



THE PANTHER NEWS



WHAT EVER THE FUTURE,
WE ARE READY

Vol. 1

16 June, 1945

No. 2

"FOUR ARMY CHAPLAINS"

Four Army chaplains—a Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, and two Protestant ministers—stood hand in hand on the deck of the sinking transport SS Dorchester in the North Atlantic one bitter winter morning. Struck by a U-boat torpedo, the ship was doomed.

Most of the men were rescued—but not the four khaki-clad chaplains. With utter disregard for their own lives, these four had stripped off their own life-jackets and given them to soldiers who had none of their own. Then, praying to God for the safety of the men abandoning the sinking ship, they remained steadfast on its deck until it plunged to the bottom.

Survivors later told of having seen the four chaplains, Lt. Washington, priest; Lt. Goode, rabbi; Lt. Poling and Lt. Fox, ministers—praying together as the ship carried them to their death.

REPRINTED FROM "ARMY TALK"

(Editors note) "Did you attend church last week?"

"FACTS ABOUT THE CITY OF HALLE"

Church Of Frauen (Marktkuche)

Important treasures of Art Small organ of 1664.
Luthers Death Mask Formed shortly after his death, during the transportation of the corpse from Eisleben to Wittenberg.

Martin Luther University Of Halle

Impotrance One of the best schools of it's kind in Germany. It's teaching is of high value. The school is known far beyond the limits of Germany.

Stadttheater

Built 1884—1886. Educated excellent young players, who worked their way to greater theaters like Berlin and Munich.

The Municipal Collection Of Musical Instruments

Contents Collection of musical instruments from the year 1600 up to date. About 100 key board instruments including organs. About 450 other instruments.

The Museum For Middle-German History Of The Earth

Of the greatest importance for all the scientific world, as such findings are unique, and owing to peculiar geological circumstances will also be probably unique in the future.

"BATTALION QUIZZ"

1. To how many U. S. Armies has the 817th been assigned or attached?
2. Does the T/O call for more corporals or more sergeants?
3. When was the 817th under British command?
4. How many men of this unit have 85 or more points?
5. Who has the largest number of points in the battalion?

(Answers on Page 2, Column 2.)

"INFANTRY DAY"



"THE 104TH (TIMBERWOLF) INFANTRY DIVISION"

June 15th was celebrated through out the Army and the Nation, in tribute to the Infantry. If one looks through the records of our Infantry Divisions, he pauses, and wonders if one day is enough time to pay tribute to them. The 817th T. D. Bn. has fought shoulder to shoulder with one of the finest Infantry divisions in the history of the U. S. Army, the 104th Timberwolves. Your initiative and courage, in overcoming the many obstacles in your path towards victory, has been far beyond the call of duty. The everyday hardships that are confronted by the men in the fox holes are numerous; no one is a better judge of that than the men who lived, fought, and died in them. These men know war; they have shivered in water-filled fox holes, in deep winter snow, sweated out enemy fire, mixed their blood with the mud they laid in, and died with a prayer on their lips. The Officers and Men of the Timberwolf Division have more than helped make our Army what it is to-day. Your famous slogan, "NOTHING IN HELL CAN STOP THE TIMBERWOLVES", will long be remembered by the enemy. The Infantry is called "The Flower of the Army"; we of the 817th T. D. Bn. call you "The Flower of the Infantry".

Words of praise and tribute cannot repay you men for what you have gone through; we don't expect them to. Just for you men to read this article, and know how we feel, is our thanks.



"SPEEDY RECOVERY"

Captain R. L. McKenzie, o—1821893, was wounded in the left knee on March 12, 1945 by enemy mortar fire. The location was given as Bad Godsberg, Germany.

There are a great many soldiers and civilians, who given the opportunity to read a report of that type, would just shrug their shoulders and say, "I hope he will be well soon", or "Gosh, that's too bad". Strangers could not say much more than the normal sympathetic phrases. However, from the Officers and Men of the 817 T. D. Bn., especially Company C, there is a good deal more to be said.

Captain McKenzie joined the 817th T. D. Bn. in February of 1944 as Company Commander of Company C. From that month until the present date Company C has been one of the finest companies in the Battalion. It was his work and his leadership that went far in making this possible. His capacity for work was tremendous, always doing more than his share. He never had to lead his men; they more than willingly followed. The inspiration the men needed was found in him. There was another great quality about him; the men quickly found it out. He always, as the saying

*** The 817TH helped hold the Hurtgen Forest sector throughout the Ardennes Campaign, and was just above the break-through!**

goes, "went to bat" for them. The men who deserved punishment were dealt with in the prescribed manner. Those men whom he thought deserved a break, received it. There were many times he went out of his way to help his men; they never for one moment forgot it. The Staff Officers knew him as a smart, dependable officer, a hard worker with an excellent sense of humor.

Today, Captain McKenzie is still hospitalized in the Finney General Hospital at Thomasville, Georgia. We understand from his last letter that he is feeling much better. We are thankful that he is on the road to recovery. There are a great many miles that separate us, but we have not forgotten, and will not forget, the memory of our own Captain R. L. McKenzie.

"RETURN SALUTE"

To the person or persons responsible for the publication of "Salute to Recon." in last week's paper, the Officers and Men of Recon. Company wish to take this opportunity to thank them. We have strived to do our duties as they should be done, and are pleased that our work has been appreciated.

"T. D.'S SWAMP TIMBERWOLVES 19—5"

LT. COL. BARDES, "BALLOON BALL",
TOO MUCH FOR STAFF"

Halle, June 11 — The Officers of the 817th T. D. Bn. travelled over to the Cranberry Athletic Field, and handed the 104th Inf. Div. Staff a 19 to 5 lesson in the gentle art of playing softball. Before a fair crowd of spectators, which included Col. DeGraff, Chief of Staff of the 104th, and the Generals' Aides, Lt. Col. Bardes had his "balloon ball" breaking beautifully over the plate. The Staff had a very difficult time, trying to solve his delivery; it wasn't until

*** The 817TH fired almost 6000 3-inch HE shells into Roer River dam sector in a 3-day period!**

the end of the 5th inning that they were able to score 2 of their 5 runs. Lt. Col. Hoegh, who was the opposing pitcher, was not treated as a host should be; the 817th managed to bang out more hits than they were able to count, manufacturing 19 runs during the 7 innings that were played. Lt. Col. Bardes' pitching was the highlight of the game, although the power-house hitting of the rest of the team was sensational. The line-up for the 817th was as follows:

Major Omenhiser	C
Lt. Col. Bardes	P
Capt. Edgar	1B
Capt. McPhillips	2B
Lt. Gregor	3B
Lt. Clark	SS
Major Hahner	SF
Capt. Hoffman	RF
Capt. Sternfels	CF
Lt. Goodwin	LF

"LUCY"

On June 9, 1945 at approximately 1100 A. M. Lucy gave birth to quintuplets. Lucy has been living at Recon. Company since the company has been formed. Lt. Goodwin has been both her mother and father he has really done a very good job. It's hard to describe Lucy; being a woman she probably would be hard to please (aren't they all?). She has reddish-color hair and a pair of big brown eyes. We could tell you Lucy's age, but we don't think that a lady's age should be known. She is very graceful, and Mess Sgt. Skidmore says she eats like a lady. Ever since the big secret was found out, Lucy has been getting the best treatment in the Company.

Congratulations, Lucy; we know you will be a good mother to your quintuplets.

P. S. Lucy is Recon. Company's pet dog.

"BATTALION QUIZZ ANSWERS"

1. Five — the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 9th.
2. Both the same number — 59 each.
3. During the Ardennes Campaign when the 817th under the 9th Army was placed under 21st Army Group temporarily commanded by Field Marshall Montgomery.
4. Eight — although this number may be increased with the additional battle participation credits awaiting confirmation.
5. Your C. O. — Lt-Col. William H. Bardes.

*** The 817TH landed in England without its equipment; drew 154 vehicles, which it then painted, modified, equipped, and combat-loaded — in less than twenty days!**

"WHY MY COMPANY IS THE BEST IN THE BATTALION"



Captain Vogel
Company Commander of Co. A



WHAT DO YOU THINK



Captain McPhilipps
Company Commander of Co. B

Hellcat Red, with her sons from the Keystone State, is the best of the famous "Eight Bar Seven". In the beginning, back in the old Army (Camp Chaffee), Company Able was the keystone for the foundation of the future gun companies in the "Eight Bar Seven". If you will recall basic rules of masonry, the procedure is as follows—first lay a good and true corner-stone or keystone and build from there. As is evident today, the keystone, Company Able of the "Eight Bar Seven", was truly laid. Having given our knowledge and experience to the other companies when formed, we watched and helped them mature. Today we look back and say, "A job well done". Feeling more like a parent than a brother, we still today as in the past stand in the foreground. In reminiscing, we can recall AGF Physical Proficiency tests in which "A" Company represented the Battalion. IG Inspectors—"Send them to 'A' Company"; Army Ordnance Inspectors—"Send them to 'A' Company"; and so on

*** The 817TH left front-line combat in the Ramagen Bridgehead with towed guns and four companies, and 48 hours later was back in front-line combat with self-propelled guns and five companies!**

among the multitude of ingenious devices and methods for heckling an organization. Remember the old axiom—"always put your best foot forward". We never failed the Battalion. Today, as in the past, we still excel in athletics, as was demonstrated Activation Day. From the floors of the Hurtgen Forest to the shores of the muddy Mulde, we have successfully and aggressively met the foe. Ours is not of a braggard nature, but we are proud to say we successfully accomplished our mission in any task that befell us. We are proud of our record and yours, and we're happy to have you aboard. Let the future hold what it may, "Hellcat Red", they'll say, "was there firstus with the mostus!"

"LITTLE RIVIERA"

C Company in opening up the "Little Riviera" of Halle. The biggest recreation center of the 817th is now in operation. Recreation facilities include an immense Swimming Pool, with lounging chairs and umbrellas on the way. The Gymnasium is beautifully laid out with all athletic equipment on hand. At the present time the management of the "Little Riviera" is contemplating importing French women, cognac, champagne, and burlesque shows. (Nix fraternizing allowed on premises.)

For reservations please call 1st Sgt. Farmer.

Other companies note—Quota 1 man per 6 months.

We of "B" company proudly believe that our company is the best in the battalion, and the following account justifies our reason for forming said opinion...

Since December 9, 1944 when we left Schalkhoven as a towed unit, until May 1945 when we completed our activities as a self-propelled battalion, we feel justly proud of our accomplishments, no matter what hazards we experienced while achieving them. Our action as a combat unit began, when we were the first company to dig our guns in, in the Hurtgen Forest sector, with the smallest number of casualties and no loss of equipment. We remained in this area for sixty days, under continuous shelling by enemy artillery, and constant threat of counterattack. February 10th found us back in Belgium for a brief rest period; then thirteen days later we returned to the Schmidt area to perform what developed to be a very successful artillery mission.

On March 2nd we crossed the Rohr, spearheaded with the 14th Cavalry in an unorthodox but effective manner, and on March 9, we took up positions along the Rhine at Bad Godesburg to fire at targets of opportunity. The morning of March 13 saw us entering the Ramagen bridgehead area, in direct support of the III Corps. Our work with the Cavalry proved to those who choose to be skeptical, that a towed unit could with the proper amount of spirit and willingness operate quite tactically in support of a much more mobile unit, which we all know the Cavalry to be. Then came our conversion to "Hellcats" at Linz, a task which we did in the shortest length of time, thirty-six hours. As when we were towed, we again took honors for drawing the first assignment, and taking to the road again; we struck out on an eighty-mile black-out march, arriving at our destination without mishap of any nature.

On April 26th one of our sections sighted and quickly destroyed the first and only tank that the battalion encountered all the time we were towed, and also self-propelled. Our continued spearheading carried us on through the Harz mountain sector, where we made contact with the Russians, the first company to do so. It was while in this area that our activities of importance ceased and we then withdrew to Halle for the purpose of setting up static positions. Looking back, we remember the hazards we faced, and the discomforts, and we take pride in believing that we have equalled any unit in steadiness, aggressiveness and eagerness to do our job well.

*** The 817TH fought with the GOLDEN ARROW (8th Infantry) DIVISION; the CHECKERBOARD (99th Infantry) DIVISION; and the TIMBERWOLF (104th Infantry) DIVISION!**

The Battalion SPEAKS

Bn. Hq. - Hq. Co. - A - B - C - & RECON.

SEEK STRIKE DESTROY

Bn. Hq.: "They may tie us, but they can't beat us."

Hq. Co.: "We back the attack."

Co. A.: "You shoot 'em, we'll loot 'em."

Co. B.: "B" there first, all the time.

Co. C.: In anticipation of the CBI, Charley Company says:
"Big or little, short or tall, bring em on, High
Up Charley takes them all."

Recon Co.: "We find 'em, you shoot 'em."

"EXCHANGE SERVICE"

Some of you men may have different items that you may want to trade or sell. Let me know what you have, and what you want, we dont promise success but it's worth a try.

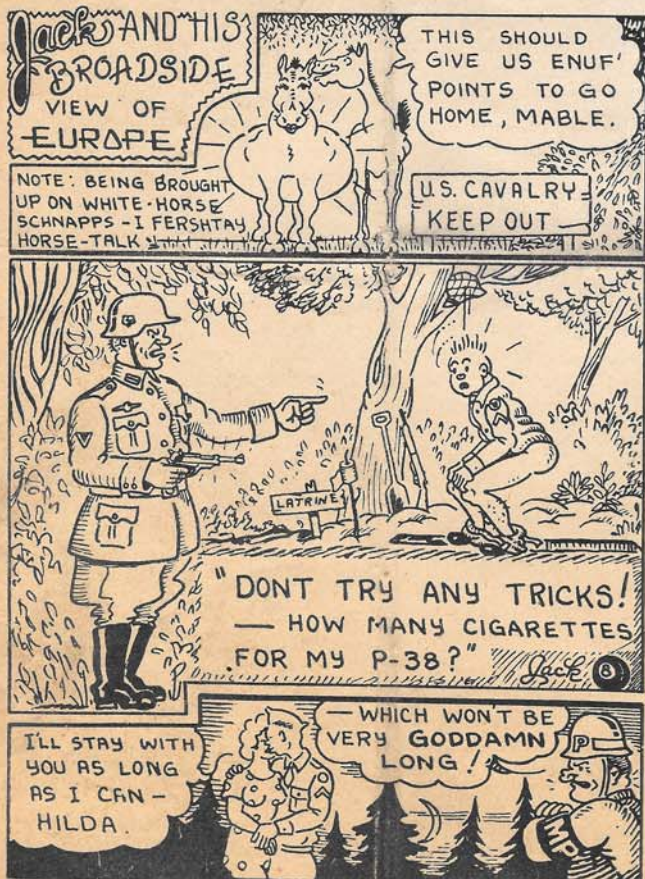
T/5 W. Slack has a blouse, size 36. Wants to trade for 38 R.

One brand new Luger, in superior condition, will swap for P-38 with brown handles. See Lt. Dushkin.

Will trade a German box type Camera, 6/20, for a pair of pants, size 30/33 or a shirt size 14½-32. See PFC. A. Eshenko.

Pfc. G. A. Croseut would like to purchase V 127 Camera films.

Pfc. Rogacki would like to sell one Luger, in superior condition.



GRIPES AND GRINS

"It's the enlisted men's liquor ration."



A Pullman porter, who had started out on an all-night run, had his trip canceled. Returning to his home unexpectedly, he took a look around the house, then took out his razor and commenced stropping it vigorously. "What you doing, honey?" inquired his wife.

"If," he answered, "dem shoes stickin' out from under the bed ain't got no feet in 'em, ahm gonna shave."

"Mama, do angels have wings?"

"Yes, dear."

"Can angels fly?"

"Yes, dear."

"Daddy said nurse was an angel last night. When will she fly?"

"Tomorrow."

Science Prof.: "What happens when a body is immersed in water?"

Co-ed: "The telephone rings."

Somebody has defined a nudist as just a guy who has less pocket space than a sailor.

Recruit: "What time do we go to work in the morning?"

Chief: "Listen, Mate, in the Navy you don't ever 'go to work' - you wake up surrounded by it."

Brooklyn sailor: "Whudya do before ya jerned da navy?"

Mid-Westerner: "I worked in Des Moines."

Brooklyn sailor: "What kind of moines, iron or coal?"

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Printed by Hallische Nachrichten