

83rd Thunderbolt

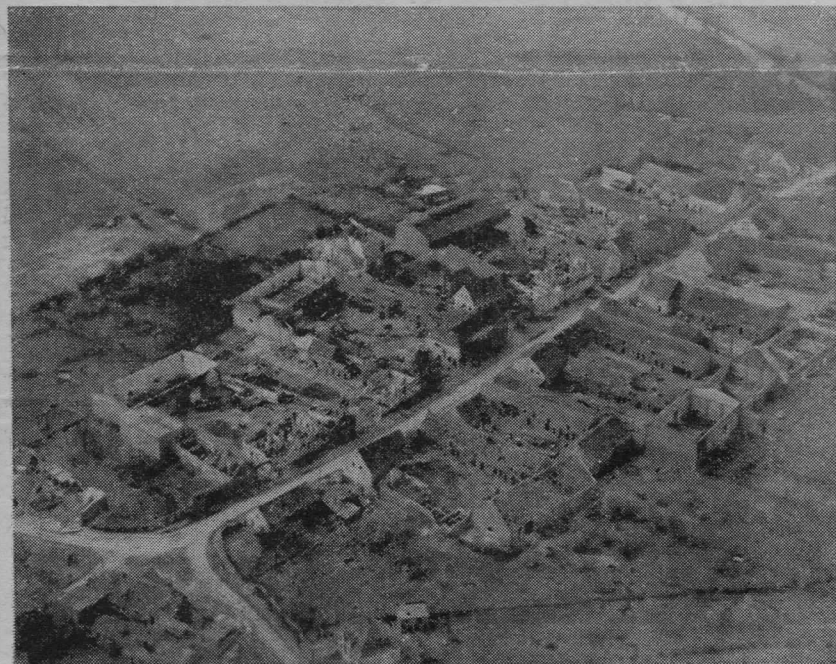
NORMANDY. BRITTANY. LOIRE VALLEY. LUXEMBOURG. HURTGEN FOREST. ARDENNES. FIRST TO RHINE. ELBE BRIDGEHEAD.

VOL 1, No. 3

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

MAY 12, 1945

United Nations Celebrate V-E Day As Germany Signs Unconditional Surrender



Last 83rd stop on the road to Berlin before V-E Day was the badly battered city of Zerbst, east of the Elbe. The burgermeister wanted to surrender, but the local SS chief failed to agree; so for 15 unforgettable days massed 83rd artillery shelled the village into devastation and submission. When the white flags finally flew for good, 83rd troops took the town without firing a shot. (Signal Corps Photos)

Point Payoff

Here's point payoff ten million civilians in uniform have been waiting for, as broadcast by AFN Thursday night. Under this system 1,300,000 GIs, 90 percent of them combat men, will be discharged from the service as fast as possible.

1. One point for each month of service.
2. One point for each month overseas.
3. Five points for each combat award, including battle stars, Bronze and Silver Stars, Purple Hearts and other battlefield awards, though not combat Infantryman Badge.
4. Twelve points for each dependent under 18 years, up to and including three.

Men with 85 or more points are definitely on their way out, though the critical point for many will be lower. May 12th is last day for points to count in this set-up.

Allied World Rejoices At End of Bitter Six-Year Struggle; Complete Capitulation Signed Monday At General Eisenhower's Hqrs. At Rheims

Victory in Europe Day was celebrated on Tuesday of this week following a joint proclamation by President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin that Germany had signed unconditional surrender terms and hostilities would officially cease at one minute after midnight Tuesday.

In all Allied capitals the news was received with wild enthusiasm and crowds surged into the streets shouting and whistling in celebration of the victory.

In Washington, President Truman in an address to the nation said that the surrender terms were signed officially at 0241 hours Monday in Rheims, France where General Eisenhower has set up his headquarters. The president further asserted that "our victory is only half won and not until the final vestige of resistance in the Pacific is overcome can there be a real celebration."

In London, Prime Minister Churchill in an address to the House of Commons told of the German capitulation and proclaimed a two-day holiday in recognition of the climax of a six-year struggle.

STALIN SALVO

Marshal Stalin announced the victory in a special order of the day as 2000 artillery pieces fired 80 salvos to tell the people of Russia that the war with Germany was over. The announcement in Moscow came early in the morning, but the streets were soon filled with people who hailed the long awaited victory and paid special tribute to Marshal Stalin and the Red Army.

Similar demonstrations were held in New York, Paris, Brussels and other Allied cities. Countless thousands of people jammed their way into Times Square. They sang and danced through ankle deep layers of ticker tape and torn paper which had been thrown down from the buildings.

CEASE FIRING

Although the war did not come to an official end until one minute past midnight Tuesday, the cease fire order was given immediately after the signing of the surrender agreement in order to save as many lives as possible.

The surrender took place in a school house at Rheims, France which is serving as General Eisenhower's headquarters. The historical document was signed for Germany by Col Gen Gustav Jodl, new chief of staff of the German Army, for the Allied Expeditionary Force by Lt Gen Bedell Smith, General Eisenhower's chief of staff, for the Soviet Union by Major General Suslapatow and for France by General Francois Sevez. When the last name was affixed to the document, the Germans met with General Eisenhower who asked if they fully understood the implications of the unconditional surrender terms. They stated they did and would carry out the agreement to the fullest possible extent.

FLEET SURRENDERS

The British Admiralty has issued orders for the surrender of the German fleet and all ships at sea must wireless their positions to the nearest Allied station. All German ships in harbor must remain there and all submarines at sea must surface and fly a black flag. The German cruisers, Prinz Eugen and Nurnberg, have already surrendered to the British. Allied warships have entered Oslo Fjord in Norway and Scottish officials have arrived in that country to complete negotiations for the surrender of German troops there. RAF Lancasters landed for the first time in Germany Wednesday and brought back 4500 Allied prisoners of war to England. In Austria King Leopold of Bel-

gium and his family have been liberated and are in Allied hands.

On Wednesday the surrender agreement was ratified in Berlin in the presence of Marshal Zuhkov, Air Marshal Tedder and General Spaatz for the Allies and General Keitel for the Germans. Correspondents who went to Berlin reported the city is almost completely leveled and that Nazi government buildings have been thoroughly gutted. One BBC correspondent reported driving for a half hour through the streets of Berlin and seeing only a half dozen houses in which people were living.

The final capitulation of the German army on Monday followed close in the wake of the surrender of all enemy troops in Northern Italy and Western Austria on May 2nd and the capitulation three days later of Germans in the Netherlands, Northwestern Germany and in Denmark. Included in this latter group were Germans holding out on the islands off the coast of Germany and Denmark.

DOENITZ SPEAKS

Grand Admiral Doenitz who took over the German government after the alleged death of Hitler told his people of the unconditional surrender in a special broadcast over the German radio. He said that the strength of Germany has succumbed to the overwhelming might of our enemies and that the continuation of the war would mean only senseless bloodshed and useless devastation.

"The government, with a sense of responsibility for the welfare of the German people, has to draw the conclusion from the collapse of all physical and material resources to ask the enemy

to cease hostilities," he concluded.

Despite the claim of the German radio prior to the capitulation that Hitler was personally conducting the defense of Berlin, Russian correspondents have reported that no trace of the leading war criminal was found after the fall of the city. Himmler, who conferred in Denmark on April 24th with the Swedish Red Cross, reported at that time that Hitler had a hemorrhage of the brain and was not expected to live more than 48 hours. The German radio later announced that Hitler had been killed during the siege of Berlin but no evidence of this was found by the Russians after the conquest of the capital.

GOEBBELS SUICIDE

Josef Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister, was found dead by Red Army troops during the assault on Berlin. Goebbels and his entire family committed suicide by taking poison when the fall of the city became imminent.

Reichmarshal Herman Goering, head of the Luftwaffe, has been captured by American Seventh Army troops. He is reported to have told Allied officials that he was forced to flee Berlin when Hitler ordered his execution. He escaped to southern Germany with the aid of an SS officer who did not carry out Hitler's death sentence.

Other prominent Nazis captured by General Patch's Seventh Army include Field Marshals von Rundstedt and Kesselring. It was von Rundstedt who planned the German winter offensive in the Ardennes last December.

He is reported to have told American troops that the main reason for his failure to repel the invasion of Norman-

(Continued on Page 4)

Victory Quotes

"Our victory is only half won. When the last Japanese Division has surrendered unconditionally then, and then only, will our job be done."

President Harry S. Truman

"After six long years the threat of German aggression to a free world has been finally eliminated. My congratulations to every Allied fighting man on the earning of a well deserved victory."

Prime Minister Winston Churchill

"Germany will not be dismembered as a result of her capitulation but I am now certain that we can look forward to a long period of peace in Europe. The Nazi party has been crushed under the heel of this great Allied victory."

Marshal Joseph Stalin

"On behalf of all my peoples I ask you to tell the members of the AEF how deeply grateful we are to them and how unbounded is our admiration for the courage and determination which, under your leadership, have brought them to their goal of a complete and crushing victory."

King George to Gen. Eisenhower



83rd Thunderbolt

Official Weekly Newspaper of the
83rd Infantry Division



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Victory

To the Officers and Enlisted Men of the 83rd 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, overran 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 friend, Russia, drove the enemy from the gates of Moscow and Stalingrad, drove them back out of the Soviet Union.

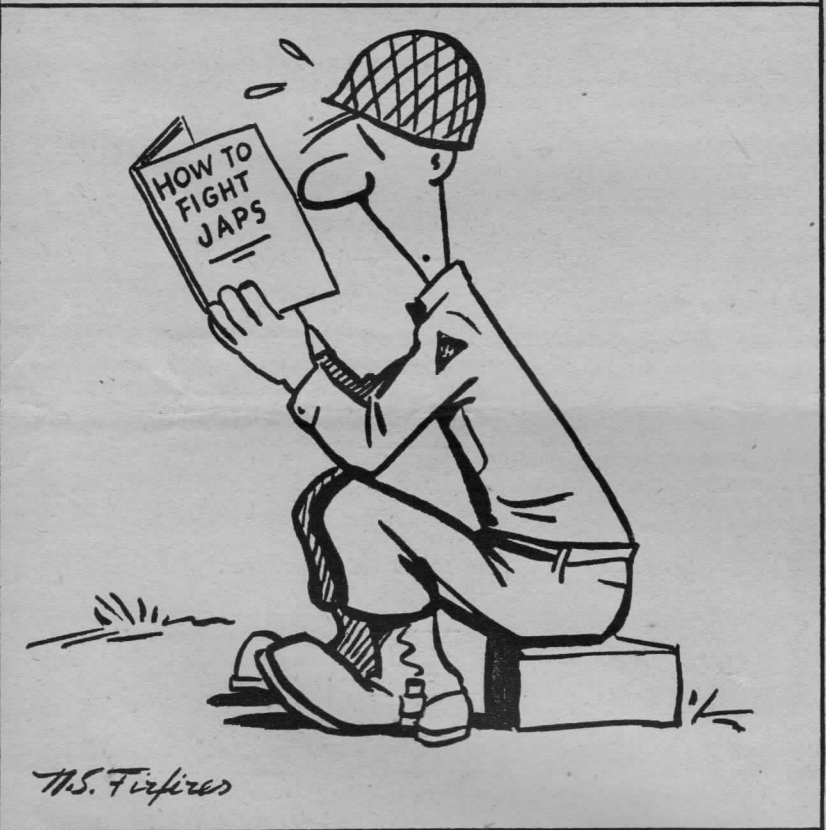
On June 6, 1944 American, British and Canadian forces stormed the beaches of Normandy. At the same time Soviet forces maintained their relentless attack, driving the enemy further west. In eleven months these combined powers crushed the entire German armed forces and effected their unconditional surrender.

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 C. MACON
Major General, United States Army
Commanding

GILBERT

by SGT.N.S.FIRFIRES



Germans Think 329th Platoon Full Regiment

If the Germans had known their position, S/Sgt Vernon C. Satcher of Cran-dall, Miss. and his 34-man platoon wouldn't have stood a chance. But as things turned out, they captured 496 prisoners, including a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, two captains and two lieutenants -- and nine ME 109s complete with crews.

The platoon was left behind at Halberstadt while the rest of the 329th Infantry raced 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 1st 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 Germans in the thick woods a mile or so from Halberstadt.

"I didn't know whether to believe the story or not," said Satcher, "but I was apprehensive because the rest of the regiment was more than 50 kilometers away; so I decided to send two men out to investigate -- and that's when things began to pop."

CHECK TUNNEL

The two men, Sgt Charles C. Short of Dumkin, Tex. 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 and came back the next morning with 56 more PWs.

That afternoon S/Sgt Robert Hodges of Brewston, Ark., Pfc Raymond J. Szczopanski of Jersey City, N. J. and Pfc Francis Dutra of Portsmouth, R. I. tried their luck. It ran to a full-scale regimental staff living in tents with their field telephones still in working order.

"The colonel told me he couldn't surrender to a sergeant," said Hodges, "and the last thing we were looking for under the conditions was a fire-fight; so I told him I would return with a staff officer to pick them up."

Continuing the search of the woods, the three men rounded up 140 Krauts. Some of them mentioned an air strip with planes; so captors and captured set out in search of it. After a short excursion deeper into the forest, Hodges and his party not only discovered the ME 109s, as advertised, but also the Luftwaffe personnel to go with them.

COLONEL IMPRESSED

"We figured if we walked our new group past the regimental CP, the colonel might be impressed enough by our show of strength to join the party," continued Hodges.

The colonel was impressed. He and his staff lined up silently in front of the EM and marched back to the warehouse. He was much chagrined when he arrived not to find an American officer to accept his surrender.

During the next two days, one and two-man patrols, catching the spirit of the Jerry hunt, foraged the woods for more prisoners. They returned with groups of 20 or 30 at a time until the grand total of 496 was reached.

"It sounds simple now," commented Satcher, "but until we were relieved I was always afraid the Krauts would learn the secret of our 34-man 'regiment'."

83rd Engineers Set New Record

Members of Co. A., 308th Combat Engineers believe they established a record of some sort in their recent ferrying operations on the Elbe River. After putting the 329th Infantry across the river in an assault crossing, three platoons constructed two infantry support rafts and a treadway raft. These were in operation within an hour after the first wave of assault boats nosed their way through the dense smoke screen prepared by Division Arty and hit the eastern shore of the Elbe.

In the 16 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 Mass River in Holland paid rich dividends in this historic river crossing operation.

... Swimming Saboteur



This man from Mars, guarded by T/5 Serafino Ferrante of the 234th Engineers, is one of the six suicide swimmers who attempted to blow up the Truman Bridge. (Signal Corps Photo)



NEW MAGNA CHARTA

Characterizing the preamble of the San Francisco conference as the "framing of a new Magna Charta" Prime Minister Smuts of South Africa, its author, said the aims of the document call for a reestablishment of faith in fundamental human rights for men and women of all nations, a promotion of special progress and better standards of living, an insurance that armed force shall not be used in disputes except when necessary, the establishment of respect for international law and treaties and the setting up of international machinery for the promotion of social and economic advancement of all peoples.

21-DAY FURLOUGHS

Quoting what it called "an unimpeachable source" an American news agency this week reported that more than half of the American combat troops in Europe will get a 21-day furlough in the States before moving to the Pacific war zone. Prior to this announcement, every official source had stated that most of the men in the ETO would wait in Europe until facilities were ready to move them directly to the Pacific. The news agency report further stated that the revised plans would apply more specifically to infantry, artillery and armored forces and that other service units would be sent direct to build up facilities and bases for attacks against the Japanese. Between now and shipment from the ETO, most of the combat troops will find themselves kept busy with educational, occupational or redeployment duties until they are taken to the U. S. Once home they will be given a furlough and then trained in Pacific war problems.

RATIONING REMAINS

According to the War Food Administration American civilians will continue to eat less food despite the defeat of Germany. Food will be used, according to WFA, to win the peace as well and foodstuffs for minimum lend lease requirements cannot be met without further reductions in civilian consumption. The restrictions will also apply to tires, gasoline, clothes and even public transportation. It is the explicit intention of the government to provide foreign relief and full military requirements. The food shortage on the home front will be felt most severely in meats, fats, oils, some dairy products, sugar, canned fruits and vegetables.

15th ARMY AO

The American 15th Army will take over occupation of the U.S. section of Germany it was indicated this week. Military Government officers at the headquarters of the Army Commander, Lt Gen Gerow, asserted there would be no pampering of Germans by occupation forces which will serve in the areas largely taken by the Third and Seventh Armies. The problem of feeding German civilians will be handled by Allied occupational authorities through civilian and provincial officials and provincial officials and local mayors. The amount Germans will eat will depend directly on how willing they are to work to re-establish their own food economy.

... GI Jane



Ever since singing lovely Jane Froman was crippled in a plane crash last year during a USO tour in the ETO, she has been GI Jane to thousands of fighting men. Sufficiently recovered now to sing again, she made her after-action debut on Broadway recently - from a wheelchair. (CBS Photo)



At the end of Hitler's road came the old men and their grandchildren— a symbol of a dying nation in desperation and defeat. Among the last PWs taken by the 83rd before Germany's com-

plete collapse were these sad specimens of the Fuhrer's super folk, members of a Wehrmacht regiment that surrendered in toto to the 330th Infantry. (Signal Corps Photos)

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 linkup between that unit and the Thunderbolt Division turned into a two-day 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. Shelley Hughes, Lt. Col. Jules K. French, Capt. Theodore De-Masse, Capt. Robert A. Chase, Lt. Gerry Morrison and Lt. Vadim Gontzoff followed the Sixth Guards Division's line of march past the town of Brand, a few kilometers from the Czecho-Slovakian 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 125 miles from their own CP at Calbe, weaving in and out of Russian convoys, cutting across open fields when they came to traffic tie-ups 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-vehicle convoy of Americans was greeted excitedly and enthusiastically by the men and women of the Russian Army. As the Americans pulled up to troop-laden wagons there would be first a look of surprise on the part of the occupants, then a gleam of recognition, a chorus of "Americans!" and a salute or wave of the hand accompanied by a huge grin.

In the Russian convoys everything went, horses and wagons driven by olive-skinned Caucasians, mustachioed Siberians and husky young women, a scattered few American jeeps - one had the chassis of a German sedan mounted on it - tremendous Russian tanks, captured German vehicles, bicycles, Mack trucks, dog-drawn carts, motorbikes - but more than any other single item, horses and wagons. To an American it was difficult to conceive of this horse and buggy gypsy caravan getting any place in the midst of war bore out everything we have heard about the all-out participation of the Russian people in the war against Germany.

Wagons were loaded to the overflow with all the requisites for keeping this family-type Army on the move, guns,

hay for the horses, automobile tires, hogs, gas and supplies of all types heaped in pell-mell fashion.

Some of the soldiers were sleeping on the tops of the over-stuffed wagons, some were playing accordions and singing, some on seeing the Americans jumped from their own vehicles to climb on the M8s to ride along for a while with their new-found friends.

NO PATTERN

There seemed to be no pattern to the Russian Army's movement, but what was enigma to the Americans was 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 overrun. The Russian captain made arrangements for them to sleep in one of the city's largest hotels and explained that the divisional officers probably could not be reached because they were continuing forward with their front line troops. Laws for the military occupation of Freiberg were being posted even as the first Russians entered the city.

In Freiberg what had been an easy-going mass took form and turned into a fearsome cavalcade of men, machines and horses swarming through the streets of the city. Unbelieving Germans shuddered in ill-concealed terror at the sound of hoofbeats on the cobblestones and looked on incredulously at the American General and his staff standing at one of the city's principle squares watching the cavalcade ride through.

V-E DAY

The following morning, V-E Day, a Russian woman soldier came to the hotel at which the Americans were staying and prepared breakfast for the officers and enlisted men. She was a former prisoner of war in Breslau who had joined the Sixth Guards at Breslau. She was married to a Russian artillery officer in the same Division.

Over the breakfast table the General and Col. Nicholas Krynkow, Assistant Russian Corps Commander, held informal conversations through Lt. Gontzoff who acted as interpreter. They

both expressed their gratitude for the part the other's nation had played toward the unconditional surrender of Germany. After breakfast Col Krynkow accepted the awards of Legions of Merit and Bronze stars to Col Alexis Ivanov and the staff of the Sixth Guards Division in their absence.

The journey back to the American lines was very much like the trip to Freiberg with the same endless stream of Russians heading for Czecho-Slovakia, the same heartfelt greetings, the same caravan - at least it looked like the same one to the Americans.

Artillery Cubs Fill Any Bill

Cub artillery planes are used primarily as air OPs for 105 and 155 mm gun batteries, but during the 83rd's sweep to the Elbe they were used for several other things not covered in the field manual.

When a patrol of the 330th Infantry captured nine PWs in the town of Prodel, they couldn't spare anyone to march the Jerries back to the regimental cage; so they contacted a cub plane of the 25th FA Bn, which was attached to Divarty, and the pilot, Lt Neil Sanders, and observer, Lt James Hoog, hovered over the nine Jerries and herded them to their destination.

On another occasion, a liaison plane piloted by Lt John S. Baker of Divarty with Lt James Flemming of the 322nd FA as observer discovered eight Germans at a crossroads and by "buzzing" them a few times convinced them to remain there until the advancing doughboys could overtake them. The plane then contacted the Americans and led them across country to the spot where the Germans were waiting to surrender.

During the German attack on the Divarty CP when it was on the west bank of the Saale River, a company of enemy infantry tried to cross the river and seize the American positions. More Nazis attempted to cover the crossing 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 piper cub, piloted by Maj Jerome W. Byrd, took to the air and directed the WP mortar shells on the buildings in which the Germans were hiding out. The results forced the enemy to withdraw and vacate their vantage points. This is believed to be the first time that an artillery plane has been used to direct mortar fire.

Two 331st Doughs Serve As Burgermeister For Twelve Days

For 12 days, Pfc. James T. Leonard, Pottsville, Penn. and Pfc. Floyd T. White Pontiac, Ill., played burgermeister to an unoccupied German town of 5000 with some 1000 slave labor, including French, Russian and Polish.

It was quite a story these men had to tell after being absent and unaccounted for a dozen days.

The fast pace of the 83rd in its spearhead across the Weser and Elbe rivers, where transportation was a major problem, made it often necessary to leave bed rolls behind with someone to guard them until they could be picked up. White and Leonard were left to guard the weapons platoon rolls of Company C, 331st Inf. Only something happened. The race toward Berlin became so rapid no one was ever sent back for them or the rolls.

It was in one of those many towns that the Company raced through, cleared out, and left unoccupied. To make matters worse, the town was off the main route of travel. For six days Leonard and White saw no G. I. nor any sign of one. After that trucks of PWs passed through going to the rear, but that was all.

"I saw so many prisoners I thought the war must be over," Leonard said.

They had two meal rations. After that it was a case of shift for themselves or starve. They shifted. First they found themselves a nice comfortable hotel and with some 25 liberated Frenchmen moved in.

YANKS TAKE OVER

Though there were the Frenchmen (Leonard's French is passable) and Englishmen, three of whom spoke German and served as interpreters, all were newly liberated and looked to the unique Yanks for leadership.

One of the Frenchmen had a paper signed by an American colonel which gave him authority to look after the Americans and Belgians in that vicinity. That put the O. K. on anything they deemed advisable to do for the slave labor.

"And those slave laborers," said Leonard, "thought we were gods. They beat a daily path to our hotel room with their problems, most of which concerned food and clothing."

Leonard and White got busy. With two cars which the French had taken for their use, they made a survey of the district. From the farms they got vegetables, fruit, eggs and meat. Bakeries in the town had plenty of bread. There was a storehouse where

wines and liquors, without which no European table is complete, were stored. Leonard and White made a daily round and from the collected food and drink they rationed out enough for each slave laborer to eat well.

The next problem was clothes. Those of the slave laborers were old, worn, dirty and often not adequate to supply their needs. The Yanks found a warehouse with clothing and they rationed it out so that all the people were generously, if motley, arrayed.

They were wise, too. Though the Army might approve of what they were doing, they might be forced to call it looting. So, with an abundance of German marks which the Frenchmen had collected, they paid for what they took.

ENGLISH LEAVE

There was an airfield some 60 miles away from which the Englishmen could get home. So Leonard and White got more cars, serviced them, supplied them with gas and turned them over to the Englishmen. And they, prisoners of war for five years, felt such warm friendship for the two Yanks that they delayed their departure for two days.

The German population gave them no trouble. Their uniform was treated with the utmost respect and was the keynote to all their wishes. Though there were rumors of SS troopers in the outlying woods, on only one occasion did they come in contact with them.

Slave laborers came to tell them that two SS troopers, changed to civilian clothing, were hiding in a nearby barn. Getting their weapons, Leonard and White went after them. The SS troopers offered little resistance though they insisted they were not soldiers. The German mess gears and uniformed pictures of themselves they carried made them liars.

Twelve 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 going in a Berlin direction."

They told the driver their story, piled their rolls in his truck, hopped in with them and headed back. It had been a glorious vacation but they might be needed with their company. They were.

Male Call



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



Physi-oh-thera-beaut-ics



MGO At Work . . .



Rich or poor, German or forced guest of Germany— all present daily problems to Military Government officials. Capt. Robert Rosenbaum of the 83rd MG Detachment meets here with Baron and Baroness Carl Karninsky in an effort to determine their status. A former secretary of state in Austria, the baron had been imprisoned for four and a half years in the infamous Dachau concentration camp. (Signal Corps Photo)



Friendly Fellows

Pfc William Holmes of Montgomery, W. Va., medic with the 3rd Bn, 329th Infantry looked up from the foxhole he was digging to see four Germans engaged at the same task about 20 yards away. He decided that a more distant point might be more appropriate so he grabbed his shovel and ran 50 yards where he took cover behind a bank. Second later, the four Germans arrived at the medic's newly selected location.

To his amazement they dropped their weapons and put their hands over their heads. Four riflemen relieved Holmes of his prisoners. Their reward for bringing the Krauts back to the battalion PW cage was four foxholes "Made In Germany, By Germans, For Americans."

Prize Pistols

While watching civilians of Warnigero-de pile up their weapons in the town square, Pfc Robert Osterdorf of Co M, 330th Infantry was approached by an old woman who told him she had a house full of pistols and other firearms. Hurrying to the woman's house before the good news could get around, Osterdorf learned to his own chagrin that greed sometimes fails to pay off. There were weapons all right - old horse pistols, muskets and swords. It took Osterdorf six trips to carry the prize collection to the square.

Green Light

They had gotten the green light; so they came on in. In the Elbe bridgehead sector held by Co C of the 736th Tank Bn, 30 fully equipped, cocky Nazis walked into the tankers' lines thinking they were joining their own men. It seems they had seen some green flares sent up by 83rd infantry to signal the Russians thought to be approaching. And green flares had once been the Krauts' cue for a village retaken.

Quick Change

Changing horses in the middle of the stream is supposed to be bad business, but the crew of the 736th tank commanded by Sgt. Rudolph W. Parks, Jennings, Okla., changed vehicles in mid-battle and made it stick.

For four days during the 83rd's dash across Germany, Parks' tank of "D" Company had been running on only one of its two motors. Replacement tanks had been unable to reach him due to the wild pace being set.

Finally in the vicinity of Barby, the replacement was available but the fighter wasn't. It was in the thick of a fight in a small village.

Maintenance men of the company decided that they'd waited long enough. If history repeated itself, Parks and his ailing tank would be miles away before a lull in the fighting came and they would have the same story over again. They decided on battlefield delivery.

With lead flying thick, the replacement tank was driven into the village alongside Parks' vehicle. Maintenance and the regular tank crew changed places, and the fight went on.

No Takers

He wanted to surrender, but no one had time to take him in. During the Division's Elbe drive, a quartering party from the 2nd Bn of the 331st Infantry stopped momentarily near an unarmed German soldier with a bit of white pinned on his lapel. The Kraut approached a vehicle of the medical detachment and asked rather indignantly if he might surrender. It seems he had been patiently waiting there by the road for this particular purpose for two days, but no one had paid any attention to him.

AAA Men Get Ahead of War

Four men listed as missing in action turned up at their company after spending five days traveling from one uncaptured German town to another in a German staff sedan, fighting off one enemy patrol and narrowly missing being blown to bits by fire from a German tank.

Pvt. Loren D. Kissick, Tacoma, Washington, Cpl. Wilbert G. Kriger, Mannington, Va., Pfc. William H. Buzzard, Marlinton, W. Va., and Pvt. Bob L. Hemstreet of Milwaukee, Ore., of Battery A, 453rd AAA were left behind in the Hasserode Forest when the German truck in which they were riding broke down.

"It was a question of who was more upset, the Germans or us," said Kissick. "We knew from the towns that we had previously passed through that the Germans were trying to get away; so we decided that if we travelled during the day time we might be able to brazen the thing out."

In order to get moving, the men needed a vehicle, so they calmly walked to the nearest town and commandeered a German staff sedan from astonished civilians.

"We played hide and seek with the Wehrmacht for the next five days," related Hemstreet. "We drove through towns as though we were the advance party for a large number of advancing infantry. We figured that the Heinies would make themselves scarce during the day, but we were extremely careful at night because we didn't want to run into any large number of German soldiers trying to escape."

The closest shave the men ran into was the second night when they did run into just such a patrol which they fought off in a brisk fire fight. A couple of grenades served to disperse the enemy.

The afternoon of the third day they almost met with disaster when they rounded a corner and came face to face with a German tank. But the Nazi tanker was taken so by surprise by the sight of four GIs in a German command car that before he fired his first shell they had put several hundred yards between themselves and him. One shell exploded near enough to put a couple of shrapnel holes in the body of the car, but otherwise no harm was done.

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 kept getting up to them while they were highballing through the German Heartland practically to the gates of Berlin.

The 83rd QM Co provided it and the answer to many other problems which arose in connection with the infantry operation that will go down in history as one of the most fluid and swift of all time.

From the day they hopped off west of the Rhine (Mar. 29) to the Elbe Bridgehead area (Apr. 13) the QM moved their CP forward 11 times, oftentimes twice in one day at distances varying from ten to 60 miles. According to Capt George P. Brauch of Marengo, Iowa, the studious-looking CO of the outfit, the mere moving from one place to another was a job in itself.

"When first the situation grew to the point where our trucks were in constant 24 - hour operation, it was difficult enough," said Brauch. "But when the supply lines lengthened so that for some supplies it was necessary to make as high as a 400 - mile round trip, the going got quite rough."

"After several of our missions had run into ambushes at night, we were forced to revise our schedules so that the supplies flowed steadily to all the units of the Division despite this handicap. Unfortunately this resulted in several casualties and men becoming prisoners of war. Luckily two of the liberated PWs have been returned to us a little bit the worse for wear, but nevertheless still in there pitching."

WELL DONE

"Of the men and equipment, I can proudly state that, respectively, they performed bravely and efficiently. In our compact group 19 men have earned Bronze Stars and three have been awarded the Purple Heart. Those great trucks, 80 percent of them original issue, each of which had more than 20,000 combat miles, took another furious beating and are still going strong."

TISgt Daniel C. Morrow from Burlington, N. C., whose job it is among many other things to keep equipment performance records, presented this statistical picture of the tremendous job they had done in a period of 17 days. Besides hauling ingredients of hot garrison type rations, enough to provide 1,211,604 meals to the GIs of the Thunderbolt Division, they also kept them supplied with basic clothing issues and ample changes of socks.

"In the QM Co alone, the gasoline consumption was at the rate of 70 gallons per truck per day," said Morrow. "A total of 383,110 gallons was burned up by all the trucking companies and this did not include fuel for the tanks and TDs who drew from their own supply depots. For a time the 330th also drew from another source while they were breaking up the resistance in the Harz Mountains area."

DUAL PURPOSE

"Our job was no one-way affair. On the way back to the rear areas we loaded up the trucks with PWs. 20,000 of them rode with us at various times and they didn't improve the looks of the trucks a bit. Infantry or MPs could not be spared as guards so our drivers hit upon the idea that if they kept going fast enough none of them would dare to jump off or try any monkey business."

"One did try it as a convoy of three were slowing down for an underpass. The driver in the last truck spotted him and tried to get him with the truck. The guy got off the road too fast for that, but not fast enough to get out of the sights of the assistant driver who dropped him with an M-1 slug right through the back of the head. Incidentally there was no further trouble on that convoy."

"But how about all those flat tires?" enjoined TIS Richard R. Stivison of Indiana, Pa. "Stivie", who is somewhat of a statistician himself in his capacity of Company Clerk, brought out the fact that they had suffered 1,018 tire failures during the race. "It wasn't that the tires weren't any good," he hastened to add, "but tires have got to begin to wear out sometime."

DOUGHS GREAT

Just then Lt Kenneth L. Hall of Brewster, Mass., injected a word concerning the men of the Truck Platoon of which he is the Platoon Leader. "Our job for a time was to provide transportation for the infantrymen of the 2nd Bn. of the 331st Regiment. Before I say anything else, I'd like to explain that my men and myself never saw a finer bunch of doughs. They obeyed every order calmly, regardless of how rough the situation may have been."

"I know they have confidence in our drivers also and an incident which happened just at the entrance of a supposedly conquered town showed the stuff that makes up the American GI."

TIS Miguel R. Guajardo of Brownville, Texas was driving the last truck in line and only about 50 yards from the first group of houses.

"From the side of one of these houses a Heinie ack-ack gun let go point blank at the front of the truck. The shell hit the cowl directly in front of Guajardo. Freakishly enough it exploded outside the cab and shattered the glass cutting up his face, though not seriously. Nevertheless he stayed with the truck and so did the doughs till ordered to dismount and clean out that overlooked hot spot."

RIOT SQUAD

"And don't forget the Riot Squad," interrupted Sgt Abe Shadid, who was standing by loaded down with requisitions. Shadid, a former department store owner and manager of Mangum, Okla., who is in charge of the Class II warehouse where all those extra field jackets and combat shoes are stored, went on to say that was the name they had tagged on the company drivers because of all the screwy jobs they were called upon to do during the operation.

"Cpl John Dudash of Brownville, Pa. and Cpl John F. Reinhardt of Hooverville Pa., showed ten Heinies what a couple of Pennsylvania Dutchmen can do when they get mad. They were carrying a load from my warehouse one day as this deal was beginning to break wide open. From a stretch of woods along side the road the Krauts attempted to stop the truck by firing a volley into it. But they didn't reckon with Reinhardt and the 50 caliber machine gun. While Dudash kept the truck moving, Reinhardt sprayed the wood and knocked them off like ten pins."

PWs NINE DAYS

"We've got another boy who is pretty handy with a 50 caliber in TIS Edward Hartlove of Baltimore, Md., chimed in. Lt Joseph F. Lorkowski from Detroit, Mich. "He beat another Heinie to the punch with his gun from a moving truck. He caught this guy in the act of aiming a Panzerfaust at about 200 yards."

"You've got quite a story yourself, sir," interrupted Stivison. It developed that Lorkowski and Cpl Jacob S. Levin of Washington, D. C. were two of the men recently repatriated after being ambushed in the Harz Mountain area. They had been prisoners for nine days and kept on the march for most of that time and were fed sparingly if at all.

The lieutenant explained that surprisingly enough the Germans became more and more considerate of their prisoners as they realized the trap around themselves was tightening.

Sports

With the announcement of VE day this week the War Mobilization Board has authorized the resumption of horse racing in the States again. The first races will be held today at most of the major eastern and midwestern tracks. Horse racing was ordered stopped in January on a directive from the WMB but it was asserted at the time of the ban that racing would be resumed after VE day.

Both the New York Yankees and the New York Giants were holding down first places in the American and National leagues this week as the 1945 season wound up its first month of play. Other first division teams in the National loop were Chicago, Boston and St. Louis while Chicago, Detroit and Washington were hot on the heels of the Yanks in the junior circuit.

The Eastern Intercollegiate Football Association has announced that no revisions will be made in the grid rules for the 1945 season. Prior to this announcement, it had been suggested that rule-makers permit all fumbled balls to be advanced by opponents and lessen the severity for an illegal forward pass when made beyond the line of scrimmage.

Now that the war in Europe is over the War Department has announced 7,500,000 dollars worth of athletic equipment will be shipped to the ETO as soon as possible. The WD's plans call for a series of inter-Allied games that will dwarf by comparison the largest of the peace-time Olympic games.

V-E Day

(Continued on Page 1)

dy last June was due to the shattering effect of Allied air onslaughts.

"Allied bombers not only shattered our supply lines and upset all efforts to move our defense forces, but they carried the war right home by hitting the headquarters at Bad Nauheim." He said that he last saw Hitler on March 13th in Berlin and that while he asserted his confidence in ultimate victory he could not help but notice how his hands trembled and his voice faltered as he spoke.

When the news of the fall of Germany was announced in Japan a special session of the cabinet was held, and it was decided to go on with the war. "The war in the Pacific will be prosecuted to a successful conclusion", was the official announcement of the Japanese radio.

Despite Japanese boasts about carrying on the war the Associated Press reported unofficially that peace feelers were being sent out by the Jap government in an effort to save their nation from the same fate which has befallen Germany.

... Pick of the Pickens



A singing star in her own right now and one of the reasons why television shouldn't be held up another day is luscious Jane Pickens of the famous "Pickens Sisters". (CBS Photo)