

# 83rd SPEARHEAD

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Somewhere in Luxemburg

October 16, 1944

## NAZIS WAGE TOTAL WAR

### Inf. Bn. Fought Across Brittany

#### Also Assisted In Siege of Brest

Close on the heels of the Sixth Armored Division in its record breaking ten day smash across the Brittany Peninsula was Task Force A which had as one of its component parts, the third battalion of the 330th Infantry Regiment.

The armored division struck so quickly and with such speed that it left in its wake numerous pockets of German resistance which had to be wiped out before we could claim the peninsula as ours and at the same time cut off for good the German escape routes back to the Reich.

Starting its drive from Avranches, Task Force A swept into Dinan, St. Brieuc, Guincamp, Morlaix and finally to the threshold of Brest itself, where the Sixth Armored surrounded the city and prepared for the siege.

Behind this story is a tale of liberation for several hundred thousand French people, the capture of a multiplicity of towns and villages and the consumption of the Allied plan to cut off remnants of the German army holding out along the Atlantic Wall in Brittany.

In the majority of instances the towns were ultimately taken by street-fighting, block by block, and building by building.

In the city of Morlaix a considerable amount of organized German resistance was met but all of it wilted under doughboy aggressiveness and air, armored and artillery support from other units of the task force.

Enthusiastic welcomes were given in each freshly liberated town and on one occasion a woman who spoke broken English came to the side of a jeep and with tears in her eyes said, "Thank God you have come. We have waited so long. Four years under German rule was almost unbearable."

(Cont. on page 3)

### REPORTS MADE BY ALLIES WHO FOUGHT IN GERMANY; "BEWARE OF CIVILIANS"

Total war. This is the kind of a fight that Germany is now waging in her last desperate effort at averting defeat and bringing about the death or serious injury of every GI who sets foot on German soil.

This, and other reports, equally as startling, were revealed this week to a SPEARHEAD reporter by men who have fought in Germany and who are well acquainted with the situation as it actually exists in that country today.

German civilians who are the first to greet the GI's when they roll into town are not out with the glad hand as was the case in France but are holed up in cellars and behind fences with small calibre weapons trained on Allied columns.

To those who do show themselves, GI's greet them by releasing

the safeties on their guns. This is only self protection and some soldiers who misled themselves with that idea that many German civilians are anti-Nazi and really glad to see the Americans, are now among the missing in their squads and platoons.

Further reports state that German children are different from the type who rush to the side of a jeep and chant, "Any gum chum". The German kids have had Nazism drilled into their heads now since 1933 and they are just as fanatic about their hate for Americans as are their older brothers who sit behind the machine guns and Schmeisers.

One instance was described of a German patrol which stole an American jeep. Three Nazis wor-

ked their way behind American lines and then feigned motor trouble at the side of the road. A GI, acting in the role of a good samaritan, offered to assist and the thanks he received was a bullet through the forehead. This is an example of Hitler's total war.

German women are cashing in on the amicable relations which have been built up between French mademoiselles and GI Joes, to slide a knife in their ribs when the opportunity presents itself.

A large number of German army uniforms have been found abandoned indicating that this garb has been disposed of in favor of civilian clothes, which incidentally is what the best dressed German sniper is wearing this year.

Heinrich Himmler, chief of the SS in the Reich, has ordered that women and children from the age of ten and upward participate in every type of sabotage known in the German book --- and as authors of subversive activities they know all the tricks of the trade.

Other Allied reports brought back from the front cautioned GI's to be especially careful at night and not venture out unless it was in the line of duty, and then only in groups of threes or fours.

Another favorite trick of the Nazis is to lay hold of American uniforms and in this manner get close enough to our men to knife or shoot them.

In concluding his remarks the spokesman re-emphasized the fact that no German civilian is to be trusted and under no circumstances are soldiers to fraternize with any one of them regardless of age or sex.

"This is just plain logic," he said "and any one who thinks that Germany is not now participating in total war may learn his lesson from a jarring experience in the form of a grenade or sniper's bullet."

(Cont. on page 2)

### THE WAR IN BRIEF

**MONDAY** — Americans have encircled Aachen and cut railway from Aachen to Cologne. Third army drove six miles between Nancy and Metz... Moscow reveals new Red Army push in Western Lithuania in attempt to cut off 150,000 Germans left in Latvia. Russians reported 70 miles from Budapest as Nazis retreat through Hungary... In Italy, Yanks reported 10 miles from Bologna and in Greece, British troops move on Corinth... Pacific fleet bombards Marcus Islands and American heavy bombers blast Rabaul and oil refineries on Dutch Borneo.

**TUESDAY** — Nazis in Aachen given ultimatum to surrender by morning or face destruction of city as Americans push ahead. Third Army troops make gains on approaches to Metz. Advances of Canadian and British troops make Nazi situation along Scheldt estuary and

Dutch mainland very desperate, but fanatic Nazi resistance continues... Russian forces racing across Western Lithuania average 17 miles a day and have reached Baltic Sea. In Hungary, Reds reported only 55 miles from Budapest. American heavy bombers smashed Schweinfurt and Coblenz, while RAF struck at German supply centers near Siegfried Line... Major operations in Italy curtailed by bad weather. British troops in Greece enter Corinth and report Germans pulling out of Athens... New York landings in Palau group announced as bombers continue attacks on Jap-held islands in Pacific. British 14th Army troops within a few thousand yards of Jap base of Tiddim in Burma. **WEDNESDAY** — Nazis at Aachen refuse to surrender so dive bombers and heavy artillery open up on city. Red

### 83rd Spearhead

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## PILLBOX ANNIES

G.I's of the Third Armored Division have dubbed gals they found shacking up in cute little bungalows along the German border "Pillbox Annies." These bungalows turned out to be pillboxes.

Does that mean anything to you?

These gals weren't there to throw roses and kiss the American conquerors. That's one sure thing. They were playing a cozy little game all their own. You can call it a put-up job if you want to.

Hitler and his cronies are a slick gang. They know we're a kind of sentimental bunch of people. They know we like kids and that women stand pretty high on our list. And they think they can suck us in by playing women and children against us.

For the G.I's who walk into Germany with their eyes closed, it's going to mean dirty work and a dirty end. These gals know all the ins and outs. They'll send back information about us. They'll shack up with us if they can, just to spread disease. They may even try to stick a knife in your ribs.

That's a hell of a way to end up this man's war.

So far the civilians have been on our side. But these Germans are playing on their home grounds. They know the back alleys. They all went to the same school. They know the ropes.

The civilian is fighting us just as much as the Heinie in uniform Trust him if you want to. That's your business. But remember you're playing on the side of the Yanks. It may mean not only your neck but a knife in the back for your buddy. Watch out for these "Pill Box Annies!"



Last week the men of the 83rd were treated to a traveling USO show which played various units in the division. By the look on these "happy" faces it must have been a success. Signal Corps Photo

## KNOW YOUR LEADERS

Col. Edwin B. Crabill, regimental commander of the 329th Infantry, has been in the army 27 years and is a native of Galax, Va. Graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in April of 1917, Col. Crabill was commissioned in the Infantry in August of the same year.

After receiving his gold bars, Col. Crabill advanced rapidly through the ranks, serving as company commander with the 13th Infantry, regimental adjutant with the 33rd Infantry, plans and training officer with the 30th Infantry and commanding officer of the troops from the 45th Infantry stationed at Baguio in the Philippines.



Signal Corps Photo

In addition to his two and a half years in the Philippines, Col. Crabill served three years in Panama. He was a ROTC instructor for four years at Western Kentucky State Teachers College and for six years at Michigan State College.

In addition to holding the combat infantryman's badge he also has been awarded the bronze star for his work in France during the present war.

## DO YOUR XMAS MAILING EARLY

## The war in brief

(Cont. from page 1)

armies move toward German borders. Tilsit, city in East Prussia, being shelled by Soviet guns... Rhur Valley targets hit by RAF... Guns of Fifth Army shelling Bologne... Corinth in Greece, taken without opposition by British... Island of Formosa hit by heavy American plane raid. This is deepest naval presentation of islands near Japan.

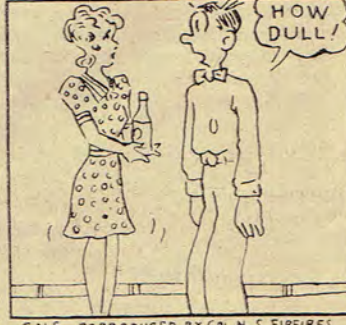
**THURSDAY** — Aachen assault continues. North of Metz Third Army made gains... Great tank battles rage near corner of East Prussia... Bremen and Berlin hit by Allied bombers... Japs say 1,000 Allied planes raided Formosa. American ground forces have met no opposition in landing on another Palau Island. **FRIDAY** — American guns continue to pound Aachen. 5,000 shells lobbed into city on first day of siege. British Second Army takes Dutch town of Oberloon... Russians land near Arctic port of Petasmo. Soviets move across Hungary on 30 mile front and other troops entered Riga. Unconfirmed reports say Greek patriots have taken Athens... 221 Jap planes destroyed in Formosa raid. Oil fields in Dutch Borneo also hit by Allied air might.

**SATURDAY** — House to house fighting going on in Aachen; Air force destroyed 84 tiger tanks... Riga has fallen to Russians. 1,000 heavies again attacked Western Germany... Americans in Italy continue push on Bologna... In Pacific 150 Jap ships destroyed in two day attack on Formosa and Jap plane losses 520. We lost 53 planes and no warships. **SUNDAY** — 3,000 bombers blasted Reich yesterday. Canadians crossed Leopold Canal. 3,000 civilians at Aachen walked into American lines... Red armies mopping up around Riga and on Hungarian front... Greek capital of Athens has been liberated... Air attacks on Formosa continue and Japs said our planes raided Manila again.

## SGT. RADIO ACTIVE

One day not so long ago, T/Sgt. Ado Langenkamp of New Weston, Ohio, was leading his platoon from the 329 through a heavily wooded area adjacent to a sunken road. In one hand he was carrying his M-1, in the other a 536 radio. Unknown to him, a German patrol was working up the other side of the road. The leading Jerry crashed through some bushes directly in front of the Sergeant. With both hands full, Langenkamp was at a slight disadvantage until he whipped back his throwing arm and smashed the Jerry in the face with the radio, knocking him off balance and making him easy meat for his M-1.

## BLONDIE



## DOWN THE DRAIN

\*  
They say a grain of salt can be greatly improved by dropping it in a large glass of cold beer.

\*  
We still wonder why they play "Here comes the bride." It would be more fitting to sing "There goes the groom."

\*  
It's getting more and more difficult for us to recognize our friends now they're getting dressed up in OD's. Some difference.

\*  
Remember all those long marches we took back in the states? Those were sure rough days.

\*  
Anyone fortunate enough to get a pass to the big city near here can buy himself a nice, luscious dish of ice cream. Flavor is vanilla; the price 10 francs.

\*  
We hear the poor GI's away back in the rear have to wear blouses on pass and can't even carry a shooting iron. Just like home.

\*  
We pity the poor GI who gets a Christmas package now which reads, "Don't open until Christmas." We'll lay you ten to one he'll break down before December 25th.

\*  
What do you think of a guy who puts his initials on a box of matches so he can check up to see who swipes them?

\*  
The meanest man in the ETO. He gives the kiddies Feen-a-Mint when they say, "Have you any gum, chum?"

\*  
We wonder what every one is going to do for field manuals now they've taken comic books off the Overseas Mailing List.

\*  
Well, Paris, is "off limits."

\*  
Question of the week: How do the gals from the USO Shows keep warm these chilly nights when GI'S sit bundled up in Long Johns, wool OD's and overcoats? We wish we knew the answer.

\*  
Pity the poor GI who hears from his wife one week what a fine, thrifty woman she is and what a big bank account she is building up only to get a letter from her the next week saying she had bought "us" a new car.

\*  
We heard of zealous GI who is quite an efficiency expert. The officer couldn't find his overseas hat one day and finally called in the GI for help. "Oh yes," he said, "it's filed right here under 'H'" and with that reached into the file and pulled out the officer's hat.

## APO-MEN "SWEATING OUT" CHRISTMAS RUSH

Perhaps the busiest men in the division these days are the ones attached to APO 83 where the Christmas mail rush has already entered its first stages and at the same time given every indication that the clerks and other members of the staff are not going to get much rest between now and Dec. 25.

The outgoing package situation has hit a new high during the last two weeks and in order to expedite the mailing process from this end a few directions were given by members of the army postal staff.

Up to 50 pounds can be mailed and the maximum length of the package may be 100 inches. It was stipulated, however, that the parcel must be small enough to fit into a mail sack and that to insure against breakage items should be wrapped securely in excelsior or some other soft material. Wooden boxes are preferred and packages wrapped in paper should be thoroughly bound and the name of the sender printed in the upper left hand corner. The forwarding address should be written legibly or printed on the lower right hand side of the parcel.

It was also pointed out that registered or insurance stamps on packages do not take effect until they reach the States and the only claim which can be made against the government from the time the package leaves the APO, is one of breakage incurred in the trans-ocean trip.

Regarding the incoming package situation he said that at this early date registered and insured packages are being received from the states which are marked, "Do Not Open Until Christmas." He estimated that November and December will be the heaviest incoming mail months and the entire staff work extra hours to try and will bring every GI in the division his Christmas gift on time.

For men of the division who are sending money orders home as Christmas gifts, they are asked to hold their stubs for 90 days or

until they hear from back home that the money has been received.

During the month of September approximately a million and a half letters were sent by personnel of the division through the APO and the incoming rate amounted to nearly two million pieces of first class mail. "This", said the clerk, "was a less-than-average month!"

### Reply to Jennifer

My Darling Jennifer;

I was so sorry to hear that my very good friend "Willie" received his discharge. Truthfully Jenny he doesn't know what he is missing. Why I remember when no girl in our town would go out with him. But the gals over here just ain't made that way, they just don't seem to care how ugly or gruesome a guy is as long as your an American they give you a big kiss.

You mentioned that Dotty's boy friend Earl received the Purple heart. He really must be in the thick of things.

Your right about the champagne and wine flowing freely in France, and it would do my heart good to see "Willie" enjoying it.

Have I told you about our club? It's called the "88" and it for sinners and Christians alike; Willie should really be here I'm sure he would be crazy about it.

I hope you understand just how you and I stand by now, but this little poem will express my complete feelings for you:  
You've talked about your "Willie"  
Till its' getting rather late  
To me lifes' oh so silly  
If you decide my fate

I've thought about you often  
And this I'd rather do,  
Be buried without a coffin,  
Than stuck for life with you.

Your Devoted,

Charlie

By T/5 Joe Aldrich, Sv. Co. 330

### Bn. In Brittany

(Cont. from page 1)

When the task force reached the outskirts of Brest it was given the mission to take and hold a large peninsula directly south of the city. Still in German hands, it proved a menace to the forces besieging the city itself.

Acting in conjunction with other units, the men of the third battalion fought their way through fields thickly sown with booby traps and mines, and constantly menaced by the heavy German coastal guns most of which had a 360 degree traverse. They succeeded in wiping out all enemy resistance and captured 2200 prisoners a considerable amount of

ordnance equipment and a large number of saddle horses which had been taken over by the Nazis from the French.

After winning the peninsula, the battalion assumed a defensive position in the battle for the city of Brest itself and prevented the Germans from escaping by boat from the badly battered city.

Assisting the battalion during its entire operation from Avaranches to Brest was C Battery of the 323 F. A. Battalion. The battery was in support of the Task Force throughout the drive and was instrumental in forcing many of the Jerries to wave the white flag after a few rounds from their 105's dropped on them. Following the German capitulation at Brest, the battalion re-joined its regiment.

### "The Sump Hole"

BY Pvt. MAURICE RENEK.

Last week this newspaper ran a most erroneous account about the life of this writer. First of all, no one has ever called me "Mike". I'll admit I've been called plenty of names but none of them began with an "M". Then again, the only place that is fighting for my services after the war is the N. Y. State Penitentiary.

\*  
Looking at her new dress was like looking at a sunrise — everything was just about to come out.

\*  
A soldier who was bedecked with rows of theater ribbons was recounting his adventures to some Lounge Lizards back home. "The reason I limp," he said, "dates back to the time a German mortar clipped me in Africa. These holes in my hand are from shrapnel that hit me in Sicily."

A soldier with a Good Conduct Ribbon stepped forward to ask where he had picked up that awful hole in his stomach. The reply was, "Calvados."

\*  
Weekly letter to the doughfeet:  
Dear Charlie:

I guess the war with those terrible Germans will be over soon. I just heard Gabriel Garbagecan on the radio. He said that all you have to do is crack the Siegfried Line in a couple of places and then walk right into Berlin. Mr. Garbagecan is usually right. He predicted Roosevelt's victory over Hoover. He also said we'd declare war on the Japs after what they did at Pearl Harbor. The people are always condemning him as he once made a wrong decision. He said the Germans were too strong to even retreat an inch. Oh well, every one can mistake, can't they, hun?

Darling, I was so upset when I heard you got hit by that awful 88. Did they get all the pieces of metal out of your bottom? Save a piece foe, hun. If you have enough, I could make a necklace out of all the little pieces. You know how handy I am at making things. I'm glad you finally got the Purple Heart. Please send it to me quick, for it will go good with the new winter outfit I got from the five war bonds I turned in. Willie thinks I look cute in it.

Love,

Jennifer

### Word "Infantry" Dates Back to 16th Century

The derivation of the word "infantry" dates back to the 16th century when soldiers whose duty it was to protect the person of the old time Spanish Crown Prince, or "Infanta," were known as "Infanteria". Hence our word "Infantry" meaning foot soldiers.

# THE GRAND STAND

## Irish Smash To Win Over Dartmouth As Army Trounces Pitt

Ed McKeever's Fighting Irish of Notre Dame served notice on the college football world this week that the institute at South Bend has another powerhouse. Last Saturday it was Dartmouth which felt the full weight of the Irish fury as it tried unsuccessfully to cross the Notre Dame goal line while the Ramblers were averaging better than a point a minute in smashing their way to a 64 to 0 victory. Pittsburgh, Tulane and now Dartmouth have fallen to Notre Dame on three successive Saturdays and every early season indication points to another mythical championship for the South Benders.

In the east Army continued on its unbeaten way by riding roughshod over Pittsburgh 59 to 7 and giving every indication that their contest with Notre Dame in Yankee Stadium on Nov. 4 will be one of the top games of the season.

The scores for Saturday, October 14 were as follows:

**East**

Army 59, Pittsburg 7  
Penn State 30, Bucknell 6  
Colgate 14, Cornell 7  
Yale 27, Columbia 10  
Nov 17, Duke 0

**Mid West**

Notre Dame 64, Dartmouth 0  
Illinois 40, Iowa 6  
Michigan 27, Northwestern 0  
Minnesota 39, Missouri 27

Ohio State 20, Wisconsin 0  
Iowa Naval 13, Purdue 6

**South**

Georgia Tech 27, Auburn 0  
Tennessee 30, Florida 0

**West**

California 13, Pacific 0  
UCLA 21, St. Mary's 0  
Washington 71, Whitman 0

## Baltimore Wins Little World Series

Led by Charley "Red" Embree's masterful pitching, the Baltimore Orioles cleanly outplayed the Louisville Colonels to win the Little World Series, four games to two.

The Orioles became the Minor League champs when they came from behind with a three-run rally in the seventh to defeat the Colonels 5 to 3 in the final game. Previously, "Red" Embree had shut-out the Colonels on two separate occasions.

## Medics defeated on grid by comm. plat.

The communication team of the 2nd. Bn. 330th Inf defeated the 2nd. Bn. Medics. by the score of 28 to 0, in the first football game of the year. The outstanding passing combination S/Sgt Altick to T/4 Burns clicked for several touchdowns. The powerful showing shows a great future for the communication team.

## Duddy Does It Again; 2nd War

Warrant Officer Joseph Duddy is one of few in the division who fought in the last war and is now helping to carry the ball in this one. A native of Boston, Mr. Duddy came overseas with the 26th (Yankee) Division in World War I. He later transferred to the fighting 1st Division. During the intervening years Mr. Duddy served in every non-commissioned officer grade and filled about every kind of job there was in the army. He joined the 83rd when it was first formed, coming over from the 3rd Cavalry.

When asked to say a few words to the press, his only comment was "I spent a winter in the Voges mountains. It didn't get very cold and there wasn't much snow." Asked to tell us about Paris, he proudly spoke of participating in the Victory Parade down the Champs d'Elysee and through the Arc de Triomphe. He hopes to see Paris again before long.

Mr. Duddy's reputation as a supply expert in the 331st is vouched for by his regiment's supply sergeants who say, "If Mr. Duddy says something is so, then it must be so. He knows more about supply than all the others put together."

## A-T Plat. Routes German Patrol

The anti-tank gun crew of Lt. Peter A. Barksdale, Milwaukee, Wis., of the 330th can be credited with the complete route of an enemy patrol.

The gun was in a camouflaged position in a draw which afforded an excellent view of a road leading into Jerryland. Part of the crew, on security outpost, saw two Germans coming toward the gun. Correctly assuming that they were part of a large unit, the men warned the rest of the gun crew and settled down to wait for the main body of the patrol.

The two scouts were allowed to proceed to a position where they spotted the gun. They then hurried back to bring up the rest of the patrol.

The main body, consisting of fourteen men, armed with machine pistols, a mortar, one machine gun, two bazookas and a rifle equipped with a grenade launcher, opened fire. There followed a fierce battle which lasted until all the ammunition was expended and the only machine gun jammed.

At this moment, Corporal Eugene Shannon, of Carlyle, Kentucky, who had been ordered to remain at the gun in the event of an armored attack, decided it was time to end the fight. He opened up with four rounds of HE which killed the patrol leader and forced the remainder of the enemy to flee in confusion.

# FOXHOLE POETS

## THE THUNDERING HERD

Here's a story you ain't heard It's a story about the 83rd. Normandy, Brittany and all the rest. Hedgerows and villages, they're the test.

East of St. Lo they got their start. The going was rough, but they had the heart. Rifles and machine guns were the bait, Mortars, artillery, and their eighty-eight.

Through swamps and hedgerows they did go. It was defeat after defeat for the foe. Through rain and mud they did fight. The 83rd was showing its might.

Saint-Malo was one of their stops. It was here the 83rd showed they were tops. Others had gone to Morlaix, Dol and Guincamp were also freed that day.

Our mortars and artillery did their part. Teamwork with our air force sure was smart. But it was G. I. Joe with his M-1 That really got the Jerries to run.

Our General Macon is a right smart guy. Among our generals he rates high. 20,000 Heinies in one big haul. It's divisions like this that'll make Hitler fall.

By Pvt. Floyd J. Belmont  
Co. 1, 330th Infantry

## On The Home Front

Married: (Time) — Freeman Gorsden, 45, philosophic, long suffering "Amos" of radio's perennial "Amos 'n' Andy" (back on the air in a month; and Jane Stoneham, 21, daughter of New York Giant's late owner, Charles Stoneham; he for the second time; in Scotia, Calif.

Killed in Action: (Time) — Marine Sergeant Lee Powell, 35, circus and cinema portrayal of the masked vigilante "The Lone Ranger"; after two years' Pacific service including Tarawa and Saipan.

Inventor: (Time) — Stanley Hiller, Jr., 19, Berkeley, Calif, demonstrated a revolutionary type helicopter driven and steered by top rotors alone before Navy and aviation bigwigs; landed within one foot of take-off; flew 100 miles per hour (top speed supposedly 90); turn it around in midair when only one foot off the ground. He created quite a buzz.

Married: AAF Lt. Thomas (Tom) Dudley Harmon, 24, twice all-America Michigan half-back; twice reported missing; and Hollywood starlet Elyse Knox, 26, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

