

This Division Gets Around

Two Stories Bare Work Of 82nd Air-Borne

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WITH the 82nd air-borne division, Jan. 8—In their small way perhaps these two stories will tell the bigger story of the 82nd air-borne division and what it has done first to check, and now, as a part of the First army attack, to strike back against Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's counter-offensive.

One concerns a young lieutenant, who, since the outfit came into the line Christmas day, had been on so many patrols to and behind the German lines that when the Silver Star was pinned on him by Maj. Gen. James M. Gavin of Mount Carmel, Pa., he could not remember for which action he was being decorated.

The other story is of the Swedish-born master sergeant, who merely was supposed to give two weeks of lectures to 82nd personnel before D-day and liked them so well he has been with them ever since.

The lieutenant involved—"it is our lieutenants who make this outfit go" said a staff officer—is Joseph Hall, 25, of Salem, N. J. He joined the air-borne division only five months ago after volunteering from a tank destroyer outfit.

The patrols for which he was cited for the Silver Star were the first two he made. But of the seven of eight he has been on, mostly behind the German lines,

perhaps the most spectacular was the third, for which he has been recommended for additional decoration.

L. T. HALL, Sgt. Warren Albrecht of Windfall, Ind., and five other men, patrolling to high ground overlooking the village of Reharment, saw a trail in the fresh snow which led into a fire lane cut through a thick stand of pine trees.

Lt. Hall led the patrol up the trail a little way when he saw a movement ahead. He opened fire with a Browning automatic rifle and told his men to spread out in a diamond-shaped formation.

Still firing, Lt. Hall went forward another 75 yards and saw the body of one German he had killed. He saw three machine gunners quit their posts and flee.

Between that German and a ditch at the end of the fire break 12 more German bodies were found and at least a dozen other Germans took to cover.

A sergeant in the patrol was wounded by a booby trap.

Lt. Hall and his men were looking for more Germans when mortar bombs suddenly began falling near the patrol. Lt. Hall ordered the rest of the patrol to pull back, but before he left he stripped identification tags from one of the bodies thus giving the battalion, which was commanded by Lt. Col.

Otho E. Holmes of Wilmington, O., valuable information of the enemy unit before it.

Lt. Hall's first patrol was on Dec. 26, the day after the 508th regiment had gone into the line, and during it the young lieutenant picked off four Germans.

THE story of Master Sgt. Wollin is of a different type, one that demonstrates the fascination these parachute troopers and glider infantrymen exert on people who come in contact with them.

Sgt. Wollin, a Swedish newspaperman, had been in New York about a year, making his home at 337 Riverside dr., when he joined the army and was assigned to First army headquarters then at Ft. Jay, Governor's Island.

When headquarters went to England late in 1943, he went with it. Late in the spring of 1944 he was directed to go to the 82nd's camp in England to lecture on certain phases of what might be expected in Normandy.

He never left the outfit. He jumped with them in Normandy, though he never had attempted a parachute jump before, and again in Holland Sept. 17.

He has written a book about parachutists for publication in Sweden.

The 82nd is the only air-borne outfit to have made four air-borne combat missions—Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Holland.

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