

THE WRECKIN' 2ND 317 INF.

BLUE RIDGE DIVISION

VOLUME 1

JULY 2-9

NO. 1

The Soldier's Savings

Col. S. L. Williams

Bn. Commander

With in the next few months many soldiers in this organization are going to be home. That is the "Day" that we have been fighting for and waiting for. Now, the 64.00 Dollar question is; Are we going to be able to make the necessary adjustments to civilian life in short order? Have you ever stopped to think that the day you get that Honorable Discharge in your hands, Uncle Sam stops giving you three square meals (GI), A roof over your head, and clothes on your back. These are the three essentials to the existence of a normal life. That is the day a few dollars of good old American Green-backs will feel mighty good tucked away in those nice new all wool worsted jeans. Then too, there is the lovely wife or sweet heart full of love. She will expect you to go places with her and meet the "Old Gang." Say, by the way, that takes that stuff called money: T-Bone Steak Dinner — 8.00 Dollars; Taxie fare — 1.75; Flowers — 5.00; 2qts. Burbon Whiskey (OH! Man) 16.00 Dollars, — cover charge, 5.00 dollars — (Yes, some friends) Hat check and tips (lovely girls) 5.00 dollars — Say, how about those black market cigarettes — 3.00 dollars. My time sure passes fast; 3:45 am. time for hamburgers and onions at Harry's Place. Next day the old leather wallet is slowly drawn from the new worsted pants and a vague memory of the night before passes in review as accounting becomes difficult.

There is is an old adage which says, "A stitch in time saves nine". Soldier, there is a savings program in the E. T. O. that concerns each and every one of you. It is the conservation and transfer to the United States of a substantial portion of the pay you receive each month.

By the use of the combined facilities of the Finance Dept., Army Postal Service and the Veterans Adminstration the individual can conserve and invest his funds and create a savings account by methods that are remarkably simple when consideration is given to the fact that he is in a foreign country.

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Blue Ridge Jivesters

Since the end of the war, the battalion has been discovering it's musical talent, and has finally emerged with a swing band bearing the name of the "Blue Ridge Jivesters." The members of the band hail from all the different companies; Cpl. Jack Appleton, 2nd Bn. chaplain's assistant is at the piano; Pfc. Johnnie Blaufus from "G" Company, drummer and vocalist; Cpl. "Red" Rogers from the 305th Medics, the electric guitar and violin; S/Sgt. Jim Kramer, Communication Chief, mandolin and guitar; and Pfc. Grant Hoff from "G" Company as master of ceremonies.

The quintet has played for numerous parties and shows in the battalion, and in the past week has been staging a variety show at the Blue Ridge Division Club at Kaufbeuren on June 26th, and at the battalion theater, June 29th.

The show, consisting of music from the band interspersed with some slick comedy routines and skits, was very enthusiastically received by the boys, and is to be presented again in the near future for those who missed the first showing.

Assisting in the "Wreckin' Second Jamboree" as it is called were Cpl. Allan Friedman and Pfc. Jim Mc Monagle with some side-splitting routines, and Pfc. George Leader acting as electrical technician.

The band sticks mainly to fast jive numbers and is reminiscent of Benny Goodman's old Swing Five. It's most notable features are "Red Roger's singing guitar" and Johnnie Blaufus on the drums. One of the best of its numbers is the "Song of the Wreckin' Second" sung to the tune of "OH Suzannah" in swingtime, and with lyrics written by the drummer. These boys will be pretty much in demand from now on, and here's hoping we see a lot more of them.

Pfc. Robert Lee,
Battalion Reporter.

YOU DO IT!
WE PRINT IT!

MEETING OF THE RUSSIANS

— Capt. McDonell —

The 80th Infantry Division made physical contact with the Russians on 10 May 1945 in Liezen, Austria, on the Enns river. Members of Company "E", 2d Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment were the first to make contact with the 9th Russian Infantry Division. The first thing we saw was the Lend-Lease Sherman tanks of the 9th Russian Panzer Brigade followed by the 26th Russian Infantry Division who were riding horses, wagons, and Lend-Lease Dodge trucks. At first sight we or the Russians did not recognize each other until Sgt Block, Russian speaking Sgt from Headquarters 2d Battalion, called "Americanskis" to the Russians. A most welcome meeting then was held as we shook hands and drank Russian Vodka. The Russians had been coming at top speed to meet the Americans, the road being littered with German vehicles and the Lend-Lease Sherman tanks would knock them off the road as they rushed to the Enns river to meet us. The Russians were very happy to make contact with us which was shown to the greatest extent then and in a Ceremony which was held 11 May 1945 at Liezen, Austria.

Independence day Parade

On the morning of July 4, the first Independence Day in the past four years when total victory was really in sight, the Second Battalion conducted a parade through the towns of Pfronten and Weissbach with all Battalion personnel taking part. Before marching through the two towns, the companies assembled in the Battalion parade ground where the entire unit passed in review and decorations were awarded to six officers and thirty-one enlisted men by Lt. Colonel Ives, Executive Officer for the 319th Regiment. Tec 3 Hoyt Rowell who was awarded the D. S. C. last October for distinguished service at the Battle of Argentan received a special "Insignia of Military Award" conferred on him by the King of England.

After these ceremonies, the newly decorated men marched down in formation to the reviewing stand in front of the Bourgermeister's home in the center of

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!!George Takes 1st. Half!!

George just won the 1st. half. They were given some uneasy moments by a loss to Headquarters the other night 2-0. Hqrs. then handed George the first half by downing Fox Company on the muddiest field I've ever slipped on. By defeating Fox, Headquarters are assured of a tie for second place.

Umpires seem to be our biggest trouble! To-day all the Athletic Officers and team managers had a meeting and came to a final agreement as to how to run the second half. It was decided that each team was to have their own umpire and all his decisions are to be final, whether right or wrong. I know that the game can not be played without a little bitching, but fellows, the umpires are all volunteers so take it a little easy as they are only trying to do their best and call'em as they see them.

Our league is one of the hottest that this reporter has ever participated in. Each game has been a tussle all the way. Several have lasted 8 innings and one had to be called because of darkness in the twelfth inning. This was the first game between George and Fox.

Daniels of George and Krajewski of Fox are the leading pitchers with 4 wins and 1 loss. They are followed closely by McAllister of Easy 2 and 1, and Allen who has 3 and 2.

Just glancing over the schedule I can see bigger and better games, but for the life of me I can't pick the winner. If George wins the second round they will represent the Battalion in the Ret'l play-off to be announced at a later date. If another team should win there shall be a five game series to be played on a neutral team's field.

League standing

	won	lost	per
George Co.	7	3	.700
HQs Co.	6	4	.600
Fox Co.	5	4	.555
Easy Co.	4	5	.444
Ser. Co.	3	6	.333
How Co.	3	6	.333

Leading hitters

Burns HQs	.520
Ciglar Ser.	.500
Cherry HQs	.500
Daneils G	.500
Adkins F	.411
Wehrmeist H	.375
Johnson Hqs	.369
Swanbach Ser.	.357
Blackburn E	.333

Pitchers

	won	lost	per
Daneils G Co.	4	1	.800
Krajewski F Co.	4	1	.800
Mc Allister E Co.	2	1	.667
Enrignes G Co.	2	1	.667
Allen HQs Co	3	2	.600

Home runs

Daneils G	1	Sysak HQs	1
Mason Ser.	1	Swanbach Ser.	1
Miller Ser.	1		

Suggestion Box

Men this is your paper, the quality of it depends solely upon you. If there is any suggestions or criticism to make, take them to the Co. reporters and have them filed for the suggestion box.

Regt. has a paper which it is very proud of. We want a paper that is just as good, if not better. This can be done with the full cooperation of each man. Next week we plan to add pictures to our paper and also a cartoon, this will improve it much.

OK! men, let's show Regt. who is best at everything. Send the paper home as a record of our achievements each week.

Contests

The ten mile speed march was won by a squad of Easy Company led by Sgt. Taylor. Their time was excellent, 1hr. and 57mins. They will now represent the Bn. in a Regt. contests on July 6th. After they win this they will represent the Regt. in the Division contest to take place at a later date. Say, fellows, I've a little bet on that you can't do it in better time.

The Bn. has also placed two men on the pistol team. They are Vernon Monroe, of Hqs. and Hubert Krein of George Co. This team will represent the Regt. in a Division meet. Good shooting fellows.

There are to be many more contests. Lets all get in them and see just how much better the Wreckin' 2nd. is than any one else.

Here's one that many may be interested in, the coming Regt track meet. A Bn. track and field meet is going to be held on 10 July to determine the best of the of the Bn. Back in the states we did well in almost every thing. If any one is interested I suggest they look on their bulletin board for all events.

E Company

S Sgt. F. J. Kroecker who lives in Camden, N. J. is soon to be back in the good old U. S. A. He has enough and a little more in points, and will get his discharge soon. He has served 5 years, so we all think he is due for it. He was formerly from the 8th. Div. but came to us as cadre in Camp Forest, Tenn.

He has been our mess Sgt. since then and a good one at that. Some of the best meals he has put out were for Christmas and New Years. This year on the fourth he over did it a little, he gave us chicken and gave us all the ice cream we could eat. (Chocolate at that)

We wish you the best of luck (Mr. Kroecker, and have that Cafe ready for us when we get there. (By the way what did you say the middle initial was for.)

Fox Company Tidbits

Fox Company, the best looking group of men in the 80th, just had their picture taken. For any of those who want to debate our good looks, the picture is on display at our orderly room. Besides the picture of the whole company, there was

a group picture of the original 80th men, those who came overseas with this company.

The Germans tell me they at one time had twelve percent beer. I don't know, from the taste of this beer I don't think they started making beer until we came here.

Fox company is really proud of their piano player, he can play "boogie" with the best. Whenever there is a gathering and we need some entertainment, "Red" Kalish, our medic, is right there. Before joining the Army, Red had a band of met own and played the local spots in New England. Red knows how to mix pleasure with business; he was awarded the Silver Star.

While on pass from Austria to Thionville, our cook T/4 Mike Giovannello his brother Ted, a T-4 at the 50th General Hospital in Commercy, France. Sure was a happy reunion Ted had been overseas sixteen months and "Mike" nine months. It had been twenty months since they last saw each other.

Ask P. F. C. Hayes of third platoon about his tall, dark, handsome correspondent!

Sometime in his life, Cpt. Matlock must have followed a plan. That last fifteen mile hike was really stepped off.

Sgt. Garland says the Riviera is the nearest thing to home in the E. T. O. From friends of Sgt. Smith, formerly with fourth platoon, we hear that he is recuperating in Iowa. He has had several skin graft operations. From his picture, it looks like he has put on some weight and is in the best of health.

Seems like the mess Sgt. had a lot of K. P. volunteers today ——— we went on a fifteen mile hike.

I think Hob & Hob can now be put in the same category as Calvados! P. F. C's Sukonik and Buchanan, just back from a pass to Paris, ran into two former members of the third platoon, P. F. C. Alt and Watson. Alt and Watson are in a casual company in Conrad City, Germany.

P. F. C. Dale Bish of first platoon had a pleasant surprise the other day when his brother came to see him. Dale has been overseas since February and his brother since May of last year. His brother is stationed near here with the 278th Field

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Wreckin' 2nd

Softball Schedule for second half

July 6—F vs. E§	H vs G§	Sev vs. Hqs&
July 7—Evs. G&	Hq. vs. H§	Sev vs. F§
July 8—Sunday-Reserved for postponed games		
July 9—Evs. H§	Hq. vs F§	G vs Sev§
July 10—Hq vs E§	F vs G§	Sev vs H§
July 11—Sev vs E§	G vs Hq§	H vs F§
July 12—Evs F§	G vs H§	F vs Sev§
July 13—G vs E§	H vs Hq§	F vs Sev§
July 14—H vs E§	F vs Hq§	F vs Sev§
July 15—Sunday—Reserved for postponed games		
July 16—E vs Hq§	G vs F§	H vs Sev§
July 17—Open date for postponed games.		
July 18—E vs Sev§	Hq vs G§	F vs H§

§ Home Games

H Company

How Company's softball team has finally gotten around to playing ball. In their last three games they have been victorious and it really makes the rest of the company feel better, not only in seeing them win games but the fine spirit and sportsmanship shown amongst the players these days. It just goes to show that a combat outfit is zeroing in.

How Company's ex-First Sergeant Chester Bloodworth, who went home on furlough while the Company was in Dingolfing is now MR. Chester Bloodworth, our first man to enlist in the civilian ranks. It looks like his successor T/Sgt Edd R. Turner who has been doing a marvelous job will be made our permanent first Sgt. I am sure every man in the company feels the same about T/Sgt. Turner and wish him all the luck a swell guy deserves in his new job.

Sgt. Albert E. Melcolm of Company "H" has finally seen his brother, Sgt. Donald A. Melcolm of the 861st F. A., 63rd Division. The meeting took place at Schwäh-Hall, Germany and it was the first time in two years that they had seen each other. Sgt. Donald A. Melcolm landed in Southern France with the 63rd Division.

And a year has gone by—yes a year since we sailed from New York Harbor on July 1, 1944. We landed in England and were hurriedly put through extensive maneuvers (that is if you call hiking, hiking, and more hiking—manuevers) D+60 we landed in France and hiked some more. On the 8th of August we were committed to our first combat. (Probably by this time ou have guessed that this is a gripe) After our first taste of combat they thought we liked it so we kept at it until 11 May, 1945 with very few breaks. And now out comes the book "Onward 80th" and who gets credit for everything. You can count on the fingers of one hand the times the 317th was mentioned. Maybe we shouldn't have come over here. We never fought or so the book says—perhaps we were some of those MP's back in Paris with white helmets, white leggins and white gloves—after all we never got our hands dirty.

Submitted by
S/Sgt John M. Quinn
Co "H" Reporter

I & E Report

Recently there have been many changes in the I & E program within the Division. The reason for this is the announcement that the Division has been put in Category II-B, which means that it will go to the Pacific via the U.S. in the near future (within 3 or 4 months).

All text books and other educational equipment must first go to troops in Category I and IV, those who will remain here for some time. There for, we can not offer the courses originally announced.

HQs!!! Dots & Dashes!!!

1st. Sgt. Murphy, S/sgt. Price, Sgt. Reese, Sgt. Farris, Sgt. Griger, and Cpl Kann are going to be leaving in the near future for Parts unknown!!! Final Destination U.S.A. All have 85 or more points. 1st. Sgt Murphy has volunteered to stay in the Army of Occupation.

It is rumored that we may lose one of our oldest and best Officers. Capt. Sheehan. The rumor has it that he has been offered a better position at Division. (Hope He makes it.)

S/sgt. William J. Burns of Wilkes-Barre Pa. and Bn. S-2 sgt. has finally heard from his brother. It was the first time he has had a letter from him since he bailed out over Holland Dec. 1st. 1944. During his internment he lost 60 lbs. The lucky stiff is now recuperating at the home of his Parents in Hazelton Pa. with a sixty day furlough.

Say fellas, have any of you noticed the small white swastika on the 57 MM Anti-Tank Gun that is parked behind the billets of anti-tank. Believe it or not they knocked out a tank at Erfurt. Were you there? Pfc Roop hit it three times at 20 yards which is just too close for comfort. Pfc De Leon was the one who shoved the rounds home while Pfc Robinson passed the Ammo. Now you know why and where they received the little white Swastika.

Our Bare footed pitcher Sgt Ashoff has been evacuated because of an old injury. He had won 2 and lost 1 before going back.

We are looking forward to seeing him back to give Allen a hand in the second half of the Wreckin' 2nd softball tournament. Stay clear of us; just ask George Company about their last game. HQs. is one of the teams to beat.

— All the girls are wearing General M'Arthur bathing suits — guaranteed to Land a man on any beach! —

Instead, the USAFI self study and group study courses are offerd.

These courses will be taken in the afternoon only. Credit will be given for the work. Group study texts may be obtained without charge. We will furnish a study hall and a trained man to answer questions. He will not teach (just advise). Enrollment in motor mechanics and group study courses is voluntary and will be done during the afternoon — (Free Time).

Reference is made to USAFI course No. 2 dated 15 June 1945, paragraph 5.

Each company will conduct a survey within its own unit to determine the number of men who wish to take these according to the plan as described in paragraph 3.

The survey shall be turned in to battalion in the form of a report showing the titles of courses desired to be taken and the number and names individuals wishing to take the courses.

Artillery. This is their first meeting in two years.

P. F. C. Madison L. Galamore has just returned to the outfit. He was hospitalized since April 19th at the 241st Gen. Hospital in Sasion, France, where he underwent a hernia operation.

T/Sgt. Hill reports that he met Sgt. Godby, formerly with the 3rd platoon, in Paris. Godby has been reclassified and given limited assignment.

Sgt Gill
Fox Co. Reporter

BIRTHS

F. F. C. Robert Burke became a father to a bouncing baby girl on June 15th. The child, who has been named Marlyn Elizabeth, was born to his wife Elizabeth who resides in Statesville, N. C.

2nd Lt. Isidor Beckerman, Platoon leader of 1st platoon, has an addition to the family in the form of a seven pound-nine ounce baby boy. The child was born to his wife, Anne, residing in Brooklyn, N. Y. They have christened him, Perry.

G Company News.

4 July 1945

Your scribe after deep meditation, long thought coupled with hours spent snooping in dark allies smelling empty bottles and generally acting as much like a newspapers man as he knows how, has come to the conclusion that G. Company made very little legitimate news this week (I said legitimate!) However here are a couple of little items that crossed my path and which you may not have heard about.

For the benefit of you fellows who are not very interested in the company baseball team but who are interested in the company, our softball team leads the league. The team accomplished this just about alone because your scribe notices that very few of you boys turned out to cheer them along. Let's get down there and give them some support; we've got a heads-up team, let's show a little appreciation. It isn't like going to see the Mortician Association's string quartet on a rainy Ssunday afternoon; most of the games are really exciting and close. Come on, let's go.

Conrade Lucas, the second platoons post war problem, last week volunteered for a litte work. (Keep the snickers down —) Anyway, he and his accomplice, Dunkowski, constructed a mighty fine ice chest for storing our food. I opened the cover the other night and it was chock full, there were three and one half potatoes sprouting in a corner and the whole place smelled strongly of onions, so you see fellows, better days are coming. The ice chest was the result of a week of what our two volunteers termed hard labor. When reached by the press, Lucas, wiping the sweat offhis brow, and what looked like chicken gravy from his kisser had only this to say. "The mere fact that I stood up under the ordeal was due entirely to my tireless energies and physical stamina and not, as some of those of those sarcastis buddies of mine intimate, due to the proximity of the kitchen." Dunkowski didn't say anything, I'd almost swear he was chewing. Anyway we the icechest.

Sgt. "Rabbit" Gulick strutted around the area for a couple off-days last week with his brother. He seemed pretty proud of the fact that his brother is a Warrant Officer, and most of us were proud and happy with him. But some of the uncouth boys while snickering into their beer bottles said that they knew there must be brains somewhere in the "Rabbit" family.

That's about all the news I've noticed from here on through and more intimate gossip later about G Company's doings.

Wreckin' 2nd Staff

Honorary Editor . . . Lt. Col. S. L. Williams
 Editors Lt. F. X. Bergin
 T/Sgt. J. M. Pavelda
 Ass't Editor Pfc R. A. Lee
 Hqs. Reporter Sgt. H. L. Kelly
 Easy Reporter T/S C. R. Neu Jr.
 Fox Reporter S/Sgt. H. K. Gill
 George Reporter Pfc T. M. Forde
 How Reporter S/Sgt. J. M. Quinn
 Printer T/S R. E. Hurley

Money Transmissions These Methods are well known.

They are:

- A— Class "E" & "F" allotments.
- B— Personal Transfers (P. T. A.) Then the Finance Office.
- C— Postal Money Orders.

Investments. They are equally simple.

- A— Class "B" allotments for regular purchase of bonds.
- B— Cash purchase of bonds in the E. T. O. to be delivered to the United States.
- C— Soldiers Deposit with interest at 4% available to enlisted men only.

Anyone interested in starting a new Savings Account, increasing allotments, or purchasing bonds. Please turn your name in to this Headquarters and complete details will be explained to you and arrangements will be made at the Personnel and the Finance Office to meet your needs.

Awards

For Gallantry in action in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, the following men were awarded the Silver Star:

Mayor	Emmett H. McCrary	Hdq.
1st Lt	Walter J. Gnowles	Medics
T/Sgt	Jack E. Barr	G Company
T/Sgt	Ralph C. Freeman	H Company
S/Sgt	Samuel J. Corden	G Company
Sgt	Leonard J. Timmons	F Company
Tec 4	Robert S. Kalish	Medics
Pfc	Harald C. Caplan	G Company

For meritorious service in action against an enemy of the United States, the following men were awarded the Bronze Star.

Capt	Michael Damkowitz	G Company
Capt	George F. McDonell	E Company
1st Lt	Wayne S. Hult	G Company
2nd Lt	Carl L. Isaacson	G Company
1st Sgt	Arthur L. Atkinson	F Company
T/Sgt	Merrill K. Beals	G Company
T/Sgt	Willie T. Garner	G Company
T/Sgt	Letter D. George	E Company
T/Sgt	William J. Smithers	F Company
S/Sgt	Joseph C. Clark	H Company
S/Sgt	Mario P. Donato	G Company
S/Sgt	Charles E. Price	Hq Company
S/Sgt	Jack H. Randle	G Company
S/Sgt	J. C. Tierce	F Company
S/Sgt	George J. Williams	E Company
S/Sgt	Cassius E. Preston	G Company
Sgt	Liborio F. Cacicio	G Company
Sgt	Roy L. Daugherty	E Company
Sgt	Pedro P. Gutierrez	F Company
Sgt	William J. Purvis	E Company
Cpl	Richard L. Swanson	G Company
Tec 5	Thomas W. Pettingill	Medics
Pfc	Homer Blackburn	Hq Company
Pfc	Michael G. Michalakos	E Company
Pfc	James E. Roufley	Hq Company

Pvt Sam W. Ellis
 Insignia of Military Award
 Tec 3 Hoyt T. Rowell
 F Company
 Medics

Headquarters 2nd Battalion, 317th Infantry

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART:
 By direction of the President, under the Provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, dated 22 September 1944, as amended, the Purple Heart is awarded the following named officer and enlisted men of this Battalion for wounds received as a result of enemy action in France, Luxemburg, Germany, and Austria.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

S/sgt Price, Charles E.
 S/Sgt Burns, William J.
 Pfc Byers, Thurston E.
 Sgt Farris, Delbert L.
 Pfc Ritchie, Lawrence E.
 1st Lt. Carlson, Carl W.

EASY COMPANY

S/sgt Tague, George H.
 Sgt Taylor, Robert J.
 S/Sgt Baldwin, Joseph E.
 S/Sgt Baldwin, William C.
 Pfc Blankinship, Arnold E.
 Pfc Allen, Thomas E.

FOX COMPANY

Pvt Mallek, Chester B.
 Sgt Noradki, Edmund F.
 Pfc Blystone, Emmett E.
 Cpl Przybylinski, Theodore
 Pvt Trenary, Eldon R.
 Pfc Bass, Forney H.

GEORGE COMPANY

Sgt Marbut, Delmare H.
 Pfc Weed, Floyd J.
 Pfc Stell, Cleston B.
 1st Sgt Smith, Percy
 Pfc Hoff, Grant D.

HOW COMPANY

Pfc Smith, Veray L.

Purple Heart Medals were presented to the above enlisted men at Retreat Parade ceremony 2 July 1945 in Berg, Germany.

Parade

Pfronten where Colonel Williams would shortly review his troops as they passed down the main street. Then, while the awarded men stood in the position of honor in front of the reviewing stand, and the greater part of the civilian population looked on, the Battalion marched through the town in the following order: Headquarters, Easy, Fox, George, and How Companies. The motored maintenance followed right behind the companies and looking particularly sharp were the Battalion jeeps rolling down the road in evenly spaced pairs, then the anti-tank vehicles, and service trucks lending an impressive finish to the parade. Although the Division Band was unable to be present, a corps of three drummers provided the cadence.

Many of the civilians admitted they were most impressed by the marching ability of the men whom they had not credited with too much military style in the past. Although there were no fireworks, no tickertape, and no cheering fans from multitudes of people, this parade became more significant by its simplicity and lack of trappings — the significance of American soldiers parading through a German town on July 4th, 1945.

*Soldier, you worked for the G. I.
 Bill of rights. Study it, so you
 Can make it work for you.*

FROM — **2ND BN. 317TH INF. REGT.
 APO 80 C/O POSTMASTER
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

TO