

T-Patch 36th Division News

Cpt. Robert R. Siegel, Editor; S/Sgt. Richard A. Huff, Sgt. Howard Jones, Associate Editors. Published by the 36th Division Historical History team, Capt. James S. Wilson, Supervising Officer.

So You're Home!

It was inevitable that it should happen. The way of the gods and the brass has contrived finally to put an end to delay. And now the 36th is home. The Division, a fine one, is to be broken up, and with this issue the T-Patch sings its swan song.

On the surface of things today and tomorrow the very fact that you have been able to return will mean everything to you. It will be that way for several weeks. Then, it is dreamed likely, you are to be conspicuously confused civilian. That, too, is understandable. For there are those on the home front who have honeymooned with "normalcy" throughout the war and by their admission are still confused.

What is the cause of this very real concern. The causes are manifold. Americans are bewildered by the impotence of Russian, British and American diplomats to arrive in accord for an efficient United Nations organization. Americans are trying to understand the labor situation; strikes are breaking out at the slightest provocation. Americans are attempting to ward off inflation, and too often not succeeding. Americans on the sidelines are watching the Navy make a goal-line stand to prevent the Army from pushing the pigskin over for unification of the services. Americans, with traditional love of scandal, are delving deep into the events leading up to Pearl Harbor. Their interest seems to be in proportion to the magnitude of their political bigotry. Though it is apparent that our late president made several misplays, the real issue at hand would seem to be the prevention of a third World War. Pearl Harbor and the boys who died there will never be avenged from the Pentagon. Meanwhile closer examination of current misunderstandings might do much to straighten out and curb a future war.

Americans everywhere and the peoples of all lands are still mystified by the atomic bomb, and little wonder: latest releases say the atom bomb has been so developed as to make the ones dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki look like unimpressive firecrackers.

Several months ago, on Navy Day specifically, President Truman outlined something the world, including Americans, had waited long to hear—America's foreign policy. Though vague in many points, he chose to emphasize strongly that our attitude has been and always will be peaceful, and that we have no design for territorial expansion. When followed through in all good faith and action, it should either convince our Allies, principally Soviet Russia, or it should lead us to believe that those good intentions are not reciprocal. To win and insure peace becomes an increasingly complicated matter.

In consideration of more directly personal problems that confront us will be either obtaining or renewing a job. Statistics tend to point out that if you are renewing a job you will have a far easier time of it. Veterans who have never worked prior to joining the armed forces are becoming disillusioned about the openings offered them. Really good jobs are not plentiful, but just as certainly not impossible. Start working on it soon.

Go into civilian life with clear minds. Our country needs clear minds. And carry with you your spirit. It was no ordinary spirit, the one of the 36th.

—R. R. S.

Disc Jockey



Mortie Black, the nation's leading record player, joins thousands of other Americans in welcoming home the doughty warriors of the 36th Division. Black plans to play service men's favorites on his "Record Shop" coast to coast broadcast.

Three Former Commanders Welcome 36th

It is with a feeling both of pride and of sorrow that I welcome the return of the 36th. Pride in the outstanding record you have made which is not exceeded by any organization in the Allied Forces. The history of your achievement is a golden record which should be cherished by Americans forever.

Sincerely do I sorrow for the dead and the wounded who have paid so greatly that our people may be free. Let us who were here see fail them in upholding the torch of freedom and equality of opportunity in our land. This is, I feel, a duty that their sacrifice and your service lays upon us. Let us not fail.

With loyalty to the Constitution of the United States, persistent American ideals of citizenship, standing staunchly and fighting actively for liberty and the American way of free enterprise and life, our country shall continue to lead the world in the great benefits that our democratic form of government, the Republic, has rendered unto its people.

Sincerely,
CLAUDE V. BISHOP,
Maj. Gen., 36th Division Tex., N.G.—Com.
(Former Commander 36th Div. AUS)

After five long years of outstanding achievements, your famous Division returns to its famous state. You who have been with it from beginning to end have had experiences as soldiers that have been equalled by relatively few within the history of this world. You have established traditions of courage and devotion in duty that will serve as examples for T-Patchers for hundreds of years to come. You may speak of these with just pride.

All of you who are now with the Division have maintained its spirit de corps and have had a share in its glories. Soon the Division will return to its former National Guard status. Its grand esprit de corps together with its glorious history and traditions must continue. All men who have served with it in this war should now work together through the 36th Division Association to perpetuate these glories and traditions and to assist in the maintenance of peace. You have all done a grand job. Welcome home.

FRED WALKER,
Major General, GSC.

Every invasion of the 36th has been a success. I know that this third and last landing on the shores of the United States will be the best of all. No group of men deserve more from the nation than you. Best Wishes, Good Luck, and a very Merry Christmas and homecoming!

John E. Dahlquist,
Major General.

Best of luck to the 36th Infantry Division from the Seventh Army. Congratulations on a fine record and a job well done.
Geoffrey Keyes,
Lieutenant General.

The progress of the Division towards home has been in no small way assisted by the efforts of the 36th Division. The landing of vehicles in transport of personnel use of postal facilities and the finance service are specific instances of assistance that especially are appreciated. This manifestation of inter-unit cooperation seems to the undersigned to be very outstanding and is valued most highly. Please extend to all personnel who have been of such valued assistance to us my genuine thanks and best wishes.

W. A. Holtbrook, Jr.,
Brig. Gen.,
12th Armored Division.

Please add my personal thanks and appreciation for the fine service and cooperation rendered to the 12th Armored Division.

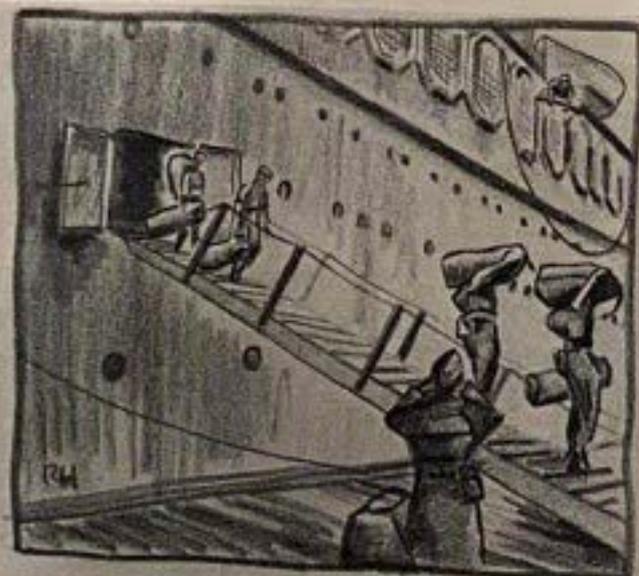
W. A. Barren,
Major General.

Here's Your Combat Diary From Salerno Through Austria

- 8 September 1943—At 0330 36th Division men stormed ashore on the Fusine beaches near Salerno, Italy.
- 13-14 September 1943—High tide at Altavilla. Germans threatened encirclement of invading troops around craggy headland hill soon after launching powerful attack on the left flank of Corps. Heavy defense line was held and the beach held firm.
- 20 September 1943—Division withdrawn for rest. Salerno mission accomplished.
- 15 November 1943—The 36th received line near Migliano. Heavy seasonal rain began.
- 3 December 1943—In opening attack of winter offensive 142nd Infantry attacked over Mt. Maggio.
- 7-8 December 1943—The 143rd Infantry crept up and seized towering Mt. Sanmarco, one of the highest peaks to be taken by assault in the war.
- 15-16 December 1943—In a coordinated attack the 36th pushed into San Pietro. Night assault by 142nd won Mt. Luogo, forcing the Germans to withdraw from "the key to the Liri Valley."
- 23 December 1943—First Christmas in Italy.
- 20-21 January 1944—Two nerve-packed, bloody attempts to cross the treacherous Rapido River defeated the 141st and 143rd Infantry Regiments.
- 26 January-3 February 1944—142nd Infantry, switched south to French sector, battled uphill to Terelle and Mt. Casilone.
- 12 February 1944—Enemy attempts to retake Mt. Casilone after three-hour artillery barrage. Germans driven off.
- 13 February 1944—Bombing of Monte Cassino Abbey witnessed.
- 26 February 1944—Exhausted 36th relieved from Cassino sector for rest and refitting.
- 11-12 May 1944—Opening of all-out Allied offensive. Division artillery supported first attack.
- 18-21 May 1944—Division shipped to Anzio beachhead for breakout attack.
- 30-31 May 1944—Brilliant night infiltration of entire 142nd Infantry deep behind the German lines at Velletri. Both 141st and 143rd followed up an either flank, clearing Velletri and breaking the last German line before Rome.
- 4-5 June 1944—Rome entered gloriously. 36th led to pass through entire city.
- 26 June 1944—Dash northward nearly 200 miles across Rome is ended as 36th is called back to prepare for a mission to southern France.
- 15 August 1944—D-Day on the Riviera. Division lands near San Raphael and quickly secures large beachhead.
- 22 August 1944—Seven days after the invasion, the 143rd Infantry sweeps into Grenoble, 200 miles above the beaches.
- 24-30 August 1944—Battle of Montclémar. Division raced northward to block retreating German Nineteenth Army in the Klaus Valley. Littered wreckage of battlefield testified to intensity of collision.
- 2 September 1944—Lyons liberated.
- 20-23 September 1944—Mouelle River crossed by 141st and 143rd Infantry. Resistance fell to 142nd Infantry.
- 30 September 1944—Exhausting fighting around Tendon is concluded.
- 19 October 1944—Breaches cleared by 143rd and 442nd (Japanese American) Infantry Regiments. Little progress in the deadly Vosges wilderness.
- 24-30 October 1944—First Battalion, 141st Infantry, cut off for seven days until contact is reestablished by Nisei fighters of the 442nd.
- 29 November-3 December 1944—The 36th drives over the Vosges Mountains through the St. Marie Pass. The 143rd secured bridgehead at Maurice River; 142nd passed through captured St. Marie and pushed to Selstatt in the Rhine Valley. The 141st held a lengthy fight flank.
- 4-18 December 1944—Extremely heavy fighting in Selstatt-Ribeaucourt-Riquewihr sector. Germans counterattacked ferociously, at one time cut the road between Division Forward and Rear. At conclusion all enemy efforts repulsed.
- 25 December 1944—Christmas spent in Strasbourg area. On this day Division relieved from the line after 133 consecutive days of contact with the enemy, a World War II record.
- 1 January 1945—Enemy, in strength, attacked Seventh Army positions near Biich. The 141st was called to meet the threat at Montbronn. Two days later remainder of Division rushed to the scene. Montbronn sector quieted.
- 19-30 January 1945—The 36th was switched to block the Germans threatening to break out of the Gumbrecht pocket above Strasbourg. The enemy made one strong bid and was unsuccessful. Initiative passed to our side.
- 3 January-11 February 1945—Division mounted full scale attack once more, ran into bitter street fighting at Oberhoffen, Rohrwiler, Herrlisheim and Druersheim.
- 15 March 1945—Opening of Moser River attack and general Seventh Army offensive to pinch out 100,000 Germans in the Saar-Palatinate west of the Rhine. The 143rd took Bilschoffen, the 142nd, Merxwiller and the 141st, Haguenau.
- 19-22 March 1945—Through the Siegfried Line—the Germans laid down heavy concentrations of "screeching inferno" fire. Enemy was driven from his strong network of pillboxes and wellbacked over the wooded hills.
- 2 April—Beginning of rear area occupation duty near Kaiserslautern.
- 30 April-8 May—Into action again, the 36th drove to final victory deep in the Austrian Alps, capturing Goering, Von Rundstedt and a number of other high-ranking Nazis.

Debarcation Vignette

By S/Sgt. Richard Huff



C'mon, Joe, they ain't gonna lower the landing nets this trip.

UNO Hq?



...cease as place on earth is more than 10,000 miles away from Hawaii, it is a possible site for conferences of the United Nations Organization.

Lowell Thomas Cautions 36th

You fellows still have a small shove ahead of you. Although you did a great job in Europe, we need your help in straightening out our own country. Every war has its chaotic aftermath. And since this war, in which you played such a prominent role, was the greatest of all wars, we've got an aftermath on our hands that is a job. At any rate, welcome home, and here's hoping you don't find the place changed too much!

LOWELL THOMAS.

Greetings from Mrs. Roosevelt

My dear Captain Wilson:
I am so glad to be able to send a greeting to the 36th Infantry Division as it returns to this country. No Division has seen harder fighting and made a more distinguished record.
It is a great honor for me to greet your return home and I wish my husband could be here to tell you himself how much admiration he had for you.
With every good wish that life in the future may hold much useful work and happiness for you.
I am,
Very cordially yours,
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.

World News Bulletins (con't from page 1)

LUXEUIL, France—(TPNS)—Dec. 13—The famed sulphur spas of Luxeuil have run dry. Scientific and engineering experts summoned to study the phenomenon have inferred that a sudden influx of grime started approximately 15 months ago might be the underlying cause.

AUSTIN, Tex.—(TPNS)—Dec. 13—Lobbyists in the state capital are active today demanding that Congress take measures to reload the 36th Division for disembarkation in Galveston.

War Correspondents Laud 36th Upon Arrival in United States

Five war correspondents, Eric Sevareid, Will Lang, Wick Fowler, Zeke Cook, and Sid Feder, all of whom filed great quantities of copy on the 36th overseas, have sent letters to welcome the Division in its homecoming.

You of the 36th have been away a very long time, and you are coming back at a moment when the first rush of welcome for returning troops has worn off a bit.

Don't let that worry you; don't think for a minute that you are forgotten men. Too many millions of people at home know what you did at Salerno and Cassino and Velletri, to say nothing of the Rhone valley, the Vosges and Germany. For many years to come you will find the exploits of the Thirty-Sixth retold in a lot of books and histories of the war.

The country couldn't forget you if it tried, and those of us who were with you, however briefly, will always be around to remind everybody of the Thirty-Sixth. It is an honor and pleasure to help welcome you home again and to say in all honesty and conviction that yours is one of the great American outfits of the war.

ERIC SEVAREID,
CBS.

Welcome Home! You will find a homeland that is vastly different from Italy, France and Germany. And for that we are all grateful. Those countries didn't look so good while war was chewing them up. But America hasn't changed very much. Some correspondents lucky enough to precede you home found that out.

In one way, America is different. Her people are profoundly grateful to the men who won her battles, and permitted her to remain herself. Your infantry badge or your discharged service button will prove that.

In particular, some correspondents have already written books about what you men did for America while overseas. Others are working on other books. Bill Mauldin's book, "Up Front," which has been a best-seller for months, has educated the homefolks on what fighting was like in Italy. John Hudson's film, "San Pietro," is a terrific movie which tells how and what the 36th did in the fighting toward Cassino. Don't miss it.

Correspondents privileged in seeing the men of the 36th in battle now welcome you back to peace.

Best of luck!

WILL LANG,
Time-Life Magazines.

Welcome Home! The greatest fighting organization I know, with a fighting history that would seem fantastic if it were not authenticated. You have done more than your share, suffered hardships and privations and shelling that were unsurpassed in this latest war.

God grant that your mission overseas, so fully accomplished by you, bring everlasting peace. But even you who have done so much must remain vigilant, to make sure that you or your sons won't have to face the Hell you faced in Italy, France, Germany and Austria.

But come what may; you shall never have to drop your eyes before any man or group—you are one of the Thirty-Sixth.

WICK FOWLER,
Dallas Morning News.

To the boys of the 36th "Texas" Division whose fight was exceeded only by their hospitality—Welcome Home.

ZEKE COOK,
War Correspondent.

Greetings, brethren of the "T-for-Texas"—also Trenton, Tallahassee, Tacoma, Toledo, Tulsa and points here and there. It's been a long time coming—but this is it.

You'll find it a great place, even though there are certain strange customs we all had to get used to when we arrived from

those other places we'd been in so long. They're nice folks here, but they're funny. For instance:

If you'd like a big thick steak with onions—you can get the onions.

If you'd like tickets for a show for the next night or so—they'll take a month's pay and give you two in the 31st row for June 13th.

But they have Scotch and bourbon. Only they won't take "C" rations, cigarettes or caramels for it. America lira or francs, only.

Don't get us wrong, though. You're a cinch to like it here. Everybody did when they got off that boat. It isn't Salerno and it isn't the Rapido and it isn't Anzio and it isn't Southern France. It's Uncle Sam's front porch. It's home, Joe.

SID FEDER,
AP.

PROMINENT LEADERS

Continued from page 3

Greetings to the men of the 36th Division. I had the pleasure of landing at Salerno with the 36th Division and remaining with them until the beachhead was secured and the Boche had been driven to the North.

I have followed with great interest the actions of your Division since that time and we of the 3rd Division felt that the team was complete when we hit Southern France with you and the 45th Division.

In the name of the Infantry School, congratulations on a job well done, and welcome home.

JOHN W. O'DANIEL,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commandant of the Infantry School.

The United States Infantry Association and the editors and staff of the Infantry Journal welcome you back home. We read with pride the story of what you did in your first baptism of fire in 1943. We know that the men who wear the Blue Arrowhead with the Green T were the first to land on Continental Europe. We know your part in the bloody battles at Salerno, the Rapido River, and Cassino. We know that you cut the German Ninth Army to ribbons and that in less than a month you had traveled three hundred miles from the beaches at St. Raphael. We know of your unbeatable record of 132 days of consecutive combat.

We are proud to salute you and to say that not only Texas but all America is aware of your battle achievements and is glad to welcome you home again.

JOSEPH I. GREENE,
Colonel, Infantry.

FIRST ELEMENTS

(con't from page 1)

ters; 15 December, port unknown.

Frederic Lykes, 111th Medical Battalion, 36th Quartermaster Company, 143rd Medical detachment and Companies D, L, M, G; 17 December, port unknown.

Frances Lee, 141st Company D, 143rd Company B, and 36th Reconnaissance Troop; 19 December, port unknown.

Tusculum Victory, 132nd, 133rd, and 135th Field Artillery Battalions; 20 December, port unknown.

Benjamin Milan, 141st Company K, 143rd A and Service Companies; 17 December, New York.

Wooster Victory, 111th Engineers, K Company, 143rd; 17 December, port unknown.

DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU HOME



Sing Crosby

Bob Hope

Orson Welles

Jose Iturbe



Quentin Reynolds

Oscar Levant

Benny Goodman

Sherman Billingsley

Tommy Dorsey



Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy

Bob Feller

Fred Allen

Eddie Owens



Lauren Bacall Humphrey Bogart

Woody Herman

Jimmy Carroll

Frank Sinatra



Andrews Sisters

PIN-UP PARADE

Over Here There Are Women, Like These . . .



JUDY GARLAND

BETTY GRABLE

INGRID BERGMAN

FRANCES LANGFORD

DOTTIE LAMOUR