

EXTRACT OF ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE - Written by  
John Thompson, (Chicago Tribune Press Service)

"TANK MEN FROM CHICAGO HELP BEAT NAZI HOST"  
3d Division Fought Winoona "Spearhead"

THIRD ARMORED DIVISION HQ., France, Aug. 22 (delayed).--In the bright sunlight at 11 a.m. on Aug 18 Sgt. Don J. Eklahl, Spencer, Ia., clambered down from his Sherman tank on the road between Fromental and Putanges. His white teeth cut a grinning patch across his grimy face as he shook hands with a British Lieutenant.

Minutes later, back at division headquarters, another sergeant put down his radio headset and said, "Our forces have linked up with the British north of Fromental. Both outfits shot up some German tanks before they had a chance to shake hands. Thus, inside of the bloody Argentan-Falaise pocket where the cream of Field Marshal Guenther von Kluges German forces was being skinned by the Allies the 3d Armored Division ended one of the hardest fights that an American tank division has been called upon to make. It culminated in a fighting march of 156 miles that won it the name of the "SPEARHEAD DIVISION".

MANY ARE CHICAGOANS

It might also be called the "MIDWEST DIVISION", for most of its men come from the midwest. Hundreds call Chicago home.

Since their first action on June 29, five days after coming over the beaches the 3d Armored Division has had numerous tough engagements. But there was never such savage fighting as they encountered at Rames and Fromental, in the opinion of the division commander. He should know. It was his command of his which cut open the pocket when Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley broke the German line west of St. Lo, an action which won him his present command.

When the division commander spoke of meeting the stiffest possible resistance he meant this: tanks and grenadiers from Hitler's best, the 1st SS (elite) Adolph Hitler panzer division, the 2d panzer division and the 9th SS and 12 SS Hitler Jugend division. Their combined strength in this battle more than equaled the full strength of a panzer division.

NAZIS TOSS IN MORE

The Germans were trying to hold open the southern end of the Argentan-Falaise pocket long enough to let their colleagues escape the allied crusher.

In addition to these outfits in the later days of fighting the 3d Armored tangled with the 2d SS Das Reich division, the 17th SS Goetz von Berlichsen division and the panzer Lehr division, once the best equipped of all German divisions.

To these enemy troops and elements of whole units of 14 other German divisions the 3d has fought since helping open the St. Lo breakthrough on July 26. From this potpourri of Germans the 3d has taken 5,115 prisoners, an unusual feat for an armored force, which usually has no time for it, and has killed about 2,500.

Many of these Germans died trying to hold Rames and Fromental. Twice the 3d captured Rames in two days and nights of close range tank battles. Once it was driven out.

There was a similar fight at Fromental, which was not secured until Aug 15. The town was captured twice but the 3d was driven out after the first capture not by the Germans but by friendly planes bombing the town in the belief that the Germans still held it.



## A FIGHT TO FINISH

Severe fighting as a descriptive term is, of course, relative. In this case it was described by a colonel commanding a task force:

"When you attack a strongpoint defended by 35 Germans and you kill off five or six, You usually find the rest of them surrendering to your superiority. But these babies of the 1st SS and other panzer units were not surrendering. We had to go in and kill them. And that meant that instead of four we had to kill 35 Germans. The men in our tanks killed so many Germans at close range that our boys became ill from taking part in the carnage.

"They even saw some fanatics attack our tanks with rifles. Our tankers leaned out with their sub-machine guns and mowed them down."

Fighting like this meant, too, that the 3d Division took heavy losses. Sometimes they lost lieutenant colonels, majors, captains and other key personnel. but it kept on with the job.

"I cannot visualize a situation in which I would order a retreat," said a General. "Anytime the high command gives us an order to seize an objective, that objective must be important to the big picture. So we go out and take it. If we get shoved off, we go out again. And we will keep on attacking with every trick we have learned until the objective is taken."

Two last incidents will serve to illustrate this division's recent record. One was taken from the journal of an anti-aircraft outfit used to defend the division headquarters, normally considered to be in the rear.

"From 0030 to 0105 hours (12:30 a.m. to 1:05 a.m.) the area around the C.P. (command post) was heavily attacked by enemy aircraft. Flares were dropped directly over C.P. and bombs were dropped thru-out the area. There were no damage or casualties. During the night a battery of Company B with four or five enlisted men destroyed a German IV tank, several half tracks, volswagens (jeeps), numerous ammunition and gasoline trucks, killed two and captured nine. One enemy was killed with a hatchet while climbing out of a tank."

## VICTORY AT 25 YARDS

One could write reams about tank crews, about engineers who built bridges under fire and cleared mine fields, about reconnaissance vehicles out in front of heavier armor, about platoon leaders drawing straws to see who should have the honor of leading a column down hazardous hogrows, about tanks fighting at ranges of 75 to 100 yards.

But this incident happened to a tank destroyer. It engaged two German tanks at 25 yards away and scored a double victory.

Two shots from the T.D. broke the frontal armor of a German Panther. But when the sergeant tank commander dismounted to help 10 German wounded he was killed by ammunition exploding in the German tank.

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(EXTRACTED FROM "STARS AND STRIPES")

Thursday, October 5, 1944

### FIRST INFANTRY, THIRD ARMORED DIVISION PLAUDITS

First Army Hq., Oct. 4--The First Infantry Division and the Third Armored Division comprised the crack "first team" which drove a steel wedge completely through the Siegfried Line east of Aachen, it was revealed today when the outfits were taken off the restricted list for action through September 2nd.



"Dammit!" he was shouting--and you thought he was going to take you apart-- "you're a newspaper guy, and I've just got to get this off my mind....."

So you stood there and nodded your head up and down while the sergeant shouted at you, and you tried to pull your helmet down to your waist, as you do every time stuff seems to be coming in faster than it's going out, and you waited for censorship to give you the go-ahead on one of the most amazing divisions in this campaign.

You think you know a little about this spearhead division, because you were with it from the time it crossed the Belgian border at 4 P.M. on September 2nd until it crossed the German border at 2.15 P.M. on September 12. With the Ninth Infantry on the right and the First Infantry on the left filling in behind, they brought the blitzkrieg right back to the land of its birth, at a speed its inventors never dreamed was possible.

#### Front-line General.

But what you learned from the Third Armored Division is that an armored division is not only what it looks on paper, is not only tanks and self-propelled guns and armored cars, but is mostly men from the general down to the G.I.'s. Major General Maurice C. Rose came out of the first world war as a second lieutenant, and the first time you saw him in this war he was in a jeep about sixty feet behind the first tanks as they crossed the Belgian line. You don't see many generals up there.

That first night in Belgium was the night the Tiger tanks were crashing through the command post trying out the way, and you don't find command posts up that far. You don't find many headquarters companies taking a couple of hundred prisoners a day either.

"In this division" said Private Angelo Vaccaro of 17 St. Joseph's Street, New Rochelle, N.Y., that day when he was giving you one of those New Rochelle haircuts, "we've got the best officers in the whole American Army. Me? I'm just a private, but I know."

Then there was that afternoon of September 19 on that hillside, just on the western outskirts of Stolberg. At the top of the hill, about 100 yards away, the tank that had been first in our line was burning, and bits of flying shrapnel were clunking off of guys' helmets. And you watched the general to see if he wouldn't duck just once. He didn't, and the junior officers didn't duck either.

But an armored division, among other things, is maps, too, and telephone wire. It took 300,000 maps to get this division from the beaches of France to the borders of the Reich, and there were times when the division was moving so fast that it had to push off with nothing but French road maps, before Capt. William Fairchild of Hutchinson, Kan., could get tactical maps for it. There are guys, too, like Staff Sergeant Kenneth Doncaster of St. Petersburg, Fla., who have to take those maps up to companies in the middle of night under fire.

And when you asked Lieutenant Robert L. Milnes of Chicago who the New Yorkers might be who helped to string 1,300 miles of telephone wire from division headquarters to the combat commands of this armor on the move, you found you couldn't publish the names anyway. There were only two; one was killed and the other was wounded.

Then there is that self-propelled, automatic weapon, anti-aircraft company of Capt. Bill Prewett of Corpus Christi, Tex., which is really an anti-anything outfit. To their credit they have three tanks, a dozen half-tracks, thirty trucks loaded with personnel, and one troop train.



The divisions first joined forces south of Saint Lo before the great breakthrough there. The Ninth Division pushed halfway down the road to Marigny, and then the First and Third shot through straight to Marigny. There the team swung southeast to Coutances to complete their part in that operation.

The First is one of America's most famous divisions. In World War I, it was the first American division to land in France. In this war, it was hand-picked for the tough assignment of the invasion of North Africa and capture of Oran.

After cleaning up in North Africa, the First hit the beaches of Sicily at Gela on July 10th and a little more than a year later the famed infantry division piled ashore in Normandy near Colleville-sur-Mer.

On the beaches, the First ran into an extra German division which had been shipped to the area two days before the invasion for maneuvers. The First overcame the opposition and pushed inland.

First Army intelligence officers give much credit to the First Infantry and Third Armored for winning the battle for the Siegfried Line way back at Mons. There, within four days, the First took 17,000 prisoners, many of whom had been destined to man the defenses of the German wall.

The First is commanded by Major General Clarence R. Huebner. The name of the Third Armored commander has not been released.

The Third Armored Division has taken more than 20,000 prisoners since D-Day.

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Published Wednesday, 4 October 1944 in New York Sun

### THIRD ARMORED DIVISION LEADS WAY

Sun Reporter Reveals It was This Unit That Brought Blitz Home to Germany.

By W. C. Hoinz, Staff Correspondent of the New York Sun.

With the First Army in Germany, Oct. 4--It now may be revealed that the unit that spearheaded the American drive from the banks of the Seine to the borders of the Reich was the Third Armored Division of the First Army.

This outfit is made up of a lot of fighting guys who in the past when they weren't cutting the Germans to ribbons were running up to you and asking why everybody was writing about the Third Army and not about the Third Armored Division. It was difficult to explain to these guys that censorship allows you to write about units in the line, but not about divisions.

"Why, we're the guys who took Colson and Chateau Thierry," these G. I. guys would shout, and some of them would be quite mad. "But in the Stars and Stripes, we read that it was the Third Army. What's the matter with you writing guys, anyway?"

You couldn't know how many guys shouted things like that all the way across Belgium. They shouted it at you while they were digging in as you went by, and you remember one tank sergeant who had to shout very loud because incoming mortar shells were plopping all around.



When the historians finally get around to writing the history books, they may eventually do justice to the Third Armored Division. They may get around to telling how in ten days it liberated Mons, Charleroi, Namur, Verviers and Liege in Belgium and was the first division to capture a German town. But that is unimportant now. What is important is that when you see the Third Armored Division again you hope those G.I.'s will stop shouting at you--especially when mortar shells and heavy stuff seems to be coming in faster than it's going out.

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(EXTRACTED FROM AN ENGLISH PAPER)

"FROM THE SEINE TO GERMANY"

By Robert Reuben

U.S. Army H.Q. Monday.--The American Third Armored Division was the spearhead of the United States drive through Belgium, fighting its way from the Seine to the German border in twenty-seven days, it is now disclosed.

Leading the Division and riding always at the front of his troops was the Commanding General, a tough, daring soldier, winner of the Silver Star three times, who rose from the enlisted ranks, and became a lieutenant in the last war at the age of seventeen.

Started at St. Lo.

The Division, originally one of the units that lead the breakthrough west of St. Lo. and later helped to encircle and destroy a large section of the German Seventh Army--began its drive on the night of August 25th, when it received orders to bridge the Seine and head for Belgium.

Striking into Eastern France in "Multiple column" formations and in the face of tank, tank destroyer, and armored opposition, the Division crossed the Marne, captured Meaux, and drove through Soissons. The Division headed straight for Sedan, but on August 31st suddenly, wheeled north, cut across the border into Belgium with several columns and captured Mons.

The maneuver blocked off German troops retreating into Germany, and just before dawn on September 3rd elements of several German divisions tried to break through the armored lines. Day and night the battle raged with service troops, engineers, cooks military police, staff officers taking part in the melee that at one time was battling in the area of the Division command post.

Town after Town Liberated.

Without pause the Division pushed off for Namur, liberating town after town as it went. Despite uncertain supply conditions, the crack Division engineers bridged the Louve, and the Division went through Namur, and headed for Liege. Gas and other supplies lagged behind the columns, but Liege was surrounded and fell in quick order.

Roetgen, first German township to fall, was captured that day. The village of Eupen, half German and half Belgian, fell next as the Division began feeling out the Siegfried Line. On September 12th, the column breached the famous West Wall.--REUTER.

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NEW YORK TIMES,  
August 25, 1944

## U. S. TANK DIVISION HONORED AS HEROIC

Third Wins "Spearhead" Title for Long, Stubborn Fight in 'Battle of Pocket'

By Harold Denny

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES IN FRANCE, August 24 -- Honor is due to many American Fighting Units for their achievements in the recent weeks of spectacular successes. A special one fell today to the Third Armored Division in the announcement that it had been named the "Spearhead Division" in recognition of its brilliant and almost incessant fighting from late June through August 18, when in conjunction with the British it closed the gap on the trapped remnants of the German Seventh Army. It is now permissible to name this division as having taken a conspicuous part in the "battle of the pocket".

It was at 11 o' clock on the bright morning of August 18 that Sgt Donald J. Eisdahl of Spencer, Iowa, commanding the lead tank in an advancing column of the Third Armored Division, met a British reconnaissance force advancing toward the Americans on the road between Fromental and Pülsdorf. He shook hands with the British Lieutenant commanding the leading vehicle and so sealed a moment that was both historic and dramatic. After that, there remained for the Americans and the British only the chopping up and rounding up of the trapped Germans and the pursuit of those who had escaped.

To reach that junction point, the "Spearhead Division" had to go through some of the hardest fighting of this campaign. The heaviest of all was around Ramstein which elements of this Division approached late on August 14. Adolph Hitler's Troops, the Ninth SS and other Divisions, resisted almost every step of the advance and counterattacked repeatedly.

### Two Tanks Against Ten

The Germans tried desperately to break out, and bitter fighting raged around Ramstein and neighboring Fromental for nearly four days. The Germans brought up the heaviest concentration of tanks, together with artillery and anti-tank guns, that this division had yet encountered and at times the Luftwaffe spared planes from its diminished force to bomb our armored columns by the light of flares at night. The "Spearhead Division's" units were pared down in this fighting so that often two Sherman tanks had to go up against as many as ten of the enemy. Yet they went against them and eventually beat them.

The Division had the finest cooperation from its accompanying units, including infantry and often in tight places our fighters and bombers dashed in to blast out cunningly placed German Tanks and guns lying in ambush ahead. Artillery was neatly coordinated with our tank movements. Sometimes at night our tanks threaded their way through the mine positions in the artillery, which blanketed the enemy with shells only a hundred yards or so ahead.

And it was fanatical young Nazis who manned the German tanks and defensive positions. Once for instance, our tanks overran a strongpoint manned by thirty five German striplings armed only with rifles. The Germans fought our tanks with these, refusing to surrender though their position was obviously hopeless. Our Sherman killed over one until they were sickened by the slaughter they had to do.

Commanders of tanks and tank destroyers sometimes draw straws to decide which vehicle was to lead in attack down a particularly perilous road. Battles between tanks and tank destroyers sometimes were fought at ranges of 75 to 100 yards and one tank destroyer engaged and wrecked two German tanks at twenty five yards.



Elements of the Third Armored Division took Promentel twice on August 17, but the Germans remained in it and they had to withdraw. That night while our aircraft bombed out the enemy, they took this whole battle to close the pocket. This Division engaged elements of eighteen enemy divisions.

#### MEN FROM MIDDLE WEST

The "Spearhead Division" contains young men from all states but most of its personnel is from the Middle West. It was activated at Camp Beauregard, La. It arrived on the Normandy beach late in June and was first in action three days later at Villers-Boccard, northeast of St. Lo.

It took an active part in the break-through west of St. Lo late last month and was in some of the most desperate fighting of its career in the vicinity of Mortain. The Division had taken a leading part in the advance westward to the See River and then it withdrew to a bivouac area to rest and refit. It had neither rest or refit for in the early hours of August 7, an enemy counter-attack at Mortain threatened to cut through to Arranches. The Third Armored was rushed into action again on one and a half hours notice.

The Division has taken more than 5000 prisoners and killed about half that number of the enemy. It has destroyed hundred of enemy vehicles. It is commanded now by an alert, modest, youngish general from Colorado, who pushes his men to the limit, though he leaves them and goes himself wherever he sends his men. He is never ruffled no matter how tough the fight is.

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#### THIRD ARMORED UNIT SPEARHEAD BREACH DRIVE

(From a Dallas, Texas paper)

BY RICHARD TREGASKIS

With the U.S. First Army, (the) Identity of the American "flying columns" that slashed across France from the Seine River, through Belgium and into Germany in 19 days was disclosed officially Monday.

Now it can be told that it was the crack U.S. Third Armored Division that scored one of the most spectacular advances of the campaign in the West thus far.

The swiftness of the Third's drive which spearheaded the entire First Army from the Seine to the Siegfried Line at better than a mile-an-hour clip, was due to the cunning and skill of its commanders and the willingness to brush aside the orthodox text book rules when necessary.

After beginning the push the night of Aug. 25th, the Third crossed the Seine at Corbiol the next day, plunged over the Belgium-French border Sept. 2nd and drove through Belgium in 10 days. It can also be disclosed that the 9th Infantry Division was the first to cross the Belgian border from France on the morning of Sept. 2nd.

#### GENERAL LEADS HIS DIVISION

Riding at the head of his troops, was the Third's Commanding General, a tough soldier whose daring won him the Silver Star three times. The division reached the town of Roetgen on the afternoon of Sept. 12th, leaving a defeated enemy in its wake.

In the drive to Mons, Belgium the Division moved so rapidly that close to 40,000 Germans were trapped while attempting to reach the German border to man the Siegfried Line.



Most of the Germans never left the Mons area. Having cut the enemy off, the division left the business of rounding up the Nazis up to the First Infantry Division, which followed at its heels, and about 30,000 were captured and 5,000 killed.

The armored division met some stubborn opposition as its tanks, half-tracks, and self-propelled artillery dash<sup>ed</sup> across Belgium in several columns. It captured CHARLEROI, NAMUR, LIEGE, EUPEN, and then ROETGEN.

This correspondent accompanied the division on its drive which averaged about 16 airline miles a day and 25 or 26 on the open road.

It was the Third division that had been in the forefront of the First Army's drive from PERIERES in the ST. LO area in France, participating in the right hook maneuver that eventually led to the rout of the enemy, and encountered some of its stiffest fighting appearing through the RENES area to the ARGENTAN-PALAISE pocket.

Commenting on the drive from the Seine to the Siegfried Line, a corps commander said:

"We violated every known principle of maintenance of armored vehicles and hoped that they would hold together. They did."

The advance was not achieved without cost. Losses were high.

Lt. Col. William B. Lovelady of Soddy, Tenn., led the Thirds foremost column most of the way across Belgium and it was the first to enter Germany. On his flanks were columns led by Lt. Col. Roswell H. King of Uxbridge, Mass., and Lt. Col. Leander L. Doan of Syracuse, New York.

Identify of the Thirds higher ranking officers were not released immediately by headquarters.

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#### EXTRACT FROM A WASHINGTON NEWSPAPER

#### YANK DIVISION LED TANK SMASH ACROSS BELGIUM

By Robert Reuben

UNITED STATES FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Oct. 2 (Reuters)--It was disclosed today that the American Third Armored Division was the now famous--but never named--motorized column that spearheaded the American drive through Belgium. Fighting its way from the Seine in France to the German border in 27 days of military history.

Leading the division--and riding always at the front of his troops--was the commanding general, a tough daring soldier, three times winner of the Silver Star, who rose from the enlisted ranks and became a lieutenant in the last war at the age of seventeen.

The division, which originally was one of the units that lead the breakthrough west of Saint Lo and later helped encircle and annihilate a large piece of the German Seventh Army, began its drive through Germany on the night of August 25th when it received orders to bridge the Rhine and head for Belgium.

#### Chateau Thierry

Striking into eastern France in (multiple column) formation, shooting armored units side by side, but miles apart down the various roads, the commanding general and his motorized troops captured Chateau Thierry and fought thru the battlefields famous in the previous war.

Despite tank destroyer and armored opposition, the division crossed the Meuse, captured Meaux and drove through Soissons, bivouacking that night in thickets in sight of enemy troops.

In addition to ceaseless pursuit and annihilation of German troops, the tanks and infantry destroyed pillboxes and once fought a running battle with German tanks aboard flat cars in a moving train, on the three trains shot up in one day by the division.



The division headed straight for Sedan, but on August 31st suddenly wheeled north, out across the border in Belgium with several columns and attacked and captured Mons.

The maneuver blocked off German Troops retreating to Germany and just before dawn on September 3d all hell broke loose when elements of several German divisions tried to breakthrough the armored lines.

Day and night the battle raged with service troops, engineers, linemen, cooks, military police, staff officers-almost everyone in the division-taken part in the wild melee that at one time was battling in the area of divisional command post.

#### NAZI GENERALS CAPTURED

And when it ended, thousands of ragged German prisoners were marching back into France. Several German generals were prisoners of war, and the fields around Mons were littered with dead Germans and endless columns of shotup German vehicles.

Without a pause, the division took off for Namur, liberating town after town as it went. Despite uncertain supply conditions, the crack division engineers bridged the Meuse and the division went through Namur and headed for the key highway hub of Liege.

Gas and other supplies lagged behind the columns, and jerry planes harassed them sporadically, but Liege was surrounded and fell in quick order with German troops now completely disorganized and in wild flight, leaving the city only a few hours before the Americans arrived. One German General was killed here and another captured.

Near Vervier a large warehouse was captured full of perishable supplies and for several days Yank soldiers smoked the best German cigars and ate German candy. Many for the first time in weeks took showers at a nunnery which threw open its doors to the liberators. And for the first time since leaving America, the doughboys found ice cream-and ate it by the gallon.

#### COLD RECEPTION

The village of Eupen, half German and half Belgium and giving the yanks a glum and cold reception, fell next as the division began feeling out the German Siegfried line. On September 12th the border crossing was made. Tank raced in through Phosphorous smoke. Engineers moved into pillboxes and blow them up. Tank dozers covered dragon teeth with dirt and the column breached the famous West Wall. Rootgen, first German township to fall was captured that day.

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#### EXTRACT FROM TIME --- September 18, 1944

BATTLE OF MONS:-- (The First great field battle of World War I took place at Mons in Belgium where a victorious German Army driving hard after the out-generaled and defeated allies, came up with Britain's "contemptible little" professional army - (80,000 men). General von Kluck threw 250,000 men against them. But the old contemptibles stood their ground until their ranks were shot through and through.

Time correspondent Jack Halpern called the following account of the battle of Mons (continued from World War I), as it was fought last week with victorious Americans driving hard after an out-generaled and defeated German Army:)

The German General sat on the iron ladder inside the sugar refinery and stared at his black polished boots. From behind stilled forms of the factory machinery a score of German officers peered questioningly at him but he gave no sign. There was no motion around him save the wisps of smoke that curled up around his bowed head as he puffed pensively on a fat Manila cigar.

Outside the refinery the dead peopled the fields in attitudes of grotesque helplessness. The wounded lay amid the still burning wreckage of smashed German motor columns; they were so many that there was no way to evacuate them.



On the roads the prisoners marched eight abreast in a column a mile long and a Belgian woman danced up and down with her finger across her throat screeching - "Kaput Hitler!"

#### THE HOME STRETCH

It was the end of the trail for the German commander. He and other generals with remnants of five divisions that tried to break out of Belgium into Germany to get behind the West Wall. But they had failed. Within 48 hours one U.S. Armored and one U.S. Infantry division had trapped and virtually destroyed them. Nearly 25,000 prisoners had been taken and two or three thousand killed.

The battle of Mons will rank as one of the most decisive battles in our campaign in Europe, for it was here that the German rear guard was smashed. Regardless of its importance, however, it will rank as one of the most curious battles of the war--curious in that neither the German nor American commands, both marching north on a parallel roads, expected a battle of such magnitude.

#### RAIN OF DEATH.

The two forces collided on the morning of Sept. 3 southwest of Mons. Fighter planes operating with the advance armor early discovered nearly 1,500 enemy vehicles heading eastward toward the American lines, and immediately attacked them. Jammed on the roads in double and triple columns, the Germans still pressed eastward, for to them that was the way to safety and Germany.

By 9 a.m. two enemy columns began converging on Mons, striking the tail of our advanced armored unit in that city. The armor was soon cut off and encircled and the commander asked the infantry, which was following for mopping-up to hurry to his aid.

This infantry had already prepared for an attack and was moving northward. Their advance soon carried them against the whole length of the German columns which, thus caught on both flanks was squeezed between the armored and infantry and raped by a murderous cross fire. Soon every highway, road and country lane in the area was a mass of burning, wrecked vehicles. There seldom has been such a quick mass slaughter as this. The battle of the Falaise gap was several days in the developing, but the slaughter decimation and dispersion of 20,000 to 30,000 Germans in the Maubeuge-Mons area took place within a few hours.

German tanks in the middle of truck and passenger-vehicle columns were shot and blasted, careening over cars locking the columns. I saw one double column over a mile long--and I did not discover the end of it--which only a few vehicles had not been burned or smashed, Volkswagon, Sedans, ack-ack trucks, ammunition carriers, 47-mm guns and hundreds of bicycles were irretrievably snarled.

#### ROUNDUP

By ten in the morning Lt. General Ruediger von Hoyking had surrendered. When the masters of the master race capitulated. The rank and file became thoroughly bewildered. Some fled south to escape through the fields but fell in droves before our small arms fire. Within the perimeter organized by our Armored division around Mons no front or rear existed. Headquarters troops and M.P.'s who normally do not do any fighting captured over 600 thoroughly demoralized Germans. Confused and rioting German enlisted men often broke away from officers to surrender. Some German officers sent notes to our lines saying that they would surrender fifty men an hour.

One American company captured over 2000 prisoners. A captain in that company took 200 himself merely by going out with a white flag to the German lines. Battalions often could not fight because they were overwhelmed by prisoners. At one time a division cage had 10,000 men in it.

#### FREE PARKING

Throughout Sept 3, 4, 5, the German columns following behind the original columns and unaware of the trap that had been sprung continued to bump into our lines around Mons. An American M.P. directing traffic during the night discovered that he had just motioned a Mark V tank into the assembly area and the German tank had obediently followed his hand signal. Another civilian car loaded with German officers blithely rode into the middle of an American tank column before it was discovered by an officer in a jeep and shot up.



While our armor was pushing on toward Germany, our infantry had stayed in position acting much as a short stop catching everything that the Germans have batted their way. It is no longer a question of individual Germans surrendering here and there. They are surrendering in groups of three, four and five hundred. There are no longer enough trucks to handle the prisoners still pouring in.

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EXTRACT FROM STARS & STRIPES, Oct. 12, 1944.

The Third Armored Division has a lanky Texan named Lafayette Pool who may be the world's greatest tank man.

In his Sherman called "In the Mood" Pool has killed more than 1,000 Germans. He has destroyed 258 German vehicles and captured 250 prisoners, according to Third Armored headquarters.

On 21 occasions, Pool, a former Sinton (Tex) boxer, rode point for the division. He is a tall, quiet guy, with a boxer's nose and a passion for beating Germans.

The crew of In the Mood has been broken up now except for redheaded Wilbert Richards, of Cumberland, Md., and Bert Close, of Portland, Ore. Those two are driver and assistant driver of a tank still up front. Others of the crew were Cpl. Willis Ollar, of Morrisonville, Ill., and Sgt Del Boggs, of Lancaster, Ohio.

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FROM STARS AND STRIPES October 11, 1944

Tanker Lloyd Rinker, of Retan, Texas, made a bad mistake when the Third Armored Division pushed through Liege. Some enthusiastic Frenchmen handed Rinker a paper parcel containing six sandwiches for the crew. Rinker thanked the Frenchman and put the sandwiches on the tank transmission beside him.

Two minutes later Rinker knew his mistake. The sandwiches weren't cheese, they were ice cream.

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FROM STARS AND STRIPES October 7, 1944

THE THIRD ARMORED DIVISION has a phrase for the German girls they have found shacking up in the cute little bungalows along the German border which turn out to be pillboxes with red roofs. The girls have been dubbed "Pillbox Annie's" by the tankmen.

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FROM STARS & STRIPES, October 25, 1944

RAPID RISE

When 2d Lieutenant George V. Bussey, of Jasper, Georgia, joined the 3d Armored Division 42 months ago he was made division message center officer. Now he's Lt. Colonel George Bussey, division signal officer.



## Spectacular Gains Made by Unit in Driving From Seine to Germany in 19 Days.

By Richard Tregaskis

With the United States First Army--(IHS)--It can now be told that the American Third Armored Division spearheaded the entire United States First Army forces from the river Seine to the Siegfried Line.

This division made one of the most spectacular advances of the whole campaign in the west. It took this crack spearhead division just 19 days from forcing the first crossing of the Seine on Aug 26th at Corbeil to reach the German border.

In only 10 days the division drove across Belgium, crossing the Belgian-French border on September 2nd and reaching Roetgen, Germany, the afternoon of September 12th.

In its drive to Mons, Belgium, the division moved so rapidly that it trapped close to 40,000 German troops attempting to reach the German border and man the Siegfried Line.

But most of the Germans never left Mons. Having cut the enemy off, the Third Armored Division left the business of rounding up the enemy to the First Infantry Division which was traveling behind. About 30,000 Germans were captured and about 5,000 wounded or killed.

### Captures Many Towns.

The armored division, consisting of tanks, half-tracks, and self-propelled artillery, dashed in several columns across Belgium, bowling over the enemy, which often was most stubborn.

This unit captured Charleroi, Namur, Liege, Eupen, and Roetgen. Your correspondent had the hectic privilege of accompanying that drive, which averaged about 16 miles a day air line and about 25 miles by actual road. The pace never flagged. Men and officers whipped themselves to continue unceasingly although fatigue dragged every motion. They knew the war would end more quickly and with fewer casualties if they kept the enemy off balance.

It was misery pushing through that incinerator of dust which is the progress of an armored column from dawn until black night but the men fought with marvelous cunning and skill in the intricate maneuvers of modern warfare.

Then it was a case of "coiling up" for the night in fields, working late to prepare for the next day's push, snatching a few hours sleep in the cold and wet--and always outmaneuvering the enemy.

### Violate Principles.

It now also can be revealed that the Ninth Infantry Division was the first to cross the French-Belgian border on the morning of September 2nd.

The record drive across Belgium was particularly notable because the Third Armored Division had been in the forefront of the entire First Army drive from the Perrier-St. Lo area through stiffest battling in the Rennes area to the Argentan-Falaise pocket.

In the drives across France and Belgium into Germany--as the corps commander put it--"we violated every known principle of the maintenance of

armored vehicles and hoped they'd hold together. They did."

The most amazing thing in this chronicle of human endurance and persistence was the fact that the Third Armored Division still had the strength to be the first to carry into the Siegfried Line and with the aid of the First Infantry Division to pass completely through that line, breaking the double fortifications south of Aachen and penetrating farther into Germany than any other outfit.

...which totaled high.



*Call*  
Published Wednesday, 4 October 1944 in New York Sun

### THIRD ARMORED DIVISION LEADS WAY

Sun Reporter Reveals It Was This Unit That Brought Blitz Home to Germany.

By W. C. Heinz, Staff Correspondent of the New York Sun.

With the First Army in Germany, Oct. 4--It now may be revealed that the unit that spearheaded the American drive from the banks of the Seine to the borders of the Reich was the Third Armored Division of the First Army.

This outfit is made up of a lot of fighting guys who in odd moments when they weren't cutting the Germans to ribbons were running up to you and asking why everybody was writing about the Third Army and not about the Third Armored Division. It was difficult to explain to these guys that censorship allows you to write about armies in the line, but not about divisions.

It was especially difficult when they showed you a letter just arrived from home which remarked what a wonderful job General Patton and his boys must be doing.

"Why, we're the guys who took Soissons and Chateau Thierry," these G.I. guys would shout, and some of them would be quite mad. "But in the Stars and Stripes, we read that it was the Third Army. What's the matter with you writing guys, anyway?"

You couldn't know how many guys shouted things like that all the way across Belgium. They shouted it at you while they were digging in as you went by, and you remember one tank sergeant who had to shout very loud because incoming mortar shells were plopping all around. "Dammit!" he was shouting--and you thought he was going to take you apart--"you're a newspaper guy, and I've just got to get this off my mind...."

So you stood there and nodded your head up and down while the sergeant shouted at you, and you tried to pull your helmet down to your waist, as you do every time stuff seems to be coming in faster than it's going out, and you waited for censorship to give you the go-ahead on one of the most amazing divisions in this campaign.

You think you know a little about this spearhead division, because you were with it from the time it crossed the Belgian border at 4 P.M. on September 2nd until it crossed the German border at 2:15 P.M. on September 12. With the Ninth Infantry on the right and the First Infantry on the left filling in behind, they brought the blitzkrieg right back to the land of its birth, at a speed its inventors never dreamed was possible.

### Front-line General.

But what you learned from the Third Armored Division is that an armored division is not only what it looks on paper, is not only tanks and self-propelled guns and armored cars, but is mostly men from the general down to the G.I.'s. Major General Laurice C. Rose came out of the first world war as a second lieutenant, and the first time you saw him in this war



he was in a jeep about sixty feet behind the first tanks as they crossed the Belgian line. You don't see many generals up there.

That first night in Belgium was the night the Tiger tanks were crashing through the command post trying out the way, and you don't find command posts up that far. You don't find many headquarters companies taking a couple of hundred prisoners a day either.

"In this division," said Private Angelo Vaccaro of 17 St. Joseph's Street, New Rochelle, N.Y., that day when he was giving you one of those New Rochelle haircuts, "we've got the best officers in the whole American Army. Me? I'm just a private, but I know."

Then there was that afternoon of September 19 on that hillside, just on the western outskirts of Stolberg. At the top of the hill, about ~~100 yards away~~, the tank that had been first in our line was burning, and bits of flying shrapnel were clunking off of guys' helmets. And you watched the general to see if he wouldn't duck just once. He didn't, and the junior officers didn't duck either.

But an armored division, among other things, is maps, too, and telephone wire. It took 300,000 maps to get this division from the beaches of France to the borders of the Reich, and there were tires when the division was moving so fast that it had to push off with nothing but French road maps, before Capt. William Fairchild of Hutchinson, Kan., could get tactical maps for it. There are guys, too, like Staff Sergeant Kenneth Doncaster of St. Petersburg, Fla., who have to take those maps up to companies in the middle of night under fire.

And when you asked Lieutenant Robert L. Milnes of Chicago who the New Yorkers might be who helped to string 1,300 miles of telephone wire from division headquarters to the combat commands of this armor on the move, you found you couldn't publish the names anyway. There were only two; one was killed and the other was wounded.

Then there is that self-propelled, automatic weapon, anti-aircraft company of Capt. Bill Frewett of Corpus Christi, Tex., which is really an anti-anything outfit. To their credit they have three tanks, a dozen half-tracks, thirty trucks loaded with personnel, and one troop train.

When the historians finally get around to writing the history books, they may eventually do justice to the Third Armored Division. They may get around to telling how in ten days it liberated Mons, Charleroi, Namur, Verviers and Liege in Belgium and was the first division to capture a German town. But that is unimportant now. What is important is that when you see the Third Armored Division again you hope those G.I.'s will stop shouting at you—especially when mortar shells and heavy stuff seems to be coming in faster than it's going out.

*You can tell by this that it was the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Armored and not the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army that  
was doing all the fighting.*

*Love  
Leonard*



162 119  
by Tom Henry  
War Correspondent, Washington Star

WITH THE 3RD ARMORED DIVISION ACROSS THE RHINE - (Mar 28) - Since dawn, as fast as an armored column can move, we have been dashing towards the heart of Germany with the spearhead of the First Army through the shambles of artillery-mown forests, roads strewn with the pathetic debris of a broken, defeated army, such as discarded uniforms, gas-masks, helmets and rifles.

I paused to write shortly after noon, with the forward elements already 72 miles beyond the Rhine and reports of only disintegration ahead. The big town of Harburg fell a few minutes ago.

In a few hours of bright moonlight last night, one infantry liaison officer, Lt. Robert Nollenberger of Glendale, Calif., captured unaided four German towns and 23 military prisoners. As he drove through, civilians lined up with their weapons in a pile, waiting to surrender. The division's map officer, Lt. Edward Nelson of Philadelphia, worked all night preparing maps of the country ahead, our progress was so unexpectedly fast.

Once before I witnessed a similar progress as the First Army pushed across Belgium on the tails of the retreating Germans in September from Mons to Siegfried Line, but it was vastly different than as wild mobs of liberated people pelted us with Autumn flowers and smothered us with kisses. Now, there is only sullen hopelessness in the towns, bitter hate or cringing fear on the faces. Germany is now paying the price in these wonderful spring days when the fields are blue with violets. These folks have not known a conqueror before who treated them better than they expected.

Last evening we billeted in a fine home in a town that we just entered. We told the family to clear their belongings from the best room, which was occupied by the daughter. When I told her to take the eiderdown quilt from the bed, on which she could sleep on the kitchen floor, she eyed me with amazement and thanked me with tears in her eyes. Such is not the German way. Our rough treatment is much kinder than they expected. Still we find the inevitable impertinent small boys and grimy little girls homeless for the time-being and clutching dolls, in the fields!

This day was a great victory parade crowded with incidents. The only ones glad to see us were the increasing numbers of French still in soldier's uniform who appear at every crossroad, free after four years. It was a perfect air-way day with planes sweeping ahead of the tanks, clearing out the gun-positions of the few of the enemy still resisting.

The major event of last night was the capture of the big town of Herbrun on the Dill River with its great insane asylum, converted into a military hospital, with 5,300 German and seven American wounded there. "Conditions are very bad", said Capt. Samuel Cohn of Hartford, Conn., medical officer who took out the Americans. There were shortages of everything. The hospital was commanded by a one-legged paratroop lieutenant, an Africa veteran



who commanded doctors who were evidently suspected of not being good Nazis.

There were only badly wounded in the hospital, as all the sick who were able to pull triggers were taken out days ago and formed into convalescent battalions for the Reich's last hopeless defense.

The whole town was undermined with great tunnels leading to the hospital. About five miles of these were explored by Lt. Gene Schwartzbeck and his men in pitch-dark last night. "The weirdest place I was ever in," said the officer. One branch led directly to a temporary confinement place for a hundred maniacs.

A great deal of lousiness and several cases of typhus were found among the German wounded in this hospital and in a worse one captured yesterday. This is a development of the past few weeks, but no epidemic is feared. All were dusted with the new potent American louse-powder.

Next, the same battalion captured an optical factory making gun-sights, with 200 foreign workers. The place was horribly filthy.

Prisoners taken everywhere are either very good or very bad soldiers. There is no middle ground. Some are members of the finest panzer divisions, while others are men in the army less than a week, wearing only scraps of uniforms. They have no idea how to fire the guns issued to them.

The biggest thrill was overrunning a political prison with Germans, Belgians, Dutch and an Englishman who was a policeman on the island of Guernsey, sentenced to three years for sabotage. The Englishman says there are about 6,000 Channel Islanders distributed among German cities. Many of the prisoners were convicted for listening to English broadcasts, including three Germans. One man was a former prominent Dutch labor leader who took a major part in organizing a big strike in the war industries of Amsterdam. He showed me mimeographed sheets of paper, prepared in thousands by the anti-Nazi German underground. When the town was bombed during the past two weeks the leaflets would be scattered over the debris. The text ran: "put white flags out of the windows. The day of the brown devil has passed. The cowardly brown shirts have fled. Soldiers, Citizens, let us save our homes"

We are now passing through country where there is not so much destruction. Apparently we have broken through the shell of German resistance. But it is still not quite Belgium. There is the hollow thud of the guns, far away. The point of this javelin the First Army is hurling at the heart of Germany must be miles away now.



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(EXTRACTED FROM AN ENGLISH PAPER)

"FROM THE SEINE TO GERMANY"

By Robert Reuben

U.S. Army H.Q. Monday.--The American Third Armored Division was the spearhead of the United States drive through Belgium, fighting its way from the Seine to the German border in twenty-seven days, it is now disclosed.

Leading the Division and riding always at the front of his troops was the Commanding General, a tough, daring soldier, winner of the Silver Star three times, who rose from the enlisted ranks, and became a lieutenant in the last War at the age of seventeen.

Started at St. Lo.

The Division, originally one of the units that lead the breakthrough west of St. Lo and later helped to encircle and destroy a large section of the German Seventh Army--began its drive on the night of August 25th, when it received orders to bridge the Seine and head for Belgium.

Striking into Eastern France in "multiple column" formations and in the face of tank, tank destroyer, and armored opposition, the Division crossed the Marne, captured Meaux, and drove through Soissons. The Division headed straight for Sedan, but on August 31st suddenly wheeled north, cut across the border into Belgium with several columns and captured Mons.

The maneuver blocked off German troops retreating into Germany, and just before dawn on September 3rd elements of several German divisions tried to break through the armored lines. Day and night the battle raged with service troops, engineers, cooks, military police, staff officers taking part in the melee that at one time was battling in the area of the Division Command Post.

Town after Town Liberated.

Without pause the Division pushed off for Namur, liberating town after town as it went. Despite uncertain supply conditions the crack Division engineers bridged the Meuse, and the Division went through Namur, and headed for Liege. Gas and other supplies lagged behind the columns, but Liege was surrounded and fell in quick order.

Roetgen, first German township to fall, was captured that day. The village of Eupen, half German and half Belgian, fell next as the Division began feeling out the Siegfried Line. On September 12th, the column breached the famous West Wall.--REUTER.

(OVER)



1/2  
JTB

(EXTRACTED FROM "STARS AND STRIPES")

Thursday, October 5, 1944

### FIRST INFANTRY, THIRD ARMORED WIN PLAUDITS

First Army Hq., Oct. 4--The First Infantry Division and the Third Armored Division comprised the crack "first team" which drove a steel wedge completely through the Siegfried Line east of Aachen, it was revealed today when the outfits were taken off the restricted list for action through September 2nd.

The divisions first joined forces south of Saint-Lo, before the great breakthrough there. The Ninth Division pushed halfway down the road to Marigny, and then the First and Third shot through straight to Marigny. There the team swung southeast to Coutances to complete their part in that operation.

The First is one of America's most famous divisions. In World War I, it was the first American division to land in France. In this war, it was hand-picked for the tough assignment of the invasion of North Africa and capture of Oran.

After cleaning up in North Africa, the First hit the beaches of Sicily at Gela on July 10th and a little more than a year later the famed infantry division piled ashore in Normandy near Colleville-sur-Mer.

On the beaches, the First ran into an extra German division which had been shipped to the area two days before the invasion for maneuvers. The First overcame the opposition and pushed inland.

First Army intelligence officers give much credit to the First Infantry and Third Armored for winning the battle for the Siegfried Line way back at Mons. There, within four days, the First took 17,000 prisoners, many of whom had been destined to man the defenses of the German wall.

The First is commanded by Major General Clarence R. Huebner. The name of the Third Armored commander has not been released.

The Third Armored Division has taken more than 20,000 prisoners since D-Day.

(OVER)



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(EXTRACTED FROM AN ENGLISH PAPER)

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(OVER)



## FIRST ARMOR RACES EAST, ALMOST WITHOUT CHALLENGE

By Andy Rooney

WITH THE FIRST U.S. ARMY ARMORED SPEARHEAD, GERMANY, - Mar 30 (Delayed) -- This armored force raced 100 miles farther into the heart of Germany yesterday in one of the greatest armored blitzkreig the war has yet produced.

Medium and light tanks, half-tracks, jeeps bristling with machine guns, and six by six supply truck trains raced over the German roads and fields at a breakneck speed. German resistance is described as "none at all" in some places to "moderate" in others.

The desperate German High Command yesterday raced a high speed express to many of the towns in the path of advance of one of the armored columns, of the spearhead force, dropping from 10 to 30 SS men at each town with bazookas, ammunition and do or die orders to slow the advance.

### NAZI PW's CROWD ROADS

Issuing words of warning such as "roads cleared of Germans to shoulders only," the tanks drive their rumbling vehicles at top speed 18 to 20 hours a day. All through the day, German soldiers stream out of the woods and field to give themselves up, and the roads back are literally crowded with a flow of German prisoners and multi-uniformed force laborers who start migrating out of Germany the minute they are released by the leading American forces.

The spearhead knocked out 450 German vehicles in yesterday's advance. German officers who thought they were escaping over dirty roads off the main highway, time and again ran into U.S. forces cutting overland to avoid passing through the narrow-streeted towns.

One small German command car which bumped into the American column apparently thought its strength was limited to the three tanks which the two officers in the car could see from their side of the road. One officer opened up with small arms fire, and in return, 37mm fire from another tank clipped off the heads of the two officers neatly at the shoulder level.

While resistance is described as light and crumbling, armored men have found "crumbling German resistance" still kills Americans. One tank was hit by bazooka fire from a distance of 20 yards, Infantrymen riding the tank scrambled off, then the tankers poured out as the Sherman caught fire and burned. One man was killed.



An advance recon outfit high-tailed it through the German town of Neider-Marsburg without resistance. When the heavy outfits of the column started to roll through, they found they had a firefight on their hands. Infantrymen scrambled off the tanks and headed for the village.

"There are a bunch of SS men here who want this damned town worse than we do," the lieutenant in command of the infantrymen radioed back

Several high-ranking German officers were captured in the advance which caught the rear-line troops listening to their radioed broadcasts of "American advances several miles east of the Rhine."

Field Marshall Rommel's personal physician was among those captured. He has not been with Rommel since the Desert Rat days in North Africa. The tall, sandy-haired colonel said Rommel was killed in Normandy, whereas German report claimed Rommel was not killed until the American troops had pushed into the vicinity of Chartres.

#### Two Nazi Trains Halted

Two German trains were bagged by the advancing armor yesterday. One four-car express roared along the tracks on a high ridge. If it had continued it would have cut through the armored columns which were deployed like a great naval task force through German grain fields. An ack-ack outfit in the middle of the column lowered their high velocity guns and clipped the cabin of the moving train with their first volley, stopping the German express literally in its tracks.

Another German ammunition train of approximately 58 cars was destroyed as it rounded a long slow curve in the basin of a valley. Large and small rounds of ammunition exploded all through the night and the succeeding elements of the column which passed the wreck in the valley thought they were running into their first heavy German fire until they were told that the artillery was all friendly.

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by Walter Farr  
War Correspondent, London Daily Mail

WITH THE 3RD ARMORED DIVISION SPEARHEADING HODGES' FIRST US ARMY - (April 1) - The battle to exterminate the last remnants of the defeated Wehrmacht rages tonight on the watershed between the Weser river and the Ems river.

Gen. Montgomery's spearheads and Gen. Hodges' breakthrough force which a week ago were more than a hundred miles apart have drawn close to each other and are already synchronizing their drive



There's now absolutely no doubt that the great mass of German people are ready to surrender unconditionally. They hoist white flags and the mayor in each village has all weapons rounded up for us hours before our spearheads arrive. One village waited ten hours for Allied columns to turn up. The mayor stood in the main street with a white flag all afternoon. Eventually one of our messengers passed through and they rushed up to him to surrender the village. The mayor said he couldn't understand why, having decided to surrender, he had to wait about like this.

Reports we get from the people who have come from Berlin indicate Hitler has either ceased to issue orders or his orders are failing to reach their destination because of the communication-chaos.

We hear reports that Hitler issued a proclamation stating that come-what-may he will not fail the Reich and that the Allies will never succeed in smashing Nazi resistance. It's reported he has abandoned Berchtesgaden and has gone into hiding.

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### TANKS USING INDIAN WARFARE TACTICS Old Covered Wagon Days in American West Recalled On Plains of Westphalia

By W. C. Heinz

With the Third Armored Division in Germany, April 3. - For a week now American tanks have been running wild in the Reich, and if you are trying to imagine what this is like you might try to picture the Indian warfare of the old covered wagon days in the American West.

What happens, of course, is that for days and sometimes for weeks or months the infantry bats its head against the enemy wall of men and machines, then there are signs that the wall is cracking and they send in armor. Sometimes the armor is stopped, as it was many times before the Roer was crossed, and usually it has tough going when they first send it in, but finally the wall cracks wide open and then it is like the Indian warfare of the covered wagon days.

That is what it reminded you of, anyway, back in France and Belgium and what it reminds you of now as you stand on a naked hill and watch the armor roll across Westphalia. Far down across the rolling fields to the right it is a long, thin line of almost indistinguishable vehicles, almost hidden in their own swirling yellow dust, and beyond are the blue-gray hills and here and there the blue smoke is rising from what might have been burning wagons, but are burning tanks or a lone burning building instead.

When the tanks move out, they move out like the wagons did, too. They move out with their scouts in front of them and even as in the old days the job of a scout is one of the toughest in this war.



Both had considerable enemy forces to overcome when they began. Both have smashed through these forces at a speed rarely paralleled in military history.

We attacked in the vicinity of the town of Siegen and now dominate key positions around it. Remnants of panzer divisions numbering ten to fifteen thousand are in the pocket enclosed by the Hodges-Bradley pincers and have so far made no serious attempt to break out.

General Maurice Rose's 3rd Armored task-forces two days ago advanced the incredible distance of ninety miles in one day, which is probably a record for any armored drive.

The confusion and paralysis in the enemy's ranks may be judged from the fact that at one moment an infantry division had exposed flank thirty miles in length. With enemy troops all along that flank, the Hun was unable to muster his men soon enough to pass through the gaps. It's too late now.

Monty and Bradley have forged the horseshoe of steel around the Ruhr. Hodges' men are fighting along Napoleon's battle trails. It's still an even bet as to which army will be first to be in position to make the straight run to Berlin. Everyone asks: "Heard anything about the Russians starting to move?"

This tank column has been moving almost continuously for an average of 17 hours daily for five days. The only time it stopped was to fight. The men took turns sleeping in their tanks and trucks along the road. To while away the weary hours of traveling some men rigged blankets up over them in the open trucks and played poker underneath.

Despite the rush to the plain some units managed to pause long enough to hold Easter Divine services. Outside the officers mess in this unit, parked on the roadside, the caterer chalked on a board today: "Special Easter Breakfast - Two Fresh Eggs." We didn't believe the notice but it was true. We each had two eggs from a large stock which the enemy had abandoned in farmhouses.

One of the most dangerous jobs in this drive is that of the liaison officer. If he takes a wrong turn or even if he takes the right road, he is liable to be cut off by SS units attacking the roads from the woods. These attacks are getting fewer as we advance. The safest people up here are the men doing the fighting because they are all in good, thickly-armored tanks. Our losses have been small. The enemy's obstruction is unworthy of name of rearguard action.

It was an extraordinary scene at Niedermarburg station when our tanks began shooting up a train from Berlin. Smartly dressed women shook with terror. Accompanied by their staff-officer husbands, they had believed all Goebbels stories about the Allied spearheads having been "annihilated", and when they took the train to Marburg, they thought they were headed for a quiet rural atmosphere far from the war. The staff officers were all in their immaculate uniforms. There was an Easter holiday atmosphere. "It's a great shock to us" was all they could say.



the criss-crossing of red and white tracer bullets in the dark.

If you at home are trying to picture what this is like here when you read that American tanks are running wild in the Reich, think of movies you have seen like "The Covered Wagon" and "Buffalo Bill."

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### Iris Carpenter on "Lucky" Rose

#### Slain By Boy Troopers as He Lowered Hands

WITH THE 1ST ARMY, April 3 - Nothing inside or outside "Rose's Bag" - for, as far as any one man should be credited for the bag, it should be the commander who made the greatest armor in history zip it shut - concerns troops massed around it today so much as the news that Rose is dead.

"Lucky" Rose's luck has broken at last. At 6 o'clock last Friday night Maj Gen Maurice Rose, commander of the famous spear-head armored division, was shot by school troops of the Westphalian SS.

At that time his armored columns were three miles or so from Paderborn on their way to making that spectacular link-up with the 2d Division of the 9th Army to cut off 4000 square miles of the Ruhr and all it contains.

Task Force Welborn and Task Force Doan, converging on one town, had run into stiff opposition from two SS divisions from the Nazi school at Paderborn which is a famous refitting and training center for German troops.

These boys - young fanatics, 16 to 17 years of age, were equipped with bazookas mounted on tanks on which they learned the theory of armored warfare and were then sent out to practice in their first real battle on a field they knew as well as you know the view from your dining room window. They got reports of two tank columns racing towards them over rolling, hilly country clumped here and there with pine forests and they dispersed their tanks in those pine forests with observation over roads and open country across which our armor was approaching.

One group got into a fierce fight with Lt Col Welborn's column which was taking the easternmost route. Another group watched Col Leander Doan's tank columns going by and then opened fire on the following trucks, wiping out a number of them so that Doan had to send his tanks back to clean them up.

Gen Rose got all this over the radio, and then, as is his



A scouting group usually consists of a jeep, which is what the armored guys call a jeep, and one or two light, fast vehicles called scout cars and reconnaissance cars, and, of course, the guys who ride in them. The job of the guys who ride in them is not to fight the enemy, but to find out if he is there, and all there is between them and the reconnaissance group which follows is a radio link.

The reconnaissance unit is made up of light tanks, reconnaissance cars and armored half-tracks. Their job, if the enemy is found, is to feel him out, and, if not, to secure bridges and crossroads for the main columns.

When an armored division, such as this Third Armored Division starts to roll, it does not roll in one long column, spread out in back for eighty-five miles, but in at least three main columns, covering a front from five to twenty miles across. Each of these main columns, which are called combat commands, has smaller combat task forces working, and between all these units there always is some enemy, and often a lot.

That is what makes this resemble Indian warfare - the possible presence of the enemy in every woods and behind every hill. That is why no tank, no truck, no half-track, no jeep ever is entirely safe, once the infantry has made the breakthrough and the tanks have started to roll.

Traveling with one column, usually in the center, is the heart of the division, the divisional headquarters. These are the officers and the men with the big map boards and the files and the typewriters and the kitchen equipment loaded in the half-tracks and a few trucks and the jeeps, and yet with an armored division even the headquarters is only temporarily safe, because no one ever knows where the enemy will try to break through or where he is letting the tanks pass to get at the forces behind

That is the way an armored division moves from dawn to dusk and sometimes late into the night. Sometimes for hours and sometimes for days one unit or one column will be cut off from the others and often the whole division is cut off from the rest of the allied world.

And so, when you read that American armor is running wild in the Reich, don't forget that everywhere are two or three or four tanks in a vicious battle and that if you were in one tank you would find it difficult to tell the kids there that the war is almost over and that the Germans are licked. Don't forget, either, the liaison officers, the wire men, and the supply men who are riding, usually alone, trying to keep these units lined into one.

When, sometimes during the day, but usually not until night, the columns rest, they rest like the wagons did. Somewhere they pull into a field, not exactly in a circle, but in more of a hollow square, then the men sleep in their tanks or half-tracks, or beside them, and there are others who stay awake, and very often all are awakened and there is the rattle of small arms and



His men admired him, believed in him and were proud of him as they were of their division and no commander could ask or get more than that.

I met him first on a hillside in November when his tanks were fanning out over Duren plain. Clambering a muddy and precipitous path to an observation post I literally bumped him with my steel helmet. He told me it was far forward even for him. He described the battle tactics for me though, and I never called at his command post afterwards without his saying I had better come in and let him give me the battle picture so I would get it right.

He had a terrible memory and a great sense of humor. When I went to see him at Cologne he demanded a full explanation why the 2d Armored had been credited for a crossroads victory during the Battle of the Bulge. And because I was with Gen Allen's Timberwolves at the time, he remarked dryly that it was too bad I backed the wrong horse the day before.

Gen Rose was born in Connecticut in 1899. He is married, with a 4-year-old son.

He rose from the ranks. He won the Silver Star three times, first at Kasserine Pass, second at Bizerte, where he took a vehicle through the enemy lines to the German command post to arrange the capitulation of the 15th Panzer Division and the third cluster to the Star was won the Sicilian campaign when he spearheaded the tank attack on the town of Canicattì.

He assumed command of the 3d Armored Division Aug 7, 1944, coming from the 2d Armored where he held a combat command. During the battle of the Bulge where the 2d and 3d Armored were driving together for objectives, correspondents always insisted the hardest fighting of the day was the fight of the rival divisions to be first into every town.

Under his command "The Spearheads" have been in the breakthrough at St. Lo, in Falaise Gap, in the Seine River race to cut off Germans at Mons and breach the Siegfried Line. His division took Roetgen, first town captured by the Allies in Germany.

Entering Liege, in Belgium, he forged ahead as usual with the forward columns, sending correspondents back to the rear, "where it's rather safer."

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#### V-BOMB FACTORY CAPTURED WITHOUT FIGHT Underground Plant Only One in Reich

By G. K. Hodenfield

LAGER DORA, Germany, April 12 (Delayed) - An underground factory and assembly plant, said by slave laborers to be the only assembly plant in Germany for V2 bombs, was captured here last night without a fight by a task force from the Third Arm'd Div.



usual custom on these occasions, called for his jeep and his Aide, Maj Robert Bellinger, to see what was happening.

Following him in a halftrack went several other officers of his staff. They were to see what was holding up Welborn, and then cross from him to see Doan.

They found themselves in the middle of fierce tank fire from four or five Nazi tanks in a pine clump overlooking the road, and set off across country to find Doan, only to be caught under fire again from a Tiger tank lurking in the next pine clump.

A Tiger tank is no subject for anyone, even with the leonine courage of Gen Rose, to argue with. He and his party surrendered and received orders from a young Nazi who stood up in the turret to hose a verbal stream upon them.

Gen Rose, thinking he was being ordered to give up his arms, reached to slip his pistol holster from his shoulder, whereupon the tank immediately opened fire on the party who, with the exception of their general, who was shot twice through the head, took to the ditch.

It was the first holdup Rose's column had since breaking through the heavily defended belt east of the Rhine. Their attack jumped off Sunday, March 25, at dawn. All the way to Altenkircher resistance was rugged. Little did I know, as I waited for the lifting of the security blackout so we could tell the magnificent story, that Gen Rose would never see the culmination of his sweep into Marburg, and on up from there to Shear, clean across the eastern flank of the Ruhr, to cut off in the linkup with the 2d Armored at Lippstadt.

On Monday as we moved up to the next command post, Gen Rose teased me, as he always did, for not writing enough about the 3d Armored, and said that this time I had better come with them because they'd be moving much too fast for me to catch up with the story.

Jack Thompson, of the Chicago Tribune, Bunny Austin of the Sydney Morning Herald, Bill Heinz of the New York Sun, Tom Henry of the Washington Star, Gordon Fraser of the Blue Network and Andy Rooney of the Stars and Stripes, did go. It was from them, when they returned on Saturday to file their stories, we heard of the General's death.

Jack Thompson said that never in his experience has there been such an armored drive. They did 101 miles in one day, Rose had to beat his own record across France - and that took some doing.

More than any other general I have come to know on the Western Front in these past eight months, Maurice Rose personified the qualities of leadership. Very much a man, he was six feet tall with broad shoulders, brown eyes and a hard mouth across which smiles flickered without softening very much.



SS guards and most of the 22,000 forced workers left a week ago after bombardment of the town by the American air force.

One of the slave laborers who returned to await the Americans was Eddie, a 34-year-old Frenchman who lived 22 years in Lawrence, Mass. He told the complete story.

The factory consists of three tunnels, each a kilometer deep, into mountains and each bigger than the Holland Tunnel in New York. There are 42 connecting tunnels.

Work on the tunnels started nearly six years ago and V2 production got under way Sept 3, 1943. Parts for V2 bombs and engines were brought from Hanover, Dresden and other cities. V-bombs here are complete except for the war-head which was attached near the launching site.

Trains backed into the tunnels. The tunnel system had light, power, and even public address systems.

Eddie said it took 12 to 14 hours to assemble a V2. About six a day were completed. Production of V1s was faster.

Until last May workers were never allowed outside. They were on 18-hour shifts and those who faltered or fainted were beaten and whipped. SS guards murdered 22 men at one time by hanging them. This was not punishment - only an example.

As the tides of war turned against Germany, there arose within the factory a group of Germans known to the slave workers as Blacks. They began to treat the slaves more considerately.

SS men and others who insisted on brutality were known as Reds because of the blood they shed.

In May the Blacks obtained outside barracks for slave laborers and conditions improved a great deal although there were still eight to ten dying per day from malnutrition and beatings.

A tour of the tunnels showed thousands of V2s in the last stage of production. Chamber after chamber was filled with engines or fuel tanks or tail assembly.

Before SS and slave laborers marched away, guards supervised evacuation of much machinery and destruction of some of the rest. However, many machines are in working order.

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USUALLY IT'S TANKS BUT TELEPHONE DID THE JOB THIS TIME

WITH THIRD ARMD. DIV. - Clearing a town by telephone is the easy way to do it. During its thrust to the north to encircle the Ruhr Valley, the 83rd Recon Bn captured two towns which were cleared in this manner.



The division commander and several officers and IM were standing in the mayor's office at Husen, Germany, when the telephone rang. S/Sgt Gerald S. Schachne, of New York, picked up the received and answered in German.

Strangely enough, he was talking to the local troops' CO in Henglarn, a nearby town on the route of the advance. Under the guidance of the general, Schachne posed as the mayor of Husen and learned what forces were in Henglarn, told them of the impending danger and advised the town to be cleared of all German troops at once.

A search of the place then uncovered a list of telephone numbers. This time posing as a colonel from German Army, Gp B, the sergeant called the local troops' commander of Atteln, the next town, succeeded in learning troop strength and disposition, and gave a direct order to evacuate all the troops to the rear.

How successful the sergeant was, can only be estimated, but no organized resistance was met in the next two towns.



# THE DAILY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

War Department Hopes Supplies Will Keep Up With Fast-Moving Western Front; Supply Failure Has Been Fault of Army, Not Home Front; Attorney General Biddle Can't Sleep.

Hear Drew Pearson Over KRMD Every Sunday  
From 6:00 to 6:15 P. M.

Washington.—Over in the Pentagon building, the military problem which the generals are watching and worrying about most today is supplies. Actually it's not the production of supplies on the home front which so much concerns the army, but getting them from the channel ports to the fast-moving western front. If gasoline, bread and bullets can keep up with the tanks and armored cars of Generals Patton, Simpson and Hodges, then not much in the way of German resistance is expected.

But the inside fact is that during Patton's last lightning advance he ran out of gas and supplies; and he stayed out of gas and supplies for 12 long days. He was powerless to move. That was the turning point in the war last year.

This hitherto untold chapter of the western front campaign occurred in September, after Patton's spectacular tank dash across France to the edge of Germany. It reveals one of the sore spots in the European picture and one reason why the military schedule, which called for victory last autumn, got sidetracked.

General Patton, whom the Germans fear most, had been rushed out ahead and was being used as a decoy to divert attention from the 1st and 9th armies, which were scheduled to mass against the more vulnerable northwest German border. But Patton ran out of gasoline, and had to wait, chewing his nails, with empty fuel tanks.

General Eisenhower ordered mountains of supplies sent direct from the United States. But although civilian production at home got the blame, the real bottleneck was not in the United States, but with the entire distribution system in France. In fact, this has been the subject of drastic inside investigation by top generals in the Pentagon building.

## Red Ball Highway.

In the last war, U. S. transportation in France was under W. W. Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania railroad. In this war, transportation and supply distribution have been kept under professional army men. Instead of recruiting railroad and trucking experts, two West Pointers, Lieut. Gen. John Clifford Hodges Lee and his deputy, Brig. Gen. Royal B. Lord, took over the job.

Criticism of supply has been such inside the army that General Marshall ordered a per-

the invasion which never will be used.

Some day the Mead committee may dig out the real facts as to whether the supply breakdown was actually the fault of the home front—as maintained by the war department last fall. If so it will make interesting reading.

\* \* \*

## Night-Walker Biddle.

A young man with a radio in his car drove up to an apartment house in Washington called Dumbarton courts—not far from Dumbarton Oakes. He parked the car, went into the apartment where he lived, undressed, and went to bed.

Maybe he was drunk, maybe he was deaf. Anyway, he left his radio on—and loud. There it sat, blaring away into the night.

The house next to Dumbarton courts is the residence of the attorney general of the United States, Francis Biddle. The attorney general was in bed—asleep. But he was awakened pronto. So were other members of his family. Nobody will testify as to what Mr. Biddle said, but the chances are it was unprintable.

But what he did was much more effective. He put on a robe over his pajamas, walked out on the street, reached into the car and switched off the offending radio.

As he crawled back into bed the attorney general of the United States probably remarked "there ought to be a law against things like that!"

\* \* \*

## Miners' Strike Vote.

On the day the strike vote was taken among the bituminous coal miners, the national labor relations board paid \$35 a day to students of the University of West Virginia, both men and co-eds, to stand at the mouth of the mines and take the vote in the Morgantown area. The government also furnished transportation.

The college students worked a 12-hour day; but even so, some of them felt they were overpaid.

The ballot they asked the miners to sign as they came out of the mines read: "Do you wish to permit an interruption of war production in wartime as a result of this dispute?"

The mountaineers around Morgantown voted "yes," 8 to 1. Actually, many of them didn't want to vote that way, but on the other hand didn't want to let down their chief, John L. Lewis.

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# New Battle Like Cowboy-Indian War, Roving German Tanks Cause Chaos

By HAL BOYLE

IN BELGIUM, Dec. 25. — (P) — (Delayed) — This new battle for Belgium is cowboy and Indian warfare on a grand scale.

It is the reverse of our own victory over the retreating Germans in this small country last September. Then it was the American cavalry which stabbed over highways and byways to catch, trap, surround and destroy the fleeing Nazi columns.

"It was great fun then—but it isn't much fun when the enemy is trying to do the same thing to you," an armored commander told me worriedly a few days ago.

It was this commander who hammered the Nazis to pieces at Mons and shredded column after column of Germans running for the phantom shelter of the Siegfried line. He knows from experience how much damage and punishment Hitler's armor can inflict if it is permitted to rove unchecked.

A tank break-through such as the wedge driven into the American line by the Germans causes unbelievable chaos.

The fluid fighting in this contested area's vast no-man's-land is not unlike that of the unsettled American west in its wilder days. You never know down what lane or out of what wood will come a charging band of marauding "redskins." Only these "Indians" ride 40 to 60-ton tanks instead of ponies and slug with high velocity 88 mm. guns instead of rifles.

There isn't just one great field of fighting. There are scores of small-scale engagements. Each crossroad is a potential battle ground. A town may be held by the enemy in the morning, be abandoned by noon and be regained by nightfall.

Only when one army succeeds in trapping or pocketing large forces of the enemy is there likely to be more than 50 tanks in any one action. Rather than commit large stocks of irreplaceable armor to gain any one point, the Nazis choose to send out numerous exploratory columns to find a weak

spot to exploit.

If such a column of five to 20 tanks, with supporting infantry, and ack ack and mobile guns, hits a crossroads which is too strongly defended, it just bounces back, circles around and tries another point. When it does find a lightly held town or road intersection, it seizes it and spears forward again with another tentacle.

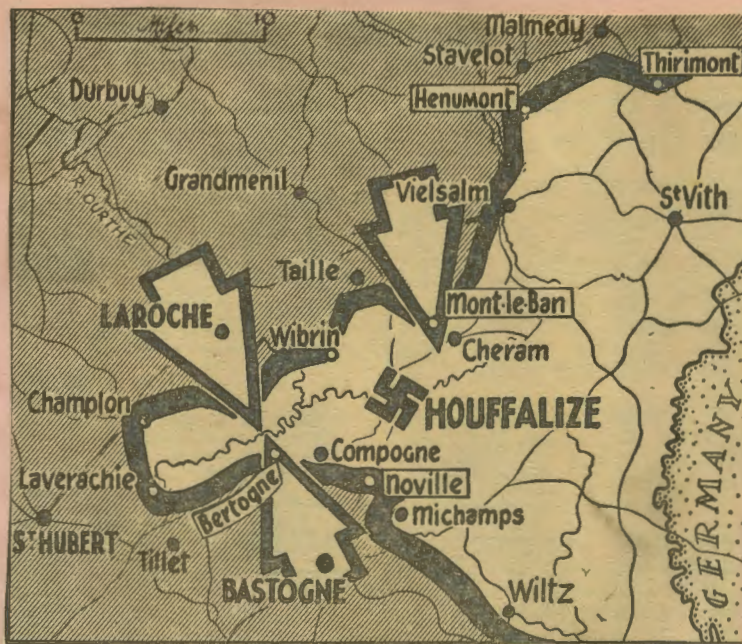
Following a classic military theory, these columns seek always

to join up with each other in a "pincers movement." Then they constrict and destroy everything caught between them. Only when it is unavoidable do these columns lock in knockout head-on battles. They prefer a war of movement because they realize they haven't the reserves and military stamina to stand up against the Allies in an all-out fight.

That's what dooms the German break-through to failure, despite

the audacity of its conception and its initial success. It didn't deliver a killing punch. It only disrupted the Allied drive. That may have delayed the end of the war a few months, but it hasn't in any way affected the eventual outcome.

The Indians lost the battle for the American west because there weren't enough of them and they didn't have what it takes. The German scalp may soon hang for this same reason.



Stars and Stripes Map by Baird  
First and Third Armies close the gap between them as Germans retreat out of the collapsed Belgian bulge.



## 3rd Armd. Builds Bridge in Dark

WITH THIRD ARMD. DIV.—The daily communique mentioned a small armored advance in that sector, but to the men of the division's Engr. platoon it represented sweat and blood around a little bridge near Langlir. Even their own American infantry fired on them but this was quickly rectified.

Retreating Germans had blown the bridge to slow the division's attack, and it was necessary to rebuild it if the Americans were to maintain their initiative. A platoon under Lt. Clarence C. Buckley of Kansas City and S/Sgt. Lloyd Jacobs of Frazee, Minn. took on the job in complete darkness.

A squad led by Sgt. Richard Searcy of Augusta, Kan. and Cpl. Claude Looney of Cowan, Tenn., cleared the rubble-littered roadway and bridge approaches of land mines. Another squad, led by Sgt. Ralph Wiley of Orlando, Fla. and Cpl. Henry Ferarro of East Patterson, N.J., installed the bridge approaches. The last squad, led by Sgt. Hugo Mach of Sioux City, Iowa, and Cpl. James Tretter of Philadelphia, actually installed the finished 24-foot bridge.

Three of Mach's squad were wounded and evacuated during the operation—but the mission was accomplished. And the attacking armor rolled forward.

## Bulge Drive No Setback

PARIS, Jan. 20—The German winter offensive in the Ardennes, planned by both Hitler and Field Marshal von Rundstedt, has not seriously impeded Allied plans and preparations for future operations against Germany, SHAEF's Operations Division announced last night.

SHAEF estimated the enemy lost 120,000 men, of which 80,000 were killed or seriously wounded and 40,000 captured.

Allied forces in the Bulge destroyed more than 600 German tanks, four Panzer divisions were smashed and four more Panzer or Panzer-Grenadier divisions were badly beaten up. One Parachute division was destroyed and eight Volksgrenadier divisions cut to less than half strength.

The SHAEF Operations statement said that half of the German air units employed in the Ardennes battles became casualties while Allied air losses were one per cent of the total sorties dispatched.

Supreme Headquarters also revealed that the Nazis used a complete armored combat command dressed in U.S. uniforms and equipped with American tanks to spread confusion.

Von Rundstedt threw in the Fifth and the Seventh German Army, SHAEF said. These included eight Panzer divisions, two Panzer brigades, two Panzer-Grenadier divisions, two Parachute divisions and 13 Volksgrenadier infantry divisions.

The enemy objectives were to reach the Meuse River in two days, cross it at the Liege-Namur sector, and by threatening Allied lines of communications, force American troops to withdraw from the Aachen sector. Von Rundstedt then hoped to drive to Antwerp, cutting off Allied forces in Belgium and Holland.

## U. S. COUNTERATTACK SLOWS NAZIS



AS NAZI ARMIES still probed and punched along the northern flank of their offensive into Belgium, an American counterattack is reported to have slammed back German armor that had reached Celles (inset map), just eight miles from the northern bulge of France. Meanwhile, American armor broke through to relieve the trapped Bastogne garrison. The present Nazi positions place them about 150 miles from Paris and, at one strongpoint, approximately 85 miles from Antwerp (large map), strategic Allied supply port in Belgium.

(International)



# Rolling Bath House Follows 3d Division

WITH THE 3RD ARMORED Division, Germany.—In a huge old Belgian villa along the icy road which led through the battered town to the battle zone, a medical battalion of the Third Armored "Spearhead" Division set up a portable shower-bath for the express use of front line troops.

When the front advances, so does the shower-bath, for it is constructed in a bulky trailer and designed to follow the spearhead.

Tankers and infantrymen of the Third Armored Division arrive weary and caked with the mud of action: leave refreshed and tingling after the luxury of a warm shower. The portable apparatus constructed and maintained by three men of this medical battalion is doing a noble job of philanthropy.

The three are: Sgt. Phillip St. Martin, of Grand Rapids, Mich., Tec. 4 Anthony Iacovelli, of Bristol, R. I., and Tec. 4 Merlin A. Heineman, of Cochran, Wis. When their company commander, Capt. Floyd M. Jackson, of Portsmouth, Ohio, acting on the order of Lt. Col. Charles L. Steyaert, of Lyons, N. Y., called the three to a preliminary discussion, back in the days when St. Lo was still "a million hedgerows away," the future shower apparatus was on the T/E as a delousing trailer. In view of the fact that there had been surprisingly little trouble from lice in the European campaign, the colonel decided to convert the trailer to the offices of cleanliness. St. Martin, Iacovelli, and Heineman went to work immediately.

The finished shower unit was a three-ton trailer with attachments for pumping and heating water. A collapsible shower-head made it possible for 12 men at a time to enjoy warm water, an American institution.

Duck boards were constructed and, in order to keep straight with the AR's, Heineman produced a foot bath as well. The upkeep of the machinery, which runs on an average of 14 hours a day, requires constant attention, but all three men of the crew are mechanics. Although the Belgian winter was bitterly cold, showering GIs often griped that the water was too hot!

The shower-bath on wheels has been in constant operation since July 6, 1944. In France, before the breakthrough, St. Martin and his crew dragged

their trailer to units holding the line and offered a brief respite to dust-saturated tankers and infantry. A land-office business followed for "Showers on wheels, Inc." At Gorron, in France, Iacovelli counted 1,375 men passing through his vehicle in one day! Tankers' morale went sky-high with each new unveiling of the portable shower.

In order to reach the men who need hot water most, St. Martin and his gang crowd the front lines. As a result the rolling bath-house has come under its full share of shell fire. A steel fragment pierced the radiator on a hill overlooking St. Lo, and at Ranefromental, where the Third Armored drove straight into the mad-as-hornets, cornered elements of von Kluge's Seventh Army, the crew derived a modicum of amusement in watching a tough major of Armored Force dash to a foxhole as bare as a Texas jay-bird!

Camouflage sometimes proved a problem, as much to shield the shower-bath from curious and unblushing French women as from German observers who are always eager to throw a few shells into the area. Strict track discipline was required of visiting vehicles and a maximum of one platoon of men, waiting for places in the shower, was allowed near the front.

St. Martin, Heineman and Iacovelli live with the trailer. They cook their own food, using 10-in-1 rations. On special occasions, meals are delivered by the battalion. The crew is therefore always on hand to provide hot water and service for GIs fresh off the fighting line. Iacovelli's accurate tallies show that the shower truck has catered to more than 150,000 troops in the field, to date.

Upon finding a position, the trailer can be set up and operating within 20 minutes. Installation in a building takes slightly longer.

This unit was the first shower apparatus in Germany with Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose's Third Armored Division which was first to seize and hold Nazi home ground.

Although the shower on wheels is a "Spearhead" division vehicle, it isn't at all partial. Everybody is, and has been, welcome. Doughboys, tankers, engineers, and thousands of men from various outfits have been handed a bar of soap and ushered into the rapid-fire assault of streaming needlepoints of hot water.

St. Martin grins and says: "Hell, we've had 'em all—from generals down to guys like us. They all get dirty in this war and they all appreciate a read honest-to-God shower."



## ***Lone Tank Annihilates 125 Nazi Vehicles in Six Hours***

WITH THE THIRD ARMORED DIV. — When 1/Lt. Vernon G. Dingley turned his Sherman tank, the "Eliminator," loose on a 125-vehicle German column in a six-hour onslaught recently, he not only "eliminated" the column—he annihilated it!

Dingley, with the support of one other tank, had been ordered to intercept and destroy the fleeing enemy convoy, while the rest of the Third Armored went on to knife through the Nazi lines. Moments after he left his unit, he spotted the Jerry column, and, under the cover of the second tank, ripped up and down the road until the breech of the tank cannon was blistering hot, firing with everything he and his crew had.

When Nazi resistance ceased, almost six hours later, the road looked like Hell's main highway. Tallying his kill, Dingley found that the "Eliminator" had smashed five 170mm artillery pieces, an 80mm high-velocity gun, and more than 100 other vehicles. Some of the Germans manning the convoy had escaped, but most of them lay sprawled dead, along with their artillery horses, beside their smoking vehicles.



# 1st Unit To Crack Siegfried Line

United States First Army Headquarters, Oct. 2 (AP)—The hard-hitting United States Third Armored Division was the first American outfit to crack a way through the Siegfried Line, it was officially announced today.

At the same time it was disclosed that the United States Ninth Infantry Division, which was the first to slice across the Cherbourg peninsula, also was among the first American units to smash through the Siegfried Line.

## First Infantry Unit In Reich

(It was disclosed yesterday that the United States First Infantry Division was the first infantry outfit to enter Germany. Elements of an armored division moved onto German territory first.)

The battle-tried veterans of the Ninth, who fought in Morocco, Tunisia and Sicily, also cleaned up Chateau Thierry and stormed across Belgium before forging a path through Hitler's West Wall defenses September 14, during almost 85 consecutive days in the line.

It has been moving steadily since it helped spearhead the crack-through at St. Lo and Perriers last July 25 which decided the battle of France.

## Hodges Gets Award

WITH THE FIRST U.S. ARMY, BELGIUM, Jan. 20.—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, commanding the 12th U.S. Army Gp., Friday pinned an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal on Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, commander of the First Army. The award was given Hodges for directing the First Army's brilliant drive from Normandy, across France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland through the Siegfried Line, from June 6 to Sept. 14. Bradley took the occasion to praise Hodges and his staff for the manner in which Von Rundstedt's Ardennes offensive had been stopped.

## They Got Up

Effective but not popular is the method T/5 Leonard Weaver, Albany, N.Y., has of alerting other drivers in his Third Army Division company. While Weaver was walking guard around half-tracks, a



German phosphorous shell set one afire. Turning his tommy-gun toward the room in which his comrades were sleeping, he sprayed the window with .45-cal. shells, then raced for the fire extinguisher. He soon had help.

## Saved by Hot Seat

"I Don't Wanna," a Third Armored Division tank commanded by S/Sgt. Oliver Garner, of Trenton, Tex., opened up on a Jerry 20mm. anti-aircraft gun dug in along a roadside. The crew got a direct hit and the gun was destroyed, but two of the crew members somehow escaped death and sprinted for a nearby wood.

Garner was about to draw a bead, but he started laughing and could not aim. The seats of the escaping Nazis' pants were aflame!

\* \* \*

## Rougher Than War

T/5 George Piepiora, of Dorchester, Mass., fought all the way from Normandy to the Siegfried Line with the Third Armored "Spearhead" Division—and didn't get a scratch. The other day he got mixed up in a company football game, and now he has a bandaged noggin.

\* \* \*

## Nazi Infiltration

Sgt. Morris A. Koland, of Karlstad, Minn., and the Third Armored Division, has taken a hint from hopeful old maids—and now he looks under his bed (or reasonable

facsimile thereof) each night before retiring.

One night, while helping to bring the blitzkrieg back to the land of its birth, Koland pulled into a French field after travelling more than 70 miles, posted guards and hid the sack in a handy ditch.

Next morning, when he tried to roust his crew at dawn, he found four German soldiers sharing the same ditch.



\* \* \*

While on the line of departure for a night attack with the Third Armored "Spearhead" Division, three men of the 38th Armored Inf. Regt. were told that they had been awarded passes to Paris, effective immediately. The lucky ones were: 1st Sgt. John J. Ahearn, of Two Rivers, Wisc., T/Sgt. Robert A. Schmidt, of Clinton, Iowa, and S/Sgt. Leonard Weidner, Arlington Hts., Ill.

\* \* \*

### Bath-House Mystery

When a platoon of Third Armored Div. infantrymen cleaned the Nazis out of a factory district in Germany, the men discovered that one of the factories had hot and cold running water. Lt. Arthur A. Prieskorn, of Wayne, Mich., called a break and



the men started cleaning several days' dirt off their bodies.

It was while the lobby was wiping the lather off his face that he began to wonder why the hot water remained constant. He made a flying trip to the basement and found six husky German soldiers still shoveling in coal.

Nobody told them the Yanks had taken over.

## NEW MEXICO SOLDIERS FIGURE IN WARFARE IN GERMANY

Fighting in Germany after spearheading through northern France and Belgium with the First Army of Lieut. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges are several Albuquerque men among a score of New Mexicans attached to the Third Armored Division, and another group of local and state men are in a railway battalion which has succeeded in sending supply trains to the armies in the field.

Lieut. Col. William R. Orr, 121 South Stanford, and Capt. Robert S. Hix, 2005 East Silver, are among those of the Third Armored Division in Germany, along with Pfc. Julian Sanchez, 1824 West Marble; Pvt. Jose L. Garcia, Route Three; Pvt. Lloyd Harwood Jr., and Pvt. Joe G. Lucero, Route Two, all of Albuquerque.

Albuquerque men in the railway battalion include Pvt. Teodosio J. Garcia, 211 Dan Avenue; Pfc. Philip B. Duran, 1405 North Eighth; and Pvt. Charlie Carter, 1921 South Broadway.

Other New Mexicans in the Third Armored Division advancing in Germany are: Sgt. Luther

A. Givins Jr., of Bayard, Pvt. Herman Gallegos and Pvt. Seferine Lucero of Bernalillo, Cpl. C. M. B. Dysart of Clayton, Pvt. Frank Galassini of Dawson.

Staff Sgt. Neel S. Arnold of Farmington, Pvt. Wellesley M. Townsend of Fence Lake, Pvt. Charles Kezele of Gallup, Cpl. Simon N. Paz of High Rolls, Cpl. Thomas A. Beach of Hurley, Pfc. Moises Gonzales of Llano, Sgt. Ruben Vigil of Ranchos de Taos, Tech. Sgt. Joe Antwine and Cpl. Pat Tafoya of Raton, Pfc. Ted Bird of San Juan Pueblo and Pfc. Garland Lyle of Taos.

Other New Mexicans in the railway battalion include Pvt. Guy E. Maggee Jr., of Adams Diggings, Pvt. Lewis F. Sampson of Afrey, Pvt. Orvil E. Phillips of Cimmaron, Pvt. Husie F. Coshy Jr., of Corona, Pvt. Hilario N. Rodriguez of Deming, Sgt. Frank D. Hardin of Hagerman, Pvt. Paul O. Trujillo of Madrid, Cpl. Bennie F. Cass and Pvt. Cecil E. Watson of Roswell, Pfc. Ernesto E. Garcia of Trementina, Sgt. Chester M. Henson of Torrance, and Pfc. Enrique Trujillo of Winston.



# MEN OF FIRST FIGHT DEEP IN HEART OF CITY

**Troops in 2½ Miles of  
City's Great Cathedral;  
Ninth Army Closes In on  
Wesel Pocket.**

By Associated Press

Rheurdt, Germany, March 5.—The United States Eighth Armored Division fought its way Monday into Rheinberg, where the Germans are operating one of their last ferries across the Rhine.

By Associated Press

With United States troops at Cologne, March 5.—American tanks and infantry Monday night had broken through the outer defense belts into Cologne and one staff officer estimated that only 1000 German defenders remained in the great industrial city on the Rhine.

Surrounded by Yank armor and doughboys, who during the day had worked their way through the suburbs toward the modern section of Cologne, these last-ditch battlers were slowly withdrawing into the "alstadt" or "old-town" section of the historic city bordering the river.

By Associated Press

Paris, March 5.—First Army tanks fought a mile deep inside Cologne Monday night, driving through the Bickendorf northern section within 2½ miles of the towering cathedral at the heart of the great Rhineland metropolis.

Infantry of the 104th Division moved in from the west and capture of German's fourth city was expected by Thursday morning at the latest.

Tanks and infantry, moving through acrid smoke curling from ruins leveled by a wheel-to-wheel artillery barrage, slowly closed in on the old part of the city, leaving behind rail yards and some of the vast array of factories.

The Germans, hard pressed by the Ninth Army to the north, had blown up all bridges across the river from Neuss to Homberg, suburbs of Duesseldorf and Duisberg, and left only one railroad crossing at Wesel in operation.

Ninth Army tanks fought into Orsoy, 10 miles south of Wesel, and shelled Germans trying to ferry the wide and deep river. Other elements moved within two miles of Rheinberg, capturing Lintfort. The Germans were leaving the Wesel pocket, which is expected to be erased within two days.

## WEST FRONT—

(Continued from Page 1.)

rolling across the city in increasing fury as the Americans closed in for the kill on the eleventh day of their great drive from the Roer River, 21 miles behind.

To the north, the American Ninth Army captured Homberg, a manufacturing west bank suburb of Duisburg, and the approaches to two Rhine bridges. Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's men stood on the Rhine for 15 miles, and Canadians to the north held another 52-mile stretch of the meandering west banks.

Germans surrendered by the thousands; the total in the offensive passed 60,000. A black-out was imposed partially on Third Army movements toward Coblenz and the middle Rhine, suggesting an imminent break-through there. The Seventh Army fought in the Siegfried Line just outside the Saar capital of Saarbruecken, which was under heavy artillery fire.

Artillery also was pouring heavy fire in massed salvos from American guns wheel to wheel outside Cologne, ringed on all its sides west of the Rhine.

Cologne, a city of 768,000, is surpassed in size in Germany only by Berlin (4,332,000), Hamburg (1,918,000) and Munich (828,325).

### To Save Cathedral.

Smoke rolled up from fires and explosions set by bursting American shells. The doughboys inside Cologne caught flashing glimpses through the pall of the slender 512-foot tower of the Thirteenth Century Cathedral. Artillery and troops had been ordered to hold their fire away from the magnificent structure.

At 9 a.m., Lt. Col. John Welborn of Southern Pines, N. C., had his troops fighting at Longerich on the northern end of the sprawling railway yards of Cologne, one of the greatest rail centers in Europe and the chief traffic center for all Western Germany.

The first column to cross the city limits from the north was a task force of armor and infantry commanded by Lt. Col. L. L. Doan of Houston, Texas.

(Colonel Doan, regular army officer and graduate of West Point Academy, has been overseas 20 months, according to his wife, Mrs. L. L. Doan, who, with their two children, lives at 1212 Kenwood. During his service in Europe, Colonel Doan has been wounded twice, the first time August 27 in the fighting near the Seine. He was wounded by enemy fire September 4 at the battle of the Marne. He is the son of Mrs. K. R. Trevor of Syracuse, N. Y.)

Resistance from remnants of six tank and Volksgrenadier divisions was comparatively light on the fringe of the city. The Germans had pulled most defenders deeper into the ruins, leaving anti-tank



## Searcy County Soldier Did Not Like This German's 'Hospitality'

Hq. Third Armored Division —Cpl. Jeral M. Hudspeth, of Saint Joe, Arkansas, doesn't care much for the hospitality of Jerry. When a German machine-gunner opened up on the half-track personnel carrier in which the Arkansas man was riding, he said: "By Gosh, they don't treat visitors that way in my home town. I'm going after that son of a gun!"

Pinned down by Hudspeth's rapid firing tommy-gun, the enemy soldier was trapped. Advancing in short rushes, the 3rd Armored "Spearhead" Division Yank finally got close enough to grab the Kraut machine-gun and shove it safely to one side.

"Now get out of that hole!" he shouted.

The German, who was an SS trooper, apparently did not understand, for he lunged toward his weapon again.

Hudspeth fired one more shot. "That guy," he observed, "was a blister on the heel of progress."

## Trigger-Happy Gunner Gets Pair of Bad Eggs

WITH THIRD ARMD. DIV.—S/Sgt. Charles Miller, of Detroit, was itching to test-fire his new .50 caliber machine gun. His tank was on the line but Jerries had not put in an appearance. Miller



was getting impatient, when a couple of chickens appeared in Jerry territory.

The platoon sergeant aimed carefully at the chickens and snapped off a short burst, scattering the fowls and at the same time flushing a pair of Nazis from concealment nearby who ran toward more substantial cover.

Miller really zeroed his gun then. He didn't get the chickens but he surely got those two "bad eggs." Hence, his buddies painted on Miller's gunshield—you guessed it!—a couple of eggs.

## Peril Grows as Foe Nears Strasbourg

### Allies Cut Deeper into Belgium Bulge

BY AUSTIN BEALMEAR

PARIS—(AP)—The United States First Army dealt the Germans a crippling blow Sunday by seizing control of one of their two main supply lines into Belgium.

But the enemy lashed out with five new attacks on the Western Front and pushed armor across the Rhine into France amid reports that Strasbourg was being evacuated by civilians.

As the British-American drive against the northern side of the Belgian bulge expanded to a front of 30 miles and pushed south as much as three miles, the German comeback campaign across the Rhine abruptly took a graver turn.

THE GERMAN bridgehead eight miles north of Strasbourg was reinforced overnight by at least five tanks.

It now is six miles wide and three miles deep. Enemy forces holding Gambenheim and Offendorf inside it are attacking Rohrwiller



# Tanks Raced to Cologne To Win a Case of Scotch

By Don Whitehead

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF COLOGNE, March 5.—(P)—The surge of First Army Infantry and tanks into battered Cologne today proved the American soldiers' ability to take a lot of punishment and come back slugging.

The First Army's drive to the Rhine was spearheaded by Maj. Gen. Terry Allen's 104th "Timberwolf" Infantry division and Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose's Third Armored Division, which was the first into Belgium and the first into Germany.

Men of the 104th crossed the flooded Roer river and beat back the Germans until the engineers could get bridges over the stream. Behind them came Rose's armored columns. Working as a team the two divisions then pushed to the Erft river. There Rose's columns accomplished an unusual feat for

armor—they grabbed bridgeheads across the Erft before the infantry.

## Spurred By Case Of Scotch

Rose's orders did not call for that. However, he saw a chance while the enemy was disorganized and spurred his tank leaders with the offers of a case of Scotch for the first task force commander to establish a bridgehead. It was a race between Lt. Col. Samuel Hogan of Pharr, Tex., and Lt. Col. Walter Richardson of Beaumont, Tex. Hogan won.

Once they had bridges across the Erft and a canal these two divisions gathered their strength and began the dash for Cologne, battering their way through a series of mining communities which were enemy strongpoints.

And the triumphal American march to the Rhine likewise un-

(See WHITEHEAD—Page 11)

# Whitehead

(Continued from Page One)

derlined the fact that Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's great counteroffensive failed completely to wreck Gen. Eisenhower's plans for a winter offensive. The amazing recuperative power of the American armies which were so sorely pounded in the battle of the bulge is one of the highlights of the invasion.

## All Within 60 Days

Sixty days ago the First Army was locked in a bitter struggle with powerful enemy forces trying to smash their way to Liège and north to Brussels and Antwerp. Today American doughboys are on the Rhine.

After driving Von Rundstedt's offensive back, the Americans went on the offensive themselves. Their push was the greatest drive yet mounted by Eisenhower.

Even while Von Rundstedt's push was being halted, supplies were pouring onto the continent for the present American drive. Many believed that the German commander had thrown Eisenhower's plans awry at least until next spring—that our armies could not recover quickly from such hard blows. But the Americans came back strong with plenty of spirit.

The abundance of supplies and material for the American drive was evident in many ways, even in little luxury items for frontline troops such as candy and cigarets.

Recently at a front line command post soldiers were distributing cigarets, toilet articles, candy and post exchange items.

"Our supplies are better now than they have ever been," said Lt. Joseph Daly of Yonkers, N. Y. "We are getting plenty of stuff."

## Reach Rhine In 10 Days

Once they were set the Ninth and First Armies made their moves and the Germans did not have enough men and guns to halt the advance. In just 10 days the First Army reached the Rhine and wiped out the Germans' defenses before Cologne. Today is the 11th day of the offensive.

The Third Armored Division crushed resistance in Stommeln and Poulheim which formed the enemy's last line of resistance, and reconnaissance troops under Lt. Col. Prentice "Iron Mike" Yeomans of Syracuse, N. Y., pushed on to the edge of the Rhine north of Cologne.

Armored columns followed, sealing off the north side of the city and Rose was in position to send his tanks toward Cologne at 4 A. M., today while Allen's men were pushing in from the west.

## Tanks Call For Artillery

Two anti-tank guns were giving the troops trouble at Bocklemuend when they called for artillery.

"The shells landed squarely on the German position and the crews ran away," said Maj. Stanley Hidalgo, Fort Arthur, Tex. "We had no more trouble from those guns."

Everyone wondered what sort of opposition would be met inside Cologne.

"I believe they (the Germans) only have got bits and pieces of units left in town," said Lt. Col. Andrew Barr of Urbana, Ill. "I don't think they want to sacrifice any more troops now and that is the reason they haven't tried to reinforce the city."



# Dragging Out Wines, Butter, Beef, Fawning Germans Disgust Yanks

By LEE CARSON

I. N. S. Staff Correspondent

COLOGNE, March 7.—(INS)—American "mop-up" units today were scouring the rubble-strewn streets of Cologne to wipe out any

remaining vestiges of Nazi resistance in this historic ancient Rhine-land city.

In places small parties of fight-to-the-end Nazi fanatics were encountered, but to all intents and

purposes Cologne had been cleared of enemy troops.

American troops which captured Cologne Tuesday were greeted by strangely hardened but fawning civilians as "liberators." The civilians emerged from cellars, bomb-proof hideouts and from shell-shattered buildings, smiling and waving.

## FANTASTIC, INFURIATING

Some produced bottles of wine or cognac, plucked at soldiers' sleeves whispering instructions to "follow me" for a fine meal, fresh butter, beef, anything they wanted.

It was fantastic, infuriating — and dangerous. For there appeared to be among the civilian populace an unusually high percentage of young men of military age. They wore clothes that didn't fit, that were obviously begged, borrowed or stolen. Pfc. Walter Zukowski of Brooklyn, N. Y., told me:

"I've talked to lots of these birds. Every damned one of 'em is 100 per cent Nazi. Just how come they're walking around in civvies I don't know, but each and every one of 'em looks and talks like good army material to me."

## HOME VISITED.

Not far from the ancient twin-spired Cologne cathedral this correspondent joined a couple of GI's in a visit to a few homes which still contained one or two habitable rooms.

A grocer, World War I veteran of the German army, brought out cognac, a tub of fresh butter, cheese. He smiled, bowed, apologized at length for not having more to offer us. Frequently he halted

his rapid flow of conversation, clicked his heels, saluted and shouted:

## "Heil Eisenhower!"

His wife and their guest, a professor, echoed his "Heil" each time he uttered it. They jabbered about how glad they were to see us, said they would "cut up into little pieces that beast Hitler" if only the Americans would turn "der fuehrer" over to them.

The professor was super-voluble, and following an unusually lengthy castigation of the Nazis and extravagant praise of the Yanks, he held out his hand to shake mine.

My mind went cold—I remembered our Allied dead on the Normandy beaches; the boys bleeding their lives away in the hot dust or icy mud as we rolled across France, Belgium. I recalled Holland, the nightmare of the Hurtgen forest, the helpless American prisoners massacred at Malmedy following the Ardennes breakthrough. I remembered my brothers.

I shook my head and said I could not shake hands with him.

The professor's dark eyes blazed behind his thick-lensed glasses and his smiling face sharpened into hard lines of anger and cruelty. He said:

"Why not? I'm not your enemy. I have many members of my family in this war. I have seen too many killed. The Germans are my foes."

I answered inadequately, but the grocer appeased him with the explanation that the "fraulein" is a war correspondent-officer, and that American officers could not shake hands with Germans.

# Violent Burp Guns Accent Stillness of Dead Cologne

By FRANK CONNIFF

I. N. S. Staff Correspondent

COLOGNE, Germany, March 7.—(INS)—This once was a city.

History will record that human beings once lived and laughed and savoured the finer things of civilization in a city known as Cologne.

But you must speak of Cologne in the past tense now. The centuries are strewn in its streets. Men and women walk its avenues with a stealthiness born of despair.

It is a city of violent sounds and strange silences. The bitter coughing of burp guns and the heavy crunch of artillery punctuate the long lapses of eerie quiet.

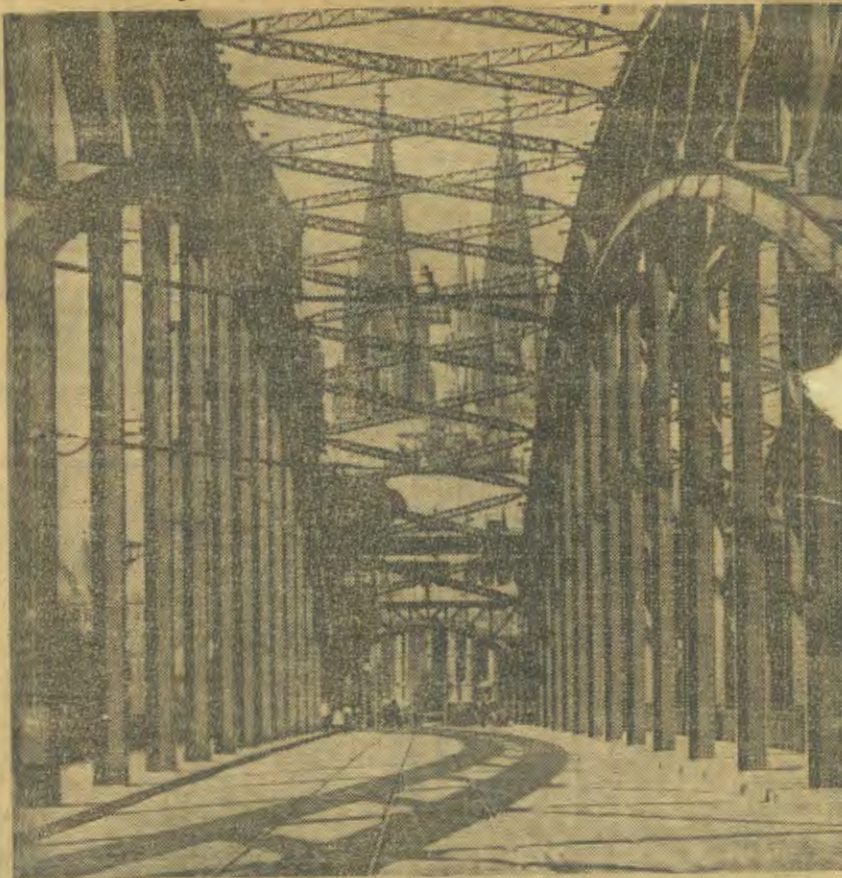
For Cologne is dead. Only its ruins remain as somber testimonials that the way of an aggressor is indeed harsh.

## CITY BREATHE LAST

I watched the city breathe last.



## Yesterday—a Bridge; Today—Wreckage



1/Lt. Paul R. Meier, of Concord, Calif., and Ninth TAC, scored two direct hits with 1,000-pound bombs yesterday on Cologne's 1,450-foot Hohenzollern bridge. Maj. Arvis L. Hilpert, of Stanford, Ill., led the P38 attack. Two near misses were believed to have damaged supporting piers. The bridge is in three structures—two double-track rail crossings and a highway-trolley crossing with footpaths on each side.

## Eight Tanks Started—But None Returned —As 3rd Armd. GIs Escape Nazi Ambush

WITH THIRD ARMD. DIV.—First, there were eight tanks . . .

1/Lt. Glen M. Alford, of St. Paul, Minn., had barely moved out with his company when a German Mark IV was sighted and promptly knocked out by the Yank gunners. Almost immediately afterward, 2/Lt. Shelton C. Picard, of Maurice, La. observed a column of self-propelled 88mm artillery pieces and he successfully directed artillery fire on them. So far, so good.

Then Alford's tank hit a mine and was immobilized. He was unhurt. A wicked crossfire caught two more tanks of his small force.

### Five Tanks Left

And then there were only five.—

Desperately trying to hold a vital road at Cherain, Jerry threw everything in his anti-tank book at the advancing armor. Picard's tank was knocked out, along with another of the force.

Now there were three.—

Sgt. Maurice L. Humphries, of Barnard, S. D., assumed command. The enemy was well dug in and camouflaged.

"Couldn't see a damned thing," gunner Cpl. Octaviano Carrion, of Moravia, Puerto Rico, said, "except for one Heinie. I blew him sky high with HE."

### Gunner Is Hit

The ambush was nearly complete. An armor piercing round crashed through Carrion's tank. Hot metal splashed the gunner's face. Humphries, searching wildly for a target, spotted a Mark V. His gunner, Cpl. Leslie B. Underwood, of

Lancaster, Pa., bounced five rounds off the heavy enemy vehicle. The Panther's return fire sent one round through the turret, another into the final drive. It was ball out or die.

Humphries went over the side, and noted bitterly that all of his small command had been stopped. Sgt. Bill Burton's tank had all hatches open. That meant only one thing—a hit. Several American tankers were badly hurt.

Now, flushed with victory, the enemy was closing in. Machine gun and rifle fire rattled off the broken tanks.

### GI Plays Dead

Some of the tankers managed to escape but slight chance was offered Underwood Carrion and several others. Humphries crawled out of sight, played dead by lying face down in the snow. Later a group of Germans approached and grabbed him by the collar. He slumped.

"Kaput," said the German finally, and moved away.

The survivors got together later and discussed the ill-fated assault. But it was only a temporary set-back.

Next morning, with men of the company receiving assignments to new crews, they moved out—and that was a new day. After it was over, the task force had gained an important objective, knocked out five Panther tanks, three self-propelled 88s and a battery of 170mm artillery pieces.

Humphries says "to hell with talking about the other day—after all the division has to expect losses once in a while!"



## First Battalion Praised Highly In Letter To S. and S. B Bag

In one of the few items of praise that have appeared in the generally highly critical „B Bag“ of the Stars and Stripes, First Battalion in Wednesday's issue received an unparalleled compliment from a writer who identified himself only as „Corporal“. The letter follows:

„In the course of redeployment I wound up in a unit having higher morale than any other I've seen in four years. It puts out an interesting, well-written newspaper. I've seldom seen such an air of friendship, cooperation and respect among officers and men as here. Don't ask me why — I've not been here long enough to tell, but I met the battalion CO at a time when I couldn't tell who he was. He'd been in swimming with the boys (EM) and was helping them crank a stubborn motor boat. That's part of the answer. A West Pointer, too — can you imagine?

„Where else has anyone seen an announcement like this in the official section of the daily bulletin?

„COMMENDATION: Company C was judged the neatest company at guard mount yesterday, and having been so chosen twice this week is excused from guard mount on Friday, 15 June. Best instructed and neatest sentinel of the guard was Pfc Joseph L. White, Sr., Company A. Inasmuch as he has been twice so chosen, Pfc. White will receive a 72-hour pass to Paris, leaving Saturday, 16 June.

„Food is the best I have seen in months. I doubt this unit gets more or better rations than any other.

„My salute to the 1st Bn., 36th Armored Inf. Regt. (3rd Armored Div.) and its guiding officers, especially Majors Owen and Root.“

(From this letter, two conclusions may be drawn: Either the First Battalion is an unusually fine outfit, or the writer received ten extra points for his effort. Anyone who knows the First Battalion knows the real answer, however — it is a fine outfit. —Ed.)



# Nine Allied Armies Hacking Through German Defenses

**U. S. 15th, French 1st Join Mighty Drive for Berlin;  
9th, 3rd Armored Divisions Join Near Paderborn;  
Remnants of Three German Armies in Trap**

Paris, Sunday, April 1 (AP).—The Allies clamped a steel deathlock around the Ruhr basin last night, and the trapped Germans turned frenziedly northeastward in a savage effort to break out toward Berlin, no wonly 170 miles away.

"This is the final great battle of the west," write Associated Press Correspondent Hal Boyle from Paderborn, six-way road hub in which the battle of annihilation centered.

Allied supreme headquarters made no break in its security blackout but broadcast an invitation by General Eisenhower to all isolated German forces to surrender. He disclosed that the new U. S. 15th army and the French First army both had joined the struggle, raising to nine the number of Allied armies battling east of the Rhine.

Associated Press Correspondent Don Whitehead said that the U. S. 9th and 3rd armored divisions had made contact at Warburg, 21 miles southeast of Paderborn, to close one side of the trap, while Wes Gallagher wrote the 2nd armored division of the U. S. Ninth army had thrust eastward 30 miles and established tactical radio contact with the U. S. First army near Paderborn.

Exact nature of the contact was not disclosed, but Gallagher said that for all practical purposes the cutoff was complete.

The huge pocket thus created enclosed the remnants of three German armies, estimated here to number possibly 40,000 men, but said by Boyle on the scene to include "scores of thousands."

The Ruhr industrial basin, without which Hitler's army leaders have told him they can no longer wage war, was isolated or in ruins.

As if only now aware of their plight, the Germans flung everything they had into the flaming battle of Paderborn, some 100 miles northeast of Cologne.

Repeatedly they attacked with small infantry forces, led by tanks. Dug-in infantry with bazookas strove to hold off the rampaging Americans, but the front dispatches said each effort cost the Germans casualties, and Boyle wrote:

"The German armies in the west are committing suicide—suicide by tortured inches."

On the left, the British 2nd army with American paratrooper aid, was racing under a blackout on what was described as the last lap of its push to Muenster, while other British-Canadian forces thrust into Holland.

## RUHR BASIN ENCIRCLED BY ALLIED UNITS

(Continued From Page One)

half dozen Dutch towns during the afternoon as it closed on Arnhem.

In the face of this mounting threat, the Germans were clearing out of all north Holland west of Arnhem and heading back for the reich, Dutch civilians told their liberators.

For the Allies, it was the brightest Easter of the war, for the Germans the gloomiest.

The Germans were laying down their arms by the thousands. The First army took 11,206 prisoners yesterday, the Third army added at least 10,000 more, the Seventh took 1,800 and the British Second 1,500—a total of 85,000 prisoners in 72 hours.

The retreat from the Ruhr had begun—too late—and fleeing convoys were bombed and strafed from dawn to dusk.

Possibly the last great battle of the war west of the Ruhr valley boiled over the fields south of Dorsten, where the Eighth armored division slugged with the cut-off and doomed 116th panzer division.

The Second armored division covered 30 miles in 36 hours to make its tactical junction with the U. S. First army, which was battling in Paderborn against the first real enemy resistance since its breakthrough from the Rhine six days ago.

It by-passed all the big munitions cities of the Ruhr, Essen, biggest of them all, Dusseldorf, Hamm, Dortmund, Duisburg, and cut across the fertile fields of the Westphalian plain at such a clip that one German headquarters was found deserted with a half-eaten meal on the table.

It rolled on through the moonlight of Friday night, turning the battle into an obstacle race with a determination to end the war and go home.

It had bulled through a troop-packed front and dashed ahead just as it did when it was Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's outfit in North Africa and Sicily, and in the way it struck across the plains of France and later across the Roer.

In the Ruhr itself, however, back in the old bridgehead area, the Ninth army was up against some hard fighting. Despite this tough resistance, the Ninth's infantrymen cleared the last German soldier from Bottrop, only four miles northwest of Essen.

Patton had two of his armored divisions, the famed Fourth armored "breakthrough" division and the Sixth, hammering toward Berlin so fast correspondents could not keep abreast of their progress.

The Sixth armored last was reported hours ago only five miles from Kassel, a city of 217,000, and a field dispatch said by this time it undoubtedly was in or beyond it.

It had covered 45 miles Friday with a speed almost matching the First army's now famous armored march that outflanked the Ruhr. The Fourth armored division last was reported near Lauterhausen, 36 miles southeast of Kassel.



# Allies Now Hold 300-Mile Battle Line in Germany

**1st Takes Paderborn; Third Army 157 Miles From Berlin; 7th Army Reaches Main River 71 Miles E. of Rhine; 4th Armored Races Along Super-Highway**

Paris, April 1 (U.P.)—The U. S. Ninth army, pacing a sweeping British-American breakthrough on the Westphalian plain, joined with the American First today and trapped up to 50,000 Germans in the encircled Ruhr. In other great gains Allied armies captured the rail center of Paderborn and swept to within 157 miles of Berlin.

The Ninth army's advance drove to a point 75 miles east of the Rhine and linked with the First army at Lippstadt.

On the southern end of the front, Lieut. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's Seventh army exploited another breakthrough of German defenses to reach the Main river at Wuerzburg, 71 miles beyond the Rhine and 55 miles from the great Nazi shrine city of Nuernberg. The Seventh was barely 100 miles from Czechoslovakia.

Encirclement of the Ruhr was one of the greatest Allied triumphs since D-day. The Ninth and First armies were expected to make short work of mopping up the trapped Germans.

The linkup gives Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower a solid 300-mile front east of the Rhine from Emmerich in the north to Hockheim in the south, with nine great Allied armies stabbing deep into the Reich.

Allied supreme headquarters announced the junction of the two armies in a partial lifting of a security blackout which has concealed details of the big breakthrough on the Westphalian plain by 10 columns of Field Marshal Sir B. L. Montgomery's British and American forces.

To the east, Third army tanks of Brig. Gen. William Hoge's rampaging 4th armored division were racing along the Frankfurt-Berlin super highway in a sweep that gained eight miles during the day. The tanks reached a point on the highway just south of Nesselroden, eight miles west of Elsenbach and 157 miles from the Reich capital.

As Montgomery's drive surged as much as 75 miles east of the Rhine, German forces in north Holland started a mass retreat to the east to escape a trap closing across their line of flight. The exodus was taking terrible aerial punishment with more than 800 trucks already destroyed.

The historic 1st and 9th armored junction that cut off the Ruhr occurred at Lippstadt, 17 miles west of Paderborn. The eastward-bound 2nd armored division of Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth army met First army tanks driving west at 5:30 p.m.

The veteran British Second, which has fought in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and France, rolled 62 miles east from Bottrop in the past three days to make the junction. The First army forces were not immediately identi-





WIDOW, SON OF GEN ROSE—Mrs. Virginia Rose of Denver holds the hand of her son, Roderick, 4, as he stands beside a picture of his father, Maj Gen Maurice Rose

## Iris Carpenter on 'Lucky' Rose

# Slain by Boy Troopers as He Lowered Hands

By IRIS CARPENTER

Globe Special War Correspondent

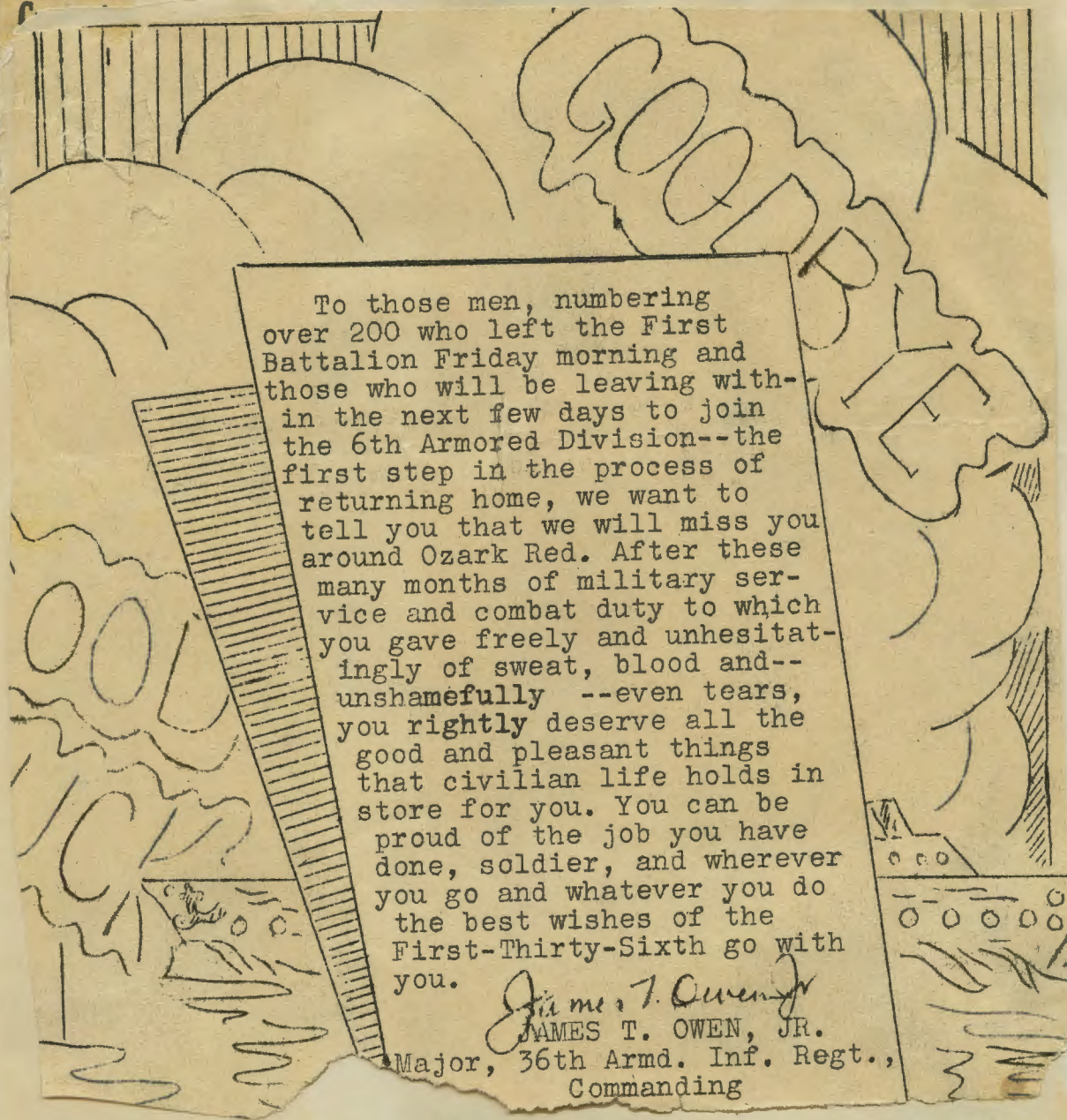
WITH THE 1ST ARMY, April 3—Nothing inside or outside "Rose's Bag"—for, as far as any one man should be credited for the bag, it should be the commander who made the greatest armor in history zip it shut—concerns troops massed around it today so much as the news that Rose is dead.



"Lucky" Rose's luck has broken at last. At 6 o'clock last Friday night Maj Gen Maurice Rose, commander of the famous spearhead armored division, was shot by school troops of







To those men, numbering  
over 200 who left the First  
Battalion Friday morning and  
those who will be leaving with-  
in the next few days to join  
the 6th Armored Division--the  
first step in the process of  
returning home, we want to  
tell you that we will miss you  
around Ozark Red. After these  
many months of military ser-  
vice and combat duty to which  
you gave freely and unhesitat-  
ingly of sweat, blood and--  
unshamefully --even tears,  
you rightly deserve all the  
good and pleasant things  
that civilian life holds in  
store for you. You can be  
proud of the job you have  
done, soldier, and wherever  
you go and whatever you do  
the best wishes of the  
First-Thirty-Sixth go with  
you.

*James T. Owen Jr.*  
JAMES T. OWEN, JR.  
Major, 36th Armd. Inf. Regt.,  
Commanding



HUBERT

by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Oh, Frankie!"

53

35.



"SO THAT'S ENGLAND! . . . I DON'T LIKE IT!"

—Pvt. Tom Flannery



# Cooks, MPs Leap Into Armored Battle

(Censorship was lifted yesterday to permit the naming of the following American divisions taking part in the U. S. 1st Army's current assault against the north flank of the Belgium bulge: The 82d Airborne, the 2d and 3d Armored, the 30th, 83d, 84th and part of the 75th Infantry.)

(The following front dispatches reveal a little of the background and achievements of two of these fighting outfits.)

With U. S. 3d Armored Division in Belgium, Jan. 6 (P).  
—The 3d Armored Division, the first division to cross the German border and the first to take a German town, is out in front again in the new offensive aimed at breaking the back of the enemy's Ardennes salient.

The commander is Major Gen. Maurice Rose of Denver, Colo.

Side by side with the 2d Armored Division, Rose's tanks and armored infantrymen are snaking forward over icy roads. They fought yesterday into the outskirts of Lierneux.

Like the 2d Armored on their right, tankmen and doughboys of Rose's outfit already had played a major role in stopping the forward impetus of the German offensive. But their current role of attackers is more familiar to the veterans, who first sprang into action near St. Lo and then lived up to their "spearhead" nickname by driving through Mayenne, Chartres, Mons and Liege and on into Germany at Rotgen.

## Cooks, Mechanics Join Battle.

In the early stages of the German penetration, one of the 3d's combat commands under Brig. Gen. Doyle O. Hickey, of Camden, Ark., helped clean up enemy parachutists south of Monschau, while the other combat command under Brig. Gen. Trumane Boudinot, of Beverly Hills, Calif., operated with the 30th Infantry Division. This combination accounted for the wholesale bag of German tanks and other material in the Lagieze pocket west of Stavelot.

From there the bulk of the division's strength was shifted to the Hotton sector. Hotton itself was defended against a series of Nazi armored attacks by an impromptu task force under Major Jack W. Fickessen, Waco, Tex., including cooks, bakers, mechanics, signalmen, engineers, MPs and headquarters personnel.

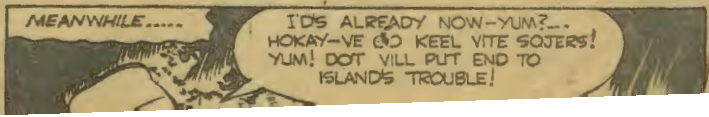
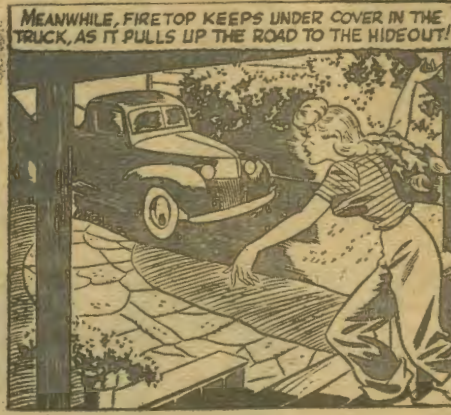
This combine from Dec. 21 to Dec. 25, when relief arrived, accounted for nine tanks and killed several score Germans.





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# GERMAN CHILDREN

## *Learn To Play Baseball*

**I**F the younger generation of Germans develop into enthusiastic pro - Americans, and hence devotees of democracy, a large part of the credit should go to the U. S. Constabulary.

For this force, which has become the most feared and at the same time respected of the occupation forces in the conquered Reich, is giving special attention to the children of the land so recently freed from the iron heel of Nazism.

The Constabulary's sports program for instance, in which baseball and football were taught to the German children, became so popular with the youngsters that the Russians lodged a protest. They claimed that the teaching of baseball and football violated an Allied regulation against regimented sports which might be regarded as quasi-military training. The British and French occupation forces, however, backed Col. Frank Howley, U. S. Deputy Commandant, and German children in the American zone are continuing to hit homers, slide into third and make touchdowns.

THE Constabulary's 10th Regiment at Stuttgart gave a party that was attended by some 15,000 German children. They were transported from outlying villages in Army ve-

hicles and men played host.

Faces once sullen took on new expressions of trust and respect as the children played baseball and indulged in other sports.

The Constabulary is a force of 33,000 men commanded by Maj. General Ernst N. Harmon. They are known by all by their distinctive badge, a yellow silk

scarf. Duties include the ferreting of illegal arms and breaking up of remnants of Nazi organization. They keep displaced persons in hand, track down smugglers and black marketeers and check on the behavior of the other U. S. troops. They are looked upon as the cream of U. S. occupation forces.





panies to the recreation grounds  
of the regiment, where officers

Below: This batter's stance  
is not all that could be de-  
sired for major league  
form, but he is willing, and  
is taking his cut while a  
trooper looks on with a  
critical eye in background.



That sullen, resentful attitude that characterized Germans,  
young and old, in the early days of the occupation of Der  
Vaterland is missing from this picture.



A Constabulary trooper stands beside this little chap to  
give him pointers in catching pop flies and pegging to base.  
Some of the youngsters showed remarkable aptitude.

