

AGa

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# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED





AGa 30











**MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED**



76.75

Written for and by Cannon Company,  
397<sup>th</sup> Infantry,  
100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

Officer in Charge . . . . . Lt. Ross H. Bearup  
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Special Art Effects . . . . . Pfc. Victor Lovati  
Company History . . . . . Cpl. Walter E. Scribner



1945  
P  
I 129  
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Presentation, composing, printing and bookbinding:  
Union Druckerei GmbH. Stuttgart

Portraits: Riexinger, Stuttgart

Printing-blocks: Gustav Reisacher, Stuttgart





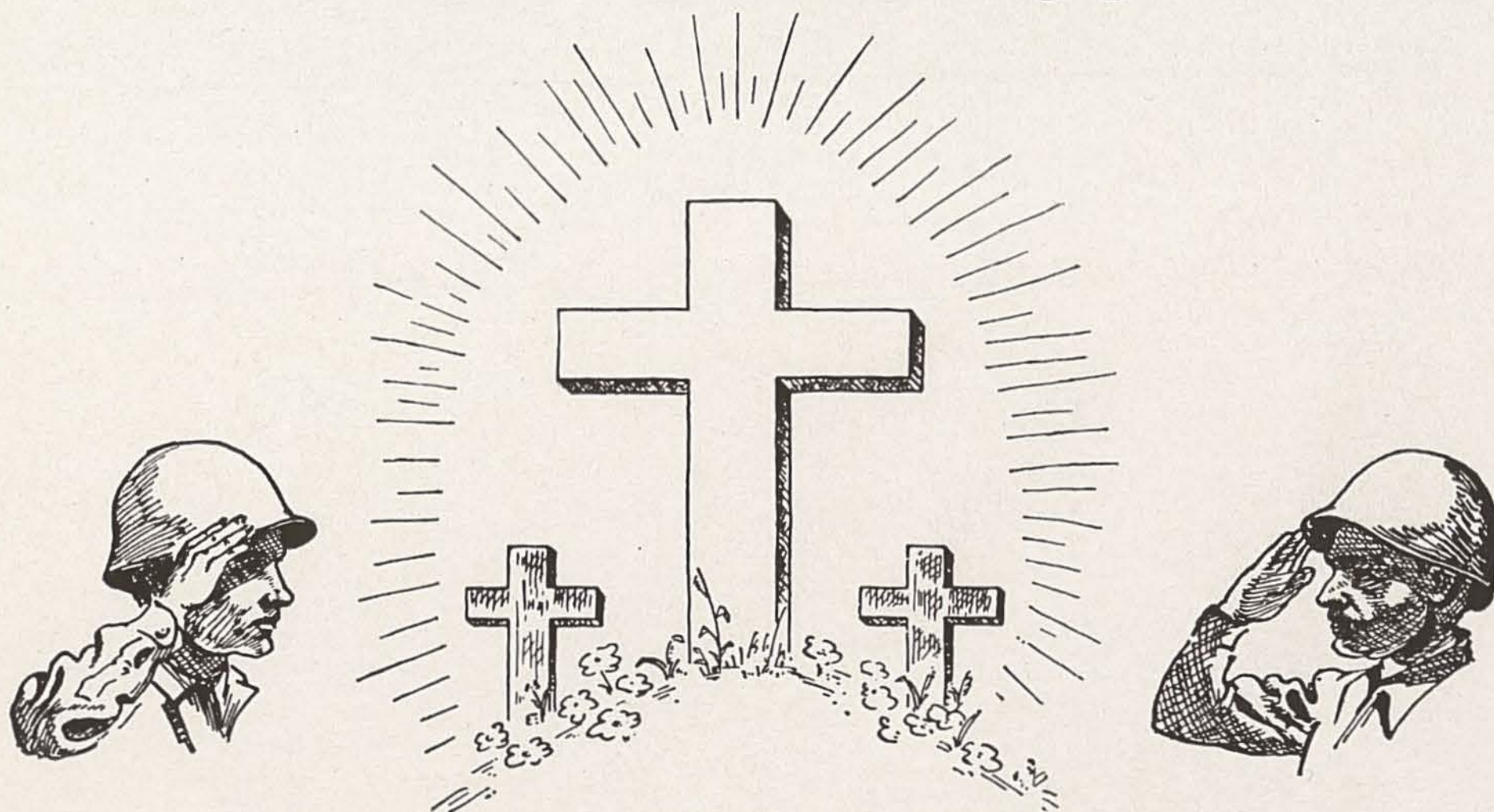
O N T H E W A Y !







# *We Salute*



PVT. EDWARD J. SOPRYCH

9. NOV. 1944

PFC. JOSEPH F. O'BOYLE

1. MAR. 1945

LT. HENRY H. HEWETSON

16. MAY 1945

WE DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO OUR GOOD FRIENDS WHO GAVE  
THEIR LIVES TO MAKE FREEDOM THE HERITAGE OF ALL MANKIND







## *A bit of history is written . . .*

---

The original Cannon Company was formed just before the Tennessee Maneuvers which started on the 15 th of November 1943. The weather was rather bad throughout the maneuver period and the adverse conditions served to set the Company in good stead for what was to come in later months when the division would enter the fight in Europe. After the maneuvers were over the men found themselves a new home on the Fort Bragg Reservation. New men were added and training continued under pressure because we knew that our time was coming when we would be called upon to show that we had learned our lessons. Rumor after rumor was tossed from tongue to tongue-some men said the division would never go over while others were equally sure that this would be "it". No one likes to leave his home and family behind, while he travels halfway around the world-but we knew we had to share our part of the burden our friends had been bearing for so long in order that we might prepare.

The final stakes of our foothold on America were withdrawn on the evening of October 5, 1944. A short train ride and a little excursion on a ferry saw us to the loading piers of New Yorks harbor. There was not quite as much feeling in regard to embarking as might be expected since everyone was having an enormous struggle getting his equipment aboard. Everyone was lugging along just a few extra items he was told not to bring, and as a result everyone was just a little overloaded.

The morning of the sixth saw us out to sea. For many, this trip would be the first sea voyage. Everyone had his own version of where we were going-every version was well distributed among ones friends and anyone



else who would listen. Although the George Washington was quite a large ship many men soon joined the "Green Gills Club" — all charter members were given full and undisputed spots by the rail. There was a lot of excitement when at last the shores of Africa came into view. Everyone rushed to the starboard side to get his first glimpse of a foreign land. Once again the men crowded the deck when we sailed into the harbor of Marseille after fourteen days at sea. Now we would see action-gone were the rumors the 100th would never go over.

The coming of night on the twentieth of October saw us climbing down the side of our transport into the landing craft tossing on the dark water below. Our first combat action came a few minutes later in the form of an air raid. Everyone joked and thought it amusing. Stories were immediately circulated that "Berlin Sally" had announced our arrival. Everyone did his best to keep from knocking his neighbor down as we stood in the tossing landing craft waiting for the all clear. When the raid was over, our landing barge dumped us in a jumbled mass on Callahan Beach. We were now, for the first time, on foreign soil. Departing from the beach as quickly as possible we headed for our bivouac area some ten miles away. We marched through the winding streets of Marseille, and with every step we experienced a new sight. The houses were of a type we had never before seen, on the streets could be seen men wearing turbans and long robes. These turbaned men were the first of the many fierce Morrocan and Free French troops we were to see later. When finally we reached our area everyone sagged down to the ground, which was wet from the light falling rain. However, not even the water running down the mens necks could keep them from sleeping that night. In the morning we set up camp and awaited our orders to move up to the front.

A light training schedule accompanied the preparing of our guns for action; the drivers and mechanics worked long hours getting our vehicles ready to move and at last on October the 30th we moved out for St. Helene and the front. Long days of riding followed as we passed through Valence and Dijon and on November 7th we arrived in St. Helene. Hardly a day



passed without some rain falling. Everyone was wet and cold most of the time but we managed to make light of it in view of the necessity.

The Germans by this time were sticking their chin out in the Thiaville sector and it was figured that now was the time to work them over. The line companies were moved into positions just to the left of Bertrachamps and it was here we ran into our first fight. Cannon Company suffered the first casualty in the Regiment when Edward Soprych, who was manning an OP, was killed. By the 18th of November we had moved to Clairupt France where we fired mission after mission in support of the men rolling into Rayon L'Tape. Occasionally counter battery was withstood, without serious damage. Men became veteran fighters in a matter of a few short hours — such was the fighting. By this time almost everyone realized that he could be hurt and a little bit more caution was becoming apparent in the men.

Rayon L'Tape's defenders soon gave way and we started rolling faster. The Germans must have seen the handwriting on the wall because by the 29th of November we had fought through Moyier Moutier, Senones, Dossenheim and Ingweiler. We then took just a little time to lick our wounds; in actuality the period of rest was only a matter of hours. However, for the men who had been wet to the skin most of the time for weeks, just a little rest and warmth was a Godsend.

The fighting around Bitche came as the result of our next movement which saw us through Reipertsweiler and Milch. With our guns set up at Peter Phillip, which we occupied on the 17th of December, we initiated an attempt to neutralize the pillboxes of Campe De Bitche. On the 22nd of December we were replaced in the line and we moved to Petite Rederching. Two days later we moved again, this time to Heidersmuhl where we spent Christmas firing harassing missions. The following day we moved to Rohrback.

Up in the north the Germans were preparing for their last big push, numerous enemy patrols probed at our lines looking for a weak spot. On New Years Day the Germans to our front started a push to regain



Rohrbach. Rimmling was as far as they could get through. Our lines held for a few days around the exposed positions in Rimmling and then we fell back about a thousand yards to consolidate our positions and cover our exposed flank to the left. The backbone of the German push had been broken however, and the fighting soon eased up.

We returned to Petite Rederching on the 31st of January and set our guns up just outside of town. We then maintained a winter line for the next five weeks firing intermittently day and night. "Petite" was left behind on the 12th of March when we moved out on the final attack which carried us over the Rhine and into Germany. A quick succession of towns passed by without much fighting of note. After passing Neumel, Schorbach and Waldhausen we finally passed over the border into Germany. Little action was then seen until the 7th of April when we fired over fifteen hundred rounds in order to repel a counter-attack just outside of Frankenbach. The battle grew hotter and the fighting had become intense when we reached Heilbronn on the 13th of April. Heilbronn was what might be called the turning point of our little war because after that the opposition was on a rather steep decline. After a series of moves which carried us through Neulautern, Bruden, Altmanweiler, Heimingen and Plochingen we arrived in Stuttgart on the 26th of April. On the 30th of April we moved to Esslingen where we saw the end of the war come a few days later. At last had come the peace for which we had all fought for so long.

---





COLONEL RICHARD G. PRATHER

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER

*West Point Academy-class of 1924. During his 20 years military service, Col. Prather has been associated with three of the divisions key officers at various assignments. Upon his graduation from west Point and assignment to the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Fort Benning, he was placed in a company commanded by Withers A. Burress, then company commander and now, as Major General, commander of the 100<sup>th</sup> Division.*

*After serving initially with the 29<sup>th</sup> Div. at Ft. Benning, Col. Prather was on duty successfully in the Phillipines, with the 45<sup>th</sup> Inf.; at Fort Hoyle; at Fort Sam Houston; Fort George E. Meade; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.*

*Attended Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth in 1938.*

*Col. Prather is a graduate of both the Tank Course and company officers at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, and the motor Transport School, Holabird, Md.; as well as a graduate of the Command and General Staff School.*

*Became Commander, 397<sup>th</sup> Infantry, May, 1945.*









JAMES S. CHANGARIS  
COMPANY COMMANDER

*Entered west Point Academy July 1, 1939*

*Graduated January, 1943*

*Assigned Basic Officers course, Ft. Benning January, 1943*

*Assigned to 100<sup>th</sup> Division, Rifle company May, 1943*

*Promoted to First Lieutenant, May, 1943*

*Completed Cannon Course, Fort Benning*

*Appointed Executive Officer, Cannon Co., 398<sup>th</sup> Infantry*

*Assigned Cannon Co., 397<sup>th</sup> Inf.*

*Appointed Commanding Officer, 397<sup>th</sup> Cannon Co. January 26, 1945*

*Promoted to Captain, May 16, 1945*







## COMBAT CANNON

---

Designed expressly for close support of Infantry units, the Cannon Companys' 105 mm. howitzer combined the dexterity and mobility of a light artillery piece with the effectiveness of heavier weapons.

Essentially, the 105 mm. howitzer, M-3, as our piece is technically labeled, is a composite of two other artillery pieces. Made up of a 105 mm. tube, slightly modified — — mounted on a 75 mm. gun carriage, the M-3 becomes a highly satisfactory weapon for close Infantry support.

Characteristics include the facts that the 105 mm. howitzer, M-3 is a high trajectory weapon with a sliding wedge type breechblock; also, that sighting equipment is provided for both direct and indirect fire. The howitzer, with a carriage of the split trail type and equipped with pneumatic tires, is designed for towing behind its' 1½ ton prime mover.

In comparison with other artillery, our cannon is definitely a lightweight piece, weighing but 2674 pounds. Its perfect balance and agility over any terrain makes possible a mobility heretofore unknown to supporting weapons. Its stability and consistency in operation makes it an ideal weapon for firing upon pinpoint targets, which is highly important in these days of close — in fighting.

The howitzer uses a semi-fixed type of ammunition, which includes a projectile, weighing 33 lbs., and a cartridge case. The propelling charges, five in all, which cause the projectile to be propelled from the piece to the desired point, and to be burst there, are contained in cloth bags inside the cartridge case, which is equipped with a primer and is fitted loosely to the projectile; thus the projectile can be easily removed from the cartridge case, when it is necessary to remove one or more charges depending on the desired muzzle velocity and trajectory.

The efficiency and accuracy of the 105 mm. howitzer depends on the skill and resourcefulness of the gun crew. In combat many obstacles, which had never been encountered in training, had to be overcome and hurdled.

A good gun crew consists of men skilled in the duties assigned to them; well-disciplined, with initiative and courage to face all hardships and dangers which they may be called on to face. A good weapon, plus good men to operate it, is a combination hard to beat, a fact to which the enemy can attest.







THE CANNON

IN COMBAT





Combat radiomen



Bore Clear



Shell H. E.



The G. I. Cooks





Taking a break



Mud — Beater



Aiming point this instrument



Liberated Burp Gun





Meditation



Testing the Range finder



Roger and out



Charge 5





Rations come in



Tank Ridden Infantry



Shaping Up



Lefty and Driscoll





Our Gun



Eager Beavers



Combat Driver



Maintenance in the field





Captured equipment



MUD!



The Cannoneers

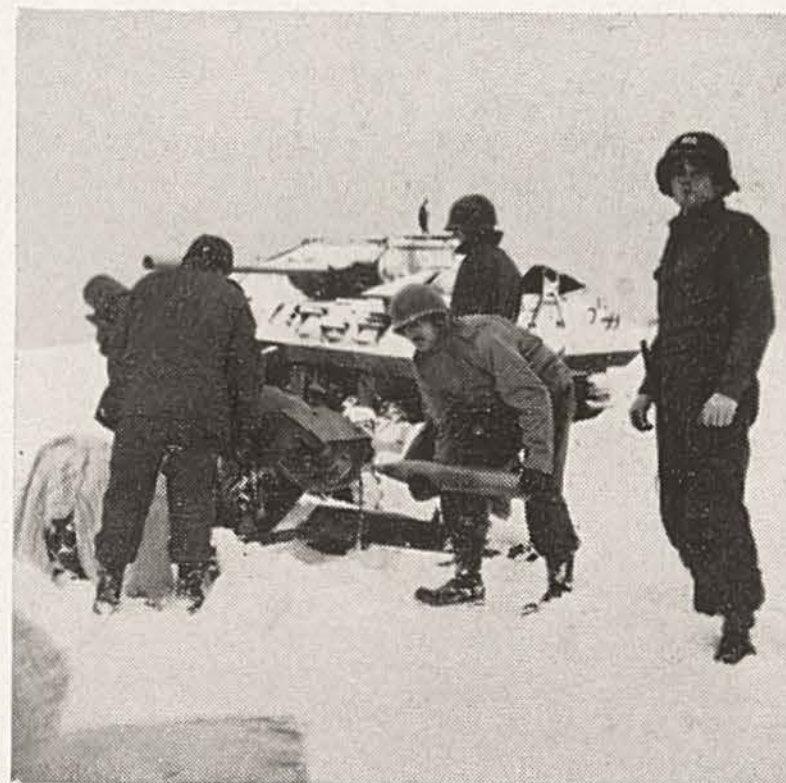


Fire Mission!





Ready to Go.



War in Winter



Fire!



The Open Road





Care and Cleaning



Relaxing



Battlefield Decoration



Street fighting in Heilbronn





**JOSEPH F. Kinnan**  
 October 27, 1942     Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 TRANSPORTATION OFFICER  
 Commissioned at Fort Benning, Ga.  
 June 6, 1944  
 Bronze Star with Cluster



**ROSS H. BEARUP**  
 April 15, 1943     Lansing, Michigan  
 Commissioned at Fort Benning, Ga.  
 February 18, 1945





**JAMES E. DESROSIERS**

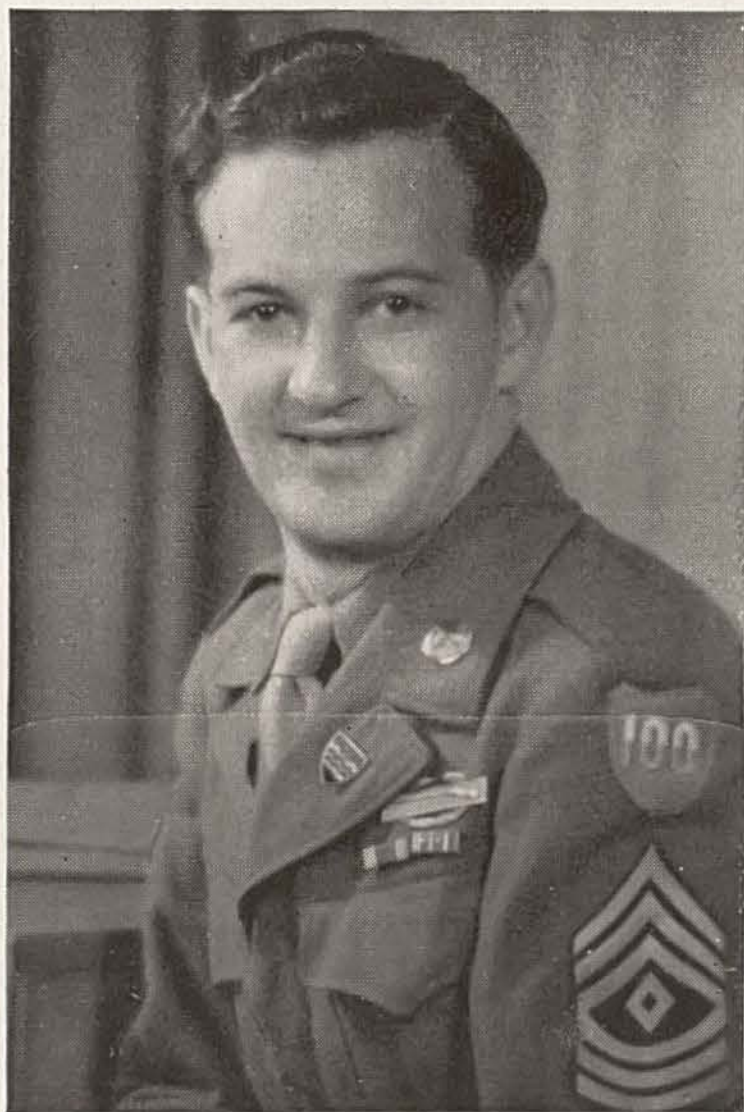
October 21, 1942 New York, N.Y.

RECONNAISSANCE OFFICER

Commissioned at Fort Benning, Ga.

June 10, 1943

Bronze Star — Presidential Citation

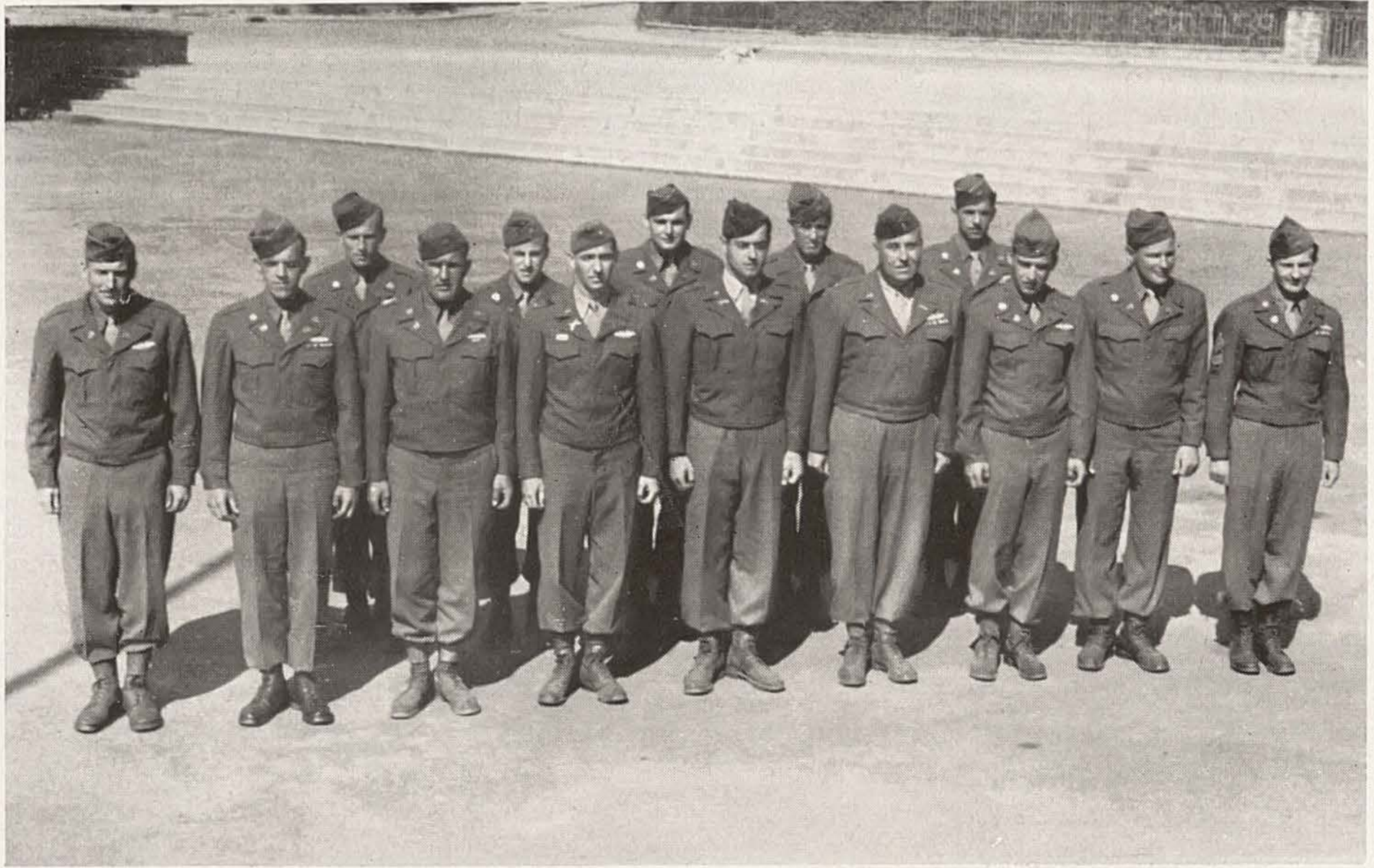


**THOMAS J. RIORDAN**  
"TOMMY"

First Sergeant

Dec. 10, 1942 Jersey City, N.J.





COMPANY HEADQUARTERS





**SAYLOR J. McGHEE**  
"MAC"

Reconnaissance Sergeant

June 7, 1941 Harrisburg, Pa.



**HARRY MOLLER**  
"CHOPPERS"

Supply Sergeant

Nov. 28, 1942 New York, N.Y.



**ADAM E. ENGELMANN**  
"PENSY"

Mess Sergeant

June 12, 1942 Philadelphia, Pa.



**RAYMOND KRAFT**  
"RAY"

Motor Sergeant

June 12, 1942 Union City, N.J.





**WILLIAM KLIMON**  
"BILL"

Communications Sergeant  
Nov. 21, 1942 Worcester, Mass.



**ARNOLD M. GAYLORD**  
"GAY"

Motor Mechanic  
Dec. 14, 1942 Unionville, Conn.



**EDWARD L. RIDGWAY**  
"RIP"

First Cook  
Nov. 24, 1942 Woodstown, N.J.





**HAROLD F. BRYANT**  
"SADIE"

Cook

January 10, 1941      Oneanta, N.Y.



**JOSEPH M. WOLAK**  
"JOE"

Radio Operator

Nov. 9, 1942      Hartford, Conn



**SAMUEL H. RHODES**  
"DUSTY"

Fire Direction Chief

April 7, 1943      Reidsville, N.C.





**STEPHEN J. WASIELEWSKI**  
"STEVE"

Cook

December 18, 1942    Trenton, N.J.



**ROBERT N. MARTIN**  
"BOB"

Cook

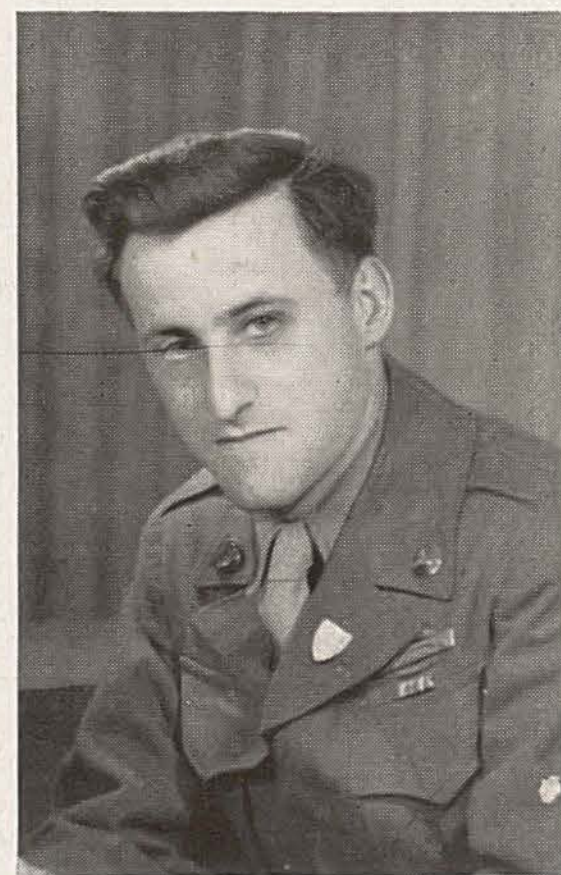
Nov. 2, 1942    Connerville, Okla.



**FRANK B. RASO**  
"ROSSI"

Cook

Dec. 7, 1942    Bridgeport, Conn.



**THOMAS P. MARTIN**  
"TOMMY"

Wireman

Nov. 23, 1942    Manchester, Conn.

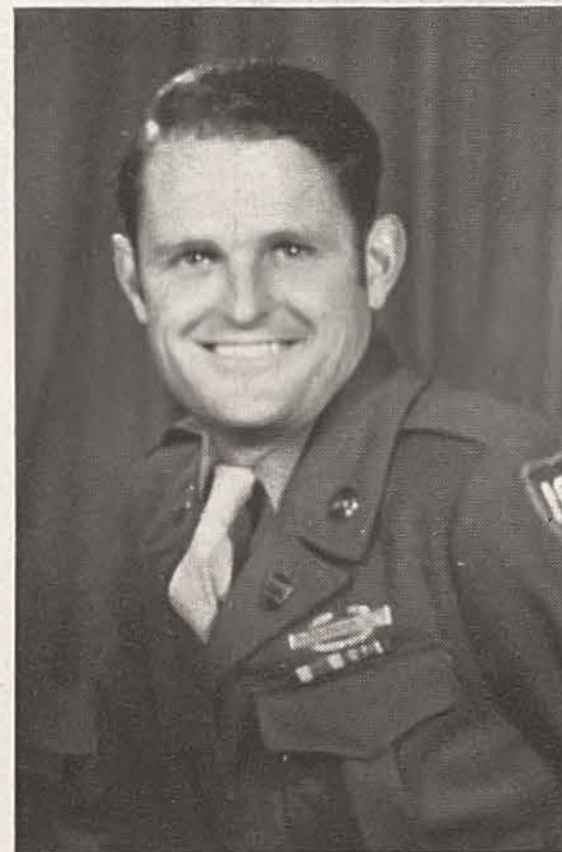




WILLIAM D. McKINLEY  
"MAC"

Jeep Driver

November 8, 1942 Boston, Mass.



CHARLIE B. PATTERSON  
"LEFTY"

Jeep Driver

November 10, 1942 Gaffney, S.C.



SEYMOUR V. HALL, JR.  
"JUNE"

Truck Driver

Dec. 9, 1942 Sharon Springs, N.Y.



CLARENCE L. MILLER  
"SHARPY"

Wireman

Oct. 8, 1943 Northampton, Pa.





**GEORGE DIMAS**  
"DEEM"

Truck Driver

November 25, 1942 Denver, Colo.



**GERALD W. SCHULTZ**  
"SCHULTZIE"

Wireman

February 26, 1941 Rabena, Mich.



**VERNON L. TYLER**  
"VERNIE"

Jeep Driver

Feb. 8, 1943 Los Angeles, Calif.

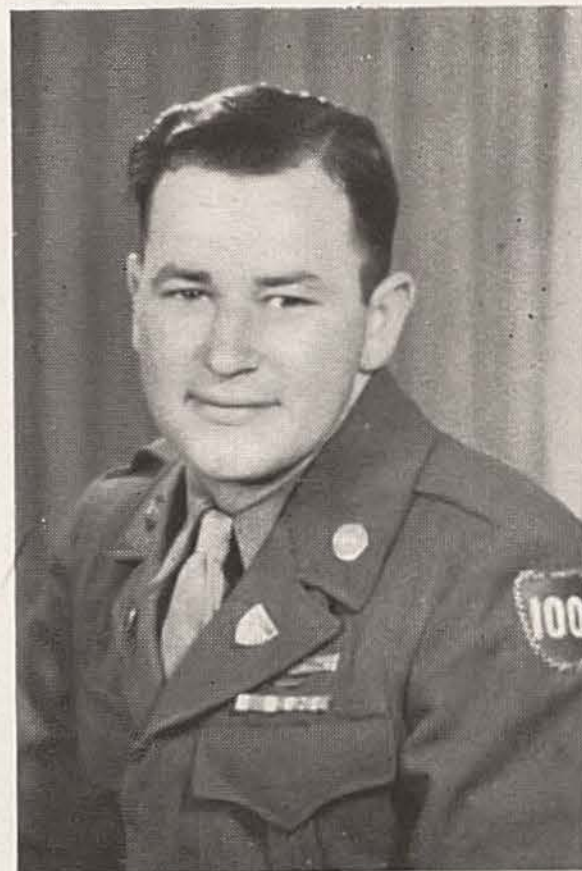




**CHESTER D. KLIMEK**  
"CHET"

Mail Clerk

December 18, 1942 New York, N.Y.



**THOMAS A. SURRATT**  
"TOM"

Jeep Driver

Sept. 2, 1943 Winston-Salem, N.C.



**ALEXANDER NYIRI**  
"SHINE"

Assistant Motor Mechanic

October 27, 1942 Roebling, N.J.





**RALPH G. EDWARDS**  
 "EDDIE"  
 Armor Artificer  
 Aug. 16, 1943 Newton Hlds., Mass.



**JOHN T. HIGGINS**  
 "HIGGY"  
 Company Clerk  
 December 2, 1942 Maynard, Mass.



**MAXIMILIAN GELLER**  
 "MAXIE"  
 Bugler  
 December 7, 1942 New York, N.Y.





**ROBERT E. KIRSCH**  
"BOB"

Radio Operator

July 2, 1943      Philadelphia, Pa.



**FANGIE E. JONES, JR.**  
"JONESIE"

Medical Aid Man

May 10, 1944      Chaffee, Mo.

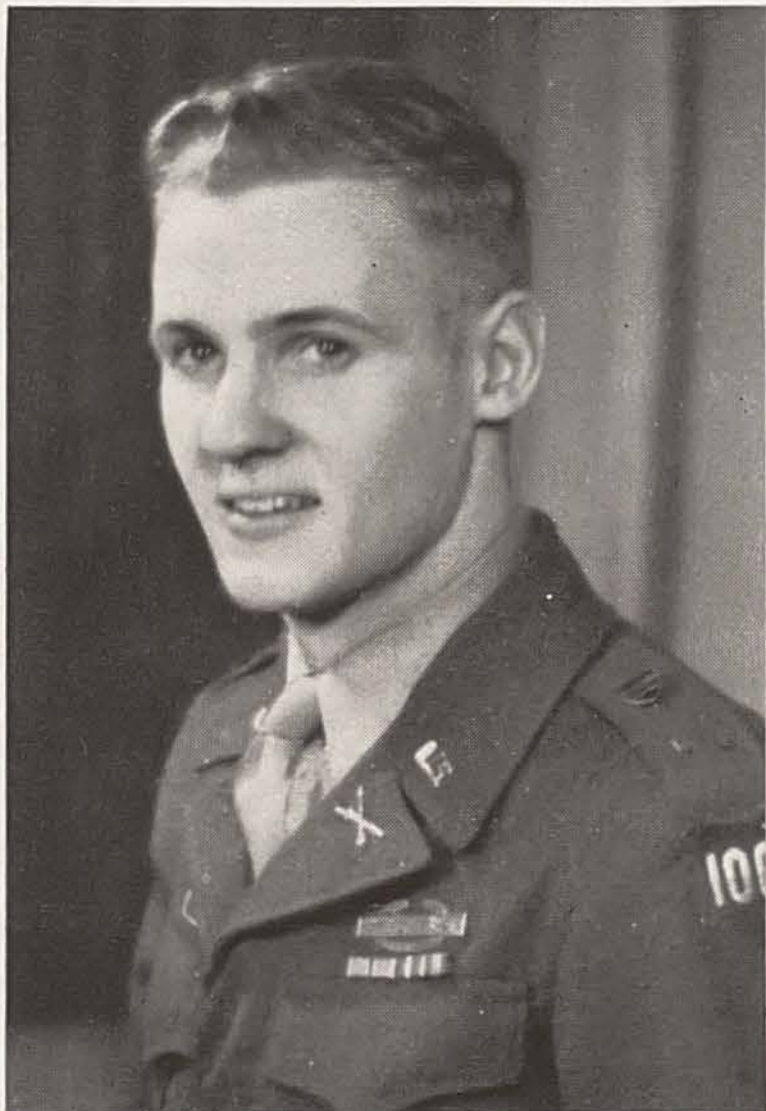


**BENJAMIN E. AFFRICANO**  
"BENNY"

Wireman

July 13, 1943      Coventry, Conn.





**JAMES P. HARTLEY**  
 February 14, 1944      Miami, Fla.  
 FIRST PLATOON LENDER  
 Commissioned on Battlefield at Bad  
 Cannstatt, Germany, May 2, 1945  
 Bronze Star — Presidential Citation



**JOHN P. SABATIE**  
 "LONG JOHN"  
 Platoon Sergeant  
 December 7, 1942      Maywood, N.J.





FIRST PLATOON









PAUL W. O'NEILL  
"POP"

Section Sergeant

December 14, 1942 Chelsea, Mass.



WILLIAM BERBERIAN  
"BEARY"

Section Sergeant

May 26, 1943 Harvey, Ill.



WARREN W. McNALLY  
"MAC"

Artillery Mechanic

November 25, 1942 Passaic, N.J.



GEORGE DZURISIN  
"SHORTHORN"

Gunner Corporal

December 1, 1942 Trenton, N.J.

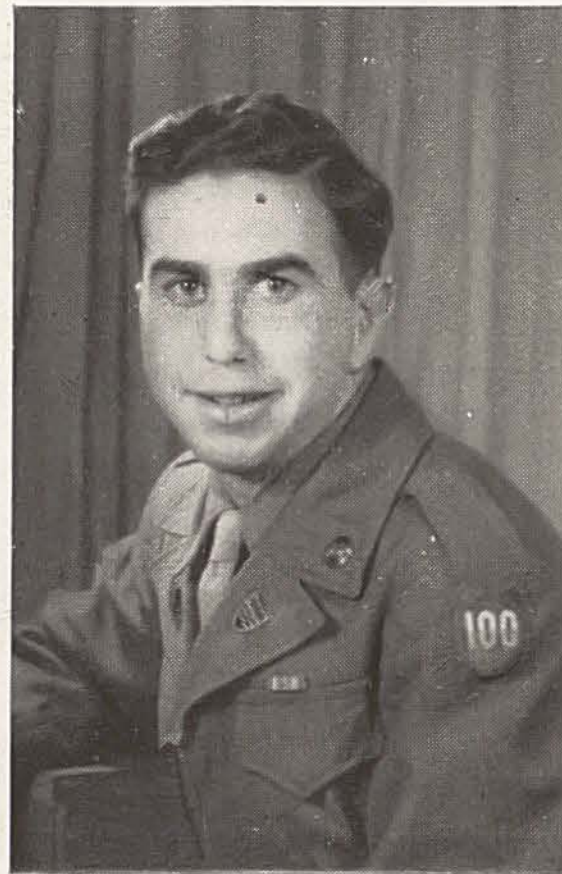




**CHARLES FREDERICKS**  
"CHARLIE"

Truck Driver

April 21, 1941      Washington, D.C.



**ANTHONY R. DANCA**  
"TONY"

Cannoneer

August 13, 1943      Woburn, Mass.



**LUTHER T. LUCAS**  
"JOHNNIE"

Cannoneer

January 23, 1943      Wilson, N.C.



**JAMES WOODS**  
"BUSTER"

Cannoneer

November 24, 1942      Wooton, Ky.





**JACK D. SHEPARD**

"TEX"

Cannoneer

January 5, 1944      Texon, Texas



**ROBERT E. MAIER**

"BOB"

Cannoneer

December 7, 1942      Albany, N.Y.



**WALTER GEIER**

"PETE"

Cannoneer

August 31, 1943      Cincinnati, Ohio



**HARRY CONROY**

"MUSHY"

Cannoneer

August 6, 1943      Philadelphia, Pa.





**KELLY CORNETT**  
"JAKE"

Cannoneer

January 15, 1943 Fort Knox, Ky.



**JOSEPH P. PALERMO**  
"PIPPY"

Cannoneer

November 2, 1944 Philadelphia, Pa.



**WALTER E. SIMPSON**  
"WALT"

Cannoneer

November 27, 1942 Monroe, N.C.





**GEORGE J. STANCO**  
"BOMBER"

Ammunition Handler  
Dec. 7, 1942 Glen Cove, L.I., N.Y.



**PAUL S. EGGERT**  
"SAMMY"

Cannoneer  
Dec. 11, 1942 Indianapolis, Ind.



**JOSEPH BELASKI**  
"POP"

Truck Driver  
Dec. 12, 1942 Hartford, Conn.





**DONALD FORRESTER**  
"SCOTTY"

Medical Aid Man  
December 9, 1942 Jersey City, N.J.



**FRANK MAIO**  
"CHEECH"

Cannoneer  
June 25, 1941 Brooklyn, N.Y.



**LEWIS JONES**  
"DOC"

Cannoneer  
Oct. 13, 1944 Barboursville, Ky.



**VICTOR L. BENVENUTO**  
"BENNY"

Cannoneer  
Dec. 1, 1942 Greenwich, Conn.





**RALPH BOWEN**

"BRUNO"

Wireman

March 25, 1941 Chicago, Ill.



**LAURENCE STINSON**

"LARRY"

Truck Driver

April 4, 1942 Waple Plain, Minn.



**FRANK A. PECHILIO**

"PIC"

Cannoneer

December 5, 1942 Riverside, N.J.



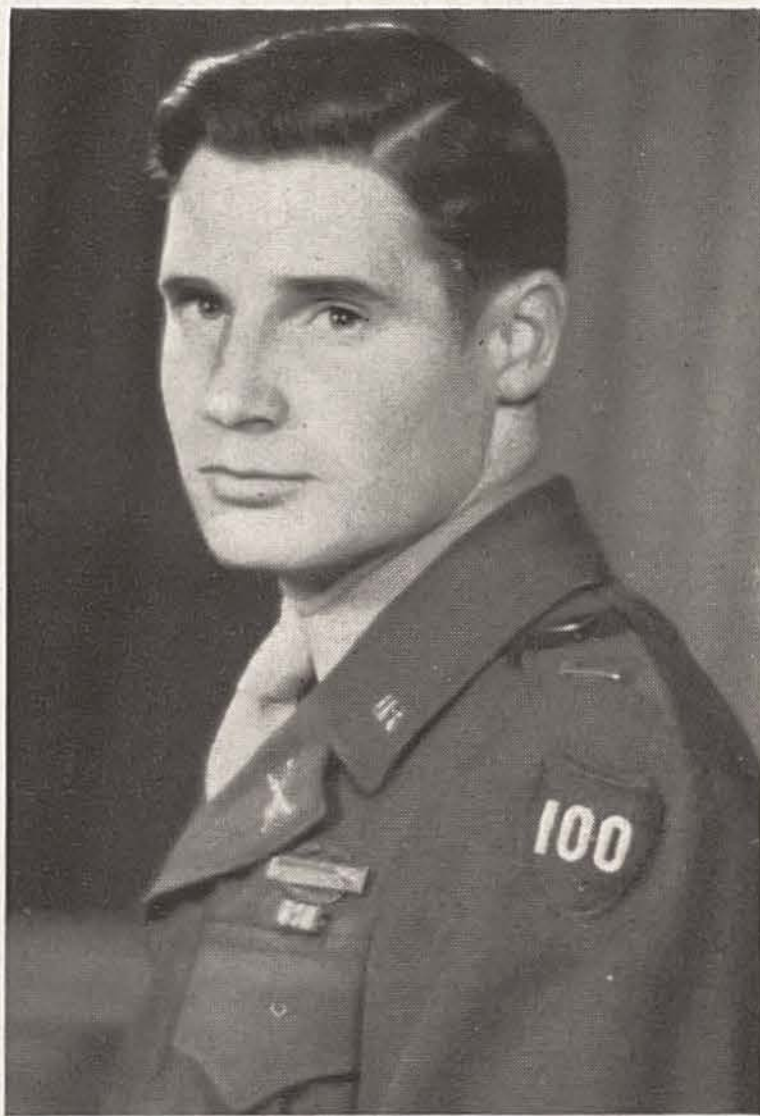
**ALVIN LONG**

"MONTANA"

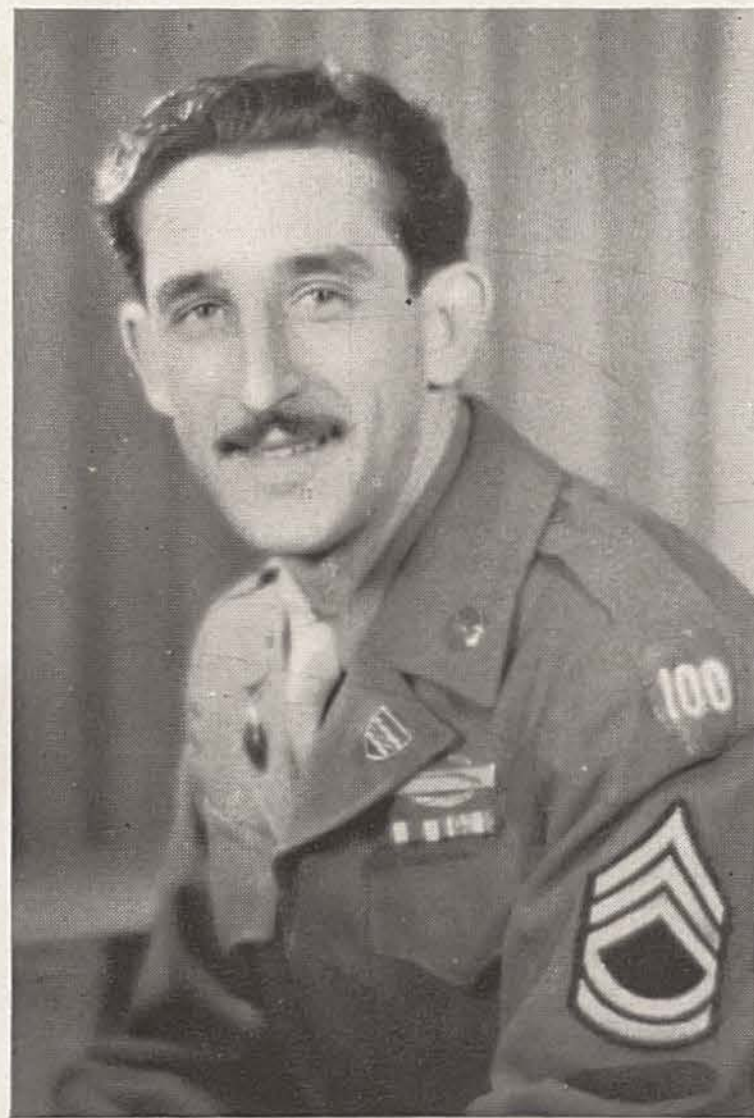
Cannoneer

December 1, 1942 Frazier, Mont.





**EDWARD M. PETERSON**  
 March 29, 1943    Grand Forks, N.D.  
 SECOND PLATOON LEADER  
 Commissioned on battlefield at  
 Sarrebourg, France, Feb. 18, 1945  
 Bronze Star .



**PAT M. SPINOSA**  
 "SPINNER"  
 Platoon Sergeant  
 June 28, 1938            Rochester, N.Y.





SECOND PLATOON





JOHN L. SUMMERS, JR.  
"BIG JOHN"

Section Sergeant  
December 1, 1942 Memphis, Tenn.



JOSEPH F. TOTTERER  
"JOE"

Section Sergeant  
Oct. 1, 1942 Bloomington, Ill.



ARTHUR KUHN  
"CUTIE"

Gunner Corporal  
December 3, 1942 Boston, Mass.



LILBURN D. WALLS  
"LUCY"

Radio Operator  
August 24, 1942 Waynoka, Okla.





**PAUL E. WILSON**  
"CURLY"

Gunner Corporal  
Nov. 13, 1942      Gainesville, Ga.



**IRVING BORRESEN**  
"BO"

Instrument Corporal  
June 6, 1943      Springfield Gard. N.Y.



**WALTER E. SCRIBNER**  
"AIT"

Agent Corporal  
August 20, 1942      Baltimore, Ind.



**JOHN S. NICHOLS**  
"NICK"

Truck Driver  
July 23, 1943      Harrisburg, Va.





**GEORGE F. STEFFEN**  
"STEFF"

Radio Operator

Nov. 1, 1943      Milwaukee, Wis.



**JOSEPH YANDERSITZ**  
"JIMMY"

Cannoneer

December 10, 1942      New York, N.Y.



**RICHARD J. GAJEWSKI**  
"GUY"

Cannoneer

November 5, 1941      Chicago, Ill.





**JOSEPH T. METE**  
"JOE"

Cannoneer

Dec. 7, 1942      Bridgeport, Conn.



**ROY STEINBERG**  
"FRITZ"

Cannoneer

June 7, 1943      Staten Island, N.Y.



**WILLIAM P. PARKER**  
"WILL"

Cannoneer

November 30, 1944      Llewellyn, Pa.





**GEORGE H. HOUGHTON**  
"HOOT"

Cannoneer

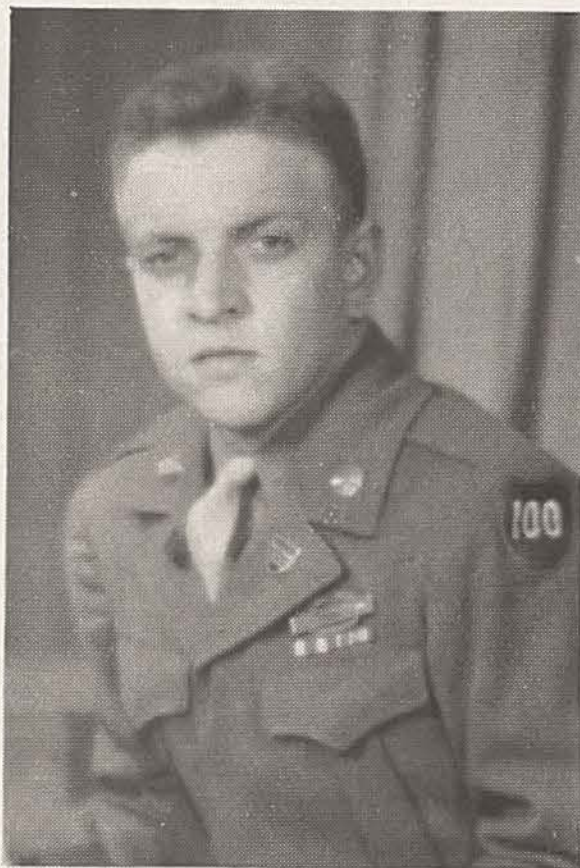
December 1, 1942    Franconia, N.H.



**SOTIRIOUS J. PERUTSAKOS**  
"STEVE"

Jeep Driver

December 11, 1942    Dover, N.H.



**WILLIAM G. SUECHTING**  
"BILLY"

Cannoneer

March 15, 1943    Milwaukee, Wis.



**ROBERT E. MOSS**  
"MOOSE"

Medical Aid Man

Dec. 7, 1942    Asbury Park, N.J.





**GEORGE H. LACCORN**  
"PETE"

Cannoneer

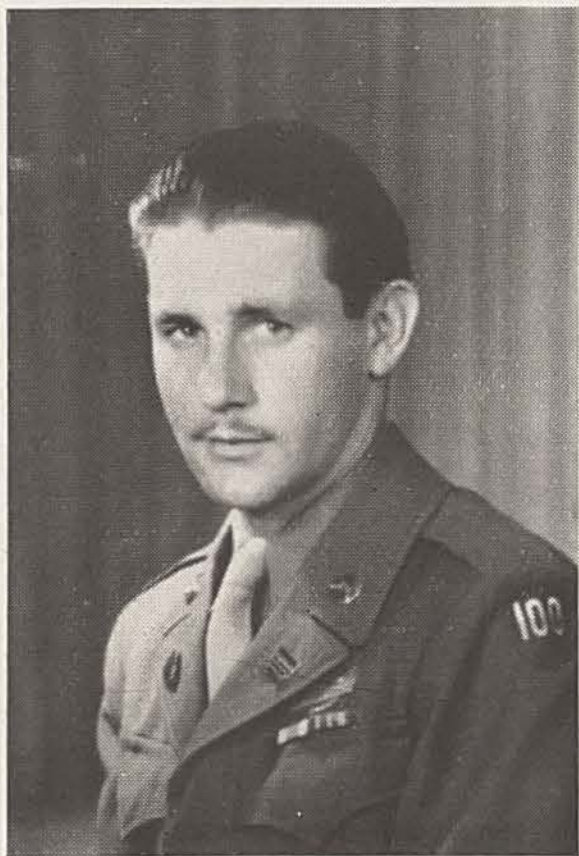
November 29, 1942 Canarsie, N.Y.



**ANDREW M. TREMKO**  
"TIMMY"

Truck Driver

January 23, 1942 Taylor, Pa.



**GEORGE RUEGG**  
"LUCKY"

Cannoneer

Dec. 7, 1942 Glendale, L.I., N.Y.



**FRED W. COX, JR.**  
"FREDDIE"

Cannoneer

December 15, 1942 Melrose, Mass.





**ROBERT W. SENSER**

August 2, 1943      Mt. Ranier, Md.  
THIRD PLATOON LEADER

Commissioned on battlefield at  
Sarrebouurg, France Feb. 18, 1945

Distinguished Service Cross —  
Purple Heart — Presidential Citation



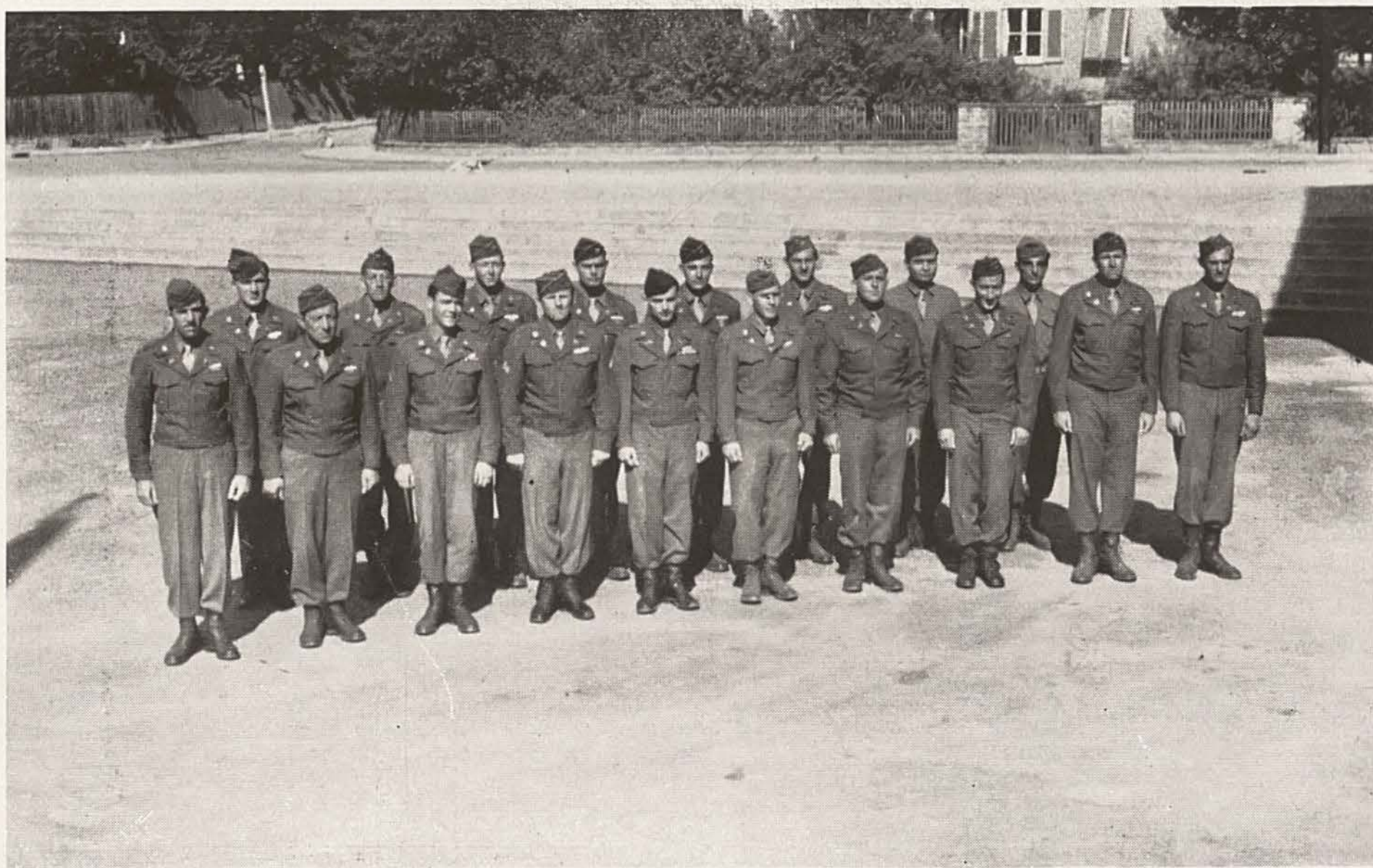
**EDGAR LONGACRE**

"ED"

Platoon Sergeant

December 1, 1942      Audubon, N.J.





THIRD PLATOON





**EARL K. WOOD**  
"WOODY"

Technical Sergeant

July 9, 1941 Orlando, Fla.



**ROLAND JULIEN**  
"FRENCHY"

Section Sergeant

December 12, 1942 Jackman, Maine



**GERARD ELLENBERG**  
"GERRY"

Section Sergeant

May 22, 1943 San Francisco, Calif.



**JACK KEOHANE**  
"EYES"

Artillery Mechanic

December 24, 1942 New York, N.Y.





**WALTER J. OCZKOWSKI**  
"OSSIE"

Radio Operator  
September 16, 1943      Utica, N.Y.



**JOHN T. LOVALLO**  
"JOHNNIE"

Gunner Corporal  
Dec. 17, 1942      Port Chester, N.Y.



**FRANK R. SEDIVY**  
"POLAK"

Gunner Corporal  
December 14, 1942      Bayonne, N.J.



**RALPH F. KROPP**  
"FRECKLES"

Agent Corporal  
February 18, 1943      Detroit, Mich.





**ROBERT R. KELSO**  
"BOB"

Radio Operator

Nov. 30, 1942      Haverhill, Mass.



**MARVIN J. WYNVEEN**  
"WINNIE"

Cannoneer

Feb. 3, 1943      Culver City, Kansas



**ELIX W. SAYLORS**  
"BARRELS"

Truck Driver

October 17, 1942      St. Louis, Mo.





**ROBERT WHITMAN**

"WHIT"

Cannoneer

December 3, 1943 Calveston, Texas



**WILLIAM H. LANDMAN**

"BILL"

Ammunition Handler

Dec. 7, 1942 Floral Park, L.I., N.Y.



**ROGER DE PAOLO**

"ROG"

Cannoneer

Dec. 7, 1942 East Randolph, Mass.





CHARLES DE MARCO

"POP"

Cannoneer

December 9, 1942 New York, N.Y.



EDWARD H. HOLMAN

"BUD"

Cannoneer

July 30, 1943 Erie, Pa



ARNOLD M. STRAND

"ARNIE"

Cannoneer

May 8, 1942 Becker, Minn



DAVID D. DUNSEATH

"DAVE"

Truck Driver

September 17, 1941 Pittsburgh, Pa





**JAMES V. AUGELLO**  
"AUGIE"

Truck Driver

February 27, 1942 Brooklyn, N.Y.



**STEPHEN FUTY**  
"MAD RUSSIAN"

Cannoneer

July 24, 1943 Wilkesbarre, Pa.



**HYMAN OLIVER**  
"SMILEY"

Cannoneer

December 16, 1942 New York, N.Y.



**MARVIN G. ROUPE**  
"RUPPY"

Cannoneer

Dec. 16, 1942 N. Wilkesboro, N.C.





*HE THAT WEARS THE MILITARY ORDER OF  
THE PURPLE HEART HAS GIVEN OF HIS LIFE  
BLOOD AND SHALL FOREVER BE REVERED IN  
THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN*

HERMAN F. ZINN

GEORGE DZURISIN

TERRY RESCZENSKI

TERRANCE E. ANDERSON

ROBERT W. SENSER

SOTIRIOUS J. PERUTSAKOS

ALEX W. GRUSHINSKY

ROBERT E. MAIER

EDWIN S. MYCOCK

CORNELIUS E. DRISCOLL



# COMMUNICATIONS

---

A Cannon Company, like all other units in the Army, comprises a team. Communications form an integral part of the team in the Cannon Company. Without communications, the means by which the eyes at the front give direct support to a unit, the team cannot perform its' mission. Therefore, it is necessary that the eyes can communicate with the guns for maximum results in fulfilling the mission. In that respect, communications performed it's allotted tasks so that the Cannon Company, as a whole, formed a smooth working and efficient team.

Activated originally at Fort Jackson in August of 1943, with limited equipment, the section went into training. Then came the Tennessee Maneuvers and simulated combat conditions. The section trained hard and well; then the division moved to Fort Bragg, N.C. to prepare for overseas shipment. There, with the acquisition of proper equipment it really began to function. Came the periods of acquainting radio operators with their duties and knowledge of their radio sets. For it would be they on whom would fall the burden of maintaining liaison between the observation posts and the guns. The original six men who comprised the group were. Pfc. Harry Moller, now S/Sgt., Pfc. Kelso, now Cpl., Pfc. Kirsch, Pfc. James Hartley, now 2nd. Lt., Pfc. Peterson, now 2nd. Lt., and Pfc. George Steffen. Meanwhile the number 6 and 7 cannoneers, designated as telephone operators for the gun position, underwent their training of laying and maintaining liaison with the F.D.C.

Then one day, training over, and France, combat — — in the Vosges Mountains; relieving the veteran 45th division at their observation posts and then shortly after, the voice of Pfc. Kelso coming in: "Fire Mission, Enemy Personnel." That began an uninterrupted period of superior communications. To these first few men who carried the ball during those first trying days of combat, belongs the credit. Due to the nature of our operations at that time, these men found themselves almost continuously under fire. Yet, they managed to achieve a high standard of proficiency in performance of duty that others were to follow and maintain. Many were the times when terrain features and weather conditions threatened to disrupt the system of communications. However, often extemporaneously devising systems of relays, continual contact was maintained with F.D.C., so that whenever fire was needed to support a unit, it was there.

Utilizing such places as church steeples, natural targets for enemy fire, roofs of houses, and even tops of trees, relays contributed to the prime purpose; that of maintaining liaison and accomplishment of the mission.



F.D.C. had as its chief operator Pfc. Joseph Wolak, now Cpl., who attended the receiver and switchboard. His was the purpose of assuring the operators that communication was functioning, and relaying messages to higher units by wire. Sgt. Klimon, communication Sgt., set up the Message Center and supervised setting up relay stations and all wire communications to higher echelon units and gun positions. The emphasis at this time was placed on radio communications due to the nature of our operations throughout the Vosges Mountains. The Regiment was continuously in the attack and moving rapidly, so that wire communications with the forward moving group was not possible. However, at the termination of the Vosges campaign the operational nature of our mission underwent a change; from offensive to defensive positions along the Maginot Line for the winter.

Therefore, as long as the positions undertaken were to be semi-permanent, communications of a more stable nature could be installed. In view of this a permanent wire crew was formed by Sgt. Moller. It consisted of Cpl. Klimon, Pfc. Thomas Martin, Pfc. Ralph Bowen, Pfc. Ben Affricano and Pfc. Gerald Schultz; a  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton jeep for wire laying, with Pfc. Robert Cantalamessa as driver and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck, with Pfc. George Dimas as driver. It was the duty of this group to install wire communications to the Forward Observer's observation post, in addition to the radios. Already well trained and experienced, this group of troubleshooters maintained all communications throughout the company. Here, too, communications distinguished itself, by keeping at all times a clear liaison to all supporting units and forward observation posts under hazardous conditions. Hardly a day or a night passed but what there would be lines, shattered by enemy artillery, mortar or rocket fire, to be repaired. It was here too that communications began its expansion due to changes in conditions of operations. Changes in personnel caused replacements to be brought in and trained to take over duties vacated; men like Pfc. Anderson, Cpl. Kropp, Pfc. Dortch, who in time attained the same standards set previously.

Came the spring and another offensive started; this time the great offensive through Germany. The advance was rapid and communications were strained to the limits. Men like Cpl. Oczkowski, Pfc. Sheppard, Pfc. Wynveen were added to the already long list of radio operators and left the already familiarly indelible mark on the pages of Cannon Communications History. So efficiently did these teams operate, and so smooth was the cooperation, that never once throughout the whole rapid advance through Germany did the rear units lose control with the forward groups or higher echelons. Communications accepted its' task for accomplishment of our mission and executed them superbly. A hard task well done.



THE WAR -

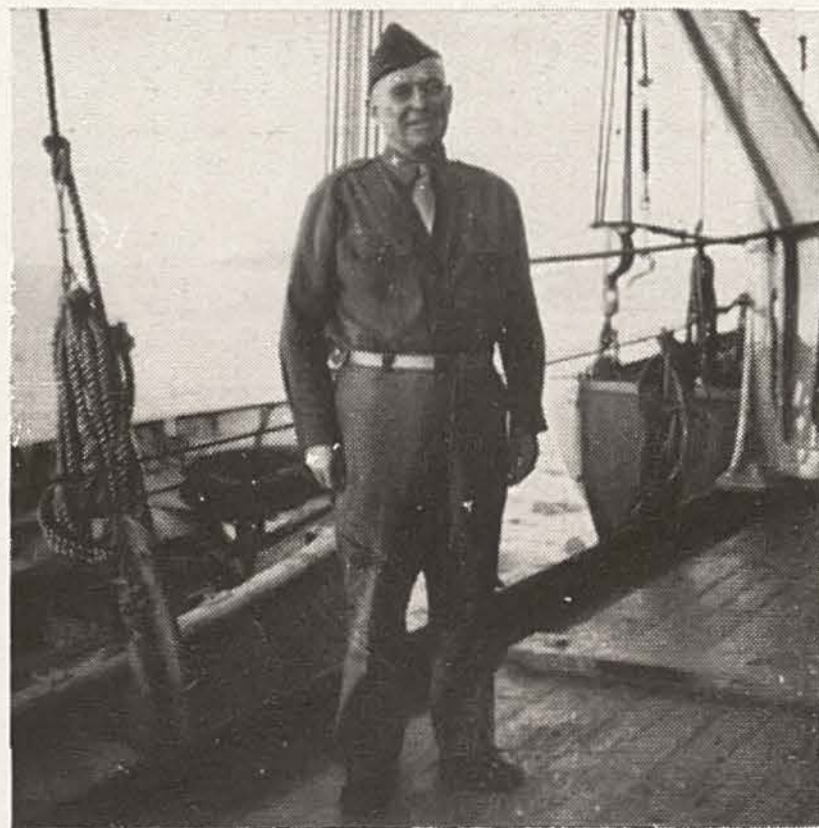
FROM NEW YORK

TO STUTTGART

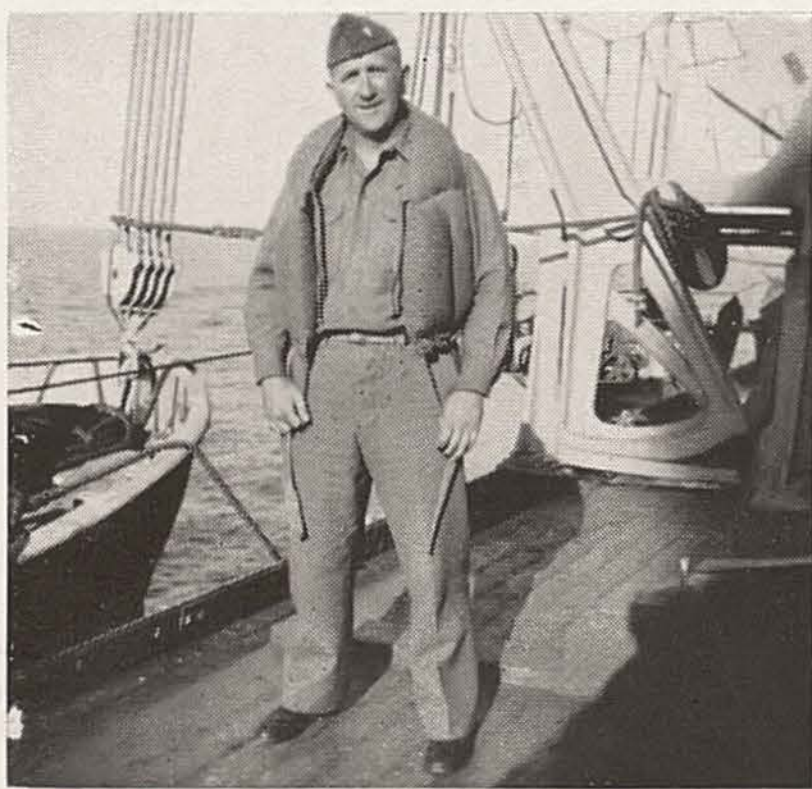




Major General Burress  
and Brig. Gen. Murphy



Colonel Ellis

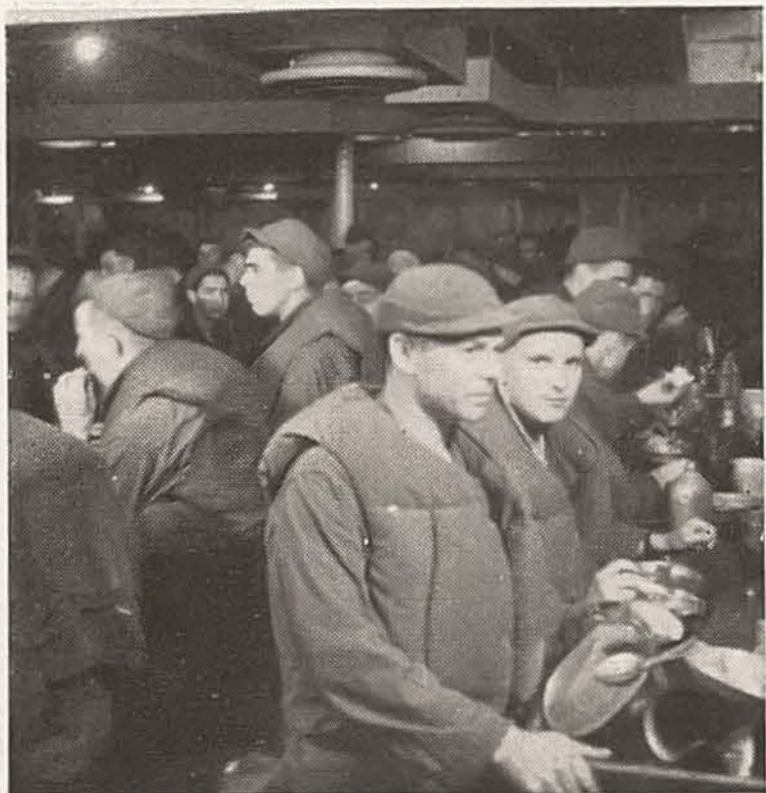


Capt. Doherty  
former C. O.

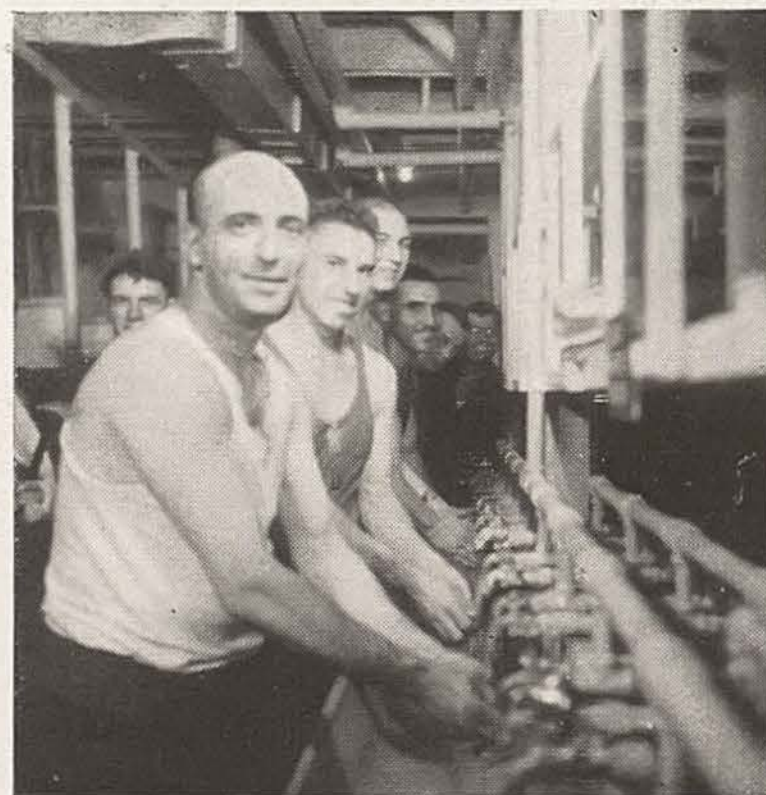


Inspection on boat

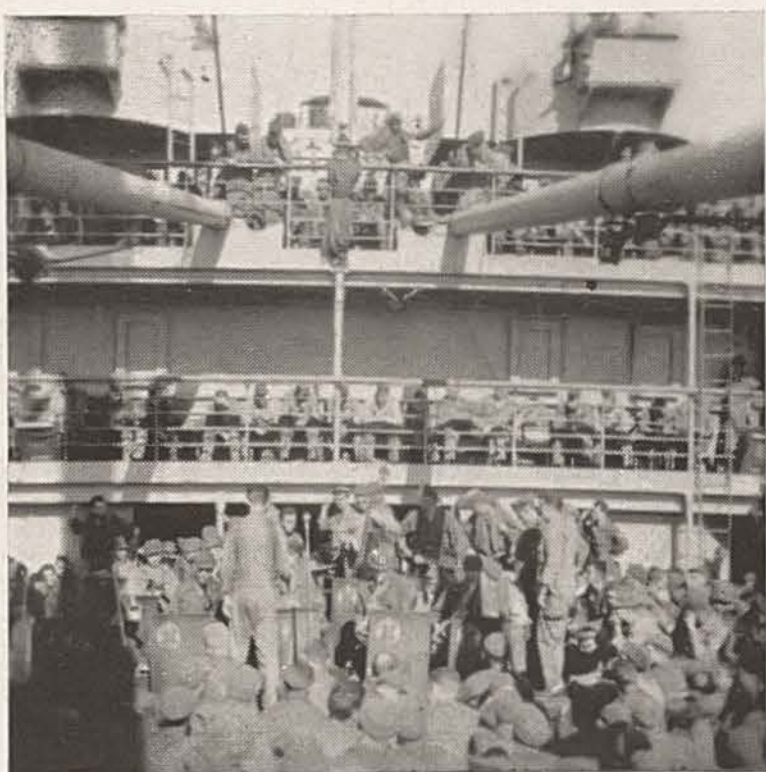




Chow on boat



Salt water shave



Shipboard entertainment



Sweating it out

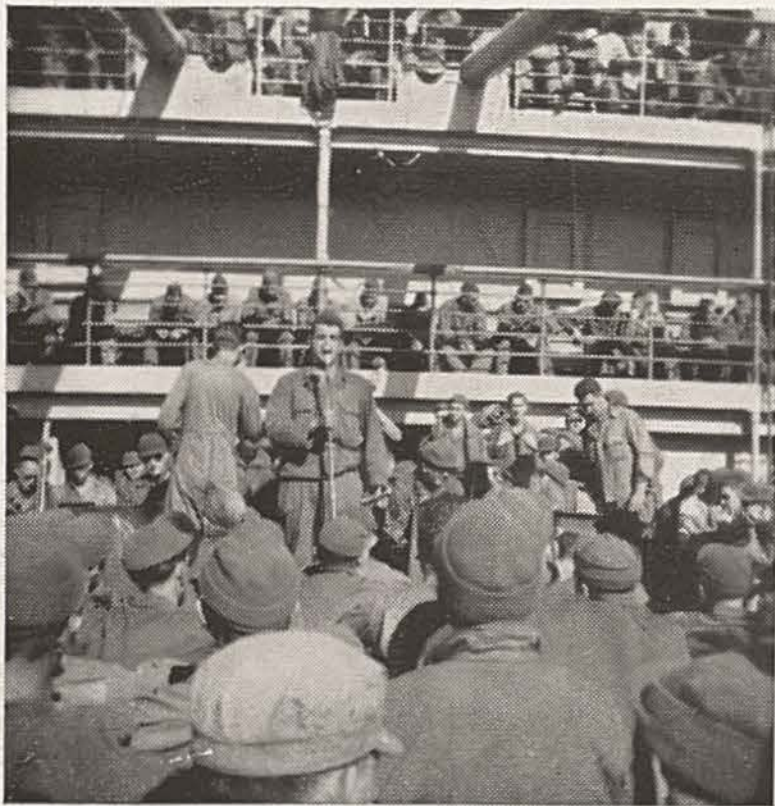




Killing time



Morning Report



The G. I. entertains

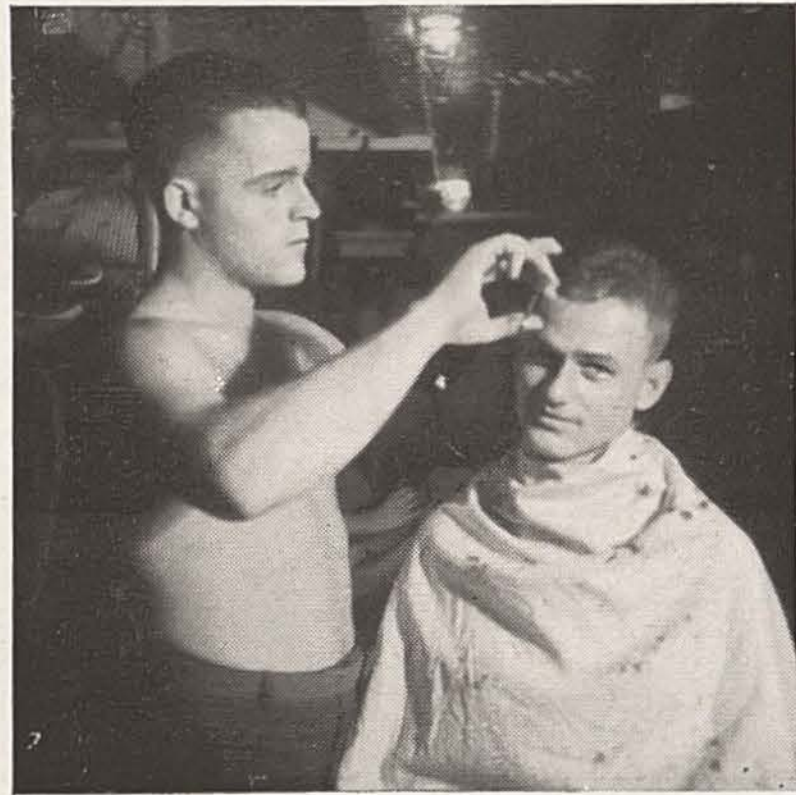


Popular pastime





Kibitzers



G. I. Haircut

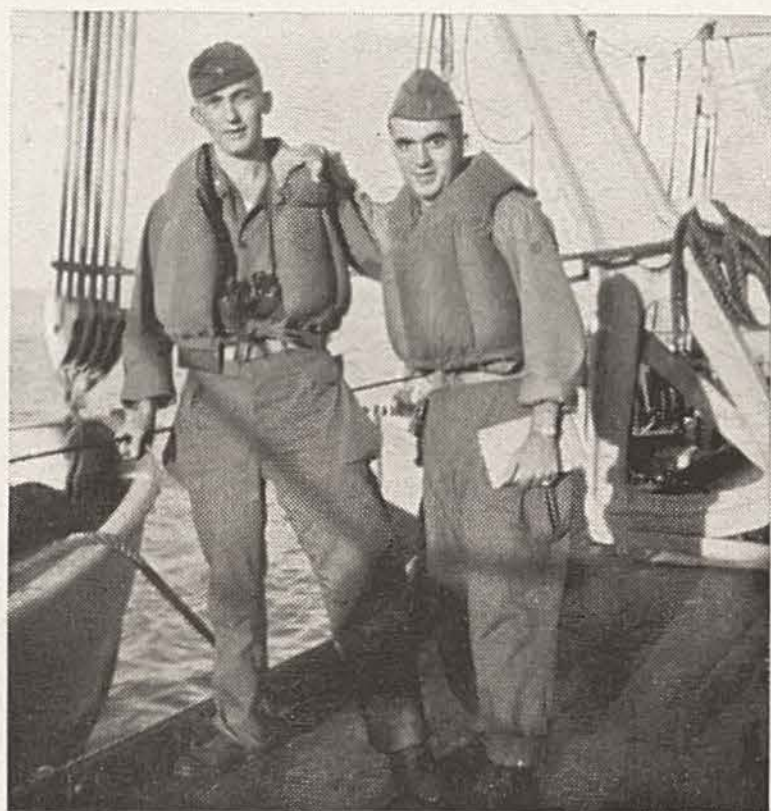


Battle of wits

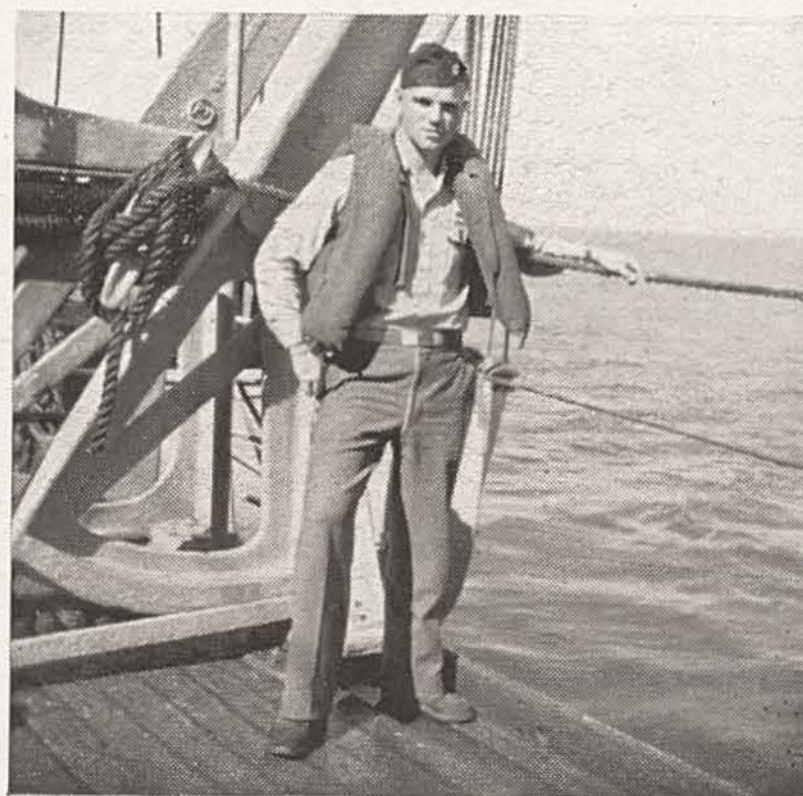


Little Monte Carlo





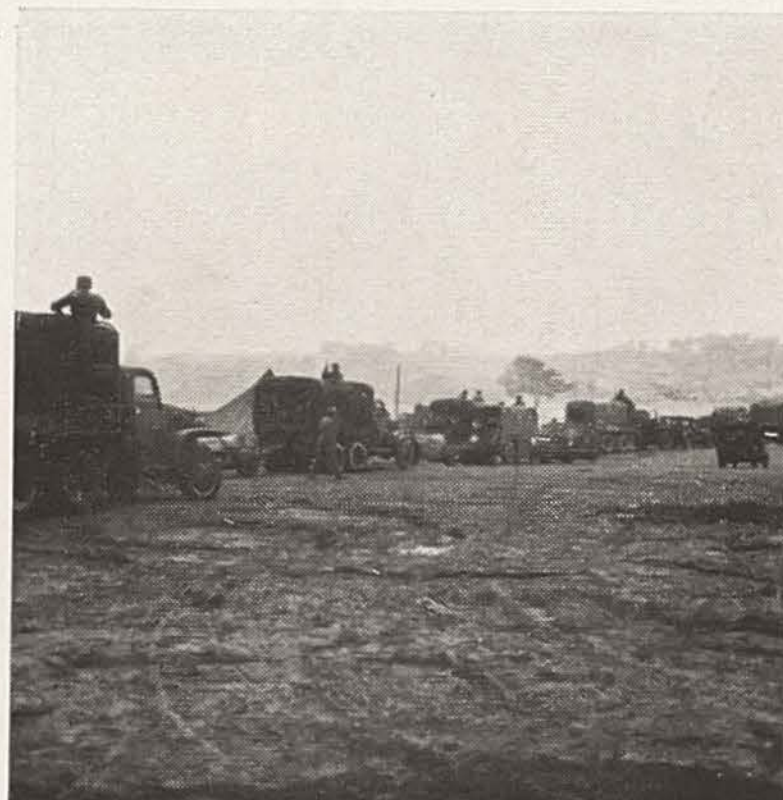
Lt. Nolan and Capt. Changaris



Major Newton



Marseille bound



Marseille Staging Area

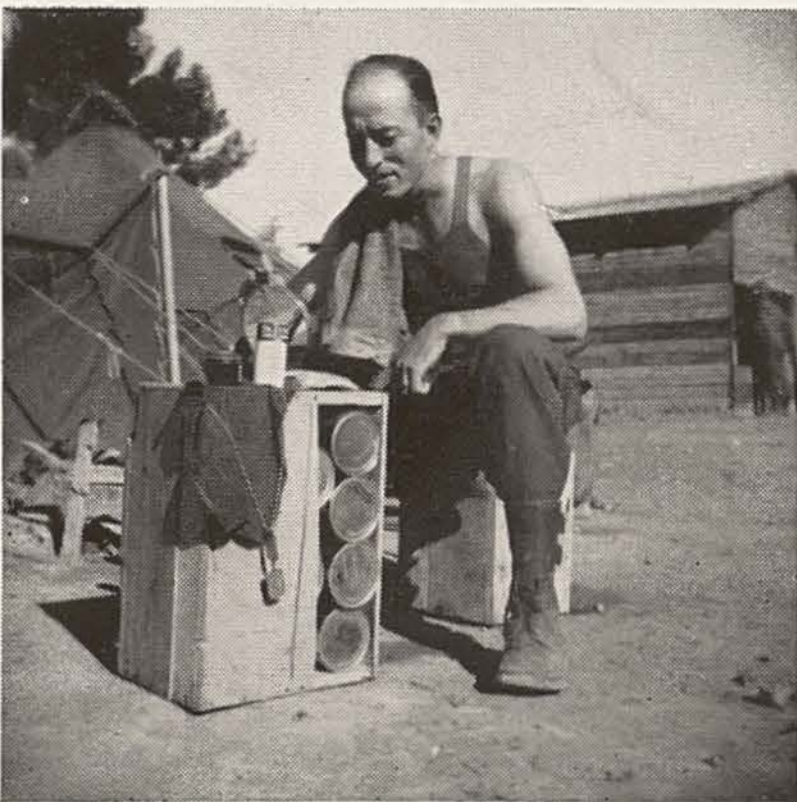




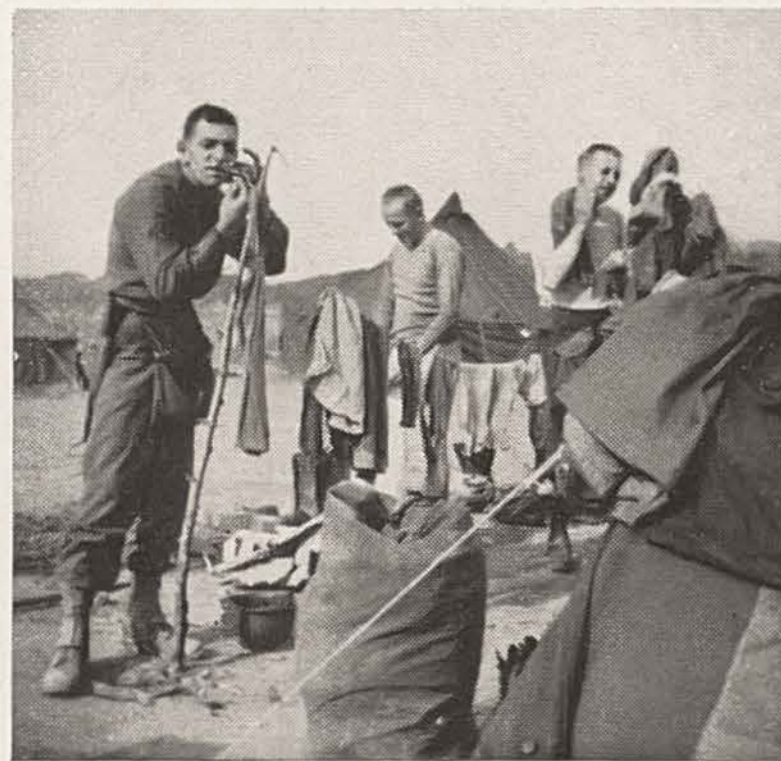
Shaping up



Preparing for Inspection



Lt. Leuhring



Field Shave

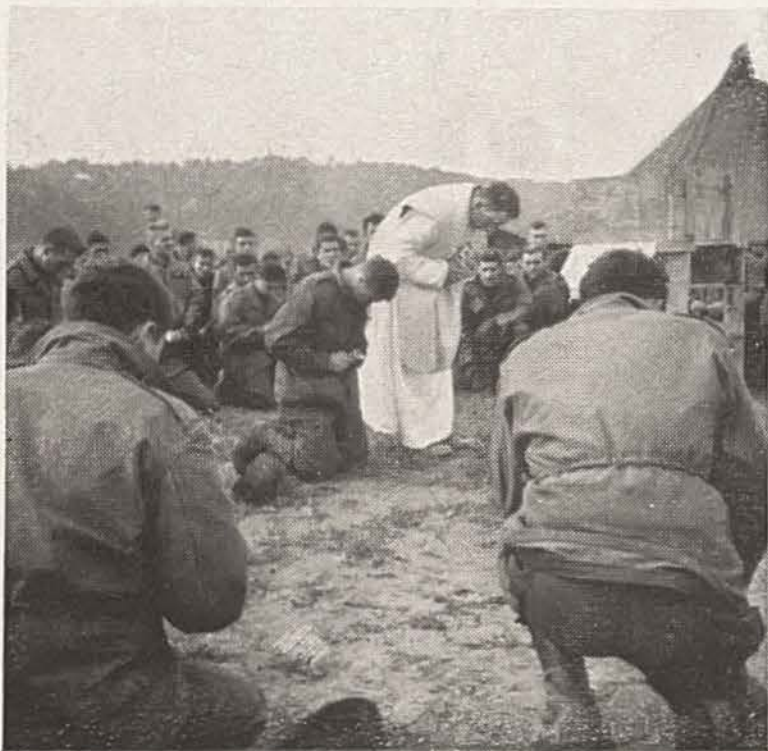




Clean-up Day



Squeeze that trigger



Foxhole Religion



Posting the Orders

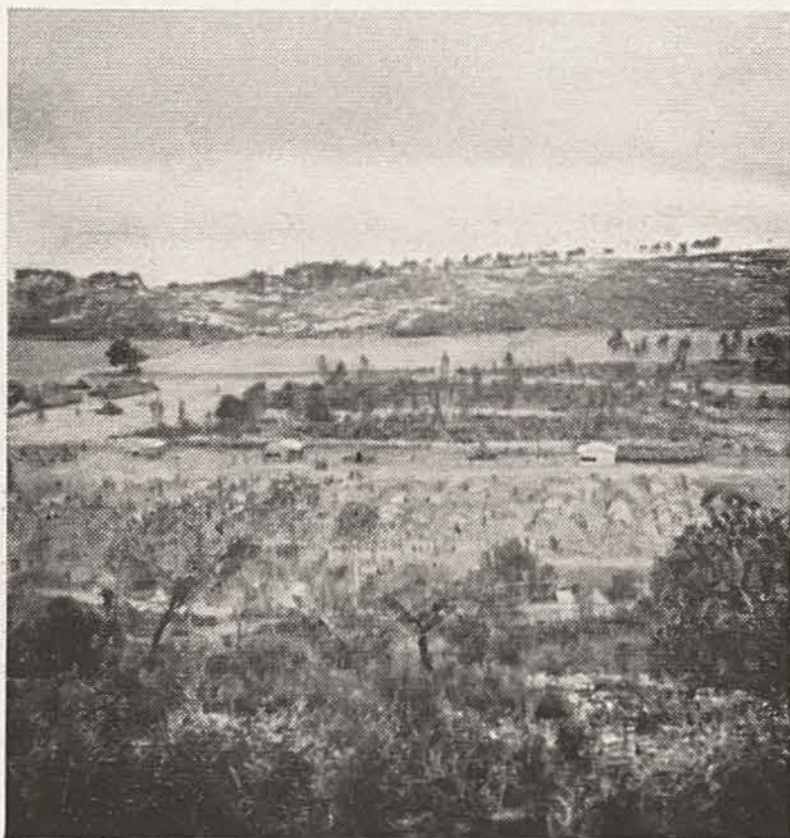




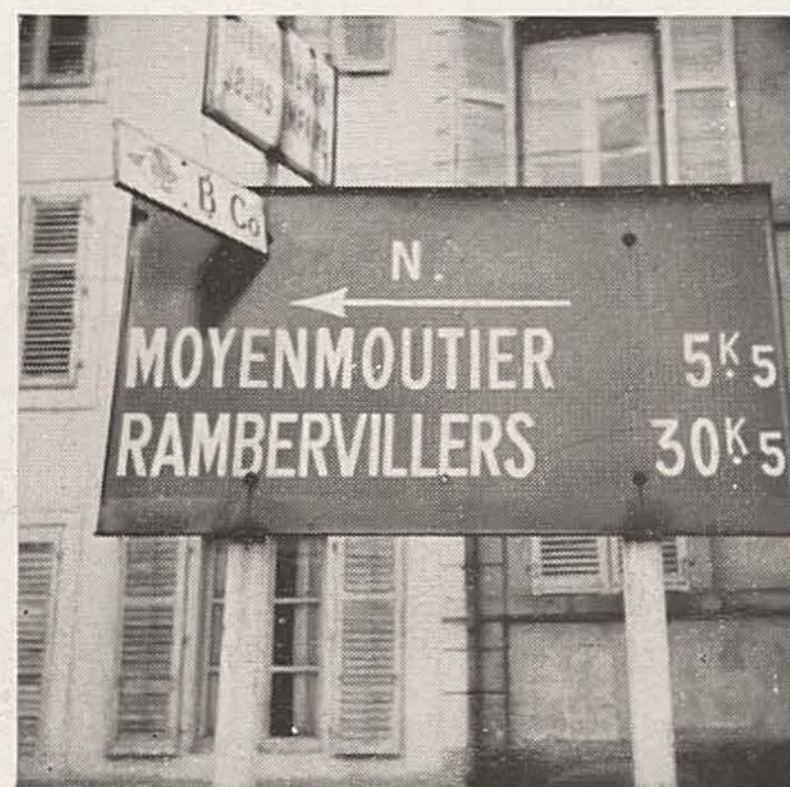
First Synchronization



Crossing First I. P.



Tent city



Convoy Stop





French Town



Pause in France



Liberated by the 100th



Crime and Punishment

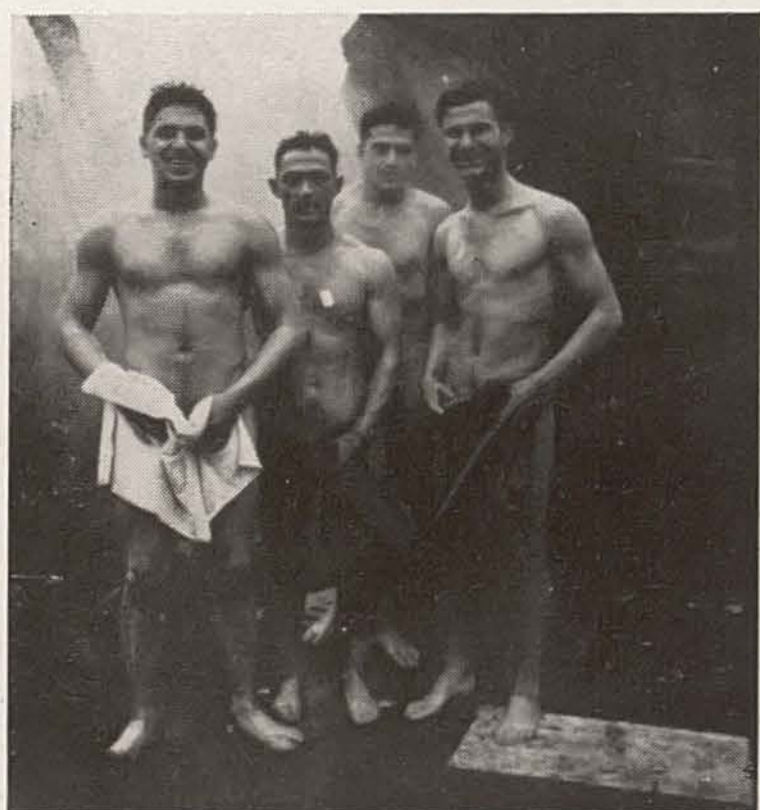




PW'S



End of the line

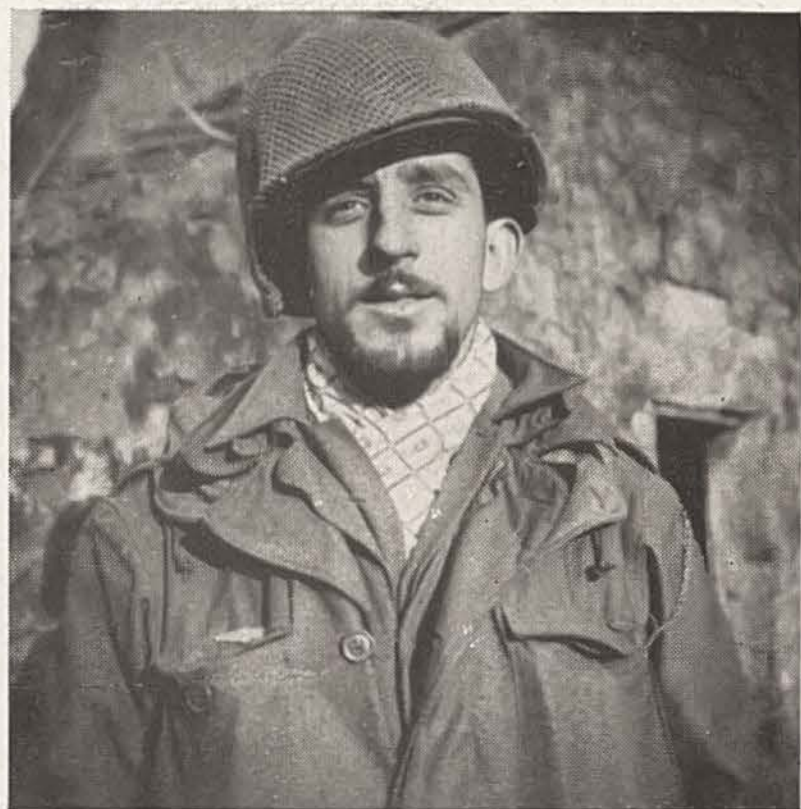


Field Shower



Rest in Peace





Battle dress



Captured Tank



Interrogation



Red Cross up front





German border



Autobahn





Mannheim Bridge



Spanning the Rhine



## THE FORWARD OBSERVER GROUP

---

Though the cannon is designed for close support of the Infantry, rarely if ever is the howitzer in range of small arms fire. Men of Cannon Company seldom saw the actual target fired upon, but there were men in the company who did. These men were our forward observers; on their shoulders fell the weight of giving the Infantry the artillery fire they so badly needed. The forward observers job was simple in mere words; he was always with the lead company; that is the company who was spear-heading any attack. He shared all dangers that the men in the rifle companies felt; he carried a gun but rarely used it; his most potent weapon was a pair of field glasses. If the company he was with was held up by machine-gun fire it was he who picked up his field glasses, spotted the trouble and radioed back to his fire direction center to prepare for action. In the beginning our forward observers consisted of our officers only. They were: Captain James S. Changaris, Lieutenant James S. Desrosiers, and Lieutenant Raymond Leurhing; but combat and its unpredictable twists soon made us realize that we would have to call on any man at any time to go forward and adjust fire. In addition to skill and daring, men with training and experience in map reading were generally chosen, because map reading held a large percentage of the forward observers job. Later, during the war our forward observer group changed and consisted of the following men: Lieutenant Edward M. Peterson, Lieutenant James P. Hartley, Technical Sergeant John T. Sabatie, Technical Sergeant Alex W. Grushinsky, Technical Sergeant Pasquale M. Spinosa, Technical Sergeant Herman F. Zinn, Technical Sergeant Cornelius E. Driscoll, Sergeant Stephen J. Wasielewski, Sergeant William Berberian, Sergeant Joseph Totterer, Sergeant Gerard Ellenberg, Corporal Ralph Kropp, and Lieutenant Henry H. Hewetson and Lieutenant Robert W. Senser. Perhaps these last two men are the best known for their remarkable work during the war. Lieutenant Hewetson has gone to rest with thousands of other Americans



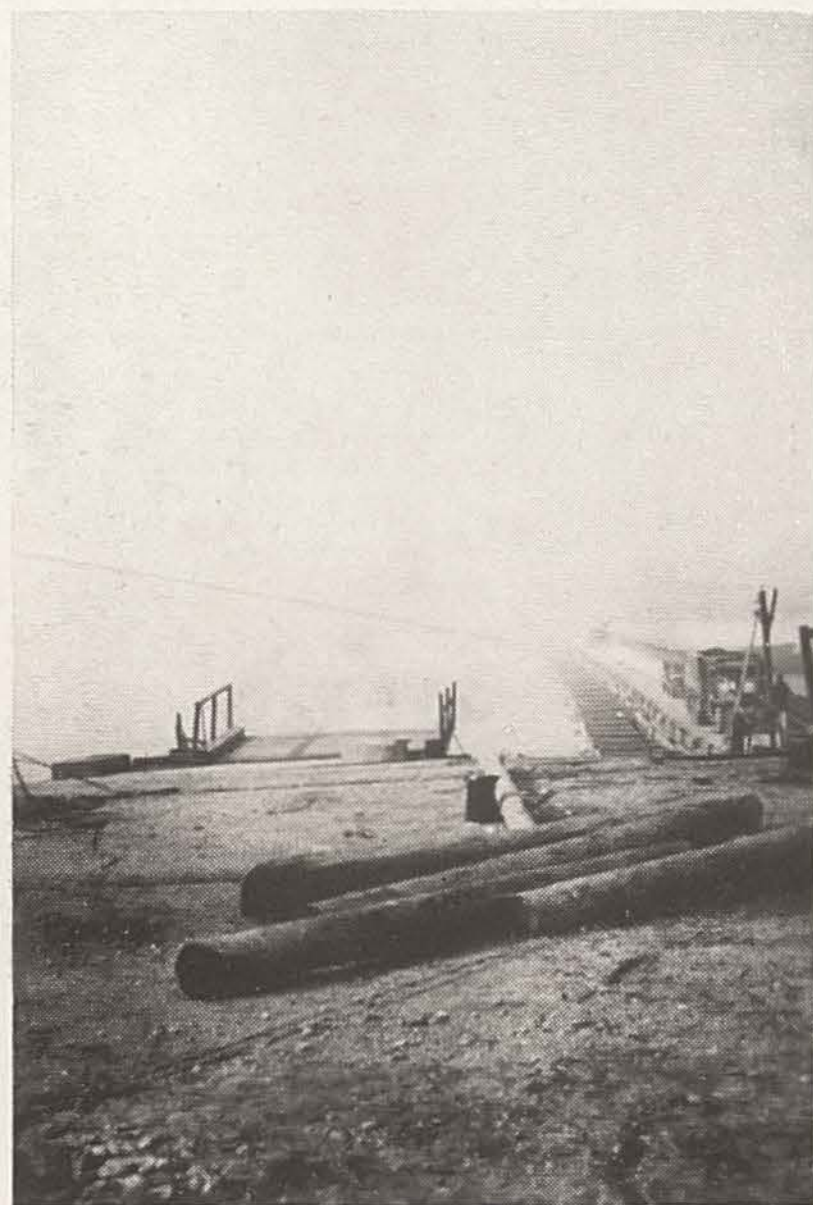
— — their job done, and now whispered of in reverent tones. Among other jobs well done, Lieutenant Hewetson will best be remembered for his uncanny adjustment on a Tiger tank at Heilbronn whereby destroying it. Lieutenant Senger is one of the few men in the 100th Division who wears the Distinguished Service Cross for his "beyond the call of duty" at Rimling, France.

Its high time somebody wrote something about these men, for artillery units and rifle men alike will tell you that the forward observer has the most unsung and least praised job in the Infantry. The record of our forward observers speaks for itself; it has been written in blood and amazing accuracy across Germany. They have proven their worth through the Regiment; they have endowed themselves in the hearts of the cannoneers forever; and the finishing touches of their work lies in mute evidence for all of Germany to see.





Pinned Down

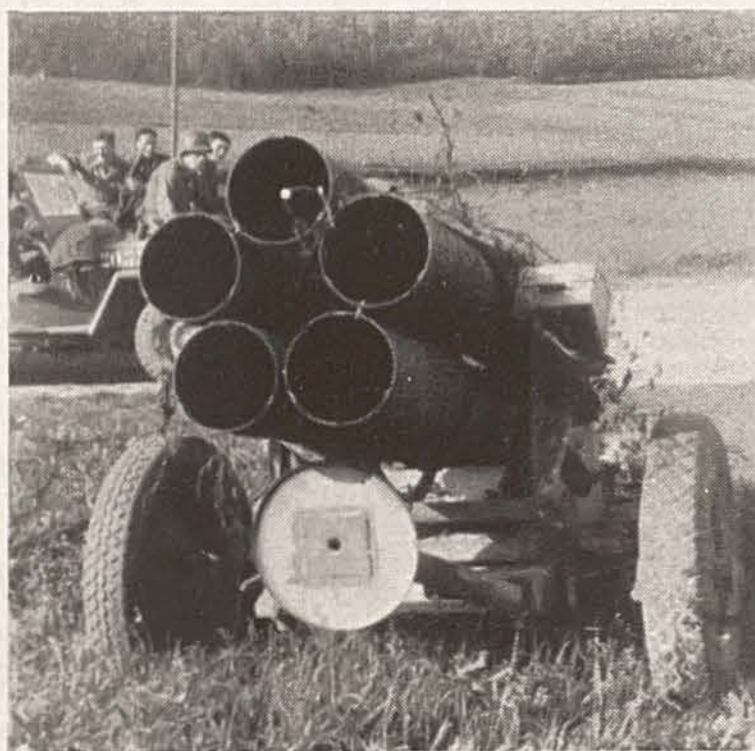


Pontoon Bridge



The Price of War





Nebelwerfer



But he didn't live here



Marlene pays a call





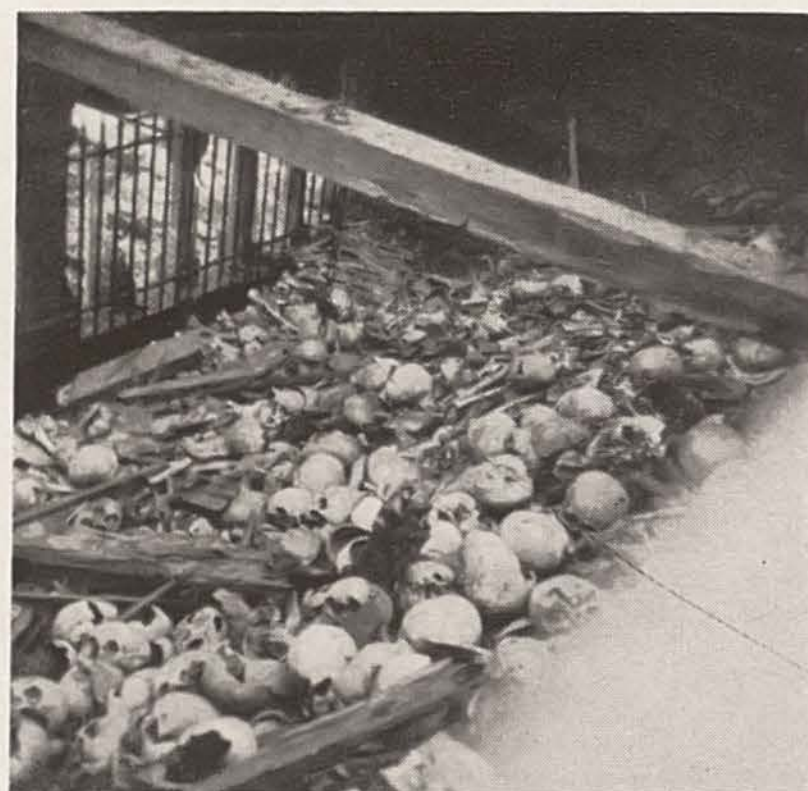
Alsace Alice



AMG Takes over

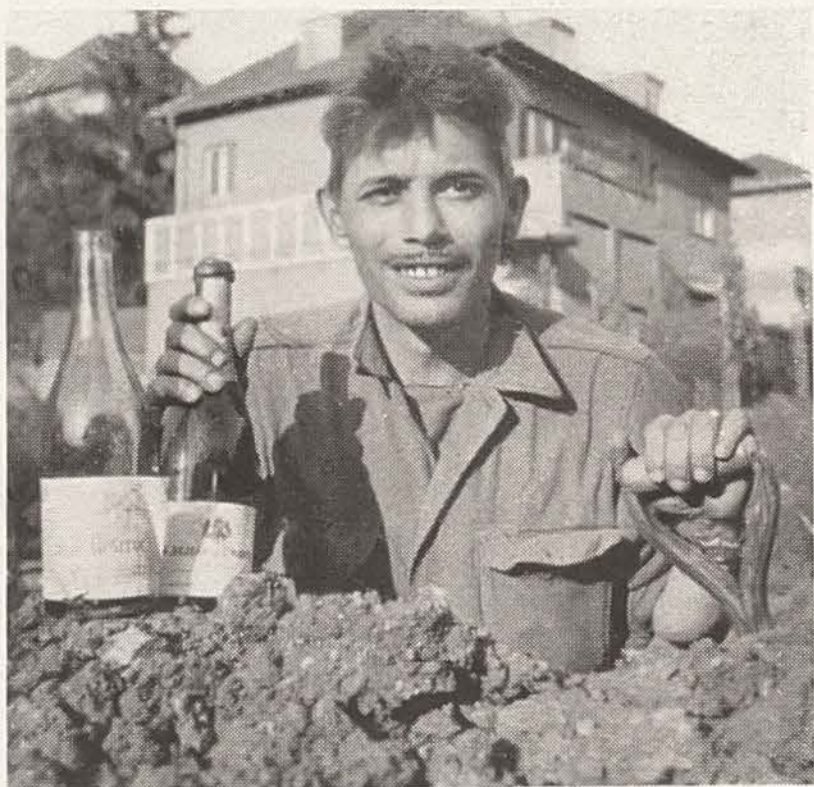


Ach! We have lost



German Culture





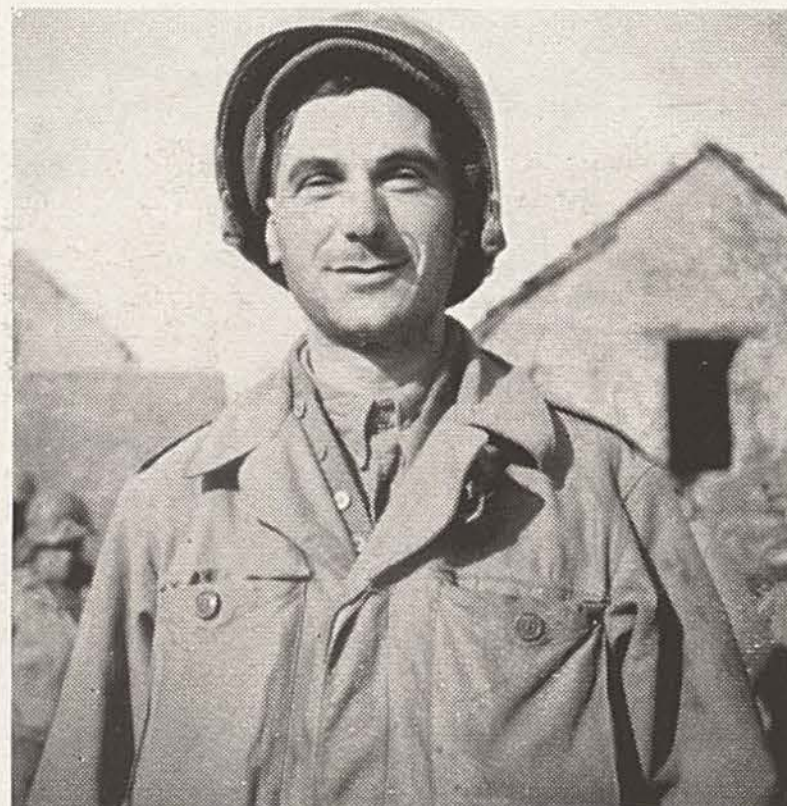
Cognac and 6×6



Beyond the call of duty

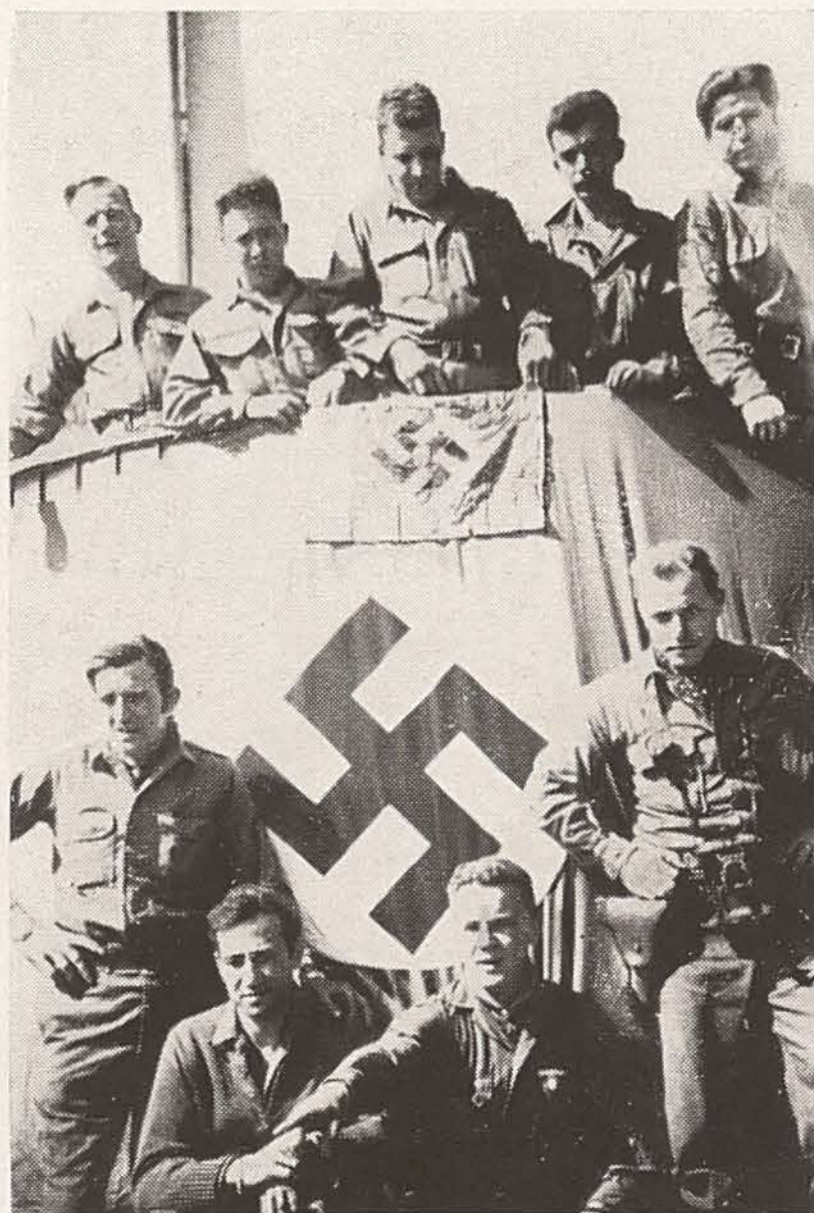


Chow Call



Our "Mauldin" character

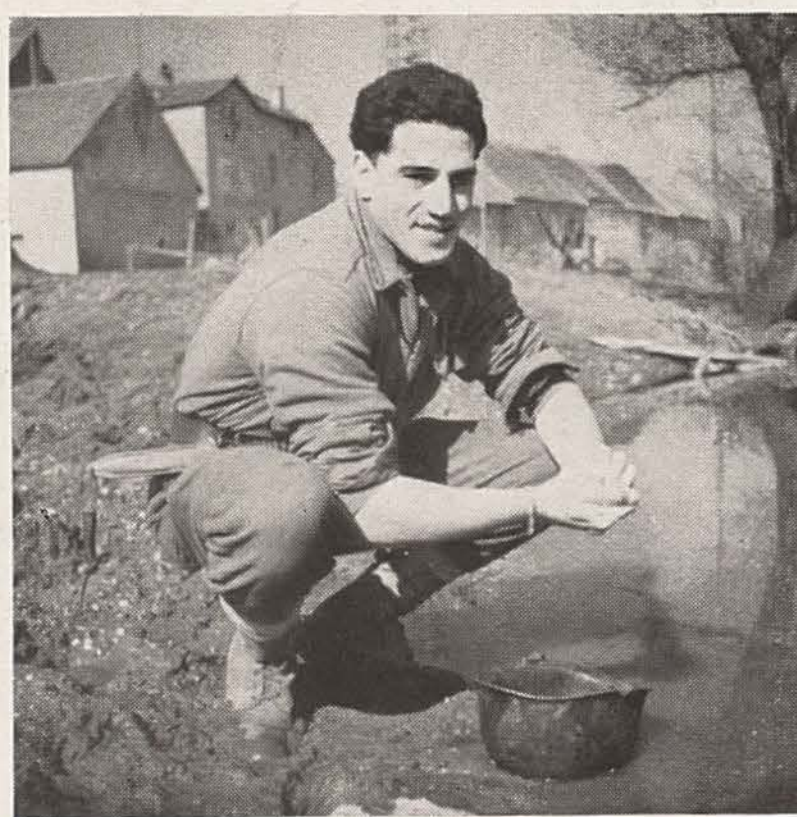




Party-meeting



Coffee at the Front



A cook cleans up



# VE-D

Division

397th Liberates 500 From  
Nazi Forced Labor Camp

Through France

397th

Saturday  
April 7, 1945

Vol. III  
No. 79

100th  
Fighting in Vosges Slowed Down



RHINE AND DRIVE ON

CE

ROCK

Page Four

Report

Fight is on

FRANCE

ARMY JUMP

BITCHE

FALLS

WSC

Battle From Alsace to Brenner

Infantry

BEACH

ROOSEVELT

Stuttgart Encircled by 100th

In Sensational Sweep to South

REVIEW

Friday - 10 August 1945

REPORT

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FRANCE

BEACHHEAD NEWS

10th Captures

Ohringen; 63rd

Has Kunzelsau

Today's Picture

Stuttgart Encircled by 100th

In Sensational Sweep to South

REVIEW

Friday - 10 August 1945

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Today's Picture

10th Captures

Ohringen; 63rd

Has Kunzelsau

Today's Picture

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In Sensational Sweep to South

REVIEW

Friday - 10 August 1945

REPORT

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War Dept. Lauds Unit

For Stemming Attack

At Rimling in January

War Dept. Lauds Unit

For Stemming Attack

At Rimling in January

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War Dept. Lauds Unit

For Stemming Attack

At Rimling in January

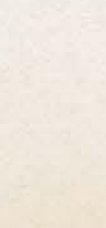
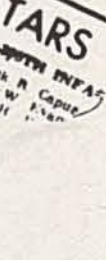
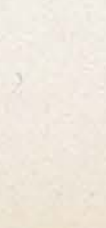
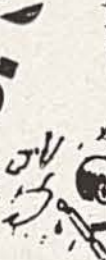
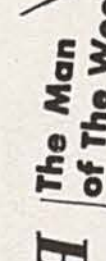
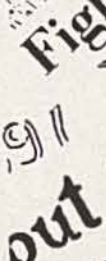
War Dept. Lauds Unit

For Stemming Attack

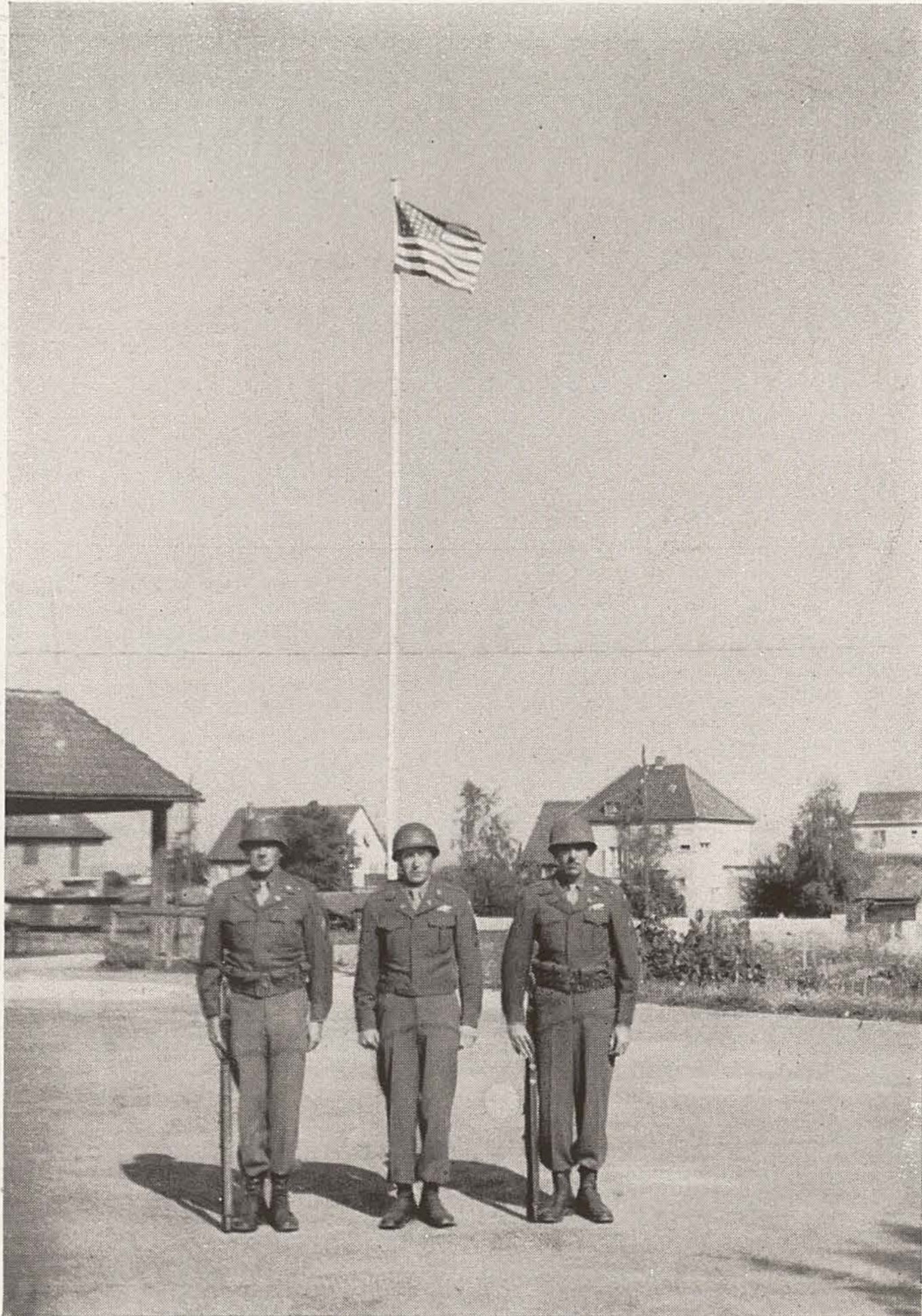
At Rimling in January

War Dept. Lauds Unit

For Stemming Attack







O' SAY CAN YOU SEE!





ALL PRESENT OR ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!



## FIRE DIRECTION CENTER

---

Back in Ft. Jackson and Ft. Bragg, during our training days, our forward observers went forward with pencil, paper and a firing table to do his firing. The boys on the guns had only a general direction of fire and many times threw first rounds out that were never picked up by the observer. The observers did magnificent jobs because the largest part of their work was estimation, purely guesswork. Still none of us knew what a Fire Direction Center was; our T.O. didn't call for it; Cannon Companies were new, just born. We took our training as scheduled but often times wondered just what our role would be in the war. (The 100<sup>th</sup> will never go overseas.)

Finally, during platoon tests at Ft. Bragg, one rainy, stormy day, a new officer, not new to the army but new to us, lead his platoon through the fastest tests ever seen in Cannon Company before. The secret was — — a couple of days before the tests, James S. Changaris, our present C.O., and Cpl. Irving Borresen, our number one computer from beginning to the end of the war, had borrowed a "slip stick", a gadget that does everything but write the data on paper, from a nearby artillery unit. Then Lt. Edwin S. Mycock went out with his platoon on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1944. When the test had been completed, a new record stood, for the platoon had finished its' mission in thirteen minutes. That was the first time firing data was applied, in Cannon Company, in F.D.C. style.

And so, out of this war was born a new name. Army men know it now as Fire Direction Center. Ours had it's birthplace at Baccarat, France, on Nov. 6, 1944. It was formed by Lt. Edwin S. Mycock, former instructor in the cannon school at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Our F.D.C. operated 24 hours a day and was under the capable hands of Sgt. Samuel Rhodes; it consisted originally of Sgt. Rhodes, Cpl. Irving Borresen, and Cpl. Joseph Wolak. Later, as its' importance increased, the body was enlarged to ease the burden of these men. When our mission in the ETO was completed, the group consisted of Sgt. Rhodes, F.D.C. cheif, Cpl. Borresen, computer, Cpl. Morrison, computer, P.F.C. Ruegg, computer, Cpl. Wolak, radio operator, and P.F.C. Kirsch, radio operator. The mission of the fire direction center was to receive the target by radio from our FO, locate it on the map, compute the data for the guns, send the round on it's way, and wait for



the FO to adjust on his target. Such sounds as "on target" and "fire for effect" were a welcome call to the fire direction center. When it reached the fire direction center we knew that our computing had been accurate and "Jerry" was burrowing into the ground.

It was during our winter defensive position that the term "metro" was first applied to our firing data. "Metro" is the system of correcting meteorological conditions or changes in weather from day to day. With this new science our computer began firing the guns with an uncanny accuracy heretofore never seen in a Cannon Company. Though "Metro" was strange and new to some of the men who actually loaded and fired the guns, our computers had complete faith in the system. Soon our observers began to prove its' worth when they brought back glowing reports on the damage our howitzer was doing.

Except in winter defensive position, when we tied in with an artillery group, our outfit was always under the direct control of the commanding officer.

Fire direction center never lost contact with the outfit it supported. Often it acted as Liaison between battalions and higher headquarters. The function of the fire direction center was to deliver the goods when the forward observer called for it. This they did with fervor and a keen interest in their jobs, and the result was written across France, the Alsace, and deep into Germany.











## IN PARTING

---

The termination of the war in the Pacific has come as this book goes to press. The fighting man's job is complete. From here on, it is anybody's peace, but to the American people has fallen the job of giving that peace to the common man.

Now there will be many monuments erected to honor the deeds of our fallen comrades in this bloodiest war of all times. We have left them on the barren shores of Normandy and the windswept sands of Iwo Jima. Somewhere in those plots of ground, there may lie the man who might have discovered the cure for cancer; beneath one of those crosses, there may lie the man who was destined to be a great prophet. Now they lie there silently — — officers and men, Negroes and Whites, Protestants, Catholics, and Jews. There no man despises another because of his color, or chooses him because of his faith. There, there is no quota of how many from each group is allowed. Theirs is the highest and purest Democracy.

When these monuments are born, we hope that the story they tell will not be forgotten. Any man among us — — the living — — who lifts his hand in hate against another, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of these memorials and the bloody sacrifices they commemorate, an empty, hollow mockery.

---







## HEADQUARTERS PLATOON ADDRESS ROSTER

---

Capt. James S. Changaris  
1636 University Dr.  
Forest Hills, Durhom, N.C.

Lt. James E. Desrosiers  
362 W. 50th St.  
New York City, N.Y.

Lt. Joseph F. Kinnan  
6615 Redgeville St.  
Pittsburgh 17, Pa.

Lt. Ross H. Bearup  
Okemos, Mich.

---

Thomas J. Riordan  
43 Palisade Ave.  
Jersey City, N.J.

William P. Klimon  
60 Providence St.  
Worcester, Mass.

Frank B. Raso  
222 Laurel Ave.  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Stephen J. Wasielewski  
31 Daymond St.  
Trenton, N.J.

Edward Ridgeway  
Woodstown, N.J.

Harry Moller  
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Arnold M. Gaylord  
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Unionville, Conn.

Adam M. Engelmann  
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Phila 33, Pa.

George F. Barnes  
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Oshkash, Wis.

Saylor, J. McGhee Jr.  
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Benjamin E. Affricano  
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Alexander Nyiri  
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Samuel H. Rhodes  
176 Main St.  
Reidsville, N.C.

Joseph Wolak  
7 Main St. Ext.  
Middletown, Conn.

Robert E. Kirsch  
5862 Rodman St.  
Phila, Pa.

Rayomond W. Kraft  
104 Thompson Ave.  
Dover, N.J.

Gerald W. Schultz  
Ravenna, Mich.

Clarence L. Miller  
733 Front St.  
Catasauqua, Pa.

Tom Surratt  
1512 E. 3rd St.  
Winston-Salem, N.C.

Vernon Tyler  
657 So. Hillview Ave.  
Los Angeles 22, Calif.

George G. Dimas  
1320 Kalamath St.  
Denver, Colo.

Ralph Edwards  
97 Floral St.  
Newton Highlands, Mass.

John T. Higgins  
39 Parker St.  
Maynard, Mass.

Seymour Hall  
R.F.D. 1.  
Sharon, N.Y., Springs.

Max Geller  
250 Penn St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.



## 1st PLATOON ADDRESS ROSTER

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Lt. James P. Hartley  
875 Ne 74th St.  
Miami, Fla.

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T/4 Warren W. McNally  
Albion, Mich.

Luther T. Lucas  
Wilson Theater Apts.  
Wilson, N.C.

Walter E. Geier  
Indian Hill  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Frank Maio  
7104-15 Ave.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Joseph P. Palermo  
1217 So. 8th St.  
Phila. 41, Pa.

George J. Stanco  
89 Elm Ave.  
Glen Cove L.I., N.Y.

Victor L. Benvenuto  
3 Fairfield Ave.  
Old Greenwich, Conn.

Kelly Cornett  
Gordon, Ky.

Frank Pechilio  
431 Kossuth St.  
Riverside, N.J.

Donald E. Forrester  
126 Beach St.  
Jersey City, N.J.

James Woods  
Wooton, Ky.

Harry Conroy  
5433 Ridgewood St.  
Phila. Pa.

Paul S. Eggert  
823 Minnesota St.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Joseph Belaski  
63 Huntington St.  
Hartford, Conn.

Lewis C. Jones  
Jarvis Store, Ky.

Ralph W. Bowen  
307 South Congress St.  
Polo, Ill.

Jack D. Sheppard  
Box 577  
Texon, Tex.

Lawrence R. Stinson  
Maple Plain, Minn.

Anthony R. Danca  
63 Jefferson Ave.  
Woburn, Mass.

Paul W. O'Neill  
74 Prescott St.  
E. Boston, Mass.

William Berberian  
15 742 Lexington  
Harvey, Ill.

Walter E. Simpson  
East Franklin St.  
Monroe, N.C.

Robert E. Maier  
217-04 137 Road.  
Long Island, N.Y.

Ralph W. Bowen  
307 South Congress St.  
Polo, Ill.

John Sabatie  
104 E. Pleasant Ave.  
Maywood, N.J.

George Dzurisin  
964 Smith St.  
Trenton, N.J.

Charles Fredericks  
442 Peabody St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.



## 2nd PLATOON ADDRESS ROSTER

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609 N. 4th St.  
Grano Forks, N.D.

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102 Abbott Ave.  
Ocean Grove, N.J.

Roy Steinberg  
395 Victory Blvd.  
Staten Island 1, N.Y.

George Ruegg  
70—32 72 St.  
Glendale L.I., N.Y.

Joseph Yandersitz  
1663 Washington Ave.  
Bronx, New York, N.Y.

John S. Nichols  
456 W. Market St.  
Harrisonburg, Va.

Paul Wilson  
Route 1  
Clermont, GA.

Irving Borresen  
132—23 Bennett Court  
Springfield Garden 13,  
L.I., N.Y.

Lilburn D. Walls  
Box 99  
Waynoka, Oklahoma

Joseph F. Totterer  
1311 N. Western Ave.  
Bloomington, Ill.

Joseph Mete  
196 Steuben St.  
Bridgeport, Conn.

William Suechting  
1219 A-W Juneau Ave.  
Milwaukee, Wis.

Pat M. Spinosa  
329 Fourth St.  
Rochester, N.Y.

Thomas Martin  
13 Cedar St.  
Manchester, Conn.

John L. Summers  
396 S. Parkway East.  
Memphis 5, Tenn.

Alvin Long  
Oswego, Montana

Steve Perutsakos  
Dover, New Hampshire

Seymour Hall Jr.  
Sharon Springs, N.Y.

Andrew M. Tremko  
524 Vine St.  
Taylor, Pa.

William P. Parker Jr.  
Box 136  
Llewellyn, Pa.

Arthur Kuhn  
84 Center St.  
Dorchester, Mass.

George Laccorn  
1517 East 96 St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

George Houghton  
Franconia, N.H.  
R.F.D. 1

Fred W. Cox Jr.  
43 Lynn Fells Parkway  
Melrose, Mass.

George Steffen  
Box 47  
Woodford, Wis.

Richard J. Gajewski  
1820 So. Trumbull Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

Walter E. Scribner  
601 N. Pulaski St.  
Baltimore, Md.

Bernard B. Gilbert  
290 Riverside Drive  
New York, N.Y.



### 3rd PLATOON ADDRESS ROSTER

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Lt. Robert W. Senser  
4214 Rainier Ave.  
Mt. Rainier, Md.

Frank R. Sedivy  
136 Prospect Ave.  
Bayonne, N.J.

Arnold M. Strand  
Becker, Minn.

Edward H. Holman  
1120 Plum St.  
Erie, Pa.

Robert Whitman  
1805 Ball St.  
Galveston, Tex.

Marvin J. Wynveen  
Cawker City, Kansas

Stephen Futy  
523 E. 1st St.  
Hazleton, Pa.

Earl K. Wood  
122 E. Esther St.  
Orlando, Fla.

Hyman Oliver  
1591 Townsend Ave.  
Bronx. 52, N.Y.

Vincent J. Augello  
719 Knickerbocker Ave.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Walter J. Oczkowski  
714 Mulberry St.  
Utica, N.Y.

Ralph F. Kropp  
15 060 Prevost Ave.  
Detroit, Mich.

Charles De Marco  
112 Stagg Walk  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Fangie E. Jones Jr.  
Chaffee, Mo.

Roland R. Julien  
Main St.  
Jackman St., Maine

Charlie B. Patterson  
305 Walnut St.  
Gaffney, S.C.

Elix W. Saylors  
909 N. Market St.  
St. Louis, Mo.

Marvin G. Roupe  
Wilkesboro, N.C.

William H. Landman  
222 Jericho Turnpike  
Floral Park L.I., N.Y.

David D. Dunseath  
816 Worlon Ave.  
Swickley, Pa.

Gerard Ellenberg  
111 Montford Ave.  
Mill Valley, Calif.

Robert R. Kelso  
5 Fay Ave.  
Haverhill, Mass.

Jack Keohane  
23 Sherwood St.  
Buffalo, N.Y.

John Lovallo  
47 Eldrege St.  
Port Chester, N.Y.

Edgar Longacre  
447 Chestnut St.  
Audubon, N.J.























5. Sep. 1952

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