



# The MIRROR

## ABLE REFLECTIONS

Company A 318th Infantry Regiment



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Saturday, August 18, 1945

## Miss Co. A Club News Contest

Our company has spirit and initiative to spare.

We've built ourselves a record which stands beyond compare.

At Regiment inspections we walk off with the bacon, and in I and E we lead them all in courses we are takin'.

Then, too, our little paper casts quite a fine reflection, and the faults of our fine softball team are too small for detection.

But to make the picture perfect, the thing we need is this —

We've got to balance up our hits, we've got to have a "Miss."

When our Company newspaper was first struggling to life and gradually developing into the paper that we in the company want, several fellows came forward with the engaging idea that a contest be run to pick out a "Miss Company 'A'". At the time not much could be done about it, but now the situation is more stabilized and the pleasant subject can be considered. Work has been put into the organizing of a contest and now all is ready. So here's the big picture.

Between now and next Saturday, the 25th of August, each man who has a picture of his wife, sweetheart, or girl friend, should but it in an envelope and bring it to Ed Pessen in the "Mirror Room." Nothing should be put on the envelope but on the back of the picture should be written the soldier's name, rank and serial number. Only pictures of American girls may be entered!

All entries must be in by 2400 hours on the date before mentioned, August 25th, and the judges, one man from each platoon and 1st Sgt. Dinkel, will decide on the three best pictures. In the following issue of "The Mirror", September 1st, the pictures that place first, second and third will be printed with the stories on the girls chosen.

There are prizes for the men submitting the winning shots. First prize will receive a pass to the Riviera; second prize, a pass to Paris; and third prize, a pass to the 80th Division rest area.

This is a golden opportunity for all men. For besides the fine pass prizes, it gives each fellow the opportunity to compliment, in a very tangible way, that certain girl that means so much to him.

So get your pictures in as soon as possible. Don't miss your big chance to accomplish two things at once in the easiest and most pleasant way possible.

## Company A To Kempton

On Sunday, August 12, our company was alerted, together with "B" Company and sent to Kempton to take over the guard posts while the 2nd Bn. went to take its turn at the field problem. One hundred and seven men went with Lt. Williams to carry out the detail which is made up mainly of road blocks. They are to be returning today, the 18th.

## NCO CLUB

On Wednesday evening, August first, the finest and most attractive NCO Club in the ETO opened its doors to an informal evening for the Staff Officers, Chaplains, and Company Commanders of the First and Third Battalions of the 80th Division's crack 318th Infantry. Unofficial comment overheard by anxious ears seemed to prophesy a rosy future.

The following evening was opening night, and members of the 3rd Battalion with their stripes gleaming brightly came in force to usher in a new era in the military life of the combat soldier. Unfortunately, practically all the members of the First Battalion were out in the hills and had to delay their festivities until Sunday.

First comers were pleasantly surprised to find an atmosphere entirely foreign to the expected. Gleaming linen, sparkling glasses, and American atmosphere lent an unbelievable reality to the occasion. Drinks were varied and plentiful. It didn't take long for the dining room to fill, and expressions of praise were to be heard everywhere. It was hard to believe that such a night club could be found so far from the good old States.

Things began to look up in the became brighter, many of our stripes are wending their way towards the Red and Blue Room where gaiety prevails.

The Club was organized with a representative from each Company on hand to start the ball rolling and formulate plans. The Presidency was placed in the capable hands of Cpl. Ernie Meyers. He's well known around Headquarters First and is a promoter who really has plenty of go. He's doing a bang-up job as can be attested by the great success of the venture. S/Sgt. Bob Murrell of "M" Company, and T/Sgt. Bob Haubner of "Able", hold down the vice-presidencies, while Cpl. Jack Stumcke keeps a watchful eye on the cash, and minutes.

Plans are well underway to scout both the Red and Blue Battalions for talent, including a small band or "Jam session," which will add much to the good old American atmosphere.

As this goes to press, plans are being made for some gala entertainment when members of both Battalions will be treated to entertainment by the famous Division Band. Other entertainment, as occasion permits, will be drawn to the largest spot in the Division.

## PFC CLUB 54

We present to you "Club 54", featuring music, entertainment, free beer, liquor for sale, and the added attraction of having no officers or non-coms present. The Club is located in the late E. M. Hall which has been redecorated to give our club "atmosphere."

It's your club and it is up to you Pfc's. and Pvt's. to make it a success. Both First and Third Battalions are represented—Let's make Company "A" its star member.

The grand opening of "Club 54" is set for Friday, August 17th, at 7:30 p.m., lasting until midnight. Entertainment will include the "Hamper Floor Show" and it's five piece band.

For further information, see Pfc. Ray Rabbitt in room 121. Any suggestions will be appreciated.

## JAPAN SURRENDERS



General Smythe (then Colonel) of the Division is shown during the surrender parley at Kassel. A German General and his aide are on the receiving end of General Smythe's orders. Story on Page 2

President Truman made the official announcement late Tuesday night, August 14th, that the Japanese had accepted the <sup>the</sup> terms and thus touched off a wave of celebrating in America that made Armistice day 1918 look sick. But immediately after the announcement of the cessation of hostilities he went on to say that the nation is now faced by an emergency as great as that on December 7, 1941. The reconversion of industry will jolt millions out of work, so that by Christmas 7,000,000 unemployed may well be the figure. Within two hours of the Japanese surrender, three important steps were put into effect.

1. Conscription of men 26 and over was ceased.
2. Plans were set into operation whereby 5 to 5½ million men will be returned to civilian life during the next year to 18 months.
3. All controls over manpower were relinquished by the War Manpower Commission.

The sensational news of the past week has amazed the whole world; here, after almost four long bitter years of war with Japan, in a period of a few days certain events came to pass each of which have opinions and analyses concerning the near future.

First, the atomic bomb, something out of "Superman" or "Buck Rogers" which just about wiped off the face of the earth the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and is so terrifying that it produced soberness and anxiety at home, at the same time that it raised the hopes of greatly shortening the length of the war. Next, only one day after this tremendous news, came word that the Soviet Union had entered into the war against "the Japanese Samurai," immediately smashing into Manchuria with 70 crack divisions of the Far Eastern Red Army. Lastly, and directly due to the combined effect of the first two bombshells, the thrilling news of actual Peace negotiations, of Japan's readiness to surrender.

The Japanese actually started their aggression in China 14 years ago in 1931. After an uneven campaign against the ill-equipped Chinese, Japan succeeded in annexing Manchuria. They stopped for a short time, meanwhile building up their war machine for the next thrust. Plenty of scrap iron was pouring into their melting pot from American steel firms during this phase despite the sober warnings of many so-called "radicals" that someday the steel would be shot back at us in the form of bullets.

In 1937 the machine again rolled into China, and this war has continued up to the present day. Part of the history must include her joining the "Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis" which was to set fascist rule up over the four corners of the earth, and finally on December 7, 1941, while her peace envoys Korusu and Nomura were bowing low to Sec'y of State Hull in Washington, when she set loose her war machine on Pearl Harbor. Yes, that was the beginning of the end, for the United Nations proved to be the strongest military and industrial combination the world has yet seen.

The Japanese people have been duped. But let us not think that they can not learn to live in the world as good neighbors. It is not a question of race, Japanese-American troops have been heroic at all times.

## Local News I and E News

By Sgt. Jack A. Neucks

Company "A" had Bn. guard Friday night and Saturday. The weather was cold, wet and altogether miserable. The result, no guard mount, no excitement, no casualties, except a few sniffs from the the guards that had walking posts.

The Regimental inspection was held as scheduled Saturday morning, with the Regimental C. O. doing the inspecting. Company "A" personnel were really dressed up and the billets were very neat and clean. To put it into a few words, "A" Company was on the ball, with the result that it was the best in the Battalion. The adage we used during the war, "A" Company can do it" holds true even now that we are occupation troops.

Col. Luckett asked quite a few questions as to the conditions here, and seemed really interested in what we had to say. The consensus was, "Not enough chow."

Last week Company "A" lost two more of its officers when Lt. Knapp, and Lt. Baker were transferred to the 17th Replacement Depot. Although they came to "A" Company after the hostilities had ended over here, they soon adapted themselves and became well liked throughout the Company.

Lt. Baker had charge of the 3rd Platoon, but we saw him very little, as the 3rd was having a rough time manning the road blocks.

Lt. Knapp had been with us only a short time when he was put on detached service discharging the personnel of the Sixth German Army. When he returned, he was put in charge of the 4th Platoon.

We are sorry to see them leave, and we hope that wherever they go, they will find their new assignments to their liking.

Au revoir and good luck from the officers and entire enlisted personnel of Company "A."

## BIRTHDAY

Lt. Williams celebrated his birthday, on August 6. We understand he had a big cake baked. (Hope it was good and helped supplement that Spartan diet we all undergo). Seriously, many happy returns, Lieutenant, and may your succeeding birthdays all find our country and the world at peace.



# Atomic Bomb and the Future

By Pfc. Eddie Pessen

The impact of the bomb that wrought the destruction of the Japanese city Hiroshima has made itself felt all over the globe's surface with an effect that is sobering and terrifying. People everywhere grasp the fighting implications of this unbelievable destructive power, that more than merely an effective weapon for the shortening of the war against Japanese facists, it contains within itself the potentiality of demolishing EVERYTHING, all the physical matter of this earth.

Gloomy philosophers have long predicted that man would eventually create the means of his own destruction, and the sudden emergence of this new revolutionary force lends heavy weight to the truth of such forbodings. Our natural tendency is to stand in awe of this unnatural development, to shake our heads fearfully, to run away from the whole monstrous idea. Or perhaps, fatalistically to brace ourselves for the day which we, in our so weakly human heart of hearts have known would sometime raise itself in our presence of chaos, blackness. But the thing has to be faced, and perhaps it would be best to examine it carefully, objectively as befits members of the species that themselves created it.

Startling as it is, the success of the new bomb has been no surprise to men of science, even to thoughtful laymen. Ever since experiments with atomic power were first begun in the latter part of the 19th century it was known that the disintegration of atoms resulted in unbelievable explosions. It was simply a matter of getting enough atoms together in a solid space large enough; heretofore the experiments had been confined to practically invisible quantities, or rather (since atoms of course are invisible) quantities of no space or dimensions whatever. The ability to harness a 400 lb. body as the scene of molecular and atomic disintegration is the explanation of why cities like Nagasaki can now be wiped off the face of the earth. What will happen when a bomb the size of a block buster is used can be imagined. Nations the size of France, continents, will die of one blow. And such development has in all probability already been reached and surpassed.

The development of new means of destruction is closely tied to the story of the development of man himself, it has a long history. As is the case now, too, their power for increasing misery and death has always been partly compensated by their ability to destroy natural obstacles which stood in the way of man's progress, to heal and to create a better material life. Thus, the great jump from the heavy club to the stone ax and later to the revolutionary bow and arrow wrought increasingly heavy deaths and casualties in warfare between tribes and other primitive groups, but also enabled men to fight off much stronger animals which threatened their existence, to hunt far more successfully and as a result, to eat and live better. This new bomb destroys. At the same time we hear scientists telling of a wonderful world of the future where "great factories are heated by a plant the size of a telephone booth," an era of smokeless cities, of clothes wired to produce comfortable temperatures, all this through the use and extension of the same theories that operate the atomic bomb. Then the invention of the gun, of firearms marked a tremendous leap in the changing of means of destruction. It gave to men tremendous power by eliminating the necessity of actual close physical contact with the victimized objects. "The great equalizer" gave to the weak, the strength to conquer, or at the least battle on even terms with the strong. This latter interpretation is widely used but it tells only a small part of the story.

The means of battle have continually progressed through scientific endeavor, but the **battlers**, the men who do the fighting and dying, have **essentially remained the same**. The history of modern society is a history of wars, wars of conquest, of defense against aggression, of plunder. Always War. Pretty phrases to the contrary, the meaning behind it all is power, the desire to own and control more of land, people and raw materials by small dominant groups. Rome fought to conquer the entire pre-Christian world in order to have these... the little men did the fighting, used the spears and the bows and arrows, while the mighty assumed the power. Feudal times saw changes in the weapons but the character of the conflict was the same. Lords and barons fought for parcels of land, through it all the serfs tailing, living animal

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## The MIRROR — Able Reflections

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# Company A vs Kassel

By Sgt. Leonard Owen

The dawn of Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, was nothing but routine for the doughboys of "A" Company, but before that same light had faded into night there had begun one of the most ferocious battles in which the men of the company had participated since their landing on Utah Beach in August of 1944. The approach to and the actual battle of Kassel was one that will never be forgotten by those tired but brave men that remained in "A" Company. The Company's strength was far below normal but that made no difference to those that remained and fought on.

Before the Bastion of Kassel finally surrendered on April 4, with its entire garrison including the Commanding General and his entire staff, the officers and men of Able Company had shown courage and valor that entitled them to go down in one of the feature pages of the history of the 315th Infantry.

Through G-2 sources of information it had been learned that at this point the Germans had planned their last ditch stand to protect their rear lines of communication, which were being cut to ribbons by the spearheads of the 4th Armored Division. So here it was that the Germans launched their most vicious counterattack since the Allied Armies had trodden on German soil.

The First Battalion carried the brunt of breaking that counterattack and sending the Germans reeling in defeat on those four historic days, and was one of the deciding factors in the breaking up the final German resistance.

April 1 to 4 will long live in the memories of all the men who saw front line action at Kassel, the largest tank manufacturing city left in Germany. It was there that the heroic officers and men of the First Battalion with bazookas, grenades, rifles, carbines, pistols, machine guns and mortars stopped the panzer spearheaded counterattack. The accompanying Infantry were completely destroyed and the Tiger tanks withdrew and left the city for a safer haven. The German Infantry that remained in the city itself continued to resist fiercely until they were completely demoralized by intense artillery, rifle and machine gun fire by our troops.

The first contact with the enemy in this battle occurred on April 1 after a 200 mile truck ride from Frankfurt on the Main to a village within a few miles of Kassel itself.

This phase is ably described by Sgt. Julio Garcia in his own words:

"We were moving up the road towards Kassel in trucks at midday when we got our first taste of what we were getting into. A couple of SS's opened up on us from up the road. We then dismounted and took the best cover available to us which was opposite some haystacks at the side of the road. Later that afternoon we moved on in skirmish formation and took three small towns without much opposition, but at dusk we were fired on by small arms and were compelled to take cover in a building near by."

The main German attack was supported by approximately 30 Tiger tanks and armored vehicles, six of which struck directly at our Company. The enemy had skillfully deployed their armor in such a way that they destroyed our Anti-Tank and Tank Destroyer support which left the Infantry with practically their bare hands to stop the attack which threatened the destruction of the entire 1st and 3rd Battalions. They stopped it by the skillful elimination of the enemy Inf. shortly after which they retreated leaving us with a foothold that was never broken. "A" Company was the hardest hit of all the Companies because of their presence on the spot of the main counterattack. Lt. Kane, our C. O. did an exceptionally good job of re-organizing our Company for our forthcoming attack.

Pfc. Harry Johnson of the second



A few of the German prisoners taken in the historic battle of Kassel. Some of the G. I.'s stand contemplating the crowded parade. Civilians in the States would take in the bomb damage too, but that's just old stuff to the Infantryman.

"The part of the battle that most registered in my mind was when we were moving up on the left side of the road leading into the city of Kassel in the wee hours of the morning of April 2nd. We were led by Lt. Hannibal, when all hell broke loose and the ensuing battle proved to be one of the worst battles we had in Germany. Heinie tanks were coming up the road with Infantry in a skirmish line moving towards us on the hill 300 yards in front of us. The first and second squads took cover in the foxholes to the left of the road and the third squad across the gully in a hay stack. We were most all in the holes when the tanks came around in back of us and opened up with the SS and sprayed the gully with machine gun fire. We opened up on the enemy Inf. and killed the most of them where they layed. The tanks kept coming up and down the road for the greater part of the morning. I was a bazooka man at the time and fired every bazooka round I could get my hands on, but it just tended to hurry them on their way a little. I made two hits but they proved to no avail on those Tiger tanks. We used the holes we were in as a jumping off place for the men to get into the houses across the road which was a safer place as the artillery was dropping in a little too damn close for comfort. Six men were left to hold the holes and cover the men as they ran for the house. Lt. Kane, the C. O. was with us in our foxhole and directed us to the houses."

Sgt. Garcia spoke of the artillery as follows:

"For three hours we were pinned down and probably would still be sweating it out if it had not been for the support fire of our 105's. They didn't help our morale any because they were falling in on us positions so that we could fire our weapons and help repulse the counterattack before they did too much damage. During the battle one of the most unfortunate things happened. Rammelsberg and Moritzel were captured by the Germans but fortunately their captors were killed and a few hours later they were liberated."

Pfc. Ed Pessen's reaction to the occasion was as follows:

"When I saw the big Tiger tank, I remember turning to Ed Timponie and saying, 'That must be the one that's being towed in.' A moment later as it rumbled by I could see four others rolling along right behind it and a quick double take at the camouflage painting on them started the chills running up and down my spine. Those looked like downy Heinie tanks. The Company seemed to stop and slowly follow them with its eyes. Then it happened. The tanks stopped and the big 88's on the turrets calmly, slowly turned towards us. Hell broke loose in a matter of seconds, as we hit the dirt and dove for

what cover we could see. Machine gun bullets spattered and ripped into us and you could hear men screaming and groaning in terrible pain. I somehow made it into a haystack drainage ditch in the middle of the field along with Thornton, Doc, Schnell, and other guys. And every once in a while a shell would scream over our heads and bullets tear right through the hay stack. We made plans for a breakthrough to our lines as soon as darkness came because it looked bad... all during the day I would raise my head every once in a while and all I could see were those Giant Tigers roaring up and down the road as if they owned the place. Later we found out that there were men of our company in houses a little up the road firing at them, but from where we were we couldn't see any houses and it is very mild to say that we felt isolated."

On April 3rd a broad flanking movement of the enemy positions in the city itself took place and that left the fort all but surrounded. A strong defensive was organized for security purposes for the night.

Prisoners had been taken and Pfc. Pessen gives the following description of what took place in the emergency C. P.:

"Just after midnight — It was a big dark, damp cellar and Lt. Kane was sprawled on the floor, straining at the detailed map of the city. He had called me to talk to the captured Krauts and try to find out the location and strength of their defenses of the city. There were five of them, all eager to talk but somehow when it came to details they grew a little dim and vague. A little pressure loosened them up and we started putting X's on the map for the defence spots they mentioned. One in particular they emphasized, a giant bunker just outside of the park smack on Adolph Hitler Strasse. The artillery observer from the 314th F.O. told us the next day that the information was the most accurate he had had all during the war. All the big guns of the Division including the big 240's were zeroed in on that point."

On the morning of April 4th the attack was resumed. It progressed from house to house till the main defence was reached and by then the enemy positions were completely surrounded and after a few hours of slugging it out, the commandant of the garrison, with his aide came out under a truce and asked for surrender terms.

As Pfc. Pessen was the interpreter called by Gen. Smythe, he gives a good account of the proceedings as follows:

"Some big brass wanted a German speaking man in a big hurry so I was called up to the meeting place. A fat, bored Nazi General and his aide, a typical Hollywood type SS Major — sneers, cold eyes, straight as a statute — were stand-

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# Meet Lieutenant Hannibal P l a t o o n N e w s



Our executive officer, Lt. Donald Richard Hannibal, hails from Gloucester, Mass., which is the leading fishing port on the Atlantic coast. He, in his own field, is living up to his hometown's reputation, for he has proven himself to be a very capable leader on the field and in garrison.

On August 10, 1942, while still attending Boston University, he enlisted into the E.R.C. He did not report to active duty though, until February 18, 1943; for it was not until then that Uncle Sam deemed it necessary to start taking men from the Enlisted Reserve Corps.

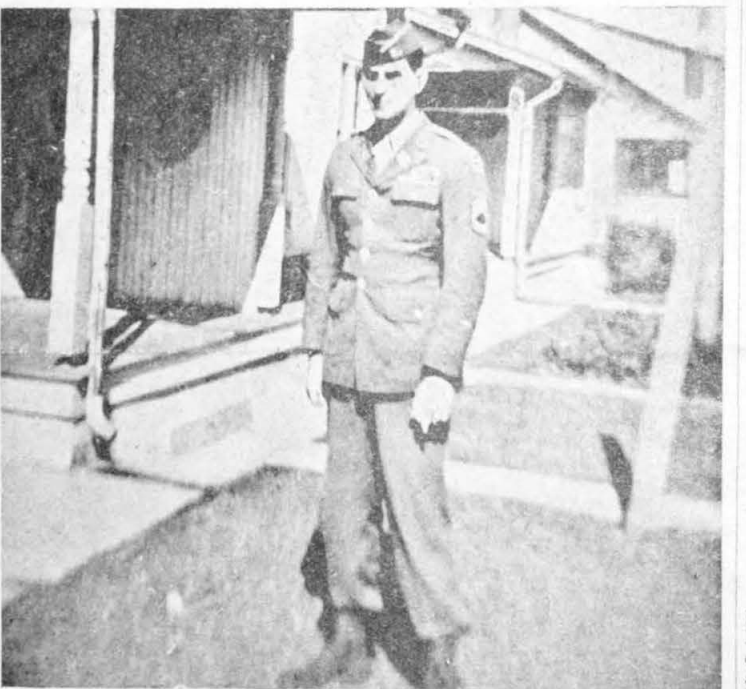
He took his basic training from February to September of that year, down at Camp Wheeler, Ga. From there he was sent to the 13th Airborne Division to which he was assigned for a little better than a year. During that time he received a well earned set of Glider Wings. In September, 1944 he applied for O.C.S. and on January 25, 1945 he received his commission in the

Army of the United States. He set sail for overseas duty on February 16, 1945. March 5th, practically before he had time to think of what was going on, he joined "A" Company and was leading the second platoon into battle.

He has in his possession the Silver Star, for distinguished service in the face of the enemy at Erfurt. He led his platoon across a field in the face of enemy fire to reach the woods on the outskirts of town that morning and hold. That wasn't his most unforgettable moment in combat though. Back at Kassel when the Tiger tanks had the Company pinned down, was in his opinion the longest three hours of his life.

In regards to his post-war plans, he hasn't anything definite set as yet. He thinks probably that since he has only two more years of college left, that he will return and get his degree in Business Administration. That is, of course, if Kay, the one and only, approves.

## Know Your Enlisted Men



T/Sgt. Carl G. Hepner, a well know figure in "A" Company could make front page in anyone's newspaper if the facts were actually known. Carl is an old man in the outfit, in fact he came to "A" Co. before Tennessee maneuvers and has remained with his First Platoon ever since.

"Hep" entered the army July 2, 1942 and since has proven himself a soldier in many ways. Carl worked for Penn. Railroad as a civilian and plans to go back to his old job and to his girl friend, Hannah, who's been waiting three long

years—but we are getting ahead of our story. It was on January 7, 1945 that Carl left his destructive life in the ETO, to begin 30 days of constructive life in his favorite bar back in Reading, Pa. We mean by that—he stacked glass after glass. They were empty of course.

"Hep" has the good conduct medal, the ETO ribbon with four well earned stars, the Purple Heart with 2 clusters, and a grand total of 78 points. We of the First Platoon along with "Hep" are sweating out the other seven points even tho we know we are losing a good man.

### COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

#### Eye Wonder If:

Lt. Williams was worried about duty officers when all the other officers in the company were alerted last week?

Lt. Hannibal was happy about being alerted, happier when he was "scratched," and still happier to be chosen as an umpire for the 2nd Bn. Field Problem?

1st Sgt. Dinkel's critical censorship will pass a certain cartoon which is being submitted this week?

Sgt. Thornton will win the ping-pong tournament for Company "A," and then go on to higher successes?

Pfc. Timpone is enjoying the fact that he's missing all formations, legally?

Pfc. "Tex" O'Quinn will patent his method of learning German — no books, just a ladder and some schnapps.

Pfc. Moody has finished a certain picture album of a winter trip through the Alps on skis?

Pfc. Tanzella will always be successful obtaining light bulbs, waste-paper baskets, etc. for us?

Pfc. Johnson will have it any easier now that all the supply group is on duty again?

T/5 Spanhake will ever tire of fishing?

T/5 Moyer will ever get as tired of blowing the bugle as the fellows are of hearing it?

Cpl. Pfalzgraff will ever change his "to heck with the women attitude?"

Pfc. Murphy made out O.K. after bed-check Saturday night?

Pfc. Drylie had a good time in Paris, especially those two moneyless days?

T/4 McKeever believes he has crated the Jerry weapons we had to turn in securely enough?

Pfc. Harmon, Able's chain-twirling champ, will ever cease being a steady, quiet, and efficient worker in the mail room?

S/Sgt. Harris will ever enjoy any future job more than the one he has here in Sonthofen?

T/4 Yakely ever takes a night off to rest after he is through in the mess hall?

T/5 Weinberg can get some dishes for the Pfc. Club like the two he found when we first came here?

Pfc. Zacheo will ever come out of hiding since his return from Paris and why he is keeping out of sight in the first place?

Pfc. Newhouse knows what to do with all his time, now that most of the officers have left or are about to?

Pfc. Drischell will ever learn that "fraternization" means more than just talking.

Pfc. Tillotson will ever get up by himself in the morning?

Pfc. Toledo will ever meet his equal when it comes to bitching?

Pfc. Jensen likes his job of being the whole wire section for the company?

Pfc. Rogler expects to earn his

"A" for being the whole cheering section at the company games?

T/5 Mavrophilippos, "Greek" to us, has been having any luck with the bones here in Sonthofen?

Pfc. Rabbitt's promises for the "Pfc. Club" will all turn out to be true?

Pvt. Pirozzoli's waistline is expanding because of the overabundance (?) of chow we're getting now?

Pfc. Harr will ever beat T/5 when it comes to fishing?

T/5 McCullough knows how and why his new nickname is "Iche?"

Pfc. Pessen's roving patrols in the mess hall will continue to be successful?

### FIRST PLATOON

The First is getting back to normal strength again. T/Sgt. Millam just returned from Paris where he spent three wonderful days.

Everyone was commenting on the possibility of a quick end of the war. The excitement has died down somewhat now, but we still can't get Bill Mortell to come down off the chandeliers,—they say joy is intoxicating.

Pfc. Bud Crofford has taken over the duties of the librarian, while the original is enjoying himself on a nice seven day pass—Sgt. Garcia says that's just plain detail dodging.

S/Sgt. Deoteleri's squad has taken a turn in life. Joe says they hold their formations at "Sick Call" instead of the usual place. Physical training is wonderful—so the men on light duty say.

I understand the Colonel commented on the nice bunch of swords in room 139 — Boy what a cut throat bunch.

If some one doesn't come out with some news we are going to commit a murder or something.

Just remember — it could happen to you.

### SECOND PLATOON

Saturday night and every night as usual "A" Company was well represented at the NCO Club. Several large tables were pulled together for the purpose of consuming alcoholic beverages.

The consumers were as follows: T/Sgt. Blazczak, S/Sgt. (Romeo) Harris, S/Sgt. Terreri, S/Sgt. Stambaugh, Sgt. Lockwood, Sgt. Leslie, Sgt. Oliver, Sgt. Mitchell, Sgt. Neucks, and Cpl. Mauch.

Sgt. Lockwood upon being interviewed, by members of the second platoon, concerning his six-day problems, as umpire with Lt. Hannibal, he replied, and I quote, "Six days without 'Sonja'", unquote.

Pfc. O. H. Sallard returned recently from the 98th General Hospital in Munich after two weeks of rest. While there he saw Hal McIntyre and his orchestra, also the Bob Hope Show. We are glad to see Oscar back as he is a big help to the 2nd platoon softball team.

### FOURTH PLATOON

Weapons, Weeps and Woes  
Looks as if we're losing all our boys. Pfc's. Lynn, Gass and Skaggs

have gone to Division for radio school. Pfc. McFadden and Cutshall have entered the hospital and Pfc's. Turner, Garret and Forgiore are on Detached Service. If this keeps up Sgt. Heledga will be calling out the ghost platoon.

All the boys were really sorry to see Lt. Joe Knapp leave, we had just began to know and like each other, but it seems we've never been able to keep a Lieutenant very long. Surely we aren't that bad.

If a certain Tech. Sgt. doesn't leave a certain Pfc. alone every night when said Pfc. wishes to sleep there is going to be a big brawl.

Quite a few of the fellows go in for sports. There are Pfc's. Dickover, Barden, and Bonner along with Sgt. Mitchell and Leslie who play basketball, and some of the guys you see around for volleyball are Sgt. Owen, Pfc's. Barden and Moore.

It seems the platoon plea for packages from home is beginning to pay off, beaucoup boxes have been coming.

Pfc. Roberts is very disappointed over the cancellation of his pass to Thionville, but who wouldn't be.

Seen: "H.V." Hornberger presenting his views on the news.

Pfc's. Bonner and Blackburn are still crying, "Oh where! Oh where! is my little dog gone."

Some of the fellows who evidently intend to improve their fraternizing ability by attending the weekly German classes are, Sgt's. Hornberger and Jamerson and Pfc's. Archombult and Moore.

Pfc. Garret is looking for sparring partners, can anyone help him? He's going out for the Company boxing team.

These noisy Non-Coms will be sorry when the Pfc's. Club opens this week, won't they.

### A GOD SEND

By Pfc. Bill Chandler, 3rd Platoon

A blessed thing for any man to have is one soul who he can trust utterly.

Who knows the best and worst of him

And loves him in spite of all his faults.

Who will speak the honest truth to him,

While the world flatters him to his face and laughs at him behind his back.

Who will give no counsel and reproof in the day of prosperity and self conceit.

But who will comfort and encourage him in the day of difficulty and sorrow.

When the world leaves him alone to fight his own battles as he may.

If he has had the good fortune to win such a friend, let him deny himself in her favor, rather than lose her. He must hope.

All things, endure all things, rather than lose the most precious of all earthly possessions.

A loving wife.

## THE A BAG

### MOVIE PLEASE?

Dear Editor:  
From information gathered from members of the Company who have seen the picture, "You Can't Live Forever," starring Geraldine Fitzgerald which played at our local post theater recently we find that it was an exceptionally good show and wonder if it would be possible for the Special Service Officers to have the film returned here for a second showing for the men of the First Battalion who were in the field at the time.

Harry Johnson

Company "A" has become more than just another line company. It has through this paper acquired a voice that reaches the highest of officers. Since matter printed is read higher headquarters, there is offered her the chance for everyone to speak and to be heard.

The Editor

This week our "A Bag" is taking its first stretch and yawn as it looks around on the world it has entered. It had been planned to announce its beginning last week but the abundance of material sent in and the lack of available space made it impossible to carry that idea out. Word of mouth news was required to make it known within the company and this week we've received the first offering for its initiation.

This column is intended to provide all members of the company with an outlet for any requests, announcements, and gripes. If there is something you have to say, here is your opportunity to say it. Just write out your item and label it "A Bag" in care of the Editor. Your name will be used unless you request otherwise.

### FIRST SGT.'S CORNER

There is a P.F.C. Club now organized within the First and Third Battalions. Company "A" has already the highest percentage of memberships in the NCO Club. It would be nice for us to have that record in our P.F.C. Club. If you care to join, see Pfc. Rabbitt, Co. Hqts.

### NOTICE

In past weeks the newspaper crew has been having a great deal of difficulty in reading the spelling of names sent in in the weekly material. We would request that more care be taken in the future to get the names spelled correctly and clearly. If those entering material will print the men's names in block letters, the difficulty will be readily overcome. The need for this care is apparent. A misspelled name is a slight to the person being considered.



## ATOMIC BOMB AND THE FUTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

lives. They, the serfs—the future infantry—were not yet freed to do the fighting which was led by the leading landowners themselves. The modern era, the past few hundred years, ushered in the great idea of Democracy... that the common man, the lowly who had been bought and sold or attached to the land with no thought of any such thing as "Rights"... were on an even level with the rich, the powerful. Theoretically, also the era of revolutionary advancement in science, and explosive as means of killing, it perfected firearm and cannon and explosive as means of killing. Certainly, now a weak man was equal to a strong man, but what was the basic use of these new weapons? Mainly for tools of war, the new wars resulting from the growth and rivalries of great commercial, industrial powers which strove for domination over the world markets, colonies, lands rich in natural wealth. The former slave and piece of field property was now a free worker or craftsman... a great, progressive change... but his relationship to the rest of his society was not greatly different. He still had a hard time obtaining the essentials of life, he still was completely subject for his livelihood to the whims of the commercially powerful — witness the mass unemployment, the misery that results when owners close down their factories — he still did the fighting and dying in war. The advanced weapons only succeeded in killing off men at a speedier rate. A well quoted German political-military expert once said, "War is the continuation of politics by other means..." Clausewitz meant here that when ruling groups within nations can not settle their contests for imperialistic power through legal, "parliamentary" channels, they resort to work with the workers of one nation ranged against the workers of another nation in a fight for power for the benefit of certain small cliques within the nations which profit from the outcome of the bloodshed. (Since the ruling clique of Nazi and Japanese war lords would have imposed slavery upon all the world, it was imperative that we destroy them, but the seeds of the conflict were never-the-less the struggle for economic-political power). An essential fact about modern war, is that the people of the "winning side" suffer extreme hardship and misery, too. The people of France after World War I lived in misery for many years. The cartels and monopolies do very well, however...

The discussion seems to have strayed off to remote channels but not really. It is all tied together. Science has continually come up with amazing new discoveries. The bullet did away with any fear of

other mammals, killed a man too. The "V" bomb rips blocks of city streets. The atomic bomb evaporates cities. The weapons of the future probably will be able to rip apart the entire earth, tear asunder the atmosphere. The brain of man can achieve startling things with the elements that surround us. That same brain is capable of wonderful, productive things. It creates light out of darkness, warmth, culture, it makes discoveries that can add a hundred years to the span of each life, to make of each of these lives a wonderful, creative, pleasurable thing. (In fact there is practically no limit to the eventual uses of new scientific findings). That brain enables man to think, to reason... But it has not yet taught us how to live with ourselves, how to control for our own good purposes, the wonders we create! The glorious machines that lighten, reduce labor are turned into an enemy because they cause unemployment... An unbelievable means of extracting power is perfected... and is used for purposes of spreading death. Yes, it's a very happy fact that we beat the Germans to it, but it's a sad fact that the state of the world is such that it was necessary. A war of the future will destroy not only the fighters, the poor civilians, it will take everything with it. The calculating ones who make profits, who hire and pay the wages of brilliant inventors, too.

What is the lesson to be drawn? It is simple, but in practice very hard to realize. Wars must be stopped. The causes of war must disappear, or be done away with. The majority, the plain people have never profited from, have never wanted war. (They've been talked, driven into so believing by Hitler, Bismarck, Napoleons, but this because never did they, the people really rule themselves, control the economic power, the political government of their country). We must learn from history.

The control of nations, of the wealth of nations by small, vested interests must cease, to be replaced by complete democratic rule politically and economically. International relations must be characterized by friendship, trust of one group of honest men for another. Actual attempts to achieve such conditions will be fought bitterly by those who stand to lose certain power, who hate and fear the plain people, "the lower classes"... But only governments of and by these "lower classes" will work and fight against war, against the use of atomic bombs and worse!... This earth can yet live up to the rich promise it has always held for humanity, but it is the ordeal, the task of men to fight for and achieve this ideal.

First we must understand and then we must act.

the front was strangely quiet except for a few G. I.'s who couldn't resist a good target... they showed no signs of coming out. Then Gen. Smythe turned to me. "You'll get up there and see what's what!" I walked up that 100 or so yards, a lonely man. I hopped up on the barricade wall and saw what looked like a million Heinies. "Vas is los?" I asked the General. "Your time is up." He grumbled a while, then asked me if he could take his luggage, his Schnapps, and his orderly along with him. Ice cold looks were directed my way, and finally they gave up the ghost and decided to march out.

After the garrison had been cleared we were allowed two days rest to recuperate somewhat. It was good to know that the battle was over, but we can never forget the men of our Company who still lay on that field.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

Have you heard of the fat women who visited a shipyard on the West coast? She bent over to tie her shoestring, and before she could straighten up they broke a bottle of champagne over her stern and launched her.

The battleship was in port and visitors were being shown around. The guide was exhibiting a bronze tablet on the deck.

Guide: "And here is where our gallant captain fell."

Nervous Old Lady: "Well, no wonder. I nearly tripped on the damn thing myself."

# SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Pfc. Fred A. Rogler

There are beaucoups of practice games to report on this week and we intend to cover them as completely as possible. Since they are practice games, we'll let it go at that. Our policy as soon as the leagues start will be to publish the schedule of "A" Company's games for the coming month, and to show the standings in all of them at the time we go to press.

A ping pong tournament is about to get under way. There will be a singles and doubles team to represent each company, and the tournament will start the 20th of August. The schedule will be posted on the bulletin board. Let's get another first in Battalion competition. Rumor has it that the winners will play for Regt. championships, then possibly Division and so on up the ladder.

## Basketball

The few loyal "A" Company spectators who have seen our team play are quite proud of them. It's impossible to tell who the first five are, for all members of the squad play equally well. For example, S/Sgt. Seamer returned from the new Hamper show for a few hours visit on Thursday evening and played a flashy game of ball for us, even though we lost. The officers have a pretty fair quintet and are pretty cocky. Lt. Calahan from "D" Company and Lt. Williams from ours are their best players. Our team is anxious to play them, but will have to wait until league competition, because there are no open dates on the schedule.

Tuesday night our team met Bn. Headquarters in a game which may very likely prove to be the outstanding one of the season. At no time in the entire game did either team have a commanding lead, and at the end of the regulation game the score was tied up at 25 all. In the five minute overtime period our team really showed its superiority by holding the opponents scoreless while we sank two field goals and two fouls to make the final score 31 to 25. Hawkins was high with 15 points, and Sowers was the "big shot" in the overtime period. But it must be emphasized that it was team play that won the game.

Seems as though all our teams had a poor day this week. Well, Thursday night was the basketball team's bad one. We played Co. "D" and nothing went the way it has in other games. The passing was very poor and attempts for field goals were way off. Lack of coordinated teamwork was the chief factor in losing 23 to 17. Let's be thankful it was just a practice game, for this spectator feels confident we can take Company "D" the next time we meet.

Company "A" had guard duty Friday night, so Company "C" were swell sports to wait a half hour to start the game in order that our players could get to the court after finishing their 1st relief on guard. As it was, we could only get five of our first string together. S/Sgt. Mitchell was Sgt. of the guard and couldn't leave his post. Pfc. Nix received orders from the doctor not to play because of some trouble with his feet. Company "C" had at least 15 players in uniform and we had only two substitutes who have not played in any of the games. Hence the outlook was none to bright. So what did we do? We rose to supreme heights and played perfectly all the way through. There wasn't a bad pass in the whole game, and the basket seemed to be 10 foot in diameter for most of the shots seemed to drop in without touching the rim. Sowers was high scorer with eight points. Oh yes! The final score was Co. A—20, Co. C—14. There wasn't a single foul committed by either team in the first half, and very few in the second.

High scorer for the week in the Battalion was Lt. Calahan of the Officer's quintet with 62 points. What is he, a professional? We're warning him to look out for "A" Co.'s, Hawkins who, with two "off" nights came in second with 37.

## Volleyball

### Standings

First Bn. Volleyball (Practice)	W	L	Pct.
Co. A	4	0	1000
Co. D	3	1	750
Bn. Hq.	2	2	500
Co. B	0	3	000
Co. C	0	3	000

Candidates for Company "A's" volleyball team to date are as follows:

Sgt. Andres, 1st Platoon; Pfc. Gryceski, 2nd Platoon; Pfc. Garcia, Hawkins, Kingman and Sowers, all from the 3rd Platoon; Sgt. Owen, Pfc. Barden and Pfc. Moore, 4th Platoon; and Lt. Williams and Sgt. Thornton of Co. Headquarters.

Wednesday's game with Company "C" was a snap. Company "A" won the first two games, thus a third not being necessary. The scores—21 to 14 and 21 to 6—indicate how easy the victory was. There was some talk of Company "C" relieving Company "D" on the road blocks that day, so undoubtedly they didn't have their best team on the floor.

Either "B" Company didn't have their best team either, or else we must have a pretty fair ball club. Thursday afternoon we triumphed 11 to 0 (a "skunking") and 21 to 4. Gathering a total of four points in two games isn't too hot. We came close to "skunking" them in the second game, for we scored nine points before they managed to break the ice.

At the start of Friday's game with Company "D" victory seemed doubtful, for half the team had to be selected from the spectators due to I and E Program absences. However, they really did a swell job, winning the first game 21-15. By the start of the second game two more regulars arrived so we felt confident of victory. However, our attack didn't click so we lost the second game 13-21. In the third and deciding game we started out with a flourish, piling up enough of a lead to coast home to a 21-13 triumph, thus winning two out of three. We weren't up to our usual form, but if that's the poorest we do, there won't be any complaints from this corner.

Although this week's games were practice ones, the results are being handed in to Regiment, so far be it from us to omit them—especially since they turned out as they did.

## Softball

Tuesday's game between Co. "A" and Co. "B" was very uninteresting to watch. Due to special schools, details, etc., our team had to be augmented by many new players. We got off to a commanding lead early in the game, and from there on we just went through the motions, winning by the safe margin of 12 to 6. It's better to keep our speed and endurance for league games, though, especially the million dollar arm of Stambaugh, our ace pitcher. Meanwhile, we're learning the capabilities of many of our unknown stars for future substitutions in any crisis which might arise. This is something that we have never had the opportunity to do.

The game scheduled for Wednesday between "A" and Bn. Hq. had to be cancelled because of rain. Due to a full schedule, there will be no opportunity to play this game at a later date. Which brings up the question — Have any arrangements been made for postponed league games to be played off at a later date? If not, something should be done, or else a perfect set-up for games in all outdoor sports will be spoiled. It would be better to have it settled before complaints start pouring in.

Friday's game between A and D — the last practice one — also had to be called off because of rain. Let's hope the weatherman is a little better to us next week when the league starts up.

P. S. I mentioned the postponed-game question to Lt. Callahan (the Battalion Recreation officer) in the

gym during a basketball game and he said that some arrangements had been made. More about that as soon as I learn the whole story.

## Touch-Football

Here are the five rules for league competition in touch-football:

1. Eight man team.
2. All team players eligible to receive passes.
3. One (1) hand touch any place.
4. 80 yard field — 1st and 20 to go.
5. Each team will furnish one official as linesman.

The game scheduled between Bn. Hq. and Company "A" on Wednesday afternoon had to be cancelled because of the weatherman. Since that was the final practice game scheduled for our Company, we'll be starting league competition without any knowledge of what our team can do. Since the football league doesn't start as soon as the others, the organizers may schedule a few more practice games.

We haven't listed the candidates for this sport since we played only one game and at the time most of the players were "pressed" into service.

FLASH — Just under the wire comes news of the post league schedule in this sport. Our only game of this week is Wednesday, August 15th with Company "K."

This league is going to be run as an elimination contest, whereby a team must lose two games before being eliminated.

Sgt. Shopin of the 3rd Platoon is in charge of the team. If you have any experience in this sport, please contact him, for at the present moment no team has been selected. Whether we win, lose, or draw in Wednesday's game, we want to put the best team from Able on the field.

## Boxing

A call has been issued to all companies for boxers. Thus far, Able has submitted two names:

Pfc. Timothy Vicencio from the 3rd Platoon, whose weight is 127 lbs. He has had experience in amateur boxing. At Camp Kohler, Cal. he must have been O.K., for he received a 5-day pass for his boxing successes.

Pfc. Seaborn Garrett, weight 165, from the 4th Platoon has just been convinced that he should join the team. He hasn't had too much experience in the ring, but his opponents better beware, for he's rugged and plenty fast.

It's plain to see that we need more men out for boxing or else lose the opportunity of coming in first in one more sport. Remember, it's not too late to sign up. Also, there will be training given before you enter the ring. Anyone interested should contact Lt. Palombi — if he is still with us. We've been losing our officers so rapidly lately that nothing seems to be certain any more.

## SCHEDULE FOR COMPANY "A"

Basketball			
Date	Teams	Time	
Aug. 14	A vs L	2000	
19	A vs K	2000	
22	A vs I	2000	
27	A vs Hq. (3)	2000	
Volleyball			
Date	Teams	Time	
Aug. 14	A vs L	1500	
19	A vs K	1500	
22	A vs I	1500	
27	A vs Hq. (3)	1500	
Softball			
Date	Teams	Time	Field
Aug. 13	A vs M	1400	2
14	A vs L	1830	2
19	A vs K	1400	2
18	A vs I	1400	2
21	A vs Hq. (3)	1400	2
22	A vs Off (3)	1830	2
26	A vs D	1400	2
27	A vs Off (1)	1830	2
29	A vs C	1400	1