

In
Germany



T-PATCH

36TH DIVISION NEWS

Vol. 4, No. 2

SUNDAY, 20 MAY 1945

WEEKLY

500 Division Veterans Return To U.S.

Presidential Citation Awarded First Battalion, 142nd Infantry

In an impressive military ceremony little over a week after V-E Day, General Dahlquist attached the Distinguished Unit streamer to the guidon of the First Battalion, 142nd Infantry, pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on 1st Lt. Richard L. Odierno, C Company, and awarded 40 Silver Stars and 79 Bronze Star Medals to members of Col. Georges E. Lynch's "I'll Face You" Regiment.

The president officially cited the First Battalion, 142nd Infantry, for heroism, gallantry and outstanding achievement in combat on 12 December 1944 at Selestat, France.

"The First Battalion was thinly spread on a broad front in defense of the important communications center, Selestat. Just before dawn a heavy artillery concentration preceded a large scale enemy attack against the city.

During the bitter fighting which ensued, hostile troops gained control of a factory area on the north flank, seized a half-mile stretch of houses in the northeast corner of the city and succeeded in isolating small groups of the battalion. While the isolated units fought valiantly to repel the attackers, other units of the battalion counterattacked.

Only by blasting each house with tank fire and assaulting the strong points with small arms, grenades and bayonets were the battalion troops able to dislodge the Germans. The fight for Selestat raged furiously throughout the morning but by mid-afternoon the hostile troops were being forced out of the city.

Two Brothers Visit Sgt. Erwin Barton, Salerno Captive

Sgt. Erwin Barton, captured near Salerno in September 1943, was liberated recently when the Seventh Army captured the town of Freising, the site of the PW hospital in which he was a medical technician. And while he was there awaiting evacuation, his two brothers, also members of the 36th Division, visited him.

Lt. Jerry Barton, medico with the First Battalion of the 143rd Infantry, had received a letter from their mother saying that she thought Erwin was held in Freising. The lieutenant immediately went there. When he reached the town, he discovered that it held not one but many hospitals, so he stopped several British soldiers on the street. "Say, do you happen to know Sgt. Erwin Barton?" he asked. "We sure do," replied one and led the lieutenant

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143rd Infantrymen Meet Hitler's Bodyguard

Adolph Hitler's bodyguard, Adolph Dirr, introduced himself to the Second Battalion, 143rd Infantry, last week in Rottbach.

The 40-year-old pug approached Pfc. Kurt Liepold, Second Battalion interpreter, and stated that he wished to inform the Americans that he had been Hitler's personal bodyguard for the past 12 years. Smartly garbed in civilian clothes, he said he wished to make his presence known because his conscience had been bothering him and because he realized that sooner or later he would have been apprehended by the Allied Military Government.

Dirr gave all the information that he could voluntarily and continued to talk freely of his connections with Hitler and other Nazi officials in Germany.

He told that he had been appointed because of his reputation in Germany as a professional boxer and athlete. As Hitler's No. 1 bodyguard, he had risen to the rank of Ober-Sturm-Fuehrer, an extremely high rank in the Elite Guard. Dirr reported that until four months ago, Hitler's guard con-

sisted of eight picked men. Then Hitler increased the number to 60 because he had reason to fear another attempt on his life.

He last saw Hitler in Berlin on the night of 26 April when he along with 14 others were ordered to take a plane to Berchtesgaden and await Hitler's arrival, scheduled for 28 April. Soon after they arrived in Berchtesgaden, they received a message saying that Hitler would stay in Berlin.

Dirr's family lived in Rottbach, so

he decided to join them in hopes of avoiding apprehension by the Americans who were expected to arrive soon. Leaving his home address at Berchtesgaden, he went to Rottbach.

The bodyguard said that Hitler was at all times the leading and most powerful man in Germany and that his orders were obeyed and respected without question by any and all other high Nazi officials. He also stated that Hitler had been seriously injured on the hand and leg on July 20th of last year as a result of the assassination attempt by high-ranking German officers. From that time on Hitler was both physically and mentally broken. He had previously trusted the general staff.

Dirr's opinion of Himmler was that

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First Contingent Of High-Point Men Leave Germany Five Days After European Victory

Five hundred Texas Division veterans—four hundred and ninety enlisted men and ten officers—left Germany for the United States on May 13. They were the first men to leave the Division en masse under the new army separation and rehabilitation plan, and among the first men in the ETO to go home.

Homeward Bound



Anticipating bon voyage and speedy discharge, large groups of men, sporting the highest point totals, gather in the Division's Red Cross Club at Kufstein to drink a coffee toast to their going home.

SS Guards Give Two 141st Captives Victory Presents

1st Lt. Fletcher W. Srygley, Crossett, Ark., and Pfc. Bertel L. Ryden, Chicago, members of the 141st Regimental Special Military Police force, were held as prisoners by SS troops for five days and then released when Maj. O'Brien, 143rd Infantry, liberated them.

On May 2, Srygley and Ryden were detailed to mark a road route to Bad Tolz for the regimental CP with a captured German sedan. As the lieutenant drove, Ryden looked at the scenic hills and remarked, "Bunch of Jerries up in the hills. There are three right over there."

The lieutenant, noticing no further vehicle tracks in the road stopped the car. A Jerry ran out of the hills and asked if they were English. Both replied, "No." Ryden then asked the way to Bad Tolz and was given directions.

When they encountered a large crater in the road, Lt. Srygley started to turn the vehicle around. Then four enemy soldiers came out and set up a machine gun near the roadside. Another camouflaged machine gun was spotted on the other side of the road.

Before the car could be turned around, a German carrying a pistol came over and asked who they were. After informing him that they were Americans, the 36th Division men were told to get out of the car. Their weapons were taken away.

Seventy SS men accompanied Srygley and Ryden up a steep hill to a ski

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Just before they left, General Dahlquist addressed them. It was with obvious pride that he told them of the message he had sent to Governor Coke Stevenson of Texas, in which he said: "The men are not all Texans, but they are proud of the T-Patch which they wear."

In addressing the men before they finally mounted the trucks, General Dahlquist said: "I didn't want the first contingent to leave without wishing them goodbye, goodspeed, and good-luck."

"You must all be old timers. You must have landed at Salerno, or you've got a lot of kids."

The General continued: "I know that you'll be members of the Division until the day you die. You have been with it so long that there is nothing which can drive you from it."

"It's been a tough long road. But more than that, it's been a successful one. You've never had to worry about your reputation."

"I've never known any unit—large or small—with as complete and comprehensive spirit. You know how to fight—you've proved that—and you know how to fight without bragging and how to carry it through. Somewhere, some tough Texans laid a good foundation."

Said General Dahlquist: "You are going home I hope for discharge, I know for discharge. I hate to see the Division melt away. But I'm glad to see you going home."

I have one thing to suggest. That we not let the T-Patch die, but that we keep it alive. Through a long, tragic, hard ordeal you have seen death and destruction in all its horrible forms, but you have welded a comradeship that is impossible to get except amongst soldiers who have fought in war. It is my hope that in the future we all get together again and bind more firmly the friendships we have made."

Top-Flight Nazi



The Nazis' leading airman, Col. Gollob, first German to shoot down 150 Allied planes, over Poland, France, England, the Channel, and the Crimea from 1939 to 1942, and the recipient of the Reich's highest award, poses for the division photographer near his home in Kitzbuhel.

T - PATCH

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The World Caught Fire

The world caught fire and had to be put out with 30,000,000 gallons of human blood. Blood is all there is to put out a fire of tyranny that was kindled with hate and fanned with controlled propaganda.

Now the fire is going out because the world cooperated as the villages of Europe cooperate to fight a fire: a big tub is rolled to the scene of the fire for all able-bodied to bring water while a few well-chosen ones with a small pump do the pumping and directing of the water on the flames.

Let us pause to reflect and say thanks to those that have so graciously given their blood to bring the present flames under control. Millions of soldiers and sailors have cooperated and given their all. Millions in servitude and concentration camps have given. Men and women have been called from their work, families have been awakened from their sleep, children have been yanked from their play to answer the compelling command: "Come, the tub must be kept full!"

A few have died uselessly. Those handling the pump have at times missed the flames, but the big job, the prime objective, the putting out of the

flames is being accomplished.

The fire is growing dimmer now and we can hope that it may soon be entirely extinguished; therefore our thoughts must soon turn from fire fighting to that of preventing fires.

While still near the scene of the flames, promise to be a warden against tyranny and hate. Do your part locally and give your representatives, both national and international, definite instructions to kick apart the sticks of tyranny regardless of where they may be piles. Tell your representatives to scatter the chips of hate and watch them destroy themselves in their own harmless little flames. Deny any person the exclusive use of one of your propaganda fans. Those fans can produce terrible blasts when truth is not important.

Don't let this world catch fire again, it takes too much blood to put it out.

P. J.

A Pictorial History For The 36th

A pictorial history of the Division is to be published. Copies will be made available for every man serving or having served with the 36th Division. Still other copies will be made available to parents of men who have served with the 36th.

The history will contain photographs taken by members of the Division, by war photographers and pictures captured from the enemy. It is intended that the volume will be prepared to last a lifetime.

There is one way each T-Patcher can aid in making this collection truly a great record of our actions. Each and everyone of you either at home or hidden away in your barracks bag has a snapshot of some place in Italy, France or Germany that for some reason or other you value. That picture if valued by you, will undoubtedly be valued by others.

Why not send these pictures to your Special Service Officer or directly to the Public Relations Officer where they will be reproduced and the original returned to you.

All pictures, used in the history, will be fully accredited to you and to your unit. We need the cooperation of every man in the division. You have already made history. We will record that history in pictures.

SSW

REMEMBER?

It Was Just A Year Ago

By Maj. Vincent M. Lockhart, Division Historian

After the winter's combat in the snowy mountains of Italy, the Division moved into a rest and training area at Maddaloni. Passes to Pompeii were frequent, shows were brought in, and all told it was a pleasant Spring.

To add to the entertainment Mount Vesuvius put on the biggest eruption show in fifty years.

After the Division's first big decoration ceremony, when General Mark Clark presented T/Sgt. Charles E. "Commando" Kelly of Pittsburgh, with the Division's first Medal of Honor, the Division moved into the mountainous region between Avellino and Salerno, generally referred to by men of the T-Patch as the "Forino area."

At the same ceremony the Third Battalion, 141st Infantry, received the first presidential citation for the division, and two DSC's and 63 Silver Stars were awarded.

Training varied, but early in May

the Division Artillery was alerted to return to action. Last out of the line in the winter, they were to be the first back into action in the Spring offensive.

On 2 May 1944 they received orders to move to the Qualliano area and on 3 May had set up an advance CP there. The 4th to the 7th of May were spent calibrating their guns and on the 11th the Command Post was moved to Celloli while an advance CP was established with the 85th Division Artillery at Minturno. Dummy guns were set up in the Qualliano area, and at 2300 hours on the 11th of May complete surprise was achieved with the opening of the Fifth Army's offensive which was to culminate in the hills overlooking Pisa.

Their job done by the 17th of May, when the famous Gustav Line had been breached, the artillery pulled back to Qualliano and embarked at Pozzuoli for the Anzio beachhead on the 19th.

Chaplain's Column

Children are imitators. But children apparently fail to out-grow their powers of imitation. Adults are imitators, too.

Virtues can be, and are, imitated even as are vices. During World War I, a sailor who ended his day by kneeling in prayer became the target of many shoes from his scoffing buddies. The following night saw more sailors kneeling and fewer shoes thrown.

Finally those who were too cowardly to pray at first became the praying majority through the example of him who had the courage of his convictions when he entered the Navy.

As St. Paul's Christian courage in the Roman jail influenced the imitation of his brethren, so can our fortitude in face of trials and temptations, sufferings and sorrows help our associates to become strong in the Lord.

When temptations come to us, may we put on the whole armor of God!

Inquiring Photographer

By S/Sgt. Max Shaffer

THE QUESTION: "How do you feel about going home?"

Pvt. JOHN J. WEBB, Savannah, Georgia, 118 points, Able Battery, 155th PA Bn... "You're damn right it was a surprise. I got nervous wondering when, where, and how I was leaving. I couldn't even sleep that night. Now I'm mighty happy—no one here could be any happier."

Cpl. HARRY F. THRAILKILL, Longview, Texas, 121 points, Div. HQ Company... "I'm sure glad to go home. When they old me I went down to check up, came back and said goodbye to the boys. I feel terrifically good."

Pfc. SCOTT C. PRUITT, Strawn, Texas, 109 points, Baker Company, 111th Medics... "I didn't believe them. Then I sort of celebrated with the boys a little bit, talked over all the old times. I felt mighty happy. They really did this fast, and it looks really good."

Pfc. EUGENE BLOOMFIELD, Portsmouth, Ohio, 113 points, Baker Company, 141st Infantry... "I didn't believe them. Then I sort of celebrated with the boys a little bit, talked over all the old times. I felt mighty happy. They really did this fast, and it looks really good."

Sgt. WILLIAM J. MACDONALD, Cleveland, Ohio, 110 points, Mike Company, 141st Infantry... "It's a pretty good feeling. In fact, it's unbelievable. It's something that almost can't be believed, that I'm going home. And I especially wasn't sure that it could come down that fast, but I'm convinced now."

S/Sgt. VERNON M. MASON, Bridgeport, Texas, 114 points, H and S Company, 111th Engineers... "Well, I immediately started packing when they told me... I was excited, kind of. It took me eight hours to pack my personal stuff. I felt like a little kid about to go to a fair, only more so. It was really wonderful."

T/Sgt. SAMUEL STOCKMAN, Pine Hill, Alabama, 111 points, Service Company, 753rd Tank Battalion... "It doesn't seem real to be going home. I couldn't believe it when they told me, and I still am only half convinced. They came in at nineteen hundred and said: 'You're going home. That's a lie, I said but they got the wheels to rolling and here I am. I feel good, but good.'"

THE LIAISON SECTION: Orientation And Information For Subordinate And Attached Units

It was not until December, 1943, that the Liaison Section, as such, began. It had been originally, merely the Chemical Warfare Section, but when the 36th went back into the line for the winter campaign, it served the dual function of Chemical and Liaison, which it has ever since.



M/Sgt. Alfred Lorke, Hallettsville, Tex., Chief of Section, points out overnight changes to several liaison officers to keep them abreast of the tactical situation.



Capt. Eduard Lefort, French Liaison Officer, checks with Lt. Col. C. J. Merrill, Pokomoko City, Md., Division Chemical officer, and Sgt. Lorke, before making a trip to his headquarters.

The Liaison Officer is Lt. Col. C. J. Merrill, Pokomoko City, Md., who joined the Division in February, 1944.

"We are more or less an appendix for G-3," the colonel says. "We orient regimental and attached unit liaison officers, and serve generally as an information bureau."

The Liaison Section in Division Headquarters forward today has changed considerably from the original section. At Velletri the section set up in a big hole. Today it sets up in a comfortable room in a splendid hotel in Austria or in an as equally comfortable home in the heart of Germany. In the meanwhile, it has operated from apple storage bins, bathrooms and castle hallways.

During the race for Rome and the chase north from the Riviera beaches, the section was carried literally in the hands of Colonel Merrill and one non-com. In those days the section was one map and sometimes a field desk. Since then, it has expanded to include a trailer full of equipment—"all of it necessary," says M/Sgt. Alfred Lorke, Hallettsville, Tex. "I sometimes wonder how we ever got around in the old days."

Besides handling the various liaison officers, finding them places to sleep, distributing the letters and orders to them, the section has charge of all chemical warfare operations within the Division. It runs the CWS school when the Division is in rest and keeps the CWS supply. In addition to this, the CWS section arranges for attached

chemical units—42 mortars, smoke generators, and manages them while attached.

In addition to Colonel Merrill and Sgt. Lorke, section personnel includes Capt. Sumner Wilson, New Rochelle, N.Y.; Sgt. Samuel Webb, Albany, Tex.; Sgt. Floyd Kimball, Wichita Falls, Tex.; and Cpl. Marion Dick, Ohio.

FROM THE OTHER PATCHES

TRAILBLAZER, 70th Infantry Division: "A liberated Limey taken at Dunkerque in 1940 was enjoying a bite of chow at the headquarters mess one morning when Sgt. Hugh A. Smith, I and E, came by with the mimeographed nine o'clock news. The Englishman picked up the single sheet, stared at it and ejaculated: 'Wonderful! For four years I've been dreamin' of a pyper with me breakfast—and 'ere she is.'"

BLOOD AND FIRE, 63th Infantry Division: "Able Battery, 862nd Field Artillery's motor sergeant, Melvin Dixon, picked up various parts from a bicycle, pieced them together and now rides around on a velocipede."

GRAPEVINE, 26th Infantry Division: "One of the greatest boners since Herr Hitler invaded the Soviet Union was pulled by the Grapevine recently when with love in his heart, it wrote a Page One story about the 778th Tank Battalion and called it the 778th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The editorial staff of the Grapevine has been put on a bread and water diet and will continue the starvation until all is forgiven by the 778th."

FRONT LINE, Third Infantry Division: "The following note was found in the Enemy Capabilities section of the daily G-2 report the day opposition in Gurnberg collapsed: 'Enemy's only capability in the Third Division zone is to languish in the PW cage.'"

6000 Attended Bains-les-Bains

Now that the Division's rest camp, Bains-les-Bains, has been officially closed, most of the purchased equipment has been turned over to the 28th Division.

A total of 5,533 enlisted men and 401 officers found relaxation at Bains-les-Bains from 7 December 1944 to 18 April 1945.

A Tale Of Two Wars Unfolds In A Tale Of Two Simpsons

By Pic. Howard Jones

The name of Simpson has been carried through its second European war. Both times it has been with the 142nd Infantry.

During World War I, Capt. E. A. Simpson trained at old Camp Bowie, Tex., and went on to command Company H. When the "Texas" Division boarded ships to leave for France, Capt. Simpson acted as commander for the Second Battalion. When he arrived overseas, he reverted to his old outfit, Company H.

Then, on 8 October, 1918, Capt. Simpson and his company went over the top in the last big offensive of the war. One hour after the big battle began in the vicinity of St. Etienne, he was seriously wounded, having been struck in five places.

A machine gun slug dug in close to his left lung and a German sniper had got him. Three other wounds were the result of shrapnel. In those sixty minutes Capt. Simpson had so inspired his men that he earned for himself the Distinguished Service Cross. The French also recognized his heroic efforts and presented him with the Croix de Guerre.

While convalescing in a hospital, he received his gold leaf and majority. Maj. Simpson returned to Texas with the 36th and in 1932 was promoted to lieutenant colonel, serving as Judge Advocate General on the state staff of the Texas National Guard.

Today Col. Simpson is retired from the Army and practicing law in Amarillo, but his son is carrying on.

With the outbreak of World War II, the second Simpson has come up from the ranks to attain, like his father, a lieutenant colonelcy and the command of a battalion.

In 1932-33 the younger Simpson served with the National Guards and was reassigned as a private in September, 1940. He trained at the new Camp Bowie. On 16 November, 1940, he received his commission as a second lieutenant. Several months later in April he replaced his gold bar with a silver one.

At Simpson then went from company to company in the "711 Face You" Regiment until 1 February 1942 when he received his captaincy and became regimental S-2. It was during the bitter Italian campaign that Capt. Simpson left his desk and went into the field. He was promoted to Major. When hard battles were taking toll of the officers, he commanded the battalion.

During the grim struggle at Remiremont, France, key German defensive point for the Moselle, Maj. Simpson personally led his battalion in capturing the strongpoint. A few days later in the vicinity of Tendon, Maj. Simpson was seriously wounded.

He had followed in the footsteps of his father and for his action, the major

What Price Salvage?

Sgt. John L. Lambert, First Battalion, 143rd Infantry, was issued a new pair of OD trousers last Saturday. Sunday morning he decided to try them on.

When he unfolded them, he sensed a certain familiarity. The neatly-mended tear in the right leg appeared the same. Quickly, he looked inside the waistband. There, legibly written, was his own name and serial number.

Sgt. Lambert had turned the trousers in for salvage in Italy just before the Rome push.

Why We Fight

Barton

(Cont' From Page 1)



Rosemary Ann Jones is the nine-month-old daughter of W. O. Irving B. Jones, Division Headquarters, and Mrs. Esther D. Jones, Los Angeles.

Aide, Interpreter Reveal Additional Data On Goering

1st Lt. Harold L. Bond, Newtonville, Mass., a veteran infantry officer and aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. Robert I. Stack, was present when Hermann Goering, No. 2 Nazi, surrendered to General Stack.

It was an exciting moment for the lieutenant, who had waited all day in the company of two SS officers before Goering was caught. "I'd fought the Hermann Goering Division in Italy, especially at Cassino," recalled the holder of the Silver Star for gallantry in action. We'd been fighting them for so long, and there we were, on the last day of the war, with Hermann Goering, himself, standing in front of us."

That day, the general's party had driven 50 miles behind the German lines to pick up Goering. As they drove through the enemy rear areas, there were thousands of enemy troops along the road, but no one stopped them.

"I stayed in a building with some SS officers and waited," said Lt. Bond. "It made me sore to listen to them. It was like a photograph of Mein Kampf. Then word came that Goering was coming. We went to meet him."

"I saw him as he got out of his car. He looked exactly as in his pictures, except perhaps a little thinner. His wife stood behind him, weeping softly. He reached over in the middle of the strict military ceremony of surrender, and patted her on the cheek."

"He was far more pleasant than I'd expected. But there was no prejudice in his favor. I didn't lose any sympathy for him."

General Stack's only interpreter at the surrender was S/Sgt. Henry P. Kehrer, Rochester, N.Y.

"I told Goering that he was to drive to a castle nearby," said the sergeant.

"We got there, and the fireworks started," he continued. "General Fegelein of the SS was a mortal enemy of Goering. The first man Goering saw was Colonel Fegelein, brother of the general's and an SS cavalry commander."

"I'd seen Goering before, and I'd heard all the reports on his being a sick man. It's not true. He'd lost weight and aged, but he wasn't sick

to him. "Erwin hasn't changed too much," says the lieutenant, "except maybe he's heavier around the shoulders. He's received better treatment than most of the soldiers taken prisoner."

He had received better treatment. He was even happier than many of them. He was kept busy attending to the many wounded Americans brought to the hospital, also French, Poles, Russians, British, and even Goums.

If there is one thing which he will remember, it was the work of the nuns at the hospital who sneaked in food to the prisoners, and the American Red Cross which practically furnished them all the necessary medical supplies, food, and clothing.

Sgt. Erwin has been free some time now, but he still at times finds it hard to believe he may have to wake up from a dream.

French Captain Leaves Division

Capt. Paul Eduard Lefort is leaving the 36th. With the end of the war, his mission has been completed, and he is leaving for other work. And with the departure of the French captain, the 36th Division is losing one of its most interesting men.

Capt. Lefort, a native of Lille, France, has seen six years of war. He holds the Croix de Guerre with three palms, the Bronze Star, and the French equivalent of the Purple Heart.

His saga started at Dunkirk, where 300,000 men—including his 421st Infantry Regiment, in which he was a company commander—were trapped by the Germans. He was forced to abandon all his personal equipment, wade through water throat deep to a small boat, and splash through three bombings to England. Three days later he was back in France, at Cherbourg, trying to form new Divisions to fight the Germans. "But we had no rifles, no guns, nothing," he explained with a Gallic shrug. "We were forced to surrender. I myself was taken prisoner, but with a score of other men managed to escape. We stole a German truck and raced for Brest, crossing German convoys and overtaking the German columns to beat them into Brest. We caught one of the last boats to Africa."

The Austrian Alps



Spring comes to the Tyrolean Alps in this picturesque spot near Innsbruck, Austria, but the snow obstinately refuses to make its customary exit.



Almost completely submerged beneath the dashing waters of an Alpine stream, a wrecked German vehicle can still be detected in the lower center of the photograph.

The Immortal Pfc.



THANKS TO DR. EX HERBERT R. GELBSMAN

"Damn it! Step it up! — or I'll miss the Riviera quota!"

ADOLPH'S GIRL FRIEND:

Propaganda Spurned For Art-Claims Germany's No. 1 Film Star

By Pic. Joe Ershun

Last week in the lovely Tyrolean resort of Kitzbuhel, nestling in the ski country of the Austrian Alps, I found Leni Riefenstahl, Germany's No. 1 film star and better known throughout the world as Adolph Hitler's girl friend. Moved out by American troops, she was living in a little caretaker's shack at the foot of a mountain peak.

Led to her hideout, I was all keyed up to see the German version of Betty Grable, but my disappointment was greater than that of any GI after his first tour of Bella Napoli. Instead of a very beautiful lady, she proved to be a drab, hard-looking woman, who admitted to 36 years and looked older. Her crafty brown eyes couldn't hide her fear of the future.

La Riefenstahl who had been a fashionable style-setter in Paris and Berlin, was dressed in a faded Austrian costume with a blouse which was moved her out of her house. (One of the neck. Like a Bavarian peasant, her woolen stockings came to the knee.

No amount of persuasion could coax Leni to speak about politics or her friend, the late Adolph Hitler, formerly of Berlin and Berchtesgaden. After being introduced to her husband, a Wehrmacht major, we settled down on a rough wooden bench in front of the shack.

Leni apologized for the shabbiness and explained that it was all that was available now that the Americans had moved her out of her house. (One of the natives explained later that the house was owned by von Ribbentrop).

Then she gave out with a long-winded account of her career as an actress, dancer, director and author. To all questions about her relations with Adolph, Leni gave the standard reply that she was an artist and only interested in the artistic.

When asked how such a very artistic person became so intimately involved with such a political bigwig as Adolph, Riefenstahl explained that it all came about through the Fuehrer's intense admiration for her work. She had met him for the first time, purely by accident, in a little north Sea port in 1932. Hitler told her that when he became Reichschancellor, he wanted her to take over the film industry. According to Leni, she answered that she had never made a compromise in her life and that anything she attempted had to come from the heart.

But Leni did take over the German film industry and Leni did become the No. 1 female Nazi. Her explanation amounted to, "I was so good that Hitler promised me I wouldn't have to do any propaganda films."

In 1934 she was asked by Goebbels to do the film of Horst Wessel, but she refused. She admitted that she did the Nuremberg Party convention in 1935. But that wasn't really propaganda, she felt, it was a newsreel. Besides she did it as a personal favor for the Fuehrer.

When Leni began talking about her pictures of the Olympics, she really

(Cont' On Page 4)



Leni Riefenstahl, former boss of the German moving picture industry, alleged love of Adolph Hitler, stands before the little shack she has been living in since being moved out of von Ribbentrop's palatial residence.

Two 143rd GIs First To Enter Murnau Prison

Pfc's Chester L. Klingler, Indianapolis, and Bill Ulatowski, Hamtramck, Mich., members of the 143rd Infantry, were the first American soldiers into the German military prison camp near Murnau, in Germany. They were greeted by over nine hundred Polish officers, from full Colonels on down, who spoke to them in perfect English.

"We've been studying English for five years now," said one, "but we've never been able to speak to an American." For want of entertainment, the officers had studied and learned English from magazines while in the prison camp.

Surrounded by the officers, Klingner and Ulatowski heard the story of the Murnau camp. Two days before the news had come that the Americans were approaching the camp. The guards set up machine guns with obvious intention of killing the prisoners. Aware of the plan, the prisoners hid in the chimneys and raised so much confusion generally that the Germans were unable to carry out their plans. Then infantry and tanks burst through the German defenses, barreled up to the enclosure and forced the gates.

Klingner and Ulatowski were told that Murnau was not the horror camp that others were. Thanks to the strict military police of the German colonel in command, they had been fed adequately, bread and potatoes and soup, and had regularly received American Red Cross parcels.

While the GIs were talking to the officers, they heard a cockney voice: "Glad to see you Yanks!" It was one of 53 British soldiers captured at Dunkirk.

Privates Klingner and Ulatowski were then billeted in the spacious quarters of the German colonel.

Col. Albright Takes Command Of 143rd

Col. John J. Albright, former Chief of Staff, has replaced Col. Charles J. Denholm as Commanding Officer of the 143rd Infantry Regiment. Replacing Col. Albright as Chief of Staff, is Col. Jesse B. Matlack, former Executive Officer, Division Artillery.

Kitzbuhel's Swanky Grand Hotel Proved Hideout For Nazi Agents

If Vicky Baum's novel, "Grand Hotel" seemed incredible, and the characters, bizarre, then the Grand Hotel in Kitzbuhel, which served as Division CP last week, should prove even more fantastic.

When the Division took over the spacious Tyrolean lodge, no less than 47 members of the Serb quisling government were living in the beautiful interior. The most infamous of the group were the Nedic brothers, renowned as two of the cruelest Nazi agents in the Balkans.

As a British correspondent, an expert on Balkan political problems, glanced over the list of collaborators housed in the hotel, he let out a low whistle and said, "My, but how Marshal Tito would like to get his hands on these chaps. This sure owes the 36th a great big thanks for this little group."



Riefenstahl

(Con't From Page 3)

warmed up. Was it propaganda? No! How could anyone think such a thing? It was just those beautiful athletes in those beautiful costumes in that beautiful Germany. She was only sorry that war had intervened and prevented the film from being shown in America.

Finally your correspondent came right out with it. Perhaps Leni had gotten her job because of her intimacy with Hitler. I pointed out that in America she was reputed to be Hitler's sweetheart. She denied this indignantly.

It was just another story spread by her enemies. They were so jealous of her success that they had even called her a Jewess.

"Is that so bad," I asked. "That's terrible," she replied.

I asked her about her last interview with Hitler. She said it had taken place in March, 1944, and that the poor old boy had looked tired and worn. A note of concern crept into her otherwise husky voice. She was there to introduce her husband to Hitler.

"You know," she stated, "my husband and I have never been together for more than a two-week period because of this terrible war."

But of course she wasn't really close to Adolf. She could only go to the Chancellery whenever she chose, weekend at Berchtesgaden, and be photographed with him on timely occasions.

As I took leave of this leading lady of Nazidom, I couldn't help but feel that she must have been an unconvinced actress after the unbelievably hammy performance she had turned in that afternoon.

Return Engagement



Bared midriff et al, smooth, striking, satin-skinned Liz Scott, Walter Thornton model, who made her T-Patch debut several months ago, encores with an even more tantalizing study.

141st Men Freed

(Con't From Page 1)

club which served as the enemy company headquarters. They were forced to haul machine gun ammo in the trek. At the headquarters they were treated to a few drinks of cognac and hot soup. After two hours, two SS guards walked the Yankee captives 10 miles across country to the Division CP.

Here they were interrogated by an English-speaking German, who lived in Chicago until 1939 and who had worked at the Hotel Bismarck, familiar to Ryden. All the typical questions were asked. After interrogation they were led into a cold room. The lieutenant was given a bed, and Ryden, a mattress.

"We ate what the German soldier ate—usually different soups," said Ryden.

On May 4, both took shelter in the cellar of the house to sweat out an American air raid which strafed and bombed the area. "The Germans seemed in a good mood and usually came in to talk with us," explained the lieutenant. "We didn't have any fire, so we just stayed under the blankets all day."

At nine o'clock on the morning of May 5, a German came in to announce that the war had ended. For a while the Yanks thought it was another rumor.

The next day the Germans started to pack their belongings and walked down the road to surrender. One German told them that several American officers were discussing a truce in the CP of the German 13th Corps.

That night the 141st men were ordered to sit in a vehicle with several enemy soldiers. After waiting two hours for something to develop, the enemy group became impatient and ordered the Americans back into the house.

The lady of the house prepared Ryden a cup of hot chocolate and as Ryden drank, Lt. Srygley noticed a jeep coming up the road. He told Ryden to run out and halt it.

They noticed the occupant to be Maj. O'Brien, Second Battalion, 143rd Infantry. After telling him their story, the major promised to pick them up shortly.

Maj. O'Brien returned to liberate them in an hour. Before they left the Germans gave Lt. Srygley a wrist-watch, and Ryden, a P-38.

Driving to Fox Company, 143rd Infantry, the ex-captives were treated to eggs, beef and coffee. On the afternoon of May 7 both men returned to their company.

Bodyguard

(Con't From Page 1)

Hitler had appointed him because of his ruthless methods in carrying out orders. Reichstuehrer Martin Bohrmann, Dirr stated, was undoubtedly the most hated of the Nazi Party. He was feared by both civilians and the general staff. Dirr said that he had last seen Himmler on 25 April in Berlin. It was also revealed that Hitler's sister had married a professor in Dresden, but that she had kept out of the public eye and had never appeared with her brother.

For his services as bodyguard Hitler paid Dirr 500 Marks per month. After the usual routine of questioning, Dirr was allowed to return to his home in Rottach.

We Want Himmler

Informed military circles now consider it unlikely that the "Texas" Division will round out the capture of von Rundstedt an Goering with a big third, Heinrich Himmler, the leading war criminal still at large.

After several of the most glorified henchmen in Nazidom reposed in the 36th PW cage during the past few weeks, the Division moved from the fertile hunting grounds of the Austrian redoubt to a sector in Germany visited less frequently by the bigwigs.

Sport Chips

More fans are coming back to the ball parks this season than last—Rip Sewell, veteran Pirate slowballer, has added a new pitch, an underhand knuckle ball—Lt. Bert Shepard, the flyer who lost a leg over Germany, is said to be having trouble keeping his



socks up—jokingly he states that he can't use the customary rubber band because it cuts off circulation—it would be wise to remember while watching your unit's teams play ball that the umpire is doing his best—a book of timely hints on umpiring should soon be available in the ETO—if you don't like a decision, forget the smoked glasses and cane, and suggest the book to the ump—a couple of ex-major leaguers are burning up the newly-reorganized Mexican League—Tommy De la Cruz, former Cincy twirler, has won four in a row, and Roberto Ortiz, former Senator outfielder, is the leading homerun hitter in the circuit—already Detroit's pitching duo, Newhouse and Trout, are making their presence felt—Trout won his first four games, lost a heartbreaker, and then notched his fifth win to put Detroit in second place—The Giants have big Ernie Lombardi hitting better than ever—the Dodgers' little Vic Lombardi is making a bid to become rookie of the year—his five-seven, throws left-handed and recently won the game that put Brooklyn over the 500 mark for the first time this season. A tank named "Dinah" was hit 48 times—the story behind the tank is that it was commanded by Rajah Hornby's son—after a bit of spot welding and recoling the guns, young Hornby took the tank named for Dinah Shore back into the battle—

Answers to last week's questions: 1. Slow ball pitcher. 2. Left-handed pitcher. 3. Man nearest the play. 4. Lefty Gomez—Four more questions—1. What is the name given to the right field bleacher seats at Yankee Stadium? 2. Who played first base for the Yankees before Lou Gehrig? 3. Who is Connie Mack's assistant? 4. What big league manager is the son-in-law of a rival team owner?

Doane Develops Pix For 133rd Artillery

There's nothing slow about picture service in the 133rd Field Artillery. It's done quickly and expertly by Cpl. Everett W. Doane Jr., Brockton, Mass., who knew the tricks of the trade before he entered the Army.

"Two little trays started it all," explained the corporal, who as a forward observer with the infantry, had directed artillery fire throughout the Italian and French campaigns.

In one forward area town he found two trays abandoned by an enemy aid station. Immediately he thought about developing and printing pictures. After collecting a few more items, Cpl. Doane built himself a portable dark room from plywood. Chemicals and paper were secured from the United States.

The first night he set up near Ribeauville, France, the enemy shelled him out of his dark room. Since that time, the corporal's had more business than he can adequately handle.

Male Call

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



Briefs for Observation Mission



Male Call By Milton Caniff

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