

Ici On Parle Français
Est-ce bon à manger?
Esse-Bawn ah Manjay?
Is it good to eat?

Man Spricht Deutsch
Warum tragen Sie Zivilkleider?
Varoom trahgen Zee Civilkleider?
Why do you wear civilian clothes?

Vol. 1—No. 214

1 Fr.

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Monday, Feb. 26, 1945

Yanks 15 Mi. from Cologne

B29s and Carrier Planes Blast Tokyo

New Mark Set by 200 Superforts

Tokyo got a double dose of U.S. air might yesterday—administered by swarms of carrier planes from Vice-Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's task force and more than 200 Superfortresses, the largest number ever sent on a single mission.

The Superforts battered industrial objectives in the Tokyo area in daylight, while waves of carrier planes concentrated their blows on Japanese military, naval and air installations in and around the capital.

Seven hundred and fifty miles south of Tokyo, on tiny Iwo Jima, U.S. Marines made slow progress in their battle for an air base from which land-based bombers smaller than Superforts could strike at the enemy homeland. (Story on Page 8.)

Announced by Nimitz

Planes of Mitscher's task force, biggest in the world, were returning to a target which they had blasted Feb. 16 and 17. In that first carrier-plane assault on Tokyo, which found the Japanese Fleet in hiding, 659 Japanese planes and 32 enemy ships were destroyed or damaged.

Adm. Nimitz announced the new attack in a communique issued at Guam, but gave no details. Mitscher's force was maintaining radio silence. Radio Tokyo said that 600 carrier-planes had attacked the city.

Radio Tokyo also reported that the Superforts had dropped explosives and incendiaries for two hours through a heavy snowfall.

From Mariana Bases

U.S. 20th AF Hq. in Washington said that the Superforts had taken off from bases in the Mariana Islands "for the continuous task of striking targets in the industrially important Tokyo area."

The "very large task force" of B29s was described as more than twice as big as the group which bombed the Tokyo area in the initial operation of the 21st Bomber Command last fall.

Yesterday's assault, it was said, "represents the fulfillment of the recent announcement by 20th AF Hq. that the Superfortress has reached the end of the development stage, has been thoroughly battle-tested and is entering a new phase of the aerial battle against Japan."

Army Investigates Air Blow at Swiss

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (ANS).—Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Grew said today that Army investigation is under way on the Swiss complaint that U.S. planes attacked Swiss towns last Thursday. Grew said that if American planes were responsible, reparations will be made, "in so far as that is humanly possible."

He disclosed in a statement that the Swiss Minister had declared U.S. aircraft bombed and strafed, causing 16 deaths and injuries to many more.

Patterson Says Japs Have 4-Million Army

CHICAGO, Feb. 25 (ANS).—The Japanese have an army of 4,000,000 men with more than 1,000,000 soldiers on the home islands alone, Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson said today.

"We must continue to throw everything in the book at our enemies," he warned.

Nurses Weep With Joy at Sight of U.S.

HAMILTON FIELD, Calif., Feb. 25 (ANS).—The heroines of Corregidor and Bataan came home yesterday. There were 68 of them on three big transports and one hospital plane—67 Army nurses and specialists and one Red Cross worker.

"Back home. Oh, it's so good, it's so good. You just can't know." Such was the refrain repeated again and again by the women who nursed the wounded and dying in the bitter, desperate days of Bataan and who suffered through nearly three years of Japanese captivity before being rescued from Santo Tomas internment camp in Manila on Feb. 2.

They were taken from Hamilton Field to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco for a physical check-up and treatment before being released to visit relatives and friends.

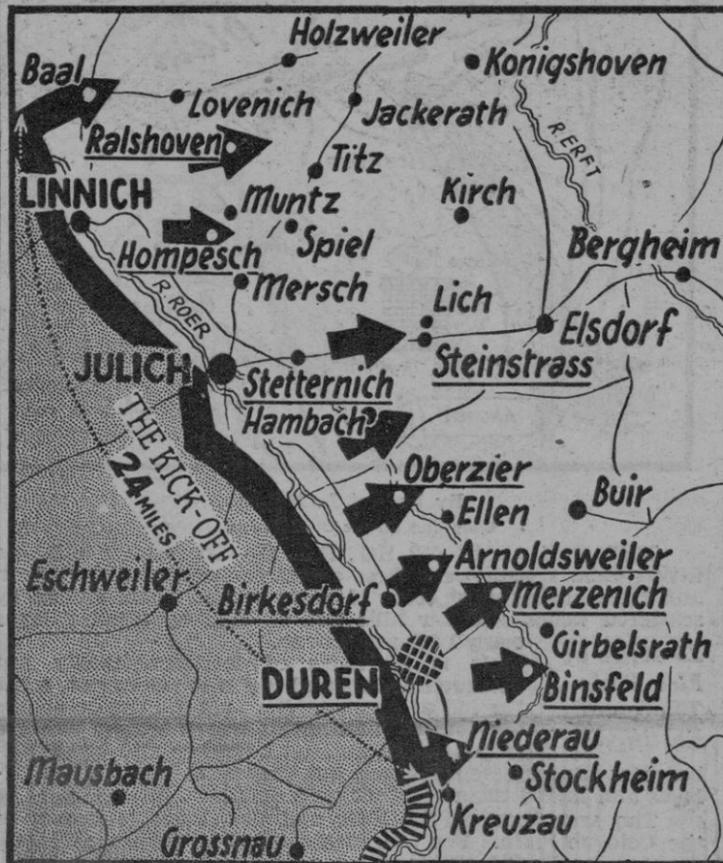
Tears Come to Eyes

As the three transport planes and the hospital plane swung over San Francisco in formation, the nurses sat in complete silence. Tears started coming to some eyes when the planes landed at Hamilton Field and the nurses stepped out, some openly crying with joy.

The nearly-exhausted nurses on the Rock were too busy to be frightened when they were captured by the Japanese, said Maj. Davidson, chief nurse. They had 900 wounded soldiers to care for, she said, in cots crowded together in tiers of three in Corregidor's tunnels.

The nurses all spoke with almost reverent pride of Lt. Gen. Wainwright, who was captured with them on Corregidor.

When the nurses were rescued from Santo Tomas, they were each given a one-rank spot promotion by Gen. MacArthur.



Stars and Stripes Map by Baird
Faster than the mapmaker could record them, Yanks yesterday took Lovenich, Stetternich, Ellen, Stockheim and Kreuzau among others.

Only Four of Duren's 46,000 Remain to See a Nazi City Die

By Andy Rooney
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

DUREN, Germany, Feb. 25.—This place is just a stump of a town. There is no one here. There are no buildings standing. Duren reputedly was one of the richest towns of its size in the world and, according to the military government officer, Capt. Arthur H. Larkins, of San Francisco, there were 21 millionaires living there before the town was leveled. The population at one time was 46,000, but it had fallen to about 30,000 in the last few years.

Wac Gets 3 Years, DD for Desertion

SELFRIDGE FIELD, Mich., Feb. 25 (AP).—WAC Pvt. Irene Way, 20, of Zanesville, Ohio, was convicted here of desertion and sentenced by an Army general court martial to confinement at hard labor for three years, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and dishonorable discharge. She was arrested Jan. 24 with Jake Williams, of Buffalo, N.Y., who was convicted of harboring an army deserter.

Today the German population of Duren appeared to be four. That was the total number of German civilians who could be found in the ruins of the city by military government officials.

"I suppose if the Germans still want a town called Duren after

(Continued on Page 8)

Mighty Citadel Fell in 30 Minutes

By Ray Lee
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 175th INF., Julich, Feb. 24 (Delayed).

—The citadel—which was expected to be the German stronghold in Julich and which the 175th Inf. yesterday by-passed in the taking of the town—today was taken by a unit of the 116th Inf. without a German being killed or taken prisoner.

Only four were seen and they were escaping through a tunnel into the small patch of woods at the rear.

There was no sign of a CP or anything that might indicate that it had even been occupied except a small pile of equipment and a dress uniform near a swimming pool.

It was assumed early yesterday afternoon that it

had been practically abandoned, for there was only occasional small-arms and sniper fire from the walls.

After 15 minutes in which the outer gate was blasted from its hinges and the walls raked with machine-gun fire, platoon leader Lt. Clay S. Purvis, of Charlottesville, Va., and a demolition squad of four men—S/Sgt. William Simpson, Hartford, Conn., Sgt. Wilmer Rogers, Milburn, Ky., and Pfc. Donald Todd, Medina, O., and Herbert Puckett, Clinton, N.C.—covered by heavy machine-gun fire, dashed to the entrance with satchel charges. But the charges were not needed, for there was no door at the inside end of the 100-foot curving tunnel.

In less than 30 minutes the citadel had been

(Continued on Page 8)

30 Towns Fall; Duren Is Cleared

By Robert L. Moora

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

12th ARMY GROUP HQ., Feb. 25.—American troops were seven miles into the Cologne plain and within 15 miles of Cologne itself tonight as columns of prisoners streaming back from the front gave striking evidence of the momentum which the big push to the Rhine was gathering.

Already prisoners of war enclosures held thousands of enemy troops—2,000 taken by the 104th Inf. Div. alone—and German losses had given rise to conjecture as to their ability to man effectively the defenses they had prepared across the 25-mile plain between the Roer and the Rhine.

Ninth Army troops were on the outskirts of Rodingen, northeast of Julich, and about six miles past the Roer. Other American troops were fighting inside Steinstrass, five miles east of Julich, and formerly used by the Germans as a reception center for armored units.

Opposition Moderate

Opposition was still described as moderate. There were even fewer mines than expected. It was announced that a unit of Scottish-manned flail tanks for blasting mines was operating with the Ninth Army.

First Army declared that its casualties were extremely light, with a smaller ratio of killed to wounded than ever recorded for a major operation.

Eleven more German towns were

(Continued on Page 8)

Munich Lashed By U.S. Heavies

Air warfare against Germany yesterday kept pace with the ground offensive as more than 5,000 planes made attacks, including a powerful one on Munich, where American bombs provided the fireworks for Hitlerite services commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Nazi party program.

Approximately 1,150 Forts and Liberators of the Eighth AF and 700 escorting fighters made the run against a Munich railyard and other points, while more than 1,500 mediums and fighter-bombers of the Ninth AF smashed at German communications ahead of the attacking American Armies on the Western Front.

Approximately 2,000 planes from the RAF, the First and Second TACs and the Italy-based 15th AF bombed rail centers and industrial targets from Holland to Austria.

One force of 440 Ninth AF medium and light bombers struck at seven important communication centers within a 13-mile radius of Cologne.

Fighter-bombers of the Ninth flew more than 1,000 sorties ahead of the advancing First and Ninth armies. Allied pilots reported sighting great numbers of horse-drawn enemy convoys.



Truth and Propaganda

With many European nations steeped deeply in the feudal traditions of bygone eras, it is little wonder that their eyes bulge with incredulity when they read soldiers' criticisms of everything they want to blow off about in The Stars and Stripes. They think it's dangerous that regimented soldiers are allowed to express such opinions.

Imagine what a profound effect would take place if The Stars and Stripes were printed in all European languages and distributed by millions to these peoples. What an influx of Democratic ideas would spread like wildfire! Truth is—we thank God—much stronger than pseudo-psychological propaganda.—Cpl. Ed Brinkley, Sta. Compt. Sq.

The Weak and Sex

To refute "Health and Beauty Fan's" masterful bit of bad logic, printed in the B-Bag, may I state that a surprising number of GIs in this army are still governed by moral restraint in their fight to overcome the abuse of the sexual instinct in man.

In their daily contacts with men in uniform, chaplains listen to problems, both spiritual and physical. Hence, when a particular chaplain laid partial blame on pinup girls as an incentive to sexual abuse, he wasn't making an unqualified statement. Actual experience in tracing the reason for GIs going overboard, apparently induced him to emit this warning.

Yes, this is 1945; this is the American Army, but let's be men, not jelly-fish. If a man cannot discern right from wrong, if he cannot realize the necessity of the "upper" man conquering the "lower," then surely something is lacking. An overdose of pinup girls poisons the imagination. Those muckrakers of sketches and photography reap dividends in feeding this so-called "art" to the baser instincts of man. We don't have to be branded the "holier than thou" type to uphold decent tenets. Incidentally neither prophylactics nor weekly inspections could ever nip "VD" as quickly as self-restraint.—Lt. Kenneth J. Becker, Med. Depot.

Knife Work

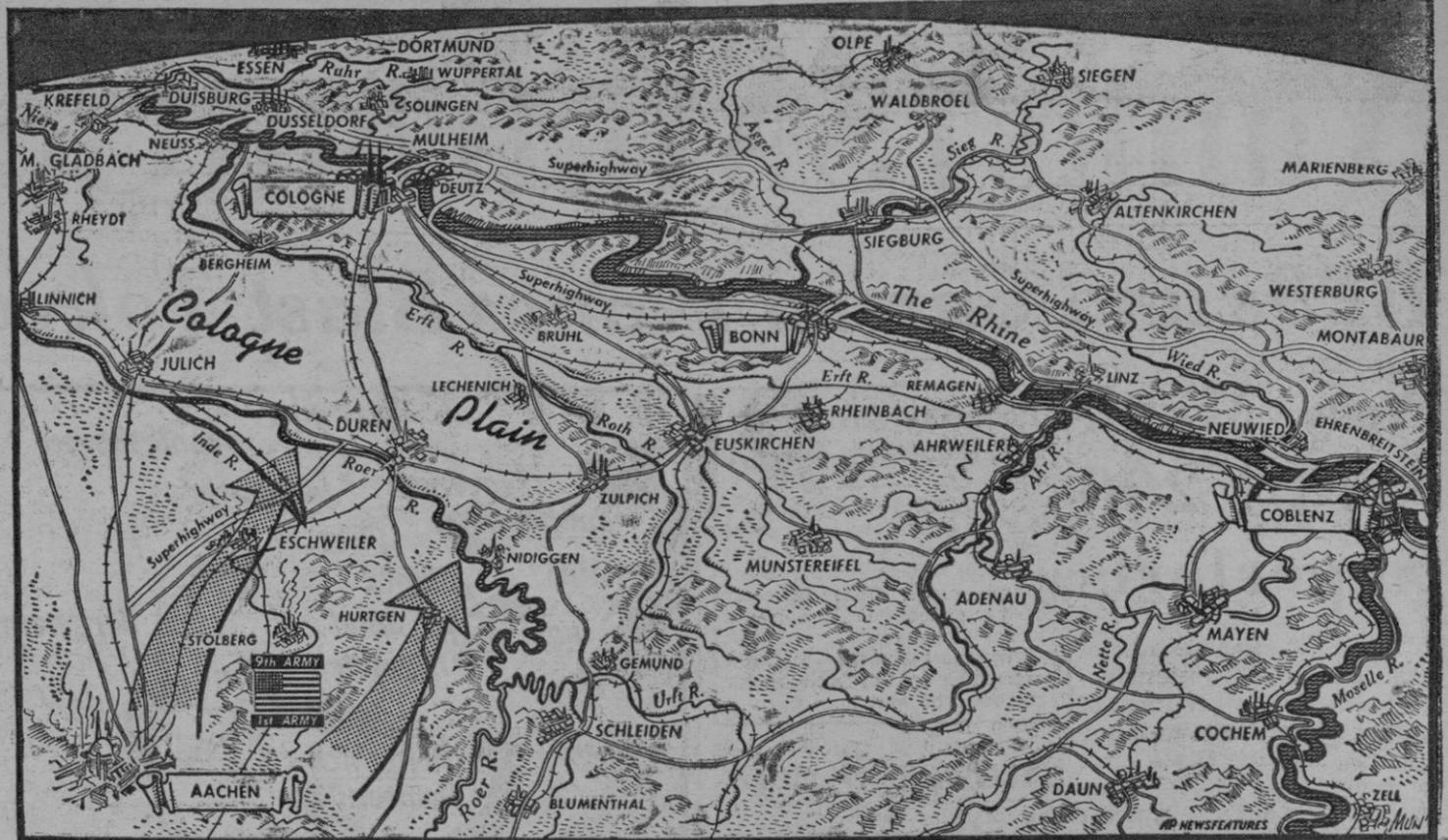
A suggestion—that the steam condensing hose for H.M.G. be made about half its present length. The damned thing used to get tangled in bushes, etc., until we solved the problem with a knife.

Another thing—the springs on the clamps at the end of the hose are definitively not stiff enough to do their job with the result that we've lost quite a few.—T/Sgt. R.K.S. Inf.

Better Service

Mail clerks constantly send the mail of their patients to all sorts of medical installations such as field hospitals, clearing stations, and units which hold patients for a very short time. As a result, the letters are delayed that much longer. Those fellows like their mail perhaps even a little more than you do. So why not co-operate and hold their mail until the patient sends you his correct address? It will lighten the mail routes and maybe a fellow will get a February letter in February. How about it, mail clerks?—Cpl. R.S.R., Field Hosp.

Behind Is the Roer, Ahead the Rhine



By Robert L. Moora
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

TWELFTH ARMY GP HQ., Feb. 25.—To reach the Rhine River—Gen. Eisenhower's first objective—troops of the Ninth and First armies must cross 25 miles of flat plain, broken by scattered woods and low hills and studded by small villages every 1,000 yards or so.

25 Miles of Flat Plain Thoroughly Fortified

It is 25 miles of territory hastily but thoroughly fortified by the Germans after the fall of Aachen. Not only did the defenders dig continuous lines of fire trenches, traverse trenches and anti-tank ditches and build pillboxes at some strategic places, but they also fortified the villages and linked them together with defensive lines.

The area between the Roer and the Rhine is known as the Cologne Plain. For the most part it is open, undulating country, easily adaptable after capture for airstrips and—with soil somewhat reminiscent of Normandy—good for tank fighting.

The reason for the Germans' anxiety to defend the area is obvious from a glance at the map.

Twenty miles in a straight line from the closest Allied troops—Americans now fighting for Duren—is the city of Cologne, astride the Rhine itself. Further north, but on the east bank of the river, only 25 miles from Ninth Army men pushing forward from Linnich, is Dusseldorf.

Both are outposts of the Ruhr Valley, whose concentrations of industry are equivalent roughly to America's Pittsburgh

and Detroit. It forms the heart of Germany, pumping the lifeblood of the Wehrmacht to both Eastern and Western Fronts.

Germany could fight on without a Berlin, but with the Russians rolling over most of the Reich's second major industrial area, Silesia, a successful attack on the Ruhr would be a staggering if not a fatal blow.

And when the Americans in the south and the Canadians and British in the north achieve their present objective and stand on the Rhine's west bank they'll be in a position to launch such an attack, the last, possibly, of the war in Europe, either directly from the west or in flanking movements from the north and south.

The battle across the Roer River is a preview of the eventual crossing of the Rhine.

Both rivers emerge from the mountains and cut into the Cologne Plain. Both are scenic, historic and highly industrialized. Much smaller than the Rhine, the Roer winds through an ancient region of medieval castles and 19th century smokestacks, an important part of Hitler's industrial setup, though not comparable to the Ruhr which borders the lower Rhine.

General Eisenhower has said that for the Germans to try to retreat across the Rhine would be almost the same as a naval operation. At hardly any place along its 850-mile length is it just an ordinary river. Either it is rushing along through a gorge or it is spread out 500 feet wide.

One announcement from Allied Supreme Headquarters said that the Germans had 167 crossings available over the Rhine between Wesel, near the Dutch border, and Basel, at the Swiss border.

Seventy-five of these were bridges, the rest ferries. Of the bridges, 27 were pontoon jobs. This would leave 48 permanent bridges—the same number that best records show existed before the war.

What Eisenhower apparently meant, then, was that no bridges have been bombed out yet, but that if the Germans try to retreat the bombers will be sent over. Then the Germans would have to take to the boats.

Private Breger



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"Stop griping! SOMEBODY had to be chosen to release her for combat!"

WMC to Enforce Curfew; LaGuardia Is Unmoved

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (AP).—The War Manpower Commission today laid down a policy of strict enforcement of the midnight curfew order issued by War Mobilization Chief James F. Byrnes. It is effective tomorrow.

Only two general exemptions were given:
1—Entertainment "sponsored by responsible agencies" for military personnel. This would probably include USO clubs.
2—Restaurants "customarily open all night for the purpose of serving food." If such restaurants serve drinks, they would have to discontinue liquor sales at midnight. This

was seen as the only concession to swing-shift war workers.
The announcement threw night club men in New York into confusion. Mayor LaGuardia had assured them they could continue to operate as usual pending instructions from him. Upon studying the new regulations, LaGuardia reiterated that the "status quo" would continue until further word from him.
The WMC said "zero" labor ceilings would be slapped on violators. Under such a ruling, a violator would be unable to hire any one except a maintenance employee such as a janitor.

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Warweek

Reinforcements Had 'Baptism of Fire'
Use of Ack-Ack Weapons on the Ground
Behind Enemy Lines on Patrolling Mission

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The RHINE RIVER

Since the Days of the Romans
It Has Been Natural Defense

By Jack Caldwell
Warweek Staff Writer

ATENSENESS like that which preceded D-Day is being felt as Allied Armies in the West prepare to hurdle the last big natural barrier on the road to Berlin—the Rhine River.

The 725-mile-long Rhine isn't going to be an easy nut to crack. The Seine, Meuse, Moselle may be considered pushovers in comparison. In fact, some military observers say, the smash through this watery west-wall will be a task more like the storming of the Normandy beaches.

The Battle of the Rhine will take all the guts, battle skill, fire power and ingenuity the Allies can muster. It's a job which will call for everything and every trick engineers, infantry, amphibious units and the rest of the Allied team can throw in.

"The crossing of the Rhine," said one engineering officer, "will be one hell of a big job any way you look at it. The terrain offers excellent defensive opportunities for the enemy, among many other things."

No Helping Hands

"One thing in particular we'll have to keep in mind is that we'll be invading a country 100 percent hostile, where every tree, boulder, cliff and farmhouse will harbor a potential enemy."

"And we'll not find the same willing hands among the civilians that reached out to us when we invaded France. There will be willing hands, you can be sure, but in those hands will be clutched pistols, rifles and grenades."

Kraut defenses guarding approaches to the twisting, surging river already have been pierced. In the south, U.S. Seventh and French First Armies now control some 80 miles of the Rhine's west bank between the Swiss border and Gamsheim, north of Strasbourg. In the north, the Canadian First Army has battered a hole through to the swollen river at a point seven miles east of Nijmegen, Holland.

But the biggest battle will come with the crossing of Europe's Ol' Man River. The river is a natural fortress, as the Romans discovered a long time ago when they tried their hand at world enslaving tactics. The Nazis have further reinforced its wooded, rocky banks. The gaping guns of the Siegfried Line overlook much of the river.

River Deep, Swift

The logical entrance to Germany's heart on the 450-mile Western Front between Arnhem and Switzerland is by way of the level, flat plain in the Ruhr Valley. But that means crossing the Rhine.

The river normally is deep and swift, but in the late spring and early summer it becomes a roaring torrent, fed by the melting snows of the Alps and the mountains and hills that flank much of its winding course. In the Middle Rhine,

between Bingen and Bonn, high waters prevail in March; in the Upper Rhine, Basel to Bingen, in June and July. It is not unusual for the river to rise as much as 30 feet.

A network of dams, sluices and dykes control the rampant waters.

The Rhine flows swiftly like the Colorado; in most places it is deep like the St. Lawrence River channel, and varies in width like the Mississippi. Much of its route is through a deep, rocky gorge resembling those of the Lower Niagara River and the Hudson around Bear Mountain.

Rises in Switzerland

Rising at an altitude of about 7,000 feet in the St. Gothard Pass of the Swiss Alps, the turbulent waters wind northeast to Lake Constance, then west to Basel, Switzerland, where the swift stream knifes northward between France and Germany through a 10-mile-wide, flat valley as far as Bingen. Between Bingen and Bonn, it flows in a deep, jagged gorge.

It becomes a wholly German river southeast of Karlsruhe. The Rhine is joined by the Main River at Mainz and by the Moselle at Coblenz. It later flows northwest into Holland, near Emmerich, dividing into the Waal, Lek and Old Rhine and flowing westward into the North Sea.

Its course cuts through the most densely populated and, industrially, the richest section of Europe. An elaborate system of canals in France, Belgium and the Netherlands adds to the great volume of traffic—chiefly in coal, iron ore and cereals—which makes the Rhine commercially the most important river in Europe.

Banks Steep, High

In the summer the Rhine carries a greater volume of water than the

Elbe, Oder or Vistula. It averages in width from about 450 feet in the upper reaches, to 660 feet in the lower portion, although some parts of the river stretch out 1,200 feet and more. Cologne, home of Eau de Cologne, is at one of the widest parts of the river.

The banks of the Upper Rhine are in a natural, undeveloped state, generally steep and high, ranging upwards from 30 feet. One rocky ledge, the well-known Lorelei, towers 450 feet above the Rhine near St. Goar. According to German legend, a fairy lives atop the rock and, by singing, lures men to their death over the precipitous brink.

"For an army to attempt a crossing of the Upper Rhine after existing bridges have been demolished," one observer declared, "would present considerable difficulties at most points because of the height and steepness of the banks, depth of water, the strong current, the shallows and the rocky nature of the river bed in some places."

"These problems are not solved by artificial measures, such as lowering the level of the water. The running off of the water would, it is true, cause the river level to sink to that of the original unregulated bed, but the banks would tower high above the river and the speed of the current would be materially increased."

Tough Either Way

"For instance, if the levels at Ryburg-Schworstadt and at Laufenburg were lowered, the old rapids would reassert themselves. It is, therefore, generally easier to throw a pontoon bridge across normally raised water levels than over levels which have been artificially lowered."

The section of the river from Honnet to the Dutch frontier is considered a military obstacle even at lowest water levels.

The floor of the Rhine Valley is covered with the alluvial deposits of silt, sand and gravel brought down by the river. Sheltered by the mountains to the west, the valley has a drier climate and an earlier spring than the surrounding high ground. In fact, two months before the snows have left the high ground, the oaks in the valley are in leaf.

Along the foot of the plateau edges are the vineyards, tobacco fields, orchards and wheat—and villages and towns are strung along this cultivated strip, particularly where side valleys open into the plain. The valley is densely populated in contrast to the lower density of the nearby plateaux.

"In the middle ages," one officer declared, "cities along the Rhine, like Cologne, Mannheim and Strasbourg, were turned into walled settlements under the protection of a castle. We can look forward to the same thing when we cross the Rhine, but the defenses will be far greater, with every farmhouse a fort and every farmer armed with a rifle."



Moselle River joins Rhine near Coblenz, forming "Deutsches Eck." Picture is taken from fortress Ehrenbreitstein.

ENTERING GERMANY near Basel the Rhine flows between the mountains of the Black Forest and the Vosges, past the hills of western Germany into the Lowlands north of Cologne, on to the sea.

"A Million Dollars Apiece!"

That's How Capt. Elkins Rates His "Kids" Who In Their First Engagement Smashed The Best The Wehrmacht Had To Offer

By Joe Weston
Warweek Staff Writer

IN THE SIEGFRIED LINE, With the 2nd Inf. Div.—Capt. Estil Elkins, Tacoma, Va., Commanding Officer of the B Company—38th Regiment—never had much to say. So, all he said was: "I wouldn't take a million dollars apiece for you kids."—And then he crawled back into his muddy Monschau Forest gopher hole and wrote a letter home, telling his wife how his scared, green-as-grass reinforcements—ex-bakers and cooks and mechanics trainees—none of whom had ever heard a shot fired in anger before—had stood up to and smashed the best the Wehrmacht had to offer.

He told how these kids from COM Z and these others fresh off the boat from Ft. McLellan, Ala., some of whom had only joined the company the night before the attack, had "assault fired" three hundred bloody yards at Rocherath on Jan. 30, so that they could get close enough to the Krauts to get at them with cold steel and grenades.

Many Had Died

And Capt. Elkins' heart grew great with pride as he penned the details of that fight. The men hadn't known much about marching fire. There hadn't been time to teach them. But they'd waded through the 20-inch deep snow and the mortars and machine-guns and artillery and small-arms—and not a man had broken. Reinforcements hell! They were heroes in his book.

Many of them had died there at Rocherath. But they had fallen going forward and Capt. Elkins had no fear of the reinforcements who would soon replace them.

The story of the B Company reinforcements began in early January of this year.

The company had held its part of the line brilliantly during the bloody fighting of the Nazi counter-offensive, but the cost had been

heavy. Only a handful of the original noncoms and officers were left when the outfit was sent back to a comparatively quiet area to reorganize.

About the twentieth of the month the reinforcements began to trickle in. The first batch arrived. They were IRTC men from Ft. McLellan—and they still had salt-water soap in their duffle bags. Off the boat and into the line. It was as simple as all that. A few days later a few more men arrived. These were COM Z rear-echelon men transferred into the infantry under the new directives. The "butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker" as well as motor sergeants and truck drivers. They were all represented.

The Push Was On

By that time the company was no longer in a quiet sector. The push into Germany was on and B Co. was part of it—and the reinforcements would have to do the best they could.

The prime problem facing Capt. Elkins, his officers and noncoms was, of course, to give these new men what they couldn't possibly have had before—actual combat knowledge.

Enormous difficulties presented themselves. There was no time for a planned training program. It



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photos.
INFANTRYMEN and Armor of the Second Division pass Prisoner Cage in Monschau Forest. Constructed by the Germans, it now holds Jerry prisoners, who dispassionately watch the advancing Yanks.

was also obviously impossible to keep the new men out of the line and out of contact with the Krauts. In addition, many of the COM Z men had had little more than "right face and left face" in basic training.

To add to Capt. Elkins' woes, the sector became increasingly active at this point and the schoolroom had to be conducted to the accompaniment of Jerry mortar and artillery fire. No one had to say "Students, duck" at this foxhole university. It was also definitely no place to hold conventions.

"The first thing we did, however," related Capt. Elkins, "was to find out what part of the country each man came from. Then, we would try to assign men from the same section of the country to the same squad. In other cases, particularly, with the IRTC boys who had trained together, we attempted to keep 'buddies' together."

Misery Loves Company

In the case of Pfc Nick Guillen, of El Paso, Tex., and Pfc J. Quinten Kratz—both ex-COM Z truck drivers—they were assigned together so they might have something in common to bitch about if they found it necessary.

"It was a comforting feeling," said Guillen, "to have Kratz around always looking twice as unhappy as me."

Talks with the men and observation of their attitudes during the first day or so with the company made a few things abundantly clear to the CO and his squad and platoon leaders.

"The men, generally, were not in very good physical condition," said Capt. Elkins. "In addition, although they were fairly well trained in the use of the basic infantry weapons, they didn't know the capabilities and the limitations of their weapons. To be told what a gun can do by an instructor in Alabama is one thing. To know what it can and cannot do—and to see it done on the front lines—is something else again.

"But the big thing we had to drive into the minds of these new men was the status of their squad and assistant squad leaders.

"Back home a corporal or a pfc rates about as high with the average soldier as his neurotic mother-in-law. But out here a guy with two stripes—a squad leader—is a combination of general, father, chaplain, and above all—the BOSS. And the pfc—assistant squad leader—rates just about the same. We had to make that clear to the new men—and quick."

The system used with COM Z men who came into the outfit with stripes earned in other branches of the service was to let them keep the stripes—and the pay—but not the authority initially. In other words, Capt. Elkins explained, a man like T/4 Gootz kept his rank but he took orders from Pfc Claude Jackson, the assistant leader of his squad, when it became necessary for Jackson to give orders.

With the preliminary work done—and it didn't take much longer to do it than it takes to read about it—the Kill or Be Killed battle training got under way.

Battle Training Classes

The "old" men of the company were scattered about through the new men. Each of them became an instructor. The classes, such as they were, were divided into three parts.

The lectures and classroom work were done in groups of three to five men—usually in the captain's dugout, which was the only one large enough to accommodate the desired number of men. Makeshift sand tables were built and used to illustrate problems. Enemy equipment and weapons were broken down and explained. New tactics—such as marching fire—were drilled into the men and the basic necessities of squad discipline, cover, concealment, etc., were repeated over and over and over again. During these classroom periods special attention and more time was given the COM Z men, most of whom had not had the necessary basic training.

A Pentagon GI would have lost his few remaining hairs and much of his brass trying to keep to any kind of a regular schedule at B Company Foxhole University. Every so often some of the instructors would be absent—as well as a few of the students.

This came about because the second phase of the training became part of the operational procedure of the outfit. Patrols—day and night—were being maintained continuously. The Kraut lines were only two or three miles away. And on every patrol a few of the reinforcements went along. They were thoroughly briefed by the patrol leader before taking off—and the new men usually went in pairs.

"We found the pairing off system to be very effective," Capt. Elkins said. "It gave the men the opportunity to put the 'buddy' system to practical use. They learned to know each other's reactions in given situations. They learned to work together and to sense what the

other men were going to do without making unnecessary talk. Two men worked together all the time."

The third part of the training was designed to take care of the poor physical condition of many of the men. It didn't take much talk from the noncoms and officers to make the "new lot" see the definite advantages of being able to keep going—just another yard. This was accomplished by a rigid combat exercise schedule and forced marches whenever and wherever possible.

"We grumbled about stuff like this back at McLellan," said Pfc Lester J. Pooley, Howard, S.D., "but, brother, I can't get enough of it now. I like staying alive too much."

But time was running out. The D-Day and the H-Hour which these kids would remember for all time came just two weeks after their training had started.

It was 0500—bitter cold, unfriendly daybreak of Jan. 30, 1945. Assault Company B—38th Infantry Regiment—was in position to knife through the belly of the Siegfried Line. Their immediate objective was Rocherath—4,500 tough, stinking, bloody yards ahead.

The men of B Company moved. The officers and noncoms went ahead.

Importance of Leadership

The only excuse for a soldier being a line officer or non-commissioned officer is so he can lead his men—by example as well as by order, Capt. Elkins believes.

Hours later they had advanced to within 300 yards of the objective. There the company was pinned down by a barrage of artillery, mortar, MG and small-arms fire from a Kraut stronghold 300 yards away.

They went in—standing up—firing. They remembered what the squad leaders had drilled into them—"Watch me! Watch me!"

They remembered one man to fire, while the other reloads. They were firing tracers and the squad leaders shouted instructions to lower or elevate the fire.

Men fell—but they moved on. Co B never stopped.

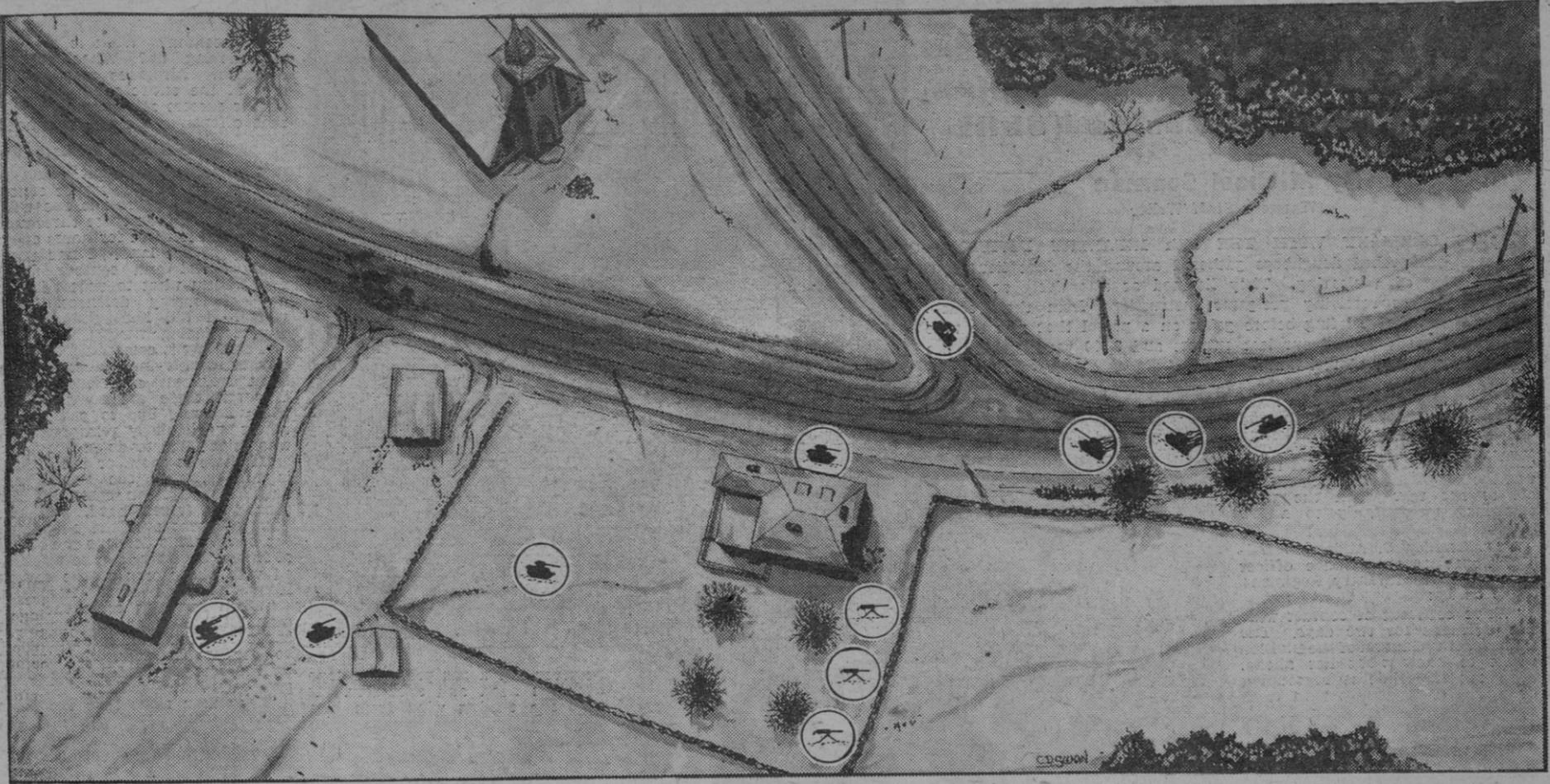
And finally these raw reinforcements began giving advice to each other. . . . real soldiers now.

BARman Everett B. Thurston, Hopkinton, N.Y.—an ex-mechanic—COM Z outside Paris, if you please—told three of his buddies to pin down a Jerry MG nest from the front while he flanked it with his BAR. He knocked off three of the Jerries and silenced the gun and said: "I didn't know I'd enjoy killing the bastards like this."



CAMOUFLAGED Second Division men move past machine-gun position and dead German. Trees show signs of heavy barrage.

The Ack Ack Men Came Down to Earth



Their 90 MM. Guns Blasted Tanks On the Ground When Von Rundstedt Tried His Belgian Break Through

By John Christie
Warweek Staff Writer

THE two ack-ack men volunteered to go with the infantry lieutenant to the outpost position which was defending the dug-in 90mm. anti-aircraft gun being used against tanks in the path of one of Von Rundstedt's armored thrusts.

They didn't know exactly what the mission was to be. They only knew it had something to do with going after an enemy tank and that the lieutenant had said he would show them how to fire a bazooka.

"Fire in the rear through the engine compartment," the lieutenant said. "It's a Tiger Royal and anywhere else won't do any good. Now go get the bastard." That was the extent of the briefing given after a three-minute demonstration on how to put ammo in the stove pipe.

Under heavy machine-gun fire coming from the three guns the Krauts had just overrun not far from the 90mm. emplacement, Pfc Albert A. Darago, of Parkville, Md. and Pvt. Roland E. Seamen, of Clarksburg, W. Va., crawled under a wire fence and up to the hedge-row which lined the road on which the "tank" was located.

But, instead of one "bastard" the infantry looney had talked about, there were four of 'em, two Tiger Royals and two Mark Vs. One, on the left, faced north up the main road. Two others, the Mark Vs were to the immediate front, facing directly away from the two men. The other Tiger was on the right, facing northwest with its 12-foot gun barrel staring 'em straight in the face.

Biggest Noise Ever

After a brief conference, the two bazooka novices decided to fire into the rear ends of the two Mark Vs. They let their charges go right into the center of the engine compartments. "Biggest Goddam noise I ever heard," said Seamen. "Fire burst out the rear of both tanks." After returning to the infantry position, the two were ordered to go back and make sure of their kills. They found them burning, but obedi-

diently gave them another charge each.

Seamen and Darago were from a 90mm. crew of the 143rd AA Gun Bn., commanded by Maj. Myron T. Fleming, of Philadelphia. This was the outfit which helped stop a decisive enemy armored spearhead that was pointing north toward Liège in the vicinity of Stoumont and Stoumont station during the breakthrough.

Since H plus 20 minutes, First Army ack-ack outfits had been the "also rans" in the campaigns that led from the beaches to beyond the Siegfried Line due to the Luftwaffe's relative scarcity, but when the breakthrough came every outfit had good use for them, and what they accomplished against Von Rundstedt's forces constitutes one of the great chapters of the war in the west.

THE odd part of it is that at a time when battle expediency made it necessary for these Army orphans to perform anti-tank and infantry support rôles, they also had to slug it out with the greatest number of planes the Luftwaffe has yet used to support a single ground operation.

How they accomplished their air mission can be told by a simple box score. The enemy sent 1,178 planes over First Army territory between December 16 and January 2, and AA batteries accounted for 295 positives and 157 probables for a total of 452. (Definition of a "probable" on the Western Front is that the plane must be seen losing altitude, smoking or burning, losing vital parts or, in other words, appears damn certain to be unable to make its home base.)

New Year's Shoot

That means the ack-ackers got 38 percent of all enemy planes sent over the First Army area during the breakthrough. Ten percent is the normal expectancy for AA. Then, there were special occasions like New Year's Day, when they knocked out 115 of the 288 planes sent over.

New use for anti-aircraft guns was an outstanding success at Stoumont, Belgium, where Kraut spearhead, aimed at Liège, was stopped cold. Sketch, reproduced from scale diagram made on the spot, shows how AA gun (extreme left) was emplaced to cover road, protected TDs and MGs. Enemy tanks (on road, upper right) were stopped by combined bazooka fire, from hedge, and longer range fire from heavier pieces. This was almost perfect example of how AA guns should be used for ground fire. Note how MGs and TDs screen less mobile, but more powerful 90MM

And there were individual unit accomplishments like that of the 116th Gun Bn., which bagged 35 enemy planes and got 18 probables in two nights of action. Many of them were JU52s carrying paratroopers.

The ground rôles played by the ack-ackers can't be dismissed by a single box score because they were part and parcel of all that went into stemming the tide of Von Rundstedt's armor. It is possible to list the number of tanks knocked out by the AA's men and even to estimate the number of infantrymen and paratroopers mowed down, but all that wouldn't tell the whole story either.

The things that were done to stop Von Rundstedt are legendary, largely because it was the will to fight on the part of the "little men" . . . the cooks and bakers and clerks and truckdrivers, and also of ack-ackers like Seamen and Darago . . . that saved the day.

AA Strong-Points

What the ack-ack batteries did is now legendary, too. Here was tremendous fire power quickly adapted to a critical situation and employed with devastating effect. While ground fire always has been a secondary mission of the AA, never before was it employed on such a big scale and never before was it the decisive factor in the success of a big operation.

As you go over the regained area of Von Rundstedt's penetration, the ex-Belgian Bulge, there is hardly a strategic road or junction where some AA outfit did not form a strong point along with a few infantrymen from which the enemy's thrusts were either blunted entirely or delayed to gain valuable time for getting up reinforcements. From these road blocks they took on everything the Germans had to offer, from Tiger Royals on down. Scores of infantry attacks were turned back or badly mangled by the fire of the hell-spitting AA quadruple mount 50-caliber machine-guns or 37mm. automatics on the flak wagons.

IT must be remembered in reviewing some of the actions fought by the AA batteries during the breakthrough that ground firing must always be the AA's secondary mission. However, the record of the First Army ack-ack units dur-

down they can be counted on to assist infantry and armor effectively.

There are hundreds of dogfights in these parts who are now thoroughly convinced that flak wagons, especially the M16s with the quad mount 50s, are damn handy to have around. In fact, some of them would revolutionize the infantry's tactics by making it SOP to have 'em with each small formation.

Harass Enemy Formations

"The meat chopper" is what the M16 was dubbed by one artillery outfit which saw 150 out of 200 German paratroopers mowed down in a few minutes as they emerged from a wood. The flak wagon was being used to outpost the artillery position at the time.

For harassing enemy troop concentrations, both observed and unobserved, there is nothing better. It really keeps 'em pinned down. The same is true of the 37mm. automatic mounted on the M15 half-track, and also the 40mm. Bofor.

The harassing value of these weapons also applies when the enemy is taking refuge in houses and buildings. Even before the breakthrough, AA units, firing occasional ground missions, had managed to burn up several small German villages and hamlets. One method is to use the 37mm. and 40mm, with armor-piercing ammo to open up cracks in walls and then pour in HE to start fires. The job has also been done with the quad 50s by using incendiary ammo and shooting at roofs, which can generally be counted on to have some wood in the structure.

ONE of the most decisive ground rôles played during the breakthrough by AA automatic weapons battalions was the work of Battery C of the 197th, commanded by Capt. William Olcott, of St. Paul, Minn. This battery was responsible for the recapture of a field hospital which the Germans already had prepared for a move east out of Waimes and for protecting and issuing more than \$12,000,000 worth of critical artillery ammo. It was also responsible for deflecting armored thrusts which could have overrun at least one division headquarters and could have directly threatened the city of Liège.

"The infantry must always keep in mind that while we have tremendous fire power, we also have

definite limitations in a ground support rôle," emphasizes Capt. Olcott, who has received the Silver Star for his action at Waimes.

"For one thing, these quad 50s and 37mms. on the flak wagons cannot fire forward point-blank at a ground target because of the weapons' automatic cut-off which silences the guns when the barrels are over the tracks' cabs for safety's sake," the captain points out.

Perhaps the most important limitation to keep in mind regarding use of the tracks in a ground rôle is their vulnerability. They have no armor. They're a good target when located.

"We must have defilade," explains Capt. Olcott. "Also, remember that in a defensive position we need strong outposts to prevent infiltration by enemy foot troops."

"It's all right to boast about the job these weapons can do against armor," says Sgt. Claude H. Anderson, of Washington, Mo., "but it's another thing to face these German tanks bearing down on your position. Every ack-ack unit sent on a roadblock mission or anti-tank rôle should be well supplied with land mines. They will help protect your position against inroads by enemy armor and will help channelize a tank penetration into a better target position."

Try Anything Once

There are a lot of tricks to the trade of employing AA automatic weapons fire against armor. Battle expediency more or less dictated that the ack-ackers try anything and the results are worth noting for when in a pinch.

While their armor-piercing ammo could do an effective job against armored vehicles at fairly long range, they needed well-placed shots at too damn close range to put out tanks. However, they could sometimes get light tanks at fairly close range with good success by hits on turret tracks and wheel tracks.

Generally, the ack-ackers depended on HE ammo to keep tanks but-tuned up all the while, trying to put the tracks out of action or to get shots through the apertures. By proper use of HE fire, they were frequently able to channelize a penetration into the range of an anti-tank gun. In fact, the AA weapons and AT guns proved to be a good partnership in most of those ground firing missions.

3,500 Yards Behind Kraut Lines!

**Advancing in a Heavy Snowstorm
These Men Found That the Secret
Of Patrolling Is Full Information,
Equipment, Brains and Skill**

By Michael Seaman
Warweek Staff Writer

INSIDE GERMANY WITH THE 90th INFANTRY DIVISION.— Three white-robed doughboys gathered around the first lieutenant at the edge of a clearing. They listened as attentively as varsity football players receiving pre-game instructions from their coach. It was their final briefing before going on a patrol that was to take them 5,000 yards beyond our last outpost and 3,500 yards behind the enemy's main line of resistance.

Only by talking at the top of his voice was the officer able to make himself heard above the harsh wind on which rode a blizzard blanketing the Ardennes deep in snow. The only other sound in the cold night was the low-pitched blat of artillery off to the rear when the wind slackened momentarily to a low moan.

1/Lt. Stanley C. Anderson, Lufkin, Texas, reconnaissance officer with the 358th Infantry Regiment, spoke curtly:

"We've been out of contact with the Germans for two days. The Commanding General of the Division wants to know what lies ahead. Find out if Heinie is regrouping or planning an assault with fresh troops on the left flank of his counter-offensive. Get information, any and every kind, not prisoners. Even if a German pops up where you could strangle him without making a sound, don't do it. Get there, get the information, and get back. Good luck, and God bless you."

S/Sgt. Richard M. McDonald, Silver Star winner from Boston, Mass., hitched his belt tighter beneath the bedsheet from which a snow camouflage suit had been improvised, made sure the two grenades were where he could get at them quickly, and called; "Okay, let's go," to two other similarly-attired men of the Tough Hombres Division. The swirling snow absorbed the trio as though the earth had opened up and swallowed them.

A Tough Job

Out there between armies it's deadly business. Sentries trained to detect sounds alien to ordinary night noises are ready with cocked weapons and eager trigger fingers to blast death in a shower of blazing lead. It's a no-man's-land where they shoot first and don't even investigate later.

McDonald, an ace scout of the regiment, knew that it would be a tough, dangerous job to get forward far enough to observe enemy movement in the little town of Wittel, where the juncture of the Saar and Moselle Rivers forms a narrow wedge, and get back to the command post.

It was a tough job that the sergeant and Pfc Daniel Blue, Pinenurst, N. C., and Pvt. Lavern Miller, Philadelphia, Pa., had to do—a job three separate battalions of the division and an armored reconnaissance unit had failed to accomplish. The trio knew that when battle is static the enemy is tensely alert; that doing the patrol job slowly and quietly to prevent a hail of fire means better chances for life instead of death.

Voice in the Dark

The night was bitterly cold but the trio had to move slowly, often standing still for long periods, trusting to their white sheets and the heavy fall of snow to hide them. McDonald led the way, with Miller and Blue following in that order. They walked single file, three paces apart.

It was 2115 hours when they shook hands with Lt. Anderson. Six inches of snow then carpeted the ground. The blizzard was piling up the snow an inch an hour. Pushing forward was a terrific strain on their stamina.



Illustration by John R. Fischetti.

Then it happened! A guttural voice boomed out, "Halt!" The trio froze in their tracks, stilled their labored breathing, and fingered their carbines, ready to shoot it out only as a last resort. Out of the eery darkness came a response. A Kraut patrol had been challenged by a German sentry. The leader muttered the German password and the unseen patrol passed on.

Close Call

Huddled in silence, the trio waited in the numbing wind and blinding snow until they heard two guards greet each other. McDonald crept forward, an inch at a time, and discovered that the provident challenge of the German sentry had been of two-fold benefit. Now he knew the exact spot where the sentries met and resumed pacing apart from each other. McDonald also discovered that he and his comrades had almost plunged headlong into a German tank trap, a wedge-shaped ditch 20 feet wide and 15 feet deep—the enemy's main line of resistance.

He timed the rendezvous of the sentries. The trio slid down the frozen slope of the tank trap at the moment when the sentries were farthest from each other. They leaned against the slope of the trap while the sentries conferred briefly 15 feet above them ten minutes later. The bedsheets camouflaged the trio perfectly. Then they discovered that it was impossible to climb out of the tank

trap. The frozen slope offered no secure footing.

McDonald reached out and pulled Blue's head toward him and in his ear whispered; "We'll have to cut foot and hand holes in the slope."

Blue relayed the information to Miller by the same method. McDonald hacked into the frozen slope with his trench knife, passing each chunk of soil to the other two so that it would not rattle down the incline. When the holes were completed the trio slipped out of the trap like wraiths and leaped as far as possible from the trail made by the sentries so as not to arouse suspicion.

Busy Krauts

At 0430 hours the following morning they pulled themselves, weary and cold, into a dugout atop a wooded hill overlooking Wittel. At daybreak the blizzard blew itself out. A sparkling, cold winter scene was around them. Down in the village German soldiers stirred into a bustle of action. Through six-power binoculars the men took turns observing troop and vehicle movements. The observer peering out from the dugout would relay information to one of the other men and each incident was jotted down into a notebook.

Blue, in a drawl thick enough to slice, said: "We could see the plumes of frost coming from the breaths of the Jerries. The observer at the top of the dugout had to be careful of his breath. We solved that by having the



observer slip a gas protective cape over his head and shoulders. It kept the cutting wind from him and also kept his breath from steaming."

Mission Finished

By 1730 hours that afternoon the notebooks of each man were filled with important data; information which vitally affected operations when the intelligence section analyzed it back at headquarters. Six hours later they made their way back, past the tank trap and sentries, into our lines. As though timed for the occasion, another blizzard roared down on the Ardennes to cover their retreat. Their mission was complete. But, before that there had been many hours of preparation.

Lt. Anderson, who had not lost a man on patrol from July 1, 1944, up to that time, summed it up this way:

"First, we made camouflage suits from old bedsheets. We just draped them over the men, cut out ovals for the face, and then put in drawstrings at the neck so the cloth over the head could be drawn to form a hood. We pulled the hob nails from some old Jerry boots and put them in the combat boots of the fellows going on the patrol. We spaced them exactly as they were in the Hun boots so that any footprints in the snow would not give our fellows away.

"The men wore no helmets, only their OD knit caps under the cape hoods. Helmets hinder hearing and, if a branch strikes them, they twang with a loud sound, even when fitted with camouflage nets.

64-Franc Questions

"Each man carried a carbine and 45 rounds of ammunition. All carried their trench knives, one canteen of water between them, a heat cube to make coffee, cough-drops and cough medicine, protective gas capes to shield them from the wind while they observed, a pack of sulfa drugs per man, two pairs of six-power binoculars, six bars of chocolate apiece, and one breakfast K-ration each.

"Go light was the rule as far as equipment was concerned but not in clothing. Each wore three pairs of socks, two pairs of pants, three undershirts, two OD shirts, two sweaters, and two pairs of long-handles.

"They also wore field jackets and overcoats. The clothing was bulky but as warm as it was possible to make them without hindering movement. Over the clothing we draped the old bedsheets we found in a blasted German home.

"Before every major action of a modern army, patrols do the most

important and dangerous job of getting answers to these questions: What troops are directly in front of them? What is their strength? Their position? What is the enemy moving up? What are his defenses? Airplanes may be the eyes of the entire army but it is on the success of the small patrols that offensives are often planned.

Some of the Tricks

"The most important thing to pass on to a reconnaissance officer about briefing patrols is one word—briefing. I took those three men and talked to them for hours about the lay of the land. I had them study aerial and contour maps. I told them what to expect in the way of enemy defenses. And where. I did not minimize the dangers facing them.

"Patrolling is something that the combat infantryman must actually learn from an experienced man. However, these are some of the tricks I would like to pass on to others, particularly reinforcements who might like to do patrol work.

"If there is snow, or the ground is muddy, stub the shoes with nails from German boots. If the ground is frozen hard, pull two pairs of socks over the outside of the boots. This deadens the sound of footsteps. Faces can be blackened with burnt cork or the carbon from the wick of a flambeau.

"When my men cross the German MLR they are instructed to snake their way for some distance to confuse sentries. A straight trail across the MLR is a dead give away.

"Each man must take the same notes so that, if only one should get back, the information will be as complete as though all had returned.

Patrolling Horse-Sense

"Chocolate should be the main item of food. It is light and gives quick energy and body heat.

"The men should learn how to use the compass and to judge progress forward. I have one man on each patrol act as pacer. His stride is measured and if six strides are equal to five yards the pacer knows when he has stepped off 60 paces he has gone forward 50 yards. Where outposts, pill-boxes or obstructions must be bypassed, allowance is made for this. Before the pacer goes on the patrol he sticks 50 matches in his right pocket if the patrol's objective is 5,000 yards away. Every 100 yards he takes a match from his right pocket and sticks it in his left pocket. When the matches are all transferred to the left pocket the pacer knows they are near the objective from which observation is to be made. This is a good method for a patrol that has memorized certain landmarks from study of maps and can use the estimated distance and landmarks for sure orientation.

Wrap Dog Tags

"Dog tags should be wrapped in rags or fitted with rubber bumpers made from the hose of an old gas mask to prevent tinkling. Nothing metallic should be exposed that might give a tell-tale sound when brushed against a tree branch or bush. The trench knife should be worn on the outside, where it can be grabbed quickly.

"A blackjack can be made from a hefty stick with a hole drilled in one end for a hunk of lead. It's a useful thing when some Hun must be slugged quickly.

"I find that men between 18 and 23, with a farm or hunting background, and cool nerves, make the best patrolmen. A man with a core of good common sense and judgment that will permit him to take calculated risks, who is physically tough and well rested, and who loves to fight, is a grade A candidate.

"Patrol work is much more important than newspaper reports, or lack of them, would indicate. When a small notation appears in a newspaper that 'activity was limited to patrols,' between the brief lines are stories of the most daring of all operations—forays deep behind enemy lines, where death is sudden, but where vital information is found by alert, intelligent fellows who know the tricks of the Indian and hunter."

This Was America Yesterday:

U.S. Keeps Feet on the Ground Despite Exhilarating War News

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Home folks grabbed the latest extras today to get the latest on the big push of the First and Ninth Armies in the ETO and the air drubbing Tokyo took from U.S. carrier planes and Superforts.

And while the demands of war stamped new lines on America's face, there was the blit of a spring tune in Easterish weather throughout the country as Main Streets bloomed with girls glowing in their new spring suits, and telling nippy winds to go to the devil.

War Advertising Praised

THE spring fever touched the hard-headed House Appropriation Committee, which handsomely complimented America's newspapers, magazines and radio stations for extra-curricular war work in pushing such projects as bond and blood drives.

The same group redoubled their efforts to find more nurses and Wacs for Army hospital work, with the radio presenting dramatic sketches picturing wounded men calling, "Nurse, nurse," in vain, because of a shortage.

There was no shortage—of work—for the ever-prying George Gallup. George hit the papers with two accomplishments: A gold medal for Greer Garson ("Mrs. Miniver," "Mrs. Parkington") as the "most popular star in the United States," and a summary of the rationed commodities which make the home folks drool the most.

Falling happily in line with the idea of bigger and better things for the future, some Maryland scientists excitedly revealed they had learned the secret of making mama hogs bring three litters yearly into the world instead of the normal two.

Death Comes for Slot-Machine King

WHILE the home front admired this evidence of abundant life, death took Nathan Weisenberg, Cleveland slot machine boss, in the form of two blasts from a gangster's shotgun, and Cleveland cops worried aloud that the city would experience the most serious gang war in many years.

And, if you care, Noel Toy, a Chinese strip teaser, is suing a Chinatown shop in San Francisco on the ground that she burned one of her shapely gams on an unprotected heater. Noel claims she gets \$400 a week for her stuff, and she thinks she ought to get \$75,000 for the injury.

THERE'S an O'Henry short story in Chicago today, and curiously enough, the hero's name is Henry O. Larson, a cop to whom \$125,000 was left by a Mrs. Florence Mix, who liked the way Henry patrolled his beat in front of her house. Henry has now been discharged from the Navy and—you're right, brother!—he wants to slap his brogans on the old beat again.

2,000 Riot in Explosive Quebec As MPs Check Draft Papers

DRUMMONDVILLE, Quebec, Feb. 25 (AP).—Scores of persons were injured last night when more than 2,000 citizens of this predominantly French-Canadian center attacked 200 Royal Canadian MPs and Provost Corps personnel who were examining the draft papers of young men in the district.

A witness said that at least 100 persons were injured by the flying fists and ice in the melee in front of the Capitol Theater. Four MP cars were overturned and the windows of ten Provost Corps trucks were broken. About 25 of the crowd were arrested.

The disturbance began shortly after officers started to examine men as they left the theater. A jeep rolled up and the driver tried to make his way through the crowd. The throng began jostling the police and started throwing ice.

One report said that the prisoners were whisked away by the trucks as they were picked up.

Sentences of Six Circus Heads May Prevent Tour

SARASOTA, Fla., Feb. 25 (ANS).—President Robert Ringling said today that the "big show" may be unable to go on tour this year if the six officials are sent to prison in April to begin serving sentences which resulted from the Hartford tragedy.

Unless the show can go on, Ringling said in a formal statement, Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey circus cannot meet the claims of relatives of 168 persons who died and of those who were injured last July 6, when the Big Top burned.

Rafferty Wins AAU Feature; Haegg Missing

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Jimmy Rafferty, 29-year-old runner representing the New York AC, won the featured mile race in the 57th National AAU indoor track and field championships last night in Madison Square Garden.

Forest Efaa, veteran unattached harrier from Oklahoma, who was expected to race Haegg in the three-mile event, won that one with ease, lapping the field in 14:26.3.

Rafferty had little trouble in the mile. He won in 4:17.5, the worst mile time of the indoor season.

Versatility was displayed by Wilfred Bangert, of the University of Missouri, who aspires to an operatic career. After taking a Metropolitan Opera audition in the afternoon, Bangert went to the Garden and started things off by singing the national anthem. Then he beat Felix Blanchard, Army's line-busting back, in the shot put.

Illinois Big Ten Victor

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 25.—Illinois, scoring first in nine of twelve events, captured the Big Ten Quadrangular indoor track meet last night with 69 3/5 points. Minnesota was second with 25, followed by Iowa, 22 1/5, Wisconsin, 16 1/5.

Navy Defeated By Bainbridge

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 25.—Bainbridge Naval Station dumped the previously undefeated Navy basketball team here last night, 68-60. Bainbridge led, 32-30, at halftime. After tying the score, 47-47, with eight minutes to go, the Middies tired. Bud Holcomb was top man with 18 points for Bainbridge, and Adrian Back made 17 for the losers.

Army Nips NYU, 54-51

WEST POINT, N.Y., Feb. 25.—Throwing in four points in the last two minutes, Army sneaked by with a 54-51 victory over New York University here last night. The Cadets rolled up a 32-22 halftime lead, but allowed the Violets to pull even at 48-48. The game was clinched when Capt. Dale Hall and Ed Rafalko scored from far out.

494th Port Boxing Team In Paris Ring Tonight

The 494th Port, which entered five leather swingers two weeks ago, will headline the weekly ARC-Special Service boxing show tonight at the Palais de Glace.

The Program

Pvt. Joseph Willis vs. Pvt. Michael Constanza; Pvt. George Murray vs. Pfc Edward Dixon; Pvt. Roy Perry vs. Pvt. Domenick Cicoria; Pvt. Arlee Chandler vs. Pvt. Chas Perkins; Pvt. John Lester vs. Pfc Beaufort Glover; Cpl. Wilton Kemp vs. Pvt. Robert Wilson; Cpl. Alan Caraway vs. Cpl. Lonnie Scott; Pvt. Leroy Bullard vs. Pvt. Theodore Pritchard; Sgt. James Treadwell vs. Pfc Fred Peeler; Pvt. Benny Williams vs. Sgt. Curtis Chartier; Pvt. Chester Clemons vs. Cpl. William Cota; Cpl. Rufus Bishop vs. Pfc Frank Tessallo; Cpl. Irving Bishop vs. Cpl. Don Anderson.

Iowa Needs 2 More Victories To Clinch Big Ten Crown

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 25.—Iowa's league-leading Hawkeyes drubbed Wisconsin last night, 68-38, for their first victory on the Badger floor in 11 years. It was their ninth victory in ten Western Conference games.



Headquarters won the Ninth AF Service Command basketball title Saturday night at Japy Gym, defeating Sullivan's Raiders, 38-35, in an overtime game. Both teams were tired from their tough semifinal tussles in the afternoon, and play was ragged through most of the five periods.



Joe Risinger

The all-tournament team was comprised of Risinger, who also won the prize for high point total in a single game, 25; his teammate, Bernie Weksler, husky guard named the "most valuable" player; Bill McKay, slick ballhandling guard with the Raiders; Wally Mold, of 16th ADG, and John Kiluski, of First IDG.

Bill Reddy, former basketball player at DePaul University, is now head coach of the 19th Reinforcement Depot team.

Snead Leading Pensacola Golf

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 25.—Combining almost perfect putting with powerful driving, Sammy Snead scored an eight-below-par 64 to take the lead at the end of the second round of the Pensacola Open golf tournament. His two-day 131 was three strokes ahead of Harold "Jug" McSpaden, who scored a 64 to lead the opening round. McSpaden registered 70 in the second round. Snead scored an eagle on the 508-yard 12th hole.

Claude Harmon duplicated the 64 to climb into a tie with Sammy Byrd and Craig Wood for third place with 137. Harmon missed a 20-foot putt on the 18th, which would have given him a new course record of 63.

Hockey Standings

Table with National League and American League columns showing W, L, T, Pts for various teams like Montreal, Detroit, Toronto, Cleveland, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, etc.

Bucks Finish With Bang

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 25.—Ohio State defeated Indiana, 85-52, to end the season with a conference mark of ten victories and two defeats. The Buckeyes still have a chance to win or tie for the crown they grabbed last year. Ohio State led at halftime, 37-27. Arnold Risen, Buckeye center, was high man with 24 points and Forward Don Grate had 21.

Cats Scratch Illini

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Northwestern University's cagers eliminated Illinois from the Big Ten title competition last night with a 57-45 victory. The Wildcats took command after the first ten minutes and led at halftime, 25-14. In the nightcap, elongated George Mikan paraded DePaul to a 65-49 victory over Western Kentucky in the season's finale for the Blue Demons. Mikan netted 30 points as DePaul raced to its 18th verdict in 20 games.

Rangers Rally To Tie Leafs

TORONTO, Feb. 25.—Drilling two goals past Goalie Grank McCool in the last four minutes, the New York Rangers gained a 4-4 tie with the Maple Leafs last night and moved within one point of fourth place in the National Hockey League.

The Rangers caught the Leafs in the final stanza on goals by Fred Thurier and Ab DeMarco. Babe Pratt and Rookie Bud Johnstone scored for Toronto in the opening period, and Art Jackson and Sweeney Schriner tallied in the second. DeMarco counted on a so-called dash for the Blueshirts in the first and Grant Warwick scored on a pass from Ott Heller in the second.

Wings Trip Hawks

DETROIT, Feb. 25.—The Detroit Red Wings scored three goals in the first period to defeat the Chicago Black Hawks, 4-2, here last night. Hal Jackson, Mud Bruneteau, Herb Lindsay and Murray Armstrong scored the Detroit goals. Pete Horeck and Rookie Red Mitchell tallied for Chicago.

CAGE RESULTS

- List of cage results including Army 54, NYU 51, Albright 74, Lehigh 38, Alabama 56, Miss. State 38, Arkansas 87, Texas Aggies 36, Akron 62, Ohio University 50, Bowling Green 74, Case 42, Bainbridge Naval 68, Navy 60, CGNY 85, St. Joseph's 47, Cornell Midshipmen 60, Ithaca 54, DuPont 55, High Point 54, DePaul 65, Western Ky. 49, Ga. Tech. 69, Georgia 42, Geneva 61, Slippery Rock Techs. 46, Hamline 61, Bemidji Techs. 32, Iowa State 31, Oklahoma 29, Jackson Air Base 54, Miss. 48, Juniata 60, Carnegie Tech. 57, Kansas 64, Missouri 33, Kan. State 55, Nebraska 47, Kentucky 65, Cincinnati 35, Lafayette 71, Rider 51, LIU 59, Brooklyn College 34, Lincoln A.B. 64, Phillips Oilers 60, Loras 73, Coe 26, Michigan State 62, Detroit 38, McAlester 54, Moorhead 50, Northwestern 57, Illinois 45, North Carolina 49, Duke 38, Ohio State 85, Indiana 52, Oregon State 44, Idaho 33, Parris Island 56, Cherry Point 44, Rutgers 49, Haverford 34, Syracuse 45, Sampson Naval 43, St. Mary's 65, Augsburg 46, Simpson 43, Drake 40, Temple 39, Penn State 28, Texas Tech. 48, W. Tex. State 43, Tuskegee 38, Clarke 35, Tennessee 58, Murray State 37, Vanderbilt 66, Southwestern 48, Washington State 53, Washington 41, Wofford 56, Furman 40, Wash. State 53, Wash. U. 45, W. Virginia 50, Pittsburgh 47.

Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate, Inc.

By Chester Gould



Marines Slowly Pushing Japs Back on Iwo Jima

U.S. PACIFIC FLEET HQ., Guam, Feb. 25 (UP).—Elements of three U.S. Marine divisions, making slow progress in a drive against bitterly resisting Japanese troops, have reached the heart of the central airfield on Iwo Jima and have captured approximately half of the embattled island.

The Marines, covered by land, sea and air bombardment, pushed forward on a two-and-a-half-mile front across the center of the island. They drove 300 to 500 yards through the center of the strong Japanese defense line.

The Yanks also expanded their west coast beachhead by about 600 yards and extended their grip on the east coast by several hundred yards.

Adm. Nimitz, in a communiqué covering action up to 6 PM yesterday, reported that 2,799 Japanese dead had been counted. The last report on U.S. losses listed 5,372 casualties, including 644 dead, as of 6 PM Wednesday.

Marine patrols entered the crater of Mt. Suribachi. They were mopping-up Japanese troops still resisting from within the volcano and in blockhouses, pillboxes, caves and crevices on the slopes of the mountain.

Most of Pacific Fleet Backing Marines at Iwo

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (ANS).—Vice Adm. R. S. Edwards, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, said today that the major part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was involved in the operations around Iwo Jima. Expressing the opinion that the Japanese would not attempt to reinforce the island garrison, Adm. Edwards said: "That is something we can't hope for."

"If they would send in transports and let us sink them," he continued, "that would be a cheap way of getting rid of Japs. Unfortunately, they don't try any more."

Citadel Fell in 30 Minutes

(Continued from Page 1)
secured and the many tunnels and cellars were being searched in a vain effort to find prisoners or a CP.

Flame-Throwers Clear Citadel for Assault

By Frank Coniff
International News Service

INSIDE THE CITADEL, Julich, Feb. 24.—Doughboys sprinkled a heavy dew over the inside of this historic stronghold and paved the way for the final assault.

A tank-dozer came first. Inside it were Pvt. Samuel Mora, of New York City; Pvt. Marshall Gardner, of Chicago; Cpl. Hyman Vagovsky, of Patterson, N.J., and its commander, Cpl. Art Worley, of Lemons, Mo.

Ignoring machine-gun bullets which rattled off its flanks, the monster scraped a path through the rubble, enabling flame-throwers to approach within working distance.

Three jaunty Texans manned another lethal weapon. Lt. Elmer Halton, of Houston, Sgt. A. G. Tyree, of Royce City, and Sgt. William Stansbury rolled their tank-dozer to within 25 yards of the citadel's gate.

Two other flame-throwers moved up under the towers at either end of the citadel. At a given signal they began hosing the outside and interior of the fortress. Simultaneously their powerful guns ripped away at pointblank range.

Wall Is Set Afire

I guess a flame-thrower in action is the most terrifying and awesome weapon I'll ever see. Great orange puffs of fire lofted intact over the wall before shredding into dozens of burning flakes which floated down inside the fortress.

So the entire vine-trilled wall was aflame. A towering spume of smoke which must have been visible for miles rose over the citadel. The thick gate finally disintegrated under the terrific pounding of the guns.

Now it was time for the climactic assault. Doughboys who had been

Yanks Clear Last of Japs From Manila

MANILA, Feb. 25.—Destruction of the Japanese garrison in Manila was completed yesterday—three weeks to the day after U.S. troops first entered the city.

Yanks crushed the last fanatic Japanese resistance within the centuries-old walls of the Intramuros section, where 3,000 tortured and frightened civilians of many nationalities were liberated.

More than 12,000 Japanese dead already have been counted in the Philippines capital, and Gen. MacArthur announced that many more remained to be counted in the rubble-strewn city, where "the enemy apparently expected to turn the tide of battle."

Liberation of Manila was completed by the First Cavalry and 37th Inf. Divs., which were first to break into the city. In the last stages of the battle, Americans at times were fighting on one floor of a building with Japanese on the floor above or in the basement.

MacArthur said that the liberated civilians, including a number of priests and nuns, had "suffered unbelievable indignities and dangers."

Meanwhile, American troops on the central Luzon plain captured Pantanbangan. Japanese troops defending Baguio, the summer capital, were strafed and bombed.

watching the performance from bomb craters ringing the citadel, prepared to execute their traditional mission. No victory is ever complete until ground soldiers have nailed it down.

Lt. Purvis waved as he assumed command of an assault platoon. My heart was in my throat. Death was a pressing reality to these gallant Americans.

They ran crouching from crater to crater. Every leap brought them nearer to the gate. Artillery kept spitting a covering fire over their heads. This would be the payoff.

Finally Purvis and the doughboys with him dashed the last stretch through the still flaming gate. It was all over in 30 minutes.

Duren . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

the war they will pick a good spot a few miles north and start building," Larkin declared.

Only a few hours after the first U.S. troops cleared Duren, American bulldozers trundled their way across the bridges the engineers had built and like snow plows started cleaning the streets of rubble so that traffic could push through the city's main roads.

Headquarters of American outfits were set up in cellars because there were nothing but cellars left. Winding steps leading to the cellars of what had been fine Duren mansions were so littered with rubble that the steps were indiscernible, and the stairs twisted down like flat ramps.

In the center of the ruins of Duren, there was a statue of Bismarck standing 20 feet above the rubble. One of the four Germans found in Duren explained that Bismarck had originally been looking toward France and Belgium, but two nights ago the terrific bombardment from American artillery on the other side of the Roer had turned the statue completely around so that Bismarck, like all Germans, was now facing the Rhine.

As Rangers Returned from Jap Prison Camp



1/Lt. John F. Murphy, of Springfield, Mass., (right) leads a group of American Rangers after they returned from their attack on Cabanatuan prison camp, on Luzon, where they released nearly 400 American prisoners held by the Japs for nearly three years.

Yanks 15 Mi. from Cologne As Big Push Gathers Speed

(Continued from Page 1)

reported cleared by 8PM tonight, bringing the total since the offensive began to 30. Elsewhere along the 24-mile front the Yanks were pressing doggedly against still other villages, many of which were linked in the complex defensive system the Germans have developed to protect the Rhine and the great industrial area behind it.

Nazi Battalion Taken Intact

Most spectacular occurrence in the battle zone today was the capture intact of an entire battalion this morning by troops of Maj. Gen. Terry Allen's 104th Inf. Div., operating in the First Army front.

The battalion was surrounded in Rath Castle, between Ellen and Merzenich, northeast of Duren. A short fire-fight ensued, after which a white flag of surrender appeared and the battalion commander, five other officers and 215 EM were captured.

Duren itself was clear of the enemy except for snipers this morning after more than a day and a night of fighting, much of it house to house. Troops of the 104th advanced beyond Duren.

Two more American divisions engaged in the offensive were disclosed today when it was announced that the 29th Inf. Div. had cleared Stetternich and the 102nd Inf. Div. had taken Ralshoven.

The 104th cleared Ellen and Merzenich and the 8th Inf. Div. seized Stockheim and Binsfeld. All are in the general area of Duren.

Other Towns Taken

Other towns captured today included Kreuzau, Lovenich, Katzen and Patteron.

Stockheim and Kreuzau are south of Duren, indicating that troops in the Roer area of the front had swung south in a flanking attack.

The full take of prisoners was impossible to calculate. Ninth Army reported a total of 1,364, but this figure was issued early this morning.

First Army released no prisoner figures outside of 2,000 captured by the 104th Inf. Div.

The Germans sent aircraft against the bridgehead forces yesterday and last night. Fifty enemy planes were over the First Army area during the night. Anti-aircraft guns claimed 20 of them destroyed and two probably destroyed.

All of the bridgeheads which American troops established in the pre-dawn crossings Friday were linked by this morning to form a solid bridgehead 24 miles long, with the northern anchor about six miles northwest of Linnich and the southern a mile or so below Duren.

Infantry resistance grew stronger as the Rhine-bound Yanks pushed further into the Cologne plain, while artillery opposition slackened

off slightly. However, the Bailey bridges, foot bridges and other hastily-constructed spans across the Roer were still under intermittent shellfire.

Fourth Armored Seizes Five Towns

The build-up of American weapons for the conquest of the central Rhineland, where Gen. Eisenhower intends to destroy the German armies in the west, was emphasized at SHAEF as the significant phase of the battle following the crossing of the Roer itself.

Most significant gain from the tactical viewpoint yesterday was the seizure of the Julich ridge, a stretch of high, commanding ground north and east of Julich. Ninth Army doughs controlled the ridge late yesterday.

On the Third Army front, the Fourth Armored Division made gains of several miles east in the direction of Bitburg and captured five towns. The 94th Inf. Div. troops gained one mile to the north and contacted the 10th Armored Division, extending the river crossing to an area four miles wide and two miles deep.

Troops of 76th Inf. Div. captured Holsthum, five miles northeast of Echternach while troops of the Fifth Inf. Div. advanced one mile northeast to take high ground four and one-half miles southwest of Bitburg, expanding their Prum bridgehead to three miles wide and one and one-half miles deep.

U.S. Seventh Army troops continued fighting in the Forbach sector, with resistance heavy on the town's west side. They cleared the forest north of Bubingen on the east bank of the river and captured Bliesbrunnbach to the east.

U.S. Orders Stepped-Up Draft For Men in 30-33 Age Bracket

By Joe Fleming

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The stepped-up drafting of men 30 through 33 by permitting deferment only if they are "necessary" to an essential industry was ordered yesterday by Selective Service officials.

The new order will mean that about 1,500,000 men in that age bracket who now hold occupational deferments will enter the Army this year, a Selective Service spokesman said. Heretofore, men in that age group only had to be "engaged" in an essential industry.

Meanwhile, the Senate Military Affairs Committee's manpower

Rokossovsky Begins Drive Toward Baltic

Moscow, still maintaining official silence regarding Marshal Ivan S. Koniev's drive to break through the German defense line southeast of Berlin, announced last night that several Pomeranian towns had been captured in a new thrust by Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's forces.

One of the towns, said the Soviet communique, was Preussisch-Friedland, 17 miles southwest of Chojnice in the Polish Corridor. German reports said that Soviet troops had started an offensive on the front between those two places.

If successful, this thrust toward the Baltic would increase the peril to Danzig, Gdynia and Stettin, the Associated Press said.

By Russian and German reports, the fiercest fighting on the Eastern Front yesterday occurred in or around three surrounded German bastions which were Koenigsberg in East Prussia, Graudenz in Poland and Breslau in Silesia.

Moscow dispatches said that reinforcements were pouring in a great stream to Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's forces east of Berlin and Marshal Koniev's forces on the Neisse River.

There were conflicting German reports regarding Koniev's progress. One said that "all Soviet bridgeheads across the Neisse were pressed in." Another said that Soviet forces across the Neisse were being strengthened.

Both the Russians and Germans reported increased air activity.

Martial Law in Rumania

The Paris radio reported yesterday that the Rumanian government had declared martial law. This coincided with a Moscow radio report that demonstrations by the National Democratic Front had been held in Bucharest and other Rumanian cities.

Egypt Holds 50 After Slaying

CAIRO, Feb. 25 (Reuter).—Premier Ahmed Maher, assassinated after the announcement of Egypt's declaration of war against Germany and Japan, was given an elaborate state funeral today.

Meanwhile, police made more than 50 arrests in an all-night round-up. They said the assassin, Mahmoud el Issawi, a 26-year-old lawyer and member of the Young Egypt Party, who was seized immediately after he shot the premier, had been interned in the first year of the war for alleged pro-German activities.

Crowds filled Cairo's streets to watch silently as the funeral cortege moved slowly to the Elkiehia Mosque, where services were held.

King Farouk has appointed Nokrashy Pasha, foreign minister, to succeed Ahmed Maher and has asked him to form a new cabinet. The declaration of war remains unchanged by the assassination.

measure faces a barrage of amendments on the Senate floor tomorrow. If it passes the Senate the House will undoubtedly demand considerable revision before accepting it.

The House-approved bill would apply only to civilians aged 18 to 45 and would slap penalties on workers who leave essential jobs without draft board permission or who refuse to take essential work on the orders of the draft board.

The Senate bill would affect all persons regardless of age or sex and would primarily penalize employers who disregard employment ceilings set by the War Manpower Commission.