Civilians Gladhand Red Devils In States

Devils-Digest

MONDAY, 9 APRIL 1945 VOLUME II—NO. 1

NO GRAVY TRAIN READY FOR RETURNING VETS

Welcome mats are clean, bright and shiny, you'll do more hand-shaking than a politician at an Elk's clam bake and you'll be damn glad to be back—but don't waste your time looking for a seat on the gravy train.

This is the good word being passed out today by the first contingent of Red Devils to rejoin the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment after spending 30-days at home in the States.

"When we go home for keeps, we'll get the kind of a welcome that has made the State's famous, but that's about it," Corporal Robert Ellis of Headquarters and Headquarters Company predicted.

"Many of the civilians I talked to on the train, in New York and a few at home in Newton, Massachusetts got the idea that we are as well off as they and it's still every man for himself, war or no war," he explained.

Corporal Ellis' opinion, generally speaking, was about the same as that of the six others from the Regiment who accompanied him to the States and back again to the ETO, a trip which took about 15 weeks.

The seven Red Devils, all veterans of the Regiment's campaigns of Normandy, Holland and Belgium, were part of the first "dream" quota permitting troops 30-day furloughs at home.

All agreed that as far as their families and close personal friends were concerned things were just as good if not better than before. It was conversation with casual acquaintances or strangers that indicated that a war record was a swell thing to have in war time but at the same time wars don't last forever.

"What I like to remember is that I was treated like a king in Owenton, Kentucky," Corporal King S. Burke of Headquarters Company added.

Sgt. Howard H. Gouge of A Company and Tampa, Florida offered:

"Our wives can't save much money the way prices are and we shouldn't expect them to meet us at the door with a bag full of dough. I bought some fresh eggs at the grocer and they cost me 83 cents. I never heard of anything like that before in Tampa, Florida."

S/Sgt. Phillip Klinefelter of Company B and Siloam Springs, Arkansas, passes on this tip:

"The cigarette deal is rough on the civilians but I found that as long as I kept my ribbons on I could usually get my favorite brand."

1st Sgt. Roy T. Bennett of A Company and Dayton, Ohio says fellows making the trip are pleasantly surprised with the minimum of G. I. red tape encountered and the accomodations available.

T/5 James E. Greenwood of the Medics from Ramah, Colorado seemed to think the boys on rotation wanted to have educational refresher courses when the war is over. "It's surprising how much we have forgotten."

Corporal James J. Murphy

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CROIX DE GUERRE AWARDED SIX IN 508th REGIMENT

Croix de Guerre with Palms, Order of the Army, has been awarded four officers and a Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star has been awarded two non-commissioned officers of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, citation orders disclose today.

The officers receiving the highest order of Croix de Guerre in recognition of their roles played in the liberation of France are:

Colonel Roy E. Lindquist, commanding the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. B. Shanley, executive officer, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Louis G. Mendez Jr., commanding Third Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Shields Warren, [illegible], commanding First Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Non-commissioned officers given the Croix de Guerre, order of the company, are:

Sergeant Robert J. Bennett, Company I.

Staff Sergeant Robert W. VanHorsser.

Previous awards to the four officers and two non-coms were made by the U. S. government.

Colonel Lindquist wears the Silver Star, Bronze Star; Lt. Col. Shanley the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart; Lt. Col. Mendez the Distinguished Service Cross and Bronze Star; Lt. Col. Warren the Silver Star and Purple Heart; Sgt. Bennett the Purple Heart and S/Sgt. VanHorsser the Silver Star.

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All stories and pictures appearing in DEVIL'S DIGEST

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MAJOR GENERAL JAMES M. GAVIN

Major General James M. Gavin, commanding the 82nd Airborne Division, tributes the fighting Red Devils who fought under the "All-American" colors during the victorious campaigns of Normandy, Holland and the Ardennes sector of Belgium.

An enlisted man in the regular army at 17 years of age, he later passed entrance examinations for the United States Military Academy and today is the most-jumped general officer in the Army. He commanded the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment before taking command of the division 15 August 1944. In all combat jumps he has been the first out of his aerial.

Esteem with which General Gavin holds the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment is found in the inscription he wrote on the above photo he gave to Colonel Roy E. Lindquist, leader of the Red Devils.

General Gavin's tribute: "To members of the 508th Parachute Infantry with admiration for their fighting spirit, courage and superb fighting abilities.

James M. Gavin
Maj. Gen. U. S. A.

Devil's Digest

ETO Edition

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Office of Public Relations
APO 469 *Cable Address: AMOG*

Composition

M/Sgt. James B. Smylie — Regt. Hq. Co.

Company Correspondents

Pfc Morris Beller — Service Co.
Cpl. Leon Israel — Regt. Hq. Co.
T/5 Stanley H. Tylicki — Hq. Co., 1st Bn.
Sgt. John E. Brickley — Company A
Pfc Robert Alkier — Company B
Pvt. Nicholas T. D'Amico — Company C
Cpl. Robert J. Carney — Hq. Co., 2nd Bn.
Cpl. Lloyd R. Isaacs — Company D
Sgt. L. E. Beasley — Company E
Sgt. Harold J. Wilson — Company F
Sgt. Weldon K. Lewis — Hq. Co., 3rd Bn.
Sgt. Francis M. Lamcreux — Company G
T/4 Colin Weir — Company H
Sgt. William H. Chapman — Company I

Photographer

T/5 Donald J. MacLeod — Regt. Hq. Co.

Staff Artist

Pfc Melvin R. Neely — Hq. Co., 2nd Bn.

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Jerries Object to Sharing Shack With Pfc. Canard



PFC. CURTIS CANARD CHECKS UP

When the fellows of E Company, 508th Parachute Infantry, speak of bedfellows, Private First Class Curtis Canard of headquarters section smiles knowingly—for it was Canard's unhappy experience to have the strangest.

It was during the bitter "Battle of the Bulge" when E Company was in reserve, pulled back for a breathing spell after working out along the Salm River. Canard, together with four members of the company, moved out to set up and defend a road block some distance from our lines.

During the night the Jerries succeeded in getting through the position after bringing up three tanks and supporting infantry and were on the prowl somewhere between the block and E Company's MLR.

Canard and his buddies planned to infiltrate back but in the darkness Canard became separated from the small group. Alone, he decided to wait until morning to complete the trip back and looked around for a place to sleep.

After a brief search he found a house which apparently was still occupied. Outside was a small wagon with a team still in harness. There was smoke coming from the chimney.

As far as Canard was concerned, he wanted nothing more than to spend the next few hours enjoying the warm hospitality of a Belgium farmhouse. Finding the door open, he walked in and saw the three people who were living there asleep. He decided not to awaken them, but to wait until morning to

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Colonel Roy E. Lindquist, Pioneer Paratrooper, Leads 508th Regiment



COLONEL ROY E. LINDQUIST
(508 Regt. Photo)

It was another brisk, sunny November day at Fort Benning. The grass was still green and growing, particularly around Lawson Field.

Small groups scattered in front of hangers occasionally looked up toward a lazy transport. The plane banked and then leveled off for a pass over the field.

There were clouds in the sky but not many. These were on the horizon far away and few if any, paid much attention to them.

"I think they're going to jump now," a private remarked to his buddy standing beside him. Then he changed his mind with, "Well, maybe they won't. You can never tell what Those fellows might try next."

"Sure, I know," the other replied, "I heard a sergeant say this morning that they were called paratroopers. There's a battalion of them here but I'll bet they'll never get that many guys to jump out of an airplane."

But most of them were not talking about the "new bunch of daredevils, the paratroops."

For one thing, a few days ago President Roosevelt had shattered all tradition with his election to a third term.

Then the war in Europe wasn't phoney any more, but France had surrendered and England was on the ropes.

There was something wrong with Army's football team but maybe it was still good enough to take care of Navy.

The Garand rifle, known at The Infantry School as the M1, still wasn't as good as the old, proven Springfield as far as many of the line infantrymen were concerned.

It was 1940.

To the casual observer the 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first T/O jump unit in the U. S. Army, was just like any other battalion two months out of the reception center. That is, it was almost like any other battalion except that this battalion was going to jump and did about five times as much running, tumbling and calisthenics as anyone had ever done before at Ft. Benning.

For the most part the plane over Lawson Field was filled with officers who were organizing the Battalion. All 13 of them had received about five minutes instruction before emplaning and today they were going to make the first jump of the 501st.

The third man out of the plane was Colonel Roy E. Lindquist, then Captain Lindquist. Like the others, he went through the door depending on a bulky T-5 assembly and a reserve that covered his entire chest.

Leading the stick was Maj. Gen. William M. Miley, today commander of the 17th Airborne Division but then a major and battalion commander. He was making a full equipment jump and this first landing wasn't easy. In fact he broke his shoulder.

No one else in the 501st jumped that day. Not because the commander broke his shoulder, nor because the instructions based largely on experiments of the Test Platoon were inadequate, but the plane, an obsolete C-39, was only available for 20 minutes, long enough to make the one short flight.

Between that first jump and the 29th he took a short time ago, Col. Lindquist has checked plenty of canopys and felt plenty of prop blast roar past the door. That day in 1940 he was the 501st Battalion adjutant, but the pioneer work in process then was to later serve as a guide in the organization of his own unit, the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Before getting into the Troops, Col. Lindquist had served as company and staff officer in various infantry units and as an instructor and member of the board at The Infantry School.

In 1937, seven years after his graduation from West Point, two of his non-coms of Company B, 29th Infantry were showing the qualities of leadership and judgment required of parachute officers. Today both are still with him, Major Royal P. Taylor, executive officer, Second Battalion, and Captain Woodrow W. Millsaps, commander, Company B.

While at The Infantry School, Col. Lindquist drafted Field Manuel 22-5, better known as the IDR or Infantry Drill Regulation. He also wrote Field Manuel 23-5, or the bible of the M1 rifle, as well as regulations of formal guard mount.

Why did he join the paratroops?

He was coach of the Fort Benning baseball team in 1940 and General Miley, then a major, was post athletic director. General Miley was ordered by the War Department to organize the 501st Battalion and one of the first officers he asked to join was Colonel Lindquist.

Colonel Lindquist was the adjutant and according to the T/O at that time, a non-jumper. But even in those days jump units didn't always have what the T/O called for.

For example this first adjutant of the 501st became a qualified jumper as fast as planes were made available. But it was January before the plane returned and the first 13 as well as the rest of the Battalion could get in six jumps, the required number then.

Colonel Lindquist left the 501st in the spring of 1941 to become S-1 of the Provisional Parachute Group; then in the spring of 1942, G-1 of Airborne Command at Fort Bragg.

During 1941 other parachute battalions were formed; namely, the 502nd, 503rd and 509th. In the spring of 1942 the 502nd and 503rd Battalions were expanded to regiments and the 504th, 505th and 507th Regiments organized.

The 508th Regiment, which was to be commanded by

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First Battalion Chow Hounds Increase Under New Mess Plan



1/Sgt. Bennett

Hq. Co.—A new era is on hand . . . with the company mess system now in effect, the coffee is really drinkable and what is even more surprising is that the cooks are even asking how we want our meals prepared. Keep up the good work! . . . Some of the stories that dave come back along with the furloughers from the land of mild and bitters, are keeping the personnel amused: Sgt. Paternacki has one about a five-mile walk and a brick wall . . . S/Sgt. Wilkinson's trip was not only peasant but also profitable . . . Pfc Campbell's trip was also pleasant but his explanations are more embarrassing . . . When Cpl. MacMahon and Pfc Andrews did a little scavenging for wire the other day, the chaplain's jeep was an accessory to the "crime."

A Co.—The "unluckiest man" title goes to Sgt. Hunt, who's been wounded three times but still doesn't have a Purple Heart. Maybe he's independent or just trying to impress the medics. 1st Sgt. Bennett is back from the States and is available for lectures. The talk about him hobnobbing with bigshots (generals, too) isn't hurting his status one bit . . . When Cpl. Honest John Shultz came back from his Paris pass, he echoed the sentiments of all who've been there: "48 hours ain't enuf!" . . . When Silver Star holder Sgt. Don Goings made the furlough journey to England recently, it was his first trip to the UK. He visited the 508th capital—Nottingham.

B Co.—Latest Bn. Sgt. Major is Sgt. Nick Russo, formerly of B Co. . . . Cpl. Bill Dean came back from his UK furlough with an abcessed tooth. "The steaks," he complained, "are getting tougher" . . . Company barber Houghlin gives out free rumors with each haircut. Both are in the true army tradition—bad! Did you know: Elek Hartman's mail has him addressed at various times as Sgt., T/4, Cpl., Pvt. and Pfc? The last is correct . . . Pfc Persyn laughs all the time? And what is there to laugh about? CW did it: dit-dit-dit-dit. Cpl. Barnett is sending out SOS's for a print of the picture that was taken with him and "Legs" Dietrich . . . S/Sgt. Wm. Knapp is adept at wrist twisting and thus manages to get his name in print . . . S/Sgt. Klinefelter is making his second appearance in the ETO. Just back from the States, he said of his furlough that if he had to do it all over again—he would!



Pfc Persyn

C Co. — The preview of Spring resulted in baseball equipment and players getting out for some of the sunshine. According to Lt. Hamblin, rec. and athletic officer, there's good material for a topnotch team . . . The basketball team is already champ . . . The discussion of pass and furlough policy a couple of weeks ago was a masterpiece of tact and diplomacy. How else would it have gone off so smoothly and to the satisfaction of all concerned? . . . Between Pfc Beasley and Pfc Milliken, one of them will soon be getting their millionth letter . . . The GI wanderers are back—Sgts. Wahto, Traband, May, Lawson and Pfc Lowery from the UK and Sgt. Wright from the Riviera. The thrill is gone but the memory lingers on . . . The guy who makes those luscious cookies and delicate pie crusts for your pleasure is Sgt. Crow.

First Sergeant Funk, C Co., Crack Trooper

Meet 1st Sergeant Leonard Funk, the paratrooper's paratrooper.

Hotter than a two-dollar pistol, C Company's top noncom has come as close as any individual to convincing Jerry he should have stood in bed or something to that effect.

Deceptive in size and appearance, Funk is just about as successful and colorful an operator as they come in the ETO. He has led dozens of night patrols, harrassed and killed the enemy far behind the lines, set up aid stations and even acted as company commander when all available officers became casualties.

Small, five feet four inches in height; compact, 140-pounds; his appearance is anything but that of the swaggering trooper so often detailed in fact and fiction.

Among the men of his company he is more frequently referred to as "Napoleon."

In Normandy he landed nearly 40 miles inland with other members of the stick but successfully waged a 10-day campaign of terror and destruction before breaking through to rejoin the Regiment. Funk's leadership was such that not one member of the small unit was lost.

In Holland he and three other men wiped out three 20 mm. AA guns and their crews just as the gliders came in for a landing. More than 20 Jerries were killed in this action.

In Belgium, while acting as company executive officer, he organized company headquarters personnel into a fighting team, cleared several houses of enemy, foiled an attempted break by 80 prisoners and set up an aid station to take care of the wounded.

These are just a few of the typical Funk activities. He has not had too much time to go front and center

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First Sergeant Len Funk of C Company starts out door with Shorty, 8-months-old pup belonging to Lt. Joseph Farrell, during recent jump. Needless to say Sgt. Funk's standing landing met with Shorty's approval. (508th Reg. Photo).

'A' Troops Eye 1st Battalion Sports Title

Company A is off to a flying start toward the athletic crown of the First Battalion, according to results of the first week's competition.

After winning two volleyball games, a softball game and football game from Hq. Co. Able Co. is making elaborate plans for a beer party the prize offered by Lt. Col. Shields Warren, to the unit chalking up the best record in sports competition within the Battalion.

With the aid of the most famous talent scout in the business, — Uncle Sam — A Company has been able to take its stars from some of the best schools in the States. Among these are Sgt. Ed Adelman, formerly of Mars Hill College, North Carolina; Cpl. Jim Fust, ex-Louisville, Ky., Hammond High ace; Pfc Maurice Myers of Public School No. 2, Kingston, Ky., and Pfc Shifty Sloan, the self-made ball player.

WOLFHOUNDS DEFY

Wolfhounds, B Company's answer to the need for better basketball teams in the ETO, today issued an unconditional challenge to others in the Red Devil Regiment to meet in the Harness gymnasium for a basketball game or what have you. So far the wolfhounds have measured Service Company, 27 to 10 and A Company, 20 to 6.

SMITH GREETS TRANSFER

When Sgt. Willie Smith of A Co. looked over the new arrivals into the company from the 509th, he made no attempt to hide his delight. They were fine looking men and their fighting ability was beyond question. However, it was neither of these things that made the Sgt. so happy. One of the men was an old friend—who owed Smith 40 bucks! The sgt. will undoubtedly take good care of his investment.

RED DEVILS SMASH THRU ROOF OF HITLER'S FORTRESS EUROPE



Fighting [illegible] and cold in Belgium. (82nd Div. Photo)



Jerries never forgot that session with Red Devils in Normandy. (Signal Corps Photo).



The price of liberty was high for the sons of Normandy, France and Holland. (82nd Div. Photo)

Spearhead Assault Into Normandy And Holland; Reverse Nazi Drive in Belgium

The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, while not quite 30 months old, has played one of the more spectacular and successful roles in the assault against Hitler's Fortress Europe.

Its achievements, which began in training on the muddy flats of Camp Blanding, Florida, include two airborne operations against the enemy and a prominent part in defeating the German attempt to break out of the Ardennes salient in Belgium.

Long before it gained its victories in Normandy and Holland as well as Belgium, the Regiment gave every indication that it was to become one of the attack outfits in airborne attacks.

Plans to assemble a cadre for the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment were first drawn up in Major, now Colonel Roy E. Lindquist and activation effected at Camp Blanding, Florida, October 20, 1942.

A lieutenant colonel at this time, Col Lindquist and the cadre began selection of some 2000 men from a group of 4000 which had volunteered directly from reception centers.

Once the strain of the draft crop was assembled, the Regiment plunged into an arduous training program which continued until the end of January 1943. During this training period of 13 weeks, companies followed an eight-day schedule six days of the week. Only the cadre were given passes with the exception of the one day permitted were permitted to purchase Christmas presents at Jacksonville, Florida.

By the time the basic course neared completion every man had qualified in assigned weapons, had come very close to breaking his neck each day or, the single course and was beginning to wonder whether he was in the paratroops or in a monastery.

Early in February the outfit hit the rails and moved to Fort Benning, where they proceeded thru the famed Jump School in battalion classes. Upon completion of the course the Commandant of the School went on record with "This is the best outfit that has ever gone through the Parachute School."

In the middle of March the Regiment moved to Camp Mackall, North Carolina and began what is known as the "unit training program." Here the Red Devils learned how to function as a team, jump equipment. This program continued through the summer of 1943.

Weatherman at Camp Mackall, under the mistaken idea that he was doing the Red Devils a favor, managed to keep the sun out at all times and establish a few heat records. Consequently the assignment sending the Regiment into the Carolina maneuvers out of the dry hot sand was greeted with understandable enthusiasm.

The Tennessee maneuvers were the next thing on the schedule and here the Red Devils left little doubt but that they would be ready for the big show in the offing next summer. The Regiment acted as the enemy force opposing the 101st Airborne Division.

Before the maneuver period ended, the 508th Regiment was ordering to get ready for an overseas shipment. And moved into Camp Shanks shortly before Christmas. Sometime in the following month it got off the boat and set up headquarters in Ireland, attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

In March it moved to a base in England where it went through final stages of preparation for the part it was to play in the invasion of western Europe in Normandy.

Shortly before the take-off came General Dwight D. Eisenhower's historic message:

"You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven for [illegible] months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of [illegible]-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe and security for ourselves in a free world . . ."

Colonel Lindquist called the Regiment together and during his talk said:

"I remember very clearly talking to the Regiment at Camp Blanding a little over a year and a half ago when the Regiment was activated, and saying that we were going to build up a unit that was so disciplined, so equipped and so trained that when the time came to go out the door for our first combat jump, every man would be ready. Men, we are ready . . .

"I wish to express my deep appreciation to all of you for all that you have done to place this regiment on the same high plane that it is on today. You have shown the way and have set standards and marks for other parachute regiments to shoot at ever since October 20, 1942. I know you will continue. I congratulate



Nijmegen Bridge, [illegible] of Holland Jump (82nd D[illegible] Photo)

Colonel Balchelier, Colonel Stanley, Colonel Mendez, Major Thomas, Captain Driggers and Captain Peterson on their fine commands.

"I hope that a day we will be back here preparing our mission. Until then, the continent, good [illegible]."

Shortly after [illegible] fought the Regiment [illegible] Fields in England [illegible] troop mine north of [illegible] Quare neared landing [illegible] took engulfed the [illegible] I eminently began to separate.

The Germans [illegible] for the troopers [illegible] across the peninsula [illegible] Heavy anti-aircraft fire from flak guns and automatic small arms took their toll of casualties among Red Devils before the drop and during the descent.

As a result, the Regiment was well scattered by leaving the jump and the fight initially was carried to the enemy by small groups. However before dawn four provisional units were formed, one under Colonel Lindquist, a second under Captain Nivak and [illegible] men in an area bordering the east bank of the Merderet River with the eleven under Lt. Col. Shanley and Lt. Col. [illegible] on the western side.

Regimental strength on the eastern side of the Merderet [illegible] first numbered about 100 officers and men. Colonel Lindquist ordered the bridge in the vicinity of Chef du Pont seized and prepared for demolition. Although forces of the German Fifth Parachute Division launched several counter attacks to regain possession, the bridge was defended successfully and retained intact.

Following a crossing at LaFiere, Colonel Lindquist joined up the provisional units and reorganization of the Regiment completed as rapidly as possible. There were very few equipment bundles recovered and a re-issue of heavy caliber weapons had to be obtained.

First and Third Battalions next seized control of the road net leading east from La Haye du Puit, while the Second Battalion assembled and captured Basqte, a German base replacement depot. This proved to be one of the most lucrative victories of the operation. In addition to destroying 11 tanks, the Battalion captured 75 vehicles in good running condition and 750,000 gallons of gasoline. As a result the Second Battalion operated as a mounted unit for 24 hours

508 Parachute Infantry Sets New Records During Training

Chef du Pont, Hills 95 and 131 Normandy Victories

until the transportation was requisitioned by higher headquarters.

The Regiment reassembled west of Etienville and the First and Second Battalions given the mission of passing through the 505 Regiment in St. Sauveur Le Vicomte and seizing high ground controlling an undefended area near the western beach of the Normandy Peninsula.

The Third Battalion, in the meantime, stormed across the Douve River to set up the first beachhead on this Normandy waterway. Location of the action was near Pyrlot.

Five days later, the 29th of June, the First and Second Battalions took up positions in the Bois de Limors near Pyrlot and the Regiment again was regrouped as a unit. In this area the First Battalion became custodian of the famed 68 Junction, a road intersection so well covered with artillery fire that a detour some three-quarters mile in length had to be constructed by the engineers.

On the morning of July 3, an attack was prepared to wrest Hill 131 from the Jerries. Elements of the Second and Third Battalion were to form the assault waves while the First Battalion was to lay down covering fire.

Fifteen minutes before the attack was to get under way, German forces made an attempt to penetrate positions of the First Battalion. In the resulting fire fight, light machine guns of the First Battalion got off approximately 3,500 rounds, each in the first 30 minutes while each mortar lay down 300 rounds during a 15-minute preparation.

By noon the Second Battalion overran Hill 131 and the Third Battalion held down an exposed left flank. (Next half the defending German force was taken prisoner.

Later in the afternoon the Regiment was alerted and ordered to seize the high ground near LaPoterie Ridge. The attack was launched and the mission completing shortly after dark.

At midnight the third attack mission, within 24 hours was received. This called for occupation of Hill 95 on LaPoterie ridge. Elements of two German regiments supported by artillery were dug in at the top.

The Regiment was forced to attack over open ground lacking cover and concealment. Despite fanatical German resistance the objective was reached and the position organized by midnight. This action was the bloodiest involving the Regiment during the Normandy campaign.

Lt. Lloyd Polette, who was later to be awarded the Silver Star with cluster, the Bronze Star with cluster and the Purple Heart with two clusters, led Company F, then consisting of 30 men, in a spectacular assault. Over 150 Germans were counted, 80 taken prisoner while casualties to F company were three wounded and four killed.

The Regiment was subsequently relieved by the 9th Division and departed for a rest basin.

During the Normandy campaign the 508th Regiment took 30 miles of territory from the enemy.

Preparations for the Holland campaign began immediately upon return to base camp. Replacements, by casualties

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Members of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment observe their second Easter overseas attending religious services conducted by their chaplains. At the left Protestant Chaplain James L. Elder delivers sermon. At right communion is being distributed by Catholic Chaplin Joseph C. Kenney during solemn high mass. (508 Regt. Photo)

Thirteen Troopers Comprise Old Guard In D Company

D COMPANY—Thirteen men comprise the old guard of D Company . . . These alone remain of the original personnel which made up the unit upon activation at Camp Blanding 20 October 1942 . . . Ready to make the last round even tougher than the curtain raiser at Normandy are Lieutenant Leyle O. McReynolds, Lieutenant Harry C. Bailey, Sergeant Thomas McBlane, Tech 5 Frederick Carden, Private Will Johnson, Staff Sergeant Carroll Calvert, Staff Sergeant Charles Bray, Corporal Lloyd Isaacs, Private First Class Negley Atkinson, Private First Class Dick Santos, Tech 4 Clint Boyd, Sergeant Ed Roseberry, and Private First Class Gene Evans . . . Turn out the band for our latest collectors of hero hardware: Lieutenant Robert Sickler, Lieutenant Joseph Hall, Privates Percey Kirk and Frank Haddy, all with the Silver Star and Sgt. Roseberry with the Bronze Star . . . Our idea of a success story is that of Lieutenant Darrell K. Bowman, who joined the outfit as an enlisted man, knocked off a battlefield commission and is now headed back to the States . . . Nomination for move of the year to company mess . . . Reason for that is the kind of chow being turned out by Tech 4 Mescereau, Tech 4 Melton, Tech 5 Duke, Pfc Adrin, Pfc Hudson, Pvt. Cox and Pvt. Kaczmarek . . . Sgt. Tom MacBlane tells us D Company is ready for all comers, especially on the softball diamond . . . S/Sgt. Calvert and Sgt. Lockwood, his star hurlers, had too much on the ball for Second Bn. Hq. Co. and F Co. in the first two games we won . . . Nottingham still has what it takes to make seven days a dream furlough, according to Privates Gunzetti, McGragan, Trujillo, Kandroc and Rodriquez . . . Everyone there wishes the Red Devils "happy hunting and all that" . . . And then there's the one about Pfc Herring who was inspired to give his good conduct medal to one of the village belles after dating her last week . . . Private Lowell Heid used to be a little man before he got into the army . . . Now he tips the beams at an even 100 pounds . . . That is of course, with T-O and T-E equipment . . . Following his return from Brussels, Pfc Harnard Neeley is prepared to discuss at some length the difference between colored water and what he should have gotten for those prices. He is the more familiar with colored water.



Pvt. Heid

E COMPANY—Easy Company today was prepared to give Nottingham a vote of confidence after sending a three-man patrol to that section of the UK for a seven-day reconnaissance . . . Pfc "Tex" Wampler says the Scotch is there and waiting while Tech 4 Oscar Monk no adds you can have all the girls—except one.





These are the boys who carry Red Devil hopes of victory into the ring in future boxing tournaments. Kneeling, left to right: Pfc Frank Laquinto, E Company; Pvt. Frank Bottoroff, Hq. Co., 1st Bn.; Coach Lt. David Tracey, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn.; Pvt. Ralph Albano, Regt. Hq. Co. Standing, left to right: Pfc Jacob West, E Company; Tech 5 Kenneth Darling, Regt. Hq. Co.; Pfc Lee Romero, E Company; Pfc Fred Nitschke, Regt. Hq. Co.; Pfc John Dunn, E Company; Cpl. Anthony Wareing, Hq. Co., 2nd Bn.; Pfc Vernon Tharaldson, Hq. Co., 1st Bn.; Pvt. Antonio Pacheco, E Company and Cpl. Carl Steerup, Service Co. (508 Regt. Photo)

PFC. CURTIS CANARD FINDS HOTEL SITUATION EQUALLY ROUGH IN JERRYLAND

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introduce himself.

He lay down by the fire, his rifle at his side, and within a minute was sound asleep.

Some time later in the night, he awoke suddenly and found someone leaning over him. He was blinded by a flashlight shining in his face. In an instant he recognized one of his three 'hosts'. He was a Jerry.

Canard started a well-aimed shoulder block but before he could reach pay dirt, the Jerry smashed him across the nose with the flashlight. The blow dropped him to the floor but in an instant Canard was on his feet, this time with a bayonet in his hand.

The Jerry let out a yell for help to his two companions in the next room and then headed for the nearest exit. Conrad stopped to pick up his rifle and then followed him outside.

He cut loose with the three rounds remaining in the clip and then decided this was the best time to rejoin the company. He did.

It was a few days before Canard admitted where he got the beat up nose despite intensive questioning by his buddies. He declined to apply for the Purple Heart.

"That's my first and last attempt at shacking up with the Jerries," Canard explained, "and as far as this non-fraternization program is concerned, that's for me from here out."

Vets Back In States

Continued from Page 1

of H Company, who hails from Floral Park, Long Island, says the servicemen will have to compete with one another as well as civilians when it comes to getting jobs immediately after returning home. "And I'm damn sure that a Congressional Medal of Honor still needs a nickel along with it to buy a hamburger."

The Red Devils and the hundreds of ETO returnees talked it over many a night on the boat back and have reached the conclusion that the GI Bill of Rights has the best answers to the problem.

One of them pointed out: "After the war is over, that is the thing that gives us the right to be a civilian, too."

Colonel Lindquist Former Sports Star

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Colonel Lindquist, was scheduled for activation October 20, 1942.

Like the 501st Regiment, the 508th was formed with personnel volunteering directly from reception centers. Some 3500 to 4000 were screened to obtain 2200. This hand-picked group was then given basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida and then went through jump school at Fort Benning as a unit in battalion classes.

From then on the story of Colonel Lindquist's career, and that of the 508th are parallels. He led the Red Devil regiment from the maneuver areas of Carolina and Tennessee overseas into Normandy, Holland and Belgium under colors of the veteran 82nd Airborne Division.

Perhaps the day isn't too far distant when he'll head the Red Devils back. For there's a Pittsfield, Maine home and family waiting for him too: his wife, Mrs. Alice Lindquist, and two sons, Roy, Jr. age, 12, and Robert, age 9.

His hobbies are sports, all sports. At West Point he was captain of the Ice Hockey team and, while a yearling, he qualified as one of the school's legendary diamond heroes by belting a home run as the Army whipped Navy, 9-7.

Today Colonel Lindquist has not forgotten how to win ball games—or how to make home runs.

Mail Devil's Digest To Family at Home

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has been passed by censor but the signature of a mail censor must appear on the mailing blank before the APO will accept it.

Many of the features contained in DEVIL'S DIGEST, such as the Regimental History on pages four and five, as well as the biographical sketches of your officers and the hundreds of personal items about yourself and your buddies, will prove still more interesting reading after the ETO is history and you are back home playing in the pipe and slipper league.



Here's what the Jerries see if they are unlucky enough to be on DZ when elements of Lt. Col. Louis Mendez Third Battalion fill the sky with silk on way down. Veterans of combat jumps in Normandy and Holland, high standards of jump proficiency illustrated above are typical of those found throughout 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Compact pattern formed in air as Red Devils clear aircraft will be retained on drop zone. (Sig. Sqt. Photo)

THIRD BATTALION NEWS

Free—Bold—Rapid

Third Battalion Alumni Are Leading Red Devil Cheering Within The States

HQ. CO.—Remember Charles Gallinger who was with the 81mm mortars in Normandy? After recovering from his wounds, he is now back in the States and hopefully discharged as a civilian . . . Furthermore he's married and is about to become a father . . . who said the Third Battalion troopers aren't fast. . . . And speaking of civilian alumni or fellows well on the road to recovery back in the States, a check up shows we have nine other fellows in our cheering section . . . Sgt. Wilfred Mack, Pfc John Walniewez, Pfc Alex Sollie, Pfc Patrick French, Pfc Charley Gallinger and Bob Daniels, John Knoll, Asa Reese and Uriel Kendrick . . . They were with us in Normandy on D day and according to their latest letters are in good shape again now . . . Anyone interested in learning volleyball the hard way might challenge this company . . . 1st Sergeant Orvel Shaver promises that he and the rest of the team will take it easy most of the time . . . Corporal King Burke, back after a 30-day furlough in the States, says the folks over there knew more about the war than he did . . . So when the subject came up he just sat around and got zeroed in . . . Hq. Co. has a better than average record for supplying officers from the ranks . . . Lt. Joseph Anderson, formerly a sergeant with the 81mm platoon and 1st Lt. John Little, Bn. S-2, both won [illegible] . . . Another is on [illegible]



S/Sgt. Gallinger

He is S/Sgt. Bill Lord II, and we wish him all the success in the world . . . There are an unidentified few members of the company who would like to know where Lt. Joseph Palladnio acquired all the experience in locating beer . . . During the height of a recent Battle Social engagement, a barrel was removed to an alternate position, dug in, concealed, camouflaged and thus filed for future reference . . . Lt. Palladnio's ability to locate the suds after a brief search indicated that he is no recruit at this sort of thing . . . And if we may quote a citation or two, he was "in the best traditions of the Airborne forces."



Cpl. Cleary

I CO.—Staff Sergeant Skipper apparently has done a little gazing into the crystal ball for he has acquired a set of Tech Sgt. chevrons so as to be ready for P(romotion) Day . . . Ex-Pvt. Richard Lechynski recently made Pfc and it was without the help of Congress . . . Corp. John Canary has a good reason to do that smiling these days—It's that new set of teeth . . . Bill Cisco writes back from a California hospital that the medics are trying to sell him on civilian status . . . And that he doesn't want to buy any part of it . . . The company's latest Bronze Star may be found on the blouse of Pfc Johnny (Sterno) Sternesky . . . Nice going, Johnny!

McCraw Track Ace

HQ. and HQ. CO.—New 1st Sgt. Roy McCraw turns out to be a former track star who insists on taking us all for a trot every morning (puff, puff!) . . . M/Sgt. Brodsky is off to OCS to get his commission the hard way. Good, luck, Brod . . . Two of our "Bobs"—Saville and Lane—will be shedding their corporal's stripes for some well deserved sergeant's variety . . . M-Sgt. Smylie keeps rolling along. He is one of the few men who haven't missed a day of combat time (OK, so there are 30 others in the company) . . . Sgt. Teddy Bellaveau and Lt. Don Hardwick had a grand time in our "home town" during their recent return engagement in the UK . . . And Elsie (Cpl. Bob Ellis) rates congrats on his marriage while rotating in the States . . . The flunkies in their den of iniquity, lavished with pinups of delicious and luscious damsels, have a nifty sewing machine and for a nominal fee (an arm or leg) you can get your patches sewed on correctly . . . Lt. Charles Yate's Yate Balls miscued on a party they almost had . . . S-2's battle cry is: "I will wear my helmet."

SERVICE CO.—One of the most talented right arms in the company belongs to Pfc "Jack" Spagna who does an artistic job with a shaving brush, a barber clipper or the ivory cubes . . . And speaking of artistic work, the bulletin board in front of the Private's Den is kept pretty by one of the Special Service workhorses — Pfc Frank Fleury . . . He also changes the reels during the ackack barrages in the Red Devil Cinema . . . Acting 1st Sgt. Leopold Franczkowski's blonde mustache is blooming in this Spring weather, but Cpl. Ben Schwartzman's is more apt to get caught in his suspension lines . . . The kid with the Pepsodent smile, Pfc Jimmy Munaca likes his new job as assistant mail orderly while his boss, Tech 5 Julius Vargo keeps the personnel happy with prompt mail deliveries.

1st Sgt. Funk Is Nemesis To Jerry

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for hero's hardware. So far a Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award, and a Purple Heart with two clusters top off his collection.

But these two ribbons may have some important company. He has been recommended for the Bronze and Silver Stars and considered for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

McBLANE TO OCS

S-Sgt. Thomas D. McBlane, veteran communication sergeant of Company D, has been selected to attend Officers Candidate School near Paris. He has been the company's radio and wire chief for the airborne invasions of Normandy and Holland, as well as the Ardennes campaign in Belgium.

Holland Jump Surprises Jerries---Turn Back Belgium Attack

Continued from Page Five

were received for the first time and new equipment issued.

In August, the First Allied Airborne Army under Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton was created and assigned the mission of seizing the key Dutch communications cities of Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnheim. Control of these towns would place the mouth of the Rhine in Allied hands, cut off main German forces in Western Holland and place Allied armies in a position to advance into Holland quickly.

Besides the 82nd Airborne Division, other components of the First Allied Airborne Army were the 101st Division, the British 1st and 6th Divisions and the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade.

Drop time for the Red Devils in Holland came at 1328, 17 September 1944. Weather conditions were perfect and unlike the Normandy jump made at night, this one was executed in broad daylight. Flak and anti-aircraft fire was light.

All elements of the Regiment were able to assemble quickly and proceed to the objectives. The First and Second Battalions landed on the DZ while the Third came in 700 yards southeast. Generally all were bunched.

After seizing assigned objectives, the Regiment took up a defensive position that required maintenance of a line over 12 thousand yards in length with enemy on three sides.

Bridge No. 10 across the Maas-Waal Canal, assigned objective of the Second Battalion, was seized by a platoon under the command of Lt. Polette and its destruction prevented.

During the operation the Red Devils became the first Allied Airborne unit to [illegible] in Germany when elements of the first prisoners of war in Germany secured by Allied Airborne troops.

Two plane loads from Company A were erroneously dropped about two miles east of the drop zone in German territory. Lt. Combs, the senior officer present, fought his way back to his battalion, killing an estimated 20 Jerries and bringing back 49 prisoners. He carried out this action With a group of 22 men after having been wounded by flak prior to jumping.

Captain Adams, also of A Company, led a platoon into Nijmegen where they destroyed the control room for the demolition of Nijmegen bridge. Following this, Captain Adams and the platoon were cut off, surrounded and remained in Nijmegen until September 22 when they were able to rejoin the battalion.

Companies C and D, on 20 minutes notice, cleared the landing zone for glider elements which followed the troops into the operation. Action was fast and furious and was topped off with a Hollywood finish. Last of the Jerry opposition was disposed of just as the first glider hit the ground.

At one time during the operation the Regiment was attached to the British 53 (Welsh) Division and was finally relieved by a British brigade in the Bemmel area on November 10, 1944.

After a little over a month's rest in France, the Regiment, on 13 hours notice, was sent back into action again. This time the Red Devils went into the line in trucks and were hurled into the breach caused by Field Marshal Von Runstedt's drive to break through the Allied lines in the Ardennes sector in Belgium.

The Regiment raced north, passing through Bastogne, to take up positions behind hard-presed elements of the 106th and 7th Armored divisions who then withdrew to the rear.

After establishing a defensive line along the west bank of the Salm River with the Regimental CP at Goronne, orders were received from higher headquarters to withdraw five miles and set up a new defensive line. The division was in danger of being flanked.

The withdrawal, only retrograde movement executed by the Red Devils since entering combat in Normandy, began in the bitter cold of Christmas Eve.

Major Benjamin Delameter, then captain and executive officer of the First Battalion, was given command of the covering force which consisted of one platoon from the three rifle companies. Enemy identified opposing the regimental line were a SS Panzer Division and a Volksgrenadier.

The Regiment pulled out, leaving the small covering force to face the Jerries massing across the river for an attack that night. Orders were to hold until 0315 the next morning at all costs.

Shortly before midnight the German attack came. A reinforced battalion came at the three platoons in successive waves only to be dropped in their tracks by machine gun and BAR fire at point blank range.

Some of the positions were finally overrun when ammunition became exhausted, but those who remained in the platoon kept fighting in place until the order was received to infiltrate through the town of Renchaux and form up for a march back to the Regiment.

On the night of the 28th of December the Jerries made one more all-out effort to break through. One platoon of G Company was overrun but E Company less one platoon together with a platoon of F Company launched a counter-attack and by 0430 the MLR had been restored. From then on the Jerries never regained the initiative in this sector.

During this particular phase of the Ardennes operation, the Red Devils captured 705 prisoners, counted 445 German dead, assisted in the successful extraction of elements of three divisions from the St. Vith area and captured Thier Du Mont Ridge, the final objective in the 82nd Division's attack from Basse Bodeux-Erria.

During the month of January and in snow hip deep, making supply lines hazardous and uncertain, the Regiment was committed in various sectors as the Ardennes salient was liquidated. In this period the Regiment advanced from Basse Bodeux, Belgium, to Losheimergraden, Germany.

In addition 660 more prisoners were [illegible] patrol from the Second Battalion [illegible] that is believed to be the first re[illegible] into Germany by 82nd Division [illegible] since the opening of the German drive toward Liege. The Third Battalion captured a 350 mm gun, believed to be one of the largest artillery pieces taken by First Army troops in the campaign.

During the month of February, orders were received from division to clear the area to the Roer valley of all enemy and to seize the high ground overlooking the narrow valley.

The First Battalion jumped off in the attack at 0200 through dense anti-personnel mine fields. Despite this the First Battalion was on its objective by 0850. At 1050 the Second Battalion pushed on to the river line in its sector and by nightfall all enemy opposition west of the Roer had been wiped out.

Today as the once mighty German Army stands on the brink of defeat the Red Devils of the 508th Parachute Infantry continue to play their assigned role in the defense of America's liberties. For courage, valor and achievement, they have been awarded a Unit Citation by the President of the United States and a permanent place in history of great fighting units.

S/Sgt. Klinefelter Volunteers Again, Jolts B Company



S/Sgt. Klinefelter back at work. (508 Reg. Photo)

To be or not to be home is the question at Company B today.

It's all the fault of Staff Sergeant Phillip Klinefelter, Normandy and Holland vet, twice wounded and once decorated. He has just returned from a 30-day furlough in the States.

To be frank about it, Sgt. Klinefelter's appearance and actions around the company area cause us somewhat of a shock as he was certainly classified as one of the sharper operators in the ETO.

The new S/Sgt. Klinefelter has lost weight. This is okay since no one is expected to waste time sleeping or eating while spending 30 days in the States but the thing that has everyone thinking "he was a good guy when he had it" is his attitude towards work.

On the very first day, S/Sgt. Klinefelter hurled himself into his work. It was clear to everyone that he was conscientious and ambitious. In fact he even volunteered to do this job and that job.

There are many opinions advanced as to just what has befallen him. There are a few who say it was his getting married during the furlough that is causing this strange phenomenon. There are others who claim that in the 15 weeks Sgt. Klinefelter was away making the trip he forgot everything he learned about the Army. Then there are three or four others who absolutely refused to believe what they have seen and are reporting to the dispensary to have their eyes checked.

To begin with, S/Sgt. Klinefelter got off to a bad start. He rushed up to Captain Millsaps, company commander, reported and said: "Sir, I'm very glad to be back."

Captain Millsaps held his ground for a few moments, mumbled something about being one of his best customers and then turned slowly and walked back into his tent. He was shaking his head as he sat down.

Today it would be difficult to give someone else in B Company a furlough to the States. Too many are convinced that such a venture will lead only to a sad ending such as getting married, making you ambitious and conscientious and in plain sight of everyone, volunteering for naval

