

# SONS OF FATHERS OF FAMED WORLD WAR I, "OLD HICKORY", DIVISION CARRY ON IN THIS WAR WITH SAME FIGHTING SPIRIT

Cpl. Ray W. Cunningham, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Cunningham, of Sylva who is now with the First Army in Germany, writes the following:

For some time I have been hoping I could tell you folks back home about this outfit of ours and the swell record it has made in World War II from the time it hit the Normandy beach and began fighting on June 15. Censorship has kept our Old Hickory Division's engagements pretty much "under wraps" but we have made a record we'll stack up against any other division's and the Public Relations staff has made it easier for us to get the information back to you by summarizing the highlights of the 30th's greatest campaigns and getting this material cleared through the press censorship.

This is some of the information we can tell:

When the 30th Infantry Division troops charged through the greatest concentration of artillery and mortar fire they had met in the Western Campaign to storm the bunkers of the German Siegfried Line and establish a bridgehead in the Fatherland, they reached an objective for which, in three months of bitter fighting they had been paving the way since the battle near the beaches.

Smashing the Siegfried Line, the sector north of Aachen where it was heavily manned and then aiding in closing the gap that forced Aachen's fall constituted one of the toughest jobs assigned any division in the Battle of Europe.

But the 30th Infantry Division received its baptism of fire on a tough assignment June 15 and its progress to the German frontier was marked by battles that have been vital in the master strategy of World War II.

The all-important break through south of pulverized St. Lo on July 25, a date already historically significant, was spearheaded by the Old Hickorymen. A real fighting team, the troops of the 30th had qualified for that assignment—which battered open a passage through the hedgerow country allowing American armor to fan out over France—by a series of successful offensives against the Germans. At the outset the 30th drove the Germans back across the Vire River. Then in a spectacular dawn attack, the Old Hickorymen forced a crossing of the Vire River and opened the drive on St. Lo.

These battles in the hedgerow sector were real slugging matches, every foot of advance being skillfully and stubbornly contested and they were complicated by rough and frequent counterattacks.

However, some of the heaviest fighting remained to be accomplished by the 30th after it had given the "green light" to the armored drive.

That occurred in the Mortain-St. Barthelmy sector when the 30th took over the area of the First Division at a time when four German panzer divisions struck in the most powerful blitz effort of the campaign, to drive through to Avranches and separate the American First and Third Armies.

It was there that infantry riflemen with bazookas, artillery and tank destroyers, tanks, engineers, AAA units, cooks and messengers, with the help of U. S. Planes and RAF rocket-firing Typhoons finally threw back the German tanks in a battle that saw-sawed for three days before the Germans concluded that they were no match for one American division.

In this same battle, the great defensive Mortain-St. Barthelmy, a battalion was isolated on a hill near Mortain, cut off without food, ammunition and medical supplies for five and a half days and despite the

fact the harassed infantrymen were under constant enemy observation, artillery and mortar fire, they refused repeated demands to surrender.

The 30th Infantry Division was commended for its heroic stand, for the courage and skill of its men who refused to let overwhelming odds discourage them in the battle against tanks at St. Barthelmy, and for the loyalty and stamina of the members of the "lost battalion" who defied surrender demand their spokesman telling the German officers:

"Go to hell, we wouldn't surrender if our last round of ammunition was fired and our last bayonet broken off in a Jerry belly."

This battle of the 30th against the best of the German armor started on the night of August 7-8 and a week later the Old Hickorymen again were forcing the retreat of the Germans.

The 30th troops drove rapidly against the Germans to free Evreux and Louviers, then crossed the Seine at Mantes Cassicourt to enlarge the bridgehead there and prepare for the next breakthrough, this time into Belgium.

An opposed infantry speed march record was made and another commendation won when on August 31 and September 1 the 30th dashed to Tournai, Belgium, covering 180 miles through enemy territory in 72 hours. The march motorized during the last two days and was screened by a task force of the division. The 30th was the first allied infantry division to enter Belgium.

Still disrupting German efforts toward an orderly withdrawal, the Old Hickorymen drove on to become the first allied troops in Holland, arriving there September 12, after having captured the famous border fortress, Eben Emael, on September 10. Maastricht, Holland, fell to the 30th on September 13 after Old Hickory troops fought on into Germany, advance elements crossing the border at Horbach on September 14.

The attack on the Siegfried Line started October 2, continued for two weeks, to establish the bridgehead in what reputed by the Germans to be their "impenetrable West Wall."

More than 1,500 battle decorations have been awarded officers and men of the 30th Infantry Division for gallantry in action and meritorious service in the face of the enemy.

The 30th Infantry Division is commanded by Major General L. S. Hobbs who has been twice decorated.

Although it was originally built around troops from National Guard units of Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas, and thus gets its name, Old Hickory, from President Andrew Jackson, who led troops in that sector, the 30th's officers and men represent all states in the union.

The division climaxed a colorful World War I history by crashing the Hindenburg Line, paving the way for Germany's ultimate defeat then. Will History repeat itself?

## WILMOT NEWS

Miss Helen Settlemyre, who has been employed at Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Settlemyre.

Mr. Hughie Nations of Portsmouth, Va., has been called home due to the illness of his brother, Raymond Nations who has been very sick.

Miss Bonnie Woods left Sunday for Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Mr. Donald Bradley is visiting his brother, Robert Bradley, of Asheville, before leaving for service.

Mrs. Nell Settlemyre is sick.

Pvt. Alf Bumgarner of Sylva was the guest of Mrs. Nell Settlemyre and daughter, Della Mae.



## Mortgage Money

National Resources Planning Board, in a booklet by Miles Colean, predicted last January that residential buildings in the United States would approximate a million new dwellings each year for ten years after the war. There was an "if" in the forecast: If the price could be held down to an average of about \$4,000. Well, ten million \$4,000 units represent 40 billion dollars, which is a lot of money.

The vision of a million people plunking down \$4,000 each for a house in a single year is a pipe-dream. People able to make such cash outlays have houses already. These new houses will be sold on credit. Buyers will sign instalment notes. Debts will be protected by mortgages in the hands of life insurance companies, loan associations and certain kinds of banks. Uncle Sam may insure the mortgages.

## Unfit to Repeat

There is an old bromide about history repeating itself but some history is not good enough to repeat. We told last week why 9.4% of government-insured mortgages defaulted and cost the national treasury more than \$600 apiece. If that should be repeated on ten million homes to start building soon after the war, government's loss alone would shoot well above half a billion, and that's the small part.

Suppose only 9% of ten million new, post-war homes are lost by foreclosure; that would be 900,000 homes. Hopeful owners usually pay 20% down, which is \$800 on a \$4,000 house. Few buyers, living in such a house a year, could escape a loss of \$1,000 at least. This profitless payment for vain hopes would total 900 million dollars. Worst of all, it would come from frugal, industrious, home-making people.

## Need Not Happen

The foregoing simple arithmetic would seem pretty gloomy if it absolutely had to happen, but it does not. It offers an idea of how much tax money will be wasted if pre-war methods are used in financing post-war houses. The danger is real. All the controls affecting the quality of building today existed during the boom that followed World War One. Sorry houses may still be built and sold on payments.

Instalment home-buying is practical economy. Discounting notes is sound banking. Government insurance of loans has been a blessing; saved many a family from calamity and many a lender from ruin. But shoddy construction blights all this. It makes neither good homes nor good security for a bank loan. Lending is the cue. Mortgage money is the key to better building.

## Houses Warrantable

Buildings under construction need competent and impartial supervision and rating, somewhat as steamships are rated, or as a business firm's credit is rated. This is to protect lender and borrower both against mortgages far out of line with a building's actual worth. Such an agency exists, Certified Building Registry, relatively little used, but known to leading associations of architects, engineers and general contractors.

Few money lenders are qualified to judge structural fitness. Many a home buyer never sees his house until its inner defects are hidden by decorative enticements. Yet buyer and banker both deserve the protection of a rating that means (1) a home worth its price in a working man's money, and (2) security for the bank that holds the paper.

## Protects the Buyer

In the interest of public safety local governments require periodic inspection of passenger elevators and pressure boilers. Stock selling schemes must stand rigid inspection by state authority. It would seem even more important that ready-made residences carry a seal of merit. In the walter of a buying boom it would distinguish a speculative builder to sell impartially rated houses.

## WAR QUIZ CORNER

WHO IS HE? (40 points)

1. This man became Hitler's No. 1 collaborator in France, taking over from Petain. Know him?
2. True or false: Karelian isthmus was taken by Nazis from Greece.
3. Famed U. S. general in Burma and India was (a) Chennault, (b) MacArthur, (c) Stilwell.
4. Who was Germany's "front" man in Norway?

## ANSWERS

Count: Question one, 40; rest, 20 each. Score: 100, perfect; 80, good; 60, fair. 1. Pierre Laval. 2. False. Taken by Russia from Finland. 3. Stilwell. 4. Major Vidkun Quisling.

# Army, Navy Leaders, Others Endorse Red Cross War Fund

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In answer to President Roosevelt's appeal to the nation on behalf of the American Red Cross to fulfill the \$200,000,000 Red Cross War Fund goal for 1945, America's foremost military and naval leaders, the press, and educational, religious, fraternal, industrial and labor groups pledged unstinting support.



Stimson Gen. Marshall Forrestal Adm. King

Secretary of War Stimson expressed his gratitude to the Red Cross for discharging its responsibilities to the Army "with efficiency and humanity" throughout the war.

Chief of Staff General Marshall added: "The Red Cross has kept pace with the growth of the Army by enlarging its services to meet soldier needs both in this country and overseas."

Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal, citing Red Cross war contributions of blood plasma, prisoner of war food packages and civilian war aid, said, "In the blackness of war, the Red Cross stands as a beacon of mercy of which we can all be proud. Never has money been put to better use."

Admiral Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the United States fleet, pointed out that "every time the Red Cross assists a man in the armed forces in any way. There can be no doubt that the humanitarian activities of the American Red Cross have a direct bearing on the outcome of the war."

Both the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the National Editorial Association's presidents promised complete cooperation from the American press.

Among groups endorsing the War Fund are:

AMERICAN LEGION: "The Red Cross has exemplified the fine, traditional spirit of American helpfulness. The approach of the postwar reconstruction period will not lessen the calls for Red Cross services."

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR: "We are determined that the

war shall be won. Let us be equally determined that the Red Cross shall be enabled and permitted to measure up to the needs of the situation and the high standard which we have set for it."

CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION: "Each one of our mem-

bers knows that the Red Cross is constantly at that loved one's or friend's side in his time of need."

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION: "Such vital Red Cross programs as home nursing, nutrition, disaster relief and other helpful activities during recent years have combined closely to identify this national organization with rural life in America. The American Farm Bureau Federation... urges every member to give it wholehearted support through the organization's local chapters."

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: "It is obvious that the world situation at the present time will make greater demands upon Red Cross than ever before. We commend to the churches of the various communions in the United States the appeal for the American Red Cross War Fund in 1945."

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS: "American businessmen stand ready to assist in every way possible the American Red Cross in its fund raising efforts."

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE: "The great worth of the American Red Cross has become more obvious as the war develops and as our fighting men testify. Gladly, therefore, we recommend every generosity on the part of the American people in the 1945 campaign..."

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS: "The Red Cross is the most appealing philanthropic cause before the American people today. May the outstanding success of the 1945 Red Cross War Fund campaign demonstrate the spiritual calibre of the American people."

Hens and pullets on U. S. farms laid slightly over 4 billion eggs in January, about 8 per cent less than the record January production last year.

## Cpl. Elizabeth Deitz With 107th WAC Two Years

San Francisco, Calif., Feb. 15.—Corporal Elizabeth C. Deitz of Greens Creek, North Carolina, on Washington's Birthday marks the second anniversary of her arrival for duty at Fort Mason with the 107th Women's Army Corps Detachment, pioneer WAC organization on the Pacific Coast.

The Detachment, serving at this headquarters of San Francisco Port of Embarkation of the Army Transportation Corps, arrived 158 strong on February 22, 1943.

The birthday will be marked with a party, a special dinner, and a dance.

Corporal Deitz is one of the 42 original members of the company still affiliated with it. She is the daughter of Ransom V. Deitz of Greens Creek. Two brothers are also in the Armed services, Medford, in the Army, and Otis in the Navy.

## Sylva Baptist Church

Rev. C. M. Warren, Pastor Sunday 9:45 A. M.—Sunday School J. T. Gribble, Supt. 11:00 A. M. Worship Service Message — A. M. "God's Call to Repent" 8:30 P. M. B. T. U. John Henson, Director

## Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well 24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulate the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

## DOAN'S PILLS

The farm mortgage debt is at the lowest point in 30 years. Farm economists say it is a good time to pay up loans and not make any long commitments.

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