

An Episode at Cape Gloucester, New Britain

Drawings by MTSgt. Vic Donahue
Story by StfSgt. Art Mielke

During the fight for Hill 660 at Cape Gloucester, New Britain — shortly after Marines landed there on December 26, 1943 — two Leathernecks hitched a ride on a jeep headed for the front lines. Two other Marines, members of one of the units up ahead, held down the front seats. They were hauling supplies to the front. Ahead was nothing but tangled jungle and swamp, relieved only by the meandering track over which the jeep traveled. Rounding a bend, the jouncing vehicle was stopped by a Marine wearing an MP band.



"The woods is fulla snipers," he warned. "Some guys just 'got it' goin' along the road." Four pairs of anxious eyes scanned the blasted and seared wreckage that was ahead. "Well, we gotta get these supplies up," the driver decided—



Auto racers had nothing on the driver, for he set a pace seemingly calculated to outspeed any bullets. More by luck than for any other reason the Marines managed to stay on the swaying, bumping vehicle for some 500 yards of mud when . . .



Several Marines lay behind trees, logs and in ditches facing a space to the left. It looked like a siege; the men were firing into suspicious-looking trees and bushes. All this was apparent as the jeep roared onto the scene.



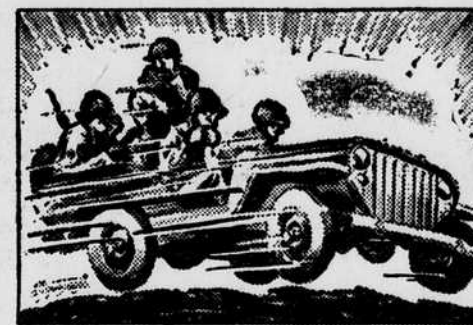
What seemed like bullets whizzed past Marine noses—the "cracks" were sharp enough to indicate muzzle blast direction. Several minds were made up—but the driver? Anxious minutes passed as the men tried to hold everything and yet duck.



Suddenly the driver made up his mind; the racing jeep pulled up in about five feet. Four Marines piled out on the road. A quick check to see if arms and legs were in their customary positions and all took cover behind the vehicle.



Minutes of waiting passed. A noise to the Marines' right caused them to look. Along sauntered a bareheaded, unarmed Marine. He looked at the recumbent figures with a "Wonder what those jerks are doing lying there in the mud?" expression.



A sheepish crew of red-faced Marines hurriedly got up, remounted the jeep and continued on their way without mishap. It may all have been just imagination, but they'll swear snipers had been firing at them—or hadn't they?

War Fund Dollars Bring Comfort And Diversion To War Prisoners

Residents of Roanoke Rapids who contributed to the 1944 Community Chest and War Fund campaign, and who may have sons among prisoners of war in Germany will probably be interested to learn how their dollars are bringing comfort and diversion to hapless men in Nazi prison camps.

A cabled report just received from representatives of War Prisoners Aid of the Y. M. C. A., whose work is financed by the National War Fund through contributions to community war funds, gives a revealing account of conditions in German camps.

On a visit to Stalag III-C, the representative reported that despite snow and a terrific wind, 800 war prisoners attended an outdoor boxing match lasting an hour and a half, followed in the evening by a jazz concert by the camp orchestra playing instruments sent by War Prisoners Aid. Health conditions, he said, were fine, with only a few men in the hospital. Morale there was also good, and American prisoners popular with those of other nationalities.

At Stalag Luft 4, visited on Christmas Day, the representative reported that since his previous visit, when the men were playing football with an improvised ball made of old shoes, and when they had no musical instruments or

books, supplies were now pouring in — all kinds of sports equipment, three pianos, 2 harmoniums, gramophones, records, games, books, painting supplies, etc. Seasonal sports were daily attractions, and rinks were then being readied for ice hockey.

In every barracks in this camp on Christmas Eve, orchestras were playing swing music and the men were singing carols. At midnight all the prisoners assembled on the sports ground as "Silent Night, Holy Night" and "God Save America" were sung, followed by two minutes silence, after which the men returned to their barracks. Christmas Day was marked by services, concerts and shows, and the men generally expressed appreciation for help extended by War Prisoners Aid.

Similar conditions prevailed at Stalag Luft 3, visited by another representative of War Prisoners Aid and where there were fantastic Christmas cakes, a splendid turkey dinner, decorations, paper caps, toys, and services, songs, concerts and theatrical performances. At that camp, General Vanaman, of Butler, Pa., and Colonel Spivey, of Jersey City, participated in the celebration, and in an address to the men expressed gratitude for materials and equip-

Postal Notes Not Cashable O'seas

Persons writing to service men and women overseas are urged not to send Postal Notes—simplified money order forms—to their husbands, sons, and sweethearts in the service overseas.

Although the postal notes went on sale by the Post Office Department on February 1, 1945, Navy post offices afloat and at overseas bases are not authorized to cash the notes.

They may only be cashed within the United States and are good for only two calendar months from the date of issue.

ment sent to that camp.

Relatives of American prisoners of war may derive comfort and satisfaction in the knowledge that, unfortunate as may be the lot of loved ones in enemy prison camps, their plight is made much less drab and dreary by the work of War Prisoner Aid, made possible solely by the contributions of generous Americans. With the increased tempo of the war effort, it is certain that there will be a greater number of our men taken prisoners, and until the end of the war, as well as for a long time thereafter, there will be a continuing demand for the benevolent services of War Prisoners Aid.

Service Flag Given School

Enfield — A Service Flag, given to the school by the local Parent-Teacher organization, was presented with appropriate exercises last week in the school auditorium. Pupils of the grammar grades under the leadership of Mrs. Geo. Randolph, teacher, gave a splendid patriotic, dress, program. Mrs. Robert Whitaker, president of the P. T. A., introduced D. Mac Johnson, local attorney, who in a few

well chosen words presented the flag to the school. Supt. Hickman, in behalf of the school, accepted the flag.

The flag bore 146 stars, including four gold ones. These stars represented boys and girls who have gone in service from the Enfield School. The roll-call was read by one of the seniors, Osee Mac Johnson.

To prevent forest fires caused by cigarette flippers, every auto in Washington state must have an ashtray.

CHOCKOYOTTE DAIRY

REGISTERED GUERNSEYS

BANG'S FREE CERTIFICATE No. 138

TB CERTIFICATE No. 536213

W. L. MANNING, Owner

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SQUARE DANCE

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT 9 'TIL .

Sponsored By

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN ROANOKE RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

OLD TOWN HALL

MUSIC BY

JAY SANDERS' BAND

A-1 FIGURE CALLER WILL BE ON HAND AT ALL DANCES.

ADMISSION: 50c

Proceeds will go to the Volunteer Firemen's Fund of the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department.