

For Comfortable Living In The ETO - See Co D, 134th

The trapeze artists swung high in the old auditorium in Münstermaifeld and the jugglers had the GIs on the edge of their seats.

The elephants and trick ponies have yet to make their appearance, - - but they will.

No, it's not the Barnum and Bailey circus back in the States. It's a German circus, just one more of the 134th Infantry Dog company's activities, - - and the men were not at all surprised when the show was announced.

An outfit that has its own printer, photo shop, tailor shop, barber shop, shoe-shine parlor, PX, Bar, ball field, volleyball court, etc., is not likely to be surprised at a circus setting up in its back yard.

Life in the ETO doesn't have to be too uncomfortable or monotonous - - if 150 men get together to make it interesting. And that's what is happening in Münstermaifeld, 30 miles southwest of Koblenz and a few kilometers north of the Mosel river.

Here's what has been accomplished in the first 30 days in town.

Creases and Patches

Red dogs, painted on neat white signs point the way to the command post through the narrow winding streets. At the CP, a snappy-looking guard in a white helmet stands beneath a large sign bearing the regimental crest.

1/Lt. Don C. Craig of North Platte, Neb., heard there was an artist in town - and the sign appeared.

The men and officers on the street look sharp, - shirts and trousers fit with knife-like creases.

Pfc. Richard G. Avey, Jr., of Detroit, Mich., talked to one tailor, heard there were others, and four of them now work full time altering the quartermaster fits and pressing clothes. Salvage clothing from the quartermaster is being made into garrison caps for all the men.

Despite the shortage of issue, every man has a division patch on his sleeve. When division patches were needed, Pfc. Carl Klink of Chicago, Ill., looked for a factory, but compromised on having them made by hand by a couple of local women.

A displaced Italian called Roger does nothing all day but shine shoes. The men bring them in or wear them in, - and it's free. Roger's chair is located in the PX. The PX is just to the left as you walk into

Zach's bar. And the bar is just under the auditorium where movies and jam sessions are held.

Cpl. Paul Zacharkan of New York City has set up his bar in every town the company occupied since pulling back from the front just before the armistice. Pfc. Donald E. Bell of Willard, Ohio, runs the PX next door, where Cpl. Prentis Melton of Bow, Ky, has his barber chair.

Music and Swimming

The bar, and the side-walk cafe in front, have music, bugle calls and announcements as well as does the area around the CP and the quarters. 2/Lt. Edward Supanchick, North Platte, Neb, and Sgt. Harold A. McConnell of Granite City, Ill, located two microphones, a record player, and two amplifiers. Sgt. Ben Birken, Bronx, N. Y., tried to buy records of bugle calls while on pass in Brussels. They weren't available so he dug up an army bugler, took him to a radio shop and recorded the calls.

In the photo shop, the men get quick service on their films. Supplies are purchased in Brussels and Cpl. Louis J. Bolitho of Petersburg, Fla, a professional photographer, has moved into a prewar photo lab down at the far end of town. Each man is having personal stationery printed by a local printer who has also turned out a guard book, and a baseball score-book, complete with ads for Zach's bar and the PX.

Down on the Mosel, Cpl. Robert L. Harbin of Hot Springs, Ark, has constructed a double deck float in the river, complete with diving board and five-gallon cans anchored and roped together to keep swimmers out of the swift current.

1/Lt Thomas J. Ryan of North Platte, Nebr, the company special service officer, has seven baseball teams playing in the company league. By contacting outfits ready to ship from the theater he has a full set of baseball shoes, athletic equipment and indoor games. S/Sgt. Robert L. Peterson of St. Paul, Minn, is almost a cinch in the horseshoe tournament which is going on but the ping-pong champ is still to be determined.

Peterson found a German carpenter who built the ping-pong table. S/Sgt. Charles T. Indivino of Rochester, N. Y., and a crew of six men worked two days with German farm implements to turn a pasture into a ball diamond and a volleyball court. They also built high-jump standards and sawdust pits.

The Captain Slips

The regimental band comes down occasionally to play a retreat ceremony and jam session after dinner. But when it's not around, Dog company's orchestra strikes up, - Pfc. Robert A. Galarowicz, Chicago, Ill, on the accordion, Pfc. Lawrence R. Fryman, Sharon, Pa, on the guitar, Pfc. Oliver Beasley of Georgetown, Miss, on the mouth organ, Pfc. Harold A. LaPenna, Roseta, Pa, the drums, Sgt. Daniel Goodridge, El Cajon, Calif, violin, and Sgt. Floyd Cady of Lawrenceville, N. Y., on the accordion, violin, guitar or the bass fiddle.

To keep pace with the men, the officers in the company have instituted a system wherein carelessness costs money. It's a 10-cent offense to leave a pocket unbuttoned, a shoe lace loose or for any other uniform infraction. Lt. Robert E. Biever of Chicago, Ill, is pulling a week's OD for being a minute late for reveille.

But Capt. William T. Jardine of Minneapolis, Minn, the company commander, will be on duty every night next week. He made the rule - and then forgot to initial the bulletin board.