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Victory
Edition

Jap's Surrender Brings World Peace After 14 Years of War

83rd Activation Anniversary Celebrated in Regiment

Activation Falls On Same Day Japs Quit War

On 15 August, 1942, three years ago to the day that President Truman announced cessation of hostilities in the South Pacific, the 83rd Division was reactivated to take its prominent place in World War II. With the added joy of final victory men around the regiment celebrated.

During the morning each battalion held a special formation where a brief history of the 83rd was related by Major Kenneth L. Scott at 1st Bn., Major Lawrence A. Laliberte at 2nd Bn., and Lt. Jack Dropkin at 3rd Bn. Col. York's special message was then read to the men.

The remainder of the day was to have been filled with a number of scheduled ballgames. Inclement weather forced these to be cancelled and the men sought other recreation. That night most of the companies closed the occasion with parties.

The 83rd which had fought its way to fame met battle first by greatly assisting in the St. Lo Breakthrough where it defeated in vicious combat some of the best veteran troops of the German Army. Following this came the capture of St. Malo and Dinard which was one of the most successful divisional operations of the "Northern France Campaign." Also, during this campaign, while one of the Division's battalions was employed around Brest, the Division protected the left flank of the Third Army by holding more than 300 miles of frontage along the Loire River.

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Sober Relief is Vets Reaction to Jap Surrender News

Days, months, years people were saying would be before the war ended, before Japan bit the dust. Then like a storm cloud suddenly appearing overhead, a series of unexpected events began to rain down on Japan and all at once was knocking at the Allies door, asking to quit.

Like V-E day there was that period of uncertain waiting when it seemed inevitable that end must be near and yet no G.I. dared let himself go overboard. And so, finally, when Japan did throw in the towel, good and officially and permanently, the intense elation that had waited impatiently to crowd G.I. veins, had simmered down to a restrained glad acceptance of the end of hostilities with the hope of home drawing out of background.

Most 331st doughs found it difficult to tell just how they felt, but in back of whatever they said the prospect of home was shining.

"It makes me damn glad I won't have to go to the Pacific," said Pfc. Tony Sanzenon from Baltimore, Maryland, Co. I. "I was sweating that out, I only wish so many of my buddies could be here to enjoy it. Strange that the people back home should go so wild celebrating and we who fought the war should be so calm."

"I don't feel at all different," said S/ Sgt. Jay Mealy from Cleveland, Ohio, Sv. Co. "It's just another day. If they were to tell me I would be home within a six month period — that would be different."

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These Were Main Jap Targets



This map locates the cities on the Japanese home islands which were targets of recent raids by air and sea attackers. Bomb bursts represent shelling by Allied naval forces.

4 Phases of the Pacific War

- 1— We broke the Jap forward wall, relieved the United States, Alaska, Australia and New Zealand from the threat of invasion. We secured our supply lines to New Caledonia, Australia and New Guinea.
- 2— We annihilated enemy forces in the Solomons, New Guinea and the Islands of the Bismark Archipelago. By constant bombings we denied Japan the use of much of the vital raw materials of the Netherlands East Indies. We neutralized Jap positions in the Carolines, opening the sea routes across the Pacific. We gained staging areas, supply bases, air fields, and harbors for the recapture of the Philippines.
- 3— We attacked the last defenses protecting the home islands of Japan and her conquests in the Netherlands East Indies and on the mainland of Asia. We destroyed much of her fleet and her air forces, gained bombing bases from which to blast her industries, thus reducing her ability to resist.
- 4— The last phase came up. While the combined forces of the U. S., Great Britain and China, smashed the enemy on land, our fleet rained the Japanese waters virtually unchallenged. The advent of the Atomic Bomb, and Russia's declaration of war contributed materially and "psychologically" to the Japanese Empire's downfall.

To Men of the 331st . . .

Today, 15 August 1945, marks the 33rd Anniversary of the activation of the 83rd Infantry Division. It also, though not the official day, marks the end of World War II. For our anniversary we can all feel a justifiable pride in that part we of the Division have played in this gigantic conflict to restore peace on earth and to preserve our way of living. The fact that you put into training back in the States in preparation for this battle, paid dividends in lives. The courage that you exhibited and the sacrifices you made on the battlefield from the hedgerows of Normandy to the Elbe Bridgehead cut an important nick for the division in the history that will be written of this war. As I say, every man can feel proud that he is a member of this now famous fighting Division. The traditions that you, and those who have left us, have established will long live in the annals of the Division history.

With the advent of V-J, too, it is natural that our hearts are filled with joy on this momentous occasion. It is also fitting and proper that every man in the Regiment should utter a prayer of thanks that hostilities throughout the world have ended — that we have emerged victorious — that there will no longer be useless bloodshed and this life — that peace will be restored upon the earth — that we can return to our loved ones at home with the knowledge that we have done our duty to God and our country.

It is with solemn gratitude that I offer my prayer of thanks for all this: for the privilege of commanding such a magnificent group of officers and men during this conflict and for the successes that we have had in playing our part.

May we all be granted equal courage and wisdom in doing our utmost to maintain the peace throughout the coming generations, and to make this world a better place in which to live than the one we left us will not have died in vain.

ROBERT H. YORK,
Colonel, Inf.,
Commanding.

Greatest War in Centuries Ends with Announcement By President Truman

Peace came to the world August 15th, 1945, 14 years after Japan invaded Manchuria, when President Harry S. Truman announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally. The announcement was made at 9:00 Central European Time. About the same time, Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee of Great Britain and representatives of the Soviet and Chinese governments — the powers that signed the Potsdam Declaration — were informing their peoples of the surrender.

President Truman revealed that Gen. Douglas MacArthur had been named Supreme Commander in charge of occupation forces and would receive the surrender. He said that arrangements had been made for the formal signing of the surrender at the earliest possible moment, according to dispatches from AFN and Stars and Stripes.

In the meantime, he added, the terrible atomic bomb attacks, the Superfortress raids and the fleet bombardment that had brought Japan to her knees had been ordered suspended.

The President said this note had been received from Japan through the Swiss legation: "The Emperor is prepared to authorize and insure the signature by his government and Imperial Headquarters of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration. His Majesty is also prepared to issue this communication to all military, naval and air forces under their control, wherever located, to cease active resistance and to surrender their arms."

Millions of Americans started hysterical celebrations. New York's Times Square was packed with singing, shouting people. Girls grabbed servicemen and kissed them. Automobiles crashed red traffic lights. Strings of firecrackers popped all over Chinatown.

In San Francisco, shouting crowds milled through the streets. Chicago's Randolph street was jammed by thousands. Bands of revellers cruised around the Loop District atop motor cars. Stormy skies in Salt Lake City failed to halt tumultuous celebrations. Lines of dancers sloshed through the downpour singing lustily.

Japan's surrender came as the climax of a long crescendo of terrific, pulverizing blows. The end was certain and inevitable — the end was just a question of time.

Russia had pounced ponderously down from the north into Japan's stolen empire of Manchuria, rolling at a rate that reached speeds of as much as 100 miles a day.

Smashing whole cities at a time was the spectacular "atomic bomb" being dropped singly by American Superfortresses. Hiroshima took the first of these Marian devastation, and was obliterated. Nagasaki disappeared in a pall of dust and smoke as the second atomic bomb dropped, and brought Japanese complaints that the Allies were using "inhuman" weapons against "the whole of humanity and civilization."

Japan's official news agency, Domei, broadcast an appeal for peace from Tokyo on August 10, and the world knew the end was close at hand. Within a matter of hours, Japanese ambassador to Sweden had presented the formal note to the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to be handed over to the American and British envoys there.

The Japanese note made clear, however, that their offer was based on the understanding that Emperor Hirohito would lose none of his kingly rights.

As the hours passed with no official pronouncements, the waiting grew angrier. Nervously over the immense millions unfolding. Clearly Japan was flinched. G.I.s all over the world. American, British, Chinese, Australian — all the different hearts that made up the United Nations' fighting forces — and, of course, the people at home, waited and waited.

Japan's cycle was completed. From the political nothingness that was Japan before Admiral Perry wedged open its door in the last century, through her first staggering steps at a world power with the

Critical Score 75 on VJ Day

The critical discharge score will be lowered to 75 points on V-J day. It was announced Thursday night through AFN channels. This is in line with the apparent plan to discharge approximately 5,000,000 men within 15 months.

The Associated Press disclosed that plans had already been laid to discharge immediately all remaining high-point men as soon as the surrender was official and the men would be returned home under the highest priorities. There are an estimated 550,000 men with more than 85 points, and 250,000 men have been discharged under this system.

908 FA Reports from Grafenwohr for Doughs Sweating it Out

From sweating the war out the 331st Doughs have turned to sweating the mail. At the last report no cancellations had been made and the Grafenwohr Training Area, where other outfits including the 908 FA, were already training, was still a not too happy prospect. From the 908 FA report it could have been worse.

Moving into the site assigned to the artillerymen, a rye field, the men of the 908 set about making it more attractive and livable. The land, which had been recently mowed and was raked and burned and gravel walks built on all battery streets. Wooden floors were installed in CPs and the Aid Station, box latrines and wash stands were constructed.

The batteries had brought their own generators and this solved the electricity problem.

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Today's America

No greater tribute can be made to the fighting man — the infantryman and his fallen comrade — than this sincere expression written by a school teacher and his fellow citizen in the West Chester State college newspaper.

When, on that Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, I-E was officially proclaimed by President Truman, my ninth grade algebra class was enveloped with a reverential silence.

There was a reason — a girl whose brother, killed a short time ago in Germany, would not march in the victory parade, thinking what everyone knew she would be thinking, the girl wept just a little.

There, my friends, was universal tragedy in one of many performances that will continue for years to come. Many will pine for lost ones in an unkindred solitude bestowed unkindly by those of us, untaught, who forget unpleasant things quickly. We, who should show our appreciation of the sacrifice in a practical way over an extended period of time, must not forget that we should pay the debt that we owe the boys who don't come back as they were. Our greatest efforts will not be too much.

By their deaths, several hundred thousand American fighting men, in contributing to a great heritage, have become great men themselves. If such immortality could be exchanged for actual life! And here were those who fell on the battlefields of Europe, men such as General MacArthur, General Roosevelt, Ernie Pyle — and our immortal president, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Side by side with the tragic aspect of war, my thoughts on V-E Day were with the boys in the Infantry who have survived and who can rest awhile before going on. I happen to know of eight boys in this section of suburban Philadelphia who, after their A.S.T.P. unit was discontinued, were transferred to the 94th Infantry Division. Until this January, they fought in the vicinity of Lorent and St. Nazaire in France, then they were moved to Patton's Third Army at great offensives against the Germans began. Within a few months, each of these eight boys was either wounded or killed.

Yes, I feel that to the Infantry should go the major credit for this victory. In thinking of warfare, most of us unconsciously personify all soldiers into one boy who fights from foxhole to foxhole with his rifle, while his weary, filthy face is an open account of his suffering. Bow to him, my friends; he is an Infantryman! What he wouldn't give for the comfortable, impersonal and dignified war of the sailor; for the momentary and also impersonal war of the airman; for a picnic by comparison! Man to man, gun to gun, house to house, and yard for yard, he slugged it out with the enemy. Yes — bow to him; the enemy did!

Blow-by-Blow of Jap War

- 1941
7 Dec: Jap carrier-borne planes smash at Pearl Harbor.
8 Dec: Jap troops pour into Thailand and Maylaya from Indo-China and invasion fleets.
10 Dec: Jap troops land on Luzon, Philippines; Is. attack Guam; sink "HMS," "Repulse" and "Prince of Wales."
17 Dec: Japanese land on Borneo.
20 Dec: Japs land on Davao, southern Philippines.
1942
2 Dec: Japs landing, Iloilo Gulf, Philippines.
1 Jan: Japs occupy Sarawak.
2 Jan: Manila and Cavite surrender to Japs.
11 Jan: Japs invade Dutch East Indies.
23 Jan: Jap landings at Rabaul and Balic Papuan.
24 Jan: Battle of Makassar Strait; Jap forces moving south attacked by U.S. Destroyers.
1 Feb: U.S. warships raid Marshall and Gilbert Islands.
9 Feb: Japs land on New Britain and at Papua, New Guinea.
15 Feb: Singapore surrenders.
19 Feb: Battle of Bandang Strait; Combined ABDA forces engage Japs moving on Balic.
20 Feb: Our planes raid Jap major base at Rabaul.
23 Feb: Jap submarine shells Santa Barbara, California.
- 24 Feb: U.S. forces raid Japs on Wake Island.
27 Feb: Battle of Java Sea; ABDA forces wiped out. End of organized Allied naval resistance in this area.
28 Feb: Japs land on Java.
2 Mar: Japs occupy Rangoon.
4 Mar: U.S. raid Marcus Island.
10 Mar: U.S. air raid on Salamaua and Lae.
16 Mar: Japs air raid on Darwin Australia.
23 Mar: Japs occupy Andaman Islands.
6 Apr: Jap fliers raid India.
18 Apr: Japs employed in the first major movement during darkness to join in the "Battle of the Bulge" with leading elements of the 24th Infantry Division.
2 May: Jap troops enter Mandalay.
3 May: Japs advance along Burma Road into Yunnan, China.
4 May: U.S. carrier-based aircraft attack Jap ships at Tulagi in Solomons.
6 May: Japs employed in the first major movement during darkness to join in the "Battle of the Bulge" with leading elements of the 24th Infantry Division.
7 May: Battle of Coral Sea; first major naval engagements in history in which surface ships did not exchange a single shot. Same day, Japs occupy Akyab in Burma, 330 miles from Calcutta, India.
3 Jun: Battle of Midway; Jap invasion fleet turned back; four of their aircraft carriers sunk. Second

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Doughs Pray at Peace News



Doughboys occupying the front pews of a German church pray as they give thanks for final victory. Before the altar, chaplain Cassie conducts the services while civilians worship in the foreground. For them it was a German Catholic holiday not observed in the States.

Sellers Coaches Doughboys Into Crack Shooters

The Blackbox Rifle-Pistol Marksmanship Team, underwent initial, intensive training period on August 13 and 14th of the Fox Co. range where Maj. William A. Sellers, 3rd Bn. Executive Officer, coached a field of entrants that had been gradually eliminated to 16 men. The crack sharpshooters have been meeting every day for the same similar drill and fire sessions where they are drilled in the finer points of the sport. Such pre-requisites as form, sling manipulation, positions, and SOP on Perry Course Firing are taken up while the doughs who once trained their sights at Hillier's "Elite" are given plenty of practice in punching holes through bullseyes.

In the offing are berths for the 331st's own team which plans to invade the Thunderbolt Tourney. The latter is scheduled to get underway at the 3rd Bn, 331st Infantry range August 22nd and 23rd.

It was announced that the 83rd Division will enter the XII Corps matches which will be held sometime during the last week of August.

According to plans thus far formulated within the regiment, the team members will be selected from the highpoint marksmen in each battalion since time does not permit an extensive eliminations tournament. The original list submitted are gradually being boiled down to a select few who display complete command of the Fox Co. range where they will be billeted temporarily.

Major Sellers, who has frequently been assigned the official range officer since the 83rd activation, formerly participated in numerous national pistol and rifle tournaments. He also holds the Army of Excellence having attained the expert badge while firing every infantry weapon. Major Sellers explained that the Blackbox crewmen the latter put on a demonstration for a CIO delegation during Camp Abernethy Days.

Mr. James Carler, Asst. Personnel Officer, has been delegated as chief mentor in the pistol shooting class. Among his charges who will definitely represent the 331st at the intra-divisional playoffs will be T/3 Alfred Dayton, Pfc. Brian Waymar, Cpl. William Lilly, Pfc. Robert Resnider, and Corporal W. W. Wink. The Blackbox Quinlet parake in daily practice sessions at the E Co. firing range which was originally used by German Luftwaffe personnel.

83rd Activation

(Continued from page 1)

After this mission, the Division completed the clearing of Luxemburg and from there entered the "Rhinefeld Campaign" in which it broke through the Hurtgen Forest and drove the Germans east of the Roer River. No sooner was this accomplished than the 83rd was ordered a 100 mile movement during darkness to join in the "Battle of the Bulge" with leading elements of the 24th Infantry Division. In the campaign of the "Ardenne", through deep snow and bitter cold, every rough ground, through dense forests and against a strong and desperate enemy, the 83rd breached a gap to permit the passage of an armored Division. In the "Rhinefeld Campaign" the Division was the first to reach the lower Rhine. Then, after crossing the Rhine, the 83rd swept everything before it in its victorious dash eastward across Germany, which culminated in the Elbe River Bridgehead, the only American bridgehead successfully established across the river.

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Biographical Sketches



Lt. Joseph C. Mack

Handsome, likeable Lt. Joseph C. Mack proved to be a real public relations officer while serving the 331st Infantry at Banning Officer and MCO school where he instructed officers taking a refresher course and enlisted men entering OCS.

Thirteen months later, in November, 1943, he was assigned to the 331st Infantry. Here he earned his silver bar, pinballing for the 1st Battalion, S-3 for two months. He later became Regimental Liaison Officer.

Upon receiving his discharge papers, Lt. Mack plans to enroll in Columbia University for a one year course in Education and Personnel problems before being continuing his teaching career.

sent to Ft. McClellan, Ala., as a corporal and an instructor. In July of '42, he entered OCS at Ft. Benning, Ga. Upon graduating his teaching ability was again utilized at Banning Officer and MCO school where he instructed officers taking a refresher course and enlisted men entering OCS.

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Nip's God Hirohito Likened to a Queen Bee With Japan its Hive

As the Japanese war drew to a close and the final surrender waited for delivery over what part Emperor Hirohito would play, soldiers and civilians alike found themselves wondering just what manner of man his Emperor was. They told, covered that they were waging war against a god and that the armies preparing to invade the home land would be invading sacred soil coming what the Japanese considered a sacred unapproachable.

To most Americans the Japanese god, Hirohito, looked like a feathery, somewhat little man. It took quite a while to realize that the Emperor Hirohito really was a man. He was the Japanese national mind with all its paradoxes — making savagery and sensibility to authority, fanaticism and patient obedience to authority, brilliant ritual and gross vice, brutal discipline and beset outcasts, obsession with its divine mission and sudden obsession with the world.

The second school of thought abruptly dismissed the idea that Japan was a war against its Emperor, the myth of the divine Mikado. Long before Japan was defeated there were two definite points of view as to what should be done with the Emperor. Under Secretary of State Joseph Grew, ten years U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo, was the proponent of one. He likened the Japanese society to a hive, with the Emperor at the Queen bee. There comes a time when the queen bee is thrust out, was not the bee which made the decision; if one were to remove the queen from the swarm, the hive would disintegrate.

The implications of this analogy are clear. The Emperor institution (in the form of Hirohito, or if he is discarded, the Crown Prince Akihito) must be retained to save the Japanese nation from disintegration. The Emperor institution must be used to prepare the way for a non-aggressive, non-fatalistic state.

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