THE RAG-TAG CIRCUS — THEY MAKE MUSIC

By Ernest Leiser
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 83RD INF. DIV. ACROSS THE ELBE,
Apr. 11 (Delayed) — Gen. Simpson him-
self sent down to find out how they ever
did it.

This rag-tag "travelling circus", 
that rode and fought over more than 200 
miles of Germany in some ten days, keep-
ing up with the best of American armor, 
just didn't belong in the books of 
modern warfare.

It was impossible but the 83rd Inf. 
Div. did it. From the time they were 
removed from the bridgehead they had 
scouted across the river to the crossing 
of the Elbe and the painting of the br-
idgehead on the far side, they had not 
only kept up with the armor — they had 
outstripped it.

They used any kind of transport you 
can name - tanks, jeeps, trucks, and jeeps, 
all buzzing at the same with GI pas-
sengers, and then added to that were 
German cars, trucks, fire engines, bi-
cycles and even wheelbarrows.

Except for a day or so they had abso-
lutely no attached trucks to haul their 
first freight so they had to do with what-
ever they could find along the road, and 
they found plenty.

Strange things happened in that ten-
day blitz — things that could only have 
happened to this "Alexor's Army."

The other day as they were rolling 
along a little Germanoden was waving 
in and out of the column, passing vehi-
cles. No one would have noticed it — 
there wasn't anything unusual in this 
convoy about a German vehicle — if the 
driver hadn't kept honking his horn 
imperiously.

Pte David Webster, a Signal Company 
man from Terre Haute, Ind., took a sec-
ond look at the car and saw that the 
guy inside had on a German uniform — 
with red collar patches. The 83rd had 
captured a German general who was going 
cast in even a greater hurry than they 
were.

In another case, the column overtook 
a German convoy, consisting of a Colonel 
and his staff, travelling the same way 
on the same road.

On this the First En. of the 329th 
Inf. Regt., firing their first real 
battle shots they took off, the men were 
still discussing between flashing shells 
at the bridgehead of the Elbe bridgehead. 
They were better about none of the things 
they saw.

Sgt. Dean Berry, of Bristol, Tenn., 
described the British and American pri-
soners they had freed in their sweep, 
about how they had cried when the 83rd 
came along, and how the German guards had 
especially taken the civilians who so 
much as offered them a glass of water 
in their death march across Germany.

Sgt. George McRae, of Augusta, Ky., 
told of taking 27 pistols, a shotgun, and 
a rifle away from one German Army doc-
tor who insisted they had a right to 
carry them. Pte. John Shuford, of Norfolk, 
N. C., told of his capture of two boys, one 
only three years old, and another 12, wearing 
uniforms of a branch by

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