

WITH THE FIRST ARMY, NEAR CASSINO, March 6---If you were commanding a battery of 105 mm howitzers up here, slamming high explosives into enemy positions, and your Number 3 gun split its trailer and was out ~~ask~~ of action just ~~ask~~ wrong when the Jerries were about to counter-attack, you'd do two things. First, you'd swear. But then you'd crank up your field telephone and talk and pretty quick a light truck would come bouncing in through the mud and out would jump a GI and weld the break in a matter of minutes and Number 3 would be back lobbing them over as before.

If you were the commanding general and the staff inside of your precision stop watch snapped, you (or your aide) would ~~crank the phone and~~ send it off with a runner and pretty quick it would come back, good as new.

~~Should the field sargeant need a special valve for a stomach pump; or should a war correspondent break his camera; or the colonel smash the lense of his binoculars; or a 30-ton tank need a new barrel for its big gun~~

routine
These are extremes, but ~~extreme~~ extremes, of the kind of jobs being done every day and every night by an outfit up here, which performs ~~hiding~~ beneath a prosaic GI name -

~~Its name is prosaic~~ sounds prosaic the ^{46th} Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company ~~but its part in this big web of war is far from prosaic~~ one of the most fascinating and important jobs ~~of the~~ in this vast machine of war.

Commanded by 26-year old Capt. Jack E. Gilleland, 880 Rosedale Rd, Atlanta, Ga.,

This company, a special unit attached to a fighting division, keeps 'em shooting, and rolling, and seeing, and, many times, living.

Its mission is the speedy repair under combat conditions ~~and maintenance~~ of all arms, rolling equipment, and instruments of an entire division. Into the ~~category of "arms"~~ category of "arms" falls every weapon from the .45 Colt sidearm to the 155 mm. howitzer, including, of course, light and heavy machine guns, "basooks" guns, ~~and~~ ~~all~~ ~~the~~ carbines, Garands, and anything else that shoots.

The rolling equipment of a ~~GI~~ division runs from jeeps and field and ambulances kitchens to half-tracks, tanks, and armored cars; while ~~into~~ the classification of "instruments" takes in ~~falls all aiming and sighting devices~~ falls everything from an ordinary pair of GI eyeglasses or a watch delicate range-finding devices that guide the fire of the big guns ~~to the~~ ^{to the}

It all adds up to quite an order, but the com ~~pany~~ ^{handles}