

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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PROPAGANDA  
FEB. 1944

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785015

HEADQUARTERS  
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION  
APO 782

6 February 1944

AG 003.7 BPFCG (6 Feb. 1944)

SUBJECT: Presentation and Troop Morale

TO : Commanding Officers all Units Assigned or Attached to  
Peninsular Base Section.

1. The material contained in the attached sheet is designed to help orient the individual soldier on his part in the war.
2. It is desired that this material form the basis of talks to the men of your organization or that the paper itself be posted on company bulletin boards.
3. Additional copies may be obtained from the Adjutant General, Peninsular Base Section.

By command of Brigadier General FINCH:

*L. F. Nickel*

L. F. NICKEL  
Lt. Col., U. S. A.  
Adjutant General

1 Incl. (Reverse Side)  
"The Gun Behind The Man  
Behind the Gun"

DISTRIBUTION  
FOR AND BY

*that's my man*  
*"Pr."*  
*Woj. Comd Mm*  
*Phil*

*091.412 - Propaganda*

091 412 - Propaganda

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DISTRIBUTION  
"A" and "B"

that. adp Man  
"Pr.  
Wg. Comd M Man  
File

2771

THE "I.M. H." IS A MAN BEHIND THE GUN

Have you ever wondered how your efforts are contributing to winning the war and thus hastening the day you will return to your family and friends? If you are part of the Peninsular Base Section, it is not always as easy for you to link your work with the total war effort or the Italian Campaign as it is for the Fifth Army soldier. The combat soldier is shooting a gun and can see where he is going. You may be pounding a typewriter all day, driving a truck, stringing a telephone wire, sorting mail in an I.P.O., or doing any one of the thousands of jobs that are being done behind the lines. Perhaps it is difficult to see just what your job adds up to.

Consider the Army as an iceberg. Everyone knows that the largest part of an iceberg is under water and cannot be seen. The largest part of the Army is unseen and unseen. The Peninsular Base Section, with all its assigned and attached troops, is in this unseen and unseen part of the Army. And yet, if the Base Section were to stop functioning, not only would the Fifth Army have to stop fighting, but the Air Corps would stop flying. For no Army or Air Corps can exist without food, clothing, gasoline, ammunition and all the other things it uses every day. The job of the Peninsular Base Section is to keep the Fifth Army supplied with everything it needs to live and to fight - and to do the same for the Air Forces, except for those supplies like airplanes engines which are peculiar to the Air Corps. What you really have is a three-legged stool. The Ground Forces are one leg, the Air Forces the second, and the Service Forces the third. And who can say which leg of a three-legged stool is the most important?

The papers are full of what the Fifth Army and the Air Corps are doing. But you never hear much about the Service Forces. Do you know why? One of the main reasons so little is heard about the gains and battles won by a Base Section is that publicity would reveal valuable information to the enemy. It is not because the victories which have been won by you in the Peninsular Base Section are not spectacular. They are, and you are winning them every day. The thousands of tons of supplies our port battalions unload every day and our railroad and truck men haul, the feats of construction our engineers perform, the hospital care our medical personnel give thousands of soldiers, the tons of fresh bread our bakers prepare every day, and so on down the long line of achievements in every field, is little short of astounding. If the facts and figures could be revealed you would find as inspiring a tale of achievement as can be found in any other phase of the war that you read about daily in the papers. But this tale cannot be told yet. Even the incredible number of letters handled by our postal people cannot be published because it would enable the enemy to approximate the number of American troops in Italy and allow him to prepare his plans accordingly. You probably never thought that your job is cloaked with as much secrecy, if not more, than many jobs of the Fifth Army.

If you don't give your job everything that you've got in you, the picture is skewed. Remember, you are not a substitute or a member of the second team. You are a member of the first team - there are no substitutes or scrubs here in Italy. And if you are not in there every day giving your job all you've got, you are letting the rest of the team down, and that means not only the Peninsular Base Section, but also the Fifth Army and the Air Corps. Every time a soldier gets laid up with venereal disease, steals government property to sell on the black market, takes a vehicle for his own use, or gets into any other

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If you don't give your job everything that you've got in you, the picture is marred. Remember, you are not a substitute or a member of the second team. You are a member of the first team - there are no substitutes or members here in Italy. And if you are not in there every day giving your job all you've got, you are letting the rest of the team down, and that means not only the Panisular Base Section, but also the Fifth Army and the Air Corps. Every time a soldier gets laid up with venereal disease, steals government property to sell on the black market, takes a vehicle for his own purpose, or gets into any other trouble, he is fumbling the ball for the rest of the team. Even though it is a big team and the staff is heavily loaded as the big game goes on, you can't escape the fact that if one man falls down, the whole team suffers.

You and your job are important in this war. No one but you, in your own heart, can tell if you are giving everything you have and are playing according to the rules. If you can honestly answer that you are, then you definitely are helping to win. Ask yourself those questions and then resolve that in these months ahead you will put out that extra drive that every player musters up for the big play. For the chips are down, and now is the time to win.

Headquarters, Panisular Base Section  
6 February 1944.

Inclosure

