



THE OBSERVATION POST

OF THE 812 TH T.D. BN.

VOL. I. NO. 2 -- SATURDAY - JAN 23 1945

RECORDS OF RIFLE

The first round of our Rifle Marksmanship firing period is completed.

Two facts stand out;

First- that Privates (and Aren't they the backbone of the Army ?) are the Battalion's best shots, for Privates had the leading scores in three companies, with a PFC. and T/4 heading the other two companies.

Secondly- that Headquarters Company, often termed the non-fighting or non-combatant company, has, at this point, the best shots in the Battalion.

Highest Battalion Score (enlisted men only, considered here) was 190 made by Pvt. Lewis Bartley and T/5 Ennis E. Thomas of Hqs. Co.

Other company leaders are- "A" Co. T/4 Hancock-187; "B" Co. PFC. Joiner-187; "C" Co. Pvt. Dove-185; Rec. Co. Pvt Shields-189. All of these men have had previous experience with rifles.

Headquarters Co. wastop of the list in number of experts with 17, "C" Co. had 14, Rec. & "A" Cos. 9 each "B" Co. had 7.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 PLEASE)

COLD ? -

The Weather this week wasn't so cold, you Northerners, what's the matter ?

Reports from Brownwood give the official low at 6 and 7 degrees above zero.

It was the wind, a regular Texas Norther, which made it seem so much colder than it was. Coldest day in recent years was in 1940 when the Mercury hit three below zero. No damage except to your dispositions, has been reported from this cold spell.

MOTOR INSPECTION

Lt. Bell reports the inspection of the Motor Pool and Vehicles by B.U.T.C. Monday, one of the coldest days we had last week, was fairly successful. The result; 482 out of a possible 500 points.

812 TD. SHOW

If you can sing, act, dance or do any skits, see Lt. Drury or Lt. Chester at Battalion Headquarters or your Company Entertainment Chairman. They are organizing a Battalion Talent show, to be held Saturday night- Feb 6.

COL. LARTER- SOLDIER- PAINTER

THE 8th. TANK DESTROYER GROUP, TO WHICH, THE 812TD. BELONGS IS COMMANDED BY COL. HARRY C. LARTER. HE IS A TANK DESTROYER AT HIS OWN REQUEST, BECAUSE HE FEELS THAT THIS ARM OF THE SERVICE, INCLUDING AS IT DOES, INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, CAVALRY, ENGINEERS, SIGNAL AND MEDICAL CORPS, IS A PERFECTLY-BALANCED COMBAT TEAM DESIGNED TO DO A JOB OF FIGHTING.

COL. LARTER STARTED HIS MILITARY CAREER IN THE 102nd. CAVALRY, AND WAS THERE, A PRIVATE, CORPORAL AND SERGEANT BEFORE ENTERING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, FROM WHICH HE WAS GRADUATED ON JUNE 12, 1925.

HE AND COL. MARGESON ARE OLD FRIENDS, FOR THEY WERE CLASMATES AT WEST POINT.

ACCORDING TO COL. LARTER, HE HAS "BEEN UNJUSTLY ACCUSED OF BEING AN ARTIST". HE DISCLAIMS THE ALLEGATION AND SAYS HE IS A "PAINTER OF PICTURES". HE PAINTS ONLY SOLDIERS, HORSES, AND GUNS, BUT NOT AS A HOBBY. HIS PAINTING, HE SAYS, IS A "SIDE LINE".

COL. LARTER'S PAINTING INCLUDES THE ILLUSTRATION OF SEVERAL BOOKS AND THE PAINTING OF COUNTLESS PICTURES, MANY OF WHICH ARE HUNG AT FT. SILL. HE HAS DESIGNED AND SUPERVISED THE PAINTING OF THE MURALS IN THE TWO OFFICERS' CLUBS AT CAMP HOOD.

HIS LONGEST PERIOD OF SERVICE IN ANY ONE PLACE WAS AT THE FIELD ARTILLERY SCHOOL AT FORT SILL. HE HAS NO HOBBY AND LOVES ONLY SOLDIERING AND THE AMERICAN SOLDIER.

THE OBSERVATION POST

Editor....T/5 Charles A. Hamilton, Jr.
 Art Editor...T/5 George I. Gravert
 Production...T/5 Anthony Della Peppa
 Company Reporters:
 Hqs. Co....Pvt. Charles Saphirstein
 "A" Co.....Pvt. Harold Beerman
 "C" Co.....Pvt. Steven Hinson
 Recon Co.....Pvt. James Flanagan

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to Editorialize

The 812th. is coming of age. For months, it has struggled along with half-equipment, understrength, and was more or less side-tracked at Camp Gordon. Now, we have full-strength and are in the center of Tank Destroyer activity. At Gordon, we had few yardsticks with which to measure our progress, and very little competition within our own arm. Here, we are pitted against 19 other battalions, and are being continually measured by Officers from the 8th. Group, B.U.T. Co. and T.D. Co.

It is too soon to do any boasting. Suffice it to say that it is believed we stand closer to the top than the bottom or even the middle. It is only fair to warn you that we shall be judged heavily by our composite marksmanship scores.

There are two tangible ways by which we as individual soldiers can help to put our battalion in the lead. They are saluting and reporting---simple things, yet they are the front by which our state of training is too often judged. Make confidence and pride the keynote. Avoid shyness in saluting, and avoid hesitancy. Learn the proper salute and give it with a snap! When reporting or answering questions, speak out clearly and boldly. You are a fighting man of the 812th, and proud of it, sir.

ALLOTMENT INFO.

By a Member of the Personnel Dept.

Many of you have been wondering what has been holding up your allotment checks. Word from Washington explains that the reason for delay is that organization of the Office of Dependency Benefits, recently established at Newark, N.J., to take care of allotments, is not completed.

A far-greater fault, however, lies with the men who fail to submit promptly the required and properly-filled-out documents at this office. The fault is particularly true in the cases of allotments for Class B dependents, mother, father, sisters, etc.

There has been slight delay here, owing to the number of applicants made, and because of the rush of the range schedule. None of you will lose any-

thing by the delay. Most of you will receive your checks within two months.

The Army realizes you cannot do your best job of soldiering, so worried about dependents at home. The Army Emergency Relief Association was set up to ease your mind in these instances.

Don't hesitate to call upon this organization and utilize its loan service in all cases where delay of allotment checks works hardships upon your dependents

(.22 SCORES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

EXERTS BY COMPANIES

Hqs. Co. - Pvt. Bartley, T/5 Thomas, Pvt. Baker, T/4 Evans, Pvt. Bjorkman, Pvt. Brubaker, Sgt. Eckborg, T/Sgt. Keller, T/4 Glasier, Pvt. Murnock, T/5 Dowski, T/4 Ford, Pvt. Boynton, Pvt. Merabito, Pfc. Garnett, Pvt. Einhorn, T/5 Lowry.
 "A" CO. - Cpl. Schmitt, T/5 Snyder, Cpl. Swidzinski, Pvt. Howard, Pvt. L. Fox, Cpl. Driskill, Pvt. Levitt, T/4 Hancock, Pvt. Christman.
 "B" CO. - Pfc. Joiner, Pfc. Mounts, Privts. McClelland, Ammirato, E. Smith, Durkin, Pederis and Reid.
 "C" CO. - Pvt. Becker, Pvt. Robert, Cpl. Feldman, Pvt. Dove, Pfc. Musacchio, Privts. Swain, Yates, Brooks, Bolt, Mysyk, Blum, Phillips, Gagan and Cimeo.
 REC. CO. - T/5 Della Peppa, Sgt. Baker, T/5 Gasowski, Pvt. Hosmer, Privts. Harrington, Shields, Willis, Zellner, J. Sanella.

NOTE; All company scores have not been officially tabulated, so there are probably omissions in the lists submitted by the companies to this paper.

If so, we offer our apologies to whatever company or individuals omitted. No Officers' scores were considered in this list.

"I GOT THE BIRD AND 171", REMARKED LT. ANTHONY, SPEAKING OF HIS SCORE ON THE .22 CAL. RIFLE RANGE. THE EXPLANATION IS THIS: A MEADOWLARK FLEW ACROSS THE RANGE AS HE WAS FIRING, CROSSING THE PATH OF ONE OF HIS BULLETS.

Comings and Goings

Lt. Fasone to 846 T.D.
 Lt. Gore to 846 T.D.
 Lt. Claude A. Steele from Communications school at Ft. Sill Okla. - "C" Co. T/5 Thomas back from Camp Hood Automotive Course.
 Pvt. Vincant Fabricante also from Automotive School.

DID YOU KNOW ? ? ?-----

..... that a Soldier who suffers an injury in the line of duty during his training, and is discharged from the Army, is entitled to Medical care by the Army, if it is needed. He also receives a disability pension.....

IF YOU DONT KNOW--AND YOU WANT TO KNOW--REMEMBER-- the field manuals have it.

BUY BONDS---SAVE FOR LATER

WITH A CO. REG. CO. SPEAKING

By Pvt. Harold Beerman

Best wishes to Corp. Schmitt & Pvt. Weisberg on their matrimonial ventures— may their futures be "at ease".

Visiting their soldier husbands are Mrs. Weisberg and Mrs. Wheeler. We hope their stay is pleasant.

The official Romeo poll of the Co. for its most glamorous heart-breaker gives the award to our First Sergeant, Robert Dykes.

Co. A's newly-formed basketball team plays a team from the 30th. Chemical Co. Monday night in the Field House. Be on hand to cheer the boys along to their first victory.

The spaghetti dinner prepared by Pvt. Venezia and Ventricelli last Sunday was quite a success. Several guests were present and the enthusiasm shown calls for an encore soon.

Said the tree to the dog, "Have one on me."

Said the dog to the tree, "No thanks, I just had one on the house."

Half-track Harry is a real sport— he bought his girl a two-piece swimming suit so he could watch the Naval Manoeuvres.

BATTALION NEWS

Our Guard tents are now heated and electrified— the boys who take care of us at night while we sleep really deserve our thanks and the best of everything.

Those thoughts were sent by one of our privates' sweetheart :

Each hour we spend in heavenly bliss will make light the days we're going to miss;

And the laughter of our memories so dear will help us along when we're shedding a tear;

And then, so soon, the passing of time, then I'll be yours, and you'll be mine.

MOTION PICTURES (Coming this week)

Sat., Jan. 23: "The Powers Girl"

Anne Shirley, Carole Landis

Sun., Jan. 24: "Mr. Gillespie's New Assistant"

Lionel Barrymore, Susan Peters

Mon., Jan. 25: "Time to Kill"

George Nolan, Heather Angel

Tue., Jan. 26: "The Boy of the Year"

Lee Tracy, Jack LaRue

Wed., Jan. 27: "Caucasian"

Murphy Bogart, Ingrid Bergman

Thurs., Jan. 28: "The Fan Alley" (Rev.)

Alice Fay, Betty Grable

Fri., Jan. 29: "Crystal Ball"

Paulette Goddard, Ray Millard

By Pfc. James Flanagan

Recs. Co., the price and joy of the 3.20 (that is, on his orders think) break the ice with the second issue of our paper.

Our orderly and supply rooms were highly privileged Sunday last to have a heavily armed guard for an hour. Pfc. walked his post in a military manner and at the end of his round could have quit definitely to anyone the weight of a .30 Cal. Machine Gun.

Did you hear the one about the NAAC recently arrived at an Army post? "Where am I supposed to eat?" She asked the Lieutenant who greeted her group.

"Oh, you'll mess with the Officers," he replied.

"I understand that," she said, "but I asked where I'd eat."

We thank the "Army Times" for :

I think that I shall never see a job as sloppy as K.P.

K.P.s where greasy arms are pressed with pots and pans against the chest;

K.P.s where stand the chef all day banking orders at their prey;

K.P.s who may in evening wear a spot of gravy in their hair.

K.P.s where all the yardbirds hop to nonchalantly wield a mop.

Rooms are made by fools like me and so's the list for that darned K.P.

At present the boys in this Co. cannot challenge anybody in basketball, softball, or bowling, but will take all comers— as far as the dice or cards are concerned. (Strictly on the practice level—no playing for keeps.)

Something to remember : when the fella in this Co. took his canteen down from his shelf and had to melt the ice before filling the benches.

DOMESTIC SERVICE

Our weekly radio-entertainment show with gals, gags and music is now held Saturdays in the Recreation Hall with showings at 8 and 9 P.M.

The battalion's share of the profits of these shows are contributed to this magazine.

THE WORD "CHIVRON", REFERRING TO THOSE STRIPES MEN-GOONS WEAR, IS AN ARCHITECTURAL TERM AND THE STRIPE IS A REPLICA OF A ROOF. IN THE EARLY DAYS, THE WEARER OF A CHEVRON WAS THE HEAD OF HIS CLAN, OR THE TOP OF HIS HOUSE!

SALUTE - WHEN IN DOUBT

CALLING - C CO

By Pvt. Steve Hinson

Your correspondent spent a few minutes (while off duty, of course) chewing the fat with our Supply Sergeant, S/Sgt. Henry De Ricco.

One of the supply sergeant's greatest and commonest headaches, he explains, is those laundry bundles submitted with slips bearing no names. "So sorry--No name, no washee."

Incidentally, laundry costs \$1.50 a month, regardless of how many bundles you send. However, if you're on furlough (you hope), or in the hospital, on detached service, or confined to the stockade, you will not be charged during said period of absence.

"The average lifetime of a pair of G.I. shoes, he says, depends on the man who wears them. Some men give their shoes such treatment that they require repair three weeks after issue; while others can wear a pair of shoes in such a manner that they won't need repair for a year or more."

By the way, if any of you fellows wish to learn the nomenclature of any weapon (don't ask for a 75 MM, please) a little better, just borrow yourself a non-com some Sunday afternoon, and you can draw the weapon from the Supply Room.

I retract my statement of last week regarding the death of Pvt. Goodman's mother. I wish to inform you that such was not the case. My humble apologies to Pvt. Goodman.

I understand that the 691 T.D. basketball team which our company team twice defeated was the champ of two posts and runner-up at Camp Hood.

Don't forget, boys, when you're firing the .30 Cal. rifle, you're not firing the .22.

Flannelmouth Flugel draws, our #1 "gig" artist, wants to know who "Will" is and why everybody fires at him on the rifle range.

Birds do it; bees do it. See that you do it: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATURAL COVER.

The boys in S/Sgt. Simpson's barracks are busily concerned with a "tactical problem": If our battalion were ever "lost" what movie Glamour Queen would you care to have along with you?

It's the old desert island problem streamlined to modern wars.

BASKETBALL

All organizations interested in entering the Camp-Wide Basketball Tournament, please submit their names to Sgt. Dorsay at the Field House.

Captain now Pvt.

This captain exists among its ranks a man who has already been a Captain & had a colorful military career. He is Pvt. Alexander Washkevich, Co. "A", formerly of the Imperial Russian Army.

Pvt. Washkevich was graduated from the Imperial Russian Military Academy at Kiev in 1915. Soon, he saw action on the Eastern Front in World War I, when facing the German troops of Gen. Von Hindenburg. Washkevich was in the 108th Regiment commanded by Gen. Brusiloff. By this time he was a sergeant and he saw action in every major battle until the Russian Revolution, at which time he was commissioned a Captain.

Then, he joined the loyal White Russian forces of Gen. Korniloff in which he saw three years of bitter fighting. Later, he was at Sevastopol in the army of Gen. Wrangel.

Seeing victory was beyond grasp, and the things they were fighting for unattainable, he and some of his comrades went to Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey. There, they formed the semblance of a regiment and journeyed to Gallipolis Greece, where they saw more action. The little band then traveled to Sofia, Bulgaria, where it disbanded.

In 1923 Pvt., then Capt., Washkevich came to the United States, settling in New York City, which has since been his home. Though he has a wife and two children, he decided the RIGHT THING to do was to join the United States Army, so Dec. 2, 194 saw him enter the Army as a private, and shortly thereafter he joined the 812th.

HQS. CO. NOTES

By Pvt. Charles Saphirstein

The company as yet has not formed any teams, but it is hoped some will be started after the bustle of range firing is completed.

Best wishes to T/4 Ernest G. Jud, one of the leaders in the basic training program, who reports today to CCS at the Signal Corps School, Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

Overheard: "The Army's the only place where one can be 8fed up & hungry at the same time."

Congratulations to: T/Sgt and Mrs. Ann E. Ball on the birth of a daughter last week and to T/5 Warren G. Donaldson on his engagement to Miss Helen E. Crummett of Pittsburg, Pa.

LAFY OF THE WEEK

Two rabbits escaped from the Medical Center experimental hatch at an Army Camp and hit the road, honeymoon-bound. Suddenly, they heard the baying of hounds behind them.

"Look," said Mr. Rabbit, "we were born & raised in the Army. We're pretty tough. Let's stay here and fight it out."

The coy young rabbit bride blushed, "Let's wait until tomorrow, dear," she said, "and outnumber them."