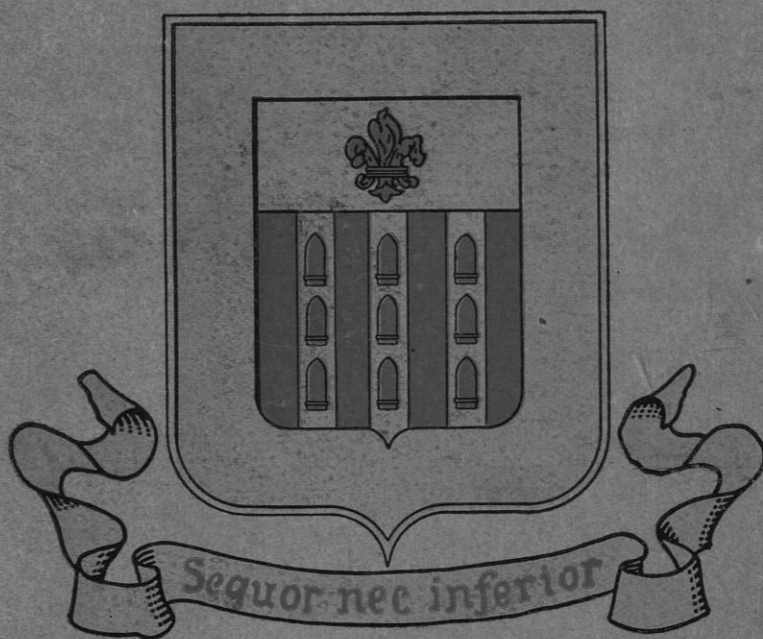


The Golden Cannon

A History of

the 969th Field Artillery Battalion



R. E. W. JONES, LED HERITAGE HOUSE

Founder of Negro Welfare Body in Philadelphia Dies

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12—Dr. Eugene Wayman Jones, the founder and executive director of Heritage House, a nonprofit organization providing educational and cultural opportunities for underprivileged Negroes, died of a heart attack yesterday at his home. His age was 50.

Dr. Jones was also the founder of the Philadelphia Cotillion Society and of the North City Congress, a federation of civic, educational, religious and business organizations in North Philadelphia that receive support from the Ford Foundation.

He was born in Moundsville, W. Va., and was graduated from the State College at Bluefield, W. Va., in 1938. Temple University awarded him a master's degree in education in 1946 and a doctorate in 1953.

Dr. Jones served as a staff sergeant in World War II and directed the choirs of the 333d and 969th Field Artillery Battalions and the Leatherneck Chorus of the Marine Corps.

He came to Philadelphia in 1946 and joined the Veterans Administration as a training officer. Later he taught in several city schools.

Dr. Jones was a member of the Community Council, the Fellowship Commission and the nominating committee of the Girl Scouts of Philadelphia; a director of the Educational Television Council and a member of the American Society of Composers and Conductors.

He had been a consultant to the Committees on Negro Affairs in Boston, Washington, Buffalo and Brooklyn, New York; a member of the executive committee of the Philadelphia branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a former director of the Philadelphia CARE Committee.

Dr. Jones had received 40 citations, including the Philadelphia Man of the Year Award, the Inter-Urban League Cita-

tion and the Cultural Award of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

He was a bachelor. Surviving are his parents and a sister.

The Philadelphia Cotillion, scheduled for Dec. 26, has been postponed until next spring.

12/12/64

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 12, 1964

Dr. Eugene W. Jones, Negro Leader, Dies

Dr. Eugene Wayman Jones, founder and executive director of both the Philadelphia Cotillion Society and Heritage House, 1346 N. Broad st., died Friday at his home, 2254 N. Park ave. He was about 50.

Born in Moundsville, W. Va., he attended Bluefield State College and received his Ph.D. from Temple University in 1953.

NEGRO LEADER

The Negro leader was prominent in Philadelphia community affairs. Heritage House, a nonprofit organization, provides education and cultural improvement to underprivileged children and adults.

He also founded the North City Congress, a group supported by the Ford Foundation, and the Collegiate A Cappella Choir.

As a staff sergeant in the Second World War, Dr. Jones directed the choirs of the 333d and 969th Field Artillery Battalions and the U. S. Marine "Leatherneck Chorus." He founded and directed more than a dozen choirs in his lifetime.

SUNG FOR THE GREAT

His choirs appeared before Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and Sir Winston Churchill.

He was a former member of the executive committee of the Philadelphia branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and also served with the North Central Health and Welfare Committee.

With only \$6, Dr. Jones founded the ballet spectacles for the annual Christmas Cotillion.

COTILLION'S HISTORY

The first cotillion, in 1949, raised \$3000 for Mercy-Douglass Hospital and a jeweled Cross of Malta was given to Philadelphia's Marian Anderson as the guest of honor.

Dr. Ralph Bunche, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Thurgood Marshall, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt and Dr. Martin Luther King are among those who have been honored since then.

Dr. Jones is survived by his parents and a sister, of Moundsville, W. Va.

The Golden Cannon

A History of the 969th Field Artillery Battalion



Published with the approval and assistance of
MAJOR JAMES W. MELVILLE
Commanding.



Supervised by
CAPTAIN JEROME A. CAPLAN, F. A.



Written and Arranged by
Eugene Wayman Jones



Editorial Assistants :

S.Sgt Worrell G. Gaiter
Sgt. James C. Moore
Sgt. Radclyffe Harewood
Sgt. Charles H. Payne
Cpl. Reginald Biddle
Cartoons by William Taylor, Tech.Sgt.





" While we go marching on "



Dédication



TO YOU, OUR COMRADES, WITH WHOM WE LIVED
AND FOUGHT... YOU WHO GAVE THAT "LAST FULL
MEASURE OF DEVOTION..." THAT OTHERS MIGHT
LIVE IN A FREER WORLD...

WE DEDICATE THIS LITTLE VOLUME

Capt. William J. Amann
Capt. Otto Solberg
Lt. William Paulsen
1st. Sgt. John C. Hall
Sgt. James Keeth
Sgt. James A. Wilburn
Cpl. Fred Johnson
Pvt. 1cl. Robert Foreman
Pvt. 1cl. John W. Fields
Pvt. 1cl. Howard Powers
Pvt. 1cl. Odessa Holland
Pvt. 1cl. Author Hendricks
Pvt. Lawrence Reynolds
Pvt. John J. Mills
Pvt. Wesley Pickett
Pvt. Leroy Watson
Pvt. George Morris
Pvt. Columbus Wright
Cpl. Grady Correthers
Pvt. 1cl. Henry Love
Pvt. John Congo
Pvt. John S. Williams

IN MEMORIAM

A letter from "Ike"

★
★★

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER
Office of the Commanding General

18 August 1945

Dear Sergeant Jones:

I am delighted to know that the enlisted men of the 969th Field Artillery Battalion are publishing a commemorative account of the service of the Battalion.

The highlight of its war experiences was, of course, its participation in the gallant defense of Bastogne from the 18th to the 27th December, 1944. For this service the War Department awarded the Battalion, in the name of the President, a unit citation. This is not only one of the most coveted citations in our Army, but any man that belongs to a unit that has earned it may always point with pride to the battle record of his organization in the United States Army.

With best wishes to all the enlisted men in the Battalion and to their officers,

Most sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower

s/Sgt Eugene Wayman Jones,
The Golden Cannon
969th Field Artillery Battalion
APO 513, U. S. Army

INTRODUCTION



TO YOU WHO HOLD

THIS VOLUME IN YOUR HAND :

This small book cannot contain all of the high points of the European service of the Nine Hundred Sixty-Ninth Field Artillery Battalion ; nor is it intended to so do.

However, when you as a civilian again, with your pipe and slippers by a fire, take down the « Golden Cannon », and are reminded of certain scenes and days, and are therefore moved to chuckle a little..... Then shall our purpose have been served.

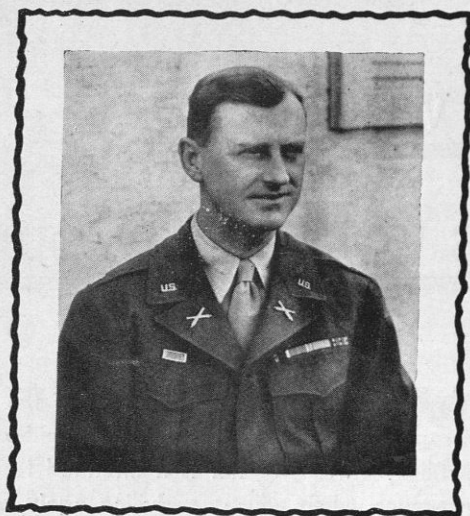
And if, in your chuckling, you sometimes feel 'That it wasn't too bad, after all,' We ask you to remember that the peace you now enjoy was made possible also by the "Comrades who did not return..... The

Gentlemen of the Eternal Purple Heart.

Sincerely,

The Editor





Lieutenant Colonel Hubert D. Barnes

Lieutenant Colonel Barnes, from March 1943 until July 1945 commanded the 969th Field Artillery Battalion. His intense pride in this unit, in his officers and men, was a by-word. Quick of tongue and nimble of wit, he was fast to retaliate if the honor of his outfit was impugned. In garrison, as in combat his thoughtfulness for the enlisted men was an unquestioned fact. At Bastogne, his level headed decision to "stay and see it through" earned for the battalion a lasting name in the annals of this war. Lt. Colonel Barnes is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

M

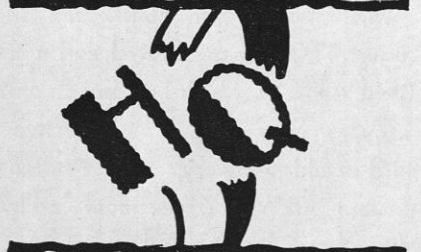
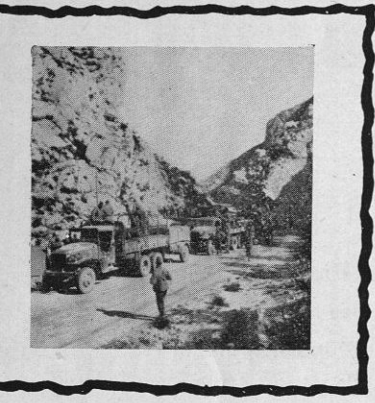
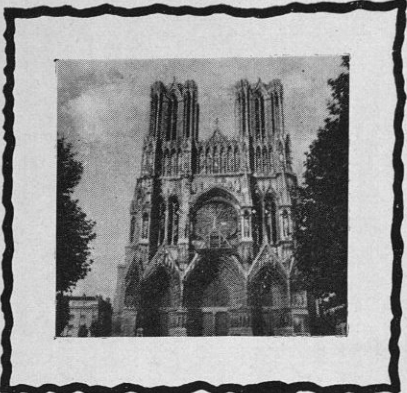


WE ARE BORN...



The 969th Field Artillery Battalion was originally organized as the Second Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery. The 333rd Field Artillery was organized in September 1917. The regiment served in France, but did not participate in battle. It returned to the United States, and was demobilized in 1919 ; reconstituted and consolidated, in 1930, with the 333rd Field Artillery, Organized Reserves, which had been constituted in 1929 ; disbanded through error on 22 August 1942 ; reconstituted and consolidated 13 October 1942, with the 333rd Field Artillery, which had been constituted as an inactive unit of the Regular army, 5, May 1942 ; made active 5 August 1942. The Second Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery, was redesignated the 969th Field Artillery Battalion, pursuant to War Department letter, AG 320.2 (2-9-43), dated 12 February 1943.





CHAPTER ONE

THE GREENHORNS ARRIVE



SOME FELLOWS WERE STARING OUT OF THE DIRTY PANE AT THE FLAT OKLAHOMA COUNTRYSIDE... AND HENRY JORDAN WAS ASLEEP, HIS HEAD SLUMPED ON HIS CHEST. PHILIP LAWRENCE WROTE A LETTER, HIS FOREHEAD WRINKLED IN CONCENTRATION. THE TRAIN SCREECHED ON THROUGH THE DUSK, ITS WHISTLE CALLING FRETFULLY.

"EVERYBODY", THE VOICE WAS STRONG, THE ACCENTS POSITIVE, "GRAB YER STUFF. THE NEXT STOP IS IT !"

AMMIE JONES REACHED FOR HIS BLOUSE AND STRAIGHTENED HIS TIE. THE PIT OF HIS STOMACH HAD A THOUSAND BUTTERFLIES, DANCING LIKE MAD. GREENWOOD PICKED UP HIS DICE AND SHOVED SOME BILLS IN HIS POCKET. "OH HELL !" HE COMMENTED.

THE OCCUPANTS OF THE CAR STIRRED SLOWLY TO LIFE. MUSETTE BAGS AND DUFFEL BAGS FELL FROM THE RACKS... AND MILD SWEARING CAME FROM THE CORNER WHERE GAITER TRIED TO FIND HIS MESSKIT COVER. JOE HAMILTON, WEDGED IN A CORNER TRYING TO PUT ON HIS SHOE CALLED SOMEONE 47 DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF SKUNK FOR STEPPING ON HIS FOOT.

The rain came down in thin cold spears that penetrated OD pants, and the men, in awkward lines shivered slightly. This was a new world.

"TA-TA-TA-TA", THE BAND UNDER THE SHED PLAYED "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER", AND THE GREAT GREEN TRUCKS BACKED UP AGAINST THE LOADING PLATFORM.

"NAME ?"

"SERIAL NUMBER ?"

"BARRACKS FOUR. HEY YOU.... OVER HERE DAMMIT ! WHERE'S YOUR BAG ? MOVE ALONG !"

CAMP GRUBER, OKLAHOMA, DECEMBER 5TH, 1945
WHITE BARRACKS. PAVED STREETS.
DUST DUST DUST.

" This is a rifle. Let me spell it for you, R-I-F-L-E.
Awright... awright ! No talking in ranks !
The Rifle Range : cold... snow... rain.
Fall in !
Fall out !

READY ON THE RIGHT ?
READY ON THE LEFT ?
COMMENCE FIRING !
(THOSE PRETTY OLD RED DRAWERS THAT MAGGIE WORE)

RSOP : Reconnaissance, Selection and Occupation of Position in the Cookson
Hills. Rattlesnake... Copperhead... Eagles Nest... Buzzard.

FIRE MISSION !
BATTERY ADJUST
SHELL HE
CHARGE FIVE
FUZE QUICK
BASE DEFLECTION : RIGHT 134
ON NUMBER TWO, OPEN FOUR.
BATTERY ONE ROUND
QUADRANT 319

INFILTRATION..... NIGHT PROBLEMS..... COMBAT IN CITIES
17 miles until you drop..... 17 miles until you stop ! Sound Off !
Hut Ho !

Saturday Noon.
Private Johnnie Hall reports for pass, Sir.
Creases and Shoe shine
Muskogee and a glass of wine.
Juke box Saturday Night.
Hello, Mary. Hello, Sue.
Say, Look whatcha gonna do ?
PX jumpin' everything groovy...
Let's take in a ten-cent movie.
(Yeah, I'm a sergeant, but can't buy the stripes)
Chicken and cokes at the Service Club
Can't wash my socks... ain't got no tub.
Ration Blues at the old "Deep Rock"
All you do is give one knock.
JUKE BOX SATURDAY NIGHT !

BASIC TRAINING TEST TODAY
YOU WON'T GET NO REST TODAY
100 YARDS IN FORTY SECONDS...
BUTTON THAT JACKET !
FASTEN THAT PLACKET !
(WHERE IS THAT AIMING CIRCLE, BIDDLE ?
LOOK, I'M NOT ASKING FOR A RIDDLE).

§

FIRST FURLOUGH HOME
GLORY BE !
SWEET TO ME !
ROCKIN' BACK TO 'SIPPI
ROLLIN' BACK TO TOWN
I'M UNCLE SAM'S BOY ALL DRESSED IN BROWN !

Dear Mom,

They've pushed Rommel back I hear,
so maybe.....
Oh, Well, it's not so bad.
Give my best to Sis and Dad.
I'll send those pictures very soon...
Gotta quit it's almost noon.
Time for chow,
Gotta go now.

So Long.....

Doug Paul

We have a new Colonel, did you hear ?
Tall red headed fellah. Name's Barnes.

333rd becomes 969th. Special Orders.
Colonel Hocker, Major Hall
Major Triplett, Captain Gall.
(Comes new faces but the work is the same.
You're just a number, not a name !)

(NEWS ITEM FROM CANNONEERS POST)

Harry Quintyne, Leonard Turner and Bill Knight really jumped at the "Rec Hall" the other night. Baker Battery gave one of their famous balls, with girls from Tulsa as guests, and the 88th Division band really swinging. It was solid, Chum !



CHAPTER TWO

LOUISIANA (Dear Louisiana)

★
★★

September 11th, 1943.
Barracks must be evacuated by 0930.
There will be an inspection at 1000 Hours.

§

Louisiana bound.

"They say that snakes and mosquitoes are worse than the manoeuvres. Mayo Crook was cadre from Camp Livingston, and Man, he says..."

§

The long line of trucks and guns moved slowly out of the main gate... and the hot September sun glittered on the steel helmets. Convoy to a practice war. Captain Harrison signalled for Charlie Battery to close it up. The brake hose broke on Able's number one Gun. Halt. Lieutenant Caplan read Somerset Maugham's "Cakes and Ale". Jeeps and 3/4 tons... Diamond T's and Prime Movers. Keep your proper interval ! Jasper Logan in Service Battery slept on the canvas top, his face covered to keep out the dust.

§

First Stop : Mena, Arkansas.

§

Cotton fields and cotton pickers. Louisiana, sleepy and hot. "Looki them big Guns !" Keep 'em rolling !"

YOU ARE NOW IN THE MANOEUEVER AREA
U. S. ARMY

Dust and bugs, yellow jackets and spiders.
You will fire three rounds (simulated) at 0403 Hours.
Fire Mission !

SECRET

Red Army will deploy around Leesville with objective at Coordinates 91.438-42.000. 969th Field Artillery Bn. will march to pre-designated area, reporting to Liaison Officer, 86th Division Arty.

Change that red band to blue ! 12 o'clock Midnight. Stars as bright as silver shillings. A hasty cigarette with your back to a tree. Sleep. March Order !

§

We cross the river tonight. Blackout discipline to be strictly enforced. No Smoking. Absolute silence.

Prelude to a thousand river crossings.

In the early dawn, the water laps around the pontoons. Red and Green lights are reflected in the black water. Take it easy.... Take it easy.

Texas. Move and march around the "Big Inch", pipeline to Victory. Texas. The grass sharper, the sand sandier, the nights cooler.

§

Detail crews report at 0600 to Lt. Nash. Aiming stakes, aiming circles, tape and pins ? Check. Hines and Big Sporty. John Dunn and Earle Wright. RO's will go forward at 0700 hours.

§

Flash ! 333rd Group Headquarters captured by enemy force. (Von Runstedt tried this at a much later date).

§

The planes dive from the cloud-flecked sky.... the tanks rumble menacingly in the distance, and the fake firing in a fake war continues.

§

"This is Prostitute calling Princess, this is Prostitute calling Princess." Zeke McMiller growls into his mike that the "Six" is ready to move. "All Battery Commanders come forward at once. "This is Prostitute calling Princess." Message Received. Roger, Out.

§

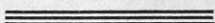
The phony war is over. Begins the long trek back to Oklahoma. Rumours fly like birds of passage. San Francisco ? New York ? School troops ? Arctic issue ? Mosquito nets ... sun helmets... 7 day furloughs.

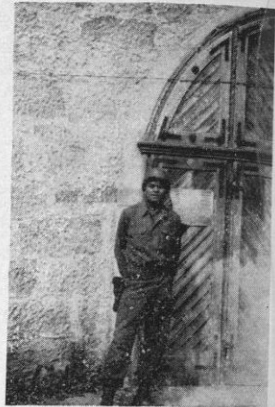
§

1st stop : Marshall, Texas. Charlie Johnson comments slyly that : "A gentleman is a wolf with patience !"

§

Through the gathering dusk... the lights, the familiar lights of Gruber. The great Louisiana war is over.





ABLE
★



CHAPTER THREE

BACK HOME AGAIN



Clean sheets... hot water... The Service Club, and Mrs. Lee, with her cry of "Sold-yahs, sold-yahs..."

§

Wonder how long this will last ? The boys at Headquarters Battery race for the telephone at the PX. "Operator, give me Muskogee 637." The PX girls are happy. 969 th and 333rd are back again. For a while.

§

The Swing Choir presents a concert. Blues in the Night. Baker Battery observes open house at Christmas. Girls and speeches... movies and beer. After Louisiana... Heaven ! Oh Boy, oh boy ! Charlie Peterson continues his trips to Tulsa, and so do Sgt. Pope and Willie Pyles. Mrs Marsh brings her bevy of beauties for a dance.

SHOW DOWN INSPECTION

Rumor (The 969th is going across).

"Fellah, you're nuts !"

"This outfit will never see action !"

§

Rumor : 969th will go to New York to Port of Embarkation.

"Man, you don't know what you're talking about.

Rumor : 969th will leave Gruber the last of January.

"That's stupid ! We've just been back from manoeuvres two months. They always give you another six months training before going overseas. "

§

Rumor : Better dispose of all excess equipment and stuff.

"Look, Joe, you got gangplank fever or somethin' ?

Don't believe all that crap !"

§

Rumor : 969th is due to arrive in England March 1st. (Nuts ! Elwood Jones and Shannon Daugherty agree that the War Department wouldn't do such a foolish thing).

§

FACT : Rufus Johnson and Captain Murray, "Big Stuff" Bettis and Lt. Fritz, Lester Dobson and Mr. Sutton along with the rest of the 969th Field Artillery Battalion, board a train for Camp Shanks, N. Y. The First day of February, 1944.

§

So it goes !



CHAPTER FOUR

“ POE BLUES ”



St. Louis-Centralia-Cleveland-Buffalo-Camp Shanks, cold, snowy weather and frozen Joes on the hoof.

§

Charlie L. Jones marched tiredly up the road swearing quietly under his breath. His pack chafed his shoulders, and some dumb looie was setting too fast a pace up there in front. The grey February sky darkened and soggy flakes of snow settled on the helmet of the man ahead, and melted messily.

§

The barracks were cold-the beds rickety. In " A " battery Otis Patton blew on his fingers and asked the First sergeant when chow would be served. It was freezing. Clothing check-Show down inspection.

NOTICE TO ALL BATTERIES

Beginning Monday February 10th. passes will be issued to ten percent of this command to visit New York.

§

Yeah-you take the bus to 159th street and then catch a subway and get of at 125th street-No I didn't have any trouble at all. You should see the dames !

§

The towers of the city were aloof in the gathering dusk. Removed and impersonal. Obie Shackelford stood at 42nd and Broadway looking around him at the early evening traffic. This was sure a long ways from Dallas Texas. The girl was thin and scraggly. " Gotta smoke soldier ?" Obie looked at the heavily painted face and gave the girl a cigarette. She moved off-her cheap earrings flopping.

Boat drill for members of this command. You will attend-check all men by roster.

§

Physical today- Insurance tomorrow- take out that Class'E'. Lay it on the table, I know you're able. Mc Duffie and Tom Evans had found some fine rest nests- Solid man !

§

James C. Moore was right at home. St. Nicholas avenue welcomed its soldier boy- and the big pot and the little pot simmered on the stove.

§

Charlie Battery's Greenwood and Harry Quintyne -- jumped into the city every night. Old friends, old times-old places-the "Fat Man's" - "The Apple " - "Smalls" - The Elks Rendezvou".

§

New York is not too bad. Saw Bill Knight and Sgt. Pope at the Zanzibar last night. Mad, boy, mad.

§

No more phone calls. No more passes- 333rd has already gone. Duffle bags out in the street, and Capt. Kempt wringing his hands. Have you your number on your helmet ? Why not ? Get it on there immediately !

§

Toward the train- left, right, left, right. Full equipment icy air and sweat. Would this march never end ?

§

The band played "One o'clock Jump" at the pier. Red Cross girls served hot coffee and doughnuts- but no one was hungry. The vast grey sides of the Queen Mary reflected with the light of the city. In the Diamond Horseshoe the girl from Oklahoma tossed the feathers gaily in her specialty dance. On Park avenue an ermine coat lay on a velvet chair along with a program from John Van Druyten's "Voice of the Turtle" and a wilted corsage. On "C" deck a boy from Texas buried his head on his life preserver and sobbed.

§

The sun shone in the morning and the Queen moved with dignity down the harbor. The Statue of Liberty- the incoming craft- the last sight of land- the open sea.

§

So sick. So sick. Benjamin, Mess sergeant in Battery "B" never moved from his bunk -- for six day.

Boat Drill Daily

§

Now that was a rumor ! No submarine can catch the Queen !

§

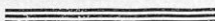
Scurly from Service " You'll never Know " in the Sergeants' Lounge and created a sensation.

§

Third day out, and there was more activity. Chow lines increased in length.

§

6th day- Scotland- clean and smiling in the pale March sunlight. Land at last ! A kilted band. Lifting spirits. Land at last. "Never was sick a minute." Land at last. Scotland.



CHAPTER FIVE

“ THE GUM CHUM CAMPAIGN ”



The truck rolled away from the blacked-out station into a street only indistinctly seen through the thick fog. The ride was short, and the dismounting had the ghostly air of being a dream. The turrets and curved stone balustrades of Crewe Hall seen through the fog were reminiscent of the "Hound of the Baskervilles".

WHAT A PLACE !

Mailbags sagged with an unusual weight of letters -- Can't say much but we are living at a castle, the home of the Marquess of Crewe, vast estate, all green and old. It's not as bad as we expected. We haven't a pass yet-but on hikes we've seen some of the people and the towns. They don't seem to be so different-.

§

Move along please, this ain't no place to make love !

§

Beer and Stout (What the hell is stout ?). Black and Tans- A real kick !

§

Let's have tea and cakes at the NAAFI. Why these people can't even speak English !

§

Heh Now ! Passes to Manchester. The choir concert at the Bloody Cross.

To Wales for Manoeuvres. The Brecon mountains. Sheep and more sheep. Sleet and rain. Sleet and more rain. The trots and more trots.

§

The road back- Brecon- Llewes- Whitchurch, Nantwich- Crewe- Classes and cleaning- and classes. Excitement in the air-.

Wales again -- (see above) Same thing.

"D-Day", Every ear at the radio. Gen. Eisenhower speaks. Wonder who'll go ? The radio becomes a meeting place. Did you hear ? Have you heard ? Let's get packed !

§

General Patton inspects.
General Patton speaks.
Won't be long now.

§

Pack up ! The march is on. Goodby, Ben. So long, Mary. Chipping Norton-Waterproofing days in the rain. Sloppy, soggy-days.

§

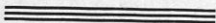
Bournemouth. The LST's and LCT's ride at anchor-Ship Commander. These are your instructions ! Anti-aircraft lights- Barrage balloons. Heart in mouth. A clear day- Means so much- the convoy moves out for the French coast. Earl Wilson and Robert Roberson watch the pink and orchid jelly fish and the water. Lord, this is the Channel !

§

Behind are the White Lion and the Red Horse. Behind are Wales and Manchester. Behind are the track meet and the jam sessions -- and the Easter services at the castle. Behind are the beans and bacon sandwiches -- and any gum chum-kids. Ahead lies the French coast.

§

Baker of the Medics and Scurlark and Harry Quintyne
At last-my love has come along-
Seaside lights fan the sky. Ahead is Utah Beach.



Cartoons by Taylor



*These cartoons are to remind you of
Several of the incidents that were part
And parcel of your existence as a "GI Joe"*

*Executed by Tech Sgt William Taylor, they
Capture the spirit of
Those wonderful, wonderful days when the
Sound and fury of war were far away.*

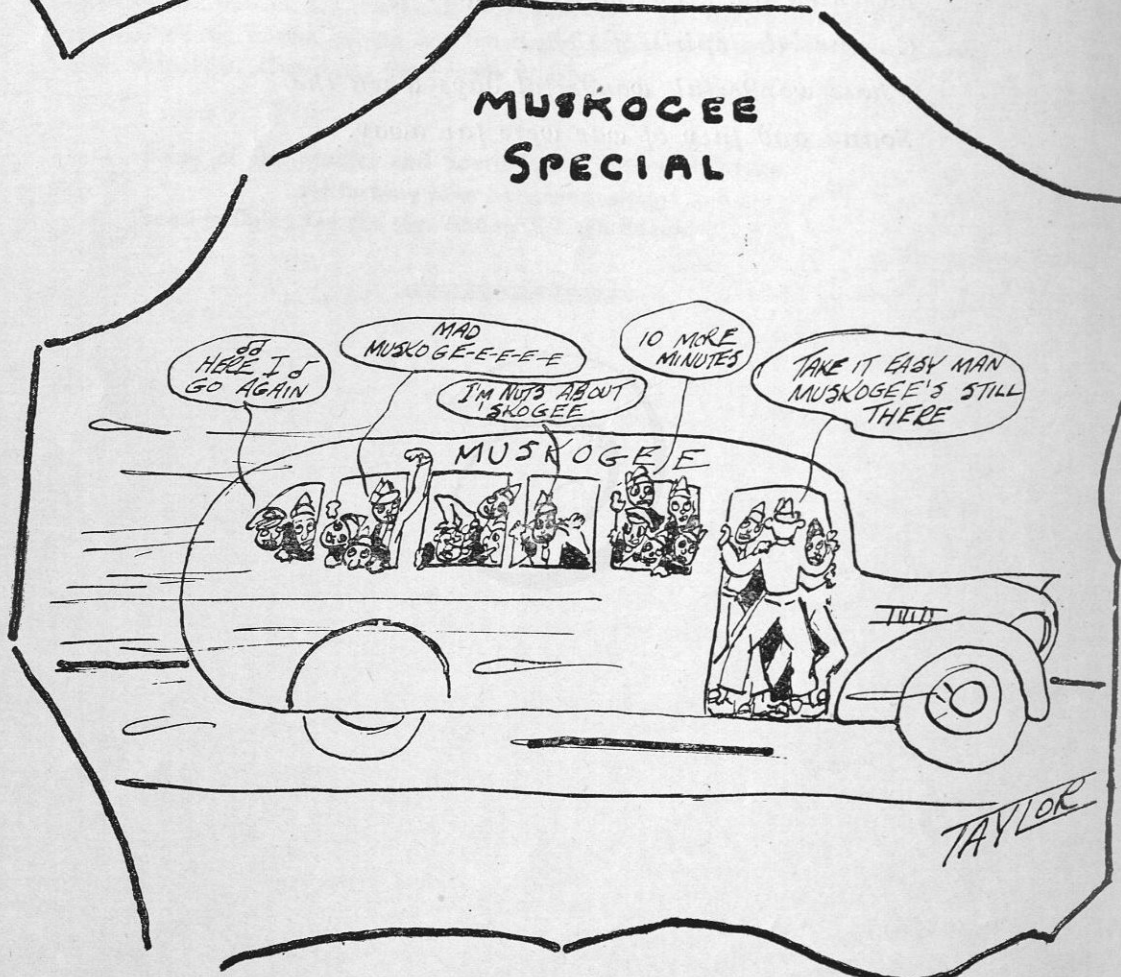


CARTOONS

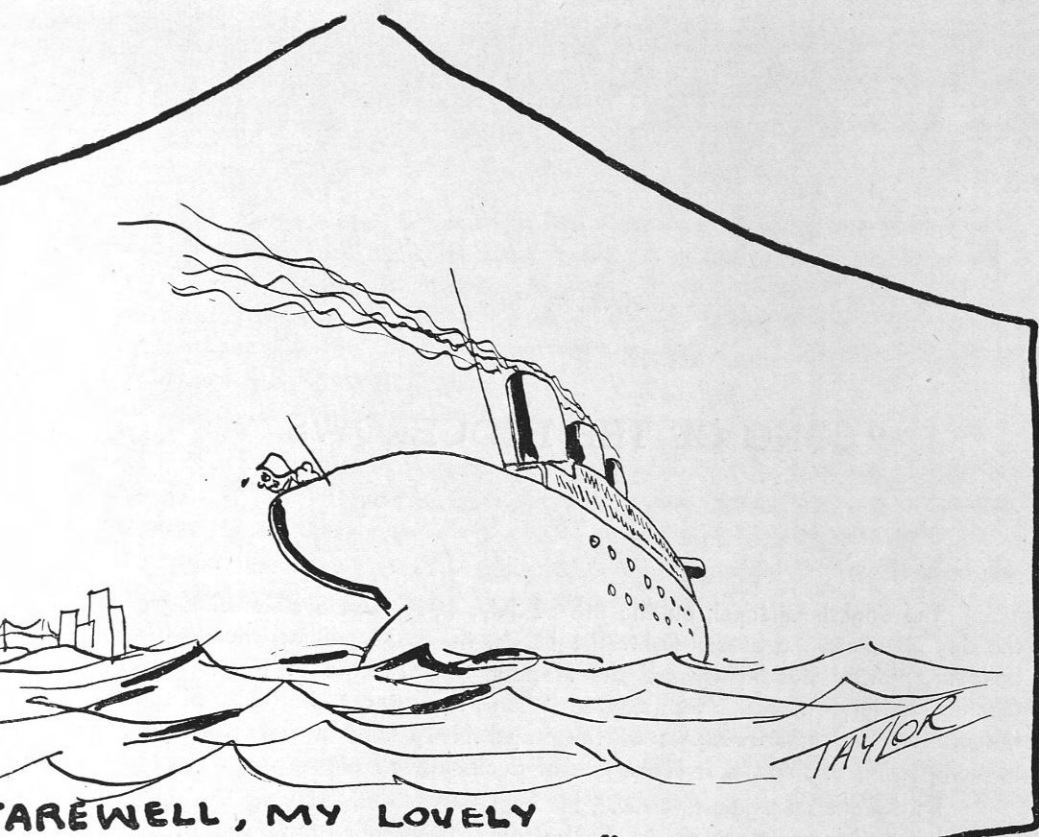


1ST DAY

MUSKOGEE SPECIAL



TAYLOR



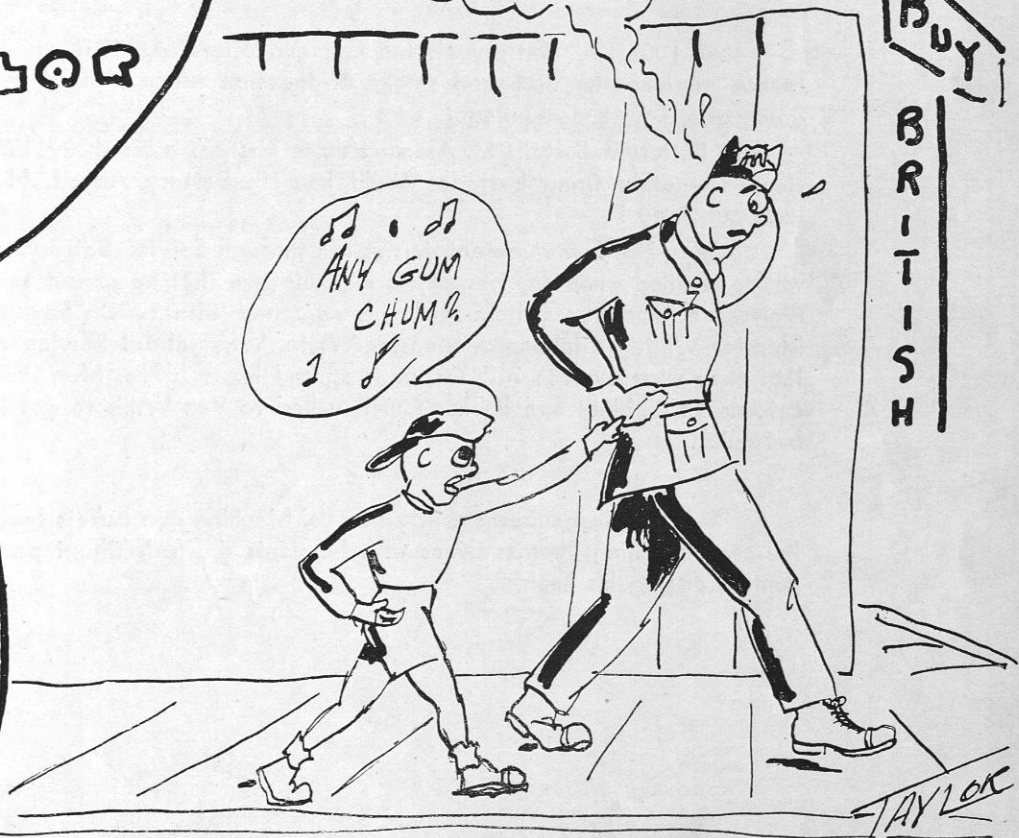
AREWELL, MY LOVELY

BY
TAYLOR

MY HEAD ACHES
I WONDER WHY?
IT CAN'T BE!!

♪ • ♪
ANY GUM
CHUM?
♪

BUY
BRITISH



TAYLOR

CHAPTER SIX

“ SONG OF THE HEDGEROWS ”



The English Channel, on the 8th of July, 1944, was a clear blue-green, the day cloudless, the breeze light. The LCT's, the LST's trailing their barrage balloons, plowed steadily toward the Norman coast. Some of the fellows of Charlie Battery "played " Coon-Can " on the deck. In the distance, the cruisers and mine-sweepers of the Royal Navy kept a watchful eye on the long string of ships, that like a line of ducks moved across the water.

Bill Knight sat against the rail, his eyes half closed, playing his guitar : " Hey Lawdy Mama, meet me in the bottom... bring my boots and shoes..." His low baritone chuckled with the humour of the song. A crowd was around him, assisting... cheering him on. " Hey Lawdy Mama, meet me in the bottom.."

§

July 9th, 1944. Cherbourg had fallen and the drive was sweeping southward. Our first firing position near La Haye du Puits supporting the Eighth Division. The guns were dug in. The foxholes roofed and an air of expectancy pervaded the quiet gun crews. Combat.

§

At 1005 "A" Battery alerted the gun crews. At 1010 on that sunny French morning the flash and smoke of the first round drifted through the green of the fresh camouflage.

" Battery Adjust " - Lt. Amann's voice was just a bit shaky, but true and clear. The other firing batteries could hear it. Battery Adjust. Hey, Hey ! Look out Jerry !

July 12th. Some vagrant Jerries ran through Service Battery, and Austin was so startled when one passed his machine gun that he almost fainted. First German soldier. The switchboard was swamped with calls. "Say, operator - Monster White Switchboard, Monster White. What about Service ? Is it true that they were overrun ? " The news spread like wildfire. Men flicked safety catches on carbines and Booker Curtis yelled to Van Willis to get his helmet, but quick.

§

Sgt. Pope organized security guards. Machine gun bullets began to rake the area, catching Thomas Evans with his pants down. Without pause he ran, pants dragging his heels.

The planes came in hundreds. The skies were filled to overflowing with the flashing fuselages. July 26, 1944. The guns of the battalion sounded off - Battery Five Rounds - Battery Six Rounds - Battery Twelve Rounds. Still the planes came. It was the day of the Breakthrough. March Order ! Periers - St. Sauveur Lendelin. The drive was on. " A " Battery was detached and sent to support the 4th Armored Division.

§

The body of the American soldier lay where he had fallen, covered with daisies and roses. The guns and the armor passed in long procession covering with a film of golden dust the flowers now beginning to wilt.

Joe Hamilton earned a Silver Star here the night before General De Gaulle was scheduled to speak in the town square.

Jerry had captured some American vehicles and came out of the forests, careening across the gun position. Joe grabbed a machine gun to silence sniper fire and let the battery march order. Exposing himself meant nothing. " A " Battery had to move. Behind they left Fred Johnson and John Fields, dead near the area they defended. Linwood Riddick, Walter Dixon, John Williams and John Manning were wounded and evacuated. But 200 Germans were accounted for.

§

Coutances. The roads packed and jammed with vehicles and troops, smiling and happy - yelling like Comanches. Everything moved forward. La Haye Pesnel. Moonlit roads shining like water. Jerry planes. Halt the column. Baker Battery's mess truck hit. The planes returned again. Bombing. Strafing. First time to be attacked from the air. Whew !

§

" A " Battery up in front with the armor. The rest of the battalion racing like hell to catch up.

§

Rennes - old capital of Brittany fell. March order for Lorient.

§

Say, Kid, we're with the armor !



CHAPTER SEVEN

“ ON TO BREST ”



Again with the Armor, to cut off the base of the Brittany peninsula. Those were happy, exciting days, remember ? Every man a hero, every vehicle a chariot garlanded with flowers, and wine flowing like water.

The French peasantry lined the wayside, dressed in their Sunday best yelling, crying, and waving. Gosh, but that was a swell march !

§

" Vive L'Amérique ! Vive La France ! "

§

Cognac and Calvados. Red and White wine. Black bread and carrots. Eggs and young chicken. Vive L'Amérique !

§

The villages were gay, the sun was bright : the wheat fields gold in the noon. The armor swept ahead, clanking and roaring down the Brittany highways. News dispatches reported : "...Little or no opposition... amazing advances ". In the doorways and lining the roads, the women in their full skirted dresses and white lace coifs stood with their men and children and crossed themselves piously. The Americans had come !

§

The whine and zing of the incoming shells were felt rather than heard, but the impact was visible enough. Pieces of shrapnel and rock fell on the men and vehicles and the sunny day suddenly became filled with the hint of danger. After preliminary rounds, the hidden enemy guns let loose in full. The column left the road. A strolling Frenchman, oblivious to the falling shells, volunteered as to where guns were located. Twenty of them, he said !

In an apple orchard, Able and Charlie laid to the front, and Baker was given the mission of silencing the enemy guns on the flank. Within an hour, the guns were silenced. And so, back to the road again. Back to the wine, the flowers, the cheers. Vive l'Amérique !

§

Lorient August 9th, 1944.

Paris not yet taken, but the smell of Victory in the air !

§

Mission : To contain the enemy within the limits of Lorient !
News dispatches reported no activity on the Brittany front.

In a church steeple at Redonier, Lt. Steach watched some unusual activity on the hill slope three miles away. He gave his commands hastily, "Fire Mission !", and the first round landed. Suddenly the steeple rocked. Jerry was returning the fire. The stairway and exit blocked, he continued to adjust the battalion's fire. Result : The enemy counter- attack dispersed and one Bronze Star for the Lieutenant !

§

Food was scarce, and the only depot 225 miles away. But the Breton gardens produced carrots, eggs and butter. Lucky. " Pardonnez-moi, Madame, mais avez-vous du beurre. Et aussi des pommes-de-terre ? Ah, très bien ! "

§

March order for Fortress Brest. 19th August 1944. Brest, fabled port and submarine base. Brest, a damned hard nut to crack.

Came the fleets of " Forts" and P-38s, thundering, pulsating through the sky. The columns of black smoke, the plumes of white smoke rose over the city and spread like choking capes over the countryside. Brest held.

§

The gun crews became hollow eyed and thin. Night after night. Day after day : " Fire Mission " Night after night ; day after day ; for a total of more than ten thousand rounds. Ten thousand rounds of shells weighing 100 Lbs. apiece ! Ten Thousand rounds of lifting and ramming, of pushing and straining on the nourishment of " K " rations. Brest held.

With the Eighth Division and the 34th Brigade to the Crozon Peninsula. Counter battery fire from great naval guns. Fire Mission !

§

21 days : Brest still holds.

22 days : The commander of Fortress Brest surrenders the city to General Middleton of the Eighth Corps.

§

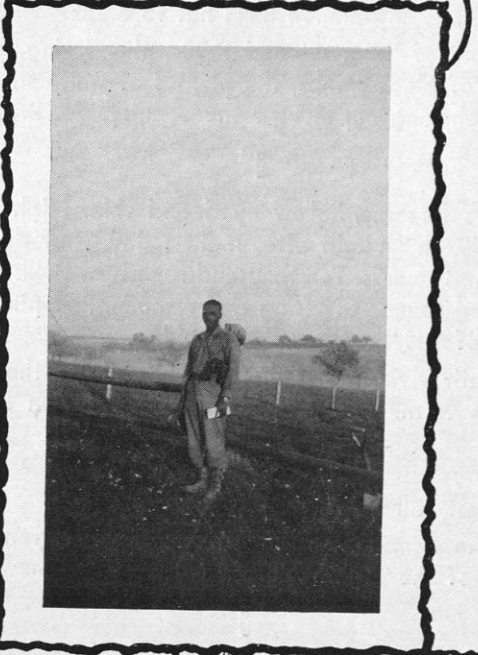
Prisoners : 40,000.

§

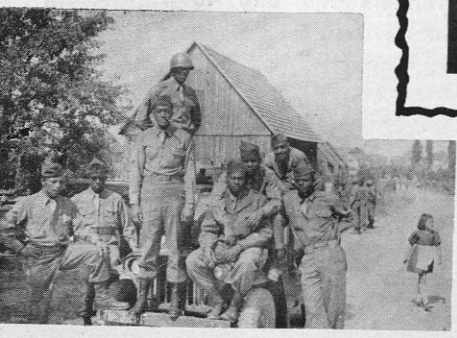
Reward : One week of care and cleaning of materiel.

§

FINI FORTRESS BREST.



BAKER



CHAPTER EIGHT

“ BASTOGNE ”



After Brest, came the long march through France and Belgium to Luxembourg and the Siegfried Line ! The leaves were red and gold and yellow, and the peasants waved from the fields where they were gathering the year's harvest. It was pleasant and pastoral and quiet. October 1944.

§

Days were spent in building log cabins and constructing fireplaces. Timber crashed in the forests and the cannoneers sang as they sawed and hammered. Competition was high between the sections as to which group could construct the finest. There were movies and a few passes. The front was still.

§

When the Lieutenant on the O P asked for volunteers to repair a telephone line that had gone out, Robert Foreman and Lawrence Reynolds said " Hell, lets go ! " From across the ridge, the jerry observer saw them leave the shelter of the house and start down the hill. He waited until they came to a cross roads already zeroed in, and then he whispered, " Now ! " The shells came hurtling from far back of the lines, range correct, deflection correct. They are buried at Pont Hebert in Belgium in the US Cemetery there. Boyhood friends and neighbors, they entered the Army together and served together until a cold snowy day in November. The Battalion honored them with flowers and music by the choir, in a service in a forest. Stars and Stripes reported : " No activity in the Luxembourg sector ".

§

Rain and snow and deep, deep mud. Nightly the Robot Bombs streaked over, headed for Liège or Antwerp. Then they came by day, ugly weird things with stubby wings, trailing wisps of smoke.

" Say, that one is going to fall ! " Watch out ! " It is near Service Battery, Damned nuisance !

November into December. More fire from the enemy guns. More shells falling into the area. " Say, what's going on ? " Security guards increased, and tension mounts.

§

Gerd Von Rundstedt barked sharply into his field telephone. There was a silence ; then all hell seemed to break loose. Mounting to a crescendo, the

shells followed each other in terrible procession. Communications were out, CPs wrecked and Artillery positions chewed to shreds. March order... March order... March order...

§

December 17th, A.D. 1945

§

Civilians and their carts, light tanks and heavy tanks, 105s and 155s, soldiers on foot and soldiers riding... the tiny provincial roads were an unending stream of humanity. Humanity going somewhere... but where ?

§

The official citation reads :

" On December 21, the vicinity of Villeroux, Belgium, in spite of the fact that a field artillery battalion to its rear had been overrun and dispersed by enemy tanks, the 969th F.A. Bn. maintained its position, resulting in delaying the enemy until armored forces arrived to control the situation. The battalion was subjected to heavy enemy mortar and small arms fire resulting in many casualties. In this action the Battalion was credited with destroying 2 enemy tanks, 5 armored vehicles, breaking up 3 attacks by enemy infantry, the capture of 40 prisoners and the destruction of an enemy machine gun nest ! "

§

The cooks, the clerks, the supply sergeants, the mechanics joined the attack. " Sir, let me help with that gun..." The Damned bastards ! The shells fell with regularity and precision. Colonel Barnes was patently worried, but his expression was reassuring.

Captain Nelms said " It wasn't just the strain of being awake 24 hours around the clock... or waiting for the shells to land, but it was the fear that you would go stark raving mad from sheer nervousness. But after a few days that wore off..."

§

Congo said that, " You are so sure of death being just around the corner, that eventually one day is just like the next, and you no longer care ".

§

The cannoneers in Charlie Battery's number One squad agree that the waiting for the relief to come was the hardest job. That and the lack of food... " Fella, I got so hungry that I dreamed about biscuits swimming in molasses with pork chops for oars ".

§

Charles Stevens' happiest day came when the sky cleared and the C-47s came with ammunition and food. " That was a sight to see. Hundreds of planes and gliders, and then the parachutes. Red, yellow, green, blue... they were umbrellas from heaven ".

The snow and the cold were intense, and at times the cause seemed hopeless. Ceaseless attacks, ceaseless bombing, the deaths all around... your mind just got tired. But we never let them through... and no man ran away".

§

The Citation continues :

"... During the period 22 through 24 of December in the vicinity of Sennonchamps... the Battalion was credited with the positive destruction of 5 enemy tanks, 5 probably destroyed, 14 enemy vehicles, 4 horse drawn vehicles, destruction and neutralization of 6 artillery pieces, and destruction of their personnel by time fire..."

§

Christmas Day, 1944. The Birthday of our Lord.

The boys huddled against the side of the building began to reminisce about Christmas at home. A little fire burned in a shell crater and a guy from the 101st Airborne heated some coffee in his canteen cup. "When I was a youngster in Kansas, Mom always began making mince pies about 4 days ahead of time... and I could hardly wait". He fished around in his pocket for a lump of sugar "We always had goose instead of turkey, cause that's what the old man liked, and he was boss". He died instantly when the shell hit him, the coffee cup still clutched in his hand.

§

Reads the Citation :

" During the period 24 through 25 of December, the Battalion was subjected to heavy enemy bombing which resulted in the death of two officers and four enlisted men. ...In spite of the devastating effect of the bombing the Battalion continued to function on its normal mission..."

§

Entry in the Unit Journal : W. J. Amann, Captain, Field Artillery, KIA. So also, reads the Morning Report. It fails to mention that he was a soldier's soldier, or that his favorite song was "Mother put the cow away, I cannot milk tonight...", or that he had never seen his baby son.

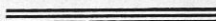
§

"Patton is coming" became a byword, and then, Blessed day ! The Armor came through... Life was sweet again and laughter, never really stifled, broke out like measles.

§

Ends the Citation :

" THE OUTSTANDING COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS OF THIS GALLANT FORCE, AND THEIR UNDAUNTED DETERMINATION IS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE SERVICE..."



CHAPTER NINE

“ OL’ MAN RIVER ” (The Rhineland)

★
★★

Somewhere in France

February 19th, 1945

Dear Buddy,

I know that you are griping at not hearing from me in such a long time, but it seems that we spend our time going from one pocket to the next. First Bastogne, and after that we thought that surely we'd be pulled back for a rest, but instead we raced directly to the Colmar Pocket... and brother, that was really something, let me tell you.

In the first place, after the armor had reached Bastogne we were worn out and tired. And so were our trucks and vehicles. Tires were gone, and the snow and mud had just about ruined everything else. But, anyhow we set out for Colmar. And everthing was snafued properly. Nobody got anywhere °on schedule, as you can imagine... but we got there !

Those screwball French soldiers..., intead of giving fire commands as we do, blow a damned whistle, and at all hours of the night it's "Wheet tweet, wheet-tweet" until you almost go nuts. They were right in the field with us, and that was bad enough, but then they had to go and set great searchlights right in our position. We thought that we were done for then, for jerry had started to use his jet-propelled planes, and searchlights and gun positions were their meat... but good. But the French are swell to work with, and apparently are afraid of nothing, so we got along fine.

Finally, Colmar was taken... despite the most meserable weather you've ever seen. It was cold as blazes up in those mountains... and trench feet were common. But again 969th came through !

After we left the pocket and the First French Army, we worked around Bitche and later the Saar River... Sarrebourg, Sarrebrücken... St.Avold... Volkingen... and back to Bitche for a week of care and cleaning of materièl and stuff

Then one fine day, March order for the Rhine river. After a long, ugly march, around nine o'clock, the recon parties crossed at Worms. Artificial smoke drifted down from up the river, and the glow of searchlights flickered back from the water. Chills ran up my spine, and then down again... like mice

on a slab of cheese. Everything was carried out in silence, except for some Long Toms to our rear, sounding off like mad. Over at last ! Then to the outskirts of Mannheim in a rain that drizzled and seeped through your raincoat. The column was slow in arriving at the designated position, and it wasn't until dawn that we were all there. That was the place where a dud landed almost at Capt. Coddington's feet. He moved out very smartly !

From then on, it was rush, and run, rush an run, until we landed outside the fortress city of Wurzburg, which I'll tell you about in my next letter.

Even though this has been a tough winter, yet the fellows are still in good spirits, and play just as much as they did when you were here... except for one thing : you certainly know you are in hostile territory, for the people look at you with the expression of Frankenstein on their faces. I can't help but feel that this is the beginning of the end, and as Lowell Moore said the other day... " It can't be too soon ".

Give my best to any of our old crowd that you see, especially Mable or Viola, and tell them that the old boy still holds on...

Take it easy,

" Duffie "



CHAPTER TEN

“ OMEGA... THE END ”

★
★★

During the last days there were some moments of high excitement, but mostly it was just pull into position, fire like hell, and then "parti". Although the counter-battery fire was almost nil, yet the planes, jet-propelled and otherwise seemed to be making a last ditch stand. At Wurzburg, ancient fortress city, they came with regularity, and yet they seemed not to care about the job too much. Wurzburg fell, and through that ruined city, the big guns trundeled, past the litter and destruction of a dead town on a grey March day.

§

" Captain Wood says that at Schweinfurt, the Jerries have 200 88's, and he thinks we'll have some trouble there. That was the place where we lost 185 Fortress last year in that great raid. We owe those buzzards something for sure !"

§

Well.... there was some little trouble at Schweinfurt, but nothing like what was expected. And soon came the capitulation.

§

Nurenborg. Nurenborg, capital of the ardent Nazis, super-shrine of the super-faithful... Nurenborg, the favorite city of " Der Fuehrer " ; scene of the immense party conclaves and site of the vast monument to a mistaken conception : the " Stadium ". With the 42nd Division, old friends from Camp Gruber, an assault from the north west. An armored column pushing south from Bayreuth, and other divisions striking from the south west, and south... Nurenborg was scheduled to fall. It Did.

§

" Say man, you know we've been traveling so fast that I don't even know the date of the month ".

§

The apple blossoms of southern Germany were unaware of the war, and bloomed splendorously ; pink and white and palest green. Bloomed too, the spice bushes, and the judas trees. In the fields where abandoned enemy guns lay at crazy angles, the peasants plowed and sowed, or, buried their dead. It was a curious time ; a time for thinking. A time for staring at the familiar sight of nature renewing herself and getting homesick.

§

It was a time also, for firing 155 MM Howitzers.

§

It was a time also, of doubling the guard, and sending out patrols through

the woods. In every new position, old German soldiers, and young German soldiers had to be flushed from the dark green forests. Sometimes they ran, and at other they came willingly : the 13 year-olds from Essen, the 60 year-olds from Frankfurt. For most part dirty, lousy, frightened and hungry.

One red headed youngster from Dortmund shivered fear and terror, the freckles on his face standing out against the green-greyness of his skin. "Please, Please", he begged, are you going to kill us ? " He clutched tight the hand of his friend beside him. These were the " Super-men " in the Spring of 1945.

§

15 officers and men took Neubronn without assistance from anyone. The whole thing was screwy from the beginning. Division was confident of the day's advances, but wasn't quite sure where the probing armor was. Beyond the front lines went the forward parties, looking for the new area. Back went the forward parties hastily, but spending enough time to capture Neübronn, and place it under martial law. So way out in front of the infantry, the 969th spent the night, and everyone slept well.

YOU ARE NOW CROSSING THE
BEAUTIFUL BLUE DANUBE
COURTESY OF THE
12TH ARMORED DIVISION °

You crossed after a daring march through twenty miles of enemy-held territory ! After twenty miles of shaking in your boots and holding your fingers crossed. When dawn came, you were fired upon from every stray barn and outhouse, but you took the prisoners and marched on. (The Danube was actually blue).

§

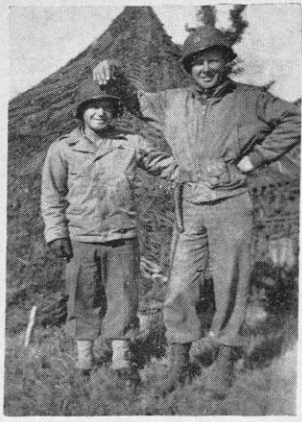
At Augsburg, unexpected resistance. The forward parties again stuck out their necks, and received a beautiful shelling. In full sight of the enemy's guns, the Baker Battery party moved across a hil slope in search of a good, well defiladed position. Then came the deluge. It seemed that every artillery piece west and north of Augsburg cut loose. An infantry Colonel recommended immediate withdrawal, and his advice was accepted. But quick. However, the city falls, but not until an ammunition truck falls into a deep cesspool, almost drowning David Ivy. It didn't smell too good either.

Munich. ("Say, I thought that Munich would be the very devil too take"). And then southward, almost to the Austrian border.

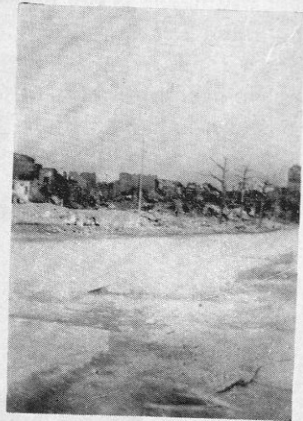
§

At Miesbach, in Bavaria, in the Alps, came for the 969th Field Artillery Battalion, the end of the War in Europe. Not a shot was fired in celebration... not a cheer was heard in the tents. It was just another day in Uncle Sam's Army. In London, they say the streets were one vast parade. In Paris, Champagne flowed down the Champs-Elysees, and in New York, a guy in uniform was a minor king. In Moscow, the guns thundered all night... but in Miesbach, Bavaria, when the snow finally melted, the cannoneers washed their dirty undewear, and looked appraisingly at the buxom fraüleins passing by.





Sv



“ WITH WHOM WE SERVED... ”



In the campaign to destroy the forces of Nazi Germany, the 969th Field Artillery Battalion is proud to have served with some the most distinguished units in the European Theatre, both American and French. That we were able to lend a hand to such glorious company, is a point of great pride.

ARMIES :

The First United States Army
The Third United States Army
The Seventh United States Army
The Ninth United States Army
The First French Army

CORPS :

The VI US Corps
The VIII US Corps
The XV US Corps
The XXI US Corps

BRIGADES :

The 34th Brigade

ARMORED DIVISIONS :

The Fourth Armored Infantry Division
The Sixth » » »
The Eighth » » »
The Tenth » » »
The Eleventh » » »
The Twelfth » » »

AIRBORNE DIVISIONS :

The 101st Airborne Infantry Division

INFANTRY DIVISIONS :

The Second Infantry Division

The Third Infantry Division
 The Fourth » »
 The Eighth » »
 The Twenty-Eighth »
 The Forty Second »
 The Sixty-Third »
 The Seventieth »
 The Seventy-Fifth »
 The Nintieth »
 The One Hundredth »

FRENCH DIVISIONS :

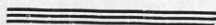
The First French Division
 The Second French Armored Division
 The Fifth French Armored Division

ARTILLERY GROUPS :

17th	333rd	174th
402nd	34th	413th
30th		36th

101st Cavalry Group

" SEQUOR NEC INFERIOR "



“ AND WHERE ”

★★
★

FRANCE

La Haye Du Puits	10 July 1944
Periers	14 July 1944
St. Saviour Lendelin	28 July 1944
Coutances	31 July 1944
La Haye Pesnil	31 July 1944
Pesnil (2 miles NE)	4 Aug. 1944
St. Martin (8 miles NE)	6 Aug. 1944
Vannes (13 miles NE)	6 Aug. 1944
Brandrion	7 Aug. 1944
Gd. Moustoir	7 Aug. 1944
Pont Scorrff	9 Aug. 1944
Lesneven	19 Aug. 1944
Brest	20 Aug. 1944
Brest	18 Sept. 1944
Lesneven	21 Sept. 1944
Sens	28 Sept. 1944
Digny	29 Sept. 1944
Hombrier	30 Sept. 1944

BELGIUM

Houfalize	1 Oct. 1944
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LUXEMBOURG

Weiswampach	3 Oct. 1944
Beiler	5 Oct. 1944

BELGIUM

Lengler	20 Oct. 1944
Vecmount	18 Dec. 1944
Villeroux	20 Dec. 1944
Sennonchamps	21 Dec. 1944
Ilse La Hesse	23 Dec. 1944
Bastogne (NW)	26 Dec. 1944
Longchamps	15 Jan. 1945
Toernick	17 Jan. 1945

FRANCE

Einville	18 Jan. 1945
Coinches	19 Jan. 1945
Selestat	20 Jan. 1945
West of Guemar	25 Jan. 1945
Southeast of Guemar	30 Jan. 1945
Holtzweier	1 Feb. 1945
Coinches	10 Feb. 1945
Weusse	11 Feb. 1945

Diebling.....	15 Feb. 1945
Wolferding.....	23 Feb. 1945
Kreutzwald.....	6 Mar. 1945

GERMANY

Karlsbrunn.....	15 Mar. 1945
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FRANCE

Schoenecken.....	20 Mar. 1945
Sierstal.....	22 Mar. 1945

GERMANY

Diedersfeld.....	28 Mar. 1945
Kafertal.....	29 Mar. 1945
Reinau.....	30 Mar. 1945
Bruhl.....	31 Mar. 1945
Viernhiem.....	1 Apr. 1945
Dertingen.....	2 Apr. 1945
SW of Birkenfeld.....	3 Apr. 1945
North of Eisengen.....	5 Apr. 1945
Wurtzburg.....	7 Apr. 1945
Rimpar.....	7 Apr. 1945
SE of Gramshatz.....	8 Apr. 1945
Kaistin.....	9 Apr. 1945
NE of Egenhausen.....	11 Apr. 1945
Hergolshausen.....	13 Apr. 1945
SE of Weisenbronn.....	14 Apr. 1945
Obersteinbach.....	15 Apr. 1945
S of Guttentstettin.....	16 Apr. 1945
Vic of Hoffen.....	17 Apr. 1945
Vietsbronn.....	18 Apr. 1945
Michelbach.....	19 Apr. 1945
Lendesiede.....	21 Apr. 1945
Oberscherach.....	21 Apr. 1945
Grundeihardt.....	22 Apr. 1945
Mangelshausen.....	23 Apr. 1945
Neubronn.....	23 Apr. 1945
Hermannfeld.....	24 Apr. 1945
Irmannsweiler.....	24 Apr. 1945
Niederslotzingen.....	25 Apr. 1945
NW of Lauterbronn.....	27 Apr. 1945
Augsburg.....	28 Apr. 1945
Lechausen.....	28 Apr. 1945
Kissing.....	29 Apr. 1945
Eresried.....	29 Apr. 1945
Munich.....	30 Apr. 1945
Gauting.....	30 Apr. 1945
Miesbach.....	2 May 1945
Langeringen.....	9 May 1945
Neuhutten.....	16 May 1945

FRANCE

Metz.....	25 June 1945
Noyon (NW of Soissons).....	26 June 1945
Vouziers (NE of Reims).....	30 June 1945



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



AWARDS RECEIVED

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

The 969th Field Artillery Battalion, US Army

THE SILVER STAR

Ist Sgt. Joseph Hamilton
Pfc. Robert Foremon - Posthumous
Pfc. Lavrence Reynolds - Posthumous

Capt. L. Harrison
Lt. K. A. Grisso
Pfc. G. Sims
S/Sgt. Harry Quintyne

BRONZE STAR

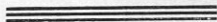
Lt. Col. Hubert D. Barnes
Capt. William J. Wood
Lt. Henry Budzich
Pvt. Ezekiel Young
Pfc. John W. Kelly
Cpl. Clifford Rhodes
Lt. Robert Steach
T/5 David W. Jones
Cpl. Otis Patton
Capt. Richard Coddington
S/Sgt. Luther Hammock
S/Sgt. Daniel Deramus
T/4 J. A. Thompson
M/Sgt. H. M. Hayes
Sgt. J. W. Franklin
S/Sgt. L. E. Moore
Ist. Sgt. N. Scurllark
Pfc. R. Carr
Cpl. Lorenzo Ray
T/5 Horace B. Knight
Sgt. Otis B. Commings
Pfc. Lafayette Faulkner
Capt. Duane Murray
Capt. Albert Hayutin
Capt. Fred Woodworth
Lt. Raymond Norville
Lt. M. A. Anderson
WO. Edmund O. Austin
S/Sgt. A. Via
Sgt. E. Moore

AIR MEDALS

Lt. Lowel D. Puyear
Lt. M. A. Anderson
Lt. Marcellus Resley
Lt. John W. Fritz

PURPLE HEART

Capt. W. J. Wood
S/Sgt. Ammie D. Jones
Lt. Robert Steach
Pvt. Ronald A. Richards
Pfc. Archie Aaron
Cpl. Alvin Shannon
Cpl. Adam Lamarr
Pfc. Willie Linthicum
Pvt. Charles Merriweather
Sgt. Joseph Hunter
Pfc. Willie E. Beckham
Ist. Sgt. Joseph Hamilton
Pfc. Jodie Miniard
Sgt. Edward Ballard
Pvt. John Manning
Capt. Albert Hayutin
Pfc. L. C. Blessingame
Col. Albert Price
Pvt. Percy Strong
Cpl. N. Terry
Cpl. Major Knichton
Cpl. W. N. Scott
T/5 Oliver Farris
S/Sgt. A. Miller



RECOMMENDED FOR BRONZE STAR AWARD



Ist Sgt Mayo Crook
S/Sgt. E. Young
Sgt. R. Still
S/Sgt. C. Jones
T/4. A. Ross
T/4. E. Congo
T/4. Z. MacMiller
T/5. Lee Brown
T/5. M. Miles
Cpl. A. Rochon
Pvt. G. Wilkerson
Pvt. J. Mobley
T/4. S. King
S/Sgt. T. Mav
Sgt. H. Mcfeeters
S/Sgt. L. Wilkinson
T/Sgt. W. Taylor
Lt. R. Constable
Sgt. W. Richmond
Sgt. J. Hall
Lt. Ralph Porpora
S/Sgt. Conway Blackford
Cpl. R. Biddle
Capt. J. Caplan
Lt. R. Matz
S/Sgt. Eugene W. Jones
S/Sgt. S. Daugherty
S/Sgt. W. G. Gaiter
Sgt. Norman Richardson
Cpl. James Winston
Sgt. Robert Avriette

Sgt. Willie Cotton
Sgt. Willie Pyles
Sgt. David Ivy
Pvt. Icl. M. Williams
Sgt. Samuel Smith
S/Sgt. C. Griffin
Sgt. H. Raymond
S/Sgt. L. Moore

§

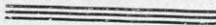
THE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Ist. Sgt. M. Crook
S/Sgt. E. Young
Sgt. R. Still
Sgt. C. Jones
Sgt. J. Mannings
T/4. A. Ross
T/4. E. Congo
T/4. Z. MaMiller
T/5. Lee Brown
T/5. M. Miles
Cpl. A. Rochon
Pvt. G. Wilkerson

§

THE CROIX DE GUERRE

Capt. W. H. Wood
Capt. R. C. Coddington



*“ For Distinguished
Service... ”*

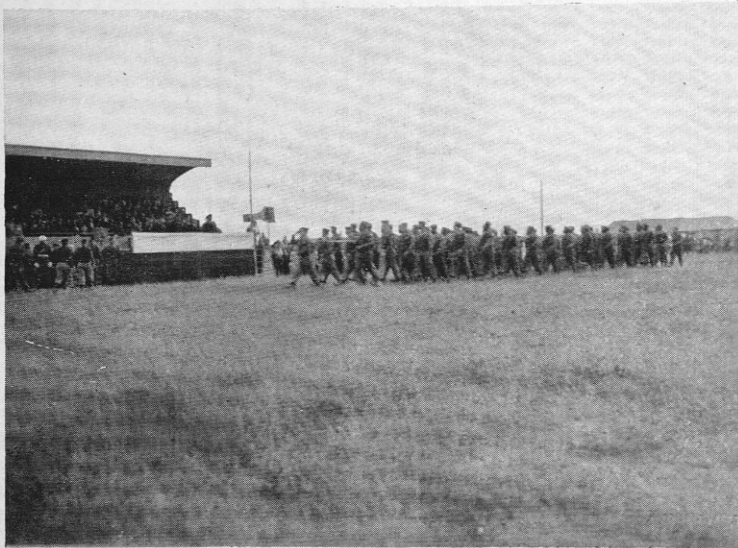
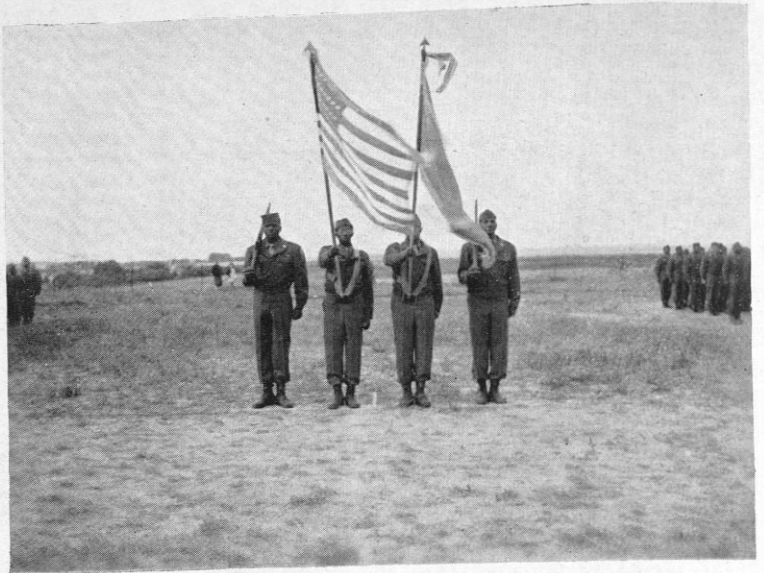
★
★

THE PROUDEST MOMENT OF OUR MILITARY CAREER
CAME WHEN THE BATTALION COLORS WERE DECO-
RATED WITH THE ROYAL BLUE RIBBON OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION.

PRESENTED HERE ARE THE PICTURES OF THAT IMPRES-
SIVE EVENT, WITH ALLEN MORRISSON'S STORY, AND
EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES.



COLOR GUARD AT PRESENTATION
CEREMONIES, AUGUST 2, 1945
AT VOUIERS, ARDENNES, FRANCE



HQ BATTERY PASSES
REVIEWING STAND



GENERAL CHARLES THRASHER
DECORATES THE COLORS

THE BATTALION RECEIVES THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION



BY ALLEN MORRISON (FOR ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Vouziers, France, Aug. 2. -- When Brig. G. C. Thrasher, the commanding general of Oise Intermediate Section, decorated the unit colors of the 969th Field Artillery Battalion with the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation at the municipal stadium here today this battalion joined the select group of America's fighting units to receive the highest honor that can be accorded an army unit by the President of the United States.

The prized citation award was given the Negro artillery unit for its part in the defense of the city of Bastogne, Belgium, during the height of the Battle of the Bulge last December, when it stood its ground with the 101st Airborne Division and elements of the 10th Armored Division while Von Runstedt hurled eight of his finest divisions against the American forces trapped and encircled in Bastogne.

The citation order reads :

" These units distinguished themselves in combat against powerful and aggressive enemy forces composed of elements of eight German divisions during the period from Dec. 18 to Dec. 27, 1944, by extraordinary heroism and gallantry in defense of the the communications center of Bastogne, Belgium.

" Essential to a large-scale exploitation of his break-through into Belgium and northern Luxembourg, the enemy attempted to seize Bastogne by attacking constantly and savagely with the best of his armor and infantry.

" Without benefit of prepared defenses, facing almost overwhelming odds and with very limited and fast-dwindling supplies, these units maintained a high combat morale and an impenetrable defense, despite extremely heavy bombing, intense artillery fire, and constant attacks from infantry and armor on all sides of their completely gut off and encircled position.

" This masterful and grimly determined defense denied the enemy even momentary success in an operation for which he paid dearly in men, material, and eventually morale. The outstanding courage and resourcefulness and undaunted determination of this gallant force is in keeping with the highest traditions of the service ".

The 969th is the first Negro unit to receive the Distinguished Unit Citation in World War II and the only Negro unit of battalion size to receive the award.

Commanded by Maj. James W. Melville of Broken Bow, Neb., 550 members of the crack 155 howitzer unit stood at attention while Gen. Thrasher pinned the citation to the battalion colors and praised their combat record.

Also present at the presentation ceremony were Capt. Lindquist, representing U. S. Ambassado to France Jefferson Caffery ; Col. Moore, C. O. of the 210th Field Artillery Group ; Col. Lambert, C. O. the 1151 st Engr. Combat Group ; Mayor Scheuer of Vouziers, and representatives of the French forces.

The battalion participated in five campagne from Normandy to Central Europe, and was in the line through ten months of combat.

During this period the 969th fought with the First, Third, Seventh and Fieteenth , U.S. Armies and the First French Army. It provided artillery support for the Second, Third, Fourth, Eighth, 28th, 29th, 42nd, 63rd, 70th, 75th, and 100th Inf. Divs., and the Fourth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, 11th, 12th U.S. Armored Divisions and the French Second Armored Div.

Throughout its entire combat operations the battalion was commanded by Lt. Hubert D. Barnes, of Milwaukee, Wis., holder of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Three 969th men received the Silver Star for heroism in action, four Earned the Air Medal with Cluster, 33 recived Bronze Star Medals, 30 got Purple Hearts and 13 were given Certificates of Merit.

Figures released by the battalion headquarters revealed that the unit's howitzers had fired 42,489 rounds of ammunition against the enemy from La Haye du Puits, Normandy, on July 10 to Gauting, Bavaria, on April 28 when the last round was fired.



August, 3 1945

HEROES OF BASTOGNE



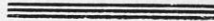
Among the heroes of the Bastogne fighting of last December were the members of the 969th Field Artillery Battalion, then attached to the 101st Airborne Division. It was this division that held the surrounded road junction for nine days during the "Battle of the Bulge", until General Patton's armor could open up a corridor for their relief. Their spirit was expressed in the famous reply of Brigadier General Anthony C. McAuliffe to the German demand for surrender -- the one word, "Nuts". For nine days these gunners, fighting as infantry, short of food and finally almost out of ammunition, helped stand off three German divisions. Yesterday the 969th received a Presidential citation. Soon, no doubt, they will be returning to this country, where, one hopes, their valor will be recognized as generally as it was abroad. The 969th, though commanded by white officers, is a Negro outfit. If prejudiced persons continue to say that the Negro does not make a good and brave soldier the rank and file of the 969th will now have a ready answer. Officers and men, they all did honor to the land of their birth.

Reprinted from-

New York Times

Editorial Page - August

3, 1945



HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY
GROUP

A P O 23 US ARMY

★
★★

AG 421.4/3 A-O

3 March 1945

SUBJECT : Arms of the City Of Colmar.

TO : Commanding General, XXI Corps, APO 101.

THRU : Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758.

1. To commemorate the liberation of the City of Colmar, by the officers and enlisted men under the Army Group Commander's command. Such authorization is hereby extended to the officers and enlisted men who were assigned or attached to your command during the period 20 January to 9 February 1945. It is desired that the commanders of units listed in Inclosure I be notified of the above.

2. The authorization does not constitute authorization for wearing of the Arms of the City of Colmar as part of the service uniform unless and until they have been incorporated in distinctive insignia or shoulder patches approved by the War Department.

By command of Lieutenant General Devers :

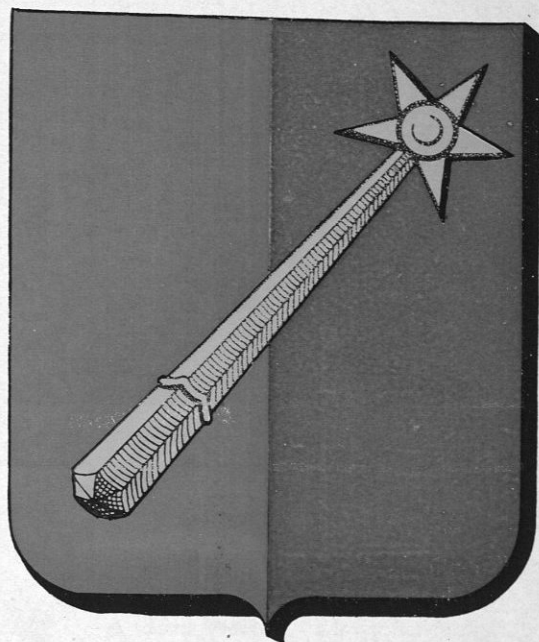
/s/ J. L. Tarr

J. L. Tarr

Colonel, AGD

Adjutant General

Hq XXI Corps, 27 July 1945.



ARMOIRES DE COLMAR



Depuis Louis XIV (1696) les Armes de Colmar sont "de gueules" (rouge) et "de sinople" (vert) avec la massue d'or posée "en barre" (de gauche à droite).



BATTALION OFFICERS

First Row (Kneeling).

Mr. Charles Sutton - WOJG, HQ.
 Lt. Ralph Porpora - Battery Exec. A
 Capt. Nelms - Battery Commander, B
 Lt. Robert Matz - Battery Exec. B

First Row (Standing)

Capt. Jerome Caplan - Battery Commander, A
 Capt. Albert Hayutin - Battery Commander, Sv.
 Lt. Col. Hubert D. Barnes, Battalion Comm.
 Capt. J. R. Barr, Medics
 Lt. Lowell Puryear, Pilot, HQ.
 Capt. Duane Murray, Assist. S-3, HQ.

Second Row

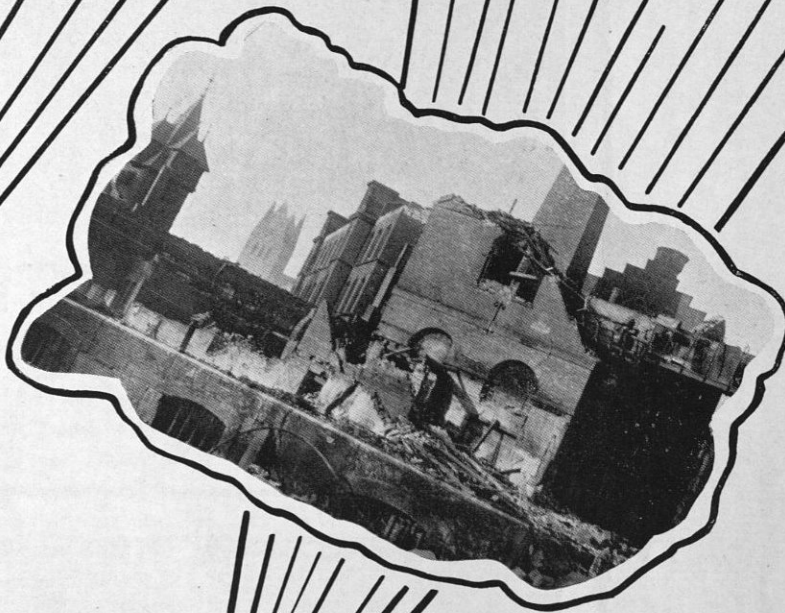
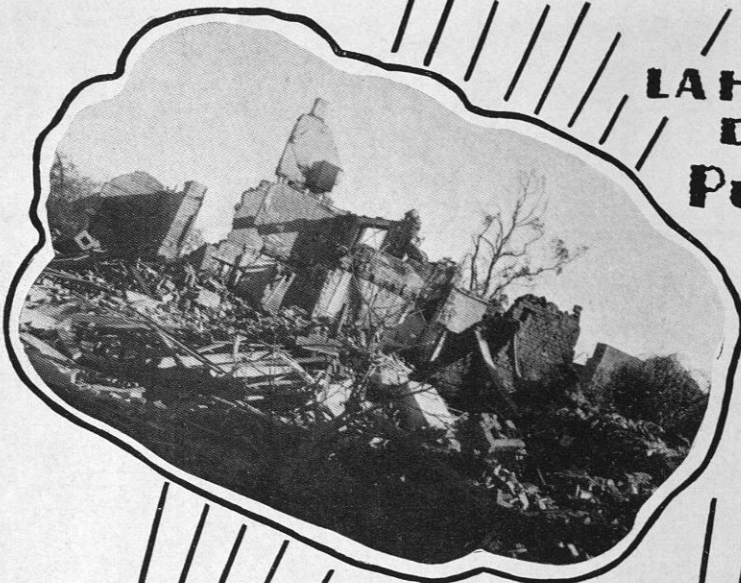
Lt. M. A. Anderson, Service.
 Lt. Henry Budzick, Motors, HQ.
 Lt. Ray Thomas, Battery R. O. B.
 Capt. Fred N. Woodworth, HQ.
 Lt. James Nash, Survey Officer, HQ.
 Lt. John W. Fritz, Battery R. O. C.

3rd Row

Lt. John J. Cligget, Service
 Lt. Marcellus Ressler, Pilot, HQ.
 Lt. Clarence Morgan, Motors, B
 Lt. Kermit Grisso, Exécutive, C.

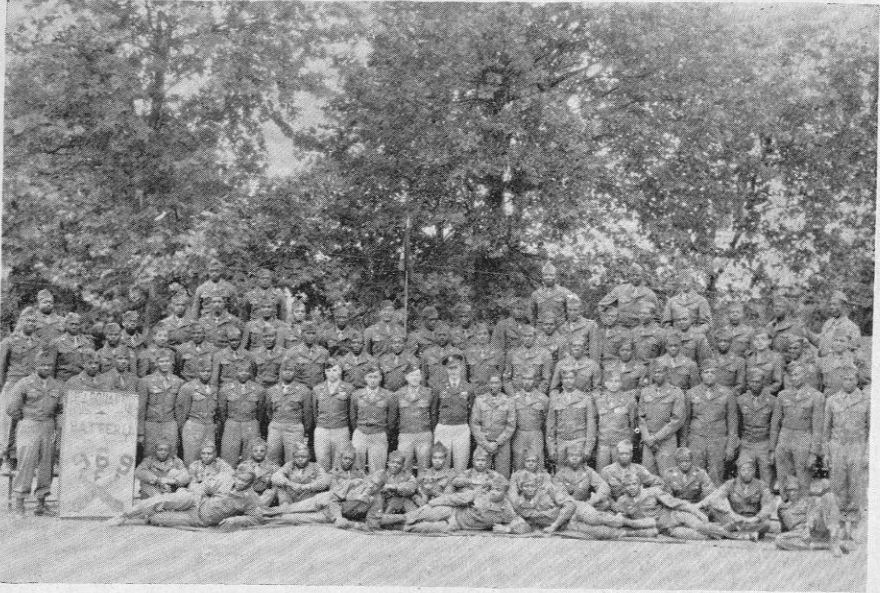
**LA HAYE
DU
PUITS**

**JULY 8
1944**

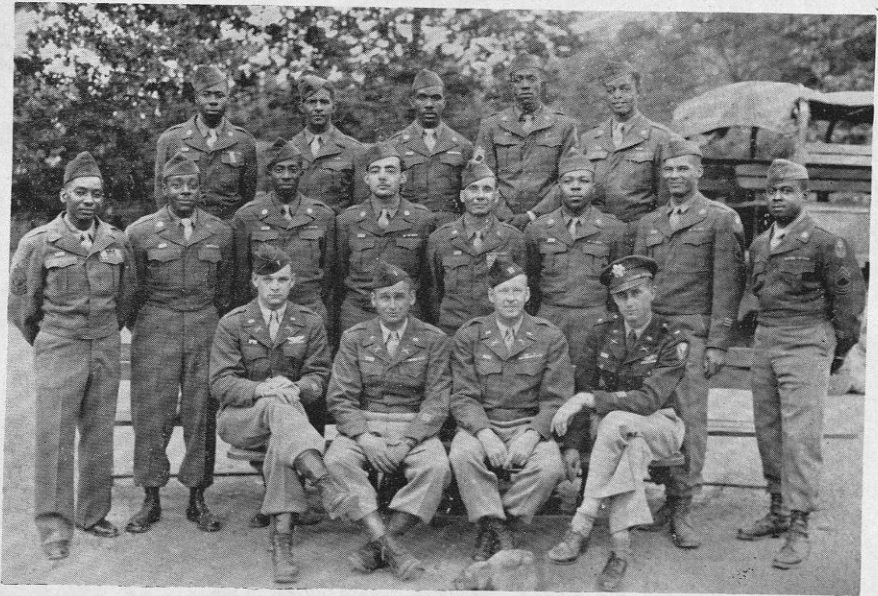


**BAVARIA
MAY 8-1945**

Sound Off!



H Q



HEADQUARTERS BATTERY



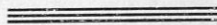
OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Left to right (front row)

Lt. Lowell Puyear-
Liaison Pilot.
Lt. Henry Budzick-
Battery Commander
Lt. Marcellus Ressler-
Liaison Pilot.

Left to right (second row)

Ist. Sgt. Mayo Crooks
Tech. Sgt. William Taylor
Staff Sgt. L. N. Wilkerson
T/3. William C. Baker
Tech. Sgt. Claude Stewart
Staff Sgt. Tully May
Staff Sgt. Charles Peterson
M/Sgt. Ammie D. Jones
Tech. Sgt. Charles M. Jones
Staff Sgt. Clement Maynard
Staff Sgt. James C. Manning
Staff Sgt. Ben Zigler
Staff Sgt. Rufus Johnson



SAGA OF HEADQUARTERS



Both officers and enlisted men really had a delightful stay in England. Old Crewe Hall was a source of comfort for our officers even though most of them slept the first night in their clothing, prepared to take it on the "lam" should one of those "European Goblins" they'd heard about decide to visit their new roomers.

§

Like most, or all outfits entering combat, the men of the 969th were as nervous as a sinner in an Amen corner of a revival. Some of the highest ranking NCO's and some officers tried to hide the fact, but the fact still remains that they couldn't step on a crackling leaf without having it scare the daylight out of them.

§

The command post in our second position in La Haye Du Puits was located under a hedgerow and on the bank opposite the direction of fire. Major Erickson, who was acting as Battalion Commander in the absence of Col. Barnes, who had been injured a few days previously was making a good attempt to demonstrate the bravery which his new position called for. The group had had only one experience in listening to the humming bird-like to sound of an 88mm. shell in flight but after first night no one needed be reminded what they sounded like. The Major was standing on top of a hedgerow giving orders to the Sergeant Major, when T. J., a machine gunner, decided to give out with an 88mm. like whistle. Like a high diver, the Major went to the bottom of his hedgerow paying little attention to the rocks or sticky weeds. He remained there until he was damn sure it wasn't real thing and slowly got up. He told the Sergeant, "Find that fool soldier so that I can court-martial him in the morning".

§

Somehow the understanding was given some of the soldiers in the 969th that when they debarked from the Queen Mary, combat would begin. Some of these fellows made some rapid progress in their preparation for combat while still on board ship. One of the best prepared soldiers was Pfc. Felix Hall, who rounded up a pick and shovel to make sure he could dig a foxhole as soon

as he set foot on the " enemy shores ". Hall turned out to be so heavily laden, that he found it difficult to board the train.

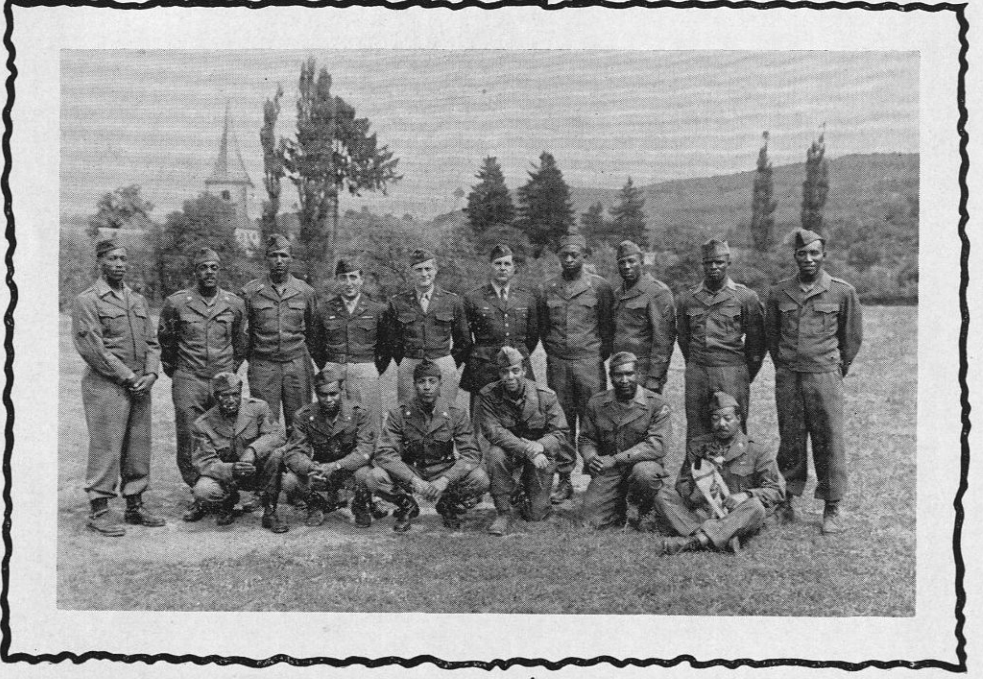
§

Christopher Holmes learned in his early training not only how to identify planes, but to imitate their roar. He was also very good at giving out with the death song of a 50 cal. So good that he frightened most of us, with it.. During one of the most terrible battles of Bastogne's encirclement, Holmes placed his gun under a bank dug it in 10 feet. Jerry pushed and pushed whiles Holmes played ostrich and more ostrich. Asked why he didn't fire on the Jerries, Holmes said, " Hell I didn't see a damn thing ".





ABLE



ABLE BATTERY



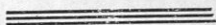
OFFICERS AND CHIEFS OF SECTION

Left to right (first row)

Otis Cummings - Sgt.
Augustus Stovall - S/Sgt.
Reginald Biddle - Cpl.
Joseph Hunter - Sgt.
James Palmore - S/Sgt.
Conway Blackford - S/Sgt.

Left to right (second row).

James Jeffries - T/4.
Douglas Paul - S/Sgt.
Johnnie Hall - Sgt.
Lt. Ralph Porpora - Executive
Cpt. Jerome Caplan - Battery Commander
Lt. James Nash - Reconnaissance
Edward Ballard - Sgt.
Willie J. Richmond - Sgt.
Adam Lamarr - Cpl.
Charles Stevens - S/Sgt.



LIFE IN BATTERY " A "



Since the 5th of December 1942, we have been through a lot of things and times that we shall never forget. We shall tell you of some of those that seem most outstanding and humorous as we look back. One thing about any soldier in the army, he always wants to be on the move. When he is at one place, he wishes to be somewhere else and when he gets there he is still not contented. He seems to get great enjoyment out of always complaining.

We were stationed in Camp Gruber, Oklahoma and the boys were wishing to go on maneuvers ; when they got there, they wanted to return to Camp Gruber. Next they said that they would be better off overseas. Well we finally got there ; then the States became a land of paradise.

Once again we got moving itch. This time we wanted combat ! Well, our time came. One thing that we remember clearly was the first night we landed. We met an M.P. He was a perfect gentleman in every respect and always willing to give you service with a smile. The special service that he gave was : If he caught you smoking at night, he would gladly exterminate your cigarette with his 45 caliber pistol. He was a swell guy.

The next day we moved into our first firing position. Sure we were scared. Who the hell wasn't ? But we came through that first day. As time passed by we gained confidence in ourselves and sometimes, I believe, too much. One of our machine gunners would sit by his hole and tell any member of the battery where the 88 was to land. One evening he made a nearly fatal mistake. Sitting in his foxhole eating and pointing out, at the same time, the location of each round coming in, he didn't see the shell that sent him flying to the bottom of his hole along with his full mess kit that landed on his head. Needless to say, his dinner was every place but the right one. From then on we heard no further predictions from him. We also had a grand Pfc. who thought he knew everything. While laying wire one night he mistook a heavy fog for gas, which caused him to run 3 miles back to the battery for his gas mask. When he arrived he was so tired he put it on and went to sleep with it on for the rest of the night.

Then came Xmas 1944. The experience that yuletide we'll never forget. At that time we were surrounded at Bastogne. So many people were eating turkey and other such delicacies and our steady diet was bombs, 88's and mortars which we did not enjoy. A certain Staff Sergeant lost a lot of weight crawling from our gun position to the mess truck and back each meal. We can

assure you that whenever chow was served he'd be there. Reminded us of the postman back home. Rain or shine, sleet or snow, he'd always be there.

We have come a long way since we landed in France, July 9, 1944. V-E Day found us in southern Germany, near Austria, in a small town called Miesbach. We can assure you that the end of hostilities in Europe was welcomed by all of us. We have completed the job given to us to the best of our ability and training. We are proud of the reputation we have earned.



BAKER BATTERY



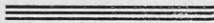
OFFICERS AND CHIEFS OF SECTION

First row

Shannon Daugherty - S/Sgt., Motors
Worrell G. Gaiter - S/Sgt., Howitzers
Clarence Morgan - Lt. - Motor Officer.
Robert J. Matz - Lt. - Executive
Ray C. Thomas - Lt. - Reconnaissance
Harry H. Nelms - Capt. - Battery Commander
Isaac Pope - Ist, Sgt.
Eugene W. Jones - S/Sgt. Detail.

Second row

Charles Johnson - T/4 - Radio.
John H. Redman - S/Sgt. Supply
Willie R. Cotton - Sgt. Ist. Gun Section
Norman Richardson - Sgt. Wire
Robert Avriette - Sgt. 2nd Gun Section
David Ivy - Sgt. Ammo. Chief
Lee Henderson - Sgt. 3rd. Gun Section
Willie D. Pyles - Sgt. 4th Gun Section





BAKER BATTERY

PFEDLBACH
WURTEMBERG
GERMANY



OFFICERS AND NON-COMS
BAKER

RAMBLIN' THRU BAKER BATTERY

★
★★

Private George Penny, who is dubbed "Sad Sack" by many of his friends, was a great souvenir hunter. Near the end of the war many prisoners were found in forests, ready to give up. Penny went into the forest to pick up prisoners and souvenirs. After he returned he found that the battalion had moved out. He and one other "GI" had two hundred prisoners on their hands and beaucoup booty. Finally someone in the battery realized he was missing and sent a prime mover after him. Why such a large truck? To haul his souvenirs of course! Big Penny weighs only 97 pounds buck naked.

§

There is a song currently popular in Baker which is titled "Jesse S. Martin". It is sung to the melody of 'Besame Mucho'. This particular person GI's sing about is supposed to be a dancer. He is supposed to weigh two hundred pounds- has a neck resembling a turtle and is highly aggressive. He is known to sing on sight. Take no chances with this man.

§

During a heavy shelling of our battery area once, a former member of our battery lost his teeth. Yeah, they were false. Later on with the cutest lisp, he asked; Hath any one tween my tweeth?

§

Yes, that man is here again! We speak of T/5 Warren Florence, the "Joe" that forever looks drunk.

§

Wherever there is a crowd and a piano, you can bet your life you'll find Sporty- I mean "Big Sporty-Williams" in the middle of it. The joint gets gay and the gang gets lively: with "Big Sporty" plunking at the Ivory.

§

It wasn't told to me, I only heard. But, just to keep the tale in circulation... here goes: One day a deer broke across our gun position. Marksmen sprang

up from everywhere. So did Captain (Speedy) Nelms. He busted every Non-Com in sight. Not for firing the carbine unnecessarily... Oh No... but for missing that damned deer.

§

One of our favorite boys is Norman Richardson, who gave up a discharge because he loves the battery so. Not only does he love the battery, but he loves WIRE. Give him 100... 200 miles of it. The more he gets, the more he loves it. Ah, what a lover !

§

" Pee-Wee " Wilgore is the only character known to the Allied Forces who ACTUALLY bucks for K.P. He loves pots and pans !

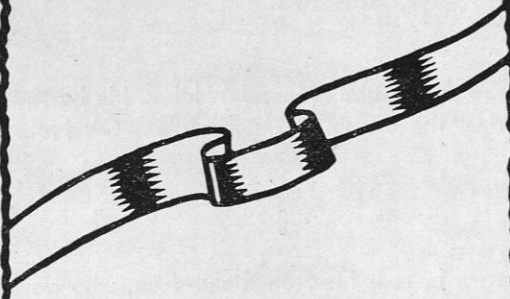
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Pfc Robert Richards boasts of being the oldest Pfc. in the battery, making him the DEAN of that group.

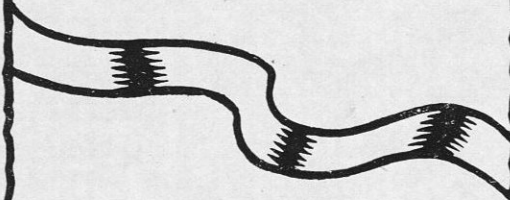
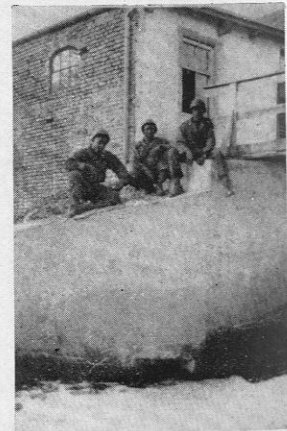
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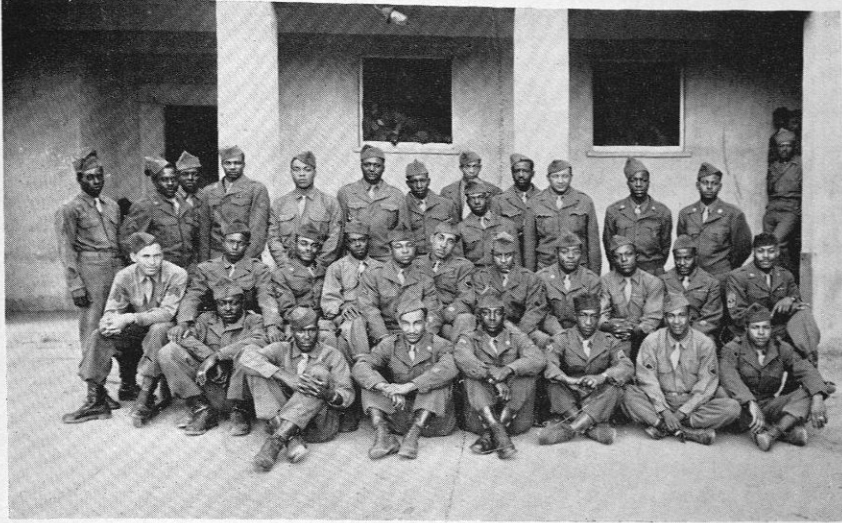
That sound that you hear from the supply room is NOT Dracula. It is the lovely voice of S/Sgt. John Redman. All he has to do is worry about supply and sing. If supply suffers as the battery does... we won't have new britches until Christmas.





CHARLIE





CHARLIE BATTERY



NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1st Row...

Robert Williams - Cpl.
James Pickett - Cpl.
Louis Greenwood - T/5.
Earl Wright - Cpl.
Andrew Via - S/Sgt.
Harry Quintyne - S/Sgt.
James Holoman - Cpl.

2nd Row...

H. Raymond - Sgt.
H. Denson - Cpl.
P. Ivy - T/5
A. Crawford - Cpl.
R. Griffin - Cpl.
W. McKissack - S/Sgt.
C. Griffin - S/Sgt.
R. Harewood - T/4.

B. Thompson - Sgt.
Albert Price - Cpl.
John Fizer ... 1st Sgt

3rd Row (Standing)

E. Queen - Cpl.
S. Warren - Cpl.
A. King - Cpl.
H. Terrell - Cpl.
F. Long - S/Sgt.
M. Knighton - Cpl.
W. Robinson - Cpl.
W. C. Thomas - Cpl.
Benny Wilson - Cpl.
M. Strickland - S/Sgt.
James Hill - Cpl.
John Sudberry - Cpl.
J. Woodson - Cpl. (rear)

“ SONG OF THE CAMPAIGN ”
CHARLIE BATTERY

★
★★

It was early in July when we landed on the beach,
There was very little there, but we had old " Jerry " to beat.
The first out it wasn't too bad,
But we sat in silence with our faces looking sad.
We pulled into position about nine next day,
Our mission : to set the Hun on his way.
From time to time, as we moved with pride,
We fired HE with our One fifty-five.
Old " Jerry " was persistent and tried to make a stand,
But he couldn't take it when the stuff hit the land.
He used everthing that his science could produce,
But those jumpin' cannoneers made him turn it loose.

§

At night came " Bed Check " Charlie in his little Recon plane
And the bombs would fall, as if they were rain.
But we had something for his little jive,
Whenever we looked for his " mee-mee " gun
When we fired that mighty stinger, our One Fifty-five.
He'd soon prepare to take off and run !
But one night, the guy got mad
And tried to give us everything that he had.
During this raid, we said a little prayer,
But he was determined, and of course he didn't care
In a very little while the raid cooled down...
Then it was our time to go to town !

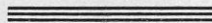
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We got a Fire Mission : Battery five rounds
And it wasn't long before he left that ground
We checked our men and found them all alive
So we continued to move with our One fifty-five
We lost some buddies much to our sorrow,
But the job is done, so what's for tomorrow ?

§

May God bless the boys, the ones who are gone...
And who left us these words " Carry On ! "

Cpl. Albert C. Price.





GALLIVANTIN' AROUND WITH SERVICE



Sgt James C. Moore-Relates :

One night in August 1944, the battalion was moving to another position and as usual we no sooner got out on the highway when the convoy stopped. We were there for five minutes when along came "Bed Check Charlie". There we were in the middle of the road, a pilot's dream for a strafing attack. He let us have it, but good. I hurriedly dismounted from the truck to find as much shelter in the side ditch as I could. I was nervous and, I might add, a little frightened for I was aware of the fact that there is always a possibility that some of the enemy might have been left behind. I was a little cautious for I had my trusty carbine and an itching trigger finger. While lying in the ditch, I heard a sneeze that left me stiff with fright, for I just knew it was a Heinie. I couldn't see so I waited. Then I heard a faint rustling in the weeds and out of the bushes stepped my "German", a whiskered goat.

S/Sgt. Daniel Deramus-Remembers :

While supporting the 4th Armored Division, we pulled into a position that was a hot one. There was much small arms fire and we soon got an order from Capt.

Coddington that there would be no sleeping that night. While on guard with my friend, Willie Linthicum, a German appeared suddenly in front of me. He startled and excited me so that I actually started to run. Luckily the German was just as excited as I was. He ran the other way.

Sgt. Knox Poslie-Says that :

One night we were strafed by the Jerries. He did little damage to the vehicles and none to the men, but in my haste to get out of the way I did more damage to myself than the plane would have done. I didn't notice the barbed wire as I ran for the ditch and in the excitement didn't feel the barbs rip my skin. A pal of mine noticed the blood dripping and yelled that I had been hit. I really thought I had too, until the medic told me what it was.

Pfc. James Anthony-Recalls :

When with Charlie battery and after going through a few harrowing experiences such as being shelled, and fired on at close range by enemy machine guns, I was left in a pretty nervous state. We were dieting on the well known 10 in 1's. You know the kind with the hard biscuits. One morning while on guard with my buddy I got very hungry, so I asked him to listen for the shells while I ate. He asked why couldn't I listen for them. I told him it would be impossible to hear an earthquake ten yards from you if you were eating (fugitives from a brickyard) biscuits.

Cpl. Percy L. Chambers-Tells this Story :

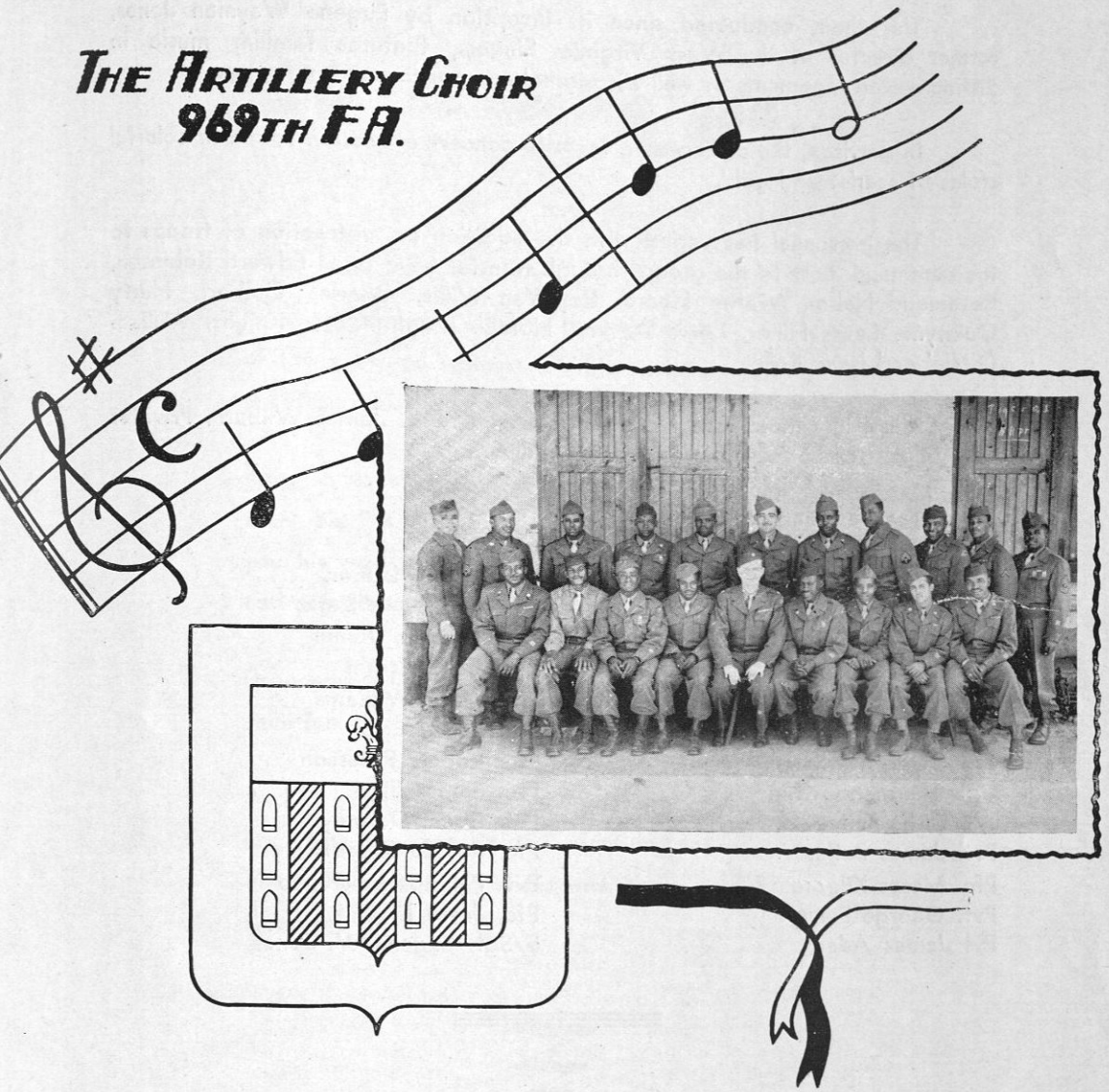
Being strafed one night and knowing that Jerry had his mines on the ground had me undecided as to whether to take a chance and stay on the truck or risk it on the ground. Well I decided that I'd rather get it quick by stepping on a mine than to be machine gunned. I missed the mine and saw a foxhole that had been recently used by the Germans. I took off for it, but found that two of our officers had beat me there after having traveled at least 1/4 mile in 5 seconds flat to reach that particular spot.

Pfc. Bob Bullock-Got Surprised Here :

While supporting the 4th Armored we were attacked by the Jerries. That night we killed a few and wounded others, so next morning I went out to see what was what. I wanted a pistol for a souvenir. Spying a "dead" German, I walked over and started to frisk him, but then he came to life with a hand grenade in his hand. Carelessly I had come out without a gun, so with a vivid picture in my mind of the Joe Louis-Schmeling affair, I laid one on his jaw. History really repeated itself that day.



THE ARTILLERY CHOIR 969TH F.A.



THE ARTILLERY CHOIR



The Artillery Choir, veterans of forty-two public appearances in the United States, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, was organized December 5th, 1942 at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma and made its first appearance over a nationwide hookup in a Christmas Eve broadcast, first to be made from the camp.

The choir, conducted since its inception by Eugene Wayman Jones, former director of the West Virginia Singers, features familiar music in distinctive arrangements as well as original compositions.

In garrison, the choir was a favorite concert attraction robed in colorful stoles of scarlet and gold.

The personnel has varied with the addition or subtraction of troops to the command. Lost to the group through transfer have been Edward Robinson, Rosamond Nelson, Walter Heard, Roy Van Willis, Charles Colbert, Harry Quintyne, Lewis Hines, Lewis Adams, Horace Knight, Jesse Knight, William O'Niel and Isaac Rolle.

Killed in action were 1st. Sgt. John Hall, Sgt. James Wilburn, Privates First Class Robert Foreman and Leon Williams.

The personnel currently includes :

1st. Sgt. Isaac Pope	Cpl. Adam Lamar.
T/3 William C. Baker	Cpl. Robert Williams
1st. Sgt. Nathaniel Scurlark	Cpl. William Joiner
Sgt. Otis Cummings	Cpl. Earl Wright
Sgt. Willie D. Pyles	Pfc. Mack Williams
T/5 Frank Davis	Pfc. Leo James
T/5 Clyde Mathews	Pfc. Robert Peterson
Cpl. Thurman Griffin	Pfc. James Sims
T/5 Elisha Belton.	Pvt. Oscar Dabney
Pvt. James Butler	Pfc. Payton Standberry
Pfc. Moses Kilgore	Pvt. Philippe Lawrence
Pvt. George Penny	Pfc. Jesse Martin
Pvt James Adams	S/Sgt. Eugene W. Jones



"I'll be seeing you..."

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★★

Included here you will find the addresses
of the men and officers of this battalion,
according to battery roster.

Keep in touch with that fellow who used to
share his "K" Rations with you... who loaned
you his razor, his shoe polish, his fox hole
and sometimes his second-best girl friend.

Drop him a line... send a card from that
vacation spot, or that honeymoon trip.

And if you're ever in his neighborhood,
Look him up... but, DON'T mention that
girl in Paris in front of his wife !
Compree ?



ROSTER OF OFFICERS

★
★★

Lt Colonel HUBERT D. BARNES	5427 N. Idlewild Ave Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Major EINAR A. ERICKSON	4212 Barker Street Omaha, Nebraska.
Major JAMES W. MELVILLE	6621 Underwood Ave Omaha, Nebraska.
Captain JOHN R. BARR	462 Washington Street Wellesley, Mass.
Captain DUANE A. MURRAY	572 Hawkinson Ave Galesburg, Illinois
Captain FRED N. WOODWORTH	Rt 6, Kalamazoo, Mich.
Captain RICHARD C CODDINGTON	301 North Benton St Sparta, Wisconsin
Captain JEROME A. CAPLAN	839 S. Fremont Springfield, Mo.
Captain LILBURN C. HARRISON	Pyatt, Ark.
Captain ALBERT HAYUTIN	2000 Ivy Street Denver, Colo.
Captain HARRY H. NELMS	7028 Coronoda St Dallas, Texas.
1st Lieutenant JOHN W. FRITZ II	7532 McGee St, Kansas City, Mo.
1st Lieutenant HENRY J. BUDZICH	27 Academy Kd Buffalo, N. Y.
1st Lieuten. MENTZER A ANDERSON	1039 Englewood St St. Paul Minn.
1st Lieutenant JOHN J. CLIGGETT	304½ E. Live Oak Street Austin, Texas.
1st Lieutenant KERMIT A. GRISSO	120 College St Seminole, Okla.
1st Lieutenant ROBERT J. MATZ	625 Grove Ave, Johnstown, Pa.
1st Lieutenant JAMES A. NASH	Box 165, Velasco, Texas.
1st Lieuten. RAYMOND S. NORVILLE	Route 1, Gadsden, Tenn.
1st Lieutenant RAFAEL J. PORPORA	1184 Ogden Ave New York, N. Y.
1st Lieuten. MARCELLUS P. RESLEY	900 E. 4th St. Russell, Ga.
1st Lieutenant RAY C. THOMAS	Star Route, Alex, Okla.
Lnd Lieut. CLARENCE M. MORGAN	Plain Dealing, La.
Wojg CHARLES E. SUTTON	975 Union Ave New York, N. Y.
Wojg EDMUND O. AUSTIN	211-A, North 151st St, New York

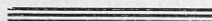
H Q BATTERY

★
★★

1st Sgt Mayo Crook	Box 10, Hammond, La.
M/Sgt. Ammie D. Jones	210 Sherman Ave, Newark, N. J.

T/Sgt Charlie L. Jones Rt 1, Sunbury, N. C.
 » Ignatius Randolph 607 N. 52nd St., Phil. Penna.
 » Grover C. Stewart Rt. 2, Woodville, Miss.
 » William L. Taylor 13 W. 121st New York, City.
 S/Sgt Clarence Johnson 2300 Wegster, Houston, Texas.
 » Rufus A. Johnson 201 Leonard St, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 » James C. Manning 2398 Brooklyn Ave, Memphis, Tenn.
 » Tullie May 1760 Pacific St, Brooklyn St, N. York
 » Roy Parks 3 Middle Street, Lyman, S. Carolina
 » Charles A. Peterson 321 Berchmann St, Plainfield, N. J.
 » Loyd N. Wilkinson 363 Brainbridge, Brooklyn, N. York.
 » Ben Zeigler XX General Delivery, Deatsville, Ala.
 T/3rd William R. Kyles 4355 Indiana Ave, Chicago, Ill.
 Sgt James H. Henderson General Delivery, Union Springs, Ala.
 T/4 Nathan H. Brown Pawley'sIsland, Georgetown, S. C.
 » Thad J. Browning 822 Washington St, San Bernadino, Calif.
 » Elmer D. Congo RFD 1, Haddonfield, N. Jersey.
 » Bishop F. Cunningham Rt 2, Eufaula, Alabama.
 » Jesse F. Goode Rt 1, Waelder, Texas.
 » Curtis Jetton 919 N. Greenwood, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 » Stella King Rt. 1, Simmsboro, La.
 » Leo G. McDaniel Rt 5, Magniolia, Arkansas.
 » William McElroy 5918 Wabash Ave, Chicago, Ill.
 » Zeke McMiller 802 Main St, Vicksburg, Miss.
 » Charles H. Payne Lancaster, Kentucky.
 » James R. Jones Rt 2, Gladstone, Virginia.
 » Andy H. Ross Rt 1, Watervalley, Miss.
 » Samuel A. Wilson 608 Sixth St, Henderson, Ky.
 Cpl Christopher C. Holmes Springtown Rd, R.D.2, Bridgetown, N. Jersey.
 » Horace Hughes 5931-3rd Ave, No. Birmingham, Ala.
 » Lloyd Paul Jr. Box 317, Lakewales, Florida.
 » Clifford Rhodes 324 W. 145th St, New York, N. Y.
 » Allison X. Rochon Ocean Springs, Miss.
 » Wilbert Snowden 1920-C-h 27 St, Phil. Penna.
 » Christopher C. Thomas General Delivery, Wayside, Georgia.
 » Leamon R. Ware Rt 1, Flint, Texas.
 » Aaron Woodall 5657 S. Prairie Ave, Chicago, Ill.
 T/5 Horace R. Champion Rt 3, Greenville, Texas.
 » Elgie Clayton Rt 1, Sulphur Springs, Texas
 » Roy Donaldson 124-1/2 Ocean Ave, Lakewood Ocean, N. J.
 » Lee E. Lewis Rt 1, Pickton, Texas.
 » Ernest Lucas 1127 Railroad Ave, Wilmington, Del.
 » William S. Martin 128 Fayette St, Perth Amboy, N. J.
 » Mitchell Miles Rt 2, Box 193, Prattville, Ala.
 » Hubert Mullins Rt 2, Oxford, Miss.
 » Pleaze J. Spires 574 St. Nicholas Ave, New York City.
 » Herman Sledge Rt 1, Hurricane, Alabama.

»	Lendee Stevens	620 Sabine St, Longview, Texas.
»	William Taylor	59 River Road, Red Bank, N. J.
»	Henry L. Washington	236 W. 149th, St, New York, N. Y.
»	Jeremiah D. Washington	General Delivery, Stockton, Ala.
»	Emmett Whitaker	120 Maple St, Jersey City, N. J.
Pfc	Lester Atkinson	Bolton, Miss, Rt 2.
»	Paul Boggs	Rt 1, Claxton, Georgia.
»	Curtis W. Broadnax	62 W. 140th, New York, N. Y.
»	Aubrey Clayton	Rt 5, Sulphur Springs, Texas.
»	Fred L. Cross	Post Office, Friars Point, Miss.
»	George Dickinson	37 Hamilton Terrace, New York, N. Y.
»	Walter Donnelly Sr.	217 Arch St, Marion, S. C.
»	James W.-Evans	General Delivery, Lubbock, Texas.
»	Clifford Forman	60 Academy St, Bridgeton, N. J.
»	Lee D Gamble	1118 23rd Ave, Ensley, Ala.
»	Harvey Griffin	Rt 3, Jackson, Miss.
»	Ernest Griggs	1237 Magnolia St, Vicksburg, Miss.
»	Jamie L. Harris	343 Orange St, Eufaula, Ala.
»	Bowman Henderson	Rt 1, Autaugaville, Ala.
»	Jasper Herron	Rt 1, Thompson, Alabama.
»	John W. Kelly	Rt 1, Taylor, Miss.
»	Willie J. McAllister	Rt 2, Abbeville, Ala.
»	Vaughan Moore	Terry, Miss.
»	Thomas R Nichols	Clarksdale, Miss.
»	William S. Rich	107-12 159th St, Jamaica, N. Y.
»	Lames Rush	1117 Ave L, Ensley, Ala.
»	Rickard W. Sexton	General Delivery, Daphne, Ala.
»	James W. Thomas	Rt 1, Daphne, Ala.
»	Lewis Warren	402 Pine St, Wilmington, Del.
»	Lester R. Wiley	PO, Alaphata, Georgia.
»	Wright Williams	37 Wither St, Montgomery, Ala.
»	Westley Woodard	1003 Mainz St, Palatka, Florida.
Pvt	Mark O. Bettis Jr.	General Delivery, Bay Minette, Ala.
»	Edward L. Edwards	704 Pryor St, Gastonia, N. C.
»	Lawrence E. Hardy	822 N. 17th St, Columbus, Miss.
»	Pierce Johnson Jr.	Route 3, Lexington, Miss.
»	Richard Lacy	Middleton, Texas.
»	Wendell E. Mason	247 W. 149th St, New York, N. Y.
»	Harrison Miller Jr.	228 S. Palace, Tyler, Texas.
»	Clarence Pope	5 Rippley Alley, Atlanta, Ga.
»	Jeff Robbins	Rt 3, Greensboro, Georgia.
»	Lee R. Smith	Rt 3, Sulphur Springs, Texas
»	Earl L. Swayne	2019 Iberville, New Orleans, La.
»	Willie A. Thomas	10 Secession Ave, Abbeville, S. C.
»	Garfield Wilkerson	Rt 1, Bovina, Miss.
»	Charles Wright	430 So. Ave, Hamilton, Ohio.
»	Ezekiel Young	General delivery, Wilson, Louisiana.



MEDICAL DETACHMENT

S/Sgt Clement Maynard 230 W. 141st New York City.
T/3rd William C. Baker 1823 Vincent St, Newberry, S. C.
T/5th Willie Grace Rt 2, Saucier, Miss.
» Emanuel Smith Lithonia, Georgia.
» Ernest E. Pitts Rt 1, McIntyre, Ga.
Pfc William Gresham 526 Williams St, Buffalo, N. Y.
» Harold E. Priestley 2281 E. 101st Cleveland, Ohio.
» Lessley Whitar General Delivery, Coden, Ala.
» Eashmon Keith Rt 2, Alpine, Ala.
» Charlie L. Styles Rt 3, Doughlasville, Ga.
» Dudley Swain Rt 2, Alpine, Ala.

ABLE BATTERY



Names and Addresses

I/Sgt. Joseph Hamilton	1917 Pemberton St, Phil. Pa.
S/Sgt. Douglas H. Paul	529 Douglas St, Indianapolis Ind.
Sgt Otis G. Cummings	518 Noble St, Philadelphia Pa.
Cpl Clarence Green	Ethel Miss.
Pvt. Philip Holliman	532 Rhodes N. W. Atlanta Ga.
P.F.C. M. L. Hall	Rt 1 Box 154, Bassfield Miss.
Cpl. Tom Thomas	495 W. Main St, Stamford Conn.
Pvt. Douglas Black	530 S. 47 Pl. Birmingham Ala.
P.F.C. Archie Aaron	525 N. 15 St, Birmingham Ala.
Sgt. Johnnie Hall	Rodessa, La.
Cpl. Lorenza Ray	Rt 5, Box 156, Troup Texas.
Cpl. Frank T. Russell	18 Brevort Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
P.F.C. Tonnie Erving	Rt. 1, Box 30, West Miss.
P.F.C. Gus Thomas	1077 Liberty St, Chicago, Ill.
P.F.C. Floyd Harrelson	Rt 1, Box 179, Benton, Miss.
Pvt. Warren G. Fractious	1841 East 33 Los Angeles, Calif.
P.F.C. Peter Culp	602 19 St, Amory Miss.
Cpl. Nathaniel Collins	838 S., 5 St, Kansas City, Kansas.
P.F.C. Marion Friar	Rt 3, Lexington, Miss.
P.F.C. John Dunn	261 West 118 St, New York City.
Pvt. Otley Henry	62 East 103 St, New York City.
Cpl. Reginald Biddle	30 Sixth St, Lakewood, N. J.
Cpl. Otis Patton	Rt 2, Box 61, Oxford Miss.
S/Sgt. Conway Blackford	25 Hamilton Ter., New York City.
Cpl. Peter Williams	Lathom Ala.
P.F.C. Longery Crawford	Rt 2, Box 71, Poglond S. C.
T/5 William Muse	P. O. Box 75, Midway Fla.
P.F.C. Rufus Harrison	825 Curtis Ave, Toledo, Ohio.
Cpl. Adam Lamar	Bazminette, Ala.
T/4 James Jeffries	4459 Prairie Ave, Chicago, Ill.
T/5 John H. Jones	1212 Glade Rd., Columbus, Ga.
T/5 Tommy Dotson	1624 Booker St, Jackson, Miss.
P.F.C. Eddie Wortham	Rt. 4, Bos 42, Kennard Texas.
T/5 Ceaser Edwards	Rt 1, Box 93, McKamuar, Miss.
P.F.C. Julius Steele	203 Roosevelt, Montgomery, Ala.
S/Sgt James Palmore	419 2nd Court North Birmingham, Ala.
Pvt. Joscelyn A. Cunningham	1079 Hall Pl., Bronx 59, N. Y.
T/5 Herman Covington	Rt. Box 66, Liberty Miss.

P.F.C. James Taylor 1502 D'Ohea St, Greenville, Miss.
 T/5 Willie O. Cobb 44 Church St, New Albany, Miss.
 T/5 Obie Shackelford 2413 Crochran St, Dallas, Texas.
 P.F.C. Willie Linthicum 1410 Orlean St, Dallas, Texas.
 T/5 James Deramus Rt 1, Box 354 Autongille, Ala.
 Pvt. Kyle Turner 4058 State St, Chicago, Ill.
 T/5 John W. Wynn Rt 1, Box 242, Cambelton, Fla.
 T/4 McCorn Miles Rt 1, Box 19, Clinton, Miss.
 T/5 Arthur B. Williams Rt 3, Box 162, Troy Ala.
 P.F.C. George Anderson 2487 East 82 St, Cleveland, Ohio.
 P.F.C. Shelby Ross Rt 2, Box 10, Learned, Miss.
 P.F.C. Daniel Bell 330 Lincon St, Hampton, Va.
 Pvt. Walter Mims 258 Academy St, Hights Town N. J.
 T/5 John E. Crenshaw Rt Box 82, Thomson Ga.
 Cpl. Garfield Sykes Duck Hill, Miss.
 P. F. C. Otra V. Smith Rt 2, Box 30, Etta, Miss.
 Cpl. James Austin Rt 4, Box 250a, Sumter, S. C.
 Cpl. Clem Glover Rfd, 1, Box 104, Comer, Ala.
 P.F.C. Hanible Crockett 172 Earis St, Jackson, Miss.
 Pvt. Richard Morgan 631 Walker St, Savannah, Ga.
 Sgt. Joseph Hunter 1980 7 Ave, New York City.
 Pvt. Richard Rembert 626 So, First St, Brookhaven, Miss.
 Pvt. John Manning Jr. 312 West 116 St, New York City.
 P.F.C. William Hackett 21 No, Union St, Easton Penn.
 S/Sgt. Augustus Stowall Rt 1, Box 100, McKamie, Ark.
 Cpl. Booker T. Curtis 927 So, Main Muskogee, Okla.
 Pvt. Armstead Robinson 139 Corn Ave. Hightstown, N. J.
 Cpl. Otis Walker 84 Central Ave, Passic N. J.
 S/Sgt. Charles H. Stevens 1035 Armstrong St, Greensboro, N. C.
 T/4 Jacob Wiles 70 Mill, Ave, Bridegton, N. J.
 T/5 Jessie Wilkins Rt Box 398, Edward Miss.
 T/5 Edward McGlaun 403 So, Liberty St, Jackson, Miss.
 P.F.C. Cleve Goodson Rt. 2, Box 104, Prattville, Ala.
 P.F.C. Robert Hunter Rt 3, Box 148, Johnson, Island, S. C.
 P.F.C. John Hambrick Rt 3, Box 435, Atlanta Ga.
 P.F.C. Square Jenkins P. O. B., 653, McNeil, Ark.
 Sgt. Edwards Ballard Box 102, Horatio, S. C.
 Cpl. Alvin Shannon 1322 Lion, Ave, Clakbale, Miss.
 P.F.C. Tommy Smith Rfd 2, Box 205, Jackson, Miss.
 T/4 Lewis Benjamin Oakhill, Ala.
 P.F.C. Booker T. Lewis 275 Hickry St, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Pvt. Cleveland Dennis P. O., Box 164, Union Springs, Ala.
 P.F.C. Dee Huntley R. F. D., 1, Box 16, Washington, Ark.
 P.F.C. Willie Beckham R. F. D. 4, Box 39, Pocntototg, Mis.
 Cpl. Thomas Smith Jr. 618 Northington, St, Payttville, Ala.
 P.F.C. Loy Dunn R. F. D. 2, Box 31, Etta, Miss.
 Pvt. Louis H. Lee R. F. D. 1, Autaugavile, Ala.
 Pvt. Lenard Nick R. F. D. 2, Box 212, Oxford, Miss.

Sgt. Willie J. Richmond	Rt 2, Box 60, West, Miss.
Cpl. Irving Schuler	841 Lenox Ave, New York City.
P.F.C. Lafayette Faulkner	P. O. Box 243, Prollville, Ala.
P.F.C. Josh Thompson	kt 1, Box 172 a, Oxford, Miss.
P.F.C. Sidney Standley	Alb St, Edenton, S. C.
P.F.C. Tony Fields	Rt 2, Terry, Miss.
P.F.C. Hosie Snell	Rt 2, Box 285, Magnolia, Ark.
Cpl. Eugene Franklin	Rt 193, Como, Miss.
Pvt. Charles Edwards Sr.	1011 RailRoad, Ave, Morgan City, La.
Pvt. Montgomery Harmon	Rt 1, Box 7, Como, Miss.
Cpl. Marshall C. Rainey	806 11th, Ave Fort Worth, Texas.
P.F.C. Luther Rucker	Stovall, Miss.
Pvt. Charles Merriweather	92 Central Ave, Passaic, N. J.
Pfc. Samuel Collins	Route 2, Box 46-A, Waynesburgh, Miss.
T/5th J.D. Eggerson	Rt 2, Box 1, Taylor, Miss.
Pfc. H.K. George	Rt 2, Box 30, Tchula, Miss.
T/5 Leslie Wittaker (Medic)	General Delivery, Coden, Ala.
Pfc Jodie Minard	Rt 2, Box 34, Reform, Ala.
Pfc. Earnest Pettis	Rt 2, Box 442, Oxford, Miss.
T/5 James Shelton	930 S., Kenwood Ave, Indianapolis, Ind.
Pvt. Mark Welch Jr.	1002 West Church, Gainesville, Fla.
Pfc. Joseph D. Williams	Rt 1, Box 50, Abberville, Ala.
Pfc. Robert Stamps	General Delivery, Edwards, Miss.
Cpl. Junest Payton	204 Ingle Ave, Memphis, Tenn.
T/5 Ethel Haythorne	100 2nd St, Greenville, Miss.
Pvt. Joe R. Horne	336 Shall Lane, Norfolk, Va.
Pvt. Alston Smith	Seaboard, N. C.



BAKER BATTERY

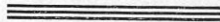


Names and Addresses

Allen, Lucius	Rte 1, Box 136, Middleton, Ga, Cpl.
Ebron Edward	706, Roosevelt Avenue, Greenville, N. C., Pfc.
Williams James Z.	Rte 1, Box 84, Batesville, Miss., Pvt.
Peterson Irvin	342 Manhattan, N. Y. C., Apt., 5, P.F.C.
Martin Jesse	Box 23, Smithville, Tex, Pfc.
Wintson Jimmie	Rte 1, Box 38, Hawkins, Tex., Cpl.
Taylor Johnnie	6347 Langley Avenue, Chicago, Ill., Pvt.
Williams Robert	439 Townsend St, Wilmington, Del., Cpl.
Peterson Robert	905 E., Cannon St, Fort Porth, Tex., Pfc.
Anthony William B.	Mc Comas, W.Va, Pfc.
Howard Birl	Rte 2, Box 166, Oxford, Miss., Cpl.
Harriel Johnnie	Rte 1, Box 53, Ruth, Miss., Pfc.
Brigham Thomas	Rte 2, Box 12, Tunic, Miss., Pfc.
Scarborough James	556 Avenue C, Bayonne, N. J., Cpl.
Daugherty Shannon	501 Perishing St, Eastland, Tex, S/Sgt.
Ford Robert	Box 323, Tchula, Miss, Sgt.
Davis Frank	6021 Race St, Phila., 39, Pa., Cpl.
Henderson John	Rte 2, Box 50, Edwards, Miss., Sgt.
Gamble John	Box 646, Eastland, Tex., Pfc.
Matthews Clyde	Rte 4, Box 208, San Augustine, Texè, Cpl.
Jones David	Rte 3, Box 65, Eufoula, Ala., Cpl.
Peterson Herman	324 E., 21st., St, Lorain, Ohio, Cpl.
Walker Wallace	Rte 1, Box 61, Okolona, Miss., Pfc.
Avriett Robert	R. F. D. 1., Box 61, Pittscliew, Ala, Sgt.
Smith Henry	Box 132, Bellemy, Ala, Sgt.
Jackson Allen	R.F.D., 1, Box 181, Clarksdale, Miss., Pfc.
Jones Chester	Rte 2, Box 98, Talladega, Ala., Cpl.
Hammond Miles	2132 East 8th, St, Port-Arthur, Tex., Pfc.
Harris Dayton	Rte 5, Box 102, Magnolia, Ark, Pfc.
Gordon Loyd	Rte 3, Box 31, Puituser, Miss., Pvt.
Lawrence Philip	85 Maple St, Jersey City, N. Y., Pfc.
Hervey Nat.	Rte 4, Box 388, Texarkana, Ark., Pfc.
Mathis Foy	143-1st St, Elizabeth, N. J., P.F.C.
Kilgore Mose	247 Troy St, Atlanta, Ga., Pfc.
Beckley Wilbert	Omega, Ala., Pfc.
Davis Nathaniel	Rte 2, Box 133, Tchula, Miss., Pfc.
Johnson Ezell	906 South Catherine St, Terrall, Tex., Pfc.
Pyles Willie D.	1009 Wabash Ave, Wichita 6, Kansas, Sgt.

Freeman Willie J.	Rte 2, Box 10, Abbeville, Ala., Cpl.
Pegues A. P.	Box 381, Oxford, Miss., Cpl.
Richards Robert.	642 East President Sy, Savannah, Ga., Pfc.
Pitts Ernest.	1620 Crocker Ave, Flint, Mich, Cpl.
Richardson Norman.	139 River St, Red Bank, N. J., Sgt.
Henderson Lee.	Box 144, Boltoe, Miss., Cpl.
Mims Willie.	Rte 1, Box 39, Viga, Miss., Cpl.
Brown Henry.	Rte 1, Box 170, Leeds, Ala., Cpl.
Belton Elisha.	Box 131, Boliggee, Ala., Cpl.
Chambers Roy.	128 N, Maryland Ave, Atlantic C., N.J.,S/Sgt
Florence Warren.	Rte 1, Terry, Miss., Cpl.
Jackson Cornelius.	Brooklyn, N. Y., Cpl.
Williams Olyphant G.	132 Ocean Ave, Lakewood, N. J., Cpl.
Means La ^s son.	Rte 9, Box 277A, Charlotte, N. C., Cpl.
Hale Leroy.	Tchula, Miss., Pvt.
Roberson Robert.	Cameron, Ark., Pfc.
Ruffin Steven.	1285 Duches Ave., Norfolk, Va., Pfc.
Stampley Herman.	124 Elem St, Jackson, Miss., Pfc.
Stanberry Payton.	Rte 2, Box 63, Lexington, Miss., Pfc.
Williams Mack.	2225 Porta St, Richmond, Va Pfc.
Bridgeman Thomas.	Rte 1, Box 216, Jackson, Miss, Pfc.
Kitchen Robert.	657 S., Jefferson St, Jackson, Miss., Pfc.
Johnson Chas.	1525 Fairview St, Berkeley, Calif, Sgt.
Boyd John P.	Henrietta, Tex, c/o St, Elmo Hotel, Sgt.
Williams Dewitt.	Rte 2, Box 52, Raymond, Miss., Pfc.
Tripp Malachi.	Rte 1, Box 682, Clarksdale, Miss., Pfc.
Miller John.	521 Clemen St, Greenville, Miss., Pvt.
Street Ralph.	Rte 1, Box 108, Flintville, Miss. Pfc.
Robinson Sammie.	Box 172, Jonestown, Miss., Pfc.
Griffin Thurman.	320 E., Monroe St, Jackson, Miss, Cpl.
Simmons Matthews.	Rte 2, Box 51, Oxford, Miss, Cpl.
Jones Freadie L.	Rte 7, Box 25, Autaugauville, Ala. Pfc.
Hynson Herhell.	Smyrna, Del., Pfc.
Mc Duffie Louis.	2913 California St, San Francisco, Calif., Pfc.
Sims James.	3014 Rea Avenue, Tupelo, Miss., Pfc.
Dabney Oscar.	3842 A-Winsdor Place, St. Louis, Mo., Pvt.
Stevens James.	Milleville, Ga., Pfc.
Renick George.	1258 N. Alden, Phila., Pa. Pvt.
Hankins Thomas.	Rte 2, Box 36, Hartshorne, Okla, Cpl.
Penny George.	5758 Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill., Pfc.
Butler James.	324 E., Market St, Enid, Okla, Pvt.
Turner Randall.	724 Jackson St, Picayune, Miss., Pfc.
Wilson Earl.	Rte 1, Box 22A, Como, Miss., Cpl.
Ivy David.	1414-32 Avenue, Meridan, Miss., Sgt.
Johnson Delbert.	648 Russell St, Toleda 8, Ohio, Pvt.
Cox Roosevelt.	Nettleton, Miss., Pfc.
Ange John.	34 W., 133 St, N. Y. C., Pvt.
Gausse Benny.	Rte 2, Box 184, Tchula, Miss, Pfc.

Boyd Alfred	622 St, John St, Tarboro, N. C., Pfc.
Hawkins Joseph	3318 Sy. Wabash St, Chicago, Ill., Cpl.
Lucas Joseph	225 N. Justine St, Chicago, Ill., Ppl.
Barr Henry	Rte 1, Box 43, Tylor, Miss., Pfc.
Jamerson John	Rte 4, Box 284, Magnolia, Okla, Pfc.
Middletoin Leslie	1606 Pacific St, Brooklyn, N. Y., Pfc.
Allison Willie L.	827-9th St, Columbius, Ga., Pfc.
Redmond Esley	Rte 4, Box 69, Lexington, Miss., Pfc.
Gauvin Eckie	Rte 2, Box 42, Noxepater, Miss., Pfc.
Dobson Lester	Box 171, Patterson, Ga, Pfc.
Keller John	1024 N. Dunleith Avenue, Winston, Salem, Pvt
Taylor Ambus	10-15th & Brownie St, Andison, Ala., Pvt.
Scott Eddie	Redlick, Ala., Pfc.
Sago Manuel	Rte 2, Box 45, Auger, Miss., Pvt.
Hood George	Rte 3, Box 177B, Lexington, Miss., Cpl.
Lumsden James	736 Arlington St, Youngstown, Ohio, Pvt.
Williams James Z.	Rte 1, Box 84, Batesville, Miss., Pvt.
Cotton Willie	220 Highland Avenue, Albant, Ga, Sgt.
Rankins Leedester	Rte 3, Box 8, Waynesboro, Miss. Cpl.
Pope Isaac	Rte 1, Box 17A, Kinston, N. C., Ist. Sgt.
Daugherty Shannon	Eastland, Tex., S/Sgt.
Gaiter Worrell	132 Sherman Ave, Seaside Heights, N.J. S/Sgt
Jones Eugene W.	412 Clinton Ave, Moundsville, W.Va., S/Sgt.
Redman John	298 Clarendon Ave, Columbus, Ohio, S/Sgt.



CHARLIE BATTERY



Names and Addresses

John Sudberry	10616 Bryant Ave, Cleveland, Ohio.
Claude Pickett	Adamsville, Alabama.
James Pickett	Rte 1, Jacksonville, N. C.
Jesse Cummings	417 East Jackson Carbondale, Ill.
Joseph Jackson	Clarksdale, Miss.
Charles Simmons	2411, Rosalee Ave, Houston, Texas.
Howard Denson	Rte 1, Box 171, Newton, Miss.
Joe Ray	Box 167, Belzoni, Miss.
P. L. Laster	3731, Page Ave, St, Louis, Missouri.
Penson Ivy	Rte 1, Box 5, Oxford, Missouri.
Frank Green	616½ Sumter St, Columbia, S. C.
Earl S. Wright	709b, Jefferson St, Savannah, Ga.
Lewis Adams	908½ 14 St, W. Palm Beach.
Howard Meaweather	6672 Linwood Ave, Sheveport, La.
Percy Strong	Rte 1, Box 100, Edward, Miss.
Cedeli Armstrong	5019 Ashlane, Dallas, Texas.
Namios Terry	216 West 143 St, New York.
Earl A. Moore	P. O., Box 236, Boley, Okla.
Eugene Nicholes	Rte 2, Box 34, Bolton, Miss.
James Hollman	Mattsville, Rte 4 N. C.
Egan Jackson	P. O., Box 745, Los Anglas, Calif.
Lewis Hines	23, Hickman Road Claymont, Del.
Welden McKissack	421 S.W.S., Side Blv., Moskogee, Okla.
Bill Lindsey	15, Velvet St, Askville, N. C.
Wille J. Spruill	2110 Ave, Q. Ensley, Ala.
John Hollins	2619 Hivernia, Dallis, Texas.
Sylvester Warren	Rte 1, Box 111, Newville, Ala.
Thomas C. Avery	Rte 3, Monroe, Ga.
Frank Palmore	1101 Meader St, Mobile, Ala.
Benny Hall	Rte 3, Box 124-C, Brookhaven, Miss.
Willie Land	Rte 2 ox 77, Lexington, Miss.
Robert Griffin	323 Orr St, Tupelo, Miss.
Charles Griffin	2956 Valley St, Vicksburg, Miss.
M. C. Carr	Rte 4, Box 20, Batesville, Miss.
L. C. Blassingame	Rte 1, Box 76, Piedmont, S. C.
Wallace Henderson	Locust Grove, Va.
Earnest Robinson	Box 146, Bolton, Miss.
Earnest Miller	Rte 2, Box 81, Utica, Miss.

Joseph Johnson	3415, Gurthie St, East, Chicago.
Lloyd Robinson	Rte 3, Box 48, Batesville, Miss.
Edward Romer	2431 Melpomeme St, New Orleans, La.
Tommy Fuller	Aberdeen Miss, Rte 1, Box 149.
Willie J. Wilson	Warsaw Gen., Del.
Freeman Long	6715 Webster St, Dallas, Texas.
Julius C. Freeman	Rte 3, Box 256, Brookhaven, Miss.
Earnest Martin	127 Ragan St, Albany, Ga.
Bennie Wilson	63, Neweck Ave, Jersey City, New Jersey.
Gabino Santigo	1746 Madison Ave, New York.
Oscar Rich	110, Dugless St, Clarksdale, Miss.
Robert Williams	1319, Allendale Ave, Sheveport, La.
Charlie Bright	General Delivery, Nashville, Ga.
David Brown	General Delivery, Tuskogee, Ala.
William Hall	3213 South Phila, Penn.
Walter B. Robinson	Rte 2, Utica, Miss.
Harry B. Quintyne	295 West, 150 Street, New York.
James Winkey	PO Box 625, Bowndbrook, New Jersey.
Samuel Smith	Tenvaw, Ala.
Joe Mitchell	Rte 2, Box 63, Oxford, Miss.
Thomas Revell	231 Star St, Norfolk, Va.
Louis Greenwood	119 Wood St, Highstown, New Jersey.
Charlie Boyd	PO Box 192, Roper N. C.
Hildridge Terrell	Rte 2, Box 45, Smithville, Miss.
Albert C. Price	551 West, 149 St, New York.
Willie Herd	Rte 4, Box 109, Pontotoc, Miss.
Leo James	3032 Cass., St Louis, Missouri.
George Hodo	Rte 2, Box 76, Prattville, Ala.
Meredith Trent	831 Wood, St, Norfolk, Va.
Radcliffe Harewood	11-13 West 113, St, New York.
Alex Crawford	Rte 2, Box 5, Aberdeen, Miss.
Andrew Via	319 Renfrew St, Pitts, Pa.
Hold Hendly	2 Washington Ave, Tyler, Texas.
James Hill	9143 Russell St, Detroit, Mich.
Anthony Johnson	Rte Box 156, Oakland, Miss.
Albert Turner	% W. M. Wells, Woodvill, Miss.
Major K. Nighton	1120 Hussa St, Linden, New Jersey.
John Woodson	1462 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, New York.
John Fizer	533 North Jackson, Miss.
S. B. Holmes	Box 65, Roundlake, Miss.
William C. Thomas	336 North Pennsylvania Ave, Atlantic C., N.J.
Benjamin Thompson	Rte 1, Box 98-A, Shelby, Miss.
Fred Drinkard	1202 22nd, St, Enseley, Ala.
Selmer Means	Rte 4, Box 71, Water Valley, Miss.
Walter Smith	PO Bowden, N. C.
Francis Perryman	PO Box 263, Waveland, Miss.
Ed. Williams	General Delivery, Blackshere, Ala.
Eddie Gibson	Rte 2, Box 50, Abbeville, Miss.

Willie Joiner	211 East Fortification St, Jackson, Miss.
Luther Arnold	1229 Symore St, Mittle Town, Ohio.
George Jordan	Rte 1, Box 38, Benevolence, Ga.
McKay Adams	1013 Hickory St, Jackson, Miss.
Walter Simpkins	Rte 1, Box 36, Trenton, S. C.
Arther King	RFD, Box 36, Aberdeen, Miss.
Earnest Jones	Rte 3, Box 45, Macdonald, Ga.
Willie Morris	Rte 5, Box 140, Yato City, Miss.
Ulyses Green	General Delivery, Terry, Miss.
James Quick	493 Manhattan, Ave, New York.
Edward Queen	416 East 13th St, Texarkana, Texas.
Early Jackson	Gueryton, Ala.
Mack Pitchford	Tchula, Miss.
Jimmie Souter	Box 326, Pontotoc, Miss.
Clarence Sullinvan	210 North Main, St, Smipna, Del.
Grady Morris	2417 8th, Ave, New York.
Ronald Richard	3237 97th St, Coronana L. I., N. Y.
Robert L. Anderson	950 Pindale, Ave, Atlanta, Ga.
Willie Jackson	128 Harpin St., Dyersburg, Tenn.



SERVICE BATTERY



Names and addresses

Nesbitt Spruill	Rte 3, Box 38, Luling, Texas.
John L. Holden	121 Liberty, St., Long Branch, N. J.
John D. Fearn	9663 Cameron, St., Detroit, Mich.
William L. Williams	3814 N., 17th, St, Philadelphia, Pa.
Charles W. Austin	1134 Indiana, Ave, Wichita, Kans.
John W. Franklin	Rte 1, Box 86, Comer, Ala.
Nathaniel B. Scurlark	1625 -22nd St, Birmingham, 8, Ala.
Johnnie Jordan	Rte 5, Box 57, Monticello, Ga.
Willie Grace	Rte 2, Box 23, Saucier, Miss.
Emmett Skipper	Rte 1, Box 52, Eufaula, Ala.
Andrew Bolton	3652 Calumet, Ave, Chicago 15, Ill.
Howard B. Hayes	10 Highlands Courts, Wayne, Penn.
Frank E. Sims	213 E., Fortification St, Jackson, Miss.
Herman Masenburge	Rte 1, Box 128, Winona, Texas.
R. S. Napper	P. O., Box 535, Munday, Texas.
Knox Poslie	2825 - 8th Ave, New York.
James C. Moore	805 St, Nicholas, Ave, New York.
Abram C. Knight	PO Box, Abbeville, Ala.
Ben Taylor	Rte 2, Box 199A, Wetumpha, Ala.
James B. Hopkins	Wilton, Ala.
James Anthony	Rte 1, Box 8A, Senoia, Ga.
James C. Reed	Vernon, Ala.
T. J. Smothers	112, Savage, St, Jackson, Miss.
Eugène Johnson	204 Roosevelt, St, Jackson, Miss.
Allen T. Snider	Post Office, Montrose, Ala.
Jimmie Johnson	Box 172, Mc Neil, Ark.
Percy L. Chambers	Rte 2, Box 53 B., Eutaw, Ala.
Levi Taylor	Rte 2, Box 14, Courtland, Miss.
Willie C. Webb	1117 Galveston, St, Fort Worth, Texas.
Lewis R. Middlebrooks	P.O. Box 96, Dallas, Ga.
Arthur Carrington	318E., 101st., St, New York.
Willie D. Brown	5237 Calumet, Ave, Chicago, Ill.
Eddie B. Knight	610 Ridge, Ave, Youngstown, Ohio.
Moses Rogers	118 Ayres St, Bennetsville, S. C.
Benson Bowden	Troy, N. C.
Willie H. Arnold	1661 - 11th, St, Oakland, Calif.
Edgar Morrison	Post Office, Cognac, N. C.
Sylvester Belk	Route 2, Box 122, Juniper, Ga.

James Barr	606 N., 7th St, Oxford, Miss.
Lowell E. Moore	3814 Market St, Oakland, Calif.
David E. Hardy	P.O., Box 94, Atmore, Ala.
John A. Thompson	Post Office, Autaugaville, Ala.
George H. Hicks	515 E., 3rd St, Topeka, Kans.
Luther A. Hammock	1302 S. Court, St, Montgomery, Ala.
James R. Kirby	357 Broadway, Buffalo, N. Y.
Darlington Lightner	Rte 1, Box 38, Abbeville, Ala.
John Wilson	63 Newark, St, Newark, N. J.
Fate Stewart	152 Noel, St, Jackson, Miss.
Floyd L Hall	207 - 1st, St, Magnolia, Ark.
Calvin Jackson	225 W. Ft. Lee Rd., Bogota, N. J.
Will O. Arps	P. O. Box, Winosa, Texas.
Nathan O. Shipman	P. O., Box 13, Alapaha, Ga.
Robert Bullock	237 Jay, St, Jackson, Miss.
Henry F. Hagans	107 Stantonsburg, St, Wilson, N. C.
Peter S. Roberts	500 W. 162nd, St, New York.
Essie Smiley	Rich, Miss.
James Stone	Lula, Miss.
Ellsworth E. Johnson	79 Broome, St, Newark, N. J.
Charles D. Blanch	455 West 150th, St, New York, N. Y.
Maurice Brown	1124 Wharton, St, Sherman, Texas.
Warner Williams	Rte 1, Box 72, Pontotoc, Miss.



SONG OF THE CANNONERS



Official March of the 969th Field Artillery

Front and center, Cannoneers
Guidons post on line !
Rank on rank, and flank to flank,
Men of Nine Six Nine... Artillery.

Eyes ahead and Shoulders high,
Cannons crossed our sign
We'll march along, Five hundred strong,
Men of the Nine Six Nine.
On the way, Sir ! Victory !
It's our day, Artillery !

Front and Center, Cannoneers,
Forward to the line !
We'll take the fight through storm and night,
Men of the Nine Six Nine !

Eugene Wayman Jones, S/Sgt.



L'ENVOI

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**

Gone are the days when the snow and the mud seemed forever ; when death was our constant companion at the breech block, the unseen head at the chow-line.

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This evening at 1900 hours, the President of the United States announced that the Imperial Japanese Government had surrendered. And so, after three years and eight months came the end of the years of horror.

o o

To the Cannoneers who have struggled and strained with their howitzers ; who have lifted and rammed the projectile home -- for hour after weary hour ;

To the wiremen who kept alive the orders from OP to guns, who made possible the immediate response to an attacking enemy ;

To the Liason Pilots and their crews -- who, with intrepid courage flew above the secret hide-outs of the enemy and discovered him ;

To the Medical Corpsmen, who with limited facilities, bound up our wounds and cheered our hearts ;

To the Detail crews who, before we arrived, walked and surveyed that new position under the nose of the enemy ;

To the Mess personnel, "who kept those biscuits rolling" -- and the Coleman stoves a -- burning ;

To the Radio operators and Ammo crews ; To the Drivers of the big prime movers ;

Utah Beach and Normandy -- Lorient and Brest -- Bastogne and Colmar are memories in the depths of your minds. " The tumult and the shouting die, the Captain and the Kings depart ". The rockets and V-bombs, the 88's and " Achtung, Minen " -- the star shells and jet-planes, the foxholes and " K " rations are a part of a shadowy dream ; a dream nonetheless real, for you met it and were victorious. So to you, who have comprised the finest unit of men and officers to strike against the enemy. We raise our glasses high. For a job well done, Hail and Farewell !

Sequor Nec Inferior





Vitas Valaitis Art Selby

"THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE"—The Rev. Jim Revell of Virginia, standing in a Belgian field, recalls his experience in the famous World War II battle on N.B.C.-TV Tuesday night at 10 P.M.