

THE THUNDERBOLT



Published By The Men Of The 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Volume 1

Camp MacKall, September, 1943

Number 2

517 All Qualified, Rarin' To Go

Colonel Sees His Regiment As Full Unit

Seitz Comes Back With Jumpers

By Capt. Tom Murphy

As the last man left the last truck in front of Regimental Headquarters Wednesday night, Sept. 22, many thoughts must have rushed through the mind of Colonel Walsh standing across the street watching the procedure.

Since April 12 he had been commander of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

When he came to the United States, he was a whole outfit with one officer. 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 find one third of his regiment stationed at Toccoa, and then travel two hundred or more miles to see the rest of it. But now here they are . . . three battalions . . . every man hand picked, every man capable of taking over the job of . . . not a soldier, not just a man who wears a uniform . . . but a parachutist.

And so it was, as Major Seitz 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 experience, both happy and sad, of the Sicily jump, from those who hit the silk in North Africa, and of those who smashed the Japs at Iwo.

When the Second Battalion went through the mill at Fort Benning, Major Seitz' men were holding high the standard set by the First and Third Battalions. It was a tough 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 un-load 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.

Zais Men Get Wings



"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. Deano and Cpl. Hopke waiting their turn.

Baby Brother Grows Up, Comes Home

Major Zais Brings Back "Winged" Men

By Lt. Richard Spence

It is no longer news to the 517th Parachute Regiment that the "Baby Brother Battalion" has come home, but the added comment "My, how you've grown!" isn't stuck in just to keep the conversational ball rolling.

When the United States was said, the Third Battalion consisted of Major Zais and a handful of officers and cadre.

With orders to report home to Camp MacKall in six weeks, with only a full battalion, but a battalion of jumpers!

SHOOTING COMES FIRST

We won't dwell on the first days in the Academy Area or the crash of ammunition fired in the boiling sun of Benning to qualify every man on the rifle and carbine, or working straight through Sundays, or practicing and live exercises. That's mostly food for the Chaplain. But we would like to introduce to you a few of the new men who are wearing the gold claws on their left sleeves and the wings over their shirt pockets.

Despite the fact that the chaps were down, Major Zais gave every man the "Welcome Speech." The Third Battalion was looking for men; with the accent on the main aspect and not just something wearing pants that wanted to jump out of airplanes. A lot of the glamour-boys were separated in the opening speech by the Major, scared out by the thought of sweat and calzones and rugged training look care of a few men, just about 50 per cent of the men who were greeted by the Major are here today but they are 100 per cent are the men—the value felt by the wings.

MANY FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER

This is what you are liable to bump into growing around of the battalion—common. There are a lot of officers and men from Mexico.

You may see a man from Algeria, Spain, Portugal, or even from the United States.

You might see a German, a lot of good-looking men, his native Germany. He also teach you a few words that could come in handy someday.

Then there is Canadian-born was Bailey, from Winnipeg, and Waldemar comes from Baltimore, or Manuel, Austria, Canada from Portugal, or Sgt. George Gomez from Honolulu. Sgt. Gomez is one of the cadets with six years of service in the U. S. Army, two of those years over in the Islands.

Continued on page 4

Fashion Note



Sheila Ryan, 20th

**One Dollar Saved
One Earned**

All That Jump Fay

Best-paid soldiers in the world... they're the paratroopers. But what has the money that leads around on pay day, the question is still asked, as to how to make it last through all four weeks-end of the month.

It is pretty hard to figure out a system that there is a way that will help keep some of the dough for after the war, which seems like a good idea, and a good way to make sure there will be any "left the war". The two fold way of saving money... was found. First, helping yourself to making your money work and second by giving the Government the use of it.

The good of the 37th Airborne Division and 37th is one hundred per cent enrollment in the current war bond drive. Last payday, they walked by an officer who was willing to help them save money. How many dropped in \$18.55? They stop to figure that before they could they and along on \$18.55 each month, you would still have \$18.55 more than you did then. And they would be saving 25 bucks the whole year.

Major West to go back to school. Officers are waiting for that opportunity. But that waiting hell has to open up they go back home to show the folks that about the paratroopers. In any case, every man who goes down for war to show the folks that about the paratroopers.

The new set-up in the 37th is a few days after going to school to your bond officer. He will take your cash and see that it gets into the bank. He will take care of the bond officer in the 37th. He will take care of the bond officer in the 37th. He will take care of the bond officer in the 37th.



The Man With Half a Heart

Not many of us got to know Pvt. Jesse Ellington intimately. We know he joined us at Toccoa—that he was ever robust, cheerful and uncomplaining. We know he made every march and run; that he never fell out or begged off. We know he qualified well with all weapons. We know he took Jump School in his stride and we know too, the place he held in the hearts of the men of his Company. We know he was a little older than most, that he had a little daughter. But what we didn't know was that physically, he had but half a heart!

Medically, this wasn't readily detectable. But Ellington knew. Why else the pain with each running step? Why the shortness of breath? Yes, Ellington knew. He knew that and more. He knew why we were in this war and what we were fighting for. The only thing he didn't know was how to quit!

Let's do justice to the courage of this man, to the fight with us on the battlefield. His fight is already won. He has given all that anyone can give. Let him live forever as an inspiration to us.

The Regiment is assembled now—complete—a Parachute Regiment. You have won the right to wear your wings. Do it proudly and let each of you be the sort of man you'd want the man next to you to be. When the going is rough, as it is bound to be, and you think it is not worth it all, remember Ellington, the man with half a heart, but a fighting one!

Faithfully,

L. A. Wakeley

Captain, 37th Troop, Inf.,
Commanding.

A Starry Night



Gen. Milley made with Major Zerk and hostesses, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. M. J. Cable, at Third Battalion Welcome Dance.



TREAT ALL WEAPONS as though they were loaded until you have inspected them yourself to see whether or not they are empty.



NEVER TAKE SOMEONE'S word that a weapon is unloaded. Inspect it yourself to be sure.

Pvt. Henry Cole (known as Hector) is quite a linguist. He's happy to have found friends with whom to talk Spanish. Creates quite a chatter.

Welcome, 3rd Battalion

Well, boys, we've stuck through thick 'n' thin,
Through heat and wet and what not;
We know each fault, we know each grief,
We know who grins, we know who weeps,
We know which guy can "shoot the breeze,"
Yet like much more than bug-shed.

But through it all, there's something noble,
Things run in three, that's why we're fusible:
We are the lot, we have the 2nd,
Battle-brothers trained and bright,
But, boys, we want to welcome in
The 3rd to make it right.

So enter 3rd, and grasp our hands,
We're glad to add you to us,
We'll do our best to graft you in—
More durned good paratroopers!
We'll still move on, through thick 'n' thin,
Might whatever woe or weal,
And prove our Three Battalions
Will cling as "TRUE AS STEEL."

—J. C. W.

Second Bn. Gets Wings

Return From Benning
With Perfect Record

By CPL. JACK CARRISON

With a feeling of pride in themselves and their outfit, the Paratroopers of the Second Battalion returned their wings in Benning on Sept. 22. The wings were presented to the men by Major Feltz and pinned on each with a shout by the platoon leaders.

This occasion marked the culmination of approximately five months hard and intense training at Camp Toccoa and Benning and will long be remembered as an achievement worthy of pride to the whole Second Battalion. The hundreds of trained, physically trim and disciplined soldiers standing at attention during the ceremony presented quite a contrast to the same men as they arrived at Camp Toccoa for processing several months ago.

Seems like only yesterday that they took that first jump from the stock tower in the camp of the famous Cuthberts, then spent months training with M-1's and carbines, mortars and machine-guns... drilling by the hour, and the hundreds of other looks associated with basic training. The long runs that seemed so hard at first and gradually became easier, the all-night exercises which he would keep him tired to be greeted with coffee and doughnuts... these things will never be forgotten. Nor will the first pair of jump boots and the dream of the day they come pin those wings on and strut down the street.

We used to travel about Toccoa... a soldier is never happy unless he is moving about something!... then we left. Now we all wish we were back.

We always looked forward to that jump school and then it finally came... three weeks that were described to us as nothing so much as a long, hard, and tiring job. But when we arrived the Second Battalion had what the word "jump school" meant. It was a jump school in the truest sense of the word.

We were all excited about that first jump. But it was such a new sensation that we weren't as excited as we thought we would be. We went out the door on that first one wanting to see what it was like and the rest seemed like a dream.

So the Second Battalion has won its wings and formed an outfit that has learned to work together as one team. It is a team that has time for friendship.

OPTIMISM
ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—No. 1 optimist in the U. S. Army is an American prisoner of war in Italy who last April wrote to officials at the Naval Academy here requesting two tickets to the Annapolis game in November, 1943. The Navy complied and it appears that this truly has happened, what the GI may see that game after all.

Pvt. MacKreider was recently heard arguing with a staff sergeant who moved into long barracks upon our return from Benning. It seems there was a dispute as to who would sleep in the upper bunk. I wonder who won?

The PX sales of shoe polish have increased 50 per cent. Could this mean that the boys are going to look O.K.? Oh well, who ever saw a machine polish without its boots polished... James L. Ewing.

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of Terry and the Pirates



Go West, Young Man



THE THUNDERBOLT
Published by the Men of 317 Parachute Infantry Regiment, Col. R. A. Walsh Jr., commanding. All material appearing in this paper is available for general release. This paper is a member of the Camp Newspaper Service and is privileged to use its material. The policies and statements reflected throughout this paper are not to be considered those of the United States Army but those of the officers and enlisted men submitting the material.

Editor—Cpl. Don Murphy

Contributors

Lt. R. Spencer	Pvt. Pete Mayer	Pvt. Don Gagnon
Cpl. W. E. Davis	Pvt. Al Douglas	Pvt. J. Greenberg
Cpl. Reeves Moran	Pvt. N. Raymond	Pvt. Jack Deet
Cpl. Jack Colburn	Pvt. John Olfen	Pvt. Stan Hookup
Pfc. W. H. Smith	Pvt. R. E. Berg	

As The Chaplain Sees It

THIS COLUMN is proud to introduce to the Regiment our new Roman Catholic Chaplain, Father Alfred J. Guenette.

FATHER GUENETTE, who is of French-Canadian extraction, was born in the picturesque old whaling town, New Bedford, Mass. He belongs to the Assumptionist Order and was schooled in Canada, France and Belgium. His Army career began in April of this year. At his own request he was sent to jump school at Benning where he trained with officers of our own Third Battalion.

AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR is added to our Regiment by this "fighting Frenchman." He left Europe a few weeks before the war broke out in September, 1939. His views on France are sharp and to the point. "Purged of their leaders who sold them, France will become one of our greatest allies in due time." De Gaulle, Giraud and even Petain represent the true spirit of France. He is confident that the Allies can expect valuable assistance from the French

Underground once passage through France to Berlin is undertaken. **LIKE ALL FRENCHMEN** by birth or adoption, Father Guenette loves France. His English is only pleasantly accented, but you are not surprised when he resorts to French for emphasis. *Le France est tomber; elle remuera. Vive la France éternelle.*

WE have taken the entire column this issue to introduce Father Guenette. But in subsequent issues he will speak for himself from this column as a soldier of Christ and of the Allied Nations.

"COURAGE is fear that has said its prayers." Is a great statement born of this war. We remind you of your opportunities:

Roman Catholic Mass:

Sunday 0900.

Week Day 1930.

Protestant services:

Holy Communion 0615.

Morning worship 1000.

Chaplain Brown

Regimental Chaplain

Beef Unrationed

PARACHUTE PETE (on Bivouac)

One of these days I'm going to write a story entitled "The 517th Bivouac" or "Occasionally a little closer bbbuddy mmm mmmmmine."

When I volunteered for the Paratroops I figured there would be an opening for me. Now I'm in the hole.

Question from the soldier going overseas: "What should I do when I get to France?"

Poetry lovers of the 517th have another one of those works, which will put Keats' popularity in decline. It is entitled, "The Corollage" or "You'll Get Used to the Poison Ivy Mary." . . . in two stanzas.

Roses are red,

Violets are blue,

Orchids are \$4.50

So nuts to you.

Famous questions that we the super duper super-men (paratroops) put up with from the civilians:

1. How does it feel to jump out of a parachute?

2. Do you get \$50 every time you jump?

3. What Army are you in?

4. Is it a thrill?

5. Which was your worst?

6. Do you get scared?

7. How do you keep your boots in your pants?

8. Does that chickenfoot on your arm mean that you jump on farms?

9. Do you have to wear those high shoes?

10. Do you yell "Geronimo" when you jump?

Goodnight.

One of the boys who made a combat jump told me that in Sicily you can get three pounds of sugar, a pound of coffee, a quart of whiskey and a wife (white) all for three dollars. I bet the whiskey is rotten.

Some definitions . . . Jittersbugging . . . Don't let your right foot know what your left is doing.

Prohibitionist . . . a fellow who thinks the spirit of '76 comes in bottles.

Whiskey . . . Meet any old thing these days. (Take ten . . . smoke if you have 'em).

I went to Durham last weekend. They ask a lot for the rent there. They asked me five times so I finally had to pay them. Break's over . . . put out your matches.

North Carolina passed a lot of game laws, but it will never defeat the crap game.

Bob Koch

Bob Koch

Bob Koch

Bob Koch

Bob Koch

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Bob Koch

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Bob Koch

Bob Koch

Eyes On I Company

Greenberg and Deet

In "I" company you still hear plenty of talk about Patsy Cavole's jump. It's a good case of fast thinking and presence of mind. Patsy was counting "six thousand" and realized that his suspension lines were twisted in a manner not approved by The Parachute School. After unsuccessfully trying to jerk them apart he pulled his reserve about 150 feet from the ground. When he landed, several "B" stage sergeants who were pumping with us rushed over to shake his hand. "That's what I call keeping alert," one of them said. "Thanks," Patsy grinned back, and handed them the ripcord.

Second Platoon Mortarman Ponce thinks landing with two chutes is for women and children. In a recent squad problem he jumped at the same time the equipment chute was released. They collided and in some way the air was taken out of Ponce's main collapsing chute. He pulled his reserve without any good effect. "Well," he says, "the only thing I could do was to have the equipment bundle." He did that and went through with the problem.

Harry "Swee" Landen doesn't put much stock in fancy "jumps." Just sneaking in under the age limit for paratroops, Harry says. "Those jumpsters tank they're in kindergarten. As just like to yump and make a good landing." He wants to save his strength for the "yump over Germany."

Here are some things most of the guys don't know about men in our outfit. Sgt. R. J. Castongway has nine years of service—two of which were spent on overseas duty in Panama. S. Sgt. Carpenter has more than a year overseas and rates an "under-the-ribbon" bar. He says he has four or five

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Motor Pool Fashion Note



Newest jeep accessory is Sheila Ryan, 20th Century-Fox starlet.

Sand, Heat Add Dollar Saved To Firing Woes For Third Bn.

"Pupils on the firing line."

All right soldier . . . give me 25 for not double timing. And so went the days on Pike range last month when the Third Battalion men were qualifying with their respective weapons.

Most of the men were old timers who handled arms more than once, but never was the work so trying. Never had they done so much dry firing before shooting for record.

It took good men to stand the terrific pace being set by this new regiment they had just entered. Here they were, living in barracks which might just as well have been out in the desert as to be in the sand of Fort Benning's one and only Prym' pan. If you ask if it were hot, the answer is, "It was August in the south of Georgia." But the heat wasn't so bad. It was the dirty, baking sand which raised great clouds of smoke as the companies marched to and from the training area.

But with it all, Major Zala's boys came through, piling up a combined score on the M-1 and Carbine equal to that of sharpshooters. Of those who fired the carbine, there were 160 experts, 262 sharpshooters, and 127 marksmen. The M-1 scores showed 62 experts, 130 sharpshooters, and 93 marksmen.

In the light machine gun class, the totals read: 11 experts, 38 first class gunners, and 69 second class gunners. Twenty-six first class and 10 second class gunners were found in the 30 mm Mortar squad. The 60 mm Mortar men totaled 20 first class and 34 second class gunners.

Some men fired the carbine and the M-1 and among those, nine were able to take expert by both. The two-time experts from G Company are Pvs. Hector H. Colo, Jay B. Conley, Karl F. Deist, William O. Gelly, H. Co. Pvs. Dewey H. Barrow, Norman S. Frey and Richard Robb, and Pvt. James H. Muir.

If any one in the battalion or regiment is having any trouble in writing long letters to sweethearts (at home) just come and see Pvt. Clyde De Bow. We insist that he has what it takes in letter writing.

A For Airborne

By Pvt. Don Gagnon

It really looks as though Pvt. Dick Eaton has what the Army boys call "private stock" in Gainesville, Ga.

Could there be some special reason for a few of the boys in Co. "A" marching around the battalion area between the hours of 6 and 9? Maybe we should ask Donlevy, Ellington, and Reese.

Pvt. William D. Harris, better known as "Alabama," is having quite a worry all by himself. He seems to sweat more now than he did on any of his jumps. We always say leave it alone and it will come out in the wash. But this is a matter that doesn't come out in the wash. Some girls are persistent.

Co. "A" seems to be the company without a commander. 1st Lt. Donald Fraser has relieved Capt. Herman Hoffinger of the Company Commander's position. In Co. A, Lt. Fraser was executed by the boys in "B" previous to his punishment. The boys of B company didn't think it was such a good idea that he always say "A" before "B's."

We wish Pfc. Chester Koehsberger would accept our humble apologies for misquoting his name in the last edition. We heard that he made quite a fuss about it. We hope our apologies are accepted.

Another Papa is coming up in the guise of Pvt. Paul Hanson. It was a baby girl at his house which gives him that feeling. Silver quirkie to match his wig.

Bob Koch

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All That Jump Pay

Best paid soldiers in the world . . . they're the paratroops. But with all the money that flows around on pay day, the question is still raised as to how to make it last through all four week-end of the month.

It is pretty hard to figure out a system but there is a way that will help keep some of the dough for after the war, which seems like a good idea and a good way to make sure there will be money "after the war."

You might have guessed it. The two fold way of saving money . . . war bonds. First helping yourself by putting your money away and second by giving the Government the use of it.

The goal of the 17th Airborne Division and 517th is one hundred per cent enrollment in the current war bond drive. Last payday, men walked by an officer who was willing to help them save money. How many dropped in \$15.35? Did they stop to figure that before they qualified they got along on \$30 a month? Now, if you put in \$15.35 each month, you would still have \$27.75 more than you did then (and would be saving 25 bucks for whatever future plans).

Many want to go back to school. Others are waiting for that annuity so that wedding bells can ring. Still others want new cars to show the home folks about the paratroops. In any case, every soldier has some dream he wants to come true and now is the time to make it possible.

Under the new set-up in the 517th you can receive your bonds in a few days after giving the money to your bond officer. He will take your cash and see that bonds are bought and delivered to you.

On pay-day, B Company bought more than \$2,500 worth of bonds, which gives Lt. Cross the best record for the month. It is not too late to buy bonds this month. See Lt. R. C. Hockett, regimental bond officer, in the Special Service Office. He will take care of getting your bond.

At any rate, make plans to save something the next month and look for the bond officer as you file through the pay box. See us there to help you.

The Low Down On H. Q. Third

Pvt. K. O. Zahn

Well, after being here at Camp Mackall for three weeks, most of the fellows have decided it's a well place. We were all prepared for the worst after hearing all those rumors at Ft. Benning.

There are rumors that Pvt. Donald Fredrick is going to walk down the aisle with a certain school teacher. Fast work, eh? I wonder why Sgt. McHardy is always singing "Don't Make Me Go To Bed and I'll Be Good." Must be his favorite song. Anyway he won't have to worry about being good long as his wife is arriving soon.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the Battalion Dance, especially Privates Derrick, Gowrand and Briggs. I understand that Cpl. Matika's little girl, Janie, is coming to visit him soon. He has been trying to arrange it for some time, so we are all happy for him. Pvt. Fenton was finally transferred to Intelligence School after applying for it several times.

Cpl. Cortes returned from a short furlough. The machine gunners report that they have no trouble making rattle as Pvt. Edwards is their new alarm clock. There seems to be another favorite song. Pvt. Allen has been heard singing, "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her (Hurley) Now?" Cpl. Piliccho asked me to announce that he wants to swap clothes for smaller sizes. Go see him, fellows, maybe you can make a deal.

And here last but not least, is a small bouquet for the cooks. Chow is a hell of a lot better than it was at Fort Benning.

HERE'S

By Cpl. Bill Davis

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 the 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

Staff Sergeant Pease has a new present. Usually people pick up a picture collection while on furlough. But Master James was sent

There is quite a trend going on nowadays as to who is the oldest man in the company. It was well-thought down to Sergeant Major

Cornelia says, the good sergeant,

and put to an abrupt end when

Pris. Zora and Zeeher appar-
ently enjoy each other's company
because they came down strapped
around each other and made
a few jokes landing in and

SEPTEMBER, 1943

Inspiration Corner



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*

By Stan N. Hookup

"Give me five weeks and I'll bring you back a battalion," was the way Maj. Melvin Zais, commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Parachute Division, was greeted when he was first assigned to the post at Fort Benning.

track, and when these didn't keep him sufficiently busy he won awards for scholastic achievement, for displaying the best sportsman-ship and athletic qualities, ran the Phi Alpha fraternity, drilled his ROTC unit or plucked away at his Journalism and International Relations Club. As it went in all these ways, Zais gradually built up a reputation as a leader and a doer, and Mel immediately sought a way to use his talents. He was not a soldier, but he was a leader, and he was a doer, and he was a man who could be trusted to do a job.

The L

H. C.

Well, the Marka... the fe... well p... See the... those...

There's an old... down the school... wonder... ways... To Bed... be hit... won't last... good long... soon.

Everyone... Battalion... vates... Briggs... Matika's... ing to... been... iber, so... Pvt. P... ferred to... applying.

Cpl. C... short... ners... trouble... wards... There... orle... heard... Kinsley... P... that... smaller... maybe...

And... a small... chose... than...

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And so it was as Major Belts stepped forward and saluted his commanding officer, history was in the making. The 517 was forced 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 Sicily jump, from those who hit the silk in North Africa, and of those who smacked the Japs at Ise.

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"Go
presents
Pvt. Doe

Colonel Sees His Regiment As Full Unit

Seitz Comes Back With Jumpers

By Cpl. 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 commanding the 888th Central Postal Directory, and he had never before

seen a regiment as a unit. He had seen a lot of officers and men, but he had never seen a regiment as a unit. There was a time when he had commanded a handful of officers and men. Then there was a time when he would wake up in the morning and find one third of his regiment stationed at Tokyo, and then travel two hundred or more miles to see the rest of it. But now here they are . . . three battalions . . . every man hand picked, every man capable of taking over the job of . . . the 888th Central Postal Directory. But now here they are . . . not a paratrooper.

And so it was, as Major Seitz stepped forward and saluted his commanding officer, history was in the making. The 888th 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.

as, as Major Beitz
er, history was in
e 517 was focused
and rugged train-
things not just a
de lot better than
hute unit has ever
are with them.
scott from experi-
and sad of the
om those who hit
in Africa, and of
aked the Japs at

and Battalion went
at Fort Benning.
were holding high
by the First and
It was a tough
effort to break the
those first two in
took a 517 Batta-
and that is what the
did. For the first
story of the para-
whole battalion
the three weeks of
qualified each man
without losing a
any stage of train-
The Colonel had
expression as he
t of his boys un-
trucks.

Edition
 rial in this edi-
 ne THUNDER-
 compiled mostly
 tary staff of men
 four companies
 ird Battalion.



"Good work men, we're proud of you," said Col. Walsh at Third Battalion presentation parade. Below Major Zala pins qualifying wings on Pvt. Gantt, with Pvt. Daano and Cpl. Hopke waiting their turn.

1. *... ..*
 2. *... ..*
 3. *... ..*
 4. *... ..*
 5. *... ..*

the "Chickadee" and we a
to introduce to you a few
new ones which are waiting
to be taken in their nests, and
the wings they shed when
leaving the nest that they
were down, making this a
new, the "Chickadee" from
their flight was last
month, with the second set
of wings and now just a
few days later that we are
seeing of "Chickadee" and
gladly, long were
the opening season in
the, making out by the
of several and calmer, as
travelling both sets of a
just about 20 per cent
more when were greeted by
you are here today but
you could are the most
all by the way.

MANY FROM SOUTH
THE BORDER

This is what you are
about! We're learning now
of the National Council.
There are a lot of other
ones from across
the country. You have
Algeria, Belgium,
France, Portugal,
Spain, etc.

The German
a lot of good things.
in his German. He
also taught me a few words
which come in handy now.
Then there is Casilda
Wax Bailey, from Winnipeg
Winnipeg comes from Lill
or Malindi Augusto comes
Portugal, or Sgt. George
from Honolulu Sgt. Correll
of the cadet corps with six
years in the U. S. Army
of those years were in the 1st

Continued on page 4

the man with the heart, but a fighting one!

Faithfully,

L. A. Walsh

Captain, 3rd Frecht. Inf.
Commanding.



NEVER TAKE SOMEONE else's word that a weapon is unloaded. Inspect it yourself to be sure.

Pvt. Henry Cole (known as Hector) is quite a linguist. He's happy to have found friends with whom to talk Spanish. Creates quite a chatter.

So enter, 3rd, and grasp our hands,
We're glad to add you to us,
We'll do our best to graft you in—
More darned good parachutists!
We'll still move on, through thick 'n' thin,
Midst whatever woe or weal,
And prove our Three Battalions
Will cling as "TRUE AS STEEL."

—H. C. W.

Pvt. Mackridges was recently heard arguing with a staff sergeant who moved into I.M.G. barracks upon our return from Benning. It seems there was a dispute as to who would sleep in the upper bunk. I wonder who won?

The PX sales of shoe polish have increased 50 per cent. Could this mean that the boys are going on furlough and want those boots to look O.K.? Oh well, who ever saw a machine gunner without his boots polished . . . Answer: Lt. Fawin.

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of Terry and the Pirates



Go West, Young Man



selected the "Player of the Year," an enlisted man in the Navy Air Corps. But on June 2, the sports world lost one of its most loved 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 beating this cellophane chute for the Camouflage School and I can't see if the damn thing is open.

Oct. 1
PIAN BOXING T
 The boxing team
 reaction of the
 start training
 are required to
 let in boxing
 the boxing club
 Service officer
 headquarters
 that a fight
 that the regiment
 ing and putting
 in the Service
 week.

At present, the
 is the star attraction
 party will meet an
 which will be en
 spective battalion
 mental Headquarters
 Medix and Higgins
 fourth league. At
 season a playoff w
 which the winners
 and that each wil
 the divisional four

SCHEDULES HAVE

The schedules for
 be made up by the
 side with the try
 The games will be
 time between 1900
 any nights during t
 on Sunday are en

Basketball season
 us shortly, so the
 on an efficient wa
 cage league. As s
 able courts are fo
 panies will be hou
 ball equipment nee
 training.

Since the men a
 train one hour ea
 some form of ply
 these competitive
 help create interest
 companies and batte
 tion to keeping men
 the big game to rom

Besides athletics, it
 will stage dances at
 vaks. The last one,
 Third Battalion, was
 and with the co-ops
 from the hostesses in
 Club, it should be pos
 sent the men with
 tainment without mak
 cessary for them to tra
 wide to find a cheap
 day's tedious grind.