

39th Engineer Unit Includes 6 Valley Men

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, Italy — Six Willamette valley men are members of the 39th engineer combat regiment, the unit currently holding open route 65, main supply route to the Fifth Army front in Italy.

Besides building bridges and repairing roads, the 39th has three amphibious operations to its credit and has often functioned as infantry. In Italy alone it has built 125 bridges, 77 by-passes, 123 culverts, 24 major roadblocks, seven airstrips and a floating foot-bridge. The engineers built 97 by-passes and shoveled rubble in seven cities during the 33-day Sicilian campaign.

Men of the 39th piloted assault boats across the Volturno river in Italy as the 3rd "Marne" infantry division established bridgeheads over the river and built one of the first trestle bridges to span the Volturno. They strung 90 miles of concertina wire and planted 40,000 mines on the Asazio beach-head under German shellfire.

The 39th was set ashore in January, 1943, at Oran, northern Algeria, and assigned tasks in French Morocco and northern Algeria.

Col. Thomas E. Green, Austin, Texas, commands the regiment. Willamette valley men include: Maj. Ellis Earl Pickering, commanding officer, route two, Corvallis.

Pvt. Lorin L. Yoder, tractor operator, route one, Hubbard.

Pvt. Maurice D. Graves, mechanic, 212 N. Main St., Independence.

Pfc. Robert E. Lindgren, rigger, 727 10th St., McMinnville.

Pfc. Alfred E. Dean, engineer work, Molalla.

1st Sgt. Doyle D. Bell, 506 Royal Court apartments, Salem.



A. C. Friesen

Salem Recruiter Transferred to Klamath Falls

Transfer of A. C. Friesen, chief specialist, recruiter in charge of the Salem navy recruiting station for the last year, was announced Saturday by Lt. Cmdr. John F. Biehler, officer in charge of the Oregon recruiting district. Friesen will assume new duties as recruiter in charge of the Klamath Falls navy station Tuesday.

Subsequent to a tour of duty at the Portland main station after enlisting in 1942, Friesen was detailed to the Bend sub-station, where he won the Oregon area "E" pennant five times in six months. Last February he was shifted to Salem, where he won the substation flag twice, and finished near the top in succeeding months.

Highlights of Friesen's recruiting activities while stationed in Salem were the recruiting of the now famous Company 66, comprised of local 17-year-olds who were shipped to Farragut training center on D-day, and the assembly of two full WAVE platoons, all of whom are on active duty at shore or advanced base stations.

For WAVE recruiting accomplishments, he was commended by Lt. Webb Jones, Oregon state WAVE procurement officer, and identified as top WAVE recruiter for the 9th JSAI area. Mrs. Friesen temporarily will continue residence in Salem.

ROBERTS — Sgt. and Mrs. C. O. Austin visited Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bidwood for 10 days while on furlough. Sergeant Austin is stationed at the Presidio near San Francisco and Mrs. Austin teaches in the bay city.



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Salem Man With Ambulance Unit Landed for Work

6TH-ARMY GROUP, France — Driving through blackout over slippery, shell-cratered mountain roads, ambulance drivers of the 582nd ambulance company speed wounded American 7th army doughboys from forward collecting points to evacuation hospitals a few miles to the rear.

In three months these drivers have evacuated 24,430 patients over a distance of 767,096 patient-miles while supporting various infantry divisions of Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers' 6th army group.

Ambulance crews work around the clock, staying on duty at collecting stations ready for immediate evacuation as the wounded arrive. Drivers maneuver their trucks carefully to give patients as smooth a ride as possible, explains Capt. Winston Churchill of Jacksonville, Tex., company commander.

"All men are eager and anxious to do an exceptional job and they have always done just that. All departments, from ambulance platoons to mess and maintenance sections, are the finest anywhere."

Members of the ambulance company include Sgt. Harold D. Reust, route four, Salem, Ore.

Bronze Star Goes to Mill City Native For Heroic Action

MILL CITY — Lt. (jg) Harry E. Morgan, USNR, 23, native of Mill City, was presented the Bronze Star Medal by H. Struve Hensel, assistant secretary of the navy, in ceremonies a week ago in Washington, D. C.

Morgan and his wife are living at 1706 C st., Northeast, in Washington, D. C.

The citation accompanying the medal:

"For heroic achievement while serving as a bomb disposal officer during operations off the coast of the Franco-Italian Riviera in October, 1944. Gallantly participating in a mission to render safe a captured enemy vessel, Lt. (jg) (then Ensign) Morgan unhesitatingly boarded the vessel and, with exceptional skill and ingenuity, removed explosives charges despite constant hazard of possible enemy booby traps."

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England—

As one of the officers at this B-17 Flying Fortress station in charge of the maintenance of equipment used by the bomber crews to hit targets hidden by clouds, 2nd Lt. Marvin L. Amundson, 27, is playing an important part in one of the latest developments of aerial warfare. The lieutenant was extensively trained in the states for this highly specialized work, and came to England several months ago. The son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Amundson, route 5, of Salem, Ore., the lieutenant entered the army in September, 1942 and has seen two years service in Hawaii.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery Hendrickson, East State st., have received letters from their son, Pfc. Emery Hendrickson, telling them he is now in Belgium after almost a year's overseas service. He went first to England, in July to France, and then to Germany. Weather in Belgium, he writes, has been very cold, with considerable snow. He operates a 90mm. gun with anti-aircraft artillery.

Another son, Pvt. Rod Hendrickson, is with a specialists' unit at Camp Roberts, Calif. He went into the service in November, 1944, and expects to be home shortly on furlough.



Sgt. King Winner Of Bronze Star

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, Italy—Sgt. James R. King, 24, husband of Bertha D. King, route 3, Salem, Ore., recently was awarded the bronze star for heroic achievement in action.

He is a communications sergeant in the 361st infantry regiment, 91st "Powder River" division, fighting on the Fifth Army front in Italy.

Ralph Leroy Koerner, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Koerner, of 968 North 20th street, has been promoted to the grade of private first class, it was announced recently by Col. A. J. Kerwin Malone, commanding officer of Marfa (Texas) Army Air Field. Born in Mill City, the 33-year-old soldier attended high school at Salem and was employed by the Bremerton Navy yard before entrance into the service on November 14, 1942. He is an aviation mechanic.

Kenneth Lee Lucas, 17, enlisted in the U. S. coast guard Wednesday at Portland and departed Wednesday for the coast guard training station at Alameda, Calif. After eight weeks' basic training, he will go either on to a special trade school to qualify for a rating, or report to a coast guard unit for active duty. Young Lucas attended Salem high school, where he was active in sports.

SILVERTON—Harry Hagedorn, firecontrolman 3/c, has arrived home from a year and a half in the South Pacific. He will spend the 28-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hagedorn. The Hagedorns also received word this week from another son, Ensign Don Hagedorn, of his arrival overseas.

A former Salem resident, Pvt. Melvin J. Langley, 18, was recently graduated from the marine aviation clerical school at San Diego. Prior to enlisting in March, 1944, Langley was employed by the Southern Pacific Railway company. He formerly lived at 1163 South Liberty street.

WITH 398th CENTRAL SERVICE REGIMENT, France—Oregon soldiers of this Army Engineer organization who helped reconstruct a large French port and erect hospitals were recently awarded Good Conduct Medals at a ceremony in which the entire regiment participated. They included PFC. Clyde H. Day of Sweet Home and PFC. Herman F. Mack, route 1, West Salem.

Pfc. Paul L. Patton, who has recently been stationed in Washington, has returned to his duties after a furlough in the Willamette valley with his mother, Mrs. B. J. C. Patton, and his brother, Don; sisters, Elma Jones, Eugene; Catharine Feikert, Albany, and Roberta Leathers in Portland.

When one is up, the other is down. Two Oregon fliers, Capt. Frederick D. Ellis, son of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Ellis, route seven, box 53, Salem, alternates on bombing the retch and directing a squadron's operations with Capt. Jerred L. Newquist of Portland and Pendleton. They are with the pioneer 91st bombardment group—combat home of the "Memphis Belle", in England with the Eighth air force. Ellis, assistant operations officer, here tells Newquist how German fighters attacked his flying fortress over Merseburg recently. Capt. Ellis, veteran of 24 missions, was attending Willamette university when he joined the AAF in May, 1942.—U. S. AAF Photo.

Stuart McAllister Promoted; Assigned To High-Rating Unit

FIFTEENTH AAF IN ITALY—Sgt. Stuart McAllister, 23, of 1875 Fir st., Salem, has been assigned to the oldest heavy bombardment group in the Mediterranean theater and has been promoted to his present rank.

Former student at the University of Oregon, the radio operator-gunner on a 15th air force Flying Fortress enlisted in the army August 18, 1942, and was graduated from the radio operator's school at Sioux Falls, S.D., and the aerial gunnery school at Yuma, Ariz. His new organization has flown more than 400 combat missions and has been awarded the distinguished unit citation.

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 17 (Special)—Pvt. Byron F. Mische, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Mische, 1805 1/2 Fairgrounds road, Salem, has been graduated from the AAF training command's aircraft radio mechanics school at Truxax Field, where he studied the servicing of radio equipment used on U. S. bombers and fighter planes. He was assigned to an advanced school or to another center as an instructor in radio mechanics.

Sergeant Saunders With Unit Praised For Service Record

A FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE SERVICE COMMAND SERVICE SQUADRON, Italy (Special)—T/Sgt. Reginald E. Saunders of 1175 "E" St., Salem, Ore., is a mobile repair chief with a fifteenth air force service command air squadron that received a commendation from Col. Arthur C. Agan, of Corpus Christi, Texas, commanding officer of the oldest fighter group in the AAF, which the squadron has served since October 13, 1943.

"The excellent maintenance record of the group has been made possible by the exceptionally high standard of work done by its service squadron", the commendation said.

The squadron's engineers have repaired 126 fighter planes and one heavy bomber since it started serving the group.

Sergeant Saunders is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Saunders of Salem.

Salem Soldier Saves Buddy From Jap

LEYTE, Philippine Islands (Delayed)—PFC Robert Porter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Porter, route two, Salem, is a handy man to have around when things get tough.

During a recent patrol mission the mountainous jungles of this island, Porter, an 11th airborne division paratrooper, killed his first Jap and saved a buddy—with one bullet.

"We were advancing along a very muddy, steep trail," Porter said, "and I was following PFC Ray Shadden. Suddenly two crazed Nips plunged out of the thick jungle flanking the trail and charged Shadden. He shot one, but the other grabbed him and both fell in the mud struggling. When I came up they were slugging it out furiously."

Porter waited for a clear shot and killed the enemy with a bullet through the chest.

"Naturally, I had to be careful because I might have hit Shadden," he said, adding that he was too excited to think about the fact that he had killed his first Nip.

Porter, who entered the army Feb. 16, 1943, at Fort Lewis, Wash., became a qualified paratrooper in July of the following year in New Guinea. He has two brothers, also in the army, Cpl. Albert Porter, with the medical corps in Bougainville, and Pvt. Ernest J. Porter, Camp Roberts, Calif.

GATES — Lt. and Mrs. Virgil Heath spent several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Heath, Lieutenant Heath has been attending Princeton university in New Jersey but has been sent to Fort Ord. He is taking up international law.

Cpl. Carl Ball left for Santa Barbara, Calif., Thursday after a 15-day furlough.

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Knutson that their son, Orville, who was recently inducted into the army, is stationed at Camp Roberts, Calif.

Pfc. Elton Brown has been on a ten-day furlough at home and left for El Centro, Calif.

Scout Family Night Held For Gervais Boys

GERVAIS — The annual family night for the Boy Scout troop No. 34 of Gervais was held Friday night at their rooms in the grade school building. All members of the troop were present and most of the parents.

Honor guests were Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Leighton and son, Larry. Leighton spoke on the history of scouting and how it is adapted to the boy. Gervais troop has 16 members, with D. L. St. John, scout leader.

SAN ANTONIO AVIATION CADET CENTER, Tex.—At the San Antonio aviation cadet center, 2nd Lt. Leonard Reimann of 1275 Fairmount street, Salem, Ore., is taking a three-week course of study in the duties of an army air forces civilian personnel officer.

While at the cadet center, a unit of the AAF training command, civilian personnel officers study air force perspectives, job placements, employee recruitment and relations, job evaluations and procedures at the AAF civilian personnel officers training course.

Bridgeport Women Hold Club Meeting

FALLS CITY — The Bridgeport Woman's club met with Mrs. Nellie Lee Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Carl Barnard, president, had charge of the meeting. Members present were Mrs. Lucy Breeden, Mrs. Elizabeth Hart, Judy and Jimmie, Mrs. Rose Murphy and Marjorie, Mrs. Anna Palmer and Kay Shutt, Mrs. Leona Nelson and three children, Grandma Nelson, Mrs. A. P. Embree, Mrs. Glen Gage, Mrs. Emma Stout, Miss Jean Campbell, Mrs. Otto Teal, Mrs. Esther Wiens, Mrs. Van Cleave, Mrs. Pearl Embree, Mrs. Marie Harvey, Mrs. Nellie Campbell, Mrs. Mable Slighter, Miss Dora Hart, Mrs. Velma Gilmore.

Lt. James J. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Wilson, is at home on leave from his duties as statistical officer at Harvard, Neb. After overseas service, he came back to this country for his officer's training. He is the brother of Richard W. Wilson, reading clerk in the Oregon house of representatives, and Susanne LaVatta, page in the senate.

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