

FIRE IN THE HOLE

305TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION



VOL 1

AUGUST 4, 1945

NO. 6

Beneath this sign pass - - -



The entrance to "The Castle", Battalion recreation area. Last Monday at 1000 hours, the first group of 50 enlisted men started registering for the first two day rest period. A continuous rotation policy between the companies will be in effect from now on.

BATTALION CARPENTER SHOP OPENS IN MARKT OBERDORF

If anyone has wondered what the sign on a tree on the Kempton road in Markt Oberdorf means, follow it's arrow and you will find yourself looking in on the Battalion's new carpenter shop. The shop was just opened this week under the supervision of the S-3 section. T/4 Sauer of A Co is foreman, and he is ably assisted by T/5 Dutko, T/5 Pierce and T/4 Hoagabone all of H&S Co.

The shop was set up to meet the demand for all sorts of carpentry jobs needed by the Battalion, and jobs required of us by the Division. One of our future projects will be the construction of many packing boxes to be used when we sail for home.

The Workshop is roomy, has two circular saws, one band saw two planers, and numerous other tools, all electrically powered. The above four men are the permanent crew of carpenters. For larger jobs, more carpenters will be drawn from the line companies.

The shelving for the soon to be Battalion library has just been completed, and the shop is currently turning out boxes for shipment of gas masks. Our next project will be the construction of truck bows for our 6 by 6's, due to the large number damaged in combat which cannot be replaced through supply channels at the present. The fine workmanship on A Co's new shuffleboard table was done at the Battalion shop. The shop will also be used for On The Job Training, so here's wishing our new "child" (no twelve points) a bright future.

LAST ISSUE

The funds we have been using to print "Fire In The Hole" have been exhausted. Therefore this will, for a while at least, be the last issue. We have applied for permission to operate on a subscription basis, and our future action will depend upon whatever answer we receive.

BATTALION LIBRARY TO OPEN SOON IN MARKT OBERDORF

Men of the 305th Engineer Battalion will soon have available a modern, up to date library. It will be located on the main square in Markt Oberdorf, and the hours will be planned at the convenience of the men.

The library is, according to present information, to consist of 500 volumes of all sorts including classics, history, and fiction. In addition to the regularly bound books, there will be a supply of pocket size books available. The librarian will be T/5 Cohen from H&S Co.

Lt. Perlmen is making every effort to get some comfortable furniture for the room, as it will also be used as an orientation center. War maps and charts will be prominently displayed and they will be kept up to the minute by the librarian.

"ALL IN FUN" TO PLAY FOR ENGINEERS ON AUGUST 6

"All In Fun" will appear at the Battalion theater in Markt Oberdorf on Monday, August 6th for the entertainment of the 305th Engineers and the 317 Infantry.

A Division Special Service production under the direction of T/5 Kruger Muse, the show features popular "Blue Ridge" buffoon and funny fiddle man, T/5 Joe Torchia of the 80th Signal Co, and our own "Scottie", singing star from B Co.

Also included on the bill are many other dancing, singing, and novelty numbers by members of the Division. Music for the show is furnished by the Division Band's "Hit Paraders".

Advance reports indicate that the revue is one of the finest soldier shows in this locality and we are looking forward to an evening of music and laughter, this coming Monday night.

Forty four men from B Co. authorized Presidential Unit Badge

Forty four men from B Company comprising the first platoon, have been authorized to wear the coveted Presidential Unit Citation, by order of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction.

OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL STUDY GREATLY INCREASED

Markt Oberdorf, Aug. 3. Engineer Headquarters announced this morning that there would be greatly increased opportunities for men to study subjects of their own choosing.

Although a large part of the program will consist of "On The Job Training", there will also be daily classes in the French and German Languages. The Language classes will be held for one hour each day, and a full course will consist of 120 hours.

Consult your First Sergeant or Company I and E Officer for additional information on the subjects available.

LT. COL. McCOLLAM'S FATHER IN LAW WITH BILLY CONN SHOW

One of the principals in the Billy Conn Sports Show that played to 80th Division troops in Kaufbeuren last night, was "Billy" Cavanagh, nationally known boxing referee, and father in law of Lt. Col. McCollam, Battalion Commander.

The citation, awarded to the 2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry Regiment, covers the period from 25 to 28 December 1944, and includes all units attached to that organization during that time.

On Christmas eve a task force was formed in the vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, for the purpose of going to the relief of the besieged defenders of Bastogne. The first platoon of B Company, led by 1st Lt. Arthur Henke, was chosen as the engineer complement for the task force. Leaving their point of origin shortly after dusk, the long ride was accomplished in bitter cold weather over icy, snow packed roads. The Engineers arrived at their destination about 3 A.M. Christmas morning, tired and cold, but ready to perform their duties.

What happened on Christmas Day and the two succeeding days has already been told a thousand times, and will live forever in the annals of American courage, as a bright chapter in our struggle for world freedom.

(Cont on Page 4 Col. 3)

The World at Large

Japan — Raids by US and British carrier planes and B-29's continue unabated. A new plane, the B-32 is now in action against Japan.

Shanghai — 300 bombers attacked this town for the fourth time.

Potsdam — Big Three conference ends. Last peace offer made to Japan on July 26th, and was rejected on July 30th by Premier Suzuki.

England — Labor won sweeping victory in elections. Atlee, now prime minister, will attend future conferences in place of Churchill. Labor won clear majority of seats in Parliament.

Washington — Senate approves United Nations Charter with only two dissenting votes.

Borneo — Jap troops withdraw to area 60 miles north of Balikpapan.

New York — A B-25 crashed into the 79th floor of the Empire State Bldg.

Paris — Marshall Petain's trial continues.

From the USA — The war to date has cost us 325 billion dollars.

SNOW AND SHELLS

January was for the most part, a month of defensive action and preparation for attack. H&S spent the greater part of the month in Bissen, A Co. in Merzig, B in Chateau de Birtrange, C in Heiderscheidgrund. Snow covered the ground all the time, and a fresh snowfall every day was the usual occurrence, necessitating the almost constant use of sanding crews. Enemy artillery was exceptionally heavy during this period and the company's CP's received an unusual number of shell bursts in their vicinities.

All the line companies prepared obstacles and abatis, and detailed squads for the purpose of guarding them. "A" Co. made wooden covers for machine gun emplacements, and carried them to the front lines under cover of darkness, because of heavy enemy mortar fire. "C" Co. supported the 319th Inf. in an attack on Goesdorf, Dahl, and Nocher. After the objective had been reached, they prepared defensive positions for an expected counter attack.

Lt. Smith and a patrol from B Co. completed demolition of a bridge east of Ettelbruck across the Sure river. All the line companies constructed, for the infantry, dugouts in the frozen ground. Many mines were removed by C Company in the vicinity of Bucholtz, and the snow made the task a particularly hazardous one. Engineer

No Trains Today.



Blown bridge across the railroad and Sure River at Ettelbruck, partly demolished by men from B Company. For a change, these kind of scenes in January represented the handiwork of our own engineers, instead of the Heine's.

patrols operated frequently and much valuable information was gathered in this manner.

On Jan. 15th, the third platoon of C Company had a very uncomfortable night when an artillery shell tore through the wall of their room and bounced around a while, but failed to explode. On Jan. 26th, six men from A Co. spearheaded an attack of the 319th, with the mission of doing any engineering work that might speed the advance of the infantry. Men from B Company constructed runways for the Division Artillery planes.

Even though we were largely on the defensive, each company made four or five moves during the month, and a few thrusts here and there found us on the 31st not far from the Saar and Our rivers, on the other side of which, lay the Siegfried Line, our next big job.

BOOBY TRAP

A little story about Major Rawls and Captain Marshall that may be of interest. They attended a party, or something, at the officer's club in Wald last Saturday night, and all was well until they started on the journey home. They were riding along, contentedly discussing the evening's successes, when all of a sudden the vehicle coughed, sputtered, and came to a dead stop. The driver looked at them and shrugged his shoulders. A two mile hike was the next step. Now if the Captain had been in the Nurses Corps Major, we could understand your running out of gas, but with Marshall-- it beats us... Company C's S/Sgt. Cheeks takes a regular evening walk in the direction of Markt Oberdorf, and then in the morning stands revelling with his eyes closed. We can't decide whether it is the night air or some buxom blonde that causes him to exclude the harshness of an early morning formation from his thoughts.... The men from A Co will enjoy this: The frau-leins have been asking for a Dr.

Snerd, who is supposed to be proficient in taking care of sprained ankles. He also is a fresh air fiend and prefers life in a pup tent to the cozy comforts of the EM barracks at "The Castle." Harry Eggler returned from "The Castle" one night last week hanging over the side of the truck, and looking like a trapeze artist. That's why they have "cokes" Harry, for guys like you.... Some people pick the strangest bedfellows. A Lt. from C Company slept on some of the more odoriferous kraut cheeses for two nights before he found out why people avoided his companionship. Even your best friend "won't" tell you.... Cpl. Berka, A Co, was telling a frau lein that, "nix stripes, nix gute." The story goes on to say that he very soon discovered that two stripes "nix gute" either.... Pvt. Zedalis, A Co, must have sex appeal in his arm. "Shapecharger" Thompson in the dark of night kept running his hand up and down it, and thought it was what it wasn't.

AN EDITORIAL - - -

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Why do we attend the movies, or go to a stage show? The obvious answer is, to be entertained. At least a great majority go for that reason. But it appears that there is a minority who attend with another purpose in mind, that of "heckling" or disturbing others. Perhaps the stage shows we have had were not of the very best, but at least they represented an effort in the right direction. The entertainers have, within the limitations of their talents, done their best to please us. Common decency demands that we respect those efforts. If we find their performances unworthy of our applause, we should at least refrain from jeers and derisive "cat calls". Then too, there may be others in the theatre whose sense of appreciation differs from ours. It is there so that they may hear the dialogue and enjoy the acts. Then as a last resort we may always get up and quietly leave, when the disturbance is least likely to be noticed.

Needless chattering and small noises are even more disconcerting during a movie than while a stage show is in progress. The sound is none too good at it's best, and keeps whispering to his friend, or picture, it is almost impossible to follow the trend of the conversation on the screen.

It is all too true that life does become boring, and it is only natural that we should compare many things to what we were used to in the states. But really there can be no comparison. The situations are so different that it is unfair to criticize on that basis. It is our privilege to continually ask for improvement in the quality of the entertainment offered us, but it is definitely not our privilege to adopt a sarcastic attitude towards every presentation. We all want our rights respected even if these little things, but that we cannot deserve, unless we, in turn, respect the rights of others.

XX CORPS COMMAND SCHOOL OPENS IN FREISING, GERMANY ON AUGUST 10

Application to attend the new XX Corps school at Freising, Germany, have been submitted by several men in the Battalion. The school is of eight weeks duration and is open to all male military personnel of the XX Corps who will be present on the continent for the duration of the term.

The mission of the school is to provide training in vocational agriculture and academic subjects of high school and college level in which adequate facilities are not available in Unit Schools.

Although the Battalion quota is not yet known, we may be assured that it will be fairly high as the Divisional quota is 50 men.

This school is part of the rapidly expanding Army Educational Program.

Engineer Hero



T5 Harry Dressler

SILVER STAR WINNER

T5 Harry Dressler from C Co is one of our engineer heroes. While he and the rest of his squad were engaged in removing a mine field, they were caught in an intense enemy artillery barrage. Continuing to work alone, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, he persuaded his comrades to follow his example. Assuming leadership of the squad, he asked them to follow him into the barrage and remove the mines so that the infantry could advance. Inspired by his display of courage and devotion to duty, the squad completed the mission in spite of the heavy concentration of artillery.

We are proud of you Harry, and feel that the Silver Star you now wear reflects great credit not only upon yourself, but also upon the gallant soldiers who so nobly assisted you in the performance of duty.

CIVILIAN ATTENDANCE AT MOVIES GETTING OUT OF HAND

At first there were just a few Polish DP's who attended our movies, and no one objected too much to that, but lately one can see almost as many civilians as soldiers at our nightly shows. To obtain a seat you have to go rather early or you will find a large number of them occupied by German civilians. The "Heinie" men take their best girls just as though they had every right in the world to patronize the theatre. What suckers they must think we are.

Aside from objecting to their presence on general principles, their behaviour is sometimes very rude. Not being able to understand the dialogue, they become restless and start chattering among themselves. That makes the difficult job of hearing, even more difficult. They seem to be of the opinion that we came as ministers of good will, and for the purpose of furnishing them with entertainment.

I'm sure that none of us desire to watch a show while sitting alongside a former member of the Wehrmacht, yet that situation will exist very soon unless something is done to curb the ever increasing number of civilians who freely come to our Battalion movies.

Note: See T.S. Column

POET'S CORNER

ADDRESS TO THE JURY

"Gentlemen of the Jury", the Judge's speech began.

The scene, a crowded courtroom, the Judge a stern old man.

"The prisoner before you is a social enemy.

A lady of the evening, you know the penalty.

Don't let her beauty sway you, don't mind her ready tears,

Don't let her youth mislead you, she is wise beyond her years.

Her eyes reflect the red lights, her lips are thick with paint,

But I knew her mother Gentlemen, her mother was a saint.

No, she isn't like her mother, and yet she might have been

If it hadn't been for petting parties, cigarettes, and gin.

We took the night life off the streets, and brought it in our homes.

Our girls beat time with lipstick to the shriek of saxophones.

We made her what she is today, you know that very well.

Do you think it then your duty to send her to a cell.

When you're inside that jury room remember there and then,

That for every fallen woman there's a hundred fallen men.

Before you render verdict for whatever she has done,

Remember there's a man to blame, that man may be your son.

I plead with you for mercy, the testimony stands.

That girl is my own daughter, the case is in your hands.

OUR GREMLIN

OR

THE MOST UNFORGIVABLE PERSON I'VE EVER MET

By Pvt. Truesdale

This person, if he can be called that, holds the rank of T/5. For what, no one knows. He has blonde hair and blue eyes and appears harmless.

The first thing I want to tell you is this, don't let his appearance fool you. He can do you more harm than any beast living today. No, he doesn't practice judo or anything that will cripple you physically. His acts of demoralization and devastation are products of his twisted brain. The more miserable he makes a person, the happier he is. He has all the characteristics of Satan himself. The truth from him is something that occurs rarely, and when it does, you can bet it's going to hurt.

The air corps menace is the "gremlin", but our's is the "super gremlin". Aubrey Lewis of A Co. If you ever meet him you will never forgive yourself. His records reads; two psychic cases, three men with bald heads, two with grey hair, and two suicides. And I am just about to add one more to his suicide record.

PERSONNEL SECTION MOVES TO B'N CP

The Engineer personnel section consisting of Mr. O'toole, T/Sgt. Hull, and the various company clerks, has returned to the fold. Having been with the rear echelon since leaving the states, we are glad to have them with us once again. Their offices are in the right wing of the B'n. Headquarters building in Markt Oberdorf.



From C Company: Why is it that the only time we know anything about a good USO show being around is after we read it in the paper? We were under the impression that the RC club in Kaufbeuren was for the benefit of all soldiers in this area, yet we never have the opportunity of going there. Hal McIntyre played there one night last week for the Special Troops. Men from the other companies were furnished transportation, but we didn't even know a damn thing about it until the next day when we received a notice informing us that he would be there the night before. A hell of a lot of good that did us. Then comes Sunday when the fellows want to rest or write a few letters and what happens? They hold a must formation because there are two training films to be shown that most of us have seen enough times to know them by heart. Why don't they hold a few formations for some of this excellent entertainment that is being shown around Division Headquarters? Or at least notify us in time for us to make some preparations towards going.

From B Company: The food situation is really becoming critical of late. By the time firsts have gone around, there is a seconds line as long as the firsts, but alas and alack, there are no seconds to receive. We would like to know the cause of this curtailment of our food supply. If there is a logical explanation, we think we are entitled to know what it is.

From A Company: We understand that we are no longer permitted to go deer hunting. To many of us, hunting is a favorite form of pastime, and it sort of gripes to be told that we cannot hunt wild animals in a country which we conquered by force of arms. An explanation, please. Ed.: Permits will be issued for organized hunting trips, which will not exceed three days. Limit is one buck deer per season.

From A Company: The army has no qualms about putting signs up to keep G Is out of places, so let's get some "off limits" signs that say "entritt verboten" in front of the Battalion Theatre.

Fire in the Hole

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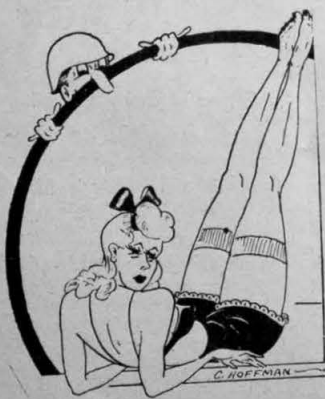
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BALD BEATS



ST. JOHN HURLS "C" CO INTO ENGINEER SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

305TH NINE SHADES 318TH 7-6

Hayes Homers; Costley Hurls
1-Hit Relief Job

By Sgt. Kushinka

Kaufbeuren, August 1. In a rain soaked contest, the 305th Engineer baseball nine put the skids under the 318th Infantry by a 7-6 count.

The game was nip and tuck throughout, with the score evened or changing hands no less than six times. A constant drizzle made the playing more or less makeshift at times, with the "doughs" committing eight errors, and the "shovel boys" two, but this was overshadowed by some fine hitting and brilliant pitching.

"Ace" Hayes, starting hurler for the Engineers, held the 318th in rein for six frames, but showed more prowess at the plate, having a perfect day. The crowning touch being his terrific four bagger into deep left center in the fifth, coupled with a resounding triple down to the left field foul line, and a sharp single to right for added thorns in the "dough's" sides.

Costley, Engineer's curve ball fireman relieved Hayes after six frames with the score tied 6-6, and turned in a brilliant one-hit relief role to take the credit for the win, his first of the season.

The Box Score

305th Engineers

Player	Pos.	AB	R	H	PO
Cento	ss	5	1	2	1
Gramlich	cf	2	0	0	1
Horky	cf	2	1	0	0
Hust	lf	4	0	0	2
MacLean	1b	4	1	2	5
Lewis	1b	1	0	0	2
Teague	2b	5	0	0	2
Snyder	3b	3	1	2	2
Pierce	3b	2	0	0	0
Rountree	c	4	1	2	8
Kareha	rf	4	0	0	2
Hayes	p	3	2	3	0
Costley	p	1	0	0	0

(continued in next column)

B COMPANY WINS VOLLEY BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

By Rochelle Rountree

Unterthingau, July 24. The most decisive volley ball game of the season was played here today determining whether Company C would tie for the championship. Co. B, who has played excellent ball all season still displayed their ability to win.

Rutkowski, "The Mighty Six's" ace spiker, led the team in scoring and paved the way to victory. The first game ended with a score of 21-13 in favor of "The Mighty Six".

The second game turned out to be a complete rout, with C Company never once threatening their opponents. The final tally showed Co. C with only five points, to B's 21.

The boys from Unterthingau take their hats off to the "champs" and congratulate them for their fine team and good sportsmanship.

319th Infantry

Player	Pos.	AB	R	H	O
McGuiness	2b	4	2	2	0
Scott	ss	4	0	2	1
Masio	3b	5	0	1	1
Destefano	1b	4	0	1	10
Lis	rf	4	1	0	0
Soloninko	cf	4	0	1	1
Knight	lf	4	0	1	2
Sewell	c	3	1	0	10
Lishko	p	2	2	2	0
Donafrio	p	1	0	1	0
Molley	p	1	0	0	0

305th Eng.	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	7	11	3
319th Inf.	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	6	11	8
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H

Errors: Cento, Teague, McGuiness, Scott, Masio 2, Soloninko 3, Sewell. Sacrifice Hits: Gramlich, Lis. Stolen Bases: Scott, Destefano, Lis, Soloninko 2. Three Base hits: Hayes. Home Runs: Hayes. Struck out by: Hayes 3, Costley 3, Lishko 5, Donafrio 0, Molley 5. Bases on Balls: Hayes 3, Costley 1, Lishko 0, Donafrio 0, Molley 0. Winning pitcher: Costley, losing pitcher, Molley.

Unterthingau, July 31. The crack C Co softball team, paced by St. John, their star hurler, set B Co down for the second straight night to win the engineer softball championship series.

C Company drew first blood in the initial frame when Gramlich scored from second on an error by Holvik. B Company tied it up in the third when Ellis scored on Kareha's double. But in the latter half of the same inning Glusic and Skalarsky got free ride from Hughes, and Kapolka hit a beautiful round tripper into left center to give the home team a three run lead.

B Co made a threat in the last frame but only managed to squeeze one run across. Frey walked, but Ruth hit a grounder to Baron that scored Frey on second. Matherne then singled, advancing Ruth to second. Holvik popped out, and Cento slapped out a hard single that scored Ruth. With the tying run on base, Hayes flied out to Gramlich ending the game.

The Box Score

C Company

Player	Pos.	AB	R	H	PO
Gramlich	cf	3	1	1	1
Glusic	c	2	1	1	4
Schneider	3b	3	0	0	2
Kapolka	2b	3	1	2	4
Baron	ss	3	0	0	3
Pierce	1b	3	0	0	6
Graves	scf	3	0	0	0
Miller	rf	2	0	0	0
St. John	p	2	0	0	0
Skalarsky	lf	1	0	1	2

B Company

Ellis	3b	2	1	0	1
Kareha	scf	3	0	1	2
Teague	2b	3	0	0	3
Frey	1b	3	0	0	8
Ruth	c	3	1	0	2
Matherne	lf	3	0	1	2
Holvik	ss	3	0	1	0
Knarr	rf	2	0	0	0
Hayes	cf	3	0	0	0
Hughes	p	2	0	1	1
Cento	rf	1	0	1	0

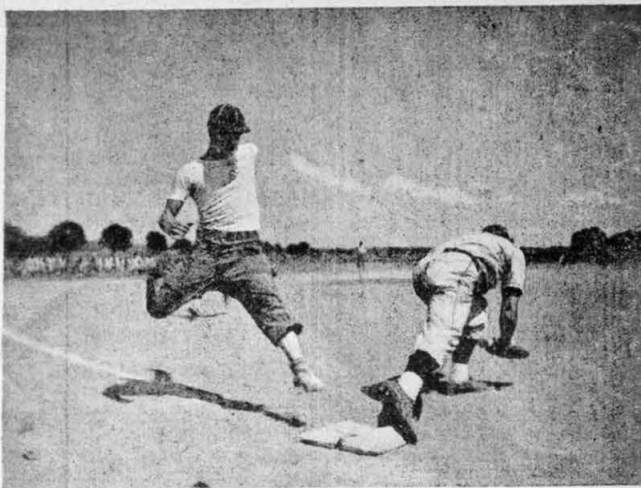
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
C Co	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	5	2
B Bo	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	5	2

Errors: Kareha, Matherne, Schneider, Glusic. Home run: Kapolka. Double: Kareha. Base on Balls: Hughes 1, St. John 2. Left on bases: B Co 5, C Co 3. Winning Pitcher: St. John. Umpires: Viscardi and Perorazio of H&S.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS OF THE SOFTBALL CHAMPS

Players Name	Pos.	Cam.	AB	R	H	%
Glusic	c	10	23	5	8	.344
St. John	p	9	25	3	5	.200
Backus	1b	5	15	7	6	.400
Kapolka	2b	8	25	7	8	.320
Schneider	3b	6	19	4	7	.369
Baran	ss	10	32	10	11	.344
Skalarsky	lf	9	24	3	6	.250
Michaels	cf	8	28	1	10	.357
Gramlich	rf	6	20	5	8	.400
Graves	sf	12	40	7	12	.300
Totals			251	52	81	.323

There's no doubt now.



This picture, snapped during the first inning of the game between the 318th Infantry and the 305th Engineer's on July 26th at Unterthingau, settles an argument that arose at the time. Although the man in the air, Horky from C Company, was called out, several people disagreed with the decision. The ball has just been caught by the first baseman, and the umpire was right. Final score: 318th-2 305th-0.

COMPANY C SMOTHERS B CO IN FIRST GAME OF SERIES, 8-6

Aitrang, July 30. The hard hitting, fast playing C Co softball team charged into Aitrang this evening and left the boys from B Co breathless and shaking their heads in bewilderment.

In the first inning, the visitors pounded Matherne for four hits and six runs, while batting all the way thru the roster. The other two runs were scored in the 3rd and 7th. B Co certainly did not look like championship material with such dependables as Teague, and Holvik booting the ball around like amateurs. Ruth connected in the 3rd for B's only hit of the game, a single to right field. Matherne gave up nine hits to St. John's one. Batteries: St. John and Glusic for C Co. Matherne and Ruth for B Co. Umpires: Viscardi and Perorazio H&S.

NEW BATTALION VOLLEY BALL SCHEDULE

Date	Teams	Place
August 1	A vs C	C
" 3	B vs C	C
" 6	A vs B	A
" 8	H&S vs A	H&S
" 10	B vs C	B
" 13	H&S vs B	B
" 15	A vs C	A
" 17	H&S vs B	H&S
" 20	A vs C	C
" 20	H&S vs C	H&S
" 20	A vs B	A

Games may be played in the afternoon or evenings, game time to be coordinated by companies participating.

REMEMBER

One year ago today, most of us were on the English Channel, on our way to France. Our steady diet consisted of "C" rations for breakfast, dinner, and supper.

The Channel was a little choppy but no one got too sick, or did they. Anyway, that little body of water would look pretty good to us now, wouldn't it?

"FIRE IN THE HOLE'S ALL STAR SOFTBALL TEAM

(We wanted to hold this until next week when we could print a picture of the team, but since this may be the last issue, we decided to run it without the photo. Ed.)

Company	Players Name	Position
B	Frey	1st
B	Teague O.	2nd
H&S	Perorazio	3rd
B	Holvik	ss
C	Gramlich	of
C	Baron	of
A	DiVivo	of
B	Teague W.	of
C	St. John	p
B	Matherne	p
A	Kushinka	c
H&S	Fine	c

Company	Players Name	Position
H&S	Christof	1st
A	Antonacci	2nd
B	Ellis	3rd
A	Witte	ss
H&S	Marshall (c)	of
A	Middlesworth	of
B	Kareha	of
H&S	Perambo	of
H&S	Hoffman (1t)	p
B	Hughes	p
C	Glusic	c
B	Ruth	c

PING PONG TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD SOON

Lt. Costley, new head man in the Battalion recreational department, says that he is making plans to hold a ping pong tournament in the near future. He requests that the various companies conduct eliminations and pick one man to represent each Co in the tournament.

Details, such as time, place and date have not been decided upon as yet, but the companies should begin making plans now to find their table ace and have him in good shape for the big finals.



Hal Too high.

WE LIKE IT TOO



HUZIT

Our "Huzit" this week is a very popular Private from A Company. He has been with the 305th ever since the balmy days of Camp Forrest, having entered the army on July 1, 1942.

In civilian life he kept the home fires burning by working in a steel mill in Gary, Indiana, his home town. Most of his time right at the present is occupied in developing pictures and acting as company photographer.

We never believed his tales about how he captivated the members of the opposite sex — that is up until now we didn't. But after casting our good "peeper" on the "work of art" above, we sort of think he may have been somewhat of a slayer. The "goil" in the picture writes to him every week, and we tried to get her address, but being a wise bird, he refused to make a statement.

(Answer in last col.)

YE OLD EFFICIENCY EXPERT!

This story is told about Capt. Pacheco, the calisthenics devotee. One day when he was givin basic training a recruit, running down the obstacle course suddenly pitched headlong and remained in the prone position.

"What's the trouble?" demanded Pacheco.

"I think I've broken my leg, sir", the recruit moaned.

Unthinkingly, Capt. Pacheco shouted, "Well don't just lie there wasting time, start doing push ups."

Incedentally Capt. Pacheco has been transferred to another outfit and has been temporarily replaced as H&S Co Commander by 1st Lt. John Mecham. To Capt. Pacheco we say farewell and the best of luck where ever you may go.

THE PADRE SAYS ---

Hello gang, perhaps you remember me, the Padre? I remember you very well. It is with a feeling of pride and pleasure that I accept this opportunity to chat with you in "Fire in The Hole" — your splendid little family newspaper. Did we not have something like this in the days at Camp Forrest? Well can I remember that fateful day in '43 at Camp Phillips, when, like a bolt out of the blue came the order transferring me to the 317th. What a let down after the fifteen day leave from which I had just returned. Honestly I can say it was very hard to leave you men whom I had the pleasure of welcoming into the Battalion, and watching grow into well trained soldiers, and playing and drilling with each day.

One little humorous incident of those days stands out above all others in my mind. It happened on the occasion of our first long hike, a fifteen miler, I believe. We had been on the march for about three hours in the rain and mud. The Padre had been at the end of the column. Suddenly the idea came to trudge forward a little. After I had wearily proceeded a short ways, the remark was passed by some worn-out and disgusted engineer: "G — — — there still goes the Padre!" Indeed, those were grand days and that's why I regretted so much in leaving you.

Although separated from you, my interest in the Engineers did not wane. I followed you closely, especially upon the field of battle, and glowed with pride at your wonderful engineering feats. You did a grand job. I do not suppose one will ever know how many mines you planted, how many of the enemy's you destroyed, how many roads you made servicable, how many road blocks you put up and destroyed, and how many rivers you put our doughboys across. What river in Europe has not the 80th crossed and because of the 305th Engineers?

Indeed, you men of the Engineers have done yourselves proud. Not small has been your contribution to the defeat of the enemy. And you have won the respect and admiration of every officer and man in the Division. Let me shake your hands.

Not only have you done well as soldiers, you have conducted yourselves in a becoming Christian manner. Many were the times that you bent every effort to attend religious services under the most trying circumstances of war. It is my one regret that we could not afford you more opportunity.

Now we are "sweating it out". During these days keep up the good work, and the fine record you have made. Be faithful to your duties as soldiers of America to the end. And now that peace has dawned in Europe, do not let God down. He brought you safely through the dangerous days. You needed Him then and you need Him now.

(CONT-NEXT-COL)

THIRTY TWO ENGINEER'S ATTEND "INFORMATION PLEASE" IN AUGSBURG

A quota of thirty two men, eight from each company, traveled by rail to Augsburg last night to hear the ETO version of the popular radio program "Information Please".

Produced by Dan Golenpaul, the show featured Beatrice Lille, John Kieran, Franklin P. Adams Clifton Fadiman, and Reginald Gardner.

"Bea" and "Reggie" kept the large soldier audience in almost continuous laughter with their brilliant display of good old American humor. Miss Lillie withdrew from the starring role in Billy Rose's New York production of "Seven Lively Arts", and a salary of several thousand a week to come overseas and entertain the soldiers. Mr. Gardner is also well known in the states, being recognized as one of the world's most accomplished monologists.

It was a good show, and the men who attended said that the quality of the entertainment more than compensated for the long ride.

The citation reads as follows:

(Cont from Page 1)

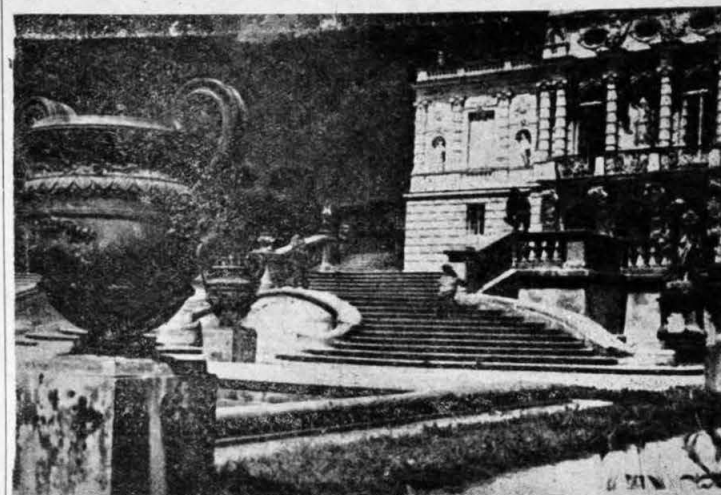
The 2nd Battalion, 318th Inf. is cited for outstanding performance of duty during the period 25 to 28 December 1944. The Battalion was heavily engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, when it was withdrawn from the front lines for the movement to the Bastogne, Belgium area. Its effective rifle fighting strength had been reduced to 200 men. Attacking on Christmas day after several days without rest, the Battalion began its assault of the enemy positions encircling Bastogne. Throughout the next four days and three nights, the depleted battalion battled its way in freezing temperatures through the strongly held woods and villages separating our troops from the besieged forces in Bastogne. The stubborn resistance of the enemy, and well dug in positions required constant use of the bayonet and hand grenade in their destruction. Suffering heavy casualties, constantly exposed to raking enemy machine gun fire and small arms fire from flanking positions, the battalion fought on with an unrelenting determination that overcame all obstacles, routed the enemy, and established contact with the forces within Bastogne. The aggressiveness of the heroic infantrymen of the 2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry reflects the finest traditions of the Army of the United States.

(Cont from Col. 1)

Remember the religious services in Markt Oberdorf each Sunday. Catholic Mass at 0930 in the local church, and Protestant Services at 0900 in the local theatre. Hope to see you there. So long for now and I'll be seeing you.

Chaplain Edward J. Comer
ADC

The "Mad King's" Palace.



The entrance to Schloss Linderhof, and a partial view of the palace itself. A fantastic affair, built by Emperor Ludwig II in the 1870's, it has long been a place of attraction for tourists the world over. This is one of the highlights of the Battalion Scenic Tour through Southern Bavaria.

Engineers of the 305th who are now entitled to wear the Presidential Unit Citation Badge

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Arthur G. Henke | 1st Lt. |
| Frank T. Lembo | 2nd Lt. |
| Edward F. Hofmann | 2nd Lt. |
| Kenneth B. Walters | S Sgt. |
| Albert J. Daunoras | S Sgt. |
| Russel A. Dunlavey | Sgt. |
| Marshall E. OnNeal | Sgt. |
| Opie V. Henson | Sgt. |
| Merle M. Duvall | Sgt. |
| George F. Simon | Cpl. |
| Oscar W. Charles | T/4 |
| John R. Evans | T/5 |
| Vinton C. Franks | T/5 |
| George J. Grever | T/5 |
| Michael V. Mattia | T/5 |
| Clayton M. Morrison Jr. | T/5 |
| Carl D. York | T/5 |
| John G. Turner | T/5 |
| Marvin E. Baines | Pfc. |
| Henry F. Brown | Pfc. |
| William E. Clifford | Pfc. |
| Robert M. Focht | Pfc. |
| G. W. Frazier | Pfc. |
| Harrison K. Hall | Pfc. |
| Joseph A. Kula Jr. | Pfc. |
| Hector A. MacDonald | Pfc. |
| Kermit R. Mengle | Pfc. |
| John Oravec | Pfc. |
| Wallace G. Ponder | Pfc. |
| Sydney C. Prince Jr. | Pfc. |
| Albert L. Salamon | Pfc. |
| Robert C. Schell | Pfc. |
| William A. Studd Jr. | Pfc. |
| Booker R. Sykes | Pfc. |
| William E. Weidman | Pfc. |
| Kenneth L. Carder | Pfc. |
| Charles J. Corley | Pfc. |
| Eustace E. Dunn | Pfc. |
| Jerome Goodman | Pfc. |
| Lloyd Marcum | Pfc. |
| Sam H. Phillips | Pfc. |
| Julius J. Pamfilie | Pvt. |
| Raymond F. Tice | Pvt. |
| Martin Voelp | Pvt. |

"FIRE IN THE HOLE" REPORTER WRITING ARTICLE ON THE GERMAN PRE INVASION PLANS.

We received a letter from Billy Roman, C Co. reporter, in which he states that he is in Etratat, France, and preparing an article for the paper, concerning the pre invasion defense plans of the Germans, and based on his observations during his trip back to England.

"Billy" was one of the fortunate few who left us a fortnight ago for eight weeks schooling in Merry Old England. He is studying journalism, and promises to write a few articles for us, keeping us informed on what the boys are doing.

SHORT BUT NOT SWEET

A late flash from the S-1 section informs us that the quotas for the Riviera passes have been reduced. Formerly the Battalion was authorized to send three men per week to the interationally famous pleasure spot, but under the new quota, we are allowed only 1. So if you haven't already been there, might as well forget those dreams.

T/4 Popovich, an earnest young soldier tells us he joined the Army for three reasons: he wanted to defend his country, he knew it would build him up physically, and third, they came and got him. — Isn't that reason enough.

BASEBALL FLASH

Unterthingau, August 3. The 305th Engineer nine defeated the 318th here this afternoon 3-2.

Answer - to Huzit
Pvt. John Zedalis

Printed weekly in Markt Oberdorf

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VELM
ARTE

