

83rd Thunderbolt

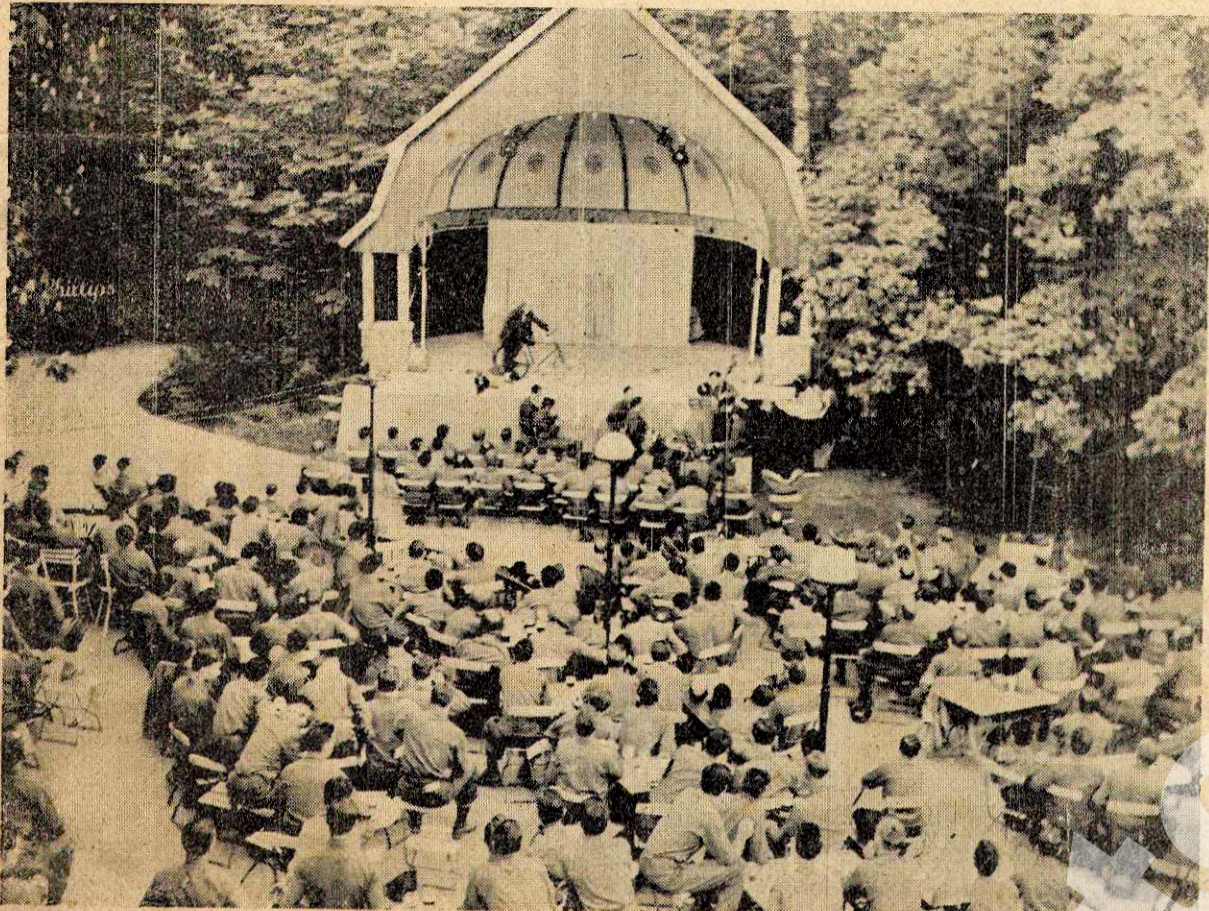
NORMANDY. BRITTANY. LOIRE VALLEY. LUXEMBOURG. HURTGEN FOREST. ARDENNES. FIRST TO RHINE. ELBE BRIDGEHEAD.

VOL 1, No. 5

BAD HARZBURG, GERMANY

MAY 26, 1945

Floor Show Fun At The Kasino . . .



Relaxing over their beer as the "Four Phillips" go into their act at the Thunderbolt Kasino in Bad Harzburg are another day's quota of Division doughs visiting the 83rd Rest Center. The Phillips went on tour this week so that all units of the Division could enjoy them, but other headline acts are still going strong, inside when it rains, here in the old fashioned beer garden when the sun shines. (Photo by Brouhard)

Division Men Take Over Military Government Of Braunschweig

Almost every fighting man in the Division is now engaged in the task of bringing order out of chaos, of restoring to an approximation of normalcy the daily lives of the 750,000 people in the Province of Braunschweig, which is directly under Division control.

There are 447 towns in the Division's area to administer. In these towns there are thousands upon thousands of foreign workers and former PWs to be processed as soon as possible for repatriation to their home lands. Since the Division has been administering the Province, 8500 former slave laborers and 5000 PWs have been started on their way home.

In many of the towns the burger meisters had pro-Nazi records. Investigations were held and the Nazi tools replaced by other men. Fifty percent of the local leaders were removed as a result of these investigations.

Men of the Division, working under the supervision of Lt. Col. James C. Hanrahan, Division Military Government Officer, are doing their utmost to forestall the appearance of famine and disease, the almost inevitable aftermaths of war. Surveys have been made to search out the roots of pestilence. Food supplies are being carefully guarded and rationed. Farmers are encouraged to produce to capacity for the consumption of Germans and their former slaves alike.

Public utilities long paralyzed by the fury of Allied air attacks are being restored to operation under MG supervision. Railroads are already running in the Division area and in the city of Braunschweig itself two street car lines are in operation.

The search for war criminals continues unabated and as soon as they are discovered they are turned over for prosecution.

Typical of the job being done is the work of Co. G, 350th Infantry, commanded by Capt. John D. Huy of Melbourne, Fla. In Huy's zone there are five towns

covering an area of 55 miles. Less than 200 doughboys are responsible for the control of 15,000 people, including numerous foreign workers and refugees from heavily-bombed industrial centers.

"It means long hours of guard duty over warehouses, bomb dumps and factories," said Lt. Milton Aliff who is commandant of two towns in Co G's area. "It means playing nursemaid to all the nationalities of Europe, but the men realize the importance of the task and are giving it all they've got."

Doughboys who speak Polish, Russian, French, German and other foreign languages have been most helpful in straightening out difficulties that arise between Germans and their former forced labor, in explaining to foreign workers that they must not move from place to place while they are awaiting evacuation to their own home lands. The newly-freed people often find it incongruous that the conquered German is allowed to go from one town to another while they are not.

Theft will not be tolerated by the rifle company officers turned military governors. One case reported by a German of cows being stolen from his land at night brought forth a patrol of Go G doughs for three nights in succession in an attempt to catch the thief. Either the farmer lied, or the presence of American soldiers frightened off the rustler. Two small children were caught stealing gasoline. A rifleman took them to their parents and supervised the execution of a sound thrashing.

Besides supervising such matters as the proper distribution of rations, the setting up of wage scales for municipal employees and surveys

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Col. Crabill New Assn't Div. Comdr.

The 83rd received a new assistant division commander this week when Col. Edwin B. Crabill, commander of the 329th Infantry since its formation at Atterbury, took over from Brig. Gen. Claude B. Ferenbaugh, assistant division commander since Breckinridge, who has been called to duties elsewhere. Replacing Col. Crabill in the 329th is Col. Alexander Reid, formerly of the 106th Infantry Division.

Col. Crabill leaves the 329th with an impressive record. It was his regiment that captured the Citadel of St. Malo, initiated the surrender of the 20,000 at Beaugency without losing a man, sent the first patrols across the Roer River into Duren, spearheaded much of the 83rd's drive from the Rhine to the Elbe and made the first assault crossing of the Elbe.

An Infantry officer since his graduation from V. P. I. in 1917, Col. Crabill has served at various times in the Philippines and Panama and as an ROTC instructor at Western Kentucky State Teachers College and Michigan State University.

Gen. Ferenbaugh, who received his commission from West Point in 1918, joined the Division in February of '44. He had served previously in the Philippines and Hawaii, as G-3 of the 2nd Corps in Africa and as Chief

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83rd Plans Impressive Ceremonies To Mark ETO Memorial Day

General Macon And Colonel Crabill To Speak At Services Wednesday

Close to the soil on which their comrades so recently died in battle, men of the 83rd will tomorrow and Wednesday attend Memorial Day Services. According to Lt. Col. Augustine Donnelly, Division Chaplain, appropriate services will be held in each regiment and integral units of the Division.

The 330th and 331st Regiments and Division Artillery will hold services in their Battalion areas tomorrow. The 329th Regiment and Division Headquarters will hold services Wednesday.

In the 329th, Memorial Day services will be held in the three battalions under the direction of twice-decorated Regimental Chaplain Alvin R. Halvorsen, assisted by Chaplains Harold Schwartz and Jacob Ott. Col. Alexander Reid, new CO of the 329th, will introduce the speaker of the day, Col. Edwin B. Crabill, newly appointed Assistant Division Commander.

At Division headquarters in Bad Harzburg memorial services will start at 10 a. m. in front of the C. P. where a public address system will be set up. The 83rd Division band will open the program. Following this the invocation will be read by Chaplain William Harris, Assistant Division Chaplain. At the conclusion of the invocation Chaplain Harold Pinkney of the 308th Medics will read from the Psalms.

It is expected that the principle address of the day will be delivered by Major General Robert C. Macon, Commanding General of the 83rd Division. Following the address, the audience will rise to sing "America." Chaplain Jacob Ott, Chaplain for Special Troops, will then offer a prayer in solemn memory of America's soldier dead.

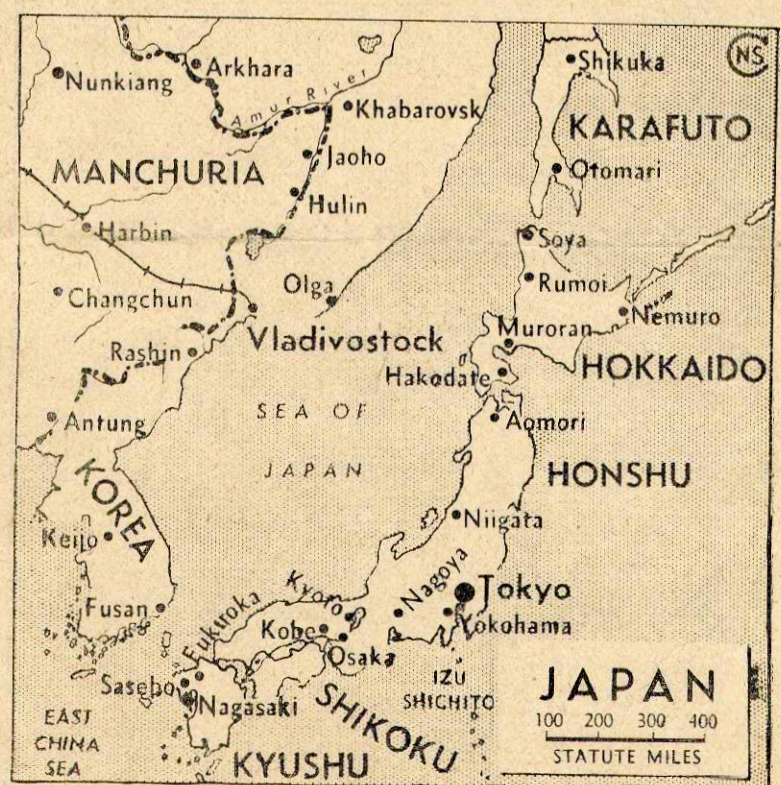
A highlight of the Memorial Day services at Bad Harzburg will be the "Flag and Earth" ceremony. Two small bags of earth, each containing soil from the 48 States, were recently received from a friend by Gen. Macon. As the soldiers bow their heads, the soil from one of these bags will be sprinkled at the base of the pole, from the top of which the Stars and Stripes will wave. The contents of the other bag will be sprinkled over a cemetery containing the graves of 83rd Division soldiers. Chaplain Donnelly will then read the benediction, which will be followed by a volley of shots fired by an honor guard.

Then, in hallowed and cherished memory of their fallen comrades, the soldiers will stand at attention as the last echos of the shots mingle with the sound of taps.

Rough Riders

So many infantrymen have decided to become cavalymen overnight that Toni's Stables and horses have about collapsed. So unit quotas for this favorite feature at the Thunderbolt Rest Center have to be drastically cut. The SSO management hopes to find further horseflesh in the vicinity soon, but currently only eight survivors are capable of carrying hard-riding doughs.

. . . Last Stand



Here's where the Rising Sun will finally set — in the heart of the Jap empire — the main islands and Manchuria. This week Super Forts hastened the end of empire by making the war's greatest incendiary raid on Tokyo. Days later the city could be seen burning 200 miles at sea.

83rd Thunderbolt

Official Weekly Newspaper of the
83rd Infantry Division

The Thunderbolt, formerly the Spearhead, is written by and for the men of the 83rd under the supervision of Capt John C. Neff, Information-Education Officer, and Capt Thomas C. Roberts, Public Relations Officer. All material is censored by AC of S, G-2. Member Camp Newspaper Service, 205 East 42nd St., NYC.

STAFF: Managing Editor, Sgt Al Gladding; News Editor, Sgt John Benham; Feature Editor, Sgt Allan Nemrow; Sports Editor, Pfc Carl Weber; Art Editor, Sgt Nick Firfires; Photographer, M/Sgt Harry Brouhard; Unit Correspondents, Sgt Ray Goguen, 329th Inf, Sgt Grover Crawford, 330th Inf, Sgt Jack Straus, 331st Inf, and Sgt Bill Schumann, 83rd Arty.

VOL. 1, No. 5.

May 26, 1945.

Lest We Forget

Pre-War Memorial Day to many of us was just another holiday. It was a day of parades and flags and bands and bunting. It was a day to play in the country, a day to lie in bed, a day we didn't have to go to school or work, It was a holiday. We were free to do as we wanted.

We young men never really knew what Memorial Day was. The cynics and brass-throated politicians had made the day a mockery. In school they never made us understand what the day represented. History was something out of the cob-webbed class room, and the last war was history. We wonder if anyone really knew what the day was for or if they really cared.

Now before us again is a Memorial Day. To us who have reached this one the hard way, it means something. We hope and pray it will mean something deep and lasting to others, for today we cannot afford that cynicism, that ignorance, that "Let George Worry About Tomorrow" business, that feeling that we have done our part, now let some one else carry the ball.

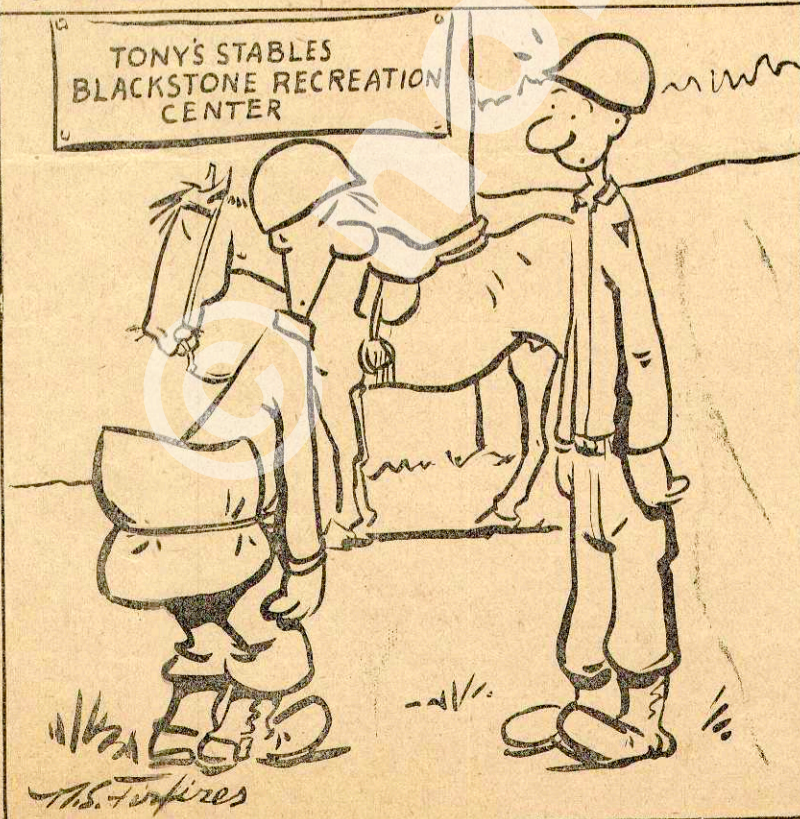
In democracy, where the price of freedom is always high, we dare not let down in our feeling that we who made victory possible should continue to work to make the peace a living, lasting peace. Cynicism may have had its place in pre-War days, but it is only a sucker today who believes we have fought in vain. We have helped to set the stage for a new era of freedom for the country and the individual. Now we must see that it does not become the prey of selfish politicians and unthinking men.

Our forefathers had two things which made them strong and built for us a great country. They had spiritual faith and physical guts. Without these two qualities, we would never have inherited the wonderful country we have. We figure that if they could do it, then we certainly can carry on, for are we not made of the same stuff?

We say yes, for it took faith and it took guts to win the war. Half of it is in the bag. The other half is a certainty. But it is going to cost us plenty. We feel the price is worth it. For good things never come on a silver platter.

This Memorial Day let us thank God for all His blessings. Let us rededicate our souls, our minds and our bodies to the great task still ahead so that our efforts will become real and lasting. We are the sons of our fathers and we must keep the faith.

GILBERT BY SGT. N. S. FIRFIRES



331st Stage Show Will Open Mon.

"Victory Varieties", a two-hour stage show composed entirely of talent from the 331st Inf., has been set for a premier performance Monday in the 2nd Battalion theater at Seesen. Written by Pvt John Johnson, the show will be presented by the 331st Special Service office under the direction of Lt. David Kribs.

Headlining the cast of GI artists are Pfc. George Rakoski of A Company, who plays the accordion and does imitations of popular singers and bands; Pfc. Bill Rajotti, also of A Company, who does a soft shoe routine; Pvt. Raymond Rosetti, A Company, who will be featured in several violin solos; and T/Sgt. Lloyd Jones of F Company, who specializes in pantomime.

From G Company there will be a hill-billy trio composed of T/Sgt. Troy Smith, S/Sgt. James Porter, and Cpl. John McComb; Pfc. John Cardos in a repertoire of Spanish songs; and T/5 Gene Costanzo, who has originated a comedy act.

Pfc. John Tursi will represent H Company in a selection of popular American songs. And from I Company, T/4 Manuel Ramsay will play the guitar.

Three artists were discovered in Regimental Headquarters Company. They are T/4 Frank Shipta, accordionist; T/5 Earnest Caton, popular vocalist; and T/4 Donald Walter Cusik, Shiverdecker III, who will do a specialty skit on "current problems" — i. e. non-fraternization.

Technical supervisor for the show will be T/4 James Estes and the master of ceremonies will be Pfc. Russell Hughes.

Author Johnson, whose home is in Sea Island and Atlanta, Georgia, was formerly a writer and announcer for the Southern Division of the Columbia Broadcasting System. He has also announced for WSB, Atlanta and had his own program on WWL, New Orleans.

GI Uncovers Bomb Plans

Complete plans and specifications for V-3 and V-4 bombs with a flying range estimated at more than a thousand miles were found recently in an obscure corner of a Polish prison camp in Germany by Pfc. Harold Bush of the 330th Inf.

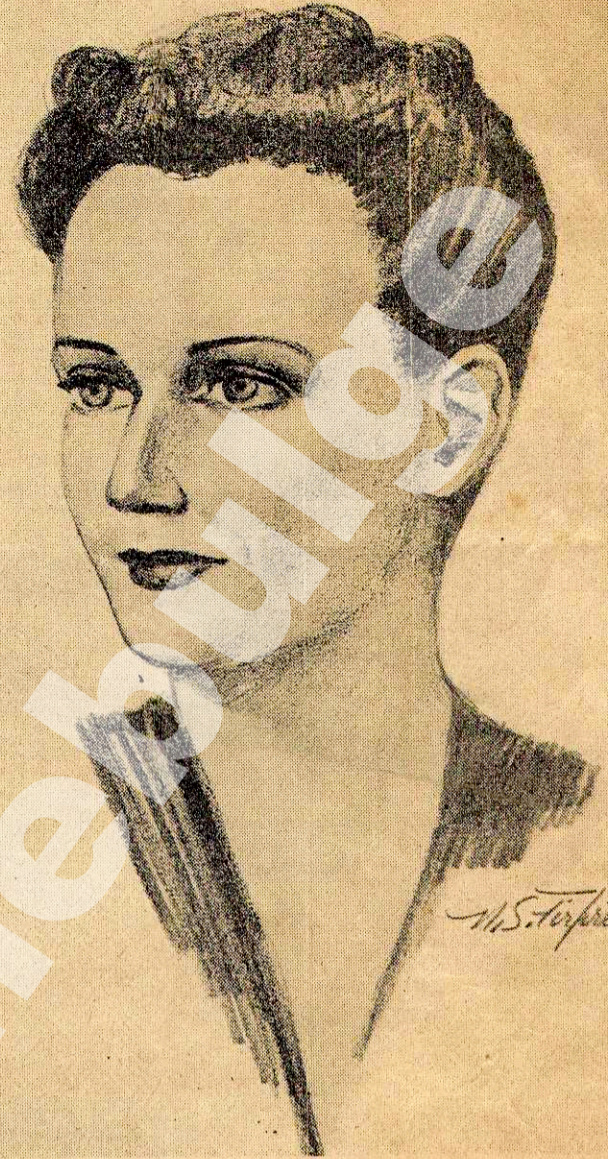
Bush's company, under the command of Capt. Joe Di Santis of Springfield, Mo., had just moved into the town of Gabharslagen when the local Burgermeister called at Headquarters to say that he thought the German high command had been working on bomb plans and that they had buried them somewhere in the area of the town.

Capt. Di Santis ordered Bush to go along with the Burgermeister to make an investigation. "We went to a desolate part of a Polish prison camp where the Burgermeister told the Germans he had brought with him to start digging," said Bush.

After about an hour of futile search, one of the men struck a piece of metal buried about two feet below the earth's surface. A little more digging revealed a large bomb. The Burgermeister broke open the bomb and found it contained many pages of plans marked V-3 and V-4.

According to the Burgermeister, the most talented German scientists and machinists had been working since long before the beginning of this war to perfect a flying bomb similar to the ones described in the plans found by Bush. Unable to complete them in time for use in this war, it was the opinion of the Burgermeister that the Nazis had selected the Polish prison camp as a safe place to hide the plans where they might later be dug up in time for use in another war. They had told the Poles that it was a "live" bomb that they were burying in order to get it out of the way.

... Kasino Come-On



It was her first appearance singing in English, but one look at petite Christine Schultz-Ewerth, Berlin chanteuse, was enough to put over "My Dreams Are Getting Better All The Time", accent and all. The versatile young radio star, who already sings with equal ease in French, Italian and German, learned three American tunes in two days for her Kasino debut Wednesday night with the 83rd Riflemen. She continues as a featured attraction, replacing the "Four Phillips", now on tour.

I-E Distributes 83rd Booklets

The story of the 83rd in combat has been colorfully told in word and picture in two Division booklets prepared by the I and E and Public Relations offices and distributed this week to every man in the Division.

The Gilbert booklet, with cartoons by Sgt. Nick Firfires, Thunderbolt staff artist, and text by Pfc. John Maloney, former Thunderbolt News Editor, gives a campaign-a-page coverage of 83rd activities from England to the Elbe. It is introduced with a foreword by General Macon and a new sketch of the General by Firfires.

The "Thunderbolt Across Europe" booklet is a six-color, folder-type affair with text by Capt. John C. Neff, Division I and E Officer, and illustrations by Firfires, with the exception of four contributed by Lt. Jean Pages, French liaison officer. The map of the path of the Thunderbolt from Southampton to Zerbst was drawn and illustrated by S/Sgt. Jack B. Slawter from information compiled by Sgt. Wayne R. Howitz, both of the G-3 section.

20,000 copies of each booklet were printed with distribution according to strength to all 83rd units and attachments through unit I and E officers. The Gilbert booklet may be mailed home for six cents, the folder for nine.

Reconversion

Aided by several Dutch former forced laborers, Lt. Jack Drapking and Pfc. Eugene Frizzell of Co. K, 331st Infantry have been working on the reconversion of factories in the town of Langelsheim.

During a 14-day period, they have succeeded in changing over two factories, employing more than 100 people, from the manufacture of airplane cylinders and rust-proofing material to the making of pots and pans and soap.

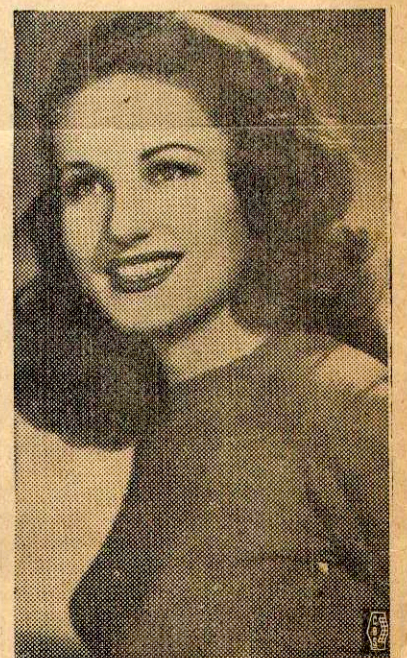
The output of the two plants is already being used by hospitals, which have first priority, and soon will be sufficient to supply ordinary household needs.

Gestapo

Thunderbolt Division authorities have caught up with a German posing as a representative of the "American Gestapo" who had up to the time of his arrest exacted large sums of money and merchandise from wives and relatives of Nazi party members.

The man set up an office in the town of Leiferde, announced that he had been appointed "commissioner" of the village by the American authorities and that he was charged with the duty of fining families of Party members. A partial account of the abortive blackmail attempt showed he had collected almost 15,000 marks in fines, two automobiles, a motorcycle, typewriter, household furniture, accordion and 8,000 cigars. At the time of his arrest the self-styled "American Gestapo Commissioner" was armed with a loaded pistol.

... Pretty Patti



Smooth sweater singer from CBS is pretty Patti Clayton, with a great big hello or two for 84-point doughs in the ETO.

330th Doughs Visit Vast Hermann Goering Plant

By Sgt. John Benham

Hermann Goering's vast steel-producing plant, the largest in Germany, was opened this week for inspection by men of the 83rd Division. Located near Heerte, the sprawling factory that produced much of the steel used in German heavy munitions required the services of 45,000 workers to keep it in operation. About 25,000 of these people were Germans. The remaining 20,000 were imported from neighboring countries.

The tour of the plant, arranged by Capt. Tom Brisbane, 330th I and E officer, as part of the 83rd's post-war education program for GIs in Germany, started last Tuesday when 200 men from the 330th, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions and the 736th Tank Battalion looked over the main parts of the factory. When all of the men of the 330th who desire to see the factory have seen it, the plant will be made available for inspection by men of the other regiments.

The tour is guided by a German-born American citizen who worked in the plant. He explained that he was employed by the H. A. Brassert Co., international consulting engineers on the construction of blast furnaces and steel plants with main offices in Chicago and New York. In 1938 his employers sent him to Germany to advise the Germans on the construction of the plant from plans prepared by the Brassert Co. When construction was completed, the Germans refused to allow him to leave the country, claiming he knew too much.

ESCAPED BOMBING

Comparatively untouched by Allied bombing, the plant stands today in condition to resume operation where it left off on April 13 when the 83rd Division surrounded the area. Opinions were expressed that the plant could not be reconverted to peacetime use and that it would most likely be re-opened on a limited scale for the manufacture of steel for bridges and other essential reconstruction within Germany.

According to the guide, there are four methods of ore preparation. The first method enriches the ore by beating and screening. This method takes advantage of the fact that finer ore contains more iron than larger pieces. The second method is known as the "wet process." Here the ore particles are separated in liquid, the heavier particles sinking to the bottom and the finer particles (containing more iron) staying at the top. The third and fourth methods are known by the names of the firms that originated them, namely, Krupp and Lurgi. It is these two methods of ore preparation that are used in the Goering factory. The Krupp method mixes coke with the ore and permits the use of a cheap fuel in separating the ore particles. In the Lurgi method the ore is crushed, screened and roasted in kilns which make the ore magnetic. Then by magnetism the iron is separated from the remaining slag.

200 TONS A DAY

In the steel plant the soldiers saw the mechanism that is used in making steel from pig iron. They learned of the two processes, Thomas converter and Siemens Martin, which in the Goering plant produced 200 tons of steel each day for the German war machine. In the blast furnace section

they saw the rows of massive furnaces which together produced about 900 tons of pig iron each day.

In the coke oven plant there are eight batteries, each with 55 ovens. Coal was brought to the Goering plant by way of a canal extending from the Rhur valley. The coal was kept in ovens for about 18 hours at a temperature of from 1,300 to 1,400 degrees Centigrade. This converted the coal into coke. An interesting by-product of this process was the formation of a gas which was piped from the factory to Berlin, Magdeburg, and Hanover where it was used for illumination. The combined capacity of the eight batteries in the coke oven plant allowed the conversion of 80,000 tons of coal into coke each day.

Those parts of the plant which the men of the 330th visited last Tuesday included the foundry, the ore preparation section, blast furnaces, coke ovens, power house, and rolling mills. At the conclusion of the tour Capt Brisbane decided that an attempt had been made to cover too much ground. Later tours will be streamlined to include just those portions of the plant whose operations can be readily understood by the visiting GIs.

MG Presents Many Problems To GI Mayors

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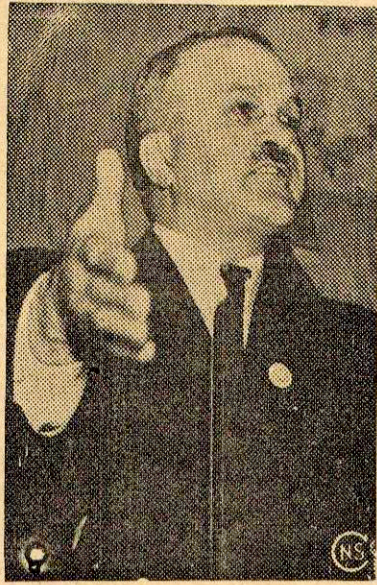
on the sanitary conditions in his towns, Huy holds court every morning and sees on an average of 80 people a day who have complaints to register and requests to make.

Some of the questions asked are reasonable and are treated accordingly, others are indicative of the mistaken idea the German has of the "soft-hearted" American. Of these he makes short shift.

A woman wants to go to America. She asks Huy for a pass. Another asks for coffee because she says she has a sister in Boston. A merchant wants the Vienenburg bank to make good on funds that were transferred to a bank in Aachen before that city fell. The city tax collector wants to know what he is to do with the money he collected for the Nazi Party.

"I try to grant those requests which will benefit the community at large," said Huy. "If a man wants a pass to haul potatoes from outside the county, I give it to him because I realize that by so doing I may be helping to avoid a critical food shortage. But when they come to me asking to go to Braunschweig to see their husbands and brothers who were SS men, I have all I can do to keep from cursing in German."

The United Nations Speak . . .



These are the voices of the United Nations, planning the post-war world at San Francisco. For Russia, V. M. Molotov, Soviet Foreign Commissar (upper left); For England, Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary (upper right); for China, T. V. Soong, Chinese Foreign Minister (lower left); and for the USA, Edward J. Stettinius, American Secretary of State

More Men Get USA Furloughs

With a personal handshake for each man, Major General Robert C. Macon, Commanding General of the 83rd Division, bid bon voyage Monday to one officer and eighteen enlisted men, leaving the Division on 45-day furloughs home.

The men, many of whom have been with the 83rd since its reactivation at Camp Atterbury, Ind., were selected from the 329th, 330th, and 331st Inf; 323rd FA, 83rd Div Arty, 643TD Bn and the 453rd AAA.

Most of the men couldn't realize they were going home. 1st Sgt. Melvin A. Scott of the 331st Inf, who helped organize the original cadre in the 83rd as a first sergeant, said, "The fact that I'm actually going home seems like a dream I'm delighted to go, of course, but I'm really thinking right now about the fellows I'm leaving behind in the Battalion. I'll miss every one of them." Asked what he intended to do when he got home to Indianapolis, Ind., Sgt. Scott said that, among other things, he planned to visit old friends at Camp Atterbury and Camp Breckinridge. "And for the old timers in the outfit, you might mention I'll be spending some time at the Claypool Hotel in Indianapolis. They'll know what I mean!"

BUNK FATIGUE

S/Sgts. Frank J. Dahl and Robert A. Hodges, both of the 329th, said that they hadn't made any special plans on how they would spend the 45 days, but they did expect to catch up on some lost sleep. They both expressed a desire to return to their old outfits.

In saying good-bye to the men, General Macon invited each of them to drop him a personal note to let him know how they were treated en route to their homes. "From your experiences we will be able to make corrections in the furlough system that will be of benefit to men who may follow you home on furloughs at a later date," said General Macon. He also told them what steps he had taken to correct unsatisfactory laundry conditions and to improve the mess.

In parting, General Macon told the men he hoped they all enjoyed the furloughs that they had earned and that they found their families in good health. "When your furloughs are over, I want you back in the 83rd. I know what you can do, and you can be proud to be in the 83rd Division. I think it's the greatest Infantry Division in the world and it's your efforts that have made it so," said General Macon.

Crabill

(Continued from Page 1)

of the European-North African Section, Operations Division, on the War Dept. General Staff.

Col. Reid, West Pointer of '23, has also served on the WD General Staff. He was Chief of the European Theatre Section, Operations Division, from '42 to '44. He entered combat as commander of the 424th Infantry in Luxembourg and was wounded in action on Jan. 15, 1945.

Citizens Of Bad Harzburg Give MPs Little Trouble

Other than the fact they have to answer a million and one questions by German civilians regarding rules for the military occupation of Germany, civilians are giving Thunderbolt Division MPs little trouble.

"They ask us where they can find the burgermeister, where they can buy watch crystals, where they can see the 'commandant'. I expect someone is going to ask me the price of eggs pretty soon," said Pvt Richard Prietz of Detroit who spends a good deal of his working time on traffic duty. "You'd think we were the natives and they the visitors."

The MPs have an effective way of dealing with minor infractions of Military Government rules. When a civilian breaks the law by driving his bicycle in the middle of the street instead of on the sidewalk, he is temporarily relieved of his conveyance, handed a broom and told to sweep the sidewalk in front of the Provost Marshal's office. The embarrassment has served as an excellent deterrent against second offenses of a similar nature.

Of the 151 men in the MP Platoon only two speak fluent German, but this has not been a serious handicap according to Sgt Philip Spivak of Philadelphia. "The MP band on the helmet is a language of its own."

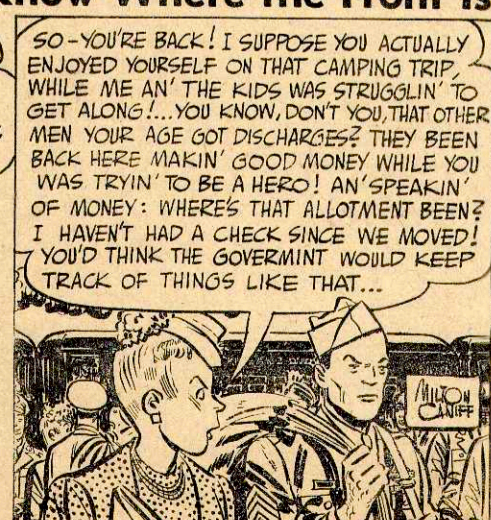
During the eight days the MPs have been policing Bad Harzburg, a town of 25,000 people, there has been only one case of a civilian complaining about another civilian's misdemeanor. That was when a tenant complained her landlord wouldn't let her use the kitchen. The matter was quickly ironed out by Pfc Peter Stefan of New Milford, Ohio, the Platoon's German-speaking trouble-shooter.

Supplementing the efforts of the Platoon, there are approximately 50 civilian policemen appointed by MGO. They work under the supervision of Lt. Gus Moore, Public Safety Officer. Though more cases have been coming through his channel, they are of a comparatively minor nature, such as looting, chicken stealing, pillaging and curfew violations.

Male Call

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

You Never Know Where the Front Is



Training Time . . .



331st doughs settle down for the kind of training Yanks like the best—with ball and bat. Boasting the most complete athletic program in the Division, Col. York's boys have nine diamonds in daily operation to take care of a full schedule of battalion and company league play. (Photo by Straus)

Big League Ball Holds Home Front Spotlight

By Pfc. Carl Weber

Back in ATOUSA (the home front to you) the 1945 baseball season is well on the way and currently the May predictions are falling faster than the showers which have been washing out a good percentage of the scheduled games. Notwithstanding, the fast-starting Giants, sparked by their player-manager, the Lil Giant Mel Ott, still lead the National League. In the American, the valuable Jimmie Dykes is all smoked up over the chances of the Chicago White Sox, the toppers in that circuit.

Incidentally, Sporting News, the ball fans' bible, rates Ott the National League Player-of-the-Week. Ott is an old-timer playing his twentieth season in the senior circuit at the age of 36. For the first time since the '39 season he is clouting the ball consistently over .300. He leads the league with homers, having knocked out six thus far. He tied the late Lou Gehrig's all-time total of 494 on May 13 and is now gunning for Jimmie Fox's mark of 527, second only to Babe Ruth's untouchable aggregate of 714.

DYKES PREDICTS

Jimmie Dykes, the 20-a-day cigar smoker, is the current leader of the Optimist League. He says the Comisky-men are way out in front and still playing under wraps.

The only glimmer of light for Connie Mack's As is their current mound hopeful, lanky "Russ" Christopher, who so far this season has won five out of six starts to be rated the Player-of-the-Week in the American League. Other than A. B. "Happy" Chandler, Commissioner-Elect who is getting the red flare from his former cohorts, the Racing Gentry, for his edict keeping the national pastimers from wagering on the bang-tails, the sport spotlight is focused on one David Ferriss.

Ex-Corporal Ferriss, who was discharged from the AAF in February of this year for chronic asthma, set a new American League mark of 22 consecutive scoreless innings for hurlers beginning their big-time careers. After blanking the Athletics and the Yankees in his first two starting as-

signments, he was four innings into repeating the performance against the Tigers before permitting his first major league run as he defeated Detroit 8 to 2 on May 13.

The sensational Boston Red Sox rookie was originally signed into organized baseball by Herb Pennock in 1942. Ferriss was discovered by Happy Campbell, baseball coach at the University of Alabama and a Red Sox scout. At the time "Bo" Ferriss was the star hurler of the Mississippi State College team. Previous to that he had played high school ball at Shaw, Miss. and semi-pro with a Minter City, Miss club.

SECOND GUESS

Baseball interest generally is perking up despite the scant leather allocations being meted out by the WPB and the "Comme-ci, Comme-ca" attitude on the part of ODT officials. The Phillies have introduced a new wrinkle in organizing a group of fans with the right to second guess the manager, sit in on strategy meetings, discuss trades and, in short, help run the ball club. Then, too, the WD issued a new order stopping the drafting of 4-Fs in the major leagues and ending the discriminations aimed at professional athletes of all sorts.

This attitude will also be helpful to the tottering war-time slugfest league. The fight game, which hasn't fared too well of late, has a couple of choice bits to offer. Sgt. Joe Louis, who took the count in the divorce courts recently, might get a return engagement, according to his ex, Marva Trotter, who is quoted as saying, "Joe and I might remarry someday; it would be all right with me. But that's all in the future. The war has to get over with first."

HONEST CONTEST

Meanwhile on the active fistic front the District of Columbia Boxing Commission ruled that the waltz and dive extravaganza put on by Arturo Godoy, Chilean heavyweight, and Buddy Walker, Columbus negro, last week was "an honest contest". And in the "City of Brotherly Love" Jose Badora, the misplaced bull fighter, and ex GI Sugar (Ray) Robinson fought to a draw and the largest indoor take in local history on May 14.

From boxing stables to horse stables is not too big a jump, especially as the Kentucky Derby is just around the corner. The top event of American turfdom, which takes place on June 9, follows closely the letting down of the mutuals bars. The touts and dandies are appreciatively feeding the machines as evidenced by the 2,471,646 dollar total bet at the Jamaica opening. They're off! Yer lays down yer money and yer takes yer choice.



Dear Charlie:

Can you tell me what boat you are coming home on so that I can meet you when you land? I know you are coming home because everybody says you are. The only trouble is, is that don't come home in the month of July because I'll be on my vacation and I won't be able to see you. Therefore see if you can get home by June. By the way, how many points have you got? You said that your sergeant got some of your medals. Well, can you count them in your score too?

You have the bad habit of not making yourself clear in your letters. You said that you met some nice fellows from your own 83rd Division Artillery. Is that the 85rd Division that you are in? The newspapers say that you are in an Infantry Division, so how can you also be in an Artillery Division. Charlie, I hope for your sake you weren't trying to tell me you were an Infantryman just to cash in on those poor boys' hard-earned glory. How can you be an Infantryman in an Artillery Division, huh?

I am awful sorry I addressed your letter in care of the Fleet Post Office. I must of mistook you for my brother. We girls are each putting in ten dollars to raise a big party for the boys who were rejected for overseas duty. It's the least we can do for soldiers who never had a chance to win even a Bronze Star. Mary, your old girl friends says she knows where you can get 12 more points if you need them. (Charlie, please send me ten bucks).

Privately yours,
Jennifer

I and E Courses To Start Monday

Starting Monday morning, short refresher courses in various mechanical fields will be conducted by three 85rd service units as a part of the Division Information and Education program.

Men eligible for the courses will attend classes Monday through Friday under the following schedule — 83rd Quartermaster Company, Stock Records; 785rd Ordnance Company, Welding, Delicate Instrument Work (including watch repair), Stock Records and Automotive Mechanics; 85rd Signal Company, Civilian Radio Repair.

Small quotas will comprise the classes starting next week, but subsequent courses call for a definite increase in the operation of the entire program. Men who have benefited from the training will in turn train others within their own units.

Capt. Lyndon H. Squires, Division On-The-Job-Training Officer, stated the only requirement needed for the courses was previous civilian experience in the class selected by the applicant.

331st Inf. Takes Lead In 83rd Sports Program

A combination of two factors are holding up the Thunderbolt sports program. The post V-E Day sunshine has evaded the Harz Mountain area and the gloom gets thicker as satisfactory equipment fails to arrive.

Meanwhile, Special Service personnel in all echelons are virtually tearing their hair to get things going while performing the double job of providing entertainment programs and scrounging around for all the available sports equipment in the area and out of it.

Despite these handicaps, the officers and men of the 83rd are proving themselves once again to be good soldiers and are sweating it out, between showers, with makeshift equipment and a let's-choose-up-sides attitude. To them fun is where you find it and there are enough charley horses and lame backs around to prove that they are at least well into the spring training phase of the anticipated sports jamboree.

KRIBS' MEN LEAD

To date the 551st program, under Lt David A. Kribs, Kalamazoo, Mich. sportsman, is still taking the lead in enthusiasm, contests played and number of men in active participation. The 550th lists an ambitious soft ball schedule and reports keen interest in informal volley ball games. So far, they have just begun to roll. T/Sgt John C. Sousa of Bristol, R. I., and the men of the 5rd Bn A & P platoon can readily take credit in that department. They not only fixed up a ball diamond but also put a local swimming pool in working order.

The only other outfits heard from this past week were the Recon Troop and the Division MPs. These two outfits have met in soft ball games three times to date and the Recon's so far have the edge. The Recon's won one other start, taking the measure of "B" Co of the 508th Medics. But they whittled their average down by dropping two games to the 550th 2nd Bn team and one to the 785rd Ordnance ten. The MPs meanwhile boosted their average to 500 by squeezing an extra inning thriller from the 551st Regimental team.

QM CHALLENGE

In the hard ball department the 85rd Quartermasters are challenging all comers and have two games booked, the first Saturday, May 26, at the Hockey Field in Bad Harzburg. Game time 1450.

Befitting a Memorial Day afternoon the QMs again go to bat on the same field against the 643 Tank Destroyers. An added feature of the

day will be the presence of the famous 83rd Division Band. Lending color and incidently refreshment to the occasion, the promoters of this affair will have beer and cokes on sale right on the lot.

From New York the following big picture on sports for ETOUSA gives that ray of sunshine on things to come. Of course, a lot of it depends on a great big "IF". However, as AO duty becomes clearer, the sports wheels will inevitably start grinding.

TONS OF EQUIPMENT

Hundreds of tons of equipment already have been sent overseas for the millions of servicemen who will take part in sports as a substitute for military training, in the wake of victory over Germany. For soldiers in the Army of Occupation and those awaiting transfer to the Pacific, athletics will become part of the regular physical training program. Lt. Col. Frank G. McCormick, former University of Minnesota athletic director, is in charge of the Army program.

Sports to be emphasized include softball, volleyball, touch football, basketball, baseball and horseshoe pitching. Competition may be climaxed by "victory games" at Paris among the Allies.

Col. McCormick said that the Army was endeavoring to obtain the cooperation of every soldier in the program, pointing out that participation would not affect the return of any man to the United States. It has been estimated that 15,000 basketball teams, 30,000 softball teams, 1,500 boxing teams, 750 golfing teams and 150 fencing teams will enter theater-wide tournaments.

New Assignment

The Thunderbolt lost an old friend this week when Pfc John Maloney, News Editor, transferred from Public Relations to I and E work.

A key member of the staff since Brittany, Maloney was in on all the big Division newsbreaks from St. Malo to the Elbe Bridgehead. His excellent combat coverage of the Division reflected his civilian experience as a reporter for the Dunkirk Observer, his hometown paper, and the Buffalo Evening News.

A graduate of Notre Dame, Maloney holds a teaching certificate in New York state, which accounts for his new assignment.

. . . Nichts Verboten



It's a 65 dollar look, but there's nothing verboten about Miss Malena Miller from Mansfield, Ohio, who also has a come-hither voice, currently being beamed over CBS.

Special Delivery

The 85rd Quartermaster Company lived up to its reputation for delivering the goods when the truck driven by Pfc Harry B. Hatfield of Henderson, Ky. served as the delivery room for a German baby. Hatfield was driving the empty truck toward Halbersheim when he was hailed frantically by two women, one of them pregnant. He picked them up and before he was able to get them to the hospital the baby was born