Vol. I, No. 1

EAST OF THE ELBE
APRIL 28, 1945

329th First Infantry Across Elbe After Bitter Battle For Barby

Thunderbolt Division doughs temporarily abandoned the tanks, tank destroyers, jeeps, bicycles, German command cars and wheehouses they had been utilizing to keep the armored columns to launch an assault boat crossing of the Elbe at Barby.

The initial crossings of the last important natural barrier before Berlin were made by Co A and Co C of Col. Edwin B. "Buckshot" Crabill's 329th Infantry. The river crossing was virtually unopposed but the fight to gain the west bank preparatory to the trip across was a knock-down, drag-out battle marked by one of the infrequent appearances of the Luftwaffe and the presence of civilians fighting along with German troops.

Barby, the town at the river's bank was bitterly defended by Wehrmacht and SS drivers to a last ditch stand before the Division's Berlin bound push. Over the Elbe at Barby, less than 60 miles from Berlin was one of the main Nazi capitol. While the doughboys thundered through the Rundfeld Artillery and the 329th's Cannon Company.

529TH ATTACKS

The lst Bn, scheduled to make the river crossing as soon as the opening of water. At 1330 the first infantrymen climbed into the assault boats and six minutes later were across the 150 yard stretch of water. One man and his M-I saved the bridgehead across the Elbe River, last one of a group of men assigned the task of trying to destroy galleys if he did hit it."

He said, "The first thing I saw was a tremendous white smoke ring. That was followed by a thunderous explosion and billowing clouds or black smoke."

One old school bus got a work-out between the crossing time at 1330 in the afternoon and the next morning at 0730, more than 200 tanks, TDs, AT.

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One old school bus got a work-out at the hands of Pfc. Mosby C. Toms of Co B, 15th Field Artillery. It carried 50 and 55 each trucks, TD's, AT.

TROOP ON TANKS

The "men looked as though they were sprayed on the tanks," said Brigadier General Claude B. FereyDay, commanding a 736th tank, claimed, "I can't remember any American bridgehead." One of the final haymakers against the bridgehead across the Elbe, the 329th is now officially the Thunderbolt Division.

By choice of the General and his men, by their dramatic 14 day dash from west of the Rhine to east of the Elbe, the 329th is now officially the Thunderbolt Division.

With so this issue, the 529th's official newspaper becomes the Thunderbolt. But the change is in name only. The same Spearhead staff, style and Hollywood ratnm stamps stay on. We hope they'll be good till blue sarg day.

Engineer Saves Division Bridge

One man and his M-I saved the Thunderbolt Division's roadway bridge across the Elbe at Britzheim from destruction. The man is Joseph Noce of Hartford, Conn., assistant division commander. Tec 4 Raymond T. Hoppman of Chicago, Ill., said of the crossing time at 1330 in the afternoon and the next morning at 0730, more than 200 tanks, TDs, AT.

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Thunderbolts Pace Armor Across Four Rivers In Two-Week Dash That Sets Infantry Speed Record

In the 14-day dash of the 33rd Division across Germany, Major General Robert L. E. Hanson, commander of the Thunderbolts, liberated more than 75,000 Allied prisoners, captured almost 70,000 Germans and chased them five miles from Berlin by establishing and holding the only American bridgehead east of the Elbe River, last line of defense towards the natural barrier before Berlin only 34 miles away. It carried 50 and 55 each trucks, TD's, AT.

"One day," he claimed, "I carried 1500 prisoners.

One battalion used a motorcycle to deliver messages along the fast moving columns of armor, bringing back messages and overheads in a child's pin attached to a long stick.
35th 1-R Men Turn TDs, Take Six Tiger Tanks

The I & J Platoon of the 393rd Infan-
try turned TDs for a day at Lipp-
stadt. The results of their initial effort
were so good that they were thinking
about asking for an M-10 to supplement
their armored jeep.

Proceeding on a routine scouting
mission of terrain over which the douche
were to advance, the men went great
eyed at the sight of six Tiger tanks at a
point where they had not figured they’d be.
Lt Fred C. Hicks of Washington, D.C.,
the platoon leader, quickly orga-
nized his men to investigate.

“We’re used to Jerry’s tricks,” he said,
and his men, who were from the 20th
Division, said that they couldn’t be
any more at home in tanks than we were
in the 393rd.”

The big German tanks were new and
we were dying to drive them back to
the elephants. They would have
created quite a stir. But obviously
that wasn’t possible.

Nazi soldiers had ever driven a
tank and it looked for a moment as though
we were going to get close enough to
look the tanks in the eye. But they
were parked along the road and represented
nothing but an obstacle. They were to pass by
later on.

“I’ve got their positions spotted,
and we’re going to get them,” said Hicks.
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The Nazi commander, a lieutenant,
was the man who finally managed to
cross the road with deadly accuracy while the
Bergmeister of a nearby town, it
was flatly rejected.

Approximately 400 Heinies were taken
prisoners. They ran into considerable
resistance at the outskirts short of town
and the rest of them. Oil, found on the
side of a Tiger Tank was spotted. Can-
ting fire to their movement. When the
Tigers, was poured in the inside of the
the rest of them. Oil, found on the

The Sennlager Army Camp with a
majority of over 1000 captives. The

Maj William E. Sellers of Cumberland,
Maryland, with a powerful assist by the
Air Corps was credited with the suc-

German tank.”

The doughboys hugged the ground
as they passed through town. Six of the
men looked up when the 329th Infantry
was slowed to a crawl by the T-34s. One
of them leaned over and said:

“Don’t worry about us. We’re
coming up from the 83rd.”

The men were almost within gun
range of a second German tank but
they hadn’t been able to get a good look
at it. They had been able to
This is our chance, you know. We’ve
been keeping the boys in line and
they’re about to be delivered.

TDs of the 643rd Tank
fantrymen were charging up the hill
with a steady barrage.

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531st Breaks Up Count's Wedding, Finds Royal Princess Among Guests

Sergeant Count von der Schellenburg missed his wedding by one day when he became a prisoner of the 331st Infantry not far from Bad Driberg.

The Count was on a wedding furlough from the Volksgrenadier Artillery Corps. His uncle by the same name was a former ambassador to Russia and the father of the bride-to-be is the brother of Princess Armgard zu Lippe-Biesterfeld, mother of Prince Bernhard, Prince Consort of the Netherlands.

The Princess was visited by officers from the 83rd Division Military Government Detachment when it was learned that royalty was in the vicinity. It was thought they might be out of the way from King Leopold of the Belgians. She is living on the estate of her brother at Bad Driberg. Many other nobles were gathered together at the estate when the 83rd Military Government officers called, but it was not known then that they had gathered together to witness a wedding.

Speaking further on General Kesselring's visit, the Count mentioned that on April 4th Lieutenant General Bade called on the estate near Driberg to witness a wedding. It was not known then that they had gathered together at the estate when the 83rd Military Government officers called, but it was not known then that they had gathered together to witness a wedding.

Even royalty was overthrown in the 83rd's non-stop drive to the Elbe, for which he was evacuated. When the doughboys established the bridgehead, a hospital very close to the Germans was taken.

Another example of the lightning communication between ground forces and Air forces is the story of the bombing of enemy entrenched positions and SP guns across the Lienne River near Grenz, Germany.

While dough-ovens tanks and tank destroyers take a quick ten, officers from the 83rd Infantry, 750th Tank Bn and 643rd TD Bn go into conference to plot the next step in the path of the Thunderbolt en route to the Elbe — and over. (Signal Corps Photo)

83rd Signalmen Keep Up With Fast Doughs

When the 83rd Division command post moved 17 times in 18 days the problem of communication was solved by the Signal Co. It was established on a high hill south of Driberg and in bad, he said, that no one knows where anyone is.

The Princess, when interviewed anxiously asked, "Have you news of my sister?"

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Go Home...

Sixty more EM and four officers left Thursday for 45 days in the States.

Making the largest far-fetched group from the Division so far, they included 25 doughboys, four artillerymen and five from other units.

For some, it will be east of the Elbe to west of the Mississippi. For all, it should mean V-E Day at home.

Artillery-Infantry Air Team Clicks

When the 83rd Division command post moved 17 times in 18 days the problem of communication was solved by the Signal Company under Lt Col Norman Campbell of Brookfield, Wis. Lt Col left Thursday for 45 days in the States.

In cleaning up the remnants of fanatical Nazis in the Harz Mountain pocket, the 330th Infantry bagged hundreds of prisoners, most of them the hard way.

Hitler Youth organization kids — some only 12 years old — fought with rifles, machine guns and Panzerfausts. The weapons were often larger than the beats that used them. Foot troops, armor and supply vehicles were ambushed and vehicles set afire as American artillery-Infantry Air Team, with a county under 116th Panzerfausts.

The rest of the Division advanced rapidly to the Elbe River over open fields leaving the 330th on the southern flank. The country in the rugged moun-

Engineer

(Continued from Page 1)
The I and R Platoon of the 329th Infantry overran a combination concentration camp, underground factory and slave-labor camp near the village of Eshershausen during the Division’s drive to the Elbe. Situated in the midst of small villages, with antiquated houses, quiet streets and innocent looking natives, it was hard to realize what the area held within.

The slave laborers, Russians, Polish Italians, Dutch, French and Belgian, were treated badly, but their treatment was mild compared to the dozens of slave laborers subjected to the inimities of the concentration camp.

Some of the men had been driven out of their minds by their Nazi captors. Even though they were free to walk about the grounds, they stayed inside, huddled against the wall, their heads in grotesque memories of martyrdom. The others, who were given a chance to work, constantly picked lice out of their bodies and were almost incapable of realizing that they had been rescued.

Shooting at Guards

A Dutch officer who had been in several concentration camps agreed in July, 1943, that the men found by the 329th in this one had been subjected to more torture without losing their sanity than those who had been imprisoned without lice, when they were constantly picking lice out of their bodies and were almost incapable of realizing that they had been rescued.

The speedy advance of 25 miles a day was made possible largely by the 329th’s skillful use of bridges and roads. The Division’s advance was unbroken by any stop until it arrived at the Eschershausen camp.

As the division crossed the Elbe, the prisoners were turned over to the Fifth Armored Corps. It was the first time the prisoners had been treated with any consideration.

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