

# TWO LOCAL BOYS FIGHTING IN ITALY WITH 361 INFANTRY

PART OF FAMED REGIMENT THAT  
HAS NEVER RETREATED SINCE  
INVASION DAY

127/44

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY—  
Private Lawrence M. Piercefield, of  
Newton and Pfc. Donald R. Shire of  
Willow Hill, are fighting in Italy with  
the 361st Infantry Regiment, which  
spearheaded the advance of Lieuten-  
ant General Mark W. Clark's Fifth  
Army from Velletri to the Arno River  
without having once given ground.  
Pfc. Shire is a Browning automatic  
gunner and Pvt. Piercefield is a rifle-  
man.

The 361st is part of the 91st "Pow-  
der River" Division, currently in the  
Florence-Bologna drive.

The regiment landed in Italy last  
May 31; in two days moved into the  
line and fought its first battle just  
north of Velletri while attached to  
the 36th "Texas" Division. The 361st  
was one of the units that took the  
Albano Hills and Lake Albano making  
possible the fall of Rome.

By passing Rome, the regiment con-  
tinued to advance north on Highway  
1 and participated in the capture of  
Tarquinia, which fell June 8, and Mon-  
talto, 10 miles further north, which  
fell on the following day. The 361st  
then went on to defeat the Germans  
at Magliano and capture the key ter-  
rain feature of Poggio di Moscano on  
June 17.

The outfit next won a signal victory  
at Ponte d'Istria, where the unit cap-  
tured more than 200 Germans. One  
company of the 361st had crossed the  
Ombrone River and entered the town;  
two other companies had flanked the  
village. A German force counterat-  
tacked in the town and was taken by  
surprise by the flank companies.

The regiment advanced further to  
take Paganico, Roccastrada, Radicon-  
dali and Casole D'Elsa. It was pulled  
out of the line for a rest July 4. Re-  
joining the 91st Division, the 361st at-  
tacked again July 14 east of Cecina.  
It then moved through Orceto, Ponsa-  
cco and Pontedera and was the first in  
Italy to reach the Arno River July 17.

Colonel R. W. Broedlow of Medford,  
Oregon, veteran of 28 years' service,  
commands the 361st. He has seen ac-  
tion on the Mexican border and in the  
first World War and served also in  
the Philippines and elsewhere in the  
Orient.