

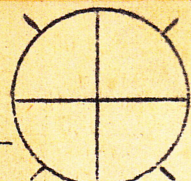
Jan. 7, 1945

Belgium



SANTA FE

Express



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JAN. 7, 1945

NEW COUNTRY, SAME STORY:

35th CRACKS NAZI BULGE

As the Nazi counter-attack spread like quicksilver through Luxembourg, it suddenly stopped, bent, broke at the Surenne River line.

Fresh from the crossing of the Blies River into Germany's lush Saar region, the 35th Infantry Division had slipped into Luxembourg and Belgium over the Christmas holidays, jumped off across the Surenne River at 0800, Dec. 27th.

Opposed by Hitler's elite Fuehrer Brigade, the Fifth Paratroop and 1st SS Panzer Divisions, the 35th clawed through the bitter cold and snowy terrain against Nazis who used every savage tactic at their command.

At Bastogne, the 1st Bn. of the 134th Regt. was one of the first foot troops to reach the besieged 101st Airborne Div. Spearheading the battalion were Co.'s "A" and "B" led res-

pectively by Lts. William O. White, Millidgeville, Ga. and George Belocich, St. Claire, Tenn.

When the knuckles of the 35th's fist pounded as far as Wileers-la-Bonne-Tau, Lutrebois and Harlange, the Germans punched back viciously with armor and infantry. Contesting every icy inch of ground, the 137th and 320th Inf. Regts. fought see-saw engagements with Hitlerites in Yank clothing whose orders were to fight to the last bullet.

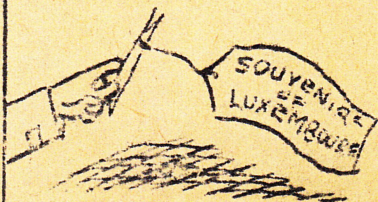
In its first week of battle on the crucial Luxembourg front, the 35th took the towns of Surenne, Boulaide, Baschleiden and Flebour, barraged the enemy with more artillery than had been used since St. Lo, proved itself once again more than a match for Hitler's best.

LUXEMBOURG IS FOE OF NAZISM

Luxembourg, the 35th's fifth country in the ETO, has been called "Little Switzerland" and would be a nice place if it weren't for the Germans.

The people are, in the main, violently anti-Nazi; their language is Platt Deutsch. Some 15,000 were forced into the German army or labor groups; thousands of others fled into France.

The government is a Duchy and the Duke is said to have chopped up the royal bed when he returned to the palace because Nazis had slept in it. He gave the pieces away as souvenirs, and the country is so small that most people got a splinter.



ARE YA SURE THIS IS LUXEMBOURG



HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

When Cpl. Eugene Tallman and his squad of litter bearers, 110th Med. Bn. tried to evacuate a wounded kraut, enemy shells forced them to turn away.

In perfect English the Nazi pleaded: "Don't leave me. Take me with you and when I get to America I will buy a bond every week!"

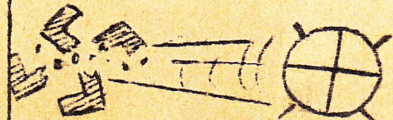
T.D.'s of 654th POUND PANZERS

When the Nazis counter-attacked to cut the Bastogne corridor, part of their advance was knocked for a loop by the on-target shooting of the 654th Tank Destroyer Bn.

In one engagement, the 2nd platoon of Co. "A" blasted 4 enemy tanks with 4 simultaneous shots. Then it combined with OCA 4th Armd. to annihilate a force of about 150 foot troops, destroy 11 more tanks and 9 vehicles.

The one SS trooper who remained alive was very sullen. He said that the TD's had not given the Nazis a fair chance.

Platoon leader Lt. Donald T. Dunne of Baldwinsville, N.Y. and platoon Sgt. Gleason F. Sharpe, Fountain City, Tenn. said they would give Nazis another chance.



SANTA FE EXPRESS

The 35th Infantry Division
Major General Paul W. Baade
- Commanding -

Editors: S/Sgt. Ed Stone
Sgt. Delitt Gilpin
Artist: Pvt. Chic Stone

HERE IS YOUR "GOOD" GERMAN

Hitler's legions have murdered American prisoners in their "inter blitz" that we helped blunt.

The atrocity brings home once more the established fact that the Hitlerite German army has the morals of a hyena and the character of a sewer rat.

Rats, when cornered, fight. And foully. If the Germans had any pages left in war's rule book they tore them out in Luxembourg's snowy hills.

Our Doughs didn't learn about atrocities from reading about them in newspapers. They met the mugs who perform them in France, Germany and here. And their conclusion is that the "good" Hitlerite is a dead one.

IN TOUCH WITH HOME

Our families and friends for some time have been keeping accurate check on our whereabouts and the progress of the 5th simply by checking their daily newspapers.

They know all about the division's smash into the rich Saar region of Germany because newspapers from coast to coast featured our crossing of the Blies River.

Such stories as the fight in the Carreguennec pottery plant and the rescue of 995 hospital prisoners were featured in leading publications. And we can be certain that the folks at home will soon learn of our part in the stopping of the Nazi counter-attack.

SO YOU'RE THE NEW DEHYDRATED SOLDIER!



44 WAS 35TH'S YEAR OF VALOR

The 15th has one of the longest honor rolls in the ATO. As of December 1st, 1944, its officers and enlisted men have won 2,222 decorations, not including Purple Hearts.

Four officers and 11 enlisted men have earned the DSC for heroism and 437 Silver Stars have been awarded. Other awards: 1,291 Bronze Stars; five Soldier's Medals; 29 Air Medals and three Legion of Merit presentations.

All of these awards have been made since July 9th, 1944, the day which marked the 5th's first clash with the Nazis in Normandy. And, since that time, 74 enlisted men have received battlefield commissions.

HOUSE AFIRE - SO! "BUCKET BRIGADE" HQ. MEN FORM

When a fire broke out in a large house of a village in Luxembourg and threatened to spread to other houses, it was put out by forward echelon troops of the 15th acting as emergency fire fighters.

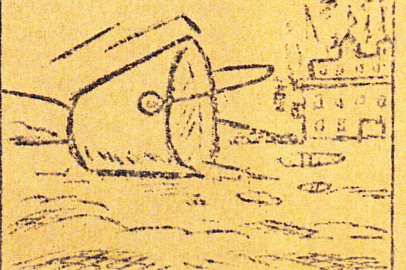
Forming a bucket brigade that led from a nearby creek to the house itself, the men joined villagers in getting enough water to keep the fire under control until a pump and hose was brought into action later on.

The fire started in the hay loft of the barn and soon enveloped the upper floor of the house. Sliding precariously on the icy shingles, several 15th men clambered on the roof and backed

holes large enough for water to be poured in.

Others braved the fire and heavy smoke to get at the blaze from the inside.

Meanwhile, the "production line" kept up the steady supply of water as bucket handles froze into solid grips of ice. The fire had to be extinguished before nightfall...and at dusk it was out.



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WE'LL NEVER FORGET SAYS 320th SGT'S

Four veteran 320th Inf. sergeants who returned from pass to Paris in time to assault the Luxembourg town of Harlange in the teeth of frost and against desperate resistance of German armor, were interviewed by Pvt. Whitney Hanson.

The doughiest leaders, T/Sgt. Andrew Garcia, Chicago, S/Sgts. John Dilske, Cleveland and Herschell P. Morrison, Whitwell, Tenn. and Sgt. Francis Fullhart, Oswego, Wis. liked Paris very much, but they didn't like the cold here any better than the dust of Normandy and the mud of Lorraine.

And, after seeing Paris and civilization once again they hated more than ever the Krauts and their rotten war.

Said Garcia: "We'll make those Nazis pay through the nose for all the misery they've caused. We'll never forget."

30 ENGINEERS BLUNT BLITZ WITH MINES

Combat men of the 60th Engr. Bn., who helped the doughs take the bite out of Hitler's blitz, added a Mark IV to their bag of Kraut trophies recently.

Sgt. Alex Ludivitz, the Bronx, and Cpl. Joseph San Antonio, Brooklyn, led a party of engineers who carried 100 mines over 2000 yards. Placing them before the German-held town of Lutrebois, the men knocked out the first Tiger that rumbled towards Yank lines.

Meanwhile, companies of Capt. Tim Mercer, Charles T. Jones and Frank Dennis built bridges over the Surre laid protective mine fields and maintained icy, snow-drifted roads.

Said Pfc. Dominick Trovato "This is one place that is positively NOT like Brooklyn."

BROOKLYN
BELGIUM

HOTSPOT: HABKIRCHEN

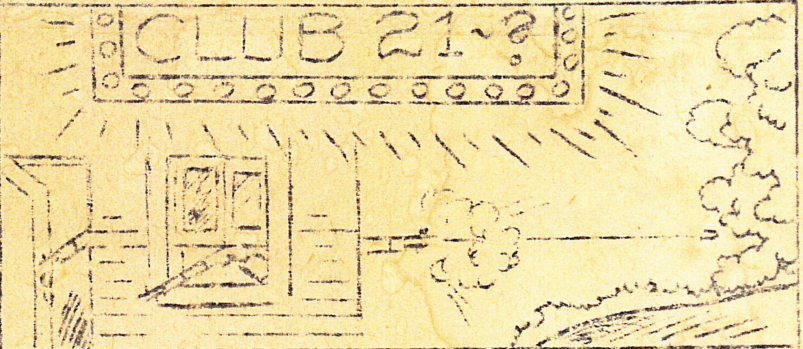
21 YANKS MAKE HISTORY

"Club 21" in New York is a hot spot where smart people go; "Club 21" in Germany was a hot spot where 21 Yanks made history and a bridgehead for this division in Germany.

The 14 Doughs from the 134th Infantry and the seven engineers from the 60th didn't have reservations. But they picked a good strong house in Habkirchen and stayed there while a battalion of Jerries tried to give them the bums' rush. Someone thought of calling it "Club 21" later; while they were there, they just prayed the joint wouldn't fold up.

Crossing their third river in eight days, men of the 14th pushed their assault boats across the swift Blies and S/Sgt. Thomas Reese, Beverly, N. Va. and 1st Lt. Wallace E. Chappell, Greedmore, N.C. were the first to leap into shallow water and get their feet wet on German soil, reported Cpl. Norm Corfile, regimental correspondent.

Their welcome to the Fatherland was withering machine gun fire delivered by a fresh guard battalion whose soldiers, the boys say, were "Frankenstein size."



When the initial shooting was over, the 21 Yanks who were left had 35 prisoners and one house in red-hot Habkirchen. Capt. William Denny, St. Louis, told his men that they were "the toothed of a bridgehead", so the boys settled down to wait until reinforcements and armor could get to them.

Seize of the house lasted over 24 hours. The Germans threw everything at it but Fernan Goering. Artillery banged at it, mortars thumped it, grenades and small arms fire rattled against it.

A bayonet charge broke 25 yards away, and as a huge German lumbered away Capt. Denny said: "Look at that kraut run!" Pvt. Horace E. Koontz fired his M1 and Capt. Denny said: "Look at that kraut roll!"

Pvt. John J. Henry, Brooklyn, who says he used to walk his girl past the other "Club 21" once in a while, got fearful the 65 Nazis in the basement would make a break. So he sat down among them, stacked grenades around him, and told them he would start pulling pins if they made a move.

The Jerries were still there when relief arrived to firmly establish the bridgehead.

ABOUT JOE DOUGH

35th ARTILLERY SHOWS NAZIS BIG LEAGUE STUFF

On the roster of Co. G, 134th is the longest name in the world: Pvt. --- Llouousszuicousszesszes Willihiminizissteizii Hurrizisssteizii. His pals call him Leo.

* * * *

Sgt. Len Cesarz, 320th Inf. fed his mortar so fast that an outgoing round hit the increment of another he was trying to insert, out his hand with one of the fins.

* * * *

Flushing a city of Nazis, Pvt. Cuitman Drake, 127th, spotted two German soldiers running down an alleyway, one in front of the other. Drake fired one shot with his M, got both Nazis.



Busily laying fire along a German highway, a 35th Signal Co. wire crew was forced to hit nearby ditches when enemy shells barraged in, one bursting in the branches of a nearby tree. The wiremen crawled out onto the road when the shelling ceased; S/Sgt. Frederick C. Miller found at the base of the shattered tree.... a dead Hun sniper.

* * * *

When two Christmas packages arrived late in the 35th APO with only the wrappers left, they were delivered anyway "for sentimental reasons." Explains S/Sgt. Don Davis, postal clerk: "It helps the guys to know someone's heart is in the right place."

* * * *

Liaison pilot Lt. Warren Terhorst spotted a Nazi Panther Tank, landed his Cub in a field near some recon men, gave the the tank's location, took off carrying a can of gas with a thermite bomb attached (gift from the reconners) to save time if he spotted another tank.



Artillery of the 35th Div. cracked the hard shell of the Nazi salient on the Luxembourg front. When enemy armor tried to storm division lines, the boys behind the big guns "poured it on 'em" as Cpl. George Jupiter of New York City roared. Officially, 13 tanks were disabled in one day alone by this hail of steel.

The tanks had been thrown against the 35th in unsuccessful counter-attacks to dislodge the division from newly-won positions.

On the morning of Jan. 1st, Nazi PW's admitted that the 35th's artillery had forced the Hunns to abandon plans for a large-scale attack. To take the punch out of the Panzers, artillery experts estimated that

137th TAKES TOLL OF NAZI ARMOR

It was tanks against doughs when the Jerrics loosed their armor towards Bastogne, but the men of the 137th stood and took it --and they took their toll of tanks.

In much-fought-for Villers-la-Bonne-Bau one GI of the 3rd Bn. kayoed two tanks with a bazooka.

Also accounting for two German tanks were cannon company gun crews composed of Pfc. John Foley, Brooklyn; Cpl. Marvin J. Moseby, a Missourian, Cpl. Marshall D. Baker, Gaffney, S.C., Cpl. Alfred Engel, Grainfield, Kas. and Cpl. Donald E. Jenkins, Emporia, Kas.

Two 137th Inf. reporters, Ralph Schubert and David Gordon, agreed that "those guys write their stories themselves when they meet up with tanks and it's always a sad ending for the unhappy Tigers."



"L' APOLOGIE"

In the last issue of the EXPRESS it was stated that Co. "B" 134th Inf. freed 995 sick Russian and anti-fascist Italian prisoners from a barbed wire enclosed hospital. The story was true, but it was Co. F, 137th Inf. which did the rescuing. And Co. F, 134th was just busy beating Nazis somewhere else.

the previous all-night barrage had expended a half million dollars' worth of ammunition.

The prisoners also reported that from 40 to 60 percent of Nazi casualties had been caused by Tank artillery.

Said one: "Our infantry company was a new unit and this was our first time in combat. We were to attack, but artillery fire was so terrible that despite the frantic efforts of our commanding officer, the company was forced to retreat in disorder."

Newest use of artillery was the anti-flak mission. When Kraut ack-ack opened up on Tank aircraft, 35th artillery shut them up first by blasting their emplacements. These missions were so successful that high performance aircraft reported practically no flak interference when the Jerry ack-ackers were on the receiving end.

Von Rundstedt's fanatics in the battle of the bulge were providing a variety of work suitable to the veteran taste of the 35th, 127th, 161st, 216th and 219th FA Bns. In addition to knocking out tanks and guys, they were busy with the destruction of machine gun and mortar nests, breaking up troop concentrations and running interference for infantrymen.

Speaking for all the men, Sgt. Ross Shaner, La Cygne, Kas. said: "This is strictly big league stuff."