

1946

## "My Battalion", World War II / 795th AAA AW BN

United States Army

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# "MY BATTALION"

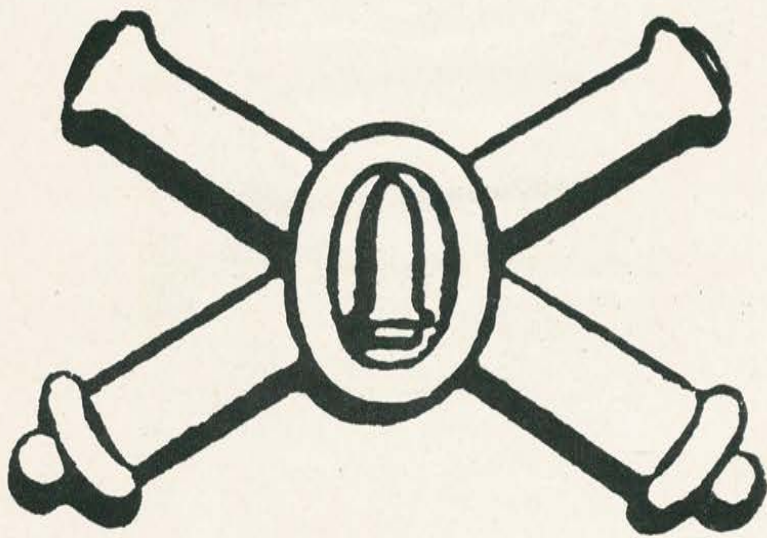


WORLD WAR II



✕ 795th AAA AW BN ✕







THIS COPY OF THE

Historical and Pictorial Review

of the

795 AAA AW BN

World War II

European Theatre of Operations From The

Invasion To The End

Belongs to

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# "MY BATTALION"



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June 15, 1951

WORLD WAR II

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795th AAA AW BN





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# PREFACE



Men who go to war live strongly during every day of their anxiety and peril. What they experience both in joy and in sorrow strikes deep roots into their hearts and minds. War makes memories.

Following the collapse of Germany and the ultimate surrender of Japan, members of our Battalion began to think back over the war and the part they played therein.

The mental and physical release brought on by peace helped them to recall the many and varied incidents that typified their military days.

They found themselves trying to remember in the proper sequence where they had been and the outstanding events connected with each location. Some saved snapshots while others compiled itineraries. In each effort the theme was the same: to make a milestone in their memory of the events they would want to remember and relate when they returned home.

The natural outgrowth of all these individual endeavors was the compilation of this Battalion History.

Once conceived the idea of a beautiful and permanent record required hard work and skillful leadership. Special acknowledgement should be given the following members of our Battalion who made major contributions toward the successful publication of this volume: Edward Harris, James De Vita, Anthony Cocco, Daniel Botkiss, William Ross, Joseph Schimmler, Donald Leach, Bob Becker, Donald Walden and Leslie Williamson. To these and the many others who also helped I offer the official thanks of the Battalion.

May this book be a cherished possession of every member of the 795th AAA AW BN, that it foster and preserve many happy memories of our collective achievement in a great and victorious conflict.

JOHN D. BETLEY,  
Lt. Colonel, CAC,  
United States Army

The record of achievement in World War II of the 795th AAA AW BN, from the days of its organization and training in the United States, through battles in France and Germany, to its final deactivization and discharge.



# In Memoriam



Sgt. Wilbert M. Neal.....	37614722
Pfc. Willis B. Stire.....	35755120
Pvt. James O. Overton.....	32068745
Pfc. Archie J. Eddy.....	35760898
Pfc. George Johnson.....	33626146
Cpl. Paul J. Devine.....	33782390
Cpl. Harry Cappelanti.....	3574833



*We of the 795th AAA AW BN take this means of paying tribute to those who honored the service of their country with the supreme sacrifice. In commemoration of their courage and nobility we humbly dedicate this book.*



# BATTALION COMMANDERS



LT. COLONEL THOMAS L. BOROM



LT. COLONEL JULIAN A. WALKER



LT. COLONEL JOHN D. BETLEY

Lt. Colonel Thomas L. Borom was a native of Alabama. His civilian interest was based on legal practice since he had been an Attorney at Law prior to his military service.

He graduated from the University of Alabama where he studied law. In 1940 he was called into active duty.

Colonel Borom activated the 795th AAA AW BN at Camp Stewart, Georgia, on April 20, 1943. Under his command the battalion went overseas.

In January of 1945 he left his organization and was transferred to the A-2 Section of the IX Air Defense Command.

Lt. Colonel Julian A. Walker was born in Norfolk, Va., As a civilian he practiced the art of farming, ranch operation and organization.

He attended Virginia Polytechnical Institute where he majored in Engineering. His active service began January 6, 1941.

His initial responsibilities overseas were with the 51st AAA Brigade, then later he was transferred to the A-2 Section of the IX Air Defense Command.

In January of 1945, Colonel Walker became Battalion Commander of the 795th AAA AW BN upon transfer out of Lt. Colonel Thomas L. Borom.

Lt. Colonel John D. Betley was born in Manchester, N. H. His civilian profession was that of an architect and construction engineer.

He graduated from the University of New Hampshire where he majored in architecture. His call to active duty came in 1940.

Colonel Betley was the Battalion Executive Officer since activation in April, 1943, and retained that position until the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

When Colonel Walker was transferred to the IX Air Defense Command, Colonel Betley assumed full command of the Battalion.





1ST LT. WILLIAM G. LOVENTHAL  
S-1



CAPT. JOHN N. COOMBES  
S-2



MAJOR HOWARD K. ULVENES  
S-3

# BATTALION STAFF



CAPT. JOHN E. NUWER  
S-4



MAJ. DONALD THORTON  
S-3



CAPT. RAYMOND COLDREN  
Chaplain



# BATTALION HISTORY



20 April 1943.

A search of Anti-aircraft Command files will reveal the above date to be activation of the 795th AAA AW BN (Sem.) On the same order it will be found that Lt. Colonel Thomas L. Borom was given command of the unit. His staff at the outset was composed of Capt. John D. Betley, Executive Officer; 1st Lt. Winfred G. Lee, Adjutant; 2nd Lt. Charles R. Randall, S2; Capt. John N. Coombes, S-3; 2nd Lt. William G. Loventhal S-4; 2nd Lt. Joseph D. Hale, MTO; and 2nd Lt. Charles E. Foster, Communications Officer. In addition, thirty-five officers were present for battery duties.

A cadre of eighty-seven Enlisted Men from 467th AAA AW BN (SP) were present.

The next six weeks were spent in training with officers and cadre receiving instruction. Capt. John D. Betley, Executive Officer, received his Majority in May of 1943.

During the first week of June, 900 men were received.

Our Battalion got off to a good start in the Military Training Program during the second week of June. Highlight of this training was the winning of many honors by various units. The Battalion Motor Pool was adjudged excellent in care and maintenance of its equipment. Three of the four batteries set new records for anti-mechanized fire on the Camp Stewart firing range.

When mid-October saw an end to MTP all were given 15-day furloughs.

Early in November the Battalion shoved off for Tennessee Maneuvers. The following six weeks were spent simulating tactical setups. Constant moves and incessant inspections plagued the unit until early January.

New Year's of 1944 found the Battalion with orders to report to Fort Fisher, North Carolina, for advanced firing practice which lasted for seventeen days.

The next station was Camp Butner, North Carolina, with XIII Corps serving as our guardian.

On 9 March 1944 the Battalion left Butner for Camp Myles Standish, Mass. Camp Myles Standish was the Port of Embarkation where final preparations were made for overseas shipment.

On 7 April the Battalion boarded the USS Susan B. Anthony at Boston.

Ten days were required for the comparatively uneventful trip to Swansea, Wales.

After lying in Swansea harbor a day the unit was unloaded after dark and placed on trains for the trip to the next station at Leek, Staffs, England. Here equipment was received and preparations made for our first operational assignment.

On 1 May 1944 orders were received for the Battalion to proceed to Cardiff, Newport, Penarth, Barry of South Wales, where AA defenses of the Bristol Channel ports were assumed. This assignment covered the important days prior to Invasion and the first weeks after D-Day.

Enemy planes were often over the area but unfortunately were usually out of range, so "Hold Fire" orders were given to automatic weapons.

On D-plus 16 this assignment ended.

Next in line was the movement to Christchurch, Dorset, England, where provisions for the voyage to Utah Beach on the coast of France were completed. Here all equipment and vehicles were given final waterproofing prior to the movement into Southampton's marshalling area.

The advance party left Southampton's buzz-bomb infested atmosphere in time to reach the coast of France on 13 July 1944. The main Body of the Battalion in command of Major Betley followed on 18 July, crossing the channel on the Duke of Wellington, a British ship.



In going operational little time was lost. Our first assignment took the entire Battalion to Airstrip A-8, a P-47 base, the first Fighter Strip established on the continent. Shortly afterwards the Batteries spread out to cover Airstrips 4 and 7 in the same locality.

On occasions enemy planes were engaged but in the absence of searchlights it was impossible to tell the damage inflicted.

Next move took the Battalion to Cherbourg in defense of port installations and Airstrip 15.

"C" and "D" Batteries were first to give up these positions for new posts two miles west of Cherbourg at historic Fort De Querquville.

This partnership lasted until September when "C" Battery hustled off to defend the airstrip at Lessay while "D" Battery went on down the peninsula to take up defense of a B-26 base at Periers.

On 15 September the Battalion started movements which brought all units to Utah Beach. This stay at the Beach was a return to the spot where we first touched French soil months before.

Here we came under the control of the 51st AAA Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Charles C. Curtis. This association was to last for the duration of the war.

In order to join the new Brigade a 400-mile trip was required. Two shuttles were necessary to complete this movement.

"B" and "D" Batteries were first off, with Vitreyle-Francois and its vital railroad bridges as the objective. The movement and setting up of the two-battery defense was complete before the month ended.

"A" and "C" Batteries were next to make the long haul from the Beach. The defense of Bar-le-Duc's bridges was their assignment. Battalion Headquarters took up residence in an old chateau.

Late in October the Battalion went to the Third Army for operational control while IX Air Defense Command remained in charge of administrative affairs.

A new move started on 25 October when "A", "B" and "C" Batteries along with Battalion Headquarters went to Toul for defense of Airstrips 90, 96 and 98.

D Battery moved on up to Azelot, east of Nancy, to defend Airstrip 95, then the most forward field in use by the Allies.

The defense of these installations for two months

was the longest any units of this Battalion remained in one spot since leaving Camp Stewart.

While here enemy aircraft were engaged many times though the absence of searchlights again made it impossible to determine exact damages in all cases. Claims were filed by all Batteries.

It was here that the "Latrine Screen" made its initial appearance. This Battalion paper, dealing in gossip about all members, was received enthusiastically by the widely separated Battalion.

With the old year coming to an end the Battalion was again on the move.

"A" Battery went from Airstrip 90 to Airstrip 98 where a two-battery defense with "B" Battery was instituted.

"C" Battery went from Airstrip 96 to Commercy for defense of highway and rail bridges.

"D" Battery went from Airstrip 95 to LeRouville to take up defense of rail bridges and switch yards.

New Year's Eve was celebrated in style by "C" and "D" batteries which opened up on enemy aircraft one minute past midnight. Absence of searchlights again hampered activity but "D" Battery entered a claim for destroyed enemy aircraft.

By this time Battalion Headquarters had moved into quarters at Commercy and along with "C" and "D" Batteries reverted to the IX Air Defense Command. "A" and "B" Batteries, however, remained under control of the Third Army.

The New Year got off to a fast start with "C" Battery sweeping into the front as the "movingest" battery in the Battalion. At the end of the month, "C" was engaged in defending Verdun. "A" Battery was granted an "Aircraft Destroyed" claim entered in November

Lt. Colonel Thomas L. Borom, our Battalion Commander, was placed on duty late in the month of December with the A-2 section of IX Air Defense Command. Lt. Col. Betley assumed command of the Battalion. Another change among the top brass was Major Burt N. Singleton's leaving for the 776th AAA AW BN (Sem) as well as Major Thornton who previously commanded the 151st Operational Detachment.

When late in January "A" and "B" Batteries were released from operational control by the Third Army, the Battalion was again under the IX Air Defense Command.

February found the Battalion training sixty-three replacements who had come from other combat outfits.



These men having been wounded were to replace men we were to furnish the Infantry.

Also in February seventeen outposts, the forward eyes and ears of the Battalion, were in operation with wire and radio communication linking them to their batteries.

In March our organization was often on the move.

"A" Battery started out at Airstrip 98 but went from there to Landres, France, to defend a railhead. Their stay here was brief as in mid-March they were defending the steel mills of Differdange, Luxembourg. Their last assignment that month was to defend the bridges of Luxembourg City.

"B" Battery's work was to defend the bridges in Conflans, France, at the start of the month and to do a similar job in Thionville, France, the latter part of the month.

Split battery defenses were inaugurated with "C" Battery's First Platoon starting out at Abacourt while the Second Platoon held forth at Jean-de-lize with both in defense of railheads. "C" Battery sent the Second Platoon from Jean-de-lize, France, to Althus, Belgium, with a railhead holding the spotlight. The First Platoon ended the month at Uckange, France, defending a gasoline depot.

"D" Battery was the first to send guns into Germany with the Second Platoon finishing the month in Apach, which sets on the border of France, Germany, and Luxembourg. Before crossing the Moselle for Apach the Second Platoon shared assignments at Le Rouville early in the month, then moved on to the ammunition railhead at Baroncourt which was forsaken ultimately for the Differdange, Luxembourg, steel mills. Battery Headquarters and the First Platoon ended the month outside Luxembourg City in defense of Airstrip 97.

Battalion Headquarters during this period went from Flirey to Norroy-le-Sec, France, to Differdange, Luxembourg, and wound up the month at Luxembourg City.

During this period the Battalion Band, the Ackadets, was formed.

Frequent movements continued throughout April with the Battalion taking many stations in following the armies across Germany.

"A" Battery commenced the month in Luxembourg City. Early in the month "A" moved to Airstrip 74 just outside Frankfort-on-Main. Shortly after taking up posi-

tion here two gun sections were sent to the Leipzig area for defense of an Eighth Air Force radio station.

When "B" Battery started moving the First Platoon pulled out of Thionville to take up defense of bridges in the German city of Saarburg. The Second Platoon took a similar mission at Merzig, Germany. End of the month found "B" joining with "A" in the defense of Airstrip 74.

"C" Battery continued with split-battery operation when the First Platoon left Uckange, France, to defend a gasoline depot at Ehrange, Germany. The Second Platoon relinquished its task at Haute-Yutze, France, to join in defense of bridges in Trier, Germany. The battery ended the month at Oppenheim in defense of Rhine River bridges.

"D" Battery remained the greatest exponent of split-battery defense with the First Platoon starting the month out of Luxembourg City at Airstrip 97 while the Second Platoon continued holding forth at Apach. Early in the month, First Platoon guns went to Saur-lautern where they staged a 46-hour defense of that booby-trapped city's bridges. Second Platoon guns journeyed from Apach to make a longer stay at Saarbrücken. Both platoons next joined in taking up defense of rail and highway bridges at Bad Munster. Month's end found the battery joined with "C" in defense of the President Roosevelt Bridge over the Rhine at Oppenheim. This bridge was completed just after the President's death.

Battalion Headquarters traveled from Luxembourg City to Trier, Germany, to end the month at Oppenheim.

During the month word was received from General Eisenhower's headquarters that units of the Battalion had been awarded bronze battle stars for work in the Normandy Campaign and the Battle of Northern France.

Major Howard K. Ulvenes came over from the 481st AAA AW BN (Sem) as S-3 while Major Donald S. Thornton replaced him at the 481st.

With the month of May and the end of the European war came a period of relaxation, with passes and furloughs available to many. The month of June proved to be a month of inspections and decorations. We were

*Continued on Page Ten*





T/Sgt. JOSEPH NENTWICH



Pfc. THOMAS ORLANDO



# EDITORIAL STAFF



Pfc. DANIEL COLLINS



1st Sgt. EMMONS McCLUNG



completely victorious in our "Battle of Inspections," receiving excellent commendations.

After Lt. Colonel Betley returned from attending the "Instructor Trainer Course" in Cite Universitaire in Paris, he trained forty-one potential teachers. 1st Lt. Randall also attended the same school, taking the "Information and Education Course." Upon his supervision the unit school was established and early in July first classes were started with an enrollment of over 300 men availing themselves of the opportunity of further schooling.

The active work of our Special Service Section after hostilities ceased saw to it that a good number of our men each month visited such places as Paris, Brussels, London, Luxembourg, Chamonix and the French Riviera. In September pass quotas were cut with an

increased number of high point officers and men being taken from the organization for the homeward trip.

Recount of points as of V-J Day found the Battalion point average near the 70 mark.

To most of us those days from when the war was over till we spotted the New York skyline seemed like a lifetime. In the victory in Europe we can take considerable pride and satisfaction that our assignment enabled us to effect part of that victory.

Speaking for our Battalion Commander, Lt. Colonel John D. Betley, I wish to extend to each and every member of the organization his appreciation for your exemplary work and outstanding devotion to duty and the very best of luck, health and happiness in the years to come.



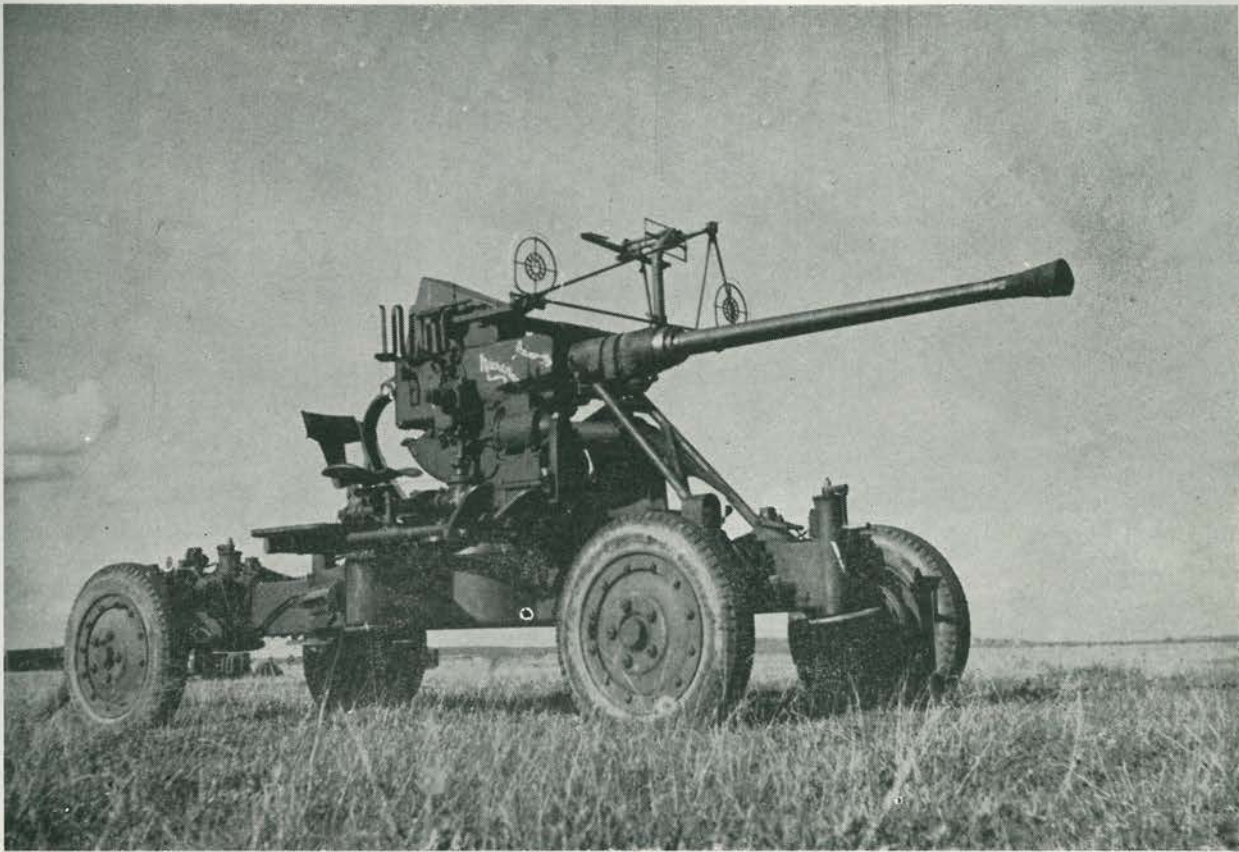










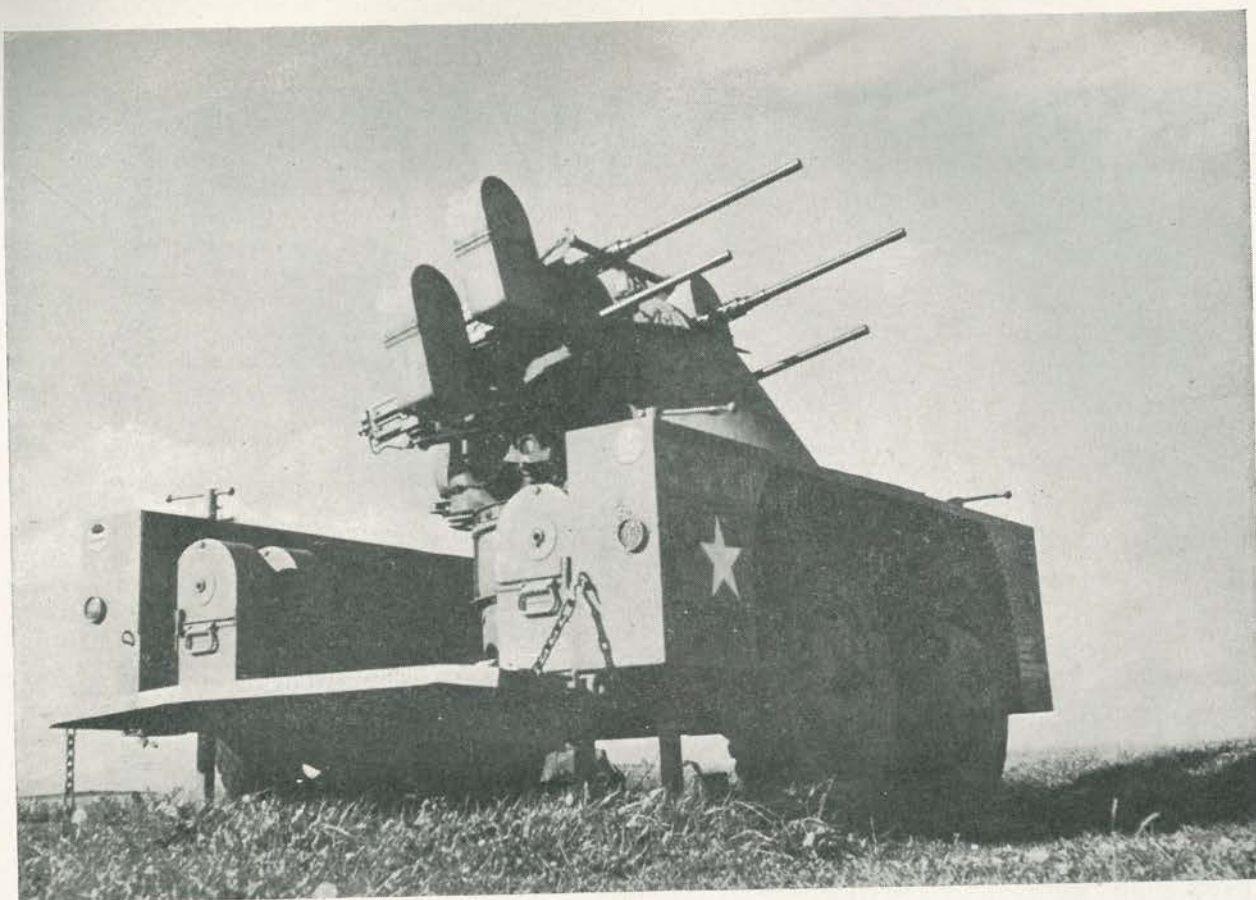


## THE "40"

The weight of the 40mm Automatic Gun M-1, and gun carriage M-2, is 5,549 pounds. In the position as shown above, the overall length is 18 feet 9½ inches, the overall height is 6 feet 7½ inches, and the overall width is 6 feet. The maximum elevation of the barrel is 90 degrees, and the maximum depression is a minus 6 degree at gun level, and with jacks is a minus 11 degree.

This fire unit is equipped with remote-control system M-5. It uses a M-1 oil gear unit; 60-cycle, 115 volts, and a 3-conductor power cable 225 feet long. It also is equipped with a M-5 director, and a generating unit M-5, not shown above.

In establishing correct functioning of this fire unit, a 11 man crew is maintained, including a chief of section, who is directly responsible for the maintenance and general supervision of the fire unit and crew.



## THE M-51

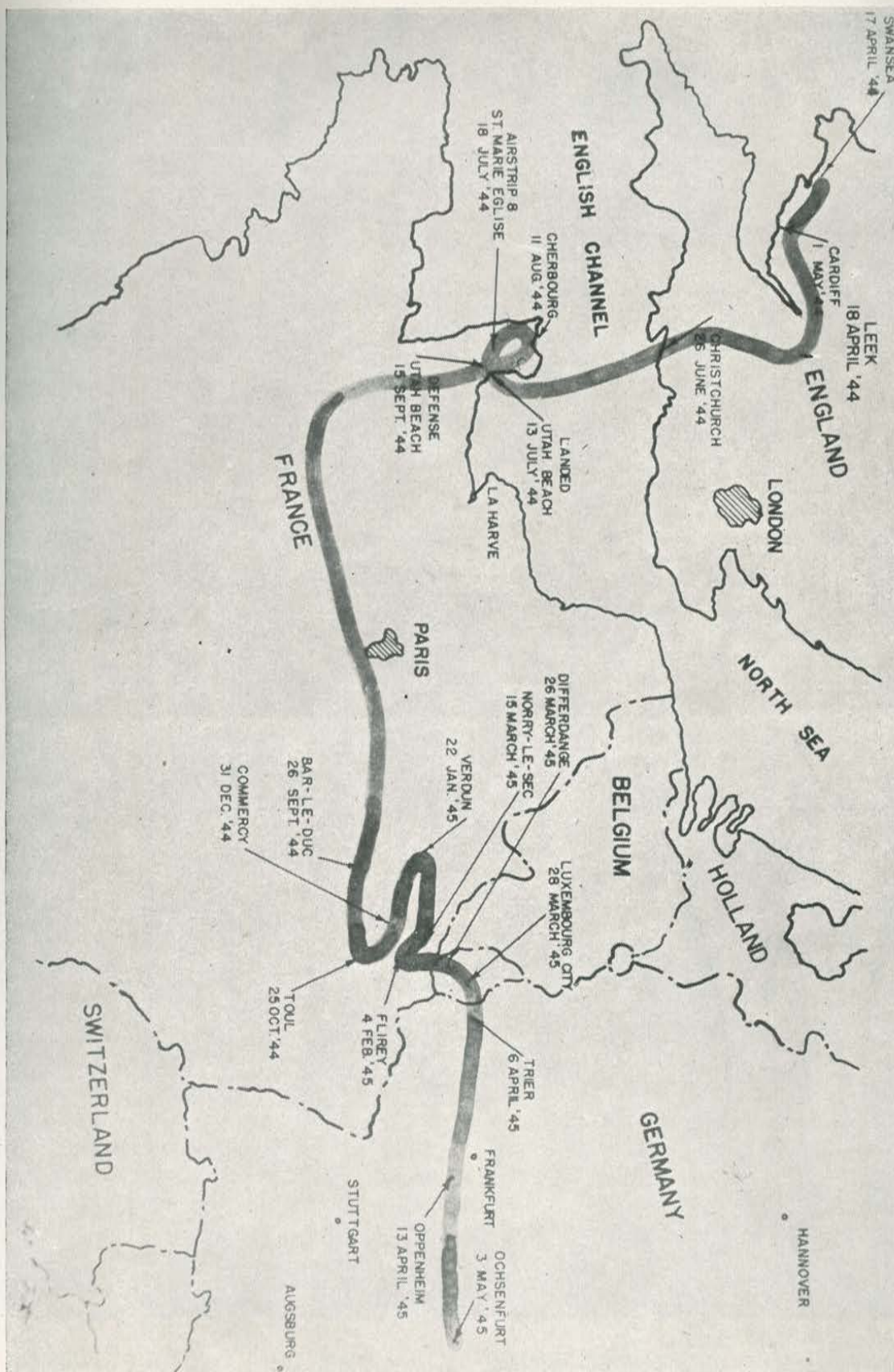
The M-51 quadruple 50 calibre machine gun mount as shown above, is a calibre .50 machine gun fire unit of four guns, which can deliver heavy and accurate fire the instant it is needed. The trailer carriage is an M-7 generator trailer, mounting a power-driven mount.

This fire unit is operated by a four man crew, who ride the carriage in positions ready to fire. Provision is made for carrying 5,000 rounds of calibre .50 ammunition, spare barrels, and tools, in addition to small arms, hand grenades, smoke bombs, and other auxiliary equipment. It has an approximate weight of 8,000 pounds, the overall length is 190 inches, the overall width is 96 inches.

The squad leader of this fire unit is in full charge of the weapon, and training of personnel under him. He is also responsible for the employment of the section, and the execution of its mission.



# **OPERATIONS OF 795 A.A.A. AW. BN. IN EUROPE** **13 JULY, 1944 TO 3 MAY, 1945**





















# COMMENDATIONS



HEADQUARTERS  
FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO 230

9 May 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Brigadier General Edward W. Timberlake, Commanding General, 49th AAA Brigade.

1. As we come to the close of our victorious campaign in Europe, I wish to express to you and through you to officers and men of your command, my deep appreciation for the loyalty, courage, and professional skill with which the 49th Brigade had performed its combat duties.

2. 49th AAA Brigade anti-aircraft units landed on the beaches of Normandy early on June 6 and rapidly established a concentration of anti-aircraft unparalleled in density in any previous military operation, preventing the enemy from seriously damaging any military installation or interrupting the flow of men and material so vital to the success of this operation. On the beaches many anti-aircraft automatic weapons were committed in a ground role to neutralize the heavily fortified artillery position which had escaped the destructive effect of the naval bombardment. In a role new to them, employing lightly armored weapons, and suffering heavy casualties, the gun crews performed this mission with exemplary fortitude.

3. From the moment construction was begun on the first airfield in France, 49th AAA Brigade units provided the anti-aircraft defense, and continued throughout the operations on the Continent to provide protection for the tactical airfields in the Army area. At no time in the entire operations was our aircraft damaged on the ground at any airfield defended by your Brigade. On 28 March, the 49th Brigade assumed responsibility for the anti-aircraft, river and local ground security defenses of all bridges across the Rhine in the First Army sector. You accomplished this mission in an outstanding manner, no bridge being out of operation at any time due to enemy air action.

4. Your own driving leadership, technical skill and personal courage have won the respect of all who have observed the outstanding results you obtained. Your record of 1271 enemy aircraft destroyed or probably destroyed speaks well for the high state of alert and the superior training your Brigade received.

5. I desire to commend you for your outstanding achievements and to extend to you and to the 49th AAA Brigade my personal best wishes for continued success.

/s/ Courtney H. Hodges,  
COURTNEY H. HODGES,  
General, United States Army,  
Commanding.



1st IND.

HEADQUARTERS 49th AAA Brigade APO 758, U.S. Army, 25 June 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 795th AAA AW Bn.

As a representative of the Brigade as a whole, I am gratified and proud to transmit this commendation to the officers and men of the 795th AAA AW Battalion, who earned it on the field of battle. Your Command served as a part of the 49th AAA Brigade from:

17 July 1944 to 2 August 1944.

E. W. TIMBERLAKE,  
Brigadier General. U.S. Army,  
Commanding.

---

HEADQUARTERS  
51st ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BRIGADE

A-C-7  
APO 654, U S Army  
1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 795th AAA AW Bn, APO 654, U S Army. (Thru: Commanding Officer 92nd AAA Group)

1. The Commanding General is pleased to inform you that the Brigade Motor Inspection Team has rated your motor transportation and maintenance "SUPERIOR" at inspection conducted for April 1945.

2. It is very seldom that this Team headed by Captain Stevens has ever adjudged transportation better than "Excellent" and his reports show that the activity is receiving proper command supervision and that the Motor Officer and his section are rendering outstanding performance of duties.

CHAS. C. CURTIS  
Brigadier General—USA  
Commanding

---

HEADQUARTERS  
IX AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

APO 638, US Army  
17 May 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 795th AAA AW Bn, APO 654, US Army.

1. The report of an Administrative Inspection made by Lt. Col. H. V. Atkins, on 6 April 1945, contains the following remark: "At the time of this inspection the unit had just completed a move to a new location. It was noted with approval the high state of efficiency and organization existing in the battalion twenty-four (24) hours after the move had been completed."

2. This evidence energetic thought and preplanning on the part of you and your staff and close cooperation on the part of all members of your organization. Modern warfare is one of movement and those who can meet its demands with a minimum of confusion have gained superior advantages.

3. It gives me great personal satisfaction to be able to commend you and your Battalion for outstanding organization efficiency.

WILLIAM L. RICHARDSON  
Brigadier General, USA.  
Commanding.





# HEADQUARTERS BATTERY



1ST LT. JOSEPH D. HALE  
*Battery Commander*



FRANK KIZIOR  
*1st Sergeant*



PATRICK GRIFFIN  
*Battery Clerk*



## Headquarters Section of Headquarters Battery

Our birthday, May 21, 1943, was beautiful. Most of us were Pennsylvanians, a few from the Middle West, a handful from the Far West. After getting off the train we were lined up near the gates of Camp Stewart, Georgia, where we were greeted by a corporal and marched into our barracks nearly two miles away.

Each individual was assigned a bed in a certain barrack. "Fall out" and "Fall in" were the words most impressive. For two weeks we were in quarantine. Shots in the arm, in the back, shots for typhus, malaria, measles, colds, scarlet fever. No idleness between shots. Fall out for new rifles, for clothing, for equipment. Only after two weeks of this





confinement were we finally liberated and given the privilege of looking over the camp, the gates, and the great outside.

Time dragged, but a training schedule was posted on all bulletin boards. A Headquarters Section was formally put into gear. A headquarters battery or company is normally the Mother Battery of a Battalion. It feeds, clothes, and heals. It maintains the Battalion. In this battery is a section called the Headquarters Section.

The purpose of this narrative is to relate the story of the Headquarters Section.

Because time flows so swiftly that many corrections and changes always have to be made, we waive the usual chronological order of events and commence at random with this brief sketch of memories in behalf of our Section.

Two weeks in camp and already we can single out an early chow-hound. S/Sgt. Ames reports punctually at 11:40 for his noon victuals.

His hands are full distributing clothing, equipment, etcetera, and he must eat early to get back to the Supply Room. A big fellow, a great speaker ("All together, boys!"), not too slovenly; but report to him a day before the regular salvage day for shoe repairs and you get the most fatherly Hell in the cutest manner.

Sergeant Ames carried the supply department with no changed mixture in policy. Perhaps you lost a shirt or a short and a statement of charges faced you. A fraternal word with him always did the most good.

A great soul, he was unfortunately lost to us six months later, a week before the close of maneuvers in Tennessee. Off the records, the last we heard of him was when he reported to the Medics with a supposedly sore back. Sitting in the reception room of the Medics with his baggage he was suddenly called into the chamber for an interview. With two duffle bags full of clothes, and equipment weighing roughly 150 pounds, he walked into the Medic inner sanctum narrating his diagnosis of a sore back. Rumor or otherwise, this was the closing chapter on S/Sgt. Ames. He never returned. Never wrote.

A lad named J. E. Laxon from Denver, assisting Sgt. Ames, fell heir to the latter's job. Attentive, efficient, inimitably humorous, athletic, peace loving, taking over the job with the





ease of an oldtimer, S/Sgt Laxon carried the supply burden ably assisted by an Armorer Corporal Faraone, Alfred, probably the biggest-hearted fellow in the outfit. Alfred was a small arms specialist, a good man in any capacity and at one time sanitary board member during Tennessee Maneuvers.

Corporal Faraone, Pecker Poynton, Andrew Sedar, Tom Sipply, and John Rabbets comprised the Board of Sanitation. The two-hole jobs were a pride to the Battery. Sanitary conditions during the maneuvers were always given an excellent mark by inspecting teams. This was thanks to Captain Nuwer, our Commanding Officer, who was most particular about clean rifles and clean latrines. It was also he who manipulated an extra three days of furlough for the Battery.

Captain Nuwer goes into our history as the man who first opened our path to military life. He gave us basics and always upheld the morale of the boys. Truly it was bereavement day when he left the Battery to take over S-4 and later head the advance party to England.

Our 1st Sergeant, Lloyd Gail of Winnetka, Illinois, carried the burden for the Battery. Fair and square to all, Sgt Gail had the sections in good working order at all times. We were on the Normandy beach when he left us in favor of detached service on the Red Ball Express.

Time passed and Gail never returned to the helm. An aggressive, persistent, and personable young Chicago and Missouri boy took over the 1st Sergeant department. Sgt. Kizior, flawless as a go between the Officers and Enlisted Men, ably directed his functions. Unlike many in his position he was the opposite of ruthless, ready to serve his men at any time of day or night. Before his promotion to the topkick job he headed the Motor Pool.

Incidentally the Motor Pool won more honors at Camp Stewart than any other organization in history. Lt. Hale, the MTO of the Battalion, whipped up a crew which received commendations from some mighty big people in the States and in the ETO.

After Capt. Nuwer left we were commanded by scholarly Capt. Gross, but he also soon departed, for Paris and the Red Ball Express.

When Lt. Hale took over the reins of the Battery his ability in the Motor Pool again asserted itself. He was always "one of the boys." Any personal problem could be solved by a visit



to his office which was open to anyone day or night. His biggest headache was when he couldn't do enough for the boys.

One could always walk up to him for a favor and get it. Once an enlisted man himself, he knew the enlisted man.

Andrew Sedar, Battery Carpenter, and the late Johnson were flawless in their business. When Andy wasn't on his job as carpenter he was busy cutting hair for the boys. A few months before V-E Day he left us for England. Johnson was a crackerjack of a super-numerary, never failing when needed.

This was proven in Christ-Church, England, on a P-47 airstrip when a plane crashed on attempting to take off. Johnson, together with Sgt. Floody, Sgt. Pennington, and Corporal Felzer, happened near and ran to the rescue of the pilot in the burning plane loaded down with bombs and ammo. The explosion of a bomb sent all these men to the hospital. Johnson rallied nicely, spent some time in bed, but then suddenly passed away.

Al Cordas and Ed Polerecki, handy men in the kitchen, alternated on the gruesome task of maintaining kitchen facilities. The former was a cool, quiet man who on days off indulged in weight lifting, gymnastics, and psychology. The latter was financier for the outfit. On good Polo one could always depend for a loan up to a hundred dollars. He was noted as the hardest worker in the organization.

Corporal Pat Griffin took over as Battery Clerk during maneuvers in Tennessee. His services under three different commanding officers proved satisfying to all. As a mail clerk, he of course sorted Griffin's mail first.

Corporal Sykes, the scholarly gent from Pennsylvania, was noted for his ever constructive criticism. When it came to examinations either oral or written Sykes always

copped highest honors. His duties ranged from the Motor Pool to operations. He was never happy until he had committed himself.

Corporal Roberts, an illustrious young fellow, found security in his job as Battery personnel clerk. Although his duties in keeping the service records and payroll up to date gave him little chance to leave the office, he never failed to get out with the boys on their famous week-end passes. With a cautious and even temperament Roberts maintained his clerical job with great dignity.

Billy Dixon, from Chicago, left an unrivalled record as assistant to the Chaplain. His behaviour in a chapel was just as splendid as during the festivities of the Battery. Billy was a good boy all around. Having heard of an outstanding Chaplain's Assistant in the Brigade, we requested and received the one and only Billy Dixon.

Fresh from the front lines and sporting a Purple Heart, utility engineer George Hicks joined us in France. He proved invaluable not only to our section but to the Battery as a whole. When we moved on the river Rhine, Joe Slazinski also joined up. Joe and George were inseparable companions and with Scotto tagging along concocted the idea of an EM social club, the Ten Gallon Club which did more for this Battery than everything else that was tried.

At its birth the club had Joe Degutis as president, a man with twenty-six years of service under his belt. A picture is 1000 words, and to give an idea of what sort of character he was, one would need a photograph. His accent was fairly foreign—and he knew how to "blow de top." A regimental tailor at one time and confidentially rated as the best tailor in the United States Army, it was said that his first company commander was General Marshall.

Later on the Special Service Department will give us a better insight to the Ten Gallon Club.









# ADMINISTRATION



M/SGT. JOHN D. MEADOWS



SGT. FRANCIS C. O'KEEFE



T/5 DONALD H. LEACH

The administrative section was composed of the Adjutant, the Sergeant Major, and two clerks. Our main function was two-fold, to carry out the orders of the Battalion Commander and perform the leading administrative work. This was always done in as excellent a fashion as possible. Another of its duties was basically to administer to the line batteries and to receive and pass on all orders from higher headquarters.

Since activation of the 795th, there has been a total of nine adjutants. In the early days Lt. Lee as adjutant was instrumental in getting the outfit into shape at Camp Stewart. His comparatively short stay ended when Lt. Groger took over for the rest of our stay at Stewart.

Next in line was Lt. Moses, whose civilian background fitted him excellently for the position. However, he also remained but a short time. Lt. Pettigrew came fresh from Officer Candidate School. Having been a First Sergeant he was admirably equipped as adjutant.

Shortly before we left for overseas Lt. Randall was installed in his place. Never an envious job, it was even worse at such a time, but his tireless efforts helped greatly in getting the outfit across. Due to illness Lt. Randall left us soon

after we arrived in England and was replaced by Lt. Hansen, later to become Battery Commander of A Battery.

In England Lt. Hansen regrouped and reorganized the 795th in preparation for the part it was to play in the battle against Germany.

From the early days of our combat to final victory, Lt. Loventhal was our adjutant. He was with us during the campaigns in France, Luxembourg, and Germany, carrying on in such commendable fashion that he earned the Bronze Star. A hard-working and likeable officer, "Bill" was respected by every one in the outfit.

The ninth adjutant was Lt. Rooney whose job it was to return the organization home as speedily and with as little confusion as it arrived overseas. We all know that he did this superbly well.

The rest of the administrative section remained completely intact throughout our travels. Sergeant Major was M/Sgt. John D. Meadows from Pawtucket, Rhode Island. As the adjutant's right hand man he never tired of the many and complex problems he had to face.

Sgt. O'Keefe and T/5 Leach, both from Philadelphia, deserve great praise for their many fine contributions to the progress of our section.



# INTELLIGENCE



T/SGT. JOSEPH M. NENTWICH



CPL. THOMAS J. GAFFEY



CPL. WILLIAM J. SCHRAMM

*"Have that message repeated, it's not coming out! Get more information! Find out the exact coordinates! Send this to all gun sections by 'Hot Loop.' Come in, Site 5! Action stations! Plot, Sugar, 4,561 West 6,000, 5!"*

These were all common expressions that one would hear bellowed by the member of the intelligence and AAAIS Sections. The latter was the responsibility of the Intelligence Section as it dealt with the early warning of aircraft.

The mission of Intelligence was varied insofar as it gathered, investigated, and forwarded all information concerning the enemy to higher headquarters for computation. It disseminated all pertinent facts and information to all members or responsible personnel of this command. Nothing was ever taken for granted. The when, where, how, and why of it had to be recorded in every detail. Usually they got what they wanted out of every investigation.

The AAAIS Section was the eyes and ears of the Battalion insofar as giving early warning of enemy aircraft was concerned. This was accomplished by an early warning net of communications of both phone and radio that the men used at outposts when they saw, or with radar plotted, the approach of enemy aircraft. This net carried the information to each gun in the Battalion. Each gun crew knew in an instant when a plane entered the 40-mile radius which could be plotted and was ready to open fire.

The AAAIS Section was composed of eight corporals and eight privates who were commended innumerable times for their magnificent spirit and accomplishments. They were Corporals Templin, Recla, Moore, Hoffman, Mifkovich, Cornett, Sykes, and La Bate, and Pfc. Patterson, Burns, David, Cweik, Koumatra, Luna, and Munn.

Capt. John N. Coombes was Battalion Intelligence Officer. T/Sgt. Joseph M. Nentwich was Intelligence NCO throughout the days of operations which began on the beaches of Normandy and terminated in Germany.

Cpl. Thomas Gaffey and Cpl. Bill Schramm controlled the detail of the Intelligence Section with untiring efforts and perfection.

Since activation and through the long two and a half years as a unit this section had approximately fifty men come and go. Some were called to the Infantry in the middle of January, 1945, others were taken out to attend schools, while some were lost because of injuries. Despite the fact new men were brought in to replace those who left, they were quickly trained in their new jobs and usually attained perfection in a short time.

The men in the Intelligence and AAAIS Sections were commended several times by Inspecting Generals and Colonels from higher headquarters for the efficiency and thoroughness that prevailed throughout.



# OPERATIONS



T/Sgt. MERLE B. BANKS



T/Sgt. JOHN FETZER



SGT. WARREN H. KOHL

In Camp Stewart and during the days of maneuvers the S-3 Section was known as "Plans and Training," being mainly responsible for turning Mr. Civilian into GI Joe, U. S. Army. It accustomed us to the change from sports slacks and white shirts to flat khaki.

We can all remember when as Sad Sacks we stood at the train station and had our names called by a stern Pfc. He was doing that for the Operations Section in order to find out how many of us had gone AWOL during the first few hours of our Army Career.

Next day we were awakened by another Pfc., this one huge and menacing, at 0530, and we snapped to order. Reason for this was that Plans and Training had set up a schedule for training Mister Civilian, rigid and comprehensive enough to make fairly decent soldiers of us all. All we went through could be thus blamed on P & T.

Our department hummed from early morning till late at night working out training schedules for each section, selecting instructors, and giving the text to be followed. Each hour of the day was set aside for a special subject, giving us a routine that often became boring from much repetition. Yet that's the only way to make soldiers.

By undergoing efficient training the 795th always maintained a well rounded out organization with each man knowing his job so well that all departments were perfectly coordinated at all times.

After we were settled in England and given a mission, the

P & T Section destroyed its old shingle in favor of a new one, Operations. As such we controlled the gun positions, made reconnaissance, supervised the field of fire, and did the necessary drafting and surveying for the batteries. When a new position was to be taken, maps would be pulled out of file and pin pointed. Later various men from the section would travel to the pin points they had made to review the situation and see if the selections made on the map were suitable for the guns. Some men became so expert that in reading maps they could almost tell you in a short time the color of the dirt in a certain locality.

During the days of operations in the fields of France, Belgium, and Germany, the S-3 Section had many trying experiences but always came through with its mission accomplished.

Major Burt Singleton was S-3 before and after we arrived overseas. In January of 1945 he was transferred to another organization and was replaced by Major Don Thornton who remained until late in April. He in turn was followed by Major Howard Ulvenes.

T/Sgt. Merle Banks was Operations NCO, T/Sgt. John Fetzer was Master Gunner or Draftsman, and Sgt. Warren Kohl was Chief Clerk.

Through the early efforts of this section the 795th proved itself an outstanding organization in the field. The men were so well trained and worked so efficiently that the whole Battalion was rated superior by inspecting officers and generals from higher headquarters.



# SUPPLY



S/SGT. CHARLES KIMBRAL



SGT. TONY GEORGE



CPL. JAMES B. THOMAS



To feed, clothe, and supply a battalion of men is a tremendous and often thankless task. A battalion supply officer must see that job is done in all kinds of weather. Upon Captain Nuwer and his staff of twelve men fell the responsibility of providing everyone with everything and anything necessary for complete and efficient operation.

Because supply depots in many cases were several hundred miles away, this was indeed quite a job. However, it was the policy of our section always to have the needed stuff at the right place at the right time. Ours never became work of having too little, too late.

King-pin of the office was Captain Nuwer, who made up in aggressiveness what he lacked in size. He was ably assisted by T/Sgt. George Barth, S/Sgt. Charles Kimbral, Sgt. Frank Tiller, Cpls. Tony George, Jim Thomas, Bob Klinger, Mike

Graham, and Pfc. Louis Ivan, Stanley Gregorek, Edwin Milewski, and Vincent Taraba.

Our supply resembled a civilian enterprise more than any other office in the outfit. The procuring and distribution of supplies by the fastest and most economical means was the watchword. Often it was necessary to make deliveries daily to batteries spread out from 20 to 50 miles.

In these circumstances transport became a tremendous problem. Regardless of mud, rain, snow, ice, or floods the men had to get what they needed in order to perform their duties. The ammunition section did an excellent job in "passing the ammo." Each round had to be accounted for. Whenever a gun section put in a request for ammo, no matter the difficulties, it was delivered.

Largely through the efforts of this section our organization was able to carry on and do its bit toward making the world a better place in which to live.



# COMMUNICATIONS



LT. KENNETH V. WOOD



S/SGT. EDGAR PENNINGTON



"Enemy plane coming in, Sir, eighteen miles NE." "Call the guns. Action stations." "D Battery lines out." "Get 'em on the ball and have it fixed toot sweet." Here we go again . . . radios howling, telephones ringing, switchboards buzzing, wire-laying in the snow, mud, rain, and heat; OP's to put out, move and bring in, radios to fix, operations to set up and man, all grades of brass giving orders, inspecting and asking questions. . .

You could go nuts, but that's one of the penalties of being a communications man. From Camp Stewart to Illisheim, Germany, none of us will forget the way we dashed around

training the gun sections, not to forget their phones when they pulled out of their positions. Going to code classes, getting out of basic training hikes, going wild on maneuvers trying to lay all the wire before orders came down to move and then picking it all up again.

We got rid of all our equipment at Camp Butner only to have more tossed at us in England. More than before. We went on advance party to Cardiff and Newport, Wales, to lay in all communications in a driving rain. We took off from southern England for France not knowing where we would be dropping our next line.





SGT. LAWRENCE SEITZ



CPL. LLEWELLYN BROWN



CPL. ROBERT BLACK



Cherbourg, France, and fishing with "Jerry grenades," going on OP duty in the winter and laying those long cable lines for them—all this we now remember. Then at long last the end of the war with "beaucoup" champagne and cognac available. Finally, the big sweat job, how many points do you have, where do we go from here, and when do we get home?

Our little communications tale would be incomplete if we did not mention some of those who went through the ordeal, keeping the section on the go.

Lt. Wood was our Communications Officer. Assisting him

were many fine men, including T/Sgt. Floody who was seriously wounded in England. He was one of the hardest working and most efficient men in the whole Battalion. After the loss of Sgt. Floody, T/Sgt Rower took over and did an excellent job. With Rower were Sgts. Schmude, Pennington, Seitz, and Weidman, Cpl. Brown, and Pvt. Nayavich. These men maintained communications in all type of terrain and weather. They performed their hazardous task in an exemplary manner.

The Communications Section deserves praise and gratitude for contributing so much to the successful completion of our mission.









# PERSONNEL



W.O. (JG) MARVIN HECHT



T/Sgt. NORMAN DREWS



Sgt. RUBEN STEINBERG



In this section were five battery clerks, one classification specialist, one Sergeant Major, one personnel adjutant, and one file clerk. Its function was the recording of pertinent information, maintaining service records, qualification cards, payrolls and allotments, and general data affecting the personnel of the Battalion.

Like most other sections the Personnel Office was organized at Camp Stewart, by W/O Marvin Hecht, personnel adjutant, and T/Sgt. Norman A. Drews, then a corporal. Mr. Hecht was a native of New York. With our section from start to finish he received superior ratings from higher headquarters. Sergeant Major Drews was from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Shortly after V-E Day he was transferred to a unit scheduled for redeployment to the Pacific, but the early end of the war against Japan caused the cancellation of his

orders. Norman went to the United States instead. A hard, conscientious worker, he was well liked by all.

With the transfer of Drews, Rube Steinberg, from Wilmington, Delaware, took over as Sergeant Major. Rube received the Bronze Star, performing his duties as classification specialist in such an outstanding manner that he gained the confidence and respect of the entire Battalion.

Battery clerks who started out with the organization were Bill Roberts, Headquarters Battery, from Punxsutawney, Pa.; Homer Hill, "A" Battery, from Pawtucket, R. I.; Rube Steinberg, "B" Battery, from Wilmington, Del.; Ernest Bacon, "C" Battery, from Atlantic City, Mo.; and Jesse Weaver, "D" Battery, from Shamokin, Pa.; Lloyd Rust, from Dallas, Texas, was another of our classification specialists until just





prior to our coming overseas. We lost him at Camp Standish through an accident while playing basketball.

Sidney Margasak, a Philadelphia GI, was responsible for the records of "B" Battery. We lost his fine services just before our return home, when he decided to take advantage

of further schooling at one of England's leading universities. Owen C. Cantley took his place as "B" Battery clerk.

The efficiency and cooperation of this well organized section, so important to our welfare, will be remembered by us all.





# MOTOR POOL



LT. HARRY THOMPSON



T/Sgt. WILLIAM KINKAID



SGT. RAYMOND BAUER



Under the able supervision of Lt. Hale at Camp Stewart was organized the Motor Transportation Section of our Battalion.

While the trainees were undergoing basic training, a drivers' practice and maintenance schedule was maintained. Due to this profitable training, which consisted of driving under difficult conditions, such as blackout driving, going over obstacle courses, maintenance and care, many qualified drivers were developed.

Despite the countless inspections to which this section was subjected, it always secured a superior rating.

As a semi-mobile organization the section consisted of 44 vehicles, namely, 23 one-ton trailers; 8 one-quarter ton trailers; 23 vehicles consisting of 2½ tons; 6x6 LWB cargo trucks; 7 vehicles consisting of ¾ ton 4x4 weapon carriers; and 14 vehicles consisting of 4x4's, commonly known as Jeeps. Of these vehicles, one 2½ ton and one ¾ ton Jeep were assigned to each battery under the supervision of a motor corporal, who takes full responsibility for the respective vehicles in all instances.

The headquarters section was responsible for the main-

tenance of 10 one-quarter ton, and 19—2½ ton vehicles. A motor corporal and five mechanics were in charge of these vehicles. The total number of men in this section, including the letter batteries, was fifty-seven, each man doing a specific job. They proved themselves capable of solving all transportation problems no matter how difficult.

We can remember when this Battalion was called upon to supply 18—2½ ton vehicles to the Red Ball Express, an outfit just then being organized. Their mission was to haul freight and equipment to the forward area positions. It was during these trying times that drivers proved themselves worthy of the praise they had received in the past. Many times they were in the thick of battle, under the menace of buzz bombs, enduring all types of terrain, and driving in all kinds of weather. These truck drivers had a record of having hauled more freight and equipment than any two platoons of trucks. Our mission took us over the roads of France, Belgium, and Germany, making it impossible for our drivers to get the rest they deserved. Gallons of gas used on these trips went far over the million mark.

Never once did the motor section fall down on the job.





SGT. JOHN ULING



SGT. CARL SHIOCK



Under the competent leadership of Lt. Hale, Lt. Thompson, and T/Sgt. Kinkaid, the section came through all missions with flying colors. Much praise is due Sgt. Bower, Sgt. Uling, and Sgt. Shiock for their efforts in the maintenance and repair of the vehicles.

Special mention should be made of the drivers. They often bore the brunt of the work. Very often during tour of inspections these men were complimented for the job they

were doing in keeping their respective trucks in excellent shape.

Without this smooth operation between the leaders and personnel involved, a Battalion such as ours could never have functioned as efficiently as it did. All thanks to the leaders, mechanics, and drivers of our Motor Transportation Section.



*"Our Hero"*  
PETE RODGERS



















# THE MAN ON THE GUN



In memorial of greatness, so often we read,  
of men that are famed, in history.  
When paying homage to them, so often we pray,  
For their lives they gave, with valor that day.  
Within the scroll, of these listed dead, this hero  
so great is found.

In scripture different, of praise, in tale, together  
they are bound.

In reading of this hero, and his part well done,  
Our hearts are inspired, by this

MAN ON THE GUN

When the sky is staged for a hostile act,  
An alert is given, for the guns intact.  
As orders are stressed, and obeyed on the run,  
Ready on the job, is this

MAN ON THE GUN

Tho' it takes every man, and his share he must give,  
The gun elevated, with a target to rid,  
With the sights aligned, and firing begun,  
A task is started, for the

MAN ON THE GUN

The ranges given, the shells following thru,  
Inscribed with the name, of our Red, White and Blue.  
Amidst the smoke, peers brightly the sun,  
With rays so proud, for the

MAN ON THE GUN

The shells ejected are tracer controlled,  
They find their mark, for their work is bold.  
The enemy, whether he be father or son,  
Is still the target, for the

MAN ON THE GUN

The targets are numerous, and types of all kind,  
They come from hidden sources, and none stay behind.  
But once they've sighted, and zeroed from,  
It's inevitably doomed, by the

MAN ON THE GUN

Thus we have, this hero renowned,  
Who dealt with death, when standing his ground,  
For happy are they, their share they gave,  
Enabling our flag for-ever to wave.  
So let's praise his courage and patience,  
For his part in uniting nations.  
And let's not, ever, forget what he's done,  
This honorable figure, the

MAN ON THE GUN



*Written by Thomas Orlando, Battery "B"*





# "A" BATTERY



CAPT. GEORGE MUIR



LT. CHARLES L. DUBUISSON



1ST SGT. WALTER T. ISALY



## Headquarters Section of "A" Battery

In a battery a Headquarters Section is that group which is responsible for the adequate feeding, clothing, and administration of the organization. To facilitate execution of this job the section is subdivided into several interdependent groups that cooperate fully with each other.

Although some of us would like to forget our war experiences, many will want to relive in the years to come those hectic days of 1944 and 1945. We will take pleasure in refreshing old friendships, relaunching old jokes and incidents. We will hereby attempt to preserve a few of those events—and to recall some of those genuine characters who helped to ease the load with their good humor.

Probably the most important ingredient in maintaining a healthy and contented soldier is plenty of good chow. "A" Battery was fortunate in having the personnel to come

across in this regard. S/Sgt. H. H. Doerste, commonly known by his friends as "Herman," was responsible for the procurement and proper distribution of rations. Today that he did a fine job is to put it mildly. Two boys who supervised the preparation of our chow, Sgts. E. E. Ellis and L. E. "Rumor Happy" Pladna, managed to keep the boys well satisfied most of the time. That is certainly a truly great accomplishment.

The rest of the mess personnel, Cpls. Hicks and Wolf, and Pfc. Cohen, Dietrich, O'Connor, Strickland, all spent endless hours over the hot stoves in order to keep us well-fed. To the entire mess staff we owe a vote of thanks for a difficult task completed.

In addition to feeding us, the above-mentioned men found the initiative to come forward along other lines. Benny





Cohen and his confederate, Max Pomerantz, systematically impoverished the Battery on pay day by proficient use of the "galloping dominoes." They will long be remembered especially by those who suffered at their expense.

Lest we forget those who once served, but later departed, we should mention Saroff, Greenberg, and Bluefield. The effects of their mysterious concoctions will remain as indelible impressions on the minds and stomachs of all who ever stood in the chow line at Camp Stewart. That we survived is a remarkable circumstance.

For our clothing, ammunition, and other supplies, we depended on Supply Sergeant H. A. Taylor and Cpl. R. J. Perry. They were good providers, not only of needed material, but of the superfluous as well. In visiting the supply

room, the innocent soldier in search of a shoe string was often set upon by the Supply Sergeant with a long tale derived from the history of the Old West. The unfortunate procurer of shoe strings, due to military courtesy, had to take it all in, awe-inspired, and usually had to sneak out unnoticed, often without his shoe strings. Cpl. Perry, because of his exacting and precise mannerisms, gained for himself a name familiar to all members of the battery. Let us only say that he was a mother to us all.

The Communication Section was composed of Sgts. Timko and Freeman, Cpls. Dibble, Wooley and Pfc. Bel-sky, Barton, and Murphy. Under Timko's leadership these men did a real job of keeping us in contact with the right parties. Their mission was not always easy, for during many days back on the beaches they had to contend with







mines, going out at night to lay wire in dangerous terrain. They did their work, and with Murphy's laughing and Dibble's hollering, they managed to get some pleasure from their duties.

S/Sgt. J. L. Prophett, Sgt. A. R. Barr, and Cpl. C. E. Weigand were the boys who kept the guns shooting, and the lights burning. "J. L." and "Mole" spent many a cold, miserable hour working on those 40's and M-51's, seldom calling on Ordnance for help. Weigand found time to draw cartoons and make signs for the battery. The slow, easy drawl and the wry smile of J. L. and the romantic tales of the Mole will not soon be forgotten.

Under the able guidance of Cpl. Joe Piffer, the Motor Pool managed to keep the trucks rolling over plenty of territory. Piloting the trucks were Pfc. Ernest, Udu, Allender, DeMarkis, and Licklider. Pfc. Peters took over when Joe left. These boys were a pretty tough bunch. They had to be, for many times they worked the clock around with no sleep, driving through rain and mud to get supplies and men where they were most needed.

In the office, pounding out twenty-two copies of everything from higher headquarters, was Cpl. W. L. Reith, mail clerk and typist. He managed to survive his duties in the nerve-wracking presence of the character known as the First Sergeant. For this feat requiring the summoning of all his strength, he should have been awarded a medal, for "endurance and outstanding bravery."

Cpl. H. R. Hill, the Battery Clerk, saw that all service records were in perfect order, and that all men were paid. Many were his tasks, many the complaints, but few were the thanks given him.

First Sergeant W. T. Isaly, better and more widely known as the "Grouch," managed to keep the boys from getting off the beam. He seemed to derive much pleasure in seeing that every body was busily engaged in some enterprise no matter how unimportant.

For nearly three years we lived almost like a huge family. We all made many friends. May this brief outline serve to remind us of our Army life in the civilian years ahead.

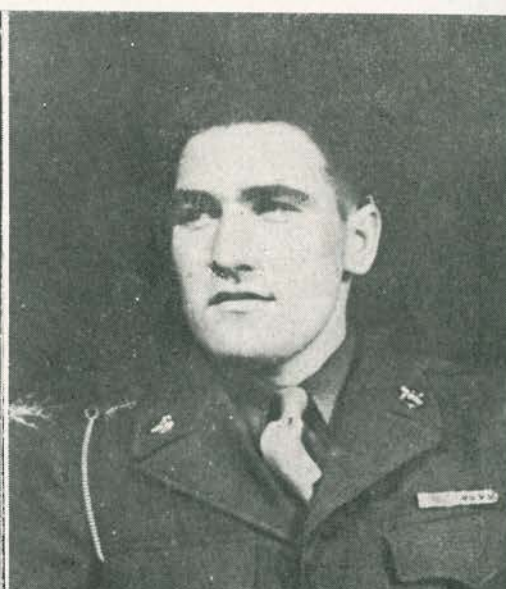








LT. HOWARD F. CARBERRY



S/SGT. VICTOR E. PARIS



# 1st PLATOON

"A" BATTERY





# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "A" Battery



We of Gun Site One would like to introduce some of the men in our unit. Our Chief of Section throughout most of our campaigns was Sgt. C. S. Blair who will best be remembered by those of us who served with him by his constant promise of a quart of the best Scotch to each man if Xmas of '45 didn't find us back home—and what with the price of Scotch in those days at that.

"Gunner" Pelles who confidentially always wanted to be an Army bugler but instead ended up in a gun section—c'est la guerre—he will not be forgotten either. Two other characters of our little family were "R. S." Prewitt, procurer of knick-knacks for the section, and Cpl. "Abie" Choudoir, about whom the less said the better . . . like an eclipse he's something that comes around once in a hundred years or so. C. H. Minarde and Arbogast, or "Bogey," were the section's leading chowhounds but blamed it on the fact that they were both just growing boys

Dependable Marley was still another of our boys and well liked by everyone. Later he became our Chief of Section. Van Wagner, who came to us by way of the Infantry . . . Gunner Nelson, the biggest man in our section in every way . . . Stalka, the best darn machine gunner and fisherman in the outfit (if you didn't believe it all you had to do was ask him) . . . Cesnevar, our muscle man and mainstay along with Breinich and his good nature . . . "Battle of Brooklyn" Dantzler, by his admission the "hardest working dern Rebel in the section" . . . "Mule" Gibson, a former Red Ball Express driver, and Ritsema the all-round man . . . Hamilton, another who came from the Infantry . . . Natale, our boy from Brooklyn and who loved "Dem Bums" as well as the dominoes . . . Varneal Phillips, from the land of the tall trees who later went on to become platoon leader . . . these made up Gun Site One.

With the passing of time, as was the case with most units, men came and left. In England we lost Elmer Lemlin, or "Bugs Bunny" as he was called. He was indeed a one-man Chamber of Commerce for the State of Montana. To all our old members and those who finished with us, the very best of health and happiness in the years to come!







# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "A" Battery



Our Chief of Section was Sgt. Evans, and with Reynolds the gunner made quite a combination, particularly when it came to spotting and capturing objects in the moonlight during an alert for Kraut Paratroopers. Remember how after a two-hour search one night all they came up with was a bright shiny tin can. Remember also when Pepst and DeGraba underwent their baptism of fire, and Pepst got so excited in the confusion he put his steel helmet on forgetting it was full of water—never a dull moment in our group.

Bebdury was the section translator and chief procurer in our travels through France, doing an excellent job. Davidson was a former Red Ball driver who allegedly made the trees bend out of the way as he stepped along. Hammann found out early in France that foxholes usually are filled with water, especially after a rainstorm. Ostrewski was the section hero and well liked by everyone in the Battalion. He received the Bronze Star for heroism in action. Habart was the ace woodchopper but in the early days took quite a beating till he realized that it was less painful to hit the wood instead of his leg. Davenport was the number one "Sharpie" among the boys . . . rumor had it that he even had creases in his socks.

"High Voltage" Saratz tried to harness 1000 volts of electricity with his hands and vowed after he came out of it never again. Gordon was a dependable guy who could always be counted on to finish a job no matter how difficult. Fouche was always of the opinion that we accomplished most while sleeping . . . and was always demonstrating. He was without a doubt the Sleeping Beauty of the section. Our leading letter writer was Louraine, a new man with a good sense of humor.

To these men and the many others who were with our section at one time or another, here's wishing them good luck and much happiness.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "A" Battery



Our boss was "Old Man" Ritterspach, a fellow who was a great believer in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. "Indian" Frey hailed from Denver. The fish stories he could tell were terrific. Imagine catching fish with a club! Chief Gunner Hopkins of Minersville, Pa., was known to us all as "Hoppy." He was a good little boxer in addition to the rest. That left of his was atomic.

Jack "Jake" Gradwell gave the airlines a lot of business by his trips back to England—and not strictly business trips at that. Jake was our communications man. John Jaszewski, number seven man from Winona, Minnesota, said that "All Pennsylvanians are underground farmers." Incidentally, Jass could equal Frey in telling fish stories.

Range Setter "Dick" Ellenberger insisted that Big Run, Pa., was really on the map. He was champion souvenir collector from England to Germany. James Griffeth was just "Griff" no matter what his job. He came from Saranac Lake, New York. George Dodds will recall when he put a bag filled with water in Ellenberger's bed back in England. Dodds was a genius in such things. His home's in St. Clair, Pa.

"Smiler" Spence was the quiet lad in our section. Joe Byerick would rather face twenty Jerries than one Inspecting Colonel, and once actually told a colonel just that. Harbart and Hobbs got the credit for being two swell cooks. Hobbs cooked for all of us; and Harbart ate what he cooked. John Sweat and Joe Skwatt made a good machine gun team. Both were from Pennsylvania.

Eddie Jaratz sure learned what GI Linament was like when a guy like Sowa applied it. Ed Clark would rather be an Infantryman than an Artilleryman, so he left to join the Infantry. Joe Flarien, Dawson, Bogart, and Widergen came to us as replacements from the 481st AAA AW BN, and a swell bunch they all were. Gutcher, Tryon, and Fishera were also replacements but later left our happy home for various destinations. Those who joined us last were Radtke, Grejda, Gray, and Hudson.

In all our ups and downs we had a section of which we could be very proud.



# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "A" Battery



Our section went through most of its campaigns with Sgt. Walter "Volto" Campbell as our dynamic chief. Under him was Pfc. Roy Ashton who needed a block-buster to wake up in the morning. Norman "Brown Eyes" Spencer was a lover of Pomeroy, Ohio. Edwin "Governor" Roberts was the sight-seeing boy who couldn't wait to get back to America to do some more sight-seeing. Joseph "Negro" Haag had a hard time making Pfc. because he wore his hat on the wrong side of his head.

Sam Carson used to haunt the section with his act of "Poko-Moko." Ben Chambers, later the big hub at the motor pool, claimed he was the main cog in the section. Eugene Raymond, better known as "Bed Sore," was the chief machine gunner. He certainly loved to press his blankets.

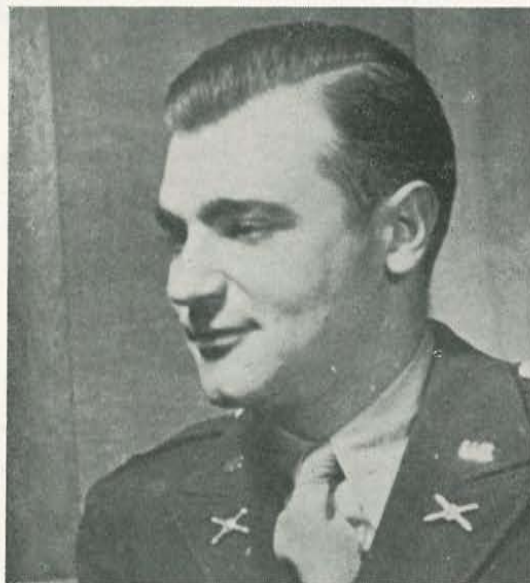
Markus Ramiriz, who came from the 102 nd Infantry Division, looked in the mirror one day and said he was getting better looking all the time. He had us in an uproar over the remark. John "Toothless" Tully was the comedian who acted more than he worked. Bryon "Beans" Robertson had that Texas way about him and did things with no one watching.

Ralph "Chew" Jester, who raised tobacco back home, certainly helped a lot to consume it. Mike DeBraba was always waiting for someone to make a crack about Pennsylvania so he could bounce back with a grouchy argument. Other former members were Larry Beck, Pete Tepley, Victor Paris, Claude Evans, and Moss, Joseph Makara, Robert McCallin, and Zeinhein, who left for the Infantry. Bob Blose left when he got hurt.

Whether the job was tough or easy, the boys of Gun Site No. 4 were ready for anything. May we all remember for a long time to come the many experiences we had together.







LT. PAUL V. ROONEY



S/SGT. FRANCIS J. LYNCH



# 2nd PLATOON

"A" BATTERY











# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "A" Battery



From activation to the end of hostilities our section was recognized as a smooth running outfit. Our first Chief was Walter Campbell, who was later promoted to platoon sergeant. James Griffith took over until Sgt. Bragg came in. Bragg retained that post throughout the war.

Gunner Steve Drapac hailed from Lakewood, Ohio. He will be remembered as our prize chowhound. Robert Rogers, the range setter, established the reputation as quite a drinker. He was always in the club house entertaining with the sounds derived from his guitar.

Frank Lombard, also enrolled in our memory as a music maker, many times kept the boys awake and on edge with his constant playing. He came from Shenandoah Heights, in beautiful Pennsylvania. "Flash" Robert Druslinger was the champ letter writer, whose regular schedule of doing ten letters a day was a mere drop in the bucket compared to his record of completing fifteen long ones in one day. He left the section early to return home for a long awaited discharge.

Robert Brodbeck, the champion souvenir hunter, came away with an entire box of "tokens of romantic Germany." His call to arms came directly after his finishing school. Thomas Seaman, known as the "White Rabbit," learned the "art of card playing" in the Army. His greatest interest in all sports took up most of his spare time. From Long Island, he was always on the ball.

George Pellis, hailing from Trenton, New Jersey (No, not Joisey), was the boy with the mechanical mind, proving a great help in solving our mechanical troubles. His tireless efforts in helping others in the section earned him the endearing name of "Mom."

On the quiet side we found Sterling Herman, from New Orleans. He was one of the married men of the outfit, always willing to help his neighbor, never tiring of the task. Joseph Skwatt, chief of the machine gunners, had a deep interest in dramatics. His civilian occupation as a coal miner was in real contrast to his duty as a soldier and his ambition to be another Charles Boyer. He came from St. Clair, Pa. Felix Coffee, "Major of the M-5," excelled in his love of football which he combines with a great love for his home state, Pennsylvania.

August Abel, a replacement, came to us late in the game. Also new was Nick DeLeonardo, a fine musician, who planned to join the Navy following his discharge from the Army. Alfred Reddick was the top scholar of the section, being one of Lt. Randall's boys at the 795th Ack-Ack-Academy.

We will always remember the experiences we faced together in Wales, England, France, Luxembourg, and Germany. These experiences, like the friends we made will never fade from our minds.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "A" Battery



Our section was formed the latter part of July, 1943. "Willie," as the 40mm gun was known, had been with us throughout the training period. Though he parted from the section just before we went overseas, "Willie" rejoined us on the other side.

From training days at Camp Stewart to the eventual end of the war, the experiences our crew shared will always be remembered. Our adventures on foreign soil, the first meeting with the enemy, are but two of the things that helped to create in us a hatred of war.

At 0200 on the 15th of May this crew had its first alert to fight off enemy aircraft. Scared? Yes, a little, but mostly disappointed, for the enemy stayed beyond the range of "Willie" and his comrades.

On D Plus 42 the crew landed at Omaha Beach. Amid small-crew fire and artillery blasts the Battalion maintained a foothold. First assignment in France for our section was the guarding of an advanced fighter strip at St. Mere Eglise.

Onward through France, Luxembourg, and Germany the crew stayed and fought together. Through heat and cold, rain and snow, we did what we had been trained to do.

When V-E Day came around we found ourselves well into the heart of Germany. The mission was completed at long last. The road that had started in the heat and swamps of Georgia ended in Southern Germany.

The men responsible for the fine record of Gun Site No. 6 were: John Alexander, Chief of Section; Clifford Gingrass and Harold Grantham, gunners and range setters; Meyer Borsky, communications; Frank Gogno, Peter Brost, Charles Rose, and Anthony Gambone, range section; George Seiter, loading and firing; Clarence Chandler and Blaire Bollenger, ammunition relayers; and Loren Schoonover, power plant.

It was indeed one fine section. We feel we did our share in helping the 795th earn its unexcelled reputation during the long campaigns in five countries.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "A" Battery



Our section was very stable in that it maintained its original members throughout the war. Sgt. Hamley, known as the "Heel," was put in command at Camp Butner. He had been the original range setter. Next to him was William Nire, a good-looking lad from Iowa. Lestie Spray, alias the "Doc," was the gunner and best morale builder in the group. Shafter Baker and Hubert "The Kid" Morris, along with Nire, composed one of the finest range sections in the battery.

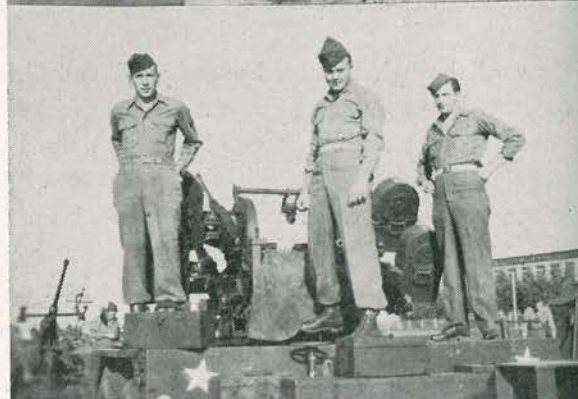
In the gun crew were Spray, Joe Gradisher, Stan Kalinowski, Forrest Muse, Ralph O'Connell, and "Hub" Blankenship.

The machine gunners were commanded by John "Chief Justice" Jones of the great and beautiful city of Brotherly Love. Under him were Tom Kryston, Arnold "Moon" Mullins, and Don "Casanova" Brown. According to them they were the best crew in the Battalion.

One amusing incident, but not to us, occurred at Thanksgiving in 1944. The otherwise excellent dinner left effects best typified by the beaten path that appeared to a certain small outside building which was occupied all evening, but not by one man alone. Ask "Doc."

We had looked forward to a quiet Christmas at Airstrip 90, in Toul, but the Nazi Boches had different ideas. Up all night, still we prepared for inspections during the day. We are still arguing which was worse, the raids or the inspections.

Passing days grew into months, and months into years, and soon our Army life was a thing of the past. May we never have to see the like of it again.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "A" Battery



We were commanded by Sergeant Coco, an able Chief of Staff, and one of the few men in the brigade commended by Colonel Gettys, a rare tribute from that stickler for excellence and the Third Army which he represented. Second in authority was Rudy Halavick from Ohio.

The range setter was that refugee from the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, Corporal Hibben, well-known in certain shady sections of French society. "The Deacon" didn't come into his own until the war was won when he then had a chance to show his electrical wizardry.

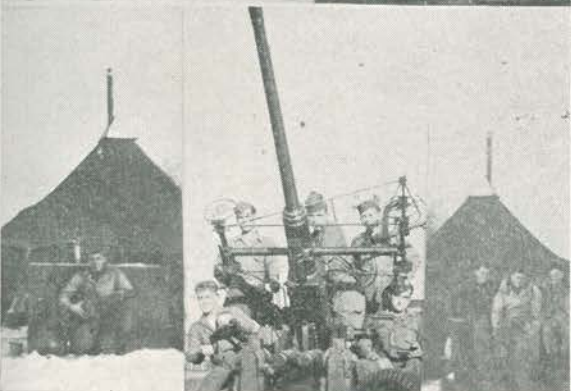
Our power plants were intrusted to a conscientious fellow, T/5 Shirey.

Corporal Gingras was the "Junior Commando," although we had little opportunity to know the fellow because he was either playing football or going to school somewhere.

The balance of our personnel was as follows: Peyton Connell from Maryland, who could never be convinced that his state was not attached to Pennsylvania for rations and quarters. We were indebted to him for his comfortable seats. Pete Brezak from the Keystone State, our Beau Brummel, was the Number 8 man. Three other Pennsylvania boys were the machine gunners: John Sweat, Frank Holley, and Paul Vinansky. The Windy City gave us that famous fiddle player, Jim Picek. Our Latin representative, Jerry Mendez, was the "Great Lover."

Communications man John Burns kept us informed on world affairs as well as the local hot rumors within the Battalion. Later on a boy from New York joined us, Loren Schoonover, known as the "Spook." He was an ace at identifying aircraft. Also famous was the "Little Tornado" from Portland, Oregon, Varneal Phillips, who rendered valuable service to his country on the M-8 machine gun.

In all the boys of Section Eight (no cracks!) got along very well. Though we were always a happy and often slap-happy brood, we were even happier to see V-E and V-J days come rolling around, promising us that early trip to Home Sweet Home.















# "B" BATTERY



CAPT. DUANE R. DAVIS



LT. READING WILKINSON, JR.



1/Sgt. EDWARD W. OLIVER



## Headquarters Section of "B" Battery

The men, whom we seem to forget, frequently, are the platoon headquarters personnel. These are the men known as the eyes and ears of the gun sections. Our platoon CP's were literally hives of activity most of the time.

Moving into position, there were communications to be established, mess hall to be built to feed the CP men and some of the gun sections. Then the guns had to be serviced with water, rations, mail, etc.

The job was a tough one, but the men were a cheerful lot and willing to do their part.

In the 1st platoon, for example, there was a state of team-work that the late Rockne would have been proud of. Our present 1st Sgt., then S/Sgt. Eddie Oliver, was in charge, and a harder worker or better dispositioned platoon sgt. could not be hoped for. Ollie was always in there pitching, and working. Never did he find it necessary to raise his voice to any of the men, for all

he had to do was say what he wanted done and the others did it willingly.

Then there was T/5 Lennie Meritz and his crew of switch board operators, PFC John Podrazik, PFC Henry "Radar" Grimes, and Pvt Chet Szymusik. A fine crew of men who, it seemed, were always having lots of fun, yet never neglecting their work.

T/5 Joe Rudolph, the cook, was the life of the party. Joe always had a laugh for you, not to forget the swell food he put out, for those eating in his kitchen. Everybody liked Joe, because of the genuine personal interest he took in his efforts to put out the best, most nourishing meals in his power.

Finally, there was PFC Joe Julian, the medico, and a fine one at that. The men in the platoon knew they were getting the best treatment possible for their minor ailments when Joe was taking care of them.

The 1st platoon CP boys have many cheerful memories



all the way from England to Germany. It was funny, the night in Newport, England, when everybody was in bed listening to Joe Julian tell a story, until when he was about half way through he discovered that he was the only one in the tent still awake.

Those nights when we first set up in France and Jerry came over, how Joe Julian and Henry Grimes hit the fox holes, while Len Meritz and John Podrazik simply stuck their heads out of the pup tents and watched the tracers light up the sky.

The rain-filled quarters at Vitry le Francois, and the mud and rain at Plichancourt. Conflans and the love affairs of "Radar" Grimes (the gay lothario) and John Podrazik, while "Thaddeus" Szymusik looked for something to do with himself. Joe Rudolph, sticking his head out of windows and saying "Bon jour" to the passing madmoiselles, in French that had a decided Ohio accent. The first night in Germany, when we were all so scared, of what, we still don't know.

The second platoon CP, consisting of S/Sgt. Norman Dillman, T/5 Phil Barringer, PFC Dan Collins, PFC Dan McLain, PFC John Graham and PFC Chauncy Sperling, also had their share of experiences, which varied from operating switchboards to chasing Kraut paratroopers. That chase, through the woods outside of Rosiers will be a never to be forgotten incident to the men of the second platoon CP, and they got a commendation for it too. Bring 'em back alive Graham made his name that day.

We, the men of Baker battery are justifiably proud of our platoon CPs for a difficult job well done.

These are the men who also manned the outpost in the days when the going was rough. Located in isolated

spots and sometimes going without water and sufficient rations when the situation prevented the ration vehicle from getting to them. You deserve more than our heartfelt gratitude and our word of thanks for a grand job you did from start to finish.

### "B" BATTERY

"This outfit will never go overseas!" . . . Early in our training those were considered words of wisdom and truth throughout our battery and Battalion. Yet we came a long way since that summer of 1943. Few of us realized at the time that we would end up in the conquered homeland of the alleged supermen.

### CAMP STEWART

This beautiful (?) camp, situated deep in the swamp-lands of Georgia, will long be remembered, though not too favorably, as the scene of our basic training . . . where it seemed the Post Exchange specialty was warm beer on hot days and ice cream when the weather was chilly . . . where "B" Battery's rookies, in the hot sun, learned how to march, salute officers, and shoot an M-1 rifle . . . where dropping a burnt match was a crime equal to murder and the First Sergeant's roar was like that of a lion . . . where the 40's at C range became so hot we couldn't touch them, and sweating out hikes was a real ordeal.

The eighteen weeks of basic at Stewart went very quickly. Each day brought a new lesson, a new experience. Although we were no longer civilians we did not realize it for some time to come.

At last we had our first and only furlough, at the end of October. Most men were able to spend at least





twelve days at home with their folks, while others were not so lucky. The weather was changing, too, and in the cool evening breeze we could see Ed Oliver and Les Wearsch taking off in Ollie's car, for that paradise in Ohio. Dan McLain, Frank Sullivan, and Jack Graham, excitedly rushing for the "Champion" in Savannah, which would take them to their homes in Shenandoah, Pa. Then the hustle and bustle of others eagerly awaiting the chance to show themselves in uniform to the folks back home. Oh happy days!

#### TENNESSEE MANEUVERS

Within a few days after returning from furlough we were on our way to Tennessee for what was for most of us the roughest period in our military career. From early November until a few days into the new year, we moved through mud and rain to and from all parts of the Tennessee wilderness, pitching and striking pup tents, loading and unloading trucks, until many of us were in the hospital and the rest were ready to go at anytime.

Who can forget the morning frost on the ground where we slept for two weeks prior to taking off on our first problem? Or the time when most of us in the battery were captured because our motor transportation was not adequate for a rapid retreat and the communications section was "missing in action" for two days after being chased by the "enemy's" tanks? Or the day we shot down eleven P-39's—without firing a shot? Remember the sad faces on the men eating their Xmas turkey while rain poured into their mess kits and their feet dangled, ankle deep, in mud . . . movement at night, under strict blackout, and the excitement and confusion involved . . . Bill Ross, hunting through the night

for Bill Madden and Joe DeSalvo, to go out and repair a broken communication wire . . . the mud-covered faces of men who road on the rear end of a truck . . . the sight of men heeding the call of nature over an M-1 straddle trench . . . our indoctrination to Col. Borom's famous, "Foah, by Foah, by Foah." Such were the days of maneuvers.

After what seemed like not more than ten years we found ourselves quartered in real GI barracks at Camp Forest for the few days prior to the long train ride to Fort Fisher in North Carolina.

#### FORT FISHER

Except for a few rainy days we had two weeks at Fisher that were quite enjoyable. After maneuvers, anything would have been good. As it was, the North Carolina sea coast afforded us much warm sunshine and complete relaxation from the tenseness of the miserable period just over. It was here that many of our men had wives and sweethearts visiting, staying either at Carolina Beach or Wilmington.

#### CAMP BUTNER

From Fort Fisher to Camp Butner the long convoy ride was indeed beautiful. The sun was bright, the roads excellent for motor travel. The anticipation of a lengthy stay at Camp Butner, one of the nation's best, had a most pleasing effect on our morale.

Camp Butner in the early Carolina spring is a sight worth seeing. The beautiful green grass was a refreshing contrast to the bleakness of the Tennessee winter.

Memories again . . . John Gounis, Nick Vitanza and John Sarris, all spit and polish, on their way to one





of the many Service Club dances . . . the big PX where "beaucoup" ice cream and milk shakes were available . . . good days they really were at Butner.

Here we made all the detailed preparations for the voyage across the ocean. Our equipment was inspected thoroughly; new gear was reissued when needed. The Inspector General's office kept on our backs all the time, checking communications, supply, personnel, dog tags, pay books, and all. We were completely victorious in our "Battle of Inspectors," coming through with a very high rating.

There was much sadness among the men when orders to leave Butner came through. Our only consolation was that we were getting closer to the POE, and overseas, an ambition we had cherished for many months. At last we were on our way to face the enemy.

Our short stay in POE was one of nervous strain, the question, "When do *we* go?" continually being asked. Some of the fellows were lucky enough to get home on three-day passes. Then the day came, a short fast train ride, and we were on the boat before we had time to realize that we were off on the first leg of a long journey.

For those of us who had never taken more than a ferry ride, the ocean trip will be another unforgettable experience . . . how Pete Thomas the first day out insisted he saw a wolf pack of Nazi submarines when in reality it was nothing more than a school of playful porpoises . . . the wails of John Podrazik, Big Len Radziewicz

and John Derr on being assigned bottom bunks in the "Black Hole of Calcutta," as our sleeping quarters on board were called . . . their fear that others above them would fall down in the swaying and dipping of the ship . . . Henry "Radar" Grimes, "Blackie" Sullivan and Joe DeSalvo, doing the unheard of in army life—volunteering for KP. Yet we saw after bucking the first couple chow lines, stretching all over the ship, how wise they were. They quickly became the envy of every chowhound in the battery . . . that look of futility in the eyes of Steve Sausnock, Elmon Crawford and Norman Dillman after a brief session at that daily game of chance on the main deck which, incidentally, managed each day to hold the attention of a goodly number of spectators as well as participants.

After what seemed a lifetime, the coast of England was sighted. A couple of Spitfires came swooping low over our ship by way of welcome. All were relieved to know we had safely crossed the "big pond". Although a comparatively uneventful crossing, it had been far from a Hudson River daytime cruise.

Who can forget Charlie Shuler's insistence of how much the English train which took us up to Black Shaw Moor, in northern England, reminded him of Brooklyn's own "Flatbush Express". On this train ride in Merrie England most of us saw for the first time the beautiful rolling English countryside we had heard and read so much about. More incidents . . . Bob Springer insisting he could run as fast as the train, with few doubting him





. . . Bill Madden, snagging the first handful of doughnuts and making with the eyes at the cute English Red Cross lassie who was rationing them out . . . "Wild Bill" Cavanaugh, "Big Joe" Rudolph and Lester Wearsch arguing, shortly after our arrival, whether the wooden contraptions in the Nissen huts were to be used as rifle racks, clothes dryers, or firewood and the look on their faces when told by Lt. Charles "Third Wave" DuBuisson they would be used to sleep on.

Our first experience with powdered milk and eggs, and Orville Britton's comment that "Things are bad all over, boys" . . . the hikes up and down the nearby mountains with Lt. Harris' insisting it was only to view the beautiful scenery . . . "Pop" Weidman so excited at the sight of the first English girl, opening his mouth, but nothing coming out except his upper plate.

We had only a brief stay here, just long enough to lose our sealegs, acquire the implements of war, and set out in search of some action. In a little over two weeks we began to pull out for Newport, on the Bristol Channel, where we were to set up tactically.

Most of the boys had their first taste of continental life here. Much of the time we had free we spent visiting the local cathedrals and other points of interest—and when we were restricted, it was not an uncommon sight to see the "cathedrals" bicycling down to visit the boys. Sleep was difficult as discussions among Lord, Schneider, and Laudeman raged far into the night on the merits of English pubs and beer compared to those at home. Confusion reigned when Jackson tried to explain the values of various English coins to Clarence Sincerbeaux of our elite motor pool. Then came our first air raid and the queer feeling that they were real Jerries up there; and then the relief afterwards, knowing you were still in one

piece. These and many more will be our memories of Newport.

After Newport for a matter of several weeks we came to know southern England, Christchurch and Highcliff. Without a doubt this section impressed us as the most beautiful we had yet seen in this fair country. All the homes were artistically constructed. The inevitable English flower gardens were to be seen full bloom in every yard. Leaving such a location was difficult for though our stay was of short duration many friendships had been made.

Then it came, the war in earnest, the invasion of France. Shortly afterwards we were in the staging area in preparation for our pushing off for La Belle, France. who will forget that walk to the trucks which took us to the pier, stumbling down the hill carrying barracks bags and just about everything but the kitchen sink? A little "Limey" boat took us across the channel while a small Infantry landing craft put us on Utah Beach. There was the hike from the beach, seven and a half miles inland, a most difficult experience since it came at night. Charlie Schuler insisted that it was an act of God, or perhaps fear of the Boche, that helped him to make it with the rest of us, even though he did get lost for a short while.

Again the old confusion and fuss as we pushed up to what was to be our first position in defense of Air-strip A-8 in the St Lo sector. Soon our guns went into action for the first time in France. Foxholes were hurriedly dug and made good use of as seldom a night passed that Jerry did not pay us a visit. During the day and the few hours before sunset, Len Meritz and Dan Collins could be seen taking off in search of some of the local natives on whom they could practice those few

*(Continued on Page 66)*









French phrases, learned from their small French guide books issued on the way over. Then the mad search for cognac, calvados, and OO-LA-LA!

Sergeant Harris of our communications section, when out laying wire, picked up what he thought would be an excellent tooth brush holder, only to find it was an 8mm mortar shell. After a few seconds it began to tick ominously, then a brief pause while Johnny went one way and the shell another. A loud explosion, but fortunately all he felt was a sickly feeling in the pit of his stomach. He learned very fast about not picking up strange objects. "Frenchy" Papuet, in a tree almost directly overhead at the time, still wonders how all that shrapnel missed him.

Picauville will be remembered by most as the place where the cows were continually chewing up our wire, causing much confusion on the telephone circuits, till they were discovered by Ross and Meritz. Those with vivid imaginations still say it was the work of Kraut paratroopers.

As the front moved forward we found ourselves in Cherbourg. Another move in this direction would have made us seaborne. Due largely to the efforts of "Frenchy" Calvados was formally accepted by "B" Battery as here to stay. Souvenir hunting also came into its own. Flying jackets, pants, boots, etc., began mysteriously to appear among the men.

One can hardly think of Cherbourg without recalling the wrecked German equipment strewn everywhere. Despite the numerous warnings by our officers about land mines everywhere, especially about the need to heed signs reading, "ACHTUNG MINEN," some of us had to learn the hard way.

In late summer we were in position along Utah Beach, scene of the initial landings. We all remember the "Ducks" as they plowed their way from ship to shore and back with supplies, and how Dan McLain managed to talk one of the drivers into a ride on one of his trips. We got plenty of candy, crackers, and other little items that make life more pleasant.

Then came the long trip inland from the beach to our next location, Vitry le Francois, three days and two nights by convoy, and bivouac by the roadside. The many cities and villages we passed were for the most part decorated with streamers, banners, and flags for their liberators. Many of the people had never seen an American soldier before. Cheers broke forth from the people as our trucks roared by; the men leaned over the trucks to give cigarettes to the kids and candy and sometimes a kiss to the mademoiselles. People throwing flowers and giving wine, and everyone waving like mad. Dirt and grime covered our faces when we finally pulled into Vitry. After such a lengthy ride we had caught up with the front again, and with action, we hoped. Our stay here was short, and very wet. Many of our guns

had to keep moving to keep from literally drowning. The city itself, with its friendly inhabitants giving champagne, cognac, and wine, more than made up for the weather. When we left we learned our next position was to defend a fighter strip that was not yet completed, and only a short distance from Pont a Mouson, over which they were still fighting.

Our CP was situated in the little town of Rosiers en Haye, with its mud, ducks, two cafes, and few houses. Piles of sweet-smelling fertilizer in everyone's front yard hit you like a ton of bricks when you walked up the cow-path that passed for the town's main stem. We learned here about General Mud in his own environment. Not a day passed that a truck didn't get stuck going out to the gun stations. At this position we spent the longest part of our stay in France, five months. There were bitter cold nights on guard, and those almost equally cold showers at battery, the trips to the Engineer's show at night, the heavy snow and everyone's constant guard against trench foot. Thanksgiving and Christmas came with everyone eating his dinner thinking of home far across the sea. Sullivan and Thayer sawed wood every night for a week after being caught by one of the officers in the kitchen late at night, looking for some added vitamins for a midnight snack. Don Smith slept "sans clothes" even on the coldest nights. We fought mud with truck loads of gravel. Lt. Randall made synonymous with his name the expressions, "Assault that pill-box" and "C'est la guerre." There were trips to nearby Pont a Mousson and Nancy in search of culture (?).

From Xmas to New Years sleep was almost impossible due to the nightly raids on the airstrip. Who can forget the sight of hundreds of tracers lighting up the dark nights as our guns let loose at the enemy night fighters. Phil Barringer and Jack Graham argued late at night about the identity of the plane that could be heard in the distance, while Pete Thomas said continually, "That's a Heinie as sure as I'm standing here."

Remember the mad dash for the underground operations room by the occupants of the first three graders room when a shot was fired or a plane was heard. The communications section got to calling them the "rabbits" by the way they sounded, taking off down the stairs with helmets and carbines. Usually these arguments and laughs by others stopped with a quick scramble for the nearest shelter when the first bomb went off.

In the years to come who will fail to recall Rosiers when we think of France, with its hundreds of little memories that it holds for each of us?

Conflans and Thionville followed in what seemed like quick succession. Then we moved across the German border into the enemy homeland. With mixed feelings and some awe we went into Merzig on the Saar River. Beauty filled the river and its valley, the steep cliffs and winding course—a sight any tourist would travel over oceans to see. Merzig itself had been taken but a

*(Continued on Page 68)*







short time before. We were quartered in one of the few houses still standing. Then Vic Marasco insisted upon having company if he were to walk guard at night, and how we all agreed with him when our guards were fired upon a few nights later. As French troops were also stationed in this town, trading and bartering flourished. We wanted a lot of the Jerry souvenirs they had while they wanted cigarettes. We did very nicely, too.

By now the Boche were really running, so our stay was again short. We pulled up to the Rhine at Mainz and crossed on the famed pontoon bridge. Then we rolled along the German Autobahn or Super Highway until we were in Frankfurt-on-Main. Again we were defending an airstrip.

For living quarters we had a large house in Eschborn, just outside of Frankfurt. We were soon living in style. Radios, mattresses, and electric lights were "requisitioned" to help make the miserable business of war a little more bearable. Then we moved again.

In Kitsingen we took over a former Jerry general's quarters with a convenient adjoining tavern, which we used as a mess hall. The tavern was stocked with the very best in choice liquids.

V-E Day came officially on May 8th, but as Paquet will testify, everything stopped on the 7th. That was his birthday.

We began to think that nobody had told Headquarters about the war's end, when we moved to an airstrip at

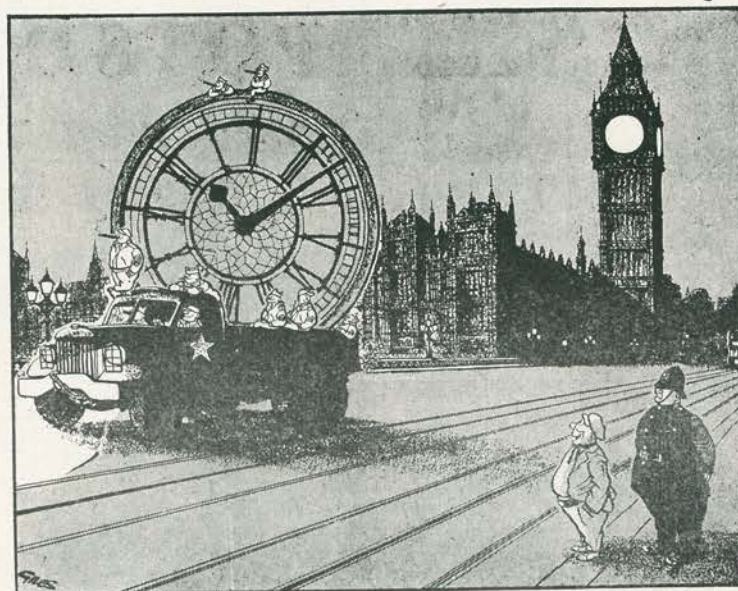
Illesheim and set up tactically again. Drage and Ross came into their own now with the laundry situation well in hand. The rest of the men began to wish they, too, spoke the lingo, fraternization or not.

From now on we had time to think and wonder when we would be going home. Every day brought new rumors and new hope. After the point system was arranged we sat down to wait, or went to the unit school supervised by our own energetic Lt. Randall.

Homesickness began to be the chief ailment. Passes to Paris, Chamonix, Brussels, England, and trips to see brothers in other units helped to pacify this feeling.

We of Baker Battery had reason to be proud of one of our boys, Dan "The Major" Collins, who refused a direct commission offered by our Brigade Commander, General Curtis, in view of his expected early return home and "La Belle Hogan." Though recognition came much too late in his army life, some consolation must have been gained by Dan in the knowledge that he could have had the brass for the asking. We think "The Major" was right in not accepting the commission, but we all agreed that it took a lot of intestinal fortitude to turn it down. Nice going, Dan.

Well, buddy, that's it. We came a long way together. When in later years you raise your glass in a toast, remember your comrades who fought, laughed, slept, ate, and died with you. So long, buddy!



"Rare boys for souvenirs, these Americans".





LT. JOSEPH MALCOLM

S/Sgt. EDWARD E. HARRIS



# 1st PLATOON

"B" BATTERY













# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "B" Battery



First Sergeant Ed Oliver, then a Pfc., organized the rookies into one of the sharpest sections in the battalion before he relinquished his charge to Sergeant Bono. Since those rough days of basic training the veterans have been through much together.

Long will we remember the water discipline, the lack of chow, the rains, mud, and abundance of chicken during Tennessee maneuvers. During a blackout our gun was squashed by a tank and knocked out of action for the duration of the war in Tennessee. We do mean squashed, but other than scaring Katchur so badly he ceased to grow, we suffered no casualties.

It was said of Bono that he ruled with an iron hand, forged in his home town of Minersville, Pr. Coporal "The Brush" Ward, who resembled a certain officer, came from the Automobile City. Pfc. Waddell called Ohio home. Swan known as "Lochinvar" for his love of Foreign Art, hailed from Steubenville, Ohio. Katchur was our morale builder. Our bartender, "Oatsie" Russell, also filled the role of gunner for our crew. Much could be said of Pfc. Wagers, a gambling man from Kentucky. "The Duke" Ellefante was the traveling soldier of the section. Going on a three-day pass, he returned two weeks later. How did you do it, Duke? Bertuzzi really had a time whenever we moved, what with duffle bag, rifle, pack, and his squeeze box; yet he made sweet music and was appreciated no end.

Ackerman was an excellent representative of Maine, the Potato State. Our machiner Griffin always did a swell job besides keeping Raleigh more or less on the ball. Not that Lawrence Raleigh ever got off the ball—he was from Kentucky. The gentleman from Mississippi, J. B. Everett, tall, handsome, broke many a heart. Our unchallenged best shot was Trenko, who knocked down the robot plant at Camp Stewart with a short burst.

Others in our crew were Ray DeFoor, Bill Holms, George Salverine, Elmon Crawford, Harry Price, Russell Mack, and Walter Sobelieski.

A really fine crew, who did a damn good job.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "B" Battery



Our section originated at Camp Stewart, known by all as "Swamp Stewart." There we learned that no order was too big for us to carry out. There the section spirit grew, not individually, for all for one and one for all. At night it was nothing to "short sheet" your buddy or crack him over the head with a pillow. It was some fun.

In our gang were Emil Schalnat, the "Sharpie," Claude "Passion Flower" Myers, Francis "Tommy" Thompson, Leonard "Rad" Radziewicz, James "Shotgun" Mason, Raymond "Ray" DeFoor, Milburn "Cookie" Cook, Raymond "Grandma" Cline, John "Keg" Kendig, Harold "Bitcher" Boyer, Mike "Padre" Loyon, Herman "Von Shneider" Webb, Edward "Chad" Chada, John "Smithy" Schmidt, Richard "Chief" Bettleyoun, Boyd "Mike" Wilder, and Clark "Daisy" Day.

Our memoirs are plentiful . . . field inspections at Stewart . . . the water discipline on field problems . . . the cold weather on maneuvers . . . Cook and Cline as good buddies . . . those suppers of cheese sandwiches at two o'clock in the morning . . . the wine at Fort Fisher . . . the dance at the Woodrow Wilson Hut in Wilmington . . . the nice soft beds at Butner . . . the riot in the PX the last night . . . the time the latrine overflowed into the hut . . . when everyone was on detail at Standish . . . the day the first man walked aboard the ship . . . the twelve days of seasickness . . . then, Land! . . . tossing apples and cigarettes to the English people . . . the long train pull into Leek . . . waving at pretty girls . . . first passes to Leek and our real close association with the English . . . the gun positions on the levee . . . the ATS camp, beer, counting that funnny money . . . when Lt. Wilkinson said "Post" and two streaks of lightning hit the trail leaving two ATS girls stranded!

Also . . . Southampton . . . going to France . . . foxholes and puppy tents . . . the bullet that clipped the branch over Rad's head . . . the first cider and cognac . . . the little dog houses at Cherbourg . . . stealing potatoes from the French farmer to replace that awful stew . . . the beach and midnights raids . . . the company at Vitry la Francois . . . two guys with too much drink hunting the Red Ball highway for helmet liner . . . the Xmas tree in the tent, the singing of carols with the aid of a keg of beer and a couple bottles of scotch (Thanks, Mrs. Schalnat) . . . poker in the guard hut at four o'clock in the morning . . . these and much more, more than could ever be written down!

Finally, war's end, and we on the way home, anxious what it would be like to be free men again in a free world.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "B" Battery



We claimed the highest morale of all sections and why not, with the Honorable John Derr and his guitar we sang our way from Boston to Illesheim, Germany! None of us will ever forget the Rose of Tralee so often sung by our Chief of Section Vito Gallo. Little Wilson representing West Virginia was naturally a leading man in this section. Ralph Fryberger couldn't get too much of Johnn's cowboy songs. Fry hailed from Montana.

All was not song and music . . . all was quiet the night Ralph shot down his first Jerry. Ralph was on guard and a little nervous . . . when something approached his post he shouted, "Halt!" Then he fired. Brissey forgot what he had learned in basic and made a quick and thorough search of the area with the aid of a bright flashlight, but to no avail. After several hours' search the corpse was discovered: one milk cow (Jerry).

John Gounis was from Philadelphia. If any of you are in his town, have lunch at The Gounis Spoon. Ask Frank Wasilewski if he prefers his coffee made with champagne. He calls Shenandoah his home. Our baseball player was John Ferguson, from New Kensington, Pa., a swell guy and well liked by all. He had the distinction of writing more letters than anyone in the section, to whom we know not?

Frank "Moose" Kitchens could tell you all there was to know about the fine art of absorbing the famous French Calvados and Marybelle. He landed on the beach with a bottle in each hand.

Benny "Machine Gun" Szuhay fought a war and lived in a world of his own. Ben had a pilot's license and proved it by taking up a cub several times in Germany. Bill Raybuck came to us back in Conflans from the Infantry. Bill was another Pennsylvanian. Mario "Mutz" Pierotti was our Old Army man who said he had enough. We wondered if the reason could be a girl with red hair. Jiminez who joined us late said the Army cramped his style. Chicago contributed Lawrence Wolfson to our crew. We lost Bill Willingham to the headquarters platoon.

Sergeant Vito Gallo expects you to drop in at the home of Mister and Mrs. Gallo whenever you are in or near Northumberland, Pa.

Through thick and thin we held together. Now as civilians may we think back over those eventful years and realize what a wonderful thing it is to live in peace and comfort again.



# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "B" Battery



Legs Cameron was the Big Wheel in our section. We never bragged. Just took it for granted we were the best unit in the Battalion.

Chitwood acted as our range setter. With Pet Senitch as Number One and Bill Warner on the Number Two side of the director, they comprised our original director team. Selvedge and Ellsberry handled the power plant, while Asselin took care of the telephone for the range. Shortie Sullivan was gunner, Oatsie Russell was Number Seven man with Bono and Ryan as gun pointers. Ammo detail was ably taken care of by Pavlick and Wilson, who also doubled as driver. Two of our choicest characters, Cal Elefante and Kentucky Sartin, held down our machine gun. With this crew we won the prize of two cases of beer for getting the first hits on the towed targets on the range at Camp Stewart. Those really were the days!

Came those murderous maneuvers when Sullivan went to umpire's school and Russell took over as our gunner. Changes in the section were many as the days rolled by. Chitwood, Bono, Ellsberry, and Salvage were transferred. Worthington found himself as power plant operator and Warner as range setter. Whitlock and Wilson were new additions about this time. Everyone hated to see Kentucky Sartin leave the section. Stoltz came to us at Myles Standish. Private Hooey, who later got into the Infantry and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge, left us in the early days in England.

Remember those first hectic nights on the continent in the St. Lo Sector with the enemy planes always overhead but no searchlights with which to see them . . . enemy planes dropping parachute flares, lighting up the earth, making us feel much too exposed . . . the day at Cherbourg when one of our own P-51 Mustangs accidentally released a bomb much too close to our position with only Warner, knocked to the ground by concussion, none the worse for the experience . . . the time our tents were used as targets but by whom, we never knew. In France Chester Hintz joined our section.

First action came at Rosiers en Haye, where we defended the most forward fighter strip, throwing up plenty of flak but never being too sure of results. At Rosiers we lost Asselin to the Infantry. Coffee and Price were new additions at Rosiers. Frank Leonard was wounded at St. Lo for which he got the Purple Heart. Rolland Palmer also joined up at that time.

We of Gun Site No. 12 collected many recollections in our journey through Conflans, Thionville, Saarburg, Frankfurt, and Wurzburg. Then came V-E and V-J Days, and the happy trip home. Good luck, fellows, till we meet again.















LT. ROBERT N. FLETCHER



LT. ANSELM WITTE



S/SGT. NORMAN W. DILLMAN



# 2nd PLATOON

"B" BATTERY















# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "B" Battery



At the outset let us briefly reflect upon our good fortune in surviving the past ordeals we shared together, and vow that the peace we have today we shall cling to with all our strength and courage.

In our section we all remember the incident of the first alert when Hogan "in line of duty" rushed to his post with a shirt his only attire. Many times he kept us on edge by his eagerness to fire his rifle, earning for himself the name of "Trigger Happy". That handling a bazooka needed care was learned by "Muscles" Trichel when he had his face camouflaged by the powder blast. "Thirty-seven Millimeter Rut" Rutkofsky at one time or another sampled every drink France had to offer, from maribelle, cognac, calvados, to the bitter English beer. "Two Shot" Bosna had ranks from private to sergeant, back to corporal, to private, then to private first class. Utrata was a great help to the unit as a range setter.

"Pontamusson" Ingber was our section card player who became famous through his skill and psychology. "Thirty Year" Carr, deriving from a military family, proved his worth in a competitive machine gun contest. Lurwich, the "Paris Kid", at one time felled a rabbit with one shell from his M-1 rifle, breaking all four legs. One lucky lad, "Bananas" Vallelonga, won the hearts of many mademoiselles because he knew the language. Mazzoli, interested in intellectual matters, had the desire to become a successful business man. He will be remembered for his long discussions of civil affairs with his partner, Ingber.

Orlando's interest in sports was second to none. "Glamour Boy" Conard, who told such wonderful tales about his love life, was deeply interested in mechanics as well as women. Though new to this section, Allison, Eye, and Hart swiftly won the friendship of all.

For a long time to come part of our lives will be lived in the past, full of musings of our army experiences. Together we worked as a unit and established among ourselves the love and trust needed to endure the new and arduous life of a soldier. Let us often refresh our memories by glancing over these "Tokens of Remembrance".





# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "B" Battery



We were born on 20 June 1943 at Camp Stewart, with Farinalla as Chief of Section; Spring, range setter; Koehler, gunner; Botkiss, Boris, Chapman, and Britton, range section; Vallelonga and Carr, machine gun section; Stinger, Ingber, Hooker, and Whitlock, gun crew. Needless to say many changes took place before the shooting was over.

Al Koehler took over when Farinalla became ill and stayed as chief till the end. Benson and Consoneti joined us across when we lost Hooker and Whitlock.

France will always hold many memories for us, both good and bad . . . the gloom at Cherbourg when Lester Deem had a foot badly mangled because of German treachery . . . was taking two fingers from Consoneti . . . the Normandy beaches where many German mines made even a short walk dangerous . . . our daily battles against General Mud, our gun site at Rosiers, and our nightly attempts to knock Jerry from the skies with beaucoup flak, the crossing of the Rhine and our first position on German soil . . . the night Jerry dropped a few eggs within five hundred yards of the section, and the mad scramble for foxholes . . . Erbs and DeVito and their many jaunts into nearby cities in search of culture ? ? ?

Harry Glassner, Jim Aranda, and Al Ryba took excellent care of the laundry situation due to their ability to parley-vous with the natives.

We remember the nightly gab fest around the fire with such old standbys as Owen "Deacon" Cantly, Russ Bailey, Lilla, Eddie Yoak, Roberts, and Graham.

Others at one time or other in our section were Leo Crew, Joe Brown, Bill Lauderman, Milt Janoz, Mat Varner, Pet Judge, Walt Gouette, and Woodrow Crow.

The War over and our mission complete, we can look back upon those years with a good deal of feeling that we did our job well. To all the men in this section we say, "Good luck and the very best of everything in the years to come."







# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "B" Battery



Few of us realized way back in May, 1943, that our section was to come such a long way. Little did Guy Brentari from deep in the coal region of Minersville think he would be meeting Walter J. from the night clubs of Ohio, or that "Overseas" Janov would meet up with a fellow named Priest from California.

We originated at Camp Stewart under supervision of Norman Dillman. Then Tennessee Maneuvers . . . Camp Butner, the "Home of Showdown Inspections" . . . Myles Standish, our POE, and the brass band that reminded Plowman, Epering, and Sallustio of the Salvation Army units that used to roam the streets of Philadelphia . . . the trip over when holding down our victuals was often impossible for most of us . . . Smith, Sweitzer, and Vitanza hanging to the rail insisting it was just to view the mountainous waves . . . April 17, the sight of Ireland, and the coming into Swansea Bay, Wales.

Blackshaw Moor our first camp in England . . . fish and chips, and crumpets and tea, to replace the midnight snacks at home . . . mid-July in France, where Mitnik and Shields found how much they could get with a bar of chocolate, a stick of chewing gum, or a "cigarette pour papa" . . . Cherbourg, where our section was situated high on a hill overlooking the beautiful harbor . . . here also where tragedy first struck our crew when Archie Eddie died after stepping on a mine. No one was better liked than Archie. His passing was a personal blow to all.

Omaha Beach, Vitry la Francois, and Rosiers followed in what seemed like quick succession . . . Herb Wolf joined as Chief . . . Shields and King returning with their objective, one hot stove . . . compliments of the Air Corps, who did not realize it at the time . . . Campbell losing to Sobieski as to who should chop the wood . . . Sobie in the Ackadets . . . Mitnik's finger . . . Lindsay and Morgan returning to the states . . . West and Doyle singing Irish lullabies . . . the other men once with the unit: Spetich, Doyle, Lindsey, Morgan, Gilbert, Jones, Brentarie, Kay, and Tittle.

Here's hoping, fellows, that we can all meet again someday.



# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "B" Battery



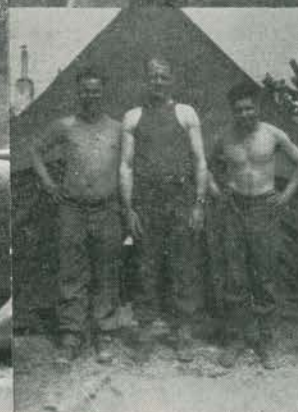
Our section, at one time containing twelve nationalities, was known as the League of Nations. Team work was of the very best.

Sergeant Giese, the Chief of Section, hailed from Abilene, Kansas, the home of General Ike. Giese was the only member to hold five Battle stars. Range Setter Boris came from Minersville, Pa. Always proud of Clintonville, West Virginia, was Obbie King, our gunner. He said it was the home of America's best liquors. Greater love for his power plant had no one . . . than Jerry Marzano, from Campbell, Ohio, who was also best letter writer and medic. Dave Trujillo, tracker, called Colorado Springs home. Ed "Shortie" Huffard, from Norristown, Pa., joined up from the 794th AAA AW BN. Loader and Firer Thorfin Hanson hailed from Eau Claire, Wis. John "Slim" Pohedra, gun pointer, was our lover of pigeons, good food, and Minersville. Gun pointer Lawrence boasted of his home steel city of Bethlehem, Pa. Apparently he had enjoyed his six years in the service. Machine Gunner Curry, from North Wilkesboro, N. C., would tell you the merits of the south at less than a moment's notice. Also on the machine gun was Painter, from Plymouth, West Virginia. Another gunner, Williams, was also from the south, Waynesboro, Miss. His one ambition was to be a civilian again. Gunner Brown was always happy whenever he was behind the wheel of a truck. Others among us were Private Sack, of Hartford, and Private Tidwell, of Towncreek, Ala.

We lost Harry Deal as Chief of Staff in France when he was accidentally shot in the leg. He was well liked by all in both sections and the battery. If we ever get near Niles, Ohio, we'll drop in on you Harry.

Botkiss, Glassner, Ingber, Spering, Sallustio, Mickles, Mayberry, Farinella, Treichel, McClain, and Bosna were other members of our unit.

Congratulations, men, on a job well done!















# "C" BATTERY



CAPT. LEONARD T. HANSON



1/Sgt. JOHN W. RIDDICK

## Headquarters Section of "C" Battery



The Headquarters Section of Charlie Battery may be broken down as follows: Office Personnel, Supply, Medics, Mess Personnel, Communications, Motor Pool, and Artillery. Each was equally important and accomplished as fine a job as any top echelon. First Sergeant Mueller ably handled the battery all through basic training, maneuvers, and the European Theater of Operations. Battery clerk was Walter Higgins. First Sergeant John J. Riddick was at the helm after V-J Day. Corporal Joseph T. Longo handled the mail and clerical work.

Supply was staffed by S/Sgt. Cregar and T/5 Ben Gordon who unfortunately had to leave us in June of 1945. Cpl. Hugh Burns filled the vacancy like a veteran. Supply had its share of roughing it through the many difficult campaigns in France and Germany. The "Sarge" usually came through with results. We like to remember when we were sporting sweaters (under cover), combat jackets, and wrapping ourselves in sleeping bags when the other batteries were reading about them in *Stars & Stripes*.

"For valour in going to the aid of two fallen buddies regardless of danger to own life and limb". Need more be written of our Medical Detachment? T/4 Fisher and T/5 Smolka were awarded the Soldier's Medal for going 150 yards into a mine field to render first aid to two victims of an exploded mine. Together with Pfc Templin they rendered "C" Battery invaluable services. Nearly everybody went at some time or other to the Medics with a headache, stomach ache, or more serious ailment to find the pill-rollers ready at any hour and in any weather. Thanks to them our illnesses were kept at a minimum.

S/Sgt. Richardson came to "C" Battery after having had an officers' mess, a searchlight battalion, and a gun battalion mess hall under his direction. Our battery kitchen staff included T/4 Brumley and Genzano, T/5 Gaskill and Ekleberry, and Pfc's Baldwin, Ford, and Peiffer. Though we had our share of K's, C's, and 10 in 1's, along with them we like to recall Brumley's stew and "a dollah foah a beah". Genzano's spaghetti was as palatable as his request for today's "rationings" was





pleasant to the ear. The Battalion's best kitchen during the battery's setup in Ochey, France, belonged to Sgt. Genzano, and Pfc.'s Mack and Peiffer, and that conservatively estimating was when the Battalion had thirty kitchens or more. Our mess hall in Illesheim, Germany, pictured elsewhere, was a shining example of "C" Battery's fine architecture.

Sgt. Bill Runco headed a capable communications crew consisting of T/4 Rea, Radio Repairman; T/5 Ruhnke, SBO; T/5 Hollifield, Lineman; T/5 Johnston, SBO; T/5 Burgess, SBO, and Pfc.'s Batten, Harris, Tilhou, and Shindler. Formed one week after the battery was activated, many of the original crew were still chasing lines and making splices after V-J Day. All the men attended code classes at "Swamp Stewart". Maneuvers found Communications preparing for the real thing to come. Tennessee was cold with lots of snow, but that message had to get thru.

Runco and Ruhnke graduated from lineman's school. At Fort Fisher the unit was reinforced by Sgt. Minor Keeley who was to lead it until after V-E Day. On reaching England the boys were quite a success with the ATS girls. Only because some of the men were married are we omitting specific details. Then came tactical setups

in France as in England, split communications into two platoons, and a battery CP crew. Not until after V-E Day was the unit reunited. Pfc.'s Longer and Shindler joined up in Pont l'Abbe in the first tactical set up in France. From Normandy to South Germany Communications went thru a steady job of laying lines and picking up wire, setting up transmitters and trouble shooting in general. Thru rains and mine-fields, snow, mud, and wreckage the boys of Communications did their job.

We were always proud of our Motor Pool, for upon Salvatore Muzio, motor corporal, Pfc. Pringle, weapons carrier drivers, Pfc. Durfee 6x6 driver, Day, jeep-driver, and Florio, assistant motor mechanic, rested the responsibility of keeping a semi-mobile battery on wheels. French mud did not help any, nor did the artillery-torn roads of Germany. Despite all this, they "kept us rolling."

In "C" Battery the artillery section kept 8 Bofors, 8 M-51's, and 8 directors in ready and firing order. Credit goes to T/4 Block, former assistant Pfc. John Tkacs, and assistant Pfc. Osborne. Maintenance of the complicated directors was the job of T/3 "Hank" Weinhardt and Pvt. Ed Kelley.

OP life was quite a life in the battery, all starting way







back in Tennessee. On the first problem they sent out four of us: Pfc. George Tilhou, radio operator, and Pvt.'s Bob Marshall, Gilbert Hart, and James DeVita, observers. This was when we paid ten dollars for that well-known Southern Fried Chicken Dinner. The old farmer almost fell over when we handed him ten bucks for two fried chickens. But we weren't used to K's yet. On the next problem, down by the Cumberland River, the three of us lived on a dairy diet. For five days we ate nothing but bread, cheese, butter, and milk. Finally we discovered a General Store. All we could get were some stale cakes and a jar of jelly. George's wonderful sob story won the jar for us. And Hart, as long as we live, we won't forgive you for breaking it!

Shortly after we landed in Wales an OP was set up on the Bristol Channel. This time Hart and DeVita were accompanied by Cpl Warren Moore, who was in charge, and Pvt. Ed Kyle. We considered this the best deal we ever had, since we were in a former girls' camp and had excellent shower facilities and a fresh water swimming pool several feet from our tent. Then came D-Day soon after which we were on numerous OP's throughout France and Germany. OP life was not easy. We were usually on high windy mountains, or lonely desolate woods with never more than three men to pull 24-hour air guard, cook meals, cut wood for fires, and do other tasks. Well, it's all over now. We are glad that our final observation was of the Statue of Liberty.











LT. GEORGE M. KELLY



SGT. MICHAELSON



# 1st PLATOON

"C" BATTERY





# HISTORY OF FIRST PLATOON



Under the leadership of Lt. Harris, assisted by Lt. Fatkin, the First Platoon of Charlie Battery was a typical 795 unit. After activation S/Sgt. Riddick was appointed Platoon Sergeant and held the job during most of the platoon's tour of duty, later becoming First Sergeant.

The CP personnel consisting of the communications crew included T/5 Johnston, in charge, Pfc. Paul Harris, and the OPers' when they were not on some desolate outpost, Pfc.'s DeVita and Hart. The kitchen was under the care of Sgt. Genzano and Pfc. Mack.

The platoon setup on the beach at Cherbourg was the most nerve-tingling deal in its existence. A German ammo dump then full of captured explosives was situated approximately 500 yards from the command post. As would be the case, by some unknown means, it blew up, first a series of lesser explosives, then the heavy shells. Every gun and man in the First Platoon were all within a short distance. Shells and projectiles landed in and around the CP, the gun positions were hit, and many men lost all their army and personal possessions. Fortunately no one was injured, for in the vicinity were a number of concrete pill-boxes built by the Germans to fight an invasion by Allied forces on the Cherbourg port and beach. They became a comparatively safe spot for us. Our entire platoon was evacuated from the area due to the danger of recurring explosions. The following morning everyone returned to his respective sight feeling like a seasoned veteran.

After Cherbourg the First Platoon along with the rest of the battery moved from position to position, at times joining the battery CP, but most of the time on its own.

At Jean de Lize the higher authorities decided that the First Platoon was to go on its own almost independent of the battery, with its own operational setup. Therefore it moved to Pierrefitte where it tactically protected a POC. At that time the platoon was under the command of Lt. Lester, assisted by Lt. Fatkin, with S/Sgt. Michaelson taking the job of Platoon Sergeant. Lt. Lester stayed with us until V-E Day, when Lt. Harris returned to resume command.

The personnel of the First Platoon of Charlie Battery had always been artistic in the construction of its command posts. We are referring especially to the one at Ochey, France. Although the rest of the battery was knee-deep in mud, the gravel paths and logged roads were the First Platoon's line of defense against "enemy mud."

Thanks to the marksmanship of Lt. Harris, the CP was able to live on venison and bear meat during the cold days of its stay near Commercy in France. For this we must not forget to give credit to Genzano and Mack.

Then came Germany and more positions in typically army fashion, the First Platoon CP always set up as though they were to stay in that place forever, even though it would be for a day or so.

When V-E Day came and it was decided to coordinate the entire battery, that spelled the end of the First Platoon CP as an operating unit.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "C" Battery



Our section was activated at Camp Stewart when Frank Bechtel was selected as Chief. Included in the original crew were Pinto, Spivak, Devine, McVickers, Patrizio, Gump, Haymond, Kokuba, Morris, Bell, Colby, Messenger, and Anderson.

We sweated during basic in the Georgia heat . . . enjoyed the furlough which was our reward . . . froze and shivered in Tennessee . . . moved up to the Boston POE and finally boarded the Susan B. Anthony wondering where we were going. The British Isles turned out to be OK. Our first and best gun site was in Nenarth—took us a week to build it. Again we boarded a boat to disembark two and a half days later at Utah Beach. Cherbourg, Le Havre, and other ports were still to be taken. We moved in and set up in no time.

Our unit was well-organized and ready for action. Several nights later it came. Pont l'Abbe was our first action, after which we felt like veterans. The explosions at Cherbourg affected all the First Platoon but us most of all because we were closest. The shack occupied by our corporals was burned to nothing along with their GI and other equipment. During a temporary lull we left our pill-boxes to seek better shelter on a more distant hill. We still thank our lucky stars that none of us were hurt.

Then came Lessay, again the Utah Beach, this time in a tactical setup, Bar-le-Duc, and Ochey. At this popular mudhole our section was placed under Sgt. John J. Schmidlin. More moves and setups, gun pits dug in and built up, and sand-bags to be filled and carried as far as 150 yards. It was the same whether in France on the sandy beach or in Germany on the Rhine River.

V-J Day meant to Gun Site No. 17 placing the gun in the park hoping that it may never have to be used again. After more than two years we had lost thru transfers, replacements, and promotions more than half the original crew. Others not mentioned above were Cena, Orlousky, Randle, Demao, Sansevere, and Shirley.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "C" Battery



Our motto was, "The Best Combined Section in the Battalion. To learn how true this was, all you had to do was to ask anyone in it.

Like everyone else we got organized at Stewart in the Georgia swamps, where every time we looked out of camp it seemed like a setting for *Tobacco Road*... Our army memories started with this unit.

On 6 April 1944 we left Standish to board the Susan B. Anthony, once the Grace Lines pride and joy when she was the swank Santa Clara, and landed in England after an 11-day voyage. We led the Battalion in having the most advanced cases of seasickness, our Chief of Section being the most fortunate fellow. Runner-up was Sykes of Headquarters Battery, who was closely followed by Cpl. Weaver of "D" Battery.

In England and Wales we enjoyed everything but the beer and the climate. We all remember the tides at Penarth, Wales, which would take out our tents and three-fourths of our belongings every time they moved. Here Skidmore and Burns proved themselves heroes by saving two children from drowning. Since the children were not Officers, the two corporals were not awarded the Soldiers Medal.

Our first action was after we hit France at a little town named St. Lo, on 18 September 1944. No, we did not fire a shot, for there was nothing to shoot at. Knowing that Gun Site No. 18 was there, the Germans preferred to fly over other batteries.

From one airfield to another all the way across France, Luxembourg, and into Germany, adventures, experiences, and memories all piled together in our record. The remaining men of the section were Coates, McElroy, Wienkers, King, Helmick, Creswell, Bartlett, Percell, Steiger, Reardon, Becketl, and Oliveto.

V-E and V-J Days were the happiest we had ever had.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "C" Battery



After four weeks of basic training at Camp Stewart our section was formed under the leadership of Sgt. 'Hank' Weinhart. The complete group as we worked, played, fought, and lived together included: William Fortungler, Preston Skidmore, Albert Benduce, John Burns, Calvin Gamble, Tom Santos, Carlton Davis, Walter Lukovich, Frank Poster, Mario DeLuca, Billy Heighter, and Michael Pabin.

When we returned from furlough in November we kept ourselves busy packing and getting ready for maneuvers in Tennessee. Who will ever forget those maneuvers? First it was trying to find enough clothes to keep warm, and then wishing we could slow down from our work long enough to think about getting cold. We spent our first Christmas in the army there in Tennessee.

From maneuvers to Fort Fisher to Camp Butner were two quick hops in preparation for overseas movement. The week-end passes at Butner were nice, gave a lot of us a chance to see our folks. A hectic eleven days on the boat to England followed. We landed in Swansea and set up our first position at Penarth, surrounded by "Navy", a bunch of nice guys whose cooks dished up some excellent food.

France . . . St. Lo . . . Lessay . . . back to Cherbourg, where we lost range-setter Capellenti and Billy Heighter became our cook. "Eighty octane coffee". Nuff said!

A continuous rain accompanied our stay in Bar-le-Duc. Weinhart turned in his stripes and Bill Fortwangler took over as Chief of Section.

"Duke" DeLuca took charge of our kitchen at Etain and promised us good chow. Nice part about the deal was that we got it! In February we lost Hursch, James, and Murray to the Infantry. Mike Pabin, who replaced the three, said it was a good swap!

We were in Germany when the war ended. The news was welcome but we still finished digging in on our last move. We had our bad days and our good ones. We'll remember them all when we think of Gun Site No. 19—the pride of the 795th.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "C" Battery



Here are the members of our section: George Kaess Chief of Section; McLaughlin, range setter; Hobsheid, Demao, Kempff, and Ford, range section; Knight, gunner; Spaits, Pastor, Chappell, Devlin, Ellis, and Luson, gun crew. This was the nucleus at the start of training for the mission that confronted us.

After months of intense training, the long awaited furloughs were in view. We were on our way home as "seasoned troops", to leave impressions, not of boys, but of men.

We can never forget the days of maneuvers . . . problem after problem . . . then after completion, on to other points . . . Fisher, Butner, Standish . . . the overseas journey, new land, new experiences . . . all now part of our past life.

Our first position prior to that of Cherbourg had been on a P-47 base in France. That stay was short but it was an example of what was in store for us as we were to proceed on with our task. The experiences at Cherbourg will live with us for many years to come. Under the title of "Baptism of Fire" we will recall the blowing up of the ammunition dump. We were certainly in great danger . . . and kept busy eliminating the strong possibility of being hit by flying fragments and shrapnel. The mishap could have been fatal for many of us.

Our travels proceeded on thru France, Luxembourg, and Germany until with the end of war found us at Illesheim, Germany, not as a gun section or platoon, but in garrison.

We eagerly awaited our turn to return home so we could begin life anew and relate to our loved ones all the memories we had stored up in Gun Site No. 20.











LT. MICHAEL SORBELLO



S/SGT. CRAVEN

★  
2nd PLATOON

"C" BATTERY







# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "C" Battery



Placed in charge of our section at Camp Stewart, Sgt. Unie Brown was one of the few chiefs in "C" Battery to retain his command from activation to the end of the war in Europe. We felt this to be a splendid reflection of the fine spirit of cooperation under which we worked. At the beginning we had: Edwards, Allen, Hopkins, Connelly, Autenreith, Abels, McGilligan, Hess, Cornish, Dronenberg, Lamb, Long, Pringle, Lowry, and Odegard.

We were the first unit to build a position in basic training. The second shot we fired split the target. Overseas we had our initial setup at Barry Docks, Wales, overlooking the Bristol Channel. Our mission was to protect the shipping destined for France and the still secret D-Day. Later we left for Christchurch with the battery where we prepared for sailing to France, cosmolening the guns, briefing, and working under the famous "This is it" attitude.

In France after several tactical setups occurred the notorious "Hess incident". At Lessay, a B-26 base, Hess maintained that he heard the drone of a JU-88. Being the only one on guard and not disturbing the other men, Billy fired at the JU-88. One man doing the work of twelve. Later came a report that a C-47 was fired upon by someone. We were of course sure that Hess had spotted a JU-88.

We went all the way across France to Bar-le-Duc, Verdun, and Etain, where we were flooded out. Snows were thawing and water running down to the bottom of the hill. In a short time beds, ammo, and water cans were afloat.

Shortly after we moved into Germany where we had the good fortune to be near a champagne factory in Trier. We were greatly disappointed when we had to leave although our next position at the Rhine was atop a wine cellar!

At war's end Gun Site No. 21 consisted of Brown, Allen, Gorman, Connelly, Autenrieth, Sobol, Abels, Geesey, Montgomery, McGilligan, Hopkins, Pirkey, and Hess.

Good luck to you all, wherever you are!





# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "C" Battery



Our section was the very best in the battery, in our humble opinion, because we always accomplished our mission with flying colors. Chief of Section was Sgt. Arnold G. McGill, once gunner of the crew, a lad from Baltimore and formerly a worker at Glenn Martin's Maurauder plant. Owen Morse from Ellenboro, West Virginia, was the range setter.

Gunner Lloyd Winland came from Ohio and was with us from beginning to end. Jack Higby also came from West Virginia. What he didn't know about machine guns wasn't worth knowing. We were glad to have Donald Spivak of Brooklyn as our Number One man. William Shinski, the Number Two man, called Shamokin, Pa., his home. He left for a while to be range setter for another unit, but later returned. Another Pennsylvanian, Melvin Maleski, did a fine job as a machine gunner, as did Lorraine Banks, who came from North Dakota.

Johnny Merson of Rackville, Maryland was considered one of the best trackers in the battery. Wilden Cummins, also from the Keystone State, was in charge of the power plant. Jose Raybal, from Sante Fe, New Mexico, came to the unit late but learned to like it very much. Another from the romantic Southwest, Carroll Kochert, of Alamo, Texas, joined us from the Third Infantry Division. Our horseshow player was Leon Krepps of Colorado, who had been in the 481st before coming to us.

Ohioan John Sheely also came from the 481st and eventually developed quite a trade in photography, doing very good work. Arthur Samuelson of Utah, at one time a good Number Two man, left us to do the rest of his soldiering with the Infantry. We wished him good luck.

If you liked to argue, all you had to do was look up Joe Goldsmith. Like Samuelson, he also joined the Infantry. Another Shamokin boy was Al Sabal, a good guard, who once shot a sheep for a German. Chester Tuckulski joined up at Cherbourg from a Repple Depple and bowed out when he got badly burned by a stove explosion. Grant Bristol came with some tall stories about his previous army experiences.

James Montgomery, from Brackenridge, Pa., was with the unit a long time until he handed in his stripes and transferred to another section. Irtys Miller, of Sullivan, Illinois, came to us from the 103rd Infantry Division.

This was the personnel of Gun Site No. 22. Good luck and much happiness to you all.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "C" Battery



In our basic training Sergeant Durfee barked out the orders for Shinskie, the range setter; Burns, Number One man; Sabott, Number Two; Frye, power plant; Marshall, communications; Messenger, gunner; Odegard and Kuzak, machine gun; Devine, firer; Crown and Kravanja, range section; Gondar, ammo; and Pringle, basic.

We landed at Swansea and carried all our belongings to a train which took us to Leek. In Wales we were out on Nell's Point on Barry Island, a place with plenty of cool breezes. Messenger was replaced by Hess who became the gunner and had his first alert the second night when an enemy plane approached but did not come near enough. Shipping again, to Christchurch, England, where we water-proofed our guns for the trip to the continent. Here we got a new instrument, the Stiffkey Stick.

At Utah Beach and beyond we learned to appreciate our guns better for we were near enemy territory. White tape lines all around indicated mine fields. At Pont l'Abbe a JU-88 dropped a couple of bombs nearby. In the excitement Odegard jumped into the garbage pit!

Yuslum came in when Hess left as gunner. We did not care much for pup tents so made shelters out of wood and tin. At Cherbourg we shared the excitement of the other sections when a Nazi ammo dump blew up. It felt like an earthquake with plenty of fireworks. During our first passes we got acquainted with champagne and calvados. Frye was placed in charge of the M-51 machine gun at Lessay. At Bar-leDuc we fired on a JU-88 recon plane. Here Sabott left and was replaced by the "Oklahoma Kid," Wooten.

Then Ochey . . . and Commercy, where we fired at a strafing plane . . . the extreme cold . . . the inspection by General Curtus . . . guarding General Bradley at Verdun . . . taking Pringle's place . . . the mud at Etain . . . Jean-de-Lize . . . boiling our clothes to get rid of mud . . . cutting wood for our homemade stoves . . . Odegard leaving . . . General Curtis dropping in to say hello to his neighbor, Yuslum . . . Smith replacing Dussler . . . Frye coming across a booby trap and noticing it in time . . . Little taking over just in time to uncover a champagne cellar . . . guarding Roosevelt Bridge . . . swimming and boating on the Rhine . . . Lombardo coming in and Shinskie leaving . . . the Rhine overflowing . . . then Illesheim and victory in Europe! McVay and Well arrived just in time to get the V-J news.

Now we are home again—and bringing back all the memories of our long experience together.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "C" Battery



We were one of the highest ranking sections in Charlie Battery. Sergeant MacClary was Chief of Staff when we were first organized at Camp Stewart, lording it over the following recruits: Neven Dressler, Evert Frazier, Howard Messinger, Joe Olgiky, William Davies, Donald Grines, Lawnie Gill, George Koester, Elmer Chamberlin, Edward Kyle, James Devine, John Pereguin, and Garden Lenning.

Followed the usual routine of maneuvers and furlough before going overseas. Maneuvers were a little rough. We all nearly froze to death and lost several members to the hospital. All but one rejoined us later. Hess, hospitalized by pneumonia, missed us at the POE.

In England . . . a few good times . . . the town of Leek . . . the English girls . . . the beer . . . the buzz-bombs that kept us on the jump while waiting to sail from Southampton. At Cherbourg, MacLean and Day joined our crew. We had our first raid there. Results: no casualties, Doviak on hands and knees, and Gill running around in long johns!

At Bar-le-Duc Smith, Kyle, and Manchego joined us. We spent Christmas here, our second one in mud up to our ears. Dreuler, Devine, Beistal, Brewer, Davies, and Peregrin came to our section. Then on to Belgium where we all acquired our second home.

Germany . . . Trier, Oppenheim, Hanan . . . then the windup at Illesheim, when the war ended. We celebrated very little at the end, but we knew we would when we got home.

We will remember that celebration as well if not better than the war itself. It took place right after we all returned to the states.

Good luck, fellows!















# "D" BATTERY



CAPT. DAVID A. GERSTNER



LT. THOMAS H. HANDY



1/Sgt. EMMONS McLUNG



## Headquarters Section of "D" Battery

"D" Battery of the 795th AAA AW BN was activated on the 20th of April, 1943 at Camp Stewart under the command of Lt. David A. Gerstner. The men were received in the latter part of May with most of them coming from Pennsylvania. Basic training was very intensive for five months—hot sun and sand.

"D" Battery always maintained a high rate of efficiency in every thing it undertook. The battery still holds the firing record at Camp Stewart. On the 19th of October, after completion of training, the battery was given two-week furloughs home. Following the good times at home we went to Tennessee for those wonderful maneuvers . . . six weeks of hell on earth.

Orders were received for advanced firing at Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Again the battery made a good showing. Then came Camp Butner where we turned our equip-

ment in in preparation for overseas. All men received shots, new clothing, and so on. Fort Myles Standish in Massachusetts was our POE. On the 6th of April, "D" Battery boarded the Susan B. Anthony, a converted troopship, to shove off at 0400 the next morning for England. With a destroyer escort the convoy of forty ships made an uneventful voyage. We anchored at Swansea, Wales, on April 16th. At midnight we disembarked and proceeded by train to the midlands of England known as the Black Shaw Moor. Time spent here was mostly in orienting us to conditions in England, customs and traditions. While here we drew our guns and other necessary equipment for tactical setup.

"D" Battery was assigned the mission of guarding the docks at Cardiff, Wales. Lasting for two months, the mission was carried out in an excellent manner. From



Cardiff the battery proceeded to a marshalling area on the southern coast of England pending shipment to the continent. On the 16th of July the battery sailed for France on the Duke of Wellington. A landing was made at the famous Utah Beach in the evening of July 18 around 2100. Upon hitting the beach the battery marched seven miles inland. The following morning the battery was assembled and tactical positions were set up at a new airstrip protecting fighter planes which were softening up the drive on St. Lo. The battery held tactical positions from Cherbourg to St. Mere Eglise.

Shortly after the liberation of Paris, the battery moved across France to the city of Vitry le Francois, the mission being to protect bridges for advancing troops. From Vitry the battery moved to the farthest advanced airstrip in France, near St. Nicholas, here experiencing the darkest days of the war.

The battle of northern France over, we moved into Germany with positions at Saarbrücken, Wolfgang, Kahn,

Oppenheim. At war's end we were in Wolfgang guarding an ordnance depot. On May 10, "D" Battery moved to Illesheim and set up ground defense at an airstrip.

With demobilization getting under way many men became subject for discharge so were transferred to units going home. Captain Gerstner gave up command of the battery on the 18th of September having the required number of points. Lt Tezak assumed command the following day.

Battery Headquarters consistently maintained excellent records for the personnel of "D". The 51st Brigade Personnel heads told our colonel that "D" Battery was the best in the brigade. Headquarters of "D" consisted of First Sergeant Emmons McClung, Mess Sergeant Delbert Allen, Supply Sergeant Marvin Ellis, Communications Sergeant Emmery Stasick, Motor Corporal Robert Moyer, Artillery Sergeant Harry Rhienholz and Sergeant Walter Kinzel.











LT. CHARLES M. FORD

S/SGT. WILLIAM R. KENNEDY

★  
1st PLATOON  
"D" BATTERY







# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "D" Battery



Our gun crew was formed at Swamp Stewart on the 2nd and 3rd of June. How well we remember that place! We felt more homesick, and had more of the feeling of being in a foreign country, than we ever had in England or France.

Sergeant Chauvon was the first Chief of Section, Jimmy Smith the range setter, and Felix Coffee, gunner. Others in the section included Otto Brady, Doyle Knight, Floyd Porter, Mike Nester, Bob Deibler, Ray Earney, Frank Pufnock, James Lichty, Irvin Kaufman, and Tip Gruneberg. Some of these boys went through Tennessee Maneuvers together. First to leave was Chauvon with an honorable discharge. Elmer Knight took his place.

At good old Camp Butner we received additional men in our unit: Joe Galvagno from the lovely city of Boston, Dave "Pop" Winschot, and Joel Marsh, alias "Cocoa".

At Cardiff, Wales, we lost Knight, who was replaced by Jimmy Smith. Kaufman was also replaced at the same time. At St. Mere Eglise Felix Coffee was transferred to "A" Battery while at Cherbourg, we received two more men, "Blackie" Ruggiers and "Red" Keyes.

New Year's eve was celebrated with a bang. Those responsible for all the noise were a JU-88, a DO-217, and a ME-410. They invited themselves to our little party, and we had quite a reception in store for them. I doubt if they liked it much!

A few miles more in France and we lost Joe Gaboagno and Ruggiers, who were replaced by Kozier, "Shakey" Roberts, and Ernest Pickering.

With the end of the war our future plans seemed much closer to coming true than ever before. The last few months in the army were spent in "sweating it out" for our return to the good old United States and the long awaited discharge.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "D" Battery



With men like Kennedy, Reddy, Touchette, Lichty, Strauman, Wolfe, and Hall, our section gained a formidable reputation in "D" Battery. We were a pace-setter in the long-winding trail of war as well as in the bitter Battle of Battery Inspections.

Under the guidance of Vacco, Fanora, and Tune, the machine gun compiled an excellent record in having everything in the right place at the right time. "Best in the Battery" was the slogan we tried to go by.

We had plenty of memoirs . . . England, France, Luxembourg, Germany . . . wherever we went incidents occurred . . . Lerouville and the first "Amphibious Operations" . . . when rain and high water left us stranded on a small island and we found it necessary to maintain communications with the CP and mess hall by means of a raft the crew rigged up. Actually it wasn't as serious as it sounds. It was a nice diversion from war.

The Rhineland wine, Lichty and Strauman found in Bad Munster, Germany . . . with indulgence running high and the day ending with Nester turning Papa and putting all the boys to bed. The favorite pin-up gal of the section, down Vitrey-le-Francois way . . . just say "Lumber Yard" Annie and pause for a moment of sweet remembrance!

Section personnel changed from time to time. Miko left when burned in a stove explosion. Later Kennedy and Vacca both left, the first replaced by Sergeant Harrell. With Harrell came Vigil and Pizzato.

As time passes all men connected with our section will remember each other with that friendship that was born in play and struggle.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "D" Battery



There wasn't much unusual about our section in regard to origin, activation, and everyday events. However, no matter where we were, no matter what the living conditions, we always had more than enough to eat. Such a choice of edibles! All the way from roast goose to fried French rabbit with mushroom sauce. We had the finest bunch of "midnight requisitioners" in the ETO. France provided us with more "reverse lend-lease" than she will ever dream of getting.

Here are the nicknames given to each other: "Stinky" Mansfield, "Rooster" Korn, "Fish Trap" Farrell, "Squinty" Lien, "Chisel-Chin Fagan" Sabol, "Zack" Shaffer, "Shorty" Harmon, "Whoshot" Wychulis, "Junkman Joe" Sura, "Abee Umpstein" Gruenberg, "Bigshot" Deibler, "Nitwit" Whitfield, "Butterball" Hess, "Nigger" Kozar, "Frenchy" Coste, "Scarface" Wright, "Buzz-Bomb" Valente, "Slim" Sofka, "Shaky" Roberts, "Fatty" Wilson, "Bluetooth Albiston," "Hubert" Radu, and "Pretty Boy" Croy.

Our first loss came at Cardiff, Wales, when three men were transferred to other units in staging areas awaiting the invasion. They were Coste, Hess, and Kozar.

With our invasion of France the experiences multiplied and in turn passed on into memories, some bitter, some sweet, as time went by.

Thru France, Luxembourg, and into Germany with the 795th! We saw much, had some good times, a lot more bad times, but good and bad, we will never forget the friends we made, nor the things we did together.



# GUN SITE . . . . .

1st Platoon "D" Battery



This capable section differed from the others in that it was formed at Camp Stewart after basic training and not before. In the initial group were Corporal Harting, the Chief of Section; Luitz, the range setter; and Doberzanski, Schults, Weems, Bainbridge, Geddes, Williams, Fiebig, Derks, Smith, Bangarzone, and Kaufman.

Just prior to our furloughs Sergeant French became our topkick. John Schultz, Rowland Ahlman (the boy with the trumpet in his throat), and Nevel Emmons joined the unit. Furloughs over, the Tennessee Maneuvers came around, bringing some of those bad days Mother used to tell about.

Butner, Robert Ryan and Odis Wesley came in, while Bainbridge was transferred to Headquarters.

Some of the highlights . . . our first air raid at Cardiff, remembered more as comedy . . . "Shorty" Baillergeon in his "long johns," the raid being over before he got his pants on . . . the inspection by a British Colonel who rated us as the "Best Bofers gun section he had ever seen" . . . the unforgettable experiences at Lerouville, where we were constantly harrassed by enemy aircraft . . . plus the low shooting of the guns which made it a dangerous spot.

While in the lovely little country of Luxembourg, a country as generous in its hospitality as it was clean, modern, and beautiful, we had ice cream, cake, and Coca-Cola for the first time since leaving the United States. In the minds of all the fellows in the Battalion, the country of Luxembourg is OK!

Germany also holds many memories for us . . . of top-hats, motor bikes civilian cars (for officers' pleasure use only), and other memories not so nice.

Home at last—and may we never leave it again under similar necessity to win a war!











LT. WILLIAM V. TEZAK



LT. GEORGE W. PETTIGREW



S/SGT. WESLEY W. WILLIAMSON

★  
2nd PLATOON  
"D" BATTERY







# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "D" Battery



After basic training in the searing sun of Georgia, our section was formed with Thomas Sharp, Fred Sahmer, and Clifford Simpson as Chief, gunner, and range setter respectively. In the range department were George Shoop, William Milton, Lawrence Shupinski, and Carl Fetterolf, while James Butcher, Martin Overline, Army Sypult, Irving Vance, and Ted Gonzales took care of the gun. Lorenzo Shank and John Martz were the machine gunners

On maneuvers things began to happen to our section. Soehmer became Chief of Section while Shoop got the gunner's job. Then Shoop and Vance moved to another crew, and in their place were put two cousins, John and Stanley Kivak. At Butner, Gonzales left for another outfit.

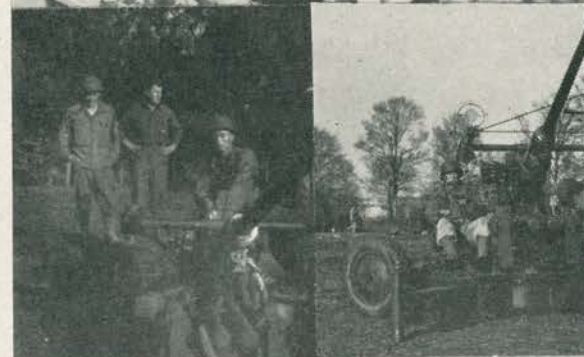
John Kivak left at Cardiff for the D-Day invasion forces. Later he was captured by the Hun in the Battle of the Bulge. Shortly after entering we welcomed Padios and Lempert into our midst. George stayed on the "40" while our "Hubert" pitched his pup tent by the M-51. They arrived on the day Shupinski saw "sneaking shadows" in the dark, killed a "sniper," and everyone had roast pig the next day.

Tired of calvados we left, minus Butcher, to find much champagne in Vitry-le-Francois. Not so happy were the machine gunners sitting only twenty yards from the Second Platoon CP, who could watch those vested with "authority" becoming soused to their hearts' content while they, by virtue of their position, could quench their burning throats with only water.

A reshuffle assigned Aholt, Vacarino, and Butcher to M-29. Takash to 29. Milton, Sahner, and Shank moved to other sections. Soon after Maartz and Lempert had to change underwear when a damaged B-17 nearly wound up on top of their tent.

In February 1945 Padios and Fetterolf left for the Infantry, while Kritzer and Miller joined the crew. Whitfield and Stire were with M-29 and 29, too, while not busy driving. Stire left the hard way, perishing in an automobile accident.

At the coming of peace, Gun Site No. 29 was still as crazy and full of practical jokes as ever. A good bunch of men, proud of one another and of the outfit.





# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "D" Battery



Many personnel changes occurred in our section before the end of hostilities brought us back to America. At the time of activation Clem Aholt was Chief of Section, and remained until our arrival in Azelot, France. Upon his transfer out, Wilbert Neal took over his responsibilities in that job.

Wilbert Neal met early death in an unfortunate auto accident in Germany, which mishap was a great shock to his comrades as well as to the Battalion as a whole. He was greatly missed by all.

Charles Summers, who was with our section much of the time, was later assigned to Battery Headquarters as mail clerk.

Other members whose diligent efforts kept the section standards high were: Eugene Noblin, Bert Hicks, Michael Kravitz, Robert Wisener, Vernon Whitfield, Charles Landis, Kenneth Saurborn, and Lorenzo Shanks. Eventually the job of Chief fell upon the capable shoulders of William Milton, who had come to us as a replacement range setter.

Though Gun Site No. 30 did not have some of the experiences of the other sections, still it proved itself a very efficient unit, never failing to come through with the goods when called upon.







# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "D" Battery



During the early stages of training at dear old Swamp Stewart, a change of forces transferred Schultz to the First Platoon. Fishel then got the gunner's post. Ratz and Kanaszki went to another outfit while Workman was assigned for further duty with Section 32. On one of the first field problems we lost Bland, the Chief of Section. Palach filled in in his place.

On the tour of adventure from America to Wales, England, France, Luxembourg, and Germany we saw other changes. Meadows, Henry, Miller, Smith, and Quarries were some of the fine replacements we received.

The homeward trip at last came into sight with some of the men having 85 points eligible for discharge with the first men going out at the beginning of redeployment. The fortunate ones were Quarries, Bridges, and Benash. For replacements we had Carey, Bogard, Beneski, and Chavez, but they also left because of high points. With these men gone, some ratings were open, and Histell was promoted to Chief of Section, with Palich coming into the position of Platoon Sergeant.

In all the events that happened to "D" Battery and the Battalion we feel we had our share and more. We will never forget the places we have seen, the people that we met, the good friends we made in England, Wales, France, and Luxembourg, as well as those we made in the Army.

How true is the old saying that the only good thing about the Army is the people that you meet. We from Gun Site No. 31, of good old "Dog" Battery, will forever attest to this.



# GUN SITE . . . . .

2nd Platoon "D" Battery



When we set forth to what we thought was battle ahead our crew shaped up like this: William T. Turk, Chief of Section, and Charles Roach, "Blackie" Smith, Walter Milizewski, James L. Crost, Nelson Workman, Paul Pottle, Kenneth Workman, James Casteel, Oscar Williams, and Mike DeNiro.

Just prior to going overseas Albert DeNatale replaced Mike DeNiro as the machine gunner.

Our first mission was at Cardiff, Wales, where we set up on the very top of a slag pile alongside a railroad. We froze from the night breeze coming in from the ocean.

Before leaving for France we were joined by John Rappen-ecker who came from Section 31.

France! Our first stop was at St. Mere Eglise, the town where General Roosevelt was buried. Action caught up with us on the Cherbourg Peninsula. Jerry came over a few times to find out how strong we were. He really found out. We threw everything at them except the Battery CP and the First Sergeant.

From our initial entry into France to our last stop deep in the heart of Germany we collected a long string of memories . . . the heavy rain and floods at Lerouville . . . the bitter cold winter around Nancy . . . the people's welcome in Luxembourg . . . our first real bath in six months in a steel plant at Differdange.

Crossing the German border . . . Apach, Saarbucken, Bad Munster . . . then the Rhine where we guarded the Franklin Roosevelt Bridge . . . Hanau . . . Illesheim, where our travels ended.

Gun Site No. 32 did its part and more in bringing about a glorious victory for freedom. Let us not soon forget our military life together.













# MEDICAL STAFF



CAPT. RALPH L. BEST



CAPT. PAUL L. CIPES



1ST LT. RUSSELL CLARK



## Medical Department

On 20 April 1943 the Medical Department was activated under command of Captain Alexander M. Munchak, MC, by order of AA Command. The place of activation was AAATC Camp Stewart, Georgia. A cadre of one Medical Officer, one Dental Officer, and three enlisted men was present.

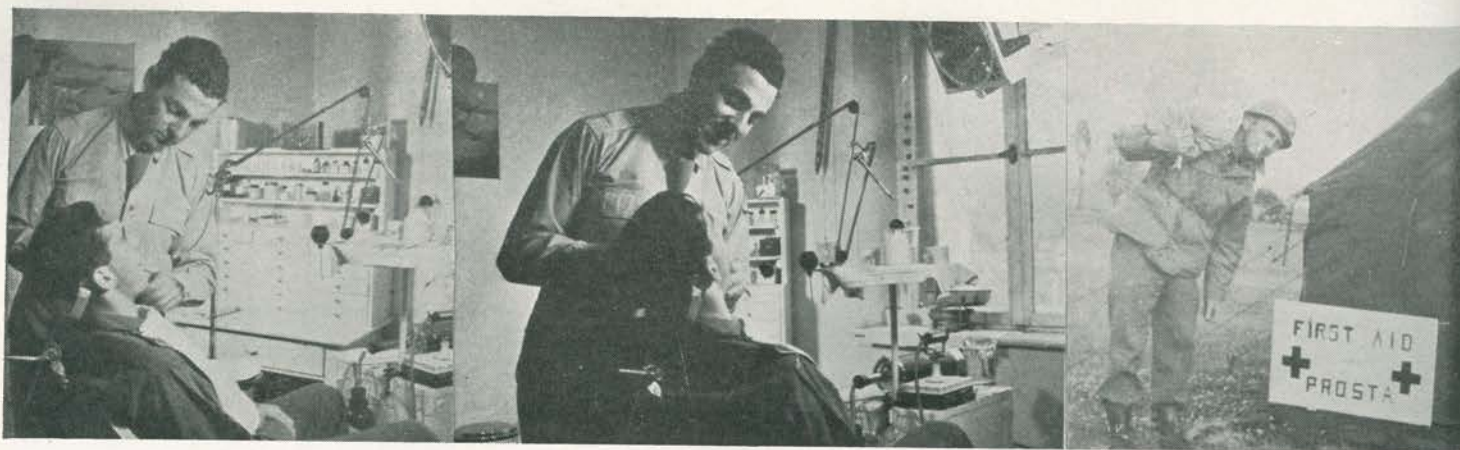
During the next six weeks an intensive training program was undertaken in preparation for receiving fillers.

During the first week of June, 1943, fillers arrived and after four weeks of basic training sixteen enlisted men were assigned to and joined the Detachment. This unit then went through an intensive training program as prescribed by AA Command for eighteen weeks. On 15 August 1943, 1st Lt. Elbert H. Cason, MC, joined our unit and assumed command relieving Capt. Munchak. On 6 September 1943, 1st Lt. Paul L. Cipes, DC, joined

the unit relieving Capt. Henry Weiss as Battalion Dental Surgeon. Training continued under Lt. Cason until mid-October and was ended with an I.G. Inspection after which all Officers and Enlisted Men received fifteen-day furloughs.

Upon completion of furloughs our unit moved to Tennessee Maneuver Area and for six weeks moved about with the Battalion to points designated by higher commands. During this time simulated casualties were handled and treated under supervision of Medical Officers and various umpires. This assignment was completed 17 January 1944 and our unit was transferred to Camp Butner, N.C. On 23 November 1943 Lt. Cipes was promoted to Captain. In February 1944 Capt. Seymour J. Herman, MC, was assigned to and joined the unit. Another promotion came on March 2nd when Lt. Cason also made Captain.





We were alerted for overseas movement and preparations as prescribed in POM were instituted. On March 9th we departed for the POE.

The next four weeks were spent at Camp Myles Standish, Mass., in further preparations. We sailed from Boston on the USS Susan B. Anthony on 7 April 1944 arriving at Swansea, Wales, on the 17th of April from where we proceeded at once to a supply camp near Leek, Staffs, England. On May 1st the Battalion received its first operational assignment, guarding the Bristol channel ports of Cardiff, Newport, Barry, and Penarth. On the 26th of June movement to a concentration area was put into motion and this unit arrived the same day at Christchurch, Dorset, England.

On July 1st an airplane crashed opposite the Battalion CP and in the resultant fire a 500-pound bomb exploded, causing severe injuries to five men and slight injuries to ten others who were lending aid in putting out the fire. The injuries sustained resulted in the later death of one enlisted man. Many from our Battalion aid station rendered first aid to the casualties.

On July 10th we moved to a marshalling area near Southampton and on July 18th arrived at Utah beach-head in France. The following day we became operational at Airstrip No. 8. On 23 July, Captain S. J. Herman was appointed Detachment Commander relieving Capt. Cason.

On August 11th half of our unit moved to Cherbourg and half to Airstrip No. 15. At these positions several casualties due to mines and booby traps were suffered

by the Battalion. Several civilian mine casualties were also treated during this period.

On September 13th, 1st Lt. Russell H. Clark, MAC, was assigned to this unit. Two days later we moved to Utah Beach. At this time one Enlisted Man was placed on DS with the 6904 Provisional Truck Company. On October 1st we moved to Bar-le-Duc, France. During this time several cases of first and second degree burns caused by gasoline were treated and evacuated. In addition, three injuries due to booby traps resulting in one death were incurred by the Battalion.

We moved to Toul on October 26th. Captain Cason was relieved of his assignment with us late in November and was transferred to the 19th Replacement Depot.

The following were our movements from then on: to Commercy, January 1, 1945; to Belleville, January 22; to Flirey, February 14; to Norroy le Sec, March 15; to Differdange, Luxembourg, March 26; to Luxembourg City, March 28, and to Konz-Karthaus, Germany, April 6.

We moved to Oppenheim on April 13th. During April we were cited for participation in the Battle of Normandy and Northern France.

We moved to Ochsenfurt on May 3rd. In May we were cited for participation in the Battle of Germany.

We of the Medical Department have shared much of the same combination of distress and pleasure endured and enjoyed by the rest of the Battalion. We are proud that we belonged to such a splendid outfit.





# ACK ACK ACADEMY



LT. CHARLES R. RANDALL

In the mud of France, in December of 1944, the men in our Battalion first learned of the Army Education Program. At the end of hostilities plans already made were put into action as the program got under way.

During June a building was located at R-10 that proved ideal for the school. We finally accomplished the difficult problems of convincing the Air Corps to give up their use of the building for our school. Partitions were built, desks, chairs, blackboards, pencils, and notebooks were secured. The fine art of midnight requisitioning was brought to a new perfection.

On July 9, 1945, the "ACK ACK ACKADEMY", appropriately named by S/Sgt. Klein and T/Sgt. DeSalvo, opened its doors. From a small beginning of nine subjects and an enrollment of one hundred and seventy-five, the school grew steadily until forty subjects were being taught to over six hundred students.

Early in its activity the men made it plain that they desired many practical courses in their instruction. Lt. Reading Wilkinson, Jr., Sgt. Emil Schalnat, T/4 Raymond J. Bauer, Pfc. Robert G. Kempff, Pfc. Henry J. Braver, and Pfc. Aldege Baillargeon worked night and

day securing lathes, drill presses, milling machines, shapers, a printing press, welding equipment, and many other items both large and small. To these men is due the credit for success of the "On The Job" training program. In addition to automotive mechanics, machine shop practice, welding, printing, Morse Code, a great deal of practical work was done repairing vehicles, welding equipment, and printing various forms.

The Educational Advisement Program was organized by 1st Lt. Charles L. DuBuisson, who wrote scores of letters to high schools and agencies regarding high school credit and requirements in civilian fields of endeavor.

Literacy training was ably handled by Cpl. Norman E. Hamilton. Proof of the success of his work was the fact that his students became capable of reading and writing letters.

Lt. Colonel John D. Betley attended the Instructors Training Course at Paris in March and subsequently trained over thirty-five men in the Battalion. Much of the success of the Information and Education Program was due to the early training of these instructors.

Scouring of the countryside and of buildings vacated by Third Army and Air Corps personnel produced a considerable number of books and magazines. In early August a reference book library was received which greatly improved the combined study hall and library in charge of Pfc. Carroll E. Kochert.

The office force was formed with the following: Lt. Randall, S/Sgt. Klein, T/Sgt. DeSalvo, T/5 Schramm, and Pfc. Calhoun. More than eight hours a day were required to schedule classes, instructors, check conflicts, and coordinate all the activities of the school.

That the Ack Ack Ackademy was a success was self evident. Hundreds of members of the Battalion learned things they did not know before. They spent their time in a useful manner rather than waste it away as did so many during the period from V-E Day until departure for home.

Organization and operation of the school was not a one-man job, but one in which many members of the Battalion contributed to make it, we think, the finest unit school in the European Theatre of Operations.

*(Continued to page 126)*





THE ACK ACK ACADEMY





THE STAFF





CPL. JOSEPH DeSALVO



SGT. ALFRED KLEIN



T/SGT. WILLIAM SCHRAMM



#### ON THE JOB SUBJECTS

Auto Mechanics  
(The Engine)  
Auto Mechanics  
(Cool, Lub. & Fuel Sys.)

Commercial Art  
Machine Shop  
Morse Code

Photography  
Printing  
Welding

#### ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

Algebra I  
Algebra II  
American Government  
American History  
Basic Arithmetic  
Basic English  
Bookkeeping  
Blueprint Reading  
Business Arithmetic  
Business Principles &  
Management (Small  
Business)

Crop Management &  
Soil Conservation  
Dancing  
Economics  
Elementary Electricity  
Elementary Radio  
English & Grammar  
English Literature  
Introduction to Business  
Law  
Mechanical Drawing I  
Mechanical Drawing II  
Personnel Management &

Industrial Relations  
Poultry Raising  
Protestant Religion  
Psychology  
Review Arithmetic  
Salesmanship  
Shop Mathematics  
Shorthand  
Slide Rule & Logarithm I  
Slide Rule & Logarithm II  
Spoken French I  
Spoken French II

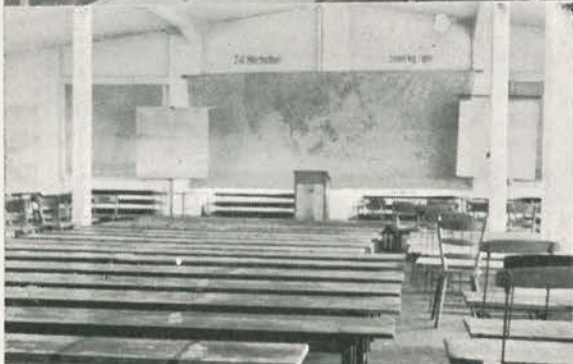
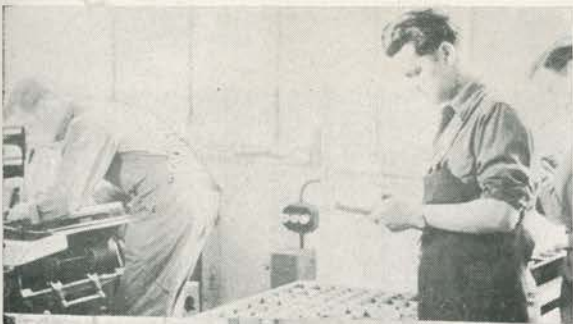




# INSTRUCTORS . . . . .

*Instructor Trainer*—LT. COL. JOHN D. BETLEY

CAPT. PAUL L. CIPES  
 CAPT. DUANE R. DAVIS  
 CAPT. DAVID A. GERSTNER  
 CHAPLAIN RAYMOND COLDREN, SR.  
 CHAPLAIN LEON B. ROBERTS  
 1st LT. CHARLES L. DUBUISSON  
 1st LT. THOMAS M. HANDY  
 1st LT. WENDELL R. HURST  
 1st LT. GEORGE M. KELLY  
 1st LT. CHARLES R. RANDALL  
 1st LT. WILLIAM V. TEZAK  
 1st LT. HARRY I. THOMPSON  
 1st LT. READING WILKINSON, JR.  
 2nd LT. LEWIS C. WEAVER  
 1st SGT. EMMONS McLUNG  
 1st SGT. JOHN W. RIDDICK  
 S/SGT. ALFRED KLEIN  
 T/3 JOSEPH P. GUIDO  
 T/3 HENRY H. WEINHARDT, JR.  
 SGT. WALTER W. CAMPBELL  
 SGT. EMIL F. SCHALNAT, JR.  
 T/4 RAYMOND J. BAUER  
 T/4 RAYMOND C. DRAGE  
 PVT. EDWARD T. KELLY  
 T/4 SAMUEL T. REA  
 T/4 WILLIAM J. ROSS  
 T/4 RAYMOND W. SHANKLIN  
 T/SGT. JOSEPH C. DeSALVO  
 CPL. ROBERT LOW  
 CPL. NORMAN E. HAMILTON  
 CPL. WARREN K. MOORE  
 CPL. ROBERT A. MOYER  
 CPL. SALVATORE MUZIO  
 CPL. JOSEPH PFFER  
 CPL. EUGENE D. SCHNEDIER  
 CPL. ROLAND E. SYKES  
 T/5 GEORGE T. DIBBLE  
 T/5 WILLIAM T. MADDEN  
 T/5 LEONARD MERITZ  
 PFC. ALLEN M. ARBOGAST  
 PFC. ALDEGE J. BAILLARGEON  
 PFC. WALTER E. GAOUETTE  
 PFC. ROBERT C. KEMPF  
 PFC. FLOYD A. MUMM  
 PFC. SAMUEL W. OSBORNE  
 PFC. FRED P. SAHNER  
 PFC. JACK G. TOWLE

















# COMMENDATIONS



## COMMENDATION

CHARLES C. CURTIS  
Brigadier General, U S Army

Hq, 51st AAA Brigade  
APO 638, US Army  
28 July 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding Officer, 795th AAA AW Bn., APO 638, US Army

1. The Brigade Commander desires to express his gratification at the progress your Battalion has made in the Information-Education program. Not only have you provided outstanding facilities for this program, but the interest displayed by your students is evidence of the efficient instruction carried on.

2. It is most desirable that this program be maintained even during the intensive training program being prepared for your organization.

/s/ Charles C. Curtis  
CHARLES C. CURTIS  
Brigadier General—USA  
Commanding



## IX AIR DEFENSE COMMAND OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

## COMMENDATION

201.22

Apo 638, U. S. Army  
14 August 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: First Lieutenant Charles R. Randall, 795th AAA AW Bn, APO 638, U. S. Army.

1. It has been brought to my attention that you are conducting a unit school which is one of the finest projects of its type in the Command. It is due in great measure to your initiative and aggressiveness that a large number of men of your organization have been able to pursue both academic and technical courses.

2. It gives me great pleasure to commend you for the industrious and energetic role you have played in providing educational facilities for the personnel of your battalion and for the manner in which you overcame all difficulties in developing such a far reaching program.

/s/ William L. Richardson  
WILLIAM L. RICHARDSON  
Brigadier General—USA  
Commanding



# SPECIAL SERVICE



CWO PATRICK J. O'DONNELL



"HONEST JOHN" TKACS



"BIG WHEEL" W. NUGENT



After reveling at first in the luxury of not having to kill or be killed, most of the men settled down to a new kind of Army life. Now at last our Special Service Section was to play its biggest role.

Baseball, football, movies, and other recreational means such as passes and leaves came under the jurisdiction of this branch of our Battalion. It was not easy to choose men for this department. However, those chosen proved to be an excellent combination.

They were CWO Pat O'Donnell, "Honest John" Tkacs, and Bill "Big Wheel" Nugent. They pulled every string in and out of the book to produce activities that kept the men occupied in their leisure moments.

Passes and furloughs were arranged to England, Switzerland, France, and Belgium, in addition to many other places on the continent. Touring talent, featuring big names from the States, and homespun attractions concocted out of the creative genius of Special Service afforded "Live Shows" several nights a week. Beer flowed rather freely. Each battery had its own private "gasthaus".

Special Service was instrumental in forming the Battalion band, the Ackadets, which deserved the copious praise it won. Bob Cameron, its leader, played a big part in making it one of the leading bands in the ETO.

Despite frequent difficulties in obtaining equipment and facilities, our Special Service Section did a wonderful job in providing entertainment for the men. They deserve our thanks for a task well done.











# REST CENTERS-Passes-Travels



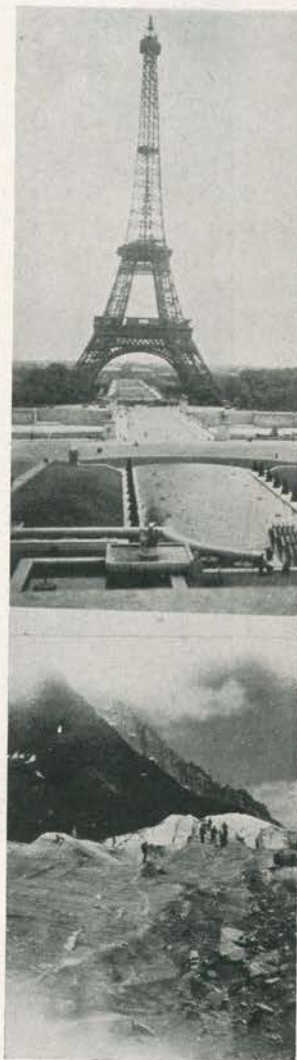
With the termination of hostilities in the Theater, many rest centers sponsored by the IX ADC were made available. Frequent passes and leaves made the beauty of the country available to the soldiers.

Among the rest areas which were more frequented than others were Thionville in France, Esch in Luxembourg, Chamonix in the French Alps, and London in Old England. In addition there were Paris, Brussels, Switzerland, and the Riviera. The Special Service records revealed that Bar-le-Duc didn't do so bad by the 795th.

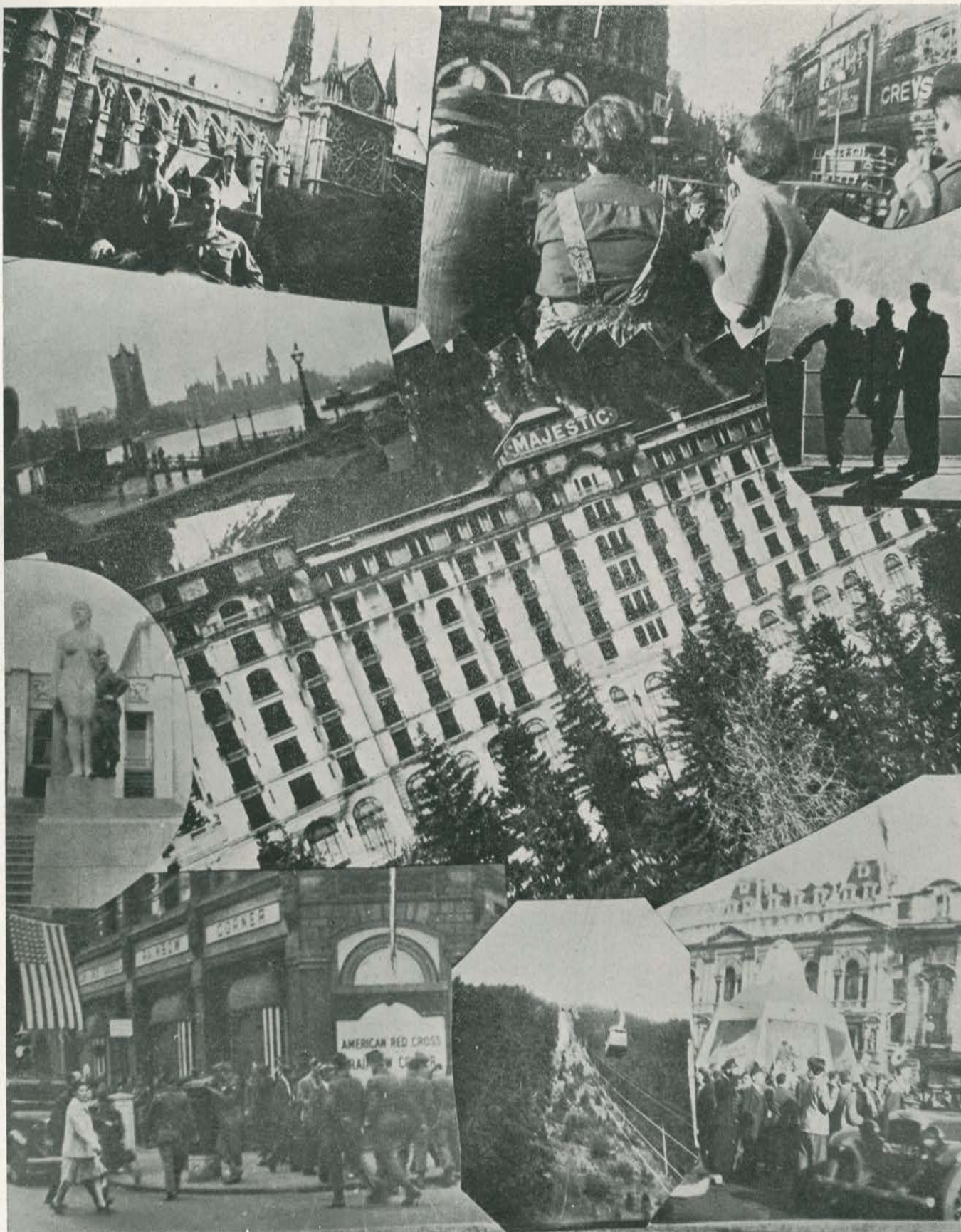
Troops fresh from field positions throughout Germany were provided with clean sheets, excellent French cooking, a minimum of military restrictions, and a wide variety of sports and amusements. Easily accessible to all were mountain climbing, excursions by cable cars into the mountains, swimming, tennis, golf, motor sightseeing trips, and just plain loafing under the most desirable conditions.

Personnel were transported to the rest centers by IX ADC aircraft, or by Group and Brigade organized motor convoy. Regardless of the time required to make the trip, each man was assured seven days at Chamonix.

Due to the beautiful surroundings and elaborate entertainment facilities of many of the rest centers, and because of the friendly attitude and willingness of the people to cooperate, the men who visited these places will long regard their stay there as unique among their overseas experiences.

















# THE ACKADETS



SGT. BOB CAMERON  
*Orchestra Leader*



THE ACKADETS

Sgt. Emil Shalmat, Bass; T/5 Donovan Dixon, Piano; Cpl. Walter Sobieski, Drums; Pfc. Ronnie Ahlman, Vocalist; T/5 Lowman Brown, Trumpet; T/4 Melvin Freeman, Guitar; T/5 Walter Higgins, Trumpet; T/5 Leonard Pardee, Sax; Cpl. Robert Klinger, Trombone; Sgt. Robert Cameron, Sax; 1st Lt. Russell Clark, Trombone; Pvt. George Kaess, Sax.



## FOOTNOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACKADETS

Originally the Ackadets Band was started at Camp Myles Standish, but it was nearly a year later that this nucleus formed the basis of the second band organized in Germany. The first band rehearsed for about a month and played for several parties and dances on the Post.

The early idea for forming the band was to provide entertainment for the Battalion while crossing the Atlantic. However, we found on board ship that we had no instruments, so the outfit was more or less forgotten until about February, 1946. At that time Mr. O'Donnell, the Special Service Officer, called in Sgt. Cameron to reorganize the Ackadets. The work and trouble involved in obtaining instruments, music, and rehearsing would require a book in itself.

We did emerge with the following men: George Papp of "D" Battery, 1st Alto Sax; Bob Cameron of

"B", 2nd Tenor Sax; George Kaess of "C", 3rd Alto Sax; Phil Pardee of "D", 4th Tenor Sax; Walter Higgins of "C", 1st Trumpet; L. E. Brown of "A", 2nd Trumpet; Red Klinger of "Hq", 1st Trombone; Russ Clark of "Hq", 2nd Trombone; Billy Dixon of "Hq", Piano; Walter Sobieski of "B", Drums; Emil Shalmat of "B", Bass; and Ronnie Ahlman of "D", featured vocalist.

The band started playing for the various rest centers in the command. V-E Day found them in Esch, Luxembourg. Then followed six months of touring Europe. The stops included such spots as two weeks in Paris, six weeks in the French Alps resort, Chamonix, one week at the Soldiers' Show Demonstration, a two-week circuit with the 9th Division, another circuit later with a new show for the 9th Air Force, as well as numerous engagements at various battery clubs.

The Ackadets finished with a broadcast from P.M.S. and cut a couple of records before five of the men were redeployed to the States, after which the band broke up.





# SPORTS



## BASEBALL

American soldiers took their sports with them no matter how far they traveled. Recreation was always diversified. Cow pasture baseball came into its own in a big way in Germany. There was a diamond on the outskirts of each beat-up village, made by Prisoners of War, who also built horseshoe pits and other facilities.

## SOFT BALL

Each platoon in the Battalion organized its own team. In softball the winning combination came from "D" Battery. From all the softball teams in the Battalion was organized an All-Star unit, representing the best players in the platoons. Our Battalion team took first place in both the 92nd Group and in the 51st Brigade Leagues. Later they entered the IX ADC softball league in which they made an excellent showing, going as far as the semi-finals in the league playoffs. On the All-Star team was Derk, Palcick, Nugent, Dobrzanski, Julian, McClary, Lukovich, Emmons, M. Overline, Fortwangler, Ryba, Dibble, and Hecht.

## BASKETBALL

During the winter months of 1944-1945, the Special Service Section sponsored a basketball club and entered its team in the 51st Brigade league at Metz. Though competition was keen, our team emerged champions of the brigade. Coached by Lt. Wilkinson, a former West Pointer, the team was made up of Jackson, Waddell, Heagg, Nelson, Palcick, Nugent, and Leonard.

## VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball was another sport that found a great deal of interest among the men. It was not uncommon to see groups of men tossing around what appeared to be an undersized basketball over a net. One advantage of this game was that it afforded exercise to large groups of men. Though the regulation size of a team was eight men, it was not unusual to see larger groups participating. In the 21st Group league we entered a team which gave an excellent account of itself. In the battery competition, "A" Battery took the honors.





### HORSESHOE PITCHING

Horseshoe pitching, another enjoyable sport, proved to be a popular pastime among the men. In this field Miller and Shaeffer proved to be by far the best in this Battalion.

### PING PONG

Ping pong, popular in the States, lost little time in becoming a favorite as soon as equipment became available, the men using the battery day rooms for this purpose. Competition was keen. After many eliminations Miller, Faron, and Batten were acknowledged best in the organization.

### TRACK AND FIELD MEET

In the summer of 1945 a track and field meet was held in Nurnburg stadium by the Third Army. Myers and Ross were the 795th entries and in both the high jump and one-half mile events received medals before being eliminated in the final round of the meet.

Few men could compete with Webb as far as checkers was concerned. He later went on to win the brigade tournament.

Sports as organized by the tireless boys of Special Service played a large part in keeping the morale of the men at a high level during those trying days.





# AWARDS



## ***SOLDIERS' MEDALS***

### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

T/4 EDGAR L. PENNINGTON—34783215

T/4 HYMAN G. FISHER—35064236

T/5 STEVE MACHEK—35230511

T/5 JAMES G. SMOLKA—35064013



### "C" BATTERY

1ST. LT. HERBERT S. HARRIS, JR., (with cluster)

1ST SGT. HEINZ K. MUELLER

S/SGT. WILLIAM H. FORTWANGLER



## ***CROIX DE GUERRE AWARDS***

### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

LT. COL. JOHN D. BETLEY

LT. COL. JULIAN A. WALKER



## ***BRONZE STARS***

### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

LT. COL. JOHN D. BETLEY—0341973

1ST. LT. WILLIAM G. LOVENTHAL—01053232

1ST. LT. JOSEPH D. HALE—01053154

1ST. SGT. FRANK J. KIZIOR—37493671

T/SGT. REUBEN R. STEINBERG—33781218

T SGT. JOSEPH M. NENTWICH—37493671

CPL. JACOB HOMANICK—33626142

### "A" BATTERY

PFC. SYLVESTER F. OSTROWSKI—33605870

### "B" BATTERY

CPL. EUGENE J. SCHNEIDER—35230611

PFC. JOHN J. DERR—33509957

### "D" BATTERY

CAPT. DAVID A. GERSTNER—0-423762

T/5 WILLIAM C. RUTHERFORD—35755302









# BATTALION NITE CLUBS



Headquarters Battery 10 Gallon Club







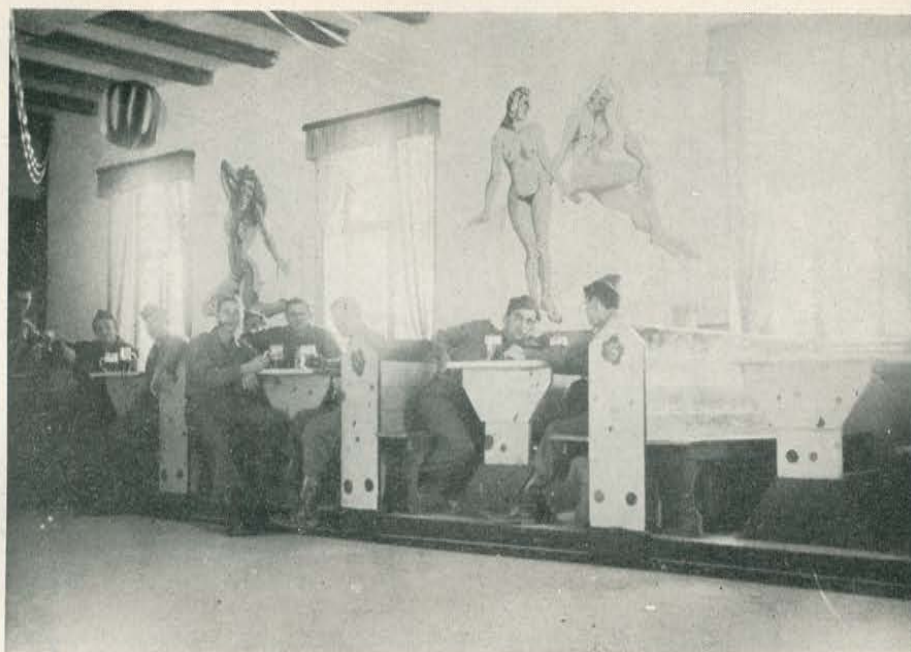
# FOREVER AMBER CLUB

"A" BATTERY



# GOOFER'S CLUB----"B" BATTERY





## OASIS CLUB

"C" BATTERY



## M-T-PURR CLUB "D" BATTERY





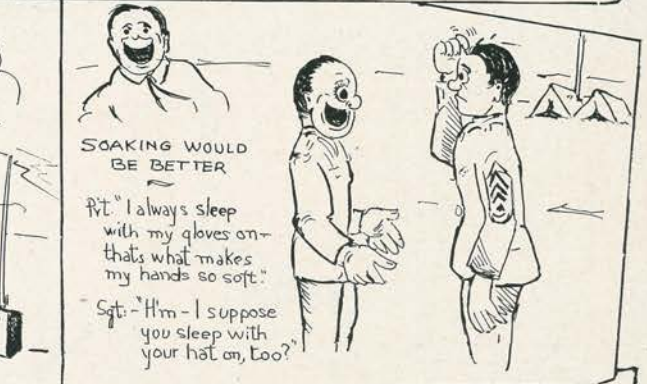


## M-I Chowhound

He's first in line, either pushing or shoving,  
The food may be good, he'll always be griping.  
Seconds or thirds, he'll always be there,  
Eat all day long, without a thought of care.  
His eyes are so big, stomach so round,  
He can't be mistaken for an —

MI CHOWHOUND.









## A Prayer

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in Thee do we trust. Thou art worthy to receive honour and glory. Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. In the multitude of Thy mercy hear our prayer.

Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks, for all the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us; for the help and protection given us during the dark days of hostilities; for the restoration of peace among the nations. May Thy peace come to every heart and rule in all the nations of the earth. May we ever be mindful of Thy mercies and serve Thee with willing, joyful and obedient hearts.

Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

RAYMOND COLDREN  
*Chaplain*



# NAMES AND ADDRESSES

## OFFICERS ADDRESSES

Carl Anderson, 326 Central Ave., Oak Hill, W. Va.  
 Ralph L. Best, Tulsa, Okla.  
 John D. Betley, 297 Walnut St., Manchester, N. H.  
 Tom L. Borom, Troy, Alabama  
 Howard F. Carberry, 834—5th Ave., Troy, N. Y.  
 Paul L. Cipes, 55 Goulding Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.  
 Russell Clark, 34 Covington St., Perry, N. Y.  
 Raymond Coldren, Spring St., Liberty, Mo.  
 John N. Coombes, 94 Ardale St., Roslindale, Mass.  
 Calvin E. Cross, 340 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.  
 Duane R. Davis, RR No. 1, Beloit, Kansas  
 Charles L. Dubuison, 709 W. Park Ave., Waterloo, N. Y.  
 Louis A. Fatkin, Luke, Maryland  
 Robert N. Fletcher, 390 S. Watertown St., Waupun, Wis.  
 Charles M. Ford, Rt. No. 1, Green Bay, Wis.  
 David A. Gerstner, 1380 E. Seibenthaler Ave., Dayton,  
 Joseph D. Hale, 510 Brooks Ave., Venice, Calif.  
 Thomas H. Handy, P.O. Box 276, 30 Jackson St., Ocean  
 Spring, Miss.  
 Leonard T. Hansen, Dash Point, Washington  
 Ohio  
 Herbert S. Harris, Jr., 2263 SW 12th St., Miami, Fla.  
 Marvin Hecht, 2715 Webb Ave., N. Y., N. Y.  
 Seymour J. Herman, 1515—47th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Wendell P. Hurst, RR No. 1, Fillmore, Indiana  
 Elwood P. Johnson, Clinchburg, Va.  
 George M. Kelly, 510 Glen Arden Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 William G. Loventhal, 5052 Drexel Blvd., Chicago, Ill.  
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"If this new attack on the Western Front means the end of the war, I suppose we shall be losing our little evacuee friends, your lordship."



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