

Naziism Completely Crushed; Doughboys Occupy Germany

85 Points Needed To Remove Khaki

GI Joe of the 331st Combat Team is concentrating on figures — mathematical — in an earnest attempt to add up 85 points, the minimum needed for immediate discharge according to the long-awaited announcement by Com Z Headquarters.

No matter how many scratch pads the battle veteran of the 331st uses, he finds it mighty difficult to reach that figure unless he's got quite a number of little Joes waiting for him at home. Each dependent child under 18 is worth 12 points but he must have been born before R-Day, Saturday May, 12th. This is the day the War Department has designated as Readjustment Day when all point values are frozen. Length of service in the army, service overseas and decorations are computed between Sept. 16, 1940 and R-Day.

The Army is giving Joe one point for each month of service plus an additional point for each month in service overseas. Five points are given for combat awards and battle stars.

According to the War Department, men with combat experience will get 72 per cent of the discharges although they constitute only 35 per cent of these in the army. More than 98 per cent of the men getting discharges will have had overseas service.

Scared Nazi Flees Red Army, Seeks Refuge With Yanks

The « fear of God » that the Russians have so deeply enrooted in the Germans was everywhere witnessed as Soviet soldiers swept toward the Elbe and Yanks prepared to withdraw to their designated side of the river.

There was no better example than the former German officer, changed to civilian clothes, encountered by the men of Company C. He had lost a foot in Germany's losing battle but the terror he felt was greater than the handicap and he managed to pedal along the road on a bicycle.

He begged the Yanks to take him prisoner, saying the Russians would certainly kill him when they saw his identification card. He had, he said in the English he spoke too well, gone to the hospital to be evacuated by the Americans and he saved from the oncoming Russians but he had been too late. Before he reached the entrance he saw a huge Russian soldier there and he fled.

Feeling little sympathy for this product of Hitler's regime but not desiring to break any rules, Co. C checked with Headquarters. « Send him back », they said. So the frightened, ill-fated German officer was turned around and sent back, pedaling his bicycle with one foot, his head bowed.

There Must be Magic in a GI Hair-cut

Having your hair cut so that your scalp showed through had become a must in the 1st Platoon of Company C. Pfc Edward L. Adkins, was undergoing the scalping when he remarked, « The last time I had my head shaved like this I got a furlough home. Boy was I a mess! » Everyone laughed and the scissors wacked off a little more. The self-appointed barber was brushing off the last remains of what had once been a beautiful mass of hair when a head with the First Sergeant's voice appeared around the corner. « Adkins, get your stuff ready. You're going home on furlough! »

Allied PWs Stream Home



Over 19,000 Allied PWs were released from Altongrabow one week before V-E day and while the camp was still held by the Germans. Lt. Richard Drury, Co. H platoon leader, (shown in the first picture above), initiated the rapid release of these PWs while he was a prisoner himself. To Drury's right is Col. Theodore Oechel, German Camp Commandant. The German officer to his left is the assistant camp commander.

Released prisoners, among them 1200 Yanks, cheer wildly as army trucks carry them back to American lines. Many hundreds of PWs didn't wait for transportation and took off on foot joining thousands of displaced nationals streaming back toward France and Belgium.

Stranded Doughs Take Over City Hall of German Town

For twelve days Pfc. James T. Leonard, Pottsville, Penn., and Pfc. Floyd T. White, Pontiac, Ill., played burgermeister to an unoccupied German town of 5000 with some 1000 slave labor including French, Russian and Polish.

It was quite a story these men had to tell after being absent and unaccounted for a dozen days.

The fast pace the 83d Thunderbolt Division was traveling in its spearhead across the Weser and Elbe rivers, where transportation was a major problem, made it often necessary to leave bed rolls behind with someone to guard them until they could be picked up. White and Leonard were left to guard the weapons platoon rolls of Company C, 331st Inf., only something happened.

The race toward Berlin became so rapid, and no one ever sent back for them or the rolls.

It was in one of those many towns that the Company raced through, cleared out, and left unoccupied. To make matters worse the town was off the main route of travel. For six days Leonard and White saw no G. I. nor any sign of one. After that trucks of PWs passed through going to the rear, but that was all.

Two meals ration they had. After that it was a case of shift for themselves or starve. They shifted. First they found themselves a nice comfortable hotel and with some 25 liberated Frenchmen moved in.

Though there were the Frenchmen (Leonard's French is passable) and 331st Inf., only something happened.

Lt. Drury Initiates Rapid Release of PWs in Altongrabow

Over 19,000 Allied PWs were released from their camp at Altongrabow and were on their way to repatriation weeks ahead of time due to the initiative of Lt. Richard Drury, Co. H platoon leader from Newark, New York. The deal was arranged through the 83rd Division while the camp was still in enemy hands.

Drury had been captured during the crossing of the Elbe River when the bridgehead was established. His platoon fought their way into Badetz and Drury setup his platoon CP there. In the early hours of the following morning, the outpost was overrun. Drury and a few of his men who were taking a much needed nap from the night's battle, were taken prisoner.

Finding himself at Altongrabow, only 30 kilometers from Zerbst, Drury contacted the German Colonel Theodore Oechel and convinced him that it would be wise to give the camp up. He offered to go up to the American lines with the colonel. At their first attempt they were fired on by an I and R patrol from the 329th Infantry. They tried again the second day and got in to the 329th's 2nd battalion in Zerbst.

Drury's first words were, « if you could only see some of your buddies back there. All of us are starved. Terms should be arranged as quickly as possible. They must be fed. »

The lieutenant and German colonel were taken to Division headquarters and the necessary arrangements to release the prisoners were made. Col. Oechel said, « The American Commanders should explain to their men that all personal feelings and outward expressions be curbed to prevent any violence by American and German troops when the column passes through Zerbst. Some of your boys are in bad shape I'll admit. It will be difficult on anyone watching the column as it comes through to stand there and take it all in. But then a riot wouldn't help any. »

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Nazi Wireless Operators Uncovered in Hayslack

The very accuracy of enemy artillery on the Roosevelt Bridge spanning the Elbe River ricocheted on the Germans responsible.

2nd Lt. Richard E. Wade, Morristown, N.J., Co. K, whose platoon mission was to guard the bridge against mines, was driven from a small timber line along the banks by the accurate artillery and forced to take refuge in a nearby hayslack.

Astonished to hear German voices, he dug deeper to discover a neat little setup of three German operators and a radio directing artillery into the bridge area. The Germans were taken prisoners, the accuracy of the artillery ceased, and Wade went back to guarding against mines.

Postwar Plans for Veterans

Postwar prospects for returning veterans: The GI Bill of Rights is already a law of the land. It provides unemployment benefits, medical care, educational facilities and loan guarantees. The late President Roosevelt had outlined a goal of 60,000,000 jobs and government departments are ready for the reconversion of American production into peaceful channels and the absorption of the returning veterans into gainful occupations.

For example, the Interior Department has already announced a program of projects costing \$4,563,613,000 for postwar America. Included in its plans are park work, geological land surveys, construction of dams and general reclamation work.

Civil service policy reserves 25 per cent of all Federal jobs for veterans, and certain jobs will be open only to veterans. Legislation insures return of veterans to their old jobs if they desire them.

V-E Day Climaxes 10 Months Fighting For Men of 331st

V-E Day and peace officially came to Europe on Wednesday morning, May 9th, as men of the 331st Combat Team left the Elbe bridgehead to end their 10th consecutive month of fighting and assume the role of occupation troops. The cease fire order went into effect one minute past midnight, the time Germany had agreed in surrender terms signed at Rheims, France in Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters on Monday.

I-E, SSO Programs Underway in 331st

An all-inclusive program of entertainment, recreation and education for American soldiers awaiting redeployment or with the Army of Occupation is being planned by I-E and special service Officers of 331st.

Movies, plays, vaudeville shows, books, circuses, radio programs and music, all in greatly increased quantities, will be offered. Planned long before VE Day, the program is now getting under way as stockpiles of books, musical instruments, games and other recreational facilities are being moved out of warehouses to troops.

Radio programs originating at home will be relayed by the American Forces Network, which will have facilities at all American troop installations. Many programs will be originated by the soldiers themselves, and large troop installations, with their own radio stations, will have « local option » time during which they can feature talent from their own commands.

3RD BN Wire Crew Fight Way Through To Repair Lines

Another chapter concerning the heroism of Yank wire crews, who often are required to repair the « lifelines of communication » under difficult combat conditions, was written into the book of courage, by four members of the third battalion wire section recently, in the bitter fighting that centered around Hamm, Germany.

The 3rd Bn. had just secured the bridgehead across the Dortmund-Emms Canal, at Hamm. All wire communications between battalion and the front line elements were being severed by infiltrating enemy infantrymen.

Pfc I. J. Tosi, of Portland, Ore.; Pfc George Henry, of Chicago, Ill.; Pfc Clifford Cickoway, East Chicago, Ind.; and Pfc Granville Story, of Tennessee, attempted to repair a line that had just gone out. They traced the wire to within 100 yards of the front line. The wire had been cut in two places by the enemy. The wire-men suddenly found themselves being sniped at from all directions. In a pitched battle, they put up a last ditch stand, withdrawing only when their ammunition supply became low.

The original surrender agreement, signed for Germany by Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl, Chief of Staff of the Wehrmacht, was ratified in Berlin on Thursday. Marshals of the Red Army and high commanders of the armies of the Western Allies assembled in the ruined capital to re-sign the act of unconditional surrender. The document, a slightly amplified version of the one signed at Rheims was signed on a higher level by Germany and places the defeat of Germany's military might on record for all time.

At 16 minutes past midnight, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Chief of Staff of the German High Command, wrote his name on the document. Field Marshal Keitel was the only German signer to wear the golden emblem of the Nazi party and as such he accepted defeat for the National Socialist organization as well as for the military instrument with which Germany tried to spread its ideas over the world.

The Germans surrender came as a climax to the 331st's record infantry dash with the 83rd Division through the Reich to establish the only bridgehead across the Elbe. Only 65 miles from destroyed Berlin, they met Russian columns and turned over the territory conquered in the Russian zone, to the Red Army for occupation.

Two down—only one to go. That summed up the reactions of 331st battle veterans and thousands of GIs everywhere to the news of the destruction of German military resistance.

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Yank Ruse Tricks Bivouacging Nazis

Feeling their days of reconnoitering for enemy in the ETO were over, Lt. Fred Barnes from Philadelphia and his I and R platoon were surprised to see a GI from the air corps in their company headquarters breathlessly relating how a number of Jerries were firing on his radio station in the woods in the vicinity of Dardeshelm.

Accompanied by Maj. William White from Carmel, Cal. and Tec 3 Joseph Charles from Brooklyn, N. Y., Barnes set out to check the area and learn who these pests were. « Can't they leave me alone? » he complained « now that the fighting is over ».

Four German civilians were found bivouacging in the woods. Questioned by Charles, they claimed to be innocent people on a picnic of some sort. But Yanks aren't naive as all that especially battle veterans of the 331st.

Barnes, White and Charles escorted one of the Germans in the woods leaving the other three guarded. White fired several shots in the air with his pistol. Barnes let loose for a moment with his tommy gun. Charles headed back for a shovel.

The act worked. The Germans broke down and with tears confessed they were Nazi soldiers. They had donned civilian clothes in an attempt to get through Allied lines to Austria.

The TTF is published in the interests of the officers and men of the 331st Infantry Combat Team. All news material is officially reviewed by military censors. Member CNS.

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To Men of the 331st ...

With the defeat of the German Armies, it is fitting to review our battle achievements from the bitter fighting in hedgerows of Normandy, through France, Luxembourg, Belgium and into the heart of Germany.

As part of The 83rd Division's epochal drive to the Elbe River, you penetrated more than 200 miles of hostile territory in 13 days, with flanks exposed and at one time stretching over 80 miles in depth while by-passing on our right flank a pocket of 65,000 enemy troops. This is a feat unparalleled in the annals of military history.

In the battle of the bulge, where this regiment experienced some of its bitterest fighting, you not only felt the onslaught of von Rundstedt's best armor and elite SS troops, but you doggedly drove them back in deep snow and bitter cold weather which taxed to the utmost the will and physical stamina of every man.

Your magnificent performances in this war have made history. Such achievements in the battlefield couldn't have been possible were it not for the teamwork and unselfish devotion to duty of everyone of you.

One great victory has been won, but yet another enemy remains. Should we be called to destroy the Jap, let us so condition ourselves mentally and physically and so train ourselves that we may, with minimum losses, completely and utterly annihilate the bestial foe wherever we may face him.

I want to personally commend you for your hard fighting and a job well done. Your regimental commander, Col. Robert York, presently absent on a well-earned leave, is proud of your fighting record and desires that I convey to you his appreciation for your loyalty, perseverance and aggressiveness.

Be soldiers first and last. Keep that fighting edge and nothing can stop you.

Lt. Col. Henry Neilson.

Lesson in History ...

I shall not die without a hope that light and liberty are on steady advance. We have seen, indeed, once within the records of history, a complete eclipse of the human mind continuing for centuries. And this, too, by swarms of the same northern barbarians, conquering and taking possession of the countries and governments of the civilized world.

Thomas JEFFERSON.

Vol. II, No. I ...

Along with fighting men of our combat team, Vol. II, No. 1, of the TTF marks the beginning of new experiences. The TTF was launched on its rocky path in France. As a newspaper written for and by the men of this outfit, it has kept up with hard hitting Yanks, recording their battle deeds in the interests of the combat team as well as for the benefit of folks at home.

Under this, or any other staff, the TTF will inevitably remain an integral part of the combat team until complete victory is won.

REMEMBER?



This is an AMERICAN soldier prisoner of war after liberation from his GERMAN captors. Let's not fail to obey the non-fraternization policy

Rifle Platoon Sets Example in Whirlwind Offensive

The 2nd Platoon, Co F, led by the newly commissioned, Lt. Harry Dalton, of Kilder, Kentucky, proved to be a smooth working team, that operated in high gear all the time.

A part of Task Force Mitchell, they were the first to jump off from the area near Paderborn, and their assault against the enemy at Altenbecken, only served as a criterion for things to come. It took but two hours to clear the town, and haul the prisoners away. From that point on it was a succession of one town after the other falling under the combined onslaughts of the dough-loggers and the cavalrymen, Pobsen, Berghelm, Oynhausen, Eversen, Entwurp, Somerville, and Angelstadt fell under the terrific pressure of the armor-infantry team.

The town of Niese, wasn't too difficult to take, but after they left Niese, and were on their way to Beissterfeld; the fun really started. This consisted of a group of Heinie tanks including at least one Tiger

Royal. The concerted action of the tanks and the flat character of the terrain, were instrumental in temporarily bringing the drive to a halt. Pfc William Hoosier and Pfc Walter Overton, volunteered to contact the TD's and in that way bring pressure against the enemy tanks. Every step they took attracted a hail of machine gun bullets. The two dough-boys were successful in their dash across the field, and were able to contact the TD's directing the latter's fire to knock out one, and cause the rest of the Jerry armor to flee.

Pfc Charles Kirby, leading a squad of men, spotted a Heinie convoy of three trucks that were desperately attempting to escape a trap at Lowendorf. The three trucks were soon knocked out by several well aimed rifle grenades. Cpl. Donald Slater, of Los Angeles, Calif, and Pfc Curtis Baker, of Chicago, Ill., had a field day when they were able to pick off 15 German tankers fleeing from their knocked out tanks.

Elbe Bridge Saved From Jerry Mines

There were many attempts made to destroy the bridgehead that the 33rd Division established across the Elbe River.

The first attempt came about on the night of the 16th of April. The 1st Bn. had had just been placed in position along the river to insure against any enemy amphibious raids.

At this point, the intelligence section of the battalion, brought in a prisoner who stated that he was a barge captain in charge of three barges which were beached a short distance from the site of the bridge. Two of the barges contained some 200,000 gallons of crude oil. The krauts had given the barge captain orders to start the boats on fire and head them down stream, to destroy the bridge. However, the barge captain refused to set his barges on fire, because the boats were serving as a home for his family.

A squad from Co. B were sent to watch the boats and also the river bank in the vicinity.

Another threat to the bridge, reared its ugly head on the morning of the 7th; this time it was floating mines. The first mine was exploded by the sharpshooting Lt. Tom Stidnam, of Newport, Ky. As he scored a hit with an '03 rifle, the bobbing mine blew up and created a 100 foot geyser of water. This was a 'go ahead' signal, for the rest of the GI's who lined the bank, to open up at the mines as they drifted by. To further insure the safety of the bridge, a net was placed across the river; it snared some five more mines.

A total of twenty-five mines were destroyed, by these methods, as they floated downstream. As a final protective measure, tanks were placed in position where they could also fire on the floating mines.

Co. G Steamroller Smashes OCS Krauts

The krauts were OCS candidates but they all flunked out in a final examination of life and death, as the George Company steamroller smashed a large holding force of the 'Wehrmacht's Best', in an all out assault upon the town of Hohenlepte on April 15th.

Jumping off at 1330 in the afternoon, the Company 'G' doughsloggers advanced upon the town in full battle regalia with bayonets glistening, under a hail of direct 88 and machine-gun fire. Crossing a huge, open field, pockmarked with irrigation ditches as their only defense against the wall of fire the german infantrymen had built up, the first platoon, swung in from southwest, while the second platoon flanked the approaches to the town from the south under cover of a white-phosphorus smoke screen laid down by H. Co. mortar-men. The third platoon was in support, readying itself for the last phase of the attack-tough street-fighting.

Under cover of the smoke screen, four heavy 'can-openers' from the 743rd Tank Destroyer Bn., followed in support of the advancing infantrymen as they blasted anything that stood in the way. The mortar shells and the artillery barrage caused huge fires to spring up in various sections of the town during the initial assault preparation, that lasted way into the night, besides taking toll of German life.

The stiffest resistance encountered by the attacking doughboys was met at the approaches of the town, as the Heinie infantrymen who were being battle-tested for commissions by the German government defended the road blocks, with Panzerfausts employed as anti-personnel weapons, and vicious sniper fire.

At approximately 1830, the last Nazi was cleaned out of town in the bitter street-fighting that followed as 17 prisoners were taken, and countless numbers killed. A German girl, wearing a steel helmet and holding a panzerfaust in her hand was caught crawling up a ditch, getting into position for a shot at one of our T. D.'s from the rear. She met the fate of the others. The dough-boys dug-in and settled down for a night's rest.

At approximately 0530, the next morning, a battalion of enemy infantrymen, heading due east and estimated to be about 180 strong supported by at least three tanks, attempted a late dawn counterattack. Co. 'G' men nabbed 16 prisoners, while the 60 mm mortar section directed by pint-sized Joe Mayse, of South Carolina, repelled the remaining attackers. Accurate fire by the 743rd TD-men stopped the enemy tankers dead in their tracks at a range of 600 yards.

Pfc John Scott, 30 cal. machine-gunner, spotting a large group of krauts during the counterassault, fired his gun at them as they crossed the field, from a ditch half filled with water, Victor McLaughlin-style.

Engineer Commander



Capt. Joseph A. Swider

Capt. Joseph A. Swider rose to the command of Co. C, 308th Engr. Bn. in four years entering the service as an enlisted man in August, 1941. His advance to a commission was rapid. He received his basic training with the 152nd F A Bn, earned two stripes and left for OCS four months later.

Graduating from Ft. Belvoir, Va. in July, '42 as a second lieutenant in the engineer corps, Capt. Swider's first assignment came with the 106th Engr. of the 31st Division. Two months later his gold bar turned silver and he was transferred to Camp Hood where he served as an instructor in the TD Engineer School.

Capt. Swider joined the 83rd Division in Sept., '43 and became a platoon leader in his present company. He assumed his present command in July, '44 and was awarded his captaincy in September.

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Capt. Swider attended college there. He is 29 years and single.

Task Force Mitchell Clears 30 Towns Mopping up Nazis

In a campaign with the 113th Cavalry, Co. F as Task Force Mitchell cleared 30 towns and took an estimated 700 prisoners. It was at Richenau where they had their biggest fight.

Here Tec 5 Stanley Kaplita of Detroit settled a score with the Nazis. Seven years ago, Kaplita left Poland a step ahead of the Krauts. Now the 37-year old BAR man personally accounted for more than a score of Heinies.

At Richenau, he had a little encounter with an SS Trooper, who thought the short-statured Kaplita, would be a pushover. In

Arfy. C.O. Just Misses Capture

If a group of Jerres had been more willing to risk their own necks, they sure would have made a grand slam for Der Furher. As it was, they were too willing to surrender, and as a result missed bagging the biggest haul of brass that probably ever came their way.

A reconnaissance party from the 908th Field Artillery Bn., led by Lt. Col. Arthur M. Burghdoff, and consisting of all the battery commanders, plus the junior officers, was proceeding to an area that had just been bypassed by the armor. Coming down the road, the party was temporarily halted at a road block.

While the road block was being removed the colonel and Major Boyce-Smith, proceeded on ahead of the column, on foot. After they had gone a few hundred yards, without observing anything amiss, they signaled for the column to come forward.

The vehicles started to roll. One of the men in the column observed a movement in the hedges that lined the road. A cry of warning was raised. The men in the column hit the side of the road as one person, with weapons in hand, ready for anything. This action unnerved the Germans guarding the roadblock, for they jumped from their hiding places with the intention of fleeing; then realizing the odds against them, they raised their hands in surrender.

Newsman Hunts Hidden Heinies

Combat Correspondent for Co 'F', Pfc David Rosenberg, of Philadelphia, not only writes about any news that might occur in his company, but he also helps make it. While on a quartering party in the town of Wangelnstadt, he noticed several civilians who behaved queerly. After making an investigation, he discovered that a group of German soldiers remained hidden in the town, and the natives feared the consequences. Although his primary mission was to secure quarters for his comrades, Rosenberg, pursued the hidden Heinies, armed with only a carbine. After rounding up 9 of the Jerries, he found new lodging for them in a PW Cage!

Fighting Yank Changes Mind

'I came over here to fight, not to do close order drill all day!' complained Cpl. Coy Jones, Fayetteville, Arkansas, who had joined C Company as a replacement during the lull of battle.

The morning had been spent in the typical fashion of front-line troops in a rear area, exercises, manual of arms and close order drill. S/Sgt. Ross L. Pautler, Evansville Ill., just gave Jones a knowing look and said nothing.

Some weeks later in the early hours of morning after a night of intense machine-gun, rifle and 20 mm. ack ack fire in taking the town of Polle, Germany, Pautler turned to find a weary Jones by his side.

'What was that you said some time ago about close order drill?' he joked, a smile lurking in the corners of his mouth.

'Lord, man, said Jones, I'll do close order drill night and day and never complain!'

If You Are 42, You Can Get Out

Washington (CNS) — All Army enlisted men, 42 years old or older, with the exception of those undergoing punishment or in need of medical or surgical treatment, now can be discharged from the service upon application, the War Department has announced. About 50,000 men are eligible, it was estimated.

Yanks Engage Fanatic SS in 24 Hour Life and Death Struggle

The Harz Mts., in the vicinity of Derenburg, Germany, haven of a huge force of SS troopers who finally capitulated to the Yanks only one week before V-E Day, was the scene of another hard fought contest, between 'Hitlers Best' and members of Co L, who staged a magnificent pitched-battle against the strongly-fortified defenders.

The krauts were dug in on the slope of the hill. Situated on the top of the promontory, in their wooded retreat, they laid in wait for the Americans. So unexpected was this sudden change of Nazi 'resistance', that only one platoon of Co I doughsloggers were sent to clean out the woods. Lt. Lester Anderson, of Portland, Oregon, led his platoon by means of fire and movement up the hill. No trouble was encountered, until the platoon reached the edge of the woods.

Suddenly all hell broke loose, as machine guns, and small arms fire, opened up. The platoon, that had fought its way to the top of the hill so gallantly, was forced to pull back to the road. Here they joined the rest of the company, who were motorized on tanks. The movements of the convoy attracted so much attention that the enemy in a heavy mortar barrage. In the meantime the tanks rolled up to their positions, and blasted the woods directly to their front with successive

volleys of 76's. The company reorganized, and laid plans for another assault.

The platoon under Lt. Carl Hansen, of Englishtown, N. J., was to attack from the left, while the second platoon, under Lt. Edward Kulakowski, was to move up from the right flank.

Again the assault squads advanced by means of marching fire, but before they reached the top of the hill, once more the Heinies opened up on them. The third platoon finally battled their way to the edge of the woods, under cover of the edge tanks. S/Sgt Richard Hessler, of St. Paul, Minn., saw a Jerry about 20 feet from him preparing to fire a panzerfaust at a nearby tank. He attracted the attention of the tanker who was able to use his 50. Cal. machine gun to good advantage.

The second platoon, moving up from the left, not only had the open terrain to contend with, but were forced to climb over some wired obstacles, despite the machine gun fire. Upon reaching the woods, they too were stopped in their tracks.

After a few hours of being subjected to an incessant mortar and artillery barrage, plus vicious small arms fire, the small band of Yanks were ordered to move out of the area before renewing their attack.

Foxhole Interviews

QUESTION : What is the difference in the intensity of your hatred for the Japanese and the Germans now that you have personally engaged the latter in many bitter battles ?

Pfc. Fiori Gallucci, Co. K rifleman from Bridgeport, Conn.

« I hate the Japs worse than the Heines and always did. You see, before joining the 331st I had been stationed in the Aleutians in an ack ack outfit. I saw my buddies killed and maimed by the Japs and that increased my hatred for the yellow men which started at Pearl Harbor ».



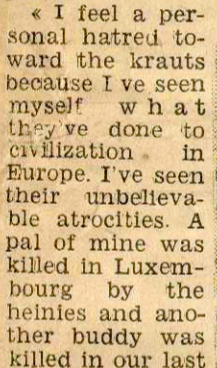
Sgt. Lewis Shaginaw, Co. F squad leader from Sykesville, Pa.



« My hatred for the Japs began with the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. That was something that really hit home. I felt that way during training days in the States. To me the Pacific war was a personal problem and the war in Europe was just another conflict

that didn't mean so much to me. When I came over here to fight the Japs I was fighting as a trained soldier. And even though I saw my fellow soldiers killed around me... well, that's war. I really think that Jap atrocities are even much worse than the Nazi SS. The intense degree of hatred I feel toward the Japs is difficult to describe ».

Sgt. Lawrence Bolden, of Cleveland, Ohio, member of the I and R platoon.



« I feel a personal hatred toward the krauts because I've seen myself what they've done to civilization in Europe. I've seen their unbelievable atrocities. A pal of mine was killed in Luxembourg by the heines and another buddy was killed in our last drive through Germany. Yet, by golly, as much as I hate the Germans I can't forget the Japs attack on Pearl Harbor. I detest them and always will ».

S/Sgt. Randolph Bolek, Co. I platoon guide from Charlottesville, Va.



« Yes, I hate the Germans and the Japs and all these damn belligerent nations. This war is only half won. I, for one, won't be content until the yellow rats are licked and destroyed even worse than we've crushed the Nazis. The Japs are our worst enemy. We can't forget their attack on Pearl Harbor and I don't need any personal contact with them to make me hate them ».

Naziism Completely Crushed

(Continued from Page 1)

With the fall of Germany accomplished, GIs everywhere turned their attention to the Pacific and Asiatic theaters, where the armed forces of the United States, aided by powerful Allies, are committed to the smashing of Japanese military power in the shortest possible time to make secure the most complete and significant victory in the history of warfare.

Even before the defeat of Germany, plans for the subjugation of Japan formulated at the Cairo conference and the two conferences in Quebec had been implemented by action. Before the last shot was fired on the western front, the movement of men, supplies and equipment to the Pacific from other theaters had begun.

Japan's doom thus was sealed many months before the Germans quit.

The great U. S. Naval and land victories in the Pacific to which our Allies the Australians, New Zealanders, Dutch, Chinese and British also contributed had demonstrated our ability to successfully wage war on two fronts over the longest supply lines of history. Faced now by the overwhelming, might of the free world, Japan's situation is hopeless.

But, as GIs who have fought in the Pacific can attest, the Japs may be counted on to resist desperately—even though eventual defeat is certain—and much bloody fighting still lies ahead. Still, we have come a long way in five years of warfare—from the brink of disaster to the threshold of success.

How far we have come is forcefully brought home by a review of the war in Europe. The Axis just missed, by the slimmest of margins, the goal of world domination and enslavement.

Here's the box score on the European War :

1939

POLAND
Sept 1—Germany invaded Poland to touch off the most titanic struggle of all time. Great Britain and France declared war 3 days later with most of the British dominions and colonies following suit.

Sept 27—The German conquest of Poland was completed with the surrender of Warsaw.

1940

THE LOW COUNTRIES

May 10—The next 8 months witnessed a deceptive lull, which led some to term the conflict a phony war. The French waited behind the Maginot Line expecting the Germans to hurl themselves against its string of supposedly impregnable fortresses. But the Germans were preparing for a different kind of offensive, and on May 10 struck a series of quick blows against Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Holland fell in 4 days. Then the Nazis overwhelmed the great Belgian fortress of Eben Emael and drove across the Albert Canal near Maastricht. Other German forces seized the French fortress city of Sedan and headed for the channel, with fleets of motorcycles spreading fire and terror ahead of armored detachments.

BELGIUM

May 28—King Leopold announced the surrender of the 300,000-man Belgian Army. The capitulation placed British forces on the continent in an untenable position, and the evacuation from Dunkerque was begun. More than 900 warships, skiffs, tugs, motor launches and yachts rescued an of 337,000, but practically all of its equipment was lost. The evacuation was completed by June 4

FRANCE

June 6—With the British out of the way, Hitler turned his attention to the conquest of France. The Maginot Line—its northern flank exposed and vulnerable as the result of the conquest of the Low Countries—was quickly turned. On June 10, the French government evacuated Paris. Mussolini perpetrated his notorious « stab in the back » moving Italian troops into the border area of France and plunging Italy into her most disastrous war. On June 17 Marshal Pétain took over the French government and announced « with a broken heart » that he had been compelled to ask Hitler « as one soldier to another » for an honorable armistice. On June 21, in the railway car where Marshal Foch dictated peace terms to Germany in 1918, France signed an armistice taking her out of the war. Hitler danced a victory jig.

ENGLAND

June-Sept—Alone, but grimly determined to flight on, England prepared for invasion. Home Guards were hastily organized; hunting rifles, old tanks, World War I guns were hastily imported from America. Churchill, vowed : « We will fight on the beaches and the landing grounds—in the fields, in the streets, on the hills. We will never surrender. » With only 700 Spitfires and Hurricanes, the RAF pitted its strength against the entire German Air Force estimated to contain at least 5000 front-line planes. The « Battle for Britain » had begun.

Oct. 28—Mussolini, taking an active part in the war, invaded Greece, expecting an easy conquest. But the heroic Greeks ambushed and slaughtered thousands of Italian troops, and launched a successful counter-invasion. Hitler eventually had to come to the rescue of the Italians. The Germans subjugated the country and drove the British from Thessaly and Crete. Earlier, Hitler won Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary to the Axis largely through military and economic pressure. An uprising in Yugoslavia balked his efforts to take over that country completely.

1941

July 1940 to February 1941—The British Navy, in a tragic prelude to the « Battle for Africa », attacked the French fleet to prevent warships of their former Allies from falling into enemy hands.



Von Rundstedt

On Aug. 6, 1940, Italian armies under Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, began the Axis offensive against Egypt with the invasion of British Somaliland. Successfully counter-attacking, Britain's Gen. Wavell chased the Italians back across the desert, freeing Ethiopia and destroying Mussolini's dream of a North African empire. But in February 1941, German motorized units under Field Marshal Erwin Rommel landed at Tripoli to begin the first of three major German offensives aimed at the conquest of North Africa, seizure of the Suez Canal and control of the southern shores of the Mediterranean. High point for the Germans was reached with the capture of the fortress city of Tobruk on June 25, 1942. German columns were within 60 miles of Cairo when Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery stopped them at El Alamein.

BATTLE FOR BRITAIN WON

May-June—The RAF decisively won the air battle for Britain and began the campaign for the ultimate destruction of the Luftwaffe with the expansion of the RAF bomber command, later to be joined and overshadowed by the U. S. Eighth Air Force. Plans were laid for strategic bombing of German aircraft plants, components parts plants, centers of synthetic fuel and rubber production. This campaign culminated in the great daylight raids during the week of Feb 19-26, 1944, which destroyed German capacity to replace combat losses, a necessary preliminary to invasion.

ATTACK ON USSR

June 22—His plans to conquer England thwarted, Hitler turned east and loosed his invasion of the Soviet Union. Joined by Finland, Romania, Hungary and Italy, he attacked along a 2,000 mile front from the Arctic to the Black Sea. Expecting a 6-week conquest, German armies sliced through Russian-annexed territories of

Slave laborers came to tell them that two SS troopers, changed to civilian clothing, were hiding in a nearby barn. Getting their weapons, Leonard and White went after them. The SS troopers offered little resistance though they insisted they were not soldiers. The German mess gear and uniformed pictures of themselves they carried made them flab.

12 days is a long time for fighting men to stay in one spot. « I guess we would be there yet, » said Leonard. « If a quartermaster truck hadn't come through the town by mistake going in a Berlin direction, »

They told the driver their story, piled their rolls in his truck, hopped in with them and headed back. It had been a glorious vacation but they might be needed with their company. They were.

Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Karelia, Bessarabia, swept across White Russia and the Ukraine, besieged Leningrad, captured Kharkov and reached the gates of Moscow.

In October, Hitler boasted Russia « never again will rise. » But the Red Army stopped the Nazis before Moscow and that winter began the first of a series of counter-offensives which each year grew more powerful. High-water mark of the German campaign was reached in August, 1942, with the encirclement and siege of Stalingrad, 1300 miles from Germany's western border. The siege lasted until Feb 2, 1943, when the Soviets won one of the great victories of the war—the annihilation of German forces attempting to capture the city.

PEARL HARBOR

Dec 7—With the Germans victorious everywhere, the Japs decided the time was ripe to strike. On this date—« A day which will live in infamy »—they loosed the treacherous attack at Pearl Harbor and on U. S. British and Dutch possessions in the Pacific. Catching us inadequately prepared, Jap planes sank or damaged most of the battle line of the U. S. Pacific fleet. Hours after the attack, first Japan, then Germany and Italy declared war on this country. It looked like the low-point of the struggle for the forces of freedom but, in reality, the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor sealed the doom of the Axis. At last, the sleeping giant was roused and united.

U. S. and Allied military leaders decided immediately that the Jap attack was all part of one global war, and that Germany was the more dangerous enemy and must be defeated first. The fate of Germany as well as Japan thus was decided at Pearl Harbor because the cowardly attack turned on the spigot which unleashed a gigantic flood of American men, planes, machines, weapons and supplies against the Nazis.

1942

SUBMARINES LICKED

January - November—The submarine menace was licked by the combined efforts of the U. S., Canadian and British fleets and the army and naval air forces of those countries. Millions of tons of war materiel and millions of troops in huge convoys traveled to Britain, which had been converted virtually into a forward base. Lend-Lease equipment and supplies were sped to the now victorious Red Ar-



Bradley

mies through Murmansk and Iran. While this was being done, the Pacific was not neglected. Australia was converted into a military base, and the flow of men and supplies to the Pacific maintained.

WE INVADE AFRICA

Nov 7—Our troops went into action for the first time against the Germans with the landing of large U. S. and British forces under Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower in Morocco and Algeria.

A junction with Marshal Montgomery's forces pursuing Rommel from the east was effected. Trapped on Cap Bon, in Tunisia, the Germans and Italians surrendered on May 12, 1943, ending victoriously the battle for North Africa and setting the stage for the Allied invasion of Sicily and Italy.

1943

SICILY AND ITALY

July 9-Aug 17—Sicily invaded and conquered by British, Canadian and American troops. On July 25, Gen Pietro Badoglio ousted and arrested Mussolini and took over the government of Italy.

Sept 3—The British Eighth Army, under Marshal Montgomery, invaded the European mainland for the first time with landings at Reggio Calabria, at the southwestern tip of the Italian peninsula. On the same day, representatives of Gen Badoglio signed an armistice with Gen Eisenhower's representatives. On Sept 9, the U. S. Fifth Army, commanded by Gen Mark Clark, landed at Salerno.

Dec 3—His hopes for victory shattered, Hitler strove desperately to provoke the Allies into fighting among themselves. The Teheran Conference removed that last hope for a compromise or negotiated peace. President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill agreed on plans for winning the war quickly and securing a lasting peace. The Teheran agreement, symbol of Allied unity, was a victory on a par with any won on the battlefield.

1944

Jan 24—The Allies in Italy established a new beachhead near Anzio, on the Germans' flank, to force a diversion of enemy strength in the south. Meanwhile, overwhelming superiority in men, planes and equipment was built up, and on June 4 we entered Rome to liberate our first Axis Capital.

June 6—D-day. American, British and Canadian troops, with units from other United Nations, began the invasion of northern France to open the long-awaited « Second Front ». The invasion, termed the most difficult military operation in history, was an unqualified success—we got there, we stayed there, and we did it at less cost than expected.

(Continued on page 4)

Welcome to Our Russian Allies



Men of the 331st remained on the east side of the Elbe until the Russians came up to take over. A Russian flyer stops by to say hello to Capt. William Waters, 2nd Bn S-3 and Maj. George Fosque, 908th FA Bn.

Sgts. Chavez and Lawrence Bolden of the 331st I and R platoon greet a Major of the Russian Cossacks.

Russian tankers playing their native folk songs in celebration their link-up with the Yanks.

Two Russian fighting WACs pose for American cameramen, their automatic guns ready for use.

Pfc. Philip Graiff becomes friendly with a Russian lieutenant in Zerst.

Real Test Proves Yank Superiority Again

How a small Task Force opposed an enemy unit of approximately equal strength, fought for two days and a night, and emerged victorious in a running battle that carried the all-conquering yanks over 15 miles through the Province of Hannover, is graphically illustrated here.

« Task Force Clyde » consisted of a company of motorized infantry, George Company, commanded by Capt. Joseph A. Macaluso, a platoon of light tanks, detached from the 736 th Tank Bn ; three 105 mm assault guns ; plus a squad of Combat Engineers and a platoon of the 83rd Recon Troops. They jumped off from the town of Horn, at approximately 0600 on the fifth of April.

As the armor under the command of Capt. Glenmeir, and infantry, swept on thru the German defenses in a well-coordinated attack that respectively carried the Task Force through the towns of Oberheestern, Vinsebeck, Lotohe, and Brakelseck, and took over 50 prisoners who were fighting a delaying action. The re-

maining german force kept retreating, and just one jump ahead, while occasionally stopping to bring up the heavy Panzer units to slug it out with the lighter american armor, sporting only 75 mm direct fire guns and 50 cal. machine guns. That night Task Force Clyde stopped at the town of Brakelseck.

The chase was resumed on the following day, as the task Force moved out again with the Co. « G. » doughboys, leap-frogging behind the armor and reconnaissance units, while eliminating the German pockets of resistance and isolated road blocks which were tenaciously defended. The original german force gradually disintegrated under the concerted assault as over 30 more prisoners were rounded up the second day in the thick forest just east of Schalenberg.

While the German tanks were yet belching forth black columns of smoke and with the remnants of the infantry crushed, the Task Force turned to new horizons.

Stranded Doughs Run German City

(Continued from page 1)

Englishmen, three who spoke German and served as interpreter, all were newly liberated and looked to the unique Yanks for leadership.

One of the Frenchmen had a paper signed by an American colonel which gave him authority to look after the Americans and Belgians in that vicinity. That put the O. K. on anything they deemed advisable to do for the slave labor.

« And those slave laborers, » said Leonard, « thought we were Geds. They beat a daily path to our hotel room with their problems, most of which concerned food and clothing. » Leonard and White got busy. With two cars which the French had taken for their use, they made a survey of the district. From the farms they got vegetables, fruit, eggs and meat. Bakeries in the town had plenty of bread. There was a storehouse where wines and liquors, without which no European table is complete, were stored.

Leonard and White made a daily round and from the collected food and drink they rationed out enough for each slave laborer to eat well. The next problem was clothes.

That of the slave labor was old, worn, dirty and often not adequate to supply their needs. The Yanks found a warehouse generous with clothing and they rationed it out so that all the people were generously, if motley, arrayed.

They were wise too. Though the Army might approve of what they were doing they might be forced to call it looting. With an abundance of German marks which the Frenchmen had collected, they paid for what they took.

There was an airfield some 60 miles away from which the Englishmen could go home. So Leonard and White got more cars, serviced them, supplied them with gas and turned them over to the Englishmen. And they, prisoners of war for five years, felt such warm friendship for the two Yanks that they delayed their departure for two days.

The German population gave them no trouble. Their uniform was treated with the utmost respect and was the keynote to all their wishes. Though rumors of SS troopers in the outlying woods, on only one occasion did they come in contact with them.

Sidelights

Home in a Foxhole

Think you know anything about building foxholes? Let's take a peek at the one Pfc Victor Smith, Co E, rifleman, built. When we last saw it, contained among other things a book shelf, electric lighting, a radio that played only Heinnie music, and a baby grand piano plus a bench with room for one or two.

Nothing but the Best

Members of Hqs. Co., 1st Bn., really had a field day as the Battalion, pushed its way across Germany. One of the towns, in which the company was billeted had a coal factory that had five complete shower rooms with plenty of hot water; the electric lighting system was still intact, not to mention the electric drying rooms that were available, or the elaborate electric train system that the GIs found there. Talking about guys finding a home in the Army.

Not Enough Action

Pfc Billy (that's his name) Heitzman, Co. F messenger, doesn't like his job. He claims that there isn't enough action in it. This statement came as no surprise to the members of his platoon, when they heard about « Billy ». He charged into a ditch filled with Heinies, and with his carbine, killed two Jerries and flushed out seven more.

Salesman in Uniform

Using a white pillow case for a flag, Lt. Caddie Hennage, Co. F platoon leader, took the bull by the horns and walked into the town of Einbeck to demand the surrender of two Generals and the armed garrison that was holding out in the

OP Cannoneers Going Strong Since 4th July

Pfc Joseph Figura, native of the « Smokey City » and Cpl Archie Lee, of Albany, Kentucky, are the only original members of Cannon Company's forward observation teams that have been going strong from the Hedgerow Days to the last of the Elbe River campaign, having been on « line » continuously during that period.

As a member of the OP team, Figura, a radio operator, transmits grid coordinates in code concerning enemy positions and adjustments in artillery fire, to the Company's fire direction center. He claims that the roughest experience he has had yet, was back on July 5 the night after the big 83rd attack in Normandy. Those are the days he'll never forget.

Lee, an agent corporal, assists the forward observer to spot enemy positions and record it for fire data, he also assists the radio operator in transmitting and receiving messages. As an agent corporal, he claimed the toughest going he had so far was at Gey, Germany, where the Jerries put up a stiff battle. Commenting on the above he said: « I never saw so much enemy artillery falling all around me as at Gey. It was raining 88' s'. » Both enlisted men now hold the Purple Heart, and Bronze Star.

Jungle-Trained GI Ready for Japs

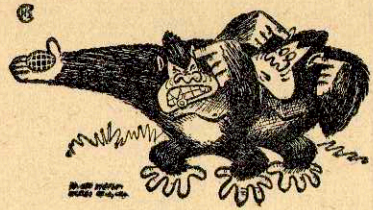
« I don't need any jungle training », remarked Sgt. Michael Kaminski, Co. I, machine-gun squad leader and native of Amsterdam, N.Y. After being stationed in the tropics of Panama for almost three years, Mike feels that he has had plenty of jungle experience. Early in 1935, Kaminski, enlisted in the U. S. Coast Artillery, and from there he was sent to a small island near the city of Colon, Panama. As a gun commander for a twelve inch Barbett, he helped guard the Panama Canal.

Manning the guns was not his only work. He spent much of his time in jungle training. Such things as marching thru thick jungles with a rope tied from man to man, and rescuing men marooned in swamps, were part of the daily agenda.

« Hunting, was the chief means of recreation », he said, « there were plenty of wild boar, jaguars, and snakes to shoot at. » Further commenting on the hunting he stated that the good shark fishing was the favorite among the men. Sharks as large as 25 feet long, and weighing as much as nine hundred pounds! He said that practically all the activity centered around the many night clubs and cabarets.

« The weather in Panama, he laughed, is practically the same all year around. Hot and Dry. The weather in Europe is more healthier for that reason. »

As an afterthought, he remarked: « The only thing I miss here are the bananas. And as far as staying in the ETO on Army of Occupation, I'd rather go to the South Pacific. I wanna get the war over as soon as possible, and I feel that because of my previous training, I can take care of myself, and the Japs! »



town. So convincing was his arguments that the latter capitulated, and the Yanks were able to move into the town uncontested. This marked the second time upon which the « mantle of Mayorality » was placed upon the lieutenant.

Too Good to Believe

We know you'll never believe this one... T/4 William Freshwater, Hqs. Co., 1st Bn., recently received word thru his orderly room, that he was to receive the Silver Star and a forty-five day furlough to Follensbee, W. Va. (U. S. A.). Can't say that we blame him for walking on clouds, do you?

Man of Patience

During the recent rapid advance through Germany, the quartering party of the 2nd Battalion, was halted temporarily opposite a German soldier, without arms, but with a bit of white pinned on his lapel. He approached the vehicle of the medical detachment and indignantly asked the occupants if he might surrender. It seems that he had patiently been standing there for almost two days but no one paid any attention to him, and he was getting tired.

Nix Forsh-tay

A doughloggers Co G, was being befuddled by a group of frightened civilians at Heesen. It was quite evident that he did not understand the German language. At every inquiry he would automatically nod his head. So mechanical was his delivery that when one German girl asked him what time it was, in surprisingly perfect English, all he did was nod his head in the negative and say in broken German, « N-i-x F-o-r-sh t-ay ! »

GI Sticks to Gun Despite Wounds

Suddenly, there was an explosion. Cement and shrapnel flew. Cries of pain were heard. A Jerry panzerfaust, had just exploded in the passageway in which Pfc Walter Kirk, Co I doughlogger, had been standing.

The crew, manning a heavy machine gun that was set up close by, were knocked unconscious. Dazed momentarily, Kirk raised himself to his feet. His nose and head were bleeding. He tried to operate the machine gun himself, but the weapon would not feed properly.

Lt. Sylvester Smith, of Madina, N. Y., First platoon leader came up thru the passageway, and together with Kirk, covered some men who removed the machine gun and repaired it.

Meanwhile the Jerries were coming down the tracks, towards the Yanks, who were set up in a station, just across the Lippe Canal. The machine gun was placed back in its original position just in time to mow the oncoming Heinies down. Kirk, accompanied the lieutenant and S/Sgt. James Blynn, of Philadelphia to a row of box cars in an attempt to get better observation. Here Kirk removed his helmet, and discovered that a piece of shrapnel had pierced it. A native of Tennessee, he coolly wiped the blood and sweat from his forehead, and kept his gun blazing until the counter-attack was repulsed.

Jerries in Disguise Trapped by Alert GIs

There's a new technique for capturing Germans molesting former slave laborers in cleared but unoccupied towns, according to Lt. Fred Taylor, First Platoon leader of Co. C. You let them capture themselves, so to speak. The technique was proved in Steckby, Germany, recently.

Company C received the report that a squad of Germans with a machine gun had gone into Steckby and harassed the ex-slave laborers. The First Platoon with a T. D. was promptly sent into the town. No soldiers were there.

The slave labor confirmed the fact that some eight German soldiers, fully armed, had been there but had left suddenly without their weapons. A generous supply of German arms backed up their statements. The town was searched thoroughly.

It was not long after that three German cars came cruising through the town as calmly as tourists. Sgt. Albert F. Jones, Walnut, Mississippi, spotted them and hastened to halt the little convoy. Out of the three cars piled seven men and three women, all in civilian clothes.

« Nix soldiers! » they proclaimed as their cars were searched to reveal vast amounts of 45, 32 and carbine ammunition, and on their persons army papers.

With civilian clothing and three women to act as decoys the Heinies figured they could pass without being recognized as Hitler's children.

Surrender at Zerst Climaxes Elbe Drive

How the surrender of Zerst came about as a climax to the Elbe bridgehead was told this week. Co. B was holding an outpost in the Steckby Forest when a column of Jerries were seen marching toward the Elbe from Eicholz.

B doughs were alerted and prepared to pick them off. Lt. John Capararis from Wheeling, W. Va., Co. O., felt he could avoid a fight and he approached the German lead elements. The Jerry C. O. came forward with a white flag and a surrender was immediately effected.

As Capararis returned to his company area, he found several civilians trying to get through the lines. One man kept coming back. He insisted on speaking to the commandant.

« I carry surrender terms of Zerst in my pocket », he said. The man was whisked to the battalion C. O. and to Division Headquarters.

Spring! The time of birds and bees—fleas and lice.

Naziism Completely Crushed

(Continued from page 3)

June 14—The Allied landings in Northern France caused the Germans to loose their vaunted « secret weapons » against London and British coastal areas. The British, who stood up under the ordeal of the 1940-41 aerial blitz, again were subjected to terrific punishment. But June 14, when the first V-1 Rocket, or « buzz bomb » came over, and July 6, 2752 persons were killed and more than 8000 wounded. At the peak of the attacks, the buzz bombs were destroying or damaging more than 17,000 British homes every 24 hours. But the secret weapon didn't achieve its purpose—to terrorize the English into the abandonment of the « unconditional surrender » ultimatum. The invasion of France was pushed with new vigor.

June 23—The Red Army opened a major offensive on the Eastern Front to coincide with the Anglo-American push from the west. Principal objectives were: (a) to knock Finland, Bulgaria and Romania out of the war (b) to cut off and destroy or force withdrawal of German troops in the Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania (c) to increase the pressure on Germany from the East, so that the Nazis could not move their forces between the two fronts (d) to set the stage for the smash into Germany itself. The Red Army's spring offensive carried to the Vistula river opposite Warsaw in central Poland.

June 27—While the British and Canadians held off the Germans at Caen and protected our flank, American 1st Army forces sealed the Normandy peninsula and on this date captured the port of Cherbourg. During the next few weeks, fierce German counterattacks were beaten off by Allied armies struggling to expand the invasion beachhead. By July 27, the invasion area was large enough to permit employment of armor. Spearheaded by hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles, Lt. Gen. G. S. Patton's 3d Army scored the breakthrough at St. Lo and raced across the Brittany peninsula

and deep into France. The British had taken Caen by July 9. By Aug 13, the German 7th Army was trapped between Argentan and Falaise and forced to withdraw. Thousands of enemy prisoners were taken. One of Gen Patton's columns turned east toward Paris and the Siegfried Line. By Aug 20, Patton's men had reached the Seine on both sides of Paris. In the French capital, resistance forces rose against their Nazi oppressors. B/Gen Jacques Leclerc led French armored units into the city and, after sporadic fighting, Paris was surrendered unconditionally by the Germans on Aug 25.

July 30—Following the disaster in France, a group of German officers attempted to overthrow the Nazis and seize control of the German Army in order to bring to an end a war they knew already was lost. Adolf Hitler was injured slightly by a bomb or mine planted in a room where he was conferring with subordinates. The coup failed and an iron control over all phases of German life was instituted, with Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler placed in control of the Army of home.

August 15—A new Allied Army—the 7th—landed in Southern France between Marseilles and Nice to liberate that portion of the country and join with the 3rd and 1st Armies and the British and Canadians for the assault on Germany itself. The new army consisted mostly of American troops shifted from Northern Italy.

August 25—Romania was knocked out of the war by the advancing Russians. King Michael ordered an end to resistance to the Allies and accepted their terms of unconditional surrender. Later, Romania declared war against the Germans.

Sept 1—In Northern France, American troops pushed on to the Maginot Line. On this date, 1st Army patrols crossed into Belgium north of Sedan. Two days later Brussels was liberated. Traveling 225 miles from the Pas-de-Calais area in 4 1/2 days, the British and Canadians rolled through Antwerp. The 1st Army reached the German frontier on a wide front through Bel-

gium. On Sep 15, U. S. troops occupied Maastricht, in Holland, first place in the Netherlands to be liberated. An airborne invasion of Holland, by British and Polish parachute forces in the area of Arnhem was unsuccessful—and costly—when the British 2nd Army was unable to reinforce the airborne troops.

Sept 9—Bulgaria broke relations with and declared war on Germany under pressure from the Soviet Union which previously had ended a long period of friendship with the Axis satellite by announcing a state of war. Bulgaria already was at war with the U. S. and Britain. On this date, the Bulgars asked the Soviets for an Armistice. On Oct 28, a similar armistice was concluded with Britain and the U. S.

Oct 15—Admiral Nicholas Horthy, regent of Hungary, was deposed when he tried to take that country out of the war as an ally of the Germans and conclude peace terms with the Allies. Budapest was occupied by German troops.

Nov-Dec 1944—Having reached the Siegfried Line, Gen. Eisenhower prepared for an all-out smash into Germany. However, in a surprise move, Marshal von Rundstedt, who had assumed command of the German forces on the west, opened a powerful offensive of his own. Using armor and crack S.S. troops, he struck against the weakest held sections of our line, catching us off balance. The German offensive gained about 25 miles on a 30 mile front before it was halted by the combined efforts of the U. S. 1st and 3d Armies, aided by the British and Canadians.

January 1945—Having contained the German drive, the slow and costly job of wiping out the enemy's gains and straightening our lines was begun. The Germans were forced to withdraw and our air forces gave them no mercy, smashing thousands of enemy tanks and vehicles. On Jan 10—The Red Army uncorked its Sunday punch with a drive to capture Berlin and end the war.

February—Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met at Yalta, in the Crimea, to



Drawn by Tec 4 Oliver Weismuller, 908 FA Bn.



ONE MOTHER'S DAY

One day we have for «Mother's Day»,
And yet that cannot be,
For each day, Mother, is your
Since time began for me.
The echo of your warm, sweet
The touch of just your hand,
The knowledge of your constant
Are comforts in this far off land.
Your love that guides my daily
Through paths of trial and care,
Makes one «Mother's Day» but a
Of love for you I bear.

(Pfc. Bascom H. Biggers III),
Co. C

Mortars Pin Jerries Before Doughs Mls

« New meaning was given the old maxim 'In unity there is strength' during the Steckby Forest battle » said Pfc. Frank E. Lawrence of Little Falls, N. Y., weapons platoon runner of Company C who relays fire orders. « When you're dropping shells within 20 yards of your own lines, it really calls for cooperation between platoons and mortar. »

« This was the situation when Company C was taking the brunt of the 12 hour counter-attack.

Considering the huge total of 800 rounds which the Mortar section under the direction of Lt. Albert Spaulding of Poultney, Vt. and Sgt. Guy Waddell of Reistestown, Md., placed in the area from 0530 to 1100, it was something short of amazing that none of their own troops were hit. « That's your cooperation added to skill for you, said Lawrence. »

Riflemen said the firing was so accurate and so effective that it pinned the Jerries down right in their sights where they were able to pick them off.

But this was only the prelude of the Mortar sections activity. When the unit on the left of Co. C was pushed back, the Mortar section found enemy tank and automatic weapons fire originating only 50 yards to their own front.

Under this direct fire, Pfc's James McVeigh of Pittsburgh, Penn., Jeronie Korn of Philadelphia, Penn., and John Kolar of Grantland W. Va. knocked their guns down and with one arm fired their carbines carrying their mortars under the spot as they hastened to follow Spaulding to the now almost surrounded C. P. Here they took up the battle with their pistols and carbines, holding the enemy at bay until the intensity of the battle had worn out.

The boys East of the Elbe, crawled out of their foxholes to spend a day in the sun, American style. A jeep from Co. E, CP, brought up some balls, bats, and gloves, then things started to roll.

The second platoon licked the weapons platoon in easy fashion, pushing seven runs over in the first two innings, and never relinquishing the lead. The second platoon came back fighting with five runs in their half of the third, but the second put the game on ice with four in their half. Final score 12-9. The winning pitcher was Frankie De Carlis with « Bloody Nose » Willman, catching. Urban went all the way for the losers, with Barry behind the plate.

In the second game of the day, which only went six innings, the 1st platoon, squeezed out a narrow victory over the third, coming from behind to beat the latter by a score of 19-16. The game saw the lead change hands four times in six innings but in the fifth stanza, Mays, banged out a homer with one on to put the first back in a 14-14 tie. The third pushed two tallies over in their half of the sixth, only to have the first platoon counter with five more, which was enough to win the game.

Nelson was the winning pincer and went the distance with Murrz, catching. Plesha banged out a four bagger for the losers.

If we're to believe all those doctors who delve into your intimate past to tell you why you're ill, pickles make you hate your Mother-in-law, we're going to have quite a job adjusting ourselves to civilian life. Well that's just the kind of work we're itching for. And we bet there won't be many families handing out section eights to their soldiering members either.

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April—The Allied world mourned the loss of President Roosevelt. His successor, Harry S. Truman, declared U. S. policies would be continued. Allied Armies, sweeping deep into Germany, captured 316,930 prisoners in the Ruhr pocket alone, and linked up with the Russian forces at Torgau. Other Red Army units drove into Berlin from their Oder River bridgehead. Horrors of Nazi camps were revealed when Allied West-front armies liberated thousands of prisoners, deportees, and slave workers. The bulk of Germany's gold reserve, estimated at 200 tons and valued at 200,000,000 dollars was found in a salt mine by Third Army troops. Nazi Diplomat Franz von Papen is the said of many Nazi and Fascist notables captured by the Allies in the sweep across Germany. Hitler's mountain hideout wrecked by « earthquake » bombs. Allied Fifth and Eighth Armies raced across the Po in Italy to split German forces. Benito Mussolini, Italy's Ex-Duce, slain by partisans near Como on the Italo-Swiss border.

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AT Platoon Helps Gain Lippe Canal

In the excitement, and intensity of the battle for the Lippe Canal the 1st Bn's anti-tank platoon, had an opportunity to engage themselves in a little « shooting gallery » practice.

A squad under the leadership of S/Sgt. Clarence Soenberger, of Lancaster, Ohio, and the expert gunnery of Cpl. Mike Karavolos, Winton, W. Va., was able to knock out one Jerry ammo tractor with four rounds, and a Jerry half track with 14 rounds. Both of the targets burst into flame. In order to accomplish this feat, the crew was forced to hand tow the guns some 400 yards into position, while under a heavy enemy artillery barrage.

On another occasion, near Langenstein, the guns fired eight well-aimed rounds at an enemy observation post on a hill, some 700 yards away. Thru field glasses the observer could see the Jerry changing into civilian clothes.

The other members of this crack gun crew are: Pfc James York, Detroit; Pfc Melvin Estis, Alabama; Pfc Frank Kasuba, Leechburg, Pa.; Pfc Steve Provenzano, Elizabethtown, New Jersey; and Pfc James Riley, Kerpec, W. Va.

Lt. Drury Initiates Early Release of PWs

(Continued from Page 1)

Drury refused an invitation to spend the night at Division. He wanted to get back and give the men the good news. The following day at 0700, the first serial of trucks escorted by a German guard drove through enemy lines to the prison camp. These 35 truck serials continued until the camp was cleared.

And then the Colonel and his staff surrendered themselves.

Dough in ETO Visits Mother's Birthplace

« I promised, that I would look up some of the family on my way through Germany », remarked Lt. Lester Anderson, Co I platoon leader, from Portland, Oregon.

Recently when Co I-men occupied five German towns across the Elbe River of the 83rd Bridgehead, Lt. Anderson, found an opportunity to fulfill that promise. He had the address of his great aunt, who lived in Dessau. When he reached the city, he was successful in locating his aunt's home, but he learned that she no longer lived there. She had moved to Dresden because of the great air blitz on Dessau.

His trip was not in vain however, for he met one of the neighboring women, who admitted that she had known his family for over fifty years. He was shown pictures of his mother, and of his whole family. He even found the house in which his mother had lived, when she was three years old.

When we're scrambling in our pockets searching for the eating utensil we've lost we can't help but envy those individuals who were born with a silver spoon in their mouth.

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