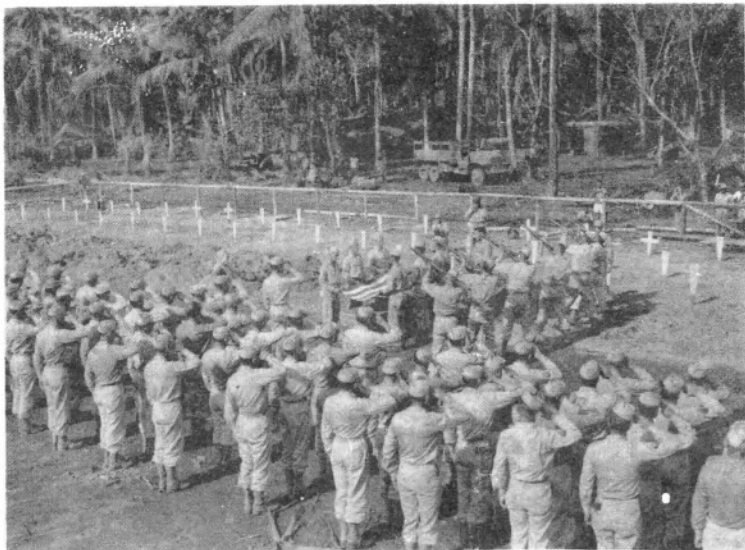


Overseas

WITH THE

99th SIGNAL BATTALION





IN MEMORIAM

To these men of the 99th Signal

Battalion who have died in

the service of their

country

we dedicate this book

Pvt RICHARD J. BARRY
Died of bronchial pneumonia
26 December 1944

T/5 LYLE E. BOWERS
Killed in action
18 November 1944

Pvt ELMER R. BUCKLES
Killed in action
16 November 1944

Pvt RICHARD Y. FRITS
Died in line of duty
16 June 1945

S/Sgt ALBERT L. HILL
Killed in action
18 November 1944

Cpl MELVIN D. D. JONES
Died of typhus fever
24 December 1943

T/5 LESTER L. LONG
Killed in action
16 November 1944

Pvt JERRY H. ROBBINS
Died in line of duty
26 December 1943

T/4 ISADORE J. RUDITYS
Died in line of duty
24 February 1945

Pfc THOMAS L. SIPLING
Died in line of duty
23 November 1944

Pfc ED STEFFAN
Died in line of duty
13 November 1943



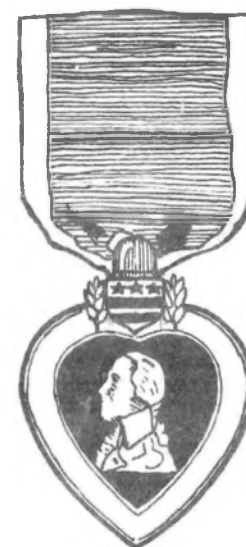
LEGION OF MERIT



SILVER STAR



BRONZE STAR



PURPLE HEART

LEGION OF MERIT

Major Jesse W. Billings

SILVER STAR

S/Sgt Albert L. Hill
(Posthumous Award)
Tec 5 Lyle E. Bowers
(Posthumous Award)

BRONZE STAR

Lt. Col. Arthur B. Grant
Major Oscar H. Junggren
Capt. Robert B. Byron
1st Lt. William J. Ryan
1st Lt. Fred J. Frank
1st Lt. Thornton G. Freda
1st Lt. Joseph H. LeTourneau
2nd Lt. John T. Metcalf
2nd Lt. Charles R. Reichenstein
WO(JG) Darrel K. Troxel

BRONZE STAR (Cont'd)

1st Sgt Ward L. Heath
M/Sgt Verne E. Hix
M/Sgt Robert Reis
M/Sgt Leonard H. Wells
M/Sgt Henry G. Edwards
M/Sgt Richard A. Jansen
T/Sgt Hubert J. Brockel
T/Sgt Milton R. Mahoney
T/Sgt Beryl E. Taylor
T/Sgt John J. Antoni
S/Sgt John H. Page
S/Sgt B. Parnell
S/Sgt Harold J. Kennedy
S/Sgt Harold G. Oppen
S/Sgt George A. Pankalla
Tec 3 Kenneth D. Willey
Tec 3 Charles S. Ryals
Sgt Roland N. Cash
Tec 4 William E. Hearn
Tec 4 Frank H. Boeck, Jr.
Tec 4 Tauno L. Erickson
Tec 4 Charles W. Fletcher

BRONZE STAR (Cont'd)

Tec 4 Arthur G. Scanlan
Tec 5 Monroe H. Ballard
Tec 5 Charles B. Lovell
Pfc William J. Downes
Pfc Edwin J. Kuhn
Pfc John J. Piccirillo
Pfc Hinz A. Moss

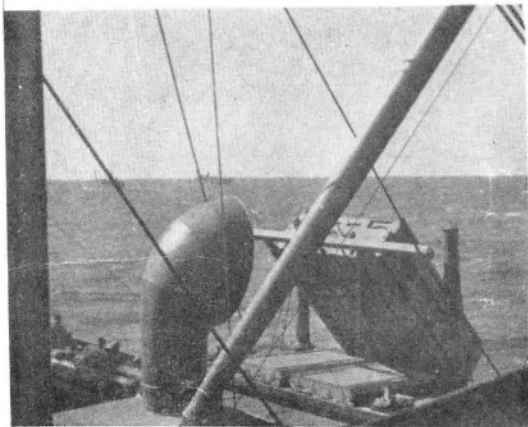
PURPLE HEART

S/Sgt Albert L. Hill
S/Sgt Emmett W. Mitcham
Tec 4 Amos V. Wilson
Tec 4 Woytta O. Koski
Tec 4 Victor R. Newnum
Tec 5 Lyle E. Bowers
Tec 5 Gerald E. Hearn
Tec 5 Lester L. Long, Jr.
Pfc Gordon L. Rubin
Pfc Robert E. Gehres
Pfc Otto F. Heinrich
Evt Elmer R. Buckles

THE



At 0800 on the 14th of April, 1943, the 99th Signal Battalion, plus 'supporting troops', weighed anchor at San Francisco harbor, departing the fatherland aboard USAT Willard A. Holbrook, formerly liner 'President Taft'....Destination: unknown.....Golden Gate Bridge aft, representing home, friends, family....Vast Pacific forward, meaning travel thru foreign lands, adventure, war....Weather beautiful first day or two, ocean calm....First transoceanic trip for most of us ...Then novelty begins to wear off, rains almost daily, same sun we know on Mohave Desert....3300 troops sleeping in layers, eating two meals daily, in shifts, breathing gasoline fumes below decks, idly watching flying fish, porpoises diving in unison.....Vella: 'Oslund, let me have a look at them waves'...Cooks bored; hard-boiled eggs every morning.....Sgt Gore, who likes everything hard-boiled, eating ten or twelve per day (which is something to crow about)...Seasickness almost unanimous....Fresh water for drinking, shaving, two or three hours a day....Church on deck Sundays.. Show-boys take time off from their gambling to give one show.....Red Cross gals doing their unsuccessful damndest to elevate morale.... Blackout at sundown, no smoking, no reading.....Poker games in the hold for BTO's only.....Neptune party as we cross the Equator; fun watching our favorite characters getting the 'Royal Works'.....Issued pamphlets on Australia, first indication of our destination.....Submarine scare, 5-inch gun aft burps at it, orange markers dropped.....All hands creepy as travelling unescorted.....As we near Australia, everyone snaps out of colossal boredom, eager to land.....Invade city of Brisbane on May 2nd, hike to Camp Doomben, still tilting to leeward.



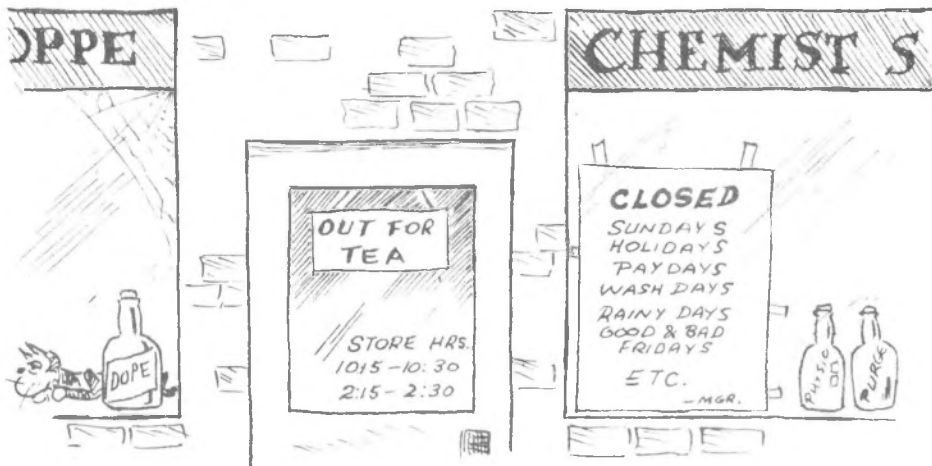
ABOVE: Typical view at sea showing what looks from here like a life raft.



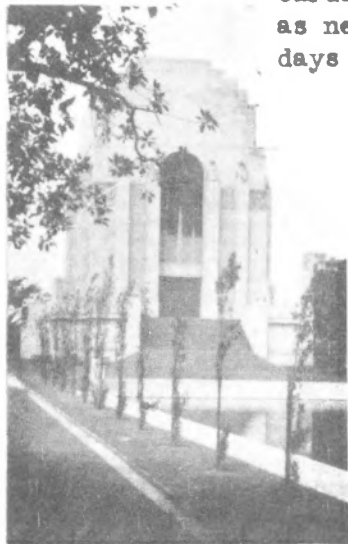
RIGHT: Easter Sunrise Service at sea.



Australia



Pictures shown on this page are post-cards purchased on furlough, and just as new to us as to you. No time in 15 days for beer-call and sight-seeing.

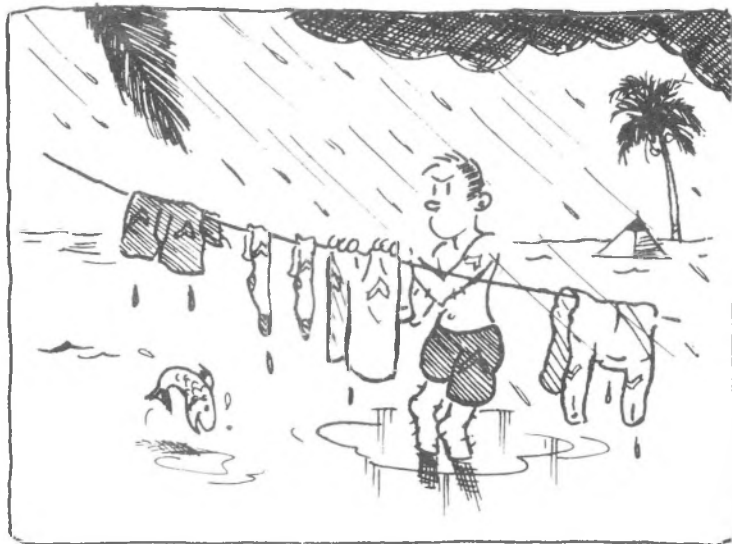


"Somewhere"
in
Sydney

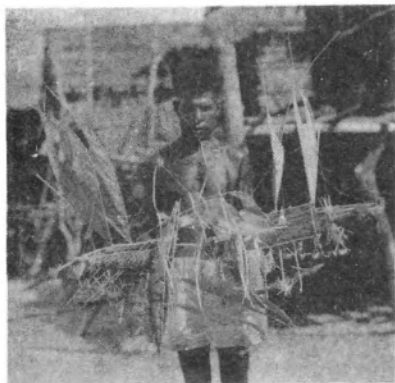
Most of the Battalion stayed in Brisbane only 2 or 3 weeks; a detachment remained for nine months; but nearly all of us have been exposed to living in Australia while on furlough or leave in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Townsville....These are most lasting impressions:.....With exception of Sydney and Melbourne, Australian cities are far behind American in progress, perhaps 20, 30 years... Five-story buildings are mammoth structures 'down under'...Very few good, large hotels as scarcity of 'commercial travellers', conventions, and so on...Houses built on stilts; no basement...prehistoric plumbing...People, not business-minded, close all shops, restaurants and cinemas for holidays when they could make the most money....Pay scales extremely low by American standards....Few women in enterprise or politics, seldom in responsible positions...Food good - a 'meat and potatoes' country; huge, low-priced steaks, garnished with fried eggs...No salads, no gravies, no dressings...Liquor closely guarded; whiskey doesn't taste like whiskey, wine fair, rum the worst of all possible beverages....Beer quite heavy, rich, seems better than American (which by comparison suffers from anemia); a noggin of Aussie beer will separate the men from the boys.... Spirits rationed...Brisbane pubs open an hour at noon, an hour in evening; in larger cities 4 or 5 hours a day; Aussie bar-maids an added attraction...Aussie soldiers usually friendly but hardly devoted to Yanks, who dated their wives and mothers, monopolized their theatres and night-clubs, spent pounds like dollars, and over-dressed...Aussie women good-looking, "joy-loving" (yoiks!), appreciate Yank attention, informality as formerly much subdued... We learn a few new slang words and phrases 'Bloody' is a word not used in polite company and 'knocked up' means 'fatigued' and has no reference to sensitive condition... 'Bastard' - (pronounce 'barstud') connotes endearment... 'One-Pot-Screamer' is a gentleman of limited capacity.....One and only thing all Americans agree on is that Aussies are nearly as crazy as we are...They were glad to see us come but not exactly tearful when we left.

PORT MORESBY and MILNE BAY

Left Brisbane on May 23rd in two groups: Lt. F. J. Mueller sailed in an old Dutch tub with a team of 25 men bound for Port Moresby to operate a Sixth Army liaison radio station and message center, in conjunction with General MacArthur's GHQ; the rest of the Battalion aboard the "William Ellery Channing" (Maru), landing at Milne Bay, New Guinea at moonless midnight, June 6th... A miserable voyage thru the Coral Sea...Ship improperly ballasted, a regular unholy roller....frudged thru mud, loaded with equipment, for $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile to bivouac area half-slashed out of the jungle...First red alert that memorable night, no bombs dropped...Next day began carving a home out of the brush with machetes, pocket knives.... Built our HQ, Radio City, Message Center, Telephone Exchange (laying cement floors, filling and pitching sand bags, constructing buildings in addition to regular operations)...KB Mission was to be Sixth Army HQ and 5 of General Krueger's staff officers were present with advance party....Thus started road to Manila....First experience with installing pole-lines through jungle, and very tough....No roads in those days....All transportation by water....Pole-lines to Gili-Gili, Wagga-Wagga, Ahioma finished in good time despite handicaps....Our



first taste of life in the jungle: blistering heat for a while....slow in acclimating ourselves...then rain, a reasonable facsimile of Niagara in the springtime (that part of New Guinea has the second largest rainfall in the world) which lasted about three months...Clothes, shoes, leather goods rotted by dampness...Food all canned, dehydrated or Australian Army stuff - not designed for an American stomach...Ate coconuts till sick of them, gave cigarettes to natives to climb the palm trees for the green ones.... First sight of native Marys - undraped from ohin to navel - most interesting....but not inspiring...No P-I supplies for a long time but movies and books after a while...Always hard work, long hours, as Sixth Army began to expand - attaching new troops, building up new supply bases, planning first tactical operations....Japs a few hundred miles away with plenty of sea and air power - always a threat, seldom aggressive...Two nuisance air-raids (recon planes that came to peep at us)...3 detachments left for Goodenough, Kiriwina, Woodlark Islands...Then... in late October, when they decided to bring the nurses to Milne Bay, we packed up...and fled to Goodenough.



ABOVE: Local dignitary with souvenir outrigger which he graciously sells at 10 bob. RIGHT: Lt. John D. Lindsey with an article discovered in this locality....It was shot near working party.





ABOVE: Radio and Teletype room at Sixth Army Advance Headquarters, KB Mission, Milne Bay. Chief Operator Master Sergeant Armond Morellie on the phone Pfc James L. Clooney operating the teletype machine.

BELOW: Radio repairmen looking happy and healthy at Milne Bay. Left to right, rear: T/3 Amos V. Wilson, 1st Lt Domenic A. Verrechia, T/Sgt Lester N. Sharp, T/3 Eugene A. Herrmann. Front: T/5 J. P. Lentz, T/3 Frank J. Smith, T/4 LeRoy H. Stauss, T/3 Charles S. Ryals, T/4 David F. Armitage. Having one of the most highly skilled Signal Corps jobs, these men performed with distinction, playing an important part in many Sixth Army and X Corps combat operations.



ABOVE: Camouflaged, sand-bagged radio transmitter shack at Milne Bay, New Guinea. All work accomplished by radiomen in addition to regular duties; there's a lot of sand in them thar bags!

RIGHT: This lovely picture of two native wenches included here to give a touch of local color.



BELOW: Two men of 'A' Company sawing a coconut palm in the middle of the jungle. All poles for the heavy construction wire lines had to be cut and hauled by the men.....'A' Company has been cited several times, and received the Meritorious Service Plaque for their work under adverse and combat conditions.



GOODENOUGH *Kiriwina* WOODLARK

WOODLARK ISLAND

Capt. Dayton W. Garlick, Bn S-3, took part in Woodlark Is operation as Signal Officer for task force....Woodlark one of first 3 moves by 6th Army to spread out, establish series of supply bases and staging areas....Not known at time of 'assault' whether island occupied by Japs...but just about last time that troops felt enough confidence to bring barracks bags in on the landing...Capt. Garlick given high commendation by task force Commanding General.

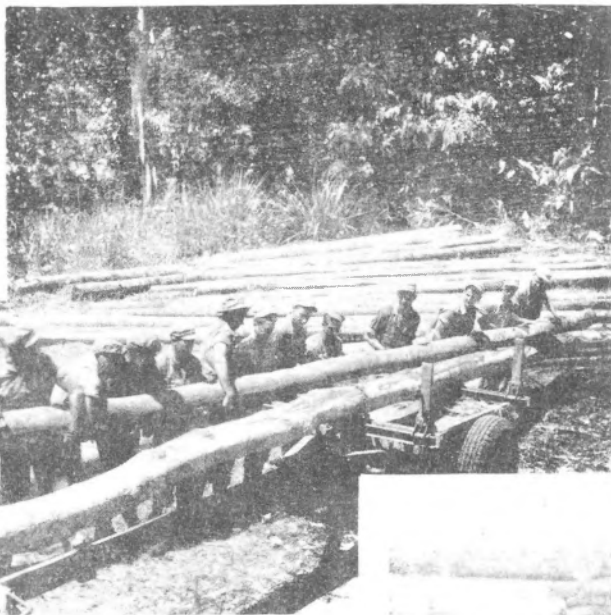
GOODENOUGH ISLAND

Lt. J. H. LeTourneau, with 20 men, went up to Goodenough to operate a radio station and a message center for Task Force HQ...Found no enemy there, but some scrub typhus....Bn Hq, Hq Company, 'A' Company, and Detachment Company 'B' joined them in late October and set up Sixth Army communications system...Island was mountainous, scenic; few of those blasted palm trees; more like West Virginia, Tennessee...Our area was by a cool, swift stream, shaded by great trees...No swimming but good soaking...Much rain, at times, but no drownings...Month or so later, First Marine Division arrived, announced: 'Boys, relax! The MARINES have landed.'...to which we replied, 'Hell, the NURSES have been here two weeks!'....16th Sig Bn arrived from the States 'midst fanfare of their own trumpets; started to relieve us as they had been assigned to Sixth Army....1st of December, Lt. LeTourneau & team moved to Finschhafen, recently cleared of the Nips.

KIRIWINA ISLAND

Lt. Walter A. Richardson landed at Kiriwina on D-4 (or 4 days before the scheduled invasion)....Assigned to Task Force as 6th Army Liaison Signal Officer...On D-Day Lt. John H. Flieger and Company 'A'

Detachment landed to begin work immediately on construction of pole-lines to all key installations on island....Installed and maintained 490 miles of wire...Kiriwina almost flat, highest point 158 feet ASL... Plenty of fruit, vegetables; well-cultivated....Pearl center prior to the war...Women are the handsomest, most cultured in New Guinea area... Sorry...No room for photographs.



ABOVE: Men of Co. 'A' loading logs of native timber to be used in pole-line construction.

RIGHT: Radio operations room at Sixth Army HQ, Goodenough Island.



Arawe-Cape Gloucester -



ARAWE

Because the Japs anticipated an invasion of Gasmata and nastily reinforced it, the blow fell at Arawe, on SW coast of New Britain... Members of the 112th Cavalry Regiment went ashore in assault boats, encountered heavy opposition.... Captain Garrick again Task Force Signal Officer, assisted by M/Sgts Ryan and Gore, Pfc Hopson, Pvt Sakowski....From December 1943

to February 1944 men subjected to heavy bombing, sniper fire, Jap infiltration...CAPE GLOUCESTER...10 days after diversionary Arawe landing, the 1st Marine Division invaded Cape Gloucester on western tip of New Britain...our Co 'A' accompanied...Pole-lines installed from beach to all HQ, airstrip....Jap resistance determined.....'A' Co. men reprimanded for laying wire behind enemy lines...ADMIRALTY ISLANDS....Strike against Los Negros Is by First Cavalry Division was reconnaissance in force to start with, but was soon full-fledged assault...Col Grant and 110 men from Hq and 'B' Companies landed D plus few days to operate radio, wire, message center from First Cavalry to Sixth Army...Japs had 'rear echelon' troops in Admiralties, which was rest area.....Kept them 'hopped up' with sake and drugs.....Captured Formosan, Malayan 'filles de joie'.... Japs fought fanatically, but had no plan of attack, no direction...Killed 3000 with loss of less than 100 Yanks...14 dead Japs in our bivouac area, no time to bury them.....When they got a little strong, pitched on bit more sand....Settled down after a while, work not too tough, area on beach was nice and comfortable....When order came down from Division HQ to start building rock-gardens, we packed up to follow the war.

UPPER LEFT: Effect of naval shelling on coconut palms at Los Negros, Admiralties
LEFT: Top to bottom - T/5 Harry Goertz, T/4 Richard Gibbons, and T/4 John Leverance aboard typical live telephone pole in the Admiralties.

BELOW: M/Sgt (now 1st Lt) W. J. Ryan in switchboard dugout at Arawe, New Britain



a Message

FROM THE

COMMANDING OFFICER

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BATTALION:

I wish to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for your part in establishing the enviable reputation we enjoy. It has been your hard work, hours of tireless devotion to duty, and technical skill often displayed under the most trying conditions which have given the Battalion this reputation.

I hope this brief Battalion history will, in the years to come, remind you of the part each of you has played in bringing the Battalion over the long hard road during the past two years to accomplish its mission with flying colors. May continued success be yours until we have reached the end of the long road leading to Tokyo.

Arthur B. Grant
ARTHUR B. GRANT
Lt. Col., SigC
Commanding

Officers

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Grant, A. B.

MAJOR

Junggren, O. H.

CAPTAIN

Abrams, B.
Byron, R. B.
Dugger, J.
Grisard, G. H.
Lindsey, J. D.

1ST LIEUTENANT

Bachtel, C. L.
Beaudin, T. J.
Brockway, G. H., Jr.
Erowne, R. J.
Flieger, J. H.
Frank, F. J.
Freda, T. G.
Fritz, W. H.
Hale, D. W.
Henricks, A. M.
Jakmides, T. R.
LeTourneau, J. H.

Mueller, F. J.
Myers, M. S.
Nemenyi, R.
Richardson, W. A., Jr.
Russell, H. W.
Ryan, W. J.
Stephenson, V. S., Jr.

2ND LIEUTENANT

Beeler, J. J., Jr.
Bollettieri, P. J.
Burton, W. E.
Disbrow, D. E.
Heim, J. R.
Himes, S. T.
McLeod, T. L.
Reichenstein, C. R.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

Gore, R. S.
Ohnesorge, A. D.

WARRANT OFFICER (JUNIOR GRADE)

Troxel, D. K.
White, D. J.

FIRST SERGEANT

Bello, L. C.
Heath, W. L.
Peck, W. M. E.
Farrish, G. F.

MASTER SERGEANT

Alexander, W. T.
Buchholz, G. R.
Edwards, H. G.
Hartmann, G. H.
Eaves, F. W.
Eill, S., Jr.
Rix, V. E.
Hutchison, D. H.
Jansen, R. A.
Peam, W. F.
Reis, R.
Rossi, F.
Wells, L. H.
Zane, D. E.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Antoni, J. J.
Brockel, H. J.
Burrows, H. M.
Cox, J. L.
Dadant, J. C.
Gelowsky, P.
Griffin, L.
Herrmann, E. A.
Kerr, W. E.
Enick, W. P.
Kurtzer, L. E.
Luebke, E. L.
Mahoney, M. R.
Matheny, R. L.
Murray, A. L.
Patton, E. F.
Robillard, L. J.
Ross, R. C.
Taylor, B. E.
Thayer, H.
Schroeder, E. F.
Senteney, J. C.
Silcox, G. E.
Walt, J.

STAFF SERGEANT

Adamson, N. G.
Arceci, J. A.
Boyd, H. W.
Clemens, R. W.
Gocco, J. J.
Colosia, A. B.
Connors, M. E.
Craycraft, S. R.
Cross, J. L.
Cukale, E. M.
D'Amato, J. T.
Fields, G. L.
Flaherty, M. J.
Fournier, C. A., Jr.
Giambatista, A. D.
Giacinto, T. P.
Hassick, M.
Kennedy, H. J.
Flecza, J. J.
Frech, G. O.
LemMon, L. E.

Licking, V. E.
Lindsay, G. E.
Martin, A. E.
Mica, E. F.
Mulherin, T. F.
Munneke, E. S.
Myers, O. L.
Peelley, J. B.
Oppen, H. G.
Addabbo, S.
Page, J. H.
Pankalla, G. A.
Parnell, B.
Pece, C.
Pieper, A.
Rakes, L. J.
Reames, W. D.
Robbins, J. G.
Sanderson, H. C.
Sandfort, W. W.
Scanlan, A. G.
Scheid, R. J.
Schwaderer, A. E.
Schwaderer, R. T.
Smith, G. E.
Smith, J. L.
Sullivan, R. W.
Tillery, C. E.
Urda, S. P.
Vacca, N.
Viney, A. E.
Wegenaar, R. O.
Welsh, J. T.
Wes, J. W.

TECHNICIAN THIRD GRADE

Aguilar, A.
Bailey, R. G.
Bochard, W. S.
Brockman, W. A.
Burrow, A. M.
Carlson, V. T.
Diebel, F. H., Jr.
Eckstein, R. J.
Ermolan, W. K.
Eulett, R. E.
Farni, H. E.
Freiermuth, A. C.
Gray, H. G.
Gunn, D.
Guthrie, E. T.
Havemann, N. L.
Hould, P. E.
Howell, E. L.
Kinney, C. C.
McCammon, C. S.
McKinney, L. J.
Kerberry, G. C.
Meinert, E. H.
Miller, L. L.
Moore, J. K.
Price, R. K.
Rose, H. J.
Ryals, C. S.
Smith, F. J.
Tessier, R. E.
Willey, K. D.

SERGEANT

Cash, R. H.
Egan, T. K.
Ellis, H. H.
Grove, R. R.
Harpen, W. J.
Hone, K. R.
Kendrick, A. C.
Kenny, J. J.
Patzman, R. W.
Sbrocco, P. A.
Walker, L. G.

Walsh, D. V.

TECHNICIAN FOURTH GRADE

Abraim, J. L.
Adams, C. E.
Addabbo, S.
Allen, C. M.
Armitage, D. F.
Bates, J. R.
Bealy, W. W.
Belota, C. J.
Berger, J. G., Jr.
Berton, B. W., Jr.
Birdwell, O. B.
Boeck, F. H., Jr.
Branch, E. E.
Brazzel, R. J.
Brenneman, O. T.
Bretting, E. E.
Brown, C. H.
Cap, L.
Chambers, E. D.
Chambers, E. H., Jr.
Champion, C.
Ciechanowski, G. J.
Cook, C. E.
DeMoss, E. F.
Dishon, A. E.
Eaton, P. L.
Einson, P.
Epperson, R. L.
Erickson, T. L.
Erpelding, J. F.
Fletcher, C. W.
Furlon, L. M.
Gibbons, R. G.
Gergen, A. H.
Gray, O. F.
Green, R. V.
Eagelauer, J. E.
Harris, C. E.
Hawkesworth, E. L.
Hearn, W. E.
Heick, G. A.
Henson, D. L.
Hill, H. P.
House, J. N.
Hull, B. H.
Jacobs, S. W.
Jacobson, M. H.
Jones, F. H.
Kabureck, P. L.
Kissinger, T.
Klepper, J. D.
Koenke, O.
Leftwich, F. H.
Leverance, J. W.
Lorenz, R. W.
McHale, T. J., Jr.
Mabry, A. D., Jr.
Matlock, C. D.
Meyer, B. J.
Meyer, W. E.
Miller, J. C.
Newnum, V. R.
Nee, H. L.
Oakes, W. D.
O'Dell, J.
O'Laughlin, K. G.
Olson, O. W.
Oslund, C. H.
Owen, H. J.
Owsley, R. H.
Padgett, T. T.
Pepera, S. J.
Poulson, G. W.
Powers, C. E.
Protoko, J.
Radcliffe, A. A.
Rees, G. C.
Reese, R. H.
Rembetski, E.
Rich, S. E.

Robbins, S. H.
Robinson, O. R.
Rodriguez, A. C.
Ryba, E. I.
Salmons, H. A.
Schacher, P. W.
Schulz, E. O.
Schweigert, W.
Sherry, E.
Silloway, J. A.
Simmons, C. A.
Sinor, J.
Smith, L. H.
Solecki, J. F.
Sorenson, O.
Grubar, J. P.
Stancampiano, M. P.
Stauss, L. H.
Stephens, A. G.
Stephenson, E. D.
Stoker, J. B.
Sweeney, R. J.
Tomko, J. J.
Vana, J. S.
Vigil, A.
Ward, P. J.
Watson, J. T.
Weeks, C. H.
Weigelt, M. R.
Wensel, P. L.
Wilkinson, C. M.
Williamson, H. D.
Wergul, J.
Wright, C. F., Jr.
Wunderlich, E.
Warbrough, R. L.
Zimmerman, C. M.

CORPORAL

Archer, A. B.
Coulliette, W. H.
Geyerman, R. T.
Grulewski, C. F.
Kuy, E. J.
Thomas, L. W.
Van Savage, J.

TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE

Alexander, J. C.
Anderson, C. O.
Anderson, F. H.
Ardouin, L. W.
Babinchak, J.
Backus, E.
Baker, E. H.
Ballard, K. H.
Bean, J. L.
Bell, J. R.
Benke, F. W., Jr.
Betty, J. E.
Blomquist, A. L.
Bode, W.
Boileau, E.
Hoone, E. F.
Bordner, H. R.
Eoswell, A. D.
Eressman, R. W.
Erown, C. C.
Budano, T.
Bullard, W. C.
Bullock, W. K.
Burch, T. H., Jr.

Roster

Burg, F. M.
Eyes, W. B.
Byer, G. H.
Calegari, W. E.
Callaghan, D. J.
Camarda, N.
Carmon, D. F.
Carpenter, L. H.
Chaney, T. F.
Clooney, L. J.
Coufal, C. L.
Cox, A. J.
Crawford, K. W.
Crowley, J. F.
Cuellar, A. F.
Davis, B.
Davis, H. S.
DeMario, J.
Dennis, P. H.
Dousa, J. J.
Dralle, H. F.
Drevlow, A. H.
Dulworth, H. C.
Duncan, R. E.
Dunlap, R. R.
Dykes, J. L.
Dykes, C. D.
Eastham, H. A.
Egan, T.
Ellington, V. O.
Espinoza, T.
Falls, W. A.
Feldman, S.
Fixin, C.
Flowers, A. C.
Frank, G. J.
Franklin, K. L.
Freeman, G. D.
Froke, C. G.
Garrett, H. L.
Geller, W. E.
Gemza, S. S.
Gieske, N. H.
Gimma, G.
Goertz, H. W.
Green, L.
Happ, D. E.
Farrell, B. N.
Helmsdorfer, G. F.
Henderson, L. P.
Herman, E. C.
Hiles, R. G.
Hill, C. A.
Hoffman, H. J.
Howell, D. H., Jr.
Hufford, G. B.
Hull, W. C.
Hyden, P. M.
Ittle, P. E.
Ivanoy, J.
James, R. W.
Jupp, R. C.
Kelley, A. L.
Kelm, P. J.
Kinsey, W. D.
Kloessel, W.
Koenke, K. C.
Kowalski, J. C.
Krotowicz, M. F.
Lasetter, R. L.
Lattanzio, M. A.
Lawler, R. E.
Lee, L. G.
Lewis, C. V.
Lovell, C. B.
Lyle, E. A.
Lyons, R. O.
McCubbin, G. O.
McDaniel, D. F.
McGoey, J. K.

of Personnel

Mahan, R.
Maloney, M. E.
Malovec, J. P.
Marchiniak, S.
Marsili, C.
Mayerhofer, C.
Mayfield, J. R.
Mazoch, J. J.
Meek, R. L.
Meneley, D. D.
Merchant, S. E.
Meth, S. S.
Meyer, J. F.
Miller, H.
Miller, C.
Miller, R. A.
Moeller, K. C.
Morales, P.
Mustoe, W. C.
Niessen, H. J.
Olson, K. A.
Orszowski, R. J.
Orndorff, P. S.
Orr, W. L.
Overstreet, J. M.
Pancoast, D. N.
Paris, J. W.
Parks, F. H.
Paswark, H. G.
Paulak, D. G.
Pellowski, P. V.
Pence, T. E.
Persons, R. O.
Pozayt, E. J.
Pozanski, J. L.
Prestley, J. L.
Price, V. O.
Przystawski, M. A.
Ray, A.
Reynolds, A. P.
Riley, C. H.
Roas, C. C.
Roth, J. A.
Roubos, J.
Ruddy, W. D., Jr.
Sauter, W. E.
Schneider, E. J.
Schuster, L. C.
Scott, C. A.
Seal, W. E.
Skomorowski, J.
Slentz, R. E.
Smith, H.
Snuggs, I. B.
Soderstrom, J. P.
Sommerfeldt, H. H.
Spicher, C. W.
Spurr, J. L.
Staley, J. E.
Stasel, G. R.
Steeleman, L. T.
Stolls, O. C.
Strong, A. E.
Tennessee, W. J.
Thomas, W. E.
Trimble, H. F., Jr.
Truly, M. W.
Trupkovich, C. E.
Turpin, W. G.
Twaddle, R. E.
Ulrich, W. F.
Varella, P. G.
Vaughn, P. E.
Vose, J. H.
Wallace, J. J.
Walters, R.
Watson, E. P.
Webber, K. A.
Westhusin, J. E.
Wharff, W. O.

Whitehead, W. M.
Willett, J. E.
Williams, J. P., Jr.
Willis, O. C.
Winkler, R. A.
Winters, R. W.
Woodruff, J. W.
Wright, W. C.
Yeary, J. C., Jr.
Young, C. O.
Zagrocki, S. J.

PRIVATES FIRST CLASS

Adwell, R. G.
Alberstadt, T. G.
Alex, H. O.
Arbuckle, E.
Arrazola, C. M.
Asberry, E. L.
Baggett, R. C., Jr.
Bailey, H.
Barkley, R.
Barnett, D. E.
Barns, C. C.
Barsky, N.
Bartz, W. H.
Beckett, J. J.
Beirds, F. J.
Bell, E. L.
Bennett, E. L.
Berardi, F. J.
Blankenship, J. H.
Bluth, D. K.
Boyne, T. H.
Brecken, J. F.
Brady, W. T.
Breen, J. K.
Brown, H. W.
Brown, S.
Browning, H. M.
Bryson, W.
Bugal, C. G.
Butler, T. L.
Cernauskas, S. F.
Cherry, B. L.
Childs, E. N.
Cichon, W. C.
Clark, S. E.
Clouse, F. J.
Coffman, L. L.
Cole, J. H.
Cole, R. E.
Collins, G. E.
Cooper, W. C.
Coats, C. E.
Copp, J.
Daley, P. J.
Davis, V. R.
Denman, W. H.
Denny, O. G.
Dent, L. A.
Downes, W. J.
Dresch, H. J.
Duncan, B. A.
Durham, C. S.
Eaves, H.
Elenbaas, P.
Ellis, C. E.
Evans, S.
Ewing, L.
Fields, H. W.
Flores, J. S.
Forbes, A. B.
Foster, H. E.
Fowler, C. H.
Franz, J. C.

Frazier, W. L.
Friemel, G. H.
Friesenhahn, J. J.
Gagner, E. L.
Garner, G. E.
Garrett, L. E.
Gathany, W. W.
George, M. L.
Georgini, A. J.
Giarrantano, J. G.
Gillentine, A. S.
Gilllett, D. E.
Gold, H. E.
Gonier, A. A.
Gordon, K. E.
Goward, G. C.
Graham, E. L.
Gras, H. F.
Gray, P. B.
Green, E. H.
Griffin, C. V.
Griffon, E. L.
Grim, D. E.
Grinter, E. E.
Gruver, C. E., Jr.
Guerrero, J. T.
Guido, A. J.
Hale, B. E.
Haley, E. R.
Hamcock, L. H.
Hanes, J. O.
Hardesty, W. E.
Harmon, K. L.
Hatcher, W. D.
Haynes, J. E., Jr.
Heckman, H. E.
Heinrich, O. F.
Hodgerson, R. H.
Hodgson, J. W.
Hohle, R. B.
Hollingsworth, V.
Holloway, K. W.
Hollywood, K. V.
Hukill, T. N.
Ianella, A. A.
Irvine, J. T.
Jaynes, W. G.
Jenson, M. J.
Jerzykowski, E. M.
John, P. A.
Johnson, D. C.
Johnson, E. J.
Jones, H. D.
King, V. H.
Kline, E.
Kmett, E. J.
Knight, J. W.
Koenemann, E. A.
Koller, J. A.
Kottke, L. H.
Kovacina, J. T.
Krummel, R. R.
Kuhn, E. J.
Kulhanek, A. J.
LaBarge, E. J.
LaGarias, J. S.
Lain, W.
Laiosa, L. L.
Lampley, F. L.
Lanzafame, L. A.
Leasure, D. R.
Leatherman, C. E.
Leasure, E. E.
Leopold, A. P.
Lephiaw, A. L.
Lewis, C.
Lewis, V. F.
Lopez, P.
Lum, J. W.
McDonald, W. C.

McPaul, O.
McGowan, M. J.
McGrath, T. J.
Macias, L. B.
Mackzum, C. F.
Marcantonio, F.
Marsh, A.
Marsh, K. R.
Martin, G. T.
Martin, R. D.
Mathis, H.
Middleton, L.
Mielke, W. F., Jr.
Miller, J. L.
Miller, M. L.
Miller, M. K.
Morris, J. A.
Mortimer, J. W.
Moshier, J. B.
Mostowik, E. J.
Mrazek, W. C.
Munke, A. J.
Myers, W. E.
Neville, J. J.
Noel, G. T.
Olson, D. A.
Ondrovick, J. F.
Orlowski, R. L.
Palomaki, P. G.
Park, B. E.
Paullis, W. C.
Peck, C. A.
Peales, M.
Phillips, E. E.
Piccarreta, S. C.
Pokluda, B. M.
Posey, D. M.
Potter, W. J.
Pritchard, R. L.
Raborn, C. E.
Ramirez, B. C.
Reid, G. E.
Reser, M. E.
Reynolds, G. F.
Rhodes, G. F.
Robinson, J.
Rockstroh, A. C.
Rose, L. H.
Rubin, G. L.
Ruff, C. A.
Russell, D. H.
Russell, E. L.
Sachett, E. L.
Salinas, P.
Sanchez, S.
Sapien, A. L.
Schneider, E. L.
Schupp, R. D.
Schweizer, R. C.
Schwenke, H. W.
Septowski, L. C.
Shannon, L. A.
Shipley, R. L.
Simonetti, M. J.
Snyder, D. C.
Sparaga, A. A.
Spitzer, L. C.
Sprague, R. E.
Steinhardt, O.
Steinruck, R. V.
Stinson, B.
Striplin, J. F.
Strzalkowski, F. S.
Subia, V. J.
Supak, J. E.
Swan, J. A.
Sydow, G. R.
Taylor, B.
Taylor, W. A.
Tucker, J. S., Jr.
Tueting, H. G.
Turbeville, J. W.
Twinn, R. J.
Tyo, G. L.
Uebing, J. M.
Unger, G. W.

Urban, V. A. J.
Vacek, J. J.
Valentino, J. R.
Vasilcheck, J., Jr.
Vella, S. A.
Viglio, J. J.
Vincent, F. S.
Voise, A. H.
Wade, H. S.
Wagner, B. F.
Walton, B. F.
Wawro, C. J., Jr.
Weese, O. L.
Wells, H. B.
Whitehead, R. E.
Willfahrt, E. P.
Williams, F. W.
Williams, R. E.
Wilson, J. L.
Wolford, V. R.
Woolverton, L. A.
Yeary, D. L.

PRIVATES

Allison, E. K.
Baughman, L. H.
Betz, H. C.
Brown, L.
Buchanan, M. C.
Burchett, G.
Cisneros, G. G.
Cole, J. R.
Dobrow, W. S.
Dyer, R. J., Jr.
Enos, G. W.
Everts, J. J.
Ferguson, J. W.
Galusha, J. E.
Greenwell, L. C.
Hall, G. E.
Harriman, A. E.
Heinle, G. F.
Henry, J. B.
Hobgood, B. H.
Hopely, E. W.
Hudy, G. A.
Johns, W. T.
Jones, P. O., Jr.
Kersey, B. C.
Kobeck, W. H.
Kowalsky, F. G.
Lackowski, H. C.
LaForest, N. H.
Landa, S.
McGuire, H. R.
Mattson, W. R.
Murphy, R. L.
Odberg, E. L.
O'Neal, H. K.
Onyun, D. A.
Petriw, A.
Randall, P. J.
Rogers, W. R.
Rose, E. W.
Schwartz, I. B.
Sinclair, J. I.
Smith, R. I.
Uebing, H.
Van Streader, P. V.
Wolpoff, L.
Worley, C. E.
Zettelmier, J. G.

Albright, E. E.
Billings, J. W.
Bryant, G. C., Jr.
Crawford, F. W.
Davis, M.
Dunlap, R. E.
Famely, M.
Garlick, D. W.
Hopkins, C. W.
Janpole, H. E.
LaFayette, C. J.
Lambert, H.
Lee, E. R.
Lefferts, W. J.
Lenahan, W.
Lunabstein, H.
Ketchall, J. T.
Potter, C. L.
Saunders, H. O.
Schuend, E. L., Jr.
Verrechia, D. A.
West, W. M.
Wampole, E. A.

Ackerman, W. R.
Allen, W. J.
Atkinson, L. J., Jr.
Baker, H. W.
Barfield, D. L.
Barker, J. P.
Barrett, L. O.
Bernie, J. L.
Bennington, C. L.
Bertone, P. J.
Bilgrel, S.
Birger, J.
Black, H. H.
Blackwood, I. G.
Blaney, E. F.
Blough, J. M.
Brandt, J. C., Jr.
Bratton, H. H.
Brauer, H. W.
Brawner, W. L.
Brown, A. L.
Bruce, C. M.
Brunz, H. G.
Bryan, J. M.
Buesing, H. E.
Bulger, T. C.
Burgin, J. C.
Butts, L. A.
Butts, R. V.
Cantrell, P., Jr.
Carson, K. F., Jr.
Cauthon, C. F.
Chapman, J. R.
Chaski, L. H.
Chism, J. E.
Christberg, E. F.
Clingan, J. D.
Conley, J. M.
Conley, J. L.
Cox, E. C.
Cox, E. R.
Crossland, J. R.
Cruikshank, L. M.
Cruz, J. P.
DeHaven, V. H.
Devlin, M. G.
Diebel, D. J.
Duncan, S. E., Jr.
Eaker, W. C.
Eastin, J. C.
Eberpacher, D. W.

FORMLER MEMBERS

OFFICERS

Edwards, D. T.
Fazenbaker, R. J.
Flores, E. M.
Fox, F. J.
Frank, R. C.
Freeman, S. B.
Gallegos, D.
Gamble, C. K.
Gantzler, R. E.
Garrison, H. H.
Jaskins, J.
Gauce, J. D.
Gaver, G. K.
Gercken, R. R.
Gaurin, J. L.
Glessinger, M. L.
Gilbert, B. M.
Gibertson, R. H.
Gladkowski, W. J.
Goldberg, I.
Goley, J. H.
Graham, W. J.
Grande, S. J.
Greene, W. A.
Hallam, C. S.
Hamaker, H.
Hardman, H. T.
Hartell, W. A.
Hartcock, G. M.
Hattan, L. T.
Helberg, W. N.
Helm, J. B.
Hennek, G. E.
Henning, W. J.
Herbert, R. W.
Hernandez, R.
Hibbs, C. A.
Hightower, W. R.
Williard, C. P.
Hinton, O. P.
Hobbs, J. A.
Hofberg, G.
Hopson, W. C.
Howard, G. C.
Howie, J. C.
Huggins, H. L., Sr.
Hutchins, W. D.
James, A. L.
Jeffrey, D. W.
Johnson, E. L.
Jones, G. A.
Jordan, J. T.
Jordan, J. E.
Kersten, E. E.
Kendig, J. F.
Kloosterman, P. W.
Knutson, V. B. T.
Koepke, O. C.
Kolentus, J. J.
Krueger, R.
Kruise, J. K.
Kubelka, A. F.
Lany, L.
Lee, C. R.
Lee, H. E.
Lee, J. D.
Lentz, J. P.
Linscomb, D. H.
Littleton, C.
Loveless, W. J.
Luciano, V.
Luna, R. F.
Martin, A. R.
May, A.
Mayer, R. E.
McAninch, K.
McBride, D. N.
McClellan, C. O.
McGill, R. W.
McLean, G. W.
McMally, J. J.
Mills, F. E.
Merritt, W. C.
Martini, F. M.
Maxwell, D. J.
Mazur, W.
Mitcham, E. W.

ENLISTED MEN

Mitchell, C. R.
Morrison, D. H.
Loas, H. A.
Magy, S. F.
Nelson, W. S.
Mimo, C. F.
Kowak, J. B.
Clchan, R. C.
Olson, H. T.
Gaheroff, H.
Palzer, A. T.
Parent, F. T.
Parise, J. P.
Paschall, F. S.
Patterson, W. Y.
Pavlov, V. C.
Perez, A. B.
Perry, W. F., Jr.
Petelik, W.
Peterson, E. D.
Piccirillo, J. J.
Pilkington, J. E.
Pinkley, J. H.
Powell, A. I.
Powers, D. C.
Pozanski, J. E.
Pryor, J. D.
Puckett, P. H.
Iurcell, W. E.
Qualls, H.
Ransay, C. W.
Reed, L.
Render, E. L.
Ritchey, J. G.
Roberson, A. P.
Robinet, W. G.
Rogers, V. L.
Sakoski, W. W.
Salloom, E. G.
Salonen, H. A.
Sampson, H. W.
Samsel, E. S.
Sarver, R. F.
Schlesinger, S. M.
Schmitz, A. J.
Schneider, N. J.
Schrall, L. L.
Schranski, J. P.
Seney, J. P.
Sharp, L. K.
Sikora, J.
Slape, D. F.
Smith, A. H.
Spears, B. L.
Smith, C. L.
Smith, W. G., Jr.
Staudt, C. K.
Stegall, C. A.
Steinberg, H.
Steinhardt, O.
Stern, S.
Stevens, A. G.
Struber, J. F.
Sullivan, I. J.
Stewart, M. H.
Suttles, R. H.
Sweeney, D. L.
Taylor, T. W.
Thomas, B.
Titbet, E. B.
Turner, M. S.
Tyus, J. W.
Van Ness, F. H.
Vondetucchi, A. M.
Vannon, S. J.
Ward, J. E.
Warner, A. E.
Weaver, M. O.
Wossels, E. S.
Willlett, R. R.
Williams, E. E.
Workman, H. E.
Wright, L. E.
Wright, L. E.
Younger, E. V.



ORO BAY... NADZAB

Lae & Finschhafen



FINSCHLAFEN.....Early in January 1944, Bn Hq and Hq Company joined the Detachment already operating Advance Sixth Army HQ at Finsch...Current operations at Arawe, Cape Gloucester being directed from there.....Strikes at Saidor and the Admiralties add to burden of communications work.....Meanwhile Company 'C' had arrived 27 December 1943, had begun operations on heavy wire construction for USASOS base at Finsch.....They stayed there until June, 1945, were highly com-

mended by Commanding General USASOS for their work....Finsch became a jumping-off place for Admiralty, Aitape, Wakde, Biak, and Noemfoor operations, Signal combat teams of the 99th leaving from and returning there after operations completed....Most men received furlough to Australia, came back to Finsch to rest and recuperate.....Bivouac area just fair; place has no climate, only weather.....Lots of sun, plenty rain...Good beach for swimming, numerous movies, but no place to go....not much of interest to see....First beer ration, supplemented by evil product of still set up behind motor pool....Until CO nabbed them while distilling a batch, broke up perfectly good business...In August 1944 we reorganized, & were transferred from Sixth Army to X Corps.....At one time, only 30 men left at Bn Hq.

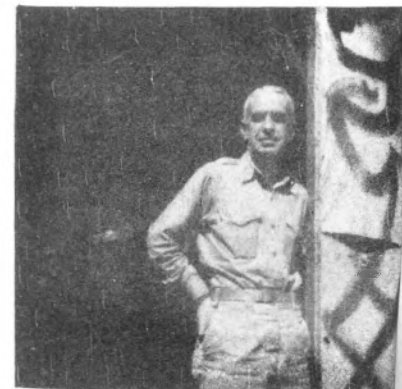


ABOVE: Central Office (telephone exchange) at Finschhafen, New Guinea. RIGHT: Camp at Finschhafen named in honor of Cpl Melvin Jones, who died of typhus fever, in December 1943.



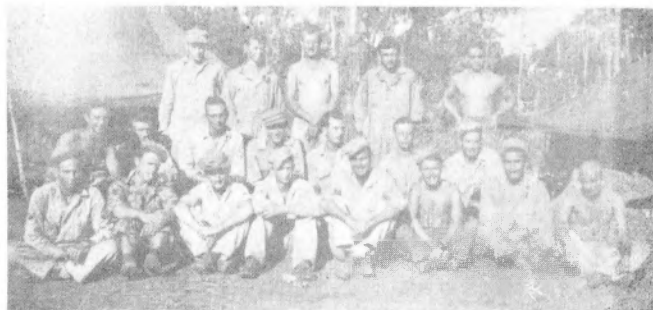
BELOW: Col Harry Reichelderfer of Sixth Armyone hell of a good officer to work for.

ORO BAY.....While still at Milne Bay, the 99th sent a radio-message center detachment up to Oro Bay to work liaison traffic between Sixth Army and the USASOS base there... 'A' Company spent a month in Oro Bay while staging for the Cape Gloucester operation.....NADZAB, LAE.....On September 25th, 1943, while the Aussies were still fighting for Lae, Company 'C' (less one platoon) moved in to establish a complete wire system for the USASOS base at Lae.....They also installed the first carrier system in New Guinea, through 25 miles of jungle between Lae and Nadzab, then HQ of the 5th Air Force and largest air base in New Guinea....Sgt Scanlan, Pfc Downes Pvt Piccirillo put the collar on one each Jap....During 3-month stay in the valley many of rations and supplies had to be dropped by parachute, as roads and country were brutal.





Mobile radio set mounted in an amphibious DUKW (pronounced 'duck'), used in Aitape operation.



Sarmi-Maffin Bay radio team, reading from left to right FRONT ROW: M/Sgt Frank Hayes, T/3 Howard Farni, T/4 Joe Vana, S/Sgt B. Parnelli, T/3 Arvin Burrow, T/3 Earl L. Howell, T/3 Alfonso Aguilar, S/Sgt Ralph Clemons. SECOND ROW: T/Sgt Louis Robillard, T/Sgt Hubert Brockel, T/3 Ernest Meinert, T/3 John Moore, T/5 Malcom Maloney....TOP ROW; T/Sgt William Knick, T/4 George Heick, S/Sgt Edward Munneke, T/3 Richard Tessier and T/5 William Ruddy.

AITAPE • WAKDE

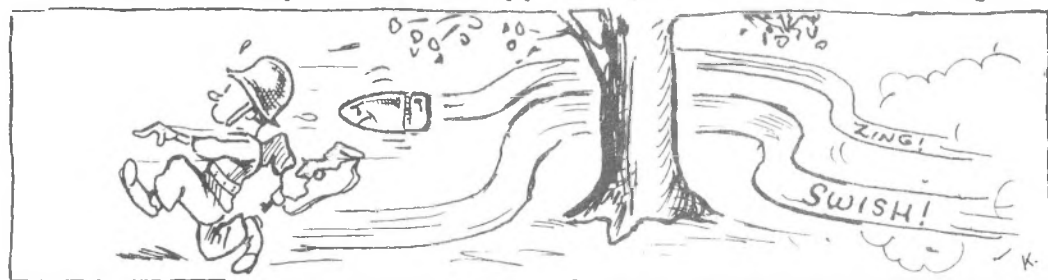
Sarmi Hollandia

&

AITAPE...A diversionary assault timed simultaneously with the Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea operation...Our landing contested, but not fiercely, after terrific air & naval shelling...Beaching from an LCM, Sgt Armitage neutralized the Battalion's first Jap...Radio contact with Sixth Army H hour plus 55 minutes, telephones to all HQ shortly after that...Jap hiding in pill-box, next G-2 tent, refused to come out, buried alive by bulldozer, as no time for comedy...Japs and Javanese slave-laborers lying in ungraceful attitude of death...GI's wearing Nip naval uniforms which, on a combat job, is asking for a violent demise....Men establish communications, get settled comfortably... look ahead to well-earned rest, and are soon alerted for Wakde operation.

HOLLANDIA...No 99th on the landing, but Lt. John Fieger and 20 men, having spent a year at Kiriwina, moved to Hollandia June 14th, 1944, installed 5 miles of pole-line for HQ Sixth Army along beach, laid submarine cable, and ran another line from Sixth Army HQ to far-removed USASOS HQ.

WAKDE.....A tiny, level, white coral island off the coast of Dutch New Guinea...After bombardment, not a tree top left...Gang from Aitape moves in with 163rd Regimental Combat Team which liquidates 800-odd Japs, takes one small prisoner.... Work hard on 6 radio circuits, under-water cable, pole-lines ...Weather hot; sweating all the time...Sarmi-Maffin Bay and Toem village taken...Lt. Richardson and 26 men come in, take over after move to the mainland....So the Aitape-Wakde crew after two successive invasions, get ready for the attack on Noemfoor which, for our money, ends the New Guinea campaign.



Biak



T/4 Leftwich helping parachutist.

Biak was one of bitterest campaigns in New Guinea series.... Landing on May 27th, 1944, 41st Division fought a long, tough, costly battle...Japs were first grade, China-tempered troops... well-supplied, waiting...Fought from cliff caves, inaccessible from ground, impossible to surround...12 Jap airstrips within 2 hours flying time...First day stood on coral reef, watched 7 of 8 attacking planes snipping the tree tops go down in flames ...5 to 10 raids a day for 2, 3 weeks more...FLASH!...Jap naval force sighted heading for Biak; goosebumpy, as nowhere to go... Air Force caught them...As progress was slow incoming service troops congested area....Aided 41st in message center, radio operation....Slept in foxholes, because of incessant air raids ...Rain no comfort...Moved from beach to swamp area with stench of rotting rice worse than decaying corpses....Bitched about mail (no mail); watched Kinney, who illustrates this book, draw cartoons about us...Exactly how many WAR BONDS have YOU got?



Beach road at Biak.



Message Center at Noemfoor.

Noemfoor



Landed at Noemfoor under fire.. ...an ammunition truck explodes near by...our mobile radio with Donnie McDaniel & Curley Stauss in the saddle is riddled by exploding ammunition....Robillard establishing radio contact with Sixth Army, blithely unaware of Jap fire...Barkley moaning: 'Why oh why did I ever leave Uniontown, Peeay?'...Take Kamiri airdrome...Set up message center & switchboard in bomb crater bottom....Japs pushed back to jungle by 158th RCT....503rd Parachute Regt in big air drop.... Signal Corps rescues a Bn Comdr out of a tree....or he'd still be there....Install pole-lines, fixed radio station, and by the time Bob Hope and Frances Langford pulled in, were leading a very soft life....Hours short, chow super, good living area... Promotions come through because of reorganization back at HQ at Finschhafen, making one and all ecstatically happy in the service...A few men go to Australia on furlough...Noemfoor is third straight operation....beginning to tell in the face and belly.

LEYTE

Philippines



T/5 Lester Green holding a pair of GI pants he luckily was not wearing during a bombing on Leyte Island. Most bombings did little damage.



T/5 William Turpin giving the water treatment to a patient Filipino boy (we think). Filipinos, unlike New Guinea natives, bathe frequently.



LEFT: A cockfight popular with Filipinos, usually held on Sunday.

RIGHT: Natives hired to carry army rations because of impassable roads.

THE PHILIPPINES.....Just as big a step as from burlesque to Broadway....We'd landed at Port Moresby & Milne Bay in June 1943, looking toward the Philippines, wondering whether we'd ever actually make it.....Followed a year and a half of dangerous, but small-time operations.....Few of them lasted long, and when the hazards and excitement passed with the last dead Jap, came paralyzing boredom.....So when we were briefed for the Philippines, tension was great, morale hit a new high, and preparations filled our days and nights....We were to operate for X Corps on their first combat job (they were fresh from the States)...Showdown, vehicle & clothing inspections, new equipment to draw, never-ending details....Loading more complicated than the national debt....No tears as we lamp New Guinea for the last time....The A-Day team loaded on separate LST's under Col. Grant....A-plus-2 gang on Liberty and luxurious AP ship, a Navy job complete with movie, P-X and cool & roomy sleeping quarters....Our A-Day men subjected to mortar and artillery fire off blasted Leyte beach...Near by ships hit...Land from yawning LST's and set up X Corps communications 100 yards inland....Scrappy Ryals cooks for one and all, including General Sibert, on his one-burner....After couple days moved inland, find A-plus-2 men already there...Series of vehicular moves, as Corps followed hard-hitting First Cavalry and 24th Infantry Divisions around the island.....Weather tolerable the first few weeks.....First 'business-like' air-raids for many of us.....More danger from flak than bombs...Lt Richardson leading cheering section as P-38's raise hell with attacking Zeros overhead.....Rains



Leyte.....CONTINUED

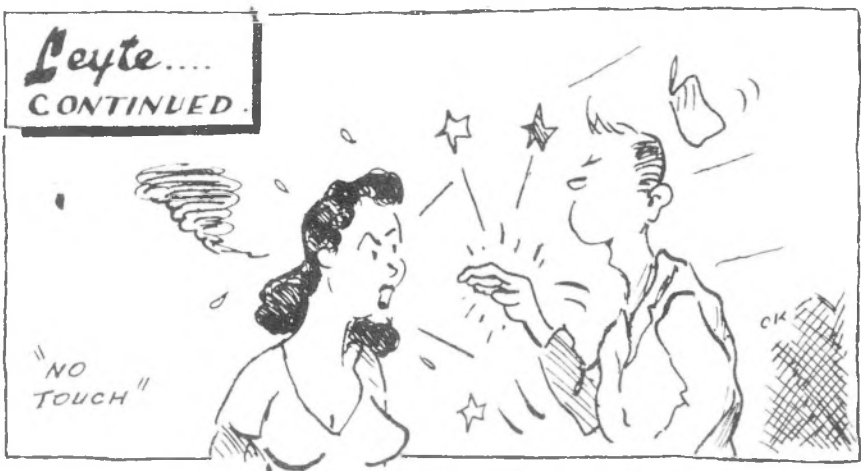
came; one bivouac area at least a foot deep in liquid mud...Sgt Tillery and his cooks turning out hot biscuits on the run...Filipino women, dusky, well-proportioned, but much more modestly clad than we'd been accustomed to, didn't do our morale any harm...First battle casualties: Sgt Hill and T/5 Bowers performing hazardous duty for which they had volunteered, killed by Jap artillery fire; T/5 Long, Pvt Buckles killed by lone Jap bomb; Sgt Wilson lost an arm, T/4 Koski lost a leg...This was a shock to all men, as fellows were very well liked...Newly formed carrier platoon operates for first time with more success than anticipated....Company 'A' working for Sixth Army not far away...More movement in this operation than the much moved 99th used to....Detachments all over hell-and-gone....Pawing, Palo, Santa Rosa, Carigara...Doc Lubenstein becomes Mayor of Pawing; innumerable natives attach themselves for rations, pills, pay; Doc's heart considerably larger than his resources....Capt Hopkins & crew set up signal supply depot.....Water plentiful 4 feet down....Illness and fair wear & tear of hard work takes its toll of men...Maj Junggren and volunteer patrol with Filipino guides go chasing Jappies; score: one Jap killed, three Filipinos wounded (and not, presumably, by Japs)....Fresh eggs 6 mornings in a row for new all-time high...(then none, of course, for three months).....Filipino boys attaching themselves as orderlies to rich and poor alike..... Brass adopt monkeys (the paternal instinct).... Roads nearly impassable; natives rely on cara-



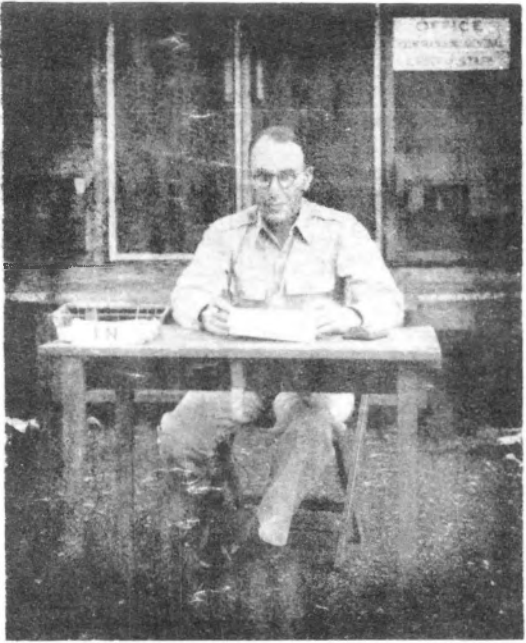
ABOVE: Teletype room at X Corps HQ on Leyte. Left to right: Pfc Laurence Clooney, T/4 Charles Cook, Cpl Ernst Koy and Pvt William Mattson all of Co B. BELOW: Message Center in the old Philippine Scouts barracks, Leyte. Hard at work are T/5 Fisher Anderson, T/5 James Yearly and Pfc Ernest Bell. LOWER LEFT: Radio operations room during a very slow period. Operators on duty here: T/4 Talmage Kissinger, and T/3 Arvin Burrow, both of Company 'B'.



Ceyte....
CONTINUED.



Major General Franklin C. Sibert, Commanding General of X Corps, to which the Battalion (less Companies 'A' & 'C') is attached. General Sibert, a veteran of the Burma Campaign, has directed 2 operations in the Philippines with notable success.

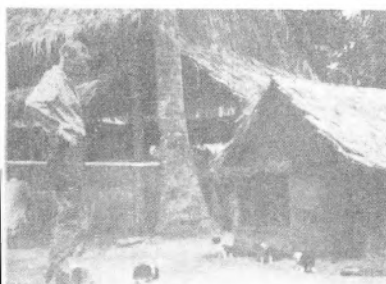
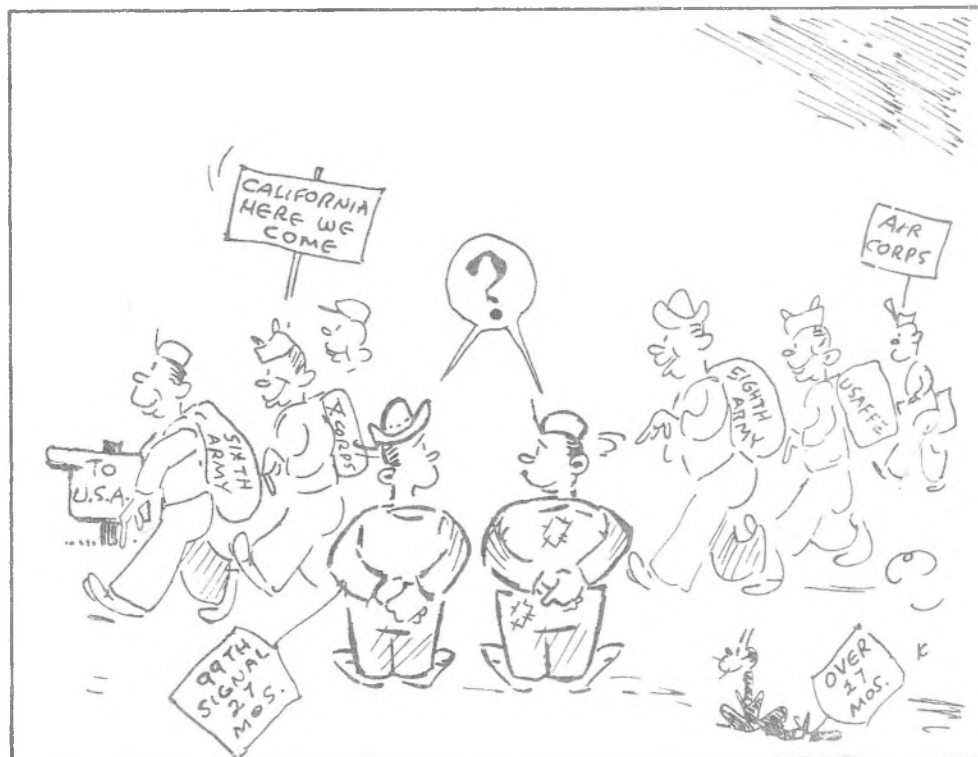
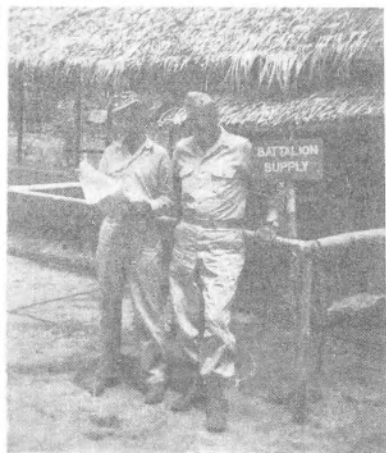
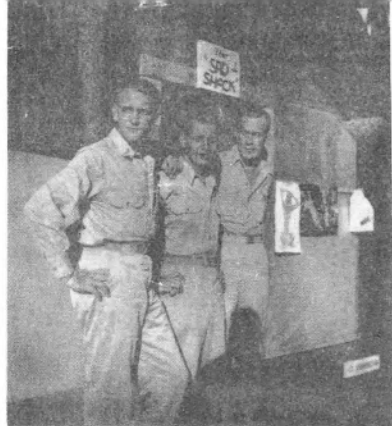


baos, better off than we are...Ambitious GI's stopped cold by Filipino women's: 'Mustn't touch! Not a Filipino custom!' But they all hitched rides, and soon signs appeared on army trucks: NO TOUCH, NO RIDE!.... GI's unable to understand Filipino custom, as 12 bambinos per family considered only fairly good start... Near-by Long Toms and 105's shake the plaster off the walls of message center, housed in Philippine Scouts Barracks.....Many huzzas when new strip is ready for P38's to board with us permanently...Incessant red alerts; men more observant after recent casualties.... Several other outfits attached to us; plenty of work for everybody, no one slighted...Bronze Stars awarded for 'exceptionally meritorious service'; an understatement, that...Fox-holes look like wells as rain continues unabated...Crafty Filipinos take advantage of Yanks, who will pay ANYTHING for ANYTHING....Sandals, abaca cloth, skirts, sold by women who wander through area.....Many men have their own washwomen (some of whom render other household duties).....As campaign nears tactical end, move to new area; the best so far.....Each company hires 50 Filipino laborers to build nipa huts, dig ditches, latrines; we have out private theatre, movies every night, good PX, beer; athletics stressed - volleyball, softball, badminton and horse-shoes...99th Softball Team took X Corps championship, just as they took Sixth Army...Dances once in a while at the near-by village, with GI band, Filipino gals; not like home, but what is?...Then as we relaxed and thought of home and mother, someone 'upstairs' asked 'Whatever became of the 99th?'....a very embarrassing question.....So, as we close this book, the Battalion is split up 3 ways: 'A' Company is working for Sixth Army; 'C' Company is working in the Philippines; and Hq & Hq Company and Company 'B' are on another task force....Oh, anathema!



Native transportation. Speed: 2 MPH



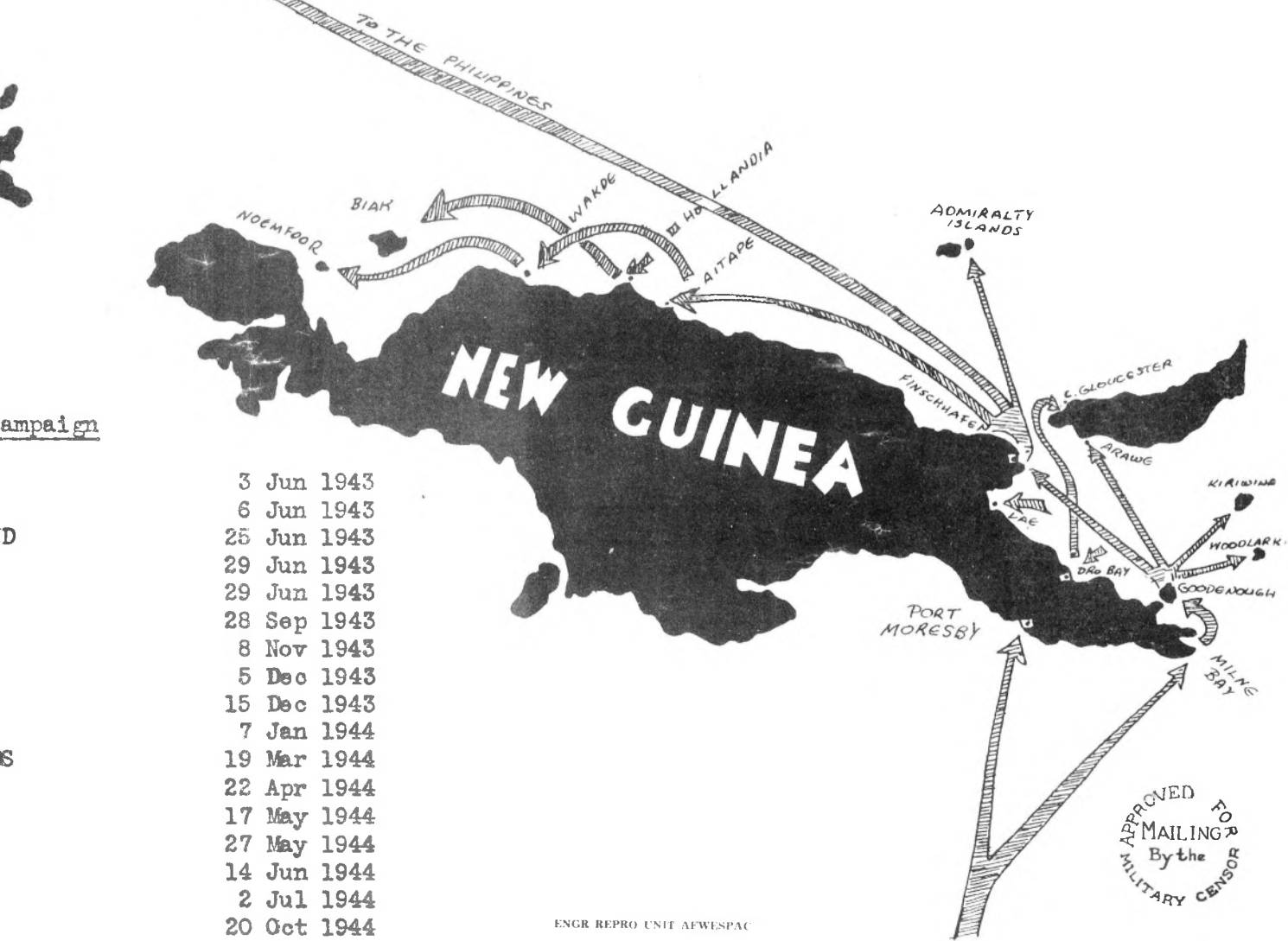


Any resemblance between the 'characters' portrayed on this page and actual human beings is purely coincidental.



LEYTE

Thru NEW GUINEA to the PHILIPPINES with the 99th



The New Guinea Campaign

PORT MORESBY	3 Jun 1943
MILNE BAY	6 Jun 1943
GOODENOUGH ISLAND	25 Jun 1943
KIRIWINA ISLAND	29 Jun 1943
WOODLARK ISLAND	29 Jun 1943
LAE	28 Sep 1943
ORO BAY	8 Nov 1943
FINSCHHAFEN	5 Dec 1943
ARAWE	15 Dec 1943
CAPE GLOUCESTER	7 Jan 1944
ADMIRALTY ISLANDS	19 Mar 1944
AITAPE	22 Apr 1944
WAKDE	17 May 1944
BIAK	27 May 1944
HOLLANDIA	14 Jun 1944
NOEMFOOR	2 Jul 1944
LEYTE, P. I.	20 Oct 1944

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14 July 1945

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 84

E-X-T-R-A-C-T



Meritorious Service
Unit Plaque



Individual wreath awarded all
members of cited organization

NOTE: Company 'A' has received
the Meritorious Service Pla-
que from the Commanding Gen-
eral, Sixth Army. Company 'C'
has been cited by Commanding
Generals USASOS and Base 'F'.

* * * *

VII. MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE. Under the provisions of War Department Circular Number 345, 23 August 1944, a Meritorious Service Unit Plaque is awarded by the Commanding General, X Corps, to the following units:

* * *
99TH SIGNAL BATTALION (LESS COMPANIES "A" AND "C"). For superior and outstanding performance of duty from 17 April to 1 July. During the course of the [REDACTED] campaign, the 99th Signal Battalion was responsible for the installation and operation of all communications between Headquarters of a Corps and higher, subordinate and supporting units, and signal supply of all units in the [REDACTED] campaign. Despite terrain and transportation difficulties, almost without parallel in this Theater of Operations, and the immense problems of communications with rapidly moving units and widely separated and isolated installations, communications were established and maintained throughout the campaign in a superior manner. In addition to the normal functions required of this unit it was necessary to organize, equip, and furnish numerous communications detachments to subordinate units and headquarters that were formed during the course of the campaign, thus creating a severe shortage of technical personnel. Frequently it became necessary to transport entire command post groups of technicians and equipment by air in order to keep continuous communications during the simultaneous movement of both echelons of the Corps Headquarters. These operations were of a particularly complex nature due to the division of the various staff sections into four echelons in separate locations. By skillful and determined leadership, devotion to duty and magnificent cooperation of all personnel concerned, the 99th Signal Battalion was able to successfully overcome all obstacles and difficulties in order to complete its various missions. This Battalion (Less Companies "A" and "C") has maintained the highest standards of discipline, military courtesy, personal appearance and appearance of installations. The services rendered contributed greatly to the successful outcome of the [REDACTED] campaign and reflect great credit upon all members of this organization and the military service.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL SIHERT:

OFFICIAL:

/s/ F. Nowakowski
/t/ F. NOWAKOWSKI

PETER SATHER, JR
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Staff