

Leiser, William D.

## Six Local G-Is Build Roads For 5th Army

APR 19 1945

Six Bethlehemites are members of the 1338th Engineer Combat Group, which is maintaining 67 miles of vital highway feeding the Fifth Army front in Italy. They are Cpl. William D. Leiser, son of James Leiser, 557 Spring Street; Cpl. Ralph S. Krier, son of Mrs. Bertha Krier, 453 Brighton Street; Cpl. John A. Berger, son of Mrs. Jennie Berger, 940 Fernwood Street; Pfc. Ivan A. Stevancsecz, Jr., son of Ivan Stevancsecz, Third and Webster Streets; Sgt. Stephen J. Kerecz, son of Mrs. Julia Kerecz, 834 Montclair Avenue and Cpl. William Bratsch, son of John Bratsch, 928 High Street.

Throughout the winter, the 1338th maintained 30 miles of road in snowbound, mountain country, operating one main snow removal station and five sub-stations, all equipped with snow plows and emergency rations. Operating under German shell fire, the group removed 700 pounds of demolitions from the site where it built its biggest bridge, spanning the Garigliano River.

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