

The 65th Halbert

Division Daily News Letter

X 73

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1945

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INFANTRY AND MARINES FORCE JAPS TO QUIT NAHA CORRIDOR

Leathernecks Make Enemy Fight Way Out After Infantry On Sugar Loaf Makes Position Untenable

Gain In South

Marines Push Within Four Miles Of Eastern Shore

The fighting on Okinawa moved closer to victory, yesterday, with the announcement, last night, that the narrow Jap-held corridor separating infantrymen of Lt. Gen. Buckner's US 10th Army from the marines in the southwestern sector of the capital city of Naha had been wiped out.

Untenable

Ever since the infantry's hold on Sugar Loaf Hill, overlooking the city, became firm, the report said, the Japs in the corridor found themselves in an untenable position. Yesterday, the Japs tried to retreat from the position but the marines made them fight their way out and many enemy losses were suffered.

South of Naha, marine units, yesterday, reported making new

(Cont. on Page 2)

CHURCHILL TO FORM GOVT. UNTIL POLLS

Prime Minister Churchill's resignation and that of his cabinet has been accepted by the King and Mr. Churchill has been asked to form an interim government to act until July 25 when the results of the first English general election in 10 years will be known.

The election will be held on July 5th, the day that the present Parliament has been asked to dissolve, but because of the many British soldiers serving overseas, the complete election results will not be known until the 25th of the month, BBC reported, last night.

It is not known whether Mr. Churchill plans to keep in his interim government the Labor and Liberal party coalition government ministers who were responsible for the break-up of the present government after Churchill had suggested that the coalition remain until the end of the war with Japan.

Truman to Frisco

The White House announced, last night, that President Truman will go to San Francisco, next week to address the final meeting of the San Francisco Conference.

At his press conference, yesterday, the President said the most important single contribution of the conference, to his mind, was the fact that when the nations sit down to the coming peace talks, they will have ironed out many of the kinks that would hold up results for many months.

ALEXANDER VOICES FREE AUSTRIA WISH

BBC Quotes Rumor That Trieste Problem Solved

British and American troops of the British 8th Army entered southern Austria, yesterday, and Marshal Alexander, commander of the occupation government now being set up, told the Austrian people that they "will have a chance to help establish a free and independent Austria".

A BBC report at 0100, this morning, told of a Trieste rumor that Marshal Tito has agreed to withdraw 25 miles to the east. There was no official confirmation.

Worthy

The Marshal warned the people of the occupied country that all Allied laws must be obeyed and he held out the encouragement of freedom "if Austria can prove itself worthy of self-rule".

The American and British soldiers now occupy the zone which, until last week, was held by units of Marshal Tito's Yugoslavian Army. The Yugoslavs were withdrawn after Alexander asked Tito to leave the sector. The other Alexander

(Cont. on Page 2)

Movie Schedule

260th Inf, Div Hq, Sp Trps; "Eadie Was A Lady" with Anne Miller and Billy Wright. Central Theater, Linz. Shows at 1400 and 1900.

261st Inf; "Casanova Brown" with Gary Cooper and Anita Louise. 1400 Film Theater.

DivArty; "Melody Parade" with Mary Beth Hughes.

265th Eng (C) Bn; "Take It Or Leave It" with Betty Grable, Phil Baker and Alice Faye.

808 TD Bn; "Together Again" with Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne.

THREE CABINET MEMBERS QUIT

Perkins, Biddle, Wickard Resign: Anderson, Clark In

Three US cabinet members have resigned and President Truman has already filled two of the vacancies, according to the Army News Service.

The trio to tender their resignations to the President were Madame Perkins, Secretary of Labor; Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard; and Attorney General Biddle.

The new cabinet members are Thomas C. Clark as Attorney General and William Anderson as Secretary of Agriculture. Clark has been the assistant Attorney General and Clark was an executive assistant in the War Foods Administration. With the appointment of Anderson, President Truman announced that the new Secretary of Agriculture will also head the WFA.

550 SUPERFORTS BLAST TOKYO IN BIGGEST RAID OF THE WAR

Drop 4,500 Tons Of Fire Bombs On The Western Industrial Sector Of The Jap Capital

DOENITZ AND AIDES JAILED BY BRITISH

Held For War Crimes: Adm. Friedenberg Is Suicide

The complete military and civil government of Grand Admiral Doenitz was arrested, yesterday, by British military authorities and BBC reports that the Admiral, and most of his staff, will be charged with war crimes.

The late Nazi administration was picked up at Flensburg along with the German High Command. The total haul was 400 senior officers and officials and about 5,000 others.

Admiral Friedenberg, who was one of the three German officers to sign the May 7th unconditional surrender was not taken prisoner. He committed suicide.

Since the surrender of Germany, Doenitz, his junior administrators and the High Command have been working for the Allied occupation government in the complicated process of turning over the civil and military control of the Reich. This job is now completed and the Germans are no longer of any use to the Allies.

Also arrested, yesterday, was one of the most nasty Nazis, Jewbaiter Streicher.

Hit Kyushu

Navy And Army Planes In Raid From Okinawa Bases

More than 550 US Army superfortress bombers, yesterday, made the largest raid of the war on Tokyo to drop 4,500 tons of fire bombs on the city's western industrial area.

The flyers met only light enemy air resistance and 2 superforts were reported as lost. In other air attacks, yesterday, Okinawa-based Naval and Army fighter planes blasted the southern defense lines of Kyushu, Japan's southernmost mainland isle, while Philippine-based medium bombers hit Formosa for the seventh straight day and also pounded the Jap-held cities of Canton and Shanghai.

China Sea

Royal Australian Air Force bombers were also reported to be operating off the coast of

(Cont. on Page 2)

EISENHOWER TO BE HONORED BY LONDON

The sword of London will be presented to Gen. of the Army Eisenhower at ceremonies, next week, according to a BBC bulletin, last night, which told of a meeting of the London council which has decided to so honor the Allied Supreme Commander for his part in the victory over Germany.

Two other American generals were due to be honored, soon, it was announced by the Army News Service. One of them, Gen. Hodges, Commanding General of the US 1st Army, is to be saluted, tomorrow, by the citizens of Atlanta, Georgia, while it was announced that Lt. Gen. Mark Clark, Italy commander, will be flown to the United States to be honored by the city of Chicago during the Memorial Day celebration.

Gen. Hodges is in the US on leave as his Army is waiting transfer to the Pacific Theater.

Capture Tiso

The quisling ruler of Czechoslovakia, Tiso, has been captured by the US 3rd Army, according to an ABSIE report.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY 3, Phil 1							
W L Pct.				W L Pct.			
Chi	..	13	7 .650	Wsh.	..	11	13 .458
NY	...	14	9 .609	Bos.	..	9	13 .409
Det.	..	12	8 .600	Phil	..	9	15 .315
StL.	..	11	9 .550	Clv.	..	8	13 .381

NATIONAL LEAGUE

No games played.						
W L Pct.				W L Pct.		
NY	..	20	5 .800	Chi	..	10 13 .435
Brk	..	17	7 .708	Pit	..	10 13 .435
StL	..	12	12 .500	Cin	..	9 12 .429
Bos	..	10	12 .455	Phi	..	6 20 .231

Victory At Saarlautern: Story Of How 65th Punched A Hole Through The Siegfried Line

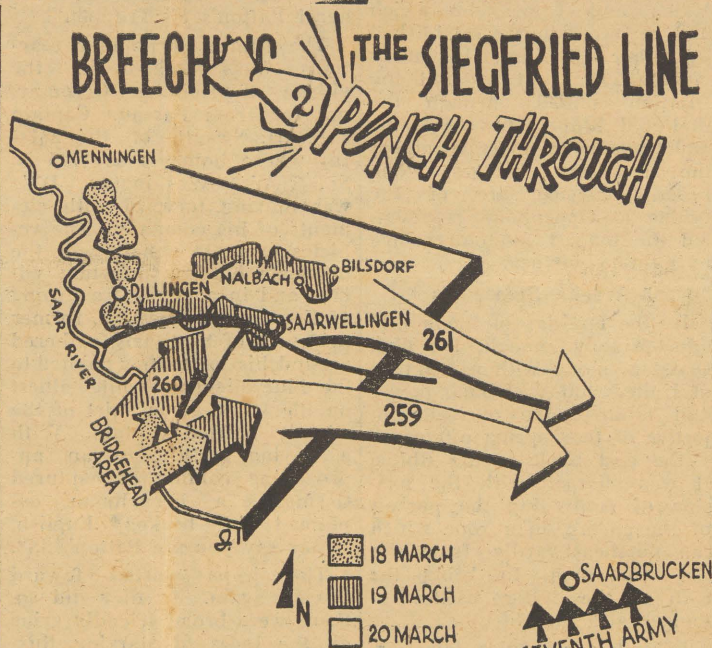
EDITORS NOTE: This is the fourth in a series of seven articles by Sgt. Jordy reviewing the 65th Division's march across Germany. When the series ends the Division I&E Section contemplates publishing a booklet of the complete history.

by Sgt. Bill Jordy

The 65th Division punched through the Siegfried Line on March 19.

The attack on Siegfried Line positions by the 65th Infantry Division jumped off at 0430, March 18, in the 259th and 260th sectors. One and a half hours later, at 0600, the 261st pushed southward from positions below Menningen, with elements of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions rapidly advancing through fields where mines and booby traps were almost as great a menace as the relatively light enemy opposition. By 2400, the 261st had seized Dillingen and the high ground east of the city.

In contrast to the rapid progress made in the zone of the 261st Infantry, the main effort in the Saarlautern bridgehead



met with fierce enemy opposition. At the end of D-Day, the 259th (with the 1st Battalion, 260th Infantry, attached) had advanced only 1,500 yards. The 260th (with the 1st Batta-

lion, 261st Infantry, attached) had seized a few city blocks inside Saarlautern. Therefore, at the close of the first twenty-four hours of the attack, only

(Cont. on Page 2)

HOPKINS GOES TO SEE STALIN

President Truman Sends
FDR Adviser To
Moscow

Harry Hopkins, adviser to the late President Roosevelt, has been sent to Moscow by President Truman for conferences with Marshal Stalin and other Soviet leaders, it was announced, yesterday, by ABSIE.

The exact nature of Mr. Hopkins' assignment was not revealed by the White House which stated only that "Mr. Hopkins will confer on problems of mutual concern to the United States and the Soviet Union."

Also sent on a special Presidential mission was Joseph Davies, former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union, who is now on his way to England.

VICTORY AT

(Cont. from Page 1)

the 261st had reached the objective designated for it under the initial plan. Furthermore, its units were in an excellent position to continue the attack to the east on the following morning.

The plan was therefore altered.

In accordance with the new plan, the 1st Battalion, 261st Infantry, was returned to Regimental control. Thus augmented, the 261st would cut across the zone of the 260th to seize Saarwellingen, and high ground to the east of this city. The 260th would thereby be pinched out and revert to Division Reserve. The 259th would follow a parallel zone to the south of that of the 261st.

Siegfried Breached

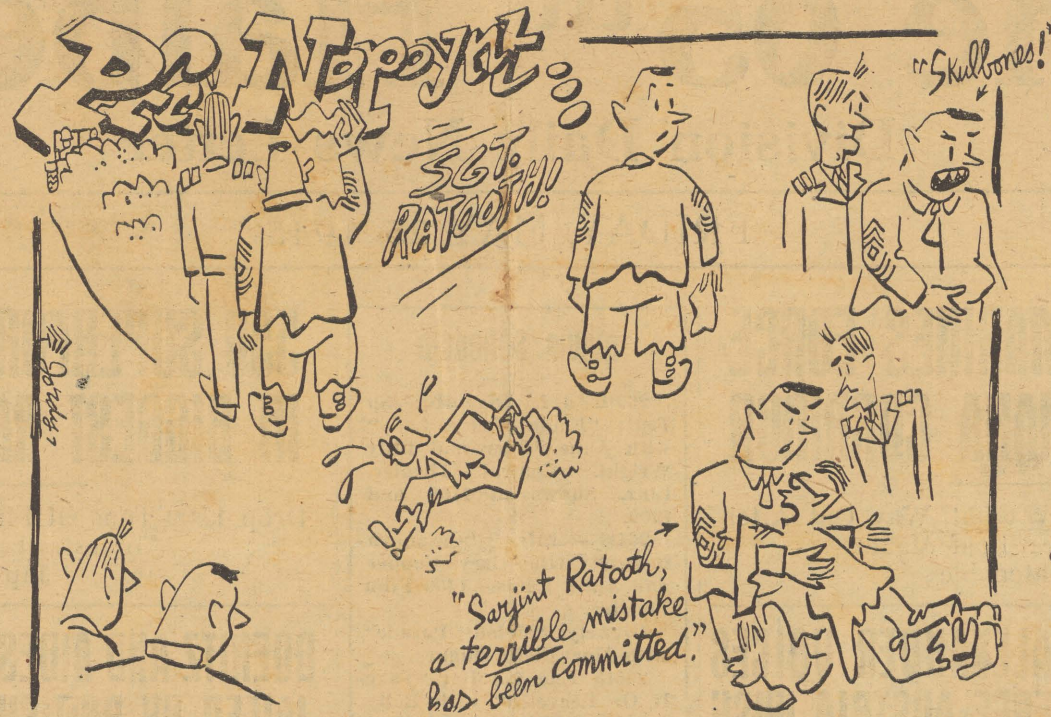
The Siegfried Line was breached the following day.

By 2400 of D-Day-plus-1, the 261st had swept through Saarwellingen, and seized the villages of Piesbach and Bilsdorf to the northeast of the town. The 260th Infantry was pinched out after clearing Saarlautern and Saarlouis-Rodin. Meanwhile, below the 260th, the 259th Infantry fanned out northeast and southeast of Saarlautern to take Fraulautern and Enseldorf. The 65th Reconnaissance Troop was relieved of its attachment to the 259th, and passed through infantry units to reconnoitre routes to the front of the Division.

The enemy now gave evidence of thorough confusion. He retreated rapidly across the Saarlands to escape the gigantic pincers movement which the Third and Seventh Armies were closing around the Saar Basin. The 65th Division followed in rapid pursuit, its infantrymen motorized with unit transportation. The chase ran a course which was roughly from the apex of the angle formed by the two-Army pincers, east through an ever narrowing corridor in an escape route which roughly passed through Neunkirchen.

During D-Day-plus-2, the 65th Division captured or killed such delaying groups as had been left behind by the enemy. Once the Wehrmacht turned tail, there was nothing for it to do, but to continue scampering until the Rhine was put between the conquerors and the conquered. The "overhang" was toppling towards the "base", and in the military avalanche Germany lost her third greatest industrial area.

The Division was halted and ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Neunkirchen on March 21. It was then moved eastward to two more assembly areas in the vicinity of Rockenhausen on March 27 and Schwa-



TRAP JAPS AGAIN IN EASTERN BURMA

The Jap troops who broke out of the Toungoo pocket in Burma, last Monday, are, this morning, again encircled by British 14th Army troops, according to an announcement by BBC, early this morning.

The retreating troops were trapped by the British, yesterday, just northeast of Pegu and a heavy battle is now in progress. The Tommies were able to halt the Japs, yesterday, because for the first time in almost a week they were able to give air support to their ground troops pursuing the enemy through the heavily wooded territory south of Toungoo made more difficult by monsoon weather.

Special Service Shows

The Brantner vaudeville troupe of the 65th Division Special Service circuit will be seen, tonight, at the 261st Inf. Also on the 261st schedule will be the Upper Danube Chamber Music Society which will entertain the men of the 3rd Bn.

The Vaudeville will be seen at 1900 at the Film Theater while the concert will be performed for the 3rd Bn men at Asten at 1500 and 1900.

benheim on the 28th. In effect, the 65th was awaiting its turn to cross traffic-laden bridges at Mainz and Oppenheim which had been previously established by other divisions. Beginning on the 29th, unit by unit the Division pulled through the shattered Rhine cities of Mainz and Oppenheim, to crawl across the treading bridges. The broadly curving arc of the bridge at Oppenheim represented the longest pontoon bridge in military history.

5 Weeks Before Us

By the last day of the month, appropriately enough, the 65th Division, along with a vast part of United States' striking power had attained the over-all objective of the "spring offensive" -- the east bank of the Rhine. It was charged with the mission of continuing the pursuit of the enemy, in a zone which ran northeastwardly from the Frankfurt area, to bring the 65th to the bitter battles at Langensalza and Struth.

Behind our armies lay Germany's frontier defenses and two of her greatest industrial areas. Ahead lay the heart of the country -- and little more than five weeks of fighting for Maj. Gen. Stanley E. Reinhardt's now-tested division.

Patton's SS

Tells Mystery Of 65th's
Misnomer Given By
Krauts

By S/Sgt. E. G. Luchterhand

Patton's SS men are coming! Not a very flattering description of the 65th Division, but from somewhere, that warning flashed ahead from town to town as the Division's forward units approached them.

How it began is one of the mysteries of the organization's trek across Germany. It may have been a device of the Hitler Jugend. By whispering "Patton's SS" they may have conjured up in the minds of civilians visions of violence in the infamous tradition of the Hitlerite elite.

Then again, it may have resulted from the Division's victories over the storied elite guard of Germany. There were plenty of opportunities for the skull and cross-bone legions to come to grips with the 65th. At the Saar and the Fulda rivers they sought vainly to block the crossings. At Struth they were routed in a savage effort of encirclement. Units of the SS Niebelungen Division fought and lost at the Danube river near Kapfelberg.

Truppen Yet

In the last lap of the race across Germany, civilians repeatedly pointed in awe to the white battle axe on a blue shield -- the halbert insignia of the 65th -- exclaiming, "General Patton's SS Truppen!"

The climax of popular reactions was reached in the village of Heining, Germany, not far from Passau. Captain John H. Sweatt, of the 261st Inf whose home is at 1745 N. St., N.W., Washington, D.C., was moving forward with elements of his company. The vehicles came to a halt near the outskirts of the sprawling village and in a moment a throng of French and Russians, former prisoners of the Nazis, gathered around his jeep. They pointed to the blue shield and white halbert on the forest-green shirt of the slightly baffled captain. With a waving gesture to an approaching column of captured Germans, a Frenchman explained in broken English, "They say you are Patton's SS."

The jeeps started toward Passau again. As they did so, there were broad friendly grins on the faces of starving Russians. Their rags looked suddenly military as they saluted. And there were cheers from waving French, "Vive les SS de Patton!" The Captain still looked puzzled.

(From 65th PRO)

CONTINUE PROGRESS ON LUZON, MINDANAO

Allied mopping up progress continued on both Mindanao and Luzon, yesterday, according to Gen. of the Army MacArthur who reported that infantry on Mindanao had made up to three miles progress along a 20-mile front while the men on Luzon continued to push through the Cabanatuan valley.

On Bougainville, Australian troops have crossed the Hongorai river "in strength".

INF. AND MARINES

(Cont. from Page 1)

gains in the Japs defense wall along the eastern shore of the island. In one place a marine battalion broke through to within 4 miles of the coast, according to an ABSIE report.

Jap planes flying from bases in Kyushu continued to pound American shipping in the Okinawa harbors and four Japs were reported shot down.

ALEXANDER VOICES

(Cont. from Page 1)

request, that Yugoslav troops quit Trieste was still being ignored, this morning, as 20-man Yugoslav patrols wandered through the streets of the Adriatic port.

There were no details of the reported meeting in progress in Trieste between Tito, Alexander and Lt. Gen. Mark Clark.

550 SUPERFORTS

(Cont. from Page 1)

Terakan while others joined with US planes to continue the air blockade of the China Sea. A BBC announcement, last night, stated that Australian bombers have done such a good job mining the China Sea that Jap shipping losses have more than doubled in that area.

LUCE ASKS THAT US PARTITION GERMANY

The only successful way to insure a lasting peace will be to partition Germany, according to Representative Clair Booth Luce, Connecticut Republican, who told a Bridgeport audience, last night, that Germany, "a nation built by sword and blood, should be made too impotent to ever attain the aims of Bismarck, the Kaiser or Hitler".

A War Department ruling, released yesterday, will award battle stars to all service troops who served in combat areas.

BALLOON BOMBS STRIKE KANSAS

Jap Sub-Launched Weapon
Reaches Middle
West

Bombing attacks from the Jap submarine-launched balloon-bombs reported for the first time, yesterday, have hit as far inland in the United States as Kansas, according to a release from the War Department, last night.

The Navy, which made the first announcement of the Jap balloon-bombs, had stated that the weapons had caused explosions in North America, but the Army release said that they have "hit along the three states of the west coast of the United States and as far inland as Kansas".

The War Department release also stated that the bombs have been dropped in more than 10 localities in the last three months.

Civilians have been warned not to approach or pick up any foreign object seen lying in the fields or in the street, but to call the nearest Army post.

VALUE NOT POINTS FOR ALL OFFICERS

An average of one officer to every nine enlisted men will be released from the Army prior to the end of the war against Japan, the War Department stated, yesterday, in a release that cautioned officers not to count too heavily on their point total.

"In the case of officers", the War Department statement read, "the officer's value to the Army, whether in an essential job or not, will have precedence over his point total."

Strikes Twice

Lightning May Not, But
259th Sergeant
Does

Lightning may not strike twice in the same place, but Lessick does. Lessick is Sergeant John Lessick, of Service Company, 259th Infantry Regiment.

Last summer, while this division was training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Lessick was working in the 259th motor park as a Service Company automobile mechanic. When a batch of men were shipped overseas as replacements, last July, Lessick was among them.

Lessick didn't write, and everyone wondered what had become of him. The answer came the other day, when several trucks carrying reinforcements for the regiment, rolled into the little Austrian village where the 259th has its headquarters. First one off the trucks was the long-lost Lessick, who leaped right into the midst of a group of his old, and very much surprised comrades.

Lightning struck for the second time when Lessick was assigned to his old company, which, in turn, put him back in the same job he held before he commenced his ETO wanderings.

Sgt. Lessick's family lives on Broad Street, St. Clair, Pennsylvania. (From 65th PRO)

Church Services

The following Jewish Services will be held tomorrow:
- Sig Co-Grand Kanone Hotel at 1930; Enns-Chaplain's Office at 261st Reg Hq at 1900; Astens-3rd Bn Hq, 261st Reg at 1930.