

83rd SPEARHEAD

Vol. 1 / No 7

Somewhere in France

September 25, 1944

20,000 NAZIS SURRENDER

104 Silver Stars go to men of 83rd Division; 521 get Bronze awards

Statistical evidence on the type of fighting men which go to make up the 83rd division was revealed today with the release of the actual number of awards which have been recommended and approved for presentation by the Awards Board.

A grand total of 104 silver stars (which are presented for gallantry in action), have been given to various personnel of the division and the bronze award, exemplary of heroic and meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, has been approved for 521 members of the division.

In addition to these awards, 15 air medals have been distributed to pilots of artillery liaison planes for their achievements while participating in aerial flights. Four soldiers medals, presented for heroism not involving actual enemy contact, have also been awarded since the division has been in France.

In instances where the same person is given the award a second time he becomes the recipient of an oak leaf cluster. One individual in the division has been recommended and approved for this high silver star honor and three men are now eligible to wear bronze oak leaf clusters.

"American Legion" writer visits 83rd

Hamilton Greene, author, and illustrator for the "American Legion" monthly magazine, has been with the 83rd Infantry Division for the past, four weeks and has written a story for the October issue of his magazine based on the Division's experiences in the hedgerows of Normandy. Mr. Greene recently went with Capt. Heister Drum, Mifflinville Penn., Commanding Officer of the 83rd Rcn. Troop, on a reconnaissance trip to Bordeaux and return and he is now busy writing a story of that experience for the November issue of the "American Legion".

Tank Buster

Champion tank buster of the 83rd is Pvt. Francis C. Mackay of the 330th Infantry. This enterprising doughboy from Los Angeles has five Jerry tanks to his credit. For getting three in one day he was recently awarded the Silver Star.

96 percent recover from battle wounds

Washington (CNS) — Of all the men wounded in battle, 96 percent now recover. This amazing record, the War Department says, is due to modern medical equipment.

Gen. Macon Receives German General's Pistol at Beaugency

More than 19,500 Germans, representing ground troops of the once vaunted Luftwaffe, marines, naval personnel and members of the once mighty Wehrmacht, all remnants of larger forces which were previously along the Spanish border and the Bay of Biscay, surrendered to Major General Robert C. Macon, Commanding General of the 83rd Infantry Division, at Beaugency Bridge on September 17th. Thus ended one of the most fantastic stories of surrender yet in the present war.

The high point of the surrender was the ceremony which took place by prearrangement at Beaugency Bridge on the south bank of the Loire River. There at 1530 of the 17th, before an honor platoon from Co. K. of the 329th Infantry, a battery of motion picture cameras, a score of correspondents and another score of visiting officers from various headquarters, Major General Erich Elster, Commanding General of the March Group, marched stiffly at the side of Lt. Col. J. K. French, of Marrisfield, Virginia, to a point where General Macon was waiting with his Staff, Brigadier General P. C. Weylin, Commanding General of the 19th Tactical Air Command, and Colonel Edwin C. Crabill, Commanding Officer of the 329th Infantry. There the German General came to a halt, raised his hand in salute and formally surrendered his troops. He followed by presenting General Macon with his pistol. General Macon then accepted the surrender on behalf of Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, Commanding General, of the U. S. Ninth Army who was not able to be present.

After the ceremony, the German General directed his troops to lay down their arm at the river as he had done, and he and his staff were then escorted across the river to waiting vehicles.

In back of this surrender lies a story which started on September 8th when 1st Lt. Samuel W. Magill of Ashtabula, Ohio, I & R. Platoon Leader of the 329th Infantry, sent his men across the Loire River. It was there while on reconnaissance that they made contact with the Maquis and learned that a large body of Germans were endeavoring to make their way from the Spanish border eastward to Germany with the hope of getting through the Belfort Gap before the Third and Seventh Armies could close it. He also learned that the Maquis and the Ninth Air Force were harassing the Germans. Lt. Magill moved his entire platoon across the river and extended his patrolling to the depth of forty miles south of the Loire.

Later on the 8th, Magill found out through the Maquis that the German General in command of the troops would be willing to talk surrender terms if he could deal with the Americans. Lt. Magill then established contact with the German General who requested that we send two battalions of infantry across the river to put up a token battle so that he could preserve his honor. After a conference with General Macon, this request was refused. Negotiations were continued but with planes of the Ninth Air Force hovering overhead. This had its influence and General Elster agreed to surrender but requested that American representatives attend a conference in civilian clothes. This, too, was refused.

On September 10th, Lt. Magill with his driver Pfc. Ralph E. Anderson of Lancaster, Ohio, and a Belgian officer drove to Issoudun where a conference was held between General Macon and General Elster. This was the first actual meeting between the Americans and Germans.

(Cont. on page 4)

DO YOUR
CHRISTMAS MAILING
EARLY

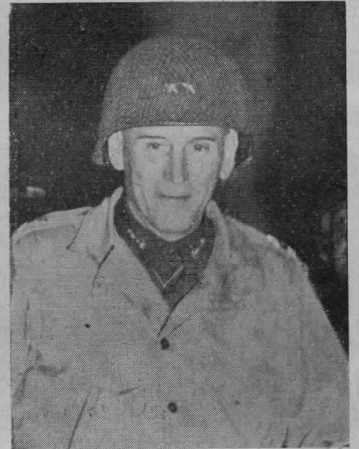
83rd Spearhead

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83rd Signal Company installs and maintains many communications

KNOW YOUR LEADERS

Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry when he led a regimental landing group in the invasion of Africa in November 1942, Major General Robert C. Macon was appointed commander of the 83rd Infantry Division in January, 1944.



Gen. Macon commanded Co. I of the 15th Infantry in China from 1919 to 1921, served as General Staff Officer with troops in Panama from 1931 to 1933, and was stationed at Pine Camp, N. Y., in 1941, as General Staff Officer in the Fourth Armored Division. He later commanded an Armored Regiment, and had been Assistant Division Commander of the 83rd Division since April, 1943.

A native of Washington, D. C., Gen. Macon attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute where he received a degree in mechanical engineering in 1913. He was commissioned in the Infantry in 1916, graduated from The Infantry School Company Officers' Course in 1924 and the Advanced Course in 1929. He later attended the Chemical Warfare and General Staff Schools and was graduated from the Army War College in 1934. He recently was awarded the Bronze Star for his work in France.

FACE LIFTING

Bright and shining, and filled with many hopes and plans, this issue of THE SPEARHEAD comes from the press to you in its new dress and make-up. It fulfills, at long last, one of the plans we have had for a real division newspaper.

Our predecessor has closed its weary doors. Gone are the stencils and mimeograph machine. Through the hedgerows of Normandy, from Carentan to Periers, and then on up the Brittany peninsula to Saint-Malo, it has tried to bring you news of the division. We found it just wasn't big enough for the job and for this grand old outfit of ours.

So, with electric power on once again in many liberated towns, and with a supply of newsprint outside our door, we shall try from now on to bring you each week a paper which will measure up to your hopes and ours. It will be your paper and we shall print as much news of the outfit and its readers as space will permit.

Later, perhaps, we shall enlarge it but, for now, we shall publish THE SPEARHEAD in its present form. We want you to feel it is your paper. If you want to suggest something, drop us a line. If you have a good story, pass it on. And if you want to blow off a little steam, well, we'll be glad to listen to that, too. In any case, we want you to know that this is your paper and we of the editorial staff are always at your service.

One of the chief reasons for the Germans losing the first World War was because of lack of communication. While they are busy thinking up an alibi for the loss of this one, the officers and men of the 83rd Signal Company who are responsible for the communications in and out of the division, go about their daily duties perfectly oblivious to the magnificent job they are doing, helping to bring about Hitler's doom.

Maintaining approximately 250 miles of wire is no easy matter even in civilian life, yet the signal men of the 83rd have done just that. They know it is upon them that the responsibility for communications rests. Of course the amount of wire they lay varies. Sometimes they take advantage of existing commercial lines to speed things up. But still all these wire lines must be tested and serviced so that there is no break in the communications.

At one time, the Signal Company had enough wire in its zone of responsibility to compare with that used in an American city of 20,000 people. In addition to the wire section, the Signal Company has sections which maintain radio and teletype communication with elements higher than the division,

such as to Corps and Army Headquarters. It also operates radio and messenger service to the Infantry regiments and separate units within the division.

By employing a repeating coil in their wire circuits, telegraph communication is also maintained so that the situation will never arise when complete contact with any fighting unit is lost.

While one of the chief responsibilities of the division signal company is to maintain service between division headquarters and its subordinate units, it also has the complex job of installing and maintaining telephone communications within the different echelons of the division headquarters, regardless of the distance separating the echelons. Still it must not be forgotten that the signal men in the Regiments and Battalions have as great, if not a greater responsibility, inasmuch as they are the men who must carry the communications right up to the front lines themselves.

Since the start of operations in Normandy, some 16, 83rd Signal Company men have been awarded the Bronze Star. It is on men like these and their Signal Corps brethren that generals and GI's alike depend to get the message through.

What's in a name? It's all the same

Some people call it "Red Eye." Some call it "Circus Water". Others prefer the name "Saki Juice." We've even heard it called "Grape Squeezings." But whatever it may be called, its still "Vin Rouge." Just plain ordinary Red Wine.

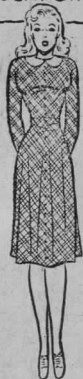
GIs can't consume non-alcoholic drinks

Rome (CNS) — GIs here have been ordered to stop drinking non-alcoholic beverages. The reason is that typhoid and dysentery may easily be spread in drinks which do not contain in some form that well-known disinfectant — alcohol.

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"

ANTHROPOLOGY REFRESHER CHART (FOR THE RETURNING SERVICE MAN WHO WISHES TO RESUME HIS EDUCATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...)



THIS IS A GIRL



"SPECIES AMERICANUS" (THE ALL-OVER OUTLINE IS THE SAME EVERYWHERE, BUT THE NORTH AMERICAN CLIMATE SEEMS TO PRODUCE DISTINCTIVE RESULTS)



SOME TYPES ARE READY SUBJECTS AND MAY BE PICKED UP AND FONDLED



OTHERS ARE WARY UNTIL CERTAIN OF THE STUDENT'S ACTUAL INTENTIONS

THERE ARE AREAS IN WHICH THE STUDENT WILL FIND THE SPECIES IN ABUNDANCE... IN OTHERS THE FIELD MAY HAVE BEEN WORKED OVER BY LOCAL SCIENTISTS...



BEGINNERS ARE WARNED NOT TO BE MISLED BY THE GAUDY SURFACE COLORING OF SOME SUBJECTS...OFTEN THE MOST SATISFYING RESEARCH MAY BE CONDUCTED WITH PLAIN TYPES — ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH NESTS OF THEIR OWN...

DOWN THE DRAIN

83rd slogan—a pistol on every belt.

We hear Paris in "on limits". Everything is aplenty except food. But who's worried about eating in Paris when there's so much else to do.

That famous word "KAPUT" which you hear spoken so often by Frenchmen is a German word, a colloquialism, which means killed, broken, finished. It's a slang expression used for everything. The German is Kaput. The town is kaput. The tire is kaput. The chicken is kaput.

We now note that the BBC no longer announces "Double British Summer Time". It's just plain ordinary "summer time" since we all set our clocks back an hour.

People who want to get their personal film developed can do so through their nearest PX officer, but we wonder where we can find him. In the meantime time, it's ok to try your local photo dealer.

It's interesting to note that German youngsters also like chewing gum. Maybe, when peace comes, we can use that as a means of sticking together.

German PW overheard to remark to a 308th Engineer, "I always did think the Buick motor was the best in the World".

Heard late one night in Orleans. One GI to another, "That's not your jeep". Said the other GI, "Well, I had one around here somewhere". You can't blame a fellow for trying.

We understand that the Division GI's are finding out there are other things to line up for these days besides chow. And we don't mean the pay line either, fellows.

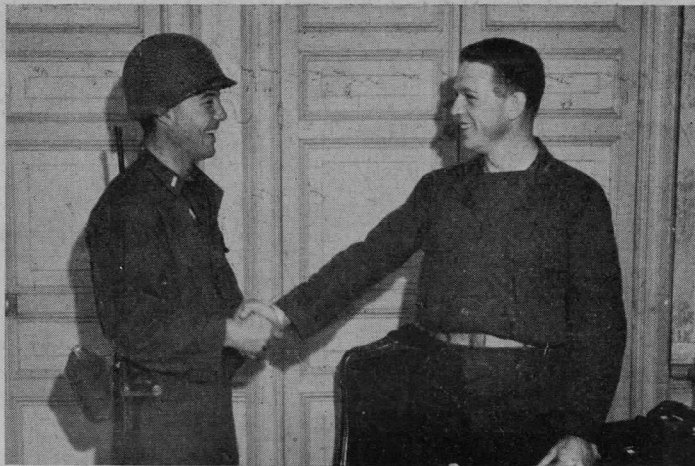
Latest excuse for being AWOL. "I was locked up in a room for three nights with a Gestapo woman."

They say French is surprisingly easy to learn. Even the children over here speak it.

We understand there is a Douche-Bain Palace in Vendome. Four francs per shower. We hope you got to town for a nice warm douche.

We sympathize with the Division Hq officer who had rabbit stew two meals running at the Hotel Moderne in Orleans, only to have rabbit stew for a third meal when he visited an I & R CP at Romo-antin.

BARNES COMMISSIONED



2nd Lt. F. H. Barnes being congratulated by Major William Sellers, S-2 of the 331st Infantry. Barnes is I & R Platoon Leader. He is the first man in the division to win his gold bars in combat.

Signal Corps Photo

308th Engineers build and operate ferry

When the German forces retreated south of the Loire River prior to their recent surrender to the 83rd, they destroyed all of the bridges spanning the wide river and the problem of transporting essential traffic over the 150 yards of water fell to the 308th Engineer Battalion.

A few hours after news of the possible capitulation was announced by Lt. Magill, crews from the Engineer outfit arrived on the spot and immediately constructed a G. I. ferry. Six assault boats were lashed together and a wooden platform was mounted on the top. Propelled by an outboard gasoline motor, jeeps and military personnel were ferried from one bank to another at short intervals, and a considerable share of the work directly connected with the surrender was expedited in this manner.

Meanwhile, other crews were engaged in constructing a second ferry from the heavy rubber pontoons and it, too, was put into operation to handle the subsequent increase in traffic while negotiations were completed and the actual surrender terms began to materialize.

In the fifty acre field on the south side of the Loire, German vehicles were beginning to assemble and the problem arose of transporting them to the opposite side. Once again the Engineers went to work and constructed a much larger ferry which was guided across the river on a heavy cable, depending on the current of the river for its power of motivation. This also proved to be a success, and heavy vehicles including two-and-a-half ton trucks were handled as smoothly and easily as the smaller jeeps on the first constructed ferries.

Arty planes fly surrender pix to Paris

To make sure that the people in the States and throughout the World received the news of the surrender of the German forces south of the Loire River without delay, the 322nd Field Artillery came to the aid of the twenty odd correspondents and picturemen covering the story by flying their news stories and pictures to Paris.

1st Lt. Robert E. Hinz of Burbank, Calif., flew the first stories and pictures to Le Bourget Field on the outskirts of Paris early in the morning of Sept. 17th. At 1530 that afternoon the actual surrender took place at Beaugency Bridge and at 1730 2nd Lt. Robert F. Pfister of Cincinnati, Ohio, took off from an air strip just a mile from the scene of the surrender. Again the next afternoon, after witnessing the initial crossing of the prisoners which started early Sunday morning, Sept. 18th, the correspondents sent their final stories and pictures off to Paris with Lt. Pfister.

The first news of the surrender broke in the Sunday morning papers. This was only possible by flying the stories to Paris where a press liaison officer met the plane, placed the pictures on another plane bound for London where they were sent by telephoto to the States. The news copy was rushed by jeep to the Hotel Scribe in Paris where Field Press Censors okayed the stories. They were then placed on the wire for New York.

"The Sump Hole"

Some individual in the 83rd Signal Company is responsible for one of the cleverist GI sheets to appear in this or any organization in many a moon.

Going under the trade name of the "Sump Hole", this two page paper, published in mimeo form, whenever and wherever possible, is expressly written for the GI's in the Signal Company so "they should know all the dirt that's going on and coming off." The staff consists of 1st Lt. C. Doyle, the Supervisor, and Pvt. M. Renek, acting in the capacity of Errand Boy who, he says, is "on military leave from a civilian job where he labored in the same capacity."

Perhaps the tid-bit item of the current issue is the following. We'll leave the decision up to you. It's called "Faux Pas."

"Like everything else when credit is given out, it is given to every body but the poor Joe, who deserves it. The body that sweats never gets anything but mental TS slips from his fellow men. Therefore, we aim to give credit where credit is due.

To find the hardest working fellow in any outfit, you don't have to go further than your local sump hole. But are these GI excavators looked up to? No! They are shunned. To make up for this criminal social injustice, this paper will be only too glad to publish the name of any man who has dug, or aided in the pursuit of digging of a sump hole and making him an honorary editor of this noble sheet. One private has to witness the proceeding. Will not accept word of PFC. Just hand in your name and we will print it."

Top news correspondents cover surrender

Some of the top news correspondents in the newspaper world covered the surrender of 19,500 Germans to the Division last week. These included; Hal Boyle, Associated Press; Dudley Harmon, United Press; David Anderson, New York Times; George Parsons, New York Herald Tribune; Margaret Stewart, King Features; Alex Uhl of PM; Lee Miller, Vogue; Arthur Mann, Mutual Broadcasting System; Howard Chernoff, Columbia Broadcasting System; Charles Haacker of Acme Pictures; Cy Pederman, Philadelphia Enquirer; Bud Kane of The Stars and Stripes; and Morris Ford and Ron Read of Paramount Pictures. Robert Barr of the BBC and Evelyn Irons of the Evening Standard represented the British Press. Through these writers and photographers, the leading papers, movie houses and radio stations in the U. S. were able to give out the news of the 83rd's latest exploit within 24 hours.

TO GET A LETTER
WRITE A LETTER

THE GRAND STAND

Cards Clinch nat. league flag

The St. Louis Cardinals clinched the National League pennant last week when they defeated the Boston Braves on Friday by a 5 to 4 score. This is the third straight year that Manager Billy Southworth's club has won the senior circuit championship and the right to meet the American league winner in the world series next month.

Meanwhile, the Tigers, Browns, Yankees and Red Sox are still battling for the American league crown as the final week of one of the hottest pennant chases in years got underway. At the close of last week's play the Tigers held down first place a half game in front of the Browns. Close behind and only three games out of first place was New York, and Boston, which was in fourth position, needed six wins against no losses to reach the top. The standings of the first four teams as the league entered its final week of play was as follows:

Team	W	L	Pct.
Detroit	80	63	.559
St. Louis	80	64	.556
New York	77	66	.538
Boston	74	59	.518

* * *

1944 football season all set

While the American league pennant race is still sharing the No. One spotlight back home pig skin minded enthusiasts are looking forward to the opening of the Fall sport program within the next few weeks.

Aided and abetted by intensive army, navy and marine training programs at various colleges top flight teams can be counted on by schools fortunate enough to fall in this category.

Powerhouse prognosticators are pointing to Navy as having the most formidable team in the eastern circuit this year. Added impetus to these indications was given last week when Rear Adm. John Beardall, academy superintendent, announced that Navy would this year follow the policy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in permitting college players to play four years of varsity ball. This means that four additional All Americans will be eligible to wear the Navy blue in the stadiums this Fall because of this ruling.

In the midwest mighty Michigan and Noteworthy Notre Dame will vie for honors according to the pre-season opeesters. Since Frank Leahy's entrance into the Navy, the

Irish are operating under the guidance of Bud McKeever, former assistant mentor at Boston College, and exponent of Leahy's much discussed T formation. Fritz Crisler will again be the man on the bench for the Wolverines this year and every indication points to another point getting eleven for this mid-western school.

Tulsa shapes up as the biggest threat in the Big Six league this year with 22 veterans returning to the fold. These are the same veterans who went through last year's season undefeated, only to lose to Georgia Tech in the Sugar Bowl by a 20 to 18 score.

In the south Georgia Tech, Alabama, Duke and Tennessee are being rated as the preseason favorites for bowl invitations after the close of the regular playing season.

Seeking top honors on the west coast this year will be Washington, Southern California and Stanford all of which have potent elevens' on paper and who are anxious to test their combinations in intercollegiate circles in the west coast league this Fall.

* * *

Jacobs cries in beer

Mike Jacobs, widely known sports promoter and Dean of Madison Square Garden boxing shows, blinked his eyes with amazement when informed that Freddie Mills, kingpin in British boxing circles, was soundly trounced this week by Jack London, slam-bang British heavy-weight.

Doing his post war planning early Mike had been figuring on a bout between Joe Louis and Mr. Mills but fate intervened in the person of Jack London and today Mike is caught without a candidate to oppose the Brown Bomber in his New York paladium.

When the Detroit slugger was making personal appearances in the ETO he offered to spar three rounds with the then undefeated Mills but somehow their schedules never called for a bout with one another.

Meanwhile, Mike, was planning on a huge post-war garden show, which would make the turnstiles click a merry tune. Now, however, with the defeat of Mills staring him in the face and Jack London set up as the new heavyweight champ of the British Isles, Jacobs has plenty of woes, but knowing the quick thinking boxing enterpreneur as well as we do, he's a cinch to appear with a new favorite after the war, who will be built up for a shot at Louis and the world's heavyweight crown. In spite of Mike's ballyhoso, however, our chips will stibe be down on the Dusky Detroiter.

Doughnut and coffee caravans coming this week

Red Cross travelling doughnut kitchens are expected to arrived in the division area within the next few days. There will be eight such units and they will be assigned to the various organizations where they will remain for several days. Each unit consists of two vehicles and is staffed with three Red Cross workers who bake their doughnuts right on the spot.

Censorship rules partially lifted

Picture post cards of Paris can now be sent and troops may write that they have visited Paris according to the latest censorship rules announced by SHAEF. However, a writer cannot write or infer in any way that his organization or unit is in or near Paris.

It was further announced that picture post cards may be sent of other areas under the control of SHAEF which are South and West of the Seine River. The pictured scenes on the cards must be at least twenty-five miles from the geographical location of the Army Post Office. Writers can also state that they have visited an area from which it is authorized to send picture post cards.

Use of the phrase, "Somewhere in Begium" (Holland, Germany or Luxembourg) is strictly forbidden. No indication of the writer's presence in any particular country is permitted with the exception of writing "Somewhere in England" or "Somewhere in France."

Mothers face red-Sends wrong bundle

Alaska (CNS) — A sergeant stationed here received a letter from home, "I'm sending you some goodies," his mother wrote. Much later the long-awaited package arrived. It contained fruit jar rubbers. The sergeant's mother had sent the wrong bundle.

Series coverage

With the 1944 world series scheduled to start in St. Louis early next month, the Spearhead, is planning on bringing to its readers the best possible coverage of the entire set of games. If facilities will permit, we are planning on a play-by-play coverage of each game, and as a second choice an inning-by-inning account and a brief summary of the highlights. The first three games will be played in Sportsmen's Park in St. Louis and the next three, if needed, in the park of the American league winner.

20 000 nazis surrender

(Cont. from page 1)

It was agreed that both the Germans and Americans were to exchange staff officers of equal rank. Lt. Col. J. K. French, 83rd Division Staff Officer, went with General Elster and remained with him at his CP directing operations and a Lt. Col. Schmidt from General Elster's staff came north across the Loire, remaining with Col Crabill of the 329th Infantry. It was also agreed that the troops were to proceed north to the Loire in three columns, and that they could retain their arms as protection against harrassing maquis until they reached the river.

Following the agreement, the strange march to surrender began. The Germans had averaged 50 kilometers a day from the Spanish frontier, and they continued to march that far each day despite their fatigue and shortage of food. On several occasions hay was sent south of the river in American trucks to feed the 800 odd horses in the German columns, and bread and other food supplies was shipped by truck to vantage points where it could be picked up by passing German columns.

Stories of American truck drivers passing down columns of armed Germans with hay for their horses and driving down at the end of the day with food for the men seem almost too strange to believe. French people apprehensive of the returning armed Germans looked on at the paradox of armed Germans and armed Americans meeting and passing each other on the road with out anything happening. Several times Germans officers driving sedans and flying a white flag drove up to Lt. Magill's CP south of the Loire to ask directions back to their columns. To the average Frenchman, and to many GI's, it didn't make sense.

Another oddity was in the guard platoon which was sent from the 329th Infantry to guard the German CP while still deep in its own territory. General Elster on hearing of the arrival of the platoon requested to inspect it which was granted.

As General Elster went down the line of soldiers, each man came smartly to present arms. Elster was so impressed that he congratulated Colonel French on their bearing.

Lt. Magill's CP in a hotel in Romoratin grew into a sort of Grand Hotel as news of the surrender leaked out. Soon it housed and played host to as strange a group of guests as one could find anywhere. There were Lt. Magill and his platoon, a Belgian intelligence officer, also a British Major, a member of the British Special Forces who directed the activities of some 1500 Maquis, the FFI Sergeant who operated the hotel, and a small handful of correspondents and camera men. To top it off, there were about 6 German prisoners who remained to do KP and general house-work.