HEADQUARTERS 83D INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 83, U.S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 190

4 September 1945

UNIT CITATION

Under the provisions of Section IV, Circular 333, War Department, 22 December 1943, and as approved by the Commanding General, Third United States Army, the Second Battalion, 329th Infantry is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy from 12 December 1944 to 16 December 1944.

On the morning of 12 December 1944, Second Battalion, 329th Infantry Regiment from positions in the Hurtgen Forest, Germany, initiated an attack toward Duren, with Gurzenich as its objective. In two days of bitter fighting it advanced three thousand yards. It traveled through a dense, heavily mined conferous woods, constantly menaced by deadly artillery and mortar tree bursts and heavy machine gun and small arms fire. For twenty-five hundred yards it traversed an open plain against an enemy firmly entrenched astride the only axial road, and in the face of converging fire from the wooded areas to both flanks, and in the face of direct observation by the enemy. It suffered severe casualties but its men never faltered, carrying on with a determination that forced a fanatical foe to give ground although possessing every advantage of terrain, disposition and observation. Arriving at the edge of its objective after dark on 13 December it secured a toehold in the town. Its position was precarious. It occupied a salient deep into enemy terrain, its only contact with friendly troops being over a three thousand yard stretch of heavily mined road. It had no heavy materiel with which to defend against an armored attack because of the mined condition of the road. Men worked heroically clearing mines under constant heavy interdictory fire and before dawn friendly armor and supply vehicles came to the aid of the beleaguered garrison. For the next two days the Second Battalion courageously struggled to clear the town of a determined defense which utilized every basement and window as a pillbox. It withstood heavy concentrations of artillery fire and repulsed heavy infantry and armored counter-attacks. By dark of the 15th it completely controlled the town. Before dawn of the 16th a terrific artillery preparation shook the town for fifty minutes, completely blanketing Gurzenich. Then the enemy struck. German infantry and self-propelled assault guns moving under cover of early morning fog succeeded in penetrating the town. A vicious hand to hand fight raged for two hours in houses, streets and courtyards. Assault guns and tanks fired high velocity fire at point blank range Several wounded men ran out of the Battalion Aid Station and joined the fighting despite their wounds. The effect of the indomitable fighting spirit of the Second Battalion finally made itself evident. Those of the enemy not killed, wounded or taken prisoners were routed and their offensive spirit completely broken. Battalion losses in the four days action were one hundred sixty-two killed, wounded or missing. It inflicted losses on the enemy of an estimated two hundred fifty killed and five hundred eighty taken prisoners. Three enemy assault guns, two tanks, four anti-tank guns and three mortars were destroyed. Two assault guns and two tanks were damaged, and an undetermined amount of enemy small arms and equipment captured or destroyed. Thus, as a result of the unwavering fortitude and aggressive fighting spirit of the men of the Second Battalion, 329th Infantry Regiment, from 12 to 16 December 1944, a determined enemy was forced to abandon his Roer River Bridgehead and relinquish terrain which would have proven extremely valuable to the enemy in connection with any contemplated large scale offensive across the Roer River. The unflinching devotion to duty and superb courage displayed by each man of the Battalion reflect the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MONTAGUE:

C. L. BOYLE, Colonel, GSC, Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

DISTRIBUTION:

N. P. COWDEN, Major, AGD, Adjutant General "C" Plus 1025 to 329th Inf. TAG (3) CG, USFET (2) CG, XII Corps CG, TUSA (12) Central MRU 37th MRU

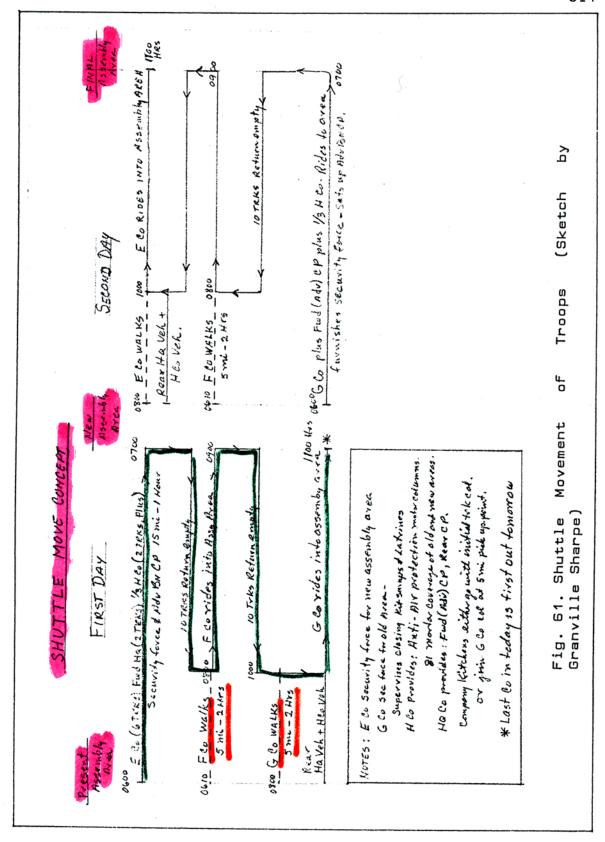
Fig. 58. Presidential Unit Citation (US Army)



Fig. 59. Troops Moving Through Backyards in Gürzenich (US Army)



Fig. 60. Soldiers Clear Out Remaining Germans in Gürzenich (US Army)



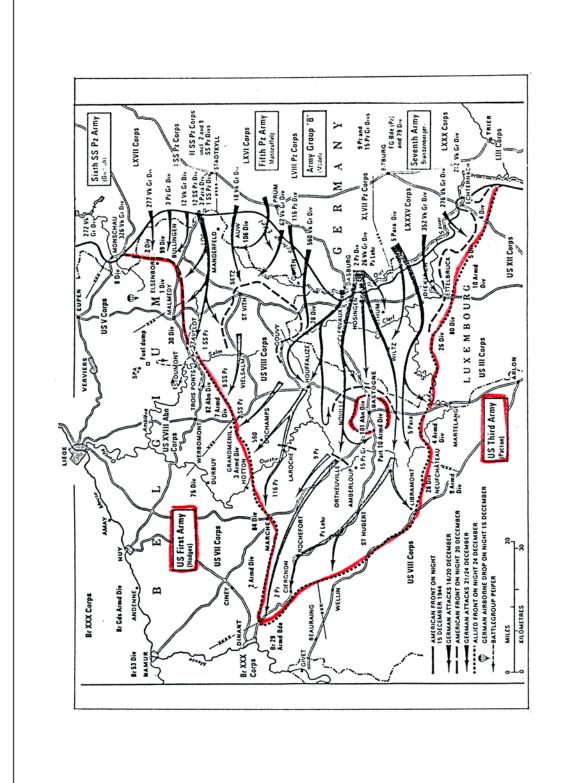


Fig. 62. Map of the German Bulge Penetration in the Ardennes (US Army)

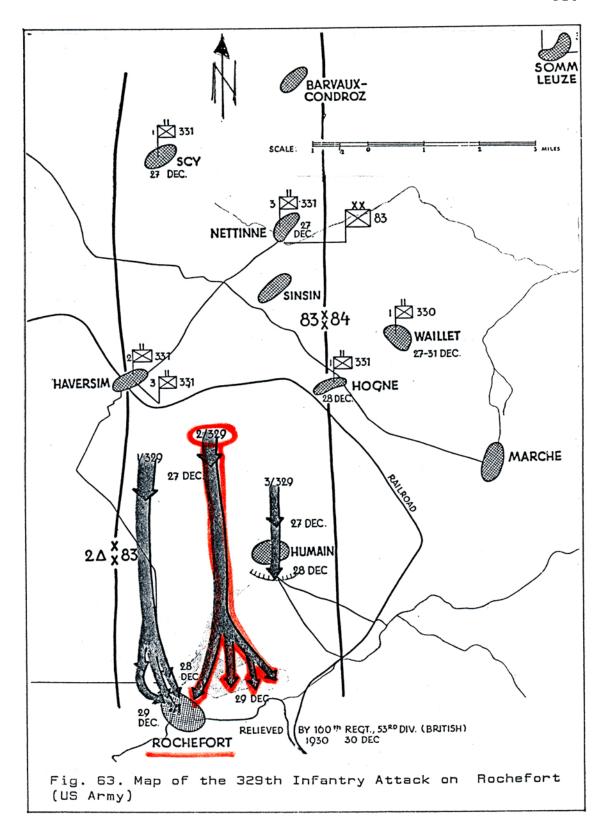
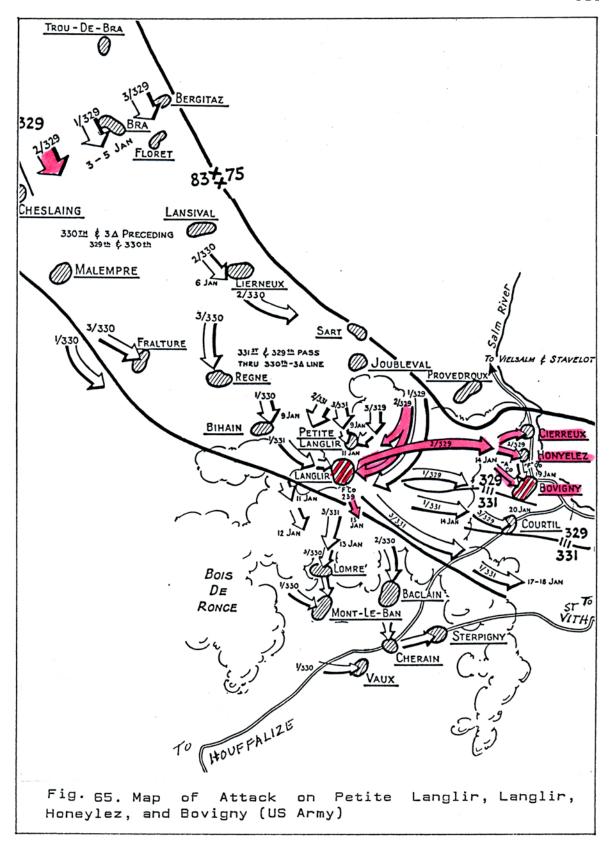




Fig. 64. Army Tanks Pass Through Belgium (US Army)



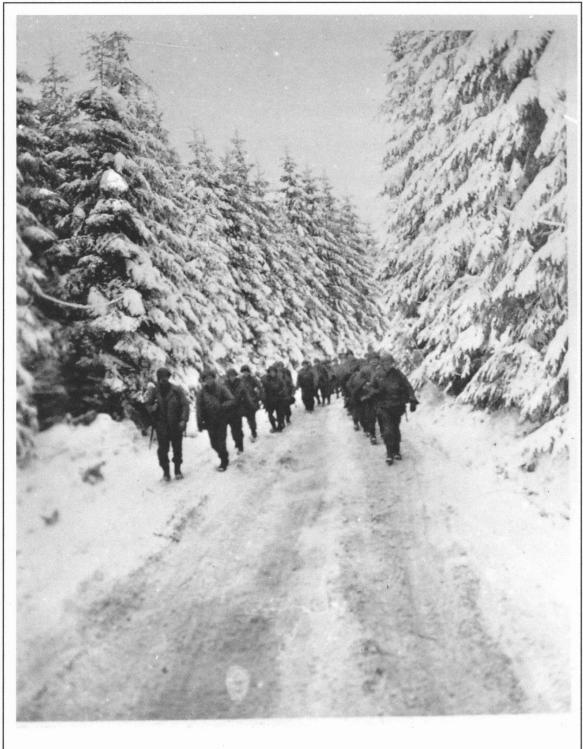


Fig. 66. US Infantrymen on Road in Ardennes (US Army)



Fig. 67. 2d Battalion Soldiers View Dead Germans in Ardennes (US Army)

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HEADQUARTERS 83 RD INFANTRY DIVISION Office of the Commanding General APO 83, U. S. Army

5. February 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 329th Infantery, APO 83

U. S. Army.

Thru: Commanding Officer, 329 th Infantery, APO 83, U.S. Army.

- 1. The excepionally meritorius performance of combat duty by our Battalion during the accomplishment of the Division's mission in the ARDENNES 27 December 1944 to 21 January 1945 brings great credit to you and to the Division.
- 2. The 2nd Battalion demonstrated outstanding determination, courage, and military skill in its operations in the Langlir-Bois De Ronce area. The scizure of the edge of the woods East of Linglir and the capture of Pont De Langlir was a vital fact in the capture of Petite Langlir and Langlir by the Division. The action of "F" Company on the morning of 13 January while enroute to a blocking position Southwest of Langlir was particularly praiseworthy. Also noteworthy was the capture of Honyelez, which was accomplished by the 2nd Battalion on 14 January 1945 with complete surprise.
- 3. I highly commend you and your unit for the successful accomplishments of a difficult mission.

ROBERT C MACON

Major General, U. S. Army

Commanding.

Fig. 68. Commendation from General Macon (US Army)





Fig. 69. Top: German Shoe-mines Near Langlir, Bottom: M-29 Cargo Carrier Used as Medical Vehicle (Courtesy Granville Sharpe)



Fig. 70. Medical Aid in the Ardennes (US Army)

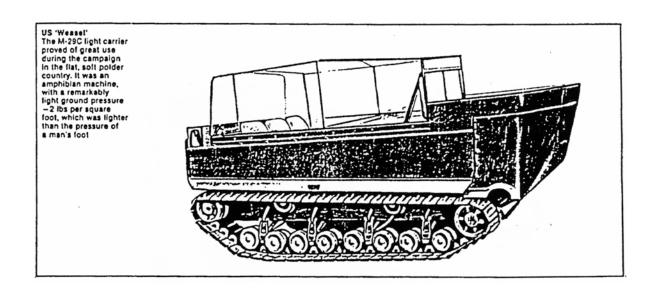
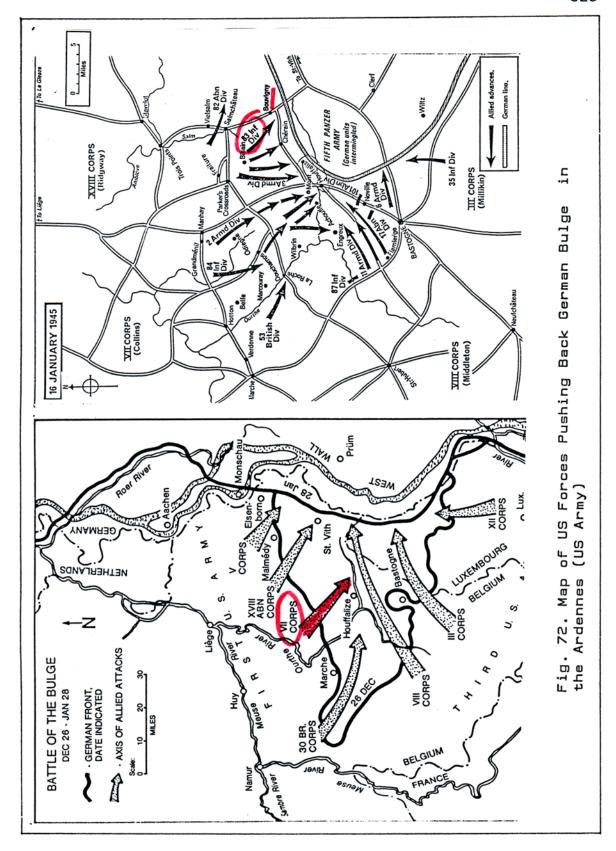


Fig. 71. Weasel (Second World War)



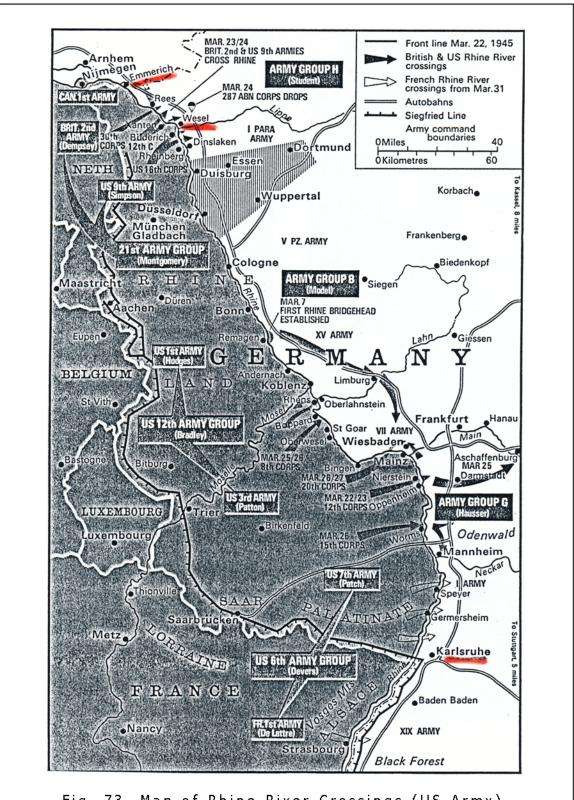
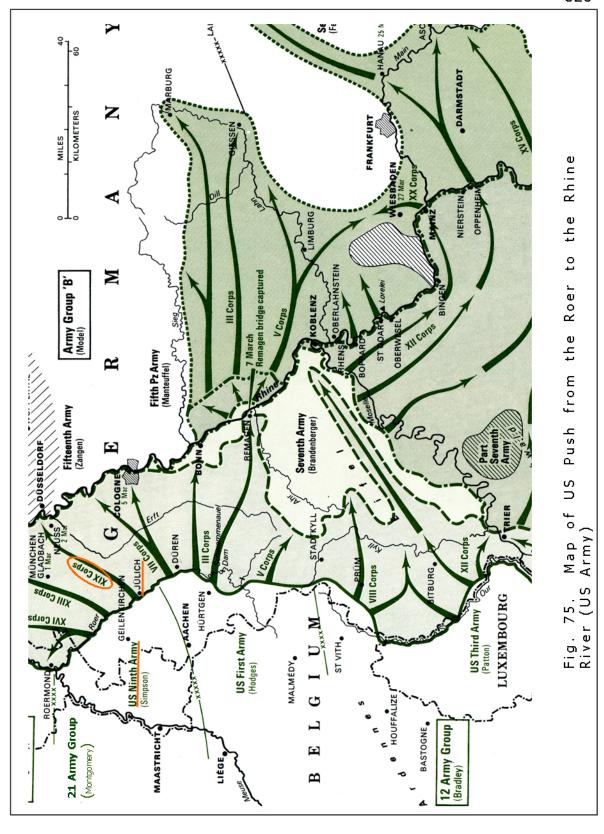
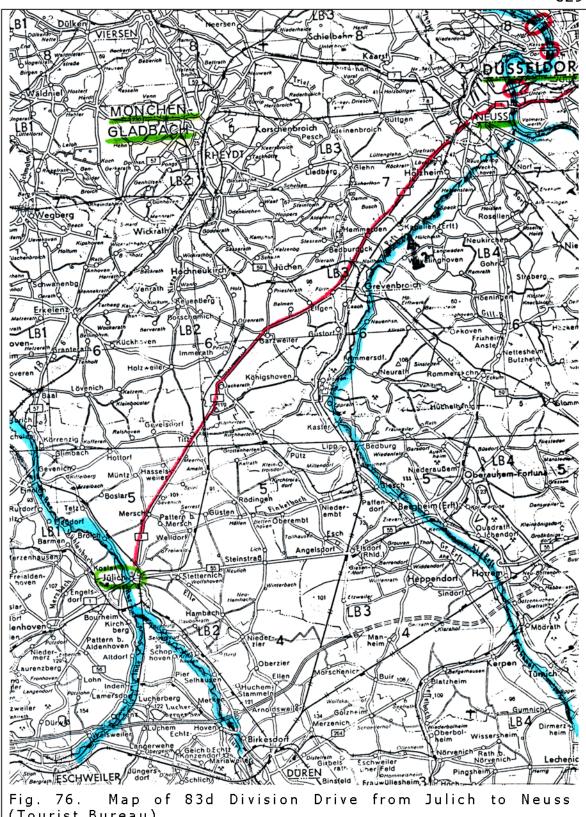


Fig. 73. Map of Rhine River Crossings (US Army)

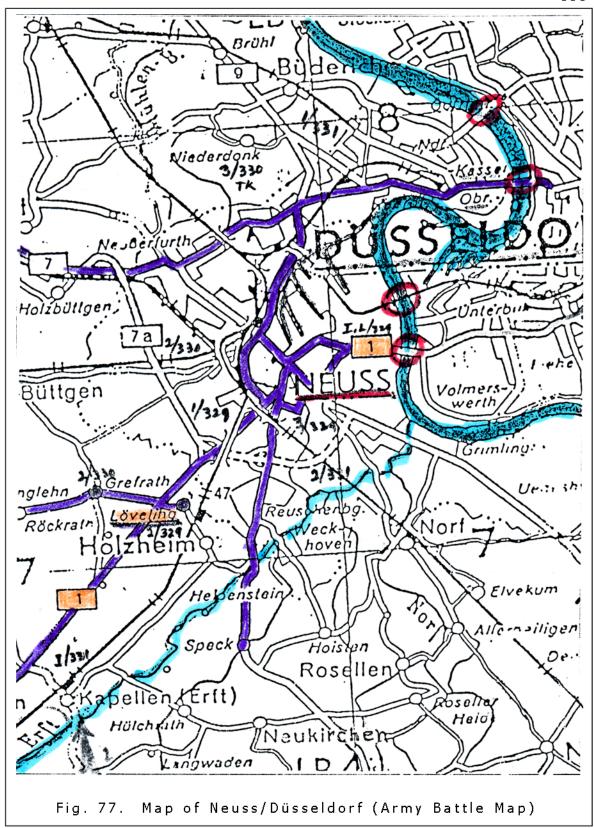


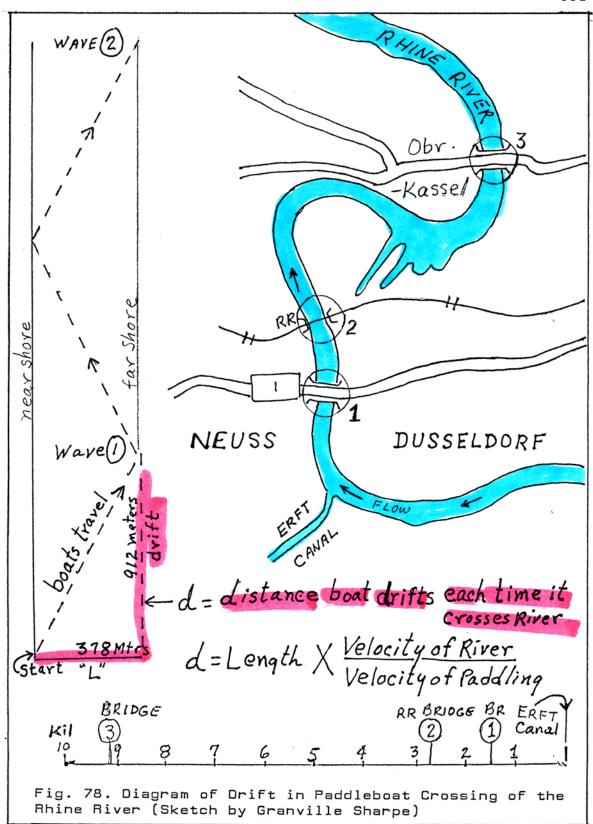
Fig. 74. River Crossing Exercise in Holland (US Army)





(Tourist Bureau)





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Fig. 79. Wartime List of 2d Battalion's Race to the Elbe River (Among Sharpe's Papers from 1945)



Fig. 80. 83d Division Troops on Move toward Elbe River (US Army)

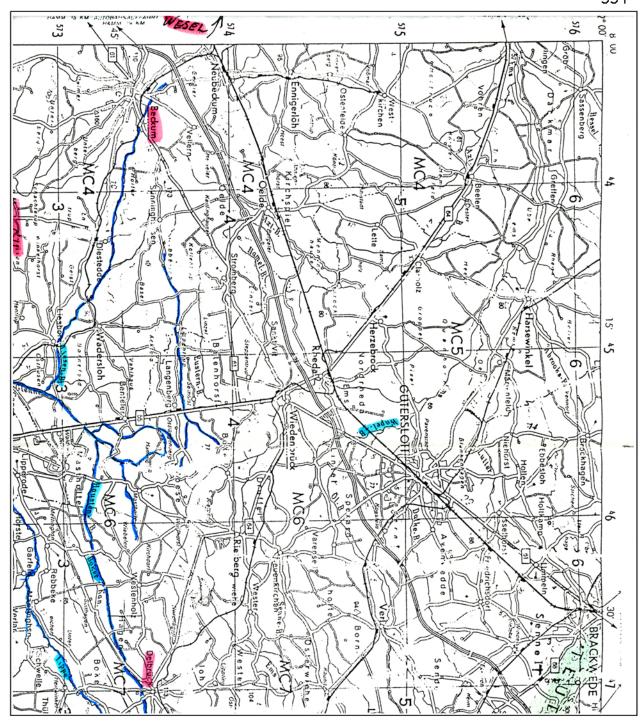


Fig. 81a. Map of 83d Division Route across Germany (Army Battle Map)

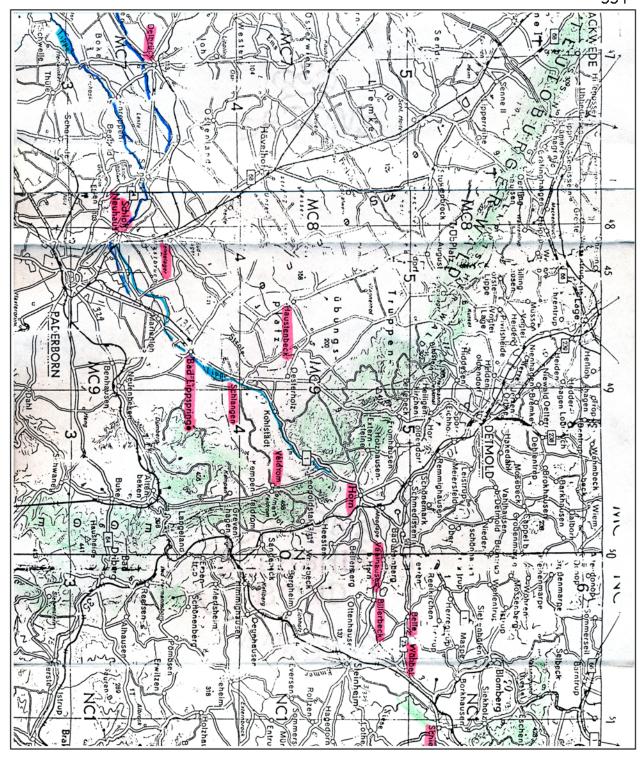


Fig. 81b. Map of 83d Division Route across Germany

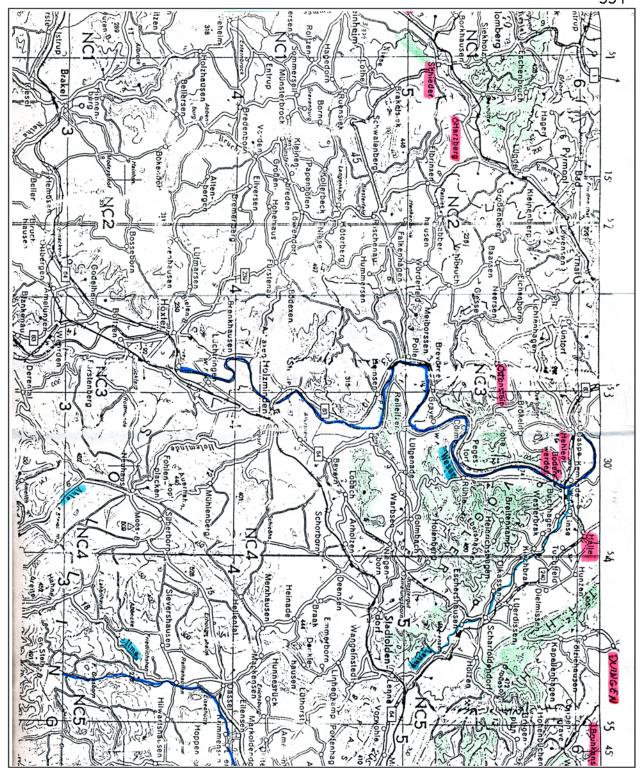


Fig. 81c. Map of 83d Division Route across Germany

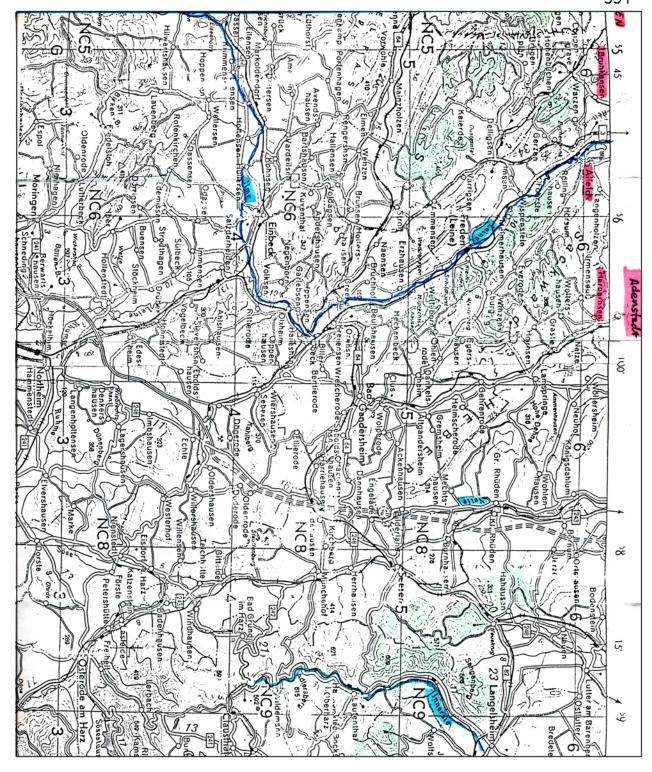


Fig. 81d. Map of 83d Division Route across Germany

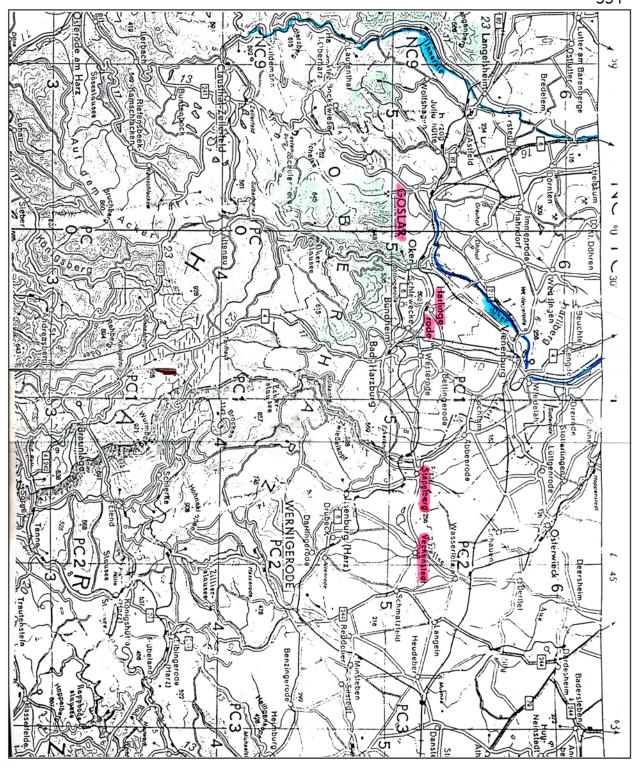


Fig. 81e. Map of 83d Division Route across Germany

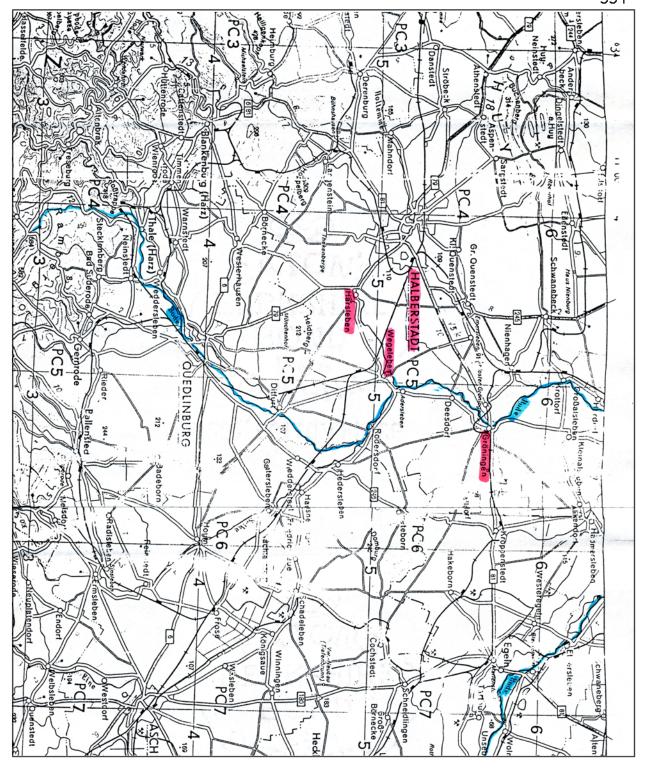


Fig. 81f. Map of 83d Division Route across Germany

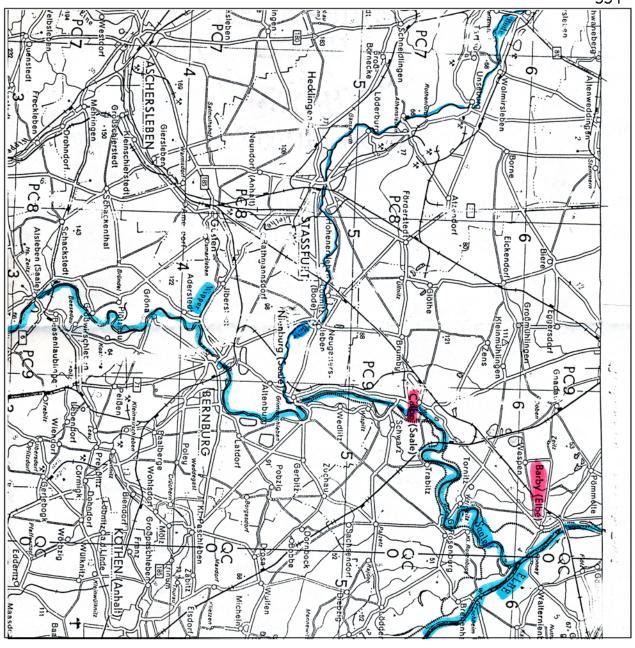


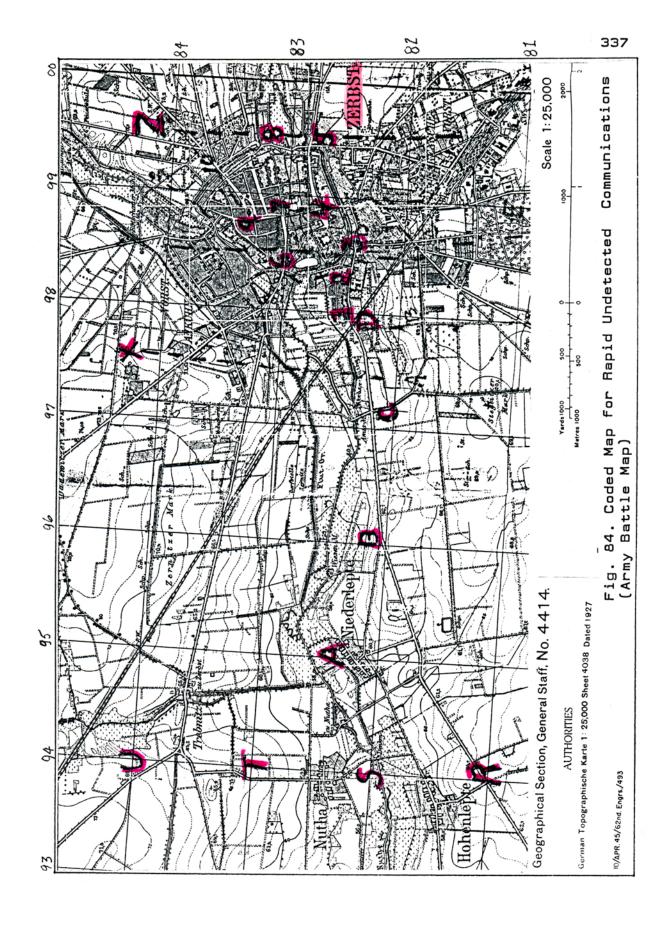
Fig. 81g. Map of 83d Division Route across Germany

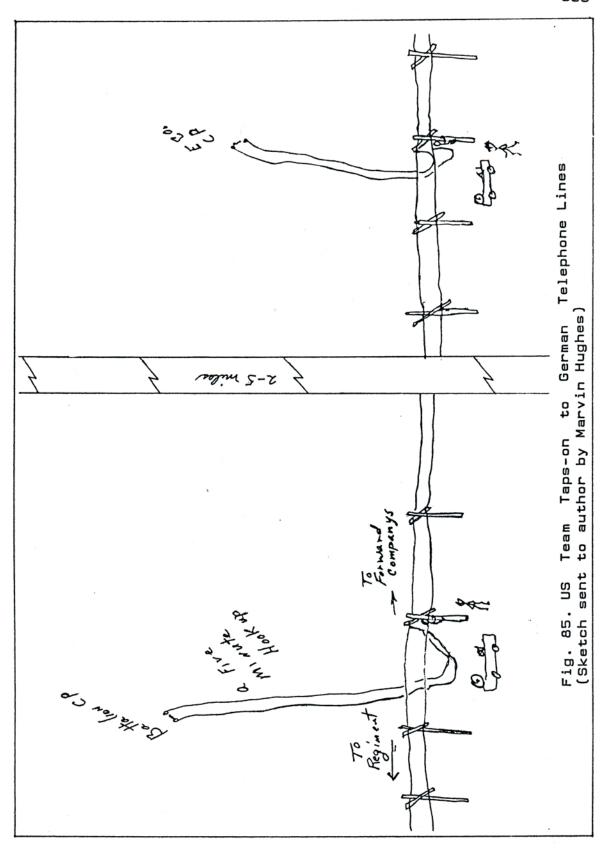


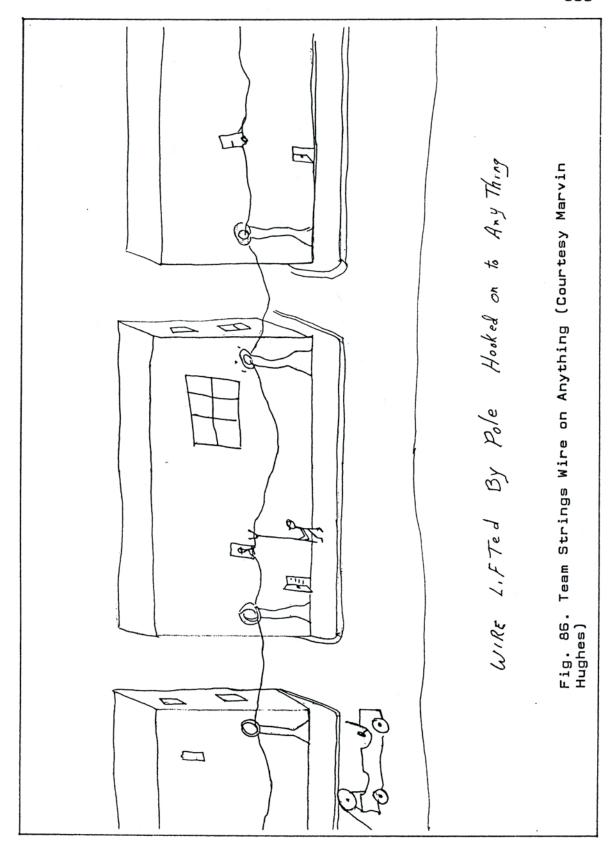
Fig. 82. M-10 Tank Destroyer (Invasion Journal)

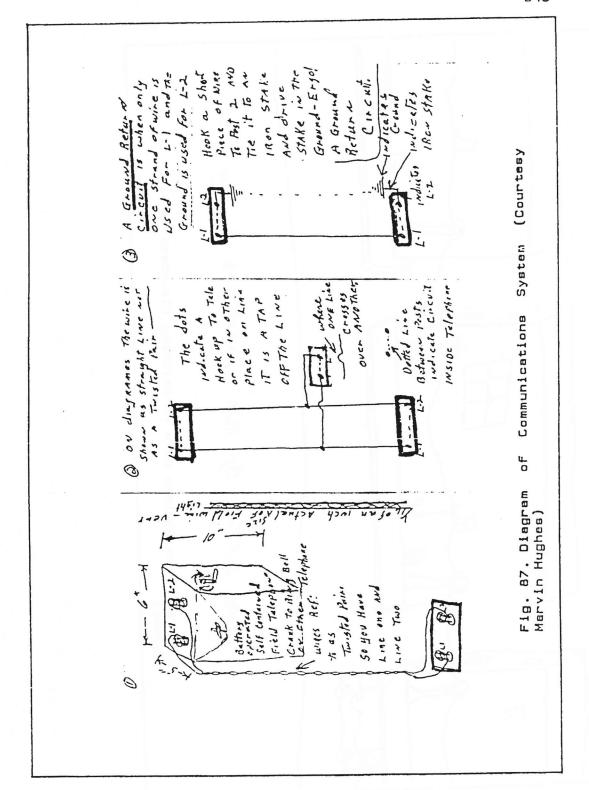


Fig. 83. Right Foreground: German Soldier with Panzerfaust, Third Soldier in Line: Soldier with Bazooka (Invasion Journal)









ARE YOU WITH ME? Œ)

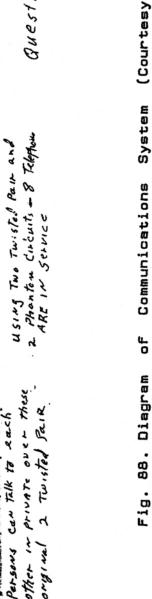
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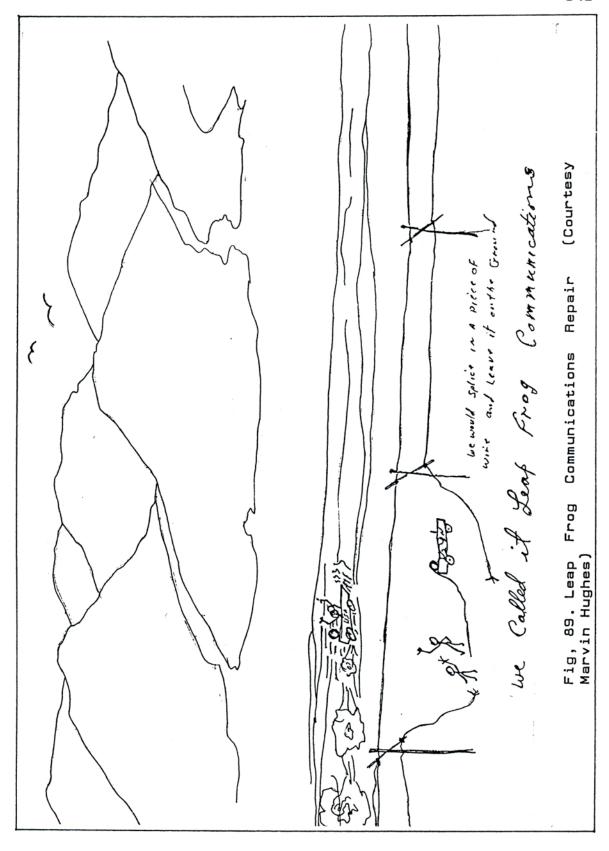
other in private over these PHONE - This gives find A THING Tole: Hook UP By USINS ONLY I twisted Another Twisted Pair Telephones - 18 you use the Pairs of wine And the 4 persons can talk to each off of one phone and Chanton Hookupsand The Greund Return Hook ups - 14 A PHANTOM CHACUIT 15 when you use L-1 LTZ OFF OF ANOTHER with out Lay Ing

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Questions?



Marvin Hughes)



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Fig. 91. M-8 Armored Car (Second World War)

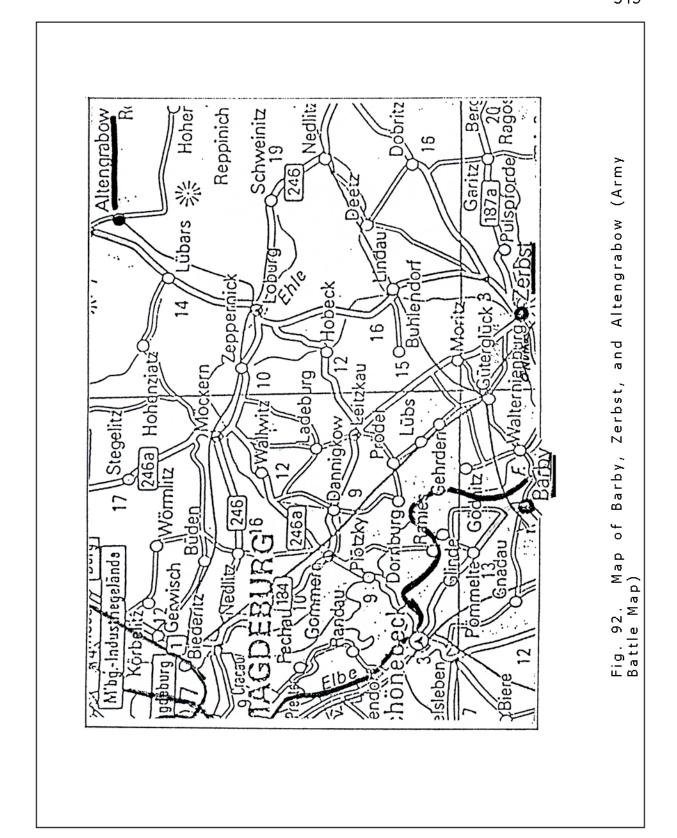






Fig. 93. Top: Loaded Assault Boats to Cross the Elbe River, Bottom: Casualties from Battle at Walternienburg Brought to Aid Station (Courtesy Granville Sharpe)







Fig. 94. Truman Bridge at Barby (US Army)

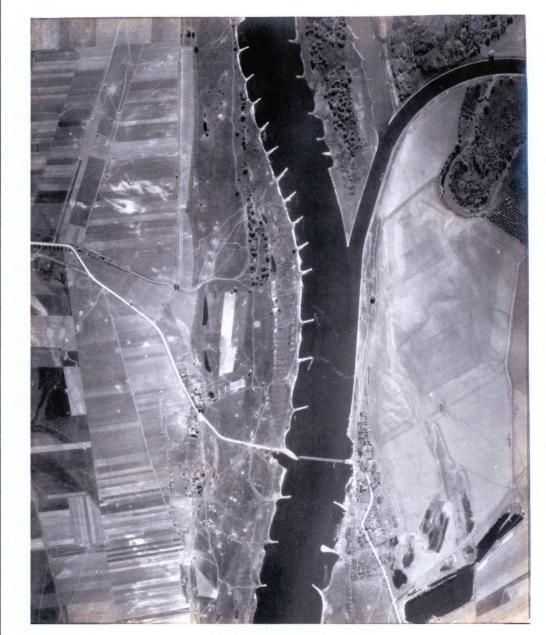


Fig. 95. Bridge Over Elbe River at Barby (US Army)



Fig. 96.. Engineers Pull Tank across Saale River (US Army)

An Associated Press dispatch Sunday, dated east of the Elbe river, said that the 83 division which holds a bridgehead in that area has a special task force led by Lt. Col. Granville Sharpe, former Davidson star football player, all ready to go out and meet the advance Red Army elements.

Reds and Ninth Army. In Communication.

Stars and Stripes Reporter.
WITH THE U. S. 83RD DIVISION
EAST OF THE ELBE RIVER,
April 23.— (P) — The first definite
communication between Red army
forces southwest of Berlin and
American Ninth army troops on
the east bank of the Elbe was established a few hours ago when a
Russian artillery lieutenant recently
liberated by the Americans from a
German prison camp spoke by radio
to west-driving Russian tankmen a
few miles away."

"American friends, American friends," were the first words of the Russians' message received late yesterday by the lieutenant from his former fighting comrades. He gulped back tears as he stammered out his reply: "This is the American 83rd division."

For 27 hours, the Russian officer sat by a field radio outside the 329th regimental command post, calling to the Russian forces known to be advancing toward this bridgenhead.

For several hours before the listeners had heard sharp orders of Russian tank commanders telling nearby tanks: "Now we move ahead."

When Col. Edward B. Crabill, Galax, Va., speaking through a Russian interpreter, asked the Russians whether they could meet us in town blank at a certain time tomorrow, the answer was: "That town is held by the Germans. We are still fighting a war you know and will have to fight our way into it."

The interpreter grinned and said:
"They are kidding us a little—
but they are very excited and happy
about talking to us."

Sharpe Former Football Star For Davidson



LT. COL. GRANVILLE SHARPE. (As Football Player.)

Commands Patrol Force In Contact With Russian Spearheads On Elbe.

DAVIDSON, April 23.—(F)—Lt. Col. Granville Sharpe of Burlington, commanding the patrol force in contact with Russian spearheads on the Elbe river linkup front in Germany, is a former Davidson college football and golf star.

"Granny" Sharpe was an ace tailback on Davidson elevens before his graduation in 1941. He was captain of the links team his senior year.

He received his commission in November 1942 and went overseas in April 1944 and took part in the Normandy invasion.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sharpe of Burlington. His wife is the former Alice McCoy Withers, daughter of the late Dr. J. J. Withers and Mrs. Withers of Davidson.

Fig. 97. Newspaper Report about Granville Sharpe Slated to Meet Russians (Charlotte Observer)





Fig. 98. Top: Russian Officer Proposes Toast at Banquet Attended by General Robert C. Macon, Bottom: Sharpe Meets the Russians (Courtesy Granville Sharpe)

Col. Sharpe Aids In Freeing Yanks From Prison Behind German Lines

By KENNETH L. DIXON
ALTENGRABOW PRISON
CAMP, Germany, May 3.—(AP)
—All the major mishaps that
American troops have suffered
since the war began paraded in retrospect out of this prison camp

retrospect out of this prison camp this afternoon as the 83rd infantry division liberated more than 1,200 long imprisoned Yanks and began freeing more than 19,000 allied war prisoners.

Under flags of truce and by arrangement with a German colonel, commandant of the camp, we traveled 20 miles behind enemy lines with 83rd division trucks, ambulances and jeeps to effect the liberation.

As shouting, cheering Yank prisoners climbed aboard the

As shouting, cheering Yank prisoners climbed aboard the trucks they were asked where they were captured and their answers told a three-year tale of ill-fated phases of a war which now spells only success for allied and other American armies.

"Kasserine pass!" shouted scores. Others told of other places in Tunisia—Sidi Bou Sid and Faid pass and Hill 609.

and Hill 609.

and Hill 609.

There were boys from Bizerte and soldiers from Salerno. Cassino's grim crop was represented and several Rangers reported on that fatal night of June 30, 1944, when they struck at Cisterna from the outer rim of the Anzio beachhead and lost two battalions of the nation's crack troops.

Not all were from such long gone battles. Hundreds of happy

Not all were from such long gone battles. Hundreds of happy doughboys — actually grabbing gleefully at K rations for the first time in their army lives—were victims of the Ardennes break-through last December and Jantary Hundreds more had spent through last December and January. Hundreds more had spent only a couple of weeks or so as enemy prisoners. They were Second armored division boys who forced the first bridgehead across the Elbe river in mid-April and then were captured when the bridgehead was lost.

But nobody was thinking of

But nobody was thinking of those times this afternoon. While Russian, American and Germany artillery fire echoed faintly in the distance and an occasional splatter of small arms sounded hearby, doughboys rushed out of the crowded, louse-ridden prison barracks and listened to the lib-eration announcement while lined

up to climb into trucks.

Through 20 miles of enemy-held territory they leaned over the sides of trucks and alternately laughed and swore at staring Gerlaughed and swore at staring German soldiers and civilians, most of whom obviously didn't know what to make of this strange American cavalcade in their midst. However there was no "incident" of any sort to mar the truce, which was set up by Lt. Col. Tim O'Cook, of Snyder, Tex., acting regimental commander of the infantry outfit which handled the evacuation.

Lt. Col. Granville A. Sharpe. of

Lt. Col. Granville A. Sharpe, of Lt. Col. Granville A. Sharpe, of Davidson and Burlington, N. C., went with the "reconnaissance" group which made the initial foray into enemy territory under white flags early this morning to see if the Germans really meant to keep their bargain. They did, and huge convoys of tracks, ambulances and ieeps set out for bulances and jeeps set out for the camp shortly afterward. In addition to the Yanks the

camp also held British, French, Dutch, Belgian, Polish, Russian, Italian, Serbian and Slovakian prisoners. Although it was impossible to remove them all today the truce is continuing through tomorrow and those still in the camp tonight were fed American rations which the 83rd's trucks hauled in this afternoon.

However, all the Americans and British and several score others were among those evacuated today—as well as all seriously wounded.

For the most part the prisoners said they had been treated "fairly decently" and especially well during recent weeks. The nearer the Americans and Russians came

the Americans and Russians came to the camp, the more the treatment improved.

Although it was impossible due to the necessity of the speed of operation behind enemy lines to get a complete list of American prisoners, those liberated included the following North Caro-

linians:
Pvt. Boyd B. Byrd, Yanceyville; Pfc. Thomas C. Rice, Mars
Hill, and Pfc. Clyde C. Nance,

Fig. 99. Newspaper Report about Sharpe's Troops Liberating Camp Altengrabow (Greensboro Daily News)



Fig . 100. General George Patton Salutes as He Passes Color Guard during Inspection of 83d Division (US Army)



Fig . 101. General Macon and General Patton at the Cake Cutting (US $\mbox{Arm}\gamma)$

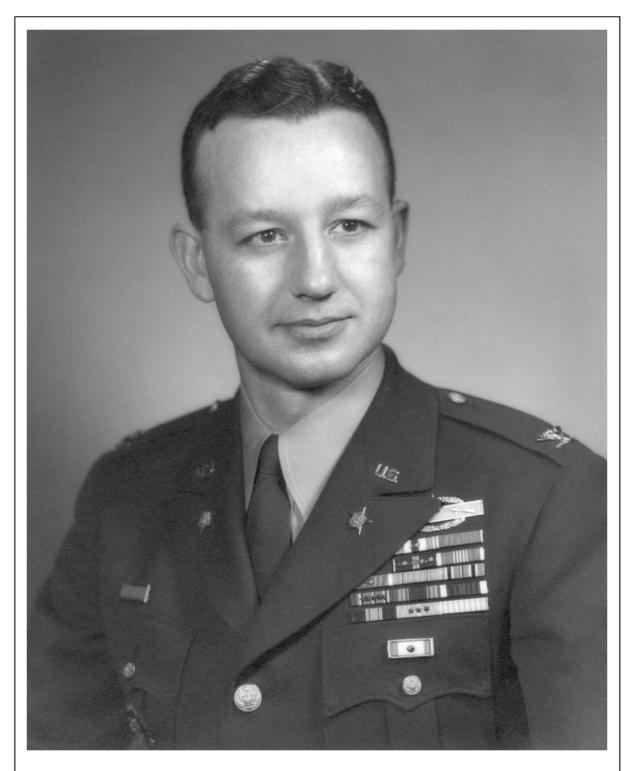


Fig. 102. Colonel Granville A. Sharpe (Courtesy Alice Sharpe)

Granville A. Sharpe

Decorations

Two Silver Stars
Two Legion of Merit
Five Bronze Stars
Two Purple Hearts
Army Commendation Medal
Two Presidential Unit Citations
Combat Infantry Badge with One Star
European Theater Campaign Ribbon with Five Stars
Korean Campaign Medal with Three Stars
Army General Staff Badge
Office of Secretary of Defense Badge
Joint Service Commendation Medal

Schools

| Davidson College, N.C. B.S. | 1941 |
|--|------|
| Infantry Basic Officers Course, USAIS | 1942 |
| Infantry Advanced Officers Course, USAIS | 1944 |
| Command and General Staff College | 1940 |
| British-Land, Sea, Air Warfare School, England | 1950 |
| Armed Forces Staff College | 1954 |
| Command Management School | 1956 |
| National War College | 1958 |
| Army War College (faculty) | 1963 |
| George Washington University, Masters Degree | 1967 |

Promotions

| Second Lieutenant | 17 July 1941 |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| First Lieutenant | 27 July 1942 |
| Captain | 1 May 1943 |
| Major | 10 September 1944 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | 23 January 1945 |
| Colonel | 2 September 1955 |

Fig. 103. List of Granville Sharpe's Decorations, Schools, and Promotions (Compiled by Author)

Notes for Chapter One

- ¹H. Pettus Randall, ed. Whos Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (1940-1941), 7:243.
- Combat Digest, 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry (Ried im Innkries: Oberosterreichischer Landesverlag, 1945).
- Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky housed 30,000 troops and 10,000 additional personnel on its 36,000 acres. It was named for Kentuckian John C. Breckinridge, US vice president from 1856-60. It had its own air strip, bakery that produced 22,500 pounds of bread daily, laundry that washed 20,000 clothing items in a week, and twelve dispensaries and hospitals. In addition, 3,000 prisoners of war were housed at the camp. They worked on local farms outside the camp during the day and were paid eighty cents a day by the federal government. Thunderbolt Magazine vol. 43, no. 3, Spring 1988.

⁴Edwin B. Crabill, <u>The Ragtag Circus</u> (New York: Vantage Press, 1969), p. 14.

Notes for Chapter Two

- ¹Walter McGhee, a canon company officer, assigned as a forward observer for a 81mm mortar platoon in H Company, 2d Battalion. Taped Interview, November 1986.
- ²Frank C. Carmichael, "The Battle of Normandy-July 4, 1944," (Manuscript), p. 9.
- $^{
 m 3}$ Term used in radio transmission so there is no mistake about message.
- 4155mm or 8 inch Howitzers are not considered precisioned enough to hit a single tank, but the enemy did not know that, so they were frequently scared and would move out of their position.

Notes for Chapter Three

¹Martin Blumenson, <u>Breakout and Pursuit</u> (Washington D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History Department of the Army, 1961), p. 222.

²Sharpe spoke with Barnwell in Normandy before Operation COBRA. He recalled that they met and walked down the road a piece to talk. Sharpe did not know Barnwell had been killed in the July bombardment until after the war. They were boyhood friends in Burlington, N.C.

3Breakout, p. 242.

⁴Ragtag, p. 30.

⁵Stella Wilkinson to Charlotte Daly, 16 July 1987, Roy Wilkinson Letter, Avenel, New Jersey.

As reported by Walter McGhee in taped material, November 1986.

⁷Sharpe commanded the Student Brigade at Ft. Benning, Georgia during 1965-1968. The brigade was made up of 15,000 troops. Sharpe was in command of the soldiers attending the Army Infantry School, the ROTC officers, the Officer Candidate School, the Non-Commissioned Officer Candidate School, and the Airborne and Ranger troops.

⁸William K. Van Hoy to Charlotte Daly, 15 February 1987, Wilwankie, Oregon.

⁹Van Hoy Letter.

10 Breakout, p. 395.

¹¹Breakout, p. 342.

¹²Breakout, p. 397.

¹³Breakout, p. 397.

14 Ernie Hayhow, ed., The Thunderbolt Across Europe, A History of the 83d Infantry Division, 1942-1945 (Munich: F. Bruckmann KG, 1945), p. 39.

15 Daniel P. O'Connor, ed., 329 "Buckshot" Infantry Regiment--A History (Wolfenbuttel: Ernest Fischer, 1945), p. 44.

¹⁶Digest, p. 27.

- ¹⁷Psychological Warfare Team.
- ¹⁸During training at Camp Atterbury, Sharpe's G Company had begun using this rallying cry whenever attacking a position. After Sharpe took over the battalion, the whole outfit adopted the custom. Sharpe said he encouraged it because it had a unifying and emotional effect on his men.
 - ¹⁹Digest, pp. 27-29.
 - 20_{Ragtag}, p. 31.
 - 21_{Buckshot}, p. 45.
 - 22 Breskout, p. 405.
 - 23 Thunderbolt, p. 43.
 - 24_{Ragtag}, p. 32.

Notes for Chapter Four

1 Martin Blumenson, "Normandy: The Breakout," History of the Second World War, Part 70, August 1974, p. 1954.

²Charles B. MacDonald, <u>The Siegfried Line Campaign</u> (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History Department of the Army, 1963), p. 612.

³Walter McGhee, Taped Material.

⁴Digest, p. 35.

⁵Digest, p. 39.

Notes for Chapter Five

¹For a discussion of the disagreement in the high command about the configuration of the attack at this point, see General Omar Bradley's book, A Soldier's Story (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1951), pp. 396-422.

Charles B. MacDonald, The Battle of the Huertgen Forest (New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1963), p. 86.

Huertgen, p. 120.

⁴Digest, p. 45.

⁵James M. Gavin, "Bloody Huertgen: The Battle That Should Never Have Been Fought," <u>American Heritage</u> 1979, 31(1), p. 34.

6_{Gavin}, p. 34.

7See chapter on weapons in Max Hastings' book, Overlord (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984), pp. 186-195.

⁸For a discussion of the German and Allied armor capabilities see Macksey's article,"Balance of Armor," in History of the Second World War, Part 63, pp. 1747-1755.

9_{Gavin, p. 38.}

- 10 Bradley, p. 445.
- ¹¹ Digest, p. 45.
- 12 Digest, p. 45.
- 13 Ragtag, p. 41.
- 14 Thunderbolt, p. 61.
- 15 Thunderbolt, p. 62.
- 16 Siegfried, p. 592.
- 17 Digest, p. 50.
- ¹⁸ Huertgen, p. 120.

Notes for Chapter Six

¹Peter Elstob, "Battle of the Bulge: The Onslaught," History of the Second World War, Part 80, October 1974, p. 2224.

²Elstob. p. 2239.

³Charles B. MacDonald, <u>A Time for Trumpets</u>, (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1985), p. 509.

⁴Rugtag, p. 45.

⁵Donald Overdyke M.D., Telephone Conversation, May 1989.

Notes for Chapter Seven

- ¹Martin Blumenson, "Across the Rhine," <u>History of the Second World War</u>, Part 83, November 1974, p. 2310.
- Charles B. MacDonald, "Bradley's Drive to the Rhine," History of the Second World War, Part 81, October 1974, p. 2260.
 - 3"Across the Rhine," p. 2316.
 - ARagtag, p. 50.
 - SRagtag, p. 51.
 - 6"Across the Rhine," p. 2324.
 - 7 Ron Rosenfeld, Ph.D., (Aid with Computation).

Notes for Chapter Eight

Headquarters 83d Infantry Division, "After-Action Report for April 1945," Miliary Field Branch, Military Archives Division, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- 2_{Ragtag}, p. 58.
- ³After-Action Report, p. 5.
- ⁴Ragtag, p. 62.
- Sagtag, p. 58.
- ⁶Marvin Hughes to Charlotte Daly, 11 December 1986, Ajo, Arizona.
- 7 Marvin Hughes to Charlotte Daly, 10 February 1987, Ajo, Arizona.
- ⁸Cornelius Ryan, <u>The Last Battle</u> (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1964), pp. 305-306.

Notes for Epilogue

 $^{1}\mbox{Claude Ferenbaugh to Granville Sharpe, Telegram, 21}$ June 1946.

²Granville Sharpe to Charlotte Daly, 27 May 1989.

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