

In
Germany



T-PATCH

36TH DIVISION NEWS

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SUNDAY, 8 APRIL 1945

WEEKLY

Division Completes 365th Combat Day

Sgt. McCall Awarded CMH For Rapido River Action

143rd Sergeant, Now PW, Wins Division's 7th Congressional

S/Sgt. Thomas E. McCall, Company F, 143rd Infantry, has been awarded the 36th Division's seventh Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry in action during the crossing of the Rapido River, January 22, 1944.

The citation states, "Company F had the mission of crossing the Rapido River in the vicinity of San Angelo, Italy, and attacking the well prepared German positions to the west. For the defense of these positions the enemy had prepared a net work of machine gun positions covering the terrain to the front with a pattern of withering machine gun, mortar, and artillery zeroed in on the defilade areas.

S/Sgt. McCall was in command of a machine gun section that was to provide added fire support for the riflemen. Under the cover of darkness Company F advanced to the river crossing site and under intense enemy fire crossed an icy bridge. Many casualties occurred upon reaching the west side of the river and reorganization was imperative.

Exposing himself to deadly fire, Sgt. McCall, with unusual calmness, encouraged and welded his men into an effective fighting unit. He then led them forward across the muddy exposed terrain. Skillfully, he guided his men through a barbed wire entanglement to reach a road where he personally placed the weapons of his two squads into advantageous positions.

A shell landed near one of the positions, wounding the gunner, killing the assistant gunner, and destroying the weapon. Even though enemy shells were falling dangerously near, S/Sgt. McCall crawled across the treacherous terrain and rendered first aid to the wounded man.

The gunners of the second machine gun had been wounded from the fragments of an enemy shell, leaving Sgt. McCall the only remaining member of his machine gun section. Displaying outstanding aggressiveness, he ran forward with the weapon on his hip. Reaching a point only 30 yards from the enemy, Sgt. McCall fired two bursts into the nest, killing or wounding all of the crew.

Another machine gun opened fire twenty yards to the left. Although men were being killed and wounded all about him, he ran toward the second position, firing his weapon from the hip. So accurate was his fire that he killed four of the enemy.

Determined to hold their well-entrenched positions, the Germans increased the intensity of their fire by laying down a deadly barrage. A third machine gun 50 yards to the rear of the first two was delivering a tremendous volume of fire upon our troops. Sgt. McCall spotted his position and valiantly went toward it in the face of overwhelming fire. He was last seen as he courageously moved forward upon the enemy position.

Sgt. McCall's intrepidity, his unhesitating willingness to sacrifice his life

exemplifies the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

As Sgt. McCall has since been reported a prisoner of war, the presentation will be made after his release.



Gregg Visits Germany

When Lt. Stephen R. Gregg, recent Congressional Medal of Honor winner, was told that he was to go home, he dashed up to have a look at the Siegfried Line and to step into Germany before he left.

"Having come this far," the lieutenant explained, "I felt that I ought to grind a little German soil under my feet before going back to the States."

Special Troopmen Win Six Awards

With Lt. Col. David P. Faulkner, Special Troops Commander, calling the award winners to "front and center" and Major General John E. Dahlquist, Commanding General, making the presentations on a parade ground adjoining the 736 Ordnance Company, six officers and enlisted men of Special Troops were last week decorated.

Legion of Merit Medals were presented to Lt. Col. William O. Green, Division Ordnance Officer, and Sgt. Clarence A. Renfro, Jr., 736 Ordnance Company. Bronze Star Medals for meritorious service in direct support of combat operations were awarded to 1st Lt. Harold W. Doliver, 736 Ordnance Company; Cpl. Jerrel E. Gilreath, 36th Signal Company; Cpl. Boyd K. Lamb, 36th Signal Company, and Pfc. Ralph R. Steig, CIC Detachment.

100 PWs Per Hour Just Day's Quota

Jamming 2,463 German captives into the PW cage, veteran infantrymen of the 36th averaged better than 100 prisoners an hour on the 24th of March as they raced over German soil to the Rhine.

The prisoners from ten German divisions, artillery groups and Volksturm units raised the 36th Division's total to 25,807 since the Riviera invasion.

Among the plumper plums plucked was the former commanding general of the western front, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt's personal tank inspector.

Salerno, Riviera Veterans In Reich To End Year's Fighting

Climaxing its three hundred and sixty-fifth day of combat, the 36th Infantry Division stood the watch on the Rhine deep inside Germany, its patrols lashing out across the great river.

It was a good day for the T-Patchers, members of the first American division to invade Europe. They had finished their first full year of combat in Italy and France by smashing through the dragons' teeth and pillboxes of the Siegfried Line and cutting many miles into Germany.

It is historic what hardships were suffered by the doughboys of the 36th during their three major Italian offensives. They landed at Salerno as the spearhead force of the Fifth Army, on a beach which the Germans had known would be attacked

and had prepared accordingly. In "Salerno," a booklet issued by Military Intelligence Division in recognition of the landings, the details of the battle are duly recorded, but even the flow of military language cannot dim the gallantry and heroism displayed by the green troops of the Division in their first days under fire.

There's the story of Charlie "Commando" Kelly throwing mortar shells from a second story window in Altavilla when his hand grenades gave out. They write about James Logan, "Logan from Luling," and Manuel "Ugly" Gonzales who, seriously wounded, knocked out a German 88, an ammunition dump, an enemy mortar, and a machine gun nest.

There are countless examples of extraordinary behavior cited, until the laconic phraseology finally admits: "The Salerno beaches had been won, from an enemy who had been prepared and alert."

The Division was next committed along the narrow, easily-defended lower Liri Valley, on Mount Camino and below the town of San Pietro. Through fierce terrain, in which the Germans held the key features, in mud knee-deep, despite the terrible winter, the doughfeet forced their way to the Cassino-skirting Rapido River. In the fruitless and bloody attempts to cross that river, the flower of Texas nearly perished, and the "One State Army" learned that sheer guts and cold fury were not enough to defeat an enemy holding the trump cards.

From the Anzio beachhead, the Division began its great drive, jumping off against the Gothic Line and cracking it at its strong bastion of Velletri, to open the gateway to Rome. One of the first units to enter the Eternal City was the 36th, which raced through and pursued the fleeing enemy to the heights above Piombino in the first smashing, speedy action of the Italian campaign. Over five thousand of the enemy were captured, the entire central Italian peninsula was liberated, as the 36th dashed two hundred and forty miles in thirty days.

One of the selected Seventh Army divisions to participate in the southern France invasion was the proven 36th, now composed of men from every State in the Union. Landing on the extreme right flank of the amphibious force, it secured its beaches nine hours after landing and pressed inland, charging over one hundred miles in one day to trap the German Nineteenth Army at Montelimar. At Montelimar, the 36th was the only bar across the German escape route to the north, and it bore the brunt of the harried enemy's powerful thrusts to escape. When the battle ended, over eleven thousand Germans were casualties, and they had lost twenty-one hundred vehicles, six railroad guns, and fifteen hundred horses. It was a tremendous victory for the men of the 36th Division.

Racing through southern France, the T-patchers liberated Grenoble and Lyons, then smashed the enemy's Moselle River Line, behind which, it had been boasted, he could hold all winter.

With the cracking of the Moselle River defenses, began the deadly war of attrition through the Vosges Mountains.

East of Bruyeres, there was almost disaster. The famous "Lost Battalion" was isolated for seven days until attached 442nd infantrymen fought through to its relief.

Then the Division fought on, to force the Sainte-Marie Pass to Selestat and Ribauville, the first time such a feat had



These are the battle colors that the 36th Division has carried from Salerno to the Rhine in two years overseas and in 365 days of actual fighting

23 Silver Stars Presented To French In Strasbourg By General Dahlquist

In a military ceremony, colored by both the 36th Division band and a French band, the Division Commander, Major General John E. Dahlquist, Monday morning in Strasbourg presented 23 Silver Stars to members of the French Army for gallantry in action.

Those who received the awards were: Capitaine Henri Charles Gaspard d'Avout d'Auerstaedt, Capitaine Aimé Marie Guy Bertellin, Capitaine Jean Paul Marzloff, Capitaine François Louis Marie Joseph Le Masson, Capitaine Etienne Jean Xavier Maurice Du Moustier de Canchy, Lieutenant Henri Charles Alex André Grand d'Esnon, Lieutenant Robert Jean Dutiilh, Lieutenant Olivier Marie de Roux, Sous-Lieutenant Georges Bize, Sous-Lieutenant Henri

Fernand Cassan, Adjudant-Chef André Garbey, Adjudant-Chef Robert Kaiser, Maréchal-des-Logis Pierre Baignière, Caporal-Chef Pietro Piccirilli, Caporal Wladislas Snelinski, Légionnaire Victor Drumont, Légionnaire Joseph Errath, Légionnaire Paul Juris, Légionnaire Jean Laporte, Légionnaire Zyennumt Kozief, Légionnaire Henri Vanthourmout, Chef d'Escadron Marcel Faude, Chef d'Escadron Jean Marie Constantin Henri Loyseau.

142nd Infantry Presents A View Of Germany

By HOWARD JONES

"The 142 RCT Presents A View of Germany", proclaims the sign high on the arch spanning the road leading from Alsace into Ober Otterbach. To those who follow, it is just another sign along the highway, but to the men of the "I'll Face You" Regiment it means more — it signifies the beginning of one of the hardest battles these veteran doughboys have ever encountered, for not far from the arch is the Siegfried Line.

They were tired men as they hit the highly-vaunted defense line. For three days, from south of the Moder River, they had gone without rest or sleep to keep

after the fast fleeing Boche. The 142 had taken Wissembourg and then moved in on Ober Otterbach. Charlie Company of the First Battalion spearheaded the attack.

As the doughs closed in on the town, deadly cross-fire from the well camouflaged pill-boxes on the ridge to the west rained torrents of hot steel on the advancing infantrymen. And from behind the pillbox area came the unmistakable cranking that doughboys have heard many times before — screaming meemies. More than 100 nebelwerfers were used against the advancing troops. Round after round came crashing into the town, but the 1st Battalion stayed in town that night and

all the next day until all was clear. They had been the first in the regiment to feel the power of the Siegfried line, and in spite of the odds, had successfully won the first move.

In the meantime, the 2nd Battalion which had been following the 1st swung out to the left to flank the town and destroy the pill-boxes that were sending the deadly fire.

It was no ordinary job that the 2nd Battalion undertook. The pill-boxes were constructed to take the best that the Americans had to offer. Bazooka shells merely dented the forts. But the 2nd Battalion had come prepared. While they

kept the Krauts bottled up inside, the engineers crawled and sneaked up to the pill-boxes and placed "bee-hives" (a TNT charge that drives all of its force downward) on top of the defenses. On most occasions it required from three to eight of these charges to force out the enemy. Only then did the Krauts, blackened and dazed, surrender when 65 of these strong points were accounted for.

The Third Battalion, swinging wide to the left, pulled a "sneak" play and came in behind the defenses. The move worked but it took skill and coordination on the part of the entire battalion.

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T - P A T C H

36th Division News

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Thoughts For Tomorrow

Do you suppose these people are cheering the German PWs because they know the PWs have a free ticket to America?
 Why is Germany still fighting? Why are little boys, children fighting alongside the German soldier?
 What are we going to do with these people? Is the man or woman hoing the garden near your billet forever doomed? How can we re-educate them? Can they be made into worthy citizens?
 While on outpost, patrol, KP or in the "sack" these are questions for every soldier to ponder.
 Is it necessary that we fight again in 10 or 15 years? Will our children have to fight a world war III? Will 20,000,000 more people have to die before we learn how to live together in a world that appears to be large enough for everyone? Will millions of people be moved again like cattle to be other peoples slaves? Does the man in the moon laugh when he notices our actions or does he have to turn his head and "puke"?
 Are these the important questions of the day?
 Do you have anything to add to any of these questions? Do you have the answers? P. J.

The Air Corps - Its Ups And Downs

Capt. Martin L. Ball, Nashville, Tenn., 143rd Infantry officer, recently returned from a seven-day officer exchange visit to a B-26 Marauder Squadron. Capt. Ball went on two bombing missions in the "Missouri Mule", veteran of 131 missions. Each run was made to attack railway marshalling yards in Germany.
 Looking out the bomb bay, Capt. Ball saw railway yards jammed with rolling stock. Puffing locomotives stood ready to pull long trains. The yard was blanketed by bombs which ignited many fires.
 "When they say they knock out a yard, they really knock it out," said the captain. "Although they threw some 105 ack-ack at us, you couldn't walk on it."
 Capt. Ball found that air personnel are most anxious to know if the ground forces

think that the air force is doing them any good. The airman's gratitude for the infantry and the job it is doing is nothing short of embarrassing. They praise constantly.

The airman have unquestionable advantages, but they do not seem to exploit them to the fullest. They probably live no better than the infantry does in a rest area.

Do they sleep late during days of bad weather? Decidedly not. All airmen report to the airfield as usual on these days to be briefed on the scheduled mission. They return to quarters only when it is apparent that flight will be impossible.

A furlough home for airmen? The formula is 67 missions and then only if their replacements have arrived. While waiting to be replaced, the airman visit infantry units.

The casualty rate in the officer exchange is about 50-50. Recently an infantry major was shot down over Germany. In reverse two pilots on an infantry reconnaissance patrol were captured.

Chaplain's Corner

A few years ago a young man undertook to express in music just what Christ meant to his life. The result was a song entitled, "Joy of My Longing Heart." The song, itself, is not widely known, but the title has remained to us a perfect expression of the meaning of Christian experience.

A friend of mine had been a Christian a long time when he first found what I call "The Joy of Christian Confidence." He was swimming when he suddenly realized that he wasn't going to make it to land. Instead of panic, however, came the feeling of perfect peace. Whether he made it or not, he knew everything was all right. A friend rescued him, but that was incidental. The important thing was that he now knew that he could depend on God's care. He from then on would only have to do his best. God would let nothing happen to him except for good.

Almost everyone knows what it means to be lonely. Even when surrounded by friends, we feel a need for someone who will completely understand us and help us. This we find in "The Joy of Christian Fellowship." Christian fellowship is with others who love Christ, but most particularly with Christ himself. "He walks with me and He talks with me," is a living fact. It is you and I whose hearts long from our need to be able to trust, to live right, to really commune with God. It is Christ who fulfills the need when we completely come to Him to find His way. He becomes, if you permit and if I permit, to each, "The Joy of My Longing Heart." May this joy surge through you in the fullness of Christian confidence, Christian living and Christian fellowship.

Elwood L. GOSS,
 Chaplain, 142nd Inf.
 Captain, U.S.A.

Christian Science Service

The Division Chaplain announces that arrangements have been made whereby services can be conducted within the division for men of the Christian Science faith. Cpl. G. A. Ainsworth of Headquarters Battery, 36th Division Artillery, is qualified to conduct such services, and has consented to lead them, if our men want them.

All members of the Christian Science Church who desire to attend services of that faith, are requested to submit their names to the Division Chaplain.

THE SPEIGHTS LEGEND:

142nd Infantry Claims No. 1 Kraut Killer

When the Commanding General, Major General John E. Dahlquist, presented awards to members of the 142nd Infantry, history was in the making as 2nd Lt. Shelby Speights of "C" Company's "Fighting Third Platoon" stepped forward and saluted. The Baxterville, Mississippi, lieutenant received a Silver Star with four oak leaf clusters and a cluster to the Bronze Star he already wore. These decorations, coming simultaneously, are unprecedented in the Seventh Army.
 Actually, there was little surprise caused by this momentous presentation since Lt. Speights has become a legend not only to his platoon but to the entire regiment.
 After the usual basic training at Camp Croft, Pvt. Speights headed overseas and after knocking around North Africa in the reinforcement depots, he volunteered for

the mule skinner's outfit. During the Italian campaign, Speights moved up and down the treacherous slopes of Mount Camino and Mount Lungo, guiding the four-footed animals laden with vitally-needed supplies for the infantry. Even then the Mississippi doughboy's leadership was recognized, but since the outfit had no T/O, he had to be satisfied with an acting rating.

Just as the 36th was preparing for the invasion of southern France, the mule pack unit was broken up and the men sent to the different infantry regiments. Speights the different third platoon of Company C. Although he wore two battle stars for the Italian campaign, Speights saw his first action as an infantryman when he landed on the Riviera.

His first acclaim resulted from the expert manner in which he carried out patrol

work. If his CO wanted prisoners or German pay-books, Speights always obliged—in most cases by bringing back both. His first close call to contact another company. After placing his men to cover his approach, Speights, then a Staff Sergeant, kicked open the door of a house, only to find himself looking into the muzzle of a machine-pistol. There was no time to think. Speights and the Kraut acted on impulse—a short blast of the pistol came from the German while three shots rang out from Speights' M1.

It was close for the Company C sergeant as he returned from the house with two telling dents in his helmet, but it had been much closer for the Kraut—he had fired his last shot. That was the beginning of a colorful career.

In the fight for hotly-contested St. Croix, S/Sgt. Speights and his platoon were following two tanks when a pair of German tanks entered into the fight. Due to obstructed visibility, the American armor was forced to halt. But the Kraut tanks didn't stop Speights. Grabbing a telephone and wire, he moved across the street, virtually under the noses of the Mark IV tanks and took up a position in one of the buildings. He soon established contact with a supporting artillery unit and directed fire on the enemy tanks.

A direct hit was scored on the first Mark IV and the crew of the second abandoned their tank. Speights then directed the American tank supporting his platoon into position.

During the bitter fighting at Selestat, Speights again showed his merit. In addition to being a big gun in the third platoon's canal crossing which led to the wiping out of a much larger force, he sealed the doom of the Krauts by directing deadly accurate artillery fire on their only escape route.

Later at Lemberg, another company of the regiment had been struck suddenly by a strong, well-camouflaged enemy force and were badly in need of help. Immediately the Third-Platoon of Company C was called upon. During the attack which cost the enemy 37 dead, 30 more captured and an untold number wounded, Speights saved a possible ambush when he spotted five Krauts about to open fire on his men.

His quick thinking, action was largely responsible for the fact that the platoon emerged from the battle without suffering a single casualty.

On February 17, Sgt. Speights discarded his stripes for a combat appointment to 2nd Lt. He is still throwing everything at the Krauts. He landed in France an undecorated private—today he is a Lieutenant seven times decorated. He is still with Company C and to the officers and men of his company he remains the Number 1 "Kraut Killer."

Fusilage Dented; Adams Spared

On his first flight over enemy-held territory in a "cub" plane, Lt. Robert E. Adams, Austin, Texas, 36th Division liaison pilot, watched a German rifle bullet pierce the fusilage of his plane.

For the first journey Lt. Raymond E. Bibb, Nashville, Tennessee, a veteran, took Lt. Adams along as an observer to show him "where" and "where not" to go. At one of the "where-not" to go places a rifle bullet pierced the fusilage of the cub, a few feet to the rear of the new observer.

Now The Navy's Plugging Us

After the USS Florence Nightingale carried 36th Division troops to the beaches of the Riviera last August, it moved on to the Pacific theater. But Lieutenant Commander Robert T. Hall, Lake Forest, Illinois, and the members of his crew didn't forget about the "Texas Division."

In a letter to his brother, Chaplain Harris T. Hall, serving with the 36th Division Artillery, Commander Hall revealed that his men had erected a T-Patch plaque in their wardrobe in honor of the 36th.

"With admiration we remember the 36th Division. What an ordeal it has been through and what a magnificent job it has done," the commander wrote.

Rodeo Rowdy Bucking Again

Craving action, Corporals James M. Snyder and James H. Hilyer, 36th Division artillerymen, serving as liaison personnel with the infantry, ventured forth into "no-man's land" recently and killed two Germans.

The two corporals crashed into a house to surprise a German lieutenant and his orderly. As the Jerries leaped out of the window, the artillerymen fired and dropped the Germans with a few rounds.

Cpl. Snyder is well-known in rodeo circles as "Smokey" Snyder, champion rodeo rider for 1932, 1933 and 1936. Although he won his crown at Salinas, California, Snyder has ridden in exhibitions all over the United States.

The artillery corporal has also become a formidable contender for the \$500 prize offered by the New Mexico Chamber of Commerce for the first New Mexican to land on European soil. Cpl. Snyder invaded Salerno on 0315, September 9, 1943.

Baum Beats The Ivories As Brahm's Goes Boogie

An old German piano, standing in the CP of the Second Battalion, 143rd Infantry, was last week forced to forget about Beethoven, Brahms and Bach and forced to give out with some Berlin, Porter and Kern at the command of GI Ivory artist Sergeant John C. Baum, Forest Hills, New York, headquarters company radio operator.

T-Patch Profile



Major Ross Young, "San Antonio, Texas, present Division G-3, mobilized with the 36th in November, 1940, as a first lieutenant with the 141st Infantry Regiment.

In 1942 he was made a captain and joined the Regimental Staff as S-3.

Two years later he received his majority, and was designated Division G-3 in December, 1944.

Major Young is winner of the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Citation Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the American Defense Medal.

1st, 2nd Battalions, 143rd Commended By Fifth Army

Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, Commanding General of the Fifth Army, has commended the First and Second Battalions of the 143rd Infantry for meritorious performance of duty in action in December, 1943.

"The First Battalion, with the mission of driving the enemy from a key point in the German Winter Defense Line, Mount Sammuco, destroyed all enemy strong points and secured the summit.

On the second day of occupation the First Battalion repulsed seven counterattacks, the Germans in one instance approaching to points within ten yards of its positions. A total of fourteen separate counterattacks were repelled during this period, and the Battalion's automatic weapons, mortars, and grenades caused considerable damage to the enemy.

Fighting without rest or relief and with limited supplies, the infantrymen of the First Battalion stood firm in the face of enemy fire superiority, and their determined and courageous performance resulted in the accomplishment of a vital mission."

"The Second Battalion was assigned the mission of driving northward to break the German Winter Line at its key point, San Pietro, and to open the gateway to the

Never did the men of this battalion waver in their mission of driving through this key mountain fortress of the German Winter Line. Despite cold rain, muddy mountainous terrain, and without rest for Liri Valley and to the north.

14 days and nights, the officers and enlisted men of the Second Battalion attacked again and again against a numerically superior enemy to open the gateway to the Liri Valley."

What Price Foxhole?

Not a man lying unprotected on the ground was touched when a barrage of nebelwerfer rockets fell on a column of tired 143rd doughs fighting through the Siegfried Line. But Pfc. Pete Duca of C Company, feeling relatively secure in a foxhole, lost two teeth to a small shell fragment.

Going To Paris?

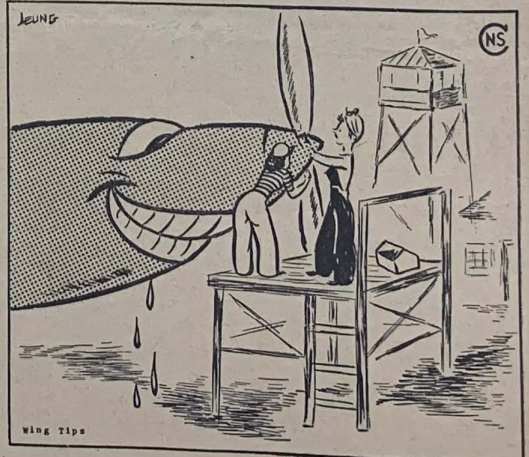
Miss Jerry Wilke, ARC girl and a 36th Division favorite, is now working at the Rainbow Corner Red Cross Club in Paris. She looks forward to seeing all T-Patchers who are fortunate enough to receive Paris passes.

Baker, 443rd Passes 500th Combat Day

Doughboy veterans of B Battery, 443 Anti-Aircraft Battalion of the 36th "Texas" Division have an exclusive right to feel exclusive these days. On March 13th they passed the 500 combat day mark.

The unit left the United States in October, 1942 to participate in the North African landings. Later the 443 ack-ack men saw action in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, France and now Germany.

With an official score of 47 Nazi planes knocked out of the skies, the battery is authorized to wear seven battle stars.



How The 141st Infantry Hit The Siegfried Line

Under the fighting command of Colonel Charles H. Owens, Wallace, Idaho, the 141st Infantry was one of the 36th Division regiments that found itself smashing through the Siegfried Line hardly a week after the last sweeping offensive had left France behind. The dense Hagenau Forest had been cleared of the enemy, and the 141st had penetrated Germany itself east of Wissembourg. Just days later, the Regiment had rocked the enemy from his supposedly impassable Siegfried Line and rolled his forces back to the Rhine River miles from the French border, taking nearly 1,400 prisoners and destroying an immense, undeterminable quantity of material.

Colonel Owens himself was the first man to enter Germany. Out on a motorized patrol, while locating a route suitable for his heavy attached units, he rode across the border without contact.

Fox Company was the first company in the Division to enter Germany. Here's a battalion by battalion account:

RED

At 0300, 15 March, Able Company, under the command of Lt. Virgil Pederson, Milwaukee, Wis., crossed the Moder River on a footbridge after a 15 minute artillery preparation. A Company doughboys cleared a strip of woodland 100 yards wide, bordering the main road between Camp Oberhofen and Hagenau.

By 0900 hours the company had cleared half of the dense forest and Charlie Company with Capt. Joseph P. Kimble, Scranton, Pa., in command had joined to help overcome stiffening resistance. The Kimblemen had cleared 1,000 yards by noon and had established several roadblocks.

Approaching a factory, Able Company faced pillboxes and trenches. After occupying two of the buildings, Able was surrounded when the enemy sneaked back. But C Company came to the rescue and took care of that.

Then Baker Company, commanded by Lt. Oliver Mercer, Mount Pleasant, Texas, was committed. Baker pushed 200 yards from the factory and swung north to cross a main supply route.

On the following day First Battalion infantrymen patrolled to determine the enemy's strength. At the break of dawn the next day Baker Company took Morsbronn and moved on to clear Hegency, taking 300 prisoners without a fight. In the meantime Able had secured Durrenbach and Walburg and had swung north to Surbourg while Charlie moved along the railroad track toward the same town.

At 1300 on the ensuing day Surbourg fell to the attacking forces of C Company. Able joined them two hours later.

After being held in reserve for a short while, the First Battalion, commanded by Maj. Richard G. Ciccolella, Columbus, Georgia, was again committed. Red Battalion attacked and captured the first village in Germany, Kapsweyer.

Then the doughs headed for Steinfeld, which held the main defenses of the Siegfried Line. A coordinated attack with the 14th Armored to probe the weak points was unsuccessful when enemy fire pinned down the attackers.

On 21 March Red Battalion was attached to the 142nd Infantry and was ordered to attack the Siegfried defenses and to drive on with A and C Companies as the assault elements.

Company squads were broken up and five men from each squad were attached to five engineers to form assault teams. The riflemen established a base of fire while the engineers crawled to the pillboxes to ignite the beehives in the doorways.

By morning C Company had cleared 12 pillboxes. These infested nests had been well camouflaged and had been connected by dug-in trenches. In spite of heavy resistance very few casualties were suffered.

Finally a motley crew of fortress, home guard and Volksturm units were committed to make a last ditch stand in the vaulted German fortifications. But the positions had been by-passed and encircled. With speed and surprise Able and Charlie had cleared 46 pillboxes the following day.

The next day at noon Charlie Company reported a fort that was flying a white flag. A patrol brought back the inhabitants. Five more forts followed. This action allowed the First Battalion to move to Deutschhof, Bergzabern, Dierbach and Kaplanehof. A total of 521 prisoners were led to the POW cage during the last two days.

Now the Siegfried Line was no more than a web of rubble. The toll of German troops who had procrastinated too long left only shattered remnants to find their way to the uncertain refuge of the Rhine.

First Into Germany



Col. Charles H. Owens

WHITE

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel James H. Critchfield, Pine Valley, California, the Second Battalion established a bridgehead over the Moder River, with Easy Company, commanded by Lieutenant Edward T. Pawlowicz, Cambridge, New Jersey, as the assault company. Opposition was light. At 0100 doughboys felled across a double plank foot bridge and flanked out to guard a proposed Bailey Bridge site. In the next forty-eight hours they fought off enemy counterattacks which were supported by heavy artillery and tank fire. The foot soldiers held the houses on the far side of the river until they came in on top of them. A platoon sergeant was later found in the rubble, slumped over his Tommy gun, six dead Germans in front of him. It was tough fighting.

The quarters were too close for effective artillery fire, so a unique system for calling concentrations was devised. The streets were numbered as targets one, two, and so forth. When a row of houses was cleared of the enemy, a flare was shot up as a signal for the artillery to start firing on the next street. During those two days, the Battalion held only a thin line guarding the bridge approaches. When the bridge was finally completed and armor put across, the Battalion swung into offensive action.

A 0900, 15 March, an attack was launched following a ten minute artillery barrage. Every automatic weapon opened up — in firing over five thousand rounds sixty-eight machine gun barrels were burned out. Under this barrage, the doughs walked forward to clear out to eastern end of Hagenau, taking one hundred and thirty-three prisoners and killing forty. Every piece of equipment was put across the bridge that day. The enemy withdrew hastily, and in such confusion that four Germans were wounded when they through their own mine field.

The next job — clearing the Hagenau Forest — was more easy than had been anticipated. The only obstacles to a speedy advance were unmanned roadblocks and hastily-prepared minefields. The infantrymen, riding on tanks, drove through the town of Soultz, Hunsbach, Ingolsheim, and Oberdorf were liberated with virtually no opposition. Ahead of the advancing columns, there was every indication that the Germans were retreating to the Siegfried Line.

At Ingolsheim, to keep the armor rolling, Fox Company erected a bridge. The columns had outdistanced the engineers.

Ten minutes after Reidseltz had been occupied, the Germans threw a thirty round artillery concentration into the town, but this did no more than annoy the Second Battalion. Some slight opposition was encountered — eight enemy soldiers tried to resist but were immediately wiped out by George Company, led by Lieutenant Adam Warzcha, Meadville, Pennsylvania. Geisberg and Altenstatt fell, and a battery of 81 mm mortars was outflanked. Schweighofen fell. From "Critchfield's Castle" — a fortress near Hefeldorf — the doughboys could see the complicated iron-

(Con't On Page 4)

BLUE

Blue Battalion, commanded by Major Richard Wetherill, Mason, Tennessee, held a line on the south side of the Moder. Its reserve company was committed to provide covering fire for Easy Company in establishing the bridgehead, and when the offensive began two days later, Mike Company added its weight of automatic weapons to the Second Battalion. Then King Company, commanded by Captain Willis McCarthy, moved out to protect the newly-established Bailey bridge, under a thirty-five minute mortar barrage laid down by Item Company's weapons platoon.

The following day, Captain Alton Redwine, Grapeland, Texas, led his Love Company into the south edge of the Hagenau Forest. Twenty-five prisoners were taken here. Major Phillip M. Royce, Hammond, Indiana, stated: "They were all shell-shocked from ten rounds of eight-inch howitzer air bursts. They were terrified and disorganized."

A combat patrol was organized to check deeper into the woods. One company proceeded up the Surbourg road, supported by a tank dozer and two td's but the dozer hit a mine and halted the operation. The engineers promptly cleared the roadblocks and mines to enable the doughnut to pass through after the enemy.

Item Company, commanded by Lieutenant Darrell Matthews, Petersburg, Texas, continued to press the attack and advanced almost all the way through the forest before encountering heavy enemy fire. King Company, meanwhile, cut the main German supply route on the right flank, then swung in. Love Company was on the left.

For the remainder of the day and the next morning, Company I spearheaded the Third Battalion attack. Only unmanned roadblocks were encountered, and the Battalion moved through Surbourg.

Prisoners were taken all day long. Even King Company's kitchen crew bagged one group.

Schweighofen and Oberhausen fell with virtually no enemy resistance. Ten Major Wetherill led his men to within three hundred yards of the first Siegfried Line defenses. The Battalion was pinned down by terrific machine gun fire. The Germans were waiting for the T-Patchers.

At noon the following day, the Battalion attacked right into the Siegfried Line. The frontal assault was stopped by powerful small arms concentrations from the pill boxes coupled with rocket and artillery barrages. The attack plan was temporarily abandoned. The enemy was still too strong. The Battalion pulled into a defensive position and waited for direct fire from supporting tanks to soften up the line. By the end of the day ten pillboxes had been knocked out.

Then the Battalion was shifted to Durrenbach. It moved under constant artillery barrages, went into position for a proposed attack. The attack never came off. The enemy defenses crumbled. The Battalion went into reserve.

There was one last action for the Wetherill men, a diversionary attack preparatory to establishing a bridgehead across the Rhine. Over sixteen thousand rounds of artillery were fired. The doughboys and attached armor moved along the river bank. The enemy shelled them, and even the Luftwaffe came out to see what was going on.

Dexter Carbines Jerry

In a recent night operation, Sgt. A. Dexter, Jackson, Michigan, found his job as communication sergeant of Fox Company, 143rd Infantry, varying somewhat from the usual routine.

The forward elements of his company were supposedly just a little way up the road, and Sgt. Dexter, at the head of his small headquarters group, struck out boldly and aggressively to reestablish lost contact.

They had just started when to the sergeant's sudden and complete surprise, he ran into the first of a column of Germans advancing down the road toward them. Dexter cut loose with his carbine and the first Kraut fell. The rest of the Boche were soon persuaded to withdraw, and Sgt. Dexter led his group of wiremen and radiomen forward to rejoin the company and continue on to the objective.

Fox Company Leads Way Into Reich

The 141st's Fox Company was the first 36th Division company to cross into Germany. At 1100 hours, between Altemstatt and Wissembourg, Lieutenant Dennis F. Blacock, Alexandria, Louisiana, led his men across the frontier and looked for the Krauts on their own home grounds.

Lieutenant Kenneth Saul, Chicago, Illinois, put up a sign, as is customary. Written on a wooden board with some grease paint, it read:

"Fox Company — First in Germany."

132d Maintenance Shop Commended

The maintenance shop of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion was recently commended by the Commanding General, Major General John E. Dahlquist.

In the commendation, which was endorsed by Brigadier General Walter W. Hess, Jr., Division Artillery Commander, and Lt. Col. John N. Green, Battalion Commander, General Dahlquist stated, "A recent inspection of your battalion maintenance shop by Division Ordnance inspectors revealed that all 6,000-mile maintenance operations had been performed up to date and that vehicle duty rosters were being maintained in an excellent manner."

This report is most gratifying, and I commend you and the battalion shop personnel for the excellent manner in which second echelon maintenance is being performed in your unit."

The following personnel compose the maintenance shop: 1st Lt. Leonard T. Pohmer, motor officer; M/Sgt. Richard J. Mahler, motor sergeant; Sgt. Eugene D. Coffman, welder; Sgt. Harry R. Haase, mechanic; Sgt. Frank E. Mikulski, mechanic; Cpl. John Smith, Jr., mechanic; Pfc. Justin J. Fuss, mechanic; and Pvt. Stanley Kadlubowski, mechanic.

No Trucks — No Complaints

Lucky indeed was that last group of 36th Division "Texans" who visited the rest camp at Bains les Bains. What started out as a six days furlough wound up as a two weeks holiday.

Reason for the holdover: There were no trucks available to transport the men back to the front. The Division was too busy smashing the Germans west of the Rhine. No complaints have been made.

Don't Fraternize



Gretchen Used To Be A Blonde (See Row 1, Below)



Time Marches On

Four excerpts from the S-3 Journal of the Third Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 0320 — King Company reports time bomb at bridge on right flank.

0345 — Lt. Mitchell called from Regimental after location of time bomb by King Company. Asked to report to Blue CP and meet guide.

0430 — Engineers arrived to clear time bomb from bridge and are started on way.

0700 — Engineers report time bomb was an alarm clock that apparently had fallen off some passing vehicle.

'The Fingers', Liz Ryan



You've heard of "The Body", "The Profile", and "The Legs". We present for your approval "The Fingers" - dnc Miss Liz Ryan, a Walter Thornton model.

141st Sergeant Crawls 40 Yards To Save Wounded Buddy

The five hour German artillery barrage gave warning to an infantry company of the 141st Infantry Regiment of the 36th "Texas" Division that a strong counter-attack was imminent. One of the shells that landed close to the fox-hole occupied by S/Sgt. Earl B. Thornton, Huntington, West Virginia, caused little damage because

Thornton's hole was a large dugout covered with heavy logs and plenty of dirt. When the barrage lifted, the enemy counterattacked in company strength. Less than 30 yards away was Sgt. Thornton who found hand grenades coming toward him like buzzing bees. Many reached their mark and caused numerous casualties.

Sgt. Thornton soon found himself with the only automatic weapon available. He made good use of it. For eight hours from his vantage point on top of the hill, he fired his BAR until he had expended all 15 magazines. And when he wasn't firing, he was throwing hand grenades. He had 90 and threw every one. The counterattack was repulsed.

The next morning at dawn, Thornton's company began their attack, but a determined enemy fought off the doughboys with heavy concentrations of artillery and tank fire—the tanks firing point blank from only 75 yards away.

Four men from Thornton's company were injured and pinned down in an open field. Out of BAR ammunition, Thornton reached for his M1 and laid down a base of fire so that the injured could crawl back to safety. He fired 280 rounds, keeping the Krauts down until the men could get back. One couldn't make it.

Ignoring the heavy enemy automatic fire, Sgt. Thornton crawled 40 yards on his stomach to reach the wounded soldier, placed him on his back and carried him out of the danger zone.

New Yorkers Nab Nine

Nine prisoners were easily captured by 1st Lt. Ernest W. Janensch, Montclair, New Jersey, and Pfc. Eugene D. Fried, New York City, 141st Infantrymen, in the recent drive into Germany.

The first four were taken when the two infantrymen were searching for important documents discarded by a German officer. Private Fried saw the four Germans and shouted to them to halt. The Krauts stopped and threw down their weapons — two pistols and two rifles.

The second take for the day was made in the safety of the CP itself. Five unarmed Germans calmly walked into their room and announced that they wanted to surrender.

"They even walked into the right room," said the Lieutenant, an interrogator. "They entered our CP, picked out our room, and saved us a lot of trouble."

Sergeant Shields, 143rd, Halts Hun In Mittelwihr Hellhole

Of all the individual actions occurring in the hell-hole that was Mittelwihr, none was more spectacular than that of S/Sgt. Gurney R. Shields, Coonersville, Indiana, a squad leader in the 143rd Infantry.

During a morning attack on Mittelwihr, G Company received grazing machinegun and rifle fire from buildings and accurate

tank fire which were causing casualties within the company.

Anxious to find the location of the enemy tank, Sgt. Shields volunteered to find the tank and set out on foot, alone, armed only with a tommy gun. Moving under direct enemy observation and drawing almost continuous fire, he reached the center of town, climbed over a fence to avoid the enemy.

Rounding the corner of a building, he ran into five Germans. Quickly firing a burst from his tommy gun, he killed one and wounded four. With no other friendly troops in the area, he continued forward until he reached a position where he could see the German tank. In addition he observed a large number of infantry in and around the positions. Carefully noting these positions, he returned to his company.

When challenged by a German sentry, Shields gave him a burst of fire and forced his immediate surrender. He returned to the CP with the PW and pointed out the locations of the tank and troops. Because of the information Sergeant Shields obtained, the enemy tank was destroyed. 25 Germans were captured, many more killed and wounded and Mittelwihr seized and secured.

Kesselring Debuts As MP On Rhine

When the 36th Division doughs drove through Rome, pictures of Kesselring caught their eyes from the shop windows. He was stiff and elaborate, and looked as though he might be wearing a corset.

An artilleryman sneered scornfully, "I thought German generals were tough." Recent statements from PW's give a varying impression of Marshal Kesselring. The marshal, who has followed the T-Patrollers from Italy to Germany, can be a very active field leader.

Kesselring was on the western bank of the Rhine near Gernersheim and the last bridge across the river. As the Seventh Army forces drove forward, German equipment piled up by the bridge. Enemy traffic was jammed. Every vehicle tried to be the first across the span.

The tanks and armored cars moved across, leaving the light vehicles and horse-drawn ration carts stranded on the bank.

Reported to be purple with rage, Kesselring charged all over the place, trying to readjust the matter. Horse drawn carts he ordered over the bridge first, while the tanks were instructed to cover the retreat with their guns. The tank drivers, however, were more concerned with getting over the bridge before it was blown, than with matters of military etiquette.

One prisoner thought the pompous marshal might make a pretty fair MP. Note—Provost Marshal.

141st WHITE

(Con't From Page 3)

and-concrete fortifications of the Siegfried line.

The same night, a Company F patrol led by Lieutenant Dennis Blalock, Alexandria, Louisiana, infiltrated to probe for the cavities in the dragons' teeth defenses, but was forced to return by stiff small arms fire.

At daylight, Fox and George Companies made another stab at the same spot, but were showered by tank and newbelwer fire and forced to withdraw. Fifteen pill-boxes were concentrated in a small area behind the formidable tank obstacles in front of the Battalion. In four days, tanks and artillery fired over five thousand rounds to punch a hole through the fortifications at this one point.

After a change in plans, the battalion moved to Richtenbach. There it received a three-hour barrage from every heavy weapon the Germans could put into action. "They were pulling out," said Lieutenant Blanchard later. "They got all their ammunition together and fired. We figured they were pulling out, so we moved in to Bergzabern that night. We had quite a time there busting pictures of Hitler and Himmler, and some of the men found running water and took a quick shower."

As the Second Battalion moved farther into Germany, more and more prisoners were taken. Some were soldiers posing as civilians, others were uninformed members of the Volksturm, but most of them were just tired columns of defeated Germans, coming forward with white flags and surrender leaflets.

At Barbelroth the Battalion encountered its last resistance before the Rhine. Two German 88's were firing from the woods at the edge of town. A tank came up and fired twice. The second round hit one of the guns in the breach, killing and wounding four of the enemy. Thirteen gun crew members were taken prisoner.

During the eleven days of this drive, Colonel Critchfield's men covered seventy-five miles and herded three hundred and seventy-five Landser, with six of their officers, into the PW camps. They had moved through the Hagenu Forest, supposedly a strong defensive barrier, and had broken through the Siegfried line.

365 DAYS

(Con't From Page 1)

been accomplished by any army. Holding an eighty kilometer front the 36th bore the brunt of the fierce German counter-attacks to wrest back the Pass from the First French Army, to which the 36th was attached. The Division held, but suffered heavily.

Following this action, the worn doughboys were transferred to the quiet sector around Strasburg for one week, then brought out of the line after having spent one hundred and thirty-three consecutive days of combat in France.

The rest did not last long. Five days after it had been relieved, the Division was thrown back into the line, with each Regimental Combat Team fighting with a different corps. Then the German Rhine bridgehead erupted, and the Division was thrown against the driving Tenth Panzers. Saverne and Strasburg were saved, and the German bridgehead was thrown back across the river.

In March, the Division smashed forward in its last drive in France, driving from Hagenu to Wissembourg and slashing deeply into Germany through the supposedly unbreachable Siegfried Line. On its 365th day of combat, the outpost was on the Rhine, their goal of twenty months before.

Sport Chips

By Pfc. Clarence Lasky

Morton Cooper, Cardinals' right-handed pitching mainstay, was again classified 4-F after three days of examination at Jefferson Barracks. Although there was no announcement from Cooper or the medics, the pitcher is reported to have high blood pressure and a back ailment. . . . S/Sgt. Tommy Gomez, Tampa heavyweight, has been wounded in Germany.

Lt. Commander Norman Strader, former St. Mary's College coach, has been transferred to Sampson Naval Training Center to succeed Commander James Crowley, the former Fordham coach, who has been detached for his second tour of duty in the South Pacific.

Marshall College of Huntington (W. Va.) had to cancel a game with the University of Maryland after most of its varsity basketball players were called up in the draft. . . . Lt. George Sauer, former in and Green Bay back who was head coach at the University of New Hampshire before he went into the Navy, is at St. Mary's Pre-flight school after 17 months of duty aboard the carrier "Enterprise".

Lt. Gar Wood, Jr., chief of the Hull Training Section at Camp Gordon Johnston in Florida, predicts that Sir Malcolm Campbell's record of 141 mph. in a speedboat will be broken after the war. He maintains that motors developed in recent years will enable boats to reach a speed of 200 mph. or better.

Lt. George Poschner, formerly of Georgia University in the heyday of Frankie Sinkwich, has suffered injuries in action which necessitated amputation of both his legs. Poschner, whose catching of forward passes from Sinkwich was one of the 1943 Rose Bowl highlights, was a fellow townsman of Sinkwich, both coming from Youngstown, Ohio.

Al Jarlett, pitcher brought up by the Athletics from Toronto of the International League, has signed up with the Merchant Marine. . . . Ron Northey, outfielder of the Phillies, became the first player inducted into the service under the professional athlete edict of Selective Service requiring re-examination of 4-F's.

142nd Presents

(Con't From Page 1)

With Item Company as spearhead, the 3rd battalion pushed out across an open field to capture and secure the strategic hill known as Berg Berg. When the Germans realized what had happened, they fired everything they had on the hill, but Item company was there to stay.

To silence the German fire, the 2nd battalion, smashed through strong defenses to take the neighboring summit of Hohenberg. The stage was now set for the final breakthrough of the Siegfried line.

The Anti-tank company took over the 1st battalion's positions and the latter followed the 3rd battalion's route of advance to pass through them.

Baker Company was the first unit of the 142nd to pass through the Siegfried line. Driving down the thickly wooded slopes, they took the town of Dorenbach and cleared it in a few hours. Yet, much depended on the 3rd battalion who opened and kept open the supply line leading into the town.

The 142 doughs were tired. Casualties had been heavy although light in comparison to what had been accomplished. They had cracked the strongest part of the Siegfried line. All that remained was to mop up a demoralized and highly disorganized enemy.

Male Call

By Milton Caniff

Male Call

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



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She Looks Different Without Bangs

