Last 85rd step on the road to Berlin before V-E Day was the badly battered city of Zerbst, east of the Elbe. The burgomaster wanted to surrender, but the local SS chief failed to agree; so for 15 unforgettable days massed 85rd WThunderbolt | NORMANDY. BRITTANY. LOIRE VALLEY. LUXEMBOURG. HURTGEN FOREST. ARDENNES. FIRST TO RHINE. ELBE BRIDGEHEAD!| Last 85rd stop on the road to Berlin before V-E Day was the badly battered 2. One point for each month overseas. Here's point payoff ten million civilians in uniform have been Bronze and Silver Stars, Purple Hearts and other battlefield 4. Twelve points for each dependent under 18 years, up to and 1. One point for each month of service. 1,300,000 GIs, 90 percent of them combat men, will be discharged from the service as fast as possible. For the final surrender of all enemy Occupation from the collapse of all physical and material resources to ask the enemy to cease hostilities,
Victory

To the Officers and Enlisted Men of the 85th Infantry Division:

The unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces to the Allied Expeditionary Force and the Soviet Union marks the successful conclusion of the first half of the Allies' war on the Axis nations. To the soldier the cessation of hostilities in Europe marks a complete victory — the total disintegration of the once powerful Nazi war machine.

The Nazi Party was in power for a dozen years. During this time they built a large army, navy and air force, overrun most of Europe and struck out for world conquest.

We who suddenly stepped from civilian life in a country at peace spent a few short years in training. Then, in conjunction with our British Allies, launched the attack that drove the Nazis out of Africa, Sicily and Italy. From the East another mighty force, Russia, drove the enemy from the gates of Moscow and Stalingrad, drove them back out of the Soviet Union.

On June 6, 1944 American, British and Canadian forces stormed the beaches of Normandy. At the same time Soviet forces maintained their relentless attack, driving the enemy further west.

In eleven months these combined powers crushed the entire German armed forces and effected their unconditional surrender.

We of the 83rd have done our share towards the victory in this theatre. We can be proud of our accomplishments. To every member of my command I offer sincere thanks and appreciation for your gallant and courageous efforts of the past eleven months. God bless all of you.

ROBERT G. MACON
Major General, United States Army Commanding

GILBERT

by Sgt NS Fireflies

83rd Engineers Set New Record

Members of Co. A, 939th Combat Engineers believe they established a record of some sort in their recent ferrying operations over the Elbe River. After putting the 108th Infantry across the river in an assault crossing, these platoons constructed two infantry support roads and a truck road bridge. These were in operation an hour after the first wave of assault boats moved their way through the dense smoke screen prepared by Divitien Arty and hit the eastern shore of the Elbe.

In the 18 hours that followed, over 1,000 vehicles of all types were ferried across the swift current of the Elbe to the bridgehead, even before the first bridge was completed. After that, the ferries were used to relieve congestion resulting from the one-way traffic on the bridge and were reserved for potential emergencies.

The intensive stream crossing exercises conducted on the Main River in Holland paid rich dividends in this historic river crossing operation.

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 J. Neff, Information Education Officer, and Capt Thomas C. Roberts, Public Relations Officer. All material is censored by AC of 9.6.2. Member Army Newspaper Service, 209 East 42nd St, NYC.

STAFF: Managing Editor, Sgt Al Gladling; News Editor, Pfc John MacNeese; Art Editor, Sgt Nick Fifebas; Photographer, M/Sgt Harry Brethbeld; Reporter, Pfc Carl Weber; Combat Correspondents, Sgt Ray Goguen, 529th Inf, Sgt Steve Hawken, 550th Inf, Sgt Jack Straw, 531st Inf, and Sgt Bill Schumann, 83rd Art.

VOL. I, No. 5. May 12, 1945

83rd Thunderbolt

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GERMANS THINK

529th Platoon
Full Regiment

If the Germans had known their position, S/Sgt Verno C. Satcher of Cranston, R. I., and his 54-man platoon wouldn't have stood a chance. But as things turned out, they captured 495 prisoners, including a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, two captains and two lieutenants — and sent M/Sgt 106 complete with views.

The platoon was left behind at Halberstadt while the rest of the 85th Infantry needed to the Elbe. Their mission was to guard a mammoth food warehouse from pillaging by civilians and liberated foreign workers.

Satcher and his men from the lst platoon of Co C had their first inkling of what was in store for them when one of the foreign workers told of a large group of German troops moving north or south or from Halberstadt.

"I didn't know whether to believe the story or not," said Satcher, "but I was apprised that the rest of the regiment was more than 50 kilometers away and that it would be impossible to investigate... and that's when things began to pop."

CHECK TUNNEL

The two men, Sgt Charles C. Short of Dumfries, Va., and S/Sgt James D. Leitch, checked a tunnel near the edge of the woods and captured 105 prisoners, which they took back to the warehouse.

Short took another patrol into the woods some time back the next morning with more PFCs.

That afternoon S/Sgt Robert Hodges of Hewittston, N. C., Raymond J. Smuts of Jersey City, N. J., and Pfc Francis Davis of Portsmouth, R. I., went to the full extent of their ingenuity in a forest of huge stumps and logs in search of the fugitive colonel and his party not only discovered the M/Sgt 106 complete with views, but a waffle personnel to go with them.

COLONEL IMPRESSED

"We figured if we walked our new guns past the map of the Co., the colonel might be impressed by our show of strength and let us join the party," continued Hodges.

The colonel was impressed. He and staff lined up silently in front of the EM and manned back to the warehouse. He was so elated when he arrived that he ordered not to find an American officer to accept his surrender.

During the next two days, one and two-man patrols, catching the spirit of Satcher, "but until we were relieved I never saw a colonel." The platoon was left behind at Halberstadt while the rest of the 329th Infantry crossed the river in an assault crossing, three miles or so from Halberstadt.

Ferrying operations on the Elbe River were kept busy with educational, occupational, and recreational activities, which they took back to the ware­house.

The unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces to the Allied Expeditionary Force and the Soviet Union marks the successful conclusion of the first half of the Allies' war on the Axis nations. To the soldier the cessation of hostilities in Europe marks a complete victory — the total disintegration of the once powerful Nazi war machine.

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Awards Mission Sees Spectacle Of Red Army On The Move

What started out as a presentation of decorations to officers of the Russian Sixth Guards Division in commemoration of the historic link up between that unit and the Thunderbolt Division turned into a twoday trip inside Russian-occupied Germany for Brigadier General Claude B. Ferenbaugh and his staff, a visit during which they saw what few others have ever seen, one of the biggest "shows" on earth - the Red Army, on the move.

The General and his party, consisting of Lt. Col. Sheldon Hughes, Lt. Col. John K. French, Capt. Theodore Dworsky, Capt. Robert A. Chase, Lt. Gerry Mortenson and Lt. Vadim Gontzuk flew north from the Sixth Guards Division's line of march past the town of Brand, a few kilometers from the Czechoslovak border. There they ran into a Russian reconnaissance outfit who advised them that they were well out in front of the Russian front line. In 12 hours they covered 135 miles from their own GIs at Calbe, weaving in and out of Russian convoys, cutting across open fields where they came to traffic signs that couldn't be solved by having the Russians move their vehicles, and passing through many towns that had been liberated just a few hours previously.

FRIENDLY WELCOME

All through the long drive the five Americans were greeted exhorted and exclamations by the men and women of the Russian Army. As the Americans drove by groups of Russian troopers and women a hundred or more would be at the windows, waving the red star, yelling and waving the American flag. Then they were continuing forward with their front line troops. For the military occupation in the rear, the Americans were greeted with the new-found friendliness.

No Pattern

There seemed to be no pattern to the Russian Army's movement, but what were evident to the Americans was the A-B-C stuff to the Russian officer who met them in Freiberg. General Ferenbaugh and his group arrived in the home of "Twilight Sleep" just as the city was being occupied. The Russians captured made arrangements for them to sleep in one of the city's largest hotels and explained that the divisional officers who had occupied it would continue forward with their front line troops. Leave for the military occupation in the rear, the Americans were greeted with the new-found friendliness.

On another occasion, a liaison plane piloted by Lt. John J. Tobias of Division "A" and Lt. James Flemming of the 322nd FA, as observer discovered eight German anti-aircraft guns, four 20mm and four 37mm, and a 3.9cm anti-aircraft gun, two 8cm anti-aircraft guns, two 10cm anti-aircraft guns, and a 4.7cm anti-aircraft gun. The Americans showed it to the civilians, and they followed the group through to the spot where the Germans were waiting to surrender.

The German attack on the Dvina CP when it was on the west bank of the Dvina River, a company of enemy infantry tried to cross the river and seize the American positions. More Nazis attempted to cross the covering by taking up positions in buildings across the river and firing at the Americans. A mortar platoon fired several rounds into the German positions but was unable to get direct observation on the target until a pipe crew, piloted by Mjr. Jerome W. Byrd, took to the Covid. The Covid mortar shell hit the Germans near the enemy to withdraw and vacate the house. It was quite a story since the artillery has no cover. It was a story where a few hundred feet away there was no cover for the American infantry, but they continued on their way and tried to capture the house.

YANKS TAKE OVER

Though there were the Frenkens (Leonard's Frenkens is possible) and Engels, a few of Russian taken German and served as interpreters, all were new captured. The German language was understood, and the Yanks could speak it. The United Nations had a paper signed by an American colonel which gave him authority to look after the Germans and Belgians in that vicinity, that put the O.K. on anything they did. They were very friendly to the Americans, and the Yanks could speak it.

Two 83rd Doughs Serve As Burgermeister For Twelve Days

For 12 days, Pfc. James T. Leonard, Pottsville, Penn. and Pfc. Floyd T. White, fernburg, Penn., played burgermeister to an average of 2,000 slave labor, including French, Russian and Polish. It was quite a story, since the Americans had to do it for the Yanks.

Ten days is a long time for fighting men to stay in one spot. "I guess we would be there yet," said Leonard, "if an 83rd QM truck hadn't come through the town by mistake the other day."

They had to drive their truck, pick up the supplies, and hand them back. It had been an eventful vacation but they might not have been needed with their company. They were.
Infantry looked up from the foxhole he

Friendly Fellows

After several of our missions had run

The lieutenant explained that

AAA Men Get Ahead of War

Four men listed as missing in action
turned up at their company after

Quick Changes

While watching civilians of Warmun,

The afternoon of the third day they

Dearie was a boy who was pretty

Doubles Great

Just then Lt. Kenneth L. Hall of

To the 83rd QM Kept Rag-Tag Circus

With the announcement of VE day

The Eastern Intercollegiate Football

Fife, William Holme of Montgomery,

For four days during the 83rd's dash

Prize Pistols

While watching civilians of Warmun,

Quick Changes

Chasing horses in the middle of the

Rich or poor, German or forced guest of Germany— all present daily prob-

Park's tank of "D" Bn, 30 fully equipped, cocky Nazis

Finally in the vicinity of Barby, the

TS Mislid R. Graziano of Brownsville,

Rich or poor, German or forced guest of Germany— all present daily prob-

The afternoon of the third day they

83rd QM Kept Rag-Tag Circus

On The Road During Elbe Dash

Even the men of the Rag Tag Circus are wondering how that "A" ration food

The afternoon of the third day they

FOXHOLE FABLES

AAA Men Get Ahead of War

Four men listed as missing in action

during five days traveling from one

Quick Changes

Chasing horses in the middle of the

Quick Changes

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With lead flying thick, the replace-

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