

Somewhere in Germany
Saturday, March 24, 1945
Vol. 1, N° 12



EASTER GREETINGS

France Decorates 331st Soldiers For Services in Liberation

Col. York Awarded Legion D'Honneur, Croix de Guerre

Col. Robert H. York, 331st Commander, and twelve of his men were decorated last week with France's highest awards in recognition of their services rendered in military operations in the liberation of France. Col. York received both the Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre.

In saluting the officers and men of the United States Army, the French Government hailed their outstanding performance in the battlefield.

The presentations were made by Gen. Koeltz in the traditional military French ceremonies including the tap on each soldier with a sword and a kiss on each cheek.

The Croix de Guerre was awarded to Lt. Col. Leslie McDonald, Jackson, Miss.; Lt. Col. Henry Soltau, Wash. D. C.; George Shuster, Capt. Daniel Moore, Mitchell, Okla.; Capt. Robert Mitchell, Bristol, Conn.; Capt. William Waters, Indianapolis, Ind.; Lt. Frank Douglas, Winchester, Mass.; Lt. Alexander Knapaka, Honolulu; Lt. Arthur Ungren, Lancaster, Mich.; Sgt. Alexander White, Baltimore, Md.

The decorations award was made to Lt. Col. James V. Faber.

Lily Pons Thrills Soldiers at Rhine in Germany Debut

Lovely Lily Pons, America's beautiful Metropolitan Opera Coloratura, came to the Lily Pons tent to sing before the men who helped liberate her native France. The enthusiasm of the men over her is something the public can't give you. A Miss Pons exclaimed, "In the States I sing by contract only twice each week—here, every night. The spirit of these fine soldiers—to risk their lives for me—has made me a star."

Accompanied on her concert tour by her husband, Arthur, and her son, Frank, Lily Pons gave six concerts in a series of tent performances to thousands of battle veterans—among them men of the 331st Central Postal Directory who had fought the Nazis from the Rhine to Berlin. Pons, who had been singing in the German capital since the fall of the Third Reich, was captured by the Germans in 1940. She was released after the war and has given 57 soldier concerts in the CBI and NTC.

(Continued on page 4)

Wants Doves Award

Washington (CNS)—An Joseph W. Bellamy, ACP commander, could wear practically all the medals in the book if he wanted to, but the one award he really covets is the Doves Award. It's the Doves Award he really covets.

Easter Morn-- '45...



Em's Official Bearing Fools Nazi Officers

When the 2nd Platoon, Co. C, found themselves so far in advance of the L. P. W. that it was necessary to question and classify their own prisoners, 8-fig Joseph H. Galley, Milville, Penn., proved himself not only a master of the German language but of conducting prisoners as well.

According to one of the Yanks guarding the prisoners, Galley was a prime example of what the army means by fair but firm handling of our conquered enemy.

Though only a non-com, Galley's forceful manner had the prisoners, most of them officers, bewildered as to his rank. Their final decision, gleaned from their private conversation, was that he was a high ranking intelligence officer.

Each prisoner, upon approaching the desk where Galley was conducting the hearing, snapped to attention and rendered a prompt salute. Their attitude during the entire questioning was strictly respectful.

It was obvious that Galley's manner and conduct of the proceedings left a strong impression of discipline, law and order.

Deductive...

The battle diaries of the Third-Thirty-First, recently took time out from their "Watch on the Rhine" to bend their efforts in artistic endeavors. Part of a spruce-up campaign to distinguish the Combat Team from all others, Col. Robert H. York, Regimental Commander, ordered that the name and rank of every man be placed on his helmet uniformly.

Throat Wound Keeps Officer Fighting Mad

Lt. Caddie Henneage from Georgetown, Ky. is the wearer of the Purple Heart and one claster. But he also carries with him in battle today unmistakable evidence of an encounter with the Nazis—a bullet lodged near to his windpipe. And it will always be there, according to medical authorities.

The shot inaugurated a thrilling interlude in his military career. It was inflicted by a sniper during the hedgerow days. For six weeks Henneage remained a prisoner of the Germans. For 10 days he lay in a Heil field hospital sweating out his evacuation to Germany and hospitalization.

(Continued on page 5)

Machine Gunner Sends Heinie Car Careening

Quiet, bespectacled Pfc. Stanley Dolsky, Co. F, machine gunner from Windsor, Pa., does not appear to be the rough and ready doughboy one would imagine in a frontline outfit. But his actions during the regiment's drive towards the Rhine prove again that appearances are deceiving.

Moving in with the rifleman who had rushed in to the kill on a force of Jerries in Lovell Dolsky saw a Heine armored car approaching rapidly to aid their beleaguered gun and coolly disabled the three-ton vehicle. His accurate and timely fire killed the driver and sent the car careening into a ditch and yielded six more prisoners.

Doughboys Set-up Model Military Government in Conquered Neuss Suburb

In the broken city of Neuss, the immortal symbol of American humanity was enacted again last week. Men of the 331st Combat Team came into the town as conquerors—but not to destroy, pillage or murder. They had killed or captured the last German who wanted to fight. Approximately 15,000 of the city's inhabitants climbed out of their candle-lit cellars and began to resume a somewhat normal life amidst these khaki-clad soldiers from the States. And weary footsore doughboys from the battlefield proved their versatility while, in cooperation with the CIC, they scouted the city for civilian clothed German soldiers, searched the homes for weapons and short-wave radio equipment and checked for every possible sign of espionage.

Fighting Men Earn US and UK Furloughs

"Hail, hail the gang's all here" rang throughout the regiment last week as groups of doughboys gathered for trips to Paris, Brussels and the United Kingdom—finally—for the lucky few—to the States. Following the KETOVA directive, the trips are given to men in combat under the most severe conditions. The 30 day homeward bound furloughs and leaves are on the basis of time served overlying preference to twice-covered soldiers or to men twice hospitalized from wounds in combat.

Since the program was inaugurated two officers and 24 men of the 331st have landed home. Pfc. Everett Hansen of Concord, Mass. Pic Booked of Natchez, Miss. and Pfc. William Galloway from Cambridge, Mass. were the latest to bid their fellow soldiers adieu. Hansen and Booker were overseas 22 months and Galloway 34.

Furloughs to the United Kingdom are seven days with all travel expenses paid by Uncle Sam at any point they choose. The first to renew their newmade English acquaintances are Maj. Lawrence LaLiberte, 2nd Inf. Exce. Off. and Errol Richardson, Co. G, 8-fig. John Nite, Lt. J. H. J. and Pfc. John McCabe, Co. G, 7-fig. John Nelly, Co. F, 8-fig. Julius Canfield, Co. F, 8-fig. and Pfc. M. St. Kenneth Hayes, Co. I, Pfc. Kurt Metzger, Co. K.

Radio Crew Hold Life-line of Regt.

It looked like the enemy was not only going to knock on the Regt. R's door, but was coming right in. A message was hurriedly sent to Division to back up the radio. A request was made for any available armor or infantry, to our position. Within two hours the overhead, gave a "Roger" to the command.

There's more to the sixteen-word message, than just that. When all other means of communication failed or weren't possible, the radio command car got it through.

The Divisional Command attached to this regiment is constantly manning the car. It is of Canon. Pfc. Frank Bonga, Co. F, of Canon. Pfc. N. J. and Pfc. Jerome Pridmore, Co. F, of Canon. Pfc. John J. Pierce, Philadelphia, Pa.

(Continued on page 5)

Typical of the manner in which fighting men met their new problems of handling civilians in hostile territory, is the story of the first battalion billeted in the Neuss suburb of Buderich. Their set-up was established before the arrival of the Military Government in Neuss and encouraged by the latter because of its efficient operation.

Tackling the job like able veterans, Lt. John Clevenger, of Perth Amboy, N.J., S-fig. Daniel Baran of Savannah, Ga. Pic Frank Reichman of Lodi, Ind. and Pfc. Walter Kohlmann of Bronx, New York set up their office in a small room of a house, taken over as the battalion CP.

"We went out where," said Clevenger, "and we wanted the people to send us a representative body of two men from each block, one morning six men, comprised of doctors and lawyers came to see us. They said they had two former council members in this town during the days of the Nazis and they asked how three of them were about to be executed on the very day that the Yanks arrived."

(Continued on page 6)

AP Mine Sweepers Spearhead Tank Drive

The answer to the last battalion's attack on the town of Oberdorf, Germany is "a just plain guts."

The 1st Battalion's A and P platoons were given the mission of clearing the tanks with the rest of the rifle company. The mine sweepers, when mines were encountered, in violation to the attack they had spent the better part of the night in fixing a bomb crater in the center of the minefield. It was imperative that the crater be filled so the men were forced to labor for several hours. Their only weapons being entrenching tools.

After the tanks had moved along for a good distance, they were firing the objective, the lead tank was mine, bursting into flames. Immediately the mine broke off and started to operate their Oerlikons, clearing the way into Oberdorf. The results of long hours of back-breaking labor in pitch-blackness, and under an intense moon, they made the tanks clear the attacking units.

Among the members of the squad were: Pfc. Frank Bonga, Co. F, of Canon. Pfc. N. J. and Pfc. Jerome Pridmore, Co. F, of Canon. Pfc. John J. Pierce, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE T T F

Saturday, March 31, 1945

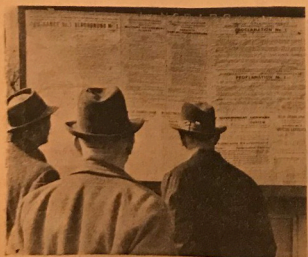
Yanks Take Over German City of Neuss — Civilians Passively Accept Fall of Naziism And Start of New Life —



From the Pfc. "Whisper" Pomeroy.
In the house in house search for hidden weapons and radio equipment.
Lt. Conrad Van Kirk and Pfc. Oliver Anderson from Co. E question civilians in a firm but polite manner to establish proper identity.



A woman tells her troubles to doughboys of the first battalion who set up an office in Buderich to handle the problems of civilians created by the military occupation. Left to right, listening patiently are Pfc. Walter Kohnmann, Bronx, New York; Sgt. Daniel Baran, Savannah, Ga.; Pfc. Frank Ketchman, Ladlow Ashbury, N. J.



Civilians of Neuss realize the day of Napoleon and Hitler's gang is finished as they read Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's proclamation and the new ordinances set up by the 86G written both in English and German.

A squad of Co. I, riflemen march in the streets of Neuss in the direction of a roadblock where their company is outposting. Tsgt. Erwin Wietel of Buderich is leading. Squad leader on the right is S.Sgt. Cornelius Lackey from Kirk, W. Va.



These civilians in Neuss apparently military age don't seem unhappy about being under guard by doughboys of Co. K as they await questioning by the CIC. The BAE man is Pfc. Harry Lister of Queensboro, N.Y. and the riflemen is Pfc. George Oliver from Greensboro, N. C.



Battle produces many an odd sight and here's one in Neuss. The foundation of a railroad bridge was blown away by shell and the rubble cleared by army engineers to produce the effect of a trestle bridge.



Photo by Pfc. Edward Vickers.
At an important crossroads in Germany, Pfc. Marvin Wilden of Sarasota, Fla. and Pfc. John Hutchinson of Kenner, W. Va. Co. K riflemen stand guard.



Pfc. David Benick from Brooklyn, New York, Co. A riflemen, checks a merchant's pass in Buderich.

