

"Somewhere between Argentan and Chalons-sur-Marne, Lt. (Russell) Litchfield told me he had been riding in a command car with his right foot resting on the camouflage netting that was on the right fender. At the time he was holding a 'Burp gun' with his right hand. The car ran over a bump and jolted him up out of the seat. As he was jolted he tightened up on the trigger and discharged a few rounds which struck near his foot. After that he changed his riding stance." --- Frank Lankford

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"Somewhere in France we (Hq Btry) had an inner tube that had a slow leak. I was trying to fix it but the hole was so tiny I could not find it. Finally Bill Wilkinson said he would find it. He put a lot more air into the tube and took it to a nearby ditch that was full of water. As he started to submerge the tube, it blew. It scared him so bad he fell head first into the water. Everyone but 'Wilkie' had a big laugh." --- Jim Trestik

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"Humorous incidents often relieved nervousness and tension. I believe this one occurred during the 318th's advance toward Bar-le-Duc from a detrucking point. It was getting dark and the infantry unit I was accompanying was walking along a road to wherever we were going. As the lead troops arrived at a small village or hamlet, the population, as usual, had turned out to greet the troops. The column halted. Wishing to know how long it been since the Germans vacated the area, the Inf. Bn, Ex. (who shall remain nameless) tried to question the people in some very hesitant and badly mangled French. They all started to laugh. The Major was very annoyed. Then a French speaking GI from the Hq Co came to the Major's rescue and explained to him that the people misinterpreted what he had said and thought he was asking for someone to sleep with him. There was much snickering among the troops." ---John Beard

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Somewhere in the Bar-le-Duc - Commercy area, the Division captured a train of German PX type supplies. Several people have mentioned items they "liberated" from it. Frank Lankford says he obtained quite a few packages of colored pencils or crayons which he sent home. John Beard got some cheap, pressed wood pipes and vile cigars. Francis Neighly obtained a large wheel of Swiss

cheese and claims it was the best he had ever eaten. Among the things Bruce Dunsha acquired for the "Hq" Btry kitchen were several large buckets of honey that looked like and was the consistency of lard. Anthony DiPangrazio recalled that he got one of the buckets from Bruce for his Liaison Crew and that the honey was delicious, especially on homemade French bread.

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I'll never forget when we came to the city of Bar-le-Duc after a fairly long motor march. The streets were full of people shouting, laughing, waving to us. It was wild. Suddenly, not far from where our truck was stopped, some French Freedom Fighters grabbed a woman and started cutting her hair and tearing off her clothes. Then she ran down the street with people hitting or kicking her until she disappeared from our view. Needless to say, we were all shocked. We were told that she had been living with a German officer and all collaborators were being treated that way. --- Francis Moon ---

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