



CONNECTICUT MEN 91st-Powder River-Division

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91st DIVISION COMES HOME

The 91st (Powder River) Division came home during the latter part of August and the beginning of September. The veterans of the Italian campaign arrived aboard six ships, five of which berthed at Hampton Roads, Virginia, and one, the Wakefield, carrying the advanced detachment, docked in Boston. Victory ships which brought elements of the division home were the Pauchaug, La Crosse and the Dominican. Other ships carrying divisional troops were the USS Mount Vernon and the SS Felipe De Neve.

The first contingent of the main body of the famed 91st landed on August 26 from the Pauchaug Victory. This group included the 91st Sig. Co., Hq. Co., Serv. Co., Antitank Co., Cannon Co., Co. B., Antitank Platoon and Hq. Co. 1st Bn., 363d Inf.

Four days later, the Dominican Victory docked with the following units aboard: 1st Bn. Hq. & Hq. Co., A, B, C and D Cos., the Antitank Co., Cannon Co. and Serv. Co. of the 361st Inf., 1st Bn. Hq. Co. and A, B and C Cos. of the 363d Inf.

On September 10, the Mount Vernon, pictured on the cover of this booklet, SS Felipe De Neve and the La Crosse Victory docked at Hampton Roads. The Mount Vernon brought home the 2d Bn. of the 363d Inf., the 362d Inf., Hq. & Hq. Co., Band Hq., Sp. Trps., Div. Med. Det., 791st Ord. LM Co., 348th F.A. Bn., 91st Cav. Ren. Trp. and the 316th Eng. Combat Bn. The Felipe De Neve carried the 316th Med. Bn.

Disembarking from the La Crosse Victory were the MP Plat., 91st Q.M. Co., Hq. & Hq. Btry., Div. Arty., 346th F.A. Bn., 347th and 916th F.A. Bns.

Upon leaving the ships at Hampton Roads, the men were transported to

Camp Patrick Henry. Those on the Wakefield who disembarked at Boston were sent to Camp Myles Standish, Mass. From these camps they were sent to their respective reception stations, the Connecticut men being sent to Fort Devens, Mass. There high point men were sent to the Separation Center to be processed for release and low score men were given 30 day "recuperation furlough". Furloughed men were due to report back to Devens between September 25 and October 15, but may receive extensions.

As this was written there was no official word as to the future of the division upon the return of its members from furloughs.

CONNECTICUT SERVICEMEN'S COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

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CARLETON B. CLYMA, Editor



This booklet on the return of the 91st (Powder River) Division from the European war was prepared by the Office of the Governor, as an addition to their souvenirs and memorabilia of participation in the defeat of the once great Axis Armies.

The courtesies and assistance of public relations officers, at the ports and at the Fort Devens Reception Station greatly facilitated the gathering of the material for this booklet. The group pictures are from Signal Corps photographs. The Battle Log and Facts herein were prepared by the Office of Technical Information, Army Ground Forces.

A limited number of copies are available for distribution to Connecticut men of the Division. They can be secured by written request to the Office of the Governor, State Capitol, Hartford.

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91st DIVISION BATTLE LOG

To the Arno — Breaking of the Gothic Line in Italy, manned by some of the finest troops which Germany could muster, was an outstanding achievement of the 91st Infantry Division. The Powder River division delivered a punch to the Nazis which helped knock the enemy out of the war. First unit of the division to enter combat was the 361st Infantry Regiment which received its baptism of fire south of Rome June 3, 1944. The division entered battle for the first time as a complete unit on July 12, 1944, near Chianni, Italy. Soon such towns as Terriciola, Bagni, Capannoli, fell to the 91st's advance. It was not long before the Germans withdrew and the 91st claimed for itself the record of being the first to reach the Arno River.

On to Pisa — On the same day, July 18, 1944, the 363d Infantry Regiment, operating as a task force, captured Leghorn and five days later held Marina di Pisa, as well as a section of Pisa which lies below the Arno. During Aug. 1944, the division held defensive positions along the Arno.

The Gothic Line — On Sept. 12, 1944, the great campaign against the Gothic Line began. This was the most complete series of fortifications in Italy. There were miles of barbed wire and scores of pillboxes manned by seasoned German troops. Yet within ten days the 91st wiped out the entire defensive system. During this period the division captured 815 prisoners and decimated the best troops Hitler could put in the line. After pursuing the retreating enemy all the way from the Arno River to Loiano, the division came to a formidable

barrier, a rocky escarpment rising at some points over 1800 feet, flanked on either side by a series of commanding hills.

At Livergnano — Here, in the vicinity of Livergnano, the 91st fought its most bloody and costly battle. On Oct. 13, 1944, the Germans finally began to crack and Livergnano was occupied.

Po to Trieste — Then followed the long winter siege during the first part of 1945, but the 91st was back in action once again by the end of February, 1945, and fanned out over the Po Valley area which had been reached by Fifth Army elements. Bologna was behind the 91st, and the time was at hand for pummeling the enemy in a final smash. Soon the division's regiments had swept in an arc towards the Adriatic Sea, and, supporting the British Eighth Army's drive along the coast, was mopping up in Trevis when fighting ceased. The division was moved into the Trieste area shortly after the end of the fighting.

History — The 91st was activated in Oct. 1917, from selective service men drawn largely from California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. It trained at Fort Lewis, Wash., and landed in France in July, 1918. There, after further intensive training, it joined the American First Army receiving its baptismal fire on Sept. 20, 1918, in the Meuse-Argonne. Following this the division fought in Belgium where it helped drive the Germans beyond the Scheldt River. On return to this country in 1919 the division was demobilized.

91st DIVISION STORIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Memories of the European experience will blur with the passing of years. Accuracy will diminish. Details will become vague and half forgotten. To record, in black and white here and now, the mood, the impressions, the exciting events of the worst days and the best is the purpose of these stories. Connecticut men of the 91st were asked for their own stories and impressions and in their own words they are here so recorded:

Agnew, Thomas J., Jr., Pfc., Co. L., 363d Inf., Hartford.

"The best time we had in Italy was the drive through the Po Valley—April 18 to May 4. It was a picnic. We got lots of fresh eggs, veal and milk, and some salami and wine. There were big farms in the Valley and the Italians there were pretty well off. The Valley was not much damaged by the war."

Anastasion, Gerald J., Pfc., Co. L., 363d Inf., New Britain.

"Just before we took Bologna I had some fun herding a German general back from the lines. The Germans had left a lot of their horses loose around there when they pulled out and I was riding one. I was ordered to take about 30 or 40 prisoners back including this general. I don't think he was used to walking. He was always slowing up and falling back. He tried to load his baggage on a German private, but I picked up a stick and nudged him in the rear and made him carry his own stuff and walk faster. He didn't seem to like it for a damn, but there was nothing he could do about it."

Arsenault, Joseph E., Pfc., M.D., 2d Bn., 361st Inf., Milford.

"I spent 14 months on duty with the 70th General Hospital in Africa. I didn't think much of Africa; there was nobody there you could talk to. Where we were just outside Oran it was hot and dirty. I got to see Rome and Venice and I enjoyed that."

Aubin, Ernest O., Pfc., Co. B., 316th M.D. Bn., Killingly.

"Nobody who ever crawled on their hands and knees up those trails on Mt. Grande will ever forget it. It seemed as if it rained every day. Our casualties were heavy. We were under continuous shell-fire night and day. That's the only place I slept in two foxholes in Italy and I got washed out of both of them."

Bardelli, Lawrence T., Pfc., Co. D., 361st Inf., Bridgeport.

"The way the people acted when we liberated Vincenza, Bologna, and other cities is something we will always remember. They swarmed into the streets waving flags and flowers, and handing us eggs, salami, bread, wine and any food they had. They were happy. The Italians treated us pretty well all the way through. Now it is over I'm glad I was there, but there were many times over there I wished that I was home."

Baschetto, Sebastiano, Pfc., Co. H., 361st Inf., Winsted.

"I didn't get a chance to talk to Clare Boothe Luce when she visited our battalion at the front on Easter Day. I was at church at the time. Some of the days over there weren't so bad, but I could have a better time in Winsted any day."

Billow, Alexander, Pfc., Co. G., 361st Inf., Rockville.

"It was near Garduzzia, on December 28, the first hour I was in the line, when



two bullets ricocheted off my helmet. Their marks formed a 'V' right on my helmet. I'll never forget that. I sure thought I was shot and I got into a fox-hole fast. It was my first close call. At Montadonie, in the action for which we got a Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation, we were pinned down for three nights and two days by artillery fire. The Jerries were sniping with good results. We lost a lot of men. The place was full of mines. That was a tough time. When it was over only four out of the thirteen men in my squad were left."

Brogis, Joseph C., T/5, 91st Cav. Ren. Trp., Waterbury.

"The winter of 1944-45 was my rough time. We were in the North Apennines. It was cold, there was snow, and the artillery fire was continuous. My best days in Italy were two I spent on leave in Venice."

Brooks, Raymond N., Pfc., Co. I, 363d Inf., Mystic.

"The first push I was in was in April, near Montegra. With another fellow we were probing up through a mine field, to clear a path for the 3rd platoon, under heavy mortar and artillery fire. There were lots of mines. That was the toughest time I remember."

Buckley, Frederick H., Pfc., 91st Cav. Ren. Trp., Norwich.

"We were on a reconnaissance mission near Bologna in August and we had just pulled up to a dyke when all hell broke loose from all directions. We engaged the Jerries in a short fire fight until we got orders to pull out because we were on the wrong road."

Bystry, Alexander, Pfc., Co. C., 316th Combat Eng. Bn., Thomaston.

"The night we took Leghorn, sometime

in August, things looked pretty rough. The German artillery was coming in pretty heavy. We were set up as guards in the center of the town and I was pretty scared. When morning came, the artillery stopped and I felt a lot better."

Carlucci, Victor A., T/5, 91st Div. QM., Stamford.

"What amazed me was the difference between the standards of living over there and over here. Their standards are much lower in most ways, and it seemed as if the women do all the heavy work."

Cobb, Richard M., Pfc., Co. F., 361st Inf., New Haven.

"Fourteen days at the rest camp in Montecatini—that's what I enjoyed over there. They had a nice big bath house there with real bathtubs, 200 of them, and that's something in Italy. We got good chow there; I saw two stage shows, 'Panama Hattie' and the 'Stars and Gripes'; and we slept in a good hotel. After 64 days in combat it was all like a beautiful dream."

Contento, Ralph, Pfc., Co. C., 316th M.D. Bn., New Haven.

"Mt. Grande in November was the worst, a very hot spot. The mud was deep, the weather was bad, the snipers were everywhere and the artillery fire was heavy. That was my worst week in combat. I'm glad now I've been through it all. It gave me some valuable experience, and I'm looking forward to getting back to my old job on Broadway, in New Haven."

Dallessio, Richard P., Pfc., Co. B., 316th Combat Eng. Bn., Hartford.

"All during the campaign we kept hearing about Bologna in Italy. Just one more ridge and we'll be there, they told us every time we came to another ridge. The night of April 19, the mountain roads were choked with field pieces and vehicles. We

knew that the next day we would be in Bologna. The next morning—the 20th—we stood upon the last ridge and looked down upon Bologna. Only the men who had to fight and sweat and freeze those six months as we made our way toward that city can know what it meant to be there. Words cannot describe our feelings."

Davidson, Frank I., T/5, Hq. Btry., 347th F.A., Stamford.

"The worst spots our battery were in was at Sabbioni and Livergnano, south of Bologna. Last Fall we dug in there for the winter and spent six months holding the line, at Sabbioni, those Germans were just looking down our throats. They had perfect observation. At Livergnano we were spearheading the Fifth Army's drive and were way out in front when the troops on our flanks couldn't move up. We were exposed to flanking fire from small arms, mortars, and everything and we had to make the withdrawal. It was some time before we got going again for the last push of the war."

de Rose, Robert A., Pfc., Co. L., 362d Inf., Bridgeport.

"Our best days in Italy were at Gorizia, near Trieste, after the war was over. We had a nice setup — a bar, a dance floor, plenty of friendly civilians, and good hot food every day. It was the first time we could really relax, and it was the first time the infantry was better off than the service troops. They were still working and we were doing nothing. It was a nice two months. Looking back at it all from the time I volunteered, I know now I've learned a lot in the army and saw a lot in our travels. This world is a much smaller place than I thought before the war, and I'm still darned glad to be home."

Fitzpatrick, Stephen J., Capt., (Chaplain), Hq., 363d Inf., Fairfield.

"I still think the doughboy won the war. You've probably heard all this bunk about the men being trained to kill and people worried about them because of that. Well, the American boy is not a born killer and the people have nothing to worry about. It's just a lot of bunk. I believe the returning veteran should be given consideration for what he has gone through and what he has done. I don't mean by that that he should be babied. But he should be given just plain consideration. That's all."

Gladstein, Paul, Pfc., Co. I., 362d Inf., Bridgeport.

"When I went up to the line in Loiano, Italy, sometime in February, the thing I noticed most was the mud. There was nothing but mud and more mud there. We'd pull a truck out of the mud, and then we'd be stuck in the mud. It was the same thing night and day, night after night and day after day."

Goldberg, Adolph D., Cpl., Btry. A., 346th F. A., New Haven.

"What impressed me most overseas is how wonderful America is by comparison. Our people, our land and our buildings are far better than those in Europe. The States are even further ahead as to opportunities and standards of living."

Goshdigian, Michael W., Pfc., Co. M., 363d Inf., Hartford.

"One day at Parchetta, near Bologna, I was hunting around for something to support a roof over my foxhole, and I had my closest call. I finally found a good log and was headed back toward the foxhole with it, when an 88mm shell killed four men and wounded three right near the spot where I picked up that log. The Germans had fine positions on that front, well dug



into solid rock. Don't think they couldn't have done something if they had plenty of planes and air support. It took plenty of our air to knock them out there."

Grosky, Frank, Sgt., Co. A., 362d Inf., Bristol.

"The worst thing at the front was the damn Jerry artillery. Sweating out the 88's was really tough. Last October, near Livergnano, they really gave it to us, four days of almost continual artillery fire. Our company was lucky. We had good positions, well dug in, and didn't lose too many men. I'm proud to have been through it with the 91st Division."

Heathco, Orin C., Pfc., Co. A., 361st Inf., Bridgeport.

"What I like was the way the people up around Austria after the war treated us. They were pretty nice, both the Jugoslavs, and the Austrians treated us fine. They were friendly and sociable and invited us into their homes. We got along so well with them that they cried when we left for home."

Higgins, Vincent P., Pfc., Co. E., 361st Inf., Danbury.

"After 37 months overseas I am glad to be getting home. I started at Arzeu, in Africa, 25 miles from Oran. I was wounded at Montadonie, spent a month in the hospital and got back to the outfit at Gorzia after V-E day. The Italians are friendly and sociable, and they treated us swell. They are bad off, few clothes and not enough to eat and many have no place to live."

Karakuska, William S., Pfc., Co. C., 316th Combat Eng. Bn., Newington.

"What impressed me the most was the German artillery. They were pretty accurate and knew how to handle it. One day, sometime in December of last year near Bologna, the Jerries had good observation on us and threw a lot of stuff at us. We couldn't do a thing about it. Just stood there and took it until it lifted and our own men knocked out the guns."

Kolasinski, John F., Jr., Pfc., Btry. C., 916th F.A., Winsted.

"After I saw Europe I realized that we are more civilized over here. The way the Europeans live and work can't be compared to the way it is in the States. Anything you want in the States you can get. Over there you can't get anything you want. Even then, it was pretty nice to see Europe, only we took the hard way to see it."

Kutz, Leonard H., T/5, Co. B., 316th Combat Eng. Bn., New Britain.

"The Italian people didn't impress me very much. They didn't seem to try to keep themselves clean. They could have tried a lot better than they did."

La Fontaine, Kenneth E., Cpl., Hq., 3rd Bn., 361st Inf., West Suffield.

"My job as a battalion wireman was to

string wires between battalion CP and attacking companies. Montadonie was the worst. We were trying to string five lines across the Reno River at night and every time we got a wire across it was knocked down by German mortar fire. We just got them in time for the morning pushoff the day we took Montadonie. On June 13 I was made battalion clerk and I had a soft job from there on in."

Lampman, Cleon M., Pvt., Sv. Co., 363d Inf., New Haven.

"The best of Italy is comparable to the worst of the States. Except in the Po Valley living conditions are bad. Their streets, towns and homes are dirty. Even making allowances for war conditions and damage, Southern Italy is a poor place, and the conditions and living standards are terrible. The people of Northern Italy are of a different class entirely. You can imagine how little the people of Italy have now when you know that they are ready to pay \$30 for a carton of cigarettes."

Lessard, Arquiles, Pvt., Co. M., 363d Inf., New Britain.

"The toughest I saw was on the morning of the Salerno Invasion. The Jerries were lined up with plenty of machine guns and artillery, just waiting for us. Some of the prisoners we took there told us afterwards that they knew 24 hours ahead of time the exact spot where we were going to land. It was really rough—we had lots of casualties, many dead. The Jerries threw in 17 air raids in five days, without counting the night raids. We got plenty of air support in there from our P-38's. They chased the Jerries every time they came over. One raid I remember had eight German planes coming over; our ack-ack got three and the P-38's got five."

Letizia, Rosario F., T/5, 91st Div. Q.M., Hartford.

"There were some good days for me in Italy. I had an opportunity to visit about a dozen of my relatives who live at Rappone, Italy—uncles and cousins. On a 15 day pass, I had 9 days with them—a wonderful time—with all I could eat and drink. They just pushed out the macaroni and spaghetti along with four or five bottles of wine every day. I don't have any regrets about my service in the Army."

Marinelli, William J., Pfc., Co. L., 361st Inf., Ansonia.

"I came out of the war with a feeling of frustration. We never actually caught up with the people we were fighting. For example, we'd catch an Italian and he'd blame it on the Facists. Then we'd catch a German and he would blame it on the Nazis. When we finally caught a Nazi, he would blame it on the Gestapo or Hitler. Then the war is over. Hitler is gone. The Italian Facists and the Germans say, in words at least, that they are sorry. And in the end we never got the real satisfaction of getting our hands on one man who admitted he was for Hitler, the Nazis and the War and all that. Then, after that, we read about how some of the Allied officers are treating the Nazi generals and Goering. It's pretty discouraging, to put it mildly."

Marocchini, Frank, Pfc., Co. G., 361st Inf., Wethersfield.

"Anzio, that was as tough as I ever saw it. We were in the second wave. The first two days were not too bad, then it started to get tough. We had air raids every night. It rained most of the time, the mud was deep, and our area was under continual shelling. There wasn't any safe place and there wasn't any cover. We had casualties all the time. We were on the Anzio beachhead for 73 straight days, the longest stretch of combat I had."



Nash, Kenneth A., Pfc., Co. C., 316th Combat Eng. Bn., Devon.

"We used to hear stories about Jerry not having much artillery. But they soon disproved that theory. The worst barrage of artillery was at the airport in Pisa in August of 1944."

Nicholas, Clarence B., Pfc., Co. E., 361st Inf., Bridgeport.

"Livergnano, last October, was bad. October 11 was a bad day. We were trying to attack up a hill and the Jerries were firing mortar and machine guns down on us. I got hit that night and was hospitalized for two months. I got back to the outfit in January and in April at Montadonie I got it again—in the same place, my side, for another month in the hospital. We were treated good in the hospitals, but the best day I had over there was the day I got on the boat."

Olszyk, John W., Pfc., Co. E., 362d Inf., New Haven.

"I joined the outfit at Mt. Calvi in Italy about September 13. When I got there, the Germans were laying down a heavy artillery barrage. So, I jumped into

a hole. I stayed in that hole for three days until one morning a shell fell near my hole and I was hit. Then I left."

Predzimirski, William, Pfc., Co. G., 361st Inf., Seymour.

"There were lots of bad days; every day in combat was bad. I was really scared at Salerno, the first time I was near combat. They gave us an order to move up, and the whole beachhead was nearly wiped out by the Jerry counterattack. They brought in paratroopers from Africa, just in time to save the beachhead. If it weren't for them we'd probably still be over there."

Reiski, Robert F., S/Sgt., Hq. Co., 1st Bn., 362d Inf., Wallingford.

"I was most impressed over there by the backwardness of the European people, particularly as to mechanization in industrial and farming operations. I was most interested though in forestry, having studied it at the New York State Ranger School. Italy is thirty years behind in forestry practices. I saw them using the old obsolete tools which were discarded here fifty years ago. When this army is through with me, I expect to return to forestry school."

Ronalter, Donald E., Pfc., Co. F., 363d Inf., Stafford Springs.

"I was a company aid man. It was more or less a farce the way we were led to believe that the Germans respected the Red Cross brassard of the medics. There were many instances where we were fired upon by snipers. One day there were three wounded Jerries about one quarter mile away from our Fox Company CP. A squad of litter bearers and I were sent out to find them. When we found them, I patched them up and we started back to the CP with them. One was a litter case. Halfway back to the CP a concealed machinegun opened up on us although

the lead man in the litter squad was carrying a Red Cross banner on a staff. We hit the dirt and the man with the banner waved it and we took off again. They didn't shoot anymore after that. Luckily no one was hit. Yes, we brought the three Jerries back."

Russell, Harold H., T/5., Co. C., 316th M.D. Bn., Winsted.

"At Voltera, that's when it was rough. Our ambulance hit a teller mine. The ambulance blew wide open, four were wounded, one required an amputation, and I came to in the road two or three minutes later, dazed but not wounded. We were carrying blood plasma up to the lines. We salvaged what was left and went on up in a halftrack to our aid station. Am I glad to be home — 74 points and prayers for a discharge!"

Rutt, Melvin L., Pfc., Co. L., 362d Inf., Hartford.

"I think Jerry is a good soldier. But my biggest thought was getting out of there."

Seledyn, Eugene S., Pfc., Hq., 1st Bn., 363d Inf., New Britain.

"The spot I'll remember was going up along a road when we were held up by snipers. We had our 57mm anti-tank guns with us. We'd been stalled there for about ten minutes, when a German halftrack, mounting an 88mm raced through along our column on the left side of the road. Were we surprised and startled! We didn't have time to get our 57mm into action. They got right past us without a shot fired. A little while later one of our peeps came up with a 50 caliber on it and asked if we had seen the halftrack. We told them it just went down the road, just running. Later we meet the same peep again and they told us they had got the halftrack."

Skawrenski, Peter A., Pfc., Co. B., 363d Inf., Thompsonville.

"They were all tough days in combat. You've got to be over there to find out about it. I can't explain it to you. You've got to be there to understand. I don't want to talk about it now—I never did like to talk about it."

Thompson, Allan R., Pfc., Co. E., 362d Inf., Manchester.

"I'll never forget the day I went up to the front lines for the first time. It was cloudy and grey, I didn't know what to expect. I felt terrible. The further up to the front we went the more desolate it looked. I heard so many stories from the older guys, I didn't know what to believe. I was kind of relieved when I got into battle. Although it's a relief to get into battle after all the waiting, you're still scared."

Timko, George P., Pfc., Co. G., 363d Inf., Kensington.

"It was pretty rough at the Adige River in April. We had to cross in amphibious 'ducks'. The one I was in got stuck on a sand bar. They opened up on us from machine guns and we had to swim for it. It was only about 75 yards to shore, but it seemed much longer than that. Now it's good to be back home. It all was good experience but I wouldn't want to go through it again."

Ventrella, Michael P., Pvt., Co. I., 361st Inf., East Norwalk.

"I speak Italian and got along with the people in Italy all right. As far as I could see the people have a pretty bad life; we in this country should hope we never have to suffer the same conditions. They have nothing; they have no means of building up, no raw materials. They are dependent upon help from the outside."



Wargo, James, S/Sgt., Co. G., 363d Inf., Bridgeport.

"There were a lot of days tough to take and some good days. The tough days were in the start of that last push, just south of Bologna. We were getting ready to jump off, and we hadn't had time to dig in when the Germans started shelling. Three men in my squad were wounded before we jumped off. The good days were when we got a rest period after ten days in the lines. We go back tired and dirty, and get hot meals and a chance to clean up."

Winters, Howard J., Cpl., Hq. Co., 361st Inf., Bristol.

"Venice impressed me most. I saw the leaning tower at Pisa, and many of the works of art and the historical monuments. I enjoyed all that because I had studied ancient history. I saw the Vatican too, but I did not see the Pope. Southern Italy is one thing, but Northern Italy after we broke through was like a different country. The people there are better dressed, better fed, and more prosperous. They always asked about American mov-

ies, and the girls, especially, asked about movie actors—Robert Taylor mostly. They're crazy over Bing Crosby. But they only know about pre-war movies and actors. The girls were crazy about American dances, in fact they were crazy about American soldiers. I'm not sorry I went overseas—now that it's all over."

Witalec, Stanley J., Pfc., Co. L., 362d Inf., Moosup.

"When we reached the front near the Gothic Line in Italy on September 19,

we met quite a few Jerries. They pinned us down with mortar and small arms fire. We were posted on a hill as guards to keep Jerry away. I was trying to get in some shots at him, so I stuck my head up over the ridge in the hill. As soon as my head was over the rise, this machine gun opened up and a bullet grazed my right temple. The guy next to me also was wounded by that machine gun. I had to walk back about three miles that night to get transportation to take me to a battalion aid station."

91st DIVISION FACTS

Nickname — Powder River Division.

Shoulder Patch — A green fir tree. The fir tree symbolizes the west and northwest, from which the division originally drew its personnel.

Slogan — Always Ready. Division also has a war whoop. When the 91st was first activated in 1917 a sergeant was talking to a group of recruits. He called the men to attention and then asked, "Where you guys from?" A Montana detachment broke ranks and some man yelled, "Powder River. Let Er Buck!" This cry is still current among men in the division.

Song — "The Doughboy" by Mrs. Olga L. Livesay, wife of Maj. Gen. William G. Livesay, division commander. Published by National Educational Music, 1651 Cosmo Street, Hollywood, Calif.

Reactivation Date — August 15, 1942.

Army Ground Forces Training — The division was activated under Army Ground Forces at Camp White, Ore., and was assigned successively to the IX and

IV Corps. In Sept. 1943 the 91st took part in the IV Corps maneuvers at Bend, Ore., and in Nov. 1943 changed its station from Camp White to Camp Adair, Ore., coming under the command of the Fourth Army at that time.

Left This Country — April, 1944 for Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

Overseas Training — Upon landing in North Africa the division began an intensive training period devoted to practice amphibious assaults. The climax of this training was a simulated operation in which the 362d and the 363d Infantry Regiments splashed off 215 landing crafts of all sorts to "capture" the Arzew Beach and the airfields at Renan, French Morocco.

Successive Commanding Generals— Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt from Aug. 1942 to July, 1943; Maj. Gen. William G. Livesay from July, 1943.

Commanding General — Maj. Gen. William G. Livesay was born in Benton, Ill., Mar. 2, 1895. He joined the army as a

private at the age of 20. He served first with the 19th Infantry Regiment on the Mexican Border. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1916. He went to France with the 1st Infantry Division in 1917 and participated in engagements at Sommerville, Cantigny, Soissons, St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Gen. Livesay received the Croix de Guerre and the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters for his overseas action and was promoted to the rank of major at the age of 23. Returning to the U. S. he served as an instructor at the Infantry School from 1920 to 1922. He graduated from the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1923, the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in 1926, and the Army War College in Washington, D.C. in 1933. Between 1933 and 1937 he was a member of the Infantry School Board. He served for four years as a member of the training section of the office of the Chief of Infantry, three years of which

he was chief of the section. After serving at various posts in this country with Infantry units, Gen. Livesay was named in 1941 as Chief of Staff of the Puerto Rican Department. Later he was made commanding officer of the Puerto Rican Mobile Force, one of the crack units of the Caribbean Defense Command. On Oct. 26, 1942, he was promoted to the rank of major general and July, 1943 assumed command of the 91st Infantry Division.

Heroes — Sgt. Oscar G. Johnson, Jr., of Foster City, Mich., was awarded the Medal of Honor for action near Scarperia, Italy, on Sept. 17, 1944, for stopping repeated German attacks in a vital area. 1st Lt. George G. Wilson of Albany, N. Y. was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for action at Soiana, Italy, when he led his squad in a flanking movement on that town to clear out enemy troops.

THE CONNECTICUT MEN

The names of the officers and men from the Division were compiled from available official records and by personal interview. Omission of the names of some of the men of the Division is possible despite every effort made to secure complete rosters.

AGNEW, Thomas J., Jr.	Pfc.	11 Orange St., Hartford
ANASTASION, Gerald J.	Pfc.	188 South Main St., New Britain
ARSENAULT, Joseph E.	Pfc.	20 Devonshire Rd., Milford
AUBIN, Ernest O.	Pfc.	RFD 1, Killingly
AZUKAS, Edward P.	Pfc.	26 North Leonard St., Waterbury
BARDELLI, Lawrence T.	Pfc.	405 John St., Bridgeport
BASCHETTO, Sebastiano	Pfc.	28 Oak St., Winsted
BEDNARCZYK, William D.	Pfc.	380 East Ave., Bridgeport
BELERIT, William	Pfc.	26 Mountainville Ave., Danbury
BERGENTY, John H.	Pfc.	West Main St., Canaan
BILOW, Alexander	Pfc.	Grand Ave., Rockville
BOARDMAN, Wendall R.	T/4	92 Elmhurst St., Elmwood
BOUDREAU, Alfred J.	Pfc.	16 Hopkins St., Hartford
BOUTIN, Roland L.	S/Sgt.	253 Holabird Ave., Winsted

BREAULT, Leo J.	Pfc.	52 Stone St., Stamford
BRIA, Anthony	Pfc.	27 Wilson St., Stamford
BROGIS, Joseph C.	T/5	60 John St., Waterbury
BROOKS, Raymond N.	Pfc.	RFD 1, Mystic
BUCKLEY, Frederick H.	Pfc.	61 Williams St., Norwich
BYSTRY, Alexander	Pfc.	127 Prospect St., Thomaston
CARLUCCI, Victor A.	T/5	22 Hinckley Ave., Stamford
CHAMBERS, George K.	S/Sgt.	326 Camp St., Meriden
COBB, Richard M.	Pfc.	50 Webster St., New Haven
CONTENTO, Ralph	Pfc.	147 Liberty St., New Haven
CORTINA, Lino	Pfc.	69 Commercial St., Bridgeport
DALESSIO, Richard P.	Pfc.	61 Harbison Ave., Hartford
DAVIDSON, Frank I.	T/5	809 East Main St., Stamford
de ROSE, Robert A.	Pfc.	279 Nutmeg St., Bridgeport
DUBAY, Wilfred R.	Pfc.	60 North St., Collinsville
DUFFY, William F.	Pfc.	74 North Washington St., Plainville
DUPRE, Armand J.	Sgt.	443 Pearl Lake Rd., Waterbury
DUVAL, Robert A.	Sgt.	205 Divinity St., Bristol
FARADAY, Donald H.	Pvt.	Box 124, East Killingly
FITZPATRICK, Stephen J.	Capt.	69 Sherman St., Fairfield
FLOOD, Paul P.	T/5	32 Girard Ave., Hartford
FOREMAN, Paul D., Jr.	Pfc.	2 North St., Stamford
FUCHS, Emerson W.	Pfc.	34 Taylor Ave., So. Norwalk
GAYNOR, Gerald J.	Pfc.	9 Archer Court, New London
GLADSTEIN, Paul	Pfc.	426 Harral Ave., Bridgeport
GOLDBERG, Adolph D.	Cpl.	63 Ellsworth Ave., New Haven
GOSHDIGIAN, Michael	Pfc.	223 Ward St., Hartford
GROSKY, Frank	Sgt.	322 Park St., Bristol
HEATHCO, Orin C.	Pfc.	787 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport
HIGGINS, Vincent P.	Pfc.	Great Plains, Danbury
ILLINGWORTH, Francis B.	Pfc.	445 Dixieville St., New Haven
IMPROTA, Salvatore	Sgt.	26 Jackson St., Stamford
IMBROGNO, Anthony	Pfc.	300 Hamilton St., Greenwich
KARAKUSKA, William S.	Pfc.	176 Adrian Ave., Newington
KASHANSKI, Paul	Pfc.	15 Terrace Court, New London
KERSHAW, William A., Jr.	Pfc.	508 Naugatuck Ave., Devon
KIKUKLA, John M.	Pfc.	701 Hallett St., Bridgeport
KOLASINSKI, John F., Jr.	Pfc.	92 Hillside Ave., Winsted
KROWCHENKO, Arthur	Pfc.	50 Market St., Rockville
KUTZ, Leonard H.	T/5	45 Golden Hill St., New Britain
LaFOUNTAIN, Kenneth E.	Cpl.	No. Grand St., West Suffield
LAMPMAN, Cleon M.	Pvt.	332 Front St., New Haven
LAWRENCE, David B.	T/5	12 Intervale Pl., Greenwich
LEPORE, John R.	Pfc.	22 School St., Hartford
LESSARD, Arquiles	Pvt.	214 Main St., New Britain

LETIZIA, Rosario F.	T/5	112 Cromwell St., Hartford
LEWIS, Charles R.	Pfc.	Westbrook Rd., Essex
LIVETAN, Norman G.	T/5	443 Whitney Ave., New Haven
MARINELLI, William J.	Pfc.	179 Beaver St., Ansonia
MAROCCHINI, Frank	Pfc.	408 Mott St., Wethersfield
MARUCCI, Michael A.	Pfc.	238 Westport Ave., Norwalk
McGOLDRICK, Vincent R.	Pfc.	113 Lewis St., Bridgeport
MEDLING, Milton T.	T/5	181 High St., Baltic
MILES, Walter H., Jr.	Pfc.	161 Beacon St., Hartford
MITCHELL, Rollin T.	Pfc.	87 Phoenix Ave., Waterbury
NASH, Kenneth A.	Pfc.	337 Bridgeport Ave., Devon
NICHOLAS, Clarence E.	Pfc.	172 Hanover St., Bridgeport
NIELSEN, Peter G.	Pfc.	678 Nichols Ave., Stratford
OLSZEWSKI, Leonard	Pfc.	44 Walnut St., New Haven
OLSZYK, John W.	Pfc.	45 Pulaski St., New Haven
PAVIO, Anthony M.	Pfc.	87 Seymour St., Waterbury
PELLETIER, George N.	Pfc.	5 Union St., Danielson
PISTRY, Edward	Pfc.	292 Boston Ave., Stratford
PREDZMIRSKI, William	Pfc.	114 New St., Seymour
RAMPONI, John B.	Pfc.	Dalton St., Oakville
REISKE, Robert F.	S/Sgt.	68 William St., Wallingford
RODENSKY, Lawrence B.	Pfc.	60 Ledyard Ave., Groton
RONALTER, Donald E.	Pfc.	102 E. Main St., Stafford Springs
RUSSELL, Harold H.	T/5	66 Torrington Rd., Winsted
RUTT, Melvin L.	Pfc.	699 Broadview Terrace Hartford
SARRO, Louis J.	Capt.	31 Walnut St., Newington
SCARPONE, Claudio U.	Pfc.	71 Edwards St., Hartford
SCIARRA, Charles	Pfc.	50 Stevens St., New Haven
SELEDYN, Eugene S.	Pfc.	197 Francis St., New Britain
SEMINORO, John J.	Pfc.	36 Benson St., Bridgeport
SKAWRENSKI, Peter A.	Pfc.	18 So. River St., Thompsonville
STEINBERG, Norman E.	Sgt.	176 Reservoir Rd., New Britain
STINES, John A.	T/5	RFD Box 149, Granby
SZYMASZEK, Thaddeus A.	Pfc.	105 Veteran St., Meriden
TELESCO, Daniel A.	Pfc.	85 Dioz St., Stamford
THOMPSON, Allan R.	Pfc.	114 Henry St., Manchester
TIMKO, George P.	Pfc.	284 Farmington Ave., Kensington
VANSKI, John W.	Pfc.	26 Calvin Ave., Wallingford
VENTRELLA, Michael P.	Pvt.	20 Winfield St., East Norwalk
WARGO, James	S/Sgt.	351 Spruce St., Bridgeport
WILLIAMS, Howard	Pfc.	Box 454, Main St., Yalesville
WINTERS, Howard J.	Cpl.	11 Wooding St., Bristol
WITALEC, Stanley J.	Pfc.	10 Graham Ave., Moosup
YOUNG, Joseph P.	Pfc.	38 Reservoir Ave., Bridgeport
ZUELLA, Earl O.	Pvt.	156 Euston St., Waterbury

