Red Devils Honor Guard At Frankfurt

Devils Digest

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1945 VOL. II—NO. 3



American, British Awards Are Presented 508 Personnel

Six Silver Stars, 28 Bronze Stars, One British Military Cross and three British Military Medals have been awarded members of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment a review of citation orders issued during the last three weeks reveals today.

The greater portion of awards went to men of the First Battalion as personnel of A Company received two Silver Stars and six Bronze Stars ; B compagny, 10 Bronze Stars and C company a Bronze Star.

However Second Battalion with four Silver Stars, three of the four British Awards and Six Bronze is also well represented. Remainder of the medals were distributed between Third Battalion, Regimental Headquarters and the Medical Detachment.

Of the Silver Stars two were of the cluster variety while seven of the Bronze Stars were repeat jobs. Two officers, Lt. Rex G. Combs of Company A, and Lt. Joseph Hall, formerly of Company D and now Regimenal Special Service officer, and one non-com Sgt. Joseph P. Guzzy of Company F, rang the bell twice.

Lt. Combs was awarded one Silver Star for jumping his stick after being hit by flak, landing in Germany, re-organizing and fighting back to the DZ some 2500 yards away. The men under Lt. Comb's command at the time brought 59 prisoners with them. The cluster came as the result of work in Normandy where he made a solo assaut on a machine gun position with a Tommy gun.

Lt. Hall received a cluster to his Silver Star for leading several hazardous patrol missions during the Belgium campaign. In one of these he attacked an enemy force massing in a village street firing 20 rounds of motar ammunition from a tube he had carried with him. His award of the Military Cross is also the result of action in the Ardenes operation. He will travel to England soon for formal presentation of the medal.

Sgt. Guzzy's double came with the award of the Bronze Star and the British Military Medal.

Others receiving Silver Stars were Lt. Dave R. Owen and Pvt. John Dobrasky, both of F compagny, Capt. Russell G. Wilde of G company and Pfc Carmen Orlando of H Company. Lt. Owen was cited for singlehandedly kayoing a machine gun position with a BAR, Pvt. Dobrasky for the same type of action after his squad leader became a casualty, Capt. Wilde for expert leadership during the attack of January 7th and Pfc. Orlando for laying a mine field while exposed to artillery fire.

The following received Bronze Star clusters: Company A—Sgt. Joe Boone, Pfc. Sam Karmitzski and Pfc. Rigoberto Ledesma; Company E. — Pvt. Odie E. Compton and Cpl. Jesse J. Womble, posthumously ; Regimental

(Continued on Page 6)

Five More Receive Field Commissions

Five more Red Devils have been commissioned in the field as the result of outstanding service during the ETO operations. All have been assigned duties with the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Those commissioned were: Lts. James E. Green, Robert L. Johnson, Worsterm Morgan, Sherman VanEnwyck and Gordon W. Wahto.

Lt. Green was formerly a platoon sergeant in Hq. company, Third Battalion and is now assistant platoon leader, Company I.

Sergeant Major during the Normandy, Holland and Belgium campaigns, Lt. Johnson has been assigned as assistant Regimental Adjatuant.

A section leader in Regimental S-2 before being commissioned, Lt. Morgan's new duties are S-2, Third Battalion.

Lt. Wahto and Lt. Van Enwyck exchanged companies in the First Battalion. Formerly platoon sergeants, Lt. Wahto is an assistant platoon leader in A company while Lt. Van Enwyck is an assistant platoon leader in C Company.

Assigned Special Occupation Duties

508th Parachute Infantry, famed in the combat histories of Normandy, Holland and Belgium, has been ordered to Frankfurt-on-Main to serve as honor guards of American headquarters, Allied Control Council, it was announced today by Colonel Roy E. Lindquist, Red Devil regimental commander.

Selected for this distinctive role in the military occupation of defeated Germany, the Regiment will begin duties in Frankfurt a little more than a year after it spearheaded the invasion of France dropping into the hedgerows and fields of Normandy in the early dawn of D-Day.

It is expected the Red Devils will provide special escorts for visiting military officials and civilian dignitaries, guard highly restricted areas and lend color to formal ceremonies to be staged at the American occupation capital, headquarters of Supreme Comander Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Although no tactical situation is anticipated, the Regiment will remain prepared to return to the combat peak which has earned it a Presidential Unit Citation and many hundreds of individual combat awards during the Normandy, Holland and Ardennes campaigns while attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

"We take this assignment as a great honor for ourselves as well as other airborne units," Colonel Lindquist said said in making the announcement to the Red Devils," and while in Germany we will discharge our duties with this in mind."

A training program in keeping with the new assignment will be followed. Although airborne tactics and problems will be reviewed emphasis will be placed on dismounted drill and formal guard formations, an expanded I and E program inaugurated, including unit schools in various scholastic subjects, and an intensified athletic schedule set up.

Special uniforms, including additional clothing and tailor-made garrison caps, gloves,

(Continued on Page 8)

Lt. Col. Mendez Is Executive Officer Of 508

Lieutenant Colonel Louis G. Mendez, Jr., who led the Third Battalion since activation of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in October 1942 is assigned regimental executive officer, it was announced at headquarters today. He succeeds Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. B. Shanley who is leaving to assume [illegible]

Now commanding the Third Battalion is the senior former executive officer, Major Alton Ladley Bell. Major Bell's former position is Captain Robert Millen, at one time executive officer of the Second Battalion.

Lt. Col. Shanley gave no indication as to the nature of his new assignment other than to say that he did not look forward to spending much time in garrison.

Before becoming executive officer of the Regiment during the latter stages of the Normandy operation, he was commander of the Second Battalion on the initial combat drop and served as S-3 during the Regiment's precombat training in the States.

Major Bell commanded D company until February of 1944 when he was made executive officer of the Third Battalion. Following the Normandy campaign he was sent by the 82nd Airborne Division as official observer for the invasion of Southern France.

Capt. Milan, a native of Waco, Texas, is another veteran Red Devil. Severely injured during one of the practice jumps in England, he left the hospital in August and took charge of the base echelon during the Holland campaign. In the Ardennes campaign, he commanded C company until becoming a casualty.

First Battalion also has a new executive officer. He is Captain Jonathan E. Adams who commanded Company A during all three campaigns.

(Continued on Page 8)

Devils-Digest

ETO Edition

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Office of Public Relations
APO 654 Cable Address: AMIMUF

Pfc. Fred Mercinko — Composition — Typing and Stripes
Company Correspondents

S/Sgt. W. M. Morgan — Regt. Hq. Co.
T/4 Stanley R. Tylski — Hq. Co., 1st Bn.
Sgt. John E. Brophy — Company A
Pfc. Robert Alkire — Company B
Pvt. Nicholas T. D'Amico — Company C
Cpl. Robert J. Carney — Hq. Co., 2nd Bn.
Cpl. Lloyd R. Dixon — Company D
Sgt. L. E. Beasley — Company E
Pfc. Tom Walker — Company F
Sgt. Vernon Lewis — Hq. Co., 3rd Bn.
Sgt. Francis M. Lukovich — Company G
T/4 Orrin Wyo — Company H
Sgt. William R. Chapman — Company I
T/5 Donald J. MacLeod, Photographer — Regt. Hq. Co.
Pfc. James B. Watkins, Jr. — Staff Reporter
Pfc. Melvin R. Seely, Staff Artist — Hq. Co., 1st Bn.

Printed in France by Bourgeaud—Lacoi

When tactically possible, DEVIL'S DIGEST is published by personnel of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment solely for the interest, information and information of personnel of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Material, unless otherwise accredited may be translated, evaluated or reproduced by anyone at his own risk. Opinions passed by SHAEF censor.

Chaplains Corner



By Chaplain Joseph P. Kenny

(This is a letter a Chaplain might write some day to your newly born son. How would you like to write one like this to your son ?)

MY DEAR YOUNGSTER:

In the mail this morning was the good news that you'd just been born. I congratulate you. It's a fine thing to have God's gift of life. You're lucky to be born.

But I want to congratulate you on your father.

You see I knew him well when he was a member of the 508, and I think you're a pretty smart kid to have picked a father like that.

Some of the men during the war days, you see, lost the right ever to be decent fathers. They developed sick bodies. They ran around without shame or self-control. They used women they couldn't help but despise. They didn't seem to realize that a sick body would mean, in all likelihood, a sick baby later on.

But your dad wasn't that kind.

He had courage enough to be clean. He safeguarded himself for the future, when war was over and he'd want to return and establish a home. He didn't disgrace himself and soil his body, when some day he hoped he would love a pure girl and ask her to be the mother of his children.

He was strong enough, you see, to wait for the moment when he would become your father.

So from him you may be sure you have not inherited not a diseased and sickly body, but one that is strong and healthy. He's given you no rotten inheritance of vicious habits. He's given you strength that will be yours all through your life, self control in the face of future temptations, a clean soul to match your clean body.

You're lucky, little fellow, and I congratulate you.

It might have been your bad luck to be born of a mother who found out too late what her husband had been before he married her. You might have inherited the terrible punishment of his sins.

— —

But you didn't. You had a clean, courageous man for a dad. And God is taking care of that home of which he is the head.

I congratulate you, but I congratulate America too which is lucky in pure, strong fathers. And I congratulate the future that will be better because you are the child of a father of whom you can be proud.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Chaplain of your father,
JOSEPH P. KENNY.

Copies of Devil's Digest Available To Former 508 Regiment Men

Arrangements have been made to continue subscriptions to DEVIL'S DIGEST after Regiment personnel return to civilian life. Until further notice copies will be mailed to a home address in the States or the UK without charge. The only requirement is that a request in writing giving the complete address be made to the Office of Public Relations, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, APO 654, U. S. Army. No attempt will be made to forward copies through replacement or separation depot channels.



As the War Dept. announces it takes a total of 85 or more points to crash civilian ranks, 1st Sgt. Roy McGraw, Regimental Hq. company, forms TS Point club for all Red Devils with 84 or 83 totals. 1st Sgt. McGraw, an 84 pointer in the early, unofficial tabulation, issues membership cards to Pfc. Gilbert H. Gidel, Pfc. Matthew A. Bellucci and T/4 Holly H. Drennen, left to right in line, while T/4 Theodora J. Fina, Regimental's high point enlisted men with 131, stands by at the right in anything but sympathetic pose. 1st Sgt. McGraw guarantees membership cards will be punched daily and twice on Sundays by any U. S. Army chaplain. (508 Regt. Photo).

Fina Leads Parade Into Civilian Ranks

Hqs. Hq. Co. — Latest sports here of the wire section is Pfc. John S. Bellis, better known as the Campus Kid... At one time or another he claims to have been hope and prayer of a place called Zlodowitz college... M/Sgt. James B. Smylie, the Iron Man of Combat who didn't miss a day with the Red Devils in action, couldn't stand up under this recent breathing spell and is reported to be Class C, physically... Incidentally he is running the UK at the moment on furlough... Our best wishes on the appointments of Sgt. John R. Wells and Harry L. Evans to W/O... Wonder who'll be bucking for those two big operations ? Well, fellows, « Geronimo » Ted Fina, formerly of the 508, has left for the States... Though only here a short time, old Geronimo has left quite a few warm impressions with us... He must have been quite a spieler in his former outfit as he led that chow line many a day... We also miss bloodie T/5 Johnnie Teele, another boy who made rotation... S/Sgt. Leland T. Swindel still is undecided on the section's leading ladies man: Pfc. Rolla L. (for Lover) Hall or Love'em and Leave'em Zindo. witz... Pvt. Anthony Fiorentino and Pfc. Mike Lomakin opened up a dry cleaning and laundry business... After two days of hard work, Raven takes off for Paris leaving his assistant, Lomakin, in charge... Pfc. George Rilnes turns high hat on the bazooka boys since graduating from the 57 mm gun class... S/Sgt. Willie Hayes' new assistant is supply is Pvt. Mariello... T/Sgt. Stephen Kilson startles the boys by stripping his face of its brush after growing it there since 6 June 1944... We hear it was the result of an elimination from Pigalle Street... Pfc. William Bilth has been selected as one of the company's trustee by Exo Lt. Gorwell... The boys would appreciate a hands-off policy on the loot at Sissione... Pfc. Jody Lander, who would rather give his money away than go to Paris, still insists he will get hot one of these days... But T/4 Holly Drennan, T/4 Glenn Bennet and T/4 Frank Brighton think otherwise... Newly Commissioned Lt. Wormer Morgan is keeping some nurse's horse in plenty of good food after a recent buggy ride... He claims he and the horse got along very well... We're glad Vernel McCracken waits 30 months between each celebration... We're wondering if we get credit for the points running around Nottingham... Letters, candy and cigars for Pfc. Mayo Heath from the States regularly, indicating he wasted no time there as did another guy we know there — eh Ellis ?

Medical Detachment. — We're counting on Pfc. Henry D. Klisiewicz to shape up the States for the day when all get home... Good luck Henry and let us know how it feels to be a civilian again... It seems that T/5 Jackson Floyd is the boy they can't keep off the boat... While in Southern France he missed out on rotation ...Ordinarily this would put a guy down for the count but Jackson came back flashing 131 points and is now checking up on the quickest cure for sea-sickness... Until S/Sgt. Robert T. Hobbs' Purple Heart came through he was a charter member of the TS club with 85 points. Now he has made the charmed circle of 88... So it's easy to see that those boats are going to be just a jammed going back as they were coming over... On the other hand take T/5 Robert L. Ehert who goes on record as saying he doesn't care where he shines his boots, the South Pacific, Germany or in the States... And as far as this correspondent is concerned we don't care either... As long as we are in Kansas... T/4 Anderson and Pfc. Akers have a treat in store for them when they cross the big pond... Each has a daughter he has never seen.

Supply Section. — We would like to take a little space in this edition of Devil's Digest — more or less in self defense... The man everyone in the Regiment wants to see morning, noon and night is S/Sgt. Odell « Boom Boom » Cannan... He's the Regimental Supply sergeant now that Lt. James W. Moore is assuming new duties that go along with his field commission... Just so you won't mistake say of us in this section we'll give you the low-down on Boom-Boom, some of the dark secrets of his past... He has been a member of the 508 since the Red Devils were activated at Blanding... He won his wings in March of 1943 while a squad leader in Easy Company but before coming overseas he was transferred to Supply as an armorer-artificer... It didn't take S/Sgt. Cannan very long to obtain the knowledge need to qualify himself as a Supply Sergeant... He was given the job in Easy company during the Normandy campaign because of his efficient and well managed supply procedure... During the Holland operation Boom Boom not only proved his ability as a supply man but also demonstrated his efficiency as a soldier... He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action as the Supply

(Continued on Page 7)

Red Devils Celebrate Victory In Europe Aware of Price Paid For Peace





By CWO Arthur N. Hamlin

6 June 1944—It was just a year ago according to the calendar, not a long time if we look at it that way. But this has been a year that can't be measured by days or weeks or months. For us of the 505th Parachute Infantry it is a year when days meant little and nights less. Weeks were forgotten, months ignored.

Instead it has been a year in which the next hedgerow, the nearest hill another town or another river or perhaps just a patch of woods seemed important and worthwhile.

It has been a year in which the Red Devils, fresh from the training areas of the United States, took their place with the nation's great fighting units which in the months before had thrown Hitler's fanatical armies from the continent of Africa, the island of Sicily and most of Italy.

During the past 12 months have come victory after victory and with each one a price in dead, mining and maimed. Many of the Red Devils who dropped through the flak and tracers in the darkness of 6 June 1944 are not here. Some remain there in Normandy, others in Holland and many more have not returned from Belgium.

In Normandy it may have been at St. Sauveur Le Vicomte, at Chef du Pont, on Hill 30 or Hill 131 or in the waters of the Merderet or the Douve.

In Holland they may have left us on the approaches to Nijmegen in the town and around the bridge or at Best or Bergendal.

The dash across France into Belgium last December added another milestone: Werbomont, Goronne, Remcheaux, Vielsalm, Haute Bodilmu, Erria, Thier-du-Mont, Diedenberg, Medendorf, Holzheim, Lanzerath, the Siegfried line, Brandenburg and the banks of the Rhine.

Then came V-E day with the Red Devils waiting at airports in France ready to go in on the kill if needed. A parade, a few celebrations and a new mission, this one as important and distinctive as any of the others. But for the time being, at least, fighting is over for the Red Devils.

Combat uniforms, jump suits, knives, pistols and a few other favored articles go into the mothballs. In their place come new garrison uniforms, gloves, scarfs, shiney boots and new caps.

Assigned duties that make them the model unit remaining in the ETO, the Red Devils begin a new page in history. Behind them are the achievements qualifying them as one of the nation's distinguished units, cited by the President of the United States. Before them lies the task of seeing that the peace that they and other Allied soldiers have paid has been worthwhile.

(Photos by T/5 Donald J. MacLeod, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment)

NEWS FIGHTING 1ST

HQ. CO.—Lost and Found Dept: Pfc. Arthur B. Jacoby's duck found quacking furiously in an A Company sleeping bag. . .A pail of water boiling less than 10-feet away convinced Jacoby that this was foul play for keeps. . .As a result he has placed the entire A Company area as well as its personnel "off limits" to his flock. . .Some of the guard on Lt. Napierkowski's tour enjoyed sandwiches and coffee and some didn't. . .Indicating that the States have no monopoly on short rations . . .Pfc. Melvin R. Healey devoted about two hours of his Paris pass to an inspection of the detention barracks at the request of the MPs. . .It turned out to be one of those rare mistakes the OJ gendarmes have cared to admit . . .Pfc. Gordon Johnson may have been lost in the subway most of the day but that did not stop him from seeing Paris. . .He bought a pack of Postcards and looked them over on the way back to camp . . . Ex-chowhound "Angie" Larson set a new 1st Battalion record by spending all his time at the Croix Rouge. . .If anything, this should be included in the Regimental history . . . Pfc. Jim Marsh stopped the show in a Paree cafe by getting a charming companion to dance on his table. . .Cpl. Joe Craca lost his wallet the hard way. . .He was cold sober at the time.

B CO.—Typical comment in the Den on V-E day: "So What?". . .But that was when the CBI blues was popular before the Red Devil's current assignment was announced. . .Some of the boys are moaning about being put to bed by the Duty Officer. . . Seems they want to be tucked in an kissed. . .Pfc. Hugh Rudisill is among the late arrivals from the hospital but S/Sgt. Shufford was kind enough to check into the white sheet league and keep charges in the morning report to a minimum. . .Sgt. Bobby "The Nose" Mills and Pfc. Walter Dusewglou arrived from the Riveria looking healthy and rested. . .Indicating they must not have had a very good time. . .If you are looking for T/5 Walter Barrett you'll have to go to England to find him. . .Also on the furlough list are Pvt. M. S. Nikiauski, Pfc. Bramwell Fredrickson and Pvt. Ralph E. Knox. . .This trio is representing the Den in southern France. . .Thumbnail Sketch: "The Muscle. Bones. Atlas, Jr.". . .These are not characters taken from Tip Top Comics but some of the nicknames friends have put on Pfc. Norman L. Noughlan. . .Norman L. looks like someone from Stalag VIII or any other infamous Jerry PW camp. . .He would be a winning argument for bigger and better army menus. . .His worst vice is cutting hair as appearance of several members of the company testifys. . .His only rival at the moment is Melvin "The Shadow" Clark. . .It's an ounce and ounce race. . . Attention S-2: We would like a report on why Lt. Maurice E. Wheelock needed practically a lister bag full of water for something inside his tent . . .Judging from the quantity he must have on of three things: A swimming pool, a bath tub or a baby elephant . . .Sgt. Jim Bohdnon and Pfc. E. R. Van Der Werf keep bummings rides on B-24s and B-17s in the hope that one of the planes will get lost. . . And wind up landing at La-Guardia Field in New York.

C CO.—We have a happy and at the same time regrettable tale to tell in this column today. . .Our best friend and soldier, 1st Sgt. Leonard A. Funk, is heading for the States with more than enough points to keep him there. . . Incidentally he rates a big play in the official 82nd Airborne Division history which is just coming off the press . . .It tells about his work clearing the LZ in Holand and taking care of the Jerry prison detail in Belgium. . . Going along to kelp him out of trouble on his trip to the States is J. S. Watson. . . Sgt. Ray Martinez, Pfcs. Martin Davidson and Anthony Saiz made it back from the Riviera to pull duty at 6:30 a.m. the other Monday morning . . .Here's a lineup of familiar faces that have returned from the hospital: Sgt. Warren O. Henry, Pfcs. E. Moorehouse and E. D. Moore as well as Pvt. Jesse J. McNargue, Pfc. Alex Garcia and Pfc. J. C. Shields. . .A couple of Bronze Stars from opposite sides of the railroad tracks got together the other day when Sgt. Johnny Hardie met a WAC in Paris. . .She got hers for typing 2,000 words without making a mistake. . . Johnny says that's more than he could do, which is a nice way of coking at it. . . Some of the men want the cooks and KPs to change places. . .Pfc. Russell F. Milliken's big wish of the moment is to find his wallet or any of the contents.

A CO.—Pfc. Maurice E. Myers claims to be the first 508 man to make contact with the Russians. . .He met a Russian WAC or the equivalent thereof the other day in Paris. . .Needless to say our relations with the USSR improved considerably. . .Here's one for Ripley and all others concerned. . .Pfc. Rigoberto Ledesma, an old A Company hand, has been sweating out his citizenship papers since the age of 21. . .During the Holland operation he captured a Jerry who had a complete set in his possession. . . Ledesma turned the Jerry and papers in with the explanation: "I guess I'll have to wait and get mine the hard way." . . .Sgt. Cloyce Drury, Texas" gift to the Red Devils, joined up via C-47 the other day. . .A few minutes in his tent gets you a choice set of anecdodotes not available for publication. . . Reframe of A Company theme song. "Am I Blue", floating down the street again now that Cpl. James Blue is back on deck. . .Biggest problem to confront A Company since the Normandy invasion is selection of an appropriate name for the Limey dog lib-

(Continued on Page 8)

Sgt. Gushue's Bayonet No Stranger To Jerries In Red Devil Campaigns

The bayonet according to the Oxford Dictionary, is a "stabbing blade attached to the end of a rifle."

There are a million infantrymen who will tell you that is what the bayonet is supposed to be and there is a handful of others who will say there isn't a damn thing wrong with that definition.

One of this handful is Sgt. Charles A. Gushue, of A Company and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His bayonet has done a little more than stand parade ground inspection.

Holder of the Bronze Star and one of the 15 Distinguished Service Crosses awarded members of the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, Sgt. Gushue speaks from practical experience when he recommends the army's most widely used can opener as "the best thing to finish a job you started out to do."

Just how many times Sgt. Gushue has practiced what he preaches is anyone's guess. Certainly, like most paratroopers, he had had plenty of opportunity.

There was the initial jump in Normandy when he landed deep in Jerry land to fight in a small group until captured on D-plus 6. Escaping on D-plus 10 he rejoined Company A, picked up a Bronze Star for heroic action with a machine gun during the attack on hill 131 on 3rd of July 1944.

In Holland while leading his squad as the point of Lt. George Lamb's second platoon patrolling into the city gave one of the best demonstrations of what a bayonet could do that has been seen in this or any other war.

According to citation orders awarding him the DSC, the nation's second highest combat honor, Germans cut loose on the patoon with heavy automatic fire from close range. In the darkness control was momentarily lost. And then:

"Sergeant Gushue, acting upon his own initiative, reorganized his squad and led it against the enemy position. He threw grenades and charged a machine gun position, bayoneting three Germans and forcing the remainder to withrdaw. . .Upon encountering resistance near the approaches to the (Nijmegen) bridge, Sergeant Gushue, single-handed, assaulted one machine gun position and bayoneted four Germans. The action of Sergeant Gushue enabled his platoon to seize and hold a position near the bridge until contacted by British armored units three days later. . ."

On that particular night, the 17th of September 1944, the 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gushue, 29-59 Gaul St., Philadelphia, Pa., was not the only Company A trooper cutting up Jerries with steel instead of lead. There was S/Sgt. Avin Henderson, Gushue's buddy who was mortally wounded in the bloody battle that brought liberty to Nijmegen.

In the posthumous award of the DSC to S/Sgt. Henderson citation orders record that he "killed two Germans in hand-to-hand fighting and bayoneted four others. . .



SGT. CHARLES GUSHUE

(508 Regt. Photo)

"He led his patrol in the accomplishment of three seperate missions during the attack by his batalion, during which time he personally destroyed four enemy machine gun positions and assisted in the capture of six prisoners. When the point of the battalion advance became pinned down by enemy machine gun fire in the city of Nijmegen, Staff Sergeant Henderson led a squad from the advance guard and pushed forward, destroying this enemy position. He attacked a circular plaza to his front and cleared it of the enemy. Later at the bridge he personally destroyed two machine gun positions and caused the crew of the third to withdraw. During this attack he was killed by enemy fire."

This is a war in which every unit, particularly those of the United States, puts its faith and achieves success on the strength of tremendous fire power. Perhaps it is true that the bayonet is the army's forgotten weapon, a zero factor in the future's big picture.

But the bayonet can still do the job, seize an objective, turn the tide in a campaign —providing it is in the hands of such men as Gushue and Henderson. Like every other weapon, no matter how modern or complex, the bayonet is as good as the man who uses it.

Seek Name For Fighting First Pup

(Continued from Page 7)

not hiring Sgt. Salvador P. Casteneda to teach French . . .Hle specializes in conversations with beautiful young ladies. . .And no doubt there is a hell of a demand for such a course. . .For example Sal is writing to a young lovely in the States imparting such pearls of wisdom as: "Prommenade. . . means to walk" etc. . .Wonder if this completes the lesson. . .Cpl. Earl W. Draper has decided to withdraw his joint campaign for mayor of Chartres and Sisslone. . . He has figured up his points . . .They total 90. . .Check Pvt. Lou Brockwell for the souvenir he got from a sweet old lady in Chartres. . .Then there is that quart of "Maple Syrup" that some thoughtful person sent to Pvt. Williams . . .It tasted like "bonded" stuff. . .Pvt. Joe Cananesy also scored. . .His was rye. . . According to Sgt. Suelke, Pfc. Joe E. Amore is so small that he came damn near being nothing.

WAR BOND SALE

Buy War Bonds with part of your next month's pay. For details see your personnel clerk.



Red Devil rug cutters and Mademoiselle bop cats shift into high gear at recent Company F party at Chartres Opera House. In addition Yank dance, French femmes were introduced to beer made from American hops. (508 Regt. Photo).

Troopers Find GI Paradise At Riviera

By Pfc. Tom Walker

If you, too, have kept your boots shinned, have washed behind your ears, avoided Courts-Martial and laughed long and loud at your company commander's jokes, you might be among the fortunate few who leave each week for seven glorious days at the gay Riviera.

A three hour plane ride will take you to a Shangri-La of sunshine and flowers, swanky hotels, good food, good music and beautiful Mademoiselles. You'll be amazed at the lack of red tape. There are no lines to sweat out, no long list of rules and regulations, no threat of courts-martial and no uniform regulations. The MPs are there to help you—not to give you a hard time.

Before the war, the Riviera was the playground of millionaires. After a week at the Army's recreational area, a G. I. begins to feel that he is a civilian playboy. If you go with one or two or maybe three buddies you can get a room together just as though you owned the joint. Soft beds, white sheets, hot water, private baths, elevator and maid service, just like the hotels in the States.

Meals are served in the hotel dining room. There are white table clothes, fresh flowers on each table, good orchestra music to go with excellent food. Each meal is served for three hours and they are all free.

The hotel will lend you a pretty mademoiselle to assist you on a shopping tour. They will lend you a bicycle. A ride to Monte Carlo is just a good work-out. You can go into the casinos there but not into the gambling rooms.

George Lott, former Davis Cup tennis champ, will give you a few pointers on the game if you'd care to play. You can go for a motorboat ride along the coast or take a bus tour through Nice, Cannes and nearby cities. The Red Cross club is the nicest on the continent. The building was the best casino in Nice before the war.

The Bamboo Room has bottled cokes to offer at two francs each. All you can drink and no line to sweat out. In fact there are no lines anywhere. There is a snack-bar, a free clothes pressing service, a stage play in luxurious theatres, good music, pretty girls, dances, package wraping service, dancing lessons and many other aides and entertainments.

The city of Nice is off limits to officers, except those who work there of course. Saluting is not required.

If you like a change of clothes, the quartermaster will trade you a new set. No red tape. The finance company will give you a very generous partial pay. Takes about five minutes. The PX's have all sorts of rations. A new PX has opened on Victor Blvd., and has American beer and ice cream.

There are countless night clubs and places of entertainment. The hours slip away like sand through your fingers. Then one morning you are awaken at the ungodly hour of seven o'clock. You eat a big breakfast, tip the elevator boy, kiss the maid good-bye (she is a young thing about 60) and walk out of the hotel.

You look hopefully towards the heavens for a sign of bad flying weaher, but clear blue skies and the morning sun look back at you—and you know "You've had it".

It's like being drafted all over again.

More Awards Go To Red Devils

(Continued from Page 1)

Headquarters. — Lt. Col. Thomas J. B. Shanley; Third Battalion. — Lt. Col. Louis G. Mendez.

The following Bronze Stars: Company A. — Pfc. Odie L. Compton, S/Sgt. Sherman Van Enwyce, 1st Lt. John P. Foley; Company B. — Pfc. George Banks; Pvt. Homer B. Bohannon, Sgt. J. D. Collier, Sgt. Robert K. Mills, Captain Woodrow W. Millsaps, Sgt. Frank R. Hernandez, Cpl. Walter H. Barrett, Sgt. Donald L. King; Company C. — Lt. Gordon W. Wahto; Company D— Lt. Norm Mac Vicar; Company F. — Sgt. Joseph Gurry, Sgt. Robert J. Broderich, Cpl. William Clark and Pfc. Arthur Sanchez; Second Battalion. — Major Royal R. Taylor; Hq. Co. Third Bn. — S/Sgt. William W. Howe. — Regimental Hq. — Captain Walter H. Silver; Medical Detachment. — Pfc. Dewey Hollingsworth.

The other two awards of the British Military Medal went to Pfc. Alfred W. Raymond of Hq. Company, Third Battalion and Pvt. Percy C. Kirk of Company D.

Cannan Supply Ace

(Continued from Page 2)

Section turned back an enemy counterattack on the 12... During the Ardennes campaign he was transferred to Regimental Supply to serve in his present capacity... Boom-Boom does all right as a family man, too... He has a beautiful wife, Julie, and a baby daughter he has never seen, waiting for him at home in Largo, Florida... And that, in brief, is the Red Devil supply sergeant... As you see, he's some guy... If you have supply troubles and a chaplain isn't available, look up S/Sgt. Cannan... As far as the rest of us are concerned, to use an immoral quotation, "We don't know from nothin' "

SECOND BATTALION NEWS

HQ. CO.—This company's party held in Chartres recently turned out to be howling success. . .The entire evening passed without a single hitch in the perfectly planned program. . .In addition to bow-coo cold beer the town's pas and mas supplied with the best crop of femmes we have seen in a long while. . . In our last start in this column we attempted to list all the original Blanding men still with us but completely overlooked our chow slingers . . .Our apologies to S/Sgt. Jack Rahn and T/5 William Bellale as well as T/5 Paul Crawford. . .If a guy couldn't pronnounce the word POINTS these days he'd just have to keep his mouth shut. . .All in all not a bad system if you have what it takes. . .Our baseball combine cleaned house in the second battalion and is marking time for the oft-postponed regimental championships . . . Looks as though Sgt. Thomas Elmore is bucking for Section VIII . . .Just the other day we spotted him playing with a yo-yo. . .Incidentally it was a damn good demonstration—for Section VIII we mean.

D CO.—Red Devils at large are hereby notified that this company's second platoon is ready to take on all volleyball combines, good and bad, in the Regiment. . .Second platoon has yet to be stopped in the Battalion. . .Anyone not agreeing can compete the necessary arrangements with Lt. Hall, Second Battalion's Athletic Officer. . .D Company officially congratulates S/Sgt. Carroll Calvert on his Silver Star and Pfc. Alexander Oybkhan on his Bronze Star. . .Both awards came as the result of sterling work in Belgium. . .It's nice to get them now when everyone is digging for points. . .Pfc. Bob Robertson claims he's discovered the only girl in France who is not interested in money. . .But before, we believe it, Bob, you'll have to bring her around and introduce her to the boys. . .Maybe it was all a dream, perhaps the result of too much wishful thinking but this is the way it happened. . . Early in the morning, before reveille to be exact, your correspondent was forced to crawl out of his bed because of certain organic urgings. . . While enroute to the house of relief, a strange sight greeted our eyes. . .A young man, disguished in a black mustache, passed us carrying a struggling figure wrapped in a sleeping bag. . .We wouldn't have thought too much of this as we dont like to think at this time of the day but the boy with the mustache also carried a coil of rope. . .We decided to follow at a respectable distance. . .Upon reaching a pine tree whose lowest branch was some eight feet from the ground, the mysterious one dropped his burden, quickly fashioned a noose, slipped it around the sleeping bag and after tossing the other end of the rope over the limb, hoisted his victim aloft. . .Another tie and the job was completed. . .For a few seconds he surveyed his job with triumph, muttering: "No more horrible, horrible snoring". . .Then he turned and disappeared into the brush. . .Your correspondent figured it was safe enough to try some rescue work and rushed forward. . .We cut the rope and the figure fell to the ground bursting from the sack. . .First we saw shocks of red dair, then a purplished face. . .It was our old friend, Pfc. Lowell Heid . . .Instead of serving justice, we had thwarted it. . .Okay, maybe it was a dream but dreams, you know, sometimes come true. . .And if this one does, we'll know how to act and not make the same mistake again.

E CO.—Easy Company has lost its First Sergeant, Lionel W. Gagnon. He's headed home to Eagle Lake, Maine, on a furlough because of the illness of his mother. . .Point wealthy, 1st Sgt. Gagnon, who has been on the job since last November, may not be back . . .In the meantime T/Sgt. George Coffin has taken over . . .Conservation in the company street: "If you had to borrow my pants to go AWOL," the CO said, "you could have at least returned them in one piece". . .Recalling Colonel Roy E. Lindquist's memorial speech in Sisslone we got to wondering how many original Red Devils were still with the company. . .A check-up reveals we still have 22 EMs and one officer. . .They are: 1st Lt. George R. Miles, C. O., S/Sgt. Laurence T. Aaron, Steve Brougley; Sgts. Robert Andras, Roger R. Cavallerro, Andy J. J. Orlindo, Robert W. O.Connor, Dale R. Roudeluah, Frank Smith, Louis W. Yourkovich; T/4s Oscus M. Montance and David L. Speed; Cpls. Mark W. Chesmiak, S. G. Slenkle, John L. Simmons, George W. Womach; Pfcs. Carl D. H. Nilsen, Jr., Gerald F. Adams, Earl D. Hinebrough, O. W. Wampler, Bob Abernathy, Donald E. Faulkner, Fredrick J. Infanger. . . As far as we are concerned when better parties are thrown, Company E will be in the pitcher's box. . .For example take the givet of May 23rd in the Chartres Opera House. . .By far the main feature of the evening was the introduction to this sector of 3.2 beer brewed with American hops. . .Music for the affair was furnished by a collection of solid senders recruited among local talent . . .They easily sounded like Benny Goodman if you had enough beer and maybe a bit of private stock. . .French lassies had a dance to learn the fine points of American Jitter Bugging and more than one showed definite signs of American Rehabilitation. . . Decorations consisted of multi-colored parachutes hanging from the ceiling. . .Putiwas a little bit of harmonizing by the more mellow men of Easy Company.

F CO.—I and E program may be missing a good bet in

(Continued on Page 6)



Nope, this is not Saturday night at a local dance hall but an action scene from Third Battalion's latest form of entertainment known as White Horse Game, resembling football, Japanese wrestling, Custer's Last Stand and basement full of women at bargain counter, developed by Lt. Col. Louis G. Mendez, Battalion commander, who referees. (508 Regt. Photo).

WHITE HORSE TOPS IN RIOTS

Third Battalion Troopers may call it White Horse, but to anyone else it is organized mayhem.

With 22 men to the team, each answering to a military name, the game is fashioned after football, American style. Principal difference is that some of the payers ride "piggyback."

"After going through one session of this game," said a G Company player, "I think childbirth would be a pleasure by comparison."

All players are referred to in military terminology, such as Machine Gun, Anti-Tank or Mortars, etc. The backfield, called the maneuvering force, includes scouts along with the CO and other brass.

The "White Horse" is the player wearing a Wool Knit Cap, Model M1, A2. This is the only time this article of issue can be worn in the ETO without the helmet liner, M1 and the offender refused the advantage of courts-martial before receiving punishment.

With half the team mounted, protection is attempted as the White Horse tries to ram his way through the opposition. Then it becomes the old story of an irresistable force meeting an immovable object and the medics are inspired to issue the communique:

"Nuts—Here we go again."

The mortar is the pivot of the line with plays shot through either side.

Lt. Colonel Louis G. Mendez, Jr., commanding the Third Battalion, authored the brawl and said he is using it to "teach military tactics, develop men physically and give them a little entertainment."

THIRD BATTALION NEWS

Free—Bold—Rapid

H CO.—When it comes to softball H Company will be happy to provide the opposition against any company in the Rigiment. . .Yes, there are financial opportunities . . In the Dreux area we led the league which included four battalion teams and five sponsored by the Air Corps . . In fact we weren't beaten in that circuit and dont expect to be in any other. . . Credit for this record is due in no small part to spark-plug Pvt. R. J. Brown and the pitching of Sgt. Lyle Kumler and Pvt. Jimmy Tibedeau. . . We take pleasure in announcing that our C.O., Lt. Louis L. Toth, has survived the English pubs and all that goes with them. . .A review of the company's roll of honor reveals that Sgt. Kumler heads the list with his DSC awarded for his great work in the Holland campaign. . .Next in line is Pvt. Charles W. Roberst and Lt. Jack Darden, both with Silver Stars. . .Lt. Darden joined us after a hitch with the 509. . .Also from the same unit wearing Bronze Stars are S/Sgt. Henning Olsen, Sgt. James Kay, Cpl. C. E. Brown and Cpl. Harry D. Purdy. . .Last but not least Sgt. Jesse Alley has a certificate of merit buried somewhere in his barracks bag. . .But before leaving the subject S/Sgt. Ralph Busson has a Silver Star in the rumor stage. . .Some of the cooks dont like the current practice of raising dogs, ducks, guineapigs, rabits and chickens . . .They claim it gives the impression that some of the fellows are not getting enough to eat. . .First Sergeant Dick Slagle is about ready to take that long trip across the pond. . .One of the Blanding cadre, he wears the Purple Heart with cluster and has made all three operations

I CO.—Not everyone with 85 points is going home. . . For example there is S/Sgt. Jack Skipper who will hang around for the finish. . .But there are plenty of others with different ideas. . .Some of our first civilian prospects are S/Sgt. Everett Agee, Jr., Pfc. Mickey Mutich, Cpl. John Canary, Pfc. Edward S. Whiterell, Pvt. Nick Nagurne, T/4 William H. Hatcher, Pvt. Doyle E. Orbison, Pfc. Walter E. Tabor, T/4 Ed Lyons, Cpl. Calvin A. Beck, Sgt. Willie E. Crabb, Pfc. Thomas A. Long, Sgt. Joe Elder, Pvt. Joseph W. Arsensult, Pvt. William H. Shearer, T/4 Ed. Rumfelt, Pvt. Kenneth Nielsen and our beloved 1st Sgt. George Fields . . .We wish to welcome back our mess personnel. . .And hope to hell they stay with us from here out. . .The boys in the second platoon whipped out the gladhand for Sgt. James Hutto, just back from the white sheets. . .They're looking for "Ma" Elliot any day now. . .Pfc. Edward Corrigan had a 60 hour Paris pass and needs 160 hours to get over it. . .This company welcomes our new CO, Capt. Hillman C. Dress, and wish him the best of everything in the future. . .T/4 Bill Chapman, the tall dark, handsome radio operaor from Los Angeles (that's me) can't quite understand why those beautiful girls in Paree dont swoon when he makes an appearance. . .Says Bill, "It looks just about the same class of ball as we have in LA and I never had much trouble keeping my batting average up there." . . .We credit T/5 Wilbur Sauer, our supply chief, with keeping I company the Beau Brummels of the Regiment. . .Pvt. Morris H. McCue would like to take this opportunity to thank the mail orderly for a package containing ear muffs and a pair of gloves. . .Of course it would have been nicer if they arrived last January but after all they did get here.

Name Major Bell Third Battalion Head

(Continued from Page 1)

He fills the post vacated by Major Benjamin F. Delamater, III who has been assigned duties in another unit.

Another change at Regimental Headquarters saw Lt. John Hall, formerly of D company, assigned Regimental Special Service Officer. He replaces Captain Peterson who has been assigned duties with another unit.

OCCUPATION DUTIES SET

(Continued from Page 1)

scarfs and jump boots, are either being issued now or will be when they are available.

Originally a selected group from thousands of volunteers for parachute duty, this policy is being followed in the conversion to a new Table of Organization. Qualified personnel requesting discharge from the army or additional combat duty in another theater are being released and replaced by other paratroopers.

Fighting First Seeks New Name For Pup

(Continued from Page 6)

erated from Nottingham by Sgt. Drury. . .Some of the handles under consideration are Jumper, Prop Blast, Red Ball and Mess Kit. . .We think Malfunction just about covers the situation. . .Pfc. "Blackie" Schwartz is busy fulfilling requests these evenings at the local Red Cross for piano and vocal renditions of "Parachute Blondie" . . . S/Sgt. Alabama Hudson is our idea of modesty personified. . .He refuses to roll up his sleeves and unveil a tattooed motto: "DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR". . .We all realize that Pfc. Johnny Shultz is superstitious but we would like to know the real meaning of the scented hanky he places beneath his pillow each night.

Red Devil Battalion Commanders Grain Crack Combat Records



LT. COL. SHIELDS WARREN

By S/Sgt. George DeCarvalho

Lieutenant Colonel Shields Warren was born and bred for battle, trained and tutored all his life for military command. His father commanded a machine gun battalion in France in the last war. This time he has four first cousins including a first lieutenant, in the Nurse Corps and a father-in-law in the Army. His son, Shields Warren III, born August 26, 1944 eight months after the Regiment went overseas, is slated for West Point, class of, say, 66.

Colonel Warren, himself, born during the first World War—21 March, 1916—which is incidentally the day spring officially begins—was graduated from West Point just in time for this one on 11 June 1939.

As a boy he went to a dozen different schools, lived in as many different Army posts, including the Panama Canal Zone. As a newly-commissioned second lieutenant in 1939 he immediately took an overseas assignment: the 19th Infantry, Hawaii.

He left the States for Hawaii on October 10, 1939, and left Hawaii for the States exactly three years later. At Pearl Harbor when the Japs sneaked in, he is one of the few Regimental officers wearing the Pacific Theater Ribbon.

Upon his arrival in the States in the fall of 1942 the then Capt. Warren immediately applied for the paratroops. After a brief spell as OCS instructor and of course those four 1-o-n-g weeks at Jump School, Col. Warren was assigned to the 508 at Camp Mackall as executive officer of the 2nd Bn.

He commanded the 2nd Bn. in the South Carolina maneuvers of May 1943, again led the 2nd Bn through most of the Tennessee maneuvers. After another short spell as acting Bn. commander—the Fighting First this time—in Ireland and Nottingham, he went into Normandy as executive officer of the First Battalion.

On D-Day Col. Warren took over the First Bn. for keeps. During the first six days he commanded the Bn.'s battle group defending the southern half of famed Hill 30 dominating Merederet and Douve River bridges.

From then on any biography of Col. Warren is a history of his Battalion, written in blood and glory, through mud and misery to victory. The never ending attack missions of Normandy, Beuzeville, La Bastille and Baupte, Hill 95 and Hill 131, the snow-covered hills of the Ardennes and mine-covered Hill 400 at the Roer.

War, the greatest generals say, is won or lost by battalions because no larger unit can be commanded in person in the field. This ETO war is won now, and in the winning, Lt. Col. Warren himself won the Bronze Star for the Holland LZ attack, the Silver Star and Purple Heart in those furious Normandy days. Recently liberated France awarded him a Croix-de-Guerre with palm.

With 43 months overseas since September of 1940, he is sitting pretty on points—156 to be exact. But of course Battalion Commanders in the Regular Army are slightly disinterested in the point system for themselves.

With another attack mission apparently not just around the corner, Lt. Col. Warren hopes to devote more time to his hobbies: amateur photography and automatic weapons—he dotes on plans for the perfect LMG—flying a cub plane.

Like everyone else in the Battalion he would like to get home for awhile where his wife is waiting for him in Gainesville, Florida. And then there,s that son he has never seen, old enough by now to toddle around, perhaps even take a little paternal close order.



LT. COL. LOUIS G. MENDEZ, JR.

When it comes to colorful troop-leading, it is hard to find anyone quite the equal of the Third Battalion's Lieutenant Colonel Louis G. Mendez, Jr.

A member of the Red Devils forces and Third Batttalion skipper since activation, Lt. Col. Mendez has seen as much action at point-blank range as most men in the Regiment.

Born 27 years ago in Trinidad, Colorado, he was graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1940. Married, his wife and three children wait for him at Bayonne, N. J.

Lt. Col. Mendez has always insisted that his men be crack soldiers both in garrison and in combat. And they are. Top physical condition at all times is a must for both officers and men. Although known in private conversation as "Uncle Lou," he commands tremendous respect and admiration from all those who serve with him.

As a result he has the faculty of getting things done with the minimum number of words and orders. Typical is his memorable order launching one of the bloodiest attacks of the entire Normandy campaign, that which gave the Battalion possession of Hill 95.

Walking into the middle of an open field, exposed to enemy fire and observation, he yelled: "Let's go" and the Third did until the high ground was permanently in Red Devil hands.

During this action, Lt. Col. Mendez and his men were shelled by artillery from both sides while crossing open ground the Jerries had prepared to defend days in advance. For this achievement he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

In the early stages of the Normandy operation, Lt. Col. Mendez had no battalion to help him in his fight against the Germans. So he did a lot of it by himself or with the small squad he succeeded in assembling after the drop.

Joining up with Sgt. Jesse Allen, H company, Cpl. Richard Fritter, and Pvt. Pappy Koudel, both of Headquarters company, this quartet ended the war prematurily for many a Jerry before reaching the provisional force defending Hill 30 on D plus 4.

In the three operations, there is only one occasion on record where he has maintained an attack CP. This was at Thier Du Mont when he was pinned down for two hours by direct 88 fire.

In Holland he directed the Wercheren Dykes attack riding the top of a British tank supporting the assault echelon. O company, leading, kicked off at 0730 and the objective taken by 1030 hours.

However it isn't instances such as these which make men of the Third Battalion eager to follow "The Chief" anywhere. They claim he is the best CO any battalion ever had because of the personal attention he gives to small details.

In Belgium he waded through thousands of yards of deep snow to lay in a machine gun or two for a couple of inexperienced replacements. Or he went twice as far to get food and ammunition to another outpost.

Ordinarily the rank and file don't get that kind of personal attention from a Battalion commander. But the men of the Third Battalion do obviously because Lieutenant Colonel Louis G. Mendez, Jr. is not an ordinary CO.



LT. COL. OTHO HOLMES

Once in a great while you run across a fellow who makes winning ball games a habit instead of an occasion. One of these is Lieutenant Colonel Otho Holmes, comanding the Second Battalion.

Youngest of the 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment's battalion leaders, he is just what the doctors ordered in a paratrooper. Six-feet tall, approaching 200 pounds, he is a natural athlete, long on endurance, instinctively aggressive.

Ever since he came to the Red Devils, Colonel Holmes has been doing a bang-up job. First as Regimental S-3 and following the Normandy campaign as the Second Battalion's CO.

Born in Wilmington, Ohio, he calls this town home. While attending high school there he soon established himself as one of the state's better scholastic performers in football and boxing.

Upon graduation he enrolled at the University of Idaho and under the gridiron tutelage of Ted Banks, one of Bernie Bierman's products, he checked in three seasons of varsity ball handling, at one time or another, ever post in the backfield.

When the football season was over, he spent most of his time in the ring. As a middleweight, he was a tough customer to handle and habitually put points alloted this bracket under Idaho's clors.

Upon gradualon from college five years ago he was given a commission in the regular army and almost immediately began to train for staff and command duties he has discharge so capably while with the Red Devils.

He has one child, Roderick, 18 months old whom he once saw for a few hours. His wife, Reba, and son live in Wilmington.

As commander of the Second Battalion Lt. Col. Holmes' first task was to get his men ready for the Holland operation. Like other units of the Regiment, the Second Battalion had paid heavily for the victory and success it had achieved in Normandy.

But on that September afternoon when the Red Devils wearing twin bolts of lightning on their helmets landed in Holland, it was obvious, particularly to the Jerries, that the Second Battalion was ready to handle the mission it had been assigned. Among these were the establishing of road blocks on important highways, securing Bridge No. 10 over the Maas Waal canal and clearing the LZ of enemy for gliders scheduled to follow the Red Devils.

After moving to the Vex Hill sector, the Second Battalion dug in for a defensive stand against numerically superior German forces. On the night of Oct. 1-2, the nemy launched an attack in strenght, supported by artillery and tanks.

Like any paratrooper, Lt. Col. Holmes knows a good fight when he sees one and what to do about it. Checking out of the CP he moved to the forward positions and while constantly exposed to fire directed small units during the bitter fight, and then personally led the counter-attack against enemy penetrations of the Battalion area.

For this action he was awarded the Silver Star.

During the Bulge operation, he led his Battalion with similiar success. Assigned the most forward and exposed positions, they held Thier DuMont Ridge against persistent Jerry assaults. Withdrawing on orders from higher headquarters, Lt. Col. Holmes led his men back to their old positions in a smashing drive a few days later.

Today the Second Battalion prepares for a different assignment, hardly as spectacular as those of Normandy, Holland or Belgium but equally as important. And it will be another job well done. That's the way Lt. Col. Holmes and his battalion do things.