

World War II History

**243rd Engineer
Combat Battalion**

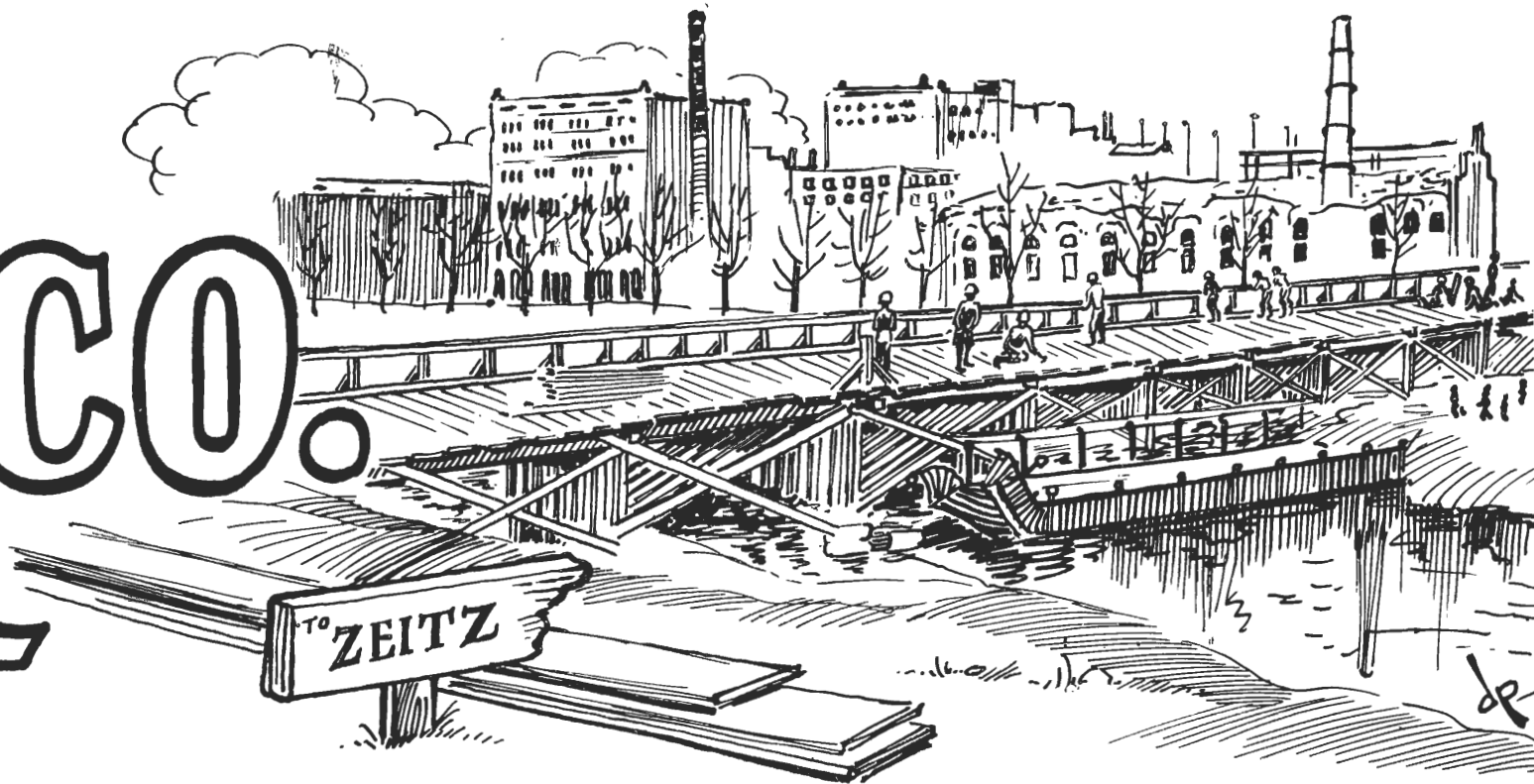
Activated: 15 October 1943

Part II: Personnel

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Our Companies

Aco.



There were battles and bridges, and bulges and bitches, and weeping and moaning, and grunting and groaning, but through it all, hell, high water and Hitler, beacons the indomitable spirit of Company A. Our numerous accomplishments speak for themselves and it is not our purpose here to further extol them. Rather, let's take a look at the brighter, lighter side; a look into those incidents that forced the war into the background, those bits of wit and humor that for a moment here and there placed

the roads and bridges and mines into the category of secondary importance.

Remember our first Christmas overseas? A bivouac in a frozen, frost-carpeted open field outside Forges, France. The pup tents were iced over, the ground unyielding, the temperature below freezing, but it was Christmas and demanded celebration as such. On Christmas Eve "Pop" Bower and "Moe" Cohen led a few off-tune, shaky renditions of the familiar carols and some

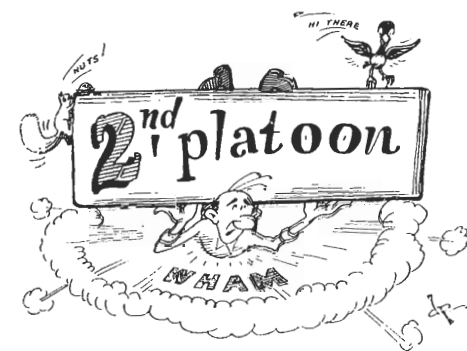


parodies. There was a Christmas Mass at the nearby French village church and many of us took our weary, shivering selves there to wonder at the story of the Nativity in a language that was new to us. And just as it appeared that the spirit of the day would lose itself in the cold, the powers that be came through and saved the day. It was Christmas after all. There WAS turkey, wasn't there?

The New Year dawned upon us in Bouillon, Belgium, and a cold and uncompromising beginning it was. A moonless, minus-zero night found "Mother" Riccio and "Senor" Elfido Gallegos pull-

ing midnight guard at the motor pool. "Bat" Bataller and "Rocky" Curmore, roving guards, had occasion to pass the motor pool, and upon their return, wondered why no challenge emanated from the blackness. Was something amiss? The roving guards, with no desire to become targets, called out. There was a cautious, deliberate, movement in the darkness, and, explaining why he hadn't challenged, Gallegos seriously announced: "I recognize you a leetle beet!"

Coming through France, "Hook" Simmons, Basil Guffey and Jim Dunnivan experienced a moment of trepidation as the language



barrier loomed too great an obstacle in the establishment of suitable relations with our French and Belgian Allies. But the fears became cheers in no time at all as the men mastered Basic French, and words like "cognac", "calvados", and "mademoiselle" flowed like ABCs. We already knew "beer" and that's as close to "biere" as you'd want to come.

German came just as easily. Men like Bill Marx, Big Bill Zimmers and "Rosy" Sam Marion were off to a head start but just as quickly, the rest of us were as familiar with "Kognac", "Schnapps", "Fräulein, kommen Sie her" as we were with our

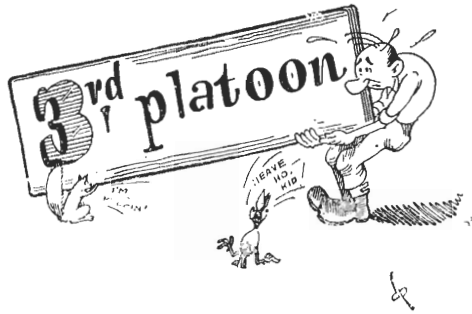
own serial numbers. — We wonder why the following awards were never made:

The DFC for three missions with Schiffko. A point for each pint of perspiration sweated out over those last two battle stars. The key to the City of Schmölln.

Presidential citation for construction of "Our Ramp".

A turkey dinner for any man who survived that two-month diet of C- and K-rations without the GIs.

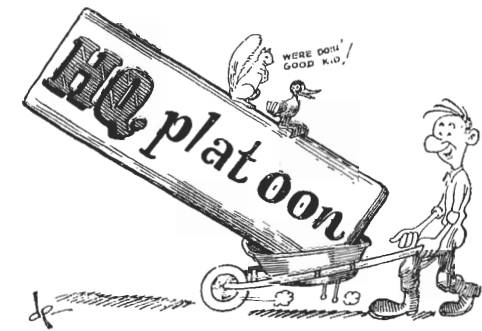
During the Belgian campaign there was occasionally a spare moment and an extra round of ammunition that went into deer



hunting, and many a man was wont to supplement his daily rations with a venison steak. From "Somewhere in Belgium" originated the undocumented communique that after several profitless experiences at the sport, "Dick" Tracy decided to do or die, and thereafter pursued the beasts with a bazooka. Little wonder

then at Tracy's indignation when characters like Howard Sell, Gerald Jack and "Slim" Summerfield went fishing with dynamite. "SS" Swanson makes big talk about booby-trapping the entire North Woods after we return, but we can't believe it will ever come to pass.

* * *



DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS

"Casey" levin	"Awright, youse men, formation over here."	"Big Six" Lingel	"Why, of courrrrse!"
"Salesman Sam" Marion	"What's the difference, you'll get it sooner or later."	"NMI" Nemzet	"Anybody got cognac to sell?"
"Senor" Gallegos	"Thees ees eet!"	"Ormsby" Phillips	"Any seconds?"
"Romeo" Weigand	"Is that a girl over there?"	"Mac" McClarren	"Yeah, I do."
Joe Gerson	"Let's take a workout."	Bill Via	"Hot as a billy goat in a pepper patch."
		Mike Chomen	"I'll be pin boy."

Charlie Fetter "No mail, no stamps, no money
orders, no nothin'!"
"Uncle Earl" Bimler "No, you go first."
Joe Veres "You're wrong."
"Foxhole Lew" Vitale "Whaaaaaaaaaat?"

"Gatz" Masci "The way our colonel in the
27th did it . . ."
"Colonel" Peabody "Is that nail at the right angle?"
"The Nose" Suprenant "You cahn't miss it."

* * *

Personally, we never believed the story, but more than one man was known to have shared Steve Gonda's conviction that there is big money in the postwar world of C-rations, and the little book he carries about that you'd take for demolition notes is actually an order book carrying such names as "Dibo" Devine and Tom Morse. It isn't our place to state in a nice clean book like this what anyone would do with C-rations after the war.

They say Diehl thinks his battle stars are for driving Sgt. Yarbrough, getting "the old man" to battalion, and getting the morning report in on time.

"Swank" Schwenkmeyer, who was caught with his points down, says that after the last war Wilson gave the world his famous Fourteen Points, but this time we had to sweat out every last one of them.

WILL YOU EVER FORGET? . . .

. . . our crossing of the Rhine (that is, those of us who were still capable of crossing after what we discovered in St. Goar?)

. . . Our road maintenance assignments on the MSRs and the cases of canned fruit that fell from passing QM trucks? "Gut Essen" Palumbo?

Those Europeans, whose homes we "borrowed" for billets, and their tears upon our departures? . . . Englmar?

If you were like the rest of us, chances are you discovered that GIs are something besides soldiers, and did much double-timing of your own volition. "Dr." Duke hopes that everything came out alright.

And so, in retrospect, it wasn't so bad after all. The hell, the high water and Hitler are gone and the war is history. But the memories of Company "A" shall outlive eternity. BY BONHAUS



Bivouac



"Doc" Gazis
Gets a Short One



Road Repair



"Sure Marx"



Bivouac Pastime

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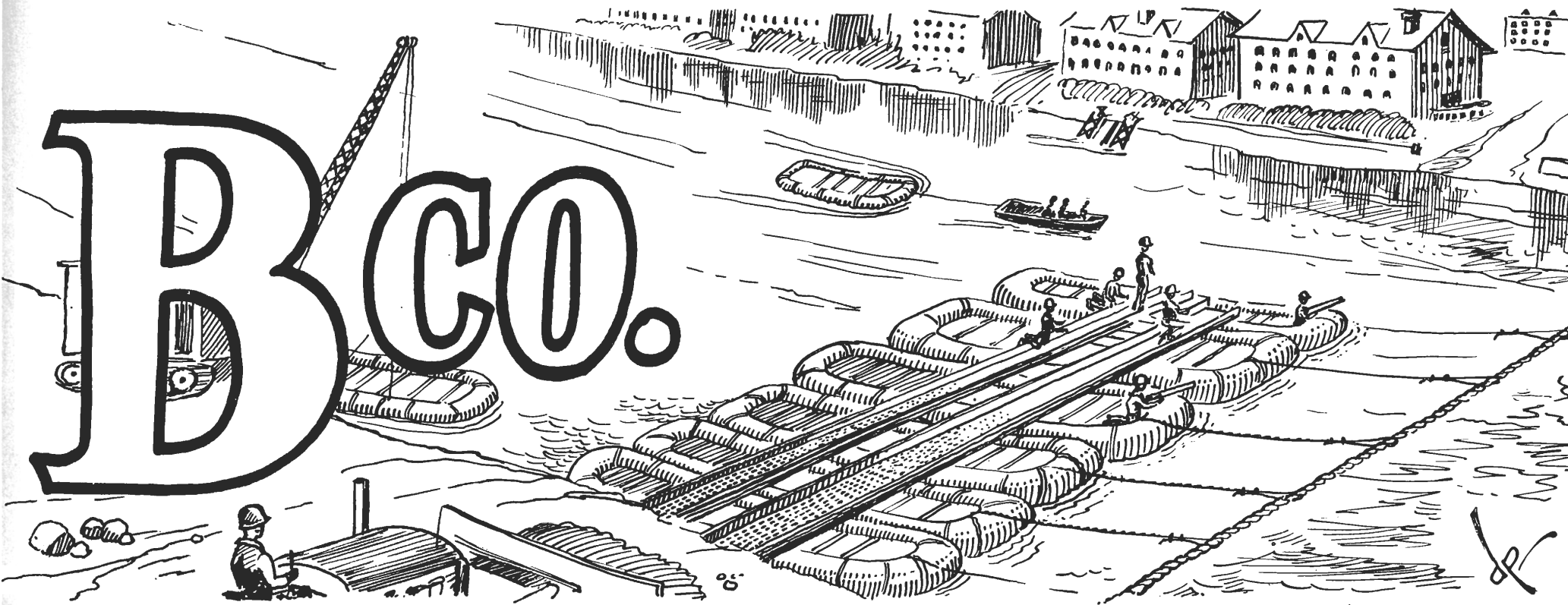
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The only person Company B lacked in the way of a personality was a Damon Runyan. If such a person had been with us from the days we sailed o'er seas our fame and humor would reach the world's end. Even in our worst moments with danger beyond and above someone would always come up with an opportune crack and relieve the tension. Our humorists are not named here-

in but they were ever present like the fog in England, the frost in the Ardennes.

Camp Breckinridge, our original home, was the birth place of our humor despite the area, the hard conditioning. The fact that we were housed there is proof that Army officials believe Engineers can overcome any obstacle, live under all conditions.

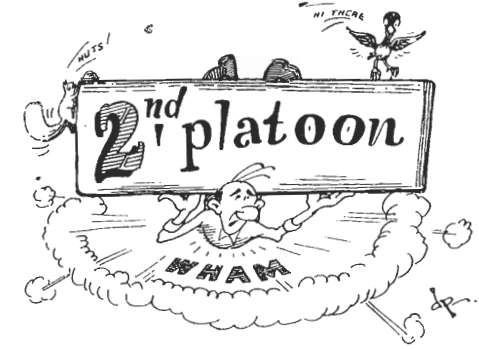
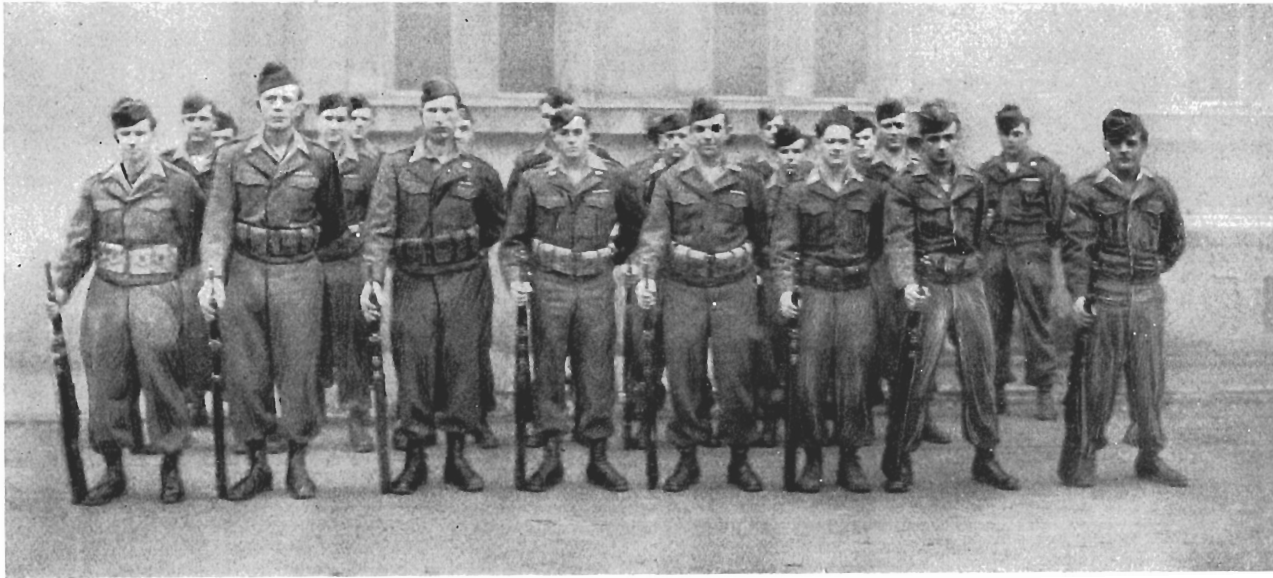


There, where we first needed it most, our famed humor which later burst into rollicking flames was beginning to smoulder.

From America we sailed merrily to England below sea level. "You cawn't miss it" and, as one of our humorists added, "you cawn't find it either," were phrases ever popular for a laugh. From all the stories later bandied about the continent the men of Company B didn't miss. When "time gentlemen, please" at last arrived it was with reluctance that we left our many friends and the rustic, stone walled country we had grown 'o love.

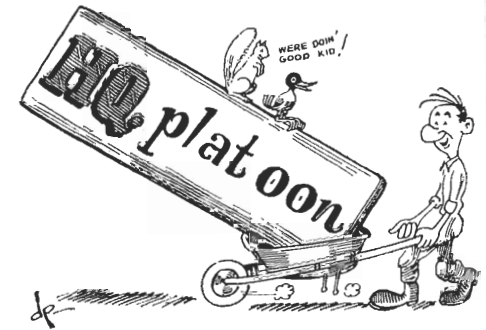
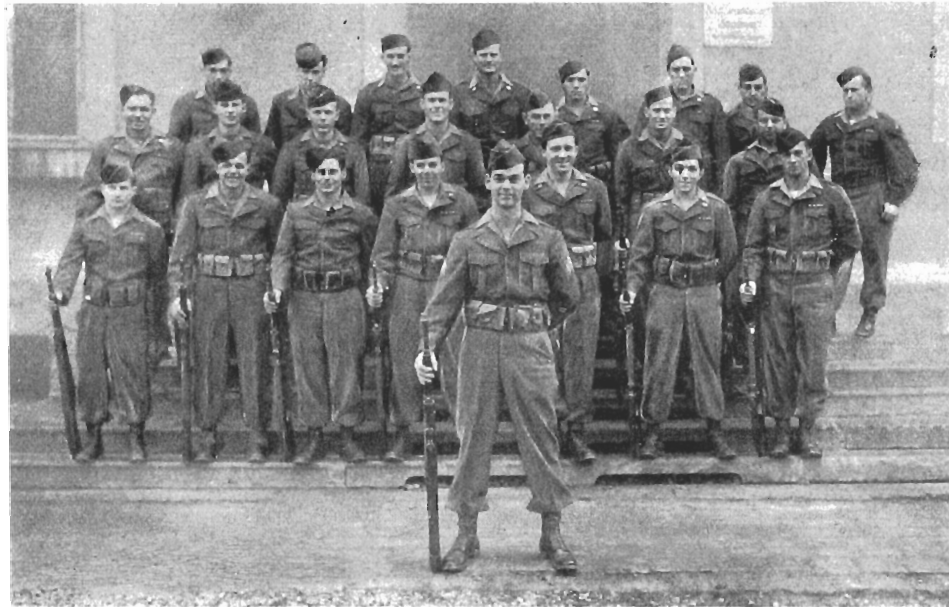
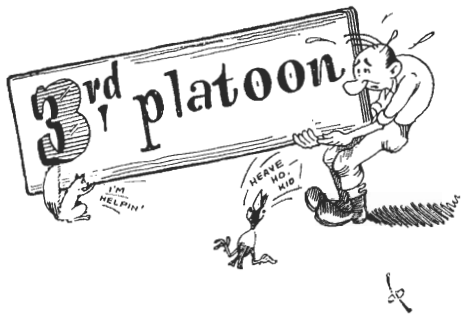
Our Christmas bivouac in France was the most memorable of all bivouacs. Cold! No words could describe its intensity. During the day it seemed to lurk in the ground and at night it would overpower us when we crawled into our pup tents. Pity the poor men those nights who had weak kidneys from a bit of bitters and spent their sleeping hours taking the long hike to the canvas squared room. After that ordeal, our final conditioning, the prospect of fighting krauts seemed tame in comparison.

We moved into Belgium and right into the middle of the Bulge.



Our tasks were many; the obstacles that we faced were terrific. Blown out bridges, mines, impassable mud, deep snow and bitter cold comprised our picture of Belgium. To say that we acquitted ourselves creditably would be putting it far too mildly. Headquarters made no mistake when they chose B Company to construct a bridge across the Rhine at St. Goar. It was a task anxiously and eagerly anticipated. Despite the enemy and swift current the river was crossed in commendable time. There, for the first time, the men were grateful to the krauts. The stores of

Rhine wine left behind in the hasty retreat were ample. After the war we were given the pleasant tasks of speeding Allied Prisoners of War homeward. It entailed long hours and a lot of work but our efforts were fully rewarded by the gratitude of the prisoners. In years to come Company B will be remembered not so much for what they did but for the way they did it. No single company in any battalion ever exhibited the cooperation and the spirit of "one for all and all for one" that existed in our company. Let



memories come when they may they will not be guided by any single individual or group, but by all.

In distant years when minds are dim,
and eyes can hardly see,
A light will shine in all our hearts:
the memory of Company B.

BY CURTIN



*M-4 Bridge School
Eining*



*The German light
searches no longer*



*M-4 Bridge School
Eining*



Wetterzueb Bridge



*Bridge Failure under heavy
Tank - Gouvey*

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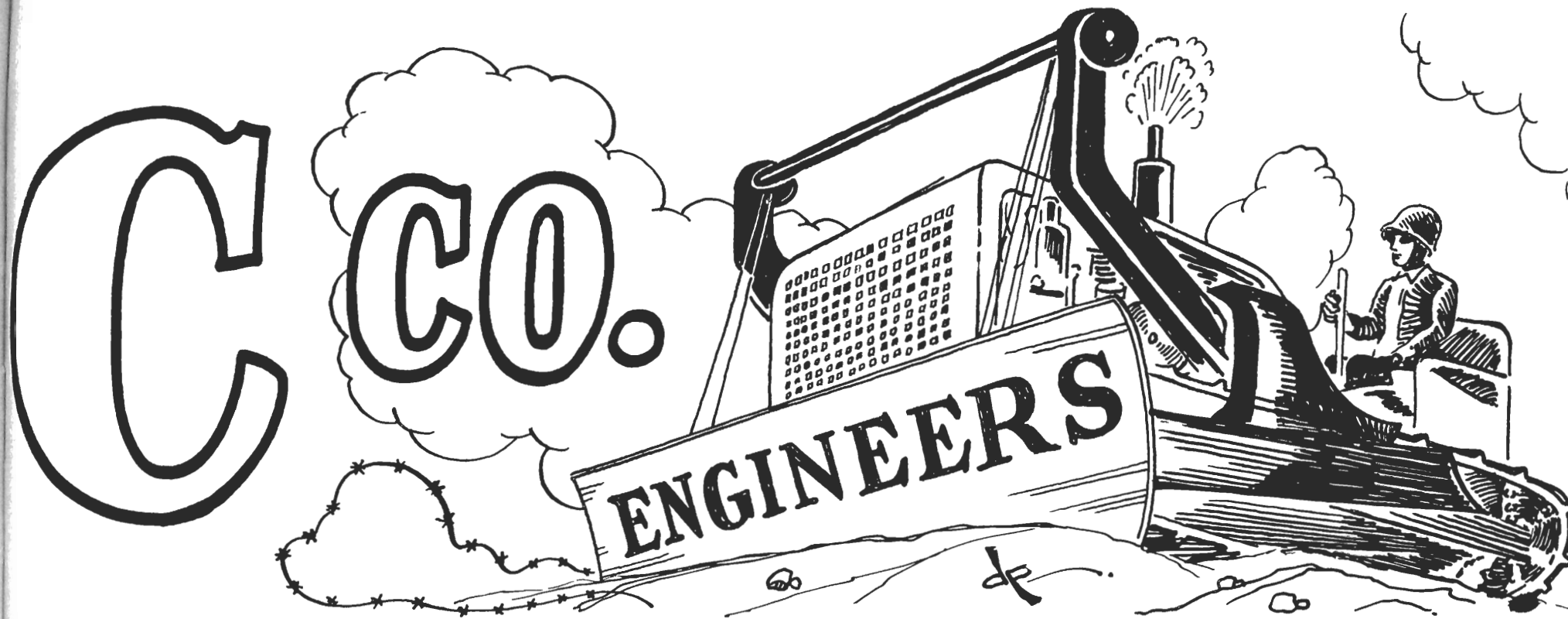
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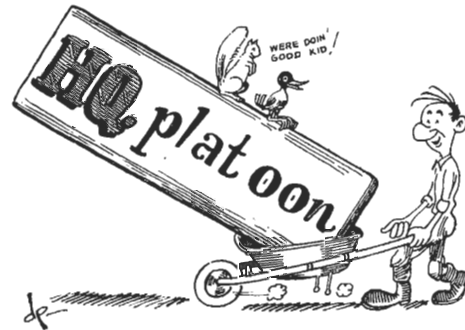
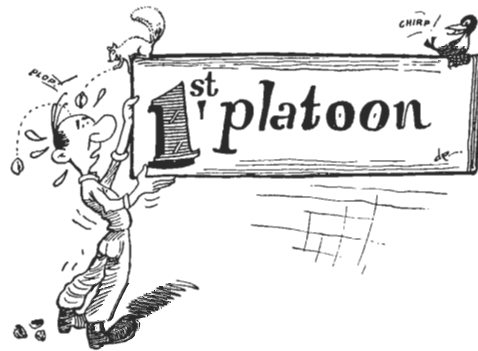
ZALEWSKI, EDWIN
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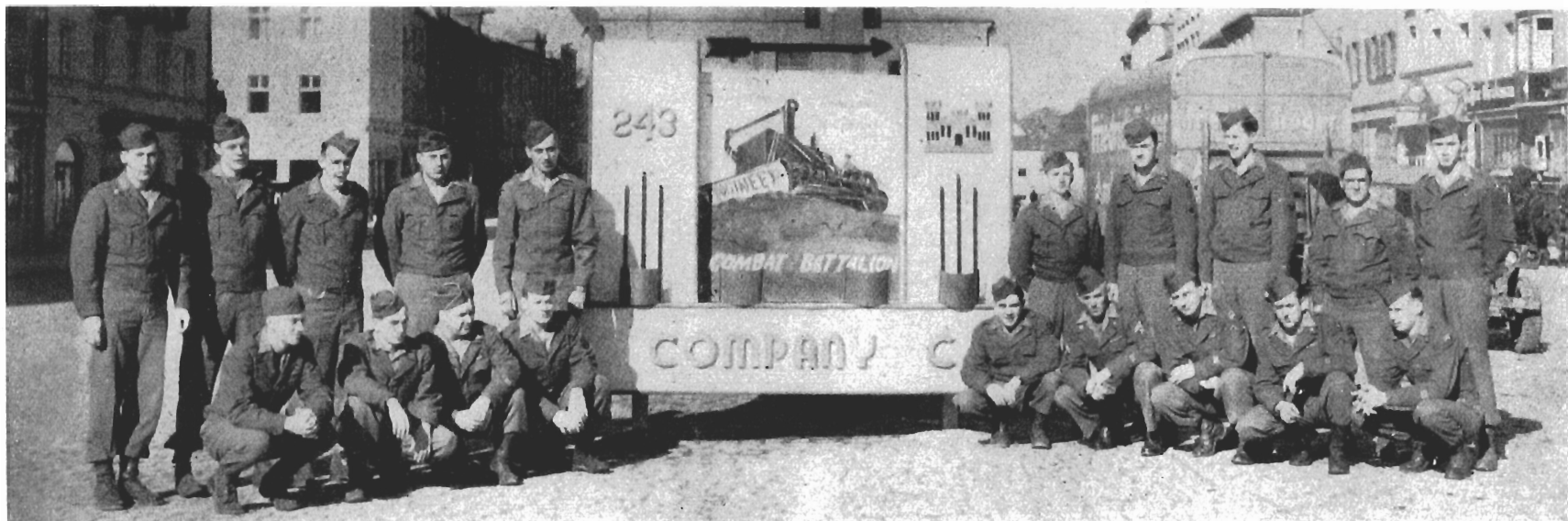
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The war is over. The days of hardships, mental anguish, "C" rations and uncertainty are ended. And we emerge from the war with memories, which are etched indelibly in our minds . . . clearing mines from Belgian roads buried in snow and ice . . . putting in a road block at Bouillon while sweating out the approach of enemy tanks . . . working through the night to complete a Bailey Bridge at Schönberg . . . St. Vith, a name which typifies the hor-

rors of war . . . crossing the Rhine amid the scream of 88's . . . men stepping on mines and falling from bridges . . . little food and less mail . . . and a thousand routine tasks, not heroic, but necessary for the completion of the grim business of war. All these memories, undiminished by the haze of passing time, stand out in the memories of those who were associated with Company "C" and not without an impartiality born of pride, we look



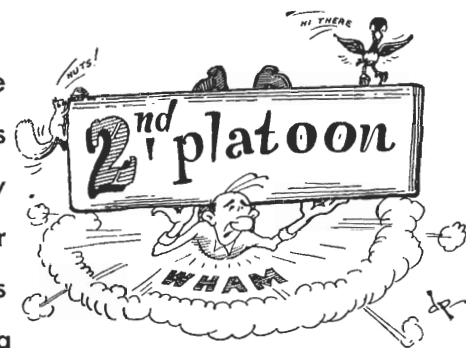


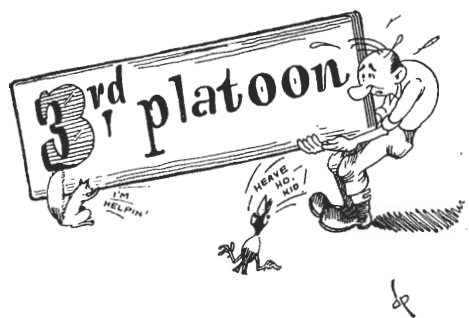
at the record and conclude that this company was the best company in the battalion; it was THE company.

But fortunately the war was not all drudgery and work. There were moments when little things happened, and we felt better for the good laughs they provided. People did funny things or had funny things happen to them. These moments live with us always, and whenever a few of the boys get together again, they will recall these pleasant moments "Remember the time . . ."

The boys in the first platoon probably remember the time "Doc"

Elliott was awakened in the middle of a bitter night at Neuvillers to discover that the local citizenry had named a calf in his honor . . . and Sgt. Medley, John to his friends, who claimed the looting title of the company because he spent his time looting a safe while the Allied and German commands sweated out a bridge across the Rhine . . . and who can forget the fiddle of Mike Sla-





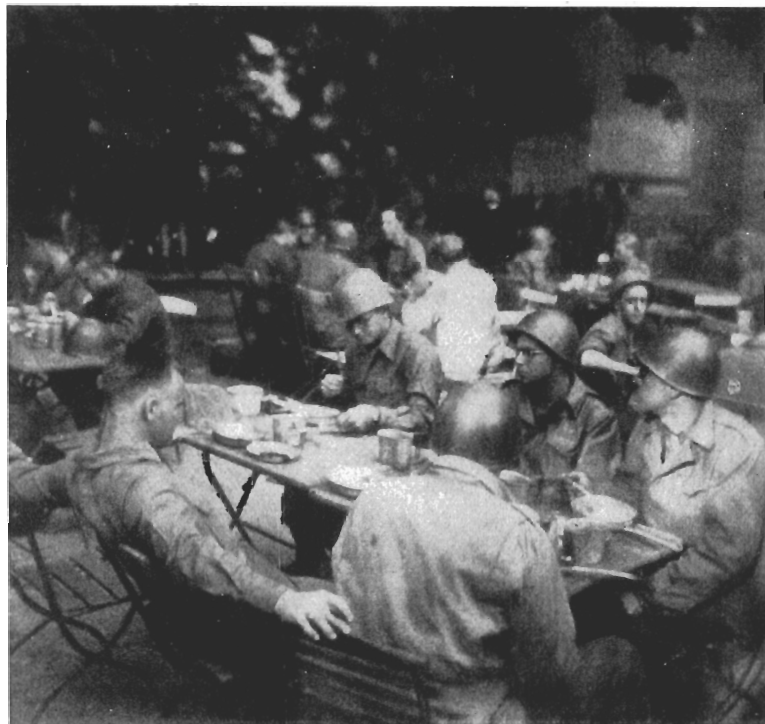
vonja, the one man USO show . . . or "Chrly" Mangiacarne, who had to wear his hat during blackouts . . . and the competition in cutting trees between the first squad midgets and the second squad giants, still cause for a good argument . . . Schenk and the GI's . . . and the schnapps, and cognac, and wine, and champagne. It was a rough war, but we had much fun.

The boys in the second platoon had their share of good times . . . the time the second squad returned to Hahnstätten with beau-

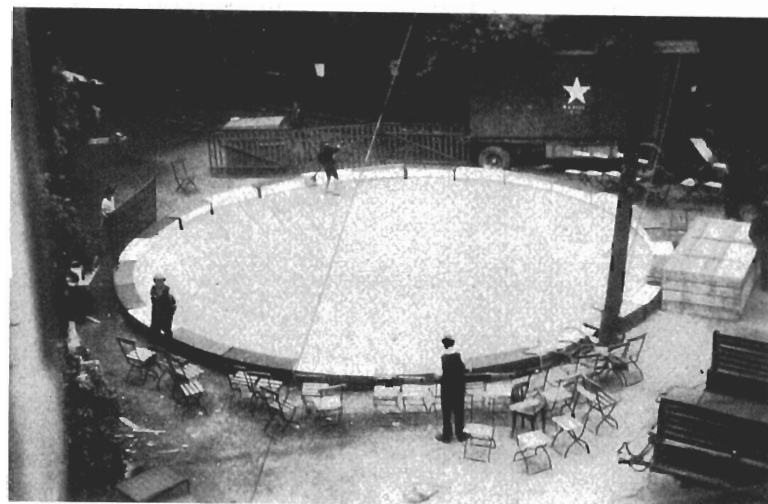
coup liberated liquor . . . and remember when Joe Bious and Luther Reasinger took "ten" only to return in "five" with a Heine prisoner . . . or T. J. Riley shooting through his muzzle cover in an excited attempt to stop a German soldier . . . or Cimmino bucking for Pfc. . . and then there was "Grubber" Wills who is best remembered for his speech in praise of the good army treatment he received, and who kept the boys laughing all the time . . . "Joik" Ficarra used his sheep shearing ability and his Oxford

accent to keep the boys happy . . . and the time Stanley Grams stayed sober . . . "Shell Shock" Zupko telling how they did it in Italy. What a wonderful time we had in those days.

The Third Platoon retains its own pleasant memories. Remember the time a Tec. 5 and a Pfc. Crossley and Brubaker by name, fired a number of shots at a German column and the following



Fresh Air Dining Room, Schmölln



German Circus at "C" Company Schmölln

day found only a well shot up hedge row . . . or how pale Lt. Hoop appeared after every ride with Heberlig in the jeep . . . and the time Ratliff "pinned" the first sergeant and company commander in one afternoon . . . and how Sgt. McDavid watched over his flock while the non fraternization ban was on . . . and "Columbus" Kroner practicing for his ice delivery route driving a GI truck . . . Doc Gillespie, the pro specialist . . . John Orłowski volunteering for the first sergeant job . . . Sergeant Pelachyk . . . and more schnapps, more cognac, more wine, and more champagne.



The Boys looking over a German Plane

Then there was "combat" headquarters. John Banfield and "Killer" Hill proved their marksmanship but had choice of target when they shot a few "deer" in Morteahan . . . Benny Wajda and his "moscles" on the bulldozer . . . the time Raymer joined the MP's at Prum, and almost lost a convoy . . . how silly the cooks looked running around with their hands over their heads when steel helmets were so plentiful on the Rhine . . . Joe Graves and Jim Lauer signing statements of charges . . . "Count" Rand racing about the countryside in the "Golden Hurricane" with messages because the radio never worked . . . and how proud Ed. Vaughn

was of his boys when they got the German army and Battalion Headquarters on the radio all in the same night . . . "Homer" Owens and his six ton. What a crowd! What fun!
 And so the days we spent in the army will provide a chance to find refuge in reminiscing. We wont remember all the names; we dont want to remember a lot of things that happened; but we'll always remember the days when Company "C" commanded our loyalty, and find some joy in the memories we retain from that association.

BY LOWRY



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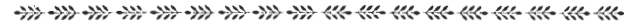
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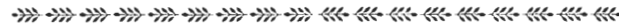
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We like to think of Company Headquarters as being the most important section in the company. It's hard to decide whether its illustrious personnel made it important or the duties these better than average soldiers were called upon to perform.

In the orderly room we had first sergeant "Snapper" Tertel and his able assistants of different times—"Wally" Fried and "Cognac" Frailing. Through the medium of these able understudy

men, snapper handled all complaints efficiently by the simple method of forgetting all about them and dished out favors by the plateful . . . only he never had any plates. Looking back now, we realize that the orderly room was quite a pleasant place to hang around due to the pleasant company. Despite all his snapping, Snapper was one of those rarities—a first sergeant who had a host of friends.



“Crow” Yelich, thorn in the side of Snapper and all men with an armful of salvage, was the keeper of the supply room. Always kept the place locked up with the dual purpose in mind of keeping the Army supplies under lock and key and also to insure uninterrupted naps for himself and “Shadow” Brady. Brady was the private dick in the outfit and always had the low down on everybody. By the time the war ended “Shadow” had the finger on most everyone who had it within their power to make life miserable for him.

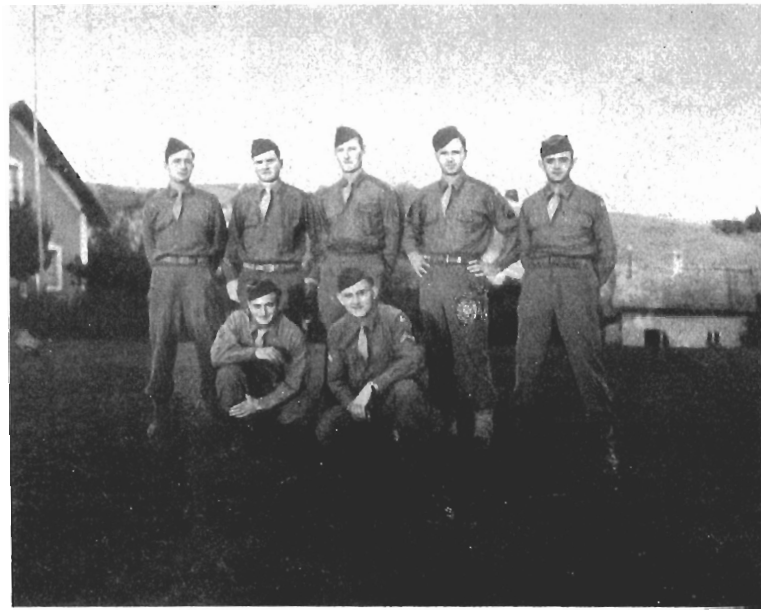
Tony Ginevcius, top pot in the hash department, had surrounded himself with an interesting group of small fry. “Nimble fingers” Day spent more time liberating accordions than he did in the kitchen and since he only played the piano when there was a drink to be had we still wonder which he loved best—the piano or the drinks on top of it. Cosbitt and Jordan could always be depended upon for a cup of strong coffee after a night in town or a dip into the “Schnapps of Forgetfulness” because they were always in the same condition and looking for the same treatment. As they put it, “may as well make enough for the rest of the so and so’s.” “Charley Horse” Carretti and “Dopey” Dopierala conducted their own two ring circus and drifted along with the crowd. They made as much hash of the English language as they did of the material on hand in their house of tempting odors. “Two Gun” Thomas cooked with one hand and practiced his left and right hand draw at the same time. It only takes him five minutes now to draw with either hand. On his off duty days Tom looted all by himself—and quite profitably.

Stuck off by himself and therefore free from most of the bad influence of the section was “Eagle Eye” Kromer in the personnel section. If you thought the medics missed you for a shot old Eagle Eye was sure to straighten you out. Fellows drawing

\$ 50.00 a month and making out allotments for \$ 75.00 always made life interesting for "Eagle Eye".

From Breckinridge to Forrest and back to Breckinridge again. From Shanks to England to France to Belgium and finally Ger-

many. And now we're on the homeward road. Every cross road means a parting of the ways. Here's hoping the parting is not too long and that some day soon we can get this gang together for one more never-to-be-forgotten full session. UNANIMOUS



The Orderly Room Gang



From the days of activation when the section was composed of such famed Icelanders as Sturtz, Reynolds, Hess, Farley, Weigle, Lamb and a few others and through many changes of personnel, this section of so called rear echelon commandos never faltered in its many tasks of administration, communication and morale building (Hearn and Crews take a bow). Yes sir, those rough and readies with pencils behind their ears and beat-up portables in front of them never hesitated no matter what the task, whether assigning, transferring, paying, or working on that great

project which made history as the famed "Moreland" Highway, they just took it all in stride.

After those early days of fighting through the battles of Evansville, Nashville, Chattanooga and New York, they decided to turn their attention toward those so called Supermen (?) and so on the 22nd of October 1944, on the good ship Brazil, the S-1 section packed their radios, telephones, mail bags, type writers, pencils and themselves and started on the Road to Final Victory. After a stay in Brockley Combe, England, where the section made all necessary preparations for the "Jump Off" and after a few standing skirmishes in Bristol, they boarded an LST and sailed across the Channel and up the Seine River to Rouen, France. From there to Reims, Toul, L'Eglise, Bouillon, Gouvy, St. Vith, Plaidi, across the Rhine on the 243rd Engineer floating ponton bridge at St. Goar and on through to Schmölln, Germany, where they celebrated V-E Day. This section carried out its duties of keeping the individual enlisted man's records up to date, keeping radio contact at all hours, laying miles of telephone lines under all adverse conditions of combat, and getting the mail through regardless of distances to travel, mined roads, wet or dry, cold or colder weather, or hours of work involved.

Some members of the Communication Commandos became well

known. Curl and Dentler for their untiring efforts to supply this, and at times other sections, with electricity from home made electric plants in addition to their regular duties; "Man" Kelly for many outstanding feats of strength and Hess for his "Do you have a cigarette, Buddy"?

As the smoke of battle cleared and the sun came up on V-E Day it shone down on a section which had successfully completed its assigned tasks under the able leadership and guidance of Lt. Rogers and WOJG Allen and was now ready to do an equally

successful job deploying the highscore personnel of the battalion.

They may have used pencils more often than M-1's and typewriters more often than machine guns but every man can be proud of the bit he did as a cog in the wheel of the Battalion which kept turning ceaselessly through France, Belgium and most of the way across Germany until the goal of victory in this theater was achieved and peace once more reigned on a war torn continent.

BY YEAGER



The Paper Warriors



The S-2 and Reconnaissance Section was organized in December 1943 under the able direction of Captain Derry. The section operated with a skeleton force consisting only of the cadre for about five weeks until the new personnel had enough basic training to enable them to start assuming their sectional duties. During the period of unit training the section worked with S-3 in laying out field problems for the battalion. The reconnaissance parties made recons of suitable sites for bivouac areas, Bailey, and ponton bridge constructions, compass problems, hikes, mo-

tor marches and many other training problems. The information obtained by these recons was brought to the office where overlays together with the necessary instructions were compiled and sent to the companies. During this period several men from the section were sent to various technical schools such as radio, odeograph, surveying and camouflage schools. By the time the battalion was ready to move overseas the section was filled with personnel well trained in their duties.

When the battalion became active in the Theatre of Operations, reconnaissance parties from the section classified all roads and bridges in the battalion area. Bridges were checked for structural defects and presence of enemy demolitions and booby traps, roads were checked for road blocks, mines and other enemy installations. All the data obtained by the reconnaissance parties was brought into the office and broken down into reports and overlays which were sent to higher headquarters.

During the height of the campaign in Belgium the forward CP consisting of most of the S-2 and S-3 sections moved constantly, sometimes two or three times in one week. Very often much valuable time was lost in setting up and dismantling an office and it was decided that a trailer should be built big enough in which to operate the forward CP. Through the efforts of S/Sgts. Righter

and Whyte, the reconnaissance Sgts. at that time, a captured enemy trailer was obtained and stripped down to the bare frame. Under their direction a body large enough to house the forward CP was built on the frame. The operation was started in Thommen, Belgium, and when it was about half completed it was necessary to move the CP to St. Vith. The trip to St. Vith was made over extremely rough roads and through seas of mud in which large bulldozers were used to pull the trailer through. The trailer survived the trip in excellent condition and was completed at St. Vith. After this no time was lost in setting up or dismantling an office and the sections were ready to operate immediately upon their arrival at a new location. The trailer served its purpose very well and was still in very good condition when it was turned in to ordnance at Gotha, Germany.

With the termination of hostilities, the sections continued to operate, turning in reports on damaged bridges, roads, availability of lumber, and other raw material and all engineer equipment in the battalion area. Special service activities which were virtually brought to a halt during the Winter and Spring campaigns were resumed. Moving pictures and USO shows are being provided for the battalion. A large amount of athletic equipment is also



Intellectual Super Snoopers

being provided through the efforts of the Special Service Officer. The section handles all the applications of the men who wish to take advantage of the Army's educational program. Many text books were obtained for the men who wish to study in their spare time here in the battalion.

The officers and men of the S-2 and Reconnaissance Section are proud of the part they contributed to the Battalion's war effort.

BY FRANKHOUSER



The S-3 section, originator of hikes, creeping and crawling, and other untold forms of physical torture has been probably the most despised section of H&S Company. During basic training its schedule formulators burned much midnight oil and rightfully held within themselves a fear to face their comrades. Captain Derry and Captain Cortinas were both giving their all to the training.

The battalion move to Camp Forrest was somewhat of a breather to all except the S-3 Section which then had to step up the

tempo of its poop machine to triple time. Colvin, however, did slip into Tullahoma, and Arcuri sneaked out to the civilian barracks almost nightly. Master Sergeant Williams at times mentioned the convenience of the telephone and hinted that one installed by his bunk would be most helpful in contacting him during working hours. At this time also Sergeant Marchall decided that he should have a bar on his shoulder and left for O. C. S.

Despite numerous mentioned losses and shortcomings, S-3 still produced and upon return to Camp Breckinridge in June again steamed up its poop machine and involved the whole battalion in unit training, bridge building at Green River, combat problems near camp, longer hikes and finally decision made by the I. G. about P. O. M.

T'was about this time that Shipe took his thirty or forty day leave and shifted considerable responsibility onto Staniland. We temporarily lost Balonis to S-4, but fortunately he was transferred back to the section after a few weeks.

After packing and crating, loading and unloading and then re-loading, we finally found ourselves afloat enroute to England. While in England S-3 conducted classes and instruction on enemy arms and explosives. Six weeks of this and cold weather and we shoved off to France.

With the battalion about to be thrown into operations against the enemy, the true function of S-3 was now at hand. Many bridges were designed and built, roads were checked for mines and cleared of snow, and the battalion moved on with S-3 feeling out the way and analyzing problems and assignments. Major Kinder was now planning and checking our operations all hours of the night and day and proved to be a very able and personable officer. Lt. Iwatsu was kept especially busy on the design of bridges and overall expediting of many jobs. With colder weather and frequent moves, the section in conjunction with S-2, built an

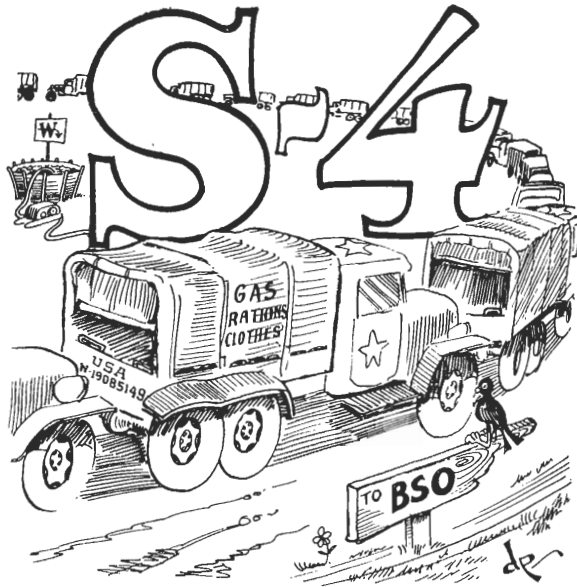
operations trailer which served mainly as Battalion CP until after V-E Day. The great event occurred while we were at Schmölln, Germany, and for the first time S-3 lost men to homeward bound boats. The section lost its key EM but well made up for the loss by obtaining Zimmerman as Operations Sergeant, Moore as Mechanic Foreman, Martin for the ADE, and Rizer as Chief Engineer for the poop machine.

This regime functioned as a unit up until V-E Day and remained intact long enough to launch the many construction projects which the end of hostilities made not only possible but necessary.

BY ARCURI



We'll Take the Blame



If I recall correctly it was in the summer of 1944 that our S-4 section was organized. Since that time I have been observing the peculiarities, the human nature and the personalities of the men. The following analysis bears no reflection on the character of the men but deals rather with their respective humorous traits. Tech. Sgt. John Lash, puffing casually on his pipe, would listen attentively to all the tales of woe and trouble within his section and when the story teller was through whining, "Prima" Lash

would look up and in all seriousness, remark "what are we supposed to do about it?"

His partner in many things, including section duties, was tall, Scotch Irish Thomas McNaughton. "Mack", as most of us called him, enjoyed a more successful day after he had had his 9 o'clock coffee at the service club.

Our former officer in charge, Capt. Alfred Stroh, was a man not very easily excited, he possessed an air of self repose and could be recognized at a distance by his long, slow, easy strides.

His co-pilot, Mr. Harry Phillips, usually had his Alka Seltzer in the desk drawer. It seems that he just couldn't start the day until he had had his glass of this offervescent beverage, need I say more?

Gone but not forgotten, is Sgt. Edward Martin. We remember him as "Combat Martin" because he wrote all his letters in a fox hole.

Ghurnie Mulder, newly appointed Tech. Sgt., is pulling his hair out trying to keep the section going. "Pistol Packin" Ghurnie, we called 'im. He got that handle way back in the war when he entered a factory three days after the first group of men had supposedly looted it and came out with two brand new pistols.

In the spotlight now, is Thomas Gardner, better known as

"Stumpy" because he is so short. Tom is one of our water men who laughs often and sleeps sound. We understand he lives a very happy life at the water point, because he can make good connections, whatever that is.

Another former waterman, who is on his way to the States, (lucky fellow) is Myron W. Crowell. "Wild Man Crowell", they called him. Nothing seemed too rough for Myron W. and he was usually somewhere in the hills, "shooting up a storm".

Harold Hartman, was one of our section clerks. Harold had important duties to perform since Mr. Philipps was not too familiar with minor chores, such as building a fire, starting a fire and keeping a fire burning.

Going back again to our water purification section, we introduce John Jergenson or "Jergy" who entertained a dominate hatred for cats and dogs. Perhaps they did him wrong when he was younger. "Jergy" is ordinarily quiet but when he had something to say, he said it very distinctly and pulled no punches. Two partners, inseparable, are Michael Brenzovitch and Andrew Maseyko. "Mike" is known as the "White Russian" and "Andy" is called the "Black Russian". These two pranksters created enough happy confusion in the section to satisfy the battalion.

Walter Shaffer, known as "Pop" among the men, was a busy

soldier from the day he put on a uniform. In basic he was a "rise and shine" enthusiast and early morning would find him at the motor pool, cleaning his C. V. Joints.



They Brought Home The Bacon

Another of our original group is Malcolm Tune. Tune is often referred to as "The Peanut Man", because his home is in Suffolk, Va.

The youngest among us is "Jimmy" Rapp who receives more let-

ters than any other man in the section. Pittsburgh gave us "Pittsburgh Blackie" Bruno Morroco, who we know, will be much happier after he places two feet on solid U. S. soil. From the Blue Grass regions comes our best Hill-Billy, Virgil Salisbury, who is quite proud of his home state Kentucky and ever ready to defend its virtues.

Another one of the boys is Kenneth Miller. "Ken", tall and handsome, was usually dreaming up some inconceivable story about Altoona, Pa.

Tech. Sgt. Edward Spriggs, in charge of water purification, was better known as "curly" because of his bald head.

When you want to discuss oystering or fishing boats, you should contact Sgt. A. J. Thomas who has been in the business ever since

he can remember, his pipe and tall fishing tales were inseparable.

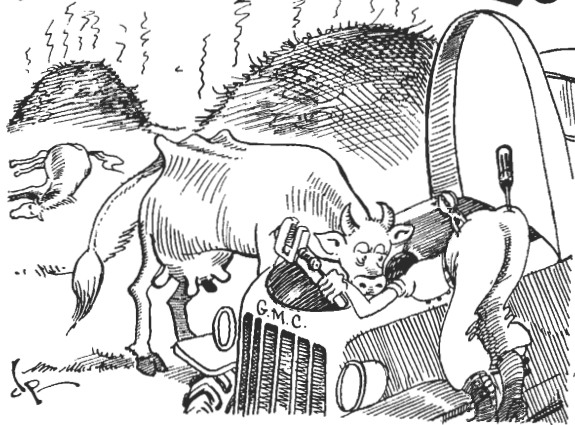
The noise around the place is tall, blonde haired, Frank Kolowski. Frank, gifted with a strong ringing voice, never hesitates to use it.

Our "man of the woods", George Woltman, lover of wild life and an expert fisherman usually spent more time in the open country than he spent around the company area.

Last but not least is our friend George Aswell who is nearly always on the slate for long truck trips but very seldom gripes about this because he likes to get around the country, George hails from the big ship yards in Norfolk, Va. and is among the anxious ones waiting to return to civilian life.

BY HAWK

MAINT.



Only a world catastrophe could have brought together into one small unit the diverse characters and personalities which formed the personnel of the Maintenance section. Brought to full strength in December of 1943, they were destined to be plagued with each other for longer than the proverbial duration and six. Censure of any one person for selecting the personnel would not be quite fair. Indeed there are two schools of thought on the matter. We ourselves contend that God sat on the lap of the CO and guided his selection while others claim that the devil sat on his lap—a mean little cuss who had had a bad egg for breakfast—

and revengefully induced the CO to lay another and call it the Maintenance section.

Training days at Breckinridge and Forrest were particularly busy and arduous. In the days we trained for the Army and at night we trained for something else. Sleeping during the prescribed hours would have lightened our burden considerably. About all “Crooner” Gray, “Trigger” Green and “Red” Hill ever got out of any nocturnal compass problems was PX beer. “Better to be beery than weary”, they argued.



The Fixers

One of the most unique courses of study offered by the Ordnance school at Atlanta was the one for left handed blacksmiths to which "Lefty" Harper was assigned. Upon his return to Breckinridge he couldn't even build a fire but the fire in his bosom and the torch he was carrying around for a few months was sufficient to melt the hardest steel.

On bivouac the section really excelled. Always had the first fox-hole dug so the beer wouldn't get warm. Ate six times a day—three times on the Army and three times on the neighboring farmers. Despite an adverse wind, "Chattanooga Lake", Maness could smell a chicken or corn squeezin's at unbelievable distances. It was on bivouac that "Shorty" Detwiler first amazed us by dancing under a GMC on his toes without knocking his hat off and it was on bivouac that Green first earned the name "Trigger." As the Statue of Liberty was fading from view, Cavender was still trying to convince us that our outfit would never go overseas. Our elaborate staterooms were down so far in the hold of the ship that practical jokes were called sea horse play instead of horse play. "Sammy" Braswell, who had a bottom bunk, claimed his heels were dragging sand and sea weeds. "Bitching" Britch presented quite a picture in his top bunk with his head nestled between two steam pipes and his toes curled around the spokes

of a six inch water valve. Cutting the ropes supporting one bunk failed to furnish sufficient amusement for those jokesters with a perverted sense of humor so they decided that if the top bunk's ropes were out and that man were to land on the man in the bunk below the combined weight of both would carry them on through to the bottom bunk. No mathematical ingenuity was necessary to conclude what would happen to the bottom bunk and the hapless occupant thereof. The plan worked ingeniously. Many wished they had had a camera to record what happened for the amusement of posterity. "Deacon" Miller, "Trader" Miller and "Fiddler" Didyoung were not among them. We are planning for the trip home.

As soon as we settled in England we sent "Specialist" Kinney, a man with experience in delicate matters of refreshment, on a scouting tour to locate the most likely pub and his vote in favor of the Rising Sun met with our full approval. Convenience demanded our commissioning a number of new officers for duty in the section whose obligation would be to see that our passes were always properly signed and in order.

The day we entered Germany Miller blew Hill's pants off, Soule and Didyoung returned from their three day vacation for liquor, and the boys ended another of "Coon Dawg" Ridner's honey-

moons. Bridging the Rhine was as good as building a pipe line to a distillery. "Sea Dog" Lawson and a few of his cohorts were grounded but the proceedings continued just as merrily.

We were in Schmölln when the war ended and though books could be written about dear old Schmölln it is better for us if the delicate strings of memory be not plucked too heavily. When we left Schmölln the civilians lined the streets—some to get a last glance at a cherished piece of property on the way to America and others with the crocodile tears of fraternization in their eyes. Sight of the latter group caused us to regretfully conclude that in our happy midst a Cassanova lurked.

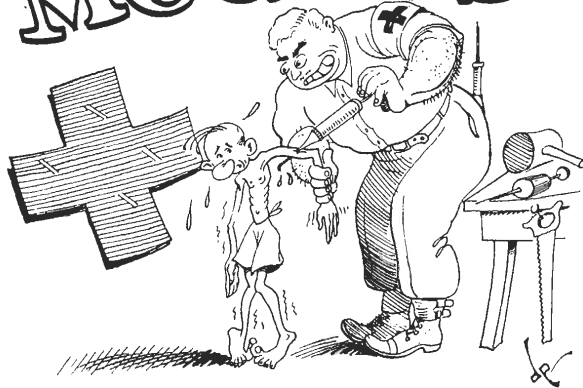
As this is being written we are billeted in the picturesque and scenic village of Schwarzach. When we first arrived here none of the civilians talked to us but the silence is now confined to the male population only.

To the layman all these words are meaningless but to those of us for whom it is written it is the gentle stimulant which will awaken

memories of practically our entire period of association. Behind each suggestion and insinuation lies a story, real and personal, which can be dressed to the individual's mood and desire of the moment. Nothing has been written about, nor reference made to, the job accomplished. It is not for us to take credit for doing so little when compared with the supreme sacrifice made by so many others. Whatever is owing us in the way of acclaim or praise must be attributed principally to the intelligent, impartial and capable leadership of our immediate superior, CWO Carl G. Steffens and to the spirit of comradeship which existed within the section itself. Hands which so truly labored through the bitter cold, rain, mud and serie darkness of blackouts, probing, adjusting, removing, correcting and repairing, were clasped as truly in a friendship which was the foundation for the section's perseverance and achievements. Because of this friendship we have tempered our good-byes to "Be seein' you" and that is not a threat—it's a promise worthy of fulfillment.

BY DIDYOUNG

Medics



Redeployment started early for the Pill Rollers, and it wasn't until Camp Forrest was reached that they settled under the leadership of "Shots" Perryman. From then on it was Chattanooga . . . Anatomy and Physiology; Evansville . . . Materia Medica; Owensboro . . . Spelling (it being one thing to be able to build a Bailey and another to write out Nasopharyngitis, Acute, catarrhal, mild, on an Emergency Medical Tag).

It was at Chattanooga that "Peg-leg" Gillespie's WAC trouble began, as he missed "Smitty" by two weeks, then missed her in London by a day, missed her in France when he never got to

Paris, and missed her in Brussels when furloughed a few days early.

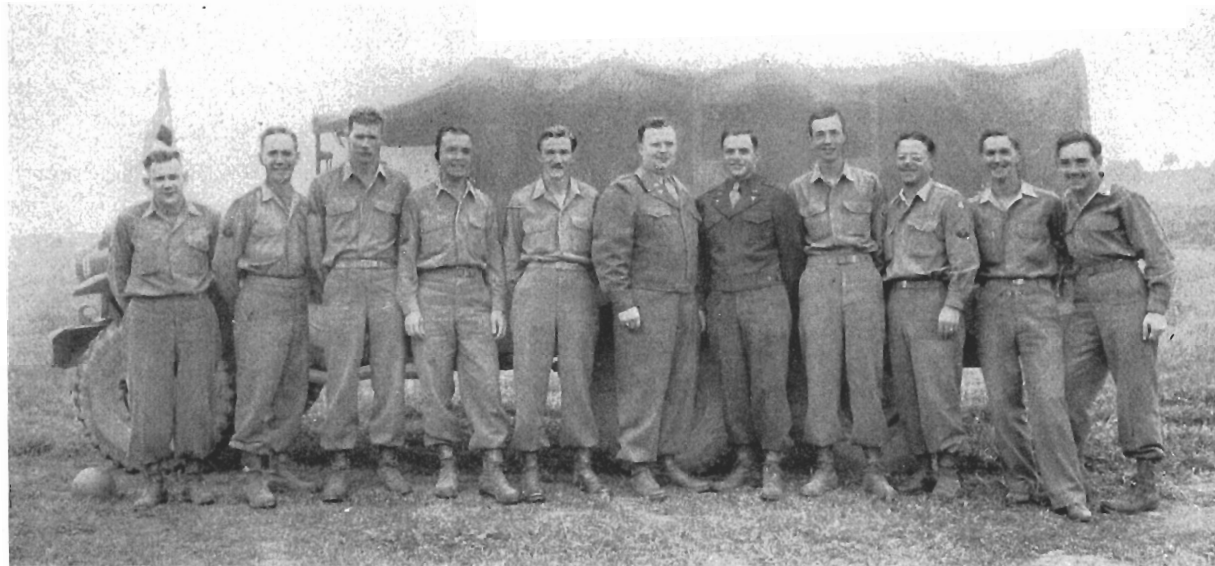
Through it all, hard working "Swervie" Servidea faithfully pounded the typewriter and kept those medical records straight; "Texas" Gazis passed out the aspirin as fast as "ASA" Yeutter could prescribe; "Rumor" Duke could always be counted on to shuffle in with the latest unofficial dope and "The Mouth" Marcus snuck off to Atlanta to learn to be a Medical Tech. and wound up ringing those Southern Belles.

Finally it was time to head back to Camp Breckinridge and "home" in the "W" area. Here the Medics soon became bloodhounds as they scouted under the guardhouse and PX 16 looking for patients and goldbricks alike and occasionally found the shade rather inviting themselves. For solid comfort Blankenheim, Bitsko and Diehl never found anything to beat the shelves in the dispensary supply room, while "Clothes Horse" Huba evidently found the right solution for his night problems because it finally paid off with twelve points in July.

The creeping and crawling experiments that S-3 dreamed up weren't so bad for the Medics, but those fifteen mile hikes that developed into 30 mile marathons of painting and bandaging, followed by Battalion roll call at the Dispensary the next AM,

were as painful as any aching feet. But the Medics were soon to learn that for them "aches" had only begun. At Camp Shanks it was the aching heads of the morning after; on the BRAZIL it was

Life on the LST was sweet but brief, and delusions of a Merry Xmas were quickly cooled as we bedded down in the frozen plains of Northern France. "Rebel" Elliott soon found blankets more



The Body Repair Department

the aching gut of seasickness; in foggy England it was the aching bones of rheumatism; and in France, Belgium and especially Germany it was the aching back of "Is this drip necessary?" fame.

convincing to frozen fields than that Ole Virginny blood, as the Medics thawed him out all Xmas day. Meanwhile Wantman began his long and distinguished career as a French and German interpreter by arranging for a detachment Xmas dinner at a

nearby French farmers house, where all went well until Elliott started looking for the latrine, toilette, cabinay, lavatorie or whatinell do you call it in French?

As cold move followed cold move thru the Ardennes, the 190 proof alcohol seemed to find medical use in direct proportion to the "frozen feet" of "Rock" Glagola, and "Shooley" Shoemaker, climaxing in the historic night at Freux le Meux when "Shooley" sneaking back for a quick "cure", tripped over the sleeping form of Capt. Hultman. This temporarily slowed down the evaporation.

At Thommen, Mrs. Perryman sent Cleatus on a cigar passing spree. With war bogged down here the Medics Cribbage Club was formed, with Barrash and Hultman presiding, until swept into oblivion by the urgency of Moreland's highway and a tree cutting expedition by us all.

At the sight of all the water in the Moselle and the Rhine, and a little wine in the neighborhood, "Aruba" Lutz, who had successfully pumped the dental foot engine across the continent, developed kidney trouble and left the Medics to conquer St. Goar and bridge the Rhine themselves. The Aid Station moved into St. Goar prepared for anything, but fortunately our efforts were

confined to stimulants for accidental swimmers and a "Charlie Horse" of Major Moreland's that stubbornly called for repeated treatments.

In the race across Germany, things were forever sticking to "Jet Propulsion" Diehl's truck and had to be packed up and mailed to their rightful owners in the States. No sooner had we reached Schmoln and Villa Maria, than a hot tip reached the Medics and Capt. Barrash, Servidea and Huba took off to get in on the festivities at Torgau where the historic link-up between the Russians and Yanks took place. By this action the Medics claim the honor of the deepest penetration of German Territory by the Battalion. At Schmolln, Gera and Erfurt, the Medics turned from the treatment of wounds of firearm combat, to those of shortarm combat, as the "strains" and "colds" began to multiply and V.D.M.T. became more than a radio slogan. It was here that Barefoot took over as dental assistant, and Kenney became the first of a long line of replacements, as the old Guard began to disintegrate with the redeployment of Blankenheim on points. At Gotha, Shoemaker left on age, and Jordan and Andreoli came in. Then came the long cold move out of the new Russian zone, back and forth across the Danube and into the game-filled hills of Bavaria.

It was from here that the Battalion went to bridge school, while obstetrician Hultman stayed behind to deliver twins to a Belgian D. P.

Perryman left with V-E points, and V-J added Servidea, Gillespie, Glagola, Andreoli, Barefoot, Jordan, Diehl and finally Huba to the growing list of civilians. Oates was recruited from B Company when Gazis and Wantman took off to G.I. Schools, and Medics came in and out until only Murrin remained from the shuffling.

Now with two hershey bars on our sleeves, only the two officers and Bitsko, Duke, Elliott, Gazis, Marcus and Wantman remain from the Old Guard.

All in all it was a year of good fortune in which the emergencies were few, but those which did arise found the Medics equal to the occasion, in a job well done. The promise of "Home alive, in forty five", has been fulfilled and into history we give these pages.

BY CAPT. BARRASH

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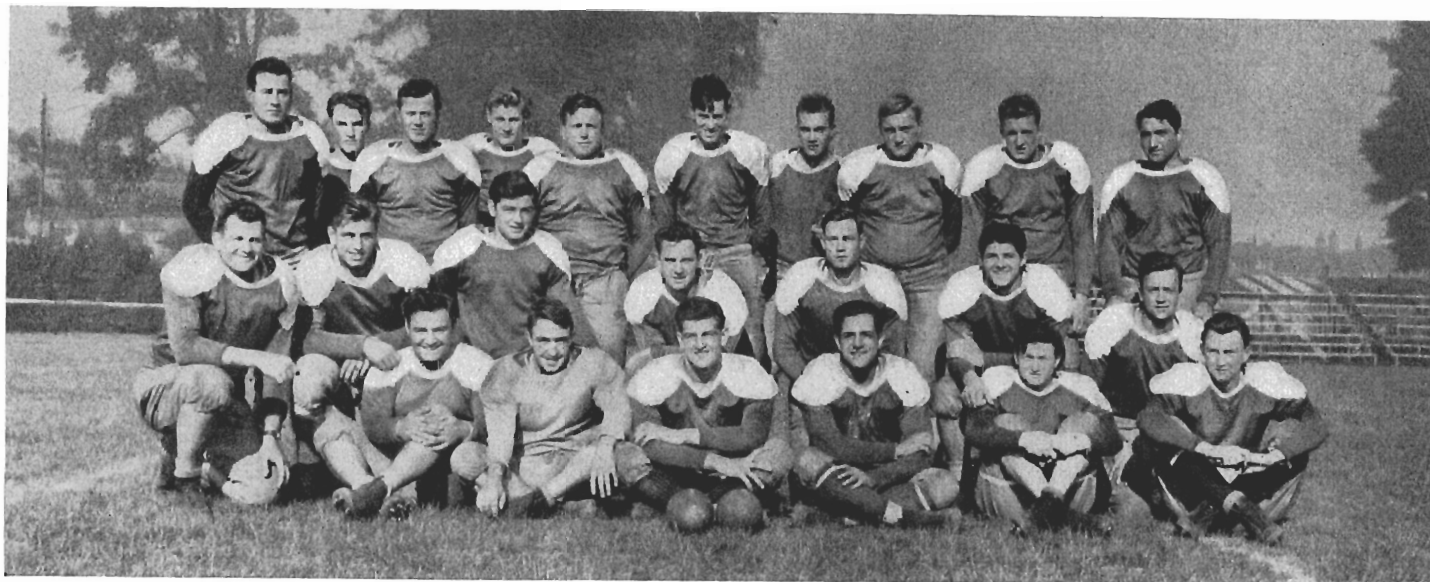
Sports

Company Volley Ball

Cessation of hostilities terminated a few of the many daily duties for which the battalion had been responsible and warranted the allotment of the additional time to wholesome recreation. Accordingly, baseball being seasonally appropriate, a softball league was formed comprising teams from each of the companies of the battalion and one from the officers of the battalion regardless of company affiliation. Rivalry was keen and the teams being rather well matched, interest and enthusiasm never waned.

A volley ball court was set up in each of the company areas and, although no league was formed, devotees of the sport were plentiful enough to allow the formation of private teams which are still battling among themselves in a never ending feud for permanent supremacy.

With the advent of the football season, the battalion burst into athletic prominence. A battalion team, picked and so capably coached by Lt. Brooks, Alfonse Yacybonis and Eugene Stumpo



The Boys Who Knew How

surpassed all pre-season expectations to present an unblemished record after six games with teams of recognized progress and ability. We are appreciative of the enviable publicity and notoriety with which the accomplishments of the team have favored us and are proud to present the following brief summary of their gridiron achievements to date:

14 ...	243rd Engineer Combat Bn.	974th Field Artillery	0
13 ...		250th Station Hospital	..	0
26 ...		4th Armored "B"	6
7 ...		2nd Cavalry Group	..	0
19 ...		974th Field Artillery	14
13 ...		3109th Quartermaster	...	0

Awards and Decorations

SOLDIERS MEDAL

S/Sgt. Andrew J. Petrowski	Sgt. John M. Connelly	Tec. 5 David W. Mangiacarne	Pfc. Andrew J. Maseyko
	Sgt. Carl W. Rentfro	Pfc. Nolan R. Ledet	

BRONZE STAR

Lt. Col. Harry E. Skinner	1st Lt. Josef T. Melville	T/Sgt. James L. Hess	Tec. 4 Vanlier C. Curl
Major Howard P. Moreland	1st Lt. Raimond J. Quinlan	S/Sgt. George C. Hodak	Tec. 5 Clarence A. Beichner
Capt. Richard J. Arrowsmith	1st Lt. John E. Rogers	S/Sgt. Kyle R. McDavid	Tec. 5 Harry B. Cleek
Capt. Frederick B. Schwartz	CWO Carl G. Steffens	S/Sgt. Edward J. Wittic	Tec. 5 Francis F. Schmader
1st Lt. Richard W. G'ass	M/Sgt. Willard E. Colvin	Sgt. William B. Fleming	Tec. 5 Benny Wajda
1st Lt. Peter O. Iwatsu	M/Sgt. Robert G. Zimmerman	Tec. 4 John A. Burton	Pfc. Stanley F. Kopicki
			Pfc. Bryce H. Pirtle

PURPLE HEART

Sgt. Lloyd R. Bates	Pfc. Peter Hladik*	Pvt. Alvin B. Brown	Pvt. Clifton J. Knight
Sgt. Thomas R. Ranson	Pfc. Fred T. Pease	Pvt. James A. Crawford	Pvt. Herbert H. Lindsey
Cpl. Lyman D. Coldren*	Pfc. Ferdinand L. Pentland	Pvt. Raymond J. Hashuck*	Pvt. Donald F. McAndrew
Tec. 5 Kenneth H. Miller	Pfc. Warren G. Ream	Pvt. Russell Kelly	Pvt. Albert J. Zoll

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

T/Sgt. Ghurnie L. Mulder	Sgt. Walter M. Frank	Tec. 5 Joseph Balonis	Pfc. Michael Slavonia
S/Sgt. Andrew J. Petroski	Sgt. Robert F. Wills	Pfc. Donald R. Daw	Pfc. John H. Summerville
S/Sgt. Donald W. Righter	Tec. 4 Delbert C. Miller	Pfc. Randall C. Grav	Pvt. Kenneth M. Brindle
S/Sgt. Kenneth W. Terry	Tec. 4 Edward P. Vaughn	Pfc. Raymond D. Malnick	

* Awarded Posthumously