515th Pracht Inf

BOOK VIII
TO THE MEN OF THE 515th PARACHUTE

This regiment, since its activation on 31 May 1943, has established an enviable record. The Esprit de Corps, loyalty, cooperation, and enthusiasm shown by officers and men of this regiment has been portrayed in the efficient execution of the many tasks and missions assigned to us.

Memories of our past record may be dimmed by age. For that reason this book will have a sentimental interest as well as an historical interest to all of us. It will bring to mind many associations and friendships within our Regiment and within our Division. They are lasting, a part of our life which cannot be taken from us.

Whether at work or at play, we have always given our best. It is my hope and desire that each of you of the 515th has profited by your stay in the Regiment. This Regiment has been a better regiment for having you in it. May the pictorial record which follows be a lasting reminder of a part of your service in the Army of the United States.

[Signature]
List of Commanding Officers of the 515th Parachute Infantry:

Col. Julian B. Lindsey  Washington, D. C.
May 31, 1943 to Dec. 23, 1944
Lt. Col. Harley N. Trice  U. S. Military Academy, West Point
Dec. 24, 1944 to Feb. 12, 1945
Col. Harvey J. Jablonsky, 700 N. Price Rd., Clayton, Mo.
Feb. 13, 1945—on

List of Executive Officers of the 515th Parachute Infantry:

May 31, 1943 to Nov. 1943
Dec. 1943 to July 1944
Lt. Col. Harley N. Trice  U. S. Military Academy, West Point
July 31, 1944 to Dec. 23, 1944
Lt. Col. George M. Barker  156 N. Main St., Freeport, Long Island
Jan. 2, 1945—
S-1 OFFICERS
June 14, 1943 to Dec. 13, 1943
Capt. Mendell F. Rice Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C.
Dec. 14, 1943 to Dec. 26, 1944
Capt. Kenneth C. Buell 1835 Bolling Ave., Dec. 27, 1944 to Mar. 27, 1945
Lt. Charles W. Martin 824 Royal St., Lebanon, Pa. Mar. 28, 1945 to May 24, 1945
Lt. Jack Tallent 900 Temple Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. May 25, 1945—

S-2 OFFICERS
Capt. John W. Pysienski 56 Julian St., Providence, R. I. May 31, 1943 to July 5, 1944
Capt. Edward Riggs Miller 314 So. Bales. July 6, 1944—

S-3 OFFICERS
Major Gordon C. Avery Airborne Center, Camp Mackall, N. C. May 31, 1943 to Oct. 24, 1944
Major Mason L. Woods 717 Oak St., Bessemer, Ala. Dec. 29, 1944 to Nov. 8, 1945
Captain John R. Weese RFD No. 2, Barrington, Ill. Nov. 8, 1945—

S-4 OFFICERS
Major Oscar B. Bissell Saxton's River, Vermont Aug. 9, 1943 to Sept. 4, 1944
Major George W. Black 639 Capp St., San Francisco, Calif. Sept. 4, 1944—

1st. Lt. Jack Tallent, Adjutant

Capt. Edward Riggs-Miller, Intelligence Officer

Lt. Col. George M. Barker, Executive Officer

Major Mason L. Woods, Operations Officer

Major George W. Black, Supply Officer
Capt. Francis F. Wagner
Catholic Chaplain

Capt. Hoyt H. Wood
Protestant Chaplain

Capt. Albert E. Weller
Information and Education Officer

Capt. Milton B. Brandon
Regimental Surgeon

Capt. James R. Tully
Demolitions Officer

Capt. William J. Clarke
Personnel Officer
STAFF

1st Lt. Joseph M. Shofner
Liaison Officer

1st Lt. James M. Smith
Athletic and Recreations Officer

1st Lt. Manesh E. Shey
Liaison Officer

WO Alex J. Fasano
Assistant Personnel Officer

1st Lt. Harrille H. Patterson
Courts Officer
Colonel Julian B. Lindsey  
Date of Command: May 31, 1943 to Dec. 23, 1944

Lt. Col. Harley N. Trice  
Dec. 24, 1944 to Feb. 12, 1945
Although the Five-Fifteenth has been fully activated for over two years it is, comparatively, the "baby" of U.S. Army Parachute Regiments. It was initially set up in the Alabama Area of Ft. Benning, Georgia, May 31, 1943, to serve as an administrative agency for the pool of officers and enlisted graduates of The Parachute School. It was not until December 1, 1943, that orders came down from Airborne Command placing the 515th in full activation.

Colonel Julian B. Lindsey took command of the "Jumping Wolves," with the then Lt. Colonel Harvey J. Jablonsky as Executive Officer. From an original cadre of 184 non-coms, from the 507th Parachute Infantry, the 515th soon expanded into a full-strength regiment.

First Fatality
The first parachute jump of the Regiment was recorded on June 18, 1943, when one stick composed of the cadre personnel, jumped over the Alabama Area. Parachute jumping gradually developed into an integral part of the training program.

During these preliminary stages, a tragic incident in the life of the Regiment occurred when the popular commander of the First Battalion, Lt. Colonel J. C. Hite, plunged to his death during a jump over the Alabama Area. The Amphitheatre in this area has since been named in his memory.

While stationed in the Frying Pan Area of Benning late in 1943, the First Battalion was brought up to strength by an influx of qualified jumpers. In December of that year, the Second and Third Battalions, including unqualified men from Special Units, started "A" Stage training preparatory to entering Jump School. By January 29, the entire organization was wearing its wings.

Join 13th
In February 1944, the Regiment packed, said its farewells to Ft. Benning, and entrained for Camp Mackall, North Carolina. On March 7, 1944, it became part of the Thirteenth Airborne Division, replacing the 513th Parachute Infantry.

In April and May, the unit was hit hard when the majority of its best trained men shipped to the European and Pacific theatres as much-needed replacements. Most of these men, transferring out in three large groups, went to the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in Europe. Later they figured prominently in the D-day invasion of Normandy and the invasion of Southern France. The remainder were sent to the 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific.

Since the shipments to the other Airborne divisions had again depleted the 515th's ranks, the "Jumping Wolf" Regiment received men from the 541st Regiment to fill its skeleton squads. These replacements filled the holes left in line companies and men with long experience were inter-mingled with newcomers ready to learn the importance of Airborne tactics and technique.

Strenuous air and ground training was started in
preparation for an overseas move. In the next seven months the men were welded into a parachute unit capable of any mission.

In the fall of 1944, twenty-three American paratroopers of Japanese descent were attached to the Regiment to aid in final phases of training. In field problems, half of these men took the part of the enemy while the other half were used as interpreters. Members of the Regiment as well as the attached interpreters found this training invaluable. When it became evident that the 515th was not going to the Pacific, this group departed. These men were highly respected by the Regiment, who fully realized the dangerous missions to which they would be assigned.

By mid-September the Regiment was ready for its biggest training test-Airborne maneuvers with the 13th Division. The 515th traveled with the Division to the Laurinburg-Maxton Air Base, which was to serve as the base of operations.

The problem was to be a night operation with the initial objective of capturing the "enemy-held" airfield at Camp Mackall. The plan called for the 515th Combat Team to drop on three drop zones in the vicinity of Camp Mackall, and to be reinforced by glider troops which were to land at dawn of the following day.

The execution was not exactly according to plan. The combination of a high wind the night of the jump with many inexperienced pilots, caused the Regiment to be scattered over a wide area, thereby making the ground assembly very difficult. In spite of the difficulties encountered, the Regiment attained its initial objective by capturing the airport at Camp Mackall.

Never to be forgotten by those who participated in the maneuvers was the march from the first bivouac area, when the ground phase began. The men formed along the road and put themselves into the hands of “Pierre” Tully, whose intrepid demolitions section had built “bridges” across Drowning and Naked Creeks. This officer was charged with the safe guidance of the Regiment through the morass and muck of Drowning Creek Swamp. Luminous paint was applied to the backs of helmets, and tape strung through the swamp served to guide the men of the 515th on their way. At the "Tully Bridges," the troops ganged up as, one by one, the men slithered across the creek. An unidentified trooper, tired of it all, fell asleep leaning against a tree. Behind him, hun-

The runs, marches and sleepless nights of the previous months had built up a stamina and a determination for action.
The ever-present excitement during a jump will usually cause equipment bundles to be released too early or too late to hit the drop zone. Consequently, especially after a night jump, this equipment is not put into service until the next morning. In combat, a large amount of it is never recovered.

Pvt. P. L. Foreman, of Headquarters Company, developed a harness by means of which the men of a rifle platoon could leave a plane with all of their equipment on their bodies and be off the field in ten minutes without losing a single article.

The equipment is carried in an adjustable harness, named JERD (Jumper's Equipment Release Device), which is attached to the body of the parachutist. The reserve chute, instead of being on the main harness, is secured to the trooper's equipment bundle which rides on his chest and stomach. After leaving the plane, and after his main chute opens, the jumper simply works three couplings and the bundle drops. The reserve is opened by a twenty-five foot static line. This line also serves as a tow line, keeping the equipment chute from drifting away from the jumper. Of course, the reserve can be used as intended, and the load jettisoned, if the main chute fails to function.

The first demonstration of a platoon using the JERD harness was at Camp Mackall in December, 1944, before Maj. Gen. Chapman, Thirteenth Airborne Commander, Brig. Gen. Monroe, and officers from Airborne Center and other parachute units.

General Chapman presented the 515th with its Regimental Colors at a Division Review on November 18th.

During this month the Regiment was readied for movement overseas only to receive a sixty-day delay. Finally, the jumping infantrymen were ready to move. On January 18, 1945 the unit was bundled off under a tight security veil — destination, the port of embarkation in New York—Camp Shanks.

At Camp Shanks, new clothing was issued freely. Physical checkups, shots, gas chamber, mock abandonship drill were part of the routine. By the fifth day the Regiment was P. O. Ed.’d completely. In the barracks, men shot “craps,” played poker or read as they awaited the final order to embark.

At last the order came on January 25th. The troops poured from the barracks, formed and marched to the Shanks rail station. It was bitter cold and overshoes creaked on the hard-packed snow. The train ride was pleasant compared to the miserable ferry-boat. It seemed hours before the pudgy tubs backed into the Bush Terminal slips and unloaded the half-frozen troopers. To many, it seemed as though they were making the Atlantic crossing on ferries. At the terminal, Red Cross workers were waiting with coffee and crullers. Loading started immediately. Shortly, ships moved from their berths and the convoy assembled.
The voyage was uneventful. Stories of submarines and mines were rampant, but nothing happened. Rigid safety regulations were enforced aboard ship.

Reach France

Thirteen days later the crowded transport moved into the harbor of Portsmouth, England, where the ship rode at anchor overnight. Making the short Channel crossing next day, February 8th, the men disembarked at the badly beaten port of Le Havre and entrained for Camp Lucky Strike, near St. Valery en Caux, France. It was at Camp Lucky Strike that the Regiment acquired its new Commanding Officer, Col. Harvey J. Jablonsky, who had been in the European Theater for some months as an observer prior to the Regiment's arrival.

While waiting for orders to move from Lucky Strike the troops occupied themselves with a new game called “Helmets and Gravel.” This proved to be a very delightful pastime and was played with much enthusiasm.
The rules were simple. The men lined up in single file and circled a large pile of gravel. Several “players” with shovels filled each man’s helmet with gravel as he passed. Then the “Helmeteers,” as they were called, filed away happily to the tent areas and dumped the gravel in marked-off rows between the tents called “sidewalks.” If a sidewalk was completed before the mud swallowed all the gravel, the “players” scored one point. One of the best features of this new game was that only enlisted men could participate. Many officers watched longingly from the sidelines. They were good sports about not being able to play, however, and shouted encouragingly to the “players,” especially to the less talented that fell behind.

Nine days quickly passed. Then came the order to proceed to the St. Valery Railroad Station to entrain for the journey to Auxerre, the base station. Tents and areas were policed, packs rolled, TAT boxes were loaded on trucks. The Regiment was on the march.

This delightful promenade to the train will be remembered by many. Affectionately dubbed the “Death March” by some of the less stalwart, it proved to be a test of something or other. ... To avoid the possibility of any man suffering from an unforeseen cold spell, the uniform included woolen underwear, wool O. D.’s; combat jacket and trousers, overcoat, overshoes, steel helmets, and any extra garments a man thought he needed. With full packs and rifles slung, the men were snug and comfortable. ... The officer guiding the columns generously included several side trips. This was without a doubt intended to give the men a glimpse of rural France and all its old-world loveliness.

The station at St. Valery was finally reached without a casualty.
Arrive at Auxerre

It was night when the train wheezed into the station at Auxerre. The troops detrained and marched to the Caserne Vauban, their new quarters. They got their first glimpse of this ancient city, a town of 22,000 inhabitants. It has been an important trade and agricultural center since the days of the Romans. The former French Garrison, with its four-story barracks, soon became "Home" to the men of the Regiment. So, too, did Auxerre with its narrow winding streets, the towering Fourteenth Century Cathedral, the Marche Couvert, the Yonne River, and the Arbres de l'Arbre.

At the Caserne Vauban, the debris left by the hastily departed Boche was heaped in the quadrangle. Busy Troopers, emulating beavers, carried broken chairs from the buildings and added them to the junk pile. Old stoves were discarded by one company, only to be joyously claimed by another. Within a week every bit of furniture, broken or not, had found a new home. The Regiment was settled, ready for what might come.

Operation Comet

Less than a month after arrival on the continent, orders came down from Division alerting the unit for a mission, Operation Comet. This acted as a sudden dash of cold water in the faces of the men who had been busily engaged in cleaning and maintenance of the Caserne while inaugurating a program of basic training review and familiarization with foreign weapons. Although Operation Comet was actually a practice mission, enlisted personnel were not informed of its nature until the day prior to the jump. On March 10th the Regiment moved out, still under the impression that the mission was to be a jump into combat. Allied armies at that time were aligned inside Germany along the bridgeless barrier of the Rhine. Therefore, an airborne spearhead across this river barrier seemed to the men to be the next logical move.

The First Battalion moved out to airfields at St. Andre, the Second Battalion to Dreux, and the Third Battalion and Regimental Headquarters to Orleans. D-day for Operation Comet was March 13th. Following the jump near Joigny, the unit was organized and moved out to capture objectives in the vicinity of Busey en Othe and Paroy en Othe. Operation Comet was a success. Six days after the men had left for the marshalling fields, they returned to Auxerre.

Path Finders

Airborne Operations are preceded by specialized troops — Pathfinders — who jump into enemy territory with Radar equipment to direct the troop transports over the DZ's.

When the 515th first landed in France, several volunteers from the Regiment were sent to the Pathfinder School, conducted by the Eighteenth Corps in Chalgrove, Oxford, England. One of the men from this group remained with corps and is credited with being among the first American soldiers to jump into Germany. The remainder rejoined the Regiment—just returned from Operation Comet—at Auxerre.
The next operation, "Choker II," was the real McCoy. The operation was planned as a crossing of the Rhine at Worms in front of the Seventh Army. However, only 48 hours before D-day for the operation, the Third Army crossed the Rhine and secured a bridgehead, north of Worms, thereby obviating the need for an airborne crossing.

On April Fool's Day, 1945, came still another alert. The Regiment again entrained at the Auxerre rail station. The weary 40 and 8's made another spasmodic journey, terminating at Amiens. The Second and Third Battalions entrucked for marshalling areas at Poix, and the First Battalion and Special Units for a marshalling area near Boves.

Shortly after their arrival at marshalling areas the Regiment was alerted for "Operation Effective." This, too, was cancelled—this time due to the Seventh Army's untimely haste in overrunning our DZ south of Stuttgart. The harassed Troopers were disappointed, but were reminded of the fact that "We are troops of opportunity." The companies went back within the barbed-wire confines of the marshalling fields; some to play baseball, others volleyball, and others to become ace sackmen.

**V-E Day**

Sporadic alerts had been turned on and off like a faucet, but, as the front-line troops cut deeper into Germany, it became over less probable that the 515th would be used. Just before V-E day the first alert of Operation —— into Denmark was initiated and cancelled. Finally, after a series of optimistic pre-surrender announcements, V-E day became a reality. The end of the war in Europe came suddenly, but not unexpectedly, with the Regiment still in reserve in the marshalling areas.

Upon returning to Auxerre, the men began to ponder their future status while getting acquainted with a Europe free of war. The pass policy of the Regiment became very liberal. A few made it to Paris, others received furloughs to England and the Riviera, while some were permitted educational tours of conquered Germany. Still others returned on pass to their old haunts at Amiens with its Cathedral, its bars and entertainment district.

An expanded Information and Education program was started, including unit schools with voluntary attendance to classes in French, algebra, mechanics, and many other subjects. The rank and file were combed for instructors, as willing and grateful citizens of Auxerre loaned chairs for classrooms. Privates and Colonels alike taught shop math and business management. Ace sackmen became super-sackmen.

**Leave for Home**

Arrangements for redeployment began on July 18. The end of July brought with it the end of the unit's stay in Auxerre. Another jolting journey was made by truck and rail to the redeployment assembly station at Camp Pittsburgh near Reims. While the processing of former 82nd and 101st Airborne Division men who had joined the 13th for reassignment went on, the rest of the 515th occupied itself with sack-duty, orientation, and sunbathing.
At Le Havre waited the Costa Rica Victory and William and Mary Victory ships. Passing quickly through Philip Morris, a staging area camp, the Regiment was soon at sea, destination, New York. With a gleam in every eye, the radiantly happy Troopers on the Costa Rica stayed up the last night to get their first glimpse of the welcome skyline that was Coney Island. On the morning of 23 August, the last ship unloaded at Piermont pier, up the Hudson River, near Nyack.

The processing at Camp Shanks was unbelievably fast. The welcoming officer was not bandying words when he announced that “You will be out of here within 48 hours.” Delirious with anticipation of things to come, Troopers went on “recovery furloughs,” scattering to the 48 States of the Union. While on recovery furloughs press and radio releases indicated the unit would sail for the Pacific in November. Later developments in world affairs cancelled the movement order. Reporting back to their reception centers, they were greeted with
15-day extensions. The Regiment started to assemble at Ft. Bragg, N. Carolina on October 14th and finally closed there about October 31st. All personnel with over 60 points were discharged at their home reception stations. Points for discharge became the chief topic of discussion and the Regiment began discharging men at a rate determined by A. S. R. scores. To fill the Regiment's depleted ranks, replacements from the Parachute School arrived. The building of a peacetime army had begun.

An active program of reenlistment in the regular army was started in November. In the first month, some 125 men reenlisted in the Regiment for 1 to 3 years.

The future of the Regiment is uncertain. Those who stay in it are fortunate. Those who have gone back to civilian life to the many vocations and avocations of pre-war days, together with those who are soon to leave, can safely say that “never a dull moment” appropriately describes life in the 515th Parachute Infantry Regiment.
TROOPERS

OF

THE 515th
Camp Mackall

Kneeling: Left to Right—T/4 G. A. Reed, Cpl. Joe Levine;
Standing—T/5 Al Golstein, Cpl. Larry Aubary, Pvt. James San­
ford, Pvt. Boris Block.

Capt. Louis A. Kimball
Commanding Officer

Retreat, Parade-Rest at Amiens

Chow time in France

Buzz Lawson, Mail Officer, Amiens
HEADQUARTERS CO.

Reg'tl, Radar Team

Sgt. Kitchen's Boys

New Headquarters, Co. Fort Bragg


"Tough Life"—Capt. Tully
Jeep Inspection


GREASE MONKEYS
6x6 Drivers
Standing: Sgt. Leon, T/4 Glasser, Pvt. Goodwin,
Kneeling—Oxenrider, T/4, T/4 Ambrosino—Motor

Chaplain F. Wagner, Sgt. Mason
Even in the Field-Reports: Left to Right—
M/Sgt. Knight, T/4 Jacoby, Sgt. Sorrell.

Capt. Frank H. Malsbury, Commanding Officer

Jeep Flyers

The One and Only T/5
John Sullivan

Two and one-half-ton Truck Inspection,
In France
A French Beer Garden

Capt. Howard L. Pennington, Assistant Regimental Surgeon

The Meat Wagon

Open Wide
DETACHMENT

Forty and Eight Express

The Shot Crew

Sweating Out the Relief Line

Sentimental Journey
FIRST BATTALION

Lt. Col. Jack M. Blades,
Commanding Officer

Capt. Percy F. Lisk,
Executive Officer
STAFF

WOJG Robert H. Weisenfluh
Adjutant

1st Lt. Edward R. Walsh III,
Intelligence Officer

1st Lt. Alfred S. Aldrich,
Supply Officer

Capt. John R. Weese,
Operations Officer
Ammo. & Supply Sect.

1st Lt. Harold I. Hayward, Commanding Officer

Retreat Parade at Fort Bragg

Pathfinder Section—With Daddy Cudmore
Radio Section in France

Mixed Company—Atkinson, Gallo, and Doir

Auxerre Airport Revue

What Luck, Soldiers

S-4SECT, Nabinger, Anderson, Aerigo
Capt. Went W. Schooley, Commanding Officer

Nymphs and Pool

Loaded for Jump

Loading up near Paris
The Boat Home

Almost Home

The Company "Brass"

Dinner Music

Flag Wavers
The Colors on the Yonne River Bridge. Famous St. Germain in Background.

Company B

1st LT. JOHN B. STENSON
Commanding Officer

First Class Transportation

Port of Le Havre

Stray Bombs—Clair M. Forrest
Left to Right—Leeber, Riley, and Lackey
Zeroing Inn

Relaxing in the Club Car.
Sauair, Juarez, Hoban, Perez, Kemesey.

Made It.

The Last Jerks.

Mass.
Get Together in Gay Paris.

Company C

Information and Education.

A Room with a View.

Promenade Champs Elysees.
Wine at Little Riviera.

Take Ten.

Hitler's Paris.

Those Beautiful Lux Lassies.

The Madeleine.
SECOND BATTALION

CWO ARTHUR L. HAYNES
Adjutant

2nd LT. GILBERT HARELSON
Intelligence Officer

CAPTAIN JOHN McROSKEY
Operations Officer

1st LT. SAM A. SALERNO
Supply Officer

Group Shot of Staff.
STAFF

LT. COL. WILLIAM A. DODDS
Commanding Officer

CAPTAIN KENDRED C. McCONNELL
Executive Officer
Ready to take off from B-24

1st LT, NORMAN F. BURDETT
Commanding Officer

Hq Co
2nd Bn

LMG Platoon Near Bien, France.

Revue at Fort Bragg.
Intelligence Plan for this Operation,
LT. KENDALL, and LT. BROWN.

Auxerre Parade.

AMMO SUPPLY Section.

Guzzling a Few a Few.
Unloading the Equipment Bundle.

Can You Read Soldier?

Mission's Called Off.

Company D

CAPT. RUSSELL SORRELL
Commanding Officer
Body Turn.

Guns and Planes.

All in Step.

First Look at Le Havre.

Fall In and Secure Duffle Bags.
Mass Transportation.

Company E

French Transportation Third Class.

Marshalling.

CAPT. WILFRED B. JEFFERY
Commanding Officer
What Have You Been Doing?

Soldats Leave Always Little French Girls.

Marshalling Area Uniforms.

D-Day, Zero-Hour.

Beer on Outside Tables.
Consolidating the Payroll.

Oh, Those Lovely Sacks.

CAPT. KENNETH C. BUELL
Commanding Officer

Company F

Handsome Dan and the Boys.
Opening Shocks.

Cosmolene Galore.

Loading the Paratroops.

Night Club Tan.

Marshalling Area Details.
THIRD BATTALION

LT. COL. JOHN R. WEIKEL
Commanding Officer

MAJOR CHARLES R. HERRMAN
Executive Officer
STAFF

WOJG ALEXANDER J. LIPSKE
Adjutant

1st LT. WILLIAM E. VAHUE
Intelligence Officer

CAPT. JOHN W. PYSIENSKI
Operations Officer

Group Shot of Staff

1st LT. WILLIAM C. KENNEDY
Supply Officer
1st LT. HENRY P. KUTCHINSKY
Commanding Officer

Buddies
SMITH and CREGNA

Hq Co
3rd Bn

The Big Picture in Sand.

LMG Platoon Stepping Off.
Inside the Caserne Vauban.

Passing in Review.

Loading Bundles for the Big Jump.

Rarin' To Go!

Commo Section Getting Set.
Rest for the Weary.

Oh, My Aching Feet.

Company G

Loading Equipment Bundles
Sweating It Out.

Moving Into Marshalling Area.

G-CO. Officers, Staging Area.

Moving out of Marshalling Area.

Alert, Marshalling Area.
Sweating It Out on the U. S. S. Costa.

1st LT. HARRY F. JOST
Commanding Officer

Remember the Caserne?

Company H

Lt. Bullard Directs Noble (the pipe)
Lamey, DeMarris, and Fulkerson to You Know Where.

Look MA, The Eifel Tower.
What, Another Boat?


Pumping the Beer.

Art Appreciation.

Drinking Beer on the River Yonne.
"Chow" Camp Pittsburgh.

Taking a Break from the Forty and Eight.

U.S.A. Bound!!

Football.
Red Cross with Coffee and Donuts.

Cell Mates.

Marching Through Auxerre.

Which Way Is This Boat Going?
DIVISION ARTILLERY HEADQUARTERS

BRIG. GEN. ERIC S. MOLITOR
Division Artillery Commander

COL. WILLIAM G. GROVE, JR.—Aug. 13, 43-Feb. 1, 44
COL. CHARLES O. WISELOGLE—Feb. 1, 44-Dec. 16, 44

Former Division Artillery Executives

COL. STEPHEN S. KOSZEWSKI
Division Artillery Executive
MAJOR ROBERT A. TRENMAN, S-1, S-4

CAPT. FERDINAND L. HENDRICKSON, S-2

LT. COL. CHARLES W. HENRY, S-3

MAJOR WILLIAM C. CRAFT
Air Officer-Liaison Chief

CAPT. ROBERT J. HALEY
I & E Officer, Asst. S-3

CAPT. WARREN J. RYAN
Chaplain

CAPT. VINCENT W. CIACCI
Surgeon

CAPT. JOHN E. TUPPER
Dental Officer

1st LT. ALBERT P. LEONZI
A & R Officer, Asst. S-1
THE History of the 13th Airborne Division Artillery is, in reality, not one history, but several; it is the combined histories of the component battalions which make Division Artillery. Although these battalions differ in age and in organization, they have run parallel courses. All have known the sandhills of North Carolina, the Parachute School at Fort Benning, and the green fields and red-roofed towns of France. It is fitting, therefore, that their history be recorded briefly, not as separate units, but as the history of a team.

Division Artillery began its existence with the activation of the Division on the 13th of August, 1943, but in a sense the real history of Division Artillery—or Div Arty, as it soon became known to all its members—did not begin until the early part of November of that year. At this time the three battalions had reached full strength, and the parachute battalion had gone to Fort Benning, Georgia, to receive parachutist training. With the return of this battalion in December, the busy months of Division Artillery training began. Training was interrupted in January ’44 when the Division moved to Camp Mackall, North Carolina, but was speedily resumed, and by April Div Arty was ready for its Army Ground Forces Tests. Almost simultaneously, the Division was declared a source of overseas replacements.

The ranks of the Division’s infantry regiments were seriously depleted by the furnishing of replacements, but the Artillery lost no men. Thus, during a time when other units of the Division were, of necessity, repeating large portions of past training, Division Artillery was carrying on a far more advanced program. Div Arty became the oldest intact unit in the Division, and was subsequently generally regarded as the most thoroughly trained.

As the month of September began, the men of Div Arty began readying themselves for the approaching maneuvers. Division Artillery was prepared. In July many glidermen had taken parachutist training at Fort Benning. The training had been offered in accordance with a policy of making the Division as flexible as possible, and the glidermen had responded enthusiastically. Maneuvers began September 24, with a night jump on a larger scale than had ever before been attempted in Airborne training. With the rest of the Division, Division Artillery’s parachute battalion and parachutist elements of the glider battalions jumped, organized themselves swiftly after the inevitable first confusion, and made ready to receive the glider elements who followed during the night and the next morning. The first excitement of the Airborne landings was followed by a great deal of fine exciting hard work. There were many movements, too many K-rations, and occasional sore feet before maneuvers were over—but in time they were over—and completely completed.

In October came a Division alert for overseas movement. Shortly afterward, however, it was announced that movement had been postponed two months. It wasn’t long, though, until the 26th of January, 1945, when the units of Division Artillery departed from the New York Port of Embarkation, after a brief stay at Camp Shanks, New York. The first week in February Div Arty arrived at Le Havre, France, and, after spending a short time at Camp Lucky Strike, a near-by Staging Area, the units moved southward in the notorious “40-and-8’s” to their respective rear-echelon bases, the towns of Sens, Auxerre, and Joigny. In Joigny a second parachute battalion joined Division Artillery—the 460th Parachute F. A., an older battalion which had finished its
Fort Benning-Camp Mackall history when the 13th Airborne was still young, and had since made a distinguished record fighting in Italy, Southern France, and in the Battle of the Bulge.

In late March, 1945, Division Artillery — and all of the Division—began elaborate preparations for an operation that might well have made history, but a few days before the operation was to begin the Third Army crossed the Rhine River unaided, at the point where the Division was to have spear-headed the crossing, and History at this time passed the 13th Airborne by. Shortly thereafter, in the uncertain category of Theater Reserve, the Division moved to Airborne marshalling areas scattered throughout Northern France.

At the marshalling areas there were some rather tense days during a time when missions for the Division were often planned and always abandoned. A proposed landing south of Stuttgart, Germany, came nearer to being realized than any of the several projected combat missions for which the Division prepared. The men drew their ammunition and sharpened their knives, but two days before the scheduled take-off, they learned that this was another instance where someone else had got there first—this time the American 7th and French 1st Armies. Except for days like these, however, life in the marshalling areas was serene and uneventful. Even victory in Europe did not seem the great event that it was, since the newspapers and radio had gradually led all to expect it. It was, however, a warning bell for preparations to move again—back to the base camps.

In the latter part of July the men of Div Arty were notified of another movement soon to come. Shortly afterward, it became known that the Division was being redeployed to the Pacific through the United States. First, there was Camp Pittsburgh, the Assembly Area, then Camp Philip Morris, the Staging Area, and at last the "Thomas H. Barry," the best for home. At sea, three days cut of Le Havre, the momentarily expected surrender of Japan was announced. The ship was crowded, rain drizzled outside, and the troop compartments were hot, but everyone was happy. Furloughs were expected, and, best of all, the men of Division Artillery were going home. Truly, the war was over.

At one period during the furloughs there arose a possibility of Pacific occupation, but the threat was over with the uneventful and successful American control of Japan, and in October most of the men of the 13th Airborne reassembled at Fort Bragg, some few having been released immediately. At Fort Bragg, Division Artillery still exists and will continue to exist, but for those men who have been in it during the past two years it will shortly become history. In the years to come pleasant memories will become more vivid, and those less pleasant will be forgotten. Men will remember the history of a team—a good team—and be proud.
NOT of Division Artillery Headquarters, not of a battalion. You give your address, and people think you've omitted something because your address is only that of a battery. That's the way it is for members of "the battery," Division Artillery Headquarters Battery, the small group of men whose job is that of integrating and unifying the whole of Division Artillery—by means of wire and radio communication and by survey. These are the men who work with Artillery weapons the least, and to whom the term "Division Artillery" means perhaps the most.

It was a strangely heterogeneous group of men who made Hq Btry when, with all Division Artillery, the battery began training at Fort Bragg in the fall of 1943—boisterously enthusiastic parachutist potentials, striving to attain the "exalted" status of the paratrooper, and calmer, but proud, new inductees and former ASTP soldiers who were beginning to realize that they were Airborne and glidermen.

In December the jumpers were back from jump school, and battery training began in earnest. Of the Basic and Unit Training—the field work, the calisthenics and double-time, the code practice, the wire laying, and the survey and re-survey of the desolate and that was Camp Mackall—a few experiences stand out, of which the battery is justly proud. These are the Division Artillery field problems—where the battery first saw proof of the importance of its work in Division Artillery—and
the excellent battery rating in the July AGF tests. And of these early days the men of the battery like to remember also — the first night problem and the wiremen lost in the woods, a song which began “I’m growing lonely, sad, and blue,” the many, many, very deep holes dug in the Fort Bragg bivouac areas, practice AGF tests with the battery commander on leave, pleasant days spent on isolated OP’s, old songs sung at night in the field.

In October ’44 began a period of preparation and waiting. Packing and crating equipment at the Camp Mackall packing sheds, the sixty-day delay in overseas movement, the last holiday passes and furloughs, the expected yet sudden move to Camp Shanks, the New York Port of Embarkation, the boat for France in January.

And amid the hitherto unimagin ed congestion of the “George Washington” and in the blacked-out blackness of the nights on deck, the men knew that the pass to New York had been the last goodbye to home and that “the ship that is sailing tonight” had sailed—for them.

The pleasant town of Joigny, France, looked fair indeed after the desolation of Le Havre, the chill rain and liquid mud of Camp Lucky Strike, and the long ride by French 40-and-8’s to a then unknown destination. The gala first encounter with French wine on the way to Joigny, the waiting to fly over a river the Division was never to cross, the A-48 marshalling area and the second brief anticipation of fighting in the fast-dying war in Europe, the first pass to expensive, uninhibited, beautiful Paris, are all now part of a history that is rapidly ending for the men who made it. —As are the wait for redeployment, the pleasant evenings in Cezy-Montargis, end along the river and canal in Joigny, the dry-dusty,
sunny August days of packing up again at Camp Pittsburg, and the ride by Continental train to Camp Philip Morris, Le Havre, and the boat for home.

* * *

The reassembly of the Division at Fort Bragg in October ended forty-five days of wonderful furlough. Now, where, two years ago, the battery began its existence, the men who remain work and wait. But even when they have gone home to stay they will remember the battery—sleeping on the decks of the "Thomas H. Barry" in drizzling rain, the night at sea when the war was over, the last days with the old friends now discharged, and the sudden end of two years of wondering and waiting together; and they will wonder what Hq Btry will be like in the future when the men who have come to consider themselves "the battery" are all gone.

* * *
THE original 458th Parachute FA Battalion was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on February 20, 1943, primarily as a test battalion. Since parachute artillery was then in its infancy, an organization of this type was necessary to determine the dependability and efficiency of new Airborne equipment. At this time the battalion was composed of only two batteries Hq and Sv Battery, and "A" Battery. For a short while these batteries were stationed at Camp Mackall, North Carolina, for training purposes, but in August, 1943, they returned...
to Fort Bragg. At this time "B," "C," and "D" batteries were activated, and on August 13 the new battalion became the parachute component of the 13th Airborne Division Artillery. The battalion command was assumed by Lt. Col. (then Major) Ralph O. Brown.

The battalion was now composed largely of new inductees, and these began training immediately, men of the original 458th serving as cadre. The men of the battalion will never forget the long runs, the rope-climbing, the deep-knee bends, and the endless push-ups which eventually led them to Fort Benning, Georgia, in November, where they survived well the rigors of Parachute School. The jump school record of the 458 was exceptional—more than 98% of its personnel qualified as parachutists.

Shortly after the return of the battalion to Fort Bragg, the Division moved to Camp Mackall, where Division Artillery completed Basic Training and began more advanced phases of training. In April '44 Airborne Training began, and for the first time the men of the 458th were satisfied with the number of jumps they were able to make. During Airborne Training the batteries entered into a friendly competition to determine which could jump and move its equipment from the field in the shortest time. Although "B" Battery was the winner with the excellent time of eighteen minutes, the slowest battery required only five minutes more. During Airborne Training "A" Battery got the reputation of being the "hard luck" battery. On two occasions accidents occurred which resulted in fatal injuries to its members, once a truck accident while the battery was en route to Pope Field, and again when a plane crashed during its take-off. Sergeant Israel, who was acting as jump master when the crash occurred, was thrown clear. He assisted his men from the plane, which by this time had broken into flames, and distinguished himself in a manner for which he was later awarded the Soldier's Medal.

Upon completion of Airborne Training, the 458th continued its work and made consistently high scores on its Army Ground Forces Tests. After this the battalion participated in the two-week Division maneuvers which began on September 24. On maneuvers too, it seemed that "A" Battery was not able to shake its jinx; again, one of its planes crashed, with much more tragic results than before. But even under adverse conditions, the 458th accomplished what was generally recognized to be very excellent work. It made high scores on all phases of the maneuvers and received a commendation from the inspecting team. The battalion spent the remainder of the year training with its Combat Team infantry component, the 515th Parachute Regiment—in night and day operations, jumps, and acquainting the infantry with forward-observer techniques.

From January 1, 1945, until the movement to the Port of Embarkation at Camp Shanks, New York, on January 16, the battalion was busy. Several packing teams worked in shifts, crating equipment twenty-four hours a day, in order to meet the deadline for movement. Everyone was almost happy to leave Camp Mackall and the ever-present threat of having to unpack the laboriously packed equipment. The men spent five days in being processed at Camp Shanks, but also managed a final "stateside fling" on a twelve-hour pass into New York City. The battalion took its last long look at the States on the afternoon of January 25, just before embarking, for no one was allowed "topside" when the "Marine Robin" sailed early the next morning.

There was much confusion before the men were settled down in their strange-four-decker bunks—and no sooner had the situation taken on some appearance of order than it became disorderly with the many cases of seasickness. Westerners contended that no horse ever bucked as much or as badly as the "Marine Robin," and Easterners said they used to think subways were crowded, but no more. Throughout the voyage the men thought largely of food. Facilities aboard ship made impossible the serving of more than two meals a day, and these were far
from excellent. For those who were seasick, digestion, too, was a problem. But, on the brighter side, there were movies every other night, P-X rations were ample, and card games were numerous. There was a dense fog over the English Channel as the ship neared Europe, and, rather than heading directly for France, the "Marine Robin" put in at Southampton, England, until the fog lifted. This was the first, and for many the only, glimpse of England. The next evening, the ship put out to sea again and reached Le Havre, France, the following morning.

The battalion debarked at Le Havre in the early morning of February 9, and proceeded immediately by motor convoy to Camp Lucky Strike, near the towns of Caimberville and St. Valery-en-Caux. The Army called Camp Lucky Strike a staging area, but everyone else called it a lake. There the 458th had its first experience with the much-publicized French rain and the resulting mud. But, aided by many bales of hay and many helmets full of gravel, the average person did not sink far above his boot-tops. The unit remained at Camp Lucky Strike for eight days, and then proceeded in the infamous French "forty-and-eights" to its gathering-base at Auxerre, France.

At Auxerre, the battalion was quartered in a caserne formerly occupied by German troops. It was evident that the Germans had observed few rules of sanitation, and it took almost a week to get the quarters clean enough to meet the standards of the U.S. Army. At Auxerre training was resumed, the main emphasis being placed on training with the infantry. Small arms and artillery ranges were established, and for a while activities were little different from what they had been in the States. On March 7 the battalion was reorganized, and personnel of "D" Battery were absorbed throughout Division Artillery.

The 458th was alerted once to move to a marshalling area, but the movement was canceled. Shortly after this, it did move to such an area at Airfield B-92, a few miles northeast of Abbeville, arriving there on April 4. Once the battalion was settled in the marshalling area, life became easy. Activities consisted mostly of routine training and athletics, but there were a few anxious days during which the Division was on the alert for a possible combat jump into Germany. It was at B-92 that the men of the 458th had their first passes to Paris, Lille, and other cities of northern France, and there was one excursion made to examine beach defenses constructed by the Germans at St. Valérie-sur-Somme.

Shortly before VE Day, Col. Brown was transferred to Division Artillery Headquarters, and Lt. Col. (then Major) George Metcalf took command. Although the loss of Col. Brown was felt keenly throughout the organization, the battalion quickly gave its support and cooperation to Col. Metcalf. On May 13, after forty days in the marshalling area, the 458th moved back to Auxerre, only to move again within a few days—this time to Château Guillebeaufourn, a few miles from Auxerre. A short time after the arrival of the battalion, Camp Maple—as the area near the Chateau was called—had many of the comforts and refinements of home. Although all personnel and installations—except the Command Post, were housed in tents, living quarters and kitchens had wooden floors. A lake was cleaned up for swimming, showers were set up, and mess tables were provided. There was a battalion track and field arena, and each battery had its own athletic grounds. Although all personnel and installations—except the Command Post, were housed in tents, living quarters and kitchens had wooden floors. A lake was cleaned up for swimming, showers were set up, and mess tables were provided. There was a battalion track and field arena, and each battery had its own athletic grounds. Athletics were an important part of the activities at Camp Maple. There were 458th men on the track team which won the Division championship for Division Artillery, the softball team, though it lost the Division title to the 326th Glider Infantry, won the Auxerre League championship, the volleyball team was undefeated, and the officers' softball team ranked high in Div Arty.

Redeployment orders came through in late July, and on July 28 the 458th left Camp Maple for Camp Pittsburgh, the Assembly Area. Here the battalion completed processing and packing for its journey to the Pacific, by way of the United States. From Camp Pittsburgh, the 458th moved on to Camp Philip Morris, a few miles from Le Havre. There customs inspections were made, money converted, and last details arranged.

It was a great day when the battalion boarded the "Thomas H. Barry" on August 12, for the voyage home. Living conditions and food were better on this trip than they had been on the journey to Europe, but the men were on their way home, and conditions aboard ship made little difference. Any discomfort was further offset by the announcement of the end of the war. The ship arrived in New York on August 20, and the battalion debarked and boarded trains for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

The prospect of a long furlough was a happy one, and the men began thinking of the time when they would say goodbye to the Army and go home to stay. But there was a bit of sadness, too, for they knew that, though there would be further duty with the Army and with the 458th for most of them, the war was over, and the battalion as they had known it would not last much longer. A new 458th would exist without them, and the old battalion would become just a memory and a part of history.
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
1st LT. ARCHIE L. LEDBETTER—Feb. 1943—June 1943
2nd LT. FRANCIS E. HOLBROOK—June 1943—July 1943
CAPT. WILLIAM F. BOEKHOFF—July 1943—Feb. 1944
1st LT. WILLIAM REITZ—Feb. 1944—April 1944
CAPT. EDWARD T. CASEY—April 1944—June 1945

Look Herman—No Motors!

CAPT. JOHN S. JOHNSON
Battery Commander
A BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders

CAPT. WILLIAM F. TAYLOR—Feb. 1943—June 1943
CAPT. FRANKLIN L. WILSON—June 1943—July 1943
2nd LT. JACK R. SNOW—July 1943—Aug. 1943
1st LT. JOHN S. JOHNSON—Jan. 1944—March 1944
CAPT. JAMES T. HENNESSEY—March 1944—June 1945
1st LT. JACK R. SNOW—June 1945—Nov. 1945

1st LT. CHARLES H. BUCKLEY
Battery Commander
B BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. ARTHUR W. KNOTT—Aug. 43—Nov. 45

1st LT. JOSEPH R. MAYS
Battery Commander
C BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. HAL H. BOOKOUT—August 1943—May 1945
CAPT. BRYCE DeLONG—May 1945—November 1945

1st LT. PAUL A. DAVIS
Battery Commander
D BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders

CAPT. WILLIAM B. VERELL—Aug. 1943—Oct. 1943
1st LT. ROBERT LEWIS—Oct. 1943—March 1944
CAPT. WILLIAM B. VERELL—March 1944—June 1944
CAPT. WILLIAM F. BOEKHOFF—June 1944—Oct. 1945

CAPTAIN ARTHUR W. KNOTT
Battery Commander
In the early summer of 1943, when the 9th Division Area at Fort Bragg began to be a center of preparatory activity for the creation of the new 13th Airborne Division, a small group of 78th Division artillerymen arrived there to find that they were to be the enlisted nucleus of a new artillery battalion, a glider-riding battalion which would take its place as an integral part of the Division Artillery of the new parachute-glider division. Officers were there too—officers prepared in cadre schools for the job of creating and training a new artillery unit—and these officers and men, on the 13th of August, Activation Day for the new division, became the 677th Glider Field Artillery Battalion, under the command of Lt. Col. Howell B. Long.

In September more men began to arrive—inductees fresh from Reception Centers, men from the Fort Benning Parachute School, and men from the 72nd Replacement Battalion at Fort Bragg. These filled out the 677th—a new outfit of trained men and a trained outfit of mature soldiers and cocky kids, of men who knew the Army and men still somewhat in awe of it. The new battalion was Airborne, but the men at this time knew little of Airborne soldiering; and they had first to learn to be artillerymen. On November 8, battalion training began. It was the old Basic routine, for seventeen weeks without a let-up, but it made trained howitzer men, wire men, radio men, and survey men of inexperienced rookies. These men learned also that a glider battalion has to walk, and sometimes run, as well as to ride gliders. There were long days of dry-firing on the rifle range, and finally the fun of actually shooting at targets and hitting them. There were several weeks when some men saw artillery activity at first-hand while they worked with the 17th Airborne Division on its Carolina maneuvers. There was the move to Camp Mackall in January ’44 and the problem of getting used to a place so dreary and forbidding at first sight. At Mackall, too, there was combat team training with the 88th Glider Infantry, which provided a different sort of field experience from that gained by working as a battalion alone, or as a part of Division Artillery. And throughout Basic and the further training that followed, there were the inevitable incidents that make Army life a little pleasanter—Sgt. Cor-
bett swallowing his chewing tobacco on the obstacle course, Lt. Mason's always unsuccessful experiments with booby traps or with floating jeeps across rivers, and the skunk in bed with Sgt. Watt one night in the field.

In April artillery training was interrupted for four weeks while the men took the Airborne training that made them truly glidermen. One sergeant thought, no doubt, that loading and lashing enthusiasm had been carried too far when he found himself in his battery street early one morning, lashed to his bed with the best of Baker bowlines. Airborne training made the men glider-conscious, and they began to wonder more about the always-rumored, never-materializing glider pay. Then Airborne work gave way to further artillery training, and in July the 677th made a very high score on its Army Ground Force Tests.

The often-talked-of glider pay became a fact in August, and the standard of living in the 677th rose considerably as a result, but by this time many battalion men were already on parachute pay, these men having completed the jumper's course at Fort Benning in August, while the glider components of Division Artillery were stationed at the Parachute School for the purpose of training new jumpers. The jumping glidermen won't forget the Parachute School, with its disconcerting array of training gadgetry — the towers, the landing trainer, and the "trainasium," and its sweat sheds — where a scratchy phonograph record of Sinatra's "I Couldn't Sleep a Wink Last Night" was supposed to ease the tension of waiting one's turn to take off for a jump. And they all remember the fellow who suggested to several officers that they find the hundred dollar door of the C-47 they were jumping from.

Maneuvers began from Lumberton Airport on September 24, after the battalion had spent three days in bivouac there. Most 677th men entered the maneuver by glider on the morning of the 25th, but a contingent of battalion men hit the silk—and a moment later the swamps—with the rest of the Division Artillery parachute elements on the night of the 24th. A few hours later, though, the men were out of the creeks and underbrush and well-prepared to receive the rest of the battalion when it arrived.

On January 4, 1945, the 677th—with the rest of the Division—was alerted for overseas movement and after a two-week period of preparation which must have come near the record for Army speed in getting things done, the battalion was in the staging area at cold, snowy, Camp Shanks, New York, on the 19th. On the 26th, after five days of shots and equipment checks, and one pass to New York, the men loaded themselves onto the "George Washington" and the next morning sailed for France—with memories of Camp Mackall, which seemed not such a bad place now, of New York and a place called "The Tango Palace," and of home filling their minds as they wondered what their destination and mission would be. The trip over has now become a memory of morning inspection in compartments so crowded that both officers and enlisted men could scarce move, of KP in the ship's kitchen, of non-cleansing saltwater showers, dice games, and an over-abundance of Tootsie Rolls.

For the sea-weary and seasick artillerymen the sight of the coast of England on February 6th was a memorable one, and even the cold, dreary desolation of Le Havre, France, where the battalion debarked on February 7, they found preferable to the watery monotony of the turbulent Atlantic. Camp Lucky Strike, to which the battalion moved by truck from Le Havre, was a dismal, rainy place, where meals for the first several days were less than adequate and a stove in one's tent was a rare bless-
ing. After ten days there, the 677th proceeded by forty-and-eight to Joigny, France, and the caserne there where the battalion was to be quartered. The trip by rail had been a lively one, especially so because of casks of red wine encountered in the Paris rail yards.

The men of the 677th remember a pleasant life of extended duration at Joigny. Upon arriving there the battalion was armed with 105mm howitzers, which replaced its former 75mm Airborne howitzers, and became a heavier artillery battalion for general support of the combat teams of the Division. No longer a combat team component, the 677th did not move hither and yonder with the rest of Division Artillery as the Division prepared itself for proposed Airborne missions. The mission of the 677th was to remain at its base and to be ready to move out if proposed missions actually materialized. Thus, the battalion remained at Joigny during the Rhineland operation alert, when other units prepared to move out, and during the six weeks or so when the other artillery battalions were in marshalling areas waiting for a series of missions which never got beyond the preparatory stage. During the earlier days of alerts and cancellations of alerts, there was a great deal of work to be done, and social life of the battalion was necessarily limited. But even then there were the weekly dances at L’Ecole Maternelle and the agreeable mademoiselles who never could quite learn to jitterbug. As time went by there were passes to Montargis, Fontainebleau, and Paris. Few men will forget their visits to these towns—especially to Paris, with its beautiful and historic buildings, its unusual Rue Pigalle, and its shapely and charming women. But life at Joigny was not all passes and social events. The 677th engaged in constant artillery practice on the “ranges” near Joigny—“ranges” which were actually the fields of French farmers who could not always understand why the American soldiers should be shelling their crops, but who were, nevertheless, usually generous with their vin rouge, eau de vie, and cognac.

In late July the men of the battalion learned that the 13th Airborne Division was to be redeployed to the Pacific by way of the United States. The eager battalion was quickly ready to move out, and—with the rest of Division Artillery—proceeded by truck to Camp Pittsburgh near Reims within a week after redeployment was first announced. After twelve days of final preparations at Camp Pittsburgh, the 677th moved by train to Camp Philip Morris near Le Havre, and after two days there boarded the “Thomas H. Barry” at Le Havre for the trip to the U. S. The second day at sea the “Thomas H. Barry” ran into bad weather which lasted for three days. Men slept on the decks of the double-loaded ship, and consoled their seasick bodies with happy thoughts of days ahead at home. The end of the war, which came while the ship was at sea, further raised the morale of the
already happy men. On August 20 the 677th saw Staten Island and New York City again. Debarking, the speedy train ride to Camp Kilmer, the truly royal Army welcome, with steak, the first sundaes and milk shakes at the P-X’s—two days of this passed quickly, and the men were on their way to their Reception Stations, and from there, home.

Shortly after the reassembly of the battalion at Fort Bragg in October, Col. Long, battalion commander since activation, left the 677th to return to civilian life. Many old battalion men had already been discharged, having remained at their Reception Stations for that purpose when they returned from their furloughs. All men of the 677th fully understood and shared Marcucci’s feeling that things would be pretty dull with the Colonel gone, for the departure of Col. Long was symbolic of the end of the history of the 677th which they had been part of. Now most men of the original battalion are awaiting their turn to become civilians again. Some may re-enlist, but generally old faces are now making way for new ones, and the 677th is changing. But those who remain and those who are gone have memories that the new men can be proud of, even though they cannot share them. For the 677th has come a long way since 1943, when a gliderman was just a fellow who wore leggings and for $50.00 a month rode a “flying matchbox.”
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY

Former Battery Commander
CAPT. JOHN A. MARSHALL
Aug. 1943—Oct. 43; Feb. 1944—June 44

CAPT. JOHN HARLOW
Battery Commander
A BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. FRED CURTIS—Aug. 1943—June 1945
1st LT. JOSEPH HICKERSON—June 1945—July 1945
CAPT. TASH P. ANESTOS—July 1945—Oct. 1945

1st LT. PHILIP O. SCHELLER
Battery Commander
B BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. ELLIS EDGE—August 1943—July 1945
LT. EMERSON W. BARLOW—July 1945—October 1945

LT. GEORGE E. MINOR
Battery Commander
THE 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion was activated April 15, 1943, under the command of Lt. Col. James B. Anderson. During the months of April, May, June, July, and August, the battalion assumed shape at Camp Toccoa, Georgia. Rigorous exercises and never-to-be-forgotten runs up Mt. Currahee in the heat at Toccoa, weeded out those physically unfit and left a unit of young, eager men, rarin' to go. Early in August 1943 the 460th became a part of the 17th Airborne Division at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. Here the battalion had its first artillery training, along with the never-ending physical program. Transferring to Fort Benning, Georgia, the 460th won its boots and wings September 18. Richard Daley of Baker Battery won the distinctive award of a pair of golden wings, his third jump being the 200,000th to be made at Fort Benning.

The battalion returned to Mackall and stayed there from September 20 to January 24, 1944, when the men left their warm barracks for maneuvers in Tennessee. Working with its combat team infantrymen, the battalion battled the 26th, 78th, and 101st Infantry Divisions. On a sixty-four-mile forced march, the combat team walked through the entire area of the 26th and "annihilated" the "Yankee Division." In Tennessee "General Mud" took a hand in the command and made it necessary for the men to improvise many methods of keeping themselves and their equipment dry—all of them unsuccessful. An important contributing factor to the victory in the "Battle of Mud" in Tennessee was the ice cream and apple cider sold by civilians at the end of each problem.

The maneuvers came to an end when it was learned that the 315th Combat Team was to leave the 17th Airborne Division. The ride back to Camp Mackall was something out of this world—each officer and enlisted man had a private bunk and, what was more, breakfast in bed! Back at Mackall, showdown after showdown started rumors a-flying of overseas shipment. A new battalion commander, West Pointer Lt. Col. Raymond L. Cato,
arrived, and when packing and waterproofing of equipment began, everyone felt sure he would be in action before long. On the 6th of May, the last short furloughs over, the last equipment packed, the 460th entrained for Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, where there were last showdowns and "shots" before the battalion sailed on May 17 from Hampton Roads.

Aboard the U. S. S. "Cristobal" there was a rumor that nine nurses were aboard, but the ladies were never found. To add insult to injury, Wacs could be seen standing at the rail of the nearby "Santa Rosa," which carried the 517th Parachute Infantry. The "Cristobal" docked at Naples, Italy, the 31st of May, and there the men learned that the combat team was scheduled to go into action June 1st on a road leading to Rome. But its supply ship had not arrived, and the battalion bivouacked at "The Crater," just outside of Naples. During a two-week stay, the troopers visited Naples, and found it bombed, crumbling, and dirty—vastly different from American cities.

Leaving Naples, the 460th, now attached to the 36th Infantry Division, boarded an LST and headed north for Civitavecchia. It was near Civitavecchia that two S-2 officers, Lt. Biddle of the 460th and Capt. Deering of the 517th, who were scouting the area around Grosseto, found themselves in the undefended village of Montalto di Castro—a town which they were later credited with capturing! And near this town, on the morning of June 17, exactly one month after sailing from Hampton Roads, the men of the 460th were initiated into combat. During their twelve days of supporting the 36th Infantry, they gave the Germans no rest and had little themselves. They dug in and fired, moved and repeated the process, for seemingly endless days until the enemy had been pushed up the west coast of Italy to Follonica. Then, its mission completed, the combat team was relieved, and
the men loaded on trucks for Fraschi. In the few days since Montalto di Castro the troopers had changed; the bond of comradeship had grown stronger; confidence had replaced cockiness.

On the way back rumors about the next mission ran wild, but at their new station, high in the mountains overlooking Rome, the men of the 460th forgot about the future. There were passes to Rome—sight-seeing tours taking in the Coliseum, St. Peter's Cathedral, and the Pantheon. A former Fascist's mansion became an NCO Club. There were coffee and doughnuts at the Red Cross, with real American girls behind the counters. Internationally-minded troopers set about strengthening Italiano-Americano relations. A few phrases of Italian, a bit of chocolate, and a fellow had a girl on his arm. Officers found night life and entertainment at Broadway Bill's or the Excelsior Hotel. But life at Fraschi was not easy. Passes came only after days of hard work—physical training and runs up the mountain sides—and Mount Currahee in Georgia, was a mere mound compared to Italian mountains. In the afternoons there were road marches and swimming in beautiful Lake Albano. The battalion was shaping up into an outfit of hardened, sun-tanned men.

Then the 460th became a part of the First Airborne Task Force, under the command of Major General Robert T. Fredericks. Remaining non-jumpers were qualified at the Airborne Training Center south of Rome. Rumors of a coming combat jump held high priority in nightly bull-sessions. On the twelfth of August, the battalion, less C Battery, which was to work with the first battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry, proceeded by truck to Montalto Air Field on the outskirts of Montalto di Castro, the town captured a few weeks earlier by Lt. Biddle and Capt. Deering. The 460th spent two days at Montalto. Bundles were loaded on planes, dropping mechanisms were tested, officers were briefed by the Air Corps, and everyone was briefed at sand tables.

On the night of August 14th, forty-five planes, carrying the men of the 460th, took off from Montalto Air Field and headed for the French coast. The battalion had had its initiation into combat in Italy, but this was its first Airborne mission. Men slept as they winged toward France. As land came into view, they woke each other up, and made last-minute checks of equipment. They stood up, bracing themselves as the plane lurched. There was a silent prayer on each man's lips as he shuffled toward the door. Two thousand feet below, obscured by the murky fog was the enemy. As they had many times before, men wondered why they had ever joined such a crazy outfit. Minutes ticked by. . . .

GO!!!

Down, down, down—suddenly a body-tearing yank, a grateful look at that beautiful canopy billowing overhead, and another prayer. . . .

The parachute force was split into three main groups in the landing. One group, "Task Force Frank," jumped prematurely, five minutes after sighting the coast of France. These fifty or sixty men from Able, Baker, and Dog Batteries organized themselves as a small combat team, under Major Edward C. Frank, Jr. Taking advantage of the confused Germans, who thought them a much
larger force, they neutralized an 88 position and routed what they later learned to have been approximately a battalion of the enemy, as they fought their way toward the 460th Assembly Area. In the vicinity of Trans-en-Provence, about forty men, assembled under the command of Capt. Louis J. Vogel, were able to walk through a German position undetected, so great was the confusion of the enemy. About three-quarters of the battalion landed on the DZ, but in small, scattered groups. One group under Col. Cato acted as an assault squad to neutralize enemy positions, and all groups had to fight their way to the assembly point, but by six o'clock in the morning approximately one-third of the battalion had assembled, and six howitzers were in their predesignated positions, to form the first battery.

A skeleton Command Post was set up in the Chateau St. Rosalina, outside La Motte, liaison officers and their sections reached their respective infantry battalions and set up radio communication between units of the combat team. The battalion could now fire upon call. By noon, eleven howitzers were in position with Fire Direction Center ready to control their fire. The landing of the 602nd Glider F. A. shortly afterward provided the infantry with two battalions of artillery for support. Order was replacing confusion. By early evening radio contact had been established with the 45th and 36th Infantry Divisions, with Capt. Vogel's force near Trans-en-Provence, with VI Corps, and with 1st Abn Task Force. Firing was continuous during the night and the next day. At six o'clock in the evening of the 15th "Task Force Frank" joined the rest of the battalion. The initial part of the mission was accomplished, and the 460th remained in bivouac near La Motte until August 18th, when the combat team moved out toward Puget.

The convoy to Puget that afternoon looked more like a gypsy caravan than anything military—there was a thirty-passenger bus, several motorcycles, two Buick pick-ups, an Italian truck, and a French truck driven by its owner. Behind these came the hiking artillerymen. At Puget the expected attack by the Germans never materialized, and the battalion continued to move along the French Riviera toward the Italian border.
Puget to St. Pauls, from St. Pauls to St. Cezaire, from St. Cezaire to St. Vallier, the Krauts were in full retreat, and the combat team encountered only small units fighting a delaying action.

Weary warriors had a four-day rest in the taverns and bars of the pleasant city of Grasse, famous for its perfume. Then a thirty-five miles march over hills and mountains brought the battalion to Bouyon, where, in support of the 517th, it blasted the Germans across the Var River. On the other side of the Var, where the battalion fired a few missions, the men saw an example of a German anti-Airborne defense that they, luckily, had not encountered—a network of poles and low-stretched wires, with artillery shells attached. From September 4 to September 6, from a position near L'Escarene, the 460th supported the 517th as it drove the enemy from the surrounding mountains. Heavy counter-battery fire to which the battalion was subjected and a direct hit upon an Able Battery position made severe demands upon the coolness and courage of the overworked medics, and forced the battalion CP to evacuate a railroad station in favor of a nearby tunnel.

On September 6 the Germans withdrew to the fortifications of the Sospel Valley. The battalion CP was moved from the tunnel to the town of Luceram, and the batteries dug in at strategic positions overlooking the valley. For a long time Able Battery, at Piera Cava, and Dog Battery, on a cliff overlooking the valley, were “the front,” with no infantry between them and the enemy three-quarters of a mile away. The combat team was in essentially a defensive position, but aggressive infantry patrol activity and incessant, highly accurate shelling and machine-gunning from the 460th made the Sospel Valley and Mt. Agaisien on its opposite side untenable for the enemy. On October 28th the Germans blew three bridges, and withdrew under cover of darkness. Moving forward in support of the 517th, the 460th dug into positions in the vicinity of Mt. Agaisien, overlooking the towns of Briel and Olivetto San Michelle. The battalion established itself as comfortably as possible in the available buildings, and fired with continuous and deadly accuracy on German supply lines until it was relieved by a battalion of Armored Infantry on November 16. Then, a three-day hike brought the men to a bivouac area near La Colle-sur-Loup, for their first rest in ninety-seven days.

It had been a long time since that night at Montalto Air Field. The combat team had touched off the Invasion Day TNT and had blasted the Germans from the ‘chute-strewn field at La Motte through the Sospel Valley. It had been a lonesome, forgotten war of their own—that “Champagne Campaign”—long, hard days of combat, precious passes to beautiful Nice, abruptly-ended romances with Riviera belles, and for some the military cemetery at Draguignan.

After eighteen days of training emphasizing lessons learned in combat, and—during off-duty hours—movies, sports, passes to Nice, and walks in the picturesque countryside, at La Colle-sur-Loup, the battalion piled into forty-eights at Antibes, and for three days journeyed northward in weather which grew increasingly colder. Upon arrival at its destination — cold, dreary, wet Soissons—the 460th was attached to XVIII Airborne Corps.

December 16th “it” happened. Under Von Runstedt the Germans broke through in Belgium and threatened
to split the American Armies. In response to a call from Corps Headquarters, the 460th entrucked on the 22nd of December for Werbomont, Belgium. There, at Corps Headquarters, Col. Cato and his staff learned that somewhere, not far away, in southern Belgium, the 101st Airborne Division, the 106th Infantry Division, and many other units had been cut off by the German advance from the rest of the Allied Forces.

The 460th moved to Xhoffraix, Belgium, to supplement the artillery of the 30th Infantry Division. There the men ate their Christmas dinner — D-rations. There was heavy German air activity, but worse than the battle was the cold — the bitter, numbing cold that penetrated layers of clothing and froze feet and hands. Men suffered indescribably during those days of “the Bulge.” The day after Christmas, the Combat Team moved to Ferriers to prevent a break-through in that sector; on December 27 to Au Hautre in support of the 7th Armored Division’s drive on Manhay. On New Year’s Day there was a real turkey dinner, which made up somewhat for the Christmas D-rations. From position to position on the northern flank of the Bulge, in attacks on Manhay, Trois Pont, Bergeval, St. Jacques, Henumont, Coules, Logbeirme, Mont de Fosse, and Petit Thier, in support of the 30th, 75th, 106th, and 1st Infantry Divisions, of the 7th Armored Division, and of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 460th relentlessly pounded enemy-held territory until January 23 when the battalion was relieved for a rest at Stavelot, Belgium.

At Stavelot there were gun drill and classes, six-day furloughs to Paris for a lucky few, movies at night, and one real shower. Then on February 2, the combat team moved to Losheimergraben, Germany, in preparation for an assault on the vaunted Siegfried Line. Here artillery fire was directed at troop movements; the concrete emplacements of the Line were invulnerable to seventy-five millimeter shelling. After nearly three weeks of operations in the deepest mud the 460th had encountered, the combat team was again relieved on February 20 and started moving back to France for a well-earned rest.

Upon arriving at Joigny, France, the 460th was assigned to the 13th Airborne Division. Although it was not known at the time, the combat team had seen its last action. In March there was an alert for the jump
across the Rhine; at Vitry, April 3rd, the battalion again made preparations for jumping, but as each day went by, it became evident that it was not needed. On May 8, 1945, the 460th paused for a brief celebration of victory in Europe. However, with the war still on in the Pacific, V-E Day meant little more than transfer to another theater. This was borne out by the announcement at Joigny in July that the 13th Airborne was scheduled for redeployment to the Pacific with a short stopover in the States for furloughs. At sea, two days out of Le Havre, the announcement of V-J Day came over the ship’s radio. Men who had been looking forward to a furlough realized that a discharge was not too far in the future. In the States at last on August 20, the men of the 460th were at home shortly afterward.

Over a year had passed since they had sailed from Hampton Roads—months of hard combat in far places. Perhaps some men sweated a little the thought of Pacific occupation with the 13th Airborne, but soon Japan had been peacefully occupied, and for the men of the old 460th duty with the Army was over a few weeks after the furloughs ended. It's another 460th in garrison at Fort Bragg now, a new battalion which will always be proud of the record made by the men of the "Champagne Campaign" and the Battle of the Bulge.
DECORATIONS

Though dead, we are not heroes yet, nor can be,
Til the living, by their lives that are the tools
Carve us the epitaphs of wise men
And give us not the epitaph of fools.

SILVER STAR
Capt. Sylvester G. Willer
1st Lt. Thomas W. Mehler
2nd Lt. Duane L. Smith
T/4 Robert Lyon
Cpl. James Bain
Pfc. Richard E. Donnelly

LEGION OF MERIT
S/Sgt. Earl A. Dyer
S/Sgt. Quentin R. Shortt

CROIX DE GUERRE
1st Lt. Barclay L. Douglas, Jr.
1st Lt. Fred L. Fadely
1st Lt. James E. Freestone
1st Lt. George S. Morris
1st Lt. Lawrence S. Overton
1st Lt. Robert L. Rohtert

AIR MEDAL
S/Sgt. Milton T. Rogers
T/4 Fred H. Brown

BRONZE STAR
Pfc. Henry M. Kearney, Jr.
Pfc. Edward Kolczynski
Pfc. Elmer D. Kendrick
Pfc. Loyal D. Lancaster, Jr.
Pfc. David N. Miles
Pfc. James F. Mohr
Pfc. James E. Mortenson
Pfc. Cecil Park
Pvt. Kenneth E. Allen
Pvt. Eugene R. Beck
Pvt. Ora C. Brinkley
Pvt. Guy G. Campbell, Jr.
Pvt. Robert C. Hallas
Pvt. Warren H. Higham
Pvt. Richard C. Huffman
Pvt. Leroy C. Kelly
Pvt. Edward L. Leonard
Pvt. Phillip H. McReynolds
Pvt. James M. Rainer, Jr.
Pvt. Meyer Resnikoff
Pvt. Clement J. Liddell
Pvt. Roy P. Walker
Pvt. Carl C. Walters
Pvt. Francis E. Young

Lt. Col. Raymond L. Cato
Major Edward C. Frank
Capt. Nicholas K. Biddle
Capt. Wallace R. Buelow
Capt. George B. Clarke
Capt. James G. B. Ewing
Capt. James F. Lantz
Capt. Richard O. Roberts
Capt. George A. Schnibbi
Capt. Louis J. Vogel
Capt. Herbert C. Weinstein
Capt. Sylvester G. Weller
Capt. Robert P. Woodhull
Lt. Worthington J. Thompson
1st Lt. Henry L. Covington, III
1st Lt. Benvenuto A. Dezzutto
1st Lt. Robert T. Greene
1st Lt. Thomas W. Mehler
1st Sgt. Charles E. Whitson
T/Sgt. Richard A. Ahrens
T/Sgt. Donald M. Messenger
T/Sgt. George E. Hubbard
S/Sgt. Bruce R. Guy
S/Sgt. Victoria Miskimins
Sgt. Paul E. Corbett
Sgt. Henry E. Ramsey
Sgt. Warren A. Terwilliger, Jr.
T/4 Fred H. Brown
T/4 William L. Dickson, Jr.
T/4 Robert F. McAllister
T/4 Joseph B. Spencer
Cpl. Melvin M. Cory
Cpl. Lyle G. Darnall
Cpl. William A. Fairbanks
Cpl. Ildefonso Gandara
Cpl. Marvin M. Garcia
Cpl. George B. Goodsell
Cpl. Ernest O. Herold
Cpl. Lewis F. Hone
Cpl. Phillip J. Micknal
Cpl. Lark L. Washburn
Cpl. Oscar L. Williams, III
T/5 James C. Ward
Pfc. Donald Berthon
Pfc. William H. Cude
Pfc. Richard R. Daley
Pfc. Harvey H. Epley, Jr.
Pfc. Thomas L. Garrat, Jr.
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders

CAPT. ALFRED G. ZIEBARTH—April 1943—Aug. 1943
CAPT. WILLIAM W. LANAHAN, JR.—Aug. 1943—Nov. 1943
CAPT. ALFRED G. ZIEBARTH—Nov. 1943—March 1944
CAPT. HERBERT G. WEINSTEIN—March 1944—June 1945
1st LT. ROBERT T. GREEN—June 1945—Oct. 1945

1st LT. WILLIAM F. COWAN
Battery Commander
A BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. JAMES B. EWING—Aug. 1943—Jan. 1945
1st LT. FRANCIS J. BUSH—Jan. 1945—June 1945
1st LT. JEROME J. SULLIVAN—June 1945—Oct. 1945

1st LT. CHESTER E. RICHARDSON
Battery Commander
B BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders

1st LT. HERMAN G. WINDISH—April 1943—May 1943
CAPT. WILLIAM E. ENNIS—May 1943—Dec. 1943
CAPT. GEORGE B. CLARKE—Dec. 1943—May 1945
CAPT. NICHOLAS BIDDLE—May 1945—Oct. 1945
1st LT. JAMES B. LAWRENCE—Oct. 1945—Nov. 1945
C BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
1st LT. JACK HARDING—April 1943—Oct. 1943
CAPT. LOUIS J. VOGLE—Oct. 1943—Feb. 1945
CAPT. SYLVESTER G. WELLER—Feb. 1945—Oct. 1945

1st LT. HERMAN G. WINDISH
Battery Commander

Some of the Forward Observation Sections,
During a Briefing at Vitré, France.

Postime Lureram, France.

Camp Mackall, N. C.
D BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. WILLIAM J. FULLER—April 1943—July 1943
1st LT. GEORGE B. CLARKE—July 1943—Nov. 1943
1st LT. CHARLES J. HOVANATEZ—Nov. 1943—March 1944
CAPT. GEORGE A. SCHNEGLI—March 1944—Aug. 1945

A Combat O. P. Near Bergstein, Germany, on Hill 460

CAPTAIN WALTER W. DUKE
Battery Commander

The Arsenal Gang. "D" Btry, France.

24th, July, Rome, Italy
"D" Battery

Bouyons, France.
On the 13th of August, 1943, the 676th Glider FA Battalion, under the command of Lt. Col. Clark Lynn, Jr., was activated at Fort Bragg as a part of the new 13th Airborne Division. However, the battalion had its beginnings before that date and did not really become the organization its members now know until some time after it. The 676th began with cadre officers, trained in the New Division Officers’ School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as early as June 1943, and with men from the 78th Division, who arrived at Fort Bragg in July to take over their jobs as the enlisted cadre of a still-to-be-activated outfit. The battalion grew in size and personality throughout the late summer and fall of 1943. Young inductees from the New England States and former ASTP men who had some from everywhere by way of the 72nd Replacement Battalion at Fort Bragg continued to arrive until November, at which time the 676th had reached full strength and Lt. Col. Henry L. T. Koren assumed the battalion command. At this time, also, Basic Training began, and the 676th that all battalion men will remember really began to exist and to function.

As it does to all new Airborne Artillery outfits, Basic Training to the men of the 677th meant hikes and calisthenics, wire laying and survey, occupying and evacuating positions at night, digging holes and filling them up. And in the middle of it all came a move from Fort Bragg to the considerably more primitive post of Camp Mackall, North Carolina. The newly-graduated artillerymen were relieved and happy the Saturday in February, 1944, when Basic ended, but the following Monday and all the days that came after it were no more leisurely than the days that had gone before. Combat swimming, more and bigger field problems as combat team artillery with the 326th Glider Infantry, glider loading and lashing—this was called Unit Training. In April for the first time the men who had vowed they’d never be seen in a “flying cheese box” and the men who had looked forward to Airborne Training as something new and different saw the tobacco fields and pine trees of North Carolina from above—through the window of a CG-4A.

In midsommer of 1944 many of the men of the 676th became acquainted with the distinctively Airborne organization that is the Fort Benning Parachute School, a strange little world of high towers, silken parachutes, and frightening airplanes. More than sixty per cent of the battalion’s personnel became parachutists there. At this time many other 676th men were at Camp Howze, Texas, giving glider training to the 103rd Division. But in September the battalion was together again, and with the rest of the Division, the men of the 676th made the Airborne landings on the night of the 24th and the morning of the 25th which opened Division maneuvers—parachute landings into the swampland around Camp Mackall at night, and glider landings in the maneuver drop zone in the morning. Despite a beginning that resembled chaos, the battalion proved more than equal to the test of maneuvers, as it did to all tests that followed, and in November the 676th—with a uniformly excellent record behind it, and a very high score on its Army Ground Forces Tests—was ready for overseas movement.

In January ’45 the battalion left the sand of Camp Mackall for the snow of Camp Shanks, New York, and after five days of processing, packing, and shots, left there to board the U.S.S. “General George O. Squier” for a trip across the Atlantic. The 676th was “mess battalion” on the boat; or, in plainer language, battalion men did KP for the troops aboard. After a few days everyone was sick of food and sick without it, but the 676th-operated kitchen continued to serve nine thousand meals daily. At last, on February 7, the battalion arrived and debarked at Le Havre, France. The 676th loaded on the well-known forty-and-eights at Le Havre.
and, eighteen hours later, reached Camp Lucky Strike, forty-five miles away.

The name of Camp Lucky Strike certainly was not a descriptive one. Here the men of the 676th walked in knee-level mud, encountered chow lines half a mile long, and shivered in pyramidal tents which they tried to keep warm on their meager fuel ration. For nearly two weeks the battalion improved Camp Lucky Strike—carried rocks and stones, built walkways, set up its own kitchen, and tried to make the place livable. Then, as the mud began to dry, the weather to grow warmer, and the food to become more plentiful and better, the 676th moved out—to Sens, France, which was to be its base camp for the duration of its stay in that country.

The life at Sens was one of tension and training until late March when the long-awaited alert to fly over the Rhine River came. Then the cancellation of the alert relieved the tension and halted the intensive moving-out preparation until the end of the month, when the battalion moved to an Airborne marshalling area near Chateaudun, France. Other alerts came and were cancelled, and on V-E Day the 676th, a battalion untried in combat, was still waiting at the marshalling area for a war that had passed it by. Toward and after the end of the war the 676th became a battalion of tourists and athletes. From the marshalling area the men visited Chartres, Tours, Orleans, Loches, and Paris. Back at Sens they continued to visit places of interest in France, and a few made trips to England. During this time, in addition to ordinary garrison duty and training, the men of the battalion took part in extensive athletic activities. There were field days in which the 676th competed against the 460th, the 677th, and 326th Glider Infantry. The battalion defeated the 460th and 677th, and made a creditable showing against the 326th. Captain Thompson's track team played an outstanding part in the field day successes of the battalion.

During the months of waiting in France the 676th offered parachutist training to its men who were not already qualified as jumpers, and as a result of this training and additional fifteen per cent of the battalion became parachutists. There were no Fort Benning facilities in France, and, after a few days of mock door work and fall training, the potential jumpers cleared the doors of real, flying, C-47's for their qualification jumps. Most of the men qualified, and just before V-E Day, the 676th made a battalion jump, in which the glidermen proved their versatility by successfully carrying out their first practice parachute mission.

The history of the 676th after July 1945 can be told briefly. With the Division alert for redeployment, the battalion left Sens, packed equipment and was processed at Camp Pittsburgh; traveled by train to Camp Philip Morris, and at Le Havre boarded the “Thomas H. Barry” for the voyage to New York. A medium-sized ship carrying 4,500 men was not the pleasantest conveyance on which to cross the ocean, but when men are headed home and a war is over, the matter of personnel comfort is a small one. For the 676th, as for all returning units, the sight of the USA on August 20 was the pleasantest one in many months. The gala welcoming ship in New York harbor, with its big 13th Airborne banner, the hospitable Army personnel at Camp Kilmer, the quick and efficient processing which hurried the men home within a few days after they had reached New York—such things as these caused everyone to forget past grievances and inconveniences, and to feel kindly even toward the Army.

It is only fitting that the 676th has reassembled at Fort Bragg, where it started out two years ago. Now the “old men” of the 1943 battalion have returned to civilian life, and the recruits of two years ago have become “old men.” Now the “recruits” of 1945 are arriving, and the 676th is beginning its history all over again. Before very long the last men of the original battalion will be gone, and the two years past of working, hoping, and waiting will take their place in the history of an outfit whose existence will not end with them, but will go on. But the memories of those years—they will belong to the men who made them when the battalion was young, and these men will, in a way, always belong to the 676th.
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTERY

CAPT. ROBERT J. CLIFFORD
Battery Commander
A BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. JEROME R. HOWARD—July 1943—Oct. 1943
CAPT. ROBERT P. THOMPSON—Oct. 1943—March 1944
CAPT. ANDREW G. GORSKI—March 1944—April 1944
CAPT. HAROLD A. OSBORN—April 1944—March 1945

CAPT. PETER R. TASSANI
Battery Commander
B BATTERY

Former Battery Commanders
CAPT. ROBERT J. HALEY—July 1943—Dec. 1943
CAPT. FRANK T. GORMAN—Dec. 1943—Nov. 1944
CAPT. JAMES S. SFEKAS—Nov. 1944—Nov. 1945

1st LT. ROY F. THORSTENSEN
Battery Commander
676th Battalion Officers

L to R Standing:
Capt. Thompson  
Capt. Clifford  
Capt. Gorman  
Major Burroughs  
Lt. Col. Koren  
Capt. Howard  
Lt. Walker  
Capt. Setzer  
Capt. Stikes

Kneeling:
Lt. Humphries  
Lt. Flynn  
Lt. Lubke  
WOJG Geegan  
CWO Knight  
WOJG Pritchford
INASMUCH as athletics are an integral part of life and spirit in the Army and bear especial importance in this Division, a separate book is therefore devoted to it.

The interdivision athletic program is, of course, of greatest significant in this field. Division teams represented us in baseball, basketball, boxing, swimming and golf. We have met and defeated outstanding teams in America and Europe.

Another vital part of athletics in the Division is our intramural program. Since the activities included in this program are so varied, every officer and soldier of the Division is encouraged to participate, competitively, in those sports in which he is most interested.

Taken as a whole, then, athletics occupy a significant place in the life and spirit of the Division. This section records some of the highlights in this field.
# XVI CORPS

### E. T. O. RECORD

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<td>Compiègne ......</td>
<td>29 ” ”</td>
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</table>
Champs Coaches

Champs Rightfielder
Joe Cronnin

Action in Championship Game,
at Rheims, France

Champs Shortstop
Eric Erickson

Champs Catcher & Handy'n
Danny Baich

Champs Pitcher
Jim Morton

Champs Most Valuable Player
Merv Connors

XVI Corps Champions

Phil Stropich LF

Action in Division League Game
Foster out at 1st
326th Gli. Inf. Regt. Division Baseball Champs

515th Prcht. Inf. Regt. Team

88th Gli. Inf. Baseball Team

Col. Poindexter, 325th Gli. Inf. Regt. (holding trophy) receives Division Baseball Champs Trophy from Gen. Chapman; looking on are Lt. John Black, coach, and Team Captain, Phil Stropich
GOLF - SWIMMING and TRACK

Start of Mile Relay, Auxerre, France
May 31, 1945

Leo McHale, Eto Amateur Golf, Champion, 1945

End of Mile Relay, May 31, Auxerre, France

Start of Hundred Yard Dash, Auxerre, France

End of Officers Hundred Yard Dash, Auxerre, France

Shot Put, 516 Picht. Inf. Regt.
Activities Day Meet
BASKETBALL

Division Team N. C. State Champs in 1943

Opening of Division League—4 Aug. at Camp Mackall

88th Glider Inf. Regt. Basketball Team
713 Ord. Co. Team, Special Troops Champs 1943

Division Hq. Company Team

222 Medical Company Team

Outdoor Basketball at Camp Mackall

Bob Long, Div. Hq. Company Ace
BOXING

N. C. State Golden Glove Champions, 1943

Action in Division Boxing Tourney, Camp Mackall, 1944.

Boxing Aboard Ship Returning From E. T. O.

Division Boxing Team, 1943
Greensboro Golden Gloves Outstanding Boxer, 1943

Division Boxing Coaches
THE prime purpose of a history is to record the people, the events, and the spirit of the years through which the Division existed. It is quite important, then, that a portion of the book be devoted to that purpose. This book is appropriately entitled FEATURES — in it we give you various glimpses by words and pictures of "outstanding" events during the years we have spent within the Division.
WINNER of the contest to select the "Sweetheart of the 13th Airborne Division" was Mrs. Lois Campbell O'Connor, wife of Private First Class Harold G. O'Connor, 515th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Mrs. O'Connor is a former Staff Sergeant in the United States Women's Marine Corps, having been honorably discharged in November after serving more than three years. Her home is in El Monte, California.

Second place honors in the contest went to Miss Edythe Hylton, Riverside, California, a cousin of Private Duane Hylton, 515th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Forty-five pictures were entered in the contest, which was under the auspices of The Thirteener, the Division's newspaper.
The Jive Jumpers,
13th Airborne Div. Band

Impromptu Swing
Joigny, France

Band Concert
Auxerre, France

DANCES
and
MUSIC

Camp Mackall Hops
French Troupers

U. S. O.

Marshalling Area Shows

Welcome HOME Committee
A long line of paratroopers of the 517th Parachute Combat Team was plodding through the snow of Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge when a jeep started to creep past the column. Everybody in the line recognized the big spectacled fellow in the front seat.

"Hey, Dave, I'm hunting for a toothbrush," one trooper called.

"Hi yah, Dave, where's our doughnut girls?"

"I need some chewing tobacco."

Big Dave T. de Varona grinned and waved back but the paratroopers knew that if anybody in the American Army could find that toothbrush, chewing tobacco—or even the doughnut girls—Big Dave could and would.

Big Dave, one-time grid star but now Red Cross Field Director for the 517th Combat Team, was something of a battlefield anomaly. The Army wouldn't take him—so he adopted as much of the Army as he could.
GAY

V-E DAY
The Unknown Soldier of France

PAREE!!

SCENES
YONNE VALLEY SCENES
BATTERY E, 153rd AIRBORNE AA BATTALION

Carlen, Robert M., Route 2, Curtis, Neb.
Candle, Eugene L., 2290 Chicago Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
Chase, Norman B., 42 Townshend St., Worcester, Mass.
Cislo, Joseph L., 305 Summit Ave., Middletown, Conn.
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Dullea, John E., Route 1, Kittanning, Pa.
Durrett, John E., Route 1, Ely, Minn.
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Green, Clarence L., Box 52, Wyso, Pa. and War.
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Hill, L. M., Route 2, Parrish, Ala.
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Stewart, Harold K., 211
Sokolowsky, Marvin J., Route 1, Box 291, Arcadia, Fla.
Stroud, Charles A., 335 Williams St., York, Pa.
Tackett, Gordon H., 3121 Washington St., Salt Lake City, Utah
Vample, James J., 579 S. 18th St., Newark, N. J.
Virothin, Peter F., 518 W. 115th St., Cleveland, Ohio
Walker, Stuart C., 220 Madison Ave., Favors, Ohio
Thompson, Robert A., 785 Van Dyke Place, Detroit, Mich.
Treado, Robert H., care Great Northern R. R., Minot, N. Dak.
Treado, Robert H., care Great Northern R. R., Minot, N. Dak.
Trotter, Gordon H., 3210 Washington St., Salt Lake City, Utah
Tubman, Harold, 401 N. Oxford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 326TH GLIDER INFANTRY

Jones, Jack, 1213 Buceron St., Vincennes, Ind.
Law, Eugenie, 224 Washington Ave., Neenah, Wis.
Ridge, John F., 160 N. 15th St., Dorchester, Mass. 02124
Sall, Robert E., 421 E. Cemetery Street, Salisbury, Md.
Smith, John H., Lima, Ohio.
Sorbian, Joseph, 490 N. Oxford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Trobridge, John, 268 W. Esplanade Ave., Indi.

ANTIC AMPHIBIAN, 326TH GLIDER INFANTRY

Wetsch, Donald W., 508 Monroe St., Trenton, Ohio
Wilson, John H., 1325 Cuyahoga Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
Williams, Clyde E., 192 Reed St., Fulton, Ky.
Williams, William S., 2414 Maypole Drive, St. Louis, Mo.
Yao, Richard A., 20 N. Thoy St., Kansas City, Mo.
Zemelnsky, Nathan, 264 N. 37th Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

Kern, Max V., 129 N. Columbus Ave., Lancaster, Pa.
Levine, George D., Jr., 55 West 11th St., New York, N. Y.
Levett, Chester M., Puckett, Miss.
Lowery, Oscar K., Box 221, Manassas, Col.
Ludwig, Junior E., Pocatello, Idaho.
Lund, John E., 365 S. 9th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
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Earthquake, 326th Glider Infantry.

Kern, Max V., 129 N. Columbus Ave., Lancaster, Pa.
Levine, George D., Jr., 55 West 11th St., New York, N. Y.
Levett, Chester M., Puckett, Miss.
Lowery, Oscar K., Box 221, Manassas, Col.
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COMPANY D, 26th GLIDER INFANTRY

Barnett, James W., Route 8, Box 555, Kannapolis, N. C.
Beelman, Howard L., Delano, Calif.
Bennett, C. H., 731 Locust St., New York, N. Y.
Bourjaily, Frank, 728 11th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
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Ota, Donald W., 2130 W. 87th St., Chicago, Ill.
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Stephenson, W. A., 2240 W. 87th St., Chicago, Ill.
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Thoresen, James, 2240 W. 87th St., Chicago, Ill.
Tremmel, Joseph, 2240 W. 87th St., Chicago, Ill.
Wormley, John C., 2240 W. 87th St., Chicago, Ill.
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Gronda, Dawson
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Evon, Eli
Goodrich, Bernard E., 1429 Sheridan
Petryna, Kelch, Hatch, Arthur F., 1234 Lake
White, Beno, Thomas
Plouse, Henry, 2543 Burling
Miller, Sweet, Stacy, Irvin, Raymond, Irwin, Balich, Jack M., 3138 Emmons
BellchT, Ted, Hatcher
Dunmire, George R., 6623 Roosevelt Ave.
Wilson, Robert G., Palo Pinto, Texas.
Collins, Chaney, Mielke, George E., 542 2nd Ill.
Ill.
Mich.
Ill.
Md.
Wash.
Jack, 2665 Wiley St., D.
John I., Jr. , Alfred J., Billie E., 1213 Fannin Ill.
Ill.
Ohio St., Chicago, N. 4th St., Chicago, Chicago, Chicago, N. 4th St., Chicago, Chicago, 702 825 N.
27 Maxloe W., 740 W. D., J., 2762 W., 14800 Box A., 3237 413 N.
25406 Stanford Roger Ave., Gurnee, Ill.
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Capt. Lister, New Haven, Conn., N. Y.
Capt. Russell, Colorado
Capt. Mahaffey, Waco, Tex.
Capt. Donaldson, Chicago, Ill.
Capt. Gilchrist, Cincinnati, Ohio
Capt. O'Neal, New Orleans, La.
Capt. Brown, St. Louis, Mo.
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Capt. Smith, Fort Worth, Tex.
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Capt. Fisk, New York, N. Y.
Capt. Cochrane, Washington, D. C.
Capt. Paton, Boston, Mass.
Capt. Stover, St. Louis, Mo.
Capt. Munday, San Antonio, Tex.
Capt. Doherty, Chicago, Ill.
Capt. Ewing, New York, N. Y.
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Butcher, Raymond M., Rt. 1, Chilhowee, Mo.
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Hobart, 555 S. Broad St., Scranton, Pa.
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Marks, Robert F., West Parrish Rd., Westport, Conn.
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Stevens, James C., New York City.
Buckley, A., 3200 Delridge Parkway, S.W., Seattle, Wash.
Saville, Peter, 1545 S. Detroit St., Detroit, Mich.
Heles, Patrick F., Admiral Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.
Gabriel, Donald L., Pensacola, Fla.
Stewart, Harold A., 411 N. Pavilion St., Scranton, Pa.
Johnson, Neil H., Rt. 1, Miami, Tex.
Kleier, William H., 3429 Vetter Ave., Louisville, Ky.
Knecht, John J., 179 Franklin St., Providence, R.I.
Krause, Raymond E., Westwood, N.J.
Kuhl, Harry J., 901 Broad St., Coaldale, Pa.
Landrum, Roland, 1416 N. 230th St., Seattle, Wash.
LaTorre, Lewis E., Oklahoma City, Okla.
Leeds, Seigel, Colton, Calif.
Leder, H. B., 70th St., New York City.
Lohier, William A., New York City.
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"V-J DAY 2 Sept. 1945"

Survivors of burning HMS Argus Hill rescued Aug. 7, 1945 by Montclair Victory with 13th ABN Div Ax Detachment aboard

Division arrived 23 Aug 1945

President Truman aboard USS Augusta enroute Potsdam to Washington greeted 13th ABN Div Ax Detachment aboard Montclair Victory Aug 3, 1945

Division reassembles at Ft. Bragg Oct 1945