



36TH INFANTRY DIVISION NEWS

Vol. 1. No. 1

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Rome edition

San Antonio Does Its Part

Reprint from TIME Magazine: All U.S. troops overseas are not Texans. But the frequency of Texas addresses in dispatches from the battlefronts does indicate a fact of which all Texans are proud. (Actually, Texas leads all other states in percentage of volunteers with 8,26 against second-place Vermont's. 650).

* Some figure compiled in San Antonio recently indicate just how much one Texas city had contributed to the fighting of the war:

From a population (1940) of 319,010, the metropolitan area of San Antonio furnished the armed forces 51,000, including many sons-in-law. (San Antonio, longtime home of Kelly and Randolph Fields and Fort Sam Houston, is called "mother-in-law of the Army".)

About 1,400 San Antonians have been killed, wounded or missing. Nearly half these were Latin Americans, chiefly Mexicans, who have proved among the best of U. S. combat troops. Six San Antonians were killed at Pearl Harbor, but Salerno was the costliest. There the 36th Texas Division, including 1000 San Antonians, spearheaded the beach attack.

36th Veterans get together as plans are pushed for Memorial to Division

It was strictly 36th Division Day at McCloskey Hospital on April 11th, in Temple, Texas.

Wounded veterans of the 36th came on litters, in wheel chairs, on crutches and otherwise on their own power to the biggest reunion since Salerno, a luncheon complimenting them and visiting members of the 36th Memorial Commission.

One section of the patient's big mess hall at the hospital was set aside for the 36th. There were no speeches, but there was plenty of conversation about action at Salerno and what happened there, about the men who were left behind, about days at Camp Bowie, Blanding and Edwards, about C and K rations and Africa.



DSC AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In recent orders from Army Headquarters, two men of the 36th have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Ist Lieutenant William R. Barker of Lexington, Massachusetts, received his award for extraordinary heroism in action on 21-22 January 1944. Lt. Barker was ordered to direct amphibious operations in an attack across a river. Heavy fog over the river required the boat teams to keep close contact. Near the river heavy mortar and artillery barrages forced dispersion, and two teams lost contact. As they attempted to rejoin the company, an anti-personnel mine exploded, blo-

wing one man into an adjacent mine field and wounding several others. Lt. Barker crawled through the mine field and carried out the wounded man. Reorganizing his group, in route another mine exploded, Lt. Barker was wounded along with several others. Disregarding his own wound, the Lt. led the remainder of the group through the mine field to the company.

Concealing his wounds, he reconnoitered a safe route of advance and led the company to the crossing point. Exposing himself to intense enemy fire, he attempted four times to launch the clumsy assault boats down the slippery banks. On the fifth attempt a boat was launched, but it struck a submerged object and sunk. Hearing cries of one man being carried down stream, Lt. Barker dropped to the ground and extended his rifle which the soldier grabbed. Another soldier attempting to aid in the rescue also plunged into the river. Hanging over edge, Lt. Barker caught this man with his free hand. Weakened from loss of blood and exhausted, he managed by sheer stamina to hold both men while bullets struck all around, until additional help arrived.

Technical Sergeant Rudolph F. Alexander of San Antonio received his DSC for heroism in action, on February 11, 1944. Sgt. Alexander's company was counterattacked strongly by the in a desperate effort to regain control of an important terrain feature. Under intense fire from the enemy, Sgt. Alexander voluntarily led his mortar squad to a pre-

(Cont. page 4).

A Personal Message to Men of the 36th Division

It is with great pride that I congratulate you on your magnificent achievements in battle to date.

Nine months ago you landed on the hostile beaches of PAESTUM, the vanguard of your country's Army, to crash the gates of Hitler's European Fortress. In that, your first action of the war, fighting courageously against well-trained enemy forces of long combat experience, you established the first American beachhead on the European Continent, the first to be established anywhere by Americans against German opposition.

For this achievement alone,
you have a right to feel justly
proud.

Later on, while subject to hardships that have never been exceeded by any troops anywhere, you drove the enemy from his well-organized, stoutly defended positions in the hill masses of CAMINO and

Via Appia Has Fabulous History

The Appian Way (Via Appia) otherwise known as Highway 7, was begun in 312 B.C. by Appius Claudius. Via Appia as a military road to strengthen the Roman grip upon territory just conquered from the Samnites, Rome's southern neighbors, gave easy access to Capua which was, next to Rome, the richest, most important city of Italy in those days.

The distance between the cities is about 120 miles, and by it the Romans went forth in conquest of Greece, Asia and Africa. Up this road from conquered lands of Asia Minor came the humble men (some of them in chains, like Paul) who brought new sovereignty to Rome. Many centuries later, and for the first time from the south, the Allied forces driving north on the ancient Via Appia rid the Eternal City of the Nazi yoke.

SCRIBES NOTE:

Contributions such as human interest stories, poems and cartoons are welcome from any member of the 36th Division.

SUMMUCRO; from MT. MAGGIORE, MT. LUNGO, MT. ROTONDO and SAN PIETRO. You punished him severely. His losses in men and materiel were great. Throughout this period of bitter winter weather, under the most adverse conditions of climate and terrain, you maintained a cheerful and enthusiasm far superior to that of your enemy.

Then came your gallant effort on the RAPIDO. Let us bow our heads in reverence to the fallen comrades who crossed that bitterly contested stream and put up a great, if losing, fight — as great from the standpoint of sheer gallantry and determination as any recorded in the annals of our Armed Forces.

At CASSINO and CASTEL-
LONE RIDGE you were se-
verely tested. You suffered los-
ses, but you captured vital
high ground from the strongly
entrenched enemy, and held it
throughout a month of hard
fighting.

After a well-deserved rest you were ordered to attack again — at a critical time and at a critical place near VELLETRI to break the stronghold of the enemy defenses east of ROME. History will record forever your outstanding success. In a week of brilliant maneuvers and relentless assaults on one position after another, VELLETRI, ROCCA DI PAPA, MARINO and beyond, you killed and captured well over three thousand of the enemy; routed him from his strong, well-organized positions and drove him across the TIBER in disorder.

Your brilliant performance on that famous battlefield was a major contribution in the capture of the first European capital to be recovered from Nazi occupation. For your magnificent accomplishment here, General Marshall sent a personal message of congratulations to you and to me. The German Army is still reeling from your blows. The relentless pressure of your attacks will substantially shorten the duration of the war. Your victorious march through the streets of the cities of your enemy cannot long be delayed.

FRED L. WALKER
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding.

STOVE SAVES SOLDIER

An old Italian stove is not generally used for housing purposes, but on a patrol one night, Private Odell E. ("cow-boy") Collins of Temple, Texas found it equivalent to the same.

A member of a regimental intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, Collins and several of his buddies were out in No Man's Land for the purpose of making contact with friendly units.

As the group advanced, a heavy enemy mortar barrage greeted them. Everyone ran for the nearest cover. Collins spied an Italian stove a few yards from him and made for it.

He had just managed to get his head in when a shell landed right next to him. Although he had thought that the stove door was too small for the rest of his body, he now found that he could also get his shoulders in. Then another shell landed in his vicinity.

By the time a third shell followed, Collins had every part of his body in the oven but his toes. Collins, who was a Texas National Guardsman, received his nickname of "Cow-doy" because of his abilities at Texas rodeos. However, he admitted that none of his feats ever equalled the stuffing of six feet of Texas manhood into a small Italian stove.

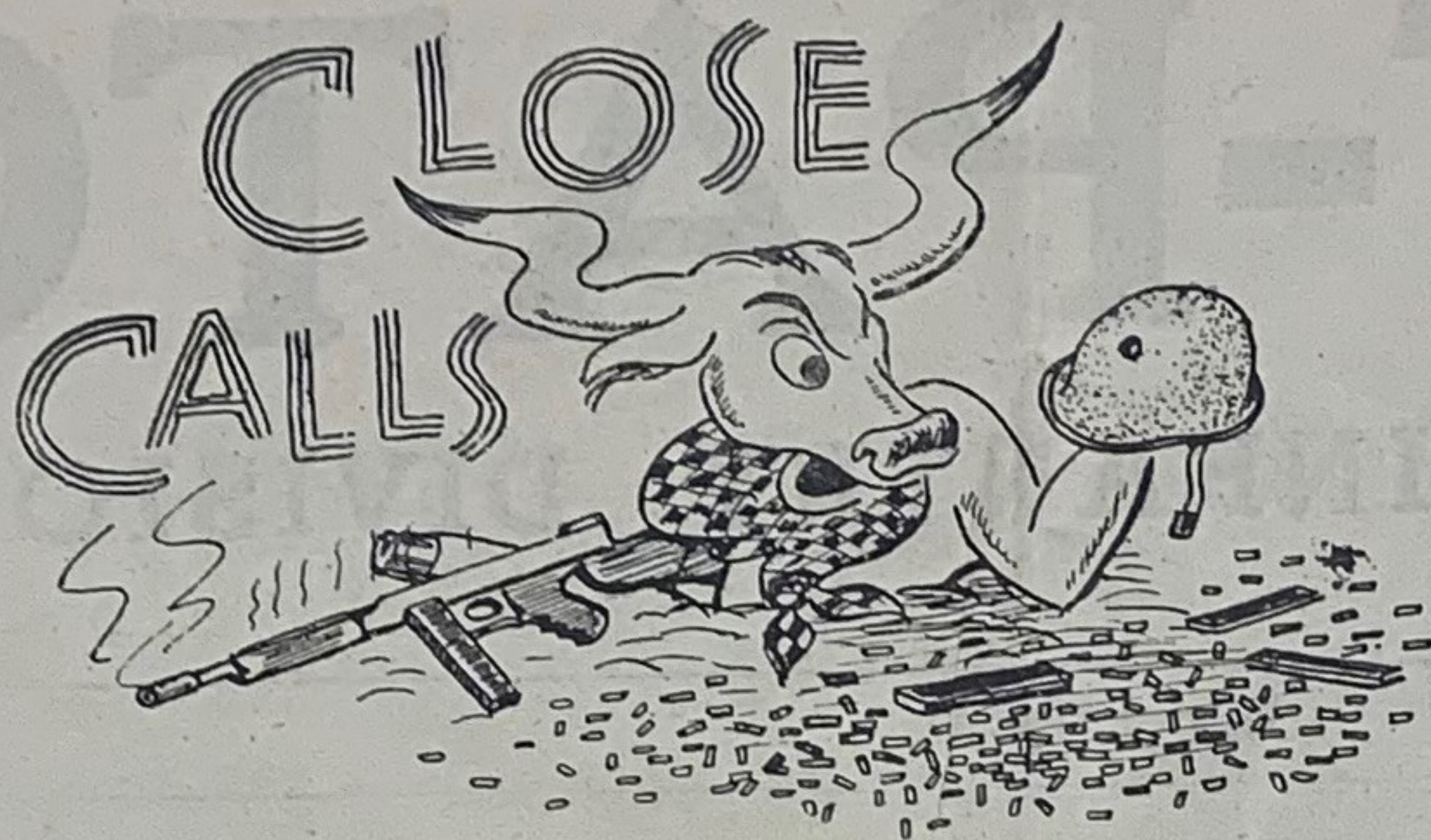
INFANTRY MEN DISCOVER VINO CACHE

After taking a town in the recent lightning advance, three infantrymen of the 36th received one of the most pleasant surprises of the campaign. They came upon a 15,000 gallon cache of assorted wines. Private Elmer Crabtree of Columbus, Ohio, commented, "It undoubtedly was the finest wine that I've tasted because it was properly aged".

"We didn't keep our discovery a secret", added Private Robert W. Killough of Stanton, Texas, "Most of the men found the vino to be just the refresher they needed".

I explored the remainder of the cellar. Five sniper rifles, a box of hand grenades and some Reich money proved that Germans previously occupied the house. They must have left in a hurry because they usually puncture wine barrels," stated Pfc. James T. Ware of McGee, Mississippi.

When the soldiers started to drink, the owner of the casa returned. Overjoyed that the Americans had driven out the Krauts, he invited them to partake of everything in the cellar. The Italian even secured extra blankets and beds, so that the men could remain for the night.



Close calls are frequent occurrences to infantrymen, but Pfc. Walter H. Stephan of Brooklyn, New York, has learned that precaution taken beforehand make a direct hit only a close call.

Private Stephan was dug in along side of a road when the Germans sent over an artillery barrage. "One of the shells landed to my right", disclosed Stephan. "But I was down deep so aside from a lot of dirt falling all over me and being tossed around in my hole, nothing happened. The deeper the better is my motto".

When dawn broke, Stephan noticed for the first time that the stock of his rifle had been ripped by a jagged piece of shell fragment.

On another occasion, Stephan dug himself a hole which wasn't quite to his liking. "It wasn't deep enough, so I got out and went to another hole about 20 feet away. A few minutes later an enemy shell came over and landed right in the hole I had just left".

Private Stephan has captured two prisoners to date. He surprised them in a gully. "They came along without a struggle", he said. "They're probably enjoyed our hospitality now".

Somewhere on via Roma May Swoon Home Front

It all started last January when Humphrey Bogart and his wife, Mayo, appeared in a USO Show for troops of the 36th Division. On the same program, Bandsman Jon Forte's new tune "Somewhere on Via Roma" was introduced to the division for the first time by vocalist Nelson Jung, erstwhile contender for Swoon-istra. Bogart, like members of the division, was also a captive for the song's romantic and timely melody and offered to take it back to the states with him.

The future of "Somewhere on Via Roma" seemed assured according to a clipping received recently by Jon Forte from his wife in Philadelphia. Columnist Harrison Carroll in his syndicated "Hollywood Mirror" announced that Bogart had shown "Somewhere on Via Roma" to Hoagy Carmichael, who in turn had pronounced the song a "hit"

2nd Lt. Donald E. Strasser, St. John, Michigan, recently experienced a "close-one" of unusual nature. Leading his platoon up a hill, Lt. Strasser and his men were pinned down by machine gun fire. The men dropped to the ground to escape the grazing fire. Laying on his stomach with his feet in the air Lt. Strasser felt a sharp sting in his heel.

Glancing around, he noticed that a machine gun bullet had removed the steel guard from the heel of one of his shoes. "If I had my foot a little higher", commented the Lieutenant, "I might have lost more than a steel guard".

Wine party interrupted

Crawling from house to house, Private first class Jerry L. Broz, of Shiner, Texas, recently brought the laughter of the Jerries wine party to a sudden stop with his "Hands Up". The captives obeyed and turned over their weapons to Broz who took them to the POW cage.

On the preceding day Private Broz crawled up to another house and heaved a hand grenade into the cellar. By this action he had neutralized a group of Germans that had been giving his squad trouble.

Medicos treat wounded German

After a field artillery battalion had moved three times in as many days, they moved into a position which had been abandoned by the Germans only the day before.

The advance moved so rapidly that the Germans did not have time to bury their dead. Staff Sergeant Kent C. Hatfield and Sergeant Roy J. Jackson, both of San Antonio, volunteered to perform this task.

They had buried three and were about to bury a fourth when they saw the German move. Upon careful examination they discovered that he was still alive, although seriously wounded. The medics administered the same treatment to the German that they would have to a wounded American. Evacuation to an American hospital was effected.

Kraut Regimental Band Captured

The Division has captured many prisoners in its rapid advance on the Italian front. The ultimate in captured entertainment was achieved when the 36th seized a German Regimental band complete with instruments.

After being taken to the prisoner-of-war interrogation point, the Kraut band happily obliged with an hour's concert for members of the division who were present.

The Texans praised the quality of the music, but were disappointed because the Jerries did not know "Pistol Packin' Mama".

Beaucoup Nazi prisoners

Among the hundreds of German prisoners taken by the division is the recent drive, 28 wounded Krauts, and a son of a French Admiral had been left behind in a makeshift hospital.

After being taken to an American hospital for medical attention, the prisoners were informed that France had been invaded by the Allied Forces and the second front had begun.

The Germans were stunned for a moment by the news. Then finally one said, "Oh well, that's fine. It means we'll be home soon".

History changed each Time Rome has fallen

There have been people who reckoned their history in cycles. Each cycle of growth and development ended in violent revolution, the overthrow of a dynasty or the shattering of an order. Then history made a fresh start.

It was so with the Egyptians, the Chinese and the Mexicans. Our western world could reckon its cycles too. Again and again Rome has been taken by victorious armies. And with the fall of Rome, a new age came to the peoples of the west.

For 1,100 years Rome was the capital on an empire that united Europe from Solway Firth to the Black Sea, and from the Danube to the confines of the Sahara.

It gave us our concept of law, justice and government. It handed on to us the Greek ideal of right, democracy, freedom and human dignity. And when that empire dissolved, at last, to the blast of the barbarians trumpets, it was followed by a spiritual empire on the site that commands the allegiance of some 330 million men and women in this day and age.

Rome has been taken by Goths, Vandals, Greeks, Germans, Spaniards, French and Italians, by almost everybody, and every time the political order of the western world has rocked, even to its foundations.

Yet the greatness of Rome might have never been. She was a sickly infant. Tradition has it that the city was founded on seven hills rising from the marshlands about the Tiber River in the year B.C. 753. It was all but throttled by the neighbor king, Lars Porsena.

But the patroit, Horatius (at the Bridge) Coccles, with two companions, barred the Tiber bridgehead against the oncoming army, while the citizens destroyed the bridge. So by three men, Rome, and all that Rome meant, was saved.

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T-PATCH

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T-BONE RIDES AGAIN! San Jacinto day found Texans in New Struggle



Some members of the 36th really had a good time in their push north. The first resistance that they ran into was a Nazi Bicycle battalion.

The motorized elements had stopped at the bottom of a small hill. The Germans were falling back so fast that it was never possible to learn whether there were any Germans in front of the pursuing Allies.

A patrol was sent out to make a reconnaissance of the area and soon the tell-tale sound of a German machine pistol and return fire of a B.A.R. was heard.

Men were returning with long lines of prisoners who seemed to be happy in being a captive. Men would walk up a hill and return riding a bicycle. In front of the bike, walking in single file were the captured. It was a race to see who could capture the most Germans and bicycles.

Not so fortunate was Private First Class Herman R. Niederken of Snyder, Texas who sadly said, "I only went up to find myself a bike and what happens, I return without a bicycle and two Krauts as prisoners. I'll get one yet, you watch and see".

By Elton L. Miller, AP Staff.
On the battlefield of San Jacinto 108 years ago the tide of Texas history turned.

General Sam Houston and his gallant army of less than one thousand pounced down on Santa Anna's warriors that day to win independence that they had proclaimed on the previous March 2nd.

Today the descendants of that victorious Texas army are fighting all over the world — fighting for the same ideals. They are trying to make the world safe for those who enjoy freedom.

It took General Houston only a short time to completely destroy the ambition of Santa Anna, who called himself "The Napoleon of the West". In a furious battle at the confluence of the San Jacinto and Buffalo Bayou, near Houston, the Texans charged while the Mexicans took their afternoon siesta.

Six hundred and thirty Mexicans were killed, 230 wounded and 730 were captured out of an army of 1600. Texas lost two dead and 23 wounded.

The Lone Star flag, which rippled in the breeze at San Jacinto, today flies in Italy, as well as battlefields all over the world. Stories of heroism such as General Houston never dreamed are being written.

The 23 tired former Texas A & M. College students who gathered for a San Jacinto Day muster on April 21, 1942, remembered the Alamo, Goliad, San Jacinto. It was almost time for "The Rock" (Corregidor) to surrender, but Major General George F. Moore and 22 other Texans sang the Aggie song and even the "Eyes of Texas" that night. When Texas Aggie went through their routines at the San Jacinto Day this year, they (some 15,000 of them) remembered their former buddies, living and dead who fought so bravely at Corregidor, at Bataan and those who marched the road of death to Manila after the surrender.

General Houston, himself wounded, talked calmly with General Santa Anna when he was brought to him after the dust of the battlefield had settled. He spared the "Napoleon of the West" while today the United Nations have promised to the world that those responsible for World War II must be punished for their sins.

San Jacinto day, 1944, finds Texas — heroes of the 36th Division at Salerno — on other battlefields and on the home front — united in that one purpose. The enemy and his cause must die.

FIRE PROVES TOO HOT FOR JERRY

A company of infantrymen, riding on trucks to catch up with the retreating German forces, were startled to see nine Jerries come out of the woods with hands clasped behind their heads and waiting for someone to surrender to.

Realizing that there would be more Krauts in the sector, the company commander ordered his men to dismount and search the area. Immediately searching parties covered the entire area.

While the men were so engaged, an Italian approached the company commander and told him that he knew where a few unarmed Germans were hiding. Pfc Veto Montelbano, of Bossier City, Louisiana took five men with him and followed the Italian who acted as first scout for the group.

The Krauts heard the Texans approach and immediately took off. Montelbano, heard the commotion and opened fire in the general direction of the sound. When he stopped, several Germans came out of the woods, their hands held high overhead.

Mine All Mine

Corporal William C. Johns of Dibell, Texas, Pfc Casimir Grenda of Chicago, and Pfc Roy Pankake of Harrisburgh, Pennsylvania, have now discovered the real meaning of the popular ballad, "Mine, All Mine."

Jeep drivers in a regimental intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, the three infantrymen were transporting a patrol when they ran across a series of 50 German mines planted stagger fashion on the highway.

As Grenda, Johns, and Pankake carefully wove their way around the mines with their jeeps, some of the men in the patrol got out and marked each mine.

When the patrol reached the end of the mine field, they came to a blown out bridge where they stopped to observe the terrain. Suddenly on the other side of the bridge appeared a cloud of dust which quickly materialized into a German self-propelled tank.

Having nothing on hand but a few rifles and a 50 calibre machine gun, the men wasted no time in hopping into the jeeps, turning around and flying back.

Neither Johns or Grenda nor Pankake took time off to worry about the mines on their return trip. Said Johns, "I figured it was six of one or half dozen of the other. Either we'd get hit by tank fire or the mines. Only luckily none of the mines exploded". Grenda explained the reason. "When we started back," he said, "we were going so fast that none of those jeeps ever touched the ground".

Axis Sally changes tune

The recent fall of Rome and the invasion of France has caused "Midge", alias "Axis Sally", to do an "about face" in her not too subtle propaganda radio program.

For many months in the past, Midge, our "Nine-O' Clock Gal" has preached loud and long about the laborious Road to Berlin. In her silken tones she has often said "Listen, fellows, Just think how long you've been trying to get Cassino, and that's just a short

distance from Naples, so you have actually progressed but very little in taking Italy... Gee, but it looks like you will be a long, long time reaching Rome. Then there is the Alps, and in France stands our impregnable West Wall, so Fellows, you will be overseas a few more years, how do you like that?"

The swift thrust of the Allies up the Italian peninsula, and the now familiar "D Day" breaching of the French Coast has caused our Gal Sal to change her chatter to a different tune.

Her radio program has been quite popular with all GI's in Italy, not because of her idiotic propaganda, but due to the fact her musical selection is as American as Apple Pie. Most of the recordings are pre-war vintage, but who can resist the pleasant nostalgia when Midge turns on "Star Dust" or some good number by Crosby.

Sal has mentioned in her program she wishes she could get our requests for musical selections direct, and not have to guess as to the choice. As one GI said on hearing this, "If the advance continues, we'll surely be able to request the songs we want from her studio, Somewhere on Unter den Linden".

Recon John Captures 5 Snipers

Acting as flank guards for the reconnaissance troop, Corporal Joseph Kirkpatrick of Gainsville, Texas and Corporal Henry J. Long Jr. of Karnack, Texas, captured five German snipers.

As the main body of men advanced along the road, the two Recon men fanned out to the left flank. Neither paid any attention to the length of time they walked.

Each house that seemed a likely place for snipers to hide, one of the two would apply a clip of sub machine gun bullets into it. Five times they repeated the same process and nothing ever happened.

"Before we knew it," recalled Corporal Kirkpatrick, "we had passed the main troops and found ourselves in a small town. There were fresh

tracks on the ground leading up to an old building".

The two "Texans" walked closer to the building and waited. Soon a Jerry came walking out the door and towards the place where the recon men were concealed. The two Yanks leaped up and covered the Kraut. He really looked scared", said Kirkpatrick. "I guess he was surprised to find us outside waiting for someone".

While Long trained his carbine on the Kraut, Kirk asked the prisoner whether any more Jerries were inside the house. The German could not understand him but shook his head to indicate there were none.

Not convinced, Corporal Long shouted, "Come out with hands up" Out walked three scared Germans. Seeing that there were only to Americans, the Kraut tried to run back into the house and fight it out. But as they went through the doorway, Kirkpatrick sent a burst of machinegun fire at them. One of the Jerries was hit and the other three came running out shouting "Kamrad".

The wounded man was carried by his two comrades and all were taken to the POW enclosure. "I guess that made us aces", smiled Kirk. "Five in one day".

Via Roma

(Cont. from page 2)

where in Via Roma" seems to be in a good position for a great success on the home front.

Reminiscent of a visit to Naples, Jon Forte, a former orchestraman, composed his popular tune while walking a ghost-shift guard post back in December during the terrific artillery bombardment of the "Million Dollar Hill".

DUD FALLS IN FOXHOLE

Private Alfred R. Galli of Hoboken, New Jersey, a machine gunner in one of the infantry regiments, experienced a few unpleasant moments recently when a dud dropped into his foxhole.

"We had just dug in near a building when Jerry started a terrific artillery barrage", stated Private Galli. "Two came very close, one on either side. I knew they had us zeroed in. Then a shell dropped into my fox hole. Naturally I felt it was about the worst thing that had ever happened to me". "Believing it to be a delayed fuse, I ran over to my buddy's foxhole. The shell never exploded. I thank my lucky stars that it was a dud".

Memorial to Division

(Cont. from page 1)

36th Division memorial body Headed by Texas Editor

Memorial Highway Proposed. Temple, Texas. Walter Humphreys, editor of the Temple Daily Telegram, has been elected president of the 36th Division Memorial Commission, Lt. Col. Harry V. Steel, former G-4 of the division, first Vice-president; Manager W. C. Torrence, Waco, former commanding officer of the 142nd Infantry, second Vice-president, and Guy Draper, Temple Banker, secretary-treasurer.

The commission approved the method of selecting the best design for the memorial Museum at Temple, where a block in the heart of the city has been turned over to the commission for the purpose, by means of open competition under the direction and auspices of the Texas Society of Architects.

The commission likewise directed appointment of an executive committee to co-ordinate its activities and approve a resolution asking the Texas Highway Commission to designate Highway 36, from Abilene to the Gulf, as the 36th Division Memorial Highway.

John A. Hulen, Major general, retired, who twice organized the 36th Division, was unanimously chosen a member of the memorial commission.

CASTLES LIKE NEW YORK APARTMENTS

Castles found along the Italian countryside have proved to be good observation posts.

An anti-tank platoon found an ideal castle for quarters and moved in. It was a huge five story affair with plenty of abandoned German equipment including beds, blankets and Chinese checkers.

That night a patrol from the regimental intelligence and reconnaissance patrol arrived at the castle and inquired as to the location of the I & R Observation Post. Private Dean L. West, Jackson Heights, New York was told that there was no OP in the castle.

Pfc Casimir Grenda, Chicago, insisted that the OP was in the castle. "We were given specific instructions", disclosed Pfc. John H. Hitton, Kansas City, Missouri.

To settle the argument, the patrol and anti-tank men made a search of the premises. On the fifth floor, they found the men of the OP. They had arrived that same morning a few minutes before the anti-tank men. Neither group had any idea that the other was in the Castle.

"It's just like living in a New York apartment house", remarked Private West. "You never know anybody in the building".

ENGINEER MAKES RECON IN TANK

Not able to get close enough to the Germans either on foot or by jeep, 1st Lt. Arthur M. O'Connor of Brentwood, New Hampshire, hitched a ride from a passing tank, encountered the enemy, and decided he had enough when a Kraut machine gun and artillery fire pinned him down for half an hour.

Reconnaissance officer with the combat engineers, Lt. O'Connor was ordered to make a reconnaissance of the area for vital information concerning enemy positions that were mined and booby trapped.

All went well until he decided to climb out of the tank turret. As soon as his head appeared the Kraut machine gun opened up on him. The bullets failed to do any damage to the steel plated vehicle, but Lt. O'Connor was not accustomed to tanks and for 30 minutes, he and the other tank members sweat out the enemy barrage which soon included armor piercing shells.

During the time he was under fire, he made his observations and when there was a lull in the firing, the tank returned to its former refuge.

DSC AWARDS ANNOUNCED

(Cont. from page 1)

careous position on the forward slope of a hill where better observation was possible. An enemy artillery shell exploded nearby, rendering the mortar useless. After attending to his men, Sgt. Alexander reported to his platoon leader and was told to assist in the defense of the company positions.

Under an increasing intensity of fire, he crawled to a forward position and effectively fired his rifle at the on-rushing enemy and threw hand grenades to stop the thrust. Noticing a machine gun crew to his left had been knocked out of action, Sgt. Alexander exposed himself to fire to move to the weapon. He put the gun into action and immediately drew fire from the attacking forces who attempted to dislodge him. With determination, he continued accurate fire inflicting many casualties among the Germans and forced them to abandon their attack in his sector, which he so courageously defended.

Staff Sergeant Arthur Daniels of Comanche, Texas, received the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 15 February 1944.

Sgt. Daniels led a squad in a forward platoon during an attack on an enemy-held objective. At a point within 100 yards of the objective, Sgt. Daniels was ordered to lead his squad forward and surround

BRONZE STAR AWARDS

First Sgt. L. A. Crenshaw, Infantryman from Snyder, Texas, Sergeant Cyril E. Carmichael, Infantryman of Monticello, Illinois, Sergeant Robert A. Barfield, Tank Destroyers, of Buffalo Gap, Texas, Sergeant George E. Harrison, Infantryman of Elihu, Kentucky, Pfc. John H. Stacy, Infantryman of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Pfc. Rudolph F. Cebula, Artilleryman of Weirton, West Virginia, Pfc. August F. Bertram, Infantryman of Columbia, Texas, Private Clay A. Brady, Infantryman of Greeley, Iowa, Private Harry Burleson, Infantryman of Hughes, North Carolina.

Captain Warren W. Ausland, Engineers, of Grants Pass, Oregon, 1st Lt. Bryan G. Chick, Infantry, of Fort Worth, Texas, 1st Lt. Clayton L. Butterfield, Infantry, of Rusk, Texas, 1st Lt. James L. Burdette, Jr., Infantry, of Anderson, South Carolina, Corporal Santiago Casarez, Infantryman of San Antonio, Texas, Corporal James H. Christenbury, Artilleryman of Charlotte, North Carolina, Pfc. Francis E. Jump, Infantryman of Wil-

liamstown, Kentucky, Pfc. Arthur L. Wallace, Infantryman of China Springs, Texas, Staff Sergeant James F. Carter, Infantryman of Robstown, Texas, Private Richard T. Pierce, Infantryman of Portsmouth, Ohio, Technical Sergeant Adolph T. Volker, Infantryman of West Orange, New Jersey received an Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal.

The awards listed here are only a small portion of those given to personnel of the 36th Division. The next issue of the T-Patch will carry a more complete list of awards.

CLOSE CALLS

(Cont. from page 2)

How are your nerves!

To your lengthy collection of "close shave" stories add this tale about two infantrymen of the 36th. T/Sgt. Otis D. Stowe of San Antonio, and Private John J. Alonge, Des Plaines, Illinois.

Moving through open terrain, Sergeant Stowe and Private Alonge were about to step into a jeep when the Germans laid down a heavy mortar barrage. The first shell landed approximately 20 yards from the jeep, so the men jumped into a nearby ditch.

When the barrage stopped, Sgt. Stowe noticed that shell fragments had pierced both the jeep and the water cans in the vehicle. Pvt. Alonge found small shell fragments in his left shirt pocket. His paybook and check book had stopped further Penetration. The right sleeve of Alonge's shirt had also been ripped. Both men escaped without a scratch.

Private Bill Padon of Liberty, Texas, a jeep driver, can thank his lucky stars for the narrow escapes he has had recently.

"One night while a buddy of mine and I were talking", he recalled, "we heard the drone of the motor of an enemy plane. Immediately the two of us hit the dirt and rolled into a nearby foxhole. It was a good thing that we did because a 500 pound bomb went off about fifty feet away from us".

The foxhole saved the two infantrymen from injury and when the sound of the plane was no longer heard, they left their place of cover. Another time, Private Padon was travelling on a road which was under enemy observation.

"Before I realized what had happened", said Padon, "an artillery shell came flying over. One after another they followed but before the second one landed, I was already in a ditch beside the road. That barrage lasted about an hour", he added.

PUMPERNICKLE FOR RECON JOHN

1st Lt. Edward B. Morales of San Antonio recently enabled the cooks of his reconnaissance unit to add pumpernickle bread, canned sardines and sauerkraut to menu.

Lt. Morales platoon set out to establish an outpost overlooking German gun emplacements. As the reconns approached enemy territory, the Jerries fired on them. Retaliating with light cannons, the reconnaissance men managed to scatter the Germans. The enemy left in such a hurry that he abandoned a lot of valuable equipment.

After taking inventory of the booty, Lt. Morales counted one large artillery piece, two vehicles, a trailer loaded with edible rations, ammunition and a supply of small arms.

Returning to the command post, the men promptly sampled the captured food. "They had rations in that trailer for the whole troop", stated the Lieutenant.

Congratulations to the 45th

Camp Newspaper Service has announced in their publication "G. I. Galley" The 45th Division News as winner according to the decision of the judges for the best overseas letterpress publication. Congratulations to Sgt. Don Robinson ex newspaperman of Oklahoma City, and his competent staff who have made journalistic history with their excellent newspaper. The Thunderbird insignia of red and yellow is a familiar sight to all wearers of the T-Patch, since days back in Camp Bowie years ago.

Signalmen lay wire across German mine field

Two division signalmen were assigned to lay communication lines through a German mine field. Sgt. Hubert V. Jones, Marshall, Texas, and Corporal Royce K. Priest, Beaumont, Texas were ordered to select the best route to forward positions on the front.

They decided to lay part of the wire across country to save wire and effort for the trouble shooters. "Putting in the first line was the toughest", stated Sergeant Jones. "In cutting across fields we had to walk over ground that was heavily mined, no one had preceded us", he added.

Trusting to luck, they made their own path across the area. Occasional shells exploded in the area. "Even if we didn't step on the mines, I was afraid one of the shells might set off", continued Corporal Priest. After laying the first line, the men had to make five more trips through the same area with separate lines.

LEGION OF MERIT AWARDS

The Legion of Merit has been awarded to the following:

Colonel Stewart T. Vincent, General Staff Corps, of New York State; Major Ross Young, Infantry, San Antonio, Texas; 2nd Lt. James F. Strader, Infantry, of Amarillo, Texas; Master Sergeant John D. Kyser, Infantryman of Little Rock, Arkansas; Master Sergeant Rex L. Passmore, Infantryman of San Antonio; and T/Sgt. Ernest S. Prange, Medical Detachment of an Infantry Regiment, San Antonio Texas.