Decatur Engineer Turns Infantryman

Holding an important sector on the Anzio beachhead in Italy, is a Fifth Army unit of combat engineers turned infantrymen. Since moving up into the lines, they have withstood three all-out attempts by the Germans to break through that sector, and have inflicted severe casualties on the attacking forces in each engagement.



Typical of all the companies of this unit is Company A which has come in with the assault teams in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio. A member of the company who has been with it through every campaign is Private First Class Cecil Addy, son of Mrs. Ervin Addy of Decatur, Miss.

For almost three weeks after the Allied Fifth Army assault landings on this beachhead, before he was converted into an infantryman, the Mississippian was operating with his company under heavy enemy shell fire and air attacks in the repair and maintenance of important roads, construction of bridges and in the laying and neutralizing of mine fields. They also rebuilt harbor installations, cleared the port of over 40 tons of demolitions, and built emergency ammunition and fuel dumps.

Serve With French

In the Fifth Army drive from Salerno to the gates of Cassino, the company has functioned as an infantry force with famed infantry divisions, and for several weeks was actively associated with the French troops. For the most part, however, the entire unit performed as combat engineers.

Now defending a sector that is virtually all marshland, the Decatur soldier claims that his foxhole always has as much as two and three feet of water in it. In addition to his Garand rifle, he has been manning machine guns and mortars and has been out on several midnight patrol actions.

"While trained to use mortars, we seldom used them until the second day after we moved into this new position." the Decatur infantryman stated. "We got our best training right here on the front-lines and practised on the Krauts. Lately our combined firing power has reached about 600 rounds in 15 minutes."

Omit Jury Trials

No jury trials will be heard by the civil term of circuit court until the week beginning April 17.

Judge Jesse H. Graham, in making the announcement, stated that the court docket is not heavy enough to warrant a full five-weeks' term and that it is his intention to have all triable cases heard within two weeks' time. A total of 12 cases are set for hearing, he added. Judge Graham indicated further this program will give farmers additional time to carry out much essential work.

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