

THUNDERBOLT

Weekly Newspaper of the 83rd Infantry Division

NORMANDY.

BRITTANY.

LOIRE VALLEY.

LUXEMBOURG.

HURTGEN FOREST.

ARDENNES.

FIRST TO RHINE.

ELBE BRIDGEHEAD.

VOL. 5, No. 21

PASSAU, GERMANY

SEPTEMBER 22, 1945

Newcomers Settle Down Await "Day"

Recent Arrivals Find All Outfits Much The Same

"It's the same old shinola, no matter what outfit you're in. As long as we have to sweat out the duration we might just as well be here."

That was the general opinion expressed by several recent Thunderbolt arrivals who, although missing their former buddies, find the 83rd not a bad home.

"This is a damn good outfit, judging from its combat record," said Cpl. Walter A. Shaw, formerly with the 701st Tk. Bn. and now with 330th Cn. Co., who has been "promoted" from 76 to 105 gunner.

Cpl. Harold O. Snyder, former tank gunner with the 8th Armored who now drives a truck for the 330th Cn. Co. likes it better here. "I'm getting to see more of the country," he said. "There's not much of a view through a periscope."

From tank to anti-tank platoon was the fate of Pfc. Daniel U. Hoerr, lately with 741st Tk. Bn. and now in 331st. "It's not much difference, but I prefer to have my gun on tracks."

Pfc. Eugene J. Trechel, from the same outfit and now in I Co. 331st, went from tank gunner to rifleman. "It was mighty embarrassing to be in the army three years and not know how to use an M-1. I darn near wrapped the thing around my neck trying to get the bolt back for inspection."

T/5 Howard V. Ferris, who came from 8th to C Co., 329th, would much rather work on a tank than draw line duty. "We have formal guard mount, reveille and retreat here — nix goat."

"The trouble here is," added Pfc. Ford L. Wheeler, Thundering Herdsman turned Thunderbolt in Hq. Btry., 324th, "There're too many bridges to guard." Otherwise Wheeler is finding the transition a snap — he used to drive a peep and now it's a jeep. The more work sentiment was echoed by Cpl. Stanley Manheim and Cpl. Jim C. Holland, who came from the 8th to Co. B., 308th Engrs.

Biggest worry for many new men continues to be points. Real sad sacks were Sgt. Edward P. Wendt, T/5 Elmer

(Continued on Page 4)

Division Praised By CG Of Corps

Commendation of the Division for its "fine performance" was made by Maj. Gen. Leroy Irwin as he relinquished command of XII Corps.

Wrote General Irwin: "I want you to know how grateful I am for the fine performance of the 83rd Infantry Division while under my command. Its actions have always reflected the leadership of its commander, the experience of its staff, and the high soldierly standards of its veteran troops."

"Ours has been a most pleasant association. Please accept this expression of appreciation together with my warmest good wishes for my friends in the 83rd."

Maj. Gen. Robert C. Macon, Division Commander, commented in a letter to the troops: "His commendation is but a well-merited recognition of your military efficiency. For the praise that you have won for the Division I extend my very sincere appreciation."

Repple Depple Gets In Full Swing



A little music whiles away the time at the Passau Railroad Station as new men wait for transportation to their units. The tune, played by Pfc. Angelo Paternosto, T/4 Domenick Alimonti, and T/5 Donald Green, is definitely not "Don't Get Around Much Any More." The man dispensing with Red Cap service in the picture at the right is Pfc. Albert Brawner.



Photos by Vaccaro

OBERHAUS NOW PREPARING NEW ENCLOSED DANCE HALL

Several new improvements at Oberhaus, division rest center overlooking the Danube at Passau, include an enclosed dance hall which should be ready for use next week. The hall, which adjoins the Terrace Garden where GIs can relax with the whole city in their lap, will accommodate about 300 dancers. It will also be used for the numerous shows which are produced at Oberhaus.

Terrace Garden is one of the most popular haunts of men fortunate enough to spend three days at the rest center. On one particularly hot day 446 gallons of beer were consumed. Between 1,200 and 1,600 pretzels and 3,500—4,000 doughnuts disappear daily.

The dining hall — the biggest mess in the division where 30 waitresses serve as many as 450 a meal — has been newly decorated with murals by Pfc. John J. Gallagher. The paintings remind the diners just as much of the States as the gleaming table-cloths — they depict scenes of homecoming.

Gallagher spends his spare time delving into the mysteries of the ancient fortress, history of which dates back to 407 A.D. "The place is just crawling with hidden passage-ways and sealed-off rooms. You could spend months here and still find something new." The castle was used as a bishop's headquarters in 991 and by Napoleon in 1809. Hitler's henchmen remodeled the castle but it was never more luxurious than it is today.

Another GI artist, Pfc. Duncan Niles Terry, does 15-minute sketches of the restees. Terry, who recently exhibited his works in London, produces life-like portraits which are highly prized.

An athletic exercise room is being remodeled which will provide facilities for boxing and wrestling. The air-conditioned theatre which presents almost daily movies will soon blossom forth with a marquee. Plenty of other recreation is provided, with facilities for volley ball, horsehoes, badminton, archery, ping-pong, reading and just plain day-dreaming.

Each group of restees makes a four-to-five hour boat trip up the Danube. Waitresses serve a meal on board. An orchestra provides music for dancing which continues after the boat docks.

One of the popular pastimes at Oberhaus is peering through a telescope which covers as far as 20 miles. T/Sgt. John Kynce reported that one of Glen Miller's boys witnessed a blessed event. Boy or girl, he couldn't say.

Lt. Col. L. F. Dorato, the "Oberst of the Oberhaus," says the biggest reason the GIs like to stay there is that nobody tells them what to do. The place is off-limits to officers, and if any should be there on business saluting is verboten. Things are so informal that the restee doesn't even have to register his name. "The general says as long as a guy behaves like a human being he can do anything he wants."

One hundred fifty civilians staff the center. Most of them, reported the colonel, think they're still operating under the feudal system. "They call me 'father' and think I should solve all their personal problems. We take good care of them. They receive monthly medical inspections."

Posthumous DSC Awarded Sergeant For Heroic Fight

A posthumous Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded S/Sgt. John T. Ramer, 331st Infantry, for heroic services March 3 when a fierce German counterattack threatened the Regimental CP and the XIX Corps supply route. The action took place as the 331st was driving toward the Rhine in the vicinity of Hammerden and Kapellen.

During the counterattack Ramer was manning a machine gun observation post covering the main approach to Kapellen. When German infantry and tanks approached his position he halted the lead enemy tank with two direct hits from his bazooka. Then, picking up a captured German rocket gun, he moved to an exposed position and set the tank ablaze with flanking fire. Under a continuing barrage of artillery and mortar fire he returned to one of his machine guns and delivered devastating fire against the fleeing occupants of the disabled tank, killing all of them. Despite mortal wounds, Sgt. Ramer continued the attack until help arrived.

History Making GI Journal TTF Writes End To Traveled Career

Sgt. Jack Straus' final army career "30" was also the requiem for TTF just one year after it was born amid the hell of war in France. To new arrivals in the 83rd and particularly the 331st Infantry Regiment, the death of TTF may have little significance. But, to the veterans of the regiment and the combat team of which it was a part from Normandy to the Elbe it is akin to the loss of a flesh-and-blood buddy.

Sgt. Straus will shortly return to his civilian occupation as a news and advertising man with an outstanding record behind him as an army publisher. Included is the distinction of publishing the first unit newspaper via letterpress in France.

The first edition of TTF (signifying Three Thirty First during the days of censorship) was published Sept. 13, 1944 at Nantes, France, a few days after that town was liberated. Straus, formerly connected with "The Bounce," 83rd publication in the States and

"Spearhead", mimeographed overseas edition, was the entire staff of the paper.

Consisting of four pages, each having five 10 pica columns, the first edition of TTF set the policy that was to make this unit paper a tremendous morale factor in the combat team as well as a means of disseminating news and information. "The Wolf", "Male Call" and a cheesecake picture of Chili Williams was the extent of the "canned" syndicated content of the paper. Straus' photo contributions were pictures of Maj. Gen. Macon decorating regimental personnel and French civilians giving an ovation to two regimental soldiers, the first to enter their town. Every other inch of space was devoted to the men of the combat team and their achievements.

However, it was no small job to publish the first and many of the 30 subsequent issues of TTF. Straus recalls

(Continued on page 4)

Every Man Topping 69 Home Soon

Will Leave Here By End of Month Promises Mayer

All men in the Division with 70 or more points (V-J) will have been deployed to homeward-bound units by the end of September, Maj. Edward E. Mayer, G-1, said Thursday.

Some 900,000 men in this category are still in this theater, according to USFET, which added that no men with 69 or fewer points, except those overage, will be sent home in October.

Oldsters All Processed

Those in the Division 35 years of age or over, with two years service, have been processed and soon will join the mufti parade.

Thunderbolts with less than 56 points (V-J) gradually are being shipped to the 4th Armored division and other occupation units.

The Division is making a roster of those with 68 and 69 points (V-J), but Major Mayer emphasized that this is merely "long-range planning."

Promotions for enlisted men can now be instituted through regular channels, he said, but awards are still frozen.

Insurance Facts Are Made Clear

Only one out of 15 soldiers at separation centers indicate they wish to convert their National Service Life Insurance to civilian insurance, it was revealed at a "Post-War Advisement" Conference conducted by XII Corps at Regensburg.

Division insurance officials pointed out that a National Service Life Insurance policy holder has six months in which to convert his insurance following separation from the service. However, conversion does not place the insurance in the same category as regular civilian insurance.

Benefits upon the death of the insured are still restricted to monthly payments and beneficiaries must be relatives, the same as at present. Legislation is pending to permit beneficiary designations to be other than relatives.

"Chief appeal for converted insurance should lie with disabled veterans who cannot buy civilian insurance," one official said. He pointed out that GI insurance can be converted without a physical exam regardless of the veteran's condition. The cost of converted GI insurance and civilian insurance is pretty much the same.

Purpose of the four-day conference was to acquaint I & E personnel and other soldiers with the benefits awaiting discharged soldiers. The complete process involved in discharging a veteran was explained. Emphasis was placed on the need to have Service Records up to date. The conferees carried a message back to their units to have every potential discharged soldier personally check on his Service Record before leaving his unit for the discharge center.

"It was a darn good conference," commented T/Sgt. Glen E. Bjorklund, Division G-2 draftsman, one of 24 men of the 83rd in attendance. "The entire conference dealt with things that every GI would like to know but doesn't," he added.

83rd Thunderbolt

Official Weekly Newspaper of the
83rd Infantry Division

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Many Outfits Represented IN THE COSMOPOLITAN 83RD

"Those points are breaking up that old gang of mine," is an appropriate theme song for old 83rd men. In recent weeks a large percentage of the Division has been transferred because of the points they had or lacked.

At present the Thunderbolt Division is a cross section of 8th Armored, and 99th, 76th, and 65th Infantry divisions with a sprinkling of men from the 9th and 16th Armored and miscellaneous battalions. We present herewith histories of the Thunderbolt Division and the other outfits now so largely represented in the 83rd.

83rd Infantry (Thunderbolt) Division

it was a long trek from Camp Atterbury, Ind., where the 33rd was activated August 15, 1942, to the east bank of the Elbe River, and it was made over a road strewn with all the wreckage, suffering and broken bodies that must be expended to achieve final victory. It was a long and hard road but the Thunderbolts travelled it with immortal distinction and glory.

Landing at Omaha Beach June 19, the Division launched its initial offensive July 4 in the Carentan sector. Green and untested soldiers became combat veterans in a matter of minutes as the Thunderbolts got their first taste of hedgerow fighting. The vaunted 17th SS Panzer Grenadier division received a decisive beating and the 83rd participated in the Normandy breakthrough July 25, smashing remnants of enemy resistance to cut the St. Lo-Perriers Highway and coming to rest astride the St. Lo-Coutances Highway.

The world heard of the power of the Thunderbolts early in August when a two-week campaign reduced the enemy garrisons of St. Malo and Dinard. The Division was credited with the capture of 13,000 prisoners in this operation. At the same time elements of the 83rd were also part of Task Force A that smashed across the Brittany Peninsula to Brest.

Moving to the Lire Valley to protect the entire right flank of the Third Army in its dash across France, the 83rd captured 20,000 Germans, at that time the largest mass surrender of the war.

The Division then moved into a quiet sector in Luxembourg for a well-earned rest. Battle called early in December; Hurtgen Forest was the assignment. The doughs relieved elements of the 4th Infantry fighting within the Siegfried Line. Patrols of the 329th Infantry entered Duren — the deepest penetration of German soil made by any American force in 1944.

On the night of December 26 the Division sped by truck out of Germany across Holland into Belgium to help stem the tide of von Rundstedt's counter-offensive. When relieved in mid-January it had accomplished its mission of completely routing the Germans and forcing them into headlong retreat toward the Reich.

After the Ninth Army crossed the Roer the 83rd jumped off near Rockrath, west of the Erft Canal. The Division captured Neuss, being the first American division to reach the lower Rhine.

The 83rd's dash from the Rhine to the Elbe was an epic in infantry history. The Thunderbolts utilized every possible American and German means of conveyance to march 215 miles in a 14-day assault that carried them across four rivers and gave the Allies the only permanent bridgehead across the Elbe. This drive spelled victory.

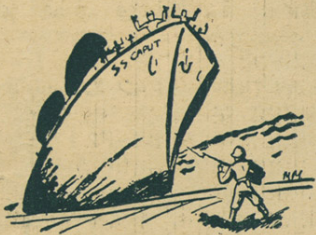


65th Infantry Division



The "Naval Infantry" could aptly be the nickname of the 65th Infantry Division which captured 50 boats of the Hungarian Navy on the Danube in Austria. The boats ranged in size from 40 to 60 tons. Included was the flagship of Admiral Horthy, former Nazi bigwig in Hungary.

Prior to this the 65th wiped out enemy pockets west of Saarbrücken and then mopped up behind the Third Army's drive, cleaning out Altengottern and Langensalza, the latter 10 miles north of Gotha. Crossing the Danube, between Kelheim and Regensburg, the 65th closed in on the latter city.



8th Armored (Thundering Herd) Division



The simple activation ceremony that marked the birth of the 8th Armored Division April 1, 1942 at Fort Knox, Ky., bore little semblance to the ceremony at the "little red schoolhouse" in Rheims, but there was a tremendous relationship between the two. The 8th was designated a cadre training division and as such it spawned eight other armored divisions that played so large a part in defeat of the Axis.

When Rommel's famed Korps was threatening Alexandria tankers from the 8th were rushed to bolster Montgomery's wavering forces

and the tide of victory turned in favor of the Allies. Later, when the enemy inflicted heavy losses on armored outfits at Kasserine Pass the 8th again was called upon to furnish the replacements.

From Fort Knox the 8th moved to Camp Campbell and thence to North Camp Polk, La., with the new mission of becoming a combat division. At this time the 8th had a goodly share of 18-year-olds, making it the youngest division, in point of age, in the army. With Louisiana maneuvers behind them several thousand men were pulled out and sent overseas for the D-Day landings. Between May and October the division was re-filled and re-trained as a smooth working machine.

November 7 found the 8th sailing out of New York harbor. Two weeks later it was training in the vicinity of Tidworth Barracks, England. Von Rundstedt's offensive speeded up the preparations for battle and shortly after New Year's Day the 8th disembarked at Le Havre. Then started a long forced march across frozen France to help push the Krauts out of the Bulge.

Transferring from the Third to the Ninth Army, the 8th went to Holland to take part in the crossing of the Roer. At Rhineberg, within sight of the Rhine, CCB fought a never-to-be-forgotten battle, with heavy losses on both sides, which pushed the enemy across the river.

The first armored division in the Ninth Army over the Rhine, the Thundering Herd had the job of exploiting the bridgehead. The hopes of the division making a "rat race" for Berlin faded rapidly when the Ruhr Valley defenses were met; a dense network of enemy AA batteries were deflected to slow the progress of the tankers. Gradually the Ruhr pocket was reduced. This job completed the 8th plunged into the fastness of the Harz mountains, mopping up last-ditch defenders until V-E Day.



99th Infantry (Battle Babies) Division



Activated Nov. 15, 1942, at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., the 99th was originally slated to be composed of men from Pennsylvania; hence the divisional shoulder patch is a replica of the Commonwealth's seal.

After basic and advanced training at Camp Van Dorn, the 99th embarked on Louisiana maneuvers in September, 1943. Maneuvers over, the division went to Camp Maxey, Tex., where it remained until Sept. 16, 1944. Camp Miles Standish was the staging area. On October 10 the division arrived at Southampton, leaving England Nov. 1.

The division immediately was rushed into position on the western front in the vicinity of Elsenborn, Belgium, three kilometers from the German border. By the 6th the division was in combat.

During the famed Battle of the Bulge the 99th was occupying a 27 mile front in the Ardennes. For three days after von Rundstedt's counter-offensive began the 99th held this front without giving ground until other divisions could be rushed in to help stem the tide. During one of the German counter-attacks a defense line comprising cooks, clerks, and KP's broke the German ring of steel.

Following the battle of the Bulge the 99th joined in the First Army's push through the Siegfried Line. Later it was the first infantry division in the First Army to reach the Rhine. The division also performed outstanding work in expanding the bridgehead across the Rhine in the famed Ludendorff Bridge area and in helping liquidate the Ruhr pocket.



76th Infantry (Onaway) Division



Advancing 400 miles in a little over two months to capture more than 35,000 prisoners and countless towns the 76th Infantry Division added new glory to the outfit's combat record that already included participation in the historic Meuse-Argonne offensive in World War I.

Although the division came to the ETO late in the war it was well represented by alumni members in the North African campaign and the D-Day invasion. Less than six months after the division's activation at Fort Meade, Md., June 15, 1942, several thousand replacements were sent to the desert front.

Following basic training at Fort Meade and maneuvers at A. P. Hill in Virginia, the 76th moved to Camp McCoy, Wis., in November 1944. The division sailed from the Boston POE on Thanksgiving Day. After a month in England the division crossed the Channel early in January.

Moving into reserve position to back up Patton's Third Army, then in the process of reducing the Bulge, the 76th moved through the ruins of Bastogne into Luxembourg where it deployed before the Siegfried line facing Echternach. When the offensive was launched the doughs discovered they had to overcome an average of one pillbox every 40 yards. In less than two weeks they knocked out 130 pillboxes and 100 other fortified positions.

During the race across Germany the 76th helped spearhead 3rd Army's drive toward Czechoslovakia. After blitzing its way across Thuringia and Saxony to within 50 miles of the border it had penetrated farther into the crumbling Reich than any other American infantry outfit. Seizing a bridgehead over the Mulde river, the 76th held an historic meeting with the Russians at Chemnitz.

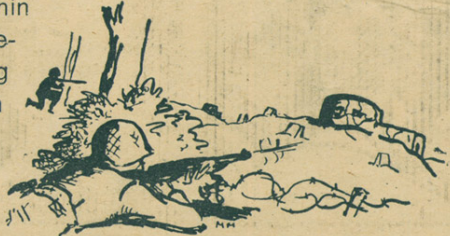


FOTO FACTS

By Jerry Manter

If some Joe comes running up the street and yells, "Hey, wanna buy a camera for only two decks and a used K-ration key?" don't agree just because it's nice and shiny and has an f/3.5 lens. Test it first.

It's important to remember that the more complicated a camera is the more things there are that may be wrong with it. You'll get much better pictures with a cheap camera that has few but perfectly working parts than a super-deluxe job that's out of whack.

Best way to test a camera, of course, is to shoot some film, making careful notations of each shot. To see if the shutter is as fast as its markings indicate, grab a shot at 1/50 of somebody slowly walking directly across the field of view. Very little blur should be noticeable if the shutter is up to snuff. Faster action, such as children playing should be stopped at 1/100.

A more accurate test can be made by photographing a moving bright object, the velocity of which is known. E. g., a small light on a constantly rotating wheel rim will produce on the negative an arc which when measured will reveal exactly how long the shutter was open. As a camera gets older the shorter exposures tend to get longer and the longer ones shorter, markedly decreasing the range of possible exposures.

Test Focusing

Accuracy of the focusing arrangement also should be tested. If the camera has a ground glass, this is easily done by inspection. In roll film cameras, a ground glass may be improvised by opening the back and placing a sheet of thin paper where the film ordinarily would be. When viewed under a black cloth this will enable you to determine whether the image is sharp. A series of sharply defined objects at varying measured distances nearly in line with the axis of the lens will reveal the amount and direction of error.

Next item to check is the bellows which, as it becomes worn, is apt to leak light and fog the film. You can spot most holes by ducking under a black cloth and peering through the back of the camera while pointing it toward a bright light with shutter closed. Or you can insert a flashlight inside the bellows and view in a dark room.

Other fogging may result from reflected light. Worn or shiny places in the lens mount and bellows generally can be eliminated with black paint. An efficient lens shade will eliminate most of the trouble.

The most expensive part of the camera, the lens, merits so much consideration that we shall wait until next week so that we may discuss it fully.

The Danube

You sit on the bank -
Sloping, earthy, green.
You see boats, barges, floats -
Still ghosts of an active past.
The sun brightens the scene -
Peaceful, colorful, bucolic.
The river flows indolently -
Murky, green, and blue.

A steel structural span
Lies broken, twisted, submerged.
Testimonial of sudden violence
That passed this way.
A soldier casts his line -
Gracefully, craftily, optimistically.
The river flows interminably -
Murky, green, and blue.

Hills across the water
Soar majestically, decline reluctantly,
Lovers, arm in arm, [tantly].
Stroll casually, stroll leisurely.
Time is, as of yesterday,
As of today, as of tomorrow.
The river flows eternally -
Murky, green, and blue.

Pfc. Harold Silver

Passau
2017/11/10



THE MAJORS ARE SUFFERING WAR NERVES as Major League calibre ball players are becoming more rapidly deployed back to their original Stateside camps such as Wrigley Field and Ebbets Field, Sportsman's Park, Briggs Stadium, Griffiths Stadium and Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds The policing up of these grounds and many other lesser pastures has suffered since Pearl Harbor with the result that many fly balls and hot grounders have escaped proper attention.

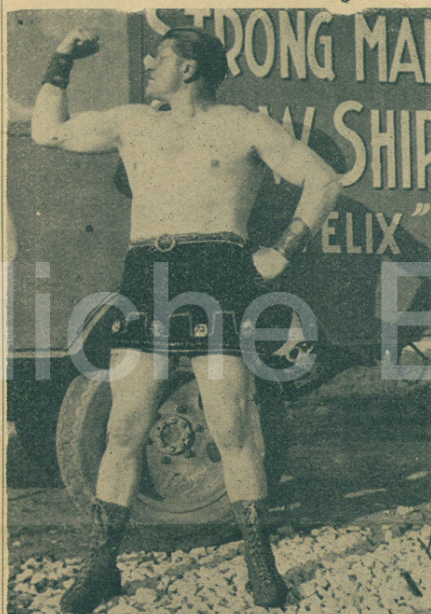
A lot of rookies and an assortment of far-too-old vets kept the "ole ball game" going while their more adept diamonders were breaking up a more lethal triple play combination . . . **AND NOW WITH THREE DOWN AND HOME TO GO** such Johnnies as Hal Newhouser, Hank Greenberg, Charlie Keller, Bob Feller, Red Ruffing and Hugh Mulcahy (organized ball's first draftee), to mention but a few, come marching into the club houses to doff the GI spangles and climb into moth-balled flannels.

With the first week in September the **RETURNEES MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT** by throwing both leagues into a torrid stretch drive which may topple early-season favorites from thrones which were conceded to them when **IT LOOKED AS IF UNCLE SAM WAS GOING TO KEEP ALL OF HIS BASEBALL SELECTEES** throughout the 1945 season.

On Labor Day, despite competition from resorts, week-end automobile trips, the race tracks and the lazy daisies who rocked away the time on their front porches while listening to the results on the radio, the **16 MAJOR BALL PARKS DREW THE BEST SEASON HIGH** and the best holiday aggregate since 1941 . . . The turnstiles clicked to the merry tune of 265,336 paying fans to alleviate somewhat, the sur-

ging headaches of Front Offices throughout both loops.

Definite indications that **THE MAJORS HAVE HAD IT** are that Ossie Bluege, the usually mild-mannered Manager of the pennant-pursuing Washington Club, became so exasperated that he fined infielder Fred Vaughn 125 smackers for making a misplay which resulted in the loss of a recent game to the White Sox during their crucial series Meantime Marse Joe McCarthy lost a bit of his aplomb when Frankie Crosetti, veteran Yankee infielder, didn't show up for a game because **HE HAD TO MIND THE BABY** incidently the game wasn't played because of wet grounds Question is, Mr. Anthony, "Did Frankie have to have a rain check?"



Just Step Right Up; Examine His Biceps

Currently appearing in the 331st area is an entertainment troupe headed by Felix the Strong Man, a Yugoslavian man-mountain. Felix wrestled World Champion Jim Londos in Madison Square Garden in 1937 to a draw.

One of Felix' acts is to wrap a piece of cloth around the head of a spike, and then with one mighty swing drive the spike through two to four inches of wood. As a climax to the act he pulls out the nail with his teeth.

His main exhibition, and apparently his most difficult, consists of breaking a chain—previously tested by his audience—by expanding his chest.

Throughout the show, horseplay is exchanged by Felix and a slightlybuilt trooper who presents a balancing act. Rounding out the troupe are three women—an accordionist, a singer, and a dancer.

Is There A Basketball Quintet In The House?

While baseball is still in full swing, with the World Series ahead, and while the gridders are just beginning to work the kinks out of aching muscles, along comes the 2nd Battalion of the 329th Infantry with an open challenge to all **BASKETBALL** teams. Rushing the season a bit, but hopeful of competition at this early stage, the 2nd Bn. has both EM and Officers' teams ready to meet all comers. They have been practising in a large gym at Plattling, which is available for games. Anyone interested should get in touch with Lt. Ray Cobley, 2nd Bn. Special Service Officer.

Slick Skiers Start Studies

Doughs of the 83rd who may miss the winter sports season at Lake Placid will have one consolation — skiing will be part of the division sports program this winter. Of course, this is contingent on the division being in the ETO when the snow flies.

Five division men are currently undergoing a 12-day course at the Third Army Ski School, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, to prepare as instructors of future division courses that may be conducted in this sport. It is anticipated that more instructors will be recruited. No previous knowledge of skiing is necessary for attendance at the school.

The men taking the initial course at Garmisch-Partenkirchen are: Pfc. Norman E. Swayer, 329th Inf.; Pfc. Erwin C. Gaskin, 330th Inf.; T/5 Charles W. Sels, 323rd FA Bn.; Cpl. James Buyers, 324th FA Bn.; and T/4 Charles E. Nuspliger, 308th Engrs.

Give Broadway Play

Noel Coward's comedy Blithe Spirit, starring Alexander Kirkland, will have its division premiere at Freyung tonight for 330th troops.

After two days at Freyung, the actors will journey to the Passau Arena for Divarty and the 331st regiment. Closing their four-day Passau stand next Saturday, the Broadway players will move to the Plattling theater for the 329th on the first four days of October.



AT PASSAU THEATER

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday
"Week-end at the Waldorf" Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner

Wednesday, Thursday
"Brazil" Tito Guizar, Virginia Bruce

Friday, Saturday
"Salty O'Rourke" Allan Ladd, Gail Sussel

Virtue Triumphs in Ring As Villains Bite The Resin

By Jim Shelhamer



"BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN" — T/5 William McCaleb, a former member of the Division Band, now with the 8th Armored, proves that he knows his scales. The fish: an 83 1/4 pound Danube River Pike.

Skull Mashin', Double Ration Latest Fashion

If you think the show situation is rough, consider the plight of the USO wrestling troupe which performed at Passau Sunday. These ham-and-egggers put a lot of realism into their act—their grunting and groaning costs them five or six pounds a show. How to regain this flesh is a problem.

Al Singer, former lightweight boxing champ who acts as tongue-in-cheek referee, explains his men usually eat only a regular meal before bouts but afterwards they like something substantial, like a double ration. "We realize how hard it is on the mess personnel when they aren't able to draw rations for us. Sometimes we have to get along on K's and 10-in-1's."

Al Williams, head of the troupe who was only survivor of a plane crash last March with another wrestling unit, added, "The chow? Oh, it's just as good for us as it is for you. Say, how's the beer around here?"

Drinking also worried Rudy Kay — he always prays that his GI spectators will leave bottles at home. The troupe has been target for about everything, even crutches. "We're the only show that can argue back at the customers," laughed Singer. "We like to get the GI's riled up — it's good for them to let off steam. We only hope they don't pull out 45's — we can't dig into the canvas."

"Hey," interrupted one of the groaners. "We're gonna get sandwiches after the fights tonight."

"Oh, well," muttered Singer, "I only hope they aren't bread between bread."

Virtue triumphed over rascality last Sunday night at the Passau arena to the delight and satisfaction of several hundred GIs and a greater number of civilians as the USO Grunt 'n Groan troupe presented its wares. However, like all good melodrammers, it was not until the closing minutes of the performance that right prevailed and the "goodies" came out on top—both literally and figuratively since it was a "rasslin'" show.

The entire show was a well-rehearsed act, but most of the civilians didn't realize it. John Csaky, Hungarian theatrical producer who is interpreter for SSO at the Arena, said, "I can see they are very good actors," as the villian pulled an elbow punch to his opponent's ribs. "I like it very much and they make it very good."

Other civilians took the bouts more seriously and were more rabid rooters for the cause of sportsmanship than the GIs. One girl was so indignant at the "foul play" that she tossed anything she could lay her hands on—she was readying a pair of scissors when the show ended. Haide Fisch and Ruth Simon, employees at the Arena, voiced a loud, "Oh, yah! Prima!" when asked how they liked the show. They quickly added: "The blonde and baldy men are no good. The man with the black hair is a gentleman. The others—no good!"

Bad, Bad Men

The girls referred to Al Williams, former Pacific Coast heavyweight champ, and paleolithic Pat O'Dowdy, ex-teacher, preacher and national amateur champ for seven years, who participated in individual bouts and an Australian Tag Team event. Both of these, cast as villains, won their respective bouts over Carl Myers, former Wisconsin State champ, and "Jumping Joe" Dorsetti, by loudly booed decisions.

In the first bout Rudy Kay played the villain's role, pinning Pierre Lamarr to the mat with two body slams. Since these two didn't participate in the final event, virtue was completely vindicated.

The last body bruising bout was almost as much a mystery in tactics to the GIs who had previously seen this sport as to the civilians. The general idea was that two opponents would be in the ring at one time while the partner of each man stood outside on the apron. Whenever one of the battlers found the going rugged he could retreat through the ropes, letting his buddy take over.

In theory this plan of action met with the approval of the audience. However, villains O'Dowdy and Williams were "very irregular" in the words of Agnes Schneider who works in the kitchen of the 323rd Artillery. This irregularity descended to the depths of Gay-Ninety desperadoes. The villian would maneuver his opponent to the corner in which his partner in crime was poised. When referee Al Singer wasn't looking almost anything happened, from a well placed kick to simulated strangulation with rope.

This state of affairs continued for most of the bout and it looked black for noble underdogs Dorsetti and Myers despite the moral support lent by the audience. Suddenly rules were forgotten, and all four scrambled into the ring for the grand finale. Villains Williams and O'Dowdy were properly pinned to the canvas and the audience departed, happy that virtue had triumphed.

Plan Boxing Tournament

Plans for the division boxing tournament went ahead this week. Elimination bouts are scheduled for October 15, 17, and 19 at the Passau Arena. The finals will be staged a few days later. All men interested in participating are requested by Division SSO to contact their unit athletic officers.

Ball Team Beaten

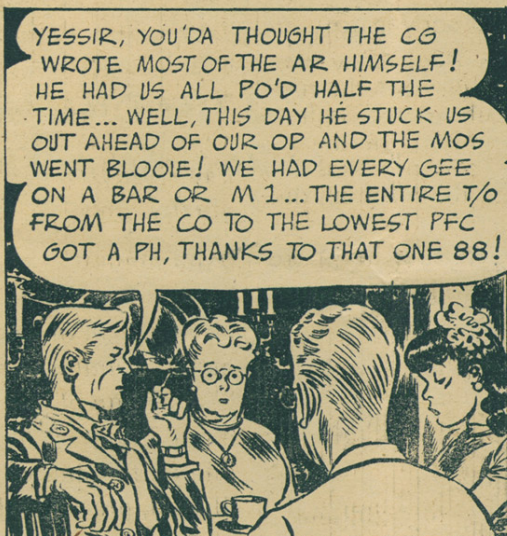
The Division baseball team received a 3-7 beating at the hands of the 94th Infantry division last week.

Several more inter-divisional games are being lined up. The Thunderbolt nine was augmented this week when outfielder Russo and third baseman Merriam reported from the 331st Infantry.

Male Call

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

"You Are Going To A Strange Country"



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Interpreter Can Speak Eight Languages At 15

By Al Komishane

At the ripe age of 15 years, 9 months, Andrew Norman Montague, born A. N. Nieszczeni, has behind him a career as interpreter for the British Army, a knowledge of 8 languages, and a hitch-hiking tour across Germany into Czechoslovakia to join friends in the 8th Armored Division. These friends, he says, "kidnapped" him when they were transferred to the 83rd and brought him along. His plans for the immediate future are modest; nothing more than a return to his native England and then a trip to the United States to study chemical engineering.

"Andy," as the young linguist prefers to be called, was employed as a civilian interpreter by the British Army at Northheim when he struck up a friendship with members of the 8th Armored's Combat Command "B". Shortly after, in June of this year, when he was at Hamburg and the 8th was stationed around Pilsen in Czechoslovakia, Andy decided to join his American friends, with the intention of getting into Poland to search for his mother, whom he hasn't seen for five years. He was not able to cross into Poland and had abandoned that project when his friends began to leave the 8th to join the 83rd in Bavaria. Andy went down to the truck to wish them good-bye. He was shaking hands with one of the boys and suddenly found himself being hoisted into the truck. He was off to Bavaria without further ado.

Andy was born in Manchester, England, 23 December 1929. His mother is English and his father was Polish, which accounts for the name, Nieszczeni. After his father's death, he assumed his step-father's name, Montague. In 1938 he went to Poland for three months to visit his father's relatives. The next year his mother made the trip to Poland and was caught there when the Germans attacked that country. Since then, Andy has had no word of his mother. His efforts to cross the border were unsuccessful, so he now plans to return to England, when his friends leave for the States.

Eton Was Not Enough

Regular schooling at Eton was not enough to keep Andy occupied. In his spare time he studied languages at home under private tutors. He speaks, reads and writes eight languages now. The list includes: English, French, German, Polish, Czech, Russian, Yugoslavian, and Italian. He speaks English with an accent which he claims is Scotch, due to contact with his northern neighbors. He also explains apologetically that his Italian is not fluent. It took him two to three years to master a language and he studied them three at a time.

It was this facility with languages that brought the job with the British Army as an interpreter. Although still a civilian, due to his age, Andy wore the British uniform. He arrived at Hamburg in May 1945, a few days before the formal end of the war, and went to work for the Second British Army. He acted as interpreter during the interrogation of German PWs and in contacts with German civilian officials in Hamburg and later in Northheim, where he met members of the 8th Armored Division. Andy returned to Hamburg and it was there that the urge to head east struck him.



Since, as he claims, he had refused to accept pay for his work, he felt no compunction at leaving. With a, "Good-bye. Thank you for the job," he was off, hitch-hiking across the Reich towards Czechoslovakia. A discriminating hiker, he accepted rides only in the more comfortable army vehicles. Six days after departure he was in Rokycany, Czechoslovakia, with his American friends.

Andy will return to England when he has finished "sweating out" redeployment with the 83rd. Despite the 90 points (VJ computation), which he has jokingly awarded himself, Andy will remain with his new outfit until the bitter end. With a lifetime still ahead, he says patiently, "I've got plenty of time." Later, he plans to follow in his father's footsteps and study chemical engineering. He has chosen a Polytechnical Institute in N. Y. State, the exact name of which escapes him at the moment, on the recommendation of a GI friend.

With the 83rd, Andy is earning his keep by interpreting. When asked his age, as is invariably the case with the Germans, he replies sagely that he is only 65. Andy shows the influence of contact with GIs in his ready use of American Army idiom, delivered with a bit of a Scotch burr. At 20, he will probably be looking for new worlds to conquer.

COURSES SUSPENDED

On-the-job training for 30 division men has been cancelled as a result of redeployment of several ordnance units at Metz, France. Enrolled in various auto mechanic courses the doughs were all set to leave when cancellation orders came through. Several of the men had waived furloughs to take the course.

Only one of the numerous automotive courses previously offered at Metz, that in track vehicles, is still in operation.



TEN ORANGES provide pleasing props for the Misses Tursie, McCullum, Fucci, Southard, and Lochfeld who appeared in the 331st "Victory Varieties."

Swiss Furlough Men Carefully Selected

Unit commanders were cautioned this week to exercise judgment in selecting personnel to go on furlough to Switzerland. Misconduct on the part of some tourists was said to have caused "embarrassment to the entire Swiss leave program."

TTF Bows Out After Full Year

(from Page 1)

that a printing plant was available at Nantes but there was no power. A minute search finally brought to light an ancient generator. After much labor this was put into operation and power was furnished for the linotype machine and press.

As the 331st moved northward through France and into Luxembourg, Straus discovered there was no end of troubles besetting the publisher of a newspaper in a foreign land. Newsprint was hard to get, and many times considerable reconnaissance was necessary to procure enough for the 5000-a-week circulation. Linotype operators who had no knowledge of the English language were another headache but the persistence of Straus in reading and re-reading galley proofs kept typographical errors to a minimum.

Transportation was also a major problem. During combat every available vehicle was needed for transporting troops. Thus the newsmen had to hitch-hike rides around the various outfits in search of news and then back to the printing plant. One issue of the paper was printed in Liege, Belgium while the combat team was on the line in Luxembourg more than 110 miles away.

After the fifth or sixth issue Col. Robert York, CO of the 331st, recognizing the value of the paper as a morale factor, permitted additional personnel, Pfc. Mike Vaccaro, currently a Division PRO photographer, and Pfc. Anthony Seolo, Co. "C", 308th Engineers, were added to the staff. Vaccaro covered the combat team with his camera for TTF and Seolo did the art work.

After V-E day when a regular weekly edition was possible the staff was additionally increased and company correspondents enlisted to give complete coverage of every component unit of the combat team. Last week's final edition of the paper comprised eight pages of news and features and a four page rotogravure section devoted to a review of past issues of TTF, outstanding pictures and stories appearing in the various issues and excerpts of letters from appreciative readers. Heading the top of the page of this section are pictures of Col. York, the colors, and a composite picture of G.I. Joe.

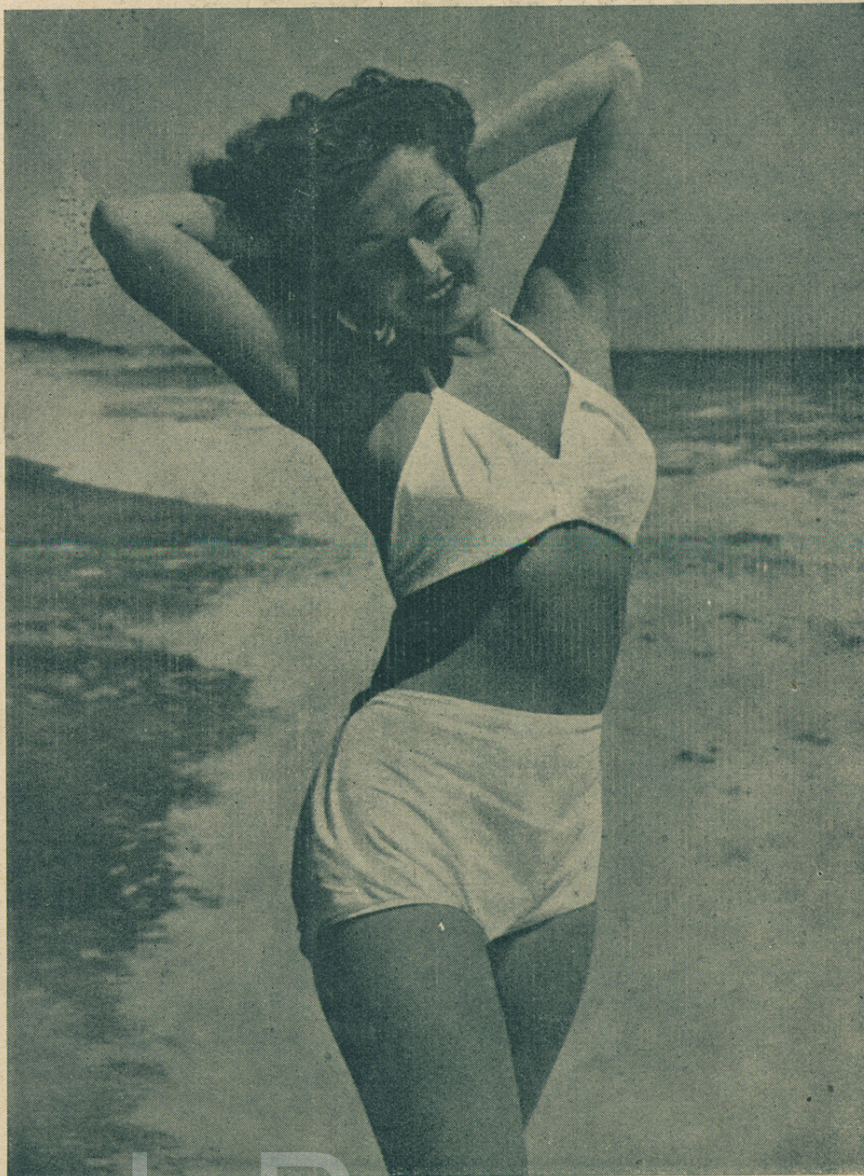
The "folding" of TTF will not only be a loss to the men of the 331st but also to the 200-odd mailing list readers who have been following the exploits of former buddies or relatives for a long time via this medium. Families of men of the 331st who were killed in action have requested regular copies of the paper so they could continue having some contact with the outfit that a son, husband or brother died for. On several occasions letters came from World War I members of the 331st asking that they be placed on the mailing list. And, not least of the subscribers were former members of the outfit who were wounded, evacuated and subsequently transferred to other outfits.

As he covered his typewriter for the last time Sgt. Straus reflected with pardonable pride that TTF had admirably served four purposes every edition of its one-year career—canons of military newspaper work that will reflect credit on Straus and his co-workers as long as TTF is remembered. These purposes were: (1) Give men of the outfit the opportunity to see that their deeds on the battlefield were recognized; (2) enable men of the various units of the combat team to keep in touch with each other; (3) keep folks at home informed on the doings of their kin; (4) present a complete history of the unit through the files of the paper.

All Star Show Departs

The cast of Paprika and the All-Star Hungarian Show were to leave today for Bayreuth to continue their performances for troops in that area. While touring for the 83rd and 102nd Divisions, the Hungarians have presented 32 shows for some 22,000 men.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPTICS



Ruth Romano

"... The object distance is measured from the so-called nodal point of entrance, and the image distance and the focal distance are measured from the nodal point of emergence. For accurate work, it is necessary to know the positions of the nodal points and make the measurements from them."

W. D. Education Manual "Elementary Photography"

Overseas Service His Post War Plan Extra Pay For Medics Badge

T/5 Amedeo Lezoli, Long Island, N. Y., is one 331st Infantry doughboy who has no objection to staying overseas. In fact, his post war aim is to serve in the U.S. Foreign Service in Italy.

Lezoli, a native of New York, went to Italy at the age of 13 and remained there five years. During this time he studied for the priesthood near Parma. When war became imminent he returned to the U.S. and eventually received his "greetings".

The end of the war in Italy found Lezoli awaiting assignment to that country as a Military Intelligence Service interpreter. When his services were no longer needed in this capacity he came to the 83rd.

Beginning with the October payroll, holders of the Medical Badge will collect the \$10 extra monthly pay recently authorized by Congress. Enlisted men only are entitled to the extra compensation.

Those men who were awarded the Medical Badge before August 1 of this year will draw the \$10 from the beginning of August, making a total of \$30 on the October payroll. Those who received the award after August 1 will collect the extra compensation from the date of their award.

Public Law 137, 79th Congress, which was approved July 6, 1945, states: "The provisions of this Act shall become effective on the first day of the month following its enactment. The additional compensation provided by this Act shall not be paid for any retroactive period prior to the date of the actual award of the Medical Badge."

It is possible in a few cases for the holders of the Medical Badge to lose the additional pay. That is true of men who also hold and draw extra pay for the Combat Infantry or Expert Infantry Badge, or who draw aviation pay. AWOL or sickness not in line of duty will also suspend the extra pay.

83rd Newcomers Find Same Army

(from page 1)

T. Beck, Cpl. Tony G. Gownley, and Sgt. Lester A. Driscoll, of Co. Co., 330th, who, like hundreds of other ex-8th men, have only 55 points.

Points threaten to break up the three-year partnership of T/5 Claude H. Miller and T/5 Anthony P. Pavan, Hq., 324 FA — Miller's Bronze Star spells the difference.

Pfc. Anthony L. Rizzo, ex-76th Inf. Div., of Co. M, 329th, is wondering how, with 30 months service, he has only 40 points.

The feelings of many newcomers were summed up by Cpl. John Henri, who came from the 8th to A Btry., 324th. Said he: "The food is brutal. The rations aren't distributed right. The cooks are doing the best they can — what cooks we have. It should be better when we quit changing personnel."

Charlotte, N. C. — A man who tried to sell the local chief of police a bottle of liquor, while the chief was sitting in his car in plainclothes, got 60 days.

331st Distributing Regimental History

Distribution of 10,000 copies of the 331st Combat Team History is being made to present and former members of the 331st and families of those killed in action. Containing 240 pages with 566 pictures, text and a map showing the Team's route of travel, the history is the largest thus far published in the division.

Earlier publication of the book had been contemplated but arrangements to print the book in Brunswick had to be cancelled when the outfit left that section of Germany. The work was done at a Munich plant.