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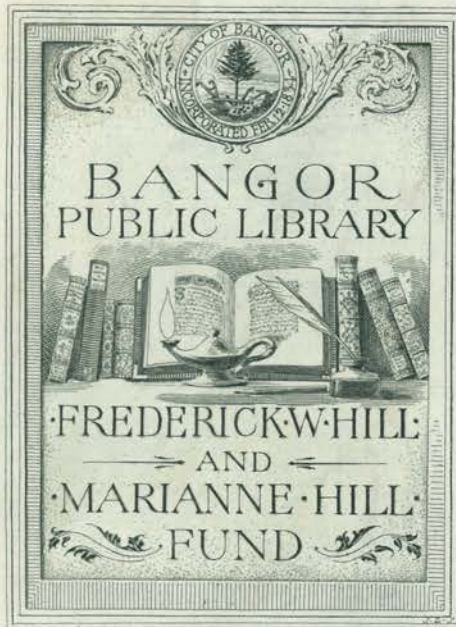
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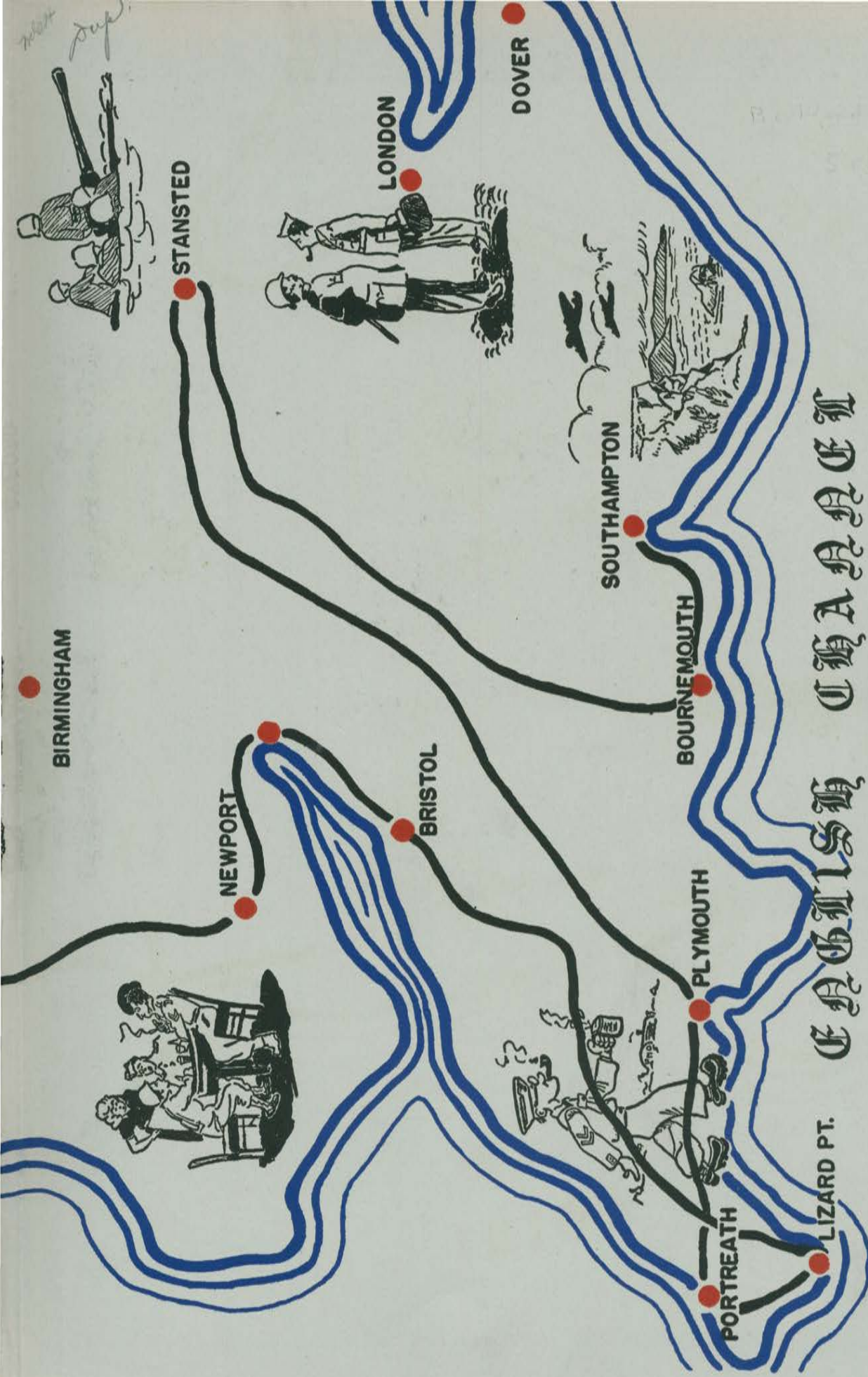
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863D's TRAVELS IN THE U.K. /

☆ UNIT HISTORY . 863d AAA AW BN

On Target

*A History of the 863^D AAA-AW-BN
in the Second World War*



Sgt. BENJAMIN GISE
Editor-in-Chief

T/Sgt. VAN NESS RICHARDS
Assistant Editor

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM H. WARRICK, CAC
Commanding Officer, 863d AAA AW BN

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☆ FOREWORD ☆

Little was it expected that at some future date, the gray well-thumbed S-2 daily journal would be a much-needed source for historical reference. It first came into our possession in Llanover Park, Wales. It was not quite new; in fact, had been borrowed. But it was adequate. We penciled in the daily doings of the battalion, the pertinent sections of orders and reports gleaned from official documents, news of personnel from first hand observation or via the grapevine circuit. At the end of the day, these entries, military and personal, of serious moment or of lighter vein, were given "literary touches" and typed into our "Leroyed" permanent loose-leaf binder — "snow" for inspections.

In our war-dictated course of travel over the United Kingdom, across the Channel, along the Normandy beaches and hedgerows, through Granville to Rouen, into Germany by way of Belgium, the gray-backed journal and its decorate alter-ego went along, guarded carefully. To this journal family had been added a bound volume of battalion photographs now augmented by a growing collection of European pictures, originals of important directives, maps, overlays of airstrips and railhead defenses, etc., pictorial views of 863d areas and assorted mementoes of our varied experiences during the vicissitudes of World War II. An abundance of information and interesting data had been gathered. A special steel chest now encased the bulky material.

At Kalterherberg, Germany, early in December 1944, in enemy territory for the first time, greater precautions had to be taken with classified matter. The battalion journals contained secret and confidential items and could have been of some value to the enemy if seized. They would have to be subjected to the same rough destructive treatment as other classified material despite the hours expended in cumulative efforts.

What happened during the German counter-offensive in the waning days of 1944 and the 863d's role therein are amply described in the narrative that follows and perhaps well known to the battalion. It is not common knowledge to the members of the 863d that much of this book's contents could have been "lost to the ages" had the classified documents pyre on the fateful 17th of December burned with a stronger flame.

Document after document was being thrown on the slow burning heap as trucks were loaded with a minimum of essential equipment and personnel were hurrying to and fro in the change of CP site. Overhead enemy planes were droning ominously, several dogfights dotted the northern skies, ground fighting was evident in the east. It was imperative to set up operations and install shorter communication lines immediately. The trucks were starting to move. There was no time for anything else but to throw the little of classified material that still remained to be destroyed, the history journals (solicitously, left for last) included, into the safe-like steel case and ignite it with a thermite bomb down the road. This fortunately never became necessary because of a change of situation for the better.

One or two other incidents could be related which almost spelled finis for our source materials. Suffice it to say, they are still with us at the current writing, military vagaries having been overcome.

The writing of this book began shortly before V-E day. Together with what had been scribbled in the unit history journal and more carefully entered in the more ostentatious

records, refreshing notes and photographs submitted by battery representatives were used in the telling and illustrating of this integrated story of the 863d AAA AW Bn.

In this presentation, it was impossible to obtain and relate personal anecdotes involving each man in the battalion. Whether or not you are mentioned specifically, it is our hope that you see yourself described, albeit anonymously, in the experiences and sentiments and moods common to all in this memorable adventure of the 863d.

We have tried to gather and utilize all suitable information brought to our attention to give a full, cohesive, readable story of the battalion and all its officers and men, its campaigns, its missions, its organizational experiences, its troublous days and gayer times — in a word, its life as a military organization from date of activation on 1 June 1943 at Fort Totten, Long Island to V-J Day, 14 August 1945, in and around Bad Soden, Germany.

Some may find errors herein. We trust they are few. They have not been intentional: only the difficulties of writing a history, presumptuous under normal times, and much more laborious and trying while exposed to the rigors of actual military campaigning can be submitted in apology.

Many have had a hand in composing this book: in the form of permitting us the use of a single negative or photo, or in throwing light on a hidden incident, a forgotten happening, or a battery experience. To those of you who thus cooperated, we say thanks for your interest and good organizational spirit.

The writing of the phase on Kalterherberg was based on a story written for publication by Major William J. Krzton, CAC, Battalion Executive, and Capt. Warren G. Tyson, CAC, Battalion Intelligence Officer. Their tactical presentation in superior literary style was seized upon to enhance the readability and authenticity of this work. Our thanks to them are readily given.

To 1st Sgt. Cairl, 1st Sgt. Musselwhite, S/Sgt. Utz, we likewise must express our gratitude for their assistance in digging out the facts and pictures from among the men at the gun sites and around the Battery CPs.

The advisory committee consisting of Lt. Simmons, Lt. Hallinan, Lt. Jozwiak, Lt. Hall and Lt. Assad had the delicate role of supporting an editor and staff whose capacity for the task had not been proven. For their confidence and wise counsel, they too have our thanks.

For making possible the environment in which the History's final preparation was accomplished and for their constant availability for conferences and planning sessions, we owe much to Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick, CAC, Commanding Officer of the 863d, and to Major John Harbachuk, CAC, Battalion Operations Officer.

Putting the thoughts and facts and photos and tables into one comprehensive and representative story ultimately became the exacting job of a small group who in the editorial office along the eastern shore of the Rhine River made the editor's problems less burdensome. To S/Sgt. Bingamon, our photography expert, to T/Sgt. Shakt and his artists, Sgt. Juilfs, Tec 5 Mihal and Pfc. Cerretta, to Pfc. Gellman who assisted in rewriting, and to Pfc. DiLucci, our clerical "find," we say thanks a million. And finally, to Assistant Editor T/Sgt. Richards, we owe a special debt of gratitude. His facile pen and sound criticism were stimulating to all.

SGT. BENJAMIN GISE, *Editor-in-Chief*



STAFF OFFICERS



LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM H. WARRICK, CAC
Commanding Officer

MAJOR WILLIAM J. KRZTON, CAC
Executive Officer

1st LT. EUGENE M. BATZA, CAC
S-1

CAPT. WARREN G. TYSON, CAC
S-2

MAJOR JOHN HARBACHUK, CAC
S-3

1st LT. ALEXANDER W. G. KENNEY, CAC
Asst. S-3

CAPT. REMY B. LICHTENBERG, CAC
S-4

CWO FRANK P. GONTARSKI
Personnel O.

1st LT. ALEXANDER ASSAD, CAC
M.T.O.

1st LT. JAMES J. HUGHES, CAC
Comm. O.

CAPT. CHARLES B. McCONNELL
Chaplain

CAPT. FELIX H. VANN, MC
Bn. Surgeon

CAPT. JAMES O. CRAWFORD, DC
Bn. Dental O.

CWO JOHN J. O'CONNELL
Recon. O.





Phase I IN THE STATES

THERE WAS AN AA Battalion forming during May 1943 to go to Buffalo. How long there? Six months, perhaps a year. It started talk among Eastern Defense Command men in Boston, Bayonne, Norfolk, New York, Washington, Hartford and points thereabouts. What sort of a deal was this going to be? Who was going? Was actual war coming closer to the states?

A multitude of similar questions and accompanying inevitable rumors sprang up to herald the formation of this new battalion—the 863d Separate something or other. There was the same expectant atmosphere up and down the soldier-laden Eastern Coast and its quietly defended production centers. Whatever the situation, men who had gotten their training in the dry heat of Texas, the sticky clay of Georgia, on the high windswept shore of North Carolina, or in the damp swamplands of Virginia had discovered that the CA (AA) could take over guns, fill in a AAAIS network, and protect a city from air-attack under an established antiaircraft control system.

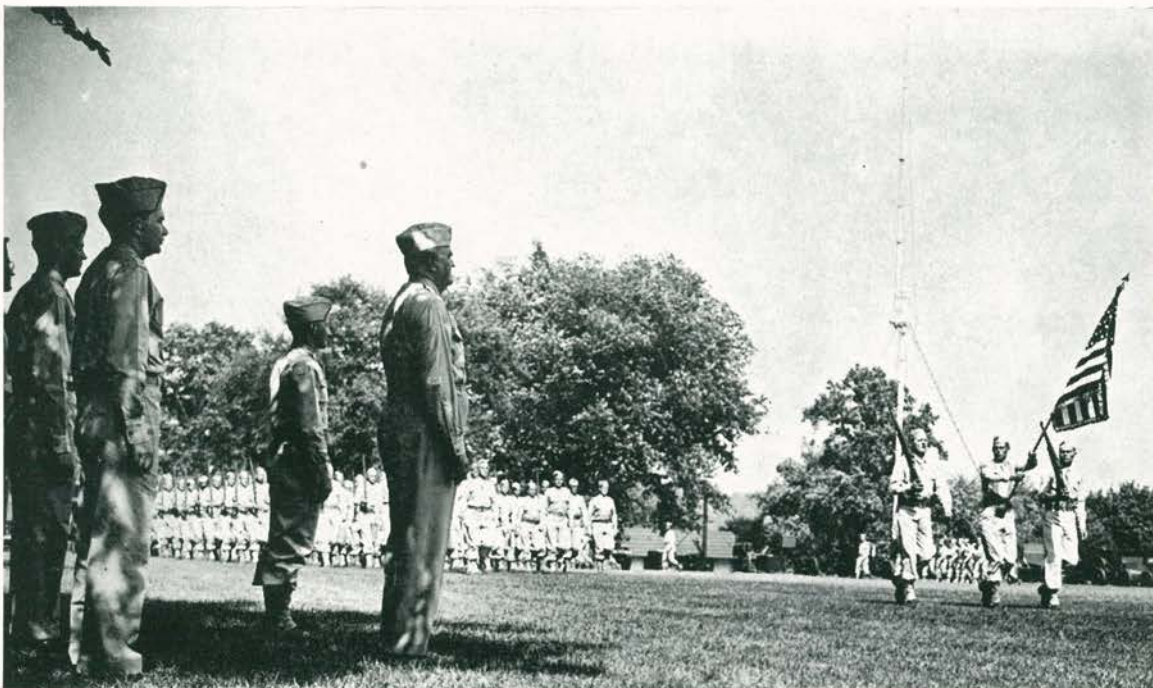
Had they not already served in existing

military organizations—the 71st, 79th, 85th, 502, 604, 605 (all CA AA), the 38th CA Brigade (AA), the 46th Brigade (AA), Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Command, Eastern Defense Command, and the Boston region AAAC EDC. They had given a good account of themselves in war-stirred, industrially activated America and were prepared for whatever might come.

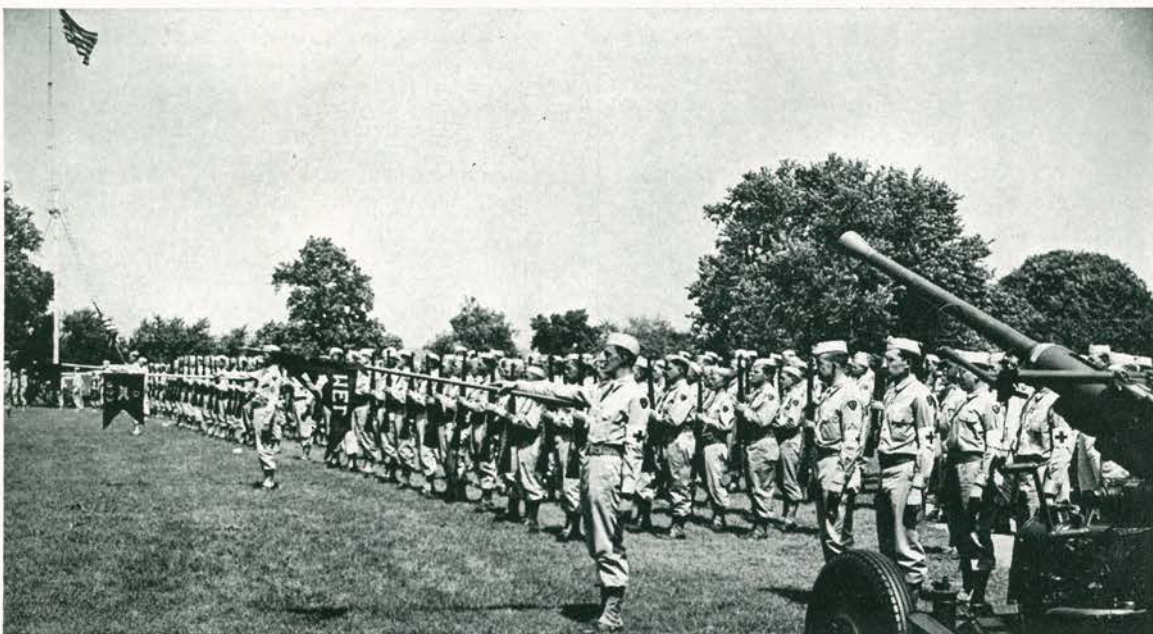
The long arm of GI administration moved rapidly and surely even while these men wondered. In late May 1943, AA cadres along the Atlantic seaboard were being marshalled together. Staggering under weight of bags and baggage, frequently glancing back wistfully at cities which they had adopted and come to know so well, these troops were shuffled into crowded railway stations, then to trains which took them to Penn Station, New York City. A quick change to the Long Island Railroad and a dusty truck ride brought them to Fort Totten near Flushing, Long Island, their new army home.

This camp was to be the launching ground for the 863d, a point from which the





Major General Jarman Review at Fort Totten, L. I. At General's left is Lieutenant Colonel Warrick. Summer 1943.



Formal review for Major General Jarman. Troops at present-arms.



battalion was destined to go to Buffalo as part of the AAAC EDC and then to travel across the Atlantic to war-ravaged Europe.

And so personnel from different outfits arrived at Fort Totten to begin the process of training and the welding of its various components into one integral unit in preparation for any possible assignment.

Cadres consisting of enlisted men and officers from the 502d, 602d, and 604th AA Regiments came to Totten to form "C" Battery of the 863d. 2d Lt. Robert D. Stone was Battery Commander until the arrival of 1st Lt. Eugene G. Gadbois who then took over. Other officer personnel of this battery were Lt. Simpson, executive; Lts. Semple, Jozwiak, and Hall. Sgt. Bingamon was the 1st Sgt. With him were Platoon Sgts. Cairl and Stermer; as chiefs of sections they tagged Sgts. Langs, Rhoads, Bozarth, Cpls. LaDart, Driscoll, Hunter, Crow, and Pvt. Peterson.

Most of these men imagined that they had been sent to this de-luxe appearing camp to put on a demonstration. It wasn't long before they learned otherwise.

Battery "A" with men from the 85th AA of Norfolk, Virginia and 601st AA of Philadelphia reached Totten on the 1st of June. Lt. John Harbachuk was battery commander. With him were executive officer, Lt. Alfred L. Whinston, Lts. Stanley, Potter, Tyson, and 1st Sgt. Ray, Platoon Sgts. Macowsky and Hayes, Supply Sgt. Davis, Mess Sgt. Singleton, and chiefs of section Utz, Brown, Wasserman, Server, Wilson, Szalva, Yenailaitus, and Rabaudo.

After a stay of 15 months at Hartford and Manchester, Connecticut, 147 enlisted men and 6 officers arrived at Totten on the 2d of June 1943 to add strength to the growing 863d. In command of the contingent which became Battery B was Lt. Henry C. Pendzick. Accompanying him were Lts. Rubin, Heiberg, Brosnan, Assad, and Swiderski.

Among the non-commissioned officers were S/Sgt. George E. Witwer, acting 1st Sgt.; Platoon Sgts. Shogry and Eldert and Mess Sgt. Carrender.

Men from the 71st and 89th Coast Artillery Regiments, experienced in the ways of army life, lined up at Totten after their trip from Washington, D. C. They stood at attention, weary and perspiring in the warm Long Island sun. Lt. Busch, the executive officer of this group that was to be known as Battery D, called the roll and introduced Lt. Robert H. Thurmond, the new Battery Commander.

To complete the organization of the new Battalion, Headquarters Battery with Lt. Marion G. Blanchfield as BC was formed with specialists of one kind or another for operations, intelligence, motor pool, communications, personnel and supply sections. Quickly, section chiefs were chosen — Thompson, Hutt, Brown, Rodman, Lally, Daugherty; and Headquarters Battery started on its contribution to 863d existence.

Fifteen (15) men of the 604th CA (AA) Medical Detachment from Bayonne, New Jersey became the 863d aid men under the temporary supervision of Capt. Hoekman who filled in until the arrival of Capt. T. W. Wade, the latter being no stranger to the medics. He had been CO of the 604th Medical Detachment before going to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C.

As these various groups of men arrived and the battalion began taking form, the 863d was officially activated on 1 June 1943 under authority of General Order #19, 22 May 1943, Hq. AAAC EDC. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick, formerly Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 71st CA (AA), of Washington, D. C., the 863d became attached to the 38th CA Brigade (AA).

Among his first official acts as new com-



manding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Warrick directed the publication of a Battalion General Order dated 1 June 1943, bringing the several batteries and the medical detachment officially into being with authorized strengths under T/O and E 440-125, 126 and 127. (Feb. 27, 1943).

The preliminaries of travel and assembling, quartering and activation over, the battalion became immersed in developing a unified, cohesive unit in preparation for all eventualities. Almost immediately, training was begun under rigorous schedules. Close order drill, bayonet drill, gas mask drill, aircraft recognition drill and gun drill was the order of the day. It was drill! drill! drill! — those first few weeks at Totten. Drill, drill, drill — until you knew your stuff backwards and forwards.

During these drill periods, working at various times as sections, platoons, and as a battery, a practical joker in A Battery, 1st platoon, decided he was tired of counting cadence in the right order. He proceeded to sound off inversely: 4-3-2-1. Unfortunately,

an officer was within hearing distance. Official dignity precluded his ignoring the situation. He inquired for the guilty one. Since no one would reveal the source of this exhibition of individuality, the first platoon marched to the edification of lookers-on counting one continuous cadence. They counted all the way to the battery area and stood there and sounded off for a while! **DISCIPLINE!**

Personalities began to make their presence known during those training days along Long Island Sound. C Battery should remember the day Lieutenant Simpson went up in a plane for a tracking mission. He kept diving down and waving to the men on the guns who really had “to be on the ball” to follow that elusive Cub. Then there were Giles Hunter standing on the wall directly behind his crew. LaDart and Rhoads betting as to whose crew could do “March Order” faster, and Sgts. Cairl and Stermer doing ditto about their respective platoons.

Inland with A Battery, gun drill went



40 MM Bofors lined up for inspection by Major General Jarman. Officers in front row from left to right: Lieutenant Colonel Warrick, Capt. Gadbois, Major General Jarman.



with speed and efficiency reaching a point where Sgt. Joe Szalva's crew could lower and level their "40" and have it in firing order in 22 seconds.

To help in building up the Battalion as a whole, stress was laid on the development of personnel in various duties at gun sections, in strengthening non-coms' awareness of their responsibilities, in the development of proper relationships between section chiefs and their men, and in the emergence of a wholesome, soldierly relationship between enlisted men and officers. Helpful in the rapid rise of the spirit of unity and teamwork and commendable military goals which soon prevailed was the military meticulousness which was the standard at Fort Totten.

Such was the advanced state of training and coordination in the Battalion that on 17 June 1943, barely two weeks after assembling for the first time, the personnel of the 863d held a formal parade on the Fort Totten parade grounds for Brigadier General Hines, Commanding General of the 38th CA(AA) Brigade and the New York region.

Interspersed with all this GI activity were the frequent lighter moments. The bus to Flushing, two "fast ones" at the Four Star — perhaps mention of this name will bring smiles to many, remembering it was the reason the Battalion supplied its first self-propelled MP's. Then the subway to Times Square, New York, in all its dimmed-out glory. Holding up the bars along Broadway was a favorite pastime. Just as singing and dancing to "Paper Doll" and "Johnny Zero" were then favorites among all "pass" loving men.

Who will or could forget the New York subways (to be compared later with London's underground and the Paris metro) the BMT, the IRT, and then the already

familiar Long Island Railroad — friendly conveyances which mothered us back from the hectic wrestling with the world's greatest city to Totten? Who of us 863d men will or can forget Flushing and Bayside as, tired and sad-looking, showing the cost of New York night-life, we returned to these towns in the wee hours of Monday morning and for some of us just about in time for reveille?

The Battalion's first big show came on the 25th of June, 1943, when we held a colorful inspection and review for Major General Sanderford Jarman, Commanding General, Antiaircraft Artillery Command, Eastern Defense Command. This was the first time all the guns of an entire AA Battalion were lined up in one huge square on Totten's parade grounds, simultaneously tracking at a concentrated target.

And those guns and equipment! The man



At General Jarman Review, Fort Totten. Battery A, gun position No. 2.





Tec 5 Scanlon, Hq. Btry., loading for the trip to Buffalo from Fort Totten.



B Battery CP at Kenmore — Lt. Hall, Lt. Rubin and 1/Sgt. Witwer.



Battery C — Best unit PX in AAAC — 1/Sgt. Donohue; Tec 5 Brady, Mgr.; S/Sgt. Cairl, Lt. Simpson, Lt. Williamson, Tec 5 Lushko.



B Battery's barracks at Kenmore, near Buffalo, N. Y.



hours that were spent in cleaning and polishing and blitzing, but, as we look back, who can deny it was a job worth doing? Who among us tried to hide the feelings of pride as General Jarman, after the Review, congratulated men and officers on the fine progress and development that had been made.

One month after its activation, the Battalion sent its batteries, one at a time, to a firing point at Mattituck, Long Island. Every EM in the Battalion put a nickel into a pool which was to be given to the battery that shot down the most targets. This was an incentive for all and afforded an opportunity for the batteries to prove themselves.

The records show that C Battery managed to do the best firing and got the "cabbage." It wasn't easy, but as they put it "We felt that we could do it, but reports from A and B Batteries indicated they were both pretty "hot." So we kept hoping. We fired the machine guns and ex-calibre first and did better than the other batteries. Then came the firing of the "40s." After an afternoon's continuous firing we were able to score only 1 hit. Everything seemed to go wrong — our loaders and firers seemed to have lost all sense of timing; our range setters couldn't seem to get the right range. All in all, weeks of training seemed to have been in vain."

"We tried to forget about our miserable showing as we went on pass that night. The "Old Mill" and the "Anchor Inn" were just the right places for that, too."

"The following day was July 4th. The weather was good. The mission arrived on time. We felt in fine spirits. But our hearts sank when the plane dropped a small white sleeve. We couldn't hit the big red one yesterday! But we were determined, and started firing. On the second course, that fast moving, teasing little sleeve disap-

peared in a puff of smoke. Sgt. Crow's section had struck. From then on, inspired and challenged, the other sections started to rip that sleeve into shreds. It was not just 1 hit, but 2 and 3 on the same course with the result that the plane, out of targets, was forced to return to its base before scheduled time."

"To fill the afternoon, we participated in the dedication of an honor roll in the little town of Jamesport, Long Island. After all our drilling, exercise, etc., at Totten, we really put on a show."

"After several days of rain during which time no shooting was possible, we resumed firing. That day we really had to be in good form. Not only was that fund of money and a big party at stake but Brigadier General Hines arrived on the scene to observe us — Oh, if we could only repeat the 4th of July's fireworks our guns had put up! Our fingers were crossed."

"On the very first course, we got a hit, then another, and another. Hardly a course went by without a hit. At one time, only a few shreds and the hoop were all that remained of the sleeve. We weren't wasting any time and so used the hoop for a target and blasted it right out of the sky! There was no doubt then who had done the best shooting! General Hines actually jumped for joy when he saw that!"

D Battery made a contribution at this range when it "gave birth" to the "Fourth Platoon." About one-half the battery went to town on unauthorized passes and were caught. On returning to Totten that half of the battery could be heard at night tramping down the battery street at a "hup-two, hup-two."

This range trip probably astounded many in the Battalion as they viewed the vast flat uninteresting terrain and barren shoreline of Long Island at the tip of a city of over





Generals Jarman and Grunert inspecting C Battery in bivouac at ordnance plant.



Generals Jarman, AAAC, and Grunert, EDC, inspecting D Battery at Buffalo, N. Y.



Field problems while at Buffalo. Nov.-Dec. '43. Headquarters Battery and Staff.

seven million people and an unequalled concentration of huge buildings. However, the important feature in this Mattituck event was that it was the first real test of Battalion trucks, guns and men in operation. It had been successful despite cases here and there among the men of severe sun and wind burns and a heavy coating of dust acquired through action of the 40s (we didn't know about Colleville-Sur-Mer then). Lt. Assad, the new battalion MTO, probably took the worst beating down below the high cliff overlooking the Sound while he was dodging the flying rocks and sand of our first rocket targets and their associated blasts.

Up to this time, training at the 863d had been carried on during the day. In the middle of July 1943, the Battalion had its first taste of night training when the batteries moved to Verona, New Jersey, for night field problems. Each battery in turn moved into a new position at night, emplaced and oriented its guns and was ready for an attack at dawn.

Battery A whose Battery Commander, Lt. Harbachuk, had been recently appointed Battalion S-3, and who had been succeeded as BC by Lt. Whinston, left on the 18th and arrived at the maneuvers area in a driving rain, not too conducive for carrying on any kind of warfare, real or otherwise.

To add to the discomfort of a few and to the amusement of many were experiences with that small creek that ran past several of the guns. It could be bridged by tip-toeing lightly across a log which rested none too securely. Being under complete blackout restrictions, the combination of creek and log became the source of many a man's wet downfall. Cpl. Verba and his communications section consisting of Pvs. Eatmon, Bianco, Silberberg, and Hellings had particular difficulty with the creek. At all hours of the night if a splash were heard,

we knew that another communications man had hit the water.

The batteries proved the worth of their training by setting up and tearing down positions and bivouac areas in record time and with a minimum of confusion.

At B Battery, camouflage defense was well practiced. Told to camouflage their truck, Tec 5 Samuel E. Stevens and Tec 5 Hanson K. Hicks followed instructions so closely that it took members of the battery 10 hours to discover the location of the truck.

At about this time, theaters along Broadway, New York, were showing all sorts of war pictures. Heralded as "the best yet" was the Irving Berlin production, "This Is the Army," shown at the Hollywood Theater.

Proud indeed were the men of B Battery when they were informed that they had been chosen to participate in the ceremonies at the picture's world premiere. Like conquering heroes, the gun crews chosen drove their 40mm and 50 cal. guns in a line along the city's "Gay White Way," setting them up in front of the theatre. How impressed were the thousands of people who were attracted to this demonstration of 863d fire power! How dazzled they were at the precision and efficiency with which the crews manned their weapons.

All good GI deals don't last forever (at least they never did with the 863d). Small advance parties were leaving from each CP for reconnaissance purposes. We had come to Fort Totten for activation and training and surely all of us had been informed that Buffalo and the AAAC EDC were what we were being primed for. Yet rumors started flying, taking the Battalion on their fast moving wings all over the States and even into Europe. "Oh no, not Europe! This outfit will never go overseas," said a few sages.

After small arms firing at Camp Edison,



A Christmas message from the Commanding Officer prior to overseas movement.

863rd ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION
OFFICE OF THE BATTALION COMMANDER

25 December 1943

To The Men Of The "863rd":

Nineteen Hundred and Forty-Three years ago, three wise men from the East came with their caravans and retinues to Jerusalem seeking a "sign" that the promised Messiah would be born, that better days for the whole world lay ahead. When the Star of Bethlehem appeared in the sky, they are reported to have said: "Ecce Signum! — Behold the Proof." The star moved across the sky and they followed it to the humble manger where, on Christmas Day, Christ was born. The miracle had happened. Mankind was vouchsafed a supreme example of the good life for its future guidance — and has still to redeem the pledge.

As Christmas, 1943 draws near, we in our small but not inconsequential way, are doing our best to further the world-wide effort to make the world a better — and more Christian — place for men to live in. We know that if the pagan and brutal tyrannies of Germany and Japan had been permitted to win the war, even the *chance* of building a commonwealth of peace and plenty for all men would have been eliminated for hundreds of years to come. But we also know that if the war is not won quickly — before disease, starvation and militarism become commonplace everywhere — even victory itself can become an illusion. It is therefore incumbent on all of us to contribute everything within our power, not merely to victory at some vague future date, but to victory *now* — in 1944.

Believing from the very start that the 863rd could make an outstanding contribution to such a victory by the vigor of its example, we chose as our motto the proud legend "Ecce Signum — Behold the Proof!" We established for ourselves two goals: to become by our appearance and excellence in training, the outstanding unit in the AAAC; and secondly, by so doing, to merit the honor of being sent overseas to take an active part in free world victory.

If our firing and training record and the praise of the officers who have inspected us in positions and on maneuvers are the proof, we have already gone a long way toward achieving our first goal. But to achieve the second, we must not only keep up the good work but constantly improve both our appearance and our skill.

We know that we can shoot. We know that we can put on the "spit and polish" and parade in a brilliant fashion when we have to. But many of us are inclined to forget that when we are away from our positions on pass or furlough or leave our conduct still reflects either well or poorly on the 863rd. When, for example, any officer or man of this battalion walks along the street with his hands in his pockets, his cap on the back of his head, his blouse or overcoat unbuttoned, his clothes not pressed, his shoes not shined, long-haired, unshaven or walking in an unmilitary manner, his appearance is bound to reflect poorly on the battalion as a whole.

We must take it upon ourselves to make civilians and soldiers of other units envious of that "certain something" we alone possess. Call it spirit, esprit de corps, or just plain snap, it is what we must display twenty-four hours a day to those individuals who are not fortunate enough to be members of the 863rd with its proud motto — "Behold the Proof!"

As Commanding Officer of this battalion, I want to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the great spirit you have already shown and of the grueling work you have contributed toward making the 863rd the crack outfit it now is. At the same time I wish to extend to each of you my profoundest good wishes for a pleasant Christmas as well as a happy — because victorious — New Year.

*Very truly,
William H. Warrick*

WILLIAM H. WARRICK
Lt. Colonel, CAC
Commanding.



New Jersey, another and final highly successful inspection by Major General Jarman who praised the men of the Battalion and wished them success in forthcoming missions, train loading started.

Timely enough, during the final days of the Battalion at Totten there popped into our hands a booklet entitled, "Why Buffalo?" Yes, why Buffalo? Because Buffalo, one of America's largest cities, housed important war industries, and the 863d had been selected as the defenders of these vital activities from possible air-attack.

On the 1st of August 1943, after a 350 mile roundabout trip, during which more was seen of Pennsylvania than New York, the train bearing the 863d and its equipment pulled into Buffalo. Naturally, we detrained at night. To start things off on the wrong foot, Cpl. Peterson of C Battery dropped a power-plant on his toe. The men began to wonder again, "Why Buffalo?" This city, long prepared by an advance detail, virtually opened its arms to greet the Battalion. The people demonstrated their warm-heartedness to the Battalion with repeated examples of everyday hospitality throughout its stay. Buffalo, moreover, offered opportunity to many to pay the folks back home more regular visits. It was also possible for many to decrease the loneliness of army existence and even enjoy domesticity by living off the post with their families. Others, like 1st Sgt. Cairl and Cpl. Tesoriere of C Battery, bowed to cupid's call, and took unto themselves each a wife. The same Buffalo cupid whispered to B Battery's Sgt. Jesus G. Gonzalez, Pvt. Edward Cudmore, and Pvt. Donald W. Hageman. (By way of note — Also married during this period from B Battery were Tec 4 Benjamin G. Rojas, at Buffalo, N. Y., Tec 5 Sidney Greenberg at Boston, Mass., and Pfc. Robert O. Blosser at Chicago, Ill.).

To get back to things military and move along with the Battalion from the railway station — Batteries A and B were assigned to a joint CP in Kenmore, northern section of Buffalo. Battery C set up in and around Niagara Falls. Not far away was Battery D offering protection to the Curtiss Wright Plant, while the other batteries were arranging defenses for the Bell Aircraft Plant and other strategic points and industrial plants around Kenmore.

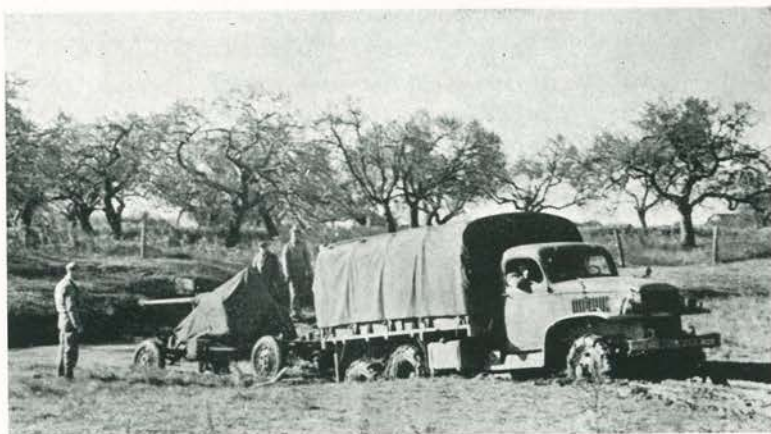
This was the Battalion's first operational mission under the AAAC EDC and it was an important one. It made the men feel another tingle of pride for their Battalion that had started its development in Totten. (At this time, the Battalion had become attached to the 49th AAA Group commanded by Colonel Stevenson).

In a few days the 863d received the blueprints for the revetments: Tailor-made gun sites, but very few of the men knew anything about building to measure. In A Battery, Tec 5 Wueller with such experience gave valuable assistance to the gun crews. Perhaps it's best not to dwell on this. Some of the results could hardly be called magnificent. And yet others were quite commendable.

During these busy activities of building and painting, changes in duties and position among A Battery's officers were effected. Lt. Winston was promoted to Captain, and Lt. Tyson became Battalion S-2.

Over at C Battery, Sgt. Holderman's position was still being built when the battery moved. For a long time Tanguay's walk at section 8 was the subject of much talk as was the network of walk at the CP built by Cpl. Rose and his crew. Sgt. LaDart at 22 never did pick a position. Likewise, memory tells of the fruitless efforts of Capt. Wade and the medics getting that junior hospital completed in time to move out.





Stuck in the mud on the way to firing point at Lake Ontario.



Lake Ontario firing range. L. to R. — Lts. Jozwiak, Simpson and Semple.



S/Sgt. Cairl wading through mud at Lake Ontario firing range.



Niagara Falls; Tec 5 Hanula, Pfc. Boyce, Cpl. Morelli, Pvt. Simon, Mascot Jack.



End building of C Battery barracks after a P47 crashed into it — Niagara Falls.



How about the color schemes in some of the barracks at C? Imagination and boldness plus! — Pea green at 19; cream and green at 22; green, red, grey at 17; all of the colors of the rainbow at 24; gray and white at 18; and old rose (dear me) at 21, otherwise known as Little Siberia; and the baby-blue of Lt. Roe's in the Orderly Room, (dashing, n'est-ce pas?).

Other things the boys at C like to remember — the Green Lantern and Martin's (swell resting points on trips to positions), Yurberge getting lost on one of his after-dinner hikes, the "pheasant season," the smell of the water at 21, Colonel Stevenson walking through the mud from 18 to 21 to inspect, the Ray Ott, the Jade Room, Lt. Williamson's and Pvt. Bergon's beautiful PX — all a part of Buffalo memories.

Headquarters Battery men chime in with their Hallowe'en Party that finally ended in the bar being closed by a certain mechanic and cook who decided to make with the fisticuffs; and the story of those active motor pool men who took off in what up to that moment had been a jeep and proceeded to buy it the hard way. It would be discoloring the illustrious past not to mention the Park Lane; Smitty, Mary and Polly at the Royal Arms; Terry and Dee at Decco's; the 40 and 8 Club; and McGoury's.

In this melange accounting of affairs military and personal, it seems comical now to relate how the problems of communications and transportation at B Battery between the CP and gun sites was solved. There were no phone or radio communications. When action stations was given it took the officers of the battery 20 minutes or more travelling by jeep and bicycle to alert the gun sections. (Shades of Kalterherberg!) Another problem, engineering this time, was solved when Sgt. Neaf's position #5 was given March Order and directed to set up his gun atop

the Dunlop Tire Co. building — civilian equipment and labor had to be employed, to hoist said gun to the roof and be readied for action. (We can hear the exclamations of OP commanders.)

Men in all the batteries took advantage of the wide open doors of welcome to watch the games of Buffalo's hockey and baseball teams, the Buffalo Bisons and the Buffalo Barons, and to enjoy the Roller Derby, and the delightful beverages served up at B Battery's favorites, "Kenny's Tavern," and the "Golden Pheasant."

While affording AA protection to Buffalo, the Battalion never was permitted to lose sight of a possible mission overseas and the valuable effects of training coincident with an operational status. Thus, early in December, the Battalion increased its training tempo — worse yet, word came to prepare for maneuvers. The 863d one cold, dreary day pulled out of Buffalo and headed for the bleak woodlands surrounding Lake Ontario. Those were bitter days. Sleeping on the ground in pup tents (wasn't too bad on Normandy beaches; anything there was better than foxholes).

The rain, the cold, and the mud made a miserable combination. Chow was not the best and rarely on time. Men cussing. Cold, wet, hungry. March Order in the thick of night. No place to sleep. Non-coms ordering "dig that revetment!" "Camouflage that gun."

One of the highlights of A's maneuvers was the mock battle against the 519th. Tec 5's Connel, Hahn, and Urban captured the referees from Group and brought them into the Battery CP. Sgt. Utz's gun crew destroyed a barn with rifle grenades thinking it contained the enemy. Imagine their surprise when they learned they had demolished the communications test station.

Although no "enemy" was encountered at





Experimental loading of 40 mm gun aboard C-47.



"- call" during convoy movement.

B's maneuvers, Pfc. Thomas E. Nolan, on security guard duty, and Pvt. Nolan K. Perkins, acting as guard, did foil an attempt by an "owl" to launch a gas attack!

The humorous situations arose out of the serious, simulated battle conditions. Each battery experienced difficult days and nights during these maneuvers. C Battery particularly had a rough time. To many in the Battalion this training represented the most exacting phase in 863d's history. Nor was this followed by a period of rest, warmth, or dry and comfortable clothing. The batteries on completion of their maneuvers proceeded to select suitable firing ranges and popped away with their guns before returning weary and ill humored to garrison training.

New experiences had been gained during those trying days. Driving trucks and equipment into positions where roads practically did not exist was one. Winching procedures was another. With conditions as bad as they were, American inventiveness and ingenuity really came to the fore. At the same time with the aid of sections from the 372d AAA S/L Battalion, Battery A successfully attempted night firing.

Back again at Buffalo and the crowning point of the battalion's stay there — the inspection by Lieutenant General Grunert, then Commanding General of the Eastern Defense Command. As one of D Battery's men put it (typical of what went on all over the Battalion) — "Dog Battery was going to put on a show." Our CP changed overnight. Fresh paint everywhere! Everyone was painting! Capt. Thurmond (recently promoted) was on pins and needles; said we would never be finished on time. Came the Big Day! Paint still fresh, but the inspection was perfect. The entire Battalion "made the grade" in the words of Lieutenant General Grunert and Major General

Jarman who had accompanied him.

A change in Battalion executive officers took place at about this time. Capt. William J. Krzton, formerly of the 605th CA(AA), who had been on DS at the AAAC School at Fort Totten as an instructor, joined the organization and took up the duties of executive officer in place of Major Seceniquia who had been transferred to the 49th Group to be its S-3. Several days after coming into our midst, it was Major William J. Krzton, as a result of a promotion.

By this time, Buffalo was becoming a sweet memory. Men worked, walked, or wandered about in their off duty hours seemingly more pensive, sensing — perhaps again aided by that inseparable part of army life, Dame Rumor — that weeks and months of training and operational experiences, (Totten, Mattituck, Verona, Camp Edison, Lake Ontario maneuvers), were being readied for a show-down, something big, something which would have greater significance than heretofore.

All America had tightened its belt and news of the flow of men and materiel to foreign shores daily began to occupy more and more space in newspapers — over radios — in letters bearing APO addresses. This sentiment that something important was going to happen was heightened when on the 16th of January 1944 "March Order" was given and within a few hours the Battalion was on its way to the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, garrison soldiering, our way of life.

Each battery in separate barracks, a situation lending itself to plenty of bull-sessions and poker games among the men getting acquainted all over again. They had not been together since Totten days!

Not too many like to recall days at Ordnance. There was no mistaking what was happening — we were preparing for an



overseas movement. Showdown inspections, mass messes. Men were processed all over again; records corrected; physicals given, everyone having to submit to every "shot" in the books according to late poop sheets. During this period, too, Capt. Vann (MC) and Capt. Crawford, Dental Officer, joined us. The unfit were transferred out to non-overseas units. Replacements from basic training centers arrived to fill the gaps. (Were they shocked at the overseas news!)

Physical hardening suddenly became very essential. Marches of 5 to 15 miles, nobody excused. Running, not walking around the snow-covered area. Lectures and instructions in AAA and other combat arms daily. Formal reveilles at daybreak, men standing ankle deep in mud or up to their shins in snow. The Battery Commander answering an indistinct form that might have been a pole, but which strangely sounded off. All activities in and about the Battalion had a greater touch of the military. There was a definite stepping up of the pace in the 863d. Time was getting short, the merry-go-round was in high gear. A call to overseas duty was imminent.

And then it came! In a directive from the War Department, dated 28 January 1944, the 863d was included in orders for immediate preparation for foreign service. Somebody spotted a train at a nearby Modeltown station siding. It was for us all right. Didn't we immediately plunge into packing, crating, issuance of essential clothes and equipment? Came the 20th of February and the waiting train was loaded down with 863d belongings. On the 21st the Battalion marched in one formation from boarded up Ordnance Barracks to Modeltown Station and into "reserved" seats.

No one knew or at least no one would say where we were to end up — whether POE or boat, but at any rate this train ride was

filled with wild speculation and enthusiasm until we passed Bear Mountain Bridge on the Hudson. We started to veer off the large New Jersey freight yards and sink deeper into the state; popular guess was Kilmer — and that was it!

We were going into Kilmer where so many GIs before us had had their last taste of camp life in the U. S. Everyone was wondering for how long. After the first two weeks of continual unloading of barracks bags and endless clothing checks until we had more equipment than three wars seemed to necessitate, it began to look like we were destined for a big job.

The hikes, obstacle courses, double-timing to meet lecture dates and medical appointments were habits rapidly becoming very obnoxious. But boat drill had a way all its own of reassuring us that we were not meant to stay here forever. For a while C Battery almost upset boat plans. Pvt. Morgan contacted the measles and unintentionally brought misery and unhappiness to those in his quarantined barracks. Where one battery was discomforted another got a break. Men of D Battery still gloat over the fact that they were required to carry only one blanket in their field packs while hiking. The other batteries carried two!!

Because of the passes, particularly to the fellows from around N. Y. and to those who liked its night life, Kilmer was not a bad place and to the men who had never seen the big town, their parting picture of American life was ideal.

Then one day Camp Kilmer closed its doors on us. We had sailing orders. Secrecy plus! Finally our last March Order on home soil was given. We left Camp Kilmer after a heavy snowfall. The tramping feet of parting troops had glazed the road of march. But no one minded as they shuffled along under their heavy burdens. No one — except



those who fell — like Krieger of Headquarters Battery — and were injured. Each man's heart was in his throat. Some tried to laugh and joke but it just didn't ring true. We realized that we might never again set foot on that precious soil that was the United States of America!

On the 19th of March, A and B Batteries and the Medical Detachment moved out of the Kilmer area to board ship. On the 20th, the rest of the battalion arrived at Pier 90, North River, for embarkation on SS NY 345 — better known as HMS QUEEN MARY. Little did we know that Adolph Hitler had offered \$200,000 and Reich honors to the U-boat crew which could sink either or both of Britain's great liners — the QUEEN MARY and the QUEEN ELIZABETH.

And then that never-to-be-forgotten day — the 21st of March, spring day of 1944 — saw the 863d jammed together with thousands of other troops in the cavernous hold of the "MARY," its gun crews from A and B Batteries manning the ship's AA guns, move slowly out of the harbor of New York, "Destination — Unknown." The 863d was officially overseas.

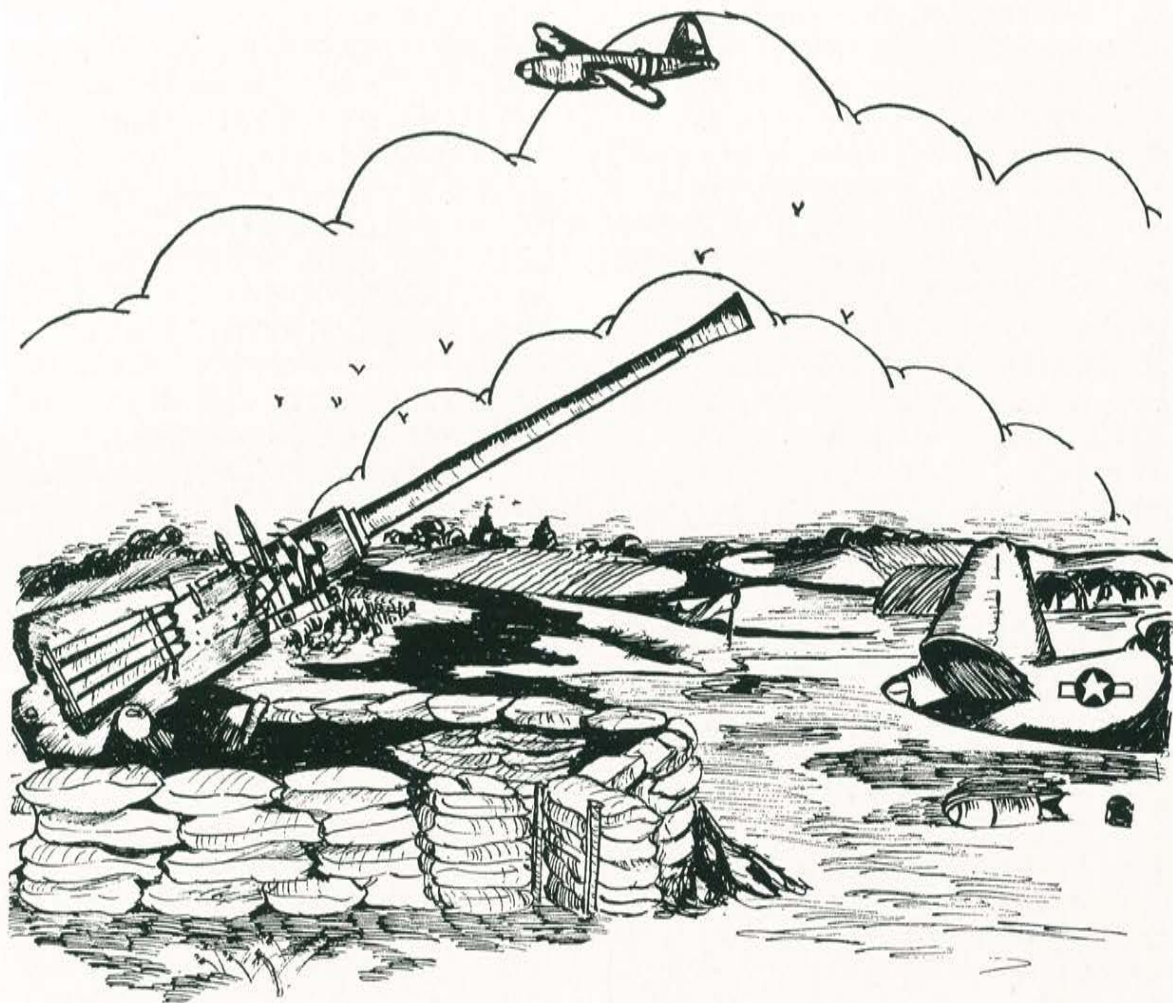
Life for the 863d on this big troopship was probably no different from that on scores of other such ships. Yet, who doesn't

remember our many sturdy land-lubbers hugging the rails or refusing to leave their bunks? Sgt. Patasky of D Battery; Sgt. Whitton, Cpls. Wolpert, Mosteet, and Sgt. Donohue of C? Midkiff, Seiger, Ashton, and Poteet of Headquarters Battery (located in a once lavishly decorated cocktail lounge).

Could anyone forget the agony of the mess hall, trying to force food (so-called) down to a stubborn stomach, or the sleepless nights caused by the ever-rolling bunks? Or the havoc played by the roughness and great swells of the ocean among guards and MP's from C, D, and Headquarters Batteries? The sergeants of the guard tried to forget the pitching of the ship by playing rummy, hearts, or solitaire. Their guards held on for dear life to rails, posts or just unsteady passersby, the wind, the spray and the darkness fighting against them.

The speed of the vessel was too much for lurking subs and our air escort in danger zones warded off possible attacks from the sky. Otherwise uneventful, our 6 day trans-Atlantic trip was marked by one submarine scare, which caused the ship to go out of its way several hundred miles to within spyglass sight of Iceland before resuming its original course.







Phase II

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE FIRST GLIMPSE of the old world was received on the morning of the 27th of March when the distant outline of Ireland came into view. Soon after, the shores of Scotland became visible and in a short time the Queen Mary pulled into the Firth of Clyde, passed through the submarine boom that protected the harbor and dropped anchor off the town of Greenock.

It certainly seemed as though the shipment known as 8125AA would never disembark. We waited all through the day. The men hung over the rail watching the giant cranes lift the tons of TAT equipment from the main hatch in the bow of the ship, or watching the pattern of life in a busy war-time harbor. There were several of Britain's newest warships in their battle camouflage. The small tenders and lighters were crisscrossing their way, carrying the freight off to the nearby docks and wharves. On the hills that surrounded the harbor could be seen the bombed out houses of the town which had been attacked several times during the days of the famous Blitz.

Finally, towards evening, over the ship's

loudspeaker system was heard the now familiar accent of the British Captain:

"Will shipment 8125AA form in the main passageway preparatory to disembarking."

As the tender pulled away from the side of this giant vessel many of us only then realized the enormity of this Queen of the Seas that had brought us from our homes to a war-torn country that was still a battlefield.

To simply use the word "disembark" to describe the operations of getting over 700 men of the battalion off the ship and onto the train is insufficient. Too many of us remember the struggle with those duffle bags, the field pack and gas mask. Add an overcoat and a rifle. Put a three pound helmet on. Remember to answer to your name and then find a place to put your gear down. It was a pretty big job. It was all managed though and we filed onto the platform of the station and stood and looked! There must be some mistake. All this crowd was never going to get into that toy train. What? Six men in that compartment? Cut it out!

When the commotion had died down,



when the heaving and pushing was over, with the bags piled on racks or jammed under the seats it looked like it wasn't going to be so bad after all. The compartments did have upholstered seats for the most part. The novelty of the European system of classes and compartments, the tricky water-closets — all added interest to the ride. Comparisons were made between travelling this way and via troop trains back in the States, so it wasn't too hard to take.

When the dinky engine puffed and heaved and decided it was going to pull that train out of the station — it didn't seem very convincing. But with a few more strains and a little more heaving it happened and we were rolling southward.

Throughout the evening as the train would slow down for a signal or a change of track, the now famous cry, "Any gum, Chum" pronounced with a distinct *oo* in place of the *u*, was repeated and repeated by the hordes of little Scottish children who lined the tracks hailing us with their fingers raised in the V for Victory. For most of the men, the neatness of the Scotch hills with their tidy farms, the clean looking homes, and the long blue lakes provided both a welcome relief from the week of staring at the dull grey ocean and a first impression of rural Britain that was to be our home for the next few months.

During the night, as the train made its way across the Midlands and down into Wales, the muffled sounds of sleeping soldiers would be interrupted by some insomniac yelling from a blacked out window "Hey Bub, what town is this?" The answer generally was meaningless, although a couple of "shrewd apples" were able to plot our course with the aid of a newspaper map and they kept the rest informed of our whereabouts.

The still, small hours of the next morning

saw a bunch of real "sad sacks" spilling out on the platform at a small way station in Wales called Pontypool. It sounded silly to American ears — as did most other multi-vowelled Welsh names. To that yawning, stretching bunch of GI's a little fresh air felt good — and the place didn't look too bad.

The trucks that met us at the station hauled us to an area that had even a funnier name, Llanover Park. It wasn't what you would call a park, and neither did it have much of the beauty that one associates with the estate of an old and famous English family. The castle looked pretty "beat up" and the quarters for all were Nissen huts.

Nissen huts! They were called everything but that during the next few weeks. They were cold. They were damp. They were old. They were dirty. There was that distant latrine and those crushed stone walks. Then, too, those famous double-decked British bunks — that must have been made for midgets. Can you see big Ed Donohue or Bill Schupakas trying to pour their bulk into an upper?

To think of those days is to remember the Battalion losing its sea legs and getting back into shape. Will C Battery with its cleanliness contest be forgotten? The huts with those famous names that harkened back to other days in Buffalo, each vying with the other to get in a bid for top honors. The "Varmints" under Sgt. Langs and Cpl. Shotten usually came out on top. It got so bad, or perhaps so good, that one blanket with the fold turned the wrong way was enough to keep you from winning the daily "red star." Even Champagne was "on the ball" at this place.

The somewhat mysterious activities of those two sterling carpenters, Cpls. White and Farnum of Headquarters Battery, as they gathered old packing cases together



was explained when Bergon and Brady from C Battery were able to throw open the doors of a combination PX and Beer Hall to the boys.

As a whole, the batteries had the big problem of drawing their new equipment, cleaning guns, and putting the finishing touches on gun drills and other stuff that was the backbone of preparation for the first operational mission in the United Kingdom. Will the S-4 Section headed by Bill Hutt and "Muscles" Thomas forget the trips up and down the length of the country trying to find depots hidden in out of the way places, drawing stocks from the huge piles of equipment that were earmarked for the forthcoming invasion? There were new jeeps, new trucks and new guns. Every day saw the gun park a little more jammed and the fellows "sweating out" a little more cos-moline, a little more polishing.

This spirit of opening new crates received a rude shock on the day that the power plants arrived. Everyone sailed into these cases. Tec 5's who were responsible for power plant maintenance envisioned long days ahead free of the worry of cleaning motors, filing and setting points, and all the little things that are the worry with an old power plant. As the cases were broken open and the papers removed, instead of the glistening new ones that had been expected, there stood in all their downtrodden glory a bunch of run-down, worn-out, chipped plants that would take no little work to bring them back to good running condition. No one will contest that Tec 5 Riczu got the worst of the lot!

With the start of the athletic program, a few of the Battalion's better boxers came to light. Evenings would find the contestants lined up glaring at each other while their buddies from the battery would yell encouragement to their favorites:

"C'mon Falcone, hit him again."

"Take him over kid, he's all yours."

This was where guys like Tom Black, Marino and Rhoda and a few others got in there and practically knocked themselves out for good old B Battery.

For A Battery there was the satisfaction of seeing their team come out on top in the Battalion Volleyball League. This team was composed of such cracker-jack players as 1st Sgt. Ray, S/Sgt. Utz, S/Sgt. Hayes, Sgts Yenallitus, Ferrari, Verba and Cpl. Carr.

The entire Battalion went through the novel experiences of sampling the famous "mild and bitter" English beer, learning the relative values of pounds, shillings, and pence. Before long the local pub was a scene of international amity as social and political matters were talked over with the inhabitants of the district. Perhaps the "mild and bitters" was a little too much of an experience for some because the outbreak of Sgt. Patasky of D Battery which involved the Town Hall of Abergavenny will long be remembered.

When this tuning-up process was over, when through the medium of intensive drill and what seemed "chicken" inspections the Battalion regained its old finesse, it was ready to move on to another job. The trucks were loaded, the guns covered and hitched on, and the batteries were off on what developed into a two day trek across the southern part of England. The Colonel and the advanced party met and directed the various batteries to their respective places and the guns were set up along the sea at Land's End, Portreath, and Predanack.

This remote corner of Britain was well termed Land's End. That's about what it was for most — the end of the earth. The days were hot and were spent in artillery drill that was leading up to a target practice.



There was plenty of aerial activity, with the RAF Coastal Command Fields nearby and the constant stream of patrolling planes for the enterprising gun crews to track on. Over and over, while the sun beat down and the sweat ran down, the Chiefs of Section would yell "Stick Control" and the men would manually track the designated target. "Change barrels" would see a rush of activity as the old one was replaced by the new. "Fall In," "Count Off" — it seemed like an endless nightmare until the split second efficiency needed by the battalion was acquired.

It was here that a Typhoon crashed and Roye, Server and Gross of A Battery were in a position to rush out and free the pilot from the plane and render first-aid.

All the drill was leading up towards the practice firing and that helped a little towards choking down the feeling of being "filled up to here" with the constant repetition. It was worth it though because the results proved there was nothing like practice to make perfect. C Battery got thirty hits on a towed target. Sgt. Neaf's crew from B Battery had top honors there with two hits out of that battery's five. If you ask him, though, he'll tell you that it was the good work of his range setter Cpl. Dillon that did the trick.

To go on about the hard work and not tell a little about the social side would not be fair. For some of the batteries, we'll take D for instance, there was the local pub again — added this time to the Fish and Chip Shop. These were down the mountain from where they were bivouacked and often the climb back inwardly laden with gin and orange was just a little on the hard side. Or, about the WAAFS, those stalwart British lassies, that made an evening walk along the cliffs and heaths a real pleasure. To say nothing of the NAAFI where most of the

Headquarters crowd could be found taking a morning break in the best RAF tradition sipping tea and munching on crumpets. The sporting world was represented by an effort on the part of a sub novice soccer team from the battalion playing a British team. Now you would think they'd have known better. They soon found out it was a little harder than they thought.

Although we did not see it at the time, there was a definite reason for all this work, drill, and constant plugging. Battalion Headquarters had been notified that on May 5th it had become attached to the United States Strategic Airforces in Europe for assignment with the Ninth Air Force in connection with the newly formed Ninth Air Defense Command.

There is always a feeling in the army that good outfits will get good assignments. If that holds true, then all the work that we had gone through showed that we must have been good. Our assignment was a nifty. And where do you think it was? That's right, a place a little north of London.

The old "March Order" took on a new zest this time as the batteries assembled and crated up the stuff. The troops were going by train and the guns would come later by motor convoy. As we came down the side of the mountain in those old 2½s we could see the train at the siding. It looked good. Not only were we going back to civilization but we would really be operational once more.

It was an all night ride again, only this time we knew what to expect and everyone had plenty of newspapers, magazines, and packages from home to keep personally fortified.

At dawn we were in the outskirts of London being rerouted through the suburbs to the north. The usual early risers had a view of the bombed-out homes of the city — and



then went back for a nap until the train slowed down and we knew that we were there.

Through the streets and out onto the country road the long file wound its way. The sun rose a little — the heat of the day began to make itself felt, and slowly at first but gathering momentum as the hike stretched on and on, it started. Overcoats were peeled off, then field jackets, helmets were taken off and carried, and still we hiked on. Finally as we came out of the roadway, there it stretched before us — Airfield AAF Station 169 — the airfield our particular group was going to protect.

Lined up in silvery rows were the Marauders that took off daily to harass the Pas De Calais area of Hitler's Fortress Europa. Stacked around them waiting to be loaded into ships were the piles of bombs that did the damage. Swarming over them were the faithful ground crews who kept the ships up to the required state of mechanical perfection. We were to get to know many of these men — and their ships before we left.

The marching column broke into batteries and each went to the area assigned to it for billets and operations. For Headquarters and A Battery, pyramidal tents for living and Nissen huts for messing, officers, and operations rooms. C Battery made a column left movement and trooped across the field to the supply depots on the far side. Here, too, the tents and Nissen huts were for living quarters and orderly rooms. But what a difference from those other Nissen huts at good old Llanover. These were clean, and when a few of the battery painters and decorators got through with their efforts they were something to see.

At Headquarters Battery, those pyramidal tents were perhaps the one overpowering remembrance. Would the sides be rolled up? No, it looked like rain, better

leave them down. Then someone would notice a few weather-beaten veterans out rolling their own, and up would go the sides. Or, to remember the night of the big air raid nearby, when the Officer of the Day with only the best of intentions ran down the line rousing the men. His voice got higher and higher at each tent as the sleepy soldiers mentally debated the point of going out into a cold, muddy foxhole in the middle of the night. By the time he reached the last tent, his voice had not only reached its last note, but was starting to crack into a high soprano shriek.

When the personal equipment had been stored and the joy at finding the wash house and brick latrine had worn off, the Operations Section headed by Sgt. Estock wandered over to the Nissen hut with the "Operations" shingle hanging outside. Imagine their astonishment when they discovered inside this commonplace structure a series of bulbs, tables, charts, filter boards, early warning Radar Boards, and phones all done in chrome and brilliant enamel. Hal Cowin with his usual gift was quick to remark: "When does the floor show start?" This effort, that had some of the appearance of a night club, represented the Battalion's introduction to a full scale gun operations room. We were officially a part of the Air Defense of Great Britain and were tied in by telephone and radio to all the air warning outposts and control rooms throughout the United Kingdom. There were facilities for liaison with the flight control tower on the airfield so that the gun crews could be alerted when the flights of B-26's were expected back in order to guard against intruder operations by Nazi planes who might be foolhardy enough to try to get through the ack-ack defenses of the field. From then on, every hour of the night and day there was a man and an officer on duty relaying



the latest information on the whereabouts of enemy aircraft operating over the British Isles to the man on duty in the Battery Operations Rooms. It was here that one night just prior to the Allied leap across the channel, soon to become known as the Invasion, that Matt Adamson on duty as teller had a flash that "Divers" were operating over the British Isles. "Divers, what the hell are they," he exclaimed.

They were briefly explained as being pilotless aircraft. That seemed to make it all the more ridiculous. In the morning, when radio reports disclosed the damage done in the London area and gave the details of this new German V weapon, everyone felt that the war had really entered an entirely new phase.

Having left good old Baker and Dog Batteries back on the train to be taken over to their respective assignments, let's see what happened to this part of the Battalion. D Battery drew the AA protection of Andrews Field, also known as Airfield 485 at Dunmow, and B got airfield 164 at Great Saling. Both these fields were B-26 bases and presented much the same operational problems as were being met by A and C batteries over at Stansted.

Those were great days for D Battery. Among the fonder memories was the signing of their names on the famous ship "Mild and Bitters" by Sgts. Hancock and Atwell, Cpls. Hartley and Bennink, and several others. The introduction of bicycles as a mode of transportation for Platoon Sergeants like Patasky and Sittinger kept the motor pool in a constant uproar fixing broken chains, patching tires, and sundry two-wheel jobs. It was at this station that the battery got its new BC, Lt. Roe, and 1st/Sgt. Ed Donohue.

B Battery for its part was busy stimulating interest in seeing how many men of the

battery could get a free trip aloft when the ships were on non-operational flights. Plenty of guys saw the countryside from the tail turret or side panels of a Marauder up on a trial run.

As a shadow of things to come, several of the men were sent off to specialist schools where the latest combat lessons were taught. With Guzik lined up for Vehicle Waterproofing School and Tec 4 George off to a land mine and booby trap school, Lt. Swiderski at a quartermaster loading school, it certainly seemed as though we wouldn't sweat the war out in the pleasant surroundings of rural England.

As May gave way to June with its unusually warm days, there were other events shaping up that were significant in the life of the Battalion. The newest AA armament in the shape of multiple mounted .50 caliber machine guns, the M-51, made its appearance as part of the fire equipment. This low squat trailer with its four machine guns in an electrically controlled turret surely looked formidable and added to the fire power of each section. These units were complete in themselves. A new sub-section was formed in each section and much time was spent in drilling and getting acquainted with this new, lethal weapon.

It was now in this first week of June that the world awakened to the fact that after years of preparation, the Allies had crashed through the front door of Hitler's Fortress. On June 6th, combined operations had put a parachute force, a ground army, and a vast collection of men and materiel ashore on the French beaches of the Normandy Peninsula.

The men at the gun sites had seen the feverish activities of the preceding day or two. They felt the tenseness as the schedules of bombing runs over the Strait of Dover had been stepped up. The crews of



the heavy laden ships that seemed to stagger down the runways were getting more and more tired as they went out on two and three operational missions per day. When the riggers and carpenters and painters appeared with their large buckets and started the now famous "invasion stripes" on wings and fat fuselages, there was conjecture — but not for long. The radios and the press blared forth the news that D Day had finally come. Now maps were brought out and marked up. The intelligence section started issuing bulletins and passing down the radio flashes so that everyone would know what was going on.

To aid in establishing even closer contact with this increasingly active field of the Ninth Air Force, the gun control room was moved over and put in operation right in the flight tower on the airfield. This aided in preventing any time lag in the relay of information that would be vital to the gunners getting on target in the event of a raid by hostile planes trying to disrupt the invasion schedule. There were the usual problems to be overcome even in this relatively easy move. Ask some of the fellows like Charley Adams, Ben Gise, and Harold Cowin who were required to sleep outside the tower and wake in the morning to find bomb-laden B-26s roaring a mere ten feet over their field bunks.

Again there was the chance for some of the men to show that they were made of better stuff. Battery A, for instance, had a Marauder crash between the 40mm and M-51 site at Sgt. Rebaudo's position. His men were instrumental in getting the plane's crew out safely. Charlie Battery on the other side of the field had a similar happening when Billy Cloud, Herb Schorman, Bob Driscoll and the rest of the crew helped extricate the men of another crashed aircraft.

Direct results of D Day for the Battalion were evidenced in two ways. First, the guns were sent to ordnance teams for the inclusion of latest modifications. Secondly, there was another trip to the firing point. It was here that we were able to see first hand the stuff that goes into an Invasion. At Clacton by-the-Sea which is located on the East coast of England, the long lines of supply ships and transports could be seen assembling for the journey over to France.

All gun crews for the first time fired under Stiffkey Stick control. It was different, this invention of the British, but it had been battle tried during the Battle of Africa and during the period of the blitz over England, and a well trained crew could and did get hits with it. To assist the men to get oriented to the collection of bars and sights that made up the Stick, a team of British Ack-Ack officers and non-coms were on hand. Major Krzton, and Sgts. Estock and McDonald from Headquarters would make the daily trip down to the range and return at night with the tale of the day's happenings.

"Well, how did they do today?" "Not bad, Sgt. Wilson's crew from A Battery got three hits. Battery B got in there with a couple today. Chase's gang got two hits. So did Sgt. Klizinski's bunch."

Once the intricacies of the Stick had been mastered, the hits became more numerous. A British General who was out observing, praised the firing. Range setters particularly were all given credit for doing a good job both with the new stick and the familiar directors. Incidentally, that wasn't the same General who was heard to shout over the radio from his place in the target towing plane as the shells came close, "By gad man, we're pulling the bloody target, not pushing it."

For the M-51's the story was much the



Lt. Assad leading Headquarters Battery
— Independence Day parade, 4 July 1944,
Boscombe, England.



Headquarters Battery Building — Cpl. Herman White facing
camera — Boscombe, England.



Class on land mines and booby traps — Lt. Ball, instruc-
tor — A Battery, Boscombe.



Pay Line at Boscombe — A Battery.



same. Lack of familiarity with this new weapon at first had to be overcome. Kinks developed and even gremlins seemed to have their field day as officers and fire control electricians sweated over getting the thing back in working order. But it was not long before there was more than confidence in the weapons. They had all been tested and found to have all the fire power and speed necessary to bring down a fast-flying, low-level attacking aircraft. The men felt sure of themselves and wanted to be off to the shores across the North Sea where they could pit their prowess against that of the enemy trying to defend himself and at the same time push the allied forces back into the ocean.

While those crews coming back from Clacton had tales to tell about their firing, those who had still to go were telling tales of their trips to London — not that there was anything similar about the two places. Since for many people England was London, for those who remembered these associations we cannot hastily dismiss London with its blackout and its Piccadilly Circus; the deep “underground” fed by a series of escalators; the Red Cross Clubs with their hospitality. London was a big city; there was plenty to do and often that twenty-four hour pass did not seem half long enough. Planning usually started the day before. There were pants to press, shoes to shine. It was the one time of the week you really got dressed. When you took off in the afternoon for that 1:40 train from Bishops Stortford you really felt pretty good about it all and the world did not seem so bad. The trains there towards the middle of June began to get pretty crowded, but you pushed your way on and stood for the entire trip. It was worth it. Finally as the suburbs went by, as you saw more and more of the bomb damage, you knew you were getting nearer to Wat-

erloo Station. When the train pulled to a stop and you joined the throng of people streaming for the exit gates, for those at least from America's big cities, army life seemed certainly to be far away.

Generally, the first thing was to take the Underground over to Piccadilly, then up the escalators and out into the street. There it was in all its glory. The rows of honking taxis that seemed so small and old fashioned yet were superb for getting through the maze of narrow streets and mews that formed the network of this city's streets. The lines of big double-decker buses that cruised the main thoroughfares. The crowds headed for the shopping districts along Regent and Oxford Streets. High overhead was the protective canopy of barrage balloons, silver against the blue sky. There were plenty of pubs and even so called American Bars where you could get a whiskey. How to spend the rest of the day? Well, that was pretty much your own business. After the first couple of trips you had probably seen enough buildings and monuments anyway, so you just stayed in the bars and tried to get something lined up for the night. That didn't take long, for those famous ladies of yesteryear who sold flowers in Piccadilly had given birth to daughters who now sold something else with an aggressiveness that earned them their time-honored name of “commandoes.” Dinner at the Savoy or at Claridges. A night spent at the Regent Palace Hotel. A visit to newly acquired friends in one of the nearer suburbs. A tour to the Tower of London. There is no doubt that the many individual experiences that each and every one of us has to tell are testimony that London was magnetic.

The fact that V Bombs were dropping there towards the end of our stay in Britain was no deterrent. Sgt. Mattiola could tell of being blown out of bed and littered with





Firing scenes, Clacton-on-the-Sea, England.



Tec 5 Brady, C Battery, caught short at inspection at Stansted, England.



Director Crew of gun position No. 4, A Battery in Stansted.



broken glass when one of Adolf's little calling cards fell near Marble Arch. For many it was the first chance to see the flying bombs and they seemed weird scooting across the sky on their straight and deadly course with a Spitfire or Tempest in quick pursuit.

While London held the attraction for its pleasures that could be looked forward to on a weekly basis, the various airfields provided more than enough recreation for everyone during the evenings. Each field was equipped with an Aero Club that maintained a lunch bar, had music rooms and libraries, ran contests and tournaments, and with the help of obliging hostesses ran dances and helped to take the edge off the tension engendered by long periods of standing a dawn or dusk alert. Every battery got in on the ground floor and evening would see long queues in front of the "coke" counter or sandwich bar filling up the insatiable GI appetite. Perhaps the movies were as well patronized as any other form of activity, first run pictures being the attraction.

As far as the battalion efforts toward special services were concerned — our boy Charlie Griffin handled that with Mr. O'Connell, that big rough and ready Irishman from Delaware. It was here that the team of O'Connell and Griffin was started that talked its way into, and more people out of, athletic equipment, than was thought to be hidden in the whole of England. It soon became legend at nearby fields and even up at the IX ADC that when those two walked in you could be certain they wouldn't leave until the ¾ ton was loaded. Everyone benefited by this Robin Hood sort of negotiation and don't think it wasn't appreciated. Some of their better deals included those tours to Cambridge and Oxford, the use of the nearby golf links where

afternoons could be spent knocking the little white pill around.

The battalion enjoyed its longest stay on English soil at these stations and enjoyed it really the word. Again though, the long arm of official army was reaching out and assembling those elements that were to be the backing for the forces that had assaulted the Normandy beaches. As June came to a close, the situation on the battle lines had become more or less static. The Allies were trying to build up the supplies and forces that would enable them to smash out of the confines of the Cotentin Peninsula with its hedgerows and out into the open plains beyond where the full power of the new Third Army could be brought into play with its tanks and armor. The Germans for their part were holding all along the line. They threw in strong forces at the pivot town of Caen to prevent a break-through towards Paris. Night-time would see forces of bombers and reconnaissance planes over the beaches. Heavy artillery was harassing American troop concentrations behind St. Lo.

It was with all these events reaching a climax, that the IX Air Defense Command was ordered to throw in its weight and skill and through its coordinated fighter defense and ack-ack make it a little tougher for the Jerry pilots.

Colonel Warrick attended a planning conference where with liaison officers from the 21st Army Group and the First Army plans were developed that would include the 863d in this next phase. Battalion received its movement orders on the 24th of June and the batteries assembled at Stansted. By the 29th they were in Boscombe, Hampshire, as a unit slated for shipment to the continent.

As though to make up for all the coming hell and worry once we had been committed



to the Normandy Battle, Boscombe provided nothing but the good things in life. First there was the perfect weather. Added to this was the Pavillion. To many the Pavillion at Bournemouth was almost like one of the summer resorts along the Jersey coast at home. There was a big dance floor, a couple of bars, a restaurant and plenty of pretty English girls.

Our accommodations in hotels left little to be desired. The whole place had been part of the summer resort belt that stretches along the southern coast of England, and of course after a little plain and fancy policing by the usual advance party, it presented a swell layout.

In view of the forthcoming mission, there was still a lot of work to be done. A Battalion sponsored school was organized that gave the future outpost men of Headquarters Battery a chance to catch up on their aircraft recognition and AAAS. Perhaps the biggest effort entailed was the waterproofing of guns and vehicles. This meant hours and hours of plastering every crack and crevice, every socket and outlet with big gobs of a very gummy substance. Just about the time it was all over the place, someone would call up on the telephone and tell you that they had changed plans only to be told the next day to put it all on again. Every battery went through much the same rigamarole, but it was finally made uniform and the guns and other equipment lined the streets waiting for the final signal.

Independence Day was celebrated at this town by a Battalion march to a ceremony in the town's central park. A formal Retreat was held at the completion of which the batteries paraded past a reviewing stand of staff officers and visiting officers from the 50th AAA Brigade.

By the 8th of the month the entire Battalion had moved by a short motor trip

from the Boscombe area into a marshalling area at Romsey. This place certainly didn't resemble our former POE at Kilmer. Perhaps the one thing that sticks, and not only in memory but stuck to your shoes, to your galoshes, your rifle butt, in fact all over the place was the mud. There was nothing to the place except a large barbed wire fence, and masses of pyramidal tents. The messing facilities conducted by the British seemed to leave much to be desired by the American standards at least. In compensation though all the PX rations were free, and could be drawn daily. No cigarette shortage then. We ate and slept and went to the movies. We wallowed in the mud. We made bets on the outcome of the war.

The few days passed, and when word came back that the Colonel and his advance party had gotten all the trucks and guns loaded on the transports, the signal was given and we were ready for the final trip that would mean France.

It didn't matter what battery you were in at the time, or where you were, or what rank you held. If you don't remember dragging that damn duffle bag through the mud for what seemed miles to the trucks, you have no memory. It certainly seemed that they were parked as far away as they could get them without having us walk all the way to the boat.

After getting settled on the trucks we went through downtown Southampton out onto the area. There it was and there were we. Only a railway line and a five-foot brick wall separated us from the ship. Trying to be as determined as possible with both hands full, with a gas mask in front and a duffle bag over your shoulder, your helmet falling down over your eyes, you stopped. Didn't you forget something? That's right. Go back and get your rifle. It was an effort. After struggling across the tracks, cursing the



Quartermaster Corps for thinking it possible for a GI to carry that much stuff, you look up – and up – and up!

“Hey, wait a minute. They don’t expect me to climb that?”

The gangplank at an angle of only 45 degrees stretched up into what seemed the heavens. Very easy. “Boy, I’ll throw this g.d. thing over the side before I’ll carry it another foot.”

“Want a doughnut?” Some sweet voiced young thing from the American Red Cross was pushing through the crowd.

“Sure,” you answered only to find that she was gone before you could get the stuff from one arm to the other to give yourself a free hand. Finally, it got so that you just had them hung over your rifle muzzle or opened your mouth wide so she could poke them in.

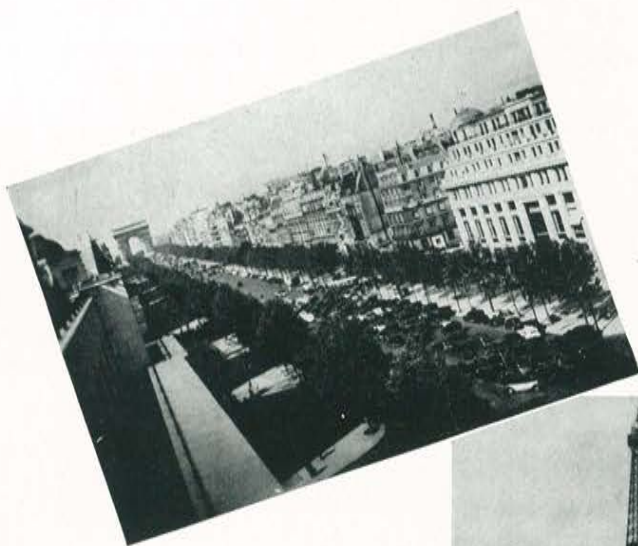
Perhaps it was the common plight that made it a little easier to bear, but anyhow even though your legs felt as though they might buckle any minute you staggered up and over into the deck of the ship. Thank God for that deck hand. He helped a little getting that heavy gear stowed away, and in showing you where you would spend the next few hours.

Below decks there were scenes of confusion as soldiers from various outfits tried to find out where they were quartered for the trip. It wasn’t as big as the Queen Mary, but it seemed they had as many men aboard.

Of course there are always those Joes who manage to find the right place, dump their luggage, and grab a life preserver and buck all the down-coming traffic on the narrow stairway so that they can get back up on the deck. Most guys didn’t give a damn whether they saw the harbor or not. They had heard the tales about the choppy ride across and were busy fortifying themselves with plenty of the seasick pills that had been dispensed at the marshalling area.

Gradually, quiet settled down over the ship. The gear was all loaded, and the chow lines began to form. The sea-wise of course steered clear of the mess hall after recalling what had been served on the previous ride across the ocean. As the night wore on and GI’s fell asleep, there were the usual conjectures as to what was next on the list. Those that lay awake the longest could hear, deep in the bowels of the ship, the signals and orders that presaged its casting off. Then slowly it was moving away from the dock. As the narrow bit of water between the side of the ship and the dock grew wider and wider, as the ship pointed its nose out into the waters of the Channel everyone felt that at last there was a chance to do that which had been denied them so long: to meet the best the enemy aircraft had to offer, and prove that all their confidence and training were soon to be vindicated.





Paris



Phase III IN FRANCE

TO SAY THAT one did not feel a part of the glory and glamour that was attached to that narrow strip of land known as the "beach" would be wrong. On this spot where only a few weeks before the cream of America's manhood had smashed ashore, there was still evidence of the price this struggle would cost. As the transports carrying the Battalion nosed their way alongside the protective breakwaters built by the ingenuity and skill of the Navy's "Seabees" and Army engineers, all the super-activity of this focal point of invasion became apparent: the long lines of the convoys, constantly feeding the insatiable maw of an army on the offensive; the piles of stores and equipment stacked in untidy heaps along the shore; the streams of vehicles, jeeps, ducks, trucks, anything that had wheels, loading and unloading in a concentration of activity that resembled an uprooted anthill.

Forming a backdrop that seemed to hem in this vital piece of shoreline were the hills and cliffs that had formed the backbone of the German defensive positions. Now these

hills and cliffs were lined with roads where trucks ground their way in an endless procession, up and over the top and on towards the inland towns from which the shock of battle was still faintly heard.

Crowded together on the hot sunny deck this early July morning, the men waited their turn to be transferred to the LCI's that would ferry them to shore. Watching the activity below and noting the multitude of little things that have importance as you are about to be carried into the area of what was the most famous landing in history seemed to help pass the time and take away any personal feelings of misgivings you might have had. A little insignificant thing like a K ration box floating alongside, or a piece of web-equipment, the tanned and muscular bodies of the boatswains of the landing craft that scooted in and out from ship to shore, was enough to hold your attention. The sailors' white hats seemed incongruous in the welter of olive drab and army helmets. Then you were in your boat and headed for the shore. If you were one of the unfortunates who was huddled along





Omaha (Invasion) Beach — Normandy, France. 12 July 1944.



Barrage balloon anchored during daylight hours, Omaha Beach. Pvt. Flocco and Pfc. Petracco.



"Flakproof" shelter, Omaha Beach. Cpl. Finkelstein.



C Battery CP underground, Omaha Beach. Pfc. Wolpert, Pfc. Bergon.



Pfc. Wood, Omaha Beach.



the inside of the boat below the level of the gunwale, it's certain you didn't see much until the bow dropped down and you were able to march out into the water-covered ramp that led up to "Omaha Beach."

At close range all the turmoil that you saw from the ship took on a more natural appearance. The perspective that had dwarfed everything was now done away with and the dirt and dust, the shouted orders, the roar of racing motors, and the smell of gas and oil fumes almost overcame all your senses.

"Keep it movin' bud," was the almost monotonous chant of the MP who stood sweating in the sun as he waved you into line almost double time.

"Close it up," — and you grabbed your rifle a little tighter and jogged to close the gap between you and the man in front. When you stumbled across the deeply rutted sand and got together with your battery, there was time to look around and see some things that hadn't been noticed before. The signs of battle were all too evident. The few scarred trees were denuded of leaves and bark. The craters and shell holes from the bombardment that came before and went with the assault waves. Overlooking the whole setting as if it were an omen of the final defeat was a wrecked and abandoned German coastal fort, the guns pointing in different and dejected angles.

Climbing the steep angle of the foot path that led to the top of the escarpment was one of those things that during the doing, seemed to drain every bit of your strength. It was as though an unseen and diabolical hand was trying to pull you over backwards. You dug your feet into the woven palings that marked the path and spoke a few words of encouragement to the guy in front who claimed he couldn't make it.

Here too there were objects seen for the

first time in actuality, that had before this been confined to movies and training posters. The "Achtung Minen" signs with the ominous skull indicating where in their hopes of repelling just such an invasion the Germans had scattered the countryside with buried death. A bullet-torn helmet, a discarded gas mask cannister, little tokens left in the wake of war by a beaten enemy. Over to the left on top of the next hill could be seen the white crosses that marked the graves of those that had bought the landing with their lives.

A dusty, dirty column of troops slowly reached the top and started following the signs that led to Transit Area 3. They marched through the battered streets of St. Laurent Sur Mer, down roads flanked by the skeletons of bombed out French farmhouses. Wreckage was everywhere. Telephone poles leaned at crazy angles, and across the whole scene were festooned miles and miles of telephone cables and wires, hung by crews who utilized every trick to keep the strands up and off the roads. Out of town and through the quiet country roads fenced in by high and hoary hedgerows that had proved such a handicap to advancing American troops.

For the men from the batteries who were not involved in getting the motorized equipment off the ships, the night passed by uneventfully enough. The inevitable souvenirs began to appear in the form of German helmets, wooden bullets, and broken Mauser rifles. It was here too that a few of the more daring tried a few samples of French — and first heard what was later to become perhaps the most popular of all children expressions, "cigarettes pour Papa?"

Daybreak saw the pup tents folded and equipment packed. It was rumored that the Colonel was down the line with the guns and we were to meet him on the other side



of St. Laurent. In a little while we had established contact and the batteries moved to a rendezvous point where the guns and trucks had been gathering. It was here that we got the first hand accounts of some of the experiences of our motor pool boys who had been on the advance detail. There were stories of being stuck on the ship outside the beach area while JU 88's dropped bombs and mines around them. There were the individual tales of difficulties encountered in reloading the trucks and guns from the LST's onto the barges, and the sorry sight that a truck loaded with B Battery's fire control equipment presented on being hauled out of the water after a twelve-hour immersion.

It was from this point that each of the batteries received their individual assignments and went on to earn their particular honors in what General Timberlake was to later term "the impregnable AA defenses of the Omaha Beach."

Operationally, the job of the Battalion was to tie into these defenses; A, C, and D Batteries being assigned to that part of the Inner Artillery Zone of the beach known as the Violet Area. B Battery was given the job of protecting the vital Yapton Oil Installations. These were located on the extreme left of the American line and bordered on the British sector. These storage facilities contained the oil and gas that was supplying the vast amount of American First Army motorized equipment which was plunging against the enemy line only 12 to 15 miles inland.

A Battery had hardly gotten its guns into position when its assignment changed. After executing a rapid "March Order," they got into positions around the first landing strip that was operating at the time to accommodate planes flying in high priority freight, and evacuating wounded personnel

back to England for hospitalization.

Some of the positions received a boon in that they were able to utilize positions recently evacuated by the Battalion replaced and some nearby German pill boxes and fortifications.

This digging in and other jobs essential to getting settled seemed all the more worth while when shortly after midnight on the 15th, weapons of the Battalion joined in firing on enemy planes that were operating over the beach. Machine guns cut loose with their streams of red tracer bullets. The Bofors with the deadly crack of their short fused shells seemed lost in the gigantic roar that thundered like an onrushing storm as the planes flew overhead and then vanished into the blackness of the night. In this initial effort, the batteries expended a total of 52 rounds of 40mm and almost 3500 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. This was just the beginning of what was to be several nights of concentrated aerial activity against the beach. It also brought into focus the job that was being done by those few who sat on the alert twenty-four hours a day, listening and filtering the AAAIS information that was being collected and fed into the operations room by radio and radar set up on the perimeter of the allied front line. The results of the firing, the tabulation of ammunition expenditure, the type of targets, the tactics, all had to be sorted out and correlated into an Intelligence Report that in turn was passed on to the 29th Group under whom we were operating at the time. Midnight would see a few shadowy figures moving towards a jeep. Sgt. Hadley, Message Center Chief, or his alternate Cpl. Elmer Williams and Tec 5 Pete Braudauskus would be off on a run to Trevieres, under blackout conditions.

It was here too that S-4 Section would spend long hours on dusty roads bringing





Headquarters Battery PX line at St. James field, living along hedgerows.



At home with Hq. Btry. at St. James, France — outdoor shower and washstand. Left to right: Cpl. Morlock, T/Sgt. Lally, Tec 4 McMahon, Tec 4 Callaghan.



Digging in at Normandy — Pfc. Depitro, Cpl. Pettit, Cpl. Sneath, Pvt. Whisenant, Pfc. Hopkins, Pvt. Wyman, Pfc. Forman.



The "Soldier's Medal" P-47.



back replacements for the ammunition that had been expended in firing the night before. Does "Dusty roads" mean anything? You ate dust, you breathed dust, clouds of dust so dense that it seemed you couldn't see the other side of the road for days. It covered everything with a fine silt. The bushes along the roads became white. Every vehicle that moved along the crowded roads to the east and south stirred up its own dust storm.

Perhaps the most powerful of all recollections shared by the entire battalion during the early days of the stay at Omaha Beach and surrounding territory was that of incessant digging. There were many contributing and legitimate factors that made it necessary for men to burrow deep into the protective shelter of "terra firma." Most vivid of course was the rain of flak that would fall when the big AA guns would dot the sky with their lethal bursts. Every battery had its own experiences and to include a few of the names is enough to bring back these personal remembrances: Pfc. Weldon from D Battery who received a Purple Heart for being hit while on duty; Kemper and Manino and Helin of C Battery who had some narrow escapes; Cpl. Botte of Headquarters Battery who was on duty in the radio dug-out after making a dash across the field to the Operations Room couldn't understand the "hail" in the middle of July.

It seemed as though the digging got more violent as the days wore on. From simple trenches, those with more imagination made themselves very deluxe underground establishments. Men teamed up and other "edifices" were replete with wooden floors and lights. The expressions "Normandy Flats" and "Foxhole Apartments" were duly supplied to these sunken quarters. Battery orderly rooms, operations, communications rooms, and officers quarters were dug and

redug. They were embellished and enlarged.

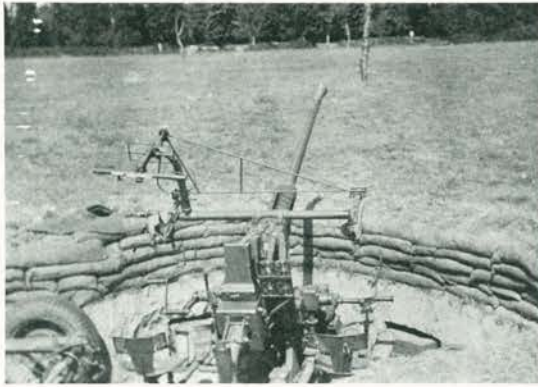
These hot summer days on the beach were full of activity that everyone enjoyed. Men on duty in gun pits developed the deep tan of outdoor living. During the evenings the Special Service truck would roll up with the projector and screen to give a showing of a late MGM opus. Soldiers would crowd into deserted barns or buildings. Perhaps a community sing would preface the event. Later at night there would be an alert with sleepy-eyed soldiers crawling out of their tents or foxholes to scan the night sky for the enemy intruders. Air attacks continued with all batteries firing once or twice a night on planes trying to pierce the defenses for reconnaissance or bombing runs.

In the midst of all these activities Special Orders were received at Headquarters of the first officer promotions on foreign soil: Capt. John Harbachuk was promoted to Major; 2d Lt. Gene Semple became 1st Lt.; WOJG Frank P. Gontarski became CWO.

The feeling of closeness that all branches of the services felt for each other was best exemplified by the magnificent assistance given us by the Seabees. Being close to the camps of this hardworking branch of the Navy helped develop some close associations. These showed themselves materially when many articles of clothing and equipment over and above T/E found their way into the gunpits. Soon USN stencilled neatly on the back of a field jacket or pair of coveralls was an ordinary sight. In other ways, like inviting us to the USO show when Edward G. Robinson put in an appearance, and in lending us supplies from their ample stocks to help us in building our mess shelters cemented this friendship.

The days were all pretty much the same for the first couple of weeks or so but then on the 2d of August there was a reshuffling.





A Battery gun positions during July in France.



Post-Baptismal—Priest, Capt. Vann, mother and baby, Granville, France.



Lieutenant Colonel Warrick, St. Laurent sur Mer (Normandy), with Pizzer.



Little French friends at Couvains.



Headquarters and Medics moved about 3 miles to the other side of St. Laurent. C Battery had to move about 1 mile, and D left Cabourg and also moved into St. Laurent. The next day was A Battery's turn. They got March Order and moved from Surrain to Asnieres. B left Etroham and went to protect a big ordnance and truck assembly plant known affectionately as "Willow Run," south of Formigny.

D Battery was affected most by this move. It placed them in an area that was perhaps the most heavily mined of any section in the locality. Engineers and even members of the gun crews were constantly uncovering these in all their various forms. Sgt. Kilmartin and Cpl. Rojas collected over a hundred "schu-mines," those dangerous wooden mines that were shaped like a small box. Serious attention to the mine problem was starkly highlighted by the death of Pvts. John Stewart, William Gros, and Dock Ritchie of Sgt. Garvin's crew in an unfortunate accident only a few hundred feet from the position.

Those sites of C Battery that were located near the American Cemetery had the distinction of seeing Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and General Eisenhower when the memorial services for Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt were held.

At Headquarters Battery there were vague rumors of another move. It seemed as if this always came as a climax to several days of back-breaking labor digging those huge pits that housed the Communications and Operations Sections. Yes, it came. The trucks were loaded and we went on our way. The most memorable part of this trip was convoying through St. Lo. This town that had been a German strong point for so long was one of the first to feel the full fury of a combined fighter-bomber and artillery assault. It looked it. Complete ruin met the

eye. From there on, everything else was judged in terms of "Not as bad as," "as bad as," or "worse than" St. Lo.

We were getting away from the dirt and dust though, and we finally settled in a collection of small fields near Couvains. The move had its compensations though. For the first time there was to be less "digging-in." Pyramidal tents arose in place of the holes that heretofore had been used for housing. From this area comes the somewhat sour recollection of the hordes of French peasants and bees that overran the area, led by that ubiquitous personality, 6-year-old Ferdinand and his continual chant, "Cigarettes pour Papa?"

The gun batteries were also receiving March Order after March Order in quick succession as the tactical situation changed following the capture of the Brittany Peninsula. Newer airstrips had to be defended. POL dumps had a high priority. On the 13th of August, B Battery moved from Formigny to St. Lo. Later in the week, A Battery moved also to Saint Lambent. D Battery, thankful to get away from the horror of those minefields, packed up and went down to a small air strip at St. Martin de Blangy. There was just about time to get settled when it seemed that it was time to move again. The end of the month of August saw the batteries scattered in operational sites all over Brittany and Normandy. A Battery was at an airfield at Pontorson not far from St. Malo. B and C Batteries had a real show job. They had joined what was referred to as the "Palace Guard," that select bunch of troops that protected the Supreme Headquarters from land or air attack. D Battery and Headquarters were located at a very active P-47 base at St. James.

For the entire personnel of B and C Batteries, their locations left nothing to be desired. The countryside was rich in natural

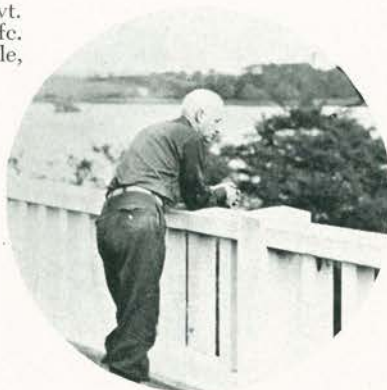




Left to right: Pfc. Gundlock, Pvt. Hess, Pvt. Kline, Pvt. Ouellette, Pfc. Schorman, Pfc. Wood — Jullouville, France.



Officers' Chateau, Jullouville, France.



Capt. T. W. Wade, prior to leaving 863d for new assignment.



Tense moment in medics football contest. Capt. Crawford and Tec 3 Zagar, Jullouville, France.



Hq. Section, C Battery, Jullouville, France.



attractions and their proximity to Granville where they could go on pass made life take on a rosy outlook again. Along the highways and roads that lined this section of Normandy where the wealthy people from Paris had come for their summer vacations were located the inns and cafes that specialized in famous provincial cooking. Needless to say, evenings would see them all well patronized — if not for the food, at least for a glass of cognac or wine.

For A and D Battery, as well as for Headquarters, their location in Brittany made sightseeing trips to the world-famous abbey at Mont St. Michel a reality. Truck loads of GI's would go to spend an afternoon on this aged rock, seeing the cathedral and wandering through the narrow streets, buying souvenirs and eating the justly famous omelettes in the small cafes and restaurants.

D Battery produced four medal winners at this station. The life at an active fighter base is constantly fraught with excitement — and as the heavy bomb-laden planes left to pound the shrinking Falaise pocket a few miles to the East — everyone was on the alert for possible danger as they neared the edge of the runway. One day a plane was unable to make it. Sgt. Garvin's gun crew, located near the end of the strip, saw the plane careen towards them and skid to a burning stop. Cpl. Horvath and Cpl. Jordan along with other members of the crew raced over and tried to extricate the pilot. Sensing the danger from the burning plane, Sgt. Garvin gave the order to bring water cans and an axe. The gun crew worked under constant danger of the plane exploding — but was able to break the canopy over the cockpit, cut the pilot loose from his belts, and haul him out of the plane. For their heroic action, Sgt. Garvin and Cpls. Horvath and Jordan and Pvt. Dunlap were later awarded the Soldier's

Medal at St. Etienne du Rouvray, France.

In weather varying from brilliant sunshine to winds that at times assumed gale-like proportions, Headquarters and the Medics along with D Battery moved on the 2d of September to the Granville area. Once again, the battalion was pretty much together in the same area. Battalion Headquarters was set up in some fields and orchards at St. Pair. D Battery moved right into Granville itself and along with A Battery assumed the protection of the port.

Granville was the first city of any size we had been in or near since we landed on the continent. It was relatively free from battle damage and was well equipped with bars, clubs, and restaurants. A pass schedule was set up and the war seemed pretty far away.

It was here that the now famous "Drum and Bugle Corps" was first conceived and started under the leadership of Sgt. Perry. It was here, too, that those long signs about "Les soldats de cette installation . . ." first appeared to keep the French population from invading and overrunning the camp in search of cigarettes, chocolate, and anything edible.

Before the story of operational activity at Granville can be finished two other significant events must be included. The Battalion contributed 16 trucks and 46 enlisted men to a provisional trucking company that was set up under the command of Capt. Thurmond to aid in transporting supplies over the Red Ball Highway. This vital flow of supplies to the armies poised before Metz in the south and the borders of Germany in the north was necessary because of the complete breakdown of the French railway system after 5 years of enemy occupation. This trucking company later established Headquarters south of Paris and moved equipment, gas, oil, and men from the ports in-





A refreshing pause during mess preparations. Sgt. Rhoads, Pfc. Petracca, Tec 5 Kemper and Pvt. Flocco, 26 August 1944, Jullouville.



Kitchen tent with a 2 man shelter in background. Tec 5 Kemper, Pvt. Pierzynski.



Beach obstacles, Jullouville, 30 Aug. '44. Cpl. Morelli.



Gun Position No. 3, Jullouville, 10 Sept. '44. Cpl. Olson, Pvt. Mannino, Pfc. Moore.



"March Order," France — A Battery. Pfc. Robinson (in seat), Pfc. Valenza, Pfc. Andolova.



land to the waiting armies.

Operationally, within the setup of the battalion anti-aircraft role, a ring of visual outposts was established in a rough circle from 12 to 15 miles outside of the target area. These were placed in commanding spots, and radioed in vital information of air traffic. These OP's marked the first time that the complete setup of the AAAIS section had been put into use, the previous OP's being manned and operated on a battery basis.

With the war moving to the eastern borders of France, the SHAEF area formerly guarded by B and C batteries became non-operational. SHAEF itself moved to Versailles, and the imposing array of buildings formerly occupied by the staff was left vacant. After a reconnaissance of the area, it was decided to move B and C batteries and Battalion Headquarters along with Headquarters Battery into this spot. After three months of sleeping in the fields and farms of France, after pitching tents and digging holes, these buildings looked like palaces. Actually, it was a large summer home for French children with a hospital building on the same grounds. Fronting the semi-circular arrangement of buildings, was an open field that was used for formations and guard mounts, and soon echoed to the old "hup-two" of infantry drill.

Battery fire equipment was moved into gun parks and the battalion waited for the orders that would mark its next assignment. The neighboring town of Jullouville got quite a play and batteries B and C as well as Headquarters supplied MPs to guide cognac and calvados affected soldiers in the general direction of the barracks.

On the road between Jullouville and St. Pair there was an inn that deserves mention. Its private dining rooms were booked in advance by battalion gourmets, the main at-

traction being the cuisine and the liquors. Whether it was an omelette, a bowl of soup, or a complete dinner consisting of beef steak, "pommes de terre fris," and sliced tomatoes with their delicious sauce it was all prepared and presided over by a maestro whose qualifications assured you that the dinner would be nothing short of the tastiest you had ever eaten.

On the international side there was the incident concerning the medics in general and Capt. Felix Vann in particular. On a Monday night in Jullouville, Sgt. Hadley and Cpl. Morrison were on duty as MPs when a Frenchman, in frantic terms, conveyed the idea that his wife was in urgent need of medical care — a mere childbirth being involved. The sergeant made a bee-line for the officers' quarters and managed to arouse Capt. Vann, apprise him of the situation, and get him to the place in question in short order. The Captain, with limited equipment at hand, delivered the baby — and the next day was the guest of honor at the baptism ceremonies.

On the 9th of the month, A and D batteries moved into the same area, and the Battalion prepared for another move. On Thursday the first part of the Battalion left Jullouville. It consisted of Headquarters, B, and C batteries making up a 50-truck convoy. They headed north to Granville then east through the British sector of the continent to its destination at Rouen.

From the start it could be seen that this would be one of those convoys. Ever since dawn the day had seemed gray and dull. A heavy overcast spelled rain. By seven o'clock things were looking better, for as the line of vehicles moved out from the assembly point a few rays of sunshine made their appearance. Slowly at first, then picking up speed as all the trucks got started the thin line stretched out along the highway.





Pfc. Gundlock — Rouen, France, 27 Oct. '44.



Bombed-out bridge, Rouen, France.



No. 7 Gun, Rouen. In rear, left to right: Sgt. Little, Pfc. Corbi. Front row, left to right: Cpl. Simmons, Pfc. Vernon.



Tec 5 Hudson, Pfc. Smirga.



Tec 5 Ward Hudson (WIA), Granville, France.



Through Jullouville and St. Pair, then to Granville and on across the base of the Normandy Peninsula to Caen. This town that had for so long been the center of German resistance to the British advance looked almost as bad as St. Lo. Through the countryside that bore evidence of the landings of the air-borne army with the huge gliders still lying in broken, grotesque positions in the fields. . . . Forgotten as the tide of battle had moved on. Along the roads and in the field were the burned remains of German armor caught in the might of Allied air power as they sought to escape from the battles that had been so disastrous to them. A few graves beside an overturned tank or the blackened steel of a half-truck caught by the projectile of an anti-tank weapon gave mute testimony to the small segment of the war that had been fought in that sector.

Across the flat lowlands of northern Normandy where the winds whipped the rain into your face, and your raincoat was no protection from the penetrating cold, the vehicles rolled on. Finally as the shadows of early evening spread across the land, the convoy pulled into sight of the Seine. Down through the pine forests near Oissel, past the burned-out German convoy where the sickish smell of death still lingered, and then north to St. Etienne and Rouen.

This once great inland port was now a city of wreckage and devastation. Ever since the American raid in August 1942, both the Royal Air Force and American Air Forces had made this center of communications a constant target for aerial bombardment. The docks and waterfront, the railyards and bridges, all in complete ruin paid tribute to the accuracy of these attacks. Now a main port for the Allies, it had taken on a new importance. B Battery took over the defenses of the south side of the river

while C Battery had the city proper and the north side.

In order to be centrally located between Rouen and the D Battery positions which were to be further south at Elbeuf, the Battalion CP and headquarters battery were placed at St. Etienne du Rouvray and occupied a large cotton mill. This particular mill had been used as a quartermaster base for the Wehrmacht, and bore all the evidences of long German occupation.

After the trucks had been unloaded, the drivers headed back for Jullouville to bring up A and D Batteries which had been left behind. These two batteries arrived after a trip that included an accident to the truck pulling Sgt. Horvath's M-51. A Battery took over POL facilities at Petit Couronne along the Seine on the outskirts of Rouen, and D Battery went south to guard the vital railway bridges at Le Manoir and Elbeuf.

For all the batteries the stay at Rouen and Elbeuf was pleasant. The C Battery CP located in an old French mansion in the heart of the city provided the Headquarters personnel of that battery with practically all the comforts of home. B Battery too had a large house in Rouen, while A Battery occupied the site of a former Shell Oil plant. D Battery located in Elbeuf found itself in the center of an interesting and lively town. The population at first stared and whispered to each other "Zair goss un Americain." These were the first Americans they had seen. It was the Canadian First Army that had liberated the town. Once the initial strangeness had been overcome, the people became more than friendly, as the many dances at the CP testified.

The operational problems of the battalion at Rouen were complicated by having fire units on both sides of the Seine. Wire for communications had to be strung across the river and was subject to the vagaries of the





Thanksgiving Day 1944,
St. Etienne du Rouvray.
France.



"The Chateau," St. Etienne du Rouvray,
Nov. 1944



Major Krzton, Capt.
Vann, Lt. Griscom, Lt.
Assad.

Soldiers' Medal presentation ceremony
Town Hall, St. Etienne du Rouvray.



Brigadier General Richardson presenting Sol-
diers' Medals.



Pvt. Dunlap, Pfc. Jordan, Cpl. Horvath, Sgt.
Garvin.



current. T/Sgt. Daugherty and his wire crew at this point acquired a row boat to supplement their ¾-ton in meeting the new situation. The river became swollen with the unusually heavy fall rains and several of the gun sites had to be moved to alternate positions. In addition, loose mines proved a handicap. A barge of sea mines had been capsized during the fighting for the city, and the mines often endangered lives and equipment as they floated by.

A ring of 5 outposts was established that again fed information into a gun operations room conducted this time by the 108th AA Group under whom we were operating.

As Granville had given birth to the Drum and Bugle Corps, so Rouen saw the battalion Dance Orchestra come into being. A small but very efficient group under the direction of Lt. Batza, this aggregation which was subsequently known as the "Toot Sweeters" performed even after a few trials with great gusto. A series of battery parties soon called on their services at dances. Musical instruments were begged, borrowed, and no, not stolen, but bought, and rehearsals were held so that in a short time they had a creditable repertoire at their command. Evenings would see them, their instruments, and music stands, being carted off to a battery CP on the back of a truck to play for the GI's and their French dancing partners.

It was here that the battalion spent two noted holidays. The first of these was Armistice Day. To celebrate the event a provisional battery made up of picked Headquarters Battery men headed by the Drum and Bugle Corps marched to the city square at St. Etienne and participated in a brief ceremony honoring the fallen heroes of both this war and the First World War. After Taps had been blown, the group marched to the local cemetery and Colonel Warrick

and the Mayor of the town laid flowers on the grave of the town's Unknown Soldier.

The second holiday was a little more festive, Thanksgiving. Making up for the fact that we were spending our first such holiday away from home, the various committees in charge were spurred to outdo themselves. The *pièce de resistance* was of course the meal with all the trimmings. For the gun crews, who were not able to join the battery at the CP for dinner, there was still the turkey, in some cases prepared by French families who lived close to the gun site. Each battery CP arranged its own festivities and everything was done to make the day one to be remembered.

Headquarters Battery went all out for this affair. The Staff Officers were the guests at the enlisted men's mess. The laden board that greeted your eyes as you entered the dining room was indicative of what was to come. The meal was served with the assistance of a bevy of local girls especially recruited for the occasion. Turkey and trimmings, cider and dessert, made the rounds until everyone sat back, completely full. Entertainment was supplied by the orchestra and a few acts presented by Hal Cowin, the Master of Ceremonies. When this part of the program was completed, the balance of the evening was spent in viewing a movie and in dancing! As the "sack" was hit about midnight, there were plenty of fellows who admitted it had been a pretty full day.

The "Cottoniere" where Headquarters was stationed was a pretty huge place so that no one particularly minded the daily practicing of the Drum and Bugle Corps. You could hear them faintly as they marched from one end of the area to the other developing their technique, and it wasn't until the white helmets and leggings appeared that everyone felt there was something special in the offing. Soon there ap-



peared on the various battery bulletin boards a listing of names of those men who were to form a "representative battery" to act as an honor guard for the presentation of the Soldier's Medal awarded to Sgts. Garvin and Horvath and Cpl. Jordan and Pvt. Dunlop. This battery of men formed in the Battalion Area under the command of Capt. Roe, and with the Color Guard and Bugle Corps paraded to the city square. The medals were awarded by Brigadier General Richardson of the IX Air Defense Command and Brigadier General Hickey of the 54th AA Brigade.

As October and then November went on, and the weather passed from pleasant to inclement, each battery became more settled at its positions. This wasn't true of D Battery however who moved both platoons and their CP to Pont de l'Arche. Here the battery took over an old hunting lodge for its quarters. The one room that had over a thousand pairs of antlers hung on the wall was the subject of much comment.

Perhaps the main innovation at Rouen was the start of the recreational trips to Paris. Situated as we were less than 80 kilometers from the French capital, transportation by truck was made practical. A battalion schedule was set up that enabled each battery to send its complement of men every other day. The truck would leave the battalion area at six o'clock and pick up the men from the batteries as it went through Rouen. Then across the river and on route N-4 for the three-hour run to Paris. At that early hour there was little or no traffic and the truck high-balled along, roaring through little villages whose houses leaning over the narrow streets threw back the sound of the motor. By mid-morning, the truck would be rolling across the Place de l'Etoile and down the Champs Elysees. A turn right at the Pont d'Alexandre, over the bridge into the

Place d'Invalides and then into the parking lot.

As you hopped off the back of the vehicle, you immediately became aware of that certain something that goes to make Paris "la plus belle ville du monde." Sentinel-like, the Eiffel Tower stood tall and erect, looking out over the entire city. In back of you was the Hotel des Invalides with its gilded dome and ancient artillery pieces. You walked back across the bridge and onto the Champs Elysees. Away down to your left was the Arc de Triomphe, and to your right the Place de la Concorde. There was plenty to do, and only one's individual taste was the guide. Whether your choice was a tour of the magnificent buildings, and historical monuments that were symbolic of the glorious past of France, or a trip through the shopping center of the Rue de la Paix or the streets south of the Place de l'Opera, you invariably returned to the meeting place at night feeling as though what you had done was the best possible.

After the months of wading through provincial France the ultra sophistication of the capital stood out in complete contrast. Perhaps it was the women. These, enjoying the first freedom since the recent liberation, had embarked on a policy that was the direct antithesis of the drab way they had lived under the Germans. Hats and coiffures were elaborate. Dresses were flamboyant. But it all went towards making Paris the most talked-about of all GI memories. As the group assembled under the lights of the street lamp in front of the parking area, waiting for the truck to emerge, an assortment of packages could be seen under almost every arm. There were perfumes and cosmetics from the famous houses. Perhaps ashtrays and other bric-a-brac, miniature Eiffels and Arcs, all to be sent home as tan-



gible evidence of a day spent far away from the constraint of army life.

The opening days of December saw the renewed activity that could mean only one thing — March Order! The Colonel had left with his advance detail and it was rumored that we were going to Holland. This was questioned on some sides, but the tide of Allied advance had reached a point where it was lapping against the Siegfried Line — and it was possible we would draw another front line assignment.

On December 2, the first part of the battalion convoy, consisting of Headquarters, the Medics and C and D batteries, were lined up ready to leave. The usual 0530 start was made so that we were well out of Rouen by daybreak. It seemed as though we would be plagued with another one of those wet, cold trips. It rained intermittently all day, as the vehicles headed north into the regions where another World War had been fought. Through towns like Amiens and Cambrai, whose names were famous before some of us were born, and then over the border into Belgium.

After following the course of the Sambre River past Mons and Charleroi, the convoy settled for the night at a chateau a few miles outside of Namur. The officers were quartered in the main building while the troops found shelter in the vast piles of hay that were stored in the barns. It had been an all-day trip, and after a hot supper everyone was glad to pile into the old bed roll for a bit of shut-eye.

Dawn saw the trucks reloaded and winding their way down the drive back onto the highway for the final phase of the trip that was going to take the battalion into its strangest experiences to date.

Here, as the lead vehicles were waiting for the balance of the convoy to form, was experienced one of those signs of friendship

that was so indicative of the feelings the humble people felt towards their liberators. The door of a roadside house opened and a woman stepped out into the garden. The chaplain, waiting in his jeep, gave out with a big "Bon Jour." She replied and added, "Voulez vous du cafe?" The word "cafe" sounded good after trying to tackle a K ration breakfast — so the situation ended with the Chaplain, his driver Tec 5 Allen Ruggles, and T/Sgt. Richards, the other passenger, being invited in for coffee, cake, and a washup. Kindnesses like this left a deep impression of the nature of our Belgian allies.

That entire day the convoy moved eastward until it entered the foothills of the Ardennes. To circumvent going through Liege which was suffering from a V-weapon bombardment, the Commanding Officer led the vehicles on a southerly course that took them through the dark pine forests into the town of Malmedy.

As the convoy parked by the side of the road, perhaps as a token of what was to come, through the overcast could be heard the unmistakable high pitched rumble of a "Diver."



O. T. Peterson — Granville, France.







Phase IV

IN GERMANY

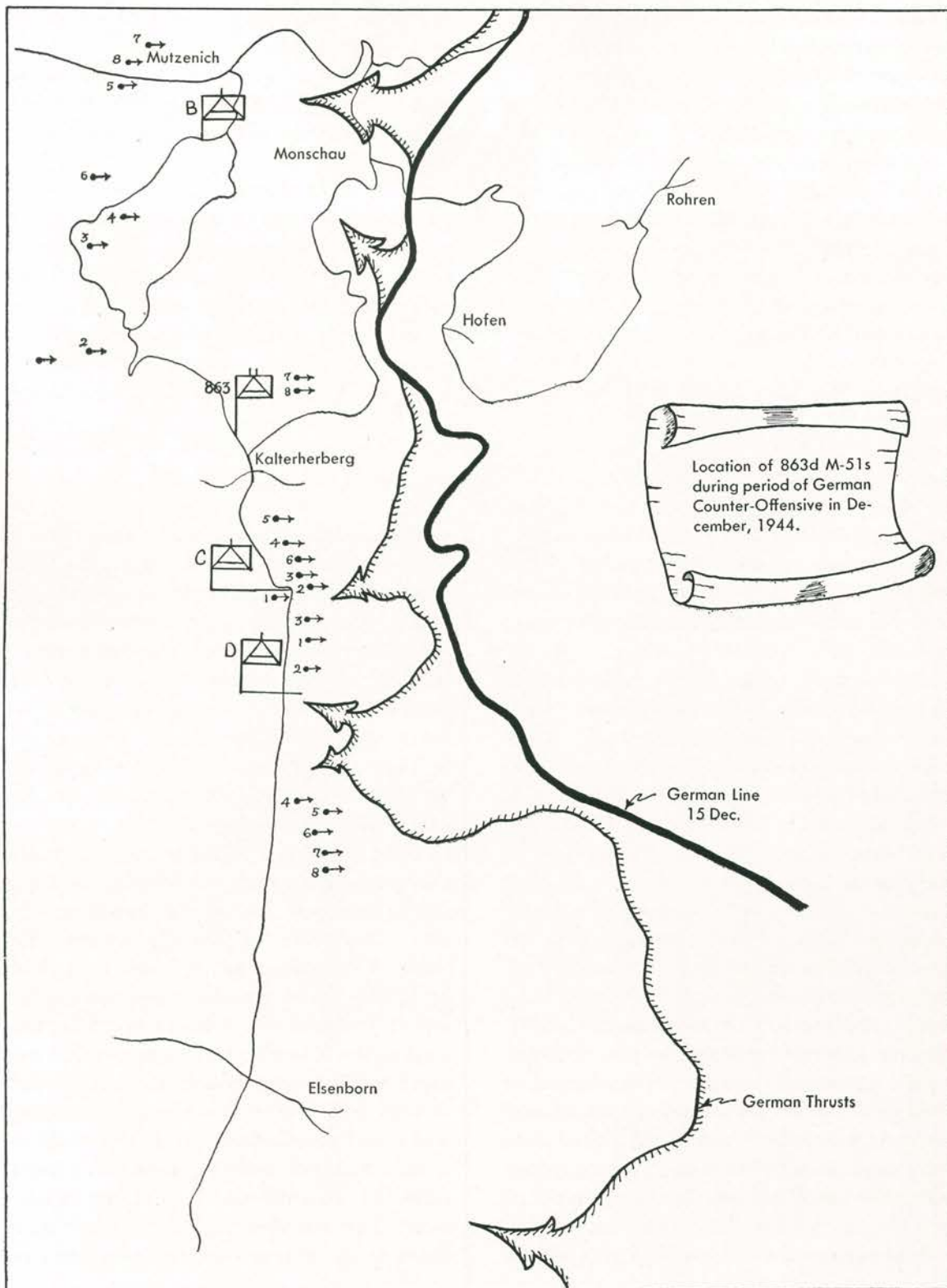
EVER SINCE THE groaning 6 x 6's with the 40mm's and M-51's behind had pulled over the last long hill, the atmosphere had been changing. The white patches in the blue sky had been settling closer together, until now as the lead trucks crunched by the inevitable "Entering Germany" sign, the sky had turned grey white and a fierce cold breeze stung across the clearings. It felt the same as the score of other moves the 863d had made from the time it hit Easy Red on "Omaha" Beach until it slid in behind the Canadians at Rouen in France. But yet it wasn't exactly the same. The MP at the road crossing had told the leader of the D Battery convoy to be sure to spread out wider as they drove south off the main Eupen-Monschau Road toward Elsenborn, particularly in the open spots, because the enemy artillery liked to bounce in a few rounds whenever several trucks got together. And if you looked hard northeast through the haze that hung above the snow you could see the dragon-teeth of the Siegfried Line. The enemy was there.

Few men of the 863d will forget and few

will strain to remember life as it was in Kalterherberg before and during the spectacular Von Rundstedt breakthrough. Meagerly defended as what military authorities termed a "calculated risk," Kalterherberg, or cold mountain dwelling, soon revealed itself a great many degrees warmer than its name implied.

Advance details met "D's" convoy at the junction of the Kalterherberg and Eupen-Monschau Roads and guided it to Kalterherberg. Sections split off in pairs of trucks and pushed through the 6 inches of snow to the sites selected by the section chiefs. In a little while, yellow clay scarred the fresh white of the snow but only for a short time until the revetments were completely dug, then snow was scooped upon the embankments for camouflage purposes. It was much the same for "B" and "C," except that section No. 8 of B Battery got a roaring welcome from German artillery fire just as it had finished building their revetment. Here the 863d suffered its first loss in Germany. The first shell exploded 50 feet short of the freshly dug revetment and killed Cpl.





Rosas. The remainder of the gun crew hit the snow inside their revetment and hugged the base of the embankment. A dozen additional rounds crashed all around but there were no more casualties.

As night settled, the 2½-ton prime mover pushed through the snow to the position. The section piled on its power plant, director and other equipment and moved out of enemy artillery observation. Four additional sections at B Battery and sections Nos. 6 and 7 of C were resited also because they too had drawn enemy artillery fire. At this time, few suitable places for the guns in the white, newly-fallen snow could escape enemy observation. It appeared that the Jerries would stand by, eyes trained on our every move until the business of digging in a position was completed. Then while weary crews relaxed to clear their brows of perspiration the shelling commenced anew, each incoming missile seeming to whine teasingly, "I see you."

One of the popular stories at D Battery concerned the repeatedly harassed Cpl. Erth who would phone the CP for "further instructions" when Jerries were in a mood for a field day about his position after which the prompt, sober advice of Lt. McCafferty was heard sharply and clearly, "dig your foxholes deeper."

In the Kalterherberg sector, the atmosphere pervading so strange a course of events gave us an advanced notion of the "peculiar" role we were to play there. Tactically, this mission was significant. It was the first time that antiaircraft artillery, semi-mobile automatic weapons were disposed so close to the front lines in any appreciable strength. Secondly, it was the first time that AAA semi-mobile automatic weapons had been with the First Army on the front line. It was also the first time that AAA semi-mobile automatic weapons fired at pilotless

aircraft — employing director control instead of the Stiffkey Stick and forward area sights. Throughout the stay in and about Kalterherberg, the Battalion also performed the secondary mission of engaging and destroying hostile aircraft.

During the mission, Batteries B, C, and D occupied a sprawling line extending from Mutzenich, Germany, almost due south to within 4 miles of Elsenborn, Belgium, with Baker along the northern sector, Charlie in the middle, and Dog on the southern flank. Battalion Headquarters moved to Kalterherberg, itself a deserted German town in the center of the 863d line.

From the 4th to the 16th of December, the 863d popped away at the pilotless aircraft as they scooted across the sky. Each succeeding day found the gunners more proficient at their task. New methods of fire control were devised and old ones refurbished. The Stiffkey Stick was more effective in the daytime, the director at night. One of two observation posts would spot the PAC, transmit to a radio receiver at the Battery CP's. A battery "hot loop" tied into the receiver would instantly blare the warning to the operator's headphones at the 40mm and M-51 positions.

Night firing was particularly dramatic. An orange ball of fire slid among the stars over the eastern horizon. It sparkled and filled. Observer, OP No. 2, pressed the "mike" button. Against the background of the whine of the dynamotor, Observer, OP No. 2, reported: "1 PAC, low, travelling northwest." Through the night air, the report sped to the Battery Headquarters and then by field wire to eager air guards scanning the eastern sky. The robot with its luminous abdomen bobbed brighter and a pattering rumble filled the air. "Fire," shouted the section chiefs. The air burst with fingers of liquid fire reaching for this





D Battery 40 MM, Kalterherberg, Germany, Dec. 1944. Left to right: Pfc. McCoach and Pfc. Gerado Mariano.



D Battery 40 MM, Kalterherberg, Dec. 1944. Left to right: Cpl. Emery, Pvt. Garza, Sgt. Horvath.



This was heroic crew pinned down by enemy gunfire during "Push," Kalterherberg, Germany. Left to right: Pfc. Mannino, Tec 5 Riczu, Sgt. Driscoll, Pfc. Dunlop, Pfc. Schorman, Cpl. Cutshall.



Dug in atop a snowy summit overlooking the German line at Kalterherberg.



No. 3, M51 — D Battery alert at Kalterherberg.



floating instrument of destruction. Orange red 40mm tracers darted across the sky sandwiched between smaller yellow white streaks of .50 caliber tracers. The rumble deepened into a chugging roar. The cone of tracer fell off to a few lines. The bobbing orange robot bombs roared away into the night. Often one of the lines of tracer exploded in the body of the PAC. Then a blinding red-orange flash outlined the background of green pines for miles around, and a tremendous roar shook the earth. Pieces of the shattered robot drifted to the ground.

For days, 105's and 155mm howitzers of our artillery had been pounding shells over the heads of our gun positions. But on the morning of the 16th, beginning at 0540, instead of hearing a bang and then a whistle, the sequence was reversed: it was whistle, then bang. The enemy was throwing them back. Some slammed into the gun positions but the revetments were deeply dug; we suffered no casualties there. Some crashed idly into the fields nearby, but most of them piled into Kalterherberg, where C Battery and Battalion Headquarters were located.

Cpl. Charles Donachy, the charge of quarters at the administration building, a former beer garden, crawled out of the rubble from behind the bar where he had been sleeping. A 105mm shell had torn the 2-foot stone wall out not more than 8 feet from his head. Papers, files, and typewriter parts littered the floor but the bar had saved Donachy who was only slightly wounded, even though his M-1 standing in the corner at his fingertips lost its stock and trigger mechanism.

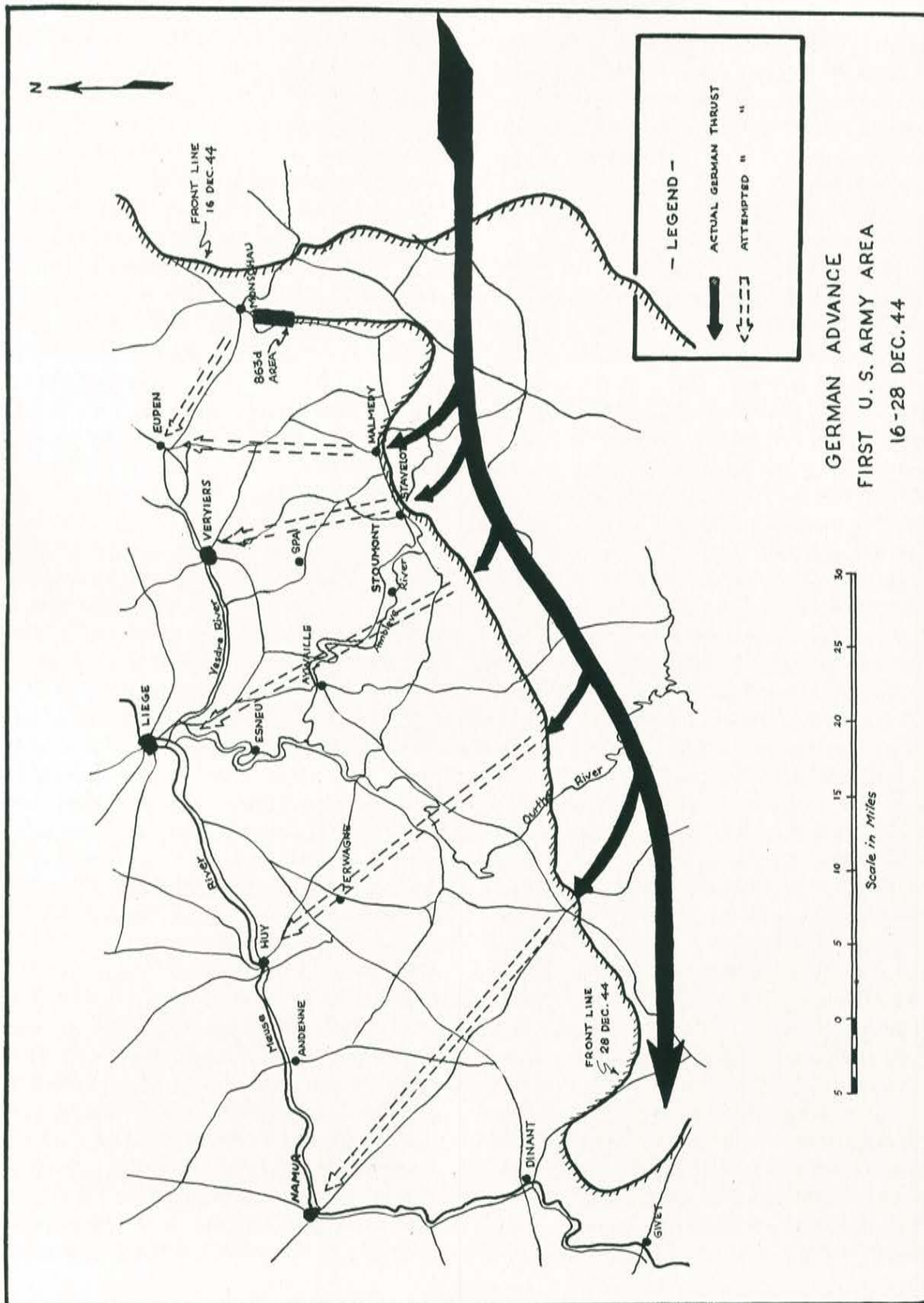
Across the road in the mess hall the cook, Pfc. Bardon, complained bitterly because he'd have to whip up another batch of hot-cakes. The windows had caved into the batter because a shell had hit the woodshed leaning on the side of his kitchen. A couple

of "in the groove" ones crashed through the roof of the building where Capt. Farrel had his battery office. The first three-graders sleeping there had a close call. The Medics took a quota of 2 shells before Sgt. Gimler and his aid men dug out their tubes and bottles and searched out a new aid station.

At C Battery about 500 yards down the road and at D Battery, still further along the road, it was much the same. At C Battery, Pfc. Harrison was the one casualty while at D, Tec 5's Yeager and Hudson, Pvts. Wright and Harris received slight wounds from flying fragments. All around, wire communications were cut to shreds: lines to batteries, lines to Group Headquarters and liaison wire with forward units of the 99th Infantry Division. Crew chiefs marshalled their men and equipment and dodged along the roads repairing their lines.

Reactions to shellings and subsequent paratrooper scares were as varied as the men in the batteries. It was at Headquarters Battery during the initial baptism of 88's that Sgt. Ben Gise in an effort to rouse Cpl. Levine from slumber to scamper to a safer place was advised by that indomitable character to just throw another blanket over him. Other famous "steel nerves" were Sgts. Hutt and MacDonald who sipped coffee in the privacy of their quaking quarters without spilling a drop, and Pfc. Malyszka who strummed his guitar without missing a single tonic resolution of his "pretty chords." In the evening when the paratroopers were upon us, Pvt. of the Guard Tommy Ashton, cautious but by no means unnerved, provided a much needed laugh when he halted something stirring behind the hedges surrounding his post and received an assuring "moo" in unmistakable cow tones, as a reply. The ill-fated bovine was spared for a later date when she appeared on the Headquarters Battery menu as beefsteak and ham-





burgers à la Griffin, minus "french fries."

At D Battery gun positions, tempers flared with a lust for vengeance when the business of relinking ammunition without tracers in zero temperature was impeded by the shellings.

It was on the 17th that the various headquarters in Kalterherberg began to realize that there was a purpose to the continued enemy shelling. The broad picture unfolded slowly. From the north — location of B Battery at Mutzenich, came reports of heavy fighting in Monschau. In fact, this wasn't just a local skirmish, the whole line was threatened. All afternoon, front line reinforcement centers, combat engineers, signal units, and repair crews streamed out of Kalterherberg headed back for Eupen and Verviers. The 105's and 155 howitzers jerked their muzzles into the pine forests behind them and sped off.

Wire crews tied into the 99th Division, lines and radio nets were set up; Lt. Batza acting as liaison officer was dispatched to 99th Division Headquarters at Camp Elsenborn. First instructions from its higher headquarters ordered the 863d to destroy classified files, prepare for instant demolition all equipment that could not be easily moved, and to hold the line with the infantry. Sgt. Richards, Sgt. Gise, and Cpl. Cowin of the Intelligence Section gleaning files, hauled scores of secret records and other important documents hitherto carefully guarded behind the operations room and burned them. Platoon officers with their sergeants plodded around the gun positions with ½-pound blocks of T.N.T. and last minute check-ups on demolition instructions. Lt. Busch, the then Battery Commander of C Battery, sent his officers and platoon sergeants into the gun pits with the gun crews. All battery commanders checked their liaison arrangements with forward units immediately in

front of them and organized headquarters personnel into mobile reserves.

Down in D Battery's area, the enemy plastered forward infantry units with artillery and mortar fire. Under the hail of continued concentrated shelling, the 99th reconnaissance units withdraw from their forward positions to the Battery D gun line. Up in B Battery's sector in spite of artillery fire and imminent infantry action, the air guards spotted three ME 109's snooping in the vicinity. As the enemy planes swooped across in a low level strafing attempt, M-51 and 40mm sections caught them in a fierce cross fire. One piled up in flames nearby, the other two tore through the valley with thick streams of black smoke trailing behind them.

It was at this time that the Battalion mail clerk, Cpl. Matt Adamson, innocent of the state of affairs around Kalterherberg almost wandered into the hands of the enemy. Few tales of the wild west and its pony express couriers who were never deterred from the execution of their appointed tasks were as "stimulating" as the one Cpl. Adamson relates about his experience during the breakthrough on a routine mail-run. With all roads to Kalterherberg taken by the enemy or blocked by the MP's, he chose one that appeared to lead the way home only to find that the environs were growing less and less familiar. Adamson observed too that driver, Pete Braudauskus, was doing more than his usual quota of zig-zagging because of "those things" in the middle of the road. "Those things" an infantryman, obscured by the shadows of a large tree, informed our "babes in the woods" were 'lahv mahns.' Continuing in a lazy West-Virginia drawl, he cautioned the boys against going any farther as "down yonder a piece" — 100 yards at the "muht" was a German heavy-caliber machine-gun nest.





Medics at aid building which received direct hit at Kalterherberg. Cpl. Hamilton, Capt. Vann, Tec 4 Matetich, Tec 5 Moeller and Tec 3 Zagar.



Kalterherberg, Dec. 1944 — Pfc. Petracca, Pfc. O'Brian, Pfc. Braugher.



Where "dud" bomb landed, Eupen, Belgium.



Pfc. Smirga and Pfc. Buros with tail of ME-109.



Scene at Eupen, Belgium.



Pvt. Cheatham, D Battery, cleans sights of Bofors gun near Eupen, Jan. 1945.



Pvt. Crawford, D Battery, mans elevation tracker of Bofors gun near Eupen, Jan. 1945.



At the advice of a commanding officer of a nearby unit who was familiar with the situation they retreated to Liege where they lived with Able Battery until communications were established and they were able to rejoin Headquarters.

Meanwhile Headquarters Battery, without a clear conception of the fluid front, loaded its personnel and equipment and set up in an abandoned hanger 2 miles west of Kalterherberg. "Forsaken and unattached," Headquarters was digging itself in in anticipation of an armored ground attack. Guarding the hangar was an all-battery affair, distinctions as to rank having been swept away to the tune of "three on and three off" for all and sundry during which one had to keep his wits dodging bullets fired by trigger-happy artillery-men who mistook our mass changing of the guard for the tactical maneuvering of enemy paratroopers.

On the second day at the hangar, a flight of FW 190's swooped down out of low hanging clouds in a direct strafing attack against the structure. Those who were near vehicles dove under them begriming themselves with oil, grease, and mud that had been liberally sloshed over the floor by mechanics doing fast jobs and by over a hundred pairs of arctics tramping in from fox-holes. Those who could find no space beneath vehicles plunged frantically under their cots! When the crisis finally took a turn for the better, part of the Battalion moved to Eupen where eating Christmas and New Year's dinners off the fenders and rear ends of 2½'s in freezing weather seemed like the most exquisite of tortures. Such experiences played on our benumbed senses to confront us sharply with the wonderful actuality of our being alive after all that had happened.

Dawn of the 18th burst bright and clear. Hope swelled in the hearts of the boys in

the gun revetments. Today our air forces would come out and stop the incessant shelling and harassing fire. Radio reports were confusing. The Commanding Officer called Battery B on the telephone. "How are your men up in Mutzenich," he wanted to know. "Fine, fine," Capt. Pendzick replied. "But," said Colonel Warrick, "BBC has just announced that Mutzenich has fallen to the Germans." "Can't be, Colonel," replied the battery commander, "we're still here."

The events of the 18th were highlighted by an enemy aerial attempt. About 21 enemy FW 190's and ME 109's dropped out of a hazy sky and attempted to pounce on opportunity targets around Camp Elsenborn, Headquarters of the 99th and 2nd Divisions, and supply trucks rumbling up and down the Eupen-Kalterherberg-Elsenborn Road. This was gravy. The section chiefs waited. They watched the enemy glide out of range toward Camp Elsenborn and then get poised to dive on the supply road guarded by 863d guns. Swiftly and silently, the funneled muzzles of the 40's and the thick, blunt mouths of the 50's whirled in the direction of the approaching planes. The sections waited. The planes were in range and suddenly the guns burst out in sheets of tracer. Caught in a web of fire, the surprised enemy planes attacking separate objectives in groups of 3's, scattered in all directions. Only 2 of the 3 that had swooped down to strafe a convoy on the Kalterherberg-Elsenborn Road remained. The leader had met a hail of .50 caliber bullets from Battery C's No. 1 M-51 section and spiralled down in flames. Of the 11 planes attacking objectives in the range of the 863d guns, 4 were definitely destroyed, ' by C Battery, and 2 by D Battery. "For services rendered" the infantry Captain who led the convoy stopped long





Cpl. Magdich, B Battery, adjusts the range on 40 MM Bofors near Eupen.



Looking for enemy aircraft near Eupen are Cpl. Magdich, Pvt. Bianchi and Pfc. Melone (left to right) of B Battery.



Pfc. Melone, B Battery, scans the skies for the enemy near Eupen.



Scenes at Eupen, Belgium.



enough to offer his thanks to C Battery gunners. This initial act was one of many that was to occur in the dark days ahead that fostered a spirit of camaraderie and cooperation between local infantrymen and personnel of the 863d.

The next four days were characterized by increased enemy artillery fire and patrol activities. It was evident to the battery commanders working in close liaison with the 47th Infantry Regiment in the northern "B" sector, and 39th Infantry Regiment in the "C" sector, that the enemy wanted desperately to cut the ammunition and supply route from Eupen to Elsenborn. Our artillery units, a few miles northwest of Elsenborn were pouring tons of shells into the German tank thrusts directed toward Elsenborn and Malmedy. Clashes between patrols were frequent; in addition, enemy paratroopers were operating in the wooded areas between the Eupen-Malmedy Road and the Mutzenich-Kalterherberg Road behind the B and C Batteries gun line.

During these paratroop operations Sgt. Sam LaDart of No. 4 gun in C Battery shoved in the door in the barn part of the combination house-barn in which his section was living. The machete that the Sergeant was carrying was to be used for cutting wood. Pfc. LeBlanc who was with Sgt. LaDart was carrying a flashlight. The illumination from the flashlight outlined 2 German paratroopers crouching in the barn, ready to spring at our boys. A swift stroke of the machete by LaDart slashed the wrist and forearm of the nearest German; the other dropped his weapon and raised his hands to the back of his head.

At D Battery air guard Pvt. Weldon of Sgt. Masserick's position spotted a German non-com and a private dodging through the brush not 100 feet away. Two shots from his M-1 from the hip stopped the non-com in

his tracks with a bullet in the head and another in the breast while the private's arms strained in their sockets as he reached skyward.

The procedure was a little different at B Battery. Security guard Tec 5 Book at section No. 3 spotted a group of 6 paratroopers skulking in the pines a few hundred feet away. The aroused section immediately opened fire with their M-1's. The Germans crashed through the pines and headed northward. Telephone operator Pfc. Kudmore shouted a warning to section No. 1 located due north. As the enemy paratroopers burst into the clearing 400 feet from section 1, M-1's went into action. Three paratroopers fell, 2 dead before they hit the ground and the third writhing with a bullet hole in his stomach. Even though he was seriously and painfully wounded, when the men arrived to give him aid, the paratrooper held an armed grenade in his hand, ready for action. The 190-pound gunner, Tec 5 Randall, "coaxed" him into releasing it by squeezing the German's wrist with his hob-nailed combat shoe. The three remaining paratroopers decided that they had had enough.

By the 22d of December, the enemy armored attempts at Monschau had been completely halted at the northern end of the 863d line and seriously blunted at Elsenborn at the southern end of the line. Heavy artillery action by U. S. artillery units in the Elsenborn sector had been a contributing factor. By the night of the 21st, the enemy had decided that artillery bombardment had to be erased to permit his tanks to by-pass Malmedy, drive to the road center of Eupen, dissolve opposition in the Monschau sector and push for Liege.

The main supply route for these artillery units was the Eupen-Kalterherberg-Elsenborn Road which roughly outlined the 863d



gun line. If this road were taken, not only would the hellish artillery pounding be stopped, but in addition, the artillery units themselves would be flanked as would the stubborn defense at Monschau. Night patrols operating behind enemy lines reported two infantry regiments and spearhead units massing in the wooded area before the Siegfried Line some 6000 yards from our line. A heavy artillery bombardment began in the early morning of the 22d. Shells from 75's and 155's blasted Kalterherberg and C Battery area. Forward elements of the 39th Infantry Regiment swayed to the rear and fell in line with the cannoneers of C Battery of the 863d. Here, declared their tall, competent platoon leader they would hold. Heroic wire crews from C and D Batteries among which were Sgt. Jankoski, Pfc's Bieber, Kerwick, and DiLucci, and Tec 5's Pass and Bennink, dashed through the rain of shell fire patching up torn lines.

Lt. Semple and Sgt. Cairl of C Battery crouching in exposed gun positions, quietly advised the gun crews and prepared them for the crisis. Mortar shells plopped around the gun revetments, spotting the snow with round holes four feet in diameter. Heavy enemy machine-gun fire raked the line. Bul-

lets spat against the armor of the M-51's. An irregular band of green shadows burst out of the woods along a narrow road leading to the larger lateral road which tied in to Kalterherberg at the ruined church at the bend. The M-51 at section No. 2 manned by Cpl. Cloud, Pfc. Wood, Hess, and Mannino spattered out four streams of tracers. The 40mm gun commanded by Sgt. Robert Driscoll and his crew of Cpls. Cutshall and Riczu, Pfc's Agrillo, Schorman, Dunlap, Sullivan, Ouellette, Gundlock, as well as Tec 5 Brady who volunteered a helping hand sited on the gentle slope overlooking the wooded valley burst out in auto fire. The enemy was charging 500 feet away. More guns joined the battle. From behind the revetments, from trenches, M-1's banged their bullets into the battle. The enemy machine-guns roared in increased fury. The charging line, thinned, 400 feet from section No. 2. The assistant platoon commander rallied the section, raised himself above the parapet and directed the fire of his 40 mm. The loader and firer dropped his loaded clips into the auto loader which projected several feet above the revetment amid the vicious singing of enemy bullets. At the foot of the slope, 400 feet away, green clad



S/Sgt. Singleton near a German blockhouse in the center of Liege, Belgium.



Near Liege, Tec 5 Simone and Pfc. Savarino.





forms plopped down and snuggled deeper into the snow. The line faltered, turned and broke for cover to the woods behind it. This round was ours.

The gunners reloaded their guns and brought up more chests of ammunition. An aid man, Pfc. Vincent Cuiuli, slipped into the gun pit at section 2 and patched up two wounded members of the crew. Our casualties were no more than a dozen wounded; the enemy dead lay dark against the snow on both sides of the road at the edge of the forest. Sixty were killed and an uncounted number wounded. The whole battle had lasted from 1300 hours to 1500 hours. At 1500, a heavy weapons company of the 39th Infantry crawled into the line. C Battery's role changed from holding the line to supporting the infantry.

The enemy withdrew from C Battery's immediate area, but he was not through yet. At 1630, he launched an attack in battalion strength at the main supply road in the sector held by D Battery. A scanty line maintained by 28 infantrymen bent back and finally anchored on D Battery's gun line. D Battery's CP, nestled in a heavy wooded area in the center of the line, was brought under heavy machine gun, mortar and small arms fire. As machine gun bullets twanged off the pines, the battery executive officer rallied his Headquarters Section, loaded the few trucks available and ordered the destruction of the remaining equipment. An M-5 director and an M-5 power plant under repair at the CP were destroyed. German patrols pushed to the road, but the hail of lead from D Battery's M-51's and the M-1's of the infantry drove them back into the woods.

That night, too, the 40 mm guns of the 863d were pulled out of the line and trundled off to Eupen to provide AA protection for defiles along three main roads tied to-

gether in the town. Thus the battalion was split, with M-51's under the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Warrick on the line in Germany, and the 40's under the Battalion Executive Officer, Major Krzton, performing an AA role in Eupen. Because of the rapidity of the move without prior warning and the tense situation in the line requiring the presence of all officers, prior reconnaissance of positions to be occupied in Eupen was impossible. Therefore, the 40's were moved to fields near Eupen until a reconnaissance could be made and positions located.

In accordance with standard practice in the 863d, the guns were set up for action as soon as the 6 x 6's stopped rolling in the field. The next morning, three ME 109's swished out of a ravine toward the open patch where Dog's 40's were awaiting deployment. The alert air guards spotted them immediately, shouted their warnings and took their places for action. Again the 40's spat death. One ME caught unawares attempted to evade the tracers reaching for him by pulling up in a steep bank. That did it! A 40 mm shell, the first of only three fired, blew off his tail. He rolled over on his back and crashed in a hay field that way. They found the pilot with his head torn off. The other two were also hit and crashed in the nearby woods. Both pilots were killed.

The primary mission of the M-51 quads had been changed on the 19th from anti PAC role to infantry support. In addition to supporting the infantry by direct action, the M-51's also delivered indirect plunging fire at ranges from 3000 to 6200 yards on enemy troop concentrations. Although the enemy spotted the general location of the M-51's from the line of tracer or muzzle blast, his artillery failed to stop the effective fire of the quads. Regimental Headquarters, 47th Infantry Regiment, spotted the targets and



specified the time of firing. Battalion S-3, Major Harbachuk, designated the batteries for the firing.

At B Battery, as at C and D Batteries, the platoon commanders plotted azimuth and quadrant elevation determined from firing tables, supervised the M-51 setting made with compass and gunner's quadrant. Two guns at a time per mount fired in long bursts. Then the other two were fired. In this way at least two guns per mount were always fully loaded. A forward artillery observer spotted the fire and reported by phone through Regimental Headquarters to the individual gun sites. That the fire was highly effective was exemplified by a forward observer's running account of a mission accomplished on the 21st of December. On this day, B Battery's guns were set on Hofen, a little south of Monschau. "They're running out of the houses and diving into foxholes," shouted the lieutenant over his phone. Many houses were burned by the armor-piercing incendiary bullets used for the firing, and scores of the enemy were killed or injured. The Battalion expended a total of 240,455 rounds on this type of firing.

On the night of the 24th of December, the 39th Infantry Regiment pushed off on the 863d sector. The immediate threat to the objective guarded by the 863d was relieved. Until the 1st of January the M-51's continued to support the infantry with indirect fire. The enemy poured in artillery fire but even though the CP's were forced to move several times, the casualties were light. Tec 5 Prentes, in charge of M-51 section No. 4 of D Battery was killed as he sat on top of the back of the seat of his gun.

The MAC officer, Lt. Hatch, performed his paper duties standing for a few days. A heavy caliber shell had torn a hole in the rear of the dispensary and a flying stone caught the MAC in the thigh. On 1 January 45, when the Luftwaffe made its last large-scale aerial attempt, the M-51's at Kalterherberg destroyed three and the 40's at Eupen three.

For gallantry in action one officer received the Silver Star and a number of officers and enlisted men of the 863d received the Bronze Star Medal, two posthumously. For wounds received as the result of enemy action, a number of Purple Heart medals were awarded to members of the Battalion. In recognition of the exemplary performance of the Battalion during the period 17 December 1944 to 1 January 1945, a summing excerpt of the 9th Infantry Division, First United States Army reads as follows:

"The spirit of cooperation and skilled performance of an unfamiliar task exhibited by all members of the 863d AAA AW Battalion during this crucial period assisted materially in successful defense of the Monschau-Hofen-Kalterherberg Sector and is worthy of high commendation."

Distinctions for the extraordinary heroism displayed by this battalion in the conflict with the enemy during the above period did not halt there. In July 1945, while the Battalion was encamped in and around Bad Soden, Germany, that much-coveted battle honor — the Distinguished Unit Citation — was awarded the 863d for its "devotion to duty and esprit de corps in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States."



LIEGE, BELGIUM

THROUGHOUT THE GRAND adventures of Headquarters, B, C, and D Batteries at the front, variations on the Kalterherberg theme were being woven for A Battery stationed at Liege. There the gun positions were playing host to the buzz-bombs. One of the robots we are told stole quietly into the area occupied by one position and skidded along the surface of the field like any respectable and legitimate aeroplane might, only to commence smoldering for a fearful ten minutes during which crew members scampered for cover and poised themselves for the explosion. A more purposeful and efficient robot exploded upon landing some 20 feet from Gun Position No. 10 with resulting injury to personnel and equipment. Those injured by the flying fragments were Pfc. Eidson, Pfc. Hayhurst and Pvt. Jaffe. Tec 5 Bill Breen suffered from shock as a result of the blast.

Concussion resulting from the explosion of another "buzzer" approximately 500 feet from the battery CP building sprinkled sleepers with broken glass and loose plaster, inspiring a mass migration to the basement. Participants in this move were taunted with names like "cellar dwellers" by the more carefree CP men. Also on the more humorous side was the receipt of a detailed diagram and explanation of the tactical purpose of the robot by Cpl. Benny Hahn from his girl friend with the penciled query scrawled over the illustration, "Have you ever come in contact with one of these?"

Throughout the Battle of the Bulge, gun crews at A Battery assisted in rescue work and in administering first aid to victims of robot bombings. Sgt. Wasserman whose position was emplaced in the vicinity of famed "Buzz Bomb Alley" related how he pulled

one woman weighing 250 pounds out of the debris of three different bombed-out buildings with the assistance of Cpls. Afflebach and Young who voluntarily supervised self-appointed rescue crews composed of Pfc's. Boehmke, Godbout, DeVitt, Seymour, Swanlek and Texeria.

Sgt. Ferreri's position situated on the crest of the hill overlooking miles of territory in advance of the city frequently warned the battery of the approach of the pilotless aircraft. Telephone operator Pfc. Cerreta minimizing such crises with good cheer electrified the gun loop by his familiar warning "man your foxholes."

Though Liege took most of its pulverizing from robots during the von Rundstedt offensive, more than a few hostile planes were observed and engaged by our guns. On December 24th, GP's No. 1 and No. 2 opened fire on a Me. 262 which was driven to an altitude where continued designs and attempts on the target were rendered impossible. In desperation the bewildered pilot unloaded his bombs in the area surrounding the two gun positions and fled. Pfc. Eidson, the only casualty resulting from this engagement, sustained wounds in the neck.

On the dark and misty evening of December 22d, the bridge upon which Tec 5 Shaffer's machine gun was situated was sprinkled with a string of incendiaries by an unseen enemy plane. Quickwitted and strong backed Shaffer lugged sandbags from his position and smothered the blaze before much damage was inflicted.

On Christmas Day Sgt. Wasserman's men were performing routine duties around the gun when air guard Pfc. Texeria spotted a Junkers 88 and alerted the crew. Sgt. Was-



serman waited for an opportune moment and then gave the order to fire. The second and third rounds found their mark as the Junkers fled out of range in smoke and flames. Cpl. Afflebach was range setter; Cpl. Young, gunner; Pfc. Texeria, tracker; Pfc. Seymour, loader and firer; and Pfc's.

Boehmke and Swanlek, ammunition relayers in this engagement. Shortly thereafter the crippled plane was sighted by Tec 5 Breen, Honeycutt, Green and Bergo who immediately opened fire with their M-51 executing the "coup de grace" that brought the plane down at the town's outskirts.

NAMUR, BELGIUM

UPON COMPLETION OF missions at Kalterherberg and Eupen, Headquarters, B and C Batteries established positions at Namur on the Meuse River, while D Battery located at Overwinden several miles northeast.

Symbolically suggestive of the happier days at Rouen was the recall of the "Toot Sweeters" from batteries and outposts to which they had been assigned at the front as reserves and replacements. Rehearsals commenced and a schedule of dances for the batteries, Group and Brigade was arranged. A calendar too of competitions was drawn up for the battalion basketball team newly organized by Messrs. O'Connell and Gontarski. The team composed of regulars T/Sgt. Daugherty, Tec 5 Kotsko, Tec 3 Damaska, Sgt. Wasserman, Cpls. Cloud, Irwin and Bock, and Pfc's. Zimmerman, Donahue, and Younkers embarked on a series of successful competitions more outstanding of which were the victories over the 29th AAA Group the 143d Gun Battalion and the 204th Gun Battalion in which the winning basket was scored in a split second play by Bob Daugherty.

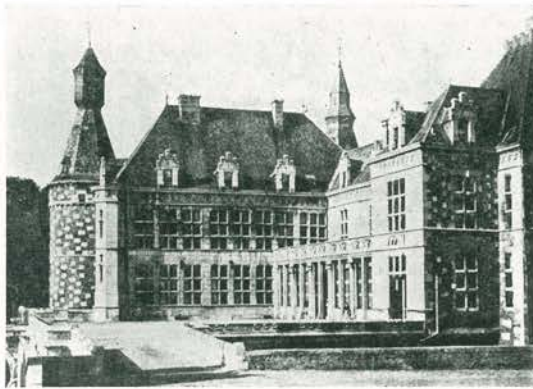
As the 863d Quintet sported a long line of victories, it appeared that they would represent the 52d AA Brigade in competitions sponsored by the Ninth Air Defense Command in Paris, but defeat finally came

in a close struggle with the 602d Gun Battalion and visions of Gay Paree vanished by the score of 22-20.

The sizeable battalion representation that filled the convent auditorium in Namur witnessed the debut performance of an outstanding Belgian artist before an American audience. Winner of a national prize awarded the most talented young pianist in Belgium, Mlle. Gilbert van Dijeke displayed remarkable virtuosity with the piano to the delight of all. The hall was filled with men from all the batteries but D who were then engaged in the serious business of finding themselves a home at Nehay Bodegne, Belgium. In keeping with their established traditional elegance they found a castle on the northern banks of the Meuse equipped with moat, drawbridge, ramparts, and old artillery pieces.

Shortly thereafter the "Toot Sweeters" played at a Tea Dance given at the Ninth ADC at the beautiful University of Paris. The boys took in the city on the Seine under the guidance of three attractive ladies studying at the Sorbonne University and returned to rest for their engagement the next day in the Hellenic Building with the exception of Cpl. Cowin and Pfc. Gellman who spent the night in the suburb of Boulogne sur Seine "with old friends" which





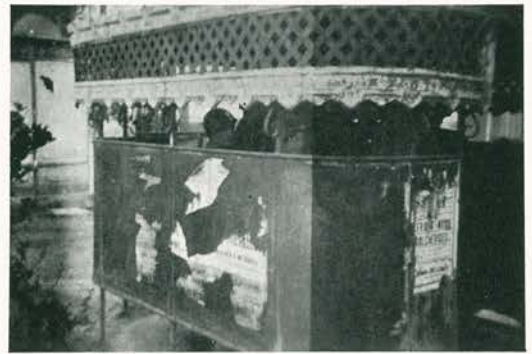
D Battery CP, Jehay Bodegnée, Jan. 1945.



Mess Sgt. Griffin with one of his Namur "K.P.s."



Mess Hall in Convent, Headquarters Battery at Namur, Belgium.



Petracca and pal in a Belgium street pissoir.



Tec 5 Brady and Tec 5 Mock aloft on a Namur pole.



Famous "Mannequin-Pis" statue in Brussels, Belgium.



caused considerable comment and conjecture.

Sgts. Heisey, Thompson, Seigel, MacDonald, Griffin and Musselwhite among others who had the good fortune of visiting the fairest of cities returned very much aglow and exhilarated by hours of absorption in "fishing" off Alexandre III Bridge and the Pont Neuf.

In Paris as well as Namur old war dogs of the 863d were applying themselves diligently to research on the merits of various perfumes and francs poured over the counters for Hartnell, Lanvin, Chanel and Schiaparelli. "Guerlain" it was whispered in the absolute tone of the connoisseur was "the house," the specific "Lui" being almost unobtainable. The first to make an appearance since 1939 was on sale at a fashionable shop on the Rue de la Paix where GI's with a feeling for the better things in life were giving it the air of Macy's basement on a Saturday morning. Cynics like Lt. Lloyd maintained that the stuff was being bottled in the basements of the swanky "parfumeries" where after dark dignified counter-girls would roll up their sleeves and go to work.

Midst all the freedom born of "Freedom from Fear" at Namur a solemn note was sounded with the departure for the infantry of personnel from the letter batteries who had been with the battalion through the thick of the Normandy beachhead and Katterherberg. A shade less solemn was C Battery's exodus from Namur to St. Jean Sart shortly thereafter. We were told by battalion members other than modest C Battery men that this was accompanied by much weeping and heartache on the part of local mademoiselles who were loathe to part with the lusty swinging of partners and the amours of the rough and ready "soldats americaines." We were reminded of our

caretaker Michel at Namur whose English consisted of "verrae gud" inspired by large formations of American heavy bombers flying overhead. We told him gravely that his English was truly magnificent, to which he responded with a typically Gallic shrug and a few French words which signified that it was nothing at all and that he was delighted to learn English for us. So *it* was with C Battery — "anything" for the mademoiselles, and we knew the mademoiselles would regard *it* as nothing at all. "Il passera."

The arrival of the battalion in and around Aubel had something of old home week when some of us found that we were relieving our old outfit, the second battalion of the 602d Regiment, now the 542d AW Battalion. Aubel having none of the diverting interests of Namur, extra-curricular yearnings were again dependent on battalion special services for gratification.

Noteworthy among the many events arranged by Mr. O'Connell and "Big Ed" Donahue was a tea dance at the Aubel Theatre on a Sunday in March for which girls were brought in from Liege. Refreshments were provided by batteries in equal proportions and Headquarters and Battery cooks helped in their preparation keeping the dancers and the "Toot Sweeters" fortified for what developed into a six-hour session. Refreshments were of the Sunday School picnic variety, it having been decided that the change would do many of the boys some good. For sooner or later they would have to make the adjustment from beer, brandy, wine and cognac to Coca Cola, ice-cream and other soda fountain concoctions from the corner drug store. The very "propre dames" from Liege were amused by the announcement of a "tap dance" in which they were asked to cut in on the dancers but fell into the spirit of it all with great glee and gusto.





Lt. Hall, Pfc. Pappas, Cpl. Candito, Pfc. Crawford, Pfc. Ineson of D Battery.



No. 1 Gun, B Battery — Rear (left to right) Cpl. Zaidman, Pfc. Yunkus and Pfc. Berry. Front, Cpl. Morelli.



Cpl. Morelli at Namur — March 1945.



A reunion of Cpl. Finkelstein and his brother-in-law.



Sgt. Levi Burkholder at Namur.

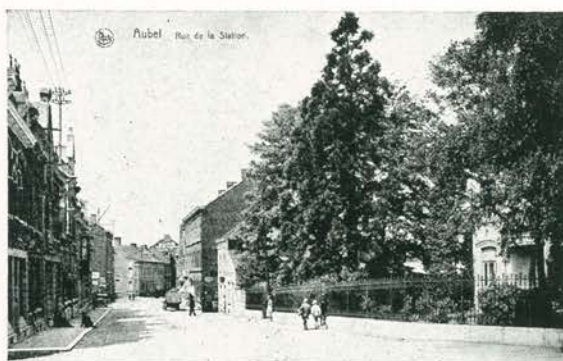


Charneux, March 1945. Pfc. Yakob, Pfc. Gellman, Pfc. Runge and Cpl. Ranella of D Battery.



Lt. McCafferty, Pizzer, Capt. Roe, Lieutenant Colonel Warrick, Lt. Hall, Lt. Berry and Lt. Assad at Charneux, Belgium.





Street Scenes — Aubel, Belgium.



Small arms firing range — Aubel.



Siegfried blockhouse — Aubel.



Tec 5 Hartley, D Battery.





Remagen Bridge, Germany — locale of one of the biggest “breaks” during war.



Phase V

RE-ENTRY INTO GERMANY TO V-E DAY

FEELINGS WERE VERY much on the gloomy side when the convoy winding its way into Germany in the latter part of March enroute to new locations encountered sullen, old people, plodding wearily midst rubble and ruin instead of the usual tidy town streets of Belgium lined with exuberant children and gay mademoiselles in rousing tribute to "Les Americaines."

A Battery as well as C and D had been assigned missions that took them to some of the most desolate and devastated areas that the war had produced thus far, Stolberg and Duren, Germany. These two names whose mere mention conjured up a winter of hell for the doughfeet of the First Army had finally been cleared of the enemy and had become vital storage points for that Army in its drive to the Rhine. At Stolberg, A Battery was protecting a POL dump, and at Duren, C and D Batteries had the protection of a railroad and vital bridges across the Roer River.

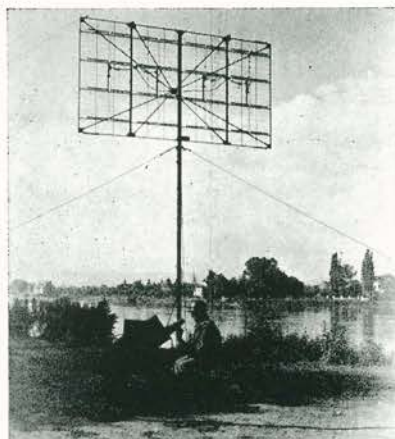
Gun sites were set up in the heaps of debris that marked the location of these once proud cities. In Duren, there was an estimated 16,000 people still buried under the tons of smashed and ruined masonry. The stench of war hung thickly over the whole area. Along the river could be seen the bodies of those heroic soldiers who had been drowned while making the initial crossings. It was a macabre setting for the guns of D Battery, and a daily grim reminder of the futility of total war.

Headquarters had moved to Eschweiler. This town located between all elements of the Battalion was also heavily damaged, but not completely destroyed. The Command Post was installed along with Headquarters Battery in an abandoned schoolhouse. It was here that several of the non-conformist OP men staged a shrewd "secession" from the battery. Pleading lack of Lebensraum in the regular squad rooms, they resumed their robust, secluded way of life in a battered but otherwise charming four room apart-





Inspection by Colonel Dunn at C Battery, Linz, Germany.



Tec 5 Botte on Radar patrol alongside Rhine River, Linz, Germany.



C Battery cleaning guns while "drydocked" at Linz.



Tec 5 Williams on Radar detail at Linz.



T/Sgt. Siegel with unloading detail at Hanau, Germany.



Five of group from C Battery that formed cadre transferred to infantry.



ment where they locked the doors and lived happily on a diet of 10 in 1 rations and hill-billy music.

Perhaps the battery that suffered most through the constant changing of missions that was prevalent at this time was Able Battery. This battery went through three moves in as many days. It kept Capt. Whinston and his staff in constant planning. On the 2d of April, the platoon that had gone to Kalterherberg was recalled to add strength to the 1st platoon's defenses in and around Stolberg. Hardly had the newly arrived platoon set its equipment on the ground when the order was given directing the entire battery to make a two mile move to Steinfurth. The next day in consequence of a change in plans, the battery was given March Order and was directed to resume its positions in Stolberg. Even this did not last. Another order and another move the next day had the men loading equipment and rolling to a new home at the airfield south of Vorweiden. Here in conjunction with C Battery a joint Gun Control Room was maintained under the supervision of Major Harbachuk who had gone over from Battalion to become the AA control officer.

It was during one of these temporary setups that A Battery lost through accidents with mines left by the retreating enemy, Pvt. Louis Shiver, who was killed while emplacing an M-51, and Tec 5 Steve Urban, wounded while driving a ration truck along a well used road to one of the positions. Also wounded with Steve were Sgt. Horne, Pfc. Goss, Pvt. Perez and Pvt. Winters.

It was also about this time that a series of Special Orders emanating from higher headquarters were received that had an interest for all the batteries. Lt. Roe, Commanding Officer of D Battery, was promoted to Captain. Lt. Kenney was assigned to Battalion as Asst. S-3, and several enlisted men re-

ceived the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during the Germans' offensive in December. 1/Sgt. Cairl of C and Tec 5 Prentes, Tec 5 Edwards, and Pfc. Kurko of D Battery were the recipients.

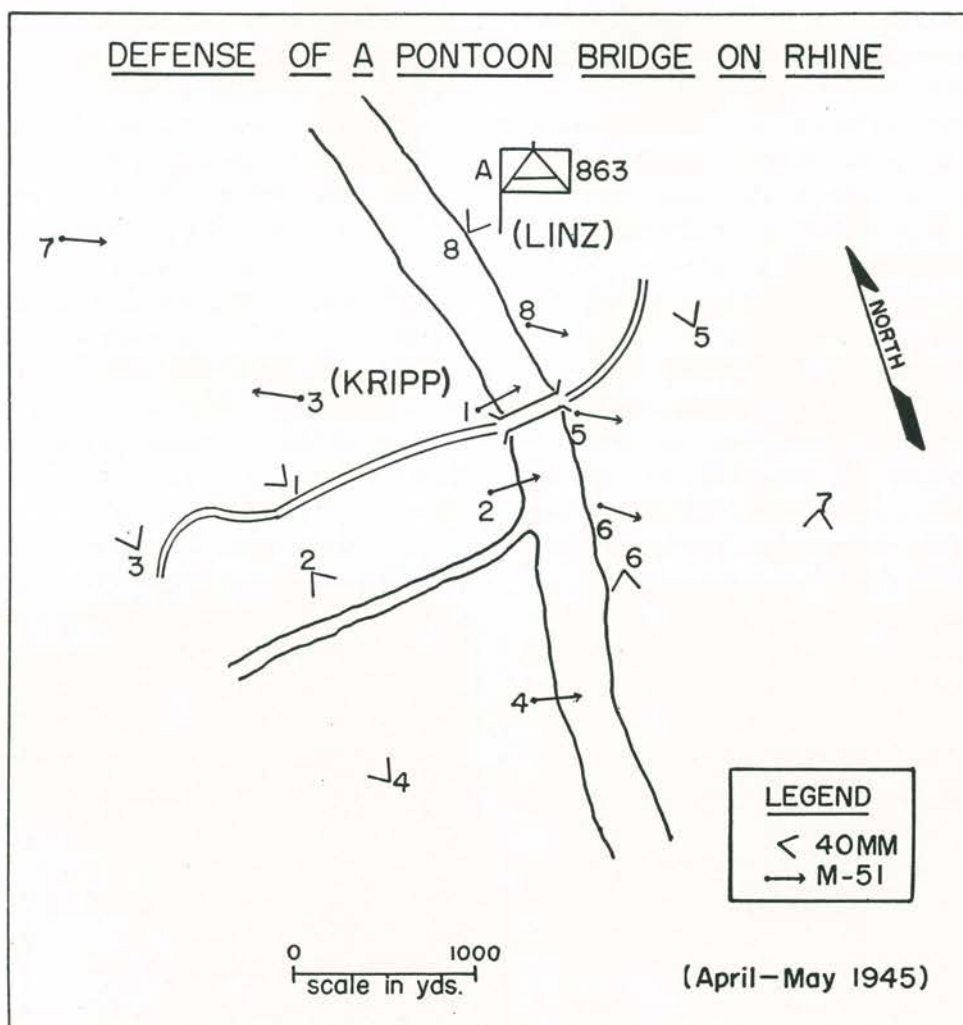
The first week of April was hardly over when it was time to reshuffle the entire battalion once again. B Battery which had come from Herve, Belgium, to Stadt Meckenheim, Germany, was the first of the batteries to get within sight of the Rhine. They were given the task of protecting the rail-head at Brohl, Germany, and the pontoon bridge across the river just north of the town.

A few days later, D Battery gave up its watch on the Roer River with its grisly reminders and took up instead the defense of the famous Hodges Bridge against aerial attacks. This bridge was on the main supply route across the Rhine for the First Army that was slashing its way deeper into the Reich. They were nearer the battle line than any other battery, being only a few miles from the Ruhr pocket where the Allies had thrown a noose around two of Hitler's armies.

Headquarters Battery and the Medics after journeying along the west bank of the Rhine came to rest at a little mountain resort that had been discovered by Capt. Farrell, on the shores of the Laacher See. The stay at the Hotel Waldfrieden proved to be an overnight stop and will be remembered by those luckless individuals who were detailed the task of putting up pyramidal tents in a pouring rain. In the morning the equipment was shuttled across the Rhine via the Victor Bridge to the castle-banked town of Linz.

C Battery, after the airfield at Vorweiden became non-operational, moved east to Neiderbrissig which was on the Rhine and set up the defense for the protection of the





Victor Bridge, the longest pontoon bridge in tactical use.

A Battery moved its CP in with Battalion Headquarters at the hospital in Linz and set up the defenses of the bridges, and also provided a couple of M-51's for use in guarding the huge PW enclosure that was situated on the west bank of the river.

This move of the Battalion in and around Linz was practically the final one in the long chapter of European travels that had seen us operational in five countries. The one additional tactical move was made by D Bat-

tery which went from its positions around the Hodges Bridge to set up its guns in the Neuwied VA. This move brought Dog for a few days stay into the same hospital in which the Battalion CP was located, before setting up their guns and CP in the town of Neuwied itself.

Towards the end of the month, the Battalion was gently but firmly ousted from the hospital building to make way for an army field hospital that was desirous of making use of the accommodations for the treatment of patients. A large industrial building



It was at Linz, too, that a stepped-up Special Service program was started through the efforts of Ed Donahue. An unused movie-tavern in town was put into use, and a large open air beer garden was opened in the rear of the Battalion area where to the music of the "Toot Sweeters" gallons of local wine and beer were consumed. The batteries came into possession of vast quantities of wine and brandy, and

On the 24th of April, General Burnell of the 52d AA Brigade in a ceremony befitting the occasion presented 19 Bronze Star medals and 4 Purple Hearts to officers and EM of the 863d. Again the Drum and Bugle Corps provided the music and the batteries contributed forces to form an honor guard.

April slid into May. The bold thrusts of the American 1st, 3d, 7th, and 9th Armies were driving over German territory hitherto untouched by invading forces. The Russian forces were stolidly advancing along the length of the eastern front, and the German Wehrmacht was being torn to pieces but still refrained from surrendering. Perhaps they had been beaten into insensibility and



hadn't the faculties for expression. But — wait, unmistakable signs of the end were beginning to appear. Hitler's death was announced; Admiral Doenitz, a lesser figure, took over; the northern flank collapsed as the Nazis in Denmark and Holland surrendered. Still, fighting went on. It seemed inhuman, unexplainable; fighting men of the Allied armies were on edge. Why the useless slaughter? Had the enemy lost his mind completely? He was practically helpless, choked, totally despirited. His leaders were allowing themselves to be captured without a fight. Prisoners were streaming towards the PW cages eagerly.

The universally publicized National Redoubt, that hard center of Nazi resistance, became another myth as American troops penetrated into Salzburg and Innsbruck. Hitler's own retreat at Berchtesgaden had been demolished by 11-ton bombs.

"It's a matter of hours," those who hugged the radios all night confidently proclaimed (for days). At Battalion, the well-marked

situation maps of Sgts. Shakt and Richards were scrutinized for the latest advances.

"How long is a matter of hours," questioned the impatient ones.

"At ease," said someone with authority. "Here it is."

Yes, here it was, the modulated tones of the British announcer whose 9 o'clock dictation broadcasts had become a "must" since early D Days. Yes, here was that voice again, only it was not his regular newscast time:

"Germany agreed to unconditional surrender at 0241 AM today. Military activities ceased at that moment."

There it was — what we had been fighting and waiting for — Peace in Europe! The European war was over. May 7th — another date to be entered in history books.

V-E Day was officially celebrated the next day, a day that coincidentally marked the anniversary of one year's operational activity for the Battalion in Europe.



Laacher See, Germany — Headquarters Battery overnight stop prior to crossing the Rhine.



Easter Church Service — Duren, Germany.





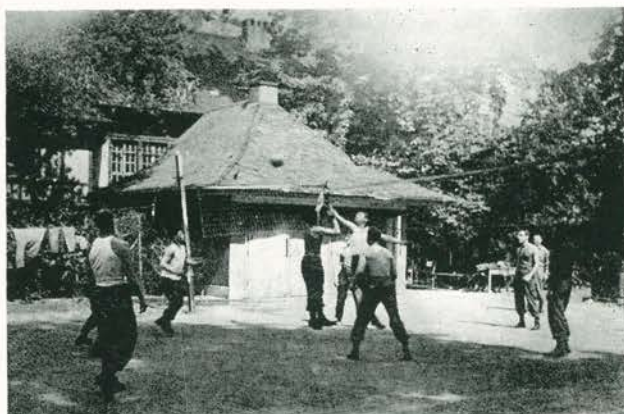
Sorting personal equipment after move. Left to right: Ed Donohue, Pfc. Di Lucci, Tec 5 Farnam, Pfc. Miele.



Bronze Star Presentation — Brigadier General Burnell and aid pinning the award on Pfc. Di Lucci.



Retreat ceremony at Linz, Germany. This building facing the Rhine, housed Battalion officers and Hq Battery personnel.



On volley ball court at Linz; Hq Battery team vs. Battalion officers.



POST V-E DAY

THE END OF the war in Europe and the universal celebration of V-E Day during the first week in May 1945 set in motion a new routine of life on German soil for troops of the 863d. There was a comfortable combination of pleasant quarters, surroundings, passes, furloughs, and military training and duties. Even the distasteful Army tasks such as KP and area policing were reduced to a minimum for Battalion personnel with the acquisition of displaced persons and German workers. Only the elements of suspense and the uncertainty of future events, albeit of a different nature, remained as carry-overs from days of active warfare.

In this change of mood and activity, the Battalion relinquished its primary tactical role and assumed a secondary mission. The 1st of June saw the Battalion enroute to Bad Soden, Germany, to deploy its troops in a ground defense of airfield Y-74. Coincidentally, the AAAIS early warning system was terminated, the OP's were called in, and the gun control room at headquarters was disassembled.

On V-E Day, May 8th, 1945, the batteries staged restrained formal celebrations (these had been going on for several days in anticipation of the officially assigned day). At Battalion, there was a "full course" dinner — officers and enlistd men joining together to do honor to those awarded the certificates of merit.

The cessation of hostilities permitted the inauguration of an Information and Education program. Classrooms were set up at Battalion and personnel of scholastic and practical mind were able to select from a list of subjects taught by qualified instructors; English Grammar (Pfc. Gellman), Mathematics (T/Sgt. Shakt), Business Law

(Sgt. Gise), Radio (Lt. Hughes), Motor Mechanics (Lt. Assad and motor pool assistants).

An accelerated athletics and special services program was made available. Included were sports for every talent and divertisement: baseball, softball, football, swimming, badminton, tennis, volleyball, bars and taverns, battalion stage shows, "beaucoup" movies, USO functions, etc. For the first time in months the entire 863d was assigned to the same mission, permitting these stepped-up pleasurable activities while "sweating out" changes that were occurring throughout the ETO, products of the formidable task of redeployment.

The augmented special services program took on an interesting addition: the Bluebird Rest Centre at Bouillion, Belgium, under the supervision of Capt. Whinston. Here one could swim, row, play tennis, walk along well-trodden trails, cast for trout or merely sit and become sun-tanned on the well-exposed hotel veranda. The Toot Sweeters played for nightly dancing and lunch and dinner in a manner most soothing for heads that were heavy from "too much" the night before.

Geography became more personalized as 863d men went on pass to southern and northern reaches of Europe. To the south there were the IX ADC Rest Center at Chamonix, France, site of Mont Blanc; the Riviera, and Switzerland. To the north were Brussels, Liege, Bouillon, England, and points in between. Transportation to some were via plane; to others by 2½.

Culminating the experiences of the 863d in the States, in the UK, and on the continent and acting as a farewell gift just as some of our men in little groups were start-



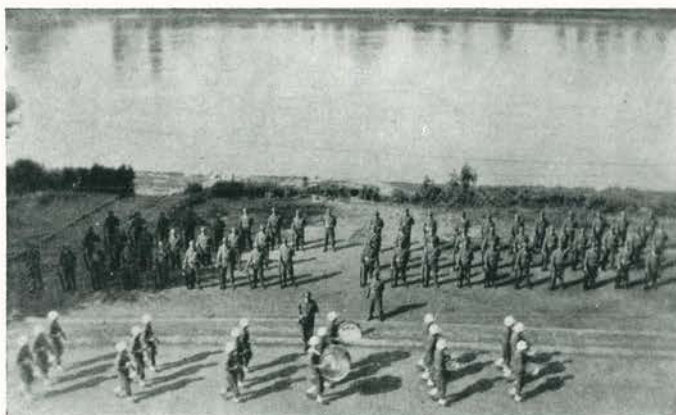
ing to depart in the process of redeployment, was the announcement that this Battalion had been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its "... extraordinary heroism in armed conflict with the enemy from 16 Dec. to 23 Dec. 1944 . . . in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States . . ."

On 4 August 1945 at Cpl. Jesus Rosas Field (B Battery area at Sossenheim, Germany), Brigadier General William L. Richardson reviewed Battalion troops in impressive ceremonies in recognition of the award to the Battalion of this highly coveted citation. Streamers were attached to our banner and distinguished unit badges were awarded to personnel.

The morale of the "Ecce Signum" men soared even higher than its usual high when news of other confirmations were publicized. Those "2 battle stars" — for the Ardennes and for Central Europe — so eagerly

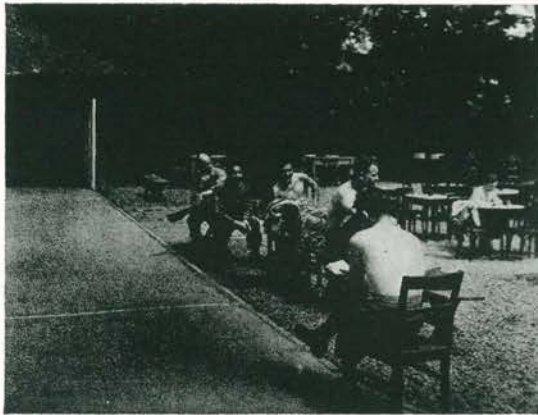
awaited by all in the battalion were credited to us, giving us five in all. Many was the heartbeat that quickened with the news of these additional honors and — increased number of points!

Very shortly thereafter, personal joy mingled with delight at the prospect of quick allied victory in the Pacific. The United States had unleashed a devastating new weapon — the atomic bomb. Its fury had been loosened on Japan with dramatic and empire-shattering effect. Once . . . then once again. . . . The Nipponese with incredible suddenness realized the futility of continuing warfare. Surrender came on the 14th of August 1945. The restrained celebrations of VE Day were mere nothings compared to the gala events at the 863d areas that greeted final peace. Return home was not a phrase any more. It had become a reality.



C Battery and Battalion Band during inspection by IX ADC —
Linz, Germany.

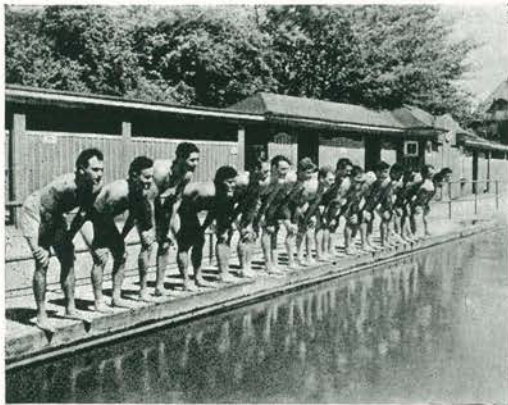




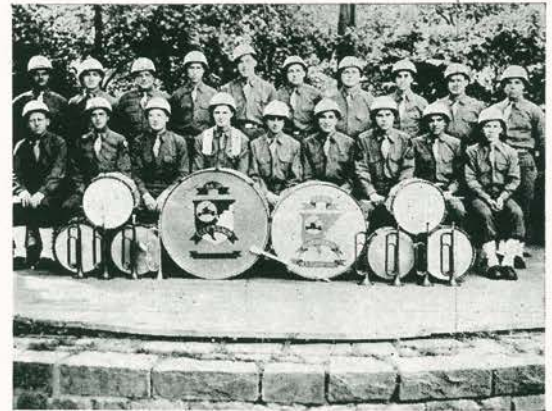
Beer Garden at Linz. Tec 5 Hartley, S/Sgt. Griffin, T/Sgt. Siegel, S/Sgt. Gimler.



C Battery softball team — Linz.



On the starting line at Swimming Pool — Bad Soden, Germany.



863d Band — Left to right, seated — Pulk, Dorsey, Sanford, Carter, Sgt. Perry (Major Domo), Vegliano, Tennant, Haas, Ensign. Standing, left to right—Alu, Evans, Esposito, Stansberry, Wren, Puncoschar, Peterson, Kinser, Lee, Phillips.



Sgt. Gise taking a breather in front of barracks at St. Etienne du Rouvray, France.



A Final Word for the Record . . .

THE 863d, its personnel chiefly composed of 70-79 point men from other battalions of the 9th ADC, left the "Kurhaus" at Bad Soden on 11 November 1945, boarding a train of 49 beaten-up box-cars at Frankfurt East Station, headed for a French port. The train pulled into Le Havre Railhead at 2:00 P.M. on the 13th November, a 52-hour run. Final POE processing took place at Camp Herbert Tarreyton, at Le Havre.

On Friday, 16th November at 8:00 P.M., the Battalion boarded the "India Victory" and left port at noon the next day. On Sunday morning, 25th November, after a stormy but relatively fast trip, the ship anchored in Boston Harbor. Following a short, comfortable train ride, the men were put up at Camp Miles Standish for disposition to separation centers throughout the country.

On Monday, 26 November 1945, the 863d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion was officially inactivated.



APPENDIX





BATTALION OFFICERS



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick 240-29 Forest Drive, Douglaston, Long Island, N. Y.	10 Feb. 41	Activation
Major John Harbachuk Rome, Pa.	22 Mar. 42	Activation
Major William J. Krzton Box 53, Fairchance, Pa.	7 Jul. 42	11 Nov. 43
Capt. James O. Crawford 7211 66th Place, Ridgewood, Brooklyn 27, N. Y.	19 Dec. 40	16 Jan. 44
Capt. Joseph T. Farrell 1315 Rockland Street, Philadelphia, Pa.	11 Feb. 42	Activation
Capt. Eugene J. Gadbois 83 Harrison Street, Manchester, N. H.		Activation
Capt. Remy B. Lichtenberg The Olympic Club, 525 Post Street, San Francisco, Calif.	1 Jul. 42	Activation
Capt. Henry C. Pendzick 88 Temple Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.	13 Jun. 41	Activation
Capt. Robert H. Thurmond, Jr. 2611 Myrtle Street, Dallas, Texas	3 Nov. 41	Activation
Capt. Felix H. Vann 179 Hillside Avenue, Englewood, N. J.	15 Jul. 42	13 Feb. 44
Capt. T. W. Wade Kilgore, Texas		2 Jul. 43
Capt. Alfred L. Whinston 1350 Fulton Avenue, New York 56, N. Y.	1 Jan. 41	Activation
Capt. James F. Roe 35-62 167th Street, Flushing, Long Island, N. Y.	23 Jun. 42	3 Aug. 43
Capt. Warren G. Tyson, Jr. Box 24, Wendell, North Carolina	18 Apr. 42	Activation
Chaplain (Capt.) Charles B. McConnell Church Street, Ashville, N. C.	10 Jun. 42	10 Nov. 44
Capt. Henry DaVega, Jr. 1532 E. Moorhead Street, Charlotte, N. C.	11 Jun. 42	5 Feb. 43
1st Lt. Alexander Assad 523 Johnson Avenue, Portage, Pa.	18 Jul. 42	Activation
1st Lt. James C. Ball P.O. Box No. 444, Brady, Neb.	14 Jul. 42	Activation
1st Lt. Edward J. Berry 11 Hills Street, North Randolph, Mass.	16 Sep. 40	1 Jan. 44
1st Lt. Marion J. Blanchfield 722 East Main Street, Puyallup, Wash.	10 Mar. 42	Activation

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<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
1st Lt. Sol N. Busch 834 South 14th Street, Newark, N. J.	24 Jan. 41	Activation
1st Lt. Robert H. Donaldson 72 Montclair Avenue, West View, Pittsburgh, Pa.	6 Mar. 42	Activation
1st Lt. Walter S. Griscom, Jr. 19 Willard Street, Cambridge, Mass.	4 Jan. 41	Activation
1st Lt. Richard J. Hallinan 35-27 166th Street, Flushing, Long Island, N. Y.	24 Jun. 42	3 Aug. 43
1st Lt. John H. Heiberg 2422 East 74th Street, Chicago, Ill.	5 Aug. 41	Activation
1st Lt. Lawrence A. Jozwiak Route No. 4, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.	22 Jul. 41	Activation
1st Lt. Warren M. Rubin 50 Park Vale Avenue, Allston, Mass.	6 Jan. 42	Activation
1st Lt. Gene T. Semple 1009 Ballantyne Road, Syracuse, N. Y.	21 Feb. 41	Activation
1st Lt. William J. Simmons 244 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.	10 Feb. 41	Activation
1st Lt. Eugene M. Batza 504 Columbus Avenue, N.W., Canton, Ohio	6 Mar. 42	Activation
1st Lt. Lilburn R. Hall Sharon Grove, Ky.	12 Sep. 41	Activation
1st Lt. James J. Hughes 165 Brunswick Avenue, Trenton, N. J.	27 Jan. 41	9 Jun. 43
1st Lt. John T. Lloyd 115 Sycamore Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.	7 Oct. 42	11 Dec. 43
1st Lt. Renny R. McCafferty 1422 Taylor Street, Amarillo, Texas	7 Jan. 43	11 Jul. 44
1st Lt. Ted S. Potter 413 West Evans Street, Florence, S. C.	Oct. 41	Activation
1st Lt. Robert D. Stone Marathon, N. Y.	13 Aug. 41	Activation
1st Lt. Stanley W. Swiderski 59 Magnolia Avenue, Cambridge, Mass.	24 Feb. 41	Activation
1st Lt. James M. Hatch 1500 Detroit Street, Denver, Colo.	28 May 40	17 Sep. 44
1st Lt. James M. Hutchison R. D. West Grave, Pa.	1 Feb. 42	20 Jan. 45
CWO Frank Gontarski 1610 Washburn Street, Scranton, Pa.	28 Feb. 41	Activation
CWO John J. O'Connell "Road's End," Route No. 1, Wilmington, Del.	Sep. 40	1 Feb. 44
2nd Lt. Joseph Jacobs 46 Dakota Street, Dorchester 24, Mass.	7 Jun. 42	8 Feb. 44
2d Lt. Alexander W. G. Kenny 130 Liberty Avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y.	17 Dec. 42	27 Mar. 45



ROSTER



Hq. Battery

CAPT. JOSEPH T. FARRELL, CAC
Commanding Officer

<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Charles E. Adams, Pfc., 113 First St., Fayetteville, N. C.	27 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43
Matthew D. Adamson, Tec 5, c/o Merlin Motor Co., Admiral Wilson Blvd., Camden, N. J.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Thomas J. Ashton, Pfc., 127 N. Pelham St., Rhinelander, Wis.	28 Aug. 42	2 Jun. 43
Gilbert W. Bachman, Tec 5, 34 Tamaqua St., Audenreid, Pa.	12 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Joseph H. Bardon, Pfc., Granby Rd., Chicopee Falls, Mass.	9 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Leslie D. Baugh, Tec 5, 2346 Radcliffe St., Klamath Falls, Ore.	28 May 43	10 Feb. 44
John Botte, Tec 5, 538 Orange Ave., West Haven, Conn.	17 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Peter Bradauskas, Tec 5, 6731 Memorial Ave., Detroit, Mich.	26 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Wiley R. Bryant, Pfc., Rt. 1, Mize, Miss.	26 Aug. 42	12 Feb. 44
John Callaghan, Tec 4, 1020 E. 2 St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	25 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
Thomas F. Cleary, Tec 5, 976 First Ave., West Haven, Conn.	17 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Clifton M. Coen, S/Sgt., 1434 West "B," Torrington, Wyo.	9 Jan. 42	17 Jun. 43
Roger W. Collins, Cpl., 35 Summer St., Andover, Mass.	15 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Otis F. Connelly, Pfc., North, S. C.	18 Oct. 41	24 May 43
Roy L. Connor, Cpl., 205 N. Adkin St., Kinston, N. C.	14 Jan. 41	4 Nov. 43
Willie L. Crain, Pfc., Clara and Ann Sts., Milton, Fla.	28 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Harold H. Cowin, S/Sgt., 14 Miles Standish Rd., Schenectady, N. Y.	9 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Robert M. Daugherty, T/Sgt., 545 W. Walnut St., Lancaster, Pa.	3 Sep. 40	2 Jun. 43
Edward P. Donohue, Pvt., 1066 Lexington Ave., New York City	24 Jan. 41	15 Aug. 43
James H. Douthett, Pvt., 2540 Detroit Ave., Toledo, Ohio	22 Sep. 43	13 Mar. 45
Henry G. Estock, T/Sgt., 50 Palmer Rd., Yonkers, N. Y.	22 Sep. 42	2 Jun. 43
Carlton W. Elliott, Pfc., Rt. 1, Grover, N. C.	22 Jul. 43	24 Jun. 44
Jay K. Evans, Pfc., 1362 Whitman Ave., Camden, N. J.	28 Apr. 43	23 Jun. 44
David L. Farnam, Tec 5, 6211 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio	28 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Rudolph C. Fischer, Pfc., 1408 N. Lawndale Ave., Chicago, Ill.	31 May 43	10 Feb. 44
Donald W. Follansbee, Tec 4, Hotel Lenox, N.W. 7th Ave., 34th St., Miami, Fla.	5 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Maxie H. Fowler, Pfc., Cadiz, Ky.	17 Dec. 42	13 Mar. 45
Vernon L. Francis, Pfc., Rt. No. 1, Houston, Ohio	14 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44

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<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Clarence J. Gerken, Pfc., 109 S. Maple St., Mt. Prospect, Ill.	15 Jan. 42	15 Aug. 44
Gordon C. Germany, Pfc., Checker Tavern Rd., RFD No. 1, Gasport, N. Y.	26 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
Benjamin Gise, Tec 4, 665 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.	15 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Archie D. Goorigian, Pfc., 152 Church St., Whitinsville, Mass.	30 Aug. 43	24 Jun. 44
Charles E. Griffin, S/Sgt., 1430 Midland Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.	6 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Robert W. Hadley, Sgt., 72 Dunklee St., Concord, N. H.	18 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Ernest E. Heisey, 1/Sgt., 1106 Cumberland St., Lebanon, Pa.	17 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Michael J. Hoffmann, Pfc., 1313 Gilham St., Philadelphia, Pa.	16 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Raymond F. Hoffman, Tec 5, RD No. 1, Halifax, Pa.	21 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
Dewey S. Holmes, Tec 4, Ellijay, Ga.	22 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
William C. Hutt, Jr., T/Sgt., 1602 Langston Ave., Atlanta, Ga.	4 Apr. 41	2 Jun. 43
Fred B. Israel, Cpl., 2539 College Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.	7 Nov. 42	19 Aug. 43
Milton N. Katz, Pfc., 1770 Davidson Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	12 Jul. 43	23 Jun. 44
Marell L. Kimbril, Pfc., Route No. 1, Gadsden, Ala.	25 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43
Gustave H. Kisro, Tec 5, Engadine, Mich.	11 Sep. 42	19 Nov. 44
Casimer A. Kotsko, Cpl., 52 Lower Broadway, Nanticoke, Pa.	17 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Edward G. Krug, Pfc., 510 S. Washington Ave., Dunellen, N. J.	22 Jun. 43	1 Feb. 45
Joseph D. Lally, T/Sgt., 37 Wilson Ave., Belmont, Mass.	20 Nov. 40	2 Jun. 43
Benjamin E. Levine, Tec 5, 392 Washington Ave., West Haven, Conn.	17 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Elias Lindner, Pfc., 4099 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	21 Aug. 42	20 Feb. 45
Raphael Ludlow, Tec 5, Gen. Del, Woodbury, Tenn.	25 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43
George J. Malyszka, Tec 5, 1843 N. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.	12 Jan. 42	12 Feb. 44
Edward A. Maroney, Cpl. 132 Richards St., West Haven, Conn.	17 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Carlo C. Mattiola, Sgt., 122 2nd St., Bridgeport, Pa.	17 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Thomas W. Mattox, Pfc., 1310 Shelby St., Indianapolis, Ind.	9 Jan. 42	12 Feb. 44
Harry J. McDonald, T/Sgt., 1905 E. Monmouth St., Philadelphia, Pa.	16 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Thomas B. McLaughlin, Cpl., 300 Bloomington Ave., Curwensville, Pa.	16 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Herbert L. Messerly, Pfc., 219 S. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Lancaster, Ohio	6 Jul. 43	23 Jun. 44
James R. Midkiff, Tec 4, Cunard, W. Va.	29 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Anthony A. Miele, Tec 5, 785 Jay St., Rochester, N. Y.	13 Feb. 43	15 Aug. 44
Andrew Miller, Pfc., Clemons, Ky.	6 Dec. 39	23 Jun. 44
John M. Mingarell, Tec 5, 171 Trowbridge St., Buffalo, N. Y.	30 Oct. 42	2 Jun. 43
Joseph C. Miron, Jr., Tec 5, 80 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass.	23 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Euclid L. Mobbs, Tec 5, Rt. 1, Gaylesville, Ala.	25 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43
Charles E. Morlock, Jr., Cpl., 3800 W. Chestnut St., Philadelphia 4, Pa.	27 Nov. 42	27 May 43
Joseph Morris, Pvt., 332 S. Ninth Ave., Scranton, Pa.	16 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
William C. Morrison, Tec 5, 2113 Lee St., S. Philadelphia, Pa.	9 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Jesse F. Neely, Pfc., Rt. No. 1, Greenway, Ark.	6 Aug. 41	14 Sep. 43
Oscar P. Ney, Cpl., 3721 N. Damen Ave., Chicago, Ill.	26 Jun. 43	23 Jun. 44



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Vernon P. Owens, Tec 5, Route 1, Oliver Branch, Miss.	25 Aug. 41	2 Jun. 43
James A. Palmer, Pfc., 20 Atkinson St., Rochester, N. Y.	4 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Chester Parrini, Pvt., 38 Texas St., Rochester, N. Y.	13 Feb. 43	15 Aug. 44
Wilbur W. Partlo, Tec 5, Rt. 2, Akron, Mich.	25 Jun. 43	23 Jun. 44
Henry J. Pasternak, Cpl., 5 Concord St., Buffalo, N. Y.	8 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Oliver R. Perry, Tec 4, Usfet (Main), Hq. Sig. O., APO 757, c/o P.M., N. Y.	1 Jun. 43	5 Mar. 42
Ross C. Phillips, Jr., Tec 5, 969 Palm Ave., Fresno, Calif.	29 Jul. 43	10 Feb. 44
Raymond F. Puncoschar, Pfc., 432 Fulton St., St. Paul, Minn.	29 Jun. 43	10 Feb. 44
Gordon Regan, Tec 5, 134 S. Everett Ave., Scranton, Pa.	16 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Van Ness Richards, T/Sgt., 134 E. 60th St., New York, N. Y.	23 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
Charles R. Rollins, Tec 5, R.R. 1, Lawrenceburg, Ind.	23 Apr. 43	7 Sep. 44
Allan W. Ruggles, Tec 5, 22 Wing St., Glens Falls, N. Y.	12 Aug. 43	10 Feb. 44
Louis R. Salaman, Tec 5, 21 Garden Ave., Woodbridge, N. J.	22 Jun. 43	13 Feb. 45
Clayton P. Sanford, Pfc., 720 Clark St., Williard, Ohio	25 Feb. 43	7 Sep. 44
Lawrence E. Scanlon, Tec 5, 18 Crouch St., New London, Conn.	3 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Elmer G. Schmidt, Tec 4, 1408 Swinney St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.	19 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
Mathew P. Schmidt, Jr., Pfc., 3457 Military, Detroit, Mich.	23 Feb. 42	7 Sep. 44
William F. Sckupakus, Tec 5, 314 Laurel Ave., Cheltenham, Pa.	7 May 42	12 Feb. 44
Peter J. Seger, Pfc., 9833 Winston Ave., Chicago, Ill.	23 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43
Leonard Y. Shakt, T/Sgt., 1147 Wheeler Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	19 Jun. 42	9 Jan. 44
Sydney H. Siegel, T/Sgt., 3583 East 118th St., Cleveland, Ohio	18 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
Gerry U. Stephens, Sgt., 904 Avon Pl., Chattanooga, Tenn.	16 Jul. 43	10 Feb. 44
Joseph A. Stimpff, Tec 4, RFD No. 1, Slatington, Pa.	6 May 42	10 Jan. 44
Stephen J. Stytyer, Tec 5, RD No. 4, Uniontown, Pa.	7 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Arvil Thomas, Pvt., General Delivery, Daingerfield, Texas	8 Jul. 41	2 Jun. 43
William I. Thomas, S/Sgt., Little Elms, Texas	5 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43
Harold A. Thompson, M/Sgt. 3631 Mayfield Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio	6 Jun. 42	2 Jun. 43
Daniel S. Townsend, Jr., Pvt., 108 Park Pl., Charlottesville, Va.	4 Oct. 43	23 Jun. 44
Loys F. Ussery, Tec 5, Box 432, Munday, Texas	21 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Louis J. Vitali, Tec 5, 37 Sixth St., Derby, Conn.	20 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Francis O. Walsh, Tec 5, 341 Belmont St., Fall River, Mass.	15 Apr. 43	16 Feb. 45
Norman J. Waugh, Cpl., 551 West Main St., Danville, Va.	24 Jun. 42	23 Jun. 44
Warren R. Weir, Pfc., 827 Coast Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.	21 Sep. 43	25 Jan. 44
John R. Weisenberger, Tec 5, RR 1, Miamisburg, Ohio	18 Jan. 43	19 Jun. 44
Herman C. White, Cpl., 1657 Manchester Rd., Akron, Ohio	27 May 42	3 Jun. 43
Elmer E. Williams, Tec 5, 90 Quaker Rd., Barker, N. Y.	23 Apr. 41	1 Jun. 43
Lewis A. Wooten, Jr., Pfc., 4245 Melrose Ave., Jacksonville, Fla.	7 May 43	15 Aug. 44
Basil E. Zimmerman, Pfc., 2422 South Santa Anita, Arcadia, Calif.	11 Jan. 43	10 Sep. 44



STAFF OFFICERS



Seated, left to right: Major Krzton, Lieutenant Colonel Warrick, Major Harbachuk. Standing, left to right: CWO Gontarski, Lt. Kenney, Lt. Hatch, Lt. Batza, Capt. Farrell (Hq. Btry.), Capt. (Chaplain) McConnell, Capt. Tyson, Capt. Lichtenberg, Lt. Assad.

INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONS SECTION



Seated, left to right: Sgt. Gise, Lt. Kenney, Cpl. Waugh, Major Harbachuk, Sgt. Cowin, Capt. Tyson, Sgt. Hadley. Standing, left to right: T/Sgt. Estock, T/Sgt. Shakt.

S-1 AND PERSONNEL SECTION



Seated, left to right: M/Sgt. Thompson, T/Sgt. McMahon, Lt. Batza, Sgt. Callaghan, CWO Gontarski, Cpl. King, T/Sgt. Lally. Standing, left to right: Tec 5 Levine, Cpl. Irwin, Cpl. Donachy, Cpl. Fischer.



COMMUNICATIONS



Front row: T/Sgt. Siegel, Lt. Hughes, T/Sgt. Dougherty. Rear row: Sgt. Perry, Tec 5 Follanshee, Tec 5 Miron, Tec 5 Skupakas, Pfc. Collins, Sgt. Midkiff.

MOTOR POOL



Front row, left to right: Pfc. A. Thomas, Tec 5 Bachman, Tec 5 Regan, Tec 5 Scanlan, Pfc. Walsh, Pfc. Palmer, Pfc. Connelly. Middle row, left to right: Pfc. Weir, Tec 4 Schmidt, Tec 4 Stimpfl, Lt. Assad, Tec 5 Weisenberger, Pfc. Frances, Tec 5 Ussery. Standing, left to right: Pfc. Owens, Tec 5 Vitale, Pfc. Adams, Cpl. Pasternack, Pfc. Krug, Pfc. Germany, Tec 5 Mobbs, Pfc. Nealy, Tec 5 R. Hoffman, Pfc. Seger.

COOKS



Left to right: Tec 5 Kisro, Tec 5 Rollins, Tec 4 Holmes, S/Sgt. Griffin, Pfc. Baugh, Pfc. Bardon, Pfc. M. Hoffman.



MEDICAL DETACHMENT



Front row, left to right: Pfc. Cuiuli, Tec 3 McDonald, Tec 5 Marino, Pfc. Akers, Pfc. Roble. Standing, left to right: Capt. Vann, S/Sgt. Gimler, Tec 5 Cardinale, Pfc. Begleiter, Tec 5 Moeller, Tec 4 Mauro, Tec 5 Calumet, Pfc. Lushko, Tec 3 Zagar, Tec 4 Matetich, Lt. Hatch.

HEADQUARTERS SECTION



Top row, left to right: Pfc. Puncocar, S/Sgt. Coen, 1/Sgt. Heisey, T/Sgt. McDonald, Pfc. M. Hoffman. Middle row left to right: Tec 5 Phillips, Pfc. Evans, Pfc. Malyszka, Pfc. Baugh, S/Sgt. Griffin, Tec 5 Kisro, Pfc. Baugh, Tec 4 Holmes. Bottom row, left to right: Tec 5 Morrison, Pfc. Goorigian, Pfc. Zimmerman, Pfc. Miele, Pfc. Ashton, Tec 5 Rollins, Tec 5 Farnam.



SUPPLY SECTION



Seated, left to right: Cpl. Stephens, Sgt. Mattiola, T/Sgt. Hutt, Capt. Lichtenberg, S/Sgt. W. Thomas, Cpl. Maroney.
Standing, left to right: Pfc. Partlo, Pfc. Gerken, Pfc. Morris, Pfc. Kimbril, Tec 5 Kotsko, Pfc. Crain.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY



Kneeling, left to right: Rollins, Holmes, Follansbee, Kisro, Farnam, Regan, Morrison, Capt. Farrell, Lt. Assad, Goorigian, Owens, Mingarell, Bachman, Bradauskas. Seated, left to right: Miron, Gise, Phillips, Adams, McLaughlin, Ruggles, Adamson, Ashton, Griffin, Coen, McDonald, Shakt, Fowler, Weisenberger, A. Thomas. Standing, left to right: Thompson, Ussery, R. Hoffman, Bardon, Hadley, Krug, Fischer, Kimbril, Miele, Vitale, Walsh, Frances, Collins, Levine, Pasternack, Waugh, Cowin. Rear row, left to right: Lindner, Nealy, Mobbs, Germany, Skcupakas, Weir, Maroney, Connelly, Palmer, Scanlan, Lally, Estock, Seger, Stimpfl, Schmidt, Heisey.



ROSTER



Battery A

CAPT. ALFRED L. WHINSTON, CAC
Commanding Officer

1ST LT. JAMES M. HUTCHISON, CAC
Executive Officer

Name and Address

	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Robert D. Afflebach, Cpl., 34 W. Cottage St., Millersville, Pa.	9 Jan. 42	Activation
Albert B. Allen, Tec 4, 908 Longfield Ave., Louisville, Ky.	21 Aug. 42	Activation
Mike F. Amenti, Pfc., 177 Peelor St., Johnstown, Pa.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
John C. Andalora, Pfc., 43 Rochester St., Warsaw, N. Y.	16 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
James A. Arpelar, Pfc., Star Route, Haywood, Okla.	10 Feb. 42	Activation
Richard E. Barber, Pfc., G-5154 Fenton Rd., Flint 7, Mich.	18 Dec. 42	Activation
Loren A. Bergo, Cpl., Route 1, Montevideo (Chippewa), Minn.	21 Jun. 43	15 Aug. 44
Tony B. Bianco, Tec 5, 365 East Olive St., Baldwin Park, Calif.	28 Oct. 41	Activation
Tony M. Bianco, Tec 5, 438 Gregory Ave., Passaic, N. J.	22 Feb. 43	Activation
Earl C. Birtle, Pfc., 142 Clinton St., Johnstown, Pa.	25 Nov. 41	Activation
Kenneth E. Boehmke, Pfc., Crivitz, Wis.	19 Dec. 42	Activation
John R. Boscki, Pfc., 631 Washington St., South Beloit, Ill.	9 Oct. 43	15 Feb. 45
Charlie E. Bradley, Pvt., 404 West Arch St., Lancaster, Pa.	17 Aug. 42	10 Dec. 43
Thomas J. Breen, Tec 5, 68 Pearl St., Metuchen, N. J.	16 Dec. 42	Activation
Harlan Brown, Tec 4, Route 2, Paris, Ky.	14 Jul. 41	Activation
Albert E. Burke, Pvt., 103 Laurel Ave., Gwinhurst, Wilmington, Del.	16 Feb. 43	15 Feb. 45
Charlie R. Bush, Pfc., Box 106, Marianna, Fla.	3 Mar. 43	15 Feb. 45
Marion E. Buss, Pfc., RFD, Arroyo Grande, Calif.	13 Nov. 41	Activation
Victor V. Caro, Pfc., 203 Arcadia St., Kalamazoo, Mich.	1 Mar. 43	10 Dec. 43
Robert H. Carr, Cpl., Route 1, Silver Point, Tenn.	17 Jul. 42	Activation
Salvatore M. Cerreta, Pfc., 103 River St., New Rochelle, N. Y.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Paul N. Chance, Pvt., 1520 Main St., Lubbock, Texas	5 Nov. 41	Activation
Shelton C. Clark, Pfc., Route 2, Kinston, Ala.	28 Nov. 41	Activation
William F. Clifford, Pvt., 13 Owahn Place, Buffalo, N. Y.	30 Oct. 42	Activation
Robert L. Coe, Cpl., Route 6, Shrub Oak, N. Y.	9 Jan. 42	Activation
Samuel Cohen, Pvt., Route 5, Malvern, Ark.	16 Dec. 42	Activation
Elvin Combs, Tec 5, Route 1, Box 180, Berea, Ky.	29 Aug. 42	Activation
Lester C. Combs, Pfc., 519 East 13th St., Cincinnati, Ohio	18 Aug. 42	Activation



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Edward P. Connelly, Tec 5, Wingdale, N. Y.	14 Dec. 42	Activation
Cleon G. Conway, Pvt., Station "B," Charleston, W. Va.	24 Oct. 41	10 Dec. 43
Robert A. Davis, S/Sgt., 1942 Channing Way, Berkeley, Calif.	12 Feb. 42	Activation
Harry J. DeBuono, Cpl., 6654 Van Dyke St., Philadelphia, Pa.	13 Jan. 43	15 Aug. 44
Nicholas M. DeVitt, Pfc., 93 S. Maine St., Lambertsville, N. J.	15 Jul. 42	Activation
Alexander F. DiPietro, Cpl., 620 Rayden St., Camden, N. J.	27 Nov. 42	Activation
Alois J. Dolezal, Jr., Sgt., 3501 S. Hazel Court, Denver 10, Colo.	2 Dec. 41	Activation
Press Eatmon, Tec 5, Route 6, Paragould, Ark.	29 Jan. 42	Activation
Elton G. Eidson, Pfc., 4341 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.	5 Feb. 43	Activation
Pete G. Ferrari, Sgt., 226 Morton Ave., Albany, N. Y.	17 Jan. 42	12 Feb. 44
William H. Finegold, Pfc., 11340 Dexter, Detroit, Mich.	6 Apr. 44	15 Feb. 45
Orville E. Finley, Pvt., 107 S.W. 24, Oklahoma City, Okla.	3 Dec. 42	15 Feb. 45
Carroll L. Fletcher, Pfc., Rt. 7, Box 411, Salem, Ore.	9 Apr. 42	16 Nov. 44
Ernest C. Foreman, Pfc., Vanceburg, Ky.	18 Aug. 42	Activation
Rosaire J. Fortier, Pfc., Ballard Hill, Lancaster, Mass.	15 Feb. 43	Activation
Russell J. Fout, Pvt., 1231 N. 19th St., Birmingham, Ala.	12 Nov. 40	15 Jun. 44
John Frias, Jr., Pvt., 1205 Davol St., Fall River, Mass.	15 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Leo E. Gelinas, Pvt., 22 Aldrich St., Woonsocket, R. I.	9 Oct. 42	Activation
Seymour Gellman, Pfc., 923 Walton Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	8 Sep. 42	12 Feb. 44
Thomas R. Geltner, Pfc., 388 Busti Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.	19 Jan. 44	13 Mar. 45
Walter H. Gerow, Jr., Pfc., White Lake, N. Y.	23 Jan. 43	12 Feb. 44
Harold R. Gifford, Pvt., RD No. 1, Brookville, Pa.	13 Feb. 42	15 Feb. 45
Henry Gissel, Pfc., 174th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	12 Aug. 43	19 Mar. 44
Maurice W. Godbout, Pfc., 679 Valley St., Manchester, N. H.	24 Aug. 42	Activation
Alvin O. Godwin, Jr., Pfc., 1511 W. Gregory St., Pensacola, Fla.	18 Jun. 43	10 Feb. 44
Chester Goodwin, Pfc., Lorado, W. Va.	26 Jul. 43	13 Feb. 44
Kermit H. Goodwin, Pfc., Route 1, Blaney, S. C.	15 Aug. 42	Activation
Robert E. Goss, Pfc., RD No. 3, Lewistown, Pa.	1 Sep. 42	Activation
George H. Grein, Pfc., Rt. No. 1, Seguin, Texas	24 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
George Grekoff, Pfc., RFD No. 3, Charles City, Iowa	16 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Harry E. Hahn, Tec 5, 4616 Pechin St., Philadelphia, Pa.	11 Jul. 42	Activation
Walter C. Hall, Pvt., Rt. 2, Box 4, Conover, N. C.	29 Aug. 42	15 Feb. 45
Kenneth G. Hansen, Pvt., 2707 E. Locust St., Omaha, Nebr.	7 Jun. 43	15 Feb. 45
George C. Harris, Pvt., 210 N. 5th St., Hopewell, Va.	14 Jul. 42	Activation
Aubrey F. Harvey, Pfc., Abington, Va.	23 Dec. 42	Activation
John P. Hayes, S/Sgt., 14148 Superior Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio	19 Nov. 41	Activation
William R. Hayhurst, Pfc., McWhorter, W. Va.	15 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Merle E. Heath, Pfc., R.R. No. 1, Leonidas, Mich.	21 Oct. 41	Activation
Ernest F. Hellings, Pfc., 333 Walnut St., Bristol, Pa.	1 Dec. 42	Activation
John C. Hicks, Jr., Tec 5, 105 Mary St., Bristol, Va.	28 Aug. 42	Activation
Ralph E. Holt, Pfc., 408 McKee St., Greeneville, Tenn.	13 Mar. 42	Activation



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
William R. Honeycutt, Pfc., Rt. No. 1, Wendell, N. C.	29 Jan. 43	Activation
Roy T. Hopkins, Pfc., 1220 E. 20th Ave., Denver, Colo.	15 Jul. 42	Activation
Erschine Horne, Sgt., 42 Francis St., Worcester, Mass.	29 Jun. 42	Activation
Robert J. Horton, Sgt., Kissing Bower Rd., Augusta, Ga.	18 Nov. 41	Activation
John J. Hughes, Pvt., 197 Winfield Ave., Jersey City, N. J.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Jiles H. Hunter, Tec 5, 1403 E. Jackson St., Bloomington, Ill.	18 Mar. 42	Activation
James W. Jackson, Cpl., Box 325, Mount Holly, N. C.	18 Aug. 42	Activation
Milton H. Johnson, Tec 5, Bolivia, N. C.	14 Dec. 42	Activation
Kenneth L. Johnston, Pfc., Sanish, N. D.	11 Feb. 42	Activation
Hunter C. Jones, Pfc., Woodville, Miss.	18 Sep. 42	Activation
Charles M. Kennedy, Pfc., 1517 Montpelier St., Baltimore, Md.	25 Nov. 42	Activation
John J. Kenny, Pvt., 1 Arden St., New York, N. Y.	22 Dec. 42	Activation
Theron S. Kent, Pfc., 1186 Center St., Salem, Ore.	11 Aug. 43	10 Feb. 44
Charles J. Kiefer, Tec 5, 6801 West Beloit Rd., West Allis, Wis.	4 Feb. 42	15 Feb. 45
Carl J. Knapke, Pfc., East North St., Coldwater, Ohio	13 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Paul I. Knight, Pfc., 1011 Elm St., Gaffney, S. C.	12 Aug. 42	Activation
J. N. Knight, Pfc., Route 2, Box 8, Kountze, Texas	11 Feb. 41	20 Feb. 45
Stephen J. Koval, T/Sgt., 4023 Valley Rd., Cleveland, Ohio	9 Feb. 39	15 Feb. 45
Abraham Krieger, Pfc., 1025 Bryant Ave., New York, N. Y.	9 Nov. 42	12 Feb. 44
Frank T. Krull, Jr., Pvt., 407 Chestnut St., Johnstown, Pa.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Francis J. Lawrence, Sgt., 990 River St., Hyde Park, Mass.	6 Oct. 42	20 Feb. 45
Edward F. Lehman, Pvt., 5603 Curtis Ave., Cleveland, Ohio	23 Jun. 42	10 Dec. 43
James R. Leslie, Pvt., 6639 Leeds St., Philadelphia, Pa.	16 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Raymond J. Luszczyk, Cpl., 1048 Broadway, Bayonne, N. J.	15 Dec. 42	Activation
Charles W. Lynn, Pvt., 807 Second Ave., Brackenridge, Pa.	4 Feb. 42	Activation
John R. Mackenzie, Pvt., 34 Worthington St., Roxbury, Mass.	16 Sep. 40	9 Nov. 44
Kermit E. Manchester, Tec 3, 135 Prospect St., Gouverneur, N. Y.	23 Dec. 42	Activation
William D. Matson, Pfc., North Bend, Ore.	6 Feb. 42	Activation
Edward Matzko, Pfc., 49 Briggs Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Jerome L. McMahon, T/Sgt., 11 Rich Hill, Oil City, Pa.	26 Dec. 42	Activation
Joseph M. Mihal, Tec 5, 29 Haendel St., Binghamton, N. Y.	14 Mar. 42	12 Feb. 44
Henry E. Miles, Pfc., Route 2, Knoxville, Tenn.	13 Aug. 42	Activation
Andrew Mley, Cpl., 503 Duwell St., Johnstown, Pa.	15 Aug. 42	Activation
John Mlinarcik, Pfc., 1316 Porterfield St., Pittsburgh, Pa.	9 Jun. 42	Activation
George A. Moore, Pfc., Box 201, Loraine, Texas	3 Feb. 43	28 Jun. 43
Reyes Moquino, Pfc., Santo Domingo Pueblo, N. Mex.	30 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Harold Moses, Pfc., 2135 Wallace Ave., New York, N. Y.	18 Dec. 42	Activation
Armando J. Norzagaray, Pfc., 400 W. 26th St., Tucson, Ariz.	30 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Daniel J. O'Connell, Pfc., 55 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont, N. Y.	23 Nov. 42	Activation
Pedro V. Olvera, Pvt., Gen. Del., Thrall, Texas	3 Dec. 41	24 Jun. 44



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Edgar Parks, Pfc., Dallas, Ga.	24 Feb. 42	Activation
Francis J. Pepka, Pvt., 16 Stefaniak Ave., Webster, Mass.	23 Nov. 42	Activation
Frank G. Perez, Pvt., 1836 S. 9th Ave., Tucson, Ariz.	30 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Harold W. Peters, Pvt., 517 E. 7th St., Hastings, Minn.	17 Jun. 43	13 Feb. 44
Ludwig J. Petersen, Cpl., Osseo, Minn.	29 Jan. 42	Activation
Dalton P. Pettit, Cpl., Route 3, Dis Ark, Arkansas	17 Nov. 41	Activation
John I. Phenix, Pfc., 6 Jenness Rd., Brookline, Mass.	6 Aug. 43	10 Feb. 44
Albert Pietraallo, Pfc., 154 Main St., Westerly, R. I.	23 Nov. 42	Activation
Joseph L. Popp, Cpl., 478 Good St., Enhaut, Pa.	21 Nov. 41	Activation
George H. Pulk, Jr., 16711 Murray Hill, Detroit, Mich.	22 Jan. 43	12 Feb. 44
Henry D. Ray, 1st Sgt., Tusten St., Elberton, Ga.	14 Sep. 40	Activation
Samuel Reigrod, Pfc., 311 S. 5th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	17 Oct. 42	Activation
Johnnie P. Renfroe, Pfc., Gen. Del., Flora, Miss.	23 Sep. 40	15 Feb. 45
Philip S. Ribaldo, Sgt., 311 Mountain Rd., Union City, N. J.	5 Feb. 42	Activation
Leroy J. Rhodes, Cpl., 1339 Clay St., McKeesport, Pa.	14 Jul. 42	Activation
Harold E. Robinson, Pfc., Rt. No. 4, Memphis, Mo.	23 Jan. 42	Activation
James Royce, Tec 4, Pontotoc, Miss.	27 Nov. 41	Activation
Orval L. Sanger, Cpl., Route 1, Gibbon, Nebr.	13 Jul. 42	Activation
John Savarino, Pvt., 37-12 59th St., Woodside, N. Y.	11 Aug. 43	10 Feb. 44
Gordon C. Server, Cpl., 57 Branford St., Manchester, Conn.	23 Nov. 42	Activation
Nicholas F. Seymour, Pfc., 3 South St., Marlboro, Mass.	17 Nov. 42	Activation
Verdum W. Shaffer, Tec 5, 55 E. Franklin St., Hagerstown, Md.	23 Dec. 42	Activation
Louis E. Shiver, Pvt., 1137 Laurel St., Quincy, Fla.	8 Jan. 42	Activation
Louis Silberberg, Tec 5, 88-90 Ave. D, New York, N. Y.	2 Dec. 42	Activation
Vincenzo Simone, Tec 5, 17 Wilson St., West Warwick, R. I.	22 Dec. 42	Activation
Erwin E. Singleton, S/Sgt., 301 W. Warren St., Shelby, N. C.	16 Sep. 40	Activation
Clarence J. Skrede, Cpl., Route 1, Pennock, Minn.	15 Jul. 42	Activation
Robert W. Smith, Pfc., 2616 Stella St. (SS), Pittsburgh, Pa.	28 Jun. 40	10 Dec. 43
Robert C. Sneath, Cpl., RFD 1, Flinton, Pa.	19 Nov. 41	Activation
Victor Swanlek, Pfc., Ernest, Pa.	21 Sep. 40	10 Dec. 43
Edward L. Swartz, Pfc., 3021 Bowman Ave., McKeesport, Pa.	28 May 40	10 Dec. 43
Joseph Szalva, Sgt., Pershing Rd., Englewood Cliffs, N. J.	6 Jan. 42	Activation
Carmelo M. Tarantino, Pfc., 518 Locust St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	7 Dec. 42	Activation
Ward A. Teachout, Pfc., RFD No. 3, Sherburne, N. Y.	29 May 42	Activation
Arlie L. Tennant, Tec 5, 321 8th St., Parkersburg, W. Va.	27 Jul. 42	Activation
John R. Texeira, Pfc., Elm St., Norton, Mass.	24 Jul. 42	Activation
Warren J. Tittle, Pfc., 233 W. Church St., Annville, Pa.	29 May 40	10 Dec. 43
Stephen Urban, Tec 5, 689 South 11th St., Newark, N. J.	19 Nov. 42	Activation
Theodore A. Utz, S/Sgt., 715 Wilbron Ave., Baltimore, Md.	26 Nov. 41	Activation
Antonio Valenza, Pfc., 23-51 Crescent St., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.	17 Sep. 42	24 Jun. 44
Willam H. Van Wart, Pfc., 60 Mandan St., Buffalo 16, N. Y.	18 Dec. 42	Activation



Name and Address

	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Joseph C. Venezia, Pfc., 51 Cane St., Bogota, N. J.	4 Feb. 43	Activation
Albert Verba, Sgt., 13825 Bartlett Ave., Cleveland, Ohio	18 Nov. 41	Activation
Nunzio R. Vischiotto, Pfc., 186 Ave. B, New York, N. Y.	2 Dec. 42	Activation
Melvin P. Walker, Pvt., 27 Devon Ave., Trenton, N. J.	8 Dec. 42	
Peter Wasiuta, Pfc., 2960 E. 59th St., Cleveland, Ohio	28 Nov. 41	Activation
Melvin E. Wassermann, Sgt., 605 State St., Calumet City, Ill.	6 Feb. 42	Activation
Stanley F. Wayman, Pvt., Box 21, Golden Hill, Danbury, Conn.	28 Jul. 43	13 Feb. 44
Johnnie L. Weeks, Pfc., 1128 Jenkins St., Mansfield, La.	2 Dec. 39	10 Dec. 43
Leslie J. Weppler, Cpl., Route 2, Bothell, Wash.	15 Dec. 41	Activation
Dare M. Wilkins, Tec 4, 360 Oakland Ave., Pontiac, Mich.	21 Nov. 41	Activation
Ervie R. Wilson, Sgt., Route 1, Horse Branch, Ky.	17 Nov. 41	Activation
John D. Winters, Jr., Pvt., 337 S. Pattison St., York, Pa.	25 Nov. 42	Activation
Earl L. Whisenant, Pvt., Rt. 1, Union Grove, Ala.	15 Jul. 43	25 Jun. 44
Tadeus D. Wojtunik, Pfc., 92 Derby St., Salem, Mass.	19 Dec. 42	15 Aug. 44
Charles H. Wren, Pfc., 3851 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, N. Y.	9 Mar. 43	10 Dec. 43
Lindsay A. Wright, Pfc., 375 Stanford Ave., West View, Pa.	18 Nov. 42	Activation
Francis J. Wueller, Tec 5, Kalida, Ohio	21 Nov. 41	Activation
James W. Wyrick, Cpl., Piedmont St., Gibsonville, N. C.	10 Dec. 42	20 Feb. 45
Welzie O. Yates, Pfc., Route No. 3, Winston-Salem, N. C.	25 Nov. 42	Activation
James W. Young, Cpl., 170 Camp St., Providence, R. I.	23 Dec. 42	Activation
Warren Yowan, Pfc., Box 137, RFD No. 2, West Newton, Pa.	26 Jan. 43	24 Jun. 44
Aloise M. Zajic, Tec 5, Lucan, Minn.	8 Jul. 42	Activation



HEADQUARTERS SECTION – BATTERY A



Sitting, left to right: Lt. Simmons, Capt. Whinston, Lt. Hutchinson, Lt. Lloyd. Standing, 1st row, left to right: S/Sgt. John P. Hayes, Pfc. Johnnie L. Weeks, Pvt. John Kenny, Cpl. Joseph L. Popp, Tec 5 Preso Eatmon, Pfc. Warren J. Tottle, Tec 5 Francis J. Wueller, Tec 5 Louis Silberberg, Tec 5 George H. Pulk, Jr., Pvt. Reyes Moquino. Second row, left to right: Tec 3 Kermit E. Manchester, Tec 4 Albert B. Allen, Cpl. Loren A. Bergo, S/Sgt. Robert A. Davis, Pvt. Edward Swartz, Tec 4 Harlan Brown, Pvt. Leo E. Gelinas, Tec 5 Arthur Gross. 3d row, left to right: Tec 5 Charles J. Kiefer, Tec 4 Dave M. Wilkins, Cpl. Jerome McMahon, Pfc. Marion E. Bues, Pfc. Abraham Krieger, Sgt. Albert Verba, Tec 5 Joseph M. Mihal. 4th row, left to right: Tec Sgt. Harry E. Hahn, Tec Sgt. Edward P. Connelly, Tec 4 James Roye, Tec 5 Tony B. Bianco, S/Sgt. Ted A. Metz, Pfc. Ernest F. Hellings, 1st Sgt. H. D. Ray.



1st row, left to right: Pfc. Carmelo M. Tarantino, Tec 5 John C. Hicks, Jr., Cpl. Andrew Myley, Sgt. Philip S. Ribauda, Cpl. Ludwig J. Petersen. 2d row, left to right: Pfc. John I. Phenix, Sgt. Francis J. Lawrence, Pfc. Shelton C. Clark, Pfc. Earl C. Bertle, Pfc. John Fraiss, Pfc. Lindsay A. Wright, Pfc. Welzie O. Yates. 3d row, left to right: Pfc. Charles H. Wren, Pfc. Harold Moses, Pvt. Orville E. Finley.





1st row, left to right: Pvt. Armando Norzaganay, Pfc. William R. Hayhurst, Pfc. Peter Wasenta, Tec 5 Thomas J. Breen, Pfc. John R. Boscki. 2d row, left to right: Pvt. Rosiare J. Fortier, Cpl. Gordon C. Server, Cpl. Robert H. Carr, Cpl. James W. Wyrich, Sgt. Robert J. Horton. 3d row, left to right: Pfc. George H. Grien, Pfc. Elton G. Eidson, Pfc. William R. Honeycutt, Pvt. Albert E. Burke.



1st row, left to right: Pfc. John Texeira, Pfc. Maurice W. Godbout, Pfc. Nicholas M. De Vitt, Sgt. Melvin E. Wasserman, Pvt. William H. Finegold, Cpl. James W. Young. 2d row, left to right: Pfc. Lester C. Combs, Pfc. Samuel Reigrod, Pfc. Kenneth E. Boehmke, Pfc. Nicholas F. Seymour, Pvt. Francis J. Pepka, Tec 5 Aloise M. Zagie, Pvt. Thomas R. Geltner, Cpl. Robert D. Afflebach.



1st row, left to right: Pfc. Salvatore M. Cerreta, Cpl. Leroy J. Rhodes, Sgt. Pete G. Ferrari, Cpl. Harry J. De Bouno, Pfc. Charles M. Kennedy. 2d row, left to right: Pvt. Harold R. Gifford, Pfc. Carl J. Knapke, Pfc. Chester Goodwin, Pfc. Mike F. Amenti. 3d row, left to right: Pfc. Merle E. Heath, Pfc. Walter H. Gerow, Jr., Pfc. J. N. Knight. 4th row, left to right: Tec 5 Jiles H. Hunter, Pfc. George Grekoff.





1st row, left to right: Pfc. Johnnie P. Renfroe, Cpl. Robert C. Sneath, Sgt. Ervie R. Wilson, Cpl. Dalton P. Pettit, Pfc. Edgar Parks. 2d row, left to right: Tec 5 Vincenzo Simone, Pfc. John C. Andalora, Pfc. Antonio Valenga, Pfc. Albert Pietraallo, Pfc. Earl L. Whisenant. 3d row, left to right: Pfc. Alexander F. DePietro, Pfc. Harold E. Robinson, Pfc. Ernest C. Foreman, Pvt. John Savarino.



1st row, left to right: Cpl. Leslie J. Wepplar, Sgt. Joseph Szalva, Cpl. Orval L. Sanger, Tec 5 Elvin Combs. 2d row, left to right: Pvt. Joseph Venezia, Pfc. Edward Matzko, Pfc. Kenneth L. Johnston, Pvt. Paul M. Bianco, Pfc. Hunter C. Jones. 3d row, left to right: Pfc. John Melinarcik, Pfc. Theron S. Kent, Pvt. Walter C. Hall, Pfc. Ralph E. Holt, Pfc. Warren Yowan.



1st row, left to right: Pvt. William F. Clifford, Pfc. Richard E. Barber, Pfc. Victor V. Caro, Pvt. Charles W. Lynn. 2d row, left to right: S/Sgt. John P. Hayes, Sgt. Alloys J. Dolezal, Tec 5 Verdun W. Shaffer, Pfc. John J. Hughes, Cpl. James W. Jackson, Pfc. Henry Gissel, Pfc. Nunzio R. Vischiotto. 3d row, left to right: Pfc. Kermit Goodwin, Pfc. Henry E. Miles, Pvt. Kenneth G. Hansen.



ROSTER



Battery B

CAPT. HENRY C. PENDZICK, CAC
Commanding Officer

1ST LT. RICHARD J. HALLINAN, CAC
Executive Officer

Name and Address

	Entered Army	Joined 863d
Calixtro G. Acuna, Pfc., 1708 Caldwell St., Corpus Christi, Texas	21 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Earl J. Adams, Pfc., 92½ Washington St., Auburn, N. Y.	10 Dec. 42	3 Jun. 43
Salvatore J. Alu, Pvt., 40 Center St., Hartford, Conn.	25 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Elmer F. Armacost, Sgt., Hempstead, Md.	14 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Howard M. Arner, Cpl., RD No. 1, Andreas, Pa.	24 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Peter S. Backus, Cpl., 1230 Dearborn Ave., Aurora, Ill.	20 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Ben A. Baker, Tec 5, RT No. 2, Madisonville, Texas	5 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
Harold J. Bennett, Pfc., Mott St., Ansonia, Conn.	23 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Russell R. Berry, Pfc., Box 119, Nome, Texas	6 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Charles B. Bielecki, Pfc., 133 Locust Ave., Wallington, N. J.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Thomas J. Black, Jr., Cpl., 159th & Halsted Sts., Harvey, Ill.	8 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Robert G. Blosser, Pfc., Rt. No. 1, Williamstown, Ohio	1 Dec. 41	2 Jun. 43
Carl E. Bolduc, Tec 5, 26 Kelsey St., Waterville, Maine	28 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Carl W. Book, Tec 5, 250 S. Bridge St., Struthers, Ohio	28 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Melvin P. Borneisen, Cpl., 506 E. Broad St., Hazelton, Pa.	25 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
James N. Branchi, Pfc., 82 Brighton St., Boston, Mass.	21 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Don R. Brandenburg, Pfc., RR No. 1, Toledo, Ill.	7 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Wayne H. Brown, Sgt., R.F.D. No. 3, Girard, Pa.	17 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Roy L. Carrender, Pfc., 214 W. 8th St., Eldon, Mo.	7 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Paul V. Carter, Pfc., Marienville, Pa.	23 Feb. 43	2 Jun. 43
Douglas C. Carver, Tec 5, Rt. No. 1, Box 118, Barnardsville, N. C.	5 Jun. 42	2 Jun. 43
Charles F. Chase, Sgt., 1306 Mark Twain Ave., Hannibal, Mo.	17 Mar. 41	1 Jul. 43
Howard W. Coleman, Pfc., 1927 Gaffey St., San Pedro, Calif.	24 Jan. 41	25 Jun. 44
Frank Corbi, Pfc., 2403 Wharton St., Philadelphia, Pa.	28 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Clyde Cousineau, T/Sgt., 145 Linden St., Syracuse, N. Y.	8 Apr. 41	20 Feb. 45
Edward Cudmore, Jr., Pfc., 1933-78th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	26 Feb. 43	2 Jun. 43



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Anton Damaska, Tec 3, 4425 S. Artesian Ave., Chicago, Ill.	13 Jun. 42	2 Jun. 43
Domineck Damioli, Jr., Pfc., 3717 Midbury St., Detroit, Mich.	5 Jun. 42	2 Jun. 43
Sidney Dash, Tec 5, 1542 N. 7th St., Philadelphia, Pa.	14 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Shirl D. Deal, Pfc., R. D. No. 1, Branchton, Pa.	22 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Earl J. Dean, S/Sgt., 1910 Delaware Ave., New Castle, Pa.	28 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Albert J. DeVito, Tec 5, P. O. Box 102, Jefferson, Pa.	14 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
William B. Dillon, Cpl., 2643 Alfred St., Louisville, Ky.	6 Jun. 42	2 Jun. 43
Joseph W. Distel, Pfc., 307 Kingsley St., Philadelphia, Pa.	20 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Charles A. Donachy, Tec 4, 1818 W. Ontario St., Philadelphia, Pa.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
George S. Earll, Sr., Pfc., 551 Princeton Blvd., Pittsburgh 21, Pa.	19 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Emil G. Ebert, Pfc., 2118 E. York St., Philadelphia, Pa.	18 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Harry G. Eldert, S/Sgt., 1314 Messmer St., Pekin, Ill.	11 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Francis X. Esposito, Pfc., 2309 Ave. R, Brooklyn, N. Y.	4 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Vito S. Falcone, Pfc., 660 E. 187th St., Bronx, New York City	25 Feb. 43	2 Jun. 43
Nello Feroli, Pfc., 34 Burrell Ave., Bridgewater, Mass.	27 Feb. 42	3 Jun. 43
Harold L. Fowler, Tec 5, 5 Cominis Terrace, Roxbury, Mass.	12 Aug. 40	2 Jun. 43
Ernest E. Franks, Pfc., 15 Starnes Ave., Asheville, N. C.	10 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Burton E. Fuller, Pvt., 4638 S. Wallace St., Chicago, Ill.	5 Apr. 44	13 Mar. 45
Paul Gallegos, Pfc., 121 N. 10th St., Brighton, Colo.	3 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
David T. George, Tec 4, P. O. Box 181, Port Lavaca, Texas	20 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Sidney Greenberg, Tec 5, 40 Hayelock St., Dorchester, Mass.	27 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Peter F. Gianquinto, Tec 5, 240 First Ave., Latrobe, Pa.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Alex S. Glotkowski, Sgt., 1752 W. Cullerton St., Chicago, Ill.	27 Mar. 43	8 Feb. 45
Robert E. Golding, Pfc., 1525 Bond St., Hillside, N. J.	23 Feb. 43	2 Jun. 43
Jesus G. Gonzalez, Pfc., Rt. #1, Box 235, Edcouch, Texas	20 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Paul Giffin, Pvt., 317 Ailer Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.	19 Jan. 44	13 Mar. 45
William N. Grulowski, Pfc., R. No. 1, Box 155, Wittenberg, Wisc.	28 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Adolph J. Guzik, Pfc., 2048 W. Webster Ave., Chicago, Ill.	11 Oct. 41	2 Jun. 43
Juan L. Guzman, Pfc., Rt. No. 1, Box 157 G, San Antonio, Texas	1 Apr. 41	2 Jun. 43
Vearl V. Hadden, Tec 5, RFD No. 2, Kankakee, Ill.	11 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Robert G. Hansen, Pfc., 1910 E. 14th St., Oakland, Calif.	26 Jun. 43	25 Jun. 44
Wallace R. Hamilton, Pfc., Rt. No. 1, Irvine, Ky.	6 Jan. 43	13 Mar. 45
William E. Heitger, Pvt., Rt. #2, Sturgis, Mich.	10 Nov. 43	9 Feb. 45
Hanson K. Hicks, Cpl., Rt. No. 1, Fredericktown, Mo.	12 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Harold E. Hobart, Pvt., 60 Belden Ave., Norwalk, Conn.	31 Mar. 41	24 Jun. 44
Randall C. Holmes, Pvt., Summitville, Tenn.	10 Dec. 42	9 Feb. 45
William B. Holtz, Pfc., RFD 2, Alma, Mich.	6 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43
Joseph Hway, Pfc., 2727 West 24th Place, Chicago, Ill.	7 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Alvin D. Irwin, Pvt., 119½ N. 5th St., Springfield, Ill.	14 Jan. 43	26 Nov. 44
Clayton D. Isenhour, Pfc., 622 Grove St., Hickory, N. C.	30 Jul. 42	2 Jun. 43



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Willie S. Jarrell, Pfc., 920 Champion St., Henderson, N. C.	4 Mar. 42	8 Feb. 45
Stanley W. Kalinoski, Pfc., 96 Gold St., New Britain, Conn.	20 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Frank C. Kersten, Pvt., 43-39-39th Pl., Long Island City, N. Y.	4 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
John Kertesz, Pfc., 3032 Palmer Square, Chicago, Ill.	19 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Ralph F. Kilgore, Pfc., R. D. No. 1, Sycamore, Pa.	17 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Joseph L. Kliczinski, Sgt., 7342 Rosemont Ave., Detroit, Mich.	28 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Joseph A. Korbel, Pfc., 1130 Center Ave., Pottstown, Pa.	19 Jul. 43	23 Jun. 44
Leo R. Kroszkewicz, Pfc., Main St., Marblehead, Ohio	8 Mar. 43	8 Feb. 45
Bernard M. Kujawinski, S/Sgt., 518 E. 15th St., Erie, Pa.	20 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Joseph S. Kwak, Tec 5, 4845 S. Wolcott St., Chicago, Ill.	6 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Arthur R. Ledbetter, Pfc., Rt. No. 2, Shelby, N. C.	12 Aug. 43	20 Feb. 45
Grant Little, Sgt., Bluffs, Ill.	11 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Carl H. Lundin, Pvt., 2952 North Ave., Chicago, Ill.	16 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Oscar A. C. Lundquist, Cpl., 1607 Brazos St., Austin, Texas	15 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
James N. Lunt, Pfc., 175 Highland Ave., Passaic, N. J.	23 Mar. 42	10 Feb. 44
Louis Magdich, Cpl., Box 38, Allison, Pa.	13 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Joseph A. Mahaney, Pfc., 1601 Scott St., Wilmington, Del.	24 Jun. 43	1 Feb. 45
Louis F. Marelli, Pfc., 70 Putnam St., New Haven, Conn.	19 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Wayne A. Marlatt, Pvt., 681 Baldwin Road., Hays, Pa.	19 Sep. 41	9 Feb. 45
Rocco D. Marolo, Cpl., 320 E. Diamond Ave., Hazelton, Pa.	19 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Raymond M. May, Pfc., Route No. 1, Stacyville, Iowa	9 Jul. 41	2 Jun. 43
William T. McCann, Sgt., 6516 Torresdale Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.	11 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Robert O. McCrory, Pfc., Rt. No. 2, Greensboro, Ala.	26 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
Clarence C. McLean, Pfc., Arlee, Mont.	8 May 43	7 Nov. 44
William O. Melone, Pfc., 2127 W. Lexington St., Chicago, Ill.	12 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Herbert E. Melton, Pvt., 6500 W. 12th St., Little Rock, Ark.	4 Sep. 43	9 Feb. 45
Samuel J. Merritt, Pvt., 10 Tregent St., Pontiac, Mich.	12 Nov. 43	9 Feb. 45
John J. Miller, Cpl., 5622 Trenton, Detroit, Mich.	24 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Mark O. Minnie, Pfc., 928 S. 6th St., DeKalb, Ill.	28 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Carlos F. Morales, Pfc., 1411 S. 3d Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.	22 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
George G. Moreira, Pfc., 117 N. Bixel St., Los Angeles, Calif.	6 Jul. 43	24 Jun. 44
Glenn O. Morgan, Pfc., R.F.D. No. 2, Frederick, Md.	3 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
John Morris, Pfc., Box 246, Pursglove, W. Va.	24 Jun. 42	2 Jun. 43
Darwin O. Morse, Pfc., 841 Carroll Ave., St. Paul, Minn.	30 Jun. 41	1 Jul. 43
Frank Muller, Pfc., 16 Harwood St., Lynn, Mass.	4 Mar. 42	24 Jun. 44
Thomas F. Murphy, Pfc., 111½ Johnson St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	2 Aug. 43	24 Jun. 44
John J. Murray, Pfc., 204 Tree St., Philadelphia, Pa.	20 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Francis G. Neaf, Sgt., 5976 Cote Brillante, St. Louis, Mo.	21 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Anthony F. Nieder, Pfc., 1625 Peach St., Erie, Pa.	18 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Thomas E. Nolan, Pfc., 1736 Wylie St., Philadelphia, Pa.	15 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
William B. Nozotti, 305 North 19th St., Herrin, Ill.	25 Jun. 43	25 Jun. 44



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Edward S. O'Brien, Pfc., 351 Cherry St., Columbia, Pa.	11 Aug. 43	10 Feb. 44
William A. O'Dette, S/Sgt., 8th Street, Garden City, Kans.	23 Mar. 42	13 Feb. 45
Boleslaw H. Oleksisk, Tec 5, RD No. 4, Box 52A, Uniontown, Pa.	13 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Emery W. Olson, Tec 5, Route No. 1, Garner, Iowa	9 Jul. 41	2 Jun. 43
Leo. J. Ouellette, Pfc., R.F.D. #2, Fort Kent, Maine	10 Sep. 42	24 Jun. 44
Burton W. Owens, Pfc., 9 Menlo Place, Rochester, N. Y.	25 Feb. 43	2 Jun. 43
Richard W. Pace, Pfc., 89 E. George St., St. Paul, Minn.	29 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Joseph C. Palaisa, Cpl., Box 16, Lemont Furnace, Pa.	13 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
George F. Pasetti, Cpl., 1327 S. Taylor St., Philadelphia, Pa.	28 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
William J. Patterson, Pfc., Balton Landing, Warren Co., N. Y.	3 Jun. 42	31 Mar. 44
Roy L. Payne, Pfc., Nocona, Texas	22 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
William H. Petree, S/Sgt., Rt. No. 2, Tobaccoville, N. C.	27 Nov. 41	2 Jun. 43
Joseph Pitrolo, Pfc., 115 Liberty Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	31 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
George Prentice, Cpl., 522 Beach St., Orange, N. J.	4 Aug. 43	31 Mar. 44
Ruth G. Pruett, Pfc., R.F.D. #3, Sikeston, Mo.	2 Jul. 41	2 Jun. 43
Franklin E. Pultz, Pfc., Route 4, Box 375, Dayton, Ohio	17 Jul. 42	2 Jun. 43
Clark B. Rakestraw, Pfc., 3566 E. 75th St., Cleveland, Ohio	13 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Frank F. Reo, Pfc., 342 Sip Ave., Jersey City, N. J.	17 Jun. 42	2 Jun. 43
James B. Roach, Pfc., Gen. Del., Woodbury, Tenn.	4 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Raymond H. Rogers, Pfc., 1204 Noble Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.	23 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
John J. Rokos, Pfc., Keisterville, Pa.	13 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Jesus A. Rosas, Cpl., Raymonville, Texas	2 Dec. 41	2 Jun. 43
Arthur Rowland, Tec 5, Princeton, W. Va.	13 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
George Rubenstein, Pvt., 1216 S. Springfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.	8 Jun. 43	9 Feb. 45
Owen S. Scales, Pfc., R.R. #1, Toledo, Ill.	7 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Lee Roy R. Schaeffer, Pvt., 515 N. 12th St., Lebanon, Pa.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Edward L. Shogry, S/Sgt., 227 Elm St., Pittsfield, Mass.	10 Feb. 41	2 Jun. 43
Paul J. Shows, Pfc., 523 Fifth St., Laurel, Miss.	7 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Penny W. Simmons, Cpl., Jasper, Fla.	24 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Eldridge Soileau, Tec 5, Barbers Hill, Texas	19 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Charles Sorosinski, Cpl., 2729 W. Haddon Ave., Chicago, Ill.	14 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Howard J. Spurr, Sgt., 946 Scheffer St., St. Paul, Minn.	30 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Alfred S. Stadnicki, Cpl., 10 Riverview Ter., Chicopee, Mass.	22 Feb. 43	2 Jun. 43
Jerry M. Stearn, Cpl., 1146 N. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago, Ill.	23 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Emil Stepanovic, Pfc., 1921 S. Morgan St., Chicago, Ill.	22 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Samuel C. Stevens, Tec 5, 2903 Boulevard Ave., Peoria, Ill.	14 Oct. 41	2 Jun. 43
Kenneth W. Stork, Pvt., Whitewater, Wisc.	20 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Walter J. Strank, Pfc., 414 Bradford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	30 Jan. 43	12 Feb. 44
Guy F. Streby, Pfc., Manitou, Minn.	9 Oct. 41	2 Jun. 43
Asim Tanovich, Tec 5, 950 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, Ill.	6 Oct. 41	2 Jun. 43
Thomas J. Tepper, Pfc., 1113 Elizabeth St., Joliet, Ill.	13 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
John M. Thomas, Pvt., 613 Charles St., Parkersburg, W. Va.	11 Aug. 43	13 Feb. 44

APPENDIX — Page 120



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Elmar C. Thompson, Pvt., Salt Lick, Ky.	31 Aug. 43	13 Feb. 44
Hollie E. Treece, Pfc., Jonesboro, Ill.	12 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Alfonso J. Tremonte, Pfc., 1159 So. 10th St., Philadelphia, Pa.	20 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Sigifredo, Trujillo, Pvt., Monero, N. Mex.	12 Dec. 42	24 Jun. 44
Glenn M. VanCleave, Pfc., 401 Princeton Road, Depue, Ill.	30 Jun. 41	1 Jul. 43
Thomas M. Vernon, Pfc., 9 Spring St., Alexandria, Va.	18 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Dee W. Vinson, Pfc., 108 N. Pineview Ave., Goldsboro, N. C.	23 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Geza J. Vresk, Pfc., 728 Hayes St., Bethlehem, Pa.	28 Jun. 41	1 Jul. 43
Howard C. Wadstrom, Pfc., 190 Preston St., Hartford, Conn.	14 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Roy E. Waldrep, Tec 4, 17 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria, Va.	18 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Thad G. Walker, Jr., Pfc., Rt. #3, Box 24, Winfield, Ala.	15 Jul. 43	25 Jun. 44
Charles E. Weber, Pvt., Dunn, La.	2 Jan. 41	10 Feb. 44
Clifton W. Weir, Pfc., Curtis Bay, Md.	30 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Bunard A. White, Pfc., Locust Grove, Ark.	2 Sep. 42	13 Mar. 45
Duane C. Wilson, Pfc., Bridgewater Corners, Vt.	23 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
George E. Witwer, 1/Sgt., 1006 Warren St, Gary, Indiana	15 Jan. 41	2 Jun. 43
Edward F. Woda, Tec 5, 4917 S. Kolin Ave., Chicago, Ill.	13 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Philip A. Worster, Cpl., Kingman, Maine	8 Jan. 42	2 Jun. 43
Charles E. Young, Tec 5, 1003 Riverside Ave., Grants Pass, Ore.	16 Jan. 43	13 Feb. 45
Elbert M. Young, Pvt., Rt. #1, Hensley, Ark.	9 Jul. 41	2 Jun. 43
Ezra Young, Tec 4, Piso, Ky.	9 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
John Yaworski, Pfc., 614 Schuyler St., Utica, N. Y.	27 Jan. 42	13 Mar. 45
Anthony F. Yunkus, Pfc., 620 South River St., Aurora, Ill.	8 Jan. 43	2 Jun. 43
Hyman M. Zaidman, Cpl., 52 Franklin St., Holyoke, Mass.	16 Sep. 42	2 Jun. 43





Top row, left to right: Cpl. Howard M. Arner, Tec 5 Joseph S. Kwak, Pfc. Hollie E. Treece, Pfc. Mark O. Minnie, Pfc. George Rubenstein, S/Sgt. Edward L. Shogry. Bottom row, left to right: Pfc. Dee W. Vinson, Sgt. Joseph L. Kliczinski, Pfc. John Kertesz, Pfc. Raymond H. Rogers, Pfc. Paul Gallegos, Pfc. Earl J. Adams.



Top row, left to right: Pfc. Frank Corbi, Pfc. Thomas M. Vernon, Sgt. Grant Little, Pvt. Elmer C. Thompson, Pfc. Guy F. Streby, S/Sgt. Edward L. Shogry. Bottom row, left to right: Pfc. Robert G. Hansen, Cpl. Joseph C. Palaia, Pfc. Harald J. Bennett, Cpl. Penny W. Simmons, Pfc. Domineck Damioli, Jr.



Top row, left to right: Cpl. Phillip A. Worster, Pfc. William J. Patterson, Pfc. Ernest E. Franks, Tec 5 Sidney Dash, Pfc. Clifton W. Weir, Pfc. Don R. Brandenburg. Bottom row, left to right: Pfc. Howard W. Coleman, Pfc. George G. Moreira, Pfc. John Yaworski, Cpl. Oscar A. C. Lundquist, Pfc. Carlos F. Morales, Sgt. Charles F. Chase.





Top row, left to right: Sgt. Howard J. Spurr, Tec 5 Eldridge Soileau, Pfc. Charles E. Beilecki, Tec 5 Charles E. Young, Pfc. Darwin O. Morse, Pfc. Owens S. Scales, Duane C. Wilson, Bottom row, left to right: Cpl. Louis Magdich, Pfc. George S. Earll, Sr., Pfc. William O. Melone, Pvt. Burton E. Fuller, Pvt. Elbert M. Young, Pfc. Shirl D. Deal.



Front row, left to right: Pfc. Morgan, Pfc. May, S/Sgt. Shogry, Tec 5 Gianquinto, Pfc. Bolduc, Pfc. Ouellette, Rear row, left to right: Pfc. Van Cleaver, Sgt. Brown, Cpl. Rosas, Pfc. Ineson.



Front row, left to right: Pfc. Carrender, Sgt. Kliczinski, Pfc. Murray, Pfc. Nozotti, Pfc. Damioli, Rear row, left to right: Pvt. Thomas and Cpl. Miller.



ROSTER



Battery C

CAPT. HENRY M. DA VEGA, CAC
Commanding Officer

1ST LT. LAWRENCE A. JOZWIAK
Executive Officer

Name and Address

	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Thos. S. Abrahamsen, Pfc., Bayisle Ave., Barrington, N. J.	26 Dec. 42	Activation
Leonard D. Ackerman, Tec 5, Box 23, Conyngham, Pa.	18 Aug. 42	Activation
Giacomo J. Agrillo, Pfc., 286 Degnan St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	4 Feb. 43	Activation
Richard J. Aimone, Pfc., 130 Cedar Ave., Hawthorne, N. J.	24 Jun. 43	15 Aug. 44
Kenneth C. Baldon, S/Sgt., 509 So. Weber St., Colorado Springs, Colo.	18 Nov. 40	20 Feb. 45
Thomas J. Benjamin, Pfc., 19111 Sunset Dr., Warrensville Heights, Ohio	28 Aug. 42	Activation
Charles M. Benz, Pfc., 3437 N. 36th St., Milwaukee, Wisc.	28 Jan. 42	3 Jun. 43
Joseph Bergon, Pfc., 56 Hart St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	26 Feb. 43	Activation
Robert F. Bieber, Pfc., 226 Cooper St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	29 Dec. 42	Activation
Wallace E. Bingamon, S/Sgt., 439 E. Grand, Decatur, Ill.	30 Jun. 41	Activation
Edward Boguslawske, Pfc., 1717 S. 69th St., West Allis, Wisc.		Activation
Clyde S. Bomgardner, Pfc., 27 N. Center Ave., Cleona, Pa.	18 Jan. 43	12 Feb. 44
Oliver J. Boyce, Pfc., Rd. 2, Franklin, Pa.	17 Mar. 42	Activation
Delbert L. Bozarth, Sgt., Cairo, Mo.	18 Mar. 42	Activation
Matthew P. Brady, Sgt., 9014-77th St., Woodhaven, N. Y.	31 Oct. 42	Activation
Richard C. Braughler, Pfc., Box 226, Seward, West Mo., Pa.	23 Jul. 42	Activation
Julius C. Bull, Pvt., 23-12-31st St., Astoria, N. Y.	22 Jan. 43	12 Feb. 44
Henry F. Burks, Pvt., Rt. 1, Enid, Miss.	10 Sep. 43	Activation
Richard F. Cairl, 1/Sgt., 605 Bay St., St. Paul, Minn.	16 Jan. 42	Activation
Joseph Capacasa, Tec 5, 172 E. 16th Pl., Chicago Heights, Ill.	14 Jan. 42	Activation
Joseph J. Capobianco, Pvt., 43 Filmore St., Providence, R. I.	4 Jan. 43	5 Sep. 44
John A. Cassidy, Jr., Pvt., 946 E. 19th St., Paterson, N. J.	25 Jul. 39	10 Jun. 44
Gerald A. Chistopherson, Cpl., 26 W. King, St. Paul, Minn.	16 Jan. 42	Activation
Leonard Christiansen, Cpl., Frederic, Wisc.	12 Jan. 42	Activation
Billy A. Cloud, Cpl., R.R. No. 5, Tipton, Ind.	3 Nov. 43	Activation
Arthur A. Coudron, Tec 4, 223 Railroad St., Blissfield, Mich.	8 Jan. 42	Activation
Frank Crow, Jr., Sgt., Rt. No. 1, Cameron, W. Va.	15 May 42	Activation
Vaughn C. Cutshall, Broadtop, Pa.	22 May 42	Activation

APPENDIX - Page 124



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Albert Davis, Jr., Pfc., 841 Cross Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.	4 Feb. 43	Activation
Harold E. Dawson, S/Sgt., P.O. 3, Mitchellvill, Tenn.	19 Aug. 42	Activation
Charles A. Dellinger, Pfc., Box 62, Lowell, N. C.	10 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Eugene J. Denison, Pfc., 601 E. Elm St., Lima, Ohio	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Paul A. Deshaies, Pvt., 479 Elm St., Biddeford, Maine	22 Dec. 42	Activation
Joseph DiLoffi, Tec 5, 50 Gardner St., Newton, Mass.	25 Mar. 40	Activation
Frederick J. DiLucci, Pfc., 105 Harvard St., Fitchburg, Mass.	9 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Charles F. Dittmar, Pfc., 110 S. Poppleton St., Baltimore, Md.	5 Feb. 43	Activation
Robert W. Driscoll, Sgt., 134 Columbia St., Corning, N. Y.	27 Mar. 42	Activation
Charles L. Dunlap, Pfc., 615-3d St., Niagara Falls, N. Y.	16 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
William Durandetto, Pfc., R.F.D. No. 4, Box 2A, Apollo, Pa.	21 Jan. 41	15 Feb. 45
Fred D. Edwards, Pfc., Box 1363, Kilgore, Texas	21 Jan. 44	15 Mar. 45
Richard W. Ensign, Pfc., R.F.D. No. 2, Burton, Ohio	12 Aug. 43	26 Feb. 44
Joseph A. Ferrara, Pfc., 19 Leonard St., New Haven, Conn.	13 Jan. 43	25 Jun. 44
Leo Finkelstein, Pvt., 15 Milford Ave., Newark, N. J.	28 Nov. 42	Activation
George F. Flocco, Pfc., 1509 S. 9th St., Philadelphia, Pa.	9 Aug. 43	13 Feb. 44
Floyd M. Ford, Cpl., 863 Central Ave., Clarksville, Tenn.	25 Aug. 42	Activation
Dominick Frascino, Tec 5, 86 Lexington Ave., Mt. Kisco, N. Y.	17 Dec. 42	Activation
Jess C. Gates, S/Sgt., Whatley, Ala.	4 Apr. 41	Activation
Derwin W. Genre, Pfc., Rt. 5, Mt. Vernon, N. J.	10 Feb. 43	Activation
William Gongas, Pfc., 29 Chester St., Danvers, Mass.	5 Feb. 43	Activation
Myron Graden, Pfc., Two Harbors, Mich.	10 Oct. 41	24 Jun. 44
Julius J. Greenberg, Pvt., 2262 Hazelwood Ave., Detroit, Mich.	29 Jan. 41	Activation
Donald M. Gumbinsky, Pvt., 142 Colvin Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.	8 Jun. 43	25 Jun. 44
Raymond M. Gundlach, Pfc., 5509 Carter Ave., Baltimore, Md.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Clarence H. Haas, Jr., Pfc., 1909 Airline Ave., Portsmouth, Va.	8 Feb. 43	Activation
Arthur L. Haley, Pvt., Genl. Del., West Monroe, La.	19 Feb. 43	Activation
Meyer Hamburg, Pfc., 5 South Chelsea Ave., Atlantic City, N. J.	16 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Russel E. Hamilton, Pfc., 1105 Walnut St., Erie, Pa.	5 Feb. 43	Activation
John R. Hanula, Tec 5, 4924 W. 31st St., Cicero, Ill.	19 Mar. 42	Activation
Joseph G. Harcar, Tec 5, Elmer St., Raritan, N. J.	18 Feb. 42	15 Feb. 45
Milton B. Harrison, Pfc., 1218 South St., Owosso, Mich.	13 Jan. 42	Activation
Robert G. Hatala, Pvt., 195 High St., New London, Conn.	2 Sep. 43	Activation
Charles R. Hawkins, Pfc., Apt. 25, 181 McCarthy St., Seymour, Ind.	17 Sep. 43	Activation
Albert T. Helin, Pfc., 4881 VanDyke, Detroit, Mich.	7 May 43	25 Jun. 44
Harold G. Hess, Pfc., 35 Rathburn Ave., White Plains, N. Y.	29 Mar. 43	13 Feb. 44
Jimmie L. T. Hill, Pfc., Genl. Delivery, Rogers, Texas	21 Dec. 39	Activation
Howard M. Holderman, Sgt., Rt. No. 2, Fowler, Colo.	15 Jan. 42	Activation
Raymond D. Hubbard, Pfc., 100 Hinsdale Rd., Syracuse 8, N. Y.	24 Apr. 41	Activation
Winston B. Hudgins, Pfc., 529 Broad St., Portsmouth, Va.	21 Jul. 39	3 Jun. 43
George W. Ice, Pfc., Box 405, Lamar, Colo.	10 Feb. 43	Activation



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Eugene J. Jankoski, Sgt., 2430 Janssen Ave., Chicago, Ill.	12 Jan. 42	Activation
Raymond H. Juilfs, Sgt., 37-52 79th St., Jackson Heights, N. Y.	18 Apr. 41	24 Jun. 44
Foster C. Keen, Pvt., Yukon, W. Va.	26 Jun. 43	15 Feb. 45
Coy Kemper, Tec 4, 518 S. Aydelott, Shawnee, Okla.	23 Apr. 42	Activation
James E. Kerwick, Pfc., 420 Sunbury St., Minersville, Pa.	26 May 42	10 Dec. 43
Quintin C. Kindlund, Pfc., Rt. 2, Box 190, Selma, Calif.	12 Nov. 41	Activation
Robert L. King, Jr., Cpl., 3517 Jensen Dr., Houston, Texas	12 Nov. 40	Activation
Louis Klein, Pvt., 2728 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, N. Y.	2 Aug. 43	24 Jun. 44
Joseph Kooperman, Sgt., 123 W. Washington St., Ann Arbor, Mich.	13 Jan. 42	Activation
Sam P. LaDart, S/Sgt., 2600 Lee Ave., Monroe, La.	30 Apr. 42	Activation
Vivan W. Langs, Sgt., 8 Leonard Ave., Freeport, L. I., N. Y.	14 Mar. 42	Activation
James J. Lasko, Pfc., 78 Jacob St., Pittsburgh, Pa.	19 Feb. 43	Activation
Edward J. LeBlanc, Jr., Pfc., Blackstone St., Blackstone, Mass.	31 Aug. 43	24 Jun. 44
Harold W. Lee, Pfc., 35 Massoit Ave., East Providence, R. I.	6 Feb. 43	Activation
Donald E. Lewis, Pfc., Jonesboro, Ind.	5 Nov. 42	Activation
Raymond E. Lewis, Tec 5, R.F.D. 1, Willard, Ohio	6 Nov. 42	Activation
Robert A. Livesey, Pfc., 22 Winsor St., Fairhaven, Mass.	9 Feb. 43	Activation
Jesus P. Lopez, Pfc., Gen. Del., Robstown, Texas	14 Apr. 42	Activation
Vincent F. Luchessi, Tec 5, 1957 Bronxdale Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	12 Feb. 41	Activation
Robert J. Mahan, Cpl., Rt. No. 1, Germantown, Tenn.	8 Jan. 42	Activation
John H. Maley, Jr., Cpl., Winchester St., Southboro, Mass.	2 Feb. 43	Activation
Charles A. Mannino, Pfc., 900 Pennsylvania Ave., Tyronne, Pa.	4 Nov. 42	Activation
George F. Marcel, Pfc., 8 W. 102d St., New York, N. Y.	14 Jan. 43	15 Aug. 44
Jerry Marino, Pvt., 605 No. 4th St., Newark, N. J.	7 Aug. 43	Activation
Nicholas Masi, Pvt., 7 Delaware St., Uniontown, Pa.	26 Aug. 43	
William F. McCarthy, Pfc., 536 Ft. Washington Ave., New York, N. Y.	22 Oct. 42	12 Mar. 44
Thomas J. McGrath, Pvt., 351 Wood St., Bristol, R. I.	8 Feb. 43	Activation
Irving M. Mehl, Pfc., 92 Harvard St., Malden, Mass.	8 Feb. 43	Activation
Jesus M. Melchor, Pvt., Box 84, Alamo, Texas	24 Sep. 43	20 Feb. 45
Neil Midgard, Pfc., 28 Brill St., Newark, N. J.	17 Dec. 42	Activation
Lindell E. Miles, Tec 3, Rt. 1, Creighton, Nebr.	5 Mar. 42	Activation
Lewis J. Millsap, Pfc., 1116 S. Hohn St., Rosewell, N. M.	1 Jul. 43	7 Nov. 44
Jack A. Mock, Tec 5, 706 No. 3d St., Jeannette, Pa.	26 Dec. 42	Activation
Robert S. Monroe, Pfc., R.R. No. 1, Peoria, Ill.	25 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Thomas D. Moore, Pfc., R.F.D. No. 7, Lenoir, N. C.	25 Aug. 43	13 Feb. 44
Vincent W. Moran, Pfc., 309 Schuylkill Ave., Pottsville, Pa.	28 Dec. 42	Activation
Frank V. Morelli, Cpl., 36 Spring St., Milford, Mass.	24 Jul. 42	Activation
Joseph Morris, Pvt., 53 W. Logan St., Philadelphia, Pa.	18 Feb. 43	12 Feb. 44
James N. Mosteit, Cpl., Rt. 1, Kilgore, Texas	16 Jan. 42	Activation
Leslie R. Mullen, Tec 5, 616 So. Maple St., Effingham, Ill.	20 Mar. 42	Activation
Stanley Nemcheck, Pfc., Box 17, Youngstown, Pa.	10 Dec. 42	Activation



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Howard J. O'Brien, Pfc., Chases Mills, N. Y.	19 Dec. 42	Activation
Milton A. Olson, Cpl., Dale, Minn.	3 Dec. 41	Activation
John W. Painter, Pfc., Rt. No. 2, Antioch, Tenn.	28 Dec. 42	Activation
Hector R. Patenaude, Pfc., 1185 Gratton St., Springfield, Mass.	10 Aug. 43	15 Feb. 45
William N. Pearson, Pvt., 2616 E. Walnut St., Des Moines, Iowa	30 Jul. 43	15 Feb. 45
Robert W. Peterson, Tec 3, 3154 N. 10th St., Milwaukee, Wisc.	29 Dec. 42	Activation
William P. Petracca, Pfc., Flushing, Ohio	20 Nov. 42	Activation
John P. Pierzynski, Pfc., 615 Merrimac Ave., Lowell, Mass.	9 Feb. 43	Activation
John Poggioli, Tec 5, 342 E. 100th St., New York, N. Y.	27 Feb. 41	3 Feb. 44
William F. Possehl, Pvt., 108 Falcon St., East Boston, Mass.	3 Nov. 42	15 Feb. 45
Rocco J. Pucci, Pvt., 255 Pine St., Camden, N. J.	10 Dec. 42	Activation
Rudolph Ramirez, Pfc., 3457 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.	16 Jun. 43	24 Jun. 44
Fred H. Raudabaugh, Pvt., Box 56, Manheim, Pa.	16 Oct. 43	15 Feb. 45
Harley A. Rayburn, Pvt., 1518 Pearl St., Columbus, Ind.	17 Sep. 43	Activation
Earnest E. Read, Pvt., Genl. Del., Decatur, Texas	10 Jul. 42	15 Feb. 45
Paschal, D. Reynolds, Pvt., Rt. No. 1, Ray, Ohio	14 Aug. 42	15 Feb. 45
Emanuel D. Rhoads, Sgt., Prattville, Mich.	8 Jan. 42	Activation
James E. Riczu, Tec 5, 270 Flax Hill Rd., So. Norwalk, Conn.	3 Jun. 42	Activation
Herbert C. Roeder, Tec 5, 1285 E. 80th St., Cleveland, Ohio	15 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Joseph S. Rogers, Pfc., Broderick St., Albany, N. Y.	25 Mar. 44	15 Feb. 45
Norvel O. Roper, Jr., Pfc., Box 515, Bakersfield, Calif.	5 Feb. 43	Activation
Lawrence W. Rose, Cpl., RFD No. 1, Osseo, Mich.	4 May 42	Activation
Maurice I. Rosenblatt, Pfc., 1307 Ave. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.	1 Mar. 43	Activation
Paul Russo, Pvt., 46 Kipp Ave., Lodi, N. J.	3 Dec. 42	Activation
Orman J. Sanford, Pfc., 12 Cherry St., Potsdam, N. Y.	23 Mar. 42	Activation
Joseph Sarro, Pfc., 307 E. 48th St., New York, N. Y.	3 Dec. 42	Activation
Walter R. Scamehorn, Cpl., 411 No. 3d St., Seward, Nebr.	17 Jan. 42	Activation
Carl W. Scherbert, Tec 5, RFD 2, Portage, Wisc.	13 Jan. 42	Activation
Herbert Schorman, Pfc., 2118 Avenue T, Brooklyn, N. Y.	5 Dec. 42	Activation
Arnold M. Severson, Pfc., Rt. 2, Elewa, Wisc.	20 Mar. 42	Activation
Dennis J. Sherwood, Pfc., Rt. 2, Kingston, Tenn.	13 Aug. 42	Activation
James Shotten, Cpl., Salem, Wisc.	21 Mar. 42	Activation
Frederick J. Sigmund, Pfc., 440 E. 85th St., New York, N. Y.	4 Dec. 42	Activation
Robert W. Silva, Pfc., Rt. 1, Friedens, Pa.	30 Jun. 41	Activation
Benjamin Simon, Pvt., 1490 Brooke Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	9 Dec. 42	Activation
Edward J. Solomon, Cpl., 963 Exchange St., Buffalo, N. Y.	21 Apr. 41	Activation
Edward F. X. Spears, Cpl., 8 Eastchester Rd., New Rochelle, N. Y.	25 Mar. 42	Activation
Noel R. Springheart, Pfc., R.F.D. No. 2, Marion, Ill.	18 Nov. 43	15 Feb. 45
Harry L. Stalker, Pvt., Bolivar, Mo.	31 Dec. 43	15 Feb. 45
Ellis G. Stallings, Pvt., Pelham, N. C.	28 Nov. 42	Activation
Irvin C. Stermer, Pfc., 2231 LeClaire Ave., Chicago, Ill.	6 Nov. 39	Activation
James D. Stine, Pfc., Nine Mile Rd., South Lyon, Mich.	16 Mar. 42	12 Feb. 44
Raymond T. Stough, Pvt., Shamrock Grove, Waukegan, Ill.	9 Aug. 43	15 Feb. 45
Lee R. Sullivan, Pfc., 1256 Lyon St., Hannibal, Mo.	3 Dec. 42	Activation



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Arthur G. Tausiana, S/Sgt., 14 Temple St., Boston, Mass.	23 Sep. 41	15 Feb. 45
Frank Tesoriere, Tec 5, 1122 Garden Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.	1 Dec. 42	15 Jul. 43
William H. Thompson, Pvt., Sesser, Ill.	10 Jun. 44	15 Feb. 45
Eugene D. Thorp, Pfc., Mountville	27 Aug. 42	Activation
Clifford D. Thurman, Pvt., 1128 Burkett Rd., Elmonte, Calif.	18 Mar. 42	Activation
Stanley P. Tymorek, Tec 5, 665 40th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	14 Jan. 42	Activation
Antonio J. Vazquez, Pfc., 350 E. 13th St., New York, N. Y.	3 Dec. 42	Activation
Nicholas P. Vegliando, Pfc., Wallkill, N. Y.	11 Aug. 43	27 Mar. 44
Jerry Vinciguerra, Pfc., 203 Hull St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	28 Dec. 42	Activation
George Volk, Tec 4, 170 Mitchell Ave., Clairton, Pa.	1 May 42	Activation
Harvey W. Walker, Pvt., 1508 Harvey Rd., Huntington, W. Va.	24 Jan. 42	15 Feb. 45
Frederick C. Walnut, Pfc., 17 Weston Pl., Roxbury, Mass.	10 Dec. 42	Activation
Vernon E. Walter, Tec 4, Somers, Mont.	3 Jan. 41	23 Nov. 43
Dallas H. Warren, Cpl., Rt. 3, Marietta, Ga.	16 Nov. 42	Activation
Walter D. Weber, Pvt., Racine, Pa.	24 Aug. 42	Activation
Raymond D. Werner, Pvt., 3701 Harper Ave., Detroit, Mich.	2 Mar. 43	24 Jun. 44
Arnold W. White, Pfc., 726 W. Military St., Fremont, Nebr.	10 Jan. 42	Activation
Carl D. White, Pfc., 263 Warker St., Mansfield, Ohio	9 Sep. 43	Activation
Oliver W. Whitton, Tec 4, Rt. No. 1, Canton, Texas	20 Jan. 42	Activation
Arthur K. Wood, Pfc., 9024 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.	2 Nov. 42	Activation
Cyril F. Yeager, Pvt., 1802 Hoffnagle St., Philadelphia, Pa.	8 Sep. 39	24 Jun. 44
Joe Zisek, Pfc., Box 105, Yukon, Pa.	26 Jun. 43	15 Feb. 45



OFFICERS — BATTERY C



Left to right: 1st Lt. Lawrence A. Jozwiak, 1st Lt. Robert D. Stone, 1st Lt. Sol N. Busch, Capt. Henry M. Da Vega, 1st Lt. Robert H. Donaldson, 1st Lt. Gene T. Semple.

1st 3 GRADERS



Left to right: S/Sgt. Kenneth C. Baldon, S/Sgt. Sam P. La Dart, 1st Sgt. Richard F. Cairl, S/Sgt. Wallace E. Bingamon, S/Sgt. Harold E. Dawson, S/Sgt. Arthur G. Tausiana.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION



Front row, left to right: Pfc. Robert F. Bieber, Tec 5 Jack A. Mock, Pfc. Joseph Bergon, Pfc. Frederick DiLucci. Back row, left to right: Pfc. James E. Kerwick, Tec 5 Herbert C. Roeder, Tec 5 Matthew P. Brady, Sgt. Eugene J. Jankoski, Pvt. John A. Cassidy, Tec 4 Arthur A. Coudron.



HEADQUARTERS SECTION



Front row, left to right: Pfc. James J. Lasko, Pvt. Rocco J. Pucci, Tec 4 Vernon E. Walter, Tec 4 George Volk, Tec 5 Frank Tesoriere, Pvt. Cyril F. Yeager. Back row, left to right: Tec 5 Louis Calumet, Pfc. Vincent Cuiule, Pfc. Meyer Hamburg, Pvt. Donald M. Gumbinsky, Pfc. Charles A. Dellinger, Tec 5 Robert W. Peterson, Pfc. Richard W. Ensign, Cpl. Robert L. King.

GUN SECTION NO. 1



Front row, left to right: Sgt. Frank Crow, Jr., Pvt. Raymond T. Stough, Pfc. Frederick J. Sigmund, Pfc. Nicholas P. Vegliando, Pvt. Hector R. Patenaude, Pfc. Joseph A. Ferrara, Pvt. Ernest E. Read. Back row, left to right: Pfc. Jerry Vinciguerra, Pfc. Neil Midgard, Cpl. John H. Maley, Jr., Pvt. Joseph E. Morris, Pfc. George F. Marcel, Pfc. Stanley P. Tymorek, Tec 5 Joseph G. Harcar, Pvt. Edwards.

GUN SECTION NO. 2



Front Row, left to right: Pfc. Herbert Schorman, Sgt. Robert W. Driscoll, Pfc. Giacomo J. Agrillo, Pfc. Lee Roy Sullivan, Pfc. Clarence H. Haas, Jr. Back row, left to right: Pfc. Raymond M. Gundlach, Cpl. Billy A. Cloud, Cpl. Vaughn C. Cutschall, Pfc. Arthur K. Wood, Pfc. Charles A. Manning, Pfc. Harold G. Hess, Tec 5 James E. Riczu.



GUN SECTION NO. 3



Front row, left to right: Tec 5 John Poggioli, Pfc. Jesus P. Lopez, Pvt. Noel R. Springhart, Cpl. Dallas H. Warren, Pfc. Lewis J. Millsap, Cpl. Walter D. Weber, Pfc. Antonio J. Vasquez. Back row, left to right: Pvt. Harry W. Walker, Tec 5 John R. Hanula, Pfc. Albert Davis, Jr., Pfc. Rudolph Ramirez, Pfc. William F. McCarthy, Pvt. Jesus M. Melchor, Sgt. Raymond H. Juilfs.

GUN SECTION NO. 4



Front row, left to right: Cpl. Joseph Kooperman, Pfc. Edward J. Le Blanc, Jr., Pfc. Donald E. Lewis, Pfc. Russell E. Hamilton, Pfc. Maurice I. Rosenblatt, Pfc. Charles F. Dittmar, Pfc. Raymond M. Werner. Back row, left to right: Tec 5 Carl W. Scherbert, Cpl. Floyd M. Ford, Cpl. Lawrence W. Rose, Pfc. Oliver J. Boyce, Pvt. William N. Pearson, Pvt. Joseph J. Capobianco, Pvt. Paschal D. Reynolds.

GUN SECTION NO. 5



Front row, left to right: Pfc. Edward Boguslawski, Pvt. Fred H. Raudabaugh, Pfc. Thomas S. Abrahamsen, Tec 5 Joseph Capacasa, Pfc. John W. Painter, Pfc. Eugene J. Denison, Cpl. Robert J. Mahon. Back row, left to right: Pvt. Harry L. Stalker, Pfc. Vincent W. Moran, Cpl. Edward J. Solomon, Pfc. Clifford D. Thurman, Pvt. Joseph F. Rogers, Pfc. Paul A. Deshaies, Sgt. Vivian W. Langs.



GUN SECTION NO. 6



Front row, left to right: Cpl. Gerald A. Christopherson, Pfc. Stanley Nemcheck, Pfc. Dennis J. Sherwood, Pfc. Julius C. Bull, Pfc. Dominick Frascino, Pfc. Joseph Sarro. Back row, left to right: Cpl. Walter R. Scamehorn, Pvt. Foster C. Keen, Pfc. Richard J. Aimone, Pvt. Irving M. Mehl, Tec 5 Leslie R. Mullen, Pfc. Arnold M. Severson.

GUN SECTION NO. 7



Front row, left to right: Pvt. William F. Possehl, Pfc. Robert A. Livesey, Pfc. William Gongas, Pvt. Frederick C. Walnut, Cpl. James Shotton, Sgt. Howard M. Holderman, Cpl. Leonard Christiansen. Back row, left to right: Pvt. George W. Ice, Pfc. Orman J. Sanford, Tec 5 Leonard D. Ackerman, Pfc. Clyde S. Bomgardner, Pvt. Joe Zisek, Pfc. Norvel O. Roper, Jr., Pfc. Myron Graden, Pfc. Charles M. Benz.

GUN SECTION NO. 8



Front row, left to right: Sgt. Emanuel D. Rhoads, Pfc. Eugene D. Thorp, Tec 5 Vincent F. Luchessi, Pfc. Thomas D. Moore, Pfc. John P. Pierzynski, Cpl. Frank U. Morelli, Pfc. Howard J. O'Brien. Back row, left to right: Pfc. Richard C. Braughler, Cpl. Milton A. Olson, Pvt. Benjamin Simon, Pfc. George F. Flocco, Pfc. Robert S. Monroe, Pfc. William P. Petracca.



ROSTER



Battery D

CAPT. JAMES F. ROE, CAC
Commanding Officer

1st LT. EDWARD J. BERRY, CAC
Executive Officer

Name and Address

	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Roger Adcock, Cpl., Turin, Ga.	20 Oct. 41	3 Jun. 43
Dominick P. Alacce, Pfc., 55 Hinsdale St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	30 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
William A. Alexander, Tec 5, Rt. 2, Harriman, Tenn.	13 Jul. 43	10 Feb. 44
Dominic J. Alosi, Pfc., 218 E. Haines St., Philadelphia, Pa.	1 Mar. 41	3 Jun. 43
Lewis J. Atwell, Tec 4, Route 1, Nebo, Va.	18 Mar. 41	10 Jan. 44
Lloyd R. Barker, Pfc., 22 N. 4th St., Odessa, Mo.	12 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Raymond J. Beaudoin, Tec 5, Church St., Moosup, Conn.	14 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Thomas J. Benjamin, Pfc., 1911 Sunset Drive, Warrensville Heights, Ohio	28 Aug. 42	1 Jun. 43
Berthel N. Bennink, Tec 5, RR 1, Lowry City, Mo.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Albert Bihari, Pfc., Box 153, Rosemont, W. Va.	12 Aug. 43	19 Mar. 44
Henry M. Blanchard, Jr., Pfc., 24 Simonson Ave., Mariners Harbor, Staten Island, N. Y.	25 Jan. 43	3 Jun. 43
Louis Bock, Cpl., 1709 Lafayette Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	21 Jan. 43	3 Jun. 43
Raymond J. Bovie, Pfc., 218-7th Ave., Long Branch, N. J.	29 Jul. 43	19 Mar. 44
Wayne E. Brawner, Pvt., Day, Mo.	17 Jul. 43	25 Jun. 44
James J. Brogan, Tec 5, 7 So. Providence Ave., Atlantic City, N. J.	1 Dec. 42	3 Jun. 43
John T. Brophy, S/Sgt., 412 Hagel Ave., Linden, N. J.	10 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
Jefferson D. Bullard, Pfc., Box 314, Rt. 5, Atlanta, Ga.	25 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
Levi W. Burkholder, Pfc., R.D. 4, Lititz, Pa.	18 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Henry F. Burks, Jr., Pfc., Rt. 1, Enid, Miss.	10 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 43
Edward M. Burns, Pfc., 10 Lockman Ave., Mariners Harbor, N. Y.	25 Jan. 43	3 Jun. 43
Joseph R. Campo, Sgt., 1823 Clinton Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	25 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
Philip J. Candito, Cpl., 488 Center St., Bridgeport, Conn.	26 Jun. 42	3 Jun. 43
Frank J. Cardinale, Pfc., 45 Schales St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	20 Feb. 43	12 Feb. 44
James W. Carter, Pfc., Carlisle, Ark.	27 Jan. 42	3 Jun. 43
Leroy W. Carter, Pfc., Rt. 3, Box 492-A, Joplin, Mo.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Robert Cassin, Sgt., 126-13th Ave., McKeesport, Pa.	15 Jan. 41	3 Jun. 43
John T. Cheatham, Pfc., RR 2, Lebanon, Ky.	28 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
Joseph J. Chervenka, Cpl., 828 Pennsylvania Ave., Erie, Pa.	21 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Sidney Cheser, S/Sgt., Somerset St., Watchung, N. J.	22 Jan. 42	15 Feb. 45
Edward C. Choat, Pfc., Rt. 3, Lonoke, Ark.	17 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
John W. Coffman, Jr., Pfc., 84 Greenwood Pl., Buffalo, N. Y.	19 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
Louis Combs, Jr., Pfc., 1626 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, Mich.	20 Oct. 41	2 Jun. 43
Chester E. Crampton, Pfc., Rt. 2, Lynchburg, Ohio	24 Oct. 41	3 Jun. 43
Howard E. Crawford, Pfc., Bellepoint, W. Va.	13 Aug. 42	4 Jan. 44
Twin G. DeNoyer, Pfc., 6120 Kearney Ave., Lincoln, Nebr.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
John E. Dorsey, Pfc., 2432 S. 16th St., Philadelphia, Pa.	11 Dec. 42	3 Jun. 43
Ervin J. Draznik, T/Sgt., 424 Walnut St., Joliet, Ill.	15 Jan. 42	3 Jun. 43
James W. Dunlap, Pfc., Rt. 2, Box 422, Charleston, W. Va.	7 Aug. 43	26 Feb. 44
Alfred R. Dunton, Pfc., 25 Maple St., Waterville, Maine	17 Mar. 43	15 Aug. 44
William H. Duskin, Tec 3, 905 Cross St., Huntsville, Ala.	29 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
George P. Eastman, Pfc., 1249 Washington, Braddock, Pa.	4 Mar. 42	3 Jun. 43
Abram L. Ecker, Pvt., 144 King St., Pottstown, Pa.	17 Feb. 41	17 Nov. 43
Vilas E. Edwards, Tec 5, 1974 Aberdeen Ave., Columbus, Ohio	13 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Charles E. Emery, Jr., Sgt., 1816 N. 5th St., Harrisburg, Pa.	17 May 41	3 Jun. 43
Frank A. Ertl, Tec 5, 1311 Newport Ave., Northampton, Pa.	2 Jul. 40	18 Sep. 43
Meyer M. Fand, Pfc., 388 E. 27th St., Paterson, N. J.	23 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
Douglas K. Feazel, Tec 5, Rt. 1, Box 34, Downsville, La.	25 Jun. 43	22 Jun. 44
Edward L. Ferguson, Pfc., 475 Piedmont Rd., Columbus, Ohio	14 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 43
Henry G. Fesler, Pfc., Rt. 1, Cambridge, Ill.	17 Oct. 40	13 Mar. 45
George J. Fitzpatrick, Tec 5, 1630 Wood St., Philadelphia, Pa.	24 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Homer L. Fosnaugh, Pfc., Rt. 5, Lancaster, Ohio	9 Feb. 43	13 Mar. 45
Charles L. Foust, Pfc., East Brady, Pa.	28 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Nathan Frank, Pvt., 2508 N. Marston St., Philadelphia, Pa.	8 Apr. 41	13 Mar. 45
Herman G. Frye, Pfc., 1645 St. Jean Ave., Detroit, Mich.	19 Jan. 43	1 Jun. 43
Daniel J. Gallegos, Pfc., 124 Pacific Ave., Ft. Lupton, Colo.	25 Jun. 43	25 Jun. 44
Armond J. Gallo, Pfc., 11554 Cardoni St., Detroit, Mich.	30 Dec. 42	3 Jun. 43
Reuben R. Garvin, Sgt., 4089 54th St., San Diego, Calif.	17 Jul. 41	3 Jun. 43
Roberto Garza, Pfc., Gen'l Del., San Ignacio, Texas	25 Jun. 43	25 Jun. 44
Derwin W. Genre, Pfc., Rt. 5, Mt. Vernon, Ohio	10 Feb. 43	13 Feb. 44
Patrick Gill, Pfc., 101 Appleton St., Boston, Mass.	12 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
Charles P. Glasser, Tec 5, 535 N. Walnut Ave., Alliance, Ohio	27 May 42	12 Feb. 44
Thomas C. Glassman, Pfc., 196 Roller Ave., Beaver Dam, Wisc.	17 Jan. 42	3 Jun. 43
Chester S. Grabowski, Pfc., 1049 Hudson Ave., Rochester, N. Y.	11 Feb. 43	10 Dec. 43
Robert C. Hackenberg, Pfc., 102 Reservoir Ave., Jersey City, N. J.	17 Jan. 44	6 Mar. 45
Charles Hall, Pfc., 1916 Staples Ave., Key West, Fla.	29 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Vernon H. Hanan, Pfc., 508 S. Bluff, Wichita, Kans.	31 Dec. 43	13 Mar. 45
Robert C. Hancock, Sgt., RFD 3, Scottsville, Va.	26 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Jeffie B. Hankins, Pvt., R 2, Taylorsville, Miss.	10 Sep. 43	
James R. Hankla, Pvt., 310 S. 21st St., New Castle, Ind.	14 Jan. 42	13 Mar. 45



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Arthur M. Harris, Pfc., 235 Pipestone St., Benton Harbor, Mich.	20 Feb. 43	6 Mar. 45
Leslie H. Hartley, Tec 5, 625 So. Lazelle St., Columbus, Ohio	1 Jun. 42	3 Jun. 43
Michael T. Horvath, Sgt., 339 W. Ridge St., Lansford, Pa.	9 Feb. 43	3 Jun. 43
Leo J. Hudlin, Pvt., 28 Old Groton Rd., Ayer, Mass.	17 May 43	6 Mar. 45
Ralph A. Ineson, Pfc., 20 Bollins St., Yonkers, N. Y.	15 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
William J. Irwin, Cpl., 40 Howard St., Verona, N. J.	6 Aug. 43	19 Mar. 44
Louis Jaffe, Pfc., 2510 N. Marston St., Philadelphia, Pa.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Frank R. Jaramillo, Pvt., 212 Ord St., San Antonio, Texas	19 Mar. 41	2 Jun. 43
Chester D. Jensen, Pfc., 717 10th St., N. Fargo, N. D.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Henry A. Johnson, Pfc., 1978 Pearlman Pl., Baltimore, Md.	28 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Howard E. Johnson, Pfc., Box 7, Noxen, Pa.	20 May 41	3 Jun. 43
David A. Jones, Pfc., 3170 S. Dale Ct., Denver, Colo.	10 Dec. 42	3 Jun. 43
George S. Jordan, Cpl., Rt. 1, Wingate, N. C.	30 Jan. 43	10 Dec. 43
Manuel E. Jordan, Tec 4, RFD 1, Hilliards, Ohio	28 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
John J. Kane, Cpl., 29 Aylwin Crescent, Portsmouth, Va.	26 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
William H. Kelley, Tec 5, RFD 2, Shepherdsville, Ky.	27 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
Robert E. Kilmartin, Sgt., 1252 Washington Ave., Tyrone, Pa.	8 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Clement M. King, Pfc., Clinton, Maine	10 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Paul F. King, Sgt., 218 Brown Ave., Breenburg, Pa.	31 Jan. 42	3 Jun. 43
Marion Kinser, Pfc., 226 May St., Harlan, Ky.	4 Aug. 43	10 Feb. 44
Roy M. Kohler, Pvt., 518 N. Walnut St., St. Marys, Ohio	17 Sep. 43	
Robert M. Kosco, Pfc., 2014 Lewis Dr., Lakewood, Ohio	10 Jul. 43	19 Mar. 44
Frank J. Krauzowicz, Pvt., 23 Clay St., Buffalo, N. Y.	25 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
Walter Kurko, Pfc., 930 N. Orianna St., Philadelphia, Pa.	19 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Ernest, Lafrate, Pfc., 336 Lenox Ave., Oneida, N. Y.	14 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Robert C. Lantz, Cpl., 213 16th St., S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa	18 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Claude H. Lawrence, Pfc., 129 E. Erie Ave., Corning, N. Y.	23 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
James W. Lee, Pfc., Rt. 1, Monroe, N. C.	18 Oct. 41	3 Jun. 43
Wai S. Lee, Pvt., 4284 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.	18 Nov. 42	
John C. Lenz, Jr., Pvt., 477 Palisade Ave., Jersey City, N. J.	17 Sep. 43	
Robert Luecal, Pfc., 1530 Buena Vista St., Pittsburgh, Pa.	29 Jul. 43	17 Feb. 45
Milton H. Lushbaugh, Pfc., 364 Central Ave., Hagerstown, Md.	11 Feb. 43	20 Feb. 45
Stephen L. Lyons, Cpl., 10 Bennett Ave., New York, N. Y.	20 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
Mansel W. Main, Pvt., Gen'l Del'y, Osceola, Iowa	14 Aug. 42	
Thomas J. Mann, Pfc., 402 Pennington Ave., Rome, Ga.	25 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
Gerardo L. Mariano, Pfc., 282 Mulberry St., New York, N. Y.	1 Dec. 42	3 Jun. 43
Albert P. Masarik, Sgt., 11608 Florian Ave., Cleveland, Ohio	2 Dec. 41	3 Jun. 43
George N. Mauer, Tec 4, Route 2, Hankinson, N. Dak.	27 Dec. 41	15 Feb. 45
Duane Mayhew, Pfc., Rt. 2, Franklin, Ky.	14 Sep. 42	
Paul McAdams, Pfc., Rt. 6, Shelbyville, Tenn.	27 Feb. 42	2 Jun. 43



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
John C. McCall, Rt. 1, Strawberry Plains, Tenn.	22 Apr. 42	2 Jun. 43
David W. McCoach, Pfc., 7524 Buist Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.	19 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Walter H. McFarlane, Cpl., 1350 Levis St., N.E., Washington, D. C.	21 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Millard H. McHenry, Pfc., 39 Search St., Shickshinny, Pa.	27 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Leo R. McInerney, Pfc., 780 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass.	28 Jan. 43	12 Feb. 44
Isaac M. McLain, Jr., Pfc., 7102 Southern Ave., Shreveport, La.	14 Oct. 41	3 Jun. 43
Harold A. Meier, Pfc., Rt. 1, Box 179, Butternut, Wisc.	10 Nov. 41	10 Dec. 43
Marvin W. Meyer, Pfc., 1615 W. Division St., Faribault, Minn.	26 Feb. 42	15 Feb. 45
Joseph S. Miller, Sgt., Box 74, Lansing, Minn.	24 Aug. 42	20 Feb. 45
Arthur J. Milo, Pfc., 198 Hendrix St., Brooklyn 7, N. Y.	30 Jan. 43	28 Jun. 43
Jessie E. Mitchell, Pvt., Gen'l Del'y, Achille, Okla.	7 Jul. 43	10 Feb. 44
George H. Mohlke, Pfc., Rt. 1, Douglas, Minn.	18 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
James B. Monahan, Pfc., 170 Crawford St., Lowell, Mass.	26 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Joseph T. Moore, Tec 5, Rt. 1, Summerfield, N. C.	10 Oct. 41	3 Jun. 43
Julius M. Morocz, Pfc., Box 184, Carrollville, Wisc.	28 Jun. 43	22 Jun. 44
Eric L. Motley, Cpl., 507 Pine St., Carthage, Mo.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Robert R. Musselwhite, 1/Sgt., 109 Summit St., Greenville, N. C.	17 Oct. 41	3 Jun. 43
Esten C. Myers, Pfc., Rt. 3, Keyser, W. Va.	18 Nov. 41	3 Jun. 43
Roland, Pangburn, Pfc., 653 Asbury Ave., Ocean City, N. J.	16 Oct. 42	3 Jun. 43
James J. Pappas, Pfc., 749 Washington St., Easton, Pa.	28 Jun. 41	2 Jun. 43
Joseph C. Pass, Jr., Tec 5, 3357 Lamphier St., Memphis, Tenn.	28 Aug. 43	13 Feb. 44
Harry Patasky, Jr., 1/Sgt., 210 E. 2d St., Erie, Pa.	21 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Albert Patterson, Pfc., 2412 Minnesota Ave., S.E., Washington, D. C.	9 Jul. 40	3 Jun. 43
Daniel J. Pawlik, Cpl., 520 E. 6th St., New York, N. Y.	3 Dec. 42	3 Jun. 43
William O. T. Petersen, Sgt., Cook, Nebr.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Wallace E. Peterson, Cpl., 2236 Whitney Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.	10 Feb. 43	3 Jun. 43
Donald B. Phillippi, Pfc., Box 315, McClellandtown, Pa.	17 Mar. 42	2 Jun. 43
Leonard R. Picarello, Pfc., 47 Webster St., Newark, N. J.	11 Sep. 42	3 Jun. 43
Lester Prentes, Tec 5, 351 Hinsdale St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	5 Dec. 42	2 Jun. 43
Frederick K. Pritchard, Pvt., 58 Mt. Vernon St., Somerville, Mass.	18 Jan. 43	20 Jan. 45
William R. Ranella, Cpl., 200 Main St., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.	27 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Seymour I. Riger, Pfc., 471 Sheffield Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	7 Mar. 44	15 Feb. 45
Walter R. Robinson, Pfc., Oran, Mo.	3 Jul. 42	13 Feb. 45
Mike E. Rogers, Pvt., 911 Lakeview Blvd., Apt. 14, Seattle, Wash.	20 Mar. 42	15 Feb. 45
Edward F. Rokos, Cpl., 2718 Roosevelt St., Detroit, Mich.	29 Oct. 41	3 Jun. 43
Joseph H. Rome, Pfc., 35 Graham Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	2 Feb. 43	3 Jun. 43
John H. Roush, Pvt., 325 11th St. S.W., Washington, D. C.	10 Jul. 40	2 Jun. 43
Harold G. Runge, Pfc., Harrison Ave., Congers, N. Y.	20 Jan. 43	3 Jun. 43
Victor E. Russo, Pvt., 1451 Taylor Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.	22 Jun. 43	15 Feb. 45
Andrew J. Scheer, Pfc., Rt. 1, Rockdale, Texas	11 Jul. 42	
Norman E. Sculley, Tec 5, 8418 Madison Ave., Cleveland, Ohio	7 Oct. 42	3 Jun. 43
Carlos Sedillo, Pfc., Box 704, Taos, N. Mex.	12 May 43	15 Feb. 45
Albert Shaffner, Tec 5, 5643 Osage Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.	24 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43



<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
William J. Shields, Pfc., Rt. 2, Box 86, Ludlow, Ky.	30 Dec. 42	22 Jun. 44
Frank A. Sittinger, S/Sgt., 106 W. 18th St., Erie, Pa.	7 Jan. 41	3 Jun. 43
William J. Smirga, Pfc., 1624 Grandview Ave., N. Braddock, Pa.	4 Oct. 43	22 Jun. 44
George E. Spain, Pfc., 1030 Hickory St., St. Louis, Mo.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Ned J. Spinello, Pfc., 2518 Elma, Kansas City, Mo.	3 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
Charles F. Stansberry, Pfc., 7206 W. 9th Ave., Lakewood, Colo.	1 Jun. 43	10 Feb. 44
George E. Stout, Jr., Pfc., Como and Allaire Rd., Farmingdale, N. J.	26 Jun. 43	15 Aug. 44
Francis J. J. Szutowicz, Tec 4, 8 Tamarack St., W. Hazelton, Pa.	17 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Ray B. Taylor, Pfc., Rt. 7, Box 193, Pine Bluff, Ark.	29 Aug. 40	22 Jun. 44
Martin J. Travers, Pvt., 138 E. Archwood Ave., Akron, Ohio	12 Nov. 42	2 Jun. 43
James M. Waller, Pfc., Froid, Mont.	18 Jun. 43	22 Jun. 44
Homer Warkenthien, Pfc., 2010 Arthur Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	6 Mar. 42	12 Feb. 44
Frank D. Warman, Pvt., 1019 S. Dolman St., St. Louis, Mo.	15 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Stewart O. Weaver, Tec 4, 314 S. 29th St., Penbrook, Pa.	17 May 41	3 Jun. 43
Robert M. Weidler, Pfc., RD 3, Lititz, Pa.	19 May 41	3 Jun. 43
Joseph P. Weldon, Pfc., 419 Budd St., Philadelphia, Pa.	2 Dec. 41	3 Jun. 43
Henry N. West, Pvt., Rt. 2, Des Arc, Ark.	14 Jun. 43	9 Feb. 45
Carl D. White, Pfc., 263 Warker St., Mansfield, Ohio	9 Sep. 43	13 Feb. 44
Stephen R. White, Pfc., Gen'l Del'y, Cross Plains, Tenn.	19 Aug. 42	3 Jun. 43
Joseph C. Wick, 305 Snyder Ave., Butler, Pa.	25 Aug. 43	
Capehart C. Wiggins, S/Sgt., 505 Harrison St., Portsmouth, Va.	26 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
Burwyn E. Wilcox, Pfc., Rt. 1, Kingston, Mich.	25 Feb. 43	13 Mar. 45
James L. Williams, Pfc., 22 East Madison, Phoenix, Ariz.	15 Jul. 43	22 Jun. 44
Vernon M. Wisler, Sgt., Roaring Spring, Pa.	26 Feb. 41	3 Jun. 43
James J. Wolf, Pfc., Ellicott Creek Rd., Tonawanda, N. Y.	9 Jul. 43	25 Jun. 44
Murray M. Wolf, Cpl., 150 Crown St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	17 Jun. 42	20 Feb. 45
Stephen Wright, Pfc., 2630a Brannon, St. Louis, Mo.	24 Jun. 43	22 Jun. 44
George Yakub, Jr., Pfc., Wall Ave., Wall Boro, Pa.	3 Jun. 43	22 Jun. 44
Louis A. Yenalahtus, Sgt., 770 Military Rd., Buffalo, N. Y.	17 Mar. 42	3 Jun. 43
John J. Zaber, Pfc., 333 So. West St., Shenandoah, Pa.	19 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43
Edward M. Zilinskas, Pfc., 611 Agnew Rd., R D 6, Pittsburgh, Pa.	5 Nov. 42	3 Jun. 43



COMMUNICATIONS SECTION



Tec 5 Joe Pass, Tec 4 Lewis Atwell, Tec 5 Berthel Binneck, Sgt. R. C. Hancock, Tec 5 Geo. Fitzpatrick, Tec 5 Leslie Hartley.

OFFICERS – BATTERY D



Lt. E. J. Berry, Lt. R. R. McCafferty, Capt. J. A. Roe, Lt. L. Hall, Lt. T. S. Potter.

FIRST 3 GRADERS



S/Sgt. John Brophy, 1st Sgt. Harry Patasky, Tec 3 Robert Musselwhite, S/Sgt. Sidney Cheser, S/Sgt. Frank Sittinger, S/Sgt. F. Ervin Braznik.

40mm GUN SECTION NO. 2



Pvt. Sedillo Carlos, Pfc. Gerardo Mariano, Sgt. Michel Horvath, Pfc. Isaac McClain, Pfc. Roberto Garza, Cpl. Dan Pawlic, Pfc. Raymond Bovie, Pfc. David McCoach.



M51 — SECTION NO. 3



Pfc. Geo. Stout, Pfc. Leo McInerny, Pfc. Ed. Zilinkas, Pfc. James Lee.

40mm GUN SECTION NO. 3



Cpl. Steve Lyons, Cpl. Jos. Chervenka, Sgt. Albert Masaryak, Pfc. Jos. Weldon, Pvt. Abram Ecker, Pfc. Louis Combs, Pfc. John Zaber, Pfc. Leo Krasowicz.

40mm GUN SECTION NO. 5



Pfc. Alfred Dunton, Sgt. Vernon Wisler, Pfc. Julius Morocz, Cpl. Louis Bock.

40mm GUN SECTION NO. 6



Sgt. Robert Kilmartin, Pfc. James Carter, Cpl. Edward Rokos, Pfc. Meyer Fand, Pfc. Charles Faust, Pfc. James Wolf.



M51 – SECTION NO. 6



Pvt. Robert Koscko, Tec 5 James J. Brogan, Pfc.
George Mohlke.

M51 – SECTION NO. 7



Pfc. James Waller, Pfc. Wm. Shields, Pfc. Wm.
Alexander.

40mm GUN SECTION NO. 8



Pfc. Chester Jenson, Cpl. John Kane, Pfc. Le-
roy Carter, Pfc. Don Phillippi, Pvt. Henry West,
Sgt. Louis Yenalahtus.



ROSTER



Med. Det.

CAPT. FELIX H. VANN, MC
Battalion Surgeon

CAPT. JAMES O. CRAWFORD, DC
Battalion Dentist

1ST LT. JAMES M. HATCH, MAC
Medical Administrative Officer

<i>Name and Address</i>	<i>Entered Army</i>	<i>Joined 863d</i>
Jesse W. Akers, Pfc., Alum Ridge, Va.	6 Nov. 42	Activation
Albert Begleiter, Pfc., 813—44th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	30 Oct. 42	Activation
Louis Calumet, Tec 5, 1515 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N. Y.	12 Nov. 42	Activation
Vincent Cuiule, Tec 4, RFD, 369 Stoke Ave., Trenton, N. J.	16 Nov. 42	Activation
Vito Cardinale, Tec 5, 216 Walnut St., Nutley 10, N. J.	5 Nov. 42	Activation
Louis J. Gimler, S/Sgt., 102 Forrest Ave., Monroe, La.	8 Dec. 40	Activation
Frank Goble, Pfc., Lancer, Ky.	30 Jan. 42	1 Feb. 43
Arthur C. Gross, Tec 5, 2650 West Evergreen, Chicago, Ill.	14 Jan. 42	Activation
Green D. Hamilton, Cpl., Printer, Ky.	30 Jan. 42	Activation
Felix J. Lushko, Pfc., West Point Ave., RD No. 3, New Brunswick, N. J.	30 Oct. 42	Activation
Daniel A. MacDonald, Tec 3, 595 Heath St., Brookline, Mass.	21 Apr. 42	Activation
Martin J. Marino, Pvt., 276 Van Wagenen Ave., Jersey City, N. J.	4 Jan. 42	Activation
John L. Matetich, Tec 4, Sta. "B," Route 2 (Oliver), Superior, Wisc.	1 May 42	Activation
Pasqualino J. Mauro, Tec 4, 6 Railroad St., Maynard, Mass.	6 Feb. 41	Activation
Theodore O. Moeller, Tec 3, 7413—10th Ave., Kenosha, Wisc.	23 Dec. 42	Activation
George Reckner, Tec 5, RD No. 3, Troy, N. Y.	18 Jan. 43	21 Apr. 45
Nicholas R. Zagar, S/Sgt., 838 North 13th St., Milwaukee, Wisc.	9 May 42	Activation





ATTACHMENTS

AND COMMANDS OF THE 863d



IN THE STATES

Eastern Defense Command

AAAC-EDC

38th Brigade (AA)

Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum
Lieutenant General George Grunert
Major General Sanderford Jarman
Brigadier General Hines

IN EUROPE

Hq ETOUSA

USSTAF

IX Air Force

IX Air Defense Command

50th AAA Brigade

51st AAA Brigade

52d AAA Brigade

54th AAA Brigade

55th AAA Brigade

General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Lieutenant General Carl Spaatz
Major General Hoyt S. Vandenberg
Brigadier General William L. Richardson
Brigadier General Clare H. Armstrong
Brigadier General Charles C. Curtis
Brigadier General N. A. Burnell II
Brigadier General D. W. Hickey, Jr.
Brigadier General McCroskey



12th Army Group

First Army

V Corps

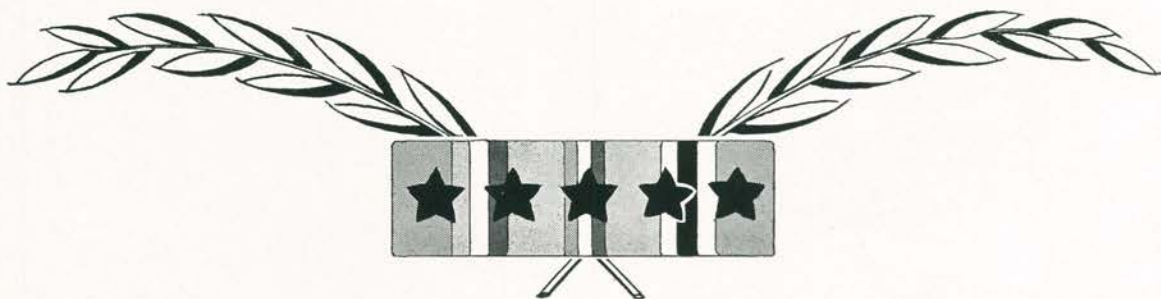
9th Division

99th Division

49th AAA Brigade

General Omar N. Bradley
General Courtney H. Hodges
Major General C. R. Huebener
Major General Louis A. Craig
Major General Lauer
Brigadier General E. W. Timberlake





BATTALION BATTLE PARTICIPATION CREDIT



1. Battle of Normandy — 6 June 1944 to 24 July 1944

(European theater of operations exclusive of the land areas of the United Kingdom and Iceland)



2. Battle of Northern France — 25 July 1944 to 14 September 1944

(European theater of operations exclusive of the land areas of the United Kingdom and Iceland)



3. Rhineland Campaign — 15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945

(Generally, those portions of France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Germany east of the Belgian and French frontiers)



4. Ardennes Campaign — 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945

(The area forward of the line: Euskircheneupen, Liege, east bank of Meuse River to its intersection with the Franco-Belgian border, thence south along this border and the southern border of Luxembourg)



5. Battle of Central Europe — 25 March 1945 to 11 May 1945





BATTALION STATIONS



Fort Totten, L. I., N. Y.
Buffalo, N. Y.
Lake Ontario Ordnance Works
Camp Kilmer, N. J.

1 June 1943
12 August 1943
15 January 1944
21 February 1944

Across the Atlantic Ocean

21 March 1944

Arrival in Scotland (Greenoch)

27 March 1944

Llanover Park, Wales

30 March 1944

Predannock, England
Stanstead, England
Boscombe, England
Romsey, England

22 April 1944
10 May 1944
29 June 1944
7 July 1944

Crossing the English Channel

11 July 1944

Landing on Omaha Beach, Normandy France
Colleville sur Mer, France
St. Laurent sur Mer, France
Couvains, France
St. James, France
St. Pair sur Mer, France
Granville, France
St. Etienne (Rouen), France

12 July 1944 – D36
13 July 1944
2 August 1944
19 August 1944
24 August 1944
2 September 1944
25 September 1944
12 October 1944

Kalterherberg, Germany
Kalterherberg, Germany (Forward CP)
Liege, Belgium (A Battery)

4 December 1944 to 1 January 1945
23 December 1944 to 8 January 1945
4 December 1944 to 10 January 1945

Eupen, Belgium
Namur, Belgium
Aubel, Belgium

23 December 1944
11 January 1945
10 March 1945

Eschweiler, Germany
Linz, Germany
Bad Soden, Germany

28 March 1945
13 April 1945
2 June 1945



HONOR ROLL

KILLED IN SERVICE

Pfc. WILLIAM E. GROS

10 August 1944 Battery D Home: Canajoharie, New York

Tec 5 LESTER PRENTES

31 December 1944 Battery D Home: Brooklyn, New York

Pfc. DOCK M. RITCHIE

10 August 1944 Battery D Home: Hazard, Kentucky

Cpl. JESUS A. ROSAS

10 December 1944 Battery B Home: Raymondville, Texas

Pvt. LOUIS E. SHIVER

27 March 1945 Battery A Home: Quincy, Florida

Pfc. JOHN E. STEWART

10 August 1944 Battery D Home: Millry, Alabama

Tec 5 STEVE STYTZER

24 December 1944 HQ Battery Home: Uniontown, Pennsylvania



HONOR ROLL

WOUNDED IN ACTION

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Injury</i>	<i>Battery</i>
Pfc. Thomas A. Ashton	23 December 1944	HQ
Pfc. Richard C. Braughler	25 December 1944	C
Tec 5 William R. Breen	18 January 1945	A
Pfc. Paul A. Deshaies	20 December 1944	C
Cpl. Charles Donachy	16 December 1944	B
Pvt. Charles Dunlap	23 December 1944	C
Pvt. Elton G. Eidson	24 December 1944	A
Pfc. Robert E. Goss	4 April 1945	A
Pvt. Arthur M. Harris	23 December 1944	D
Pfc. Milton Harrison	9 December 1944	C
Pfc. William R. Hayhurst	17 January 1945	A
Pfc. Ray T. Hopkins	17 March 1945	A
Sgt. Erskine Horne	4 April 1945	A
Tec 5 Ward R. Hudson	23 December 1944	D
Cpl. William J. Irwin	31 December 1944	D
Pvt. Louis Jaffee	17 January 1945	A
Pfc. Theron S. Kent	25 December 1944	A
Pvt. Eugene V. Ouellette	23 December 1944	C
Pvt. Frank G. Perez	4 April 1945	A
Pvt. Clark B. Rakestraw	27 December 1944	B
Pvt. John Savarino	15 January 1945	A
Pfc. Herbert Schorman	26 December 1944	C
Lt. Gene T. Semple	23 December 1944	C
Pfc. Nicholas F. Seymour	24 December 1944	A
Pfc. George E. Spain	20 December 1944	D
Pfc. Ray B. Taylor	17 December 1944	D
Pfc. Clifford D. Thurman	26 December 1944	C
Tec 5 Steve Urban	4 April 1945	A
Pvt. John D. Winters	4 April 1945	A
Sgt. Vernon M. Wisler	23 December 1944	D
Pfc. Theodere Wright	23 December 1944	D
Tec 5 Willard E. Yeager	23 December 1944	D





DECORATIONS AND AWARDS



SILVER STAR



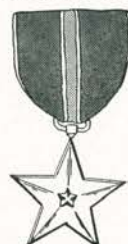
Lt. Gene T. Semple

Battery C

Date of Action: 22 December 1944



BRONZE STAR



<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Battery</i>
Sgt. Elmer F. Armacost	B
Tec 5 Matthew P. Brady	C
Lt. Sol N. Busch	A
1/Sgt. Richard F. Cairl	C
Cpl. Billy A. Cloud	C
Cpl. Roger W. Collins	Hq
T/Sgt. Robert H. Daugherty	Hq
Tec 5 Albert J. DeVito	B
Pfc. Fred J. DiLucci	C
T/Sgt. Ervin F. Draznick	Hq
Sgt. Robert W. Driscoll	C
Pfc. Charles L. Dunlap	C
Tec 5 Vilas E. Edwards	D
Lt. Lilburn R. Hall	D
Sgt. Eugen J. Jankoski	C
Major William J. Krzton	Hq
Pfc. Walter Kurko	D

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Battery</i>
Tec 4 James R. Midkiff	Hq
CWO John J. O'Connell	D
Capt. Henry C. Pendzick	B
Tec 5 Lester Prentes	D
<i>(awarded posthumously)</i>	
Capt. James F. Roe	D
Pfc. Herbert Schorman	C
Tec 3 Willam Skupakas	Hq
Tec 5 Verdum W. Shaffer	A
Tec 5 Steve J. Stytzer	Hq
<i>(awarded posthumously)</i>	
Tec 4 Vernon E. Walter	C
Pfc. Thad P. Walker	D
Lt. Col. William H. Warrick	Hq
Pfc. James L. Williams	D
Pfc. Arthur K. Wood	C



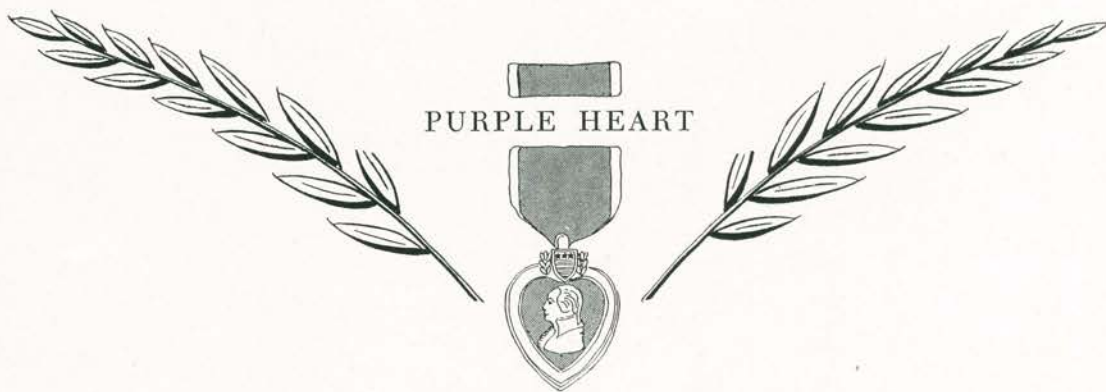
SOLDIER'S MEDAL



<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Battery</i>
Pvt. James W. Dunlap	D
Sgt. Reubin R. Garvin	D

<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Battery</i>
Sgt. Michael T. Horvath	D
Cpl. George S. Jordan	D





<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Battery</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Battery</i>
Pfc. Thomas J. Ashton	Hq	Pfc. Theron S. Kent	A
Pfc. Richard C. Braughler	C	Tec 5 Martin J. Marino	Med
Tec 5 Thomas V. Breen	A	Pvt. Frank G. Perez	A
Tec 5 Joseph Capacasa	C	Pvt. Clark B. Rakestraw	B
Pfc. Paul A. Deshaies	C	Pfc. Walter R. Robinson	D
Tec 4 Charles Donachy	B	(and Oak Leaf Cluster)	
Pvt. Charles L. Dunlap	C	Pvt. John Savarino	D
Pfc. Eldon G. Eidson	A	Pfc. Herbert Schorman	C
(and Oak Leaf Cluster)		Lt. Gene T. Semple	C
Pfc. Robert E. Goss	A	Pfc. Nicholas F. Seymour	A
Pfc. Milton B. Harrison	C	Pfc. George E. Spain	D
Pfc. William R. Hayhurst	A	Pfc. Clifford D. Thurman	C
Sgt. Erskine Horne	A	Tec 5 Steve Urban	A
Cpl. William J. Irwin	D	Pfc. Joseph C. Weldon	D
Pvt. Louis Jaffee	D	Pvt. John D. Winters, Jr.	A
Sgt. Vernon Wisler		D	





ENEMY PLANES DESTROYED

<i>Battery</i>	<i>Gun Position</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Category</i>
C	4 - 40	16 December 44	ME 109	II
D	5 - M51	19 December 44	FW 190	I
D	8 - M51	19 December 44	FW 190	II
D	6 - M51	19 December 44	FW 190	I
C	2 - 40	19 December 44	FW 190	II
C	1 - M51	19 December 44	FW 190	II
C	8 - 40	19 December 44	FW 190	II
B	4 - 40	24 December 44	ME 109	I
D	1 - 40	24 December 44	ME 109	I
D	8 - 40	24 December 44	ME 109	I
A	4 - 40	25 December 44	DO 217	II
D	7 - M51	27 December 44	ME 109	II
A	2 - 40	27 December 44	JU 88	II
B	1 - 40	1 January 45	ME 109	I
C	5 - 40	1 January 45	ME 109	I
C	8 - 40	1 January 45	ME 109	I
B	8 - M51	1 January 45	ME 109	I
B	2 - M51	1 January 45	FW 190	I
C	5 - M51	1 January 45	FW 190	I

Battery A - 2

Battery C - 7

Category I - 11

Battery B - 4

Battery D - 6

Category II - 8

Total - 19

PILOTLESS AIRCRAFT DESTROYED

Although a record of the exact number of destroyed V-1s claimed by the Battalion during the Ardennes Campaign was lost, when the records were burned by necessity due to possibility of capture, the following recapitulation is believed accurate: -

	<i>Cat. A</i>	<i>Cat. B</i>
Battery B	5	4
Battery C	8	3
Battery D	6	9
Total	19	16

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE

APO 696, U S Army
11 July 1945

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER.....132)

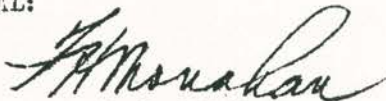
BATTLE HONORS - Citations of Unit Section
I

I--BATTLE HONORS.--Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, WD, 1943, the following-named unit of the Ninth Air Force is cited for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy. The citation reads as follows:

"The 863d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. For extraordinary heroism in armed conflict with the enemy from 16 December to 23 December 1944. The officers and men of this organization rendered outstanding services in holding off German counterattacks in the Ardennes sector. At the time when the enemy launched a series of vicious and determined attacks against our ground forces in the area south of Monchau, the 863d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion was established behind the front lines to provide defensive fire against hostile dive bombers and pilotless aircraft. When the enemy penetrated our front line positions this Battalion immediately assumed the initiative by dispatching provisional batteries to the forward positions to direct heavy concentrations of machine gun fire into areas of enemy troop concentration. Despite heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire the members of this organization remained gallantly at their posts and repelled the determined attacks by air, infantry, and armored infantry of the resurgent enemy. Although widely extended and subjected to continuous probing attacks, this Battalion held its ground against great odds without a break. The courage and aggressive fighting spirit displayed by the officers and men of this organization prevented the enemy forces from making further advances in the Monschau-Hofen-Kalterherberg area, and evidenced a devotion to duty and esprit de corps in keeping with the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States."

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL WEYLAND:

OFFICIAL:



F. H. MCNAHAN
Lt Col, A G D
Adjutant General

ROBERT M. LEE
Brig Gen, USA
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: "A"
(Less units not concerned)

-1-

R E S T R I C T E D



HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO #9, U. S. Army

19 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer, 863rd AAA AW Battalion
(Thru Channels)

During the period 17 December 1944 - 1 January 1945, Provisional Batteries of the 863rd AAA AW Battalion were attached to the 9th Infantry Division. These Batteries consisted of quadruple mount .50 caliber machine guns.

On 16 December 1944 the German counter-offensive south of MONSCHAT was launched. The Division was widely extended and was subjected to continuous probing attacks.

The Provisional Batteries from forward positions placed heavy .50 caliber machine gun fire on likely enemy concentration areas. Although the results were for the most part unobserved, in several instances fires were started and enemy troops were seen to hurriedly evacuate target areas. Information gained from Prisoners of War further attested to the accuracy of the missions.

On several occasions, gun positions were subjected to counter-battery fire by the enemy in an effort to discourage their further use. New positions, however, were quickly reconnoitered and occupied without interfering with the effectiveness of the fire.

The spirit of cooperation and the skilled performance of an unfamiliar task exhibited by all members of the Battalion during this crucial period assisted materially in the successful defense of the MONSCHAU-HOFEN-KALTERHERBERG sector and is worthy of high commendation.


LOUIS A. CRATT,
Major General, U.S.A.,
Commanding.



201.22 1st Ind.
(19 January 1945)-Commendation, 863rd AAA AW Battalion.
HEADQUARTERS V CORPS, APO 305, 24 January 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 863rd AAA AW Battalion.
THRU: Commanding General, First U.S. Army.

It gives me great pleasure to note and transmit this fine tribute for a difficult task performed in a superior manner.


C. R. HUMMER,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

201.22 2nd Ind. FEB 1945
HEADQUARTERS FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY, APO 230.

THRU: Commanding General, 52nd AAA Brigade.
TO : Commanding Officer, 863rd AAA AW Battalion (SM)

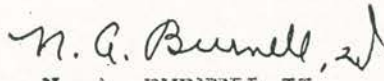
The Army Commander is pleased to forward this commendation for work exceptionally well done.


S. E. SENIOR,
Colonel, A.G.D.
Ass't Adjutant General

201.22 3rd Ind S-1:NAB:RDL
HEADQUARTERS, 52d AAA Brigade, APO 654, US Army, 4 February 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 863rd AAA AW Bn, APO 654, US Army.
THRU: Commanding Officer, 29th AAA Group, APO 654, US Army.

The members of the Brigade and I wish to congratulate you for such commendable performance of duties.


N. A. BURNELL II,
Brigadier General, USA,
Commanding.



HEADQUARTERS
49TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BRIGADE
APO 230
U. S. ARMY

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation of 863rd AAA AW Battalion for Performance of Combat Duty in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes and Rhineland Campaigns.

TO : Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick,
Commanding Officer, 863rd AAA AW Battalion,
APO 230, U. S. Army.

1. At the conclusion of our victorious campaign through Europe, I want to express my deep appreciation to you, and through you, to the officers and men of your hard bitten Battalion, for the outstanding drive, tenacity of purpose, and aggressiveness with which the 863rd AAA AW Battalion performed all combat missions in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, and Rhineland Campaigns.

2. Narrative.

a. The 863rd AAA AW Battalion landed on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, early in July, 1944, and in a minimum of time, established an impregnable AAA defense of its sector of the Beachhead. During the Allied race through France, Belgium and into Germany, the Battalion, moving progressively forward in the zone of action of the FIRST U. S. ARMY, successively and successfully defended IAZ's, airfields, defiles, ASP's, and other vital installations.

b. On 4 December 1944, the Battalion was given the mission of destroying PAC over German territory, and fought its way into previously designated positions in the Anti-Robomb Belt to the east of Monschau and Kalterherberg, Germany, under direct hostile artillery and infantry fire, with a minimum of casualties in personnel and material.

c. When the German Ardennes counter-offensive was launched on 16 December 1944, the 863rd AAA AW Battalion found itself squarely across the path of the onrushing 12th German Panzer Division, and in spite of the withdrawal of friendly reconnaissance and infantry screens, elected to stand and fight it out. The Battalion thus became, in effect, the front line of the northern shoulder of the Ardennes Bulge until the arrival of the 2nd and 9th U. S. Infantry Divisions from the rear on 18 December 1944, when its guns became the rallying point, and later the line of departure, along seven miles of vital front covering the Monschau-Hofen-Kalterherberg-Mutzenich-Eupen road net. During the period 16 to 24 December 1944,

- 1 -

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the 863rd AAA AW Battalion, with blazing courage and tenacity of purpose, stood and fought the enemy on the ground, and in the air, shoulder to shoulder with the infantry -- to the everlasting credit of the Battalion, the 49th AAA Brigade, and the FIRST U. S. ARMY.

d. With the launching of the Roer and Rhine offensive, the 863rd AAA AW Battalion, utilizing its weapons to the maximum in both air and ground roles, aggressively and successfully supported the pulverizing smash of the FIRST U. S. ARMY which terminated all German resistance in its zone of action of the Rhineland. The termination of hostilities found the 863rd AAA AW Battalion well on the Road to Berlin, with a record that no objective defended by it, from the Normandy Beaches to the Elbe, had been damaged by aerial attack.

3. The fighting instincts, esprit de corps and soldierly qualities of the officers and men of the 863rd AAA AW Battalion, during the most crucial battles of the European Campaign, redounds to the glory of the Battalion as a whole, and reflects the leadership, high degree of personal courage, and technical and tactical skill of Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick, who led this Battalion in the greatest military campaigns of history.


E. W. TIMBERLAKE,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.





HEADQUARTERS
WESTERN PACIFIC BASE COMMAND
Office of the Commanding General
APO 244

In Reply Refer To

25 July 1945

Subject: Second Anniversary of the Activation of the 863rd AAA AW Bn.

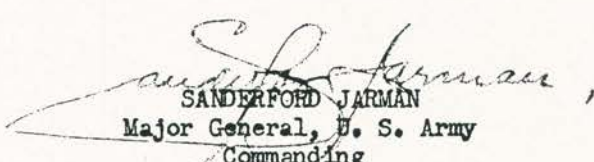
To : The Officers and Men, 863rd AAA AW Battalion.

1. It has just come to my attention that the 863rd AAA AW Battalion has completed its second year of service and is now stationed in Germany. In that period of two years your unit has done, in a superior manner, all the duties required of it from its inception at Fort Totten, N. Y., under my command, to the culmination of the war in Europe. It has been particularly thrilling to me to have followed the activities of the 863rd AAA AW Battalion.

2. Many of you who were with the Battalion at its inception probably wondered why I stressed continually high standards, both in the operation of materiel and in the conduct of the man himself -- both of these elements being to me the fundamentals of a good soldier. I believe since then, in your experience across Europe chasing the Hun, you have demonstrated well the basic instructions inaugurated at Fort Totten, N. Y. You are now seasoned veterans.

3. I am indeed proud of Lt. Colonel Warrick, his officers and men for the job they have done. I am proud to have been able to organize your Battalion.

4. Good luck and my personal congratulations to each one of you.


SANDERFORD JARMAN
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding



HEADQUARTERS 54TH AAA BRIGADE
APO 408 - U. S. ARMY

4 July 1945

Lt. Col. William H. Warrick
863rd AAA AW Battalion
APO 638, U. S. Army

Dear Colonel Warrick:

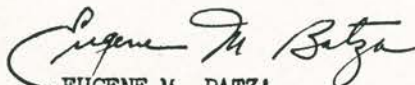
My staff and I enjoyed our association with your battalion while you were with this brigade in Normandy.. After you left us and got into the thick of the battle we followed your activities with great interest. We thought that your unit would uphold the traditions of the antiaircraft artillery and were not surprised when you did so.

I wish for you and all members of the 863d battalion the very best of fortune for the future and a quick return to your families.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ D. W. Hickey Jr
/t/ D. W. HICKEY, JR.,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army

A TRUE COPY:



EUGENE M. BATZA
1st Lt, CAC
Adjutant



HEADQUARTERS
52D ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BRIGADE

APO 633, US Army
6 July 1945

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 863D AAA AW BN

You joined the Brigade during the German counter-offensive of the Ardennes, a period which proved to be the most active in its history. You came to us as a battle-experienced unit which had not only destroyed its quota of planes in the air, but had withstood with great credit the vicious thrusts of the spearheads of the enemy force seeking to split the Allied Armies in their last desperate attempt to escape the inevitable.

That the enemy offensive did not succeed in its major mission is due to the determined resistance of a few of our units at critical points. The 863d is listed among those units, and by its action it reflected great credit upon all AAA units as fighting men. We are proud to have counted you as a member of our military family for a few interesting months.


N. A. BURNELL II
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTIETH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BRIGADE

AFO 508, US Army
6 July 1945

Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick
863 AAA AW Bn
APO 638, US Army

Dear Colonel Warrick:

In the period just following the heroic break-out of the Allied Armies from the Normandy beachhead, our installations were especially vulnerable to the German Luftwaffe. It was during this time that I had the pleasure of counting the 863rd AAA AW Bn among the units of my command.

To the officers and men of the 863rd and to your Commanding Officer, Lt Col Warrick, I should like to extend my personal appreciation of the superior work that you did at this time, and add the regret that our association was not of longer duration. Your organization will always be remembered by my staff and myself as one of outstanding ability and devotion to duty... typifying the high standards demanded and attained by anti-aircraft artillery at its best.

The 863rd may always point with pride to its record which shows, unmistakeable, that in your 40's the Luftwaffe more than met its match.

Sincerely,


CLARE H. ARMSTRONG
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



HEADQUARTERS
EASTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
Governors Island, New York 4, N.Y.

7 July 1945

To The Officers and Enlisted Men
863d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion
APO 638, U. S. Army
c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

Greetings:

Although many months have passed since you left the Eastern Defense Command, one never forgets an organization so smart and so efficient as yours. You had every reason to be very proud of the fine showing you made when I inspected your Battalion in Buffalo in 1943. And I was proud of you, for I knew that here was an outfit that was at an inspection level 365 days in the year.

I am sure they have not forgotten you in Buffalo, either. Centennial Park, they tell me, has never been the same, and there are some who still recall the city's excitement when you fired one of your 40mm guns for the benefit of visiting newspapermen. It was, I understand, the first gun fired over Lake Erie since Perry's battle there in 1813.

The Antiaircraft Artillery Command always had high standards and a high morale. General Jarman saw to that. I know of no one better qualified to maintain these fine traditions than your present battalion commander. General Jarman's first official act after he had been chosen to organize the antiaircraft defenses of the vital East Coast was to name Colonel Warrick, then a lieutenant, as his aide. For a time the two of them, with one telephone, comprised the entire Triple A Command. But it was not long before your guns were defending our key cities, and the messages were crackling over that fast communications system always called the "not loop."

I am sure that you have done well in combat and that you have added further lustre to the fine reputation you made for yourselves here. There have been many times when I have wished that I might have gone into battle with you.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, as soldiers or civilians, I know that you will carry on as you have in the past. Good luck and God bless all of you.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ George Grunert
/t/ GEORGE GRUNERT
Lieutenant General - U. S. Army

A TRUE COPY:

Eugene M. Batza
EUGENE M. BATZA
1st Lt, CAC
Adjutant



CHARLES C. CURTIS
Brigadier General, U.S. Army

Hq, 51st AAA Brigade
APO 638, U S Army
7 July 1945

Lt Col William H. Warrick
863rd AAA AW Bn
APO 638, U S Army

My dear Colonel:

I am happy to learn that you will publish a history of your excellent battalion while the thrilling details are fresh in your mind. It is a noteworthy project and I know members of your command will appreciate the chronicle of their great adventure more and more as years pass by.

Well do I recall how cheerfully and capably your battalion met our high standards both operationally and administratively both in England while defending medium bomber fields and again on Omaha Beach. We were happy to have had you with us and I don't mind saying that we often wished we had had your battalion during the operations just passed.

We kept apace with your fine record through conversations with other commanders and frequent mention in "Anti-Aircraft Notes".

Please convey my best regards to those members of your battalion whom I got to know and accept my congratulations for a job well-done.

With best wishes for continued success and happiness, I am

Sincerely yours,

s/ Chas C Curtis
t/ CHAS C CURTIS
Brigadier General - USA

A TRUE COPY:


EUGENE M BATZA
1st LT, CAC
Adjutant.



EMPIRE STATE, INC.

HUGH A. DRUM
PRESIDENT

NEW YORK

July 10th, 1945.

Dear Colonel Warrick,

At my direction, the 863d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion was activated effective 1 June 1943, at Fort Totten, New York, pursuant to the provisions of General Order No. 19, Headquarters Antiaircraft Artillery Command, Eastern Defense Command, dated 22 May 1943, and continued as a part of this Command until 21 February 1944, at which time by War Department instructions it was relieved for participation in combat within the European Theater of Operations.

The 863d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion was trained and prepared for combat operations under the immediate supervision of the Commanding General, Antiaircraft Artillery Command, Eastern Defense Command, and under my general supervision. At all times this unit evidenced a spirit of lively enthusiasm and was rapidly brought to a high state of combat efficiency.

The officers and men of the unit are to be congratulated for their outstanding accomplishment as members of my command.

Sincerely yours,



Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick,
Coast Artillery Corps,
863d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion,
APO 630, % Postmaster, New York.

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HEADQUARTERS
IX AIR DEFENSE COMMAND
Office of the Commanding General

10 July 1945

TO: Lieutenant Colonel William H. Warrick and the Officers and
Men of the 863d AAA AW Battalion.

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity
to express my personal appreciation of your outstanding contribution
to the successful conclusion of the War in Europe.

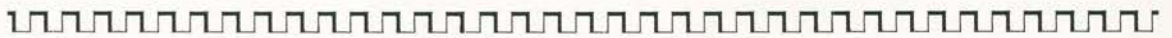
We all feel that the Antiaircraft Artillery has played
a considerable part in combatting the forces of evil which threat-
ened to overwhelm the world; your service with the IX Air Defense
Command has been outstanding, and a source of great pride to me and
I consider it a privilege to be able to say: "Congratulations and
best wishes to the 863d, and to each one of you individually".

William L. Richardson

WILLIAM L. RICHARDSON
Brigadier General U.S. Army
Commanding



OUTLINE OF EVENTS OF THE WAR



PEARL HARBOR TO V-E DAY

1941

DECEMBER 7th, Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, the Philippines and Hongkong; 8th, U. S. declares war on Germany, Italy, and Japan.

1942

JANUARY — Rommel's forces check British drive into Libya. First American troops land in Ireland.

FEBRUARY — Singapore surrenders to Japanese after 40-day battle.

APRIL — American fliers bomb Tokyo and other Japanese cities. Bataan surrenders.

MAY — Corregidor falls. American forces defeat Japanese naval forces in Coral Sea. Russians drive toward Kharkov. Axis forces in Libya thrust toward Tobruk.

JUNE — U. S. and Russia sign mutual pact.

JULY — Nazi forces roll toward Egypt; are stopped at El Alamein by British Eighth Army.

AUGUST — Allies including American Rangers, suffer heavy losses in Dieppe Raid. Americans land on Guadalcanal.

SEPTEMBER — Nazis pour into Stalingrad and Russian counter-offensive begins.

OCTOBER — Montgomery strikes through Axis Line at El Alamein, beginning drive which is to hurl Axis from North Africa.

NOVEMBER — Americans and British land in Africa, capture Casablanca and Oran, ending French resistance. British take Tobruk. Germans occupy all of France.

1943

JANUARY — Russians break Stalingrad siege. Roosevelt and Churchill meet at Casablanca to demand Unconditional Surrender of Germany.

FEBRUARY — British cross into Tunisia. U. S. completes Guadalcanal Campaign.

MAY — Allies capture Tunis and Bizerta. German force gives up at Cape Bon.

JULY — Allies invade Sicily. Mussolini resigns.

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AUGUST — Allies complete conquest of Sicily.

SEPTEMBER — Italy surrenders. Russians capture Smolensk.

OCTOBER — Italy declares war on Germany. Yanks take Naples.

NOVEMBER — Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin meet at Teheran. Roosevelt and Churchill meet Chiang Kai-shek at Cairo.

1944

JANUARY — Russians pour over Polish border. Americans establish Anzio Beachhead.

MARCH — U. S. planes bomb Berlin for first time. Germans occupy Hungary and Rumania. Reds drive into Rumania.

APRIL — Red Army captures Odessa.

MAY — Russians capture Sebastopol. Allies take Cassino. Greatest aerial offensive against Germany runs 29 days.

JUNE — Rome falls. Allies invade Hitler's Europe on June 6 under command of General Eisenhower. Troops land on Normandy coast and advance through Cherbourg Peninsula in greatest amphibian operation in history. B29 Superfortresses bomb steel centers on Jap island of Kyushu. Germans unveil first secret weapon, raining robot bombs on Southern England. Red Army opens summer offensive with powerful thrust toward Poland and the Baltic.

JULY — 863d crossed channel. Allies gain in Normandy. Capture Leghorn 150 miles north of Rome. U. S. troops occupy Saipan, land on Guam. Bomb plot fails to kill Hitler and purges German army.

AUGUST — Americans burst out of Normandy Peninsula. Paris liberated as U. S. and French troops landed in southern France stream northward. Rumania declares war on Germany after Bucharest and Ploesti fall to Russians. Bulgaria surrenders unconditionally to Allies.

SEPTEMBER — Allies enter Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. Russo-Finnish armistice signed.

OCTOBER — U. S. troops drive into Reich. Capture Aachen. Red Armies take Belgrade in Yugoslav push. Bulgaria signs armistice as British land in Greece and enter Athens. Churchill confers with Stalin at Moscow. Leyte landings open Philippine invasion.

NOVEMBER — German V-2 rockets fall on England. Metz and Strasbourg liberated as Allies cross German border at several points. Russian troops fighting in northern Norway.

DECEMBER — Nazis smash back in Ardennes area, re-enter Belgium and Luxembourg. Treaty of alliance and mutual assistance signed in Moscow by Russians and DeGaulle. Marshall Tito, Yugoslav leader, announces Albania's liberation.



1945

JANUARY — Allied drive erases German gains in Ardennes bulge. Great Russian offensive gets under way as Warsaw and Krakow are freed and Reds cross Polish border into Germany. East Prussia cut off. Hungary signs armistice with Allies. Fighting ceases in Greece.

FEBRUARY — Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin meet at Yalta in the Crimea, to map final plans for victory and reiterate unconditional surrender demands. Bataan falls to Yanks. Allies begin great western front offensive. Budapest falls to Red Army. Marines invade Iwo Jima. Turkey declares war on Reich. Manila liberated.

MARCH — Rhine reached, Cologne taken. First Army crossed Rhine on bridge at Remagen. Tokyo set afire by 300 B29's. Russians capture Kustrin. Iwo Jima falls. Third and seventh armies trap Nazis in Saar. Third takes Coblenz, Mainz, Worms, Ludwigshafen, crosses Rhine. U. S. Ninth, British Second, Allied First Airborne Armies cross north of Ruhr. Germany's main western defense line smashed.

APRIL — The Allied world mourns the death of President Roosevelt. His successor, Harry S. Truman, declares U. S. policies will be continued. Allied armies, sweeping deep into Germany, linkup with Russian Forces at Torgau. Other Red Army units drive into Berlin from their Oder River bridgehead. The bulk of Germany's Gold Reserve, estimated at \$2,000,000,000 found in a salt mine by Third Army troops. Nazi Diplomat Franz Von Papen is the first of many Nazi and Fascist notables captured by the Allies in the sweep across Germany. Hitler's mountain hideout wrecked by "earthquake" bombs. Allied Fifth and Armies race across the Po in Italy, to split German forces. Benito Mussolini, Italy's ex-Duce, slain by partisans near Como on the Italo-Swiss border.

MAY — Hitler dies May 1. Karl Doenitz takes over the Nazi rule. German armies surrender unconditionally in Italy. Nazis surrender in Denmark, Holland and Northern Germany. British troops and Red Army link-up on Baltic coast. Germans surrender unconditionally, peace declared 0241 hours 7 May 1945; 8 May V-E Day.



A CALENDAR OF THE PACIFIC WAR



1941

- Dec. 7 – Japs attack Pearl Harbor.
- Dec. 12 – Guam is taken by Japs.
- Dec. 24 – Wake Island surrenders.

1942

- Jan. 2 – Manila falls.
- Feb. 15 – Japs take Singapore.
- Mar. 8 – British give up Rangoon.
- Mar. 17 – General MacArthur becomes Allied Commander, SW Pacific.
- Apr. 9 – Japs conquer Bataan.
- Apr. 18 – General Doolittle makes his famous bombing raid over Japan.
- May 6 – Corregidor surrenders after hard battle.
- May 7 – Two-day Battle of Coral Sea ends; first flattop battle ever.
- Jun 12 – Japs land in Aleutians.
- Aug. 7 – Marines land on Guadalcanal.
- Dec. 1 – Beaten for third time, Jap fleet withdraws from Solomons.

1943

- Jan. 3 – Americans take Buna, New Guinea.
- Feb. 8 – Battle of Guadalcanal ends in victory for U. S. forces.
- Mar. 4 – Air Force destroys 12-ship Jap convoy in Battle of Bismarck Sea.
- Jun. 30 – South Pacific offensive begins with landing on Rendova, Solomons.
- Aug. 15 – Americans find Japs gone from Kiska, Aleutians.
- Sep. 12 – Salamaua, New Guinea, captured; Lae falls six days later.
- Nov. 1 – Bougainville invaded.
- Nov. 20 – Invasion of Gilbert Islands (Tarawa) opens Central Pacific offensive.

1944

- Jan. 31 – Americans invade Marshall Islands.
- Feb. 29 – MacArthur invades Admiralties; becomes staging area for Philippines.
- Mar. 22 – Japs attack India as Stilwell pushes into Burma.
- Jun. 15 – Marines invade Saipan.
- Jun. 16 – B-29s bomb Yawata, Japan, from China.
- Jul. 21 – Guam invaded.



Sep. 15 — Marines land in the Palaus.

Oct. 20 — MacArthur returns to the Philippines, landing on Leyte.

Nov. 24 — B-29s from Saipan bomb Tokyo.

1945

Jan. 9 — Americans land on Luzon, reaching Manila in 26 days.

Feb. 19 — Iwo Jima invaded.

Apr. 1 — Americans land on Okinawa.

Jul. 26 — Potsdam ultimatum calls on Japan to surrender.

Aug. 6 — Americans drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima.

Aug. 9 — Russia enters war against Japan; second atom bomb drops on Nagasaki.

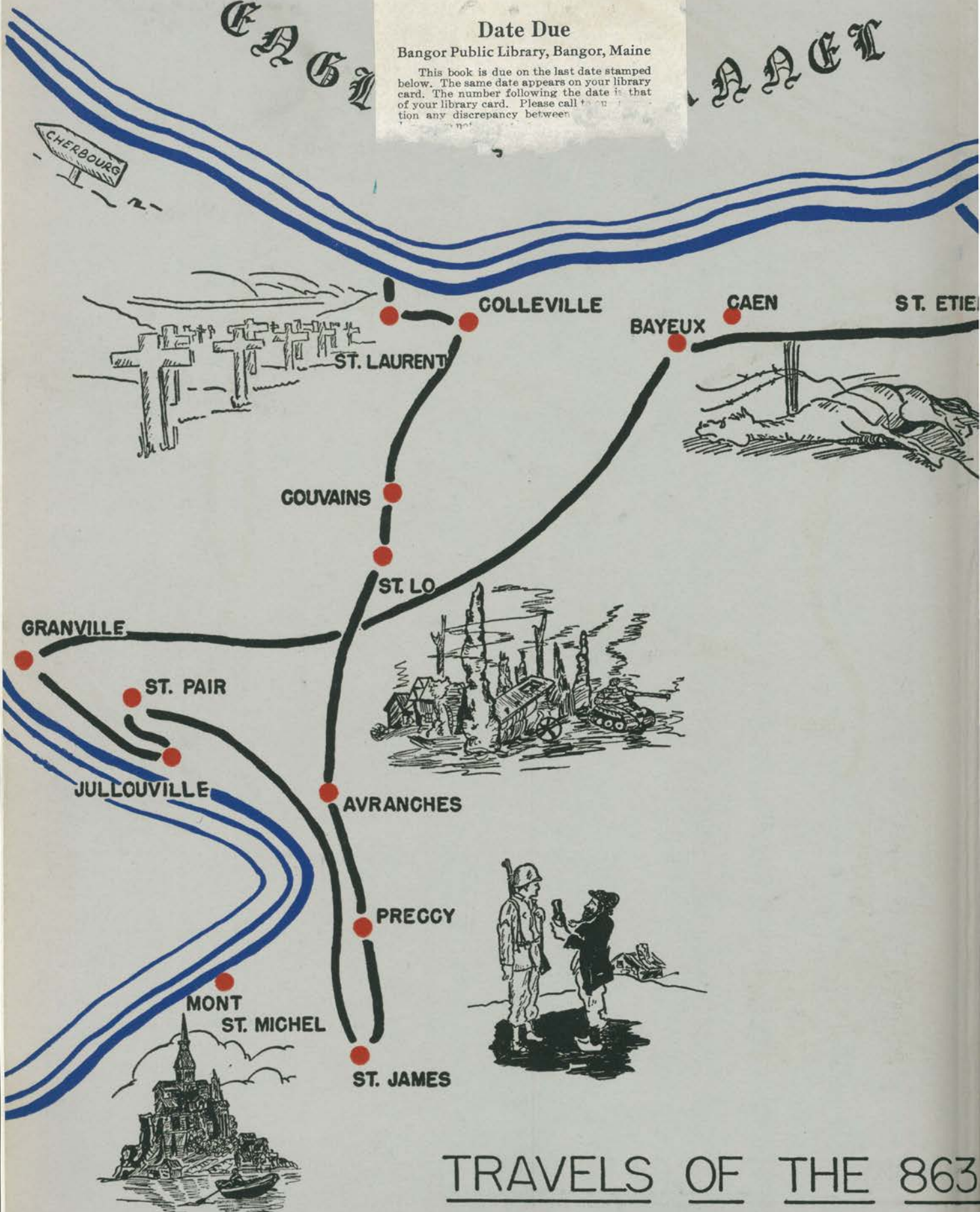
Aug. 14 — Japs accept terms of surrender.



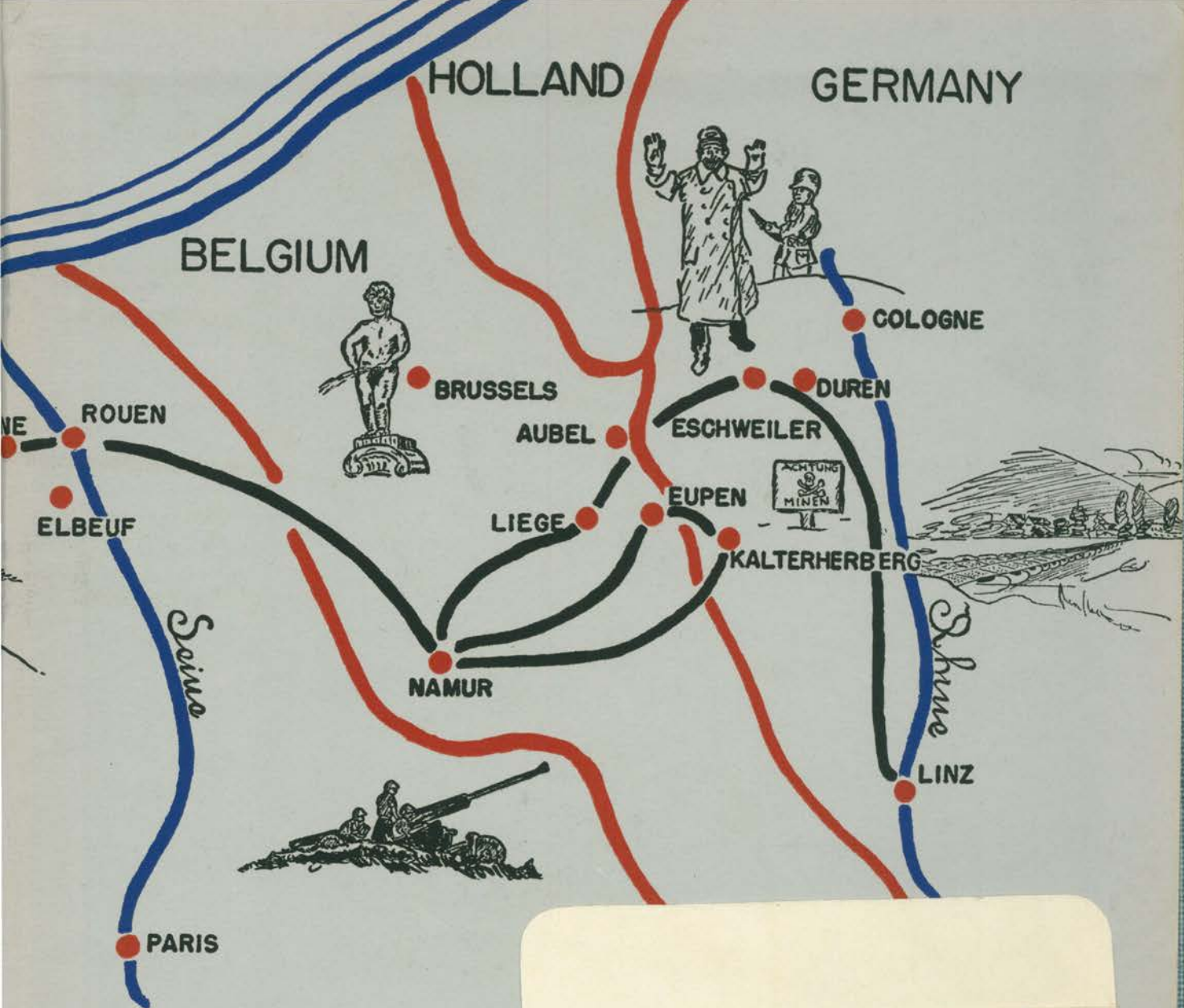
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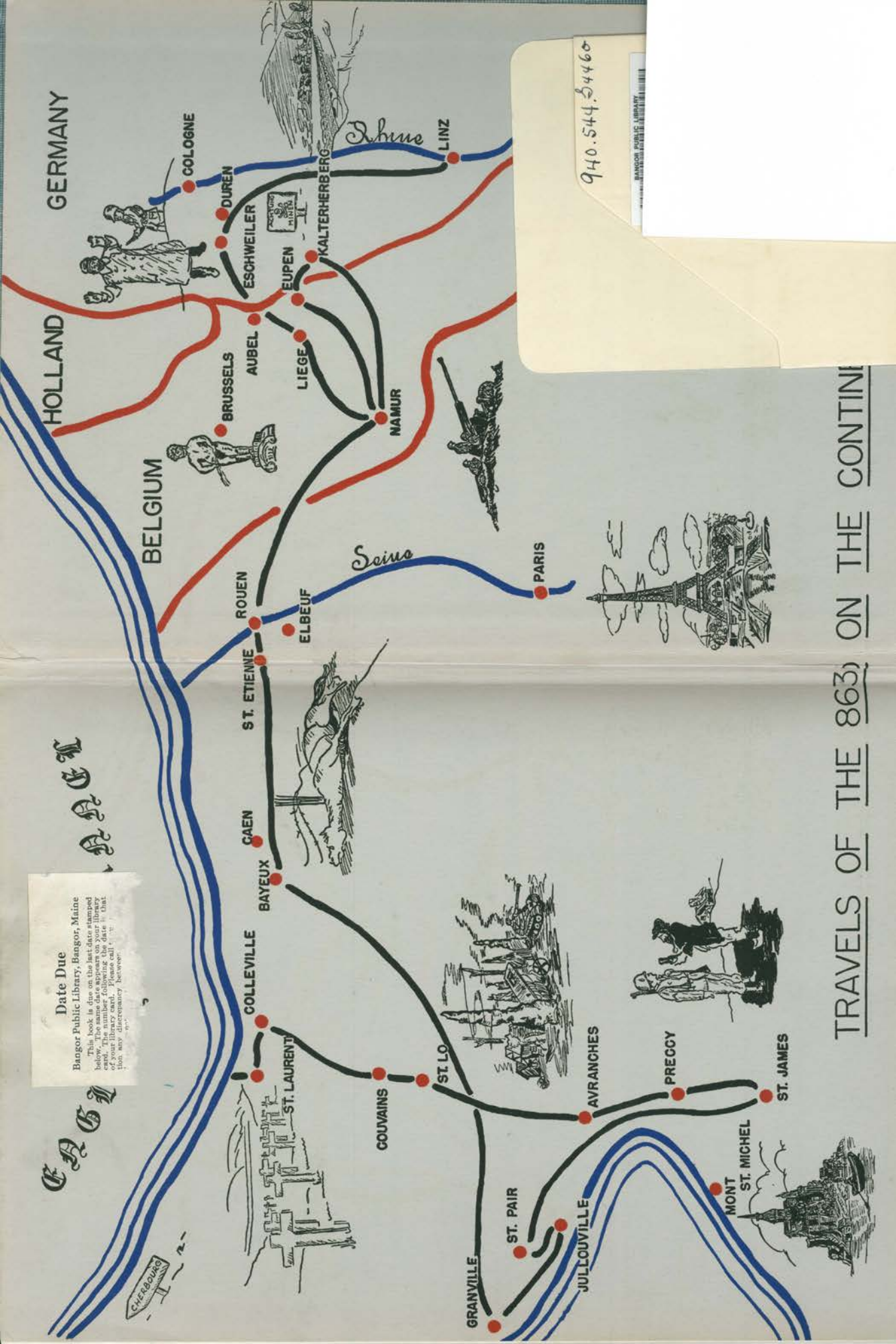
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