

ARTILLERY ("Jacqueline")

hotchkiss

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, GARIGLIANO FRONT, April 21—Someboys from Texas, New York, and Michigan are up here shooting ammunition from an artillery piece made in Pennsylvania at men and equipment made in Germany.

The gun is named "Jacqueline", after the wife of one of the gunners, and she is the base piece in "A" Battery of the ---th Field Artillery, ---th Division.

She is a squat, snub-nosed 105 mm howitzer and right now she is dug in on the edge of a truck garden under the lee of a bank with her nose pointing upward at the proper angle to land shells back in the blue hills across the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Garigliano where Jerry is now.

The gun-pit is shaded by camouflage netting that leaves only Jacqueline's muzzle sticking through and spreads out over the ammo dugouts on either side. Her crew is working on further improvements to the position. No gun position ever seems to be finished - perhaps it's because they never stay in one place long enough - and each crew puts in its ~~XXXXX~~ time when not firing into making their place less conspicuous or better protected from counter-battery fire.

Jacqueline and her crew have been around. She arrived at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, back in June, 1942, clean and new and nameless from the United Engineering & Foundry plant in Pittsburgh. At that time Jacqueline was no newer than her crew - that is, from the standpoint of making war.

Her crew was, and still is, made up of Pfc. August Leus, of Caldwell, Texas, Pvt. Guadalupe Gussman, Beaumont, Texas; Pfc. Raymond McGowan, Yonkers, N.Y., and Pfc. Aubrey Holland, Detroit.