

» Blue Blazer «

VOL. II, No. 6

3rd Bn, 276th Inf. Krofdorf Germany

AUG. 8, 1945

THE LEGEND OF THE BINGEN MOUSE TOWER

by Cpl. Chuck Thompson

Away back in the old days when the guys were free except for reglign and armor and the captive wenches got hauled back and forth from tower to dungeon, there is a con man who's moniker is Hatto. Now Hatto is the Bishop of Fulda and soon sneaks in as Arch Bishop before you can roll snake eyes on a smooth table. However, in spite of his pious airs, there is nothing much on the level because Hatto is strictly a wrong Gee who would sack his grandmother if he gets the chance which he does get with the old Arch Bishop because most of the citizens around Fulda will tell you it's no accident that they find the old boy's body floating face down in the East river one morning.

Besides managing a numbers racket on the side, Hatto has the Gendarmes collecting (or else) from all the nearby citizens and especially those around Bingen where he builds a Tower in the middle of the Rhine to use as a toll house.

Naturally there comes a depression and all the people begins looking about until they find that our buddy, Hatto has plenty of grub. In fact, he has enough to treat everyone on the Rhine to a weekend binge but he will not cough up.

Finally the citizens jimmy the bars one afternoon and walk in on the Bishop at a big banquet. Now this is strictly from hunger but old Hatto sits back and shoots them a line that he will give them some grain from one of his barns.

Now this joker Hatto lives up to his name and when the people are all in the barn gorging themselves, he has the barn burnt down and thinking himself rid of his troubles he relaxes with a little schnapps. Now, maybe it's the grog but out of the ashes of the barn come a gang of rats bigger than airdales who seem

(Continued on page 4)

MORE 3RD BATTALION MEN LEAVE FOR OTHER OUTFITS

The re-deployment program continues in full stride in the 70th Division as 39 men are shipped from the Battalion this week. This shipment was not as large as some of the previous have been but the continual dribble is gradually depleting the under — 85 — pointers in the Battalion.

The quota shipped was evenly distributed among the companies with Item losing 9 men, King, 8, and Love, 8. Mike holds bottom spot by shipping only 7 men while Headquarters is on top by virtue of the 10 men leaving, 5 of which come from the aid station.

KINGMEN PLAY AGAIN AT PARTY

On Aug. 5 at about 8:00 (ETO GI Time), King Co. had the best party dance they've enjoyed since the outfit got off the line. First of all the men had their E. T. O. Jackets spic and span, and secondly, there were D.P. girls to go with the Jackets.

Our own Axe Grinders with Cpl. Doberoski out in front led festivities with music strictly from the right side . . . and of course, there was beer until the middle of the evening; Good cold beer you could drink from those old Jerry mugs! You know . . . and then there was Champagne, that popped when the bottles were opened and you saw it mix with the beer suds in the bottom of your mug . . . After that was gone, the wine flowed like crocodiles tears. Mess Sgt. Cetnar was on the ball of course, with sandwiches for all tables late in the evening.

Credit, and all the thanks of the Co. goes to three men in particular, and some big Sgts and brass in general. The three men were Reagen of Supply, Glagola the Artist, and Muzzynski.

King Co's dance hall in Rodheim was fixed up with 70th Div. seals painted high on the walls, and pinups six feet tall by Glagola. Evergreen branches were intertwined with the rafters to give an informal pleasing impression to the dancers.

The so-called essential or key man list seems not to be carrying much weight as there are many key men on this list. Cooks are leaving from two companies (which to my stomach means essential) and even T/Sgt Jacob Presser, the Battalion Sgt Major is leaving.

We all hate to see the men we've fought with and buddied with though all the months of combat have and we certainly hope they manage to get a good deal. From indications (rumors, to you) this shipment will be to the 3rd Repple and probably on to the states.

About the only comment received in this office on the shipment came from 1st Sgt Doyle of Love, who said, "No wonder all the 1st Sgts have gray hair. They tell me to get understudys for all the key jobs from the men that have over 85 points and then all those men go to the I & E school. Then when I get substitutes from the men with less than 85 points — they get shipped out. What a life!"

CHILDERS GOES TO JAIL FOR DATE

When Kingman George Childers went on pass to Holland he spied a delicious little bit of femininity that he wanted to take out but was stumped as to how to go about meeting her. It seemed she worked in the city public buildings and he had no excuse for getting in.

However he finally got a brilliant inspiration and after a little discussion with a local Gendarme (involving a little monetary enticement), Childers arranged to have himself arrested.

Naturally and with malice afore thought, when he was taken to the station, the one who inter viewed him was the gal he had his eye on.

Being a past master in the art and having gained much practice from being on the D. P. train guard detail, Childers managed a date with her in ten minutes. And that date lasted for his whole pass.

Nice work if you can get it - and it seems Childers can.

WHAT, NO TALENT SCOUTS . . . ??

From past experiences of attending some of the excellent shows put on by the various companies in the Battalion, we're sure that there are quite a few of you Joes who will be interested in this announcement.

The 7th Army SSO is looking for talent and if anyone of you can

sing, dance, play an instrument or entertain in any way, write to the Entertainment Officer, Special Service Section, Headquarters, Seventh Army, APO 758, U.S. Army.

When you write be sure to give your unit, APO, your past experiences in the entertainment line and last but not, least, the number of points you have.

3 RD BATTALION

~ Blue Blazer ~

VOL. II. No. 6 AUG. 8. 1945

Published through the auspices of the A+R Section, 3rd Bn., 276th Inf. at Krofedorf, Germany
 Contents passed by the S-2 Section.
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Printed by Schnitzler, Wetzlar.

Are You-All From Texas

'twas once that I was happy
 My life was filled with cheer
 I had never seen Texas
 Till the Army sent me here.

I've heard songs of her beauty
 Pretty girls and big strong men.
 Rolling plains — majestic mountains
 Just heaven, from end to end.

Sure one thing is certain
 Of this there's no denying
 The guy that spread those rumors
 Sure did a lot of lying.

Deep in the heart of Texas
 Where sand is all we eat
 The girls are all bow-legged
 And the men all have flat feet.

No longer are we religious
 We drink, we fight, we curse.
 No worry here, about going below
 It can't be any worse.

Down here the sun is hotter
 Down here the rain is wetter
 They think that its the best state
 But there are 47 better.

Still there's no one to blame but me
 The Army never forgot it,
 I asked for foreign service.
 And believe me, boy — I got it.

Pvt. Max Dolman
 Co. L — 276th Inf.

REVELRY REIGNS AT STORK CLUB

Despite the lack of music and women, Item men had a good time at their party the other night. Everything had been arranged perfectly when along came the news that Regt'l SSO had the Axe Grinders all tied up and the supply of DPs had been cut off by the Medics. However Item still had its wine and "Singin' Sam" Sunday so the evening did not lack for entertainment.

The fact that pay day had just passed probably accounted for the

(Continued on page 4)

BITCH SESSION

PETTY POLITICS IN THE ARMY

Necessary perhaps, but black balling a soldier that has fought for Individuality, fairplay, freedom and liberty is nothing more than stupid narrow-mindedness on the part of the officials. Sure, he had a run in or two with the provost marshal, but is that any reason to conclude that proper environment and companionship has not remade the character and healed the wounds sustained by improper handling. Lets be fair, responsibility is an instrument to be used to mold character and not to the contrary. Lets be unbaised in our capacity as leaders and superiors.

"Chicago"

NEEDY BATTALION??

What this battalion needs are some Officers that would give the men a few privileges rather than take them away.

BATH! VAS IST DAS?

First platoon members of Mike Co. would like to know if any thing can be done about the bath situation. So far in this town no bath tubs or howers have been found. Sure, there's a dirty river and not too clean swimming pool for the men to wash in, but when did a swim ever take the place of a hot invigorating bath or shower? Then too, what is to be done in the cold weather? We used to read so much of the portable shower units used by some combat troop, use of such a unit would ease our problem. We would appreciate any ideas or suggestions for this

problem before we have to start peeling the dirt off.

1st. platoon Mikemen.

WAR NERVES

Hey teachers — please wet those sponge erasers will ya! Lt. Smith and many others just can't stand that scratch they make on a blackboard when they're dry.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What's happened to the food situation? It has never been excellent but hasn't been too bad until lately. Now it's really a mess. At least if we can't get more food, let's cook it better.

Hungry.

FOREVER AND ALWAYS

We parted with a farewell kiss
 Our eyes were dim, with tears
 The parting may be long my dear
 But for me it holds no fears.

My thoughts, will wander back again
 To the day, that we first met
 The good times we've had together
 Are memories, I'll never forget

And if ever the day should come, dear
 That I sail across the sea
 There's nothing, I'd like better
 Than to have you think, of me

So keep this verse in mind, dear
 Wherever I might be
 My thoughts are always of you,
 As your's I know, of me.

Pfc. Paul Lewis
 Co. I 276 Inf.

SCANTY QUOTES



ALL WOMEN ACT
 ALIKE BEFORE
 THEY'RE KISSED . . .
 IT'S HOW THEY ACT
 AFTERWARDS THAT
 COUNTS.

CHOW-LINE CHATTER

ITEM

Unfortunately, carelessness prevented Cpl. Mathenson from being acclaimed as a top athlete in the last issue so lets give praise to our representative in the recently held E.T.O. swimming meet.

Much surprised were Joe Davis, Jack Priestap and Dick Strong one night when they were out strolling and some girls they had been talking to said good night in these words, "Good night, sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite you" Yes, they were "frauleins", but had learned to speak English while visiting the States, some years ago.

On their passes to Holland John Simonetti, and Dusty Parker dropped in to see a little "Dutch" lass that was refered to them by Vic Parham. They came back thoroughly disgusted with Vics eye for women.

Ed. Prokop celebrated his 26th. birthday July 31 in a very quiet way. Here is hoping he is back home with his lovely wife and children on his next birthday

The Item Co. baseball team beat the 53rd. Field Hospital again, this time by a score of 6-5. Rowland, Items pitcher won his own ball game with a beautiful squeeze bunt in the last inning to score the winning run.

Item Co. could put forth quite a good foursome in golf with such men as Kwaterski, who played most of his golf in Wisconsin Ray Brown, who hails from Vermont, Jim Bothelo, who played golf while in the Air Corp in Florida and Dick Strong, who is from Minnesota.

Who is the dough in Item Co. that goes under the alias of Jimmy Taylor?

The Weapons platoon has bid Gods speed to S/Sgt. French for a short while, he is on one of those dreamed of passes to Paris.

Wally Fairfield returned from pass in Belgium all refreshed and ready to take up his job of Platoon guide of the second Platoon.

First Sargent Steve Boros is high point man of Item Co. with 116 pts. He hails from the Third Div. and wears the Presidential Citation with two clusters, the Purple Heart with two clusters, the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and his other ribbons. He hails from Columbus Ohio

Verv few nights go by that Lt. Freidberg doesn't get his boys of the Weapons Platoon out and plays volleyball.

KING

Since the I & E school bell has started the classes Aaron Weiss has had intentions of taking a red apple to the teacher. A red apple would have been fine but Aaron hasn't been able to find any. Finally, Aaron brought a great bleached skull of a cow and left it thoughtfully on his instructors desk . . . Hummmmm

Reagen of King supply, says he can tell time in a new and sure way. He has no watch, but when Sgt.

Freeman plays his accordian in the morning, its time to get up and eat breakfast. At the following rendition by Sgt. Freeman, Reagen automatically takes his noon nap. When the singing groaning accordian stops, Reagen quits work on the form 32's. "The day is done," says Reagen, "when that evil instrument stops.

Chimery, Locke and Purdy look good as school students, but why doesn't somebody remind Locke that he has to have a mess kit if he wants to eat.

Sharpest E. T. O. Jacket in the Co., is, of course, worn by Waldemar J. Wallin. Walking down the street he looks like he might burst right out at any moment with a "Call for Phillip Morris."!!!

Everybody gets to go to school but Sherwood. Poor Sherwood is too inportant at the C. P. poor guy Next time he surely must get a chance at higher learning. — And you guys who are training better not laugh and boo so loud—a lot of interesting fun is ahead at that A. E. P. school and I'm not kidding.

Capt't Cole is on special duty at the present time and contrary to current expectation he will ^{be} ^{back} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{unit} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{next} ^{few} ^{days} to King Co. Following the special duty the Capt. will go to 2nd Bn. as Ex. officer. Lt. Lyles who is acting in Capt. Coles absence becomes C. O.

The opening of an army school is attended with just as many headaches as getting Johnny off to the first day in the 4th grade used to be. We'll give those first few tardy ones the benefit of the doubt and acknowledge that the school bus might have departed a few minutes ahead of schedule. Pfc's Davis and Griffin and you'd better keep your eye on those two, Teacher - are just being recalcitrant when they say won't go any more after Monday if we don't produce a couple of lunch buckets and slates.

Sonebody down at the Co. day room had better master the fine old art of tapping a Keg of suds! To date at least two have tried with results that resembled "Old Faithful" on a

bender. Sitten, who is now the official bartender, has twice averted such mishaps when the civilian who owns the tap happened in just about the time new Kegs were to be tapped. All right, maybe there is a defective gasket! Despite such minor calamities, the place continues to do business. In fact its services are being expanded to include a barber shop newly opened by Pvt. Walter Hendrickson and a film developing service operated by Sgts Harrer and Wittenborn.

MIKE

What magic formula does Pfc. Carroll Hoffmann possess that enable him to disappear quickly when Inspecting Officers are around? Could it be those high powered onions? Cpl. Dallas Murphy suggests that you continue eating them and it may keep you from sick call. With that odor you can manage to stay off all details.

At the insistence of S/Sgts. Grams and Liptak, Pfc. Henry "Mouse" Konarski shaved off his beautiful sideburns. Maybe they were jealous "Ment", try a mustache.

How about for a quarrel? Just ask Pfc. "Smokey" Marrow about automatic relations with the medic while guarding a D.P. train recently. If you have any hair restorer you can get rid of a few lockies through "Smokey".

T/Sgt. Ernest "Green Gills" Martin must be underpaid as the Sgt. tried his very best to engage Pfc. Carmon "Combat" Boman in a little game called African golf or galloping dominoes. TCH TCH Sgt, spots before your eyes?

Pfc. Robert "Arky" Bradley sure had a rough time last Wed. night and next morning seemed even rougher as Brad found it difficult to stay in the chow line. Could it have been those P.X. rations?

Interest in the I & E school is gratifying indeed, and as in any other program, the 3rd. platoon is well represented with an enrollment of 24 pupils.

What is it down on the banks of the Lahn that interests Pfc. Jesse Watts so much? Isn't the water just a little too cold for swimming these evenings?

The new table built by Leo Pearson with the help of the village carpenter used for more comfortable crap shooting has received much favorable comment. Sgt. J. C. Smith says, "This is the first time in ten years my back hasn't bothered me." "Doc" Parsley says, "It's a relief to me because my knee dressings have dropped from 27 to 1 this month." (That was Pfc Donald Zanders who fell against the bar).

3rd squad members new Sgt, Matthew Butcher kinda spoils his good reputation by trying to sing. Pfc Navarre and Pfc Max Smith say they will cultivate his voice. That shouldn't happen to a dog.

When Pfc Perry Cribbs finished fixing the electric stove in S/Sgt

(Continued on page 4)



SPORTS

WEEKLY MEET ENJOYED BY ALL

THE 3rd Bn. is maintaining its enthusiasm for sports and the usual weekly field meet was carried off with plenty of the excitement that appeals to the sports-lovers.

Both softball games were fast and filled with plenty of hits and runs. Many of the teams were visibly affected by the loss of some of their players thru the re-deployment program.

The 2nd. platoon of Item played Loves 3rd. platoon in a fast moving game of may hard hits. The final score was in Loves favor 9-6. On the other field, the 3rd. plt. of King played the 2nd. plt. of Mike in another hit-filled game. Mike came out on top with a score of 9-4.

The volleyball courts were busy with nine exciting games. Kingmen from the 4th plt. took 2 straight games from Mikes 1st. plt. for their win and the 1st plt. of King also won by taking 2 straight games from the A & P platoon. Not to be outdone, the Weapons platoon of 1 grabbed off two consecutive games from the Love 2nd. plt. but Spare parts played 3 games against Kings 4th platoon but took 2 out of 3 for the win.

Item also came thru on the horseshoe court to get 2 out of 3 games from Mikes first plt. The scores were 22-19, 15-21 and 7-21.

Continuing their usual "service with a smile" the Red Cross girls came out with plenty of coffee and do-nut for the boys and the line-up was continuous throughout the afternoon.

COMPANY NEWS

Answering a challenge from their own 3rd platoon, Mikes 1st plt. threw a volleyball team together and caused havoc among the mortarmen. Although losing 2 out of 3 games, the machine gunners showed such class that a victory will be simple the next time.

In a game filled with spectacular catches, errorless defense, and timely hits, Item again downed Mike by a score of 6-1. Winning pitcher was Mike Serisinski who dazzled the Mikemen with his change of pace ball. Item now has a league record of 3 wins and 1 loss which gives them top berth in the Bn softball league. The days activities were split as the Mike volleyball sextette defeated Item 16-14 and 15-11.

On Aug 1, in a well played game at Item, Kingmen well earned their hard won victory of 8-7. The King pitcher walked 13 men but they still came through for the win. Bothelo and Wall both played exceptional ball for the home team. All of the Kingmen played heads-up ball and they have a fine looking team.

While Item's softball team was taking it on the chin, their volleyball team proved this writers statement that they were a team to be watched. In two quick games they toppled the undefeated Kingmen by the scores of 15-5 and 15-8. Bruemmer and Big Stoop Mowery are the main stays of the team of all tall men (with the exception of Jessie Upton who makes up for his height in speed) with even Bob Swetz sometimes coming through with a good play.

Item's weapons platoon which issued that challenge last week took it on the chin from the Item Hqs volleyball team which is led by peep driver Jackson and Billie Beardsley. The Spare Parts say they still have to be bested in softball, though.

In a fast moving game, the mortarmen of Mike took the 1st plt. to the tune of 8-4 in softball. They were also leading in the 2nd game by a score of 6-0 when the game was called an account of retreat.

The 3rd Bn officers were plowed under in two games 15-0 and 15-12 by the Mike 3rd plt. volleyball team. The brass took one game 15-4. To quote Major Natzel, "We will never be able to live this down." Lt Knapp must not have been able to forget he was an old 3rd platoon and we thank him for his moral support.

Mikemen moved into the 48th Field Hospital territory to hand them their first defeat 1-0. Pfc Bennet showed good control by walking only one man and fanning seven. Capt. Cooney made the only double play of the game and S/Sgt Maloney did a good job of his first time behind the bat.

LEGEND OF MOUSE TOWER

(Continued from page 1)

to dislike Hatto more than somewhat. They chase him down to the toll house tower where he locks himself in. Here the rats chew through the walls and give old Hatto the once-over until he is just a memory — — and a bad one at that.

Even to this day, the tower is called "The Mouse Tower" and the ruins may be seen in the Rhine near Bingen.



CHOW-LINE CHATTER

Lackey's house, there were no lights at all. Later when Pfc "Georgia" Hair put water on the stove to heat, the lights blazed on when he turned the switch on the stove, and the radio began playing "St. Louis Blues". The boys are afraid to turn on the water faucet, now!

S/Sgt Don Krogel tried out his histrionic attributes the other night by playing a little Romeo and Juliet (even though he didn't have a ladder and it was a window instead of a balcony). Somehow, Juliet wasn't so responsive.

Cpl. "Doc" Schilling, asked Pvt Opal Williams what happened the other night when he showed up with a black and blue face, Williams replied, "Well, all I can say is that one of these days I'll find someone that I can beat."

Congratulations are due Pfc Raymond Wilson for a new-born son weighing 8 lbs — 6 ozs. We'd like to make some statement about him sweating it out but this one is only his fifth and he's an old hand at the game. He says when he gets home he will make them stand formation and do close order drill.

The mess hall would like to know who those casualties are that S/Sgt Don Krogel and S/Sgt D. Helm are picking up chow for every meal and why can't they keep awake anymore during the day.

Pvt William Santo is the only man in Mike Co. who can carry on a fluent conversation with or without contestants. All he has to have is something to think about and then he starts.

HQS

Sgt MacCandless is again playing school boy. He is ardently studying radio to the surprise of all his buddies because they are sure that the radio has never been heard of in Kansas.

If Fannin and Praty aren't detailed to man a road block it seems that they take it upon themselves to give the Krauts "a hard time".

Pfc Deaver came from Holland in pretty bad shape. We wonder if it was the truck ride or if he just bent his elbow once too often! or —

The reason McCandless has his chest way out is that he now has an 8½ lb son. Another volleyball player.

REVELRY AT STORK CLUB

(Continued from page 2)

money that was passing back and forth across the poker and dice tables in the game room. No one seems to know just where the money ended up but it's a safe bet that the Weapons Plt. has a good share of it.

Sgt. Sunday led the crowd around the piano in the singing of some favorite songs, old and new. In this chorus was found such fine vocalists as Gabe Coleman, 1st Sgt Boros, Moc Mosby, Ed Edwards, Red Lyles, and Cpl. Reagan of King. A good time was had and even in the wee hours of the morning, and after everyone had gone home, Mosby, Edwards, Sunday, and Strong were still arguing who declared war first, Germany or the United States.