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"On target": an informal account of the moonlight-cavalry

United States Army

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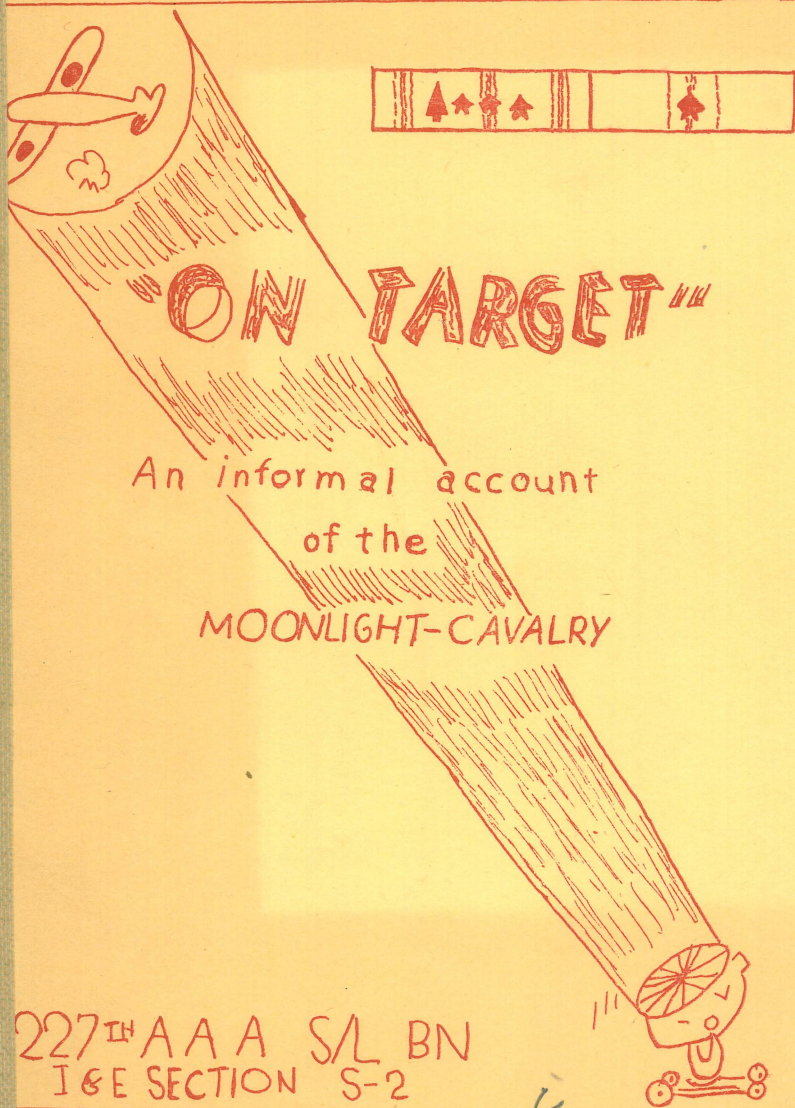
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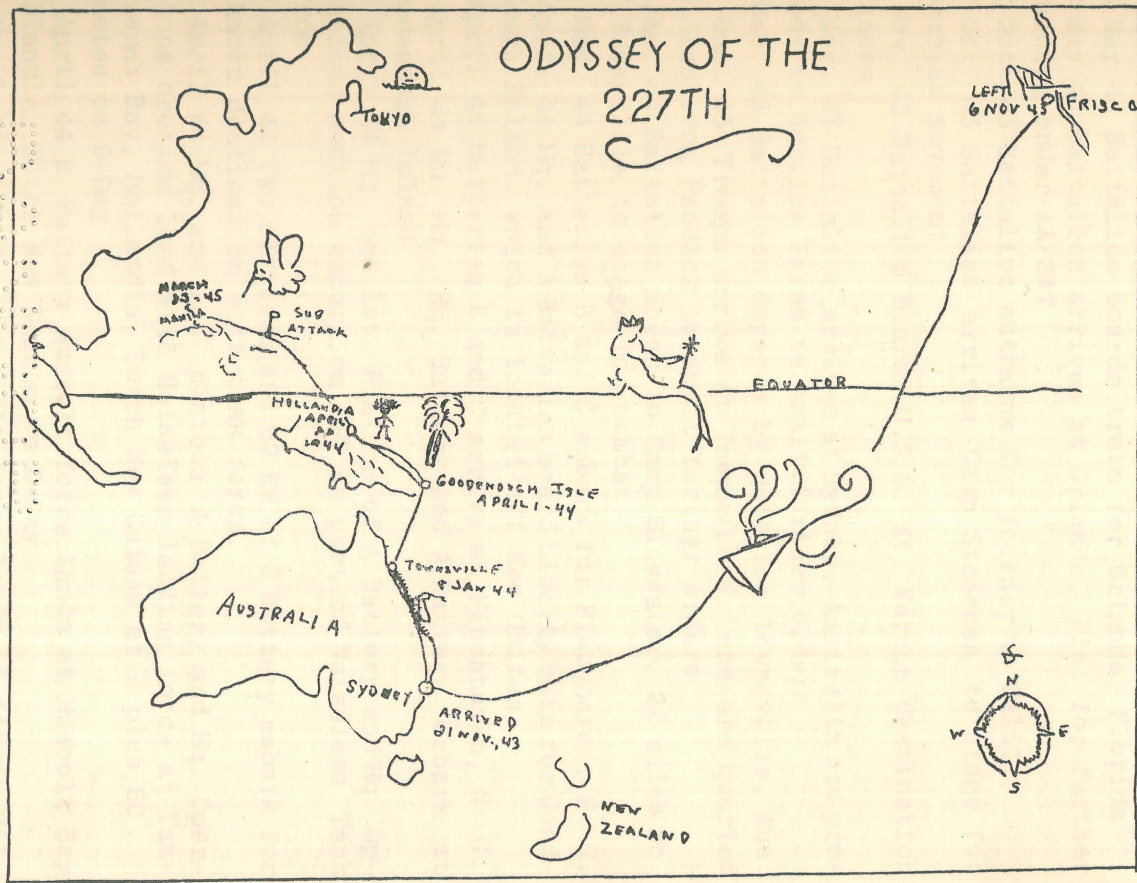
U.S. Army. 227th Anti-
aircraft Artillery
Searchlight Battalion

On Target



227TH AAA S/L BN
I & E SECTION S-2

ODYSSEY OF THE 227TH



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Battalion Log

- 20 March 43 The 227th AAA S/L Bn. is activated at Fort Bliss, Texas.
- 22 May 43 Battalion boards train for Orlando, Florida
- 27 May 43 Battalion arrives at Orlando, Fla. for further training under AAFSAT
- 22 Oct. 43 Battalion entrains for journey to Calif.
- 27 Oct. 43 Battalion arrives Camp Stoneman to stage for overseas movement
- 5 Nov. 43 Battallicn boards U.S.S. Mt. Vernon destination unknown
- 21 Nov. 43 Battalion arrives at Sydney, Australia and proceeds to Warwick Farms to await further orders
- 8 Dec. 43 Battalion departs by rail for Townsville, Aus.
- 11 Dec. 43 Troops arrive at Townsville, and are quarted in Armstrong Paddock to await further orders
- 8 Jan. 44 Battalion moves to Camp Bluewater, 22 miles No. of Townsville to stage for combat
- 28 Mar. 44 Batteries B and C embark for Finchhaven, N. G.
- 1 April 44 Hq. and A Batteries board Liberty ship for Good-enough Island, which is located off New Guinea
- 3 April 44 Batteries B and C arrive at Finchhaven, N. G.
- 5 April 44 Bn. Hq., Hq. Battery and A Battery debark at Goodenough Island
- 15 April 44 Hq. and 1st, Platoon of A Battery and Hq. Operations section embark on LST as part of Noiseless Task Force
- 18 April 44 Two officers and 62 EM of C Battery embark for unknown destination with task force.
- 22 April 44 Hq. and 1st. platoon A Battery and Hq. Operations section land with Noiseless landing force at Tanahmerah Bay, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea at H plus 60 minutes on D-Day
- 22 April 44 B Battery assault force lands at Humbolt Bay Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea on D-Day
- 22 April 44 C Battery assualt force lands at Aitape Village, Aitape New Guinea
- 22 April 44 Pfc. Douglas Allred killed as a result of an accident

Battalion Log

23 April 44 A Battery's 2nd. Platoon arrives at Humboldt Bay

23 April 44 Pvt. Robert L. Bedar, Battery C is killed by a .50 Cal. machine gun of unknown origin

24 April 44 Pfc. Richard C. Murphy, Battery A drowns at White Beach 3, Humboldt Bay, Hollandia, while rescuing another soldier who was exhausted

4 May 44 Hq. and Hq. Battery debark from Goodenough Isle on LST

13 May 44 Hq. and Hq. Battery arrive at Hollandia Drome

10 Dec. 44 C Battery assault force boards ship destination unknown

7 Jan 45 C Battery assault force arrives at Tarragona, Leyte Island, P. I.

25 Jan 45 C Battery boards USS Algal for Zambales, Province Luzon, P. I.

19 March 45 Hq. and A Batteries embark on LST for Luzon, P. I.

22 March 45 Dropped anchor at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, P. I.

23 April 45 Two A Battery light sections, complete with equipment, depart in 3 C-47's and 1 C-46 for Laoag, Northern Luzon for operation as beacon lights for the 68th Fighter Wing

3 May 45 A and C Batteries send light sections to Bocaue and vicinity to furnish battlefield illumination for the 43rd. and 38th Divisions in their fight for WaWa and Ipo Dams

7 June 45 Battalion Hq. moved to AAA Rehabilitation Center at Luna, La Union, Luzon

3 July 45 B Battery arrives at Leyte, P. I.

2 Sept. 45 V-J Day



A Letter To Joe

DATE, SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE

Dear Joe,

You're probably wondering what we did in the war to rate all of campaign stars, and other decorations we've received. Well read what we did and decide for yourself. To begin with, the old 227th. got its name on 20th. January 1943 down at hot and cold Fort Bliss, Texas. The thing which impressed Ft. Bliss indelibly on one's mind was the nearby desert. We bivouaced right in the middle of it and got our first rigid training, even crawling under barbed wire while a 50 cal. kept firing bullets 6 inches over your head, but the worst thing of all was the constant association of sand in your hair, mouth and soup. And it was here we learned how to take a bath in a helmet. (It can be done, believe me.) For a real shower, one had to wait about two weeks, until he got back to camp. In May 1943. we left the desert heat and dust that was Ft. Bliss for the sunny, (get that mosquito) Florida and we landed at the inland city of Orlando. The only way I can describe that city, is to say it was the first time I ever saw pavements surrounded by orange trees. But we didn't come to Orlando for orange juice. We were quartered at the Army Air Force's School of Applied Tactics to learn how to push a marker across a "plotting board" from radar data sent in from outlying sections. After we finally found which square meant what we would transmit this information to the fighter command and to our searchlights who would then cooperate in stopping the enemy, we hoped. It was a funny set-up down at Orlando. We moved from town to town so fast that we thought we were on a merry-go-round, and we didn't get any brass rings either. Living quarters were set up adjacent to Eustis, Clermont, and Winter Garden. We were supposed to be learning night-fighter tactics, but the only fighter tactics we applied were to dive bombing mosquitos, who usually managed to penetrate our feeble defenses. But the honeymoon was over. We packed our equipment and on 22 Oct. loaded aboard a train that took us from Orlando to the golden state of California a five day trip. Sleeping accommodations weren't bad. That is, if your sleeping partner in the lower bunk didn't suffer from halitosis or St. Vitus Dance. The lucky boys were the ones who drew an upper berth. They had it all to themselves, all 6 cubic feet of it. Finally on 27 October the train pulled in at Camp Stoneman, a port of embarkation. Confusion reigned here, and I do mean confusion. But the army seemed to have a little method in all this madness. and we managed to get duly processed. We managed to receive excellent medical examinations before getting on the boat. This is the way it worked. We lined up, clothed in our best epidermus and went from doctor to doctor, like an assembly belt, each of whom would lay his clammy hand on our skin. If the skin was warm we were in. On November 6th., an officer, whose voice was tensed with excitement informed the Battalion that "this was it."

We were hustled aboard a Mississippi- style paddlewheeler and headed down the river towards the awaiting ship, the USS Mt. Vernon.

If you've ever seen movies in which crowds cheered, and bands played as the troops boarded ship, then the 227th. never went over, for we were literally shoved aboard at midnight with nobody there but a few bored sailors. As we struggled to the top of the gangplank, lugging on our backs practically everything, we were greeted by the ships officers who asked us, in a pleasing tone of voice, to select a bunk and get in it with our barracks bag, or else they would be forced to break our backs.

It was pretty comfortable in those bunks except that the man on top of you was usually no more than two inches from your nose and when he turned over. need I say more? The Mt. Vernon was a fast ship and made good time. When we crossed the International Date Line, we skipped Wednesday. So the gag that went around the ship the remainder of the trip was, "What happened to Wednesday?"

We landed at Sydney, Australia, on November 21st. and the greatest sport then was throwing cigarettes on the dock and watching the Aussies scramble for them, but pretty soon we scrambled for cigs. At Warwick Farms Reception Center, extra blankets were issued in order to combat the coldness of the Australian night, and brother they were cold. We had a good time in Sydney, making the most of it before shoving off for the jungles. The biggest trouble was their money. For awhile we were never quite sure whether we were getting gyped or not, but leave it to the guys in the 227th. to find out soon enough what the score was. They became so proficient that, soon after, one could hear all over the camp, "Shoot a Pound" On Dec. 8, the big adventure began. We were herded aboard a train that looked like it helped to shift troops during the battle of Richmond. It was hot and dirty with hardback chairs that would accomodate only half of the men in the coach.

When you slept, it was on the floor. It's needless to add that sleeping with someone's feet in your face is not conducive to an Ovaltine night of rest. The train roared through the night, blowing its whistle and rattling the rails at a good ten miles per hour, finally arriving at Townsville on Dec. 11. Townsville is the only town I've ever seen that could be smelled before it could be seen. There was a terrible aroma emanating from the stores, especially the ones that sold leather goods. And in the restaurants of Townsville, you literally got flies in your soup, sanitation seems to have been unheard of in that place. It's strange, now that I think about it, that the 227th would usually end up in places with names that usually connoted the presence of horses. The place we were quartered was called "Armstrong Paddock." On Jan. 8 1944 the Battalion moved to Camp Bluewater and set up a staging area. The camp derived its name from the fact that a stream of water ran beside the camp. It was a pretty body of water, the only trouble being that we couldn't swim in it for the parasites seemed to be holding family reunions there. A training program for jungle warfare was started. Men were sent with Aussie instructors to learn to live off the land. They must have gone thru hell, for they claimed after returning, that even C-rations tasted good. Towards the end of March, tension began to mount, we knew that a big push was about to start and that we were supposed to take an important part in it. Finally the sands in the hour glass ran out and on the night of March 30, 1944, Lt. Col. John W. Squire, our C.O. then, mounted the stage and announced to a completely hushed audience that, the outfit was alerted.

Well the training and the fun was over. We were going to be given the opportunity of finding out if we had learned our lessons well. The only trouble was that this time you couldn't take the course over if you flunked. April 1st saw the old 227th. being split up by tactics of war when Hq. and A Btries were ordered to Finschafen, New Guinea. The big push was on, and we were ready. Battery B arrived at Finch on April 3rd. and made preparations for embarkation as part of Letterpress Landing Force, Reckless Task Force. At Finschafen B Btry. was attached to the 41st. Infantry Division. On April 17th., B Btry. men embarked on the Task Force headed for Hollandia. D-Day April 22. the men landed at White Beach and proceeded to set up positions on both ends of the beach. It was almost nightfall before the place had been cleared enough to let their heavy equipment through which left them almost helpless. That same evening at 1940 hours, a Jap plane sneaked into the area and bombed White beach 1. The holocaust resulting from the few bombs dropped was beyond imagination, and the results of it was felt for weeks to come, like going on half rations and putting up with shortages in various other items. On July 19 1945, B Btry moved to Taragona, Leyte, Philippines where they began to stage for the coming invasion of Japan, but the war ended and any further movement was unnecessary. In the meantime, switching back to Hq. and A Btries down at Goodenough Island, we found that our main sport about this time was watching natives scramble up coconut trees and shaking the clusters loose. We also began to find out what and how jungle juice was made. The brand we used at this time was simple to make, just the addition of a bit of sugar to coconut milk and let it ferment awhile. The results would be the champagne of the jungle, "Jungle Juice." The stuff was rather potent, usually knocking you down and then stomping on you. We had our first taste of jungle hammocks at this time, too. I remember them all too well. They were guaranteed to be waterproof and to give a good night's sleep. Well, they were waterproof until it rained, and as for affording one a good night's sleep, they did if the tree didn't break or the hammock didn't swing around like a top. Getting in was like mounting a horse, and once in, you didn't dare turn over or the whole hammock might shift with you. It's difficult to put into words the excitement that prevails at a staging area. You hear all kinds of rumors and get all kinds of wild ideas in your head. And Tokyo Rose didn't help our ease of mind any. She kept stressing over the radio between nostalgic dance records that the Jap High Command knew where we were going to land, and that they were preparing a warm reception for us. What added fuel to the fire was a persistent rumor that there was a hidden Jap station in the Mts. which was constantly relaying information about our movements to Tokyo and that infantry patrols were unable to locate the Jap radio. So just imagine how we felt, getting ready to invade a place and believing that the Japs knew where we were going to hit. We were assigned to Noiseless Landing Force on 5 April 1944, and on the 6th. Hq. and A Btry men got ready to board the LST's. As we approached and got a good look at one of these invasion monsters, a lump went up in our throats. After all these were the machines that would take us to the center of war and perhaps to death itself. We laid around the ship a few days, killing time listening to more

rumor, and I imagined some of us even managed to pray a little. There is no adequate word to describe how congested an LST can become. The only way I can describe it to you is just imagine, if you can, New Year's Eve in Times Square with General Sherman Tanks trying to squeeze in. Ironically enough a practice landing was made on an isolated beach of New Guinea on April 9th. Easter Sunday, a day dedicated to the apostle of peace. After this tactful exercise, we had a little better idea of what we had to do, only we didn't think that we would be quite as calm about it. The assault force set sail on April 15th. Our days were numbered so to speak, and the tightening of our stomachs and lumps in our throats didn't let us forget it either. As we lost sight of the coast of Guinea, the convoy formed into battle formation. Every which way you turned, you would see warships, and needless to say it was a very reassuring sight. Then early one morning, a startling sight appeared to our eyes when we awoke. During the night we had rendezvoused with the second half of the task force off the Admiralty Islands. Now an impressive array of over 140 ships was heading for destination unknown. The night was April 21st. Night before D-Day, the day we had all been working for, the day we wanted to see and yet dreaded to. You're probably wondering what we thought or said. Well to tell the truth, very little was said, but much was felt. We were awakened at 3 AM, that is, the ones who slept, and there weren't many, so we could go thru companionways, lighted by only a dull red bulb, to the mess hall to get a cup of coffee and a Spam sandwich. The condemned ate heartily. The morning was heavily overcast, and try, as we might, we could not see anything. At 6 AM, it began, the Navy opened up with their guns, and if it wasn't so grim, it would have been like a 4th. of July show. Navy guns literally poured out red tracers that made a gentle arc in the sky and then crashed against the beaches. The air arm wasn't idle either. They kept shuttling back and forth, dropping their eggs of death. Then the signal flags went up. The LSTs swung around into line and started cutting thru the bay, heading for the beach. On the bow of our LST, church services were conducted until the bow slid right on the beach. Those Chaplains were okay. Thus A and Hq. men landed with Noiseless Landing Force on Red Beach 2 at Tanahmerah Bay, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea at H-Hour plus 60, which was only one hour after the infantry charged in. For this action, we were awarded the Bronze Arrowhead. It was a miserable day, gloomy and drizzly, Red, oozy mud was everywhere, and when the men started digging their foxholes a short distance up the mountain they found that fingers were sometimes more effective than trench shovels for the red clay sticking like glue, refused to leave the shovel. There was no water. We had to rely on swamp water mixed with halazone tablets. It tasted like the devil's own brew, but it wet the throat and that's what counted. Due to continuous raining the foxholes had filled with water. Needless to say very few slept that night, and the ones who did clutched bolo knives in their hands, for our orders were not to fire, but to fight with our knives, to avoid hitting friendly troops. Meanwhile A and B Btry. men were having their troubles, when a Jap bomber sneaked in at night and made a direct hit on an ammo dump which was located on Pancake Hill. They had an uncomfortable time of it for awhile with shells flying every which

way, After things had quieted down a bit, we set up the old plotting board on top of a hill overlooking Hollandia Drome. We had a few sporadic raids but they didn't hurt us in any way. To kill time that was beginning to pile up on our hands now Hq., A and B Btries built a clubhouse and invited the newly arrived WACs to attend dances there. A lot of fun was had by all but, nothing could make you forget for one moment that you were still living in the jungles. During the Hollandia operations, lights were used extensively for homing aircraft at night and for direct illumination in rescue work, both on Lake Sentani and Cyclops Mt. On Cyclops Mt. lights were focused on the trails to allow a patrol of Hq. men to go up at night and rescue the occupants of a crashed P-61. For this action the patrol was awarded the Soldier's Medal. C Btry men landed at Aitape, New Guinea on April 22nd. at the same time Hq., A and B Btry men were hitting the beaches at Hollandia. After things got settled, C Btry pulled a fast one on the Japs by placing searchlights on PT Boats. The men who operated the lights had plenty of action out of this deal as they went tearing in and out of Wewak Harbor, New Guinea, because the Japs had the majority of their troops concentrated there. The lights would open up on the beaches and roads surrounding the harbor, then, the Navy men would start peppering away with 50's and 20's against any targets caught in the roving beam. But on the other hand, the Japs found the lights a very tempting target and didn't hesitate for a moment to get some target practice. But all in all, it proved to be a very successful innovation in searchlight tactics. On 6 Jan. 1945, C Btry men went to Leyte and staged there for the Battle of Luzon. The Japs were still very much kicking on Leyte then and they had a few close calls. Jan. 29 saw C Btry landing at Subic Bay, Luzon, P. I. The objective here was to set up lights on San Marcialino Airstrip for both air and ground defense. On the following night the Japs bombed the Strip, but none of C Btrys men were hurt. At this time, C Btry also installed lights on Corregidor, the idea being to prevent any Japs from sneaking into the harbor at night. But they had to move after a few days, for the Jap bodies were lying all over the Rock, and so the place was declared to be unhealthy for troops to be stationed there. On 16 Feb. 1945, Hq. and A Btries were alerted for movement. We got on board the old LST again and headed for Luzon, but where on Luzon, we didn't know. This proved to be the most exciting voyage that we ever experienced. While we were edging in and out of the islands around Leyte, a Jap sub surfaced and presumably got off a radio message disclosing our location. It got away by submerging immediately and it confirmed its presence further by shooting a few torpedoes at the convoy, all missing luckily. We stopped at Subic Bay, Luzon, received further orders and then shoved off again. But the biggest excitement was yet to come. We dropped anchor at Lingayen Gulf on 22 March and prepared to spend the night. Around 8 PM that night as we were watching a movie titled Spitfire, Jap bombers came over and started bombing the beach, hitting an ammo dump and setting off explosives. It certainly was a strange coincidence that as we were watching a war picture, we should get a taste of the real thing without benefit of film. When the sailors and our men on the ship spotted the bomb explosions, some of them got panicky and fell off the rigging while others start-

ed running in all directions and yelling at the same time. The rest of us tried to get out of their way, but it was impossible, and a nice traffic jam resulted. The sailors threw smoke pots into the water to cover the ship, but did not open fire from the LST for fear of disclosing our position to the Jap. Luckily, the enemy was more interested in the beach installations than in us, and we came thru unscathed. On the 23rd. of March, the outfit debarked at San Fabian and was attached to the 119th AAA Group. San Fabian gave us our first opportunity to observe the Filipino at close quarters, and the way we first met them was sure in the best Keystone comedy manner. You see, we landed at nite and bivouaced in a large open field adjacent to the town. We saw no Filipino during all this time, but when we opened our eyes in the morning, who should be standing over us but Filipino women asking us if we had any laundry. To say that we were surprised is putting it mildly. It was at this time that we became acquainted with the Filipino expression "Veetory Joe, got a cigarette" Every time they saw us, they would shout this phrase at us, at the same time forming a V with their fingers in the approved Churchill manner. On the 28th of March we moved up to San Fernando, La Union, to take up defense positions. By the way, in this move, the advance echelon of Hq. Btry was the first American troops in this battered town, taking over from the Filipino Guerillas. We had to clear the camp area of Jap dead. They were gruesome sights, all in advance stages of deterioration, and what a stink they made. However, we finally managed to bury them all. This new camp area used to be a Hq. of the Japs, so we had to be extra careful of booby traps and other tricks that they may have planned for us. We found hand grenades in stumps of trees, and there were Jap mortar shell lying all over the area. It was ticklish business cleaning them all out. Besides all this, thick clusters of flies were everywhere, and it took us several weeks to cut the amount of flies down to a point where they were just annoying instead of trying to fight you for your own rations. In San Fernando, the S-2 section in conjunction with other personnel from the Btry, made a reconnaissance of town and found valuable maps, which gave anchorage depths around Japan plus documents which pointed the finger of guilt towards many Filipino collaborators. On 23rd. March, the 227th. became the first Searchlight outfit to transfer lights by Air. This was accomplished by 3 C-47's and 1 C-46. The lights were flown up to Laoag, there to act as beacon lights. This was a real feather in the cap of the 227th. May 4th saw four light section from A Btry ordered to Bocaue, Bulacan, Province, Luzon, there to give battle-field illumination to the 43rd. Infantry Division, which was after Ipo Dam. This was an important objective for it controlled the water supply for Manila. As far as we know, this was the first time in the Pacific that a searchlight outfit was given the assignment of lighting up a battlefield. This tactic was relatively untried, except in Europe, and giving us the assignment of being the first outfit to try it in the Pacific was a distinct honor. (The operation proved so successful that "Yank" Magazine wrote an article on it.) Twelve lights were put in action which provided illumination in areas where the heaviest concentration of friendly troops were located and on May 13th., one platoon of C Btry reinforced A Btry with an additional six lights. All reports indicated that these lights were a definite aid to the infantry in spite

of the fact that there were only scattered clouds to reflect the light downward, helping to prevent Banzai attacks, infiltration at nite, and even helping one U. S. Infantry Battalion to pull out at nite from an untenable position. On the 24th of May one section of C Btry left Subic Bay for Marikina, Rizal to give the 38th, nicknamed the Cyclone Division, a hand in the fight for WaWa Dam in the hills east of Manila. This dam in conjunction with Ipo Dam was the key to the whole Manila watershed and consequently a very important objective. Thru all these actions we suffered no casualties, but we helped many of the enemy to join their honorable ancestors. We were directly accredited with 111 Japs and Formosans killed captured or wounded. On June 7 the rest of the unit moved up to the AAA Rehabilitation Center, located at Luna, La Union. It was a combination rest camp and staging area for the then impending invasion of Japan, in which the 227th. was going to play a major role but the ending of the war while we were at Luna put an end to all that. In summing up this tale of the 227th. it is fairly apparent to all that our Battalion had a horseshoe around its neck from it's very inception. We suffered very light casualties in proportion to the amount of action we engaged in. We were credited with several "firsts" in searchlight warfare and had many commendations from the "High Brass." All in all, I think we were a pretty damn successful outfit and any member of our Battalion can hold his head as high as the next one knowing that his organization did its share to bring a successful conclusion to the war against Japan. Well Joe, that's all there is, hope you enjoyed it.

Ack-Ack Joins the "Infantry"

From 'YANK'

(With the Sixth Army in the Phillipines) The sun sank behind the mountains to the west and the magnificent sunset faded to darkness. A slow, misty drizzle began to fall. Two 43rd. Division machine gunners, Pvt. Richard Smith of Maricopa, Cal., and Pfc. Elmer Shelby of Denison, Texas, sat in a hole scratched on top of Chalk Hill near Ipo Dam in the Manila watershed area and prepared for another tough nite when they wouldn't be able to see anything including Japs-a foot away from their faces, another sleepless nite when they might expect a Jap grenade in their foxhole at any minute, when they couldn't budge from their hole for a second for fear that if a Jap didn't shoot them. one of their own buddies might in the darkness. But then something happened--and there was light. The two gunners looked at each other in amazement, and then looked around. Somewhere behind them searchlights were clicking on, one after the other, until there were 16 of them in a semi-circle behind the 43rd. Division perimeter, slanting their 800-million candle power beams into the clouds over the battle area. The light from the beams, reflected down from the clouds, flooded the whole front with light as that of a full moon on a cloudless night. That first night the lights came on, Shelby recalled later we didn't sleep much but that was just because we were so excited by it we talked all nite about it. Somebody should have thought of the searchlights a long time ago. We had a lot of trouble with men going off their nuts in the long nites on New Georgia. The lights would have helped there. Now we can tell whether some shape out ahead of us is a Jap or a stump. From that nite until the dam was taken, the 43rd. Div. was supported by the 60 inch searchlights of reinforced Btry A of the 227th. (Moonlight Cavalry) Searchlight Battalion. A 30 man patrol from Easy Company of the 169th. Infantry credited the lights with saving their lives by silhouetting Japs who attempted to trap them in a ravine. The 172nd. Infantry praised it for helping them to repulse nite Banzais comparatively easily. The Field Artillery liked the lights because it made working the guns easier when they could see shells and breach. The men operating the searchlights had never had any practice in this sort of stuff at all. The British used the nite lighting technique, in which they dubbed "Artificial Moonlight" sucessfully in Holland, but against the Japs it was something new. The lights are emplaced several hundred yards apart, are not dug in to amount to anything. Since the lights are set up in a defilade behind a hill, it is hard for artillery to find the correct range. As for nite infiltration, apparently with the countryside lighted up, the Japs have been unable to get thru the Infantry perimeter to get back to the big lights. Fryczynski said the Filipinos should thank them for killing off all the bugs. The light attracts them by the millions. Every morning we clean out ashes inches thick from the bodies of burned bugs.

HEADQUARTERS, 43D INFANTRY DIVISION

A. P. O. #43 c/o Postmaster

San Francisco, California

26 June 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation, Btry A (Reinf.), 227th. AAA Searchlight Bn.

To : Commanding General, 68th. Brigade, A. P. O. #70

1. During the period 3 May, 1945, to date, elements of the 227th. AAA Searchlight Bn., including Btry A and detachment of Btry C, have been attached to this division with the mission of furnishing battlefield illumination.
2. Under the exemplary leadership of Capt. George T. Macklin, Commanding Officer, Btry A, 227th AAA S/L Bn., the officers and men comprising the organization have distinguished themselves in the performance of their duties.
3. Adjusting themselves rapidly to extraordinary techniques and untried procedures. These troops skillfully and aggressively accomplished their mission, overcoming handicaps of limited road conditions, insufficient local security and severe terrain. In addition to furnishing battlefield illumination, the benefits of which are immeasurable, these troops on their own initiative have sought out and destroyed numerous bands of Jap infiltrating our rear areas. The resourcefulness and energy displayed by officers and non-commissioned officers in taking independent action in such cases rather than request assistance has been most gratifying.
4. At all times requests have been met with enthusiastic compliance, even though the complications incident to the mission have been most trying.
5. The undersigned would be pleased to have this commendation conveyed to the officers and men of the subject organization.

/s/ Leonard F. Wing

/t/ LEONARD F. WING

Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

Certified True Copy

Wm. C. Hill

1st. Lt., CAC
ADJUTANT

Battalion Awards

AWARDED SILVER STAR

T/5 Olin J. Hurst	A Battery
T/5 Robert W. Rider	A Battery

AWARDED SOLDIER'S MEDAL

T/Sgt. Raymond H. Bates	Hq. Battery
T/Sgt. Snowden L. Critcher	Hq. Battery
T/4 Carroll B. Frost	Hq. Battery
T/5 Cecil Kirk	Hq. Battery
Pvt. Paul Simmons	Hq. Battery
Pfc. Richard C. Murphy	A Battery

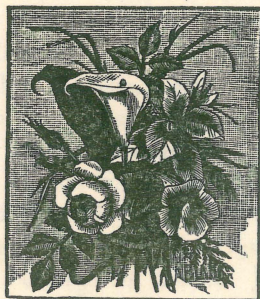
AWARDED BRONZE STAR

Captain George T. Macklin	A Battery
1st. Lt., William A. Davis	A Battery
1st. Lt., Richard S. Wilson	A Battery
1st. Lt., Frances J. Granzani	A Battery
T/Sgt. Ernest J. Wisner	A Battery
T/3 George H. Hoppe	A Battery
Sgt. Willard F. Stone	A Battery
T/4 William P. Casey	A Battery
T/4 Theodore Petersen	A Battery
T/5 Fred J. Matthies	A Battery
T/5 Robert W. Rider	A Battery
T/5 Dale M. Robbins	A Battery
T/5 Glen D. Sagen	A Battery
T/5 Frank J. Schmidt	A Battery
T/5 Albert Fisher	A Battery
Pfc. Robert Ross	A Battery

AWARDED PURPLE HEART

Pfc. Holly E. Gosnell	B Battery
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In Memoriam



Richard C. Murphy

Douglas Allred

Robert L. Becker

Aubrey J. Huffine

Conrad A. Origer

Orville R. Payne

Officers Roster

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Such As Date Of Discharge, Name Of Boat Arrived Home On. Name Of Camp,
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