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# Eighty Third Field Artillery Battalion

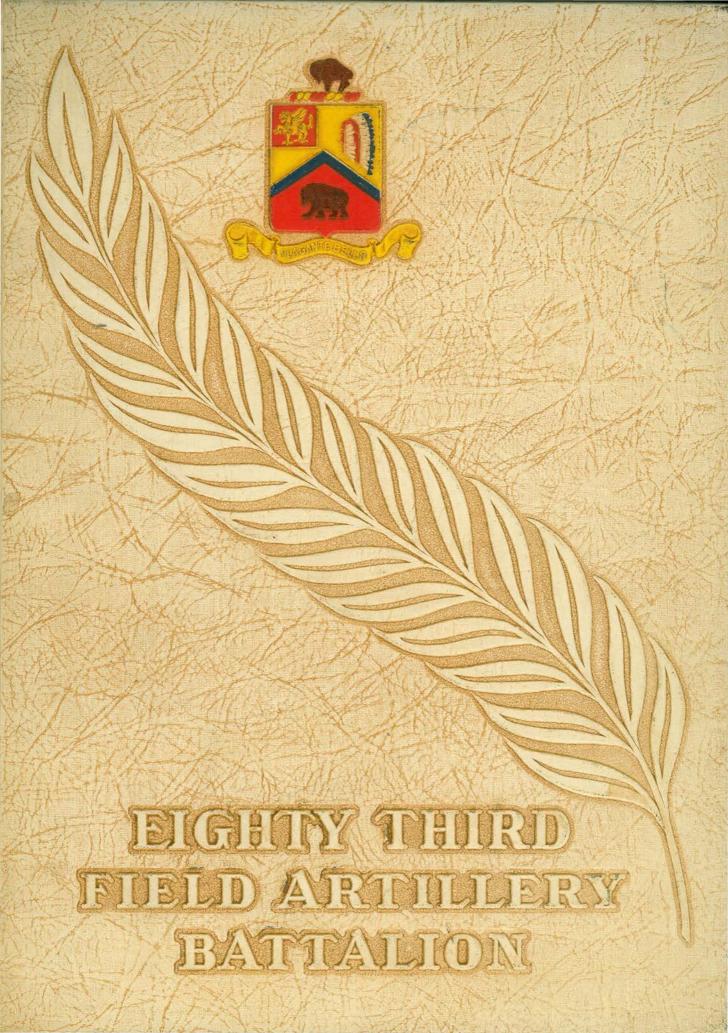
Ralph O. Bates

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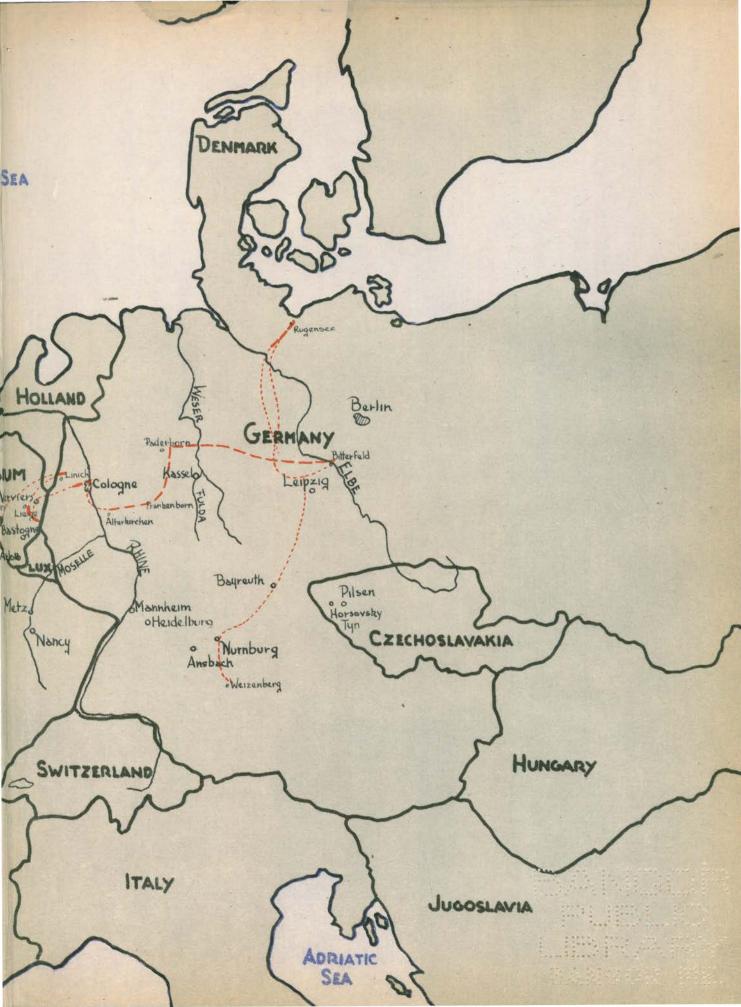
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March 18th 1920

From: The Adjutant General of the Army

To: The Quartermaster General, Director of Purchase and Storage Subject: Coat of Arms for the 83rd Field Artillery

1. The Secretary of War approves the following Coat-of-arms for this regiment.

Party per cheveron or and gules, a cheveronal azure between in the sinister chief a Cheyenne War Benet and in base a grizzly bear passant both proper. On a cantoon tinne'a dragoon passant of the first

(for the 1st Cavalry)

CREST: On a wreath of the colors a bison statant argent.

Motto: Flagranto Bello. (Glorious in Battle)

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DESCRIPTION:

(a) The 83rd Field Artillery was organized from the 1st Cavalry in 1917, at Fort D. A. Russell, Cheyenne, Wyoming, being then known as the 25th Cavalry. It was later transformed into field Artillery, assigned to the 8th Division and trained at Camp Fremont, California. It served in training for a short time in France before the Armistice.

(b) The field is or and gules for cavalry and artillery respectively. The blue cheveronal shows less than six months service overseas. The birthplace of the regiment is shown by the Cheyenne war bonnet and the bison, the emblem of Wyoming. The Bear, the emblem of California, is to commemorate service in its division at Camp Fremont. The Parent Organization is shown on the canton, a gold dragoon on an orange field, taken from the Arms of the 1st Cavalry, formerly the First dragoons.

> BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR (Harrison Hall)

Copy: Hq: 83rd F. A. ASD./

Adjutant General Wendell L. Bevan, Capt. 83rd F. A. Adjutant

A TRUE COPY

Preface

We have compiled the matter of this book from all the previously written information we could find, plus the data found in the After Action Repoorts. The Editor and Staff want to warn you before you begin that we are just a bunch of GIs trying to construct a "Keepsake" for you.

The various chapters are to represent the various stages: Organization & Preparation, Sea Voyage & England and a chapter devoted to each Combat Star received. The latter will linger long in our minds, therefore we have gone much more into detail to help refresh your memory.

We are working with the idea in mind that you, concerned, are true broadminded Americans and will not be offended by any remark made concerning you.

Without a doubt, your family and friends will be as interested in the contents as you. There are entries that are not enough in detail for them to understand and get the full GI value, so it is supposed that you will explain any minor detail. (The experience of each man could not be entered, therefore we deemed it necessary to be as general as possible. The data is entered as the activities of the Battalion. For any special interesting events pretaining to any separate Battery, we have designed a section for each Battery separately.

Beginning here, let your imagination be free to wander through the various stages and join us in the HISTORY OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD-ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION".

Ralph & Bates Lawrence of anders. bastrup

DRAWINGS

ASSISTANTS

EDITOR

CARTOONS

MAP

## **Battle Honors**

Indian Wars: New Mexico 1849, 1850, 1854, 1855, 1856, (First Dragoons), Oregon 1866, 1867, 1868, Arizona 1868, 1869, 1870, 1881, Modocs, Apaches, NezPercs, Bannacs, Montana, 1887, and Pineridge.

Mexican Wars: Beuna Vista (First Dragoons) and Chichuahua, 1848 (First Dragoons).

Civil War: New Mexico 1862, Peninsula, Antietan, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Maryland, 1863, Virginia, 1863, 1864, 1865. Wilderness, Scottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Shenandoah and Appomattox.

Spanish War: Santiago, Philippine Insurrection, Luzon, 1904.

World War I: Plourmel and Brest.

- ALL CONTRACTOR

- TANK BOTTOM

World War II: Normandy, France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.



BIVOUAC AND FIRING	and the second second		
POSITIONS OCCUPIED	DATE OCCUPIED		
BY 83RD AFA BN.			
FIERVILLE	00 7 1 10/4		
CDANNULP	26 July 1944		
GRANVILLE	1 Aug. 1944		
QUEDILLAC	2 Aug. 1944		
GAEL	3 Aug. 1944		
HUELGOAT			
FEUILLE			
S. PLABENAC	8 Aug. 1944		
PLOUVIEN	9 Aug. 1944		
S. PLABENAC			
KERSALLIC			
DIRION			
LOPERHET	23 Aug. 1944		
PLOUGASTEL	1 Sept. 1944		
NEAR ARGOL	10 Sept. 1944		
KERLIVER			
CROZEN			
PLOUVIEN			
PONT CROIX	20 Sept. 1944		
LESNEVENS			
MONTERFIL	25 Sept. 1944		
LAVEL			
EPUISAY			
NERT LEGRANDE			
LAFERTE			
FUMAY	30 Oct. 1944		
TONGEREN, BELGIUM	31 Oct. 1944		
PALENBURG, GERMANY			
WAURICHEN			
IMMENDORF	20 Nov. 1944		
PUFFENDORF	3 Dec. 1944		
AMONINES, BELGIUM			
ERZEE			
FIZENE			
MODAVE	31 Dec. 1944		
BUIS DE MOULE	3 Jan. 1945		
VAUX CHAVANNE			
MELAMPRE	6 Jan. 1945		
LANSIVAL			
VERLEUMONT	10 Jan. 1945		
HEBRONVAL			
LANGLIR			
SEPTON			
MAUSBAUGH, GERMANY .			
DUREN			
MEZERNICH	26 Feb. 1945		
BUIR	26 Feb. 1945		
MANHEIM	27 Feb. 1945		
SUTERDERHOF	27 Feb. 1945		
GROUVEIN			
BERGNEIN			
OBERHAUSEN			
BUSDORF	3 Mar. 1945		

DIVOULA AND DIDING

FLIESTEON	4	Mar.	1945
SINNERSDORF	5	Mar.	1945
ESCH	5	Mar.	
GLEWEL	16	Mar.	
ORSCHEID	23	Mar.	
EUDENBACH	25	Mar.	
BENNAU	25	Mar.	
KRANKEL	26	Mar.	
FLAMMERSFELD	26		
	26	Mar.	
BERGHAUSEN		Mar.	
SCHONEBERG	26	Mar.	
OBER EINGELBACH	26	Mar.	
HACHENBERG	27	Mar.	
HEISTERBERG	27	Mar.	1945
HERBORN	27	Mar.	1945
NIEDER WEIMAR	28	Mar.	1945
MARBURG	28	Mar.	1945
TWISTE	29	Mar.	
WREXEN	30	Mar.	
ETTOWN	31	Mar.	
GERINGHAUSEN	1	Apr.	1945
KIRCHBORCHEN	î	Apr.	1945
IGGENHAUSEN	5	Apr.	1945
BORGENTREICH	6		1945
	6	Apr.	1945
MANRODE		Apr.	
DIESEL	7	Apr.	1945
ELLIERODE	9	Apr.	1945
HOCKELHEIM	9	Apr.	1945
GIEBOLDEHAUSEN	10	Apr.	1945
RIESTEDT	12	Apr.	1945
ZELLEWITZ	13	Apr.	1945
KLEIN WULKNITZ	14	Apr.	1945
SALZFURTH		Apr.	1945
WOLFRODE	23	Apr.	1945
WOLFENBUTTAL	30	Apr.	1945
UELZEN	1	May	1945
WENDISCHTHUN	1	May	1945
RUGENSEE	-	May	1945
A at DAHLBERG		May	1945
B at SCHWERIN		May	1945
SCHNEGA		May	
	20	MAN	1340
A at GLSTENBECK			
B at MALSLEBEN C at PROT			1045
Sv at SALKOU	20	May	1945
DANNENBERG	26	May	1945
B at GRIPPEL C at LUCHOV			
Sv at BREESE	26	May	1945
B at GR GUSBORN	29	May	1945
SKOUDITZ	4	Tune	1945
ROTH	5	June	1945
A and C at UNTER	5	June	1945
ROTH	8	June	1945
A at MISCHELBACH		NO PROMIZES	04073076700
C and SV at PLEINFELD			
B at DORSBRUND	8	Tune	1945
	-	,	

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The history of the 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion began on June 15th, 1832 when the First Regiment of Cavalry was organized by Act of Congress, as the Battalion of Mounted Rangers. A reorganization on March 21st, 1833, changed the title to the Regiment of Dragoons. Later in 1836 it was designated as the First Dragoons, and in 1861 was again known as the 1st Cavalry.

However June 4, 1917, may be considered as organization day. It was then that the War Department created the 25th Cavalry under the command of Captain C. O. Thomas, formerly of the 1st Cavalry at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. One third of the peace time strength of the 1st Cavalry was used as a nucleus for the new regiment, and it was filled with volunteer recruits. Subsequently, the command reverted to Col. George H. Cameron with Lt. Col. F. J. Koester second in command. On August 1st, 1917, the regiment was converted into the 83rd Provisional Field Artillery and assigned to the 8th Artillery Brigade of the 8th Regular Division.

In February, 1918, the Regiment left Fort D. A. Russell for Camp Fremont, California, where it joined the other two Regiments of the Brigade, (the 81st and 82nd). On July 1st, 1918, the Regiment left Camp Fremont for Fort Sill, Oklahoma. It was there that the ex-cavalrymen were trained to be artillery men.

The long looked for embarkation orders came at last in October 1918. While the Ardenne Battles were raging, the 83rd set sail from Hogoken, N. J. on October 28th, 1918, arriving at Brest November 9. Two days later the Armistice was signed. A month was spent in Pluemel, Dept. Of Morbihan, Brittany, after which the Regiment returned to Brest to act as Bodyguard to President Wilson during his stay there.

January 4, 1919, the unit sailed from the French shore. After 14 days on high seas, landed at New York January 18. Spending three days at Comp Mills, the Regiment entrained for Camp Knox, Kentucky, arriving on January 31st, 1919.

In November, 1919, horses were turned in and the 83rd became a tractor drawn or motorized Regiment, Lt. Col. Julian I. Chamberlain commanding until August, 1920, when he was relieved by Col. Dolonel M. McClosky. Shortly after this, Major J. W. Rumbough arrived from the office of the Chief of Field Artillery to take command of the 1st Battalion which was to go to detached service at Camp Benning, Ga. This Battalion left on September 15, 1920, with its Combat Train, marched to Fort Benning, arriving in November, 1920, to begin its functions as the artillery demonstration Battalion of the newly organized Infantry School. The Regiment, less 1st Bn., remained at Camp Knox and later was placed on the inactive list January 7, 1922. Several tests of the motor equipment were made between the summer of 1923 and 1926.

The 1st Bn. changed from 75 mm. gun, tractor drawn, to a Battalion of Field Artillery 75 mm. gun, horse drawn. No change was authorized in enlisted strength. Effective May 1st, 1927, the 1st Bn. was designated the 83rd F. A. Bn.

Battery "A", commanded by Captain Soloman Clark, won the Knox Trophy for the year of 1929.

January 1, 1930, the 83rd F. A. was again assigned to the 8th Division.

The designation of the unit was then changed from 83rd F. A. Bn. to 1st Bn. 83rd F. A., March 22, 1930.

Battery "B" left Fort Benning, Ga. on June 5, 1930, arriving at Camp Knox June 6, 1930, and was immediately demobilized. The 100 enlisted men of the inactive battery were transferred and formed Battery "B" 3rd Field Artillery.

From June 26 to July 11, 1931, Hq. Battery and Combat Train made a march from Camp Benning to Albany, Ga. The purpose was training and promotion of good relation with the civilian population. (Ed. Note —Happy to report no disciplinary action was required against any member of the Battery.)

It is interesting to note that in 1931 the Infantry School allowed the Battalion 300-1500 rounds per year of shell and shrapnel for demonstration purposes.

In 1932, a Battery of 105 mm. How. was received as additional equipment for test. Expended 50 rounds of experimental ammunition on two problems.

#### MARCH 2, 1933: THE 83RD FIELD ARTILLERY CELEBRATED ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The 83rd F. A. (75 mm. gun) was relieved from the 8th Div. and assigned to the 4th Div. on Oct. 1, 1933. The 2nd Bn. (less Battery F) was reconstituted to an active status at Fort Bragg, N. C. from the 2nd Bn. to the 16th F. A., where it remained until 1940.

Battery "B" was reactivated at Fort Benning December 1, 1934, as a truck drawn unit.

The 1st Battalion Combat Train was activated October, 1935 and in that year the Battalion was put on a war strength recruiting basis.

In 1937 the Battalion worked with the 29th Infantry in various tests pertaining to the new infantry division. In this period the 81 mm. mortars of the 29th were issued to Battery "B", which functioned as a Mortar Battery.

During the years, 1938 and 1939, the Battalion went through a period of training and maneuvers, included in the itinerary were road marches, spring maneuvers, and the usual "spit and polish."

It was in the summer of 1940 that the 1st Battalion moved from Fort Benning, Ga. to Harmony Church. Shortly after, the 2nd Bn. came from Fort Bragg to join the 1st. Also, the newly activated 3rd Bn. arrived from Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

The recently organized 83rd F. A. Regiment moved from Harmony Church to Fort Jackson, S. C. in October 1940. Upon arriving, Battery "B" of the 1st Battalion was converted into Horse Drawn Artillery. Early in 1941, the 2nd Battalion was designated as the 70th F. A. Bn., and the 3rd Battalion as the 71st F. A. Bn. The 1st Battalion was redesignated as the 83rd F. A. Bn. At the time of the change, the Regimental Train was redesignated as Service Battery.

Early in March, 1941, the unit started to get some new men under the Selective Service Act. These men were put into a separate Battery of about 100 men and trained under the direction of Major J. R. Bush, (then 1st Lt.), Major G. A. Aubry, (then 2nd Lt.), and Lt. Sadd. The older men of the unit were not allowed to speak of these men as Draftees because they did not want to hurt their feelings. Nor could the regular men associate with the SS men. In the latter part of March, the men were sent to different Batteries for regular duty. Some of these men were transferred to the 70th and 71st.

On 27 May 41, the Nags and other Bn. equipment, less the wheeled vehicles, were loaded on the train and sent on their way to Fort Sill, Okla. This was some trip; once a day the train halted, the horses were unloaded, fed, watered, exercised, and groomed. After three days of this, the train reached Fort Sill the 31st of May, 1941, under the command of Lt. Col. Sargent. About the same time was required for the wheeled vehicles to make the trip. Those that traveled by road acted as the advance detail, arriving at Fort Sill a few days ahead of the train. By the time the "nags" arrived, this detail had the stables prepared and stocked the barns with plenty of hay and grain. The advanced detail was required to live in tents while they cleaned the barracks and put them in tip-top shape for the remainder of the Battalion.

The "nags" were unloaded, taken to their new concrete stables, and bedded down. The men gathered up their equipment and headed for the barracks with the thought, "I wonder where we will stay, probably in the wide open spaces some place." It was a pleasant surprise to find that their home was to be the latest and most modern barracks at Fort Sill. Large, roomy, stucco, buildings with steam heat, waxed floors and tile bathrooms.

The Battalion then took up its duties as demonstration troops for the Field Artillery School.

On 8 January, 1942, Major Robert P. Clay took command of the Battalion. Through much hard work, the Battalion established its record with the school. Early morning and late in the afternoon the horses could be seen dragging the old French 75 mm. gun to and from the range.

It was in May that the War Department decided that the Battalion should become a motorized unit. On 23rd of May, the order came to draw trucks and the 105 mm. How. In June of the same year, the horses were taken to the railroad siding of the Fort Sill station and loaded; to be sent on their way to the remount station.

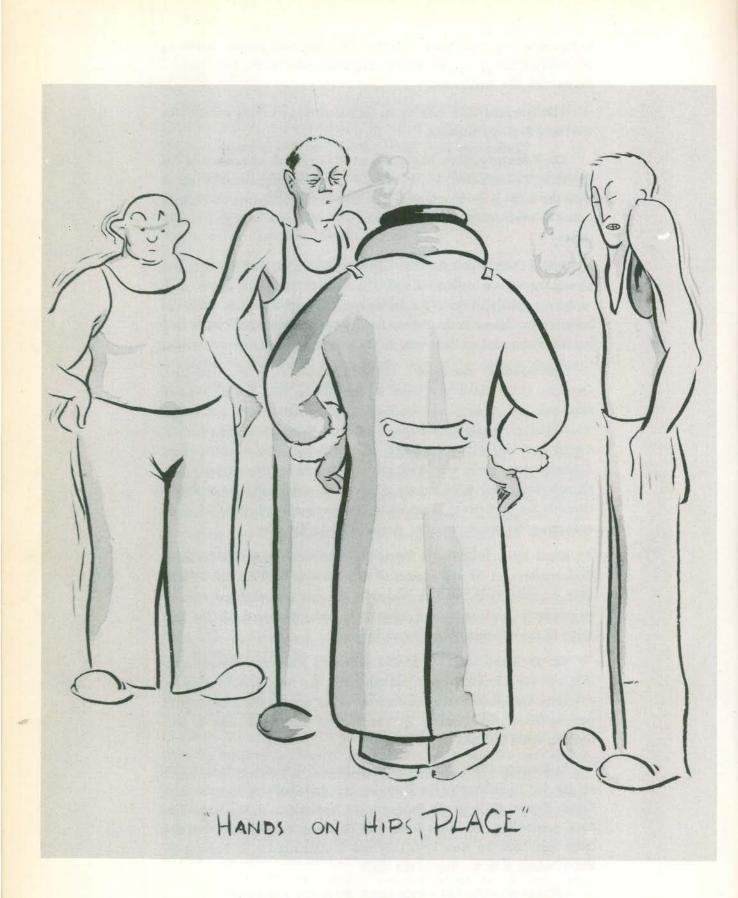
The Battalion remained a 105 truck drawn F. A. Bn. until 21st, October, 1942. About this time, in accordance with the new trend, emphasis was being placed on Armored Field Artillery. The Battalion underwent a complete change in T/O and T/E and became an Armored F. A. Bn. with the mission of developing a SOP for Armored Artillery. The work was hard. New methods were constantly employed. Some discarded, others adopted, but eventually the Battalion attained the proficiency required to resume work with the FAS demonstrating the employment of Armored Field Artillery.

On 1 May, 1943, Major Frank L. Street was appointed Battalion Commander and the unit continued its work with the FAS. On 7 Sept., 1943, on order from the 17th Bridgade, the unit was shipped with all its personnel and equipment by train to Fort Jackson, S. C. The first stage of the overseas journey had begun.

On 20 September, 1943, Lt. Col. Edward J. Roxbury assumed command of the Battalion. Under his guidance, the final preparations for overseas movement were undertaken. GHQ tests were satisfactorily accomplished, qualification in small arms completed and a real fighting spirit instilled in the unit.

In January, 1944, all vehicles were turned in to the ordnance and on the 3rd of February, the Battalion left Fort Jackson. It arrived at Camp Kilmer, N. J. on 4th February, its last station in the states, for final processing. Six days later, the Battalion shouldered its duffel bags, entrained for New York City and boarded the S. S. Thomas H. Barry, which was waiting at the dock.

GERMANY BEWARE: THE 83RD WAS ON ITS WAY.





On the black night of February 11, 1944, the 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion slid away from the snow covered dock at New York, N. Y. This was the first time on the ocean for most of us "landlubbers" and the inevitable happened. Just about everyone became sea-sick and there was a great demand for space in the ship's latrine and at the railing. This condition persisted for a few days but finally the men found their "sea-legs." For eleven or twelve days we rolled from side to side and pitched back and forth as the Thomas H. Barry cut its way through the waves of the Atlantic. It was a happy day when that ship load of sea-tired men got the next sight of land on February 22, 1944. Two days later, the tub, as we then knew it, came to rest at Swansea, Wales. Getting accustomed to land legs again was not near as difficult as adopting the sea legs.

Upon disembarking at Swansea, we were introduced to one of those famous English trains. Instead of the long passenger cars that we were used to at home, the cars were much smaller and far less comfortable. But we finally became used to that and at daybreak on the morning of February 25, 1944, we slung the awkward packs, and left the train to march up the road to a small town of South Littleton, England. "That was the Place." For five months we made this our home. Here we were in a new home in a new land, so far away from everything that we were never used to, and could not even tell our loved-ones where we were or when we got there.

New Home! Yes, that is, if one can call those Neison huts home. We admit, however, that they had a very homely touch, with the four small windows and the secret passage doorway. Instead of the foot and wall lockers that we were so accustomed to in the "hotels" in the U.S.A., we hung our clothes on a bar or wire that stretched the length of the hut. Some of us were more fortunate and were allowed to live in what was termed, "The Barn." There were four of these and the good fortune fell to Hq., A and B Batteries to occupy them. The one small stove that supplied the heat was kept red most of the time, in spite of the shortage of "coke". The usual period of cleaning things up and shifting things around to suit our taste began shortly. You might expect that there was a lot to be done as those "Blokes" had lived there before we came along. This did not take long and the settling down to training began before long. After several trips were made to different places in England, we became fully equipped with the vehicles and other equipment. "Funny how the war department never built anything to suit a GI."

Immediately the process of converting things to suit the individual taste was begun. This thing knocked off and that put on, racks for this, and boxes for that, a process that I think can never be completed; because some of the fellows were still knocking off and rebuilding up until the end of the war.

After a short period of indoctrination, the men were allowed to explore the country and study the people (but definitely the latter).

Space at South Littleton was a bit crowded, so part of the unit had to move to the famous city of Evesham. This fate fell to the unlucky Service Battery and part of Hq. Battery.

Strange how the American GI can become accustomed to the ways and acts of his surroundings so quickly. The British Canteen and the American Red Cross club were two of the hangouts where we went to find and make friends. It was the home of everything from the British Land Army to the Canadian Air Corps.

In several cases, the GI and the British Service Lady became very familiar. Of course, that hot band of the RAF and the 83rd Rhythm section added much to the romantic touch.

Some of these romances reached the serious stage and developed into a permanent love affair. "When the Love bug gets you you better watch out." Remember those that returned to England and took the vows of matrimony. When you see them, Cpl. Alfred Underwood, Le-Roy Gillard, Dominic Masello, Hermon Mueller, be sure and inquire of the welfare of "Jolly Olde England." There were those that did not find the nerve to marry at the time overseas so, they just took the first step and made the promise. Those that prefer may call it being engaged.

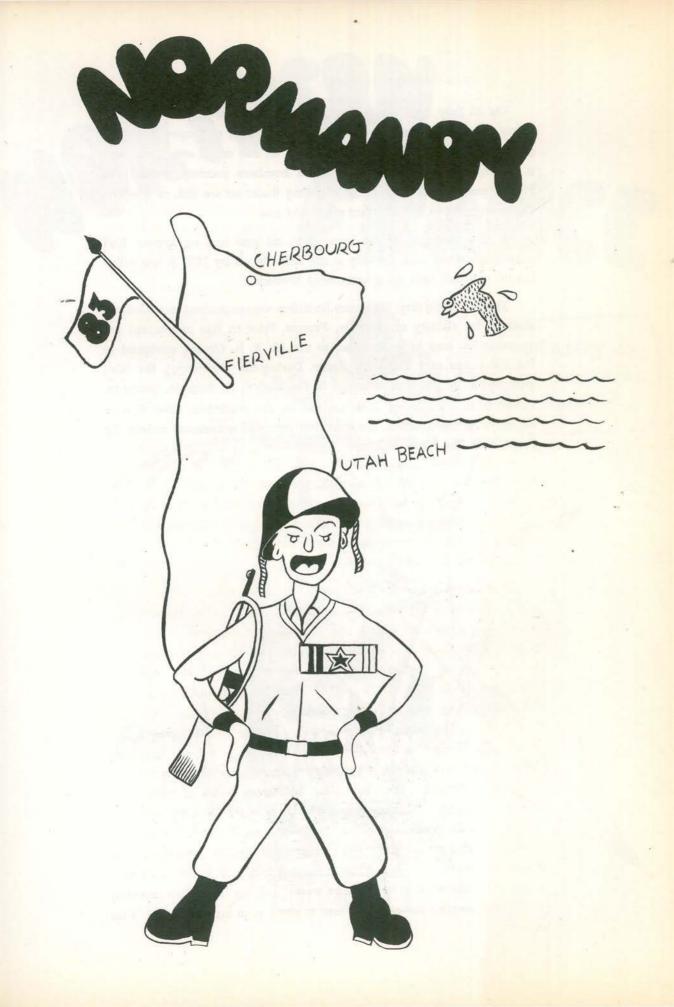
The Battalion made several trips to "Sunny" Wales, the land to be thanked for that good meat we often received. This was an important part of its training. These road marches proved of value when we entered France. In addition, the Battalion took part on Artillery exercises on the Salisbury Plains. The Battalion had some special interest in the literary side of life. While at South Littleton, members of the unit took advanage of the chance to see several of Shakespear's plays. How fortunate, for there are many English literature teachers who would give anything for a chance like that.

How many of you have ever heard of a "Pub?" That is a place where the old people of England used to go to spend the evening as they sipped along on their bitters. There are some of these Pubs that will long be a part of us. Take the "Fish and Anchor", what a lovely spot on the banks of the lazy Avon. It is just a short walk down the hill; that is, if you take the short cut.

Many of us did not know the sting of war until some trips were taken, and we saw the devastation that the Jerries brought to the English towns. The tension of D-Day was relieved on the morning of June 6, 1944. Finally the period of waiting was over and the 83rd Armored F. A. Bn. received its movement orders.

At 1108 July, 1944, the 83rd Armored F. A. Bn. left its station at "Camp Roxie", South Littleton, Worcestershire, England, and arrived at its destination at Lyme Regis, Devonshire, at 1900, under order from the 33rd F. A. Brigade. It was ready for the job in France. However, much work had to be done in a short time. The final touches were put on the vehicles and the last of the equipment drawn and put in place. The new selfpropelled 105's were calibrated and shifted around to the various Batteries.

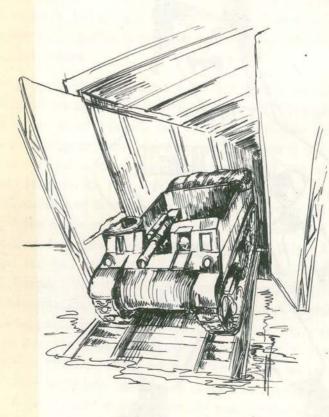
One evening, the day's work being finished, several fellows went to see a show at the local theatre. But the army had different plans for us. The screen went dark and the lights of the theater came on. Capt. Fred S. Robbins appeared on the stage. "All men in the theater belonging to my unit report to their station at once." The time had come. It was Monday, 17, July 1944, that the organization moved to the marshalling area at Southampton, spent two days in tents, and then down to the docks where we waited for the vehicles and equipment to be loaded on Liberty ships. At 0900 19, July 1944, "Anchors Away," and the unit sailed toward France with Hq. aboard the "George E. Badger." The ship sailed across the peaceful waters between Southampton, England, and the Utah Beachhead. Highlight of the trip was the continuous eating of "C" rations. Some one must have been tired of it for the chow truck caught on fire. For a bit there was some excitement aboard. While awaiting our turn to be unloaded, there was little word of how things were going up front. One morning a PT boat headed for our ship and a navy man came aboard. This was it!

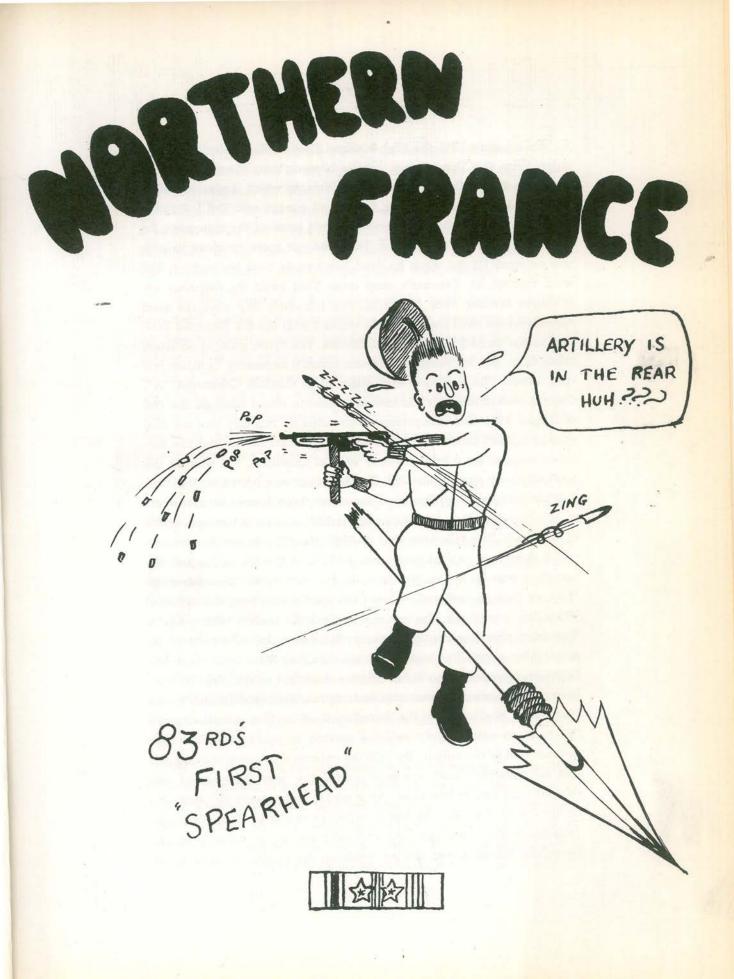


On 25 July 1944 while the ship's crew unloaded the equipment, many of us were entertained by the large number of planes that were going overhead. As far toward England as one could see, there was a continuous string of four motored bombers roaring toward the French coast. Some thought of counting them; so we did, or tried to. There were 1,685 of them that we could see.

In the afternoon of the same day, all men and equipment had been transferred from the ship to the Utah Beach by LST. A few miles inland, the unit took up a temporary bivouac.

The following day, the entire Battalion was organized in a bivouac area in the vicinity of Fierville, France. Prior to this movement the organization had been attached to the 5th F. A. Group, assigned to the XX Corps and Third US Army. During the movement, the 83rd Armored F. A. Bn. was attached to the 33rd F. A. Brigade, being relieved from attachment upon arrival on the continent. After five or six days in this position, the battalion received movement orders. Up Front With The 83rd.





On 1 August 1944, the 83rd Armored Field Artilley Battalion, under orders from the Third Army, left its bivouac near Fierville with instructions to join the 6th Armored Division, to which it was attached. The first day out we had our first direct conact with the Luftwaffe. The plane created some excitement among some of the men when he attempted to strafe the column. Jerry did not come as close to anyone as some GI did when he fired two rounds from his carbine that went through Lt. Temmer's map case. That night the Battalion established bivouac near Granville. The following day after the mad race down the road the unit made contact with the 6th Armored Division in the vicinity of Avranches, France. The drive, gaining so much momentum, the 6th Armored Division found it necessary to make two task forces. The Battalion was attached to Combat Command "A". Contact was made with this unit at Pontorson about noon on the 2nd of August 1944. The first prisoner was taken on this day and the first ground contact made with the enemy. The night of the 2nd the Battalion stopped for a brief bivouac west of Quedillac, but was on the road again by noon of the 3rd. The Battalion was halted on the road 3 kilometers south of Quedillac for about three hours. After a short march through Gael, bivouac was established four kilometers south of the town. The following day at 0900, the 83rd joined the column which now was headed northwest. At 1230 of the 5th of August, the battalion was halted on the road in the vicinity of Quesn-de-scorf. Here we took on fuel and removed the land mines from the vehicles. "Turn 'em over," was the cry and the column started rolling again. The drive was then continued during the entire day and most of the night. After a gruelling march through dust and black back roads the battalion bivouacked on the road near Huelgoat until dawn. At daybreak the organization went into position in a field near Feuille. It was from these positions that the Battalion fired its first rounds. Battery "B" fired on some supply vehicles moving to positions on the high ground west of the village. By 1500 the column was again moving and met no resistance until sporadic mortar fire was encountered and several road blocks breached. After an all night march the Battalion on the 7th of August 1944 again halted on the road from 0530 until 1000 hours. The push was then continued and in the vicinity of Plabenac the Battalion was shelled while on the march. In spite of the

heavy shelling, (as we called it then) the Battalion continued through the village and at 0400 of the 8th found itself bivouacked on the road south of Plabenac. At dawn the Battalion went into the field while the CO and BC parties went forward on reconnaissance. About 1030 it seemed as all hell broke loose and that the Jerries were throwing everything at us. Then we know that we were not wanted in that part of the country, just out of the port of Brest, France.

The 83rd Armored F. A. Bn. was at the back door of the same port that it landed in the first war. But this time it was not a reception of cheering crowds waving handkerchiefs. Instead of the sound of happy voices that filled the ears of soldiers 26 years ago, it was the sound of 88s that came to us with a wizz and a bang. *Dig*, *Brother*, *Dig*. During the shelling the Battalion Commander's vehicle was hit and one man severely wounded. The Battalion fired several rounds on targets in the village of Gounesnou, but at noon withdrew to about one thousand yards toward Plebenac.

At 1030, 9 August 1944 under cover of darkness, the Battalion again moved forward into position and prepared to deliver fire for the attack the following day. "The Charge Of The Life Brigade." However, at 1000 the Battalion withdrew to a position northwest of Pleuvien. While passing through the village, some shelling and considerable small arms fire was encountered. The following day the Battalion covered the surrender of a small Garrison which capitulated to Combat Command "A" at 2100 without any resistance. From this position we could see the Germans shelling a town quite some distance away. The P-47s were at work behind us doing away with some more of these 88s while some of the medium bombers roared overhead plowing their way through thick flak to drop their eggs on the defenses of Brest. There we saw the first sign of real coordination between ground and air forces.

At 2300, the same day, the Battalion moved forward to a position south of Plabenac in support of the 28th Infantry Battalion. From 11 August 1944 to 17 August 1944, the 83rd Armored F. A. Bn. with the 174th F. A. Bn. (155 mm. self-propelled) continued on its mission of supporting the elements that were containing Brest. During this period the Battalion Headquarters acted as Division Artillery, controling all the artillery attached to CCA. Lt. Col. Roxbury as Supreme Commander. This force was known as "The Brassiere Boys."

On 17 August 1944 the Battalion displaced to a new position in the vicinity of Kersallic in support of the 50th Armored Infantry Battalion. Shortly after going into position Battery "B" received some shell or mortar fire which resulted in the death of two men, and necessitated the movement of the Battery to its alternate position. Until 21 August 1944 from this position, the Battalion fired in support of the 50th Armored Infantry. On this date the battalion was relieved from attachment to the 6th Armored Division and a 1000 moved out through-Landerneau with the 174th F. A. group to the Dalous Peninsula. In the afternoon of the same day the Battalion was in position near Dirion in support of the 15th Cavalry Squadron. The following day the 83rd Armored FA Bn. with Battery "A" and "B" of the 705 TD Bn. fired in support of the 50th Armored Inf. Bn., which had moved to his sector during the night.

It had been about four weeks since the men had had any chance to take a bath in anything but a helmet, so they were glad to find the water flowing from a pipe that was about head high. Cold? What do you think water flowing from a spring would feel like even if it was in the middle of summer? There was only one drawback. The water being cold was not the worst thing, there was also little privacy. While one of the officers was in the middle of his bath, who should come along but a French lady. Very friendly, these French; it's a custom of theirs to shake hands as a greeting. You guessed it, this officer got his hand shake from the Madam. "Bon Jour, Bon Jour" she exclaimed as she shook his hand. No names called, but initials Capt. JAD.

In spite of the activity and frequent movements, the troops were paid the July pay rolls on the 22nd of August 1944. On the 23rd, the Battalion in support of the 50th Armored Inf. Bn. set up the Command Post near Loperhet. During the night the area was shelled. While on recon. the following day the CO and two men were casualties when the jeep in which they were riding ran over a mine. That night the shelling of the CP area was more intense so the following day the CP moved to a new location. On 28 August 1944 Battery "B" was attached to Task Force "A" and left on a mission in support of the 15th Cavalry Squadron on the Crozon Peninsula. The remainder of the Battalion continued in support of the 50th Armored Inf. Bn. in the vicinity of Loperhet. By the 29th, the Battalion had advanced to a position one thousand yards south of Loperhet and on the 31st was in position five hundred yards south of Kervevey, beyond Ploygastel. On 30 August 1944, at this position, Battery "C" 323rd FA Bn., was attached to the 83rd AFA Bn. which remained in support of the 50th Armored Inf. Bn.

On 5 Sept. 1944 the Battalion was relieved from assignment to Third US Army, and attachment to VIII Corps, and assigned to Ninth US Army (Troop Assignment Order No. 42 Hdq. Twelfth Army Group, dated 5 Sept. 1944). At which time Lt. Col. Clarence Harvey assumed command.

On 10 Sept. 1944 the Battalion, less Batteries A and C moved to the Crozen Peninsula and joined Task Force A, going into position near St. Nic. Batteries A and C remained in position near Plougastel. On 14 Sept. 1944 the Battalion with Battery B, 265th FA Bn. (240 mm.) attached, moved to a position near Kerliver. At this position the Battalion was joined by Battery C and as of 12 Sept. 1944, attached to the 8th Inf. Div. along with Task Force A. After four days of firing the Battalion moved forward through Crozon and established positions west of the town. On the 19th the mission accomplished and the Crozon Peninsula cleared of the enemy, the Battalion moved to an assembly area near Plouvien; being relieved from attachment to the 8th Division Artillery and attached to Task Force A commanded by Brig. General Earnest.

After a short period of preparation the Battalion went out for a "Field Day" exercise with the 15th Cavalry, a part of Task Force A. On the Douardenz Peninsula the battalion went into position near Pont-croix and waited for the Cavalry to exploite the peninsula. The Jerries were found where they were expected, so it was just a matter of when they would decide to come in. While the Cavalry was closing on all sides Capt. William A. Stubbs established a ground OP and brought fire on the Jerries. They were so taken by surprise that they did not have time to man their defenses. However, they did not give up immediately so General Earnest ordered that the entire area be plastered with artillery. Major Jack R. Bush divided the area into zones and gave the command. "Fire." Within a short time over five hundred rounds of ammo had fallen in the area. Soon a white flag was spotted, so the command, "Cease Firing," was given. Just when things seemed quiet there was the crack of a gun; a short silence, and the crack again. After some fumbling around the Mystery Gun was found. Some French had a single piece in position, some place and decided that they wanted to get in on the fireworks. They were put wise and by 1545 of the same afternoon the Battalion returned to its assembly area near Plouvien.

On the following day, the Battalion was relieved from attachment of Task Force A and marched to a rest area near Lesnevens where it was attached to the 174th FA Group. On 25 Sept. the Battalion was attached to the 196th FA Group and moved to a bivouac area near Monterfil, about twenty kilometers west of Rennes, France.

Rennes, good old sunny Rennes, the men thought of dry pup tents and fields without mud. That was just a dream. After weeks of rain and more rain the mud became knee deep everywhere.

While the rest of the Battalion bogged around in the mud at Rennes, Service Battery was busy doing all the repair work, and all the general purpose vehicles were busy on the Red Ball route . . .

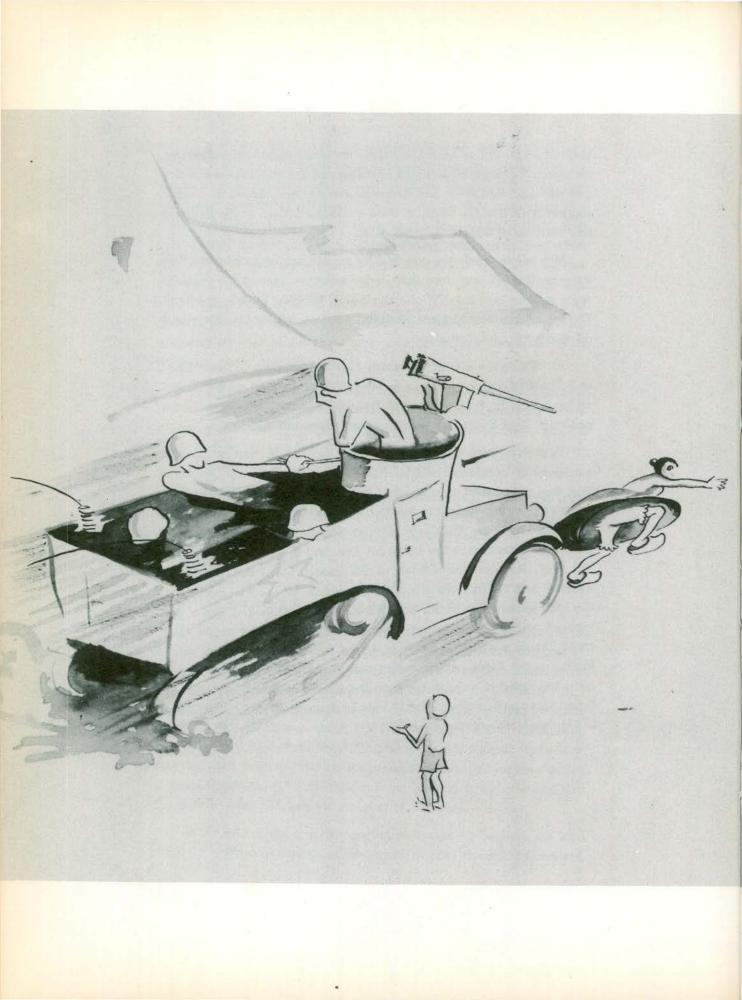
It was not until the 24th of October that the unit pulled out from Rennes and started out on the longest single road march in the history of the unit. In its journey the Battalion traveled through Orleans, Paris, Reims, northern Belgium finally coming to a halt on the eighth day at Tongeren, Belgium. Though this was not far from the zone of action everyone thought it was quiet, but the first night there, this illusion was dispelled. The "Buzz Bombs" came roaring in so low that everyone expected them to land at any moment. From then on they called it "Buzz Bomb Alley." Although, it is not certain it was thought that the bombs were heading for the port of Antwerp.

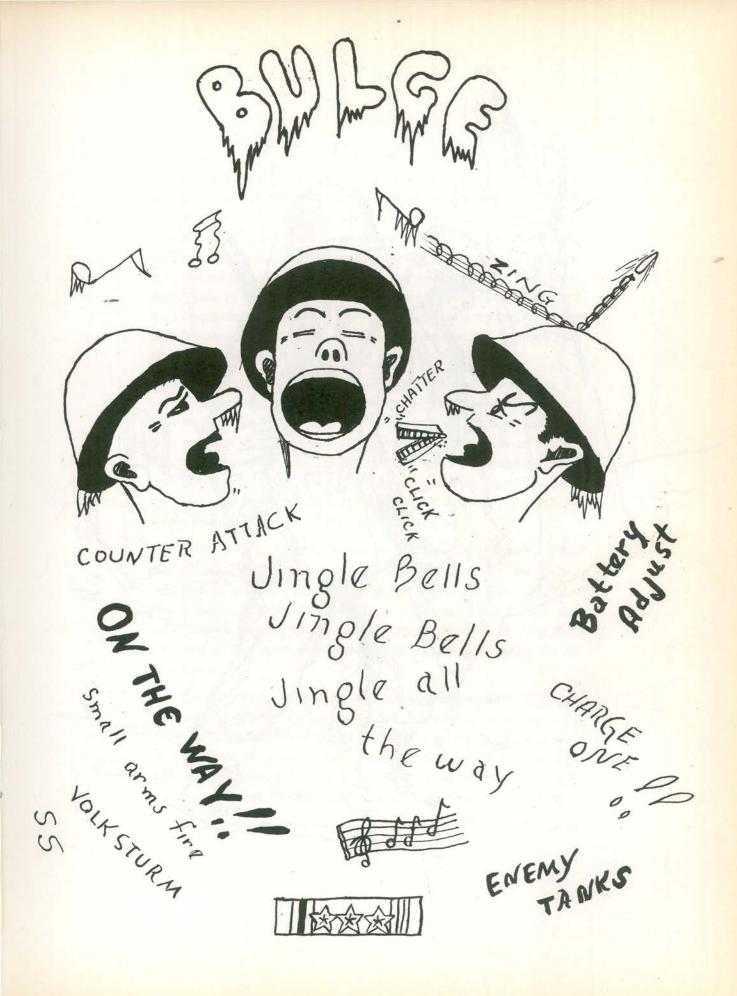
At the end of the four day period at Tongeren, Belgium the 83rd AFA Bn. moved eastward on November 4, 1944 through Maastricht, Holland under orders from XIX Corps. The destination was Palenburg, Germany. The Battalion arrived at Palenberg at 1130 of the same day and was attached to the 2nd Armored Division and placed in general support of CCB of the Division. Here we had attached to the Battalion four sections of Battery A, 195th AAA.

Maybe the AAs were attached for morale or maybe because they were needed. At any rate they were welcome. Just as the vehicles were pulling into the CP one of Jerries ME-109s sailed overhead. Though no one saw him get hit, it did not look healthy for Jerry with all that stuff going after him.

At 1600 on the 16th of November 1944 the Battalion CP was closed at Palenberg and moved to a position 500 yards west of Waurichen where it fired in direct support of the 406th Infantry Regiment, a component of Task Force X in the attack on Immendorf, Germany.

Two days later the battalion moved forward to take up position southeast of Immendorf and by 1800 of the same day, the Command Post was established at Immendorf. On the 24th the 83rd AFA Bn. was relieved from attachment to the 2nd Armored Division and XIX Corps and attached to the XIII Corps, with its Command Post still in Immendorf. Later attached to the 102nd Inf. Div. and in support of the 406th Inf. Reg., the Battalion moved to Puffendorf. From this position it seemed as if things were going to settle down for a bit on account of the high water mark of the Roer River. Because it looked like a permanent position, there was a definite curtailment in the ammo allotment. Things were going along smoothly. Almost everyone was stocking up on the Xmas packages that were flowing in. There were plans for a big Xmas in spite of the war. But it seemed as if Jerry had different plans and on December 17 1944 he thought he was going places in his desperate counter-offensive.







By this time it looked like the Battalion was having a chance to get in the places where the heat was on, so on the 19th of December 1944 the Battalion was called upon to help stop Jerry. The Battalion marched to southern Belgium via Leige. Some of the vehicles getting on the wrong road, it was necessary for the Battalion to halt a while until the column was formed again. Here we found "The Buzz Bomb Ally." Late in the night the Battalion moved on southward where it took up position at Amonines, Belgium in support of the 2nd Bn. of the 36th Infantry. The Battalion became attached to the 3rd Armored Division, VII Corps and the First United States Army.

The Command Post was rapidly set up in a wood shed in the center of Amonines while the Batteries went into position east and west of the village. As soon as the radios were set up, communication was established with the forward-observers of elements of the 3rd Armored Division. It was only a short time before we found that there was plenty firing to be done. Should anyone have looked at the guns, and seen the direction they were pointing, he would have wondered where the front lines were. Well, we were wondering.

In the early part of the afternoon the Batteries received the first shelling. One killed four other casualties were sustained. The position was rapidly becoming untenable. The situation became so critical that the Battalion was forced to withdraw. Able and Baker moved to a new position, leaving Charlie Battery firing Charge I to cover their withdrawal. The movement was effected without interrupting the delivery of fire.

The Battalion's new position was just east of the village of Erezee, where it remained in support of the 36th Infantry and elements of the 82nd Airborne Division. Except for the few Airborne troops that were in front of us, we were the front lines, and felt much better when the 75th Infantry Division moved in on the night of Dec. 24th. That was our Xmas present. The spirits of the men jumped up to a new high.

While in this position we were firing for a Task Force commanded

by Col. Hogan that had been cut off some 10,000 yards south of us (this was Hogan's now famous "400"). Their situation had become so critical that the air force was called upon to supply them with food and ammo. On Xmas Eve the C-47s flew over our position circled and dropped their load. Much of the gas, ammo, and food landed in the battery positions. Quite a modern Santa Claus. All Xmas day the air was full of tension. The day grew long and people began to wonder what was going to happen. Just a few miles west of us in the towns of Soy and Hotton some of the forces were having a similiar time. The day was long but the night grew longer. One of the men from a road block came by and told us that the Jerries had overrun the position. and that they were headed our way. That was nothing to be alarmed over. But when we were informed at 0300 the morning of the 26th that some tanks, not friendly, were just over the hill; then it was time to start doing something. Good old Charlie Battery pulled out of their firing position and took up direct fire positions along the road at 0400. Very short the chatter of small arms could be heard. The Jerries were on the hill in front of our position, some of them in the same town with Charlie Battery. The heavy dew that had fallen that night caused a dense fog to hang close to the ground that morning, thus giving us time to get the Battalion out of there. One by one the Batteries moved to a new position. The last elements of the firing batteries and the rear CP just managed to scramble before the heaviest part of a concentration of mortar and artillery fire came at them. The CP was then set up at Fisene, Belgium on the morning of the 27th of December. For two days the Battalion continued to support the 36th and 106th Infantry, elements of the 75th Infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne (hats off to them). On Dec. 31st the Battalion moved to an assembly area near Modave, Belgium in the village of Clavier.

Xmas Day might have been a hard one but on New Years Day of 1945 the Battalion was tucked away in the homes in the village, taking full advantage of the warm houses and the kind hospitality of the Belgians. By this time the ground every where was covered with

a thick blanket of snow. Much of it had frozen and formed ice on the roads. After a short period of thawing out the Battalion moved out with CCB of the 3rd Armored Division and headed for the front. Much credit is to be given to the drivers that rolled the tracks and tanks, what time they were not sliding, over the ice covered roads to the village of Buis de Moule, Belgium 20 miles away. This was the starting line so we got ready for the kick off. The Battalion moved into position at Vaux Chavanne on the 2nd of Jan. in support of the 36th Infantry. In spite of the heavy snow that continued to fall, all elements went forward. On Jan. 6th the Battalion moved to a position at Malampre in direct support of the 36th Infantry and elements of the 33rd Armored Regiment. Again the following day the Battalion fought the ice-covered road to the town of Lansival where it took up new firing positions and established a new CP. There was no rest for the cold and weary but no one cared as long as we had the Heinies on the run. So on Jan. 9th the Battalion again moved forward and occupied positions at Verleumont. Reconnaissance parties went out to find new positions in the area of Hebronval in order that the Battalion might be moved forward. The positions were selected but Jerry did not think we should go in them then so he made it a point to keep the place peppered with artillery. It was not until three days later that the Battalion occupied these positions continuing the support for the 36th Infantry and 33rd Armored Regiment.

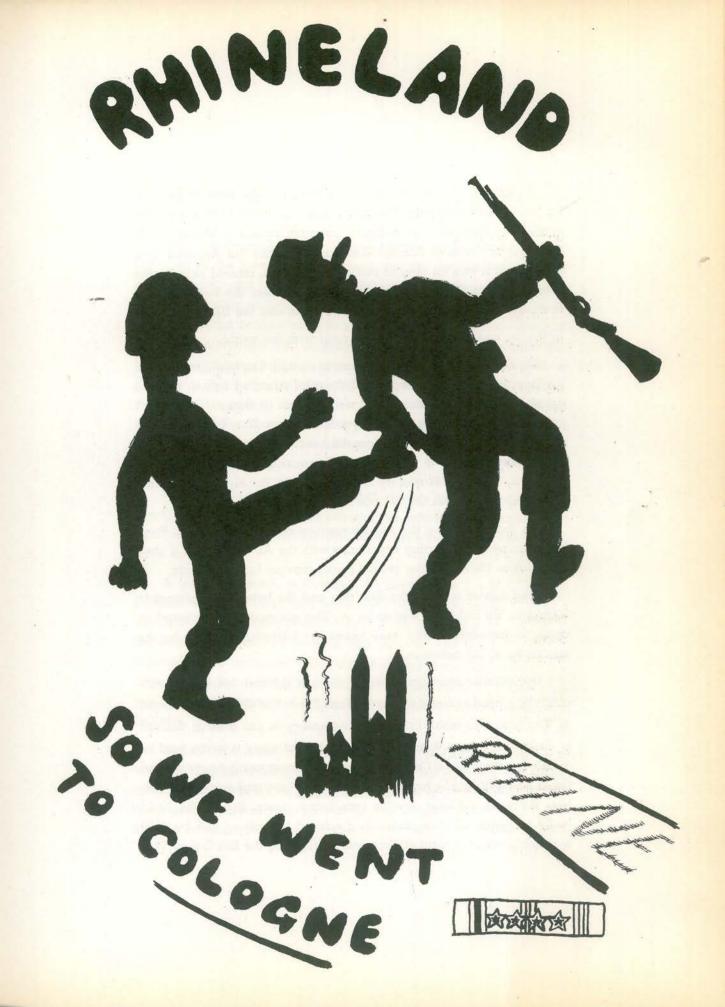
In the attempt to slow up our advance the Krauts had planted mines along the way. It was the misfortune for one of our FO tanks to find one of these the hard way.

From Hebronval the Battalion took up positions at Langlier, the final position in the Battle of the Bulge, 14 Jan. 1945. With the support of the Artillery fire delivered by the Battalion the forward elements moved into the town of Sterpigny Jan. 15 on foot after two of the FO Tanks were knocked out. Late in the afternoon the Jerries pulled one of their counter-attacks in an attempt to retake the village. They entered the eastern edge of the village with tanks and infantry. The artillery was called upon to break up the counter-attack. In a short time the Battalion had fired some 1100 rounds of ammo. in that area. Enough of the enemy entered the town to cut off part of the force that had entered the town in the afternoon. One of the FO Parties consisting of Lt. Weigland, Sgt. Miller, Sgt. Thorsen, Pvt. Spates and Pfc. Nalls was in the group. Pvt. Spates was the only man that returned to his organization. (Later in the drive into Germany was learned that the other members of the party had been found in a German Prison of War Camp, with the exception of Pfc. Nalls who is still missing). There is an interesting story told of the incident later in the book. Look for "Couldn't Sneeze."

On the 21st of Jan. the Battalion was relieved from the lines thus marking the end of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

The battle done, the Battalion moved into the village of Septon, just a few miles from Barvaux, Belgium where it spent the period from 21 January 1945 to 7 February 1945 in a period of maintenance and play. After a month of hard fighting the vehicles and equipment were getting in such a shape that a period of hard work was necessary to get them back in first class condition for the next operation. This was the first time since the 24th of October 1944 that the men had had a chance to do any playing. They were given passes to the Corps' Rest Center at Verviers and were able to attend both stage and screen shows at Huy. It did not seem much like a rest center when the country side would ring with the sound of machine gun and artillery fire. However we were informed that ordnance crews were testing these guns after some repair work.

Although, the snow seemed destined to stay forever, the sun came out the last few days and swiftly melted the snow. Again we must pay tribute to the kind hearted people of Belgium for letting us use the vacant spaces in their homes. It certainly would have been hard to shovel away the snow and pitch pup tents.



On the 7th of Feb. the battalion exchanged the snow of Belgium for the mud of Germany. The move was completed in one day and quarters established in a shell-torn, suburbin section of Mausbach, in, the assembly area of Combat Command A of the 3rd Armored Division. Again it was an area of rest and relaxation, marred only by the ever-present mud and the road repair gangs that the battalion had to furnish. Passes went out to Paris, Brussels and the UK. Spring was

in the air and everything was all right with the world.

On 25th February the party came to an end. The battalion crossed the Roer River in direct support of the 83rd Armored Recon. Bn. and occupied positions in Duren. And we do mean IN Duren, because the guns were in position in the back yards of homes. Now began a hectic. period of fire, movement, and constant reconnaissance. On the 26th, the battalion moved to positions at Metzemnich. That evening Baker moved on to Buir followed by Charlie later in the night, while Able continued to fire from the old position.

On the same day the reconnaissance party under Major Preer had a rather disconcerting experience with the Air Force. Just a case of mistaken identity of the ground forces moving faster than air.

Able moved forward the next day and the battalion displaced to Manheim. But still there was no let up. That afternoon Baker moved on again to Sutarderhof, and were joined the following morning by the remainder of the battalion.

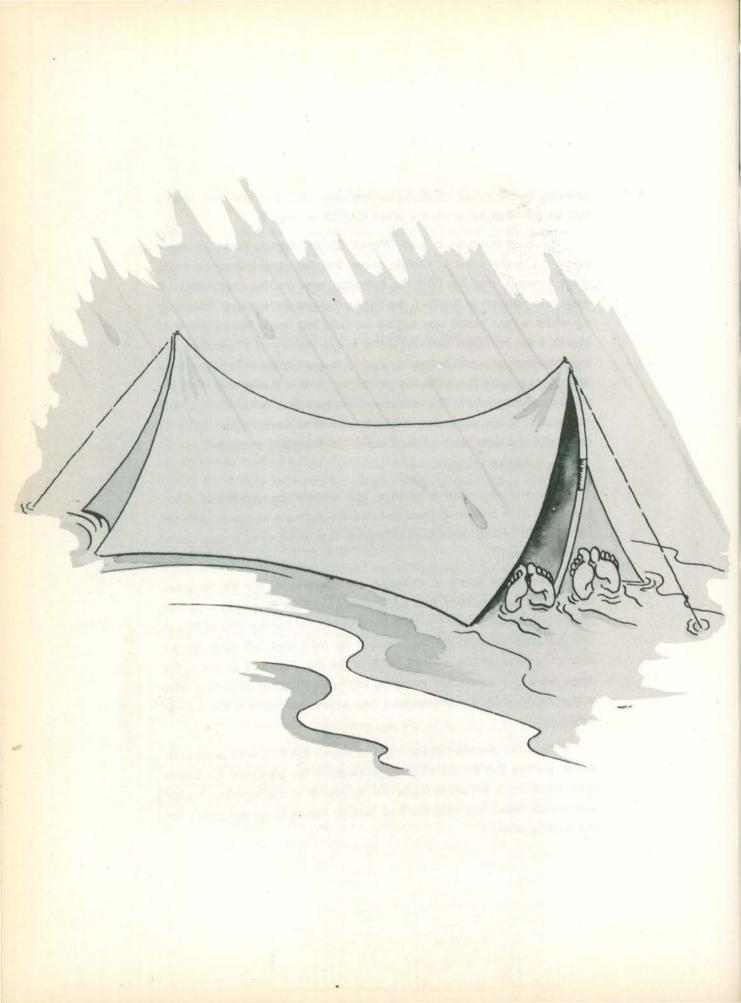
The battalion remained in this position until March 1st, when it was officially placed in direct support of Task Force Y of Combat Command A. The area was small and it was necessary to put a large amount of our artillery there. Evidently Jerry found out about it for he paid us a visit that very night. Flares dropping, tracers streaming upward and the crashing of bombs made the night rather long and somewhat restless. However, the next day the race began again. During the early hours of March 2nd, the battalion displaced by battery and by 0600 was firing from the town of Grouven, overlooking the Erft Canal. That evening under cover of darkness another displacement was made, this time to Bargheim, on the other side of the canal.

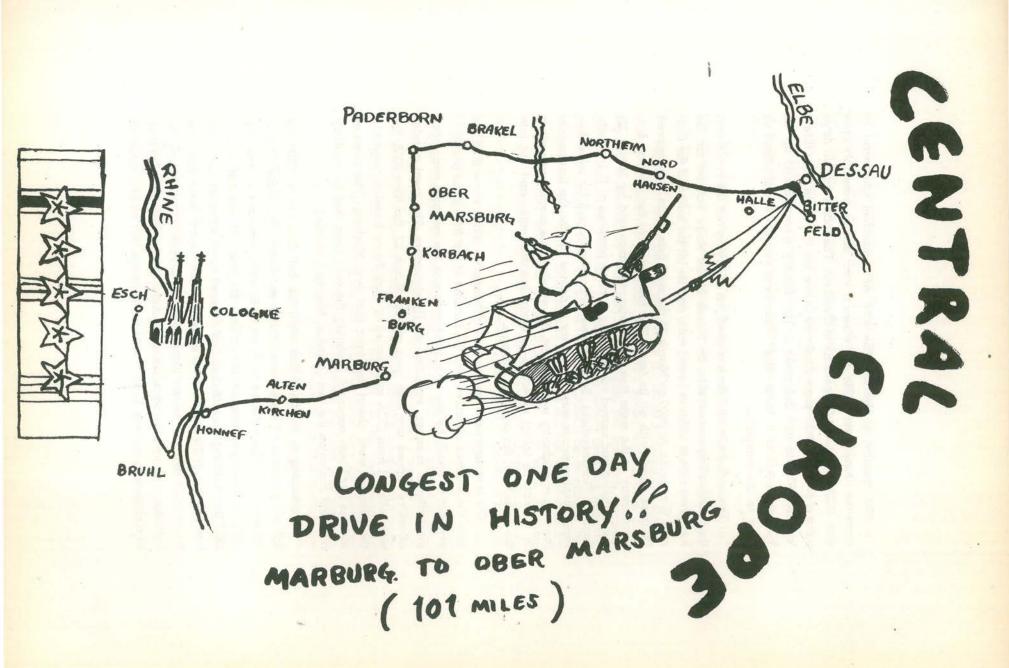
The next morning it was "March Order" again. Positions were taken up in the town of Oberhoussen, but the reconnaissance party went forward, and by 1700 the battalion was on the road again. It went into position at Busdorf, the forward elements working their way up while a tank battle was raging on their left flank. Before dawn of March 4 the battalion had displaced to the vicinity of Fliestaden. Reconnaissance was continuous and at 1230 another move was made to Stammeln. Again the batteries pulled out before dawn and took positions at Sinnersdorf. That afternoon the battalion made the last displacement of the campaign when it moved to Esch, where it could command the east bank of the Rhine. The Battalion remained in this position until 16 March.

It was a whirlwind campaign, but, despite the rapidity of movement, the over burdened road net and the softness of the terrain, the battalion delivered more than adequate fire when ever it was called upon to do so.

A few miles south of Cologne, by courtesy of the 9th Armored Division, a bridge head had been established at Remagen and had grown into a battle front by the middle of March. On the 16th of March the Battalion packed its bags, rolled its rolls and left Esch for an assembly area at Gleuel with CCA of the 3rd Armored Division. Six days were spent refitting, carrying out maintenance; sometime also was spent for a little entertainment, and advantage taken of the shower facilities.

Late in the morning of the 22nd of March the CO, with reconnaissance parties left Fleuel on reconnaissance for positions for future operations of the battalion, while the remainder of the battalion busied themselves reloading vehicles and putting things in tip-top shape for the next operation.





The morning of the 25th the 83rd AFA marched southward to cross the Rhine River at Honnef where it went into an assembly area with CCA, and took up positions at Orscheid. The following two days were a give and take proposition; we threw 'em out while Jerry threw 'em in. Withers and Selepeski of Hq. Battery were marked up as WIA the result of a "near miss." Both were evacuated but joined us later in the campaign.

The spring sun had done a good job of drying out the roads and the surrounding countryside. By March 24 the stage was set for the last great all out effort to break, once and for all the might of the German Wermacht. At 0400 on March 25 the steel fists of the 3rd Armored Division struck with all its force. The full weight of the division battered away at the main line of German resistance and by March 25, the battalion had moved successively through positions at Eubinbach, Bennau, Flammersfield, Berghaussen, Schoneberg, and Eingelbach rapid displacements were necessary to deliver fire for the fast punching tank and infantry team. At last, the weight of the armor succeeding in gaining its initial objective—a clean breakthrough—and out into the open went the armored columns.

The race against time was on—although we didn't know it at the time the ultimate objective was the forming of the Rose-Ruhr pocket exposed to attack by the racing columns was the enemy's rear; communications, reserves, supplies and Headquarters. The meat grinder offensive slipped into high gear and on March 27, the 83rd AFA Bn. was relieved from CCA and placed in Task Force Lovelady—swiftly the advance went ahead and later that day, Marburg (the town of famous loot) was occupied. Probably the only town that the artillery had first choice on the loot (pardon, liberated effects).

Remaining at Marburg that night the battalion left at 0700 the following morning. Things were off to a good start. Sometimes it was necessary for the vehicles to travel 40-50 miles per hour to keep up with the leading elements of the column. No time was lost that day. At 2230 that evening the battalion had covered about 45 miles and went into position at Twiste. There is no rest for the weary, one cannot see the country and stay in one place too long. On the 30th of March the battalion took up new positions at Wrexen. "Aren't they going to give us a chance to get any sleep?" was the question. But no one cared as long as things were moving. The main thought was, let's get it over. During the day March 31 the battalion occupied positions at Ettown and Recton, (the home of the Panzerfaust). The next day the unit moved a few miles south of Paderborn. Here elements of the 3rd Armored Division contacted elements of th 2nd Armored Division to close the gap and form the Rose Pocket, so named in honor of General Rose.

In a defensive position the battalion with the 83rd Armored Reconnaissance occupied positions at Geringhausen and Kirchborchen with the role of holding the east flank from 1st to 5th of April.

Make hay while the sun shines! As the bright morning sun slowly gained altitude the 83rd AFA Bn. gained speed with TFL as they headed eastward. By 1400, the 5th of April, the battalion reached Iggenhausen and went into position. But no sooner than the registration was completed the battalion received CSMO. So-continued the chase with Jerry in the lead, that is, those we did not leave walking down the road with their hands clasped over their head. And on through the night until 0900 some 40 miles eastward where another position was occupied at Bortentreich. This time they did get a chance to set up and remain firing from this position until dust when a displacement was made to Diesel.

The Battalion had become quite friendly with TFL, so it was time to change hands. A little south of us was another Task Force, "Hogan." We joined the force and marched southeast through the moonlit woods and crossing the Weser River on the night of the 8th, and occupying positions at Ecciercde on the 9th. Later the same day the Battalion occupied a new position at Hockelheim where the force was temporarily halted due to a damaged bridge. Some of the FOs spotted an enemy column and marked it with red smoke for the air force. "JABO" did a good job of distruction. By morning the damaged bridge had been repaired so the Task Force continued the pursuit until it met some resistance at Gieboldehousen where it went into position and took under fire several tanks and AT guns. These were also marked for the JABOs and once again they took care of the foe. Forward; but after a short distance a by-passed AT gun opened fire on the column, knocking out Baker's mess truck, and killing one man. Soon the unit was on its way. On the march, orders came from Division Artillery,

relieving it from support of TFH and placing it in support of Task Force Richardson, (a new boss). The Battalion remained in this position for one day. The next position was at Riestadt, near Sangerhousen.

During the displacement from Riestade to Zellewitz, about 26 miles east, the Battalion was again ambushed by two AT guns. An ambulance and hree H/Ts were knocked out, resulting in the death of one man. It was useless to go on and leave the guns there to attack the rear of the column. So there was an attempt made which was successful in destroying them. It was the first time in the history of a Liaison Plane to conduct fire of TDs on a target. The target was pointed out to the ground crew that evidently found the wrong placeon the map. When the first round was fired the Air said: "That's fine, the target you fired on is not there any more, now shift left 1600 milsand fire again. For better identification watch my ship." With that the pilot dived the cub at the target. Sure enough the gunner found it, and the hazard was destroyed, thanks to Lt. Tullis, Lt. Blatt and the TD crew, assisted by Lt. Jennings.

The column then moved on toward Kothen. Before reaching the town "B" Battery was attacked by some mortar fire that they took care of by direct fire, then moved on with the force in the edge of town. "A" Battery pulled off the road and went into position to fire. on the town of Kothen. After firing a few rounds there was a sudden crack at the rear of the position that was later discovered to be a Battery of by-passed artillery. (See "A" Battery section for story.) As the shelling became more intense the Batteries were forced to change positions several times. Due to the need for additional fire-"C" Battery was put in position nearer town. Soon the Kraut Artillery had us running all over the place. Each move seemed to be noted by them. To make matters worse a cub landed in the position that seemed to attrack more fire from the Jerries. The heat was on so the battalion was forced to take up positions in the small village of Klien-Wulknitz. To the battalion this was known as "The Hot Spot." In spite of the heavy shelling several truck loads of gas were delivered to the Batteries without mishaps.

On the 15th of April the 83rd Armored Battalion was relieved from support of TF Richardsin and moved to a position at Salzfurth where the Battalion again went in direct support of Task Force Lovelady. The Battalion remained in this position from the 16th April to the 23rd in direct support of TFR and in general support of the elements of the Division.

Some distance from us the Red Army was coming our way. While south of us other elements of the US Army were working their way east. The last rounds of the Battalion were fired in the form of a 21 gun salute to the Red Army. Shortly after this salute the battalion received movement orders and proceeded to the rest center at Wolferode.

After a period of rest ending the last day of April the Battalion moved from its rest and refitting area at Wolferode and upon being relieved from assignment to the First U.S. Army was assigned the Ninth U.S. Army. The Battalion marched north through to Wolfenbuttel, Germany on the 30th of April where it spent the night. At 0700 May 1st the Battalion continued its march north and went into assembly area in the vicinity of Ulsen at 1300 of the same day. Thinking that we would stay there for some time a Command Post was set up in one of the houses of the village. Four hours later a runner came back with the word that we should move out and meet the CO some miles: up the country, where the unit would join the 8th Infantry Division. The Battalion crossed the Elbe River about 2030 near New-Wenischthun and went into an assembly area to prepare for the attack the following day. The night of May 1st, the pontoon bridge across the Elbe was bombed and a small amount of small arms fire was encountered.

At 0500 May 2nd, the Battalion left the assembly area at New-Wendischthun and moved out with the 8th Infantry Division in support of the 121st Infantry Regiment. (Battery A in support of the 1st Bn. and B and C Batteries in support of the 2nd Bn.) and elements of the 740th Tank Battalion. The attack got off to a good start, no artillery was fired as the column marched steadily toward Schwerin. One by one the PW began coming in till soon they could be counted by tens then twenties. It was not long however, that the counting stopped because the road was full of them. One continuous string of German soldiers and other displace persons. As we entered Schwerin the air field to our left was very active with German aircraft. Planes landed and took off at will. Others flew at tree top level over the column. This went on for sometime before anyone started to fire at them. As

result of machine gun fire two of the planes were shot down. The column was held up for sometime in Schwerin while the PWs streamed through the street headed for the PW cage. Later in the afternoon the column moved north toward Wismar. But by this time the road was so loaded that the vehicles could hardly travel. The Battalion left the main road and went to the village of Rugensee. Here we found a yard full of PWs that were waiting to be taken to one of the PW enclosures. Some twelve or fifteen American PWs were found in the same town. After being caged up and working for the German for two and one half years they were glad to see some new faces in the same uniform that they were wearing. The war seemed to be over then. But it was not until the 6th that the order was given, that no more firing would be done. Two days later the War Department declared the war over and that all hostilities should cease. Strangely enough there were no great outbursts of joy or celebration but rather the feeling: "Thank goodness, it's over." The guns (M-7) were taken out of position and put in the motor park, where they were cleaned and painted and given the appearance of never having seen battle.

The Battalion remained at Rugensee until 20 May, performing duty as occupation troops. But once again the race began. On that day the unit moved south across the Elbe River to Schnega, a few miles south of Luchow. The Battalion moved in to take up the duties as occupation troops while attached to the 472nd Group. But the unit had become restless. The stay was short. It seemed as if there was some need for troops around Dannenberg and the 83rd was suited for the job. On the 27 of May the Battalion bundled up everything and moved north to its destination, Dannenberg. The Battalion remaind in Dannenberg till, 4 June when they received orders to pack up and prepare for a long march. Early in the morning H/T and Tanks were warmed up, and off we went. This jaunt took us southward via Luchow, Braunschwieg, Eisleben, Halle,—on Hitler's super highway to Schwabach. From there on to Roth, and finally to the zone of occupation, where the Battalion CP was located at Syberg.

After 282 days on the continent, 186 of which were spent in direct contact with the enemy, and fighting the summer of France, the knee deep snow of Belgium, and the mud of Germany: the 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion ended its mission as a fighting unit to take up the duties of occuping beaten Germany.

Remember Them

Members distinguished in action:

(a) Mezy.

(b) Staff Sgt. Gordon A. McCallum, R748832, Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, 83rd Field Artillery Battalion.

(c) At Mezy, France, on July 18th, 1918 drove three ton trucks to the banks of the Marne, loaded with pontoons and boats, under terrific machine gun, artillery and sniper fire. In accomplishing this mission, the truck driven by Cpl. McCallum was totally disabled by hostile machine gun fire. After Cpl. Handley and Pvt. First Class Olson had successfully accomplished their mission, all three men volunteered for further duty by hauling additional engineering supplies as well as human freight on the machine gun and shell swept road between Mezy and Fossoy, throughout the night of July 18th. Due to their untiring efforts and remarkable coolness under adverse road conditions they were largely responsible for making it possible to advance our troops across the Marne rapidly.

## In Memoriam

Today, tomorrow and futurity They mark the luster of a sacred deed, Our friends; and sons of immortality, Revere the mention of their solemn creed!

Their tread, alas is silent; their voices still, They seek no more the charms in passion's helm, Their duty done; they now obey a higher will; Each one a noble part in glory's realm.

Frank M. DelAndraee

W OR \*

Lt. Col. Edward J. Roxbury Captain John C. Watkins 1st Lt. James M. Caviness, Jr. 1st\_Lt. Maurice Kerr Sergeant Stanley W. Dudek Corporal W. J. Smothers Corporal Joseph Tassone Corporal Merrill E. Taylor Pfc. George P. Velton Pfc. Oliver F. Psencik Pfc. William J. Beagles Corporal James A. Ferrara Pfc. Richard J. Urban Pvt. Arthur B. Solomen Pfc. Joseph A. Kacpure T/5 Earl R. Hutchinson Pfc. Meredith L. Carter Pfc. Adam J. Sevcik Cpl. Allman J. Fleming Pfc. David L. Disney Pfc. Roland I. Poission Pfc. John W. Gilbert Pvt. Jordan S. Obdebnikovich RFD, Box 208

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### PURPLE HEART

Brooks, Emory L. Johnson, Thomas E. Blaski, Theodore J. Dosset, Paul M. Sprehn, Raymond R. Ford, Glenn T. Olson, Clarence A. Stinson, Frank E. Ware, John H., Jr. Grubba, John, Jr. Tichnor, George A. Castup, Howard L. Szelepski, Anthony J. Hall, Herman E. Withers, Daniel A. Mote, Curtis L. Anger, Edwin R. Atkins, William Adams, Jessie A. Johnson, Robert Rodgers, James M. Siegler, Harry P. Fauver, Joseph L. Osinski, Leo J. George, Freddie N. Murphy, Glenn W. Wade, Robert H. Hewes, Lester L. Jackson, Thomas C. Raypholtz, Harrison F. Thompson, Benjamin H. Davis, Oliver I., Jr. Kraemer, Henry J. Spurlin, Nando U. Wing, John R., Jr. Phillips, John O. Davis, Charlie L. Clark, John E. Freeman, Clem Smith, Robert C Costa, Manuel L. Joern, Algernon S. McMurry, Earl Minkler, Ronald B. Fisher, Robert R. Hartwell, Walter H. Eblacker, Robert F. Roberts, Carl A.



### SILVER STAR

Wright, Richard B. Meisels, Milton Jennings, Jay R. Rehm, Robert C. Dexter, Robert I. Blatt, Calvin A. Tullis, William A.

Brooks, Emory L. Sprehn, Raymond R Grubba, John, Jr. Tichenor, George A. Hall, Herman E. Fluger, John J. Masters, John A. Murphy, Glenn W. Drouin, Maurice E. Hagstrom, Robert A. Blaski, Theardo J. Olsen, Clarence C. Webb, Thomas F. Batton, Widrow Velton, George P. Collins, Arthur L.





### BRONZE STAR

Roxbury, Edward J. Harvery, Clarence C., Jr. Bush, Jack R. Preer, Carleton, Jr. Kilgore, Anderson W. Shipp, Edward M. Decker, Vergol O. Burch, Charles T. Rehm, Robert C. Payne, Carlous Taulbee, George C., Sr. Kapland, Hermond C. Thomas, Raymond C. Jennings, Jay R. Preston, William McDonald, Lesley L. Nichols, James R. Moore, Frederick J. Prohaska, John F. Robbins, Fred S. Beck, George E. Temmer, Harold E. Froehley, William C. Ware, John H., Jr. Braud, Carlton J. Grover, Joe, Jr. Webb, Thomas F. Lindsey, Cleveland R. Riley, Irvin S. Brugger, Allen F. Zito, Louis A. Bona, Neil L. Clyde, Roy J. Annis, Arnot M. Comer, Elmer L. Heaney, Edward E. Johnson, Melvin A. Schuster, Edward J. Pannulla, Vinson J. Baker, Richard W. Castrup, Howard L.

### AIR MEDAL

Tullis, William H. Drane, Elbert E. Kerr, Maurice J. Blatt, Calvin A. Somers, Samuel T. Dexter, Robert I.

Conway, Frank J. Fraser, William O. Budzbanowski, Bruno B. Olson, Clarence A. Johnson, Thomas E. Roberts, Carl A. Drace, Clayton E. Mote, Curtis L. Yates, Harvey Presnell, Henry W. Rowley, John H. McCall, Avery E. Patterson, Mark M. Willey, Frank P. Hales, Pat W., Jr. Prestidge, Herbert E. Dwver, Francis J. Mullins, Frank E., Jr. Davis, John C. Guidry, Alex P. Sullivan, Drace Siegler, Harry P.

Carmody, Bruce D. Heintz, Emmett H. Roadcap, Boyd G. Anderson, Lawrence L. Gribble, Charles L. Hewes, Lester L. Head, Madison H. Ettinger, Francis Maarks, Paul Douglass, Russell M. Grandlinard, Max D. Albrecht, Raymond J. Francis, James D. George, Freddie N. Hester, Gilbert New, George L. Costa, Manuel L. Heichert; Henry Sermersheim, Alphouse J.

### HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMORED DIVISION Office of the Commanding General

APO 256, U.S. Army 25 August 1944

AG 200.6

SUBJECT: C	commendation
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THRU : Commanding General, VIII Corps, APO 308, U.S. Army

: Commanding Officer, 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. TO:

1. The 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Lt. Col; Edward J. Roxbury commanding, was attached to the 6th Armored Division on 1 August 1944 and was directed to support Combat Command "A", remaining with Combat Command "A" until relieved 21 August 1944.

2. As a direct support Battalion, this unit did exception-al work in placing its fires where they were most needed by the infantry. The battalion headpuarters acting as provisional group headjuarters controlled the operations and fires of all reinforcing artillery battalions with marked efficiency. This was accomplished by initiative and aggressivenally pushed observation as far forward as possible and maintained wire communication with the unit. By continuous shifting of guns and expenditure of large amounts of ammuniton in harassing and interdiction fire, the enemy was kept on the defensive.

3. The defensive fires were exceptionally well planned and successfully executed by all officers and enlisted personnel. Liaison with Headquarters of this command was excellent, con-tinous and industrious.

4. I commend Lieutenant Colonel Roxbury and the officers and enlisted men of his command. Their spirit and efficiency were an inspiration to all troops with whom they came in contact.

/s/ R W GROW /t/ R W GROW Major General, US Army Commanding

SUBJECT.

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HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE A

Office of the Commanding General APO 403 U.S. Army 21 September 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation of 83d F A Battalion (Armd)

: Commanding Officer, 83d F A Bp (Armd) : Commanding General VIII Corps, APO 308 U. S. Army TO

i. At the present time Task Force A is k being dusled and the majority of its component units have been returned to their parality of its experiments which have fought so well together on units which have fought so well together and enlisted and it is my desire that each with you the highest estimates and arpreciation of myself and the other together and enlisted with you the highest estimates of the Task Force.
 Your unit has faced many unusual and in some operations and entries of units and so well sentered your and in scale instance you dischared your and the senter of the senter of

/s/ Herfert L. Earnest /t/ HERBERT L! ELRNEST Brigadier General, USA Commanding

HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE A Office of the Commanding General APO 19 September 1944

MEMORANDUM:

#### TO : All Troops of Task Force "A"

1. Congratulations on your action of Tues-day, 18 September 1944. Your quick movements ended in the reduction of the Cap de. La Chevre sub-peninsula and the capture of Major General von Rausch. This was a notable achievement and a direct contribution to the war effort.

2. We now face a new problem. Iexpect evers soldier to carry out his mission equally well as he has carried out past missions. Be smart, alert, and show yourself to be as well disciplined and courteous as good troops always are. Remember, you are judged by apper rances and actions as well as by achievements. Let's go.

HERBERT L! EARNEST Brigadier General, USA Commanding

APO 308, U.S.Army 4 September 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

12

: Commanding Officer, 174th Field Artillery Group, APO 308, U.S. Army. TO

1. The following commendation for the 174th Field Ar-tillery Group was received by this headquarters from Brig-adier Gemeral James A. Van Fleet, Commanding General Task Force B: "The 174th Field Artillery Group performed in a highly commendable manner, executing innumberable fire missions for the Corps and in support of the Task Force. The close support, counter-battery, and harassing fires were very eff-ective and constituted large factors in the rapid capture of the new Haula." the peninsula."

2. The Corps Commander is pleased to note and transmit this letter and to add appreciation for the outstanding per-formance of duty which earned this commendation.

By command of Major General MIDDLETON

/s/ C.B. Warden /t/ C.B. WARDEN Colonel, A.G.D. Adjutant General

SUBJECT: Commendation

HEADQUARTERS 174th F& Group, APO 308, US Army, 6 September 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 83rd AFA En., APO 308, US Army

As a member of the 174th FA Group during this action I desire to express my sincere appreciation to the officers and men of your Battalion for their share in the excellent work which earned this commendation for the 174th FA Group.

/s/ Hiw. KRUGER /t/ H.W. KRUGER Colonel, FA Commanding

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMORED DIVISION Office of the Commanding General

APO 253 24 April 1945

SIBKECT-	-Cp, ondatopm-
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SUBJECT	Commendation.

Commanding Officer, 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, APO 230, U.S. Army. TO :

THRU: : Commanding General, VII Corps, APO 307, U.S. Army.

I desire to commend the 83rd Armored Field Artillery I desire to commend the SJrd Armored Field Artillery Battalion upon its excellent field artillery support and upon the wholehearted cooperation of all ranks. Your battalion con-tributed measureably to the success of this Division during the operation from 21 December 1944 through 23 April 1945. During this time, your battalion maintained the high standards held by the Division. In Spite of frequent shifts in assignment, the battalion demonstrated its flexibility and adaptability under difficult conditions. I regard your unit as a "SPSARHEAD UNIT"; and hope that the Division may fagin have the pleasure of having your unit attached for future operations.

/s/ Doyle O. Hickey DOVLE O. HICKEY Brigadier General, U.S. Army Commanding

lst Ind.

(24 April #5) HEADQUARTERS VLL CORPS, APO 307, U.S. Army

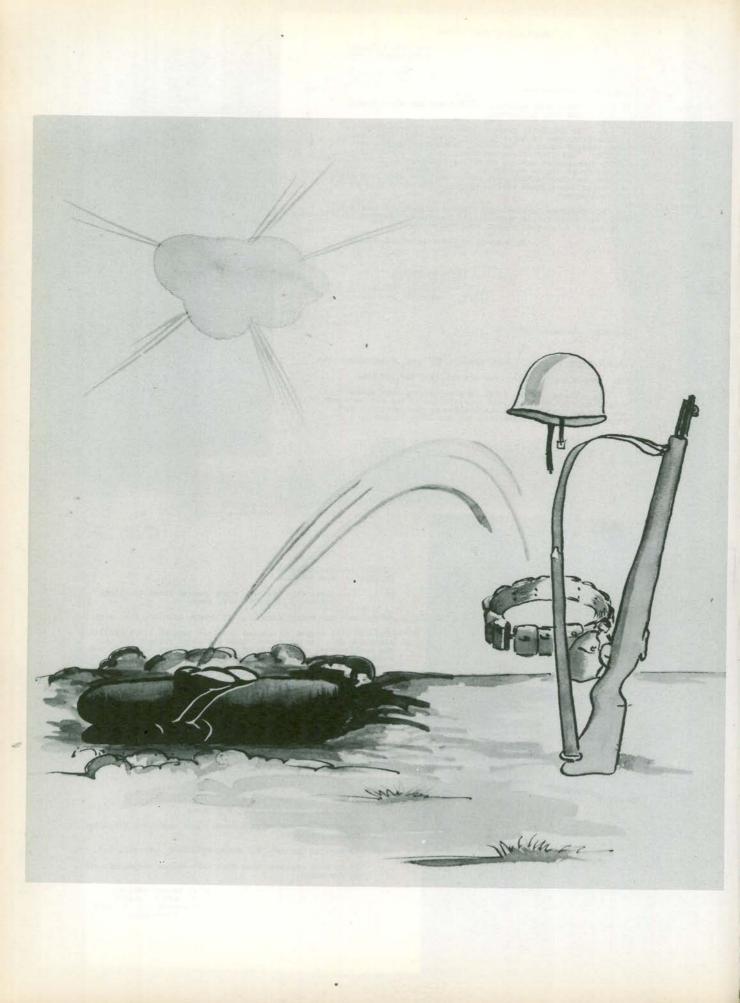
TO:

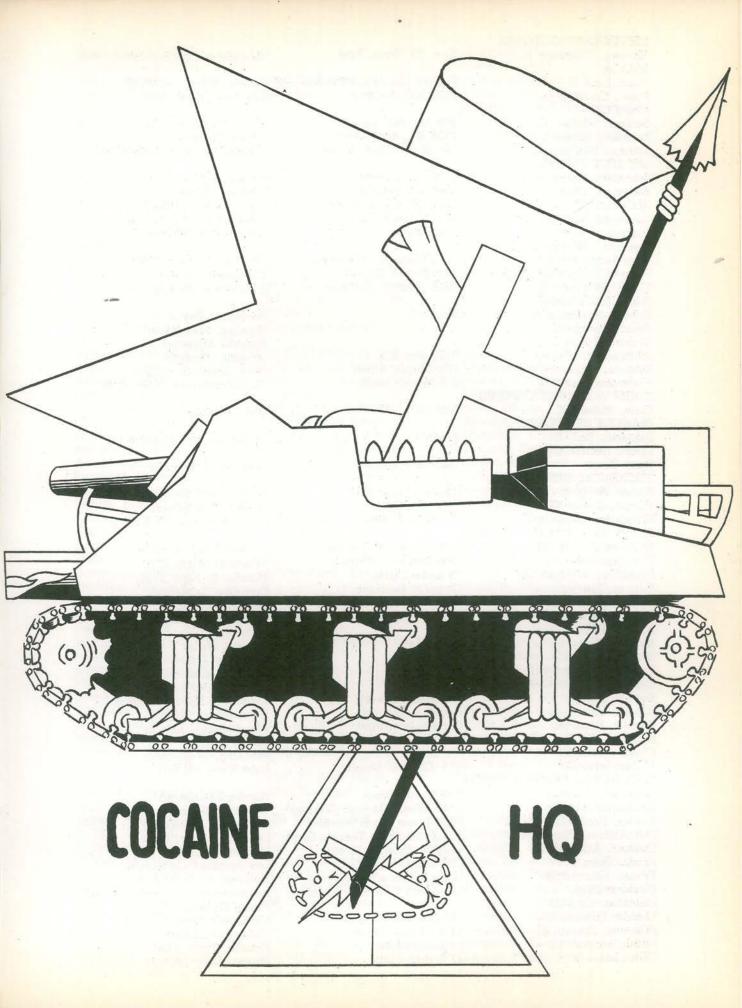
Commanding Officer, 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, APO 230, U.S. Army.

THRU: Commanding General, VII Sorps Artillery, APO 307, U.S. Army.

It is with pleasure that this well earned recommendation is forwarded.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins J. LAWION COLLINS Major General, U. S. Army Commanding





LIEUTENANT COLONEL Harvey, Clarence C. MAJOR Bush, Jack R. Preer, Carleton Jr. CAPTAIN Badger, Walter E. Dawson, Julian L. Stubbs, William A. **1ST LIEUTENANT** Bergstein, Soloman Bergman, John E. Hall, John E. Jennings, Jay R. Meisels, Milton Temmer, Harold E. Wigeland, Arthur Thomas, Raymond C., Jr. Tullis, William H. 2ND LIEUTENANT Bryant, Raymond S. Beck, George E. Drane, Elbert E. McDonald, Wesley L. Nichols, James R. Prohaska, John L. CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER Cole, Robert K. MASTER SERGEANT Johnson, Doll L. FIRST SERGEANT Ray, Davis TECHNICAL SERGEANT Bates, Ralph O. Hocutt, Owen W. Woolston, Kenneth F. STAFF SERGEANT Balfanz, Harold M. Brugger, Allen F. Froehley, William C. Grover, Joe Jr. Lynch, Robert O. Steeves, Frank J. SERGEANT Blaski, Theodore J. Braud, Carlton J. Laperous, Leonard J. Sprehn, Raymond R. Bolton, Gurney Brooks, Emory L. Dossitt, Paul M. Blalock, Leo P. Clark, Alvin J. Miller, John G. TECHNICIAN FOURTH GRADE Braaten, Blaine L. Budzbanowski, Bruno B. Buttler, Frederick W., Jr. Del Andrae, Frank M. Dunker, Albert M. Ford, Glenn T. Frank, Richard H. Goshey, Peter Huffaker, Carl R. Legler, Edward G. Peterson, Donald J. Rath, Norman H. Zito, Louis A.

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## Medical Detachment

CAPTAIN Decker, Virgil O. STAFF SERGEANT Bonner, James M. Roberts, Carl A. TEC. 3 Chapel, Walter R. TEC. 4 Munstedt, Donald A. CORPORAL Dakis, William V. Johnson, Forest O. TEC. 5 Drace, Clayton E. Mote, Curtis L. PFC. Anger, Edwin R. PVT. Bell, William H.

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# Did You Happen To Notice:....

... Capt. Stubbs unitied a Kraut's shoe string with a .50?

... Sgt. Joe Grover and Sgt. Balfanz captured a Panther with machine hammer and a carbine.

... Darwin Courtwright screaming at an H/T driver to clear the road, "There's a man dying in this jeep and it's me."

... The strange ways Purple Hearts are won.

... The speed that Cpl. Stinson and Cpl. Martin could loot a house was amazing.

... Cpl. Vander Weide and Cpl. Thomas' ability to use chocolate bars as a "Means of Exchange."

... Sqt. Del Andrae the perfect picture of relaxation.

... Sgt. Legler's love for boat rides.

... Sgt. Brooks' ability to draw fire when answering the call to nature.

... Pfc. Pannullo is rated the fastest man in the ETO (under fire).

... Pfc. Irvin (Ike) Riley's ability to pick out the most beautiful girls in the ETO.

... Cpl. Schuster's knack of eating which has caused the section to ration out packages.

... Lt. Drane is an acrobat? He sometimes stands Cubs (that fly) on their nose.

... Lt. Tullis' ability to make the Frauleins lie down.

... Cpl. Hydorn didn't rate the Purple Heart because he didn't have a knife after three pieces of fragment bounced off his head.

... Cpl. Olson and Sgt. Blaski ate their last 5 eggs after the mortar shells upset the frying pan.

... It takes Sqt. Frank, and Cpl. Howell to make "goat eatable."

... Capt. Badger, "I'm sick as a horse, full 'er up, O'Bryant."

... Col. Harvey trying to stay in the jeep while Szelepski fought his way through the hot spots.

... Major Bush's dislike for Fruit Cake?

... That Sqt. Allen has an ability to draw? (Chillie Wiggens)

... Sqt. (Smilie) Bolton plans signing up in the big league?

... Cpl. (Red) Heaney, after a mishap, remarked, "That's OK, no need to stop now?"

... Sgt. (Bull) Rath is an excellent prophet?

... Cpl. Brown has a tender spot in his heart for the Infantry?

... Sqt. Butler is the "Frankie" of the 83rd?

... Cpl. John Fulford makes a nice looking girl?

... Capt. Badger speedily transform a latrine trench into a foxhole during the first days at Brest?

... Cpl. Edward L. Thomas, when he wasn't eating?

... That catsup-covered water buffalo come charging down the main street of Immendorf Germany when the Jerries shelled the kitchen. 'Twas none other than T/Sgt. Woolston?

... Pfc. V. Pannullo pulling "Officer of the Day" and Lt. Temmer pulling Private of the Guard. Mistaken identity?

... Cpl. Wilmore Brown, the mail (Male) fraternizer on his APO run? ... Tec. 5 Howard "The Great Profile" Castrup, when he wasn't orienting some poor soul on the underlying causes of Love, etc.?

... Capt. V. O. Decker when he set the new world's record in the "Shortarm Dash"? 502 men in 25 minutes! What speed!

Heinie on the shoulder on a dark March night, and asked, "What outfit are you outta, bub?"

... Tec. 4 Albert S. Silverman, when he hasn't stepped on somebody or something? (Anyone answering "yes" to this question will be held on a Perjury charge.)

... S/Sqt. Windy Balfanz, alias Slum and Angle-Worms, when he put salt in everyone's coffee?

... The huge muscles in Tec. 4 Frank's forearm? Wonder how they got there?

... Any of Tec. 5 Dillworth Pitzer's latest poetical works? Amazing!

... Tec. 5 Anderson ever refuse a drink?

... Cpl. Neal (The Beast) Bona crashing down through the top deck of a double bunk during a bombing raid?

... Tec. 5 Sorensen spending long moments combing his blond tresses?

... Pfc. Danny Withers yearning for an Oklahoma heat wave?

... Tec. 4 Louis Zito giving the "Big Picture?"

... Tec. 5 "Ace" Conway ever refuse seconds?

... Dudgar Terry pumping his bicycle after a session at the Fish and Anchor?

... Tec. 4 Peterson always having that famished glare?

... Pfc. Seibert gets as much pleasure out of a sneeze as most people get out of living, (won himself the most appropriate name "Sneezer").

... How close Sgt. Peterson and Cpl. Castrup came to representing Mauldin.

... First Sqt. Ray used more psychology than most other First Sqts. use force.

... Sqt. Leglar gets a kick out of a boat ride. That is when he eats the most.

... That Joe Seibert is not too familiar with German fire arms, or he just disregards the fact that they can shoot.

... Tec. 5 Lindsey was a good hand at either laying wire or pancake batter.

... That Highfield swears there is no other job in the army like driving the Battalion agent's jeep.

... Joe Howell was once known as "Holy Joe."

... Tec. 5 Johnson (TE) and Tec. 4 Braaten in one of their jazz sessions. ... That Sqt. Laperous, Sqt. Dunker, and Pfc. Jenson were about to work up some competition in the photography business.

... Riley I. in one of his deep serious moods?

... How easy it was for George Riley to make friends in "Jolly olde England?"

... The haste that barbers could be made the army way? Why didn't you take a look at the work done by Bates, Braaten, Szelepski, Del Andrae, (Peterson), and Anger.

... Pfc. Moe Paver's cool way of handling a radio when the air is hot? (I hear you distorted, ovah—).

. . . The unused tallent of Cpl. Clyde? He does well on the piano.

... The voluntary curtailment of Tichenor pace since he has gone through the war.

... Sqt. Miller lost his shyness and found much more poise and courage along with his coolness in action?

... Cpl. John Ware's love for raw eggs? He only eats 'em by the dozens. ... Tec. 5's D'Anna, Burton, Austin, Wells, and Belitz displayed lots of courage before they had to leave us? (This is not sarcasm).

... Pfc. Phillips' love for dogs? He raises them on the bottle.

... That Pfc. Choate always took things as they came, without one word of discontent.

... Tec. 5 Martin scampering down the steps of the CP in Immendorf one night?

... Tec. 5 Perry blowing a horn for the Salvation Army Band and the 83rd "War Callers."

... That Whitney P. Plaisance won himself the Bronze Star while working with the general.

... How well Pitzer (the absent minded??) managed to keep his things together?

... Major Preer spent much of his time practicing code in a cellar in Northern Germany?

... Did you know that Capt. Dawson exchanged greetings with a Mademoiselle while taking a bath at Brest?

... Remember the bunch of stories that Lt. Bergstein used to tell?

... How quietly Lt. Thomas talked on the radio? Where's the cotton!! ... Then there was Lt. "full field" Bryant. He wore everything that was issued to him. Gas mask even!

... That Comer was ranked out of his tailor job by a bunch of PWs? ... Wonder if "Millie" would quit sending packages if she knew how Bates had acted up in a "Limey" dance hall.

... Barnhart's mishap caused him to missiall the fun?

... A woman finally caught up with Cpl. Underwood?

... Jagla, a tempermental artiste, makes good? Now he is a cook.

... Love, a quiet peace lovingman that likes the army.

... Big - - - O'Bryant and his wives?

... Richard (that fixes me) Haak, likes shavetails?

... "Hawk" eye Lt. McDonald can spot Jerries or dirty motors.

... Huffaker has a way of making "corn beef hash" edible?

... Tec. 4 Pete Goshey was a good volley ball player as well as a capable armorer?

... Ford seems to get "glooped" every day for some one sitting on his bed. We suggest that he move the radio or the bed.

.... The "pals", Blalock and Clark were forced to separate before they got into combat. Blalock leaving in England, Clark later in Germany.

... Hall and Heaney flipping a coin to decide which was the "smaller"?

... Brennan could be signed up as Astaire's double?

... D'Anna got a kick out of anyone that got up early with a song.

... Burget gained weight and his face developed color after he came overseas?

... Boice spent the first few nights outside with the cubs when he got transferred to the air section.

... Tec. 5 Baker's good nature and willingness to help took him places. He is the honored Bat Boy.

... Tec. Sqt. Hocut wringing his hands and pulling his hair when the radios would not work.

... Sqt. Roberts nursing that typical Dr.s' Mustache?

... Cpl. Dakis' elaborate vocabulary?

... (Tiny) Lt. Meisels turned out to be bigger than the size indicated? ... Lt. (Sqt.) Beck day dreaming about his "Frenchie"?

... Sqt. Braud's special technique for heating water?

Wonder how much stuff Sgt. Steeves smuggled home? One each Chicago "CROOK."

... Sqt. Foehley's support for the Democratic party?

... Sgt. Lynch, the Yank's gift to the WLA?

... (Purple Heart) Sprehn has more patches than a rag doll?

... The Olson and Kuehl radio team that got to the states the hard way.

.... That fresh look of Gladwell's? Ready for a new day.

... Rosco Pyatt was the first one to get a Jerry pistol? Look what he started there are many of them.

... The Army needn't issue Del. anything but a mess kit and a bed roll?

... Lt. Nichols interesting orientation lectures?

... Abrams and his colleague, Paver, touring Europe?

... Fraser braving intense enemy fire to bring the pay roll?

... Contented Abriao always gets along with the officers?

... California's gift to the Artillery Air Corps? Tec. 5 Annis.

... M. A. Johnson the one H/T driver to win a Bronze Star? He did his JOB.

... Cpl. Hink gets along in any country? Who wouldn't if they knew four languages?

.'.. Erickson rapidly learning the German language? Type of school unknown.

... That Seymour has a good Softball pitching arm.

.... Lt. Jennings sending in a requisition for a tank with a larger hatch?

... Lt. Bergman and Lt. Hall fighting their way through the gof of Wales?

... Lt. Wegeland introducing a class in military courtesy? "Men this morning we take up something new and different," he stated to a battery of three year men as he introduced the correct way to execute the hand salute.

... Lt. Prohaska accepts a commission because he has no more room on his arms for another stripe.

... Batton was at least one man in the wire section that went out tor fix the line, while others used it for an excuse.

... Sgt. Lewis' thoughtfulness for his men?

... It was a good thing that Sqt. Nichols got away from his old chief of section when he did? He soon would have been the second Comanche.

... The struggle that Tec. 3 Chapel had to keep up with Bill Froehley one night in Lyme Regis?

. ... How close Thorson stuck to the billits in Evesham?

... That Budzbanowski is the proud possessor of the longest name in the battery.

# 7. 0. 2 Tank Commander Confused

Lt. Meisles' forward observer section was working with B Co. of the 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion when the company got an order to go into the town of Wolfen, Germany to see if Jerry had anything in there. F. O. 2 tank and another M-24 light tank, 3 recon. cars and two jeeps took off for the town. Tichenor did the driving, Webb was gunner, Johnson T. E. loader, and Pyatt bow gunner. The small force got into town without opposition and found beaucoup Jerry machine gun positions unmanned. In fact the whole town had very nicely dug in defensive gun positions, but not a Jerry "soldat" in sight. As soon as the force got into town Lt. Meisles tank pulled in between two houses to cover one of the flanks, all ???? broke loose. Jerry had the town zeroed in and was just waiting till the force got into town to let them have it. Webb had the 75 laid over the back end of the tank when Lt. Meisles gave the order to pull back out of town, the other tanks were already on their way out. Tichenor pulled out with the gun pointing over the rear end and Lt. Meisles, thinking he was backing up, started giving driving instructions over the interphone. After getting on the road and well under way out of town at about 40 MPH, Lt. Meisles decided that Tichenor was doing a good job of backing the tank. Catching up with a jeep that wasn't doing so good as the driver was hit, Tichenor swerved off the road to go around the jeep. Then is when the Lt. came to himself and realized that the turret was traversed to the rear and that they weren't going backwards after all. Not funny at the time but after the crew got back to our lines all had a laugh on the Lieutenant ....

## Couldn't Sneeze

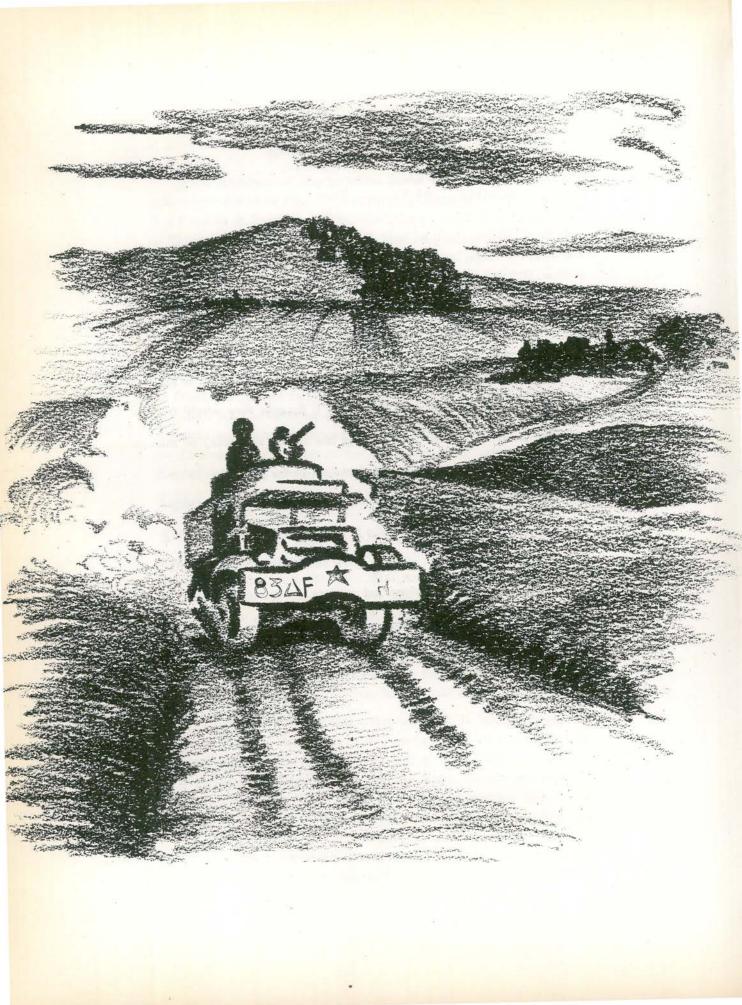
Some members of this battalion found themselves in a breathtaking spot the other day. T/5 Clarence A. Olson, of Houghton, Mich., T/4 Raymon R. Sprehn, of Bakersfield, Calif., 1st Lt. J. R. Jennings of of Overland Park, Kans., Pfc. H. E. Hall, of Augusta, Ga., and Pvt. Mervel E. Shelton, of Shelby, Ohio, all members of a forward observer party, fought their way into the town of Sterpigny, Belgium with a Task Force of the 3rd Armored Division. Just as they entered the town, the tank in which they were riding was hit and the crew bailed out and took cover in the village. In the meantime the Jerries cut off the town and established a command post in the same room that Olson and Shelton were hiding in. Shelton was wounded and partly blinded so Olson hid himself and Shelton under a pile of rags under the table on which the Germans were eating. At one time one of the Jerries lit a match and started to rummage through the pile of rags, but before he discovered the players of the "hide and seek" game, the match burned his fingers and he quit. To top it all off, two of the Jerries were singing "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" while dining on our own "Tenin-One" rations. There must have been a song sheet in the box.

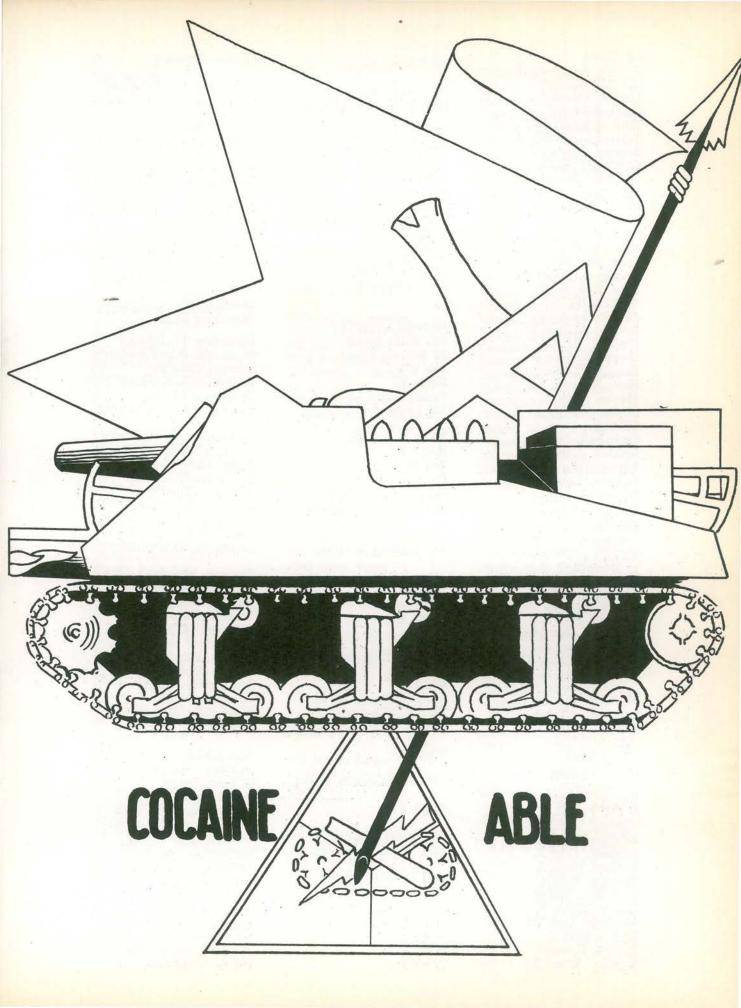
Later that same night the two men, Olson leading the other, sneaked to the attic while their "guests" changed the guard at the doorway. At the same time Pvt. Hall took refuge in another house where a civilian covered him and a medic with a matress until they found a better spot in a potato bin. After about 24 hours of sharing the room with 10 Jerries, a lone doughboy appeared and called to the Germans to surrender. At this time Hall jumped up and called, "Come on down, Jo, I've got 'em covered." But the German pistol he had had only two rounds in it and they later would not fire.

The following day another observer, Lt. J. R. Nichols, from the same outfit broke through with a relieving force and contacted Lt. Jennings and Sqt. Sprehn. Knowing that at least Olson and Shelton were in the same building with the Germans, the officers adjusted artillery fire on two Tiger tanks that were in position beside the building, knocking them out. By this time Olson and Shelton had worked their way in a hay loft. During the shelling, one 155 mm. delayed fuse round crashed through the loft roof near them and exploded among the Germans below, causing them to disperse a little.

**Tire Shortage** 

Our wire jeep had been through so much that it was about to fall apart so we, T/5 Heaney and Riley and I, thought they would get parts for it off a knocked out jeep on the bank (our side) of the Rhine. First we wanted tires so we drove up to the jeep and just got it jacked up when it seemed as if all - - - broke loose, dirt started flying up all around us as the results of the mortar and artillery shells. It was too hot for us, in fact we took off in such a hurry that we forgot the jack. Heaney and Riley are not quitters so during the hours of darkness the brave men stole their way to the jeep again and acquired a set of tires.





CAPTAIN Kilgore, Anderson W. **1ST LIEUTENANT** Dexter, Robert I. Forel, Adolph J., Jr. 2ND LIEUTENANT Schmide, Adolph R. Somers, Samuel T. FIRST SERGEANTS Brogdon, Thomas D. Mott, Maurice V. STAFF SERGEANT Cashion, Roy T. Johnson, Dan C. Lee, John E. Scalcucci, Nello J. Hagstrom, Robert A. May, Richard T. SERGEANT Furtick, Bobby H. Parker, William J. Davis, J. S. Dwyer, Francis J. Entrikin, William W. Hain, Richard B. Meyer, Alvin P. Silverman, Robert R. TEC. 4 Campbell, Frank P. Jenkins, Arthur L. Payne, John W. Pickens, Glenn Capan, George Kubiak, James R. McCall, Avery E. Barker, James W. Devany, Russell J. CORPORAL Bullinger, Peter F. Sellers, George E. Cauey, Kenneth A. Risnear, Paul Robinson, Gerald D. Rowley, John H. Boulding, Finley C. Creel, Hardy H., Jr. Lahde, Raymond M. McCully, Harold L. Repovsch, Walter J. Strauss, William A. TEC. 5 Turner, Paul Bruce, Theodore W. Carpio, Sam Henson, Farncis H. Koval, Joseph G. Mattson, Harvey M. Rescigno, Anthony V. Scagnoli, Fred A. Stafford, Cecil A. Żeleznik, Robert Scarpechi, Joseph P. Willey, Frank P. Abraham, Paul W. Hexton, John P. Hughes, Howard Rossiter, Albert E.

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### PFC.

Gillard, Leroy J. Gilbert, Roland P. Lindsey, Sherwood W. Presnell, Henry W. Turner, William R. Yates, Harvey Burran, Harvey A. Webb, Willie F. White, Grady H. Wilfong, Perl G. Arnold, Elmo W. Casagrande, Eldo Edmiston, Wilfred L. LaVare, Bert E. Munis, Sam Patterson, Mark M. Prestidge, Hurbert E. Sommerfeld, Oline L. Trbovich, Milan M. Turley, Ora C. Baird, David E., Jr. Benchich, Irving F. Biangardi, Bernard F. Billits, Edward R. Bomar, Daniel J. Bryant, James K. Davis, John R. DeSimone, Edward Easterday, Joseph V. Guinta, Francis Jackson, Leroy Kessler, Conrad E. Marmarelli, Joseph W. Masello, Dominick J. Miller, Michael H., Jr. Mullins, Frank E., Jr. Siirila, John B. Shelton, Mervel E. Simpson, Ward J. Swift, James E. Lipschitz, Benjamin Rapp, Joseph E. Ringer, Elmer R. Schwartz, Bertram L. Miller, Roy E. Olson, Alfred A. Seymour, Lawrence E. PVT. Vickery, Oscar Hales, Pat W., Jr. Holland, Frank C., Jr. Bates, Scott F. Burns, James E. Hall, Frank G. Eye, Billy W. Lesowske, Frank C. Edmondson, William L. Fountain, Walter C. Oberts, Bernard R. Mahoney, James F. Lightell, Melton Trissel, Fack E.

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Did You Know That....

- Al Rossiter—Had so much experience in procuring steak, ham, pork, etc. in Immendorf that he would make a first class butcher when he gets home.
- Davis, J. S.—Was a human icicle while driving a jeep back to the battery during that frosty time in the "Bulge?" Ice continually formed on his eyelids and eyebrows finally causing him to run the jeep in a ditch. He swore he'd never drive again in that type of weather.
- Davis, J. R.—Tried to run off with an M-7 all by himself? Wicked stuff this "Schnapps."
- Roy Cashion—Broke his collar bone when a German motorbike threw him for a loop? Some one should have warned him that Jerries equipment is as treacherous as the Heinies themselves.
- Richard T. May—Has the largest vocabulary in the battery? Just ask Richard T.
- Grady White—Has a vocabulary too! "That were me hung up on that stump." Remember Grady?
- Harvey Yates—Is an excellent raconteur? Although his stories might not adhere strictly to the fact, they sure hold your interest.
- Willie Webb—When in costume and make-up is the cutest girl? Ask anyone who saw the 83rd Follies.
- Bert (Put-Put) Lavare—Chewed Lt. Thomas up one side and down the other because of the lack of chewing tobacco in the PX rations? Note: The next rations included more "Chew" for Lavare.
- Bert Schwartz—Can improvise lyrics for any well known song? I don't believe such fellows as Gershwin, Mercer or Green should worry though. The only ones who need worry are those close enough to hear when he starts to work.
- Bill Parker—Is a General. Just ask anyone in Able Battery who "General Womplin" is.
- Oline Sommerfield—Has a charmed life? While firing into Brest in the "wee small" hours of the morning the recoil of the tube knocked half the fuse off a round of 105 he was holding. Needless to say the round didn't go off. Ollie might have been sleepy but he was wide awak for a long time after that incident.
- Bobby Furtick—Always kept a mirror handy in the M-7? Must be presentable at all times you know.
- Russell Devaney—Tells us of the brightest remark made during Albes' last run with the British, was when a "Limey" inquired, "What are you blokes doing here looting in our territory?"
- Special thanks to Frank Mullins for the drawing used as an introduction to "A" Battery section.

# Pask Force "X"

It was on the second day of the famous 6th Armored Spearhead which was destined to seal 40,000 Germans in the port of Brest that one of Able's M-7 had developed engine trouble and was forced to fall out of convoy in Pontorson.

Later that evening, after repairs were made on the tank, the party, of one H/T, jeep, and tank led by Cpl. Jim Ferrera was barrelling up the road to rejoin the task force. But the unit had moved fast since Ferrera had left them and their whereabouts were not known. At this time the party was under command of Lt. Somers, Suddenly just outside of Comburgh it ran into several Krauts. The Germans frightened by the display of fire power, took off across the nearby fields. Three of the GI's in close pursuit. S/Sgt. Cashion, Pfc. Bomar and Pfc. Trbovich soon returned with about 20 prisoners. In the meantime a U. S. light tank and crew, who had also become separated from its outfit, joined the group. The PWs were turned over to the FFI. The Maquis was having a field day. One of the girls wore a "Bra" and a skirt. This left a bare midriff which she concealed by shoving an American 45 colt in her belly waist band. She was collecting all stray Krauts in the vicinity.

It was dark now and not wishing to travel in enemy territory at night the group bedded down.

In the morning, having been joined by a 6th Armored staff car and a captured German Volks wagon, manned by Maquis, they continued in their search with the FFI in the lead. After traveling for about eight miles another GI H/T was encountered stuck in a ditch. The M-7 pulled the vehicle out, adding another member to the group. The group, becoming quite large, decided to name itself Task Force "X". After being warned of more Heinies ahead, Task Force "X" continued on—in the opposite direction.

The Piper Cubs finally located the Force and diverted it to its unit. Shortly after Lt. Dexter met them and directed them to the bivouac area.

Lt. Somers, S/Sgt. Cashion, Sgt. (now S/Sgt.) Scalcucci, Sgt. Hyder, T/4 Capan, Cpl. Ferrera, Cpl. (now T/4) Pickens, T/5 (now T/4) Barker, T/5 Mattson, Pfc. (now Cpl.) Bullinger, Pfc. Bomar, Pfc. Trbovich, Pvt. Miller, Pvt. Repovsch, Pvt. Turner were Battery A's contribution to the Task Force.

"Last Run"

It was 0600 May 2 after one of those hectic nights, which included a blackout drive and about two hours of sleep, that Able Battery pushed off on what was to be its last mad dash. The Battery had crossed the Elbe River the night before with the rest of the Battalion but had drawn a separate assignment with the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Division and lements of the 2nd British Army.

The men were given the latest "poop," the objective of the Task Force was the Baltic Sea where a junction with the Russians was expected to be effected. Able Battery was in close support of the British. The opposition, well, that was the unknown factor that would be determined later. This latest piece of information was no news to the men as it was an old familiar story by this time. At 0500 everything was ready—motors roared and the column moved up to the IP.

As the tanks pulled on to the main road the men were greeted with a new scene—there lined up on the left of the road were the "Limeys." The "Blokes" looked mighty good as they were all freshly shaven and had clean uniforms on. In contrast, the GIs were looking as usual. Few, if any, were shaven and all looked a bit rugged after having gone without very much sleep the previous night. The time had come and the column began moving out and the push was on. It was a strange sight—the British column on the left including trucks carrying infantry, Bren gun carriers and truck drawn artillery, with the American column on the right with the tanks, doughboys, and our M-7s. It was a strange and unusual sight, one that was not often seen.

The Task Force moved along quickly and efficiently. There was the usual tense air and head swiveling going on but no opposition was encountered and the column gained momentum. The German population in the small villages that were being overrun didn't seem to mind being taken by the Allies. When the column would halt for some reason, they would approach, look over the column curiously, and then offer that universal peace offering known in English as the "eggs", in French as the "oeuf", in German as the "eure". The English boys liked eggs so well they would make some unscheduled halts to collect a few eggs and then nonchalantly continue with the business at hand.

As the force moved ahead, the flow of prisoners began to increase and reached such proportions that the column was forced to halt frequently and allow the road to clear. Now the column was in the pattern of moving a few hundred yards, halt and wait. This stop and go business settled into the familiar pattern and the usual uncomplimentary remarks were passed about everything being snafued as usual. In the early afternoon, the vehicles pulled off the road and coiled in a large field. Then it was learned that the original objective, Wismar, had been taken by the Russians. All this time the flow of prisoners was continuing steadily, and now the trickle turned into a flood. The Krauts were pouring in, using every conceivable type of conveyance which included horses, wagons, civilian cars, trucks, bicycles. But for the most part they were walking. The proximity of the Russians didn't have a thing to do with it—not much.

After a two hour halt, the Battery hit the road again and moved rapidly to the little village of Dalberg. Little did the men know that this was the last position that Able would occupy, for it was here, while the men were watching the files of prisoners coming in, that V-E Day was declared.

The end of the war came as more or less of an anticlimatic announcement because we all knew that the end was here and the announcement was met with no outburst of enthusiasm—the general feeling was one of relief and wonderment that the war was actually over—the long trail finally had come to an end and yet, the main thoughts were not in Europe but home in the misty U. S. A.

Hot Spot

The 83rd steamroller was really in high gear when Able Battery pulled off the road to deliver fire on the town of Kothen, Germany, the next objective of the Task Force.

The guns were busy throwing shells into the town when all of a sudden there was a loud crack and shrapnel splattered all over the Battery position. This was followed by two more incoming rounds and that is when A Battery effected the fastest march order in its history. As the unit displaced, the enemy really plastered the area. The guns took up a position about 1000 yards forward on the opposite side of the road. At this time Lt. Blatt, the Battalion Air Observer, radioed in the position of the hostile artillery to Pfc. Mark Patterson. Patterson checked the coordinates on the map and called back to Lt. Blatt, "Better recheck your coordinates, according to my plotting, the enemy is behind us." The Lt. came back with a short, "That's right, he is!" Without any other bickering the M-7s were relaid and took the Jerries under fire. Sqt. Silverman and his gallant crew fired as fast as the recoil would allow, stopping only when all the ammo was gone. Another target was spotted to the left flank three guns were turned in that direction while the other three continued firing toward the rear.

Germans to the right of us and to the left of us, in fact all around us. It seemed as if we could not move without being spotted and fired at, even all through the night while in position at Klien-Wulknitz Jerry kept throwing stuff at us.

The next morining we got out of that place and proceeded on our way to meet the Russians.

Able's Antics

Things were beginning to move quite rapidly. The Battalion had driven across the Roer River and was well on its way to Cologne and the Rhine, when the swiftness of the pace caused some strange occurrences. This was a forerunner of things to come only one didn'tknow it at the time.

A Battery and the rest of the 83rd was occuppying four and five different positions a day and there was no slacking off on the pace at night. It was on one of those darker nights when one would find it difficult to distinguish the tip of his probosis, that Capt. Kilgore, Battery Commander, went forward on reconnaissance to locate another firing position. Up front Major Preer gave Capt. Kilgore the approximate location. Upon further investigation of the position, in order to find an exact spot for each M-7, the Capt. noticed the faint outline of a soldier in the distance. Thinking that he was an American outpost the BC walked up behind him, tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Hey, Buddy, what outfit are you out of?" No sooner were the words spoken than the soldier turned slightly and the Capt. noticed the strange curve of the helmet in front of him. It was a Kraut fully armed, on guard duty. After his stomach and heart returned to their normal position Capt. Kilgore disarmed the guard and took him prisoner. The Capt. later admitted that the clothes did feel funny when he tapped him on the shoulder.

It was at this same position that daylight revealed a position of 88s not more than 150 yards from the Battery. The Krauts' guns were still intact with crews to man them. It didn't take very long to run out the Jerries and render their guns useless. Yes, war is certainly a strange thing!

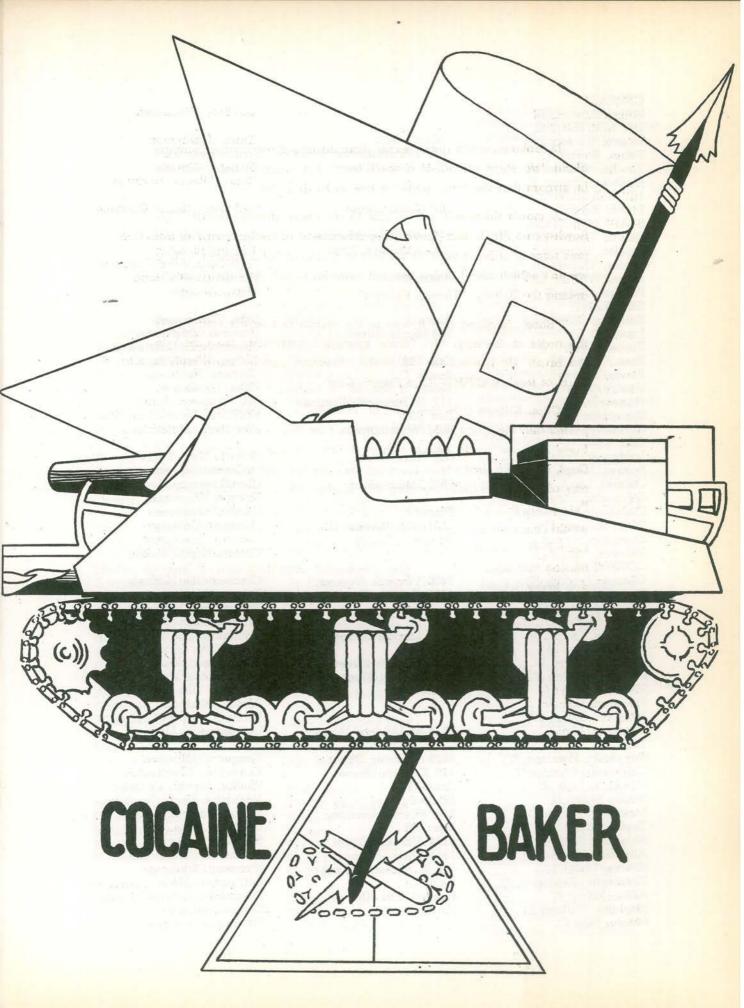
Then there was the time back in the never-to-be forgotten Bulge when we were continually displacing to a better position (defensive). We started out firing charge 7, down to 5, then 3. That's too close for comfort, so Pfc. Webb announced, "Start rolling your rolls and packing your bags, boys, we're down to charge 3."

Lt. Dexter will never forget the time he went up front to do some forward observing only to find two hand grenades in his binocular case instead of that very important instrument. Lt. Somers, while doing some shooting into Brest, seeing Heinies, about two steps ahead of a shell burst, jump into a hole and the Lt. swears that the Kraut pulled a tree in behind him.

A man's thirst will cause him to do some strange things. Cpl. Rowley and Pfc. Bomar drove 500 yards ahead of the lead tank of the task force in order to beat the tankers to a case of "Champagne." They weren't selfish about their liberated material either, they distributed it among the Battery. "Thanks Fellows."

"Shoot anything that moves in the woods beside the road," was the order of the day. Pfc. Turner spotted a suspicious movement in the brush. He leveled the .50 in that direction and let loose with a burst of lead. VICTIM?—One French Cow.

Capt. Kilgore tells this on Cpl. Pete Bullinger. Snipers were reported and the place was being harassed by German artillery. Major Preer had just made his way through the hot spot and warned the Capt. and Pete. Just about the time they were about to start through, one of those familiar sounding 88s landed about 100 yards away. Pete pointed to the burst and attempted to speak but "nary" a sound would come out, his mouth was just going through the motions. (If you know Pete you know what I mean). Captain Kilgore relieved Bullinger's tension and said: "OK, let's go!" Needless to say they took off like you know what.



CAPTAIN Shipp, Edward M. **1ST LIEUTENANT** Moore, Frederick J. Rehm, Robert C. Taulbe, George C. McEwen, Homer E. **1ST SERGEANT** Davis, John C. STAFF SERGEANT Heintz, Emmet H. Seigler, Harry P. Linder, Odbert D. Jones, William E. Phillips, John R. SERGEANT Sullivan, Darce Jones, T. J. Shute, Calep Ross, Guido Al Benge, Leonard Guidry, Alex P. Fluger, John J. Sprawles, Harry V. Carmody, Bruce D. TEC. 4 LaManna, Frank Fauver, Joseph L. Osinski, Leo J. Schroeder, Floyd F. Cunningham, Lester F. Weir, Richard H. Stimmett, Everett L. Masters, John A. CORPORAL George, Freddie N. New, George L. Roadcap, Boyd G. Todd, Willie M. Brinegar, Frank W. Houts, Luther M. Kraemer, Harry J. Gladysz, Walter P. Wade, Robert H. Freeman, Don A. Murphy, Glenn W. Hendrix, Lloyd L. TEC. 5 Raypholtz, Harrison F. Carpenter, Charles U. Hawkins, John R. Baker, Jethro D. Jackson, Thomas C. Taylor, Harry L. Mueller, Herman F. Anderson, Lawrence L. Hewes, Lester L. Thompson, Benjamin H. Allen, Harry F. Hopkins, William I. Moore, John C.

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101 Cedar Street

1729 Gardner Ävenue 1017 Clarkson Place

Route 2

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Box 186 Route 1 Route 1, Box 48 117 E. Railroad Avenue Box 202 2011 Water Street

508 Third Street

3515 Union Road

Route 3 1511 12th Avenue, E. Route 1, Box 20

2409 Virginia Avenue 4518 E. Fifth Street

2017 Lincoln Street

534 N. Tenth Street 3399 E. 70th Street Route 2

1424 N. Linwood Avenue

1919 Webster Street 128 E. Main Street Route 3 Route 2 216 Warren Avenue Box 235 4124 Simplon Street 1511 Rhem Avenue 415 E. Johnson Street Route 6 Route 1, Box 20 Route 2

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Andy Sez

Things aren't always what they seem. Good authorities on this are J. L. Carpenter and R. Johnson because of their adventure in the woods one day.

Heinie shrapnel can sometime boost you around a corner, as discovered by N. J. Spurlin and A. P. Guidry one day on Crozon.

An abandoned 88 can scare ???? out of you especially when you are driving down the road and meet it head on. Lt. F. J. Moore and L. L. Hewes can attest to this.

One good way to stop a Jerry motor cycle is to run it into a H/T— H. P. Seigler was the discoverer.

A .30 cal. MG will fire by itself when cocked and helped by low hangin' branches. W. M. Todd and D. E. Johnson very unexpectedly discovered this one day.

There are cases of mistaken identity—ask E. Salters about—Nein Fraulein.

Some foxhole companions are very offensive and not at all hospitable, ask J. Anguiano and his 88.

Sometimes it is better not to try and see over a hedgerow at a dough's question—Isn't that right Capt. Shipp?

People do funny things when surprised, especially when it is by an unexpected Jerry—H. Vogel and V. Scott, remember?

Flashlights can be used for something besides illumination—the woeful discoverers, C. U. Carpenter and H. F. Mueller.

You can't always believe your tent mate, especially if he talks in his sleep—H. F. Raypholtz knows that now.

There is such a thing as bouncing bullets—Lt. G. C. Taulbe is an authority on the subject.

Sometimes marauding animals are found away from their lairs vouched for by O. D. Linder and his tiger.

Some things just don't mix—such as B. D. Carmody, J. Harky, and their bicycles.

Thirsty or not, there is usually something to drink, even "Buzz Bomb Juice" (hic) tested by W. Fuller, J. O. Phillips, and T. Jackson.

The mysteries of mother nature are strange indeed—how about J. Fauver and his turtle race.

One of the boys had a very good motto, "Faster Jackson"—Where did you think that up, J. C. (Baldy) Davis?

Even the you fight with and cuss your partner an excellent job can be accomplished. B. G. Roadcap and S. T. Fletcher proved this with their wire jobs. A Jeep can stop on a dime and give you nine cents change, when at the frontlines and a challenging halt rings out of the black night how about it L. L. Hendrix?

If anyone needs any help just call on N. Homick to "strafe the joint."

Sometimes a fellow has to go through a lot before his talent comes to the surface—as we discovered in Mess Sqt. E. H. Heintz.

M. H. Head realizes that it doesn't take sleeping pills to reach slumber land. Alcoholic beverages and hot sun will do the job.

Any driving vacancies could easily be filled by W. (Pour the coal to 'er) Atkins.

An A number 1 keeper-outer is C. Shute and his war club—A few Jerries could tell you this!

All records for breaking up a card game were made on Crozon one day when a shelling started, the contestants finishing in a dead heat for safety being M. Clouser, C. G. Allen, J. Ondrij and J. Rodgers.

Some people object strongly to being looted especially if it is a GI-did you find out why R. Myers?

Shells can indirectly cause the buttons to come off of a shirt the cause and effect were G. Newman and M. Drouin.

Propaganda shell can sometimes bring a quick answer especially when fired hours late. The tardy boys were L. Houts, J. Masters, and J. Flugar.

Some supposed Yankees have the darndest drawl such as "foh foh," P. Sprawls.

These Armored boys run over anything, especially when in a hurry and on foot. Did you ever fix that picket fence F. Shroeder and M. Johnson?

There was a quiz kid with us all the time; his name being (now are there any questions? J. Adams)

Hot steel is very uncomfortable whether enemy or allied, G. Ross had a little taste of his own lead.

During a shelling some people have funny ideas of safety—L. O'Sinske prefers a loaded ammo truck to a foxhole.

Military objects are not the only exploding missiles. How did that can of beans come to go off in your foxhole, C. Gubble?

The question of who is the champion looter of the battery is still unanswered, top contestants being W. Oblinger, W. E. Jones, M. Rowan, and C. Drace.

Windows can be very treacherous, especially when broken, a victim of some of their treachery is W. Reeves.

If anyone wants to find the head of the chow line W. Hopkins was the boy to find.

Whatever Rennes had to keep a guy AWOL over night R. Weir and W. Gladysz found it.

If anyone wants a different kind of foxhole see T. Thomas for plans for his floating one.

The hot corner on the soft ball team unexpectedly turned out F. Riccio as its excellent tender.

Some people aren't safe anywhere. Ask B. Cagle about being run over while in the orchard over night.

If there was any place a tank could be taken B. Thompson was the boy to put it there.

Liberated accordians gave H. Kraemer and D. Anger a chance to show their musical ability to the battery.

According to J. Perino he was quite the stuff with his Zoot Suit and stogie.

The battery had no worries about tailoring and pressing as long as F. Brineger was along.

The war changes some people an awful lot, that is, if G. Murphy and his picture in the home town paper are one and the same.

Zero weather is no excuse for not bathing, at least T. Franklin doesn't believe so.

There were times when the war moved so fast some people couldn't hunt for souvenirs without being left behind. Some stragglers were T. Stringer, E. Stinnette, J. Norton, and W. Raines.

J. Wright would make a good advertisement for a tobacco company, what with his continuous chewing of their product.

We wonder if now that it is sort of quiet has G. Mason ever decided between the Infantry or the Artillery.

We had a very modest guy with us. Already the possessor of a Purple Heart, B. Wade turned down a cluster for said citation.

A wedding article in the home town paper can turn up in the most unexpected places. Ask F. LaManna where he saw his.

A good name for H. Baumgard, R. Cox, and H. Free is the unholy three. They managed to get caught doing what they weren't supposed to, more than any others.

Some people sure wait a long time for eggs. H. Allen waited a few hours for a chicken to decide to lay an egg and then caught it before it hit the nest. F. George and M. Smith found a good place to hide out one day when march order came down. Was the beer good, fellows?

M. Belitsky was getting acquainted with the hospital staffs, what with his frequent visit because of his stomach! Must have been somethin' he ate.

Thet title of chief "bitcher" of the battery goes to J. D. Fletcher after much competition.

Things you would never think of can happen. How did G. Hester manage to get under the dash board of a H/T that day those planes with the crosses flew over?

F. Watson couldn't be satisfied unless he had some "swurp" for his pancakes.

There are ways and then some more ways to check the oil but it took L. Benge to find a way to do it and break his foot to boot.

J. Moore would be officially designated as a tank starter burner upper.

The height of laziness was reached by E. Christman when he did his drinking in bed and had some one else throw the bottle away.

G. Nalepa must have an inside informer else how could he put on his Pfc. stripe before the battery ever got the order?

A double bunk could be classified as a booby trap. J. Hawkins took a ride on one one night.

L. Cunningham takes guard so serious that one night he heard himself prowling around and shot said prowler.

J. Payne and J. Baker have yet to settle the first cook question.

A table is no place to be on. D. Sullivan sprained his ankle getting off.

Eggs and other edibles were always hard to find, but if they were around V. Corley and L. Marpo were there to get them.

The one question we would like Cordell to answer is did he get all these prisoners for patriotic or personal reasons.

There are some army jobs that are definitely not appreciated. Was G. New playing any "Hide 'n Seek with Jerry shells back there in the rear guard?

A foxhole stove pipe can find the darndest times to catch on fire. It had F. Vanaman hopping for a while that night.

Crozon

On the 27th of August 1944, we were in position near Loperhet, France and very busy with our mission of delivering fire on Brest. It was a sunny afternoon and we were receiving spasmodic shelling when the phone rang (field telephone EE 8 A) and the message came down, "Prepare for a special mission." Early on the morning of the 28th we left our position and after a march of about 50 miles along the main highway through the town of Landerneau we reached our first position near Plouvier. We were assigned to Task Force "A", in support of the 15th Cavalry Group. Our battery was the only artillery in the Task Force, whose mission was to contain the Crozon Peninsula, thus keeping the Jerries from crossing the bay from Brest and escaping by way of Crozon. We were busy firing three and four mission at the same time. Two ammunition tracks and two 2½ ton trucks were on the go all the time. It was 60 miles back to the ammo dump and these carriers had little or no rest at all since we were firing 1000 rounds a day those first few days. It was about this time the critical ammunition shortage occurred and we were rationed 125 rounds per day. This did not last long, however as we were too busy trying to keep Jerry thinking there was at least a division of artillery against him. We had good defilade but with all our firing, Jerry finally picked us up on the 31st day of August. Around noon of that day enemy fire started blanketing the fields around us. The law of averages is always working and as a result they finally started dropping them in on our fields. It was getting pretty hot so it was decided to pull the firing battery out under fire and go to our alternate position about 1/2 mile to the left flank leaving the rest of the battery in their foxholes until it was safe for them to move. During this shelling one man was hit and had to be evacuated. After the shelling stopped the rest of the battery joined us. From our alternate position we used Menez Hon (hill 330 near St. Marie) for a base point. Hill 330 was one of the German's best fortified positions and many a bloody battle was fought before it became ours.

On the 1st of September the battery moved forward through St. Nic and went into position near a railroad underpass on the main highway to Crozon. After a very wet and miserable night the firing battery again moved forward leaving the battery headquarters, ammunition, mechanics, mess and supply sections in position as the rear echelon. The firing battery went into position about 1/4 mile from the main highway and southeast of Telgrue-Sur-Mer. The alternate position was in the edge of the town. We were in position a couple of days when the order came to move to the alternate position, but when the time came to move it was decided we could do just as good where we were, so we stayed put. Call it intuition if you want, but it was a good thing we did stay in position because that afternoon JABO came over and worked Telgrue-Sur-Mer over. Later that afternoon the heavies came over and leveled the town as well as our proposed position. While in this position we received three replacements W. Oblinger, F. Riccio, and M. Rowen to bring us up to battery strength again. We also exchanged executive officers, 2nd Lt. Preston being replaced by 2nd Lt. Moore. One cold, dark, wet night we decided to go easy on our night firing and try to let the gun squads keep as warm and dry as possible. After about an hour's lapse of time the phone rang and the Task Force Commander very pointedly told us he wanted a lot of artillery fire. We gave him battery one round and was soon answered by a battery of German Naval Guns. The phone rang again and the colonel wanted to know if we knew that our guns made a big flash and could be observed. We told him "yes," as the rounds had landed just in front of the position. Another question, did we know that it was big stuff? A very definite "yes" from us as the rounds shook the whole position. The CP gave cease fire and we settled down for a night's sleep. Marred only by the methodical booming of those big rounds as they landed in front of us all night long.

On the 10th of September Headquarters Battery joined us and we turned our fire direction data over to Battalion Fire Direction Center.

In the still dark hours of the morning of the 14th of September we displaced along the main highway through Argole and took up a night occupation of position near Kerliver. Here "C" Battery joined us. On this blackout drive while we were going down the road a guard suddenly appeared and halted us. After the usual pass words and counter-signs the guard said, "You can't go any farther." "Why can't we?" asked the executive in the lead vehicle. "Because the Doughs ar right here and there are only outposts beyond," said the guard. "Well, I have a position around here somewhere and I'm going into it," said the executive. This we did. The next morning we, looked around and found the Doughs digging in two fields behind us. We stayed in this position, giving and receiving fire until the 18th of Sept. During this time one man accidentally wounded himself and one other man was evacuated because of combat fatique.

The morning of Sept. the 18th found us moving along the road to Crozon and going into position just before reaching the Capitol city. After a few hours in this position, in which no firing was done, but plenty of souvenir hunting done, we moved forward again to a position near Morgot. This was our last position on Crozon and while in this position our leading elements captured Gen. von Rausch. A few hours later Gen. von Ramke was captured on the other end of the peninsula.

Our "Lone Wolf" days were over.

# Air Conditioning

This story is for the benefit of those who would like to have their houses air conditioned by a man who has a new, and very effective method. This new method was discovered on our last drive, at which time Jerry called it quits, and signed the unconditional surrender.

The column ground to a halt for some reason or other (probably the lead vehicle spotted some prime loot). The road was filled with prisoners going to the rear and the men in the vehicles relaxed a bit and looked over the surrounding countryside. Off to the left the familiar drone of aircraft was heard, and three or four fighter planes came sweeping into view at tree top height. As usual the leading eager beavers of the battery cracked wise about the "Limeys" doing the screwiest things. Close observation by those with field glasses revealed a large airfield with beaucoup fires burning, while also the "Limeys" were taking off and landing seemingly without interference. Everyone continued beating their gums without any decision being reached as to what the English were doing using the Kraut airfield before it had been taken. The column was still halted and the chow hounds were breaking out the rations when off from the right came two "friendly" aircraft. The prisoners going to the rear dived for the ditch and mouths dropped open in amazement as the black cross of the Nazi passed overhead. They came in so low that we could have lit the pilots' cigarette if they had been in need of a light. Why they didn't open fire is still unknown, but we did not waste any time to figure out their reasons. .50s opened up all down the column. To add insult to injury they repeated the maneuver. Then two Super-Birdmen bit the dust. Just who received credit for the planes is still being argued as everyone had been firing. "Tank Force" John Wing Jr. put his eagle eye on one plane and began burning him a new, ???. When the plane disappeared from view behind a house, was Jr. dismayed? Not in the least. He kept on firing and blasted the ridge of the roof off all the way across the house, and continued on his prime objective.

That's one way to allow air to circulate through a house—but it works.

## Secret Weapon

While in position in a little village by the name of Buir, Germany we encountered one of the Krauts' new secret weapons. After digging in we settled down for as much sleep and rest as possible. Everything was going smoothly when suddenly those mean old Germans started sending over their 'boxcars." After a period of this we heaved a sigh of relief and settled down again. Suddenly there came some more side door pullmans with their doors open. "Get down Trudy." One of those "freight cars" derailed and landed at the edge of the village. Almost immediately afterwards the boys heard a whirring and whistling sound that was new to them. The sound kept getting closer and closer until suddenly, Thud-right in the middle of the position it landed. It didn't go off but what was it? A new delayed action shell? A delayed action rocket? Who knew? Certainly nobody did at that time. After a night of firing and sweating out the unknown object in the position, dawn finally broke through. The first thing we learned in those wee small hours of the new day was that the shell that had landed at the edge of the village the night before had hit a Jeep. But what of the unknown object? Some of the braver men of the battery set out to find out what the new weapon was like. They found it right in the middle of the position and on closer inspection found it to be-the Jeep motor. A very odd sounding thing flying through the air in the middle of the night, but certainly no secret weapon.

# Christmas Presents

During the first days of The Bulge no one knew where the front lines were and there were always rumors of being cut off. We were in position on one side of the ridge and Task Force Hogan (The 400) was cut off on the other side. The fighting was very intense and we were beginning to get Jerry just where he wanted us.



On December 24th a group of C-47s circled the position a couple of times and dropped parachutes to us. One of the men ("Kentucky Colonel" O. I. Davis Jr.) ran to the middle of the position and very excitedly exclaimed, "Xmas presents, Xmas presents, they haven't forgotten us." On inspection these parcels we found were made up of ammunition and gasoline intended for (The 400) who got back to our lines a few days later, suffering only from exposure.

Now presents are nice to think of at any time, but more than ever on "Xmas Eve." So that night Jerry felt we shouldn't be disappointed and did his best to keep us from feeling so. He very obligingly kept us awake all night with counter-attacks, and presents of powder wrapped in steel containers and tied with shiny new copper bands. A very nice gesture but definitely not appreciated by any of us.

# Old Glory

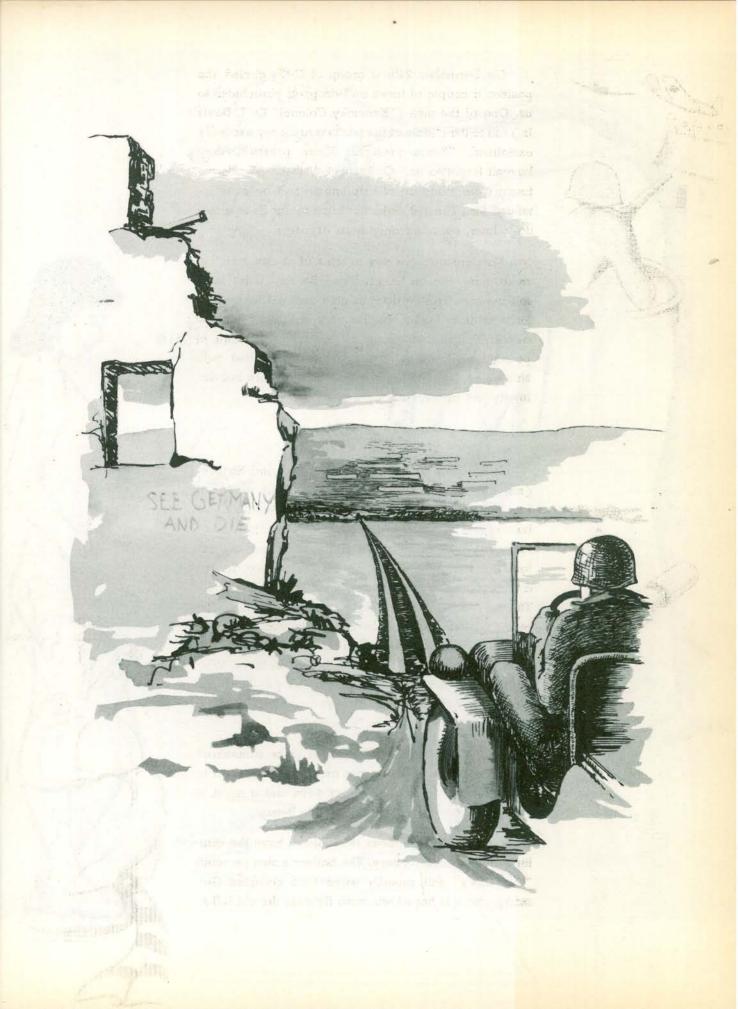
The supply of the good old "Stars and Stripes" (not the paper) was woefully low. As a matter of fact it was practically non-existent. Fortunately the battery had inherited a couple of descendants of Betsy Ross, F. W. Brinegar and M. E. Drouin. These two fellows decided to make a flag for the battery. It was a very good idea but what could they use for material? The first search disclosed a very large Nazi flag. The red of this flag was just the right color and so our red stripes came into being. Now for the white stripes. Well there was some very nice bed linen there. Why not use it for the white stripes and star problem? The blue field of the flag was a large piece of blue cloth which, shall we say, was "liberated."

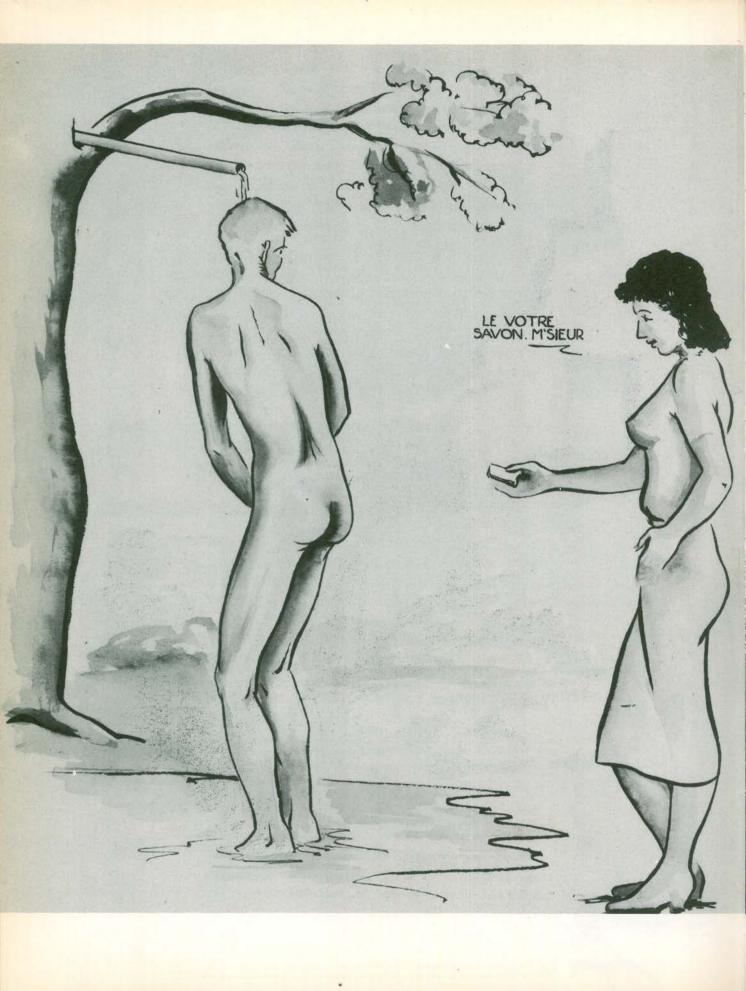
One of the boys, F. W. B., was to be transferred out of the outfit, so there was an all night session to finish the job. After a couple of days and a night, a regulation army storm flag came into being.

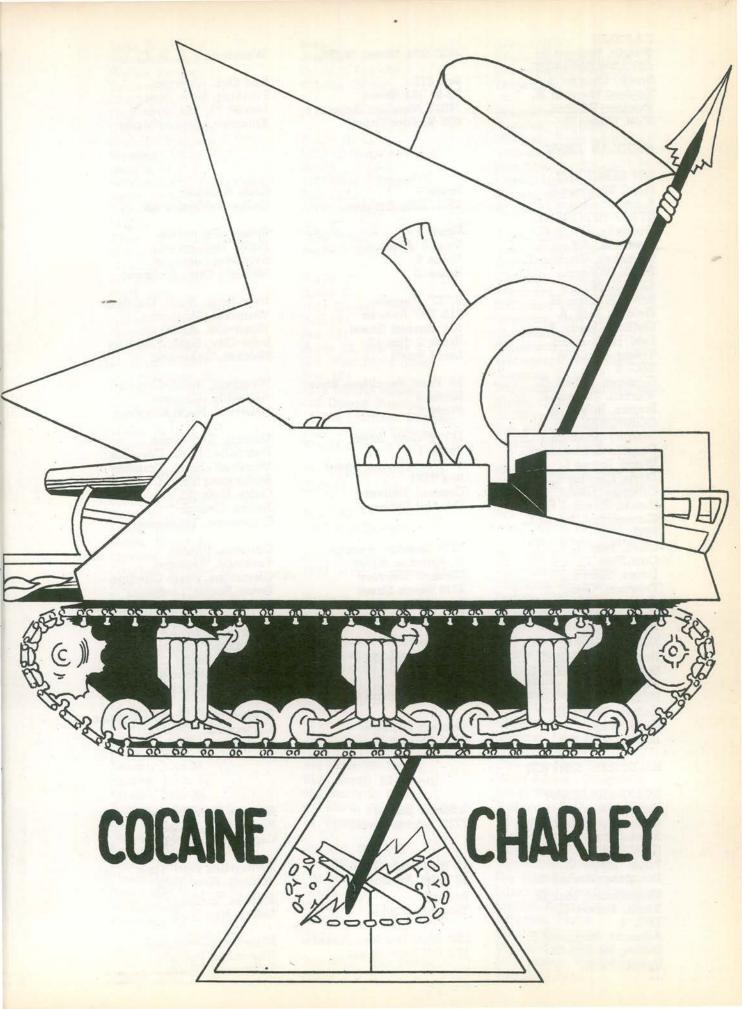
Needless to say, these two fellows have the gratitude of the whole battery. The battery's own personal "Old Glory" will proudly wave over occupied Germany, and it is hoped will soon fly over the old U.S.A.











#### CAPTAIN

Wright, Richard B. IST LIEUTENANTS Burch, Charles T. Kaplan, Herman A. Preston, William Blatt, Calvin A.

#### REGULAR ARMY

**1ST SERGEANT** Head, Madison H. Scheeler, Roger J. STAFF SERGEANT Goodwin, Willie C. Goodson, Albert R. Kilcrease, Claudie T. Smith, Wilburn SERGEANT Brite, William H. Golden, Jack B. Gullion, Grady A. Lee, Herbert, Jr. Young, Frank W. TEC. 4 Granger, Robert C. Warren, Thomas F. Rogers, Robert B. CORPORAL Murphy , William J. , Jr. Vandiford, Lawrence Wood, James L. Davis, Charley L. Eubanks, Edwin Sutton, Edward H. Zimmerman, James C. PFC. Clark, John E. Carr, Ras Drane, Alfred Freeman, Clem Grainger, Cole L. Hardee, J. C. Hicks, Roy L. Miller, Harry C. Roberts, Randall C. Scarbrough, Ollice T. Vest, James B. PVT. Guffey, Wade G. Kiser, Hugh Logan, John S.

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176 Vandervoort Street Route 1

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4439 Bayley 1332 West Chestnut Street

Route 2 97-37 107 Street RFD 7142 Baxton Avenue 462 Prospect Avenue 519 East 94 Street

611 Farnsworth Avenue Route 1 RFD 14 Lessard Street 2359 65th Street 298 West 7th Street 2137 South 69 Street 650 North 29 Street 617 North Ellwood Avenue 14 Veteran Court

Route 2, Box 132 1317 Wabash Avenue 201 North Goliad Street Route 3 Route 3 Box 37 Route 2

Box 2327, 26th Street Route 2 Adena, Ohio Allen, Oklahoma Indianapolis, Indiana Texas City, Texas

Francisco, North Carolina Narrows, Virginia McEwen, Tennessee Bedford, Ohio Blue Mound, Illinois Jasper, Indiana Aluras, California Albemarle, North Carolina

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No Tonawanda, New York Monroteon, Pennsylvania Greensburg, Kentucky Prattville, Michigan Fort Wayne, Indiana Carrboro, North Carolina Wichita, Kansas Chicago 22, Illinois Kingman, Arizona Dayton, Tennessee Richmond Hill Queens, N. Y. Berlin Center, Ohio Chicago, Illinois Brooklyn, New York Chicago 19, Illinois Champion, Michigan Clariton, Pennsylvania Waterloo, Indiana Claysburg, Pennsylvania Nashua, New Hampshire Brooklyn 4, New York Oswego, New York West Allison, Wisconsin Baton Rouge, Louisiana Baltimore 5, Maryland Waterville, Maine Standardsville, Virginia St. Clair, Michigan Vincennes, Indiana Big Spring, Texas Lumberton, North Carolina Olathe, Kansas Alleyton, Texas Elmira, Michigan Chillicothe, Illinois Milwaukee, Wisconsin Ogden, Iowa

Hastings, Harrison R. PVT. Chipman, Lee E. Dupont, Raymond J. Eblacker, Robert Kaski, Elmer Perelli, Carmen Protash, Albert P. Radowshi, John E. Reel, A. B. Robinson, Edwin N.

Route 2, Box 65

283 Calvin Street

45 Myrtle Avenue 64-17 56th Road 418 East 70 Street Route 2

#### Dayton, Tennessee

Brunswick, Maine Nadeau, Michigan Rochester, New York Fayette City, Pennsylvania Buffalo, New York Maspeth, Queens, New York New York, New York Pikesville, Tennessee West Acton, Massachusetts

Do You Remember....

Clark, making himself unpopular with that reveille bugle of his.

Scarborough, pointing out the shortcomings of this man's army.

Zapf, putting another round in a Kraut to make sure he wouldn't shoot back any more.

Popplardo, the gals always looked twice.

- Golden, wanting to know "What the ???? goes on here!" when a Jerry stove that "Looter Rizzuto" had brought in blew up in his tank.
- Joern, sensitive about the location of his wound to the extent that he didn't want to go to the hospital.

Seigles, laughter ringing out across the Rhineland.

Moravitz, stealing softly about, lighting the water heaters.

Grunwald, always trying to palm off a size 16 shirt for a 15.

Ludwig, adding another prop to his camouflage net.

Vasquez, diving into his foxhole, only to find it full of water.

Hartwell, husbanding his moustache.

McMurrey, bragging about Texas.

Manginen, drumming up a poker game.

Gullion, chest thrown out, showing every body a picture of his baby.

- Spaulding, swatting the old volley ball down the opposing team's throats.
- Hanson, tightening up the bolts on his half-track with such enthusiasm that they twist in two.

Eblacker, looking for someone to play pinochle with.

Ettinger, "Okey! You kids get away from the mess hall, now get!" kids, "ish nix fershtay."

Sutton, You Polski? No, Ruskil

Gattis, stalking a blond in England. Oops! there he goes again in France.

Logan, trying to launch himself back home by drinking buzz bomb fluid.

Minkler, blazing the trail in his jeep.

Talbert, repairing everything from telephone lines to M-7s.

Grandlinard, always getting the ammo through in time.

Lt. Birch, trying to entice a shy Werhmacht Super Man to surrender when one of three already captured helps out by yelling "Meyer, kommen sie heer, giffs chocolate Meyer!"

Smith, R. C., grinning just to show his new teeth.

- Dykes and Costa, bailing water all night from their foxhole near the Roer River.
- Scheeler, trying to transfer dirt from one side of the foxhole to the other with his bare hands when shells were coming in.
- Eubanks and Freeman, trying to make two way traffic in a one way entrance to a dugout. (Mortar shell inspiring this undertaking).
- Albrecht, adhering to the law of self preservation by vigorously tossing himself into a hedgerow, when a racing tank motor brings Jerry anti-aircraft searchlight down on him while setting up aiming circle at night near Brest.

Raphael, getting lost when nature beckons him out into the night.

Robert, "Superman" Welle, defying mortar shells as one crashes the wall of a building five feet to his rear.

Fisher, being initiated on his first day of combat by shrapnel.

Kiser, getting no response from his challenge, tells men to deploy while he lets go with .50 Cal. Daylight reveals one more French cow deadlined.

Pelletier, negotiating for billets with his french lingo in Belgium.

- Talley and Johnson, leaning on the old skate mount pointing out "Prima Frauleins" to each other.
- Lt. Kaplan and Cantrell, took that "Tolerant,—but-I'm-better-than-you" attitude when they got a new jeep and Capt. Wright and Gaynn didn't.

Hicks, always rushing around looking for something to do.

- Goodwin, singing hillbilly songs after a few rounds of bitters at the Fish and Anchor.
- Francis and Baker, mounting their wire jeep to go out and repair that broken line.
- Anthony "chug" Wowzyniak, talking over the world situation with the Polskies and Ruskies.

Musselman, always trying to get in the last word.

Sermersheim, "Sign on line 18. First name, middle initial and last name—No! No! I said 18, not 19, okay, you're redlined for this month! Under his breath. "You can tell these guys, put your finger on it and still they ----." Kolb, ego accentuated by "Bitters," seeks out Baye for another bout with the gloves, same old story—"If only I could duck at the right time—."

Schunk, always looting.

Morehouse, never digging a foxhole.

Zwald, religiously looking after the captured Kraut generators, so we could have lights and radios.

Douglas, working harder when asleep than awake.

- Warren, jumping fence and diving under truck without spilling coffee. (Who's afraid of 88s?)
- Marks, doing what everyone must do at one time or another and proved that tanks aren't the only thing that can button up fast when shells come close,
- Heichert, sticking to his dark room like a scientist working on a secret weapon.
- Vincent, dismounting with all possible haste, when snipers fired on column, accidentally firing carbine past Ettinger's head into tire of chow truck. (That "WAS" an accident, wasn't it, Porky?)
- Murphy, at Immendorf, when shell landed outside his tank, grabbed phone and said, "Someone is throwing hand grenades!"
- Guffey, whamming daylights out of anyont attempting to tickle his touchy chin.

Protash, keeping B. J. Robinson on the ball.

Vandiford, corraling the 1st Section when wanderlust fever brought on by champagne leads them into beaucoup Krauts.

Renski, stopping volley ball game to recover teeth.

Radowski, our great "third" baseman.

Robinson, Ed., trying to beat details, and is quite successful.

Samuels, drew the largest pair of pants.

Wellman, loved the kitchen aroma.

Camp, always playing Roy Acuff records.

Granger, R. C., voted best dressed man in the U. S. Army.

Richter, always arguing that West Allis is better than Milwaukee.

Robert's, giggle heard across the Roer plain.

Zielinski, pitching no hit game.

"Slum Burner" Helsel, always jolly when handing out "C" rations.

Meyer, swinging away at the volley ball only to fall down exhausted and have the ball hit him on the head.

Hardy, shining steering wheels to "look busy."

Hastings, Tennessee drawl heard above the noise of bursting shells "This never happened in Tennessee." Moughler, taking time out from supply to operate "C" Battery "bus" to Rennes and all parts of Germany.

- Freeman, finds dead SS troopers are not all dead. Hence a trip to the medics.
- Reel, creeping up the hotel stairs at Luchow, much surprised to bump into Lt. Blatt making bed check.

Yeamans, dashing across field persued by Kraut mortar shells.

Wood, lurching toward the gun position with a large jug of Schnapps.

- Bernard, Robinson, joins battery during drive to Weser River; asks in what room he is to sleep; 1st Sgt. Scheeler points to imiginary hotel and assigns him to top floor.
- Cole "duck" Granger, returns to battery from Repple-Depple when things were hot in the "Battle of the Bulge!"
- Brzybek, making with the music on his accordion as jerry joins in with his "88" piece band.

Roy, driving his jeep calmly through spray of shrapnel.

- Chipman, after repeated attempts to make opponent swallow volley ball, swallowed it himself.
- Grooms, forgetting he is firing 105s, plugs his ears with cotton thinking he is still firing 155s.

Brite, wanting to do all the talking.

Young, feining anger at the recruits just to see 'em crawl.

Dickmeyer, teaching the boys a few words of Deutch.

- Allen and Scheeler, coming back with the latest exaggerated news news and rumors from the rear.
- Albert, finding it difficult to live with the battery, prefers to be out in no man's land acting as relay station.

Walke, day dreaming about Dorothy from Milwaukee.

"Figure head" Mysona, working out survey problems only to end up in a heated argument.

Pepe and Heichert, the inseparable comrades habitually arguing.

Harry Miller, always talking about going home.

Dumes, looking with greedy eyes at the knocked out German tanks and vehicles along the road.

Lissau, getting a pass to Holland and wanting to go back again.

Smith, Wilburn, "All right men, be sure and level your bubbles. The F. O. says there's a warehouse full of schnapps just short of the target!"

Kaski, "When the ???? is this outfit going to get some beer?"

Ringler, in dugout during artillery barrage, smoking so many fags as to bring about cigarette shortage in U. S.

# The Long Road Home

"TURN 'UM OVAH," came from the leading vehicle and off we started, wondering and hoping that they knew what they were doing and where they were going. We rolled into Barvoux, made a left turn and headed for the open country. We rolled along for several miles and never saw a GI or vehicle of any kind. It was dark, and quiet, nothing seemed to be alive but just this column of armored and soft-skinned vehicles humming through the night. No one spoke in the track, just looked at each other, shook our heads and cussed to himself. Where were we going? Did the lead vehicle know? Why didn't we stop and wait till morning? We had heard that the unit was knocked out and the Jerries were coming through by the thousands and here we were running right into them without a chance. The column finally stopped. In the cool clear air sound traveled far. The noise of doors closing, the clanking of helmets and equipment echoed through the night like a pistol shot.

Lt. Maxwell's reconnaissance brought us information that the road ahead was cut by small arms fire. One final attempt could be made to contact the unit, so Capt. Robbins told Cpl. Harold Raphael to try and contact the Battalion by radio. Two or three unsuccessful calls when Capt. Robbins grabbed the mike. "Foh God sake, this is Fred, come awn in!"—The radio answered, but in a German language, that caused a dead silence, only to be broken by the wizz and bang of the German gun that had spotted us. In the midst of the hunks of shell fragments that flew through the air everyone hit the ditch, laying there while the fragments struck and bounced off the armor with a ring. Out of the silence came "Turn um ovah!" from the head of the column. With a mad scramble the vehicles were loaded with men clinging to the floor. The roar of motors and we were off.

Soon we came to a TD, the first American looking thing we had seen, then just beyond the tank Cpl. Hanson's voice rang out "Dumas is that you?" A deep breath and a sigh of relief came forth, "Thank goodness we were here at last."

### The Close Shave

The war was nearing the Elbe River and Captain Wright and party were on liaison duty with Task Force Lovelady, CCB, 3rd Armored Division. Things were going so well that the armor was far ahead of the infantry. It was evident from the increased sniper fire and stiffening resistance that the spring had uncoiled to its limit.

Ragaun and Thurland were among the towns taken and it was decided that there wasn't enough doughs and assorted stuff available to hold the towns if a strong counter-attack was launched, so most of the light tanks and dough were taken for the defense of Ragaun, leaving Thurland with only a small holding force including three Sherman tanks. A place was selected for the CP. Because of limited space Capt. Wright had to find another house for his party consisting of Sgt. Douglas, Cpl. Guynn, T/5 Minkler, T/5 Welle, Pfc. Schunk, Cpl. Mysona, and T/4 Yeanmans. Humm! There were two well proportioned frauleins in the house but the old obstacle, nonfraternization, reared its head; and besides, there was work to be done. Sqt. Douglas steeled himself and gave the occupants the ole "Routsmitt."

By dark Capt. Wright had all the defensive fires registered. Supper served (that liberated ham, eggs and wine), the guard set up and a man to stay on the radio, then everyone else hit the sack. About 0100 the following morning, T/4 Yeamans was awakened by a kick in that part of the anatomy which touches the chair first. It was Capt. Wright and in a none too gentle voice, informed him that there was a war going on. Yeamans had no comeback to that one and he realized the proximity of the self same war when he heard machine gun and rifle fire just outside, punctuated by hand grenades and an occasional blast from a Panzerfaust. By this time everyone was well awakened, groping around for their weapons, Capt. Wright had contacted the Battalion CP.

Capt. Wright: "The Jerries have overrun the town and are in complete command of the streets—the joint is full of Krauts—request instructions."

Sgt. Bates: "Roger, I'll call Division.

While the party waited for the answer Capt. Wright placed a man in each doorway and two men in the courtyard to keep inquisitive callers away. By this time the firing was almost continuous.

A voice broke in "I have contacted Division and they say there must be some mistake—that town is in our hands and that there are no soldiers of that nationality there," said Sqt. Bates.

The party looked at each other in amazement, Capt. Wright gritted his teeth, took a deep breath, then answered "What in the ???? are they doing firing Panzerfausts into the buildings, shooting machine guns up and down the street, and calling to each other in Dutch?"

Major Bush broke the radio silence, "Sit tight and be sure to keep the radio on as no one can contact Col. Lovelady's CP, and help was to be sent as soon as possible."

The hours grew longer as the situation became more critical. Capt. Wright then radioed that if help couldn't get in and if worse came to worse then throw artillery in the town. By 0400 daylight began to creep in and to keep out of sight from any wandering Jerries, the party all hid themselves in previously selected positions. The battery in the H/T ran down and the radio went out, leaving the party cut off completely. At 1000 hours artillery shells began falling, some of them too close for comfort. After several attempts to retake the town failed, there was a lull and at 1500 Capt. Wright decided to make an attempt to return into friendlier territory. The party set off, Sqt. Douglas in the lead, the remainder following about fifty yards apart. The sniper fire did not add to the comfort one bit. As Sqt. Douglas rounded the corner of a house on the edge of town, he ran smack into a two man enemy. outpost. Surprised, they quickly surrendered. Yeamans and the others close behind saw Douglas with his two prisoners, quickly caught up and all made their get-a-way out into the open field and started for the Autobahn. One man from the 391st FA, who had asked to come with them had been wounded in the foot and Gynne and Mysona were taking turns carrying him piggy-back, while Welle covered them. At this time some over zealous Kraut came out firing his rifle at the fleeing men. Welle went down on his knee and mowed him down with his tommygun.

In the meantime, Capt. Wright's hiding place had been discovered by civilians and his only alternative was ta take them prisoner, and wait till dark to make the -get-a-way. While trying to get out he was spotted by a Kraut and told to come in, but being able to out talk the Kraut, Capt. Wright returned to the CP at Salzfurth about 2300 with his prisoner.

## 83rd Follies Review

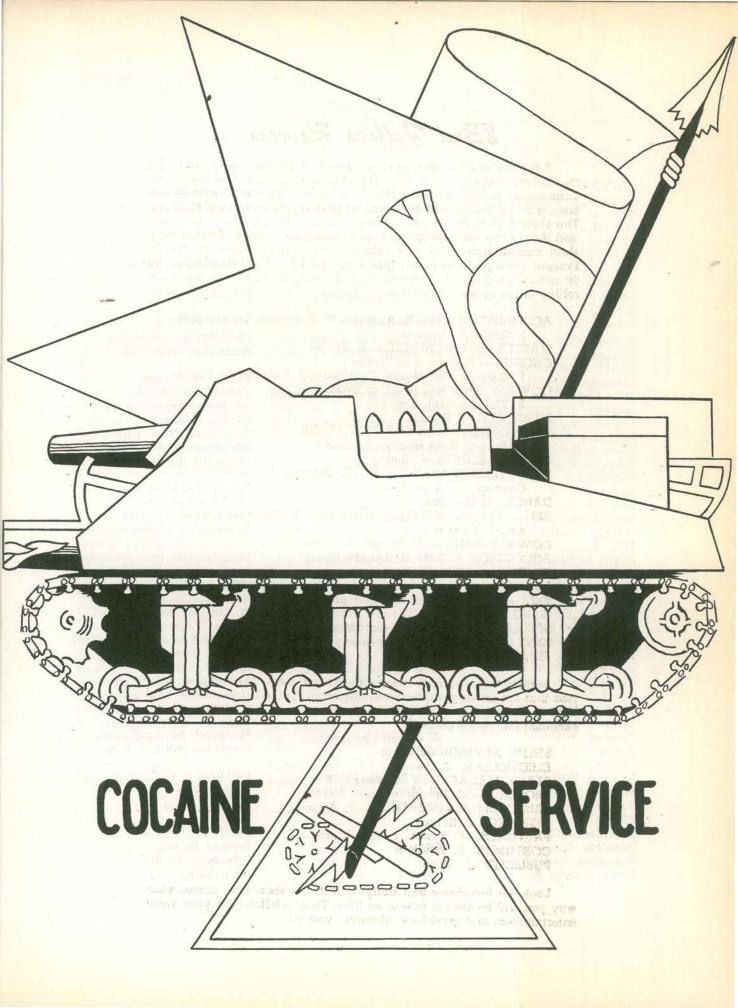
After the strain and tension of war had passed everyone found themselves restless. There was very little, if any, recreation and entertainment so some fellows decided on a review. This had never before been tried by the 83rd so there was no past experience to fall back on. The show had to be written, a stage made, curtains fixed, costumes, and the million little things that go to make up a show. After a very short time of hard work and rehearsal the Follies came out for its Premier (two performances) June 25th and 26th. The following is the 90 minute program that moved steadly along and had the audience rolling in the aisles.

ACCORDION BAND-D. Angerer, W. Repavsch, H. Kraemer, J. Siirila, S. Grzybek MASTER OF CEREMONIES-R. Burget. CHORUS—(five dazzling dames) F. Brinegar, W. Webb, T. Schunk, J. Fulford, A. Martin COWBOY AND HILLBILLY SONGS-B. Thompson, H. Kraemer SUPERMAN-F. Stinson SKIT (ORIENTATION FOR DISCHARGE) R. Burget, B. Carmody, A. Martin POPULAR SONGS-F. Butler SKIT (TELEPHONE BOOTH)-T. Schunk, B. Carmody, H. Castrup DANCE-D. Brennan SKIT-(G.I. Comes Home)-H. Kraemer, D. Brennan, F. Brinegar, J. Fulford COWBOY SONGS-E. Ringer, J. Davis ACCORDION SOLO—D. Angerer CHICKEN SCENE-F. Stinson LATRINE SONG-H. Castrup, J. Fulford, A. Martin. SKIT-(Baby Snooks) H. Castrup, B. Carmody SONG (LSMFT TS CBI)-R. Burget SPECIALTY-R. Burget, B. Carmody SEMI CLASSICAL SONGS-E. Roy FINALE—Entire Cast

Besides the man on the stage there were some who did the many jobs that are so very important to any show, but never reach the spot light or receive any applause. This space is for congratulations on an excellent job very well done.

SHOW ADVISER—Lt. Beck ELECTRICIAN—A. Dunker STAGE MANAGER—F. Stinson PROPERTY—M. Drouin MUSIC and ACCOMPANIST—D. Angerer LIGHTING—E. Salters PAINTINGS—F. Barton, F. Del Andre COSTUMES—F. Brinegar PUBLICITY—R. Bates

Look out Broadway and Hollywood if this show ever comes your way you will be second rate in no time. Thanks fellows for your swell entertainment and good luck wherever you go.



CAPTAIN Gluckman, William Robbins, Fred S. **1ST LIEUTENANT** Maxwell, Richard I. WARRANT OFFICER (JG) Payne, Carlos **1ST SERGEANT** Craft, Jim R. TEC. SERGEANT Eckert, Victor A. McConnell, Oswald G. Sadler, Eugene J. STAFF SERGEANT Clemons, Floyd H. Cole, Clyde D. Langley, William J. Niblett, Jim P. Robinson, Albert S. Sorrenti, Rocco M. Whelan, William T. SERGEANT Camp, John H. Lee, Dan T. West. Charles W. Wright, Chester O. TEC. 4 Engel, Nathan G. Fisher, Theodore I. Harman, William B. Harper, Leland F. Harwood, Dale C. Hunt, Lewis E. Jamula, Andrew J. Jenkins, John T. Johnson, William K. Kloosterhouse, George Levitt, Oscar MeNiel, Edward M. Teranto, Anthony V. Thomas, William Travis, Fred R. CORPORAL Johnson, Carl M. Santelli, Kenneth J. Taylor, Harry L. TEC. 5 Bies, Joseph A. Bosecker, Ernest C. Browning, Beryl N. Burke, George A.

126 Milledge Avenue

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1128 North Johnson

1539 Main Street 2005 East 14th Street 161 Seager Street

405 Oneida Street 304 C Baker Village Annes Route 2 Route 1

60 Alps Street 662 South 31st

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2333 North 30th Street

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504 Summet AvenueCoeur D'Alend117 5th ÄvenueNorth TonawaRoute 2Sturgis, Kentu5010 Coleman Drive, Route 10Akron 1, Ohio2318 North Westnedge Ave.Kalamazoo, M509½ WashingtonGreenwood, M110 Raeburn AvenueRochester 11,Box 25Thomas, West22 St. George AvenueNorwood, MasRoute 2Catawba, Nor

1656 Beulah Place 32 Montezuma Street Box 235

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Oakland 2, California Lyons, New York Brilliant, Ohio

Ferdinand, Idaho Browns, Illinois Belvidere, South Dakota Iona, Idaho Campbell, Kenneth G. Cawthra, John F. Cooke, John W. DeSabato, Victor J. Dinius, Eugene D. Fernberg, Lessart Franklin, Haskel B. Hegwood, Corence R. Hornback, Morgan J. Hutton, Elmer Jones, Dewey T. Kite, David L. McGriff, Richard L. Moore, Charles L. Raby, Charlie W. Roberts, George M. Sorrenti, Tony M. Schweiger, John G. Whaley, Byrd Winchester, Dewey S. Womack, Ray G. PFC. Barton, Frank B. Blackman, Lyle M. Borland, Clarence R. Buzick, Ronald E. Carlson, Harold Cash, Cecil R. Collins, George R. Comardo, Samuel L. Cruse, Harry E. Curell, Remy G. David, Ralph G. Davis, Lester A. Eiring, Arthur A. Gregory, Percy E. Holle, William A. Linder, Hugo E. Noll, Philip L. O'Neill, Charles C. P. Reaves, Jimmie L. Robinson, Alfred B. Rocci, Joseph Ruscitelli, Domenico P. Saffron, Meyno Smith, Martin J. Witherspoon, William C. Simons, Lawrence J. Zabinski, Edward J. PVT. Griffin, William L. Elledge, Eugene

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Tupelo, Mississippi Easterly, Texas

Dedicated To The 83rd

We once knew some boys from the USA A little bit crazy but quite okay. They gamble their money and drank like fish But really and truly they weren't a bad dish.

At Evesham we danced and all went well But the dance at the Rec Hall was merry hell A floor like the Ritz, a band like Glenn Miller The man at the bar a very quick filler.

At camp twice a week we went for a show, The seats were like arm chairs quite soft as you know. Our backs were aching and our necks were stretched, Only our "Big Chief" was an honored guest.

Over the hill we went for a walk. Those who were broke would just sit and talk. The fish "on the Local" for those with the dough, And of course all we land girls never said "no."

We sometimes were late and got into a row, "Big Chief" would wait with a frown on her face, "No late pass next week for you." She would thunder. "If it happens again, I will cast you asunder."

When on maneuvers, we all were so sad. But when you returned we nearly went mad. Happy were we to see you once more Love starved and lonely we weren't any more.

Time came for parting and tears were shed, Every night now prayers for you are said. Maybe one day we shall all meet once more, God bless you and keep you till the end of this war.

> Best wishes, South Littleton Land Girls.

#### SOME INTERESTING NOTES

UNITS OF HIGHER COMMAND ARMIES: American First, Third and Ninth, British Second.
BRIGADE: 34.
CORPS: 20, 8, 13, 7, 18th Airborne.
DIVISIONS: 2, 3, 6, 7, Armored Divisions. 8th, 102nd Infantry Divisions.
GROUPS: 5, 174, 196, 472, 401, 411.
SQUADRONS: 15, 17th Cavalry.
ROUNDS FIRED: 140,000 (Approximately).
MILES TRAVELED: 3,500 (Approximately) in Europe. 2,000 (Approximately) in England.

There are other divisions such as the 75th Infantry and the 82nd Airborne that the unit supported at times but were not attached.

Duds

A man only criticises the law of the land by the light of his own passions.

In France to have the reputation of a fool is to be a foreigner in one's own country.

Money knows nobody, money has no ears, money has no heart. Finance, like Time, devours its own children.

There is more religion in man's science than there is science in his religion.

The surest way to hit a woman's heart is to take aim kneeling.

How insupportable would be the day, if the night with its dews and darkness did not come to restore the drooping world.

What danger is there if you don't think of any? . . . A man sits as many risks as he runs.

Let the despairing race of men know that there is in nature no sign of decay, but universal uninterrupted vigor. All waste and ruin has a speedy period.

Books may be read as deliberately and reservedly as they were written.

A man's social and spiritual discipline must answer to his corporal... He must daily bathe in truth cold as spring water, not warmed by the sympathy of friends.

Would you see your mind, look into the sky. Would you know your own moods, be weather-wise. He whom the weather disappoints, disappoints himself.

The majority of men are, as it were, suspended in the air like toy balloons, every breath of wind moves them.

No small art is it to sleep: it is necessary to keep awake all day for that purpose.

Take care not to spit against the wind.

The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude.

When idea rises on the horizon the temperature of the soul is usually very cold.

All popular theology is a bright bubble, blown into life by the fervour of devout passion, and pictured all around with the most pleasing forms and colors of devout fancy. Very pretty as long as it floats loosely in the air, but pricked with the slightest touch of severe reason or shrewd common sense, it bursts into nothing.

Theology, as we generally encounter it, is philosophy seasoned with popular passion and decorated by popular imagination.

The efficacy of prayer is not so much to influence the divine counsels as to consecrate human purposes.

The capacity of the human heart to believe in lies when they favor a dear delusion, is infinite.

There is no greater slave than the woman who is the slave of her sensibilities, and the man who is the slave of his sensualities.

The temptation of young men is to get drunk with life, the temptation of old men to get sick of it.

Sympathy without judgment is like wine without water, apt to degenerate into intoxication; judgment without sympathy is like water without heat, destined to end in ice.

My strong aversions: A great scholar who smells of Greek gram-

mar, a small poet who parades, an ignorant man who pretends to know, a deaf person who pretends to hear, and a woman who lets nothing alone. Bates, Ralph O.

When we condemn other people we generally mean indirectly to flatter ourselves.

The wisdom of life consists in a careful culture of your capacities, a large expansion of your sympathies, a loving acknowledgment of your surroundings, a quick eye for opportunity, and a dexterous use of circumstances.

Suicide is only a desperate stroke of nature to get rid of an overclouded, ever-strained, or undermined vitality which has become unbearable. The blasted tree that will neither bend nor break must be hewn down.

Hate no man, but pity sinners, despise cowards, avoid knaves, work with the wise, and amuse yourself with fools.

Prudence yields to circumstance, folly quarrels with it, pride defies it, wisdom uses it, and genius controls it.

Society is like the air, necessary to breath, but insufficient to live on.

A drunkard is like a whiskey-bottle, all neck and belly and no head.

We say that a girl with her doll anticipates the mother. It is more true, perhaps, that most mothers are still but children with playthings.

One cannot remain in love unless perpetually one falls in love anew.

Some men are not liars because they always speak the truth, and others because they never do.

The secret of sorrow is, men think God has a plan for them. He only has a plan through them.

The owl is therefore the bird of wisdom, because even a fool can see when it is light, it is the wise man that can see when it is dark.

No one can live without being a debtor, no one should live without being a creditor.

To be forebearing to all—that is love, to be relentless toward self ,—that is wisdom, to be content with what one has—that is riches, to be discontented with what one is—that is piety.

As pure light has no color, so pure truth must have no prejudice, as pure water has no taste, so pure love must have no pallion, as pure air has no odor, so pure worship must have no sensuality.

To be a good child he needs but little of the man in him, to be a good man he needs much of the child in him.

The husband needs to be blind at times, the wife, deaf, both need much of the time to be dumb.

A fair face without a fair soul is like a glass eye that shines and sees nothing.

To be of true service I must know two things: his need, my capacity.

To crave more than you need—that is poverty.

Who loves his superior rises toward him.

You do not sweeten your mouth by saying honey.

You do not become virtuous by talking virtue.



