

83rd

SPEARHEAD

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Somewhere In France Sunday, August 27, 1944

No. 5

BATTLE-CRY SPURS ATTACK

ENGINEERS SPAN GAP ON LOFTY STONE BRIDGE

"Call the engineers" is a favorite by-word throughout many a fighting front. And this was the call that resounded once more in a recent offensive when infantry troops were halted because a bridge, spanning a huge valley, had been blown up by the retreating Nazis.

The engineers arrived. One look and they realized the difficult job confronting them. The remaining stone arches were 140 feet high. To erect a bridge across the gap was an engineering feat they had not yet experienced.

As dusk fell the engineers began building their Bailey bridge. The men were tired. This wasn't the first time they had worked without sleep and besides their spirits were raised by the French civilians who cheered them on.

Pitching in with zest they completed the 140 foot bridge in excellent time.

83RD TO BE FEATURED IN LIFE . . .

According to Robert Capa, internationally-famous photographer representing Life Magazine and John Morris, London Editor of Life, the 83rd Division will be given a several page spread as one of its features in a forthcoming issue of

Life Magazine. Capa and Morris have been taking pictures of our men in action.

When a captured German General mumbled in Normandy, "I'm tired of being photographed", Capa replied, "And I'm tired of photographing German generals".

NAZI FORT CAPTURED AS VICTORY MARCH IS PLAYED

In one of the spirited attacks launched by an infantry unit a German fortification was completely captured within 15 minutes after its defenses were pierced by a fiercely fighting battalion under the command of Capt. Granville A. Sharp of Davidson, North Carolina.

Capt. Sharp's battalion fought its way through the streets of a German-held town and reached a peninsula where a Nazi fort was holding out. Here the battalion reorganized and primed itself for an all-out attack against the fort. Prior to the attack, Capt. Sharp called up a loudspeaker system to his outpost. A member of the Psychological Warfare Team, who speaks German, asked the beleaguered Nazis to surrender. He told them about the defeats of the German armies throughout France and the fighting fronts. He warned them of the impending attack, that they didn't have a chance and that they may as well give up now. No white flag appeared after this appeal.

The battalion was ready. During the interval of the warning speech, Capt. Sharp was orienting his men and giving them last minute instructions.

FIRST DIVISION PAPER IN FRANCE . . .

Receiving the first edition of the 83RD SPEARHEAD, Camp News paper Service, Inc., located in New York, informed us that the 83RD SPEARHEAD is the first division newspaper to be printed in France, to the best of their knowledge.

CNS furnishes us with the cartoons, "The Wolf", and "Male Call", and news from the states.

The attack was launched. The doughboy charged forward and nothing could stop them. Even through the spraying machine gun fire and mortar barrage, they kept going forward. Nearing the fort, a shower of hand grenades met them. They hit the

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NAZI OFFICER PRAISES 83RD . . .

It seems that Maj. Gen. Robert C. Macon is not the only one who thinks highly of the fighting men of the 83rd. This opinion was concurred with recently by a captured major of the German Army.

Said he, "The 83rd forces opposing us did everything tactically they were supposed to. And when we interviewed several of your prisoners, each of them refused to talk. They didn't reveal anything."

The German major said he knew that the Nazi situation was hopeless.

TRYING TO BE FUNNY . . .

LONDON (CNS)—Adolf Hitler, the Berlin radio said, told a recent meeting of Nazi party leaders that what Germany needed was a leader who would under no circumstances capitulate and that he was that man.

SHELL GETS IN HIS WAY . . .

Tec 4 Louis W. Speed of Amarillo, Texas, surgical technician, was driving his jeep through a recently captured town when a shell tore through the radiator of his jeep.

Said Sgt. Speed, "It slowed me down, I looked around and kept going."

It was a dud.

THE WOLF

by Sansone



HEROES ALL

Space does not permit us to write a detailed story of every man in the division who has been cited for his heroic deeds in action. In this column we will list weekly the name of each man who has distinguished himself.

Awarded the Silver Star are:

Lt. Alexander N. Kahapea from Hawaii
AT platoon leader.

Capt. Lawrence Laliberte from Massachusetts, Company Commander.

Lt. Alton E. Lancaster from Vermont
platoon leader.

Capt. Michael E. Clavin from New York, Company Commander.

First Sgt. Edward Chess from Illinois, Infantry Company.

Lt. Bernard George Dennis from Pennsylvania, platoon leader.

Tec 4 Adrian R. Hayes from Indiana, machine gunner of Recon. Troop.

S/Sgt. Clell Martin from Indiana, mortar platoon sergeant.

S/Sgt. Walter S. Fillion from Ohio, rifle platoon sergeant.

Tec 5 Lonnie York from Illinois, driver ammunition truck.

Pfc. James M. Dean from Ohio, litter bearer, medical aid station.

T/Sgt. Edwin R. Williams from Kentucky, rifle platoon sergeant.

Awarded the Bronze Star are:

Pvt. Horacio Benavides from California, anti-tank gunner.

Lt. Robert B. Clary from Indiana, platoon leader, engineers.

Pvt. Joseph F. Exler from Pennsylvania, anti-tank gunner.

S/Sgt. William J. Graff, Jr. from Pennsylvania, communications platoon sergeant.

Lt. Hugh S. Harris from West Virginia, anti-tank platoon leader.

Pfc. Isaac Kerns from Ohio, messenger, infantry company.

Pvt. Aubrey V. Lewis from West Virginia, anti-tank gunner.

S/Sgt. Edward Locke from New Hampshire, platoon sergeant.

Pfc. Howard Long from Ohio, medical aid man.

Tec 5 Henry M. Martin from Tennessee, medical aid man.

S/Sgt. Austin W. Mayes, from Texas, anti-tank platoon sergeant.

Sgt. William G. McFadden from Massachusetts, mine platoon.

Pfc. Marshall O. Miller from South Carolina, medical aid man.

ENEMY LAUNCH SUNK

WITH BAZOOKA ROCKET

The versatility of the bazooka, used effectively against tanks and pill-boxes, was revealed again recently by Lt. George Partenan of Lanse, Michigan, C.O. of an infantry company.

Lt. Partenan's company had battled their way to a narrow channel that empties into a bay. They noticed an enemy 60-foot launch trying to get in the channel. The men calmly waited until the boat was within range and then blasted it with the bazooka rocket sinking the boat and its crew.

AMERICAN CAPTIVES TAKE CAPTORS AS THEIR PRISONERS . . .

Captured by the Nazis, Lt. Julius Reeder, Ottawa, Illinois, with Lt. Edward McCarthy, Coquills, Oregon, and Pfc. Cmer Burque, Marion, Ohio, for their release, thank an 83rd Division Combat Team.

Lts. Reeder and McCarthy and their jeep driver, Pvt. Burque, had been ambushed by the Jerries as they drove through a French town and held as prisoners in a chateau. As soon as Lt. Reeder learned that the C.O. of the German garrison spoke English he immediately tried to convince him of the hopeless situation and that he might as well give up. The Nazi Commander refused.

"The firing around the chateau increased", said Lt. Reeder, "and when a shell whirled through the commandant's room, he decided I was right and surrendered."

Tec 4 Leo Jovannic of Toledo, Ohio, member of an anti-tank company, is one of only four men in the entire ETO, who won a prize in the Stars and Stripes Quiz Pix Contest.

ALERT DOUGHBOY SEES THROUGH NAZI SAILOR'S DISGUISE . . .

Even the most perfect disguise by the enemy couldn't fool an alert dough-boy of the 83rd Division. Pfc. Ronald F. Gionet of Shirley, Mass., proved this last week when he was patrolling the streets of a town recently liberated by his regiment.

Pvt. Gionet saw an attractive young lady and her child loitering in town. It was nearing the curfew hour when all civilians were to be off the streets. Of French-Canadian descent, Pvt. Gionet speaks French fluently and he told the young lady in a very polite manner that she had better hurry home or she would be arrested. The shapely young lady replied that she had been waiting for someone but now was going straight home. She was dressed very well, wearing silk stockings, slippers and a bandanna around her head. Her cheeks were rouged and her lips painted. But there was something about the tone in her voice that didn't sound exactly French to Pvt. Gionet. As he explained, "She spoke French very well, her voice was distinctly feminine but there was something about her accent that made me curious."

Pvt. Gionet continued the conversation. He became convinced that this young lady was of a different nationality posing as a French woman. And as he placed her under arrest, he noticed that her face bore the marks of having been shaved and that face powder had been applied thickly. "Right then I saw that this was no woman but a man", Pvt. Gionet said.

His disguise broken, the "young lady" confessed that he was a German sailor. Questioned by Tec 3 Max Berger of Bronx, New York, member of an IPW Team, the German sailor explained that he was living in the town when the Americans entered and he didn't want to leave his paramour.

MALE CALL

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

EVERYTHING WENT PINK



Dear Joe -

A resident in Astoria, N. Y., snores so loud that neighbors have threatened him with bodily harm if he doesn't cut it out. He has applied to the police for protection.

This ad ran in a Sunday edition of the Atlanta, Ga., Journal: **WANTED**—Typist smart enough to be worth \$235 a month yet dumb enough to start for less.

Mrs. Olga Sadosh of Brooklyn, N. Y. was given a suspended sentence on a charge of permitting a cow to roam the streets of Brooklyn. She promised to restrain the heifer.

Arrested for carrying a gun in his belt, Braden French, a visiting hill-billy in Chicago, explained that friends back in Tennessee told him Chicago was a tough town.

Woodbury Rand, the late millionaire of Dedham, Mass., left \$100,000 for the care of his cat, Buster, and cancelled bequests of \$20,000 to nine cousins "because of their contemptuous attitude and cruelty toward my cat".

BATTLE-CRY SPURS ATTACK (Cont'd from Pg 1) FUNZAPOPPIN' . . .

ground, tossed their grenades, leaped up and dashed forward. Enemy fire increased in volume. Suddenly the cry of "haba, haba" could be heard above the din and roar of the concentrated fire. And as this cry spread throughout the leading company, the attack was renewed with greater fury. It was later learned that, "haba, haba" was the battle-cry of a company that Capt. Sharp had commanded and it had been used among the men since their training days, and here it came to the front once more. With this determined cry on their lips, the fighting doughboys dashed right up to the fort. At this point, the stirring music of the Victory March broke through the incessant roar of battle. The loudspeaker system was being put to use again.

To the strains of this march, the men pierced the Nazi defense line and with fixed bayonets thrust and fired with all the fury they could muster at every Jerry in sight. Due to the relentless rapidity of the attack, the fort was disorganized and in 15 minutes the doughboys had taken the fort. The American flag was raised and heard through the loudspeaker system was the Star Spangled Banner.

POOR MEMORY SALVES BROCKIN HEART . . .

A doughboy received a letter from his fiancée in the States requesting the return of her picture and informing him that she is going to marry another man. The jilted doughboy was despondent until his fellow-soldiers thought of a plan to get even. A call went through the regiment for every available female photograph. Over 100 were gathered. These pictures together with the photos of the soldier's fiancée were sent to the young lady who broke the doughboy's heart. A note that was attached to the photos read, "I don't recall what you look like. Will you please look over these photos, take yours, and return the others? Thank you."

DOUGHBOY WISE SAYS:

"Be patient, lie still when necessary."

"Train your ears to listen for all types of sounds and be able to distinguish them."

Submitted by S/Sgt. Tom Baxter of Miami, Florida.

(NOTE: If any of you combat-wise soldiers have any tips for the "greener" men, how about passing them on through this column.)

A man rushed into a bar and asked the bartender, who was removing dew from the bar, if he knew anything that would stop hiccoughs. His answer was a slap across the face with the wet towel. Surprised and furious, the stranger demanded the reason for such action. With a placating grin the bartender replied, "Well, you haven't got any hiccoughs no have you?" "Hell, I never did have," was the indignant answer. "I wanted something for my wife. She's out in the car."

Did you hear about the fat woman who visited a shipyard on the east coast. She bent over to tie her shoestring and before she could straighten up, they broke a bottle of champagne over her stern and launched her.

"Sugar pie", said the dark one to his Susie, "did that kiss I jus' gave you make you long for another?"

"It sure did," said Susie, "but he's out of town."

Remember the good old days when silk stockings were within the reach of all?

When you have finished reading the 83RD SPEARHEAD, pass it on to your buddies.