



OCTOBER 23-29, 2023



THROUGH THE LENS

OCTOBER 1945: The 37th Infantry Division Band plays for passing troops during a full division review at Camp LaCroix, Cabanatuan, Philippines.



WEEK IN REVIEW

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OCTOBER 29, 1947: Troop B, 2d Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment is organized in Lebanon as Battery B, 136th Field Artillery Battalion.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Cleveland native Raymond J. Turk served as a war correspondent for the Cleveland News from May to December 1944. Most of those months were spent with the 37th Infantry Division, where Turk would write stories about Cleveland-area Soldiers serving with the division. This column, titled "GI Wins Race To Catch Boat For Trip Home" was written on Oct. 28, 1944, and appeared in the Nov. 13, 1944 edition of the Cleveland News.

"Two days ago I wrote about the 27 Cleveland boys who packed up and left for the States on rotation with only three hours' notice. Private John Kastelic was one of that bunch. His wife, Vera, lives at 990 E. 69th St.

Today I learned that those last two hours before the boat left were probably the most hectic during his entire 29 months overseas.

Kastelic was on a dangerous patrol three miles beyond our perimeter defenses on this island when it was announced back in camp that he was picked for rotation. He was to report to the beach with his gear in three hours.

The first sergeant of his company tried to

reach the patrol by radio but couldn't make contact. Then he sent two men in a jeep, instructed them to race to the road block and follow the trail on foot until they found the Clevelander.

It was 10 minutes to 3 when a jeep containing three dust-covered men swung into the company area on two wheels and bounced over to Kastelic's tent.

John's buddies had packed his barracks bag and were waiting for him nervously chewing their fingernails. They tore his sweat-soaked fatigues off his back, helped him into a clean suit of khakis, pushed him back in the jeep with his bag and he was down to the beach in five minutes.

Private John Kastelic fought in the Munda and Bougainville campaigns. He was on hundreds of patrols deep in enemy territory. But I'll bet he'll never forget that last one."



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