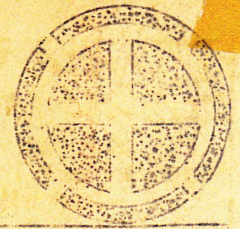


# SANTA FE CAMPRESS



VOLUME NO. 8

MARCH 1, 1945

BAD NEWS FOR HITLER:

## 35<sup>th</sup> SMASHES TOWARD RUHR

### DOUGHS + TANKS PERFECT TEAM

A company of 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry on lay in woods near Huelshoven, Germany, and waited. They'd been there for three hours, panned down by front machine guns and mortars that laid in on them from another woods 300 yards of open field away.

Then our mortars began to fall in the field. In a few minutes, smoke shells screened off most of the 600 yards. A platoon of 5 U. S. tanks rumbled out into the field and began blasting through the smoke with

When the Jerry's ducked, the doughs came out of the woods slipped through the tanks and cleaned the enemy out of the other woods without a Yank casualty.

The 5 tanks were commanded by 2/Lt. Henry L. Peterson, B Co. platoon leader (white) of the 784<sup>th</sup> Negro Tank Bn. attached to the 35<sup>th</sup> in its attack across to the Ruhr.

Talking about the fight afterwards, S/Sgt William F. Yorkshire, Negro tank commander from Creville, La. praised the doughboys.

"Tanks without infantry in a situation like that are nothing," he said. "But working together like we did, I don't see how we could have missed."

### NEW A.D.C.

Col. Butler B. Miltonberger is now Assistant Division Commander of the 35<sup>th</sup>.

Formerly CO of the 134<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg't., Col. Miltonberger replaces Brig. Gen. Edmund B. Teeboe, who has become Assistant Commander of the 28<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div.

Long on the secret list, it appeared the 171 Corps in the north Army drive.

On the morning of the big push, the 320<sup>th</sup> Inf. jumped off, moved 1500 yards in three hours to this side of the Roer, achieved its objective.

The 12<sup>th</sup> first sent out strong patrol into Hilfarth across the Roer. It stormed Hilfarth in force with a sharp night attack, cleared the town completely by the next morning.

The 170<sup>th</sup> pushed its entire regiment plus TDs and tanks across the river on

The Division knocked out a great many pillboxes of the Siegfried Line, overcame artillery, mortar and heavy small-arms fire to reach all objectives.

### HEAVY BARRAGE

Division artillery supported the attack continuously, firing particularly heavy night missions and

blinding on the observation posts with smoke shells. Proceeding the initial jump off, the big guns threw a tremendous sustained barrage across the Roer that later brought in many shak- on prisoners mopped up by the infantrymen.

### BRIDGE SAVED

Crossing of the Roer was made easier by capture intact of a strong bridge at Hilfarth which had been mined but not blown by the Nazis. Steady artillery, mortar and small-arms fire denied use of the bridge to the Germans, only partially damaged it, and allowed 35<sup>th</sup> Division troops to cross.

Between Feb. 26 and 27, the 35<sup>th</sup> captured 25 towns; averaged a gain of 4 miles on the 27<sup>th</sup>. By Feb. 28, almost the entire Division had crossed the Roer.

As the offensive sped into the month of March, U. S. Armies surged forward on all fronts toward their immediate objective: the Rhine River. The 35<sup>th</sup>

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## "NONE BRAVER" THAN SOLDIER WHO SUFFERS IN SILENCE

A rifleman of the 320<sup>th</sup> Inf. who lay in a mine field for 15 hours, a foot blown off one leg and his other leg broken and buckled under him, was cucumber-cool when litter bearers reached him.

"He had bandaged his foot himself and he knew how badly he was wounded," declared Pfc. Charles Muccio, of Boston, Mass., one of the litter bearers. "While trying to lift him on to the stretcher, another medic stepped on a mine and had his heel blown off."

"You got hurt, didn't you?" the guy said. "That's rough, Mac," he said. "I'm sorry."

"There wasn't a groan or a moan in him," added Lt. James Keener, Detroit, who gave him a shot of whiskey at the aid station. "He was perfectly calm and rational. They don't make men any braver."

# SANTA FE EXPRESS

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

Editors: S/Sgt Ed Stone  
Sgt Geo. Curtiss

Artist: Pvt. Chic Stone  
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## ONE MORE RIVER

Much as a river is linked to a great ocean, the 35th Division's river crossings are a part of its battle history.

We have just crossed the Wurm and Roer Rivers and our next big water obstacle is the Rhine.

If we cross the Rhine we are cutting the main Nazi bloodstream, for the Rhine is Germany's Mississippi, Missouri, and Hudson Rivers all rolled into one.

Our first big river crossing was the Vire. Then the Moselle. Next the Saar, followed by the Blies River crossing into Germany.

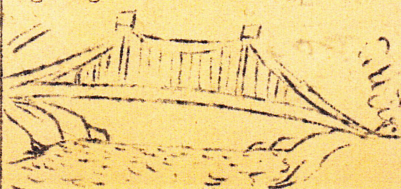
We smashed over the Sure River in Luxemburg to crack Von Rundstedt's bulge around Bastogne.

Between these rivers were many other water barriers--smaller rivers and canals and swollen streams and icy creeks.

All of these the 35th crossed because engineers knew how to build bridges and pilot assault boats under fire and our artillery blasted the enemy on the opposite shore and the air force bombed and strafed Nazi strongpoints.

Above all, our doughboys wanted to GET ACROSS, and they did, even when they had to wade or swim and when it did not seem possible that a human being could cross.

What this record means is this: We have one more river to cross and we are going to cross it.



## GELDERN: C-BORNE OPERATION

Spearheading is not an unusual experience for the doughs of Co. C, 134th Infantry, first Ninth Army troops to link with the British near the Rhine.

A narrow footbridge was the sole path into Geldern. Before they reached it, the Charley Co. men, riding astride tanks, were fired upon by blazing Heinie bazookas and mortars. As the lead tank reached the river, a steady stream of bazooka fire came at it. One round hit the tank, knocking Sgt. Horace E. Cunningham, Woodland, Ala., and Pfc Alfred B. Poppy, Ola, Ark., to the ground. Captain Wallace P. Chappell, Creedmore, N.C., the CO, had just leaped from the tank when a fragment caught his back pocket, cutting his pistol holster to shreds and chewing up two plugs of tobacco.

The Yanks raced across the foot span, drawing sniper fire as they ran. By dusk, the 1st Bn. had wiped out all but two sniper nests; by dark, the snipers were completely annihilated.

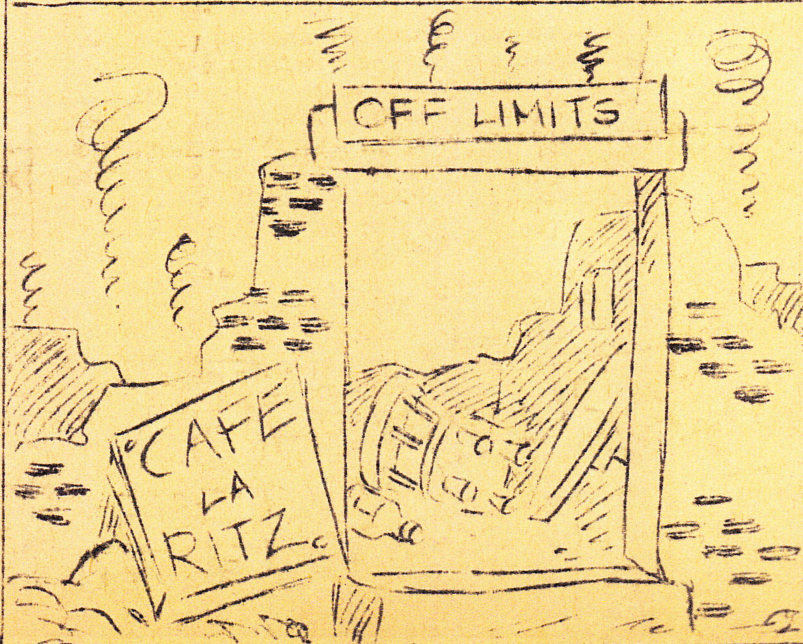
Company D lost little time entering the town to set up MG positions. T/Sgt Raymond E. Azbell, Lancaster, Ohio, platoon sergeant, "wished he had a penny for every slug the Dog Company machine gunners throw at the Krauts in Geldern." 2/Lt. Robert E. Biever, Chicago, Ill., who fired a bazooka, machine guns and M-1s at suspected enemy emplacements recalled how satisfying it was to fire a bazooka round into a house where the Heinies had a mortar in operation. "It was a lucky hit that knocked that mortar out. They must have become good and scared, because a little while later they blew up an ammunition dump near the house. That really made noise."

1st Sgt. Robert W. Hogue, Wood River, Ill., who rode the tanks with his boyx, recalled: "The fireworks made a fourth of July at Coney Island seem amateurish."

Thus Company C entered the town and later linked with the British west of Geldern.

This same Charlie Company was the first infantry unit of the XII Corps to fight on German soil when it established a beachhead across the Blies River into Habbkirchen, Germany, in mid-December of last year.

--Sgt. Norman Gorfkle.



# IN PERSON! MICKEY ROONEY VISITS 35th

Members of the 137th Inf. who talked and joked with Mickey Rooney, and that afternoon saw his jeep show, claim the the former film star and now Pfc. is really a regular guy.

Wearing an English beret, OD jacket, trousers and combat boots, and tucking a pistol in a German holster, Pfc. Rooney along with Bob Priester and Marie Pieroni, stopped at the 137th in time for dinner, prior to appearing before the troops.

Rooney laughed and joked, said "I'm just a regular GI like the rest of you guys."

The "Andy Hardy" on the screen gave impersonations of Hollywood stars and also sang "It's a Bad Time to want a Good Time Baby Me."

"Mickey's a real GI", said Pfc. Jay Drumm of Monroeville, Michigan, "his popularity hasn't affected him in the least."

-- Pfc. Ralph Schubert

# ARTILLERYMEN PRAISE "IVAN"

Blasting the Nazi heartland with their big guns, 35th Division artillerymen still take time out to give credit to their Russian allies.

"I am waiting for the day when I can shake the hand of a GI Ivan," says Pfc. Joseph Filcseta, Bklyn., NY, of the 161st FA Bn.

"Hope they can keep up their terrific pace--it'll sure shorten the war," says Pfc. Wilby Beckwith, Ukiah, Calif., 161st FA Bn.

T/4 Homer White, Hiawath, Kans., 219th FA Bn. says: "The 664 question on the Western Front is 'How are the Russians doing?'"

"I know the Russian drive has raised the morale of all of us in the ETO and has also shown the German people the power of combined Allied armies," says Cpl. Arthur V. Jones, Garden City, Kans. "And," continues the 219th artilleryman, "I think the war can end any day now."

"Hope they keep it up so I can get home to all my pretty little Mexican girls," says Cpl. George Jupiter.

# WEARING OF THE GREEN

Officers and non-coms who command combat echelons from squad to division size are now wearing a "Combat Unit Commander's Identification."

For officers, the identification is a strip of dark green cloth, 1" wide, around the middle of each shoulder loop, and under any insignia which may be worn there.

For non-coms, it's a strip of the same cloth 5/16" x 2-1/4", horizontally on each sleeve, 1" below the chevron

Best of luck to all  
of my Pals in the 35th  
Yours Paul  
Pvt. Mickey Rooney

# "TASK FORCE STEVENS" TAKES TOWN, 35 PW'S

The town of Leutherheide was taken by a task force within a task force.

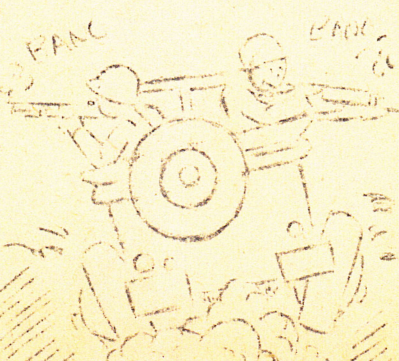
As part of Task Force Murray, "Task Force Stevens" was so named by the men led by Capt. George Stevens, Oldhams, Va. of the 654th TD Bn.

Capt. William Sinex, Wichita, Kans., CO of Service Co., 137th entered the town early in the morning with his quartering party. He spotted an estimated 65 Nazis in town.

He returned to the 137th CP with the news and the new "task force" was organized to clear the town.

It was composed of 4 tank destroyers, 2 armored cars and 7 jeep loads of men, including a squad each from Co.'s L and G, 137th.

Task Force Stevens roared into town, so surprised the Nazis that 35 gave up and the rest ran out of town.



### SPECIAL TROOPS ON THE BEAM

GI ingenuity in the 35th has helped to win many of the Santa Fe battles.

It saved the situation when battalions on the line began clamoring for tubes to keep their 254 radios running. Signal Co. didn't have any, but repairman T/5 Wes Johnson, Ponchatula, La., broke the supply bottleneck overnight. He devised a simple socket arrangement from the bases of the original burned out tubes that permitted the use of other types more plentifully in stock.

Cpl. Al Leone, Duluth, Minn. devised a light mine for the heavy .30 cal. MG perfect for hedgerows.

T/Sgt. George McLeland, Pleasanton, Kans. broke down overused batteries to make badly needed long, slender batteries for walkie-talkies.

S/Sgt. Ralph Pross, Garden City, Kans., repairs vehicles with an electric drill he made with a few spare parts.

T/5 Dan Horning, Bridgeport, Conn. invented a simple gadget, resembling a micrometer screw, to make traverse adjustments on mortars.

One time when there was an unusually large gap between the rear and forward echelons of the division, GI ingenuity bridged that gap in record time by utilizing intact fragments of the French railway telegraph lines and even for part of the circuit built the rails of the tracks.

The "crazy quilt" wire network got the messages through in the normal way.

Pfc Dan Gilganron

### FORGET-ME-NOTS

In three recent days, Joe of the Division ordered \$1500 worth of flowers thru the Red Cross to be sent to mothers, wives and families on Easter and Mother's Day.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)  
Division moved along the Siegfried Line to roll up a gain of more than 25 miles.

The liberation of Venlo by Task Force Byrne was accomplished so rapidly that the amazed British sent recon boats over the Meuse River to check whether the city had actually been taken.

As the 134th cleaned out towns in its zone, Task Force Murray stabbed ahead toward the key cities of Maastricht and Ossenberg.

### SELF-SERVICE

Two Division MPs, Pfc. Johnny Benton, Chelsea, Mass. and Ken De Long, Paterson, N.J., not only set up a PW stockade at Wassenberg, but furnished the first prisoners for it.

They had just converted a small inn into an enclosure when they spotted 7 Nazis in the courtyard.

Benton and De Long gave them the choice of fighting or becoming live PW customers. The Nazis chose the hospitality of the inn.

### MEN AT WORK: GO ENGINEERS, PAVE RHINE ROAD

Since the current jump-off of the 35th, the 60th Eng. Combat Bn. tore its way through fixed steel and log road blocks, filled craters and anti-tank ditches, constructed bridges and effected passage through or around dozens of enemy demolitions works.

"Botchkin's Brooklyn Beavers" assisted in the capture of numerous bridges intact and, in many instances, cut demolitions wires while under enemy fire.

When the 134th Inf. seized the damaged but usable stone bridge over the Roer at Hilferath, there was enemy automatic fire covering the bridge. But T/5 James Stanislaw, Lynbrook, N.Y. and Pvt. Harold Wright, Jersey City, N.J., both of Co. A, slipped through to the bridge. Then they cut

demolitions wires, removed the charges and dropped them harmlessly in the Roer River.

As the 35th faced northwest and rolled up the flank of the Siegfried Line engineers gapped minefields, tore through more mined road blocks, and destroyed pillboxes on the heels of the ever-advancing doughs.

At Venlo, Holland, the 35th twisted to the northeast and headed for the Rhine. When a bridge guarded by a Nazi sentry was reached, Cpl. Joseph Staubach, Haverstraw, N.Y. and T/5 Frederick Meinkner of Rensselaer, N.Y., both members of Co. C, got rid of the sentry, cut wires, removed the explosives from the bridge and allowed motorized infantry to roll over the bridge.