

The

BLUE



DEVIL

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88th Gets Croix De Guerre



PINNED DOWN—But in a different sense as Brig. Gen. James C. Fry, acting division commander, has his newly-awarded star pinned on by orderly, Cpl. Rocco Calderone.

"Blue Devil" Photo By Zink

'Courageous Men' Win Promotion For Fry

A tribute to "courageous men" to whom "I owe my promotion more than anything else," was paid this week by James C. Fry, acting division commander, on receipt of official War Department orders notifying him of his promotion from Colonel to Brigadier General.

In an informal ceremony at Division Headquarters his orderly, T/5 Rocco Calderone of Trenton, N.J., pinned the stars of new rank on his collar.

"I elected to have Corporal Calderone pin on the star which represents my promotion," he said, "because he is a former member of the 350th Infantry Regiment and it is to the fighting qualities of that regiment, to the courageous men — living and dead — who served under my command while I was its regimental commander, that I owe my promotion more than anything else."

General Fry, assistant division commander since March 25, led the "Battle Mountain" regiment throughout all but a few months of that unit's combat career.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in 1922, General Fry saw service as Motor Transport Officer for the Philippine Army and was decorated by the Philippine Government for such service.

When the U.S. entered the war, he was serving as Assistant Military Attache in Turkey and later served in the same capacity in Egypt. Returning to the States in June, 1942, he was assigned as executive officer of the 2nd Armored Regiment, later appointed

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349th Sv. Honored

A Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for "exceptionally meritorious service in support of combat operations" from March 1, 1944, to May 4, 1945, has been awarded to Service Company of the 349th Infantry Regiment, 1st Lt. Alvin Hansen of Fortuna, Calif., commands the unit.

De Gaulle Honors 'Blue Devils' Who Fought With CEF

"For gallantry and outstanding achievements" in the battle of Italy, the 88th Infantry Division has been awarded France's Croix de Guerre, with citations at the Order of the Army — the first time in the 30-year history of the coveted medal that a unit which did not actually fight under French command has been so decorated.

The division citation was made Tuesday in Paris by General Charles de Gaulle following recommendations by Gen. Alphonse Juin, Chief of Staff of the French Army and formerly commander of the French Expeditionary Corps in Italy, and Maj. Gen. Francois Sevez, General Juin's Chief of Staff and former commander of the 4th D.M.M. — which fought alongside the "Blue Devils" in Italy.

The award was made despite a rigidly-enforced rule that only units which participated in battle under French command could receive the Croix de Guerre. The

ANOTHER FIRST

The 88th has racked up still another "first." Award of the Croix de Guerre to the "Blue Devil" Division — the first Selective Service infantry division to go overseas and the first to enter combat in World War II — marked the first time a Selective Service division has ever been so honored by France.

88th, however, was never under the French although it fought at the side of de Gaulle's forces in two major campaigns.

Specific battles covered by the citation included the May 11 - June 2, 1944 drive and the July 9 - July 31, 1944 push. It was during these two periods that the

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MOUNT UP—High-point replacements from the 473rd Infantry, converted Ack-Ack outfit on their way to different companies of the 349th Regiment. These lucky men will go home with the division.

"Blue Devil" Photo By Zink

Break-Up Elicits Various Comments By Members

88th Redeploys 21,000 Krauts

Verona — Swarming back to their homeland in daily droves of 3,000, some 21,000 Kraut PW's had today passed their final "check post" in Italy and had reached or were en route to American and British-occupied zones in Germany, Austria and Italian Tyrol.

Mass transfer of PW's from AFHQ Command to the SHAEF area began last Saturday when the first group of 3,000 reached the MTOUSA POW Command staging center here for final screening and assignment. Guarded by doughboys of "A" and "B" Companies of the 351st Infantry Regiment, the prisoners were then sent by rail to Munich — where SHAEF took over.

Among the PW's who passed through the staging center this week were 3,457 German Wacs and civilian workers, according to

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Veterans of the Mediterranean Theatre campaigns who are now joined together under the "Blue Devil" banner were voicing opinions as varied as the units they called their "old outfits" as news of the 88th's scheduled de-activation became the prime bull session topic in the squads and companies with made up its fighting regiments and battalions.

Comments were varied, depending on whether the speaker was an 88th veteran, a new arrival or someone transferred in as a means of going home but the general opinion was that "It's a shame to bust up the outfit," even though some admitted the necessity for such a procedure.

S/Sgt. Lawrence Chabek of Los Angeles, Calif., with the outfit since Gruber and message center chief of the 350th, said: "I hate to see the division broken up as it's a great organization but there's another job to be done, and if going to another job will hasten that end, I'm glad to do it."

Pfc John Heeb of the Bronx, N.Y., and Anti-Tank Company, 351st, maintained that "all original men should stay — three years with an outfit is too long to be dropped like hot potatoes when the division goes home."

"It's a shame to bust up the outfit — it won't be the same without the old men who helped make it and it won't be the same for the men who've been with the 88th all this time when they land in some new outfit. It'll just be

(Continued on page 6)

338th Plans 'Festa'

Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet and the famous "Two Gentlemen," will be the scene of an artillery "festa danzante" on Thursday, July 12 when the 338th Field holds a battalion dance at the town Red Cross.

Music, girls and refreshments will be furnished by the Red Cross. Admission is by ticket only.

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Problems Hinder Educational Program

"Easier said than done" is the best slogan applicable to the Army Education Program insofar as the 88th Division is concerned, for anticipated difficulties are making themselves felt.

Chief problem is the fact that the division is scattered the length and breadth of Italy busily engaged in working, processing, guarding and screening PW's. This mission takes precedence even over the high priority education plan.

Questionnaires are now being distributed to every "Blue Devil," a slower-than-expected process because of the non-centralization of units, but results should be tabulated soon. From this, "the big picture" will be known as to how many men are interested and whether they can qualify

in one of the AEP subdivisions.

In conjunction with the inauguration of AEP, two educational films are currently making the division circuit. "Opportunity Knocks Again," a film for enlisted men about the advantages of the educational program, and "Follow Me Again," a movie for officers along the same lines.

According to Major Fred V. Harris, Division I and E officer, all units are making preparations to do all they can for the men, but of necessity the scope will be limited.

"Organized classes will start immediately in some units," Major Harris said, "and wherever classes aren't possible, USAFI courses for individuals will be encouraged. Also most of the outfits eventually hope to have more

than the basic four hours study per week."

Educational tours are gaining interest with the 338th Field Artillery having put in for three day trips to Munich and Nice via GMC. This plan fell through however as the trips can be made only in the Mediterranean theater.

Interest is being stirred up in the 350th Regiment for tours taking new and old men south over the battlefields of Italy — many of them of keen interest to the "Battle Mountaineers," like the place they gained their nickname, Mt. Battaglia.

The 350th also reports that at present the men have very little time off from their PW work in the Verona-Modena area, but should it slacken their education

THE BLUE DEVIL

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MEMO:

TO ALL 'BLUE DEVILS'

Without any intention or attempt to restrict the activities of "The Blue Devil" or control the subject matter, I shall utilize a brief space from time to time to convey to all ranks certain information which I believe will be of interest.

It has long been my habit to speak frankly to officers and Enlisted Men and to hear their frank opinions. Dispersed as we are at the present time this is practically impossible. I have several things on my mind this week of which I wish to write.

First of interest is that we have information that General Charles De Gaulle has signed a citation for the 88th Division. At the present time we are not aware exactly what this means, but it may possibly mean that the Division as a whole will be awarded the citation of the "Fourragère," which is worn around the left arm and buttoned on the left shoulder strap. If this is the case, all individuals of the Division, whether new or old members, will wear the decoration so long as they are assigned to the "Blue Devils." In addition, the decoration is a personal award to all individuals, past and present, who were part of the Division at the time for which the award was made. We are most interested in this citation because there will be very few units, probably no more than three, which will receive it. In the last war, I believe there were only two divisions so decorated.

My second subject is discipline. I want to be certain that the 88th Division assimilates all new members rapidly and that our standards soar with our increased number of veterans. *The salute is a greeting between fighting men.* That was its origin and that is what I want. If you don't feel that you have been part of a fighting organization, that you are a combat soldier, that you are willing to do your part in our combined efforts, then don't bother to salute; but if you are a soldier, indicate it by a proper military greeting.

Next I would like to tell every individual that I'm fully cognizant of the fact that the 88th Division is carrying out a tremendous task. We have attached to us the equivalent of another half a division, but still a great deal of work is required. An insufficient number of men are being given passes to visit rest centers. I am concerned about these matters and promise that I shall do everything in my power to secure additional strength so that some of the demands upon you may be relaxed.

I want to mention the fact that there is evidence of increased carelessness in the handling of motor transportation. Convoys are not as well handled as they were, and officers and Enlisted Men do not show the close attention to duty as has been our custom. Let each individual be alert to see that he does his share and this point will be quickly corrected.

Lastly, I want to say that the 88th Division has at the present time the best record of any division in Italy in the matter of disciplinary cases.

As always, we are moving along steadily in pursuit of our mission. Carry on!

J.C. FRY
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Billfold Beauty



It'll probably be some time before the new models are out but from where we sit, they'll have to go some to beat the streamlining on this job. You're not interested in the car? OK, so we'll quit beating around the bush and tell you that her name is Lenore O'Brien and she's five feet, seven inches with auburn hair and brown eyes. But here's the usual catch line - she's the wife of 1st Lt. Vincent T. O'Brien of Division Headquarters Company.

Leidman Helps GI's With Legal Matters

Chief dispenser of legal advice and aid in the division is WO Samuel Leidman of the Staff Judge Advocate's Office.

The former Bronx lawyer and his staff of three enlisted men have helped hundreds of infantrymen solve problems concerning marriage and divorce, property, inheritance, citizenship, business transactions, allotments, and even wills.

"Why I remember one case," reminisced Leidman, "about a foreign-born soldier who wanted to become an American citizen. He had been a seaman with international shipping lines since coming to the States, and was unable to prove the necessary residence. But we contacted the naturalization authorities and got him his papers."

Pay allotments are another source of trouble, and sometimes result in court litigation. "Often," said the New Yorker, "a wife whom a soldier hasn't seen for years will suddenly put through an application for a dependency allotment, with the accompanying deduction from the dough-boy's pay. Divorce is the only way out of this one."

Unfortunately, matrimonial problems form by far the largest part of the cases coming to our office. Unfaithful wives and illegitimate children present touchy situations. However, with the cooperation of the civilian courts and state bar associations, satisfactory solutions are reached in 99 out of 100 cases.

Soldiers who have lawyers back home often come to Leidman for the go-ahead signal on court actions. But if they have no legal representative, the JA office will write up legal papers itself, or secure lawyers in any part of the United States through the Committees on War Work of the bar groups, who charge only nominal fees for the most expensive types of court procedures.

Remember?

JULY 6, 1942—First draftees slated for the 88th begin arriving at Camp Gruber, Okla., and are assigned to units of the division.

JULY 6, 1943—With a couple of maneuver problems under their belts, 88th doughboys had scored victories over three divisions but continued to lose ground - and skin - to mosquitoes and chiggers.

JULY 6, 1943—As the 349th and 350th moved into forward assembly areas near Pomerance, the 351st stood an inspection by Sec. of War Henry L. Stimson at the Tarquinia airfield and listened hopefully to Mr. Stimson tell them that "The thrill of victory is in the air."

Seven 'Blue Devils' See Paris, London

Seven lucky and pleasure-weary "Blue Devils" today were preparing to start back to their outfits after a seven-day jaunt to London and Paris on Uncle Sam's time and expense.

The group, two officers and five EM, were selected last week for the ETO trip and left Naples by plane with Paris the first scheduled stop. From Paris they were to fly to London. They are expected back in Naples Sunday or Monday.

Headed by Lt. Col. Claude M. Howard of the 351st, the group included S/Sgt. Richard O. Duffy, 351st; 1st Lt. Albert E. Rinker and T/Sgt. Robert C. Johnston, both of the 349th; 1st Sgt. Ray C. Cootware, 313th Engineers; M/Sgt. Emil F. Stoklasa, 338th Field, and M/Sgt. Charles F. Draudt, Division Headquarters Company.



Make Insurance Work For You

(This is the first of two articles on insurance written especially for "The Blue Devil" by Sgt. Arthur Daly, in civilian life associated with The Travelers Insurance Company, Hartford, Conn., and T/4 James Moll of the I and E Section. Next week, they will discuss conversion of your present policy to civilian insurance.)

Death benefits from National Service Life Insurance are paid in monthly installments only, not in a lump sum as many GI's erroneously believe. When you, the insured, took out National Service Life Insurance, the person you were most interested in protecting was named as the principal beneficiary. You also indicated a second, or contingent beneficiary in case something happened to the principal beneficiary.

Under the present plan, as long as the principal beneficiary is under 30 at the time of the insured's death, that beneficiary is guaranteed payments of 240 monthly installments at the rate of \$1,000 of insurance. For example, you have a National Service Life Insurance Policy for \$10,000. Your wife, the principal beneficiary, is 25 years of age. The contingent beneficiary is your son. Under the present plan of payment, your wife would receive \$55.10 per month for 20 years. In the event of your wife's death before 240 installments have been paid, the balance of payments will be made to the son, the contingent beneficiary. After the 240th payment, monthly payments cease. Total payments in this particular case will accumulate to \$13,224, more than the face amount of the \$10,000 policy and payments are NOT FOR LIFE but merely until 240 payments have been completed.

If, however, your principal beneficiary is 30 or over, the beneficiary is guaranteed a monthly income for life, with 120 (10 years) payments guaranteed. The amount of the monthly income depends upon the age of the beneficiary at the time of the insured's death. For example, you are carrying \$10,000 of insurance. Your wife, the principal beneficiary, is 30 years of age at the time of your death. She will receive \$3.97 per month per \$1,000 of insurance carried, or \$39.70 for \$10,000 for life, with 120 payments guaranteed. This means that if the principal beneficiary received 115 payments and then died, then just five more payments are guaranteed. These five payments go to the contingent beneficiary and the insurance contract is cancelled.

However, if the principal beneficiary lives to receive the guaranteed 120 monthly payments, she still continues to draw additional monthly payments for life. In some cases falling in this age group, the principal beneficiary's payments might exceed the face amount of the policy, depending upon how long they lived. Again, it is likely payments will not equal the face amount of the policy if the beneficiary dies at an early age. The guarantee is a monthly income for life to the principal beneficiary, even though the accumulation of the total payments might not equal the face amount of the policy.

To assure every beneficiary of receiving at least the face amount of the policy, no matter what their age at the time of the insured's death, the Government has inaugurated a new optional plan called the Refund Life In-

(Continued on page 4)

'Mr. Truman Send Us Home,' Anonymous Composer Pleads

Current top tune on the "Blue Devil" hit parade is a plaintive little ditty, author unknown but suspected to be a guy with less than 85 points, entitled "Don't Send Me" and sung to the tune of the old stand-by, "Lili Marlene."

The verses run thusly:

"Oh Mr. Truman let the boys go home,
We have conquered Naples and we have conquered Rome,
We have subdued the master race,
There are no more Jerries here to face -
So let the boys go home
And let the boys at home see Rome."

"We met the 7th Army at the Brenner Pass,
We haven't met an outfit yet that's really in our class,
Please pick upon some other guy, don't send me to the CBI -
So let the boys go home,
And let the boys at home see Rome."

A marked copy of this edition of "The Blue Devil" has been sent the White House. We'll let you know the answer - if you can hang on that long.

Brothers Finally Meet in Modena

Modena—It took a World War, the Italian peace treaty and unconditional surrender of the German forces to do it, but two half-brothers who had never met until recently, one a member of the 350th "Battle Mountain" Regiment, have been united in Modena.

The boys are Pfc Orest Bordogna of Irvington N.J., a Service Company cook, and Cpl. Lucien Bordogna, member of an Italian service unit. They first met in March, when Lucien's outfit was in Florence and the 350th was bivouacked nearby.

Orest was born in the United States in 1915. Later, his mother died; his father returned to Italy and remarried. Lucien was born in Italy in 1923.

After Orest arrived in Italy, he kept up correspondence with a brother in Irvington. Lucien did likewise, and thus learned the identity of the unit in which his half-brother was serving. When the 350th moved back for a rest, Lucien found Orest and introduced himself.

Now, Lucien's Italian unit, the 309th Service Company, QM, 353rd Battalion, 598th Regiment, is set up at Modena, as is the 350th, and the boys are having many jolly reunions.

Problems Hinder

(Continued from page 1)

program would increase accordingly.

Difficulties are much the same in the 351st "Spearhead" Regiment. One battalion is scattered all the way to Munich, another is on guard detail and the third alerted, not leaving much time for AEP. Distribution of the questionnaires therefore, is an acute problem. However, tents are being set up for men with USAFI courses to study in.

In the 349th "Krautkillers," the "too dispersed" lament comes up again. Only in its 3rd Bn, consolidated in the Merano area are plans for a unit school gaining shape. Group study classes are planned for the other two battalions, to be determined by the questionnaire results.

Typical of the difficulties run into on the whole program is the announcement by Major Harris of the loss of his assistant division educational officer to another outfit.

338th Prints Paper

Mention "Hot Poop" to anyone not a member of the 338th Field, and they will probably think you're still talking about firing shells, but to the artillerymen that's the name of the battalion daily news sheet.

Posted about the battalion area, "Hot Poop" provides the men with news and information pertinent to their own outfit. Putting out the sheet are Cpl. Don Kelly, N.Y.C., Pvt. Charlie Farrell, Grand Rapids, Mich., and Cpl. Dale Boling, Wadsworth, Ohio.

ORCHIDS

Came this week to all "Blue Devils" from Lt. Gen. Geoffrey M. Keyes, 11 Corps Commander, who sent his personal congratulations to the 88th. "Please accept my personal congratulations for the splendid job you and your Blue Devils have always done. You have written a bright page in 11 Corps history. Will you please extend the felicitations of 11 Corps to the men and officers of the 88th, with our best wishes for continued success in your every endeavor."

Pass Mixup Ends Happily

Due for day passes to Milan, Sgt. Earl Davidson and Pfc. Frank Drakovich, 351st Regiment riflemen, lay happily asleep in their puppet one morning this week, dreaming of the beautiful holiday ahead.

"You're late, get up!" a voice bawled, and they looked out to see a loaded truck about to leave. Grabbing their clothes, they took off for the vehicle. After four hours of bouncing around, they found themselves surrounded with gondolas, canals, St. Mark's Square, the Adriatic Sea, and other un-Milanistic objects. Demanded Davidson, "Where's that guy who said we were late?" Drakovich, content to be on pass even in Venice, never gave the truck mix-up another thought.

Play Mercy Role

(Continued from page 1)

for 300 patients each, also are on rail sidings here.

Total of Kraut wounded and sick PW's stood at 12,888 at last check. German doctors and nurses are treating and caring for the PW's under close supervision of American medical personnel to prevent possible malingering or "dogging it."

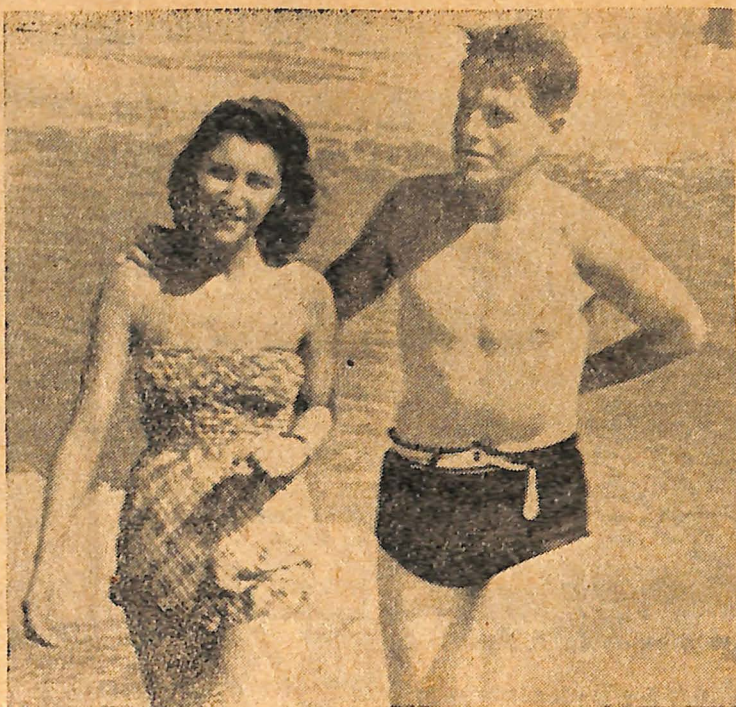
Only Germans are admitted for treatment to the Kraut hospitals, officials emphasized.

Unit hospitals are in operation in all the sub-commands of the MTOUSA POW Command with patients not responding to treatment there or in need of more specialized attention being shipped to Merano to installations comparable to American field and general hospitals.

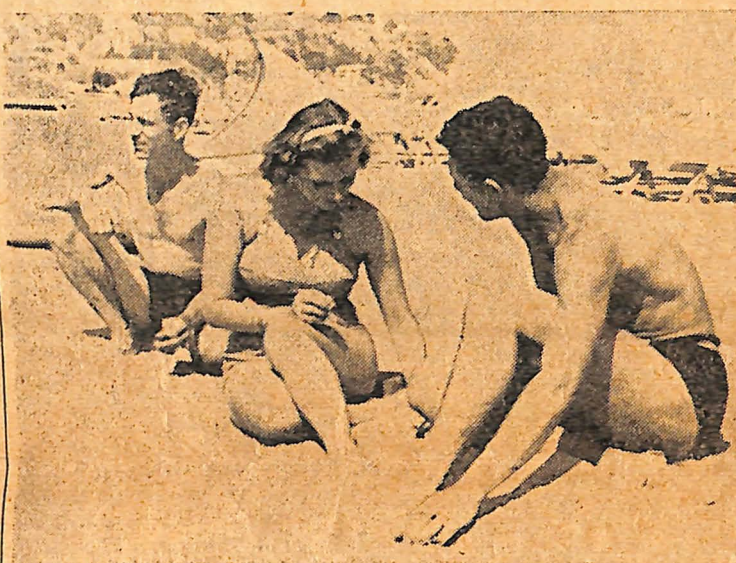
For 349th doughboys, the guard assignment is "the best detail we've ever had."

With platoons living in resort hotels, unit bars, nightly dances and the civilian population still treating them like "liberators," the "Krautkillers" say they'll "take this for the duration and six."

They even tell the story of one doughboy on pass to Alassio who cut short his leave and hitchhiked back to his outfit. "Home was never better," he claimed.



HOLD TIGHT — If Pfc Charlie Kintzinger of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Co "M," 349th Regiment isn't wondering what's holding up the bathing suit of his Alassio swim partner, Carol Abba of Monte Carlo, Italy, we certainly are.



AW C'MON, VICKI — Seems to be what Pfc Mike Geragosian (right) of Detroit, Mich. is saying to coy Victoria Kastoraba of Prague doodling in the Alassio sands, while Pfc Bill Kennedy of Wicuta Falls, Tex., gazes on at some other stuff. Both lucky boys are with Co. "M" 349th "Krautkillers."

"Blue Devil" Photos by Zink

Medic Companies Make Complete Switch Here

Two complete companies changed places last week when "B" Company, 313th Medical Battalion, became the 403rd Collecting Company, and vice versa.

According to 1st Lt. Oscar D. Mitchell, 313th adjutant, this is the first time such a switch has taken place in the Fifth Army. Every man in the 403rd, a unit attached to the Fifth Army, had over 85 points, while the luckless "B" Company Medics were caught without a man above the Golden Line.

With such a set-up, orders soon came out inter-transferring the entire personnel, from CO down to the last litter-bearer.

New 88th Men Can't Wear Old Patches

Men transferring to the 88th from other units will not continue to wear their old division or unit insignia as the recent War Department ruling governing that applies only to men transferring to non-combat outfits.

A memo from the Division Commander's Office pointed out that since "the 88th Infantry Division is a combat unit the 88th insignia is the only one to be worn. The insignia will be worn on the left sleeve as prescribed in regulations."

Apparently not familiar with the regulations, some new arrivals from other outfits had continued to wear their old patches on the left sleeve.

MINIATURES

Miniature cloverleaf insignia in the form of blue and silver lapel buttons are being distributed as mementos to all "Blue Devils" leaving the division for home or other assignments as result of an idea conceived by Col. R.J. McBride, Chief of Staff. Purchased in Milan, the souvenir insignia are distributed through unit Special Service Officers on orders of Colonel McBride who wants departing "Blue Devils" to "carry with them a remembrance of the division which they made famous by their gallant efforts."

'Heavy Weapons' Outfit Holds Farewell Dance

Before they "march ordered" for their Kraut guarding mission, the 913th "heavy weapons company" had a farewell affair at the battalion home-made recreation center near Prevalle di sopra.

Featuring the music of a six piece band led by 1st Lt. William King of Neptune, N.J., himself a drummer, and leader of his own band for seven years in Asbury Park, the shindig brought out all the artillerymen and droves of local signorine.

Bivouacked in the field, the 913th nevertheless built itself a dance pavilion out of sections of German flooring, and arranged a series of pyramidal tents around it to form the circus set-up. Adjacent to the tents are fields for softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, horseshoes and outdoor movies.

The artillerymen plan to erect the same sort of recreation center in their new position somewhere in the vicinity of Pisa.

88th Redeploys

(Continued from page 1)

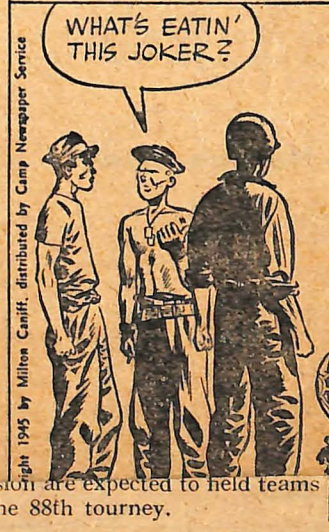
Col. Edwin R. Thompson, commander of the center. Most of the prisoners are carrying discharge papers but they will not go into effect until approved finally by SHAEF.

The Krauts arrive at the center early in the morning in two bunches of 1,500. Upon arrival they are assembled into companies or like units of about 200 men each. MTOUSA POW Command officials then make a careful check of the rosters and conduct detailed screening of all suspected war criminals and suspicious characters.

Trains which take the PW's to Munich return with a daily passenger haul of 3,000 Italian refugees released by SHAEF. The Italians, however, are not processed at the Verona center.

Colonel Thompson said the staging center has case histories on all Axis war criminals reported so far, enabling our investigators to pinpoint any suspect. Daily processing and shipping of 3,000 prisoners is scheduled to continue until August 1.

Male Call



by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"

Side Issue

for Wednesday at 1730 hours.

two got safeties.

in the 88th tourney.

"A" Battery	1	1	.500
"B" Battery	1	2	.333
"C" Battery	0	3	.000

Signalmen See Double — 4 Times



EIGHT OF A KIND — Left to right standing are the twin brothers Davis and Guarante. Sitting in the same order are duplicates Knox and Girling.

"Blue Devil" Photo by Zink

If the men of the 88th Signal Company seem a bit bewildered these days, as indeed they do they ask that you keep it in mind that not one, two, or three, but four (count 'em if you can) sets of twins are aiding, or rather confusing, the work of the Signalmen.

It all started during training days at Camp Gruber, Okla., when a pair of suspiciously similar characters, both named Guarante, and both hailing from Revere, Mass., joined the company as radio corporals. After much study and practice the men were able to tell Leonard from Amos in emergencies, so they moved to Africa satisfied that the situation was well in hand.

But no sooner had they stepped off the boat than a couple more duplicates, PFC's. Fred and Bill Girling of York, Pa., appeared on the scene in the telephone-telegraph section. This sort of complicated matters, but nevertheless the outfit struggled through a year of combat without serious mishap.

As a reward, two guys from Knoxville, Tenn., named Davis,

Sgt. Luther and Cpl. Lincoln, were also assigned to the T&T section. The company was now pretty well fouled up, what with the necessity of taking fingerprints and blood tests to determine just who was who. But another diabolical plot was already taking sinister shape. A rumor (they hoped it was only a rumor) had it that one of the message center boys, T/5 Caffrey Knox of Happy, Texas, had a twin brother, Cpl. Thomas, in the nearby 337 Field Artillery Battalion. On June 24 the worst came, and Tom was transferred to message center.

Reminding themselves that the war was over, and that a few extra hours could be spent each day identifying the eight double-takes, the Signaleers thrust out their chins and faced the future with comparative confidence.

But their happiness was short-lived, for a saboteur was active in their midst. First Sergeant Walter Finn, East Greenwich, R.I., has a twin brother Herbert in India," just waiting for the boat to pull in."

Letters Requested

We'll be glad to print any letters you want to write on any subject under the sun - praise, gripes or complaints of any kind if they're legitimate beefs - but all letters must be signed with the sender's name and organization. If requested, we will not print the sender's name and address, but we must have that information for file. All such names retained will be treated as confidential.

Under no circumstances will we print any letter that comes in unsigned.

Jeep Jockeys Bum Post-War Drivers?

State College, Pa. (UP) — Army jeep-jockeys will not make good drivers on State-side highways after the war, according to Amos E. Neyhart, head of the Institute of Public Safety at Pennsylvania State College.

Among the main differences between Army and civilian driving, Neyhart cited heavy two-way traffic, limited parking space and personal concern for the vehicle. Even the terrain is different, Neyhart said. A congested public highway is not the same as a battlefield or the jungle, he said.

"The truck driver faces different

ARC Director Back After States Trip

The "Welcome Home" sign was unveiled for Mr. Bob Widell at the 350th Regiment recently when the "Battle Mountain" Red Cross Field Director returned to the unit after a rotation trip to the "old country." With the return of Widell, Mr. Roy Myhre, veteran ARC worker who had subbed for him since February, left the 88th to return to the United States.

Widell, who had served in the 350th for nearly eight months, to round out a total of 20 months overseas, went to the States in February. He boarded the boat for the return trip here on May 2, the day German forces in Italy surrendered.

Myhre has been overseas 23 months and held various ARC jobs. He first was a club director in North Africa, later ran theaters in Italy, and took over direction of the roving donut machines last August when "Stan" left the theater.

85 No Guarantee!

Warnings against "over-optimism" on discharge by reason of qualification under the present critical score were issued today by Division Headquarters. Officials

338th Takes Steps

"If you build a better fly trap" in the 338th Field, you might win a bottle of cognac plus all entry fees, according to the rules in the latest contest featured by the artillery battalion.

Fly traps can be any size and description and bait can be anything. Entry fee is 100 Lire and F.M. 8-40 on Field Sanitation is recommended.

Insurance

(Continued from page 2)

come settlement. This option applies to any beneficiary who is not more than 69 years of age. If a beneficiary is 69 or more, payments will be made under the old plan explained above.

This option provides for the payment of the proceeds of the policy in equal monthly installments throughout the lifetime of the principal beneficiary. Such monthly installments are payable until at least the face value of the insurance policy has been paid. For example, a beneficiary is 45 years of age at the time of the insured's death. The insured carried the maximum of \$10,000 of National Service Life Insurance. At the age of 45, a beneficiary is guaranteed 218 payments certain, each payment being \$4.60 per \$1,000 of insurance carried. (The number of payments guaranteed and the amount of each payment vary with the age of the beneficiary - an older person is guaranteed less payments, but the amount is larger. In every case, the full face value of the policy is always guaranteed.) So this beneficiary would receive \$46.00 a month for life.

Now, suppose the beneficiary only lived to receive 217 installments. These installments have accumulated to \$9,982.00. Therefore, one more payment of \$18.00 will be made to the contingent beneficiary to bring total payments up to the face value of the policy. Then the contract is cancelled. But, and this is important, if the principal beneficiary lived to receive the \$10,000 in accumulated payments, payments continue even though the face amount of the policy has been paid.

Under the optional plan there is never any element of chance that the full face value of the policy might not be paid, as there is under the present plan. No matter what the age of the principal beneficiary, at least the face amount of the policy is guaranteed, plus payment for life of the principal beneficiary.

To take advantage of this new method of settlement, an insured must write direct to The Veterans' Administration, Washington D.C., stating "I hereby elect that my National Service Life Insurance be paid as a Refund Life Insurance." If the insured has not selected this optional method of settlement, the first beneficiary is notified upon the death of the insured and may elect the option. However, consult your unit insurance officer before taking any steps.

4 Doughboys Return As New 'Shavetails'

Enlisted men three months ago, four infantrymen returned to the 351st "Spearhead" Regiment from their 12 weeks course at the Leadership and Battle Training School near Caserta wearing the gold bars of second lieutenants.

Previous to their appointment to the school, the men had been recommended for battle-field promotions. Out of 151 candidates taking the course, the four 351st doughboys were among only 96 to



AH-H-H! "Tonight and Every Night," is Rita Hayworth's latest film. We'd love it.

913th Pair Handy At 'Throwing Bull'

"Throwing the bull" took a new twist for two Service Battery, 913th Field members when they pulled one of the huge beasts out of a drainage ditch he had blundered into in the outfit's bivouac area.

One of the rescuers was S/Sgt. Joe Poppler of the Bronx, appropriately enough the mess sergeant, who denied he had evil designs on the floating beef.

The man who fixed the ropes was a former able-bodied seaman from Grosse Pointe, Mich., S/Sgt. Nat Bushaw, assistant battalion supply chief.

Aided by other battery members, the two brawn boys tugged the bull out of the ditch while someone sadly murmured something about "all that meat an no potatoes."

More Beer Available!

Remember those lazy days back home on a white beach under the hot sun with a cold, thirst-quenching glass of beer? Who said it can't happen here — it can... and will!

A flash from the Special Service Office informs that an extra ration of beer is available for sale at any recreation center, exclusive of unit bars, and may be drawn on the basis of four cans per man figured on a certified daily average attendance at unit beaches, pools or rec centers. The beer is expected to be on sale in the 88th in about a week.

Bartender, draw two — with the foam on the bottom!

German POW's Jacks-Of-All-Trades Under Eyes Of 313th Engineers

"Make them do everything" is the policy of the 313th Engineer Battalion toward the thousands of Krauts put under its control by the POW Command.

Reconstruction of buildings, malaria control, establishment of camps, staging areas, and roads, improvement of beaches, and even construction of German stockades are among the projects being carried out under Capt. Orlando Feorene, 313th S-3 officer.

In the carpenter shop at Ghedi furniture, latrines, and training aids for the Americans are being turned out. The paint and sign shop is another scene of Kraut industry. QM trucking companies, made up of Jerry vehicles and drivers, haul sand gravel, and lumber to Lake Garda in a "beautification" program. Bi-

Combat Badge - - What's That?

They're telling this one down in the 351st about a recent civilian visitor who arrived in pompous style, button-holed the first EM he spotted and shouted "Well son, is there anything we can do for you at home - at all?"

"Yeah, mister," the soldier replied, "you can try to get us combat men five points credit for our Combat Infantryman Badges."

"Combat Infantryman Badge? What's that?" the visitor fumbled.

Sounds unbelievable, but they swear it's true.

'Courageous Men'

(Continued from page 1)

commander of the 69th Armored Regiment. In December, 1943, he was named Asst. G-3 of Headquarters Armored Command, and served in that capacity until he requested overseas duty.

Sent overseas, General Fry was given command of the 350th shortly before opening of the Allied offensive in May, 1944, and he led the regiment from then until a few weeks prior to start of the final victory drive through the Po Valley last Spring.

General Fry has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Croix de Guerre, Philippine Distinguished Service Medal and wears four battle stars on his ETO campaign ribbon.

He is a native of Sand Point, Idaho. His wife, Mrs. J.C. Fry, resides at 4801 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Corporal Calderone, who drew the pleasant task of boosting his "boss" a full grade, has been with General Fry as orderly and bodyguard since May, 1944, when the general spotted him on KP one day near Fondi and asked him how he'd like a new job.

Inducted on July 1, 1942, he joined the 88th on its activation at Camp Gruber, Okla., serving with the I and R Platoon, 350th, until he met General Fry. Calderone has been awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart and recalls more than his share of "close ones" while traveling with the general.

A Better Tale

Germany (CNS)—The publishing house which once turned out "Mein Kampf" by the thousands, is now printing the history of the 30th Division.

workers screened out of the Wehrmacht.

Wherever 88th Division troops are located the Jerries have been draining and spraying swamps, clearing underbrush, delousing buildings, and purifying water in a campaign to wipe out Malaria and other diseases. Plans call for the extension of this program to all American camp areas in Italy.

Another field of engineer supervision calls for the organization of German engineer, transportation, and ordnance battalions. When filled out to TO strength, these outfits are attached to various U.S. Army units as far south as Naples.

The most recently completed project was the construction of compounds for "recalcitrant" and dangerous Wehrmacht and SS men.

Slugging Show Bloody Affair

Ten Boxers Picked To Represent 350th

Modena — Blood flowed freely here Sunday night as members of the 350th Regimental boxing team whaled the daylight out of each other in their final exhibition card before seeking outside competition to slug in earnest.

The six-bout card was the second program for the "Battle Mountain" leather-pushers, which was to determine who will represent the 350th on the 10-man ring team.

Featured bout saw Pfc. Arthur Van Derhoff, Grand Rapids, Mich., welterweight, decision Cpl. Vincent Esposito, Bronx battler, in three torrid rounds. Both were anti-tank men, Van Derhoff from the A-T Company and Esposito from a 3rd Battalion Headquarters platoon.

In the nearest thing to a KO on the program, Pvt. Don Schubert, of Company "A" and Mt. Carroll, Ill., got a technical over S/Sgt. Ed Bjorkman, New Rochelle, N.J., bantamweight representing Company "L," in the second round. Schubert uncorked one on the Jerseyite's nose and drew crimson, and Referee Maj. Thomas Cussans stopped the bout.

Despite a bleeding nose, Company "K's" Pvt. Vernon Hammond, Ypsilanti, Mich., stayed the three heats to outpoint Flatbusher S/Sgt. Max Schier of Company "H" in the 175-pound class.

The semi-windup saw Arturo Paoletti, local Italian bantamweight, decision Pfc. Arthur Marquez, Company "E" and Phoenix, Ariz. A junior welterweight brawl resulted in Pvt. Mario Antonelli of Company "K" and Providence, R.I., defeating Pfc. Howard Hodgkinson, Company "E" and Fremont, O., while the opener found Pfc. Waldo Nye of Orrum, N.C., outpointing S/Sgt. George Karageorge of Boston, Mass., in a light-heavyweight scrap. The victor gave away 10 pounds to his 175-pound opponent.

On the basis of performances in the two shows, the following were named on the regimental team:

Mahan, Van Derhoff, Marquez, Antonelli, Pfc. Duke Austerman, 210, Company "A," Indianapolis, Ind.; Pfc. William Peters, 175, Anti-Tank Company, New York City; Pvt. Anthony Trotta, 120, Company "G," Providence, R.I.; Pfc. John Chicone, 148, Company "I," Philadelphia; Pfc. Albert Battistrieri, 126, Company "E," New York City, and Sgt. Encarnacion Villareal, 170, Company "M," Tivoli, Tex.

Ball Game Ends Even

In its first baseball game of the season, the 913th Field was held to a 5-5 deadlock by a nine from the 1st. Bn., 351st Regiment last week near Rezzato. The game was called on account of darkness after seven innings of play.

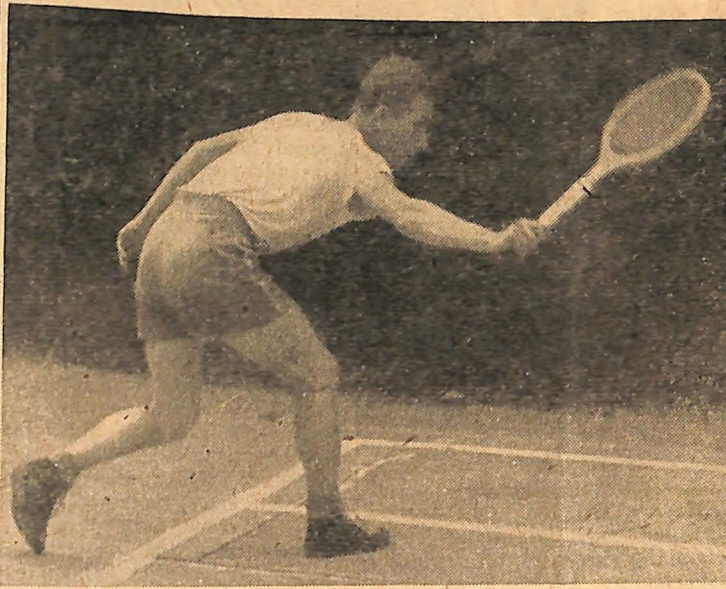
Both teams were a little rough around the edges but after a few more games should constitute real threats to other aspiring bat men.

Meanwhile, the 913th nine is practicing for the competition it hopes to get by challenging any team in the division. Lt. William Healy, athletic officer is the man to contact.

913th Dares All

A note from the 913th Field reads, "We have damn good baseball, softball and tennis teams and are looking for worthy competition in each of these three sports. Any outfit in or out of the division that doesn't mind getting beaten and would like to schedule a game can do so by calling Lode 37."

THE BACK OF ME HAND



Getting in his final practice licks at Desenzano before the Fifth Army tennis tourney, Pfc Raymond Niwa of Chicago, Ill., backhands a hard shot right back where it came from. An M.P., Niwa represents Special Troops. "Blue Devil" Photo by Zink

'Blue Devil' Netmen Close Training For Army Tourney

Pro Footballers Cuff, Hutson Tour Division

Two famous professional footballers, Don Hutson and Ward Cuff, are visiting units of the 88th this week under auspices of USO-Special Service.

The pair arrived last Sunday and will conclude their schedule of group meetings, movies, and demonstrations this Sunday. During organized athletics periods they are talking things over with soldiers and throwing in some of their own stories and anecdotes of the gridiron.

The motion pictures are of outstanding games and players, and are accompanied by a running commentary from Cuff and Hutson.

A former Alabama All-American end, Hutson has gained even more fame with his unbelievable pass-catching for the Green Bay Packers. Cuff, formerly of Marquette U., is drop-kicking expert and blocking back for the New York Giants.

Six 'Redleg' Batteries Clash In Clout Contests

Softball got off to a slugging start last Friday in the 913th Field Artillery's battalion league with six clubs clashing in preparation for the division round robin tourney to be held this month.

Hq. Battery and the Zeros (officers) engaged in a clout contest with the former gaining a 15-14 decision when Sgt. Len Nowicki singled Pfc Roy Frandson home in the last of the eight. The other two tilts were strictly pitcher's duels.

Baker scored two runs in the third frame that enabled them to beat out Able Battery, 2-1. In the day's final tussle, Charlie Battery squeezed one off in the sixth on an error and two singles to give chucker Parvin a 1-0 shutout over the Service boys.

913th LEAGUE STANDINGS

	won	lost	per
Hq. Btry.	1	0	1.000
B	1	0	1.000
C	1	0	1.000
A	0	1	.000
Sv.	0	1	.000
Officers	0	1	.000

Bologna Cagers Score

Modena — A Bologna cage team bowled over a Special Service quintet of the 350th "Battle Mountain" Regiment Sunday, 22-16. A return engagement with the Modena basketball five, previously defeated 28-16, has been set for Wednesday at 1730 hours.

Racquetters of the 88th Division were scheduled to get in final practice licks today and tomorrow at the Desenzano courts in preparation for the Fifth Army Championship Tennis Tournament, slated for July 9-14 at the Tennis Club in Milan.

With 15 entries submitted from units of the division, an informal elimination was to be held at Desenzano to pick the best ten netmen to represent the "Blue Devils" in the Army play. Divisional entries were to be limited to two doubles and two singles players at Milan, but because of the difficulties of scheduling a division elimination tourney Army officials gave permission to 2nd Lt. Ray Shaffer, Athletic Officer, to enter three doubles teams and four singles in the meet.

Lieutenant Shaffer said he hoped to have the "Blue Devil" team in Milan by tomorrow to allow the netmen to get at least one workout on the courts where the Fifth Army play will be held.

Most of the players will go into action with a minimum of pre-tourney training, due to shortage of tennis equipment and poor quality of the balls, some of which split after a few healthy strokes. Only four racquets to each regiment, Divarty and Special Troops were available for unit eliminations, which was far inadequate to the needs of the division. The 913th Field aided its own cause by purchasing four racquets from a battalion Special Service fund.

Names of the 15 entrants, from whom 10 will be selected to go to Milan, follow:

Special Troops - T/5 Frank Rounds, 313th Medics, and Pfc. Raymond J. Niwa, 88th M.P. Platoon. (Singles).

Division Artillery - 1st Lt. Earl M. Olson, Cpl. Dave Bixler, Roman L. Szyanski and Bruce C. Merrill, all from the 913th Field. (Singles).

349th Infantry - S/Sgt. Frank Lewis, Co. "M," and Pvt. Henry Woolledge, Co. "A." (Doubles team); Pfc. Charles O. Volz, Co. "A," and Pfc. Franklin Ellis, Co. "H." (Singles).

350th Infantry - Pfc. Nonna MacInnis and Lt. Merle D. Bascom (Doubles team); Lt. Burnett Bartlett (Singles).

351st Infantry - Cpl. Dwayne Hodge, Service Co., and Pfc. Arthur Wiseberg, Service Co. (Doubles team).

Medics Top Signal, Kirkland Fans 13

Strike-out artist T/5 Joe Kirkland led the 313th Medic baseball team to its second straight victory over the 88th Signal Company squad, 3-2, Wednesday at Desenzano.

Thirteen of the Signalmen were fanned by the Medico, who had whiffed 16 in the previous meeting of the two squads, and only two got safeties.

Sports Schedule Hits Many Snags In Inaugural Week

Milan Swim Site Set As Deadline Nears

As the deadline for entries in the 88th Division Championship Swimming Meet drew near, it was announced that the Kingfisher Club pool in Milan will be the site of the 13-event competition on July 13 and 14. Unit entry lists, 2nd Lt. Ray Shaffer reminded, are to be submitted to the Division Athletic and Recreation Office by July 11.

Preliminaries are scheduled to be held on the evening of July 13, with the finals of the division meet to be run off in the afternoon or evening of the following day. The Fifth Army championship meet is set for July 21-22.

First and second place winners in each event will be awarded medals and will represent the 88th in the Fifth Army competition. A trophy will go to the winning team and an award to the individual scoring the most points.

The following events are listed in the swimming competition: 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1500-meter free styles; 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter breaststroke, 300-meter medley swim, 300-meter medley relay, and 400-meter free style relay. Diving events are scheduled from the one and three-meter boards and ten-meter platform.

Engineers Ten Ends Div Hq Streak, 7-2

After going undefeated in six starts, the Division Headquarters softballers finally were toppled, 7-2, when they tangled with the 313th Engineer Battalion ten Monday night at the Desenzano field.

All was even, 2-2, in the fifth frame when the "Gravel Agitators" reached the Headquarters moundsman for a five-run collection that sewed up the victory. T/5 Douglas Fuller hurled for the winners.

Two nights earlier the Headquarters squad had rung up its sixth win in as many games by blasting the 84th Chemical Mortarmen, 6-1, at Desenzano. It was the third time the Chemicalmen had been beaten by the "Blue Devils." Clenneth Roberts did the hurling.

T/5 Harry Solomon, Special Service Section's portly promoter, has stepped in as the new manager of the Division Headquarters softball team, replacing S/Sgt. Lou Carlough, who has transferred to the hinterlands.

As his first official act, the stocky Solomon sounded a challenge to any and all softball squads in or out the 88th to meet the Headquarters team. Games may be booked by calling Legion 37.

Softball Elims Start To Pick Div Champs

Battalion eliminations in softball were underway this week in preparation for the division championship tourney scheduled to be played at the Desenzano field on July 17-21.

Regimental tilts and eliminations in Special Troops and Divarty are to be run off when battalion titlists are decided, and entries for the 88th tourney are due at the Division Athletic and Recreation Office by July 14.

The divisional round-robin will decide who will represent the "Blue Devils" in the Fifth Army tourney, slated for August 3-11.

Due to transportation difficulties and distances between units some preliminaries have been slow to start, but all units of the division are expected to field teams in the 88th tourney.

Officials Still Hope To 'Put It Over'

Bottlenecks have cropped up like touts at a racetrack to hamper the success of the "all-out" athletic and recreation program announced on this page last week and scheduled to get underway in the division immediately.

Four principal difficulties can be listed as hindering the program in most of the units of the 88th, namely:

1. Transfers — huge shifts of enlisted personnel to other outfits and frequent reassignment of officers have done much to disrupt the inauguration of the program.

2. Division Mission - guard duty and other details of handling PW's limits the time that can be devoted to the athletic and recreation schedule.

3. Decentralization of Units - regiments, artillery battalions and some special troop outfits are so widely dispersed in many cases that an organized program or schedule of inter-unit and intra-division sports becomes exceedingly difficult to maintain.

4. Shortages and Deficiencies of Equipment - sufficient supplies of baseball and tennis equipment, two sports in which Army competitions are scheduled soon, are definitely lacking and there is no immediate prospect of the situation being alleviated. Some equipment, particularly baseballs, softballs, tennis balls and softball and baseball bats, are poor quality. The tennis balls, have split frequently after a short time in play. Seams of baseballs break after a few innings and some of the softballs "get like mush after they're hit a few times." The bats, many of them unfinished, could hardly be called "Grade-A."

Despite these difficulties, and varied lesser ones, the Division Athletic and Recreation Office has high hopes of "putting the program over with a bang."

"It will mean a lot of hard work, but it's too fine a thing to let go half-done," said Capt. Herbert J. Buschman, Division Athletic and Recreation Officer. "We're getting organized to tackle the job and will do everything possible to make it a success."

As a long step in this direction, 1st Lt. Paul M. Hoyme, formerly of the 91st Division and now assigned to the 349th Regiment, has been put on special duty in the Athletic and Recreation Office. Lieutenant Hoyme will visit units of the division to assist and advise athletic officers in carrying out sports activities.

The program calls for two hours daily of sports participation or recreational activity, and the organization of both sports classes and teams. Although the participation of every man in the program is compulsory, the division mission takes precedence over athletics when deemed necessary.

Although few outfits have as yet launched activities as outlined under the new program, almost all units have scheduled sports periods, with softball, baseball, volley ball and swimming the most widespread.

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Opone Ping Pong Champ

Table tennis champion of the 913th "Heavy Weapons" Battalion, decided in a contest run off at the battalion recreation center Saturday night is, Pvt. Joseph Opone of Providence, R.I.

339th F.A. STANDINGS

	W	L	Pct.
"A" Battery	3	0	1.000
Hq. Battery	2	1	.666
Sv. Battery	1	1	.500
"B" Battery	1	2	.333
"C" Battery	0	3	.000

De Gaulle Honors

(Continued from page 1)

"Blue Devils" and French fought side by side. The award also mentioned the gallant fighting by the 88th in the cracking of the Gothic Line, when the French were not on the line.

The 34th and 45th Divisions, which were also awarded the Croix de Guerre, were so decorated for the actions in which they participated while under command of the French Expeditionary Corps.

Awarding of "fourrageres" for every man in the division is awaiting official decree, according to 1st Lt. Charles V. Du Breil, chief of the IV Corps French Liaison Section and liaison officer with the 88th throughout most of its tour of battle in Italy. The standing rule is that a unit must be twice awarded the Croix de Guerre before members of the unit are entitled to wear fourrageres.

Lieutenant Du Breil, who had much to do with recommendations for the decoration, is an "adopted" Blue Devil of long standing. He was awarded the Bronze Star by Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan, then Commanding General of the 88th, for outstanding work in maintaining close liaison between our division and the French in the drive to the Arno.

Should the rule be violated and the fourrageres be awarded, every man in the division at the time of the action covered by the citation as well as all men now in the division will be entitled to wear one, Lieutenant Du Breil said.

The Order of the Army is the highest degree which can be awarded in the Croix de Guerre series. It corresponds somewhere between a Silver Star and a DSC, although there is actually no equivalent in the chart of American awards. The medal was originated in World War I and the current issue is the same except for the date inscribed on its face. It is awarded only for action against the Germans.

First hint that the 88th might receive the coveted medal was in a column written by Brig. Gen. J. C. Fry, acting division commander, in today's issue of "The Blue Devil." At the time General Fry wrote the column, official news of the award had not yet been received.

AT HOME

Maj. Gen. Paul W. Kendall, Division Commander, today was enjoying a visit with his wife and family at his home in Palo Alto, Calif., on completion of his Victory tour with the General McNarney party. It is expected that General Kendall will rejoin the division about July 15.

'Pointless' Word For Champeine



You think you got troubles? Brother, take a back seat and make sympathetic noises deep down in your throat for Pfc Elmer Champeine of Rutland, Vt. who has an over-all total of 16 adjusted service rating credits, as the army calls them.

As the 349th "Krautkiller" calls it, "pointless" is the word for Champeine.

Low man on the total pole, Elmer was inducted into the army in September, 1944. Five months later he was overseas quick like, and in March of this year he joined Co. "I" as heavy weapons man. Which all gives him 11 points for his soldiering "career."

Oh yes, he also gets five points for one battle star.

GI Sees Berlin On Venice Pass

A pass to Venice turned out to be a flying visit to Berlin for T/5 John J. Fitzpatrick, chaplain's assistant in the 351st Regiment.

Dropping in at the Adriatic city's airport last week, he heard about a plane that was to tour Germany, and promptly propositioned the colonel in charge. Soon the Alps, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and southern Germany were passing beneath his C-47. Russian security regulations forced the plane to stop about 35 miles south of the former Nazi capital for Red Army permission.

The group was not allowed to land in Berlin itself, but dived down to 300 feet, from where Fitzpatrick could see people picking through the rubble. After a half-hour of sight-seeing the party took off straight to Venice, 600 miles away, on Russian gasoline they had picked up earlier. Two days later, the adventurous chaplain's assistant was still muttering, "And I thought we had some ruins here in Italy."

Italian Pair Caught In Theft, Two Escape

Modena — Two members of a Modena black-market theft ring were captured early Monday morning by Pfc. Walter Vickers of Cincinnati, Ohio, while standing guard at the 350th "Battle Mountain" Regiment CP.

Informed by a Fifth Army ordnance man that thieves were looting a quartermaster depot a few blocks away, Vickers accompanied the former to the site. The Italian looters had already escaped with two cart-loads of 10-in-1 rations and flour.

Vickers took into custody a young civilian used as a lookout and an Italian guard who allegedly admitted the looters through the QM depot gates, whom he turned over to military police.

Comments

(Continued from page 1)

the 88th "Blue Devil" Division on paper."

Unconcerned was Pfc John W. Finney, 351st Service Company truckdriver who recently came to the 88th from the 473rd Infantry Regiment, and who has over 85 points.

"I think I'm going home and that's the thing that counts in my book. I don't know much about the 88th except that it's a good outfit and it has had some tough fights. But I have no particular interest in this or any other division - except that this is the one that's taking me home."

Pfc William Lollgen of Rutherford, N.J., former bazookaman in Co. "C," 350th and now a PW interrogator, said: "I joined the regiment only last October but I still don't like the idea of the 88th being broken up."

"It's hard for the men of an old fighting organization like this to leave old buddies who have fought with and for them for so long to enter another outfit and make new friends all over again."

T/5 Francis Petrosky of Ashley, Pa., Co. "E," 351st, who came to the 88th in December, 1942, said: "They should retain some of the old men with over 60 points - those guys who have been the nucleus of the outfit all through combat and have helped make the 88th the great division that it is."

Pfc John W. Ray, newly-added member of the 351st Cannon Company who came from the 473rd with 27 months overseas, says he "didn't know much about the 88th when I joined it other than that it was one of the oldest divisions over here."

"But after a week here I think it must be a good outfit, that is if military courtesy is any guide. I've tossed more high-balls here in six days than I did in six months in any other outfit. The same goes for uniforms and the way the men conduct themselves around camp."

Pfc Richard Fuchs of Flushing.

New Red Cross Club Open in Desenzano

An enlisted men's Red Cross Club, under the direction of Miss Beverly Newlan, Los Animos, Colorado, was opened in the Special Troops area last week.

Featuring a snack bar, games, a radio-phonograph, and reading-writing room, the club is located in a modernistic building on Highway 11, in Desenzano. Dancing one night a week is scheduled to start soon. Badminton and ping pong courts will be completed soon. At present ice cream is being served two afternoons a week.

Miss Newlan, a recent addition to the division Red Cross staff, is being assisted by Pvt. Perry Johnson, Oakland, Calif., and Pvt. Ira Williamson, Virduvill, W. Va.

Ya' Wanna' Ride?

Horses are available for riding by members of Special Troop units at the stables at 29-31 Via Garibaldi, in Desenzano. Arrangements may be made through the Special Service Office, with 12-hour advance notice necessary to assure a mount.

'Duffy's Tavern' Plays Here For Doughboys

"Duffy's Tavern," starring Ed "Archie" Gardner and Jinx Falkenburg, is booked for the 351st Regimental area next Sunday at 2000 hours.

Gardner gained fame with his dead-pan gags on the fantastic radio program built around a mythical Brooklyn place called Duffy's Tavern. Miss Falkenburg, on the other hand, is known to doughboys chiefly for her whistle-inspiring build.

Also scheduled on the bill are singer Marilyn Hare, magician Dave Bruce, acrobat Barbara Morrison, and piano accompanist Jules Buffano. This troupe is drawing large crowds all over Italy, and will make but this one appearance at Ghedi airport for the men of the 88th.

ARC Carnival Held For EM Of Div Hq.

A Fourth-of-July "Carnival" for the men of Division Headquarters Company took place on the pier in front of the Albergo Mayer at Desenzano Wednesday night.

Dance music was provided by the 351st Regimental Band, while the division's entries in the Fifth Army talent contest, all men of the 351st, presented their acts in a floor show. Concessions included a "pink lemonade" stand and games of chance. Admission was by invitation, with the men bringing their own dates.

The event was managed by Miss Sylvia Simmons of the Red Cross Clubmobile, with assistance from the enlisted men's committee of Headquarters Company, led by M/Sgt. Lew Kouba, 1st/Sgt. Ed Foley and M/Sgt. Howard Eggerding.

L.I., and Hq. Co., 350th, said: "As it is a surplus division the 88th has to be broken up, but if the 88th were to be continued I would rather stay with it than any other outfit."

Fuchs joined the 88th 16 months ago in Italy and until three months ago had served with Co. "L."

Two new arrivals, formerly with the 85th Division, and low on points, accepted their fate quite as amazed as their "Blue Devil" buddies but neither seemed disappointed to be in the 88th. Both stressed the fact that the 85th and 88th are "sister divisions."

"I frankly don't know what the score is, where I'm going or why I'm here," said Pfc Roy A. Slagg of Garland, Kan., formerly of the 338th Infantry and now in Service Company, 351st, "but the 88th fought beside the Custer Division all through Italy and the only difference I can see in the outfits is the insignia."

"I'm strictly in the dark, but I've seen the army work before. Seems like they always switch me around. I'm just resigned to sit and wait - and hope for the best."

S/Sgt. Sal Gentile of N.Y.C., another 338th transferee to the 351st, and a former mortar section leader with the 85th, "If I had been given the choice, I would have chosen the 88th for my new outfit, that is, if I had to leave the 85th."

"I don't like leaving my pals and I'm still confused by the transfer. All I hope is that they'll drop the point score so I can get home."

Gentile has 77 points, Slagg 72.

3000 Custer Men Now 'Blue Devils'

Approximately 3,000 officers and men of the 85th Division, all with point totals below the present 85-point critical score, were transferred this week to the 88th Division and are being assigned directly to the various units.

Division Classification Office said "no undue significance" was to be attached to the sudden influx of low-pointers. The transfer might have been intended to give the low-pointers a temporary home pending reassignment to other outfits and at the same time, give the 88th assistance with its PW guard mission.

Another notable shift of personnel during the week involved the shipment of 790 "Blue Devils" to the 473rd Infantry Regiment in exchange for about 700 of the converted ack-ack men.

FIX US UP



RHUMBA DANCE TEAM — Strange occupation for "K" Co., 351st Regiment cooks is the dance team they make which took first place in division talent show finals. Only a female impersonator is Cpl. Joseph Bucchi of Medford, Mass. (left) and his or her partner is Cpl. Javier de la Torre, El Paso, Texas.

Strike In Printing Plant Almost Ties Up Paper

Your "Blue Devil" almost didn't get out this week because of a strike! Not on the part of the staff — who are in the army, but by the civilian workers in the Milan printing plant, the Archetipografia di Milano.

When the staff came to work Wednesday morning, the workers were all standing by their machines waiting for word as to their pay increase. Everything was orderly — no bricks flying; no picketing and no scabs. Not until 9 a.m. did they go back to their presses, to the relief of the Editor who was thinking seriously of calling down some help.

The strike still isn't settled; the plant is continuing to work pending a reply from Rome, and may strike again at any time to expedite an answer. So if you don't get this week's paper, you'll know why.

He's A Big Boy Now

A proud mother walked into the E-Zee Credit Furniture Store, clutching a small monthly payment. Placing it on the counter, she said, "Here is the last installment on our baby carriage."

"And how is the baby?" asked the clerk.

"Fine," she replied. "He was drafted last month."

Booted!

Richmond, Va. (CNS)—Much-married Pauline Condon has asked the court for a divorce from her 15th husband. The charge: He hit her on the head with his artificial leg.

