

The BLUE DEVIL

PUBLISHED BY THE 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Vol. 1, No. 1

Thursday, June 21, 1945

Printed in Italy

EM Given Passes For Rest Centers

88th Soldiers Enjoy Swank Riviera Spots

Proof that the Army sometimes heeds the old saw about "all work and no play" is evidenced by quotas for seven rest centers currently being made available to "Blue Devil" combat veterans.

Three of the vacation areas, two in Italy and one in Southern France, are for EM while the remaining four are strictly for the brass.

Largest area, and one which is marked "Off Limits to Officers," is the luxury spot at Alassio on the Italian Riviera to which the division is allowed to send 400 EM each week for seven full days of "wine, women and all the rest."

Resort hotels at Venice accommodate 80 EM for five-day leaves while the "veddy, veddy exclusive" center at Nice, France, takes 14 EM for seven-day breaks.

All quotas are set by higher headquarters, relayed to the division G-1 office and allocated on a percentage basis to the various units. Preference is given to the three infantry regiments.

Officers rest centers are located at Alpino on Lake Maggiore — this one is for Majors and up — Venice, Stresa, also on Lake Maggiore, and Cannes, France.

Travel time to and from the vacation spots is not counted as part of the leave.

Day leaves, at present, are being granted only for Venice and Milan, with majority of the doughboys expressing a preference for Milan.

Lack of transportation has killed off passes to Rome. The jaunt down and back is too long to make by truck and since no other form of transportation is available at present, trips to Rome are out.

She Had It!

St Louis (CNS)—Mrs. Catherine Kelly's husband beat her 600 times and she never murmured once. But after the 601st beating, she packed up and moved out. Now she wants a divorce.

Unit News

We want it — we need it — we've got to have it if this paper hopes to satisfy you, the readers. Your names and your activities are what we most want to print. Our staff can't cover the entire division so help us, and yourselves, by sending in news of your outfit, your buddies, sports, games, work or anything you want. Mail — through Message Center — phone or bring it in. The office is on the 3rd floor, Division Headquarters, but you won't find any brass in the Editorial Room, just a couple of harrassed EM who need help in putting out "The Blue Devil." Give us a hand, will you?

Why Don't Ya' Try Whistling, Sarge?

EM of Headquarters Battery, 913th Field Artillery are currently giving their top-kick that long, low, enigmatic look made famous by Lauren Bacall and for a good reason.

Back in the Apennines just before the Spring offensive started, 1st Sgt. John Lantanzio of Saratoga Springs, New York, wrote a fervid and impassioned letter to Miss Bacall imploring her to be his "Pin-Down Girl." In it he set down his reasons, as strong as only a lonely Winter in the mountains can make them.

Recently the tough but popular "first soldier" received a reply from the "The Look" as well as an autographed photograph with a personal message.

"What's Humphrey Bogart got that I haven't?" Lantanzio wants to know. The artillerymen are too polite to tell him.

'Blue Devil' Born Of Oldest Army Paper

With publication of this first edition of "The Blue Devil," the first official newspaper of the division in this war, a journalistic tradition dating back to Sept. 21, 1917, is resumed and continued after a lapse of some 26 years.

In World War I the 88th published what it called "the oldest newspaper in the National Army," a standard-size news sheet founded at Camp Dodge, Iowa, on Sept. 21, 1917. When the division landed in France, the paper blossomed out with an overseas edition of "The Camp Dodger" while continuing publication of its United States edition.

The paper was a weekly, sponsored by the G-2 Office and sold for 25 centimes the copy with the G-2 offering prizes to circulation hustlers. It is not known just when "The Camp Dodger" ceased publication — the U.S. edition closed down early in 1919 but the overseas edition continued to make weekly appearances at Gondrecourt, France, until well into 1919.

During the peace years from 1920-1942, the 88th existed only as a paper division with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn. Shortly after reactivation in July, 1942, at Camp Gruber, Okla., efforts were made to start a division newspaper. Those efforts continued, with varying mixtures of hope and despair, throughout training and combat, but always unsuccessfully.

Finally, less than a week ago, the question of a division newspaper was raised again and the answer came out "Go ahead — start printing."

Followed frantic days and nights of preparation — collecting, writing, editing the news, haggling over contracts and securing a printing plant, locating essential newsprint and materials to reproduce photos, censorship, makeup, printing and distribution.

Today, the first newsprint "Blue Devil" lets go with his first mild roar.

Division To Work PW's Into Labor Battalions

Takes over control of more than 300,000 Krauts from Merano to Naples in five areas

"Blue Devils" of the 88th Division who smashed the enemy from the Garigliano River to the Brenner Pass today were engaged in guarding and organizing for work details on reconstruction projects the more than 300,000 PW's behind barbed wire in Italy under U.S. Army control.

Known officially as the MTOUSA POW Command, the division and attached units took over a sector stretching from Merano to Naples.

To facilitate operation of the POW Command, the sector has been split into five subdivisions, under the overall command of Maj. Gen. Paul W. Kendall.

Subdivisions are: Merano-Bolzano area, under Col. Percy E. Le Sturgeon and the 349th Infantry Regiment; Ghedi area under Col. Andrew P. Sullivan and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 71st AAA Brigade, plus the 351st Infantry Regiment; Modena-Verona area under Col. Avery M. Cochran and the 350th Infantry Regiment; Pisa-Leghorn-Florence area under Col. George T. Powers 111 and 88th Division Artillery, and the Aversa-Bari area under Lt. Col. Arthur S. Imell, with troop details to be announced.

To relieve Col. R.J. McBride, Chief of Staff, of some of his many duties, Lt. Col. Ralph E. Haines, former Executive Officer of the 349th, has been named Deputy Chief of staff to handle administrative details of the POW Command.

Immediate problems facing the division in its new role involve the classifying by civilian occupations of all prisoners and their formation into units such as engineer, ordnance, medical, specialist groups and various heavy and light labor battalions.

Along with the classification goes the task of screening the horde of PW's for war criminals wanted by several of the United Nations and segregation of SS troops who thus far have escaped the Allied net. Former agricultural workers also are to be separated and eventually allowed to return to their farms in Austria or Germany to begin producing

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Maj. Gen. P. W. Kendall

Kendall Enroute For Home Visit

Maj. Gen. Paul W. Kendall, Division Commander, and three other "Blue Devils" today were enroute to the United States by plane with General Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Supreme Commander in the MTO, for a Victory tour of the country highlighted by a mammoth celebration at Pittsburgh, Pa., on June 25.

General Kendall and his aide, Capt. Frank R. Myers of Middletown, O., left headquarters last Monday by plane for Caserta where they joined other members of the official party. Before leaving, he told "The Blue Devil" that he expected to rejoin the division in Italy on July 15.

In his absence, Col. James C. Fry, Assistant Division Commander, has been named to temporary command of the division.

Two EM and one officer, requested in a message from General McNarney's Headquarters with a specification that they be residents of Pennsylvania or Kentucky, also made the trip. They will remain in the States.

High-point man in the trio was T/Sgt. Joseph W. Adams, 108 points, of Louisville, Ky., weapons platoon sergeant in Company "C," 351st, and winner of the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf clusters. Adams joined the 88th on cadre from the 9th Division in June, 1942.

Second high scorer was 1st Lt. Leslie P. Geelen, 75 points, of Emporium, Pa., and the 351st. Geelen's awards include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Citation badge, Combat Infantryman Badge and the theater ribbon with three battle stars.

Third man selected was Sgt. Merrill O. Bates, 69 points, also of Emporium, Pa., and member of Company "G," 349th. Bates has been awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, the

(Continued on page 4)



Col. J. C. Fry

Perchalski First MP To Win Silver Star

An MP who "tagged" a German truck and captured its 30 occupants, Pvt. Henry C. Perchalski of Highstown, N.J., was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his "gallantry in action" while at a traffic post near San Giovanni Lupatoto on April 26.

Perchalski is the first, and only, member of the 88th Military Police Platoon to win the Silver Star.

Action for which he was decorated took place when a Kraut truck loaded with 30 "supermen" tore past his road post, the enemy soldiers pumping machine gun and rifle fire at troops and civilians along the road. As the vehicle passed, Perchalski fired a few rounds into the truck then assumed command of a nearby jeep and with four doughboys took off after the fleeing Krauts.

Perchalski winged two of the Krauts with bursts from his sub-machine gun as he closed the gap and minutes later the truck slowed to a halt. Upon prompt surrender of the enemy soldiers, Perchalski loaded them back into their vehicle and directed his catch to the PW cage.

Largest Group Yet Rides Home On Point System

Largest group of "Blue Devils" to leave the 88th Division under the adjusted service rating point system, 489 enlisted men and 11 officers are scheduled to begin the long trip home from Italy on June 23, it has been announced by the G-1 Office.

Departure of this group will push to slightly over 1,000 the total number of men sent home from the 88th since the cessation of hostilities in Italy. Previously two groups of more than 200 and one numbering 50 were sent.

Every unit of the division is represented, with Division Artillery drawing the largest allotment, 128 enlisted men and two officers. The artillery units have more "old" men with high adjusted service ratings, which accounts for their drawing a greater number than the regiments.

The majority of the men in the 88th with point scores topping the 85 "critical" are included in the group. However, there still are many men with over 85 points left in the division.

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"The Blue Devil" has no axes to grind — its sole aim is to keep you posted as to what's going on in the division. And by keeping you posted, to cut down on the latrine rumors, worry and speculation over what may lie ahead.

There is no use pretending that we will be able to print all the news we think should be printed. This is still the Army, and any Army publication is bound by rules and regulations and directives and "Don'ts", so many of them that an Editor may easily get lost in the maze of prohibitions. Military press censorship is still in force, and therein lies another hurdle.

All the foregoing is not intended as an advance excuse but merely as a rough explanation of the difficulties involved in publishing this, or any, newspaper. Despite the difficulties however, the editors and staff of this paper — all Enlisted Men — pledge themselves to print, honestly, all the news we possibly can, ever keeping in mind two guiding questions, namely, 1. Does it satisfy the need for information? and, 2. Will publication serve, and benefit, the majority?

This is your paper. It can, and will, work for you. In return, it needs your support and help.

Its pages are always open to you, the readers. Take advantage of it. Let us know what you want, or don't want, what you like, or don't like — we'll do our best to fill your orders.

Orchids and Crosses

In its 14-month combat career in Italy, the 88th Division suffered an overall total of 12,266 battle casualties, an official G-1 report disclosed today, and took second place in the casualty class Fifth Army.

The 88th was topped only by the 34th Infantry Division, which entered combat in Italy six months before the 88th and fought from Salerno to Cassino before the 88th came into the line.

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The nation's top award — the Medal of Honor — went to two members of the 350th Regiment, 2nd Lt. Charles W. Shea of The Bronx, N.Y., and Capt. Robert E. Roeder of Summit Station, Pa., the latter a posthumous award.

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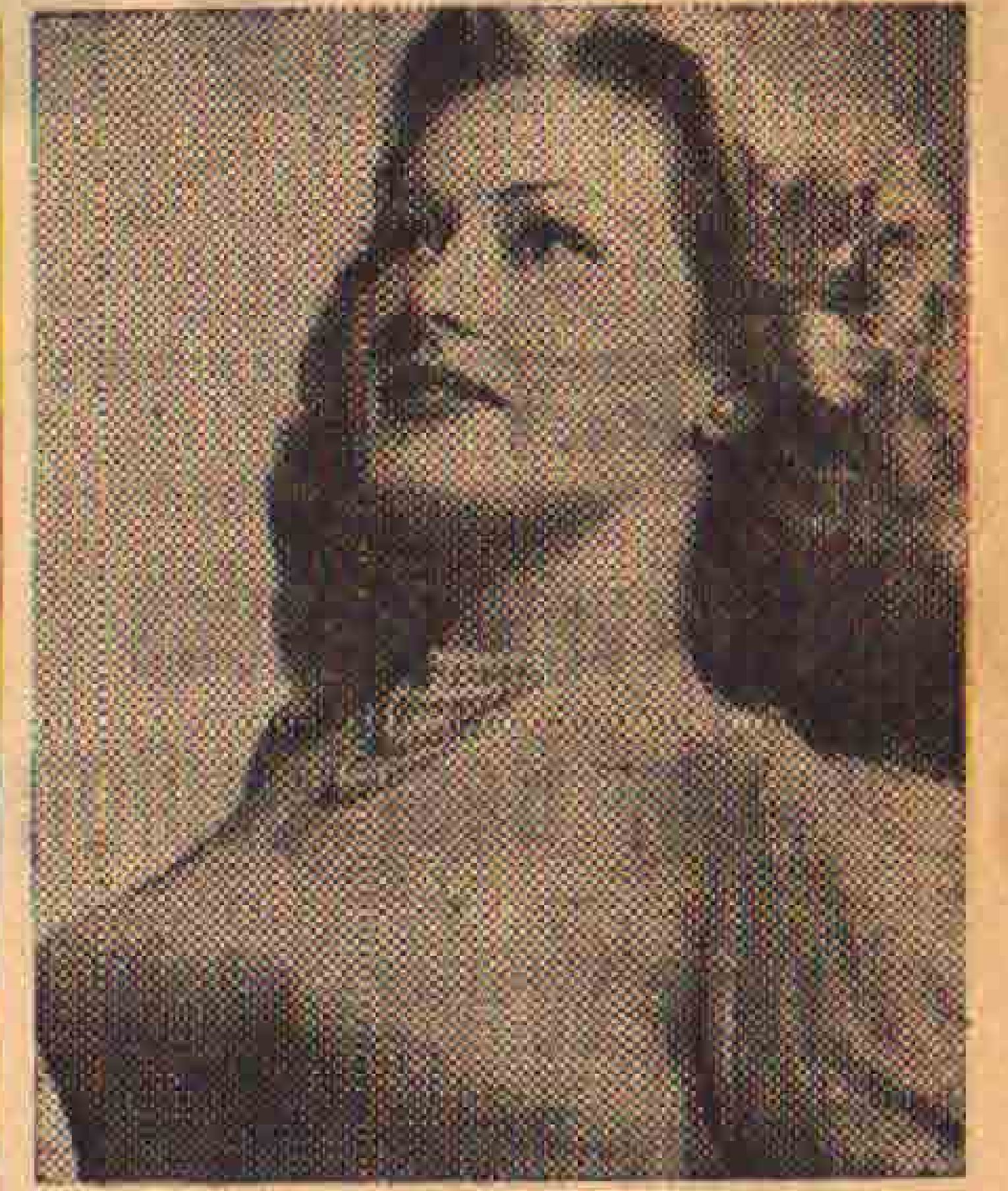
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ARC Clubs Opened In Regiment Areas

Three unit Red Cross Clubs are now operating and opening of a fourth is planned within the 88th Division area, according to Mr. Steve McCrimmon, Miami, Fla., Division ARC Field Director.

Each complete with snack bar, game room, reading and writing rooms, and lounge, EM clubs have been established in the 349th, 349th, 350th and 351st Regimental areas. The fourth is scheduled to open in the Special Troops area, probably in the vicinity of Division Headquarters, in the near future.

The "Krautkillers" club is the only one installed in a building, in Bressanone, where nightly dances are an attraction. The "Battle Mountain" club, at Modena, and "Spearhead" center, Ghedi, are set up in tents.

Artillerymen Ask Suntan Uniform For Summer Wear

"Suntans are their preference for a smart looking and comfortable uniform," states the 337th Aimin' Stake, battalion news weekly of the "Boche Buster" artillery outfit, after making a consensus of artillerymen in the unit.

"It has been observed that Air Corps personnel and rear echelon men break out their suntans in the late spring and live cool and comfortably during the hot sum-

mer months," the article says. Typical comments in the survey seem to be united in the belief that khaki wear would improve efficiency, health and morale tremendously, while the heavy O.D.'s now being worn have just the opposite effect.

Along with the argument for khaki, the Aimin' Stake advocates fatigue wear during duty or training hours. Citing the same afore-mentioned units, the artillerymen also want the herring-bone twills "which are cooler, harder to tear and easier to wash."

Concluding its page-long editorial, the Aimin' Stake says "the uniform plan followed by our buddies of the other branches of service is the plan most wanted by the 337th."

Choral Group To Open Division Tour Tonight

"Wings Over Jordan," famed all-Negro choral group currently touring the Italian theater under the auspices of the USO, is scheduled to appear before units of the 88th Division for four days.

First stop on the division circuit will be made tonight at the 351st Infantry; tomorrow night, Artillery units; Saturday, Desenzano, and Monday, Trento.

Featured in radio programs over the NBC network, the choir has been appearing before troops overseas since April 15. The 21-voice group, 10 men and 11 women, specializes in the singing of spirituals.

Story Of 88th In Combat Told In "We Were There"

A highlight history of the 88th Division from Activation at Camp Gruber, Okla., in 1942 to cessation of hostilities in Italy and the linkup at the Brenner Pass with the Seventh Army, is currently being distributed to all officers and enlisted men in the command as a pictorial souvenir of the Italian campaign.

Initial distribution provides for one copy to every member of the division, with circulation being handled by unit I and E officers. In addition to assigned strength, copies also will be sent to all former members of the division who have left the outfit since March 5, 1944.

Preparation of the 96-page booklet entitled "We Were There," was begun last December on orders of Maj. Gen. Paul W. Kendall, Division Commander. Originally scheduled to be printed in early May, the final press run was held to include publication of the Po Valley push

details and the 349th's junction at the Brenner.

Two men were flown from Bolzano to Naples for the hurried job of inserting the last chapter and revising the text to comply with MTOUSA regulations governing size and number of pages. All writing, editing, layout and makeup were handled by two EM, an artist and writer, from a Division Headquarters section with the story based on official operations reports, battle journals, unit histories and personal interviews.

Printing and binding was done by Italian firms in Naples under the direction of the I and E Section, MTOUSA. Total cost of the project came to \$ 1,200, the bill to be met by pro rata assessment of all division units.

"This booklet is not the final history of the division. It is intended simply as a small souvenir of the Italian campaign," Col. R.J. McBride, Chief of Staff.

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This is your paper. It can, and will, work for you. In return, it needs your support and help.

Its pages are always open to you, the readers. Take advantage of it. Let us know what you want, or don't want, what you like, or don't like — we'll do our best to fill your orders.

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"Suntans are their preference for a smart looking and comfortable uniform," states the 337th Aimin' Stake, battalion news weekly of the "Boche Buster" artillery outfit, after making a consensus of artillerymen in the unit.

"It has been observed that Air Corps personnel and rear echelon men break out their suntans in the late spring and live cool and comfortably during the hot sum-

mer months," the article says. Typical comments in the survey seem to be united in the belief that khaki wear would improve efficiency, health and morale tremendously, while the heavy O.D.'s now being worn have just the opposite effect.

Along with the argument for khaki, the Aimin' Stake advocates fatigue wear during duty or training hours. Citing the same afore-mentioned units, the artillerymen also want the herring-bone twills "which are cooler, harder to tear and easier to wash."

Concluding its page-long editorial, the Aimin' Stake says "the uniform plan followed by our buddies of the other branches of service is the plan most wanted by the 337th."

Choral Group To Open Division Tour Tonight

"Wings Over Jordan," famed all-Negro choral group currently touring the Italian theater under the auspices of the USO, is scheduled to appear before units of the 88th Division for four days.

First stop on the division circuit will be made tonight at the 351st Infantry; tomorrow night, Artillery units; Saturday, Desenzano, and Monday, Trento.

Featured in radio programs over the NBC network, the choir has been appearing before troops overseas since April 15. The 21-voice group, 10 men and 11 women, specializes in the singing of spirituals.

Story Of 88th In Combat Told In "We Were There"

A highlight history of the 88th Division from Activation at Camp Gruber, Okla., in 1942 to cessation of hostilities in Italy and the linkup at the Brenner Pass with the Seventh Army, is currently being distributed to all officers and enlisted men in the command as a pictorial souvenir of the Italian campaign.

Initial distribution provides for one copy to every member of the division, with circulation being handled by unit I and E officers. In addition to assigned strength, copies also will be sent to all former members of the division who have left the outfit since March 5, 1944.

Preparation of the 96-page booklet entitled "We Were There," was begun last December on orders of Maj. Gen. Paul W. Kendall, Division Commander. Originally scheduled to be printed in early May, the final press run was held to include publication of the Po Valley push

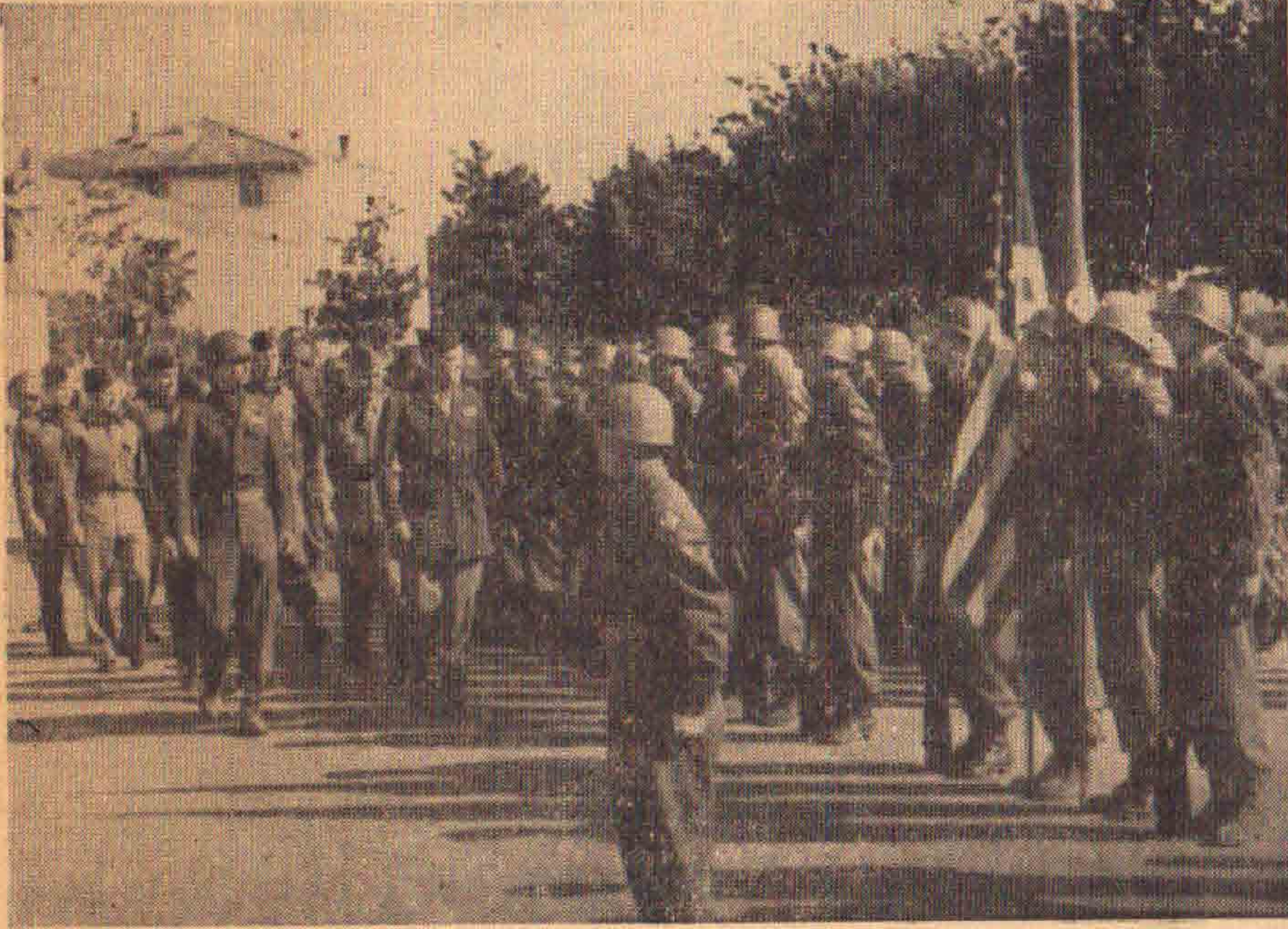
details and the 349th's junction at the Brenner.

Two men were flown from Bolzano to Naples for the hurried job of inserting the last chapter and revising the text to comply with MTOUSA regulations governing size and number of pages. All writing, editing, layout and makeup were handled by two EM, an artist and writer, from a Division Headquarters section with the story based on official operations reports, battle journals, unit histories and personal interviews.

Printing and binding was done by Italian firms in Naples under the direction of the I and E Section, MTOUSA. Total cost of the project came to \$ 1,200, the bill to be met by pro rata assessment of all division units.

"This booklet is not the final history of the division. It is intended simply as a small souvenir of the Italian campaign," Col. R.J. McBride, Chief of Staff.

IN FAREWELL INSPECTION



General Kendall, accompanied by his staff, reviews troops of Company "E," 351st Regiment, commanded by 1st Lt. James R. Maxwell, in a ceremony at Division Headquarters before leaving for the United States.

Kendall Enroute

(Continued from page 1)

Good Conduct Medal and the theater ribbon with three battle stars.

On conclusion of the celebration in Pittsburgh, the star-studded parade will visit other major cities in Pennsylvania and Kentucky: General Jacob L. Devers, 6th Army Group Commander, and Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, 9th Army Commander, will fly to Pittsburgh direct from Europe for the ceremonies.

Following the official tour, General Kendall plans to spend a week at home with his family at the Kingscote Apartments, Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif. General Kendall has been overseas since early November, 1943, when he flew to Africa in command of the advance party of the 88th.

Last Sunday night, staff officers gathered at the division CP for a farewell dinner in his honor. Next morning, a guard of honor consisting of Company "E," 351st, in command of 1st Lt. James R. Maxwell, St. Joe, Ind., formed in the square in front of Division Headquarters as General Kendall made his formal farewell to the 88th.

Following a review of the troops, Kendall told his doughboys that he had "never seen a finer looking bunch of soldiers."

"I am sorry to see so many Purple Hearts but I am proud of them and of you who wear them."

"I'm leaving now for what I hope will be only a short period. When I get back, some of you here this morning will not be here. I begrudge the loss to the division of every officer and man who leaves but our loss will be another's gain — I know that any member of the 88th will be an asset to whatever outfit he might go to."

"I am deeply appreciative of all that you have accomplished in battle and am proud to have been associated with you. I hope to continue that association."

General Kendall then spoke personally to each member of his general and special staff and a few minutes later, with the Division Band serenading him, he left for the airport.

Twice-Monthly Ration Of Beer Upped To 15

Good news for those who like the "sudsy stuff" is an announcement from the Special Service Section that the twice-monthly beer ration issued to individuals has been increased — and considerably.

Those who remember the single bottle for two men ration of Italian beer issued in the 88th about this time last year, will be happy to learn the current issue is 15 bottles per man about every two weeks. And the ration is the same, be ye private or colonel.

The division has been drawing the increased ration for several weeks and the Special Service Office said it was expected to continue "indefinitely."

Old 88th Paper

(Continued from page 2)

Among units listed were the 349th, 350th, 351st, and 352nd Infantry Regiments — the 88th was a "square" division in World War 1 and had four regiments, two artillery brigades and other numbered outfits which were lost to the division on reactivation — the 119th, 120th and 147th Field Artillery, the 176th Brigade, the 313th Sanitary Train and the 337th and 339th MG Battalions.

On the sports page, a six-column headline chronicled a victory with "Football Team Plants 33rd Division in Graveyard" and sub-heads announced the score as 12-0.

Tucked away on an inside page was a short box story concerning the division shoulder patch. Headed "Individual Decorations to Clover Leaf Barred" the story said that "colored piping and other decorations on the Clover Leaf insignia of the 88th Division are barred henceforth and all men having such decorations are ordered to remove them. In many of the branches of the service the insignias have been piped with the color of the unit. This is not according to Hoyle and is under a ban."

That last sounds familiar — different war, different place but the same old division and the same old regulation.

Work PW's

(Continued from page 1)

food for the PW's and labor gangs left behind in Italy.

Organizing, screening and classifying are to be accomplished as rapidly as possible in order to answer calls from the five major commands in Italy for labor battalions. It is estimated that PBS alone will require more than 70,000 PW's for work projects.

Among tasks assigned to the PW's will be the reconstruction of thousands of bridges throughout Italy, repair of railroad lines, road and highway repair and maintenance, harbor and dock work, clearing of mined areas and reconstruction of public buildings. In short, they'll rebuild all they destroyed in their retreat through Italy.

"Blue Devil" units will furnish guard details for the far-flung work groups but insofar as possible, the Krauts themselves will provide their own transportation and equipment. Kraut hospitals, under American supervision, will handle all PW patients and operational and administrative TO's will be set up in all newly-formed Kraut units.

Geneva Convention rules governing PW's will be strictly adhered to and PW discipline will be the responsibility of German officers and non-coms in the various units. Punishment for infractions of regulations will be swift, but fair, officials in charge of the program emphasize.

Menu's for PW's consist of two issues of C-rations daily, supplemented by limited quantities of fresh bread and vegetables to prevent outbreaks of scurvy.

No luxury items will be furnished the PW's. "Work and sweat" will be the orders of the day; in off-duty hours, PW's may improvise their own forms of amusement and recreation but whatever they do in this line will be strictly up to themselves.

No Dice

Indianapolis (C.N.S. — Frank Davis stopped his car to pick up a couple of innocent-looking hitchhikers. A moment later a police car drove up and removed the free loaders from Mr Davis' auto. They were 2 escaped PW's.

Order Mauldin Book

An initial order of 5,000 copies of "This Damn Tree Leaks," a collection of war cartoons by Sgt. Bill Mauldin of The Stars and Stripes, has been placed by the division. All sales, on receipt, will be handled by unit 1 and E Officers. Price is 25 lire.

The 128-page book, Mauldin's latest, contains 117 of his cartoons, covering the trials of Willie and Joe in Italy, Southern France and Germany.

Martyred St. Barbara Patron Of Artillerymen

"Redlegs" of the 337th, 338th, 339th and 913th Field Artillery Battalions may not know it, but they boast one of the few patron Saints in modern warfare, which might have had something to do with their successes in Italy.

The Patron Saint of artillery and artillerymen is Saint Barbara, complete with legend.

Saint Barbara was the daughter of a rich nobleman of Heliopolis in Egypt, martyred by her father about 303 A.D. for becoming a Christian. As he descended the mountain where he had cut off her head with his own hands "a fearful tempest arose with thunder and lightning, and fire fell upon the father and consumed him utterly."

The daughter then became the patron Saint of armorers and gunsmiths, invoked against thunder and lightning and all accidents arising from gunpowder and explosions; was selected as the artillery Saint because in the early days cannon usually blew up on discharge.

88th's Highest Point Scorer Headed Home

Highest man on the totem pole in the "Blue Devils" as far as points went, and they went a long way for he is now on his way home, was Cpl. Pete Martinez of Sante Fe, New Mexico, way up there with 136 points.

With "Charlie" Battery, 339th Field since May, 1944, Martinez was formerly with the 804th Tank Destroyers for a total of 32 months overseas. He was in Ireland, England and Africa before coming to the land of sunshine.

In the army since 1940, Martinez gets 53 points for all that service, and three battle participation stars adds 15 more to his adjusted service rating card.

But without a doubt, the most important point accumulations for Cpl. Martinez and his wife, Tillie, are the 36 for having the foresight to have three little bambini.

"Kids-Ya can't beat 'em!" said Martinez when he heard he was going home.

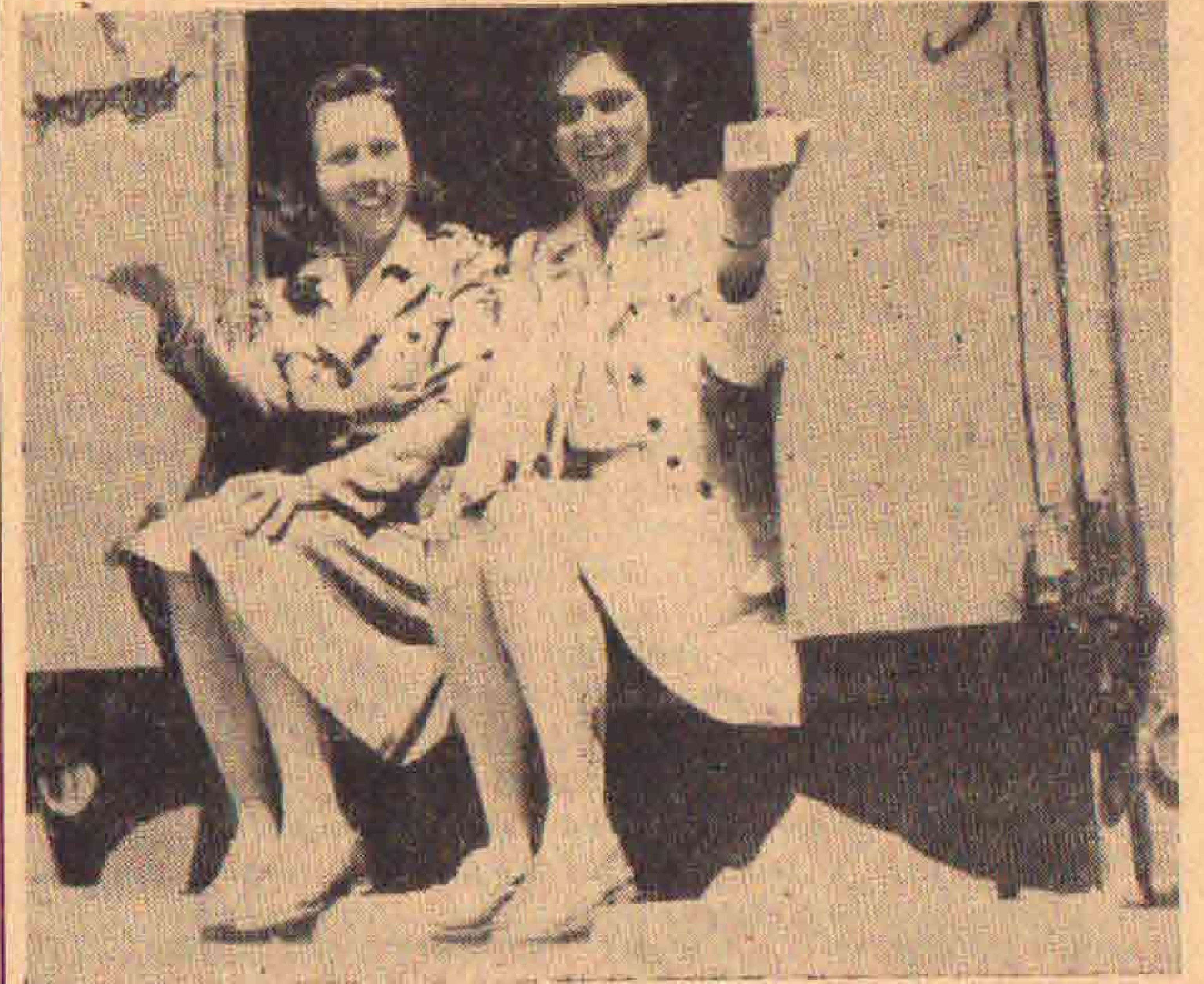
RETURNEES HONORED

Honoring 105 EM and officers scheduled to head for the States soon under the point system, the 351st Regiment held a full regimental review last Saturday morning at the Ghedi airstrip.

While the homebound group stood at attention, their combat buddies paraded past the long line of reviewers with the Division Band heading the column.

After the ceremony, Col. Franklin P. Miller, CO, told the departing veterans he "was proud" of them and that they had "well earned and deserved a trip to the States."

CIAU BELLE!



Two Donut Girls Leave 88th Unit

Joining the parade of transfers last week were two veteran Red Cross girls, Miss Fran Beaty and Miss Rosamund Meyers, both of whom had served with the 88th since shortly after the division landed in North Africa in late 1943.

Miss Beaty, Director of the Clubmobile unit attached to the division, is slated to take over as Clubmobile Program Director, North Italy region, with Miss Meyers as her assistant. Miss Sylvia Simmons succeeds Miss Beaty here.

Departure of the two girls breaks up a combination that in more than 17 months has passed out an estimated 1,500,000 donuts and 20,000 gallons of coffee to hungry "Blue Devils." Through-

out the division's combat operations, they made donut runs farther forward than was considered necessary.

During the rough Fall-Winter campaign, they took turns visiting sick and wounded men at the clearing station and at times journeyed to collecting companies.

On many of their trips around to the units, the girls carried small entertainment groups with them and in periods when the division was out of the line set up rest canteens and organized EM dances.

Units coming out of the lines invariably were met by the girls with hot food, extra-curricular activities performed on their own initiative.

Despite the loss of the two girls, Miss Simmons and her assistants, Miss Virginia Crawford and Miss Elsie Archer, have outlined an extensive program for the coming months.