



Germans Were Determined At Oberhoffen - But Not As Much As 1st Battalion, 142nd

By Pfc. Howard Jones

Oberhoffen was more than a village. It was a town, located on the German side of their natural defense line, the Moder River. The Krauts meant to hold the town at all costs. When it became evident that they were losing it, the Germans counterattacked.

But even more determined than the Germans were veteran dough-boys of the 142nd's 1st Battalion, under the command of Lt. Col. James L. Minor, Tahoka, Texas. As they cleared out the town, they fought through a raging inferno. They were opposed by some of the best German troops — Himmler's own SS men, who had been sent there to keep the swastika flying over Oberhoffen. Every house had been turned into a strong-point and many roadblocks had been constructed.

On 1 February the 1st Battalion moved across the bridge from Bischweiler to Oberhoffen before pushing through the 2nd Battalion, which had established positions on the southern end of the town.

Company A, commanded by Capt. Raymond Schloder, St. Marys, Pa., immediately headed up the main street with a platoon working on each side. They fought fire with fire as they rifled, grenaded, and machine-gunned every house along the street. The Germans persisted and had to be dug out. After more than five hours of bitter fighting, Co. A had reach-

ed the fork, the initial objective. While A Company was Kraut-digging up the main route, Col. Minor sent Capt. Orville Saunders, Libby, Mont., and his battle-hardened C Company on an end run well to the right of Oberhoffen. They proceeded across an open field and then swung back to strike at the heart of the enemy-held town beyond the fork.

« We kept our fingers crossed while we went through that open field, » Capt. Saunders explained. « The enemy kept probing us with his artillery. I knew a hit on my company might result in shouting that would give away our position. » But, using a burning building as guide, C Company men moved to the edge of the town before anything happened.

In the next few minutes three separate German patrols, sent out to alert their platoons of approaching columns, were wiped out. Company A and C then established contact and the first act toward cleaning out Oberhoffen had been completed.

At daylight on 2 February the battle was resumed to mop up the triangular fork. A went to the left, B, commanded by Capt. Dewey Mann, Cunard, W. Va., hit the center, and C went to the right. When the Germans threw in their powerful Tiger tanks, the 3 companies experienced some of the toughest fighting of the war.

During the next two days German counter-measures became frequent. But each time the « I'll Face (Con't On Page 4)

Generals Patch, Brooks, & Dahlquist Decorate Men Of The 141st Infantry

Three DSC's, One Posthumous, And An Array Of Awards Given At Recent Ceremony

By Clarence Lasky

Thirty-three officers and enlisted men of the 1st Battalion, nineteen officers and enlisted men of the 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, were decorated by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, and Maj. Gen. Theodore Brooks, on successive days during reviews of the Battalions.

The reviews and ceremonies, attended by the Army Commander, the Corps Commander and Maj. Gen. John E. Dahlquist, Division Commander, took place where units have been bivouaced.

After the close of the 1st Battalion ceremony, General Patch attended a demonstration of squad firepower which was part of the training maneuvers of the organization.

Following each awards formation, the Battalions, led by the 36th Division Band, paced in formal review before the Generals, the Regimental Staff and the decorated men.

action in the vicinity of Callian, France.

His citation reads:

When elements of his company were held up by a strong enemy force, Sgt. Brazzel volunteered to make a forward reconnaissance and determine the strength of the enemy garrison defending the town. He crawled through top floors and across rooftops of houses, pressing forward toward his objective. Although he became the target for rifle fire and enemy hand grenades, he continued indomitably on to complete his mission. When he reached a position overlooking the hostile defenses, he spotted an enemy officer; taking careful aim, he shot the officer and a soldier standing near him. Information which he brought back enabled his company to launch a successful assault, rout the hostile force and capture the town. Sgt. Brazzel's extraordinary heroism exemplifies the finest tradition of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Silver Stars were awarded to Capt. William Hawkins, Mebane, N.C.; T/Sgt. Harold Buchelm, Highmore, N.D., who also received the Bronze Star; T/Sgt. Walter Gonzales, San Antonio, Texas; Sgt. Royal B. Light, San Antonio, Texas; Pfc. Charles A. Boag, Delaware; Pfc. Elbert L. Monhollen, Corbin, Ky.; and Pfc. John R. Schella, of Carbondale, Pa.

An Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in combat, was awarded to Capt. Joseph Kimble, Scranton, Pa.; T/Sgt. Wayne Stone, Garner, Ky.; S/Sgt. Harry Vieham, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Cpl. Ed Dresel, Elyria, Ohio.

Bronze Stars Medals were awarded to Capt. Bernhardt Meier, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Lt. John Bryan, N.J.; T/Sgt. Davis A. Davis, Megar, Texas; S/Sgt. Quintin Mitchell, Corbin, Ky.; Sgt. Russell Webb, Plymouth, Mich.; Cpl. Kenneth Gunnoe, W. Va.; Cpl. Leonard Motz, Edwardsville, Pa.; Pfc. Christopher C. Corrigan, Newark. (Con't On Page 4)



KRAUTS DON'T LIKE SWING

The Krauts just don't have the proper appreciation for real American « Boogie-woogie » - say men of 2nd Bn., 143rd. Men of the battalion were in a large house on the banks of the Rhine, where one of the lads found a piano on the third floor. Strictly a cat, he was soon pounding out some music from Lower Basin Street.

The music suddenly ceased and the doggies scampered for cover in the basement. Those unappreciative Krauts were sending right back with mortars and 88's. After spending the night in a cave, they returned to the third floor to find quite a lot of damage, and no immediate desire to play « Boogie-woogie ». Someone suggested Bach in 16 bars.

Hot Lead Department



A 36th machine-gunner keeps 'em down with a spray of hot lead. Nests such as this offer excellent points of observation. Woe to the Kraut who crosses the sights of this grimacing Texan. We doubt he'll come back for anymore horseplay.

Kamarad, Nicht Schiessen!

Things have not been going along too well for the German soldiers these days. In fact, it has been brought to the attention of the Division G-2 that there are any numbers of the peace-loving German soldiers that would like to quit and surrender to us if they had the chance. The 36th « Texas » Division is

well-known on the other side of the lines. In fact it is so well known that many Germans would rather surrender are afraid of being shot and prefer to take a long chance on the safety of their own lines.

Those that try to desert are up against a hard position. If they return to their outfit, they will be court-martialed and shot, but if they try to surrender, they will be killed anyway.

Therefore, when leaving their own lines with the object of deserting, they start off as if making a routine reconnaissance. Out of sight of their own positions, they drop their weapons, put on field caps, and try to get into the American PW cage the easiest way possible. It's not easy and can be very discouraging if they are fired upon when trying to be taken prisoner. In fact, some of them simply get fighting mad and forget all about quitting.

Generally these men are forced to approach our lines at night. They come either singly, or in groups of two or three, seldom more.

Often shooting at these men will cut off any other would-be deserters, who won't quit unless it's a safe procedure. But if the men manage to work their way into our lines and are taken prisoner without any fighting, then a second group and then possibly a third will try. But if the first group of deserters is fired on, the remaining hopefuls will be

(Con't on Page 4)

He Took The Bull By The Horns -

Two Kraut tanks were in a nearby woods throwing destruction into a barn in which two men of Co. D, 142nd, had their gun position. Seeking protection against flying shrapnel, Sgt. Dick Hadland of Schiller Park, Ill., and Pfc. Jack Suconik of Chicago, sought shelter in the middle of three cows, a calf and a big red bull.

The bull became a bit unruly, giving Hadland a few unfriendly butts with his head. To restore order, Hadland grasped the « bull by the horns » - but the next few moments found him flying through the air and landing on the other side of said bull.

143rd's D Co. Issues Only 'One-Way' Passes To Hun Patrols

Lt. Gene Jameson, Temple, Texas, and his D Company, 143rd, MG platoon issue only « one-way passes » to Kraut patrols.

When an outpost reported some stalking Germans, Lt. Jameson with a man from A Company, set out to investigate. As he drew near the area thought to be patrolled by the enemy, a friendly flare lit up the situation. Seven Jerries on their hands and knees were rounding the corner of the building. The lieutenant called for them to surrender but received a pot-shot instead, which fortunately missed him.

Pulling the pin from his « frag » grenade, he tossed it and received two in return - one exploding just after it hit his arm. Fortunately, his arm was only bruised, while a potato-masher exploded harmlessly on the ground.

Ducking around the corner, Lt. Jameson approached the enemy from the rear, firing his tommy-gun as he came. His next grenade cinched it, as those who were able, yelled « Kamarad ». Box score: One Heinie killed, one wounded, and five for the PW cage. No casualties on our side. 148rd's Big Posture.

REMEMBER?

It Was Just A Year Ago-

By Vincent M. Lockhart Major AGD Division Historian

Artillerymen will remember a year ago this week for two particular reasons: The bombing of the town of Cassino (and assorted other places) and the unusual expenditure of ammunition, a lavish thought to those who remember the sharper rationed days of Southern France.

On 15 March 1944 the first wave of bombers came over, and all the 36th Division Artillery had a ringside seat except the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Colonel « Pete » Green's « mortar men » left the Cassino area on the night of 12-13 March for a well deserved rest in the Maddaloni area. They had been in firing positions for almost four months.

The two 105mm battalions fired a total of 8,011 rounds as the artillery counterpart of the mission to level the besieged city of Cassino. The 155mm battalion fired 2,568 rounds. Most of this was fired within a 12-hour period so each gun of 36th Division Artillery was averaging almost 20 rounds per hour for twelve hours.

Heaviest casualties from « air action » were in the 133rd, where one attack resulted in one man killed and sixteen wounded.

After the launching of the New Zealand Corps attack on Cassino, to which the air and artillery bombardment had been a prelude, the principle mission of our artillery was to smoke Monastery Hill. On the 16th the 155mm howitzers fired 554 rounds of high explosive and 178 rounds of smoke.

Texas Governor Gets Cable From Division

The Commanding General, Major General John E. Dahlquist, on behalf of division personnel sent the following congratulatory cable to Governor Coke Stevenson of Texas on Texas Independence Day. « The officers and men of the 36th « Texas » Division join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to you and to all Lone Star States on the anniversary of Texas Independence Day. »

CALM, COOL AND COLLECTED

During a recent hot fracas with the Krauts, T/Sgt. Glen Haedger, Anti-tanker with 143rd from Liberty, Texas, was talking on the field telephone to Cpl. Joe Porter, a Pennsylvanian from the same company. Suddenly Porter said: « Hold it a minute, Glen, I've got to throw another hand grenade.

★ GI Grapevine

HOT AND COLD FLASHES FROM HERE AND THERE

Truck herders of 142nd feel they really rate these days - Pfc. LAWRENCE LATHAM of Stephenville, Tex., has received one of the furlough passes to England.

1st Sgt. CLYDE PHELEPS, Svc. Co. 143rd, who calls Houston, Texas, his home, has just returned from a spin in a Gay Paree.

Cpl. CHAS. PRINDLE, 131st Artilleryman of Battery B, has left to spend his furlough at his home in Fort Worth, Texas.

Cpl. A. R. MOORE, 142nd, of Denison, Texas, was recalling days back at Bowie, and those Louisiana Maneuvers. He recalled: « I was bitchin' about conditions in those Louisiana woods - but I'd sure like to be there now. »

While others were talking about worldly things, Pfc. JOHN FLACK, 142nd, from Scranton, N.D., just keep on reading « Westward Ho. » He simply said: « Give me my comic books to read and I'm happy. »

Two T/S's of the 443rd Ack-ack, BOB FENIMORE and WILLIE CLARK grew up together in Danville, N. J., were inducted together, and have served in 7 campaigns together. Their theme song naturally is: « We strolled thru Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples, Rome and France - together. »

T/S STORY: Capt. Slack, 133rd, had just returned from Paris and his friends noticed he was a bit gloomy. The reason - « while away his name came up for a furlough home, and they couldn't find him in Paris. »

Lt. DAVID « Deedee » DUNAGAN, formerly of A. Btry., 132nd is now a bombardier stationed in England.

S/Sgt. ROBERT CAWYER, Springfield, Mo., 143rd Inf., tells us that Sgt. SAM J. STEIN, Brooklynite and former member of 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., is now in that familiar ole place - Camp Edwards.

ADD GI'S GONE NATIVE: Pfc. WALTER C. HARBACZ of Elizabeth, N. J., who rifles with Company H, 141st, is proudly grooming a goutee and mustache.

Pvt. BILL DEBRASON of McKeesport, Pa., of 2nd Bn., Hqs. Co., 143rd would like to thank the « Honest John » who mailed his Xmas package that had dropped from his jeep. Debrason had duplicated the « lost » package, and now he hears from his sister that both packages arrived.

Sgt. BOYD R. MORGAN, Co. K, 143rd Inf., is now spending his furlough at his home in Palestine, Texas.

APPROPRIATE HANDLES: There are a couple of well-known characters in the 155th F.A.Bn., who answer to the names of: « SCHNAPPSY » and « COUCHE AVEC. »

ANNIE OAKLEY: Sharp-shooting Pfc. BIRDINE LARSON, Stormlake, Iowa, recently took a bead on a Kraut at a distance of 400 yards, gently pulled the trigger, then cut another nick in his M-1.

1st Sgt. ORVILLE «Reds» JONES Texan from Waco, and former old-timer with 143rd, is now doing a bit of ordnance at a depot in Naples. He can probably be found « Somewhere on Via Roma. »

BEHIND THE PLOW: Pfc. VIRGIL RENEAU of Fort Worth, Texas, tells us that one of his former cohorts of 1st Bn., Hqs. Co., 143rd, is now Joe Civilian, tilling the sod on his farm near Clifton, Texas.

Pfc. THADDEUS IRZYK, New Bedford, Mass., feels he's fighting on the wrong front. Since he spends most of his time looking for Polish people, he reviews the war maps and envies the stamping grounds of the Red Army.

« Ye gads, I'm a father! » shouted Pvt. GUS GOODMAN, Company A, 111th Engineers, when he walked over to his bunk. His surrounding buddies rushed to his side. Examining the Richmond, Calif., soldier's sleeping bag, nestled inside, was Brownie, one of the company's mascots - and her three newly acquired pups. Goodman has been issued a new sleeping bag.

Pvt. ROBERT L. CARLE of San Antonio, now at McCloskey Hospital in Temple, wants to be remembered to all his old buddies in the 636th and 155th.

Oldster will recall M/Sgt. KERMIT SCHLAMEUS, Service Battery, 155th, who is now reported to be drawing rations at Camp Roberts, Calif.

T/4 JOSEPH E. MATHEWS, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., 143rd wants all the L. D. S. service men in the 36th to get in touch with him. He has recently been appointed group leader for L. D. S. Service Men.

Not Recommended - But Kotkovetz Mortar-lies Krauts At 300 Yards

Recently the dawn came up like thunder to S/Sgt. John Kotkovetz of Chicago, AT Co., 143rd, but he soon found that it was a German counterattack and not « The Road to Mandalay. »

The Krauts were close and coming on; Sgt. Kotkovetz knew something had to be done quickly so he picked up a 30 cal. MG, carried it across some open ground under small arms fire and installed it in a house containing the platoon's ammo. From then on the Jerries were so busy trying to dodge the hail of lead from the Sgt's MG that there was no time to think of continuing their attack, which suited him fine.

By this time his ammo was exhausted, so he began firing a 42 mortar which was close by - range only 300 yards - not a recommended procedure raid two mortar-men who rush out to stop him.



Not deterred, the Sgt. fired a few more rounds. Soon, the Krauts had enough and withdrew. Sgt. Kotkovetz had begun his day. 143rd's Big Picture.

ANOTHER CANINE CASUALTY: The well known « Bella », German police dog, adopted by Lt. GEORGE BLANTON, Denison, Texas, of the 36th MP Platoon, recently was killed under the wheels of a speeding vehicle.

Whitewash Turns Sgt's Face Red

S/Sgt. Ralph Davis of Schyler Falls, N. Y., had good intentions when he promised his squad of C Company 142nd, a chicken dinner. Davis had secured six chickens, prepared French fried potatoes and whipped up a meal fit for a king. But there was one slight flaw. He had mistakenly used whitewash instead of flour when he had prepared the chickens for frying.

Midwife To A Horse - What's Next?

First it was babies, then calves, and now - colts. The two latest midwives to perform such services for the local population is Dominick Sylvester, of Summerville, N. J., and Pfc. Paul Turner of Spartanburg, S. C., both of Company B, 11th Engineers.

The Frenchman with whom the two engineers were staying was about to have an addition to his barnyard populace and sought out the aid of the two motor pool veterans who obligingly rendered valuable assistance. Other GI's have been rewarded Schmans for such tasks, but if Sylvester and Turner received any, they didn't tell anyone.

There's Magic In - 'Come And See Here'

S/Sgt. Bill Heatherington, of Bellaire, Ohio, has a simple field expedient that has gained him a reputation as a Krautsmatcher among his buddies of the 142nd. The sergeant just slips down somewhere and waits for some unwary Kraut to come along. Then he yells « Come and see here ». There must be something magic about that phrase, for they invariably see the PW cage shortly afterwards.

Ungrateful Billy Gets Wyatt's Goat

Examining the ruins left by a tremendous explosion of stored mines, the 141st's T/Sgt. Paul Wyatt of Ft. Worth, Texas was attracted by what sounded like the cries of a baby coming from the basement of one of the ruined buildings.

With the help of bystanders, Sgt. Wyatt frantically dug through bricks and timber in an effort to reach the source of the wallings. After throwing off what seemed to be several tons of rubble, they reached the victim - not a baby, but a small Billy goat who, when finally freed, got up, shook himself a few times and nonchalantly walked away.

Says Wyatt: « The damn thing didn't even say thanks. »

Pvt. Hamilton Exposes Self To Save Wounded

When he pinned down a group of stunned wounded men for their own safety by exposing himself at the entrance of a dugout, Pvt. James Hamilton, Jr., Lucas, Mich., proved his unselfish courage.

In a holding position, doughboys of A Company of the 141st Infantry dug in on the side of a hill to observe German movement. When the Germans became aware of their position, they shelled with 88's and mortars.

One shell burst into a group huddled in a dugout, showering them with shrapnel and injuring several. Stunned, the injured attempted to make a break. Level-headed Hamilton, unwounded, forced them back to the dugout where relative safety prevailed and pinned them there by blocking the entrance.

Days later Private Hamilton was still picking shrapnel from the blankets in his pack, which he had been wearing.

There's a French family that's mighty grateful to Pfc. GILBERT NAUERT, Austin, Texas, of the 36th QM Co. He recently rescued a little French girl who was caught in a strafing raid.

Strictly From Hunger By Williams



143rds 'V2' Consists Of Only Two GIs, Grenades And Rifle

Hand grenades flying, V-2 of the 143rd Infantry hit a series of Kraut MG positions, left a holocaust worthy of every rocket in Jerry arsenals. V-2 is a dual-purpose weapon consisting of Pvt. William Bailey, Washington, D. C., and six hand grenades; and Pvt. Louie D. Putman, Sulphur Springs, Texas and one rifle.

There were two houses that had to be cleaned out when Bailey and Putman went out on their patrol. With Putman covering, Bailey grenaded the first and went on to the second. He threw in a hand grenade, then ducked into the doorway.

« I heard someone running out the back, » he said, « so I ran out of the front, ducked to escape a flare. There was a RR embankment, some tracks, and in the flare I could see some big pi's. » Pvt. Bailey leaped over the embankment, darted across the tracks, and threw himself down at the side of the largest hole just as a MG cut a vicious swath right over the top of his head.

Putman remained at the second house. Two Krauts came out of the first. He shot them. Then the whole area exploded. Everyone began firing MG's, tommy guns, burp-guns, rifles, flares all opened up at once. « A flare revealed to me a MG at the side of the first house, » stated Putman. « I shot all my ammo at the machine gun, got some more, and finally drove them away. »

Bailey waited for a gull, flipped a grenade into the MG pit, then charged with grenades in each hand, the pins pulled for action. « There were two Krauts in the pit, » he said. « A medico and a gunner. I backed up against the wall and faced them and motioned them up the stairs at the entrance. The wall was about shoulder high, and there was a whole row of litters sitting on top of it. The medico was willing to come along, but the gunner wasn't. He wanted to stay and take care of the wounded. »

An artillery barrage had forced the private and his two captives to remain in the pit. « I never sweated so much in my life, » said Bailey. « I was afraid one of the wounded would try to get me, or that a shell would land in the pit. Either way, I was as trapped as they were. »

Mine-layers Get Caught In Crossfire

GREY HAIR DEPT.: Sgt. Tom Whitson, en-gin-ear with Co. A, 111th, from Flint, Mich., and his squad were assigned to lay a mine field for protection of one of the 141st flank. Each man carried 4 mines to the selected spot. They had just started to work when the « Remember the Alamo » boys open fire on a Heinie patrol. The enemy counterfired, and the mine-layers were caught in the big middle of hot cross-fire. They laid there for two hours while bullets whizzed overhead from both directions. Finally the Krauts partied and Whitson with his squad, undaunted, arose and completed their mission.

T-PATCH

36th « Texas » Division News

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Address all communications to T-Patch, SSO, care APO.

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st. Morton berg, Pfc.

March 1945

ME109 Gets Lead-Poisoning From Sharp-Shootin' 443rd

The kitchen crew of the 131st were feeding evening chow, when ack-ack or strafing was heard close by.

The 1st platoon of Btry. C. 443rd AAA had a M-16 in position about a 100 yards from where the men were eating. The gunner, Pfc. Charles Zimmer, Syracuse, N.Y., was on duty in the turret when he received the red alert. He immediately blew his warning whistle, and the men eating chow ran for cover, and the rest of the ack-ack crew ran for the gun.

The gunner spotted the enemy plane coming from the direction

reported by the alert, took plenty of lead on his target, and then opened up with all four 50 Cal. MG's. The ME 109 was caught in a stream of blazing fire. Pfc. Art Urban of Chicago, and Cpl. Louie Prince of Nashua, N. H., loaders on the crew, observed two hits. The plane started to lose altitude and falling like a leaf. The men who were previously eating chow saw the plane falling and shouted: « He's hit! » However, the enemy plane did not crash at that point, but suddenly broke out of the dive, and started to head for the enemy lines where it was reported to have crashed in flames.

Tank-Hunting C Company Successfully Evades Trap

When Charlie Company of 141st entered into a supposedly-occupied town it ran into more than was expected. The first man into the village, ran smack into a Panther tank not more than 30 yards from him, encountered a strong German force no farther on.

Capt. Joseph Kimble, Scranton, Pa., the company commander, led his men into the town. It was about four in the afternoon, when the first thing he spotted on the side of the main street was a Mark IV tank. He immediately grabbed a rifle, attached a grenade and fired two rounds at the iron monster. The second shot hit the side of the turret, forcing the tank to withdraw.

Telling his officers to secure the area, Capt. Kimble went tank-hunting with several men. « We cut across backyards and fields and finally found the tank we'd already hit, » he said. « One of my men bazooked it and knocked it out with two rounds, but the tank fired its 88 and scored.

The captain established his CP in a house on the outskirts of town. It wasn't long until several civilians came running up with a bottle of Schnapps. « How many Germans in the town? » asked the captain.

« Lots, » he was told. « How many German tanks in town? » he asked.

« Lots, » he was told. Capt. Kimble set up a BAR covering an open field from the kitchen window. It wasn't long before a strong German patrol of 50 men tried to infiltrate across the field. The BAR man held his fire until the Krauts were within 50 yards, then cut loose, spraying the area with five magazines of ammo.

« It was peculiar, but not one of

Brick Wall No Obstacle

The Krauts have discovered that it takes more than a brick wall to stop Pvt. Al Theurer, Drexel Hill, Pa., of the 142nd Infantry.

His platoon was engaged in a hot street-fight in a small Alsatian village where some Boche MG's were causing some trouble. Theurer made his way into a house, took aim with his bazooka and blew a hole through a brick wall, allowing his platoon to outflank and destroy the Kraut machine gun position.

Sometimes Pays To Be Fat!

Having a big fanny, saved Pvt. S. W. « Dub » Osborne, a forward observer with 132nd, from certain capture.

Osborne was in a town when the Huns counterattacked, and he along with two doggies was forced to withdraw. Racing from house to house in effort to evade capture, Osborne tried to crawl in a window, but had some difficulty due to his enlarged « derriere ». When he finally managed to squeeze through, he saw his two buddies being trailed into a house by several Krauts. Osborne slipped in a barn for a couple of days and hid until the town was retaken.

132nd DeBUNK.

1st Sgt. « REED » PHILLIPS, former member of 111th Engrs., is now a civilian pounding a police beat back in Texas.

SHANGRI-LA Notebook

FLASHES FROM 36th DIVISION'S 'OWN' REST CAMP

Birthday Celebration



Doggies of the 36th who thought they'd be forgotten on their anniversary — munch on delicious birthday cake in the ARC Corral of SHANGRI-LA. You're in for a treat, if your birthday falls during the month you visit the Rest Camp.

'Have Your Cake And Eat It Too'

With their birthdays in February, quite a number of 36th doggies enjoyed a real birthday layer cake (like Mother used to make) while attending the Rest Camp. Presided over by the two ABC Outies - Kay and Candy, played hostess to: Pfc. BEN CLARKE, 142nd Inf., of Rockingham, N.C.; Pfc. JIM BOATWRIGHT, 36th MP from Ft. Mead, Fla.; Pfc. VERNON MCINTIRE, 141st from Evansville, Ind.; Sgt. WALTER KANETSKY, 143rd of Schenectady, N.Y.; Pfc. EVERETT WALKER, 142nd; Pfc. JOE SCHIYEN, 142nd of Elmira, N.Y., and Sgt. STAN SCHAB, 143rd of Westfield, Mass.

Cpl. Lindsey Dula, tobaccoman from Winston Salem, N.C., of Div Finance, must not have heard about the natural hot springs wells that furnish the BAINS at the Rest Camp. Before getting under the shower, he asked - « Is the water hot yet? »

Observed tottin' their PX ration - Cpl. HARRY BARNETT, Co. H, 141st, of Big Springs, Texas and Pfc. ELBEERT DICKSON, Co. E, same outfit but of Liberty S. C.

We wouldn't exactly say that T/4 HOWARD RUSSELL, Service Co., 143rd is in love - but we do know for a fact that this Houston, Texas, soldier walked 15 kilometers to see a certain party.

Circumstantial Evidence Lands Wine-seekers In Clink

In the future, Cpl. Walter Rudolph and Pfc. J. Mompette both of N.Y.C. will make it a point to look up the family history and present social status of any French man they go looking for.

The two men of Div. Hqs. Co. were seeking wine for a company dance, when a friendly native gave them the name of another Frenchman in a nearby town, who would be able to supply them with ample.

Arriving at the village, the duo inquired of an FFI the location of said wine-vender. They were immediately latched in the clink.

Returning to their unit hours later, without wine, the two men were sadder but wiser, with Rudolph

asking the question - « Look at me, do I look like a spy? »

They had been released only after they had convinced the FFI that they had on connections with the alleged winevender, who at the moment was being held in jail as a collaboratorist.

Artificial Moon Aids Patrol To Erase Two Kraut MGs

Their mission was to reconnoiter several houses in an enemy held town, locate troops and emplacements and return to the CP.

The four men from the 141st were S/Sgt. William Bowman.

Trinity, Texas; Pfc's John A. Lerkela, Lake Linden, Mich.; Burlie Bowman, Mt. Airy, N.C.; and Pvt. James T. Robinson of Charlotte, N.C.

They were in town by midnite listening to enemy troops walking and talking on the main road. Suddenly an enemy flare lit up the sky. The four men quickly took cover in a nearby ditch just as two Kraut MG's sprayed the road with lead.

The CO of Charlie Company, was at an outpost observing the movements of the patrol. When the patrol returned to the safety of its lines, the captain called for medium artillery, TD fire, 4.2 mortars, 81 and 60mm mortars. That concentration of fire produced the desired results. Two machine guns along with an enemy listening post, all of which had held up the company's advance, previously, were knocked out.

Flashlight Proves Handy Weapon

With a map in one hand and flashlight in the other, Lt. John D. Wieboldt, Jamaica, N.Y., searched through a front-line Alsatian village for a place to set up shop. As he opened the door of a cellar, he immediately realized he had company.

Holding the door open with his leg, the lieutenant jammed his flashlight into the ribs of the nearest Kraut and ordered them all to come out. Twelve Germans obeyed.

Martinez Proves Light MG Can Match AT Gun

It is not officially considered in the training manual that a light 30 is a match for a German 75mm. AT gun, but S/Sgt. Albert E. Martinez, San Diego, Cal., 143rd, has written a new chapter.

After the first few houses of a town were taken heavy German fire of all types came pouring in. Martinez ordered his squad to take protection in a nearby house. Most of the Jerry fire was spotted to be coming from a AT gun only 400 yards away. Setting up his light 30 in an exposed position, Martinez, doing a solo, began peppering the general area. Soon he had the gun out of action, saved Company E from casualties and temporarily cleared the Germans from the area.

111th Engineers Haul Off Two Lumber Yards To Keep Division's 58 Mile Road Net Open

By Cpl. Bob Reinhart

As with all tactical units, when the weather frowns or freezes, 111th Combat Engineers face a greater expenditure of labor, and must exhibit a striking amount of resourcefulness.

In addition to routine combat duties the past weeks of a Cape Cod winter and then a complete thaw has called for all-out maintenance of the Division's 35 to 58 mile road net by these veteran engineers. It can be said that the supply trucks continued to roll to the front with loads of vital ammunition, food and clothes by night - because the 111th worked day and night.

When King winter gripped, the reconnaissance officer and his section had already complete personal knowledge of highways and back roads. As usual, drifting snow and surface ice presented the two main problems. Men had to be spared from mine field laying or erecting barbed wire entanglements by three companies to haul sand

and gravel continuously from none too accessible places. Angledozer were diverted from digging entrenchments or making supply lanes, to the task of banking the snow high on each side of the road.

With all due credit to French Highway construction, these roads were not intended to sustain a heavy, constant stream of military equipment. Furthermore, original layouts did not provide sufficient drainage. Snow which had afforded compact surface, when melted, seeped under the road beds and the moisture was retained in the layers of the sand. The sponging, swampy, quick-sand like result called for new methods of attack.

More men, six platoons in all, were called to cope with the crisis.

Every available truck, some thirty, began hauling gravel from the only two possible pits.

The Office of Civil Affairs provided 400 volunteer Frenchmen to wield the pick and shovel for drainage purposes. Working groups were fifty in number with a French « straw-boss », a non-com, and an EM interpreter. In spite of the fact one might say « they're either too young or too old, » and that Sunday finds the Army non-coms without civilian crews, their work has been yeoman.

While gravel supply was limited, it soon became evident that even the obtainable supply was not useable. Company A reported 50 punctures in one day, and at another time Company B « came thru » in 27 places. It was then that serious and successful use of planking began.

Stretches 35 to 100 yards in length were planked and then covered. In 12 days, on 58 miles of roadway, 3500 yards of boards (some 200,000 pieces) were used. The Engineers had literally hauled off two good lumber yards, and nailed it to the highways.

Credit must be given other units which gave full cooperation. Dump trucks and drivers were borrowed from Corps, inundated bridges were replaced by another unit, under machine gun fire on occasion, and MPs sent traffic the most correct way, though hourly new routes were « open » or « closed ». Perhaps the most novel assistance came from and ack-ack battery which gave the workers indirect lighting at night by cross-beaming searchlights on the clouds, causing a luminous reflection throughout working areas.

With all these combined efforts, sparked by Officers and EM of the 111th Engineer Battalion, there was no slacking or delay in providing men and material to the fighting fronts.

The Immortal Pfc.

By Pfc. Pretsch



« No wonder I was cramped last night - I thought I was in my sleeping bag! »

University Of Texas 'Exes' Hold Independence Day Ceremony

Twenty-five Texas « Exes » - former students of the University of Texas - honored Texas Independence Day here March 2, with a gathering of its fighting sons in the 36th Division.

The celebration was arranged by Maj. Armin F. Puck, San Antonio, Div. PM, Maj. Joe Roberts, Irving, Div. Hqs. Med. Officer, and Lt. Col. Clifton Carter, Kerrville, Div. QM. Toastmaster was the G-4, Lt. Col. Ray Lynch, Houston.

The Division Commander, Maj. Gen. John E. Dahlquist, the Division Artillery Commander, Brig. Gen. Walter Hess, Jr., and the Division Chief of Staff, Col. John J. Albright, were made honorary alumni of Texas University.

In his speech Gen. Dahlquist said that the measure of power of a fighting unit is not altogether dependent on its equipment and training, but also on its spirit, which is a most intangible factor « The Texas Division is most fortunate in this respect, having its roots in the traditions of the fighting state of Texas. » Gen. Dahlquist spoke of the background of Texas in the two bloodiest and longest wars in the history of America - the Civil War, during which General Lee had his most formidable unit - Hood's Texans, and the present war, during which the 36th « Texas » Division has established a reputation as a fighting unit second to none.

At one time over 300 officers and men gathered to celebrate March 2; this year there were 25, from Lt. Colonels to Corporals, from the Class of 1924 to the Class of 1941. The oldest alumnus was Lt. Col. John N. Green, Abilene, Class of 1924, CO of the 132nd P.A. Bn., which has set a record of 200 days of consecutive combat in France. Youngest alumni were infantry lieutenants of the Class of 1941, D.F. Blalock, Alexandria, of the 141st, and James P. Holloway, Dallas, of the 143rd.

Time and battle have taken their toll in the ranks. The « Exes » still with the 36th have been in North Africa, Italy, and France. They have participated in the invasions of « Bloody Salerno » and southern France.

KAMARAD

(Con't From Page 1)

discouraged and stay in their holes to fire at us more instead of trying to surrender.

The Psychological Warfare Bureau, in its broadcasts and leaflets, has given the Germans specific instructions on the best way in which to get captured. Some of them follow instructions, but most of them just get fed up and quit. One of them came into our lines with five « surrender passes » signed by General Eisenhower. Most of them just try to slip over.

Those that do surrender are often willing talkers and supply our intelligence with considerable information, information that can save American lives.

Remember this the next time you see two or three Krauts approaching your position. Don't be foolish, take every necessary precaution, but try to discover if you can take them prisoner. The one German whom you don't take prisoner when he wants to surrender may be the one who has information that will save your life.

Be on the alert for « Kamarad, Nicht Schiessen ! »

Despite their diminishing ranks, the Texas « Exes » were gay. The party was held in an old hospital kitchen, decorated with a large Texas flag and signs reminiscent of the Austin campus - « Dillingham's Pasture, two-bits a kiss, » « The Chuck Wagon, » « The Longhorn Waffle Shop. » At one end of the room hung a large yellow football, emblazoned with « Texas Fight », and a Texas University banner. In the center of the room was a detailed, hand-painted map of Texas, titled « Forty Acres for Texas Exes. » « Pflugerville, Seven Miles, » proclaimed another. But, by actual measurement, Austin was 5223 air miles away.

« Exes » attending the ceremony were Lt. Colonels Francis R. Reese, Houston, Robert Travis, San Antonio, and Ray Lynch, members of the Div. Staff. Lt. Colonel Burton Miles, Austin, and Capt. Benjamin Shwank, Jr., Austin, came from Corps Hqs. Also present were other members of the Div. Staff, Maj. J. A. Newell, Houston, Maj. Puck, Maj. Clark C. Wren, Houston, and Lt. Col. Harry B. Keiton, San Antonio, AG, as well as medical officers Lt. Col. John M. Hardy, Sherman, Maj. Charles Diddy, Pflugerville, Maj. Walter Ford, Austin, Maj. Roberts, and Maj. Tolbert Yater, Cleburne. QM officers Capt. Lee Allison, Rock Springs, and Capt. Penn Jones, Annone, attended, and Maj. Robert E. Eitz, San Antonio, S-3 of the 141st. Also present were M/Sgt. Frank D. Savage, Teague, M/Sgt. B. W. Allen, Austin, T/Sgt. R. K. Hallas, Weiman, Sgt. Sam Webb, Albany, and Opl. Milton Wiehle, of Houston.

142nd

(Con't From Page 1)

You « doughboys » picked off the infantry and forced the unprotected armor to withdraw. In this phase the heavy-weapon men of 1st Lt. Albert Burr, Riverside, Cal., played an especially important role with supporting fire.

When the triangle had been methodically cleared, the 1st Battalion was relieved. On Feb. 7th Col. Minor's men came back to Oberhoffen to complete the last act. In four days they did just that. Capt. Vernon M. Scott, Brownwood, Texas, and his AT Company, held hot defensive positions on the east while the 1st Battalion troops drove toward the northwest corner. A German battalion commander and his staff were taken when the remainder of the town fell after another 96 hours of fierce fighting.

Not a doubt remained in the minds of the 1st Battalion infantrymen that the Germans had wanted to hold Oberhoffen. More than 200 Krauts had been killed and another 265 had passed through the POW cage as a result of the 1st Battalion's seven days in Oberhoffen.

New York (CNS) - This sign hangs in an East-side tailor's shop that specializes in uniforms for WACS and WAVES : « We fill out government forms. »

Great Scott !



When Liz Scott of Scranton, Pa., autographed this to the men of the 36th, she was modeling for the Walter Thornton agency. Now this 22 year old, green-eyed, lime-limbed beauty is due for top billing in Hollywood. She will get the lead in Paramount's « Don't Ever Grieve Me. »

AWARDS FOR 141st

(Continued From Page 1)

N.J.; Pfc. Clyde Gloach, Toledo, Ohio; Pfc. Paul Gray, Hannibal, Mo.; Pfc. Kenneth Haney, Holliday's Cove, W. Va.; Pfc. Anthony Izzo, Elizabeth, N.J.; Pfc. Leroy Richey, Moultrie, Ga.; Pfc. Paul Roberts, Decatur, Tenn.; Pfc. Joseph Smith, St. Francis, Ark.; and Pvt. Robert Maldonado, San Antonio, Texas.

Immediately after the ceremony, General Patch awarded Colonel Charles Owens, Regimental Commander, the Bronze Star Medal for his work as Divisional Chief of Staff and Regimental Commander.

The awards for the second day were made by VI Corps Commander, Major General Brooks.

A DSC was presented to 1st Lt. Orville M. Ronning, Alcaster, S.D., for extraordinary heroism on action at Velletri. He smashed two German machine guns and courageously tended the wounded of the platoon during heavy and incessant enemy shellfire.

A Soldier's Medal was presented to S/Sgt. John Bisceglie, Philadelphia, for heroism.

For gallantry in action, Gen. Brooks awarded Silver Stars to Capt. Billy McPadden, Independence, Mo.; Lt. Robert Carey, Minneapolis; Lt. Roy Biegalski, Chicago; Lt. Andrew Smythe, El Paso, Texas; and T/Sgt. Roy Thut, Farrell, Pa.

S/Sgt. Cecil Leeka, Osian, Ind.; and Opl. Robert Wilhelm, Red Rock, Texas, were each awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in combat.

Bronze Star Medals were awarded to Capt. Billy McPadden; Capt. Reuben Parker, Murray, Ky.; Lt.

Herbert Gelspan, Long Island, N.Y.; T/Sgt. Joe Trdenic, Steeltown, Pa.; S/Sgt. Nelson Rolph Wallingford, Ky.; S/Sgt. Pete Valenzuela, El Paso, Texas; S/Sgt. William Bradley, Jr., Kansas City, Kan.; Pfc. Ed Herston, Dorchester, Mass.; Pfc. Herbert Miller, Jr., Page, W. Va.; and Pfc. Porter Crisp of Stecoah, N.C.

On 2 March, Maj. Gen. John E. Dahlquist received the reviews of the 3rd Battalion and decorated 23 officers and men.

Silver Star Medals were awarded to 2nd Lt. Ray Ridenbaugh, 2nd Lt. Henry Hera, T/Sgt. William Scarbrough, and Pfc. Leonard Collins.

A Soldier's Medal was bestowed upon Pfc. Fred Oelsner.

An Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star was pinned on Cpl. George Jones and Pfc. Ralph Grace.

Recipients of Bronze Stars were: S/Sgt. Rex L. Lantriy, Sgt. George Kent, Cpl. Mason Parker, Pfc's Ralph Gerace, Frank Delta, Henry Beinert, Jack Levin, George A. Arthur, Herbert Blum, Leo L. Leonard, Cpl. Dan Price, Harold Michel, John V. Hood, Jr., Oscar V. Rikke, and Thomas K. Smith.

Wiremen Wind Up In Strange Places

Pvt. Carlton D. McKean of Buffalo, N. J., a wireman of Company G, 143rd was rolling up some salvage wire when it lead him right into a huge building. He suddenly observed some women opening doors along the hallway and giving him rather a « stupid » look - - and then he discovered he was in a « nut » house.

Sport CHIPS

By Clarence Lasky

Fimer Layden, commissioner of the National Football League, just returned from Washington, where he conferred with ODT officials, but said as far as 1945 travel plans for his loop was concerned « Nothing definite was done. » Ray « Sugar » Robinson, Harlem welterweight outspeeded and out-jabbed Jake LaMotta to gain a 10-round decision before 18,000 at Madison Square Garden.

George Trautman, president of the American Association, said he thinks the annual Little World Series between the winner of playoffs in his league and the International League champs will be cancelled this year.

Walker Cooper, Cardinal catcher, was accepted for military service at Jefferson Barracks. His brother, Mort, Cardinals' right-handed pitcher, was rejected on account of high blood pressure.

Judge John L. McGuire dismissed paternity charges against Freddie «Red» Cochrane, recognized as world welterweight champion and recently let out of the Navy, because the complainant had married and left town. Charles Roache, featherweight boxer, is being held at Camp Edwards. Both Roache and the Army agree that he was inducted some time ago but they differ on why Charles has been wandering around in civilian clothes. Roache claims he has a medical discharge but the Army charges him with being AWOL for 13 months. He, unfortunately, cannot produce the discharge nor can he recall from what camp he got it.

Incomin' Mail Disrupts Meal Of 143rd Doughs

« That 28 bottle of wine was really going to top off a good meal, » said Pfc. Harold Gilligan, 2nd Bn., Hqs. Co., 143rd Infantry, from Woodbury, N.J. « We had some rations all warmed up, and one of the men had found this bottle in the cellar, and we were all set for dinner. »

The other men, Sgt. John Baum, N.Y.C., Sgt. Ed Klaus of Braddock, Pa., Pfc. Howard Mitchell of Chester, Pa., Sgt. Bill Collier of Brooklyn, and S/Sgt. John Moriarty of N.Y.C. were just about to sit down at the dinner table, when some incoming artillery knocked off the chimney. The men all hit the floor and for some strange reason, all six men picked the same spot - right under the table.

It was bad enough for all men to piled up in a stack, but when the rations came tumbling down on them, the wine spilled and trickled down on top of the slightly astonished men.

West Nyack, N. Y. (CNS). - Arthur Finnessey turned on the water tap in his kitchen - and struck oil. A broken pipeline had routed fuel into his sink.

SORRY...

Censorship regulations forbid your sending copies of the T-Patch to the states.

Male Call



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

