Pfc. Pen Segan 32898252 CO.7 I7 A.I.B. APO 262 % PM NY NY

Miss J dith Berman New York

New York Apt 3E

article about former outfix O.f. (Jun suraceon)

HEADQUARTERS 105MM HOWITZER

APO 758 U-S. Army 19 November 1944

SUBJECT: Reproduction of Letter in Beachhead News, 15 November 1944-

TO : All Personnel.

1. Inasmuch as the distribution of the above paper of the date named was very limited in distribution and great interest was shown by all, the letter is reproduced herewith:

LIEUT. COLONEL GIVES BEACHHEAD NEWS HELL.

The Editors, The Beachnead News.

Sirs:

As an old beat-up, separate battalion, assigned only to armies and leved enly by God, that has fought with two armies, been with the Punjab Rifles, the Poles, and the paratroopers, supported Britishers, New Zealanders, South Africans Goums, Churkas and members of the National Christians Democratic Party, attached to the First Special Service Force, the Butler Task Force, and other task forces until hell wen't have it, the press has only tipped its hat. (A phote of one of our tanks and some of the personnel did make the front page of Yank, but it is not in accord with WD regulations to permit the identification of separate unit, or something like that). Our permanent limited service backs are singularly free from the prints of any hot-patting hands. On the priority list for supply, you will find us just below the 119th Mechanized Messkit Repair Company. But, I don't intend to state the case of the forgotten battalions...the pure anguish of the whole thing would crush your heart.

It is in the interests of accurate journalism that I hurl this blurb at you: in a column one, page two Beachhead News, October 15th edition, you state that a Pfc fired the opening round of this campaign. This is just too much. We've had it. It just wouldn't be fair to the Pfc if he were allowed to go through life and 17 American Legion smokers prefacing each remark with-'Now, when I fired the first round in Southern France-' The fact is that numerous Pfc and other ranks of this unit had fired hundreds of rounds, before any other artillery was in position to shoot-on its particular beach, which was Green.

We shall go manfully on, bearing our great cross, with the unshakeable conviction that Truth Crushed to Earth Shall Rise Again.

Respectfully,

JOHN SHANKLIN, III Lt Jol 99rd FA

(ED. NOTE: Truth crushed to earth hereby rises.)

2. All personnel will be given the opportunity of reading this copy.

Inaufar as possible a copy will be distributed to those desiring to keep one.

Censorship forbids the sending home of this letter.

BY ORDER OF LT. COL SHANKLIN, III.

W. H. VANCEVENDER Capt. I and E Officer. My Dearest Judy.

Today we received our Px rations the first in over two weeks and this time I received the most candy bars at one time for a total of nine chocalate bars five of them being Milky Ways and gee how I love them. I think Ill ready get fat now.

The other day I informed you that a few men will be leaving the outfit in a couple of days. Those fellows with low points, but now the story is different as all the men that are uneligible for the Pacific are scheduled to leave. Thats the Army changes from one minute to the next. Im postive that a list of all the low points men were was prepared but a new list has to be make up now of all the men with high points. One thing that Im sure of and that is their is going to be a shipment Sunday, either of high point men or low points men. Here is how I know, for one a buttet ion has been posted of what the men will take with them when leaving the outfit and secondly men from the other companies in my battalion have already been notified that they will be leaving Sunday. First the men wi that have under 80 points were notified in the other companies and later the order was changed to the men who had over 85 points therefore I figure that unless

Page Two the order is changed once more the men with the high points will be deparing from the unit and I will probable be encluded in the list. If I leave also darling I dont think that its going to be a bad deal as the men that Ill be leaving with certainly he wont be shipped to a outfit that is scheduled to be redeployed to the Pacific. Either way it turns out Im very anxious and curious to know the exactly what is going to happen. I just cant wait until Sunday. Can you blame me? Had a relaxing day today as I was suppose to take one hundred Krauts on a road march instead of I going on guard duty but do to the cloudy weather the march was concelled. Thank goodness. for that as I would be getting the work out as well as the German soldiers., not that I could use a little excercising. Good right dailing, and pleasant dreams, Thinking of your as always and I love you with all my hearth Oh yes I'm enclasing this one in