



From the 763rd....

The front page of the May 26th issue of the 763rd "Railblazer", a bi-weekly mimeographed publication, carried on account of the unit's recent 1st anniversary program. It was in the early morning hours of May 2nd, 1944, that a blacked-out ship pulled out of New York harbor with the 763rd aboard. One year later, in a Belgian schoolhouse which served as a barracks, Lt. Col. James Purcell, battalion CO, called his men together for a little commemoration ceremony. Only three companies were present, but Company "C" was simultaneously celebrating at another location with a company dance. Lt. Col. Purcell visited them after addressing the other three companies.

The year's achievements were reviewed by the colonel, including work on the car construction lines in England, at Weston-on-Trent, Sudbury, and in Hainault where Co. "B" carried on despite buzz bombs and rockets falling in their midst. Nor did he forget the Co. "B" detachment which ferried cars across the channel, and the detachment at Ans, where work went on just a few miles from the advancing Germans in the Ardennes Bulge.

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Necessity has been called the mother of invention, and she must have been sticking around pretty close to the 763rd Ry Shop Bn., because that outfit has certainly been called upon for its share of inventing.

For instance, to combat the lack of an overhead crane, a portable front end lift was designed and constructed in the shops to facilitate the removal of locomotive front doors.

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From the 382nd....

Two brand new second lieutenants enjoyed a Sunday chicken dinner in the battalion mess hall last week. The recently appointed Infantry platoon leaders also spent an enjoyable afternoon renewing acquaintance with their former buddies. They were: 2nd Lt. Charles H. Weiland, formerly of "A" Co., and 2nd Lt. Joseph M. David, who was message center sergeant before attending the Infantry, OCS here in France. — These men are the second and third former 382nd MP's to attend and graduate from the school. First honors went to 2nd Lt. Irwin B. Miller, who was also a member of the Headquarters Detachment. The new officers were given a hearty welcome, and then proceeded to really do a job on Mess Sgt. Sarver's offering for the day.

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Pvt. Ralph Fiore, of New York City, and "D" Company, is on the lookout for an accordion — Fiore can really make with the music on a squeeze box, and has been trying to locate one for quite some time now — He'd appreciate any information on the matter — The APO is 887.

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Hold onto your hats. Here we go with a few "vital" statistics on the point system as it affects the 382nd:

High man among officers and enlisted men is "B" Company's Pvt. Leo L. McPeck, who rings the bell with 142 points!

Capt. Thomas H. Gary, who was recently presented with a Bronze Star Medal he earned in Normandy, leads the officers' list with 120 points. He is the Battalion adjutant.

Long-termer, as far as service with the American Army overseas is concerned is Pfc Walter P. Fenkala, of "A" Co., who left the United States in July, 1941 and has not returned as yet. Sporting 137 points and pushing 47 overseas months, Fenkala is allowing himself a bit of "wishful thinking" these days.

"Lucky-Looie-in-the-middle" is the title bestowed upon the only man in the Battalion who "almost but not quite" made the critical score namely, 1st Sgt Robert Q. Stevens, of "A" Co. the top-kick has one consolation — his 84 points puts him at the top of the list of first Grade NCO's. However, as he says, he doesn't want consolation. It's that one point he's after!

Probably the only men in the battalion who aren't worrying about the point system or redeployment or things of that nature are Pvt Robert Meloy ("A" Co) and Pvt Lloyd G. Kibler ("D" Co) who hold down the bottom of the list with 14 and 15 points respectively.

Lowest bidder among the officers is the battalion dentist, Lt. Henry Nakdimen, who has a mere 22 points — no matter how many times he counts them. All of which prompted the battalion wag to remark: "Only 22 points, Huh? Well, that's good enough reason for the Doc to be looking down in the GI mouth for a while yet!!"

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From GHQ....

Busy celebrating VE-DAY, T/5 Alfred Schleifer of the map reproduction department nearly missed a reunion with



his brother, Pfc Frank, of the 12th Armored Div. He phoned but Al was not in. However, he made another try on VE-plus-1, with more success. Al was soon on his way to visit Frank in the hospital where he was undergoing treatment for concussion, arriving on the very day that Frank was to start back for the States. Home, for Frank, is 560 Blair Ave., St. Paul, Minn. Alfred lives at 391 Selby Ave. in the same city.

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From the 764th....

M/Sgt John Reardon and S/Sgt Harold Richards, both over 42, have left the 764th and are headed home. At the same time, T/3 Serviss and T/4 Milliken, who also have the necessary years to obtain a discharge, have declined the opportunity. Milliken claims he has some wash in the laundry, and doesn't want to take a chance on losing it!

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A locomotive exposition was held from May 17 to 21 at St. Lazare station in Paris, under auspices of the SNCF. T/Sgt Charles Bandy of the 764th were in charge of the Baldwin 2-8-0 and a Diesel which represented American military rail power at the show.

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T/4 Paul Rouch, M/Sgt Stan Strout and T/5 William Baldwin are muttering plenty

these days, and not always under their breath. Rouch has 82 points, and the other two have 80 each. So near, and yet so far! Their buddies are trying to keep all ammunition and sharp articles away from them.

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"It's like meeting up with old friends," was the way Pfc Robert Burk of Bucyrus, Ohio, greeted his assignment to the 764th Ry Shop Bn. The outfit had seven months of training at Camp Millard in Bob's home town, and many of the fellows knew him before he joined our happy family.

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1st Sgt F. H. Sandy, of Co. "C", recently met his brother, Joel, for the first time in 18 months. Joel is with the 101st Airborne, and visited Paris on a 48-hour pass. The Sandys have three more brothers in the service — M/Sgt Tom, with the Air Corps in Panama; Cpl. Euden, with the MP's in India; and Billy in the Navy.

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The 764th's Parisian Baseball season is over. Co. "A" beat Co. "C", 6 to 5, to win the championship. In a previous elimination game, Co. "A" defeated Hq. Co., 1 to 0, in 11 innings. Al Jablonski homered to break up the game. Al, incidentally, was the league's leading hitter, batting .485 in ten games.

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On May 25th and 26th the men of the 764th rallied to the cry for blood donors. All men with type "O" blood volunteered to give a pint. Lt. Col. Emil G. Ringberg, battalion CO, was first in line.

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Personnel of the 764th are tossing orchids in the direction of the battalion supply office with claims that theirs is one of the best dressed of railroad outfits. So take a bow, Capt. Richards, W/O Poe, T/Sgt Mangan, S/Sgt Armstrong and T/5 Schank.

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Life is full of surprises, and recently Lt. Guy Ethridge experienced one of them. His brother, Lt. Harold Ethridge, who was shot down over Germany 15 months ago, was passing through Paris, and the two happened to meet. A RAMP couldn't ask for much more.

— Sgt. Rubin Liff.

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From the 716th....

Sgt Howard Riggle, Edgemore, Mich., directs the seven-piece 716th orchestra. The band supplies the music for our battalion dances, and has accepted invitations to play for Red Cross Clubs. Known as "The Musketeers," the band members include: S/Sgt Donal C. Pittman, Mullinsville, Kan., saxophone; T/4 Thomas C. Wingfield, Magazine, Ark., saxophone; Pfc Edward J. Wroblewski, Maspeth, Long Island, N. Y., trumpet; Pfc William J. Kooper, Cincinnati, Ohio, accordion; S/Sgt John W. Perry, Ottawa, Kan., guitar; and T/5 Ernest J. Hinton, Jasper, Ala., drums.

724TH COMMENDED BY GENERAL THRASHER

The 724th Ry Operating Bn. has been commended by Brig. Gen. C. O. Thrasher, head of Oise Intermediate Section, for their efficient handling of several emergency situations including fire, wreckage and line reconstruction, enabling the movement of supplies without interruption.

The 724th is commanded by Lt. Col. James D. Shea, 4828 Elliot Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn., former CMST&F railroader. He was just promoted from major to lieutenant colonel on May 16th.