

NARRON & HOLDFORD, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

204 NORTH TARBORO STREET

DRAWER 279

WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27894-0279

TELEPHONE (252) 237-3153

TELECOPIER (252) 243-1733

BENJAMIN L. EAGLES
R. WOODY HARRISON, JR.
WILLIAM H. HOLDFORD
I. JOE IVEY
THOMAS J. RHODES
THOMAS J. RHODES, JR.
JONATHAN M. VANDEN BOSCH
C. DAVID WILLIAMS, JR.

TALMADGE L. NARRON
(1925-1976)

May 16, 2006

wharrison@narronholdford.com

Mr. John N. Hackney, Jr.
1120 Watson Drive
Wilson, NC 27893

RE: World War II Information

*Diary of Dr. Rhodes
father of Tom Rhodes*

Dear John:

Please find enclosed the diary of Dr. Rhodes that I told you about that Tom had given me to read. I don't know if you will have any use for it since he was not from Wilson County at that time, but it is interesting reading, particularly related to the other stories you have in brief.

I am also enclosing a newsletter that was sent to servicemen in 1944 which we discovered in the attic with some of Uncle Jack's letters. He didn't have much from the war, but there were a lot of letters from friends while he was in training and this newsletter for some reason in the middle of it.

As I mentioned to you before, I am having some difficulty finding anything about my father's time during the war in any written materials. There is a résumé that he used in 1951 that just indicated that he had been working for the "Department of Defense" for the past ten years. I have a number of books and information documents about the Venona project and lots of references to father's boss during that time, Meredith Gardner, but cannot find in any of the books that have a list of the other participants in the project. I have written to a friend in the CIA in hopes that he might be able to uncover something for me, but I am not too hopeful that he will take the time to look in their historical information. I know that they had a celebration at the CIA headquarters about the Venona project and that there is some information in the NSA museum, but thus far I have been unable to get written documentation. If I find anything, I will certainly send it to you for the Wilson County Historical Project.

Thank you for what you are doing. Maybe some day there is a slim possibility somebody might do the same for those of us who were in service during the Vietnam War.

Very truly yours,

R. Woody Harrison, Jr.
R. Woody Harrison, Jr.
FOR THE FIRM

RWHjr/sbw
Enclosures

MY DIARY

FROM SICILY TO MUNICH

A

WORLD WAR II ODYSSEY

In June of 1943 I was stationed at Camp Pickett , near Kenbridge , Va. and was assigned to the 120th Medical Battalion, a unit of the 45th Division, commonly known as the Thunderbird Division. We had within the past nine months had extensive training in winter combat conditions, mountain combat training and most recently amphibious landing training .

Our summer khaki uniforms had just recently, by orders from the commanding General, been turned in, and the entire division was now wearing winter woolen uniforms. We knew that we were going to be sent overseas very shortly, but where. Possibly the Aleutians or Alaska, but no one knew for sure.

On June 3rd we left Camp Pickett by train for Norfolk, Va. There we were combat loaded on transport ships. The ship that I was on was named the Florence Nightengale. My official designation was Asst. Battalion Surgeon of the 3rd Battalion of the 179th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division.

After sailing from the port of Norfolk we joined up with a huge fleet of other ships and naval escort vessels. As we left the shores of the U.S.A. we had aerial escort coverage daily for several days, until we got too far out to sea to be covered by land based planes, and since there were no aircraft carriers in our convoy we had no more air cover.

The crossing was uneventful except for a few incidents. We had a submarine alert one day which turned out upon investigation by the destroyers to be a whale. One day while taking a sunbath in one of the lifeboats near the bridge of the ship,. I was witness to as severe a tongue lashing by the Captain of the ship to the officer of the bridge at the time, as I have ever heard . The normal procedure for ships in convoy is to sail a zigzag pattern. This pattern is changed each day by the Admiral of the fleet. This officer had called for a particular turn which was 45degrees opposite from what he was supposed to have called and we were on a collision course with the ship on our starboard. That's when the captain came on the bridge and let him have it with both barrels. Luckily he corrected the course in time to prevent any damage.

In the convoy were two ocean going tugs that were under 100-ft in length, and which sat very low in the water. On one occasion on the trip ,we encountered a storm with waves that were 25-35ft high. It was quite a sight seeing these two tugs climbing up an on coming wave and then sliding over it and coasting down the backside before repeating the process over and over again.

As I had said before we left the States we had no idea where we were going. Well, one day in the early afternoon we could see low on the horizon on the port side of the ship an object which steadily increased in size as we got closer. Soon it was quite apparent what the object was- The Rock of Gibraltar. That is unless someone had stuck a huge Prudential Life Insurance sign on the port side of our ship. We sailed through the Straits and entered the Mediterrean Sea. Now we knew at least what theater of war we would probably be in.

June 22nd - This afternoon we docked at Mers-El-Kebir, the port of the city of Oran , Algiers, North Africa. Shortly after we were docked, which was done by tugboats, with our stern to the dock and the bow pointing out into the harbor , I noticed that there was a gap of about 1500-ft between our ship and the next ship of our convoy. The reason for this soon became apparent when all at once it sounded as if every ship in the harbor was blowing horns , sirens and every other kind of warning device. Everyone aboard just knew that it was an air raid and began looking for planes overhead but none could be seen; suddenly while looking toward the entrance of the harbor, about a mile away we could see this cloud of dark smoke and a large ship charging into the harbor. As it drew nearer we could see that it was an aircraft carrier flying the pennant of the British Union Jack. What occurred next astounded everyone - just as an automobile is backed into position to parallel park this huge ship passed by the stern of our ship went into reverse backed up to the dock came to a stop and forward and aft lines were thrown to waiting hands which tied it up, then large hose lines were pulled aboard and a refueling was accomplished within a very short time. This done the ship , without any assistance from tugs started engines up and pulled away from the dock and headed back out of the harbor and into the sea again. A most remarkable feat of seamanship. It was the British carrier *Illustrious*.

Four days later, June 22nd the complete division engaged in a simulated amphibious landing on the coast of Algiers for the benefit of the Army commander General George (Blood and Guts) Patton. It was an utter mess . The Navy landed most of the division about a mile from where we were supposed to have landed, and in a dense fog which covered the area.

July 1st- After many show-down inspections it was found that every company in the division had arrived in a war zone with their company funds still intact. Since no unit could go into combat with a company fund intact and particularly since these funds were in United States legal tender they had to be disposed of. Someone had the brilliant idea to put on a division party. So, many of the 2 1/2 ton trucks were sent in to Oran and returned loaded down with 500-gal. barrels of Marsala wine. GI's lined up with their canteen cups and emptied them while walking to the back of the line to go through again. For the next three days the regiments were put hors de combat with diarrhea , nausea, vomiting and general debility.

July 5th We have left Mers El Kebir and are at sea in the Mediterranean headed ???. On July 9th we are in a terrible storm and the announcement is made that D-day is tomorrow and we are to invade the south shore of Sicily

July 10th Before daybreak this morning we start loading into the assault craft for the amphibious landing. During the process of putting on and taking off my combat pack I lost my wrist watch. Also during the off loading of the ship one of the half-track vehicles crashed through the bottom of the landing craft that was to ferry it to shore. This occurred when a wave suddenly raised the craft when the winch was lowering the vehicle. The navy personnel in the craft at the time were not hurt and they dived into the water and were pulled out by their comrades.

Same day- The division lands on the beaches at Vittoria, Sicily with some resistance , mostly from Italian troops that were manning the beachhead defenses. The most serious fighting is around the airfield at Comiso, which is just outside Vittoria. The Germans have sent up reinforcements including Panzer units equipped with Tiger tanks with 88mm rifles. After some difficulty the airfield is captured the next morning and the German units are in retreat. We now take up the pursuit inland

Same day- The division lands on the beaches at Vittoria, Sicily with some resistance ,mostly from Italian troops that were manning the beachhead defenses. The most serious fighting is around the airfield at Comiso, which is just outside Vittoria. The Germans have sent up reinforcements including Panzer units equipped with Tiger tanks with 88mm rifles. After some difficulty the airfield is captured the next morning and the German units are in retreat. We now take up the pursuit inland . Marching on dusty roads up and down narrow mountain passes. The 4.2inch mortar platoons that are attached to each of the battalions of the regiment cannot keep up with the rest of the troops on the march as they have to carry the heavy barrel and baseplate and pull the ammo dollies by hand also. Because of this each battalion assigned one jeep to each 4.2 platoon. It was quite a sight to see all the personnel of the platoon riding on the jeep with the base plates and mortar barrels stored in the jeep and the ammo dollies lashed one behind the other being pulled by the jeep , just as a locomotive pulls boxcars behind it. The 4.2 mortar proved itself in the mountains of Sicily and was one of the weapons that the enemy feared the most. They called it automatic artillery and could not understand how it could be fired so fast and so accurately. The principle behind the 4.2 was that it had a rifled barrel similar to the large artillery guns, and each mortar shell had a flanged metal wing-like contraption on the base of the shell. When the shell was dropped into the opening of the mortar, as it struck the bottom just before it fired out of the barrel these flanges opened up and engaged the rifling of the barrel giving the projectile a spinning motion which increased greatly its effective range and accuracy. The mortar could fire chemical shells as well as HE(high explosive). One of the most devastating shells was the white phosphorus shell which ignited on explosion and burned anything and everything that it touched.

It was while we were on the march inland that I saw the most fantastic as well as the most disgusting sight that I have ever seen. We had just taken a break and were sitting along side the road going up toward the crest of a mountain pass when we saw coming down the road towards us three Sicilians; a father , a mother and a young man, apparently the son. The father and mother were probably in their sixties the son about twenty-five to thirty. The father and son were walking in front ,just strolling along both with a cane in their hand. The mother was struggling along behind them with a six-leg dining room table balanced on top of her head. We all stared openmouthed at this sight.

From July 12th to August 16th it was march, stop, fight skirmishes, pack up again ,march repeated over and over trying to catch the retreating enemy and prevent him from escaping across the Strait of Messina. In one snafu operation our regiment the 179th was sent on an end around run through the mountains of the north coast of Sicily to try to get behind the Germans and cut off their escape route. Maps that the command had of the area showed a well paved road that we were to travel . High up in the mountains we arrived at a village perched on the side of the mountain and the road abruptly stopped. A sheer drop of thousands of feet yawned before us with no bridges or road to continue on. So we turned around and made our way back to where we started.

Now comes a most eventful day in my life. AV-mail telegram arrived today announcing the birth of a 7lb 2oz baby boy. James S. Rhodes III. Jimmy. Born at 7:47 a.m. Aug. 4th, 1943 in Lexington, Ky. The next day another telegram arrived stating that I had a daughter born. After some considerable consternation, with the help of Kilmer my associate battalion surgeon we finally figured out what was going on. The first telegram was sent by Jean's mother from Lexington. The second came from my Aunt Mildred in Pittsburgh. All V-mail telegrams were coded with a number ; 42 was son born, 43 was daughter born. Both telegrams were coded 42, but whoever typed my aunt's telegram misread the code and typed the wrong message . I didn't think we were expecting twins , but it sure was a relief to clear the matter up.

From Aug 5th until Aug 17th we have been in a rest area on the north shore of Sicily in division reserve. Yesterday Messina was captured but the enemy managed to get it's troops across the strait before the trap was closed. Today the official announcement was proclaimed by the Allied command that the Battle of Sicily was over.

Today, Aug. 18th, we have been moved to a new rest area on a beach just east of Palermo. We are set up in tents in an olive orchard just back from the shoreline and everyone is enjoying the rest and relaxation. Going swimming eating Class A chow which is the same as we would get in the states in an army camp. what a change from the field rations of K and C.

Today the mess seargent of the Headquarters company of the battalion managed to wangle some chocolate syrup from one of the navy ships that was docked at Palermo. He then talked a local ice cream plant owner there to make several gallons of chocolate icecream for the company ,and since our medical detachment is attached to the Headquarters company for rations we all got to have some. . Mmm it sure was a treat.

Sept. 7th Today we loaded on LCPS better known as landing craft infantry, for the invasion of Italy. In Sicily the 45th was a part of Pattons 2nd Army, but now the division has been assigned to Gen. Mark Clarks 5th Army. Patton being sent back to England after the slapping incident in the hospital in Sicily. We sailed at 2 am heading northeast. The Italian coast was sighted just after dawn. Heavy fighting was going on ahead of us, sunken ships could be seen near the shore and shells from the battleships , cruisers and destroyers were visible arcing over head. It all seemed to be utter confusion but we continued toward the rendezvous area. Since our battalion was in regimental reserve we were not to land until D+1.

Sept. 8th, Salerno, Italy. We are ashore now ,and are to proceed inland to help set up a perimeter defense, while the rest of the 5th Army components can be brought ashore. Off to our right as we march from the beachhead can be seen the ruins of an old Grecian temple, the columns still standing mutely after all these centurys. I wonder to myself how many times since it was built has it been witness to invasions and fighting such as is now going on. The battalion has moved three miles inland from the beachhead at Salerno, and our aid station is set up near a farmers barn just north of Persano.

Germans attack in force to attempt to prevent the beachhead from being established. The regiment is surrounded on all sides . The frontline soldiers are fighting tanks with machine guns and bazookas. Heavy casualties occuring and the ambulances are unable to evacuate the wounded. So Kilmer and I set up the aid station as a front line holding area - similar to the division clearing station. For forty-eight hours the perimeter defenses hold, and then a successful withdrawal is effected on Sept. 13th . The regiment retreats to a new area closer to the beachhead, where everyone digs in for a last ditch stand to prevent the beachhead from being overrun.

It was the day after we set up in this area that I had my first close call . I had been standing up in my foxhole and for some reason I bent over to either pick up something or to look at something, when I heard a whistling sound just above my head and a small tree behind where I had been standing suddenly splintered from a rifle bullet. You can bet that I stayed down after that.

After 48-hrs of intensive naval bombardment of the area around the beachhead perimeter from every ship that the Navy had in the area, the 45th and it's units broke out of the beachhead and

advanced north of Persano. In this new position we set up the aid station in an ex-German panzer division headquarters. In their rush to pull out much equipment was left behind.

By this time the beachhead was well established and the heavy equipment - tanks , half-tracks and the large artillery pieces were ashore with more on the way. Also the right flank of the 5th Army had made contact with the British 8th Army that had been advancing up the east coast of Italy from Reggio Calabria. The Allies had now a firm line from the west coast to the east. The enemy was retreating north with us in pursuit. For the next week we were constantly on the move , advancing north up the boot of Italy . Through Battapaglia , Eboli , Oliveto, Quadricella then on to Matidermi. The enemy continuing his retreat, ever northward.

On Sept. 27th , the advance elements of the 34th Division began moving through our positions to take our place , and we were pulled off the line and placed in Corps reserve. It had been seventeen days since we landed at the beachhead at Salerno . On the 29th had to send Kilmer to the Clearing Co. Looks as if he has malaria, lots of men are coming down with this in spite of the daily doses of atabrine, which I'm sure many of the soldiers are pretending to take when they really are not . The next day Wingfield is also evacuated with malaria.

Oct.1st, Naples falls today . Now the Allies have a harbor that can handle any and all supplies and equipment . The battalion is moved to a new position near Guarachi. - and the rainy season has set in. We move 50 miles today to an area near Benevento. Oct.8th- overnight bivouac at Ponte, we will be back on the front line again tomorrow.

Oct 10th 3rd Battalion attacked enemy positions this a.m. accompanied by tanks and with heavy artillery support. The next day the 2nd Battalion moved through us to continue the attack. We police the area for wounded . Many enemy dead are found. Oct.13th for the first the enemy has shelled us with their rocket barrage - the soldiers call the screaming meemies, from the sound that they make when coming toward our lines and also I suspect for the way they make you feel . The 1st Battalion of the Regiment has suffered heavy casualties during the attack in the past three days-149 wounded or killed. Capt. Howe is the new Ex. O of the battalion. Lt. Strong S-3 . Kilmer now back at Regimental Medical Section with Major Hood.

Oct.17th Today we have started typhus injections for the men in the 3rd Battalion, also today I have orders from the Regimental Surgeon that I am now the new Battalion Surgeon in place of Kilmer as he has been assigned to the regimental section.

Oct 18-20 Battalion remains in the same area . Off the line now and resting . I have developed a severe case of thrombotic hemorrhoids. Went back to Reg. Hqs. for a meeting with Major Hood about the malaria cases. Col. Hutchins the Reg. C.O. is transferred out of the 45th because of physical disability. My hemorrhoids are no better.

Oct.28th I am evacuated back to the Division clearing company for treatment of my hemorrhoids, but they send me on back to the 94th evac. Hosp. They in turn ship me on back to the 106th Station Hosp. in Naples . Oct.31st , nothing has been done about my piles yet, because the 106th is not set up for operations. Finally I am transferred to the 118th Station Hosp. where the thrombus is evacuated from the hemorrhoid under local anesthesia , a procedure that took all of ten minutes to accomplish. Which could have been easily done in the Division Clearing Company- such is the army way of doing things. It took one week to do what could have been done in ten minutes.

From Oct 31st to Nov. 3rd I am in the replacement depot in Naples. The most miserable period of my army sojourn to date. Being a medical officer I am required to help hold sick call each day for as sorry a bunch of gold brickers as I have ever seen. With the possibility that I might be assigned to another army unit rather than back to my own unit, I take matters into my own hands. Today I ran into a sergeant from the 179th, he told me that he knew where some of the trucks from the 45th were loading supplies to return to the front. So I went AWOL from the reppledepple, as it was derisively called, and rode back. The last section of my return made on an ammo truck. Finally joined up with the 179th just about 5-miles south of Venafro.

Nov.5 The 3rd Bat. of the 179th crossed the Volturno river this a.m. and attacked the city of Venafro. After two days of bitter fighting the city is taken. The aid station is now located on the side of a mountain just north of this city. For the next several days the entire 179th Regt. is engaged in trying to capture a high point, named on the situation maps as Hill 570. At first a company of infantry was sent to seize the hill and they were driven back with heavy casualties. Then the Battalion Commander committed the entire battalion to the fray, they too were repulsed. At this time the Regimental Commander committed the entire regiment to the battle and after much difficulty the enemy was driven off the hill and it was secured.

It was during this particular operation that an incident occurred that made me more aware of the vast difference between what different individuals perceived as pain. A soldier was brought into the aid station by one of the litter bearer teams. They stated that they had found him beside one of the twisting paths going up to the crest of Hill 570, and carried him back here. His story was that he had been hit with shrapnel from a mortar round burst, and managed to crawl back down the side of the mountain to the path where he was found. He said he knew that if he had remained where he was that in all probability he would never have been found and might have died. On examination he had incurred a gaping wound of the wall of his abdomen, literally blowing away an area about 10-15 cm in diameter. The small intestines had numerous ragged puncture wounds throughout and were protruding through the wound, also the entire wound including the intestines were covered with dirt, pieces of grass and leaves. Quite the most contaminated wound that I had seen to this time. I washed the wound and intestines with sterile saline, using almost all we had in the station at the time. Packed it with sulfanilamide powder copiously and dressed it with abdominal pads and a firm binder. The litter bearers had given him a syrette of morphine when they found him, and during the entire time he was in the aid station he required no more. In fact during the entire time he was being attended his only request were for a cigarette and for the chaplain to give him final rites. This latter being done while we were dressing him for transfer to the field hospital.

This particular case intrigued me so much, that a few days later when I had a few hours of spare time I made a trip back to this field hospital to find out what had happened to him. I found him in a recovery ward lying back in the bed with i.v. solutions running in both arms, smoking a cigarette. He recognized me immediately and said "well Doc, I made it, and in a few days they are sending me back to the States" I often wished that I could have followed up on this particular case but things being as they were it was pushed into the back of my mind and not remembered again until an incident on Anzio brought it to the fore again- more about this later.

Nov.12th In today's mail we have started receiving Christmas presents from home. At the present time we are set up in a valley between the mountains and are living in pyramidal tents with duckboards for flooring. The reason for the duckboards is because of the constant flow of rainwater that runs through the tent all the time. Did I forget to mention that this is the rainy season in Italy? It has been doing just that for the past three weeks. The first present that I open is one from mother, a

pair of folding bedroom slippers. I look at them and then at the small river that is coursing through the tent and cannot control my laughter.

Nov.14th Aid station is moved into an old farmhouse near Traverese today. The cooks in the mess got some chickens today and we have fried chicken and french fried potatoes for supper. It was a welcomed change from the usual C-ration meals. In the same area on Nov. 18th a new Asst. Bn. Surgeon is sent up to help me , a Capt. Powers transferred from the 38th Evac . Hosp in Naples. Turns out that he is a Psychiatrist, and just a few days ago the commanding surgeon of the 5th Army sent out a directive to all medical units to be on the lookout for psychiatrists, as they were in such short supply and the need was great. So how was it that this one was sent up to a front line installation before it was discovered what he was? I contacted Major Hood , who contacted the 45th division surgeon and orders were soon received to send him back to Naples. Such is the way of doing things the Army way. All snafu!

Nov.19th Today for the first time in three weeks the kitchens of the battalion were able to get hot meals up to the front line soldiers. The next day the battalion area starts getting heavy incoming artillery fire. Many casualties are incurred and the aid station has to be pulled back to a location south of Venafro.

Nov 22nd 3rd Battalion is now in Regimental reserve south of Venafro. The aid station is dug into the side of a mountain with the exposed sides protected by bales of hay. Nov 25th Thanksgiving day Kitchen serves everyone turkey with dressing, cranberry sauce and all the trimmings that go with a real Thanksgiving dinner. Nov28th Received a fruit cake from Jean today and shared it with the aid station personnel.

Nov 29th After feeling under the weather for the past two days, with fever and general malaise, Major Hood evacuates me to the 56th Evac., Hosp. The weather has turned real cold now and the hospital tents have stoves in them, which makes it feel real nice. Dec.1st- my 28th birthday freezing outside! Still a patient at the 56th Evac. Met a soldier in the ward today who was from Frankfort Ky. said that he knew Jean.

Dec.4th- Discharged from the hospital today to return to duty. Tried to get back to the 179th by ambulance, but roads to the area were all impassable. Pouring down rain . The next day I left the hospital on a 157th Reg. truck which took me as far as Venafro. From there I caught a ride to the 179th Hg section , and spent the night.

Dec 6th - Back with the 3rd Bn at Filiagno. The battalion attacked Lagone this a. m. 25 casualties are evacuated. Lagone not taken . Next day -intermittent shelling most of the day, but no casualties.. However did have two self-inflicted wound casualties . These are most always of the lower extremities and usually of the foot. Tonight a young lieutenant that had stepped on an anti-personnel mine was brought into the aid station. His left leg from mid-thigh downward was completely shattered and was hanging by merely a few shreds of muscle tissue and skin and connective tissue. I knew this Lt personally as we had been in a group that had been to Naples on a two day pass several weeks before. His name was Rowell, and he remembered me. All the time while I was working on him he lay on the makeshift operating table smoking a cigarette and telling jokes. He even propped himself up on his arms and watched as we finished amputating the little that remained of his leg ,debriding and washing out the wound , before applying the final bandaging . He was still in good spirits when he left by ambulance for the Evac. Hosp. The last thing that I heard him say just before he left was " I'll see you in the States doc".

Dec. 8th Still in the area of Filiagno. Shelling into the area by the enemy is more or less continuous. During the past few days, the Free French troops over on our right flank have brought in some native North African troops called Goums. These troops are used by the French for scouting and reconnaissance. They are particularly good at night fighting. For each pair of ears that they bring back following a night operation they are rewarded monetarily. They wear no shoes and have an uncanny sense of direction, and can move about at night soundlessly. Their only weapon is a large curved knife, and a piece of wire that they use as a garrote, to strangle their victims. The scuttlebutt around the division is that as soon as the enemy discovered that there were Goums in this sector that they pulled in all their night patrols. The 34th Div. which was our rt. flank was the unit that the Free French relieved. Today winter clothing was issued to all the front line troops. A new Medical officer arrived today to take the place of Powers -Capt. Pomper, by name.

Dec. 13th- The 180th Reg. has moved up to this sector of the front from division reserve. Today I received only \$86.00 pay, the rest to go as my allotment to Jean, I have not heard from Division whether my request has gone through or not. But with this reduction of my pay, apparently it has. Casualties today included 1 wounded and 1 KIA, both from L Co.

Next day- The 3rd Bn. is to attack Lagone at 6:30 a.m. tomorrow. Three extra litter bearing squads are attached to our platoon of litter bearers. Two squads from the Collecting Co. and one from Reg. Hq. Co. Dec.15th- By 2200 we have evacuated 19 casualties and have had 6 KIA. Night attack on Lagone is now in progress, to attempt to envelope it. About 0300 L Co of the Bn is in the town, suffering only two casualties. We learn from captured prisoners that it is the 5th Mountain Div. of the German Army that is the unit facing us on the front. The 180th Reg. attacks through our positions. Patrols are in Maestro Giovanni today, Dec 16th.

Dec. 17th - the division engineers are building a road into Lagone at this time. Contact with the enemy has been lost, apparently they have pulled back from their front line positions. Dec 18th- The 180th Regiment has taken our place on the front, and we, the 179th are now in division reserve. The next day our Regimental Hq. section moves up to our position. That night I played poker with the Reg.Hq officers and won \$61.00.

Dec.20th Today I borrowed a jeep and went back to the Division APO to mail some packages for the men in my section. While there stopped by the 120th Clearing Co. and saw Cap. Lester P Smith, who along with his wife, Jean and I used to pal around with back in the States. It is still raining cats and dogs and I was thoroughly drenched by the time I got back to the unit.

Dec.20th Cart. Pomper has been transferred back to the rear echelon unit at Caserta. The battalion is to start a training schedule tomorrow, for the benefit of the new replacements that have been arriving daily to take the place of those who are no longer with us. Next day in the rest area- Received packages today from Jean, Deedee, and Betty and Jack.

Dec 24th- Christmas Eve. A quiet day. Still raining however. Today some of the really heavy Army artillery guns moved up through our position. Golly but they are huge, 240mm rifles with a range of about 25to30 miles. I wonder if Santa Claus knows how to find his way to this out of the way spot in the Appennines of Italy?

Christmas Day! Santa Claus arrived today in the guise of General of the 5th Army none other than General Mark Clark. Furthermore Santa also brought us a sumptuous feast - Roast turkey, dressing cranberry sauce and all the other trimmings.

Dec.26th- Photos of Jimmy arrived in the mail today. He has grown to his nose now and looks real cute. One case of lice is found among the men in the battalion , so a program of dusting with DDT powder is instituted. Much colder today so Sibley stoves are set up in the aid station. One mine casualty today from the 34th Div. Typhoid inoculations are in progress.

Dec.30th Typhoid inoculations of the battalion are completed. The rumor going around is that we will be releived as a division by Jan2nd or 3rd. Sent Jean \$100.00 by P.T.A. out of my poker winnings.

January, 1st, 1944- In rest area near Filiagno, Italy. Tomorrow we are to move to a new area near Piedmonte. This is completely out of the combat zone, and the understanding is that we will be undergoing rigorous training exercises.

Jan.4th Drove to Napoli,[Naples] for a few days of leave. Accompanied by several other officers of the regiment, trip was made in a army 2 1/2 ton truck in a down pour of rain and every one was soaked by the time we got there. The very next day I went to the Army PX and bought a trench coat. Had a photo made by one of the Italian photography studios , so Jean could see what I looked like with my moustache! Saw Ella Logan on stage at one of the USO shows. Went to Pompeii on Jan. 7th and was most impressed by what was seen. I did not realize until now that the ancient Romans were so small. I could not walk through the doorways of the houses without bending way over, and the stone slabs that they placed cushions on to sleep were only about 5 1/2 ft. long.

Jan,8th- Back to Piedmonte today. Six letters from Jean awaiting me , she surely is faithful in writing to me and I love her dearly. I do not write as often as she does but circumstances prevent it quite often. Sgt. Lowery, Pfc. Perkins, Anderson and McLelland are all back from the hospital, and the aid station complement is back at full strength once more. Mailed letter to Jean with a copy of the photo with moustache, strange but it has an almost reddish tint to it.

Jan.10th-Training started today, looks as if we are scheduled for another amphibious operation. Had a huge sick call this a.m. which is normal for this type of situation. Played chess tonight with Major Tryon , who is the new Bn. Commander. Next day - another large sick this morning also. Had to send Sgt. Oler, my jeep driver to the hospital this a.m. This p.m. big baseball game between the 3rd Bn. and the 2nd Bn. The 3rd won by a score of 10 to 7 Letter from Jean with more photos of Jimmy. He is getting cuter every day and is beginning to look a little chubby now.

Jan. 12th- Hochhalter and Bender return from the hospital today . Letters from mother , Uncle Frank Lewis and Jean. Battalion continues with the training program, and it definately appears now that it will be an amphibious landing somewhere.

Jan. 14th - Tonight the 179th Regiment had a big party with dancing ,orchestra and the whole works. Held it at the Orange Club in Naples, which the 45th div. took over as their recreation center . It is a beautiful club building situated on the outskirts of Naples and located on the side of a terraced mountain that goes right down to the sea. The female part of the party was furnished by courtesy of the hospitals stationed in the Naples area. The 56th Evac., 74th and 103rd Station and the 12th General. All nurses of these hospitals that were not on duty that night . Everyone had a wonderful time , but it was rather difficult dancing in combat boots.

On Jan.16th went to a USO show that featured Joe E. Brown. He was real entertaining but not nearly as much as Bob Hope was when we saw him in Sicily. During the night a heavy wind storm

blew many of the battalion tents down . We were lucky as we did not have any of ours to be affected. Latest rumor is that we will be involved in an amphibious landing behind the German lines, somewhere closer to Rome .

General alert today- preparing for a move. A new Med. Officer assigned to me to act as my assistant. Capt. Prachar, from Nebraska. He seems to know the ropes much better than Pomper, I think that he will do fine. We move to a new area just outside of Naples, a staging area. Next day - Managed to get a pass today to go into Naples. Saw Bill Daner, and Frank Buck also got Fletcher Raiford's address.

Jan. 22nd- Woke up this morning feeling terrible, fever of 101.8. Stayed in the sack and forced fluids. News that a landing had been made 28 miles south of Rome in the Anzio- Nettuno area!

Next day Maj. Hood sends me to the 21st General Hosp. Temp. now up to 102.6 and feeling like hell, hope Prachar gets along all right. Jan. 24th still feeling terrible with fever as high as 103.6 . I'm beginning to wonder if I am having a relapse of the old malaria that I used to have , but I have been taking my atabrine regularly. I can't help but wonder what the 179th and the 3rd Bn. are doing about now- I suppose they are loading for the trip up to beachhead at Anzio

Jan. 25th Fever still unabated , started on sulfadiazine therapy today , feeling no better. Next day I am beginning to feel a bit better , appetite returning. Two days later ambulatory now, no fever , still on sulfadiazine - saw movie in the hospital rec. area tonight.

Jan. 31st allowed to go to the staff officers mess today for the first time, Buck came by to visit. Word that I will be discharged tomorrow. Next day sent to the 29th Replacement Battalion in Naples this a.m. What a dump! Hope that I don't stay here long. Saw George Raft and two young Hollywood starlets on the stage tonight.

Next day- I am on my way back to my outfit. First to the harbor of Bagnoli, then on a LST bound for the beachhead at Anzio. Arrival time about 0800 tomorrow.

Feb.3rd Arrived at Anzio this a.m. at 0700 , disembarked and arrived at the unit at 1100. The 179th is in an area behind the lines acting as backup for a Brigade of British troops. The following day is devoted to giving typhus inoculations. While engaged in this , a stray anti-aircraft shell, one of ours , landed in the area , no damage was done. However I understand that this is a common occurrence , and frequently does cause casualties. The reason being that the beachhead is so small and there are so many guns ,both artillery as well as anti-aircraft that it is not unusual for our shells to land on our own positions, particularly the shrapnel from the air bursts from shells fired at enemy planes overhead.

Feb. 6th A quiet day , no air raids, very little shelling into our area. Three letters from Jean. Next day - the enemy bombed and strafed the area today -hitting the 95th Evav Hosp. -killing 1 doctor , 2 nurses and 22patients.

Feb.8th- Quite a bit of incoming mail today and I don't mean letters. This expression is the GI's way of saying that enemy artillery shells are landing in our areas. Foxholes are dug deep and deeper still with every round of incoming artillery. E Co. kitchen is hit and 1 killed and 3 injured as a result. The following day we are alerted to move forward at 0900 to the area of Carrocetto to relieve the British Brigade. It has started raining again after a few days of nice weather.

Feb. 10th- The rain continues and it has become quite a bit colder. The enemy makes attacks against the front line positions at 0600, 1300 and again at 0200 the next morning.

There has been intermittent artillery fire during the past 24 hour period. Tonight we had a bombing raid that caused 8 casualties- 6 were British.

Feb. 11th While at the 3rd Bn. Hq. this a.m. I was witness to a rather unusual happening. When the British Brigade that we relieved pulled out of their positions they left their supporting artillery batteries in position to cover the areas in front of the front line troops. They also assigned to each of our battalions an artillery officer with his communication half-track at our Bn Hq. This half-track was parked just outside one of the windows of the room that Major Tryon was using as his command post. This officer had been regularly asking to be allowed to fire his battery on some of the enemy positions, and when one of I Co's platoon leader called in to the command post that he had observed movement in front of his position, his wish was granted. He sent word to this platoon leader to act as his forward observer to help in coordinating the fire of the battery. When the coordinates of the position were given to the artillery officer, he called for a round of zeroing fire, the first round was long, the second was just a little short. When he had corrected for this I heard him say over the radio to the battery commander "Let Her Rip". For the next few minutes you would have thought that several tornadoes were passing overhead, and in the distance one could hear the explosions and feel the ground shaking. Soon the Lt. from I Co that was acting as observer called in to the command post to say that the barrage was on target but there was so much smoke and debris flying about that he could not see anything. He also wanted to know what in the world had been fired. When asked the British officer said 400 rounds of high explosive, that's all. It was to be my experience during the rest of the campaign in Europe that the British believed in saturation shelling and bombing whereas the Americans were more apt to use a more pinpoint type of shelling and bombing.

Feb. 13th- Another day of heavy "incoming mail", very few casualties. However we are having many cases of trench foot, due to the incessant rain and the soldiers inability to keep their feet dry on the front line.

Jean's Birthday- Feb. 16th. Germans begin an all out attack to drive us off the beachhead. The aid station is moved back from the Carrocetto area to the "Castle" So called because the farm house has a large stone silo on one side of it and huge swinging doors that look like the entrance to a castle courtyard, but in essence it is a farm house with an attached barn and silo. Our forces counterattack at 2300. L Co and K Co have heavy casualties. Two of our medics are killed, Spain and Bender. Two others are MIA, Zahn and Berger.

Next day- The entire regimental combat team is pulling back to help set up a shortened beachhead line, for a last ditch stand. Shades of Salerno! The aid station is set up in a farmhouse made of large stones like all the other buildings in this area. There is a constant stream of casualties coming in all the time. While standing in the doorway of the room we were using as the main holding room for casualties to be evacuated by ambulance., the field telephone from Battalion Hqs. rang. I stepped around the corner away from the doorway to answer it - when a shell from one of the enemy Tiger tanks exploded in the yard just outside the door, spraying shrapnel and debris throughout the room. Reinjuring several of the patients as well as some of the aid station personnel. The heavy walls of the building as well as the concrete lintel of the door protected me from the effects of the blast. If that telephone had not rang when it did I would have been standing in the middle of the doorway and would have received the full force of that explosion. I feel sure that I would have been literally cut in half by the spray of shrapnel. The Good Lord was looking after me again! - For the second time.

Incidentally the phone call was from Battalion Hqs. to inform me that we were to withdraw to a new position farther back as enemy tanks had broken through our front lines.

Feb. 17th in our new area behind the front line, the battalion is now in a reserve status, and everyone is busy digging their new foxholes deeper. Next day - Busy today treating trenchfoot and issuing new dry sox to the front line troops. One letter from Jean and a package with fruit cake and a Zippo lighter.

Feb. 20th- 3rd Bn moves back up on the front line to relieve the 1st Bn. The aid station that they were using is taken over by us. It is located in a depression of an open field, neither Prachar or I like this location it is too exposed to suit us. Next day - Artillery fire into this area of the front is continuous, however few casualties are suffered. The constant shelling is nerve wracking, and the men are all jumpy.

Feb 22nd- An estimated 4000 rounds of enemy artillery shells were fired into the positions of Companys K and L during the past 24 hours - with only 3 casualties.

Next day - more of the same, without let up. Foxholes keep getting deeper and deeper. We feel like moles most of the time, coming up now and then to render aid to the wounded.

Feb. 24th Tanks fired into the area around the aid station today, riddling some of the Hq. Co. tents, luckily none of ours were hit. I went back to the 45th Div. Hq. today and talked to Col. Miller the Division Surgeon about the mental state of the front line troops - how jumpy and exhausted they were. The next day we are moved back to a reserve area and the 2nd Bn, takes over our position.

Feb. 26th - during the above mentioned move, the Bn. has 4KIA and 3WIA.. Next day- Battalion kitchens feed troops hot meals for the first time in over a week. Had pork chop sandwiches! Between showers of rain I manage to dig my foxhole deeper. Several weeks ago I managed to pick up a spare ammunition case and have been using this as my spare food larder., Jean, mother and everyone else that I can persuade to do so, send me tins of kippered herring and jars of cheese spread these go real good with the C-ration crackers, which are always in abundance. These crackers are not at all like regular crackers, they are not salted and are, more like real crisp biscuits but not as thick. The best thing that I have eaten in any of the various field type rations is the fruit bar that comes in the dinner menu of the K-ration. It is delicious and someone should put it on the market when and if this crazy war is over.

Feb. 29th.-By golly it's Leap Year We are moved back to the front tonight -relieving the 1st Bn. of the 157th Reg. -1KIA and ! WIA on the move. Next day made reconnaissance of new position for aid station- set up near an abandoned charcoal pit orders received for me to report to the Div. Clearing Co. for duty.

Mar. 2nd- Spent most of the day helping dig a place to put a pyramidal tent into, so that most of it would be below ground level. Next day finished digging the tent in. Learning the routine of admitting incoming patients. To the 56th Evac. Hosp for a hot shower, first in weeks. Package of Hersheys from mother and lighter wicks from Jean.

Mar. 4th First day of duty at the clearing co. There has been no artillery fire into this area, as yet, the tents are all well marked with Red Cross symbols, as well as being dug in below the ground level about four feet. Mar. 6th today there was some incoming shells, but no casualties except for some holes in a few of the tents, above the ground level.

Because of the increase in the artillery fire near the area , the Col. is making the clearing company move back to the Hospital zone area which is just outside the town of Anzio. Tonight I started on night duty, quiet except for two bombing raids further up the coast from our position.

Mar. 9th this is my fourth day of night duty. It has been relatively quiet for the past 48-hrs. From all information that seeps down to us , the scuttlebutt report is that the High Command feels that the beachhead is well established now, and that we have enough armor and heavy supporting fire ashore that we can repulse most any attack that the enemy can mount

Mar. 10th. -5th day of night duty, quiet more photos of Jimmy arrived today. He is a healthy looking and handsome lad. Next day went on ward duty today . Have 140 patients under my care-56 malaria cases.

Mar 13th-Now running 8 wards with 150 pts. Rumors abound that there is an upcoming attack by the forces on the beachhead to break out from our confined position. Mar.16th Rumors still around about an attack. Bombers of the Allied forces have bombed Cassino. Next day , word that three-fourths of the area at Cassino is occupied by the Allies. I receive orders today to report for duty at Collecting Co. B of the 120th Med. Bn. Corporal Baxley one of my main aid station personnel is evacuated through the clearing station with exhaustion. He and Sgt. Drinkwater have been with me ever since we left the States and I consider them to be my right and left arms, so to speak.

Mar.19th- First day at the collecting Co. at the rear station. Wrote several letters, read umpteen magazines, rested - all in all a pretty soft life, so far. - 2nd day at the collecting co. at the forward station , about 1 mile more toward the front than the rear station. Quiet , no casualties to evacuate . Duties in the collecting cos. are minimal for a Med. Off. , for the co. acts to furnish the ambulances between the aid stations of the battalions and the clearing co. and also the field hospitals at times. So unless the pts. being evacuated are bleeding severely or the vital signs are very bad , we the M.D's do not usually see many of the wounded that pass through the collecting station. Capt. Victor Mulaire is the C.O. of Company B Collecting Co. which by the way is always assigned to the 179th Reg. Co. A to the 157th and Co. C to the 180th. Mulaire is from Vermont and his parents are of French-Canadian extraction. He states that when he was growing up the family only spoke French at home.

Mar.22nd - Back at the rear station again . Heard today that Kilmer is back at the 3rd Bn aid station again. Next day Quiet. Major Hood sent to the hospital. Capt. Schusler is now the acting Reg. Surgeon.

Mar. 24th Went to the 15th Evac Hosp. for hot shower today. Played chess with Capt. Layer, the ambulance officer of the collecting co., lost 2 games and won 1. Next day one of the men in the 3rd Bn. aid station group got 30 years at a court martial this a.m.- for desertion!

Mar.26th Some shelling in the area near the station. One of the ambulances was hit by artillery fire near the "Castle". At a position that was named the " Flyover", because that was what everyone did when they passed that way - they flew! Next few days were relatively quiet.

Mar. 30th Air raid during the night . Several casualties in the 56th and 93rd evac. Hosps., which were hit by the bombers. Major Howe is evacuated [not Stewart] I am informed today that I have been recommended by Major Tryon for the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit. Next day back at the rear station again . Finished reading the book "A Time For Greatness"

Apr. 1st- Back to the salt mine again! On the front with the 1st Bn. aid station , at the rear section. Heavy shelling in the surrounding area. Next day same area , rather quiet day. Received letters from Beck and Llewellyn.

Apr.. 3rd - Took trip back to the Regimental rear area , ran into Mulaire while there. The next day I received letters from Jean, mother, and Annie Biggs. Also news that Blanche had been married.

Apr. 5th - Heavy shelling into the area of the Division all day. The enemy has mounted a counter attack on our left flank at dusk today preceded by a preliminary heavy artillery barrage. Attack is successfully repulsed. Next day - In reserve area near the Mussolini Canal. This by the way is about 40ft. wide and about 20-25 ft deep, and is the central and main canal in the Pontine Marsh area of Italy. Which is the area of operation that we are now fighting to gain possession.

Apr.8th-The battalion is still in the reserve area by the canal. Another bombing raid today by several enemy bombers. No casualties in our area. The next day orders were received from Regt. that the 3rd Bn is to relieve the 2nd Bn. in two days . Quiet day today without any appreciable activity along our front.

I made a reconnaissance trip up to the area of the 2nd Bn. to select a spot for our forward aid station , prior to our move. The next day , Apr. 11th, we hear by the grapevine that the 3rd Div. has landed on the beachhead and that they will relieve the 45thDiv. soon. That is welcome news!

Apr.12th. - Today .the aid station platoon and I march back to the rear Regt. station, and on the way get caught in a bombing and strafing raid by two enemy planes . Fortunately they were not on target and no one was injured , but it sure shook us up. Apr. 13th a new Asst. Bn. Surgeon is assigned to my command- Capt. Charles Brown from Charlotte N.C. yes, he is called Charlie..So Charlie Brown has gone to war as a M.D. He is taking the place of Prachar who is taking the place of one of the other Bn. Surgeons in the Regimental system.

Apr14th. We are relieved by the 3rd Div and the 45th is moving back to a rest area just off the beach outside of Anzio , in a grove of pine trees. I go ahead to select a site for the station with Sgt Drinkwater and Sgt. Oler. Charlie Brown follows the main body of the battalion in an ambulance. In the new rest area the first item of business is to dig yourself a foxhole, what else is new, for there is no spot on the beachhead that is not within range of the enemy artillery. Charlie and I dig one together , a two man one that we cover with some scrap tin that we scrounged. Then its care and cleaning of equipment for everyone. I suppose that even the commanding General , General Middleton , has to do that ; however I'm sure that he has enough orderlies and asst's to do those things for him. Capt. Brown is a very likable person. He has a dry sense of humor and a deep southern drawl. Is also a very down to earth person - quite an improvement over most of the Asst. Surgeons that I have had with me before.

Apr. 15th Training exercises start today. Charlie and I have to give the various companies of the infantry lectures on first aid and also on trench foot , the care and prevention of the latter. The next day Prachar returns to take my place as Bn. Surgeon of the 3rd, and I go to the Regt. section as assistant to Kilmer, who is now the acting Regimental Surgeon , since Major Hood is still in the hospital

Apr 17th The first day at the regimental section . Nothing particular to do. Played bridge this afternoon with Kilmer, Ohman and Major Tryon, can't remember who won.. Next day -.Now occurred one of the most unusual incidents of the war , that is in my experience. While holding a mass assembly of the troops of the regiment during the morning , suddenly there was a single artillery shell that hit in the top of one of the pine trees, spraying the ground with shrapnel and debris. This happened in the area of the 1st. Bn. All of the medics rushed over to that area to assist. There were 23 men wounded to varying degrees of seriousness and 2KIA'S. When the wounded had been taken care of and evacuated, attention was directed to the two killed . One had a severe head wound and multiple wounds of the torso, and must have died instantly, but the other soldier presented all of us that examined him with a complete mystery. From all outward appearance he showed no evidence of an external wound. When all of his clothing was removed a small piece of shrapnel about 2cm. square fell out of his underwear. Then we noticed that there was a contusion on the right side of his scrotum. Thorough search of his entire body revealed no other wound., and even this contusion was without penetration. The concensus of opinion of all of the doctors that examined him was that he must have died from primary shock- from the pain caused by the blow on his rt. testicle.. I could not help but think back on the other incident of the soldier at Filiagno with the severe abdominal avulsive wound with intestines dragging on the ground as he crawled to a spot where a litter bearer team could find him. Why did not that soldier go into shock- instead he acted rationally to save himself , and when we worked on him in the aid station he smoked , told jokes and had the chaplain administer last rites. Each person on this earth is an individual in himself, and there is no common equation that can be used to judge what one can undergo in the way of pain , as compared to another.

Apr 19th- After all the excitement and commotion of yesterday it was nice to have a quiet day today. Actually the next five days turned out to be quiet and restful. The whole battalion had an opportunity to engage in sports , playing baseball, soccer. and volleyball. I even played a time or two myself.

Beginning on Apr. 25th Blum the regimental dental officer started working on my teeth. He found several small cavities which he started filling , as well as cleaning them good, This p.m. I went up to the "Castle" area with Major Howe - the regimental S-2 or intelligence officer. He had never been up to that sector of the front before and knew that since I had been there several times before, I could guide him without getting lost. By the 27th Blum had finished working on my teeth. This p.m. the Colonel had a get together of most all of the officers of the Regiment. Following which a few of us had a songfest , singing lots of the old familiar songs that we used to sing at parties when home and in school.. It was a most enjoyable time and everone got to know each other a little better and felt closer than before .

Apr 29th The 45th is no longer in reserve. So the 3rd Bn. along with the other units of the 179th are back in the same old positions that we were before we had this too brief sabbatical. The 3rd Div. is now the reserve division, enjoying the same things that we just finished enjoying. The next day there was a big air raid over the beachhead , three enemy planes were shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Played bridge with Kilmer, and two other officers. Received package from Jean with a portable pocket chess set. .

May, 1st. - The front has been relatively quiet today- no air-raids since the big one yesterday and there has been very little shelling also. The beachhead is becoming more and more crowded with newly arriving units and equipment. One can hardly move about without running in to some new piece of ordnance that was not there the day before. An armored division is said to be on the beachhead now. I'm sure that the various Regimental Cannon Cos. are pleased to hear that news, so that they will

have some assistance in fighting off attacks by the enemy Panzer units- particularly the Tiger -88 tanks

I opened my big mouth too soon! Today we had the biggest air-raid yet. There were many casualties in the rear echelon area of the 179th and two KIA's. The 179th has a new Colonel now - Col. Meyer. I also received more photos of Jimmy and packages from she and mother - kippers and cheese spread Yum Yum!

May 4th- Today is Jimmy's birthday , he is nine months old now, and according to the letters from Jean is most active and inquisitive. Can hardly wait to see them both, but no chance of that for a while Received 8 letters from Jean today with some more photos.

May, 5th- The 179th was relieved in position on the line by the 157th today. In division reserve for the past few days and things have been quiet. Since they had those three planes shot down a few days ago it seems that the enemy has changed from daytime bombing raids to night raids. A couple of days ago a bomb made a direct hit on the foxhole of the Bn. Surgeon of the 1st Bn. of the 157th Regt.

May, 11th The Allied forces to the south of us have launched a general offensive all along the entire front from the Tyrrhenian Sea on the west to the Adriatic on the east. I am to return to the forward Regimental aid station tonight.

May, 12th- The beachhead forces stage a huge artillery bombardment of all the front line enemy positions this a.m.. The information is that the beachhead forces will attempt an all out offensive very soon to join up with the Allied forces coming up from the south. These forces are comprised of units of the British 8th Army and our 5th Army. The artillery bombardment that started this morning is to continue each morning , increasing in intensity and duration daily , shifting each day from one sector of the enemy line to another until on the final day - D-day Every gun on the beachhead will fire on the area picked for the breakthrough.

May 13th and 14th - The artillery barrage that is being fired is getting more intense each morning . In our positions between the gun emplacements and the targets we can hear the shells as they pass overhead and it is an awesome experience. It sounds as if some tremendous giant has picked up railroad boxcars and is tossing them end over end in the air above our heads. We are all very thankful that we are not on the receiving end of this type of barrage.

May, 15th- This is my last day at the Regt. station. Schnitman is back on duty here. Ohman goes to the Clearing co. , and I return to my old position as Bn. Surgeon at the 3rd Bn.

May, 16th- Brown goes to the 2nd Bn. Aid station and Prachar returns as my assistant here at the 3rd. The intense artillery bombardment of the enemy lines continues each morning. Tonight while reconnoitering a new position for a forward aid station , my driver and I get caught in the middle of an air-raid. Luckily we escaped without any problem.

May 18th- At the forward aid station which we have set up again in the "Castle". There is some intermittent firing into this area and we evacuate 3 casualties. Next day same area , shelling into area around "Castle" continues sporadically. Rumor that the 89th and 85th Divisions have reached Terracina, which is just a few kilometers south of the beachhead perimeter line.

May, 20th - The 36th Division is landing on the beachhead, so with their arrival we now have the old units of the Third corps back together again. I wonder if the High Command will form the Corps again - 3rd Div, 36th Div and the 45th Div. Allied forces 2 kilometers from Terracina. Next day - Terracina is captured. D-day H-hour for the forces on the beachhead breakout is 0630 in the a.m.. The attack units for the 45th will be the 157th and the 180th Regts. The 179th is to be held in reserve to be committed where necessary.

May, 23rd - The 157th is reported to have cut the railroad line leading in to Cisterna, with 350 German prisoners taken captive. By the next day Cisterna is surrounded. The enemy counterattacks are beaten back by the 180th. It was one year ago today that I left Jean and Camp Pickett.

May, 25th - The 1st Armored Div. and the 3rd Div. take Cori today, and are moving forward. The 45th is moving toward Campoleone, and I received 5 letters from Jean today.

May, 26th - A British Brigade takes over the positions of the 179th, and we move into a bivouac area in support of the 157th. Next day Artena is captured. The 179th remains in support of the 157th.

May, 28th - While moving forward to reconnoiter a position for the forward aid station, Capt. Prachar is killed. He was riding in the jeep with Sgt Drinkwater when a shell landed nearby and a small piece of shrapnel hit him in the left chest wall penetrating his heart. It was his day to move the forward station or else it could have been me that might have been struck. "Number 3"!!! How much longer can my luck hold out.

May, 29th - Aid station is moved up to the next big canal for cover. The 179th, with the 3rd Bn. in the lead will continue the attack in the a.m. The aid station is set up in one of the huge caves that the enemy had dug into the sides of this canal. It is a complex of adjoining caves one connected to the other, and must be at least 25-30 ft below the surface of the ground. It is no wonder that their troops could undergo such a terrific preparatory barrage that was fired on them prior to the breakout attack. In an adjacent cave is another aid station of a Nisei Regt. attached to the 34th Div, named Winter Blue.

May, 30th - For the next two days the attack goes on day and night. Large numbers of casualties are evacuated, 42 of ours and 100 of Winter Blues's. The two aid stations make no distinction between the casualties that are brought in; we treat theirs just as well as ours, and vice versa.

June 1st - Another day in the same location with heavy fighting still going on, with many casualties. More from the 135th Regt. of the 34th Div. and from our own 3rd Bn. Capt. Strong, who was just recently put in command of the Cannon Co attached to the 179th is killed when his command half-track is hit by an 88mm shell from an enemy Tiger tank. Velletri falls to our troops. the enemy counterattacks, but they are thrown back.

June 2nd - As I had mentioned before, attached to the 34th Div. was a Regiment of Japanese-Americans, "Neisi", as they were called. I understand that is a Japanese term that denotes that they are native born Americans of parents that are naturalized Americans of Japanese descent. These soldiers were not allowed to fight in the Pacific campaign but really distinguished themselves in the fight against Germany. In fact their unit was one of the most highly decorated units in the European theater of war. All of this is in preface to an incident that happened today. While we were attending to

the wounded that were being brought in to the aid station, a Sgt. of this Neisi regt. walked into the station, holding his helmet in his hand. When I approached him to ask what was the matter and if I could be of any assistance, for he did not appear to have any visible wounds. He shook his head, and raised one hand up to his forehead, saying "Doc. I have one helluva headache". I sat him down, and then noticed that the helmet had a hole in it, in the front just about where his forehead would normally be located. I took the helmet from him to examine it more closely, and when I separated the helmet liner from the helmet a 9mm. bullet fell on the floor. This man had been shot in the head, probably by a sniper. the bullet went through the steel helmet, struck the soft liner was diverted upward between the liner and the helmet and lodged in the back portion of the helmet-liner combination. No wonder he had a headache! I gave him something for his headache, and the spent bullet for a souvenir and shortly he left to go back to his unit. High velocity projectiles can act in strange ways. This incident recalled to my mind, another one that occurred at Salerno. A casualty was brought into the aid station with a chest wound. There was minimal bleeding, he had no evidence of a sucking wound of the chest, his lungs were clear with no evidence of internal bleeding. Further examination revealed a hard very distinct mass under the skin about 2-3 cms. below the angle of the rt. scapular. It was freely movable, because of the peculiar nature of the injury I decided before evacuating him to incise the skin over the mass and extract the foreign body. As I suspected it turned out to be a bullet. He had been struck in the anterior chest wall the bullet must have glanced off a rib scooted around the chest wall in some plane of tissue and came to rest where it was found. After suturing the incision, he was given the bullet also, for a souvenir. The vagaries of armed combat can be most unusual.

The tactical situation seems to be getting better, casualties are not as heavy- in fact we evacuated only 3 through the aid station today. The Germans seem to be pulling out of this area. Rumor that Rome has been entered by Allied troops, but no verification as yet.

June 4th- The 3rd Bn moved up to Coriolio this a.m. There has been only 6 rounds of incoming mail heard all day today and they were not close to our sector of the front. I set the aid station up in an old English villa on the slopes of the Alban Hills. From this vantage point looking back toward the southwest, and the sea one can see all of the Pontine area spread out like a map. With high power field glasses you can almost pick out any spot on the beachhead and zero in on it. From these hills the enemy was looking right down our throat, so to speak. I'm sure that with spotting telescopes they could probably see individual soldiers anywhere in the beachhead area. It is really a miracle that we came out as well as we did. Not far from this villa is a railroad siding, and parked on this siding is a huge long range cannon that was used to fire on the harbor at Anzio and the ammunition dumps and supply warehouses. A little further up in the Alban Hills is the Pope's summer home, Castel Gandolfo.

June 5th - At 0630 we march to an assembly area, where we sit around all day waiting on trucks to come and take us to a new location. Late that day the trucks finally arrive and carry us to a new area on the north side of the Tiber River.

June 6th-Early this a.m. we hear the announcement that British and American troops have landed on the coast of Normandy. The troops in Italy are now north of Rome, nearing Lago Braccia. The next day we move to another area just northwest of Rome. Here we will remain in a semi-permanent type of bivouac. Capt. Schusler leaves to go on a rest and relaxation leave in Naples.

June 8th Today we get the word that we will remain in this bivouac area for about two weeks. While here we are to get some much needed rest as well as being reoutfitted. New replacements for the personnel that have been lost will also be brought in to bring the companies up to their normal complement. BBC News announces that the enemy in Italy is in full retreat in the north.

June 9th-Today the mail finally catches up with us , I received 5 letters from Jean and a package from mother. The only indication that a war is going on as far as we are involved is an occasional night air raid by usually one plane and rarely by two. Usually no damage is done and they are more a nuisance factor than anything else.

June 10th- Today was payday, and crap games and poker games are in progress all over the battalion area. Whenever we are in a garrison or rest type of situation this is a regular happening. The winners in the small games get in a game of all winners . Then these winners get in another game of all winners , until finally only three or four winners are left. I recall one incidence in which the mess-sergeant of M company mailed his wife a money order for \$5000.

Went to Rome for the first time, today. Took in as many of the interesting spots as I could during the time I had. Went to dinner that evening at the Hotel Excelsior. This is the hotel that the 5th Army has taken over and operates as an officers rest and recreation spot. It is under the management of a Major Kline, the same Major Kline that was relieved of his duties with the 179th Infantry Regiment by Col. Hutchins for dereliction of duties during the Sicilian campaign. Seems he was kicked upstairs, as so often happens in the army, and since he had had experience in civilian life as a hotel manager -here he is! C'est Le Guerre

June 12th- A quiet day today. Capt. Schick , the Bn. Surgeon of the 2nd Bn gets orders to return to the states for hospital duty there. Seems he is a neuropsychiatrist, and they are in demand back there. Major Kirtly is now 3rd Bn. C.O. and Col. Davidson is the new Regimental C.O. of the 179th.

June 13th - Visited with Charlie Brown over at the 2nd Bn aid station, where he is now the acting Bn Surg. We make plans to go to Rome tomorrow. Next day, went to Rome with Charlie and after shopping around and sightseeing , found some lace handkerchiefs which I bought to send to Jean. That evening we had dinner at the Excelsior and returned to camp.

June 15th - Must have eaten something that I shouldn't, for I woke up this a.m. with cramping in my belly and the G.I's-diarrhea. A package from Jean with photos of Jimmy and some of her also. Schusler is back from the rest leave in Naples.

June 16th -I am feeling much better today, must have been something that I had eaten yesterday while in Rome. Schnittman is ordered to report back to the 3rd General Hosp. in Naples for a tour of duty. I took a jeep and went back down into the Anzio area, passing through Lake Albano, Velletri and the factory area at Campoleone. I didn't get a chance to get back to the "castle" area , where we spent so much time while on Anzio.

June 17th- Another quiet day, no mail. Rumor that we will be returning to the Naples area for training. Movement orders for 0630 tomorrow received late this p.m. Next day the 179th Regimental team , which includes the Medical Detachment left the Rome bivouac area for Anzio. At Anzio we will load on LCI's for the trip to Naples.

June 19th- All but one company of infantry and the medical detachment left Anzio today for Naples. We are to make the trip by truck convoy tomorrow. Next day the rear echelon including us medics went by truck to the new bivouac area. A 170 mile trip- the area is near Salerno, but inland about 8- miles from the beach.

June 20th- Here we go again! The new training program is outlined for all the officers today. Guess what? It is to be another amphibious operation. The next day a new Asst. Bn Surg. reports for duty with the 3rd Bn. Capt. Steinberg from the 3rd Gen. Hosp.; apparently he and Schmittman are exchanging places. I heard today that I am to get a leave to go to Naples for rest and relaxation

June 22nd Training continues without let up. We continue to have replacements coming in to replace the personnel lost - to bring the battalions up to full strength. The following day is a continuation of the same program that we have been following for the past several days.

June 24th-I spent the day in Naples today. Saw Buck, Bill Daner, and was told that Buffey was in Foggia with the Air Force. I then went to the 300th Gen Hosp. and saw Major Eddie Parker and Nurse Louise Webster. The 300th is the unit from the Medical College of South Carolina, and is made up primarily of physicians from the Charleston area, and Roper Hosp. in particular. On the way to Naples I took the highway from Salerno by way of Amalfi and Sorrento. This just happens to be one of the most beautiful drives anywhere in the world. The whole area along here is filled with resort hotels and inns, and is renown all over Europe as a prime but rather expensive vacation spot. It rates right along with the Isle of Capri and the French Riviera. By the way the Air Force has taken over all the resort facilities on Capri for their own rest and relaxation area, and will not let any other of the armed service units on the island.

June 25th.-I am back on duty at the aid station again. Capt. Steinberg had to be evacuated today to the hospital- I sure must affect all of my assistants adversely. Perhaps it is because I usually am several years younger than they are and they resent my combat experiences, and are reluctant to take orders from some one younger than they are. Same area, next day. No change in the overall situation, i.e. the training schedule. I did take off for a while this p.m. and went down to the beach near Salerno for a swim with a few of the 3rd Bn officers. Two letters were waiting for me when we returned, both from my sweetheart.

June, 27th.-My orders came through today for a rest leave in Naples. I am to leave in the a.m. Next day - in Naples. The 179th is throwing a party tonight at the Orange Grove Club. John Kilmer, my old cohort during Sicily and most of the Italian campaign is here on leave also. I contacted Louise Webster, made a date for the party and she got a date for Kilmer also- Helen Kinder. Danced and partied until after midnight.

June, 29th.- Got up with Buck and Daner again today. They had contacted Buffey, who is now stationed at an airport just outside of Naples. They found out that he would be in Naples the next day, so we all made arrangements to meet.

June, 30th.-After getting together. Buck had made arrangement to rent a sailboat for the day, and we; Buck, Daner, Buffey, Kilmer and I went sailing in the Bay of Naples. We had packed a lunch to take along as well as some liquid refreshments and we all had a most enjoyable and relaxing day. We sailed as far south as Pompeii, and almost out to the Isle of Capri. The entire harbor was filled with ships of the combined Allied fleet, from battleships down to the very smallest landing craft.

June, 31st.- Today Louise and Helen Kinder packed a lunch and Kilmer and I took them up to the Anzio area in a jeep that we had requisitioned. At the party that we had taken them, they had professed a desire to see some of the recent combat areas, particularly Cassino and Anzio, so we agreed to take them. Neither Kilmer or I had seen the Cassino area, so it was quite a revelation to us

as well. The battlefield sites around Cassino were completely devastated, no trees left standing and all buildings were flattened, it was utter desolation everywhere one looked. I'm sure glad that the 179th's sector of the front was 5-6 miles to the east of Cassino- at Venafro. We thought that was bad enough, but here it was much worse.

July, 1st.- Spent most of the day resting and walking around Naples, taking in the sights. Next day, went out to Cappodichinni airport with Buck and Daner to see Buffey. He is now stationed there. We chewed the fat for awhile before returning back to Naples. My rest leave ends tomorrow, then it is back to the training schedule at the 179th.

July, 3rd.- While I was on rest leave a new Asst Bn. Surg. is assigned to the 3rd Bn. station, a Capt. Black. Steinberg has been evacuated to the 23rd Gen Hosp. Next day,- the first day of active manouvers starts. We spend most of the day loading on the ships, then climbing down the cargo nets into the landing craft, reloading again climbing down the nets reloading and so on all day long. We manage to get about two to three hours of sleep that night, as the manouver goes on at night also.

July, 5th.- More of the same today. Loading, unloading, etc.

July 6th.- Today we landed from the ship and moved to a biovouac area where we spent the day. The kitchens fed us three meals on shore and then we reloaded on the ship at 1700.

July, 7th.- This is the last day of the manouvers. The 2nd and the 3rd Battalions simulate the assault waves to hit the beaches. The 1st Bn. remains on its ship in Regimental reserve. We return to camp at 2200. Schnittman has left to return to the States

July, 8th - Today the regiment moves to a new area south of Paestum, in the middle of an open field, and is it ever hot here! Next day- We finish setting up camp in our new area. If anything it is hotter today than it was yesterday. The mail has not caught up with us yet.

July 10th- Maj. Williams is back at Regimental Hq. as S-3. There is a rumor that I am to be transferred from the Bn. aid station to another unit as a permanent transfer rather than as a rotational type of transfer. Today is the 1st anniversary of the landing on the beaches of Sicily!

July 11th Memorial services were held today by the Division for all those who were killed or otherwise missing during the campaign to this date in time. Cpl. Benskin receives orders to return to the States, he is one of the oldest men in the regiment. The rumors about our involvement in the upcoming invasion are thick but no one knows for sure when or where it will occur.

July 12th- We have a very large sick call this a.m., 34 patients from Co. B alone. This afternoon the men were trucked to a shower installation and everyone had an opportunity to cool off while getting cleaned up once again.

July 13th a fairly quiet day today. The mail catches up with us again and I get 6 letters from Jean. Next day - orders come from the Regt. C.O. to hold sick call after the evening meal from now, until further notice.

July 14th and 15th are uneventful days, with no mail call either.

July 16th- Off duty today, so drove into Naples and saw Steinberg at the hospital. He seems to be feeling better, there is no word as to whether he will return to duty with the 179th. When I

returned to the outfit I was informed by Maj. Hood that I was to be awarded the Silver Star Decoration. A letter from Jean and in it she wrote that she was now in Ft. Myers, Fla.

July 17th- We are moved tonight to a new bivouac area. Leaving the old one at 2000 and arriving at the new one at 0100 the next morning. July 18th- In the new area. 2nd Wedding Anniversary! 4 letters from Jean. The rest of the day was spent in setting up camp in this area.

July 19th Another quiet day. The next day we hear over the BBC that Leghorn and Ancona have fallen to the Allied troops in Northern Italy. The Russians are pushing the Germans back on their front. And the Normandy troops have broken out of their beachhead positions.

July 21st and 22nd Vaccination program instituted for all the new replacements and transfers that had not received them to date. Tonight I went to a party held at the Orange Grove Club in honor of Col. Davidson, the Regt. C.O. of the 179th. While there I could see across the Bay of Naples a brilliant glow near the horizon. It was a minor eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. The really big one occurred in March, while we were on Anzio. At the time of that eruption the American forces in the Naples area were instrumental in evacuating the local inhabitants of the surrounding countryside, and were given credit for holding down the casualties to a minimum.

July 23rd- My official transfer orders have come through channels. I am to be assigned to CoB of the 120th Med. Bn. This is the ambulance company that is assigned to evacuate the casualties of the 179th Infantry Regiment, from the front line aid stations to the Division Clearing Station, and from there to the closest Field Hospital available. With these same orders, Kilmer gets assigned to the 1st Battalion as Bn Surgeon. 2 letters from Jean at mail call.

July 24th- My first day at my new assignment. A quiet day. 1 letter from Jean. News over the BBC that there is rioting in Germany. I wish that the people there could overthrow the Nazi regime but I'm afraid that is just wishful thinking, for they are too strongly entrenched in power.

July 25th- Went into Naples today with Capt. Russell Layer who is the officer in charge of the ambulances and motor pool of Co., B. Incidentally our unit is usually referred to as a Collecting Company. Named that as it is its duty to collect the wounded from the aid stations and transfer them to the Clearing Station. The medical officers of the collecting company quite often do not see any of the patients that are being transferred. Unless they need dressings changed or otherwise in such critical shape that they have to be held over for plasma infusions or other types of critical care. While we were in Naples we attempted to go shopping for some Italian goods but came up empty handed. There is just nothing to be found and most of the native population sit around and beg from the American soldiers.

July 26th- I have duty today and Mulaire and Kendall go into Naples shopping. I hope that they can find more than Layer and I found, but I doubt very much that they will. My day has been very quiet and I take the opportunity to write 10 letters. The names of the other officers in the unit are Capt. Victor Mulaire and Capt. Robert Kendall, Mulaire is the C.O.

July 27th- Mulaire and I accompany Major Driscoll and Col. Davidson to Naples today at their invitation. We wind up at the Orange Grove Club for cocktails and dinner that evening. Next day still in the same area, quiet, wrote more letters and received two from Jean.

July 30th- Today I was presented with the Silver Star Decoration by Maj .General Eagles the commander of the 45th Div., at a ceremony that was held in the 179th regimental area. Mine was one of several decorations that were given that day, by the General.

July 31st-This a.m. all officers of the regiment attended an orientation meeting on the upcoming operation. The 45th will be one of the assault landing divisions on an invasion of Southern France. The next day , Aug, 1st we spent checking supplies and equipment.

Aug 2nd - General Truscott gave a talk today to the 45th Div officers on the landing operation. I also heard by the grapevine that Kilmer was to return to the States.

Aug 3rd- Allied troops in France have captured Rennes. Quiet day here.

Aug 4th- Jimmy's 1st birthday!! Went to Naples with Mulaire and saw John Barbirolli in concert at the opera house. It was real good . The next day was very quiet again- The inactivity is almost getting boring and monotonous.

Aug 6th - All tents in the bivouac area are struck, equipment is being loaded on ship, and Operation Thunderbird is about to get underway. We remain in the same general area however.

Aug 7th - Personnel has not been loaded on the ship as yet. That night the 120th Medical Bn. put on a party for the Med. Officers of the Div. at the Orange Grove Club. Strictly a stag affair and everyone got fairly well " lit-up".

Aug 8th - This p.m. all kitchen equipment and personnel were loaded on the ships. We are to be loaded in the a.m.

Aug 9th - The rest of the division is moved to the harbor of Naples, where we are loaded on our respective ships. Since Collecting Co. B is attached to the 179th Regt. we are loaded on the same ship with the Regt Command Group. The name of the ship is the "Dilwara"; a British ship, formerly a passenger ship of the Pacific and Orient Steamship Line. Before the war it was used on trips between England and the Far East

Aug 10th- Our ship moves down to an anchorage just off Pompeii. The entire harbor from here all the way back up to Naples is filled with ships and Naval Vessels of all sizes and shapes, from battleships down to the smallest landing crafts.

Aug 11th - This is the 3rd day on board ship . Rations are bought for the men. There is an interesting fact concerning the ship that we are on. The deck crew is made up of Laskars, native Indian sailors. In this weather their only clothes consist of a loincloth that is wrapped about their waist and through the legs. At meal times they form up into small groups of 6-8 individuals and the various groups are issued a ration of rice and mutton. This they then proceed to cook over charcoal braziers at varying specified locations on the ship's decks. They all squat down about their individual charcoal brazier and when the meal is ready , in turn they dip into the pot with their hand and eat.

Aug 12th-4th day on board, with no indication as to when we will be sailing. The officers of the ship have extended the courtesy of their mess to the officers of the regiment, and it has turned out to be a most enjoyable experience. Each meal there is a menu on the table for you to order what you desire to eat. One morning on the breakfast menu was the item- "Bubble and Squeak". I was totally at a loss as to what that might be , and the ship's officer sitting across from me noticed my bewilderment

and asked if he might help me. When I showed him the item he laughed and then told me that the cooks saved all the left over vegetables and meat from the meals the day before, ground them up together into a thick type of paste and then made patties of this and fried them for breakfast. I tried some and they were not bad at all. I suppose you could call them English Philadelphia Scrapple.

Time Magazine publishes for the benefit of the troops overseas a special edition of their magazine. This edition has no advertising in it at all, so consequently can be made much smaller than the regular edition. A recent edition of the magazine came out with an article about a pamphlet that the War Department had just mailed to the English war brides of American soldiers. The purpose of the pamphlet was to acquaint the new brides with the peculiar and quaint customs of the Americans; so they could adjust better to their new life. One of these, was the "cut and switch" method of eating. One night at dinner I could not help but smile as I watched this same officer sitting opposite me eating his dinner that night. He held his knife in his right hand and his fork in his left hand and never released his hold on either during the entire meal, until he had finished eating. As I watched, he would cut the meat with his knife spear it with his fork and then move around the plate piling small portions of vegetables on the back of the fork, then into his mouth. This process would be repeated over and over again. When he looked up and saw me smiling, he asked me what I was smiling about. I then told him about the article in the Time Mag., and how observing him eat, the article was brought to mind. He thought this over for just a moment then made the comment. "You blokes use up a lot of energy eating the way you do, just think of all the wasted motion you go through every time you put down the knife and switch the fork to your right hand, then have to put the fork down pick up the knife and go through the same procedure again. I think our method is much better and certainly more energy conserving." I could not help but agree that he had a very valid point. But I have often wondered since then how he would handle little green peas, particularly if there was no mashed potatoes to stick them to!

Some of the meals had selections on the menus of various Indian and Far Eastern types of food. Curry dishes were on the menu most every day, and some of them were really highly seasoned. If you added some chutney sauce to these it would almost blow the top of your head off.

Aug. 13th- We are finally on the way. Our ship sails out of the Bay of Naples, and joins up with the other ships of its convoy group. These consist of ten transport ships and six destroyer escorts. We sail by the Isle of Capri on the way, and thumb our noses at the flyboys.

Aug. 14th- at 1200 today we passed through the strait separating Sardinia and Corsica. The shoreline looks very rocky and barren. D-day and H-hour will be tomorrow morning shortly after daybreak.

Aug 15th.- Just before daybreak the preparatory naval bombardment of the shoreline defenses begins. Since at this early hour it is still somewhat dark, the shells from the battleships and cruisers, which are standing well off shore arc over our ship, glowing in the dark. They seem to move so slowly that you can follow them almost to the shore. As it becomes brighter, all along the shoreline can be seen a thick pall of smoke arising. By this time the first waves of assault craft are heading toward the beaches, and small arms and machine gun fire can be heard above the din and noises of engines roaring and air fighter cover overhead. By noon all of the advance elements of the division have moved inland, with surprisingly little opposition. The remaining elements of the division are ashore by early afternoon. Our particular sector of the beachhead was at St. Maxime on the French Riviera; located between Toulon and Nice. This was by far the easiest landing that the 45th has made to date. The landing craft that I came in on landed us so high on the beach that we didn't even get our feet wet.

Same day- The mountains of the Maritime Alps almost come down to the sea in this area of France; so within a very short time of landing we were winding our way up a well paved highway leading northward from the coast. I was riding in a Jeep with Mulaire. As we got to a switchback in the road, which widened at this spot, we saw three old men sitting on a stone wall . Mulaire pulled out of the convoy that we were in, saying to me " I have been waiting for over a year to try out my French, and this is the first opportunity I've had to do so." He walked over to the spot where they were sitting, and I could see that he was saying something to them. In turn one of them answered him. He took a step backward and said something else. The three men looked at one another and started talking among themselves, finally they said something else to him. He shook his head , turned around and walked back to the Jeep. As we drove off , he laughed, and said, " after all these months of waiting I could barely understand what they said- they are speaking a dialect of Provencal French , and I am accustomed to speaking Parisian French."

Aug.16 - The advance elements of the regiment are well inland, meeting very little opposition. We set up the Collecting Co. station at Le Revest, 8-miles from the beachhead at St. Maxime. The following day the station is moved forward 7-miles. The advance elements of the regiment are now at Le Luc.

Aug.18th- Today we move 25-miles forward; being held up temporarily by sniper fire . We also evacuate the first casualties of the campaign so far. The station is set up in an area just north of Carces.

Aug 19th - This morning we move up to an area east of Barjols. Sniper fire can be heard inside the town. We evacuate several more casualties as a result of this skirmish. The general overall advance of the division is maintaining a rapid pace. Next day- Moved 20-miles forward today to an area near Rians. The forward elements continue to press ahead rapidly.

Aug 21st Today we made a jump of 45-miles to a spot north of Peyruis. The advance elements of the troops report no contact with the enemy so far today. The BBC has announced that DeGaulle's Free French Army troops have surrounded and isolated the naval base of Toulon, and it's capture is imminent.

We remain in the same area today while the division is consolidating it's front lines as well as it's line of communication with the rear 7th Army group, as well as the 3rd Corps . The 3rd., 36th., and 45th Divisions comprise the 3rd Corps. as well as the attached supporting Corps artillery units and mechanized units, with it's tanks and half-tracks. We have moved so far and so fast for the past few days that it is necessary to stop so that the rear echelon groups can catch up. Also gasoline supplies have to be replenished, and fuel dumps established closer to our areas of operation.

Mulaire is in hog heaven , he has met some French from Marseilles who have a summer home near here. Actually I suppose one would call it a chateau. He and I are invited to play bridge with them this evening.

Aug.23rd- Today we made a move of 101-miles to Grenoble. This is in the center of the Maritime Alps region of France and is a favorite vacation spot in the summer because it is cool and in the winter because of the snow sports that abound in this area. We are put up in the Hotel Terminus, a private room with bath and a bed with sheets. There is an unconfirmed rumor that Paris has fallen. Grenoble is the center of the Maqui influence in this section of France. They are the most dedicated

and active of the various resistance groups that operate behind the German lines. Their influence is so strong that the Germans have never stationed troops in this area as occupying forces.

Aug. 24th An occasional shell is heard to drop in the outlying area of the city. Today a group of over 1000 German troops surrendered in the outlying areas to the 1st and 3rd Bns. of the 179th, without a fight, they simply walked in asking for someone to whom they could surrender.

Aug 25th- Mulaire and I took a bicycle tour of the city today. Late this p.m. 250 more German troops surrendered to a single surprised GI. BBC announces that the Russians have driven the Germans out of Roumania, and that Marshall Tito has proclaimed a new government in Yugoslavia.

Aug. 26th Today will always be a memorable one for me. Probably for Mulaire and Kendall also. Ever since we landed in France, Mulaire has forever been on the lookout for someone to talk with- well he struck a gold mine here in Grenoble. He has met a man who prior to the war lived in Dijon. He is the head of a large family owned winery in the area near there. The family has been in the wine growing and bottling business for generations. The family also have a very large chateau in the mountains outside Grenoble. When the Germans moved into the Dijon region after France surrendered, he and his family, including brothers, sisters and their families all packed up and moved here. He apparently must have managed to get most of the corporate wealth of the business out of Dijon to Grenoble also. He maintained a corporate office in the city and was busy every day. Today he asked Mulaire to come to dinner that night at the chateau and to bring all of the officers associated with him, also. He also told him that he might be a little late getting there himself, as he had several business deals to attend to before he could leave his office. But not to worry his wife and brothers would entertain us until he arrived. We were to come at 5 p.m. and dinner would be served about 7 p.m. We arrived promptly at 5, and instructed our driver to pick us up about 10 p.m. We were warmly greeted by the wife and other members of the family. They all spoke excellent English. Before we could be seated a maid came in with cocktails. They were a light cherry red color and sparkled like champagne, but they did not taste like pink champagne. I asked the hostess what they were and she informed me that they were a mixture of Cassis and Mousseau, the latter being a clear sparkling dry wine. We all had several of these while talking and waiting for the host to arrive, which he did about 6:30. After he had freshened up we were called in to dinner. By this time all of us, that is the guests, were feeling no pain. Dinner was served in courses from soup to the final main course, which to our surprise turned out to be a baked smoked Virginia Smithfield ham that he had been saving for a special occasion. He said that he could not think of a better occasion than to welcome representatives of the liberating troops. We managed to thank him for such gracious hospitality, I say managed, advisedly, because by this time we were all three sheets to the wind. With each separate course of the dinner a different wine was served, and we drank everyone of them. Finally with the main course gone, our host stood up and apologized to us for not being able to serve a delicious dessert. Unfortunately, he said we have had no sugar for the past four years- so instead we have to make do with what we do have. With that the maid brought out small bowls of what looked like peanut

butter and plates of small crackers for each person around the table. He then showed us how to eat this- by spreading the peanut butter like paste on a cracker and eating it. The taste was somewhat sweet with a nutty flavor- he told us it was made from chestnuts. As the dinner was coming to an end , he motioned to the maid and she placed a very small thimble sized glass on a stem in front of everyone and poured a clear liquid into each of these . He stood up and toasted our continued success and downed the drink as did we — down and down it went . burning like fire all the way. As we reached for the water , he smiled and told us that it was called Marc , and was a triple distillate of the residue from the grapehulls that were left after pressing the grapes to make wine. It was 95% alcohol or 190 proof. By this time it was 10 o'clock and our driver was outside waiting for us. We managed somehow to get to the car and were poured into it. We all had terrible hangovers and headaches the next day- but it was a night that I will never forget.

Aug. 27th- The 5th day in Grenoble. Three letters from Jean today, and in one of them she said that Jimmy is now walking! It has been fairly quiet for the past two days and apparently the enemy has pulled out of this sector of the front. It is the overall strategy of the Allied High Command to prevent the Germans from reaching the Belfort Gap. This is a pass through the mountains from France into Germany and is just north of the spot where France , Germany and Switzerland meet at a common border. The Allied drive across northern France, spearheaded by Patton's 3rd Army with it's armored divisions and Patch's drive from the south with the 7th army is planned to cut off the retreat route of the German divisions in the southwestern part of the country.. This is the reason for the rapid movement of our drive from the south.

Aug 28th Today we said goodbye to Grenoble and moved up to an area just south of Voiron. Three casualties were evacuated today from the 1st Bn. I also saw three enemy planes today for the first time since leaving the beachhead.

Aug. 29th Today we moved forward 39-miles to Bourgoin. It was on this move that I saw a most amusing scene. It happened in one of the small French villages that our truck convoys were constantly passing through. With very few exceptions, in every village or town that we entered we were warmly greeted and the people showered us with flowers, and the young girls and some of the older women as well would rush out and kiss those soldiers that they could get to. Passing through this one particular village, I was in a Jeep following immediately behind a battery of the largest mobile cannons that the Army had- 255mm rifles they were called. These cannon were so long and so huge that it required three huge half track vehicles to pull them. One half track pulled the cannon itself; another half-track pulled the base mount for the cannon and the third pulled a large crane that lifted the cannon off the trailer it was on to mount it to the base so it could be fired. This trailer by the way had four axles with four tires to each axle , a total of sixteen wheels. The tires were each as tall as I am , and I am 6ft 1in. I was told that the range of these guns was 25-30 miles. Well, as we were passing through this village, two elderly men were sitting on a bench beside a house, smoking long clay

stemmed pipes. They were looking ahead as the convoy slowly negotiated itself through the narrow streets of the village; gradually turning their heads back toward the rear of the convoy, they saw these cannon for the first time. Their mouths flew open in amazement, and both of the pipes fell to the stone sidewalk to shatter into bits. When Mulaire and I saw this we could not help but laugh. But we also agreed that the first time we saw these cannon we were equally as amazed.

Some of these small villages that we had to pass through had such narrow streets, that an advance party of Engineers usually proceeded the main convoy to measure the widths to determine if all vehicles in it could negotiate their way through. I remember one incident; which involved the Engineers themselves. On this occasion I was behind this Engineering unit that had very large bulldozers on trailers and as it wended it's way through this village the blade of the bulldozer was scraping the walls of the houses on each side of the street- it managed to get through but - they cut this one mighty thin. Frequently the convoys had to bypass some of the narrowest streets and detour around the villages. At this stage of the operation the Rhone River formed the left or west boundary of the Division. To our right or east were the other units of the 7th Army- between us and the Swiss Border.

Aug. 30th 2nd day in Bourgoins. Activity on the front lines have been quiet. BBC announces that Reims and Rouen have been taken by the 1st and 3rd Armies, and that they are advancing toward Paris. We have several Regiments of the Free French Army attached to the 7th Army under the overall command of Gen Patch. On occasion we will run across these troops while moving in convoy. I recall one lunch break while we were moving in convoy. This French unit had pulled over to the side of the road to eat. I watched one of them in the process of eating. Holding a long loaf of French bread under his left armpit, a good sized piece of cheese in his left hand and a knife, it could have been his bayonet, in his right hand; he would slice off a piece of bread and a piece of cheese put them in his mouth and while chewing this he would then reach between his legs and pick up a bottle of wine to wash it all down. This process would be repeated over and over until he apparently had all that he wanted. Like the British Naval Officer he never released the bread from under his arm, the cheese from his left hand or the knife from his right hand- this I suppose you would call a cut, eat and drink method of eating.

The army maintained a bakery for the French units, to prepare their own kind of French bread. This was sent forward by trucks daily to these units. I saw one of these trucks hit a bump in the road. and several loaves of the bread fell out of the back which was open. The driver stopped the truck went to the back picked up each loaf and carefully wiped it clean on his fatigues and tossed them back on the piled up loaves in the truck got back in and drove off. None of this bread was wrapped or in any type of container, but I'm sure that the thick crust was protection enough for the most discriminating Frenchman.

Aug. 31st- We move the station forward to a new spot south of Cremieu. The 179th advance elements are across the Rhone , advancing toward Meximeau; which is an important junction of several highways from the south and the west. It is along these routes that the Germans have to travel in their retreat toward the Belfort Gap.

Sept 1st - Very heavy fighting is now in progress in the area around Meximeau. Many casualties are being evacuated. The 1st and 2nd battalions of the regiment are cut off from the main body of the advancing 7th Army. Heavy artillery fire and many tank battles are in progress as the enemy pushes forward to try to break through to escape being trapped . I received 8 letters from Jean today.

Sept. 2nd -The situation around Meximeau is clearing up. Units of the Free French forces have relieved the pressure on the 1st and 2nd battalions and the enemy is pulling out of the area. Unfortunately most of the enemy manage to escape the trap and are now withdrawing toward the Gap with nothing but our Air force to harass them. Most of the casualties that we evacuate today are from the FFI.

The new location for the station is near Bourg, which is 8-miles forward of our last spot. Heavy artillery fire can be heard coming from a valley in the distance ahead of our position. Lyons has been captured by units of the 7th Army and Namur in Belgium has also fallen to Allied troops.

Sept. 4th- We move forward 51-miles today, to Lons-Le-Saunier. The Collecting Co. station is set up in a nice French home, that was recently used by the Germans. There is a bathroom with a tub and running water and a real bed with sheets to sleep in tonight .

Sept. 5th We only stay at this spot until 1430 , then we moved 61-miles toward the northeast and the Swiss border. We finally stop just north of Pontarlier- 5-miles from the Swiss border. At mail call I get 15 letters from Jean.

Sept. 6th- Today we traveled along a high ridge overlooking the Swiss countryside on our right. The scenery throughout this region is very beautiful, Small villages and hamlets can be seen in the distance nestled down in the valleys, between low rolling hills and small mountains, while in the far distant east can be seen the snow capped peaks of the high Alpine mountains. There can be seen no sign of war's destruction and devastation in this tranquil region. However one only has to turn around and look behind where our convoy has passed to see the carelessness of man and his disregard for nature. Ahead - pristine , green rolling hills with spotless little villages scattered about. Behind - a roadside littered with paper, tin cans, cigarette butts and packages, and any other type of waste that can be discarded. The advance elements of the 7th Army and the 3rd Army have joined up; so now

there is a solid line of Allied troops across France , from the English Channel to the Mediterrean Sea! BBC announces that the Russians are in Yugoslavia.

Sept. 7th- In the same area - 8 casualties evacuated today . The 3rd Bn. is attempting a crossing of the Doubs River by boats, as all the bridges in this sector have been blown up by the retreating Germans. The next day we move up 16-miles to an area on the road to Baume-Le-Doubs.

Sept. 9th- Today we move the station 10-miles forward to an area 3-miles south of Clerval. The 1st and the 3rd Bns. are across the Doubs River, incurring 38 casualties between them. The next day we move the station up to the south side of the Doubs at Clerval. Here we are having to ferry the casualties from the fighting on the other side to this side by boats. Fortunately the local French are helping us with the handling of the boats.

Sept. 11th -The station is moved today across the Doubs River by ferry, to an area between Clerval and Baume-Le-Doubs. The regt. is now in a holding position, consolidating the gains that have been made in the past few days. 4 letters arrived in the mail today from Jean.

Sept. 12th - The 1st Army's progress in the west on the Belgian front is going great, and they are reported to be 5-miles into Germany near Treves. It has been a quiet day here , however I did receive in the mail today an absentee ballot for the upcoming election this Nov.

Sept, 13th - Another quiet day today. The rains have set in and things are getting a bit muddy around here now. Mulaire and I went to the local Fromagerie, cheese factory, and bought a 100-lb. head of Gruyere cheese. It fitted nicely into the back of the Jeep, we threw a tarp over it to keep the rain off and brought it back to the station. All the men pitched in to help eat it , and even with constant nibbling by all of us it lasted almost a week. BBC announced that the 1st Army has taken Aachen.

Sept.14th- Rumors of a big German Luftwaffe raid but no sign of it today. The front lines around here continue to be quiet. The next day the Regt C.O. moves the reserve battaliom, the 2nd, across the river. So all elements of the 179th are now across the Doubs. The 1st Army is reported to have a 90-mile front inside Germany

Sept. 16th- A fairly quiet day today ,except quite a few cases of battle fatigue are beginning to show up among the front line troops. Next day , because of the mud, conditions around the station have become impossible for the ambulances to get in and out of the area. So, today we moved the station into Clerval, and set up in a vacant building. There is a rumor that a French Division will soon relieve the 45th.

Sept 18th- Raining real heavy today. The 3rd Bn. is to move forward tonight. The next day we follow and set up in an area near Vesoul. The Regt. is also moving forward to make contact with the right flank of the 3rd Army.

Sept.20th- Today I moved the forward station to a site on the west bank of the Moselle River- northwest of Bain-Le-Bains and south of Epinal. The next day the 180th Regt. moved through the 179th and took over the forward positions on the front line. I went into Bain-Le-Bains, which is a well known spa and resort area noted for it's warm mineral baths. While there I indulged myself and went to the Bain Romain and took a bath in a huge 6-ft long tub. It was quite a treat and it did not have the sulfur-like odor of a lot of these spas.

From Sept 22nd to Sept. 25th The collecting co. remained in the same area .We had no casualties to evacuate and it continued to rain all the while

Sept.26th - This a.m. I moved the forward station across the Moselle River to Archettes, southeast of Epinal. The next day the remainder of the station complement come up. The station is set up in a garage, and the men and officers stay in houses that are close by the garage.

Sept. 27th Same area, the rain is getting colder each day. The forward elements of the troops are moving on Aydoillies, and we are beginning to receive more casualties to evacuate. The troops progress is slowed down because of the many land mines the the enemy has planted in the route of advance , and these have to be neutralized before they can proceed. The next day I move the forward station through Epinal to Deyvilliers.

Sept.29th- The balance of the station complement move up this morningto join us in Deyvilliers. I am billeted in a private home with a stove in the room, which feels mighty good. The front lines remain unchanged in this sector. BBC announces that the German garrison in Calais has surrendered. The next few days are spent in the same area, situation remains quiet along the front.

Oct.2nd- Buck surprises me with a visit. He has been assigned to an artillery unit that is attached to the Corp of which the 45thDiv is a component part - the 3rd Corp made up of the 3rd Div. 36th Div. and the 45th Div. with attached ancillary units such as his artillery unit. Knowing that the Div. that I was in was a part of the 3rd Corp he continued looking until he tracked me down. We had lunch at the officers mess and chewed the fat for an hour or two before he had to report back to duty. The next several days were quiet. One day I went into Epinal to try and find a doll for Susan , Betty Shanklin's , little girl. But the stores were empty of all goods.

Oct. 6th On duty at the forward station. The Germans have launched a counterattack, and we are getting many casualties coming in. Capt. George Williams one of the company commanders is

captured by the enemy and Col. Meyer the 3rd BN. CO. is wounded. The following day I treated two epileptics from the local area, otherwise quiet. The counterattack by the enemy has been thrown back.

Oct. 8th- Today makes 16 months that we have been overseas. A Sikh that was captured at Benghazi three years ago was evacuated through the station. I return to the rear installation and Kendall takes over here at the forward station. Next day - a quiet day at the rear I catch up on some reading and write several letters.

Oct. 10th- Back up at the forward station again. Col. Murphy is the new 3rd Bn. C.O. replacing Co. Meyer. Only 1 casualty today.

Oct. 11th- Payday! and as usual crap games and poker games abound. I played hearts with the men in the station complement and won 200 francs. That night I played knock poker and lost it all.

From Oct. 12th to Oct. 25th The Collecting Co. remained in the same position at Deyvilliers. Forward units of the division are meeting stiffer resistance as we are getting closer to the Franco-German border. The rear sections of the old Maignon line that the French built are now being used by the Germans as their forward outposts, and it is this that the forward troop elements are running up against. For the past several days heavy Corp and Army artillery units have been passing through toward the front. Today I saw a unit of 203mm seige Howitzers going up. These are guns that have a high trajectory to lob shells over walled fortifications.

Oct. 26th- This is the third anniversary of my first date with Jean. Wish I were home to celebrate it with her. The next day the forward station is moved to St. Helene. The 179th has broken through some of the prepared positions and is advancing through thick forested woods to the east of Rambervilliers.

Oct. 28th to Nov 1st - the station remains in this same spot. Only an occasional casualty is evacuated during this time. Cpl. Spurgeon goes AWOL.

Nov 1st- I return to the rear station today. Elements of the 399th Regt. of the 100th Div. have been passing through, going forward to relieve the 179th. The 2nd BN. of the 179th comes off the line to take the position that the 2nd French Armored is holding at this time, north of Rambervilliers.

Nov. 3rd- The station is moved to a new area 1 mile west of the town of Baccarat. The same Baccarat that is famous for its crystal. But there is none to be had there now. For the next three days we remain in this position. No casualties are evacuated during this time. The 100th Div. has relieved the 45th Div., and we will come off the front lines and be sent to a rest area in the rear.

Nov 6th - The units of the 179th are moved back to a rest area at Contrexeville. This is 40-miles west of Epinal. We are billeted in the Hotel Continental, no window panes, no electricity and no heat; but we do have a solid roof over our heads and can keep out of the rain. The next day was spent in policing the area, and attempting to make the place more livable.

Nov 8th - Things are beginning to shape up now and with electric generators we do have some lights. The officer's mess where we eat has been set up in a building on the main street of the town. This was before the war the local bakery shop. The owner and operator of this bakery welcomed us and begged the mess sergeant to set up his kitchen in the rear of the building where his baking ovens were, and also asked if he could do some of the baking for us. If the reader of this is at all familiar with army life and work, you can imagine what the sergeant told him. "By all means go right ahead, in fact you can do all the baking if you will." When the kitchen supplies were being unloaded, and he saw the white flour, sacks of sugar, cans of fruit and chocolate, his eyes lit up and he almost broke into tears. He told them that it had been over three years since he had seen any white flour, sugar and chocolate.

The front section of the building was made into the mess hall and the glass cabinets that displayed the bakery items were left in place. It wasn't long before he began stocking those cabinets again. Every type of French Pastry that you could imagine were soon lining the shelves. All one had to do at any time day or night was to walk behind the cabinet open the sliding door reach in and pick out whatever you wanted. We had never had it so good!

Nov 9th - A quiet day. Kendall and I did perform circumscisions on two of the station personnel. The BBC announced that Gen. Patton's troops had bypassed Metz and were driving toward the Franco-German border.

Nov 10th - to Nov 17th - We remain in the rest area at Contrexeville relaxing and enjoying this brief respite from war. The men played baseball, volleyball and the inevitable poker and crap games. All during this time new replacements were coming in to fill out the depleted rosters of the units, and these had to be instructed by the noncoms, and officers.

Nov 18th - The Allied offensive is progressing well, Metz has fallen, and the French have surrounded Belfort. The next day we get word that the French have broken through the enemy lines at Belfort and are driving toward the Rhine River. We are still enjoying our rest here, knowing that all too soon we will have to go back to the front and relieve some other battle weary unit so that they can come here and enjoy what we have enjoyed.

Nov 20th - This could be our last day at this rest area. We had a big turkey dinner today, a kind of pre-Thanksgiving Day celebration. For in all likelihood we would be back on the front lines

on that day and would not be able to have a hot meal. The next day we receive word that we would be moving up tomorrow at 1500 hrs.

Nov 22nd- The 179th is committed to the lines behind the 2nd French Armored Division. It's duty to clean up pockets of resistance that the armor bypasses. The forward station of the Collecting Co. is set up at Cirey. The next day we move it up to Romanswiller, 17-km. from Strasbourg.

Nov 24th- The French have taken Strasbourg and rumor says that they are at the Rhine. The weather has become much colder, and the rain continues unabated.

Nov 25th- We are well into the area of France known as Alsace, and the low lying mountains of this sector are the Vosges Mts. Kendall and I are sharing a room in the home of a local farmer and his wife. This is close by the spot where the forward station is set up. In one corner of our room is one of the most unusual stoves I have ever seen. I'll attempt to describe it -the firebox is at the very bottom and underneath it is a metal sheet on which it stands on four short legs. The width of the stove is just about 1 foot and it is about 18 inches in depth. From the back of the firebox a flue leads upward to the ceiling, zigzagging back and forth the length of the stove and this flue as well as the firebox is completely covered with a decorative ceramic tile. Where it turns back and forth, there are supporting tiles to fill in the hollow spaces, so the overall effect is a series of small openings in the flue as it goes to the ceiling. When a fire is built in the firebox, only a small bunch of twigs are used, this heats the flue all the way to the ceiling, which in turn heats the tiles. The tiles then radiate the heat out into the room for hours on end. A most efficient stove and one that conserves a commodity that is very scarce in Europe-wood!

Nov 26th- Today the forward station is moved to Bouxwiller, and is set up in what was once the Gestapo headquarters. Later that night we move up to Prinzheim. The next day we remain in the same spot. Received 6 letters from Jean today. Only a few casualties evacuated,

Nov 28th- Evacuated 40 casualties today, most of them from the 3rd Bn. The following day 35 casualties were evacuated, these being mostly from the 2nd Bn. The next day the forward station is moved to Ober-Modern. Gen. Eagles C.O. of the 45th Div. hits a mine while riding in his Jeep near the front lines, and is evacuated.

Dec 1st- My 29th birthday! The 14th Armored Div. is now in this sector of the front, and has been moving through the lines of the 45th toward the front. Today we evacuated 80 casualties. The fighting on the front lines is becoming more intense as the main section of the Maignot Line is being approached

Dec 2nd - I move up to the forward station today. 46 casualties are evacuated during the day. The next day the balance of the station complement is moved up to the forward station. 83 casualties are evacuated. That night I had dinner with Buck at his outfit. 3 letters from Jean and 1 from mother.

Dec 3th - We experience another day of heavy casualties, 50 in all. Tonight the enemy lobbed some artillery shells into this area, around 2100. There were no casualties reported as a result of this. The next day we evacuated 53 casualties. It might as well be stated here that when I say casualties, this does not include KIA's. The quartermaster units have a grave section that take care of all the KIA's and these figures are not included in the medical section's reports.

Dec 5th - This was a fairly quiet day with only a few casualties to report. The BBC reports that the Russians are in Hungary, and are making good progress all along their front. The next day here is another fairly quiet one.

Dec 7th - The second anniversary of our entrance into the war. Pearl Harbor Day! It was another quiet day on our immediate front line sector., with no casualties.

Dec 8th - I go forward with the station to Urhwiller. Two casualties evacuated. The next day is quiet. The 179th is off the front line today and the 180th has relieved them. The next day I move back to the rear station. It is quiet here, so I caught up with some correspondence. The next day I got a package from Jean with a Parker-51 fountain pen in it.

Dec 12th - Today we moved the entire station to Zinswiller. The forward elements of the 45th are attacking the main fortifications of the Maignot Line, so the going is apt to be slow and mighty rough for awhile.

Dec 13th - I received orders to report to the 120th Clearing Co. for a tour of duty there. Charlie Brown is taking my place here at the Collecting Co. The Clearing Co. is set up in what was before the war, a Catholic boy's prep school. It is located in Phalsbourg, on a beautiful spot just outside the city. The dormitory rooms are used for billeting, and the mess hall and the class rooms and assembly halls are used for operating rooms and wards for the patients. The weather for the past few days has become much colder, but at least the rains have stopped and the sky is a crystal blue.

Dec 14th - My first day of duty at the clearing co. I am placed on admissions. The next day still on admissions. Reports state that the 7th Army is across the border and in Germany proper now.

Dec. 16th - The next day is quiet, with few admissions, and only a few casualties being brought in from the front line units. The next day is also a quiet one.

Dec 17th - We were awakened this morning early just after daybreak by a loud rumbling noise like I have never heard before. We hurriedly dressed and rushed outside to find out just what was happening. To our utter amazement the sky from horizon to horizon in every direction you looked was filled with planes. Huge bombers, B24's and B-17's, they must have come from bases in England as well as France, the sky was filled with them, Darting between the bombers were fighter planes acting as escorts. This phenomenal exhibition continued for about 5-10 minutes, and when they had all passed over; where the sky was a pale blue beforehand now there was a solid cover of thick white clouds left by the vapor trails of the engines. Some few minutes after they had passed one could hear a distant rumbling noise coming from the northeast behind the German border. I have often wondered what they had dropped their bombs on, and felt sorrow for those upon whom they were dropped. That night I played bridge with Capt. Wardlaw Hammond of Spartanburg, S.C., who had recently joined the 45th. Our opponents were Maj. Nolan and Col. Miller, the Div. Surgeon- the Big Boss of all of the Med. Officers of the Div.

Dec 18th - Yesterday the Germans launched a huge counteroffensive on the western front, in the Ardennes Forest sector. This is in the area of the 1st Army. Today the BBC reports that the German offensive is gaining momentum, and has effected a breakthrough of the lines of the 1st Army. Our 7th Army group continues to make gains in this sector.

Dec 19th BBC announces that the offensive has made a major breakthrough and is advancing toward the Belgian border. Tonight I attend a Catholic mass here at the chapel of the school. The sisters of the order sang Christmas carols and it was very enjoyable.

Dec 20th The German offensive on the 1st Army front is being slowed down, but it has forced them out of Luxembourg at this time. Tonight Hammond and I play bridge with the Maj. and the Col. again. Next day, a quiet one, with no casualties to speak of. Caught up on some letter writing.

Dec 22nd - German offensive continues. One of the main reasons that it has been so successful is because the weather has turned bad for the past week, with heavy cloud cover and snow. Preventing our airforce from operating, and being able to see the ground from the air. There are reports that enemy paratroopers have been dropped behind the line in our sector, to disrupt communication lines and supply lines as well.

Dec 23rd - Another fairly quiet day here at the clearing co. The enemy continues to advance on the 1st Army front. Two letters from Jean today. Bridge again tonight with Hammond, the Maj. and Col. Getting to be almost a ritual, but they are all very good players and I enjoy playing with them.

Dec 24th -Christmas Eve at Phalsbourg in Alsace, France. German advance continues on the western front. Tonight the Clearing Co. is putting on a buffet dinner and party for everyone - men and officers. Have been saving up on alcohol for weeks in preparation for this. Mixed with grapefruit juice it makes the standard drink in all units of the Army. On one occasion when we were in Italy and the 179th was the extreme right flank unit of the 5th Army, we were adjacent to a British Division for a week or two. While in this particular position, the British issued the officers of the 179th their regular ration of whiskey. I remember on two occasions that I got a bottle of Scotch.

Christmas Day -I went forward today to the rear station of the Coll. Co. and had dinner with Mulaire, Kendall and Charlie Brown. They had Egg Nogg prepared and we all had a wonderful dinner

Dec 26th - A quiet day . Orders received to move the station forward to a new location. Move to be effected tomorrow. Next day- The equipment and trucks were almost packed , when new orders were received from Div. H.Q. to rescind the order and to unpack and remain in the same spot.

Dec 28th Latest photos of Jimmy arrived today- 16months old. also 5 letters from Jean and 2 from mother. The offensive in the 1st Army sector seems to have been stopped. Next day- A quiet one. 4 more letters from Jean Went to a shower unit today and had a good hot shower. It sure picks one up to get clean from time to time and put on some fresh clothes.

Dec 30th Another quiet day. 2 letters from Jean. Today I treated a soldier in the ward who used to be my gym instructor my freshman year at Carolina. His name was Hodges.

Dec 31st Today I was sent back to the 45th Div. rest area in a hotel that they had taken over for that purpose. That night I was invited to attend a New Year Eve party at the Hq. of the 17th Field Artillery Bn. , by Buck. We had a big dinner beforehand and sang all the old songs . At midnight I sent Jean a kiss .

Jan 1st, 1945-The Germans have launched an offensive in the area around Bitche, which is on the left flank of the 179th Regt. The 45th Rest Horel is disbanded and I return to duty at the Clearing Co. at Phalsbourg. More photos of Jimmy and 3 letters from Jean arrived while I was at the rest center.

Jan 2nd - Back on duty at the Clearing co. again. The enemy offensive in the Bitche sector has been stopped. The 45th's sector of the front has been shifted toward the west, to cover a part of the 3rd Army sector. Because the 3rd Army has pulled units off the line and is rushing them to the breakthrough in the 1st Army's sector. Patton is leading this relief group with an armored group of several regiments of tanks.

Jan 3rd - The Clearing Co. moved back today into an installation that was used by the 117th Evac. Hosp. until now. They in turn have moved further back toward the rear. Many casualties are being seen now. Next day -Casualties continue to pour in from the front line positions, most of them today are from the 70th Div. News is received this p.m. that the 1st Bn. Aid Station of the 179th has been overrun and captured by the enemy.

Jan 5th - The report of the 1st Bn. Aid Station being captured is verified. The 1st Bn. H.Q. was also captured at the same time. We continue to treat many casualties from the 70th Div.

Jan 6th - The 179th recaptures Wingen today and casualties are being evacuated from there as well as other personnel. The medics had only 1 wounded Cpl. Threll.

Jan 7th - Today 69 wounded German prisoners , SS troops , were treated and then evacuated to the rear. We also had many casualties from the 45th Div. units to be evacuated. In fact today has been the heaviest work load since we have been in France.

Jan 8th - The enemy counterattack appears to have been contained, but we are still seeing many casualties. The next day the enemy attacks in the area north of Strasbourg, making some gains, The sector around here remains quiet. The 1st and 3rd Armies in the west are advancing back into the Ardennes area. The BBC has announced that Gen. McArthur has landed on the island of Luzon in the Phillipines- fulfilling the promise he made when he left after the initial invasion by the Japs. Stating, "I will be back".

Jan 11th - The next three days are fairly quiet , with very few casualties received. The Russians launch an offensive in Southern Poland.

Jan 14th I went on medical wards today. Things remain generally quiet. Saw a good movie tonight , Laura, with Gene Tierney. The next day the BBC announces that Czechoslovakia has been liberated from the Nazi's by the Russians, and that they have also entered Warsaw in Poland.

Jan 16th Another quiet day here at the clearing station. Next day, things are still quiet . Russians continue their advance on the eastern front. We continue to sit tight in this same spot.

Jan 18th to Jan 20th - No change in conditions, we are still in a holding pattern on this sector of the front.

Jan 21st - The conditions changed at daybreak this morning. The enemy launched a counterattack against the 179th's sector of the front. Many casualties are coming in. The front line units are taking a terrific pounding.

Jan 22nd - The 157th Battalion has borne the brunt of the attack and have suffered great losses. Two of their battalions were caught in the onslaught and have been badly mauled.

Jan 23rd - The Christmas packages and mail arrived today almost one month late. The enemy continues the attack against the 179th front and continues to make slight gains. The next day the attack is slowed down somewhat as reserve units are thrown in against them. The casualties continue to pour into the station.

Jan 25th - Attack on our position continues, with a steady flow of wounded coming in to the station. Russians continue to advance on their front. I sent a mail order from Best Co. to Jean for her upcoming birthday- a nightgown.

Jan 26th - The enemy attack has been stopped, and is being thrown back with heavy losses to them. 2 letters from Jean today. Casualties much lighter today. The next day I went back on night duty. Things much quieter.

Jan 28th - Today I received a letter from Stewart Howe and also one from Pete Fowden. A ration of whiskey was issued today, I got a quart of Scotch. The next day is quiet again and the enemy seems to be pulling back into a defensive position.

Jan 30th - Russians reported to be about 90 miles from Berlin. Because of the severe attrition of the front line troops during the last few days in this sector, Division H.Q. has ordered many of the rear echelon troops of the division to the front lines to fill the gaps in the overall companies strength.

Jan 31st - The Free French troops to the south and east of us in the Colmar sector of the front have been making good gains recently. Today I received a package from Jean with a leather coat in it.

Feb 1st - A quiet day today, still on night duty. I feel somewhat under the weather, with a sore throat and aching. Started on some sulfadiazine to ward off anything that might start. French continue to gain in the Colmar area.

Feb 2nd - Another quiet day. I am feeling much better, hope I have nipped it in the bud. Next day- Returned to day duty. 3 letters from Jean and a box of candy.

Feb 4th Still quiet around here. Next day BBC announces that the American forces on Luzon have captured Manila.

Feb 6th - The French have cleared out the Colmar pocket, and are continuing their drive in that sector of the front. The Russians are southeast of Breslau.

Feb 7th to Feb 14th - Things continue to be quiet in this sector and there has been little work to be done in the clearing station, other than daily maintenance of things. On other fronts, Canadian troops have launched an attack at Niemegen in The Netherlands; the Russians have liberated Budapest in Hungary, and claim 100,000 Germans captured there. This afternoon I went down to the 116th Evac. Hosp. and saw Capt, Schelin, who was an associate of Dr. Winn in Richmond before the war.

Feb 15th - The 42nd, Rainbow, Div. is to relieve the 45th tomorrow. The advance elements have been moving into this area for the past two days. Next day- The 42nd Clearing Company is to move into our setup at this same spot tomorrow.

Feb 16th - While the 42nd station is moving in here, I go with the advance section of our's to scout out a new location to setup in the new area we are moving to. The next day the entire division moves back to an area near Rambervilliers for rest and reoutfitting. I have a billet in a private home in an attic room, but which is real comfortable and nice.

Feb 18th to Feb 24th - At the rest are near Rambervilliers. I have duty only every other day, as there are not that many patients on the wards now, and we can have more time off.

Feb 25th - The 1st and 9th Armies have launched an offensive on the Western sector of the front line and have crossed the border into Germany on a wide front. Latest situation reports place the leading elements at the Ruhr River. In our sector it is quiet at present. Tonight the Clearing Co. is having a party and buffet supper for all the personnel. The next day I returned to night duty.

Feb 27th The 1st and 9th continue to make good gains in Germany. Still remains quiet around here. The next day Hammond returns from Brussels, where he has been for the past week on rest leave.

Mar 1st - Still quiet in this area. The next day I returned to ward duty. In my spare time I wrote several letters and managed to sneak in a nap also.

Mar 3rd - On ward, with little to do, since there are only a few patients on the wards at this time. The 1st and 9th continue with their drives. The 9th Army has linked up with the Canadian troops on their left flank and present a solid front in that sector now.

Mar 4th to Mar 7th A period of quiet and inactivity on our immediate front; however yesterday the 3rd Army launched an offensive on our left flank, so I'm sure that very shortly we also will be pressing forward again. Next day - the 3rd is making some gains on their front. Kendall is admitted to the ward here with a relapse of malaria.

Mar 9th - I spent the day at the B Co. Collecting station. BBC announced tonight that the 1st Army has a bridge across the Rhine at Remagen.

Mar 10th - I went down to the banks of the Moselle River with Mulaire to observe the 3rd. Bn. practice river crossing exercises. In preparation for our expected assault crossing of the Rhine. Next day - back on night duty again.

Mar 12th - Advance units of the 4th Div. have been passing through our installations for the past two days. The next day the advance section of the clearing station moves forward to a new location. The following day the Clearing station of the 4th Div. moves into our location here. Capt. Tracy and I stay behind to assist in the orderly transfer of the units.

Mar 14th I am back with the Collecting Co. again. The 179th is back on the front line at Sarreguemines. Package from Jean today with kippers and cheese spread.

Mar 15th - Collecting station is set up at Neunkirchen. Advance elements of the 179th are making good progress with very few casualties to date. Next day received 4 letters from Jean today. Regt. continues its advance.

Mar 17th Advance elements of the 179th are now across the border and into Germany with only an occasional casualty. The next day we move the station to Gersheim. The 3rd Army makes gains and is at the south bank of the Moselle River in Germany, and has captured the city of Bingen.

Mar 19th - The 45th has reached the last fortified positions of the German lines - the Siegfried Line. The 3rd Army launches a new drive from the sector around Trier southeast to St. Wendel, and the enemy in this sector are reported to be pulling back. We move forward and locate the station at Herlnizheim.

Mar 20th After two days of fighting the 45th breaks through the defenses of the Siegfried Line east of Saarbrücken. The collecting station is moved up to Breilfurth. Casualties for the past three days of this operation have been surprisingly light. The next day the 7th Army and the 3rd Army link up, when the advance elements of the 179th meet the rt. flank advance elements of the 3rd Army at the town of Otterbach.

Mar 22nd As of today the entire west bank of the Rhine has been occupied by Allied troops. Extending from the Swiss border to the North Sea. All German troops have been pulled back to positions on the other side of the river. The station is moved today to Tiefenbach.

Mar 23rd - The 3rd Army unit on our left flank turns out to be the North Carolina National Guard Div. - the 30th Div. I was in the station working when I looked up and there stood "Lokey", as

we used to call him in Williamston when we were boys growing up together. It was Pete Fowden who was a Master Sergeant in one of the regiments of the 30th. We talked for a good while before orders came in for us to move the station again, this time to Stetten.

Mar 24th - The 3rd Army has units across the Rhine today. 3 letters from Jean. The next day the station is moved to a new area west of Imbsheim. From here the 179th will make an assault crossing of the Rhine also.

Mar 26th -The 45th makes an assault crossing of the Rhine just north of the city of Worms. The same city made famous in history by Martin Luther several centuries ago, when he nailed his paper on the cathedral door of the Catholic Church there. The 179th suffered 49wounded and 9 KIA's during this action, Following the crossing the bridgehead was rapidly expanded and the troops were pushing forward . The collecting station remained in Imbsheim.

Mar 27th The station is moved across the Rhine River today on a pontoon bridge, at the village of Hamm. We continue forward and set up at the village of Alsbach, There were no casualties incurred by the regiment today.

Mar 28th The station was moved 30-miles forward today to an area north of Gros Ostheim. The station is set up in the same area that the clearing co. station is being set up. Tonight the 179th will make another assault river crossing. this time across the Main River.

Mar 29th -The enemy had set up a strong defense line on the east bank of the Main River, and the regiment suffered several casualties in the crossing. The city of Aschaffenburg straddles the Main River and in this area around the city is one of the main storage warehouse depots of the German Army. Company C of the 1st Bn of the 179th was the first unit to reach these warehouses. They found a veritable storehouse of all kinds of goodies in them. Case after case of French wine, cognac, and champagne. French lingerie and silk stockings. caviar and other luxury items of food as well as many other types of hard to find staples that the SS and other units of the Wehrmach had looted and sent back to Germany. When word of this find got out . Trucks from all over the regiment came pouring in to these warehouse. On the way GI's in the back of the trucks were hastily unloading any and everything that happened to be in the truck at the time . It did not matter if it were ammo, food or anything else, it got dumped. On arriving at the site of the warehouses ,they all went to the one stocked with the wine and cognac. My personal share of the looted loot was 3 bottles of Hennessy 5-star Cognac and 3 bottles of Chateau Le-Fitte Champagne. I passed on the wine . When word of this warehouse complex reached Div. H.Q. it was put off limits to all units, and M.P's were put on guard around them. By the next day 7th Army had found out about it and then it was put off limits to all divisions of the 7th Army But by that time most of the units in the 179th had pulled out of the area and we carried our loot with us.

Mar 30th The station is moved forward and set up next to the 179th Regt. Aid Station , north of Aschaffenburg. Only a few casualties today.

Mar 31st -I move the forward station to Sulzbach. The regiment is beginning to capture many German prisoners now. The forward elements are moving at a rapid pace. Danzig falls to the Russians. Mannheim , Heidelberg and Cassell also are taken by the Allies. I receive 4 letters from Jean today.

Apr 1st - This is our 2nd day in Sulzbach. The city of Aschaffenburg is still holding out. The German garrison there is composed mostly of SS troops and they are more tenacious and bitter fighters than the general run of the regular Wehrmacht troops. They are fighting from prepared positions and are being difficult to root out. Two days ago the newspapers in the States announced that Patton's 3rd Armored divisions were 30 miles beyond Aschaffenburg; however they failed to mention that thousands of enemy troops were bypassed and left for the footsoldiers to root out of their fortified positions. An area cannot be claimed as being captured until you physically occupy that area. We are evacuating many casualties at this time , and quite a few of them are enemy wounded. I received a package from Jean today

Apr 2nd - The station was moved forward to an area near Stress Bessenbach, where we set up in our tents for the first time since crossing the German border. This p.m. Kendall returned from the hospital. After four days of bitter fighting Aschaffenburg is captured and hundreds of Germans are taken prisoner.

Apr 3rd - Our forward station is moved to Frammersbach today . Shortly after being set up three American Air Force pilotwandered into the station. They had been prisoners in a Stalag near here. When the commandant of the camp was sure that they were surrounded, and he and the rest of the prison guards and personnel were in imminent danger of being captured, he had the doors and gates of the camp opened and allowed the prisoners to walk out. These three men stayed with us for 48 hrs before they were returned to the rear. During this time they ate and drank continuously. But they would regurgitate almost every thing that they ate . Their stomachs had been so long without proper food and enough food that they had contracted , and when overloaded up it would come. We had a hard time convincing them to eat just small amounts and frequently, but when the message finally got through to them they did much better. They were little more than skin and bones when they first arrived, and were only a little better when they left. However they were much stronger and more alert.

Apr 4th -Jimmy is now 20 months old . The forward station moved tonight to Mittelsheim, on the other side of a range of low mountains. There has been no casualties for the past 48hrs , since leaving the Aschaffenburg area. However more and more enemy troops are surrendering each day.

At times so many come in that the forward echelons of our troops are unable to cope with them. So after taking their weapons and all ammo, grenades etc. they are just waved toward the rear , and this continues to be the case until they reach some installation or rear echelon troops that can take them into custody.

Apr 5th - The forward station is moved to Bad Bruckenau. It was during this move that we saw a flight of B-17's flying over , going deeper into Germany, probably to bomb Nurenburg . Suddenly we saw two tiny specks, high over the bombers, leaving a long con trail behind them as they dived down toward the unsuspecting B-17's. These two planes dove through the flight , then pulled out of the dive , came up under the bombers and then two of the bombers began smoking and falling out of control. This all happened in just a few seconds , I'm sure it couldn't have been more than a minute at the most. Those two planes were in and out so quick you could not follow them. They were the first jets that we had ever seen. I'm thankful they were not perfected until late during the war , or it might have been a vastly different type of war. This all happened behind our lines and the personnel of the downed bombers after parachuting out were picked up by our troops.

This is probably as good a time as any to express my feelings and observations about the native populations of the countries that I have come in contact with so far during the war. The Italians are lazy, slothful and have their hands out all the time for a handout . This also applies to their Sicilian cousins. The French are not nearly as lazy or slothful, but they lack the initiative to act on their own and so wait until they are pushed into doing something. The Germans are entirely different , they are industrious , hard- working and are much more self -sufficient. Some examples: In Italy if a city or village street has rubble in it, it stays there , until the Americans or British clean it up. In France the rubble will also stay there until they are made to clean it up, then they will do so. In Germany , as soon as a brick falls in the street someone picks it up and stacks it neatly on the side, out of the way. Without having to be told to do so. So much for my philosophical musings

Apr 6th - During the night the rear station moved forward through us to Volkers. On the way they left our mail and I had 5 letters from Jean. Early this a.m. we packed up and leapfrogged over the other station to the area of Motten. Here we set up in the local beer parlor- incidentally the beer was very good. On this move forward, Sgt. Lowery, who was a ranchhand before the war was riding with me in the jeep. As we were driving on a back road we passed a field of some type of grassy crop, probably ryegrass. Looking into the field we saw lots of cattle grazing , but as we looked closer at the back of the field we saw a herd of about 10-12 deer also grazing. He begged me to stop long enough for him to kill one of the stags. Using as an excuse that we had not had any steaks in months. He convinced me so we stopped . Ever since we were fired on by snipers early during the campaign, just about every front line medical unit had at least one rifle . We happened to have a captured German Mauser in our jeep. He got out with the rifle and approached carefully to within about 200 yds assumed a prone position and drew a bead on a stag, fired and dropped him with one shot. We drove the jeep into the field , loaded him on the back and took the carcass to the Hq Co. kitchen. There they bled him , hung him up and that night we all had the best steaks imaginable. No gamy taste and just as tender as Prime beef almost. Everyone , from the Col. on down swore that it tasted as good as any steak they had ever eaten.

During the time the Nazis were in power , all wildlife- animals, birds and fish were off limits to the civilian population. Marshal Goering , Hermamm, was not only the Reichsmarshal of the

Luftwaffe, he was also Game Warden of the entire German Empire. No one could hunt or fish without his delegated permission. Consequently deer were so tame they ate in the fields with the cattle; and fish were so plentiful that streams no larger than what we would call a brook, with water about three to four feet deep were teeming with fish, mostly brown trout. It did not take long for the GI to find out what a grenade was for, pull the pin, toss it in, and then gather up the stunned and dead fish by the buckets. Many a company kitchen served fish after crossing the German border. C'est Le Guerre!

Apr 7th - Our second day at Motten. It seems that because I am the ranking officer stationed in this little village I have automatically become the burgomeister or mayor. Fortunately no pressing business came up before we moved the next day.

Apr 8th - Today we moved to Gersfeld. I received 5 letters from Jean and in one was more photos of Jimmy. Next day - The station moved up to an area just south of Hersheu. The Russians are in Vienna.

Apr 9th - Moved today to a spot near Ober Laurengen. Shortly after in this area, 18 German soldiers walked into the station and surrendered to us. After taking all the weapons and ammo. we pointed them to the rear and with signs let them know that someone back there would take them into custody.

Apr 10th - The rear station moves past us to the area where the Regimental HQ Co. is set up, and left word for us to move to the same spot tomorrow. This will be the first time that our entire station complement of men equipment and ambulances have been in one spot since the offensive began on Mar. 15th. The 45th Division is in a holding state at this time, until it's rear echelon groups can catch up with the forward units. In other words we have outrun our supply lines, and have to wait for more supplies.

Apr 11th - Same area All troops and personnel are busy cleaning equipment and doing general housekeeping. Hannover and Essen have fallen. Our forward movement is to begin again tomorrow. Next day we move to Kirchlauter. The 9th Army has armored units across the Elbe River.

Apr 13th - The news of President Roosevelt's death is a shock to all of us. But the war still goes on as before. Up until one week ago the 45th had been moving in a northeastward direction toward the Czech border. But since leaving Gersten on Apr. 8th, we have been moving south. Ahead of us is Nuremberg and Munich-the two Bastions of early Nazi power.

Apr 14th - Today we move forward to the village of Memelsdorf, which is just outside the city of Bamberg. Several batteries of Corps and Army artillery guns are moving through our positions today. These are the large 203 and 250 mm howitzers and rifles that are used in siege situations to soften up the defenses before the infantry begins it's attack. I have a suspicion that they will be used against Nuremberg and Munich. The 3rd Army is at the Czech border.

Apr 15th - Station is moved to an area near Kirchehrenbach. The forward elements of the division are 15-miles from Nuremberg. We have evacuated so few casualties since the last big fight at Aschaffenburg that it is hardly worth mentioning.

Apr 16th The entire station complement moves forward to an area north of Furth. Here we set up in the home of the local miller. It was here that I liberated a small accordion and carried it with

me all the way back to the States. At times of inactivity I would get it out and pick out popular tunes on it. 3 letters from Jean today. That night Kendall moves the forward station up to Rothenbach

Apr 17th - With the rear station in the miller's home. The troops of the 179th Regt. are in the outskirts of Nuremberg. We have had to evacuate several casualties coming from the assault on the city. I move the rear station up to Rothenbach to join up with the forward one that morning, and then move on forward that afternoon to Lauf. Here the forward station is set up in a building in the town recreation park. Picked up our mail at the rear station as we made the switch, had three letters from Jean.

It was while I was here that Reg Simpson passed by our rear station looking for me. He was in a unit of the 3rd Army and his outfit was passing behind our positions on the way to Czechoslovakia. I was surely sorry that I did not get to see him because he and I grew up together in Williamston and were the best of friends; however he was going one way and I was going another.

This incident reminded me of another occasion that happened on Anzio, about three days after the landing. I was in a jeep driving down a road when I passed another jeep headed in the opposite direction. Suddenly it dawned on me that the individual driving the other jeep looked familiar, so I slammed on the brakes and started backing up. Well, this other jeep was doing the same thing as the two jeeps were side by side I recognized Billy Biggs. We jumped out of the jeeps and threw our arms around each other, and greeted each other like long lost brothers. We talked for about ten minutes and then went on our separate ways. Except for Pete Fowden, who I saw on two different occasions, Billy was the only other person from home that I ran into overseas.

Apr 19th -Nuremberg is taken. We remain in Lauf to finish evacuating the last of the injured. Today is supposed to be Hitler's birthday, here's wishing him a most miserable one. Next day, still in Lauf. The dam that holds back the water in the lake that supplies the water for the city was broken during the fight for the city. The 45th Div. engineers are using all their equipment to attempt to shore up the dam and repair the break.

Apr 21st - The dam is repaired and the lake has started filling up again. Before and during the war Nuremberg was a rail center for all of the southern section of Germany. The Allied Air Forces bombed this rail center unmercifully. The entire section of the city where the rail yards are located is huge, probably covering at least two sq miles. Unless one saw it, he could not believe the destruction that was caused by the bombing of this railyard. Entire trains are lying on their sides blown off the tracks, scattered here and there. The contents of the boxcars are scattered like chaff all over the place. While a group of us were scrounging through the yard, we ran across two undamaged portable electric generators. We decided then and there to appropriate them; so loading them on our jeeps we did just that, In doing so I mashed my left thumb, but not too badly. When I got back to the station I had 3 letters from Jean. In one of them she informed me that my old buddy in Med School Carl {Ace} Parker had sent us a wedding announcement.

Apr 22nd - The station is moved to the village of Roth today. BBC announces that the Russians are at the outskirts of Berlin. During the past few days in our moves forward we have from time to time traveled on sections of the German Autobahn System- [Super Highways]. These are highways with a median down the center, usually planted in grass but sometimes with trees and shrubs; and from two to four lanes of pavement for traffic on each side of the median. They are excellent highways, and are built for high speed traffic. Since the Allied Air Forces have controlled the skies over Germany for the past few months, the enemy air fields have been bombed so many times and destroyed that they have become utterly useless to them. German ingenuity has turned these

autobahns into landing fields. They select a stretch of the highway with trees on each side and that is straight and about a mile or more long. Then they clear out enough trees on each side to a width and length to accomodate a plane, drape camouflage netting over the cut out sections roll the planes in these openings , which then makes a natural hangar for them. From the air they are invisible. To further add to the deception some sections of the highway are painted green to blend with the trees and surrounding landscape.

Apr 23rd - Kendall moves the rear station to Michelsbach this a.m. In the late p.m. I leap frog my station beyond his to the village of Wissenberg. Next morning Kendall moves his station beyond mine to Langenaltheim. News , that the Russians are fighting inside the city of Berlin.

Apr 25th - This a.m. I move the station to Konstein. 4 letters from Jean today. The next day Kendall moves up to an area outside Donauworth. The 179th is crossing the Danube River . In Italy the 5th Army and the British 8th Army are pushing into the Alpine areas of Italy.

Apr 27th - This morning I move the forward station across the Danube and set up in a forest rangers home, on the edge of a beautiful forest of some type of evergreen trees, that look like spruce or fir. On a table in this house was a box addressed to someone in Berlin. After making sure that it was not booby trapped, I opened it. Inside , wrapped in oilproof paper and each covered with cosmoline were a double barrel shotgun and a most beautiful Mauser sporting rifle. This rifle had a hand carved stock with a lifelike hunting scene carved into it. The casing and chamber of the rifle was inlaid with German silver and had etchings on them. There were two triggers also , one was a set trigger , that when cocked made the regular trigger a hair trigger. I put them both back in the same box wrpped up just as they were before , scratched through the name of the address in Berlin and intended to mail it to my father at the earliest opportunity. Just a word or two here about the forests in Germany. These too came under the jurisdiction of Goering. The natives of the region were not permitted to cut a tree , unless the forester had previously marked it for cutting. They were permitted to pick up all twigs and branches that fell from the trees. The floors of these forests are covered in a carpet of grass. Furthermore the trees are all of a uniform size and height, and when one stands inside the forest the trees all line up in any direction that you look. The name of the village near this forest was Unter hausen.

Apr 28th -The forward station is moved 25-miles to Pfaffenhofen today. While in the process of moving , we meet units of the 20th Armored Div. that are passing through the lines of the 45th in a drive toward Munich. There are rumors that the Germans have peace feelers out. The 5th and the 7th Armies have met at the border between Switzerland, Austria and Italy, thus isolating the last of the enemy troops left in Italy.

Apr 29th - This morning I move the forward station up to Gross Eisenbach, just north of Munich. The battle for Munich , the largest city in this section of Germany begins. In Italy Milan has fallen, and Mussolini has been executed by Italian partisans.

Apr 30th - In the same area . Turin and Venice both in Italy have been taken. The 7th Army crosses the border into Austria. Kendall moves his section up to our position in the p.m. 4 letters from Jean arrived.

May 1st - The battle for Munich is over with very little opposition from the remaining enemy troops encountered. The entire station complement is united once again and we set up in one of the most exclusive residential sections of the city. It is across the Isar River from the main center of the city. The officers of the company are in a huge mansion that accomodates not only us but most of the

Hq. personnel as well . The ambulance drivers and the rest of the motor pool personnel are quartered in houses that are in this same area also. The house that we are in is on the corner of Cuivelle Strasse and Lamont Strasse, facing Lamont Strasse.

May 2nd - During the past several days there has been no injured evacuated from the regimental combat team. News flash from the BBC that Hitler is dead! Apparently a suicide. We have discovered in snooping around that this home was the property of one -A. Milner- an early Nazi party member and who was the Director of the Lowenbrau Brewery. All Germans in Italy have surrendered . Berlin has surrendered to the Russians. And it is snowing here!

We found several bunches of keys while looking around and in investigating the various places in the house , discover two large cellars. In these cellars were racks of wine , champagne , cognac and one bottle of Four Roses Whiskey. Case after case of Lowenbrau beer was also in them some of this was a very exclusive Lowenbrau Export Beer, so smooth and mellow you couldn't imagine. Needless to say we indulged frequently from this find.

May 3rd - Our 3rd day in Munich . The 45th Division is selected by the 7th Army Commander to garrison the city. The British reach the North Sea and link up with the Russians.

May 4th - Today I received 4 letters from Jean. All enemy troops in northwest Germany, Holland and Denmark surrender. The 7th Army has pushed through the Brenner Pass and Linked up with the 5th Army in Italy. The next day , May,5th German Army Group G, which includes all German forces still fighting Allied troops in the west , surrenders. The war for all intents and purposes is over - over here!

May 6th - Today I help hold sick call for three American Prisoner of War Camps. located in the vicinity of Munich and the surrounding area.

May 7th - The terms of the armistice are signed by the Germans at Reims. France.

May, 8, 1945 THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE END OF HOSTILITIES AS OF 1500 TODAY! The war with Germany is over but what about Japan?

May 9th - I found a used Rolleiflex camera in a shop today and purchased it. It has a fast lens and seems to be in good condition. Also managed to find some film to fit it so hope that I will have the opportunity to get some pictures now that the war is over.

May 10th The War Dept. has issued a directive on the point system for discharge from the army. By the way I figure it I have accumulated 109 points; however officers are not eligible for discharge as yet.

May 11th - Kendall and I take one of the jeeps and take a sight seeing trip south of Munich. We go down through the Brenner pass into Austria. The whole countryside through this section of Germany is beautiful. Tall snow capped mountains in the distance, little villages and hamlets scattered about , rolling hills , farms , and lakes scattered throughout the whole region. The war never reached this area and it shows it.

May 12th - Today was spent quietly relaxing, writing letters and in general taking things easy. The first quota of GI's to be discharged will leave for the States in two days.

May 13th - Today Vic and I get a Jeep and take a trip to Berchtesgaden, Eagles Nest, Hitler's mountain hideaway. It is located atop a sheer mountain peak near the border with Austria, To get to it you have to take an elevator , which is built into the side of the cliff , and the hideaway itself is hewn out of the solid rock facing of the top of the cliff. Beautiful scenery all around this area but allied planes had bombed fairly close to this spot.

May 14th - Another quiet day. I did sign my point system card. I was correct in my figuring I have accumulated 109 points , officially. The next day two of the Regt. Officers go on leave to London. Now that the war is over and since we are occupation forces now , there is plenty of personnel to carry on the daily duties of garrison life. So the War Dept. is allowing all personnel to take leaves to various places all over the European Theater Of Operation. Each day a new leave assignment comes up and whoever wants to go just lets his wish be known.

May 16th - Two leaves open today for Grenoble, and Vic snaps up one of them . He thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Grenoble while we were there and made many friends. So I'm sure that he will have a good time while there this time.

May 17th - The 120th Medical Battalion put on a big party tonight , and Kendall and I both attend. The next night the Colonel of the 179th has a party which we also attend. While at this one I got to see some of my old associates- Maj. Hood, Kilmer, Charlie Brown, Blum, Hal McAdams and several more that I hadn't seen since I was last with the 3rd Bn. of the 179th.

May 19th Today I finally got a chance to mail the box of guns to Dad. Spent most of the day writing letters and relaxing. The next two days are also quiet.

May 22nd - Received 2 letters from Jean today. She is now in Williamston. Tomorrow the regiment is holding an awards ceremony formation.

May 23rd - Received a letter today from Jean that was mailed just seven days ago - a record In it she says that Jimmy has the mumps , I'm glad she is home with Dad , so she won't be too concerned.

May 24th - At the awards ceremony I received my 6th battle star. We have two New Cols. eating with us at the Hq. Mess tonight. I also had my physical profile examination today. Himmler is dead!

May 26th - Today I took a trip to the Dachau concentration camp , which is just northeast of Munich. All of the bodies had not been disposed of as yet , and what a terrible sight it was. Later on assisted in giving physical profile examinations to the enlisted men of the 179th.

May 27th - Mulaire gets back from his trip to Grenoble . He had a wonderful time while he was there , and got to see a lot of his friends . Next day 2 letters from Jean she has the Hayman apartment until Oct.1st. She also is going to Lexington on June 5th Jimmy's mumps are better.

May 30th - Memorial Day with parade and speeches , very patriotic and impressive. Otherwise a quiet day.

May 31st - I am notified today that I have a rest leave to Paris coming up on June 2nd. Next day Picked up some photos that I had made and mailed them to Jean. Spent most of the rest of the day packing for my trip to Paris.

June 2nd - Left Munich in company with a group of other officers and enlisted men by 2 1/2 ton truck for Strasbourg. On the way there we passed through Stuttgart and then went through the middle of the Black Forest. We arrived in Strasbourg at 1800. Then got on a train for the trip to Paris, an over night trip.

June 3rd Arrived in Paris at 1000 dead tired I could not sleep on the train during the trip. After checking in at the hotel where we were billeted. I crawled into bed and slept until late that afternoon. After dinner that night I took a walk out on the streets around that section of the city, and about every other step you were accosted by a "lady of the night". None of them appealed to me, they were all painted up with too much powder and rouge, and looked down in the mouth and unattractive. I soon returned to the hotel and picked up a book from the library there and read until I got sleepy.

June 4th - This morning I went to the huge Paris PX and bought a cadet bag, a pair of dress trousers and some more insignia for my uniforms. That afternoon I took a guided tour of the city. After dinner, a group of us got together and went to see the Folies Bergere.

June 5th - Today I took the Metro, the subway, and went to several of the places that I saw on the guided tour the day before. The Sacre Couer Cathedral; Napoleon's Tomb; The Louvre Museum; and finally the Eiffel Tower. Went in several of the French shoppes, but could not find anything in them worth having. That night after dinner went with the group to see the Casino De Paree.

June 6th - Last day of leave. Tried shopping again but still no success. Took the Metro again to other parts of the city Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Left Bank. Had lunch at one of the sidewalk cafes. That night at 2130 caught the train back to Strasbourg.

June 7th - Train arrived in Strasbourg at 1200 we then transferred to another train for Munich, by way of Karlsruhe and Stuttgart, and arrived in Munich at 2130.

June 8th - Rested up from my trip today. 6 letters were waiting for me from Jean when I got back. So wrote her a letter about my trip to Paris. The next day Vic and I play tennis at a tennis club that is close by the place where we have been staying. The Army had taken it over for recreational purposes. Our strokes were lousy but we did get a good workout. That night went to a movie.

June 10th - This morning Vic talked me into going horseback riding. In this same place where the tennis courts are, there are also stables, and riding paths through a nice park. So I took him up and went, I have never been much of an equestrian, but I did manage to stay on the horse and get back safe and all in one piece. After lunch, we played a few sets of tennis again. Dead tired, after dinner, I turned in early.

June, 11th - Today has been a quiet day, and it has rained most of the time. Tonmnight we went to a party at the Seehaus, a large pavilion by the lake, put on by the officers of the Div. Artillery. Next day - No let up in the rain. We also received word from above that we are to move from our present position to a new spot.

June 13th, - We moved today to Count Ludwig Von Holhstein's castle, near Thalhausen. The next day we are notified that Col. Murphy has decided that he will move his Battalion Hqs. into the castle, so we will have to find us another place to set up.

June 15th - This is our last day at the castle, tomorrow we will move to Freising which is northeast of Munich and on the road to Landshut. The next day we set up in a large school building in Freising.

June 17th to June 19th During this interval we spent most of the time policing up the area and building a baseball field for the unit to play ball.

June 19th - Today I am transferred to the Clearing Station, which is located just outside the town of Dachau. The same Dachau that the ill famed Concentration Camp is named after. Major Claunch and Major Di Giorgio go to a surgical school on detached duty. I received three letters from Jean today and also a father's day card from Jimmy.

June 20th - On night duty tonight. So far everything has been quiet, with very few sick patients on the wards at this time.

June 21st - Took a trip today with several other officers to the Zugspitze, the highest mountain in Germany. It is located on the border between Germany and Switzerland. A cogwheel railway climbs up the side of the mountain on a zigzag course until it gets almost to the top, then it goes into a tunnel for the last section of the trip and when it stops you are inside the mountain. From the landing platform you walk into a large hotel lobby which has been carved into the mountain also. Elevators off the lobby go up to the rooms which are located on several different floors and all opening on the outside face of the mountain, with large double paned picture windows. The view from the windows is magnificent, a huge snow and ice covered glacier that extends downward curving to finally end up near the site of the Winter Olympics, when it was held in Germany. Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The dining room had a tremendous picture window that also looked over this same glacier scene. We spent the night there in the hotel and the next day took an aerial car from the top level of the hotel to the summit of the mountain 2963 meters in height.

June 23rd - Spent most of the day resting up from the trip of the past two days. The Stars and Stripes has an article stating that officer's critical score is 85 points. It also listed the divisions that were to be used as occupation troops in Germany.

June 24th - Went back to B Co. today and played tennis with Vic. When I got back to the Clearing Co. played a game of soft ball with the men. Tomorrow I go on surgical wards.

June 25th and 26th - Quiet days on duty. Played 10th Field Hosp. in soft ball both days. First day we won 13-7, and on the 2nd day I hit a home run winning the game for us. Started taking some lessons in German today.

June 27th - Today we beat the Division Rear Echelon in soft ball by a score of 4-3.

June 28th - Today a directive came from SHAEF; to the effect that all officers and non-coms in the ETO were being asked to volunteer to serve in new divisions that were to be trained in the USA and then sent to the far east to fight the Japs. Those officers and men that volunteer will be given three weeks leave at home and then will be used as cadres to form up the new divisions out of new enlistees. Several of the officers in the 45th have decided to volunteer, but the majority have decided to remain with the outfit, and serve as occupation troops. There is a rumor floating around that those enlisted men and officers with 85 points or more will be transferred to a Div. that has just recently arrived in this sector- the 103rd. Those officers and non-coms that have volunteered for

Pacific duty will remain with the 45th as the cadre and the enlisted men of the 103rd will be transferred to the 45th to round out the division, before returning to the states for training .

June 29th A quiet day. Maj. Wolfe to go home for leave before going on to the Pacific. Most of the rest of the officers and men will be transferred to the 103rd.

June 30th The advance party of the 103rd arrived today to start the transfer . Capt. Perry goes to Innsbruck, Austria to arrange for our transfer there.

July 1 - All patients in our wards are transferred to field hospitals in this immediate area. I went in to Munich and bought me a pair of dress trousers , pinks; a raincoat , dress shoes and a small handbag.

July 2nd to July 4th - The clearing station left Dachau this a.m. for Innsbruck, where the change with the 103rd was effected. All insignia has to be removed and replaced with the insignia of the 103rd.

July 5th - Took a sight seeing tour of the city this a. m. and an aerial car to the top of the mountain overlooking the city - the Hotelkar Mt. On the way up I ran into an officer that I recognized as Sadler, the resident on orthopedic surgery at Roper.

July 6th - We have orders to move back into Germany and serve as occupation troops in the area south of Munich. The advance element of the station moves today to an area near Landsberg, southwest of Munich. Here we set up the station in tents for the first time since the end of hostilities.

July 7th - Today the balance of the station joins us with all the patients that were in the wards in Innsbruck. These being brought by ambulances.

July 8th - In our new area at Landsberg. The tents make it hot as hades. We have had no mail for almost a week now, since we not only have been on the move several times but have also changed outfits. Rumor we might even move again. Next day rumor confirmed , we move tomorrow!

July 10th - Moved this p.m. to Babenhausen., a small village due west of Munich. Latest directive , all medical officers will remain with their respective units until they reach the states.

July 11th - Our set up here in Babenhausen is real nice. The entire officer's complement is billeted in the local Gasthaus, or inn. I share a room with Hammond. The dining room is to be managed by the owner of the inn, and his cooks will be preparing the food for the officer's mess. My first tour of duty is on admissions and first aid. Got one letter from Jean today

July 12th to July 15th - We have had very little to do as far as work in the wards is concerned. I do have one interesting comment to make here however. The duties of the medical officer of the day include kitchen inspection. We have to make sure that all the kitchen equipment is kept clean and that the food is properly refrigerated , etc. Garbage inspection is also included in this duty. The first time that I inspected the garbage cans , they were empty, and spotlessly clean. The next time was a repetition of the first, I became inquisitive and asked the head cook how they got rid of the garbage so quickly. She then informed me that there was no garbage. Further questioning brought out the answer that the edible food that was left over from a meal was saved and used the next day , in a different form. What little unedible garbage there was , the other cooks took home with them to feed to the pigs and other domestic animals. Waste not, want not- that is their credo. While we were

stationed at this location the various cooks furnished the mess with fresh fruits and berries in season, and on several occasions we had thick whipped cream on our desserts.

July 15th - I went on a tour of the local countryside today. Like most of the areas this area had it's own local castle . This was located on the crest of the highest hill in the area, and was the home of a Countess who was of the family Furstenburg. I met her and she was most gracious , speaking excellent English by the way. On my return to the station I had 3 letters from Jean.

July 16th - Sunday , this morning went to Protestant church service. This afternoon several of my fellow officers and I went to a beach on the Ammer See, a very large lake, between Babenhausen and Munich. We had a delightful afternoon swimming and getting some sun; however I got a bit more than I anticipated so was rather uncomfortable for a day or so. Next day - Quiet, back on ward duty. Very few patients to look after. 1 letter from Jean. Tonight saw the movie Rhapsody In Blue.

July 18th - Our 3rd Wedding Anniversary! Received 5 letters from Jean today. Having my battle Jacket altered as it is getting a bit tight , this good food must be putting some weight on me. Heard today that the 45th Div. is leaving for Rheims, France as the first stage of their move back to the States.

From July 19th to July 26th everything has been quiet. On my days off duty I usually went to the lake swimming and on rare occasions in to Munich and the PX there.

July 27th - Countess Von Furstenburg had a party for the officer's of the outfit . I attended with Cpts Holland and McWhorter, we had an enjoyable evening, and met some of the local bigwigs.

July 28th and 29th passed without any unusual occurrences. The next day July 30th, I received a letter from Jean that stated she knew that I was in the 103rd Div. now, and no longer with the 45th. Such is Army secrecy, we could not write and say that we were in a new Div. , but the newspapers can publish anything that they want to.

July 31st to Aug 7th Uneventfully quiet period.

Aug 8th - News today of the Atomic bomb being dropped on Japan. Hammond is taking a leave to England , One that I had previously turned down.

Aug. 9th - Russia declares war on Japan. Cpts Cheek, McWhorter, Wiseman and Nolan slated to go home on Aug 14th. 2 letters from Jean today.

Aug 10th - Japan offers to surrender if the Emperor can remain on the throne. Next day - The Allies agree to the Japanese offer, provided the Supreme Allied Commander will be the overall authority. I accept a leave to the French Riviera. Rumors that the 103rd might be leaving for the States around the first of September.

Aug 12th- Left today by train from Munich for Nancy in France where we will change trains to one going to Cannes and Nice. I am the senior officer in charge of 74 enlisted men and 10 other officers. The train left Munich at 1800.

Aug 13th - We arrived in Nancy in the early afternoon. The train we were supposed to catch is delayed and we will not leave until the next day. So we have to spend the night in a temporary camp set up near the railroad station. The next train is due at 0830 tomorrow.

Aug 14th - Left Nancy on schedule at 0830 for the south of France. On the way we passed through Lyons, Avignon and Marseilles. Whenever it was time for a meal, the train would pull over on a siding. Next to this siding a row of tents was set up with several kitchens and long rows of tables covered by tents also. On this trip we were instructed to carry our own mess kits. We would go through the chow line and then to a dining table to eat, after eating we then went through the wash line and washed and sterilized the mess gear. It was while on this train that I ran into Fred Irons, a classmate of mine from Medical School.

Aug 15th - We pulled into the station at Marseilles at 0530, amid a mad house. Bells ringing; sirens blowing; cannons about the harbor firing salvos; cars blowing horns and everyone on the streets yelling. We stuck our heads out of the window to find out what was going on and learned that the Japanese had unconditionally surrendered. The war was over! Five hours later we arrived at Cannes, where the officers got off the train. The enlisted men and non-coms continued on to Nice. Our hotel while at Cannes was the Californie. This was two blocks back from the beach, but an exclusive hotel at that. I also ran into Gill from Richmond, he was a sophomore my senior year at Med School.

Aug 16th - This a.m. I took a walk around the city and the waterfront. The meeting place for everyone seemed to be the large open air cafe in front of the Hotel Carlton. The beach itself is very narrow and covered in most places with small pebbles and rocks. The children under the age of 7-8 all went bathing nude. Many of the young girls and younger women wore only trunks without halters. On one occasion I remember seeing a young woman undress on the beach and put on her bathing suit. She did it with a large towel wrapped around her, and did not expose herself at all.

Aug 17th - Tried to rent a sailboat today, but was unsuccessful. Went swimming on two occasions that day, and that night went to a dance at the hotel that the nurses were staying at. The next day I still was unable to find a sailboat to rent. That night I went to a Circus. They had several very interesting acts. One that really impressed me was an acrobatic act. One man lifted his partner over his head, where the top man did a handstand on his partners hands. Then the bottom one removed one hand and the top one was balanced over head on only his one hand. Then the bottom one got down on his knees and his other hand, still holding the other man overhead. From this position he very slowly stretched out until he was resting on his toes and his hand, and in this position he did three push-ups still supporting the top man over his head. He finally got back up to a squatting position, then to an upright position and finally put his other hand up to his partner where he then lowered him to the ground. This guy had muscles on his muscles.

Aug 19th - With several other officers we rented a car and took a tour along the Grande Corniche, the shoreline drive that winds along the sea from Cannes to the Italian Riviera. The scenery was spectacular, along the way we passed through Antibes, Nice and Monte Carlo. We also went up into the mountains above Monte Carlo to the town of Grasse. This is the place where the essence for most of the French perfumes is produced. The whole surrounding countryside is planted in field after field of flowers of all colors, size and shape. They are brought in to Grasse where they are pressed and the juices from them are then distilled by some process to make the various bases for perfumes. As you can imagine there is a very fragrant and pleasant odor on the air all the time.

Aug 20th - I finally managed to get a 16-ft day sailer today , and with two other officers went sailing in the bay. We saw this small island not far off shore and sailed out to it . There was a monastery on the top of a cliff so we decided to climb up and investigate. The island was the Ile De Honoret, after a short stay we sailed back to Cannes. After supper that night I turned in early.

Aug 21st. Today I went to Eden Roc, the resort and hotel outside Cannes that Prince Edward the Duke of Wales made famous for visiting when ever he visited the Riviera. The hotel has a swimming pool that is carved out of solid rock on top of a cliff with a sheer drop down to the sea below. There was no beach whatsoever. I ate lunch at one of the many outside sidewalk cafes that are scattered all along the seashore . As I had mentioned before the large open air cafe in front of the Hotel Carlton was the meeting place for everyone. One night while having cocktails there with a group , this Russian officer approached and asked if he might join us. His English was not of the best , but was a lot better than our Russian, so we managed to carry on a half way conversation. His manner was quite boisterous and somewhat overbearing , but the one thing that struck me the most about him was his teeth. They were made of stainless steel and the front teeth had rather sharp ends also. In the lights that were all around us they sparkled.

Aug 22nd - The last day at Cannes. Spent most of the day relaxing and wandering around taking a last look at the places. Had a last cocktail at the Carlton with some of the officers from the other units that I had met. Then packed my duffle and met the train at 1950 for the trip back to Munich and the unit.

Aug 23rd - We arrived in Nancy at 2100 and I went over to the stationmaster with all the papers for our transfer back to Munich on the Paris to Munich Express. When the stationmaster saw the insignia of the 103rd on my arm, he wanted to know why we were going to Munich; since the 103rd had been passing through Nancy for the past 48-hrs., on the way to Camp Lucky Strike. I thought for a few seconds and then asked him if he had a phone line through to Munich. When he told me that he had, I asked to use it. I then got in touch with the rear echelon of the division and told them our situation. I was instructed by them to proceed to Camp Lucky Strike on our own and to join up with our respective units when we arrived there. I asked them to repeat their instructions for the benefit of the stationmaster, handed him the phone and they did so. The stationmaster then told me that there was a train coming through on the way to Paris in about 1 1/2 hours, but it had no vacant seats available. He then said for us to get on it and sit wherever we could find a spot to sit down. This we did and rode every car from the baggage car to the rear car of the train. While on the way to Paris a delegation of the enlisted men as well as two or three of the officers under my charge approached me and asked me to let them get off the train in Paris for a day or two there. I considered their request for a little while and then made the decision to grant them their wish ; since most of them had not been to Paris and in all probability would never have the chance to do so again. When we arrived in Paris at the station , I called them together and instructed them to meet me back at this station 48-hrs from now -it was 1200 Aug 24th at this time.

Aug 26th - 1200 hrs So we all took French leave for the past 48-hrs in Paris and met back at the station, and not a soul was missing . Thank God! We left for Camp Lucky Strike which was close to Le Havre, arriving there late in the afternoon. Trucks were at the station to carry incoming men to their units, so we arrived without incident. Nothing ever came up about our 48-hr leave in Paris, and to this day I suppose it never has.

Aug 27th - I spent the day getting my gear in order and resting up from our trip. That afternoon I received orders to return to Co. B Collecting. So once again I am back with my old outfit ,

Mulaire, Kendall and Layer. The rest of the day was spent in collecting all the foreign invasion money that the men had, to be exchanged for real American money. And what a conglomeration of money we took up Italian lira; French francs and German marks.

Aug 28th to Aug 31st During this time it rained most of the time, both day and night so that we had to stay in our tents. The few hours that it was not raining was spent having showdown inspections, to get rid of all the surplus equipment that the Army did not want us to bring back to the States.

Sept 1st - Our 7th day at Lucky Strike. Pete Fowden comes by the unit looking for me. We have a long talk and I find out that he is going home in two days by air transport. The latest rumor is that we will not be leaving until the 10th. Until our division arrived here, no unit had stayed longer than ten days before being shipped out. The 103rd has been here for 11-days already and if we don't ship out until the 10th that will make 20 days.

Aug 2nd to Aug 9th One day is just about like another while waiting for our ships to come in. The sun finally shines so we play some volleyball, bridge at night and sack time to pass the hours and days away.

Sept 10th - Finally the ships have arrived. We leave camp at 0500 by truck and arrive in Le Havre at 0730. The rest of the morning is spent loading the men and equipment on the ships. At 1405 we sailed out of the harbor of Le Havre bound for New York. The money we had collected from the men is now exchanged into American dollars and cents and each man is paid his share.

Sept 11th The ship that I am on with the collecting company and the other units of the 3rd battalion to which we are attached is the U. S. S. LeJeune, named for a past Marine Corps Commanding General who also has a Marine Base named for him in Jacksonville N.C. The seas are running high and it is quite rough. The next day the stormy weather continues and it is difficult for the ship to make good headway against the heavy seas.

Sept 13th - The weather is clearing and the ship is now making good way. At noon today we were 1960 miles from Ambrose Light, outside the entrance to New York Harbor.

Sept 14th - Still making good time, but we are still 1510 miles from Ambrose Light. Next day the 5th day at sea. Captain announces over the speaker that we are expected to arrive in New York in two days.

Sept 16th - 650 miles from Ambrose Light. I get the news that I am to be discharged. Oh happy day! Next day - Nantucket Lightship is sighted at 1115; Long Island at 1930 and the lights of New York City can be seen on the distant horizon. We will disembark in the morning.

Sept 18th - Sailed into New York Harbor early in the a.m. past the Statue of Liberty and started up the Hudson River. As I was standing by the railing of the ship I happened to look toward the stern as we were steaming along through the harbor. To my amazement but not as a complete surprise, mess gear, gas masks and many other items that were supposedly turned in at the many showdown inspections that were held, were being thrown overboard into the waters of the harbor. The ingenuity and downright cussedness and hardheadedness of the average GI is beyond understanding. But the war could not have been won without him! We landed at Camp Shanks on the banks of the Hudson above New York City. We were marched to a huge mess hall where we were fed a

tremendous steak dinner with all the trimmings. After this we were permitted to make phone calls to anywhere in the country. I called Jean and Dad and got them within 15-30 sec.

Sept 19th - Spent the night at Shanks and called Jean again this morning. She told me that my Uncle Will had died two weeks before. We underwent processing and being divided up into groups according to the section of the country that you were going to be discharged to. Since I had put down my address for discharge as Lexington, Ky. I was to be sent to Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Sept. 20th - Left Camp Shanks at 3:30 p.m. on the Erie R.R. for Indianapolis and Camp Atterbury. Major Howard and Col. Halleck were also being discharged at Atterbury.

Sept 21st - Arrived at the camp at 9:p.m. and after being given a billet went right to bed, dead tired. The next day I am notified that I am to be discharged and given a terminal leave of 120 days with pay. Transferred to the separation center later that morning.

Sept 23rd Received my discharge effective as of 1350, Sept. 24, 1945.

Sept. 24th - After receiving my final discharge papers, I left the camp for the train station in Indianapolis to catch the train to Cincinnati. I had previously made reservations at the Sherry Netherlands Hotel there for Jean and I. I had also had the manager reserve for me a white orchid to be ready for me when I arrived.

Sept 25th - At the Sherry Netherlands Hotel, waiting for Jean to arrive. It won't be long now!