



FILE 13

PRESENTS



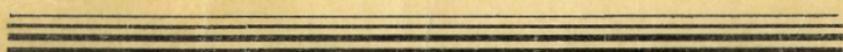
**A SHORT HISTORY**

of the 529th QMSR Co.

and a Roster of

**NAMES and HOME ADDRESSES**

of Members of this Company



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33-42-3883

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**A SHORT HISTORY**

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# A SHORT HISTORY

The fifteenth of February, 1945 was a great day in the history of the U. S. Army. On that day, 92 men, mostly from Pennsylvania, stood at attention on the main street of Salem Air Base, Salem, Oregon answering as their names were called by the First Sergeant. Little did these men know that they were to form the nucleus of the now well-known 529th QMSR Co. It was here, after an equal amount of men joined from New York and the remainder from other surrounding states, that we took our basic training.

After 3-1/2 months of field and technical training, the outfit moved north to the picturesque post of Fort Lewis, Washington. Here we were given advanced training of all kinds while the high officials in the nation's capital were finding the most suitable spot for this young and ambitious company. It was during this period that the personnel were given the only furloughs to their homes to this date. When the strength was once more assembled, the company made the long trip across the nation to the POE of Camp Shanks. It only took the 529th a little over two weeks before it was completely processed for overseas shipment. On the night of October 12, 1943, we boarded the Queen Elizabeth, the largest ship afloat, and six days later set foot on foreign soil in Glasgow, Scotland. In 24 hours, the outfit had split two ways and ended up in Southern England. From here on the pages of history began forming in the following manner.

## UNUSUAL JOBS

The first big job we received in England was an order from the 101st Airborne Division to re-enforce their jump suits. The grenades were forcing through the pockets when the chutes opened during the jump. The job was to be done with only 20 ounces of material per suit. In short order we designed, put into operation and finished the complete order successfully. Samples were flown to Washington, D. C. to be adapted and

proved highly efficient. Meanwhile the shoe sections repaired all the shoes for the Second and Third Armored Divisions and the 28th Infantry Division. In one week, two crews of men repaired 2,814 pair of shoes which created a new record for Salvage Repair Companies.

After landing in Normandy the 529th set up operation for the First Army and worked 20 hours daily stopping only for air raids and exceptionally heavy enemy fire. Repairing battle scarred Ranger, Airborne and Amphibious boots were the biggest job. In Le Mans, the sheet metal section set up a completely new Spare Parts Platoon and Maintenance Unit that repaired lanterns, field ranges, and immersion heaters. The unit was sent to the First Army where it was approved and they, the Third and Ninth Armies immediately adopted the idea. Teams were formed and sent out to demonstrate the Unit's operation to all the Armies. Rheims found the 529th receiving an urgent order for the manufacture of BAR pouches for the magazines. We were turning out 1000 a day until an order for 5000 from the Third Army came in. The men worked 36 hours without rest to complete the job in time.

During the Bulge at Ardennes, we matched and rebuilt the badly needed paratrooper boots that came from Bastogne and had been burned from fires needed to heat the men's feet in the cold.

We were also called upon to modify the Cotton Field Pants to Jump Pants for the Airborne Army that jumped the Rhine, by sewing on pockets, straps and knee patches. We also repaired their shoes and made chin straps for helmets.

Other odd jobs such as making shoulder holsters, orthopedic shoe repairs, general's and divisional flags, landing strip markers for airfields and 100 ft. square Red Cross Markers were completed.

Due to the large amount of work we handled for the Airborne Divisions, we earned the nickname of "The Airborne Salvage Repair Company".

## BATTLE EXPERIENCE

The 529th QMSR Co. received three Campaign Stars in the ETO for Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland.

In Normandy we were the first Salvage Repair outfit to hit the beach coming in on D-17. During the action there, we set up our installation and maintained operations while under heavy artillery fire and continual enemy night aircraft harrassing. Four members of our complement were awarded the Purple Heart.

During the battle of Northern France, we followed the Third Army into Le Mans, set up and operated a short time, then moved into Remeis behind the Armored Division. There, while the Ardennes Battle raged, the company continued constant operation although we were alerted the four weeks of battle. The area was subject to enemy aircraft strafing and bombing during the height of the campaign.

The months of heavy fighting along the Siegfried and Rhine found the 529th preparing equipment for new units moving up to the front and repairing that of the relieved units coming back to rest. Service teams were sent out weekly to the Armies to repair equipment that was impractical for the trip. These teams worked with the 82nd, 101st and 26th Divisions.

Our only fatality suffered was on April 26, 1945, caused by a motor accident. Cpl. Donald C. Ritschy died after 48 hours without regaining consciousness.

August 1945



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RFD 1  
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WHIPP, Harvey C., Jr.  
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WHITLOW, Dennis R.  
RFD 3  
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WILLS, George H.  
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WOODMAN, Robert W.  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Captain Barry, Captain Easley, Lieutenant Martinelli and Lieutenant Johnson for their help in censoring and promoting our bulletin, FILE 13. Credit is also due Sergeant Helfinstein and Sergeant Abramovic for the work they put in as editors of the paper and to Corporal Kremmel who acted as assistant editor in Sergeant Abramovic's absence. Articles were submitted by Joseph Abramovic, Joseph Blazi, Frank Breslin, Charles Correll, Tony Desidero, Louis Digangi, Joseph Gellis, Jack Helfinstein, Leroy Kremmel, Joseph Lenorovitz, Irwin Levin, Robert March, John Meo, Benny Paradiso, William Porter, Joseph Prusinski and Harry Rush. Edward Schramko and Sten Dalstrom handled the printing. And to the many others, which includes nearly everyone in the company, thanks are due for their suggestions, news items and help of all kinds. This cooperation has made our bulletin the success it is.

In the first sixteen issues of Volume I, 26 articles by members of this company were submitted and printed. One issue required six pages to provide enough space for a few articles by the men and to permit coverage of all our company activities at the time. All other issues have consisted of four pages.

Sergeant William Ashford with the help of Utah Coffland and Walter A. Smith compiled this list of names and home town addresses.

Four months ago I & E Officer, Lt. J. B. Martinelli and I & E Non-com, Sgt. Jack Helfinstein thought up the idea of having a company paper. After much criticism and argument, pro and con, it was decided to put out a weekly printed bulletin, stressing company news and articles by the men in the company as much as possible. Our first issue came out on Saturday, May 26, 1945,

and was greeted with enthusiasm. As time went on, material and articles became easier to get. When the sports season died down and company activities as a whole began to decrease, the editor started running articles on employment and civilian life in general for the returning veteran. These were accepted with interest by many of the men so it was made a regular part of the paper. Regular features of the paper are now the News Bag, Knowledge Korner, and the Sports Roundup. Sgt. Abramovic took over editorship of the bulletin starting with the July 28th issue when Sgt. Helfinstein was transferred to a Category IV outfit.



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## NOTES

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