

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

History of 825th Signal Repair Service Company. As recorded by Klaus Mann.

Mann, Klaus

Nutzungsbedingungen

Bei zahlreichen Dokumenten auf monacensia-digital.de sind die Urheberrechte bereits abgelaufen. Sie sind gemeinfrei und dürfen ohne weitere Rücksprache mit der Monacensia weiterverwendet werden.

Bei den Dokumenten, bei denen noch Urheberrechte bestehen, müssen für eine Weiterverwendung stets die Rechteinhaber*innen angefragt werden sowie eine Publikationsgenehmigung der Monacensia eingeholt werden. Das Zitatrecht bleibt hiervon unberührt.

Zur Erteilung einer Publikationserlaubnis wenden Sie sich bitte an:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus

Literaturarchiv

Adresse: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München

E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

Terms of use

The copyrights for numerous documents on monacensia-digital.de have already expired. They are in the public domain and may be reused without further consultation with Monacensia. In the case of documents for which copyrights still exist, the copyright holders must always be contacted for further use and publication permission must be obtained from the Monacensia. The right to quote under copyright law remains unaffected by this. To obtain permission for publication, please contact:

Monacensia im Hildebrandhaus:

Literaturarchiv

Address: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München

E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

H I S T O R Y
OF
825th SIGNAL REPAIR SERVICE COMPANY

* * *

As Recorded By
T/3 K l a u s M a n n

(The first half of it
being based on a draft
by Pvt. Ch. Eckbloom.)

THE 825th SIGNAL REPAIR SERVICE COMPANY was activated at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, on the 10th day of July, 1942.

(Authority per letter Adj. Gen. 302.2, dated June 17, 1942.)

The original cadre of the new company included the following names:

1st Lt. Allen H. Clark
1st Sgt. Earnest H. Ebler
S/Sgt. Carl R. Fisher
S/Sgt. John M. Tweedie
S/Sgt. George W. Walsh
Sgt. Joseph A. Moculski
Cpl. Benjamin W. Kasdan
Pvt. James A. Conner
Pvt. Frank C. Civitelli
Pvt. John W. Breusing
Pvt. Homer H. Davis
Pvt. Charles E. Eckbloom
Pvt. Thomas J. Fitzgerald
Pvt. Leland B. Hamlyn
Pvt. William V. Johnson
Pvt. Norman T. Malone
Pvt. Joseph F. McKenna
Pvt. Eljas M. Nisknen
Pvt. Stanley A. Rutkowski
Pvt. Marshal F. White.

These men, then - the Founding Fathers of the 825th, so to speak - became acquainted with each other, at Fort Monmouth, under the auspices of Company H., Fourth Battalion; for this was the unit to which they had been transferred, after being relieved from duty by their respective organization^s. This connection, however, lasted for only three days; then our cadre men were sent to the new Training Center at Camp Crowder, Missouri.

During those last days at Fort Monmouth, everybody had a good look at that fine camp known as "the Army's Country Club."

They all remembered the happy, eventful days, and nights..., the East Coast had offered them. Some of the boys, while stationed at the Fort, had been only a few miles from home. No wonder, then, that they were reluctant to leave the Fort. To tell the truth, nobody cared much for the thought of being stationed as far inland as Camp Crowder, Mo. Yet, the whole outfit was in high spirits and there was a good deal of merry anticipation concerning the imminent trip.

The shipment consisted of the cadre for 3 companies - the 823th Signal Wire Service Co., the 824th Signal Fixed Radio Station Co., and the 825th Signal Repair Service Co. With all these boys traveling together, the trip promised to be one of real enjoyment, which it turned actually out to be.

There were two overaged Pullman cars reserved for the three companies, which remained together throughout the long journey across seven states. The first stop was New York City, where the boys had ample chance to provide themselves with all kinds of fancy refreshments. At Harrisburg, Penna., the electric engines were taken off the train and big, smokey steam powerhouses took their place. This made the prospect of a smooth, pleasant trip diminish. Of course, in wartime the Armed Forces come always first. But why was it necessary to give to the two cars in question the dubious distinction of being the first two cars behind the smoke-belching monster? It was a hot summer day and the cars were not air conditioned; so the windows were opened to admit fresh air. But, along with the welcome breeze, a terrific lot of smoke and soot inundated the cars. After a few hours, one found that the dirt penetrated into the skin so deeply that two

or three thorough washings took only parts of it off.

The boys were more than pleased - almost needless to say - when told that it was necessary to stop at St. Louis for three hours. Most of them took advantage of the swimming pool in the Y.M.C.A. The city was well explored and passed as a place that could give a soldier a good deal of fun and recreation.

The terrain had been notably leveling out into ever flatter land. Past St. Louis it became even more so. The now single track ran through open prairies. To the easterners among us - and the greater part of the boys were indeed from the East - this kind of scenery looked rather depressing. But as the journey approached its end at last, the flat land gave way to the more picturesque foothills of the Ozarks.

The train pulled into Neosho at an early morning hour. The boys might just as well have been in camp again, at least they could sleep until reveille. There was a convoy waiting for the short trip to the camp.

On the 16th day of July, the men (with the exception of Lt. Clark who was relieved from further duty with the 825th, on July 11) reported to Co. L of the 800th Signal Service Regiment of the Midwestern Corps School at Camp Crowder, for quarters and rations only: this in compliance with Par. 29-80^{165,} HG., Ft. Monmouth. 2nd Lt. William F. Sammon Jr. of Co. L was acting Company Commander until the officers for the company arrived. The three companies from Monmouth were to remain in this area while waiting for their own barracks to be ready.

The 800th Regiment was located in what was known as the "new area," and all the finishing touches were yet to be done.

Now, the boys were supposedly trained technicians but certainly not landscape artists; yet they were soon learning that new trade as well. The whole area was nothing but a mass of rock and stone that had to be cleared off; grass had to be planted and the poor soil covered with top soil. Everybody was intent on the "Crowder Beauty Contest" - a nickname given to the efforts of the different companies to outdo each other in decorating their areas.

On July 22, 76 enlisted men were transferred from the SCRTC of Camp Crowder to the Company, through SO 176 Par. 23. They were:

Pvt. Jesse L. Broadway
Pvt. Joseph M. Beshara
Pvt. Renald M. Culbertson
Pvt. Edward J. Clark
Pvt. Loyd M. Carmichael
Pvt. Carl C. Collins
Pvt. Benson L. Callahan
Pvt. Earl Chaption
Pvt. Verne A. Canterbury
Pvt. Charles H. Cauliflower
Pvt. Morris S. Cohen
Pvt. Paul Digman
Pvt. James De Simone
Pvt. Henry G. Dersch
Pvt. Glen M. Detillian
Pvt. Russel L. Davis
Pvt. Joseph D. Dorsch
Pvt. Charles H. Dodge
Pvt. Sam B. Dean
Pvt. Harvey R. Dunhill
Pvt. Jesse W. Donaldson
Pvt. William H. Dillow
Pvt. Ottis C. Eakes
Pvt. Jack L. Eck
Pvt. David E. Edmondson
Pvt. Bert Frankie
Pvt. John A. Flanagan
Pvt. Norbert G. Fitzenberger
Pvt. Estil E. Fisher
Pvt. Lonnie Garrison
Pvt. William M. Gillespie
Pvt. Earl H. Getlinger
Pvt. Cassius E. Jelvin
Pvt. Alfred L. Gaffner
Pvt. Forest E. Garrett
Pvt. William S. Hyde

Pvt. Ollie J. Howard
Pvt. William H. Haage
Pvt. Adolph Heinle
Pvt. Marion E. Hicks
Pvt. George C. Hopkins
Pvt. Stephen D. Janowiecki
Pvt. Victor E. Janssen
Pvt. Peter J. Jensen
Pvt. Arthur Kungle
Pvt. Charles A. Lee
Pvt. Edward L. Ledinski
Pvt. John E. Logan
Pvt. Ernest A. Leibe
Pvt. Herbert M. Linnun
Pvt. John I. Lewin
Pvt. Robert J. MacConnochie
Pvt. Charles E. McMillen
Pvt. Stephen J. Mastaler
Pvt. Frank V. Niemiera
Pvt. Ellis H. Pappe
Pvt. Claude D. Rogers
Pvt. John L. ~~Rackel~~ Riley
Pvt. Joseph P. Rackel
Pvt. Norman G. Reis
Pvt. Glenn K. Stromberg
Pvt. William N. Salloway
Pvt. Joe T. Smith
Pvt. Luster H. Smith
Pvt. Paul Stanish Jr.
Pvt. Robert H. Smith
Pvt. Robert J. Schultise
Pvt. Robert J. Schill
Pvt. Nathaniel L. Seely Jr.
Pvt. John D. Shea
Pvt. William F. Sattler Jr.
Pvt. John G. Ulaszek
Pvt. John A. Wajtach
Pvt. Dayton R.D. Wintermute
Pvt. D. E. Williams

The 825th took part in the 800 S.S. Regimental parade every evening. This was practice also for the formal review and dedication of the regiment, on August 11, 1942.

On August 10, the official training schedule was started; from that point on, the 825th was independent from the schedule of the 800 S.S. Regiment. On that date, the fellows were greatly surprised to learn that they were in for another basic military training.

The following cadre men, transferred from Ft. Monmouth to the 825th (SO 199 Par. 16), arrived on July 23, 1942:

Pvt. Thomas W. Holliday
Pvt. Lester G. Hambel
Pvt. Henry L. Helble
Pvt. Wilfred J. Horton

These officers, also from Ft. Monmouth, were transferred to our company, SO 201 Par. 32, effective July 26, 1942:

Capt. Charles A. Bond
2nd Lt. O. K. Kincaid
2nd Lt. John O. Webb
2nd Lt. Edward Duva
2nd Lt. Herbert H. Cohn

With their arrival, 2nd Lt. William F. Sammon was relieved from further duties as company commander, under SO 46 Par. 3. Captain Bond was now in charge of the company.

The transfer list Nr. 816 auth. RTO 1893 (dated July 6th, effective July 29th) brought the following enlisted men from Ft. Monmouth into this organization:

Pvt. Stanley M. Brahasky
Pvt. Kenneth B. Morrison
Pvt. Robert E. Pearsall

One more cadre man arrived on August 10th - namely, Herbert F. Nelson, reporting under SO 54 Par. 3, dated August 6th, being transferred SO 102 Par. 13, Hq., Camp Murphy, Florida.

Two of the cadre men had but a short stay with the 825th. These two soldiers - Pvt. Wilfred J. Horton and Pvt. Lester D. Hambel - were transferred to 183rd Signal Repair Co., Camp Crowder, Mo., per SO 56 Par. 7, Hq. Midwestern Signal Corps School.

The twentieth day of August, 1942, witnessed the promotion of buckies Williams, Gattner, Alfano, Smith, and Hamlyn, all of whom were appointed Privates First Class, per Co. Order Nr. 4, in

accordance with AR-615-AWLS perscribed by T/O 11-397-S.

Spurred on to greater efforts by the promotions of their fellow-soldiers, the others did so well during the next three days that Captain Bond had no alternative but to appoint Cpl. Kasdan to sergeant and Pvts. Keifreider, Kungle, Connor and Nelson to corporals, per AR 615-5 and circular 25 W.D. 1942 per paragraph 12 S.O. 66, dated August 24, 1942.

On September 2, 1942, Pvts. Niskanen and Rutkowski were appointed ⁿTechnicians Fifth Grade, per the usual W.D. circular and article. The next day, Pvt. Norvell ^{was} assigned to the 825th per P-3 S.O. 132 W.D. - to be followed by Pvts. Doherty, Frizzel, Gartner, Hilousky, Seippeh, Letsinger, Sherman, Sturm and Hrenak, who were assigned to the company on September 5, per P 150228. All these came to us from the Far West - namely, Ft. Douglas, Utah.

Most of the men in the company did a fairly good job, which is proven by the fact that Pfc C. L. Smith was appointed corporal and Pvts. Breusing, Pearsall and Norvell became Technicians Fifth Grade, on orders dated September 9, 1942. As the company was still going through its "growing pains," more non-coms were appointed on September 22: Cpl. Nelson was ~~also~~ made a (temporary) sergeant; Pfc's Alfano and Williams and Pvt. Collins advanced to Technicians Fifth Grade.

There were plenty of new assignments. On September 24 arrived, per P-21, S.O. 257, 2nd Lts. Reed, Petritis, and Ransom, from Hq. Ft. Monmouth, N.J. As if to keep the new lieutenants busy, on September 26 the following men joined the company (per P. 40, S.O. 223): Pvts. Brown, Cooper, Drake, Eanes, Fussell, Garrett, Hayed, Lopez, Helms, Hemby, Hinson, Honeycutt, Horne, Iarnagin, Laney, Loftin, Low, Lvall, Marlowe, Marshall, Mercer, Morrison,

Nelson, Nolan, Overman, Padgett, Poillucci.

Fort Douglas, Utah, having found out how well the men they had previously sent were being treated here, decided to let us have some more soldiers, namely: Pvts. Hoffman, Huff, Mayberry, Potzner, Stratton, and Victor (assigned per P-6, S.O. 253, on October 2, 1942). On October 5, Pvts. Civitelli and Niemiera were appointed Pfc's. Five days later, Sgt. Nelson was promoted, via the proper authority, to Staff Sgt., and T/5 Williams was appointed Sgt. under the same provisions.

The company was again raised in strength when on October 14, 1942, per P-12, S.O. 109, Pfc's Duke and Daily were assigned, followed the next day by Pfc's Bula, Confrey, Craig, Doeltz, Davidson, Cobb, and Easterling, under S.O. 109, par. 12.

October 17, 1942, was a lucky day for some of our boys: Capt. Bond made Pfc's out of Pvts Beshara, Donaldson, Culbertson, Carmichael, Finnigan, Fisher, Janssen, Holliday, Howard, Hyde, Hilousky, Giles, Lottin, Riley, Stanich, Stratton, and Ulaszek - via the prescribed channels. On October 19, the good Captain - still in a generous frame of mind - gave T/4 ratings to T/5's Alfano, Niskanen, and Rutkowski and to Pfc Gattner, while Pfc's Niemiera and Civitelli and Pvts. Digman, McKenna, Detillian, and Fitzenberger received well deserved promotions to technicians Fifth Grade.

Before long it became apparent that, if there were to be more ratings, there would have to be more men. It naturally followed that more men arrived for assignment with the company. On October 21, per P-10 S.O. 115, the "Tee-Fivers" Downs, Edmondson, Hansen, Hedden, and O'Neill joined our flourishing outfit. As we predicted, more ratings were forthcoming: Pvts Champion, Coyne, Doherty,

Davis, Dersch, Cole, Garrison, Gelvin, Hicks, Linnun, Lyall, Low, McMillen, O'Neill, Salloway, Schill, and Shea, were decorated with handsome Pfc stripes. The same day they had the opportunity to welcome a number of fellow-Pfcs newly assigned to the company (per P-15, S.O. 118) - namely: Pfcs Bartelds, McCoy, Wilkinson, Williams, Wilson, Witty, Wright, and Zornes.

"Sec. 127, S.O. 285, p 15," may sound like a rather dreary formula, but it wasn't to 2nd Lt. Duva, for whom it held in store a promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant. All the men familiar with his work and character agreed that it was a particularly well deserved promotion.

The following temporary promotions went into effect on October, 27, 1942: S/Sgt. Nelson - T/Sgt.; Sgt. Williams - S/Sgt.; Cpl. Keifreider - Sgt.; Cpl. Connor - T/4; T/5's McKenna and Pearsall - T/4. These enlisted men became T/5's the same day: Pfcs Carmichael, Hallidgy, Howard, Hyde, Hamlyn, Helble, Janssen, Stanich, and Ulascek; Pvts Block, Gillispie, Heinle, Hopkins, Johnson, Letsinger, Logan, McConnochie, Seippel, D. P. Smith, and Stanich.

The month of November had just begun when our ranks were increased through the arrival of T/5's Akin, Bartlett, Baskin, Bauer, Bautz, Baxter, Besse, Biesendorfer, Bruny, Caffrey, Chapman, Denninger, De Rose, De Uries, Dolsen, Hurd, Hyde, Johnson, Peters, Petitt, Pokoj, Poirier, and Pyle - all assigned to the company per P.6, S.O. 146. The same day T/5 Collins was promoted to Sgt., while the promotion of Sgt. Mucolski to S/Sgt. took place two days afterwards - on November 3.

November 5, 1942, witnessed the addition (via assignment, per P.2, S.O. 60) of Pfcs Kroll, Lerner, Monahan, and Troehler. Four days later - on November 9 - the 825th welcomed T/5's

Gross, Rysko, Silliman, Stasinos, Stienbrenner, Strom, Tyndale, Walker, Warner, and Zimmerman (via P. 4, S.O. 89). Also assigned the same day, via P.9 S.O. 91, were T/5's Readnour, Schatte, Theis, and Van Sant.

Promotions and arrivals continued, throughout the dark month of November. Pvts Hammer, Hemby, Lopez, and Poillucci were appointed Privates First Class; Pvts Hardway, Lacefield and Reymann were assigned to the company, per P. 12 S.O. 28, on November 13, 1942. Six days later - November 19 - came T/5's Briggs, Liberes, Pendleton, Pitman, Reich, and Reinstein (P. 10, S.O. 310), and Pvts Brockway, Commendatore, Roberts and T/5 Rudderham, assigned per P. 23, S.O. 312. As for poor little T/5 Sammy Seigel, he arrived here all by his lonesome, assigned per P. 10, S.O. 310, on November 21, 1942. He was followed, on the 23rd, by Pfc's Haggard, Herbacek, Hartwig, Hart, Haviland, and Hawkins (assigned per P-2, S.O. 28) and by Pfc's Cerny, Colby, Collins, Collinsworth, Cunningham, Dallin, and Scanlon (per P-25, S.O. 283). Pvts. Dominguez, Flores, Martin, and Meier, were assigned the same day, per P-11, S.O. 36; Pvts Barnes, Butler, Casterline, Grabow, Martin, and Middleton, per P-9, S.O. 36.

The next day (November 24) - as if to add to the already mounting headaches of our personnel officers - came more book-work with the assignments of Pvts Gilstrap, Greer, Kern, Klosiewicz, Knickerbocker, Lecher, Payne, and Schober (per P-2, S.O. 18).

About the same time, the following enlisted men received temporary promotions to sergeants: T/5's Carmichael, Civitelli, Hopkins, Janssen, McConnochie, Niemiera, Stanich, Ulaszek, and Cpl. Smith; to T/4 went T/5's Halliday, Helble, Johnson, Norvell, O'Neill, and Seippel. The Captain deemed it appropriate to promote also the following men: Pfc's Champion, Confrey, Coyne, Culbertson, Davis, Finnigan, Fisher,

Hicks, Hilovsky, Hunter, Larner, Troehler, Wammer, and Pvts. Flynn, Malone, and Sharpe; they all advanced to Technicians Fifth Grade.

The end of the month found 53 members of the company going on bivouac, for training.

With so many men being absent - if only temporarily - there was evidently a shortage of manpower in the company area: so the first day of December, 1942, found Pvts. Allen, Aulabaugh, Baugher, Kunkleman, Loss, Pesch, Roberts, G. S. Smith, Sexton, and Stellar, assigned to the company, per P. 18, S.O. 311. Lucky they were as they arrived at four o'clock, thus missing the company duty of that day.

Pvts. Brown, Commendatore, Cooper, Flanagan, Gartner, Hinson, Hoffman, Lacefield, Lee, Lewin, Marshall, Mastaler, Mercer, Morrison, Padgett, Roberts, Schultise, Victor, and Wojtach, received their Christmas presents 25 days early, in the form of Pfc ratings. On December 5, the 825th was pleased to welcome Pfc's Gayheart, Hartman, Holle, Holt, Horncloud, Hille, Francis, Ilkka, Hurd, Knobbe and Leiter: all assigned per P. 43, S.O. 48. Another lone buzzard came to roost when Pvt. Guy John was assigned, on December 9, per P 22 S.O. 50, and a lone promotion was granted the same day to Pvt. Meier, who became Pfc.

December 11, 1942, turned out to be the good-news day for T/4 McKenna, who was boosted to T/3, while Pfc's Bartelds, McMillen, Riley, Salloway, and Wright were promoted to T/5's. The same winter day witnessed the advent of the "Christmas Tree Platoon" - so nicknamed as the whole group consisted of T/5's. It's an impressive list:

T. M. Innes
C. G. Jack
J. Janzen
M. L. Jones
J. A. Jones
C. R. Johnson
G. A. Johnson
A. C. Johnson
C. L. Johnson
K. R. Johnson
T. W. Jylkka
L. M. Mamas
S. J. Kaufman
K. D. Kellar
C. B. Keller
R. W. Kent
W. J. Kreiner
K. G. Kretz
L. C. Krzyzaniak
M. L. Kubsch
F. E. Mitterling
C. C. Moore
J. T. Morgan
T. J. Musgrave Jr.
H. W. Myers Jr.
W. E. Kurth
V. Larsen
A. A. Leach
W. A. Lee
W. A. Loucks
H. A. Lundgren
H. P. Lyons
H. L. Maker
L. J. Malek
L. M. Mang
L. N. Marsh
P. E. Marsh
W. J. McClelland
M. M. McIntoch
D. C. McKellican
C. J. McLaughlin
H. L. Mellichamp
E. C. Milbrandt
E. D. Nance
H. Narwold
R. Newton
G. H. Ninnemen

This group, assigned per P.1, S.O. 57, came to us from Omaha, Nebraska, where the boys had been in civilian school. Small wonder, then, that they returned somewhat reluctantly to dear old Camp Crowder. One of them - it seems - was even less enthusiastic than the others, and so T/5 Makiesky didn't make the train. He made the

next train, however, and happily arrived about 24 hours after his pals, assigned under the same Special Order. On the same eventful day, Pvt. Brockway was appointed Private First Class. The next assigned man was T/5 Simpson, who arrived on December 15, per P.29, S.O. 57.

Of course, with the rapid enlargement of the company roster more officers were needed ; consequently, 2nd Lts. Osburn and Hanawalt were assigned to the company, per P. 28, S.O. 61, on December 18, 1942. But - to counterbalance and outdo, as it were, this slight increase in commissioned officers - the same day these enlisted men were assigned to the company: Pvts. Banks, Barnaby, Bozarth, Burns, Bova, Borowiak, Bessinger, Crews, Dunbar, Decuir, Fax, Fields, Figliolino, Geis, Hastings, Johnston, Mead, Miller, Manno, Olson, Opitz, O'Shea, Sorber, Vogel, Worswick, Zawistowsk, and Zblewski - all per P. 4, S.O. 59. As if that wasn't enough trouble for the supply sergeant, and everybody concerned, the next day an even larger group of enlisted men showed up (assigned per P.9, S.O. 61) - including Cpl. Bonitatibus, T/5's Appleman and Bononi, Pfc's Brown, Engberg, Green, Hever, Grisius, Bennett, Hoover, Jackson, Kaiser, Knott, Keesling, Mann, Morris, Macy, Marviah, Myers, Nairn, Norman, Nunnally, Nipper, Nugent, Oalman, Oakes, Osborne, Patchin, Philips, Pinkston, Shimek, Shultz, Toney, Uskoski, Wolff, Zinzer, and, last but not least, Pvt. Hintz.

As is generally known, soldiers just l o v e to arrive in new camps, a couple of days or so before Christmas. That is what happened to Cpl. Cox and Pvts Black and Keenan - assigned per P. 34, S.O. 333, and also to Sgt. McNeill and Cpls I.T. Smith, and Winter, per P. 54, S.O. 337, December 21, 1942.

December 23, Sam Dean (Private) was promoted to Private First

Class, and, on December 24, another T/5 had a merry Christmas - namely, T/5 McMillen, who was appointed T/4. Sgt. Janssen's promotion to S/Sgt. was unfortunately one day late for Christmas, but Janssen said that he appreciated it all the same. On December 29, Pfc. ^{Bula} was appointed T/5, and Pvts. Fry, Hazelton and Horwinski - coming from Camp Kohler, Calif. - were assigned to the company, per P.1, S.O. 96.

Just to end the old year in the traditional "825th Style," the following men used the last day of 1942 to join our company - coming from Camp Murphy, Florida, and arriving here at 11:30 A.M.: Pvts Cratney, Farg~~er~~harson, Gernaret, Gildard, Griggs, Harbeck, Hatem, Hickey, Horowitz, Hoxie, Kane, La Plante, Larney, Lurcock, Rhodes, Richmond, Rodick, Sgroi, Sousa, Sowinski, and Zappia - all per P. 7, S.O. 310; also, T/5 Miller, per P. 5, S.O. 38.

* * *

The year of 1943 may be remembered by future generations for many glorious and crucial events. It will be referred to, perhaps, in the history books as the year of Allied victory in the Second World War - the year of Hitler's collapse, or the year at least in which the fall of Nazism was prepared, became inevitable.

While we are writing this, not yet quite one half of the year is over. But it is already the year of the North-African triumph; the year that witnessed the surrender of three Italian isles, the weakening of Germany's war potential through British and American bombing, the heroic resistance of the Red Army, the definite failure of Japan's imperialistic scheme.

As for the 825th Signal Repair Service Company....

The following cannot but be anticlimactic. But only seemingly so. For every individual unit - however humble and inconspicuous - has its own indispensable function within the vast and vital organism that is a great country's army - the Army of the United States engaged in the decisive fight against Nazi-Fascist-Japanese aggressiveness. The little daily events taking place in one of those minor organizations are therefore not without significance - being integrated with the War effort of the American Armed Forces and of the American people at large.

Let's continue, then, our modest chronicle!

Throughout the month of January there was a good deal of coming and going in our outfit. A lot of ERC's were temporarily attached to the 825th "for rations and quarters only," to be transferred and assigned, eventually, to other organizations, within this post or elsewhere. Right on January 1, our company had to take care of 88 new enlisted men - "attached, unassigned," per P. lo, S.O. 70. About the middle of the month, the daily average strength for rations went up as high as to ~~1136~~ 1164 - a pretty impressive figure, considering the fact that on a day in September, last year, the number of "men messing with organization" had been only 39.

But there was a constant coming and going among the regular men as well. Many fellows had to spend longer or shorter periods of time in the hospital, to begin with; the daily sick reports increased indeed rather alarmingly. Moreover, there were discharges - all of them completely honorable, to be sure. On the first day of the year, T/5 Hedden was (honorably) discharged, per C.D.D. Sec.2 Art. 615-360. On the other hand, and at the same time, Pvt.'s Cardiello, Carmen, and Carollo were assigned to the company,

per P. 3, S.O. 71. And four days later, on January 5, our outfit was joined by T/5's Bradick, Burkholder, Hartley, Maus, and Welch (assigned per P.11, S.O.3) and by T/5's Lyon, Taylor, Watson, and Zehner (per P.14, S.O.3). They were followed, on January 6, by Pvt. Evans (per P. 4, S.O. 59).

There were also promotions - not very many, though, during the first half of the month. On January 7, Pvt.'s Banka, Binner, Fields, Gies, Schober, and Weaver became Privates First Class, and on January 16 the same honor was granted to Pvt.'s Dunbar and White. Between these two dates, however, some more arrivals of newly assigned men took place.

On January 9, T/5's Botelho, Elorduy, Ferguson, Knight, Lopez, Soss, and Pfc. Goodwin became members of our unit, per P.9, S.O. 7, while T/5 Benassi arrived the same day, at 5 P.M., per Appendix No.1, T L 594, per P. 9, S.O. 7.

The next bunch, on January 10, came to us from the Army Radio Schools in Kansas City, Mo. - namely, T/5's Carpenter, Leborne, Powers, Sams, and Thompson (per P. 4, S.O. 4). On the same day, Pvt. Dobson was restricted to the company area - a noteworthy, if somewhat melancholy, event, the story behind which is, alas, not known to this chronicler.

New assignments, almost every day: on January 11, it ^{was} ~~the~~ Pfc. Kroll, from Camp Ripley, Minn. (per P.8, S.O. 8); on January 12 - T/5 McNerny (per P.2, S.O. 2), transferred to this outfit from the Signal Corps Training School in Chicago, Illinois. It must have been quite a change, for T/5 McNerny, from the teeming and roaring city to the rural idyll of the Missouri scenery...

On January 15, we welcomed T/5's Alexander, Bernard, Campbell,

Dolan, Hogan, Kenaston, Kerski, Platt, Seedorf, Siegel, Solem, and Traut - all assigned per P.3, S.O. 12.

The next group of newcomers - arriving here on January 17 - was again from the Army Radio Schools, Kansas City, and included T/5's Fritz, Frizzel, Fullington, Kelley, Meyers, Shaw, Sowers, Steinbrink, Walker, Werley, and Zak (per P.5, S.O. 10). They pulled in at 5 P.M. It was a chilly, unpleasant evening. They probably felt like hell.

Even the ERC's have a fair chance in our organization. Six of them - mere Privates - were appointed T/5's, on January 18. The next day, our Sgt. Kasdan was promoted to S/Sgt., and T/5 Flynn became T/4. Also, T/5's Akin, Coyne, and Denninger were relieved from their assignment to this company and transferred to the 826th Signal Service Company: not very much of a transfer, it is true, from a geographical point of view; yet the boys are not ours anymore since.

To make good for the loss, Cpl. Meade rushed over, from Internment Camp Florence, Arizona, to join us on January 24 (per P.3, S.O. 17).

Should we mention the fact that T/5 Bartlett was reclassified, on January 25, and, from that point on, found himself in Class "B"? It may sound rather trifling; but to T/5 Bartlett it made quite a difference...

Many things took place on January 26. To begin with, about 50 First and Second Lieutenants were temporarily attached to the company - a rather colourful event in itself. Moreover, T/4 W. V. Johnson was appointed S/Sgt. (not T/3, if you please, but Staff-Sergeant: which means the same pay but much more dignity); T/5's Bartelds, Bremer, Bula, Confrey, G.A. Johnson, K.R. Johnson, Logan,

Maker, Malek, Malon, Morgan, Nance, Pendelton, Rudderham, Sharp, and Wright were promoted to T/4's; Pfc's Cole, Commendatore, Graig, Hart, Hurd, McCoy, and Witty advanced to T/4. As for T/4 Morris, he became a buck sergeant.

There were, furthermore, quite a few transfers becoming effective that day. 2nd Lt.'s Osburn and Ransom were transferred to the 847th Signal Service Bn., per P.4, S.O. 17. A group of enlisted men, relieved from their assignments to this company, were shipped out to Hamilton Field, California - namely, Cpl. Bontatibus, T/5's Appleman, Bradrick, Burkholder, Davis, Hartley, Jones, Keller, Kretz, Liberes, Maus, McGibney, Reich, Siegel, and Welch.

On January 27, the glamorous group of Lieutenants - 1st and 2nd - who had been attached to the 825th, received order to leave us (per P.4, S.O. 18). The next day, it was Pvt. Harbeck whom Headquarters sent away - namely to Boston, Mass., per P.33, S.O. 21.

But the most sensational, not to say upsetting, development was in store for us on January 29; for it was on that day that Captain Bond was relieved from the command of our company, per P. 5, S.O. 20. 1st Lt. Duva became his successor.

The same day, and also on January 30, long rosters of enlisted men to be transferred came through. On the 29th, the following men left for the 847th Signal Training Bn. (per P.7, S.O. 20): T/Sgt. Nelson, ST/Sgt.'s Collins, Kasdan, Keifreider, Walsh; Sgt.'s Hopkins, MacConnochie, Smith, Stanich, Ulaszek; T/4's Hallidad, Maker, Malone, Pearsell, Rutkowski, Wright; T/5's Bartlett, Bernard, Briggs, Campbell, Carpenter, Chapman, Crow, Digman, Dolan, Dolsen, Downs, Edmonson, Fitzenberger, Fritz, Frizzel, Fullington, Gillespie, Hansen, Hart, Hogan, Hurd, Kenaston, Kerski, Kiggans, Krzyzanizk, Kubsch, Laborence, Lec, Louks, Lyons, McNerny, Mellis, Meyers, Musgrave, Platt, Powers,

Reinstein, Salloway, Sams, Seedorf, Shaw, and Siegel.

It's a pretty sad job indeed to copy ~~and~~ the names of all those good fellows who left us - swallowed by the 847th Signal Training Bn. The next list, of January 30, is even longer than the preceding one. Per P.3, S.O. 21, these men were relieved from their assignments to our organization: T/5's Silliman, Simpson, Smith (D.P.), Solem, Sowers, Steinbrink, Thies, Thompson, Traut, Walker, Watson, Werley, and Zak; Pfc.'s Dean, Doherty, Donaldson, Duke, Dunbar, Engberg, Gayheart, Gelvin, Grisius, Harbacek, Hartman, Hemby, Heuer, Holle, Holt, Hoover, Jackson, Lacefield, Lee, Leiter, Low, Macy, Mann, Meier, Nipper, Norman, Nugent, Nunnally, Oakes, Oalman, O'Neill, Osborn, Patchin, Phillips, Roberts, Schober, Schultise, Shea, Shultz, Uskoski, Weaver, White, Wolff, and Zinzer; Pvt.'s Barnaby, Barnes, Baugher, Black, Butler, Carollo, Casterline, Corn, Crews, Decuir, Dunhill, Eakes, Evans, Fax, Figliolino, Ford, Gilstrap, Graybow, Haage, Hardaway, Hastings, Horowitz, Horowinski, Hoxie, Jensen, Knickerbocker, Kunkleman, La Plante, Lecher, Loss, Middletown, Miller, Olsen, Opitz, Oshea, Overman, Payne, Pesch, Rawlins, Rackel, Reis, Reyman, Roberts, Rodick, Rogers, Sexton, J.T. Smith, G.S. Smith, Sorber, Sousa, Sturm, and Zblewski.

During the month of February - especially in its first week - the daily sick reports assumed truly staggering proportions. Weather conditions were mostly rather awful; there was a lot of grave bronchitis cases and other more or less nasty diseases. On February 3, as many as 45 men showed up for the traditional sick call, at seven o'clock in the morning; 28 of them had to be hospitalized.

But, of course, it wasn't always snowing, raining and storming, in the State of Missouri, in February, 1943. On the 13th day of that

month, for instance, our outfit could complete "successfully" a 12-Mi. hike upon which the Company Morning Reports comment: "Weather: clear, cold; morale: excellent." There is - in this writer's opinion - something crisp, tonic, refreshing to this brief entry.

The first week of the month brought not only colds and fevers to our men but also a nice amount of promotions. On February 3, Pvt. Vicker^S was appointed Pfc.; the next day, S/Sgt. Alfano was promoted to T/Sgt., while T/4 Helble became a Staff-sergeant and Cpl.'s Linnum and Winter advanced to sergeants - all this per P.3, S.O. 25. The privates, too, profited by this boom in ratings: Pvt.'s Drake, Cauliflower, Horne, Jernagin, Ledinski, and Nelson received the becoming stripe indicating that its bearer is a Private First Class. Some of those who could pride themselves on possessing one stripe already, were promoted to T/5, on February 5 - namely, Pfc.'s Cobb, Daily, Easterling, Geis, and Haggard. Pvt. Bozarth - skipping the Pfc. - also was made a Technician Fifth Grade (as the others, per P.9, S.O. 26), while Pfc.'s Banka, Cerny, Francis, and Horncloud, on their part, skipped the T/5 and advanced directly to T/4, together with T/5's Craig and Heinle.

The boom continued on February 6, when Pvt. Potzner was appointed Pfc. (per P.2, S.O. 15), Sgt. Morris was promoted to S/Sgt. (per P.1, S.O. 27), and T/4's Bartelds, Confrey, Logan, and Sharp were made T/3, under the same order.

On February 7, T/5 Ferguson was transferred, according to a mimeographed letter from Washington D.C., whereas S/Sgt. Williams' transfer to the 847th Signal Training Bn., on February 8, was ordered by Headquarters, Camp Crowder (per P.5, S.O. 28). The same day, S/Sgt. Keifreider, who had abandoned us on January 29, found back to this company - newly assigned per P.4, S.O. 28.

Besides, the predominant feature of the company's life, at that point, is the constantly increasing traffic in ERC's; on one day - February 23 - no less than 353 enlisted men were attached to the 825th! The little affairs of the "regulars" seems almost to fade away, compared with such hectic goings-on.

On February 10, T/4's McMillent and O'Neill were appointed S/Sgt., per P. 5, S.O. 30; the latter is, of course, the mess sergeant of our outfit - a man at once famed and feared for his grim, capricious character.

On February 12, Pvt. Dorsch found himself a Technician Fifth Grade (per P.5, S.O. 32), and Pvt. G. Mead was transferred, per P. 16, S.O. 35. The next day, February 13, 1st Sgt. Ebler left us for the 847th Signal Training Bn. - transferred per P.7, S.O. 32. Also transferred was Pvt. Aulabaugh, on February 19, per P.1, S.O. 35; his destination was Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

In March, the company continued to function, among other things, as a kind of glorified reception center. The erratic up-and-down curves of the Daily Average Strength of Rations indicate the constant changes of the organization's manpower. On March 1, the company cooks had to feed 936 enlisted men and 13 officers - a grand total of 949. On March 28, however, there were only 346 soldiers and 5 officers "messing with organization."

The two outstanding events of this month were the appointments of Captain Angeny as Commanding Officer of the 825th and of Sgt. Winter as First Sergeant of the company. The former assignment became effective on March 13; the latter, on March 3. In both cases the choice of the respective authorities was - this chronicler thinks - an extremely fortunate one.

It happened also on March 3 (the very day we got such a dynamic and cheerful First Sergeant) that the company was inspected by the Chief Signal Officer and by the Director of the Training S.O.S. The bigwigs seemed fairly satisfied by the state of our barracks and the personal appearance of our men. Everybody was nicely shaven and dressed, all floors and windows were washed, even the latrines looked comparatively appetizing.

The same eventful day, Pvt. Hayes was promoted to Pfc. (maybe he had been especially efficient in cleaning up the barracks?); on March 4, it was Pvt. Bova's turn to adorn his sleeves with a stripe.

The 11th and 12th days of March were good-news days for several members of our organization. The first list of promotions included the names of S/Sgt.'s Johnson and Keifreider, who were appointed T/Sgt., of Sgt. McNeill - promoted to S/Sgt. -, and of T/5 Baxter, who became T/4. Pfc.'s Mastaler and Victor, and Pvt.'s Kern and Worswick were made Cpl.'s, while Pfc.'s Brockway, Cooper, Pinkston, Potzner, and Pvt. Dillow became T/5, per P.16, S.O. 56.

On the second list, of March 12, appeared the names of Sgt. Niemiera and T/4 Craig - both appointed S/Sgt. - and of T/5's Bononi, Daily, and Vensant - promoted to T/4 - ,all per P.5, S.O. 57. Under the same order, Pfc.'s Binner, Poillucci, and Vickers, were made Cpl.'s, and Pfc.'s Doeltz, Knott, J.Lopez, Marvin, Shimek, Zornes, Pvt.'s Fry and Hintz, advanced to the rank of Technicians Fifth Grade. as for T/4 Riley, he was appointed S/Sgt., per P.7, S.O. 57, and T/5's Fisher, Hilovsky, and Hoffman were promoted to Sgt.'s.

The next promotion was granted, on March 17, to Pvt. Hewitt, who became Pfc. The same day Pvt.'s Dominquez and Martin were

discharged - quite "honorably", to be sure - , per Sec. 10, Article 615-360. More discharges (equally honorable) came through on March 22 - namely those of T/5's Bennett and Potzner, Pfc. Kaiser, Pvt.'s Borowick and Lurcock. The next day, 13 ERC's left this organization - making for Ft. Monmouth. This we mention, although it is in general not our policy to register the various movements of those enlisted men who were temporarily attached to the 825th. But for sentimental reasons we enjoy writing down the name of Ft. Monmouth - charged for us with nostalgic souvenirs....

On March 24, our company clerk noted that T/5's Moore, Mitchell, Storton, Stricksand, Stoddard, Shibetich, Schulhofer, and Teague, were enroute from Ft. Hayes, Ohio, to join us per P.46, S.O. 69.

Other noteworthy developments during the last days of March, 1943, were these: Pvt. Vogel's promotion to Pfc., on March 29; the (honorable!) discharge of Pfc. Fields, on March 27, and the assignments of T/5's David, Drews, Dynes, and Jenken - from Cleveland, Ohio: per P.3, S.O. 25 - , on March 31.

April is, as everybody knows, a wayward, erratic month, and its first day in particular is the traditional date of all kinds of practical jokes. In the Army, however, such frivolous things are entirely out of the question. The First of April, in the annals of the 825th, is by no means a day of monkey-business but a day of business as usual. Or is there anything eccentric about Pvt. Jones being enroute to this company from the Signal Corps Depot in Philadelphia? Nor is it a gag that four enlisted men were traveling, the same day, from Ft. Monmouth, N.J., with Camp Crowder - or, to be more precise, the 825th Signal Repair Service Company - as their destination.

Something always happens in an organization such as the 825th; the days are rare when the company clerk has nothing to say in the regular Morning Report and contents himself with the laconic statement, No Change. More often than not, there are plenty of changes to register.

Let's take some date at random - April 2, for instance. On that day, T/5 McLaughlin was transferred to the Aviation Cadet Examining Board at Caffeville, Kansas, per P.3, S.O. 75. 2nd Lt. Kincaid and a number of enlisted men were sent to the hospital. T/5's Hals, Hamilton, Krashoe, Osterbur, Panattom, Schumacher, Shaw, C.Smith, and Stoner were on their way from Camp Murphy, Florida, to join the company per P.17, S.O. 73. Two Master Sergeants, three Technical Sergeants, three Staff Sergeant, one Technician Fourth Grade, and one Sergeant - all of them ERC's - were transferred to other units.

Things keep moving. On April 3, T/5's Bozarth, Flanagan, and Letsinger were honorably discharged, while Pfc.'s Hoffman, Wilson, and Pvt. Klosiewicz got themselves transferred to the 206th Signal Depot Company, Camp Crowder, per P.5, S.O. 77. Three days later, on April 6, Pvt. H. Jones joined the same outfit - relieved from his assignment to our company per P.4, S.O. 79. The day before, four new men had arrived here, coming from Ft. Monmouth, to become members of the 825th - namely, Pvt.'s Hirshman, Iverson, Lavin, and Shoffner, per P.11, S.O. 77.

Particularly interesting seems the case of Cpl. Binner, who was relieved from his assignment to the company, on April 7, and transferred - where to? - "on confidential order" per revised No 1, P.1, S.O. 78. Sounds mighty hush-hush, doesn't it?

On April 8, 2nd Lt. Hanawalt was relieved from his assignment to the company and transferred to the Alaska Com. System, at Seattle, Washington. The same day, we welcomed here two new men - T/5's Akin and Powers, assigned to the company per P.14, S.O. 80. The strength of our unit did not change, however, as two other soldiers - Pvt.'s Craffey and Edmondson - were granted honorable discharges, on April 9.

About that time, there was a rather lively exchange of enlisted men between our unit, on the one hand, and Camp Murphy, Florida, on the other. On April 11, T/5 T. Stoner was on his way from that organization to join ours, per P.17, S.O. 73. He was followed, the next day, by T/5 Hals and, on April 13, by T/5 Shaw - both from the Signal Corps School, Camp Murphy. Simultaneously, six Privates (ERC) who had been attached to the 825th, were transferred to the camp in Florida. And it was from there, again, that T/5 C.S. Smith was sent to us - as the three others, per P.17, S.O. 73.

The same day - April 13 - Pfc. Vogel was reduced to Private: a dreary little incident on which we don't want to dwell unduly.

Happily, it happened but rarely in our outfit that a man had to be "broken", whereas promotions remained frequent - in April as in the previous months. On April 14, Pvt. Kane was appointed Pfc., Pfc. Davidson - T/5. At the same time, T/5's Beisendorfer, Commendatore, Faust, Innes, C.R. Johnson, Kurth, Leach, Maklesky, McKellican, Pitman, and Seidel, became T/4's, per P.9, S.O. 86. As for Pvt. F. Monahan, he was just reclassified to limited service, which does not really mean a promotion.

Ratings seem to come in waves. On April 15, S/Sgt.'s Helble

and Morris as well as T/3 Sharp got each one additional stripe - in other words, they became Technical Sergeants, while Sgt. Linnun and T/4 Pendleton were promoted to S/Sgt.'s, per P.3, S.O. 87. The following day - April 16 - Pfc. Hrenak found himself a veritable corporal and Pfc. Geo. Brown, a Technician Fifth Grade. Another T/5, named Panattoni, joined us the same day, per P.17, S.O. 73.

More transfers and more promotions. April 20 - transfer day: Pvt's Burns, Cauliflower, Collins, Dick, Eanes, Fussell, Helms, Hinson, Honeycut, Horne, Jarniquan, John, Laney, Marshall, Mercer, Morrison, Nolan, Ort, L.Smith, and Wintermute left us for the 847th Signal Training Bn. (per P.6, S.O. 89).

April 21 - promotion day: T/3's Confrey, McKenna, T/4's Nance and Malek were appointed to T/Sgt.'s; T/4's C.R. Johnson, Makiesky, Pitman, and Daily became T/3's; T/5's Alexander, ~~Dallin~~, Haggard, Hurd, Hyde, C.L. Johnston, Lyons, Mang, Mellichamp, McClelland, Narwold, Ninneman, Rysko, ~~Scanlon~~, Schatte, Schulhofer, Shebitich, and Troehler advanced to T/4's; Pvt.'s Dallin and Scanlon - last not least - were made Pfc.'s - all this per P.11, S.O. 92.

Towards the end of the month, quite a few of our boys were detailed on special duty with other organizations. On April 22, twenty of them left for the Chicago Signal Depot, Chicago, Ill. The roster (per P.9, S.O. 92) opens with the name of T/Sgt. Confrey. The following day - April 23 - an even larger group left us temporarily to work for the Lexington Signal Depot. The list consists of 88 names - opening with T/Sgt.'s Helble, Janssen, Keifreider, Malek, Nance, and Sharp. Don't let us bother to enumerate the names of such minor creatures as Staff-Sergeants, T/3's, Sergeants, T/4's, Corporals, T/5's, Pfc.'s, and mere Privates, all of which rankings were represented in the group

making for Lexington. On April 24, the caravan of enlisted men was followed by 2nd Lt. Kincaid.

Lucky guys! They all missed the stiff inspection that took place on April 26 and 27. Major Fosdick of Inspector General's Dept. and several gentlemen from the 2nd Signal Survey Group of the Chief Signal Officer examined rather thoroughly our barracks, mess hall, supply room, rifles, working tools, and the personal appearance of our men.

S/Sgt. Cholak had to be as much "on the ball," during those trying days, as all the other fellows, although he was transferred one day afterwards - on April 28 - to the 218th Signal Depot Company.

On April 29 - to conclude the April report with a bit of pleasant news - W.O. (J.G.) ^{Ray Shook} was assigned to our company, per P.33, S.O. 103, issued by the War Department in Washington D.C.

In May, the number of "men messing with organization" went down from 168 (May 1) to 145 (May 9) and reached its rather modest peak - 181 - on the last day of the month.

Yet the spring season opened with several new assignments. On May 3, T/5's Mathans and Pryor joined our unit (per P.9, S.O. 101) - followed, the next day, by T/5 Dwyer, who came to us from the 824th Signal Fixed Radio Station Co., per P.7, S.O. 101. One day later again - on May 5 - we welcomed Pvt.'s Adamcek and K.B. Smith - both assigned per P.30, S.O. 105.

Many boys got furloughs about that time - S/Sgt. Millen ten days; T/4 Miller eleven days; T/5's Teague and Stoner as much as thirteen days each, and so forth. Evidently, springtime had a pleasant effect on the mood of our Commanding Officer. On May 8, promotions were granted to T/4 K.R. Johnson (appointed S/Sgt.), T/5's Davidson and Strom (made Sergeants), T/5's R. Miller and C. Moore (advancing to T/4's), and

Pfc. D.T. Morris, who became a Technician Fifth Grade. The same day, T/4 Niskanen was transferred to the 189th Signal Repair Co., per P.10, S.O. 107.

Then nothing happened for a few days to come. That is to say, there were no dramatic incidents - just "usual garrison duties."

The column reserved for May 9, in the daily Morning Report, carries the succinct "No-Change" remark. As for the entries of May 10 and 11, they are almost equally meagre. On May 12, at last, there was an agreeable new development - namely, the assignment of WO(J.G.) Henry V. Johnson, per P. 27, S.O. 125, War Department, Washington D.C. And a couple of days later - May 14 - a bunch of boys were transferred to our outfit from Fort Monmouth - namely, Cpl. Cantor, T/5's Verbonick, H.M. Walker, Pvt.'s W.A. Eldard and S. Taranin - all of them per P.1, S.O. 129.

On May 17, T/5 Finnigan left us - transferred to Hq. Detch., per P.2, S.O. 113. We hated to see him go - naturally we did - but the number of T/5's in our company was not affected by his leaving. For the same day Pfc. Drake was appointed Technician Fifth Grade, per P.1, S.O. 114.

The noteworthy event of May 18 was the assignment of WO Gibson Bories, per P.21, S.O. 113 (War Department, Washington D.C.) And under the date of May 19 we read: "Pfc. Keesling, T/4 McKellican due back from furlough, detained on account of flood."

Of course, there was a flood - how could we forget to mention it? It meant a terrific nuisance, if not danger and destruction, to important parts of the nation, including the State of Missouri. In fact, the deluge affected also many units within Camp Crowder proper: sections of enlisted men were detached for special duties on roads, railway dams, and the

like. It so happened, however, that our organization was not among those assigned to such "flood details": that is why this chronicle - exclusively concerned with the goings-on in the 825th Signal Repair Service Company - failed to refer to that public calamity so far.

Yet, even our unit - comparatively little affected by the watery nuisance - felt its repercussions to a certain extent. There was shortage of food, on account of transport difficulties, and at times the electric light didn't work. But none of our boys died of starvation or broke his neck in the darkness. In general "garrison duties as usual" went on without any serious disturbance.

More important than the flood, from the point of view of the 825th, was the assignment of WO(JG) Wyatt L. Law, on May 22, per P.33, S.O. 124 (War Department, Washington D.C.) or the transfers of T/5's Drews, Hamilton, and Hamlyn, on May 25, to the University of Nebraska (per P.3, S.O. 102). The same day, T/5 Jones was appointed T/4, per P.6, S.O. 121, and Pvt. Meadors, from Camp Kohler, was assigned to this unit per P.9, S.O. 121.

The last week of the month does not yield much startling material to the chronicler - except, perhaps, for the assignments of Pvt.'s Eaton, Roo, and Woodruff, on May 28, per P. 15, S.O. 125.

The month of June began rather pleasantly: furloughs and promotions were granted, new fellows joined our unit - mostly from Camp Kohler, California.

On June 1, T/5 G.T. Brown was appointed T/4, per P.6, S.O. 129. Under the date of June 4, the daily Morning Report carries - in

the neat and firm handwriting of our Company Clerk - the disclosure of 2nd Lt. William H. Bakcock's assignment (per P.10, S.O. 150, War Department, Washington, D.C.) and also of the happy arrival of Pvt.'s Aikens, Cheek, Margues, and Ngar - assigned per P.1, S.O. 127. Pvt.'s Fulk, Gentilella, Napientek, and Tayloe, came three days afterwards, June 7.

Of course, there were less enjoyable events as well. Pvt. Vogel, for one - (remember the distant time when he was a proud Pfc.?) - got himself into trouble again. The name of his crime - ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE - should make every good soldier shudder with disapproval. Pvt. Vogel had to atone for it by doing some extra work in the Motor Pool. This occurred on June 4, 1943. On June 7, T/5 T.P. Larson, poor chap, had to be given an honorable discharge, on account of his nasty gout.

But for one man who leaves half a dozen new ones come in. On June 9, six sturdy individuals - Pvt.'s Delia, Garrison, Gonzdes, Morales, Moreno, and Rogue - were added to the personnel of the 825th.

They came just in time to congratulate some of their new comrades, to whom promotions were granted on June 10: S/Sgt.'s K.R. Johnson and McNeill became T/Sgt.'s; T/4's Bula, Francis, Innes, Kurth, Leach, McKellican, C.C. Moore, and Seidel, were appointed T/3's - as was, for that matter, T/5 Warnez, who boldly skipped the Fourth Grade. To T/4's advanced: T/5's Bruny, De Rose, Hintz, Janzen, Keller, Knott, Marvin, Milbrandt, Mitchell, Strickland, Zimmerman, and also Pfc. Morris. As for Pfc.'s Colby and Knobbe and Pvt. Eldard, they had to be satisfied with T/5, which is indeed nothing to sneeze at.

The next days were rather hectic, with many boys rushing and bustling about - packing their stuff and having it checked by the supply officer. Two large groups were getting ready to take off for Special Duty outside of Camp Crowder: the first one, consisting of 20 men, left on June 11 for the Chicago Signal Depot, while the second party - 30 men - followed the next day, with Lexington as its destination.

On June 13 - a Sunday - the Company area was quiet, almost deserted. There were plenty of empty beds at the disposal of six weary newcomers, who were grateful to find some rest after a long, tiring journey in crowded trains. The six travelers came from the Military Intelligence Training Center, Camp Ritchie, Maryland. Their names are: T/3 Klaus Mann, T/5's Charles F. Reinbold, Bernard M. Shapiro, Sidney Wolf, Pfc. André C. De Vernell, and Pvt. Gallileo P. Crisonino. Under the same order - P.7, S.O. 136 - T/5 Bernard B. Schlanger was assigned to this company. His departure from Ritchie was somewhat delayed, however, on account of an accident.

As for the first man mentioned above - i.e. T/3 Mann - ,this chronicler is in a position to state that he is not much of a radio mechanic. The only craft in which he gathered a certain experience, in the course of the years, is that of a writer. That is why our Commanding Officer and First Sergeant entrusted him with the honorable job of writing down the History of the 825th Signal Repair Service Company - a good, hard-working unit the future of which may turn out to be even more brilliant than its past here recorded.

TO BE CONTINUED.

* * *