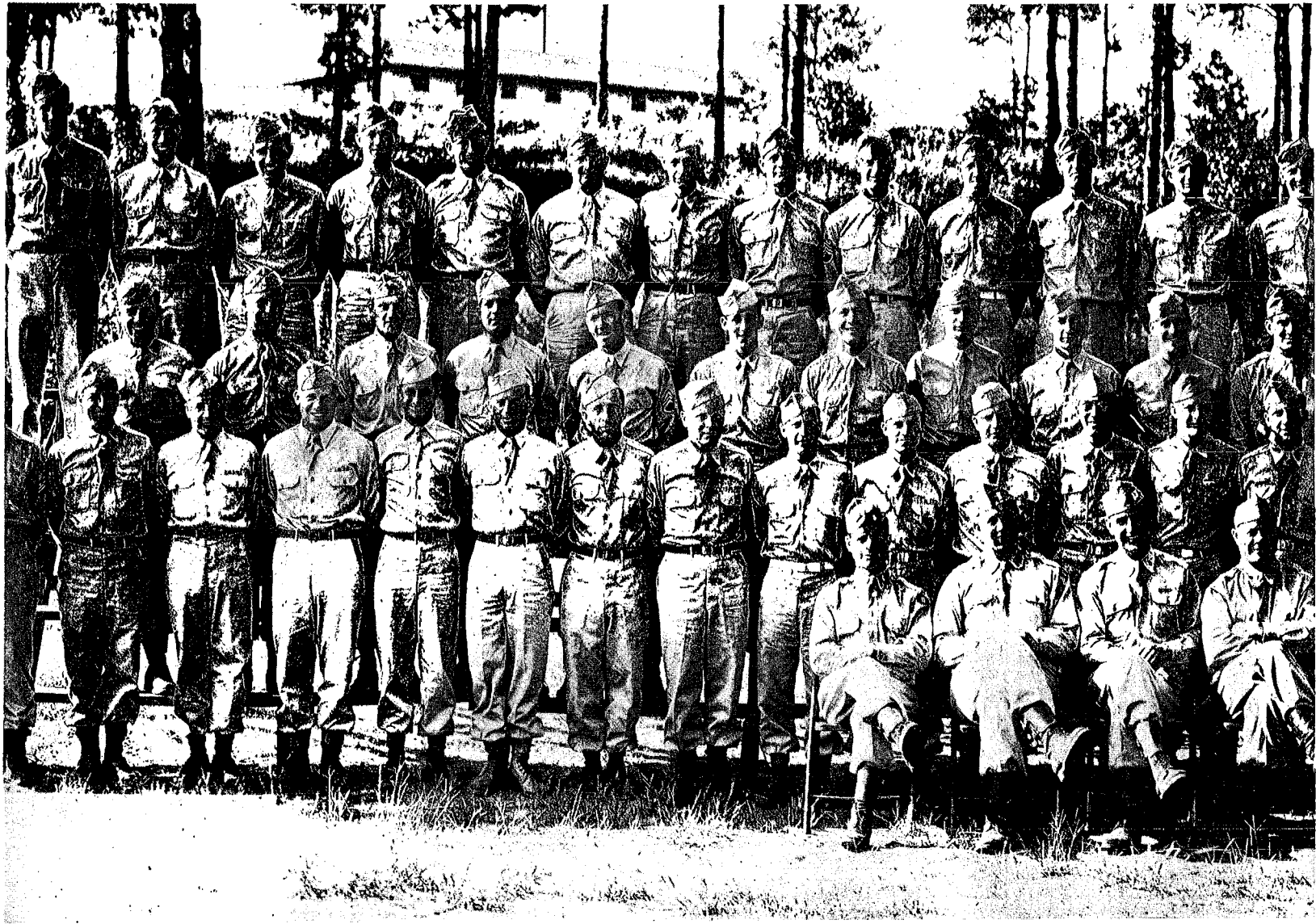
Upon re-assembly at Fort Benning, Ga., GI's learned that the division was to be inactivated, and all its personnel transferred. Captain Roland announced that the company had reached the end of the road.

Clowning.



Parisian Girl Carrying Bread.





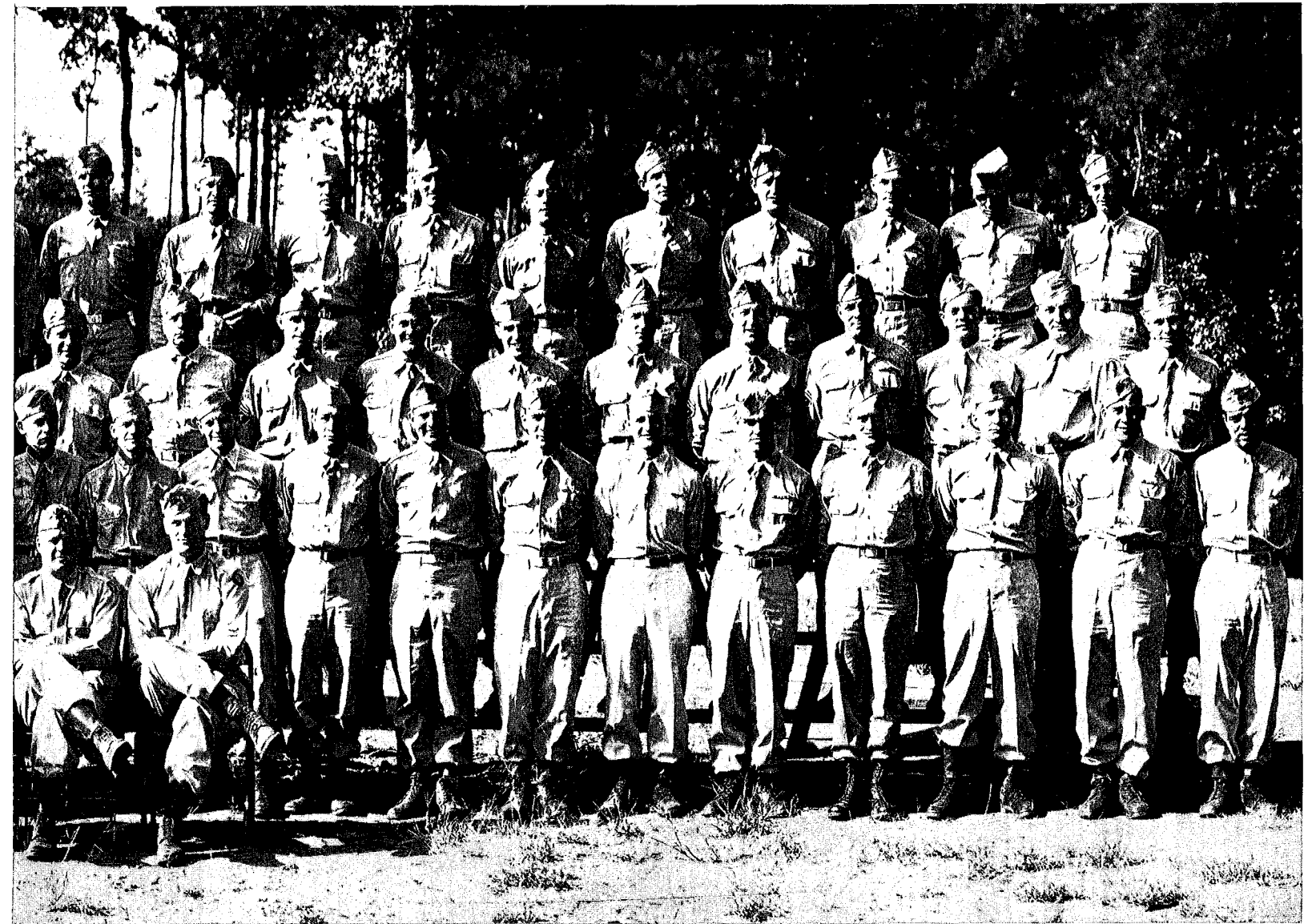
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 ***Silver Star

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 ADAMSKI, August M., Pvt., 1918 8th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 ALFORD, Talmadge H., Pfc., Rt. 1, Murry Cross, Ala.

ALLEN, Bernard, Pvt., Div. Hq., G-2, 37th Div.
 ALLEN, Clarence E., S/Sgt., Sta. Hosp., Medical Supply, Camp McCain, Miss.
 ANDERSON, Herbert A., T/4, Sta. Hosp., Camp Kilmer, N. J.
 ANDERSON, Leslie A., Pvt., Co. E, 345th Inf., 87th Div.
 ATKINS, Olen D., S/Sgt., 600 N. Jackson, Aitua, Okla.
 AVRECH, Jack, Pvt., 430 Stone Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 BAKITAS, Thomas H., T/5, 112 E. Second St., Bound Brook, N. J.
 BARRROS, Donald C., Pvt., 76th Ferrying Sqdn., Homestead, Fla.
 BISHOP, Charles F., Pvt., Rt. 8, Box 239, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 BLICH, Charles H., Lt., Hq. 71st Inf. Div., Ft. Jackson, S. C.
 BOGDANOFF, Sam, Pvt., 312th Engrs. Bn., APO 448, Ft. Benning, Ga.
 BOGDANSKI, Alfred F., Cpl. 7634 Brentwood, Detroit, Mich.
 BRAUNSTEIN, Simeon, Pfc., 3544 Ord. (MM) Co., Camp J. T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark.
 BRODY, Seymour W., Pfc., O.C.S., Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.
 BROOKS, Floyd C., T/4, Box 487, Lockport, Tex.
 BROOKS, Carl H., Pvt., 903rd Trng. Gp., Miami Beach, Fla.
 BUGAN, John, Pvt., Broad St., Rockaway, N. J.
 BUNCH, Erwan, T/5, 3544 Ord. Co. (MM), Camp J. T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark.
 ***BURKETT, Robert L., T/5, Box 493, Bluefield, Va.
 BURRICHTER, Leslie A., Pvt., Anamosa, Iowa.
 BYBEE, Ray A., Sgt., 5th Inf., APO 300, Ft. Benning, Ga.
 CARTER, Clarence O., T/5, 513 S. Front St., Wilmington, N. C.
 CASCIO, Anthony, T/4, 371 Atlantic Ave., Monaca, Pa.
 CHAVERS, Henry P., Sgt., 505 E. 32nd St., Indianapolis, Ind.
 COFFEY, Linn W., Pfc., 346th Inf., Serv. Co., 87th Div.
 COLEMAN, John, Pvt., 335th F.A., B Btry., 87th Div.
 CREPEAU, Albert J., Sgt., 3544 Ord. Co., Camp J. T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark.
 GROMWELL, William J., Pvt., 3544 Ord. Co., Camp J. T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark.
 DARDISS, David N., Pvt., Sta. Complement, Camp McCain, Miss.
 (Continued on page 176)

Leisure Time.



Aboard Ship, Returning.

Part of the Gang Just Loafing.



On the Way Home.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



THE HUB



HEADQUARTERS COMPANY OFFICERS

Reading from Left to Right—Lieutenant Eggleston, Captain Hinks, Captain Maguire, Lieutenant Deville.

HISTORY — DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Headquarters Company, 87th Infantry Division was activated at Camp McCain, Miss., on December 15, 1942. At that time the company consisted chiefly of a cadre which had been sent from the 81st Infantry Division. The greater majority of the officers and enlisted men came into the company during January and February of 1943. During the months of activation and individual train-

Oliver Dombroska, Joseph Yerman, Harold Neiman, Eugene Schmidt, Captain Robert Thornton, and Pierce Skare.



ing there were several company commanders: Captain Floyd Baynard, Major Jack LaBea and Captain Thomas Brown. Captain Grant H. Scully was in command of the company during most of its basic training. He was transferred in May, 1943, at which time 1st Lt. Richard E. Hinks, from the 346th Infantry Regiment, was assigned to the company as the Commanding Officer. Lt Hinks was promoted to Captain in October, 1943. He remained in command of the company until the inactivation of the Division.

After a rigorous training program at Camp McCain, the company moved to the Tennessee maneuver area in December, 1943. The men of the company remember to this day all the rain, mud, snow, cold weather, and other hardships connected with this excursion into the hills of Tennessee. They remember Christmas Day of 1943 with the rain pouring into their mess kits so fast that it made the turkey dinner look like soup. After six weeks of this misery they moved by motor convoy to Fort Jackson, S. C., in mid-January. Here they settled down to a post-maneuver training period which included range firing, infiltration course, hikes, etc. Since all men had a definite job to do, it was impossible to have all the men take training at the same time,

so the entire company was divided into four groups. Each group trained for a week at a time and then had three weeks off which was spent in performing their regular duties in the Company and at Division Headquarters. 2nd Lt. John J. Cloidt, Jr., was in charge of training. Furloughs were given to men during the Spring and Summer. This helped to raise the morale to a new high. During this time several men of the original company were sent out as overseas replacements. Still others were transferred to O.C.S., the Air Corps, and the Paratroops. At the same time men with overseas experience, and others from Air Corps, Anti-aircraft, and ASTP units joined the company.

Soon after the division was alerted for overseas movement on August 15, 1944, things began to move at a rapid rate around the company. On September 25, 1944, 2nd Lt. Sterling J. Deville left Fort Jackson on confidential orders for duty at Horsehead, N. Y. He was the first member of the company to depart to the POE. On October 2, 1944, sixteen enlisted men under the command of 1st Lt. James F. Maguire left as an advance party for the company. All sections were packing their equipment for shipment overseas and Sgt. Arthur Jesset performed yoeman's service as he wrestled with TAT boxes.

On October 9th the Division Headquarters Sections and five men from the company departed on the first train for Camp Kilmer, N. J. The remainder of the company departed on October 14th arriving at Camp Kilmer the next day. Everyone was rushed through a processing cycle which included a stiff overseas physical exam (sometimes called a "foot bath.") Twelve-hour passes to New York were the next thing on the schedule. Here the boys took their last fling at American social life with malice aforethought. Due to an unforeseen shipping delay, most of the company was able to go home on three-day passes.

On November 3, 1944, the company moved from Camp Kilmer to the New York Port of Embarkation. Here the American Red Cross came through in typical style with coffee and doughnuts for all the men. Then came the well remembered trip up the gang plank to "H. M. T. Pasteur." Once aboard the ship, the morale of the company hit a new low. The mad rush for hammocks and mattresses in that crowded compartment could only be compared with bargain day at Macy's. The food was usually very poor and most of the men lived on hardy diet of "cookies and cokes" from the ship's canteen.

After ten days at sea the ship docked at Liverpool, England, on November 14, 1944. The company boarded a train for Chelford Station and from there went by motor convoy to Peover Hall near Knutsford, England. Ready to greet them at Peover was the advance party under Captain Maguire



Captain Richard E. Hinks, Company Commander of HQ Company, Conferring with Supply Sergeant Duncan B. Sutherland in the Company Supply Room.



From the Top Town—Laurence Jackson, Oliver Dombroska, Raymond Judson, Joseph Yerman, Joseph Anger.



Outpost No. 1, Peover Camp.

who had been promoted since leaving the States. His famous "Welcome to England" speech was well remembered by all the men as he stressed such important points as food shortages, liquor shortages, English customs, and English laws pertaining to statutory rape. While at Peover Hall the Company was being issued additional equipment in preparation for combat duty. Passes were issued frequently and most of the men had the opportunity to visit Knutsford, Altrincham and Manchester. The Thanksgiving dinner was moved up one day on the schedule so that the men who were going on the advance party to France would get the benefit of it. Mess Sgt. Thompson came through with turkey and all trimmings. He was ably assisted by Ray Gren-dahl, Tom Wilson, Julius Nykos, Johnny Vigna, Odis Curtiss and K. P.'s too numerous to mention.

On November 27th the rest of the Company left by motor convoy for Portland, England. Emil Kestler of the Defense Platoon drove the lead vehicle. After an overnight stay at Camp D-14, they boarded LST 516 on the morning of November 29th. The destination was La Havre, France. The LST stayed in the harbor off Portland for two nights and finally got underway the morning of December 1st. The accommodations were fair and the food excellent. Morale was high. Twice during the trip the Division Band played. This supplemented an impromptu floor show with Max Behm acting as master of ceremonies. Some of the featured acts were: Don Lang, Jim Welsh, O. T. Hamilton, Chick Guarnieri and a quartet from the A. G. Section. Due to heavy seas in the channel, the LST was unable to land at La Havre. Instead, it proceeded up the Seine River and beached at Rouen, France. From here, the travel was by motor convoy with brief overnight stops at St. Martin and Mars La Tours, where the company was divided into forward and rear echelons before proceeding to the initial assignment at Metz, France.

Although there were only a few city blocks sep-

arating the forward and rear C. P.'s, the two echelons began to work as individual units. It was here that the souvenir collectors went wild. Just about everyone in the forward echelon picked up some souvenir from the Gestapo Headquarters where they were billeted. Craychee got an "SS" helmet. Mac-Dermott found an old revolver. Calhoun picked up a Luger—and so on down the line. While all this was going on at the forward echelon, the men of the Administrative Center were met by Lt. Col. Amen, who explained the living conditions in short order. "No heat, no light, no water," were his words. This seemed to cover the situation beyond any further description. Soon after the C. P. was set up, Gray, Hamilton and Streeter began making their daily trips to Corps Headquarters with the able assistance of such drivers as Anderson, Kubina, Duncan and Couch. By this time everyone knew that they were in the Third Army under Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr.

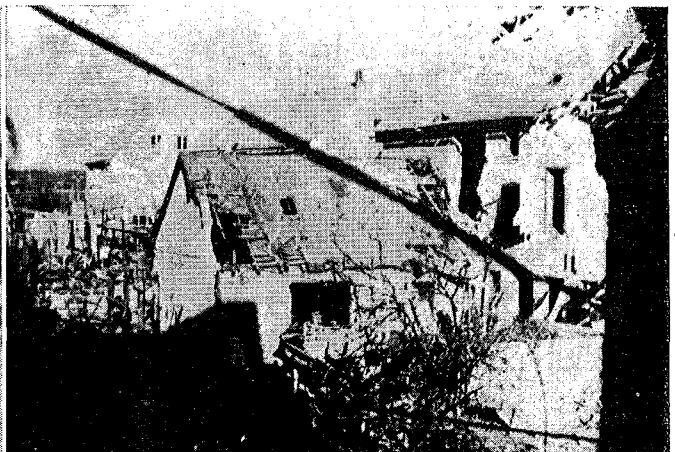
On December 13th the forward echelon moved to Oermingen, France. After a three-day stop at Achen, the C. P. moved to Gros Rederching. Capt. Hinks, Lt. Eggleston and 1st Sgt. Lee joined the forward echelon. Their entry received considerable attention from the enemy. On December 19th the company underwent its baptism of fire. For six hours the Germans threw in 88's and we suffered our first casualties when Avery Jones and Earl Fulton were hit by shell fragments. The brief campaign in the Saar changed Headquarters Company into a smoothly operating, well oiled machine. Each man knew his job and realized its importance.

The company's next assignment brought it back to SHAEF reserve in a bivouac area just outside of Rheims. In the meantime, the rear celebrated their Christmas Eve at Oermingen, France. The boys of A. G., managed to have a Christmas party complete with tree and decorations. However, the celebration of Christmas Day, itself, was short-lived for the rear C. P., because they had to move out of their sec-

Those Tantalizing K's.



The Party Got Rough.





Iced Hamburgers Again.

tor back to the bivouac area near Rheims. They stayed there for two days. The weather was very cold at the time and Joe Dunphy managed to freeze his feet while on guard one night. From there they moved into Pont Faverger by shuttle convoy. Before the boys from forward left the bivouac area, they managed to engineer a big deal. They swapped a bunch of unwanted "C" rations and cigarettes to some French kids for a couple of chickens, some eggs, a jug of wine and a loaf of French bread. Chief promoters were: Binder, Maxwell, Burnett, Oros, Shreve, Loechel and Myers.

Leaving the bivouac area, the forward echelon moved to Bertrix, Belgium to participate in the Battle of the Ardennes Forest. The stay here was considerably brightened by the presence of a shower unit just outside of Bertrix. For the first time in several months, the men were able to take a legitimate shower and discard their steel helmets temporarily.

During this cleansing period the Administrative Center had moved to a huge castle near Boullion, Belgium. It had formerly belonged to the royal family of Belgium and it really looked the part. While at this place, the Classification boys (Hiller, Selby, Sitkowski and McGoey) were kept busy making trips to replacement depots and processing men who were being sent up to the front as reinforcements. After a one-week stay, they moved to Capellan, Luxembourg. Here the boys of the rear got one of their few scares as German planes strafed the road near the C. P.

Meanwhile, the forward C. P. had advanced to Libramont where one of the major actions of the Ardennes campaign took place. The entire C. P. was thrown into confusion as a truckload of mines exploded nearby. For that reason the move to Freux la Rue was welcomed. Staying there only one day, the C. P. moved to a new assignment in Luxembourg.

The Division was in action in Luxembourg for

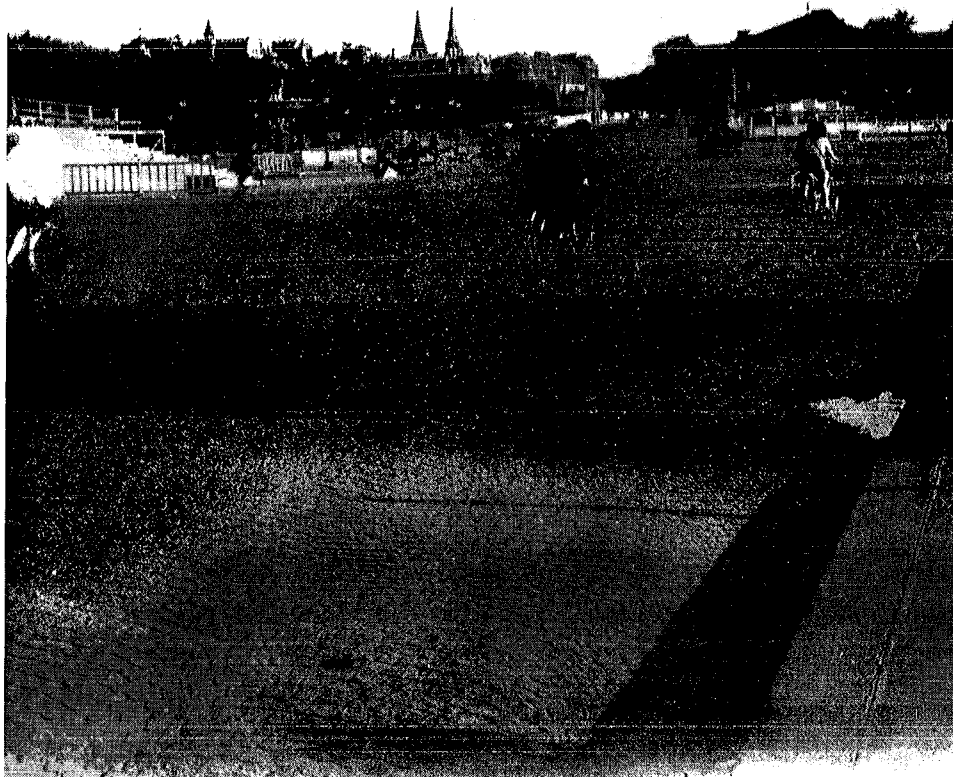


General Culin Looks at Pfc. Langford's Sign in Auw, Germany.

two weeks and then moved back into Belgium. They had a little trouble on the way when one of the trailers broke down. Old Herb Hall crawled underneath the trailer and lay with his back in the snow for two hours fixing it. After brief stops at Steinbach and Gruflange, they moved into Schonberg. The Special Platoon constructed a shower unit while in Schonberg which received notice in the States. The P. R. O. sent the story to the papers and they gave the boys a nice write-up on their shower unit. As the roads became impassable, only the high priority supply vehicles were able to get through. The Defense platoon set up a firing range on a hill northwest of town and most of the company turned out to fire every weapon they could get their hands on. One of the Jones boys had been carrying a German machine pistol for a week and he really tore loose with it that day. Enough Ammo was fired to win half a dozen wars.

On February 8th the forward echelon moved to Auw, Germany. Pfc. Eugene C. Langford painted a sign which was put on the side of the road between Schonberg and Auw. It read, "You are now entering Germany through the courtesy of the Golden Acorn Division." This was but one of the many signs that made Pfc. Langford renowned throughout the ETO as a sign painter deluxe.

In the meantime, the Administrative Center had moved from Capellan to St. Hubert, Belgium. During their stay in this town they managed to scare up some stray cognac and even enjoyed a few movies. After a three-week stay in St. Hubert the



French Taxis and Stuff.

boys of the rear bid "Goodbye" to the town and travelled by truck convoy over the mud-clogged roads up through battered St. Vith to Schonberg.

The 21st of February will be a red letter day in the life of S/Sgt. Peterson. He visited the front lines through the courtesy of the 345th Infantry Regiment. Upon his return the Sgt. regaled the Defense platoon with stories of the front lines. (He immediately became a full-fledged member of the "Tall Stories Club").

When the company returned to Auw for the second time, there were not so many chickens on the loose as during the first visit. Everyone wondered why! Guarnieri had his chance to shine as the Red Cross Clubmobile gave out coffee and doughnuts to the men of the forward echelon. He really gave out with some hot licks on Chaplain Meister's organ. If a vote had been taken as to which was enjoyed more—the doughnuts or Guarnieri—the contest would probably have ended in a dead heat.

When the company was paid with German marks rather than French francs, poker games started to spring up all over the place. It was so much easier to make change. On March 2nd, Lt. Eggleston left

for Paris. Officially he was to attend "I. and E." School, but unofficially . . .

The advance group of the forward echelon temporarily moved to Schonfeld and then to Lissendorf where the main body of the C. P., caught up with them. The Defense Platoon went on the prowl in Schonfeld. They sent out a patrol to investigate a house about three miles south of the C. P. After fording the Kyll River and getting their feet wet, they found nothing in the house but a few women. Of course, they didn't fraternize! While here, the Company was plagued by a variety of inspections. Col. Layng inspected the Company Mess on March 10th and was very pleased with condition of it. On the next day Col. Folley inspected the living quarters and they also passed muster. Then came the most hectic day of all. As directed by the Division Commander, a search was made throughout the Company for signs of looting. All signs had disappeared by this time, so, all the men were still good soldiers and not guilty of looting.

On March 13th an advance party consisting of Capt. Hinks, Sgt. McNeil and his squad, and three men from the Defense Platoon moved to Bassen-

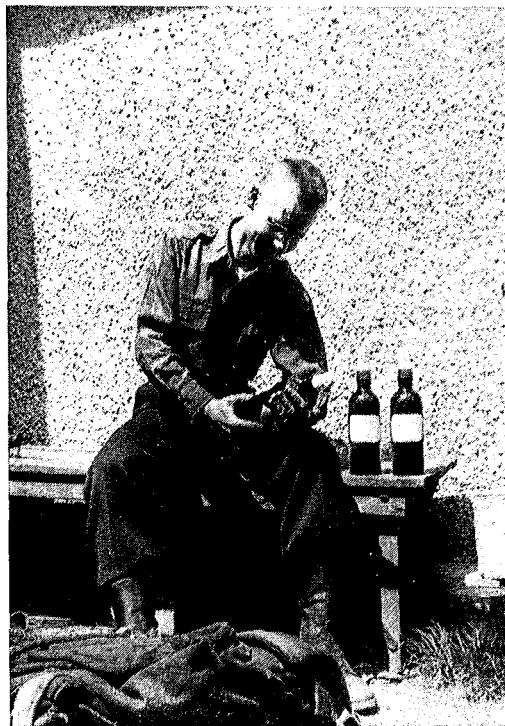
heim. When the rest of the company moved up, there were two march units under the command of Lt. Deville and Lt. Eggleston. For once, no one froze or became suffocated with dust. The roads were well paved. Somebody located a supply of liquor. Need more be said! Johnny Paden of the Transportation Platoon made the headlines as he had his picture taken with his jeep and the Chief of Staff. Langford had painted on his jeep, "Ginny the Jeep"—Ginny being the Chief's wife.

At a brief ceremony attended by the Supply personnel, Lt. Eggleston made the presentation of the Good Conduct Ribbon to T/5 Herbert Fluke. To commemorate the occasion, the good Lieutenant supplied a bottle of rare vintage champagne. This once again proved his ability to supply required material. At the same time, Snuffy Richards of the Defense Platoon was still celebrating his battlefield appointment to Pfc.

While at Bassenheim, a reunion dinner was held at the Officers' Mess. The hosts, Lt. Przekop and S/Sgt. Miller, had as their guests T/Sgt. Thompson, Sgt. Robinson, Cpl. Hagan from the rear echelon and 1st Sgt. Lee, S/Sgt. Hall and Cpl. Beaver from the forward echelon. The dinner was served in the private banquet hall at Officers' Mess. Native wines were served with all seven courses of the meal. All of the party goers were able to return to duty the next morning. It was here that Sgt. Jesset, popular section Sgt. in the Special Platoon, had an argument with a truck. The truck won. Sgt. Jesset and McNeil were returning from chow and at the corner opposite the Officers' Mess, Sgt. Jesset was a victim of the squeeze play. He was caught between the building and the truck and while still on his feet was rolled between the two. Jesset's legs and arms were bruised considerably and his face—two of the most beautiful shiners of all times. After a short chase, the truck driver was apprehended by Sgt. McNeil. The driver was found to have been drinking. The moral to be remembered was aptly phrased by Sgt. Jesset, "You can't stop a 3/4-ton truck by yourself."

Some sections had pets which they had found in their wanderings over Europe, but the Special Platoon had "Stinky." The entire personnel of the C. P. knew the nondescript vagabond who was seen with the Special Platoon.

About this time Lt. Eggleston underwent his baptism of fire. In quest of champagne, the Lieutenant and his driver, Binzer, drove on a street in Coblenz which at the time was subjected to enemy small arms fire. The Lieutenant miraculously reached his objective without being hit by the with-

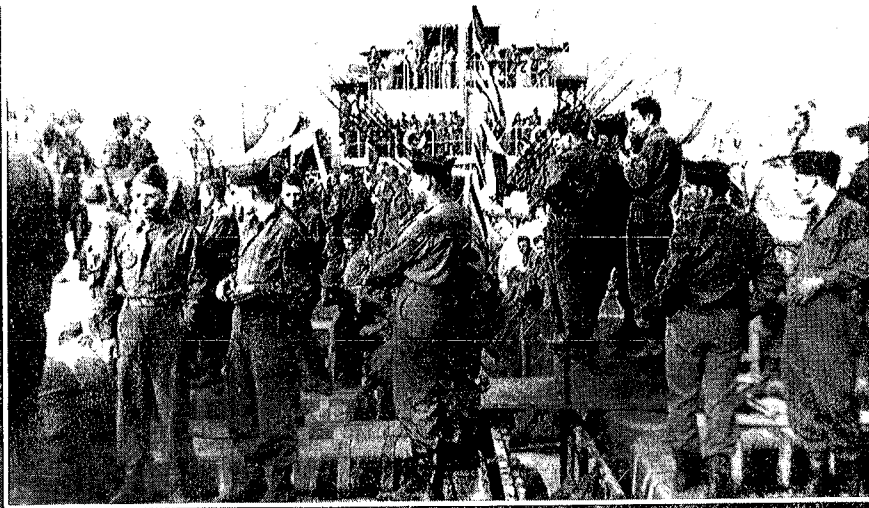


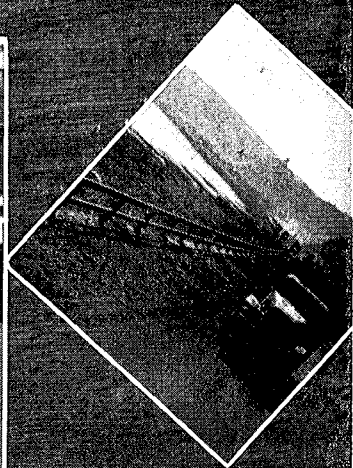
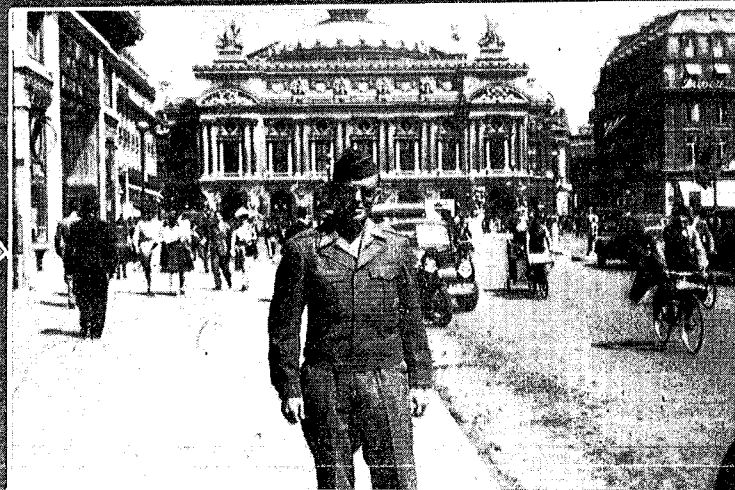
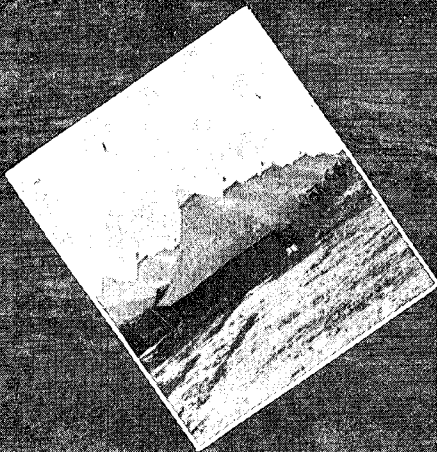
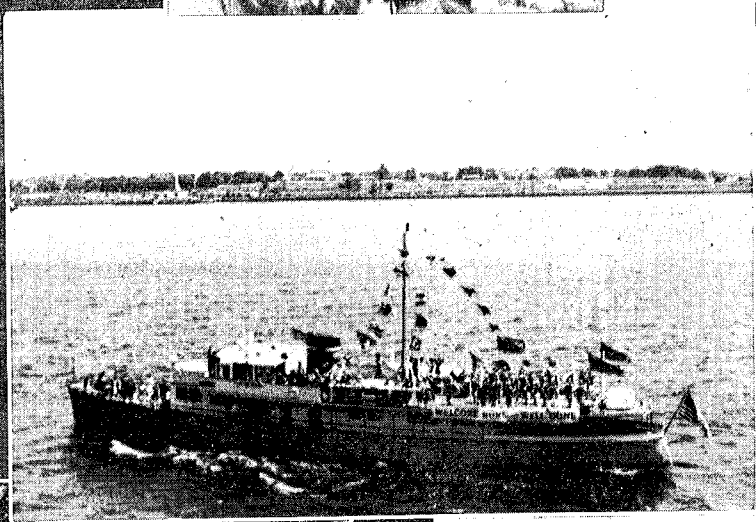
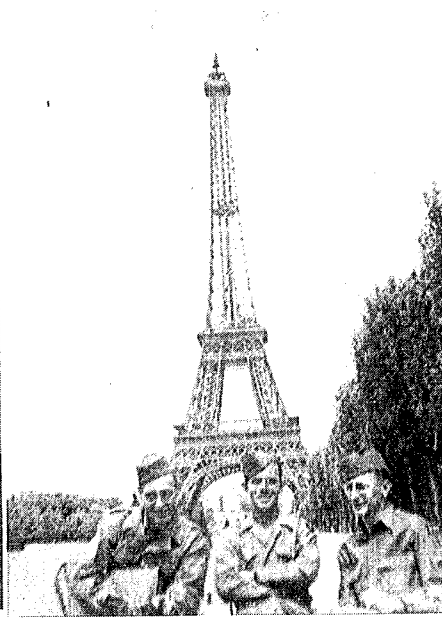
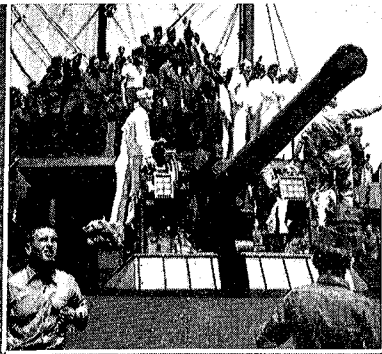
Our Leader, Lieutenant Robert Eggleston.



Our Secret Weapons, Pete Kozochenko and Walter Loechel.







ering fire and proved that he couldn't be stopped from accomplishing his mission by such harassing tactics. The Major General from Corps witnessed his daring feat and complimented him highly for opening the thoroughfare to vehicular traffic.

All sections of the forward echelon were well pleased with their accommodations at the beautiful resort town of Boppard on the Rhine. The most outstanding feature of the company's stay there was the presentation to the men of huge quantities of rare wines, such as champagne and Sparkling Burgundy by the people of the town. Parties were held in all sections celebrating the reaching of the Rhine. One of the more festive parties was held in the Orderly Room and the following personnel attended: 1st Sgt. Lee, S/Sgt. Sutherland, T/5's Wurch, Fluke and Beaver and Pfc. Eugene Langford. The group sang, or at least tried to, and were accompanied on the Steinway by Cpl. Beaver. The mishap that took place in the C. P. was Cpl. Ed Wurch's being hit on the lip by a flying cork. Cpl. Charles W. Stinson's squad in the Defense Platoon used the rare vintage wines as an appetizer for a feast of fried chicken and french fries. With T/5 Charlie Buford's culinary art and T/5 Leo Burnett pouring the wine, the party was a complete success. Other participants in this "Grand Slam" in-

cluded Pfc. T. C. Smith, McDermott and Shreve, Platoon Sgt. Peterson and Lt. Deville. The Defense Platoon, as a whole, was sincerely sorry to leave Boppard, "The Pearl of the Rhine."

In the meantime, the Administrative Center had moved from Schonberg to Saffig, Germany about 10 miles from the Rhine. The town hadn't been completely cleared at that time. In fact, some sniper had nearly picked off Lt. Col. O'Connor, Division G-1, and Capt. Moore from the 345th Infantry personnel section. They had preceded the main body into the town by a few days. As a result, Sgt. Scott and Sgt. Dinwoodie were kept busy rounding up prisoners. Here in Saffig, everyone took to making french fried potatoes with Matey Gray, Jim Gowans, Bud Abbott and Tony Villone acting as chief chefs. Due to changing assignments, the 28th Infantry Division passed through the town on two different occasions. This gave Ken Gasaway an opportunity to see his brother from the 28th. They hadn't seen each other for over two years.

The Company made a one-day stop in Dachsenhausen and everything was well under control in the C. P. with the exception of a few of the boys in the Transportation Platoon holding target practice in the wee, small hours of the morning.

By the time the Company reached Katzenelen-

Boppard Am Rhine—and Pink Champagne.





The Old Man's Escort: Harry Goodykoontz, Robert Peterson and Frank Feeney.

bogen, all sections were in high gear and performing their duties with dispatch and in a highly commendable manner. The stop here marked the company's first taking of PW's. A small task force led by Capt. Maguire and seasoned with members of the Defense Platoon, cleared a woods near the C.P. and forced the enemy to surrender. Members of the "G" Sections also captured more than their share of prisoners and acquired many souvenirs and Bronze Stars. Lt. Eggleston was ordered to assist Capt. Maguire but his orders were countermanded by higher authority when it was determined all was under control. The advance party under Capt. Hinks also added to the score by sending eight PW's to the enclosure.

On Easter Sunday a fairly large gathering attended Chaplain Meister's Protestant service at 0900. It was held in a civilian church reputed to be over a thousand years old. A Catholic Service was held later in the morning at a school in the town. Both services were well attended by Hq. Co. and Div. Hq. personnel. The Defense Platoon was called out in the afternoon on a report of Germans lurking in the nearby hills, holed up in several well hidden caves. Led by Lt. Deville and with the help of the CIC, three caves were thoroughly searched in vain for the enemy. One of the interested spectators was the Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Frank L. Culin, Jr.

The Company had its first taste of enemy snipers and patrols in Weilmunster. A house guard was maintained for the first time, because three of the Signal Company boys had met a miserable fate at the hands of a Nazi patrol. The Special Platoon



Chaplain John H. Meister Conducts Easter Service in an Ancient Church in Weilmunster, Germany.

continued its policy of showing movies whenever possible and made three showings at the EM Mess Hall. During this time, the Defense Platoon's most popular duty was the daily escort accompanying General Culin on his frequent visits to the front lines. As the division moved swiftly across central Germany, it became increasingly difficult to keep up with the troops. On one of these occasions the General and his escort drove into a town and everyone noticed the strange absence of the familiar white surrender flags. After questioning several inhabitants, it was found that these were the first American soldiers who had been in that town. One German soldier was captured there. The General sent back a radio message which said, "Task Force Culin occupied town "X" . . . captured one prisoner."

Weilmunster will always have a very special meaning to the boys of the P. R. O. Section. It was here that they were left completely at the mercy of one Captain Enzo Gaspari. Assuming command of all American troops remaining at Weilmunster, numbering six, he established a day and night guard, charge of quarters, and a sergeant of the guard. After two days of this, the boys were mighty glad to see Tex Wright come to their rescue. Those who endured the hardships were: Lou Harrington, Grose Evans, Jim Edwards, Fred Woodress, Sewall Strout, and Lorrin Morrison.



*Top—Bush Leaguers.
Bottom—We Dunit.*

The Company made a gigantic stride into Germany at this time. After travelling a distance of 111 miles, an overnight stop was made at Friedewald. The Company then moved into Schweina, and then on to Floh where Supply was fortunate in once again furnishing the men with PX rations after a two-week delay. The men were appreciative and two of them actually said, "Tank You."

On one occasion, when "Cugats" Loechel went with the Defense Platoon on an advance party, he ran into a small band of his Polish countrymen in the new C. P. After a short bull session, they were

all invited into the local tavern for a round of beers served by and paid for by Herr Hitler's taxpayers.

By the time the Company reached Saalfeld, prisoners were a common catch with the Defense Platoon. In this town three Germans walked up to one of the guard posts and were immediately taken in hand and started on the way to the Provost Marshal's office. Two of the Nazis turned off on a side street and started to go into a house that was definitely not the Headquarters of the Provost Marshal. It seems that these fellows had once lived in that very house and thought they were being taken home. Too bad, such was not the case. They went to the "Cage" with the rest.

In Saalfeld the Company had its first introduction to the destruction that air bombing could do. Although they lived in the untouched portion of the town, they managed to see the pasting the factories and railroad yards had taken on the other side of the town. The men liked to see this destruction. They were tired of seeing all those nice German homes untouched by war. They hoped to see more and more of these towns completely demolished.

While this "rat race" was going across central Germany, the rear echelon was trying vainly to catch up with the rest of the division and still keep up their administrative functions. Some of the towns were still uncleared when the boys moved in. In Wolfenhausen T/Sgt. Ostermiller of the Finance Section distinguished himself in rounding up several stray German prisoners after a house-to-house search. Here the rear echelon got one of those scares about "by-passed enemy pockets." In fact, one rumor circulated that three hundred "SS" troopers were ready to storm the town. Pvt. George Dobbs was ready for the situation with an improvised flame thrower he had dug up somewhere. However, he didn't have to use it. Just like so many other rumors, the whole thing proved to be a false alarm.

Soon after the Administrative Center moved up to Barchfeld, an epidemic of the "GI's" broke out. Sgt. Harber and his gang from the Medical Detachment passed out medicine at a terrific rate to cope with the situation. Everyone was pretty sure that it was caused by the steady diet of "C" and "K" rations, but the cooks refused to admit the possibility. Once the epidemic had passed, the boys began to take an interest in softball. Sgt. Matson had his team from A. G. out for early season practice with some of the personnel section teams of the 345th, 346th and 347th Regiments. The boys began to accumulate a good collection of pistols, cameras, binoculars and other items too valuable to mention. Tony Villone took over the job of chief scout as he took to the hills every evening with binoculars in hand. He usually came back

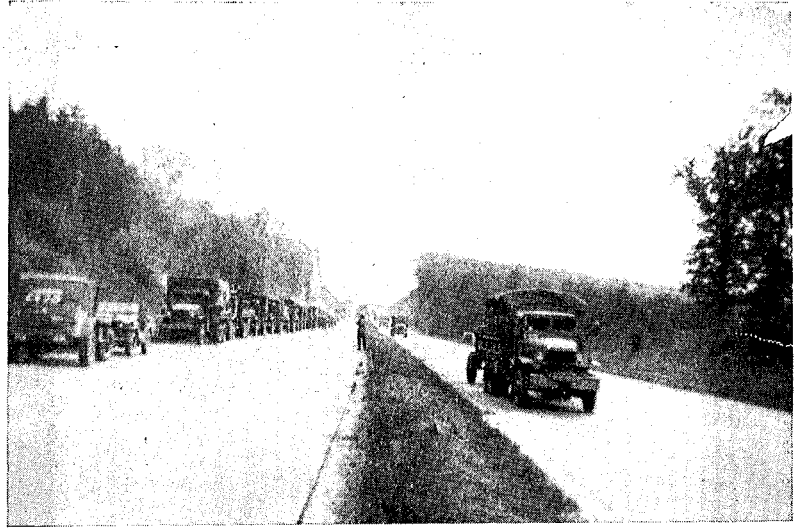
with some very interesting tales about a blonde fraulein and an Italian who had been a forced laborer for the Germans at one time. After a stay in Barchfeld of about ten days, the rear echelon moved by motor convoy to Jossnitz where they joined the boys in the Band in patrolling the woods.

On April 15th the forward C. P. set up at Jocketa, Germany. The stay there was of a three-week duration and everyone was well pleased with the billeting arrangement. For the first time, the men had many of the comforts of home, and were fortunate in having all these modern conveniences: lights, running water, heat and three delicious meals every day—if you like “C” rations. On April 25th Lt. Prezkop returned from Metz with a supply of watches, fountain pens, and cigars. A raffle was held to determine who would be lucky enough to win one of these much desired items. Of course, the winner would have to pay for it but this was just a minor detail.

For the first time in many months, Headquarters Company had a retreat formation. This time it was held on German soil. It was an impressive ceremony with Capt. Hinks officiating. The Company took great pride in seeing “Old Glory” rise over Nazi soil. Then Cpl. Louis J. Ekhardt of the Band played “Retreat” and “To the Colors.” The flag was lowered by Art Jesset and Eugene Tucker.

The war seemed to be drawing to a close and the gradual change to a garrison life was beginning to manifest itself. The first true indication came about when the Defense Platoon was ordered to adopt a formal guard. All reliefs were to be marched to and from their posts. The main purpose of all this was to impress the Germans with our military bearing. No doubt, this was accomplished because, as a reward for their efforts, the men were all invited to a May Day celebration at the Russian Displaced Persons Center at Plauen. There was only one catch to this invitation; the fraternization ban was to be enforced. It was on this same day that the 12 forgotten were remembered. A reorganization of the Band necessitated the assembling of all members of this unit. Once again, it was up to the Company to supply the K. P's. The members of the Company were honestly grateful to these 12 unfortunates for their contribution to the war effort.

Jocketa will long be remembered for its beautiful scenery, good billeting facilities, and its many improvised baseball fields. Within the Company there were three separate teams. The Defense Platoon, led by T. C. Smith, went far out ahead in the league standings. The “Slum Burners” showed



“Outside by the Wayside.”



*Below—Troops on the Track.
Bottom—Motor Pool at Jocketa, Germany.*

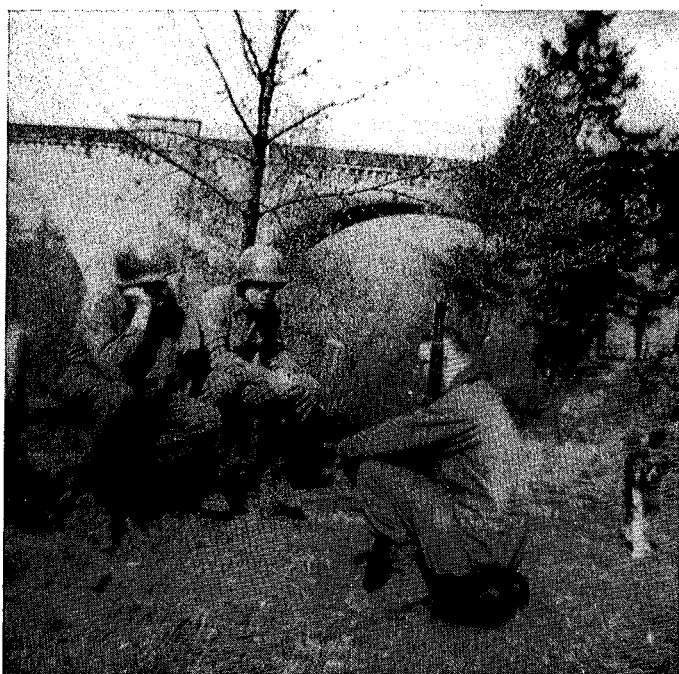




Never the 'Twain Shall Meet.

surprising strength and managed to win two games during the first week of the season, but it wasn't until the Company was challenged by the 203rd F. A., that a representative nine of the entire Company was chosen. They proved their ability by defeating the Artillery boys and then going on to win many more. The 549th AA was victim to the Company's prowess on the baseball diamond four consecutive times and it wasn't until the Company ten journeied to the rear that the first defeat was ex-

Eternal Vigilance.



perienced. Matson, Nydegger, and Lang starred for the winners while Craig and MacNaughton looked very impressive in defeat. The spectators, although very absorbed in the game, were anxious to get back to their scouting and patrolling. Matey Gray, Tony Villone, Eugene Benoit and Pierre Gadol left the game early and took to the woods. The boys who were less interested in the outdoor life usually occupied the beer garden at the Hitler Youth Hotel in the evenings when the Band would give out with a little jive. They also enjoyed several movies at the hotel which were presented through the courtesy of the Special Platoon from the forward echelon.

At the forward echelon the fellows found more to do than go prowling through the woods—besides, there weren't any women. The river just below the C. P. was well stocked with trout and several times Carl Eickhoff and Pete Kozochenko would return with 12 to 18 trout, all legal size. A change in the weather that brought snow flurries near the middle of May discouraged many would-be anglers. As all good things must come to an end, so did our stay at Jocketa. On May 7th the news broke that the division was going back into action. An oft heard question at that time was, "How do you spell Czechoslovakia?" It wasn't many hours after this report came in that another and far more important bit of news began to circulate; Germany had finally capitulated. This was still an unofficial report around the C. P., but General Culin's es-

cort received first word of it through their M-20 radio. The General was requested to report to Corps Headquarters for a banquet celebrating the end of the war. The ride to the Corps C. P., was led by the M-20 and the average speed for the trip was fifty-five miles an hour. The General had two more grey hairs before the trip was over. When the convoy finally returned it reported to the new C. P. at Falkenstein. Here the men were glad to see that Vernon Ogg had returned from the hospital and that Johnny Paden was ready to resume his duties after a furlough to the Riviera. Johnny's return was just in time to witness the lifting of the blackout restrictions. To the men this was comparable to the lifting of the "brownout" restrictions over the "Gay White Way." It was really quite a thrill to be able to see where they were going without fear of drawing enemy artillery fire.

May 14th was the day we could see with our own eyes that the war was over. Following the German surrender, the entire enemy forces in our area were marched or rode in convoy to the P. W. E. It was mighty good for morale to see the long columns of "Supermen" marching in defeat. With the end of the war a more complete sports schedule was inaugurated.

The Defense Platoon softball team, with the aid of Chuck Johnson and Smiley Barich, started the postwar season with another win over the 203rd F. A. Fuzzy Relihan pitched all the way for the winners. As a celebration for the victory, members of the platoon pooled their packages for a big fling.

Once again, Headquarters moved. This time it was a spot that was acceptable for bringing the forward and rear echelons together again. The new headquarters was located at Saalburg on the Saale. One of the unofficial assignments undertaken by all members of the command was the immediate acquisition of many kyaks, rowboats, and canoes, not to mention three power boats and dozens of sets of fishing tackle. While this phase of activity was going on in the unofficial circles. Headquarters was making other plans. Now we were to be awakened in the morning by the shrill note of the first sergeant's whistle—Lester L. Lee. It wasn't long after this that Captain Hinks lost Lee but did some good trading and acquired the services of Milton Kasten, former Provost Sergeant. The company seemed well satisfied with the final results.



Above—Hit the Road Again.



Bivouac at Trier.



Memorial Day services were held in the Saalburg town square at which time Capt. Hinks awarded Certificates of Merit to key N. C. O.'s of Headquarters Company. Units that participated were: Headquarters Company, Recon Troop, Signal Company, and the Division Band. Colonel Folley officiated at the ceremonies.

By the first week in June, Headquarters Company had settled down to a cycle of garrison life even though overseas. Retreat and reveille became a daily affair much to the disgust of all concerned. June 6th was declared a holiday commemorating the anniversary of the original "D-Day"



*Top—The Good Ship, West Point.
Center—Official Loot.
Above—Homeward Bound.*

landing on Normandy. The boys were making the most of the recreational facilities on hand—riding horses from the company stables, swimming and boating on the lake, and playing softball in the evenings. This comparative life of ease was cut short by the alerting of the division for return to the United States and further redeployment to the Pacific theater.

On June 13, 1945 the Company left Saalburg and travelled by truck convoy to Camp Oklahoma City, France. They bivouaced in the field for two nights

during the journey. During this trip, the kitchen personnel did a bang-up job of supplying two hot meals each day even though they were on the move.

During their stay at Camp Oklahoma City, the boys of the company had plenty of work to keep them busy. Vehicles had to be serviced and turned in. Weapons had to be cleaned and turned in. All equipment (plus disguised loot) had to be packed and crated. This meant plenty of work, and that, in turn, meant that everyone did their best to dodge details. The company softball team turned “semi-pro” at this point by playing a few “money” games with the Medical Battalion and the Service Company of 345th Infantry. Sgt. Matson, Marty Green, Virg Wickline, Zeke Nydegger and T. C. Smith were the big reasons why the Headquarters Company men could always double their money.

Before the company left Camp Oklahoma City a forty-man detail had to be picked to load and unload the T. A. T. equipment. Those who were unlucky enough to be caught on this job found themselves engaged in a two-night wrestling match with everything from pianos to generators.

On June 28th the Company arrived at Camp Lucky Strike near St. Valery, France. There wasn't very much to keep the boys occupied during this period of waiting, so they played volleyball or just loafed. After a few days of this, everyone began to get anxious to board the boat and start heading for the good old U. S. A.

Capt. Hinks had already left on the advance party from Camp Oklahoma City, leaving Capt. Maguire in charge of the company for the remainder of the trip home.

The Company celebrated the 4th of July by leaving Camp Lucky Strike and riding in trucks down to La Havre. They boarded the “USS West Point” that afternoon with little or no sentiment about leaving war torn Europe. As far as they were concerned, Europe could settle its own troubles from then on.

Once aboard the ship, the men were assigned to squad rooms and some were even fortunate to get twelve-man state rooms. There was a slight bit of friction between the higher and lower ranks of the company as a group of the higher ranking non-coms “foreclosed the mortgage” on a few hapless low ranking men. However, this friction was soon smoothed out, although a few crusaders from the

lower ranks remained bitter to the end. Life was crowded aboard ship. There was hardly room enough for half of the men to sit on the deck. The competition for deck space was terrific as each man vied with the other to find a suitable place to rest his laurels. The men were issued fresh American money (converted from French francs) soon after they were aboard. This resulted in numerous card games and dice games. Here again the competition was keen as each man tried to finance his forthcoming, thirty-day furlough with a desperate plunge. After five days at sea, the men began to get more restless than ever. There was only one thought in mind, "When do we reach land?"

Finally, on the morning of July 11th, land was sighted. About noon the ship entered New York harbor. Escort vessels, airplanes, autogyros, fire-tugs and even a blimp came out as a welcoming committee. As the ship passed the Statue of Liberty, everyone went wild. Soon after that, the ship docked at Pier 88 and by mid-afternoon the men of Headquarters Company hoisted their duffel bags on their shoulders and debarked in passenger list order. As they lined up on the dock, the American Red Cross was there to greet them with doughnuts, milk (real milk—not the powdered variety), and coffee.

After this pause they boarded a ferry and crossed to the Jersey side where trains were ready to take them to Camp Kilmer. Once at Camp Kilmer, the Company was marched to its barracks in Area No. 8. That evening the men were issued Khakis to replace the well worn O. D.'s which had seen them through so much in Europe.

On the afternoon of July 12th, the Company was temporarily inactivated when the men were segregated into groups according to their respective Separation Centers. That evening the men began to scatter in various directions—north, south, east and west—as they started out on the most enjoyable 30 days of their Army careers. To say that they had a good time is putting it mildly.

During the time that the Company was home, world events took a definite turn in favor of the 87th Division. Startling news—the use of the atomic bomb, Russia's declaration of war on Japan, and finally, Japan's acceptance of our surrender terms—all tended to lessen the sorrow of the return to the reassembling area at Fort Benning, Ga.

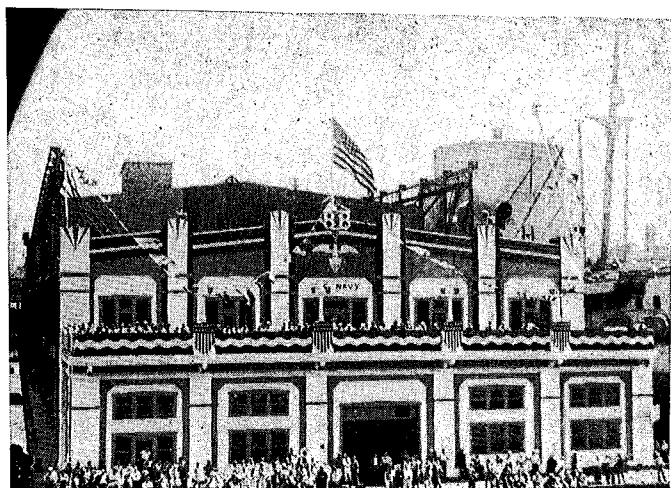


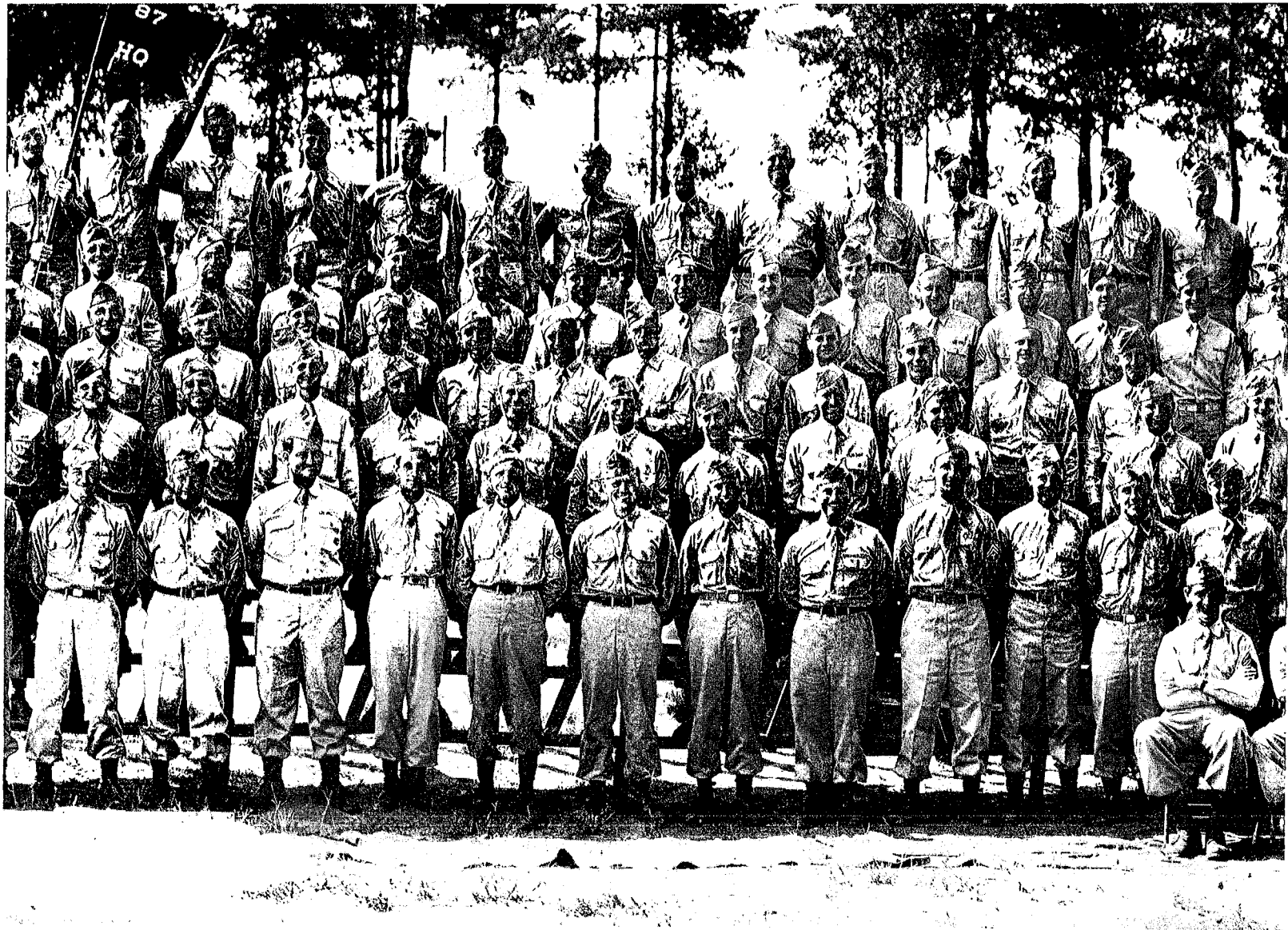
Eastside, Westside.

The advance party had arrived at Fort Benning about August 15th and had things well organized by the time the main body of the Company began to dribble in. On the 21st of August the big news came out. The 87th Division was to be inactivated! The rumors ran thick and fast.

Soon after that, plans were made for a farewell company party. It was the only thing to do for the occasion. As the shipping lists began to appear, and the men departed for new assignments in the Army, it was with a lump in their throats that they said, "Goodbye" to their buddies. Although some of them wouldn't admit it, they hated to bid farewell to Headquarters Company—a great gang.

Home, Sweet Home.





R O S T E R O F M E M B E R S

OFFICERS

- **HINKS, Richard E., Capt., 18935 Oak Dr., Detroit, Mich.
 **MAGUIRE, James F., Capt., 7 Homer Ave., Cambridge, Mass.
 **EGGLESTON, Robert L., 1st Lt., 3268 E. 137th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 **DeVILLE, Sterling J., 1st Lt., Marksville, La.

ENLISTED MEN:

- G-1: Handles all personnel functions such as: all replacements and return to duty personnel—Daily Battle Casualty Report—PW's and displaced persons. The entire personnel of this section merits commendation for the efficient performance of their duties.
 **LONG, Joe D., M/Sgt., 405 College Ave., North Manchester, Ind.
 FREINSTEIN, John A., S/Sgt., 12 Luty Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 OPICH, Carl, T/4, 1920 Bagwell Ave., Madison, Ill.
 THORNTON, Robert L., T/5, 337 N. Francis St., Lansing, Mich.
 PAYTE, John M., Pvt., 1725 Laurel Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
 G-2: The G-2 Section devoted its time during combat participation to the establishment of agencies for collecting military information which was then evaluated and distributed to the various units concerned.
 **BRAMMER, Earl L., M/Sgt., Burton, Wash.
 PURINGTON, William S/Sgt., 242 10th St., Windom, Minn.
 MASVIDAL, Ramon, Sgt., 55 Middach St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 CALHOUN, Hugh R., T/4, Wythville, Va.
 HALL, Clarence D., T/4, 228 N. Myrtle St., Sparta, Wis.
 HARRIS, Fred P., T/4, 320 Cottage Place, Akron, Ohio.
 KRAMER, Elvin L., T/4, 3117 Dauphine St., New Orleans, La.

- GREENFIELD Seymour, Pfc., 304 Rebecca St., McKeesport, Pa.
 VOORHEES, Carrol D., Pfc., Tonganoxie, Kans.
 STEGER, Roy A., Pvt., 18 Oaklawn Dr., Metairie, La.

G-3: Worked to expedite future operations of the division pertaining to attack and march orders. During combat and under the most trying conditions maintained a high standard in working and accomplishment of their duties.

- **GREEN, Martin, M/Sgt., 310 Craft Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 COBB, Richard F., Jr., M/Sgt., 4325 Haldane St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
 RUPINSKI, Edward J., S/Sgt., 1427 Reynolds St., Baltimore, Md.
 BURNETT, Clayton A., Sgt., West Halifax, Vt.
 CARLSON, Henry W., Jr., Sgt., Rt. 1, Middleburg, Conn.
 CAMPAGNA, Hamlet G., T/4, 600 W. 111th St., New York, N. Y.
 QUIGLEY, Quentin D., T/4, 321 E. Fifth St., Bristow, Okla.
 BROWN, Raymond J., Jr., T/5, 4 Rose Terr., West Orange, N. J.
 GOCH, Leon, T/5, 2166 Clinton Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 HOLZHAUSER, Emil A., Pvt., 2905 N. Lawrence St., Philadelphia, Pa.

G-4: Supply! That one word covers a multitude of tasks performed by this section. G-4 kept all categories of supplies moving to the front in a never ending stream. When all other vehicles were dead-lined, Supply came through.

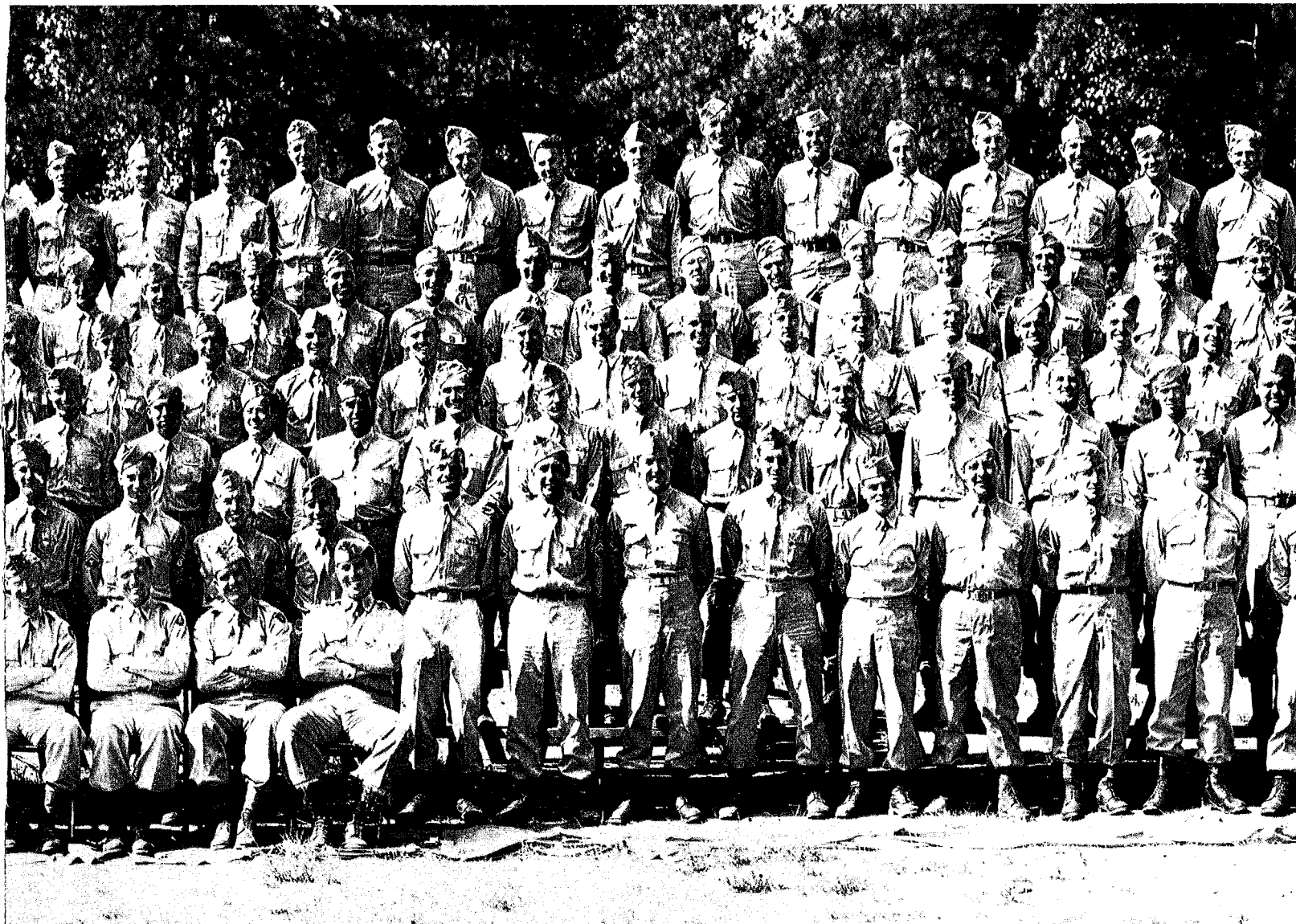
- BRANDT, Christian F., M/Sgt., 7185 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, Calif.
 **CHILDS, Robert A., S/Sgt., 666 S. Hatto Pl., Los Angeles, Calif.
 JEZIK, John A., T/4, 2519 Ada Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

- JOHNSON, Delmar C., Pfc., 326 N. E. Portland Blvd., Portland, Ore.
 STAIGER, Herbert W., Pfc., 2324 W. Cortez St., Chicago, Ill.

Finance: After a few months overseas the men of the Finance Section qualified as monetary experts in handling all types of foreign currency. Each and every difficulty encountered in having the men paid was met and mastered by the men from Finance.

- **RIDGELEY, Richard M., M/Sgt., 306 N Fourth St., Steubenville, Ohio.
 HARTFIELD, James F., T/Sgt., P.O. Box 54, 903 Church St., Columbia, Miss.
 OSTERMILLER, William, T/Sgt., 96 Niagara St., Newark, N. J.
 KAVACHEVICH, Melvin W., T/3, 648 S. Ninth St., Provo, Utah.
 RUSSELL, Earl D., T/3, James Addition, Somers, Ky.
 WALKER, Kenneth D., T/3, 207 N. Lindell Rd., Greensboro, N. C.
 EDWARDS, William P., Jr., T/4, 337 N. State St., Abbeville, La.
 GIBSON, Gene E., T/4, Clifton Hill, Mo.
 GOODMAN, Sydney, T/4, 2456 Blain Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 HOLMES, Fred A., T/4, Box 636, Marland, Okla.
 KUNZEN, Harold E., T/4, 3183 W. 46th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 McCOY, Donald R., T/4, 543 W. 68th St., Chicago, Ill.
 COBY, William W., T/5, 182 Pine St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 DUNHAM, Frederick E., T/5, 809 Ridge St., Laporte, Ind.
 GOLDBERG, George J., T/5, 440 W. End Ave., New York, N. Y.
 MENDEL, Sidney P., T/5, 129 Washington Terr., S. W., Atlanta, Ga.
 SMITH, Harry K., Pfc., 139 Third St., Troy, N. Y.

**Bronze Star
 *Purple Heart



HARTFORD, Donald L., Pvt., 7212 Brinsmade Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

AG: This section supervised and consolidated the work of the unit personnel sections in requisitioning reinforcements by MOS number. It was instrumental in setting up the Reinforcement Training Battalion. It submitted Battle Casualty Reports and Morning Reports Daily to higher headquarters. It made awards and decorations and handled correspondence, forms and files. Through the efforts of the men in this section, "the wheels of administration" continued to roll smoothly.

SCOTT, Gerald K., M/Sgt., 3212 N. 21st St., Omaha, Neb.

AULT, Kenneth, T/Sgt., Rt. 1, Nashville, Ind.

GRAY, Theodore A., T/Sgt., 204 Haltiner St., River Rouge, Mich.

SELBY, William R., T/Sgt., 940 Mound St., Atchison, Kans.

DINWOODIE, Rowland M., T/3, Rt. 2, Southbridge, Mass.

GOWANS, James N., T/3, Barton, Md.

KERNDL, George B., T/3, 1606 University Dr., Durham, N. C.

McGOEY, Charles J., T/3, 1025 Richard St., New Orleans, La.

WITT, Joseph F., T/3, 610 W. Bardine St., Lebanon, Ind.

YERKES, Donald L., T/3, 417 W. Main St., Independence, Kans.

COFFEY, Thomas H., T/4, 321 Second St., Troy, N. Y.

GASAWAY, Kenneth E., T/4, 2008 Saline Ave., El Dorado, Ill.

GATENS, James J., T/4, 71 Graham Ave., Paterson, N. J.

HAMILTON, Ormon T., Jr., T/4, 3912 Cranstons Ave., Baltimore, Md.

HILLER, John H., T/4, 247 Cornwell Ave., Malverne, N. Y.

MATSON, Junior E., T/4, 601 Second St., E., Wilmar, Minn.

SITKOWSKI, Walter J., T/4, 135 N. Eighth St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

STREPPER, William J., T/4, 57 Cushing Pl., Buffalo, N. Y.

SOUDEERS, Robert F., T/4, Rt. 3, Bluffton, Ind.

STROTHMAN, Harvey F., T/4, Berger, Mo.

VILLONE, Tony P., T/4, Culver City, Los Angeles, Calif.

KASPAREK, Donald E., T/5, 314 E. Iowa St., Prairie du Chien, Wis.

GRODBERG, David A., Cpl., 112 Elm St., Worcester, Mass.

ROESER, Robert F., Cpl., 1374 Emory Rd., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

NYDEGGER, Alvin D., T/5, 68 W. Stratford St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

WELSH, James M., T/5, 1202 Garfield St., McMechan, W. Va.

ABBOTT, Donald W., Pfc., 5023 Hubbell Blvd., Des Moines, Iowa.

BEHR, Claus A., Pfc., 2301 Osage Ave., Louisville, Ky.

COLE, Garnett K., Pfc., Box 398, Wytheville, Va.

FOWLER, Claude W., Pfc., 5000 Penrod Court, Ft. Worth, Texas.

MARKLE, Minor M., Pfc., 1506 S. Flint St., Jonesboro, Ark.

MARLOWE, Dayton W., Pfc., 1208 California Ave., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

MOHR, Luther C., Pfc., Neche, N. Dak.

MUZIANI, Gaten F., Pfc., 2415 S. Lambert St., Philadelphia, Pa.

NETT, William J., Pvt., 1612 E. 12th St., Tulsa, Okla.

BAYUK, Robert W., Pvt., Rt. 1, Loretta, Wis.

BEAVER, Robert J., Pvt., Winslow, Ark.

WICKLINE, Virgil F., Pvt., 210 Fifth St., Wenatchee, Wash.

APO: The APO Section came through in splendid style. The mail came to each and every man in the division. At times it seemed impossible for them to get the mail through but they never faltered. The high morale of the troops can be credited to the hard work of the Postal Section.

**SKARE, Pierce T., S/Sgt., Gary, Minn.

SCHMID, Eugene E., Sgt., 707 Taylor St., Attice, Ind.

SPICKNALL, Thomas W. Jr., Sgt., 2103 Dukeland St., Baltimore, Md.

McCORD, Ivan E., T/4, 1724 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

MILLWEE, John D., T/4, Box 865, DeQuincy, La.

PERRON, Raymond, T/4, 91 Pinehurst Ave., Auburn, Mass.

WITBRODT, Maurice, T/4, Graemere Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

YERMAN, Joseph J., T/4, 3437 E. 118th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

BUEHNER, Arthur W., T/5, 3502 Dennison Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

CASEY, John P., T/5, 845 N. 13th St., Milwaukee, Wis.

DOMBROSKA, Oliver G., T/5, 210 Bowen St., St. Louis, Mo.

GERRITY, Thomas J., T/5, 2201 Pittston Ave., Scranton, Pa.

JACKSON, Lawrence K., T/5, Gameliel, Ky.

KOWALSKI, Joseph G., T/5, 3441 Broadway St., Lorain, Ohio.

UNGER, Joseph J., T/5, 1245 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero, Ill.

O'CONNOR, Robert E., Pfc., 533 Fourth Ave., Scranton, Pa.

SPARKS, Edward P., Pfc., 82 E. Pittsburgh St., Pennsville, N. J.

SCHAEFER, Arthur W., T/5, 58-A, Lincoln Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

FANELLI, George A., Pfc., 802 W. 190th St., New York, N. Y.

JUDSON, Raymond, Pfc., 1816 Vyse Ave., Bronx, N. Y.

WOOD, Thomas L., Pfc., Rt. 2, Athens, Ga.

WRIGHT, Thomas C., Jr., Pfc., 341 E. Delaware Rd., Burbank, Calif.

TEMPLE, William A., T/4, Delaware, Ohio.

ADAMS, John G., Pfc., 723 Kennedy N. W., Washington, D. C.

IG: The IG maintained a constant inspection of command, administratives and supply in all organizations of the Division. They supervised and inspected all division records, inspected and audited all division funds. Conducted investigations and special inspections at the Division Commander's request.

**MOUNTFORD, Frank A., M/Sgt., 40 DeWitt Ave., Bronxville, N. Y.

SIEGEL, Leon, T/4, 732 Rockaway Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

LOCHTE, William P., T/5, 6206 Wagner Lane, Friendship Station, Washington, D. C.

*Purple Heart
**Bronze Star

O'BRIEN, James R., T/5, 541 Prairie St., Paris, Ill.

CWS: To this section fell the responsibility of keeping the division functioning in a cohesive manner. Constant liaison must and was maintained by the painstaking efforts of this section under all combat conditions.

RABE, Melvin H., M/Sgt., Montrose, Mich. GRESHAM, Newton C., Jr., Sgt., Liburn, Ga.

MORSE, Thomas A., Sgt., East Hampton, Conn.

PBKKALA, James R., Sgt., 14232 Burgos, Detroit, Mich.

DRAGER, John J., T/5, 130 Branch St., Johnstown, Pa.

SURG: Some of the activities of the division Surgeons Sections are as follows: All matters pertaining to the health and sanitation of the command and of occupied territory; food inspection; care and disposition of the sick and wounded; and all reports and records pertaining to the Medical Department.

**SADAK, Stanley L., M/Sgt., Munising, Mich.

MULSTEIN, Jacob, T/3, c/o Deaner, 2261 62nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

LIBBERMAN, Martin, T/4, 4201 Viola St., Philadelphia, Pa.

WILSON, Roy E., T/4, New Straitsville, Ohio.

GOOD, Lawrence E., T/5, Broadway, Va.

PRO: Organized as a morale factor to give the fighting men recognition in the Press of America. The Public Relations Office "covered" the Division for the war correspondents and the hometown newspapers. The Information and Education Office functioned with the PRO and was responsible for getting "Stars & Stripes" and "Yank" up to the men on the front.

MORRISON, Lorin L., T/3, 12043 Ainsworth St., Los Angeles, Calif.

EDWARDS, James H., T/4, 1915 1/2 Live Oak, Dallas, Texas.

EVANS, Grose, T/4, 45 Crestview Rd., Columbus, Ohio.

STROUT, Sewall C., Jr., T/5, Hells Kitchen, Maine.

DIERRICKSON, James R., Pfc., 19 N. Parker Ave., Atlantic City, N. J.

**HARRINGTON, Louis P., Pfc., 2208 S. 19th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

WOODRESS, Frederick, Pfc., 52 Glen Rd., Webster Groves, Mo.

SSO: We owe our movies stage shows, athletic and recreational equipment, Post Exchange supplies, doughnuts and coffee, and miscellaneous "hunks of home" to the men of the SSO. Many hours of relaxation were given to the men by the untiring efforts of the small group of men in this section.

BEHM, Max, Sgt., 4136 W. Argyle St., Chicago, Ill.

SHIRMAN, Harold A., T/4, Goodwin, S. Dak.

SHUFFERT, Billy M., T/5, Greensburg, Ky.

CORNETT, Troy, Pvt., Hardbury, Ky.

MIZE, George B., Pvt., Rt. 7, Ball Camp Pike, Knoxville, Tenn.

SWAIN, Leslie L., Pvt., 608 S. School St., Fayetteville, Ark.

WLASIC, John G., Pvt., 1531 Ridgely St., Baltimore, Md.

A-T: To the Antitank Section goes the credit for planning the Division's defense system against enemy tank attacks. This small section was also heavily laden with work when the Task Forces were making their rapid advances.

KULBECK, James J., S/Sgt., 307 Henry Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.

PAUL, Frank, T/5, 121 Wayne Ave., Springfield, Pa.

CRADEN, Max, T/5, 2237 N. 16th St., Milwaukee, Wis.

JA: The outstanding activity of the Judge Advocate Office was the excellent legal advice and assistance given to the men of the Division. No legal problem was too large or too small for their efficient and sage advice. All courts-martials were handled through this office.

**SCHLOTT, Donald E., S/Sgt., 845 N. 2nd Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.

LANG, Donald S., T/5, 15429 Beaverland, Detroit, Mich.

McALLISTER, Patrick A., Pfc., 3781 Washington St., Kansas City, Mo.

COMMAND SECTION: As secretaries to the Commanding General, Assistant Division Commander and Chief of Staff of the Division the men of this section kept the typewriters and telephones humming in this central nerve center of the Division Headquarters beehive.

**KUHLMAN, Karl H., S/Sgt., 403 E. Main St., Woodville, Ohio.

**GLENN, William E., T/4, 604 W. Main St., Benton, Ill.

LINMAN, Milton L., Pfc., 4115 W. Eighth St., Duluth, Minn.

CHAPLAIN: The duties of the Chaplain need no explanation. The men of God were to be seen in all kinds of weather. A friendly word to one soldier—a kindly pat on the back to another. In many a dark moment the sight and sound of the Chaplain brought comfort at the darkest hour.

*FULTON, Earl W., Sgt., 477 W. Milwaukee St., Janesville, Wis.

COURTNER, Carroll O., T/5, Russell, Kans.

KENNEDY, James P., T/6, 98 Morningside Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.

RHUBART, Charles E., T/5, Weymouth Rd., Newfield, N. J.

AIR-GROUND: The Air-Ground Section through small contributions greatly to the destruction of the obstacles before us. They kept liaison with the Air Corps directing the planes to their targets on our front.

HIGGINS, Bernard R., T/4, 175 N. Liberty St., Conneaut, Ohio.

RED CROSS: The Red Cross was instrumental in keeping the morale of the men of the Division at a high pitch. Many will remember the Red Cross "Doughnut Girls" who served us.

CARBY, Charles D., T/5, 144 W. Howston St., New York, N. Y.

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS: The men of this section were constantly besieged by questions of every description. Some were foolish but all questions received prompt and courteous answers. The Company itself was a well oiled machine through the unstinting efforts of the men in company headquarters.

KASTEN, Milton F., 1st Sgt., Box 178, Saugatuck, Mich.

SUTHERLAND, Duncan, S/Sgt., 277 Fairgreen Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.

ROBINSON, Don, Sgt.

HAGAN, Norman F., Jr., Cpl. 609 Stratton St., Logan, W. Va.

DIEDERER, John D., T/5, 52 Mosler Ave., Wappingers Falls, N. Y.

FLUKIE, Herbert K., T/5, 2668 Loosmoore St., Los Angeles, Calif.

WURCH, Edward, T/5, 3180 W. 97th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

KING, William, Pfc., 3114 N. St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

LANGFORD, Eugene C., Pfc., South Rosemary, Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

WILLIAMS, Andre, Pfc.

TRANS PLAT: The transportation difficulties of the Company were met and mastered by the hard driving men of this section. In fell to those men to keep the wheels rolling. Both in getting the vehicles through and maintaining them on the line they excelled.

HALL, Herbert J., S/Sgt., 215 E. 25th St., Erie, Pa.

BOLSTAD, Gedric A., T/4, Winger, Minn.

OGG, Vernon, T/4, RR 5, Richmond, Mo.

BERRY, Darrel E., T/5, c/o Mrs. Hallie Luck, Box 54, Bogue, Kan.

RILEY, Jonathan B., T/5, Tina, Mo.

SUMMERHILL, William F., T/5, Kosciusko, Miss.

ANDERSON, Ira D., Pfc., 429 W. First St., Edmond, Okla.

ANDERSON, Sten R., Pfc., 54 Turner St., Waltham, Mass.

BAILEY, Gerald F., Pfc., General Delivery, Tillicum, Wash.

BARICH, John S., Pfc., Box 319, Roslyn, Wash.

BINZER, Louis B., Pfc., 5549 Vogel Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.

BOTT, Eugene, Pfc., 2819 Cobden St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

BRAXTON, Noll A., Pfc., Kreole, Miss.

COUCH, Alfred, Pfc., 371 South B St., Hamilton, Ohio.

WEGENHART, Birchard A., T/5, Route 2, Loveland, Ohio.

DOBBS, George H., Pfc., Rt. 2, Stanley, N. Y.

DUNCAN, Benjamin I., Pfc., Rt. 1, Campbellburg, Ind.

GIDLEY, Chellis E., Pfc., Box 323, Perryton, Tex.

GRIFFITH, Fred, Pfc., Brooklyn, Iowa.

KING, Alonzo N., Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 90-A, Ilmo, Mo.

PADEN, John F., Pfc., Box 128, Smithfield, Ohio.

SAUSSER, Lawrence J., Jr., Pfc., 1506 Oakdale Ave., Chicago, Ill.

SZYPKOWSKI, Walter P., Pfc., 5131 Indianapolis Blvd., Chicago, Ind.

WRIGHT, James P., Pfc., Rt. 2, Levelland, Tex.

ZAJAC, John J., Pvt., 11907 Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.

DEFENSE PLAT: The security of the Commanding General rested heavily on the shoulders of the Defense Platoon on his frequent visits to the front lines. They also provided security for the entire C.P. at all times. Amid rain, sleet, or hail and sometimes with frozen feet, they stood as an ever watchful eye over the destinies and lives of the men in the C. P.

PETERSON, Robert J., S/Sgt., 1117 Hickory Rd., Charleston, W. Va.

ORVOLD, Leonard W., Cpl., 949 Iglehart Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

STINSON, Charles W., Jr., Cpl., 822 N. 65th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

BURNETT, Leo C., T/5, Rt. 3, New Lexington, Ohio.

GOODYKOONITZ, Harry A., T/5, 1813 Dearborn St., Bluefield, W. Va.

KESTLER, Emil W., T/5, 3626 Montana Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

BINDER, Jack E., Pfc., 324 Union Place,

Los Angeles, Calif.

BUFORD, Charlie D., Pfc., Briggsville, Ark.

CRAIG, Richard E., Pfc., 405 Kayne Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

GRAYCHEBE, Robert F., Pfc., 304 1st Ave., Mandan, N. D.

DIBBL, Richard, Pfc., 96 Hamilton Ave., Corinth, N. Y.

EICKHOFF, Carl B., Pfc., 820 Scott St., Covington, Ky.

HEESE, Roland J., Pfc., 2463 N. 20th St., Milwaukee, Wis.

HUCKEY, Floyd T., Pfc., Box 93, Edgeley, N. D.

KOZACHENKO, Pete, Pfc., Benedict, N. D.

LIVINGSTON, Robert L., Pfc., 92 Dodge St., Swanton, Ohio.

LOBCHEL, Walter, Pfc., 2715 Claflin Ave., Bronx, N. Y.

MAXWELL, W. B., Pfc., Gatesville, Tex.

MacDERMOTT, Walter L., Pfc., Rt. 5, Box 561, Tucson, Ariz.

MILLER, Keith I., Pfc., 816 Vernon Rd., Columbus, Ohio.

OROS, Anthony, Pfc., 191 Willie Ave., Bedford, Ohio.

RELIHAN, James J., Pfc., 415 E. 70th St., Chicago, Ill.

RICHARDS, Kenneth R., Pfc., 456 Delmar Ave., Akron, Ohio.

*ROSS, Levi D., Pfc., 1406 Walnut St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

SHREVE, James P., Pfc., Rt. 1, Waton, Ind.

SMITH, Thomas C., Pfc., General Delivery, England, Ark.

WILLIAMS, John G., Pfc., 1736 Lyman Pl. N.E., Washington, D. C.

WORLEY, Aales, Pfc., Box 924, Bolt, W. Va.

KNUPPEL, Boyd B., Pvt., Easton, Ill.

SCHIFFLER, John D., Pvt., 809 Copp St., San Francisco, Calif.

SPECIAL PLAT: To this section fell the odd jobs throughout the C. P. Whatever needed to be done, the cry of the C. P. was, "Call the Special Platoon." Their duties couldn't be enumerated as their work and activities were too numerous and diversified.

McNEIL, Elmer A., S/Sgt., 1065 Klamath St., Albany, Ore.

KLAUS, Walter, S/Sgt., 133 Ft. George Ave., New York, N. Y.

JESSETT, Arthur E., Sgt., 3070 W. 46th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

REINHEKE, Kurt, Sgt., 4026 194th St., Flushing, N. Y.

GONZALES, John C., T/5, 83 Marinus St., Rochelle Park, N. J.

MOY, Wah C., T/5, 15 Mott St., New York, N. Y.

DURNAL, Lloyd D., Sgt., 621 Abeles St., Little Rock, Ark.

FULLER, William A., Pfc., 19381 Montgrey, Euclid, Ohio.

GUISTI, Albert J., Pfc., 1013 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, Ill.

GREGORIO, Daniel, Pfc., 217 E. 117th St., New York, N. Y.

JENSEN, Glen, Pfc., Box 227, Hyrum, Utah.

JOHNSON, Reuben J. L., Pfc., Rt. 1, Heftin, Ala.

RYMASHEWSKY, Charles F., Pfc., 64 W. 18th St., Bayonne, N. J.

STOCKMAN, Frank L., Jr., Pfc., Rt. 1, Ossipee, N. H.

STREM, Alex, Pfc., 2268 Walton Ave., Bronx, N. Y.

VOGEL, Arch D., Jr., Pfc., 209 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

ONEAL, Kester C., Pvt., Rt. 3, Box 127, Oxford, Pa.

TUCSER, Eugene L., Pvt., Rt. 4, Stilw II, Okla.

SHARPE, Lawrence A., Pvt., 152 12th St. N.E., Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL PLATOON COOKS: THOMPSON, Donald D., T/Sgt., 410 S. Franklin, Austin, Minn.

MILLER, Kenneth A., S/Sgt., 102 H St., LaPorte, Ind.

CURTIS, Odus, T/4, Rt. 1, Benton, Ky.

GRENDHAHL, Raymond O., T/4, Cary, Minn.

HICKS, James W., T/4, 221 Dake St., Earlington, Ky.

VIGNA, John, T/4, Rt. 2, Box 468, Saugerties, N. Y.

BOSWELL, Randall F., T/5, 173 Baker St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga.

BRADY, Ray E., T/5, Box 55, Inyokern, Calif.

CHICKANOVITCH, Frank S., T/5, 233 Pringle St., Kingston, Pa.

NYKOS, Julius J., T/5, 824 1/2 W. Monroe St., South Bend, Ind.

THOMSEN, William, T/5, 2577 47th St., Long Island City, N. Y.

WILSON, Thomas W., T/5, New Straitsville, Ohio.

TIBERNEY, Charles N., T/5, 701 5th Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

BOWEN, Francis G., Pfc., 260 Valentine Lane, Yonkers, N. Y.

COOK, Leo H., Pfc., General Delivery, Maysville, Okla.

SANKEY, Bernard, Pfc., 1101 Prospect Ave., New York, N. Y.

*Purple Heart
**Bronze Star

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON



SERVICE TO THE TROOPS FROM THE TROOPS



M. P. PLATOON OFFICERS
Reading from Left to Right—Lieutenant Martz, Captain Miller and Lieutenant Davis.

HISTORY — 87TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Out of the conflict of World War II has arisen a new figure on the battle horizon, a new type of leader—the combat M.P.

Fighting a long and difficult battle against prejudice and old Army tradition, the combat Military Policeman, through his stick-to-itiveness and constant regard for the safety and welfare of his comrades in arms, has come to earn the respect and admiration of his fellow G.I.'s for work well done.

In the days of '17 and '18, the MP was regarded as a big bruiser, a hulk of a man with a big stick at his side, a rough, tough individual, whose only aim in life was to "get" the soldier. And through the years, even until December 7, 1941, that impression lasted and the Military Police were the butt of jokes, the soldiers who received the hoots and jeers, the men whom the fighter thought they were leaving behind as they marched to the front.

But a talk with men of action now, the ones who owe their lives to being sent on the right road, or being warned to keep away from dangerous areas brings forth this new character, the combat MP. No behind-the-lines GI, no chairborne individual is this MP. It is his job to save lives, to speed activity near the front lines, to aid the fighting unit as it scores its victories against the enemy.

The 12 Purple Heart medals awarded to Military Police of the 87th Infantry Division are mute testimony to the fact that the duties of the Golden Acorn combat MP often carried him to sites of utmost danger—not to areas where life was a big bowl of roses, instead, where life was the one large serving of bullets and shrapnel.

But the story of these valiant men—the men who often

stood under direct enemy observation with a big white MP and yellow stripe emblazoned on their helmet—begins not on Purple Heart Corner or Suicide Crossroad in Germany in 1945, their story begins three years earlier in the mud and mire of Camp McCain, Miss.

The 87th Division MP Platoon was activated on 15 December, 1942, its first commanding officer, Capt. Van Tyson. Enlisted men on cadre from the 81st Infantry Division were, S/Sgt. Lendel C. Taylor and Cpl. Horace W. Eubank. First additions to the Platoon included, T/4 Milton F. Kasten, Pfc. James T. Sizemore, and Pvts. Lawrence W. Robinson and Charles W. Hudson, who were soon followed by Pvts. Ira D. Anderson, Ernest R. Bowling, Leonard J. Burke, Eddie L. Gattis, Hughes T. Hottel, Jesse H. Neville, and William T. Trompler.

The Platoon immediately started its duties and in addition to performing their regular camp duties, the men of the Platoon took charge of traffic control at "Activation Day" ceremonies on 22 December.

First EM to receive a promotion in the MP Platoon was Milton F. Kasten, who was promoted from T/4 to sergeant on 19 December. Other promotions followed rapidly, though, and on 1 January, 1943, Pvts. Charles W. Hudson and Lawrence W. Robinson were promoted to the grade of corporal and Cpl. Horace W. Eubank was promoted to grade of sergeant.

The roster of EM at Camp McCain included: S/Sgt. Lendel C. Taylor, Sgts. Carl R. Brady, Horace W. Eubank, Charles W. Hudson, Milton F. Kasten, Jesse H. Neville, and Lawrence W. Robinson; Cpls. Ernest R. Bowling, John



TRAFFIC SECTION

First Row: Hottel, Jordan, Marshall, Sterling, Waugh, Bauer, Tischer, Davy, Leak, Wells, Powell. Second Row: McCabe, Tabor, Grab, Thomas, Branche, Samuelson, Koppen, Smith, Beckley, Wheeler. Third Row: Lieutenant Dougherty, Burke, Edwards, Seeker, Shroeder, Kerne, Ashbaugh, Bowers, Benner, Vittense, Brooks, Ruzika, Werve.

I. Masink, Ferdinand J. Pielhop, Jack F. Powell, Jim T. Sizemore, Harold L. Turnbull, Walter Weir, and Herbert J. Voss; T/5 Hughes T. Hottel.

Also Pfc. Leonard J. Burke, Eddie L. Gattis, William T. Trompler, and John E. Werve; Pvts. Arthur L. Ames, Jr., Isaac D. Ashbaugh, John R. Austin, John Van Barrow, Joe Barfield, George L. Beatty, Paul L. Benner, Ermel R. Beckley, John E. Blazier, Jr., John L. Branche, Jacob Brill, El-

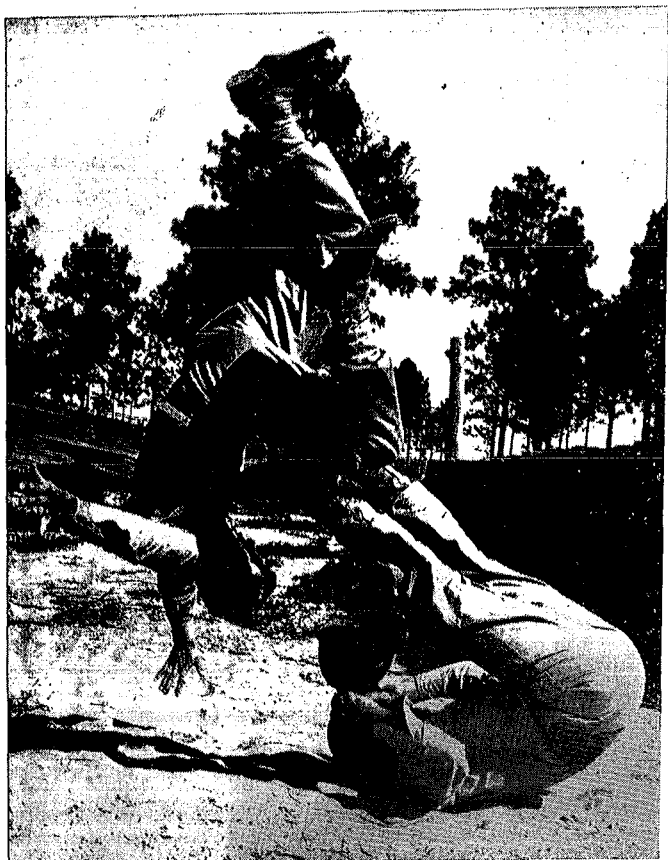
don S. Brown, Jr., Elliott S. Bulluck, Andrew J. Busalacchi, Cleon L. Clary, Philip C. Cohen, Robert N. Combs, Cleophas B. Edwards, Alvin M. Evans, John C. Fischer, Algon L. McCabe and Robert C. Swendiman.

Also Pvts. Robert J. Fox, Leonard P. Fox, William R. Glover, Francis A. Grab, Louis Hane, Gene H. Higginbotham, George F. Hill, Bertram H. Hommel, Hobert B. Holmgren, Hadley S. James, Michael J. Kark, James M.

POLICE SECTION

First Row: Strugarck, Natwick, Orsund, Gattis, Fenn, Earp, LaMee. Second Row: Busalacchi, Miller, Ames, Reynolds, Scheidt, Johnson, Gower, Jacobs, Posner, Clary.





OOP-LA!

Ashbaugh sends Strugarek Flying Through the Air in Judo Demonstration.

Kelly, Charles H. Kennedy, Louis E. Kriston, John A. Lannan, James Lennon, Arthur L. Lowe, Jr., Frank K. Love, William G. Lunday and Joseph J. Melko.

Also David J. Muller, Harold A. Nelson, George E. Nickerson, Lewis C. Page, Bruce C. Quantrell, Ralph A. Rendland, John W. Rogers, Edward F. Ruzika, William J. Smith, Robert E. Sprague, Charles L. Stewart, Walter J. Strugarek, Jr., Leslie P. Swanson, Harley T. Tabor, George R. Thompson, Pierce A. Thomas, Carl S. Thunberg, Peter G. Troops, Jr., Allyn L. Vitense, Edward E. Watzig, Jr., John R. Weitzel, II and Edward G. Wiltshire.

Capt. Tyson's first assisting officers were 2nd Lt. Hugh B. McCoy, who was detailed on 24 December, 1942 to SD with the Platoon from the 347th Infantry and 2nd Lt. Howard L. Barham, from the 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. 1st Lt. Frank S. Tenney was assigned to the Platoon on 4 January, 1943, but was immediately detailed to Provost Marshal General School at Ft. Custer, Mich.

On 16 January, 1st Lt. Arvid O. Eckwall and 2nd Lt. Emmett O. Roberts were assigned to the Platoon and by the end of January, Lt. McCoy and Lt. Barham had been relieved from SD with the Platoon. The strength of the Platoon at the end of January was four officers and 17 EM.

1st Lt. Tenney returned from school on 8 March and on 11 March, 1st Lt. Archibald S. Miller was assigned to and joined the Platoon.

The month of April proved to be a month of quickening activity. Training was progressing very well. In fact, the men apparently became too determined to become well versed

in the art of fighting and as a result in one encounter in the Judo class on 7 April, Pvt. Bruce C. Quantrell sustained an injury to his neck which required his hospitalization and later his discharge from the army. On 5 April, Capt. Tyson was promoted to the rank of Major. On 12 April, Lt. Tenney was transferred to the 502nd MP Bn.

On 1 July the nucleus of the 203rd Provisional Military Police Prisoner of War Detachment was provided by men chosen from the Platoon. 1st Lt. Miller commanded the detachment of 32 men, seven of whom were Platoon members: Sgt. John I. Masink, Sgt. Walter Weir, Pfc. John V. Barrow, Charles H. Kennedy, Walter J. Strugarek, Jr., Carl S. Thunberg and Edward E. Watzig, Jr.

The rest of the men in the detachment were chosen from the three Infantry regiments of the 87th Division. The 203rd Det. left Camp McCain on 3 July, 1943, and before its return was to make two round trips across the Atlantic Ocean, the first trip to Casablanca in Africa and the second to Palermo, Sicily.

2nd Lt. Emmett O. Roberts was transferred to the 505th MP Bn. on 15 July and in August there were 76 EM in the Platoon. Two months later the number had dropped to 70 and 2nd Lts. John J. Davis and Edward G. Dougherty joined the Platoon.

During December and January, the Platoon participated in Tennessee maneuvers and on 18 January, 1944, the unit left Tennessee for its future home at Ft. Jackson, S. C., where it arrived on 20 January.

Lt. Eckwall was transferred to the 98th Infantry Division in February and in June 45 EM were transferred to the Platoon from Camp Beale, Calif., raising the Platoon strength from 64 to 109.

New men joining the Platoon were, S/Sgts. John H. Schleuss and Donald W. Rapp; Cpls. Manuel F. Perez and Mark E. Rasband; T/5 James E. Schaad; Pfc. Arnold J. Muehlbauer, Harry Scheidt, John R. Smith, Roy Smith, Richard L. Weldin, Lloyd Willden, T. L. Williams, Alvie R. Carpenter, Matthew J. Fenn, Ronald J. Yandell, Willie F. Downs, Elgin R. Esquell, Vincent S. Favolora, William S. Irwin, Thomas D. Johnson, Robert C. Kaufman, Richard H. Kerns, Marvin R. Laing, Max I. LaMee, Charles Pellegrini, Russell G. Rodgers; Pvts. William F. Thomas, Foster W. Wheeler, Harry Ellis, Eugene M. Carpenter, Harry E. Goggin, William H. Rollins, Sylvester Moore, Harry H. Phariss, Curtis L. Sanders, John L. Wells, Henry O. Bjaaland, James T. Cooper, Leonard G. Scheib, Lester J. Dickson, Darrel H. Earp, Milton Harris, Cary A. Marshall, III, David L. McRostie and William T. Millington.

The usual duties of the Platoon, such as town patrol in Columbia, and traffic control in Ft. Jackson were handled by the original Platoon members, while the 45 new men from California were given eight weeks' "basic training" to refresh them in the military fundamentals. Gradually, the men were used for more important assignments, and in time, old man and new man alike, were working together, sharing all duties.

1 October, 1944, marked the start of the MP Platoon on its great adventure, the assignment toward which it had been pointing since its inception two years before—over-seas duty.

The Platoon's overseas duties were to be divided into two main assignments—that of establishing traffic control where ever the division area might be and processing all prisoners of war captured by the regiments. Other duties of the Platoon included the establishment of straggler control posts and guard duty at the Division CP.

1st Lt. Archibald S. Miller and Pfc. Matthew J. Fenn, clerk, and Pfc. Carl P. Orsund, driver, were the members of the advance party, which traveled by train from Ft. Jackson to Ft. Hamilton, N. Y. After two days of checking, instructions, and orientation, the trio boarded the Nieu Amsterdam and said a temporary farewell to the Statue of Liberty and the United States.

The remainder of the Platoon departed from New York at 1400, 4 November, on the Louis Pasteur, arriving in Knutsford, England on 14 November, being billeted at Peover Hall, same quarters which Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., Third Army commander, and his headquarters had previously occupied.

Nine days later, 23 November, another advance party—this time for France—took its leave, Maj. Tyson in charge of a detail which included Sgt. Hane, Pfc. John L. Branche, Alvin M. Evans, Matthew J. Fenn, Algon L. McCabe, Harley T. Tabor, and Pvts. Carl R. Brooks, Lloyd J. Seeker and John E. Werve.

The other members of the organization departed from Knutsford 27 November, 1944, reaching Weymouth Harbor to board LST Ship 332. By 2 December, every member of the Platoon was at St. Saens, France, and ready for new orders.

The Platoon began its penetration into the Saar region of France when it entered Metz at 2000, 7 December, 1944. The unit occupied the former offices of the German Polizei-President in the heart of the city. After Metz, next point in the Platoon itinerary was Oermingen, France, where new men were received into the organization.

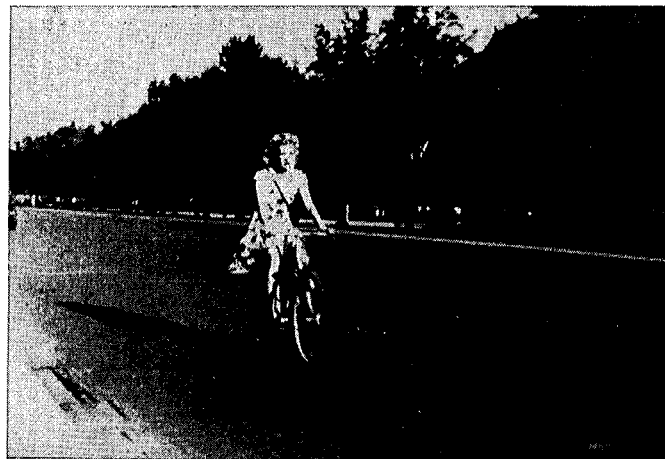
The new men included S/Sgts. Ellis V. Riley, Robert S. Cunningham, Robert E. Lee, Glen L. Wilson and William R. Livingston, T/Sgt. Paul J. Parham, Sgts. Robert T. Kay and Jerry M. Browning, T/5s Joseph A. Thompson and Henry O. Garcia, Pfc. George Black, Henry J. Clair, Jr., Thomas E. Cleary, Brooks F. Turner, Jose Lopez, Joseph R. Grose, Laurier T. Peloquin, Paul B. Woodbury, Edward Glasser, John Wozniak, Kenneth W. Woehrl, Hymen M. Applebaum, John V. Barrow, Arnold L. Goren, Glenn A. Gottier, Milford O. Janvrin, Glenn J. McNaughton, Jr., John D. Azelvandre, Jr.

And Pvts. Higinio Arce, James D. Brigman, Verrill I. Macomber, Walter J. Weissag, Joseph Naccarato, John M. Grandizio, John W. Hart, Italo J. Becci, Pellegrino Napolitano, Elliott B. Taylor, Richard A. Vasley, Thomas B. Wilt, Willis V. Avery, Will T. Deaton, Lewis E. Heiser, Fred Yeary, Garabed Avedikian, George Ankenbauer, Enoch F. Howard, Jr., Louis A. Levar, Mortimer Sattler, Robert L. Wagner, John P. DeRosa, Glen B. Bird, Henry Cheser, Edward J. Edgeworth, Julius I. Flournoy, Floyd F. Garrett, Stanley Z. Jesionowski, Max Klinow, Donald R. Seamans, Thelmo Green, Robert M. Pickard, James D. McKittrick, Oscar C. Neighbours, Michael Laverne, Billy J. Piper, Guillermo W. Gonzales, Charles A. Cline, Horace P. Horton, Earl A. Rafferty, Ion Baker and Jess Hannah.

One officer also was added to the Platoon when 2nd Lt. Stuart F. Hamill, Jr., was assigned and joined from Hq., 38th Repl. Bn., effective 17 December.

From Oermingen, the Platoon traveled to Gros Rederching, France, arriving at 1300, 15 December. Promotions to sergeant were awarded to Cpls. Maynard G. Bowers, Cleophas B. Edwards, and Walter J. Strugarek, Jr., while filling the corporal vacancies were Pfc. John L. Branche, Frank L. Waugh, Albert E. Bauer, and Pvts. James H. Posner, Theodore G. Samuelson and John E. Werve.

First MP Platoon casualty occurred at Gros Rederching when Pvt., Eugene Carpenter was struck by a fragment



In Gay Paree.

from a German 88 millimeter shell while guarding the Division CP. Carpenter's case was diagnosed an "penetrating wound abdomen."

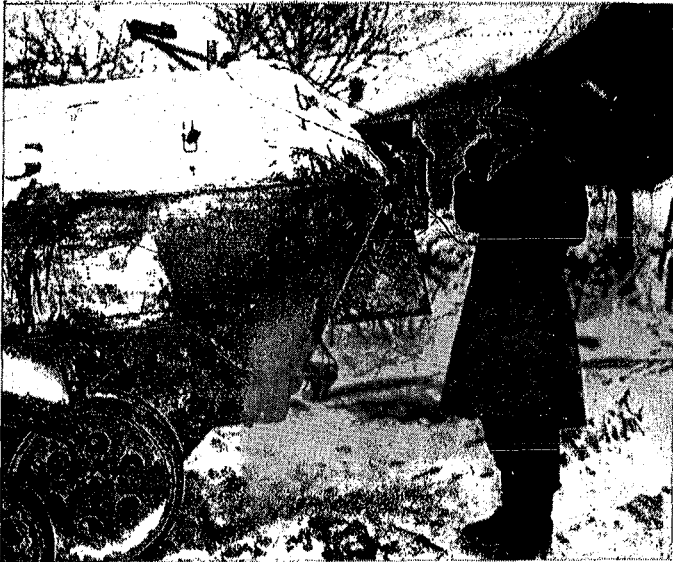
The next week saw the unit doing considerable traveling, moving to Achen, France, on 22 December and from there to Dieuze on Christmas Day. The Platoon arrived at its bivouac area, two miles northeast of Nauroy on 26 December, remaining there for three days and then departing for Bertrix, Belgium, one more country being added to the Platoon's growing "visiting" list.

Six MP's were injured in Libramont, Belgium, on 11 January, when an Engineer truckload of U. S. land mines exploded. The men hurt were Cpl. Bauer, Pfc. Waugh, Avedikian, Gower, Macomber and Pvt. Becci.

Tragedy once again struck the Platoon on 28 January when Sgt. Edward F. Ruzika and Pfc. Pierce A. Thomas were making a road reconnaissance near Gruflange and struck a land mine, Sgt. Ruzika sustaining injuries which necessitated the eventual amputation of both his feet and Pfc. Thomas receiving leg lacerations and abrasions. Both men were sent to the 39th Evacuation Hospital, Ruzika later returning to the United States and Thomas joining the Platoon again on 18 May.

Sgt. Ruzika received the first Bronze Star medal awarded in the Platoon for his duties "in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, from 13 December, 1944 to 28 January, 1945." The medal was sent to England to be formally presented to Sgt. Ruzika by the commanding officer of the 4198 Hosp. Plant, where he was recuperating after his mishap.

On 8 February, at 1430, under a cloudy sky, Platoon headquarters began functioning for the first time on German



Traffic Coming Through.

soil, setting up a center of operations in the town of Auw, Germany. The Platoon was in Auw only four days when it returned to Belgium, but on 26 February, the unit returned once more to the town.

On 7 March, the Military Police further infiltrated toward the heart of Germany, moving to Lissendorf, and on 13 March, after a 64-mile trip, headquarters was established in Bassenheim, not far from the west bank of the Rhine, Germany's last great natural defensive bulwark.

The silver bars of first lieutenant were pinned on the

Definitely



uniform of John J. Davis, who was promoted from 2nd Lt. on 16 March.

The last week of March, 1945, proved to be one of the most eventful in the history of the Platoon. On 23 March, the Platoon CP departed from Bassenheim and moved 10 miles to Gonderhausen, the next day traveling nine more miles to the little town of Buchholz, near the Moselle river.

It was from Bassenheim that a traffic circulation plan was set up to allow the division and its attached units to reach the towns of Coburn and Wunningen, from where the infantry regiments crossed the Moselle on 16 March.

With the towns under enemy observation from the east bank of the river, it was necessary to have a communications system established from the west bank to a screening point, where assault forces were massed until it was deemed advisable to advance to the river's edge. Casualties were kept at an absolute minimum in the towns, despite occasional heavy shelling, because of the manner in which the Military Police kept vehicles spaced during their approach to the river and because a one-way network had been established, so that there would be no conflict caused by vehicles returning from the river.

Two days later, the Platoon was again on the move, this time settling five miles further in Boppard, on the west bank of the Rhine river. The first Military Police unit moved into the town under cover of darkness, remaining there one full day before assault troops began arriving. The town, for three to five miles from the river, was completely under observation by the enemy, which was lodged in the hills on the west side of the Rhine.

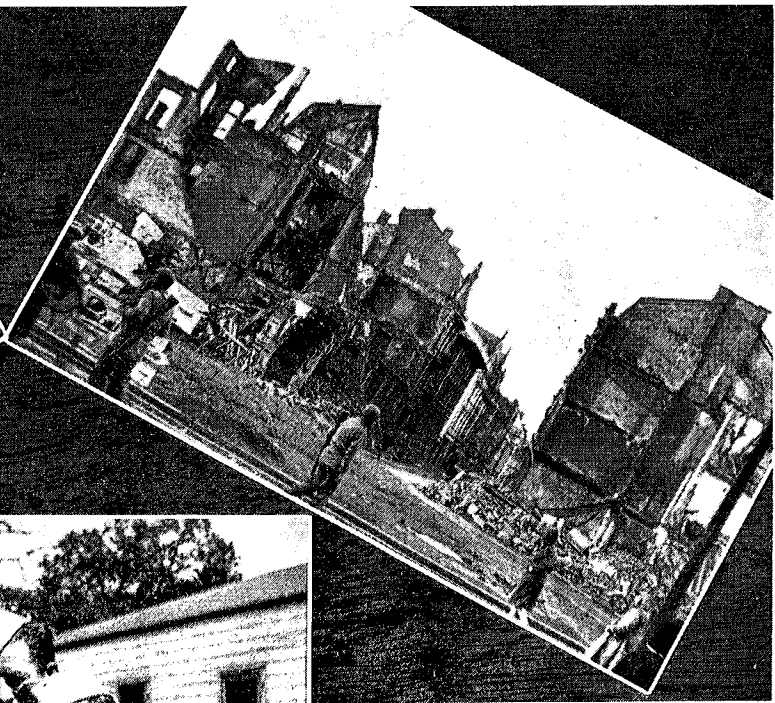
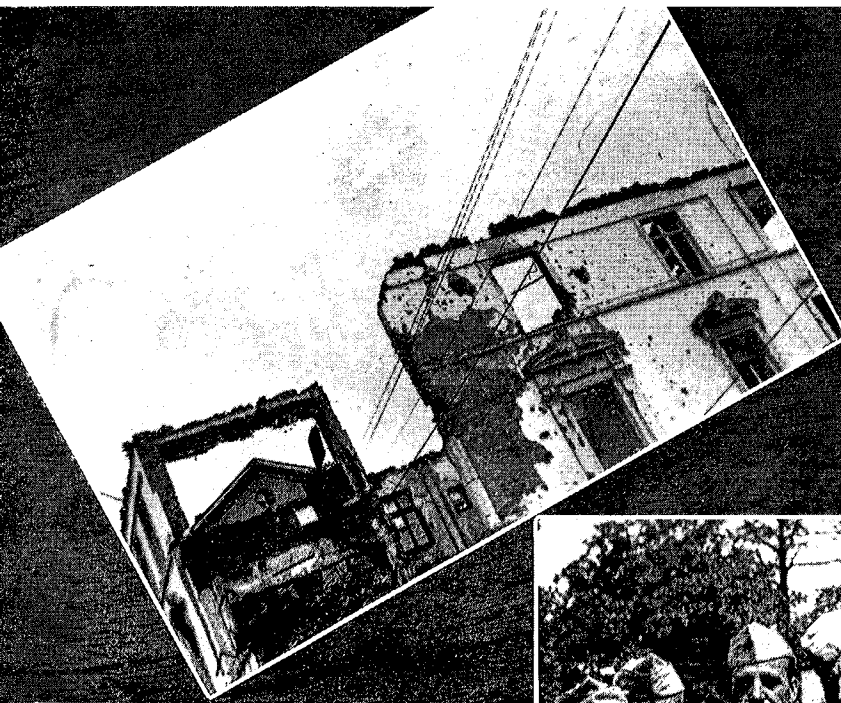
To offset the danger of the enemy observation, it was necessary to move all troops and equipment at night. Despite heavy shelling, the assault wave managed to ferry across the river and establish a foothold on the opposite side. Engineers immediately began building bridges to enable supporting vehicles and troops to reach the Infantry. Military Police posted from the screening area to the bridge site gave the engineers and medics priority on the route to the river and when the bridge was completed, other units were allowed to infiltrate their columns to the bridge and across the river. For 24 hours, before the span was built, and during and after its construction, the area was under continuous shellfire. However, movement of traffic was not impaired and all units were able to advance according to plan.

Only MP casualty was Pvt. Gerard Ackerman, whose left hand was pierced by fragments of an exploded German shell.

As a diverting movement, one regiment crossed the Rhine at Rhens, where more severe shelling was encountered. The duties of the Military Police were the same at this crossing and despite a terrific three-hour barrage, the regiment was led to the river and effected a successful crossing.

Ambushed by Nazi SS troops while traveling in a jeep in Emmerhausen, near Weilmunster, Pvt. Thomas B. Wilt was shot to death, while the driver, Pfc. Lloyd J. Seeker was captured and held prisoner for three days. While a prisoner, Pfc. Seeker was forced to do manual labor, moving German equipment. He was given rations for only one meal during the time he was a prisoner. An Allied artillery barrage laid down in the area put his captors in a state of confusion, so taking advantage of the situation, Seeker struck out for the fields, making his way to friendly troops and returning to the Platoon by 6 April.

On 16 April, 1st Lt. Archibald S. Miller was appointed Provost Marshal, replacing Maj. Tyson, who was placed on temporary duty 23 April with VIII Corps and assigned to 12th Army Group on 12 May. Second Lieutenant Hamill received his promotion to 1st Lt. on 16 May, and after nearly two and one-half years with Platoon, S/Sgt. Milton





*Top: Liberated British EM at Consdorf, Germany.
Above: Liberated British Officers and Non-Coms.*

F. Kasten, acting first sergeant, was transferred 31 May to Hq. Co., where he assumed the first sergeant's post.

With the cessation of hostilities between Germany and the United States, the work of the prisoner of war section of the Platoon came to an end. Since the first 33 prisoners were impounded in the 87th Division cage 13 December, 1944, a total of 30,318 were processed by the Platoon. The figure included 212 civilians and 77 Allied escapers. Most prisoners taken in one day was 3,835 on 8 May, V-day. At least 30,000 more prisoners were sent through division channels after V-day, but no official records were kept in the Platoon.

Lt. Davis was the first officer in charge of the prisoner of war section, with John Masink and Lewis Page the sergeants in charge. When Lt. Hamill joined the Platoon he was given the responsibility for the processing of the prisoners and Sgt. Masink left the PWE to devote more time to his duties as police section sergeant.

Members of the prisoner of war section included S/Sgt. Ellis V. Riley, Sgt. Jerry M. Browning, Cpl. Manuel Perez, Pfc. Higinio Arce, Eddie L. Gattis, Bernard T. Jacobs, Paul W. Reynolds, William T. Millington, Charles Pellegrini, James D. McKittrick, Ermel R. Beckley, Verrill Macomber, Harry Scheidt, John DeRosa, Julius Flournoy, Elliott Taylor, Willis Avery, and Henry Clair, and Pvts. Joseph La-Bone and John Rosencrans.

Lt. Miller was promoted to captain on 1 June, 1945 and on 5 June, 2nd Lt. Theodore C. Martz was assigned to and joined the Platoon from the 347th Infantry Regiment.

First important assignment in the Platoon for Lt. Martz came when he was made train commander as a detachment of nine MP's transported 36 carloads of Russian ex-prisoners back to their own lines. The MP's making the trip were Sgts. Masink and Weir and Pfc. Clary, Earp, Yandell, Gottier, Tischer, Kelly, and Hart.

The ride with the Russians proved to be an experience that none of the MP's will soon forget. Starting with 1,500 Russians, the total number had swelled to 3,000 before the trip was completed, displaced persons and former prisoners of war all frantically seeking transportation home.

When the group left there were enough C-rations to last for three days, but no one had any idea of the complications which were to develop and keep the men away from the CP for nine days.

The trip was started at Seibergrunn, on the Czech border. First main stop was Klingenthal, Czechoslovakia, 24 kilometers and 24 hours away. After four days, the train had reached Komatau, all of 50 miles from the starting point.

All travelling was done by map, Lt. Martz being supplied with no communication system. There was no way of knowing whether or not bridges were in good order. When the train was stopped at destroyed bridges, it was necessary to reverse engines and try a different track.

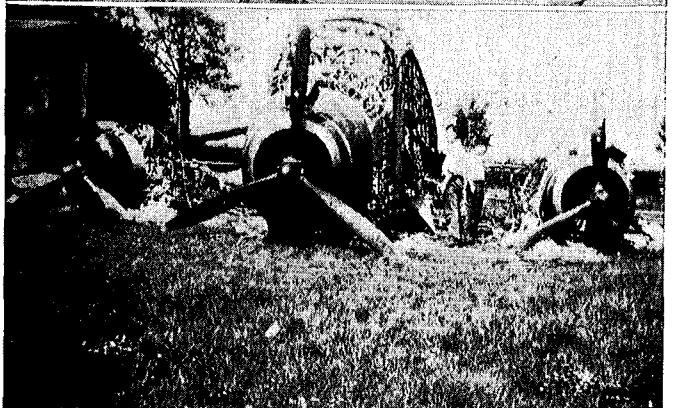
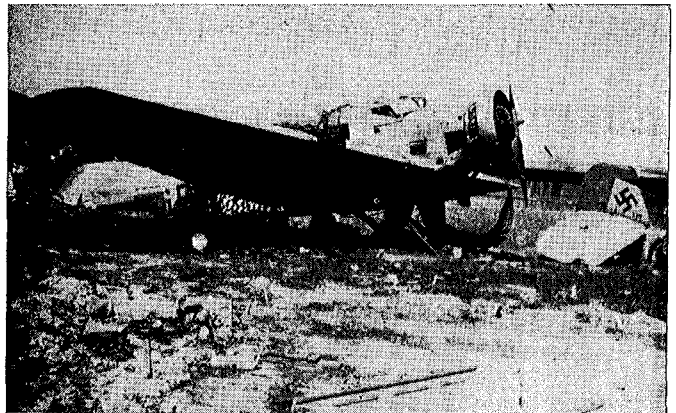
Original destination was Marienburg, but the Russian town commandant refused to accept his people because the town was already overcrowded and there was a shortage of food.

The town of Reisa was as far as the railroad tracks led, but once again the human cargo was refused. Lt. Martz, however, had no intention of taking the Soviets back with him again, so the MP's with their pistols drawn, ordered the Russians to leave the train, told the engineer to fire his boilers, and the trip back to the American lines began.

On the return trip, the men had to turn down requests from about 20,000 people who asked to ride the train to the American lines. None had any desire to remain in Russian-held territory.

The return was stymied temporarily when the train left Karlsbad, only to find that troops of the 1st Division had

German Planes Near Plauen





Russian M. P.



A Great Day.

taken up the tracks. An alternate route was taken, but Lt. Martz' diplomacy was again put to the test when a Czech panzer outfit had to be convinced that it was to the best interests of all concerned that the Czechs move their tanks off the track and allow the Americans to proceed.

So, after nine days, the men returned to the CP at Saalburg, Germany, Lt. Martz laughing at the suggestion previously given to him by headquarters that he take his sleeping equipment with him, because it was "doubted if he would return for at least two days!"

At Saalburg, Bronze Star medals were presented to Capt. Miller, Lt. Davis, Sgt. Hane, and Cpls. Branche and Bauer for "meritorious service."

The Platoon left Saalburg on the morning of 13 June, 1945 and after short stays in Camps Oklahoma City and Lucky Strike, boarded the S. S. Marine Fox at LeHavre, France, taking leave of Europe at 1603, 4 July.

The Marine Fox arrived at Hampton Roads, Va., on 13 July, the men disembarking and traveling to Camp Patrick Henry, where after a speedy processing, individual members of the Platoon were sent to the reception centers nearest their home to receive 30-day furloughs.

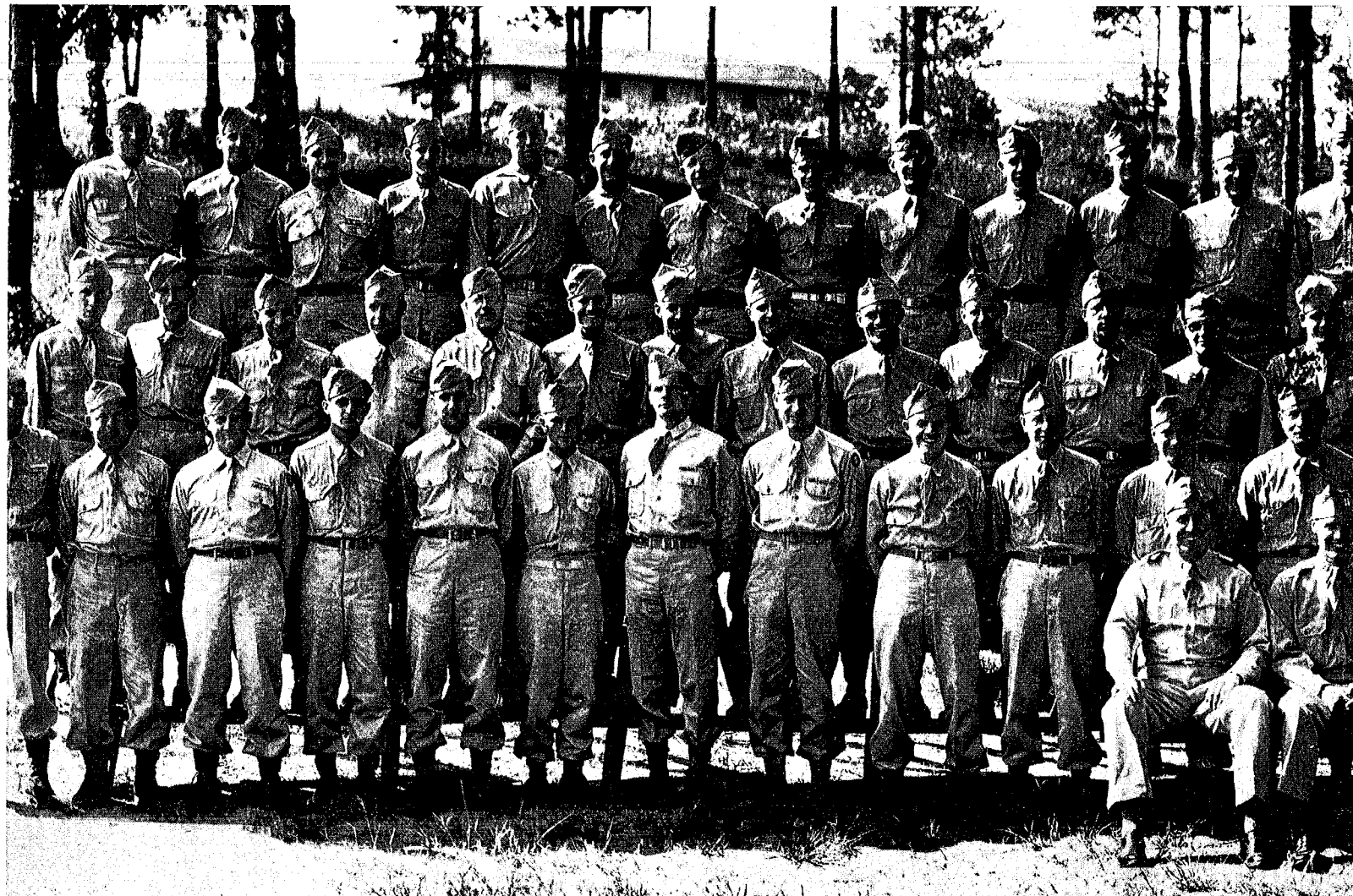
Returning to Ft. Benning, Ga., where the division reassembled, the men learned that the 87th was to be the first combat infantry division to be inactivated.

Thus, the history of the Military Police Platoon came to a speedy end, some men gaining discharges on dependency and over-age, others being shipped to organizations destined for occupational duty in the Pacific, and still others being transferred to units remaining in the United States.

So, in the latter part of August and the beginning of September, farewells were said by buddies, a lot of reminiscing was done—and the MP Platoon of the Golden Acorn Division became a glorious memory.

Home!





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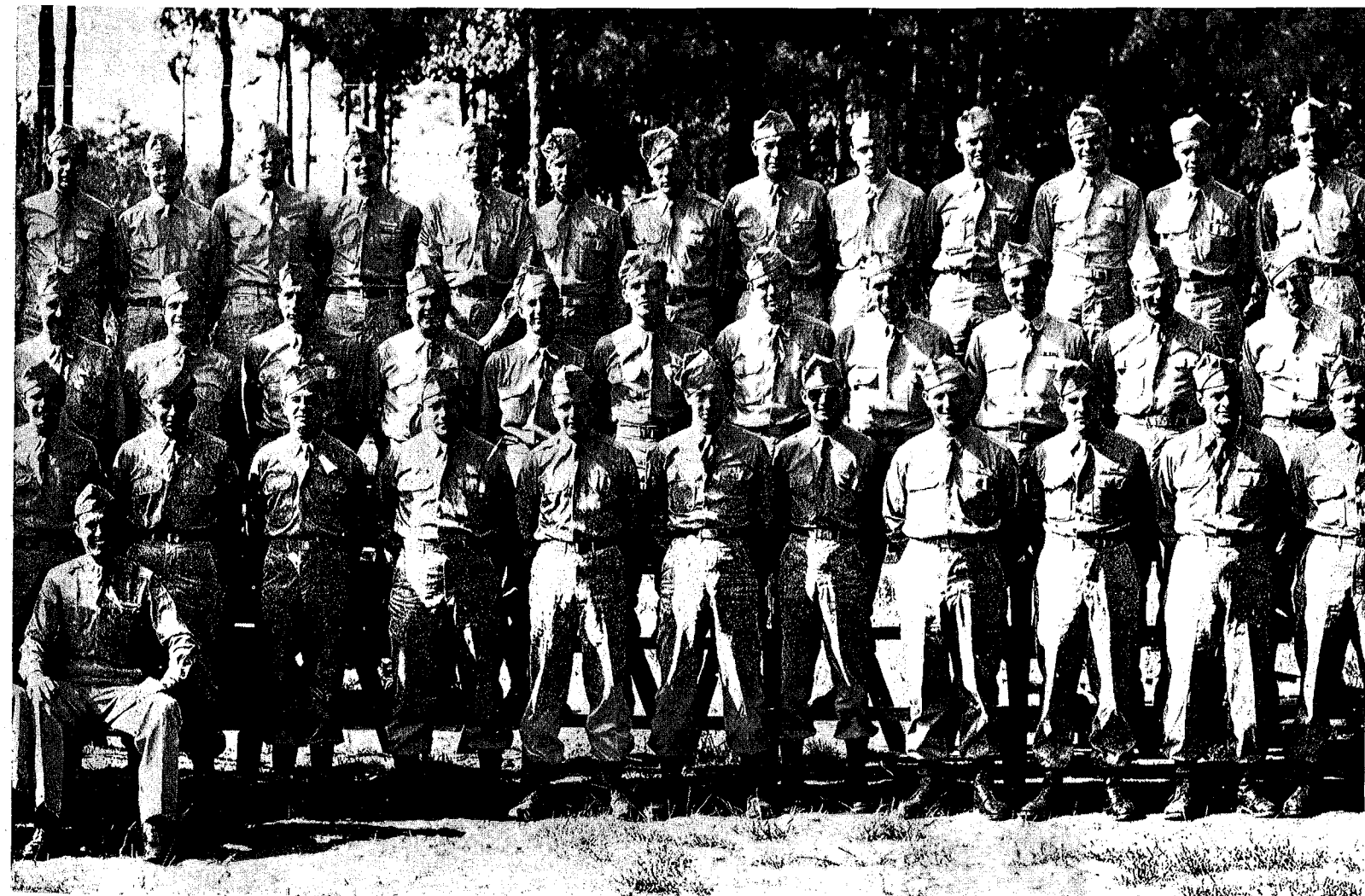
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*Purple Heart
**Bronze Star



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**Bronze Star

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*Purple Heart
**Bronze Star



Waiting to Leave Oklahoma City.



On the Way Home.



87th INFANTRY DIVISION BAND



MUSIC-MAKERS



BAND OFFICERS

Reading from Left to Right: Mr. Taylor and Mr. Shores.

HISTORY — 87TH INFANTRY DIVISION BAND

With little exception the members of the Golden Acorn Band are "old timers" of the division, who, as fillers, arrived at Camp McCain, Mississippi, early in February, soon after the activation of the 87th.

Many of the bandsmen had formerly performed

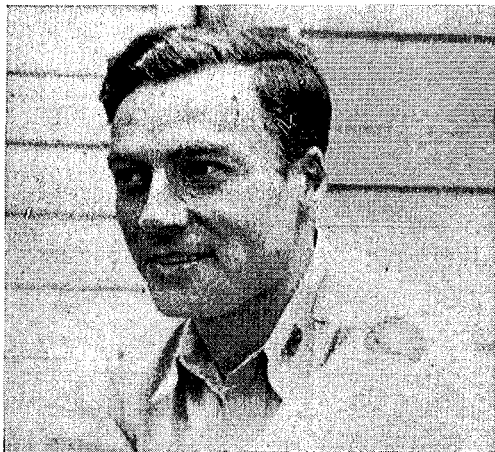
with 'top' orchestras in civilian life, and immediately after the initial rehearsals it became apparent that the 87th band would rank with the best in the Army.

A cross section of the personnel include S/Sgt. Wilbur Sielaff, former member of Al Donahue's

CWO Guy Taylor, Former Conductor of the Birmingham, Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

Sergeant Bill Sielaff, Leader of the "Columbians" Dance Band.

WOJG Richard Shores, Conductor and Musical Arranger Federal Little Symphony, Indianapolis, Ind.



orchestra, Tec/4 Jack Messing, who played swing under Reggie Childs, Tec/4 Sidney Katz, player at the famous 'Stork Club,' New York City, and Tec/5 Thomas Corazon, musician at the Copacabana Club. Tec/4 Cleve Reitz was a trombonist in the well known Goldman Band and Tec/4 Al Antonucci was formerly a member of the Reading, Pennsylvania, Symphony Orchestra.

During the early stages of training the band was divided into two sections. One group, under the baton of Warrant Officer Guy Taylor, played for the infantry units and another group, under the direction of Warrant Officer Richard Shores, made music for the division artillery and Special Troops units. In the autumn of '43, at the start of "D" series, the two groups merged and, under the administration of Headquarters Company, formally formed the "Division Band."

The organization is versatile and can play both symphonic and swing music. The fifty-six piece military band plays for all parades and unit formations, the symphonic band performs the best of Beethoven, Brahms and Bach, and the two dance bands, of Sgts. Sielaff and Norton, are always 'giving out' at the GI dances.

An All-Star Jazz Band, Composed of Well-Known Jazz and Concert Musicians Take Time Off from Their Duties as Litter-Bearers at 312th Medical Battalion Headquarters, to do a Little Jamming.



Band Formation Raising the First American Flag in Saffig, Germany.

Below: S /Sgt. Norton and Band Playing for Medics. Bottom: Division Band, Reorganized in Germany, Plays for General Culin.





French Horn Players Guarneri and Antonnucci.

Bandsman Clest, Johnson, Kirkman, and Contrascio Going on Guard Duty.

Bandsmen Going on Guard Duty.

In addition, within the band is a Little Symphony and Chorus, directed by Warrant Officer Shores, and composed of band members who double on stringed instruments. Also, a third dance band, recently organized by Pfc. Hal Fields.

When the division took a "certain boat trip" last fall, the band put away its instruments and, with the exception of a small "jam" band that played for the boys in the clearing station, did not see the instruments until VE Day. The bandsmen did everything but play music—and did their jobs well. Groups were assigned as guard detail, litter bearers, cooks, K. P.'s (this forgotten group should have been awarded Congressional Medals of Honor) motor dispatchers, supply men, drivers and table waiters. The boys took their work seriously, and

the band even boasts of having captured several German prisoners.

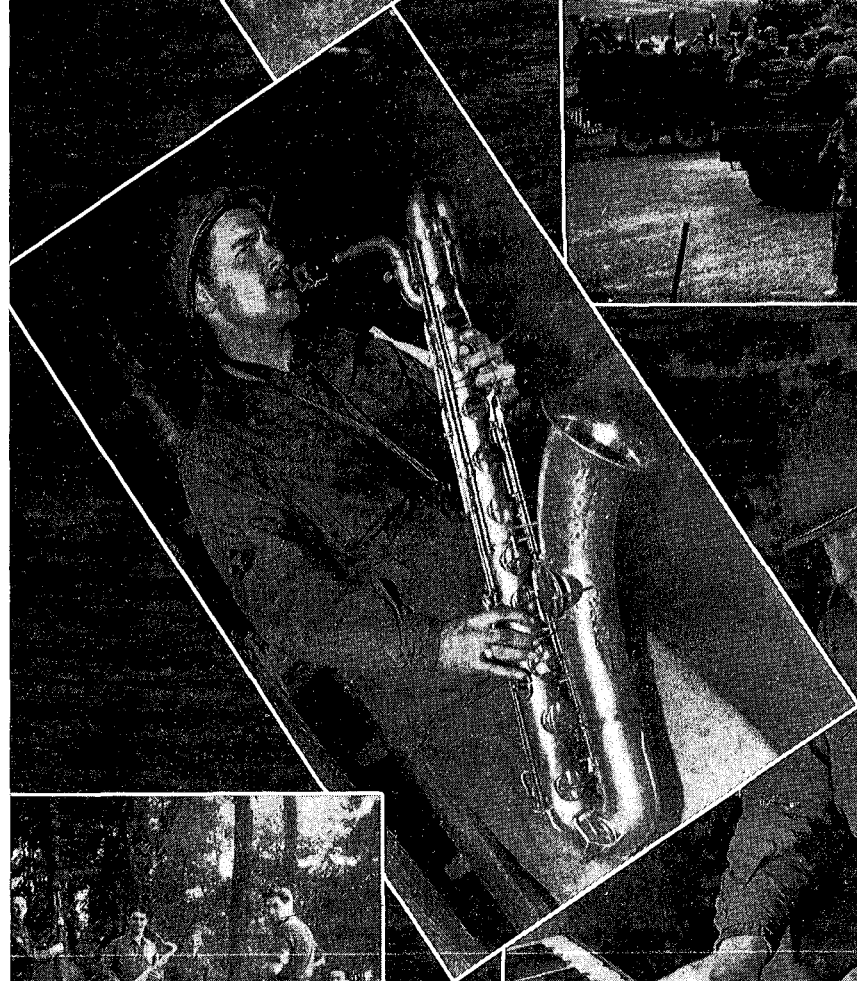
After VE Day, when the 87th went into its first rest period, the instruments were brought from Metz, France, where they had been stored, and the band became the busiest organization within the division. Rehearsals were held every morning, concerts were played in the afternoons, and swing sessions were held every evening.

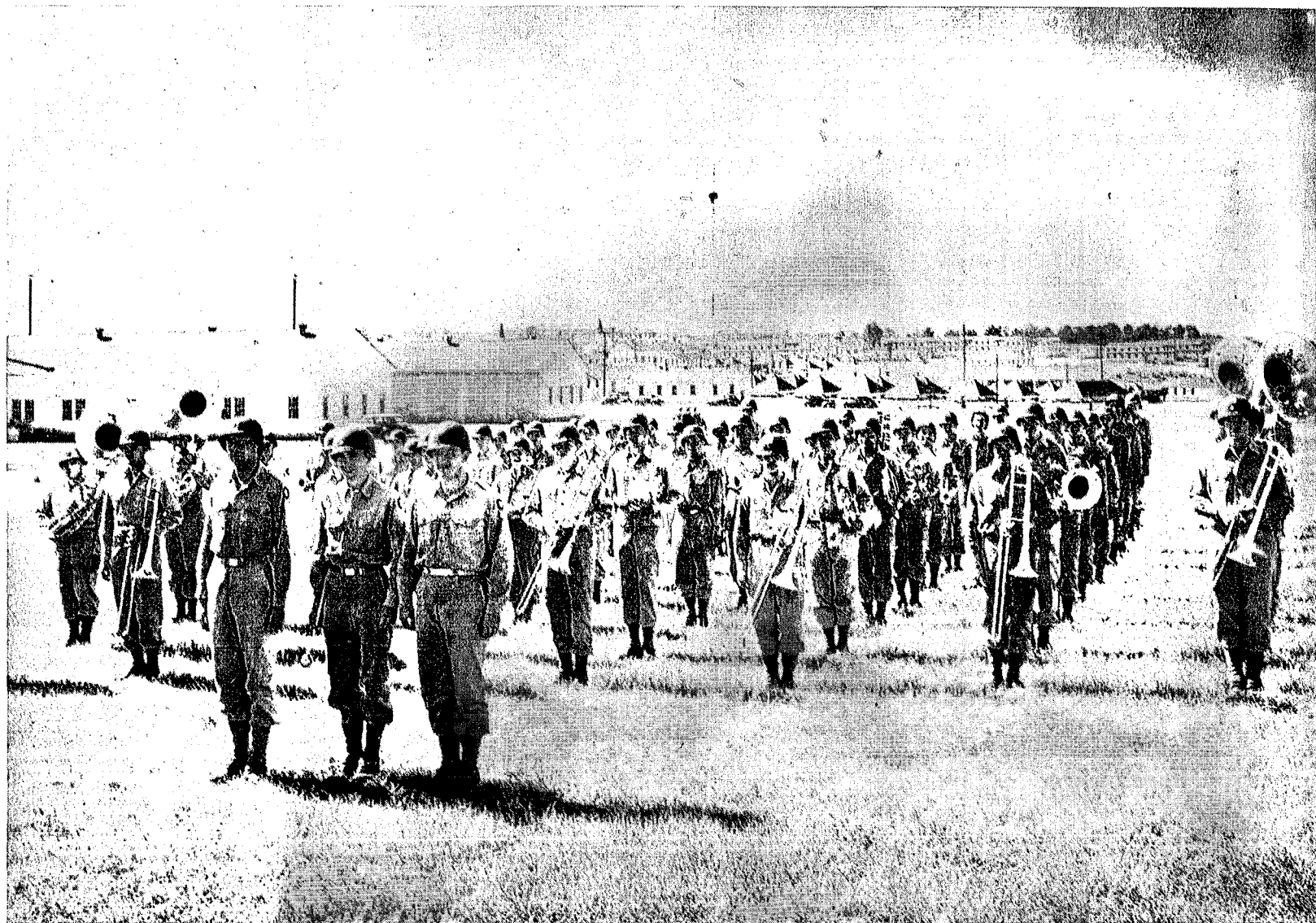
On Tuesday, August 27, 1945, at Ft. Benning, Ga., in the last full division formation, the band was on the job—and now, when the men of the division are leaving for various sections of the country to take up new assignments, the band, the oldest functioning unit of the 87th Infantry Division, is being held as a group, for whatever new assignment it will be given.

Dance Band Playing for a GI Swing Session.

T/4 Ernest Harszy Asleep on a Bandstand Somewhere in Germany.



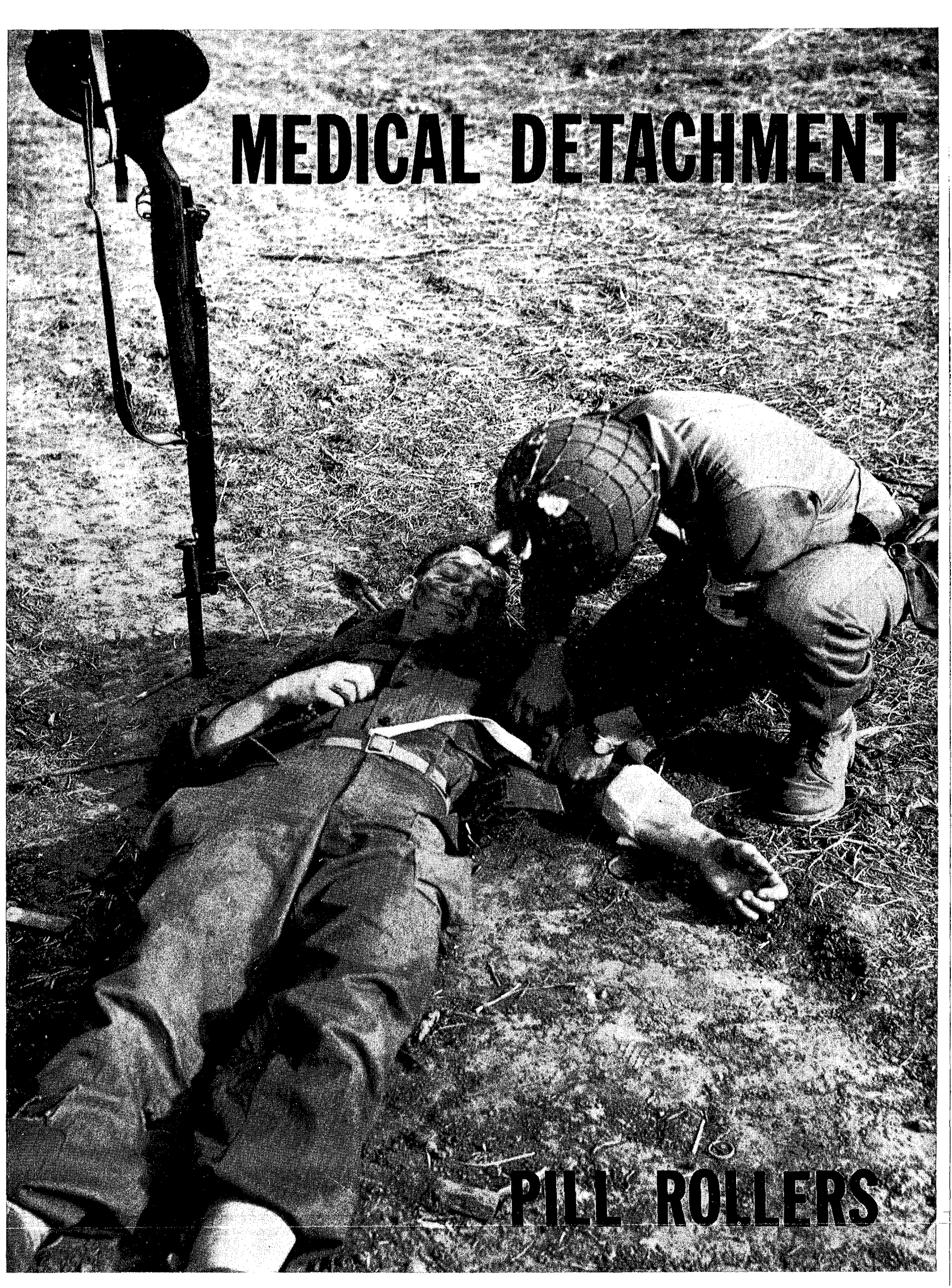




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MEDICAL DETACHMENT



16
PILL ROLLERS



Major Batchelder, T/Sgt. Longbella, Sergeant Parmele.

HISTORY — SPECIAL TROOPS MEDICAL DETACHMENT

“Angel’s of Mercy?” Not these, but they’ll roll up their sleeves and kick their heels with joy when word comes around to sharpen the needles and make ready for shots. “Mercy” may have been expected by the patients but they more than likely received a “Merci” for being the unsuspecting guinea pig.

Special Troops Medical Detachment was formed on August 21, 1943 at Camp McCain, Mississippi with two Officers and 13 Enlisted Men. It followed the Division faithfully through the various stages of training and staging which finally brought them safely back to the United States without any fatalities. The detachment maintained three separate Aid Stations while serving in the ETO. One Aid Station performed with the Forward Command Post, another with the Administrative Section and one with the Reinforcement Training Battalion. Three men, Tec/4 R. E. Vickery, Tec/5 Ray F. Harris and Pfc. Glenn McDonald held assignments as Aid Men with the 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Tec/5 Albert D. Moser served with the 87th Signal Company, Tec/5 Ruthven C. Tolbirt with the 87th Quartermaster Company and Pfc. John B. Leonard with the 787th Ordnance Company.

Duties within the Aid Stations were very similar to those in the States. An occasional gun shot wound, either enemy or self inflicted, would definitely upset the routine of the Aid Station and an enemy artillery barrage would keep us in a whirl for weeks. The civilian populace in several villages proceeded to induct Major W. E. Batchelder and Captain E. M. Fortas as their local Doctors and on several occasions the Major was “alerted” for work in his main civilian occupational classification as an obstetrician. Very ironically Sgt. Vickery, mortician by trade, turned out to be the midwife in the only episode of stork trouble. Captain Fortas was practically drafted as the village Dentist in the village of St. Hubert and still feels that with the current man shortage it would be a good place to begin his practice of dentistry.

Many a cold hand, well placed, sent shivers of shock racing through the patient in those days of Bertrix and Libramont when maintaining an Aid Station warm enough for the patient to produce to view evidence of his latest and newest boil was no easy matter. To use the medicinal alcohol as a warming stimulant instead of its intended purpose as a cooling antiseptic was a great temptation during the weeks of wind and snow.

While Tec/3 A. J. Harber played Doctor with the Rear Administrative Section, Captain Fortas, T/Sgt. Dick Longbella, Tec/5 Steve Pellegrino, Tec/5 R. J. Gannon and Pfc. E. E. Anderson assisted first, Captain Raboteau Wilder and secondly, Captain William Nunnery with the medical support of the Forward Command Post. Sgt. A. T. Parmele and Tec/5 Herman Busch worked under Major Batchelder in examining and caring for the thousands of reinforcements processed through the Division Replacement Training Battalion. Great distances were traveled by the Medical Aid Men attached to the Special Troops Units in bringing in their sick and wounded to the nearest Medical Officer. For attending wounded under enemy fire, Tec/5 Ray Harris, on duty with the 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was awarded the Bronze Star by Lt. Col. James Healy while quartered in the village of Lissendorf, Germany on 11 March, 1945.

Through the Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Germany the Special Troops Medical Detachment functioned with the ease and competence of a veteran group. As long as we had Steve Pellegrino and medical supplies were obtainable through US channels, or as necessity sometimes deemed it,

through German supply, the Detachment was able to play their role as "Angel of Mercy" to the Special Troops Units.

Considering the small complement of men, the Detachment was well represented on the list of awards and decorations given to personnel of Special Troops. Besides the already mentioned award to Tec/5 Ray E. Harris, Pfc. Milton Axel, attached to the 87th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop for Medical Aid was recipient of the Bronze Star for heroic action and the Purple Heart for wounds received while a member of the Division Task Force. Major Walter E. Batchelder, Captain Edward M. Fortas and T/Sgt. Dick Longbella were awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy. Upon the recommendation of Major Batchelder five of the Medical Aid men were presented Certificates of Merit for their excellent work in Medical Aid.

Now that the final battle has been won and the Golden Acorn Division scatters to the four corners of these United States, we feel a little like professional practitioners having completed our assignment as Special Troops Medical Detachment.

AID STATIONS

At Gruflange, Belgium.
At St. Hubert, Belgium.

At Jossnitz, Germany.
At Steinback, Germany.





R O S T E R O F M E M B E R S



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CPL. RICHARD J. GANNON, 6924 S. 13th
St., Omaha, Neb.

CPL. HERMAN BUSCH, 38 Diamond S.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

CPL. ALBERT D. MOSER, 167 Kinsey Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

CPL. R. C. TOLRIRT, Columbus, Tex.

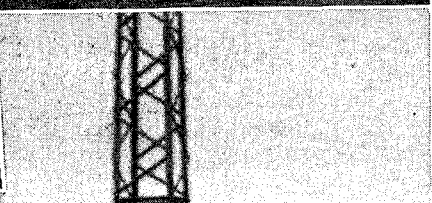
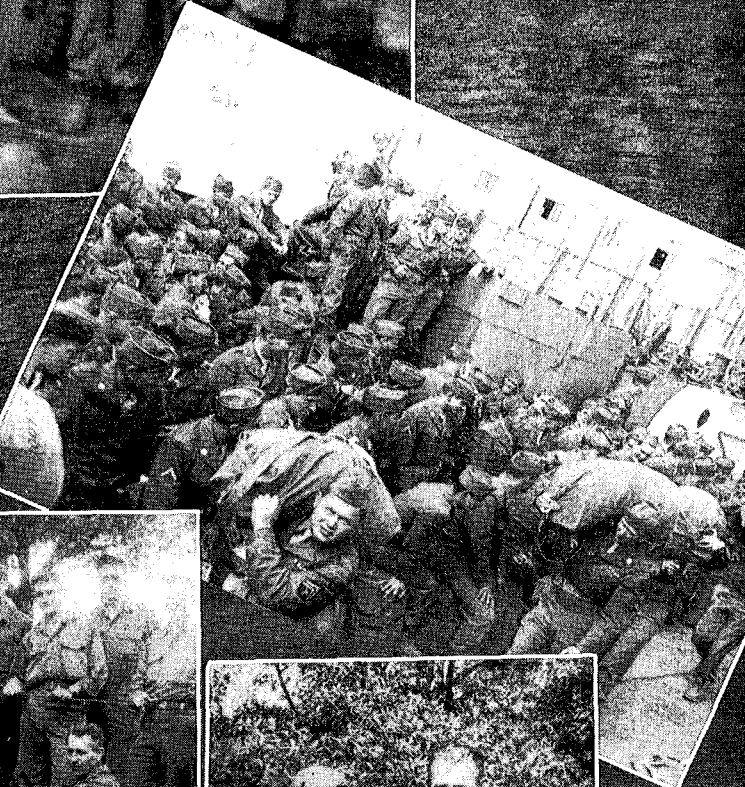
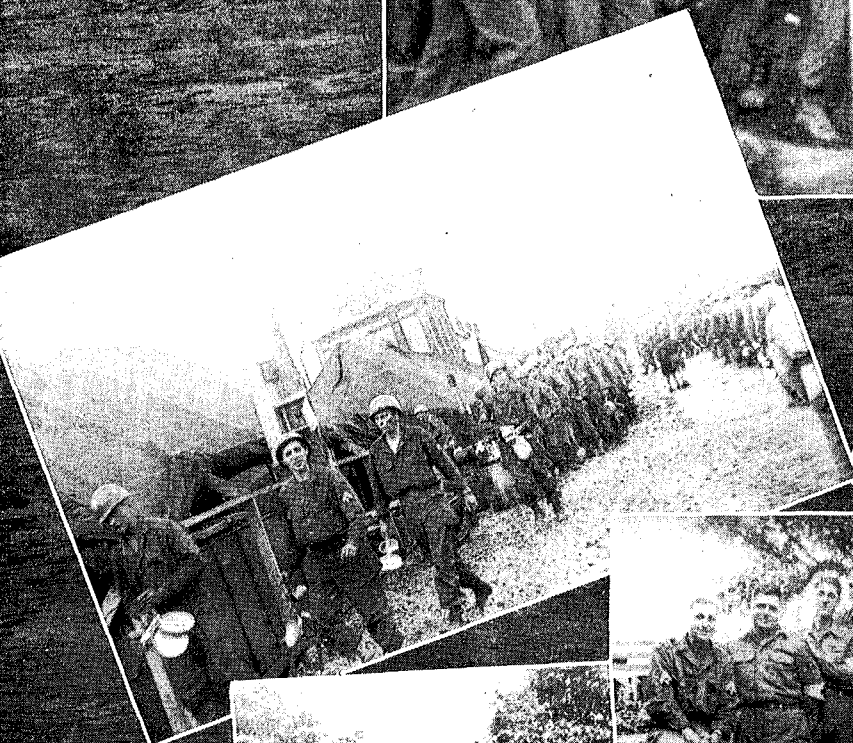
PFC. GLENN C. McDONALD, 601 N. Union
St., Olean, N. Y.

PFC. JOHN B. LEONARD, 114 N. 68th
St., Birmingham, Ala.

PFC. ELMER E. ANDERSON, 527 Cedar
St., San Antonio, Tex.

PFC. JAMES A. CAPICOTTE, Niagara
Falls, N. Y.

**Bronze Star



IN MEMORIAM



*Captain John J. Cleary, Jr., 87th
Reconnaissance Troop, Killed in Ac-
tion near Guiderkirch, France, on
15 December, 1944.*

These are the men who didn't come back.

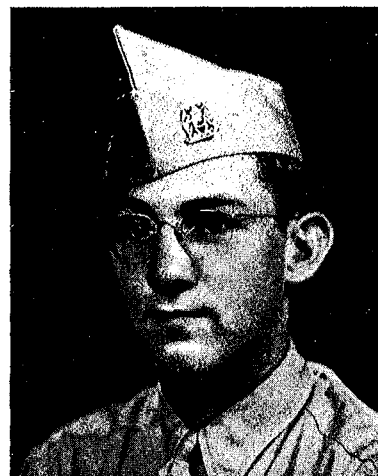
To their families and friends goes the sympathy of every American who opens these pages. To us the living, there remains the never-ending responsibility to make sure that these brave men have not died without reason.



*T/5 Wendell K. Clingman, 87th
Reconnaissance Troop, Killed in Ac-
tion at Wilwerath, Germany, on 9
February, 1945.*



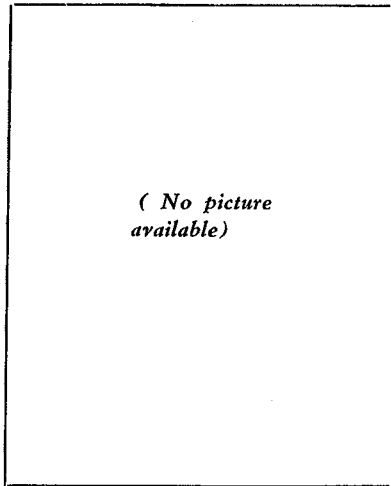
*T/4 Milton E. Delin, 87th Recon-
naissance Troop, Killed in Action
Near Nastatten, Germany, on 28
March, 1945.*



*Pfc. Charles W. Ely, 87th Recon-
naissance Troop, Killed in Action at
Roth, Germany on 4 February, 1945.*



T/5 Robert L. Gibson, 87th Reconnaissance Troop, Killed in Action at Rudolstadt, Germany, on 12 April, 1945.

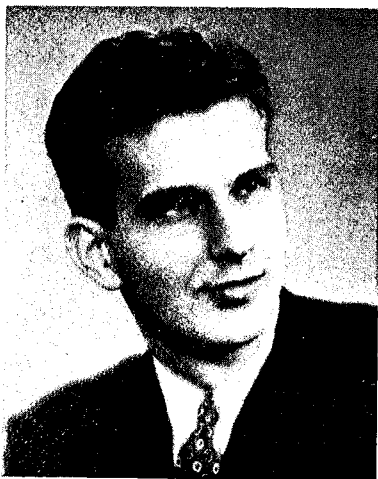


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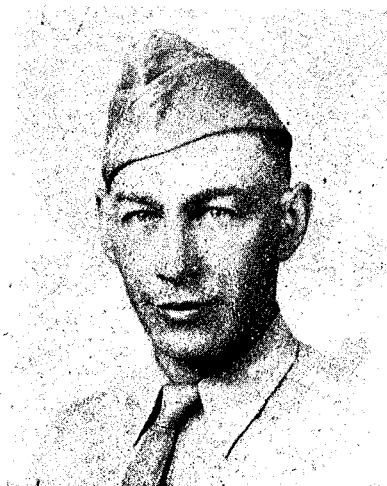


T/5 Joseph F. Petrillo, 87th Signal Company, Killed in Action near Weilmunster, Germany on 30 March, 1945.

Pfc. Joe N. Zabawa, 87th Signal Company, Killed in Action near Weilmunster, Germany, on 30 March 1945.



T/5 Stephen Slabak, 87th Reconnaissance Troop, Killed in Action at Weisbaum, Germany, on 8 March, 1945.



Pvt. Thomas B. Wilt, 87th Military Police Platoon, Killed in Action Near Emmershausen, Germany, on 30 March, 1945.



T/4 Ronald H. Winget, 87th Signal Company, Killed in Action near Weilmunster, Germany, on 30 March, 1945.

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 87th Inf. Div.
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 MASTERSON, John W., T/5, Co. L, Par.
 Trng., 14th Inf., Ft. Benning, Ga.
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 Miss.
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 Youngstown, Ohio.
 WILSON, Harold L., Cpl. 420 Lincoln Ave.,
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*Purple Heart
 **Bronze Star