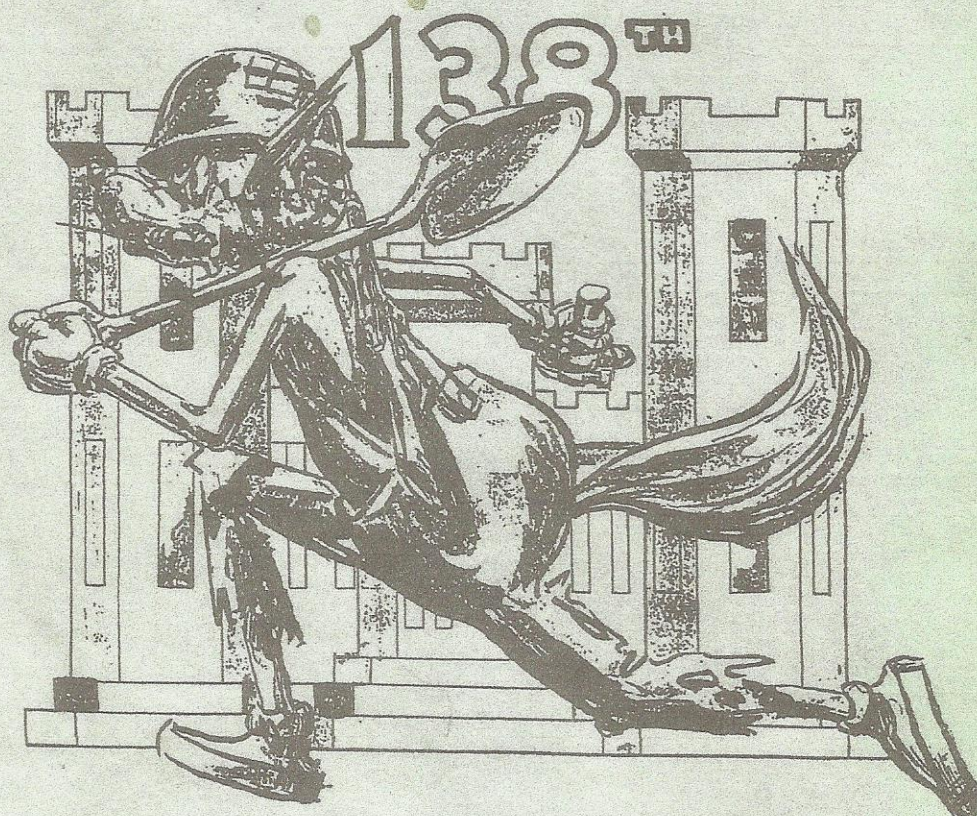


138th ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

A HISTORY

(March 1944 to October 1946)





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(March 1944 to October 1946)

Compiled and published by John W. Hammersmith

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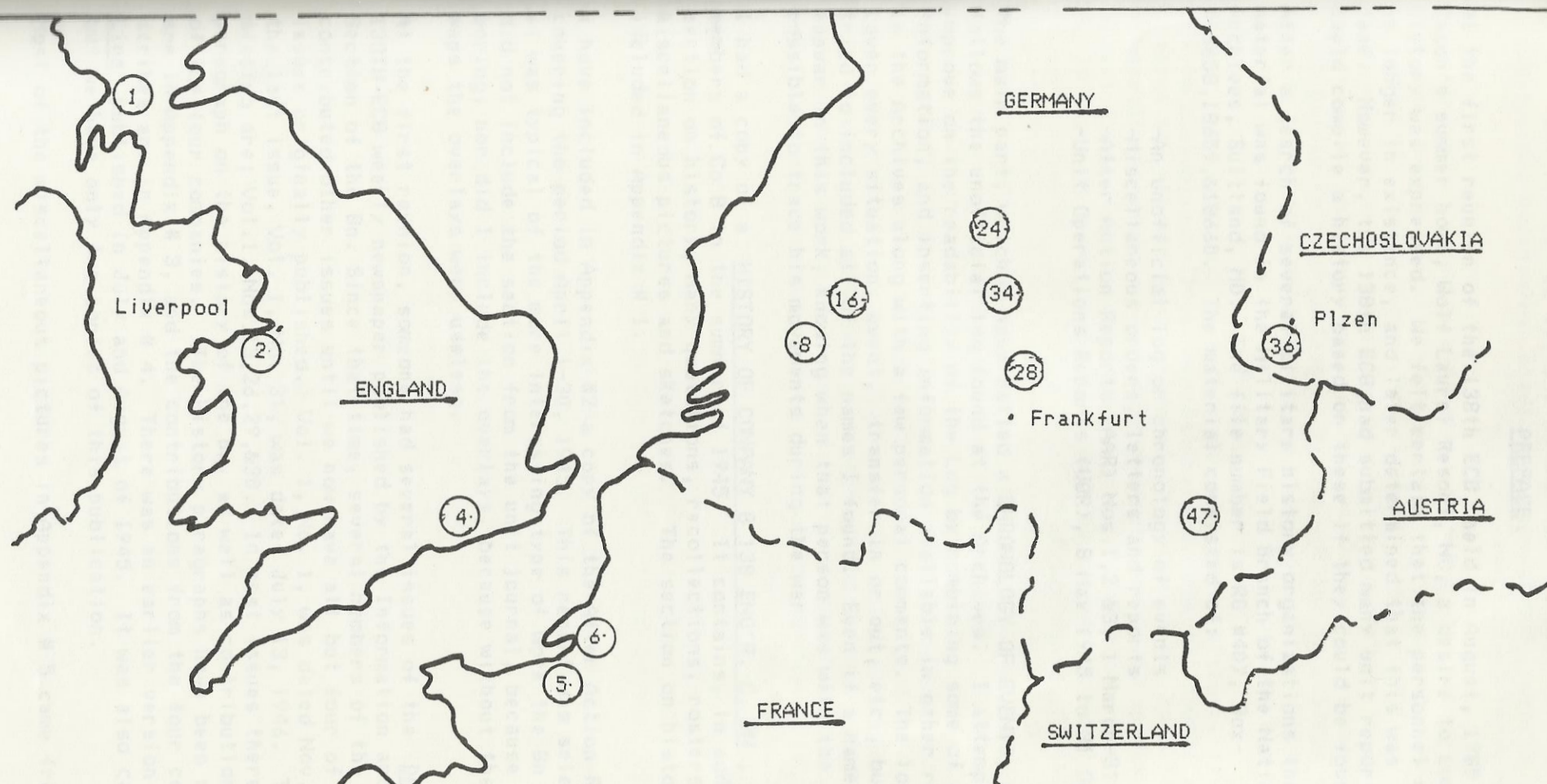




COL.(Ret.) WILLIAM R. PURCELL
First Commanding Officer of the
138th Engineer Combat Battalion
March 1944 - 25 August 1945

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SOME OF THE PLACES THE 138TH ECB LIVED, WORKED, OR PASSED THROUGH--IN THEIR APPROXIMATE ORDER

1-Gourock, Scotland	10-Venlo, Holland	20-Bechum	30-Grossen-Buseck	40-Reit-im-Winkl
2-Wallasey, England	11-Ooijen	21-Buckeburg	31-Allendorf	41-Landsberg
3-Oulton Park	12-Lottum	22-Ricklingen	32-Kastel	42-Murnau
4-Southampton	13-Kevelaer, Germany	23-Kleinenbremen	33-Kirchheim	43-Nesselwang
5-La Havre, France	14-Gelden	24-Hamel	34-Kassel	44-Markt-Oberdorf
6-Camp Twenty Grand, Rouen, France	15-Sonsbeck	25-Wunstorf	35-Marburg	45-Friedberg
7-Maastricht, Holland	16-Vreden	26-Oschersleben	36-Dobruany, Czech.	46-Bad Worishogen
8-Arcen	17-Haaksbergen, Holland	27-Katzenfurt	37-Oberau, Germany	47-Augsburg
9-Walbeck, Germany	18-Gescher, Germany	28-Rodgen	38-Unterwossen	
	19-Kempen	29-Heuchelheim	39-Marquartstein	

PREFACE

At the first reunion of the 138th ECB, held in August, 1985 at Clyde Cason's summer home, Wolf Laurel Resort, NC, a desire to compile a history was expressed. We felt certain that the personnel records were no longer in existence, and later determined that this was in fact the case. However, the 138th ECB had submitted many unit reports, and we could compile a history based on these if they could be found.

After a search of several military history organizations the following material was found in the Military Field Branch of the National Archives, Suitland, MD. The file number is RG #407, Box #18658, 18659, & 18660. The material consisted of:

- An unofficial log or chronology of events
- Miscellaneous orders, letters and reports
- After Action Reports (AAR) Nos. 1, 2 & 3, 1 March-31 May 1945
- Unit Operations Reports (UOR), 8 May 1945 to 31 Oct. 1946

The main part, which I have called a CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, SUMMARY, follows the unofficial log found at the Archives. I attempted to improve on the readability of the Log by combining some of the information, and inserting information available in other reports found in the Archives along with a few personal comments. The log does not cover every situation, event, transfer in or out, etc., but I have tried to include all of the names I found. Even if a name does not appear in this work, knowing when that person was with the Bn makes it possible to trace his movements during the war.

I had a copy of a HISTORY OF COMPANY B 138 ENG'R. C. BN, written by members of Co B in the summer of 1945. It contains, in addition to a section on history, many quotations, recollections, rosters, and miscellaneous pictures and sketches. The section on history has been included in Appendix # 1.

I have included in Appendix #2 a copy of the After Action Report No. 2, covering the period April 1-30, 1945. This report was selected because it was typical of the more interesting type of work the Bn performed. I did not include the section from the unit journal, because it was boring; nor did I include the overlays, because without the correct maps the overlays were useless.

At the first reunion, someone had several issues of the DRAG LINE, a 138TH ECB weekly newspaper published by the Information and Education Section of the Bn. Since that time, several members of the 138th have contributed other issues until we now have all but four of the 31 issues originally published. Vol. 1, No. 1, was dated Nov. 2, 1945 and the last issue, Vol. 1, No. 31, was dated July 13, 1946. The issues missing are; Vol. 1, Nos. 13, 26, 29, & 30. In most issues there was a short paragraph on the history of the Bn, as well as contributions from each of the four companies. The history paragraphs have been retyped and are in Appendix # 3, and the contributions from the four company scribes are in Appendix # 4. There was an earlier version of the Drag Line published in July and August of 1945. It was also called Vol. 1, but we have only two copies of this publication.

Most of the miscellaneous pictures in Appendix # 5 came from the files

in the National Archives, but Ray Rider, Charlie Davis, William Purcell, John Wilkens, Bob Branges and others contributed photographs from their personal collections.

Of course many people have helped me with this endeavor. First my wife. Mary, has encouraged, assisted, searched, typed, guided, and corrected my spelling (I hope I made all the corrections). William Purcell, our first Bn Commander, offered many words of encouragement, advice and guidance. Charlie Davis has been an invaluable help in finding other members of the Bn, and in suggesting ways of making the history more readable. Many others have contributed with words of encouragement and advice.

I have tried to identify the people and places as accurately as possible. If anyone can add to or correct my identification and will let me know, I will try to publish an addendum some time in the future. In the last week or so, I have learned that Charlie Davis has located the two Bn photographers. If those men saved copies of the work they did, my photographs may be sad by comparison to theirs. However, it was too late to change the plan.

Copies may be purchased from me, John W. Hammersmith, 1424 Lark Lane, Naperville, IL 60565. The cost is \$12.00, plus the mailing costs. Unfortunately, at this time I do not know what the mailing costs will be. Either write to me for the exact amount, or include \$2.00 for mailing costs of a single copy, which I believe is a very good estimate. The book is priced at the publication cost. Other costs, which I will call research and development, have been covered by a contribution from William Purcell and by me. I have enjoyed preparing this publication and have considered it a very interesting hobby.

INTRODUCTION

The 138th Engineer Combat Battalion (ECB) was activated at Fort Jackson, SC, 30 March 1944. The unit completed its basic training and sailed from Boston for England on 10 November 1944. Additional training was conducted in England until the end of February 1945 when the unit moved to the continent. The 138th's first assignment was in support of the British Second Army, and later the US Ninth Army, where the 138th remained until the close of hostilities. In June 1945 the 138th ECB was assigned to the troops of the Army of Occupation, and remained in that category until it was deactivated 31 October 1946.

The recorded Commanding Officers of the 138th ECB were:

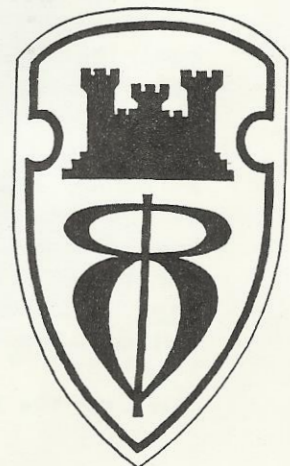
Mar. 1944 to 25 Aug. 1945	Lt.Col. Wm. W.R. Purcell
26 Aug. 1945 to 28 Aug. 1945	Major Newell D. McLean
29 Aug. 1945 to 1 Sep. 1945	Major John W. Hammersmith
2 Sep. 1945 to 7 Sep. 1945	Major Charlie E.A. Morgan
8 Sep. 1945 to 22 Sep. 1945	Major Albert H. Trumbull
23 Sep. 1945 to 3 Mar. 1946	Major Ernest A. Nagy
4 Mar. 1946 to 14 Jun. 1946	Lt.Col. Wm. Rybak
14 Jun. 1946 to 5 Sep. 1946	Major Edmond H. Leavey, Jr.
5 Sep. 1946 to 24 Sep. 1946	Lt.Col. John B. Beckham
24 Sep. 1946 to 31 Oct. 1946	Major Edmond H. Leavey, Jr.

Preceding the activation of the 138th ECB, ten officers attended a Cadre Training course at Ft. Belvoir, VA in February 1944. They were:

Major Wm. W.R. Purcell
Capt. Melven L. Barmettlor
" Robert H. Middleton
" Michael F. Regan
" Wm. Lytle
Lt. Charles J. Mahoney
" Richard A. Reynolds
" G. W. Lewis
" Jack L. Berner
" Michael A. Turilli

ABBREVIATIONS

AAR----	AFTER ACTION REPORT
ASR----	AVERAGE SERVICE RATING
BB-----	BAILEY BRIDGE
BN-----	BATTALION
CAL----	CALIBER
CAPT--	CAPTAIN
CIC----	COUNTER INTELLIGENT COMMAND
CO-----	COMPANY
CP-----	COMMAND POST
DIV----	DIVISION
DP-----	DISPLACED PERSON
ECB----	ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
ECG----	ENGINEER COMBAT GROUP
EGSR--	ENGINEER GEN. SERVICE REGIMENT
EM-----	ENLISTED MEN
ENG'R-	ENGINEER
FT-----	FOOT
FT-----	FORT
GEN---	GENERAL
H/S----	HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE
HOSP--	HOSPITAL
HQ-----	HEADQUARTERS
HR-----	HOURLY
INF----	INFANTRY
LCI----	LANDING CRAFT INFANTRY
LT-----	LIEUTENANT
M&I----	MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT
MI-----	MILE
MTP----	MOBILIZATION TRAINING PROGRAM
OFF----	OFFICER
PFC----	PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
PL-----	PLATOON
PVT----	PRIVATE
PW-----	PRISONER OF WAR
QM-----	QUARTER MASTER
REF----	REFERENCE
REGT--	REGIMENT
SGT----	SARGENT
TEC----	TECHNICIAN
UOR----	UNIT OPERATIONS REPORT
VOL----	VOLUME
WO-----	WARRANT OFFICER



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, SUMMARY

Fort Jackson and other U.S. Stations

The 138th Engineer Combat Battalion (ECB) was activated 0001 hours, 30 March 1944 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Major William W.R. Purcell in command, with a cadre of 11 officers (Off) and 63 enlisted men (EM). The Bn was assigned to the IX Corps, Second Army, and attached to the 1148th Engineer Combat Group (ECG), Group CO, Col. Ellsworth I. Davis.

The month of April was spent in the North Camp of Ft. Jackson, receiving and processing new officers and enlisted men from the 1148th ECG and the 100th Inf. Div., Ft. Bragg, SC. By the end of the month the Bn strength was; 155 EM, 23 Off & 1 Warrant Officer (WO), and the Bn had moved back to the main part of the Fort.

During May many additional men were added to the Bn. Some of these came from Reception Centers at Ft. Sill, OK, the 106th Inf. Div., Camp Atterbury, IN, and the 87th Inf. Div., Ft. Jackson, SC. The Medical Detachment was activated, and basic training (Mobilization Training Program) started May 22 with 438 EM. By the end of the month the Bn strength was; 639 EM, 25 Off. and 2 WO, and the Bn completed it's first 7 mi. road march in 2 hours.

Basic training continued throughout June with an air show by the 87th Inf. Div. and Columbia Air Base, another 7 mi. road march, and a bivouac at the rifle range. 582 men qualified with the Cal. 30 M-1 rifle, 117 as expert, 226 as sharpshooter, and 239 as marksmen. By the end of July the Bn strength was, 620 EM, 20 Off. and 3 WO.

Basic training was completed in August, and the Bn passed the MTP tests satisfactorily. On 27 August 1944 the Bn departed Ft. Jackson to 2 weeks temporary duty with the Second Army Mine School at Camp Forrest, TN. The Bn traveled by motor convoy and stopped overnight at Athens and Dalton, GA. arriving at Camp Forrest on 29 Aug. 1944.

On 3 Sept. 1944 the Bn received class A-4C-1 priority and tentative selection for overseas service. After completing the mine field demonstrations at the school, the Bn returned to Ft. Jackson via the same route, arriving Ft. Jackson on 12 Sept. 1944.

On 16 Sept. the Bn received an alert for movement overseas, with a readiness date of 20 Oct. 1944. After completing final physical exams, furloughs, etc. Co A & B departed Ft. Jackson on 25 Oct. 1944 at 1000 hours (hrs) followed by Co C, H/S Co & HQ at 1200 hrs. Both trains joined in Washington, DC and arrived at the staging area, Camp Miles Standish, Boston, MA on the same day.

After orientation lectures on safeguarding military information, final showdown inspections and the processing of the unit, the Bn boarded the ship, Nieuw Amsterdam, and sailed from the Boston Port of Embarkation on 10 Nov. 1944 at 1900 hrs.

England

While the Bn was at sea, 11-17 Nov. 1944, Lt. Col. Purcell was placed in charge of the troops in the forward part of the ship. The Nieuw Amsterdam dropped anchor on 17 Nov. 1944 at 1830 in the Firth of Clyde

off Gourock, Scotland. After the Bn disembarked they traveled by train to Wallasey, England, where they were quartered in the Grove Hotel.

In Wallasey the Bn received orientation talks on the peoples of England, their customs and phraseology, the relationship between the local authorities and members of the Army, went on hikes, and spent three days in Halton, England training with the floating Bailey Bridge(BB).

On 9 Dec. 1944 the Bn was transferred from Wallasey to Oulton Park Camp, England, and to the XXI Corps, Attached to the 1132nd ECG, Group CO, Col. Frank Forney. On 13 Dec. 54 EM, including carpenters, bricklayer, plumbers, and plasterers, left the Bn for detached service with the 1274th ECB to help repair bomb damage in London. Co A,B, & C completed the required training on the BB on Christmas Eve.

In January 250 Pvs. and PFCs took part in 2 weeks of infantry training conducted by members of the 69th Inf.Div. This training was the result of the shortage of replacements caused by the Battle of the Bulge. Fortunately none of the men had to leave the Bn.

The Bn obtained 36- 2 1/2 ton trucks from the Ordnance Depot, and the type of training was expanded. This included field problems where the Bn acted as Infantry as well as Engineers.

The Bn received notice from the XXIII Corps that the marshalling date for the move to the continent was the 22 Feb. 1944. An advance detachment left on the 19th, the heavy equipment left on the 20, and the Bn departed Oulton Park for the marshalling area at Southampton on the 23rd. The Bn was quartered at Camp-18, and the advanced party left for the continent with all the Bn vehicles on the 24th. The rest of the Bn is stuck in Camp-18 with little to do except short hikes, sports, and burning the duck boards to keep warm.

Finally the Bn departed Camp-18 and marched to the port, loaded the ship Empire Rapier, and sailed for the continent 2 March 1944 at 2330 hrs.

France

The ship dropped anchor in the harbor of Le Harve, and by 1230hrs. the Bn was loaded on four LCIs (Landing Craft Infantry) and headed up the River Seine for the town of Duclair, and then by motor to Camp Twenty Grand. On 5 March 1945 the Bn was assigned to the Ninth U.S. Army.

On 9 Mar. 1945 the Bn departed Camp Twenty Grand by motor for Maastricht, Holland. The first night was spent at Cambrai, France, where the Bn received instructions to proceed to Aachen, Germany. The next day, while passing through Leige, Belgium the Bn was intercepted and rerouted back to Maastricht, Holland.

Holland

Arrived in Maastricht on the 10th of March, departed on the 12th for Arcen, Holland, and received our first work assignments in the combat area on the 13th. The Bn was assigned to the 1132nd ECG, which was attached to the British Second Army. The Bn's mission was to support the British with road and bridge maintenance in back of the existing

Wesel pocket of resistance. Follows is a list of these assignments:

Co A--Commanded by Captain Michael F. Regan

- 1-Construction BB at Arcen.
- 2-Maintenance and Improvement(M&I) of road-Arcen to Ooijen, Holland(3rd Platoon(Pl.))
- 3-M&I of road-Kevelaer to Berendenk, Germany(1st Pl.)
- 4-M&I of road-Walbeck, Germany to Gelden, Germany.(2nd Pl.)
- 5-M&I of road-Berendenk, Germany to Gelden, Germany.(3rd Pl.)
- 6-M&I of road-Twistenden to Kevelaer, Germany.(1st Pl.)
- 7-M&I of road-Ooijen, Holland to Twistenden, Germany.(2nd Pl.)

Co B--Commanded by Lt. William L Kyriacos

- 1-M&I of road-Arcen, Holland to Walbeck, Germany.(1st Pl.)
- 2-M&I of road-Venlo, Holland to Ooijen, Holland and the const. of 5, 70ft. triple-single BB. Three at Arcen and two at Ooijen.(2nd Pl.)
- 3-Maintain BB at Lottum, Holland.(3rd Pl.)

Co C--Commanded by Captain John W. Hammersmith

- 1-M&I of road-Kevelaer, Germany to Gelden, Germany.(1st Pl.)
- 2-Maintain British folding boat assault bridge across Maas River at Venlo, Holland.(2nd Pl.)
- 3-Maintain Class 40 BB across Maas River at Venlo, Holland.

The first casualties resulting from enemy action occurred 16 Mar. 1944 in the vicinity of Arcen, Holland, while a detail of men were clearing a sector of a mine field. Pfc. Lewis E. Thames was killed in action and Tec.4 Walter C. Stockman was wounded in action. Both men were from H/S Co. Later Stockman was awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds received. On 22 March Major William W. Lytle, Executive Officer, was evacuated to 130th Gen. Hosp. for probable return to the States.

On 24 March, a bright clear day, the 138th witnessed the flight of many low-flying American aircraft transporting airborne troops and towing gliders to drop zones and landing zones several miles to the east across the Rhine River, part of the assault crossing in the Xanten-Wesel area.

The bridge work included a 840 ft. Class 40, High-level BB at Lottum; a 1244 ft. Class 40, High-level BB at Venlo; and a 1280 ft. Class 9 Pontoon bridge at Venlo. The Maas River level would rise and fall suddenly, which created interesting problems. By the 27 March 1945 the Bn was employing 57 Germany civilians to work on the roads. This required time keeping and feeding the Germans a meal while they were at work.

Across the Rhine into Germany

On the 29th of March 1945 the Bn, less Co C, moved to Sonsbeck, Germany. Co C completed a road resurfacing job south of Walbeck, Germany before moving up. The primary work assignments for the Bn was to maintain the road net immediately west of the Rhine River.

On the 2nd of April, 1945 the Bn was assigned the responsibility for general engineering work on the entire width of the British Second Army, XXI British Corps boundary. To handle this assignment, the Bn moved across the Rhein River and established the Bn Command Post(CP) at Vreden, Germany. Co A moved into Haaksbergen, Holland, which is north

and a little west of Ureden; Co B moved into Gescher, Germany, which is south-west of Ureden; Co C moved into bivouac area 1/2 mi. west of Ureden. New work assignments were received, which included road M&I, bridge M&I, and the removal of 1800 lbs of dynamite from a concrete T-beam bridge which had been prepared for demolition by the Germans.

During this period an escaped American prisoner from a German PW camp near Berlin turned himself in to one of our work parties. He was Pvt. William T. Ereland, 26th Inf. Regt., 1st Inf. Div. He had been a prisoner since Jan. 1943. Also, four German soldiers surrendered to a work party of Co C. They were turned over to a British PW cage at Stradlohn, Germany.

H/S Co had moved into Ureden with HQ, and had moved into billets next door to the Bn CP. Early in the morning on 6 April 1945 one of the billits burned. No one was injured, but there was a lot of excitement and approximately \$1200.00 worth of clothing and equipment were lost.

On 7 April 1945 Pvt. Earl A Martin of Co C accidentally shot and killed himself while cleaning his rifle. His body was taken to the military cemetery at Maastricht, Holland.

The Bn was relieved from assignment to the 1132nd ECG in support of the British Second Army, and assigned to the Ninth US Army, and attached to the 1147th ECG. On April 9th the Bn traveled to Kempen, Germany, and on the 10th they moved to Bechum, Germany. Total move about 150 miles, while a direct move from Ureden to Bechum would have been about 60 miles. All companies bivouaced in the vicinity of Bechum.

During the morning of 13 April news spread rapidly through the Bn of the death the day before of our Commander-in-Chief, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The Bn was assigned road M&I, but in addition was assigned bridge construction work, and BB dismantelling. These assignments were:

Co A Two 2-lane bridges across the Lippe River on the Autobahn.

Co B Remove a 130 ft. BB across Dortmund-Ems Canal near Munster.
Two 2-way Class 40 bridges on Autobahn across Ashe River.

Co C Hauling 18 units of BB equipment to 12 bridge sites along Autobahn. Extra drivers and equipment assigned for this job.
Remove triple story, 110 ft. long BB near Dolberg.

Note: Additional information about these jobs can be found in Appendix # 4, paragraph 2,(4).

On the 18th of April, Co C moved to Buckeburg to be nearer assigned jobs, and the Bn HQ with H/S Co followed on the next day. Co B moved to Ricklingen on the 20th, but Co A stayed in the Beckum area until the 25th to complete repaving 7400 sq. ft. of pavement near Wiedenbruck. Co A's next location was at Minden.

Co C changed its location to Kleinenbremen and started working on two fixed bridges on the Autobahn. Bridge #1 had a span of 190 ft., and #2 a span of 125 ft. Co B began work on a bridge across the Leine River. The span was 109 ft., but because of a shortage of long I-beams this bridge would be built up from the rubble of the old bridge. (AAR

#2,p.4,par 5) Later bridges #1 and #2 were canceled, but Co B completed the bridge over the Leine River.

Pvt. Henry Kosechata, Co A was killed by gunshots received while near Buckeburg on May 1, 1945. On 8 May, 1945 Carl E. Young, Co B was killed by a falling crane on one of the construction jobs.

As the end of the war approached the job assignments kept changing almost daily. On the 4th of May, 1945 Bn HQ, H/S Co, Co A, & Co C moved to Hamelin. Co B was still at Wunstorf, and working on the bridge across the Leine River. The rest of the Bn, in addition to some road M&I, were searching for engineering material throughout a large area in the vicinity of Hamelin.

On 9 May 1945 the war in Europe was declared over.

ARMY OF OCCUPATION

For the remaining part of May, the Bn continued searching for engineering material, M&I on roads, and replacing some BB with timber trestle bridges. Average Service Rating (ASR) scores were calculated for all members of the Bn in anticipation of going to the Pacific theater, staying in Germany, or going home.

Near the end of the month the Bn was relieved from the 1147th ECG and assigned to the 1115th ECG, Group CO Col. Hodges, and moved to new locations on the 2nd of June 1945. HQ, H/S Co, & Co B moved to Katzenfurt, and Co A & Co C moved to Ehringshausen. The Bn assignments were primarily road M&I, along with one squad of Co B constructing a PW enclosure.

On June 12, 1945 the Bn was informed that it was placed in Category 1 as troops of the Army of Occupation.

On June 25 the Bn was assigned the task of constructing service roads for a Class I QM depot on a former airport in Giessen. Co C immediately moved to Heuchelheim, Co B moved to Grossen-Buseck on the 26th, Bn HQ and H/S Co to Rodgen on the 27th, and Co A to Allendorf on the 29th. The project called for six roads varying in length from 2070 ft. to 3320 ft., and the drainage on each side of the road. The road construction consisted of subgrade preparation, three-inch layer of sand, a six-inch rock course spread and rolled followed by another six-inch rock course spread and rolled. A three-inch wearing course was planned but not completed. This phase of the job was 90.5% complete when the Bn was relieved of the job. The Bn was assigned another phase of the project but only about 2.5% of the work was completed before the Bn was reassigned. On these two jobs 160 PWs were worked, and approximately 120 trucks were used daily.

5 July 1945, the 138th ECB was awarded the Bronze Service Star for the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns.

The Bronze Star Medal was awarded to the following: Tec. 4 Dale Johnson, Tec. 4 Frye, Major Newell D. McLean, T/Sgt. Fred Eilenstein, S/Sgt. Ray Ryder, 1st Sgt. Arther Pitzer, Tec. 4 Edward McGrann, Sgt. Charles Leep, Lt.Col. William W.R. Purcell, Major John W. Hammersmith, Capt. William Kyriacos, Lt. Jack Peters, and Capt. Michael Regan.

On July 21, 1945 a general inspection of all civiliam homes in the

American Zone of Occupation was conducted. A CIC team visited Rodgen to make the inspection and discovered a small amount of loot and contraband. The Bn was confined to the area over the week-end by reason of this check.

On 21 July 1945 the Bn was transferred to the XXIII Corps, Col. Edward F. Kumpe, Corps Engineer. On 30 July, the transfer of some members of this Bn to reinforcement depots for reassignment began.

A P-47 caused some excitement on Aug. 6th by crash landing near Bn HQ.

The war with Japan was ended on August 14, 1945.

On August 25, 1945 the Bn held a review in honor of Lt.Col. Purcell who was leaving the Bn for the 70th Inf. Div. for return to the USA. Col. Hodges, ECG Commander was present, and the Bn presented Lt.Col. Purcell with a watch as a gift.

Major McLean and 36 EM with ASR scores of over 75 points also joined the 70th Inf. Div. for return to the States.

The ASR scores needed to go home kept being lowered for the EM, so there was a continuous transferring of men in and out of the Bn. On 2 Sept. 1945 Major Charles E.A. Morgan was transferred from the 1257th ECB, and assumed command of this Bn.

On Sept. 3rd the Bn was relieved of the QM Depot project and assigned about 15 jobs in the Corps area. These included winterizing tents in Limberg for the 114 Evacuation Hospital, bridge maintenance in Mainz and Oppenheim, and the responsibility of shipping 500 tons of pit stakes (German mine timbers) per day to the Ruhr coal mines. This required coordination with the civilian activity on this project. By 13 Sept. the responsibility of the job was taken over by the Regional Military Government of the XXIII Corps.

Co B moved to Kastel, near Frankfurt, to build a two lane bridge at Darmstadt, remove a BB at Bingen, and maintain a bridge at Oppenheim.

On 4 Sept. 1945 the Bn was assigned the task of converting an existing damaged German Army HQ, in Kassel, into a 1000 bed hospital (115 General Hospital). Co A moved to Kassel immediately to start the rehabilitation work. Considerable work had been done, but the amount of work left indicated a tentative completion date of 31 Jan 1946. The structure, a five story stone and concrete quadrangle, had sustained one direct bomb hit which destroyed one entire wing. Additional damage was considerable throughout the building resulting from fire, near-bomb misses, artillery and small arms fire. Many inter-structural changes and installations were necessary to make room for the wards, clinics, laboratories, etc. Extensive plumbing and electrical installations undertaken were required to provide for hot water, showers, latrine facilities, and special light arrangements. By the end of Sept. 110 EM, 125 civilians, and 450 PWs were employed daily on the hospital work. The Bn was relieved of this assignment about the first of November in preparation for the move to Czechoslovakia.

Co C, that had been assigned road M&I and tent winterization, moved to Marburg on the 23rd of Sept. to start the conversion of 15 buildings of a German Kaserne into a 750 bed hospital (280th Station Hospital). The hospital was to remain fully operational during the time that the

reconversion was in progress. To assist in the construction work, 125 skilled civilians were obtained through the local military government agencies, as well as a PW Labor Company of 500 men. Rehabilitation of the Kaserne, which had been used by the German Army as a Cavalry Post, required extensive construction to meet Army specifications for hospital wards, clinics, laboratories, offices, quarters, and recreational areas. When relieved of this assignment on 4 Nov. 1945, three buildings that were to be used for wards and clinics were 50% complete, and the rewiring of all buildings to provide 110 volt electrical service was 95% complete.

On 20 Sept. 1945 HQ and H/S Co moved to Kassel and joined Co A in its area. Major Morgan left the Bn on the 8th of Sept. and Major Trumbell assumed command until the 23rd when Lt. Col. Trumbell was relieved and Major Nagy took over.

Some time along the way the Bn was relieved of assignment to the 1147th ECG and assigned to the 1104th ECG. On the 15 of Oct. 1945 the 1104th ECG became inoperational and the 138th ECB was directly under XXIII Corps. The 138th ECB acted in the capacity of group over the cadre units in the 381st, 1255th, and 1257th ECB, and the 2787th and 1288th Forestry Cos.

Work by the Bn on the 280th General Hospital in Marburg, the 115th General Hospital at Kassel, the Ziegenhain Internment Camp, road M&I, bridge maintenance, etc. continued until the end of October. On the 31st orders were issued by the Seventh Army HQ for a move to take place on or about the 5th of November to the Plzen, Czechoslovakia area.

TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BACK TO GERMANY AND DEACTIVATION

The next few days were spent getting ready for the move. There was a lot of work getting the men and equipment ready and turning the jobs over to the units who would replace us. By the 5th of Nov. the Bn was on the move and after a bivouac at Wurzburg it arrived at Dobray, Czech. This is about 15 miles south of XXII Corps HQ in Plzen, Czech. The Bn was assigned to the Third Army.

The Bn started to settle in, but heard that all American troops would be out of Czech. by 1 Dec. Work assignments and pass quotas were received and cancelled, 30 day State side furlough for one EM issued, and, sure enough, orders were received for a move to Bertchesgarden, Germany, on or about the 28th of Nov. 1945.

The rest of the month was spent getting ready for another move. The advance party left on the 23rd of Nov., and the Cos left on the 28th. The roads were covered with snow and ice over the mountains. Co A and B were located in the heart of the snow-covered mountains at Reit-im-Winkel, Germany. Co C was at Unterwossen, Germany, and HQ & H/S Co were at Marquartstein. The Bn was assigned to the 347th Engineering General Service Regiment (EGSR), and XX Corps.

By the 5th of Dec., 1945 the Bn was on the move again. Co A moved to Oberau, Germany, Co C to Dietmannsreid, Germany, Co B to Lansberg, Germany, and HQ and H/S Co moved to Murnau, Germany. Now the Bn could settle down and go to work--well not quite. On the 14th of Dec., H/S & HQ moved to Markt-Oderdorf, Germany, and Co C moved to Nesselwang, Germany, and while the Bn was still in the Third Army, XX Corps, they were attached to the 1101 ECG.

On the 25th of Nov., before the Bn left Czechoslovakia, it was ordered to assume the responsibility of removing from Czechoslovakia all coal that had been stock-piled for use by the XXII Corps. This job had to be completed by 2400 hrs. on Nov. 30, 1945. By operating all heavy equipment 24 hours per day, three of the four sites were completely cleared and the fourth was about 95% cleared of the coal.

On the 18th of Dec, 1945 the Bn was assigned the job of suicide proofing a block of cells in the Landsberg Prison, which were to be used to imprison convicted war criminals. Block D with 110 cells was the building to be remodeled. The job was completed and 39 prisoners moved in at 1500 hrs., Dec. 29, 1945.

Co B with one platoon from Co C was assigned the job of winterizing and repairing the Landsberg Kaserne Jewish DP Camp on 20 Dec. 1945. The initial work called for the construction of 1500 beds, installation of space heaters in existing wash rooms, replacement of broken windows, and the installation of hot water systems in all wash rooms.

Similar jobs in other Displaced Persons Camps such as the Burnette Barracks in Fussen, Germany; the Messerschmidt Plant; and in Augsburg, Germany--the Hindenburg Kaserne, the Infantry Kaserne, the Kapellen School, the Haunstetten Apartments, the Somme Kaserne, and the Kirkland Apartments.

On Dec. 9, 1945 Capt. Riehl, Exec. Off. was transferred to the 94th Inf. Div. for redeployment to the States. On Jan. 3, 1946 44 men were sent to the Engineering Training Center, Epernay, France for the purpose of attending various engineering classes. On Jan. 14, 1946 Capt. Jack L. Peters, and 1st Lt. Frederick R. Pence were sent on TDY to the States for R and R. Would they return?? 1st LT. Gieson assumed command of Co A.

The Operations Report for the first quarter of 1946 listed assignments involving the repair and maintenance of facilities for living quarters. For example:

This Bn assumed from the 245th ECB the conversion of the General Kneisel Kaserne into the 115th Station Hospital. The project was assigned to Co C on 12 Jan., 1946, but on 11 March 1946 the job was taken over by Co A. It was a typical hospital job with wards, clinics, quarters, offices, electrical systems, etc. In addition there was a water purification system, hard standing adjacent to the buildings, and heated covered runways between the buildings.

On 16 Dec 1945 the Bn was assigned the task of rehabilitating the Burnett Barracks in Fussen for use as a Displaced Persons (DP) camp.

In March the first platoon of Co A took over from Co C the job of bringing the following DP camps in the Augsburg area up to Army standards: Hindenberg Kaserne, Kapellen School, Haunstetten Apartments, the Somme Kaserne, and the Kirkland Apartments.

On 14 March, Co C began work on the Messerschmitt Plant to make it suitable for US Army troops.

Each of these jobs included repairing windows, fences, heating, plumbing and electrical systems, and in the Somme Kaserne camp the converting of stables into living quarters.

The chronology of events lists other jobs not included in the Operations Report. They are:

1-Bn operated about 20 DP camps.

2-Working on demolition of I.G.Farben plant in Welden.
Lt. Sonnenfeld, Asst. S-3 was in charge of this job.
First part of the job was to determine which building should be destroyed.

3-The area of operating responsibility covered over 2000 sq.mi. and included over 400 mi. of roads and bridges to maintain.

On Jan 31, 1946 1st Lts. Hall and Felton were promoted to Capt., and 2nd Lts. Malten and Weigand promoted to 1st Lt. On Feb. 3 1946 Capt. Kyriacos, Lt. Cox, and WO Seidl were transferred for redeployment to the States. 1st Lt. Wm. W. Pearce assumed command of Co B after Capt. Kyriacos left.

In the second quarter of 1946 there were many surveys conducted. For example: the city of Kaufbeuren for determining its value as a military community; Garmisch to determine its use as a rest center for dependents; all existing range facilities; all Kasernes in the area; fire fighting facilities in the area; large installations to determine which require conversion to oil heating.

On the 14 May 1946 the Bn was directed to choose a location and to organize a floating bridge school to give engineer troops in the Third Army general knowledge of floating bridges. The Bn furnished one officer, Capt. Jack L. Peters, as Commandant of the School, and 13 EM to operate the school. In addition, the 553rd Engineer Ponton Bridge Co. and the 1015th Engineer Treadway Bridge Co. were assigned to the School. The site selected was on the Danube River, just north of Ulm, Germany. The training included the M4 bridge, M2 steel treadway bridge, Infantry assault river crossing with rafts, ferries and the standard foot bridge.

Additional personnel changes:

2 Mar -Major E.A. Nagy, Bn CO transferred out.
4 Mar -Lt.Col.Wm. Rybak assumed command
13 Apr -Lt. Charles J. Mahoney, Bn Adj. transferred.
15 Apr -Lt. Martin O. Sonnenfeld redeployed.

They did come back!! Capt. Peters returned from TDY in the States on April 19, 1946, and Lt. Pence on the 22nd.

On the 9th of May 1946 there is a statement in the chronology of events that Co C was detached to the 9th Div. There is no information that the Co. was ever returned to the 138th ECB. The Operations Report for 1 April - 30 June 1946 lists Co C-".. detached 8 May - 30 June 1946." The next information available on Co C is in the Operations Report 1 Oct-31 Oct 1946 when Co C is listed as inactive.

About 17th June 1946 Co A relieved Co B of operating the Engineering

Dump at Landsberg, Germany. The statement is made, "...upon the deactivation of "B" Co. about 17th June 1946." In the third quarter report H/S Co took over the job of operating and closing the Engineering Dump upon deactivation of Co A about 15 July 1946. The second quarter Operations Report lists Co B as inactive 21 June-30 June 1946. By the 1st of Oct. 1946 Co A, B & C are all listed as inactive.

Other jobs listed in the Chronology of Events but not listed in the Operation Reports for the second quarter are:

- 25 May Demolition Training under direction of Lt. Hewitt and Branges.
- 27 May Began demolishing buildings at the Messerschmidt plant and the Bismark monument.
- 3 Jun Constructed 3 miles of hard surfaced road at Sonthoffen.
- 15 Jun Work on Gen. McBride's 9th Inf.Div. garage suspended.
- 15 Jun Deloused Fussen Res. for 35th Constabulary.
- 19 Jun Construct stockade at Gobligen
- 21 Jun Hard standing for Red Cross at Augsburg.
- 24 Jun Water Survey, Kaufbeuren, Southofen, Augsburg, Gobligen, and New Ulm.
- 28 Jun Const. of night club, ski tows, tennis courts, boat house, tea house, and a water reservoir in Garmisch.

By the middle of July H/S Co was the only active company left. They were surveying all former German Military Kasernes in the Bn's area, and operating and closing the Engineer Dump at Landsberg, Germany. In addition the Chronology of events lists these jobs:

- 8 Jul Repairing rifle range at Haunstetter
- 9 Jul Renovating billets, Nachrichten Luft Kasenne, Augsburg.
- 11 Jul Repairing Kaufbeuer theater.
- 17 Jul Constructing tennis courts for 9th Inf. Div.

On 3 Sep there were 35 different work orders. The towns and the number of jobs in each town are: Augsburg, 8; Landsberg, 1; Kaufbeuren, 1; Lablingen, 5; Oberstdorf, 1; Kempten, 1; Altenstadt, 1, Ammersce, 1. Also, and E-54 Engineer Dump at Landsberg.

Additioan Personnel changes-

- 23 Jul Lt. Layan transferred.
- 5 Aug Lt. Francis T. Zebal, & Lt. Arther Dupuis trans. in to HQ.
- 6 Aug Lt. Arther Dupuis trannferred out to 288th ECB.
- 9 Aug Lt. Lorge C. O'Neill assigned to H/S Co.
- 5 Sep Lt.Col. John B. Beckman, (Inf.) assumed command of the Bn.
- 6 Sep Major Edmond H. Leavey, Jr., is appointed Ex.Off.
- 9 Sep Capt. Jack Gibbs, was transferred from 1124th ECG.
- 11 Sep Sgt. Rutherford took over as 1st Sgt.
- 16 Sep Lt. Robert R. Floyd assigned to Bn and made S-4.
- 23 Sep Sgt. Matsunega, Supply Sgt. requisitioned Army low cut shoes.
- 24 Sep Sgt. Soper will be replaced as Sgt. Major of S-2.
- 27 Sep Lts. Thomas Gillespie & Earl Luster have been assigned, but Lt. Gillespie was transferred to the 1697th ECB.
- 26 Oct Lt. O'Neill left for home & Lt. Graham replaced him as CC.

In the month of October the entries in the Chronology are about deactivation and the Arras Kaserene job. The Arras job is not included in the Operations Reports, so very little is known about it. The job was assigned to the Bn on the 10th and reassigned to the Group on the 17th, but EM from this Bn stayed on as foremen of the job. Jobs keep

coming in. For example, on Oct. 2, 1946 the statement is made that operations ceased at 1200. Then on the 8 Oct 1946 the project office received three more work orders, and the men from S-3 Section went to look over the situation in Leipheim at the Jewish DP Camp. Also, something about the winterizing of jeeps.

And finally the last entry--Oct. 28, 1946, "Bn was in full swing in the way of deactivation today." We know from other records that the Bn was deactivated on the 31 Oct. 1946.



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APPENDIX NO. 1

HISTORY OF COMPANY B

138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

Period covered 30 March 1944 to July 1945

From the page following the title page of this book:

"This book was prepared by and for the men of Co B 138th ECB. In these unsettled hours when we feel that any one of us may leave the unit at any moment, we have endeavored to show our pride in our unit and our pride and respect for each other by publishing this history of Co. B."

Editor-----John Gerald Polacek

Art Editor---William E. Bergstrom

"The publication was paid for with funds donated by the men of B Company through the Enlisted Men's Club. Engravings were made by Guhl in Frankfurt, printed by Albin Klein in Giessen, Germany. Thanks to all the men in B Company...for each of you has played a part in making this book possible."

From another part of the book the Officers at the time of publication:

Company Commander----- Captian William L. Kyriacos

1st Platoon Commander-- 1st Lt. James E. Osborne

2nd Platoon Commander-- 1st Lt. Raymond Oksa

3rd Platoon Commander-- 1st Lt. Enroll Frank

Adm. Assistant----- 2nd Lt. Arthurt V. Keenan

The 1st Sgt. was Victor E. Provost.

In addition to the History of Company B, the book includes comments, recollections, roll call, addresses, and pictures. Many of the pictures are of individual members of the Co., places they have been and work they have done. The pictures of each platoon are the same as those included in Appendix No. 5.

HISTORY OF COMPANY B

Basic training didn't start for Company B, 138th Engineer Combat Battalion, until May 15, 1944, but the outfit was activated officially long before that date. The B Company Guidon first waved at the North Camp area of Fort Jackson, South Carolina, at 0100, 30 March, 1944.

To organize and command Company B came a cadre of fourteen enlisted men and one officer, direct from Tennessee maneuvers with the 245th Engineer Combat Battalion, and four officers from other engineer units. The cadre consisted of 2nd Lt. James E. Osborne, 1st/Sgt. Victor E. Provost, S/Sgt. George J. Stiles Jr., S/Sgt. Hugh J. Massey, S/Sgt. Paul V. Harper, Sgt. Roscoe Moody, Cpl. Ralph A. Raymond, S/Sgt. Irving L. Harris, S/Sgt. Donald F. Koster, Henry Russo, T/5 Frank T. Zielinski and Sgt. Bradford Miner. The four officers who came from other outfits were 2nd Lt. Erroll Frank, Raymond Oksa, Ray L. Dingler, and as commanding officer, 1st. Lt. G.W. Lewis.

The first troops arrived on April 15, 1944 from the 100th Division. These men, former ASTP students, were the lads with the "higher than you" I.Q's. Shortly afterwards, the songs "Take Me Back To Tulsa" and "San Antonio Rose" became a part of B Company too, bringing with them the Texas and Oklahoma boys from Fort Sill, the reason that this battalion's hit parade leads with "It Makes No Difference Now" and its favorite stars, not Frank Sinatra and Harry James, but Ernest Tubb and Bob Wills.

Basic training was officially begun on May 15 and in its first weeks, Company B was brought up to strength with men from the Air Force, Anti-Aircraft, OCS, Infantry and other units.

From May 15 to August 24, the Company "sweated" through and Engineer basic training--Saturday inspections, training tests, bridge building, road construction, close order drill, physical training, tent pitching, mines, bivouacs, hikes, guard, and K.P. It was a typical Engineer basic, with two exceptions. Overnight passes were plentiful, and in its second week of training the Company had its first beer party.

On the first of July, S/Sgt. Harper of the third platoon was transferred out of the battalion, and on the fourth of July, the second platoon's S/Sgt. Massey was switched to battalion S-3. Sgt. Henry Russo, a squad leader from the first platoon, took over the third, and Sgt. John G. MacDonald became platoon sergeant of the second. On July 7, Lt. G.W. Lewis left B Company and Capt. Newell D. McLean, formerly battalion S-2, became Company Commander.

After basic came those three most rugged of all training days in the States, those days of MTP tests. The tests are graded by officers from other units, and determine whether or not an outfit has learned the required amount in the time allotted for its basic training. B Company passed the tests easily and with no grade less than "satisfactory".

Now that basic was ended, everyone anticipated unit training. Wives of B Company men started arriving, adding to the already large number of them in the vicinity of Fort Jackson. The 138th would be in Fort Jackson for months yet...or so the men in this Company expected.

The week after basic found Company B, in convoy with the rest of the battalion, en-route to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, where it was scheduled

to give demonstrations in a mine school for officers.

Camp Forrest, a beautiful camp, proved to be, as a G.I. puts it, "a good deal". The demonstrations were not difficult, enough time was given to rehearsals, and passes and letter writing time were plentiful.

The rumor started in Tennessee, (and it should be mentioned at this point, that the Company's, in fact the entire battalion's rumors, had an uncanny way of coming true), that the 138th would shortly be issued combat boots, that there would be clothing checks, that the battalion would soon go overseas, and, after a few men left on furlough from Tennessee, that as soon as we returned to Fort Jackson, 100% furloughs would be given.

Popular remarks were: "Overseas? Not this battalion, men are too old, outfit's too young." Even after the outfit returned to Jackson on Sept. 15 and received its furloughs, skeptic still said, "So what? 100% furloughs--just a coincidence!"

It is believed that some of these skeptics still insisted that going overseas was a vicious rumor even on October 25, 1944, when B Company, along with the rest of the 138th, boarded a train enroute to the POE, Camp Myles Standish. B Company had a new commanding officer, 1st. Lt. William L. Kyriacos, who had replaced Capt. McLean after the Capt. was assigned to S-3; and a new administrative officer, 2nd.Lt. C. L. Rowny.

Black, one story barracks, chilly New England weather, a beautiful PX, good food and plenty of passes were characteristic of Camp Myles Standish, the staging area forty miles from Boston, Mass. Here the outfit received its final processing before shipping overseas. Details, such as K.P. and guard, drafted even the officers. It was here that rank was forgotten and the men became closer than brothers and began wondering if they'd all be on the boat coming back.

B Company arrived at the Boston Port at 1000 hours on the 10th of November, 1944, and, with hands full of doughnuts, given them by the American Red Cross, they boarded the HMT Nieuw Amsterdam, while the band played "Pretty Kitty Blue Eyes". At 1900 hours the Nieuw Amsterdam sailed for parts unknown.

The ship left, unescorted, and traveled alone for the next five days. The weather was very fine but even fine weather didn't prevent seasickness. Almost the entire company was ill the first two days, some remained so until the ship docked at Gurock, Scotland on Nov. 17, 1944.

One half of the battalion, including Headquarters, first and second platoons of B Company, traveled by rail during the day, southward through the British Isles. The third platoon traveled by night, and didn't have an opportunity to view scenic Scotland.

The troops that traveled by day arrived at the Lime street station in Liverpool, England about 1900 on the 18 of November, and went by bus to Wallasey Village where they were billeted in the Grove Hotel, a twenty minute ride from Liverpool. The remainder of the battalion arrived at 0300, 19 November.

In Wallasey, the outfit spent its days hiking through the vicinity of the town and competed in intra-battalion sports. It was here that Thanksgiving was observed by the Co with a traditional turkey dinner.

On December 1, just thirteen days after arriving in England, the 138th went to Halton in the county of Lancaster, for three days where it attended an English Bailey Bridge School. B Company received commendation from the British instructors who said the company held a record for construction of the floating Bailey Bridge.

The unit returned to Wallasey on December 5th, 1944 and the next day left for Oulton Park, a British Army camp just outside of Chester, England. The 138th was to stay at Oulton Park for a few days.

It was here, during their eleven weeks stay, that the men in Company B experienced a severe winter. Many of them caught the flu, others pneumonia. Nothing fatal occurred, however, and all the cases of illness were cured by the time the unit left England.

B Company patched roads in the Camp, repaired huts, attended refresher courses in mines and other engineer work, built a British timber trestle, built a few Baileys, and last and most important the unit underwent two weeks of Infantry training when the need became more and more apparent for Infantry troops on the continent.

From Oulton Park, approximately twenty five men went to London to aid in the reconstruction.

Christmas at Oulton Park, 1944, was very different from any Company B personnel had experienced before, but a good dinner, a huge Christmas tree, and a Christmas Party somewhat warmed a day that promised to be a sad and dreary one. This party as well as about three other, plus occasional good times on pass, left for B Company some pleasant memories of a rather bad situation.

On February 23, 1945 Company B, as well as the rest of the 138th, left Oulton Park for C-18, Southampton, England. Here for eight days, it lived in heatless tents and ate C-rations. Eventually the unit arrived on the continent, landed at LeHavre, France, traveled by boat up the Seine to Duclair, and then walked a couple of miles to Camp Twenty Grand, a tent city which was a final staging area on the continent.

What came next? No one quite knew. The Americans still hadn't crossed the Rhine and the question was: Where would this unit fit into the huge picture of war.

After a week at Twenty Grand, on March 9th at 0600, the 138th left in truck convoy. After an all day motor march, the unit bivouaced in a wheat field just outside of Cambrai, France. That night the men were told that they were scheduled to go to Aachen, Germany, and then into combat. The next day the unit continued on through France. In Liege, Belgium, the outfit's orders changed and it ended not in a fox hole, but in a beautiful catholic school, in Maastricht, Holland. They remained here two nights and a day. On the second day the Company left for Arcen, where it started working as Ninth Army engineers attached to the British Second Army.

The 138th's was the job of maintaining the main supply route to the front lines, so that supplies and equipment could constantly move forward. Following the front line troops, the unit moved from Arcen to Sonsbeck and maintained the road to the Rhine.

On March 31 S/Sgt. MacDonald left B Company to replace S/Sgt. Massey in S-3 and Sgt. Fred K. Walker took over Lt. Oksa's second platoon.

On April 2, B Company left Sonsbeck and moved across the Rhine to Gescher, where it continued maintaining roads. Seven days later the unit was ordered to move back west to the Rhine toward Holland. It arrived at Kempen, about 1600 and set up its bivouac area only to learn, two hours later, that it would move back east of the Rhine the following day. The next day in Beckum, on the eastern edge of the Ruhr pocket, it set up its squad tents right in the middle of town. B Company was assigned to build two bridges on the Reichsautobahn, and to clear away what remained of two overhead bridges "the Krauts" had blown up. The first platoon cleared the debris and the second and third platoons built the bridges.

The job completed, Co B shoved eastward on April 20th and set up tents in a field near Luthe, a tiny town close to Hannover. About this time echelon finally consented to this battalion living in houses, so after a few days in the field B Co moved to Wunstorf where it occupied hotels.

The Company's job this time was two 120 foot span, two lane bridges on the Autobahn. The first two lanes were completed on May 10, and the second two on Mother's day, May 13.

V.E. Day marked the first casualty in B Company. Tec-5 Carl E. Young was killed while operating a crane which was carrying a huge steel I-beam into place. The completed bridges were dedicated to his memory.

On May 16, Co B moved to Luchtringen, Germany, where it was billeted in a school house. The mission, now that the war was over, was to collect various types of German equipment which might be of value to the American Armies in the Pacific. Luchtringen saw the first issue of Catbird 42 Speaks, the company paper now known as "The Guidon".

Very suddenly B Company was sent to Bad Lauterberg where the first platoon built a timber trestle bridge and the second and third platoons tore down two Baileys. The entire job took three days and on May 23rd the company returned to its billets at Luchtringen only to learn that within two days it would again be on the go. The move this time was a long one, about 180 miles southwest to the small town of Katzenfurt, where it was discovered that the unit billeted there before the 138th had gone home. Rumors again. This time the Company was as sure of going home as it had been that it wouldn't go overseas.

Not too much was accomplished here, A library was formed and plenty of time was spent with athletic activities. When the 1115th Group baseball team was chosen, three men from B Company were put on the team. While in Katzenfurt, the 138th was transferred from the Ninth Army to the Seventh (Occupation) Army, and attached to the XIX Corps.

On June 26, Co B was moved past Giessen, on the outskirts of a little town named Grossen Buseck. It was here that the unit was assigned to work on a huge supply depot just off Giessen. The 138th is slated for occupation with the Seventh Army. Nothing is definite, rumors have it that some of the men in the unit will be going home because of high point scores. The war with Japan is almost over, everything is looking up. It's July now and the history has carried you through to this month..Each of you bring your own history to a close.

APPENDIX NO. 2

AFTER ACTION REPORT NUMBER 2

Period covered 1-30 April 1945

There were three After Action Reports covering March, April and May, 1945, and six Operation Reports covering the period 8 May 1945 to 31 October 1946. Only one of these reports is included in this history as an example of the type work the Bn performed and the reports they submitted. After Action Report No. 2 was selected because it seemed more typical and more interesting to read.

Annex #1 - Unit Journal was not included because it reported day-by-day activities and is not very interesting.

Annex #2 - Overlays were not included because without the original maps they were meaningless.

Annex # 3 - Photographs have been included.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
APO 339
US ARMY

Date: 1 May 1945
Auth:CG, US Ninth Army
Init:

1 May 1945
Hamelin, Germany
(rW 8909)

AFTER ACTION REPORT

NO. 2

Period covered: 1-30 April 1945

Map References: Central Europe 1:100,000 GSGS 4416 Sheets N3; P1,2,3;
Q1,2,3.

Reference: FM 101-5, Form 191.

1. Enemy.

a. Not applicable
b. Not applicable
c. (1) Enemy action in the British Second Army sector in the early part of the month consisted of a steady retreat on the entire front.

(2) On 9 April 1945 the battalion returned to the Ninth US Army sector. Enemy action consisted of a retreat to a defense barrier along the East bank of the ELBE River and the defense of the RHUR Valley and HARTZ Mountain pockets.

(3) Enemy activity affecting this battalion consisted of destroyed bridges, road blocks, and large shell craters in the various sectors assigned to this battalion. (Ref. Annex 2)

d. Not applicable
e. Not applicable

2. Own Situation.

a. See overlay - Annex 2.
b. See overlay - Annex 2
c. See overlay - Annex 2.
d. (1) Road and bridge maintenance in the SONSBECK area continued until 3 April. (Ref. Phase 1, Annex 2) During this period timber posts for traffic guidance and shoulder protection were placed at 50-ft intervals along all the roads, and potholes in the road net were patched with bituminous premix.

(2) On 3 April, the battalion moved to VREDEN, GERMANY. Assignment was road maintenance in continued support of the British Second Army (Ref Phase 2, Annex 2) Operations in this area included:

- (a) Removal of 1800 lbs dynamite from a concrete T-beam bridge which had been prepared for demolition near VREDEN, GERMANY. (Ref Figs 1,2,3, Annex 3)
(b) Bypasses around GROENLO and WINTERSWIJK (both in HOLLAND) were constructed and maintained.

- (c) One 30-ft Class 40 Bailey Bridge over the moat in GROENLO was removed and replaced by earth and rubble fill.
- (d) An 11-ft wooden stringer bridge was built over a stream in the road from GROENLO to VREDEN.
- (e) Surface drainage outlets were filled.
- (f) Road-side foxholes were repaired.
- (g) Craters and potholes were repaired.
- (h) Roadblocks and traffic bottle necks were removed, thereby opening roads to 2-way traffic.
- (i) Some German anti-tank mines RMI 43 and some Tellermines were removed from the road shoulders.
- (j) Rubble was cleared from the streets of VREDEN, allowing 2-way unrestricted traffic through the town. (Ref Figs 4,5 Annex 3).

(3) On 9 April the battalion was relieved from attachment to the 1132d Engr C Group in support of the British Second Army and moved back across the RHINE to KEMPEN, GERMANY, to join the 1147th Engr C Group in support of the Ninth US Army. A road net was assigned, reconnaissance made, and plans prepared for the work but new movement orders shifted the battalion to BECKUM, GERMANY on 10 April. (Ref Phase 3, Annex 2). Therefore no work was actually done on the roads. Crews from the water supply section were detached to operate three Ninth US Army water points in the KEMPEN area.

(4) At BECKUM the battalion was given an area maintenance assignment including the REICHSAUTOBAHN and principal adjoining roads. (Ref Phase 4, Annex 2). This was done largely by patrols. In addition, the following major tasks were accomplished:

- (a) Repairs were made to a 380-ft, 4-lane, 3-span, continuous beam, steel plate-girder bridge on the AUTOBAHN over the LIPPE River. (Ref Fig 6 Annex 3). Four gaps had been blown in the concrete slab deck of the bridge: two in the east lane and two in the west lane. (Ref Figs 7,8 Annex 3). These breaches extended the full width of the AUTOBAHN, directly over the LIPPE River and also in the adjacent span. Damage to the steel-plate girders had been light enough that 2-way Class 40 traffic was crossing the bridge in the west lanes over four short Bailey bridges, one of 20 ft and three of 30 ft, erected by divisional engineers. The plate girders were partially rebuilt and a timber floor system was installed to replace the steel floor beams, concrete slab deck, and cobblestone wearing course which had been destroyed. Steel post supports under the more seriously damaged girders were erected as a precautionary measure. (Ref Fig 10, Annex 3). The Bailey bridges were removed. 2-way traffic was maintained throughout, and eventual repairs opened the bridge to 2-way Class 40, 1-way Class 70 traffic in both the east and west lanes. (Ref Figs 9,11, Annex 3).
- (b) Bridges were built over the AHSE River on the AUTOBAHN to replace the 40-ft span of the concrete T-beam bridge which had been dropped into the river. (Ref Fig 12, Annex 3). The span had fallen so clean

that little work had to be done to use the existing bridge seats. Two separate bridges were constructed, one for the east lanes and one for the west, each for 2-way Class 70 traffic. Steel T-beams with timber floor systems were employed. The bridges were on a grade and a curve. The two 50-ft Class 40 Bailey bridges which had been erected by divisional engineers to handle 2-way traffic on the west lanes were removed without interference with traffic. (Ref Figs 13,14, Annex 3).

- (c) A 130-ft double-double Bailey bridge over the DORTMUND EMS canal near MUNSTER was removed.
- (d) A 110-ft triple-single Bailey bridge over the LIPPE River near DOLBERG was removed.
- (e) Bailey bridge material was hauled to twelve (12) sites on the AUTOBAHN from LINTSFORD, AHLEN, and BIELEFELD, and from where the Bailey bridges had been removed near MUNSTER, DOLBERG, and BECKUM.
- (f) A new approach to the AUTOBAHN from the AHLEN-BECKUM road was built.
- (g) The road from AHLEN toward BECKUM was repaired with bituminous premix, and part of it was resurfaced with hot sprayed tar and spread rock chips.
- (h) Approach to the AUTOBAHN north of BECKUM was repaved with 600 square feet of cobblestone paving.
- (i) The AUTOBAHN was repaved with 7400 square feet of reinforced concrete, near WIEDENBRUCK.
- (j) Wreckage of two destroyed overhead steel and concrete bridges were removed from the east lanes of the AUTOBAHN between LIPPE and ASHW Rivers. (Ref Fig 15, Annex 3).

(5) On 19th April the battalion moved to BUCKEBURG to construct three fixed bridges on the AUTOBAHN. (Ref Phase 5, Annex 2). Sites of five damaged bridges were surveyed. Reconstruction was begun on three of them. Two of the three were masonry arch bridges while one over the LEINE River was a reinforced concrete arch bridge. A three-span, steel I-beam, timber deck bridge on a crib and pier center support was started to span the 196-ft gap of one of the masonry arch bridges. (Ref Figs 16 to 20, Annex 3). Roadway was nearly 90-ft above ground level. Two span similar construction was begun on the other masonry arch bridge, to repair the 124-ft gap of about the same height. (Ref Figs 21 to 23, Annex 3).

Steel of sufficient length and strength to span the 109-ft gap over the LEINE River was not available, and piling could not be driven in the river because of the debris from the demolished structure. (Ref Fig 24, Annex 3). A 3-span, steel I-beam, timber deck structure was begun, supported at each end by steel posts on the undamaged piers, and supported at the intermediate points on the heavy concrete arches which had been dropped into the river. (Ref Fig 25, Annex 3). The center span was 75-ft. Both 2-lane sections of the bridge are on grades and curves.

All three bridges will be finished in the next period.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Miles of road maintained	211.0
Potholes filled (pre-mix)	658
Road side fox-holes filled	750
Guide posts set	449

Surface drainage outlets cut	863
Craters filled	19
Road blocks removed or widened	5
Cu yds gravel hauled	830
Cu yds rubble hauled	542
Barrels of tar used	40
Sq ft of cobblestone replaced	600
Sq ft of concrete pavement replaced	7400
Bridges built	7
Bridges under construction	3
Bridges repaired	2
Bridges removed	9
Bridges maintained (military)	18
Miles of asphalt road resurfaced	0.8

EQUIPMENT USED IN ADDITION TO T/E

Graders	3
Crawler cranes	2
Quick way shovel	1
Cubic Meter Shovel	1
Power Shovel	1
Bailey Bridge Erection Sets	2
2 1/2 Ton Trucks	32
2 1/2 Ton Pole Trailers	9
Prime Mover, w/20T Trailers	1
Emulsion Sprayers	2
Air Compressors	6
Acetylene Torches w/cutters	2

(e) Combat efficiency of our command is very good. Graduation from roadway "pothole filling" to heavy fixed bridge construction, through a progression of successively tougher assignments, including road resurfacing, concrete paving, culvert installation, bridge repair, short span bridge building over shallow gaps to major construction of approximately 200-ft long, 100-ft high bridges has unearthed hidden talent and vitalized the leadership down through all echelons.

The numerous moves this month have been made smoothly and quickly and new tasks undertaken immediately.

Squad tentage has enabled companies to live near their work in some cases, while billets have helped strengthen morale when they were available at other locations.

With the advent of important tasks, sickness has been very light.

Relations with the British Second Army in the early part of the period were good.

f. Missions assigned have been successfully accomplished. (See Overlay, Annex 2).

3. Administrative.

a. Status of Strength of Command as of 1 April 1945:

EM	O	WO	TOTAL
613	28	3	644

Status of Strength of Command as of 30 April 1945

<u>EM</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
605	30	3	638

Replacements received during April 45 - 3
 Replacements received to date - 38
 Replacements needed - None

b. Casualties

	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>SICK GASED WOUNDED EVACUATED</u>	<u>CAPTURED</u>
<u>MISSING</u>	1(non-battle)	13	none

Former members of organization returned to duty - 6.

c. Prisoners Captured - 4.

d. Evacuation - Normal

e. See Overlay - Annex 2

f. Status of Supply

2 days rations on hand (10-in-1)

2 days gasoline on hand

100% basic ammunition on hand

g. See Overlay - Annex 2

4. General. The following points are of particular interest in connection with the project of constructing the three large bridges on the AUTOBAHN during Phase 5:

a. The procurement of materials for bridge construction developed into a major problem. Although large amounts of materials were found within reasonable distance, due to the construction of bridges by other units in the area the availability of steel and timber has become critical. The use of the railroad between PEINE, HANNOVER, BUCKEBURG, and MINDEN, operated by personnel from the 1147th Engr C Group and from this battalion, expedited the assembly near construction sites of all required large steel beams and heavy timbers from several captured supply points. Additional decking is being cut through arrangements with a local saw mill. No delay due to lack in materials is anticipated.

b. As the plan (Ref Fig 18, Annex 3) indicates, the steel beams for two of the bridges are being countersunk into the intact stone masonry piers on both sides of the gap. Civilian German jackhammer operators, formerly employed in nearby mines and highly experienced, are being used to reinforce the trained operators in the battalion, thereby making possible maximum use of available air compressors and speeding up an operation which would have been a serious bottleneck.

c. Handling heavy timbers and steel channel bracing during the construction of the center pier has been simplified by rigging suspended from the two Class 40 Bailey bridges at each gap. Captured winches, manual and electric, are being used. For moving the heavy steel beams (approx. 82, 75, and 63 ft long) into position on the center pier, it is planned to employ a suspension system based on beams placed between the Baileys.

(Signed by) William W.R. Purcell
 Lt.Col., 138th Engr Combat Bn
 Commanding

3 Annexes:

Annex #1 - Unit Journal

Annex #2 - Overlays

Annex #3 - Photographs

AFTER ACTION REPORT NO 2
138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION
1-30 April 1945

ANNEX NO 2 - PHOTOGRAPHS

Fig. 1&2- Bridge prepared by Germans for demolition near Ureden, Germany. About 1800 lbs of dynamite was used.

3- Removal of charges from bridge shown in Fig. 1&2.

4&5- Clearing rubble from streets of Ureden, Germany to allow 2-way unrestricted traffic.

6- Lippe River bridge on Autobahn with 4 small BB by Div. Engineers.

7&8- Damage to Lippe River bridge caused by pressure charges placed on the water span of the roadway.

9- Traffic open on east lane of Lippe River bridge.

10- Columns supporting damaged girder of Lippe River bridge

11- 2-way CI 40, 1-way CI 70 traffic on Lippe River bridge.

12&13- One span of Autobahn bridge over Ahse River dropped. BB erected by Div. Engrs. carrying two lanes over gap.

14- Decking being placed on east lane and nearing comp.

15- Overpasses on Autobahn were cut and debris formed good road block. Cutting torches, cranes & bull dozer were needed to clear roadway.

16- Destroyed stone masonry arch bridge (196-ft gap)

17- Condition of arch at adjacent pier of bridge in Fig.16.

18- Plans for bridge (not included because not readable)

19&20- A pier is to be erected in the center to support the steel beams of the new bridge (Fig.16). These pictures show start of crib for the pier that will be lined with 2-layers of 5/8" plywood for stability.

21- 109 ft. gap in a masonry arch bridge on the Autobahn.

22&23- The start of the crib to be used in the new bridge (Fig. 21). This will be lined with 2-layers of 5/8" plywood.

24- West span of Autobahn bridge over Leine River. Work started on the abutments for new bridge, which is being built upon the reinforced concrete roadway and arch of the span that was dropped. This shows the seat being cut into the concrete beams of the fallen span.

25- Prep. of one of the abutments of the bridge in Fig. 24.

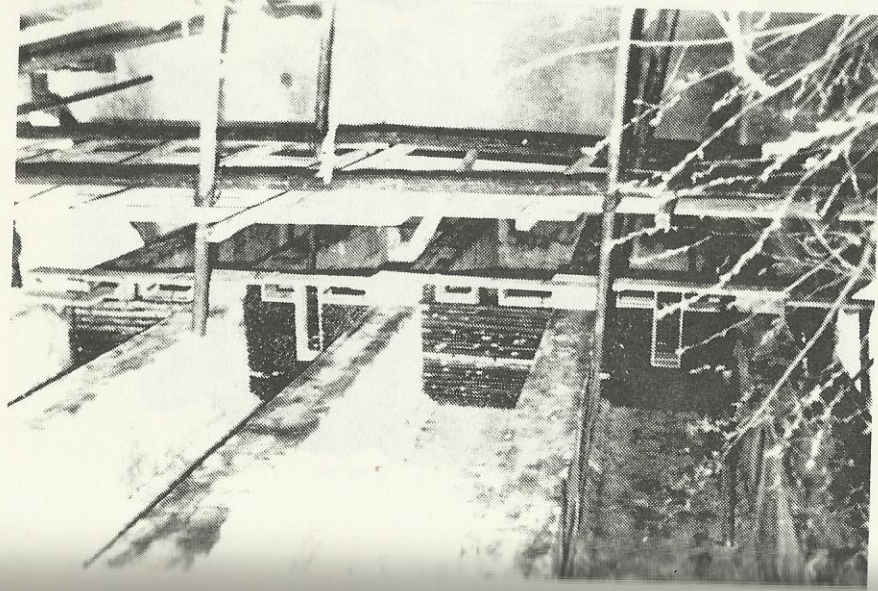


Fig. 1

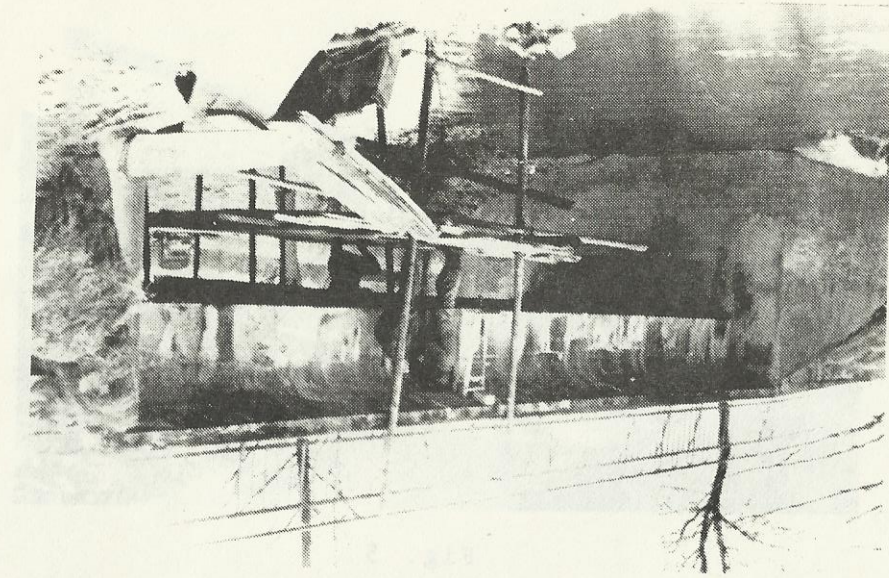


Fig. 3

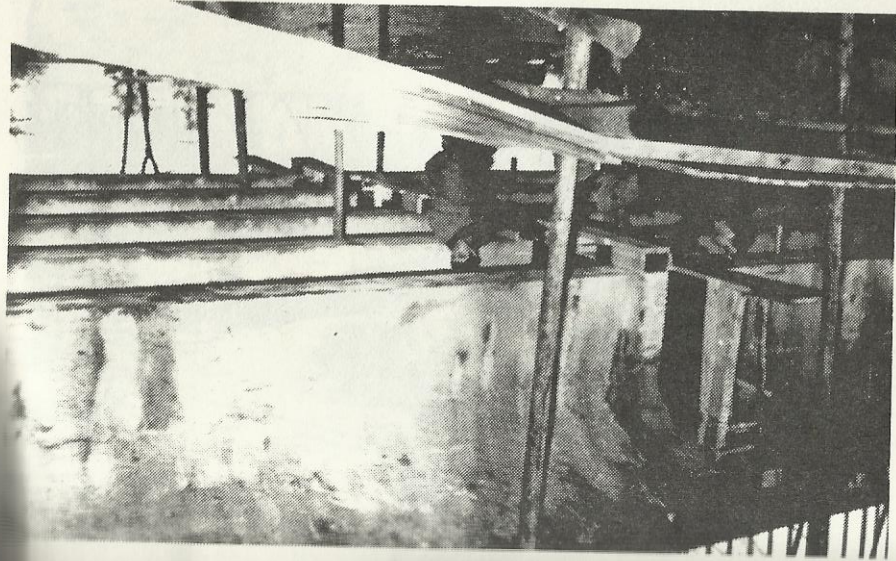


Fig. 2

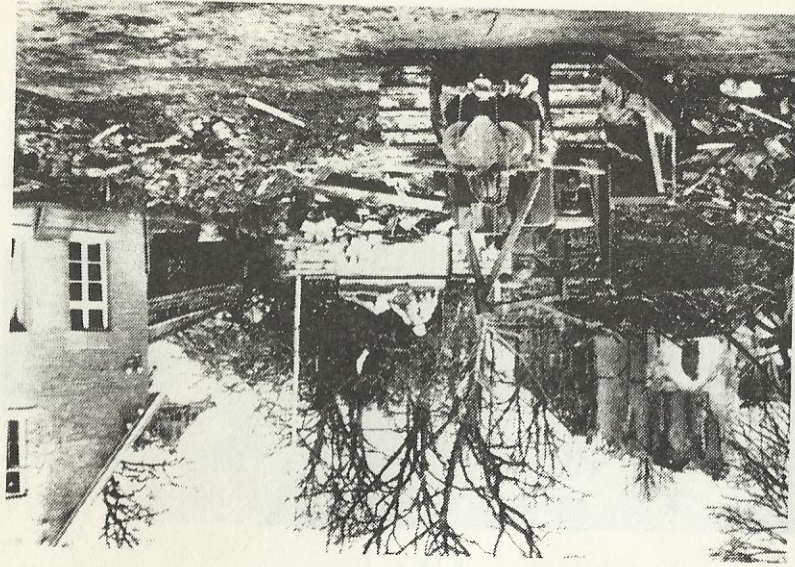


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Fig. 11

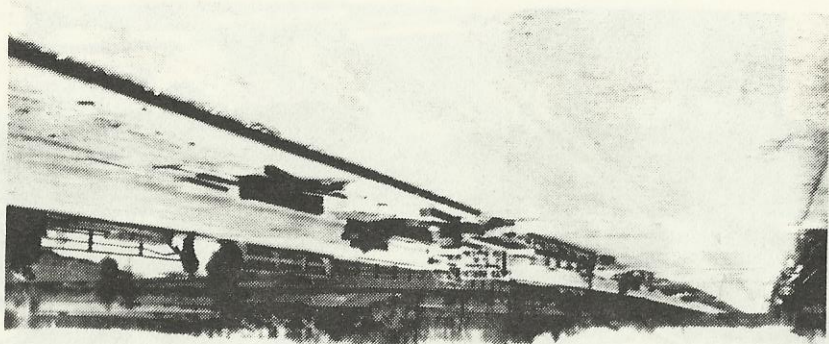


Fig. 9

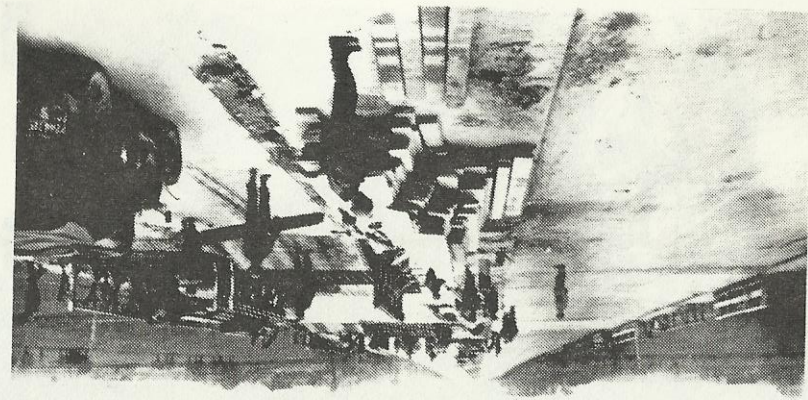


Fig. 12

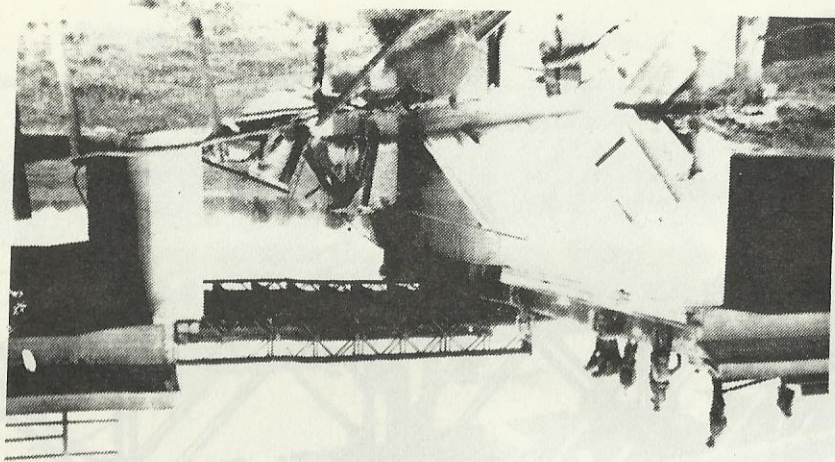
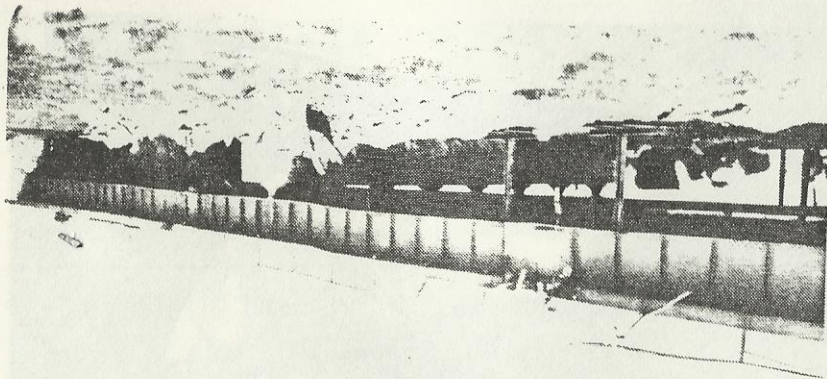


Fig. 10



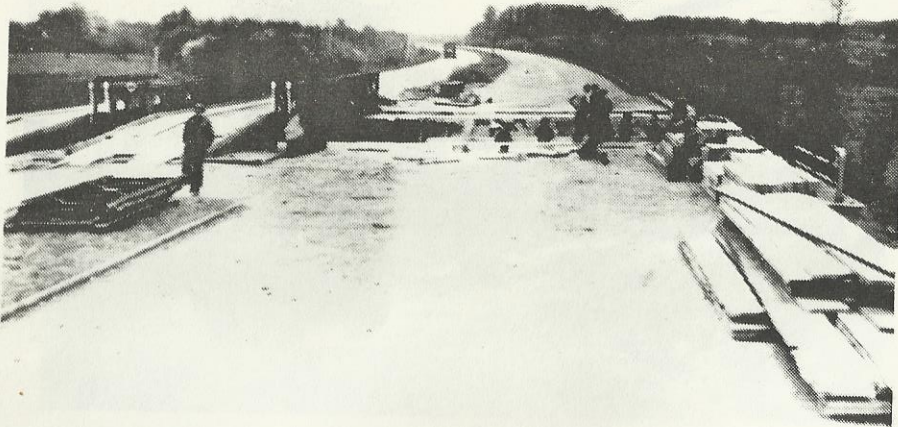


Fig. 13

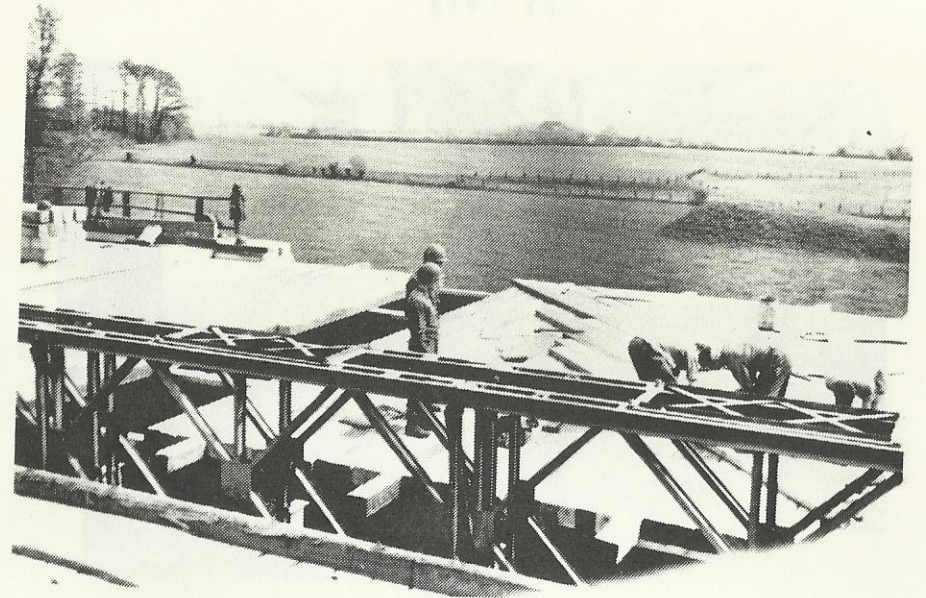


Fig. 14



Fig. 15

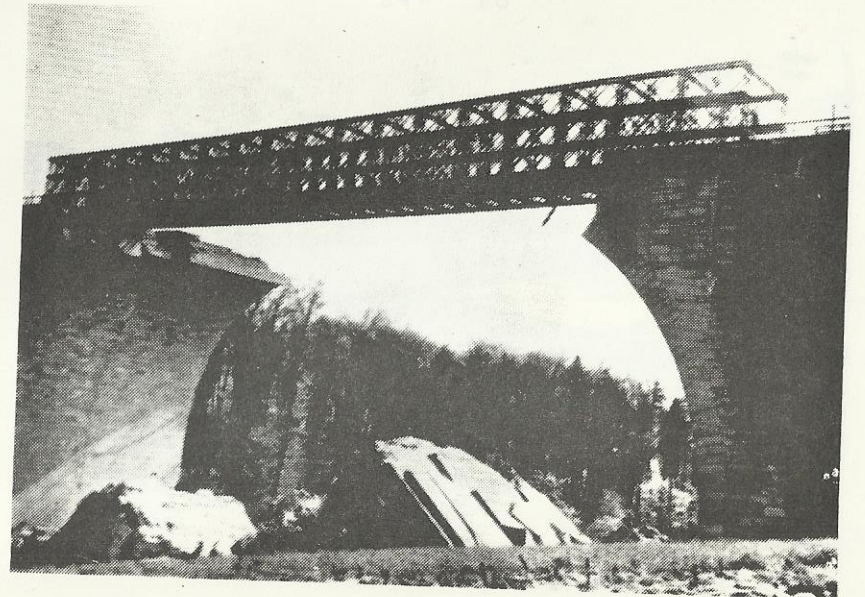


Fig. 16

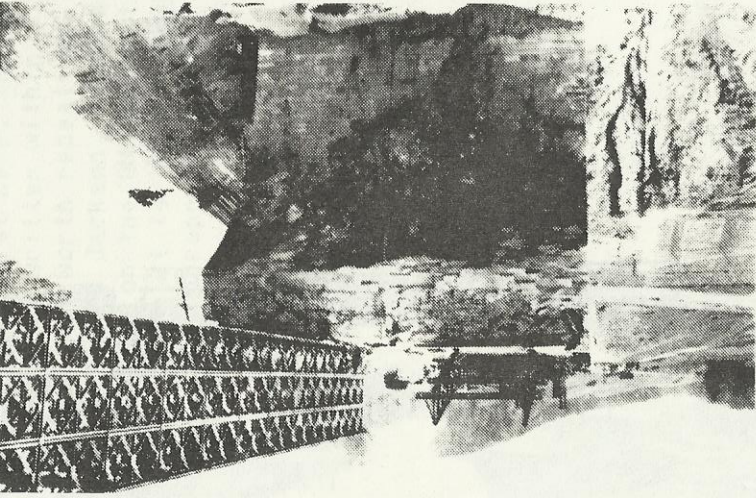


Fig. 17

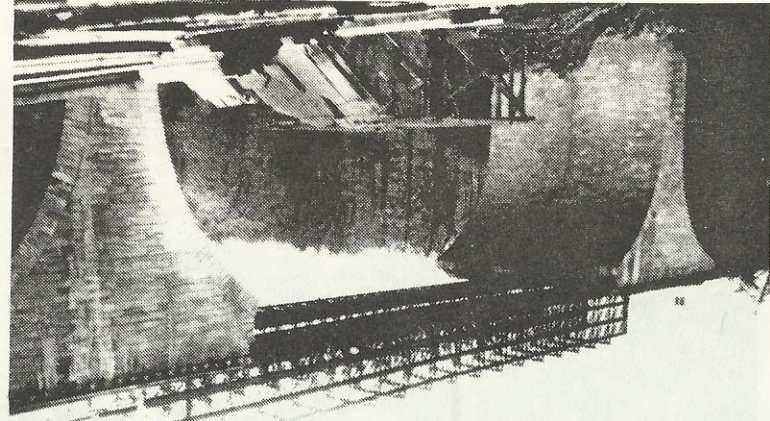


Fig. 20

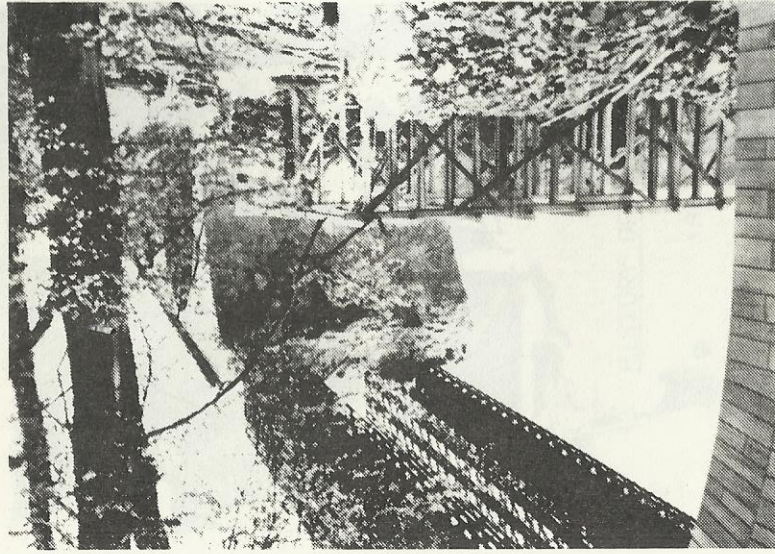


Fig. 19

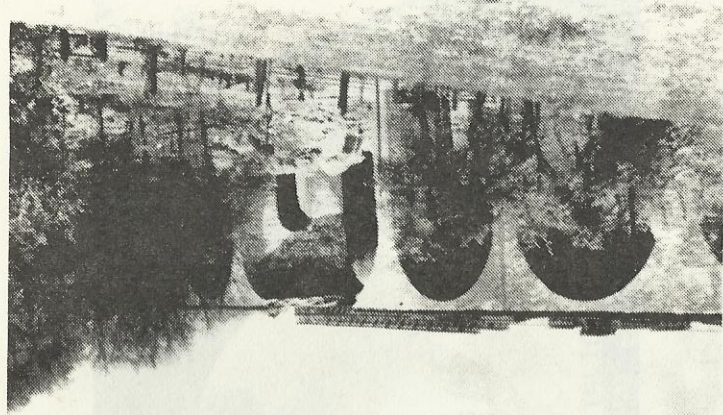


Fig. 21

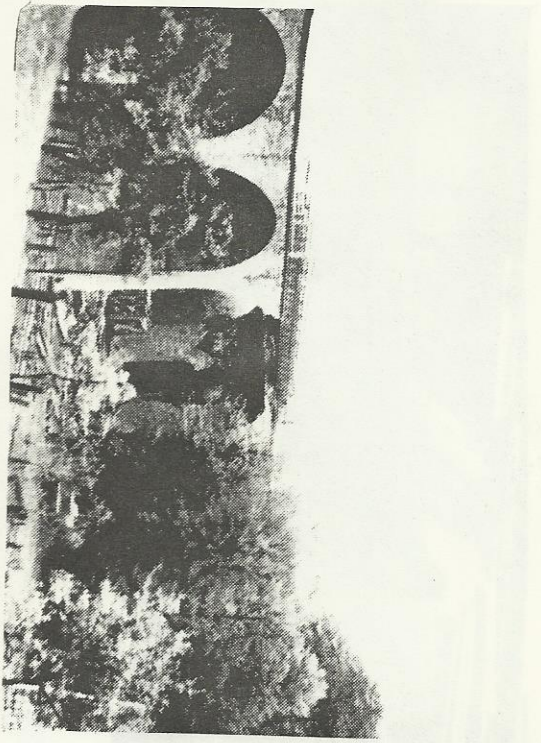


Fig. 22

30

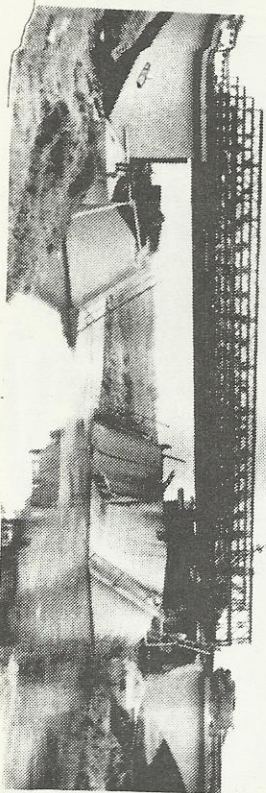


Fig. 24

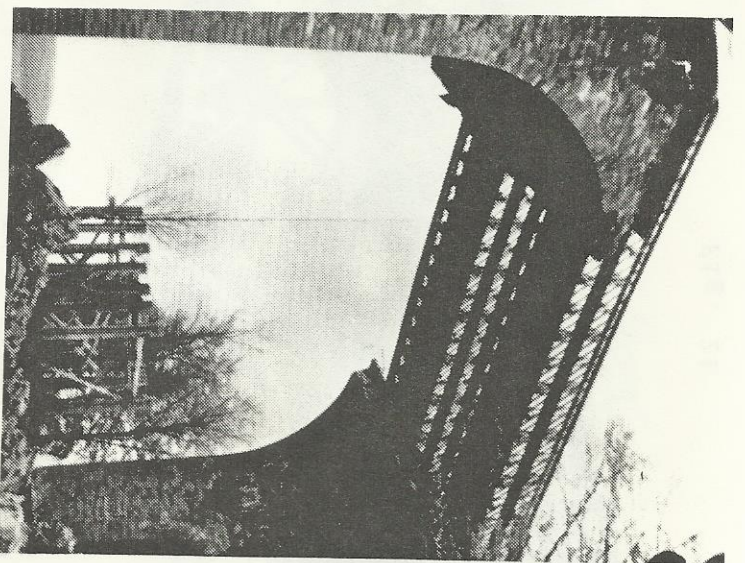


Fig. 23

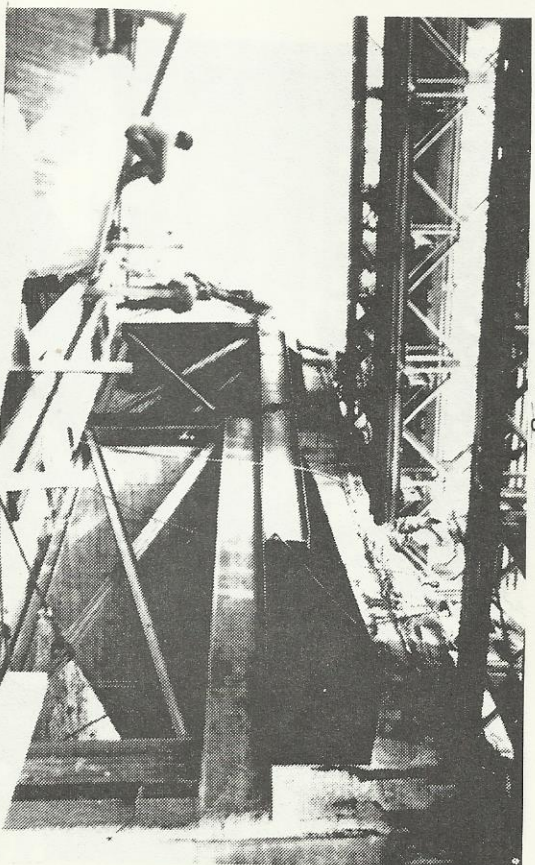


Fig. 25

HISTORY OF THE 138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

(As written in the DRAG LINE)

APPENDIX NO. 3

HISTORY OF THE 138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

(As written in the DRAG LINE)

The DRAG LINE was published by the Information and Education Section of the Bn. The publication was weekly and we have 27 issues out of the 31 that were written. Three officers were listed as the I & E Officer, 1st. Lts. Thomas E. Hall, Robert J. Branges & Fredrick R. Pence. Also, listed as the Historian; S/Sgts. Chas. E. Davis, William E. Bergstrom, and Christian Persina, and Cpl. Paul A. Kostick. There were Editors, Assistant Editors, Art Directors, Feature Editors, and Photographers too numerous to list here. This history seems to have been based on the Chronology, but written within a year of the happening by men who were there, so it is worth repeating. It starts on the 25 October 1944 when the Bn left Fort Jackson, SC, and ends with the 21 July 1945 when the Bn was working on the QM Depot at Giessen. We have typed the information as it is in the DRAG LINE, but added the Vol and issue number at the appropriate place.

HISTORY OF THE 138TH ENGINEERING COMBAT BATTALION

[As written in the DRAG LINE]

Vol 1 No 1

25 October 44, It was the last time you saw "beloved" Ft. Jackson. Boy! Were you glad to leave that hell-hole! Or were you? You didn't know where you were going except that before long you would be overseas.

The long train ride was over and you got out and stretched those cramped legs. Then a bellow from a loudspeaker system: "Fall In in three ranks!" and a moment later to the cadence of a snappy tune you marched toward the billets the battalion was to occupy.

The first few days at Miles Standish were the same old story. You listened to lectures on safeguarding military information, censorship of mail, GI insurance, and English customs and habits. You'd heard them a million times before at Jackson--but, at least, they weren't on Japanese customs, and the shots they gave you--they weren't for malaria or yellow fever.

Finally passes were given out, and last good flings in the good old USA were in Boston and Providence. We sure did paint the old towns red. Remember the grinds and the bumps at the Old Howard, and LILI St. Cyr at the Casino.

Clothing was inspected, and close order drill through the New England hills, and a football game on two when S-3 wasn't looking, kept us busy while all the time there was a ship at the pier filling its huge belly with sausages and flour and cans of stuff which we got to know better in the days ahead.

Vol 1 No 2

Five days out, and --except for a few--the agony was over. Nausea had given over to indigestion and rumors began to drift once more over the unsteady mess table and mingle with the putrid smell of cabbage and flat bread and greasy sausage to make everyone happy and spirited on the voyage to England .. France .. invade Norway ... and the other dozens of destinations garnered by the mongers of news and no news. The cinema had not lost its smell and the few remaining convalescents added daily to its potency. The latrines were being used for a more natural purpose than had occupied them the first days of the journey and the five sittings for the two meals discussed in the crowded stairways the best manner of averting an ulcer despite the determination of the galleys. We were reportedly trailed by a submarine and assumed the rumor to be true. We were reported just off the coast of South America and remembered the Miles Standish rumors concerning the Pacific and the Panama Canal. The dry runs of "Abandon Ship!" were done half with a smile and half with a grimace but were

always done regardless of weather. We learned to catch biscuits in mid-air when they left the table as the ship fell from the crest of a wave and we listened nightly to the crisp, clipped tones of the British Officer of the ship as he said, "Will the Officers please desist from encroaching on the enlisted men's premises and vacate the rubber deck immediately, Carry on." Convoys were sighted, overtaken and left behind; a rare whale spouted a geyser of white high above the green water, and the one morning, seven days from Boston, the chalk cliffs and the light tan and faded green mountains of Scotland...and the Nieuw Amsterdam disgorged its cargo.

Vol 1 No 3

A few days off the boat and we were beginning to get used to the taste of mechanical eggs and fish and chips. Florins and half-crowns were beginning to wear holes in our pockets, and we found out we weren't supposed to laugh when someone said tuppence ha'p'ny. Two foggy miles away was New Brighton with its Tower Ballroom, while across the Mersey in Liverpool you could get a relief from decaying creamed chicken in the form of a meal at Reese's. The kids who scrambles out of the way of jeeps careening precaciously along the left side of the cobbled streets gave us a new by-word: "Any gum, Chum?" We stared with open mouths at the city's bombed buildings and muttered that if the people back home could see this they'd realize there was a war on. As a training schedule began to take form in the shape of walks along the barbed-wire studded coast and lectured on VD and security, we started the long sweat for mail from the States. The ancient billet's plumbing facilities proved inadequate to cope with hundreds of cases of the now-familiar "GIs". Even as the salt spray from the prow of the Nieuw Amsterdam was drying off our raincoats, we began to hear the germs of rumors that we were the spearhead for a planned assault on the coast of Norway...that the Nieuw Amstrdam had been torpedoed on its return trip to the States...that President Roosevelt was almost on his deathbed.

Vol 1 NO 4

The colorless recording of the Battalion Log states, "4 December 1944--Co A,B & C departed Wallasey for Halton, England for instruction and practical work on the Floating Bailey Bridge. Departed Wallasey at 1230 by bus for Liverpool where trains took them to the destination."

It wasn't that simple. The skeleton record does not cast a glance toward crowded Lime Street Station where to the cadence of whistles and horns and a multitude of snickers the battalion did close order drill while waiting for departure time. That day saw the platoons spread wide and afar as commands were lost or confussed in the jangle of trolley bells and auto tootings. That day, too, saw the battalions introduction to compartmented railway trains as man after man's explorations for latrine facilities were halted just in time as doors opened to green valleys rather than corridors.

Halton remains a memory for the old timers as they recall the ankle deep mud and the cold, barren, concrete billets which made DP's of herds of deserving livestock. We began long days on the sites and long days of disgust and grimaces as kits of food turned to soup before our eyes in the constant rain. Evenings could be spent in Lancaster or at the billets and after an evening at each it became a question of, "Where would you like to freeze tonight?" We learned a little about how to tip the carrying bar so that the load falls on the other guy.

It failed to rain one day and after a deliberation it was decided to work regardless. Rain began again as we boarded the return train to Liverpool and we left the area as we found it-muddy. We returned to a host of H/S born rumors and MI's became important again. The dispassionate ink of the Battalion Log dutifully records, "Training was a success."

Vol 1 No 5

In the steel enclosed, squatty, dumpish, Nissen Huts of Oulton Park we heard the news of the Ardennes Offensive and began to sweat out the inevitable time when the infantry would discover the engineers. The evening gathered a responsive crowd about the cigarette shaped stoves and over the munchable contents of the Christmas boxes the chances of survival in this latest rumorary encounter were aired with a pessimism which had the most conservative accounts leaving most of us lying in the white snow of the front lines.

Chester had charms for those who had not discovered them in Wallesy or Liverpool. The WAAF and ATS of the British Forces gave us a new estimate and opinion of English military capabilities. They were available and despite the rigors of Bailey Bridge training and other exigencies of military life on a converted country estate a few of the fellows found an occasional spare moment for this somewhat lacking touch of home.

The Bailey was the demon of the month and an over zealous group official delighted the Christmas Eve of one company by desiring an erection and a tearing down. The children from Little Budworth promised an evening of caroling but the cold kept them in. The bridge was erected; was torn down. Mission completed, sir!

London was restored to its prewar grandeur by the efforts of some of our men who received the summons by virtue of their well hidden but excellent talents in the carpentry, brickmasonry, and associated fields. While the fortunate explored the mysteries of Kew and Lambeth, the remainder of the battalion welcomed Christmas with a promenade along the Dee or a quick weak one at the Red Lion or a carrying bar with attached panel. In the pub down the road the bar maid wiggled and bumped while the clients hummed, "Put your left foot in, put your left foot out, put your right foot in and shake it all about." The foot alone remained unshaken. Christmas day was off and we thought it a swell idea..

Vol 1 No 6

Christmas over, the unknown guardian of the official log fails to record the activities just prior to the New Year except for a casual reminder that total battalion strength was 603-3-29. The arrival of 45 sufficiently inspired the historian to accept a prolonged holiday and it is not until Jan. 8 that we find the official news of what was taking place. We can supply the interim information by a simple investigation of the week just past in Markt Oberdorf. From Oulton and Chester to here is a jump in time and distance that would indicate, at first, differences greater than they actually are. A holiday in the army is a holiday in the army and give it a new dress and a new face and it's still a holiday in the army. It's most capricious variation can be found in the microscopic differences of the alcoholic beverages consumed. And they vary more in name than in content.

We were still hearing of the Ardennes and were beginning to believe it was everything the radio and papers said it was. Sweat became a thing that rolled down the back rather than the facetious caption for a Yank cartoon. We heard all the rumors, believe them all and a good part of the belief had ourselves on the next participants. They were filled with anxiety producing elements: a unit just recently of Oulton Park had been annihilated in Belgium: engineers were to receive an infantry basic and be rushed as replacements to the hard pressed fighters at the front: the ATS girls in Chester were pulling out. God, it was an awful week.

There was guard and more bridges and inspections enough to satiate anyone but the insatiable Group Staff. The Nissens became favorite haunts of the higher brass who toured them so frequently that some squads contemplated publishing a scenic guide to the delights of the little rooms to aide the inspecting parties in their continual search for some elusive thing.

January 8 and the blow fell and 250 privates and PFC'S begin to be tutored in the arts of war by the infantry, represented by officers and men of the 69th Div. The T/5's and up collected passes and grease as they did K.P. and nothing. The lowly half of the unit struggled and groaned in the mud and snow and wrote home asking about their wills.....

Vol 1 No 7

Two weeks can pass like nothing at all, that is if your are spending them at home or a furlough. But an entirely different matter was that two weeks of snow and mud, crawl and hike, in merry old Cheshire; and that constant empty feeling in your stomach which might have been caused by fear of being made into a frontline infantry replacelment any day now; or then it could have been due to the chow being served by the A Co "cooks" in the H/S and A Co combined mess. In one H/S hut, bearing on the door the sign "17 Good EM and Chepin", chow was served three times daily precisely at the same hours as the mess hall gave away their's. Other huts followed suit; of course no one knows exactly where the food came from.

But at last came January 20th---the two weeks of Infantry Training were over. The Battalion Log on this date records "The training was conducted in a very satisfactory manner and all who participated were benefited by the training". So far no one has been located who agrees with the log statement, but then we must impress posterity, must we not?

Rumors were sixpence a dozen as to where the 250 Infantry trainees were going, but for once they all were wrong. Not a man left the unit, except O'Malley, and he got lost coming home from the Red Lion. Many had previously expressed a rather strong desire to take their leave of the 138th, but for once everyone loved England, the unit, and the officers.

During the training weeks, a group of NCO's traveled to Tewkesbury and returned with 36 new dump trucks. The Log, with an apparent sigh of relief states "At last we become motorized". Lt. Wilkens of A Co was instructed to prepare a new motor pool so that we would have a suitable place for our new trucks. The ground surface was to be covered with

pierced plank; of course the pierced planks were already laid in another spot and were neatly hiding beneath a foot of snow and ice, but S-3 said the job would be done. And, strangely enough, it was. Lt. Wilkens even caught a few H/S NCO's once or twice and put them to work; truly was is hell.

One night a few Okies coming back from Chester did a little crooning under the Group Colonel's window. The next morning we found ourselves restricted to camp. So that night the same mixed octet (half Scotch and half Gin) returned to present an encore, but this time they punctuated each verse with a few rather coarse phrases in which the Colonel's name seemed to be outstanding. What hapopened the next morning? Its hard to imagine why, but we were restricted again. After three days of this we, once again returned to the belles and bars of Chester, and the Colonel returned to his peaceful dreams, perhaps of better days....

Vol 1 No 8

The last ten days of January 1945 found the 138th participating in numerous battalion problems. On January 27th we successfully defended the Cheshire Lines Railroad against an unseen enemy who were attempting to capture Crewe. Casualties were very light and were mostly due to starvation, frostbite, and wrenched backs. The success of the problem was probably due to the enormous number of mines laid and double apron fence erected. Then too, the enemy might have had as much trouble hiking on the ice as we did, and maybe their commanding officer wasn't as persistent as ours.

On February second, 1132nd Group arranged another poroblem for us. This time we were forced to ride to our bivouac area. The Bn was responsible for the preparation of a barrier line across the rear of a proposed Corps area. The mission was accomplished and everyone pitched their tents in the rain, preparing to spend the night. But at 2300 someone suddenly ordered the problem to be at an end. So the tents were taken down, still in the rain, and we returned to our Nissen huts in Dulton Park.

The following day was mainly devoted to our first battalion review, which was enjoyed by all.

Company parties became very popular about this time, the favorite location for them being White Hall. Each time one was held, for some reason it became increasingly difficult for the next company to rent the place. This was especially true after the time when a certain company removed all the light bulbs from the lounge and barricaded the door from the inside. Maybe it was the ATS girls present who did the ghastly deed.

On February 7th, Scotland Yard sent out a call for help, and we answered. Several of our men, armed with mine detectors, searched a large area for the murder weapon used to kill a boy. The findings were kept secret, but it is known that one clue was found. At least we got our names in the English papers.

Then on the tenth of February we heard of our assignment to the 15th Army, unknown, unseen, but powerful (weren't we in it). So the stage was set for our next move. Everyone felt it would be only a matter of

days and they were right...

Vol 1 No 9

Bearing an attachment but little fondness to an unheard of 15th Army, the Bn received word on Valentine Day to be prepared for a move to the Continent by 22 Feb. 1945. The machinery that grinds out the orders necessary for all army actions, be they little or small, began to function and on the 19th, the advance detachment of 25 EM and 8 OFF left Oulton Park to arrange for a smooth clearance at the port and for a prearranged reception at the staging area somewhere in France. The following day saw the departure of our heavy equipment, with Mr. Seidl leading the way and searching out the best of England's poor road network. On the evening of February 21st, trucks were loaded with GI equipment, "borrowed" English blankets, and hoarded rations in preparations for the move the next morning. But just before we climbed into our beds for what promised to be the last good night's sleep for us all, the top kicks came around with the news that our move had been delayed 24 hours. On the morning of the 23rd, promptly at 0700, with no one present but the cool rain to bid us goodbye, we began our journey south to that old English sailing port of Southampton.

The Bn Log states, "Arrived at Marshalling Area at 0100 and Bn quartered in C-18". It may have been "quartered" to the unfeeling Log, but to the rest of us, it was a week of standing in a 5,000 man chow line three times a day to get our dole of a can of C rations; of stealing the boardwalks each night to burn in our stoves, and being reprimanded each morning for our dastardly deed; of holding our noses while engaged in the common processes of using the latrine. Five officers and 166 EM missed out on all this fun by being sent across the Channel with our vehicles the first day was arrived in Southampton. How we envied them...

Vol 1 No 10

Somehow a boat got to the dock and some orders were cut; everything was ready. So on the second of March, with everything we possessed strapped on our backs or carried in our hands, we fell out and did a four mile forced march to the dock where the good ship Empire Rapier calmly awaited our arrival. Under the cover of darkness, with most of the men sleeping soundly thru a calm and uneventful trip, we crossed the channel. Many men dutifully took their seasickness pills long before the boat left the pier and immediately felt sick, but on the whole everyone enjoyed the trip.

The first glimpse of France came the next morning when we dropped anchor in Le Havre harbor. The shattered cliffs and rudely opened homes and buildings, exposing their most intimate belongings to the world in a shameless immodesty, fronted by a water's edge of broken fortifications and sunken ships gave us all the impression that we had timed our invasion very nicely. Someone's remark that "We hit the beach on D plus 246 and held on despite the overpowering glares of the French populace", was rather representative. The trip in from the Empire Rapier was made in an LCT, with H/S Co spearheading the landing. And if someone doesn't believe that an LCT leaks, just ask anyone who was treading water in the front end of that one.

At Le Havre we were loaded onto 4 LCI's which took us up the Seine to Duclair, near Rouen. All along the river we saw evidence that the war

was not just a Stars and Stripes story. The Germans had lost heavily in their retreat across the Seine and the signs were still there. Everywhere the people hurried down to the rivers edge to wave handkerchiefs and shout greeting that made us indeed feel like the liberating heroes that we weren't.

After struggling for an hour up an unending hill in search of Camp Twenty Grand, one of the staff called a halt and sent out an SOS for trucks. So the last half of the trip was made in welcome vehicles, much to everyone's surprise. It was March 3rd, and we were sleeping in another foreign land.....

Vol 1 No 11

March 3rd marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the 138th Engineer Combat Battalion--we were on the continent. At that time we had no idea how long the outfit would be here; at this writing the feeling seems to be without change. Camp Twenty Grand first caused us to realize that there were other languages in the world besides English. We had laughed at the English and their strange pronunciations, but we had understood; now it was a far different story. This French was something to listen to and shake your head. However, it didn't take many minutes for us all to learn the new value of a pack of cigarettes; with them could be obtained wine, loaves of bread for which all Europe was supposedly starving, and many other commodities of less tangible form.

It was on March 5th that we were relieved of our assignment to the paper 15th Army and given over to the fighting 9th Army, which was then pushing across the tip of Holland toward the Rhine.

And then on March 8th, after three days of volley ball and good chow, we were told that the fun was over and that two days would find us "up where the chips were down". On the morning of the 9th the convoy headed out, in a general northerly direction, with our destination being the vicinity of Maastricht, Holland. North we moved along the trail blazed by the fighters of the British Second Army as they broke out from the beaches in the previous summer. All along the roadsides were the relics of war, smashed vehicles, minefields, bomb craters, destroyed buildings.

Just outside of Cambrai, France, we stopped for the night in a winter wheatfield. Just before retiring, each man was issued his basic load of ammunition and it was carefully stowed away in webbed pockets of cartridge belts and in the new banoliers. Along with the ammo came the news that our destination had been changed from Maastricht to Aachen, Germany. For some reason there was an unusually large percentage of the men who prayed that night before falling asleep....

Vol 1 No 12

We were up bright and early the next morning, March 10th, and continued our trip toward Aachen, Germany. But in Liege, Belgium we were met by a messenger who informed us that we were to go to our original destination, Maastricht. So, with our vehicles blacked out, we crept into Maastricht that night and moved into the building just vacated by 9th Army HQ.

While higher headquarters were discovering our presence in the army, we

explored the beautiful old town and its numerous English speaking girls. Arriving at the most opportune time possible to pose as heroes, the 6th month anniversary of the towns liberation, many of us amazed ourselves by the excellent manner in which we could play the role of hard bitten front line men. But one day of this and 9th Army found a spot for us.

60 miles in a northeastern direction brought us to our new location, a couple of miles east of Arcen, Holland. There a large turnip patch was first checked for mines by the 2nd platoon of Co A and some H/S men, and then we moved in and set up our pup tents. Speculation ran wild on all sides as to how far we were from the front. Just about dusk that question was more or less answered for all concerned when the first 88 landed about 1/4 mile off to our right. Then dark brought the chatter of numerous machine guns and AA batteries and the thunder and glare from countless artillery pieces. We were located a rather short distance behind the last pocket of Germans west of the Rhine, commonly known as the Wesel pocket. We also discovered that our bivouac area was practically located on the German boarder, in the midst of the British 2nd Army zone. The news that we were assigned to the 1132nd Emgr. Combat Group, and attached to the British 2nd Army filtered thru to us about bedtime.

And so, surrounded by English, we parked the trucks in Germany, slept in Holland and wished we were in America.....

Vol 1 NO 14 23 March 1945 -- 29 March 1945

23 March, 1945--Over the Rhine! The paratroop landings having been made westward and pockets established, the innumerable miles of gasoline and ammunition that had been stockpiled on the east bank of the Maas saw action. Poured into the thirsty innards of huge British tanks, and Brenn gun carriers, the fluid carried the guns and ammo at a furious speed to the nervously awaiting Germans. Thousands of 'lorries' crawled, bumper to bumper, over roads maintained by the 138th to the awaiting monsters who were standing at the banks of the Rhine and to those who were maintaining the costly bridgeheads. Such heavy traffic necessitated major repairs being made in the dark hours of morning while other necessary work was sandwiched in between convoys of lunging 'lorries'.

Nightly the drone of several German planes was heard above the area, trading bursts of machine gun fire for the English ack-ack and searching vainly for the gas and ammo dumps location. A few men saw the 'sport' from the comparative safety of previously prepared fox-holes, but most preferred to trust to luck and remain in bed rather than stand in three feet of water.

The battalion now maintained 60.2 miles of critical supply route, entailing work on three bridges across the Maas River; an 840 foot class 40 Bailey at Lattum, a 1244 foot class 40 Bailey at Venlo, and a 1280 foot class 9 pontoon bridge at Venlo. The two high-level Baileys were the first of their type constructed for battle field use, and a problem developed when the Maas fell sharply, but the difficulty was overcome by jacking them down to the new river level.

Road work was begun in earnest, some minor construction started and major repairs instituted. The British were rapidly moving up supplies to furnish the troop who were gaining steadily against "Deutschlands

Westwall", the 138th making sure that no snags in transportation developed because of highways. The big guns still boomed, thinning out the already depleted German ranks, and search-lights fanned the sky nightly, seeking the originators of the interminable coughing drone which meant--German plane! What a lullaby!! But the GI slept, and well, after a day of grueling work, and another of its kind in the offing.

Vol 1 NO 15

29 March 1945 -- 4 April 1945

138th Engineering Combat Bn, 9th US Army--attached, British 2nd Army--into Germany. The Bn again pulled up stakes, loaded gear onto trucks and departed Arcen, Holland for Sonsbeck, Germany. Roads again! The boys were getting a bit weary of the pick and shovel, but knew that their work was helping the effort of our allies a few miles ahead, and they put their shoulders to it. Anyway, we were on German soil, tangling with the Krauts in their own back yard, supporting the troops doing the really messy work. Ammo and gas trucks moved up, fresh troops poured in, battle weary veterans moved back, and the ambulances shuttled up and down the roads, our roads, night and day. Yes, there was a war up ahead, and the booming guns at night reminded you again of the fact. After a while, the pound, pound of the "big ones" lulled you to sleep at night--a pleasant sound, our guns!

Happy Birthday! 138th Engineers--activated 30 March 1944, Fort Jackson, SC--1 year old! A lot of water can, (and did) pass under the bridge in a year. Especially that little pond, the wintry North Atlantic!

On 2 April the Bn assumed responsibility for all general engineer work the entire width of the British 2nd Army front at a point just to the rear of the XXI British Corps boundary. Bn and Co C.Ps moved up again to take up more advantageous positions for the job. Baileys down, timber trestles up, fills, roads--spelling busy hours for the GI.

4 April saw two interesting incidents in the outfit. An escaped American prisoner from Berlin turned himself in to Bn HQ, was interviewed and dispatched to M.G. Our unit was the first American contingent he had seen in over fifteen months. Also, four German soldiers surrendered to Co C and were turned over to a British PW Cage.

--and the troops ahead hammered on.

Vol 1 No 16

5 April 1945 -- 11 April 1945

Still at it--roads and bridges--supporting the rear columns of the US 9th Army. Now the front was moving up fast, the Krauts taking to their heels and falling back from the powerful force of the Allied armored columns.

Excitement came to the men of H/S Co on the 6th of April when a fire broke out in their billets at Ureden. Although a few of the fellows had to make hasty exit via the second story windows, there were no casualties and only minor injuries. Aside from the building being completely destroyed, approximately 1,200 dollars worth of clothing and equipment were lost.

Co A removed a thirty foot BB and substituted a rock and rubble fill while Co C reinforced a Class 16 steel I beam bridge to make it a Class

40, both in addition to their road assignment work.

On the ninth of April, the Bn was transferred from the 1132nd ECG and the British 2nd Army to the 1147th ECG and the 9th US Army, result of which they moved to Beckum, Germany, 10 miles north-west of the last pocket in the Ruhr Valley. Resistance was stiff in this sector, and the conditions of the area pointed to the fact that there was a war going on. Makes a person think when he sees bodies stored like cordwood in a railway station, waiting shipment to military cemeteries. Crosses dotted the roads, and if you happened to pick up a heinie steel helmet for a souvenir, you shouldn't have been surprised to find blood in it, cold, but still coagulating. Fires of the infantry were still smouldering along the roads by their freshly dug fox-holes--there was struggle and strife ahead.

Co A was immediately assigned a bridge construction job, while at the same time doing their road maintenance with the other companies. So near to the activity of real war, the boys gladly carried their M-1s on the job, and kept a good look out for their steel helmets.

Vol 1 No 17 12 April 1945 -- 16 April 1945

On 12 April 1945, Co B was assigned the job of removing the BB across the Ahse River near Beckum and constructing a timber trestle across the remaining gap. Marks of war still lingered around the construction site and the advance crew looking over the situation had the unpleasant duty of interring a German artillery man, who had been shot and drove his Volkswagon into the crater, to the arms of his father soil.

Co A drew the assignment of filling 6,000 spare feet of shell craters on the Autobahn near the town of Werdenbruck. All of the line companies were mainly engaged in bridge work, removing BB, replacing them either with fills or timber trestles. BB parts were loaded on all of the vehicles that could be scraped together and rushed forward to the front, where the boys didn't have the time for fills and bridge construction. The army had to move, and now! Forty-four drivers from the 37th Engineers were attached to the Bn to speed up the shuttle.

A squad from the third platoon of Co B, while out making a reconnaissance on one of their missions, was fired upon by a German mortar, probably manipulated by some Heines who had been overlooked by the forward speeding troops of our army or some over-zealous civilians. No one was hurt, and it made a good story to tell the folks back home.

The Autobahn--Hitler's masterpiece-- and the frantic Germans had done their best to destroy all and everything on it. Gaps where bridges had stood--piles of rubble where viaducts had been, devastatingly lowered onto the breast of the broad highway. The spearhead troops had opened one lane and we prepared the other, gathering up the ravelled ends of the great road and knitting them into a whole for use by our military machine.

Vol 1 No 18 (No section on history was included in this issue)

Vol 1 No 19 17 April --20 April 1945

The dawn of April 17, 1945 found Co C with the honor of dismantling and guarding one mile of triple concertina around the Ninth Army Rear Headquarters at Rhydt. That same night the C.O., Colonel Purcell,

directed "Charlie Co" to move to a more suitable location, and so they were moved from Beckum to Buckeburg, Germany. Beckum, incidently, was still the CP of both A & B Cos.

April can be called the month dedicated to moving, for H/S took to the saddles also, and with out much fanfare arrived at 1615 hours, at Buckeburg after a three hour motor march. (Sometimes these motor marches could be more suitably described as Gypsy Caravans). Something new was accomplished here, in the Bn HQ was set up in a factory building. But there were times when a roof was a luxury, so there were no unfavorable comments.

The battalion was relieved of one job, that of all road maintenance, and Co C completed their job of dismantling concertina at Ninth Army HQ. Co B, not to be out done, pulled up stakes to pack for their trip to Ricklingen. By 1100 hours all their gear was stowed away in the trucks and the convoy was on its way over hill and dale for four and a half hours, finally reaching their new bivouac area just as the sun was sinking in the Western sky. Nineyfour miles of road passed under the trucks. Tired and anxious so get some sleep it wasn't long before all tents were pitched, guards posted, and another day devoted to "sightseeing" in Germany was over. Yes sir,--April thus far had been spent for the most part on wheels.

Vol 1 No 20

21 April -- 3 May 1945

Co C feeling the urge of their gypsy blood changed the location of their CP from one mile south of Buckeburg to the small town of Kleinenbremen just outside of Buckeburg and then finally settled, work began in earnest on two fixed bridges at sites 1 & 2 on the Autobahn. At site 1, the bridge had a span of 190 ft. and at site 2 a span of 125 ft. The initial work consisted of preparing the foundation prior to the building of the cribs. There was enough rubble laying around to necessitate the use of explosive for leveling purposes.

The Baker boys began work on another bridge this one across the Leine river. The hauling of material and preparing the abutments started the work off. The span when completed was 109 ft. long. Due to the shortage of long I beams, the bridge was built from material salvaged from the remains of the demolished bridge.

April 25 found both A & E Cos. moving their CP to new locations. A Co to Minden and the latter Co to Wunstorf.

Bn Hq received from Higher HQ a letter awarding to this unit a Bronze Service Star for participating in the campaign of Germany. The Bn strength at that time was 30 Officers, 3 Warrant Officers, and 603 Enlisted Men.

May 1 was a sad day for A Co, Pvt. Henry Kosechata died from wounds received near Buckeburg. To even the score A Co encountered 318 German POW riding in German half tracks and trucks on the Autobahn. They assumed the responsibility of processing them and then moved them to the POW enclosure at Minden.

Hearts were gay with the reports received by radio and Stars and Stripes regarding the fighting at the front, now so far away. It just couldn't last much longer...

While the usual snafu was flying around as to the end of war and the Boys debating at night as to the exact time and day, H/S Co, Medical Detachment and A and C Cos consolidated the CP to Hameln, Germany, a move of 20 miles.

On 5 May the Battalion received the assignment of maintaining two roads, Hameln to Elze, distance of 20 miles and the road from Escherhausen to Bad-Pyrmont, 22.4 miles. Another job handed the 138th on the same day was the search for engineer material in an area surrounded by the towns of Hameln, Pattensen, Gronau, Alfred, Escherhausen, Holzminden, Beverungen, Volkmarsen, Wrexen, Brackel, and Bad-Pyrmont. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack, Added to this trouble was the making out of the reports with town having names like Escherhausen.

Co B started the placement of stringers of bridge saite # 7 on the Autobahn.

May 8 found the shadow of death covering Co B Carl E. Young, crane operator, met death in the line of duty, killed by a falling crane. Call it fate if you want to, for it was known that V.E. Day was only 12 hours away.

May 9 1945, 0001, V. E. Day. A day millions had been waiting three and a half years for. The day was declared a holiday and was spent partriially in silent prayer for those men who had died in the service of their country, and also in the form of celebrations which were held in small groups. Due to the shortage of good whiskey and wines, "substitutes" were used.

Clearing their heads of the effects from the night before Co C continued their search for Engineer material and in addition took over the operation of a rock crusher located at Salzhemmein. All Companies continued their road maintenance and Co A got the job of loading lumber on flat cars at a railroad siding.

Came the 10th of May and the Battalion was officially entitle to wear an Overseas Service Bar, usually called the "Hershey Bar". It had been six months now, that the 138th had left God's country.

Along with such missions as dismantling a Bailey Bridge (Baker), crushing rock (Charlie) and loading plumbing and electrical supplies (Able) the HQ men found time to publish the first mimeocopy of "The Catbird Gossip". Headlines on this initial issue read, "You Need But 85 Pts. To Get Your Discharge Papers Now". (Rough days, those.)

The whole countryside was still subject to continuous search for engineer supplies which were then loaded on freight cars at various rail-heads. "A" Co was repairing roads and more roads, and tar was being spread on thick--These road assignments responsibilities then fell to "C" Co as well, and many were the cuss-words concerned with how to remove the tar or asphalt from fatigues.

Wasting no time our Bn opened up a Beer Parlor at the Krondorfs Guasthaus on Backerstrasse, Hameln. As a special treat Pretzels and French fried potatoes were served free. Beer was available at 1/2 mark a glass. Five cents for about 16 ozs. of beer is not bad in anybodys language. A howling success was assured by the attendance at opening night.

Bn established forward and rear echelons. Co A closed their CP at Hameln and proceeded to Bilshausen 68 miles away. Co B moved from Luchtringen to Bad Lauterberg a distance of 72 miles.

Dawn of a new day found all companies removing a BB and replacing same with a temporary timber trestle. The site location, St. Andreasberg, Germany.

A squad of men from Co A and B were given the assignment of loading Engineer supplies at Hameln for transportation to the bridge site. A group of 41 German civilians co-operated in this deal.

The 29th of May found our Bn transfered from the 1147th ECG to the 1115th ECG. Lt.Col. Purcell assumed temporary command of the Group.

Memorial day found personell working on the Service Rate Score. Upon completion, the average score for Enlisted Men was 41.38, for Officers, 54.57 points. 252 EM had scores of 41 points or more. Bn strength at this time was 31 Officers, 3 WO and 590 EM.

The first of the month found the entire Bn stowing away their gear and packing their barrack bags for another move. The outfit by this time is begining to feel like a theatrical troupe making one night stands.

H/S Co, A Co and C Co departed from Hameln by motor at 1000. Co C broke away from the convoy as their destination was Ehringhausen and the rest of the Bn reached their bivouac area at Katzenfurt at 2100. Time consumed, 11 hours, miles traveled 200.

B Co left Luchtringen and caught up with C Co at Ehringhausen.

After a night of rest C Co and a platoon of men from Co A and B began a reconnaissance of roads and bridges for future maintenance.

The general trend seems to be Platoon work, a Platoon from B Co began constrution on a PW enclosure while a Platoon from A Co started repairing the Reichsautobahn.

Dawn of a new day found A Co making necessary preparations for temporary bridge construction. The rest of the Bn continued with their previous duties.

The one Platoon from B Co managed to obtain the help of 24 PW laborers. This stepped up constrution of their own cage.

A red letter day in the ETO, after months of combat A Co started Treadway Bridge training.

Special Services requested a stage to be built for XIX Corp at Bad Nauheim. As our motto implies, "It will be done", four Carpenters from our Bn were sent to do the job. The rest of the Bn continued with their present duties.

Vol 1 NO 27 15 June -- 21 June 1945

The let down from work is terrific, no reversion of work schedules, work continues as usual. This week history will have to be a resume of the work performed the past week.

C Co still getting Treadway Bridge training while a platoon from C Co repaired secondary roads and by-passes around demolished bridges. A Co was doing bridge construction on the Autobahn. XIX Corps map reversion continued with all company Recon. teams participating.

B Co still working on the stage for the XIX Corps Special Service.

Vol 1 No 28 22 June -- 28 June 1945

The Treadway Bridge training was cancelled, so all the companies prepared to move to begin work assignment at airport in the vicinity of Giessen. Co C which was at Ehringhausen, departed for Henchelheim a distance of 21 miles. The former German Airport at Giessen was to be converted to a Class I QM Depot for Occupational troops.

Co C was cleaning rubble at the airport and patching pot-holes. Co B departed from Katzenfurt for Grossen Busack, traveling a distance of 20 miles. Co A was still continuing the Bridge construction and Autobahn maintenance, while H/S Co departed from Katzenfurt and established a CP at Rodgen covering a distance of 23 miles.

Co's A & B started hauling drainage tile while they opened up existing drains. While these two companies did that, Co C undertook the job of cutting drainage ditches and repairing roadcraters that were on the airport. Then Co A departed from Hohn and traveled 75 miles to Allendorf and establishing a new CP there.

Vol 1 No 31 14 July -- 21 July 1945

To continue the history of the Bn a year ago today; A Co is hauling aggregate and spreading rock course at the Giessen airport; C Co is preparing subgrade while B Co is doing drainage work.

Bronze Star Medals were awarded to T/4 Dale Johnson and T/4 Frye at retreat ceremonies at H/S Co on the 17th of July thus making this day a commemorable one for the Bn.

The schedule of work has stayed the same for the companies nearly a week now and they are still going strong. Something new occurred, a general inspection of all civilian homes in the American Zones of Occupation was conducted. A CIC Team visited Roedgen and made a general inspection, discovering a small amount of loot and contraband items. The Bn was confined to the area over the week-end by reason of this check, and only essential travel was permitted. The Bn was relieved from attachment to the XIX Corps and attached to XXIII Corps.

(Note: There are four missing issues. They are: #13, 26, 29, and 30.)

APPENDIX NO. 4

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE DRAG LINE BY FOUR COMPANIES

OF THE 138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

The DRAG LINE was a weekly newspaper published by the 138th ECB. For more information about the DRAG LINE see the INTRODUCTION TO APPENDIX NO. 3.

Each of the four companies made a contribution to the weekly newspaper. These were not headed by something as simple as CONTRIBUTED BY COMPANY A, but each company had its own way of identifying its contributions. The words, ABLE WILLING with a sketch of a duck's head between the two words was Co A's title. Co B used, BUZZING AROUND with a bumble bee and a large letter B. Co C was a little more direct with, 'C'ING THINGS, and of course there were the heads of four Indians. H/S Co used, RIGHT TO THE POINT, with a soldier with sore feet--I think. These contributions add greatly to the history of the Bn, so they have been included in this appendix as they were written, except I have identified the contributions by using the companies proper title. Also in the DRAG LINE were several feature articles. I selected six of these as appropriate for the history.

This appendix has been indexed, and it is located at the end. The page numbering of this appendix was originally done by a computer in conjunction with the indexing. Therefore, the page numbers in the index refer to the page numbers that are circled on each page. The other page numbers are the one I have given to the entire book.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE DRAG LINE BY THE FOUR COMPANIES

OF THE 138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

November 2, 1945

A Co. -- by one of Mitzi's Pups

Acting upon numerous requests from our many fans, we have been doing a little detective work in regard to the identity of this Moxie who keeps decorating the halls and corridors with meaningful posters and green boxes full of small objects. There is no Moxie listed in the battalion files; in fact there is no place on the T/O for a person of his (or her) capabilities. We tracked down the rumor that Moxie was the cleaning girl in the third platoon billet, but found that the poor Fraulein doesn't even speak enough English to run an establishment of the sort Moxie advertises. In a word, we are baffled, and any further clues would be much appreciated.

Furloughs Again

Mort Eydenberg and Bob Allen started the ball rolling on what we hope will be a new era of passes and furloughs, as they took off late last week for Switzerland. Able Company, as you know, has had the questionable honor of being classified essential for the past six weeks or so too essential for anything but work on the hospital. A subject which has been thoroughly discussed over coffee and doughnuts for some time.

For the benefit of those of you who look back on the days at Ehringshausen with some pleasure or satisfaction, we are glad to receive news from our Roving Reporter in the Southern Area, who breezed through the village one day last week. Another ordnance outfit is occupying our old billets, keeping those German civilians (including the beautiful Liesel) comfortably huddled in their cellars. The bridge over the river is well on its way to completion. And a certain blonde number by the name of M... is in what you might call a family way. (But where's the family?)

Then there's the lad in the company who carries two packs of cigarettes with him -- Camels and Marvels. The catch is that he carefully empties the Camel pack and fills it with Marvels, and vice-versa. If anyone asks him for a butt he hauls out the Camel package and slips him a Marvel, at the same time drawing no attention to himself as he surreptitiously smokes the camouflaged Camels. Shrewd?

Rumor Department

The Classification and Research Division of the Reliable Inside Information Section of our Rumor Department has been hard at work. We tabulate a few of the results of the past week:

1. Rumor: Battalion is raising the hulk of the S.S. Navaho (remember that movie: "S.S. Navaho...ten-thirty"?) and sailing home for Thanksgiving. Source: doubtful. Credibility: 40%.
2. Rumor: Battalion moving to Paris to dismantle Eifel Tower for conversion into Bailey Bridge panels. Source: excellent. Credibility: 80%.
3. Rumor: Bob Boulos has his eye on one of the government's surplus submarines, and is taking a USAFI course in underwater navigation. Source: Boulos. Credibility: zero.

C Co. -- with Clyde Wood

Castor and Campanella's "Stagger Inn" has opened its doors again, with a hearty response from the men. With a shipment of cognac on its way, we won't have much trouble keeping the place alive. Acting NCO for Special Service is T/4 Ed Kietzer who keeps us well informed as to the shows playing at the 280th Station Hospital. He also has the Company library and reading room in good shape. In case some of you might not know where it is located ... Well you go to the beer Hall: it's right across from the mess hall. Then you -- Oh it's just above the beer hall. It looks as though by the time we get our recreation facilities going we will be moving and it probably won't be long before we will be guzzling elsewhere.

Besides our regular work on the construction of the hospital the men are having quite a time winterizing their trucks and jeeps. Jimmie Roberts has quite a time getting the proper materials for his door. We don't understand it; he never had any trouble getting anything else. The Red Cross has notified Stan Brown that his father is seriously ill, and he is departing for the States soon. We hate to see him go under such sad circumstances. It's been swell having you with us, Stan, and our best wishes for good luck go with you.

Schools and Football

The following men are enjoying the opportunity of attending the unit school at the Hospital: Ashley, Bobrow, Burg, Dabrolet, Kietzer, Webster, and Wood. It will

all add up when the day of reckoning comes around and we are all civilians again.

Two of our C Company boys are making the 280th Hospital football team. Cpl. Gorrilla did a fine job Sunday afternoon in an inter-squad game at the job of being a quarterback, while Sgt. Friedley was right in there and did a bang up job taking care of left end. Incidentally for those interested they play again Sunday at Frankfurt with the 29th Infantry Regiment. It should be a good game. The men of the company are backing you.

Our good friend Lt. Keenan is back from his furlough in England. Did you know he has a bride now? All the luck in the world, Sir, and we are glad to see you around the company area again.

Capt. "Smiling Jack" Peters has that certain gleam in his eyes these days. It seems the fairer sex can change a man's life. Well, she looks okay to us.

Henry Teague had quite a time Saturday Nite. It was raining out too if you remember.

The PW's are busy about the company area everyday. Everything looks nice and clean these days including Tantalos's shoes.

Our own T/4 Joe Welsch, acting mess Sgt., has a big job on his hands now. He spends half of his time in the Orderly Room and the other half at his regular job. He must be a student of Shakespeare because he goes around saying "To be or not to be, that is the question." You'll make it, Welsch. We won't say what though.

B Co. -- By Bert Olsen

At this stage of the game one knows not whether he should discuss the improvements that have been made in B company's area at Kirchheim or whether should get into the thick of things as to the rumor situation. Perhaps by the time this goes to press it would be more appropriate to talk about improvements made in the new B Company area in -- Austria -- Czechoslovakia -- Berlin -- Southampton -- Russia -- or wherever B Company may be according to rumor. Yet on the other hand the correct thing might be to inform the readers how stupid we were in believing the rumor in dissembling all improvements, which have been made here in B Company. In Kirchheim, B Company inaugurated a company laundry, and B's Enlisted Men's club has a more pleasant atmosphere and serves a greater variety of liquors than most officers clubs in the ETO. If you happen to drop in to eat with this company you do not mess any more, you dine.

Officers Mount Sphere

Since the ending of the war, B company officers have approved more and more things toward the comfort of their troops.

In Katzenfurt it was the library, in Grosen Buseck it was the EM club. Now in Kirchheim the library and the EM club have been improved and the company laundry and EM dining officer style has been inaugurated. It has taken a lot of hard work on the part of EM and officers alike. Naturally a unit likes to show off what it has; consequently, we deem it quite appropriate to boast of our accomplishments to the companies in this bn.

If there is any company who can match us item for item as for as the aforementioned conveniences are concerned may we remind you of B Company's history book which will be back from the printers on November 3 and its newspaper is still a weekly publication. Buddie, things you dream about -- we have here at B company.

H/S Co. -- by Fred Eilenstein

Nobody seems to know where we are going but what about those 600 pair of skis which came in yesterday? Answer that one, BSO?

One of the German PWs remarked yesterday that we are a trifle slow in getting our 60 point men home says the German that most of theirs have been taken care of.

More disappointing news: There will not be enough xmas tree ornaments to go around.

Hot Shot Scott, the smiling 059, says that he plans to reopen his hot dog stand when he gets back.

Big Time Charley Chiaravalle will go back to burlesque.

Did you know that S/Sgt. Maynard of the Medics is also a former star of the screen? Remember Boris Karloff in the "Bride of Frankenstein"? Well sir, Maynard was best man.

Sgt. Gellert still remains true to the one and only. Says Chuck: "These frauleins are ok I guess but I got plenty of points and will be home soon. I'm contented and will wait my turn. I wonder what Berlin will look like".

The possibility that we will make a training film on "How to tie Knots and untie them", is blossoming again.

Metro Goldwyn Mayer turned it down but RKO is now interested.

Too bad about those 44 to 49 pointers!! Who is going to teach us to ski?

You'd get a big kick out of the way those German civilians root for our teams at Kleinengelis.

The oldest man in the outfit is Tec. 4 Killy, H/S Co, 43 and he is a VOLUNTEER!!! The lowest score in the Bn is 21. The highest is 79 for EM and 98 for Officers. Anyone going to the UK be sure and take a couple of candles.

Did you know that M/Sgt. MacDonald played with William . . . and Mary? S/Sgt. Davis hopes to land a job on the radio. Has a good voice too. On the radio he would be better . . . off!!!

With the water off all we need now is some of that chicken we had at Oulton Park. Sometimes you just can't let things out. Also the Electricity is off so this paper probably won't be published either. (Like hell! Editor).

November 15, 1945

A Co. -- by One of Mitzi's Pups

Well, Our Man of the Week is Pfc. Jimmy Baker, who by now is probably started on his way back to Christmas dinner at home in Oklahoma. Baker was the first man in the company to take the bull by the horns and sign up for the regular army. For a period of a few days last week, after he signed his discharge papers and before he reenlisted, it was Mr. Baker (to you!) and Jimmy was having a lot of fun figuratively thumbing his nose at anything and everything in uniform. He's a good egg, and we want to wish him beaucoup luck wherever he goes.

We caught hold of Baron Bernard Roth mournfully trudging his post in a military manner through the mud the other night, sadly twirling his cork-screw in his left hand. His plans were to move the Chicken Roost stone by stone from Brusselsberg, but we moved out so fast he didn't have a chance.

Bee-fancier Harry Cuthbertson has what is obviously the best little billet in the area--the apiary in the orchard behind the company CP. Here he has exactly what everybody in the Army of Occupation needs: a private place just to sit and brood.

Ambassadors, Fall In!

The title of Ambassador of Good Will is indeed flattering, but all this heavy thinking about your diplomatic responsibilities is likely to cause you to do to the left flank march when the command was to the right.

On page thirteen of last week's Yank appears a poignant notice explaining that the magazine will discontinue publication at the end of this year. "Mail Call" has been one of our best friends in the ETO; almost any time you could open to the letter page and find a lugubrious note from Name Withheld or 69 Signatures Ed., whose outfit was far more chicken than yours ever thought of being. Whether Yank is closing down because, as the editors say, its "original mission...has been officially completed", or because of political pressure, we're going to miss it a lot. Especially Sad Sack--we could use a lot more Ambassador of Good Will like him.

The day of the black market is apparently over, as of November 10th. We have the uncomfortable feeling that this super-strict control of our currency is unconstitutional, and we wish Ambulance-Chaser Lindenbaum were still here to take the case to the Supreme Court, at least in fancy.

A quick check of the company roster shows that only seventy-three of our original company, with which we started overseas a year ago this week, are still with us. Lt. Wilkens is the only officer.

C Co. -- with Clyde Wood

One officer and one EM are the only men left out of the original cadre that were in C Company when the battalion was activated in March 1944.

S/Sgt Wayne D. Good, our Supply Sgt., came to the 138th Engineers from the 8th Armored Division and has been with C Company from that date. Sgt. Good was working for a linen-supply company before entering the army. He expects to open his own business on the day the discharges were handed out. We know it has been tough getting the supplies for the men. There were the days at Fort Jackson, Miles Standish, England, France, Holland, Germany and Czechoslovakia and he must have missed Helen a lot, for back there in Wadsworth, Ohio, she still waits his return. We hop it won't be long, Sgt.

C Co C. O. A & M, OCS

Captain "Smiling" Jack Peters was a 2nd Lt when he came to "C" Company. He went to A and M College of Texas prior to finishing OCS at Camp Davis, North Carolina. He completed schooling at Fort Belvoir and was assigned to "C" Co. of our battalion. He hopes to finish engineering school when he gets out of the army and returns to his Longview, Texas, home. We're glad you're our CO, Sir. We hope you stay our company commander until we're all civilians again.

The 280th Station Hospital and 1264th Engineer Battalion played a 6 to 6 tie at Frankfurt last Sunday. As you know Friedley and Gorrilla were making the first string before we moved. Friedley, left end, played a good game in taking out the

interference while Gorrilla, quarter back, did a find job of backing up the line and

calling the plays of offense. He played all but a few minutes, but Friedley was a 60-Minuter.

Pierce Polices Primary Platoon

We had quite a time on our trip here from Marburg, Germany. With the help and leadership of the first platoon commander, Lt. "Police Call" Pierce, we'll have everything in the company area in good shape before long.

Tec 4 Kietzer, our Special Service Representative, says he hopes to have the recreation facilities in full swing soon. While Campanella and Castor's beer hall should open in the next few days.

You can always tell when Pierce and Primavera are around these days. It's either "I see by now" or "The lights have done gone out."

Several of the men of the Company are anticipating signing up for the regular army. They are Johnson, Woods, Everson, Shelton, Burelson, and Roberts. We wish you luck, for we're afraid you'll need it.

B Co. -- by Bert Olson

Dobransy nuts. Yi, what a language these Czechs have. So here we are in Czechoslovakia--but what comes next? Are we really here as a political force? Or is it strictly because of the need of engineer troops? What are we going to do? One frequently hears the following--going from the sublime to the ridiculous (as may be army custom?)--we're going to be filling potholes, repairing bridges, shoveling snow, melting ice, spraying DDT powder, doing close order drill (silly isn't it?)--or shall we all take off for seven glorious days in Switzerland?...I don't know--you tell me. However, when the snows come, this columnist has ideas of latching on to a box of ten-in-ones and my skis and taking off for the hills.

B Buzzes with Big Business

We here in B Company are endeavoring to make our area as nice as that which we had back in Kirchheim. Our EM club is now operating and we wish to mention the work done by Frank Zielinski, Ted Mireau, Bill Capps, L. W. Duncan, and Gerald Derry in putting it into operation. Our library, the game and craft rooms, and the I&E and Special Services Office are now open. Concerning our mess hall, the mess personnel would like to set up with the dishes, silverware, etc, but as the latest word about has it that we will not be here more than a few weeks--that fact coupled with the water situation being what it is, it may be that we will continue with our present set-up until a better and more permanent area is reached.

DO YOU KNOW?...Mike Maruskin is the Major's interpreter...that in order to be admitted to the Pilsen nightclub one has to be accompanied by a woman companion....the one day pass to Prague is really a good deal.... Donald Blythe and Horace Angus Ensign got lost coming back from the showers in Pilsen and tried to take the boys back to Germany (not a bad idea)...the trouble our orderly room has with about six dozen Czechs coming around wanting to be hired...our First Sgt. Rogers has a shadow...when the recruiting dope was set for 12 months quite a few B company boys showed considerable interest, but when they learned it was for 18 months--no thank you....that reveille formation is a pain in the neck?!...our history book has returned from the printers. Orchids must be awarded to Jerry Polacek and Bill Bergstrom and all those who helped. It is an exceptionally good book and anyone interested in seeing it may do so by dropping around to our I & E--Special Services Office.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS..are you allergic to eggs?

H/S Co. by -- Fred Eilenstein

Are you comfortable?...Are you Cozy?...Well let's get started anyway...As things would turn out, the 600 pair of skis has to be turned in and instead we drew 600 gallons of white paint so maybe we will get that ride on a sled after all. Now what could all that paint be for?...We could use some for the football field.

Nice country this Czechoslovakia...reminds me of Bohemia...And speaking of football, don't forget the big intersectional game between Pilsen High and Nuremburg Vocational School this Saturday. Yosh Gaforit is the star of the Pilsen team..And if you like to earn money in your spare time, get yourself some cigarette papers and a cigarette roller and then..

Theme songs: Regular Army Enlistees; "I'll be Home for Christmas". A Forty Two pointer; "I Don't Care."

PFC Renny is making a big name for himself and they all call him it, too. Ask him for his rendition of "Caladonia". Did you know we were supposed to work on the Burma Road and work our way to the Gobi Desert?

RUMORS: Austria.

S/Sgt. Rubin and his pancake pushers are doing a fine job, and speaking of food, what's cooking, Mr. Fama? Tec 4 Ozvath weds in England soon. He's an operator

(Big) and she's an operator (Telephone). Reports from Hollywood state they are now working on a sequel to "Gone With The Wind."...I'm not sure but I think it's to be called, "Blown Back." Rumors have it that its Munich...Tip to PFC Harrison of Company A and all other men who will be in the Army a long time: stick your pay in soldiers deposits.

Tec 5 Votaw, Company C is another of our long list of stars of the stage, scene and radio, Remember Phillip Merivale in the legit play, "Death Takes a Holiday?" He was the undertaker...The movies aren't too old but I wonder if "The Birth of A Nation" will play here real soon. Captain Strauss denies he played the part of the Doctor in that one...

Tec 5 Cedric A. O. Curran, Co. B, is another of the many boys in our outfit who still remains true to the one and only. Says Cedric. "I'll be walking down Tchoupitoulas Street in New Orleans on March 9, 1946 if I'm not still in the Army. Nix wid the Frauleins."

It gets so cold here the natives use thermometers for rat traps. They put cheese under the thermometer and the mercury falls down and hits the rats on the head....Remember men, it all adds up to security...

November 22, 1945

A Co. -- by One of Mitzi's Pups

With the speed of a German kid who spots a cigarette butt, Pfc. Jimmy Harrison took leave of the battalion last Friday. This tired old combat engineer is in his way back to the States for Thirty days of "Rest and Recuperation". Apparently he is about the only man in XXII Corps who combines less than 36 points with more than a year overseas.

The day we heard the troops will be out of Czechoslovakia by the end of the month, work was started on a company mess hall. We were hoping that the thing would be finished in time to have one meal in it before we left, but late last week construction suddenly came to a halt for undisclosed reasons. To the martyred, hard-working construction men of the second platoon, many thanks for a good try.

In the cultural wilderness of a central European village we are often deficient in the better things of life, but the vocal duets with piano accompaniment of S/Sgt Bob Boulos and Cpl. Martin ("Calloway") Frishberg go a long way toward filling the gap. We still want to find the key to lock that piano.

Fast on the heels of Jimmy Baker, who reenlisted and disappeared last Thursday, are Bivins, Nance, Kreider, and Wedge. They all left the company last weekend.

We've seen supply sergeants without hearts, without hair, but S/Sgt Carlos Loyacano is the first one we've ever noticed without any teeth. After much persuasion, Loyacano made the following statement for the press: "Fffffff!"

News from home: when last heard from, Cpl. Chuck Saunders was at Ft. Belvoir sweating out a discharge. Both Clyde Lindenbaum and Sgt. William M. Johnson are civilians.

For sale or trade: one pair of well-worn first lieutenant's bars. Any of you guys got ambitions?

H/S Co. -- by Fred Eilenstein

Dobransky, Czech. Nov. 23 (TS)-----Have you made any plans for New Years Eve? Do you know what you're going to do? If not file an application for reservations with Cpl McGill before Dec. 31.

There will not, repeat-WILL NOT be any day given off for Xmas shopping.

The dance was a big success the other evening at the Mess Hall. Tec 5, "Call Me Handsome", Preston says the gal he danced with was a suicide blond...dyed by her own hand! T/Sgt. Romberg who can also trip the light sarcastic has this to say about the boys who are ribbing him: "I know the gal I had was no Hedy Lamarr but some of youse guys what has no sex appeal is a little off the beam. Maybe she did have a full upper and partial lower but most of us have our false, don't we?"

The Army of Occupation Ribbon hasn't been designed yet; however, according to a spokesman in Washington it will probably be a chocolate color with peanut clusters for each fraulein.

Attention all men with 55 points or 4 years service or more! There will be a suitcase drill tomorrow evening at H/S Company Gym.

Mrs. Tec 5 Keltz postcards her hubby: Dear Snookums: Having wonderful wish. Time you were here.

Those people outside the mess hall have split into two groups. The first group you will hit will be those who don't want sugar in their coffee. The second group is a bunch of youngsters and they take coffee only if it has sugar. Remember now: First group, no sugar.

Do you know which way your ETO ribbon is worn? Do not wear it upside down in Pilsen.

Pfc "Curley" Chepin denies that he uses a wash rag to comb his hair. Says Curley, "Its a lie. I use a rubber sponge."

B Co. -- by Bert Olson

Well, first off I guess we will have to tell you that we certainly don't hope to compete with that fellow Eilenstein, (of course you all know Eilenstein -- he who gets it "Right To The Point"), that is to say, in most respects, however. But, we will at least give you the straight dope. Ahem. Quite a few B company men were really doing some buzzing around last Saturday after spending all afternoon looking for that football game between Pilsen High and Nurenburg Vocation School--the game which Eilenstein spoke of in his last week's column. What gives, Eilenstein?....Now tell us it was played in Nurenburg.

DO YOU KNOW?....which it is--Fussen or Berchtesgaden....a few of the boys here, including Bob Gawne, Vincent Cerro, Dick Flores, Frank Anderson, Bill Boettjer have acquired the necessary ski equipment for themselves in anticipation of schussing in the Alps. In addition, our Special Services Section has also bought a good number of skis and accessories for the company use. So, Riviera--here we come..it ways here in small print....and what do you think of the Currency Control Book? What a beating those Pilsen stores have taken...our regular army man, Sgt. Charles Leep, and he has only 12 years to go before he will be able to retire on the 20 year plan...Mike Maruski's aunt and uncle--who live about 300 miles from here in Russian occupied territory--visited him here over the week-end...score one for A company--or didn't you listen to last Friday evening's Tri-Color radio station Music On Wax Program....the band certainly sounded swell at B company's dance last Saturday night....it never gets cold or snows around here..really?...

Oh, stop your complaining--if you don't like this column then why the devil did you waste your time by reading so far?...that all of us will be out of the ETO and back in the States by the first of January..1947 FAMOUS LAST WORDS....says our medic, the good Doctor Arnold Cohen, "Hmm...that's very interesting...astounding."

C Co. -- With Clyde Wood

News comes back to us from the men who were lucky enough to get a pass to Prague that the ladies of Czechoslovakia have a way of their own on the dance floor. Rumeliote, Feldt and Ebersold all found out how the other half lives. We only wish there had been more passes.

Four C Company men have become civilians in the last few days only to become members of the regular army. Burleson, Shelton, Roberts, and Dunger are on the way to the States and a ninety-day furlough. We know they will enjoy that three months but oh that fifteen after.

Ashley, Bobrow, Griffin, R. E. Evans, Hass, McCann, Mansour, Miller, Sherman, and Williams are the brand new Pfc's in the Company. It seems there is no limit to the heights a person can reach in the army.

Just back from the Army School are Stokes, Cox, and Lutz. They report the classes were exceptionally worthwhile. Lutz and Cox attended the Engineer Specialist School at Epernay, France, while Stokes worked with some of the most prominent British architects during his course at the Royal Institute of British Architects. He reports the course quite a "pip of a thing". Rawther Fascinating you know."

Sitting around the radio th other night we heard the announcer at Radio Pilsen trying to determine the meaning of the "C" in battalion's complete moniker. Oooh! The thing he said.

Another of our T/4 cooks is acting now as our Mess Sergeant. T/4 Saunders is a former hash slinger for the 381st and has succeeded so far in putting out good Chow..or as good a chow as conditions permit.

Rummaging around in the old hay stack back of the company area the other day we begin to wonder about a few things: What is being accomplished up by the barn in the motor pool school? Will it be advisable to winterize the bulldozers? Were you present for bed check last night? Do you like the Drag Line? Do you like the redeployment news? And where is that boat?

B Co. -- by Bert Olson

I wonder if you remember way back when the highest ranking officer in the ETO--the one and only, Dwight Eisenhower, General of the Armies, ordered that ETO troops would be in their winter quarters by the 15th of November? You probably do. And you are probably still thinking about it. But, are you sure of yourself in condemning our light footedness so quickly? Whatever the answer for such activities may be, even a conservative non-interested observer would be forced to admit that we are being kept on the move. But, I suppose that above all, one thing must be remembered--something that each and everyone of us was informed of upon our entry to the army: that whatever the order may be or however silly it may seem--there is a reason for it. It is for us to do and question not! True, seldom it is that we actually know just what is going on and we are left to make our own decisions--but that is just a part of being a soldier. Does that word soldier leave a bitter taste in your mouth? Easily done and very understandable. You have probably been in this

army for a good year and a half-two years or more by now and are getting rather tired of it all. You're just waiting for that one glorious day when you will again be a civilian--when your time and your mind can be your own. Maybe that day isn't far off. If your time and effort has been put into the completion of this war--meaning if you have the required amount of points--your army days are nearly completed. But if not, it means that you are still needed and you will continue to do a big task for Uncle Sam.

When looking ahead--it won't be so bad. Or will it? The answer to that one is--it will be just how you make it.

C Co. -- With Campanella & Wolfe

So here we are in Bavaria...loaded down with a pocket-full of Koruns. Maybe those skis will come in handy after all.. "ops" sorry that training schedule again...and the gypsies think they have trouble.

Some of the companies lovers made their debut at the dance this past Saturday night...Carver, a former pupil of Arthur Murray, was showing some of the local girls a few American steps...Ted Henderson's lady friend wasn't to good looking but he was quoted as saying "What a personality"...The most disappointed soldier at the dance was Dewey Offut who was unable to walk that girl in the blue dress home... T. S Dewey.

"Hopopulos" Rumeliote, our Greek violinist and cook, wants his violin bow back but Welch still uses it to stir the soup..."Butch" Ebersold has been driving Hank DiMarco's jeep...ha.. ha.. ha., Don't worry Hank we'll salvage it... Motor Sergeant Crose is going to requisition another 2 1/2 ton truck to haul "Lover" Anderson's Pro signs... It's rumored that Sam Zumwalt is sending home for money to pay off his chess debts... Mansour has been in the kitchen so often lately we are figuring on having his M. O. S. changed... Its finally been settled that "Lucky" Carter will be our "no plow" driver.

Is it true that Homer Ferguson will be our assistant six ton driver?... Are Pearce and Pierce in the first platoon...brothers?... Where can those 49 pointers get that extra point?... How long will Walt Bobrow be a P. F. C?... Will Bill Armstrong be home by next Christmas (1946)?... Will Castor get some "hard stuff" in that beer hall?...Is it true that our First Sergeant is going to be a Thirty Year Man?...Is that treu about someone in the third platoon buying a farm in Czechoslovakia?... Does Norman Teague have fifty or forty-nine points?... When is salvage going in again Sgt. Good?...

Got to get packed up so I'll sign off until next week... I wonder where we'll be then???

A Co. -- by Saunders

The company pulled into Reit im Winkle a Hollywood dream Alpine village, late one night last week and before the moon rose again we were dancing in the mess hall. We men of A Company, pleasantly surprised but always gallant, always cooken, managed to beg borrow and steal enough ladies to make the affair bisexual. In the daytime we ski in a fashion which amuses the kinder all of whom can ski in time to musical the age of six. For reasons which might interest Army classification experts the mess staff almost to a man has shown the keenest interest in the sport. But as Sgt. Boulos said rising from the snow, "All I have to learn is this turning business."

Now as we return to basic training we think of our departed comrades who will miss this opportunity to once again rig and read. Only a few write, mostly stuff about "you should come home too, it's nice," and unsolicited tributes to the distilling industry of America.

Robert (Count) Craig called the wife of a man still here making small talk until the lady asked him what he was going to do. "So!" he roared and hung up outraged. Mr. (Sgt.) W. Johnson is doing the same thing and plans to for another month. Ed Carbone writes that he is lonely at home, misses the company of the company, the gay bugle calls, the healthy outdoor work. So have fun now gentlemen before they make you go home.

H/S Co. -- by Fred Eilenstein

Showing a complete reversal of form, H/S Co's football teams ran into its first defeat of the season at the hands of B Co's Bonecrushers last week at Dobrany Municipal Stadium before a home coming day crowd close to (200) two hundred. Led by Sgt. Raymond, the Bonecrushers won 25-2. It was a bitter defeat for our team as they annexed six consecutive victories including wins over the Pilsen Red Cross Club, Dobrany K of C and the heavy Prague Girls College.

Offering no alibis for his defeat, Head Coach Knute Spiro had the following statement to make to the press after the game. Said Knute: "Gee, what big fellers they got on their side."

It was not generally known, the game was broadcast over a local station. The first half was broadcast in English while the second half was broadcast in a mixed tongue for the benefit of the local DP camp. Handling the mike during the second half was Cpl. Kolesar.

The printer around the corner tells us of a very interesting Bavarian custom. Seems like the cows go dry in the summer around here and the local farmers pasture them out high in these hills. To accompany the cows during the summers grazing goes one of the unemployed frauleins of the vicinity. They and the cows return in the late autumn for their first look at civilization in five months. To celebrate the occasion of the termination of the pasture season the cows are elaborately costumed with bright stringers of cloth and with a pretty little satin bridle. The costuming is supposed to please the Gods of milk production or someone. "Actually," says the printer, "they have to dress up the cows to tell them from the Frauleins who return with them."

Getting back to the football team I'm reminded that wool socks are mighty warm these cold days in the hills and can be knitted in practically no time at all.

December 24, 1945

B Co. -- by Bergstrom

Nope, the snow isn't quite as deep as at that lush village of Reit Im Winkl here in Landsberg, and the mountains are a little on the non-existent side, but never the less we love it here. (Will someone please put me out of my misery!) Anybody want to buy a good pair of skis -- cheap?

We all mourn the passing of "Laughing Bill" Boettier who on his afternoon meanderings wandered into the Landsberg Prison to watch the hanging proceedings and was hanged as a war criminal. No flowers, please. Friends may call.

Hey, Shade, is there such a thing as a Trail Breaker's MOS? Put "Fritz" Fitzgerald in for one, will ya? Bet he's been over more cow-paths in Bavaria than any other 2 1/2 T driver in the area!

Been reading your Stars and Stripes lately? See the article about D P's sleeping three in a bed at the camp here? How about a survey at Company B -- we're sleeping four on a cot.

Medic! Medic! Any of you "pill rollers" know anything about psychopathic cases? Don't know what it is, but all of our "49ers" are going around with glassy stares mumbling "Points.....points!"

Here's a problem for ya --! Are Lt. O. F. "Da Voice" Weigand and Lt. "Squeezum an' Scream" Malten, bathtub baritone virtuosos for the company singing for pleasure in their quarters or are they screaming for help because Capt. "Will Bill" Kyriacos is chasing them all over the place with requisition forms? Any information should be phoned to the Kaufbeuren switch and reported to "Adolph". Hell, I can't sprechen Deutsch either!!

Mail Clerk Cedric Curran -- "I don't know...I don't know!!.. I DON'T KNOW!!!" Well, when are we going to get some mail? Assistant Don Blythe -- "I don't know..I don't know!!.. I DON'T KNOW!! Monotonous, ain't it?

Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years to you all, and may you all be home soon.

A Co. -- by Saunders

Biggest, bestest news of the week of course concerned fifty-pointers. Not that they don't like A company, just that they are curious to know VAS IST LOS back where they come from. Organizational equipment was turned in completely within three hours of the announcement setting a new record of some sort in supply circles. Most strange, most dreamlike, is seeing our replacements before we leave. They are in a sense the continuation of oneself, like a man's children. Aside from a few jokes of the "all new men will draw chains for their combat boots immediately" school they have been treated with a kindness bordering on tenderness by the men they are replacing. Now that it is almost over many of the fifty-pointers feel a real concern about the future of the company in which they served so long.

We spoke to one of the new men, hell, interviewed one. One gentleman's name is Ben Prevete and he is from Brooklyn. Ben is eighteen, has four points, has just completed infantry basic training and expects to complete it at least once more. What he faces is not as grim as what we faced a year, a year and a half ago. But neither is it as exciting. Ben says he expects guard duty, more guard duty. He hopes to go to Switzerland, plans to play cards and is not going to beat the frauleins off with a stick. He wishes he had been here sooner but says, anyway, that he can see the need for his being here now. He isn't happy in the dreary way the fifty-pointers are but he isn't unhappy. He has a job to do and expects to have some fun along with it. He likes the outfit. Well Ben, we hope you do have some fun and are home sooner than you expect (two years).

H/S Co. by A. Vitale

Here we are settled in Markt Oberdorf and we all seem to like it. Just between you and I, do you know what the latest rumor is? We're moving.

With the 50--54 pointers leaving next says Spl. Wheelock from the medics "They can't do this to me. I'm minding my own over here".

^ battalion welcomes, T/4 Shade as our personnel Sgt. We feel suret he's capable of doing a good job. Good luck Sgt.

When any of you go to the medics and they call you PAL or BUDDY, just wise up because they're after something. Isn't that right Cpt. Keltz?

The company wishes to congratulate their best friends, namely, the cooks for the swell chow we've been having. Keep it up fellas.

H/S Co is training men for the next football season. Personally I think we're out to beat B Co.

Since the first snow fall the 138th has gone European. We're not known as the 138th Engrs but as the 138 skis..

Some of the boys say life is rough in the European Theater, but its not bad at all in Bavaria. Such is life.

Skiing seems to be a very popular sport with many of the boys. Many are benefiting by the cheerful color of the sport and they say it gives you a ravishing appetite. However the chief complaint seems to be "My acking back".

42 pointer Shahrigan was asked when he thought he'd get home. His answer was "in March". They seemed to disagree with his optimistic point of view and asked what year. His reply to that was "Who cares what year its in, I still say its in March".

Any one who is doubtful whether the water from the faucets is drinkable just ask Capt. Strauss.

Attention all 42 pointers!! Our latest song is "FOREVER DUTCHLAND".

C Co. -- by Walter Bobrow

This year for the first time in many years most of the people all over the world will be celebrating Christmas in peace. There will be no sound of bullets and bombs and marching feet, but the sound of church bells and happy people.

True, most of us over here who have our loved ones back home will not be too happy. In fact Christmas will bring to most of us homesickness instead of happiness. However let us think back to last Christmas and remember that then we weren't thinking when we would be home but if we would ever be home. Now at last we have something to look forward to and something to be happy and thankful about.

Christmas time is the time of giving and although we are not with those we would choose to be with if conditions were different, we can still recieve the joy that giving brings at Christmas time. All around us are children, most of whom have never experienced the Christmas joy that children should. They weren't ask to be brought into this world and above all they didn't have a choice of countries to be born in. It is now when their minds are still young that we can show them the American Way. It is now that we can act as ambassadors of good will by making an impression on the future citizens of Germany. It doesn't take much. A bar of candy given to a child on Christmas will do more to keep Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men than will many of the candy bars that are distributed among the people for other purposes.

It's such a good chance we hadn't ought to pass it up. And so easy as well. We have professed to believe in a given standard for many years. Now for one day, live it. The Man who gave his name to this Day believed in gentleness, fellow love and good will. Do we?

January 4, 1946

A Co. -- by M. E.

For those who can remember anything about it, it was a fine Christmas holiday. Most of the boys who could break away from the continual "Hearts" games of SCOTTY and ZIMMERMAN enjoyed a full program of dances, shows, and winter sports' exhibitions in Garmisch, just down the road a piece. (And there are plenty of them down the road.) The elongated weekend was enlivened not a little by the welcome visits of the Thired Platoon on TDY at Landsberg Prision (but not as inmates). the 50-54 pointers, who're up Augsburg was, and several unidentified Medics from H/S Company, seen lurking in dark corners muttering unintelligibles.

A spell of warm weather, followed by an unwelcome rain, has proven quite a blow to the rabid skiers, who've been forced to seek the higher slopes. JOHNNY HUGHES, the company's only (we hope) ski casualty, got a pass from the hospital and also spent Xmas with the boys. In sincere appreciation of the speed at which his fractured fibula is healing, they've decided not to send him home. Remember, Johnny, it all adds up to SECURITY! And, speaking of skiing, many eager prospects suddenly decided to forget about the whole thing when a parade of GIs in plaster casts hobbled into "Arsenic and Old Lace" the other evening.

Have you heard about the Able Basketball Team? They're undefeated and are searching from one end of Bavaria to the other for opposition, taking on all comers. "B" Company never did explain why our challenge was not accepted. Could it be that.....? No, they must have self-respect. The invitation still stands in case you men ever get ready to face the music!

Tell us, Maxie, haven't you retired yet with your 50-odd points? Or is this the last fling?

H/S Co. -- by Vitale

Remember the day you first put on a G. I. uniform? As you think back you say to your self "Gee but I was a sad sack". Then came that wonderful physical training that gave you rippling muscles and made you vigorous and energetic and you had to take up the slack in your trousers. Hikes, PT, rifle drill, close order, G. I. parties (scrub night) etc were cursed from the very day they were thought of. That long worked for furlough home went by like a flash. They said that that this outfit would never go overseas, but it looks like someone was giving someone else a good time. The days we spent in England will never be forgotten. When we arrived in the continent we were still green at the game but we learned fast. No one knew what to think when we were in Holland and Germany. When the war ended we watched the 85 pointers leave, then the 80's, 75, 70, 65, and down to the 50's. All this boils down to the coming year, 1946, in which we hope to take off our last G. I. uniform. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Lately T/4 KOLESAR has been walking around with a welcoming smile and a lot of that BUDDY and PAL stuff. However he says that being recruiting NCO has nothing to do with his pleasant disposition.

We're glad to have CPL DOWD as our supply Sgt. He's just the man for the job, efficient, not very persuasive, calm and subtle and he also has 39 points.

T/4 BOB OLSON was asked what the latest was in the motor pool. Said BOB, 'er, a lot of work, all day work too".

One of the new replacements walked into the orderly room one day, tapped 1st/Sgt. WILSON on the shoulder and said, "Say, bud, do you work around the orderly room?"

B Co. -- with Bergstrom

With all the extensive holidays at an end, it looks as if we "bunk fatiguers" will have to go back to work. After so much leisure time being spent in the glorious manner of not doing a damned thing, it will be a little bit difficult to again get on the old sphere. Wonder if they'll let us off on Valentine's Day? Ho Hum!!

With the departure of so many men from the Fort Jackson crowd from the company, some of the old boys who came in at the beginning of the 138th at North Camp, who have only a little over 40 points, are beginning to feel somewhat like an old boot. Looks as if it were a case of first in -- last out. That's all right, EISENTRAUT, we'll get home someday (?)

Leaving the company soon and taking with them a total of 14 chevrons will be the "left-behinds" of the 50 pointers, GRIMM, LACKIPO, WEBER, and ZIELINSKI. The outfit will certainly miss the efficient handling of their jobs, but when it comes to a question of going home -- you know the answer!

Congrats are in order for able medic "Doc" COHEN who recently attained rank of Tec 4 and to OGLETREE, GRIFFITH, SEESE, BRIGHT, and MORGAN who made Tec 5. Good luck, guys, and Happy pay days!

In a closely fought hardwood battle with Hq. 1101st Engr. Group, B company week before last emerged the victor by a score of 34 - 32. Just the beginning of a string of victories to be won by the old "alma mammy" if, you'll pardon a bit of back patting! Bill MEAD, of whom, up to this time, we thought of as just a good cook, proved himself to be a veritable whiz on the floor while Big Jim GRIFFITH also found opportunity to make known his prowess at plunkin' 'em in. In all, a swell show by all the boys.

C Co. -- by Walter Bobrow

Although it's a little late we all wish the 50-54 pointers the best of luck and a safe voyage home in the very near future. Things don't seem the same around the company nowadays without HUDNALL, MCAFFEE, MCALLISTER, CAMPANELLA and the rest of the boys, especially without, "mamma", WELSCH bustling around in the kitchen.

On the other hand we welcome back two outstanding men of the company -- -- -- WILLY ASHLEY who, tis said, is giving lectures on the disadvantages of a repple depot, and Lt. PIERCE who is just giving lectures. A certain Staff Sergeant seems to be wearing his stripes lately.

Overheard in a 3/4 ton a few days back. "GRIFFIN, have you ever met Colonel KING?" Answer. "No." Is that answer still correct Griff?

Now that Boo-Boo BERLINGER is taking over Sgt. (essential Good's place in supply, C Company has found it necessary to send someone else to school. We know that, "Smiling", JOHN CASSIDY is just the man to do it but what does the widow have to say about the French "Furlines", John.

There is still a doubt in DON EBERSOLD'S mind as to who broke the window in Sgt. BILL ARMSTRONG'S house on Christmas Eve. That must have been quite a party.

The men in the company, not including the NCO's are trying to figure out the need for so many people, especially women, in the kitchen. It is rumored that a few men are applying for the job of, "egg holder", or, "counter". How about everybody in the company eating in style?

H/S Co. -- by A. Vitale

Who said that JIMMIE CUTILLO didn't want to be Mess Sgt? It was learned that he has 4 shirts and 2 blouses with S/Sgt. stripes in the bottom of his foot locker! Also, GEORGE HENRY is looking for some capable woman to sew on T/4 stripes for him, and PFC HOPSON says "I ain't goin' Honky Tonkin' any more".

T/5 PRESTON, Special Service NCO, promises the the company movies every night, weekly formal parties, good old American drinks like Scotch and sodas, Manhatans, Dry Martinis, swanky dance bands and new ping pong balls. Make that Very Special Service NCO.

With all due respect to the 45--49 pointers, the latest redeployment bulletin stated that there would be a delay in their shipment due to the shortage of troops in this theater. Remember fellas, it all mounts up to your present rank, mustering out pay and SECURITY. Speak to your recruiting officer NOW.

So much has been heard around the company about BRADY's SPECIAL. However, the unfortunate accident that occurred the other evening was not due to BRADY's SPECIAL but rather to his stomach ulcers. It says here.

"Just call me Sharpie" SCHWARTZ is in a nervous state lately, as "I'm giving it to you wholesale" DARBY is hiding behind his door and scaring him each time he comes out. Can anyone in the company dream up a scheme that will scare DARBY to death? -- --if so, please try it!

Visited our gymnasium lately? Quite a few of the fellas have tried the place out. It's cold and dark, but outside of that it's all right.

A Co. -- by M. E.

This column would better be entitled "The Remnants of Able Willing". The company is spread out all over the map and a true report on the fellows would require surveys from Biarritz to Landsberg and from Epernay to Diessen in addition to this note from Oberau.

But, life (if you can rationalize far enough to call it that) goes on in its usual stumbling manner, and there is hardly ever a dull moment. The biggest blow in a long while was, of course, the latest redeployment debacle. The longest faces of the new year belong to the 45--49 men. To HARRY ASHBAUGH, the most discouraging note is: "I just can't stay drunk for six whole months."

Forced to look at greater distances for competition, the Basketball Team travels to Munich on Wed. the 9th to play the 442 Skymasters in a league game. Team-captain PHIL APPELBAUM predicts that with "ZIMMY" and himself at forwards, MORT EYDENBERG at center, and DICK ALLMANDINGER and BOB ALLEN bringing up the ball, the Skymasters can look for some very powerful opposition.

The Able Company Athletic Committee has announced a series of Boxing Bouts, to be held in the dance-hall every Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Due to the fact that the type of refreshments to be served cannot be announced in advance, the starting time for the fights varies considerably. When cognac is available, the Committee guarantees action before midnight. Incidental music will be played.

B Co. -- with Bergstrom

Could it be that the Able company boys have already forgotten what happened to the H & S sport fiends when they prematurely expounded the manner in which they would triumph in that football game against Company B at Dobranzy? Don't worry, boys, you'll have your try at basketball with our five, but don't say we dinna warn ya!

What a collection of abnormally long faces graced the company area last week after the news about redeployment broke! Don't fret, men, we just can't be here until next Christmas....or can we? Gad, lemme out!

Somewhat in the same strain comes the subject of what lowly G. I. would like to fill a certain high office in the War Department? Prerequisites for application -- must fully realize that points were frozen as of V-J Day. Line will form from Paris to Moscow, column of ducks.

Note: -- Men have stopped coming in and asking how far Warton is from such and such a town where their favorite English lassie hangs out ever since the announcement of the school's moving to the continent. Should have a few French addresses, boys!

Next big query of the week is -- "Who's gonna get ta drive da airplane?" We've got a couple of guys around here who seem to be doing all right with 2 1/2 Tons.

Recently returned from school in England is DENNY CONDOTTA who left on DS some 4 months ago. He says that he can count the guys he knows in his platoon on two hands. Before long, there won't be anyone with whom we can sing "Auld Lang Syne" down at the club.

A portion of what we lost with the passing of "Blood and Guts" PATTON has been regained in the personage of Captain "Wild Bill" KYRIACOS....chromium plated pistols, no less!

P.S. -- And we're not going to put in a certain B Company Motor Officer's name this week, either! So there!!

So, instead of "30 for now" we'll use the familiar "Time, gentlemen, time! Drink up." -- until next week when Benedetti browbeats us into turning in another of these damned things!

C Co. -- by Walter Bobrow

Although the hopes of many of us were dampened because of the past week's redeployment news, four more men from the company took their first step towards home. One of them was S Sgt WAYNE D GOOD, the only EM from the original cadre at Ft. Jackson, S.C., who was still in the company. We wish you all good luck, Wayne, and a speedy voyage home.

Just when he was beginning to earn his pay, our mailman, MURRAY LIFSHITZ, took off for Biarritz to further his education. We all envy you Murray, but wish you the best of luck nonetheless.

The absence of Lt. PEARCE has also been very noticeable around the company.

Our Lost & Found Dept wishes to inform JOHNNY MANSOUR that we will be unable to recover what he lost last Saturday night.

Congratulations are in store for a number of men who have recently received promotions. They are (with their new ranks): Pfc's NAHGUADDY, WONG; Tec 5's ABDERHALDEN, BERLINGER, EVANS, BRIANO, LIZZARAGO, WILLIS; Cpl's PRACHT, RAGLAND; and Tec 4 GATES. We hope there's still enough room in the NCO mess.

The reason why Capt PETERS is walking around with his fingers crossed is the same reason why we may not be seeing him around here in the near future. Hope that leave comes through, sir.

We heartily welcome the NEW MEN to the company, and we sincerely hope that many more will follow in spite of the Draft Boards back home.

January 18, 1946

H/S Co. -- by A. Vitale

A goodly crowd gathered at the EM's Club last Saturday night. Despite the misfortune that we had with the scheduled show and the dance bank, it turned out to be quite an enjoyable evening. For those who can remember, with the help of some of the men in the Company, we had quite a jazzy band after all...Sgt. Beck playing the piano and clarinet, Pfc Armstrong the drums, Sgt. Davis the bass fiddle; also Cpl. Bryant joined in on the piano. Nice work, and thanks fellas. Remember, it's gala night at the EM's Club this Saturday.

Rescinded: Remark about Jimmie Cutillo, paragraph one, H/S column last week. Ammended as follows: Who said that George Henry didn't want to be Mess Sgt! It was learned that he has four shirts and two blouses with S/Sgt. stripes on them in the bottom of his foot locker. My, how those shirts do get around!

For nine months we have sweated out this day. Now that most of the 45--49 pointers have left and the rest due to leave next week, we can proudly say that we are the high pointer of the battalion....isn't that right, Maynard, Chiaravalle, and Shahrighian?

The word is getting around about the slick game of basketball S-2 played against S-1. The score was 73-48 in S-2's favor. A well balanced attack, good team-work, height, stamina, and rank made the difference between victory and defeat. What's the matter S-1?

A LITTLE ON THE LATEST

S/Sgt. Curley is looking forward to being our next 1st Sgt....S/Sgt. Ericksen, formerly of H/S Company, was a recent visitor to the company. Glad to see you again, John....the Medics are giving training to their new men, and do they love it!...Cpl. Anon seems to be headed for that Sgt. Major's chair in S-1....Major "Nubbie" Bong has been off the roads recently, since his P-80 has been in for repairs. "It's tough being grounded", says "Nubbie".

C Co. -- by Sid Schneier

It looks like the battalion is really seeing things since the doleful tidings of the last issue of "Dragline". General Ike has spoken and things are happening fast.

Ah, yes, there are some happy men in the ETO tonight. With the 45 pointers leaving, the company is bidding farewell to practically the last of the original men of "C" Company. Though the beer was late last night, there was quite a farewell party with Sgt. Polokoff and Cpl. Walton leading the departing group in some really sad farewell songs, including "Roll Me Over Yankee Soldier". The new men just sat around, probably thinking, "Oh well, comes 1948 and we can sing too!"

With these new men, we welcome our new C.O. Lt. Gibson, who is taking over while Captain "Smiling Jack" Peters is on TDY in the old country. What a place to be TDY in!!!

There shouldn't be any complaints about the T.O. now, since PFC's have become squad leaders, and Cpl's have become platoon sergeants. Now if the stripes come

through before they go home, who knows, the Army might get some new enlistments. (Its says here in small print.)

Fellas, I hate to start another true rumor, but it looks as though "C" Company Headquarters is on the move again. Not that we ever believed that we would hole up in this snow-bound hole for the winter. Gosh, what a soft bed I had. Our only consolation is the fact that we'll be closer to our beer supply. But as our new recruits keep saying, "It's a rough life in the ETO".

Be "C"ing you.

A Co. -- by Pozdol

With our supply of beer up to par again, the fellows gathered in our beer hall the other nite to sing that group of songs that can mean only one thing. Yes....we are now at the bottom of the barrel and only a few of the men who shared the entire history of Able Company are left....from Fort Jackson to Oberau, and so tomorrow....????

We recently bid "auf wiedersehn" to Bernard Friedman and Anthony Robucci who at long last received a furlough to Switzerland. We were also glad to see Salvatore Panepinto and Vandon Lee get their much deserved vacations to La Riviera. Have a grand time, fellas.

Our hearts bleed for the unfortunate party who attempts to make a phone call during the working hours of the day. As a component part of this company put it, "STAY OFF THE LINE BEFORE I REACH THROUGH THIS LINE AND STANGLE YOU!!!" All the operator had to say while she disconnected the line was, "FERTIG????".

At night when Lt. Holbrook goes to bed he manages to fall asleep by counting D.P. Camps. Could it be that....no, I won't say it.

There's some kind of a championship that exists in Able Company, but only a few of the boys know what it is. Donald "buzzbomb" Orr states that he's looking forward in meeting a "Joe Lewis".

Our ball club seems to have bitten the dust in Munich the past week. To quote Richard Allmandinger, "How did we know they were college boys." As far as B Company's basketball team is concerned, we're ready, willing and most able.

With greetings all over, the new men are buckling down to their responsibilities, and I, with my duffle bag packed, waving farewell to the Able and Willing think....Their Hearts Are Young and Gay.

B Co. -- by Polacek

And believe me, things are buzzin'. Bergstrom and Gawne buzzed over to Bn Hq, 45-49 pointers buzzed out, and under 45 pointers...way under 45...buzzed in.

I wanted to write this column for this issue because to the 138th, to B Co. at least, the departure for the 45-49 pointers marked the close of a chapter in its history.

For every man in the army, there is a man to take his place, but for me, I will never see B Company as it was. I'll never see a 1st Sgt. Provost of Company B, the sharpest 1st Sgt. this unit's ever known, I'll never see the Stew Rice type, who took bombs apart to see what made them tick; I'll never see a Cedric A. O. Curran who had a memory like an German winter day and whose pet saying was; "So the report's late, so what? The war is over!" There won't be a Bob Senear to say, "Hello, wacha doin', Polly?" in his own inimitable fashion. There's no one yet to equal Fred Walker's record of being 1st man in the chow line or his title of the "loudest, smallest man in the Army", and we couldn't forget John G. MacDonald who left this unit a Hq man, but who was definitely a strong brick in the foundation of B Company.

Mind you, all these things will be again. Enough old blood has been left to instill into the new men the spirit of Company B....Capt. Kyriacos who brought us up is still in the company to start bringing up the new kids. He did a swell job in bringing the old ones up.

The Company has always been on top; it will always be on top as long as the new men get into the spirit of Carrying the B Company Guidon and carrying it high.

Speaking for the men that have gone before me, the 70, 60, 50 pointers, as well as the 45-49 pointers, Co B of the 138th was the best in the army and they ought to know, they've been in plenty of outfits.

I'd like to quote Johnnie E. Ogletree's last words before he left..."Ah really appreciated this outfit; I'll always remember it. Ah only hope the new guys keep it the way it was and make it be home for the time bein' like we did...Oh yeah! and the guys that's stayin' behind better find out why A Company was afraid to show up to the game scheduled with B Company and whoever finds out better get 'em in a game and lick the pants off 'em. Oh, one thing more, Sgt. Polly...tell Captain Kyriacos that he's the best "joe" we ever knew."

New blood in Company B, take it from here. Good luck.

A Co. -- by Junior

Apparently one of our sister companies is under the much mistaken impression that our basketball team fears defeat at the hands of theirs. That is an impression we seek to correct right here on the double. It will take much more, dear Bakers, than the proud words of your correspondent before any Able company hair begins to turn gray worrying about your prowess on the court.

As long as we are in the challenging mood, we'll challenge that statement by the same correspondent about "B" Company having always been on top and remaining there. Now, Polly, you know that isn't true. From whom do you get your "poop" and special orders? What company is the very nerve center and contains the most highly skilled technicians in the fields of personnel, reconnaissance, operations, and supply? (I'm going to make Pfc. now or bust.) Why, of course, Polly, you know the answer. Where would "B" Company be without H/S? The administrative skills of How Company plus the technical skills of Able form an unbeatable combination and incidentally repudiate the reputed Baker superiority. (How about that Pfc. now, Lt. Wilkens? Hope Sergeant Landsberg sees this paragraph.)

A campaign is currently under way throughout the company to save certain items of medical supply for conversion into chewing gum to aid "kaugummiless" frauleins.

Glenn Gillespie thought he was getting rid of all his headaches when former MP Audis Cox came to take over the First Sergeant's job. Now Glenn is beating his brains out over sawmills which are frozen up and can't produce lumber.

The biweekly dances have come to be quite an institution, and frauleins of all sizes and shapes come to dance to the "rippling rhythm", rather heavy rippling, but still -), of Eddie Althoff's Orchestra, and eat the white bread sandwiches served at the dances.

Vincent Santelli is easily the company's busiest, most harassed man these days. When there isn't any mail he is kept busy explaining why, what, who, and where. When there is mail, he is busy sorting it and readdressing the mail of the many people who left the company. Mail clerks must be chaplains of a sort because they have to listen to so many sad stories. (The individual who wrote the above paragraph, incidentally, bothers the poor mail clerk as much as any sixteen others when his doesn't come in.)

Never before during his Army career has Edward Pozdol been so much interested in anything pertaining to "Off Limits".

We're darn sorry to be losing Lt. Arthur Keenan, but at the same time, we're happy for him too, because we know he will soon be home. We're losing a mighty fine man and officer when you leave, Lt. Keenan. Good-bye, Sir, and the very best of luck to you.

H/S Co. -- by A. Vitale

The editors of Drag Line are getting on my....nerves. They keep asking me for more and more material. So fellas, if this column has any resemblance to a column, it's purely coincidental. Here goes....

For those who have been in the company for the past three or four weeks, you can remember when skiing was the only sport that existed. For some reason everyone has put away their skis and has taken out their rifles. Yes, hunting is an interesting sport. It has also proven itself profitable; we had deer steaks to eat, didn't we? This also goes to show you that the boys haven't lost their skill in marksmanship. Good Hunting, fellas.

H/S Co Defeats "B" Co. Were you there too? With Lt. Hall coaching and good team work, H/S licked "B" Company in basketball to the tune of 33-32 last week in Landsberg. At the beginning, it looked as though "B" company had the game sewed up, but it goes to show you what H/S Co. can do on the rebound. Just a little reciprocation on the football game in Dobrany, Czechoslovakia.

The recent visitors in the company have been S/Sgt. Sherman, T/4 Wiener, T/5 Olson, and Cpl. Wheelock. T/4 Ozvath returned from a grand furlough in England and reported that he is happily married to a British lass. "Ozzie" has been transferred to the 71st Division.

Have you seen the new "zebras" around the company lately? Sgt. Dowd reports that there is beaucoup cheveron polish in the supply room, boys. Congrats are in order for those lucky devils. It is believed that there will be an increase on re-enlistments says T/4 Kolesar...or is he kidding.

T/4 Sam Preston, our Special Service Impresario, has been wandering throughout this section of Deutchesland trying to dig up some entertainment for the boys, and even though his trip to Munich this week wasn't fruitful, we want to thank him for his efforts.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT: Lt. Malten is with H/S Company. Glad to have you with us, Lieutenant. Pfc. Reny is not brooding over Keltz's absence, but over that Tec 5 vacancy. We have 3 British soldiers and one Captain as guests in the company...Welcome, fellows. The EM Club is closed on Monday nights; T/4 Preston says that he's trying to get a movie for us on Monday nights instead. Yeah, I know....well, you can't say I didn't warn you.

B Co. -- by "The Earl"

Ye Old Red Lantern Inn seems to be the center of plenty of buzzing these days. After putting in a full day at E 54 or at area details, we find relaxation at the club. Oddly enough, though our main news item of the week does not originate there, it happened on the floor of the "B" Company gym. The strong "B" Company Basketball Team faced a well organized "5" of Munich Claims Team. Baker Company toppled its opponent by 48-32...Bill Mead scoring 8 of these points in the last three quarters. This wasn't very unusual for Bill. What does make news is that sometime during the first period, Bill broke a finger on his right hand. Having just recovered from a hip injury incurred in a previous game and with his suffering hand, he continued to play and to win.

Our new armorer, "Slalom" Cerro will have to squelch his desire to take his week-end trips to Garmisch now that he is shouldering the responsibility of a Technician 5th Grade.

The new men of the outfit are certainly steering clear of John Querfurth. He looks at them hungrily and says, "How would you like to chase prisoners tomorrow?" We heard the Company Medic scream, "But I don't even know which end is the barrel."

That German vehicle in front of the Club has been an eyesore for quite awhile. A detail of hand picked men tried to get rid of it the other night. Cpl. Truesdale and "Pyzon" Hazelwood, in charge of the detail, moved it out of the way. They're trying to find out who brought it back again.

As many of you know, "Doc" Charles Seese has left for home. He goes on top priority to get his Dependency Discharge. He left a vacancy which will be hard for any man to fill. Good luck, Charlie, we all will miss you.

We wait for Saturday night when all the old boys from Augsburg and 'round abouts come meanderin' into the club. When you hear someone yell, "My name's Sergeant Johnson, and I can knock hell out of any guy in this place!" Don't believe him...the good Sgt. wouldn't say anything like that!

C Co. -- by Sid Schneier

No sooner had I finished typing my last rumor about "C" Company Headquarters moving, when the first sergeant issued us a direct order to pack up and git. So here we are again, occupying the vacant quarters of the 94th Infantry Division Headquarters which has parted to the "promised land". Sgt. Klosinski feels awfully proud about his room since the door is bedecked with an imposing sign, "Commanding General, 94th Inf. Div.". as for myself, I'm located in what used to be the "PRO" station, and I don't mean Public Relations Office. Every night I'm rudely awakened by anxious clients to whom I patiently explain that the medics are located elsewhere.

Well, the ratings have come through and our three platoon sergeants have received their just rewards. S/Sgt. Harold S. Muse is about as good a mess sergeant as any old ponton bridge builder can be. Second Platoon Sergeant Harry J. Knapp III, (no kiddin', the third), is now sweating out his staff sergeantcy before we go home together. T/5 Joe Smith, whose tiny form, (6 ft. 5 in.), may be seen nightly in the Landsberg Red Cross, is really working hard these days, doing the work of three MOS numbers.

Supply Sgt. "Boo Boo" Berlinger must be complimented on the excellent job he is doing, tho' I can remember the good old days, (just a few weeks back), when we were both riggers in the second platoon. You just can't keep a good man down. I wonder what's holding me! S/Sgt. Alexander won an alarm clock in the PX drawing and he thinks it was a put-up job. Part of his platoon is located in a Messerschmidt factory near Augsburg and the rest of his platoon, under Sgt. Jastrazab, is at work in a General Hospital in Augsburg. With the third platoon in Nesselwang, you can see that there is "viel arbeit" for Company "C".

The company has just about given up hope for any mail in the near future and has decided to use the cable service in Munich for correspondence with the homeland. Someone said that the change of APO numbers would hasten the mail delivery. I guess that 177 is just an unlucky number. Perhaps we should change it to 711, this sounds lucky. Pvt. Gerald Stewart, one of our new replacements, has really proved to be an all around man in the orderly room. Beside that, he doesn't feel at all bitter about having to stay here and keep the frauleins happy for a few years, (or so he says). He has the necessary requisites for being a good occupation soldier, since he can stand next to a bar all evening and doesn't make any statements about being home by July.

'Til next week, I'll be "C"ing you.

February 1, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

The BIGGEST and BEST of ORCHIDS to Angelo Sartori, Hubert Howell, and Bernard Luchsinger who cooperated smoothly to prove decisively how very much on the ball Able Company's guards are. In the middle of the night, Sergeant of the Guard

Sartori and Guards Howell and Luchsinger spotted our two ex-kitchen firemen stuffing as much of the Able Company food ration into their knapsacks as two men could possibly carry. The guards set a perfect trap for these men who were betraying the trust that had been placed in them, and the result, when the treacherous firemen (ex-firemen now) attempted to walk off with their loot, was what is widely known as an "open and shut case". No "mouthpiece" in Germany can beat that "rap".

The Able Company Supply Room is just recovering from the ravages of a whole flock of brand-new Pfc's (Personal Friends of the Captain) who descended upon it recently demanding those shaped bits of cloth which decorate the arms and are said to be an added attraction to the girls. (My name wasn't on Company Order 14, so I guess I'll never be up in the higher rank brackets with all those Pfc's). Speaking of ratings, rumor has it that even such unexcitable old men as Raphael Boechler and Paul Hudson have been stacking away sets and sets of Staff Sergeant stripes in the bottom of their lockers. According to a usually unreliable source, Hudson is getting a special set from the States for use at night. Details are kept super-secret, but this new addition to Hudson's Hope Chest is said to work on the principle of a neon sign and flicker on and off 143 times per minute.

The most puzzling mystery of recent weeks was solved when Alfred (Status Unknown) Marshall arrived at the Company. Better late than never, Al.

The grizzled, old veterans of Able Company were very pleasantly surprised to see the bright, smiling faces of Max Shuldiner and Bernard Roth, as they visited us for a few days upon returning from furloughs to England and Czechoslovakia respectively. Their stay with us was very temporary since both men had been transferred during their furloughs, but it was good to see "Maxie" and "the Burgermeister" again before they began their happy journey back to that fantastic land where people drink fresh milk, eat inch-thick steaks, and buy whatever size and color of clothing they want in stores.

Leon Landry, Gerald Barnes, Woodrow Thompson, Francis Taylor, Edwar Shaver, Joseph Niner, and Russell Simmonds have returned to the Company after spending several weeks doing carpentry work at the 1101st Engineer Combat Group Headquarters. In the process of their work this group of men built six garages, two kitchen storage buildings and an Enlisted Men's Club, the Ammer Room. Group was lavish in its praises of the skill of our carpenters who were the Guests of honor at the opening of the EM Club!

B Co. -- by Polacek

Dear Maw,

I ain't got much to tell ya today. The company is still working like mad. Everyone that isn't on guard is drivin' a truck except me, I got me an office job, and it wouldn't be so bad, if the office roof didn't leak. I'm kinda excited tho' and I'm workin' hard, because I heard a rumor that they is gonna make some non coms. I might make Pfc.

You're always askin' me about the fellas, so I guess I'd better tell ya about some of 'em. There's one Tec 5 in our outfit named Astone. He goes to work and for two days, he's buildin' a big clothes closet. When he gets finished...I forgot to tell ya that he didn't build it in his own room. Well, when he gets it finished, and wants to take it to his room, he finds out that it don't fit thru the door. Boy, was he P. O.'d. (That's the abbreviation for mad in the ETO.) Then ther's the mail clerk named Blythe. I don't know if he's just gold bricking...that means hitting the sack and collecting gold at the end of the month, and I think sack means bed in the Army...or not, but I don't know whether the mail clerk is doing these things really, but the mail ain't comin' thru like it ought to. We got a new Medic named Friedman, and do you know what...he looks just like our civilian doctor, Dr. Dvoretz. Culjat, the cook in the mess hall, is raising a mustache to celebrate his Tec 5 rating. If he ever makes Tec 4, he'll probably raise a beard too. There's all kinds of guys in this outfit. There's Irishmen like John Wojchekowski and Tony Wisniewski. Then there's Swedish guys like Arnold Cohen and Herman Kaplowitz. All kinds, but they're swell.

That's all the noos I've for you about the men in my company, but you probly read in last weeks Drag Line when "A" Company threw something mean, a dirty remark at "B" Company. Well, Maw, just ignore that one, because it was written by some Pvt. that can't even rite probly.

There's a few things I don't understand about it here yet, but just think in two weeks, I'll be a two month overseas veteran. The Stars and Stripes run a column called, B - Bag. I've been trying to find out what in the heck this means, but the fellas won't tell me. They say it's a dirty word.

Tell the old man to smuggle me some of that corn liker over here in a package, Maw, because the Medics say the water isn't fittin' for drinkin', and I'm gettin' thirsty. You can mark it Hair Tonic, and I think it'll get threw.

Forgot to tell ya that we got the best Basket Ball team in the Battalion. It's so good, no one will challenge us to a game.

Always your son,

Aloysius

C Co. -- by Sid Schneier

When Pvt. "Junior" Clayton, while on guard duty, caught a fifteen-year old German kid going through one of our trucks, the story went the rounds until it finally developed that Clayton had uncovered an underground Nazi sabotage ring. Efforts are now being made to obtain some sort of a decoration for his valiant deed, tho' I suspect that the final outcome will be the assignment of Pvt. Clayton as a permanent guard.

Another humorous tale involved the hunting experiences of the third platoon in Nesselwang. Lt. Atkins' attempt to provide an alibi for the remarkable failure of the hunters under his command, proved to be a laugh provoker for days.

Over in Landsberg, Lt. Thompson's platoon is making damn good headway despite the lack of cooperation among the DPs. Sgt. Dabrolet has gained the highest respect of the second platoon because he hasn't had a nervous break down as yet. Anyone interested in writing a book about Displaced Persons should consult Sgt. Dabrolet who is still trying to figure out latrine psychology.

Sgt. Knapp also had a little difficulty over a dog he acquired. He was walking his dog when the pair met an officer. There was instant recognition between the dog and the lieutenant. Sgt. Knapp's face must have been red!!! Earle Landis has finally achieved success in his army career. He is now a squad leader. The only thing that displeases him now is the fact that his command consists of only three men who outrank him. Picture Land is giving Big Joe Smith a direct order. Sometimes it doesn't even pay to get up in the morning. Cpl. Castor has become a demolition expert and is part of a group of men, taken from all companies, who are going to blow up one of the I. G. Farben plants. If I wanted to make a bad pun, I could write that things will be poppin' soon.

Pvt. Gerald Stewart has changed his mind regarding his previous statements on the German Occupation. He wants it known now (for his wife's sake) that he really wants to go home.

It seemed that General Ike's statement on the redeployment situation had pacified most of the previous complaints but a new one arose when T/5 Ebersold inquired about the delay in shipment. Were there sufficient ships? Were there sufficient replacements? Yes. "But we can't get a TRUCK". One of these days a genius will arise who may come up with the proper comeback to that reply. 'Til next week, I'll be "C"ing you.

H/S Co. - by A. Vitale

Member of 138th caught with his pants down. No, that's not a gag. Pvt. Verbelun didn't know whether to stand at attention and drop his pants, or to continue to fix his pants, and be at ease, or to drop his attention and stand to pants or vise versa, so he just said "Hi sir, come right in". Well what would you have done? Verbelun says, "I don't mind it being in the paper, but just take it easy on the ribbing."

Have you met Bob Quigly yet? They say he's quite the character. He's a whiz bang truck driver from way back, vows to go to bed early every night but doesn't like his beer, and is as honest as the day is long. Quigly says he's a good morale booster.

Sgt. Shade is corresponding with a chick, Marine Corporal, and has been sending her a copy of the Drag Line. She wrote back Quote "I get quite a bang out of the paper, especially the last one. Does the press move with your outfit? And I wish they wouldn't print so much foreign language; me no compri."

Pvt. Joseph Jarvis from the water purification section has attended the Engineer School at Epernay, France and graduated with the highest score, the first on the list. Jarvis and the others that have attended the Engineer school have been commended by Major Nagy. Nice work Joe.

The previous remark on Jim Cutillo and George Henry having 4 shirts with S/Sgt. stripes has been rescinded. Well, the story this time is that Jim Cutillo has 2 of these shirts and George Henry has 2 also. Next week it will be the Italian K. P.'s and the S/Sgt. shirts.

What happened to the deer the fellas say they killed? They haven't been seen around the mess hall....

February 8, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

This has been a week of homecoming. Martin Frishberg, Kenneth Selke, Alexander Poozebut, Walter Runyan, Robert Liford, Joseph Schohn, William Brook, Robert Ratcliff, James Pattison, Francis Lyvers, Sergio Rodriguez, Marion Smith, William Lamb and John Marchegiano have returned to the company after several weeks of specialist training at the Engineer Training Center, Epernay, France. While attending the various schools there, these men specialized in everything from sign painting to the operation of air compressors. It's very reassuring to know that there are experts among us now.

While reading last week's "Buzzing Around" column many members of this company were greatly shocked to see the nasty, untrue aspersions that the Baker's good First Sergeant had cast upon that backbone of the Army, the stripeless, downtrodden, much derided and persecuted buck private. Be careful, Polly, you are grievously insulting by such words the very men who are slaving away like beavers for you and the honor (?) and glory (??) of your company. I'll bet that even you were a private one time too.

Emmett Smith hasn't "popped the question" to Lt. Wilkins yet, but he was observed to be gnawing his fingernails up to the elbow when the last promotion list was made up. Poor guy! He'll never be able to buy that new automobile when he gets home if he doesn't make T/4 soon.

The furloughs have been coming through in fine style lately. Leon Landry has just left for the sunny Riviera Recreational Area and William Chamberlin has gone to Switzerland, while Valdon Lee and Salvatore Panepinto have just returned from furloughs to the Riviera.

In a company of wolves, the company's mascot, George, has the rather dubious distinction of most looking like one. His proportions are enormous, but he's a very good-natured brute and doesn't chase the frauleins like the other (biped) wolves do.

Lt. Riley seems to be accumulating jobs like a snowball rolling down the Zugspitze collects snow. At present, he is a platoon commander, Administrative Officer, and Chief DP Engineer, doing the latter job for Lt. Holbrook who is on furlough.

According to Edwin Capron, this company's visitor to the British Zone, whatever gripes we may have about redeployment and discharge fade into insignificance beside those of our British buddies. In the English Army men who have six and one-half years of service, the same men who survived campaigns from Dunkerque to Holland are just now being redeployed and discharged. Our two and three years of service look pretty small beside that. One redeeming feature of the British Zone, however, according to our representative, is that "joyjuices" of various kinds are far more plentiful and varied than in our zone. Anybody want to enlist in the English Army?

B Co. -- Buzzing Around by Polacek

My deer sweet snookum wookums Dotsy,

Aint gonna rite maw today, because derr aint much news and seein as I ain't got nothin better to do I guess I might as well rite you. I quit my office job. I was operating the switchboard and I heard the Major tell the captain a secret and I told it to my buddy....so I quit. They wouldn't make me PFC anyway. I got a much better job now. I'm chasing FWS. Last week I chased one 2 blocks and got tired so I yelled at him that I quit and he should come back. But he was pretty much full of pep and kept running. Oh well, I don't mind pulling KP everynight. Derr was a real official notice on the bord it said: In addition to his other duties, Pvt. Aloysius Van Padodle assumes the responsibility of a night KP. The Captain even signed it.

Remember I told you about our basketball team well, Morris, Floyd, Wessel, Cooper, Kaplowitz, Downs, Johnson, Krill, Laird and Griffith (thats the basketball team) are goin to Munich for 2 days to play for Class B championship. I think that Class B means Class Best but I'm not shur.

A coupl of daze ago five of the boys from Epernay France came back. That was Quinn, Rudd, Santoro, Carpenter, VanDenHeuvel. They sed they had a lowzy time but I'll betcha they'll wish they was back, derr, when the Cpl. of the gard, Querfurth, gets them. Boy, you should see him. He stands in the chow line drooling and every GI that comes in the dorr he asks, What are you doin solger? If you say nothin', youre sunk.

I didn't tell ya did I that are company turnd in 640 dollars to the march of dimes. I'm not shur but I think thats as much as all the other companies turned in together.

There's a rumor floting around the company that our Company Commander is leeving, Thats Capt. Kyriacos, the one I toldja about. We'll sure miss him, but there's a darn nice guy named Lt. Pearce gonna take his place so we ought to be set.

Theres a new song they play on the radio called Makin Woopie. They play it every day. Most of the guys get a big bang out of it but I don't see any thing so funny in makin woopie. Maybie I just don't understand the hole thing, I donno.

Well anyway that's all I got to say today. Don't rite, I think I'm gonna be transfer to another outfit. Maybie this time I'll get into somthing that soots my personalitie. Well snookum Wookums I'll rite again when I haven't anything better to do.

Ever lovin,

Aloysius

C Co. -- by Gerald Stewart

Tuesday afternoon we bid farewell to several good men who had three years or more of service in the Army. Among them was S/Sgt Harold Muse (our mess Sgt) who was in such a hurry he got as far as Landsberg before he realized he hadn't taken his from

32 and clearance papers. The result being a phone-call and a special messenger. Who could blame him. He's on his way HOME. It seems (to hear him talk) that all 1st Sgt Klosinski needs is someone to make out his Morning Report and then he can go home, well, I refuse. Sgt Benter has quite a bit of trouble trying to get in and out of the motor pool with his trucks. About twice a week he has the bull-dozer scraping up two feet of mud out of his front yard. Should it happen a few more times, we will have a nice swimming pool.

Sid Schneier "C"ing THINGS Columnist, was one of the boys who left Tuesday also. We tried to convince him he couldn't go as there was no one to take his place as a columnist. Well he's gone and yours truly was stuck with the job. I have nothing to do except sit here at the desk as operations clerk from 7:30 in the morning till the wee hours and then this comes up. Oh well, its rough all over. As Sid often said "Sometimes it doesn't even pay to get up in the morning", I am convinced he knew what he was talking about. It's a good thing Sardo (Sid's partner in crime) came back from furlough or the Orderly Room would have had to take over Special Service also.

In Landsberg, Lt. Thompson's DP Commandoes are about 65% finished with their job, their chart only counts for work completed, so they actually are about 80% finished. With the new "Three Strippers" their abode is becoming known as "The Hen House". They used to be nice fellas too. Maybe they still are, so we'll wait and see. Anyway the men have a small club with drinks, sweet music (crank type) and extra places at the table for transit "Personnel". They are constructing a boxing ring and I hear (from a good source) the first contestant is to be Lt. (Lightning) Thompson and anyone but Joe Smith. Good luck Lt., you have plenty of backing.

It is rumored that Lt. Atkins in Nesselwang has another construction job coming up. It seems as though the town jail is full of civilian gas thieves and he has to have some place to put the rest of them he expects to catch, (he's really on the ball). "If they have to learn the hard way, I'm a damn good teacher", says Lt. Atkins.

With pay day Thursday and EM liquor the first of next week, we EM have something to look forward too. It will be a first pay for most of the new men for "quite some time". I won't mention about the liquor as the NCO's have been quite lenient with their rations.

Till next week. Be "C"ing you.

H/S Co. -- by Vitale - Bergstrom

The phone rang at the officers' quarters last Monday night, and a meeting was called of all officers. The gold bar that Lt. Malten was wearing was beginning to lose its luster and fade. Evidently Major Nagy took the hint, and pinned a brilliant lusterous silver bar on him. Speaking for the company, we wish you good luck and congratulations Lt. The same procedure was taken a few night previous to Lt. Malten's promotion when Capt. Hall, (the old man), and Capt. Felton were promoted to the grade of Captain. See your recruiting officer now, Sirs.

It seems as though "Oh my heart Schwartz" was given a working over the night the electricity went out. You all know how easy Schwartz scares, between Shahrigran and Pendergrass, his hair stood up straight. As a result, he keeps his door lock and says, "My M-1 never fails me."

Upon entering the modestly marked "two" room office of the S-3 Section on the second floor of the Headquarters building, one immediately wonders what they do with such a bevy of females and so many telephones. Well, the four secretary-typists and the seven phones are now what is considered necessary for the efficient management of the section, and heaven only knows how they got through the war, combat and all, strictly "G.I.". Any questions?

Master Sgt. Corb Garton is the EM "Big Bazahk" of the outfit, playing Gilbert to Captain Foster's well managed Sullivan, both singing to the tune of the "101st Group Sernade." Other dramatis personae include 1st Lt. Sonnenfeld, ass't S-3, Sgt. Gammon, T/5s Glassman, Howard and Bergstrom, and Pvt's Sanders, Silva, and Sturgis, ably assisted by 5 German girls (playing their parts with somewhat halting English).

Being show at present in the bustling "Plans and Operations Theatre" are a variety of subjects, all the way from supervision of DP Camps (Pvt. Sturgis' headache) and sawmills to construction on the 115th Station Hospital and the operation of Depot E-54. At presnet there are fifteen productions on the pay bill, but come back and they may be featuring five or ten more. And the way the various companies are spread out on the road playing the circuit, well, that's where the telephones come in. They also help out except when "Market Oberdorf Adolph" gets on the switchboard) in reaching any of the thirty-one sawmills and seventeen DP Camps for which the section is responsible.

But it all spells "business", the business of directing and supervising an Engineer Combat Battalion running "fully operational". A hard job, but no laurels, please....just a straight jacket or a discharge.

H/S Co. -- by Vitale - Shahrigian

Shots, shots and shots is all you hear of. Report to the medics for a Typhoid Shot, report to the medics for a Typhus shot, Diphtheria, Influenza and about eighty-eight other shots. This last diphtheria shot we so willfully received was like running a jackhammer through the arm, twisting it so it would come out the other arm and a few atoms thrown in for seasoning, at least it seemed so the following day. For those who have received only one shot its lucky, for those who have received two shots its not so lucky, and for those who are going to receive all four shots its good night. As a result of the shots T/4 Becker, motor pool, has been standing on his head ever since and swears the world is up side down. Pvt Hope, ass't Bn mail clerk, has been buzzing around like a V-2 bomb and on the contrary S/Sgt Hardaway, water purification, is just plain kaput.

If you will step next door from the bahnhof you will see an imposing sign, BSO, 138th Engr. C. Bn. Upon entering the office you will be struck with the air of hard work that seems to pervade the office. Captain Felton is usually pouring over bills that he must pay, as he is also purchasing and contracting officer, or he may be correcting a few items from the hundreds of requisitions that come in from the DP Camps. In another corner is our typist (interpreter) Herma. Besides being an industrious lady she keeps up the spirits with her smiles. If you are looking for supplies you immediately contact T/Sgt Shahrigian who can be seen wading through a pile of papers in his "hold basket" that seems permanently full. He sets you at ease by saying "No there are none in the whole ETO, if there were you have to get approval from Group, Corps and then Army and often you go to the depot and they 'don't have any', so what can we do? By the way, what did you say you wanted?"

Ably assisting Shahrigian is 1st ass't, chief truck dispatcher No-1 runaround, "I'll get the supplies" McCommas. At times he calls on "I'll go to Furth" Smith who runs up to Nurenberg frequently to bring in needed Engineer supplies. "Lets feed them 10 in one's" Quinlan keeps the stomachs well filled. If you have heard strange noises at about five in the morning, don't be alarmed, its just Quinlan getting started after rations.

"Pop" Quigley, "Combat" Harris, "Goopy" Pendergrass, "Sharpie" Schwartz, "Sigh" Morton and "Rations" Riley alternate driving for coal, rations, and benzine that keeps the trucks rolling. "Itchy Fingers" Buckner, usually makes the run with Steve McCommas to pick up quarter-master supplies in Munich.

This just about covers the activities of the section that serves under the motto "If there is any in the ETO we'll get it" but fellas please lets not be too hard on the BSO. Don't call on them too many times to make good this statement.

A Co. -- by Junior

The recent addition of a movie projector to the company special service equipment has done much to relieve the old, old, question of what to do in the evening.

A certain blonde from Frankfurt was seen yesterday afternoon, running up to a one-legged man in an old Qehrmacht uniform and very soundly kissing him. It was probably her Father, don't you think so, Glenn?

Phillip Appelbaum's name took quite a tossing around again recently when someone in the Orderly room insisted over the telephone that he wished to speak to "Corporal Phillip Applebottom". With some people calling him "Applebloom" and others "Applesauce" the poor guy really takes a beating. Phil's a good egg though and takes it like a good Appletree. When most of the rest of us are called names its neither so unintentional nor complimentary.

The diphtheria shots given to all members of this company were very successful and the 65th Field Hospital is expected to start building a new wing soon in order to accommodate the crowd. There are more sore arms around here now than in all the bush leagues back home at the opening of the season. We didn't really mind the needles so much, but when "Bernie" Friedman, one of our medics, asked to borrow the air compressor in order to give "Muscles" Underwood a shot we felt that was going too far.

Have you seen "Buck" Pelullo riding herd over his PW carpenters like a Texas cowhand looks after his prize longhorns? He's mighty proud of that resulting nice new kitchen floor too. Now all he needs is a ration truck that will return from Battalion a little more heavily loaded. Something must be radically wrong somewhere in that department because we have heard that H/S Company is even dividing the "C" Rations in half. Half the How Company men eat the can, and the other half eat what was inside it. Things are rough everywhere these days!

Several days ago the Company officer strength was down to two, but it has now returned to the big-happy-family size of four with the addition of Lieutenants Carl Bogese and Stewart Johnson. Lieutenant James Holbrook back from his Switzerland-Rome furlough has been called on tdy to H & S Co. What will our poor DP camps do without him?

Orchids to Herbert Perchikoff who has rapidly been learning how to deal with the difficult problems which seem to continually follow a movie machine operator. Most of the trouble seems to be caused by gremlins who have received their discharges

from the Air Force and are now trying to make things as tough as possible for the Ground and Service Forces. So beware of Gremlins, men. The "A" Company movie machine is only the first part of their attack upon the 138th.

The recent exchange of representatives with the British Army seems to have had some effect on this company because our noncommissioned administrative heads are planning to move into monastic seclusion together. Now we know the war is over.

B Co.-- by Polacek

Well Longacre I hope this is the last one of mine you'll have to worry about.

Bouquets to Bill Little who has done an exceptionally fine job on the Company's library. The library offers everything from Encyclopedias to "Forever Amber". The library is in Headquarter's building and is opened from 1000 to 2200 hours daily. I don't know which the 45/49 point boys are sweating out most, the bottle of gin or the orders sending them home.

Good to have L W Duncan back from the 609th even if he is giving Gerald Derry and Ted Mireau a hard time about the equipment he gave them when he left. What's this about a romance in Dale Goranson's life? Don't know which is worse the front lines or being in a room when the radio starts playing "Makin' Whoopie" and Wessel, Ensign, and Cerro start looking for pencils and paper.

The Bucket of Blood, better known as the "Red Lantern Co B EM Club" looks better every day. Danford on his own time has done a fine job on remodeling.

Arnold Cohen, once one of the most popular medics in battalion hasn't a friend left. After shooting that toxoid into everyone's arm, they'll have nothing to do with him.

Dick Faber has been running himself ragged trying to improve the theatre conditions. He hopes that by March 1st he'll have things under control and every movie goer will be a little happier.

POLLY POME

Don't want hearts
or scotch or wine
Discharge
Be My Valentine.

C Co. -- by H. A. Hogbin

The boys of our company are having a little difficulty with using their arms now. There are some lucky fellows that will not have to take any more shots for diptheria. Therefore their arms will be better later than some of us other Joes.

Perhaps the fellows here at Friedberg will have more to look forward to now with a dance more than once a week and sweet music during chow time.

Our Friend Pretzer of Sgt. Jasrazabs crew is back with him again after a few days in the Hospital. Glad to have you back fellows.

The boys at the Messerschmitt plant have almost completed their work there which is making beds. When they finish there should not be any one sleeping in the snow.

Lt. Atkins platoon at Nesselwang is having plenty of fun on their Sundays these days because of boocoup snow at their place. Some of the boys, that left this outfit a few weeks ago to join other outfits bounds for the states, were guests of us here at Friedberg and also at Nesselwang.

If the weather keeps up here as it is now there will be plenty of snow for us by evening.

The galoping dominoes aren't rolling so much around here any more but the poker chips are wearing pretty thin.

The officer of the day is having quite a time these days checking up on the fellows to see that they are in their rooms at the designated hour which is 11:15 P.M. Some of the boys think it's a long walk from the beer hall to their rooms at that time of night but with their hands and feet they manage to crawl upstairs to their soft beds and are usually asleep when the officer comes a round.

Being new at this writing for newspaper I am hoping you are able to read my article with out getting too much of a headache. Well its still snowing and the afternoon is drawing to a close and so my writing will have to cease. Until next week.

March 1, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

Instead of the usual news and gossip Able Willing this week turns its spotlight upon the men who recently joined us and presents an interview with several of them.

Willett Earnest comes to us from Croydon, Pennsylvania via dear damp old Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. He thinks that Germany is a very beautiful country so far as the scenery is concerned, but personally prefers Croydon. The most striking thing to him about the German people and their habits is the great amount of handshaking

that they do upon meeting and leaving one another. According to Willett, many people in the States have forgotten about the GI's, the war they fought, and why they fought it, and even look down on them to a certain extent. In at least one firm with which he is acquainted the management has made a practice of holding returned veterans for a week or so and then declaring their work unsatisfactory and firing them.

Charles Bertholdt hails from Baltimore, Maryland. His first impression of Germany as he peered through the slats in the cattle car was that it was very badly beat up, but after he got away from the railroad tracks, it didn't seem to have been hit so badly as he had at first thought. He was also impressed by the fact that the Germans seem to have more food than the Belgians or French and believes that the Germans have enough to get along on. Charlie doesn't think that the occupation of Germany by the Allies will last more than five years, but he thinks it should last longer. He recommends that every physically fit eighteen-year-old be given three or four months of training and then sent overseas for eighteen months. Before we do ultimately pull our troops out we should make sure that the Germans have thoroughly reformed, and even then Charlie recommends that we have an equal number of representatives from each of the Allies to act as observers in the German government. So far as the engineers are concerned Charlie is an ex-doughfoot who reenlisted for three years to be in the engineers. He thinks that the Corps of Engineers is the best branch of the army in which to get some training and knowledge that will be of help later in civilian life.

From the State where men are still men and Texas is due south we have William Risenhoover of Snyder, Oklahoma. He comes to us via training at Fort Louis, Washington and Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The Germans are not as snobbish as Bill has expected, and the sight of the rubblized towns made him realize more than anything else had previously done what war was. Bill advocates a ten or fifteen years occupation and is perfectly willing to do his share of it. Most of all he doesn't want any of his kids coming over here in twenty years or so to finish a job he failed to do. Bill comes from a farming region back home and declares that the end of the war hasn't changed life much there.

Charles Clevenger of Morton, Washington was surprised at the amount of damage that bombs had done. He, like many of the rest of us, didn't realize the tremendous job they could do until he saw the results. Charlie thinks that we must keep the Army of Occupation over here for an indefinite period of time in order to keep the Germans from starting up again. He thinks that if we don't keep forces right here the Germans will be up on their feet and just itching for a fight in practically no time. Charlie's very glad to be in the engineers because they have all the work trades and are, in his opinion, more connected with civilian work than any other branch of the service. Working as a rigger in the engineers is very similar to his old job in the Navy Yard. Charlie has noticed a lot of unrest back in the States and thinks that the working men are right. He says that the working men must look out for themselves because if they don't keep the wages up, capital certainly won't. Also, that wages must not be cut too severely although they will naturally decrease somewhat because there is less overtime work.

The above opinions are only those of four men but it would seem that they are representative because the men interviewed were chosen completely at random and were not coached or prodded to say something in which they did not believe. If our heads have not become too big or too thick many among us whose sleeves glitter with Hershey bars might well learn something from their replacements.

B Co. -- by Ike

Here it is time for another Drag Line article and as each week rolls by we see more and more of the old faces gone from our midst. Last week Sullins, Sterret, Lund, 'Pop' Hay, Culjat, Penepent and Cerro took off. "Sleepy" Cerro is practically in charge of a DP Camp all by himself. It's the first work he's done in years and surprisingly enough he likes it! There must be an angle somewhere. Gatermann, Tec 4 King, and Flores are pulling their hair out. They missed the boat this last shipment by just a few days service. By the way, the next "ship call" will take every last North Camp veteran we have. Eisentraut, Flores, Danford, Ensign, and Wessel will be leaving.

Tec 3 'Doc' Cohen left Wednesday for higher things at Battalion. It's about time they started recognizing talent up there. Doc has been with us since early in '44 when the 138th was activated. In that time he probably has made more lasting friends than any other single man in the Battalion. Even "Oakie", who decided to run away last week, decided to return and see his boss off. Bernie Friedman, who is also an 'old timer' from B Company is back in Doc's place.

Monday Capt. Pearson, from the 3rd Army Engineer office, brought a few of his brass buddies out to E-54 to see how a good Engineer Depot is operated. While they were inspecting the "model" depot, Cpl. Duncan was out chasing 9 escaped PW's. Yeh, he found them.

SHORTS:

Where does "Happy Houligan" get that thunderous laugh? Could it be the potentialities of his "Union Cut" quid? Frank Spencer wants an add posted in this

week's paper for all extra cigars the fellows may have. He'll pay anything! Why do certain individuals in the motor section know more about "Chicago" than others? For information on how to relax while on Duty see 1st Lt. "Guts" Weigand. Why is Gus Gatermann sporting a Sunday smile these days? Could it be that his old flame has returned to her former stomping grounds? We apologize for the rude name tagged on "our boy Theo's" girl in last week's column. For her correct handle contact Lt. "Dreamy Eyes" Buckley. He knew her "way back when..." See S/Sgt. "Swede" Johnson for all the particulars on complicated sleeping positions in a state of stupor...when the next liquor ration comes in drop by for a free demonstration.

WORD OF THE WEEK;

Nichts! Nichts!

H/S Co. -- by Vitale Beck

Contrary to the popular belief, the S-2 office is not the Battalion Headquarters recreation room. This impression is formed when a person enters the office after a few minutes in the adjoining S-3 sections office. There is quite a contrast between the banging of typewriters and ringing of telephones in the operations office, and the quite scraping of the draftman's pens guided by Pfc. Ray Smith and Pvt. Stan Stovall. The hushed conversations (no doubt about some secret information) between the intelligence officer, Lt. Branges, the ass't S-2, Lt. Edison, and the new Recon-Officer, Lt. Rygiel, and the occasional appearance of Recon drivers Pvt's Bond and Goetch, and T/5 Sterenchock checking in and out are about the only sounds heard during the day in this very smoothly operating section. Frequently the Intelligence NCO, S/Segt. Beck, calls in the battalion photographer Bill Aldom to discuss some of the fine work being done by photographer Aldom. Prospective Recon Sgt. T/5 Persina and Pfc. Bluder spend most of their time in the "field" classifying bridges, roads and culverts. If you ever need any road information, or maps, just run up to the S-2 section. You'll be promptly taken care of in the "Battalion Headquarters Recreation Center.

Mess Sgt.: Where've you been all morning?

K.P.: Filling the salt shakers like you told me to, Sarge.

Sgt.: All the time?

K.P.: Yep, it ain't easy pourin' the salt through those little holes.

C Co. -- by W. E. O'Haren

To the staff of Dragline, I want to extend my greeting and a hearty "Glad to meet you". As a contributing writer on your fine newspaper, it is my desire to bring news of human interest to all readers.

This column will be my first copy, and considerable space will be taken by the reactions, comments and general attitude of the new men to the old men.

On behalf of the "New Men" this writer, through the medium of Dragline, extends a sincere thanks to all the men who have made our arrival a pleasant one.

It was a great "pickup" morally speaking, to us new arrivals to receive such courtesies, and the sharing of rations of which we were lacking.

The comments of men from other platoons located in distant points bears out the same treatment, one of sincere good will and cooperation.

To Sgt. Alexander, Pvt. Stevens and others who have worked hard (beyond their duties) looking out for our interest, we hope we can reciprocate for your tireless efforts.

GOING HOME

Our acquaintance with T/Sgt. Klosinski serving in the capacity of 1st Sgt. was a short one. For obvious reasons, he was glad it was a brief friendship to new men, as he was going home.

T/Sgt. Klosinski expresses himself with the following: Of all the information that comes down on redeployment matters, the most important is getting into the "pipeline".

So here we are, men with 2 1/2 years service, preparing to enter the old pipe. Our hope now is that this pipe doesn't have too many twists and turns, to delay our passage home.

The realization of leaving this organization and many of your buddies, leaves one with the thought that an interesting experience and acquaintance is coming to an end.

Once again we see that the prospect of civilian life is not too distant. Personally, I have felt that army life, while tending to make a man satisfied to live from day to day, is an experience not to be forgotten.

A Co. -- by Junior

Last week's Able Willing column was the result of a series of interviews with several of our new men. In order to represent the rest of the company, this week's column is the product of a similar series of interviews with several of our grizzled, gray-haired, ETO-happy old men.

Charles Morris, our mess truck driver, is easily one of the oldest among the old men of the outfit so far as service in the 138th is concerned. Originally from Britton, South Dakota he's been in the outfit through good times and bad ones ever since April 1944. Charlie thinks conditions back in the States look very promising and he is eagerly looking forward to the approaching boat trip and a reunion with the missus to whom he has been happily married for fourteen years. After refreshing and continuing his education under the GI Bill of Rights Charlie plans to return to his trade of mechanic and is full of confidence that he will be able to make as good a living as ever.

Angelo Sartori was one of the boys who came to us back in Dobransy, Czechoslovakia from the 547th Ponton Bridge Company. His home town is Lakeville, Connecticut and he feels very good about going back there soon to be one of the Sartori family again. Conditions in the contracting field may be a little slack at present, but Angelo plans to go back to it. He has found many similarities between the work of the army engineers and that of civilian contractors and he's learned lots of things that will help when he is back in OCS (Old Civilian Status).

William Chamberlin is another of the old, old men who have been with the company since it was activated. Bill is from Torresdale, Pennsylvania and is planning to return to Princeton soon to resume his studies in - of all things - engineering. So far as conditions in the States are concerned, he thinks they are quite bad, but still much better than over here. Bill says his service in the Army has changed him by giving him a far broader out-look on life and enabling him to see a cross-section, as it were, of the American people.

Albert Giebelstein came to Able Company via the 81st Engineer Combat Battalion from Nederland, Texas, a state where men are still men. He's another engineer with two years of college behind him who hopes soon to return to engineering at college although he's undecided whether it will be electrical or chemical engineering.

"Gieb" admits that the deciding factor in his case will be the difficulty of calculus. "Geib" plans to go to work a little first in order to get oriented to civilian life again. If civilian life is too rough he may come back in the Army, but civilian life will have to be very, very, very rough before he does anything as rash as that. "Geib" claims that Army life has changed him beaucoup - physically, morally, and mentally. Physically, he was a tub of lard as a civilian, but the life of the engineers has done away with all that and added muscles of steel. He realizes more than ever before how good life is in the States, he has learned to get along with people better, and thinks he will be a better all-around citizen now.

Earl Hagen joined us many months ago from the 1257th Engineer Combat Battalion, fresh from victory in the fields of Ober Morlen. Earl is near the top in the Company for overseas time with eighteen months on this side of the Atlantic behind him. Shortly after turning in his last pair of OD's he hopes to go to work driving large oil tankers from California to Idaho. The Army and some of the things that have happened to him while in the Army have changed his outlook on life and his opinion of many people.

B Co. -- with Dick, Swede and Theo

We're becoming known as "Company B - for Transients Only." The men come and go faster in this outfit than at the port. This week we lost our company commander, the motor officer, and six of the boys. Bailey, Nakagawa, Goetz, and Bronikowski all transferred, along with Denny Condotta and James Barnett, two of the old men. This was probably the "deal of the month" in that the boys went to Munich to activate a new area Engineer office under the name of the old 1101st Group. Each man received an automatic boost of one grade. Kinda hate to see Lt. Pearce leave. He came in like a lion from C Company, but proved to be pretty regular. Well boys, don't let Munich get you down. We know it's hard to take!!

Despite the fact we operate the largest and best Engineer Depot in the European Theater, maintain two motor pools, and have a huge interior and PW guard, Battalion still thinks B Company should handle more, so this week we relieved A and C Company of most of their work. Now the company operations include maintenance of the DP Camp and DP Hospital in Landsberg, maintenance of all roads in and around Landsberg, and supervision of several Kraut sawmills in this district besides E-54 and the Motor Pool. Anything else you need done, just call on Baker Company!!

Baseball season is almost on us again and we see many of the boys working out in their spare time all ready. Byard, Sadowl, Woodruff, and a few of the other second platoon men play hardball down in the gym regularly. The walls really shake!! The company is organizing a Basketball tournament between platoons to be played next week. Griffith and Eisentraut are the "gold-dust twins" for the first platoon.

Headquarters looks pretty strong but the First is putting up big money. We're awaiting entries from the second and third platoons.

SHORTS

More shots this week...we were hoping Doc would forget. Raymond and Heritage are finished playing basketball for XX Corps and "Bigger 'n Me" is back with the company again...Ray transferred. We sent 15 men up to Group Headquarters for Honor Guard last week...big honor. S/Sgt. Johnson is Public Relations man for B Company...take your card over anytime and have it punched...he's thinking of hanging up a sign on his door. "Orderly Room" Mays is wandering around muttering, "Just because" these days. Wonder why? After a day of "combat conditions" with 10 in 1's, we see many more happier faces entering the Mess Hall. Bright's beaming all over with the extra meat rations lately. He picked up about 3 cows last week. We hear OAKIE visited the theater during the Kraut vaudeville the other night and stole the show...who says he can't sing, too? Lt. Weigand was really fed up with the old PWs. How come Itchy Eisenstraut has a corner on the DDT supply in the company? What's this about a snow ball fight on the roof of the warehouse at E-54 between the guards and the PWs? Who won? What'll they think of next!

H/S Co. -- by Vitale

What to write about? Yep, that's a good point. Well, you can always make conversation on rumors. Incidentally, do you know what the latest is? Just between you and I, I heard from some one who was told by a reliable source that we're moving. The rumor is that we're going to Augsburg. As long as we have to be here I'm sure we hate to leave Markt Oberdorf. We are pretty well dug in. Acquaintances have been made and the place has grown quite familiar even to the new men. Besides, who likes to change wash women at this stage of the game.

Suffering from a minor stomach ailment, Tec-5 Quigley reported to the dispensary for medical attention. "Have you ever been bothered by general dillibity?" asked the doctor. "No, Sir," replied Quigley, "only by Sergeant Shahrigan."

This week "Congrats" are in order for the following members of the Company who have attained a new rank: 1st-Sgt Ed Curley, Tec-Sgt Richard Beck, S/Sgts Bergstrom, Cadieux, Dowd, Gawne, and Mayse, Tec-4 Chiaravalle, DiAngelo, Garrett, and Smock, Tec-5 Grant, Loy, Mull, Pohl, and Quigley, and Cpl. Soper.

Have you noticed how busy the Medics have been lately? They're doing a swell job in teaching the prospective medics how to handle the needle. T/3 Cohen is with the Battalion Medics now, he was originally the aid man with B Company. S/Sgt. Maynard is back from furlough but isn't staying very long because he is going home. I believe there is such a place as home, isn't there?

C Co. -- by W. E. O'Haren

In this changing world, a change took place in the 3rd platoon of Company C much to the regret of the men. The old proverb, "one's gain's another's loss", is a fitting one on this occasion, as Company B gained Lt. Atkins and the 3rd platoon of Company C lost him.

All of us Joes in the 3rd platoon remember vividly the splendid work done by Lt. Atkins when he started, politely but firmly, to move some German families on their way.

You undoubtedly know all of the 3rd platoon wish you the best of luck in your new job. Incidentally if you ever wish to do some good skiing, drop around.

A sad note hits the column coming from the 2nd platoon. As the men raised their cups of beer, not to shout prosit, but to render a toast to the old beer hall for the last time. Yes, many a tear was shed in their beer, when the 2nd platoon closed up their beer hall in Landsberg. Aufwiedersehn!

We all enjoy the comics and its characters but the question is: Why is it that a certain man in the 2nd platoon goes by the name of one of Dick Tracy's characters called "Itchy"? Try some D. D. T., Cox!

Bobrow and Monsour returned recently from Paris, having been enrolled in the school classes of foreign languages.

If the men who go to Garmisch buy as many souvenirs as the last bunch who went, there won't be any left. Sergeant Boo Bu Berlinger's boy, Clayton, bought enough post cards for every man in the Company. Everyone had a swell time -- didn't they Stewart?

Till next week, I'll be C'ing You!

March 15, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

The biggest news this week is our new location at Friedberg. To a man, Able Company was very sorry to leave Oberau and the fine recreational facilities of nearby Garmisch, but change of station, as it must to all engineer companies, came to us on March 10th. Having taken over from "C" Company, we are settling down in Friedberg now and it may be said without conceit that the situation is well in hand.

Salvatore Panepinto has proved to be one of the bravest men in the company by virtue of his attendance at the Theater Ski School, Garmisch. Any man who can look a tree in the face while streaking down the side of a slippery, snow-covered mountain on two oversized barrel staves has plenty of intestinal fortitude.

Junior, who writes this column and has been trying to keep at as representative of Able Company as possible, wishes to take this opportunity to beg for news from all corners of the company. He is only in one little section of the company and your "Able Willing" column will be topheavy in the news of that particular section unless you give him a hand. Due to the past and present inequality of news coverage, he has been resorting to a series of interviews in an effort to keep the column as broad and representative as possible. (If anyone from another company chances to read this, your own DRAG LINE correspondent is probably having similar trials and tribulations so please remember him and help him out when you have an item of news. You will be helping yourself too if you do because your DRAG LINE will be better because of it).

To continue the series of interviews which has been made in the past few weeks, let's rove among the distinguished members of Headquarters Platoon a little bit this week. Next week, we'll invade the equally outstanding First Platoon, then George's Boys in the Second, and so on until we reach, numerically last but far from last, Capron's Raiders in the Third.

Having served with the outfit since its activation, Julius Frank, one of Able's able medics, is also one of its oldest veterans and expects to be making a long-awaited ocean voyage soon. Back in Los Angeles, the missus is keeping those home fires burning brighter than ever these days. Before entering the Army, "Frankie" was studying medicine but that's all off now and this future civilian wants to go into business where he can be independent. So far as Germany is concerned, he thinks our past and present policy is a failure. There are grins on the faces of the people, but underneath - who knows? "Frankie" also thinks that the men coming over should be taught more about why they have come so they won't treat the frauleins like their best girl friends five minutes after they cross the German border.

Daniel Pelullo, our Mess Sergeant, joined the outfit from the 26th (Yankee) Division back in Fort Jackson just before the 138th came overseas. His home is in Boston, Mass and his occupation, both pre-war and post-war, is cooking. Even in the Army he hasn't been able to get away from the skillet and roasting pan, and plenty of us are anxious to visit his restaurant in Boston some day if only to gaze in speechless wonder at the civilian "Danny". "Danny" says that the Germans seem to be very smart people but they don't apply their knowledge right. It would be much better if they would use their brains for the benefit of civilization instead of trying to run the whole works. He also thinks that our Military Government has been babying the Germans too much.

First Sergeant Audist Cox of St. Louis, Mo is one of our few Regular Army men, and he's had plenty of it. With 13 1/2 years in the infantry, engineers, and military police behind him, he plans to keep right on going till he hits the twenty-year mark. Then he'll see how things are and probably wind up by making it thirty. Although Sergeant Cox came to Able Company from the 757th Military Police Combat Bn this is not his first time in the engineers as he was formerly in the 2nd Engr Combat Regt.

The Supply Room's representative for this inquisition was Jake Kushner who cheerfully resigned himself to his fate when this reporter approached him. Jake came to us via infantry training from Chicago, Illinois. He was a machinist in a plant producing all sizes and shapes of naval ordnance before entering the Army and, after discharge, plans to return to the same plant which produces printing presses in normal times. In his few spare moments in our busy supply room he dreams about the new home he's going to build when he gets home and the shiny new Oldsmobile he wants to buy. Jake expresses his thoughts about the Germans very succinctly; he says their morale is still high but their morals are low. Although Jake is anxious to see that we do our job in Germany as thoroughly and completely as possible, he is equally anxious that Germany and Jake Kushner part company as soon as possible.

Paul Wertz is our dispatcher and he has a very full-time job keeping our fleet of trucks dispatched most effectively to cover our large area. Paul is one of the new men but he has already become an integral part of the company. He is a Pennsylvania Dutchman from Shoemakersville, Penna and is anxious to get back to the "schnitz un' knepp" region of our country as soon as possible. He is married and there are two beautiful women in his life - Mrs. Wertz and his young, three- and one-half-year-old daughter. Paul was a truck driver with a heavy duty trucking company before entering the Army and plans to go back to that job after discharge at least until he can find something else.

Thus ends our jaunt among the celebrities of Headquarters Platoon. If you like this column of interviews, we'll tackle Boechler's boys next week.

B Co. -- with Glenn

Starting the week off with a bang, B Company ushered in three new officers who will help in the huge new job set-up here. All transferred from the "Goin' Home" 260th Engineer Combat Bn, we start off the list with 1st Lt. Don Schlanger, a veteran of the "rough and tumble" 94th Infantry Division. Lt. Schlanger has four

battle stars to his credit, having fought in every engagement except Normandy. A native of New York City, he is a mighty midget. When you see this 220 pound, 5' 7" behemoth coming at you, just remember he was wrestling champion at dear old CCNY, and steer clear.

Second on our list of new officers is 2nd Lt. Phillip Spain, an engineer graduate of the University of Illinois, and possessor of 3 battle stars earned with the 146th Engr C Bn of Fifth Corps, 1st Army. A very athletic-minded officer, Lt. Spain coached the 22nd Corps football team last fall in the 3rd Army League.

A man from the great northwest is 2nd Lt. William Demme, who served as a platoon leader with the 260th. Lt. Demme is an engineer graduate of Washington University. At the present time he is away at school and will probably join the company soon.

With all the new brass around, the company has changed hands so fast it's hard to keep up with the changes. For the benefit of those who haven't heard, our new Company Commander is 1st Lt. Richard Thompson, formerly of C Company. We hope Lt. Thompson will stick around awhile so we can get acquainted.

Biggest news of the week is the Company Basketball Tournament held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week, with the championship game to be played Friday night. At the time of this writing each platoon has played two games, and the standings read Headquarters in first place with 2 wins, the second platoon tied with the first platoon with 1 win and 1 loss, and the undermanned third platoon, without the services of Ace Johnson, hasn't won a game. This tournament is bringing out a lot of hidden talent with such sharpshooters as Stolfo, Fox, Eisentraut, Mathis, and Wildman stealing the show.

When Lt. Weigand heard he was relieved of the PW supervision and assigned to the DP camps down Garmisch way, it took him exactly five minutes to pack and take off. With him went about 15 of our men to help on the jobs. Sounds like a good deal to us....only ten minutes from Garmisch, and living in big apartments.

SHORTS

As the news comes to us about the maintenance of roads in the Landsberg area, several of our old boys say they can smell the fragrant aroma of TAR boiling...That can't be...the war's over..PWs do all our work now, don't they? That smiling face of Tec 5 Miles looks just the same behind the Supply room counter as it did behind the wheel of a 2 1/2 Ton truck...maybe a little cleaner! "Itchy" Eisentraut has been overtaken and passed by Prevele in the race for the corner on the market of DDT Powder...We wonder why everyone around Sadowl moved the other night at the theater when he pulled that fragrant little piece of paper out of his pocket! Woodruff says there are more knots in his legs from playing basketball than there are in the field manual... You can still hear that old familiar z-z-z-z-Splat around the second platoon as the boys get some of those kinks worked out for the oncoming baseball season...it's pretty early yet, but it looks as though B Company will have a ball team worth backing this year. We hear two more PWs got tired of waiting on the Redeployment program and took it upon themselves to get some action... The "Old Man" says he wishes they'd leave their currency control books behind with 200 dollars on them when they decide to take off...that's the price of one lost PW MIA! S/Sgt. Johnson says it may be Public Relations man to some people but to him it's just plain Information Bureau. These new MPs are really on the beam...we hear they asked a civilian for his dog tags the other day...Querfurth has his fastened to his trip ticket...it saves time. Our boys are back from the Group Honor Guard and bitching cause their good deal is over.

WRIGHT ADVICE

"If you're gonna hit somebody with your truck, make sure it's a colonel or higher and not a Private. Make it worth while!!"

C Co. -- by W. E. O'Haren

This column comes to you from Bad Worishofen, where the Headquarters Platoon and First Platoon are making their new and hopefully permanent home. Our last quarters at Friedberg were taken over by our friends of A Company. The men here hope A Company enjoy their new billets as much as we are enjoying our new home.

Last Saturday, 9 March, the farewell was a Mardi Gras and New Year celebration combined. Everyone in the company let their hair down; the bald ones threw caution to the winds.

As the hour of bed check drew nearer and nearer, the men took their dates home; a few took their head aches to bed with them. Through the halls of our quarters could be heard the melodious, echoing voice of one of our comrades, singing. Ring Dang Do...the last bit of activity was dying out; Hubert Carrol was hitting the sack. Sgt. Dabrolet, reporting for the Second and Third Platoons, wants all to know that the best tunes of all come over the radio station AFN. All the men are ardent radio fans. After a hot shower, class A's, shoe shine, hair comb, and a look in the mirror, they seat themselves comfortably by their radios for a thrilling evening of entertainment. This is reenacted night after night, but occasionally there is a dance and even a movie. However, the variety of entertainment is practically nil. Their hopes are that Bing Crosby or Bob Hope, or perhaps an internationally famed pin-up gal would visit them and bolster their spirits. It's been said that the beer receipts would easily take care of the costs!

'Til next week, I'll be "C"ing you.

H/S Co. -- by Vitale

My apologies this week go to Cpl. Kinary, T/3 Cohen, and T/4 Bryant for not offering congrats in their newly attained rank. To the contrary of apologies we welcome to the Battalion Captain Wallace, executive officer, Captain Wise, S-3, Lt. Atterbury, ass't S-2, and Chief W. O. Phillips, ass't S-4.

For those who have been sweating out the next redeployment shipment, salt water at long last looms in sight. The rumor has it this week, but strong, that those with 44 points or 28 months service as of April 30th will go to the 281st Engr C Bn sooner than expected. Bon Voyage. Stop at the Aid Station for your sea sick tablets.

A recent visitor to the Company has been T-5 Hogan, also known as "The Mind". Cpl. Hogan was one of the men who was transferred to Munich with Major Nagy. Says Hogan, "It's a perfect set up, a guy couldn't ask for more, a private secretary, bootblacks, and even private rooms. It's the closest to civilian life a guy can expect."

During the past week there has been an exchange of uniforms between the British and American Armies. For this exchange, we have received one British officer, Lt. John Aylwyn, and two British enlisted men. They are members of the Royal Engineers of the Highland Division. To the older men their presence is reminiscent of our days spent in England.

Famous Last Words

First three days were instructive,
The rest were constructive,
But the weekends were destructive.

Lt. Aylwyn.

March 22, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

Last week we examined the highlights (as well as some of the lowlights) of Headquarters Platoon. Following the usual order of things therefore, this week Junior, nosey as ever, pounces upon Boechler's Boys, one of the roughest platoons in all Able Company.

Raphael Boechler, the platoon sergeant, hails from Karlsruhe, North Dakota. Upon graduation from high school he worked as a sheet metal worker in Milwaukee for several months; then went out on the farm where he worked until his "friends and neighbors" on the draft board sent him the invitation so familiar to all of us. Sgt. Boechler is an old, old veteran of the 138th, having been with the outfit even before it was activated. When he returns to O C S (Old Civilian Status) his plans for the future are a toss-up between settling down on the farm or going to school to study electrical engineering. As the Company's most accomplished German linguist his views on this country and its people are particularly interesting. He thinks that at one time Germany must have been a nice country, but it certainly is snafued now. The people seem too greedy and can't get along with one another.

Joseph Schohn of Buffalo, New York came to the 138th way back in November from the 2840th Engineer Forestry Company. In his happy, carefree civilian days, "Joe" was an inspector of drop forgings at the J. H. Williams Company and he hopes to return there some time in June (?) Joe is married and there's a little three-year-old daughter at home very anxiously awaiting her daddy's return.

From the other side of our country, Venice, California to be exact, we have Theodore Stowell, better known to all of us as "Pop". He hasn't been with us so long, but "Pop" is no greenie to Army life by any means. He took infantry basic at Camp Walters, Texas, and as you all know, anything connected with Texas is bound to be rough and rugged. After coming through basic at Camp Walters with his original four limbs practically undamaged, "Pop" went to Fort Lewis, Washington to teach future carpenters for a while. Before the war he was at various times a pattern-maker, a boss, and a liason man in both Douglas and Howard Hughes aircraft plants. His most outstanding job was that of leadman in charge of pattern making on Hughes' "Hercules". "Pop" is a plasterer by trade, but he has fiddled around with all branches of construction and he's anxious to get into contracting after he becomes a civilian again. He's married, and a little nine-year-old is mighty proud of his "Pop" overseas in the combat engineers.

Jack Bennett, another of our new men, comes to us from the oily city of the world, Tulsa, Oklahoma. As a civilian Jack worked in everything from assembly to flight operations in an aircraft plant and covered just about every part that there is to a plane in the process. Then his draft board did him dirt and Mr. Bennett became Pvt. Bennett the very day that the biss was passed not to induct anyone over 30. Jack is 32. He is married and has two beautiful daughters, aged six and eight respectively.

The most unusual interview of all came from John Henry of Detroit, Michigan. John helped to make tank treads as a civilian. When he became an "enlisted" man the Army first sent him to Camp Lee, Virginia for basic training in the Quartermaster Corps. That was followed by demolition specialist training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. When he becomes a civilian again, John plans to do nothing but sleep, eat and drink for six months or so and then join the merchant marine. If the laws of heredity mean anything, he will have plenty of time to enjoy that sort of life because his grandmother is 110 years old now and doing quite well, thank you. John thinks the German system is swell in at least one respect; the women are just like Indian squaws and do all the work.

Next week we'll visit Sergeant Glenn Gillespie and the Second Platoon. Hope "Snoogie-Pootzie" doesn't beat us to it or there may not be much left to interview.

B Co. -- with Swede

Once again we saw several familiar faces depart from our midst last week. This time they took Gattermann, Riley, Heritage, Tec 4 King, Flores, Blythe, and Torp, and sent them on the first leg of that long trip home. Good luck, fellas! Wonder when we combat men will leave?

Latest furloughs to come through were four to Switzerland and Rome. Those lucky pick-and-shovel men to land them were Jim Griffith, Horlick, Byard, and Freeman. Looks like more furloughs are coming in these days than they have before.

The basketball tournament was hard hit last week with all the talent either shipping out or going to Oberau. But it still looks like Headquarters has the team to beat. No one has yet conquered them in four starts. An all-star team was organized in the company to trample the Headquarters vanity, but to no avail.

SHORTS

What's Oberau got that makes everyone want to go down? Have you heard? Downs is flying home!! Just ask him. What were Querfurth, Riley and Sadowl doing under the truck the other morning? All ya gotta do is turn the key, fellas. Who ever started that basic training rumor?...Hang the bum!! They said the old men were going to the third platoon while all the rookies were gonna train with the first and second platoons...hut, hoop, hip. Who in this outfit could give "to-the-rear, March!" on the right foot anyway? All we know is pot holes and Bailey Bridges. Take a gander at Cpl. Duncan out at the dump some morning. He's really got those PWs snapping. It's getting so they jump out of the truck, click their heels to attention, and shout, "Hell, Duncan!" By the way, Corporal, just how do you say "Q" in Deutsch? Is it "Coo"? What kind of suck has "Big Stoop" Condray got? He just gets back from a smooth deal in Austria and starts driving for "Augsburg" Eisentraut. Lt. Weigand doesn't mind shoveling two ton of coal for the officer's quarters, but when they ship him off to Oberau before he can absorb any of the heat, that's going too far! Gratitude, for you. Wonder when someone's gonna be able to waken the Supply Sergeant in the morning? He's taken up where Pee Wee Hill left off. Old Ensign never hears the alarm, never sees the bulletin board, never makes a formation, and figures on signing up for 30 years...He never had it so good. Get set for a big time next Saturday. It's the second anniversary of ye old 138th Engineer Combat Battalion, and the day's ours. There'll be basketball games, afternoon movies, and a beer party to kill the day. Not many men are left in the company who were around when this outfit got it's start back in March 44. Did Sgt. Baltes ever march those men in the warehouse to work that morning? Said he'd fall them in at 0730 and march all the way to E-54. Who are the sharp characters out E-54 way who wear ODs and neck-ties? We hear it's Tony Molinari and Franklin...hmm. Poor Kanluka no sooner got back from school and "Cyclops" Querfurth nailed him for PW guard. Why Groy didn't show up at the club all last week. That Ike's a rough customer to deal with. We have a good electrician in the supply room. He can blow more fuses in one night than anybody else. Not mentioning any names but his initials are Horace Ensign. Is Madonia any relation to Caladonia?

C Co. -- with Walt Bebrow

During the absence of O'Haren, who has taken the week off to attend orientation school, I have taken over my old job of writing this column. I hope the more able man for the job will return in time for next week's copy.

Many a tear was shed this past week. Some cried because of the parting of good friends and others because they lacked a few days in the army in order to join the latest group who took their first step towards the boat. If you see a tear stain on the paper you will understand, for I am crying for both reasons. And if you hear a hollow thumping sound in the vicinity of Bad Worishofen, don't be alarmed, it is just Gates and Berlinger beating their heads together, for they also stayed behind. And so we bid goodbye to Armstrong, Brown, Castor, Fooks, Hanudel, Primavera, Schaitman, and Trout. May your journey be a short one, and may those who are eligible follow you shortly.

Sorrow reigned in Nesselwang also as the Second and Third Platoons departed. The Second platoon went to Sonthofen while the Third has joined us here in Bad

hofen. We welcome the Third Platoon and we hope that we shall now outnumber the Germans who dine in our mess hall.

In case anyone is not sure of the General Orders, we have a man in Headquarters Platoon who, by now, should know them by heart. Just drop up to room 115 and ask for "Pinky".

Although the liquor wasn't too plentiful last Saturday night, there were members of the company who managed to become quite enbibriated. Then again, there are people who can manage to become that way just by smelling the cork.

H/S Co. -- by Carver

We lost five men and the C. O. to the 281st Engineers this week while five of our vital men remained behind for a TDY until the 31st of March. Taking the first step toward home are Curley, Fortner, Chiaravalle, Duque, and Aldom, while Shahrighian, Gawne, Bergstrom, Vitale and Cohen suddenly soared into essentiality and remained behind to train replacements. Three medics returned from the 115 Station Hospital and reported training to be, "interesting". They were Berlin, Bednar, and Hunt and can be recognized by that bed pan bend in their right arm.

Your columnist returned from Biarritz to find everyone up here wearing a sleeve of stripes with the exception of the kitchen DP's and they have that, "Buck and Hope," light shining in their eyes.

Back on army rations after two months of black marketing in Biarritz and I'm melting away to a shadow. The "Back alley-knock twice- and - come - in" clubs down there did everything but advertise in the school paper to attract customers. Steaks were deliciously tough and varied in price from fifty francs for roan or sorrel to a hundred for prime dappled grey. The chips which went with the steaks were real potatoes though and the waitresses were real chips. Occasionally the management would toss in a bowl of raison juice which is pretty good drinking either hot or cold. After an hour at the table one could face the world of books and professors with a little more confidence than usually results from C-ration beartburn. I want to go on record as heartily approving the entire I and E program...don't miss your orientation fellers.

April 5, 1946

A Co. -- by Chuck Agree

Hello fellows. Yours truly is pinch-hitting for the Reverend Junior in his leave of absence. Incidentally if anyone knows where he is, please notify us. We don't think he is outside of beloved old Flak Kaserne because he is afraid one of these Frauleins will chase him. The rumor is around that I am to become editor of the Drag Line next week. I don't care what you say I got it by hard work and faithful service. (I keep telling myself.)

Now for the latest pipeline news. This week's lucky boys are Sgts Hagan, Niner, Chamberlain, Allmandinger, Cpl Potter, and Pvt. Cassens. Hagan is going to resume his love life when he gets home. Where does he get that, resumel He never left off. Niner can't be stopped now. He's been planning this maneuver for a year and a half. It won't be long now until you'll be making those table tops, boys. Chamberlain is going to run for Congress instead of for the presidency like he had originally planned. According to him, the experience will do him good when he replaces Mr. Truman. Yes, he thinks that the man from Missouri will win once more. Dinger will no doubt open a five and ten cent store with all that junk he picked up in Switzerland,. Cpl. Potter is going to retire on his card game winnings, while Cassens is just going to retire, period. It's all in fun boys, really all the men in Company A wish you the best of luck. You deserve it.

And so into the world of sports. The first platoon lost their first game to the third platoon, five to eight, but came back in roaring style on Monday to beat them eleven to five. Both were hot games and the boys were full of pep. It looks like Beck's boys really have a hurler in Alfonsi. There should be an inter-battalion softball league. Quite a few of the boys are for it. The other week-end sports consisted of a few of the fellows pushing in each other's face.

There is no use in going to the E M Club now, men. It's been closed and a battalion club has been opened right here inside old Flak Kaserne. You will be permitted to bring frauleins as well as DP's in. Also our mess hall has an orchestra now if you can call an aggregation of these Kraut horn tooters an orchestra.

Turn your radio on this Wednesday as I am representing the 138th in a panel discussion over AFN. Just can't resist those little plugs. Gads!

It's good to see our combat ex-first sergeant, "Moxie", here in H/S Company. He is referred to by quite a few "A" company men, as my sergeant. We also lost our first sergeant, Cox, to B company. S/Sgt Hudson is now acting first sergeant. Enlist now and keep those stripes.

Now for the news as time will allow. No fellows, it's not Winchell, it's still me. Dinger is going home, elated over his successful love life in Europe. The butterflies just licked Robbucci in the face again. That could be a sign of spring, but then he's always falling in love. What's the "Bull" going to do then, it will

be like Abbott without Costello. Attention, first platoon sergeant! Cpl Liford is bucking again, or it is still, "horse"? There is really some lusty talk going around about this training program. Don't feel so bad, fellows. Next everyone will have to take daily exercise. Gad, what a life!

It's back to the old hup, tup, thrug, four. Well it's taps for this time, fellows, and here's wishing you luck in the new training program and Saturday inspection.

B Co. -- with Ike

This week Tuesday we heard the very sad news of Arturo Garcia's death caused by spinal meningitis. Art wasn't with us long, but we remember him as a smiling, clean-cut youth. What he was asked to do, he did well and without question. We, as members of B company, wish to express our deepest sympathy to his family and friends both here and at home.

The latest men on the shipping list are S/Sgt Ensign, Sgt Eisenstraut, Besore, Krill, Cpl Downs, and 1/Sgt Wessel. These men have 27 months service as of the 30th of April and will leave shortly.

April 3rd will see approximately 45 strong, husky, men depart from B Company for basic training at Augsburg with the newly formed training company. Each company is sending a platoon of men to this unit for a month's military review of basic essentials. Lt Demme will be the officer in charge of this company's platoon with S/ Sgt Havner as platoon sergeant. This is probably only the beginning of such plans to be forthcoming. We're in the Army again!

Danford and Dando are both at Ski School down Garmisch way. Danford is completing a week's course while Dando is stuck for two weeks in the snow. He is taking the Military Ski Course which either makes you or breaks you.

Shorts

The boys were lined up for blocks to get their liquor ration last week. They came in like lions and went out like lights! The furniture at the Club was stacked by 7 o'clock...several distorted efforts were made to re-stack it, but their efforts were foiled. Neuman is very proficient at night-fighting...all he needs is a compass to find which direction he's headed. Get a load of that DP, Curly, who had the misfortune of walking by the Infantry Club at the wrong time the other night...someone rapped him on the skull with a bottle...he's wearing a bandage right above the fenders for that mistake. If you hear a roaring sound in the vicinity of the mess hall, don't become alarmed...it's just those raw eggs getting the best of our boy Spencer...indidentally, they do the trick, so they say. If it's always "June in January" with "Rosemary", what is it at 8:30 with your favorite fraulein? If you phone the Orderly Room and a lady's voice answers, it's only "Sweety-pie" Quinn at the switchboard. Perhaps the most envied man in the company is Havner who is "Permanent Area Guard." What we can't figure out is why Sadowl, Querfurth, and Miles have to assist in the operation. It's been rumored that Gus Belauskas wields a wicked ping pong paddle...he gets his practice in on the side while working in supply. Pillar had exactly 12 hours to pack and take off for home last Wednesday...his dependency discharge really came through in a hurry...Van Den Huevel is back from a week at Orientation School up near Frankfurt. Duncan is sunk since Hop Ensign got his picture with a fraulein last week end at Garmisch...the biggest blackmail ring to ever hit B Company will be going full swing shortly. Every time liquor comes in, the Mess Hall falls short on rations because Gransee and his side-kick "Flyin' home" Downs, eat 'fourths' at every sitting. Bright is the best photographer in the company...he's the only man that can shoot 45 pictures on one roll and not have any of them come out. Perhaps Duncan's old Italian motorcycle would clip off at a much faster pace if he would try using some of Houligan's Kickapoo Joy Juice...old Duncan is gonna hit the side shows with his trick riding stunts when he gets home...they say he took off at a 90 degree angle with Eisenstraut and Vartoogian aboard. Ferro was pushing his truck through Munich last week and got a ticket for speeding...they slapped him in front of a colonel who said, "Thirty days or thirty dollars. Egal to me." It costs more for a fine here than in the States. Truesdale decided to stick his head through the windshield of "Snuggle Bunny" last weekend and now he's carrying his nose around on a string. We can hardly wait for basic to start...who's kidding now? Thank Heaven we're not up there at Augsburg where the chicken flows like water...it won't be long though, by the sound of things. The baseball diamond is pretty well laid out now, and the team is rounding into shape...Spring training should start any day. There's quite an array of baseball stars in the company this season...Fox, Wildman, Havner, Prevete, and others are out to make B company the hottest ball club in the Battalion this year.

H/S Co. -- by Roth

The old proverb "Variety is the spice of life" certainly holds true with Drag Line publications. This week I'll let you in on both the high lights and the low lights of the company. Vitale, you're previous writer, has "flew the coup" and will probably read Drag Line in his easy chair back in the US, hope you like it Tony. Carver, another writer for this column, is visiting Switzerland now. Incidentally

who would like to write next week's Right to the Point? It's a good chance to spread any gossip you might have.

From what I hear a lot of fellows got quite a "bang" Saturday out of a particular person who was at the celebration. How about that, Reny, you too. Hope and Lemanczyk? You know, fellows, those guys are really characters. No wonder the troops are getting thin, they spread a picnic lunch every night, or do you get that food from home? Maybe Surber will put on a little weight since he moved in with them.. You know he's a good kid but I think he must have gone to the wrong school, how about that Lt. Mahoney?

S-2 men must really be on the ball lately. More T-4's parade around there. Congratulations Ray Smith and Persina. Maybe you all can draw up plans for a super highway connecting the Medics with the rest of the company. We do have a beautiful set up over here. Capt. Strauss likes it so much that he moved in. After being in the line company for over a year Bernard Friedman decided to come back to the mother aid station. He missed the last shipment by one day so if he seems depressed you'll know the reason why. Speaking of the Medical Detachment, it would be well to inform you that the majority of you are finished with the diphtheria shots. You know it was quite a night when we gave the last shot. Pop Quigley had to hold R. B. Smith's hand, candy had to passed out to some of the fellows, and some boys even tried to sneak out without taking a shot at all, how about that, Helmig?

You know this looks like a pretty nice set up around here. Nice large rooms, plenty of sunshine, spacious grounds, surrounding the billets; wait a minute, now, these grounds will require a lot of grass cutting. Gee, I hope we'll have PW's for quite some time. The fellows from Personnel would look funny pushing a lawn mower and typing at the same time, or maybe "Nubby" and Edwards could connect a lawn mower on back of their truck.

News point to the fact that we may have a swanky club sometime soon. The orchestra that plays at mealtime gives a fairly good hint that "Sharpy" and Sam are on the "stick". But, listen boys, let's stand reveille.

I'm sure all of you have met our new first sergeant, Sgt Shuldiner. He was with the outfit quite sometime ago and after so long a time had to return, is that right, Max?

Sgt. Dan Bryant, your former editor of the Drag Line is now on his way home. Dan plans to return to college and continue his studies in medicine.

The fellows of H/S are very happy now that they have their own mess hall. A lot of credit is due to DiAngelo for the excellent meals we have been getting. An occasional pat on the back does no one any harm. "Coco" must be "bucking" for a stripe or two. They tell me he really had those PW's jumping the other day. He was guarding five on the first floor and five in the basement all at the same time.

This column wouldn't be complete without a word for "Verbie". Lou expects to go home soon as he had a brother who was killed over here. We'll miss him in more ways than one. Speaking about missing someone, I think the absence of Capt Hall is felt by everyone. However Lt. Burg has taken over the reins and everything is running smoothly.

It looks like "Right to the Point" has reached its point for this week. Till next week when we will let you in on more news, so long.

C Co. -- by Walter Bobrow

Since there isn't anyone left of the original cadre of "C" company who were present at Ft. Jackson, S.C., on March 30, 1944 when the battalion was activated, we will start with those of us who came from the 100th division to join the 138th on April 18, 1944, and are still here now.

These original "cadre fillers" are, Berlinger, Dabrolet, Friedley, Gates, Abderhalden, Ebersold, Evans, Cassidy, Courval, Feldt, Anderson (who at the time, was not a member of the medical detachment) and myself.

Later on men started pouring in from the induction centers, mostly from Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, to learn that the army did things quite differently along the engineer line than they were used to in civilian life, and that the saying, "the right way, the wrong way, and the army way", was quite true.

Although these men made up the greater part of our T/O, only eleven of them are left with us now. Namely: Benter, Dishman, Bender, Cook, Darity, Ferguson, Moore, Offutt, Shafer, Thibadeau, and Thomas.

During six months together in the states we found out that South Carolina is made up of sand, clay, scrawny pine trees, (except out on the firing range) and water, (namely: Twin Lakes and Gill Creek). We also found out that the Bailey bridge may be as easy to put together as a toy erector set, but not for the men on the "panel party". And that timber trestle bridges can be put up at night as well as during the day. Then there was the trip to Camp Forrest, Tenn., the land of rain and "white lightning" to learn about mines and booby traps. Back to Ft. Jackson and the last furlough home.

What happened after we left the States has been told over and over again. The floating Bailey (as if it wasn't enough to push the darn thing accross), Capt. Hammersmith's "death march", South Hampton, "Somewhere" in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and now sweating out that boat ride home.

From the men who have known "C" Company almost since its birth, and who will be leaving in the near future, we say to those of you who remain, "carry on the name of the best engineer company of the best engineer battalion in the E. T. O., Company "C" of the 138th Engr.C.Bn.

A Co. -- by "Junior"

In one of the most thrilling softball games of the early season the "Rambling Wrecks" of the Second Platoon nosed out the First Platoon. Lt Johnson easily captured the laurels as the possible hero of the day when he stepped up to the plate in the tenth inning with the score tied at 14 - 14 and no one on. The first pitch was a called strike. On the second pitch, he made an attempt to bunt which looked rather awkward because that bat was so far from the ball during the whole swing, but served its purpose in throwing the First Platoon off guard. On the third pitch he slammed a screaming, low, line drive down into deep left center. Over ditches, foxholes, and embankments left, fielder Boechler dashed madly after the bounding sphere but all his most heroic efforts were to no avail as Lt Johnson leisurely made a tour of the sacks for a home run.

I (infernal "Junior" pest that I am) am back with you again this week and plan to continue the series of interviews among the men of the various platoons, this week being concerned with the Second Platoon. There has been both commendation and condemnation of this type of column and please, men of Able Company, let me know what you want. This is your paper. It is published for each and every one of you, and is by no means the private property of anyone, officer or enlisted man.

Although Staff Sergeant Glenn Gillespie is very busy these days as First Sergeant of the Training Company, he's much better known to all of us as platoon sergeant of the Second Platoon. Glenn hails from Missouri and upon being asked to name his home town, he replied "Everywhere in the whole state". As a civilian Glenn was somewhat of an international construction man. He worked as a bulldozer operator for quite some time with the Wunderlich and Oakes Construction Company which was engaged in making the dry excavations for the third set of locks on the Panama Canal. A little later he began to work with the Army Engineers on the same job and continued with them for two years. Glenn says that it took two years just to dig out the dirt and another five years will be required to put in all the concrete and steel. He's looking forward to becoming a civilian again very soon and plans to go back to Panama to help finish the job on the Canal. By the time that is finished he hopes there will be another Canal started somewhere in the world for him to work on.

From the glamorous city of New Orleans, La. we have Leon Landry. Leon was a carpenter in civilian life and in a similar position in Able Company he was proved to be a better one than any other four battalions can boast. Guess what he wants to do AD (After Discharge). You hit it right on the head the first time; Leon wants to be a civilian carpenter again and that happy time can't come too soon. Both Leon and Sgt. Gillespie joined us back in Kassel from the 381st Engineer Combat Battalion.

Next, let's visit with Edward Shaver of Chicago, Illinois. After infantry training at Fort McClellan, Ala., "Eddie" came overseas as an infantry replacement and joined the 106th Division just as it pulled back from the line. From there, he jumped to the 3232nd Engineers, which was a component of the famous Engineer School at Epernay, and a short time later he joined the 138th. Before his draft board put his name at the head of its list, he did various types of work in defense plants, but that's all over now and "Ed" plans to go into farming with his Father in the nottoo-far-distant future.

Alfred Ziccardi comes to us from that famous old Pennsylvania City of Brotherly Love via the ill-fated 1257th Engineer Combat Battalion. Back in his carefree (And, Brother, were they carefree!) O days, "Zeke" was an electrician and worked on everything in that field from submarine motors to doorbells. "Zeke" will be going home very soon, and when he arrives there he plans to rest a whole week until the folks get used to having him around again. Then he wants to go around visiting for a while and ultimately get a job and settle down.

From Lebanon, Penna. we have Russel Ceresini. Russel joined us back in the mud and rain of Dobraný, Czechoslovakia from the 547th Engineer Ponton Bridge Company. His draft board took him out of high school a year before graduation, but that hasn't stunted his ambitions. He wants to get a good musical education after his release from the Army and then begin singing in night clubs. Definitely no "long-hair" stuff for him. Look out, Frankie and Bing! A new star is soon to appear in the musical galaxy.

News of the Week

Brought to you by the Makers of Sour Kraut Landsberg Germany

Our Battalion Holiday seemed to be enjoyed by all. The day was mostly devoted to athletics, including a baseball game at the Landsberg Diamond, also one corner of the field was used for Madonia and his two wheeled Jet propelled Bicycle.

Well a few more of the boys heard the boat whistle and took off like "Big Birds". We fellows left, envy you boys, but we realize it is a trip well earned. The latest

rumor is that all the 24 month men will be leaving us in the next 30 days.

This week we are advertising for a fluffy white pillow for Grey at ward 22 and room no. 1 it would be very much appreciated.

Why is the turn out at baseball practice so poor, are the boys holding out for more money and a better contract? If the scout for the team would observe the Frauleins at the kitchen playing ball he might pick up a couple of players.

Old "Cyclops" had quite a smile on the other morning when the P.Ws. decided to stay in for the day. and as a matter of fact they haven't been seen since, are they on furlough? or did they too have in 27 months service.

To the OPX

Gentlemen

Xs you cxn plxinly see, I xm typing this on x mxchine which hxs the initixl letter of the xlpixbet missing. I wxs told by the mxn who sells both Coronx and Royxl typewriters thxt I cxn't buy x new mxchine withough x priority from the OPX. I need x new mxchine, xlthough you mxy sxy, why cxn't you hxve the old mxchine repxired. Well, I hxve hxd this dxmn mxchine repxired xt lexst ten times but the initixl letters of the xlpixbet mxnxges to brekk off xgxin xnd xgxin. Plexse let me hexr from you regxrding this mxttter xt your exrliest convenience. Plexse mxil your xnsver to me xt the xbove address.

Very truly yours

Hxrry Wxllxce

H/S Co. - by Surber

Well fellows, here we are again this week with a little more chatter about the guys in the "Brains" Company. Roth, your former writer, seems to have "taken a powder" and for the next two months, he can be found at Regensberg, sweating out Medical N.C.O.s School. He has been Medical Det. Clerk and now who's going to take over the M.D. administration. It seems that Verbelun has been hearing a ringing in his ears lately. I wonder why?--Could it be that Capt. Strauss has finally noticed how lonely his one stripe is.

Say Cpl. Soper is really doing a sweet job of filling the shoes of Bn. Sgt. Major, when he stepped in, the Bn. was moving and everything was in a big mess, but now things are running a little smoother. Nice work, Bob.

You know, I don't believe there is any other guys in the Battalion quite like Beck, Howard, Moorehead and Glassman, and Dowd. No matter where you see them, you'll always find them together, just "one big happy family", I guess.

Gee, what in the heck has happened to our Mess Hall? At first not even half it was being utilized but now it is pretty crowded. This new Training Company has really added a lot of faces to our "mob".

Do your legs ache? Do you have trouble keeping awake during the day? Well we seem to sense an air of Calisthenics around. We would never have thought that the Motor Pool was so doggone big until we "double-timed" around it once. Do you reckon we'll ever get used to it again?

Golly, how do these I & E men find so much work to do out of their office. I have never seen another person in my life that could do a total disappearing act as fast as Albright can, but I know he must be working somewhere because he said that he was. (???)

Recently, we have received a new addition to our S-1 staff, 1st Lt. Reginald Wilson who will in the near future assume Lt. Mahoney's present duties as Bn Adjutant, and believe me it's a rough job, although both Lt Mahoney and Lt. Wilson are quite capable Officer's for such extensive responsibility.

I hear Schutte really put one over on Henderson not very long ago. We were all under the impression that Henderson was a good boy until he drank a spiked Coco-Cola that Schutte "fixed up". How about that Henderson, do you still think you were "shanghaied".

You know, it's really puzzling how Mr. Phillips can be in so many places at once. Hardly a day goes by that most of the fellows don't run into him at least a half a dozen times. Let us in on it, what's the secret?

We understand that a lot of the guys here have received notices from the War Department in Washington that their Dependency discharges have been approved there and are to be sent thru channels for final approval. From here on it's only a matter of time, then the good news will come. Just sit tight a little longer fellows, and in the meantime, we wish you the best of luck.

We have to close sometime so will let this be it for now. Until next week, take it wasy and we'll be seeing you.

C Co. -- by W. E. O. Haren

This week was heartily welcomed by more of the older men, whose number was greatly decreased this past month, for it started Gates, Cassidy, Abderholden Courval, Friedley and Yeazel on their way home. To them we bid Godspeed and a quick journey "statesides", and to those who are left, hoping they will follow soon.

Two of the older men in C Company, Mansour and Cassidy, who have seen quite a bit of Europe, have just about completed the circuit by their recent furlough to Switzerland, and Italy. Full of enthusiasm for Switzerland, they both expressed a desire to return under better circumstances, such as a civilian. (Who wouldn't?) Their slight disappointment in the shabiness of Italy was compensated by an audience with the Pope in Rome. According to them it was the best event they enjoyed in their short sojourn in the Eternal City. They agree that it is a wonderful trip and suggest that those who have the opportunity to do so, take advantage of it.

So the creaking of bones and mourning of muscles, we experienced our first calisthenics in a long time and was greeted with mixed emotions, some good, some bad. However, the men are showing that extra pep and alertness being brought out by those two able and capable exercise leaders, 1st Lt. E. O. Gibson, and 2nd Lt. Atkins. The very keen eyes of 1st Lt. Rygiel are an every man, to see that he executes all exercise commands as given. It boils down to the fact men -- you're in the army.

Supply Sergeant J. Dubenski has been a visitor nightly and week ends to the DP colony in Bad Worishofen under control of the UNRRA. He tells of his interesting conversations with the parish priest, who on completion of his work in Germany will return to Chicago, the home of Dubenski, where they hope to meet again, to renew the fine friendship developed over here. Sgt. Dubenski wants all to know that he has no other interests except the church and the Lithuanian people under UNRRA. We wonder if the Sunday stroll in the park with a pretty girl helps Dubenski to retain his interest in the colony.

To the men away from C Company taking basic training we extend our greetings, and your buddies who have stayed behind miss you. All are looking forward to your visits on week ends.

Till next week, I'll be C'ing you.

April 26, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior III

Yours truly is the "umteenth" substitute for the original Junior. If what is written in this column isn't pleasing to your taste, blame it on demobilization. But then, be careful what you say about demobilization, because some of the boys think it is a pretty good institution.

The highlights of the week-end was, the three "Combat Joe's", Geranimo, Orr, & Berry taking the Post Guard in hand. They did a good job and you know what?...It was their first or second try at the game. One of the new men was overheard saying, why don't they let them do it all the time.

The tragedy of the week was the closing Of "Hawks Joint" or "The Chicken Roost". However, after so many of our "light drinkers" reported to the Medics with dry and burning throats, the EM Club Committee decided to reopen it. Hot rumors have it that Howell, better known as the most quiet man in the Flak Kaserne, is going to run it for awhile.

A couple more groups leaving this unit will leave this Co., only with the exception of Hudson, "Your 1st/Sgt. Yes!, Hudson, but then he's afraid to go back to civilian life. He keeps looking at his relatives pictures for fear that he may not recognize them when he returns home.

Many of the boys have been going to the Red Cross Dances. It may be bcause they all speak Estonian and Latvian so well.

Let's all bow our heads and pray that we get a new editor for this column, "real Schnell".

B Co

Brought to you by the makers of small parts and left overs from the large parts Landsberg Germany.

To--day was a very happy day for the following men Sgt. Jennings, S/Sgt. Molinare, Sgt. Sadowl, T/4 Beeber, T/4 Faber, Cpl. Franklin, Cpl. Kanuika, T/5 Horlick, Pfc. Freeman and Pfc. Smith. All of whom have worked hard in the 138 and did their best to make it what it is.

We, the fellows who are left behind for the time being, wish you all of the luck that can be had when you get back to the good old U.S.A.

It seems to me that there is a fellow here in co. B., who is working hard to get a Dependency Discharge. I wonder who it could be.

I wonder how Newman manages to get the band home after his usual big night at the club.

It is a good thing Sgt. Baltus relieved S/Sgt. Johnson of his 1st Sgt. duties I heard he was getting gray haired and a slight bit bald.

Our new supply Sgt. tells us theres going to be a change in things, I wonder what he means by that.

I wonder how Sgt. Shelby Mathias is making out on the trucks that are going to leave on this is going to leave on this big convey that is comming up.

I wonder how many know about a little incident that happened to our mail clerk the other day. Well according to Military secrets we wont be able to tell you.

H/S Co. -- by Surber

Hi fellows, well after a week of taking it easy, here we are back again with some of the pro's and con's of dear 'ole H and S.

Gee, what's going on here? The whole Battalion is really dwindling down with all the dependency discharges coming through, not even to mention all men being redeployed. Now we really have something to worry about--all these men leaving and not even a hint of replacements is in sight. Don't look now, but I think "We've had it".

Recently, we just had two Officer's return to the Battalion from a nice long leave in the states; namely, Captain Jack L. Peters and Lieut. Fredrick Pence. We welcome you back into the Battalion once again.

Pardon us for being a little late, but may we offer our congrats to Captain Robert J. Branges, S-2 Officer for his newly attained promotion.

As you remember, last week "yours truly" mentioned that several of the fellows had dependency discharges working; well now you guys can breath again--They've worked, and before you know it, you will have the official title of MR, again.

It looks like we are going to have to call it "Roger and Out" for this time, so until next week, take it easy.

C Co. -- by W. E. O'Haren

Our big day in the past week was easter Sunday. Although the traditional Easter parade was missing here in the E. T., the men celibrated in various ways, There was a large church attendance and many men were inspired by the beauty of the church interiors and High Masses. The cameras were in full use, as the day was a beautiful one, the men took advantage of the mild weather by taking long walks through the parks.

Weeks are drawing closely to days for the departure of S/Sgt. Raymond Benter. New men in the motor pool will surly miss his cooperation and guidance keeping the high caliber and efficiacy of the Company's Motor Pool. Men of the motor pool know that his standard in the Army will be a definate asset to his civilian endeavors. Sgt. Ernest Stahl will carry on when S/Sgt. Benter starts for home.

To the boys on DS, in the various training programs we wish you success and speedy return to the "home" Company.

Pfc. Pretzer our weekend visitor reports on the following: I am one of twenty five men from the 138th Engr. C. Bn, who is on TDY to the 609 Engineers. We were interviewed and asked what would we like to operate. I chose the bull dozer. The next day I was told to report to the Equipment Platoon Sgt. I found his office, but couldn't find him. I Inquired where I could find the Sgt. in charge, and to my surprise I was talking to him.

The club there is very nice of course. They have the same beer and coke as all clubs. I think the fellows with me enjoyed the way Special Service has arranged for home movies four times a week and danceson Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Cpl. Leopold Konszak the boss man of the club here in Co "C" related the good news as follows: "Through the profits made at our EM Club each man receives a bottle of liquor free." He also bought a tap system, and as having an artist paint pinup girls for the club. Also a new band has replaced the orchester who played at the club for the past six weeks. This weekend we had guests from the 969 Engnr Maint Co., Furth Germany. T/5 Kotas, T/5 Wiser and Cpl. Slaffer. They had a grand time and express their thanks to all the boys for showing them a good time.

Pvt. James E. Smith and Pvt. Leonard Marrone agree that misery loves company. They had trouble keeping in step while doing close order drill. They were rewarded by being presented a pick and shovel, with this equipment they went forth and leveled the front of the tranning Company site.

Till next week I'll be "C"ing you.

May 4, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

This past week has seen the loss of many Able Company men. No, we haven't been in combat and no one has gone AWOL, but still we've been losing men, both permanently and temporarily, in every direction. Donald Hawks, and old old veteran of the 138th, moved to Battalion S-2 where he will take over the job of recon

sergeant. In order to help fill out the motor section which has been cut to pieces by the redeployment program, Leonard Kuback went to the 71st Ordnance Group Second Echelon Maintenance School (Phew! That's some school). Reafus Beach and Joseph Gregg, both dependency discharge candidates, were transferred to the Second Reinforcement Depot pending what we hope will be a swift and safe journey home. Ralph Ellis, Charles Mullins, and Dick Veltigian went on DS to the 1697th Engineer Combat Battalion to assume engineer responsibility for the Murnau Displaced Persons Camp. Even the ranks of our officers were very considerably thinned by the transfer of Lieutenants Edmunds and Jonson to the 229th Engineer Combat Battalion. To all who have left us we bid a fond farewell and send with you our very best wishes for success in your new jobs, whether they be military or civilian.

To help offset all these losses of highly skilled men, we are very happy to welcome our new company clerk, Thomas Hutchinson, formerly of Baker Company. Our former company clerk, Clinton Voss, has been steadily climbing the ladder of success in the Battalion Personnel Section and has now reached the exalted and highly honored position of Official Keeper, Guardian, and Custodian of the Morning Reports and Chief Persecutor of First Sergeants Whose Strength Section Is Snafued.

According to Rebel "Jim" Myers, the state of North Carolina, after much argument and debate, is about ready to join the Union again. (At least that's the viewpoint of a majority of the people down that way. "Jim" says there's also a strong minority who demand that the Union join North Carolina. It's just a question of rank.)

Have you seen the Three Romeos who haven't missed a dance at the Augsburg Red Cross in recent weeks? Even Frankie Sinatra at his best hasn't produced as many swoons among the fair Estonians as these boys do. Speaking of the Red Cross, it was Sergeant Boechler who found out how to get a job by visiting there.

All Able Company is very, very proud of its contribution to the Training Company - our First Platoon which came out on the very top of the pile in last Saturday's Training Company inspections. It's very encouraging to know that other people think we're good too.

As many of you have noticed the Training Company's mascot, George (nother contribution from Able Company), is invariably the first one to fall out for formations. Maybe his CO will see this and give the poor dog a break. There must be a buck corporal or T/5 rating open somewhere in the Training Company.

Although an introduction seems entirely unnecessary for someone so well known throughout the Company, just in case there is someone who has just returned from eight months furlough to Alaska or who has just woke up after falling asleep during an I & E discussion period six months ago, we introduce the new manager of our EM Club - Hubert Howell. Howell is taking over the job from Donald Hawks who has stepped up to join the powerful personalities and intellects of H/S Company. According to present plans, the new, combined EM Club is going to be the biggest and best in the whole BTO when the young army of architects, electricians, painters, and PW's has completed its work.

Quotation of the Week: WORK ISN'T EVERYTHING IN LIFE - Philosopher Glenn Gillespie.

B Co. -- by Duncan

Atmosphere around here reminds me of my high school days, with all the guys going steady -, should I mention your names Bright, Havner, Boldt, Sellman, Bowen, LeParte, Horoshock, Mathis, Winfrey, Callahan, Sims, Duncan and Gutierrez. And of course there is Spencer and Laird who share "Suzy".

Headquarters Platoon present-Second Platoon present - Third Platoon present, how about that stuff Sgt. Mireau do you need an Officer to wake you? Sgt. Mathis won't know his motor pool when he returns from his Swiss furlough, they tell me they have a chicken farm down there.

If you happen to ask Buol about the mail, his answer will be "if you see me around you know there is mail, but if you don't see me you know there isn't any". By the way Floyd have you ever got that date with the flower girl? Don't let her discourage you, keep trying.

Where did GOOD HEARTED Gus Belauskas disappear to the other night when he left the club with that blonde? If you think your building is haunted, forget it, it is only Lt. Kittinger and his flashlight coming around for bed check.

Wonder why Mireau, Derry, Havengar and Leingang were so anxious to go to Garmish last weekend? Could it be the opposite sex, or maybe the cognac, maybe both.

Wonder why Sgt. Johnson is always the first to come and the last to leave the orderly room? I heard from a reliable source he sits over the phone all day long waiting for that call from battalion, saying that two year men are leaving for the promise land. The two year shipment will take about 18 men from B Co., and that will be the last of the original Co.

If you're wondering why the men are carrying long faces, it is because there is another list out for the Augsburg treatment.

This past week end has brought on more changes in the making. With men going home, men leaving for basic training, it is difficult to put the finger on the activities of all the men.

Acting 1st Sgt. Rutecki of H/S is proud of the men under him in basic training. He points out that C company is walking away with all the honors and is first in the many tests given the men. Yes, it is a pleasant feeling to be in a group of men who strive to win says Sgt. Rutecki. By the sun tan on the men's faces one can tell they are beginning to become rugged soldiers. Keep up the good work men, show'em how its done.

Pfc. F. L. Shafer reports that the 2nd platoon at Sonthofen is hard at work building an air strip. Lt. Simpson is right in there working with the men, and is doing a bang up job. Shafer says the men do not have much time for beer drinking as they put in an "18 hour day". It may be a good idea to requisition a mobile beer hall for those who indulge in the amber fluid. Any way Shafer and his drinking partner Hine are consuming enough beer for every man in the 2nd platoon, they manage to keep the old spigots flowing.

Compliments and bouquets are passed out to the staff of cooks and helpers in the C company Mess. That satisfied and contented look on every face at meal time, is brought on by the efforts of the mess staff, who have often gone out of their way to prepare the best meals possible. The food is good in quality and quantity, and may be described as a "King's serving for a Queen's fancy". To Mess Sgt. Docs, 1st cook Sgt. Tito Borjas, 1st cook Sgt. Walter Turevich, 2nd cook T/5 Steve Grodhowski, 2nd cook T/5 Garret Moore, helpers Pfc. Vito Pagnano, and Pfc. Albert Fisher, we extend our Thanks.

May 10, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

The biggest event of the past week was the departure of another large group for the ZI and happy civilian life via the Second Reinforcement Depot at Namur, Belgium. The most unusual feature about this group was that it contained the last, with only two or three exceptions, of the men who had originally come overseas with the 138th. Ninth Army shoulder patches and gleaming triplets of Hershey bars, formerly so plentiful, are now a rare sight around the Company.

The roster of men who have left us during the past week includes: Raphael Boechler, Edwin Capron, Glenn Gillespie, Leon Landry, Carl Fletcher, John Harris, George Irwin, Jackie Long, Charles Morris, Donald Orr, Lowell Reding, Clyde Reese, Clifton Rodgers, Clyde Rollins, Leotice Wood, Arthur Berry, William Jones, Samuel Kirkpatrick, Valdon Lee, Wallace Pursch, Frank Williams, Albert Giebelstein, Albert VerHaagh, Anthony Robucci, Irving Stern, Carl Philipps, Harold Gresh, Philipp Appelbaum, Kenneth Ray, Alvie Sanders, Gerald Barnes, Robert Liford, and James Fredrickson. Just reading over that list brings back many memories to each of us, and there is perhaps just a twinge of sadness in our goodbyes to them as well as gladness in the knowledge that they are on their way home. So long, Fellas. We hope you find things at home just as you dreamed you'd find them during your long, weary months over here, and we certainly send you our best wishes for good luck and success in the future.

During the past few weeks, Headquarters Company has been spiriting away some very, very good men from our midst. Recently, the cruelest cut of all came when the rascals "stole" George Matsunaga to be their supply sergeant. (What are you doing to your old company, Moxie?) The best of luck to you in your new job, George. We don't like to lose you, but we can find some consolation in the fact that this is another proof of where H/S mines it's minds.

In last week's Dragline Lt. Edison and Pfc. Schwartz were highly commended (and rightly so) for the splendid work they have been doing on our new EM Club. Far be it from us to dim any of the praise which they so richly deserve, but we do think that much credit should also go to the First and Third Squads of this Company who have done a good deal of work on this project.

Everybody seems to be going somewhere to get himself educated these days. If the number of people who are leaving for school is any indication, it shouldn't be long before we have a company of experts. Alfred Marshall went to a Cook and Baker School with the 609th Quartermaster Bn at Stockheim; Stanley Verbick, to a Second Echelon Mechanics School with 71st Ordnance Group at Heidenheim; Russel Reagan, to a Second Echelon Carburetor and Ignition School also at Heidenheim; and Jack Mazlo, to the famous Ski School at Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

An new list of promotions has been posted on the Company Bulletin Board, and congratulations are in order for Sergeants Anthony Alfonsi, Danies Douglas, and William Rutherford and Corporals DM Story and Frank Filus. Completely in a class by itself (or "himself", whichever you prefer) we proudly announce to the breathlessly awaiting world that Pfc. Jake Kushner, one of those notorious characters in the Supply Room, will from this day forth be known as T/5 Jake Kushner. (Just call him corporal for short.)

B Co.

It seems as though every week that starts now days finds more men leaving the old Homestead, this week we lose Chamberlin, Breeton, Prevete, Peterson, Wojcichwski, Jameson, Hesser & Nichols to the Training Platoon at Augsburg. This guard situation is really getting tough in the ET. Last night the Supply Room was on guard, this morning we see the mail man coming in from guard and now Sgt. Woodruff is manging a machine Gun at E-54. Since Landsberg in under Martial Law, this place is getting real combat. What's this we hear about 2 year men wanting to go home. Hell we would even settle for getting to town after 19:00.

According to the latest rumor floating around, by next whiskey ration day, any one wanting a weekend pass report to S/Sgt. Baltes with shelter half and tent pins for an outing in the hills until all concerned sober up, by the way we hear S/Sgt. Baltes has purchased him a bullet proof vest and a pair of glasses.

What, the two year men are not leaving for two weeks? Thats impossible, why we just read a few days ago in the Stars and Stripes where all two year men would leave their outfits by April 30th, well better luck next time boys, S/Sgt. Baltes is having your TS cards printed up and has a new bunch ordered, so come in and he will fix you up. Leingang and Wiley are now open for business if anyone has two many windows left in their rooms.

I wonder if that is just a rumor about 2 year men being held here for replacements for the men going home on dependancy discharges.

Famous saying of Lt. Osborne -- "they cant do this to me, I've been in the Army 40 months."

It seems 2 officers are hobbling around singing "Charley horse" or "Pony boy". Inciendently we have 2 razzle dazzle foot ball players. Tigar Osborne & Do or die Fritz Pence. We have a man from the miners that looks promising, "Swivel hips Kit".

There's a certain femine voice that says "Oh Bill you're giving me a hard time". "Happy Hooligan" a character of our outfit has been reeling down the streets of Garmisch, or were the streets reeling around him.

S/Sgt. Baltes is singing "When the Swallows come back to the Orderly Room."

May 18, 1946

A Co. -- by Junior

The past few weeks seem to have been composed of a steady succession of goodbyes to old friends and hellos to new ones. This week has certainly been no exception to that rule, and our labor turnover problem is becoming increasingly difficult.

The total box score on officers has remained the same. Although we lost Lt. Clymer Cooper to the 17th Reinforcement Depot (Bet you can't guess where he's going), the arrival of Lt. Chester Simpson from Charlie Company evened the score again.

Our genial, Pennsylvania Dutch dispatcher, Paul Wertz, is now on his way back to Reading, Penna, and "civies" via a dependency discharge. Rocco Guarino is taking over the dispatchership, one of the roughest jobs in the company these days.

Not all Able Company's changes in personnel have been on the loss side of the ledger. To help ease the current manpower shortage, James Alvey, James Burgoyne, Benjamin Christner, Jay Jonap, Dick Kurokawa, Mindle Rowe, Harvey Saxby, Lawana Schopp, Hughey Seay and Miguel Rodriguez were transferred into Able Company from the 333rd Engineer SS (Special Service, nichts Schutz Staffel) Regiment.

ORCHIDS to EM Club Managaer Hubert Howell who is just wearing himself out maintaining smooth operation of the EM Club and keeping track of the mutitudinous and ever-multiplying records, receipts, and reports.

The most important single reason why the current manpower shortage in Able Company is so acute seems to be the fact that this Company is spread all over creation, figuratively speaking. Let's just have a look at the Disposition Report of May 13th for example: The Total Overhead of 37 plus the Total Operations of 35 look rather small beside the Total Absent of 76. "Where are all these absentees?" you ask; "there certainly aren't that many men on TDY to the States (Was ist das "States" anyhow; I keep hearing so much about that place, and everybody seems to want to go there for some reason or other) or in the hospital or on furlough. What gives in Able Company?" Well, that's a rather long story, for the sake of the record, let's make a little check on where all the absent people are absent to.

John Henry, Gaizy Tuckosh, and Homer Dillingham are patients in the 115th Station Hospital in Augsburg. On Detached Service to the 609th Engr. Light Equipment Company at Bad Worishofen, we have Marion Nichols, Harold Hogbin, Russel Pretzer, John Young, William Chaney, Leroy Parr, Horace Germain, Lloyd Strough, Harold Waltman, Charles Clevenger, Eldred Hill, Turre Pennaman, Joseph Kazukonis, Percy Higgins, and Elmer Kubitz.

On their way to Bridge School at New Ulm to learn all about double doubles and double triples are D. W. Story, Harold Tresaugue, William Oakes, Ilmar Somero, James Alvey, Harvey Saxby, Edelmiro Gonzales, James Cahill, Charles Bertholdt, Jay Jonap, Miguel Rodriguez, Joseph McAnulty, Dick Kurokawa, and Charles Pritchard. Ralph Ellis, Dick Veltigian, and Charles Mullins are in Murnau, one of this Company's

former areas of responsibility, with the 1697th Engineer Combat Battalion. On Detached Service to the 1124th Engineer Combat Group at Tutzing and working with the ARC Book Mobile which is visiting isolated units in this area are Kenneth Smith and John Brown.

Even the security of the 1124th Engineer combat Group rests on the able shoulders of Able Company. Our Guard Detail at Group Headquarters at Tutzing is composed of Ralph Dukate, Glynn Aasland, Amos Bailey, Domenick Brizzi, Emil King, Paul York, Alexander Poozebut, Anthony Koonrad, Bernard Luchsinger, Marion Smith, Woodrow Wilson, John Nerren, Joseph Phillips, and James Thompson. Several men are receiving specialized training at a variety of Army schools. Alfred Marshall is attending Cooks and Bakers School at Stockheim. John Keir, Russell Reagan, Stanley Verbick, and Leonard Kuback are learning the ins and outs of mechanics trade at the 71st Ordnance Group School at Heidenheim, while Jack Mazlo and Clarence Lunsford are risking their necks at Garmisch-Partenkirchen's Ski School. Two extremes of absence are provided by Leo Marvin whom we have never seen and last heard of as a member of the XX Corps Stockade and Kenneth Carrol who is on TDy to that strange place called the States that everybody thinks is so wonderful and is so anxious to get to.

Martin Thomas and Thomas Hutchinson, our faithful company clerks, are on detached service to H/S Company.

Last but far from least there is the squad which recently disappeared on detached service to Charlie Company. Led by Corporal George Mack, the squad includes John Marchegiano, William Brooks, Duane Starkey, Kenneth Selke, Robert Lavin, Gerald Ginsbach, Elvin Kirkham, Leo Renaud, Angelo Sabellico, seen and last heard of as a member of the XX Corps Stockade and Joseph Blandford.

LOVE AND KISSES
and Auf Wiedersehen (I hope)

H/S Co. -- by Surber

Well, after a couple of weeks of absence of this column, the Editor finally caught "Yours truly" long enough to get one in.

There has been a lot of events taken place in the past two editions of the "Dragline" and now we'll try to cover them in a roundabout way.

No doubt by now, all of you know that we have cokes in our mess hall. It's a very good idea and from what is observed: That mess crew is really "on the ball", and we appreciate it.

Say, Hayden, where do you get your caps from? They all fit so snugly; as a matter-of-fact they fit so snugly that they look as though they're about three sizes too small.

How about this new typist in S - 1, Heriot. Is he a card. As to now we haven't figured out what part of the states he's from. With an accent like that, it could be anywhere. Let me in on it, is it "you'se" or "you'll"?

Last week, the 138th received over 50 Regular Army Replacements from the states, and we're very happy to welcome you into this Battalion.

We often wonder what Ballard is doing when he's walking up and down the halls with a dazed look on his face. Are you thinking or do you always have that intelligent expression?

Now we're going to have to take time out to offer our congrats to two medics who were just honored with T/5 ratings. They were Bedner and Bilbrey, so once again we'll say congratulations, boys.

It looks like we are going to have to terminate for now, so until next week when we will have more "poop" for you - see 'ya around.

A Co. -- by Junior

Able Company, this week, takes pleasure in welcoming First Sergeant James Glidewell, formerly of H/S Company, into our big, happy family. He will take over the top noncommissioned company position soon to be vacated by Paul Hudson, present Topkick. Several other familiar faces are slated soon to disappear from the Able Company area -- Bernard Roth, Charles Morris, Jacob Longacre, Thomas Nicholopoulos, and Joseph Wlodkowski. These men are on their happy way to the dangerous Zone of the Interior and rough civilian life. The going will be rough for them, the trials and tribulations many; but we wish them the best of luck in their new life.

It will no doubt be a pleasant surprise to the former patrons of the Brasselsberg "Chicken Roost" to learn that ex-Buergermeister Bernard Roth is now wearing triple-decker Pfc. stripes over his bulging biceps. "Bob" Thomas, our lanky Supply Sergeant, also made the grade, and congratulations are certainly in order for Sergeants Roth and Thomas.

Ralph Ellis and Donato "Ptomaine" Pelullo really proved to all of us that they can "take it" by changing their Volunteer Category Status Class II AB (which expires 30 June 1946) to Class II S which expires 30 March 1947. Men who do things like that deserve every encouragement that we civilians-at-heart can possibly give them;

the more there are who make the same decision, the better. Let's all resolve to give such men every possible aid in the future, even to holding the pen for them while they sign on the dotted line.

Charlie Company helped ease the current Able Company manpower shortage by giving us Edward Miller, Thomas Nicholopoulos, Leonard Vannese, Robert Stevens, William Tedino, and Joseph Wlodawski. The 288th Engineer Combat Battalion also helped us out and from them we received Emmett Carroll, Doyce Pippen, Odis Adams, Clifford Bragg, Steve DeLeon, Gardio Saulnier, James Hicks, Roy McCracken, Armet Hapier, Paul Sites, Billy Wilson, Robert Komes, and Domenick Minni. Welcome to Able Company, fellas. We hope you'll come to think of this Company as sort of a home away from home. (Well, almost that, anyway).

Some of our manpower shortage might be explained by the fact that William Rutherford, widely-known construction man and contractor who is presently in charge of the mess hall job, assigned PW Guards to watch 25 of his civilian workman recently. A person just can't be too careful these days.

On Saturday afternoon a softball game, which promises to be one of the classics of the century in that sport, will be played between Able and H/S Companies. Don't miss it, fellas. Both teams are out for blood. Just think how Able Company would feel if a bunch of pencil-pushers beat them; and just think how H/S company would feel if their nimble minds couldn't outwit those Able Company halfwits.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS: How was chow this morning?

That seems to be all folks, so I guess I'll hang my close on this line (That's a joke, son, so laugh).

NOTE: (All kidding aside)

According to the latest poop from personnel, this looks like my last column for the DRAGLINE and I'd just like to take this opportunity to say "So long, fellas." You've been a swell bunch to write for and an even sweller bunch to know.

(I'll miss you like I would my right hand, Jake. -Ed.)

B Co. -- by King

Well now that all of the old men have gone home, the only ones left are the fellows that will be over here for some time. "B" Co. has had it pretty rough since the last group of men left. Those new men that came into the Company sure look good. We sure need them and a lot more to get this Co. going again. Say fellow we hear there are "viel" ratings for the ones that prove they can take it. Don't overlook that "viel Arbeit" we have here though.

The fellows down at the Motor Pool sure miss the Mathis twins, but in place of them we have another capable man and he is doing his "darndest" to keep those trucks rolling. Keep it up Blacky, you are doing a good job.

Say Sgt. Baltes, the fellows of the 3rd platoon are wondering what happened to your whistle. They don't hear it, in the morning any more. We know that Sgt. Baltes has quite a job on his hands and is doing a good job, considering the hours he puts in.

I hear that the projector has finally been fixed. Is that true Byard? The fellows think it is about time and would like to see some good pictures for a change. Lets go Byard, get on the ball and get some good pictures for the fellows. Quit thinking about Dobrany and Arbeit a little more.

S-3 had a big time the other night when Morris came in and started to type with his toes. We hear that he walked up to the bar and said "Give me einen Stein of beer." Whats up Morris, is the orderly room getting your down?

What is the matter with our Combat Mail Clerk? What is this I hear about him carrying a barrel of beer up the Mountains of Bavaria.

Say sheepish Morris would like to know why you have that sheepish grin on your face every morning when you walk in? We are all beginning to wonder why he stops at the Mess Hall so long after each meal. Could it be one of the "Frauleins" that works there. One more thing sheepish - we want to know how "Butch" and "Willie" are these days?

We hear there is a first Platoon Sgt. who wears his hat like a sailor. I wonder who it could be?

A Co. -- by Junior II

Here is another "Junior" but as everyone knows there will never be a replacement on the DRAGLINE for the original Junior, who in case some people don't know was T/4 Jacob A Longacre. He has entered the pipeline with other such celebrated men as Paul J. Hudson, Bernard Roth, Thomas Nichelopheules, Charles Morris and Joseph Wlodowski.

We are glad to see Alfred Marshall back from Cooks and Bakers School, also Leonard Kuback from the Ordnance Training Center in Heidenheim.

All the fellows are now walking around with their heads drooped, because we received a very good thrashing from H/S Company in a practice softball game Monday. Just wait until the next time and the pencil pushers will not be able to face their favorite pencils.

Corporal Story is now back from the bridge building school in Neu-Ulm to take the place of Sergeant Roth as Platoon Sergeant of the Second Platoon.

Certain members of the Company are very nervous these days with such characters as Stowell, Thompson, Nerrne, Johnson, Hicks, McCracken, Sites, Story, Runyan, Wilson, Shaver, Manifase, Rodriguez, Minni, Komes, Runewicz, Mazlo, Adams, Bragg, Skuza, Rowe, Dukate, and Rutherford attending the noted demolition school. If anyone finds a booby trap planted in the Flak Kaserne, don't be a bit surprised.

With the scarce of vehicles you will probably see our Engineer Projects Officer, Lt. Dwight A. Riley, cruising around to his jobs in an over-sized jeep. For the past couple of days he has been using a 2 1/2 ton truck. It's rough in the E. T.

We have two members of this Company who have been hopping around the area for quite a while, and we hope that their pains will not last too long. They are known as "Crip" Dillingham and "Three Legged" George.

We have just received information that James B. Glidewell has been transferred to this Company as the new First Sergeant.

The new EM Club will open in the very near future. There will be a great many headaches after the Grand Opening, as everyone probably knows. It is alright to have a good time, but fellows now that we have a good club lets keep it that way. Take all misunderstandings outside please.

As a closing line I say, "fellows this your paper and I am going to need plenty of help trying to fill Longacre's shoes, so give me all the help possible."

June 15, 1946

A Co. -- by JUNIOR II

Boy oh boy! what a week this has been. The most talked about headlines were "Marriage of Lt. Wilkens", and "Fathers are going home". The CO with his newly-wed wife have been in Berchtesgaden on their honeymoon about 4 days, and will have 3 more of those interesting, never forgotten days ahead of them. As everyone probably knows, Lt. Wilkens was late for his wedding, but I know for a fact he was framed by "Higher Headquarters". The reason I know is because I happen to be the middle man in that deal, and fellows don't think I wasn't worried. Everything seems to be working out alright, so lets wish that the happiest days of their lives will come in the future. Another line that was shouted from the cellar to the sky was "I am a poppa and I am going home." Yes, it seems that the little "12 pointers" have come to the aid of their fathers. Fellows everyone in Able Company is wishing you a speedy trip to the ones you love. Don't worry about us because we will be right behind you.

Woodrow Wilson, Frank Holyoake, John Nerren, and Thomas Hutchinson, the most noted Company clerk, have been promoted to corporal. William Lamb, Donald Kosanke, Ralph Harper, and Harold Grawe have attained the rank of T/5. William Rutherford and Daniel Douglas are now brand new staff sergeants. DW Story, the boy who has spent only nine days in the Flak Kaserne, has nailed on his buck sergeant stripes. Last but not least is John Novak, who has gone home sporting the rank of T/4. With a telephone in each hand and wire in every pocket Novak could easily be identified. Paul Sites, Clarence Cook, and Clifford Bragg will be in Butzbach, Germany, for a period of six weeks probably doing a little Engineer training. Gerald Ackley is stuck for eight weeks. Emil Kling is in school learning to tame a bulldozer. John Keir has rejoined us from Heidenheim, Germany, because he has heard that all proud fathers are leaving for the ZI. William O'Haren has been discharged from the 115th Station Hospital. Texas Dillingham and his roommate Hubert Howell are now straining their eyes looking for that lady with the light.

The members of Able Company will leave Sunday, 16, June for Neu-Ulm and bridge school. H/S Company will be about down during the five or six days they will not have "A" Company to lean on. Right? I will close now due to the fact that the mail has arrived...See you next week.

H/S Co. by Golly

H/S has really been bubbling over with news, sports, parties and farewells in the last week or so. Everything to make life interesting. The long lost cry of "come home daddy" has at last materialized and the way things look now it won't be too long before the cry of "come home sweetheart" will come true too.

The soft ball team is walking all over the "spikers" of A Co. How can it keep from all these victories with a man like Tom Hope doing the honors of catching. Other men contributing to the glories of H/S are Quinlan Voss, Smith, Hutchinson, Persina, Collins, Ross, and Scheffler.

The club, a ravaging success, has been the site of many a gala evening. Captain Strauss treated the Medics to a liquor party Sunday night. Honors went to Beidnar, Hunt, and Bilbee. Lucky fathers! Our boy Schwartz made his rounds as usual, while Allbright sat in his secluded spot in the corner and took it all in.

Everyone knows who the hardest worker in the Battalion is now. Of course Captain Branges fits the picture perfectly. Not only is he H/S CO, but he occupies the front seat in S-2, he is Mess Officer, Special Service Officer, PX Officer, and I & E Officer. Hats off to Capt. Branges. The 138th will be "kaput" when he leaves which is very soon. Maybe 1st Sgt. Holden will be promoted in the field.

The point has been reached for this week's news so until next week is your correspondent signing off.

June 22, 1946

A Co. -- by JUNIOR II

Now that all fathers have left and a number of men transferred, "Able" Company has the grand total of 89 present for duty. Yes, fellows all the fathers have left and things seem rather dull and out of place. There were many good times and fun that will never be forgotten to us all. I believe there was not a father in the crowd that was actually sober when they left the Flak Kaserne. We really hated to see such fine fellows as: Daniel Douglas, Charles Skuza, DW Story, Frank Filus, James Thompson, Ted Stowell, Harold Tresaugue, Charles Workman, Woodrow Wilson, William Marchand, Woodrow Hayes, Donald Kosanke, Gaizy Tuckosh, Harold Grawe, Ralph Harper, William Lamb, Jack Bennett, John Golya, RB Miller, James Pattison, Charles Pritchard, George Staples, Robert Stevens, Francis "Combat" Taylor, Harold Waltman, Charles Clevenger, Stanley Verbick, John Keir, Charles Mullins, William O'Haren, Leonard Kuback, and Willett Earnest leave. Good luck to all of you.

Kenneth Smith has rejoined us from the 1124th Engineer Group, and Earl Manifase has left us for the same. Percy Higgins has left us for good because of a transfer to the 609th Light Equipment Company, but I think we will be seeing him before long. The following men have been transferred to H/S Company: Bernard Luchsinger, Hughey Seay, Salvatore Occipinti, and Ben Christner. Leonard Vannes and Vincent Santelli have been transferred to the 16th Major Port Command, Le Havre, France. Lt. John Wilkens has arrived back from Berchtesgaden where he took his honeymoon. No questions will be asked! If you look close you will notice he is not quite as pale as he was on the wedding day. What a strain! William Oakes, Ilmar Somero, James Alvey, Harvey Saxby, Eldermiro Gonzales, James Cahill, Charles Bertholdt, Jay Jonap, Mike Rodriguz, Joe McNulty, and Dick Karokawa, have reported back from the well known bridge school in Neu-Ulm. Anyone wishing to take lessons on tipping a boat, kindly see "Red" Wylie or "Rebel" Myers. They have plenty of experience at this trade. By the way, What is the MOS? After turning over the boat they went to the kitchen stove and dried their clothes. With a little help they had "Horse" Corbitt sitting on top of the lake. Boy! what a wet week-end Garmisch proved to be. Jake Kushner is not sad because he is on guard, but due to the fact he didn't have any "problem children" to come to his aid. What a long face he had when the fathers left.

Now that things are getting dry I will close saying see you all next week.

B Co. -- by Butch & Willie

Things have really been happening in Baker Company this last week. First, the long awaited orders on fathers finally came down and 31 lucky pappys were started on their way stateside. While the rest of us were still bemoaning the fact that we didn't have any legal children and haunted by visions of increased guard duty; The powers that be decided to ship 30 men to "C" Co, which just about made "B" Co. kaput.

S/Sgt. Mireau and 30 men will stay in Landsberg to run E-54. The rest of the men will be divided up among the other three companys in the Bn.

What's this I hear about Bobot asking for permission to live off the post? That little blonde three doors down the strasse couldn't have anything to do with it, could she, Steve?

Those new 9th. Division MP's are a little on the rugged side aren't they Callahan? Why do they put a siren on the wrecker if not to be blown?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK - When our combat messenger, Bucek, was given a three day restriction he commented, "I can use the rest". That's the sprit, Pete, the ET needs more men like you. (Then maybe I could go home).

Has anyone asked Buol why he came home in the company of four MP's the other day? What about that, "Combat"? I thought you didn't like them.

Rumor has it that the local printer has been able to enlarge his shop since a certain first sargent started ordering "TS" cards by the truckload. What about that "Baldy"?

For the first time since I've been in the army I'm glad I'm not a S/Sgt. I have trouble enough trying to make bed-check without taking it. Guess there is advantages to being a "T/6" after all.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE - But, It did; When Callahan or the first platoon fail to stand revile it hardly comes under the heading of news. But, when the 1st/Sgt. comes up the strasse 10 minutes after the rest of the company has finished breakfast, I wonder if I should change my brand of alarm clocks.

For awhile I thought the company had a new S/Sgt. but after taking a second look I found out that it was only Mireau with his hair combed.

I hear that we have a platoon sargent that's slightly on the "Eager" side. Used

to be a man sized job just to take care of a platoon, but the party I'm referring to also has time to try and run the Motor Pool, supply room, and the Mess hall.

I sent home for 70 pounds of bullet proof vests, just in case anyone finds out who wrote this.

H/S Co. -- by Golly

Rain, rain, and more rain, but that is Mox Nix to men of H/S. We can still stand reveille in the mornings. Yes but don't forget we have a darn good deal and let's not spoil it. From all indications we have a wonderful CO in Major Leavey. One night last week a party was given in his honor at the Castle Club. I'm sure all of you were there and enjoyed yourself. I know you did Schwartz. You always have a marvelous time. Incidentally we have a recruiting officer now. The evening at the club was climaxed with a floor show that seemed to overtake a few fellows. Bervasio reached but had no success. Capt. Wallace didn't even reach and I don't blame him.

Say, it really is a suprising fact that there is an edition of the Dragline this week. Our promising young editor took a powder by way of Switzerland. However since the Army says that there will be an edition of the Dragline, our man Gray took over the job and you have the Dragline. A little credit here and there doesn't hurt anyone. Incidentally is there any one fine young promising man in H/S who is interested in writing for the Dragline? Men like Kostick, Smith, Herman, and Hutchinson could easily drag up a little dirt around the Co. Maybe Soper could write an editorial on, "How to live and still work 24 hours a day".

Of course everyone knows about the big inspection that was to be held Tuesday. Everyone was on their toes and of course the big disappointment was when we found out that the inspecting party did not show up. However we were not entirely left out as the inspection was held on Wednesday. That's the Army, we're in it, let's make the best of it.

July 13, 1946

A Co.

Rain, rain, rain, that is all there is here in the summer it seems. It doesn't stop the boys from going to Garmisch and Berchtesgaden, but it delays them when they start back. It doesn't take long for the Flak Kaserne to flood, does it? Report from Garmisch was that bridges were out, roads were completely flooded, and rocks filled the mountain roads. A number of times trucks had to stop and remove all rocks. One time a railroad bridge had to be used because the original bridge was washed away with the river. Constabulary forces had their hands full blocking all dangerous roads leading from Garmisch. It's really wet in the ET. Right?

What does Bob Barnard have that draws the undivided attention of a certain first sergeant in Garmisch? Bob is certain that the above mentioned first soldier could never be busted. Wonder why?

The wet chickens, Bob Thomas, Paul York, and Francis Lyvers are now starting to thaw out after their midnight swim from Berchtesgaden. Was it worth it?

A railroad trussel proves to be a rather rough road to travel on, by the way the fellows at Garmisch this pass week-end talk. They used one on their trip back to the Flak Kaserne and work. Alex Brzyskir Franklin Roesner, Robert Marshall, Ray Murray, and Parcel Wheeler are the new faces around the area now. They joined Able Company the first of July.

McRoy Lewis the short little cook helper of our well known mess hall has started for home and a discharge. Good luck from all the boys. Otis Allen and Ray Benson are now sick members of the 115th Station Hospital. That hospital would close due to the lack of patients if the 138th ever moved out. Walter Runyan and "Red" Wylie are now on furlough to the Netherlands. Sure wish I could get a furlough. Peter Bucek has just been released from the 115th Station Hospital.

Jake Kushner, better known as the "Coca Cola kid" has been sporting T/4 stripes for a week now. What do you say Jake let's sign up for three? Want to?

From what all the boys say "A" Company new mess sergeant is really on the ball. If the pants start getting tight around the waist I guess there will be plenty of reducing soon. Good work sergeant and keep it up.

Regular Army S/Sgt. Rutherford has never had it better in his life from what I have heard of his deal in Landsberg. I make my big mistake, but just let me get to the deep South and I will sell pencils on the street corner if I have to. I know a lot of fellows feel the same. Right?

There goes "speed ball" Anderson zooming out the building. Wonder where he has been making these fast trips to all day.

A great many of the boys are sporting new ranks this week. New staff sergeants are Byron Hickman, Robert Thomas, and Emmett Carroll. Four new buck sergeants are Trafer Bowen, Walter Runyan, John Runewicz, and "Red" Wylie. Jake Kushner, Lawrence Schopp, John Herosnek, Heymond McKee, and Ferron Saridakie are brand new T/4's. Showing 2 new stripes are Panepinto, Phillips, Bertholdt, Johnson, Brown, and

Orndorff. Buol, Guarino, Pippin, Jennings, Smith, Harr, Rowe and McRoy are very proud of their new T and 2 stripes.

If the newest rumor is true it looks as if this will be the last issue of the DRAGLINE. I certainly hope not.

I must write my dream girl so I will see you next week. (Maybe).

JUNIOR II

FEATURE ARTICLES IN THE DRAG LINE

138TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION

January 11, 1946

MEET YOUR C.O.

(The first in a series of four sketches of company commanders, beginning with 1st Lt. Thomas J. Hall of H/S Co.)

Lt. Hall is a native Kentuckian, but mentions St. Louis as well when speaking of home. He attended high school in Maysville, Kentucky, graduating "way back" (to quote him) in 1935. His sporting interests in those days consisted of baseball, basketball, a little tennis, and swimming. After graduation he went to work for the Woolworth chain, serving as assistant manager from 1935 to early in 1939. He held jobs in this capacity in Athens and Cleveland, Ohio, and in Detroit.

In 1939 he returned to school, this time in St. Louis, Mo., to study Commercial Art. After two years of "intense" study, Mr. Hall obtained a job with an advertising agency in that city, layout work being his specialty. This job kept him busy until August 17, 1942, when - - "it" happened.

Yes, Tom Hall became Pvt. Tom Hall, at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. The army decided Pvt. Hall looked just like a radio operator, so away to school he went, to Athens, Georgia. Shortly thereafter, he graduated as a qualified radio operator. (I couldn't find out if it was high speed or Crosley.)

After some time in Florida with a Signal Radio Intelligence Company, he journeyed to Camp, Pinedale, California. Somehow, somewhere along the line Pvt. Hall had jumped to S Sgt. "Of course," he says, "those were the good old days."

Then in June 1943 S Sgt Hall became Officer Candidate Hall at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The weeks flew by (who am I kidding) and in September it was Thomas J. Hall, 2d Lt. CE> 0116225.

After his first assignment as an officer at Camp Sutton, N.C. came March 1944 - - and the 138th Engr. C. Bn was activated. The new Bn CO immediately requisitioned Lt. Hall for the outfit.

His first post was Assistant S-3, which, as anyone knows, is a good job. (How's that, Lt. Buckley?) Shortly thereafter he went to C Company and served there as a platoon leader throughout basic training. Then A Company welcomed him in, gave him a platoon, and eventually, in August of 1945, made him CO. But October found him firmly entrenched as CO of H/S Company, and if we have anything to say about it, there he shall remain until he goes home.

One thing I nearly forgot (but he did not) was that on May 14, 1944 he became one of those "to have and to hold" fellows. When queried as to the extent of his present family, he said "The only thing running around the house these days is a little white fence."

When asked about the future, he said that he was going home in a matter of weeks. So I asked him how many, and he said 57. We both cried a while, then got on with the interview.

A month's vacation will follow his discharge, he says, after which the GI Bill of Rights will pay for about six months of refresher in Commercial Art School, followed by his return to the old job.

The Lieutenant says that if, in the future, any of us need to do any advertising, just to come and see him. I imagine he would fix you up right, too.

That is the kind of a Co.O. he is.

...Chas. E. Davis

February 1, 1946

MEET ANOTHER C.O.

(This is the second of four sketches of company commanders of the 138th Engineer Combat Battalion.)

On 10 July 1914, in the quiet town of Manchester, New Hampshire there arose such a clatter...the Greek priest threw up the sash to see what was the matter, then tore

his hair out as he looked at a wailing roly poly ball in a basonet screaming: "I don't like the Army" ... I wanna go home!..

Now 30 year later that little bundle of joy of 1914 is still screaming "When am I goin' home?" ... If they don't send me quick I'll put the Greek curse on somebody.....and so you are introduced to Capt. William L. Kyriacos, the man whose most powerful weapon is the "Greek Curse".

The Captain is a Manchester New Hampshire man through and through. He was born, reared and schooled in Manchester. His wife Teresa, who incidentally (according to the Capt.) is the luckiest woman in the world having such a handsome husband, said "yes" to his proposal of marriage in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and it was there that they were married. The Captain now has a lovely wife and three bouncin' bowling alleys.

Capt. K was inducted into the army on the 25th of February 1942, and served as an EM with the AA Artillery until he was commissioned in the branch. In March of '44 he was sent to Ft. Belvoir to transfer his talents to the Engineers. First assignment in an Engineer outfit was with the 1255th Engr. C Bn from which he was transferred to the 138th, first to H/S Co., then as a Platoon Commander in A Co and just before the unit came overseas as CO of Co B.

He has earned the title of "Old Man" by being the Company Commander that he is. He has been an understanding, friendly, and capable CO, always thinking of the welfare of his men. In fact if he wasn't Greek, we might call him Father Flannigan.

The fact that he's always asking the same question, "When am I going home" isn't because he dislikes the army.... but oh how he loves civilian life, and then too, the Moose by his own admission is always givin' him a "hard Time".

To those of you that have never met our 68 point captain you ought to do it, he's really tops.

February 15, 1946

MEET YOUR C.O.

(This is the third of four sketches of company commanders of the 138th Engineer Combat Battalion.)

Early April 1920 brought a replacement to the city of Charleston, W.Va. in the form of one John J. Wilkens, Jr. After a few years devoted mainly to growth, little John got his first job, setting up pins in a local bowling alley. (Incidentally, he says that he may have to go back to his old job after the war, maybe working for the "Greek".)

High school days were full of study, study, study, with a little time devoted to playing right guard on the football team. After high school, John decided to attend the University of Cincinnati. There he worked for and finally attained a BS degree in Architecture. During his college years, which were of the co-operative system of study, he worked for various architectural and civil engineers thus gaining practical experience in his chosen profession. His football playing found no place on his college schedule, since he had "too many other interests".

Graduation came in 1943 and, just two weeks later, so did Uncle Sam's request. A war was being fought and men were needed, said Uncle S. Wouldn't Mr. John Wilkens please lend his talents to the fray? Not wishing to go down in history as a blackmark, he came into the army. Mr. Wilkens had considerable military background, having spent one high school summer in CMTC and being an ROTC man in college. Consequently, the army sent him directly to OCS. Thus began what Lt. Wilkens describes as "an experience I would not trade for anything in the world!"

Shortly after completing OCS and getting those gold bars, Lt. Wilkens joined the 138th Engr. C Bn. This was in April 1944, and the 138th was a mere baby. Co "A" was the scene of Lt. Wilkens early activities, his first service being as a platoon leader under the fabulous Capt. Mike Regan. Just rewards for services rendered came his way on Oct 3rd, 1944 when he became a 1st Lt.

After several attempts by the Bn Staff to lure him over to H/S Co had failed, he finally succumbed in August of 45, when he was appointed S-2. After serving in this capacity for one week, a group of new officers were transferred to the 138th and Lt. Wilkens was outranked for his job. With few regrets, he returned to Co. A, becoming Company Commander later that same year.

For many months now one of the favorite topics for discussion in the Battalion has been "when is Lt. Wilkens going to get married?" Everyone knows the Lt's intentions, who the woman involved is, etc. but no one knows when he is going to get two weeks off to do the job up right. (You can make that three, Maj. Nagy, if you wish.) Anyway, we all hope Barbara won't have to wait too long up there in Rosenheim.

The Lt. has amassed 48 points over the years and expects to stick around over here some little time yet. In fact, he says that in the recent elections in Germany he was elected Burgermeister of Oberau.

His post war plans are as follows: first he will get his hair dyed black again, then practice Architecture in Cincinnati, if he hasn't forgotten how by then.

Yes, that is Lt. Wilkens, "A" Company Commander. And who can say that "A" does not stand for "A"chievement. ... Chas E. Davis

(If this column has the same success as CAPTAIN Hall's, all small gifts will be gratefully accepted at my home address. Lt. W)

March 1, 1946

"MEET YOUR ADJUTANT"

The year 1921 was famous for many things, and a year that few people can forget. President Harding signed the resolution of Congress declaring peace with Germany and Austria; the famous ZR-2 dirigible collapsed and exploded over Hull, England; Mercury, Venus, Uranus, and Neptune were playing hockey in the heavenly constellation, and like a Donati Comet, increasing in brilliancy as it approached us, CHARLES J. MAHONEY was introduced for the first time in the spectre commonly called "The World". Since 1921 an awfully lot has happened, time has passed swiftly by, the peace treaty signed in 21 dwindled into infinitesimal insignificance as Germany began the modeling of a war-time nation, and Charles J. Mahoney grew from a little 6-pounder into 175 pounds of romping stomping bone and muscle.

With this slight, rather inconsequential introduction, I'd like to tell you a little about the life of the Adjutant of the 138th Engineer Combat Battalion, and let you in on a little side dope. What I'm telling you now is strictly not for publication, so don't tell anyone who told you, huh?

Charlie was born in the little suburb of Brooklyn, during the wintry month of November. From a little tot, to a big boy of 6 he was pretty active, as all young people of that age are, and earned for himself the rep of being one of the "Worst Babies" in the city. That is, as babies do go. He learned to talk the English language with a few slight flourishes, and surprisingly enough, the flourishes are even a little noticeable today. Mrs. George F. Mahoney finally decided to let the schools take custody of her little boy, so up and away to school our boy did go, and after 8 long years of playing baseball, basketball, and football, he graduated into high school. Four years after which, he received his degree and set out in the world to take it apart.

Charles was rather an active individual throughout his school days, (majoring in extra-curricular activities), and this activeness was carried with him after he finished school. From being an Information Clerk, Insurance Company Employee, General Motors Man, Sperry Gyroscope Scoper, to the Regency Club in Brooklyn, Charly received a rounded-full-enthrottled view of life in the Metro around him. But like all good civilians, and in the best of health, he was ushered into the service to do his duty.

C. J.'s army travels even out-did his civilian escapades. From Dix to Lee to Jackson to Lee again (this time for OCS), the B & C School in McKory (For all new men B & C means Bakers and Cooks) to Belvoir, to Shelby, and to Jackson again to reach his final phase of army maneuvering by entering into the 138th Engr Combat Bn as Cadre for our Battalion. Being able to write his name faster than any other individual in the Battalion, having the best qualifications for the job, 2nd Lt. Charles J. Mahoney took over the reigns as Adj of our Battalion, and since 30 Mar 1944, he has held those reigns with such a tight grip, such an "nulli secundus" (second to none) imbuing manner that his presence has been of noticeable importance ever since. Ten month's later the gold bar left him, and was replaced with his silver one.

Yes, the Comet had developed, rotated, increased its volume, and reflected. Mahoney became symbolical of good-naturedness, a marvelous sense of humor, a thorough mastery of his job, a sportingly-fair attitude, and the reputation of being an "all-around Good-Guy". The respect shown him by Officers and Men alike has never since been questioned. His good humor has not left him, and his job has been held down but decisively.

Then we heard of that all important V-E Day; the quick successor of V-J Day, and for the first time we heard about the fact that Redeployment was going to take place. Well, at last redeployment has caught up with out Adjutant. From all indications (strictly according to rumor, however) he'll be leaving his old outfit the 25th of this month, or very shortly thereafter. With 45 months of active service in, his discharge is just around the corner, so for all the men in the 138th Engr C Bn, and especially the old-timers, I want to say "Thanks for being with us, Lieutenant". An Officer and a Gentleman is a scarce combination but you really fit the bill. Good-Luck, and we hope that your new job is a lot better than the one you're leaving behind.

Norman S. Anon

A FORGOTTEN FEW

The Battalion Aid Station is pretty crowded lately. The Detachment has swelled its rank to the unprecedented number of one officer and twenty-three enlisted men. A few weeks ago the Medics of the Battalion were caught in that wonderful catastrophe of redeployment. Maynard, Kietzer, and Fuller, three of the old timers, took off for the first lap of going home. In the near future four or five more will be leaving. Foresight has saved the health of the Battalion and new men have been trained. Besides the training of these new men, Captain Strauss has kept VD and scabies from becoming rampant in this Battalion. The Battalion Surgeon and his many capable cohorts have traveled monthly to the outermost outposts of this widespread Battalion to conduct both area and physical inspections. Besides these usual duties, the Medics have made the needle felt not once but 3 times in places such as Garmisch, Landsberg, Friedberg, Nesselwang, and Markt Oberdorf. The Medics, in spite of being disliked around needle time, are on the proverbial sphere.

A great deal of credit must be attributed to the Company Aid Men of the 138th. Under adverse conditions such as lack of room, rank and respect, they have set up aid stations that compare and sometimes surpass their mother Aid Station at Bn. Because of the distance from Bn. Headquarters, they have had to find nearer medical units to help them with emergencies and supplies. Aid Men such as Frank and Russell of A Co., Bernard Friedman of C Co. have had the responsibility of the health of the men in their unit. Don't think for a minute that their fine work has gone by unnoticed. They are affectionately called "Doc" by the men they have successfully treated and cured. More tribute than this is not desired by these men.

"Staff" Vitale heads the men at the Battalion Aid Station. Dan Bryant has handed his pencil pushing job over to an equally capable man, Rick Roth, Lou Verbelun, as the Bn ambulance driver, has an all-inclusive job. Aside from driving the M.O. around the Bn. area of responsibility on the Surgeon's tour of duty, and being on call for all emergencies, Pfc. Lou also transports the S.S. Units and U.S.O. shows that come up every Saturday night at Markt Oberdorf. "Cy" Bednar, besides being an Aid Man, has taken over the driving of the famous old medic 1 1/2 ton truck. Earl Cohen formally an aid man with B Co. has returned to the fold as a Bn. Medic.

New York men of the Detachment include Lou Berlin, (Producer and editor of the Dragline). Frank Boscamp, Dario Genvasio, and John Kaplowitz. Other men of the Detachment upholding the honor of the Medical Department, exemplifying the motto, "Conserve the Fighting Strength", are Clarewce Bilbee, Ralphs Collins, Herb Hunt, Ed Pianto, Ed Richman, Ed Wallace, and yes, Ed York.

The Medical Detachment, dedicated to serve, has had a successful past with the 138th Engineer Combat Battalion. Stimulated with a supply of new blood who have been thoroughly trained, we of the Bn. are certain of a healthy future.

April 5, 1946

COMPANY COMMANDER. TOPS

1st Lt. Ernest O. Gibson Jr. was born June 1, 1924, in Winona, Mississippi. He entered grammar school at Durant, Mississippi, in 1929, graduating in 1937. He then entered high school at Corinth, Mississippi graduating in 1941. He participated in football and soft-ball, also played the french horn in the school band.

In the year 1941, he enrolled in Mississippi State College to study Electrical Engineering. He was taking Coast Artillery training in R.O.T.C. and is a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

He left school in his junior year for active service on June 8, 1943, took basic training in Coast Artillery at Ft. Eustis, Virginia. After completing his basic, he returned to Mississippi State for a short hitch in R.O.T.C. while awaiting O.C.S.

Lt. Gibson then went to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, for Engineer O.C.S. On July 12th, he became a 2nd Lt. Corps of Engineers, Reserve. He was then transferred to Camp Gordon, Ga., where he was assigned to the 588th Engineer Heavy Pontoon Battalion. In September, he was assigned to the 547th Engineer Pontoon Bridge Co. at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Training there was confined to floating bridges. He was commissioned a 1st Lt. in April 1945, shortly thereafter was alerted for overseas duty. On April 14th, 1945 the old 547th Engineers pulled out for overseas duty, arriving too late to see actual combat. About the time the war was over, the outfit was on the Swiss border, hauling lumber. Since the company was not committed to combat they were slated for the Pacific. Lt. Gibson spent three weeks at Marseilles, France, while awaiting shipping orders. It was a nice vacation inasmuch as he spent most of the time basking in the sun.

War was then over in Japan, the outfit turned in all equipment to go home. Two days before embarking, they received orders to proceed to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, where they were assigned to the 22nd Corps, 3rd army, doing occupation work, maintenance of bridges, etc.

Once again the 547th was alerted for shipment to the Zone of Interior Lt. Gibson, being a man of low points and little service, was assigned to the 138th, serving as Battalion Motor Officer.

On the 14th of January, he assumed command of C Co. at Nesselwang. A week later, he became commanding officer. Out headquarters were then at Friedberg, and one month later, we moved to Bad Worishofen.

While stationed at Camp Shelby, he was so close to his fiance, he could keep in contact with her. So on March 25th, he married Miss Mary Ann Russell of Booneville, Mississippi. Miss Russell has beautiful red hair. She is a student at Judson College at Marion, Alabama, majoring in liberal arts. Shortly after his marriage, he was on his way to the E.T.O.

Lt. Gibson's mother, father, and brother are living in Corinth, Mississippi.

He plans to return to school to get his degree in Electrical Engineering, utilizing the benefits of the G. I. Bill. He is interested in the Reynolds Aluminium Co. and the General Electric Co., where he will work for one of the companies when he returns to civilian life. He expects to go on inactive duty in September or December. He plans to keep his reserve commission.

Augsburg, Germany, July 13, 1946

138th BREAKING UP
"by the Adjutant"

Redeployment has often struck mighty blows at the 138th Engineers, but she never suffered so mortal a stroke as on Tue. 9 July 1946, when word came that all but 2 officers, 47 men, and C Company would be transferred. The battalion is to be practically inactivated, leaving Major Leavey, and a few key personnel in headquarters, Lt. Riley and about 25 men in the Augsburg project Engineer Office and in E-54, and of course the woodsmen of C Company.

Of those leaving, Lt. Pence will take Command of the 609th Engr. Light Equip. Co., and will remain in Augsburg. To the 288th Engr. (C) Bn. At Murnan will go the majority of the 200 or so men left, including Sgts. Glidewell, Holden, Wolf, Brzyski, and Fetters. The rest will go to 1124th Engr. (C) Group Headquarters, also at Murnan, and this includes T/Sgts. Baltes and Lehman. At the date of this writing no other specific assignments are known. Also in the deal are 80 RA men just returned from the States, who rolled in Wednesday afternoon, claiming to belong to the 138th, and were rolled out to the 288th next morning, no doubt confused if not amused.

The move is to be completed by Sunday, 14 July 1946. It says here on the poopsheet, 1st. Sgt., Supply Sgt., the hapless personnel section, and Lt. Riley should be closely watched during this period and forcibly restrained from committing hari-kari. (Lt. Riley is to be Company Commander of A, B, & H/S companies.)

Somewhere in the operation Capt. Strauss, T/4 Lutz, and Pfc. Hobby hope to depart for Bremerhaven and the USA., if they can corner anyone long enough to give them clearance and orders, Reeling and staggering from another vicious punch, the 138th say's "Bon voyage Boys!"

The battalion property is to be stored in the Flak Kaserne in Augsburg, and the barracks, shops, club, etc., retained until the 138th again becomes the powerful, smooth-running organization it once was. Was that a snicker from the guy reading over your shoulder? Straighten him out, soldier, in April the 138th was picked as the best Engineer battalion in the ETO, and it may yet rise to fame again.

Whether you think it was chicken or soft, snafued or smooth, boring or enjoyable, keep a place in your heart for the 138th Engineer Combat Battalion.

Be seeing you at the Castle Club.

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APPENDIX NO 5

Miscellaneous pictures found in the National Archives were taken by the battalion photographers Wesley Olsen and William Aldom. Other pictures were contributed by Charlie Davis, Bob Branges, William Purcell, Ray Rider, and John Wilkens from their personal files. All of the pictures are at least forty years old. In some cases the quality of the pictures was unavoidably diminished when I made copies of those at the Archives. This was the best we could do and still keep the costs reasonable.

I have not been able to identify all of the men or the locations. If anyone can add to the identification, please let me know, I'll try to get out an addendum.



Fig 3 -Tank used in training and on Christmas card.

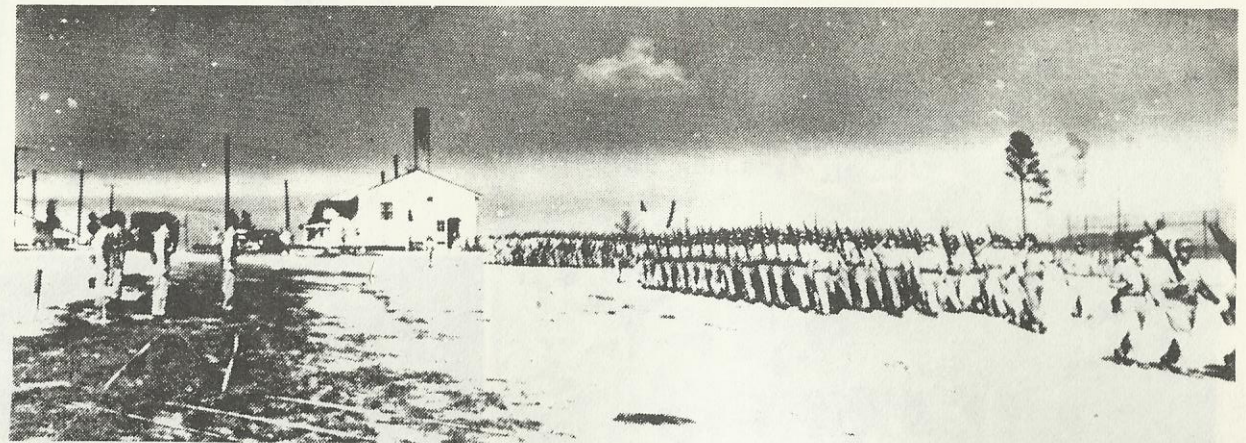


Fig 2 -138th ECB review.



Fig 1 -Sign by 138th ECB camp. Designed and painted by Ray Ryder and Dan Shattuck.

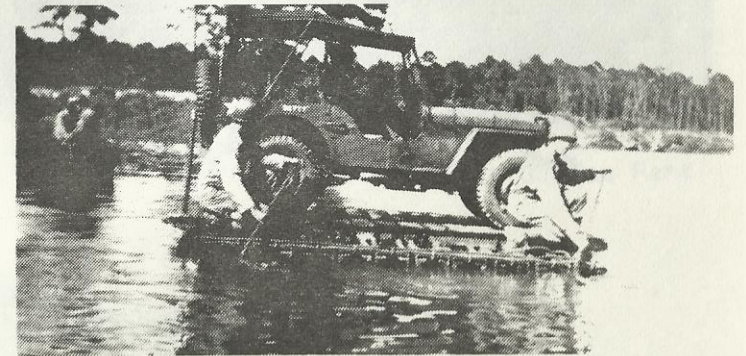


Fig 4,5,6 -Stream crossing training.



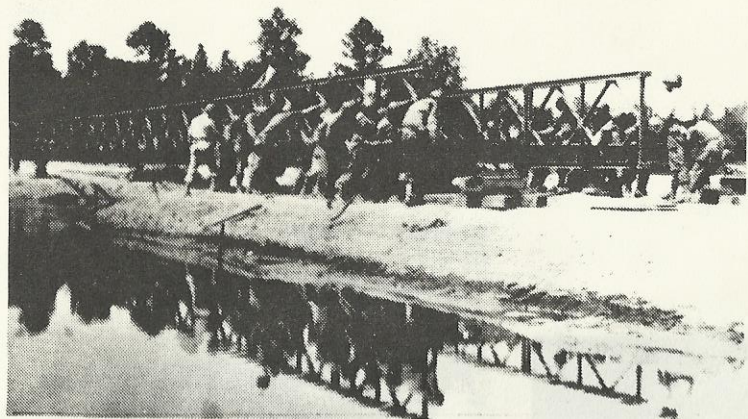


Fig 8 -Bailey Bridge training



Fig 7 -M-3 floating bridge training.

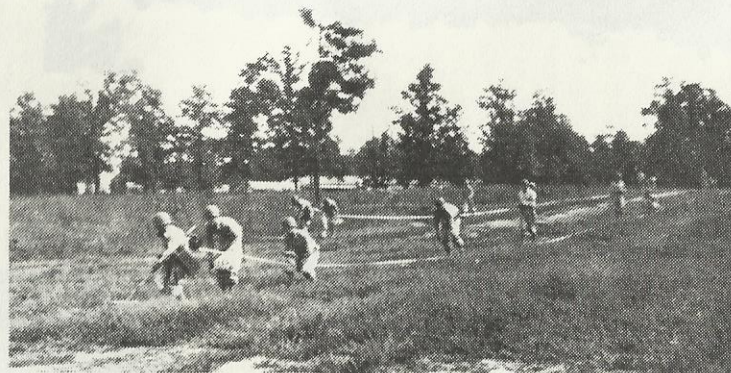


Fig 9,10,11 -Demonstrations at the Second Army Mine School, Camp Forrest, TN

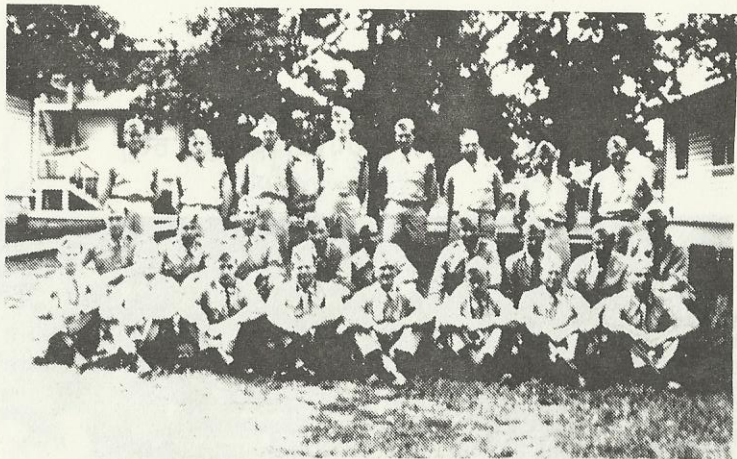


Fig 12 -

Bn Officers at Camp Forrest, TN --(L-R:Row
1) Gillenwater, Dvoretz, Mahoney, Lytle,
Purcell, Hammersmith, Cason, Cartin; (R-2)
Toomey, Norman, Middleton, Kaplan, Cron,
Wilkins, Hall, Kyriacos, Dentz; (R-3) Oksa,
Osborne, Frank, Pence, Rowney, Beagle,
Peters, Barmettlor.

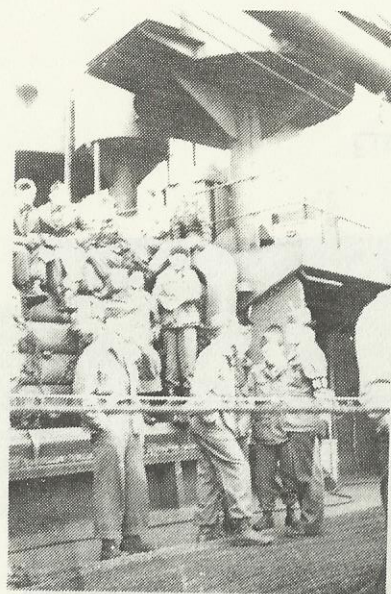


Fig 13 -On the Neiu Amsterdam
going to England

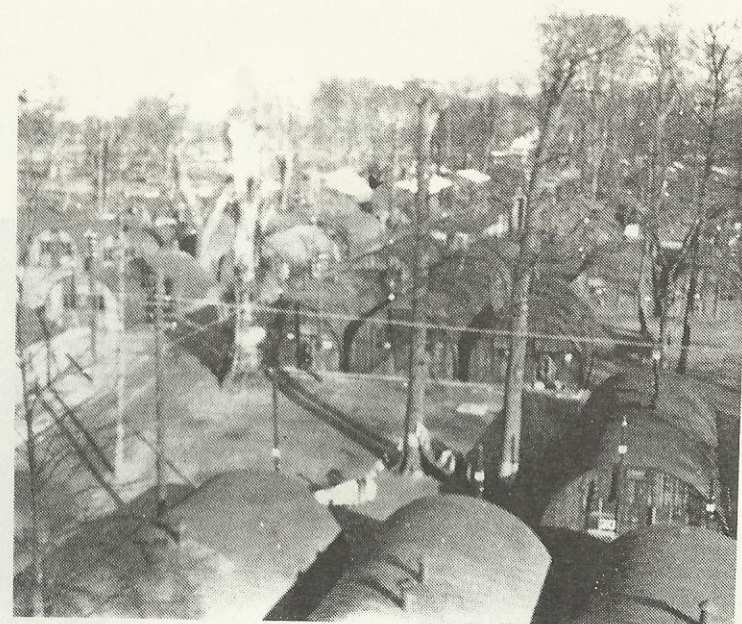


Fig 14-View of billets at Oulton Park

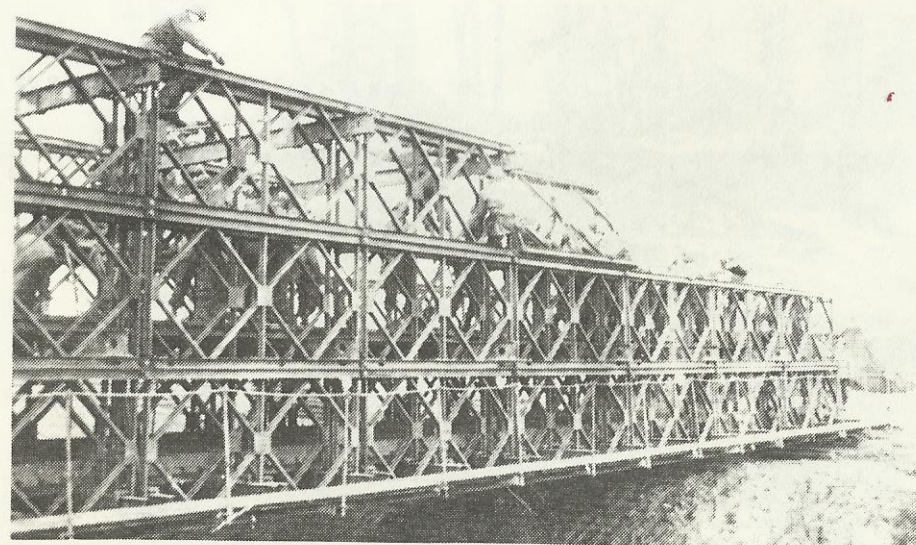
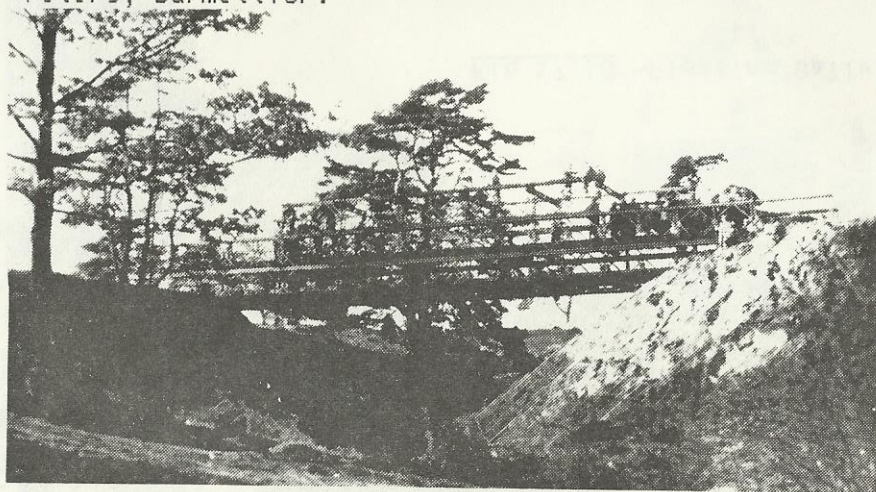


Fig 15,16 -Bailey Bridge training at Oulton Park

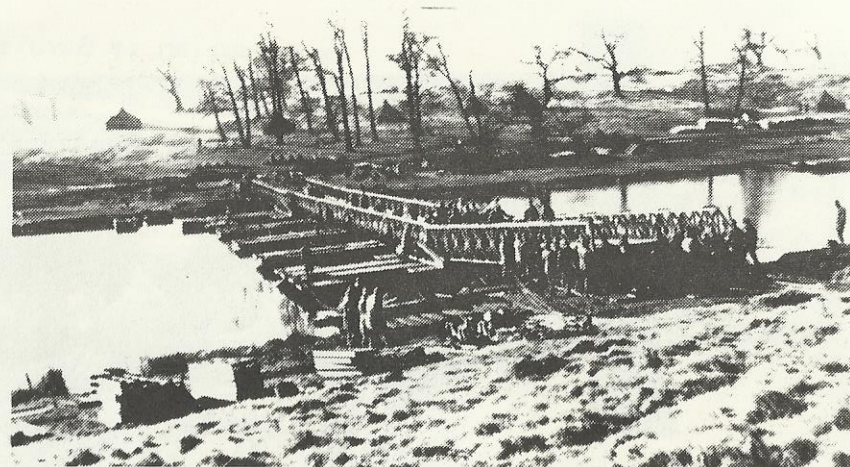
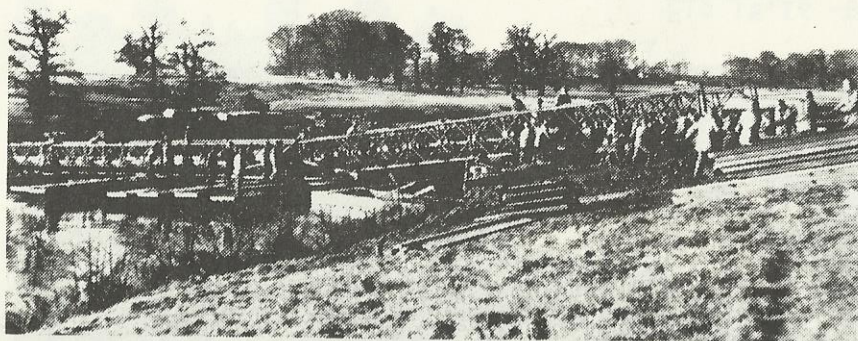


Fig 17,18 -Floating Bailey Bridge training at Oulton Park



Fig 19 -Helping local police near
Oulton Park

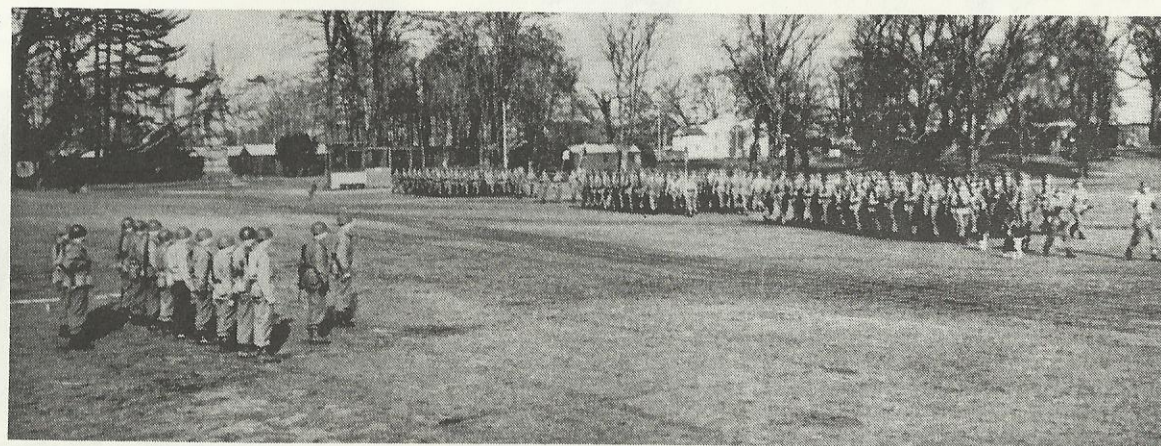


Fig 20 -Bn review-Oulton Park



Fig 21-Class 70 BB-Arcen, Holland

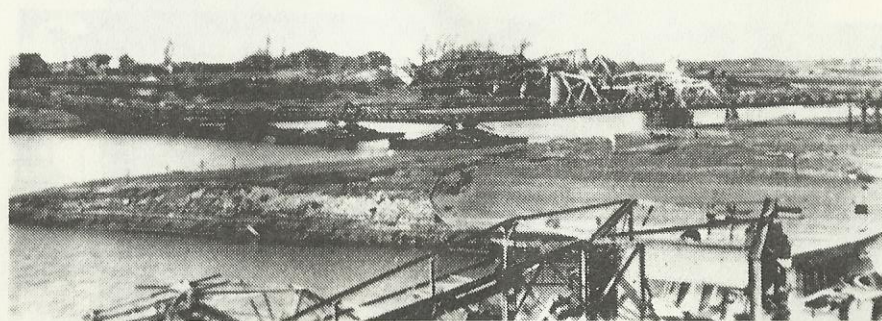


Fig 22-High level BB-Venlo, Holland

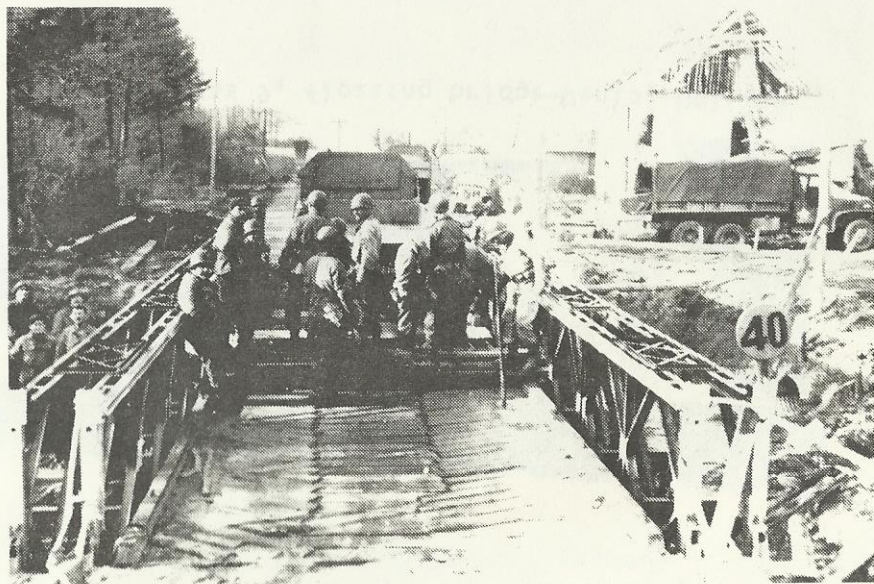


Fig 23,24-Co C removing BB & replacing with corrugated culvert-Wallenback, Holland



Fig 25-Class 9, floating bridge-Venlo, Holland



Fig 26-Class 40 BB-Arcen, Holland

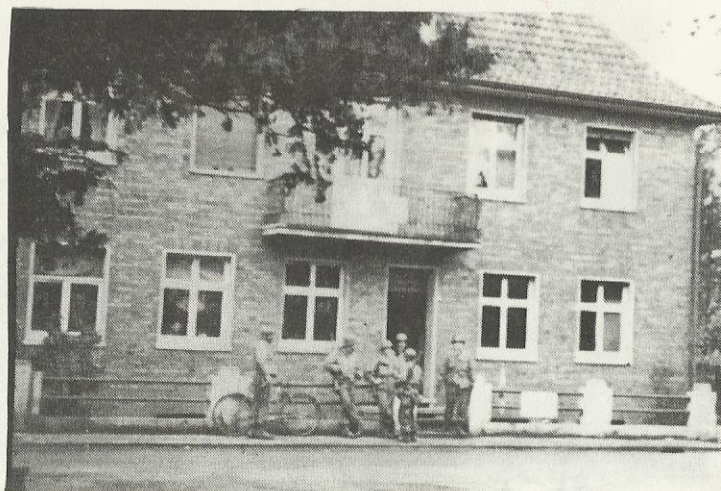


Fig 27-Bn CP-Verden, Germany



Fig 28-Clearing rubble from streets of Verden, Germany

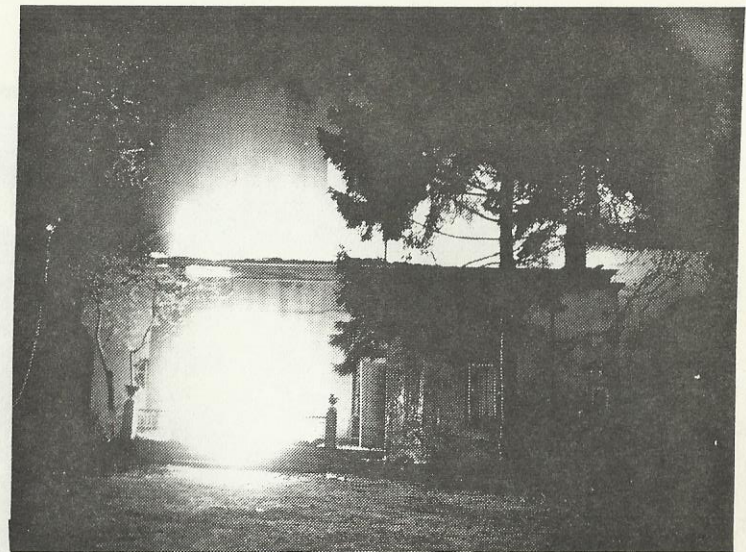


Fig 29,30-Fire in billets-Verden, Germany

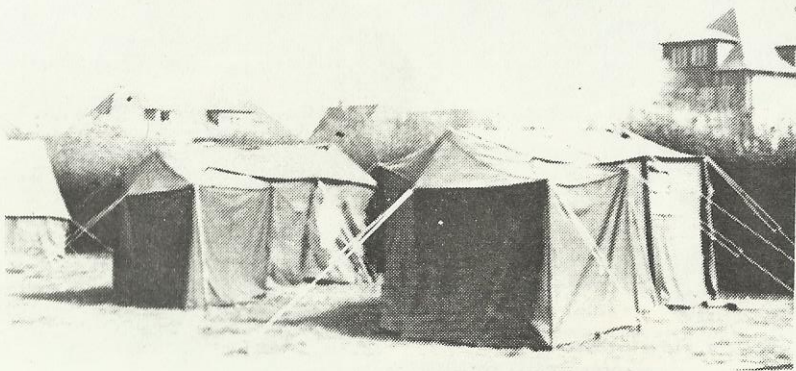


Fig 31- Tent city-Beckum, Germany



Fig 32- Chow in Beckum, Germany



Fig 33- Bn CP-Buckeburg, Germany



Fig 34- Junkers 88 surrendered
to 138th on VE Day
Ray Rider sitting on plane

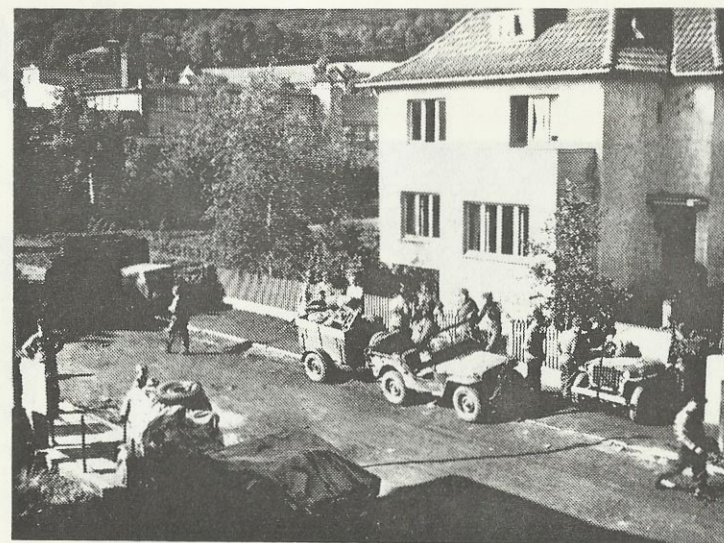


Fig 35,36- Moving day-Hameln, Germany



Fig 37- Bn CP-Katzenfurt, Germany

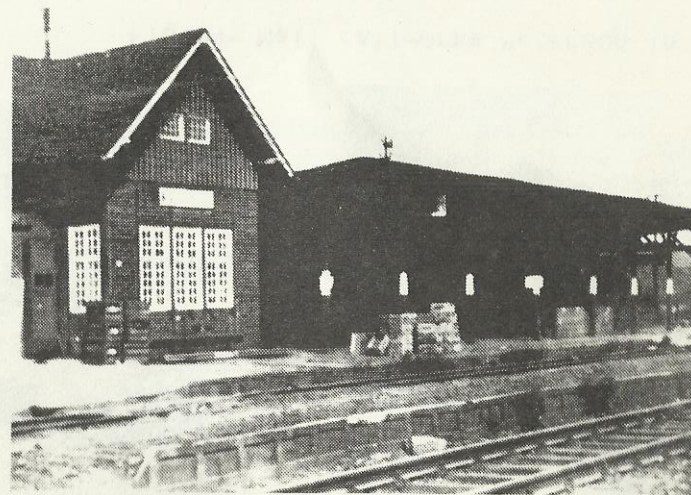


Fig 38- Railhead-Katzenfurt, Germany



Fig 39- Baseball-276th ECB vrs 138th ECB-Katzenfurt



Fig 40- Near Katzenfurt--Shattuck, Davis,& McFeeley.



Fig 41- First EM club at Trohe (near Giessen): (l-r) Gertrude Panzer, Margaret (waitress), Glaser, Calvert, Beck, Klingelschmitt, Davis: (seated) Dillard, Hopson, Drake, Shade, Chepin, O'Malley, Hannon, Rubin, Gentile, Vitale.



Fig 43- S-2 & S-3 Field Office Giessen, Germany

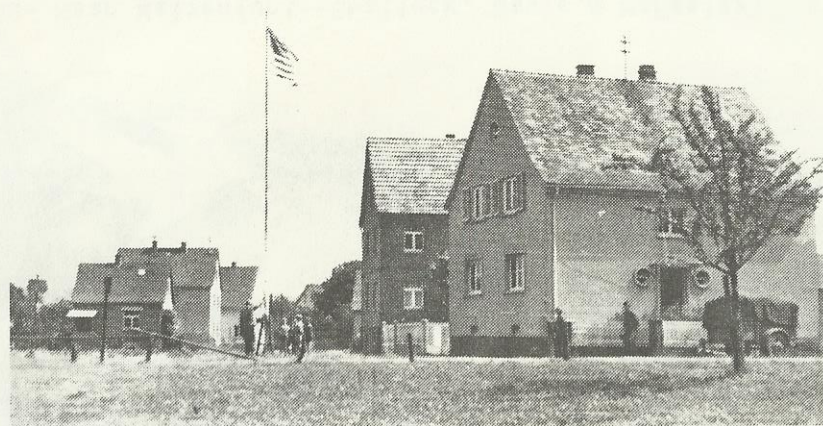


Fig 42- Bn CP-Rodgen, Germany



Fig 44- Mail call-Arne Peterson in Rodgen.

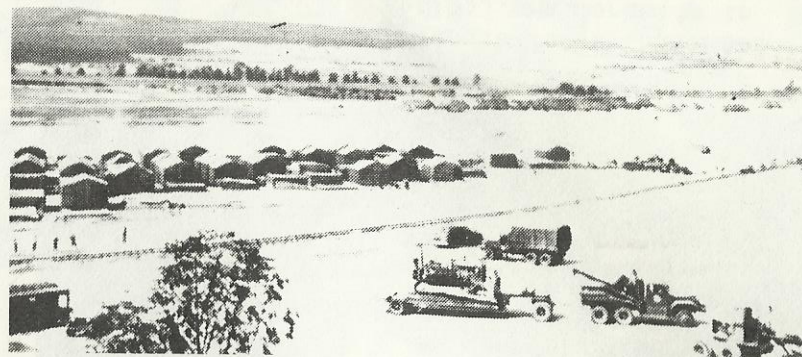


Fig 45,46,47,48- Quartermaster Depot job at Giessen airport.

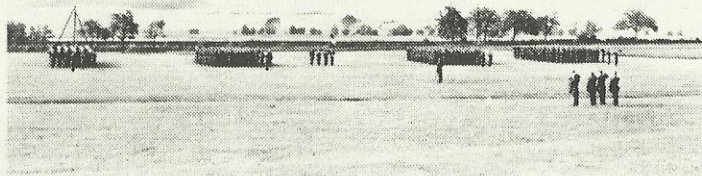


Fig 49,50,51,52-
Bn review at Rodgen,
Germany, Aug. 6, 1945

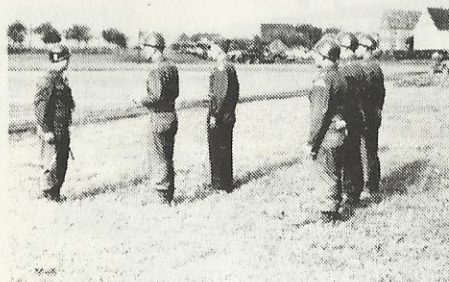
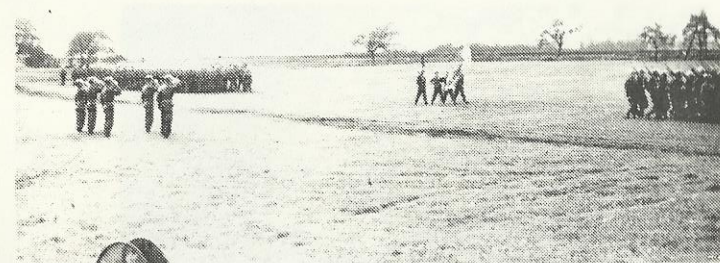


Fig 53-
Presentation by Lt.Col. Purcell
to 1st Sgt Arthur Pitzer



Fig 55-
Presentation by Lt. Mahoney and Lt.Col. Purcell
to Maj. McLean, Maj. Hammersmith, Capt. Kyriacos,
& Lt. Peters.



Fig 54-
Presentation by Lt. Mahoney
and Maj. Hammersmith to
T/Sgt Fred Eilenstein &
S/Sgt Ray Ryder

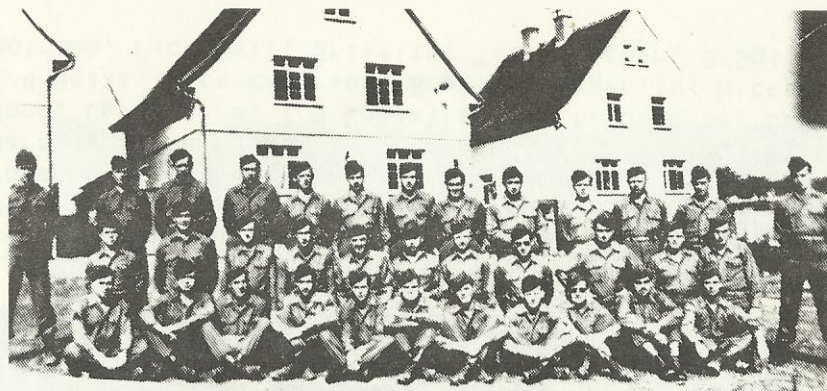


Fig 57 - Co A-1st Pl.- (sit) Clarke, Cuthbertson, JJ Smith, Boechler, Wiseman, Niner, Irwin, Blizzard, McGrann, Pitman, Mims:(kneel) Ashbaugh, Busby, Dickerson, Shafer, CS Berry, Salisbury, WL Johnson, Brown, Allmandinger, Miller, Barner:(stand) Lt. Hall, Albus, Ruth, Halstead, Tackett, Landmead, Razonski, Bologna, Roth, Dickeiser, Mitchell, Gimber, Kirchner.

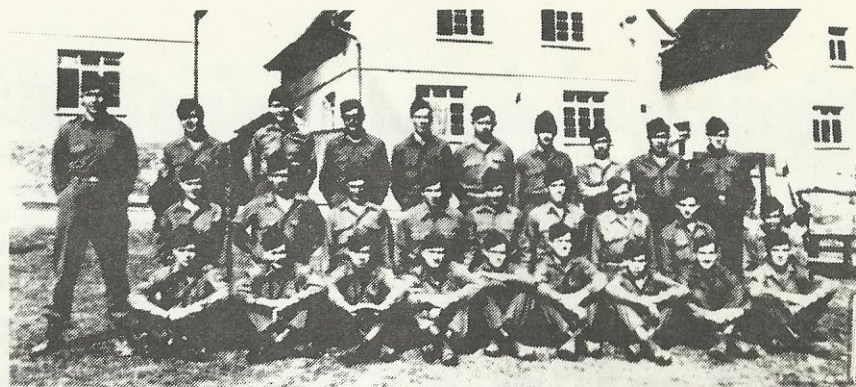


Fig 58 - Co A-2nd Pl.- (sit) Mulligan, Carter, Foster, Craig, Rodgers, Bivens, Flayman, Zimmerman, Allen; (kneel) McConloughe, Grissom, Munzanreder, Welpen, Zigarelle, LH Jones, Mosbarger, Long, Nazar; (stand) Lt. Wilkens, Scott, Scanlan, Stull, Massey, Bradford, Jordon, McCormack, Lovato, Wood.

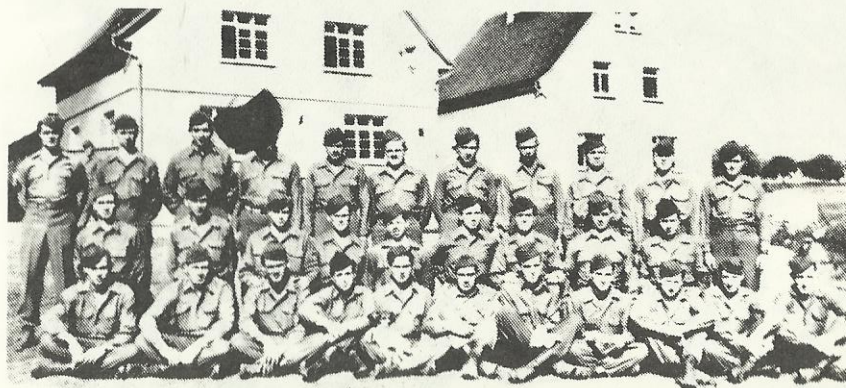


Fig 59 - Co A 3rd Pl.- (sit) Williams, Keeler, Reese, Kefer, Portsmore, Sirbaugh, Saunders, Garapedian, Logan, JP Cole, Orr:(kneel) WD Cole, Bell, Baker, Hawks, Lyle, Stack, Carbone, Knutson, Wallace; (stand) Boulos, Kuhlman, Eydenberg, Reynolds, Mooney, Chrisstensen, Dukate, Straham, Eskildsen, Devine, Rose.



Fig 60 - Co A Hq Pl.-(sit) Warren, Renfro, Kariker, Pozdol, Kiemel; (kneel) Beebe, Cloudman, Friedman, Frank., Cross; (stand) Hudson, Hunter, Pettigrew, Lawrence, Sempf, Shuldiner.

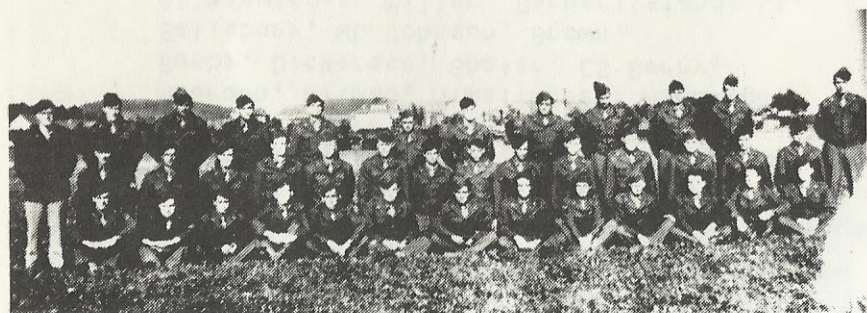


Fig 61 - Co B 1st Pl.-(sit)Sgt. Zielinski, Pvts Watson, Moore, Duncan, Chamberlsin, T/5 Eisentraut, Pfc Sosa, Fisher, T/5 Biermann, Pvts Davis, Kenny, Mireau, Cpl. Capps;(kneel) Sgt. Polacek, Pfc Carter, Blythe, Condotta, S. Mathis, M. Mathis, Harris, T/5 Lindensmith, Pfc Handley, T/5 Berg, Pfc Rogers, Wood, Cpl Renfro, T/5 Cohen;(stand)Lt. Osborne, Cpl Anderson, T/4 Seitz, Pfc Anderson, Bratman, Ingenito, Wickert, T/5 Holcomb, Pfc Bell, Griffith, T/5 Bonacker, S/Sgt Stiles.

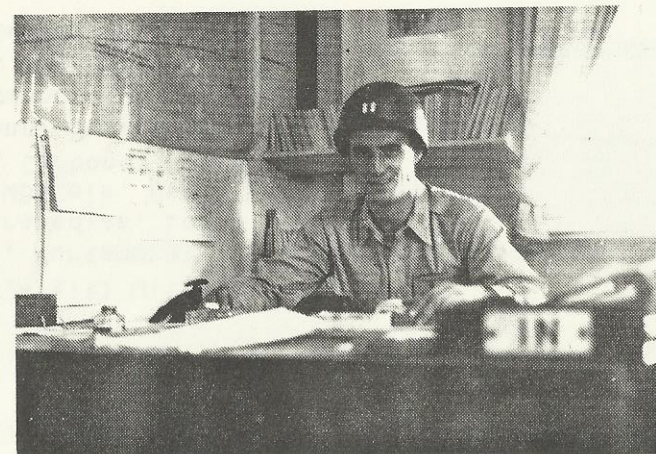


Fig 56 - Capt. Mike Regan, CO Co A
Mar. 1944 to Aug. 1945

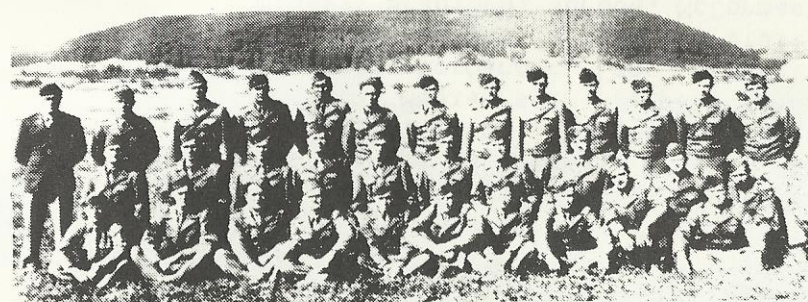


Fig 62 - Co B 2nd Pl.-(sit) Sgt Raymond, T/4 Saunders, T/5 Halsey, Pfc Wiseman, Dittemore, Haney, Morgan, Stapelton, Abramo, Cpl Ensign;(kneel) Sgt Leel, Pfc Porga, T/5 Kluck, Pfc Bergstrom, Biles, Ogletree, Arguin, Pogrebeck, Faber, Cpl Hill;(stand) Lt OKsa, Sgt Wessel, T/5s Brazeal, Dye, Pvts Monroe, Nolte, Rensch, Leingang, Cohen, Adams, Link, Womack, S/Sgt Walker.

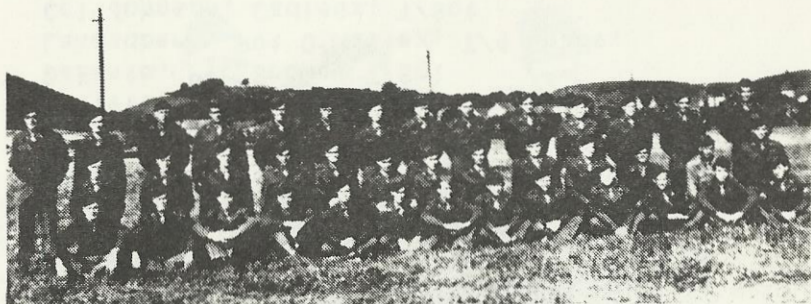


Fig 63 - Co B 3rd Pl.--(sit) Sgt Crawford, Pfc Gatermann, T/5 Fife, Puts Leigland, Barnett, Borgmier, Smith, Gibbens, Meyer, T/4 Bugg, Pfc Naecker, Cpls Bohrer, Buie;(kneel) Sgt Tibbs,T/5 Gawronski, Pvt Layton, T/4 Lashley, T/5 Clifton, Pfc Jennings, Byler, Edwards, Masrkman, Hancock, Tusso, T/5 Chadys, Cpl Ethridge;(stand) Lt Frank, Sgt Glassman, Pfc Scott, Rowe, Meekins, Hazelwood, Tuesdale, Schram, T/5 Holland, T/4 Arnold, Pfc Bender, Morianity, Casteldine, S/Sgt Russo.



Fig 64 - Co B Hq Pl.--(sit) S/Sgt Grimm. T/5s McIntosh, Phillips, Sgt Weber, Pfc Fletcher, Cpl Cheesman, Pfc Boettjer;(kneel) Pfc Campbell, S/Sgt Koster, T/4 McDonell, Pfc Gawne, T/4 Nelesen, T/5 Curran, Pfc Gibson;(stand) Capt Kyriacos, Lt Shabatara, Pfc Maruskin, T/5 Dransfield, T/4 Ames, T/5s Cotton, Lackipo, Pfc Brooks, Sumner, S/Sgt Rice, 1/Sgt Provost.



Fig 65 - Co C-1st Pl.--(sit) T/4 Curling, Pfc W0 Thomas, E Moore, Primavera, Homan, Boersma, McKee, Pierce;(kneel) Cpl Gorrilla, Pfc Kowalski, T/5 Benter, Pfc FE Cook, Abderhalden, Bibler, Ciampi;(stand) Lt. Wycoff, Cpl Ousley, Puts Williams, Edwards, T/5 Carver, Pfc Courval, T/5 Honeycutt, Puts Evans, Truyter, T/5 Pahdoco.

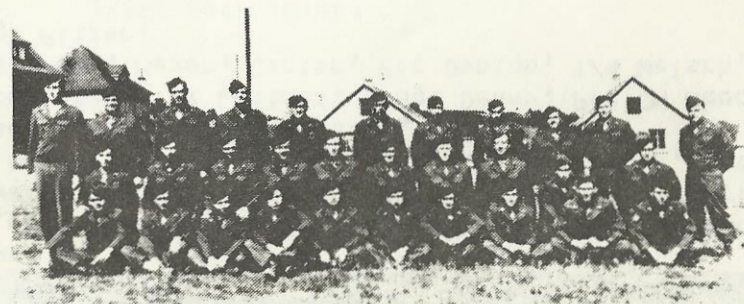


Fig 66 - Co C-2nd Pl.--(sit) Sgt Storms, Pfc Sweeney, Lederman, Cassidy, Ashley, Pracht, Rabe, Sherman, Stutts, T/4 McAfee; (kneel) Sgt Friedman, Pfc DeCausemacker, Darity, Sarfaty, T/5 Hemple, Pfc Chestnut, Hosick, Chulada, Wong, Cpl Dabrolet, S/Sgt LaBelle;(stand) Lt Pence, Sgt Lotz, Pfc Roberson, McCrary, Tantalio, Thomason, . Dinman, T/4 Witz, Pvt Alizieri, Cpl Mathes.

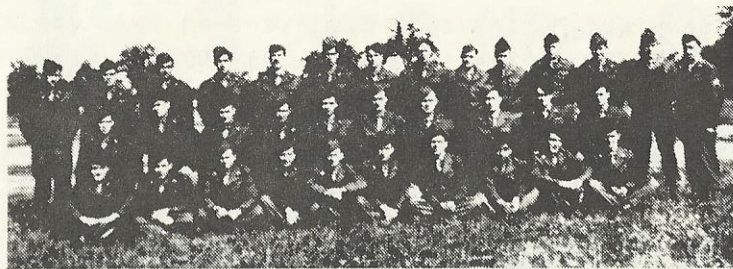


Fig 67 - Co C 3rd Pl.-<(sit) Sgt Brolo, Pvts Bobrow, Sullivan, T/5 Campanella, Pfcs Kelley, Burleson, Redwine, Columbus, T/5 DiMarco, Sgt. Armstrong;<(kneel) Sgt Evans, Pfcs Offutt, HC Woods, T/4 Grubbs, Pfc Everson, Liljedahl, T/5 Purvis, Pvts Friedman, Jones, Haas;<(stand) Lt Dingler,. Sgt Thair, T/5 York, Pvts Mansour, Griffin, Hill, Payton, T/5 Dishman, Cpl Bihm, Pfc Hedden, T/5 Henderson,. Pfc Roberts, Cpl McAllister, S/Sgt Marchione.

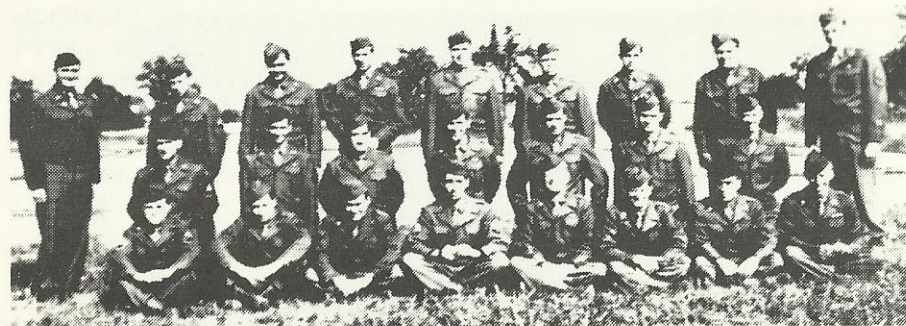


Fig 68 - Co C Hq Pl.-<(sit) S/Sgt Good, T/5s Chandler, Zumwalt, T/4 Morrison, Sgt Fulton, Pfcs Feldt, Wolfe, T/5 Helmer;<(kneel) S/Sgt Youngbeck, Sgt Acker, Pvt Hirsch, T/5s Shrader, Austin, Griggs, Pfc White;<(Stand) Lt Lottman, S/Sgt Denny, Pfc CN Wood, T/5s Brown, Meyer, Carter, Pfc Denton, T/4 Welsch, 1/Sgt Pitzer.

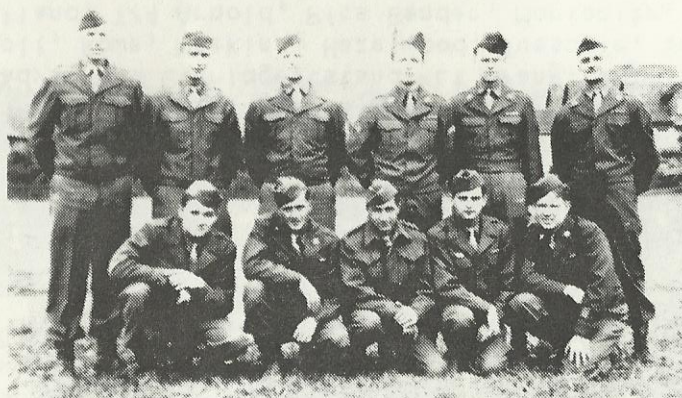


Fig 69 - H/S Co S-1 Sec.- Pvts Daniels, Flynn, T/4 Lucadamo, T/5 DeSanto, Pfc Brown, T/Sgt Landsdberg, Pvt O'Malley, T/4 Shade, Cpl Johnson, Cadieux, T/Sgt Eilenstein.



Fig 70 - H/S Co S-2 Sec.- T/5s Olsen, Curley, Capt. Barmettlor, T/Sgt Shattuck, S/Sgt Wilson.



Fig 71 - H/S Co S-3 Sec.- Pfc Lustberg, T/4 Lova, Sgt Davis, Maj. McLean, Lt. Gillenwater, M/Sgt MacDonald.

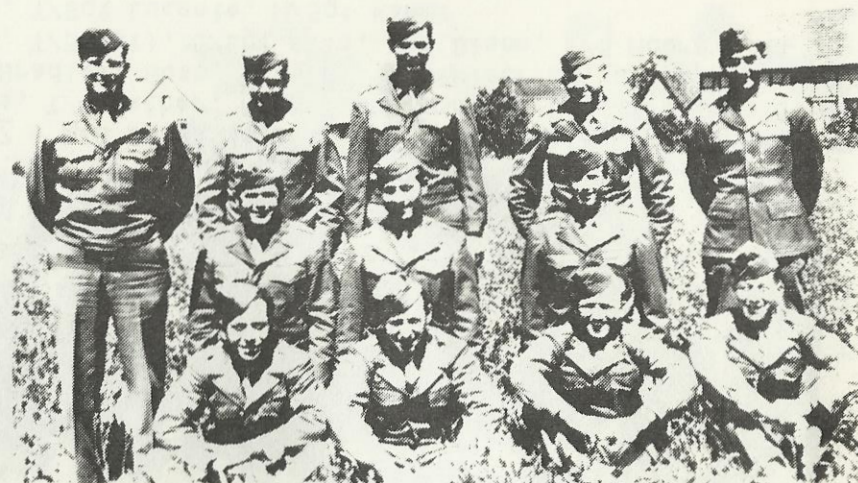


Fig 72 - H/S Co S-4 Sec.- T/5 Mucaria, Pfc Schell, Darby, T/5 Nelson, S/Sgt Wolmer, T/5s Lundeen, Glassman, Capt. Cason, Cpl Arganbright, Pfc Golden, T/5 Dowd, T/Sgt Shahrigan.



Fig 73 - H/S Co Comm. Sec.- T/4s Haller, Spiegle, Johnson, T/5 Strzelczyk, T/Sgt Finkelstein, T/5s Duncan, Garbaty, T/4s Ozvath, Frye, T/5 Weiner.

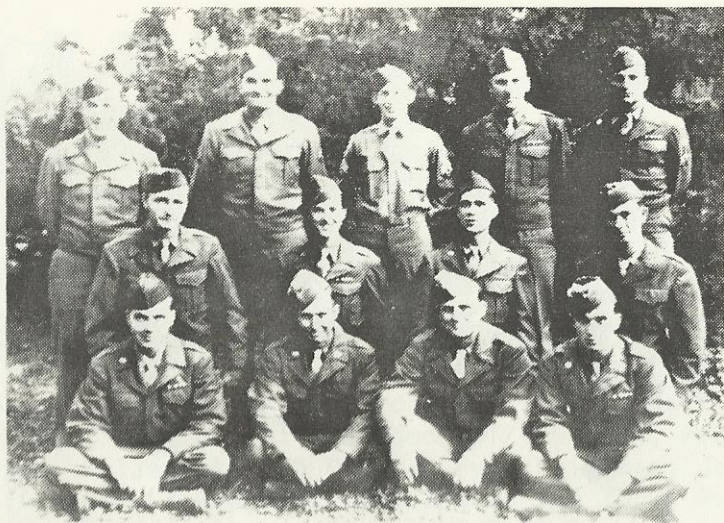


Fig 74 - H/S Co Water Supply Sec.- Pfc Wingfield, Waldrup, Richardson, Aldon, VanDruff, T/5s Arsenault, Hutson, Pfc McIntyre, WOJG Toomey, T/5 Lantz, T/4 Hardaway, T/5 Pack, T/Sgt Romberg.



Fig 75 - H/S Co Recon. Sec.- S/Sgt Morrison, Pvt Wesolek, T/5 Wallmsley, S/Sgt Ryder, Lt. Leach, T/4 Klingelschmitt, T/5 Beck, Pvt Thompson.

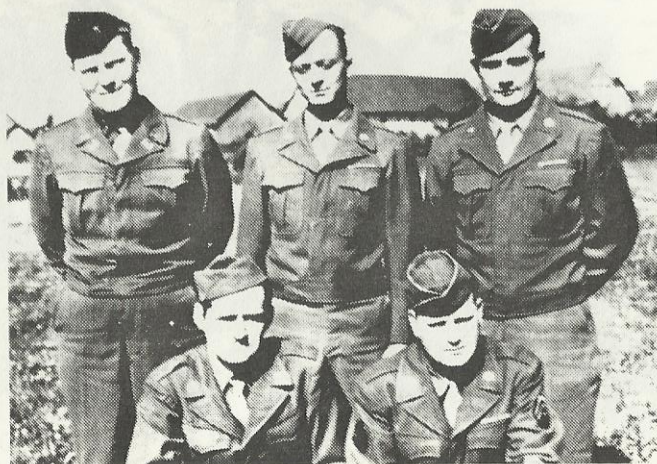


Fig 76 - H/S Co Ade Sec- Pvt Ryan, T/5 Hannon, Lt. Dorn, Pfc Lee, Sgt Peterson.



Fig 77 - H/S Co Bn Motor Pool- T/5 Gentile, T/4 Coram, T/5 Barnes, T/4 Cathey, Pvts Tyson, Mustacchio, T/5 Edmonds, T/4s Bradley, Goss, T/5s Killy, Friedrich, Lt. Kaplan, WOJG Seidl, T/5 Hall, S/Sgt Akin, T/4 Olson, T/5 Moore, T/4 Kolas, T/Sgt Lucente, M/Sgt Kane.



Fig 78 - H/S Co Hq.- T/5 Cuttillo,
Pfc's Guest, Hopson, Spiwa, Chepin,
T/5 Keltz, Pfc Carrow, S/Sgt
Calvert, Pfc Tinsley, Huber, 1/Sgt
Wehrle, S/Sgt Drake, Pfc's Tomkins,
Jacobs, T/4 Rubin.



Fig 79 - H/S Co Med.Det.- Pfc's
Forbes, Seege, T/5 Allen, S/Sgt
Maynard, Cpl Wheelock, T/5 Bryant,
T/3 Vitale.



Fig 80 - H/S Co Officers- Capt. Middleton,
Lt. Kaplan, WOJG Norman, Toomey & Seidl.

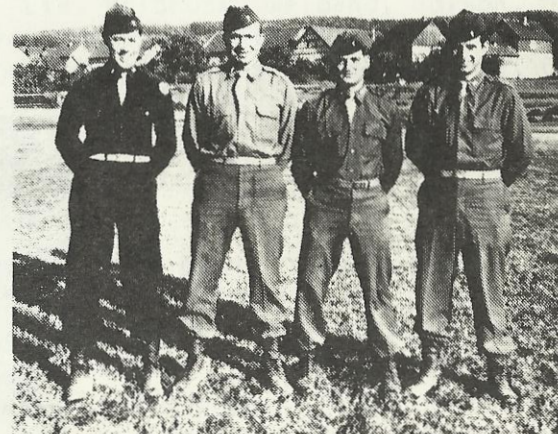


Fig 81 - Co A Officers- Lts. Hall, Wilkens,
Hassel, Dentz.



Fig 82 - Co B Officers- Capt. Kyriacos, Lts. Osborne, OKsa, Keenan.



Fig 84 - Bn Staff Officers- Lt.Col. Purcell, Majs, McLean, Hammersmith, Cpts. Barmettlor, Cason, Dvoretz, Lts. Dorn, Leach, Mahoney.



Fig 83 - Co C Officers- Lts. Peters, Dingler, Lottman.

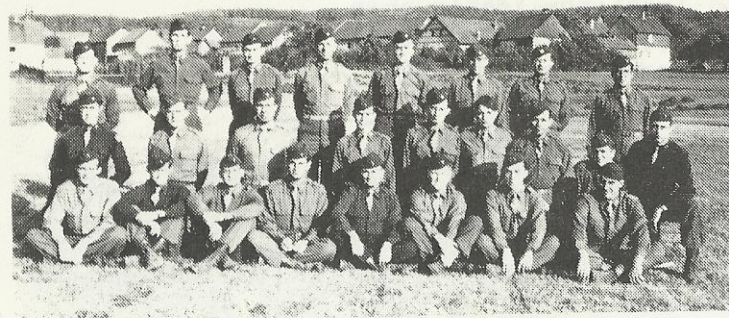


Fig 85- Bn Officers- (sit) Lts. Keenan, Dingler, Hassel, Dentz, Lottman, Dorn, WOJG Toomey, Seidle; (kneel) Lts. Hall, Osborn, Wilkens, Peters, Kaplan, Leach, WOJG Norman, Lts. OKsa, Mahoney; (stand) Cpts. Dvoretz, Middleton, Barmettlor, Maj. McLean, Lt.Col. Purcell, Maj. Hammersmith, Cpts. Cason, Kyriacos.



Fig 86 - Officers party- (l-r) Maj. Hammersmith, Lt. Hassel, Capts. Kyriacos, Dvoretz, Lts. Hall, Wilkens, Keenan, Osborne, Maj. McLean, Lts. Peters, Lottman, a visitor, Capt. Barmettlor, Lts. Oksa, Kaplan, WOJG Norman, Lts. Mahoney, Dorn, WOJG Toomey, Seidl, Capt. Cason, Lt.Col. Purcell.



Fig 87 - Officer party February 1946-(sit) Lts. Johnson, Thompson, Capt. Felbon, British visitor, Capt. Foster, Lt. Atkins, Capt. Voss, Lt. Malten;(kneel) Lts Gibson, Thompson, Maj. Nagy, Lts. Holbrook, Weigand, Edison, Mahoney, Wilkens, Capt. Hall;(Stand) Lts. Pierce, Branges, Crockett, Hylander, Buckley, Capt. Strauss, Lt Osborne.



Fig 88 - Reunion of former members of the 138th ECB-Seoul, Korea, 4 July 1952-Capt. Stanford, Slager, Maj. Nagy, Lt. Weigand, Capt Branges.



Fig 89,90- 115th General Hospital, Kassel

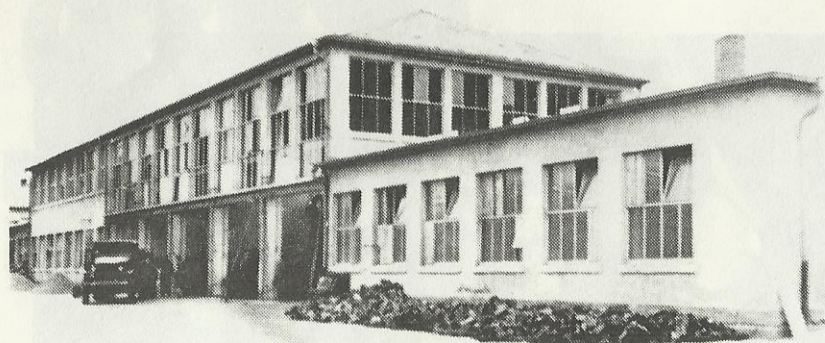


Fig 91,92- 280th Station Hospital, Marburg.

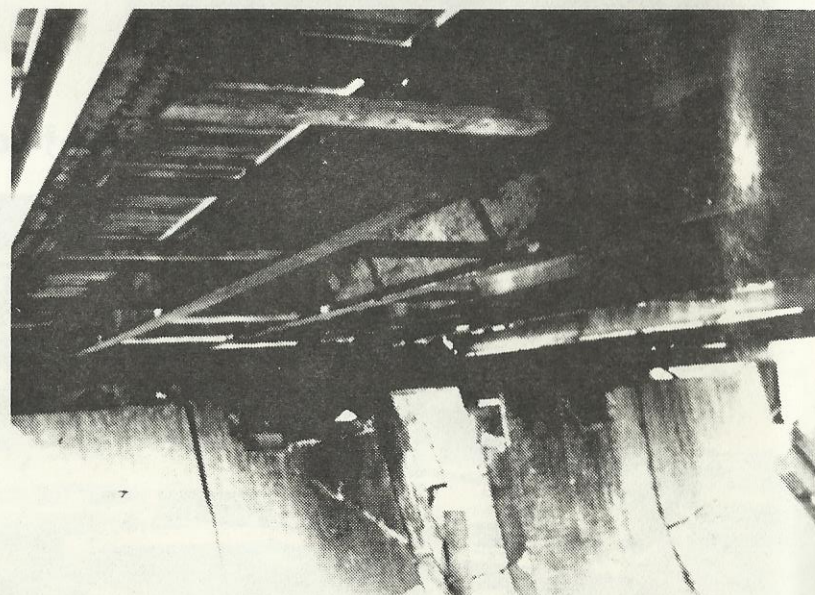
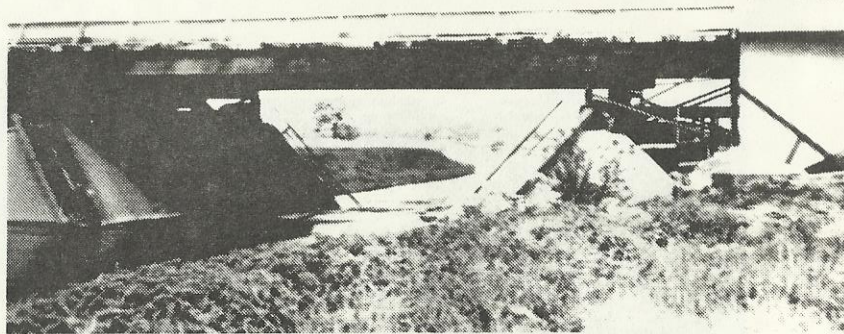
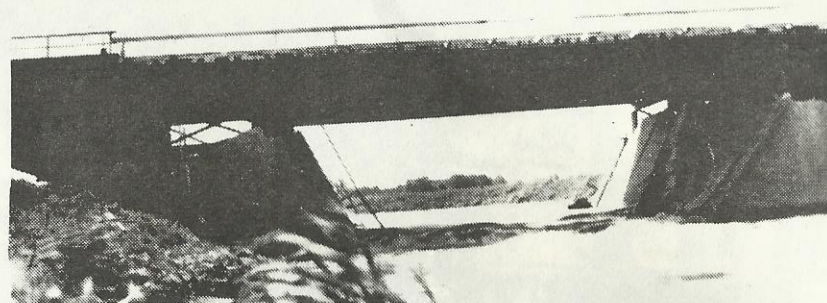
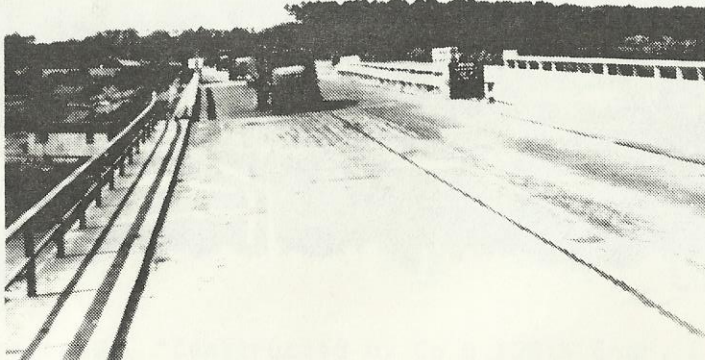


Fig 93,94,95,96- Leine River Bridge

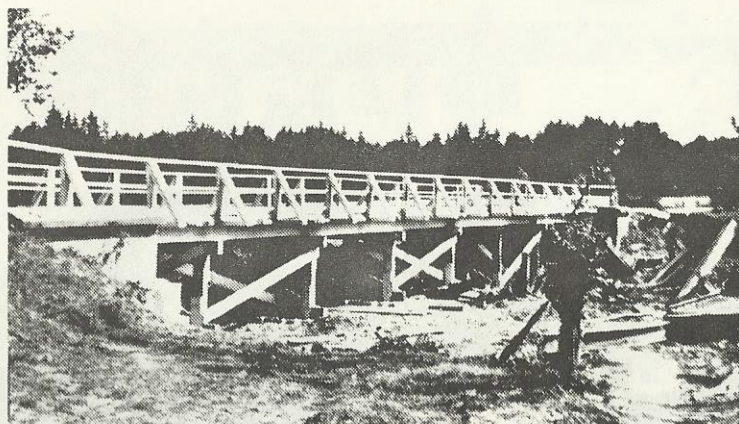


Fig 97,98- Muhlen River Bridge (Herzberg)

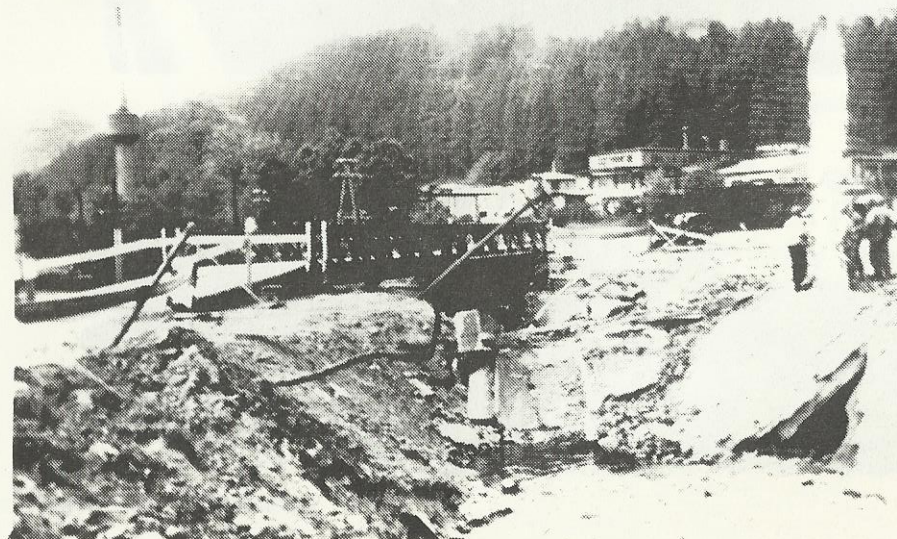
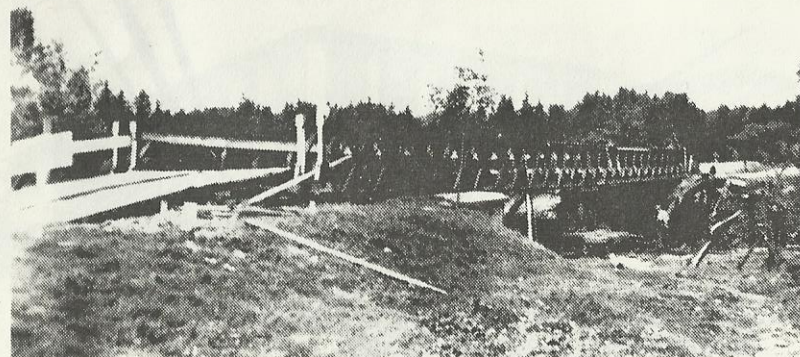
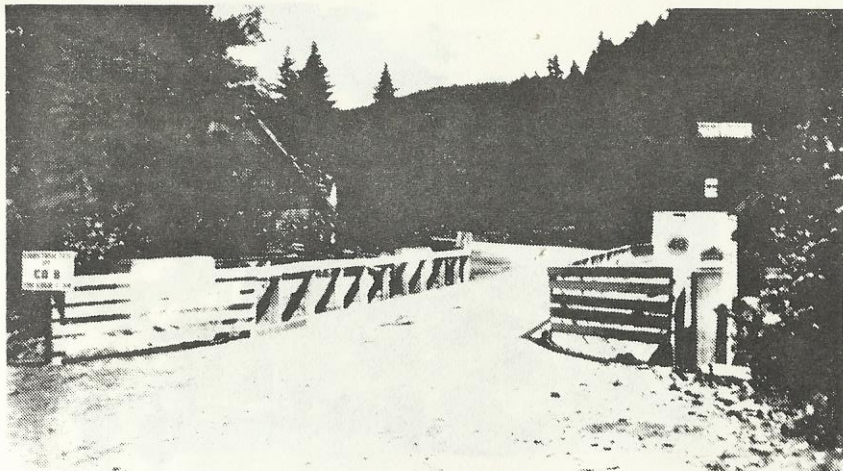


Fig 99,100- Oder River Bridge (Bad Leuterberg)



sign reads, "Constructed by Co B 138th Engr. C Bn"

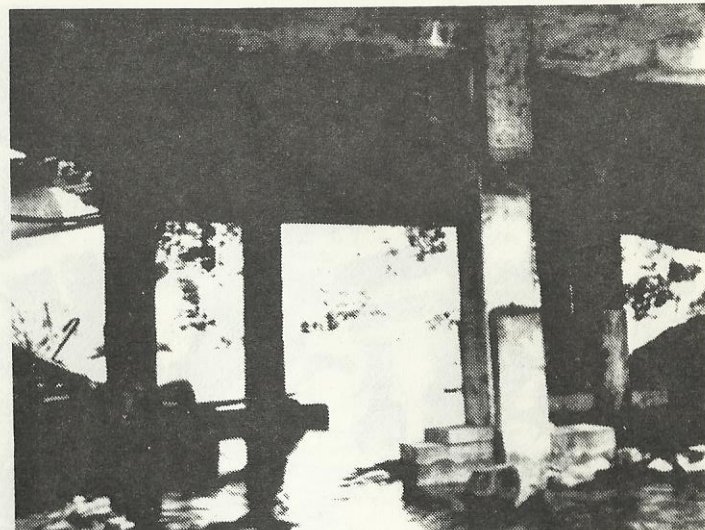


Fig 101,102,103- Oder River Bridge (St Andreasburg)

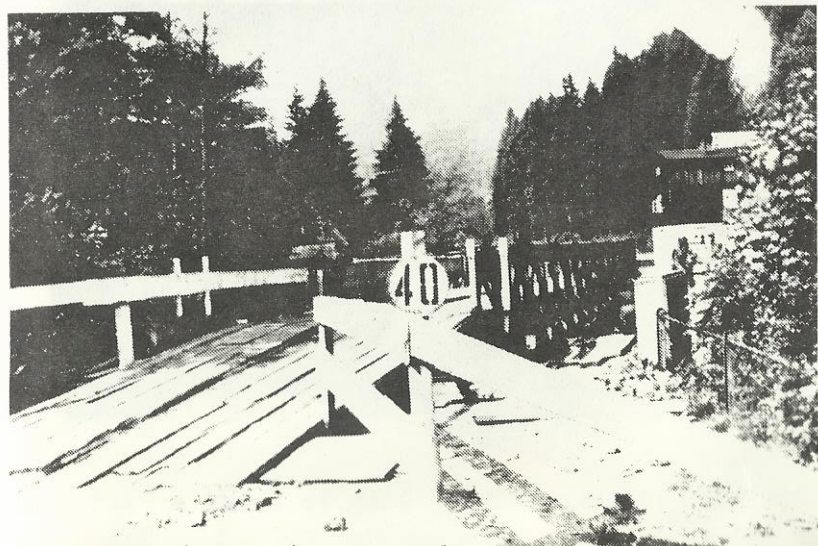


Fig 104- Fraternization
some place in Germany!



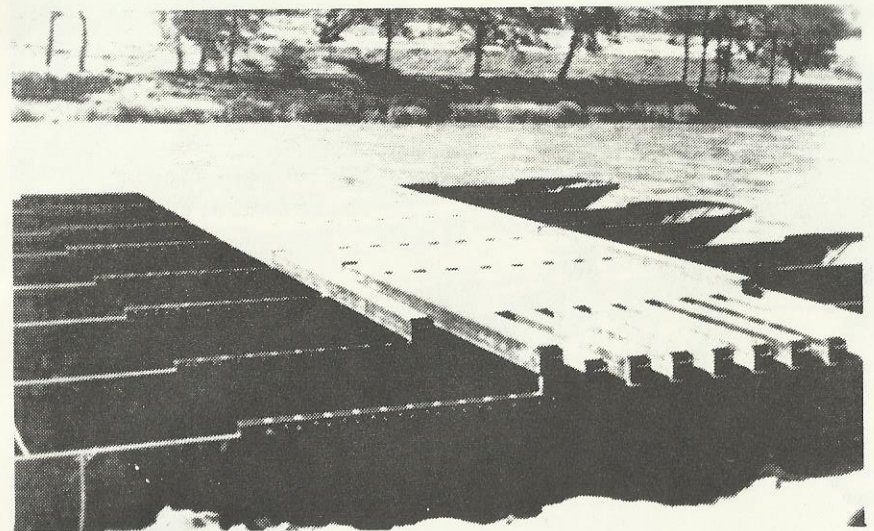
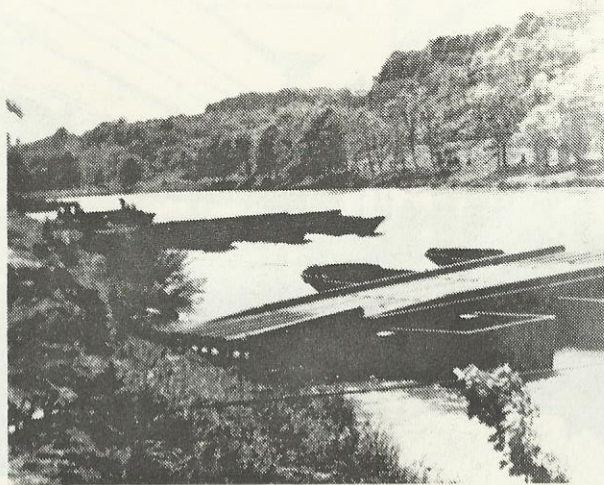


Fig 105,106,107,108- Bridge Training School on the Danube River
27 May to 16 June, 1946

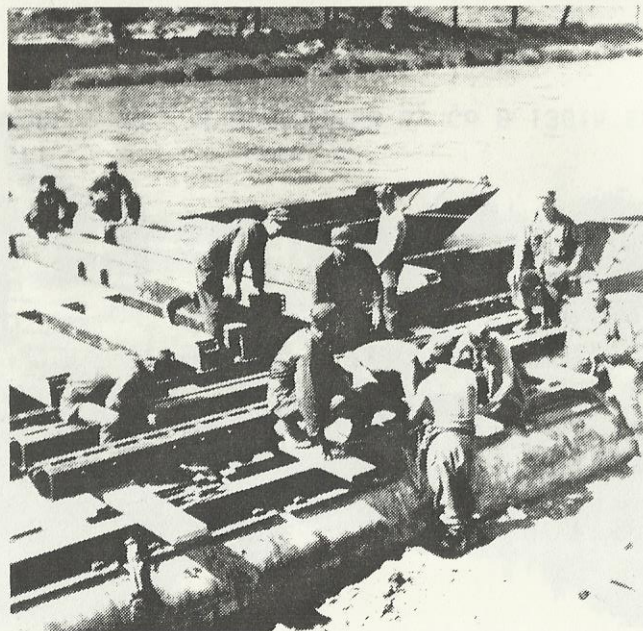




Fig 109- Engineer Castle used at Bn HQ,
Augsburg, Germany.



Fig 111- A bunch of good looking men, but who are they??



Fig 110-Learning to ski. Dec. 1945
Castle of Countess von Poschinger-Camphousen
T/5 Beck, Pfc Sterenchols, Pfc Howard, Sgt Zeleznik.



Fig 112- Auditorium, Infantry Kaseren.



Fig 113,114- Fence repair, Infantry Kaseren

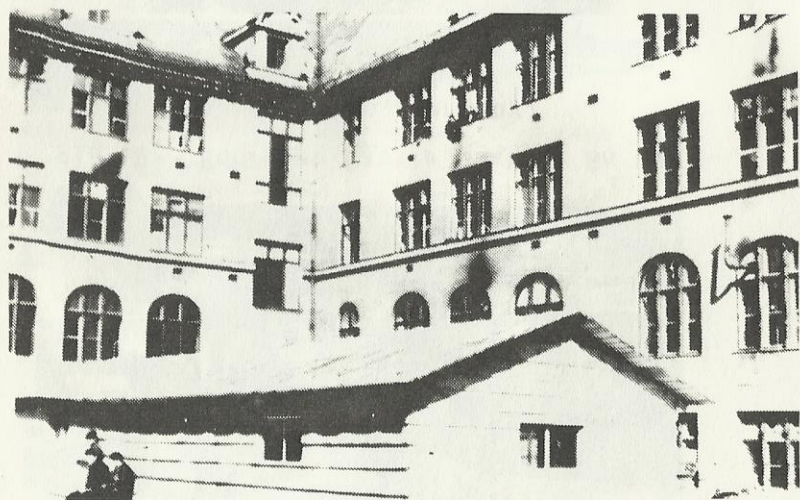


Fig 115- Washroom in foreground, Kapeilen Schule.



Fig 116- Fence construction, Hindenburg Kaseren.



Fig 117- Window repair, Messerschmidt



Fig 118- Stables at the Somme Kasernen.

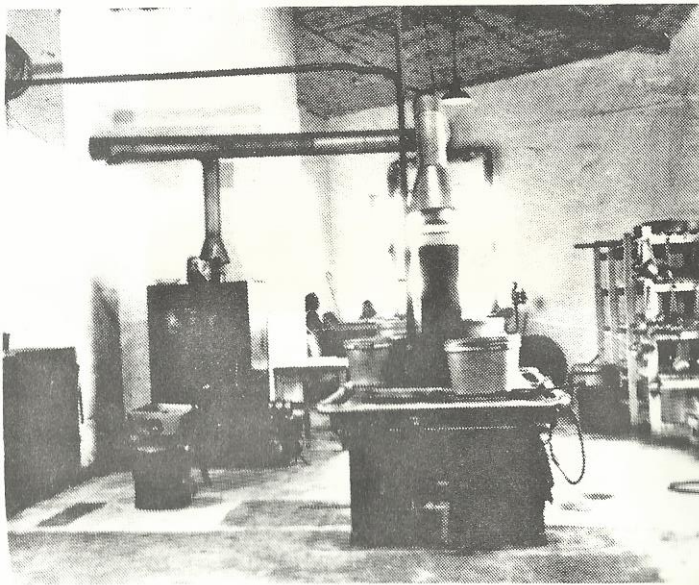


Fig 119- Plumbing for hot water in kitchen, Messerschmidt.

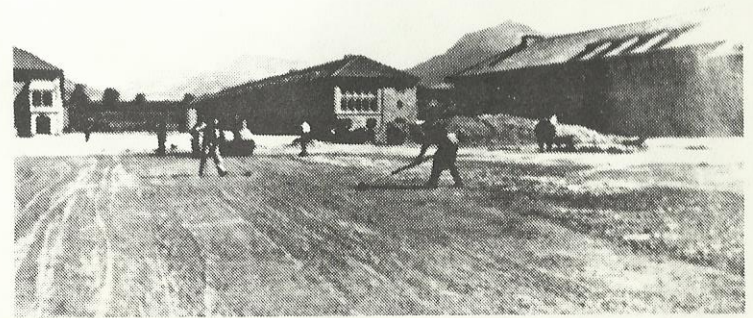


Fig 120- Hard surface for Red Cross at Augsburg.