

70th CWS Has Gas Demonstration for GIs

Interesting, Intensive Learning

70th GIs from Every Unit

Attend Decontamination Classes



All Trailblazer Units Attend EM Gas School

Lecture on Decontamination, Use of Protective Clothing

Ol' Deacon LaVelle (Tec4 Edward LaVelle to be exact) likes to tell about the good old days when he was the impresario of a medicine show down in Texas. Whether the colorful deacon actually did conduct such an enterprise or whether it's just another of his tall yarns is a matter of barrack conjecture.

But one thing is certain, no prospective nostrum purchasers ever hung on the deacon's spiel like the audience of GIs who heard him lecture at a recent decontamination course put on by the 70th Chemical Warfare Section.

Highly Instructive

Entertaining as the course was, it was also instructive . . . instructive in one of the deadliest arms of offense and defense that modern armies have devised. Every unit in the Division sent men to it.

Officers of CWS left most of the actual instruction to their enlisted men, Lavelle, Sgt. Harold Vroom and Tec5 Frank Wagonknight. They not only lectured but staged fascinating demonstrations.

Dressed in heavy rubber suits, wearing protective undergarments, gloves and gas masks, Vroom and Wagonknight showed how decontaminating agents are mixed with earth and sprinkled, or put into solution and sprayed or painted on objects or areas which were covered with mustard or other gasses.

They particularly showed the methods in which vehicles can be cleaned after being put out of action by gas. A strafing aircraft, spraying mustard over a convoy, can halt vehicular traffic as effectively as a bombed-out bridge or artillery batteries. Quick action on the part of personnel in recognizing and combatting gas is necessary to keep an advance rolling along.

The classes were shown various reagents that change color to denote gas.

Spectacular Demonstration

A spectacular demonstration was that showing how demolition and contamination can be effected by simultaneous explosions.

A model bridge was built under which were placed charges of explosives and gas. The resultant charge not only breaks up the bridge but leaves the surrounding

Sees End of Europe War During Summer

Churchill Says Big 3 Plans Progressing

The end of the European war by the end of this summer was predicted by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in a recent address at London's Mexican Embassy.

More optimistic than he has been since Dunkerque, Churchill said, "It is a great moment in the history of the world, and it may be that events will occur in the next few months which show us where we are soon to be relieved of the curse which has been laid upon us by the Germans."

Pointing out that there are now one million men fighting in Normandy, Churchill declared that the Teheran conference plans of the "Big Three" are being steadily carried out. He said that continued resistance by the Germans will only make it "more terrible" for them, prolonging the length of the war, and will not result in a compromise peace.

HIS RANK? DUNNO

Seattle—For weeks the Wave had saluted a young officer daily as she hopped along the street. And for weeks he had returned her salute—grinning broadly.

"Say, what's his rank, anyway?" she asked a barracks mate at last.

"Can't say," said her friend. "But he's officer of the guard at the bank where I cash my checks."

area so permeated with gas that work of rebuilding is considerably slowed down.

That is because the workers who wear the man-from-Mars protective clothing cannot work over 45 minutes without shedding their heavy garments. By that time they are literally drenched with sweat and perspiration blows from the nose-piece of the mask long before that time.



—Trailblazer Photos

(1) A LARGE CLASS of GIs—men from every unit—attend classes on gas decontamination put on by the 70th Division Chemical Warfare Section.

(2) WEARING HEAVY RUBBER protective garments, Sgt. Harold Vroom and Tec5 Frank Wagonknight show how contaminated buildings must be well-scrubbed before they can be used again.

(3) VEHICLES MUST BE washed with a reagent to remove the gas, then washed with warm water before the reagent also removes all the paint.

(4) MIXING EARTH and chemicals provides a method of decontaminating areas of ground through which much foot traffic must move and which would otherwise spread the vesicant.

(5) SPRAYING CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS covers larger areas in a shorter time.



(6) A CHARGE of dynamite explodes under a dummy bridge and wrecks it completely while at the same time gas is sprayed over the surrounding area to hamper enemy's rebuilding efforts.

About His Operation

By Pfc. Mack Freedman

Boy, what a feeling once it is over—but let me tell you the whole story!

First they isolate you in a private room with a bath. You feel like a big shot, but not for long.

The night before you're to be operated on, they give you a good cleaning out if you know what I mean, then they give you a mild Mickey Finn.

Off to Bed You Go

Off to bed you go with sweet dreams of what is to take place on the morrow. At 0600 the morning of the eventful day, you are awakened by the ward boy who once again cleans your system of anything that might be left in your hollow stomach. Then once again you get a few knock-out pills, and you go back to sleep for a few hours.

There is a rude awakening. The "butcher wagon" arrives, and you

are just like a punch drunk fighter. You don't know what it's all about, but you go anyhow just to be sociable. Your last ride seems to take hours, but in reality it's only a five-minute ride to the room they call surgery.

They Park You

They park you outside for about 15 minutes, evidently they want you to get used to the chatter that takes place while they are making last-minute preparations to put a nice little zipper on you.

Well, by now they have you on the operating table and are prepared to give a spinalitis, a very simple way of giving you an anasthesia. You're awake during the whole procedure, but you don't

feel a thing. It's really a wonderful invention or should I say discovery in medical science.

You're awake while Captains Hawkins and Gillespie are taking care of you so that you will be minus that part of your anatomy that has been troubling you.

Now For a Steak!?

In 40 minutes you're back to your room with thoughts of devouring a nice, juicy steak. You are really hungry for a real meal, but no, this is the Army. You get juices and then your meal is the same as the rest of the ward. When chow time comes you're too drowsy to eat, so you go back to bed with thoughts of eating the next time it's mealtime.

In no time you're on your feet once again feeling fine, and what happens—the guy in the next room is going to surgery in the morning and he asks you, "How was it, buddy?"

By now you're a veteran—"Nothing to it"—it's as simple as all that.