

THE 603 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

AT EASE



*ENGLAND*FRANCE*LUXEMBOURG*BELGIUM* GERMANY*

VOL 1 - NO. 1

BAD KLOSTERLAUSNITZ, Germany

MONDAY 18 JUNE 1945

General Grow Decorates 603RD



Pictured above is Major General Robert W. Grow shaking hands with T/4 Ralph H. Youngdale on whom he has just pinned the Bronze Star. Lt. Col. McCurry (left) is reading the citation.

Distinguished Service Cross Awarded To Sgt Hansen During Impressive Ceremony

June—6th—365 days after the storming of the Normandy beaches the 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion was accorded a just tribute by the Division Commander in an impressive Decoration Ceremony.

Escorted by a guard of honor, Major General Robert W. Grow and Lt. Col. Phillip H. Pope, newly appointed Chief of Staff, arrived at Battalion Headquarters for an especially prepared luncheon. While newsreel and motion picture cameras recorded the scene the General inspected the honor guard commanded by Lt. Clayton M. Taylor of C Company.

Photography Team Proves Merit

By virtue of previous excellent work the Battalion Photography Team was called upon for official photographs. To supplement Capt. and Army Photographers, T/4 Young, T/5 Justice and Pvt Red Whittaker of Hq. Co. were commissioned to make a photographic record of the last appearance of General Grow in a bowl formation of the Sixth Armored Division.

Operating from the G-3 office of the division, the team secured a complete record of the meeting, to be used in the Divisional Photographic History.

At 1500 the 603rd, aided and abetted by the 777th AAA Battalion under Lt. Col. Joseph H. Twyman, passed in review.

Speaking to both Battalions of the 124 men who were to receive awards, the General had this to say:

"These two Battalions are the best known in this division. The 603rd by destroying three times its own strength in enemy tanks, not to mention the numerous equipment and personnel, has established one of the great records of the war. These men were not stopped by anything. That is why I consider it a privilege and an honor to shake hands with the men who put all of us here!"

For extraordinary heroism against the enemy at Many, France, Sgt Robert Hansen Jr. of Company A, received the Distinguished Service Cross. On November 12th, the Tank Destroyer Sgt Hansen commanded was disabled by enemy fire forcing the crew to dismount. Locating the enemy guns, the Sgt. remounted the burning vehicle and, unassisted, fired the 76mm gun until the TD was demolished by another hit.

Then braving the enemy fire he attempted to aid the crew of another destroyer but was knocked unconscious by an exploding shell.

After decorating Sgt Hansen, General Grow personally pinned on the Silver and Bronze Stars of the 124 men who had performed gallant or exemplary service in their tour of duty.

Russian, Polish, French Teach 603rd To Swing, Continental Style

Hermsdorf, Germany 22 May 1945.... At the local Town Hall tonight, the 603rd asserted its social standing with over 400 female members of our Allies. With beer flowing in great quantity and no MP's to dampen spirits, the music of the 6th Armored Division band was utilized to the fullest extent. Reminiscent of a Service Club Dance in the States, it was necessary to find a small portion of the floor in which you were safe from the gyrations of International jitterbugs.

Invariably, those who chatted the alien tongue of their partner were usually found in an obscure corner of the room answering questions. The women, as women are every-

where, were interested in clothes, hairdos and cosmetics, all information to such matters being accepted as coming from authority as potent as Pere Westmore, Hattie Carnegie and Lilly Daché. To those present, the Americans were considered personal representatives of each important individual at home.

Fortunately for all, love and music are international languages and the greatest majority utilized them in lieu of spoken French, Russian and Polish.

The successful answer to fraternization finds the most common observation to be... "Women are beautiful creatures.... in any language".....

Metuenda Corolla

Appearing between the words AT and EASE in this issue is the insignia designed by the War Department for this Battalion.

Not ever having worked in the War Department, we cannot tell you of the ulterior motives that went into its design. We can only attempt to dissect it and voice our feeble opinion.

The animal is a Griffin, who is, according

to Webster, half eagle and half lion. The right hand dripping blood is supposed to be that of a mythical monster, but not having one handy as a model, the artist merely copied his own. The wording underneath means, they tell us, To Bite the Deadly Right Hand. It looks more like biting the hand that feeds.

However that's neither here nor there. The fact is that we have drawn up the first cut and its too expensive to get another one made at this time. But we are working on a new insignia to be submitted for approval to the entire battalion.... All suggestions will be wholeheartedly welcomed or cast in file 13 such as the case may be. Yours for a Better Battalion Insignia.

be returned to the United States as soon as practicable. This division will leave for the States in the very near future. A good majority of the low point men will be transferred to other units as their Adjusted Service Rating dictates. In their place men who's point score entitles them to discharge will be substituted.

The Division, continued the General, will return with all organic units.

The 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 777 AAA are attached units and will not remain with the 6th. They will, instead, remain in the ETO as part of the Army of Occupation. The job of winning the war was

easy compared to what lies ahead for these two first class fighting outfits.

For those of the vast audience that were awaiting confirmation of the additional battle stars the General had the following to say.

"Very shortly now we will receive the two combat stars that have been authorized for the Ardennes offensive and the additional phase of the German campaign. It is also my belief that the critical score will be lowered somewhat. To what, I can't say."

"You men who have adjusted service ratings equal to or over the critical score will remain with the Division, as will a quantity of those who lack only a few points."

(Continued on Page Two)

603rd Loses Sixth Armored



June 14th-Apolda-Germany. For the fourth time in the fourteen months the 603rd has been with the Sixth Armored, they attended a Bowl formation of the entire division.

With all the Battalion colors arrayed on either side of the podium, General Grow explained to the assemblage that the chosen site for the meeting was very appropriate. It is fitting that this unit convene on ground that they have captured in their sweep across Germany.

Meeting in a stadium that had once held the Nazi Party the Division Commander outlined the future plans of the Sixth and its attached units.

The War Department, explained the General, intends to reduce the number of Armored Divisions by demobilizing the older ones. The Sixth falls into this category. Such units considered under this plan will

AT EASE

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Statement of Principles

With the initial appearance of "AT EASE" we hope it is apparent that editors are publishing this newspaper as an organ for and by the enlisted personnel.

From time to time the layout and typography will change but the principles designated hereto will at all times be adhered to.

The Editors of "AT EASE" promise:

To print all the available news

To remain unbiased

To give the enlisted man an outlet for his ideals

To accept censorship as designated only by the base censor

To abstain from unnecessary editorials

To keep all literary material on the highest plane

To keep faith with all contributors by conforming with professional ethics

To make "AT EASE" respected in the journalistic field

We will endeavor to reflect our justifiable pride in the 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion throughout the European Theatre of Operations . . .

The Editors



S/Sgt George W. Neveu

106 Points Good For Boatride Home

S/Sgt George W. Neveu, Yakima, Washington formerly of Company C has amassed a total of 106 points under the army's readjustment and demobilization plan.

By virtue of five years service, 3 battle stars, one Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, 13 months overseas and 12 point Don George Neveu he is one of the first to board the westbound train for the long voyage home.

Sgt Neveu joined this battalion on the 27th of January 1942. His steadfast ability to organize and direct eventually led to his promotion to platoon Sergeant, in which capacity he served faithfully through nine long months of combat.

Now, from the boys who served with and under him comes a well deserved

Bon Voyage.... Mr. Neveu

Who Said What!

According to an informal inquiry made by the Inspector General of the 6th Armored Division, the troops of the 603rd TD Bn are receiving more film, better beer and more shows than any other unit in the division Unquote!

603rd Loses Sixth

(Continued from Page one)

Others will be transferred to units which will eventually wind up in the Pacific theatre. For the benefit of these men, who have a lot of hard fighting ahead, we will continue our diligent training program. These men must be well trained before they engage the Japanese."

"It was my wish," concluded the General, "that all of us present could have finished our military service in the 6th Armored Division. I am sorry that such is not possible. To all of you I say, goodluck...and...goodbye!"

General Staff Overlooks Two Heros

Captain and Corporal Slighted by General Staff After Exemplary Conduct in Violent Actions

It is alleged that through the devious and mysterious channels of Battalion Administration the following Recommendation for Award reached the CO's desk. Rumor has it that the submitter was voraciously indignant when the Recommendation was returned to him disapproved.

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Captain JOHN O. WAGNER O-450587, Infantry, Company A, 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP), while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility. During the month of April 1945 at Zeitz, Germany, Captain WAGNER was assigned the mission of securing numerous and uncounted awards for members of his command. Surrounded by shattered glass, subjected to

attacks of flying dust and falling debris, with hazardous drafts from shattered windows flying about him and under the constant harassment of spit and polish demands of Higher Headquarters, Captain WAGNER with undeviating loyalty and devotion to duty fought on to success after all hope was gone. His defensive organization of shattered ruins of the Kasern (Barracks) where this mission was accomplished were outstanding. Captain WAGNER's performance, superior singleness of purpose and dauntless determination reflects great credit upon himself and the Military Service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Army of the United States. Entered the Military Service from somewhere.

Recommended and Submitted by:

JOHN O. WAGNER
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

How to Get Discharged in One Easy (?) Lesson

by Cleo P. Ransom, CWO

If you are interested in how the present demobilization effects your unit, or you as an individual...read on Mr.

All units such as divisions or inorganic Battalions will be placed, eventually, in one of the four categories listed below.

Category I-Those units to be retained in the ETO as occupational troops.

Category II-Those units to be transferred to an active theatre, either directly, or indirectly through the US, or transferred to the US to be placed in strategic reserve.

Category III-Those units to be converted or reorganized and upon completion thereof, to fall under category I or II.

Category IV-Those units to be demobilized. (The Jackpot Category)

Units

Units will be categorized after the receipt of the critical score (the number of points we are all after) about July 1st. Categorization will be determined as follows:

I-Those units with the least number of candidate personnel (Personnel who have 85 points or more and have not volunteered for further service) will be redeployed direct to an active theatre without staging through the US.

II-Those remaining units with the least number of candidate personnel will be returned to the US and then to an active theatre.

III-Those remaining units will be assigned as occupational forces.

Individuals

It is difficult to predict just how individuals will be affected, however; if you have an adjusted service rating score equal to or above the critical score you may volunteer to remain in the service until after the defeat of Japan, this decision being irrevocable. By so doing you have a choice of either staying in the ETO, or going to an active theatre, or make no choice. You will thereupon be assigned in accordance with your desire, but, you will then be subject to such transfers as military necessity may require.

If you have an adjusted service rating score between (we haven't determined the number as yet) and the critical score you will remain in your unit if they are chosen as occupation troops. Or if your unit is to be redeployed to an active theatre you will be transferred to an occupational unit.

A great number of officers and enlisted men will be needed as reinforcements for the Pacific theatre to replace personnel released under this plan.

So offhand I would say that if you have less than forty points keep one hand on your duffle bag because you are going to the CBI

(If any of the above is not clear to you, your questions will be answered through this newspaper...if they haven't sent me to the CBI)



For the purpose of clarifying the wearing of decorations and insignias, our artist has drawn the above picture as an example.

The decorations worn from left to right, top to bottom, are as follows: CMH, DSC, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct, American Defense (Pre-Pearl Harbor) and the ETO ribbon, with 3 battle stars (so far).

Next comes the unit insignia, which is worn 1/2 inch from the shoulder seam. The stripes denoting rank, are worn half-way between the shoulder and the elbow. The service stripes (Hash Marks) are 4 inches from the edge of the cuff, directly above which are the overseas stripes (Hershey Bars). The inside stripes of the "Hash Mark" and the outer edge of the "Hershey Bar" run in a straight line.

One overseas stripe is authorized for each completed period of six months good time in the Army outside of the continental limits of the U.S. from 7 Dec. 1941 until six months after the termination of the present war.

"Hash Marks" will not be worn on a shirt but only on the blouse or ETO jacket. "Hershey Bars" may be worn on any outside garment.

Persons who have served honorably in the time of war are, when not in active service, entitled to bear the official title and upon occasions of ceremony, to wear the uniform of highest grade held by them during their war service.

File and Forget

Lt Arthur B. Corino from C Company to Bn Hq. as Ass't. S-3

Lt Benjamin S. Fogwill from C Company to A Company

Lt John Roskoski from A Company to C Company

Lt James A. Foster from hospital to duty with B Company



"Toughy" Allaire doing his heroic job, showing his usual courage and coolness, continued to carry out his task.

This devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming odds and absolute disregard for personal safety is characteristic of this man's military service.

Nick O. Cavarra
Knife & Fork Expert Repair Dept.
999 M. K. R. Bn. (SP)



ENTERTAINMENT

SPORTS

By Cpl Victor Zekis

Photography, perhaps the most popular extra-curricular activity in the battalion ranks first on the list of desired subjects. Under the supervision of T/4 Archie Yonkers of Recon, and T/5 Fred Justice of Hq., over 80 men are receiving initial instruction in the operation of their respective cameras, following the entire process of snapping and developing pictures, retouching and enlarging, each student will have, upon completion of the course, a good nucleus to further pursue his hobby.

Battalion I & E Schools Step Out.

In conforming with the Division Information and Education program the Battalion offering a group of diversified subjects to be taken by the enlisted men during the afternoons. All courses desired will be submitted to the respective company I & E Officer, who is prepared to answer any questions pertaining to Educational activities.

Radio Classes

An opportunity to study radio operation has been offered to all those who care to make this a civilian vocation or an army job.

Under the direction of Lt Hawkins, Bn Communications officer, the men are ably instructed by T/4 Chester Brisbin and T/4 Merlin Olson both of whom have over three years experience in radio. Attendance of these classes is considered training, to enable the students to take over the battalion communications system as the high point men are discharged.

Maintenance and Welding

Another portion of the Information and Education program are the classes in vehicle maintenance being offered to the enlisted man. Established as a voluntary course the first turnout necessitated dividing it into two phases. One for those who wish to study for a post war vocation in mechanics, the other for personal knowledge.

Welding as taught by T/4 Felix Orth will be considered a separate course.

Typing and German Classes

As soon as texts are available two more classes will be introduced for voluntary study. Typing and German language periods to be held three times a week at some undisclosed classroom. Those who wish either of these submit your name to the I & E Officer.

Life Is Like That

by T/S John T. Allan



"Fraternizing! Hell, Sir, I don't even know her name!"

SPORTS

By Cpl Victor Zekis

The spotlight is centered on the newly organized Division sports program. With the advent of warm weather (?) sports activities are in full swing throughout the entire Division.

Knowing of the important part that sports plays in the life of a soldier this Battalion has strongly encouraged all types of athletics and has started the ball rolling in an effort to procure athletic equipment for all companies.

Baseball

Each Battalion within the division has a softball team which has been entered in the division league. The team being composed of the best players from each company are engaged in a series of round robin games.



The Battalion Baseball Team

The 603rd team under the direction of Lt. Boyd C. Bayer and Sgt Ray E. Merideth have played four games to date winning one and losing three. Below are the compiled scores.

	R	H	E	R	H	E
86 Recon	10	3	5	603 TD	0	1
603 TD	3	4	0	15 Tk	1	0
231 FA	3	5	0	603 TD	1	4
777 AAA	2	4	3	603 TD	1	3

Facts and Figures

Why is it that the Officer's softball team is having such a difficult time in defeating the enlisted mens team?

The Battalion team is looking for a name. If they lose any more games we have a name for them.

With the coming of warm weather a lot of thoughts drift to a cool running brook and a limber fishing rod. There are several followers of Isaac Walton in this battalion who would like to dangle some enticing lure in front of some poor fish. It seem that there should be some fishing tackle available nearby so that these men could pursue their favorite sport.



Sgt Ray Clark of C Company demonstrating the finer points of diving at the battalion pool.

Swimming

In the past, on very rare occasions, some of the men have visited the swimming pool at Stadtroda. For the information of those and any new swimming enthusiasts the Battalion has put into operation a pool at Hermisdorf.

The weather of late has more or less snuffed the swimming but there certainly must be some warmer days ahead. Swimming trunks have been issued to each Supply Sergeant and can be drawn in each company.

For the benefit of those who are unable to swim two instructors are available at all times. Cpl's Scott and Langrand will hold up the battered body and flailing arms of all beginners.

Later on in the Summer a competitive meet will be held within the Battalion to determine the aquatic champions. The meet will include speed swimming, diving, underwater swimming etc.

The truck leaves Battalion at 1300 every day.

**Volley Ball and Ping Pong**

For the lazy athlete there are numerous ping pong tables and Volley ball courts spread throughout the area. As yet these two sports (such as they are) haven't been organized on a tournament basis. But this writer is assured that such will be done very shortly.

Life in the United States

Enemy artillery, snow, cold rations and cold feet were making Sgt. Manuel Romero very unhappy. But fortune smiled down on him, and from a battered helmet liner he drew a furlough to sunny California.

Back in the folds of civilian life, he found it necessary to acquire cigarettes by purchasing them over a counter.

In Ventura, Calif., he stepped into a drug store and requested a package of Camels. The proprietor cocked one eyebrow and

exclaimed, "Soldier, don't you know there is a war on?" Needless to say, Sgt Romero spent the night in the local clink.

Battalion Library

If you are looking for a quiet place to write to your girl or figure your points for discharge why not amble on down to the Battalion Library. Located in 6 Jahn Strasse the entire building has been set aside for the literary arts. A collection of the latest magazines and the oldest books are at your disposal. Writing materials are furnished through the courtesy of the American Red Cross and Sgt William Stanway will see to it that your needs are "checked on right away."

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Shea of CCR extends his best wishes to the editorial staff, Officers and men of the 603rd for their premiere edition of "AT EASE".

Catholic Services as conducted by Father Shea, are celebrated every Sunday at 1000 in the Battalion Theatre.

Protestant Services are conducted by

Chaplain Reeves every Sunday at the 777 AAA Bn.

Jewish Services are held by Chaplain Schacter at the 8th Corps Officer's Mess at Weimar.

All men are urged to attend their respective Religious Service.

...and Moan

Soldier, throughout your long tenure of service with the United States Army, how many times have you told yourself that, "If I were running this thing it would be different"? How many times have you halted in the middle of a tedious task and condemned those about you?

Oftentimes, no doubt, you have come to the conclusion that your way is the better way, that the accepted method is outmoded, has brought naught but dissension. Are you willing to stand by your ideals? If given the opportunity, can you prove that your ideas are based on sound democratic principles and conform with the accepted ways of society?

This column challenges each and every individual, as an individual, to express his views to be published here as a regular feature. With no rules and regulations to guide you, the widest latitude of thought will be allowed, but for the benefit of all concerned, criticisms should be of a constructive quality!

"GIVE ME TIME"

Why is it that some "1st Sgts." have such a poor conception of time? It takes more time to cut 130 heads of hair than it does to look at 130 Dog Tags, and that takes half a day.

Besides the haircutting, the care and maintainence of the tools, the laundering and cleanliness of the shop must be done in a few seconds.

When an inspection is held all the men want haircuts pronto, and if the boys' hair isn't cut the "Barber" gets a growl; if the equipment doesn't pass inspection he still gets a growl; if he does a poor job of "Clipping" he catches hell from the boys and the "1st Sgt." It has become so that every time he picks up his clippers, they even "Growl". Isn't there some way of transferring the "Growl" from the "Barber" to the "1st Sgt"?

All we ask is a little time.

P.S. Will credit for this service be entered in the service record?

The forever busy "Barber"

"WHEN DO WE EAT?"

I am using up my last bit of strength to write this letter. I am not certain that I will be able to complete this before I completely pass out.

In a very feeble voice I ask, when do we eat? For awhile my stomach kept calling up to ask if my throat was cut. Now I guess my stomach hasn't the strength to even lift up the phone. I'm getting so thin that, believe it or not, the other day I was reading a book and someone came along and slammed the covers shut and it took me an hour to get out.

For months I was out on the line and very seldom even saw the kitchen; much less ate there. I would ravaneously gnaw on a piece of frozen "K" ration cheese and dream of the day when the war would be over and I could stuff myself at the Kitchen. The war in Europe is finally over and I looked forward to eating some of that good chow that I had been missing out on.

But there just isn't any chow. I go to breakfast in the morning and what do I get? A spoonful of "C" ration hash. I go to dinner and...what do I get? "C" ration hash. I didn't have enough strength to go to supper but one of the guys that was able to make it, told me that it was hash again.

I don't know how they expect a man to keep in good condition when they don't get fed a decent meal. A half a slice of bread! Is that enough for a full grown man? A spoonful of hash!! is that enough for a fighting man? Someone in this Army is eating pretty good as I know that there is something else sent over here besides hash. So how's about somebody getting on the ball and getting us some chow. I ask, WHEN DO WE EAT?

JUST PLAIN HUNGRY

DON'T FENCE ME OUT

While fighting for this war to end we lived most of the time out of doors in all types of weather, day in and day out. We always envisioned living indoors when Germany was licked. We would have good living quarters while occupying Germany. What happens now that Germany is whipped? Do we live in nice clean quarters?

Hell no! At least not the enlisted men. Of course the Officers have been provided with a nice place in out of the rain to sleep in. After all the enlisted men fought in this war also and I think that they should have billets just like the Officers do. We aren't expecting accommodations such as the Hotel Astor would provide but we do expect a roof over our heads at least.

"Shackless"

THE SNAFU MOVIE SITUATION

Now that everyone has plenty of time for a lot of stuff and things, I want to vent my spleen on what I think has merit. It concerns the movie situation in this battalion; Why can't better pictures be had? Why can't something be done about the condition of the movie projector?

I can't understand why someone isn't responsible for the machine. If it is beyond repair, why not confiscate or buy a new one?

The selection of pictures isn't too good either. I thought we were supposed to get half way decent films.

A guy goes to the Theatre to relax and what does he receive? The film breaks, the sound cuts out or the machine stops. After we tear our hair out, the show may start again! If it does, the same thing happens. After an hour of this a guy needs a shot of "BuzzBomb Juice" or a straight jacket.

Whoever is at fault should climb on the proverbial ball and take steps to rectify the situation. I am sure something can be done to make our life enjoyable.

PFC CC White, Co A

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

It seems to me that the brave deeds of some men have been ridiculed by the wholesale issue of Bronze and Silver Stars. At first it was considered a great honor to receive such an award and some of the men actually deserved them. But now you are considered the lowest of eight balls if you don't at least have the Bronze Star. The method used now to issue these awards is the same as if each were presented one for making the chow line. As a matter of fact, eating this chow is a greater act of bravery than some of the awards read.

"Bare Chested"

Sightseeing Tours

On Monday the first contingent of tourists will leave for the world renowned Zeiss Planetarium in Jena. Well worth the time, a series of heavenly projections and an accompanying lecture gives one a graphic picture of the heavens and the solar system.

As an inaugural tour Jena is the start of a program that will attempt to encompass everything worthwhile seeing in battered Germany. As soon as permission is available from Higher Headquarters tours to Berchtesgaden, Munich, Nuremberg, Leipzig and Berlin will be introduced.

Public Notice Dept.

In the second edition of this newspaper there will appear a Public Notice Department. All items pertaining to Lost and Found equipment, For Sale or Purchase and Birth Notices will be summarily aired. If you do not wish to be responsible for your wife's debts (or your own) this column will be glad to furnish an expressive outlet. All letters addressed "AT EASE" and posted with your local mailman will reach this newspaper. Articles, features, stories and gripes may be posted in the same manner.

Pin-Ups

If you have scanned the entire four pages of this edition and have missed the usual pin-up, there is a good reason for such. Pin-ups, to put it quaintly, lead to frustration and frustration leads to frater.... well, you know. Besides not having sufficient funds to subscribe to any of the leading newspaper services the staff has to depend on the weekly Yank to note what is brief in fashion attire. No pin-ups.

Lose A War Bond Contest For Your Post War Plans

Somewhere in Peoria, Illinois in the year 1946 will appear CORBITT'S CANTEEN strictly for ex-service men.

As you approach the building you will see a canopy covering the side walk made from tent, shelter-halves. The bar and back bar will be made of sand bags and coated with varnish. The tables and chairs reconstructed from discarded ammunition boxes as well as ration boxes. The ceiling to be draped with nets, camouflage, while the walls are to be decorated with every U. S. Army Division insignia with a space below each insignia for personnel autographs and addresses for the benefit of locating old friends.

Lighting fixtures will be made from empty shell cartridges with an indirect lighting scheme to flash above the camouflage nets at different intervals to resemble artillery flashes in the distance.

Tops of the tables will be covered with situation maps from all theatres to aid the Vets in explaining to wives and friends, their travels and experiences.

The entire scheme will at all times reflect different angles of the Army, even to the dress of the personnel and management and at all times will endeavor to recall past experiences in all theatres. An example—On a certain night all waiters will walk in a crouched position to remind the patrons that they spent too much time in the hedgerow country. Numerous other gags and ideas will be used from time to time but are now withheld. See you in 46.

S/S Lyle D. Corbitt
Co. "A" 603rd TD BN

Portrait Studio

If you would care to have a Posed Portrait of yourself to send to the folks back home, ask your First Sgt when you can go to the Battalion Studio.

Each Company can send 4 men daily. Two proofs will be submitted and 3 5x7 pictures of your choice will be made. A charge of 25 marks for this service is necessary to pay for the equipment purchased.

Appointments are made at 1000 and 1400 daily at the BN Newspaper Office

Usafi

Each enlisted man or Officer who desires to study for High School or College credits will be given the opportunity to do so. The United States Armed Forces Institute offers a variety of subjects to choose from. All those who receive one or more courses from the USAFI will be allowed to devote his afternoons to it. Courses may be taken whether or not credit for such is desired. If interested, see the I & E Officer in your company, who will make the necessary arrangements for you.

Lt. Jansen Graduates from West Point

on the Seine

Have you noticed in and around the battalion area a brand new 2nd Lt? Perhaps those not in Reconnaissance Company do not remember T/4 Anthony H. Jansen who left the battalion on the 20th of February to attend O. C. S at Fontainbleau, France.

Arriving at the Infantry School which is 30 miles south of Paris, he was subjected to eight weeks of training, which included Ground Force Tactics, Fire and Maneuver and Body Conditioning. After one year in Recon, he was well prepared for the daily mile run that was considered one of the most difficult parts of the course.

Due to some change in schedule, the course was cut down from 13 to 8 weeks.... Sundays being spent in school!

Both French and Belgian Officers attended many of the classes, as well as General Lear of Army Ground Forces. The great majority of the training was conducted under simulated battle conditions. The instructors were combat wise veterans...one Tank Lt sporting a Purple Heart with 10 clusters.

After leaving school, Lt Jansen returned to the organization, via the repple depples, taking up his new job in the battalion in less than 4 months after his departure.

Lt. Jansen has 7 brothers in the armed forces, 1 Major, 1 Captain, 1 Lt., an Air Corp Cadet, 2 Sgts and 1 Chief Petty Officer. An old Army man of six years standing, he joined the battalion at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey and fought thru to the Our River with his unit. He has, as an extra added attraction, 80 points.

An Outline of History

On December 15th 1941 the 603rd Tank Destroyer Battalion was born. Springing up from the remains of the 3rd Infantry Division's Anti-Tank Company, the historical heritage of the 603rd dates back to the days of Captain Miles Standish. The new Battalion remained part of the Third Division and while stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington took part in the making of a Hollywood production. The theatrical, with Wallace Berry as Star, pertained to the mechanizing of cavalry units.

Leaving Fort Lewis the 603rd moved down to the coast of California where the entire Division took part in amphibious maneuvers. A short period of desert maneuvers were included in the training schedule before they entrained for the East Coast.

In August of 1942 the 3rd Division arrived at Camp Pickett, Virginia to prepare for overseas movement. Training included tough physical conditioning courses, long hikes, night marching and extensive firing practice. New clothing and equipment were issued and the impending invasion of North Africa became more apparent. The Third Infantry Division moved overseas but by some queer quirk in War Department plans, the 603rd was left waiting at the dock.

After determining that the battle of North Africa was going as well could be expected, the 603rd moved on to the newly opened Tank Destroyer Center at Camp Hood, Texas. After establishing all kinds of records for the other Battalions to shoot at, hopes for overseas service were once again raised.

But somewhere along the line the Battalion had missed the maneuvers in Louisiana. Again they were off, this time for three months of eating with the mosquitoes and chiggers.

The culmination of maneuvers placed the 603rd in Camp Shelby, Mississippi for a rest, prior to shipping out. However, it seems they were wanted at the Tank Destroyer Center as School Troops. In Camp Hood the Battalion spent their time testing the new T-70 Tank Destroyer (now known as the M-18, "Hellcat"). The experiment included driving down to the Gulf of Mexico and ducking the TD's into the salty brine. After that, one wasn't sure whether the primary mission of TD's would be destroying tanks or submarines.

With the fifth and final phase of its training completed the Battalion moved to another staging area---Camp Maxey, Texas. Physicals, lectures, new clothing and they were off to the POE.

Nine days at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to get the final taste of American soil and the 603rd was on its way to the ETO.



Lt. Anthony H. Jansen in previous accoutrement as Technician 4th Grade.