

83rd SPEARHEAD

NORMANDY BRITTANY LOIRE RIVER LUXEMBOURG GERMANY ARDENNES
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83rd Wins Race To Rhine



Here they are at the 83rd CP-- the winning team that led the first American troops to reach the lower Rhine-- Lieutenant General William H. Simpson, Ninth Army Commander, and Major General Robert C. Macon, commanding the 83rd Division, chosen to spearhead the American march to the Rhine opposite Dusseldorf.

(Photo by Brouhard)

General Macon Gets DSM For Campaign in Brittany

Major General Robert C. Macon, commanding general of the 83rd Infantry Division, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Third Army Commander. Second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor, this high military tribute was paid to General Macon for leading the 83rd to successes in Brittany between Aug. 1st and Sept. 9th of last year.

The medal was presented to General Macon by Lieutenant General William H. Simpson, Commanding General of the Ninth Army, during a visit to the Division Command Post.

The award was given by General Patton in particular for the 83rd's successful operation at St. Malo and the Citadel. The seizure of this important seaport was made while some units of the Division were engaged with other combat teams. The 3rd Bn of the 330th Infantry plus Btry C of the 323 PA Bn were engaged in cleaning up pockets of enemy resistance across the Brittany Peninsula with Task Force A. Other

elements of the 83rd were driving west of the Rance River to take part in the push on Dinard directly opposite St. Malo. The fall of the river-mouth cities in turn weakened the strongly held Ile de Cézembre which was forced to capitulate on Sept. 2nd.

The citation accompanying the medal contains the following tribute to General Macon: "Under his outstanding leadership and by his personal courage, indefatigable energy and supreme devotion to duty, Major General Macon inspired his troops with a splendid esprit de corps and they relentlessly hammered the enemy without respite. The aggressive leadership of Major General Macon is characterized by his sound tactical decisions and his high professional attainments."

In addition to the Distinguished Service Medal, General Macon also holds the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. The former was awarded for leading a regimental landing party ashore during the invasion of North Africa and the latter for meritorious service in France.

Rhine Extra...

To spearheading 83rd doughs, first American troops to reach the lower Rhine, this day-after-the-battle edition of the SPEARHEAD, first Yank newspaper to reach the river front.

Printed at midnight in Maastricht, Holland and delivered by jeep at breakfast this morning, it tells the full story of the Division's history-making push, with special, on-the-spot coverage by Wes Gallagher, famed War Correspondent of the Associated Press.

Silver Star Cluster Given Colonel York

Holder of the DSC, the Silver Star with cluster, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, Colonel Robert H. York, 32-year-old commanding officer of the 331st Infantry, has received another cluster to his Silver Star for gallantry in action against the enemy in Germany.

York, a native of Alabama and a graduate of West Point in 1909, joined the First Division's 18th Infantry, trained in the States with it, and followed it through three major landings, Africa, Sicily and Normandy. He rose from platoon leader to Battalion Commander of the First Battalion and joined the 83rd Division in mid-June in Normandy to take over the 331st Infantry.

The Distinguished Service Medal was won in Africa for gallantry and leadership near El Guettar. One Silver Star came in Sicily, and the two Silver Star clusters were the 83rd, one

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Spearheads Ninth Army Break-through to River, Rattles Dusseldorf Gates

The Rhine River in front of Dusseldorf was officially reached 1000 Friday morning by doughboys of Major General Robert C. Macon's 83rd Division, and the main highway bridge into Dusseldorf from Neuss was reached at 1500 in the afternoon.

In the round-the-clock offensive which began Thursday afternoon, elements of the 83rd plowed northeast along the west bank of the Ert Canal, reaching the outskirts of Neuss late in the afternoon. By midnight the center of the city was taken by the 330th under Colonel Robert T. Foster, of Anniston, Ala., while the 329th Infantry under Colonel Edwin B. Grabb of Galax, Va., to the south forced through the southern section of the city. It met stiff resistance in the early morning hours although this did not stem the advance.

331ST MOVED NORTH

The 331st Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert H. York of Woodhaven, Long Island, N.Y., working north along the Ert Canal on the Division's right flank, pushed ahead rapidly and was a thousand yards from the Rhine at daybreak Friday morning and on the Rhine by 1000.

RACE

It was a race to see which outfit would reach the river first. Colonel Grabb swore he'd be at the Rhine by midnight. This was a challenge which was taken up by the other outfits and the fight was hard and fast. For a while it looked like the 329th would make good its boast for the 331st was having difficulty with its exposed flank which necessitated blocking to the east as it moved north. Later tank and artillery fire slowed the advance.

However, the 329th and 330th had their troubles in fighting through the City of Neuss which normally has a population about 60,000 people, and the Germans chose to make the race complicated by fighting from the factories and buildings. This gave the 331st the opportunity.

Friday morning the Germans counterattacked with seven tanks and a company of infantry which temporarily at least slowed the 331st. However, 24th on call arrived on the scene and quickly aided in getting the situation under control.

COMPANY E FIRST

Company E of the 331st Infantry is credited officially with being the first unit to reach the Rhine, although patrols were sent out by the 329th Infantry and the 330th Infantry at midnight Thursday and claim to have reached the Rhine.

Company E were the first to fight all the way to the river. A Company E patrol of the 330th reached the locks on the Ert Canal, a stone's throw from the Rhine, just after midnight. In any case, it can be said that the aid given by the 329th to the north in Neuss was substantial in easing the way for the 331st doughboys.

The 3rd Battalion of the 329th Infantry under Lt. Col. John O. Speedie of San Antonio, Texas, reached the lower Rhine bridge leading into Dusseldorf at 1500.

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PILOTS SWAP TALES WITH DOUGHS DURING TWO-DAY VISIT AT FRONT

Five fighter pilots visited the Division two days early this week and made themselves at home with officers and men. Only the day before they had flown bombing and strafing missions in support of ground troops past the Roer.

The P-47 fliers are members of the 360th Fighter Group, of the 360th Fighter Squadron. They had "clobbered" the enemy in the St. Lo break-through, aiding the 83rd, for which their squadron received the first Presidential Citation to be awarded in France. They were also the first to land planes in France after D-Day.

DOUGHS LIKE THEM

Intervenor, "a big kick out of swapping stories with these fast-moving and personable young air comrades. Capt Keith P. Pendergast (called "K" by his buddies) of Emporia, Kansas, who "was formerly with the 4th Coast Artillery and

the 6th Air Force," and says he knows what doughs go through; 1st Lt. Henry T. Campisi of San Jose, Calif., with 65 missions to his credit, who greatly enjoys tank-busting and "clobbering trains and marshaling yards."

CALLS INFANTRY TOPS

2nd Lt. David C. Johnson of Pomona, Calif., is a 39-mission combat flier with a youthful appearance. 2nd Lt. Forrest W. Erwin of Champaign, Ill., states "The infantry rates tops with us for pushing the Germans to where they are," and Flight Officer Joe (Hungry Lion) Lackey of Union, S. C., avows "We get a helluva thrill to know we're helping the doughboys out."

The visitors dropped in at the SPEARHEAD office for a bull session and were much interested to hear what the Division was accomplished. All read the paper and sent copies home.

A typical incident was related by Campisi. The day before, he had attacked a train of 25 or

more box cars, dropping his two 100-lb bombs and then strafing, at Opeladen, north of Cologne.

"Box cars flew 100 feet in the air in all directions and I could send them down the pieces had I wanted to," he laughed.

"The way we do it is to drop a couple of bombs at one end of a marshaling yard, then a few at the other end, in that way bottling up the place so trains can't get out. Then we really let 'em have it. The trouble is, we leave a place a mass of flames and debris--when we come back the next day or so they have trains running again. Those Heines do most of their work at night, and must work like hell on some of those yards."

GETS MAD AT TANK

Campisi, veteran of the group as far as missions are concerned, told how a Tiger tank gave him a little trouble. "The driver kept the front of the tank fac-

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March 3, 1943

We got a dose of a new servant this week. They sure had a good monkey when they cut off his tail. Gotta right out three letters to the little woman tonight. I'll only be a week behind then.

How? Why? Because? I don't know. He either shot down half the Luftwaffe or else his Chaplain is using "power politics." Journalism is a funny thing. Life happened to run the picture of Chill Williams, they'd run into the most articulate study. If the caption writer had more space he'd probably be making algebraic equations out of the space between Chill's alkali dots. Here we have a girl in a bathing suit, and Life is overflowing with words, studies, research and how the lovely lass got that way. On the other side of this unbalanced Scale of Justice, we have the extreme

green, Nix and Honts waded to the icy stream, picked up logs and timber from the stream's bed and built a temporary causeway. The rest of the battalion then followed the wire across.

the impression she left behind. So here it is.

The press expects big things of him.



It got too hot in the kitchen for cook Charles D. Kelly of Landenberg, Pa., so he lugged in his frying pan for a machine gun, his T-4 rating for private and went into the line with Co. M of the 331st Infantry. It was hot, but Kelly's sergeant again now—a squad leader—and he'd still rather shoot than serve.

Men of Co. B, 308th Engineers, have a new way of estimating the number of loads of gravel required to repair a bombed road in Germany. It's: "How many houses d'you figure that hole will need?"

Battle veterans of the 331st Infantry who know that grass isn't always greener in the other fellow's back yard are reinforcements who have fought in the Pacific.

"I'd just as soon sweat out the way in the ETO," says Cpl. Bernard Johnson of New York City, a member of Co. F. He is formerly from an ack-ack outfit in Hawaii and Port Moresby, New Guinea. In one day his battery shot down seven zeros, 13 others in F and K companies saw action in the Aleutians and most of them complained of cold and foggy weather there.

When 1st Sgt. Lloyd Sorenson of New London, Minn., topped off Btry D, 43d AAA Bn got a ticket from the Ardennes to Paris for a five-day spree he was as happy as a Norwegian ever gets. Ah! Paris!

Five days later the first soldier returned, but was mournful and singing the blues. Asked what the trouble was, he answered: "I thought you could get anything in Paris if you had enough francs, but it's a lie. I walked all over the damn town and couldn't get a box of Copenhagen for love or money."

Empty Gun Cows Krauts On Run

He suddenly discovered his gun was empty, but that didn't prevent Pfc Thomas L. Young of Douglas, Ga. from capturing the Krauts according to plan. Sent out by Co. C of the 329th Infantry to guide tanks and T-34s into Bovigny, Young was edging along the woods when he spotted a Jerry tank coming down the road. Taking cover, he yelled at them to throw down their weapons.

Startled by his shouts, the Krauts tried to fire at his position, but Young was too fast. Two dropped, and the other three broke and ran.

Jumping down the bank onto the road, Young halted the hasty retreat. But as the survivors turned and walked toward him, he suddenly realized he'd knocked the clip from his pistol in the jump.

Covering the opening with one hand, he quickly disarmed the trio and then calmly beat over and picked up the magazine.

"What's in a name?" smirked men of K Co., 331st Infantry. They have S/Sgt John B. (Russian) Avizemovich, who can't speak a word of Russian, on the roster. There's Pfc Alexander G. Waters who speaks it fluently—he's their man to greet Stalin's men soon in central Germany.

Last Summer S/Sgt "Pop" Vorobok, Pittsburgh, Pa., platoon sergeant of Btry D, 43d AAA, got a disabled half-track out of a mine field under enemy fire and won the Bronze Star. He lost his wrist watch in the excitement and once had hoped to get it back because his name was engraved on it. When he got to the Ardennes, he had given up hope.

The battery set up a CP in the woods. Dead Germans littered the snow. Vorobok was helping clean things up when he noticed an American-made timepiece on the wrist of a defunct SS trooper. Yep, it had Pop Vorobok's name on the back.

In a letter from his girl, Pfc John Frankhoff of Co. M, 330th Infantry read page after page of sweet nothings—plus assurances that he was the only one in her life—absolutely. But the last line in her letter was what did it. She wrote: "...and kill some more of those nasty Japs for me." That did it, brother, that did it!

Three Olive, brothers from New York City, all in combat units, had a get-together recently somewhere in Belgium. The CO of E Co, Cpl. Francis E. Olive, met Thomas, of the 8th Division, and Michael, of the 82nd Airborne. Mike jumped at Anzio on D-Day and later in Italy, Germany and Holland.

"Is this package yours?" asked T-4 Louis Jones, Service Co., 330th Infantry mail clerk. "The name is obliterated," replied the GI. "Not mine—my name is O'Shaughnessy."

Ordered to bring up D Co's duffel bags so the men might change clothes, T/S Howard Schriener of the 330th Infantry got a truck and complied. While he was gone, the company got orders to attack. The checker-att-duffel-bags thought they had merely moved down the road a short way and followed. Coming to a house where two of his company's guns were set up, he stopped and started to unload. Then all hell broke loose as the push-off started, and Schriener wheeled back down the road moose-cartoon style. The bags weren't delivered THAT day.

BATTLE BARS

The first two battlefield commissions in the tank battalion attached to the 63rd have been awarded to Lt. Charles L. Pierce of Broseley, Mo. and Arch McDonald Jr. of York, Pa.

Gold bars were pinned on the two new officers by Lt. Col. Paul J. Ritchie, battalion commander.

Allied Conference ...



During a recent visit to the 83d CP, Lt. General Omar N. Bradley, 12th Army Group Commander, took time out from councils of high strategy to go into conference with two little Belgian allies bearing flowers and—sans doute—best wishes.

(Photo by Hershaw)



HANGOVERS wound up on the ration list this week when War Mobilizer Byrnes tucked America in bed at a respectable hour by clamping a midnight curfew on leg shows and liquor—to save coal. Charities and safe operators were momentarily stunned, but in New York Mayor LaGuardia gave them and their patrons until March 5th to get on to the narrow road. Anti-Saloon League officials were quick to register sober approval, but the last word was left to Republican Representative Baldwin who came up on the side of servicemen on leave who "must have their entertainment—and they'll get it in one way or another."

BACK from movie-making in tinsel town came radio's bad boy—Fred Allen, more ready than ever to bite the hand that had been feeding him. Said Fred, announcing himself a glamor boy: "I've got my hair and teeth, haven't I? Look at Benny, Boyer, Crosby and Hope—all toupee-wearers. But not Allen." On climate: "It's fine—if you're an orange. It's ideal." On actresses: "Chambermaids with caps on their teeth, built-in bosoms and false buttocks."

ONCE AGAIN Hollywood boulevard and Park avenue came to a parting of the ways. The off-again-on-again marriage of much married Barbara Hutton, the five-and-ten girl who has survived several princely husbands, and actor Cary Grant was off again. And it began to look as if glamorous Gloria Vanderbilt, society's poor little rich girl, would continue in character as she came of age—richer by four million, poorer by one husband. Lost on purpose was veteran cafe clubber Pat Di Cicco, actor's agent, who had plucked his prize when she was only 17. Commented gracious Gloria, generously, "What can one say of a first marriage except that it's wonderful?"

WHILE CONGRESS investigated and harassed constituents continued to call for Philip Morris, only to get Cheesess, the cigarette shortage on the home front was still a mystery. Comment of the week came from Harvard's Hooton, talkative anthropologist: "The boys in the foxholes, their lives endangered, are nervous and miserable and want girls. Since they can't have them, they smoke cigarettes. The girls at home, their virtue not endangered, are nervous and miserable and want boys. Since they can't have them, they, too, smoke cigarettes. So the briar pipe comes back into its own."

OUT FROM obscurity behind the feature editor's desk of Yank in Manhattan popped Pvt. (now Sgt.) Marion Hargrove of See Here, Private Hargrove, called into service as an usher at his wedding by Sgt. (now Lt.) Thomas Mulvihill of the AAF and See Here, Pvt. H. the hapless humorist promptly obeyed, was photographed dutifully buzzing the bride.

Five Medics See Jerry Aid Station

How five men from the 308th Med Bn traveled a mile behind enemy lines to enter a German aid station and evacuate an American wounded was recounted this week by Pvt. Leon Bosseler, German-speaking litter bearer from Reading, Pa.

"A German aid man told us there were American wounded in his aid station," said Bosseler, "so four medics from the 2nd Bn Aid Station of the 331st and myself decided to run the risk of the possibility of a German trap and see for ourselves."

REACH AID STATION

Carrying a large Red Cross flag, the men made their way over rough terrain and through artillery fire to reach the aid station, located in a small farmhouse about a mile beyond our front lines.

"We found three doughboys lying on the floor wounded," continued Bosseler, "and their injuries had been bandaged with socks and toilet paper. The Germans didn't have much in the way of first aid equipment and were seemed to be a lot of their wounded waiting around to be treated. The other four fellows who were with me carried the most seriously injured GI on a litter back to our lines while I stayed with the other wounded."

FORCED TO FIGHT

While waiting for the litter bearers to return, the Krauts asked Bosseler who he thought would win the war. When he told them that he was convinced of an Allied Victory most of them agreed and said the only reason they continued the fight was because they were forced to do so by the SS.

Bosseler also stated that the Jerries were envious of his first aid equipment and complained that their wounded men were transferred in a horse drawn vehicle to the nearest field hospital across the Rhine.

LOW ON SUPPLIES

"This hospital is already overcrowded," said one of them, "and all of us lack medical supplies." Meanwhile, Sgt. Louis Ervin of London, Kentucky, T/S William Dalley of New York City and Pfc Lawrence D. Prima of Chicago arrived at the aid station to evacuate the other two American wounded.

"My knees were shaking so badly I could have cracked walnuts between them," said Ervin, "but once I got inside and saw how calm Bosseler was, I was all right. I think the Jerries knew their number was up though because they leaned over backwards to help us while we were there."

"One of them," Ervin continued, "said the aid station was his private home, but he doesn't live there anymore because the next morning our infantry took the town and I saw the landowner of the day before in the line up of prisoners."

Male Call

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

THIS IS A REAL PLEASURE, ZINKY—OR SHOULD I SAY CORPORAL ZINKER-MANN? WE READ ABOUT THE MEDAL IN THE PAPERS, BUT WE WANT TO HEAR THE STORY FIRST HAND FROM OUR OWN EX-FELLOW WORKER—DON'T WE FOLKS?

OH, YES!

GO ON, ZINKY!

WELL, IT WASN'T SO MUCH.

WE WERE ROLLING UP FAST ON THE SOISSONS ROAD...

THE SOISSONS ROAD!

BOY, I'LL NEVER FORGET THE NIGHT WE MOVED UP ON SOISSONS IN '18...

WE WENT INTO THOSE WOODS WITH NO SLEEP AND NO CHOW...

JERRY WAS CARNOT NAPPING—BUT WE HAD TO SLUG FOR EVERY YARD WE TOOK... IN THE WHEAT FIELDS WE RAN INTO THE ROCHE WIRE...

I HOOKED UP WITH...

BY THE TIME THEY RELIEVED US I WAS WALKING IN ANY SLEEP... SAY! WE'LL HAVE TO BE GETTING BACK ON THE JOB... GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, ZINKY... COME IN ANYTIME—WE'RE ANXIOUS TO HEAR OF OUR HERO!



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Tow It Away...



ATES (AND ORDNANCE COMPANY) answer to the towing problem, a demountable Y-Bar on the rear of a wrecker that prevents damage to either rescuer or rescuee. Demonstrating, left to right: Sgt Ambrose Boyett of Sulligent, Ala., and S/Sgt Percy Mohon, Bronze Star man from Guntersville, Ala. (Signal Corps Photo)

783rd ORDNANCE HELPS TO KEEP 'EM ROLLING INTO REICH

Officers and men of the 83rd know from combat experience how essential it is for armament to be in top-flight condition if advances are to be made and German strong points eliminated.

Since the commitment of the Division in Normandy last June the 783rd Ordnance Co has played no small part in the 83rd's successful campaigns from the Normandy hedgerows to the Belgian Ardennes. Working as much as 16 and 18 hours a day, men of the Ordnance Co contributed to the completion of every campaign by turning out repair jobs on vital equipment in record breaking time.

REPAIRS MADE IN SNOW
During the Division's most recent offensive in the Bulge Battle, mechanics sprawled for periods of more than two hours in the snow to install axles on trucks and jeeps which were badly needed by front line elements. Steel wrenches froze to the men's fingers tearing the skin from their hands when they tried to let go after the last nut or bolt had been tightened and the job completed.

Near the town of Rochefort, which was the furthest German penetration in the December counter-attack, the rear wheels and axles of the Ordnance Co wrecker were blown off when the vehicle struck a mine. Both Tec 4 Harley Maxwell of Columbus, Ohio and Tec 5 Alexander Zachorowicz of Edgemoor, Pa., who were in the vehicle at the time, escaped injury.

While the 83rd was engaged along the Moselle River in Luxembourg last October, Pfc Vincent Masser of Akron, Ohio and Charles Rohrer of Columbus, Ohio were working on a truck when it was hit by a mine.

Close Call...

When the barrage began, three Pfc's, Jimmy J. Griffin, William Benjamin and Richard Arnold, 330th Infantry, were resting and rebuilding the previous night's narrow escape. Shells began to drop outside and the wall near Griffin with a crash.

A second had hit the building on the second floor, bouncing off the wall and landed near them. A dud.

Sports

Ed McKeever, 34-year-old football coach, who controlled the destinies of Notre Dame's Fighting Irish last season, has resigned his job at South Bend to become head mentor at Cornell. No reason was given for the switch although it is believed McKeever prefers a permanent job to the temporary post he held in the absence of Naval Lieutenant Frank Leahy. McKeever succeeds Carl Snavely, who recently resigned at Cornell to take over at North Carolina University.

A total of 4,305 professional players are now serving in the armed forces. This includes 347 in the American League, 344 from the National League and 3,714 from the minor leagues.

Max Morris, basketball center of Northwestern, has captured Big Ten scoring honors by totaling 109 points in 12 games. Runner-up is Arnold Risen of Ohio State who netted 159 points during the season. Not included in Morris' total are the points he racked up against Notre Dame this week. In spite of his contribution, though, he indicates loss to the Irish by a 71 to 66 score. In notching this win Notre Dame set a new season's record of 1,154 points in 19 games. The previous high for an Irish quintet was 1,095 points in 29 games.

Hannover Henry Armstrong was hooded loudly this week when his scrap with Chester Silder was called a draw. Armstrong was given one of the worst beatings of his career but it has been revealed he is completely sound in one eye and has a cast on the other.

The War Department announced this week that a former All-American football player from the University of Oklahoma is missing in action. Capt. Walter R. (Waddy) Young failed to return from a recent B-29 raid over Tokyo.

LINEMEN LAY 1,500 MILES OF BATTLE WIRE

Through snow, mud and even under water, the veteran linemen of the 2nd Bn. 330th Infantry, under the guidance of Lt. William P. Dunlavy of Oil City, Pa., have strung installed and maintained more than 1,500 miles of combat wire.

During the fighting near Bihain in the retaking of the St. Vith highway, Dunlavy's men did as much digging as wire laying. Because of the deep snow, it was impossible to tell where a line had been knocked out without uncovering the whole line. In many cases the wire was frozen in ice and had to be dug out with picks. But the boys managed to keep the lines open day and night until the mission was accomplished.

In the Hurtgen Forest it was mud with water seeping out of the wire. But the most unique operation goes back to the battle of Brittany and the underling water line from St. Malo to Dinard.

This problem required careful planning and teamwork. An old fisherman was consulted on the bay's daily tide movements and the most practical section of the water to lay wire was determined. The men mounted an A-frame in the rear of a rowboat and headed for the opposite shore, one man rowing, two unreeling the wire. The plan was to row in a 180-degree arc from the launching to the landing point to prevent slack rope with an eight-mile-an-hour current.

The operation was successful, and perfect communication was maintained between the two cities a rock bottom ten days despite undercurrent.

83rd Spearheads Ninth Army Drive To Rhine

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Friday afternoon against stiffened German resistance on the exposed open ground and was subjected to increased artillery fire.

The race to the Rhine started Thursday afternoon at 1400. Up until this time the Division had been in the Corps reserve. The area of the jumpoff was in the vicinity of Rockrath west of the Ertf Canal.

Previously the 330th Infantry had been attached to the 29th Division and had aided it greatly in establishing the Corps bridgehead over the Roer River near Julich. It returned to Division control in 48 hours while the 331st went over to the 2nd Armored Division to assist it in its drive to the North to within three miles of Neuss when it returned to the Division and all three regiments jumped together for the final drive to Neuss and the Rhine.

Friday night, the doughboys were consolidating their position front of Dusseldorf and edging further north along the west banks of the Rhine. They gazed across the 700 yards wide river and contemplated what history they would be making on the morrow.

BY WES GALLAGHER ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the 83rd Infantry Division on the Rhine—Elements of the 83rd Division reached the Rhine River Friday morning after fighting their way through the bomb-blasted Ruhr City of Krefeld.

From wrecked houses overlooking the Rhine, I watched scores of American Ninth Army guns pound shells into Dusseldorf and the Ruhr area as the German armies fled madly across the bridge at Krefeld.

The 83rd attacked Neuss last night and battled its way across the canal in a thunderous assault on Von Rundstedt's fleeing forces.

More than 20,000 civilians huddled in air raid shelters this morning while the doughboys took the town. German soldiers in Neuss gave up easily as did most other uniformed men, including two police battalions who were ordered to fight until the last but were willing to surrender with their personal grips all packed.

DOCILE SURRENDER

Much the same scene was re-enacted in every town which was over run and the Germans, with rare exceptions, surrendered docily. White flags were hanging everywhere from windows and air raid shelters.

It is apparent that at least west of the Rhine Hitler's wild exhortation that every man, woman and child fight to the last, commit acts of sabotage, snipe at the Americans and defend their homes room by room has been completely toppled.

With the exception of a few shells being tossed into towns by fanatic Ruhr tank crews, which are now pointed at the river this is the quietest, seen in France, Belgium or Germany.

PRISONERS ARE READY

In the city we came across a group of about 60 prisoners, mostly in green-clad police uniforms. They carried their handbags and knapsacks packed with everything needed for an extended stay in prison camps. Two doughcoat guards said they had given up without a struggle.

The streets were crowded with civilians emerging from cellars, particularly along Adolph Hitler Strasse, which is one of the main streets. They said the German army had started fleeing across the Rhine four days ago.

The civilians who refused to flee across the Rhine said the war was lost and there was no point to retreat and be over run as a later date, possibly by the Russians. German civilians and soldiers alike showed great fear of falling into the hands of the Russians.

WATCH ON THE RHINE

American guns now dominate the river which President Roosevelt once termed our first line of defense. It is now Germany's last line of defense.

It is apparent that Dusseldorf, once great industrial producer for Germany, is finished as a source of material for the Wehrmacht. Whether the Axis cross the Rhine now or later, artillery falling 24 hours a day makes impossible the operation of factories since workers are forced to remain in cellars.

Lonesome Lady in Waiting



Smiling through the lean war years of waiting is little, lovely Jean Trent of Somewhere in Hollywood—calmly and confidently facing the future V-Day—and an end to the manpower shortage.