

Andy Hardy In Person...



It was Andy Hardy in the Infantry Saturday when Pvt Mickey Rooney of Hollywood and the ETO dashed up in a jeep for a one-day stand with the 83rd's three regiments. Filling the fields for miles around are men of the 329th Infantry, joining in the fun at the big outdoor matinee.

(Photo by Brouhard)

CUB PLANES ZERO IN ARTILLERY ON NAZIS

Mighty midgets of the atmosphere are those ten tiny Piper Cub planes which are an integral part of the 83rd Division Artillery. These planes and the men who fly them have often been referred to as the "83rd's own air force", for with the tremendous fire power they control as the eyes of the artillery they have been largely responsible for the destroying of a great number of infantry obstacles and enemy troop concentrations.

SPOT EFFECT OF FIRE

During the hedgerow fighting south of Carentan ground observation was virtually nil, and the pilot-observer teams of the Air OP flew almost continuously during the 16 hours of daylight. Teams from the 323rd FA Bn flew 25 hours in two days adjusting artillery fire and spotting SS troops for the doughs. Pilot Lt Carrol Raether and Observer Lt Charles Hicks of the 908th FA Bn were attacked by an enemy fighter plane in Normandy. The fuselage of

their plane was riddled by machine gun bullets but both men were uninjured and Carrol landed the Cub without mishap.

INFO ON THE WING

Shortly after the St Lo breakthrough Lts John Goettke and Phillip Reichert of the 908th FA Bn were following the advance of our infantry when they spotted a group of Germans about 600 yards ahead of them. Goettke flew low over our troops while Reichert dangled from the cockpit and shouted the information to the troops.

During the siege of the Isle of Cezembre, Lt John Baker, Hq Div Arty dropped a message of surrender terms over the island. Believing that the survivors of Cezembre would surrender after they were informed of the fall of St. Malo, Baker took off with white streamers flowing from the struts of the wing. After circling the island, he skimmed over the enemy held fortress and dropped the message.

During the operations along the Loire River the Air OP provided observation of long range areas which would otherwise have been impossible because of the distance between the combat teams.

DRAMA IN THE AIR

While patrolling along the river, the ship containing Lts George Boscoff and John Stewart of the 322nd FA Bn was forced into an emergency landing when a German 20 mm anti-aircraft gun scored a direct hit on their Cub. Boscoff landed the ship in a nearby field but the 330th Infantry was cut off

in Strass for three days. During this time Capt Karl Kern of Hq coming. He flew the damaged ship back to the field base in spite of its condition.

In Germany a battalion of was forced to take off immediately when warned by civilians that the Germans were Div Arty and Lt Glenn Behrens of the 324th FA Bn loaded a

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More Men Head Home

Membership in the 83rd's 30-Day Club hit the 90 mark this week when 19 furlough winners of the month from ten different Division units started the long voyage home.

From the 329th Infantry went Pfc Edward R. Sullivan and Pvs Michael J. Dulena and John V. Devine. In the 330th Infantry it was Tec 4 Charles J. Humenick and Pfc William S. Benjamin and Charles A. Di'Rose. While the 331st quota included 1st Sgt Raymond R. Raychel, Pfc Walter C. Clark and Pvt Albert B. Cook.

The 308th Engineers contributed Tec 4 Samuel Flukel and Pfc Carl B. Gierman; the 83rd Signal Co, Pfc Anthony H. Morris; the 322nd FA, Pvt John Putzy, and the 908th FA Pfc Charles E. Stewart. Attached units accounted for the rest.

For those left waiting at the dock—here's how the system works, as clarified by Tec 4 Francis Lenehan of the G-1 section. Periodically furlough quotas and specifications come down to Division from Army. Both vary from month to

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Mickey Rooney Makes Personal Tour of 83rd; Visits Each Regiment

Former Hollywood Film Star is Now Buck Private in Army

A friendly hand grenade from Hollywood exploded in the Division area last Saturday when Pvt Mickey (Himself) Rooney came in on a jeep to bring Andy Hardy in person to the men of the 83rd.

Recon Troop Fought on Foot In Bulge Fight

The hard-hitting, fast-moving 83rd Reconnaissance Troop proved its ability to fight as doughboys as well as Recons during the recent Ardennes offensive.

When waist-high snow drifts made motor reconnaissance impossible, the job of holding assembly areas and acting as flank support for regular infantry units fell to Capt Helster Drum and his Recon troop.

NEW MISSION FOR RECON

"You'd have thought our men had been fighting as foot soldiers all their lives" commented Lt Allan C. House of Cleveland, Ohio after the battle. "Our mission was to flush the enemy from a patch of woods and then wait until the infantry forced more of the enemy to retreat in our direction. Our first job had to be accomplished in a hurry because we wanted the retreating Krauts to think they were backing into a friendly woods instead of one filled with Recon men."

Manning machine guns, the recon-doughs went to work on the enemy in the woods and ten minutes later had routed them from their positions.

"We took over the Nazi emplacements and waited for our infantry to drive the retreating company in our direction," continued House. "Within half an hour they started across an open field on our right flank. We opened up, and not one of them reached our positions."

AND THE MORTARS FELL

On another occasion in the Bulge Battle, T/5 Howard A. Walmsley of Blawnox, Pa and T/4 Walter Korsznjak, Recon radio operators, were acting as outpost guards. From their position on a snow-capped hill, they commanded excellent observation of the surrounding terrain, and every enemy move brought direct fire from their position. In desperation, the enemy tried a frontal assault, but this was broken up by a hail of mortar fire directed by the two radio operators. Some of the mortar fire fell within 75 yards of the outpost, but Korsznjak said he wouldn't have exchanged it for 30 days in the States.

This is typical of the fighting the Recon did in the Ardennes when they put their armor in cold storage and fought as foot soldiers against the SS boys.

Arriving at the Division Special Service Office after an early morning trip from Corps Headquarters, Rooney ate lunch at the Division rear echelon kitchen.

Using a pile of empty Jericans as a table, he chatted with Pvt Lawrence Burke of Buffalo, N.Y., a member of the 83rd Signal Company attached to the rear echelon message center.

"He's just a GI like the rest of us fellows," said Burke later, "and he told me that since being on the Continent he has eaten only twice at an officers' mess. He's a regular guy and makes you feel as if you'd known him for a long time when he talks to you. We discussed football and baseball teams, places we had been back in the States and just about everything except Rooney. The only thing he did tell me about himself was that the sheeplined jacket he was wearing was given him by a flyer over here who used to be a classmate at UCLA."

STANDS IN CHOW LINE

After lunch Mickey sweat out the "wash line" with the rest of the GIs and then left for the 331st Infantry where he was scheduled for a one o'clock show.

The first performance was held in a packed theater and given without any Rooney build-up of fanfare. Pvt Mario Pieroni, former member of Snap Fields' band, supplied the music with his accordion, and two solos were sung by Pvt Bob Priester, who at one time was a vocalist with Xavier Cugat's Orchestra and later with the King's Men Ensemble.

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Fight of 83rd In Belgium is YANK Feature

The feature story of YANK magazine for the week of Feb. 18 deals with the 83rd Division and its fighting in the Ardennes Forest. Entitled "Winter Warfare", the three page story was written by Sgt Ed Cunningham who spent three days and two nights with the 83rd collecting material for his article.

A series of pictures showing conditions under which the doughboys fought are used to illustrate the story. These photos were taken by Sgt Reg Kenny, YANK staff photographer, who also visited the Division with Cunningham.

Old Friends...

It has been revealed that the XXI Corps, under command of Major General Frank W. Milburn, is now fighting with the Seventh Army in the southern drive into Germany.

General Milburn and General Macon, then Assistant Division Commander, led the 83rd back in the States.

