

Capt Harker

THUNDERBOLT

EIGHTY THIRD DIVISION

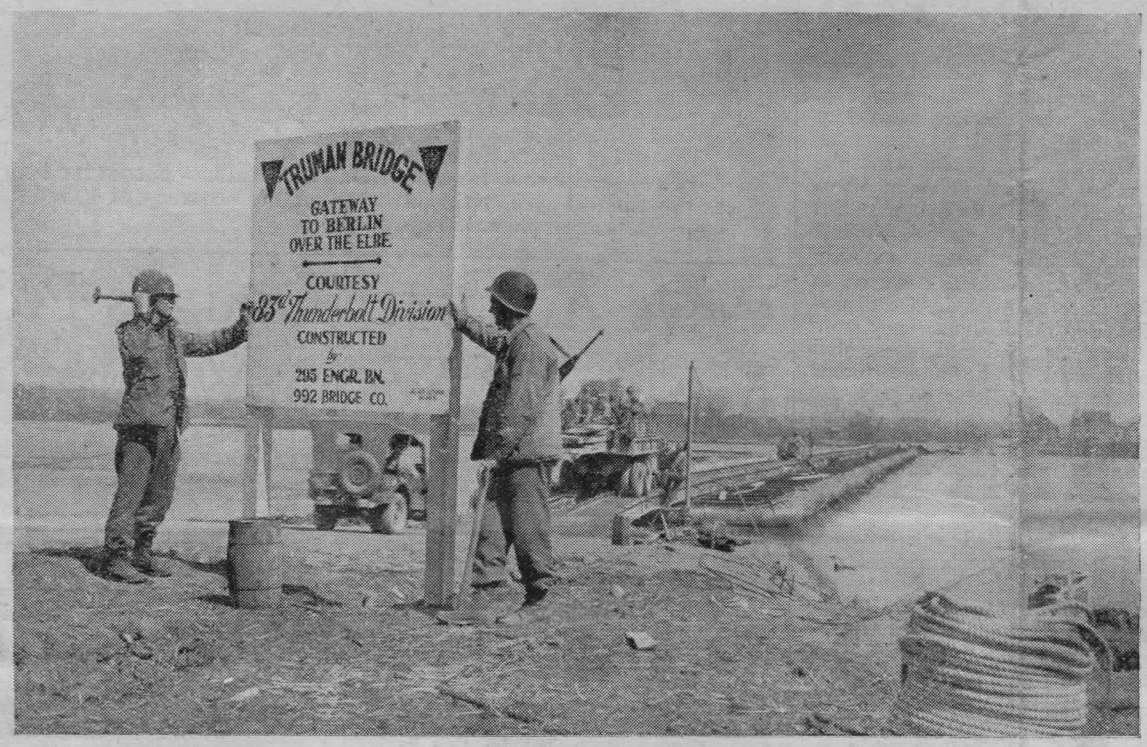
NORMANDY, BRITTANY. LOIRE VALLEY, LUXEMBOURG. HURTGEN FOREST, ARDENNES. FIRST TO RHINE, ELBE BRIDGEHEAD

VOL 1, No. 1

EAST OF THE ELBE

APRIL 28, 1945

83rd Holds Only Elbe Bridgehead



Here it is — the first and only American bridge over the Elbe — and the first Army project to be dedicated to President Harry S. Truman. Built by the 295th Engineers for the 83rd Division, it marks the fourth river crossed by the Thunderbolts in an unbelievable ten-day race from west of the Rhine that saw doughs outstrip armor in a 215-mile dash that added 23,500 more prisoners to the Division's PW score and freed over 75,000 foreign slave workers. (Signal Corps Photo)

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

In the 14-day smash of the 83rd Division across Germany, Major General Robert C. Macon's doughboys crossed four rivers, liberated more than 75,000 Allied prisoners, captured almost 34,000 Germans and climaxed the drive by establishing and holding the only American bridgehead east of the Elbe River, last natural barrier before tottering Berlin only 34 miles away.

Keeping pace with the hard-driving armored columns across Germany, the doughboys wrote a new chapter in infantry history as they blitzed their way from the Rhine to the Elbe to uncork one of the final haymakers against a badly battered Wehrmacht.

The operation was climaxed by abortive counter-attacks aimed at eliminating the bridgehead across the Elbe but doughs, tankers and TDs fought side by side to roll back every enemy attempt. The entire Allied world watched the 83rd, hoping the Germans would not be able to knock out the vital American bridgehead.

Riding as many as 30 men to every tank and tank destroyer, 10 to 15 men on jeeps and trailers, advancing infantrymen rapidly acquired German trucks, buses, ambulances, motorbikes, command cars and trailers from garages, fields and street corners to help relieve the problems of transportation and supply.

One old school bus got a work-out at the hands of Pfc. Mosby C. Tons of Afton, Va., who used it to drive PWs. It carried between 50 and 75 each trip. "One day," he claimed, "I carried 1500 prisoners."

One battalion used a motorbike to deliver messages along the fast moving columns, the rider handing up messages and overlays held in a clothes pin attached to a long stick.

ENGINEERS BIG HELP

The 308th Engineers got a big work-out keeping up close enough to the advancing infantry to help in river crossing operations. Using assault boats, rubber pontoons and even commandeered German barges, the 308th got the doughboys across with their supporting weapons with out loss of time.

When the 329th and 331st Infantry Regiments crossed the Elbe, the initial crossing was made in assault boats. Between the crossing time at 1330 in the afternoon and the next morning at 0730, more than 200 tanks, TDs, AT (Continued on Page 4)

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 wheelbarrows they had been utilizing to keep pace with 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 driven 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 bridges and railroad lines leading to the Nazi capitol. While the doughboys were fighting in the outskirts of the town, an engine pulling 30 freight cars attempted to cross the bridge and head toward Berlin. It was demolished through the combined efforts of the 322nd Field Artillery and the 329th's Cannon Company.

329TH ATTACKS

The 1st Bn, scheduled to make the river crossing as soon as the opening for it was made, remained in reserve while the 2nd and 3rd Bns opened the assault on Barby. German soldiers and civilians massed at the outskirts of town as the two battalions attempted to make the penetration and take the bridge intact.

The Germans, anxious to deny Crabill's men the use of the bridge, called upon the Luftwaffe to aid them. The troops were strafed by ME 109s during the afternoon. At 1945 that night the bridge was blown as the doughs continued to apply pressure on the 600 defending Nazi soldiers.

Pvt Frank J. Modzik, machine gunner from Detroit was close by when the bridge was destroyed by the Germans.

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

The attack was temporarily halted and the two battalions took up positions for the night. During the night half a dozen Messerschmidts bombed the doughs' positions inflicting some casualties. Apparently the people in the town had been aware that the Luftwaffe would be in action because a German officer captured in the early morning hours admitted to having advised them to stay in the cellars during the night.

ATTACK RESUMED

At 0830 the next morning the Thunderbolts resumed the attack with the 2nd and 3rd Bns taking up where they had left off. When they entered the town, white flags were flying, but 2nd Bn was taking no chances with civilians who fought them the day before. They had been fired upon in another German town where the flag of surrender had been flown. They came in "marching fire" and only stopped when they were sure that all resistance had ceased. Following the surrender of the town, Co A of the 308th Engineers, which had been following the doughs, rushed boats and bridging material to the river's bank.

Artillery preparation for the crossing complete with smoke, air bursts and posit fuses was leveled on the thick woods lining the river's east bank over a 500 yard front for a half hour prior to the crossings.

At 1330 the first infantrymen climbed into the assault boats and six minutes later were across the 150 yard stretch of water.

Sgt Raymond T. Hoppenrath of Chicago, Ill. said of the crossing, "After the battle they put up yesterday and the hell they threw at us last night, it was like sailing on Lake Michigan."

Vol. 1, No. 1 . . .

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 83rd is now officially the Thunderbolt Division.

So with this issue, the 83rd's official newspaper becomes the Thunderbolt. But the change is in name only. The same Spearhead staff, style and Hollywood ration stamps stay on. We hope they'll be good till blue serge day.

Engineer Saves Division Bridge

One man and his M-1 saved the Thunderbolt Division's treadway bridge across the Elbe at Breitenhagen from destruction. The man is Pfc. Joseph Noce of Hartford, Conn., engineer with Co C, 308th Combat Engineer Bn., the same battalion that assisted Thunderbolt doughs in making assault boat crossings of three rivers in the space of one week during the Division's drive from the Rhine, up to and across the Elbe.

It required rare courage for Noce to destroy a German floating mine at a distance of five feet from the bridge after he, standing on the bridge, had missed it with two previous shots. Missing it a third time would have meant that both he and the bridge would have been blown to pieces.

His platoon leader, Lt. Wm. Calnan of Washington, D. C., said of Noce's gallantry, "Ninety-nine out of a hundred men would have dashed from the bridge when the mine got that close. Even as Noce fired that third shot he couldn't be sure it would detonate the mine if he did hit it."

The mine had floated downstream through a hole in a protective boom made by a previous floating mine. Noce was one of a group of men assigned the task of trying to destroy mines that (Continued on Page 3)

RODE ON TANKS

"The men looked as though they were sprayed on the tanks," said Brigadier General Claude B. Ferenbaugh, assistant division commander. Tec 4 Paul P. Noll of Covington, Ky., commanding a 736th tank, claimed, "I carried as many as 34 doughs on my tank. It looked like a hugh bee hive."

The 643rd TDs were also doing their share carrying the mail for the doughboys when heavier firepower was needed and riding the infantry eastward toward Berlin.

Speed was essential. There was no time to shuttle troops and supplies. The Quartermaster Company kept up the flow of food, ammunition and gasoline. It carried 378,000 gallons of gas and 410,000 rations during the 1 day period plus hauling almost 20,000 prisoners to the rear.

Artillery battalions did little shooting and spent most of their time on the road. The 908th went into action one time in 15 minutes after getting a fire mission. Many times infantry advanced so fast the targets were out of range of supporting artillery. Supply was difficult. "We can't go two ways at once," said Lt. Col. James H. Skinner of the 322nd FA chasing after the 329th.

COMMUNICATIONS DIFFICULT

Communications depended on radio, but wiremen labored day and night to keep up with wires. Division Signal Company utilized more than 500 miles of commercial wire. At Goslar the 2nd Battalion of the 329th Infantry received a telephone call from its Fox Company in the next town over a dial telephone still in operation.

The Division command post moved 17 times in 16 days. One time it moved into a town before the 3rd Battalion of the 330th Infantry had arrived to clear out the town. Regimental CPs moved five or six times a day. Colonel Edwin B. (Buckshot) Crabill, commanding the 329th Infantry, said, "It's just as cheap to travel first class," and tried to put his men in the best hotels and homes. At Alsfeld the CP personnel "registered" at the desk of a hotel "just to get back that old civilian feel", said Sgt. Ray Goguen.

'Thunderbolt' Is Division Name Contest Winner

The 83rd is now officially known as the "Thunderbolt" Division and the winners of the contest held to select the new name are Capt. Andrew W. Brand of Woonsocket, R. I. and Pfc Joseph Nazarene of Philadelphia. The entries from both Nazarene and Brand were received by the contest editor at the same time so both men will receive the same first prize of a three day pass to Paris.

More than a thousand entries were received in the contest and nearly a dozen of these selected the name Thunderbolt. Judging these twelve solely on a time received basis the two first prizes were given to Brand and Nazarene. Second and third place winners are SIs Sgt Stuart B. Hitt of Btry B, 908 FA and Pfc Vito Lascari of Reg. Hq. Co. 330th Infantry. These men will receive two day passes at an army rest center.

Brand has been with the 83rd since its activation at Camp Atterbury as a member of Co A, 308th Engineers. He came to the Division as a second lieutenant and has risen to the rank of captain and commanding officer of Co A. He holds both the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Nazarene came to the Division as a re-inforcement in Normandy. He is a litter bearer for the 3rd Bn Medics of the 329th Infantry and also holds the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Included in the thousand entries which were submitted were Black Panthers, Black Lightning, the Go Getters, Whirlwind and many others. The best entries were selected by the Division Awards Board and then submitted to General Macon for his final decision. He selected the name "Thunderbolt."

83rd Thunderbolt

Official Weekly Newspaper of the
83rd Infantry Division

The Thunderbolt is written by and for the men of the 83rd under the supervision of Capt John G. Neff, Information-Education Officer, and Capt Thomas G. Roberts, Public Relations Officer. All material is censored by AG of S, G-2. Member Camp Newspaper Service, 205 East 42nd St., NYC.

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VOL. 1, No. 1.

April 28, 1945.

Anniversary

April 20, 1945

To Every Officer and Enlisted Man of the 83rd Infantry Division:

One year ago today the last elements of the 83rd "Thunderbolt" Division landed at Liverpool, England to commence the final training phase prior to active participation in World War II. We of the 83rd have come a long way since then. Time and events have moved swiftly. We have kept pace with them—indeed we have played important roles in combat operations that have achieved historic significance by concretely demonstrating the will of free peoples to end forever the tyrannies of suppression and aggression.

The panorama of the past year is sharply etched by our successes in operation against the enemy. We all remember spearheading the drive to cut the Cherbourg Peninsula—our first operation. Memory of the historic fall of the fortress citadel at St Malo and its twin city, Dinard, is still vivid. We also proudly recall the surrender of nearly 20,000 Nazis while holding a defensive line which stretched for more than two hundred miles along the Loire River. We are reminded of our activity in Luxembourg where we succeeded in pushing the enemy back across the Moselle River to complete the liberation of that country from the Nazi yoke. Likewise we cannot forget our drive through the Hurtgen Forest to the Roer River at Duren, our key role in smashing the enemy's winter offensive in the Ardennes, our victory in the race from the Roer to the Rhine, our lightning—like drive from the Rhine to the Elbe River.

We are ever mindful of those from our ranks who made the supreme sacrifice and the others who have shed their blood in battle. We continue the fight firmly determined that these comrades shall not have fought in vain. The memory of their heroic contribution to our cause serves to inspire us to continued and greater efforts.

As we stand today on the threshold of final victory in Europe, we all pray for an early cessation of hostilities with the German enemy. I take this opportunity to express to each and everyone of you my sincere gratitude for your courageous and gallant efforts of the past year. We can all be justly proud of the record of our Division and I heartily congratulate you on your achievements. Your conduct has always been in keeping with the highest military standards and a credit to our country. It is my earnest hope that you will soon be home, enjoying the peace and comfort of the United States. God be with you always.

ROBERT C. MAGON
Major General, United States Army
Commanding

330th I-R Men Turn TDs, Take Six Tiger Tanks

The I & R Platoon of the 330th Infantry turned TDs for a day at Lippstadt. The results of their initial effort in the "Seek, Find and Destroy" business was so good they are thinking of asking for an M-18 to supplement their armored jeeps.

Proceeding on a routine scouting mission of terrain over which the doughs were to advance, the men went goggle-eyed at the sight of six Tiger tanks at a spot where they didn't figure they'd be. Lt Fred C. Hicks of Washington, D.C., the platoon leader, quickly organized his men to investigate.

"We're used to Jerry's tricks," he said, "and even though there didn't seem to be any Heinies in the vicinity, we weren't taking any chances."

Pfc. Walter Pierce of Holiday, Tex. was the man who finally managed to get close enough to look into the tanks' open hatches and determine that the Heinie tankers had fled. Other members of the platoon had, meanwhile, examined the avenues of approach to the toothless Tigers and checked for possible ambush.

Once it appeared safe to come up to the tanks, there still remained the problem of getting rid of them. They were parked along the road and represented a potential road block to the troops that were to pass by later on.

"The tanks were brand new and we were dying to drive them back to the CP," said Hicks. "They would have created quite a stir. But obviously that wasn't possible."

None of the men had ever driven a tank and it looked for a moment as though they wouldn't be able to get them off the road to destroy them. However, Pierce volunteered to try.

"I've driven lots of jalopies in my day," he said. "I imagine I can drive a German tank."

Pierce managed to get the first tank off the road and other members of the platoon, under his guidance, removed the rest of them. Oil, found on the Tigers, was poured in the inside of the tanks and a WP grenade thrown into each.

As Hick's men continued on their mission, the gutted monsters blazed in back of them. "Sure cost Hitler a barrel of dough to give Pierce that driving lesson," commented Sgt Joseph Heidt of Cincinnati.

Take Town, 200 PWs In An Hour Without Casualty

It took Lt. Col. Tim O. Cook's 1st Bn, 329th Infantry doughs exactly one hour to take the town of Neuhaus and 200 PWs without suffering a single casualty. American armor, held at bay for eight hours, had subjected the town to a terrific pasting, but the doughs were the ones to finally close with the enemy and rout him.

So rapidly did the attack mount that the mortars of Cpl Vincent Facchio of Philadelphia, Pfc Duard N. Ping of Lebanon Jct., Ky. and Pvt Thomas Kennedy, Lawrence, Mass. brought up in support of the riflemen, were no sooner in position than word came that the battle was over.

"It can go that way from here on and I'll be happy," said Kennedy. "It's a shame to waste ammo on those guys anyway."

Company A, led by Capt Wentworth Comes of Hancock, Vt., and Company B, commanded by Lt. Chauncey G. Addleman of Richmond, Ind., combined to carry the main weight of the attack and take the greatest share of the 200 prisoners. They ran into considerable 20mm fire at the outskirts short of town but once the crust of resistance had been broken the Heinies in the center of town were quickly overwhelmed.

Neuhaus was another of those "hold at all cost" places for which the Germans have failed to fight to the death.

The Sennlager Army Camp with a large store of food and more than 50 truckloads of ammunition is located there. The camp was taken intact by the Battalion's lightning effort, its "PX" counters still loaded with merchandise.

The Nazi commander, a lieutenant, said "Hitler can well be proud of these men for holding out as long as they did. They proved to the Fuehrer, beyond doubt, that they still love him."

... Dying Luftwaffe



The dying Luftwaffe came to life from time to time during the 83rd's dramatic dash from the Rhine to the Elbe—but not for long—as this funeral pyre, vivid testimony of the accuracy of 453rd AAA gunners, proves. (Signal Corps Photo)

P-47s And 331st Doughs Prove Master Of Weser Wehrmacht

In a series of three well-coordinated attacks Thunderbolt doughs of the 331st Infantry aided and abetted by P-47s, reduced and captured the towns of Hoxter and Holzminden, the last two strong points on the Weser River where SS and Wehrmacht grouped in a vain attempt to stem the eastward drive of elements of the Ninth Army.

The Third Battalion, commanded by Maj William E. Sellers of Cumberland, Maryland, with a powerful assist by the Air Corps was credited with the successful attack on both towns. Eleven Nazi Tigers were flushed from Hoxter, five of them destroyed by the P-47s. Approximately 400 Heinies were taken prisoner.

Before the attack on Hoxter began a surrender ultimatum had been sent to the German troops defending it through the Burgemeister of a nearby town. It was flatly rejected.

Lt. Donald Black, forward observer from Cannon Company, reported that machine gun fire had forced him back from his observation post on the hill. "I've got their positions spotted, though," he said, "and we are registering on them now."

The doughboys began moving forward. TDs of the 643rd Tank Destroyer Bn, led by Lt. Clayton Jewell of Pine Island, Minn. ground up to a German barracks on the high ground. Lt. Paul Powell's 81mm mortar platoon smothered the hill and its approaches with a steady barrage.

Less than 30 minutes later the infantrymen were charging up the hill fanned out in marching fire formation.

The mortar section of S/Sgt William Johnson of Johnson, Pa., and the machine gun section of S/Sgt Clifford Kirkman of Boone, Iowa gave supporting fire to their movement. When the crest of the hill was reached, 30 Jerries filed out of trenches and cement pillboxes. The emplacements looked like a well-fortified and heavily defended miniature Siegfried line.

Having reached the top of the hill, Company I men started down toward Hoxter on the bank of the Weser. They were forced to hit the ground as German machine pistols opened up on them from the foot of the hill. Observation revealed squads of Nazis moving from building to building and the outline of a Tiger Tank was spotted. Cannon Company's guns roared again. Mortars and 105 mm shells poured into the observed Heinie positions. It was at this point Maj. Sellers called for the Air Corps.

The doughboys hugged the ground as the P-47s bombed and strafed. Following the mission, Company L and Company K came on to join Company I in the final assault on the town. The P-47s continued to harass retreating Nazi columns on the east side of the river.

Suddenly a terrific explosion resounded accompanied by a lightning like flash from the river. The bridge was blown. Five enemy tanks were accounted for before the P-47s winged homeward. Six others made their getaway.

In the fading dusk, Cannon Company's shells pounded the Nazi escape-road with deadly accuracy while the doughboys pushed into town and mopped up. Company I was approaching the center of town, when the burgemeister, chief of police and an interpreter came

out with white flags and asked for the commandant.

Capt. Eaton and his headquarters platoon marched through the streets to the town hall. From nearly every house civilians ran out. At the town hall the mayor signed an unconditional surrender. The interpreter looked around at the Yanks and amiably smiled, "Is anyone here from Jersey? I was born there."

Kelly Finds Seven Krauts In Kitchen

There are no German soldiers in Germany. Ask any German civilian. T/5 Charles H. Kelly from Frenchtown, W. Va., of the 83rd Reconnaissance Troop, captured 85 of the little men who weren't there in the town of Rathmannsdorf. As Kelly entered the outskirts of the town, he was met by a charming German matron who assured him, in impeccable English, that there was nary a German soldier in the village.

So Kelly asked her where she lived and captured seven German officers in her kitchen.

Assuming that where there were German officers there must be enlisted men for them to order around, Kelly, along with others in his platoon, searched the rest of the village. Seventy-four PWs were acquired during the hour's search.

... Sweater Suit



She's familiarly known to her best boy friends as "The Sweater", but Dale Belmont, Big City blues singer, thought a Broadway publishing firm was going a bit beyond the bounds of friendship when they used this picture to promote sales of their book called "The Complete Guide to Bust Culture". So she sued—all, of course, in the name of sweet publicity. (GNS Photo)

GILBERT

by Sgt. N.S. Firfires



331st Breaks Up Count's Wedding, Finds Royal Princess Among Guests

Sergeant Count von der Schulenburg 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 then the royalty might be none other than 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.

Citing the confusion prevailing in the area, the Count mentioned that on April 4th Lieutenant General Bade called at the estate near Driberg to inquire the whereabouts of General Kesselring who was supposed to be in the vicinity. Communications were so bad, he said, that no one knows where anyone else is.

Speaking further on General Kesselring, the Sergeant Count remarked that Kesselring is reported to have said when he took over command. "I don't mind taking over, but I cannot hold the line either."

He further reported that Finance

Royal Welcome...



Even royalty was overrun in the 83rd's non-stop drive to the Elbe, and here's Princess Armgard zu Lippe-Biesterfeld, mother of Prince Consort Bernhard of Holland, to prove it. The Princess was discovered at Bad Driberg by men of the 331st Infantry. Visited by MGO officials from the Division's MG Det, she requested news of her son— and an American cigarette. (Signal Corps Photo)

Wizard Schacht was in a concentration camp and in chains.

Princess Armgard told 83rd Military Government officers that King Leopold of the Belgians is being held in a Chateau believed to be in Thuringia.

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

The Military Government Officers, accompanied by Lt. Hamlin Welling, former Indianapolis Times photographer who is now with the 83rd Division, stated that the Princess at first demurred when asked to pose for photographs for fear of reprisals by the Germans, but graciously assented upon being reassured that the Americans were here to stay.

When the 83rd officers departed, she asked for an American cigarette.

83rd Signalmen Keep Up With Fast Doughs

When the 83rd Division command post moved 17 times in 16 days the problem of keeping in communications for the Signal Co. assumed a Western Union complex. Working day and night, construction teams kept pace with the rapidly changing front as swiftly as the 83rd advanced. Many times wire was strung through fields and woods to towns where there were no American elements.

In one such instance Tec 5 Frank J. Kehler of Ashland, Pa. was making an overhead tie to a window of a second floor apartment when he found himself face to face with what he believed was a German general and his entire staff. Drawing his P-38, he called upon them to surrender. After turning his catch over to a military government unit, the prisoners were identified as the village fire chief and his assistants in their full dress uniforms.

When the doughboys established the bridgehead across the Elbe, the Signal Co. used a terminal cable box which contained four lines running under the river to the opposite side. They crossed the river and found the cable on the opposite bank to be intact. Immediately they put it to use and from this outlet were able to establish communications with the regiments which were expanding the bridgehead.

When the Signal Co. climaxed its drive at a bivouac area along the Saale River, they were fired on by snipers from the opposite bank. A squad of men led by 1st Lt. Christopher Doyle of Brooklyn crossed the stream to rout the Jerries. The squad was pinned down by enemy small arms fire until the Div Hq Co defense platoon under 1st Lt. Mansel A. Slack of Platteville, Wis. eliminated the enemy strong points with their 57s and small arms fire. When the pocket was later cleared by the 83rd Rcn Tp and a company of infantry, more than 150 Germans were taken prisoner.



While dough-covered tanks and tank destroyers take a quick ten, officers from the 331st Infantry, 736th Tank Bn and 643rd TD Bn go into conference to plot the next step in the path of the Thunderbolts en route to the Elbe— and over. (Signal Corps Photo)

Going Home ...

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

Making the largest furlough-home group from the Division so far, they included 55 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

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 Liene River near Greene, Germany.

Artillery liaison officer Capt Max Dalley of Parowan, Utah, 323rd FA called for a bombing mission on the outskirts of Greene where his forward observer had reported enemy infantry and tanks. T/5 Elzie Kinder of Galesburg, Ill., his radio operator, had relayed the message back to Major Raymond D. Stevens of East St. Louis, Ill., Thunderbolt Division Air Support Officer who had in turn called upon the P-47s.

The 47s were winging toward their target when it was learned that there was a hospital very close to the German positions and there was danger that it, too, would be destroyed.

Immediately Dalley changed the target to the positions on the other side of the river. The bombers changed their course to the new target. The whole operation was accomplished in a matter of minutes. It was also necessary to mark the target with smoke. The 323rd threw in several rounds of white smoke shells and the 25th FA coordinated in marking the target by firing several rounds of red smoke.

330th Fights Fanatical Hitler Jugend In Harz Mountain Area

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 brats who used them. Foot troops, jeeps and supply vehicles were ambushed and vehicles set afire as Americans attempted to keep communications open.

At times road blocks were met every few hundred yards, after which the fanatical defenders would circle halted Yanks and snipe. They fired with telling effect. Hitler had ordered remnants of four crack divisions to hold out and use the trained Hitler Youth. A strong armored column was to head for the mountain region and rescue them, prisoners said.

The 3rd Bn, under Lt Col George Shuster of Narberth, Pa., met strong automatic weapons, Panzerfaust and artillery fire from the first day. The Regimental Mine Platoon was often called upon to blow road blocks as infantry skirmished past over rocky terrain and through dense woods.

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 mountains was admirable for guerrilla warfare and the Nazis took advantage of every boulder and gully.

Lt Col Norman Campbell of Brooklyn, commanding the 1st Bn, sent A and C companies to Munchhof the second day of the operation behind a platoon of the 113th Cavalry. They came under machine gun fire west of the town. An enemy tank was soon joined by three more as Co A attacked.

Co. C was sent to flank the town from the north and cut off the tanks but were met by heavy fire from Herr-

hausen. That town was cleared and numerous prisoners taken as Co. A took Munchhof. At night Germans filtered into town and counterattacked in small groups.

The Yanks destroyed two enemy half-tracks and one tank attempting to enter the town. Small groups of Hitler Youth fought furiously, led on by 116th Panzer Grenadier Division veterans.

Newly-taken positions were pounded by 75 mm guns. The day before, 200 rounds had fallen in the 2nd Bn area and were thought to be 105mm. Co. E's kitchen was ambushed on a lonely stretch of road but was later recovered.

In one spot fallen trees blocking the road every few feet for 200 yards had been removed under sniper fire. Difficult terrain and ample concealment made progress slow and tiring.

In Goeslar, Anti-Tank Co's Mine Platoon caught nine Hitler Youth, none of whom was over 13, led by a woman of 23. They were captured by Pfc's Arthur Kellen of Le Mars, Iowa, Ovey Barnett of Dierks, Ark. and James Munger of South Bend, Ind., who took a dozen more that night -- the hard way.

Engineer

(Continued from Page 1)

escaped the boom and nets set out to negate the enemy's efforts to demolish the newly constructed 648 foot bridge.

When his third shot succeeded in detonating the 10 pounds of high explosive he was thrown from the pontoon from which he was firing to the treadway and suffered from concussion for which he was evacuated.

Male Call

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

Snappy Story



Liberated...



Here are three of the broken, diseased, half-starved inmates of the hard labor camp at Eschershausen, freed by doughs of the 329th Infantry during the 83rd's race to the Elbe. And there were 6,000 others like them at this camp. (Signal Corps Photo)

Thunderbolts Free Slave Laborers From Underground Prison Plant

The I and R Platoon of the 329th Infantry overran a combination concentration camp, underground factory and slave labor camp near the village of Eschershausen 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 such a place existed.

The slave laborers, Russian, Polish Italian, Dutch, French and Belgian, who worked in the underground factory were treated badly, but their treatment was mild compared to the slow death administered to the inmates of the concentration camp.

Some of the men had been driven out of their minds by their Nazi captors. Though they were free to walk about the grounds, they stayed behind the barbed wire enclosure baring their chests in gestures of martyrdom. Others who had survived long years of imprisonment without losing their sanity were lice-infested (to a man they were constantly picking lice from their bodies), toothless, pitifully emaciated and almost incapable of realizing that they had been rescued.

SHOT BY GUARDS

A Dutch officer who had been in several concentration camps since he was arrested in July, 1942 said that the men found by the 329th in this one had been forced to march from Hameln, a distance of 40 kilometers, when the American advance threatened to overrun them there. They had nothing to eat on the march and anyone who fell out of the column was shot on the spot by the German guards. Out of the 420 who started on the hike, only 379 arrived at the Eschershausen camp.

When it became evident that they were to be freed shortly some of the prisoners gave vent to their feelings. Two Italians were shot to death for singing "Over There" with the emphasis on the line "the Yanks are coming" and a 55 year old Hollander lost his eyesight for mentioning that he would soon be free.

It was the practice of the guards to beat prisoners with rubber clubs about an inch in diameter enclosing four strands of thick wire.

Food consisted mainly of black bread soaked in hot water. Inmates had their choice of drinking the water or washing in it. Among the regular prisoners, there was an average of 25 deaths monthly from malnutrition and disease.

INFESTED WITH LICE

Some of the prisoners warned doughboys from entering the enclosure because of its infested condition. The lice were so thick they could be seen with the naked eye. Occasionally an inmate would come outside the barbed wire to beg a cigarette from a soldier or to pick up one which had been discarded. Otherwise they gazed with vacant stares at their liberators and, except for a very few, seemed oblivious to the fact that they were free.

The underground factory, 15 kilometers of tunnels on three levels, was hewn out of solid rock. Foreign workers labored there 12 hours a day producing plane and tank parts for the Nazi war machine. The air was dank and the general working conditions vile. The Nazi vision of well-lighted underground factories complete with

sanitary living conditions where workers could produce uninterruptedly for the Fatherland was completely blasted by the sight of this miserable, tomb-like cave.

Slave laborers lived in one-story shacks near the factory and entered the caves for their 12-hour shifts through seven separate entrances, according to nationality. Each group worked in a separate section of the factory and never knew who was living in the neighboring camp or working in the next tunnel.

One WP Grenade Nets 350 Krauts

The story of how 1st Lt. Warren W. Witt of Tonca, Okla. captured 350 Germans using only a WP grenade was told this week by members of Co K, 330th Infantry.

During the company's assault in the Harz Mountain area, they overran a German ammunition truck. Witt set it on fire with a WP grenade after the company had passed by. The ensuing explosions could be heard for several kilometers.

A short distance up the road a lone German broke out of the woods carrying a white flag. In broken English he informed Witt that his commanding officer wished to surrender both himself and his men. A few minutes later Germans marched out of the woods from both sides all with their hands over their heads and ready to be taken to the PW cage.

A later count showed that 350 Germans surrendered after becoming convinced that an entire American regiment was attacking on their front because of the terrific noise made by the exploding ammunition truck.

Kamerad!...

As of press time last night, some 74,500 supermen have cried "Kamerad!" to men of the 83rd along the path of the Thunderbolt across Europe. The whole AEF in World War I took only 63,079 prisoners.

The current campaign from the Rhine to the Elbe accounted for 34,500, including five generals, while the surrender of General Elster and his March Group of 20,000 at Beaugency last Fall constituted the second highest count.

329th Institutes 'Surrender By Phone' Service

There is more than one way to skin a rabbit and the 3rd Bn, 329th Infantry, used several of them not "in the book" to skin large numbers of German rabbits in Wehrmacht green during the Thunderbolt Division's dash from the Rhine to the Elbe. A lot of Heinies who might have given the doughboys a pot full of trouble were gathered through judicious use of the telephone and sound truck.

Capt. Francis C. Schommer of Sheboygan, Wis., devised the "surrender by telephone service" for disgusted defenders of the Reich.

"As soon as we captured a town, I hot-footed it over to the local burgemeister," said Schommer. "My German isn't the best but it was good enough to inform him that I wanted him to call the burgemeister of the next town in the path of our advance and ask him the following questions: One, 'Are there any troops in your town?' Two, 'Do they want to surrender?'"

If the answer to both questions was 'yes' the big-wig in the next town was told to have white flags flown from every house, to have all soldiers lay down their arms and come to an open field at the outskirts of town ready, to be picked up by PW authorities.

"And I didn't fail to impress the burgemeister making the call with what would happen to the town in case we were double-crossed," said Schommer.

The plan worked in almost every place we tried it," continued Schommer. "In Mullingen, however, after the telephone conversation and after the white flags had been raised, a German major forced the civilians to remove the flags and assist German troops in defending the town. We were forced to pound the place with artillery."

Before Schommer's telephone system was devised the more orthodox sound truck was used with variations to bring in quantities of German prisoners. Artillery fired smoke shells covering escape routes for prospective prisoners so that Krauts with a mind to could come over to our lines under its protective cover. Then the men at the microphones harangued the Germans to make their escape through the smoke, the appeal being based on the fact that through the use of the screen they would be safe from vindictive comrades. It was after the sound truck broke down that Schommer's highly successful system was put to work.

Bridgehead

(Continued from Page 1)

guns and vehicles were ferried across the Elbe.

The speedy advance of 25 miles a day was not all gravy. While the 329th Infantry's 3rd Battalion, led by colorful 24-year-old Major George C. White of Toledo, O., boiled down the highways to Barby on the heels of the 83rd Recon Troop, well out in front of the Division's main elements, other Thunderbolt units had their troubles.

Colonel Robert H. York's "See it Through" boys ground their teeth and the Nazis at Hamm, Polle, Hoxter and Holzminden in short but vicious battles. At Hamm, the great rail center, Major William (Butch) Sellers' 3rd Battalion made the first penetration across the Lippe River into the north side of the Ruhr Pocket. Polle was an all-night fight yielding 500 prisoners.

The 331st had the problem of both advancing and protecting the exposed right flank for much of the distance. At one time the Division had an open flank of 75 miles. The 113th Cavalry, used to screen the Thunderbolts advance initially, was finally forced to help protect the long flank with the 802 Tank Destroyers who preferred to go out after the Germans.

The 330th doughboys of Colonel Robert T. Foster were the first infantrymen to enter Bad Lippstadt behind the Second Armored, meeting place of the First and Ninth Armies which closed the Ruhr Pocket. For a short time Foster's Fighters were out in front then blocked to the south during the critical period when the Ruhr Pocket was thinly held.

The toughest fighting lay in the dark, gloomy Harz Mountains, feared to become another National Redoubt. There the 330th routed out fanatical Hitler Youths defending to the last their narrow defiles and road blocks and met the "Red One" Division coming up from the south. Then they caught up with the Division across the Elbe.



All Aboard

Whatever prestige there is in being a German general was bestowed upon two railroad conductors and a bell-hop by Pfc. Leonard C. Kwiecinski of Willis, Mich., 2nd Bn, 330th Infantry. In Ahlen, Germany he herded the trio toward his Bn PW enclosure with an excited, "Hey, fellas, bring out the brass, I've got some big shot Jerries with me."

Wholesale Delivery

Two 3rd Bn GIs of the 331st Infantry walked into the Regimental CP at Nieheim and said to Maj. Harold W. Brown of Corvallis, Ore., "Sir, we've got a flock of German prisoners down in Entrupp, five kilometers away and we'd like to know what to do with them."

The Major asked casually how many they had, maybe a half dozen or so? When the GIs said they had about 99 men and two officers, he grabbed his helmet.

"In that case I'll go along. I didn't know you had them wholesale," he apologized.

Easily Convinced

Lt. Percy Haron of Detroit, Mich., 3rd Bn., 330th Infantry had a mission to check up on a civilian car painted in Nazi camouflage, parked near K Company at Lippstadt.

While on the way a couple of Thunderbolt doughs brought him two wizened Volksturners. With the aid of an interpreter he learned how they had given themselves up. They had listened to the 83rd's CIC sound truck giving directions on "How to Surrender To the American Army."

The two old Krauts had listened well because they had come prepared for a good long stay with bed rolls, toilet articles and writing paper. They were both quite eager about the whole business.

"What are you guys so happy about?" Haron asked. They replied that they were happy to have a chance to go to America.

Sadly the Lieutenant shook his head, "How about that? First you've got to knock hell out of them, then they expect to be our guests."

Reds Guard Jerries

T/5 Orville J. Bryan of Berlin, N. H., of the 330th Infantry found himself with 18 Nazis prisoners, including two captains, in the town of Beckum. He felt that he needed assistance in bringing them in and none was readily available. Spying a group of former Russian slave laborers he told them in sign language that he wanted them to guard the prisoners while he went for help. "And those prisoners were still

in one piece when I returned," said Bryan a little puzzled that the Russians hadn't exceeded the letter of his instructions.

Homemade TD

Find a German car that rattles, run it over a tree stump, add a dash of carburetor trouble for seasoning and you have the recipe for frightening Jerry tanks out of the path of your advance. At least that's one recommended by wiremen Pfc Frank Rose of Newcastle, Va., and Pennsylvanians Pfc David Cope of Bethlehem and Pfc Paul J. Witmer of York.

At the psychological moment when the right flank of the 1st Bn, 330th Infantry was being threatened by a Tiger tank the car from which the men had been laying wire ran over the stump. According to Rose it all came apart at one time and made a noise equivalent to the sound of a flight of super fortresses...only louder.

The German tank commander buttoned up, turned tail and hit it out for the highlands. Thunderbolt doughs congratulated the wiremen for the timely assist and promised to turn over the next rattletrap they find to make up for the loss of the ersatz tank destroyer.

15 KPs In One Kitchen

Pfc. Frank R. Rose of Newcastle, Va., kitchen helper in the 330th Infantry, had the K. P.'s dream come true. Former slave laborers for the Germans, released by the 83rd's push east of the Rhine, did all his chores for him in return for a day's grub. There were 15 of them and each called Rose "Captain" and saluted him everytime he referred them to some more dirty pots and pans. "I never saw guys eat so much in my life, but I'm glad I had the stuff to give them," he said. "And if you want to see kitchen utensils that really shine, come over to our place."

Two Sleepy People

The release from the pressure that the Yanks were applying, sought by two sleeping Jerries, was denied them when Pfc. Lee Dabrowski of Elizabeth, N. J., 2nd Bn, 330th Infantry rudely interrupted their slumber. While seeking a bed for himself he looked into the bedroom of a house in Ahlen after his battalion had cleared the town. When he saw two men sleeping in the room, he was about to leave when he spotted two pairs of tell-tale boots under the bed. Realizing that the sleeping men were soldiers and not civilians, he quickly and not-so-gently persuaded them to turn the accommodations over to him.

... Seeing Double



To those who think they're seeing double, this isn't a retake of Bosom Belmont, Page 2, but Ella (Eyes) Raines of Hollywood posing to prove that Miss B hasn't a monopoly on the better things in life (Photo by Universal)