

City's 'Tigers' Are Alert For Japs in Jungleland



Clevelanders in a 37th Division tank destroyer battalion are pictured above. Left to right, seated: Sergeant Jack Nageotte, Sergeant Robert Guenther, Sergeant Dick Nageotte, Sergeant Earl B. Trappe, Sergeant Raymond H. Rosing, Corporal Mathews G. Rintchen and Corporal Edward J. Piekarczyk. Standing: Sergeant Steve Malinky, Private Cecil E. Burt, Sergeant Robert Swearingen, Sergeant Edward R. Brigadier, Private Edward Zeith and Sergeant Charles R. Sroka.

BY RAY TURK

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WITH THE 37TH DIVISION, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC—The emblem of the tank destroyers is a snarling tiger's head. There could be no more appropriate symbol for the tank destroyer boys. They are tigers in attack—lithe, sinewy marauders of the field who can strike down the prey with one powerful blow.

Our tank destroyer battalion is streamlined for speed and its young armored knights are as tough as chrome steel. Their chargers are the new M-18, a high-speed tank destroyer now in action on the European and Pacific battlefronts.

The M-18 is a 1944 model Buick. Back in 1941 and 1942 Buick put out a classy, low-slung motor car that was called a "Torpedo." But this is the REAL Buick torpedo. It can rip along at 55 miles an hour and it mounts a 76-millimeter high velocity cannon and a 50-caliber machine gun.

Outfit Has 28 Clevelanders

Twenty-eight Clevelanders are with this outfit. Among them is redheaded Lieutenant Colonel Dick McNelly, former solicitor of Rocky River who was made an honorary member of Rocky River's Fire Department because he likes nothing better than jumping on a fire truck



Lieutenant Thomas Felix McNelly explains a field problem to a group of tank destroyer men. Grouped around him are, left to right: Corporal Epiphany LaRocco, Staff Sergeant Robert Poirier, Sergeant James E. Quinn, Sergeant Joseph Koopman, Corporal Joseph J. Misiansky, and seated: Private George E. Sibel and Sergeant James G. Rutti, all Clevelanders.

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'Tigers'



These Cleveland tank destroyers take time out to clean their arms. Left to right, they are: Sergeant Glenn Grayton, Sergeant Stanley Piszcek, Corporal Don Roden and Pfc. Mark Haviar.

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and roaring away with the sirens going full blast.

McNelly is a big guy with a big smile who gets a big kick out of life. His tank destroyer boys who have been with him two years now seem to be infected with this same spirit. Dick is the only high-ranking officer I ever saw who cracked open a box of his own cigars to pass out to the troops.

Back home before the Ohio National Guard was mobilized in 1940, the colonel was a lawyer associated with the firm of Simmons, DeWitt and Vilas. He was also secretary of the Hermit Club. His friends should hear him booming out with the old ballads in the Officers' Club. Dick's wife, Marion, recently reopened their home at 21181 Maplewood Ave., Rocky River. She had been living in an apartment.

Meets Sergeant Ammiller

At the colonel's tent I met Master Sergeant Robert C. Ammiller, a Cleveland lad whose mother, Mrs. Arthur Tischler, lives in the Euclid Beach Park trailer camp. Bob's wife lives in New Philadelphia.

Four more Clevelanders are in the headquarters company. Technical Sergeant Glenn Craytor is a radio operator. His parents live at 1295 Fry Ave., Lakewood. The girl who writes him once a week (which is hardly enough) is Florence Hackley of Painesville. But then maybe she is that busy working at the TAPCO plant in Euclid.

Sergeant Stanley Piszcek of 2411 Castle Ave., has no girl, he said, and that's a shame because he is quite a handsome boy who should be getting daily "sugar reports" from a sweetie back home.

Wife With Navy Department

Corporal Don Roden of 6701 Conrad Ave., got married just before he sailed overseas 29 months ago. His wife, Eleanor, works for the Navy Department in Cleveland and lives

The baby and his wife, Arlyne, live at 1744 Grafton Rd., Elyria. Haviar's folks are at 3150 W. 41st St.

First Lieutenant Harold Arner comes from Greenville, O., but his wife, Margaret, lives in Dayton, and works for the Moraine Products Co. Harold was commissioned at the OCS school in Fiji.

McNally With Outfit

The men about town, if any are left in Bernstein's bar at E. 6th and St. Clair, will remember Thomas Felix McNally of Otis Elevator. Tom is a first lieutenant with this "Tiger" outfit, and, according to his buddy, Captain Rod MacEachen of Columbus, "a crazy Irishman if there ever was one." Tom's home is at 1639 S. Woodland Rd., Shaker Heights.

Born on Epiphany Sunday, Corporal LaRocco was first named Epiphany but his friends call him "Piff" which seems fair enough to me. Piff's mother lives at 3284 W. 30th St. Staff Sergeant Robert Poirier of 3701 W. 44th St., worked for the Spohn Heating and Ventilating Co. before he put on a uniform.

Sergeant James E. Quinn worked for the Federal Machine and Foundry Co. His home is at 4044 Edgemoor Dr., Garfield Heights. Sergeant Joseph Koopman of 3226 W. 94th St., was a clerk in the Sears, Roebuck store at W. 110th and Lorain.

Plans Wedding on Homecoming

Private George E. Sibel will marry Margaret Martinek of 2863 W. 12th St., a stenographer at the National Smelting Co., just as soon as he gets home, he said. His home is at 3161 W. 40th St. Corporal Joseph J. Mislansky's wife, Irene, lives in Buffalo. His parents are at 1978 W. 40th St. Staff Sergeant James G. Rutti of 3543 Trent Ave., knows several boys who work in the News circulation department, he said. He worked at Midland Steel.

First Lieutenant Robert H. Strassmyer of 1379 Hall Ave., Lakewood, was an engineer with the Austin Co. before entering the service. He hopes to go back with the company after the war. Another officer with the "Tigers" is Captain Chester G. Brown whose wife, Roseann, lives in Akron.

Sergeant Jack Nagatke and Staff Sergeant Dick Nagatke are cousins and came into the Army together. Jack's folks live at 2315 W. 60th St. and Dick's at 3115 W. 112th St. First Sergeant Robert Gusman, of 4347 W. 63d St., said his wife, Betty, is working at the Sangamo Electric Co. She is living with her folks at 17030 Madison Ave., Lakewood.

Worked for Nickel Plate

Sergeant Earl E. Trappe, of 410 Stickney Ave., worked for the

Nickel Plate Railroad in the E. 55th St. yards. Staff Sergeant Raymond F. Rosing was in the FHA department of the Capital Bank. His home is at 2073 Mars Ave., Lakewood.

A lot of amateur boxing fans back home will remember Steve Malinky, who was the middleweight Golden Gloves champ in 1939. He continued to box in the Army after hitting Camp Shelby with the division. Steve won 13 bouts in a row, won the division championship, the Mississippi state title and the Southern States championship.

Steve is a staff sergeant with this tough tank destroyer outfit now. He isn't boxing any more but he keeps it up by punching the bag and doing calisthenics. Sergeant Malinky's brother, Mike, lives at 3205 W. 139th St., and their father at 2207 Seymour Ave.

Corporal Mathew G. Rintchen of