

83rd

SPEARHEAD

NORMANDY

BRITTANY

LOIRE VALLEY

LUXEMBOURG

ARDENNES

RHINE RIVER

VOL. 2 No. 6

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

MARCH 10, 1945



YANKS BREAK STRONG NAZI COUNTER-ATTACK

One of the strongest German counter-attacks launched west of the Rhine in a last desperate attempt to stem the Ninth Army's drive toward the last great barrier to the heart of the Reich was smashed last week some nine miles south of Neuss in the vicinity of Kapellan on the Erft canal.

A company of infantrymen, artillery, tank destroyers and P-47s dealt repeated blows on Nazi tanks and infantry trying to cut the main supply route to the forward elements of the 83rd, busy punching their way to Neuss and the Dusseldorf bridges. Seven Tigers were knocked out by TDs, bazookas and artillery, while the air support claimed the destruction of 30 more of an estimated 50.

KAPELLAN FALLS

On Feb. 22, the 221st Infantry, commanded by Capt Roland Eaton of Lancaster, Ohio, had cleaned out the town of Kapellan on the Erft Canal and were blocking the right flank for the armored columns' advance north. On Friday at 0500 intensive shell fire poured into the town. The company, was completely surrounded by Jerry tanks and infantry. Tanks were even seen on the open field the company had crossed the morning before. All avenues of communications and supplies to the trapped infantrymen were covered. The doughs got ready.

Lt Donaldson Robbins, 908th FO from Salt Lake City, began his dash from one post to

another directing artillery fire. The 643rd TDs were called from Hemmerden.

TANKS ARE HIT

Several 736th tanks were dug in across the road from the first platoon, led by Lt Sylvester Smith of Medina, N.Y. The platoon CP was shelled. Some of the men took cover in nearby ack-ack pits. Pvt Roman Perez of Galveston, Tex. knocked the track off one tank with a rifle grenade, while Pvt Robert Richardson of Dillon, S.C. and Pvt Modesto Ojeda of Kansas City, Mo. blew up another with bazooka rockets. Again Ojeda waited for one of the attacking tanks to roll fairly close. With three well-aimed bazooka rounds, he knocked it out. The platoon then withdrew for more favorable positions. They ran into Jerry infantry, killed 20 and took 13 prisoners.

At the western end of town, the second platoon, under Lt Val Winters of St. Louis was faced with Jerry infantry to their rear and left flank. The GIs opened up. The Nazis scattered and began to work their

(Continued on page 2)

Dutch Treat...

Said the Dutch Editor to the American General—"Congratulations on winning the race to the Rhine, and here's your newspaper and ours to prove it."

Said the General to the Editor—"Many thanks and congratulations on your scoop in being the first free European newspaper in any language to reach the Rhine."

And so two international firsts in fighting and writing were sealed and delivered by Major General Robert C. Macon of the 83rd and Editor Jan Wintraecken of Veritas—a veritable Dutch treat.

330th GIs Committed From First

Three German villages northwest of Julich were the first to fall to the 83rd Division, within 48 hours after the initial crossing of the Roer River.

The 330th Infantry, which was attached to the 29th Division for the operation, crossed the Roer on an engineer constructed pontoon bridge on the night of Feb. 24th. Enemy artillery and mortars fell sporadically and German air activity also hampered operations as the crossing was made under the light of a full moon.

Relief elements of the 115th Infantry of the 29th Division was completed by midnight and on Sunday morning at 0530 the second and third battalions launched a co-ordinated attack.

The third battalion seized the village of Pattern, while the second battalion smashed into the nearby town of Mersch.

Early in the afternoon the first battalion was committed and launched an assault on the village of Murtz, three miles northwest of Julich. By dusk three-quarters of the village had been cleared and only a few snipers were holding up complete control of the town.

All three battalions were supported in their assaults by the 323rd FA Bn.

Eagle Scout...

Another medal has been added to the collection of T/5 Clarence Van Laanen of Seattle, Wash. Jeep pilot for Btry D, 453rd AAA Bn, he holds the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and three battle stars. The new bangle came in a package from home, an Eagle Scout medal he had earned but not received. Now he's wondering on which side of the Good Conduct ribbon to wear it.

Rhine Bridges Blown As 83rd Hits River

BY HAL BOYLE, AP

NEUSS ON RHINE—Three and a half tons of enemy planted dynamite blasted three great bridges on the Rhine as the last German defenders on the western banks ran across one span into historic Dusseldorf.

Blowing of the bridges was in itself admission by the German high command that the battle for the Rhineland has been lost and that the legendary river which every Teuton loves has become again the western frontier of the shrinking Reich. A small mobile cordon of trusted troops fought for hours to hold up the 83rd Division pressing to gain one railroad and two great highway bridges here that are some of the chief gateways into Adolf Hitler's hinterland.

STRONGLY DEFENDED.

They had rifles, automatic weapons and 20mm ack-ack guns, and across the river German artillery emplaced in Dusseldorf gave them strong supporting fire.

It wasn't enough. Three doughboy regiments—the 329th, 330th and 331st—throttled this industrial suburb of 60,000 and took hundreds of prisoners as they neared their bridge goals.

One Italian, who said he had been forced to labor for the Nazis, said they planned to blow the main highway bridge at 0500 hours that morning—

before that if any Americans started across it.

GERMANS TOUCHY

But the German army engineers got a little touchy. They were reported to have planted tons of explosives in concrete pier spaces left hollow for just such an emergency when the bridge was built in 1929. Wires to this dynamite cache were said to be set beneath three feet of solid concrete, too, so that no American artillery burst could cut them and forestall plans to destroy the bridge.

Fearful that the Ninth Army might try a surprise attack across the structure—two venturesome doughboys who blithely strolled across it didn't come back—German engineers blew one section of the bridge.

STOP VEHICLE TRAFFIC

"That was to make it impossible for any vehicles to roll across," said Maj George C. White of Toledo, Ohio, executive officer 3rd Bn., 329th Infantry. Apparently the bridge had been thoroughly prepared for demolition.

At 0130 that morning there

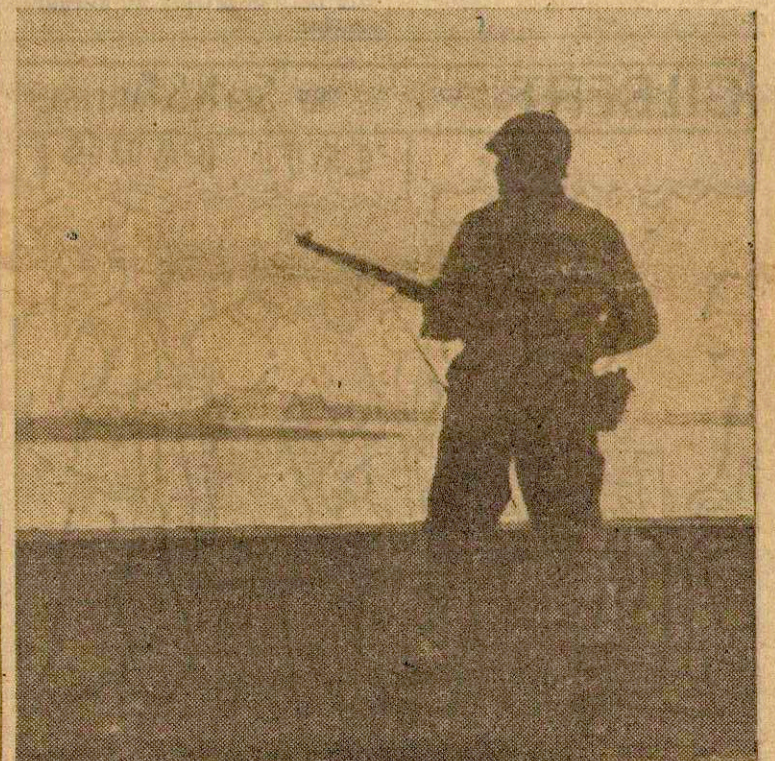
(Continued on page 4)

This Way, Sir...



Showing General Dwight W. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, and Lieutenant General William H. Simpson, Ninth Army Commander, the way to the Rhine is Major General Robert C. Macon, whose 83rd Division was the first to reach the vital river last week. (Photo by Brouhard).

To The Rhine...



And here, guarding the prize, is one of the first 83rd doughs to reach Hitler's last river line. This is the picture Herr Goebbels said would never be taken—a Yankee version of the watch on the Rhine. (Signal Corps Photo).

83rd SPEARHEAD

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In the town of Bedburdyck, a prisoner was brought in by 33rd Recon GIs and stood up before Capt Heister Drum of Millinville, Penn. Picked up by Sgt. Lawrence L. Markin of Urbana, Ohio, Tec 4 Adrian R. Haynes of Newcastle, Ind., Tec 5 Harry L. Brown of Middletown, Ohio and S/Sgt Donald H. Waibel of Carbondale, Penn., he had a gripe for the captain.

His furlough had been interrupted by the untimely arrival of the Americans. Tearfully he pleaded to be permitted to remain free three more days, then his furlough would be over, and he would gladly give himself up. After all, it was his first furlough in six years.

The captain got red in the face, drew a deep breath and blurted: "Take him away!"

A Nazi superman turned up at the 308th Medics' clearing station in Elgin the other day - hale, hearty, happy and hungry. No wound - no tag - no fever. He just wanted to surrender. Questioning revealed he had fallen asleep in a hayloft the night before and awoke in the morning to find himself the lone defender of the town. The red cross looked pretty good from where he sat, and breakfast was coming up.

Receiving for the 308th were T/Sgt Walter T. Sokolski, S/Sgt John J. Kusic and Tec 5 Harry Vitow.

Bemedaled 1st Lt Forrest R. Norris of Chicago has an imposing list of firsts. He made first lieutenant from S/Sgt in six months, was the first non-com liaison pilot in 83rd Divarty to get a battlefield commission and later was also first to get the Air Medal; and was awarded the first Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal for a month of combat liaison flying in France.

He may wear a second cluster to the Air Medal for conspicuous work in France and Luxembourg and has enough flights for a third, but it hasn't yet been published in a general order.

Pfc James Modafferi of Lakeview, Ohio, was at his gun atop No 7-half-track of C Btry, 453rd AA Bn when he saw an ME 109 zooming in low. Being of a practical nature, he decided he didn't want to be strafed.

Flipping the catch off the quadruple-mounted M-51 machine gun, he cocked one eye and let go 700 rounds. The plane wobbled, started to stream smoke and finally dropped behind a knoll. That was the last Modafferi saw of that phase of the Luftwaffe.

A Jerry captor becoming the captive of an American captor who had previously been the American captive of the Jerry captor is the story of S/Sgt John Ruch, a second battalion aid man from the 331st Infantry.

Driving toward a crossroads which had been zeroed in by fire from Nazi tanks, Ruch took cover in a building being used for the same purpose by several other GIs and a German prisoner. When the firing ceased the riflemen continued forward and left the Jerry prisoner with the aid man. Before Ruch could return with his prisoner Jerries entered the house and took him prisoner. He was turned over to the German who had formerly been an American prisoner for evacuation to the rear. Shortly after leaving with the Jerry, Ruch, who speaks German, persuaded the former American prisoner to revert to his former status and the two successfully made their way back to the battalion CP.

When enemy shells began hitting in their vicinity, Sgt Charles B. Reed, Recon Troop mess sergeant from Rockford, Ill., and Tec 5 Walter Albrecht of Flushing, L.I., ducked into a cellar.

They were near an air vent and could hear German civilians talking on the street. Albrecht, who spouts German fluently, reports the only topic of conversation was Hitler - and he was getting an adequate cussing.

Yanks Stop Last Ditch Nazi Thrust

(Continued from page 1)

way around the building. A German tank coming down the road was directed to their location by a civilian. A few rounds from the tank knocked out a machine gun nest.

PLATOON CUT OFF

Believing the Yanks to have been killed by the tank's fire, the Jerries rushed the building, only to be mowed down by riflemen who held their fire until the last moment. But the platoon was soon cut off from the rest of the company. Sgt Kenneth Hill of Canton, Ohio, Sgt Frank Sarris of McKeesport, Pa. and Pfc Henry Willemson of Oscaloosa, Iowa infiltrated the enemy cordon and made their way to the regimental CP in Hemmerden to tell of their platoon's plight. This town was also receiving a barrage of 88s, and men of regimental hqrs were preparing to stave off any possible attack directly on them.

Meanwhile T/Sgt Carl Hansen's third platoon was fighting in another part of town, surrounded by enemy tanks and infantry. By this time, P-47s were on the scene. Nothing appeared more beautiful to the men on the ground in the middle of enemy armor than these planes zooming in and dropping their eggs on Nazi tanks and then returning in another dive to strafe the fleeing supermen scrambling from their burning tanks.

ATTACK INFANTRY

The tanks destroyed, the doughs gave their full attention to Jerry infantry. Thirty-four were found in the woods directing mortar fire on American vehicles going up the MSR to forward elements approaching Neuss. Their location was radioed to the 908th FA, and when the cry "On the way" was heard, the doughs went out and finished off the last of the attackers.

Division Artillery Holds Firsts On Roer And Rhine

Several days prior to the crossing of the Roer River by doughboys of the 29th and 30th Infantry Divisions, all 83rd artillery battalions moved from Belgium to Germany. They took part in the heavy 45 minute concentration which leveled Julich and other enemy strong points on the eastern side of the river.

When the 330th Infantry was committed as an attachment to the 29th Division, the 323rd FA became the first 83rd artillery unit to cross the Roer and fire in support of Colonel Foster's doughboys.

To the 908th FA Bn goes the distinction of being the first 83rd artillery unit to fire across the Rhine River. The battalion pulled into a position near the small town of Epsendorf and forward observers were sent out. Within a few hours an enemy OP across the Rhine was sighted. Using charge seven with a high angle of fire, the battalion fired one volley (12 rounds). This is believed to be the first battalion in the Ninth Army to fire across the River.

SHAVE?

Pfc John T. Morris of Paris, Texas, guard for the 330th regimental liaison officer, has quite a following with his spare-time duffle-bag barber shop. Generals and buck privates have expressed "shear" satisfaction. In one day he clipped the fur from GIs in three countries: Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Leads Corps...



GENERAL McLAIN LAUDS DIVISION

"They're a swell outfit, fast moving smart and willing; they'll do anything that's asked and do it well. They didn't lose momentum once in the hard drive to the Rhine."

That's the opinion of Major General Raymond McLain, XIX Corps Commander, under whose command the 83rd streaked to the Rhine after the Ninth Army breakthrough last week.

The feelings of General McLain toward the Division are of no small consequence, because after seeing some of the hardest fighting in both the first and second world wars he is in a position to judge the merits of a division.

SERVED IN FIRST WAR

During the last war he came overseas with the 36th Division as a heavy weapons company commander, after having risen to the rank of captain from a buck private stationed as a guard along the Mexican border. He participated in the Reims, Verdun, Suippes and Aisne campaigns.

Recalled to active duty in 1940 he was named Artillery Commander of the 45th Division and fought in the Sicilian and Italian campaigns. He came to Normandy soon after D-Day as artillery commander of the 30th Division. In July of 1944 he took command of the 90th Division and in October became Commanding General of the XIX Corps. In addition to holding the DSC with an Oak Leaf Cluster, he has also been awarded the Silver Star.

DOUGHS ARE TOPS

His admiration for the doughboys is unlimited. "They have had the toughest job and they have shown they can take it," he says. "The men of this war can go home and tell their Dads that while the old man went into the line for two or three weeks in the last war, and came out for a rest, son John was put in and stayed for the duration."

General McLain feels that when an outfit gains an objective and consolidates it, they should be given a chance to rest a while and have a unit pass through them. "It's only fair to the doughs," he states, "and they can do a better job on the next assignment I give them."

Be Back Later

Loaded with doughs from Co B of the 331st Infantry, four M18s, under Lt C. W. Jewell of the 643rd TD Bn attached to the 83rd, roared through the deserted streets of Neuss, Heerdt and Oberkassel early on the morning of the historic 2nd of March to reach the approaches of the newly wrecked Skagerrak Bridge at 0200 and establish their claim to a Rhine first.

The Wehrmacht and German civilians slept through it all, but the small unit decided they couldn't hold the place alone, so they withdrew and came back in strength at daylight to take and hold the ground.

330th RADIO MEN NEARLY CALL BERLIN

The lightning advance of the 83rd Division to the banks of the Rhine through Neuss provided one bunch of GIs with the most attractive conditions for fighting they had ever experienced. Radio operators of the 3rd Bn Hq Co, 330th Infantry, who had been digging foxholes in the frozen Ardennes six weeks before, operated their sets from overstuffed Morris chairs in centrally-heated rooms. In addition there were electric lights, hot (if ersatz) coffee, even the telephones were in working order until the CIC cut the cables a few hours later.

COZY QUARTERS

While assault troops of the battalion were mopping up Nazi resistance a few blocks away, the CP group moved into an apartment house to set up a temporary headquarters. The radio men drew a three-room suite.

"As we came in the door four civilians threw up their hands and yelled 'Kamerad', 'Kamerad', said S/Sgt Everett Beals of Blaine, Maine. "One of the guys took them down to the cellar so they wouldn't get in our way; while he was down there he took three 'Heinie prisoners' who were hiding in the coal-pile."

HELLO BERLIN

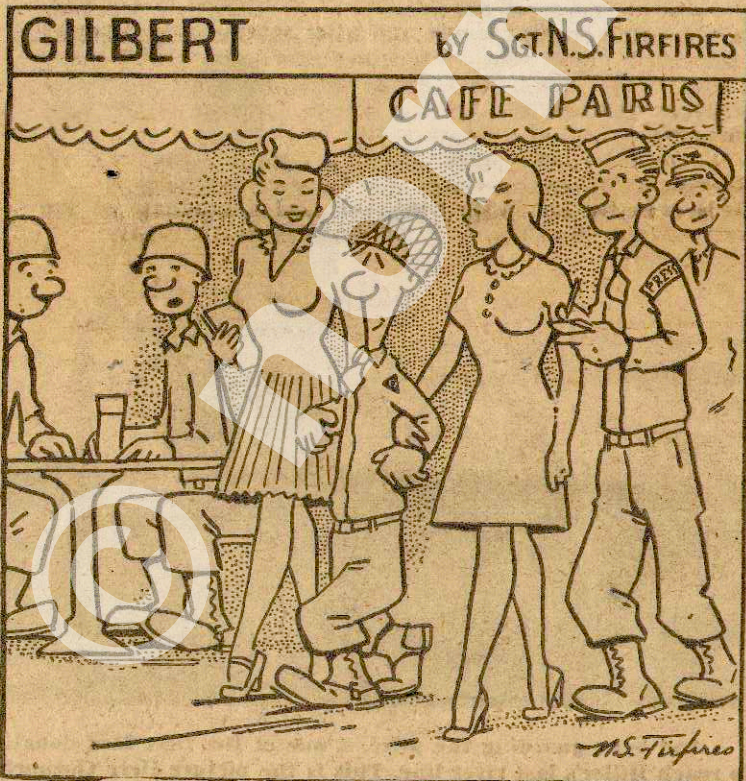
"It gave me a strange feeling to think that I could have picked up the phone and called Hitler," commented T/4 Albert Foster, whose home is in Cumberland Center, Maine. "Lights were on in the place, there was food on the table, why they had even put up the blackout for us."

"It was the first time I ever had to turn off a civilian radio so I could hear my call signs," was Pfc Jimmy Eaton's reaction to life on the German home front.

Diaper Dandy...



This is what a big baby looks like in the new diaper swim suit. Poised for the plunge is Senorita Yvonne De Carlo, screen Salome. The line forms on the left for Daddies with dry diapers. (Universal Photo)



"He says he was first at the Rhine!"

Task Force Schuster Plays Hide And Seek With Nazis In Dark

It was a slick piece of night work and a breathless game of "Guess Who" in the dark when the doughs of the 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry, and Company A of the 736th Tank Bn hooked up to form Task Force Schuster, under Lt Col George M. Schuster of Merberton, Penn., to penetrate the German positions at Oberkassel, a suburb of Dusseldorf west of the Rhine.

Jumping off in a surprise move under cover of darkness, infantry and tanks plus a platoon of TDs from the 643rd Tank Destroyer Bn moved from nearby Neuss into that portion of Dusseldorf just north of the big hook in the Rhine. Passing through the enemy, they reached a point just a few blocks from the river without discovery.

THE LAST HEIL

Enemy troops discovered the presence of the Yanks much too late. For the most part, discovery came when the GIs challenged the unsuspecting Germans. With a clicking of heels and a snap of the arm upward, they replied "Heil Hitler." That was the wrong answer, and the PW rolls grew.

Arriving at 0430 hours, the doughs and tankers took up positions and waited developments. German soldiers leisurely strolled through the streets, laughing and singing. Some carried bazookas they were never able to use. Obviously none were aware that Americans were in the vicinity. Civilians coming from their homes at daylight stared open-mouthed. But some of the surprise was lost when one civilian slipped through to sound the alarm on a siren.

Tec 5 George Thomas of Birmingham, Ala., gunner in one of the tanks, took a fancy to the German's reply when challenged. A former professional wrestler and general rough and tumble character, Thomas strolled into the street and bumped into a couple of doughs. Stopping to chat with them, the three heard a group of German soldiers approaching, laughing and singing.

TANKER TRIES

The doughs asked Thomas if he wanted to challenge them. His answer was prompt and to the point. "Hell, yes." Stepping into the street, he called "Halt." The Krauts clicked heels and "heiled". That was that. The next minute they looked down the bore of a tommy gun, and were herded into the coop. Telling of it, Thomas said "I grabbed for the Kraut with the bazooka. The others just stood there with their mouths open staring. It was easy."

So pleased with his success, the tanker tried it again. In the course of the next few min-

utes he nabbed 15 Krauts.

Capt Leo J. McCarthy, Baltimore, Md., commanding Company A of the 736th, had much the same experience with a comic twist. Spying a German soldier on a bicycle, McCarthy shouted "Halt" as he neared. Pedaling furiously the German threw up his hand and shouted "Heil Hitler." That was all McCarthy wanted and he blazed away. The Kraut took off from his bicycle without stopping, landed on his feet running and shouting "Kamerad." The shot had missed the Kraut, but he was taking no chances.

NAZIS SLAUGHTERED

Surprise led to the erasing of one entire group of Germans. Doughs were walking along the right side of a street. A group of men came down the other in a column of twos. Everyone took them for civilians. Then an enterprising BAR man pegged them for Krauts. Tanks sighted machine guns, and BARs cut loose.

329th Spearheaded Yank Attack That Took Neuss

To Col Edwin C Crabill's 329th Infantry fell the task of seizing the city of Neuss and the railroad bridge linking that city of 60,000 with its larger neighbor east of the Rhine, Dusseldorf. Employing two battalions abreast in the initial jump-off from the high ground adjacent to objectives, the city fell to "Buckshot's" doughboys after a 19 hour attack but use of the bridge was denied our troops when the enemy demolished it as the riflemen drew near its western approaches.

ASSAULT STARTED

Detrucking south and west of Neuss, Lt Col Tim O. Cook's 1st Bn opened its frontal assault on the city early in the afternoon of March 1st, skimming the outskirts of Loveling, then in the hands of other 83d doughboys and armor elements of another unit. An important crossroad covered by enemy tank and self-propelled gun fire represented the first resistance encountered. Cook's doughs infiltrated past this strongpoint without waiting for the enemy weapons to be neutralized and continued on towards town, moving down a ditch paralleling a railroad track. Fire from Neuss temporarily detained the 1st Bn and the advance was halted for the remaining hours of daylight in the vicinity of a railroad-highway crossing.

NAZIS RESIST

After dark the attack was continued but again halted in the face of an enemy defense line on the outskirts of the objective. A new assault at 2100



If Germany loses the war, it would only prove that the Goddess of History is a whore who sells herself for money.

This organized mass murder will not be forgotten by our children. Organized murder is not a sign of strength of the enemy, but of weakness. What his soldiers cannot achieve on the battlefield, that is, beat the German soldiers in hand-to-hand fighting, he tries to achieve by terrorizing helpless women and children.

Dissatisfaction in the American and British public necessitates these measures to divert attention from the unsuccessful land fighting.

In the face of all these things our own difficulties lose some of their threatening character. Today our own troubles have dwindled down to normal measure.

Whole regiments of U. S. soldiers in France are deserting and pitched battles are being fought with the MPs, with deserting French 'hirelings' and with the new national resistance movement.

Gallagher Covers 83rd Front



(Sketch by Firfires)

Here is Wes Gallagher, crack war correspondent of the Associated Press, who is responsible for telling several million Americans that the 83rd Division was the first to reach the Rhine after the Ninth Army break-through. Gallagher was one of the first war correspondents to arrive at the 83rd CP after the Division reached the Rhine. The first story was received in New York on Friday morning and appeared in all of the major evening papers throughout the country. Later dispatches, illustrated with Wirephoto pictures, were used in the Saturday morning papers. These services gave the folks back home coverage by more than 1,300 American newspapers on the 83rd's history-making dash to the Rhine.

The 33-year-old Gallagher is one of the best known war correspondents covering the European front. He has worked for the Associated Press for eight years — five of them overseas as a war correspondent. Before active participation in the current war by the United States, Gallagher covered the campaigns in the Balkans and wrote subsequent stories on the Greek-Italian struggle.

Prior to the invasion of the continent on June 6th of last year, he was in charge of the AP bureau at SHAEF in England. He landed with the First Army and after serving with General Hodges' men for a few months was transferred to General Patton's Third Army troops. Gallagher came to the Ninth Army in November where he has written some of the best stories of the war, including the arrival of the 83rd on the Rhine.

Gallagher's post-war plans include a return engagement in the Balkans as AP representative and foreign correspondent.

He is a native of Santa Cruz, Cal. and a graduate of the University of San Francisco and Louisiana State University.

Male Call

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

Whirl it all End?



(NOTICE!)

BOMBARDIER FALLS IN RHINE, REACHES 83rd LINES SAFELY



(Sketch by Firfires)

Bailing out of his shattered bomber, he floated down amidst enemy fire—into the Rhine. His heavy flying suit and boots weighed him down in the water. Struggling to the shore, still under fire, he lay exhausted for a few minutes, then climbed the bank and sought the safety of a barn, unaware he was in American-held Germany.

That was part of the experiences had by Sgt. Jerold E. Wood of Boston, Mass., a Flying Fortress bombardier with the 487th Bomber Group, who kept hidden two days thinking he was 30 miles inside Germany.

Finally stumbling on a patrol of Co F, 330th Infantry, composed of Sgt. Paul E. Blair of Newbury, S. C., Pvt Michael Galzinski of Sacramento, Calif. and Pvt Herman E. Fox of Seagorilla, Tex., he thought they were Jerries Their outfit had taken the area the day before.

A crew of nine started out from England last Saturday bound for a raid on northeastern Germany near Berlin. At the target, a communications center, they made their bomb run at 1030 hours but were attacked by jet-propelled fighters from the rear. Two engines were knocked out and the plane lost altitude, leaving the formation.

Then they got fighter support from P-51s and the crew began dumping overboard flak suits, guns, ammunition and everything they could lay hands on. Then came the order to bail out. Wood and the navigator in the nose of the bomber pounded to no avail on the escape hatch, which was damaged. The order was countermanded as the propeller bit deeper into the air.

But the waist and tail gunners, ball turret gunner and radio man had jumped. Wood went to the waist and continued to throw stuff overboard.

"About an hour later we again got the order to bail out", he said. "We thought the plane was about 30 miles inside German lines. As it was, I landed right in the middle of the Rhine river. I went under several times. Weighed down by my electrically-heated flying suit, I thought sure I'd drown."

"I swam to the bank and got rid of the wet clothes and shoes. The Nazis began firing at me on the bank, where I lay a while all tired out."

"I couldn't have moved, even though bullets were hitting close. I thought this was enemy territory and crawled up the steep stone-faced bank and got out of sight. They stopped shooting. Seeing a barn, I entered and crawled into the hay to hide and get warm."

"A shell hit the barn, blowing the roof off, so I went into a root cellar and stayed there Saturday afternoon and night. The next

morning I heard people talking and left, going to some woods, where I hid that day and night. The next day I left.

"It was cold, but I had found a burlap bag in the root cellar and wrapped strips of it around my feet. Walking about two miles I saw the patrol from the 330th that picked me up. I was sure at first they were Germans and would take me prisoner."

"A lot of civilians were on the streets, I avoided them. And I supposed all the Nazi troops were up front. I had planned to walk to the American lines miles away—you fellows must have advanced 30 miles while I was on the way down in my chute!"

Nazis Blow Bridges After Retreating Across Rhine

(Continued from page 1)

came a great crash of sound and a burst of flame near the western exit. At 0400 hours the third tower of smoke and debris shot up on the Dusseldorf side of the river just as a patrol, led by Lt. William C. Shaw, Jr., of Hutchinson, Kansas, 329th Infantry, reached and seized the bridge approach on this side.

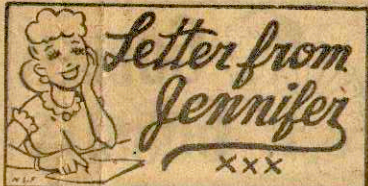
"There was a big bang in the darkness—that's all," said Lt. Col John C. Speedie, San Antonio, Tex, 3rd Bn, 329th Infantry, CO. That was one down—and two to go.

BAYONET ATTACK

Next objective in the street by street cleanup was a steel railroad bridge several blocks up the river. Company K, 329th Infantry, led by Lt. Joseph W. Keenan, Boston, Mass., jumped off in a night attack.

"Resistance was fairly light," said Speedie. "They had to use a little bayonet work but they took 23 prisoners during the night and 50 more as soon as it was light enough to see. One sergeant bayoneted two Germans and took two more prisoner at the first outpost they ran into."

"Just as they reached the railway bridge, the Germans blew it up. The last rear guard troops ran across the bridge and it went up at 0759. Jerries had tried to hold it with a paratroop outfit brought down from the



Letter from Jennifer

XXX

Dear Charlie:

There are times when I really don't realize how much I love you. I was at Sis' house the other day and her husband asked about you, he's very interested in you because he used to be in the Army himself. When I told him you were a rifleman with the 83rd Infantry Division, he heaped so much praise on you that I don't know where to begin. He made me feel very embarrassed by telling me of all the places you've been and how you were the first to reach the Rhine. I wish you'd tell me the things you do Charlie, so I don't get so lost so ignorant about this war.

I knew it would take an order from Gen. Eisenhower himself to stop you from flirting with pretty girls. I'm glad somebody over there is looking out for us girls over here. For my part, they should have started this non-fraternization with the French women, it would have saved a lot of heartaches. Do you remember Al? Well, poor Al, he's getting drafted and he is such a nice man, too. When the President gave his "work or fight" order, he gladly went to work and took his wife and three kids off relief.

I thought you said that you bought me some expensive linen while you were in Belgium. Today we received your box and on it was printed; "Hand Grenades". I was so frightened I buried the box in the backyard. Pa was so scared he nearly drank up all his precious Canadian Club. Nobody goes into the backyard anymore as we have it marked off with the German "Minen" sign you sent us. As a favor to you, I went out with your friend Shykke before he went overseas. He's such a sweet boy, he even knows when to stop.

Privately yours, Jennifer

WINS PLAQUE

For superior performance of duty from 23 June '44 through 31 Jan. '45, Service Co of the 329th Infantry has been awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque.

Canadian front. When our boys saw them running across the bridge, they thought they were GIs at first because they wore khaki colored uniforms."

LAST BRIDGE FALLS

The third bridge—a smaller highway link—above the railway bridge in Oberkassel, a suburb of Dusseldorf—was reached by a tank and doughboy task force from the 3rd Battalion, 330th Infantry, commanded by Lt. Col George George M. Schuster, Marberton, Penn. Ten tanks from the 736th Tank Bn, four TDs from the 643rd Tank Destroyers, and 100 infantrymen moved in a left hook around the arc of Neuss thrusting closest to Dusseldorf.

Only feeble resistance met them except for shelling from the opposite river banks where Germans already had set up strong ack-ack and artillery batteries. A group of doughboys led by Capt Wilfred Barber of Oklahoma City, Okla., commanding Company A, 331st Infantry, operating with Schuster's outfit, reached the western entrance to the highway bridge at 0930.

And exactly at 0935—five minutes later—the Germans on the other side of the river blew this last bridge," said Lt. John Clevenger, of Perth Amboy, N.J., S-2 of the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry.

Marching Fire of 331st Snaps Final Nazi Hold

How men of the 2nd Bn, 331st Infantry delivered a final blow to the Nazis west of the Rhine to take and hold their last objective on the river's edge was told this week. Confronted by well dug-in gun emplacements and fortified factory buildings, doughboys of E and G companies closely supported by machine gunners and mortar men of Co H, broke through with marching fire to wipe out all resistance and take some 300 prisoners.

Co E, under Capt Francis Oliver of Brooklyn, N.Y., jumped off from the Erft canal about 1,000 yards east of the Rhine at 0400 on Friday. Leading the attack, the second platoon under Lt. Conard Van Kirk of Independence, Mo. was pinned down by heavy machine gun cross-fire. Silhouetted against a bright moon the men were momentarily stopped as heavy enemy fire continued to rake the open fields.

ADVANCE STARTS

Capt Oliver and Lt. Charles Welch of Columbus, Ohio immediately struck out with the first platoon on the right flank and, despite all the fire Jerries could pour their way, pushed forward through the barbed wire, over Jerry trenches, between and around the factory buildings to reach the river's banks at 0500.

But the battle had only begun. Artillery began to fall around the open field and men of the second platoon were forced to hug the ground, their advance still checked. T/Sgt Michael Shiko, S/Sgt George Kahler, Pvt Clayton Warner, Pfc Andy Loy, Pfc Robert Weir, Pfc Harold Wrosch and Pfc Harris Bartlett with Van Kirk crowded into one shell hole. "It was one of the tightest spots we were ever in", said Shiko.

As dawn broke, the barrage lifted. T/Sgt Robert Clifton directed his Co. H machine gunners to spray fire over the heads of the pinned-down platoon. This respite gave the second an opportunity to advance again.

COMPANY G CHARGES

With the fight still raging at mid-day, Co G, led by Capt Joseph Macaluse of New Orleans struck out in a final assault on E's left flank from the village of Brucke and crossed over 1500 yards of open terrain in the midst of heavy mm direct ack-ack fire coming from

across the Rhine. In open waves with fixed bayonets, the doughboys charged. By laying down a base of machine gun fire and then employing terrorizing marching fire, the first platoon, led by Lt. Arthur Spalding of Vermont, and the third platoon converged on the factory buildings from two sides. In the meantime, mortar fire played havoc with the enemy in the trenches, forcing 150 to surrender. The second platoon moved in on the factory site cleaning out the last pockets of resistance and at 1500 resistance was broken.

JUST ANOTHER RIVER

In the confusion of battle, no one could claim being the first at the Rhine, but Pfc Douglas King, Co. E lead scout was one of them. All he could say was "Just another river, just another stumbling block to Berlin".

736th Tankers In Support Of 83rd

It has been revealed that the 736th Tank Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col Paul J. Ritchie of Rockford, Ill., has been fighting with the 83rd in its drive to the Rhine River near Dusseldorf. This is the first time the 736th Tankers have been mentioned since they were placed on the secret list 18 months ago.

The tankers went into action with the 83rd near Rockrath, west of the Erft Canal on March 1st when the lightning drive to the Rhine began. Previously, the battalion had supported the 330th Infantry of the 83rd when the regiment aided in establishing the XIX Corps bridgehead over the Roer River near Julich and in taking the towns of Munt, Hasselweiler and Grevelsdorf. They breezed through this initial operation without a casualty.

Following this assist, the tankers supported the entire 83rd in its drive up the west side to the Erft Canal and helped place the 331st Infantry on the Rhine for the first Ninth Army troops to reach the great river.

With A Gleam In Her Eye...



Straight from above and below the shoulder is this photogenic pep talk to the boys up front. Delivering from Hollywood is Miss Martha (to her mother, Venus to her fans) O'Driscoll, 18-year-old veteran of five seasons on the silver screen. Her PA says she looked like this at 13, too. (Universal Photo)