

83rd SPEARHEAD

Vol. 1 / No 12

Somewhere in Luxembourg

November 14, 1944

F.A. WRECKS JERRY TRAINS

83rd Infantrymen Get Sleeping Bags

Normal Rations Of Cigarettes Will Be Issued

As scattered flurries of snow first began to appear here in Luxembourg this past week, the 83rd Quartermaster offered heartening comfort to the men of the division with the issuance of complete equipment for winter wear, increased cigarettes and candy, and, above all, the issue of sleeping bags.

6,000 of these sleeping bags have already been issued to the combat men of the Infantry Regiments and as additional supplies of these bags are received they will, in turn, be issued to all combat units in the Division and then, finally, to the Service troops. The bag, which is very light and easily folded into a light pack, has the warmth of two blankets and is even warmer when sealed within the water repellent case. The Quartermaster stressed, however, the necessity of keeping the inner blanket dry. "When it's damp, it is cold. Sleep with your nose and mouth in the opening. If you breathe into the bag, moisture collects. Air and dry whenever possible," he warned. One of the prime features of this bag for combat troops, it was also pointed out, is the quick dis-assembly of the bag to enable the infantryman to be out of his covers and ready for action in a few seconds.

The issue of cigarettes, which already has noticeably increased, will be maintained at normal rations, if not better, the Quartermaster indicated, adding that the flying of rations from England and the U. S. was partly responsible for the better rations issued recently. He also maintained that the lowered rations for troops back in Service outfits behind the lines has enabled a greater flow of cigarettes and candy to the 83rd's fighting GIs.

GILBERT

by CPL N.S. FIRFIRE



The Shells Don't Bother Him; He's Going To Be On KP Tomorrow

THE WAR IN BRIEF

WEDNESDAY — With final tabulations still to be received, it became evident that Franklin D. Roosevelt had decisively beaten Dewey and had thus won his fourth term as President of the U. S. On western front, Yanks continue stiff battle southeast of Aachen and British make slight gains in Holland... Lull reported on East Prussian front but advance continues in Hungary... British 8th advance on Forli... Japs fighting hard for last port on Leyte in Philippines. **THURSDAY** — Yank Third

Army opens powerful new attack along Moselle Gap and reports gains despite bad weather... Yanks and British still making slight advances near Aachen and in Holland... Lull continues in East Prussia... In Burma, British take big Jap base of Fort White in major advance. **FRIDAY** — Patton's drive to outflank Metz and advance toward the Rhine continues with success... RAF and 8th Air Force blast German targets... Rest of Western Front comparatively quiet... In

(Cont. on page 2)

324 Artillery Blasts Freights Within Reich

155mm Howitzers Knock Out Three Locomotives, And Hundred Cars

Operating a freight train in Germany these days is bad enough because of the menace of Allied air power, but to be highballing a 30 car special down a level stretch of track and have it literally blown out from under you is something that Jerry railroad engineers experienced recently.

Responsible for this wholesale destruction of Nazi rail equipment and personnel is the 324th Field Artillery Battalion.

The 155 mm howitzers of this battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. George W. Irvine of San Francisco, Cal. 3 heaved their 100 pound projectiles causing this great destruction of Nazi rail transportation.

The procedure for blasting the German Casey Jones' into Kingdom Come was simple. Powerful telescopes aided forward observers in spotting German trains moving at top speed on a level stretch of track. This information was immediately flashed back to the battalion and seconds later the heavy shells were "on the way". The stretch of track would receive a thorough saturation by high explosives and once the engine was derailed the howitzers worked their way back and forth along the track until every freight car had been

(Cont. on page 3)

We Held An Election . . .

Whether it's Roosevelt or Dewey, last week we elected a president. The most important thing is the fact that we participated in an election which took place 3,000 miles away. To every soldier who requested a ballot one was delivered. His vote was counted in the grand total just the same as any civilian in the states.

To Hitler and his gang, this probably brings quite a laugh. Those guys just can't understand why some GI should slog his way through the mud to the orderly room to mail an election ballot. It doesn't even make good sense to them, as to why a soldier should vote at all.

In the wehrmacht such a practice was never followed. Adolph Hitler was the state and his thinking and decisions must be followed by all of Germany.

Hitler forgot all about allowing German civilians to vote as far back as 1933. Sure, he held a few elections but there was only one ticket. Anyone who rose in opposition to the Nazi party was put on Heinrich Himmler's black list. Himmler conducted a pretty bloody purge but it accomplished its purpose. Hitler stayed in as ruler of Germany.

Today though things are pretty dismal in the Reich. The Allies are closing in for the kill. Every major German city has felt the might of Allied air power. Up at Aachen we've taught them a thing or two about doughboy aggressiveness, and American artillery.

Maybe voting in an election doesn't make you a better soldier but it sure makes you feel better inside. It means that the people back home haven't forgotten, that your vote is just as important as the fellow across the street who has six kids and didn't have to come in the army.

Call it an old American custom, if you like, but it all adds up to the same thing. It's just another reason why GI Joe thinks a little faster and shoots a little straighter when he sees a Kraut poke his ugly snout up over the side of a foxhole.

The war in brief Value Of Money In "Lux" Is Told

(Cont. from page 1)

Italy, Forli falls to the British, putting vital Po Valley communication center and airfield in allied hands . . . Japs desperately throwing re-inforcements into battle for Ormoc, their last port on Leyte. SATURDAY — Yanks make good gains northeast, east and southeast of Metz and also push on toward Saar Basin of Germany . . . Russians and Yugoslavians open another drive on Budapest from the southeast . . . Germans steadily retreating from Reds and Finns in Northern Norway . . . British push to northeast of Forli, in Italy, as 9 inches of snow cover many places in 5th Army front . . . U. S. Superforts bomb Nanking, Japs report . . . Yank planes sink 7 Jap destroyers and 3 Jap transports as Nips try to re-inforce Ormoc . . . Japs gradually pulling out of Northern Burma. SUNDAY — Yanks meet continued success in drive to outflank key fortress city of Metz . . . Crossings of the flooded Moselle reported to be successful . . . SHAEF announces divisions now fighting in Gen. Patton's offensive. They are: 5th, 26th, 35th, 80th, 90th and 95th Infantry Divisions and the 4th and 6th Armored Divisions . . . Goebbels announces that Berlin Home Guard will soon be fighting on front lines . . . Berlin claims fighting flaring up again in East Prussia . . . Four more Jap transports and 6 more Jap destroyers sunk by American carrier planes off the Philippines. Japs make desperate attempts to land re-inforcements on Leyte to hold Yank advance.

Whether it's called money, "argent" or "gelt", we all love it and here is its comparative value in Luxemburg.

It takes 44 Belgian Francs to equal a dollar, which makes each Franc worth approximately two and one-quarter cents. The new Luxemburg Francs are equal to the Belgian Francs and thus each Lux Franc is likewise worth two and one-quarter cents.

French Francs will still be accepted in Luxemburg and they remain at their regular value, 49 Francs to a dollar, or approximately two cents per Franc.

If you have any German Marks, you may either try to turn them in to a Finance Officer for re-conversion or save the stuff to shove down Herr Hitler's throat.

ODD NEWS FROM HOME

Newark, N. J. (CNS) — Police here have nabbed "Chesty Charlie" Monahan, who, they claim, is Newark's notorious "pants" pocket burglar, sought in a series of thefts for more than two years. "Chesty Charlie," say police, always dressed as a woman, always jimmied his way into bedrooms at night and never stole anything save what he found in pants' pockets.

Oakland, Cal. (CNS) — Mrs. Very Perry won a divorce when she testified that her husband soaked her shoes in hot water, then put them in the oven and baked them to a crisp. "He was a mean one," she explained.

This Week's Funny Broadcast

New York (CNS) — The Japanese Domei Agency, in a wireless dispatch picked up here, reports "a shortage of cigarettes" in the U. S. "So acute is the shortage," the dispatch reports, "that many American women have taken up pipe smoking."

KNOW YOUR LEADERS

Brigadier General Robert M. Montague has been the 83rd Division Artillery Commander since the activation of the Division at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Born in Portland, Oregon on August 7, 1899, General Montague received his elementary education in that city. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point at the close of the last war and was sent on an overseas tour of inspection of battlefronts in France, Belgium and Italy.



In the post war years General Montague served with artillery units in many parts of the United States and also in Hawaii. He is a graduate of both the Basic and Advanced Field Artillery Schools, as well as the Command and General Staff School.

From 1926 to 1932 he served as instructor in the department of mathematics at West Point. Prior to taking command of the 83rd Field Artillery units he was on duty with the G-3 Section of the War Department General Staff and Requirements Division, Army Ground Forces, in Washington, D. C.

General Montague was married in Louisville, Ky. in 1921 and has one son, Robert Jr. who is now a student at West Point.

For his outstanding work in connection with operations against the Germans in France, General Montague has been awarded the bronze star.

83rd Spearhead

The SPEARHEAD is published by and for the personnel of the 83rd Infantry Division under supervision of the Public Relations Office. All news reviewed by G-2, 83rd Division. The SPEARHEAD is supported without cost to U.S. government. Member of CNS. Reproduction of credited matter prohibited without permission of CNS, 205 East 42nd St., NYC-17, USA. Address inquiries to PRO, 83rd Inf. Div., APO 83, U.S. Army (c/o Postmaster, New-York, N.Y.)

Male Call

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



(Mat 113-693—Stencil 114)

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FOXHOLE POETS

"The Men of the 83rd"

We are the men of the 83d,
In the States we were known as
"The Thundering Herd"
We're rough and tough — when in
the kill
Where fighting is tough from hill
to hill,
We're a bunch that won't give up
an inch
We've come through well in a pinch
We've got a leader that brings
home the bacon,
His name is none other than Gene-
ral MACON,
And when this mess ends,
And we are all homeward-bound,
The boys from the U. S. A.,
Can say they've been around.

Pfc Rob Dukas
Hq Co 1st Bn, 330th Inf.

Reporter's Plea

We are looking for news and
expressible views,
From the boys of the 83rd.
Of ideas and gripes, of happiness
and fights
And of actions we never have
heard.

*

Since fighting men like you and you
Have no time to write about fads
Just furnish the jist of things that
[we've missed,
To us the boys with the pencils
[and pads.

*

So contact your Regt. reporters
[and
Your valorous deeds shall be blessed
Of battles of scandals and "Bull
[Session" Rambles,
We'll make room for them in our
[press.
By- Pvt. John Feall Co. "F"
330th Inf.

324 Artillery Blasts Freights Within Reich

(Cont. from page 1)

thoroughly saturated with shell
fragmentation.

German track gangs worked under
cover of darkness to repair the
damaged rails but harrasing fire
during the night made their job
hazardous and difficult.

During the period that the bat-
talion was operating against the
Jerry Freights it is known that
at least three trains were definitely
destroyed. This included three en-
gines and approximately 100 freight
cars. Direct hits were known to
have been scored on two others,
but limited observation prevented
full visibility of the total amount
of damage inflicted.

Jerry Gives 83rd Doughboy A Wet Run; But No Harm

Pfc. Robert A. Marling, of
Moundsville, W. Va., who is a
doughboy in the 83rd Infantry Divi-
sion, recently received his biggest
shock and biggest sigh of relief
within the same ten minutes. While
edging his way forward to bring
support to his platoon he was under
heavy enemy fire and at one time
during the trip he thought he was
hit. Unmindful of the warm trick-
ling sensation down his back he
kept on with his mission and com-
pleted it. When he finished his job
and stopped to investigate his
wounds he found that the Jerry
rifle bullets had punctured his
canteen instead of his body. The
blood turned out to be nothing more
than good old H₂O but Marling
admits that that has been his
closest shave in combat.

BATTERY OF 323 F. A. COMMENDED

A double commendation has been
received by the 323 Field Artillery
Battalion for Battery C which was
attached to Task Force A and later
Task Force B during the smash
across the Brittany Peninsula and
later at the siege of Brest. This
Artillery Battery worked in con-
junction with the 3rd Bn. of the
330th which received similar let-
ters of commendation.

GI Can't Chew; Lost His Teeth By Concussion

"I only regret I have just one
set of teeth to give for my coun-
try" is the mournful complaint of
Pfc William C Lewis, of Newport,
Washington, an infantryman in the
83rd Infantry Division.

In some recent action with the
83rd "somewhere in Luxemburg",
Lewis was well dug in when an
artillery barrage hit his sector, and
to further protect himself from
concussion he kept his mouth wide
open during the shelling. One enemy
shell, however, hit the dirt close
to his foxhole and the concussion
not only threw Lewis out of the
hole, but his prized and only set
of GI false teeth popped out while
he was flying through the air with
his mouth wide open.

Lewis was too worried about his
life-span to think of the loss of
his teeth at the time and it wasn't
til his outfit left that area that
he found his teeth were missing.
And he couldn't return to find
them.

The Pfc has since been carefully
avoiding K Ration crackers and has
subsisted on a diet of lemon juice
powder and canned dehydrated eggs.
"They don't taste so good, but
they're soft", he moans, starving
and waiting for the dentists to come
through with another plate.

England (CNS) — More than a
million men were landed in north-
ern France during the first 28 days
of the invasion in spite of the
Germans' vaunted Atlantic Wall.

"The Sump Hole"

BY Pvt. MAURICE RENEK.

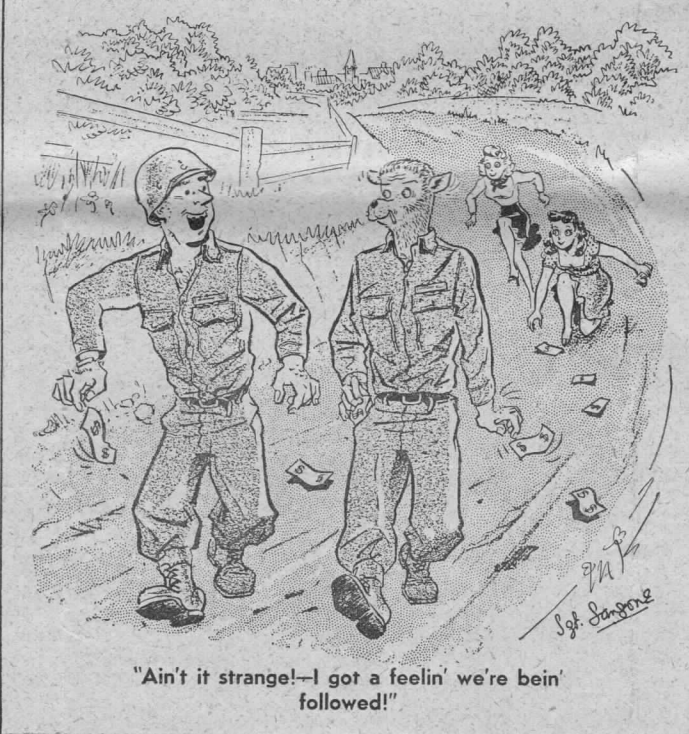
Last week I was the guest of my
mess sergeant doing odd chores
such as cleaning pots and pans for
a whole week. We had French kids
to do this work but, unfortunately
for me, they had to leave. Never
for a moment, did I think that
while my saliva ducts were wide
open in admiration of femine pul-
chritude that one day I would
appreciate the body of a French-
man. KP, isn't bad, at least I got
my hands clean for a change. Be-
fore never used to wash them fig-
uring I wouldn't meet people
important enough to shake hands
with anyway. While on KP my Spec
Number calls for a desertman. You
can imagine what sweet revenge
I got on my sergeant's for seven
wonderful desert days. Working as
a 20th century scullermaid gives
you a different outlook on the
menu. Usually when you are hav-
ing peas, your apt to complain,
"What again". But peas to the
potatoe pan man are tops; it's so
easy to clean. But, those dehy-
drated eggs; the chickens that laid
them were hindering the war effort.
Washing pots and pans at night is
pretty hard. I don't know what
happened out there but when I
came into the mess room my face
was clean yet the pots were still
dirty. I hung around the SUMP
HOLE so much that after the
fifth day it was beginning to smell
like Chanel No. 5. I wouldn't say
that I ate very much but every
night when I went to sleep and
rolled over on my side pineapple
juice would trickle out of my ears.

*

The Wolf

by Sansone

Copyright 1944 by Leonard Sansone, distributed by Camp Newspaper Service



"Ain't it strange!—I got a feelin' we're bein'
followed!"

(Mat 113-698—Stencil 114)

Dear Charlie:

I've been trying for weeks how
to find out just what infantry
outfit you are in. The newsreels
and the newspapers at that great
capture says you were in the ninth
army. Now you write "Somewhere
in Luxemburg" and on the maps
in the newspapers that's right be-
tween two other armies. It's confus-
ing but not amoozing. Is the 83rd
good enough to take the place of
an army? Even Papa is bewildered
and he never gets that way unless
he takes a few hookers of "Bath-
tub Gin."

The other day I was about to
throw out all my old bobbysoxes
that needed sewing. Then, I thought
of you — my Charlie, out there
in a foxhole somewhere, with your
feet and well you know how easy
I start crying (Willie says my tears
remind him of the rains in Cali-
fornia) so I took the threads out
of my bobbies and with that yarn
I will knit you a pair of socks.
The colors of my socks are not OD
but they will keep your poor, blis-
tered, flat feet warm.

Love, Jennifer.

P. S. I just had some pictures
taken of me in my new bathing
suit. If you don't recognize the
boys I'm with, don't worry,
they're new in the crowd.

THE GRAND STAND

Army Pounds Out 59 To 0 Victory To Tounce Irish

Army handed Notre Dame its most decisive licking this season and the worst defeat in the history of Notre Dame-Army series when the Cadets rolled to a 59 to 0 win over the Irish in Yankee Stadium Saturday afternoon. Before a capacity crowd of 80,000 people Army intercepted three Notre Dame passes in the first quarter and turned all of them into touchdowns. Army continued to roll up its tally and lead 32 to 0 at half time, while the best the South Benders were able to do was to push to the Cadet 13 yard stripe as time ran out at the half.

It was the first Army victory over the Irish since 1931.

In other top games of the day, Ohio State remained undefeated by smashing to a 54-19 win over Pittsburgh and Yale defeated Brown 13 to 0 to maintain its string of victories. Michigan pounded out a 14 to 0 verdict over Illinois and Navy handed Cornell a 48 to 0 trouncing.

The scores for Saturday, November 11th were as follows:

East

Army 59, Notre Dame 0.
Navy 48, Cornell 0.
Yale 13, Brown 0.
Holy Cross 19, Colgate 0.
Penn 35, Columbia 7.
Penn State 7, Temple 6.

Mid West

Michigan 14, Illinois 0.
Minnesota 19, Indiana 14.
Iowa State 19, Nebraska 0.
Wisconsin 26, Iowa 7.
Kansas State 18, Kansas 14.
Missouri 21, Oklahoma 21.
Purdue 27, Northwestern 7.
Ohio State 54, Pittsburgh 19.

South

Alabama 34, Mississippi 6.
Arkansas 12, Rice 7.
Duke 34, Wake Forest 0.
Georgia Tech 34, Tulane 7.
N. Car. Naval 33, Georgia Naval 18.
Georgia 38, Florida 0.

South West

Randolph Field 25, Maxwell Field 0.

T. C. U. 14, Texas Tech 0.

Far West

UCLA 7, California 0.
March Field 28, Washington 0.

Yanks Cut Short Jerry's Stay In Tonsorial Parlor

Infantrymen from the 83rd Division have learned that a captured Jerry always knows his rights under the terms of the Geneva Convention, but the Herrenvolk, when captured often ask for "egg in their beer." And that, they won't get from the hardboiled men of the 83rd. A reconnaissance patrol of the 83rd demonstrated that recently.

The patrol, sent out from a larger unit of the Division, was assigned the task of reconnoitering and establishing the possible strength of enemy forces in a nearby village. The patrol worked forward to the edge of the village, then probed deeper into the town and still remained undetected. The patrol leader then noted that something peculiar was taking place in the local barber shop. Continued investigation revealed that eight unsuspecting Germans were inside the shop watching one of their gang have his hair cut.

The Yank patrol leader secured the building and ordered his men to attempt to capture the Germans. The Jerries were taken prisoner, except for three of them who resisted and never again will resist anything. But the Jerry whose haircut was so rudely interrupted by the 83rd's patrol was indignant. "You might have at least waited

until I finished having my hair cut," he wailed in complete seriousness. "You want egg in your beer, Jerry, and you're not getting it from this outfit," the Yank patrol leader responded while marching the prisoners back to the PW cage.

Eisenhower Orders "Tough" But Just Rule for Germany

By Camp Newspaper Service

A "tough but just rule for the portion of Germany to be occupied by our armed forces was indicated by Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander AEF, in his first proclamation published on German soil. "We come as conquerors but not as oppressors," the proclamation declared.

Eisenhower promised that Nazism and German militarism will be obliterated.

"We shall overthrow the Nazi rule," he stated. "dissolve the Nazi party and abolish the cruel, oppressive and discriminatory laws and institutions which the party has created. We shall eradicate that German militarism which has so often disrupted the peace of the world."

Speedy trial and punishment of military and party leaders, the Gestapo and others found guilty of crimes and atrocities also was promised.

Germans were warned to obey "immediately and without question" all the enactments and orders of the Allied military government. Resistance to Allied forces will be dealt with "severely" the proclamation declared.

All German courts and educational institutions in the occupied territory were ordered suspended and all officials were "charged with the duty of remaining at their posts until further orders." Included were "employers and workers of all public undertakings and utilities and all other persons

engaged in essential work."

The proclamation followed by a few days an order of Lt Gen Courtney H. Hodges forbidding American 1st Army troops to fraternize with German civilians.

Three American MPs disappeared mysteriously near Rotgen, south of Aachen, in occupied Germany recently. Their jeep, which Capt Lindsey Nelson, of Knoxville, Tenn, said was "shot to hell" was found by the road only two miles from the unit command post.

"Guts" Pays Off

Determination is sometimes just as valuable as a full magazine, S Sgt Robert Lang of Cincinnati, Ohio, a wire chief in the 83rd Division discovered recently.

Lang and his crew were assigned the task of laying wire along a road closely following the attacking troops. During their progress, they worked their way right into the path of six Jerries. Lang immediately grabbed his carbine and, determination and "do or die" written plainly all over his face, ordered the Nazis to surrender. Faced by Lang's ferocious expression and his weapon, the Jerries gave up and were sent to the rear. It was then that Lang looked at his carbine and saw that not only didn't he have any magazine, but there wasn't even a round in the chamber. Lang shivered with patriotism for a moment, then sighed with relief, and he and his crew went back to work.

Infantry Drops Eggs

In the life of every infantryman there comes a time when he wishes he were in the Air Force, but only a rifle squad from the 83rd Division has known the thrill of acting as bombardiers while still in the infantry.

In a recent advance members of this squad were attacking a village and in the path of their advance was a large two story building that had once served as a railroad station. The building nestled up against a hill and it was possible to climb into a second story window directly from the hill. The members of the squad stealthily climbed into the second story of the station and then discovered, by looking through some large holes in the floor, that the ground story was occupied by Jerries. The solution was simple. Yelling "Bombs Away," the Yank squad pulled the pins out of their hand grenades and dropped them squarely on the Jerries below. They sent a report back to the CP too. "Mission accomplished. Target demolished. New record for low altitude bombing claimed."

