

Some Died in Their Shroud Lines on Bloody 'Isle'

By Bud Hutton
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

ISSEL RIVER LINE, Germany, March 25.—American paratroopers today drove eastward from the island of bloody ground they took and held to spearhead the Allied thrust beyond the wrecked gliders, past the black skeletons of fire-raised transport planes and away from the German fields mottled with the colors of their 'chutes.

The paratroopers, remnants of U.S. and British units, struck at enemy forces routed in yesterday's airborne attack.

The 'troopers were back fighting as doughfeet, but even if they should stay earthbound they will always

be the guys who jumped across the Rhine and opened the road to Berlin—and did it the hard way.

The C46 was burning when we hooked up and shoved for the door. Bob Reeder and the rest of the carrier's crew never said a word. They stayed in there and kept up level and we went over the side into a weird sky of bursting flak, lazy tracers and colored silk.

Flak hit the next man in the air and he blew up. Troopers touched the ground and started fighting, but some of them died in their shroud lines.

Col. Jim Coutts, Philadelphia West Pointer, slipped out of his harness, walked through the burp-gun fire and began to attack before he had a battalion,

let alone his 513th Parachute Regt. of the 17th AB Div.

Lt. Col. Ward Ryan, another West Pointer, from Ft. Atkinson, Wis., and the rest of our stick, landed square in the middle of a German artillery CP. Some of the stick died where it hit and some closed on the burp-gun.

It was difficult to be sure, but Pfc Lynn Vaughn, of Georgetown, of the 513th, probably took the first two prisoners. He landed in a tree, slid down, shot one Jerry. The other two quit. Perhaps the first man to kill a German was Sgt. Curtis Gadd, of Cleveland, who unslung his M1 in the air and shot

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PARIS EDITION

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Man Spricht Deutsch

Blacklist of Nazi Organizations
SS—Schutzstaffel,
Nazi Protection Squad.

Ici On Parle Français

Voir, c'est croire.
Vwar say crwar.
To see is to believe.

Vol. 1—No. 242

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Monday, March 26, 1945

Yanks Break Rhine Line, Pour Through Three Gaps

Waiting... A Yank Alert for the Jumpoff



A Ninth Army infantryman, crouching near a building in a German village on the west bank of the Rhine, is silhouetted against the flare of an artillery blast as the guns hammered enemy positions across the Rhine before the Ninth doughs jumped off Saturday morning.

3rd Races 27 Mi., Clears Darmstadt

The U.S. Army punched gaping holes in the German Rhine defenses at three points on a 140-mile front yesterday and armor and infantry were pouring through with an ease that suggested the beginning of the end of the Reich was at hand.

These were the major developments in a day of spectacular gains against an enemy whose resistance was disintegrating in almost every sector:

- 1—The Fourth Armored Div., breaking loose from the Third Army bridgehead in the south, raced suddenly 27 miles east, seized a bridge over the River Main en route and by nightfall was 32 miles beyond the Rhine. Infantrymen of the 90th Div., riding trucks in their wake, captured the important industrial city of Darmstadt, 20 miles south of Frankfurt. Resistance grew weaker and weaker as they went.
- 2—The First Army launched a new offensive, timed in conjunction with the Rhine crossings in the north, and found little resistance after the first main defense had been pierced. Armored spearheads were 14 miles east of the Rhine.
- 3—North of the Ruhr, where three Allied armies had crossed the Rhine only 36 hours before, an American division—the 30th Inf.—drove into open country in what appeared to be a breakthrough like those which followed the Roer crossing.

With the Allies already holding almost one-fourth of the east bank of the Rhine, a German communiqué reported still another crossing by Americans at Poppard, ten miles south of Coblenz. This was confirmed at neither Supreme Headquarters nor Patton's headquarters, but in view of weak German forces reported in that area it was not improbable.

News from other areas was equally good.

In the extreme north, the U.S. Ninth and British Second Armies welded their positions on the east bank of the Rhine above the Ruhr Valley into a strong bridgehead 30 miles long and up to eight miles deep.

The airborne forces were reported early yesterday afternoon to have taken all their objectives—including six bridges across the Issel River, which runs from south to north several miles in from the Rhine.

And in the extreme south the Seventh Army mopped up the last enemy pockets west of the Rhine. The Seventh and Third Armies, in

(Continued on Page 3)

Sorry, no map today—they're going too fast. Had two made up, but they drove right out of both of 'em.

4th Armd. Gets 700 Boxcars Of Nazi Arms

By a Stars and Stripes Correspondent
WITH THIRD U.S. ARMY, March 25.—The Fourth Armd. Div., which in typical fashion is spearheading Gen. Patton's Third Army breakthrough, today captured one of its biggest prizes—700 boxcars filled with unused German half-tracks, large quantities of German uniforms and crated aerial bombs.

Truck-borne infantry of the 90th Inf. Div. were jubilant as they followed up the plunging armor of the Fourth.

It was also revealed that a vicious German counter-attack by 900 crack Wehrmachtlers, who were attending a Nazi officer candidate school, was beaten off by the 11th Regt. of the Fifth Inf. Div.

GIs shot a 12-year-old German girl after she shot two Fifth Div. doughs. Third Army troops have been instructed to shoot on sight all civilians, not wearing Army or Volkssturm uniform, who fire at them.

Soviets Launch 2nd Offensive Toward Vienna

A second group of Soviet armies, under Marshal Rodion Malinovsky, was thrown into the drive for Vienna yesterday.

Swinging into action beside Marshal Feodor Tolbukhin's armies in Hungary, which had just smashed 11 crack panzer divisions and started down the last 80 miles to the Austrian capital, Malinovsky's forces struck out west of Budapest along the south bank of the Danube and punched forward 28 miles.

Marshal Stalin announced the new offensive last night in an order of the day reporting the capture of Esztergom, 20 miles northwest of Budapest; Felsogalla, 27 miles west, and Tata, 35 miles west. At Tata the Russians were only 12 miles from the Danube communications town of Komaron, from which Bratislava is only 54 miles distant. Stalin said more than 200 inha-

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Men Kiss as Airborne, Ground Forces Join

By a Stars and Stripes Correspondent
WITH 17th AIRBORNE GLIDER TROOPS, East of Rhine, March 25.—Men kissed men here this morning.

And it wasn't any pansy party. It was the meeting between ground and airborne forces east of the Rhine.

The junction was made by British tank destroyers which crossed the Rhine by ferry to join U.S. Glider Troops between Emmerich and Wesel.

German Girls and Boys Asked to Join Battles

LONDON, March 25 (UP).—Arthur Axmann, Nazi youth leader, today called upon the Reich's children—girls as well as boys—to throw themselves into Germany's last battles.

"You boys and girls must never capitulate," he declared. "There is no going back for us any longer."

Air Offensive Roars On, Rips Holes in Front

The air offensive roared on unabated yesterday, with 6,500 Allied planes taking the air to blast pathways for breakthroughs along the entire Rhine front.

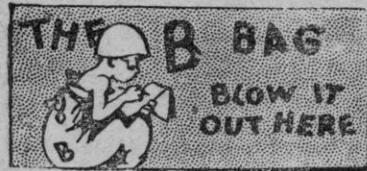
Heavies and mediums smashed German strongpoints, oil dumps and reinforcement centers. Fighter-bombers strafed fleeing Nazi convoys.

The Ninth AF bettered its previous day's mark of 2,600 sorties by a record 2,734. Twenty-ninth TAC flew 741 against rallyards north of the Ruhr. Nineteenth TAC hit heavy rail traffic in the Frankfurt-Giessen-Fulda area, destroyed two ME109s in the air and several on the ground.

The Ninth TAC supported the push out of the Remagen bridgehead. Seven hundred of its medium and light bombers hit a packed railroad yard at Limburg and the yards at Friedburg and Fulda.

USSTAF announced that more

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Casualty

Censor trouble. Too many of these guys think they make the rules all by themselves and we got one of them. We don't mind not being able to write for awhile about the weather, whether there is snow on the ground or not, nor the fact that we got up an hour early a couple of mornings, or that we haven't received any mail for a long time; but this latest one is tops. One of the boys in this outfit wrote home, "Mother today I got a typhoid shot in my arm." The censor cut out the words "a typhoid." This was learned of when this poor woman wrote frantically back to see if her son remained alive.—Cpl. Anon, Inf.

It Works

My platoon has a very simple and effective solution to the problems arising from occupying populated sections of Germany. We put up an "Eintritt Verboten" sign on the platoon area. Then we stop any German in the area and search him or her thoroughly, confiscating all things that might be contraband for a PW and anything else of GI origin. Finally, if the AMG is near the civilian is turned over to them. The word seems to spread fast among the Krauts, because we have never had to stop more than one civilian in any area. It works like a charm.—1/Lt. F. B. Thurber, Combat Engrs.

Lady, We Ain't Wistful!

"Historic Berlin Buildings Said To Be in Ruins" proclaims a headline in The Stars and Stripes and then the article goes on to describe the destruction of buildings in Berlin including the remark that "There is a wistful note about the description (referring to an article in a German paper which told of it) of present-day Berlin"—and so on. In fact the whole thing seems to be not only quoting the article but bemoaning the loss of historical things in Berlin.

Great jumpin' Caesar! What's the big idea? So many historical and beautiful things have been destroyed in England, France and other parts of the world. And then this lament about Berlin. When finally the tide has turned and the war is now being fought on the ground of the people who started this unholy mess, are we to turn about and feel sorry because some of their monuments have been damaged too?—T/5 Caroline M. Chaffee, 3341 Sig. Serv. Bn.

International Language

Someone recently recommended an international newspaper in all languages. Since I am the inventor of an international language not yet published (it being incomplete), I naturally favor an international newspaper. The first step however, should be the adoption of an international language. A large number of our troops have experienced the difficulties in a polylingual theater of operations, from Italian to French to German and now Russian.

Let us perhaps lead the way for an international language, which everybody will learn in addition to his native language.

There are numerous languages of this kind. I think Esperanto is by far the best (next to mine, of course).—1/Lt. Barnett Russell, 424 Inf.

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The War Moves On, the Germans Return—With the Dead



An elderly German civilian couple, hauling the body of a German soldier, move down a street in Neustadt, Germany, as a jeep, loaded with Third Army soldiers, passes on the way to the front.

Reich's Choice: Pulverization Or Unconditional Surrender 25 Acquitted In Black Mart

WASHINGTON, March 25 (ANS).—Germany must choose between unconditional surrender and pulverization, and if it chooses pulverization the Germans will have only themselves to blame for following vicious leadership, government officials said last night.

This point in Allied policy toward Germany was outlined in a broadcast by Assistant Secretary of State James C. Dunn, Robert Murphy, political adviser to Gen. Eisenhower, and Assistant Secretary of State Archibald MacLeish. "This time," said Murphy, "the Germans will not be able to claim they were duped into laying down their arms. They are now witnessing the thing they understand best—superior force of arms."

Murphy declared that "the two most important aspects of the long range treatment of Germany, are re-education of the Germans and re-establishment of the rights of labor."

"It will be necessary to keep Germany under control for a great many years," Dunn said, "but it remains unclear how long actual military occupation will be needed." Dunn said that "Austria would not be combined with Germany in any way within the foreseeable future."

The speakers revealed that no important Nazis have escaped to neutral countries yet, so far as the State Department knows, but it is not entirely satisfied with assurances from neutrals.

Bill Would Provide Increased Pensions

WASHINGTON, March 25 (AP).—Legislation to provide increased benefits for survivors of service personnel who are killed in action or die of combat wounds was introduced by Rep. Robert W. Kean (R-N.J.).

It would give a widow without children \$75 a month, a widow with one child \$97, and \$19 a month for each additional child.

Ships, Planes Blast Ryukyus

GUAM, March 25 (ANS).—Fast battleships and carrier aircraft of the U.S. Pacific Fleet raked four islands of the Ryukyu chain, south of Japan, with bombs and shells Friday and Saturday in a follow-up to the Fifth Fleet's assault on Japan proper earlier in the week.

Almost at the same time that Pacific Fleet headquarters was announcing the blow, more than 200 Marianas-based Superfortresses swung in daringly low over the mammoth Mitsubishi aircraft engine factory near Nagoya in darkness early today and set at least 15 fires in the greatest demolition raid yet to hit Japan.

Three hundred miles southwest of the enemy homeland, guns of U.S. battleships blasted coastal objectives on Okinawa, Japan's guardian island in the Ryukyus, and nearby islands while fast Navy aircraft hunted down Japanese shipping and aircraft.

Formosa, Cebu Hammered By U.S. Heavy Bombers

MANILA, March 25 (ANS).—Heavy bombers dropped 145 tons of bombs on airdromes and the naval air base on Formosa Friday, raided Cebu Island in the central Philippines, dropping 116 tons of bombs, and destroyed or damaged nine freighters and tankers in the China and Sulu Seas, Gen. MacArthur announced today.

How the French Ministry of Information, the MLN, which is France's biggest resistance organization, three Paris journals and a big newspaper circulation agency dipped into American black-market gasoline was disclosed Saturday at a French court martial, which acquitted 25 resistance leaders involved.

Approximately 24,000 gallons of U.S. gas was purchased by the accused organizations from intermediaries who received the gas from American soldiers.

Three alleged ringleaders were sentenced to four years and heavy fines. Col. Fernand Bastide, the Military Prosecutor, asked acquittal for the other 25 defendants after it was established they acted for organizations which bought the gas as a last resort to further legitimate operations.

Testimony showed the French MOI had used the gas to supply transportation as part of its information service to French and Allied correspondents, while the MLN bought it to send men and supplies to FFI groups fighting around St. Nazaire and Lorient.

30th, 79th Divs. Led 9th's Rhine Crossing

WITH NINTH U.S. ARMY, March 25.—The veteran 30th Inf. Div., commanded by Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs, and the 79th Inf. Div., under Maj. Gen. Ira T. Wyche, were identified today as the outfits spearheading the Ninth Army's powerhouse drive across the Rhine yesterday.

The 30th Old Hickory Div. has been in combat since D-plus-4. The 79th Cross of Lorraine Div. landed in Normandy on D-plus-6.

Sanctions Put Teeth in U.S. Curfew Order

NEW YORK, March 25 (ANS).—Federal war agencies stepped into the muddled curfew situation today with a system of sanctions designed to force nationwide observance of the midnight deadline.

New York's Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia stood by his 1 AM curfew, however. Bars, nightspots and just plain joints were settling it for themselves—some closing at midnight, some at 1 AM.

The sanctions system was the result of a week of conference between the War Manpower Commission, the Office of War Mobilization and the War Production Board. Washington said the plan would work this way: When WMC area directors report a curfew violator, WMC will give the establishment a manpower priority rating of zero. This means the establishment is not entitled to any employees except maintenance workers.

If the violation continues, WMC will certify the case to the War Production Board, which will hold hearings to determine if critical war materials such as electricity, fuel oil or gas are being wasted. WPB can bar the establishment from obtaining critical items necessary for continued operations.

At Albany, the New York State Assembly, in the closing hours of its legislative session, killed a bill requested by Mayor LaGuardia. The bill would have made it illegal to keep nightclubs and taverns open after midnight for the sale of liquor.

U.S. Editorials Hail Crossings As Last Round

NEW YORK, March 25 (AP).—Terming the West Front offensive the "last round," the "knockout" and other synonyms for "finis," the U.S. press today unanimously hailed the Rhine crossings as the climactic punch.

The New York Herald Tribune said: "It is the last round for a system built on blood and iron, on lies and threats, on contemplated denial of all those humane values which civilization has been slowly and painfully amassing through the centuries."

The Washington Star said: "This is it—the long-awaited climactic smash."

The Washington Post said the offensive "will doubtless be the last campaign of the war in Europe," and that "fighting continues only because the German nation, under the complete control of ruthless masters, does not know how to surrender."

The New York Times said that "never before has history been more inexorable in carrying out the stern command that 'all they that take up the sword shall perish with the sword.'"

AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK

Table with columns for 'Time' and 'TODAY' listing various radio programs and their broadcast times.

Warweek

Surrender is a Stumper for the Nazis
Bonn's Fall a Tactical Masterpiece
A Gestapo Prison Where Death Revelled

Monday, March 26, 1945

WARWEEK—THE STARS AND STRIPES

Page 3



Col. Gen. Ludwig Beck—His conspiracy plot against Hitler fizzled.

GERMAN armies are pressed in by Allies driving for the kill. From reports leaking out of the Reich, the situation seems hopeless. Still they fight. By simple reasoning, the Nazi General Staff should be seeking peace in hopes of saving what little remains. This, the inside story of last summer's attempt on Hitler's life, tells why...

They Can't Give Up!

By John J. Christie

Warweek Staff Writer

THE last hope of Germany laying down its arms voluntarily ended with the unsuccessful attempt on Hitler's life last July 20. This was an event that cannot be dismissed as merely failure to get one man—Hitler. Rather, it must be viewed as having been the occasion for liquidating, or completely shackling, all Nazis capable of arranging peace or accepting surrender. Details of what actually happened on that sultry July day filtered through rigid Nazi censorship for weeks after the event and its real significance was pretty well surmised. However, the true and complete inside story of the affair and actual extent to which it eliminated all possibility of an earlier end to the war were told for the first time this week by one of the conspirators found hiding in a town seized by First Army troops.

Reliability of this informant, who not only handled minor details of the plot, but was an intimate friend of prominent personalities involved, is a matter of record because of his past dealings with Allied and neutral sources dating back to the start of the war.

Hitler's Speech "Canned?"

From contacts in touch with Hitler's private physician, the informant claims to have learned that the Führer's injuries far exceeded what has been claimed by other sources. He says Hitler suffered a partial speech paralysis which may have become chronic and resulted in deafness in one ear.

As further evidence of the speech impediment, he cites Hitler's famous speech of January 30, the first in several months, as being a recording. Proof, he said, lies chiefly in the fact that it was broadcast without the customary introduction by Berlin radio. Also, he claimed that the grating of the needle could be detected in the radio reception in Germany.

The weapon with which Gen. Von Stauffenberg, the actual would-be assassin, was equipped was a special high explosive bomb no larger than a hen's egg and containing a time-fuse device. What later proved to be an "unfortunate" feature of the gadget, said the informant, was that it was designed for use in an air-raid bunker which customarily served as Hitler's CP.

Von Stauffenberg had business July 20 at Hitler's field headquarters near Loetzen, in the Mansurian Lakes district. It concerned a visit scheduled for that day by Mussolini for the purpose of formally turning over two Italian divisions for service in the Wehrmacht. It was Mussolini's visit that led Hitler to use the summer lodge that day rather than the air-raid shelter. The much less confining quarters of the large meeting room



in the lodge tended to lessen effectiveness of the explosive.

The General carried the explosive in his brief case along with the manuscript of the report he was to make. As he approached Hitler's desk, he placed the case at his feet before rendering the party salute. Hence, the brief case was beyond Hitler's range of vision and Von Stauffenberg was able to plant his charge undetected. He did it by sliding the bomb out of the case with his report and, with the same motion, flicking the fuse mechanism. As he read the report, he slowly moved the gadget unnoticed with his foot toward where Hitler sat.

The informant said the report was timed approximately for ten minutes with a little lee way for formalities on leaving and that the bomb was set for 20 minutes.

As Von Stauffenberg prepared to leave, Hitler arose and strolled over to a closet where he kept his personal belongings. The General waited a safe distance from the house until he heard the explosion. Then he rushed back inside. He found Hitler half buried beneath burning rubble. Others in the room appeared either dead or seriously wounded. He shook Hitler, made a hasty check and, believing him dead, rushed to his waiting plane.

A provisional central government, headed by Col. Gen. Ludwig Beck, the Nazi General Staff's "master mind," assembled in Berlin to await arrival of Von Stauffenberg for details of Hitler's "death." Plans called for immediate arrest of Nazi higher-ups in Berlin on

orders signed by Beck, and prompt transmittal of orders to all command echelons of the German Home Forces directing the arrest elsewhere in the Reich of key Nazis both military and civilian. And, ready to take over control of civil administration in each political sub-division of the country were persons politically prominent in pre-Nazi Germany.

A Foiled-Up Plot

Without further checking, Von Stauffenberg had announced to the new provisional government on his arrival in Berlin that Hitler was dead. As a result, the conspirators began carrying out their plans.

Among the first slated for arrest in Berlin was Goebbels. The bungling of this phase of the plot did as much as anything else to blunder the whole venture.

Sent to make the arrest was a conspiring major on the staff of Gen. Hase, commandant of the Berlin area. His orders were simply to tell Goebbels that Hitler was dead, that a new government under Beck had taken over. Then he was to arrest the half-pint propaganda mouthpiece without further ado.

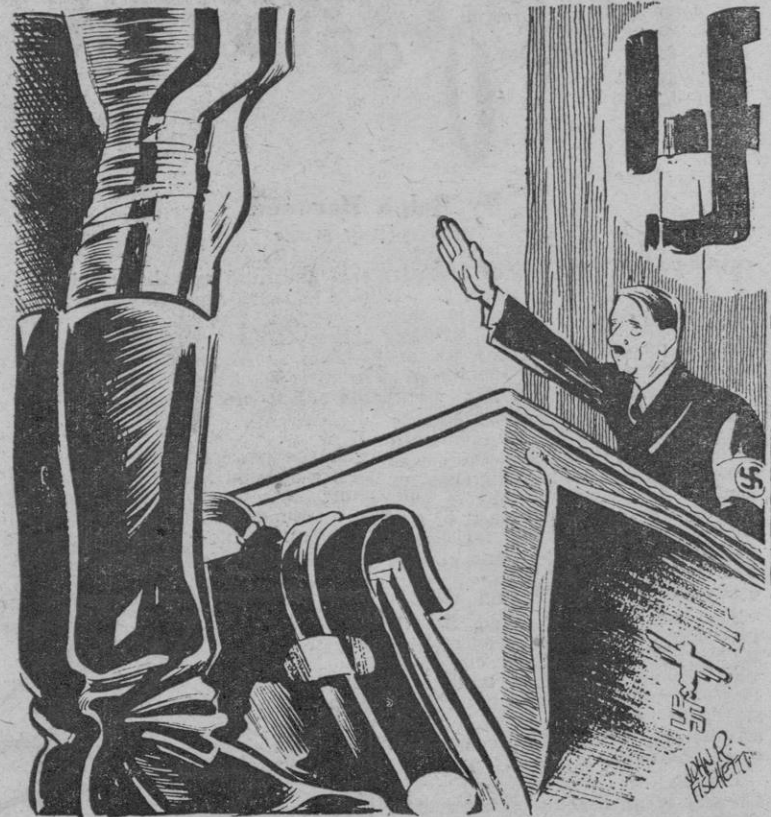
The sly, quick-witted Goebbels took a long shot by flatly denying the report and offering to prove it false by calling Hitler's headquarters. All lines from Goebbels' office were to have been cut but a private line leading to Hitler's CP was overlooked. Within hearing distance of the major, Goebbels got his connection. Hitler had regained consciousness sufficiently to say a few words.

Conspiracy Roundup

With this defeat, the major lost his nerve and fell into the hands of the suave propaganda minister.

"This major was a very poor choice," said the informant, "because he was not one of the traditional German military caste of the type who engineered the plot but one who owed his rise in the army to the party. Aside from the fact that he became awed by Goebbels and the phone call to Hitler, he failed to perform his duty. That was to take Goebbels into custody without question or discussion."

The result was that Goebbels assigned his personal guard to accompany the major to where the provisional government was assembled. The guard escort was ordered to round up all the members. Several of the conspirators, including Von Stauffenberg, were killed when Goebbels' men swooped down on the place. Beck attempted suicide—but failed. He was finally



shot to death at his own request by his chief, Gen. Fromm.

Meanwhile, transmission of Beck's conspiracy orders was already in progress in the signal center at Army Personnel Headquarters. However, when messages arrived discrediting the report of Hitler's death the communications center was thrown into confusion and many of the teletype operators refused to transmit orders of the conspirators.

According to my informant failure to obtain confidence of signal center personnel—particularly the teletype operators—was a blunder perhaps even worse than the mishandling of Goebbels' arrest. He contends that if the orders had been transmitted, the plot might have worked despite all Goebbels could do to squelch it.

Only a few of the commanders who came into possession of communications signed by Beck tipped their hands. Preferring to await further developments, they had



managed to be away from their CP's even to the extent of riding aimlessly around the front. A few flatly rejected the orders.

The commander who committed himself to the limit was Gen. Stuepnagel, then military commander of Paris. He went so far as to arrest the entire SD (Nazi Security Police). By the time he realized the plot had failed, he had no alternative but to flee. His fate was weirdest of all the conspirators. Stuepnagel left Paris in his big limousine. Accompanied by his chauffeur and an aide, he drove to Verdun where, as a young lieutenant, he had fought his last battle for Germany in the last war. Leaving his car, he walked to the edge of a canal and shot himself through the temple. Hearing a splash in

the water, his chauffeur and aide ran to the scene and managed to fish his body out of the canal. Stuepnagel had blinded himself in his suicide attempt and was later hanged with a bandage still over his eyes.

According to my informant, Hitler's vengeance reached an all-time high. He said that by November, between 1,200 and 1,500 persons were executed in the determination to wipe out everyone even remotely connected with the plot.

A 'Breather' for World War III

The Nazi Party immediately exerted rigid control of the armed forces all the way along the line to prevent further attempts by old-guard military men to get out of line. In addition to the hundreds executed, scores of lesser lights politically active before the Nazis came into power were thrown into concentration camps. He reported that generally these camps were mined so that, when the staffs were forced to flee, the prisoners would be killed before Allied troops had an opportunity to capture them.

My informant claimed to be well acquainted with Beck's aims. He said the purpose of the provisional government simply was to create a bargaining agent for the discussion of armistice terms. He said it was hoped the Allies could be sold on the idea that a reliable government had replaced the Nazis and that armistice terms would be preferable to having to battle all the way through Germany. He also contended it was Beck's conviction only the Army high command could accept responsibility for military defeat in order to escape repetition of the charge that Germany's defeat was due to a stab in the back by a political minority at home.

"It's pretty difficult to figure just what would have happened if the plot had succeeded," the informant said in conclusion. "However, from your standpoint it may be well that it failed despite what Beck had said about the high command accepting responsibility for defeat. Now there is absolutely no grounds for it ever being claimed the German Army was not defeated but sold out by traitors."

Also, the conspirator reluctantly was forced to admit against his better interests that the provisional government was actually a traditional military-industrial clique which hoped to save what it could and preserve itself for a future German comeback."

"Call It Professional"



By Ralph Harwood
Warweek Staff Writer

THE Rhine River city of Bonn fell fast and hard and the speed of the victory can be set down as a tribute to savvy and tactical boldness. The operation, its conception and execution, was an almost perfect example of the American soldier's ability to size up a situation fast, determine upon a solution to the problem as recognized and carry it through to a victorious conclusion. The First Division did a job on Bonn—a nice, clean military job. You could call it professional.

If the place had been but hastily defended then it would have been a different matter. But there was a long-standing plan of defense for Bonn. There were troops to execute it, and the approaches to the city were sticky with fast-firing anti-aircraft guns, as many a pilot who had flown too close to this erstwhile flak nest would testify.

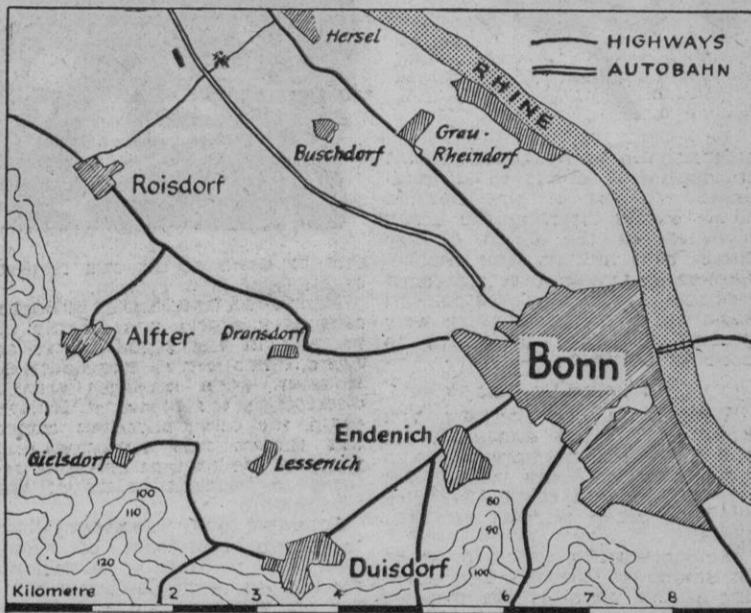
All these guns—clip-fed 20, 75 and 88mm. pieces emplaced on the high ground from two to four miles out around the city—could also fire flat. The direct fire of such stuff on exposed roads can be murderous. Bonn had the makings of a tough nut to crack.

Usually, an outfit drawing a job the size of an assault on Bonn has plenty of time to pore over maps and intelligence reports in advance. On March 6, however, First Army, acting swiftly to exploit the situation west of the Rhine following the Cologne collapse, made some shifts in units and objectives. In the course of these shifts the First Division sector was widened to include Bonn, and the division originally slated to take the city was pulled southward.

Systematic Tactics

Prior to its new assignment, the Fighting First, which had swept eastward from the Roer River in a sustained series of night attacks while protecting the flank of the corps which took Cologne, had had little to look forward to since completion of its principal mission. Cologne had fallen, and it simply remained for the division to close up to the Rhine in an area which included little more than a few villages and, of all the breaks, the Bonn sewage disposal plant.

So the powers of the First Division welcomed the change in plans, short notice or no notice. The First is a proud outfit, and the name of Bonn would go well alongside the name of Aachen. The division



DEATHBLOW TO BONN delivered through area shown on map. Assault columns stabbed into city from Roisdorf and Duisdorf.

had delivered plenty of times before on fast orders, and probably would again. No one was going to get very excited on that score.

Besides, anticipating a possible revision of plans, the First had sent back to Army for the latest air photo maps of the Bonn area the day before. Thus it was that, within a few hours of receiving the order to take Bonn, two regiments of the division, the 16th and the 26th, had begun the job of cleaning off the series of low hills protecting the city from the west.

Taking 'em by Surprise

By the end of the seventh, the 26th Infantry had knocked off six villages northwest of Bonn and wiped out the last resistance in the sizable town of Bruhl. A cavalry group, attached to the First Division when its sector was widened, mopped out the area west of Bruhl and fanned units into the flat country to the east bordering the river north of Bonn. The northern flank of the division was secured.

In the division's center, west of the doomed city, the 16th Infantry in the same period swept through 14 more villages and small towns along the low hills, taking over Roisdorf and Alfter. At the bottom of the arc the 18th Infantry, the First's other regiment, moved in to take over the high ground southwest of Bonn which had been won and was being held by the 60th Infantry of the Ninth Division.

The notorious Bonn ack-ack defenses proved every bit as rough as expected when the division closed in on them during the seventh, and elements of the Ninth Division which bored in earlier west of

Duisdorf had anything but easy going. The tacticians of the First, while having no intention of butting the outfit against any more of this automatic fire than could be helped, still could not see waiting for the artillery to take out the Kraut emplacements one at a time before moving on into the city.

So they decided to slash through the German defenses under cover of darkness in the type of move

Speed was the keynote of the attack on Bonn. The enemy was never given the chance to recover from the crippling blow dealt him when a flying column raced boldly through the heart of his defenses at the beginning of the assault. What might have been a costly siege—costly in time and lives—was turned into a swift mopping-up operation.

the enemy would least expect under the circumstances. That's where the business of savvy comes in. If there is any outfit that knows the German inside and out and is able to figure what he'll do or not do at any given moment, it's the First. They've earned this insight in innumerable battles and brushes from Africa to the Reich's "sacred" soil itself. They had outguessed the enemy before; they could do it again, they felt.

During the night of the seventh and the early hours of the eighth, two battalions of the 16th Infantry quietly coiled their vehicles into column in Roisdorf and waited. At

last, in the hour before dawn, scores of exhausts shattered the stillness as one, and the column began to move—straight out the main highway toward Bonn.

As the line of vehicles reached open country—German-held country—the drivers floor-boarded it. There was some wild fire, but the surprise was working beautifully. The column didn't pause until it had knifed completely into the city, and then only long enough to shoot away and roll up what little startled resistance was encountered.

The Jump-off

Pressing steadily, the two battalions passed from one block to another until, by 0900, they had units solidly on the Rhine some 400 yards north of the then still intact bridge. The 16th's mission of taking the northern half of the city was well on the way to being accomplished.

The 18th Infantry, whose mission was to take the southern half of Bonn, moved from its high ground southwest of the city at the same time as the 16th jumped off on its dash from Roisdorf. Their plan was the same: to barrel it through Duisdorf and Eindhoven, if possible, and on into the city proper.

At Duisdorf, however, a stiff fight developed. The enemy was set up there in considerable strength, and the regiment had no choice but to clean him out before continuing on toward Bonn. This took until 0900, after which one battalion was sent east to block the roads to the south and secure the division's right flank against an undetermined number of the enemy in the direction of Bad Godesberg.

A second battalion was sent on to Bonn to carry out the 18th's mission. The remaining battalion stayed in Duisdorf for the moment, letting the situation in the vicinity clear a bit before it, too, went forward.

A Policing-Up Job

By mid-morning by-passed enemy elements south of the highway traversed by the fast-flying 16th, as well as the dual-purpose batteries to the northeast across the Bonn-Cologne autobahn, had belatedly recovered from their surprise and were trying to make up for their remissness. Any vehicle that showed on the Roisdorf-Bonn road now drew plenty of everything from small-arms and light automatic fire to the 20mm, and heavier automatic artillery stuff.

Far from considering the men already in Bonn as isolated, however, the remaining battalion of the 16th merely got going with the business of policing up the area, as men of the First call it. By mid-afternoon the by-passed enemy in the Roisdorf-Duisdorf-Bonn wedge was smoked out, and artillery and assault parties accounted for several of the guns which were laying direct fire on the 16th's highway.



Two First Division doughs cautiously look toward the blasted bridge in distance which spanned the Rhine at Bonn. The knocked-out Kraut Mark VI, at the right, was still hot after burning.

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photos

Farther south, one local counter-attack was launched in the afternoon by some 200 of the enemy equipped with several self-propelled guns toward Duisdorf. It could have been embarrassing in view of the 18th's extended situation at the time, except that division artillery caught the Germans in the act. And that was the end of their effort.

By early evening, two battalions of the 18th had penetrated into Bonn—the battalion from Duisdorf having followed in as the outlying area quieted. Shortly after nightfall they tied in to the 16th on the north within the city and to the 18th's roadblocking battalion on the south.

During the night of the eighth, the First made an attempt to seize the Rhine bridge, and had armor poised in case the Germans pulled another Remagen boot. The charges were detonated in time, however, and at daybreak of the ninth it could be seen that the spans were hopelessly wrecked.

The situation developed swiftly within Bonn during the morning of the ninth. The whole plan for the defense of the city had obviously been punctured by the 16th's stabbing drive to the river the morning before. Both regiments went ahead with cleaning out their sectors—eliminating scattered, last-ditch resistance and rounding up

(Continued on Page 6)



A Frau totes armful of shoes—loot from blitzed Bonn shop.

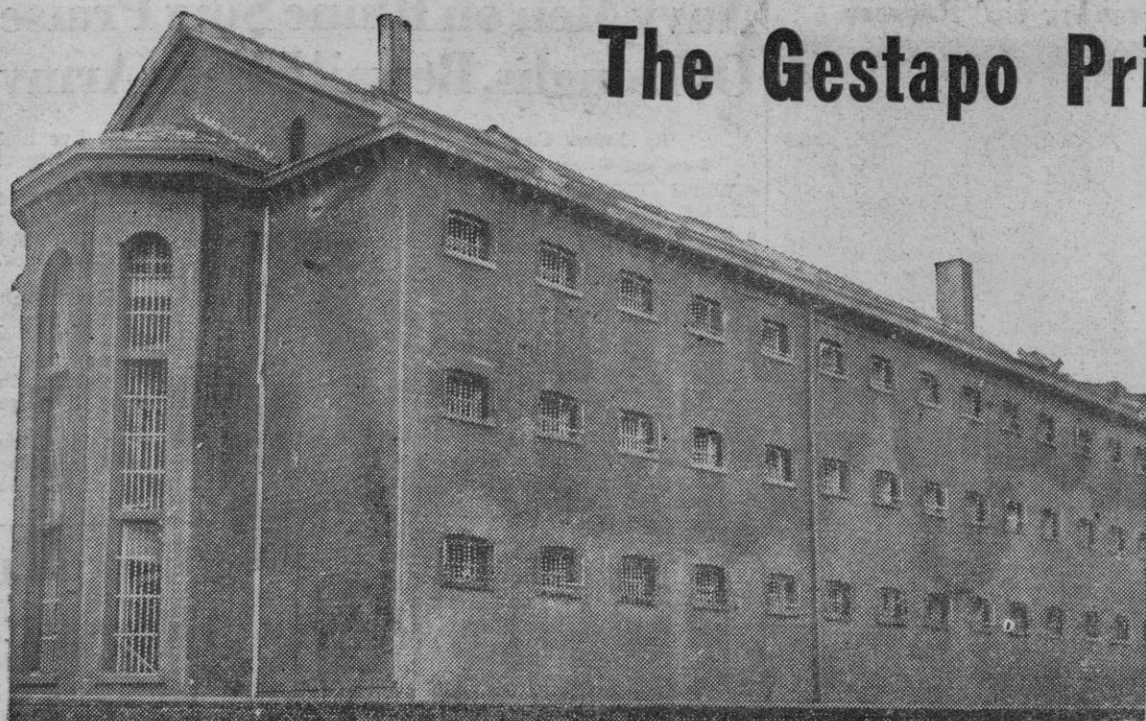


A dough—and Beethoven—survey Mars handiwork in fallen Bonn.

The Gestapo Prison at Cologne Was a

Nazi Death House

**A Living Hell Was the Lot for
The Starved, Tortured Victims
Inside These Bleak Stone Walls**



By Dan Causin
Warweek Staff Writer

THE warden of the Staats Gefaengnis in Cologne was a pudgy man of medium height with a florid complexion. And when he drank heavily his face became splotchy, the tiny veins in his heavy jowls looked almost purple, and his eyes were bloodshot and watery. The messenger clicked his heels smartly, saluted and turned to leave. The warden leaned back in his chair and mulled the plan over in his mind. The clock on his desk ticked along toward seven—that gave him four hours' leeway—and the box of hand grenades had been locked in the closet.

Before 11 o'clock the warden was to remove all of the prisoners who could walk. There were at least 75 that couldn't walk and the grenades were for them. One in each cell—and the Americans would hear no rumors of Gestapo methods when they reached the prison.

There was plenty of time. He would have a drink. The armagnac was in the closet next to the grenades and there was a water glass to drink from. He poured half a glass of the stuff and gulped it down. He sat for a moment breathing heavily, his face flushed with drink, and filled the glass again.

The 11th Hour!

Three hours passed and it was after ten o'clock. The warden stirred drowsily and fumbled in his

where he had kept the grenades, shrugged and stumbled down the stairs and into the cool night air. He would get away.

Minutes later, Lt. Col. Jack Bowles, Ft. Smith, Ark., led a patrol of 3rd Armored Division doughs into the walled courtyard, past four newly-dug graves and into the building. One wing was still standing intact after months of bombing.

The young colonel and his party hurried through the steel gates and into a long hall, flanked on either side by long rows of numbered cells. Glancing upward you could see a skylight, affording the only view the prisoners had of the outside world. On each of the four floors were more than 50 steel cages.

You Have Come. . .!

In the first cell was an emaciated little man, slumped against the wall on the cold stone floor, staring blindly at the opposite wall. He was in a coma and his wrists were bleeding from the bonds which had been cut an hour before when the guards unlocked the cells.

Lt. Col. Samuel B. Frank, Cleveland, O., Army medical inspector, examined the bruised and battered man, then bandaged his wrists where the twine had cut deep into the flesh.

The party continued down the

Photographs by Jack McNulty, Warweek staff cameraman, who followed First Army infantrymen into the Gestapo's Staats Gefaengnis in Cologne.

pocket for the key to the closet—had to get the grenades ready. The key wasn't in his pocket. He stood up unsteadily and fished through his other pockets. Then he decided to have another drink. He would force the lock.

A few minutes before 11 o'clock he knocked the empty bottle of armagnac from the table, rose and reeled toward the door. In the halls the guards were scurrying through the cell blocks, unlocking the cells and ordering the prisoners to assemble downstairs. The Americans were minutes away.

The warden glanced at the closet



A wooden cross, a newly-dug grave—refuge from inhuman Nazis.

corridor to a cell marked "42." The room was less than nine feet long and four feet wide. A single, dirty cot was the sole piece of furniture. On the cot were two young girls, so thin their bones bulged through the skin. A man sat on the edge of the cot, eyes sunken and glazed.

As the Americans entered, the man looked up uncertainly—as though expecting a beating. He hesitated, his lips quivering with emotion, and then cried tearfully in broken English: "You have really come! You, Americans, have come at last! Thank God! Thank God!"

The colonel assured him that the doctor would be around in a moment to attend to them.

Slow Death

"Help them, please," the man said excitedly. "The blonde girl is my wife," he blurted. "The other is my sister—she is only 17. They have starved us. They tried to kill us slowly."

The doctor hurried into the cell and examined the two unconscious women. Their stomachs were so shrunken from the single slice of black bread and the bowl of watery soup which was the daily diet at the Gestapo prison, that they could take no food directly.

Their lives, the doctor said, might be saved by feeding them intravenously. It was a miracle, he said, that they remained alive at all. The average person would live only two months on such a diet. The victims could feel themselves die slowly, horribly, and they could watch the others around them.

The systematic Germans had devised a systematic means for dealing with those who opposed their ideas and doctrines.

Here is the story the man told: "We lived in Roermond, Holland, and we were brought here by the Gestapo at the end of January be-

cause we had been hiding three escaped Russian slave laborers. When we got here we were kept standing in the halls for several hours. Finally, one of us asked where we were to go.

One Died Each Week

"With that, the guards set upon us with whips, shouting: 'We will gladly show you where to go—this way, please!' Then they chased us up and down the four flights of stairs, flogging us at each landing. Finally, we were thrown, bloody and exhausted, into our cells."

The Dutchman said that the Germans refused to allow him to see his wife or his sister in prison. He was thrown into a cell with eight other prisoners. There was not enough space to lie down and sleep. One died each week—last week's victim had been an old man. He died without seeing his son who was in a different cell on the floor above.

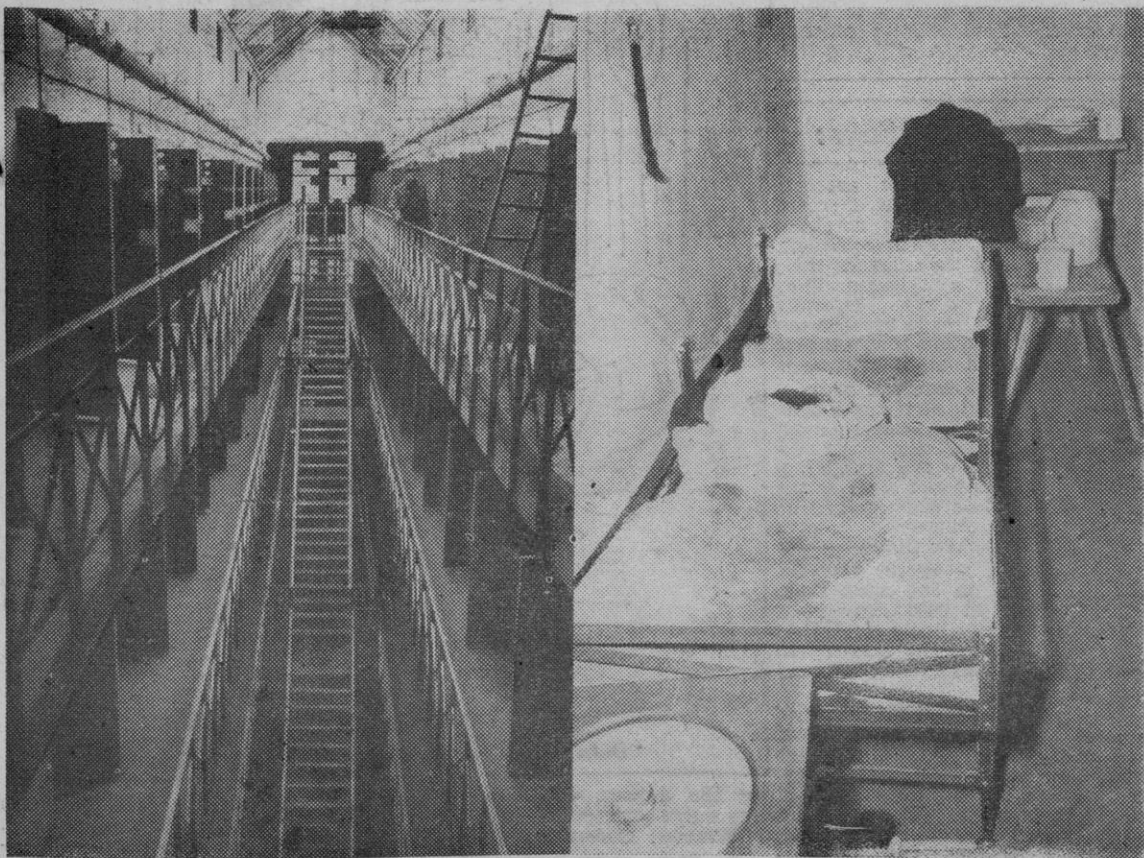
The doughs were suddenly startled by wild shrieking in the hall. Several of the Americans rose to look into the corridor. A gaunt, wild-eyed man was running down the stairs and screaming hysterically.

It Was Fragile

"Pay no attention to him," the Dutchman said. "He has lost his mind. They tortured him and he is crazy now like the old professor in cell 84."

That was how it was all through the Gestapo prison in Cologne. We found them there and heard their stories because the warden drank the armagnac and forgot to kill the 83 who were left half-alive the night the doughs came.

They all told grim stories of torture, starvation and brutality. It was tragic and touching to the Yanks—like the case of the pretty



Death Row—last mile for many. Prisoners were herded into these cell blocks to die like flies. The "New Order" hit an all-time high in barbarism.

A blood-splattered mattress, a crumpled heap of clothes—mute testimony of a young woman's death on this bed after torture by Gestapo henchmen.

(Continued on Page 6)

Gliders Land, Some Lucky, Some Pyres

By Ed Clark

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
WITH 17TH AIRBORNE DIV., East of Rhine, March 24 (Delayed). —It's hard to describe a glider landing adequately, particularly when it's made in the heart of enemy territory, with fighting going on all about. Too much happens too fast.

Some lucky gliders made it without a scratch, others became funeral pyres.

One glider, ripped through and through with ack-ack, crashes nose-on deep into the loamy earth. Not a man comes out. In a few seconds fire started by tracers roars through the fabric.

Trying desperately to land before they are destroyed, other gliders smash through fences, rip through wires, crash into grounded ships. Men who are unhurt tumble out of the last ships.

Despite the losses, the number of glider troops on the field and nearby increases. Those who have made it must now reach their pre-arranged assembly point.

Then they start to flush the Jerries out of farmhouse strong-points and the nearby gun positions. Many prisoners are taken, many Jerries are killed.

A Lot of 'Chutes on Road

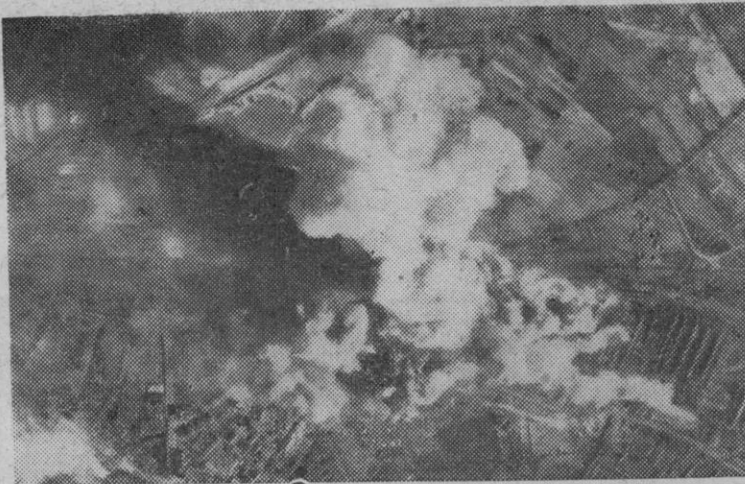
There are a lot of 'chutes down the road, some free, others with men still in the harness. They are the paratroops who dropped before the glider landings. Some of the men look at the faces of the dead paratroops.

German ack-ack opens up from across the fields and Liberators come swooping in at 50 feet, parachute loads of supplies breaking out of their bomb bays. Easier to hit than ducks, the big ships don't give a damn about what's coming at them. One of them gets it, crashes, burns quickly and brightly.

It's getting late in the afternoon. Outfits are beginning to find each other. Then learn that rough as it looked, many are still living. A few men smile, call out to each other.

Then they dig holes for the night.

First Comes the 'Softening Up' Process



Ninth Air Force Photo

Bombs from Ninth AF medium and light bombers "soften up" Dinslaken for the ground forces. This photo, showing direct hits on a steel rolling mill in the rail center just north of Duisburg, was taken two days ago; yesterday the Ninth Army occupied the town.

Some Died in Shroud Lines In Capture of Bloody 'Island'

(Continued from Page 1)

A Nazi soldier who was beating his horse to a gallop across the field. Mostly the paratroopers figured the firsts didn't matter. They got out of their colored silk and started slugging.

As Col. Coutts and the main force fought southward, the regimental executive officer started out from the Nazi CP past the dead Americans and the dead Germans with what got to be known after seven hours of fighting as Task Force Ryan.

Task Force Ryan never had more than 40 men, including medics, but it took more than 100 prisoners.

Side by side with the paratroopers fought the glider pilots who wheeled their craft down to the fields as the troopers started shooting. Some of the gliders crashed and some were hit by mortar fire and burned.

F/O Billy Hill, a gliderman from Brewster, Ala., grabbed a Tommy-gun and tacked on to Task Force Ryan, "madder than hell because a mortar busted that lovely old glider after I got it down right."

A lot of brave men lived, and it's hard to tell about the thing the way it should be until you can get away from it. But you'll go from one end to the other of the island in the middle of the German Army that the paratroopers took and held and there'll never be a braver man than Old Doc Moir.

Doc Moir is a major and he comes from Medford, Wis. He's the regimental surgeon. They gave Doc Moir and the medics a red cross on their tin hats and an armband.

It's against the rules to shoot at medics but a lot of them got shot yesterday. But all day, from the moment he went out of another burning C46, Bill Moir was out where the Schmeisser fire popped loudest, walking among the mortars to help the hurt and make it easier for the ones he couldn't help.

Probably he didn't plan it that way but what Doc Moir was when the chips were down made the paratroopers better fighting men. The guys who charged German emplacements with gun butts and knives figure Doc Moir was a brave guy.

20mm. pieces were added to the division's bag of Bonn's artillery defenses.

By mid-afternoon of March 9 the city was declared cleared, all organized resistance having ceased. At approximately 1900 the division was reported out of contact with the enemy throughout its sector.

Within 72 hours of the time the division was notified of its assignment to take Bonn, the battle had been planned, fought and finished. It was a strictly business-like job which shows up, as under a spotlight, what the "secret" American weapon of resourcefulness-combined-with-initiative can do.

Position maps of the Pacific Theater tell a story of the same sort. Out in the islands, by-the-book Japs have been dying by companies and regiments simply because they can't seem to come through in the clutch and improvise a clean, fast, soldierly solution to a new situation. American soldiers can. That's one reason why they are winning both in Germany and the Pacific.

Prison...

(Continued from Page 5)

alive when the Americans entered the prison died the first day. They were buried in the courtyard, near the other "our freshly-dug graves —and a cross was erected with the inscription: "Here lie eight accomplishments of the Gestapo." The GIs were stunned at what they saw.

They had heard about things of this sort that the Germans did—Lidice, Oradour, Lublin and the others—but seeing it first-hand was different than reading about it.

One of the doughs stood in the courtyard looking at the graves and mumbling, "Why those dirty b——s!" And he just stood shaking his head as though he was trying to forget the odor, the filth and

the horror of the Staats Gefangt. The Americans finally saw it for themselves because a warden who drank too much armagnac forgot the key to the closet where he was keeping the grenades with which to obliterate another sordid chapter in the story of Greater Germany. Several 3rd Armored Division men welcome the chance to write part of the final chapter of that story.

Old Sergeant Says:

These excerpts from a German sniper's notebook need no comment, they teach their own lesson. They were carefully made because ten successful shots mean that a Kraut rifleman gets a seven-day furlough.

1. 29 Dec. 44, Sector of 1 platoon, 7 Co. 982 VG Regt., above road bend at a distance of 400 meters (about 450 yds.) Three enemy soldiers standing talking to one another in a group. I aimed and fired at the one in the middle who doubled up and fell to the ground.
Witness: Observer Cpl.

2. 1 Jan. 45, in Sector of 6 Co. 982 VG Regt., on the wood road, near bunker. At 0900, right after a relief of sentries, one soldier stood still. I fired and the soldier fell and was immediately carried away by two others.
Witness: Observer Cpl.

3. 1 Jan. 45, in the same Sector and on the same wood road. Three men came to the right of the dug-out. I got the middle one in my sights and he fell over on his side. Time 0920.
Witness: Observer Cpl.

4. Same sector and place. A soldier who was standing in a connecting trench, immediately in front

Navy Men on Rhine Sing Praise Of Doughs, Bewail Life in Army

By James Cannon
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH U.S. NAVY ON THE RHINE, March 25.—You can't have a girl in every port when the MPs pick you up for fraternization.

Anyway, the only female along this section of the Rhine was the LCVF Bunny and the members of a Navy crew—Petty Officer Joseph Doyon, of Seattle; Seaman 1/c Earl Barber, of Winston Salem, N.C.; WO Ed Warnoc, of Charlotte, N.C., and Coxswain Mark LeCuyer, of Aurora, Ill.—were too busy to do any flirting.

"I'll take the ocean," said Doyon. "At sea you always have a warm

bed and hot meals. All I've had since I've been with the Army is a foxhole and K rations."

"I admire the infantrymen," said Barber. "And I've learned a lot from them. They can hear a shell miles off. When they duck, I duck. They're never wrong."

They all agreed that the assault crossing of the Rhine was easier than they had expected.

"Buster," said Warnoc, "we're proud as hell to say we worked with these doughboys. What they go through!"

The great sigh of an incoming shell swept in over the Rhine. The soldiers fell flat and waited. So did the sailors.

Air Fleets Rip Holes in Front

(Continued from Page 1)

than 250 Liberators attacked three buried German oil storage depots near Brunswick and Hamburg. This attack was designed to prevent Nazi fuel from reaching the Rhine front. The Liberators were attacked by small formations of jet planes but destroyed four jets with small losses.

First TAF planes, handicapped by bad weather, flew only 600 sorties. Three road and rail bridges in the Heidelberg-Stuttgart area were destroyed and four others damaged. A convoy of 150 motor transports was attacked near Heilbronn and 50 were destroyed and 25 damaged.

French Marauders hit the South Panzer Base five miles southwest of Karlsruhe and reported "good results."

RAF Lancasters and Halifaxes, escorted by Spitfires and Mustangs, attacked the rail centers of Hanover, Osnabruck and Munster, leaving the targets in flames.

The RAF Second TAF flew 1,100 sorties. Good results were reported against six long-range guns at Binemen, north of Rees.

The Italy-based 15th AF hit Luftwaffe bases near Prague which had been operating against Russian armies.

Soviets Launch New Offensive

(Continued from Page 1)

bited places were seized and 7,000 Germans taken prisoner.

Stalin also announced the capture of Heiligenbeil in East Prussia, last German stronghold on the Baltic lagoon of Frisches Haff, inside the Bay of Danzig. Its capture eliminated one of two Nazi pockets at the northern end of the front and left the Russians free to concentrate on the stubbornly resisting Nazis in the Gdynia-Danzig area.

His orders were issued shortly after Moscow dispatches reported that Tolbukhin's troops had advanced within artillery range of the Hungarian rail center of Gyor, 29 miles from the Austrian frontier.

Bloody fighting continued in the Kustrin area due east of Berlin but neither side claimed gains, although the German communique said Nazi troops had knocked out more than 200 Soviet tanks in standing off strong infantry and armored attacks along the Oder.

In Silesia, the Germans said, Marshal Ivan Koniev's tanks gained ground and moved the fighting line to Strehlen, 22 miles south of Breslau and 25 miles beyond Neisse, whose capture was announced Saturday night by Moscow.

Bonn Fell...

(Continued from Page 4)

guns toward Duisdorf. It could have been embarrassing in view of the 18th's extended situation at the time, except that division artillery caught the Germans in the act. And that was the end of their effort.

By early evening, two battalions of the 18th had penetrated into Bonn—the battalion from Duisdorf having followed in as the outlying area quieted. Shortly after nightfall they tied in to the 16th on the north within the city and to the 18th's roadblocking battalion on the south.

During the night of the eighth, the First made an attempt to seize the Rhine bridge, and had armor poised in case the Germans pulled another Remagen boot. The charges were detonated in time, however, and at daybreak of the ninth it could be seen that the spans were hopelessly wrecked.

The situation developed swiftly within Bonn during the morning of the ninth. The whole plan for the defense of the city had obviously been punctured by the 16th's stabbing drive to the river the morning before. Both regiments went ahead with cleaning out their sectors—eliminating scattered, last-ditch resistance and rounding up prisoners. Among the 1,700 Krauts taken within the city was the colonel who had commanded—had he had a chance—the defense of the northern sector of the city. He was not a happy man.

In the flat along the river to the north the cavalry group had cleaned out resistance to within a couple of miles of the city. The First's heavy reconnaissance outfit, Task Force Davison, moved in to clear up this last troublesome pocket in the Bonn area. Thirteen more 88mm. AA guns and twelve

MEIN KAMPF

by Mitchell Wright



"Didn't I tell you to always knock three times?"

of the dugout, was brought in, my sights and fell. Time, 1515.

Witness: Observer Cpl.
5. Same sector and place. The sentry in the foxhole grew careless and left the foxhole, appearing out by the trees. All I had to do

was squeeze the trigger. He fell to the left into the ditch. Time, 1625.

Witness: Observer Cpl.
When found by our men, the score card ended with the fifth entry and the man who made it was a prisoner.

This Happened in America Yesterday:

Four Towns Win Praise For Job on Rhine Fleet

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, March 25.—People of four American towns could feel especially proud today for the part they played in the Third Army's crossing of the Rhine. They built the hundreds of storm boats used in the crossing.

Maj. Gen. Eugene Reybold, chief of Army engineers, has sent letters of commendation for what he calls "a production miracle" to the Sentry Boat Co., Manistee, Mich.; the Minnetonka Boat Works, Wayzata, Minn.; the Foster Boat Co., Charlevoix, Mich., and the Castle Boat Co., Pinecastle, Fla.

The order to construct 669 boats was received Feb. 1, and workers rushed the transformation of piles of plywood into battle craft. Many of the boats were flown directly to the battle zone.

Fred Walcher, 46, of Chicago, who had himself nailed to a cross to attract attention to his plans for universal peace and prosperity, will face disorderly conduct charges in municipal court March 29. Walcher was released in \$200 bail on the recommendation of a court psychologist.



Fred Walcher

CHICAGO'S scrap drive unearthed 3,000 rusty keys gathered in speakeasy raids during Prohibition by U.S. Marshal William Mc Donnel. Oldtimers recalled the key that was taken from Jimmy "Sawed Off" Fiore, who ran a speakeasy in the Transportation Building where the Prohibition Department had headquarters, because Jimmy tactlessly asked an agent for payment on a check.

Sophie Tucker, Last of the Red Hot Mommas, who is now appearing in Portland, Ore., has announced she will play the part of Lou in "The Legend of Lou," Klondike drama scheduled for Broadway this fall.

Hats Sprout Flowers

PALM Sunday brought out the women in bright outfits and the oddest hats seen in many a season. The hats are smothered in flowers which shoot out in tangents

undreamed of by the mathematicians.

When soldiers and sailors are discharged, they usually discover that the shoes they wore before entering service don't fit. The OPA feels that the vets ought to rate at least two pairs of civilian shoes, and is issuing two shoe coupons to them, instead of the usual one.

ANN CORIO, who was once known as a clothing escape artist and who is now browsing in intellectual pastures at Hunter College, entered the class of the civic warriors when she wrote a letter to the New York Herald Tribune during snowy weather to urge New Yorkers to remove the snow and ice from their sidewalks.

Mrs. Virginia Neal and her sister, Mrs. Arlene Card, reported to Albany, Cal., cops that a burglar awakened them by tickling their feet and by a burst of profanity. They screamed. The burglar scrambled with \$10.

Farm Groups Protest About Draft

THE National Grange, the National Council of Farm Cooperatives, the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation sent telegrams to the Senate Military Affairs Committee, declaring that some draft boards are inducting practically all farm boys under 26. Saying that such youths cannot be replaced by prisoners of war or foreign labor, they urged that present legislation be clarified and strengthened to keep essential workers tilling the soil.

Al Jolson, 56, married Erle Galbraith, 21, film actress, at Quartzite, Ariz., in his fourth marriage. They'll honeymoon in New York and will live in California.

DIAMOND DUST

BOSTON, March 25.—City Councillor Isadore Muchnick, who had threatened to campaign against granting Sunday licenses to the Braves and Red Sox unless both clubs agreed not to bar Negroes from the majors, withdrew his opposition today when John Quinn of the Braves and Eddie Collins of the Sox promised "equality to all, regardless of race, creed or color."

BAINBRIDGE, Md.—The Giants and Bainbridge Naval battled to a 6-6 tie in a game called at the end of the ninth yesterday. Billy Voiselle, Loren Bain and Frank Rosso toiled for the Giants, with Bain yielding five runs in the fourth inning. Ernie Lombardi homered for the New Yorkers, while ex-Cardinal fencebuster Stan Musial slapped a triple for the sailors.



Stan Musial

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo.—One-armed Pete Gray drove in Don Gutteridge from third with a long fly in the eighth frame to hand the Browns a 4-3 triumph over the Toledo Mudhens. Gutteridge collected three nits in four trips.



Hal Gregg

WEST POINT, N. Y.—Five runs in the first two innings started the Dodgers on their way and they defeated Army, 9-5. Curt Davis, Hal Gregg and Vic Lombardi, freshman southpaw, twirled for the Bums, being touched for nine hits.

CURTIS BAY, Md.—The Senators turned back Curtis Bay Coast Guard, 5-2, yesterday behind the combined three-hit pitching of Joe Alamo, Santiago Ullrich and Moe Peterson. Al Evans, Nat catcher, hit a homer in the sixth off Floyd Giebell, ex-Tiger, who went the route.

Cincinnati Reds

1945 Baseball Prospects

(This is the fifth in a series on major league prospects for 1945.)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., March 25.—Manager Bill McKechnie's evaluation of the Reds at the start of spring training was "brutal," but he heaved a great sigh of relief when the WMC ruled players could leave war jobs to return to baseball. For to Deacon Bill that means one thing—Bucky Walters.

Probably no pitching staff in the National League has been riddled like the Reds. Arnold Carter (11-7) and Walters are the only members of last year's staff definitely not in military uniform. Clyde Shoun, Tommy de la Cruz, Harry Gumbert and Jim Konstanty are in ser-

vice and Ed Heusser's status is uncertain.

That leaves it up to such worthy oldsters as Horace Lisenbee, Guy Bush and Walter "Boom Boom" Beck, all over 40.

McKechnie, who isn't given to weeping, has just cause to cry over his catching. His entire backstopping corps of one man has gone away. Ray Mueller, who set a league record by catching every game last year, is now working for his Uncle Sammy.

Another stiff jolt for McKechnie to swallow is the loss of Eddie Miller, generally conceded to be every bit as good as Marty Marion of the Cardinals at covering the shortstop position. Miller is promised to the armed forces, but the Deacon hopes he'll linger for at least a month.

Nelson Moves Into Golf Lead

GREENSBORO, N.C., March 25.—Byron Nelson chopped four strokes off par yesterday to grab the lead in the \$7,500 Greensboro Open golf meet with a halfway score of 137. Nelson's 67, added to Fridays' 70, gave the veteran clubber a one-stroke edge over Johnny Revolta.

Paris Biffers Tangle

Local fighters will feature tonight's weekly boxing show at the Palais de Glace, Paris. The first bout will start at 1930 hours.

NYU Topples Bucks, 70-65, In Overtime

By Jay Barnes

Army News Service Sports Writer

NEW YORK, March 25.—Horatio Alger was made to look like a stumblebum last night by a courageous New York University quintet that hammered out a 70-65 overtime victory over Ohio State in the finals of the eastern NCAA basketball tourney before 18,000 customers in Madison Square Garden.

The Violets qualified to face seven-foot Bob Kurland and his Oklahoma Aggies in the NCAA finals at New York Tuesday night. The Aggies swamped Arkansas 68-41, in the western finals last night at Kansas City.

The Violets did the near-impossible, erasing a 62-52 deficit with only two minutes and ten seconds remaining in the game. Arnie "Stilts" Risen, Ohio State's six foot nine inch center, was ejected at this point via personal fouls and then NYU began to roll.

Marty Goldstein hooped a long set shot. Then lanky Adolph Schayes, who had four fouls in the first four minutes of play but played the rest of the game without committing his fifth, dunked two fouls, tapped in a rebound on Sid Tanenbaum's faulty shot and did the same on a shot by Goldstein. With 29 seconds to go, Don Forman netted his own rebound to send the game into overtime.

After Schayes flipped in a pivot shot, the Buckeyes rushed ahead in the overtime on a field goal by Rod Caudill and a freethrow by Don Grate. But rapid-fire baskets by Al Grenert, Forman and Schayes ran the score to its final tabulation.

Frank Mangiapane was high for the Violets with 17 points. Schayes scored 14 and Tanenbaum scored 13. Risen led the Bucks with 26. It was a rough contest 50 fouls being called.

In the preliminary game, Kentucky took consolation honors by trouncing Tufts, 66-56, after leading, 24-23, at the intermission. Wilbur Schu led the victorious Wildcats with 21 points, while Bob Skarda topped Tufts with 20.

Canadiens Tip Toronto, 4-1

TORONTO, March 25.—The Montreal Canadiens, National Hockey League champions, staved off elimination in their Stanley Cup semi-final series with the Toronto Maple Leafs by stopping the Leafs, 4-1, here last night. It was the Canucks' first success in three games.

Elmer Lach netted a pass from Murph Chamberlain in the first period, and they added three more—by Bob Filion, Dutch Hiller and Chamberlain—in the second period. Bob Davidson averted a shutout for the Leafs midway through the third frame.

Kearns Denies Charges In 26-Count Indictment

NEW YORK, March 25.—Jack Kearns, boxing manager and promoter, pleaded not guilty today to 26 counts in an indictment charging violation of the Securities Exchange Act. The former manager of Jack Dempsey was released in \$3,500 bail until April 16 when the case will be heard by Federal Judge Alfred Cox.

Kearns is accused of having swindled the public of \$150,000 through the sale of stock in a fire extinguisher manufacturing concern, which is said never to have existed.

Phillips Oilers Repeat

DENVER, March 25.—The Phillips "66" Oilers captured their third straight AAU basketball crown by outlasting second-seeded Ambroses, of Denver, 47-46, here last night in the championship game.

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features



Terry and The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate



Li'l Abner

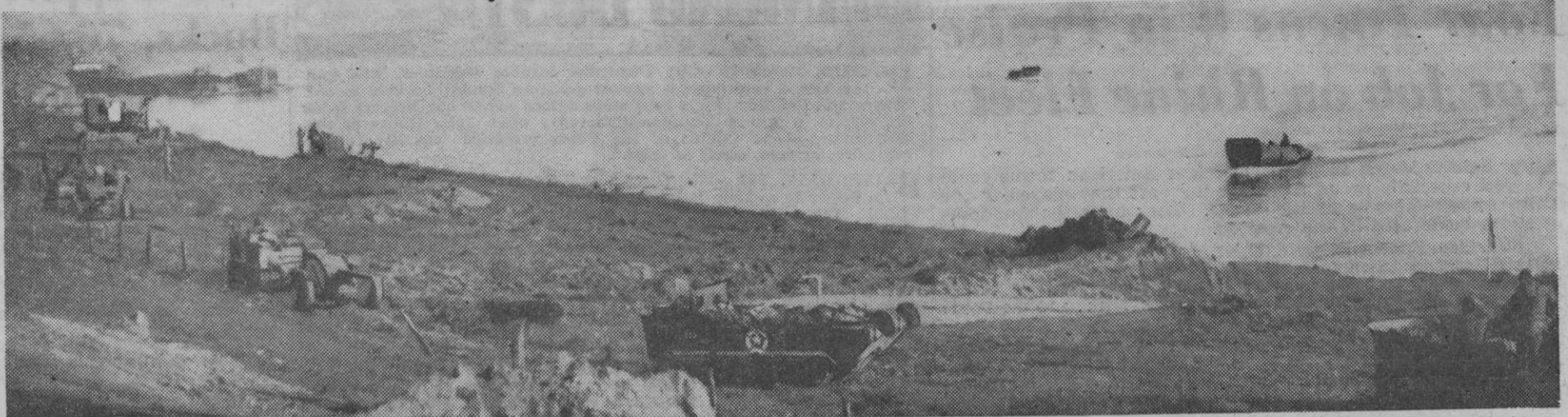
By Al Capp



By Milton Caniff



No, Not the Normandy Beach, But the Rhine River From the East Bank



Stars and Stripes Photos by Riordan

This picture, much like any other landing picture, might have been taken six weeks ago at Iwo Jima, or at Normandy last June. But it was taken Saturday morning—and that water is the Rhine River. Among the first U.S. naval craft to reach the river's east bank was this landing barge of the U.S. "inland" Navy, carrying combat engineers and an anti-aircraft gun with its crew.

9th's Rhine Navy A Secret Weapon

By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE NINTH ARMY, East of the Rhine, March 25.—The Ninth Army used a secret weapon to cross the Rhine—a navy.

Between the first waves of assault troops and the completion of bridges across the 1,000-foot river, there would be a gap in time—a gap that might be disastrous. It was this circumstance that led Lt. Gen. Simpson to pull the navy rabbit out of his helmet.

The Ninth Army navy consists of Landing Craft Medium (LCM) and Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel (LCVP). They should just fill the bill—and the time gap. Before the engineers get their first bridge up, the Navy is ferrying the first loads of heavy stuff over to the infantry on the bridgehead.

The Navy task unit, commanded by Lt. Comdr. Willard T. Patrick, of Long Island, N.Y., had been in training for months for this single operation. Since Nov. 10, along the Maas River, in Holland, the LCVPs and their crews have been working on assault landings. They were joined on Feb. 3 by the LCMs and the training was intensified—almost up to H-Hour.

During the crossing rehearsals, the Navy worked under an engineer group—the Army outfit running the show. The Navy men made the practice assaults right along with the soldiers who were to go over with them during the real thing.

The LCMs—each carry a tank or 60 men and have a crew of five sailors—came up from the sea. They were unloaded at Antwerp and run up the Albert Canal. The LCVPs, built to carry up to a 3/4-ton truck or 46 men and a crew or four—were set ashore at Le Havre and brought up on grant trailers.

The Navy Moves in Trucks

An even greater problem was to get the LCMs from the Maas to the Rhine. Trucks were the only means of transportation available. Considerable reconnaissance was necessary before a route could be found where the houses were set far enough back from the road to let the cumbersome craft pass.

But the problems were solved, in the best Navy tradition—and at H-Hour on the Rhine, the sailors were there waiting.

For the soldiers of the Ninth Army, R-Day was a big day. But for the officers and men of the OD-clad landborne navy, it was THE day. This was what they had been training for for months. This was why they had been brought some 200 miles from the sea. This was the whole reason for existence. They got the stuff across.

VonRundstedt Reported Under SS House Arrest

STOCKHOLM, March 25 (UP).—The Stockholm newspaper, Afton-tidningen, yesterday carried a report from unidentified sources which said Field Marshal von Rundstedt is under house arrest and is guarded by SS troops at his estate near Kassel.

The former Nazi Western Front commander's son, Gert, is a prisoner in Ingelstadt Castle, Bavaria, the unconfirmed report said.



A 57mm anti-tank gun is hauled on to the east bank of the Rhine as a Navy landing barge gets set to go back across the river for another load.

Site of Crossing Rear Echelon 36 Hours After Ninth's Jumpoff

By Ernie Leiser
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

NINTH ARMY BRIDGEHEAD, March 25.—The beaches on either side of the Rhine around this 79th Div. bridge today looked like the beaches of Normandy—several weeks after D-Day.

Thirty-six hours after the first Ninth Army infantrymen had stormed across the river, this was the rear echelon. Dozens of silver barrage balloons glistened above the bridge sites, and waves of white smoke would blow over the bridges, hiding them for a while, and then a gust of the spring wind would blow them away.

There wasn't a sound of combat, though, except for the drone of the fighter-bombers flying constant air cover over the bridgehead area, and for the rumble of artillery from the lines, several miles east by then.

Gun Crews Take It Easy

The banks bristled with anti-aircraft guns, but their crews lolled at ease and stretched out in their holes under the warm sun until clouded over. Sea mules chugged across, the way they might have on the Hudson, slowly.

MPs wandered around the beach in pairs, and at the edge of the bridge was a neat "speed limit" sign.

Dust clouds rose from the road to the river as vehicles closed in on the bridge.

3rd Army Sets Mark For Day's PW Count

SHAEEF, March 25.—Gen. Patton's Third Army broke the record for prisoners tabulated in a single day when it processed 18,808 yesterday. They were not all taken yesterday, but included many from previous days when the prisoner take was too fast for tabulation.

The Third hoped to escort its 300,000th prisoner into the cages today.

Boston Hears Peace Rumors

BOSTON, March 25.—Peace rumors swept Boston last night, with newspaper offices and police stations deluged with calls asking about reports that Germany had surrendered. (Newspapers and radio stations in Atlanta also were swamped with phone calls.)

Yanks Cut Rhine Line, Pour Through 3 Gaps

(Continued from Page 1)

achieving the final stage of Gen. Eisenhower's campaign to destroy every German west of the Rhine, had taken more than 100,000 prisoners in less than three weeks.

In breaking out of the Third Army bridgehead, the Fourth Arm. Div.—now under command of Brig. Gen. William C. Hoge—was spearheading a Patton drive for the third time in three weeks. It sprang into the narrow rolling plain which stretches unbroken for 300 miles to just south of Berlin.

Before they had gone far, gleeful tankers radioed back for aid: "Sending back beaucoup prisoners; need help in handling them." Stars and Stripes Correspondent Pat Mitchell reported.

Ten Miles from Frankfurt

Troops of the 90th Inf. Div., under Brig. Gen. J. A. Van Fleet, who cleared Darmstadt, reported resistance: "very little and very light." Darmstadt is a chemical center, junction of several trunklines to the upper Rhineland and in recent weeks an advanced base for the army defending the German frontier. Several other towns in this area were cleared, and troops were reported ten miles from Frankfurt-am-Main.

As the Fourth Armored struck out in the south, the 30th Inf. Div., commanded by Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs, punched through the Rhine defenses from the new Ninth Army bridgehead in the north.

Wes Gallagher, Associated Press correspondent with the Ninth Army, reported that the 30th, "achieving one of the most brilliant infantry attack successes of the war," had reached places eight miles from the jumpoff place at the Rhine's east bank in a sector where German resistance appeared completely disintegrated.

'Like the Roer'

"There was every element of a breakthrough such as characterized armored infantry gallops after the Roer River crossing and which became familiar in France," Gallagher wrote.

Field officers said they had gone clear through the German defense lines and "broken into the open." Doughboys hopped aboard tanks to speed up their advance.

First Army armor rolled ahead six miles yesterday as the first attempt to break out of the Remagen bridgehead and on to Berlin found the Germans offering little resistance after the first crust of defense was crumbled, Stars and Stripes Correspondent Dan Regan reported from First Army.

Armored spearheads entered Flammersfeld, 14 miles from the Rhine, the First Army's deepest penetration. All along the route the Germans offered no opposition except in the towns, where they set up delaying forces.

German News Agency announced that the Americans had opened a large-scale offensive from the Remagen bridgehead along the whole front of 28 miles after heavy artillery preparation.

German resistance was stiffer in

the north, where British troops still were struggling, 36 hours after their crossings, to clear fanatically fighting paratroopers from the little town of Rees. However, even in this area some sizable gains were made. Elements of the 15th Scottish Div. thrust nearly eight miles inland at a point northwest of Wesel and German opposition, according to the Associated Press, was "bowled over."

Commandos cleared Wesel after bitter fighting.

More than 8,000 prisoners were taken in the first 24 hours of this newest and greatest trans-Rhine thrust. Surprisingly, 3,500 of them were taken by airborne troops. Second Army troops took 2,500 and Ninth Army troops 2,100.

At least two bridges have been thrown across the Rhine and others are being rushed to completion, while the river still is alive with craft ferrying men, arms and supplies into the bridgehead.

'Ailment Battalions'

In the Ninth Army sector to the south, American troops were encountering the weakest resistance in the bridgehead. Defenses had not been well prepared, and the German troops were of lower calibre. The best they had on the front were the battered 84th Inf. Div. and a new division called the Hamburg Div., formed hastily from Hamburg replacement depots. Special battalions of men with stomach ailments, ear trouble and other illnesses also were in that sector.

Prime Minister Churchill visited the Ninth Army sector of the bridgehead yesterday morning with Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery, Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, the Ninth's commander, and Sir Alan Brooke, chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Big Air Cover Saves Gliders

WITH NINTH AF., March 25.—A tribute to the effective mass air cover provided yesterday by the Ninth and Eighth Air Forces for the Allied airborne operations was the fact that only one of the 2,878 gliders and towplanes used was shot down by an enemy aircraft.

Of the 2,046 American towplanes and gliders involved, slightly more than 1.6 percent were shot down and 75 percent of the losses were due to small-arms fire.

Heavy flak played a small part in the enemy defenses, both because of the low altitude of the paratrooper and supply craft—from 300 to 700 feet—and because heavy flak positions could be spotted and knocked out beforehand.

Complete reports were not immediately available on losses among the 832 British gliders and tows taking part, but first accounts said that eight were unreported. Forty-seven damaged American tows were forced to land at points other than their bases.