

ARTILLERY

hotchkiss

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, MINTURNO FRONT, April 18---Three names well and favorably known up here are Able, Baker, and Charley and when they speak everybody listens - especially Jerry.

They are the gun batteries: Battery A for Able; B for Baker, and C for Charley. Each has four guns and together they make up an ~~XXXXXX~~ artillery battalion, whether they be snub-nosed 105s that crouch in their camouflaged pits a couple of thousand yards back of the infantry or the snakey 155 'Long Toms' that are further to the rear but reach out far behind the enemy's lines.

The ---th Field Artillery of the ---th Division is a 'hot outfit'. It hasn't been over here very long, but its 105s and the way they are handled command great respect and our infantry up ahead takes great comfort in the sound of their voices.

At present the ---th has a sector of fire fanning out on either side of Castelforte, which nestles along the lower slopes of the heights that dominate the lower Garigliano Valley. Its mission is to supplement the fire of its sister battalion which is supporting a regiment of our infantry dug in along the sides and ridges of the highlands.

It has been quiet at the front lately, according to the communiques. But even the dullest communique almost always mentions "patrol activity" and "interchanges of artillery fire"; That's where Abel, Baker, and Charley come in. On the quietest day they're at work, sniping at selected targets or providing a screen of steel and smoke to shield the advance or withdrawal of our patrols constantly probing at the kraut positions.