

Chladney, Edward

Local Soldier Finds 'Survey Party' In Jungles Not 'Just For Fun' 1944

U. S. ARMY IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC—Their title "survey party," sounds like peaceful pursuits, but the "rod and chain" men of the artillery in the 40th Infantry Division aren't in the Southwest Pacific jungle for fun.

They're "playing the game" commonly known as war—for keeps. The mighty barrages Yanks have laid down on Nip defenses with pinpoint accuracy are dependent upon the accuracy and precision of the Yank artillery surveyors.

Pfc. Edward Chladney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Chladney, 1009 Jeter Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa., has spent eight months in the Southwest Pacific first as axeman, then rod and chain and now occupies a position of responsibility at "braintrust haven," sometimes known as Fire Direction Center.

Powerful death-dealing artillery pieces do their work at long ranges with targets obscured by mountains and the steamy haze of tropical islands. It is the survey party that locates the target.

They work from maps and from observation posts up front where they can see the Jap and his installations. Their equipment consists of transits, aiming circles, powerful telescopes and a way with mathematics.

They work with astronomical tables and toss trig around with the same nonchalance the average Yank smoker flicks the ashes from his cigarette. They are a vital part of the big artillery infantry team that finds and finishes the enemy.

Artillerymen are proud of their ability to put a shell right in the Japs' vest pocket. A good share of the credit for such accuracy goes to the combat artillery survey party.

In a very few minutes after the observer has spotted a target or the infantry "fixed" the Jap in position, the surveyors will have him plotted so close that if you aimed at his ankle you'd at least hit his heel. Give the surveyors a bit more time and they'll locate his little toe.

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