

# The APPLE KNOCKER

BY AND FOR THE MEN OF THE 802ND TANK DESTROYER BN.

VOL. I. NO. 7

ALTNEUHAUS, BAVARIA, GERMANY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1945

## 802 GOES TO REIMS, FRANCE

### Tank Destroyer Men Now Run Dachau

Dachau, once notorious Nazi murder mill is now under the control of the 6th Tank Destroyer Group. These American fighting men under the command of Col John Beall have been in control of the camp for almost two months.

Vast changes have come to Dachau. Changes that started on April 29th of this year when the American task force captured the camp and liberated thousands from prison and almost certain death.

Gone is the air of great secrecy and the super-security that once surrounded the vast area that was first set up by the Nazi Bosses in April 1940 to punish political prisoners, opponents, and men who did not obey the laws and vaunted decrees of the German Wehrmacht. Gone is the stench of death that permeated the grounds, a smell that bore witness to the unbelievable figure of one quarter of a million, that were killed in five years by various means and for an assorted list of supposed crimes.

Gone too, to the people living in and around Dachau, is the secrecy of what went on behind the walls of the Waffen SS Community where the supermen of the Nazi race lived in comfort and security. It was these same townspeople who were forced to see for themselves what went on, and also forced to clean up and give decent burial to the victims who had died at the hands of the once powerful masters of the German people. Hangman Himmler's last order to destroy the entire camp by burning was not carried out. It could not be, as the Americans advanced too rapidly.

#### SS MEN PRISONERS

Some things remain the same at Dachau as in the days of the Nazi. Yes, the SS Troops are still there! This time, however, they occupy the barracks that were once used by the prisoners that they had tortured and mistreated. These SS men now labor and sweat under Allied guidance and are kept in bounds by the same electrical wire fences that they had once put up.

Some of the former prisoners of the Germans still remain at Dachau. These former inmates now handle clerical work for the Americans. In addition, those who can speak fair English, act as guides for Allied soldiers and other government personnel who desire to look over the scenes of many horrors.

The guide for your Editor was Kiffowski, Wladyslaw known to the Nazis only as Number 15562. He had been brought from the Danzig area in Poland as a political prisoner.

The tour included a visit to the old crematory and to the large new one built in 1942. The notorious gas chamber designed like a shower

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### 802 AREA FROM THE AIR



Aerial photograph shows barracks and motor pool areas of the battalion. Main road intersection in lower right hand corner is next to Battalion Headquarters.

### T D MECHANIC GETS AERIAL PHOTOS

The three aerial photographs presented in this issue were taken by Tec 4 William H. Wright of B Company. All the shots were made from a Piper Cub at an altitude of 600 feet. Two cameras were used in this assignment. A 9 by 12 plate camera made by Karl Zeiss and a regular Zeiss Ikon 120 produced the pictures. The plate picture appears on page one and the 120 Zeiss Ikon pictures appear on page two.

Wright is no newcomer to picture taking from the air. He has about 80 hours flying time and owned his own plane, a Fairchild KR 21, in civilian life. The Air Corps claimed that he was too old for combat flying when he entered the Army in October 1942 and sought assignment with that branch of the service.

Living at Washington, D. C., Wright was senior photographer at the Federal Works Agency in the nation's capital. He has done all kinds of picture work and taken many photos from the air for his own personal use.

During combat he was not able to do much with photography because of his other duties. Since the end of hostilities in the ETO he has opened a laboratory in Baker Company and has done much of the picture work for the men of that company.

### ARC SEXTET GIVES SWING PROGRAM

The men of the 802 were entertained last Tuesday night by the ARC Sextet at the Wilderness Red Cross Club. This group of five talented musicians was enthusiastically received and it is hoped that a return engagement can be arranged. Modern jive and jump delighted the vast throng at the club who stayed right through the evening till closing time.

The sextet is made up of men from the 90th Division's Special Troops—the engineers, ordnance and signal battalions, and reconnaissance elements.

Headed by Pfc John Pfaff, of Pittsburgh, Penn. who played the clarinet in Del Courtney's and Garwood Van's bands, these men used to get together for practice sessions in their spare time. They make up their own arrangements.

When the Red Cross opened their Weiden Club this sextet was asked to play and has now become a regular feature of the club every other night. Pfaff and his men played for the grand opening of the Amberg Red Cross Club last week.

T/4 Charlie Collings of Kansas City, Kansas plays the violin in the sextet. He was formerly a member of the bands of Wayne King and Russ Morgan. The drums are manned by Pfc Vince Amato of Chicago, the

(continued on page two)

### Camp Boston Trip Starts Sept 22

ALTNEUHAUS, BAVARIA, GERMANY—September 14 — Official shipping orders have been received for the 802nd Tank Destroyer Battalion. Movement from their present area will begin on Saturday the 22nd of this month and arrival at CAMP BOSTON near REIMS, FRANCE, will take place on Monday, September 24th. The advance party for the battalion will leave Altneuhaus on the 19th of September.

Received at the same time as the shipment orders was the official ruling on points. Men with 60 and lower as point scores will remain in the ETO. This figure is called the V-J Day score and includes the 5 additional points that will count for everyone who is entitled to such points on the 30th of September. It is not a change in point score. The original score of 62 points which was made last week is considered the V-E Day score.

Parenthood credit gained by any man in the period of May 12th to September 2nd will also be added to critical scores on September 30th.

#### OCCUPATIONAL SCORE

Additional information in regard to points has also been announced. Only men with 55 points and below as of V-J Day will be assigned to Category 1 (Occupational Units). Men with higher scores but yet not sufficient to ship home will be used in service units until such time as the critical score drops or the addition of points makes it possible for them to be shipped home.

The discharge score remains at 80 for enlisted men and of 85 and better for officers, according to their rank and position.

#### MORE MEN TO LEAVE

Thus another group will leave the battalion. Some of these men have been with the unit all through combat. The Staff and their comrades-in-arms regret the separation. The turn of events and the lowering of the discharge score in the near future should soon bring these men back to America.

In a press interview the Battalion Commander stated: "I regret indeed leaving to leave some of these men in the ETO. I have done all possible to try and move them with the battalion. Army rulings from higher headquarters have prevented it."

Additional officers will accompany the battalion to the states. As yet who these officers are has not been determined. Major Hertel is at Corp Headquarters today to straighten out this matter.

Movement date for the officers and men leaving the battalion will be announced in a few days.



# The C. O. Speaks

Within the next ten days we will complete our turning in of equipment. Needless to say it is imperative that every man makes sure he turns in every item of property called for by Company and Battalion Supply personnel. Your company supply sergeant has the list of equipment that you will retain. Make sure that you keep only those items listed. We have gone too far along the way home to sacrifice the chances of any man or of the Battalion itself through carelessness or the desire of any one individual to keep government property.

The Diphtheria rate within the Division area has increased greatly during the past weeks. The disease is a contagious one usually contracted through association with civilians. One case within the battalion means quarantine not only for the individual with the disease, but for all members of his company. Quarantine means no Ocean Trip. —Need I say more? Don't take chances! Keep away from civilians. (signed), Maj Edward K. Herfel

## Going Home

One thought is uppermost in everyone's mind these days, "When do I go Home?" This is a natural and a wholesome desire. In America we find the symbol of all for which we have been fighting. With her admitted faults our country is by far the best we have seen.

She is that because of the great democratic principles that undergird our government. She is that because our forefathers had an undying faith in God. She is that because the great mass of her people know how to live and let live. She is that because growth and progress have produced better standards of living for the greater number of people. She is that because of her great natural resources. She is that because she is our home.

As we go back let us not be content with America as she is. Let us give ourselves anew to the task of making her ever better. We cannot rest upon the laurels of our fathers. We must make our own contribution to the betterment of our nation.

We see today that our big job is not only to build America better but to see that the entire world is improved. No longer can we hide across the oceans. To the degree that we work and sweat—that the standards of the whole world may be founded upon the same principles as our own—so shall we bring about victory in peace.

So, as we return home, let us rest awhile. But let us be quick to recognize ourselves not only as citizens of our own great country but citizens of the world! We have been bought with a great price of "sweat and blood and tears". Each individual must recognize this as his personal responsibility if peace is to remain among us. With God's help we give ourselves for the great task which is now upon us, "Victory in Peace".

Chaplain John M. McLeod. This is Chaplain McLeod's last contribution to the Apple-Knocker. A high-point officer, he has already started his return trip to the States. He has served in the ETO for almost 3 years. His adopted TD men will miss him. We are grateful for his help and his superb messages. —The Editor.

# MARILYN



Marilyn Maxwell is our pin-up girl this week. An MGM Starlet she enjoys the water at a Hollywood pool.

## BATTALION PARADE

THE 802ND TANK DESTROYER BATTALION WILL PARADE FOR THE LAST TIME AS A UNIT ON SATURDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 15TH, AT 10AM. THIS PARADE WILL BE IN HONOR OF LT COL JOHN H. MONTGOMERY JR., FORMERLY COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE UNIT AND NOW G-2 OF THE 90TH (TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA) INFANTRY DIVISION.

## ARC SEXTET —

(continued from page one) piano by Pvt Jack Edstrom of Valley Steam. Long Island, New York, and the base fiddle by S/Sgt Rube Goldberg of Philadelphia, Penn. High points took S/Sgt Joe McMahon, who played the guitar and was one of the original members of the sextet, to America last week.

The sextet plays for the touring USO and GI shows and plans to rotate among the Red Cross Clubs in this area.

## Special Service Presents Three Hit Shows

Three crack shows are on the Special Service Schedule for Saturday of this week and Thursday and Friday of next week.

A presentation of the G. I. Show "For Men Only" will be made at the 41st Replacement Depot's theater at 1830 on Saturday, the 15th of September.

On Thursday, September 20th the much heralded Maude Hilton Revue will appear in the Theater at Pond Barracks in Amberg. This show, a USO All Girl Cast, comes to the ETO from Leon and Eddies' famous night club in New York City. Featured entertainers include Maude Hilton, Gial McDonald, Doris Dean, Edith Delany, Paula Ruparr, Thelma Crawford, and Justine Feehey. Time and quotas will be announced later.

Rosalinda, the popular comic opera with a cast of 54 will play in the Pond Barracks' Theater on Friday, September 21st at 1430.

## BN MOTOR POOL — COMPANIES' AREA



Aerial photo on the left shows B Company and C Company barracks and part of A and Recon Companies' barracks. Photo on the right shows destroyers lined up in battalion motor pool.

# SPORTS

Activity in both Battalion Leagues was somewhat curtailed this past week. The final clearing out of the Displaced Persons' Camp and the tearing down of all the tent cities made only limited play possible. The results of the games and the league standings are as follows:

In a tight and hard fought game Reconnaissance Company defeated Headquarters on Tuesday 4 to 2. This tightened the Black Joe Purple's hold on first place in the softball league and added another win to pitcher Earl Tingler's record.

The fast moving volleyball team composed of the Battalion Officers handed Headquarters Company a double set-back and put "the brass" in the lead spot with two wins and no losses. Scores from their recent victory were 21 to 19 and 21 to 14.

## LEAGUE STANDINGS

SOFTBALL		VOLLEYBALL	
Won	Lost	Won	Lost
Recon	2 0	Off	2 0
C	2 1	A	1 0
A	1 1	C	2 1
Off	0 0	B	1 1
B	0 1	Hq	0 1
Hq	0 2	Recon	0 3

## BATTALION MEDICS ISSUE WARNING

"WE'RE ON THE LAST LAP DON'T FALTER." Recent Circulars state that anyone with an infectious or parasitic disease, will be detained at the time of shipment to the U.S. Any disease which can be transferred from one person to another is in this class. This means that contracting those diseases which have become more or less common, GC, Scabies, trench mouth, Ringworm, at this time, will mean getting home perhaps six months later for the individual than scheduled.

Extra precautions must be taken. Keep extra clean, Don't take chances, practice the rules of Hygiene with extra care. If you need help—see us.

## DACHAU —

(continued from page one) bath and the pen where prisoners were thrown to wild dogs, for the delight of the SS Officers, are spectacles that complete the itinerary of the Dachau tour. Shooting pits in the rear of the camp were also visited. Here thousands had been put to death secretly.

At the present time War Criminal trials are being held at Dachau. Those guilty of crimes committed in the camp itself and in the adjoining area are being tried. Tickets are available to those who wish to attend these trials. The true course of justice has returned to this area and those guilty are coming back to the scene of their crimes to taste this justice.

## The APPLE-KNOCKER

Weekly publication by and for the men of the 802nd Tank Destroyer Bn.

Editor . . . . . Sgt Fred A. Forbes  
 Managing Editor . . . . . Sgt Joseph E. Sherwood  
 Photo Editor . . . . . S/Sgt Jacob Honold  
 Sports Editor . . . . . Sgt William C. McNamee  
 Technical Advisor . . . . . Sgt Kenneth E. Lerch

### REPORTERS

B Co . . . . . Cpl Thomas E. O'Neill  
 Recon Co . . . . . S/Sgt Earl K. Tingler  
 A Co . . . . . Sgt Lewis E. Lucie, Jr.  
 B Co . . . . . Plt John B. Ross  
 C Co . . . . . Cpl Paul J. Wilhelm

### ARTISTS

Cpl Clarence W. Webb  
 Tec3 James B. Coder