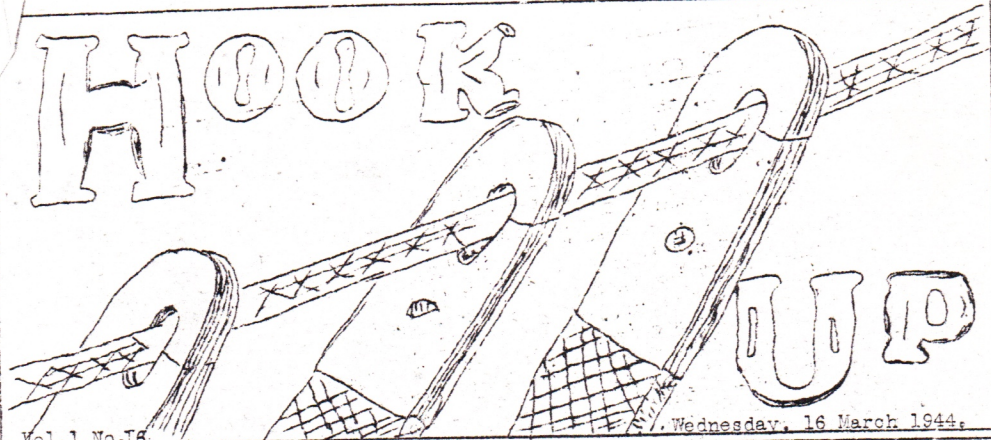


HOOK



Vol. 1, No. 14

Wednesday, 16 March 1944.

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE MEN OF THE 1ST BN, 551ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY (REINF)

551ST'S FOURTH OVERNIGHT PROBLEM

...It Rained Of Course!

On March 6 and 7, the 551st went out on the field with full equipment and after 12 solid hours -from 0700 to 1900- of zigzag marching over hills and swampy terrain on the first day, we bivouacked for the night. It's the same old story--the rains came and kept coming until the end and we carried out our missions with stiff joints and wet feet. Many a man got so cold and uncomfortable that he didn't feel like unhooking his musette bag in order to get out a can of Meat & Vegetable Stew.

But the problem went on nevertheless and an extra-important one it was because ABC was testing our officers and men in ground tactics. As part of a larger combat force, the 551st accomplished its mission the first day -the capture of the Mackall Air Base; and the section of high ground on the second day. Overhead artillery fire, TNT, booby traps and the use of live rifle ammo made the going more interesting despite the rain.

Yes...our record remains perfect--four out of four overnight problems in the shivering rain. Not only this --fickle Dame Nature added insult to injury when she made the sun to shine soon after the trucks brought us back to the barracks. (NOTE: See next column for more about sunshine.Ed.)

BONUSES BY THE BILLIONS

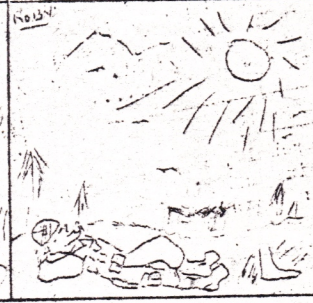
Recently, five veterans' organizations proposed that the prospective 11,000,000 veterans of World War II be paid bonuses up to \$4,500 each. The rate would be \$3 per day for service at home and \$4 per day for service overseas. Seven Congress-

(Cont'd on page 5)

551ST'S FIFTH PROBLEM

...And The Sun Shone!

The afternoon problem on March 8 was really part of the big 2-day job and under ordinary circumstances would not deserve or receive a separate column. But the circumstances were not ordinary because the sun shone and the weather was warm for the first time in all the field problems we've had in Camp Mackall. In view of such a five-star event in the history of the 551st, it is only fitting that it be treated with great reverence lest Dame Nature turn the tables on us in the next problem. No...it didn't rain this time and the fact that a certain ridge had to be defended against enemy counter-attacks was almost secondary in importance.



When the problem was called off, we were gathered together under the warm sun to listen to the umpires' critiques on our performance during the whole problem. They all

spoke highly of our good spirit and cooperation despite the miserable weather. We weren't 100% perfect however, because they found fault particularly with the variety of foxholes that were dug. They were of all shapes and sizes.

The important thing is that with the exception of a few minor failings, we did a good job in the eyes of the impartial umpires who were observers and critics.

And remember,--the SUN SHONE and NO RAIN FELL this time. Glory, Hallelujah!

INDIA (CMS)--Home safe at his base after parachuting from his burning plane, a pilot drew his liquor ration, hustled over to the parachute shop & presented the whole bottle to the pvt who had packed his chute.

"C" COMPANY PALAVER

Houston, the Co. clerk, has found hisself a gal that has money in five different banks! He says it's his personal ality.. "Lover" Wilson went to Atlanta to snow under a Wave, gravel voice and all.. A very popular book in "C" Co is "The Strange Woman." Fact is there's nothing strange about 'em that we don't know or can't find out about.. Too bad we all don't have wives so's we could get a 3 day pass to take them home!.. The topkick thought he was back in the jungles last week, "By Je-seeminy George", piped he, "that was good run.".. "Don't give me any of that sweet sixteen talk.. I'm human just like the next guy." Wonder what that could mean?.. Now we know where our War Bond money goes to --a belt worn once is considered unserviceable.. The weather has been beautiful now that the 551 is out of the field.. Palmowski! wherefor art thou?.. Came the show-down inspection, things didn't look so good for our attic warehouse. But everything came out alright.

....Sgt Thompson

WELCOME! NEW OFFICERS

Six officers have recently been assigned to the 551st. They are Lieuts. Charles L. Buckemeyer, Toledo, Ohio, formerly of the 542nd, with "A" Co; Bee H. Brown, Detroit, formerly with IRTC, Camp Roberts and the 5th Inf, which saw combat in the European Theatre, with Hqs Co; Keith R. Harsh, Lansing, Mich., from the 5th Regt. ASTP, with "A" Co; John F. Belcher and Robert R. Hurlburt from the 542nd are assigned to "B" Co; Lt. Charles H. Whitler is with "C" Company.....

TRAINING NOTES

On Thursday, March 17, the Battalion will fire the Carbine and M1 on the firing range. (NOTE: Kentucky windage is strictly out.)

"B" COMPANY BULL

Hottest news of the week comes from 3 old "B" boys now in Ireland --Kullifay, Ambler and Voss. And get this --they're all sgts.. Plenty of long faces on our former "pen" pals after they found they had not been included on the supp. payroll.. Causey who was asked personally by the Bn Commander to have his hair cut, must have looked pretty good because he hasn't been seen since then.. Killgore's yen for heat finally got the best of him. Heater will furnish blades for anyone needing a shave. Ask Ottolini for details. It's rumored that Brewer's love for our "leading man" was a bit overdone.. **MIRACLE OF THE WEEK:** Olson marched with Co. to the gas chamber.. DeBarr made a possible with the carbine and is all elated.. It seems D.W. Smith and his gal hit it off well

(Cont'd on page 5)

U.S. ARMY EFFICIENCY

A week after the Marines landed at Bougainville, the first echelon of the Army and its specialists got to work. Here's what they did in a nutshell.

Within five weeks, the Engineers had built 10 miles of improved highway, 130 miles of jeep trails and two bridges --one of 15 tons capacity, the other of 5 tons. They also erected a sawmill nicknamed the "Thick and Thin Lumber Company."

The Signal Corps strung 50 miles of wire in 5 days and 5000 miles of it in 6 weeks. Every unit had Freach phones, including the machine gunners.

The Special Service Officer had movies flown in after the second week. By the 5th week, 3500 soldiers were seeing movies once a week or more. The Japs could hear the swing music an eight of a mile away.

The Postal Service within two weeks had regular mail flown in, written only 14 days before in the States.

And two weeks after the Army took over, dentists were making an average of one set of false teeth a day.

..Condensed from YANK

DIG, CIVILIANS, DIG!

A 299 to 95 vote of Congress overrode the President's veto of its proposed tax measure which will take in about \$2,315,000,000 extra taxes a year. The measure consists of an increase in excise taxes (luggage, cosmetics, liquor etc.): individual and corporation taxes and postal rates (a 3-cent stamp for local letters). This action by Congress was one of the strongest rebukes received by the President since holding office.

The Army has saved over \$9,000,000,000 in lower costs of equipment purchases to date. For example:

ITEM	PREVIOUS COST	PRESENT COST
B-24	\$238,000	\$137,000
M1	116	42

THE WOLF

by Sansone

(South Pacific)



MALE CALL

by Milton Caniff



WHAT YOU HEAR IS A ROOMER

"A" COMPANY PALAVER

Battalion problem -the Rains Came.Same old story.."A" Company had a party in Cheraw -it was a Golden Gloves success. It proved many points..A lot of two-beer Charlies in the outfit..A period in the hospital didn't hurt Kicinski's left jab one bit..Dickson is still king of the "One Swat" boys..Anyone at the party who by chance missed punching Black, C.F. should at least slap him on the back to make it 100%..Orchids to Lt. Peabody for coming to his Company's party..More three day passes floating around than rumors... Russell's true love providing the true love for the 3rd platoon..Book and Higgins still beefing about details..Shoup and Stankus find their girls hanging from trees and trapeze ropes..Stevens returned from a 3-day pass looking as satisfied as a cat after it swallowed a canary.... "Follow me," says McCraw and the bangalore torpedo goes BOOM! during the infiltration course picnic....
.....Pfc Jack Simson

551ST COMBINGS

The Medics didn't like the idea of being behind in the Battalion behavior race, so one week-end they sputtered ahead with 7 AWOL's. Showdown clothing inspections brought into the light loads of extra stuff from the bottoms of barracks bags and especially from the attics on top. "A" & "C" Companies needed only two cash registers and they could have started an Army & Navy store of their own....

The 551st now has its own guardhouse corral to care for its stray sheep.Before we had our first fire and first sunny weather during a problem. Who said there isn't a Santa Claus?

CONVERSATIONAL SNATCHES ON TRUCK CON* VOY EN ROUTE TO PROBLEM: "B" Company gets lost when it leaves the En street.".... "I'd hate to be on a trash detail in a WAC Camp."

It seems that quite a few of the men do not know the difference between a fox-hole and a slit trench.Some dug one, thinking they were digging the other. Those that did guess right produced amazing sad sack varieties.
(Cont'd on page 5)

COMBAT REPORT FROM GUADLACANAL

"They had dug foxholes about the size of an office waste-paper basket. But the Japs are small men and they don't stand up in their foxholes. They draw their knees up under their chins and put their rifles over their knees pointing out of the holes. They are doubled up like jackknives, and you can barely see their heads sticking out. If they don't want you to see their heads they duck down between their knees, between shots."

THE WOLF

If he parks his little fliwver
Down beside the moonlit river,
And you feel he's all aqivover -
Then, baby, he's a wolf.

If he says you're gorgeous lookin'
And your eyes are cookin',
But your eyes ain't where he's lookin'
Then, baby, he's a wolf.

If he says you're an eyeful,
And his hands begin to trifle,
And his heart pumps like a rifle -
Then, baby, he's a wolf.

If by chance when you are kissin',
And can feel his heart amissin',
And you talk but he won't listen -
Then, baby, he's a wolf.

If his arms are strong as sinew,
And he stirs the gypsy in you,
And you want him close agin' you -
Then, Baby, you're the wolf.

(Author Unknown)

(The following is an excerpt from a letter received from Lt. Siler, formerly of the 551st, now with the 542nd

"You should have jumped a problem with me yesterday. Live ammo and attack on a village. Some bright boy pulled my reserve chute as I went out the door. I landed with my reserve tucked between my legs and had to run two miles to get into position to attack."

NEWARK (ONS)-A 300lb pig was given to the highest bidder in a war bond auction here. The runner-up got a picture of Frank Sinatra.

HOOK UP

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EDITOR

Pvt G. Goodridge

CENSOR

Lt. J.W.Haskell

ART ASSISTANT

Pvt L.R.Steele, Jr.

REPORTERS

Pfc Jack Gimson T/5 D.Downes
Pvt C.P.Clark Pvt L.G.Larkin

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AWOL'S

The red flag is waving now for all AWOL'S. It stands for trouble. Summary Court martials are put even for first offenders. In addition, a man's confinement in the 551st guardhouse will mean only work, work and more work, including Saturdays and Sundays.

The Battalion Commander has stated that as far as it is possible it is his policy to allow a man a pass with which to go home. And it was also mentioned that all Company Commanders will stand ready to see any of their men regarding a pass.

In view of this setup, it seems only good sense for a man to try to get official permission to leave before he decides to take French leave.

THE MESS

"The old order changeth giving place to new" and at last after months of stomachial disappointment and disarrangement, the chow is something to crow about. Fried and roasted meats are not spakin' in grease, toast is served more often, the vegetables are prepared and seasoned much better, salads are plentiful and the cakes and pastries go down easily with ut a lead weight attached to each bite. We know from hard experience that good dispositions depend a lot upon satisfied appetites and the mess section has gone a long way towards improving the former by means of the latter.

The only drawback in the running of the mess is that a man's request for seconds is refused because frequently more than enough food is saved for the prisoners and guards who eat afterwards. A more accurate estimate of the amount to be kept could be easily made so that demands for seconds could be supplied without any wastage of food.

The wisest of men are foolish over women; but the most stupid woman is wise to men!

SOMEBODY LIKES THE HOOK UP

This is an excerpt from a letter written to Pfc James Shoup ("A" Company) by his one and only, Loretta Moore, in Des Moines, Iowa.

"send me some more papers...I like them very much."

(Thank you, Loretta, for your kind words.Ed.)

CORRECT G.I. FOXHOLE

Our last problem showed that many men do not know how to construct the proper one-man foxhole that has been tested and approved under battle conditions. It would be well to memorize the following dimensions:

2 ft wide, 3 1/2 ft long, 4 ft deep, depending upon the height of the man, additional depth of 1 1/2 ft for the sump which allows for water drainage and extra depth for a man to get down into when a tank comes his way.

(NOTE: A circular with detailed instructions and drawings for one-man and two-man foxholes will be prepared and distributed later. Ed.)

551ST BEHAVIOR RECORD

For February

UNIT	NO. OF VIOLATIONS
"A"	4
Serv.Co.	3
"C"	11
Medics	11
"B"	12
Hqs	19

ANTIGONISH

As I was going up the stair
I met a man who wasn't there!
He wasn't there again today!
I wish, I wish he'd stay away!

As I was falling down the stair
I met a bump that wasn't there;
It might have put me on the shelf,
Except I wasn't there myself.

.....Hughes Mearns

VIGNETTE

A little boy wanted \$100 so he decided to pray to God for it. He prayed every night for 2 weeks, and still no \$100. So he decided to write God a letter. The postal officials ...forwarded it to President Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt read the letter, chuckled...and sent the boy a \$5 check.

When the boy received the money, he was pleased and wrote God another letter, thanking him...and he added, "I notice that you routed the letter through Washington, and as usual, those _____ deducted 95%."

(551ST COMPINGS Cont'd from page 3)

The world will little know the full facts of "A" Company's party in Cheraw last Saturday. In a nutshell and because of 74 quarts of this and 22 quarts of that, the Recreation Hall became a ring and practically everyone in it started punching the guy closest to him.

Besides a good pair of elbows and knees to have on hand while crawling over the infiltration course, another good thing to have is a pair of old-fashioned wire-cutters.

AWOL TELEGRAMS

SIR. YOUR LETTER DROVE ME OUT OF PHILA. AM STILL DRUNK. BE BACK MONDAY. (To Pers. Off.)

DEAR SIR. AM BROKE. PLEASE WIRE ME \$20 FROM SLUSH FUND. (To Hqs Co.)

SIR: COMING IN ON A WING AND A PRAYER. (To Hqs Co.)

What is love? 'tis not hereafter; Present love hath present laughter; What's to come is still unsure, In delay there lies no plenty,- Then come kiss me, Sweet-and-twenty, Youth's a stuff will not endure.

...William Shakespeare

THE JAP SOLDIER

(from THE JAP SOLDIER, published by The Infantry Journal)

He has been a soldier almost from the day of his birth. He is a runt, but his body has been hardened through marching in full pack & equipment in all kinds of weather and terrain. His equipment is only fair to middling, but he knows how to use it and he takes good care of it. He is taught to believe that Japan should and will rule the world and any nation or person who disagrees is an arch enemy. He is taught to feel that it is an honor to die for his emperor in battle. He has utmost faith in his officers. When they are killed he is easily demoralized. His full field equipment for winter weighs 70 lbs; for summer, 56 lbs. 15% of the Jap soldiers can read and write English. Night fighting is a Jap specialty. The best way to make a Jap soldier behave is to threaten to write home to his parents. Japs take to Army life immediately because they lived the same harsh, frugal lives as civilians. His armies have captured areas in which live 400,000,000 people. He is an expert swimmer. In conquered areas, those conquered must bow when a Jap soldier passes by.

HEADQUARTERS HASH

"Fixer" McCain has been dodging Lt. Titko. The Lt. is trying to get him to sign a statement of charges for ruining his pipe..Demolitions Sect. has been finally caught dead to rights. They spent so much time in their bunks that Lt. Booth and Sgt Stewart decided that the training posters be tacked to the ceiling in the barracks..Orange blossoms for Kangas and Knauff both of whom are of the happily married element..A beautiful friendship was torn asunder the other night..Smitty came in raising Cain and vowing perpetual animosity against Dimples Little who walked out on him and two de-lovelies in town for a cherry soda and a western thriller..Dishop will have a hot story to tell his grandchildren about the time he helped tuck in into bed the "big man."... Chow's a lot better and the amount of choice diatribes dropped on the heads of the kitchen crew by the chowhounds has decreased in proportion.

....Pvt L.S.Larkin

(BONUSES Cont'd from page 1)

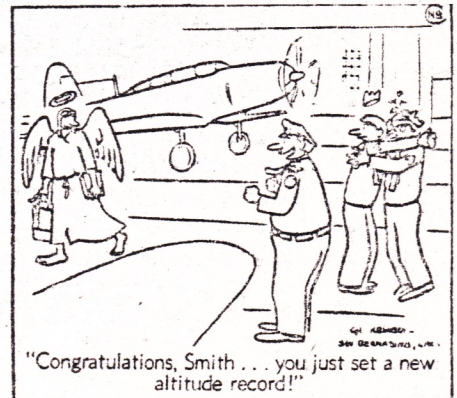
men believe this is a good idea and are working to bring results. If such a program were put into law, it would cost the taxpayers a cool 20,000,000,000 dollars.

("E" COMPANY DULL Cont'd)

because he's the only man she knows with arms long enough to encircle her waist.. Robinson says he was cold and miserable on the 2-day problem..Was he the only one?.. With the sprinkling of fires in the bivouac area, it looked like a gypsy village.. The umpires' compliments regarding the problem were very satisfying to hear.

....Pfc C.B.Clark

(CNS) -Gen. Eisenhower decreed that the rules of military courtesy will be lived up to by the Armies in the European Theatre of Operations. He ordered that names and ASN's be taken of EM and officer offenders. One Major, on a 2-block walk in a busy London street, saluted 212 times.



THE PARATROOPERS' PRAYER

Our Almighty Father, who dwelleth in Washington, immersed in Service Records, Requisitions, T.S. Slips, Red Tape, and other impedimenta which surroundeth the Army both in times of Peace and in times of War, Hallowed be Thy name.

Give us this day our Partial Pay, and forgive us our Company Bills, guide us on the Path of Righteousness by thy all-knowing Articles of War, and Rules and Regulations. Approve our Passes and Furloughs, for Thou knowest ours is not an easy lot to bear without leisure time.

Deliver us from the hands of the Non-jumping Military Police, for Thou knowest our burdens are manifold. Yea, even though by divers devices art these Sons of Satan's Concubines, these Washouts from the Parachute School, after having been thrice beaten about the head with a shot bag, allowed to don the hated white cap and belt of the Ersatz Gestapo, they falsely cry that they are Thy Chosen Children. We cannot contain ourselves in their presence, and Assault and Mayhem shall abound.

Guide our pleasure bent footsteps from the lower regions of Sin and Iniquity, known locally as Rio, go astray and Contact which Thou so farce- Thy Sex Hygiene Train- Unhook not our blow panels in our can break cords, and drift Strike with relentless death the Company our payroll, and the beth our empty bellies.



Abajo, lest we should social uncleanliness, fully describeth in ing Film. static lines, nor yet opies. Cut not our us clear of Pine trees, ly swift and horrible Clerk who Red-lineth Moss Sergeant who rob-

By the ghosts of those who have preceded us to Kobbe and to Mackall, We pray Thee.---Amen.

"THE GREATEST JUMP OF ALL TIME"

(An excerpt from)
The Story of Parachutes

by Capt. Roger Don Rae

Probably the greatest jump of all time was that made in Chicago...Equipped with heavy flying clothes, oxygen equipent, goggles, altimeter, the daring experimenter had his pilot take him...above 30,000 feet...It took courage to leave the plane when he did. Down, down he came -the winds roaring in his ears -- twisting and turning...His goggles suddenly iced up. This was a most anxious moment. To remove his goggles and expose his eyes to a blinding gush of air might be...fatal. He could not see the altimeter. No doubt at that moment, he was tempted to open his chute...He planned to open his chute at 1500 feet... By peering out from a partly raised goggle he was able to check his altimeter. What must have seemed hours to him was only a minute or so when warm air de-iced his lenses.

To the craning crowd below, his parachute opened none too soon...This jump... established that a man does not die or lose his senses in a fall.

SGT:-"I've just been reading about statistics. Every time I breathe a man dies."

PVT:-"Gad man! why don't you take a mouth wash."

ONLY 15 MORE DAYS TO PAYDAY!!!

THE HORST WASSEL SONG

The most popular marching song of the German Armies is the Horst Wassel Song. Especially during their great successes of the years '40 and '41, the Nazi soldiers sang it just as we would sing "Over There". This is the chorus:

Clear all the streets for eager
Brown Battalions,
And clear the streets for the Storm
Troopers' brawn!
The Swastika's today the hope of
millions;
Tomorrow, liberty and bread will dawn.

HERE AND THERE

William Patrick Hitler, nephew of Adolph, passed his physical exam in Manhattan and is "raring to go" into the U.S. Navy. Said he: "All the time I was in Germany, I had to run to Hess or Hitler for anything I wanted."

....from TIME

It takes a lot of pull to get a job milking cows.

(CNS)-Mrs. Edward J. Wren of Pleasantville, N.Y. when she heard that her dog "Chips" had been awarded a D.S.C. and the Purple Heart for wiping out a machine-gun nest, said that Chips himself would have preferred a pound of hamburger.

"My wife says that if I don't give up drinking she'll leave me."

"That's hard luck."

"Yes...I'll certainly miss her."