

# THE TIGER RAG

PUBLISHED BY  
631ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION

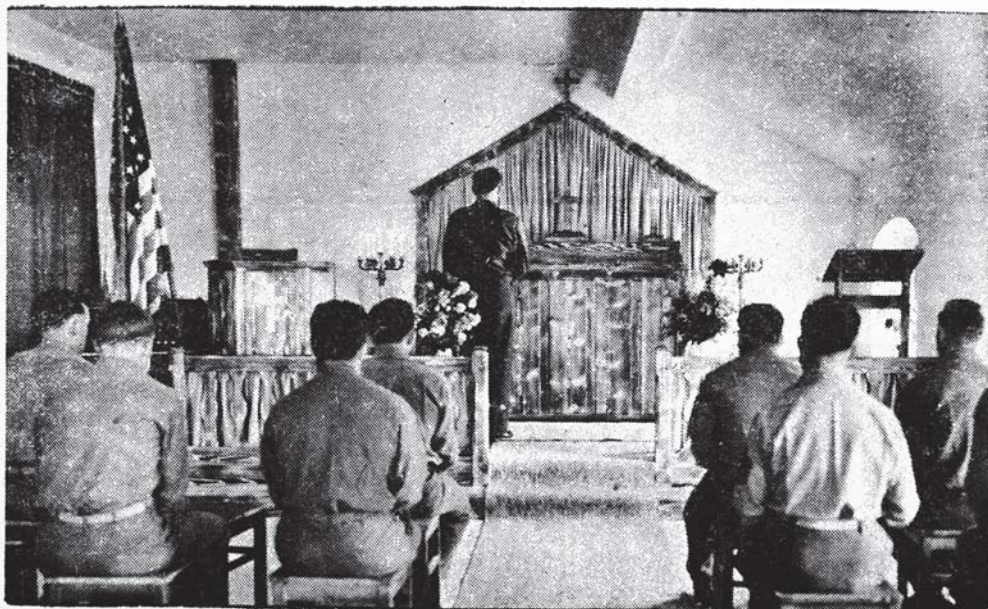


LENGGRIES, GERMANY  
AUG. 18, 1945

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 5

## JAPAN'S SURRENDER CLIMAXES WORLD WAR II



### Battalion Chapel Dedicated Sunday

The Chapel was formally dedicated last Sunday. Chaplain McNeil officiated and gave a sermon on St. Andrew — we all recall the story of the feeding of the multitude with three fish and seven loaves of bread.

Sgt. Gierl put the finishing touches on Saturday. All were most impressed by the design and workmanship of the altar and pulpit. The chapel has a religious, peaceful atmosphere and is a good place to take ten and think things over.

The candles and floral arrangements added to the ceremony.

T/4 Fink was organist and Sgt. William Martin and Pvt. Farrar, Cpl. Johnson and Sgt. Clouston composed the quartet.

Our chapel is open at all times — you are welcome to visit it — there are times when we would like to be alone and undisturbed.

Now that we have such a fine place of worship lets respond to the announcements of services.

### Promotions Announced: Many Gain Higher Rank

During the past couple of weeks, the following men of the Battalion have been advanced in grade as follows:

#### PROMOTED TO STAFF SERGEANT

Sgt. Robert F. Meier	Hq Co.
Tec 4 James S. Purvis	Hq Co.
Tec 4 George N. Seidel	Hq Co.

#### PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

Cpl. Daniel A. Wroblewski	Rcn Co.
Cpl. William G. Pero	Rcn Co.
Tec 5 Herman R. Neuman	Hq Co.

#### PROMOTED TO TECHNICIAN GRADE IV

Tec 5 William J. Wittwer	Co. B.
Tec 5 John George Jr	Hq Co.

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### Provost Marshal Commends Battalion Performance

Headquarters — Third United States Army  
— Office of the Provost Marshal —  
A.P.O. 403 — 6 August 1945

I wish to take this opportunity to commend you, your officers and your men for the splendid performance of duty of the 631st Tank Destroyer Battalion while on duty with the Third U.S. Army during the period 10 September to 1 August 1945.

The varied missions you were given to perform were accomplished in a superior manner, and the attitude and cooperation displayed by the officers and men of your unit during their service with the Third Army as a security command, reflects great

(Cont. Page 2)

### Thoughts of Home Predominate; Service Day Memories Linger

The unconditional surrender of the Japanese Empire brings to an end World War II. The most costly and destructive war in world history sees the United States emerging as the greatest military power of all times. Democracy has proven itself stronger than Fascism, Nazism and Imperialism; and the free people of the world have averted the threat of human slavery.

As in all great events, however, the point of view of the individual is the most interesting. How did V-J day affect the average G.I.?

The editors feel that the regular column of one of our writers somewhat reflects your reactions to the world-shaking event. It is highly personalized; but then, we react most frequently with our heart and not in the mock heroics of the theatre.

### "OFF THE CUFF" NOTES!!

V—J day!! News of the unconditional surrender is sweet... a long time since that fateful Sunday when the radio informed an incredulous public that Pearl Harbor had been bombed... now we can dream... of home, of the wife, and kid... the old job... the old gang... some of them are missing now... good guys too... young and strong they were... I remember them laughing and nappy, drinking coke at the corner drug store... dancing under the stars... cheering at the football game... God grant that their lives were not sacrificed in vain... the terrible burden of peace is our heritage... the thought of going home also brings to our minds memories of the service... Six Tray Ace memories (hope they become memories tout suite) Gobblers Knob... March 1942... those flash floods... Corris saluting in bed when an officer burst in to tell us to vacate the tent... the girl in the PX with the prominent busts... Slenker wolfing down pork chops in the Service Club... the "Dixie Division"... the "Hooks" campaign hat... those damn inspections under a hot Texas sun... guys passing out cold... while "Doc" Braden casually looked them over and said "they'll live"... they did... "Tommy" Carr loafing with Strahl... a big joe with a walrus mustache... "C" Co being formed from A and B... or should we say reformed?... their commander then

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THE TIGER RAG  
Southern Germany Edition

Volume 1, No. 2, Saturday Aug. 18, 1945

## STAFF

Sgt. Robt. F. Meier, Managing Editor  
Sgt. Maj. Thos. E. Parlette, Assoc. Editor  
T/Sgt. James R. Stephens, Assoc. Editor  
T/4 Harry W. Collins, Assoc. Editor  
T/Sgt. Daniel B. Hoey, Business Manager  
Sgt. George C. Kennedy, News Editor  
Pvt. Milo Tatalovich, Features Writer  
S/Sgt. Mike Shapiro, Sports Editor

## REPORTERS

Sgt. Wm. P. Heckert Cpl. Wm. C. Rhodes, Jr.  
Pfc. Albert Joseph Sgt. Jacob E. Dennis, Jr.  
Pvt. Francis R. Fournier

## "C" Co. in the Field

Charlie Company is now on the firing range located at Griesen, 9 miles west of Garmisch. During this time they will fire rifle grenades, 30 cal. machine guns, bazookas and they will be the first to fire the 90 mm gun direct fire. For an extra added attraction they will toss hand grenades around. Quite a bit of fireworks, eh?

This range is located in a river bed with high mountains on both sides. If these boys aren't watched close they will make mole hills out of those mountains with those high powered guns.

While there, trips will be taken to Garmisch-Partenkirchen where the boys will have the opportunity to visit the Zugspitze Mountain, highest Mountain in Germany. Must be trying to make mountain goats out of us, fellows!

It was an uneventful trip reaching there, altho' one Tank Destroyer had to stay on the road all night due to some motor trouble. It was noted that they managed to break down in the vicinity of some beautiful frauleins. Hmmm!! How come, fellows???

T/Sgt. Potteiger returned to camp with one Tank Destroyer. What's the matter, Pott, afraid of those frauleins — or does the big boom of those 90 mm keep you awake?

Some of the German frauleins really must have something for when "Commando" Reiter misses two meals on account of one — that is news. On the other hand, Toll was a little smarter, he shared his supper with one of them on the docks at Chiem See. Any further inquiry will bring the usual hard luck story.

Leave it to "Tony Previte" when it comes to being different, for it is rumored that he is now taking his fraulein to church — An honest man with good intentions — Who said that? —

## Promotions Announced (cont.)

Tec 5 David C. Murray	Hq Co.
Tec 5 Paul L. Silling	Hq Co.
Tec 5 Carl H. Householder	Hq Co.

## PROMOTED TO CORPORAL

Pfc. Marion E. Tarr	Rcn Co.
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PROMOTED TO TECHNICIAN  
GRADE V

Pfc. John E. Schicantek	Hq Co.
Pfc. Samuel R. Scopelleti	Rcn Co.
Pfc. James F. Hagler	Rcn Co.
Pfc. Thomas B. Bailey	Rcn Co.
Pfc. Willard J. Huey	Co. B.
Pfc. Page W. Mariner	Co. B.

## "Scoop the Poop"

with Jonnie (nmi) Joseph

The important and tremendous events of the past few days would seem to make anything I write so very useless and unnecessary. However, my faithful following — and that group is large — demand my weekly prattle. They shall not be disappointed! To my indifferent following — and that group, too, is large — I promise to make this column as inevitable and undesirable as reveille. It isn't S.O.P. to read "Scoop the Poop", you know! You could do worse and read the "Stars & Stripes".

## The Prattle:

T/5 Hess finally succumbed to the advantages of fraternization. He can also tell you about the dual purpose of the maintenance truck.

Now that the atomic bomb can be handled with comparative safety, this company in the near future will fire the paralysis ray gun for familiarization.

This battalion has spent at least one of the 7 War Loans, but, the only participant representing the 631st at the recent boxing matches was in the ring wearing combat boots.

Pfc. Henry Minnick, who is in charge of the stables and the odor thereof, has a very handsome horse. "Red", the horse, was confined over the past weekend. One of the less handsome horses — a jealous cad — told me she was "gigged" for dirty Houves.

I had my first riding lesson the other day. Was out with Mae West, and, even if I did come up and see her sometime, I couldn't sit down.

Pvt. Moe Huncher has altered slightly the 10th general order: To salute all officers and all colors and bottles not cased.

At Chiem See, a certain short sergeant (2nd Platoon) was seen heading for the straw line with a fraulein. She was fully a head taller than he, but he outranked her. Among other things, he pulled his x? rank.

Lt. Norris and Cpl. McCrary were seen waiting for two girls. The two girls were waiting too — but for another Lt. and Cpl.

Famous quotation: "By God, Joseph, you will not drive that tank, by God!"

## A Year Ago Today

18 August 1944, the Battalion was cleaning and preparing vehicles for movement. Col. Nathan and Major Crigler returned from Harlech Firing Range. Battalion received notice to move by 0800, 27 August 1944, to marshalling area.

## Battalion Performance (cont.)

credit upon the 631st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the Third US Army.

Philip C. Clayton  
Colonel, Cavalry  
Provost Marshal

Colonel Cadenhead's endorsement follows!

With a great deal of justifiable pride in you and a job well done, I pass on to you an extract of the Commendation received from Third U.S. Army for your work during the four campaigns in which you participated.

## "Doc" Quack Says

Last week was a big week for the battalion in regards to hospitalization. There were twelve men admitted and seven men discharged from the hospital. Those admitted were: T/5's Benton Ingram and Charles Westwood, Hq. Co.; 1st. Lt. Robert Schauer, S/Sgt. Howard H. Hoover, T/4 James Taylor, Pfc's Thomas Johnston, J. B. Edwards, Pvt. John Erickson, Co. A.; Pfc's Gerald Hembrough, William Noll, Co. B.; a. Cpl.'s Mike Ducar and Earl McKeel, Co. C. DISCHARGES were T/5 George Meteff, Cpl. Earl McKeel, Pfc's Emerson Moore and Francis Voelker, Co. C.; Pvt. Omer Wagner, Hq. Co.; Pfc. Thomas Johnston and Pvt. John Erickson, Co. A.; also T/4 Alvin Nelson and 1st. Lt. Robert Schauer's Co. A.; T/5 James Pugliano, Rcn. Co.

There was a bit of excitement in the Battalion motor pool on Wed 8 Aug, when one of the tanks exploded, burning five of the men working on it. Three of the men required hospitalization, for 1st and 2nd degree burns on face, hands, and fore arms. Two of the men have returned to duty, none the worse of their experience, while T/4 James Taylor, burned the worst, is still at the 104th. While checking on Taylor I found that he will be hospitalized for a few more days.

Cpl. Lalley was evacuated back to a General Hospital. Where? I didn't find out.

Is it true that a nurse had to hide a certain Lt.'s pants to keep him in bed?

When you look in the mirror, look at your teeth. There would be less toothache and decay if the tooth brush was used for other than inspections on Saturday.

The VD rate in Germany is still advancing. Lets show our Superior Officers that we have the guts, decency and the moral fortitude to stay "clean". Lets respect our Mother, Sister, Wife or Sweetheart at home in such a way that we can return with a clean "bill—o—fare". The saying that you are not a man until you acquire the "taint" is a lot of hokey. Don't be the intestinal fortitude to keep the LOVE AND RESPECT of his dear ones back home.

Thats all for now, see you next week. DOC QUACK.

## Seen Around the Company

Hobbs and Rinck with that far away look in their eyes when those ah, so swell songs in the U.S.O. show. Johnny Regecci, unduanted by the elements, setting forth on his evening promenade. Swiggum practicing on indoor photography, and using Morgan as one of his models.

Tis rumored that George Hiers has been saying there are too many G.I.'s around. Perhaps he is still embarrassed with that homey picture he made as he sat with the Frau, baby and carriage. He says he is readjusting for civilian life.

Were billets that bad at Chiem See that Radar Cooke had to spend the night in a bathing locker or did someone lock him in there for pure meanness. (?)



### "On the Ball"

by Mike

Nothing much in the world of sports this past week—Seem's ole man Pleuvius has put a damper on the Battalion activities—All teams are knee deep in postponed games which will be played at dates given later in this column.—Add a new team, to the Company Softball League, Headquarters Company.—With all companies scheduled to go out on bivouac every 10 days—Headquarters will substitute for the company out in the field and will play their schedule for that period. Standings for games played the past two weeks are as follows: In the CBI League—3rd Platoon "B" Company heads the pack with three wins and no losses. The ETO League finds the 1st and 2nd Recon aggregation ahead with 4 wins and no losses. The Volleyball League finds a strong "B" Company ahead with 5 wins and no losses. In the only Softball League game played this week we find the "B" Company team winning one of the best played and hardest fought games of the season against a strong Recon team. After 13 innings of suspense and thrills, and after the smoke had cleared, "B" Company emerged the victor on the long end of a 2 to 1 score. Good pitching by Long, for the winners, and Pero for the losers featured the ball game. A 1-run homer by Sadowski, which was their only tally of the day was the hitting feat of the day—the blow landing in deep left field. Dullard of the winners was the star of the day—with getting two hits, scoring his team's only two runs, and playing a bangup game at shortstop. Recon had plenty of scoring chances, but due to pinch hurling by Long could not push any more runs across. All in all it was one fine game and I for one will be there for the next game played between these two good teams. Box score below:

### "Off the Cuff" Notes (cont.)

was Capt Treadwell... a nice guy... Lt. Blackledge as a first sergeant... and now he's a M.P.... the Louisiana maneuvers... ice tinkling in the officers' iced tea... while our tongues hung out on one canteen of water per... "toughen 'em up"... getting drunk in Alexandria... just getting drunk... the battle of Peason Ridge... the twenty bucks I got from Cook for the trip to Fort Sill... steak in Fort Worth... chicken at Sill... and not the eating variety either... rejoining the old gang at Camp Hood... the lousy water... the Commando course... "puke hill"... Cameron... Austin... Lt. Crigler losing a first sergeant... and getting a damn good one in his place... back to Bowie... an influx of guys from Wisconsin and Michigan... rifle caletenics... hikes... more inspections... more inspections... few passes... few furloughs... damn good friends... persistent harrassing of the troops... a command function?... next stop Claiborne... good old Louisiana... oh yeh?... mud... MP's in Alexandria... they didn't tike "Harry's boys"... and vice versa... rookies from Pa... the good old Keystone state... McGrath bellowing... Sgt. "Mike" barking like a seal... Lt. Wright (now Captain) squeaking... "to the winds march"... Burleson, Hoag, Gierl, Stephans, Minier, Cook, Riffle, Slenker, Houk, Kaminski, Schwartz, ... others... training cadre par excellent... the liquor store at Forest Hills... beer at the PX... "Pete" singing... Farrell drilling... Carrol doing the Simon Legree act for the K.P.'s... then a furlough... well... will have to finish this next week... there's a lot of things to remember... forty-two months is a helluva long time!

### Hq. Comments

The Non-Com's July liquor ration arrived last week. What a welcome sight that was. It seems that when the Non-Coms opened the crates, they found a small envelope in each case. You guessed it—the envelope had four measuring thimbles in it with the directions of how to divide each bottle.

Why does a certain fellow from Windsor Hotel, whose nose looks like a road map, sleep with one shoe on?? How about it, Leonard????

### Charlie Co. Goes Tactical (?)

(To Fire 90's at Griesen)

With the usual words "We'll leave the motor park at 0600" (if it takes until 0900 to do it), the advance party consisting of four tanks left. We weren't long on the road until Archambeau found out that his tank could dig a swell gun position in the side of a road bank. (Anyone who desires proof, just take a look at the bank a little distance out of Bad Tölz). You can't miss it, as right beside it is a pile of tooth picks that used to be a telephone pole! Of course, Ollinger picked the perfect place for burning out two boogy wheels which happened to be along the lake at Walchen See. Not to be outdone, Kokko did just as well by breaking two fan belts in the tour of Garmisch. With the usual thousand and one kids hanging around and the motor maintenance gang showing up without the parts, the tank was fixed through the ability of Kalinchock's speaking Polish and Lt. Richard's "requisitioning". The welcoming committee at the bivouac area consisted of O'Conner and Jeselnick, who we thought for a moment, had found a running brook of schnapps.

Our first glance around the bivouac area was regarded by the "shocks" of Miller's and Hershey's crew. Miller, you know, is a brick layer and Hershey a carpenter (They both are going into business together after the war). Of course, not to be outdone in their various trades, we have Golden supplying the usual dehydrated potatoes, Reiter the news from the M-20 radio, Shelakes the latrines through the sweat of others, Baker the accordion music, and Toll the usual baloney.

On completing the various little details (naturally) the fellows started off to Garmisch, pockets bulging with the ever present "mahnjay material", while waving good-bye to Previte who promised that fraulein at Lenggries he would be true. While "promenading" along the streets in Garmisch, we see "Kid Romance" Shelakes observing the techniques of Miller and Finely, but only being disillusioned by one who, to Shelakes' mind, shall we say, was old enough to be our mother. "Coon" Hiers trying his luck on a bike. Annie Buntin caught by the glare of headlights "spatzeering" arm in arm—Brock, and Baker strolling along the pathways in the mountains. Swiggum waiting on a train due from Munich (I wonder why?)

Well the usual mixture of good and bad luck stories from MacDaniels, Hinerman, and Redden, the group returned to their haven or hill, whichever the case may be, ending the first day.

If some of you boys are having a little trouble attracting the opposite sex, try one La More uses—that horse whistle—At least they turn around and smile.

RECON Co.										"B" Co.							
Sabowski	SS	5	1	2	Desch	SF	4	0	1								
Shoppert	2B	5	0	0	Dullard	SS	4	2	2								
Pietrantonio	SF	4	0	2	Dicrey	LF	5	0	3								
James	3B	5	0	2	Maslowski	C 4	0	0	1								
Smith, E.P.	1B	4	0	1	Donahue	3B	4	0	0								
Warger	CF	5	0	1	Bailes	RF	4	0	0								
Wroblenski	LF	5	0	0	Barry	1B	4	0	0								
Mallory	RF	5	0	0	Corlett	2B	4	0	0								
Scopelletti	C	3	0	1	Seals	CF	4	0	0								
Pero	P	4	0	1	Long	P	4	0	0								
TEAM		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	R	H	E
Recon		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	2
"B" Co.		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	0



## Sports' Playground of Bavaria Open To G. I. Tourists

One of the most beautiful parts of Germany is the Werdenfels District which embraces the environs of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The landscape alone, with the Zugspitze (9,727ft.), the highest mountain in Germany, and the other proud mountain giants, the Wetterstein, the Dreitorspitze, the Alpinspitze, the Wank, and the Waxenstein Range would make a visit to this section worth while. The Zugspitze Railway, operated by cogwheels, runs from Garmisch Partenkirchen in the valley to the summit of the peak. By it you are transported from the heat of Summer into the Alpine region of eternal snow rising as if by magic through surroundings of indescribable beauty. Dark pine forests, mountain villages, whose histories go back 2000 years, crystal clear lakes and precipitous cliffs. This unforgettable journey ends at a hotel set amid the glories of perpetual snow 8,694 feet above sea level. To reach the summit we must board a cable Railway which hangs suspended like a thread spun by some gigantic spider, running from the hotel tower to the highest point in Germany. From here we see in the sunset horizon the dazzling chains of the Tyrolean, Italian and Swiss Alps. As we stand and gaze, we realize that here is surely the most unforgettable panorama ever spread before man.

### OLYMPIC GAMES

The winter Olympic games were held here in 1936. The engineer, Stanislaus M. Zentzytcki, who constructed the famous bob sled run in Lake Placid, New York is from Garmisch. The great Olympic ski jump still stands to the rear of the Stadium.

Another very enjoyable trip is to the top of Wank. It takes 1½ hours round trip by cable car. From its summit is one of the best views of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The railway is open from 1300 to 1800 daily except Thursday and tickets may be purchased at the 10th Armored Special Service office. At the "Hut" beer is free and soup is 35 pfennigs.

Atop Zugspitze, skiing, hiking, and mountain climbing are available. The trip takes a full day. Tickets are available at the

10th Armored Special Service office. Trains leave from Zugspitze Bahnhof behind the R.R. station at Garmisch at 0900 and 1000 every morning except Wednesday. Return trains leave at 1500 and 1600 hours.

### ANCIENT CHURCH

Amongst the interesting buildings in Garmisch is the old Gothic Church of the Virgin Mary. The tower was built as a heathen temple before Christianity. The main part of the church was originally Roman in style but was remodeled in 1522 when Gothic gables were added. Well worth noting are the frescoes painted on the walls in the 14th Century. Another famous church is the Baroque Village church in the Markplatz built in 1730 it is famous for its paintings and carvings. The nave has been referred to as the highest degree of development in rococo art. Also worthy of mention is the Chapel of St. Anthony, also a baroque building built in 1708 to fulfill a vow made by the pious inhabitants of Partenkirchen if they would be saved from the the perils of the Austrians who ravaged the Foisach Valley.

There are many famous ruins and hamlets within 15 minutes ride of Garmisch. Near Graseck is King Ludwig II hunting lodge, from which Ludwig rode in a golden coach at night, the road lit by torches carried by hundreds of men. Wild mountain goats were his favorite game.

### SWIMMING OFFERED

The 10th Amored operates a fine swimming pool in Garmisch, South East of the Stadium with a sand beach and bath houses. The water is cold however.

A fine movie house has continuous pictures. Also operated by 10th Armored.

The Red Cross Club is open daily and is located in the same building as the theatre. Coffee, donuts, and cake are free and plentiful. The club is well furnished and offers many indoor amusements.

Plans are now being made for recreational trips to the Garmisch-Partenkirchen area. We feel sure you will enjoy the scenery, points of interest, and amusements.

### Around the Companies

Last Sat. night Bob Shoppert took a bath in the drum of water outside the Pioneers Room. He is either disgusted with the two baths a week policy, or maybe it was the "forceful" persuasion used by Bailey, Haywiser & "Sulphur Balls".

Sunday afternoon Charlie Surloff returned from the "Beavers Haven" minus half his beautiful mustache — he gained a free bath though!! It was later stated that Charlie entered the Beavers quarters without a formal invitation. Moral to the story — be formally invited before you climb the golden stairs.

S/Sgt. Dillon and T/5 J. I. McKey just returned from Paris a bit under the weather. They blamed it on the trip back, but it was later found out that they had consumed 10 bottles of cognac between them — at 700 Francs per bottle too.

Paul Winklevoss is still complaining to "Sack" Behrendt 'cause Eleanor isn't writing; won't someone please drop him a line or two.

It has been reported that "Rosie" James has challenged "Scope" to a 3-rounder in the very near future. Both contestants have been shadow boxing quite a bit lately. They have a real shadow to spar with — namely one Clovis Benton.

T/5 Copple is still bitching 'cause he had to sit in a foxhole and pull targets on the transition course; he is trying to convince us that he didn't like it, but we know he asked for the job.

This reporter received a threat from a certain party because of an article in last weeks "Rag". To that party I would like to say, "you and I are the only ones who know the true facts and I can keep a secret". By the way, how much cognac do you have???

We of Rcn. are looking for a method to keep Cpl. Tarr out of the "sack". Work won't do it — 'cause he can do anything he has to do in the sack. Even close order drill. Ask him how he does it — I don't know.

Cpl. Warger, better known as "Two Beer" Warger, has given up trying to drink more beer than "Hezzy" Steinert.

Coon Alicea is anxious to get back to New York. He wants to get one more look at the tree he planted in Brooklyn.

Dewey Houck says that he needs another week's rest to get back to normal. We don't get it Paul; when you were in shape you were always in the sack.

It seems that Sgt. McGettrick must have a guilty conscience. He claims that every time a fellow goes down to the PX to drink a (?) beer, his name appears in the paper. So, Mac decided not to drink anymore. "Go ahead and drink, Mac, we promise not to print one staggering line about you".

Lenggries seems deserted these days now that Ray Cook, Kurutz, and Finley have given up their "Check Points".

Sgt. Bibbus has suddenly taken quite an interest in movies. He's been going into town quite often and signing out for the Lenggries Theater. Since when did "Gravel Gertie" get into pictures?

Sgt. Parlette left for the Riviera by plane. Baggage allowance: "35 pounds of chocolate and cigarettes.