

321st ENGINEERS DEMONSTRATE ATTACK ON FORT Co. C Storms Pill-Box In Realistic Manner

96th Infantry Troops Watch And Learn Job They Will Have to Do

In a realistic demonstration, accompanied by shouting, gunfire and explosions, Co. C, 321st Engr. Bn., showed attentive infantry troops of the 96th Division the method of attacking fortified, fixed positions.

Under the command of Capt. Edward A. Martell, the engineers successfully stormed and destroyed a concrete emplacement.

While the artillery shelled the objective and planes dive-bombed it, the attackers approached. The heavy-gun firing and the bombing kept the theoretical defenders under cover and prevented firing upon the assault team.

A detachment of Chemical Warfare troops accompanied the attackers and further screened them from "enemy" snipers by laying down a smoke screen over the enemy position. The screen further hides the point of the main attack. (Picture 1).

As the assault team, led by Lt. C. E. Lawing, approached the barbed wire entanglements protecting the emplacement, the artillery increased the intensity of its fire. "Bangalore torpedoes" (about 10 feet of 3-inch pipe filled with T.N.T.) were set under the tactical wire and when they exploded, a clear path was opened to the advancing troops. (Picture 2).

The artillery fire then stopped and the assault crews rushed through the cleared paths with flame-throwers leading the way. (Picture 3).

The flame-throwers kept the defenders "buttoned up" with blasts of liquid fire aimed at the pill-box ports, while another soldier brought up a "pole charge" to brace and set off against the ports, which are ordinarily the weakest point in the defense. (Pictures 4 and 5. T/5 John L. Farr Jr., is the flame-thrower covering the advance of Pvt. Max D. Martin, who is handling the pole charge.)

The concussion of the pole charge, a tremendous roar, broke a hole in the concrete emplacement (and theoretically stunned the occupants). A "beehive charge" was then used to further demolish the pill-box. Such a charge can blast through two to three feet of solid concrete and leaves nothing but havoc in its wake. Not much is ever left of the pill-box or its defenders. (Picture 6.)

Following the exercise the infantry spectators surrounded the ruins of the emplacement and received further instructions on the work they will perform in actual combat. (Picture 7.)

There has not been much of this type of tactics employed in World War II to date, inasmuch as, for the most part, the war has been a "running" war. It is anticipated, however, that this training will be highly useful in combat when the European continent is invaded.

It is expected that deep lines of self-supporting forts will be encountered. When attacked, though, these forts can only fight a delaying action against the attack until a strong counter-attack can be launched.

Should Auld Acquaintance—

Sicity (CNS)—Pvt. Tony Calato of San Francisco was sleeping in the brick courtyard of a police station in Palermo when a guard woke him up.

"There's an old Sicilian outside," said the guard. "He wants to see you."

Tony went outside and started to hug the old man he found waiting there. It was his grandfather.

70th TO BROADCAST

The 70th Division band and chorus is starting a series of radio broadcasts on September 9 over station KEX in Portland.

The program will be a regular Thursday evening feature of the station from 9 to 9:30 p. m. to be broadcast from the Post.

Engrs. Clean Up After Maneuvers

The 321st Engineer Bn. "protected the rear" of the 96th Division during its return from the Bend Maneuver Area recently.

The engineers had to repair various kinds of damage which is inevitably caused by troop movements in darkness.

The roads, in particular, suffered from the heavy truck traffic and the pounding of our associates, the T.D.'s (nicknamed "Terrain Destroyers").

With the object of leaving the area in better condition than when the 96th moved in, the 321st Engrs. are repairing some 100 miles of roads, 20 miles of fences, 50 culverts and bridges, miles of irrigation ditches, as well as filling thousands of fox-holes.

Dates Announced For Christmas Mailing Overseas

The War Department has designated September 15 to October 15 as the Christmas mailing period for sending packages to soldiers and sailors serving overseas.

No written requests from the men in the service will be required to mail Christmas packages to them during that period.

The weight limit on each package will be five pounds. The length of each package is limited to 15 inches and the total dimensions, length plus girth, must not exceed 36 inches.

Only one package will be accepted from any individual or concern. No perishable articles may be sent and the sending of fragile articles is not recommended.

The War Department points out that careful observance of its suggestions will be the only way to insure reasonably prompt service in delivering Christmas packages to men serving overseas.

Millionth Food Package Delivered by Red Cross

An American Field Service ambulance driver, Mortimer Belshaw, received the millionth food package given by the Red Cross to American prisoners of war.

Belshaw said that he had been receiving such a package from the Red Cross about every ten days while he was a prisoner and his comment was: "The packages mean a hell of a lot."

The food in his Italian prison camp was bad, he said, and the Red Cross packages helped to vary the regular diet.

In addition to food, these packages contain cigarettes, books, clothes and medical supply items.

