

761 TANK DESTROYER BN.

FIRST FRAME OF OVERSIZED PAGE

Nomenclature:	Pill-boxes	MG Nests	AT Guns (88)	AT Guns (75)	SP Guns	37 mm Guns
Company "A".....	18	85	18	15	3	* 12 Reported by 103rd Div. (Task Force Rhine)
Company "B".....		63	21			
Company "C".....	39	109	14			
Company "D".....		53	4	8	4	
Assault Gun Platoon	1	21	7		1	
TOTAL:	58	331	64	23	8	12(*)
"A" (May 21-23, 1945) Task Force Rhine ..	31	49	29 (See: Note 2)	(See: Note 2)	4	12

"A"—Included in "TOTAL"

Note 1: Total: 450 (103rd Div.)
(Task Force Rhine)
Note 2: 20 AT's Captured.—
(Task Force Rhine)
Note 3: (Center of Page)

CASUALTIES: 761st TANK BN. (Personnel)

Killed in Action: . . . 3 Officers; 3 Enlisted Men.
Wounded in Action: . . . 39 Officers; 221 Enlisted Men.
Captured: 2 Officers; 2 Enlisted Men
(Later Recaptured)
Non-battle Casualties: 9 Officers; 192 Enlisted Men.

4 Tanks
(Destroyed by Enemy)

(1)
170 mm Arty Gun
(Task Force Rhine)

BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS: 8
(20 Jan. 45—June 1945)

Awards: 377

Recap: 8 Silver Stars—
62 Bronze Stars (3 Clusters)
296 Purple Hearts (8 Clusters)

TOTAL: 377

Junction with First Ukrainian Army (Russians)
made on Enn River, at Steyr, Austria, 6 May 1945

ETOUSA

BATTALION ATTACHED TO:

26th, 71st, 79th, 87th, 95th and 103rd Inf. Div.:
Also: 17th Airborne Division;
Third, Seventh, Ninth Armies

(V-E DAY,

Commanding: HQS. Co.: Ca
" : Co. "A":
" : Co. "B":
" : Co. "C":
" : Co. "D":
" : Serv. Co.:

DAMAGE TO ENEMY

761st TANK BATTALION; 31 Oct. 1944 — 6 May 1945

37 mm Guns	20 mm AA Guns	Tanks	Bazooka Teams	Panzerfausts	Nebelwerfers	Arm'd Cars	(All Types) Wheeled Vehicles	
* 12 Reported by 103rd Div. (Task Force Rhine)	2	16		12			81	
		8	3			3	52	
	2	4	21		1		19	
					39			
	2	6					6	
12(*)	6	34	24	51	9(*)	3	461	
12	12 Kitchen Vehicles (See: "MISC")	(1) 170 mm Arty Gun (See: "MISC")	200 Horses (See: "MISC")		9		(See: Note 1) 450	
4 Tanks (Destroyed by Enemy)	(Captured) 22 AT Guns	MISCELLANEOUS (Shot Down (Transpt.) (Captured) 2 Aircraft 1 Radio Station (Salz)		(Captured) (1) 120 mm Mortar and 40rds.	(Morville) 1 Btry. Artillery (88s)	(Re-Captured) 1 U. S. Ammo Truck 2 O's and 3 EM	12 Kitchen Vehicles 2 Armd Supply Dumps	
(1) 170 mm Arty Gun (Task Force Rhine)	200 Horses (Killed or Captured) (Task Force Rhine)	7 Towns (Captured) (TFR) (Three of them Destroyed)		<p>ON: 30 MARCH 1945 THE 761ST TD THE 71ST INF. DIV.</p> <p>FROM: 12 MARCH 1945 TO 30 MARCH 1945 THE 71ST DIVISION CAPTURED: 480 PRISONERS (I-E NOTES- 71ST DIV., 25 JUNE 1945)</p> <p>FROM: 30 MARCH 1945 TO 6 MAY 1945: THE 71ST DIVISION CAPTURED: 106,926 PRISONERS, FOR WHICH THE TANKERS WERE DIRECTLY, OR INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE, (SEE: PAR 2. LTR., SUBJECT: COMMENDATION TO CO, 761ST TANK BN, DATED 15 MAY 45, FR. CG-71ST INF. DIV.)</p>			(Captured) 4 Airfields: 3 in Germany 1 in Austria (1 Apr. 45 to 11 May 45)	
(V-E DAY, 1945)		<p>Commanding: HQS. Co.: Capt. IRVIN MC HENRY</p> <p>" : Co. "A": " JAMES T. BAKER</p> <p>" : Co. "B": " SAMUEL BROWN</p> <p>" : Co. "C": " CHARLES A. GATES</p> <p>" : Co. "D": " RICHARD W. ENGLISH</p> <p>" : Serv. Co.: " IVAN H. HARRISON</p>		<p>"NOTE 3:"</p>				

Distribution up to 461 not allocated to companies included in Report from 103rd Div.

Arm'd Cars	(All Types) Wheeled Vehicles	Ammo Trucks	Ammo Dumps	Mortar Positions	Enemy Killed	Enemy Captured	Enemy Wounded
	81				1,640	7,296	
3	52	10			2,360	3,477	650
	19		1	4	1,732	3,583	
			2	9	189	1,243	
	6	2		4	325	219	
3	461	12	3	17	6,246	(See: Note 3) 15,818	650
	(See: Note 1) 450	11	1		833	3,260	100
(e-Captured) 1. Ammo Truck 2's and 3 EM	12 Kitchen Vehicles 2 Arm'd Supply Dumps (Captured) 4 Airfields: 3 in Germany 1 in Austria (1 Apr. 45 to 11 May 45)	TANKS LOST By 761st: 71 RECAP: 33 by AT Guns 19 by Mines 8 by Panzerfausts 7 by Artillery 4 by Tanks Total: 71			TOTAL ENEMY CASUALTIES: (Directly and Indirectly) 129,640 (Reported)		
(1945) OFFICERS WERE PAR 2. LTR., BN, DATED		TOTAL DAYS IN COMBAT: 183			Commanding Officers: Lt. Col. PAUL L. BATES: 31 Oct. 44-8 Nov. 44 Lt. Col. HOLLIS E. HUNT: 9 Nov. 44-29 Nov. 44 Major JOHN F. GEORGE: 29 Nov. 44-17 Feb. 45 Lt. Col. PAUL L. BATES: 17 Feb. 45		

FUTURE RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE

WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations
NEWS DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1945

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* NOTE TO EDITORS: The following material originates with the Public *
* Relations Officers of United States Army camps, posts, stations and Theaters *
* of War. It concerns the activities of Negro soldiers. The date of release *
* appears above. Similar informative releases will be sent to you weekly. *
* * * * *

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION TO 969th FA BATTALION

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, France---The 969th Field Artillery Battalion, a Negro 155-mm howitzer outfit, was one of 34 odd units which received citations in the name of the President of the United States for action in the Bastogne area when attached to the 101st Airborne Division, SHALF announced today.

Men of the 969th stuck to their guns and fired all around the compass during the defense of encircled Bastogne even though mortar bombs fell on them like rain. The unit which landed in France last July was attached to the 28th Infantry Division at the time of the German attack. At one time, when enemy pressure increased and casualties became heavier, all except the actual cannoners fought infantry fashion.

The 101st Airborne Division and certain attached units were formally presented with the honor on March 15. Twenty-five other odd units, including the 969th Field Artillery Battalion, were not present because operations required their presence elsewhere. However, appropriate ceremonies will be held for these units at a future date.

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LIEUTENANT FAILED IN ACHIEVING AMBITION BECAUSE PATTON'S TANKS TRAVELED TOO FAST

WASHINGTON, D.C.---"I don't give a damn what color you are as long as you get out there and kill those sons of --- in the green suits."

The rough, rugged speaker stood on the steel hood of an armored car as he addressed the battalion of Negro combat troops.

He was wearing a combat jacket with two ivory-handled pistols dangling at his side and the lacquered M-1 helmet liner that he wore had three silver stars bolted on its front.

✓ The scene was "Somewhere in France." The listeners were members of the 761st Tank Battalion. The speaker was Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr. He wasn't wasting any words --- he was on his way to Germany and he was telling the guys of the 761st that he was banking on them to help him get there.

It all seems like a dream now to Lieutenant William E. Blake, of 1611 City Place, Atlantic City, New Jersey, a former member of the 761st Tank Battalion. He sat in Washington this week and recalled how he was wounded while dashing across Southern France with General Patton's Third Army.

"We knew he needed our tanks and we had been trying for day to catch up with him," said the lieutenant. "When we were assigned to the Third Army the morale of our men went sky-high and we set out at once to join it. A few days

MORE

later, however, we were all in the dumps because General Patton was moving so fast we were afraid he would be in Berlin before we caught up with him."

The battalion almost wore out its tanks trying to catch the fast-rolling Third Army.

"The only way we caught them," Blake went on, "was by taking off the steel combat tracks on our tanks and putting on the faster rubber ones. Even then, we had to do from ninety to a hundred miles a day to overtake them and those guys were fighting as they went. I never dreamed an Army could move so fast while fighting."

They say at one time headquarters had to drop maps to General Patton by plane because the Third Army ran off the maps that they started with and no one from headquarters was able to catch up with him on the ground.

When the 761st Tankmen caught up with General Patton, he was waiting impatiently for supplies at Nancy, France.

It was at Nancy on the occasion of the General's speech to the 761st that Lieutenant Blake first saw the former Olympic swimming and Army pistol champion.

"We were in battalion formation when the order came down to man all guns. Suddenly a bunch of Jeeps loaded with MPs and 50-caliber machineguns rolled in and took up strategic positions. Then a single Jeep came dashing up and stopped beside an armored scout car. A three-star general jumped from the Jeep and vaulted up on the hood of the armored car and when I saw his two ivory-handled pistols I knew I was looking at Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr."

When General Patton struck at Gros Rederching, 3,000 yards from the German border in the Alsace-Lorraine sector, Lieutenant Blake was a liaison officer between the 26th Infantry ("Yankee") Division, and a company of tanks from his battalion attached to the New Englanders for support.

"When we entered the city I had just got located in a building that was between me and the direction from which Jerry's artillery shells were coming," Blake continued, "when I received orders to report to the regimental command post for instructions."

"It was pitch dark and the only way I could find my way up the streets was to hug to the buildings as I went along."

"Just as I got outside my building a German shell landed on the outskirts of the village. This made me feel pretty good for I figured Jerry didn't have the range yet, and I'd be able to make it to the CP before he got it, but I guess I was wrong for about that time I heard one scream over my head and I flattened out on the ground close up beside the building."

"The shell landed on the top of the building and a big pile of debris fell in the middle of my back as I lay there. The concussion stunned me and I lay there for quite a while. Finally I got myself together and began crawling on to the command post."

What the lieutenant did not tell: After he arrived at the command post he did not inform anyone of his injury and when the Division moved out he went a total of eight days, making typical Patton marches, before he finally surrendered to the Medical Corps.

At the hospital it was found that he had suffered serious injuries to his spinal column and had to be evacuated at once. He was sent to a hospital at Rheims from where he was flown to England and later shipped to the United States.

Open in his admiration for the colorful Third Army Commander, Blake said, "I don't see how he stands up under it. He actually wears down his mechanical equipment."

"You see, when a tank outfit fights two days it needs the third day to make repairs and do maintenance work on its tanks, but during the heavy fighting when we were sent out to take the pressure off Eastogne, we moved so fast and fought so often that at one time we had only nine out of 54 tanks ready to fight — but General Patton called for that nine."

Speaking of the famed Fourth Armored Division that spearheads most of General Patton's attacks, Blake said, "We would be on our way up to attack and we'd meet the Fourth Armored Division going back the other way. After this happened a couple of times, we began to get curious because we figured they must be retreating since they were always going the other way."

"Finally we found out how they were operating. A day before we were to attack the Germans, General Patton would select a strongly fortified town about 15 miles behind the German lines and tell his Fourth Armored boys to go out and 'blast Hell out of it.' Those guys would take off in their tanks and fight their way through the Jerry lines to the town and do just what he told them to do. The next day when we hit the Germans the Fourth would fight their way back from behind the German lines and join us on a frontal attack. Boy, that's a real outfit."

On leave from Camp Pickett where he is a patient in the hospital, Lieutenant Blake calls his overseas experience "Failure of a Mission."

It seems that when he went overseas in August 1944, his greatest ambition was to get a certain make of cigarette lighter which is popular with soldiers overseas.

"I never did get one," the lieutenant moaned, "General Patton moved so fast I never had time to stop at a PX."

Unmarried, Blake plans to study law at Howard University, Washington, D.C., when he is discharged. He was a pre-law student there when he was inducted.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Blake, live at the Atlantic City address.

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92nd MORTARMAN FINDS WAR IS WAR ANYWHERE

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Italy—"War is war anywhere," according to Staff Sergeant Duncan M. Slater, 37-year-old Negro mortarman with the 92nd Infantry Division who spent 18 months as an infantryman in the South Pacific and has served six months with the Fifth Army in the Mediterranean Theater.

"Out in the Pacific you got the jungles," Sergeant Slater explained, "and over here you have the mountains. There it's too hot --- here, the mountains are too high."

Heat in the New Hebrides Islands came from two sources when the sergeant was there --- climate and Japs. His unit, the 24th Infantry Regiment, a Regular Army outfit now on Saipan, landed under Japanese fire on a "small rock" with elements of a combat engineer regiment and immediately started building an airfield. Twenty-one days later the field was operating as a base for planes that supported the invasion of Guadalcanal. Japanese "Zeros" strafed and bombed them regularly.

Fighting Fever Toughest

"But the toughest part of being in the Pacific is fighting fever," Sergeant Slater added.

When he returned to the United States, the sergeant said he received a furlough and then began training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, for his present assignment.

"The first day I got into combat in Italy, I saw the difference in fighting here and in the Pacific," he said. "You can see the Germans even in the daytime, but we never saw the Japs."

"One night a Jap patrol attacked an outfit rear us and all we could do was shoot at sounds we heard in the jungle. Over here, though, the enemy's weapons are better and more accurate and the German Tiger tank beats anything the Japs had."

As mortar section chief, Sergeant Slater often sets up observation posts right in the front line. From these positions he spots enemy troops and supply movement.

"The other night our OP was pinned down by German mortar fire," said Sergeant Slater, "and we waited half an hour for them to quit shelling. We figured out their position from gun flashes and my mortar section fired 15 rounds into the German positions while I was on my way back to our headquarters."

"But the Germans did me one better because three minutes after I got back they dropped two artillery shells about 20 yards from me."

Sergeant Slater's wife, Mrs. Bertie Slater, lives at 39 Clingman Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, with their two children, Lurelwyn, 18, and Duncan, Jr., 17.

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FLYING MAJOR TAUGHT
"ETIQUETTE" TO GERMANS

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey---From a substitute chemistry teacher at Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., to a full-time instructor in etiquette is the story of Major Lee Rayford, of 115 S Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Major Rayford's etiquette pupils were the Germans. He punched his lessons home from the pilot's seat of a P-51 fighter plane as a member of the hard-hitting all-Negro 332nd Fighter Group stationed in Italy.

Back from his second tour of duty with the 332nd, and now here at AAF Redistribution Station No. 1 to receive a new duty assignment, Major Rayford has stacked up a total of 83 lead-packed "lessons" against the Germans. Uncle Sam has seen fit to award him the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters --- and a Purple Heart.

"I picked up the Purple Heart while returning from a bomber escort mission into Southern Germany," said the major, who also served as a squadron commander. "A flak burst entered one of my cylinders, knocked out my supercharger and smashed my radio. Seven pieces went into my leg."

His engine leaking oil badly, the major streaked for home. He got there none too soon. His crew chief told him later that in a few more seconds his motor would have been frozen tighter than the North Pole.

The ex-school teacher was out of the fight for only three weeks, but he still carries a piece of German flak in his leg. However, he considers one piece of flak not a bad trade for the ammunition dumps, oil tanks, airfields and communication lines which have been blasted by his guns and bombs. And he feels that the 332nd's course in etiquette has borne good results.

"They're learning that it's impolite to drop in on other countries uninvited," smiled the major.

Major Rayford, who expects to return to the teaching profession after the Germans and Japs have learned their lesson, is a graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

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ON THE LEDO ROAD--
HELL IS STRAIGHT UP

WASHINGTON, D.C.---"That's Hellgate right there," said the non-com, pointing to the Ledo Road on the map of Eastern Asia. "And the higher you go up the closer to hell you get. That's a strange part of the world alright."

The speaker was Corporal Edward H. Henry, of 210 T Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., who has just returned to this country from work on the "greatest engineering feat in the annals of the Army," the famous Ledo Road which connects India with China. He was a survey corporal with the first Engineer regiment to begin work on the road.

Hellgate is high up in the mountains on the Ledo Road and, according to Corporal Henry, is properly named, for once you enter Hellgate the Ledo Road is hell from there on as it winds its way up in the hills of India.

Among Henry's most interesting experiences on the road is that period during which he was in charge of a labor unit of Bengalese Indians. These men spoke no English, so Corporal Henry had to figure out his own way to convey his orders to the natives until he picked up their language.

"I managed to get along with signs at first but I later picked up enough words to let them know what I wanted. We didn't do much talking, however," smiled the corporal.

Nothing Like Basic Training

Surveying on the Ledo Road was a lot different from basic training at Fort Belvoir, Henry said. Often the instruments had to be disassembled and lowered to narrow ledges by rope before they could be set up for operation.

"It was rough going all the way," stated Henry. "Our instruments were almost ruined because of the humid atmosphere; the leeches had to be burned from our bodies with cigarettes and the Japs bombed us by the clock. That's when I began to like those tea plantations which look like a lot of hedges that grow around your home. They made a good place to take cover in during a strafing raid."

Corporal Henry spent 22 months on the road before he saw an American woman. She was in the Club Marguerita, a Red Cross Club set up on the road. "I didn't get to talk to her for we were just passing through but it sure made me feel good to see one of our girls over there."

Later, when he went back to Calcutta, India, for a rest, Corporal Henry had a letter of introduction to Miss Mildred DePedro, a Red Cross worker there. She was a schoolmate of one of his buddies who was still up on the road. According to Red Cross officials, she is still in the India-Burma Theater.

In speaking of his Bengalese workers, Henry said, "They work hard and can carry amazing loads but they can't do much lifting. A native will carry most any load that you can put on his back, but he cannot lift much more than twenty-five pounds up on his shoulders. Once you get a load up there, however, he will carry it all day."

A product of Armstrong High School in Washington, D.C., where he studied mechanical drawing, one of the first places Henry visited was his old school. He borrowed a book from the school library and has already begun studying. He plans to go back to school under the provisions of the GI Bill of Rights and study engineering.

Asked about the "Ledo Language," which the men created on the road, Corporal Henry told how the men picked up Chinese phrases and converted them to their own use. For instance, the word "molem" in Chinese means understand, and the word "teak" is the equivalent of our OK expression, so the GIs combined the two and came up with, "T.K., I molem," meaning "OK, I understand."

Corporal Henry is now awaiting reassignment here in the United States.

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17 MORE "SHORT SNORTERS"
RETURN FROM OVERSEAS POSTS

MIAMI ARMY AIR FIELD, Miami, Florida---Veterans of nearly three years' duty overseas, 17 Negro soldiers today were able to announce themselves as "Short Snorters." They won their way to membership in this exclusive fraternity by flying across an ocean.

Flown here from Asia and Africa aboard fleet Air Transport Command planes, the following soldiers are now clearing Miami Army Air Field prior to leaving on furloughs:

Staff Sgt. Joseph C. Robinson, 909 25th St., Bessemer, Ala.; Staff Sgt. Odis L. Hitt, Margaret, Ala.; Tech. 5th Gr. Quince A. Jackson, Route 1, Alpine, Ala.; Pvt. Willie Young, 1503 West Savannah Ave., Valdosta, Ga.; Pfc. Andrew Moses, Farmerville, La.; Tech. 4th Gr. Gene C. Hall, 1208 Madison Ave., Baltimore, Md.; Tech. 5th Gr. Leroy Belle, Terrace Place, Belleville, N.J.; Staff Sgt. Augustus Finley, Jr., 511 E St., Washington, D.C.

Sgt. Sam H. Bradley, 612 Third St., Washington, D.C.; Pfc. Joseph L. Shepherd, 635 Last 169th St., The Bronx, N.Y.; Pvt. John T. Price, 3521 Beaubien St., Detroit, Mich.; Sgt. Arthur F. Hilton, 438 Pleasant St., Monongahela, Pa.; Tech. 4th Gr. Augustus Warren, 803 Elm St., Marshall, Texas; Tech. 4th Gr. Leon J. Odin, 826 Cambonne St., New Orleans, La.; Tech. 5th Gr. Joseph V. Morris, 830 Merchant St., Coatesville, Pa., and Staff Sgt. Chester Lang, Carrollton, Miss.

Sergeant Robinson was overseas for 30 months, serving with the Quartermaster Corps in the European, Middle Eastern and China-Burma-India Theaters. Sergeant Hitt spent 26 months in the African-Middle East Theater. Technician Fifth Grade Jackson, also with a Quartermaster company, was in China-Burma-India for 2½ years.

Private Young, overseas for 27 months in India and Burma, wears the bronze star on his Asiatic Theater ribbon. Private First Class Moses, assigned to the Engineers, was in the China-Burma-India Theater for 27 months. Technician Fourth Grade Hall, also with the Engineers, was in the African-Middle East Theater for 34 months.

Technician Fifth Grade Belle also was with the Engineers in the African-Middle East Theater and was overseas for 34 months. Sergeant Finley spent 2½ years in the India-Burma Theater with the Quartermaster Corps. Technician Fifth Grade Chandler was with the Quartermaster Corps for 30 months, mostly in India and Burma.

Sergeant Finley's wife also wears the uniform of Uncle Sam's fighting forces. She is Corporal Isavell Finley, with a WAC detachment at Camp Swift, Texas.

Sergeant Bradley, 26, is back in the States after 26 months in Italy. Sergeant Bradley's wife, Elma, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Bradley, live at the same Washington address,

"The return trip by air was fast, but it wasn't fast enough," said Private First Class Shepherd. "I was overseas 34 months as a member of the 899th Aviation Engineers in the Middle East-African campaign. It's great to be back again in the good old U.S.A."

Private First Class Price, 26, and Staff Sergeant Arthur F. Hilton, 30, echoed the New Yorker's sentiment. Price and Hilton also were veterans of the 899th. Each was happy to be headed home after 33 months overseas.

Technician Fifth Grade Warren, 29, whose wife, Lola, lives at the Marshall, Texas, address, spent 18 months in Liberia assigned to a malarial control unit of the Medical Corps. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Warren, of RFD 1, Harleton, Texas.

Technician Fourth Grade Odin, 25, son of Philip Odin of the New Orleans, La., address, put in 33 months in Africa with an Aviation Engineer organization. He was a carpenter prior to his enlistment in the Army.

Technician Fifth Grade Morris, 22, son of Elizabeth Morris of the Coatesville, Pa., address, was on the same assignment with Technician Fourth Grade Odin, and both arrived in Africa and left there together.

Staff Sergeant Lang, 25, son of Mrs. Carrie Lang of Carrollton, Miss., spent 30 months with the Quartermaster Corps in the China-Burma-India Theater.

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LITTER BEARER EVACUATES
MEN DESPITE OWN WOUNDS

WITH U.S. FORCES IN BELGIUM---Unmindful of the pain in his back caused by particles of broken glass, Corporal Willie L. Baker, Box 537, Lufkin, Texas, refused medical aid until the last of 1,200 patients had been evacuated from a hospital that had been struck by a German robot bomb, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, announced today.

Corporal Baker, assigned to the 709th Medical Sanitary Company, was on duty at the hospital with his unit, serving as a litter bearer, when the flying bomb landed.

"Ducking under a table with a doctor when I heard the Robomb falling, was all I remember," Corporal Baker said. "I didn't hear the explosion but everything seemed to be in total darkness.

"I felt the pain in my back and little trickles of blood running down, but I was able to move around alright and I knew there were others who were more in need of help than I, so I just went to work helping them." Baker has been awarded the Purple Heart.

Before entering the Army, May 25, 1942 at Camp Wolters, Texas, Baker was a student at Texas College, Tyler, Texas, where he received his A.B. degree. He received basic training at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and came overseas with the 709th in August 1944.

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FOOLING JAPS--RESCUING BUDDIES--WINNING AWARDS
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR 93RD INFANTRY DIVISION

WITH THE 93rd INFANTRY DIVISION IN NEW GUINEA---A summary of one day's events in the 93rd Infantry Division reads like the evening edition of a small town newspaper.

Now rounding out its second year in the South and Southwest Pacific, the 93rd Division is typical of one of these small "division cities," found in our Army wherever our troops are located.

Highlight in the division's news this week is the award of a battle star, a campaign ribbon and the Purple Heart to Private First Class McKinley Cartwright, of 1052 Baker Street, Shreveport, Louisiana. The events leading up to his award make an even better story.

It was on Bougainville that Private First Class Cartwright was given the mission of locating a Jap machinegun. He located it all right, but they got the range on him at the same time and he went down in the withering fire.

To make sure that he would stay down a Jap sniper pumped two more bullets into his body and two Nips rushed from their cover to search the "dead" infantryman. However, a thundering artillery barrage forced the Japs to evacuate the area and Cartwright lay motionless on the ground.

Hours later, under cover of darkness, the "dead" infantryman crawled to the Torokina River where he was picked up by some aid men of his company, given first aid and taken to an evacuation hospital.

Five months later, when he was released from the hospital, he requested duty with his old company and is now serving with it in New Guinea.

Cartwright is a graduate of Central High School in Shreveport where he lived with his mother, Mrs. Edith Reams, at the Baker Street address.

It was all in the day's work when Sergeant James Crittenden, of 784 Rawls St., Enterprise, Alabama, risked his life to save his buddy.

Sergeant Crittenden was one of a group of men on their way to take a swim in the Pacific when someone noticed what appeared to be a human head bobbing in the water. Without a moment's hesitation, Sergeant Crittenden was in the water to the rescue. The victim had become exhausted while trying to swim out to a raft and was sinking rapidly. Sergeant Crittenden towed him in, gave him artificial respiration and took him back to his company.

The promotions and award columns show the advancement of First Lieutenant Edwin Hamilton, of Philadelphia, to the rank of captain, Private Charles Carter, of Port Arthur, Texas, to the grade of sergeant, and Sergeant Robert L. Duke, of Crosett, Arkansas, and Sergeant Robert H. Braden, of Woodbury, Tennessee, to the grade of staff sergeant.

Captain Hamilton, a graduate of Howard University, Washington, D.C., is a veteran of 12 months' service in the Pacific Theater. Employed by the Pennsylvania State Commission on Urban Problems in civilian life, he is the Information and Education Officer for the division.

Sergeant Carter, a veteran of four years' service with the Infantry, is the wearer of the Good Conduct Medal. He also is a member of a rifle platoon which was recently commended for action against the enemy.

Staff Sergeant Duke has been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for meritorious performance in a combat area and Staff Sergeant Braden wears the Expert Infantryman Badge as a token of his proficiency in the use of infantry weapons.

As a student of Vienna High School in Vienna, Georgia, Technician Fifth Grade George Hill, of 407 Second Street in that city, played a lot of basketball and baseball and as a soldier in New Guinea, he still finds time to do the same.

Sergeant Hill, who in civilian life was a movie projection operator at the Vienna Theater in Vienna, is now the mainstay of his unit's softball team in New Guinea and one of the reasons why they are looked upon as the coming champions of the Islands.

Among those learning new skills and planning for their future use while performing their daily duties are Technician Fourth Grade Arthur C. Bunch, of Milbrook, North Carolina, Technician Fifth Grade Theodore Smith, of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and Private First Class Marcus G. Lockman, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Bunch, while assigned to the motor maintenance section of his organization, has served as auto mechanic, tractor mechanic and battalion welder. He is mastering all these fields and plans to use them in civilian life after he is discharged.

Private First Class Lockman was recently crowned lightweight boxing champion of New Guinea and spends his spare time keeping in shape. He plans to continue his fighting career after the war. Before entering the Army, Lockman was boxing instructor at West Virginia State College, Institute, West Virginia. He is now boxing instructor in an infantry regiment within the division.

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SHIP SUNK UNDER POET,
HE PUTS IT IN RHYME

WITH THE 855th ENGINEERS IN NEW GUINEA---Corporal Travis Spencer, of Eatonville, Florida, has just completed a book of poems in New Guinea titled "Poetic Pathway," and if harrowing experiences are helpful in writing poetry, the corporal's book should be a best-seller for he has had more than his share of hair raising moments since being overseas.

One night while at sea, Corporal Spencer decided to write a poem and while he was searching his mind for a good subject, the Japs decided to sink his ship. The ship was sunk before Spencer found his subject and he spent the next 36 hours in the open sea before he was rescued. He tells all about these and other experiences in his book of poems.

Born in the State of Mississippi, Corporal Spencer entered Fethune-Cookman College at Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1940, where he studied until he was inducted into the Army in 1940.

Chosen class poet when he graduated from high school, he won first prize in a college contest for creative writers during his freshman year at college and was elected to the Association of Young Writers and Artists at Birmingham, Alabama. In 1939 he served as a member of the Town Council of Eatonville.

While in Brisbane, Australia, Spencer appeared in recitals before various civic as well as military audiences. He plans to return to school and study writing under the GI Bill of Rights, when he is released from the Army.

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BLOWN IN RIVER BY BUZZ-BOMB

WITH U.S. FORCES IN BELGIUM---Private First Class Preston A. Giles, 1811 Hoveland Court, Evanston, Illinois, of the 4401st QM Service Company, recently was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries caused by a buzz-bomb.

"The one that got me seemed to follow me wherever I went," Giles said. "I ran toward the river. Next thing I remembered I was in the water about 20 feet from the shore. I can swim, so I made for the shore and when I reached the river bank, my buddies helped me out of the cold water."

Inducted January 10, 1943 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, Giles was a former building construction employee. His wife, Elizabeth, a son, Wellington, and daughter, Joy, live at the Hoveland Court address. His father, the Reverend William L. Giles, is pastor of a church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

* * * * *

MEDICS MOVE 15,000 LITTER
PATIENTS IN SIX-WEEK PERIOD

SOMEWHERE IN BELGIUM---The movement by litter of nearly 15,000 wounded soldiers during a six-week period, including the German December counter-offensive, was the outstanding accomplishment of the 723rd Medical Sanitary Company while serving with the 77th Evacuation Hospital in Belgium.

Working in an old building, with steep, winding stairways, where speed was essential, the 15,000 patients were all moved at least twice and many several times in and out of the hospital, and from wards to surgical and X-ray sections and treatment clinics.

Crews assigned to receiving and evacuation sections of the hospital were continually on call during heavy evacuations or admissions, working 18-hour shifts and maintaining a steady pace. Their mission was completed without mishap or accident to any patient.

Commanded by Captain Sidney P. Kozac, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the unit received training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in medical sanitation, mosquito and insect control, water purification and drainage and disposal systems. In October 1944 they arrived on the Continent and recently were assigned to Advance Section, Communications Zone, front-line hospitals.

The following are assigned to the company:

ALABAMA: Birmingham--Pvt. Tim Robinson, Jr., 1218 19th Ave.; Pvt. Samuel Maxwell, Route 7, Box 27; Branchville--Pfc. James F. Turnbough; Centerville--Pfc. Randall M. Harmon; Fackler--Pvt. Cupid Steward; Opp--Pfc. Charlie B. Brannon, Route 1; Sheffield--Tech. 5th Gr. John King, Jr., Route 1, Box 168; Uriah--Pfc. Lee R. English.

FLORIDA: Lakeland--1st Lt. Alex Diner, 1204 Fairmont Drive; Avon Park--Pfc. Golden Adam; Bartow--Cpl. John C. Armons, 444 6th Ave.; Brooker--Pfc. Lee-C. Ross, Route 2, Box 3; Chattahoochee--Tech. 5th Gr. Cleveon Neslie, Route 1; Dade City--Pfc. Willie B. Southward, General Delivery; Fort Myers--Pfc. Jack Scurry, 412 Lincoln Blvd; Fort Pierce--Tech. 5th Gr. Oscar W. Brooks; Tech. 4th Gr. John H. Johnson, 240 Price St.; Haines City--Pfc. Johnny L. Graham, 69 Ave. J; Hallandale--Pfc. Thomas Williams; Hialeah--Pfc. Willie H. Sanders, Route 1, Box 208; Jacksonville--Pvt. John Jefferson, Jr., 725 1/2 Union St.; Cpl. Willie Johnson, 1439 E. Union St.; Tech. 5th Gr. Thomas L.M. Holman, 1917 Broadway; Pfc. Isiah Goodson, Jr., 1304 Lee St.; Staff Sgt. Elwood L.J. Banks, Route 3, Box 25; Pfc. Joe Albert, 622 Court E, Blodgett Homes; Lloyd--Tech. 5th Gr. Allen Lawrence, Route 2, Box 110; Lynn Haven--Pfc. Willie M. Griffin, 10th St. & La. Ave.; Mariana--Pfc. Lewis McGriff, Route 3, Box 45.

Miami--Pfc. Jule White, 1835 NW 67th St.; Tech. 4th Gr. Ernest Hawkins, 1019 N.W. Place; Micanopy--Tech. 4th Gr. Ruster Peterson, Route 1, Box 45; Midway--Pvt. Euford Monroe; Molino--Tech. 5th Gr. Risten L. Sampson; Tech. 4th Gr. Nehemiah H. Maxey, RFD 4, Box 141; Palatka--Pvt. Hutcherson Henry, 812 N. 11th St.; Palm Beach--Tech. 5th Gr. Herman Days, 1010 21st St., N.W.; Palmetto--Sgt. Litt C. Callaway, Route 1, Box 180B; Pensacola--Sgt. Oscar Welch, 601 E. Aragon St.; River Junction--Pvt. Gordon Dawkins, General Delivery; Sarasota--Pfc. Ned J. Mays, 250 15th St.; Cpl. Jack O. Roundtree, 309 W. 12th St.; Shamrock--Cpl. Ola Jones; South Bay--Pfc. Melvin Drayton; Tampa--Pfc. Lovyn Byrd, 2021 Lozona St.; Cpl. Virgil L. Edwards, 212 W. Palm Ave.; Tech. 5th Gr. Rosell Sails, 2917 31st St.; Staff Sgt. Matthew H. Estaras, 2008 11th St.; Pvt. Frank Green; Tech. 4th Gr. Herbert Harris, 2801 Buffalo Ave.; Wildwood--Pfc. M.J. James, Route 1, Box 36.

GEORGIA: Atlanta--Staff Sgt. Mack Carter, 95 Mason Ave.; Pfc. J.H. Williams, Route 9, Box 521; Brunswick--Pfc. Nathaniel Wesley, 2112 Bartow St.; Dawson--Pvt. Wardel Smith, 310 Church St.; Devereaux--Pfc. Henry Roberson, Route 1, Box 7; Fort Valley--Pfc. Louis J. Walker, Route 1, Box 44; Pfc. Roosevelt McCoy; LaGrange--Pfc. Claud Johnson, 709 Depot St.; Lumpkin--Pvt. J.T. Thorntor, Route 1A, Box 53; Moultrie--Tech. 5th Gr. Johnnie L. Sabb, 221 6th St., N.W.; Preston--Pfc. Leroy Snelling; Savannah--Pfc. William Priester, 1007 W. 36th St.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans--Pfc. Larl R. Forstall, 2114 St. Ann St.; Thibodaux--Pvt. Olivier Ruffin.

MISSISSIPPI: Greenville--Tech. 5th Gr. Chester Wright, 207 8th St.; Sweatman--Pfc. Bryce Q. Hubbard, Route 2; Tchula--Pfc. Charlie P. Williams, Box 225.

NORTH CAROLINA: Asheville--Pfc. James Burton, 201 Edger St.; Charlotte--Pfc. Odell Thompson, 709 S. McDowell St.; Durham--Tech. 5th Gr. Johnnie Brown, 1503 Pine St.; Goldsboro--Sgt. Marsden R. Everett, 903 E. Elm St.; Raleigh--Pfc. Andrew G. Payne, 122 Lenoir St.; Winston-Salem--Pvt. Robert S. Worthy, 601 Maple St.; Pfc. Alphonzo Hickerson, Route 3, Box 39; Raleigh--Pfc. Reuben Overstreet, Route 3.

NEW JERSEY: Newark--1st Lt. William W. Young, 751 Summer St.

NEW YORK: New York--Pvt. Robert H. Taylor, 540 W. 159th St.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia--Pfc. Leon Folks, 809 N. 19th St.; Tech. 5th Gr. Henry A. Johnson, 1444 N. Camac St.

TENNESSEE: Pickesville--Pfc. Coker L. Swafford; Memphis--Pfc. Roosevelt McKinley, 480 Carpenter St.

TEXAS: Childress--Pvt. Wesley Reese, Jr., General Delivery; Forney--Pfc. James L. Malone, P.O. Box 385; Houston--Pfc. Garland E. Mack, 3001 Mt. Rose Blvd.; San Antonio--Staff Sgt. Reginald T. Pickard, 105 Cactus St.; Wiergate--Pfc. Mel J. Coleman.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Aiken--Pfc. Ranie Vouknight, Route 3, Box 7A; Blackstock--Pfc. Flemon Means, Route 1, Box 193; Blaney--Pfc. Benjamin F. Gaultt, Jr. Route 1, Box 90; Columbia--Pfc. Willie J. Curry, 1903 Gervais St.; First Sgt. Georges Rodgers, 2401 Haskell Ave.; Pvt. Robert L. Copper, 1317½ Lyons St.; Cpl. Dave Stephens, 1224 Legree St.; Eastover--Pfc. Richard L. Harris, Route 2, Box 27; Graniteville--Pfc. Warren H. Thomas; Greenville--Pvt. Homer Haygood, 202 Gibbs St.; Hartsville--Pfc. Frances McIver, Route 1; Henderson--Pvt. Leroy Vaughn, 761 Vaughn St.; Hopkins--Pvt. Elmer Jackson, Route 2, Box 47; Martin--Pvt. James Clark, Box 98; New Zion--Pfc. Samuel Epps, Route 1, Box 250; Rembert--Pfc. Eugene Brisbon, Route 1, Box 44.

VIRGINIA: Roanoke--Pfc. Charlie S. Witcher, Box 1815; White Sulphur Springs--Sgt. William M. Franklin.

END

Distribution: Ad.
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FUTURE RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE

WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations
NEWS DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1944

* NOTE TO EDITORS: The following material originates with the Public *
* Relations Officers of United States Army camps, posts, stations and Theaters *
* of War. It concerns the activities of Negro soldiers. The date of release *
* appears above. Similar informative releases will be sent to you weekly. *

NEGRO TANKMEN TAKE FOUR TOWNS IN BATTLE ACTION EAST OF METZ

WITH THE THIRD U.S. ARMY IN THE METZ AREA---Spearheading a task drive of the 26th "Yankee" Division which jumped off November 8, the all-Negro 761st tank battalion now in action with the U.S. Army captured four important towns, secured two bridge crossings and successfully battered its way through the strongly defended Forest de Bride, the War Department announced today.

The Negro tankmen were committed to action following the 26th Division's capture of Metz, which never before fell to direct assault in modern times. They lunged into the battle with such ferocity and courage that Captain Irvin McHenry of Leavenworth, Kansas, received the nickname of "The Bronze Devil," and Staff Sergeant Reuben Rivers of Route 1, Box 27, Tecumseh, Oklahoma, received the Silver Star for routing nearly 300 Germans. A dozen members of the medical detachment were cited for heroism under fire.

A captured German officer, after having had a taste of the Negro tankmen and their work, said: "So far as fighting is concerned, I have never before seen such bravery except once before, and that was on the Russian front." It came when a German rocket gun knocked out a tank of the Negro unit. The crew dismounted, brought out the .50 calibre and .30 calibre machineguns, crawled under their tanks for protection, and continued to blast away at the enemy.

There was an occasion when Sergeant Warren G.H. Creecy, of Corpus Christi, Texas, a tank commander, climbed up on the rear of his tank which had been immobilized by anti-tank fire, and held an enemy force at bay, with his own anti-aircraft gun, while protecting the advance of an infantry group.

The unit moved out from Athianville for its first action at six o'clock on the morning of November 8, as part of a task force, which was operating in two columns. Athianville is approximately 14 miles east of Nancy. This task force consisted of tank destroyers, infantry, engineers and medics, with units of the Negro tank battalion. It was divided into two columns, with their ultimate objective being a town some twenty miles away, beyond the edge of the dense Forest de Bride.

The two columns moved out for the attack, and in short order captured Vic-sur-Seille and Moyenvic, two strongly defended towns which skirted a German rail supply route leading from the Saar Basin. They secured crossings over two canals. These towns were some fifteen to eighteen miles east of Nancy, and constituted the German frontline defenses at that point. Here the forces began to meet with stiffer opposition.

After securing these two towns, the next task was to move on to Morville, a town some four miles beyond Vic-sur-Seille. Splitting up here, one column moved toward Morville for the attack.

It was here that they ran into their most stubborn opposition of the drive, for here the Germans had constructed a two-mile-long anti-tank ditch in antici-

MORE

ion of the offensive. They had re-enforced this tank barrier with staggered concrete pill-boxes, completely covered with earth, and with rocket launchers and bazooka teams dug in in strength.

Facing Morville, which was at the entrance to the Forest de Bride, the columns met these obstructions, and Company B was halted by pill-box opposition at the edge of the woods. Company C, commanded by Captain McHenry, on the left flank, moved up the anti-tank ditch, where it encountered fierce opposition. With Company B halted, the German guns in the center were turned on Company C, and immobilized the unit for a while. Company C finally retired the position.

During this action, the crack assault platoon, with 105-mm howitzers commanded by First Lieutenant Charles Gates of Topeka, Kansas, a Hampton Institute alumnus, moved up to support these two companies. It shelled the German positions in the woods. The 81-mm mortar platoon, commanded by Second Lieutenant James C. Lightfoot of Washington, D.C., also moved into the action and pounded the Germans. Elements of the Fourth Armored Division, equipped with bull-dozer tanks and flame-throwers, also moved in, and the positions were finally taken.

Captain McHenry's company saw the hardest fighting.

All units gave a good account of themselves. Company C knocked out approximately 18 enemy anti-tank guns, Company B knocked out ten, and Lieutenant Gates' assault platoon knocked out six German armored vehicles and two pill-boxes.

After passing Morville, which they had practically destroyed, the columns moved on to Harport, four miles farther east, where units of Companies B and C reached the town.

Meanwhile, Company A, commanded by Captain Dave Williams, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, entered the action and helped to obliterate and capture Chateau-Salins, the first major town east of Nancy. Following this, Company A also moved to Harport. It was during these engagements that Staff Sergeant Rivers began to earn his spurs, for in almost every instance his tank was the first to enter a town and he was always in the thickest of the fight.

A platoon of Company D, commanded by First Lieutenant Richard W. English, of New Orleans, Louisiana, a former teacher at the Hoffman School there, moved up and took the town of Saliva single-handed, with no infantry units along. Sergeant Creecy, who displayed heroism on several different occasions under fire, was a member of this platoon.

After the juncture at Harport, Companies B and C pulled back for a brief rest, maintenance and vehicle check. B Company came back up to relieve Company A after its check-up. Company D was doing screening and reconnaissance. Company C returned to action southeast of Saliva, operating as a team with the 101st Infantry Regiment which cleared all Germans from the woods up to the edge of the forest just west of Harracourt.

Following this action, it retired again. Company B then teamed with the 104th Infantry Regiment and pushed forward to Lidrequin, a town approximately twelve miles beyond the initial point of action. All these events transpired during a period of 72 hours. And then the maintenance crews took the battle-wagons for servicing.

The tank commanded by Corporal Dennis A. Osby, a member of Captain McHenry's Company C, was hit by AT fire and caught on fire. His four crewmen dismounted through the escape hatch and sought cover in a ditch. Corporal Osby discovered one man was missing, and returned to the tank to find the assistant driver, Private Archie Fletcher, unable to dismount because his feet were entangled in a machinegun ammunition belt. Osby entered the burning tank and helped to free Fletcher.

For this deed Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Third Army commander, commended the men personally.

In all this action, the task of the 761st in its first battle action was all the more difficult because it was faced by the members of a German Officer Candidate School of Artillery at Marshal, who fired heavy concentrations at the tanks during the entire engagement.

UNIT FACES CONSTANT THREAT OF ATTACK
IN ESTABLISHING SUPPLY DEPOT IN HARBOR

A PORT OF LIBERATED FRANCE---While stray snipers and isolated German pill-boxes still sent hot lead spattering against the ancient walls of this huge port city, Negro soldiers of the 4089th Quartermaster Service Company set up the first all-important supply depot near the battered and blasted docks of the harbor.

Working night and day and eating only K-rations, these men faced constant threat of sniper attack from the ground, bombing and strafing from the air.

The clearing of the big Nazi depot here, partly destroyed by German demolition and partly by our own bombing assaults, was one of the first giant steps of the United States Army in fashioning this torn and half-demolished city into the funnel-point of Allied supplies that it is today.

"We worked so hard getting that depot cleared," reported First Sergeant Leonard W. Thompson, 734 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland, "that we didn't have time to notice the mopping up operations going on all over town."

The company, whose officers are mixed (one Negro lieutenant serving with the unit), was shifted from its depot construction job as soon as the battle backwash of German prisoners were put to work in this area.

Negro Lieutenant Abraham L. Byars, of Los Angeles, California, platoon leader, stated, "We moved into the town after it had officially fallen, but a lot of Germans still holding out didn't seem to get the idea."

After completing its harbor chore here, the unit was then shifted to prisoner-guard duty, overseeing captured Germans working on American cemeteries.

This grim task brought the unit repeated commendation. Under its supervision beautification of the cemeteries was extensively carried out. One of the burial grounds assigned to the unit was that at Ste. Mere Eglise, in which Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was buried.

"Whether working on depot clearing under enemy fire or beautifying cemeteries of American soldiers, the men in the unit have served calmly and with great devotion to duty," stressed Captain Luis P. Delfino, white, company commander, of Bakersfield, California.

At present the company is divided, half of it guarding large supply depots in this area, and the other half loading urgently needed gasoline on the hungry port terminus of high priority military express highways.

Names of members of the company follow:

DELAWARE: Wilmington--Cpl. Robert E. Dixon, 410 Lombard St.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Washington--Cpl. Theodore H. Streets, 7 Florida Ave., N.E.; Pfc. John P. Taylor, 1635 Montello Ave., N.E.

GEORGIA: Atlanta--Pfc. George Smith, 556 Irene St., N.E.; Macon--Pvt. Andrew F. Johnson, 773 Reynolds Lane; Savannah--Sgt. Oliver E. Logan, 639 Russell St.; Pfc. Arthur Parnell, 1308 Magnolia St. W.

INDIANA: Indianapolis--Pfc. Elvin Hanson, 901 Locke St.

MARYLAND: Annapolis--Cpl. Charles E. Ball, 44 College Creek Terrace; Baltimore--Cpl. Ernest Adams, 416 W. Freemont Ave.; Cpl. William I. Ashford, 316 E. Schroeder St.; 1st Sgt. Leonard W. Thompson, 734 N. Euclaw St.; Glenn Dale--Cpl. Louis E. Williams; N. Brantwood--Cpl. Wesley T. Williams, 112 Rhode Island Ave.

MASSACHUSETTS: Cambridge--Pvt. Julian F. Perry, 322 Concord Ave.

NEW JERSEY: Passaic--Pfc. Alex Z. Carter, 163 Sixth St.

NEW YORK: Garden City--Staff Sgt. Massoliner C. Marks, 164 Wellington Road; New York City--Cpl. John L. Cartledge, 319 W. 124th St.

NORTH CAROLINA: Concord--Cpl. Willie F. Ford, Box 3322, Route 5; Rocky Mount--Cpl. Franklin A. Molone, 409 Atlantic Ave.; Cpl. Leroy Hatfield, 812 Highland Ave.; Wilson--Cpl. Noel B. Jones, 411 Bank St.; Winston-Salem--Sgt. James F. Jones, 1424 E. 14th St.

PENNSYLVANIA: Allison--Cpl. William Byrd; Berwyn--Cpl. John L. Valentine, Maple Ave.; Coatsville--Cpl. James F. Thurston, 846 Poplar St.; Devons--Staff Sgt. Walter Smith; Philadelphia--Sgt. William T. Brooks, 32 S. Ruby St.; Cpl. Noah Anthony, 2613 Sedgley Ave.; Pfc. Nathaniel B. Brown, 1900 F. 23rd St.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Sunter--Cpl. Sherman Jackson, 204 S. Purdy St.; Cpl. Alva A. Rivers, South Harvin St., Box 882.

MISSISSIPPI: Memphis--Sgt. Albert Gails, 690 S. 4th St.; Staff Sgt. James F. Perry, 1056 Shaw St.

TEXAS: Houston--Cpl. Joseph B. Fore, 1615 Jameson St.

VIRGINIA: Bluemont--Cpl. Melvin C. Warner; Farmville--Pfc. Paul Brown, Longwood Ave.; Manassas--Sgt. Jacob S. Braxton; Powhatan--Staff Sgt. Paul A. Fisher; Pearisburg--Cpl. Richard T. F. Summers; Richmond--Sgt. Carey L. Harris, 7 West Marshall St.; Cpl. Elias Stukes, 1836 Parkwood Ave.; Cpl. Charles R. Levy, 1308 North 1st St.; Cpl. William L. Smith, 722 North 2nd St.

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THREE AWARDED BRONZE STARS FOR WORK ON NORMANDY BEACHES

WITH U.S. SUPPLY FORCES IN FRANCE--Bronze Star Medals have been awarded three Negro non-commissioned officers of a port battalion for their supervisory work in the unloading of war freighters anchored off the Normandy beaches, the War Department reported today.

They are Staff Sergeant David A. Anthony, whose wife, Mrs. Ila May Anthony, lives on South 37th Street, Hickory, South Carolina; Staff Sergeant James E. Jackson, whose mother, Mrs. Christine Jackson, lives at 549 Warren Street, Brooklyn, New York; and Staff Sergeant James D. McKinney, whose mother, Mrs. Edith McKinney, lives at 825 Crawford Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Their units were partially responsible for the speed with which United States Army dumps were stocked with gasoline, ammunition and food destined for the soldiers in the front lines.

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NEGRO RAILHEAD UNIT AT FRENCH PORT SETS RECORD ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

A PORT OF LIBERATED FRANCE--Given the exacting task of supervising unloading of supplies from barges, sorting, checking and shipping urgently needed clothing and equipment to troops at the front, members of a Negro Quartermaster Railhead Company recently completed their special assignment here in record time.

"By working around the clock for 24 hours, in two shifts, the men were able to complete in one week a job originally estimated to require at least three weeks," stated the company commander, Captain Henry H. Leber, of Baltimore, Maryland.

In what Army authorities claim to be the worst weather for this time of year in 80 years, these soldiers supervised the unloading of all types of supplies from barges, sorted them according to classes, checked and shipped by air, rail,

and "red-ball" highest military priority express, many tons of winter clothing and equipment to the front. Working in fog, rain, cold, mud and at night, often without lights, they nevertheless were able to complete their job in one third the original estimate of time.

The men worked under First Sergeant Arthur B. Fletcher, 426 North Patrick Street, Alexandria, Virginia. They were assigned to three points, the docks, where in spite of language difficulties with French civilians employed there, they were able to get the supplies sorted and sent to the other two points, the local railroad station and the airport.

Most of the night details at the docks were under the joint supervision of Sergeant John Dent, 1109 Franklin Avenue, New York City, and Sergeant Gladys Johnson, 1917 Gale Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.

Day shifts at the docks and all of the work at the airport and railway station were rotated under the supervision of Technical Sergeant Norman W. Rolman, 2208 Brahrville Road, Columbus, South Carolina; Sergeant William L. James, 3101 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri; and Staff Sergeant Jessie L. Williams, 303 North Columbia Street, Centralia, Missouri.

At one time, when the making of waybills, tallies and other clerical papers was delaying the take-off of planes and trains, Corporal William Ellis, 1106 North Frederick Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, company mail clerk, was drafted to assist in getting the job completed.

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NEGRO UNIT INSTRUCTS BELGIANS IN HANDLING OF VITAL SUPPLIES

WITH THE FIRST U.S. ARMY AT THE GERMAN BORDER---A few miles behind the lines of battle here, back in a Belgian town, a Negro Quartermaster Service Company is engaged in instructing Belgians in the proper handling of vital American Army supplies, as Lieutenant General Courtney H. Hodges, First Army, continues the all-out thrust into the heart of Germany.

These supplies play a No. 1 priority part in whatever this mighty Army does, and it is essential that nothing stand in the way of getting them to his units in combat, and getting them there fast. Therefore somebody had to take the job of teaching our augmented supply units, which are now being aided in both France and Belgium by the natives of those liberated countries.

So that they would receive the best possible training, care was used in the selection of the unit which was to teach them, and so, because of its own great record in handling supplies since June 30, when it came ashore on a Normandy beach, this Quartermaster Service Company was chosen. Twenty of its members are instructing the Belgians at a large railhead depot, within hearing distance of the big guns of the First Army artillery.

The unit is a part of a battalion and operates along the Meuse River, as well as at the depot farther along the front. It is commanded by Captain John F. Hesler, white. Its primary mission is the operation of Class I Depot, which consists of food and fuel.

Among the enlisted men who are part of this unit are: Staff Sergeant Rogers DuPree, 2749 Sherman, Kansas City, Kansas; Technician Fourth Grade Woodrow Lindsay, 1439 Argonne Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas; Corporal Joseph Breaux, 521 DuFossett Street, New Orleans, Louisiana; Private First Class Fred Randall, 369 Kennedy Street, Mobile, Alabama and Private First Class Woodrow Jones, Route 4, Box 6, St. Augustine, Texas.

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NEGRO ENGINEERS AID IN MOVING DIVISION

A U.S. ARMY INVASION PORT, ENGLAND---At an invasion port in England, Negro engineers acted as a reception party for an Infantry Division. This unit was

enroute to the Continent to give another division in the front lines a rest.

Provisions for the replacement unit, secured by the Negro engineers, included the following British material: 20,000 wool blankets, 6600 double-decker beds, 2250 bales of hay that were used for mattresses and 27 tons of coal. The troops were housed in huge Manor houses as well as barracks that were built with British material. Many other British facilities such as stoves, gas, electricity, telephone and transportation were also used.

The requirements of one division indicates the volume as well as the all-embracing character of the lend-lease program when viewed in terms of the necessary provisions for the millions of troops that pass through the British Isles.

Key men who helped to provide for the Infantry division were: First Sergeant Walter G. Cannon, 28, 2819 Third Street, Alexander, Louisiana; First Sergeant David A. Earle, 28, 57 Hammond Street, Boston, Massachusetts; First Sergeant Rudolphe K. Proctor, 23, 314 W. 118th Street, New York City; Staff Sergeant Wardell McAdoo, 27, 500 North Vine Street, Somerset, Kentucky; Staff Sergeant Elijah Tinsley, Jr., 24, 310 North A Street, Pensacola, Florida and Staff Sergeant Woodrow Foster, 25, Hub, Mississippi.

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BRISTOL RED CROSS CLUB
CHEERS WOUNDED SOLDIERS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, ENGLAND---The first of a series of weekly programs intended to entertain wounded soldiers now convalescing in surrounding hospitals was held at the Great George American Red Cross Club in Bristol, England, Sunday, recently under the direction of Mr. William E. Temple, Jr., of Washington, D.C., director of the club.

In the audience were the U.S. Consul to Bristol, Mr. Roy W. Baker, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Mr. F.C. Williams and his wife, Sir Hugh Ellis, regional representative for His Majesty the King, and many other high Army officials and dignitaries.

The quartet from the Special Service show "Jive's A'poppin'" now touring hospitals in England headed a two-hour program of classical and folk music.

Those who took part on the program were:

ALABAMA: Bessemer--Sgt. Robert Williams, 947 First Ave.; Birmingham--Cpl. McClendon Davis, 303 N. 66th St.; Montgomery--Cpl. Samuel D. Brown, 426 Day St.

ARKANSAS: Malvern--Cpl. Willie J. Hall, 414 Oak St.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles--Cpl. George Freeny, 5217 Alba St.; Cpl. James C. Wyrick, 1172 E. 12th St.

GEORGIA: Atlanta--Cpl. Alvaron Bush, 1044 Violet Ave.; Tifton--Pfc. Willie Booth; Savannah--Tech. 5th Gr. Lamar Howard, 1316 Comer St.

MASSACHUSETTS: Cambridge--Pfc. Thomas Poindexter, 3 Hancock St.; Pittsfield--Tech. 5th Gr. Fred Michlen, 268 West St.

NEW YORK: Corona Long Island--Pvt. Clifford Bunyon, 104 32nd Ave.

MISSISSIPPI: Terry--Pfc. Willie Byrd.

NORTH CAROLINA: Fayetteville--Pvt. C.I. Walter McLean, 401 Van Story St.

SCOUTH CAROLINA: Lucksport--Pvt. Frank Sherman.

TEXAS: Henderson--Pvt. Willie Kenney; Houston--Sgt. Herbert Ash, 1312 Allen St.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Washington--Cpl. Henry W. Corley, 238 W. St., N.W.; Sgt. Walter Hanlet, 3405 Sherman Ave., N.W.

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MORE

MIDWESTERNERS DOMINATE
FRONT LINE LAUNDRY UNIT

WITH U.S. TROOPS IN BELGIUM---Midwesterners, several of them former members of the old Eighth Illinois National Guard, dominate a laundry company (semi-mobile), which is now busy turning out an average of 30,000 pounds of laundry daily for forces of the First U.S. Army, locked in bitter battle with the Germans near here.

The company, staffed by all Negro officers, has set up its equipment on the banks of the historic Meuse River.

Among the enlisted personnel of the unit, which had the honor of being the first Negro unit in Belgium to be visited by the Army's ranking Negro officer, Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, were found:

First Sergeant William M. Holliday of Chicago, Illinois, formerly in the Eighth Illinois National Guard; Sergeant Byrd Holley, 228 East 55th Place, Chicago, also of the Eighth; Sergeant Robert Love, of Chicago; Private Timmel D. Black, of 6250 Vernon Ave., Chicago; Private Herald H. Thornton, 1075 Bell St., Pasadena, California, and three Detroiters: John E. Brown, 8520 Rush; Private Alvin J.G. Patton, 9100 Cardona, and Private James D. Stenos, 13410 Lumpkin.

Captain Fred D. Durrah, of Plainfield, New Jersey, is commander of the unit. First Lieutenant Walker M. Blake, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Walker M. Blake, Sr., and husband of Mrs. Laura Blake, 931 Forrester Ave., Darby, Pennsylvania. Lieutenant Blake received his commission as a reserve officer from General Davis at Wilberforce University on June 9, 1938. First Lieutenant William E. Gambler, 1305 Sterrett St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, whose wife, Mrs. Jean Fowler Gambler, is employed at the Navy Department at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and is a 1938 graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology. First Lieutenant Frank P. Laney, 784 Irving St., N.W., Washington, D.C., acts as commanding officer when Captain Durrah is not on the scene.

First Lieutenant James W. Parks of Chicago, Illinois, another ex-member of the eighth Illinois National Guard, completes the roster of officers at this unit. They were congratulated by General Davis, who told them:

"I want to congratulate this company, for you are on the road to perfection."

* * * * *

INTERNATIONAL, INTERRACIAL GOODWILL
FOSTERED BY CHERBOURG RED CROSS CLUB

CHERBOURG, FRANCE---Opened when the battle of Normandy was still 60 miles down the Cotentau peninsula and air raid sirens here still yodeled a nightly warning against the Luftwaffe, the Liberty Club, one of this battered city's two huge Red Cross centers, has become a crossroad known to hundreds of thousands of United Nations fighting men from all parts of the world.

"Soldiers and sailors of the British, Canadian, Free French, Irish, Scotch and Senegalese forces, Chinese, South American and Russian merchant seamen, as well as Negro, white, Chinese, Indian and Mexican men of our own Army and Navy have been here," illustrates the Club director, handsome, 6-foot, 4-inch Claude Walton, of 3015 California Street, Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Walton is a former outstanding athlete. He was second by 3 inches among all American college competitors in the discus throwing event at the 1935 meet of the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Throwing open its door on August 8, three weeks before the liberation of Paris, eight weeks after our first smash onto the beaches of Northern France, and five weeks after the capture of Cherbourg itself, the Liberty Club has known moments of uneasiness when the blacked-out sky above it was ripped and torn by bright streams of tracer-bullets and the dull thump-thump of flak explosions 5,000 feet up echoed through this city's blasted streets.

Since then, an average of 4,000 soldiers a day have visited the club, located in one of the largest buildings in this part of France. Approximately 820,000 donuts and 330,000 cups of coffee have been consumed by United Nations soldiers, sailors and merchant seamen on the premises. A multi-colored, international throng is always on hand, uniforms ranging from the familiar Yank olive-drab to the red-tossled, white-capped, blue-black of the Free French Navy. Some of the fighting men present have no uniforms. Sailors of the merchant marine, many of them veterans of four invasions, wear civilian clothes, often old and worn. But they are always welcome.

Although today most of the troops gathered here are grinding out the epic supply achievement of this immense port, the club has frequently found itself the first friendly American stopping place that dog-tired combat soldiers, returned to rear sectors for a rest period, have discovered after gruelling, muddy months of hedgerow warfare.

"We slaved nearly 24-hours a day for two weeks getting this huge place in order," said Miss Gladys Martin, Red Cross worker, of Rural Route No. 2, North Topeka, Kansas, in recalling the historic ceremonies that opened the Liberty Club and the hectic preparations which preceded them. "Sometimes," she added, "we nearly dropped from fatigue."

The club is housed in what was the largest and most fashionable department store in Cherbourg during peace times. Four stories high and constructed in the ornate style of French architecture, the building's interior is especially striking. The three upper floors are built after the fashion of huge balconies, rising tier-like around a wide central opening that runs the entire height of the building. A graceful circular stairway flanks the balconies. This structure, situated in the center of Cherbourg's business district, was the first location of the United States Army headquarters during the days when the battle of Normandy hung in the balance.

With Lieutenant General John C.H. Lee, Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, continental Red Cross Director Harvey Gibson and the City's Mayor present on the opening day, Cherbourg's light and water systems failed. Frantic searching parties located a small generator which managed to furnish the big building a dim, but satisfactory light. General Davis selected a soldier from the audience, Sergeant Herman J. Humble, 1304 S. East Street, Lebanon, Indiana, and officially presented the club to him, as a symbol of all the soldiers for whom it was to serve.

Entertainment at the big Red Cross center has been conducted for the most part by American soldiers themselves. No great names of the entertainment world have appeared here, but a GI performance is put on every night. One-time trumpeter with Jimmie Lunceford's swing aggregation, Sergeant Jinnie Patterson of Kansas City, Missouri, member of a Quartermaster outfit, has brought together a soldiers' jazz band which appears frequently at the club.

A typical evening finds small groups of soldier-musicians organizing spontaneous jam sessions. The former drummer with Bennie Carter's band, Staff Sergeant Alvy B. Kidd, of Los Angeles, California, recently put in a 20-minute session "on the skins" that brought forth thunderous acclaim from nearly 2,000 soldiers present.

Both white and Negro GI performers--and audiences--are the rule, reports Miss LaVerne Birch, Red Cross program director, of 106 Harrishof Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts. A former physical instructor at Howard University, Miss Birch points out that some enterprising units present shows at the club featuring music, sketches and dialogue written by soldiers of the outfit. Many times groups have hitch-hiked their way 60 to 70 miles through knee-deep mud and slush for these performances.

* * * * *

TROOPS IN FRANCE FORM
FIRST CHRISTIAN LEAGUE

WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN FRANCE--Negro soldiers who are the backbone of a vast supply network which feeds into the 500 miles of front line on the western

front have found time to organize the first unit Servicemen's Christian League on the continent.

Initial meetings were held recently in the supply office of the 210th Quartermaster Battalion. Though there was no chaplain to officiate, the soldiers conducted a complete service which included the singing of hymns, reading of scriptures and the delivery of a sermon by one of the men.

"We are on God's side in this war, and we feel that we should spend a little extra time seeking His guidance in fighting it," said Corporal Oscar Shephard, a member of Sanders Gift Baptist Church, Sasser, Georgia.

* * * * *

UNIQUE SPECIAL SERVICE UNIT IN FRANCE
LEADERS U.S. SOLDIERS LEADED FOR COMBAT

WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN FRANCE---Whether it is entertainment that American soldiers see, hear or read, it is the product of the 17th Special Service Company, crack Negro unit, here in a giant United States Army Base Section of Northern France, marshalling area for thousands of battle-bound combat troops.

During two months here this unit, first Negro outfit of its kind in the Army and the only one overseas, has extended its services to all American troops alike, conducting 377 motion-picture showings before more than 200,000 troops, servicing 29 separate units - 12,795 soldiers - with its public address systems, sending its band to entertain 8,445 soldiers at 20 individual shows, and distributing over 1,600 volumes of Armed Service Edition best-sellers.

"Through rain, mud, and slush nearly up to their ears, the men of the company have answered every call that has been placed with us for entertainment of troops in this sector. Most often our entertainment is the last thing of its kind combat soldiers see before they are sent forward into the line," stated Captain Burton W. Lewis, 225 C Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. Assigned to the organization of this unit because of his successful record as morale officer of the 6th Service Command, Captain Lewis added, "The military value of special service, even in battle areas, has been proven again and again in this war."

Grateful unit commanders have sent scores of commendations to the company, reported First Lieutenant Grafton C. Poole, 6 Dearborn Avenue, Lawton, Oklahoma. In appreciation of a band appearance, the commanding officer of a tank destroyer outfit wrote, "Your program was excellent, both in subject and in rendition. I feel sure I express the sentiment of men and officers alike." An infantry company writer said simply, "Wonderful," and the special service officer of a Chemical Warfare unit emphasized, "Excellent execution - Rhythm fine!"

"The distribution of our company is one of the strangest in the Army," pointed out First Lieutenant Oliver R. Simmons, 200 Bradhurst Avenue, New York City. "We are spread over a 100 mile area, everywhere servicing troops headed for the front. Our four platoons are each handling the entertainment of a vast sector and a tremendous number of American soldiers."

With both Negro officers and enlisted personnel, the outfit boasts in its ranks representatives of the faculties of three major universities, a famed dance team and a name band.

Sergeant Harry H. Gil-Smythe, 518 North Carrollton Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, is a former director of music at Shaw University.

Corporal John A.D. Lewis, 312 East Coal Avenue, Albuquerque, New Mexico, a graduate of the University of New Mexico, was a faculty music instructor during his attendance there, and Staff Sergeant Luis A. Wheatley, 649 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington, D.C., was a professor of music at Howard University before entering the service. He is a graduate of Juilliard School of Music in New York City.

Sergeant Ted E. Lewis, former vocalist with Fletcher Henderson's orchestra, sings for the unit band now. King-pin of the outfit's specialities, Sergeant

Jesse E. Johnson, 81 West 132nd Street, New York City, was half of the noted dance team, "Screame and Johnson," prior to donning the olive-drab.

Major task of the Special Service soldiers in France is providing motion picture entertainment. Each platoon has four specially constructed projectors, able to withstand the rigors of outdoor exhibition. They are in operation day and night.

"We keep the machines going rain or shine," boasted Sergeant James Cash, 1404 Albany Street, New Brunswick, Georgia, projectionist and group leader of the 4-man crews assigned to the "fun-boxes."

"We pile into a jeep and take off for the company areas sometimes miles away, the projection machine durn near in our laps, and our vehicle splashing ankle-deep in mud," added Private First Class Ulysea Denmark, Live Oak, Florida, another member of Sergeant Cash's team.

"Lots of times when we were exhibiting outdoors," interjected Corporal Henry White, 61 Attucks Court, Pensacola, Florida, "rainstorms blow up. The GIs are so anxious to see the films, they sit right through it, getting drenched with a smile."

"Between reels," sighed Private Lambert Walter, 708 Whitehead Street, Key West, Florida, "----between reels, that's when we get it!" Honored Army custom is to belabor Special Service projectionists during the brief interruption of films necessary when changing reels. "And always," complained Private Welter, "the blasted thing has to be changed right at the most exciting part of the picture."

Expert care is necessary to keep the various mechanical devices operated by the company in good repair. Motion-picture machines, public address systems, and recording units are the main headaches in this department. For the job, a West Virginia State University Master of Electricity, Staff Sergeant Bryon F. Webb, 564 Oklahoma Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C., was selected. Before entering the service, he was a manager for a theater chain in the Nation's capital.

Over a year in England, the unit participated in several programs jointly with groups of the British Army. Presented at one of the largest theaters in England was an all-soldier program in which the 17th shared honors with the British Royal Regiment.

Its most novel achievement however, was the construction of a convertible "rolling stage" made by joining the rear platforms of a pair of parked 2½-ton GI trucks. Need for the stage trucks grew out of absence of facilities for housing a large audience at installations of the 9th Air Force Service Command. The rolling stage made it possible for all men of the Command, some 10,000 soldiers, to witness the show in small groups.

In Great Britain, the company also sponsored several athletic events, following closely the baseball and football seasons. Extensive plans for sports in France are now being drawn up.

"We feel convinced," concluded First Lieutenant Houston H. Parks, 2915 Orbin Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, "that the work of our unit not only has contributed to the comfort and entertainment of American troops in the European Theater of Operations, but has helped lay the groundwork for a better understanding among all Americans after the war."

END

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations
NEWS DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1945

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* NOTE TO EDITORS: The following material originates with the Public *
* Relations Officers of United States Army camps, posts, stations and Theaters *
* of War. It concerns the activities of Negro soldiers. The date of release *
* appears above. Similar informative releases will be sent to you weekly. *
* * * * *

MANY NEGRO REINFORCEMENTS VOLUNTEER FOR COMBAT UNITS

HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS---When a call for reinforcements for combat units went out last winter through the rear echelons of the European Theater, hundreds of Negro service and supply troops volunteered to become combat soldiers with a chance to fight the Germans with a rifle.

A few months ago they were unloading ships at busy French and Belgian ports, driving trucks laden with ammunition, gas, and food up to the front, repairing roads and building bridges, guarding prisoners, or cooking in Army mess halls. Today, they are in foxholes along the First and Seventh Army fronts, fighting the Germans with rifles and hand grenades and bayonets, the first Negro troops to fight shoulder to shoulder with white infantrymen in the same units in the European Theater. Reports indicate they are performing excellently.

Each of the men is a volunteer, and each had had earlier basic training in the infantry. But before they went into combat each was given a six-week refresher course with emphasis on fighting with the rifle. Their instructors were combat-experienced officers and non-coms with plenty of know-how about fighting the Germans; their training area was ground over which American troops had fought the Germans in two wars.

In addition to learning all there is to know about their weapons, the men were taught the ways and means of making themselves as safe and as comfortable as possible in foxholes, dug under battle conditions. They were taught to crawl and creep under machinegun fire and through exploding mines and shells. They learned the tricks of fighting in the woods and advancing across open country.

So many Negro troops volunteered that their original quota was quickly exceeded. In one Negro Engineer General Service Regiment, 171 out of 186 men wanted to fight and four first sergeants accepted reductions to private to qualify for training.

* * * * *

TANK SERGEANT IS AWARDED SILVER STAR POSTHUMOUSLY

WITH THE U.S. THIRD ARMY, Germany--- Staff Sergeant Ruben Rivers, daring Negro tankman who took his armored "battle wagon" into the midst of every battle, has been awarded the Silver Star posthumously for "gallantry in action," on November 7, 1944, the War Department announced today.

The son of Mrs. Lillian Rivers, Route 1, Box 57, Tecumseh, Oklahoma, Sergeant Rivers figured in many stories of heroism and bravery that developed about the 761st Tank Battalion, the first Negro armored unit to enter combat. The 761st supports Major General Willard S. Paul's 26th "Yankee" Division which operates with General Patton's famed Third Army.

MORE

On several occasions when Sergeant Rivers' tank became disabled, he dismounted, climbed into another, and continued fighting. It became a popular theme that when Company A entered battle, "Rivers Led the Way," for he was always there first.

The official citation states, in part: "During the daylight attack on —, France, Staff Sergeant Rivers, a tank platoon sergeant, was in the leading tank when a road block was encountered which held up the advance. With utter disregard for his personal safety, Staff Sergeant Rivers courageously dismounted from his tank in the face of directed enemy small arms fire, attached a cable to the road block and had it moved off the road, thus permitting the combat team to proceed.

"His prompt action prevented a serious delay in this offensive operation and was instrumental in the successful assault and capture of the town. His brilliant display of initiative, courage and devotion to duty reflects the highest credit upon Staff Sergeant Rivers and the Armed Forces of the United States."

* * * * *

GOING'S TOUGH FOR 92ND,
HEROIC MEDIC TESTIFIES

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Italy---Private First Class Hugh Galloway Warren, son of Mr. Frank Warren, Route 1, Belewis, North Carolina, thinks that the 92nd "Buffalo" Division is as great an outfit as can be found on any front in this war. This Negro youth is a front line medic with the 365th Infantry Regiment, and wears the Bronze Star Medal.

"There aren't many of us original medics left," said Warren who landed in the Mediterranean Theater with the Division. "We came over last October, and I've been on the line since early in November.

"It's been tough all the way." He pressed his hand to his chest, and simulated a gasp. It is a little habit he has when driving home his points.

"And---I think the 365th has had more than its share of the rough stuff. You hear a lot about Highway 65, and I guess it was pretty hot. But you should have gone up Number 12 with the 92nd Division. That's a coastal highway, not as many mountains as some places, maybe---but I believe I'd rather have the cover in the hills than always be pushing out across the open country.

Men Die Quicker on Plains

"It's on the plains that men die, that's where the casualties pile up, and where the medics really have to work. Yes, it takes a lot of guts to go where our infantry boys have gone. And where the infantry goes we have to go too. But I've never seen one of our medics lay down on the job."

Warren, asked how his Southern buddies liked this Italian winter, said, "They take it fine. We're in the mountains now, and I can like the snow as good as anyone else." The hand went to his chest. "And, brother, I can hate it just as good as anyone else too."

How He Won Bronze Star Medal

What about the Bronze Star Medal?

"Well, that was a bad day---pretty bad," he said.

"At six o'clock in the morning the First Battalion pushed off to attack. They never made it. That battalion suffered heavy casualties. Then the Second Battalion pushed off. I was out with the rest of the medics. We were between the Germans and the Second Battalion---patching up the wounded, giving first aid, evacuating what we could. The battle lasted till three in the afternoon, when the Germans started to take off.

"I don't know how many trips I had to make after wounded men—but I must have done a pretty good day's work. They gave me the medal for it.

"But all of us had to work. Three of my buddies (medics) got the Bronze Star Medal too that day. Two more of us were killed. Another one had both feet blown off.

"Yes, the 92nd sees a lot of fighting."

* * * * *

INJURED CORPORAL AIDS BUDDY
WHEN NAZI SHELL BLASTS TANK

141ST GENERAL HOSPITAL, England—Wounded by enemy shell fragments last December while advancing with an armored unit toward Bastogne, Belgium, Corporal Charlie W. Brooks, 25, of 1152 Monroe Street, Norfolk, Virginia, is convalescing at this United States Army hospital in England. He has been awarded the Purple Heart.

"I was riding in a tank toward the town, giving support to the infantry," said Corporal Brooks. "German 88-mm shells were dropping like raindrops all around and when one of them hit alongside the tank, it blew the doors off and several of us got hit. I managed to get out and, after helping one of the men, whose leg was broken, out of the tank, I crawled about 75 yards to another tank where I was given first aid."

Corporal Brooks entered the Army February 16, 1942, and received his basic training at Fort Meade, Maryland. His brother, Private Samuel Brooks, is in the Southwest Pacific with an infantry division. He is the son of Mrs. Mary E. Brooks of the Monroe Street address.

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SOLDIER'S MEDAL TO FOUR GI'S
FOR HEROISM ABOARD TRANSPORT

U.S. ARMY FORCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC—"For heroism on board an Army transport," following a series of explosions when their ship hit a mine field, four Negro soldiers have been awarded the Soldier's Medal, it was announced today. The awards were presented at appropriate ceremonies by Brigadier General James W. Barnett, Commanding General of the New Caledonia Island Command.

The recipients were Staff Sergeant Peyton B. Givens, son of Mrs. Minnie Givens, Oakridge, Louisiana; Private First Class Edward McDowell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe McDowell, Tallulah, Louisiana; Private Lester White, Napoleonville, Louisiana, and Private Milton Green, Sandersville, Mississippi.

According to his official citation, Sergeant Givens, "with utter disregard for his own safety, went to the aid of an injured comrade who was pinned beneath a pile of debris. Despite continuing explosions, he carried the soldier to safety. After thus rescuing his comrade, he freed a life raft and pulled other men, who were struggling in the water, to safety. He rowed back to the sinking ship several times to pick up survivors." Private First Class McDowell received the same citation.

Private White's citation said, in part, that he, "with utter disregard for his own safety, displaying remarkable coolness and leadership, rescued some of the men who could not swim and then boarded the sinking ship to aid his commanding officer in freeing some of the fouled life rafts."

"Unhesitatingly and with utter disregard for his own safety," said Private Green's citation, he "dived from the top deck" for a drowning soldier and swam with him to safety. "After rescuing his comrade, Private Green swam after four life rafts which had broken loose from the vessel, bringing them back one by one, so that other men trapped in the sinking vessel could reach safety."

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TRUCKERS' PERFORMANCE WINS
PLACE IN ANNALS OF SUPPLY

WITH U.S. FORCES IN FRANCE---Maintaining its spectacular performance record set during two years of operations in Africa, Sicily and Italy, the 426th Engineer Dump Truck Company has carved out a niche for itself in the history of supply operations in Southern France.

Hampered by severe maintenance difficulties and working against a deadline that at times seemed impossible, the 426th played a vital part in supplying pipe needed to construct the pipeline that kept the armies moving up the Rhone Valley to the German border. All through this important supply operations, the 426th's truckers maintained a 24-hour delivery schedule, making 12 and 15-hour trips with a minimum of halts and snatching what sleep they could in their trucks.

Spare parts for their overworked vehicles were almost unobtainable, but the maintenance crews kept 'em rolling by improvising what parts they could and by "cannibalizing" from burnt-out motors where improvisation was impossible. Equipped only to perform first and second echelon maintenance, the battle-trying mechanics carried out complete fourth echelon repairs when Ordnance services were not available.

The 426th prepared for its supply role in France with combat trucking experience in Africa and Italy, where Luftwaffe strafings and runs through minefields were daily occurrences. The gradual elimination of the Luftwaffe and the speed of the southern advance made thier work in France less hazardous but more difficult since they shared the responsibility for maintaining the flow of supplies that kept the southern forces moving.

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"DUCK" MECHANICS FINISH 5,000TH
REPAIR JOB AT KEY SUPPLY PORT

WITH 486TH AMPHIBIAN TRUCK COMPANY, France---Largely responsible for keeping a large fleet of amphibian trucks ferrying high priority war cargo from Liberty Ships heaving on the harbor swells to shore, a crack crew of company maintenance mechanics recently completed their 5,000th major repair job.

Because thousands of tons of ammunition, food, clothing and equipment for American forces battering their way into Germany have been brought into shore by the "Ducks"--as the sea-going trucks are termed--their repair and maintenance in peak operating shape are tasks of great importance. They also are complex tasks, for the two-in-one vehicles have the mechanism and six-wheel drive of a 2½-ton, heavy-duty truck, plus the hull, rudder, and propeller of a powerful speed-boat.

Led by Technical Sergeant Willie McCain, motor sergeant, of Atlanta, Louisiana, this picked group of skilled mechanics work on round-the-clock schedules, sometimes under blackout conditions, to insure smooth performance of the Ducks. In the critical period of von Rundstedt's December offensive, when Nazi defeat depended heavily on additional tons of supplies rushed by the Ducks toward the resisting American forces, the crew toiled into the small hours of the morning with little rest.

Members of the maintenance team, who have worked together to keep war equipment streaming toward the front from this port, include:

INDIANA: Indianapolis--Sgt. James A Hutcherson, welder, 2826 Sangster St.

MICHIGAN: Detroit--Cpl. Evans Collier, welder, 1344 Palmer Ave.

MISSISSIPPI: Coldwater--Sgt. Thomas Phillips, mechanic, Route 3; McComb--Cpl. Charles H. O'Neal, mechanic, Box 716.

NEW JERSEY: Newark--Sgt. Edward Gladden, mechanic, 48 High St.

NEW YORK: New York City--Staff Sgt. Lloyd A. Archer, machinist foreman, 107-37 Princeton St., Jamaica; Sgt. Alfred T. Cornelius, body repair specialist, 76 West 113th St.; Sgt. Leroy Harleston, mechanic, 108-07 160th St., Jamaica; Cpl. David Thomas, mechanic, 6 East 115th St.; Sloatsburg--Cpl. Woodrow J. Terry, welder.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro--Sgt. Amos R. Caldwell, parts clerk, 1304 East Market St.; Kinston--Cpl. Edward M. Keys, mechanic, 617 Oak St.

OHIO: Cincinnati--Cpl. Willie H. Newton, mechanic, 955 Richmond St.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia--Cpl. William Robinson, mechanic, 2524 Turner St.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Abbeville--Cpl. Robert L. Rhodes, mechanic, 9 Harrisburg St.; Lexington--Sgt. Vandles Gardner, mechanic, Route 2.

TENNESSEE: Chattanooga--Cpl. Willie L. Todd, mechanic, 910 Poplar St.; Knoxville--Cpl. Robert L. Collier, armorer, 270 Court B, College Homes.

VIRGINIA: Portsmouth--Cpl. William M. Reynolds, mechanic, 1039 Calvert St.

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NEGRO WACS SPEED LETTERS
TO GI'S ON WESTERN FRONT

UNITED KINGDOM BASE, England--Most people realize that mail is morale with fighting GIs, but few people do as much about it as WAC Sergeant Betty Jane Smith, of 2054 Hallock Street, Kansas City, Kansas, and Privates First Class Winona and Jacquelyn Fuller, sisters, of 135 N. Campbell Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Sergeant Smith and the two sisters are members of the Postal Directory Section of the all-Negro Wac Postal Battalion in England which handles the mail for the entire European Theater of Operations.

Under the supervision of Sergeant Smith, 56 Wacs are steadily engaged in redirecting mail to our fast moving soldiers on the Western Front.

Keeping the girls supplied with mail and seeing that it leaves their desk in the shortest possible time is only part of the sergeant's job, for she is also platoon sergeant and responsible for her platoon at company formations and training functions.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Smith of the Hallock Street address, Sergeant Smith was a student nurse in the City Hospital of Cleveland, Ohio, before she entered the Women's Army Corps.

The Fuller sisters in going overseas with the Wacs, are merely keeping up a precedent already set by the men of their fighting family in this war.

Their father, Mr. Jake George Fuller, discharged from the Navy last June, is a wearer of the Purple Heart and their two brothers, Seaman Second Class Donald Fuller and Private Ellison Fuller, with the Navy and the Army respectively, are both serving in the Southwest Pacific.

The sisters are graduates of John Marshall High School in Chicago, Illinois. Jacquelyn graduated from the Arts Institute of Chicago and was a clerk-typist in civilian life. Winona was a postal tube clerk at a department store in Chicago.

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NEGRO GUARDS KEEP NAZI
POWs BUSY IN ENGLAND

A U.S. ARMY GENERAL DEPOT, England--German prisoners of war, who have exchanged their weapons for shovels and other implements of constructive

endeavor, perform their tasks at this depot under the watchful eyes of Negro guards, detailed from the 3226th Quartermaster Service Company.

Armed with carbines, these Quartermaster guards escort the POWs from early in the morning until late at night. Dispatched on a rotation basis as chasers, each guard is assigned to no more than 10 prisoners. His orders are to escort them from the stockade to their work assignments, keep them busy and return the same number.

A day generally lasts eight to nine hours, but frequently guards are required to maintain their alertness and vigilance over two groups of POWs for as long as 15 hours.

Under the command of Captain Edward Rappaport, of Clarksdale, Mississippi, the unit received basic training at Camp Gordon, Georgia, and went through maneuvers in Tennessee. Before D-Day in France, the company built camps for invasion troops along the south coast of England.

Up until the first of the year the outfit had been operating as a Quartermaster Supply Distributing Point, issuing supplies and rations to thousands of transient troops en route to the front. During an emergency last September, the men worked day and night loading 10,000 tons of fuel that were flown to General Patton's Third Army troops during their push across France.

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24 VETERANS FLOWN HOME FROM POSTS AROUND WORLD

MIAMI, Florida—Speeded home in one of the Air Transport Command's huge transocean planes, 24 Negro soldiers, who have been on overseas duty for periods ranging from 14 months to nearly three years, this week felt the thrill of setting foot on home soil again.

Flown into the ATC terminal here, they have cleared the field and gone on to their homes for furloughs. They came from 14 States and the District of Columbia.

They were: Pfc. Percival A. Niles, son of Mrs. Louise Niles, 518 Jefferson Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., 14 months in the Middle East with a Quartermaster detachment; Cpl. Edward Christian, Jr., son of Edward Christian, Sr., 28-01 42nd Road, Long Island City, N.Y., 30 months in India and Burma; Pfc. William A. Greene, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Greene, 1219 Sumner Road, S.E., Washington, D.C., 34 months in Africa and the Middle East; and Tech. 4th Gr. Virgil Cato, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lem Cato, 541 School St., Daytona Beach, Fla., 25 months in Africa and the Middle East.

Sgt. Johnnie Rainge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Rainge, Route 1, Elmore, Ala., 33½ months in the Middle East; Staff Sgt. Joseph C. Robinson, son of Mrs. Marzette Robinson, 909 25th St., Bessemer, Ala., who came home from the China-Burma-India Theater; First Sgt. James L. Howell, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Howell, Sr., live at 260 Fairview St., Athens, Ga., and whose wife, Shirley M. Howell, lives at 421 Third St., Moultrie, Ga., spent 29 months in the CBI Theater; and Pvt. Willie J.T. Young, son of Mrs. Annie Willard, 1503 W. Savannah Ave., Valdosta, Ga., 27 months in India.

Staff Sgt. William B. Hall, whose wife lives at 1117a Vandeventer, St. Louis, Mo, and whose father, Robert H. Hall, resides at 219 Second St., Greenville, Miss., 32 months in the African-Middle East Theater; Pfc. Andrew Moses, son of Mrs. Genevieve West of Farmerville, La., 27 months in India and Burma with the Engineers; Tech. 5th Gr. E.F. Jackson, Alcom College, Miss., 28 months in India and Burma with the Medical Corps; and Tech. 5th Gr. Lee P. Camper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Camper, Route 1, Shivers, Miss., 26 months in Africa with a Military Police unit.

Pfc. Harry J. Watts, whose wife, Alyce I. Watts, lives at 407 West 26th St., Indianapolis, Ind., and whose mother, Mrs. Lillie Watts, lives at 1018 Edgemont St., in the same city, 34 months in the Middle East with an MP Unit; Tech. 5th Gr. James H. Scober, whose father lives on Route 4, Wallace, N.C., 34 months in the Middle East with the Engineers; Tech. 5th Gr. Leroy Knighton, whose mother resides on Route 1, Seabrook, S.C., 34 months in the Middle East with the Engineers; and Tech. 5th Gr. James W. Brown of Spartanburg, S.C., 33 months in the Middle East.

Staff Sgt. Henry J. Hollier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hollier, Sr., Rural Route 1, Beggs, Okla., 26 months in the India-Burma Theater with the Engineers; Sgt. James L. Davis, son of Mrs. Josephine Davis, 1550 Virginia St., Gary, Ind., 29 months in the India-Burma Theater with the Quartermaster Corps; Tech. 3rd Gr. Dave Ballard, son of Mrs. Bessie Oliver, 1350 South Racine Ave., Chicago, Ill., three months in the Middle East with an Ordnance outfit; Tech. 5th Gr. Hebert S. Henson, of Philadelphia, Miss., 34 months in North Africa with the Engineers.

Tech. 5th Gr. Louis Cains, whose parents and wife reside at 2304 Dennis St., Houston, Texas, 26 months in China-Burma-India with the Engineers; Tech. 5th Gr. Howard E. Archer, of 1508 Willard Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., and whose wife resides at 2560 Wheeler Road, Augusta, Ga., 27 months in the CBI with the Engineers; Cpl. Aaron L. Finley, son of Mrs. J. Green, 1301 East 49th Place, Los Angeles, Cal., 27 months in the CBI with the Engineers; and Tech. 5th Gr. Vanel L. Hooser, whose wife resides at 2743 Laclede Ave., St. Louis, Mo., and whose mother, Mrs. Hattie L. Hooser, lives at 2834 Laclede Ave., 31 months in the Middle East with the Engineers.

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"THE ROAD FROM SALAIA"

(Note to Editor: Negro Engineers, already famed for their part in the construction of the Ledo Road in India and the Alaskan Highway, are now engaged in building one more vital road in another corner of the world--Liberia. The following story, written by Sergeant Ossie Davis, formerly with the Public Relations Office, Headquarters, United States Army Forces in Liberia, gives a vivid picture of the conditions our troops are facing in building this artery. Sergeant Davis was recently returned to the United States.)

LIBERIA---The men of the 899th Engineers are building a road in Liberia. They are sweating, digging, blasting, clawing, and scratching their way along 86 miles of the God-awfullest country that ever improved a GI's cuss vocabulary.

The road is being developed over a stretch of several miles simultaneously. Thus, on a stretch at a time you hear the bark of the caterpillars and the groan of the tournapulls, huge, awkward metal beasts of burden. They echo back from hills only little less steep than sheer walls.

Here and there like a tangle of frightened ants, the graders and scrapers, bulldozers and big trucks, jeeps and scoops, are busy digging, slicing, hauling, loading, dumping, grinding and chopping, filling in and smoothing out, coaxing this long red scar into a passable road.

Liberia is bound on the northwest by French Guinea, the two countries being separated by the St. John River. When this road is finished, a bridge will be thrown across the river linking the new road with one that runs through French Guinea. Thus a continuous trade route will be laid from the northern country through the southern one to the sea.

The terrain is by no means uniform. It ranges from one real mountain to numerous hills and stony knobs, and to lowlands, marshes and swamps. But every foot of the way is covered with high bush and jungle undergrowth; stuff so dense that a crew of 20 native laborers, working all day blazing a foot-wide trail, may walk back in 30 minutes over the trail it took them a whole day to blaze.

32 Bridges Must Be Built

In addition, 32 bridges, ranging from 20 feet to 150 feet in length, will be built. There will be concrete abutments and piers for each bridge. And steel beams will be laid with floors of thick wooden planks lashed to them. Gaps and draws will be spanned by logs carried into place on the heads of natives united into gangs 50 or 60 strong.

A number of the heavier timbers used on the bridges are cut from the tall tropical trees studding the jungle through which the road is passing. These trees, some of which stand 100 to 120 feet high, are sometimes so large at their base that TNT must be used to blast them out of the way. The usable sections are cut up by native sawers, into pieces about the length of a rail-road cross tie. They are then placed on a six-foot scaffold where two sawers split them to the proper thickness with a rip saw.

Between the modern and ancient methods of road building lies a world and an age of difference, and this method of cutting timbers is but one of the many ways in which the old and the new methods are combined in this construction job.

Before the coming of the Americans with modern equipment, scoops of metal, and sometimes of bamboo like a pipe split down the middle, were used to cut down hills and rises. The soil was then loaded into baskets woven of palm leaves and holding at the most about a peck. These basket loads, carried by a long line of laborers, were then dumped into the low places.

The acme of native skill and patience is reached in the primitive method of cutting through large rocks which obstruct the right of way. A huge fire is built on top of the rock. When it has been heated to a high temperature, water is poured over it causing it to split and crack. Fragments are then chipped away with sticks and the process is repeated. Cuts 10 feet deep and 18 feet wide have been made by this ancient method.

No Accurate Maps of Interior

There are no accurate maps of the Liberian interior because it has not yet been fully surveyed. All the mapping and planning that preceded the actual trail-blazing for the road from Salala had to be done from scratch.

Engineer officers first went on foot along an old trail from Salala to Baila, to the St. John River, to get a general idea of the terrain to be crossed. Then a plane reconnaissance was made over the area. Compass bearings were taken and the route surveyed. Next a trail was blazed to guide the Engineers. After that a group of native laborers began to cut the right of way, always keeping a mile or so ahead of the actual work.

With the right of way indicated, the work for the 899th began in earnest. Today, bulldozers bite, dig, and scrape their way forward, pushing up trees, uprooting stumps, and clearing away the top soil. These are followed by tournapulls, or, when tournapulls are unusable because of mud, by a caterpillar with a large scoop pan attached, called by the men, "cat'n pan." These will cut the grades down to the desired depth and carry the excess dirt down to the swamps, marshes and other places which must be filled. A six-inch layer of laterite is then spread over the surface, after which the graders and scrapers level and pack and smooth the road down to a finished state.

When the Engineers began the job, at least half of the heavy equipment was out of order. It had to be repaired. And even now, maintenance ranks with supply as the two chief scourges of the 899th. The rough nature of the terrain makes for excessive wear and tear on tractor, bulldozer and scraper. But for the ingenuity of some of these GIs, the job would often be brought to a standstill.

Keeps Equipment in Shape

One man in particular has done more to keep the heavy equipment in top shape than any other. He is Staff Sergeant Richard Short, East St. Louis,

Illinois.. Once, when a big tractor was held up with a cracked frame because there were no welding rods to do a mending job, Sergeant Short experimented until he found that galvanized wire would do just as well. In a few hours the "cat" was back on the job. As to supplies, all rations, gasoline, fuel oil, spare parts, crushed rock, machine replacements, tentage, and most timber, must be hauled in by truck from supply stocks on the coast.

Every care and precaution is used to protect the Engineers from the dreaded tropical diseases which are ripe among the native populations.

Seasons in Liberia come in extremes. Extremely dry, or extremely wet. In the dry season the heat is almost unbearable. Dust hangs over the road like a thick cloud of smoke, and all the drivers and catskinners are forced to wear goggles and oftentimes a dust filter to keep the fine red particles from their eyes and lungs. Due to the high hills and thick woods in the area, a breeze is practically a stranger. During the seasons of torrential rains, the average rainfall on the coast is 180 inches a year, and last year, July alone brought a 56-inch rainfall--a record said to surpass the record for Burma or Alaska. Streams swell into floods, threatening incompleated bridges. Often when culverts are too small, roads are swamped with water. The highway becomes a mass of slimy mud, and heavy equipment must operate in conjunction with tractors or not at all.

Sometimes, of course, the problems are purely local ones. Once the projected path of the road happened to run through a village burying-ground. The Engineers had to make an unplanned turn, driving the road through the center of the village instead, because the town chief would not permit the rest of the dead to be disturbed.

To Link Hinterlands, Coastal Areas

The Salala-Baila road will average about 25 feet in width when it is finished. It will link the Liberian hinterlands with the coastal areas, thus facilitating trade, communication, and travel. For centuries all trade goods brought to the coast from the interior, or vice-versa, had to be head-loaded in. Rice, the country's most important staple food product, ivory, gold, skins, cloths, basketry, mahogany, and other stuffs were brought in by porters carrying prodigious loads on their heads. Visitors were carried into the interior in hammocks. Due to these conditions, development and trade have been retarded. The new road will change all that by opening a trade route clear across Liberia, from French Guinea to the coast.

No one can safely predict when the important task of building this road will be finished. So many imponderables are to be considered, weather conditions, lack of replacements and supplies etc., that even a good guess is hazardous. But soon--a year, or more, or less--tired and grimy-faced engineering GIs, who have sweated out nearly three years in Liberia, will throw a one hundred and fifty foot truss span across the St. John River. The first load of trade goods, this time by truck, will start its journey across Liberia--the first such trip in the history of the Republic.

* * * * *

SKILLED WACs AT FORT LEWIS PERFORM TECHNICAL ARMY DUTIES

FORT LEWIS, Washington---The 97 Negro women comprising Company F of the Women's Army Corps in the engineer section, Fort Lewis Army Service Forces Training Center, are engaged in a widely-diversified field of activity, with some performing highly-specialized tasks. The list includes hematologists, truck drivers, typists, and warehouse clerks.

Many have learned new skills since entering the service and some are utilizing knowledge acquired in civilian life, thereby adding invaluable experiences to their future capabilities.

The group includes a college-trained social worker, an artist, a dietician, and a graduate nurse. Thirty-three have soldier husbands; two are married to veterans. Some have degrees from universities.

Captain Irma J. Wertz, 1506 Albany Street, Brunswick, Georgia, company commander, is the wife of Lieutenant William J. Wertz, executive officer in the reconditioning service at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. She earned a B.A. degree at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, then went to the Atlanta School of Social Work at Atlanta, Georgia. She attended the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, and also completed a course in business administration at Bryant-Stratton business college in Chicago. Before the war, Captain Wertz was active in social work as case supervisor and assistant director of Chicago's Parkway Community House.

Entering the Army in July 1942, the captain was in the first officers' training class to graduate at the WAC training center, Fort Des Moines, Iowa. She came to Fort Lewis last November.

Private First Class Emily Harris, 4305 St. Louis Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, wife of Sergeant Thomas H. Harris with the 372nd Infantry Regiment at Fort Huachuca, completed three and a half years of pre-medical training at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. She is now a medical Wac working in the hematology laboratory at Madigan General Hospital at Fort Lewis.

"As a civilian," states Private First Class Harris, "I had the training but not the experience. Now I am getting the experience and intend to complete my necessary half year in college after the war." As a medical Wac, she checks blood counts and differentials.

Technical Sergeant Marguerite Wallace, 918 South Fourth Street, Monmouth, Illinois, a professional dietician before joining the WAC, is, appropriately enough, mess sergeant with Company F. She holds a B.S. degree in domestic science from Bradley Polytechnic Institute at Peoria, Illinois. With the professional dietician's authority, she declares:

"Ingenuity in preparing a meal is the Army mess sergeant's greatest asset. In the two years and eight months I have been in the Army, I find Wacs are just as particular about the things they eat as their civilian sisters."

Women in outside work that requires physical exercise eat more than office workers, she pointed out.

Acting as first sergeant of the company is Staff Sergeant Frances R. DeCoursey, 13906 Linden Boulevard, Jamaica, Long Island, a graduate nurse. She was formerly on duty at the Harlem Hospital in New York.

One of the most popular girls in the company is the mail orderly, Corporal Georgia Cheatam, 609 West 13th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Though she majored in physical education at Indiana University before enlisting, she has established a reputation as a free-lance commercial artist, having studied at the John Herron Artists' Studios at Indianapolis. Samples of her work adorn the company orderly room.

END

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Distribution: Ad.
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FUTURE RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE

WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations
NEWS DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1944

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* NOTE TO EDITORS: The following material originates with the Public *
* Relations Officers of United States Army camps, posts, stations and Theaters *
* of War. It concerns the activities of Negro soldiers. The date of release *
* appears above. Similar informative releases will be sent to you weekly. *
* * * * *

332nd FIGHTER GROUP ENDS YEAR
WITH RECORD AS EFFICIENT UNIT

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY---In less than one year the all-Negro 332nd Fighter Group, stationed with the 15th Air Force in Italy, has flown more than 100 missions and has firmly established itself as an efficient, hard-hitting outfit, Colonel Benjamin C. Davis, Jr., the Group's commanding officer, declared today.

"Flying P-51s on bomber escort and strafing missions, we destroyed 75 ships in the air and easily twice that number on the ground," the Colonel recapitulated at AAF Redistribution Station No. 1.

Colonel Davis, who is married and makes his home at 1721 S Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., took command of the 332nd shortly before it was sent to Italy in January of this year. He pointed out that flying fighter escort on long range bombing missions was a job well suited to his group.

"All the men enjoy it," he added, "because it gives them the best opportunity for aerial combat."

As an example of the lengths to which his men will go to get into the thick of things, the 32-year-old West Pointer told of a mission to Budapest last October when the four squadrons comprising the 332nd were ordered to strafe river and rail traffic along the Danube.

West of Budapest, he related, a pilot spotted a low-flying plane and was sent down to investigate. The pilot shot the plane down, then called for the rest of his squadron.

"They were over an airfield where fliers were practising landings and take-offs," said the Colonel. "They joined the traffic pattern and shot down four more ME-109s. On their way up to rejoin the group they picked up four Heinkel 111s and after a series of passes got them all.

The squadron headed by the Colonel then proceeded up the Danube and strafed oil barges and railway trains. A third squadron located another airfield and destroyed 18 ships on the ground, while the fourth came across a motor park and destroyed or damaged a fleet of trucks.

"Not bad for one five-hour mission," added the Colonel.

Colonel Davis, who finished West Point in 1936, was instrumental in the formation of the first all-Negro fighter squadron--the 99th. He took the 99th overseas as its commanding officer in April 1943, and it remained a separate unit for 14 months until absorbed by the 332nd Fighter Group.

"While a separate unit the 99th made a good name for itself," said the Colonel. "It destroyed 17 planes in the air and many more on the ground, but

MORE

those kills were really by-products, since the squadron worked mostly in support of ground troops. It did its best work early in the Anzio campaign when it got eight in one day."

Colonel Davis holds the Legion of Merit, the DFC, and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

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NEGRO SOLDIERS ON LEYTE ENTERED
"LIVING HELL" TO SAVE AMMUNITION

WITH THE 96th DIVISION, SOMEWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES (Delayed)--Negro soldiers have played an important role in the landings in the Philippines, the War Department revealed for the first time today.

Two members of an amphibious tractor unit attached to the 96th Division distinguished themselves by entering an ammunition dump which had caught fire and saved from destruction three huge amphibious trucks loaded with mortar and artillery shells.

Staff Sergeant Robert Jones, Roxbury, Massachusetts, says of the men, Sergeant Clarence Jackson, Washington, D.C. and Technician Fifth Grade Samuel Bryant, New York City, "They entered a living hell to save the ammunition."

Sharing in the general praise given to their amphibious tractor unit which plowed through muddy roads and terrain thought impassable to bring up supplies and ammunition are Technician Fourth Grade Prince E. Anderson, 239 W. 148th Street, New York, Technician Fifth Grade William H. Holland, 10 E. 126th Street, New York, Technician Fifth Grade Leonard Ingram, 541 W. 124th Street, New York, Technician Fifth Grade Allen Smith, 253 E. 127th Street, New York, Technician Fourth Grade Daniel J. Evertz, Rams Inn, Bridgeport, New Jersey and Private Everett Elam, 33 John Street, Broomfield, New Jersey.

Technician Fifth Grade Mayo L. Gentry, 2384 Champlain, N.W., Technician Fourth Grade Robert McCaney, 226 47th Street, N.E., and Technician Fourth Grade Robert Wiley, 3023 Park Place, all of Washington, D.C.

Private First Class David Mitchell, 926 S. 15th Street, Philadelphia, and Sgt. Samuel Bimrins, 3869 Alabama Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C., members of a Transportation Corps unit, killed a Jap sniper infesting their bivouac area. Later they narrowly escaped death when their jeep, carrying a casualty to the hospital, hit a mine, throwing them from their vehicle.

Negroes in the beach party landing in the vicinity of Dulag were warmly greeted by the Filipinos. Their admiration for Negroes arose from the heroic deeds of a Negro guerilla, Joe George of San Francisco, who came to the Philippines prior to the war. Marrying a Filipino woman in Tacloban, he became a popular local figure. He set up a trucking service between the towns of Dulag and Tacloban on the island of Leyte.

After the fall of Bataan, he used his truck to supply Filipino guerillas operating in the hills. Captured by the Japs and sentenced to be shot, he escaped and became a local hero by carrying out daring raids on the Japs.

* * * * *

616th BOB SQUADRON FLIES
300 DAYS WITHOUT ACCIDENT

GODMAN FIELD, FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY---Few organizations in the Army Air Force can boast of the flying safety record set by the 616th Bomb Squadron, stationed at Godman Field, Kentucky, a base of the First Air Force. This squadron, part of the all-Negro 477th Bomb Group, has flown over 300 days without an accident of any kind.

When asked to what this amazing record could be attributed, Squadron Engineering Officer, First Lieutenant Clarence E. Lewis, of Dayton, Ohio, replied: "You can give the credit to the line personnel. It was their expert maintenance, thorough checking, and just plain perseverance that did the job."

Perseverance, indeed, plays a large part in the daily routine of checking, testing, and inspecting the bomber prior to take-off. Over 100 separate items must be checked each day, including the engines, instruments, propeller, radio, lights and electrical system, armament, and other auxiliary equipment.

Responsible for the condition of the plane twenty-four hours a day is the crew chief. The crew chief must be a graduate of an Airplane Mechanics school, and must be well trained in the maintenance and repair of the engines and the general structure of the plane. He must see that the plane is ready for any type of flight at any time.

Assisting the crew chief in the preparation of a flight are his two assistants and a number of specialists, among them being the electricians, armorers, radio technicians and propeller and instrument men.

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HALF MILLION MEN SERVED
BY QUARTERMASTER OUTFIT

A QUARTERMASTER DEPOT, ENGLAND---The only Negro Quartermaster Battalion of its type, operating in the marshalling area from March to September as the Area Quartermaster, was recently commended by Major General Robert McG. Littlejohn, Quartermaster General of the European Theater of Operations. Also included in the citation was a medical detachment.

Prior to D-Day and in the momentous days that followed the initial landing, huge embarking camps had to be maintained to shelter the tremendous number of soldiers waiting to be transported to France.

Food had to be secured and broken down into proper rations. Any last minute clothing, equipment or supplies needed by the fighting men had to be furnished. And the personnel that operated the area bakery, petrol stations, warehouses and the huge staging camps had to be accounted for in the daily administrative routine. Major Frederick A. O'Neill, 38, of 87 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, Vermont, estimates that over 500,000 men were served during the six-month period.

Besides the citation from Major General Littlejohn, the unit has received four others.

Sergeant Major of the outfit and the backbone of the unit, according to Major O'Neill, is 22-year-old Staff Sergeant G. Lallarr Howard of Salisbury, North Carolina. He is a former student of North Carolina State College.

Other members of the unit are as follows:

Chief Warrant Officer Milton C. Smith, 42, 131 S. 22nd St., Battle Creek, Mich.; Warrant Officer Junior Grade Malcolm H. Baxter, 29, 15 Elm St., Newark, N. J.; Tech. Sgt. Bill I. Dial, 28, Route 2, Box 105, Point, Tex.; Tech. Sgt. William M. Kimbrough, 30, 2505 Bethel Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.; Staff Sgt. George L. Howard, 21, 421 Craige St., Salisbury, N. C.; Sgt. Julius Burrell, 22, General Delivery, Demopolis, Ala.; Tech. 5th Gr. Eddie Borders, 39, P.O. Box 502, Frederick, Okla.; Tech. 5th Gr. McHenry Henderson, Jr., 23, 703 Catherine St., Richmond, Va.; Tech. 5th Gr. Robert Rembert, 34, 602 Argyle St., McCombs, Miss.; Tech. 5th Gr. Thomas J. Sawyer, 23, 7437 Hermitage St., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Pfc. John W. Gambrell, Jr., 34, 122 Sullivan Drive, Greenville, S. C.; Pfc. Virgil L. Jefferson, 33, Route 4, Box 122, Selma, Ala.; Pfc. James H. Odell, 34, 12th St., Winston-Salem, N. C.; Pfc. James E. Young, 22, Route 1, Box 18, Banks, Ala.

TANKMEN PERFORM BRILLIANTLY
IN FIRST TEN DAYS OF COMBAT

X WITH THE U.S. THIRD ARMY—Many stories of heroism and bravery developed about the 761st Tank Battalion, the first Negro armored unit to enter combat, during its first ten days of battle with Major General Williard S. Paul's 28th Division. The tankers served as one of the spearhead elements in the division's drive to its initial objective, which was taken November 20.

Among them, the feats of Staff Sergeant Ruben Rivers, Route 1, Box 57, Tecumseh, Oklahoma, son of Mrs. Lillian Rivers, stand out like a beacon. The daring tank commander was awarded the Silver Star following the slaying of an estimated two hundred or more Germans. He took his tank into the thick of every battle and it became a popular theme that when Company A entered battle, "Rivers led the way," for he was always there first.

A few days after Lieutenant Colonel Hollis A. Hunt, commander of the 761st pinned the Silver Star on Sergeant Rivers, his unit again went into battle at Guebling, a key communications point for German lines between Chateau-Salins and Saarburg, Rivers' tank hit a mine and was knocked out. He climbed out of the disabled tank, got into another, and continued fighting.

Private First Class Obie J. Smith, a quiet young fellow who came to the Army from the little town of Leevale, West Virginia, is the gunner of a light tank in Lieutenant Richard English's company. On "D-Day" for the unit, Smith, one of the most accurate gunners in the company, personally accounted for twenty Germans killed. He is married to Mrs. Marie Smith, of Leevale, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ison Smith, reside at Laing, West Virginia.

Sergeant Warren Creecy of Corpus Christi, Texas, won the reputation of being the most fearless man in his company by his repeated exposures of his person to enemy fire as he rescued fellow tankers, provided protection for infantry units, and performed other feats of valor which have won commendation for him.

On November 10 at Morville, the battalion's tough spot, Sergeant Creecy returned through enemy positions under heavy artillery to get aid to his men after his tank had been disabled by anti-tank fire. He then led other tanks to a point from which destructive fire could be brought upon the enemy.

A few minutes later he mounted the "ack ack" gun of another vehicle and while still under fire aided in the annihilation of enemy artillery observers who directed the fire that pinned down our infantry. This permitted the ground units to move forward.

The day before, Sergeant Creecy had moved ahead of the infantry without regard for his personal safety and destroyed German machinegun positions and Jerry rocket-launcher teams. Then when his own tank was mired down in the mud, he dismounted and performed operations leading to the extraction of the tank. He then mounted the rear of the tank and held his AA gun on enemy positions to protect an infantry unit. He personally eradicated the enemy guns.

Crew members of Sergeant Creecy's tank include Sergeant Roy L. Robinson, of 389 Warren Avenue, Spartanburg, South Carolina, the driver, and Private First Class Raymond G. Johnson, 2023 Grey Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, gunner.

In the same area, the crew of tank commander Staff Sergeant Jack Gilbert, dismounted and recaptured their tank, after it had been hit and taken by the Germans. With him were: Gunner, Private First Class Judge Favors, brother of Mrs. Carrie Favors, 105 Spencer Street, Plant City, Florida; bow gunner, Private First Class Albert D. Fulwood, son of Mrs. Opal W. Fulwood, 1634 Tenth Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia, and driver, Sergeant James C. Harris, brother of Mrs. Octavia Ellington, 3744 Sixth Street, Detroit, Michigan.

Spurring his men to keep moving forward, Lieutenant English, commander of the company took a tommy-gun from one of the tanks, and proceeded on foot to

perform reconnaissance to direct the movement of his unit. He is a former instructor in the Hoffman School, New Orleans, and made his home at 705 Vernon Street. A graduate of Dillard University, he is married to Mrs. Lorotta English, and is the father of three sons, Richard, Jr., Ernest and James.

Characteristic of the attitude of these new arrivals to the combat scene was their reaction when Jerry AT guns or bazooka teams knocked out tanks in Captain Irvin McHenry's company. The crews would leap out, get under the tank and continue their fire with machineguns. One German company facing Captain McHenry's unit near Morville, was practically annihilated by this small arms fire.

First Sergeant Samuel J. Turley of 815 Trinity Avenue, the Bronx, New York City, whose nearest relative is a sister, Mrs. Sophie Montgomery, 5145 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, demonstrated his sterling leadership qualities by organizing his tank crews into defense teams when his vehicles had been hit and set afire. By this strategy several crews were permitted to escape from their burning tanks.

Staff Sergeant Frank C. Cochrane, son of Mrs. Lulia Cochrane, Box 200, Brockway, New York, assisted in evacuating the tank gunner, Corporal Carlton Chatman of Pembroke, Virginia, son of Mrs. Ginnie Chatman, and tank commander, Technician Fifth Grade George Collier, son of Mrs. Selena Waters, 2907 31st Avenue, Tampa, Florida, after their tank had been hit. While under direct fire, he assisted Technician Fifth Grade Collier into his own tank, saving his life.

Gunner Dwight Simpson, son of Clarence Simpson, 813 Ninth Street, Rock Island, Illinois, rescued Technician Fourth Grade Horatio Scott, son of Mrs. Gladys Scott, of 23 Charles Street, Lynn, Massachusetts, from his burning tank.

These and many other deeds of valor marked the first ten days of combat for the first Negro tank battalion and gained for the entire unit the praise of the Division Commander. Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., has manifested personal interest in the tankers on several occasions. An appropriate citation is being recommended for the battalion for its services with the 26th Division.

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PORT SOLDIERS GIVE BLOOD
AS WELL AS SWEAT IN FRANCE

WITH THE 280th STATION HOSPITAL IN FRANCE---Negro soldiers of the crack 483rd Port Battalion, holding all tonnage records in the giant port of Cherbourg, are giving blood as well as sweat in the drive of supply troops to meet the needs of troops at the front.

When Medical Corps authorities issued a special plea for blood donations in the port area, the tonnage champion unit produced more than double the number of volunteers that this hospital could process at one time.

With supplies funnelling through the harbor at the rate of thousands of tons each day, soldier donors are able to take no rest periods after their donations. Men of the 483rd Port Battalion are expert operators of several complex unloading devices and their absence would tie up port traffic, so they give blood and return directly to duty.

The general feeling of the men was expressed by Staff Sergeant Murray Johnson, 27, 560 Union Avenue, Westbury, Long Island, New York,

"I have a brother up front," he said, "and you can't tell how much he may need this stuff."

"The need for blood, both whole and plasma, is being sharply felt in many places. The volunteer record of the Negro troops is especially heartening," said Major J.C. Dusard, Army Medical Corps, Bedford, Indiana,

There is no racial differentiation made in Army blood collections.

* * * * *

AMERICAN, FRENCH TROOPS
BREAK LOADING RECORD

WITH U. S. FORCES IN FRANCE---Working with French "Tirailleurs" (crack riflemen of the French Regular Army), members of the 535th Quartermaster Battalion, and the 3934th Gasoline Supply Company, joined hands and broke a long-standing record by loading a twenty-car train with gasoline destined for front-line units via the Red Ball Railway route.

In between chores these Negro soldiers and the French regulars are working out a combination language which both can use with understanding. Staff Sergeant Harry F. Cooper, 5818 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, a member of the gasoline unit remarked: "We don't speak the same language, but we work together fine, thanks to an improvised dialect."

The groups are handling the important key distribution point where millions of gallons of gasoline and food pass through en route to the fronts. The French soldiers are veterans of the Tunisian campaign and were active in guerilla activities here in France, where they were kept supplied with ammunition and equipment by American airborne forces.

The gasoline supply unit is one of the companies which worked at the former depot which received the initial flow of piped gasoline from the Port of Cherbourg. At that point an all-time record was set by a company of their battalion, which handled 116,000 gallons of gasoline in one day, topping an Italian record of 66,000 gallons.

* * * * *

NAZI SHELLS, JEEP DRIVER LEAD
TO INJURY OF DISPATCH CARRIER

A UNITED STATES ARMY HOSPITAL, ENGLAND---Although the Signal Corps has done an amazing job in establishing and maintaining lines of communication between the most forward elements and the rear zones, there are many orders and reports that must be sent by courier.

One of these trusted and fearless dispatch carriers is Private Andrew Rias, a 24-year-old giant who looks like he is astride a scooter when he mounts his motorcycle. Rias, injured as a result of an accident while dodging German 88 shells, is now recuperating in a United States Army general hospital in England.

"I broke my leg when I tried to avoid an accident when the jeep I was following stopped suddenly," Rias recalled. "I had been out all day and was attempting to get to camp before dark. The driver of the jeep knew the route and I followed him. I guess he was thinking about those Jerry 88 shells that were dropping all around us. Anyway he stopped suddenly when he missed a turn and before I knew it I was up on him."

Colonel Robert W. Bartlett of St. Louis, Missouri, commanding officer of the hospital reported that Private Rias is getting the best attention modern medical science has to offer.

These dispatch riders are superb cyclists. Seldom is there an accident and for the sniper he is almost impossible to hit. Many of the front line dispatches found in daily papers are carried by these men. Private Rias is a member of an Engineering company operating just above St. Lo.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rias of 121 Bruce Street, Clarksdale, Mississippi, he landed in France on July 1. He was inducted into the Army in September 1942 and has been overseas since January 1944.

* * * * *

ENGINEERS BUILD WALK-WAYS
AS AID TO WOUNDED TROOPS

HEADQUARTERS, 1349th ENGINEER REGIMENT, ENGLAND---The speedy construction of

covered walk-ways to protect patients from adverse weather is the contribution made by the 1349th Engineers to the early recovery of troops wounded in action now convalescing at a general hospital in England.

Lieutenant John O. Tilton, 34, 1746 Germantown Street, Dayton, Ohio, directed the work which was done by the Third platoon in "C" Company.

Colonel William H. Gordon, commanding officer of the 94th General Hospital, stated that, "our job at this United States Army general hospital is to render effective treatment to wounded patients and make them fit for duty status as quickly as possible. Our Negro Engineers realized the emergency character of the job. They pitched in as a team and completed the assignment in record time."

Wounded patients are usually flown from the continent by ambulance plane and when under treatment are wheeled from consultation to the X-ray, laboratory, operating and physiotherapy wards. The walk-ways, built by the engineers, extend from one ward to another, protect the convalescent from rain and snow and lessen the danger of relapse.

The Engineers used an air-compressor in digging six-inch holes for the concrete posts, mixed and poured 2100 cubic feet of cement, built the roof from corrugated sheet material and completed the project in 2800 manhours.

Engineers who helped to complete the project were:

ALABAMA: Cuerryton--Pvt. Nick Coleman, Jr., 31.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles--Pvt. Neal Quinn, Jr., 29, 1296 N. 36th St.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven--Pvt. Brandon Handy, 19, 54 S.W. Drive.

GEORGIA: Fort Valley--Pfc. Albert Little, 24, 1405 Vinesville St.; Rebecca--Pfc. George Smith, 24, Route 2; Savannah--Pvt. Clarence Gilliard, 26, 544 W. York St.

ILLINOIS: Chicago--Sgt. Ore Dunmore, 35, 622 E. 51st St.

KENTUCKY: Louisville--Pvt. John W. Brown, 26, 337 E. Liberty St.

LOUISIANA: Opelusa--Pfc. Sidney Sylvester, 22, 706 N. Market St.

MICHIGAN: Detroit--Pfc. Dan D. Webster, 35, 6407 Beechwood; Pvt. Leon G. McDonald, 19, 3220 Hudson St.

MISSISSIPPI: Buena Vista--Pfc. David Cousin, 25; Centerville--Pvt. Thomas Russ, 21, Route 2, Box 21; Greenwood--Cpl. John D. Orange, 27; Jackson--Pfc. Emile Dubreville, 25, 505 Bloom St.; Natchez--Pfc. Ross Potter, Jr., 516 N. Vine St.; Nesbitt--Pvt. Louis Malone, 24, Route 2, Box 110; Tylertown--Pfc. Presley Mark, 28, Route 7, Box 108; Union--Pfc. Delma McVeigh, 21.

NEW YORK: Corona, L.I.--Sgt. William H. Street, Jr., 25, 3248 106th St.; New York City--Pvt. James B. Henderson 24, 325 Lenox Ave.; Pvt. William A. Bradshaw, 19, 356 W. 124th St.; Pvt. John Sloan, 35, 123 Rivington St.

NORTH CAROLINA: Goldsboro--Pvt. Freddie Bradley, 27, 118 E. Ash St.; Lexington--Pvt. Benny Camp, 30, 207 Pugh St.; Shelby--Pfc. Hilliard Borders, 26, Route 1

OHIO: Cincinatti--Cpl. Thomas Curry, Jr., 25, 844 Barr St.; Toronto--Pvt. David D. Herrin, 20, 707 Railroad St.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia--Pfc. Claude Proudford, 39, 5440 Market St.; Pvt. Frederick D. Fitzgerald, 35, 1845 N. Van Pelt St.; Pittsburgh--Pvt. Robert L. Heard, 21, 1426 Hamlin St.; Uniontown--Cpl. Jack A.H. Jones, 31.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Berkeley--Pfc. George H. Green, 30; Bishopville--Pvt. Ben Boone, Jr., 19, Route 3, Box 196; Columbia--Pvt. Edward Ruff, 24, 1620 Pulaski St. Florence--Pvt. Nathaniel Ivory, 22, Route 1; Sumter--Staff Sgt. Johnnie H. Hill, 25, Route 3, Box 32.

WEST VIRGINIA: Marfrance--Pvt. Emery Douglas, 35.

* * * * *

NEGRO ENGINEERS CLEAR 10,000
ACRES OF LIVE MINES AND SHELLS

HEADQUARTERS, 1249th ENGINEER REGIMENT, ENGLAND---Although hazards were great, Negro engineers, without a single casualty, inspected and removed live mines, booby traps, hand grenades and Bazooka, howitzer and rifle shells from 10,000 acres. The job was accomplished in six weeks.

These acres, former pasture land, were secured from the British and used by U.S. forces during pre-invasion days as a training area. The demolition job was supervised by First Lieutenant Robert W. Patterson, 24, 4601 W. 38th Street, Denver, Colorado, who at present is commanding officer of "A" Company. Major Emanuel J. Amato, First Battalion commander, said, "the fact that there were no casualties indicates that the troops were well trained, followed instructions closely and knew how to use the 1,800 pounds of TNT required to complete the job."

Enlisted personnel of "A" Company who assisted in the completion of the demolition job were:

ALABAMA: Anniston--Staff Sgt. Gaither L. Wilson, 28; Birmingham--Sgt. Booker J. Marsh, 30, 1326 8th Ave. S.; Brundidge--Pvt. Moses McSwain, Jr., 21, Box 223; Columbia--Pvt. Sonnie Waters, 26, Route 2; Cordova--Staff Sgt. Arthur Black, 27, Route 2; Dancy--Sgt. Louis Morgan, 25, Box 132; Fort Deposit--Pfc. A.C. Sellers, 30, Route 2, Box 36; Helena--Cpl. Charlie Scott, 29; Mobile--Pvt. Rufus Lymon, 26, 1400 Chinquapin St.; Montgomery--Pfc. Timothy D. Harmon, 31, 5 Dixon St.; Pvt. William E. Payne, 25, 18 Oak St.; Pvt. Bennie Rollins, 25, Route 4, Box 244; Plateau--Pvt. George Ruben, 23; Salem--1st Sgt. Joseph Colquitt, 31, RFD 2, Box 78; Seale--Pvt. James B. Miller, 26, Route 1; Selma--Cpl. George L. Price, 29, 1712 Range Ave.; Thorsby--Cpl. George W. Goodson, 26; Troy--Pfc. Willie C. Williams, 26, Route 3; Verbena--Pfc. George W. Adams, 26, Route 2, Box 144; Woodstock--Pvt. Joe N.B. Bryant, 25, Route 1, Box 110.

ARKANSAS: Center Ridge--Pfc. Denver A. Morris, 31, Route 2; Conway--Pvt. George William Cowan, 28, 1005 Willow St.; Crossett--Pfc. John M. Ferderson, Jr., 25, 548 C St.; Dermott--Sgt. Wardell N. Porter, 28; Eudora--Cpl. Tommie Lee Grant, 25, Route 2, Box 181; Louisville--Pvt. Nathaniel Smith, 20; Frattsville--Pvt. Emanuel Nall, 24, Box 13.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles--Sgt. Ernest Bullock, 28, 1352 E. 21st St.

DELAWARE: Lewes--Cpl. Walter L. Comer, 28.

FLORIDA: Jacksonville--Cpl. Capers M. Thompson, 23, 458 Eridier St.; Liberty Point--Pvt. James Taylor, 28; Miami--Sgt. Oliver A. Jordon, 25, 433 N.W. 20th St.; Orlando--Pvt. Samuel A. Devine, Jr., 30, 714 Dunbar St.

GEORGIA: Atlanta--Pfc. James A. Hayes, 27, 868 Mayson Ave.; Centerville--Pfc. Robert L. Henderson, 21, Route 1; Collins--Pfc. Booker T. Everett, 26, Route 2, Box 50; Macon--Sgt. Oliver Danielly, 26, 309 Cole's Alley; Cpl. Willie J. Henderson, 23, 5 Willow St.; Montezuma--Sgt. John C. West, 27, Route 2; Moultrie--Pvt. James O. Anthony, 22, 121 Second Ave.; Savannah--Pvt. James F. Cole, Jr., 24, 719 W. 44th St.; Waynesboro--Pfc. Henry B. Walker, 26, 904½ Doyle St.

ILLINOIS: Cairo--Cpl. Lester Cogar, 26, 413 26th St.; Chicago--Sgt. Joseph D. Coleman, 27, 5339 S. Praire; Cpl. Paul Burks, 28, 1511 Hastings St.; Pvt. Elmer McCormick, 35, 4145 Indiana Ave.; Pvt. Willie Wl Smith, 23, 2953 S. State St.; Pvt. Odee Arnold, 28, 4636 Dearborn St.; Pvt. Vernon Carter, 36, 1106 Lawrence St.; Edwardsville--Pfc. Lawrence E. Robertson, 26, 809 Sheridan Ave.

LOUISIANA: Haughton--Pvt. Ardis Lewis, 25, Route 1, Box 20B; Baton Rouge--Cpl. Frank Percell, 28, 1555 Ruddy St.; Campton--Pvt. DeW. Williams, 26;

Clare--Pvt. Done E. Stewart, 33; Cullen--Pvt. Charlie L. Chatmon, 25; Franklinton--Pvt. J.F. Tate, 25, Route 4; Jeanette--Pfc. George Davidson, Jr., 27, Route 1, Box 57; Monroe--Pvt. Lawrence Broadnax, 25, Box 361.; Montgomery--Pfc. Isiah Starks, 28; New Orleans-- Staff Sgt. John E. Armant, 31, 2007 St. Ann St.; Pfc. Winslow J. Lewis, 26, 2007 Annette St.; Pvt. Jackson Carter, 30, 208 La Salle St.; Pvt. Leo R. Angelain, 32, 2644 Stamm St.; Pvt. Willie N. Hall, 24, 3500 Hamburg St.; Opelusas--Pvt. Eugene Joseph, 26, 254 N. Main St.; Westwego--Pvt. Moses Hill, 23.

MARYLAND: Baltimore--Cpl. Richard B. Hall, 28, 607 N. Bond St.

MASSACHUSETTS: Port Gibson--Pfc. Eddie Ash, 21.

MICHIGAN: Detroit--Pvt. Cape C. Sewell, 22, 3719 McGraw Ave.; Pvt. John L. Colquitt, 25, 963 Cardoni; Pvt. Melvin Anderson, 25, 13960 Lumpkin.

MISSISSIPPI: Canton--Pfc. Jacob A. Hart, 27; Clarksdale--Pvt. Prince H. Baylark, 26, 230 Washington St.; Charleston--Pfc. Lasie Eutcher, 31, Route 2; Crawford--Pfc. Sam Clark, 24, Route 1; Grenada--Pfc. Hollis Ford, 26; Greenwood--Pfc. Willie H. Buchanan, 27, Route 1; Guntown--Pfc. Troy Cummings, 29; Jackson--Cpl. Jim Buckhaultner, 29, 145 Myles Alley; Cpl. Hosea W. Frown, 28, 167 W. Ash St. Kosciusko--Pvt. Steve W. Smith, 25, Route 1; Liberty--Pfc. Eddie Lee, 25; Natchez--Cpl. James E. Crossgrove, 25, 42 St. Catherine St.; Cpl. James A. Edwards, 27, 167 Homochitto St.; Pfc. Gabriel Barnes, Jr., 28, 22 Prince St.; New Augusta--Pvt. Joseph Bryant, 26; Olive Branch--Pvt. Lacy Crutcher, 24, Route 1, Box 164; Rudyard--Pvt. Dave Anderson, Jr., 25; Union--Pvt. Andrew C. Fowie, 25, Route 2, Box 9; Pvt. Vaster Evans, 36; West Enterprise--Pvt. Leonard Eurns, 25, Route 1, Box 6; Yazoo City--Pvt. Henry Weaver, Jr., 21, 103 Mound St.

MISSOURI: St. Louis--Sgt. Chester E. Thornton, 30, 1717 Cora St.; Sgt. Robert E. Cluff, 29, 2843 Clark Ave.; Pfc. Edward E. House, 29, 7709 Fordy St.

NEW JERSEY: Atlantic City--Pfc. Levy M. Farmer, 22, 1115 Drexel Court; Bridgeton--Pfc. Marvell Durham, Jr., RFD 2; Newark--Cpl. Otha Dowdell, 28, 36 Clayton St.; Orange--Pfc. Lee E. Toney, 25, 105 Bell St.

NEW YORK: Brooklyn--Sgt. June McNair, 26, 423 Herkimer St.; Pfc. Danny Ekins, 30, 262 S. 1st St.; Pvt. Lawrence Breland, 24, 222 Lavonia Ave.; Jamaica, L.I.--Pvt. Robert T. Schumpert, 23, 145-34 109th Ave.; Pvt. Eddie Barnett, 39, 110-51 Union Hull St.; New York City--Sgt. Fred A. Crawford, 26, 229 W. 148th St.; Sgt. Durley Brown, 24, 2378 7th Ave.; Sgt. James A. Anderson, 28, 731 St. Nicholas Ave.; Pfc. John Akridge, 28, 92 Morningside Ave.; Pfc. Waverly V. Askew, 27, 109 W. 111th St.; Pfc. Roy L. Waters, 30, 200 W. 136th St.; Pfc. James Moss, 28, 301 W. 144th St.; Pvt. James Edward Bell, 31, 305 E. 100th St.; Pvt. Lester Baker, 28, 530 Manhattan Ave.; Waterlist--Pvt. Nelson F. Thomason, 36, 808 14th St.; Yonkers--Pvt. Will L. Webb, 22, 32 Woodworth Ave.

NORTH CAROLINA: Ahoskie--Pfc. Horace Brown, 31, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ Amhurst St.; Ariah--Ariah Johnson, 24; Charlotte--Pvt. Henry Alexander, 29, 421 Carmel St.; Four Oaks--Pfc. Rossie Williams, 29, Route 1, Box 45; Jackson--Pvt. Eddie Ricks, 26; Monroe--Pfc. Minor Jordon, 35, Route 1; Raleigh--Pvt. Vanco Jones, 21, 305 W. Lenoir St.; Reidsville--Pvt. Thomas Robinson, Jr., 25, 102 Harris St.; Rocky Mountain--Pvt. Isaac Chestnut, 25, Route 2, Box 243; Tayon--Pvt. Joseph C. McClure, 35, Box 641; Washington--Cpl. Milton Credle, 25, 111 W. 8th St.; Woodard--Pvt. Raleigh Freeman, 21.

OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma City--Pvt. Lloyd Mucker, 22, 420 N. Nebraska Ave.

PENNSYLVANIA: Ardmore--Cpl. William A. Peterson, Jr., 28, 68 Holland Ave.; Pvt. James J. Stone, Jr., 26, 223 Chestnut Ave.; Cotesville--Pvt. Herbert Johnson, 26, Route 3; Philadelphia--Sgt. Wilbert Massey, 27, 615 De Lancy St.; Pvt. Ben Chaplain, 25, 1121 Hall St.; Pvt. Hugh Cooper, 29, 820 S. 3rd St.; Pittsburgh--Pvt. Charles E. Frost, 35, 2263 Lylie Ave.; Westchester--Pfc. Howard M. Harmon, 29, 311 E. Miner St.; Media--Pfc. Robert E. Durnell, 24, Hilltop Ave.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Anderson--Pvt. Donie E. Harkness, 24, Route 4; Cathwood--Pvt. Christopher Williams, Jr., 22, Route 1, Box 61; Charleston--Pfc. Robert

Brown, 31, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ Amherst St.; Inman--Pvt. Hizzie Oglesby, 23, Route 3, Box 11;
Jackson--Pvt. Samuel Lee, 21, Route 2, Box 7A.

TENNESSEE: Brownsville--Pfc. Archie D. Sanders, 21, Route 1, Box 131;
Churchill--Cpl. Dana Carroll, 26, Route 1, Box 20; Jasper--Cpl. Samuel A. Teague,
25; Nashville--Pfc. John H. Winstead, 30, 47 Wharf Ave.

TEXAS: Angleton--Cpl. Johnnie Sims, 32, Box 27; Alto--Pvt. Charlie Brown,
25; Mt. Pleasant--Pvt. M.J. Miller, 33; Perry--Pfc. William H. Dukes, 30;
Wharton--Pvt. Lonnie Sanford, 24, Route 1; Houston--Pvt. Edward M. Alex, 23.

VIRGINIA: Blackstone--Pfc. Emmett M. Harris, 29, RFD 1, Box 821; Cape
Charles--Pvt. Chester W. Nottingham, 34; Richmond--Pfc. Thomas L. Coleman,
1414 Moore St.; Subletts--Pfc. Erskine Fox, 27.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Washington--Pfc. Rudolph L. Robinson, 28, 1838
Capitol St..

* * * * *

NEGRO FIRE FIGHTERS
ON DUTY NEAR NANCY

WITH ALLIED ARMIES IN FRANCE---Not especially colorful, at least not until
a fire breaks out, is the routine of the 1232nd Fire Fighting Platoon of the Corp
of Engineers. However, the Negro platoon has rendered invaluable service in the
performance of its hazardous mission.

At present it is operating somewhere near Nancy. Among the soldiers assigne
to the platoon are the following:

Staff Sgt. Thomas C. Collier, 510 East 48th St., Los Angeles, Cal; Cpl.
Sylvester H. Thomas, 1944 S. Pierce St., Philadelphia, Pa.; Sgt. Walter H.
Yarborough, Box 73, Kitrell, N. C.; Tech. 5th Gr. Willie G. Shannon, 214 Hernand
St., Memphis, Tenn.; Tech. 5th Gr. Everett Martin, Itmann, W. Va.; Tech. 5th Gr
Rufus Moore, 811 2nd St., S.E., Washington, D. C.; Tech 5th Gr. Alfonia Sanford,
508 York St., Valdosta, Ga.; Pfc. Manual L. Shorter, Post Office, White Plains,
Ga.; Pvt. Simon Jones, Star Route, Box 14, Harlem, Ga.; Sgt. Charley H. Reed,
1203 S. Jackson St., Decatur, Ill.; Tech. 5th Gr. Melvin Meadow, Route 1,
Danielville, Ga.; Tech. 5th Gr. Donald E. Ridout, 162 S. 4th St., Chambersburg,
Pa.; Tech. 5th Gr. Warren G. Terrance, 1303 Flood St., New Orleans, La; Pfc.
Cornelius Finley, Post Office, Oakville, Tenn.

Pvt. Willie J. Moore, 422 Emerson St., Magnolia, Ark.; Sgt. Oliver W. King,
RFD 1, Box 138, Acme, N. C.; Tech. 5th Gr. Herbert A. Martin, Route 3, Box 169,
Mebane, N. C.; Tech. 5th Gr. James Davis, 169 Arnold St.; Savannah, Ga.; Tech.
5th Gr. Ralph Gotel, Jordan St., Monticello, Ga.; Pfc. Rainey Hughey, Route 2,
Box 24, Duena Vista, Ga.; Pfc. C.C. Delley, 2110 Kyle St., Dallas, Tex.; Pvt.
Roosevelt May, Bogue Chito, Miss.; Sgt. Edgar L. McCarven, Route 2, Box 40,
Silver Creek, Ga.; Tech. 5th Gr. Ethelbert P. Kendall, 172-07 108th Ave.,
Jamaica, N. Y.; Tech. 5th Gr. Roy Murphy, Jr., Route 1, Fayetteville, Ga.; Pfc.
Robert Strickland, Jr., 410 Rosa St., Picayune, Miss.; Pvt. Harry Prue, 1525
1st St., S.W., Washington, D.C.; Pvt. Leroy Joe, Jonesboro, La.

END

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(trezzvant w anderson)

A-761-73..... (PASSED FOR PUBLICATION BY U S ARMY
CENSORS, THIRD U S ARMY, 6 Aug. 1945)

761st TANK BATTALION WIPED OUT EQUIVALENT OF THREE OR
FOUR GERMAN DIVISIONS DURING COMBAT PERIOD IN
EUROPE. FIRST NEGRO TANK UNIT IN COMBAT.

WITH THE 761st TANK BATTALION IN EUROPE. August 4. During its
183 days of front-line combat service between October 31, 1944,
and May 6, 1945, the 761st Tank Battalion, veteran Negro armored
unit, and first of its kind to ever enter combat in the United
States Army, wiped out the equivalent of " three or four German
divisions " in enemy equipment, says " The Red Circle News ",
official newspaper of the 71st Infantry Division, with which the
761st finished its European operations, after having fought in
six European countries during combat-duty.

Figures compiled from official records and reports, at the
headquarters of the crack tank battalion, show the following
damages inflicted upon the enemy:

58 pill-boxes knocked out, 331 machine gun nests eliminated,
87 anti-tank guns (88s and 75s) kayoed, plus 22 more AT guns cap-
tured, twelve 37mm anti-tank guns were knocked out, six 20mm
anti-aircraft guns destroyed, 24 bazooka teams, and 51 panzer-
fausts, put out of action, 9 nebelwerfers smashed, 34 enemy
Mark V and Mark VI tanks destroyed, plus four others self-destroy-
ed by the enemy to avoid capture, three armored cars, 461 wheel-
ed vehicles, motorized and horse-drawn, twelve ammunition trucks,
and twelve kitchen vehicles destroyed, one American ammunition
truck re-captured.

Three enemy ammunition dumps were blown up, two enemy arm-
ored supply dumps, fully stocked, were captured, four airfields
were captured, 17 mortar positions knocked out, 8 enemy self-
propelled guns, 88s and 75s, destroyed, one enemy radio station
captured, one 170mm artillery piece liquidated. The Assault Gun
Battalion kayoed one full battery of enemy 88s on one firing miss-
ion. One 120mm mortar with 40 rounds of ammunition captured, and
more than 200 horses were killed or captured.

Enemy casualties inflicted by the guns of the 761st, alone,
were: 6,246 killed, 650 wounded, and 15,810 captured. These fig-
ures represent those of the battalion's guns alone, and do not
include any of the casualties inflicted in coordination with the
infantry and airborne divisions with which the 761st fought dur-
ing the period.

One division, the 71st alone, took 106,926 prisoners from
the date the 761st joined it, March 30, 1945, until the cessation
of operations at Steyr, Austria, on May 6, 1945. At this time the
unit was in the group of farthest eastern advanced troops of all
the American forces in the European Theater of Operations.

The 761st has six white officers. The other 34 are Negroes,
and all its enlisted personnel are Negroes. It is slated for re-
deployment in September.

The losses suffered by the battalion during combat were: 71 tanks through battle action, three officers and 54 enlisted men were killed in action, and 39 officers and 221 enlisted men were wounded in action. Of these latter all officers and 50 enlisted men returned to duty after hospitalization. Two officers and two enlisted men were captured by the enemy, but later re-captured.

During its operations eight enlisted men received battle-field commissions in the battalion. Eight Silver Star Medals, and 62 Bronze Star Medals, with four clusters, were awarded, as were numerous Purple Hearts, more than two-hundred and fifty of these being given.

The battalion entered combat under Lieutenant Colonel Paul L. Bates, of Boonton, New Jersey, who was wounded on November 7, 1944. Lieutenant Colonel Hollis E. Hunt, of Yuma, Arizona, led the 761st from November 8, 1944 until November 29, 1944, when he was succeeded by Major John P. George, of Richmond, Virginia, who carried the unit through into Germany in December 1944, and led it in "The Battle of The Bulge" in January 1945, and into Holland in February. Colonel Bates returned to the command on February 17, 1945, after hospitalization in England, and led the unit until its junction with the Russians of Marshal Ivan S. Koniev's First Ukrainian Army, at Steyr, Austria, on May 6, 1945, when it ceased operations.

It was activated at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, on April 1, 1942, and came overseas in August 1944, and landed in France on October 7, 1944. It was committed to battle on October 31, 1944 with Major General Willard S. Paul's 26th 'Yankee' Infantry Division, of Major General Hanton S. Eddy's XII Corps, in General Patton's Third Army.

The 761st fought with the 26th, 71st, 79th, 87th, 95th, and 103rd Infantry Divisions, and the 17th Airborne Division, in the Third, Seventh, and Ninth Armies.

It received commendations from four major generals, and was cited by Under Secretary of War Robert L. Patterson, as one of the two outstanding examples "of the success of Negro troops in combat", along with the 24th Infantry Regiment on duty at Saipan now.

--- ALL---

REPRODUCTION OF THIS CENSORED RELEASE
 AUTHORIZED BY U S ARMY CENSORS, THIRD
 U S ARMY, 6 August 1945, AND REPRODUCED
 AT . HQS, 761st TANK BATTALION,

W. Bremer
 AUGUST 1, 1945
 Capt. Inf (Armd)
 S-2, 761st Tank Br.,
 APO 403, c/o. FM, NYC.

Ex 2431

TKG:mw

20 July 1945

Lt. Colonel Paul L. Bates
Commanding
761st Tank Battalion
APO 403, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

Dear Colonel:

My secretary was properly contrite when she realized she had omitted Judge Patterson's statement from my previous letter. Thanks for the other commendation which is being released this week to the general press. I will ask the Bureau of Public Relations to secure clippings of material so that I can send them on to you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

HEADQUARTERS 761ST TANK BATTALION
APO 403

PLB/rlj

27 June 1945.

Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I appreciate very much your letter of 1 June 1945, but that secretary of yours crossed me up. You refer to an "enclosed statement by Acting Secretary of War, Robert P. Patterson, at a recent press conference," but there actually was no inclosure. I would appreciate seeing it a great deal.

At the war's end, we were in Steyr, Austria, with the Russians occupying half of the town, and the division to which we were attached, the 71st Infantry, and ourselves, occupying the other half. It marked the end of a long trail of 2197 combat miles, and 493 non-combat miles. That is a long way, even in an automobile, but a terrific distance to ride and fight in a tank.

All is well within the battalion, as we continue training for whatever assignment lies ahead. The enclosed commendation is a source of great pride to us. Can you obtain any publicity or recognition for the men who fought so valiantly to earn it?

Sincerely,

Paul L. Bates
PAUL L. BATES
Lt. Col., Inf. (Armd)
Commanding

Inclosure.

Ex 2431
TKG:mw

1 June 1945

Lt. Colonel Paul L. Bates
Commanding Officer
761st Tank Battalion
APO 403, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

Dear Colonel Bates:

I thought you would be interested in the inclosed statement by Acting Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson at a recent press conference.

The statement you sent me has, in addition, been released in its entirety to the general press. Reference was made to you and your organization on a recent coast to coast CBS broadcast.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War

Incl.

Ex 2431
TKG:mw

11 July 1945

Lt. Colonel Paul L. Bates
Commanding Officer
761st Tank Battalion
APO 403, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

Dear Colonel Bates:

Inclosed please find copy of news release which
was omitted from my letter of June 1, 1945.

Sincerely yours,

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Civilian Aide to the Secretary
of War.

Incl.

*Paul L. Bates
761st*

C
J
P
Y

HEADQUARTERS 71ST INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 360, U. S. ARMY

15 May 45.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 761st Tank Battalion, APO 403,
U. S. Army.

1. Now that the end of this great war in Europe has been reached, it is appropriate that recognition be given to the superior manner in which you and the members of your battalion have performed during the period of 29 March 1945 to 15 May 1945, the time you were closely affiliated with the 71st Infantry Division.

2. The combat missions which were assigned your battalion were performed magnificently which unquestionably made possible the rapid advance of the entire division, and you share generously in the honors which are ours through the phenomenal progress which was made across Germany and Austria. The splendid way in which you and the members of your command responded to the tasks assigned you is worthy of high praise.

3. The excellent combat record of your unit as veterans has been further sustained while operating closely with this command. Please extend to all members of your battalion my congratulations and my sincere thanks for a job well done.

/s/t/W. G. WYMAN
Major General, U. S. A.
Commanding

Reproduced by 761st Tank Battalion.

HEADQUARTERS
761ST TANK BATTALION
APO 403

IHH/TWA/twa.

7 November 1945



Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr.,
Aide to The Secretary,
The War Department,
The Pentagon,
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibson:-

We are enclosing copies of our Chart of " Damage Inflicted Upon the Enemy ", by the 761st Tank Battalion, during 183 days of combat, trusting that it will be of interest to you.

In the past week it has become our good fortune to have as our new Battalion Commander our own Captain Ivan H. Harrison, of 3399 Scovel Place, Detroit, Michigan, who succeeded the former commander, Lt-Col. Bates, white, who was transferred on 3 November, 1945.

The men are enthusiastic over the assumption of command by one of their own Race, and morale has jumped and sentiment everywhere is surging in the hope that no racially discriminatory Army policy in this theater will cause us to lose our capable Commander, or otherwise impede his rise to the proper rank for his station in the same sense as any other combat battalion commander.

Perhaps you can help us on that ? ?????

With all good wishes, I remain,

Yours Sincerely,

Trezzvant W. Anderson

TREZZVANT W. ANDERSON, 54603145,
U. S. Army Correspondent,
Hqs Co, 761st Tank Battalion,
APO 403, c/o. Postmaster,
New York, N. Y.

2 Incls: Charts.

HEADQUARTERS 71ST INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 360, U. S. Army

15 May 45.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 761st Tank Battalion, APO 403,
U. S. Army.

1. Now that the end of this great war in Europe has been reached, it is appropriate that recognition be given to the superior manner in which you and the members of your battalion have performed during the period of 29 March 1945 to 15 May 1945, the time you were closely affiliated with the 71st Infantry Division.

2. The combat missions which were assigned your battalion were performed magnificently which unquestionably made possible the rapid advance of the entire division, and you share generously in the honors which are ours through the phenomenal progress which was made across Germany and Austria. The splendid way in which you and the members of your command responded to the tasks assigned you is worthy of high praise.

3. The excellent combat record of your unit as veterans has been further sustained while operating closely with this command. Please extend to all members of your battalion my congratulations and my sincere thanks for a job well done.

/s/t/W. G. WYMAN
Major General, U. S. A.
Commanding

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