News of Men and Women in Uniform

Vermeire Wins Bronze Star

Pfc. Julian L. Vermeire, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marie Vermeire of route 2, Cornelius, was awarded the Bronze Star for "heroic achievement in connection with the military operations against the enemy on Luzon February 18."

The citation accompanying the award goes on to say that "Privates Vermeire and Woods were members of a Browning automatic rifle team which voluntarily took up a frontal position in order to silence an enemy pillbox situated in one of the buildings of the University of the Philippines in Manila. Private Woods stayed with the automatic rifle and fired at the enemy while Private Vermeire continuously carried ammunition over a 40-yard open area exposed to enemy fire. Through the heroic efforts of Private Vermeire and the withering fire from Private Woods' gun, the Japanese position which caused many casualties to an infantry company was destroyed."

Pvt. Vermeire has also received the Purple Heart for wounds received earlier in the Philippines. His parents received his Purple Heart two weeks ago.

Aleutians Veteran Home on Furlough

T/5 Fred Baumann arrived at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Baumann of Helvetia, Sunday on a 21-day furlough after spending two years in the Aleutian islands. The young soldier went into Attu with an anti-aircraft unit right after the battle for the island, was transferred to the signal corps and spent 18 months on Attu. He has been in the service two and a half years.

Baumann will report to Camp Crowder, Missouri, September 4, for reassignment.

Lt. Vandehey Serves In Hospital on Guam

ROY—Mr. and Mrs. George Vandehey received word from their daughter, Lt. Frances Vandehey, of the army nurse corps that she has arrived safely in Guam, where she is stationed in the general hospital. Sailing from New York, she flew from Saipan to Guam. A son, A/C Omer Vandehey, has been transferred from Amarillo to Hondo Air Field, Texas, to complete his training.

Local Soldier in Airborne Division

Pvt. Vernon Vehrs of this community was with the 17t airborne division, which saw some rugged action in Germany. The following munity was with the 17th airborne printed in the Stars and Stripes March 25:

By Bud Hutton
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

ISSEL RIVER LINE, Germany, March 25 — American paratroopers today drove eastward from the island of bloody ground they took and held to spearhead the Allied thrust beyond the Rhine.

Past wrecked gliders, past the black skeletons of fire-razed transport planes, and away from the German fields mottled by their colored chutes, these remnants of U. S. and British paratroops moved to strike at enemy forces routed in yesterday's airborne attack.

The paratroopers were back fighting as doughfeet but even if they should stay earthbound they will always be the guys who jumped across the Rhine and opened the road to Berlin—and did it the hard way.

The C46 was burning whe nwe hooked up and shoved for the door. Bob Reeder and the rest of the carrier's crew never said a word. They stayed in there to keep us level and we went over the side into a weird sky of bursting flak, lazy tracers and colored silk.

Flak hit one man in the air and he blew up.

Col. Jim Coutts, the Philadelphia West Pointer, slipped out of his harness, walked through burp-gun fire and began to attack before he had a battalion, let alone his 513th parachute regiment of the 17th AB division.

Lt. Col. Ward Ryan, another West Pointer, from Fort Atkinson, Wis., and the rest of our stick landed squarely in the middle of a German artillery CP. Some of the stick died where it hit.

Nazi Shot from Air

It was difficult to be sure, but the 513th paratrooper, Pfc. Lynn Vaughn of Georgetown, probably took the first two prisoners. He landed in a tree, slid down, shot one Jerry. The other two quit. Perhaps the first man to kill a German was Sgt. Curtis Gadd of Cleveland, who unslung his M1 in the air and splattered a Nazi soldier who was beating his horse to a gallop across the field.

Mostly, the paratroopers figured the firsts didn't matter.

South of us Col Edson Raff, who took the first American troopers into a combat drop in Africa, was on the ground with his 507th regiment and clearing the way to a link-up with British who had crossed the Rhine in darkness.

Cost One Man in Ten

As Col. Coutts and the main force fought southward, the regimental executive officer started out from the Nazi CP with what got to be known after seven hours of fighting as "Task Force Ryan." TF Ryan never had more than 40 men including medics, but it took more than 100 prisoners.

The entire 513th regiment, from 1015 when it hit until nightfall, took more than 1100 prisoners. With enemy killed and wounded, that figured out to more than the regiment's strength.

The cost was one man out of every ten.

Side by side with the paratroopers fought the glider pilots, who wheeled their craft down to the fields as the troopers started shooting.

Madder Than Hell

FO Billy Hill, a gliderman from Brewster, Ala., grabbed a tommy-gun and tacked on to Task Force Ryan "madder than hell because a mortar busted that lovely old glider after I got it down right."

Curtiss Watters, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., organized the glider pilots of the 441st and 442d groups into combat teams and took on German artillerymen. Some crews of burned C 46s helped.

You'd have a hell of a time telling the 513th parachuters that the air corps isn't all man. Everyone fought.

Jerry was scared but sometimes he fought like a guy defending his home. Then a lot of brave men died. A lot of brave men lived, too.

You'll go from one end to the other of the island in the middle of the German army that the paratroopers took and held and there'll never be a braver man than old Doc Moir.

Medic Is in Inspiration

Doc Moir, a major, comes from Medford, Wis. He's the regimental surgeon. It's against the rules to shoot at medics but a lot of them got shot yesterday.

But from the moment he went out of a burning C 46, Doc Moir hurt and making the Schmeisser fire popped loudest, walking among the mortar hurt and make it easier for those he couldn't help.

Probably he didn't plan it that way but what Doc Moir was when the chips were down made the paratroopers better fighting men. The guys who charged German emplacements with gun butts and knives figure Doc Moir was a pretty brave guy.

Fritz Plapp Home

Fritz Plapp is home on a 15-day leave. He will report to Del Monte, Cal., and from there he will go to San Diego, where he will attend naval school.

WINS AWARD—Pfc. Julian L. Vermeire of route 2, Cornelius, has been awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in the Philippines.

Schefflin Soldier Now In Occupied Europe

SCHEFFLIN — T/Sgt. Wilbert Salzwedel has been in England for the past two years with the 343rd fighter squadron. His squadron was one of three fighter squadrons chosen for occupational air force duties and since July 20 has been based in Bavaria, near a city of 25,000 population. This particular area did not see the ravages of bombing and people appear to be well clothed and well fed, he said. Their base was constructed in 1937 for the use of the Luftwaffe.

Ruegsegger Awarded Purple Heart Medal

ABOARD THE U. S. S. WITTER IN THE PACIFIC—Paul Albert Ruegsegger, 19, S 1/c, son of Mrs. Martha Tschanz, North Plains, has been presented the Purple Heart medal by his commanding officer, Lt. Cdr. George Herrmann, 111, U. S. N., in a ceremony aboard this Pacific fleet destroyer escort. Ruegsegger was injured in action off Okinawa April 6.

Bowler 'Alive and Well' in Jap Camp

S. G. Bowler, A.C. m/m, "is in a Tokyo prison alive and well," according to a message received, Thursday, by his sister, Mrs. George Croston, from the Provost officer of Washington, D. C., who had just heard him speak on the Tokyo Prisoner of War broadcast, by short wave. He was captured by the Japanese in the fall of Corregidor, and no word had been received from him for a year.

Don Baker Returning Because of Illness

Cpl. Don Baker was recently sent from the Philippines to Australia via hospital ship, and is now being returned home due to illness. Cpl. Baker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Baker, formerly of Hillsboro and now of Portland.

Pvt. Lazott Arrives From Oversea Duty

BUXTON-MANNING—Pvt. John Lazott, who has been with the U. S. Army in Italy, France and Germany, arrived home Friday and is spending a 30-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lazott, and family.

Returns to Duty

LEISYVILLE—Pvt. Dick Maslen left Tuesday for Texas after spending a 10-day furlough here. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Maslen, accompanied him as far as Red Bluff, Cal., where they will visit their daughter and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gates of Oakland, Cal., have been visiting his mother, rs. J. W. Gates, for the past week.

Enlists in Marines

PORTLAND — Albert L. McKnight, 17, son of Mrs. Ruth E. McKnight of route 4, Hillsboro, recently enlisted in the Marine Corps and is now awaiting orders to report to the Marine Corps base at San Diego, Cal., for boot training. Private McKnight is a former student of Hillsboro union high school where he won a letter in football.

Home on Furlough

Pvt. Ruth Ward, WAC, who has been in Dutch New Guinea for some time but more recently at McCaw hospital in Walla Walla, arrived the last of the week at the home of her mother, Mrs. Rebecca Goodin of near Cornelius, for a 90-day furlough.

Pfc. Chase Home

Pfc. Ray L. Chase of Hillsboro arrived at the home of his mother Tuesday on a 17-day furlough from Fort Missoula, Mont. Following his furlough he will report to Fort Rupert, Idaho. Pfc. Chase recently returned from more than two years' duty in Alaska.

Capt. Dierdorff Receives Honors

Capt. Ross Dierdorff of the navy has been honored by the British government for his services in the war and was awarded the Bronze Oak Leaf. He is the son of Mrs. Emma Dierdorff of Hillsboro.

The citation reads as follows: "By the King's order the name of Captain Ross A. Dierdorff, U. S. N., was placed on record June 11, 1945, as mentioned in a dispatch for distinguished service. I am charged to express his Majesty's appreciation." It was signed by A. V. Alexander, first lord of the admiralty.

Two Military Police Back from Overseas

T/5 Willard Jarrell and T/5 Walter Jarross, who have served in the army 4½ years in the artillery and as military policemen in the Aleutians and in Germany, arrived home this week on 30-day furloughs. They will report back to Fort Lewis, Wash., at the end of their leaves.

Jarrell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Jarrell of 236 East Maple street, Hillsboro, and Jaross is a brother of Joseph Jarross of route 3, Hillsboro.

The two soldiers spent 23 months in Alaska and five months in Germany. While in Germany they were in charge of displaced Russian personnel, who had served as German slave labor.

Elwood Coslett Home From Germany

T/5 Elwood Coslett of the 20th armored division in Germany arrived home August 9 on a 30-day leave. He reports back to Fort Lewis at the end of his furlough. Coslett was recently awarded the silver star for gallantry in action. He is vacationing this week with his wife and two daughters at Rhododendron. Young Coslett is a son of Mr. and Mrs. O. Coslett Sr.

Allan Sigler in Hospital

Sgt. Allan Sigler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sigler, is in a hospital in Honolulu recovering from an appendectomy operation according to word received by his parents from his cousin, Dale Sigler of Portland, who had been to see him. Allan knew that his cousin was in Hawaii, but didn't know where, so solicited aid from the Red Cross in locating him. Dale has been in Hawaii for more than a year and will show his cousin the sights as soon as he is well enough to get around. The letter, dated August 6, reported that Allan was getting along alright.

Two Meet First Time

BANKS—Rolland and Robert Cutright, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Cutright of Banks, met recently in Herfeld, Germany. Rolland went across in November, 1943, from Camp White and Robert went across this last spring from Camp Kern, Utah. The two boys had not seen each other for three years.

Mrs. Chester Davis went to Everett, Wash., Thursday to spend a few weeks at the home of her son, George.

In Merchant Marines

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal. — William M. Hughes, 17, route 1, Banks, Ore., has enrolled at the United States maritime service enrolling office in Portland for basic training as a merchant seaman. He will receive basic training at Catalina Island, Cal., and upon completion of his training there will be assigned to duty aboard a merchant vessel.

Spiering Advanced

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif.—Promotion of John D. Spiering of Hillsboro to Staff Sergeant has been announced at this infantry training center. Sgt. Spiering is assigned to Company B, 85th battalion where he is serving as instructor. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spiering, reside on route 3, Hillsboro.

Cpl. Barackman Visits

Cpl. Clayton A. Barackman of Madigan General hospital at Fort Lewis spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Barackman.

Heacock at Dearborn

Wendall Heacock, S 1/c, son of rs. Elizabeth Heacock, is now at the Naval Training school at Dearborn, Michigan according to word received this week by his mother.

James Mead Promoted

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Mead of Banks received word that their son, James T. Mead, has been made a first sergeant. He is now stationed in Luzon in the Philippines.

Schoen, Lambert On West Virginia

ABOARD THE U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC — Howard L. Schoen, baker, third class, USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Schoen, Hillsboro, served in one of the damage control and fire fighting parties which have been commended for the efficient manner in which they controlled fires when this venerable man-o'-war was hit during a Jap air raid at Okinawa.

Damage to the ship, the only battleship which has taken part in every major landing operation in the Pacific in the last six months, was comparatively light and the ship's fighting efficiency was unimpaired.

The following commendation was awarded each man: "As a member of the repair party he aided in preventing the spread and extinguishing fires in the presence of quantities of gasoline, diesel oil and live ammunition. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval service."

Blasted at Pearl Harbor by two bombs and at least six torpedoes, the old West Virginia was repaired, then joined the fight against the Japs with a vigor that has won her a reputation as the "one ship task force."

In the last year and a half she has fired more than 3000 rounds from her new 16-inch rifles, nearly 30,000 rounds from her secondary batteries and more than 200,000 bullets from her automatic weapons, a total of 5500 tons of ammunition.

The West Virginia made her first combat strike by leading a column of fire support units into Leyte Gulf, flying the same colors she flew when she was hit at Pearl Harbor. She poured salvo after salvo into the Jap lines, interrupting the bombardment to splash her first plane.

With other old battleships of the Fleet, she helped sink two Jap battleships and three destroyers in the epic battle of Surigao Strait. Later at Mindoro, and Lingayen, she operated with a protective screen for carriers and transports.

She arrived at Iwo Jima just after the first Marines landed, bombarding and strafing the enemy. From Iwo she traveled to Okinawa. She emptied her magaine several times in bombarding the Japs during that operation. In all her action, there have been less than 20 casualties.

So pesky has she proved to the Japs that Tokyo Rose, the propaganda broadcaster, once announced thousands of the Japs' best fliers were attending their own funeral services before taking off to destroy her. They didn't.

Earle L. Lambert, Pvt., U.S.C.M. of Timber., Ore., also served aboard the West Virginia.

Gordley Bean with Crew Famed Cruiser

ABOARD THE USS MOBILE IN THE PACIFIC—Gordley Bean, coxswain, Cornelius, Ore., served aboard this light cruiser which ducked a dozen Kamikaze planes and evaded enemy mines, torpedoes and suicide boats in order to move in close and smash more than 350 Jap shore targets as her contribution to victory at Okinawa.

Sometimes during the campaign, the 37th major operation for the Mobile in this war, she moved in so close that her crew said they could readily identify uniform insignia.

The Mobile was attacked daily by everything from "hecklers" to attacks comprising a score or more enemy planes. Once eight Jap suicide planes were splashed within two minutes in a sector covered by the gunfire of the Mobile and several other ships.

Meanwhile, she was doing wholesale damage to the Japs on the island. She blasted 90 caves where Japs were hiding troops and big guns. She knocked out 43 Jap mortars with direct hits and, when the Japs tried to supply their front line by motor trucks, picked off 15 trucks.

Two dozen blockhouses and pillboxes were smashed by her guns. Fifteen times she stopped Jap infantry charges by killing and scattering troops with direct hits. She swept clean whole areas or picked off individual targets, as directed, such as 55 guns and nine ammunition and supply dumps.

One of the suicide planes which attacked her was picked off at the respectable range of 9000 yards. Another got into a range of 1500 yards before being batted down.

Helvogt Enlists

Kennard Helvogt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Helvogt of Hilsboro, has enlisted in the army transport command and is stationed at Fort Mason, Cal., for three months' special training.

Rubber stamps and office supplies.—Hillsboro Argus. tf

Hillsboro Soldier Serving in China

HQS. SERVICES OF SUPPLY, KUNMING, China—Supply is a big job of American forces in China.

To find ways and means of breaking the Japanese blockade against China, to get supplies to fighting Chinese forces, and to aid where possible in correcting maladjustments of civilian economy of a refugee people—these were objectives of original U. S. military missions to China.

Today supplies are flowing in. Eighty per cent of this volume flows through a base general depot in this area. When the big story of China is written it will have to include the tremendous job of much accomplished with so little by the depot. There's not much glamor. Depot operation is hard, routine work for laboring GIs and plenty of paper work for staff.

Technically trained units including quartermaster, transportation, engineer, ordnance, signal, chemical warfare and medical supply sections handle the supplies through the depot.

Forty-six states are represented in the roster of these units.

Included in the group is T/5 Jack W. Weik, 473 South First avenue, Hillsboro, Ore., in chemical warfare.

Sgt. Elmer Wendt Wins Commendation

TWENTIETH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Guam—For the part they played in the historic series of five low level incendiary attacks on Japan during an all-out offensive, Sgt. Elmer A. Wendt of Hillsboro, Oregon, and other enlisted men at B-29 bases in the Marianas have been commended by the commanding general of the 20th air force.

Sgt. Wendt is a member of the ground echelons supporting the almost daily Superfort assaults against the Japanese mainland.

"Your determination, skill and courage have delivered a stunning blow to the empire of the Rising Sun," the general said. "Combat crews and the hard-working maintenance and staff people are to be heartily commended for their accomplishments in these historic operations."

Throughout the period of sustained bombing attacks, Sgt. Wendt and the ground staff worked night and day, virtually without rest, to keep the army bombers in the air and striking at the enemy.

His father, Edward Wendt, lives on route 3, Hillsboro.

Former Prisoner Of Germans Home

S/Sgt. David Ackerman, B-17 gunner and bombardier, is spending a 60-day furlough with his wife, Lorine, and three children at Beaverton. He is also visiting his father, W. F. Ackerman, in Portland.

Overseas 10 months with the 8th air force based in England, he was taken prisoner on March 18 when the Flying Fort on which he was serving was shot down on a mission to Berlin. Although Ackerman says their camp received better treatment and more food than the majority of prisons, he lost 15 pounds before liberating Russian armies took over the camp May 1.

At the conclusion of his furlough he will report to Santa Monica, Cal., for reassignment. He has been awarded the air medal and the presidential unit citation, in addition to his good conduct medal. Sgt. Ackerman attended Benson high school, and was employed by Albina engine and machine works until induction in September, 1943. He went overseas a year later.

Capt. McLeod Leaves

Capt. Eldon McCleod, who has been home on furlough, left this week for Santa Barbara, Cal., where he reports for further duty.

Loveall Promoted

George Loveall has been promoted to sergeant according to a letter received by his mother, Mrs. Agnes Loveall. Sgt. Loveall is stationed in Southern Germany, and said that his group enjoyed a real raspberry shortcake recently when he picked the raspberries and the cook made the cake. He expects to come home on furlough within several months.

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