

## 163RD. RECEIVES WAR DEPT. AWARD

It has just been announced that the 163rd Signal Photo Co. was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque by the War Department, through the Seventh Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr.

The award is in recognition of the "superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks during the period 15 August, 1944 to 15 Oct. 1944, in France". This is the period of the first stages of the invasion of Southern France which began the morning of August 15. Our photographers hit the beaches with the first assault troops and together with a lab detachment, followed the Seventh Army, keeping pace photographically with the Army's swift and triumphant sweep northward.

The citation brings with it a plaque for the company and a laurel wreath decoration for each assigned and attached member of the organization. The wreath, worn on the sleeve, is made in gold and yellow-colored embroidery or a woven patch against an olive-drab background. Personnel are entitled to wear this as long as they are part of the company.

## FRATE, DURBAND RESCUE WOUNDED

While drivers Reno Frate and Casper Durband were standing by with their jeeps in embattled Oberhoffen, a Jerry shell burst close to a group of American soldiers. A few fell wounded. There were no aid men around at the moment. The two 163rders, ignoring the shells still coming, immediately raced to the wounded Yanks, got them into the Jeeps and hurried to an aid station.

The big palm to Frate and Durband.

### WHAT PROUD PAPAS SAY

There isn't a parent in the world who doesn't brag about his kid - it's natural and it's nice. Here's a few quotes from proud papas of the 163rd.

THOMSON- The other day Ronald bit the cat and his mother had to wash the fur out of his mouth. When given a German helmet to play with he mistook it for a bed pan.

HEISE- Adeline (that's my wife) writes that Linda always wants her own way and gets into plenty of mischief. She can walk without help.

HERSHEY- "Dick" is a heavyweight. Tears the hell out of furniture and gets "pified" off as quickly as his pater.

SCHWARZ- Jim's favorite pass time is pulling out electric plugs and throwing things into the toilet.

NAGEL - While my wife was in the hospital for an appendix operation, (she's alright now-Ed), Glenn (28 months old), was brought for a visit and promptly said: "Get up mummy, get up"

## OUR FAMILY ALBUM



(Top Row-L.to R.). (1.) James A. Schwarz, Age, 13 months; (2). Ronald George Thomson III, Age, 2 (3.). Robert Allen Lewis, Age 18 months, (he's dressed as the spirit of 1945); (4). Anne Marie Anspaugh, Age, 19 months; (Center Row, L. to. Right). (1). Glenn M. Nagel, Age, 28 months; (2). Evelyn Wynne Glenn, Age 2 1/2 years; (3). Linda Heise, Age, 14 months. (Bottom Row, L. to R.). (1). Miss Jac.W. Kimbel, Age, 16 (Kimbel also has a son, Don N., Age 17); (2). Jeffrey George Coates, Age, 18 months; (3). Harold E. Jones, Age, 3 and Robert E. Jones, Age 16; (4). Richard M. Hershey, Age, 2 1/2.

## WE'RE THANKFUL THEY'RE SAFE

We proudly present children of members of our 163rd family.

Aren't they a swell looking bunch of kids?

They're going to be awfully nice to come home to even though some of them might at first say: "Who is that man, Mama?" But love is a swift answerer and the question will quickly give way to the smile and the trusting arms of confidence around the neck of "My Daddy".

As we look at these kids, most of them still in the diaper stage, and some almost grown

up, we are thankful that they are safe - safe in America.

We are thankful that those who threatened the security of our homes as they have already destroyed the security of thousands of homes over here, are now on the run, that Germany is almost beaten, that Japan is being slowly pushed back to her lair - and that the day nears when all fathers away from home will return again to hear the sweetest words a man knows:

"My Daddy"

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# IN FIELD AND HQS. Last Week

"At 2215 hours", reports Gordon Frye, "on the evening of Feb. 5, T/4 Frye, wet and tired knocked on the door of a house in the little French town of Keshastel...the door was opened by T/5 Ruthberg. The two gents shook hands. That happening signified the making of a new bunch of CATS know as Team #18." The new combine which includes Pfc Ross and his jeep "Foto Joe" takes up the same assignment as T/4 Hershey (whom Frye replaced or should I say reinforced) and driver Karlgaard...Harris and Horne covered a hot story - the rescue of a stranded combat patrol on a mission across the Saar.... coverage was from an O.P. on river's bank.. to get there, the photogs had to slog thru mud up to their knees, exposed all the time to enemy shells...Horne and driver Cipra were turned down at physical exams...Leibowitz and Hebert, during their exam, were found in need of dental work...Weintraub and driver G.G. Smith on way to an assignment got a tip that two planes crashed in a forest...they attached themselves to searching party and came out of said forest with pix of survivors and three of the airmen in the jeep...Bornet and Stubenrauch began a feature story on the "war-torn plain of Colmar" described tersely by Bornet as "fertile in its appalling, realistic scenes, the most eloquent battle scars we've seen on a spot of earth - ruins, wrecked equipment, ravaged ground, desolation, death"...and Bornet, greatly moved by what he saw, turned in some of the most eloquent captions this scribe has read from the field...Bill Miller in the hard-hit town of Oberhoffen was "graphicing" inside a ruined church near German lines when he was spotted by a Yank tank crew who mistook Bill for a Jerry - the crew zeroed in while one of their number entered the church and "captured" the 163rd photog...adding to his adventures last week, Miller photographed a Lieutenant for a hometown picture...as he crossed the street to obtain a caption from his jeep, a Jerry shell came in, landing between him and the officer...dazed, but unhurt, Miller took a picture of the critically wounded Lt., who a moment before, had presented a Sunday grin for his hometown paper...

The laboratory has been having trouble with its water supply...and Lt. Strock, O.I.C. of the lab in reply to a note from Lt. Byars regarding prints, made the classic observation: "I realize there is a war on, but does the war realize there's no water on?"...Lt. Byars reporting this, adds this suggestion to solve the water problem: "The French have a good cheap substitute called 'eau', or a reasonable facsimile". Byars signed himself, Correspondent at SBS. (Saverne Base Section)

The 12 man quota to Paris brought back with them some very fancy Parisian hand-bags - only they were hanging under their eyes... each had stories to tell which could easily fill FOTO-FACTO, cause several domestic crises, erupt the Chaplain's Corps, and bring charges against the Editor for unfair competition to the original and undiluted Arabian Nights tales.

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PERSONNEL DEPT...Norm Lowery hospitalized last week after being hit by a sniper in Colmar is doing very well - glad to hear it, Norm...also in the hospital is Tex Luper - Best regards and wishes for a speedy recovery to you, Tex...Kastelz, Brown, and Kulpa, after covering the "touch-and-go" Hagenau sector, are back at Hq. waiting for another assignment...also on the bench after completing a mine story are Gerzen, Musser, and M. Ross...Lt. Meado, Benson, and T.C. Smith were seen around Hq. for a few days in between changing sectors..... back in their saddles after a week in Paris on foto business are Major Smith, and Capt. Lewis...welcomed to the family fold last week was Pvt. Harris from the 3968 Signal Service Bn., previously the 3120 Sig. Serv. Co...Now wearing silver bars in place of the gold are Lt. Ollar and Lt. Moors, attached to us, sometime ago from the 162nd.. Congrats.

Have you any news?  
Send it to FOTO-FACTO.

Lt. H.E. Strock...O.I.C.  
T/5 Robert...Editor  
1st Sgt Satterwhite...Local News  
T/5 Pierson...Distribution



LT. LEUDERS COMMENDS  
COLMAR COVERAGE

Lt. Leuders in charge of teams with XXI Corps, commended them for "their excellent work in providing first-hand spot coverage of the battle for entry into Colmar." The praise was accorded in a report sent to Captain Lewis.

"All concerned", he said, "were 'on the ball' and were most energetic and courageous in their efforts to keep up with the latest developments and exhibited a fine sense of responsibility and duty in getting in with the forward elements under heavy enemy fire in order to get their pictures."

163RD GETS SPEEDIER  
COURIER SERVICE

Direct courier service to Paris is now in operation in the company. On Saturday, Feb 10, came Lt. McMade of SHAEF with the first "wave" of jeeps and drivers to inaugurate the service which will be a big time-saver in getting our pix to Paris and London. The jeeps make connections with planes or when the planes are grounded, make the run overland.

## COMPLIMENTS TO COMPETITOR

Compliments to the 166th Signal Photo Co. for their publication, "Kodachrome" which its publisher Lt. K.E. Hunter and editor M/Sgt. J.C. Ishan describe as a "colorful account in black and white". It's an eye-catching job with some features which has spurred FOTO-FACTO to seek ways and means to pretty its face a bit more. "Kodachrome" is printed contact. Up until last week, our lab did not have an 8x10 printer and FOTO-FACTO was printed by enlarger which resulted in a spread in the type and a loss in sharpness. Last week, "Horizontal" Omar Duchene bestired himself and built an 8x10 printer..This welcome addition to our lab equipment has also brought an improvement in the appearance of the paper.

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Anyone having Reichmarks acquired in the Department of Moselle, should have them exchanged before February 28th.

## THANKS TO FOTO-FACTO HELPERS

FOTO-FACTO wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of four members of the company whose voluntary efforts have helped make possible issuing the paper regularly for these last 14 weeks.

George Bialkowski and Ed Schwarz handle the technical job from the copying to the developing...they often put in extra time after official laboratory work is finished. Improvements in the appearance of FOTO-FACTO are mainly the result of Bialkowski's suggestion and knowledge of photography and that of Ed Schwarz, who does a painstaking job of preparing the negatives for printing.

Kendzierski does the typing for the paper and gives up some of his free time each week. He also saves the editor from embarrassment by catching his mistakes before they get into print.

A new volunteer has been Arthur Peck who not only "rolls" our movie machine but also the mimeograph machine.

To all these, thanks - from the Editor and for the readers.

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HOW KIDS PLAY  
IN WAR TOWN

War provides all kinds of macabre contrasts and one of the strangest is the way children in battle-battered towns will turn the instruments of destruction into playthings for themselves.

Sometimes a photographer with a sensitive eye for the human aspects of the war will see these things and record them. Photographer Rosenblum of the 163rd was in the shattered town of Oberhoffen and here is his description of what he filmed:

"In spite of the shelling and the chaos, three kids were in the street making new toys out of broken German guns and equipment and we came upon one house where two children played in the backyard."