

# AMPLIFIER

106TH

SIGNAL

COMPANY

VOL. 1, No. 3

KARLSRUHE, Germany, JULY 26, 1945

1 MARK

## LIONS TO TOUR SWITZERLAND

The 106th was one of the few fortunate divisions to be allotted a quota for the organized tours through Switzerland. The original quota was cancelled because the lodging facilities were not ready for the G. I. tourists, but will be resumed as soon as the program gets fully under way, the first party of tourists should be leaving in the next few days and not on July 20 as was originally planned. It can be expected that the quotas will be small not much more than about three officers and thirty E. M. --- but it is hoped that this meagre quota will be increased when the tourist program hits it's peak. Every man can figure out your own individual chances of being one of the luckier fellows in the Division to go on tour.

Four separate tours have been arranged for, each tour lasting seven days. It will be impossible for you to pick your own tour but it is assumed that one is as good as the other. The excursions have been arranged for through liason officers of the Swiss government and are guaranteed not to be inferior to the pre-war version. I have no idea what the pre-war version was like, neither does the liason officer, but we're both open-minded. We both are harboring typical American ideas that Switzerland is nothing but a gigantic range

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## ELLA LOGAN SINGS

Last Sunday evening Ella Logan (that cute little miss with personality plus), formerly feature vocalist of Abe Lyman's orchestra sang before 3,500 G.I.s at the newly rededicated Ardennes stadium. Ella really did justice to several old tunes, best of all being "St. Louis Blues". The new "over 85 point band" from the Keystone division kept the audience right in the groove with a few solid sending arrangements.

## TOP PERFORMANCE REACHED IN JUNE



— Calahan

## WOOD WALKERS AND WIRE WORKERS

Have you been working lately? Do you have a tired feeling all the time? If you do, you have a right to be, for this Signal Company has been mighty busy during the two month stay in Bad Ems. Here is a tabulation of our accomplishments and the size of the figures will astonish you.

The Message Center clerks handled nearly 90,000 pieces of traffic while the messengers travelled 45,000 miles by motor and an equal distance by air. This was their busiest time during our stay in the ETO, as was the case with most sections. The cryptographic clerks kept busy handling about 700 messages totaling 80,000 groups. Our radio men, oftentimes loafers, handled 3,000 messages with 100,000 groups. The boys in Teletype earned their

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## CITY HIGHSPOTS

The picture that we received of Karlsruhe from Bad Ems did not seem inviting but an actual around the "town survey" revealed that there are more outlets for amusement here for the GI than our old home at Bad Ems ever promised. Even now there are three motion picture theaters in operation, the Division Theater, the Santa Fe and the Seventh Army Theater for transients. By far the Santa Fe theater managed by the 713 Railway Battalion is the best for the presentation of movies. Its excellent sound system and 35 MM film plus the auditorium itself place it in the category of any modern neighborhood theater back home in the states. Admission to the theater is free at all times and show time is 1800 and 2000 daily. Every Thursday night is Bank Nite at the Santa Fe. A ticket for the price of 10 marks (\$ 1.00) entitles the purchaser to a chance at winning the jackpot. To get to the Santa Fe theater, turn right as you leave the main gate of the Signal Company area and then left at the first intersection. Turn right when you reach Kaiser Allee and follow this street as it leads into Rheinstraße and the theater will be found one block down on the left hand side of the street. To get to the Seventh Army Transient Theater, take the No. 5 street car that runs past the Signal

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## GROWING PAINS

NOW HEAR THIS: Our Signal Company is now a battalion and still remains a company, but it's not as confusing as it sounds. Now that the company strength has zoomed up near the 400 level and the accompanying worries have given Lt. Caughman a hounded look, it was decided to subdivide the company into three parts (or companies) to facilitate speedy and more efficient administration

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# AMPLIFIER

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## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Perhaps at this time thru the medium of your paper you may permit me to acknowledge the warm welcome which your company gave to the "over 85 pointers" from the 28th Signal Company.

Well do we realize that the job of Division communications is a constant one. Thus, while we are "sweating it out" we hope our experience in communications is utilized as the need arises.

In the meantime, each and every one of us constantly look forward to a quota which may see us on our way home, taking with us a memory of a short but pleasant sojourn with the 106th Signal Company.

I/SGT J. A. FERNANDEZ.

## GROWING PAINS

(continued from Page 1)



## BATTALION HQ

Lt. Richards is in charge of Headquarters, Lt. Thompson worries about Operations, and Lt. Ryan is the head man in Construction. Lt. Caughman is the supreme potentate in command of the whole works. So you see, the 106th Signal Company is still with us, but the internal organization has just been shuffled around a bit.

## EDITORIAL

One of the most widely discussed topics in any organization is the quality and quantity of the chow available. Food is a subject that is near and dear to us. Needless to say, the individual analysis generally borders on the critical rather than on the complimentary! In conformance with this tradition we would like to offer the following suggestions, to the crew in the mess hall.

1. How about some variety in the potatoes? Fried dehydrated spuds with onions are pretty nice, we've heard.

2. Does a small size gravy ladle exist in the army? If so, let's make use of it, we don't like gravy all over everything.

3. Could that Sunday chicken be made to appear in a little less battleworn condition? We believe so.

4. Hard rolls, as baked by the local civilians, would make a refreshing change in the bread supply. Headquarters Company has been serving them for a month.

5. A higher ratio of cold drinks would be welcomed these hot days. Water, tea, lemonade or anything cold would do.

6. If the chow was served for two thirty minute periods, permitting half of the company, that is construction, headquarters and the relieving crew, to eat during the first period, and the remainder, plus the crew relieved, the second period, the mess lines would be shorter and the men relieved from duty would have an opportunity to eat chow instead of leftovers. The groups could alternate each week if necessary. The situation could be relieved by using German help. With all the German labor available, it seems that we could get enough people to work the serving tables so that the cooks and KPs could be relieved of this duty.

These are a few of the many little improvements which could be made. Rome wasn't built in a day, neither do we expect a complete change tomorrow, but certainly the continual advancement towards a better mess is to be desired. How about it?

## CITY HIGHSPOTS

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Company. The Theater is one block to the west of the end of the car line. Diagonally across the street from the Seventh Army theater is the Seventh Army beer garden. Beer is 1/2 mark per glass. A twelve piece German orchestra entertains. The Division Theater seats 1200 people and seems to be fine for vaudeville and stage productions but with the ancient 16MM films that are shown and poor sound, it rates far below as an entertainment outlet.

In the foyer of the Division Theater is the Red Cross Lounge and on the second floor of the theater building is the library. Take the stairs to the right as you enter. Nearby is an indoor swimming pool which besides having many modern conveniences offers hot showers and locker facilities. The swimming pool is open from 0800 to 2000 daily and admission is free. The Division Theater and indoor swimming pool are located in the Festplatz and can be reached directly by taking the No. 5 street car at the company gate to end of the line and transferring to a No. 4. The number four also runs to Division Headquarters. In the very near future a Red Cross doughnut rigout and beer garden will open in the Festplatz.

## TOP PERFORMANCE REACHED IN JUNE

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money too, with 4,000 messages totaling almost 200,000 groups.

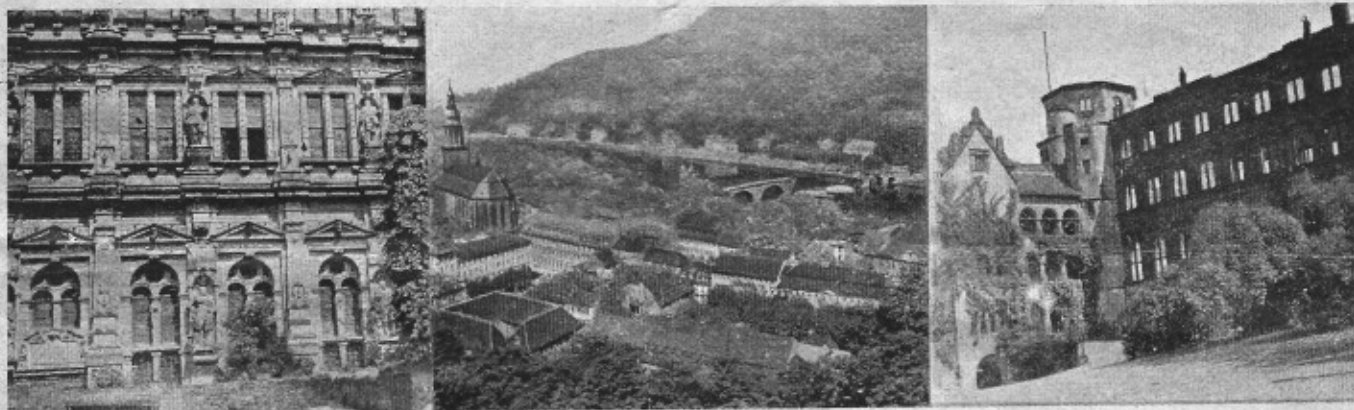
Construction never had a chance to rest during those two months, and they constructed and maintained the largest wire net that our company has ever had to use. It contained about 70 circuit miles of W-110 and spiral four, nearly 900 miles of underground cable, and about 980 wire miles of open wire. Measure that with sweat, and it's a lot. The switchboard operators kept the calls moving over these wires, with an average of 3,000 calls a day. They reached a peak of 5,542 calls over five boards on June 30, with almost 4,000 calls going through the Decatur board alone.

Signal Repair kept busy working on 300 pieces of equipment, and DSSO issued over 115 tons of equipment to the Division during the two month stay.

Yes, sir, this company can work when it is necessary!



# KEY TO HEIDELBERG



-PHOTO BY OPDYKE

## HEIDELBERG CASTLE AND A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE CITY

If you aren't interested in looking at old houses and broken down castles, there is no need for you to read this. You probably can find enough of interest to you right here in Karlsruhe. If you're a GI Tourist, however, and like to poke around in dusty old places that ooze history and stuff, this summary of the things to see in old Heidelberg will add to the enjoyment of a visit.

Heidelberg is most famed for its university and for the great castle that overlooks the town from Jetta's hill.

Both were constructed in the fourteenth century, which is almost modern for Europe. Heidelberg history goes much further back than that, however, for near here was found the jawbone of the earliest known type of palaeolithic man, the Homo Heidelbergensis, while on the Holy mountain are fossils of all stages of civilization as well as fragments of a wall built about 1000 B.C. Of course, the Romans settled here, and after them the Alemanni and then the Franks, but the town first became important in the twelfth century, when the Counts of the Palatinate took up their residence here. They were the ones who started construction of the castle. The town was occupied several times during the Thirty Years War, and later, in 1693, the town and the castle were destroyed by French soldiers—not under orders, but just to have a jolly time. The only town building to survive was the Church of the Holy Ghost, which still stands.

The French and Austrians battled here during the Napoleonic Wars,

and in the peace that followed, the part of the Palatinate East of the Rhine came under the rule of Prince Frederick of Baden. Under his reign the University began to prosper, and soon became widely known for the activity of its academic life. The University is still expanding, and in 1929 a new building was erected with funds collected by the former American Ambassador to Berlin, Jacob G. Schurman. Bunsen, the chemist, and Helmholtz and Kirchhoff, the physicists, were among the many noted scholars who worked at the University. Most of the buildings are now occupied by army units.

Odd though it may seem, there are over one hundred tobacco factories in and around the town, and there is also an important fountain pen industry here as well as the famous breweries.

The town has not been harmed by the war, and the natural beauty of the city nestling between the vineyard covered hills of the Odenwald where the Neckar river enters the Rhine plain can be fully appreciated. There are several army theatres in town, as well as a very fine Red Cross Club. A stroll along the river or along the Philosopher's walk that winds up to the summit of the Holy Mountain on the bank of the river. Is very pleasant. It will remind you of Bad Ems in all respects.

One can easily spend an afternoon exploring the old castle and its grounds. Many of the buildings have been restored, and it is best to take one of the frequent tours (the guides speak English) in order to see them all. The beautiful early

Renaissance wing was built about 1556 by Otto Henry, "The Magnanimous". The late Renaissance wing, the Frederick building, was added under Frederick IV during the five years after 1601, and on the west side of the center court is the Elizabethan wing, named after the daughter of James I of England. In the cellar is the great cask built in 1751 with a capacity of 49,000 gallons. It has been filled three times with Rhine wine, but is empty now.

This wine cellar was the hang-out of the famous Perkeo, a rotund little man who subsisted mostly on copious quantities of wine. There is a cafe in town named for him.

Among the many interesting places to visit in town is the old Red Ox Inn, a place that was a favorite haunt of the students of the University. Its dim and somewhat musty atmosphere encourages long and profound bull sessions over a flagon of foamy beer. The old ox horns that were once used as beer steins still hang on the much whittled walls. Schiller, Goethe and Longfellow were among the noted personages to spend many a pleasant hour there.

The army, for some reason or other has scattered a liberal number of Off Limit signs around the city, but there is still enough attraction to keep anyone occupied until long after his feet begin to ache and moan. Then it's time to look for a empty bench on the walk along the Neckar, just to watch the scenery stroll past. Heidelberg isn't paradise, but a trip is well worth effort. You will enjoy a day in old Heidelberg.

# RAMBLER

## DOWN MAINE POETRY

We all know that Ralph Murphy comes from Caribou, Maine, a burg that is nestled way off in the middle of nowhere, but that is dear to the heart of the person who is our subject at the moment.

This Irish lad has always been familiar for his cheery hello, his rubbery facial expressions when his plate is out, and his loyalty to Roy Acuff, but now another of his many talents has come to light. He writes poetry! This proves that art can and does exist in the land of the pine tree and the potato, and that there is more to Ralph Murphy than meets the eye.

In some of his inspired moments while here in the ETO, he has dashed off some heavy stuff, but I can give you no examples of this work because he can't remember what he wrote. Some night when the teletype stops clacking and clunking, he may get the urge to write something for this column, in which case we shall print it in bold face type right at the top of the page.

Most of his poems were written before he came into the Army and were mainly concerned with the doings of one Pierre Rochambeau. This Pierre is a French Canadian who wanders around in Murph's mind doing interesting things that Ralph can write poetry about. Pierre being a Canuck, speaks in broken English, and therefore Ralph's poems need to be read aloud for best effect. Shades of Robert Burns!

Several of these Pierre Rochambeau poems were selected by the Peabar Publishing Company of New York, for the Peabar Anthology of Verse which was published a few years ago. Ralph was sent a free copy.

Writing poetry has always seemed difficult, the words at the ends of the lines never seem to rhyme, or if they do, they don't make any sense. Murph says that there's nothing to it, "all you have to do is sit down and bang it out. It's a snap". Snap it may be, but the Rambler tips his pork-pie lid to Ralph Murphy and Pierre Rochambeau.

## LUCKIEST MAN OF THE WEEK

College boy Robert Calhoun left last week for Shrivensham, England, where he will spend eight weeks at the Army Educational Center there working towards his Master's Degree. He plans to study accounting, personnel management, American thought and culture and vocational guidance.

# AS WE SEE THEM

Michael with the moo-cow eyes. Looking into them you see deep limpid pools of innocence. Like those of a jersey cow appraising her calf his are big, brown, and beautiful, or like those of the calf looking up at momma cow, his are deep, dark, and independent. His



MIKE AND ED

jovial personality distinguishes him from the crowd and Mike is always good for a hearty laugh or a steady grin. Just a look at his flat-top haircut or wiggling ears explains this.

It all started when Mike was small and was more or less a masculine edition of Baby Snooks. Every time he became angry at a member of his family he would dash to the bathroom, slam and lock the door, and shout out that we would hang himself. The first few hundred times the family smiled and said, "Isn't he cute." Finally, this little exposition of his became boresome, his mother decided to put a stop to it. Imagine little "Mickey's" surprise when in the middle of one of his screams, "I'll hang myself..." his mother's voice said, "Go ahead". Looking up he saw a hangman's noose dangling from the ceiling for his convenience.

Another of his habits is untidiness. Whenever he came home, his sweater landed on the sofa, his shoes in the dining room, and so on. The path he took was always followed by his mother who collected these items and threatened to throw all his clothes out in the yard if he didn't cease these actions. She really meant it, for the

next time Mike wanted a clean shirt he was shocked to find not a stitch in his room. When he called his mother regarding this, he received no answer. Then it dawned on him, he went out and gathered his clothes up from the back yard without a word. The next few months found him quite the changed little boy.

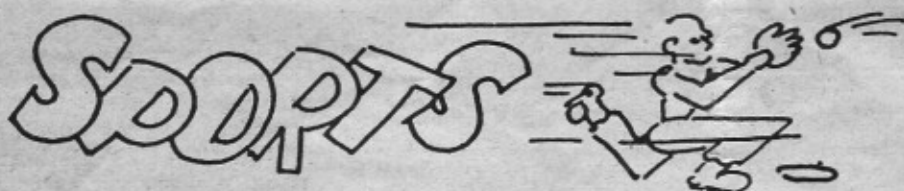
Of the changes that have come over Michael Micklos in these twenty-one years, there are a few that haven't altered since the day his father first saw him and said, "He's a little red, isn't he?" Yes Mike is a confirmed believer of the blush. He has a unique technique too. It begins on his first chin, fades in the second and skyrockets from the third and most dominating clear up to the roots of his curly brown hair, taking time out only to appear in polka-dots on his Irish nose.

Mike has never outgrown his little acts of devilishness. During basic training he could never find a place to deposit various bits of trash. Wastepaper baskets were to him strictly for wastepaper, so into Mike Bell's shoes went all his orange peelings, and one time an entire tube of brushless shave cream minus the tube went into John Middleton's shoes all because he wanted the old tube to turn in to get a tube of toothpaste.

These are a few of his bad points though. Actually he has a heart of gold, and life during our stay with the army would certainly have been much less pleasant had he not been with us. Everyone will remember him for those cakes, candies, and other goodies he always received and with which he was ever so generous. Anytime you were hungry, Mike had something on hand to eat and that which was his was yours too. Being around him is one series of laughs, for he is filled with a sarcastic wit and a sense of humor that, to my knowledge, can't be surpassed.

His latest whim is poetry. Whenever Mike is upset or in a pensive mood, he turns to a volume of verse, ever at his side, and reads selections from Whitman, Whittier, and Poe until his frayed nerves are soothed. A reading of Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" sends him into spasms, however. So in an atmosphere of Old Spice and Spruce shave lotions we leave Michael Joseph Alexander Micklos with his verse.





### SIGNAL STARS

A new addition to the ever increasing galaxy of stars as represented by the Signal Company is this week. Bob McConnachie. Bob, the soft-spoken driver from the Construction platoon is on his way to Heidelberg, Germany to participate and if possible capture the Seventh Army singles tennis title. Matches are scheduled to begin on July 23, 1945. He has swept through all opposition in the division special troops league and is off to higher glories in a larger composition of contestants. Word has it that all entries will have wonderfully laid out courts, grounds and highly satisfactory umpiring. We just can't see Bob losing under all these grand conditions, so it's "Best of luck to you, Bob."

The special troops softball team is so studded with our boys that surely the appropriate name for them should be, Signal Company. Get this! Milt Adams at shortstop, "Gribby" Chiaradio at the hot corner, third base, Frank Rosati, our fine lead-off hitter playing center field. Don't go away, there are more! The top battery is comprised of Bob Boland and "Patty" Patterson. To top it off, two of our recent additions from the 577 Signal Depot Company and the 28 Signal Company, Hal Lansing and Al Abraham are also pitchers for the outfit.

### SAD NOTE

What amounted to the most "tragic" note of the month was the transfer of Lt. Irving Kessler to the 35th Signal Company. When the special troops softball league made it's initial appearance, Lt. Kessler was highly responsible for the Signaleers having a fine club to send on the field, in many ways. It was he who arranged practice sessions with the players being given time off from their other duties to attend same. It was he who inevitably watched for ways of improvements, in order to better the team and everything connected with it. Lt. Kessler is gone now, but he'll be happy to know that his boys are very well represented on division and troop teams currently operating on a very steady schedule.

For the division softball team, it's Donald Friedland playing short-center field and Ralph Perri, at second base, recently promoted to field captain. At this writing, Ralph

is in bed, not permanently, due to a run-in with one of the 84th division players, at the Keystone sack. Donald, infuriated at the manner in which Ralph was hit really tore into the "villain" and just about got himself tossed out of the ball game! When order was restored, Ralph was "carried away" and Donald went back to his position. Plenty of fight, eh?

### HOT STUFF

Lt. Dever acting as the athletic activities officer of special troops asserted today that the softball league, company against company is to be reformed once again and finally played out to determine the rightful owner of the division special troops championship. This is grand news to these ears due to the confidence we have in the ability of Signal to cop the crown. Also announced, although not yet officially, are plans for a basketball league run on the same system as the softball league. Those of you who were members of the Company at the time it was stationed at the P.O.E. can remember the hoopmen walking off with all the honors available, and in sight, that is until they ran into Hal-Smile, one of the Illinois "Whiz Kids" and his crew from the 591st Field Artillery. If memory serves us correctly, it was Bob McDonough, since transferred from the 106th, who held the all-American star down enough to enable us to come within four points of what would have been a splendid victory. We have lost few and apparently gained many good basketweavers, so the outlook is all smiles.

### PASSING PARADE

This is a little late to be an introduction, but we know that all of you don't know very much about the new officers who came to the company to fill the spots left vacant by Lts. Corbett, Mack, Kessler and Mr. Lewandowski and Mr. Messler, so let's get zeroed in. From the 28th we have Lt. Regis H. Ryan, Pittsburgh, Penn., Construction Officer, Lt. William B. Hawley, Beckley, W. Va., and Mr. Edward K. Moodey, Pittsburgh, Penn., Message Center Officers. From the 35th, Lt. Orrin J. Richards, Minneapolis, Minn., Supply and Mess Officer, Lt. K. Taylor, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Lt. Carl A. Lauer, Deep River, Conn., both in Construction, came from the 36th Signal Battalion.

## SWISS TOURS

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of mountains covered by glacial snow. Since neither of us can fully appreciate the significance of glacial residue we would like the opportunity to be proved wrong. Switzerland was also the place where Europeans used to get away from it all. Judging from what I have seen of Europe, they had plenty from which to get away. In the luxury of swank hotels, panoramas of extraordinary scenery, and girls from the most exclusive schools in Europe the European seemed to be able to forget about his troubles at home. It is hoped that it will have the same effect on the G. I. who wants to forget about his troubles getting back to his troubles at home.

Incidentally, the tour will cost the soldier thirty-five dollars and he will be limited to purchasing only thirty-five dollars worth of souvenirs. I don't know what the post war price of the Swiss Alps is, but it is generally felt that the climate in America is not conducive to the preservation of glaciers and that an Alp would look silly in anybody's backyard anyway. So don't buy it, soldier. Three hundred and fifty marks is supposed to be reasonable according to pre-war standards, but will probably discourage a lot of PFC's who might have liked to have taken one of the tours.

The soldier will have practically unlimited freedom during the seven days of the trip, the only requirement being that he make train schedules. He will be on the move practically all the time and he is warned to travel light. PX facilities are available but in a limited quantity only, so take your own cigarettes and chocolate with you.

Being more practical about the leave situation and your chances of going anywhere, it is wiser to hope for a pass to either the Camp Withee Recreation Center in Eupen, Belgium or the new Rest Camp in Grenoble, France. The recreation area at Namur has been discontinued because of the distance involved and the Recreation Area at Grenoble takes its place. It is planned along the same lines as all Division Rest Areas, the best possible for the men of the 106th. Signal company quotas are not available in advance.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

IN THE FORM OF PICTURES, CARTOONS, LETTERS, OR ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR PUBLICATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE ORDERLY ROOM OR ANY MEMBER OF THE STAFF