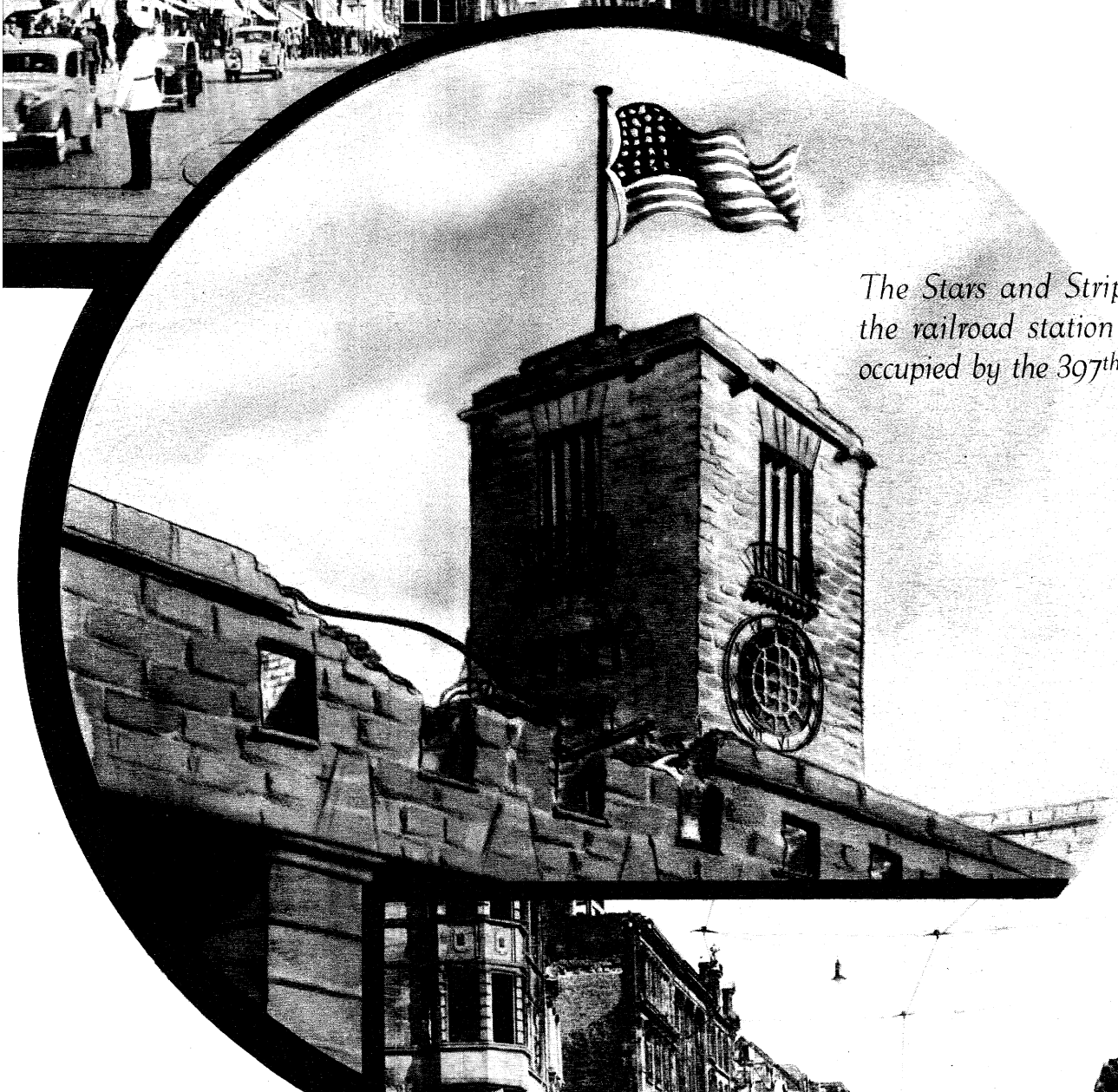
View of Königstrasse, Stuttgart before Allied Bombings



The Stars and Stripes flies from the railroad station in Stuttgart, occupied by the 397th Inf. Regiment

Stuttgart at the present time

PHASE X – OCCUPATION

INTRODUCTION

"You know the rest. In books you have read . . ."

Off the line, Stuttgart and champagne! Eislingen and the end of the war! Iilertissen and non-fraternization. Göppingen and conversation with little children. Stuttgart again and conversation with the older sisters. The routine occupation of Germany became a lot more interesting.

We had a few bad months trying to figure out what the ultimate disposition of the regiment would be; and when alert orders for immediate shipment followed on top of a Pacific training schedule we were sure that our time was up. As if predestined, Japan surrendered. We were dealerted and spent most of our time adding up our points, guessing, adding, hoping, wondering just when we would get back home. This was the important thing. Within a few months the point system bit sharply into the Regimental strength and the guys that we had grown up with moved out for home or lower-point organizations. But somehow the outfit remained the same because the spirit that we had created in the past three years could not be denied, would not be. Men began school careers, sports took on a new importance and the military training waned. Practically all of our activities were extracurricular: movies, shows, dance bands, clubs, unit newspapers, passes, champagne, and letters. But however much we enjoyed the change and the new freedom there were still the serious moments when we thought of the hundreds of guys that were not here to share the spoils. The drinking was not always gay. It was often just a good way to forget the losses we suffered in deep friendships, but perhaps reading these pages will help you to live with them a while longer and know again the tough times you had together. You will be talking about those things for the rest of your life. We did not walk through the war

and leave it behind us. We built the props, designed the sets, directed, produced and acted the whole works and some of it stuck. There are some lines we will never forget. But if the memory fogs up a little and the facts seem to fade, just turn to any page and read it over again. It is all here. Your buddy is in this book; in one of the towns, on a hill, walking down a street, hiding with you, fighting with you, hoping you will never forget.

Let this be the last book written. Show it to your son but see to it that 25 years from today he doesn't bring home a similar history to you. That is the least we can do.

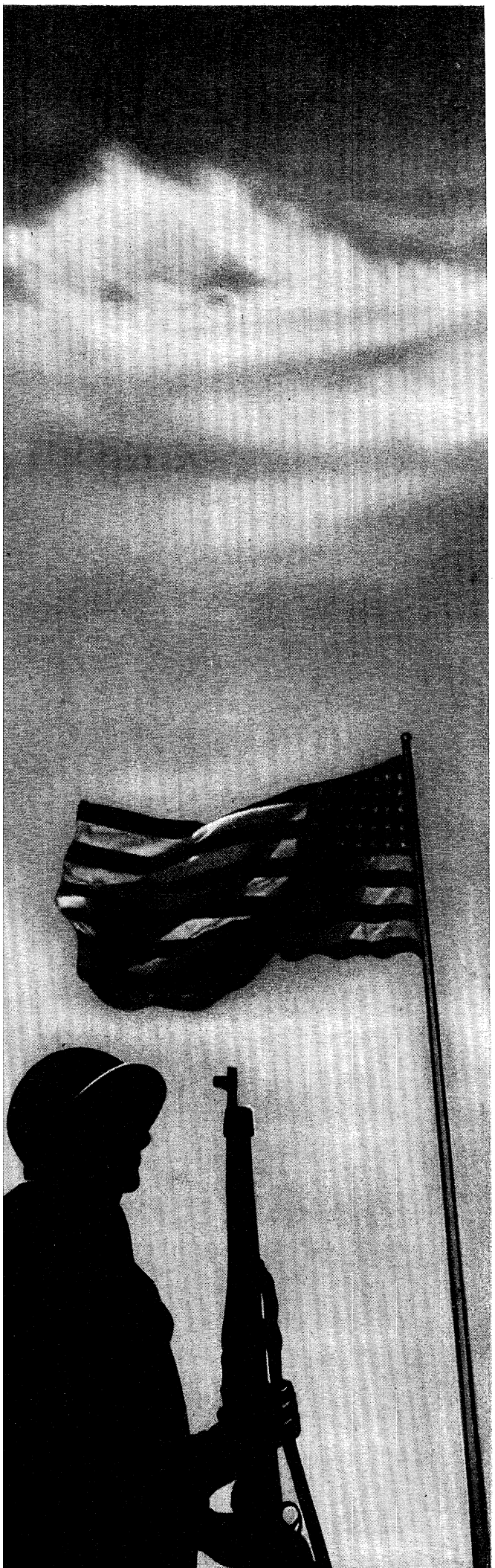
OCCUPATION

Seventh Army Reserve! Three little words but oh! so meaningful. It meant that for a while we'd be out of danger; that we could have hot meals and movies regularly, that showers and clean clothes would cease being strangers to us; that athletics and training would displace hiking and killing for a time at least. We even were paid and had our teeth inspected.

We assembled and moved into Stuttgart the next day, the 26th of April. This large German city of a pre-war population of half a million presented one of the most concentrated areas of destruction we had yet seen. With the entire Regiment in one place for occupation purposes, the morning reports could honestly record morale "excellent." The billets that we were given were the very best the city had to offer. The misery of 172 consecutive days on the line was rapidly dissipated in the luxury of marble stairways, plush furniture, tile baths and silk comforters. Raon L'Etape, Mouterhouse, Rimling and Heilbronn — forgotten! — a thing of the past — as we saw our first electric lights in months and experienced the joy of hot and cold running water. That night was one for celebration.

And so began the period which was destined to continue until we went home. We soon discovered that our daily activities could very aptly be summed up as "usual garrison duties." A program was put into effect consisting of mass athletics, orientation, drill and small unit tactical training. We prepared baseball diamonds. Various routine tasks in conjunction with the occupation of the town were assigned. While one company supplied guards at a road block and a bridge, another kept watch over a hospital and a post office. Each battalion made a thorough reconnaissance of the sector assigned it, but this consisted mainly of observing rubble and ruins. We were "at ease!"

The large size of the sectors assigned to each battalion made it necessary to employ jeeps for patrol duty, with three or four of us travelling around carrying loaded rifles and carbines ready



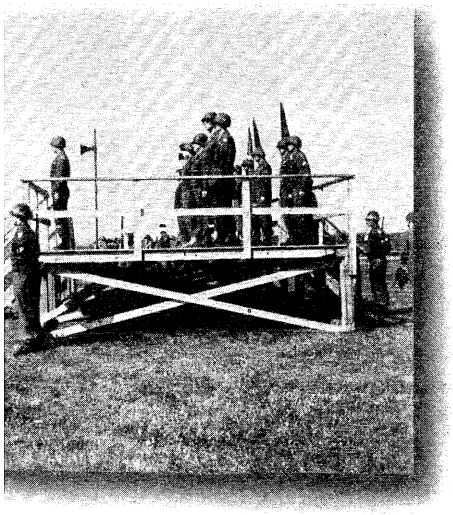
for any emergency. A group of 40 discharged German soldiers from the Hohenheim hospital were picked up as prisoners of war. 38 more were bagged during the day swelling the ranks of enemy taken since we jumped off in November to 6788. There was no enemy action, no artillery, no sniper fire. It was peace for us. Stragglers passed through our PW cages with regularity. On Sundays we went to church services in large groups for the first time since combat had started, and were able to worship in safety and express thanksgiving which we felt so deeply.

Our combat-worn equipment was replaced and we were decked out like a bunch of rookies. The roads in the vicinity of Stuttgart and its approaches were carefully patrolled, while the usual orientation periods were held. There was no change in the tactical situation of our army reserve position at the end of April. We had swapped our position, breaking out of Stuttgart and occupying another net of six towns. Headquarters Company, Cannon Company, Antitank Company, and Service Company moved to Eislingen. The First Battalion split up into two groups, with Battalion Headquarters Company, Companies C and D going to Sussen, and Companies A and B travelling 28 miles to Gingen. The Second Battalion went east along the Neckar River to Holzheim, detrucking on the outskirts of the town and marching in. Third Battalion Headquarters Company with Companies I, K and M left Stuttgart and went to Salach. Company L proceeded to Hohenstaufen. Initial measures of

sending motor patrols to adjacent towns, maintaining road blocks, and posting local security were immediately taken. There was no enemy action.

We continued in the now routine tasks of occupation and army reserve as the month of May slipped in quietly. The Regimental training program for the troops was designed to fit reinforcements into the team of a squad, platoon, company and battalion as well as to assure continued physical fitness. There was small unit tactical training, orientation and recreation. The battalion commanders had the same ultimate aim though they exercised their discretion in varying the program to suit the particular needs of their men. Close-order drill was performed regularly on the theory that it inculcated discipline. Calisthenics were performed as a toughening up measure, and for recreation there were group games and mass athletics. Instruction in use and maintenance of weapons continued to assume the same degree of importance as ever.

Other phases of the program included lectures on collateral issues of warfare. Discussion groups provided a well-balanced series of activities which rounded out our daily routine. Each day became more reminiscent of the life we had led in the states as we made a mental re-

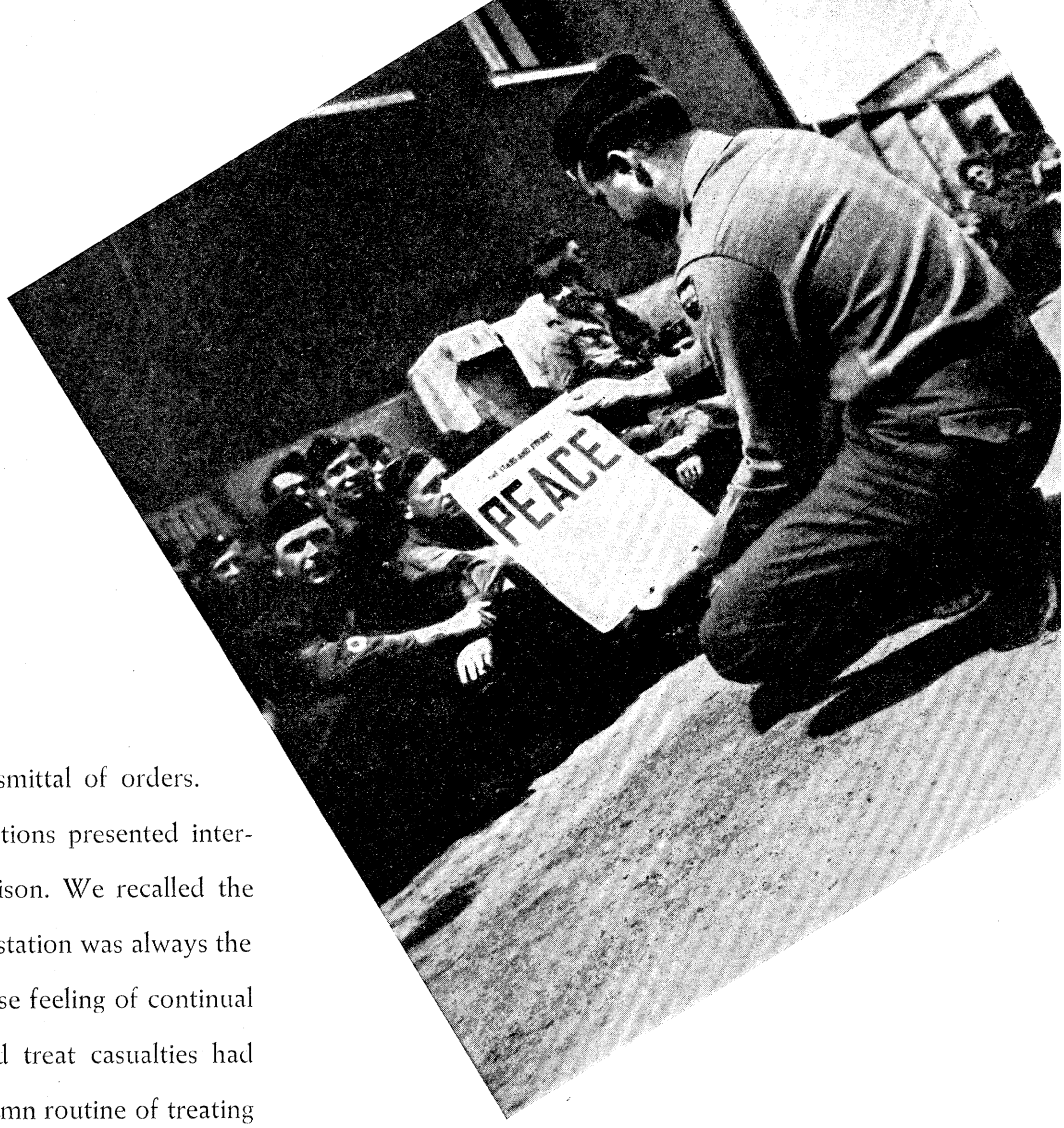


adjustment to accustom ourselves to meeting formations, keeping in a straight line, and adhering to the elementary rules of military courtesy.

"No enemy action" reports made their daily appearance as the official data of the situation. Check points were established along main highways between the towns to control the flow of displaced persons (DPs) returning to their homes or just wandering about aimlessly. Each company posted its local security as a measure against possible sabotage. Permanent guard posts were set up on all large installations and army ration, ammunition, and chemical dumps. In some locations, where

suspicion was harbored against the civilians, platoons on foot patrolled and combed the streets during the night as safety-valves against possible flareups.

We began to look around us. The weather was as changeable on the third day of May as it is proverbially known to be, running from mild and clear to snow flurries and hailstones. We were methodically searching out all the wooded areas and our motorized



patrols whisked through the many villages at regular hours. Companies A and B moved into Süssen from Gingen on 4 May making the three-mile trip on foot, in an hour. The entire First Battalion was now in the same town, facilitating intra-battalion communications and transmittal of orders.

The Battalion aid stations presented interesting studies for comparison. We recalled the bloody days when the aid station was always the center of activity. The tense feeling of continual readiness to evacuate and treat casualties had abated in favor of the solemn routine of treating a blister on a foot or a cracked finger resulting from a miscaught baseball. We remembered nights with twenty or thirty casualties, blood-stained and broken; separating them, tagging them, washing the wounds, administering plasma and sulfa, loading them on the ambulance; over and over and over again, different men each time but the same procedure. There was the hate that surged through us when we recognized one of these as being a medic himself, defenseless but exposed.

The Second Battalion held a ceremonial review on May 5th. As the companies marched by the make-shift reviewing stand, we recalled many splendid memories of Fort Jackson and Fort Bragg where similar reviews had been held and where we first learned to hold them. The martial music, a few gaping civilians, the glittering brass on the stand, the meticulously-clad and polished marching troops were a far cry from muck, mire, death and destruction. It was just another of those amazing comparisons which we kept continually making now that we were far removed from death or a fate worse than that.

V-E Day at long last! There had been some who never before had drunk or fired their

weapons. There were none this day. The unrestrained drinking and shooting were salve for the soul though there was a hell of a racket. Down came the blackouts and from the "strasse" the houses seemed ablaze. To us the lights were on again all over the world. There was still a war going on, and we knew too that it was a war which might draw us to it before long. But we had learned to live from day to day and this day we were victorious.

The cease fire order for the Seventh Army came at 1200 on May 7th. One of our battalions, ironically, was firing on the range when the message came. Another battalion received the tidings in the middle of a road march. There was no immediate hilarity, but the impact of the news suddenly hit, and the road was the scene of an unruly mob. Only minutes before it had been so well disciplined.

The impending collapse had been presaged by events on all fronts — the surrender of the German Armies on the Italian front, the fall of Berlin, the reported negotiations in the North, the capture of top-ranking military men like Von Rundstedt, the inexorable advance of Allied forces, the inability of the enemy to split the Allies in the final moments. All these and more kept crowding the hour of complete collapse for Nazism and its vainglorious hopes for world domination.

To account for the fact that resistance continued for so long a time in spite of the breakdown of the German Army and civilian morale, it is necessary to turn to the SS organization. The will to resist burned brightest and longest in the SS. They had most to lose. Again and again the explanation was offered to our interrogators: fear of the SS or fear of indirect Nazi retaliation strengthened the ebbing desire to fight. The Nazi had a powerful, all-pervasive organization; its roots went deep into every form of living in Germany. Through habit or fear there was still a response to the crack of its whip.

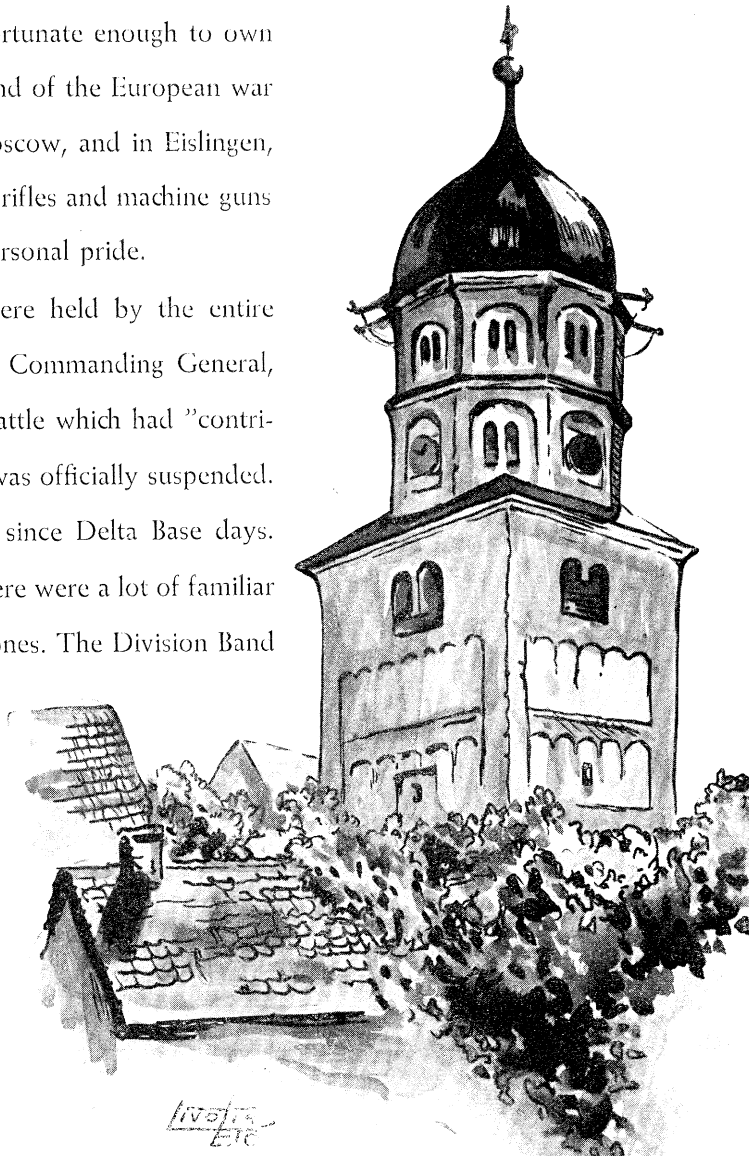
Within the German army itself a struggle had been apparent since the Westwall crumbled. Actually there were two schisms: one between the officers and men and another between the army and the SS elements. The first was characterized by the persistent devotion of the officers to a cause, though lost, which made them exhort their underlings to take stands, obviously hopeless. This was the case in Heilbronn and in each of the small towns where we met determined opposition. The men, however, their spirits dulled by the certainty of eventual defeat, lost even the last vestige of willingness to serve as they watched many of their officers save themselves.

The Nazi was a willing vassal and a tower of strength while the going was good. But without air support, with insufficient fuel, food and ammunition he soon sensed he was in a losing battle. There was no mutiny, no open rebellion in the ranks, but he did not have to resort to such measures. As the officers exhorted him to fight on, many a Heinie resolved to get out of the war alive. It often could be done and it was done. Even before we crossed the Rhine our interrogation of PWs revealed that they either deserted or lagged sufficiently to bring about the desired result — capture.

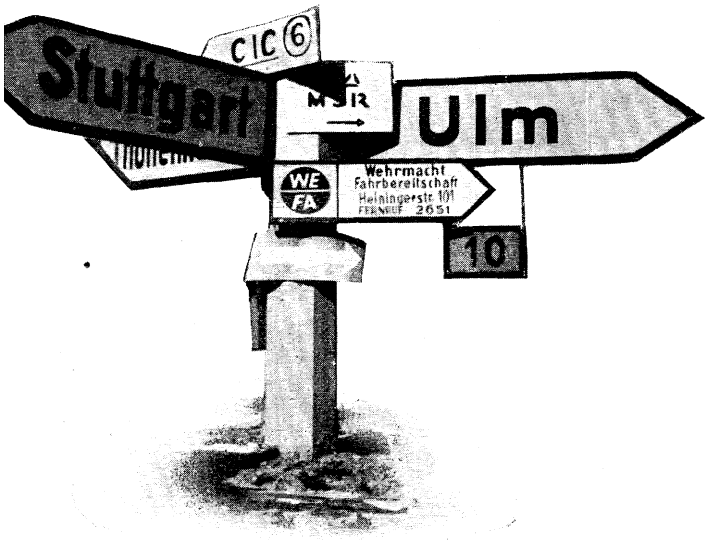
After we had made our Rhine crossing and were ready to jump off from Plankstadt it became evident that the secret weapon heralded as the promised miracle to turn the tide was not forthcoming. The attitude of the officers swung toward that of the men. Then larger and larger numbers of noncoms and officers arranged surrenders or allowed themselves to fall into enemy hands after a display of token resistance to save face. All ranks seemed ready to compromise with the inevitable. And so the end came.

Our Company Commanders, in recognition of the momentous event, let May 8th pass as "no duty day." Those of us fortunate enough to own "liberated" radios heard the announcement of the end of the European war at 1600. Big guns of victory roared salutes over Moscow, and in Eislingen, Salach, Holzheim, Süssen, Gingen and Hohenstaufen rifles and machine guns rang out the high feeling of accomplishment and personal pride.

On May 9th, official V-E Day ceremonies were held by the entire Regiment, with Major General Withers A. Burress, Commanding General, in attendance to thank us for our performance in battle which had "contributed materially to the end of hostilities." Training was officially suspended. Our Regiment had not been grouped in one spot since Delta Base days. Now in Eislingen we had Regimental formations. There were a lot of familiar faces missing since that last time, and a lot of new ones. The Division Band



Catholic church in Illertissen built in the 15th century.



played. The Invocation and Benediction were given. There was a solemn dedication to continue in the same spirit with whatever tasks lay ahead.

The European war was at an end and now came the issue of "where to from here?" Instead of "what town do we hit next?" it was "what continent do we hit next?" Rumors ran rampant. It seemed that each of our buddies had "just overheard the CO telling the Exec ..." Meanwhile, the immediate business of taking over a new zone of occupation was being settled. To that end, Headquarters Company and the CP group moved to Illertissen.

The next day still more moves were made. Headquarters Company of the First Battalion moved from Dussen to Laupheim, with the incident of a detour due to a blown bridge. Upon arrival, communications men set about their wire-laying tasks, working in the open without fear of snipers or artillery. Company D arrived in the town soon after. Companies E and G billeted in Ulm, and Company F in Günzburg. Company H went to Weissenhorn. En route we noted many large trucks loaded with German prisoners, but the moves were all made with no unusual occurrence, and over typically-good German roads. Headquarters Third went to Babenhausen, while Company I went to Krumbach, Company K to Unter-Roth, Company L to Kirchberg and Company M to Göttingen. The next day Company A went to Gögglingen and Company B to Oberkirchberg. Company C moved into Orsenhausen and Company G went to Laupheim.

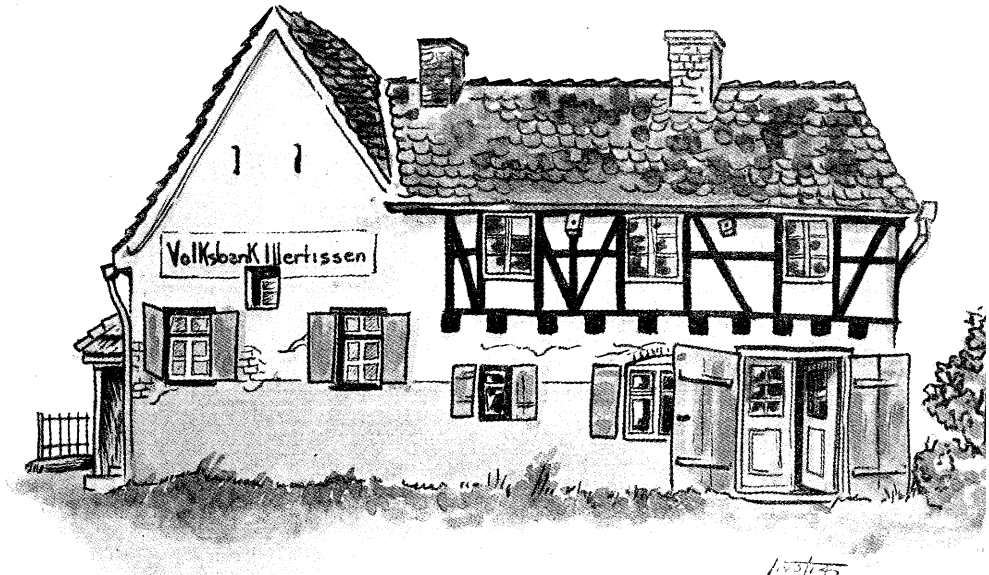
Service Company moved to Illertissen, Antitank Company to Risstissen. The Regiment had been assigned an area of 700 square miles, encompassing 315 communities, towns, and cities in its jurisdiction. We were quick to realize and undertake the vast responsibility. In the First Battalion, the A & P Platoon immediately

started to build a bridge north of the town. Upon arrival in its new area, Company C sent men to secure a nearby airport, and Company D was already settled to the extent of having a 24-hour guard on all vital installations in its sector. In the Second Battalion, the Antitank and A & P Platoons relieved elements of the 12th Armored Division in guarding enemy supply dumps, and road blocks were immediately installed at all entrances to the town. The commercial telephone lines and telephones in the towns occupied by the Second Battalion became booty and were put into use. This furnished a superior means of communication between the widely-scattered companies, Battalion Headquarters, and Regimental CP.

Cannon Company moved from Ulm to Oberkirchberg. Headquarters Company First Battalion was assigned the job of constructing baseball diamonds, volley ball courts, and other recreational facilities so that organized athletics, stipulated in the training schedules, could be made a pleasant reality. By now we had settled down to routine training. V-E Day already seemed way past. Company B gave a detailed analysis of its security and motor patrols. The report showed that there were two motor patrols, composed of four men each, and five standing posts of two men each. The tour of guard was for 24 hours a day. This system was followed throughout the entire Regiment.

Company L was alternating platoons in the overseeing of an airplane factory and the patrolling of the town while Company M had guards on several bridges and power plants, "verboten" for civil use. Other installations with which we concerned ourselves were hospitals. There were fifteen hospitals in the area at the inception of our tour of occupation. Eleven had been rapidly emptied, leaving four for exclusive use of displaced personnel. All American soldiers in these hospitals were immediately transferred to Army installations while the others were sent to Augsburg. No evidences of cruelty were apparent although several were found suffering from malnutrition.

The Second Battalion CP group and Headquarters Company, in order to occupy a more centralized location in its sector which encompassed 47 towns and villages, moved to Weissenhorn on the 14th. A combat patrol from Antitank Platoon was dispatched to investigate



reports of SS troops moving into Emershofen, but these reports proved erroneous. Motor patrols in operation around ammunition and chemical dumps maintained a constant vigil over these vital spots. We who were not patrolling found ourselves training.

In Ulm we received a first-hand view of history. Although a great portion of the city was gutted and in ruins, an unusually high church steeple rose above the rubble on all sides, and on this church rested the fame of the city. The "Minster" was the largest city church in Germany. The tower base was completed in the 19th Century to form the world's tallest church steeple. The steeple itself, in accordance with the country's reconstruction period, was completed in 1840. Buildings on the four sides of the "Minster" were razed but the church itself appeared practically unscathed, bearing mute testimony, perhaps, of a reverent accuracy practiced by our bombardiers. Ulm itself is partly bordered by the famed Danube River. The city is richly endowed with beautiful landscapes.

Other slight moves within our Regiment were made on the 15th day of May. Company B left Ulm for Allmendingen. Company C marched to Meitigen. On the 16th, Cannon Company detailed a group of men to collect all firearms and ammunition in accordance with a pre-arranged plan for occupation of our area. Other practices in dealing with the defeated peoples of the country paralleled suggestions made by those experienced in the field of military government. The first order upon entry into a village was to impose a time limit for the civilians to be on the streets, usually between 1100 and 1300 hours. Later this was extended from 0700 to 2000, unless there had been sniper trouble, in which case civilians were expected to remain in their houses all day. The only exception we made to the original regulation was in the case of farmers who had to tend cattle. The emphasizing of unit discipline, including military bearing, military courtesy and cleanliness of personnel, vehicles, and equipment was a means we employed to impress the population of our austere presence. Daily retreat ceremonies were initiated.

On the 16th, Company F left Günzburg on a motor march to Weissenhorn. Company I was kept busy patrolling and overseeing the 25 towns in its sector, and transporting all DPs through channels, making a check of each one for return to his homeland. Company L maintained a guard on an airport and a dam. Discovering a factory with airplane parts, it posted a guard on that. Three Gestapo agents were picked up in Hurbel, two men and a woman.

The Battalion Executive Officers were constituted virtual military government officers, with the Company Executive Officers as sub-deputy military government officers, in an effort to augment understaffed government. The highest or next highest ranking officer in the combat unit, concerned with the governing of the population as it affected the tactical situation, was usually made Town Commander. The Provost Marshal had to solve the traffic problems and offenses committed by soldiers upon civilian or military personnel. The MG Officer had the responsibility for keeping the population controlled and for maintaining the area in a reasonably decent and healthful state. A chief function was the appointment of officials. One of the most common of the knotty problems was the selection of a suitable burgomeister. We found that men of the church were good contacts to ascertain pertinent data from and in some cases school masters were also helpful. Other problems, such as how to maintain a pure water supply, dispose of trash efficiently, and root out insidious influences undermining efforts of civilian re-education and rehabilitation had to be solved by the military government.

A group of MP's moving into our area gave Company G still another village and a city jail to be guarded. In its area Company I began a methodical search of its thirty towns, posted guards on vital installations, and organized motorized patrols. Ammunition and weapons stored in prepartion for transportations had been cleared out of the areas. We saw the Army movie "Two Down and One to Go" which explained the redeployment program and the system of points for discharge.

We were now receiving our mail daily, sleeping under a roof, and eating hot meals. We played ball, wrote letters, lounged, and relaxed to our heart's content. Patrol and guard duty continued. The main topic for thought and conversation was the future and what new experiences were in store. A detachment of the Third Battalion, located near the Austrian and Switzerland border, made an excursion to Lake Constance.

Lt. Col. Singles was transferred from the Regiment on 20 May, and was replaced by Lt. Col. John M. King. We had a rainy season with many rainy-day training schedules. We learned that 120 of our buddies, captured and listed as "missing in action," were returned to military control. A greater understanding between the military and the civil population was sought by calling all burgomeisters in the sector together for a conference.

Ammunition and Pioneer Platoons removed German lethal shells from dumps while regular organization and occupational duties continued. Three members of the Hitler Jugend were arrested by our Cannon Company on May 28th while attempting to steal clothing and cigarettes from Army vehicles in the vicinity of Bohringen. Our weapons were inspected by the 800th Ordnance Team. Patrols continued scouring the woods for mines, stray ammunition, illegal meetings, and the possibility of the presence of SS or sabotage groups. We experienced the strange feeling while passing discharged German Wehrmacht members in the street without shooting at them.

The two months of occupation had afforded us ample opportunity to observe the native civilians and to form opinions regarding a nation deemed responsible for much of the destruction and sorrow in the world. The attitude of the civilians had undergone an apparent change. There was a marked transition from the stunned and sullen peoples whom we had seen during combat. We conducted a survey of the companies to determine the extent of civilian problems and how they had been met. This offered some interesting diversion from the routine of daily training, dispatching patrols, and performing guard duty.

Approximately 500 yards to the east of Illerrieden flows the Iller River, (a course generally north and south, and the river 30 yards wide) where the company was located. A sentry near the motor pool detected a suspicious movement near one of the trucks. With posed rifle, he beckoned a 16-year old youth clad in swimming trunks and carrying an empty potato sack to come out. He was taken to the CP. His reticence at revealing his mission was overcome after he had been kept in this semi-nude condition for a time. He then admitted that the reason for his being under those

incriminating circumstances was that he believed the American soldiers had large quantities of cigarettes and food left unguarded in their vehicles. Since there was a guard on the bridge, he had been forced to swim the river. He denied being a member of any Nazi party organization or of having intentions to sabotage. He was turned over to the Regimental IPW.

Civilian activity of a less serious import revealed itself at a mess hall set up near an open field. Little children between the ages of three and twelve would appear at mealtime, staring hungrily at us and asking for left-over pieces of bread and other edibles. At first we would comply rather than throw the food away. Soon, however, the numbers increased to a point where as many as twenty-five would harass the messline. A veritable gauntlet of outstretched hands and appealing eyes was run at the mess gear wash line. "Zivil Verboten" signs soon appeared on trees at both ends of the road.

The elements of the Regiment reported little or no serious difficulties in dealing with the local townspeople, and isolated cases of hostility or slight evidences of resistance were dealt with in a most expeditious manner. It was even noted in some cases that civilians were eager to be of help and would not flinch at turning in a fellow German who had been active in the Nazi party. This cooperative spirit was born of an apparent desire to get in our good graces for whatever it was worth.

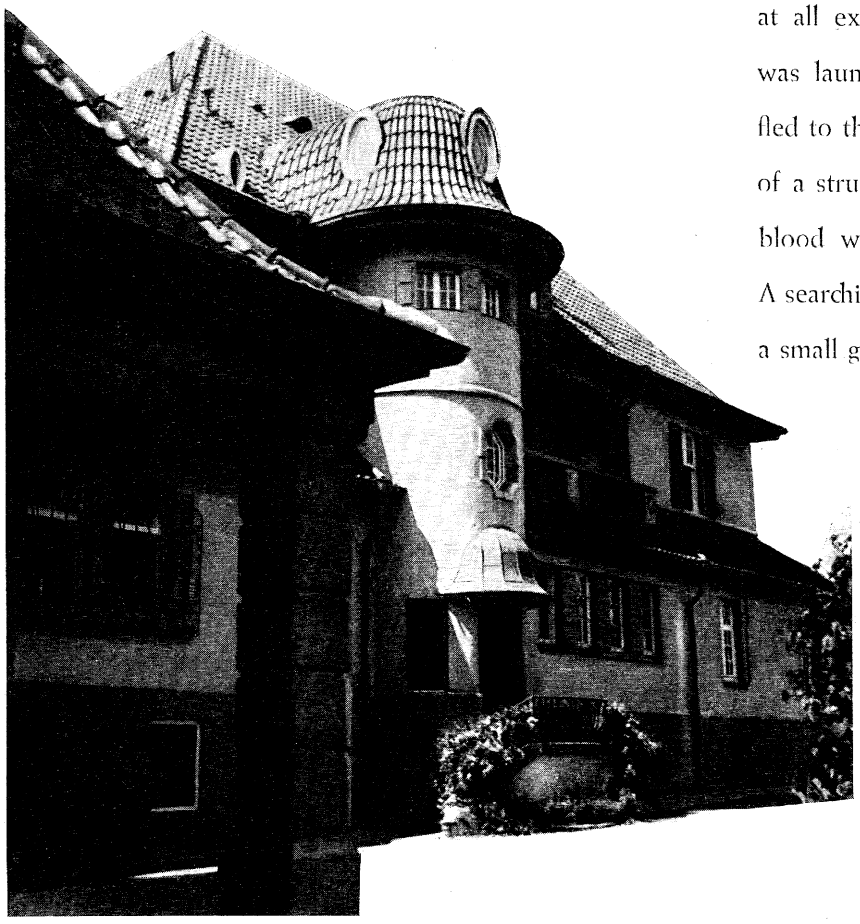
In Ristissen, the local burgomeister volunteered the information that one Herr Normann, a notorious Nazi Kreisleiter wanted by the AMG, was in the area. The man had fled from the approaching allies and was in hiding. It was mainly through this eager cooperation by the burgomeister and other townsfolk that the man was found and taken into custody. Such willingness to aid had been found the rule, rather than the exception.

Reports of actual premeditated and wilful sabotage were few, but in these isolated cases of direct hostility, the culprits were apprehended and appropriate preventive steps taken. In the

town of Laupheim we were being constantly called on by civilians to right alleged wrongs and acts of mistreatment by forces which had occupied the town previous to our arrival. All complaints of whatever nature and description were heard and the majority of them were determined to be groundless.

Regulations and administrative details were cleared through the burgomeister's office. Infractions of a serious nature were rarely committed. A minor act of sabotage occurred in Gögglingen. A length of communication wire to the Battalion Headquarters was cut in an apparently professional maner, indicating an attempt at sabotage. Although we didn't find the one responsible, the burgomeister was warned that a repetition would result in further limitation of the curfew hours. It was unnecessary to carry out this threat or take other measures of reprisal.

A group of Russian DP's furnished a ripple of excitment in Schelklingen. On 5 June 1945 an excited sentry called the CP to report that 30 Russians were rioting and preparing to hang a German civilian in the camp. A squad of 40 were dispatched immediately, guards were placed at all exits, and an investigation was launched. The Russians had fled to the hills. There were signs of a struggle when large pools of blood were found on the floor. A searching party soon came upon a small group of Russians burying



a nude mutilated body. An investigation elicited the details that the victim was a Russian who had served with the German Gestapo and was responsible for the deaths of many of his countrymen. We took no further action.

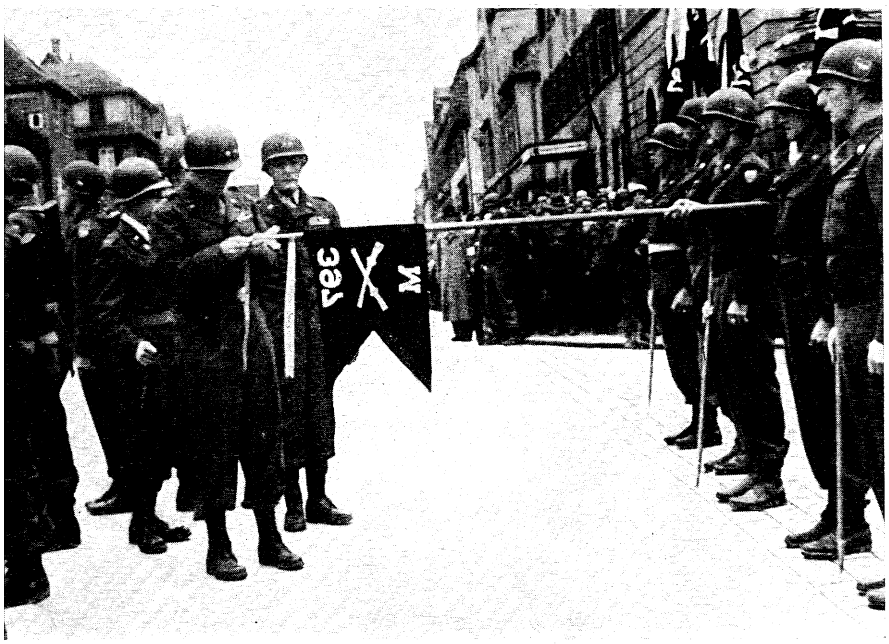
The civilians in the several towns differed with each other in their conceptions and beliefs. It was necessary to issue repeated reminders to the burgomeisters for the enforcement of curfew and military courtesy regulations. Constant spot-checking of small shacks in our sectors of occupation led to the discovery of contraband ammunition and weapons. The small buildings that dotted the countryside were the favorite hiding places for illegal possessions. Many women protested that the forbidden items, like rifles, had mere sentimental value and were left to them by their departed spouses.

The natives were cooperative though not very enthusiastic. Company C was billeted in Laupheim and had the duty to man road blocks, check passes and guard public and military installations in conjunction with other occupational tasks. For three weeks there were no untoward incidents. When the company moved to Bad Ditzenbach, the situation took on a different complexion with the civilians displaying an unmistakable arrogance. The CO felt impelled to explain the non-fraternization policy. Thereafter the natives came to regard the soldiers as a necessary incident in their everyday life.

The Germans resorted to every possible device to keep from evacuating their homes to provide us billets. Simulating sickness in the family was the most common ruse. However, they were impressed with the care and consideration we showed for their property. Pangs of relief were oftimes expressed that Americans and not French or Russians lived in their buildings — evidently more "divide and rule" propaganda.

Trouble was encountered with civilians regarding the stores of food and clothing in requisitioned houses. Due to the difficulty this situation presented, the people were permitted to enter their homes on one particular day each week for one hour. This eliminated a large amount of unnecessary friction and was considered a fair and expedient measure.

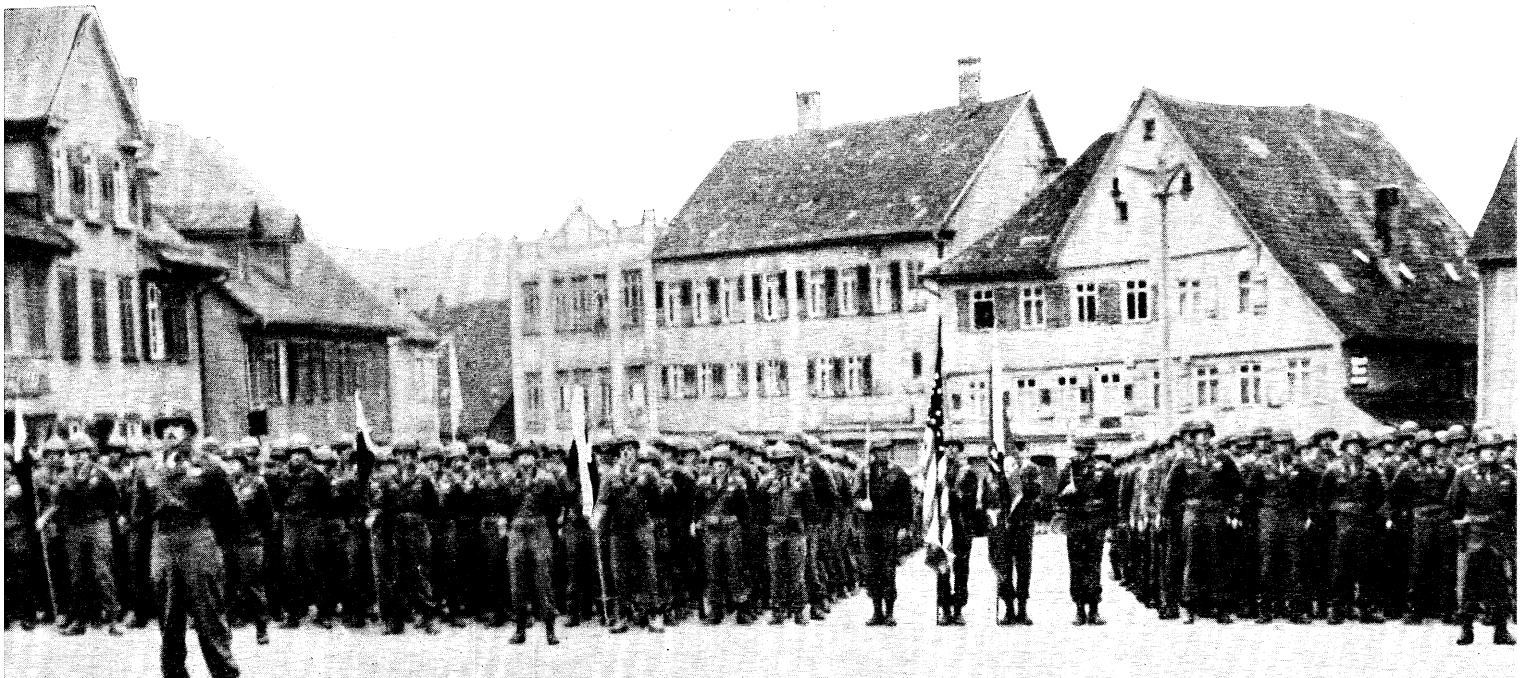
The unexpected cooperation of the conquered Germans formed the basis for a report that they took only those belongings with them which were not needed for the comfort of the troops. They expressed the desire to aid in the care and cleaning of their premises. They were permitted to enter the buildings for an hour each day under close surveillance in order to cleanup. The



condition of the homes and the care of the property were in this way maintained to everyone's satisfaction. An order forbidding troops from picking fruit or vegetables from the gardens gave the civilians reason to reflect about our respect for law, order, and regard for the rights and property of others.

The Germans welcomed the opportunity to do business with us and were pleasant, cordial, and eager to oblige. The civilians were seemingly not bitter, except in isolated cases. They were apparently intent on making the best of a bad situation and to smooth out relationships as much as possible. It was also pointed out that the women were anxious to do laundry work and extend other favors. They valued chocolate, cigarettes, sugar and food much above marks as remuneration.

A vast German estate known as "The Castle," formerly owned by an SS General, had a considerable store of weapons and ammunition. Some of the servants in the castle who had husbands in the army wanted to keep ammunition and hunting rifles pending, as they said, the return of their spouses. One came to the CO and voluntarily led him to a place where two rifles and a large amount of ammunition were found. Upon further questioning the servants, they denied having any more. However, a few days later a workman revealed that he had been forced to dig a hole under a bee-hive house and bury two boxes, the contents of which were



unknown to him. The boxes were found to contain five rifles and much "kugel." The case was referred to a high AMG court.

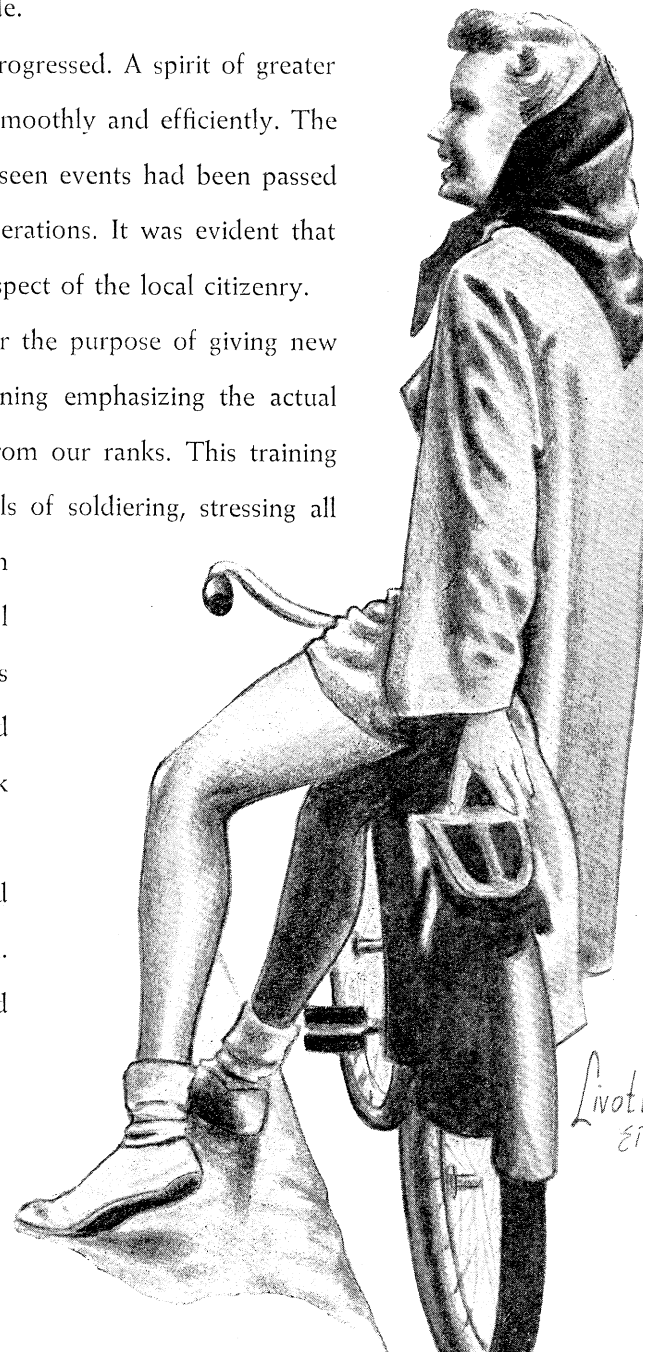
Another case concerned a loaded German rifle with a round in the chamber found cleverly concealed in a barn behind tools and farm implements. The woman of the house was arrested and taken before the burgomeister. He reprimanded her and fined her 100 marks, half of which was given to the church and the rest used to buy food for displaced persons.

An hysterical woman ran into the CP in Weissenhorn and begged to speak to the CO. When an interpreter had been secured it was discovered that her three year old son was near death from an unknown cause. A jeep and driver were put at her disposal and they were taken to a doctor and then to the hospital The boy's life was saved as a result of the cooperation, and the burgomeister, representing the people, expressed his gratitude.

The mutual education of us and the German civilians progressed. A spirit of greater understanding was apparent with the result that things ran smoothly and efficiently. The difficult period of establishing precedents and meeting unforseen events had been passed successfully and a gradual routine had seeped into daily operations. It was evident that we had made a good impression and had engendered the respect of the local citizenry.

In June a provisional training company was created for the purpose of giving new groups of reinforcements six weeks of advanced basic training emphasizing the actual combat experience of the instructors, who were selected from our ranks. This training consisted of an eight-hour day in teaching the fundamentals of soldiering, stressing all infantry weapons. The training included familiarization with the handling of the flame thrower and demolitions. Special instructors were brought in to cover such technical subjects as combat intelligence, communications, mines, booby traps and German sabotage. The men lived in the field the last week under simulated combat conditions.

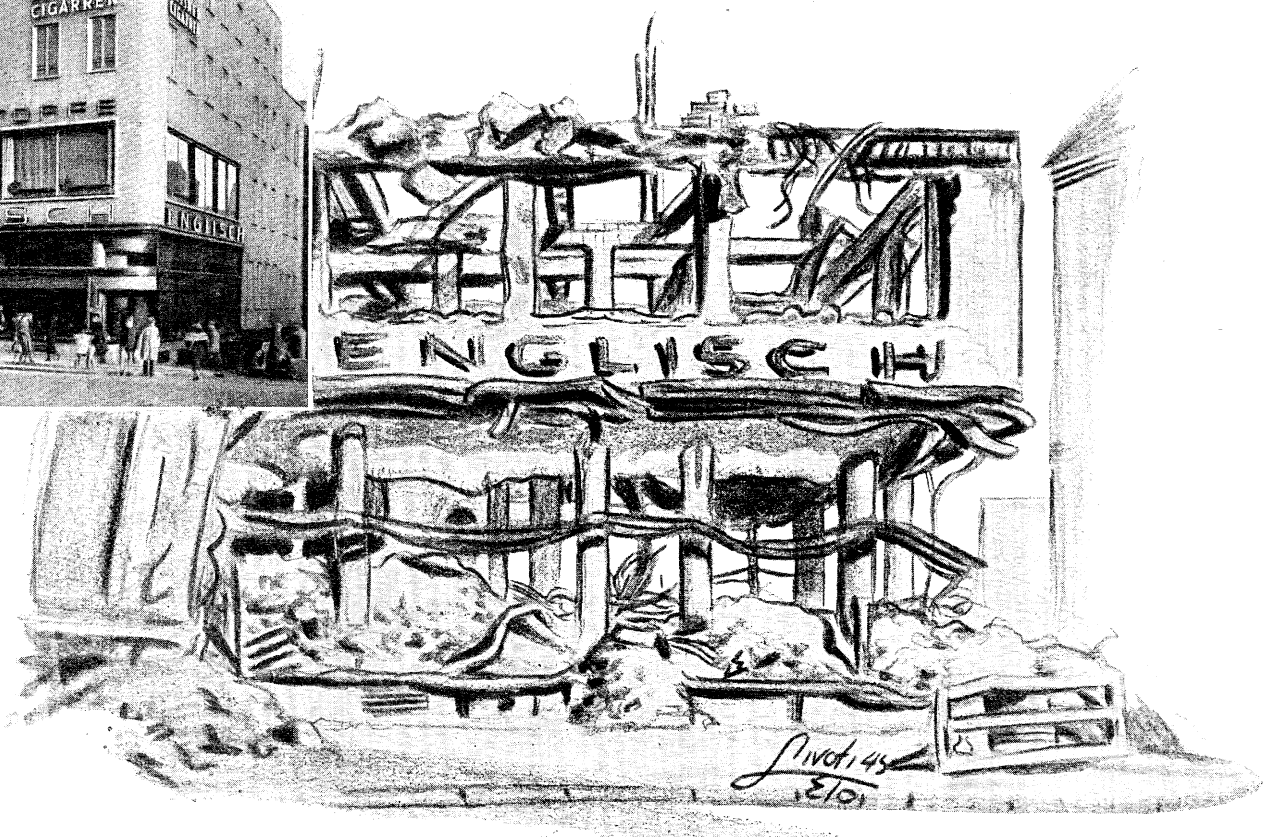
For the fourth time since activation, a new CO assumed the complex and manifold duties of leading our Regiment. Col. Richard G. Prather, Division Chief of Staff, was assigned and officially assumed his responsibility on June 7th.



On June 12th our elements were reshuffled once more. We went from Weissenhorn to Uhingen, from Ulm to Holzheim, from idyllic Osterberg to Bezgenriet, from Kirchberg to Eschenbach, from Laupheim to Deggingen, from Babenhausen to Bad Boll and from Illertissen to Göppingen. The roads were quite good. The Regimental CP set up in Göppingen in a palatial chateau complete with balconies, verandas, and a couple of baby grand pianos. The Officers' home was of even more grandeur. It had once been the favorite retreat of Field Marshall von Rundstedt and his staff.

There were reviews at which various awards were presented. On July 4th, the Third Battalion and Company H were presented the Presidential Unit Citation for the fighting at Rimling in January.

We took command of the Stuttgart and Leonberg Landkreis on the 7th of July. The Capital of the "kingdom" of Wurttemburg was again ours to occupy, manage, and control. After having been there two months ago and virtually given the boot to keep peace in the family of nations, we had a slight feeling of triumphant return to the battered and blasted city. The conventional tasks of setting up in a new area went forward with the familiarity that is bred by frequent execution. Living quarters were prepared and improved; scores of German civilians were put to work on cleaning apartment houses and other buildings which had been chosen for our use. The Stuttgart Municipal



House, in the center of town, had been made into a Red Gross Club and a large movie house. Late each afternoon there were concerts with the best section reserved for military personnel.

Most contacts had with the local populace were those initiated by the people themselves. This usually took the form of special requests for passes. On July 15th a woman requested permission to visit an injured son in Leonberg. Another came to the CP for transportation and personnel to haul a complete bed from Renningen to Stuttgart for her spouse, recently discharged from the Wehrmacht.

A stimulating event which caused considerable flurry was the relaxing of the non-fraternization rules by General Eisenhower. In short, what we had been doing was now legitimate. Our desire to voice our opinions was no longer restricted. Curiosity and an earnest wish to probe the minds of those people who had permitted such a blight upon the world resulted in extreme embarrassment to the queried. And then, some of us had other reasons for being happy about the relaxation.

Operations Instructions marked "Secret" were circulated on 20 July throughout the Regiment in the setting of the scene for a momentous happening. Plans were made to comply with these mysterious instructions, and Operation "Tally-Ho" was ready for the starting gun on the 21st. This entailed the systematic search of all civilians and homes in the area of American Occupation, and it was to come as a complete surprise.

Each company had its specific zone to cover, and regular collecting points were established for the assembling of forbidden articles found as well as for individuals picked up for infringement of Occupation Orders. Having been planned far in advance and executed competently, this operation proved extremely thorough and successful. It lasted for two complete 24-hour periods and the results were ample justification for the trouble taken.

The search began at 0700 and, depending on the size of the company area, lasted until anywhere between 1100 and 1700 on the first day. We found a total of 200 rounds of 80 mm. mortar ammunition, three rolls of German artillery wire, four panzerfausts, one pistol, three German trench knives, one crystal set, and much Nazi propaganda literature including editions of "MEIN KAMPF." We unearthed our own army equipment which included a gas mask, gas cans, canteens, a medical litter, communications wire, several articles of OD clothing and one 1903 Springfield rifle. There were many civilians without proper identification papers.

On August 21st we were alerted for shipment to the states September 10th and were just about ready to leave when Japan surrendered. We were de-alerted, the only sad denouement of the unexpected cessation of hostilities. The end of the war brought genuine and unconfined joy. This was the real thing. We wanted to shout and laugh and run around and tell everybody, but everybody else knew and they felt that they wanted to tell us. So we had our celebrations in the various clubs which had been set up for officers, noncoms and privates and let it go at that.

We cannot maintain that the history is finished; it cannot be with some of our buddies still unaccounted for —

Pfc. William A. Bresnahan, Silver Springs, Mo.
Pfc. Olan Dabbs, Wynnewood, Okla.
Sgt. Marat C. Euscher, Jr., Roxbury, Mass.
Pvt. John Fliesher, Chicago, Ill.
Pfc. Donald L. Hildenbrand, Baltimore, Md.
Pfc. Philip G. Mowat, Aberdeen, Scotland
Pfc. John F. Novak, Jr., East Pittsburgh, Penn.
1st Lt. Rayford E. Saxon, Meadville, Miss.
Pfc. Roddy L. Smith, Concord, N.C.
Pfc. Urban G. Volk, Newton, Ill.

but there is the beginning of a new world which we have helped to create and which we must preserve. We must pledge our efforts to the many who died in combat, to the wounded and to the men who made an equal sacrifice during the occupation of Germany —

Pfc. James M. Buchanan, Brighton, Mass.
2nd Lt. H. H. Hewetson, Jr., Watertown, N.Y.
Pfc. Eugene L. Klein, Fredericksburg, Texas
Pfc. Robert D. Mateer, Altoona, Penn.
S/Sgt. John A. Miller, Newburgh, Ind.
S/Sgt. Stephen Prelozni, Waukesha, Wis.
Pvt. Marvin L. White, Wellville, Va.
Pfc. James R. Yeomans, Moultrie, Ga.

None of us must ever forget what happened and it is perhaps just as well that we carry a few battle scars in our memories. We must justify what we have done by making the years that follow full and happy ones for those who are still with us and for those yet unborn.