

HIGHEST AWARD TO 329TH'S 2ND BN

Parting Of The Ways

TO THE MEN LEAVING THE DIVISION

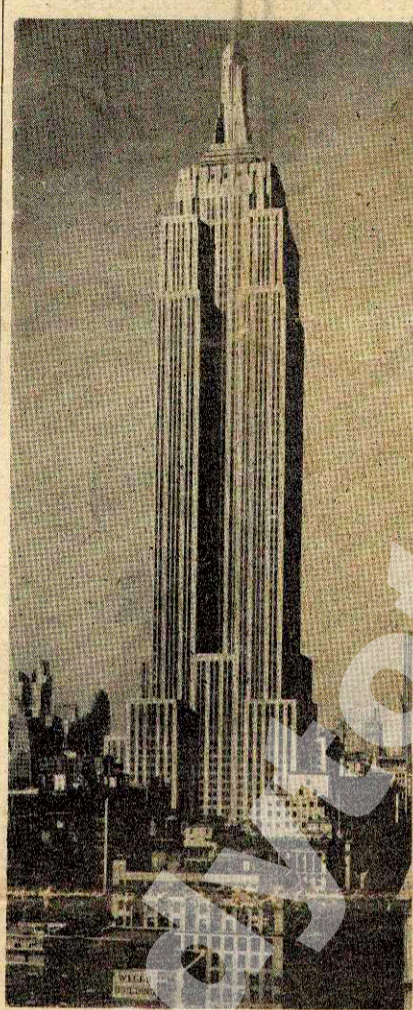
The time has come for you to leave the Division and begin the first leg of your journey toward home and civilian life. That goal is one for which you have longed and striven. As members of this Division, you have demonstrated on the battlefields of Europe your right to all the privileges that citizenship in the greatest nation on Earth can provide.

For almost three years, most of you have lived and fought together as members of a mighty team. The accomplishments of any team are a reflection of the spirit and efforts of the individuals composing it. This Division made an outstanding contribution to victory in Europe because every one of you, and our comrades who fell in battle, toiled and fought to attain a common end. The success of our efforts is a matter of history.

I sincerely hope that each of you will resume his private citizenship with an increased consciousness of the magnitude of our country's problems in a world which has been torn and strained by a protracted, violent war. The world is looking to us for sane leadership and direction. Military victory over the forces of aggression was an important step, but only a beginning. Our country now is concerned with the problem of establishing and maintaining a world order based upon accepted principles of justice and humanity. Each of you, as a citizen, can serve in achieving the realization of that vital purpose.

I deeply regret that we cannot return to the United States together and as a Division. I hope that you will continue to feel, as I do, that you are in spirit members of the 83rd Division. I commend you for the splendid soldierly qualities you have always displayed, and wish for everyone of you, health, success, and happiness. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,
ROBERT C. MACON
Maj. General, U.S. Army
Commanding



NEW HORIZONS. — For the men leaving the Division this will soon become a familiar scene. The Empire State building stands out gracefully above New York's skyline.

One-Third of Men In 83rd Div. Transfer To The 8th Armored

By the 11th of this month, 6500 men with point scores between 65 and 85 will have left the 83rd Division for Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, to join the homeward-bound 8th Armored Division. In return, the 8th Armored will transfer 4600 men with point scores from 45 to 65 to the 83rd.

The move is being made by train, with one scheduled run each day. At four-thirty p. m. daily, one train-load of veterans (about 1100 men) starts its run north-west to Regensburg, then returns north-east toward Pilsen.

Pfc. Fleet B. Sexton of D Company, 330th Infantry, one of those slated for home, remarked, "I can't believe I'm going home in any outfit but the 83rd, but if it takes a change to get home (Beckley, West Virginia) faster, then I'm ready to be transferred."

This transfer of personnel, in addition to causing the departure of the "old men" of the outfit, will have the temporary effect of freezing all promotions until the switch has been completed. When an accurate report on the vacancies in grades can be made after 8th Armored men have taken their place in the Division, promotions will once more be resumed through regular channels.

Latest War Department orders — (expected in the Division in the near future) — call for a recomputation of points for all men with less than 85 points. This recounting takes into consideration all four discharge factors . . . length of service, overseas service, campaign stars and awards, and children. Indications were that the period from May 12 to September 2 will count as four months, giving men of the 83rd eight more points for overseas service since V-E Day.

All men 35 or older who have served honorably in the armed forces for two years may now apply through channels for discharge.

Orders affecting the disposition of men with less than forty-five points have not yet been received.

First Tankers Arrive

First arrivals of low point men from the 8th Armored Division arrived at Vilshofen on Friday morning. The vast majority of these new "Thunderbolts" have point scores ranging between 45 and 65 points.

Their former outfit, the 8th Armored, is scheduled for early redeployment to the United States.

Couple Married in Passau Cathedral

Mr. Gay Toth, special agent for CIC in the Passau landkreis, and Lt. Christine Fromm, U. S. Army nurse at the 110th Evacuation Hospital, had their marriage solemnized at the famous Catholic cathedral in Passau last Friday morning.

Toth met his bride in Clerveaux, Luxembourg, when both were stationed near that town. A former New Jersey state policeman, the special agent trailed the 110th Evac. (and Mrs. Toth) across Belgium, Holland and Germany to slip the gold ring on her finger.

Bridesmaid was Lt. Mary Keily, a lifelong friend of Mr. Toth; Lt. Robert O'Neil, of CIC, was best man.

Mr. and Mrs. Toth are honeymooning at Bad Garmisch, a resort village south of Munich, which, before the war, was known as the "hub" of scenic Bavaria.

Doughs May Borrow Jeep; Go Camping All on The House

Men of this unit, in small groups, may now borrow a jeep or other Army vehicle and spend seven-day furloughs on motor tours within the limits of the Third Army area, the headquarters of Third Army announced this week.

The plan was developed primarily to allow military personnel temporary freedom within their occupation zone to take fishing trips and recreational tours.

Enlisted personnel will be under the control of a designated NCO, and the parties will not be absent more than seven days. Rations for one week and the necessary camping equipment will be provided. A gasoline allowance will be limited to an amount sufficient to permit travel of 300 miles.

Parties making the tours will not be authorized the use of organized recreational areas. The plan is expected to reduce the waiting lists at established leave centers.

Nothing Like A Hot Lunch

GRAFENAU, Germany. — It was a case of mistaken identity, when Frank Lamberti of the 330th Infantry bit into a luscious jam sandwich and wound up with a mouth full of yellowjackets. About the experience Frank simply states, "T'was a hot lunch!"

Dough Makes PFC

GEORGETOWN, Ind. — "I finally made PFC", writes Ben Bryant (formerly a rifleman with the 83rd). After two years in the army, Ben made his civilian rating, when he was discharged from an Indiana separation center on July 24th.

Second Battalion Cited For Gurzenich Action; First in 83rd Division

The Second Battalion of the 329th Infantry Regiment has been awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation, the first award of its kind ever presented to any unit in the 83rd, for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. The action for which the unit was cited occurred in the vicinity of Gurzenich, Germany from December 12 to December 16, 1944.

Newsmen Wanted

Any enlisted man who is not over 35 years of age, who has between 45 and 60 points to his credit under the new computation of the ASR to September 2 and who has a definite desire to become associated with the Division newspaper THUNDERBOLT, should apply immediately in writing stating all qualifications. Send all applications to the 83rd Division Public Relations Office thru Message Center.

The aggressive fighting spirit of the men of the Second Battalion forced a determined enemy to abandon his Roer River bridgehead and relinquish terrain which proved extremely valuable in the large scale offensive across the river which soon followed. Their superb courage earned for them the nation's highest unit recognition.

From positions in the Hurtgen Forest, the Second Battalion, 329th Infantry, launched an attack toward Duren on the morning of December 12th which carried it to the city of Gurzenich. In two days of bitter fighting through dense, heavily mined woods, and constantly under deadly artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, the Battalion advanced to its objective. In the face of heavy fire and direct observation from the enemy its men never faltered.

Having secured a foothold in the city, the Battalion's position became precarious. It had no heavy material with which to defend itself against armored attack and its only supply route was heavily mined. For two days the Second Battalion courageously struggled to clear the town of a determined defense which utilized every basement and window as a pillbox. It repulsed heavy infantry and armored counter-attacks, and, by the 15th, had complete control of the city. On the 16th, a terrific artillery preparation shook the town, followed by a German infantry and self-propelled assault

(Continued on page 5)

Gen. Montague Cites Five 330th Doughs

FREYUNG, Germany. — Brig. Gen. Robert M. Montague, acting as Division Commander in the absence of General Macon, decorated four men with Silver Stars and awarded Col. Robert Foster, 330th Regimental Commander, with the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star here on Wednesday.

The men receiving Silver Stars were: Pfc. Earl E. Ford of Company E; Pfc. Raymond Webb of Company E; Pfc. Walter M. Porter of Company G and Pfc. Richard B. Overcash of Company I.

Governor McCord Gives "Spot" Permission To Go To The States

It's a case of, "love me, love my dog" with T/5 Bruce Hutchison and Spotty, his canine friend. Governor James McCord of Tennessee graciously accepted those terms.

Neither a keg of whiskey nor one hundred dollars could persuade Hutch to part with his four-legged Quiz Dog — both have been offered by eager bidders. Bruce, a member of the division band, became so attached to the little dog during their year of companionship, that he decided to try to overcome the barriers of returning his pet to America. He wrote Governor McCord of Tennessee — Bruce's home town is Nashville — and told him all about the problems involved. Last week a letter arrived from the state executive granting Spot the right to enter the state of Tennessee. With this authorization to back him up, Hutch hopes that there will be no trouble on the trip back.

Spotty's known history dates back to August 9, 1944. At that time the division band was guarding a PW cage near St. Malo. As a barrage came in, Hutch dove into the handiest foxhole. A moment later a squealing bundle of fur dropped on his back and started to burrow underneath the man for protection. Between whimperings and exploding shells, Hutch noted that his buddy was a young puppy very much in need of food. After the barrage came food, and from then on, Spot trailed Hutch.

K-9 Intelligence

As time went on and the pup matured, Spot's native intelligence became apparent. No ordinary tricks would satisfy either dog or master. After "sitting up" had become ridiculously easy, a stone was placed on the dog's forehead, and the trainer slowly moved back. At the snap of a finger, the stone was nudged into the air and caught in Spot's mouth.

With the progression of his education, Spot became the pride and joy of the band and the inevitable topic of conversation for letters home.

There were a few sad moments even in the life of such a loved mascot. One time in a move across France, Spot missed the truck. Anxious bandmen retraced their route for thirty miles, and, finally at midnight, were re-united with Spot in a French home. Other bad times were experienced when "Jerry" shrapnel gashed the favorite, but long faces gradually brightened as the dog recovered.

The dog's most grueling time during his four campaigns occurred when he was "shot" for typhus and tetanus. He took it like a veteran trooper — only yelped once. But, to quote our hero, the whole ordeal was, "Ruff!"

83rd Thunderbolt

Official Weekly Newspaper of the
83rd Infantry Division

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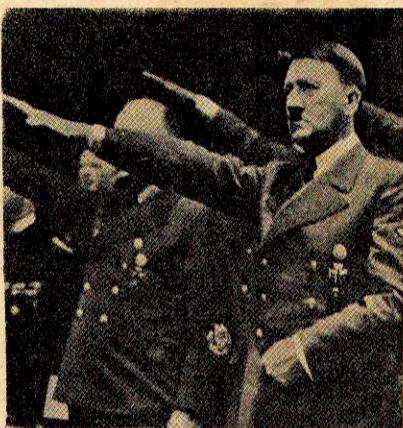
Editor — Sgt. Robert J. Vierhile News Editor — Pfc. James Townsend
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Features - Pfc. Maury Renek Photographer - Pfc. Michael Vaccaro
Unit Correspondents - Sgt. Ray Gougen, 329th Inf. . . . Sgt. Grover Crawford, 330th Inf. . . . Sgt. Jack Straus, 331st Inf. . . . S/Sgt. Jim Mellman, 83rd Arty.

First In A Series

THE NAZI PARTY SALUTES YOU!

It was military security that made the non-fraternization ruling. It was common sense that relaxed the fraternization laws after the war was won. It is downright stupidity that is making these relaxed laws an important tool for the Germans to use against us. The sensible idea of fraternization has now given way to ignorant coddling of the Germans. Rules that should be strictly adhered to are being carried out in unexcusable half-hearted manners.

The most shameful thing a sober American can witness is the unnecessary social kneeling of all types of our soldiers to Germans on the streets, in cafes, and even at military installations. A man ignorant of the results of the war would have a very trying time finding out who was the victor and who the vanquished. Due to their positions, the men most noticeably found in this relaxed interpretation of the non-fraternization rules are MPs and military agencies, set up to overcome the insurmountable civilian problem of "Festung Europa". Besides these specialized groups, high on the list of coddlers is the GI himself.



Fraternization is one thing — coddling is much worse. The conspicuous silence concerning our self-participation in reducing these fraternizing rules to an absurdity is convincing enough to show that we know we are doing wrong. To the important persons in our life, the people we left back home, we make no bold claim that we fraternize. The women of Europe who once looked at us in respect now look at us in contempt. Never before in the history of time has a barbarous race received such lavish treatment from a conqueror. One is easily liable to get the impression that we came here to act on apologies rather than principle.

In the twenty-five year interval between wars, science went from Big Berthas to atomic bombs. Heedless of this warning, the American soldier, like the legendary moth, still continues to flirt with the inevitable flame of destruction. The last generation failed dreadfully, and a "strike" was called against us before we could see what was happening. In our second useless attempt to "democratize" the Germans, another strike cannot be called. Science, with its destructive powers, has cut down the rules to two strikes and out. In spite of this, little effort is being made to lift even the bat off our shoulders.

The German people are the most despicable on earth. They've played you, the great American soldier, for the great American sucker, and brother you're acting your part better than any celebrity in the world today. Your bravado attitude that you, like the kings of old, "can do no wrong" is only a cheap papier mache mask of unrealism. Your ostentatious swagger and pompousness is leaving little in a soldier to respect. If you are being impressed by your diplomatic work, then make your curtain calls before a mirror because your German audience is bored by your rot.

The tragic fallacy of all this is that you meet a German in one town with the impression that that he or she is allright. Town after town, it's the same old story of you picking out the German who wasn't cheering for Nazism to rule the world. Well, if there are good Germans wherever you go, then just name a few:

- WHO is responsible for the 16,000 casualties of this Division?
- WHO operated places like the Dachau concentration camp?
- WHO killed the 1,700 men who wore the same shoulder patch that you do?
- Somebody was doing all of that shooting. WHO?

The rolling drum of the German militia, the howling satanic chant of "Seig Heil", "Seig Heil", "Seig Heil" is so firmly inbedded in the German that it is practically an anatomical part of him. Along with his legs, his arms, his body, it is born in him. After birth it is cradled, nurtured, and developed along with his natural growth. Trying to democratize him with leniency is admitting defeat openly. The wise saying of "taking the bulls by the horn" can be readily applied in this case.

There is no reason why the German shouldn't treat you with his curdled milk of human kindness. Every time he smiles at you, the shorter will be the time that you'll have to stay on his homeland. You want to go home and that German wants you to go twice as bad.

When the lava of Germanism rolled its bed of death through the old world, there wasn't one group of dissenting voices to be heard among the roaring waves of "Seig Heil", "Seig Heil", "Seig Heil".

The smoothness with which fraternization gave way to "coddling" places emphasis on the German opinion that our conquest of their country is at its most — insignificant.

Letter From JENNIFER

Dear Charlie:

I was very sorry to get a letter from you today. I hadn't heard from you in over two weeks and I was almost certain that you were coming home. Then, you go and spoil it all by writing.

Bobby took me to the movies the other day, and when the picture finished, a sign appeared on the screen saying that this and all other recent motion pictures were sent to the boys overseas. Bobby said that when he was stationed with the Air Force in London he always went to see the latest movies. You never wrote me about seeing all those new pictures. In a way, I'm glad you don't write about them, because it would spoil my interest if you told me the plot. The Army has all the good movie projectionists. The other night when I went to the movies, the sound was so low I could hardly hear it. Besides that, the film itself was fluttering and was so hazy they had to stop it for a few seconds. It must be nice to go to a GI movie without having annoying things like that happen. I'll be glad when the Army releases all those good operators and film.

Bobby is seriously thinking of staying in the permanent Army if they allow him to retain his second lieutenantcy. I put his silver wings on my strapless evening gown, because it's so much nicer than your Combat Infantryman's badge. You know Charlie, you still haven't answered my question: "Do you fraternize?" (Bobby, stop! I thought Congress made you a gentleman!)

Privately yours,
Jennifer.

ENTERTAINMENT

PAISANO. — A musical variety show. Starting in the 329th area on September 9th, the unit, consisting of four entertainers, will tour each regiment for one week.

HUNGARIAN MUSICAL. — A musical comedy of Hollywood, starring a cast of 70. Featuring a 35-piece Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the former conductor of the Budapest Philharmonic, the unit offers classical entertainment. The experienced cast is replete with comedienues, ballerinas and singers, plus a beautiful chorus. The unit is now playing in the 331st area and will continue its tour around the Division.

BEYOND THE BLUE

by Maury Renek

THE MAN IN THE MANHOLE

War, with its predatory tentacles, has brought about a wave of recklessness. Only the man of men was able to beat off this temptation. The following is a story of such a man who, combined with others of his clique, formed the unwavering backbone our country needed at home while evil and lust were reaping their harvest.

If you live right, and, going on the optimistic assumption that you do, we know you have nothing but respect for the man who most work in a manhole. Confined to small quarters he has time to mature his thinking and become a steadying influence on the people around him. His study of human nature is down to a minute (not to be confused with sixty seconds) science.

During the darkest days of the world when it looked like wedgies would never go out of style, the man in the manhole was doing his silent, heroic job. People rushed to the lavish-paying war jobs while a tidal wave of recklessness, daring and gaiety was reaching its heights. Everything was a hub-bub of hullabaloo and howinthehellareyou. This period of plenty affected the whole world except the manhole man, who just drew the cover over his head and entered his dark sanctum of solitude. Once in his cramped cylindrical hole he was free to roam the world.

The Woman in the Manhole

He lived a sanctuary life that would have been the envy of monks and Greta Garbo alike. Only once in his entire brilliant career did someone invade the privacies of the hole he liked to call his home. It happened a few summers ago during a sweltering day when he just had to take the cover off. Once he had flipped the lid he had an unexcelled vantage point from which to view the physical culture and underwear problem of the young women of America.

It wasn't too long before he caught the eye of a certain young lady and invited her down to his manhole for a glass of iced tea. One glass led to another and before our hero knew it he was feeding her his precious Scotch. One bottle of Scotch led to another and, before our hero knew it, he was married. The marriage, unfortunately, was never a success, not only because he couldn't get any scotch, but because his wife, unable to understand the value of an Utopian manhole, started to domesticate his domicile. The bricks were wallpapered and the manhole cover was now draped. This radical form of manhole decoration played havoc with his political thinking.

His ideas and opinions started to swerve far left of center. The day his wife put on the red and black polka dot manhole curtains it unnerved him so that he went right out and voted for the straight Communist ticket. There was no denying he was upset and the psycho-effect of the curtains was that Chili Williams kept appearing in his dreams as a full blooded Chippewa.

Something had to go, his wife her curtains, or the Communist party. On the birthday of Marco Gutternsnipe, the manhole king of this century and designer of the new wide slit covers that are guaranteed to catch even dollar bills, our hero celebrated this Manhole Bastille Day by throwing all three out. When asked by the judge, "Why he couldn't make a go of his manhole marriage?", he replied justly: "She took too much advantage of all the freedom I allowed her in the manhole."

The Curtain Falls

Once divorced, he was free again and went back to his life of deep thinking and iced tea with plenty of sugar and no women. His main ambition was to bring up his son to follow in his footsteps in the manhole business. All this was fine, because, before the war, the manhole trade was coming into its own as a respectable job along with the city street cleaners. Since the war began, though, the trade has been hit hard. Walter Winchell, in cracking down on isolationists, accused him of the worse form of isolationist "manholeism". He was an outcast socially, politically, and what's more, he still couldn't get any Scotch. These were definitely dark manhole days.

The golden era of the manhole was crumbling all around him and "manholeism" was reaching its downfall. They linked his name with Fish Nye, Rankin, Lindbergh and the rest. Growing up in this environment, his son soon developed a fiendish hate for manholes. Hated by his son, scorned by the people, blackballed by Winchell, he was now considered a top notch celebrity and was invited to all the big scotch and soda parties. Dowagers, even skinny ones, donated money to build up "manholeism". This didn't work out as the money, in turn, went to bartenders who didn't give a hoot about anything if they couldn't sell it for four bits a shot. Our hero, after many wet years, died a rummy and saved the fair name of "manhole" from being dragged through the gutter. The last statement heard from his deathbed was: "Damn those red and black polka dot curtains".

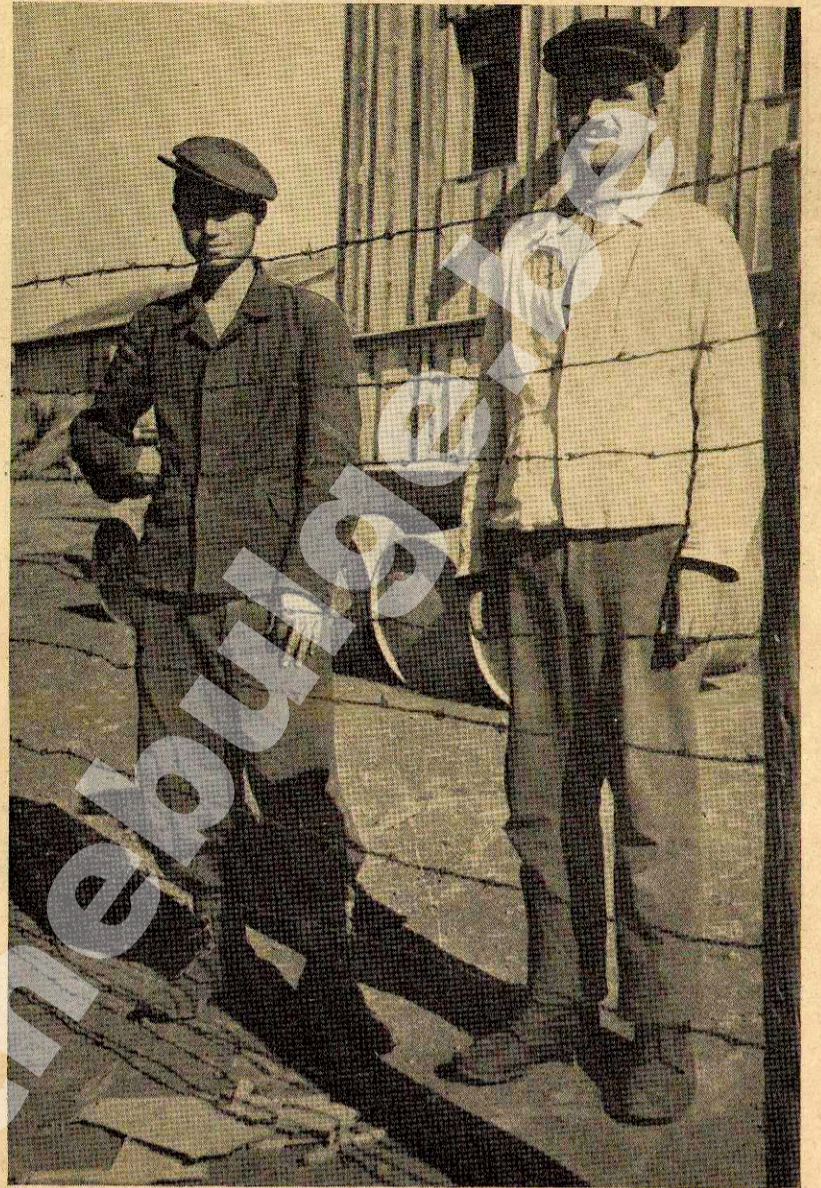


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**THE
CAMERA
EYE**

Upper Right

MEN WITHOUT A COUNTRY. — Urej Leoned of Kransnodar, Russia (left) and Magereja Stefan of Poltava (right) are shown within the barbed wire of the Sonndorf PW cage operated by Company F, 330th Infantry. These former Russian soldiers fought with the Germans after their capture.



Upper Left

TRAFFIC COP — T/5 Robert Scott of Battery B, 323rd FA Bn., keeps traffic moving between Austria and Germany over the Inn River Bridge at Passau.



Left Center

COL. ROBERT YORK — is decorated by Gen. Macon with a cluster to the Bronze Star.



Right Center

STACKING — "C" rations at the Vilshofen supply dump are Pfc. Harold Bower (left) and Pfc. Frank Constantino (right) both of the 501st QM Railhead Co.



Lower Right

ATHLETIC AWARDS. — T/5 Kenneth J. Delaney of the 331st Inf. receives a certificate of recognition for his track achievements from Gen. Robert C. Macon.

Lower Left

CLOSE PLAY AT FIRST. — 1st Lt. Dick Moder of the 322nd FA Bn. is put out by Capt. "Chuck" Charles during one of the latest games in the Divarty loop.



In The
BULLPEN



with Bob La Vine

With the huge redeployment program taking place all over the ETO, it might be a good idea to stop and take a look around, and see just what the 83rd has accomplished in the line of athletics this past summer.

First of all, let's bore a knot-hole through the fence and peek in on the BASEBALL picture. A Division league was formed on July 7th, containing six teams — the three Infantry Regiments, Divarty, the Medics, and the Tankers. Games were scheduled for every Sunday, Wednesday, and Saturday, on a home and home basis. Training forced Divarty out, and the Tankers had to roll to newer fields; thus on the 25th of July, the schedule was revised with the four remaining teams, although the previous games counted.

An ALL-STAR TEAM was supposed to have been sent to Corps to represent the Division in the championships, but as often happens, something went awry, and the team was composed mostly of 331st players with a few last minute pick-ups. They were eliminated in the second game. At present, the TTF team has won the pennant, and a real all-star squad has been selected to play other divisions. Besides these, games were played among the Special Units.

SOFTBALL has been the mainspring throughout the smaller units, and leagues were formed between companies and battalions. The team sent to play at XII Corps was also eliminated, this time in its first game.

The TENNIS SITUATION was a great deal brighter. Matches were started in Passau on the 28th of June with 30 contestants. Emerging singles champ was T/Sgt. Donald Hume of the 331st. Hume went on to take the Corps crown, became Third Army doubles king, and was in the ETO play-offs in England. As far as general participation went, however, there wasn't much doing, due to the lack of equipment.

A 736th Tanker took the Division HORSE-SHOE title, and from there on T/5 Earl Green continued to bowl over all opposition in Corps and Army. He was runner-up in the ETO tournaments, and won the doubles title with a Third Army mate. Courts have been set-up throughout the area for those who enjoy the game.

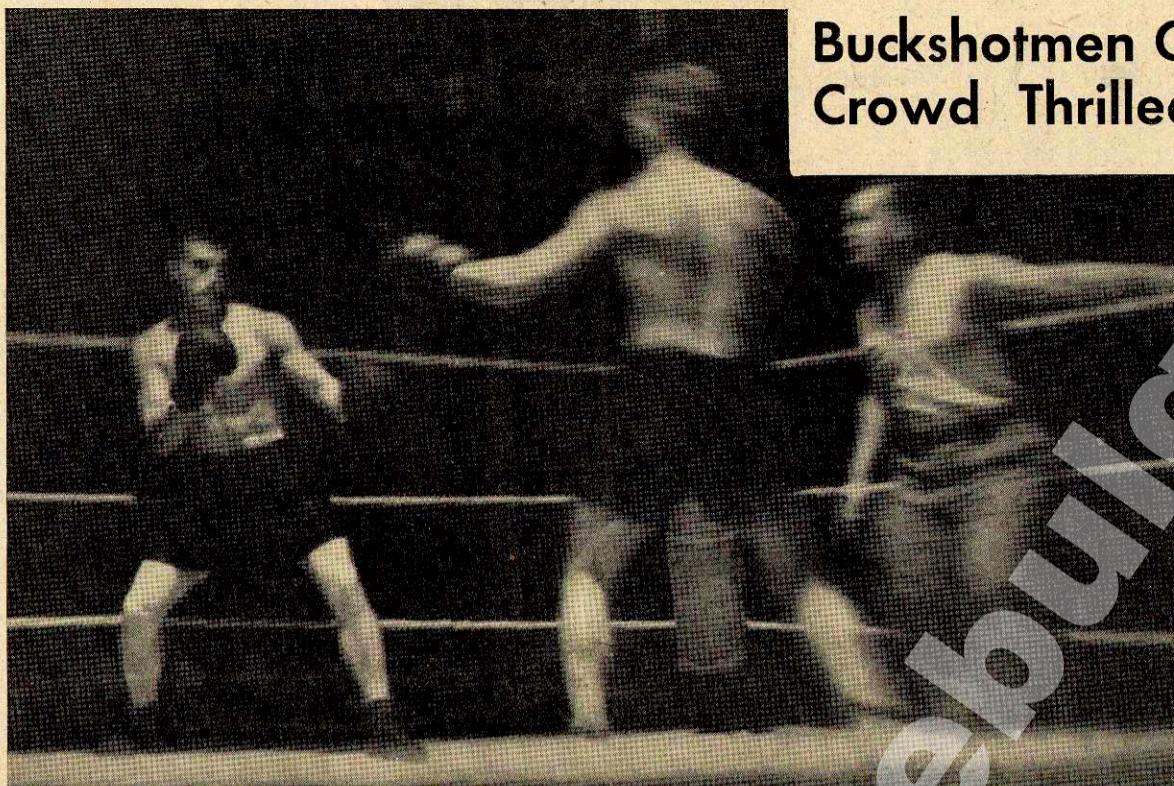
SWIMMING has been encouraged, and besides the copious streams and ponds around, the Passau pool has been open all summer. A swimming meet was held there on July 7th. From this, the Division team was picked to participate in the XII Corps championships. With a total of 152 points, the Thunderbolts won. Eight 83rds took four places on the Corps team at the 3rd Army meet. Three of them represented the Army at the ETO event, and T/5 Tom Anders, a 908th Artilleryman, was crowned Theatre breast-stroke champ. At present, "Long Tom" is in Rome swimming against the MTO men.

The Division boxing tournaments at Passau Arena, which ended Sunday, climaxed an intensive program which started about two months ago.

Football equipment has been distributed with the idea of forming regimental and a Division team, but the current switch of personnel has postponed progress until things are somewhat settled.

There were plenty of snafus, delays, and just plain apathy, but on the whole, when you consider that just a few short months ago you were oiling up an M-1 instead of a ball-glove, it hasn't been such a bad deal after all. And it's usually the one who sits back and does nothing, who gripes the loudest about the sports situation.

TTF Glovers Annex Four Titles



Buckshotmen Garner Three; Huge Crowd Thrilled By Close Fights

MIDDLEWEIGHTS — "Big Bill" Nickells of F Company, 329th Inf., (left) comes off the ropes in the second round of his fight with Chet Kolemian of the 331st. Nickells took the bout on a decision, thereby annexing the middleweight title for the 329th Regiment. The third man in the ring is Capt. Elliot of the 102nd Division.

What was probably the largest crowd ever to turn out for an 83rd sports event packed itself into the Passau Sports Arena on Sunday night to witness a slam-bang, knock-down, drag-out affair to decide the Division boxing titles.

The Sabbath card wound up the Division tournament which started as far down as squad championships, and ended up in the four day event at the Arena, under the able management of Lts Wilson and Frye of the 83rd athletic department.

Al Jackson, a 331st slugger from Philly, beat Joe Mackara, the 330th's promising youngster, on Wednesday

Heavy Bout Protested

DEGGENDORF, Germany — The athletic office of the 329th Infantry has protested last week's decision regarding the heavyweight boxing title. The title was given to Nelson of the 331st last Sunday evening after he had been beaten by Gaybrandt of this regiment. The reason for Nelson's winning the trophy hinged on the fact that he was the only contestant entered at fight time. A re-match has been suggested.

Wild Battles Flared During Sunday's Division Title Matches At The Arena

Five tournament and one exhibition match closed the curtain on the 83rd Division boxing program at the Passau Arena Sunday night when the 331st took four titles, the 329th took three and Divarty captured one.

Fernados Velquez forfeited his match to Al Jackson in the bantam class. Both men were from the 331st. Uvon Roundy, another TTFer, took the light-weight crown the same way over his regimental mate, Elmo Sorrels.

Vakas wins first fight

The first fight of the evening was between the Buckshotter, Norman Papineau, and the winner, Jim Vakas of the 331st and nation's capital. The two featherweights started it off together with Vakas finding Papineau a little more often. They stood toe to toe several times and thrashed it out, although Vakas seemed to get Pap against the ropes, and got in several good blows to the face. When Jim came out for the third round his left eye was bandaged, but he continued to press the fight and was adept at rushing.

Barbour Cops the Welter Crown

Bill Barbour, a 322nd Artilleryman from Rhode Island, grabbed the welterweight crown from Chicago's George Geron of the 331st in a closely contested bout. No time was wasted when the starting bell sounded. Both went in punching. Geron slipped to the canvas in the first, but got up immediately. Barbour's long looping blows were murderous, and he kept them up throughout the bout, never tiring. Barbour looked as if he was out for blood in the second round as he pushed the fight to Geron. Both were terrific swingers, and although Geron

908th Has Record Season

This summer saw the most intense athletic program that the 908th FA Bn. ever presented. During the course of the season, more than 150 softball games were played within the battalion alone.

The league was flush with such hot pitchers as Carne of A Battery, Ole of Hdqs. Battery, Kees of B Battery, and Kurry of C Battery. The top sluggers were Olzack and Rutoski of A Battery, Termini and Kurry of B Battery, Steward and Moore of C Battery, Slats, Arrudo, and King of Service Battery, and Barry and Bagdzinski of Hdqs.

took all Barbour had to give, he was still able to dish out plenty of punishment throughout the remainder of the fight. The Chicago boy kept poking inside while the Divartyman was more of a wide open fighter. At one time, Geron

had Barbour a little groggy and he slipped to the mat, but he regained his strength and hopped up immediately.

The "White" Hope Wins

The senior welterweight title went to 329th's Allen Hope of Florida when he took a TKO over Dan Sanchez of TTF. Unlike his other fights, Hope didn't coast in the first round, but started to swing at once. Sanchez managed to tie him up often enough to keep the blows from doing real harm. At one time, Hope slipped a hard one in on Sanchez, only to find the TTFer coming back faster and more aggressive. Both men pushed the fight and were equally on the defensive at times. In the third, Hope did the pressing. When Sanchez tried a hard one, he threw his left shoulder out of place and he had to call it a fight for the night.

Big Bill Nikells, an Indiana boy from the 329th, punched his way to the top of

(Continued on Page 6)

night, and went on to take Fernados Velquez on a forfeit when the latter refused to fight him on Sunday night because both were from the same regiment. It was the same deal between Uvon Roundy and Romeo Letteri, both of the 331st. After Roundy beat Elmo Sorrels, the Minnesota boy from the 329th, and Charley Hatton of the same regiment, Letteri gave him the green light and Roundy won the title on a forfeit.

Vakas Takes the Feather Crown

Jim Vakas was given the featherweight crown after beating Jack Chaplow of the 330th on Wednesday evening and little Eddie Tofoya on Friday night. Then, on Sunday, he completed his streak by taking Dorman Papineau who had won over Cantrell of the 330th on Thursday.

Divarty's only champion was Bill Barbour, who took the welterweight crown. He went through Joe Lombardo, a New Yorker from the 329th, on Wednesday, and Olen Allen, another Buckshotter, on Friday. He then wound it up in the finals by beating George Geron on Sunday. The 331st crowd didn't care too much for the decision and howled long and loudly after the bout was over.

(Continued on page 5)

Horse-Racing Proposed

Although no definite plans have been formulated, the Athletic Office is seriously contemplating HARNES RACING this Fall, at the Sports Platz in Vilshofen.

The ready-made race track there, with the judges-tower and terraced lawn surrounding it, plus the abundance of horses and talent in the Divisional area, gave the idea to the officers.

"I'm sure there are plenty of men in the 83rd who have either driven a sulky, or would like to. We ought to be able to find enough horses around the area. Five should be enough, and as for the sulkies, we shouldn't have too much trouble locating them," said Lt. Wilson.

"Besides the added enjoyment of participating," added Lt. Frye, "it would give the boys something to do with their Sundays and extra money."

Nothing further will be done until the present redeployment is completed.

94th Division Will Play Bolt Nine On Field Day

The 94th Infantry Division has invited the 83rd to send its baseball team to Czechoslovakia for a game on September 15th when the 94th holds its Division Field Day.

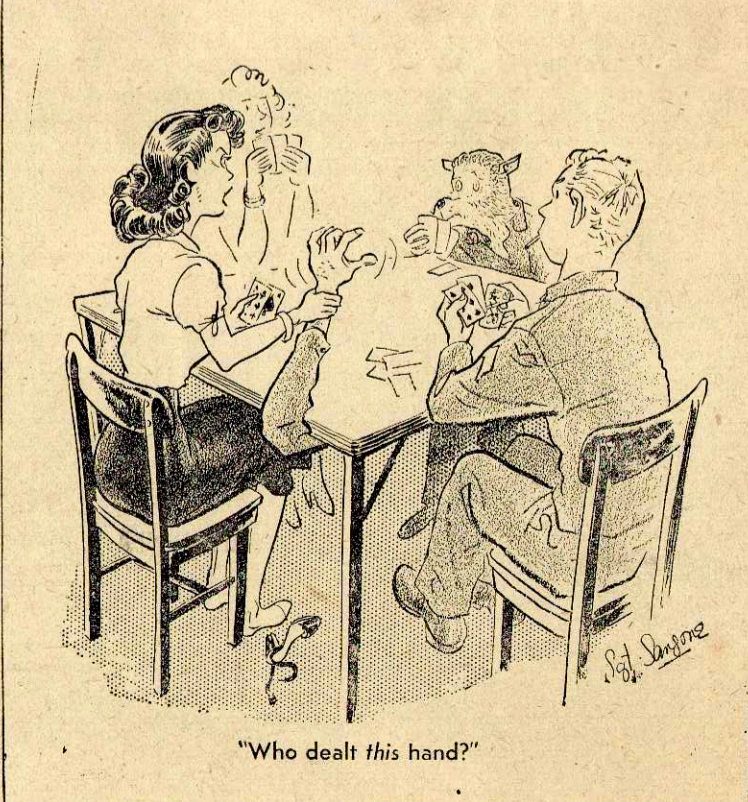
Accepting the challenge, the Athletic Office is endeavoring to gather a team together, but with the redeployment situation such as it is, it may prove difficult to find the necessary talent.

Shotgun Shells Available

Third Army has a supply of 12 gauge shot-gun shells available at the Sprengstoff factory at Furth. These shells are now available for trap and skeet-shooting. A requisition will have to be made through the Athletic Office, and the Division will pick up its supply at Furth for those units that are interested.

The Wolf by Sansone

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"Who dealt this hand?"

USO Vaudeville Show Will Appear In 83rd This Week

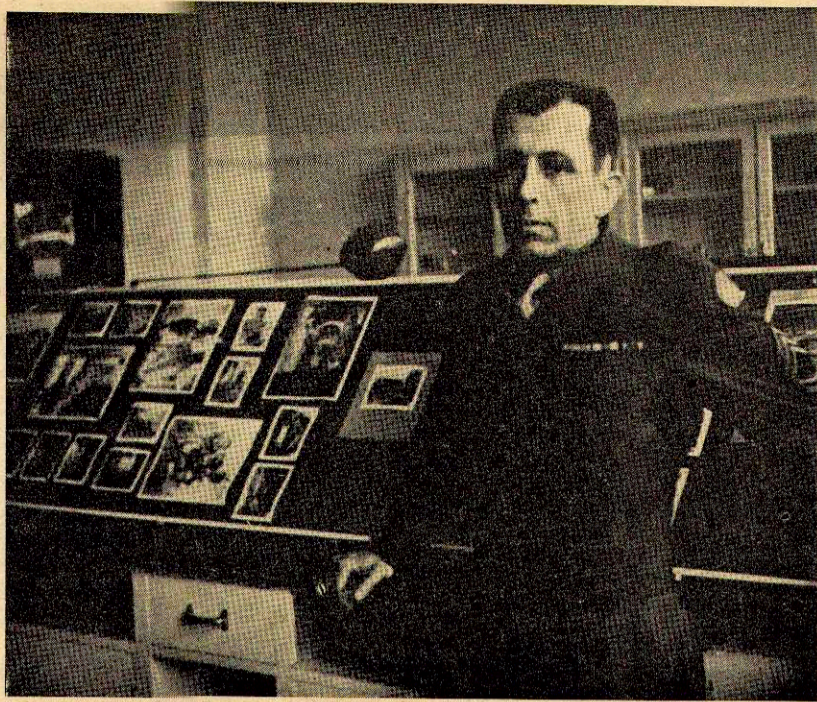
A star-studded USO vaudeville troupe will make its first appearance in the 83rd on September 10th with an evening performance before Doughs of the 331st Infantry.

MCed by Russell Delmar, "Vaudeville Varieties" includes prominent entertainers from every field of vaudeville. Rio and Rita, formerly with "Fun in Music" in New York, take the initial spotlight with a captivating dance routine. Ramu Sami adds a touch of mystic wonder with his black magic number. Lovely Charlotte King follows with several clever acrobatic tantrums. Vocalist Joan Adair, Ohio songstress, lends her voice to the most popular tunes, while Jayne Lowe and Rocky Herrman lend accordion and drum accompaniment.

Following the Pocking performance, the troupe will move to Osterhofen on the 12th, Deggendorf on the 13th, Passau on the 14th, Freyung on the 15th and Vilshofen on the 16th.

Artillerymen Left Nazis Many Gifts

Now that the war is over, Service Battery of the 908th FA Bn. has taken time out to recount some of its past deeds. It seems that from the Elbe back to Omaha it hauled 90,000 rounds of 105 ammo. At 50 lbs. per round that adds up to a total of 41 million lbs. . . and not all of it is strewn all over Europe; some of it is being carried around by the Heinies as personal souvenirs of the 908th.



SPECIAL AGENT. — T/Sgt. J. D. Vollerecht stands in front of a panel of pictures portraying Nazis' atrocities at the Third Army War Crimes Laboratory in Nurnberg. Vollerecht was formerly with Division Headquarters before taking his new position as War Crimes Investigator seeking information for the pending trials of high Nazi officials.

Congress Will Answer Army Quiz

WASHINGTON, D. C. — With the adjustments in the military machine scheduled for early consideration, Congress will be asked to answer these questions on the manpower situation when it convenes this week:

1. What is the War Department doing to find out how many men would volunteer to remain in service?
2. How many men will be needed for occupation purposes?
3. What is the Army doing to make sure that overseas service is shared, that men with combat service are brought home and replaced with those who have not been overseas?
4. How is the War Department handling the heavy load of discharge applications?
5. Is the Army giving adequate information on discharge policy to the families of men still in service?

CITATION

(from page 1)

under cover of an early morning fog. A vicious hand to hand battle raged for two hours in the streets, houses and court-yards. Assault guns and tanks fired at point blank range. Several wounded men ran out of the Battalion Aid Station and joined the fighting despite their wounds. The indomitable fighting spirit of the Second Battalion became evident as it routed the enemy into complete submission.

In four days of action, the Second Battalion inflicted losses on the enemy of an estimated two hundred fifty killed and five hundred captured, besides the destruction of three enemy assault guns, two tanks, four anti-tank guns, and a greater number damaged. Thus, as a result of unwavering fortitude and unflinching courage, the Second Battalion made a definite contribution to the successful completion of the Hurtgen campaign.

Every man that served with the Second Battalion, 329th Infantry, during this period, will now be entitled to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge for this outstanding performance.

(Ed. Note. — The Distinguished Unit Citation is not to be confused with the Presidential Unit Citation which is a Navy award.)

Sonndorf's Forgotten PWs Dream of an Uncertain Future

On a sun-baked hillside near the village of Freyung, 1400 men are existing, and waiting — for what, no one seems to know. They eat, sleep, and dream, marking time as the great powers take counsel to decide what may be done with them.

WILD BATTLES . . .

(from Page 4)

the middleweights when he defeated Chester Koleman of Michigan and the 331st. They looked like a couple of flying red horses with power plus when the bout started. Koleman went after Nickells, but Nick kept his guard up well. Then, he nabbed Koleman with one on the button, sending him to the canvas for the count of "nine". However, Koleman got up before the bell and continued the fight. In the second round, Koleman got Nickells in the corner again, but Nick broke out with a solid blow to the jaw, and Koleman went down again for a count. Nickells kept pushing his advantage although Koleman got him through to the ropes at one time and slugged while Nick held on. Koleman took the offensive in the third round, but Nickells, knowing that he had the fight sewed up, bided his time throughout the round.

Hoffman Takes an Easy Fight

A Brooklyn lad from the 329th, Murray Hoffmann, won the lightweight title from Charley Anello of Philly from Division Artillery. Murray started right off with the smooth precision of a well oiled destructive machine, placing every blow and rolling with every one taken. Both went at it in the second round again, but Anello defended well and got in a few of his own. Hoffman did all of the pressing throughout the bout.

Nelson Loses Exhibition

In an exhibition bout between Charley Nelson from Wisconsin of the 331st and heavyweight Louis Gaybrandt, a New Yorker from the 329th, Gaybrandt won in the second round on a TKO. In the beginning, Nelson pushed the fight to the fiery little fighter, knocking him through the ropes and into the judge's lap. Gaybrandt came back like a wounded tiger when he found his nose bleeding. As the second round started, Gaybrandt charged Nelson with his arms beating like a hopped-up windmill. Nelson took all he could and then decided that this was the end of the line as far as he was concerned, and threw in the towel.

Rome Furloughs to Start Immediately

It was announced this week that limited numbers of personnel may now visit Rome, Italy, on leave or furlough. However, this Division has not yet received its first quota, but men desiring to visit Rome for compassionate reasons and to visit blood relatives will be given preference when these quotas do arrive.

Leaves and furloughs will be for the authorized period plus travel time.

The prescribed route taken by men going to this sumptuous leave center will start at Munich. From Munich the men leave by rail and will report to Camp Teedee in Marseille, France. From here, they will go by ship to an undisclosed port in Italy and from there by rail to Rome. It is expected that the leaves will be on a weekly or semi-weekly basis and extend for ten days, exclusive of travel time.

These derelicts from a minority political faction were captured during the Wehrmacht's first great drive to the gates of Moscow. Some took their places in the German industrial scheme, and others served in the German army until its final defeat. Now that the war is over, they have shown little inclination toward returning to their native land. One reason for the hesitancy of those who fought in the German army may very well be a doubt as to their welcome in Russia. However, one prime reason for declining the opportunity to return was cited by practically every PW.

Savtchenko Nickohas acted as spokesman for the group when he said,

Thunderbolts Mailed On Request

Any man transferring to the 8th Armored Division may receive a weekly copy of the THUNDERBOLT, simply by mailing his new address to this newspaper.

"As White Russian supporters of the Czarist regime, we have no love for the present economic system that allows a man's property to be confiscated for community usage. Many of us were land-owners and resented working our farms only to receive a small percentage of the goods produced. On my farm near Rostov were 200 cows. Prior to 1929, I derived the benefits of my labor. When the share and share alike system came into effect, I received the same amount of milk as the man who owned no cows and did no work."

In later life, Nickolas entered the Soviet Army as a private in the cavalry, was captured by the Germans and worked for them on a railroad maintenance gang near Frankfurt. He hopes that he will be allowed to make his home near Munich, Germany.

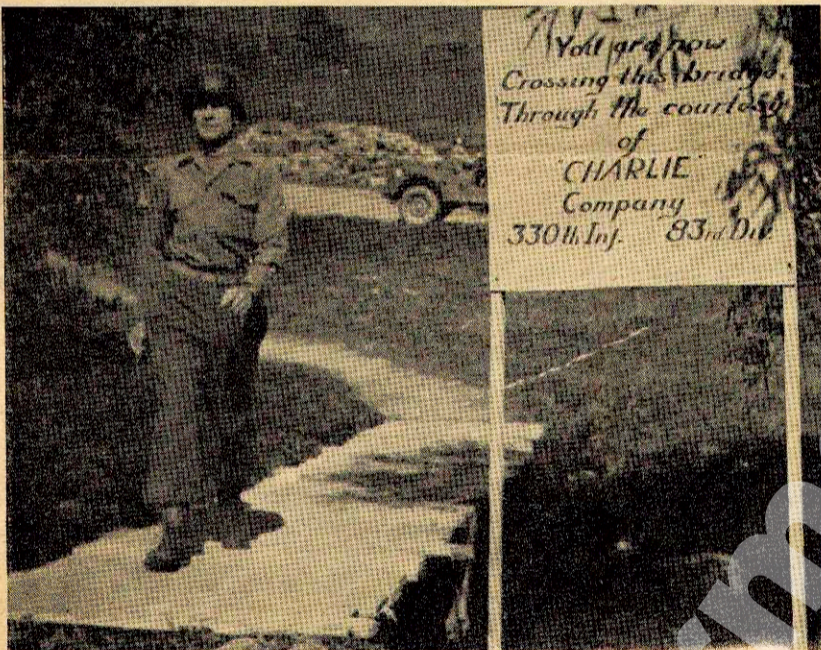
Another prisoner of war, Andre Usenko, told his story in halting English. "I was a student of engineering before the war. When the war broke out I was sent to an officer's school in Leningrad and was graduated as a lieutenant in the artillery. In an attack, the Germans surrounded us and captured my unit. For the last three and a half years I have been working in a shell-casing factory in Nurnberg. There were 2000 workers in the plant and each one of us received only 200 grams of food per day. I wish to go to my relatives in Canada and make my home in that country."

Thus, in voluntary exile, 1400 men dream of new horizons in strange and wonderful places while the sun beats down on the scorched land, and men who speak a foreign tongue deliberate on their fate. The PW camp is controlled by members of F Company, 330th Infantry.

CIC Relieved of Duties

VILSHOFEN, Germany. — The 83rd CIC detachment has been relieved of its assignment with the Division. CIC functions will be carried on throughout the occupation area by two-man teams, each pair operating in one landkreis.

Capacity: One Shavetail or Two PFCs



In a mood for jest and gentle satire at the expense of publicity-conscious engineer battalions, C Company's (330th Infantry) witty sign-painters erected this tribute to the mighty construction job accomplished in bridging the Ohe Creek (width 72 inches at its widest point). Continuing in the same vein, Charlie's riflemen very often speak of the bridge as the "Gateway to the training area over the Ohe". On the business end of the hoax, S/Sgt. Woronecke and six volunteers completed construction of the bridge just one hour after the first wave of infantry stormed the hostile bank in close order formation. When asked what type of construction enabled him to span the Ohe in a mere sixty minutes, the Sarg cracked, "Oh, just one of Bailey's nightmares."

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"



Ay, There's The Rub!

Special Agent Prepares For Nurnberg Crime Trials

"Whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap." T/Sgt. J. D. Vollerecht, War Crimes investigator, is teaching that biblical parable to Germans, who, in crazed anger, abused and tortured helpless American personnel.

Those same torturers who hysterically vented their hatred on prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates, are paying penalties ranging from 1 1/2 years at hard labor to hanging, depending on the severity of their crime against humanity.

T/Sgt. Vollerecht, formerly of the 83rd Division Military Government Detachment, is operating from the Judge Advocate's Office of the Third Army as interpreter and translator. As civilian background for his present assignment, Vollerecht taught German at Stanford and Columbia Universities. In addition to his court-room and routine office duties, he has the highly important task of tracking down clues to atrocities. In many cases the necessary evidence for conviction is scattered throughout American, British, and Russian occupied Germany, and is so obscure as to nearly defy detection.

Cases Require Careful Investigation

A sample case consisted of finding six SS guards who had reportedly abused prisoners in a certain concentration camp, and were noted for their particularly fiendish punishments. The only information that victims could give investigators was a hazy description and the guards' names and organization. A hasty search discovered that the SS garrison of the camp had destroyed all records in anticipation of Allied occupation. Further questioning of the camp's inmates revealed that one of the guards was dating a nurse in a nearby hospital. Sensing a possible leak in the case, the sergeant searched the nurse's belongings for photos of her boy-friend, only to find that she had burned all personal pictures under SS orders. Casting about for other openings, Vollerecht uncovered the hospital's sick book which included a complete history and pictures of each individual. From that information, the SS guards were located, convicted, and received life sentences at hard labor for their bestiality.

Another atrocity was brought to light when three displaced persons approached authorities with a story of the murder of American aviators forced down near their internment camp. SS guards drove to the scene of the landing and came back a half hour later with blood-spotted American uniforms. The next day the guards were overheard gloating over their "victory" and boasting that, "We sure finished them off. They won't terrorize us anymore." When confronted with this circumstantial evidence and faced by their former internees, the "supermen" broke down in confession. Their sentence was death by hanging.

A more famous case undertaken by Sgt. Vollerecht was that involving the abusing and subsequent murder of two

American airmen by German civilians near the city of Frankfurt. For the ultimate shooting of the Americans, two Germans were sentenced to hang. In the same case, one Herr Daubert received 15 years imprisonment as a sentence for beating one of the Americans with a stick of wood. The star witness for the prosecution claimed that she had begged Daubert to, "Remember your sons. What if they were captured?" but that he had continued to club the pilot into bloody submission. In cross-examination, the witness was asked why she remained to watch the murder and post-death maligning of the bodies if she were so against the abuse. In a matter-of-fact, slightly confidential tone, she answered, "I was noseey."

Frau Soloman, another of the mob to face trial, received a three year sentence for belaboring the helpless aviator with the heel of her shoe. She remarked in court, "I never got my shoe off so fast in my life as when I tried to get at that American."

Col. Foster Awarded Legion of Merit for Rhineland Campaign

VILSHOFEN, Germany. — Col. Robert Foster, Commanding Officer of the 330th Infantry Regiment, has been awarded the Legion Of Merit for his exceptional acumen displayed in accomplishing difficult missions in the Rhineland and Harz Mountains.

From the 1st of March to the 20th of April, under his calm and intelligent direction, his troops quickly adapted themselves to the necessities of the terrain and inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the enemy.

"It Was That Shape" Alert MP Asserts

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — (ANS) — Paratroopers don't have high-pitched voices — or "a lot of other things" — that unmasked the daring adventure of 18-year old Jeanne Melba Ivey of St. Louis.

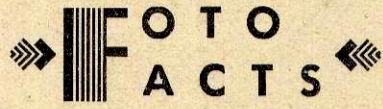
Hearing that her paratrooper brother was slated for the Pacific, she asked her father's permission to visit him.

Dad said "no", but Jeanne set out for Union Station, walked into the ladies room and came out rigged up in a paratrooper uniform.

Her bluff took her past the gateman, but there was something about the figure that attracted the eye of an MP. Her high-pitched voice did the rest.

Cheesehound Has Close Call With A German Axe

FREYUNG, Germany. — Sauerkraut and hot dogs were on the Sunday menu for a German family here recently . . . Tiny, the I and R platoon's St. Bernard mascot, was the "hot dog" in question. Sgt. Heidt and Pfc. Jack Hoppe of the 330th Infantry's I and R Platoon investigated the young pooch's cries just in time to save him from the axe. Tiny is now a firm believer in the adage, "never trust a German".



By Mike Vaccaro

How much should a camera cost?

We'll take the most popular cameras and see just what they are worth. There are three main types; the folding, the reflex and the miniature (35 mm). In the folding variety we have the Kodak Vigilants, Voigtlander Bessas, and the Skopars all of which sell for prices that range from 35 to 50 dollars. The Nettars and Ikontas, with faster lens and shutters, go as high as 80 to 150 dollars. In the reflex type cameras, we have the most popular Rolleiflexes and Ikonflexes which range in price from 100 to 160 dollars. (On the black market, Rolleiflexes have been sold for over five hundred dollars, but we're not concerned with that).

In the miniature type cameras, the Contax is the most expensive, selling for a little over 300 dollars (pre-war). The Leicas and Exaktas come very close to that price also. Today, any of these cameras will bring better than five hundred dollars. On the other hand, there are those of us who want to spend 40 to 80 dollars and will get fine results with the Argus C-3, Kodak 35, Jubillet, and Retina.

What camera should I buy? You won't be able to go into a camera store and buy just the camera you want, today, but let's suppose that we have the above named cameras before us. If you're only interested in a few pictures for an album, we suggest a simple box camera or a simple folding model. If you're interested in something better and the intricacies of the camera fascinate you, we suggest a miniature 35mm. If you really want to go off the deep-end, then your best bet will be a Rolleiflex or some other reflex camera.

About films! Most of the film that you have used here in Germany or Europe has been Isopan, Panchrom, Turapan or Perpanitic. All of these films are equivalent to our moderate speed pan films and are sensitive to all colors. For best sults, we suggest you try Amfa Isopan F with an opening of f/11 at 1/50 of a second . . . you should get a fine negative providing you do not use it under adverse conditions.

Laying OUT A Diamond



... "In laying out the diamond, care should be taken to have it set in such a position that the least possible amount of the sun's rays will shine directly in the eyes of the players and spectators!" Official Playing Rules

"All Girl" Musical Will Play All Units In One-Week Stand

Led by Miss Maude Hilton, veteran USO entertainer, the "All-Girl Musical Varieties" will tour the 83rd from September 7th to the 12th, presenting a varied array of musical entertainment for the men of the Division.

Featuring an all-girl cast, the show will make appearances before the 331st Infantry on September 7th, the 330th on September 8th and the 329th on September 9th. The troupe will conclude its tour with performances at Passau and Vilshofen on September 11th and 12th respectively.

The cast will include such notables as Thelma Crawford, accordionist, from Richmond, Va., with three years USO experience, vocalist Josephine Feecey from Detroit, Michigan and dancer Edith Delaney from Richmond Hill, Long Island. Paula Ruparr will give her interpretations of popular musical impressions. Charming Doris Dean will add a bit of splendor with her popular songs, while Gail McDonald, formerly with Leon and Eddie's rounds out the cast with her own vocal renditions.

The entertainers are serious and capable and certainly should provide the American touch for the music loving GI. Transportation will be available from all units desiring to send men to see one of these performances.

Jewish Troops Fete New Year Sunday

The Hebrew troops of the Thunderbolt Division began observance of the traditional Jewish New Year (Rosh Ha-shona) beginning on sundown Friday, September 7th and will continue the celebration through September 8th and 9th.

Chaplain Jacob M. Ott, the Division's Jewish Chaplain, will conduct services today at the Stadt Theatre in Passau and at the same place on Sunday. Both services will begin at 0900 hours. The 308th Medical Battalion will hold services tonight in the I and E school-house in Osterhofen.

BOXING

(from Page 4)

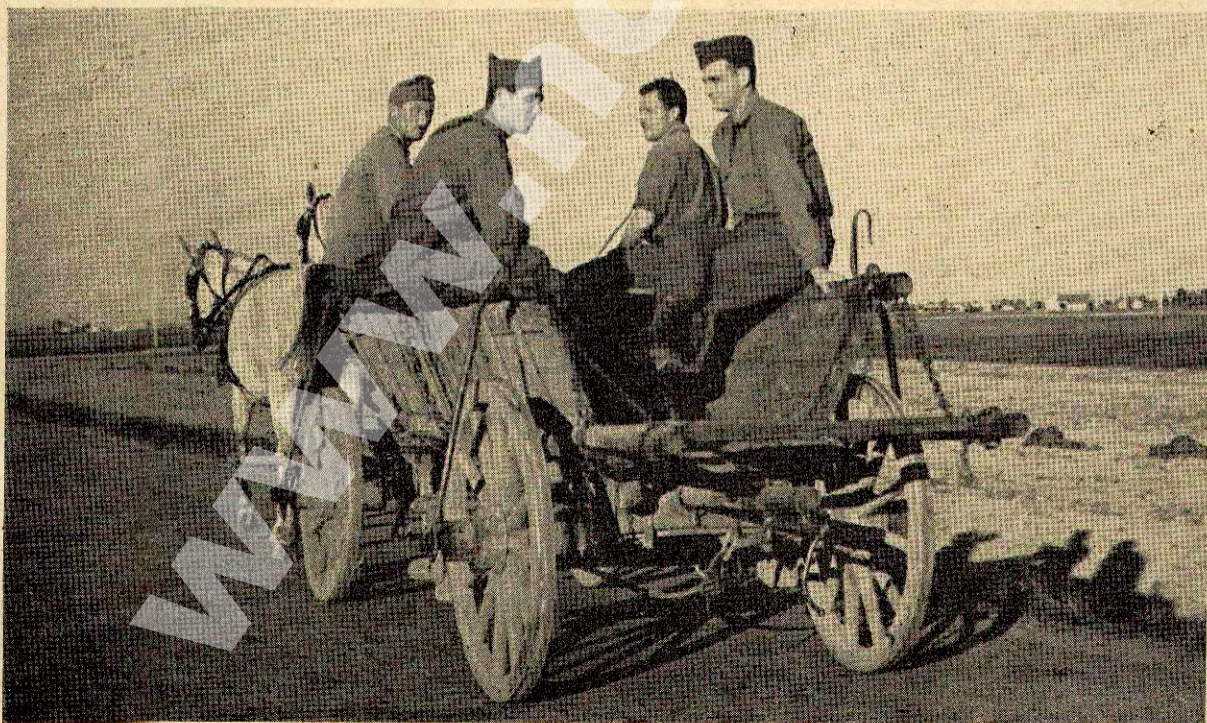
Allen Hope took the senior-welter crown by polishing off Jerry Anderson of Division Headquarters and quick-knee Davis of the Engineers, followed by a win over Danny Sanchez of the 331st. Sanchez was forced out of the final fight due to a dislocated shoulder which was a recurrence of an old ailment.

Abe Hoffman Showed Plenty of Class Murray "Abe" Hoffmann was the man to watch all the way through the tournament. He is taking the light-heavy title back to Brooklyn after winning it for the 329th and he had to beat Maryland's Harry Lister and Philly's Joe Anello to do it. Hoffman was a pleasure to watch as he demonstrated class in both of his fistic showings.

Although Charley Nelson, a good clean fighter, was beaten badly by 329th's Looey Gaybrandt (two times holder of the Silver Star), Nelson still was given the heavyweight title because he was the only one to register in time for the tournament. Nelson is undoubtedly a good fighter, but Gaybrandt is better, and the fans were highly indignant over the technicality that gave Nelson the championship.

The judges were members of the 327th Engineers and the 102nd Infantry Division. The final bouts on Sunday were refereed by Capt. William Elliot of the latter outfit.

If nothing else, these matches brought about more inter-regimental spirit of competition than any other event that has been staged within the Division. Interest was high throughout the tournament and the contestants were of top-notch quality.



IT'S A LONG HARD ROAD — Pfc. George McAmish and Pfc. Slienton Stacy of F Company, 331st Inf., both have better than 65 points and hope to get out of the Army soon. The boys are willing to hitch back to New York, just like this if it's necessary.