

83rd Thunderbolt

NORMANDY.

BRITTANY.

LOIRE VALLEY.

LUXEMBOURG.

HURTGEN FOREST.

ARDENNES.

FIRST TO RHINE.

ELBE BRIDGEHEAD.

VOL. 3, No. 8

PASSAU, GERMANY

JUNE 23, 1945

Out The Window . . .



Gazing out the shattered window where once Hitler fancied his fame would last a thousand years is an 83rd Signalman, one of 40 who made the first I and E sponsored tour to Berchtesgaden. (Signal Photo)

I AND E GROUP INSPECTS BOMBED BERCHTESGADEN

Berchtesgaden, Hitler's palatial hideaway, perched high in the snow-capped Bavarian Alps, a few kilometers from the Austrian border, has become to mecca for sightseers among soldiers stationed in Germany. Forty men from the Thunderbolt Signal Company made an I and E sponsored, 270 mile roundtrip journey to the high temple of Nazidom, under the supervision of camera-minded WOJG Maurice A. Bergerson, on June 17th.

Bombed on April 28th and fired by the departing SS Elite Guard of 400 picked gangsters prior to its capture by the Third Division on May 6th, the notorious mountain retreat is a gutted shambles. Only two recognizable items of furniture were left behind by the SS when they retreated, the grand piano in the house Hitler built for Martin Bormann, at the end his closest confidant, and a rose-colored divan large enough for two of "Herman the Fat" in the home of that ill-starred advisor. Center of interest is, of course, Hitler's own rambling two story structure. Outside 106st Airborne men who have replaced Hitler's Elite Guard at Berchtesgaden have erected a sign saying "Hitler Doesn't Live Here Any More." Inside about a thousand penmanship experts have endorsed every available bit of wall space. The famous 25 foot by 40 foot window at which Hitler loved to pose for "inspiration photos" has no pane. But the view is the same, the broad sweep of valley and mountains remains as great a lure for soldiers with cameras as it was for Hitler's own photographers. One particularly knowing camera fan carefully took a reading with a light meter, whipped out a Brownie 2A and confidently snapped a roll of film with no further reference to his exposure meter. He must have gotten the picture of the week for "Life".

The monument to Nazi brutality and Allied bombing efficiency consists mainly of Hitler's, Bormann's and

Goering's houses, the SS barracks, the Platterhof Hotel, named for the mountain on which the estate is located, and Diplomat House, at which Hitler imposed many of his strangulating treaties on servile European statesman. All of the buildings are well camouflaged although it was surprising to find a comparative absence of formal fortifications near the buildings or along the road winding up the Alps from the village of Berchtesgaden to the retreat. The only evidences of prepared defenses were a couple of blasted searchlight batteries near the entrance to the estate.

Although Berchtesgaden has been picked fairly clean by souvenir hunters Pfc James Picco and Pfc James Leeds. (Continued on Page 3)

SS Strategy

A brassiere became an object of official military strategy the other day in the 330th area when a physically attractive German girl was picked up in a routine examination of prisoners. Noticing that the brassiere was a little too well constructed to contain even her charms, it was discovered that the straps in the back held a slender, sharp knife. By questioning, it was revealed that she was an SS member, and the knife might eventually have found its way into the back of some GI Romeo.

Variety Bills Provide Top Stage Fare

With the appearance in Passau of the Glenn Miller Band this week-end, the opening of the Division Artillery variety show, "Bavarian Nights" last Thursday evening, and the reopening this week of the 83rd Division's own show, "Foxhole Follies", entertainment fare for Thunderbolt men got off to a big start.

Scheduled for opening on the Thunderbolt circuit on June 28 is the USO show, "Capers of 1945".

"Foxhole Follies", featuring T/5 Milt Charleston, former comic appearing with Olsen and Johnson's "Sons O' Fun" and later with Ken Murray on the West Coast, and Pvt. Sandy MacPherson, onetime Cliff Edwards star, opened this past week at the 110th Evac Hospital. The difficult job of keeping the two apart falls to Pvt. Jimmy Burton, the master of ceremonies and pre-war night club vocalist in Detroit and Toledo. The unit is accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra from the 83rd Division band.

Faced with a temporary shortage of projectors, the Division Special Service Office has set up six areas in the Division with six crews to present three movies a day in each, except in the Sports Arena at Passau, where one show only will be held each evening until all reconstruction work on the building has been completed.

First DSC In 83rd Goes Posthumously To 331st Inf. Officer

Late Col. Faber of 2nd Bn. Cited For Unusual Gallantry And Leadership At Sainteny

First Distinguished Service Cross to come to the Thunderbolt Division has been awarded posthumously to Lt. Col. James F. Faber of Lodi, California who commanded the 2nd Bn, 331st Infantry from the day of its activation until his death on July 10, 1944.

The legendary "Jungle Jim", whose gallant leadership during the heart-break days in the hedgerows steeled his men for future combat, acquired his nickname through the gruelling training methods he used in the States. He came to the Division as a major in July of '42 with the original cadre and earned his silver oak leaf in November of that year. The stocky, 31-year-old battalion commander was graduated from West Point in '35 and served as a company grade officer with the 2nd and 3rd Infantry Divisions prior to joining the 83rd.

The action for which Col. Faber was decorated took place during the attack on Sainteny, near Carentan, last July 9th. The Battalion had suffered severe casualties and was being held up by small arms, machine gun and tank fire outside the town. "Jungle Jim" secured an American tank, led it on foot in front of his lead companies and directed its fire on two enemy tanks. The American tanker hit one of the Nazi tanks but the second German tank knocked him out. Col Faber got a rocket launcher and, accompanied by an enlisted man carrying rocket grenades, crawled to within 50 yards of the remaining Nazi tank. He fired and set the German tank ablaze. Two other German tanks coming up were frightened off by the heroic action.

Again the attack on Sainteny was resumed. However, enemy fire was so

heavy that it soon stalled. "Jungle Jim" ran from platoon to platoon shouting to the men and slapping them on the back to encourage them. His spirit fused them into action; they rallied to take the town.

Once in Sainteny, he chose a burning building for an OP because it was the best vantage point. Another enemy tank rumbled into town and started to blast at houses near the OP. It was forced to turn tail when bazooka men opened up on it. But Col. Faber wasn't satisfied merely to see it retreat. He rushed from the OP with drawn pistol in an attempt to overtake it but the tank got away after he had come within 20 yards of it.

Returning to the OP, he said to the Company Commander of G Company, "If I could have jumped on it, I could have shot down into the turret and knocked it out".

Col. Faber was killed the following day when he entered his command post to telephone the Regimental Commander that relief elements which had come up to take over from his battered Battalion were in place. The command post has been subjected to a heavy shelling and he had been warned against entering it but "Jungle Jim" insisted that it was his duty to go back into the building. While he was telephoning, he was instantly killed by an 88mm shell.

Ancient Passau Castle Will Be GI Rest Center

"We want the best Division rest center in the ETO", announced Maj. Carl L. Anderson, Officer in Charge of the new Thunderbolt Rest Area at the Oberhaus in Passau, "and from the way things are progressing, we're going to have it."

New construction, painting and installation of comfortable beds and sanitary facilities are moving along rapidly and, according to present indications, the Oberhaus will be officially open to Thunderbolt men about July 4th. A similar rest center for Division officers will be available at the Niederhaus, also in Passau.

The working crew of more than 100 German civilians and DPs is under the immediate supervision of Hans Almoes, a former radio engineer from Amsterdam, Holland, who had been working as a slave laborer for the German Army for nearly five years.

Construction work in the 700-year-old castle has its handicaps, but under the capable direction of Almoes, is quickly taking form. Running water, bathrooms, new kitchens and comfort-

able sleeping accommodations are being installed. At one point it was found necessary to break down a 400-year old wall, six feet thick, in order to install a new stove in a kitchen. Proof that the wall was "built to last" was amply shown when it took nearly a week to break through the stone and mortar.

Former SS quarters provide the source for much of the new furnishings. Civilian seamstresses are making mattresses for the beds.

Nearby, workmen are building new tennis courts and putting the finishing touches on an excellent swimming pool, reputedly built by the Germans in accordance with Olympic specifications.

When an SS unit elected to defend the castle against advancing Third Army troops, Yank shell fire loosened up a lot of the old tile shingles. Almoes estimates that approximately 30,000 have been replaced.

Also damaged by the shelling was the thirteenth century chapel. Authority (Continued on Page 2)

83rd Thunderbolt

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83rd Infantry Division

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In The Pacific

With Jap resistance on Okinawa Island ended this week the United States now has a 485-square-mile invasion and air base located 325 miles south of the Japanese mainland. The 82-day battle for the island came to an end Thursday when Admiral Chester Nimitz announced that the island had been won, though there are still some pockets of Japanese soldiers to be wiped out.

The island was taken at high cost in American lives. Up-to-date casualty figures are not available, but about a month a month ago 5,300 soldiers and marines had been killed and 21,000 wounded. Jap casualties were close to 90,000, with most of that number dead.

Simultaneously with the taking of Okinawa, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced the appointment of Gen. Joseph W. Stillwell as Commanding General of the 10th Army, which, with certain Marine divisions, opened the invasion of Okinawa. Gen. Stillwell succeeds Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner who was killed on Okinawa last Monday. On Tuesday Brig. Gen. Claudius M. Easley of the 96th Infantry Division was killed, also on Okinawa.

Radio Tokyo announced that U.S. Engineers had already constructed ten airfields on the island, capable of handling more than 1,000 bombers and fighters. The Jap radio added that their air forces were preparing for the Battle of Japan. U.S. Intelligence officers have estimated that about two fifths of the Jap army is assigned to the duty of protecting the coasts. These are fresh troops. The Jap army, which now consists of about 4,000,000 men, could be boosted immediately to 5,500,000 by the addition of physically able men who are not now in uniform. There are also about a million and a half Jap youths between 17 and 20 who haven't been drafted. And added to their number are the 200,000 or so men who reach draft age each year. These figures recall a statement made by Gen. Stillwell last April when he said "the Japs are stronger now than they were when the war started."

Complete elimination of Japan by the end of 1946 was predicted this week by General Henry L. Arnold, Commanding General of the U. S. Air Force who has just completed a tour of the Pacific theater. Maj. Gen. Curtis Lemay, Superfortress commander in the Marianas Islands, took a more optimistic view when he said earlier in the week that "in a few months we shall soon be out of targets and perhaps out of Japan."

However close, or far away, the the end of the Pacific war may be the steady progress of U. S. Forces toward the destruction of Japan continued this week as B-29s carried on repeated attacks on the islands industrial cities "in power that surpasses that of the thousand-plane raids that were made on Europe." Radio Tokyo reported that at least three of Japan's largest munitions centers were left burning in flames that continued more than four hours after they were raided.

In the five-months-old Luzon campaign about 100 miles remains to be covered but resistance is becoming increasingly disorganized and the 37th Division continues to roll ahead.

DIVISION OPERATES BIG PW PROCESSING SYSTEM

Wehrmacht Men Sweating Out Discharge, Too

Prisoner of War camps have blossomed in Germany where formerly only the flower of German militarism grew and boasted its might. The 331st Infantry has two such PW camps where German soldiers are brought in, checked, and, if not wanted for war crimes, sent back to civilian pursuits with an Allied discharge.

Lt. Irwin Drucker of Brooklyn, Co. F, is provost marshal of the camp located in the 2nd Bn. area just outside Pocking, in a former aluminum factory. Here the men of the 2nd Bn. have the task of guarding not only the prisoners but an estimated 1,000,000 dollars worth of aluminum.

The primary task of the 500 prisoners in the first commitment brought in from Tittling, was to clear a portion of the factory and prepare bunks for sleeping quarters. Some few bunks were there; others were made of scrap lumber.

In a building separate from the sleeping quarters a kitchen was set up for the men to do their own cooking. With the digging of latrines and preparing of their sleeping quarters finished, they occupy their time until released working the surrounding grounds, which are littered with junk, into some order.

Most of the men are in their early twenties though some look 60 and others 16. While many are still in German uniform, a number are dressed in ill-matching civilian clothing. Most have a ragged, dirty look about them.

The men, according to Sgt Lewis Shaginaw, Sykesville, Pa., and Pfc. Clair F. Lane, Bath, N.Y., both of Co. F, on duty there, are cooperative, responding quickly to orders.

"One of the PWs," said Lane, "told us he was glad Germany lost the war because if she had won there would have been a lot of countries to guard."

Band Gives Pop Concert

Carrying out their current program of playing in concert throughout the Division and attached units, the 83rd Division Band under the direction of CWO Z. P. King, played for Divarty Headquarters last Tuesday and at the 330th Infantry Headquarters on Wednesday.

Attended by 1,200 artillerymen, a two-hour concert of jazz, military marches and symphonic music was held Tuesday evening in Passau's huge Nibelungen Halle. For the first hour the 83th concert band, under the direction of CWO Z. P. King, played a selection of familiar marches and popular symphonic arrangements, including the National Emblem March, Accentuate the Positive, and the Cowboy Rhapsody. The Cowboy Rhapsody, written by Morton Gould, is a variation on well-known songs of the West written in the symphonic idiom.

A violin, bass and guitar trio composed of T/Sgt. Charles Stutz, and T/As John L. Götz and Clint E. Reed played three popular selections as an intermission break.

The concluding hour of the concert was taken over by the Riflemen dance band under the direction of T/Sgt. "Pons" Lamey. The Riflemen were in rare form and proceeded to rock the rafters of the ancient hall with their hottest rhythms.

The outdoor concert at the 330th attracted a large audience, including many civilians, who joined heartily in the applause. Highlight of the program of marches, light classics and popular tunes was the introduction of a new infantry song, written by a soldier who gave it his own name, "The Ballad of Roger Young."

and he'd never have gotten out of the army."

Most of the first shipment were mountain and working troops belonging to the noncombatant category in the German army. Until the last months, an only child whose father had been killed in the last war did not have to fight on the front lines.

The official scene on the outskirts of Tamm in the 1st Bn. PW camp where Lt. George R. Hill, Winters, Texas, is provost marshal, is the same but the setting is different. Here the prisoners, who are from the surrounding area, are quartered in a large field fenced by barbed wire and well guarded.

Hill says 97 percent of the PWs there volunteered for the clearing up interviews. At that time there were 708 prisoners, 560 of whom were SS Troopers, including a veteran sergeant who had spent 20 years in the German army. Among them have been found a number of men listed on the war criminal list.

The men are interviewed by a CIC and IPW board who check their names against the war criminal lists, delve into their Nazi leanings and, upon finding no incriminating evidence, turn them loose with official discharge papers. War criminals are held for trial.

Rest Center

(Continued from Page 1)

zation has already been granted to renew the frescoes on the walls of the ancient building and, as soon as the necessary repairs are completed, regular services will be conducted there for men at the center.

According to Maj. Anderson, present plans call for the accommodating of approximately 400 men at one time in the spacious castle. A staff of 21 displaced persons has been assembled to do the cooking, serving and other tasks, leaving the "resting" GIs full time to devote to their special interests: swimming, tennis, group activities, photography or just plain loafing.

Final work at the Officer's Club at the Niederhaus is being directly supervised by another Dutch lad, Jack Beek, who was preparing for a professorship in the Dutch language at the university in Groningen, Holland, his hometown, when the Nazis drafted him for forced labor in the Reich.

Check Begins At Tent City Near Tittling

In a small valley near Tittling, Germany the 324th Field Artillery has set up a tent city where thousands of German soldiers are being processed for possible discharge from the Army.

Close scrutiny is given each man being considered for discharge. C.I.C. and I.P.W. teams check records thoroughly for former SS men and war criminals. If the soldier is found to be eligible for discharge, he is assigned to another unit for further examination. Transportation to the new unit is under the direction of WJG Roy Carlson of 330th Regimental Headquarters and Pfc. Charles Spellman of Service Co.

At the new unit the men are forced to remove their clothing and bathe in a mountain stream. Following the bath they are examined for scars and other marks on their bodies that might be useful in later identification. They are also given a physical and deloused.

Successfully passing this examination does not mean that the soldier will be returned to his former civilian life. Instead he will be transported to 330th Regimental Headquarters for later distribution to the charge of Burgo-meisters within the 330th area.

The Burgomeister is responsible for the immediate control of the men assigned to him, but top control remains with the officers of the 330th. Under the Burgomeister the men will be assigned to farm labor, road repair, clearing debris and other projects for the betterment of the community.

As soon as the Russians and the British will permit the return of discharged men whose homes are now in the areas under the control of either the Russians or the British, the men will be fully released from their duties in the American zone of occupation. If a man lives in the American occupation zone and is discharged, he is released at once through the same process but he is not paroled to the Burgo-meisters. He is free to return home.

... To A Turn



Obviously done to a turn and ready to turn over is luscious Lana Turner of cinema city fame. (Photo by MGM)

The Wolf

by Sansone

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MPs File Copy While SS Man Pens Memoirs In Old Vilshofen Jail

They used to handle the vast barbed wire POW enclosures with several thousand uniformed Nazis in them but now MPs of the 83rd MP Platoon, police section, are the keepers of the keys to the town jail in the sleepy little town of Vilshofen on the Danube. It's an old jail with wooden-doored cells, wooden bunks with Wehrmacht blankets for covering and huge, ornate coal stoves for heat.

You would expect to find casual vagrants in such a place, hoboes on their way to no place in particular. And there are a few such cases, ex-Wehrmacht soldiers picked up for curfew violation, street-walkers and petty criminals.

"The majority of the curfew violators get ten days at hard labor," said Sgt. Philip Spivak of Philadelphia who is in charge of the prison. "That's to show them that we mean business in enforcing military government laws. It hurt me to jug a Hungarian who got drunk when he was told he was going to be taken home the following day. But the guy got so noisy we had to do it. He was kind of perplexed about his American friends! One of our boys told him he was lucky he didn't get ten years because that's what we are likely to get for breaking the law, but that didn't soothe his ruffled feelings too much."

But the Hungarian's case is not the usual one in the GI jail. There are six Yugoslavians held for examination by intelligence authorities as suspected war criminals. All of them belonged to a Yugoslavian "home guard" organization under the banner of the SS.

"One of them spends all his time writing his life history," said Pfc. Frank Moody of Springfield, Ohio, one of the guards. "Every night when I pick up the stuff he has written during the day I get the peculiar feeling that I am handling another 'Mein Kampf'. This one isn't the least bit hesitant about admitting his connection with the SS. He even boasts about paving the way for Hitler to take over Yugoslavia."

There are other prisoners, too, who reflect the still arrogant attitude of some Germans toward the American occupation of this Nazi breeding ground. Two young girls sentenced to ten days for curfew violation laughed in the judge's face. They are now serving 15 days. A German civilian was picked up for threatening other civilians with a rifle for cooperating with American occupation forces. Another is suspected of hiding precious art treasures for a big-wig Nazi still at large.

It doesn't make much difference to the MPs guarding the prisoners how arrogant or how vicious they are.

"We've got 'em under lock and key," said Pvt. Henry Kukulski of Chicago, who has handled more than 60,000 prisoners since the Division landed in Normandy last June. "I'd rather have a dozen German Al Capones with a big, thick door between me and them than a couple of thousand PWs in a wide-open field. I never felt completely sure one of those uniformed guys wouldn't pull a grenade from no place and blow us both wide apart."

The MPs work four hours at a stretch and are off duty 12. They don't

have to take the minor offenders out for an airing. There's an old German jailer who has been with the prison for 20 years who sees that the prisoners are fed and who takes them for a walk around the ground every morning and evening.

Hard labor for the short termers consists of filling in shell holes at the local airfield, now being used by Division liaison planes, digging sump holes and any other labor detail that is required by units of the Division. The prisoners are called for by soldiers from the units requesting their service and are returned to the prison by these same units.

In addition to Spivak, Kukulski and Moody, Pvt. George Alspaugh of Winston Salem, N. C. and Pvt. Thomas Lavin of Chester, Penn., both old hands at guarding prisoners, assist at the Vilshofen jail.

GIs Inspect Hitler's Den

(Continued from Page 1)

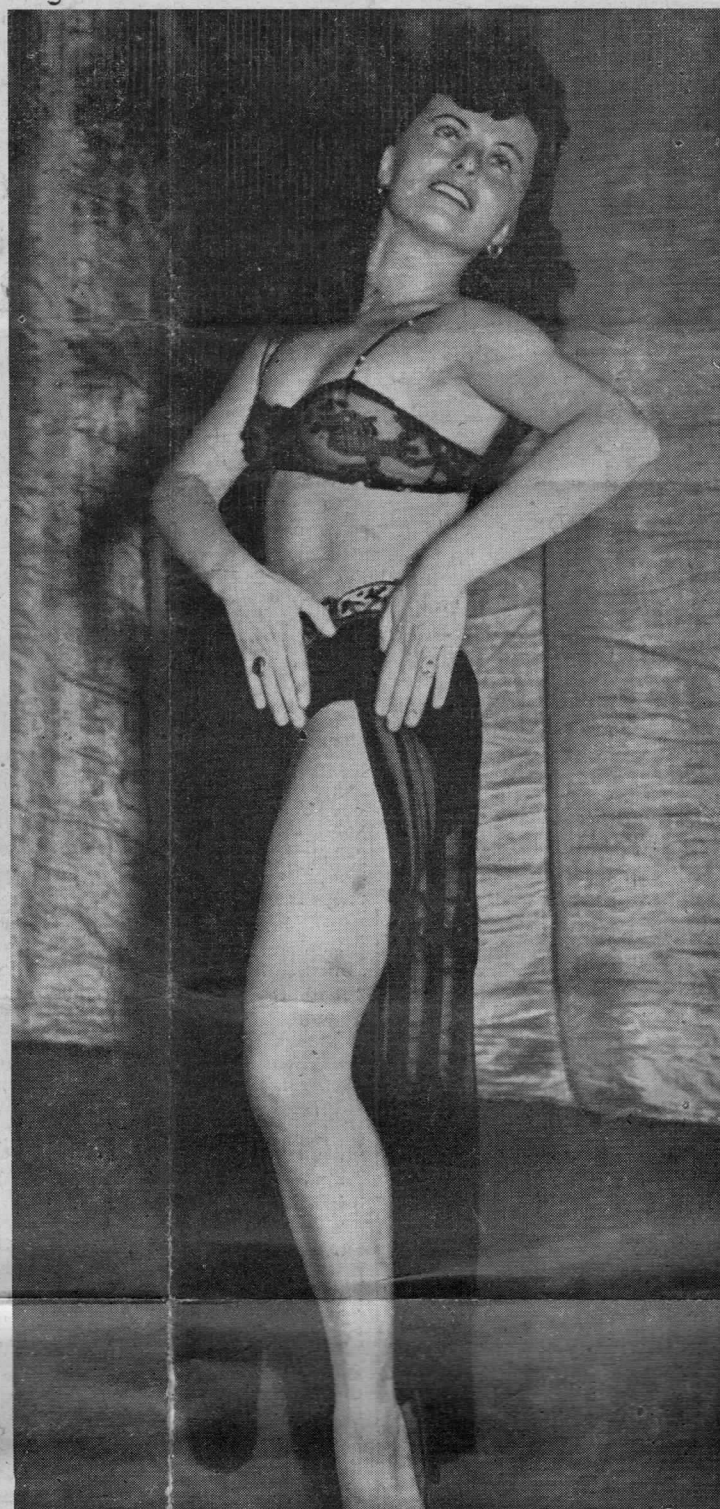
found a cache of 35 mm motion picture film displaying ladies in various stages of undress. It does not require too much stretch of the imagination to deduce from their discovery the type of entertainment that was offered to the Fuehrer's close friends.

Tours of Berchtesgaden are being arranged by other I and E officers throughout the Division. They should take a cue from the trip made by Bergeron and his group by stopping enroute to photograph points of interest. Particularly appealing are the historic cities of Braunau, and Salzburg, the breathtakingly magnificent Alps climbing into the clouds and the mountain village of Berchtesgaden.

The village, center of a former 10,000 kilometer-square state founded by the Church in 1400, abounds in local color. The natives wear traditional Alpine mountain climber's costumes with the bright colored vests, feathered hats and abbreviated pants generally associated with Sonja Henie movies. The quaint buildings reflect the religious origin of the village in their timeless, ecclesiastical murals done in brilliant, unfading colors.

And even if they have to give up a little of their picture taking time they should stop at the Red Cross tavern in Berchtesgaden for coffee and donuts. It's absolutely the only place in the Army where a guy doesn't have to wait in line.

... Clara Calling



Sorry about the toe

Grind Gal Is Artillery Show Hit

"Bavarian Nights", a musical variety show, opened Thursday night to a packed house of enthusiastic cannoneer first-nighters at the Divarty Theater in Passau. The well-paced performance, directed by Lt. R. A. Goodman, who also capably handled the master of ceremonies role, featured a number of continental acts which, before the war, had received top billing in leading music halls in England and European capitals.

The show-stopper for the night was exotic Clara Obladen, petite brunette rhythm dancer who, in the featured spot of the bill, brought down the house with her spectacular interpretations of the tango and rhumba.

Opening the performance, which was in two parts, was a colorful Bavarian music and song routine, "Bavarian Boogie-Woogie." This gave the GI audience an opportunity of seeing, first hand, the music, songs and dances native to this part of Germany. Besides the two singers, other musical contributions included solos on the zither and a table full of cowbells of assorted sizes.

Carrying along the tempo of the show, Charles Stieger, Hungarian magician, took over and bewildered the Thunderbolt artillerymen with an amazing repertoire of sleight-of-hand and manipulation tricks.

Swinging into music and types of acts more familiar to the soldier audience, the second part of the presentation started off with a smooth trombone solo, backed by a swing band, of "Indian Love Call."

With the white lights dimmed and colored floods reflecting on a silver-hued drop, Miss Obladen swept on to the stage to score with her first number, a smooth tango.

She was followed by Walter Fisher, vocalist, who sang "Stardust", always a favorite with Yanks everywhere. "Ellen Auer and Partner", acrobats, presented one of the most thrilling sequences of the evening with a demonstration of balancing that kept the GIs on the edge of their seats.

The final spot of the bill went to Miss Obladen for her rendition of a rhumba, which had all of the body action familiar to rhumba fans everywhere.

Fiancée Talks

Never underestimate the silence of a woman, or, in Providence, R.I. almost everybody reads the publication of the Rhode Island School of Design. At least Pfc. Richard H. Johnson of the 331st Infantry thinks they do.

When Johnson left Providence for the ETO, he and his fiancée made an agreement that they would keep their engagement a secret. Last week Johnson received a clipping from the paper published by the school where Johnson was a student before coming into the Army. It told all about Johnson's life in the ETO and carried the announcement of his engagement!

Red Cross Girls Here For Month

The line forms on the left for coffee and doughnuts with the assignment to the Division of a Red Cross Clubmobile from the XII Corps. The girls, Blanche Barnes, Kansas City, Mo.; Elsie Yeager, Seattle, Wash.; and Dorothy Fargo, Glencoe, Ill., start making the rounds of Thunderbolt units this week.

According to Miss Fargo, spokesman for the trio, it will take nearly a month to cover the entire Division and its attached units.

For those interested in statistics, Miss Fargo estimates that the Club-

mobile serves approximately 2000 doughnuts along with 90 gallons of coffee to an average of 1000 men per day, not to mention cigarettes, candy, gum and other familiar American luxuries.

Getting on to other subjects, Miss Fargo, who has been overseas for 11 months, admitted that there has been no point discharge system set up by the Red Cross.

"We work on a rotation plan. After 24 months overseas we are supposed to be returned to the USA. Elsie has been over here for 14 months, but Blanche and I have 13 more to go.

"We really don't mind, though. After some of the places we have been, your 83rd Division area is wonderful. I hope we can stay here for a long time!"

Male Call

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

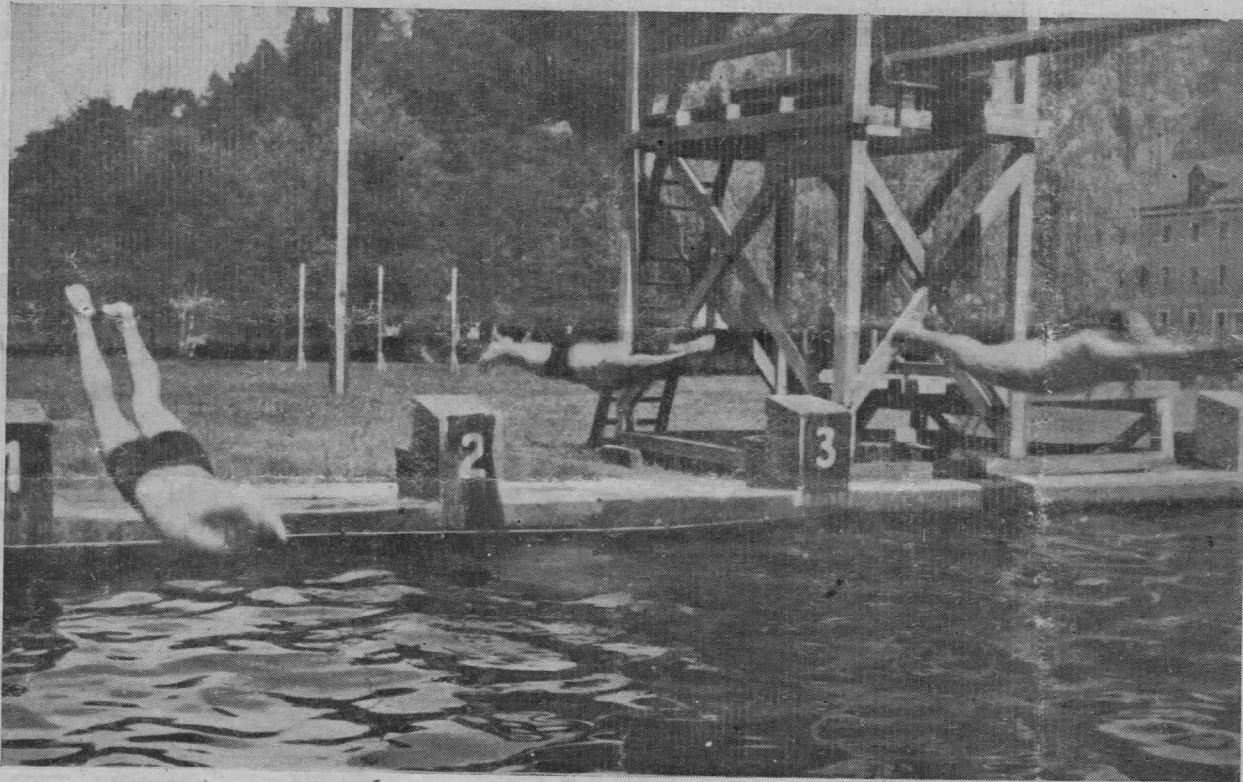


Tetched-nition Fifth Grade



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Water Boys . . .



Getting in trim for the Division's swimming events are, left to right, T/4 Seymour Schenkman, 110th Evac Hosp, T/5 Robert Gorman, 83rd Recon, and Lt. Norman Zelman, 83rd Recon and 83rd Division swimming coach. (Signal Corps Photo)

Swimming Meet Planned For July

After the 83rd Division moved into the Danube district of Bavaria it was discovered that there are many swimming facilities in the area and that enthusiasts had been making full use of the opportunity to indulge in this hot weather sport.

Consequently, the Division Athletic Office has arranged an Elimination Meet to be held in Passau at the Rest Center on July 7th. Because XII Corp has set the date for the Corps Swimming Championships as of July 11th, it is again necessary to get team material by the elimination method. However, a regular dual meet schedule has also been set up, the first meet to be held July 20th.

Therefore in the case of swimming, as is true in other Division sports, the individual champions and unit champions will have to defend their honors in the THUNDERBOLT OLYMPIAD week, during which time the Division Championship Meet will be run off. The date set for that event is September 13th.

1st Lt. Norman Zelman of the 83rd Recon has been selected as coach of the 83rd Division team. Zelman has a wealth of water sports experience to qualify him for the job. The highlight of his career was his membership on the Texas A & M Water Sports team for the years 1937-38-39. In '39 he was a member of their Water Polo team which won the National AAU Championship.

The Division team, selected on the basis of the July 7th eliminations, will consist of 33 swimmers, one officer manager, and a coach and trainer. The men to be selected will be those having the best times in the events in which they are entered. Each unit sending a team to the Elimination Meet is required to keep its squad under a strength of 36 men. Individuals from units which cannot enter a full team will be given the same consideration for participation as team members. All entries, unit or individual, must be turned in to the Division Special Service Office not later than July 5th. Following is the listing of the Dual Meets within the Division:

Friday 20 July	331 vs 330
Friday 27 July	329 vs D'Arty
Friday 3 August	330 vs 329
Friday 10 August	331 vs D'Arty
Friday 17 August	330 vs D'Arty
Friday 24 August	331 vs 339
Saturday 14 July	331 vs 330
Saturday 28 July	329 vs D'Arty
Saturday 4 August	330 vs 329
Saturday 11 August	331 vs D'Arty
Saturday 18 August	330 vs D'Arty
Saturday 25 August	331 vs 329

In preparation for the coming

swimming events Coach Zelman has written up a set of helpful training rules which will be made available through unit Athletic Officers. Briefly the most important points he advises is to train for stamina to carry the swimmer over the prescribed distance of his race with little worry about his wind. Secondly, the swimmer should develop relaxation in his stroke.

With few days for training Zelman urges unlimbering exercises be taken. Build up to at least 2 miles of swimming for the dashes, and 4 or 5 miles for the distance events. Divers should continually work on form especially regarding the optional dives.

Swimmers and divers both, if possible, should be given an opportunity to eat a diet free from greasy foods.

Unit Athletic Officers Named

On June 21st the approved list of Unit Athletic Officers was announced by Capt. Jules C. Reeder, 83rd Division Special Service Officer. These men represent the three Regiments, Divarty, the medical and engineer battalions, the quartermasters, signal and ordnance companies, the Division MPs, the Recon Troop, the 803TDs and the 736 and 737 Tank Battalions. To date a Special Troops Officer has not been designated.

For information concerning unit athletic programs, the following officers may be contacted: Lt. Williams, 329th Inf; Lt. Cavillini, 330th Inf; Lt. Kribs, 331st Inf; Lt. Goodman, Divarty; Capt. Hassaman, 308th Medics; Lt. Disarick, 308th Engrs; Lt. Little, 83rd Ren; Lt. Hall, 83rd QM; Lt. Strally, 83rd Sig; Lt. McLaughlin, 783rd Ord; Lt. Clark, 83rd MPs; Capt. Kruszewski, 803rd TDs; Lt. Maier, 736th Tankers, and Lt. Carter, 737th Tankers.

A check at Div. Hqrs. Sp. Troops revealed that Lt. Slack is in a position to answer questions on athletics at that point.

Let's Ride, Podner . .

Horses! Horses! Horses! The Division Special Service Office, in the interests of those who prefer their recreation in the saddle, would like to know the whereabouts of any riding stables in the Division area. If one is located, please notify CWO. A. E. Sheehy, Assistant Recreation Officer, SSO.

83rd Horseshoe Matches Set

The 83rd Division will hold a horseshoe tournament on July 1st at 1400 on the grounds of the Division Rest Center at Passau. The purpose of this tournament is to select two Division Teams of six men each to represent the Division at the XII Corps Championships on July 6th.

Each Regiment and Div. Arty may enter two teams in the Division Eliminations. All other units may not enter over one team. All units must submit their six-man team rosters to the Division Special Office on or before June 29th.

The competition will be on a singles basis only, whether NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) or AAU (American Athletic Union) has not as yet been decided. Qualified judges will be provided by the Division Athletic Office.

A complete schedule will be published next week.

League Ball Play To Open

To soothe the savage breast the THUNDERBOLT Baseball League will finally pry off the lid to wipe out its early season box score of no hits, no runs and no equipment from Com Z. Opening Day is set for July 7th and the games will be played on a "Home and Home" basis.

Three games a week are scheduled to be played Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The schedule will continue through August with a play-off involving the first four teams to be held just prior to THUNDERBOLT OLYMPIAD week. Umpires will be appointed by Division.

The units represented in the six-team league include the 329th, 330th and 331st Infantry regiments, Division Artillery, Special Troops and the 736th and 737th Tankers.



There comes a time in every phase of sports when one person becomes the top man and he is sitting pretty, so to speak. But sooner or later along comes another fellow and knocks him off his lofty perch. Many are the situations which cause the king to topple and the underdog to have his day.

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE GAME is the weapon which wins or loses for the players and zestfully stimulates the spectators. Call it what you will . . . he's got 'em rattled . . . the Indian sign is on . . . the guy is hexed . . . he's got 'em right behind the eight ball.

Even though that numbered ball isn't used in the game of billiards, it seems like Welker Cochrane has had Willie Hoppe peering desperately around it for quite some time. The pair recently completed an exhausting coast-to-coast cue session in which Hoppe tried to capture Cochrane's 3-cushion title. But Welker won the marathon, 4819 to 4771, after 90 games. By the end of the tour they weren't even on speaking terms and Hoppe still had a bad taste from receiving the same type of treatment last year.

And so we come to the weaker sex, those gals who go out there and play, leaving their intuition and vanity cases at home, bringing only their muscles and will to win. When the RADCLIFFE GIRLS can beat the Harvard crew and the third man on the Camp Lejeune Marine Base tennis team is LT. HELEN MARLOWE, former California racquet wielder of note . . . well, for forty-love, ain't that a deuce.

But cheer up, fellas, there's a GI in the AAF stationed at Las Vegas, Nev. who will uphold our honors and quite a few other things. He was voted "Mr. America of 1945". He is Clarence Ross of Oakland, Cal. who was selected from 50 contestants participating in the national AAU senior weightlifting championship. His training schedule probably started out by lifting L-5s and ended up with B-29s. Okeh, SUPERMAN, now you try it.

Now that we've talked of the mousy persons and men, let's take another look at the Nags now that the lather is off the horses and the rubber band is off the wallet. That Derby winner, Hoop Jr., isn't exactly a flash in the pan, which he proved by placing second in the Preakness. The railbirds had this race figured in their dope sheets and picked Polynesian the winner. They remembered the performance of this rank outsider in the Withers Mile when he cleaned up on that race late in May.

And with baseball going into the stretch drive in July we'll try to gather the consensus of opinions on the Majors for next week's type patter.

Two Events Added As Field Meet Shapes Up

Provided the necessary equipment can be obtained by meet time July 4th, the pole vault and hurdles will be run in the eliminations. All units having men who are qualified for either or both these events should include them on their rosters even though it is possible that these events will not be run off.

These events are scheduled for the XII Corp Championships to be held July 24th. Track and Field Coach, Lt. James L. Fish, will carry qualified men in these events on the 83rd Division Track Team whether they are able to participate in the eliminations or not.

To date the location of the 4th of July Meet has not definitely been established but every indication points to its being held in Vilshofen. Reports are coming in from the larger Regimental units that they will field full strength teams to vie for places on the Division squad. In spot checks through the smaller outfits and attached units men with varying specialties will represent them and some will even field teams having men who are able to participate in more than one event.

A dual meet Track and Field Schedule has been set up and each of these meets will be run off at the Vilshofen track starting at 1430 on Meet Schedule Days. Tentatively these meets will only include the Regiments and Divarty. If separate battalions, platoons and companies, including Special Troops, can field a team of sufficient strength to warrant it, another schedule will be set up.

The events thus far included in the dual meets will be as follows:

100 yd. dash	2 mile run
220 yd. dash	880 yd. Relay
440 yd. dash	Broad Jump
880 yd. run	High Jump
1 mile run	Shot Put

Archery Tourney

The XII Corps Archery tournament will be held in Regensburg on July 6th. Interested personnel will submit entries to the Special Service Office at Division Headquarters along with their past qualifications by July 1st.

Due to lack of equipment a team will be selected on their qualifications. The team will be a five-man combination and each man will shoot 90 arrows. The distances will be 40-50-60 yds. Each man will shoot 30 arrows at each distance.

Reverse Points

Getting two points per month for overseas service while being stationed in the United States may sound a little far-fetched, but it has happened to a man in the 330th Infantry.

Sgt. John F. Braz, of Pahoa, Hawaii, and Cannon Company, makes it come true, for those extra points that help him to raise his service rating score to a 93-points.

Under the regulations announced by the War Department on the point system, individuals whose home and place of induction was outside, but who served inside the continental limits of the United States, will be given credit for all service away from their residence.

This ruling makes Braz the only man in the 330th Infantry who gets overseas credit for serving in the United States. He has 42 months total service, and has not been home since March.

Braz has the Purple Heart Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Battle Star for Pearl Harbor, and three bronze campaign stars for his stay in Europe.