Third Battalion Special Edition

THE THUNDERBOLT

Published By The Men Of The 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Camps Marcoll, September, 1943

Volume 1

Number 2

517 All Qualified, Rarin' To Go

Colonel Sees His Regiment As Full Unit

Zais Men Get Wings

Baby Brother Grows Up, Comes Home

Major Zais Brings Back 'Wingin' Men

Fourth 

SHOOTING COMES FIRST

We want our division to have a chance to win in the next war. We want to be best prepared. We have plenty of time to train and practice. The best men will be selected.
A Starry Night

Second Bn. Gets Wings
Return From Training With Perfect Record

Welcome, 3rd Battalion

Fashion Note

L. A. Wathly

Male Call

Go West, Young Man
Eyes On I Company

Motors, Pool Fashion Note

As The Chaplain Sees It

Beef Unrationed

PARACHUTIST FRED ROSE

One of these days I'm going to write a story entitled "The Tall, Cat-Grimed Boy" or "Excuse me, a little dog is running underneath!"

When I volunteered for the Parachute Troops I figured there would be plenty of time for me. Now I'm in the hole.

How do you feel now? You've been in the hole for over a year, and yet you're still in it. Looks like they're going to keep you there forever.

Goodnight.

Yours sincerely,

CPL. DON GAGNON

Beef Unrationed

Beef unrationed

Located in the Regiment, our new Roman Catholic Chaplain Father Alfred J. Giannelli.

Father Giannelli, who is of French-Canadian extraction, was born in the Buckingham and Watertown, Mass. He entered the Catholic Seminary in Philadelphia at the age of 17, and was ordained in 1918. He has been assigned to serve in France during the summer months and has his supply of beef and other supplies from the French Government.

He has the entire unit's wishes daily from the Bishop of Paris, and the only instruction he has been given is to keep them up-to-date on all events in the war. He has been given a small supply of beef and other supplies from the French Government.

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Colored 'Chutes Fly As Third Bn. Celebrates

With colored 'chutes waving and swishy formals swinging, the Third Battalion was welcomed into the 517 with what can be truly said "flying colors" on the night of Sept. 21. Five score of beautiful women left such little old home towns as Cheraw, Southern Pines, Hamlet, Raeford, and Aberdeen to entertain the newly qualified jumpers in Major Zais’ "baby brother" battalion.

A swing band composed of members of Mr. Dandy's 517 marching musicians, did a good job of keeping the party alive during the evening. A new attraction of presenting highlight numbers during each set of dances with no cut-ins permitted made the boys happy. This gave the men eight dances, during the course of the evening, in which they could pick out the one and only and dream it out, free from time roving buddy with a wolfish eye.

Major General William Miley, divisional commander, was among the guests of the evening and put his seal of approval on the affair. He specially complimented Corporal Bill Edwards and his committee on the decorations. The General also gave special instructions to leave up the parachutes hanging above the stage for similar future events and he also added an order for curtains to enclose the sides of the stage.

It was the first big affair staged by the Regimental Special Service office since its arrival at Camp Mackall, but from the results many more are to come.

Regimental Rewrites

By Cpl. Bill Davis

There is quite a feud going on nowadays as to who is the oldest man in the company. It was whipped down by Sergeant Major Cornelius Keys, the good sergeant, and put to an abrupt end when "Tillie" Chain, 517th, told the assembled forward-thinking men that he was old enough to remember Henry Ford, and that was the end of it.
C. O. Of Third Battalion

Major Melvin Zale.
Marjorie Aileen Zais, First Lady of the Third Battalion, is its commanding officer's principal inspiration.

Zais is Veteran of First Parachute Unit

Much of Today's SOP Result of His Research
And so it was, as Major Beitz stepped forward and saluted his commanding officer, history was in the making. The 517 was formed to begin hard and rugged training . . . to do things not just a little but a whole lot better than any other parachute unit has ever done. The odds are with them. They will not profit from experiences, both happy and sad, of the Felli jump, from those who hit the silk in North Africa, and of those who smacked the Japs at Lae.

When the Second Battalion went through the mill at Fort Benning, Major Beitz' men were holding high the standard set by the First and Third Battalions. It was a rough job for any outfit to break the records set by those first two in jump school. It took a 517 Battalion to do it, and that is what the Second Battalion did. For the first time in the history of the parachute school a whole battalion went through the three weeks of training and qualified each man with five jumps without losing a single man in any stage of training. No wonder the Colonel had that satisfied expression as he watched the last of his boys unload from those trucks.

Special Edition

The material in this edition of the THUNDERBOLT was compiled mostly by a voluntary staff of men from the four companies of the Third Battalion.
Colonel Sees His Regiment As Full Unit

Seitz Comes Back With Jumpers

By Capt. Dan Murphy

As the last man left the last truck in front of Regimental Headquarters Wednesday night, Sept. 29, many thoughts must have rushed through the mind of Colonel Walsh standing across the street, watching the procedure.

Since April 15 he had been commander of the 277th Infantry Division. But never before had he commanded such an assignment. There was a time when his unit consisted of a handful of officers and cadre. Then there was a time when he would wake up in the morning and one third of his regiment was at least 300 miles away. Now, here they are... Three battalions... every man hardpicked, every man capable of taking over the job of... that & another... not just a man who wears a uniform... but a para...

And so it was, as Major Seitz stepped forward and saluted his commanding officer, history was in the making. The 277th was formed to begin, hard and rugged training... to do things not just a little, but a whole lot better, than any other parachute unit has ever done. The odds are with them.
Good work men, we’re proud of you,” said Col. Walsh at Third Battalion presentation parade. Below Major Zais pins qualifying wings on Pvt. Gantt, with Pvt. Daisho and Cpl. Hopko waiting their turn.
Welcome, 3rd Battalion
NEVER TAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S WORD THAT A WEAPON IS UNLOADED. IN SPECT IT YOURSELF TO BE SURE.

Pro. Henry Cole (known as Muno) is quite a linguist. He's RATION to have found friends with whom he talk Spanish. Creates quite a chatter.

We're glad to see you in town.
We'll make our best to look after you.
More than good parachutists!
We'll start moving on through thin or thick.
Might whatever way we go.
And prove our Three Battalions
Winning as "TRUE AS UMBRELLA."

M. C. W.

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of Terry and the Pirates

WE GOT US A NOAD, WIFE, LACE! WIFE A NOAD!
THE ONLY GIRL AT THE PARTIES. ALL US GUYS WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU HOME... MAKE SURE!

We thought we'd start a dance, turn off the lights an' tip a girl would cut in! When the lights come on, in a few darin' with me gets 10 for the house! Whatcha think?

Well ... let me talk with that fellow and see about a dance with you.

Why, yeah, and lace... right this way...

Go West, Young Man

I know, General, you never were KID?

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selected the "Player of the Year." He enlisted in the Navy Air Corps. But on June 2, the sports world lost one of its most beloved heroes, when his plane was shot down in the Pacific.

Did you hear about the American commander who sent this message to Gen. Patton during the battle of Sicily. "Can we make a touchdown on our own initiative? Rush reply." The General answered with "You have the ball. Call a touchdown play."

Pardon me, but would you check my canopy. I'm testing this cellophane chute for the Camouflage School and I can't see if the damn thing is open.