

5,000 Warplanes Blast Path for Great Drive

Man Spricht Deutsch

Koennen Sie English sprechen?
Kennen Zee English spreshen?
Can you spea English?

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Ici On Parle Français

Où est le lavabo?
oo AY luh la-va-BO?
Where is the toilet?

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1 Fr.

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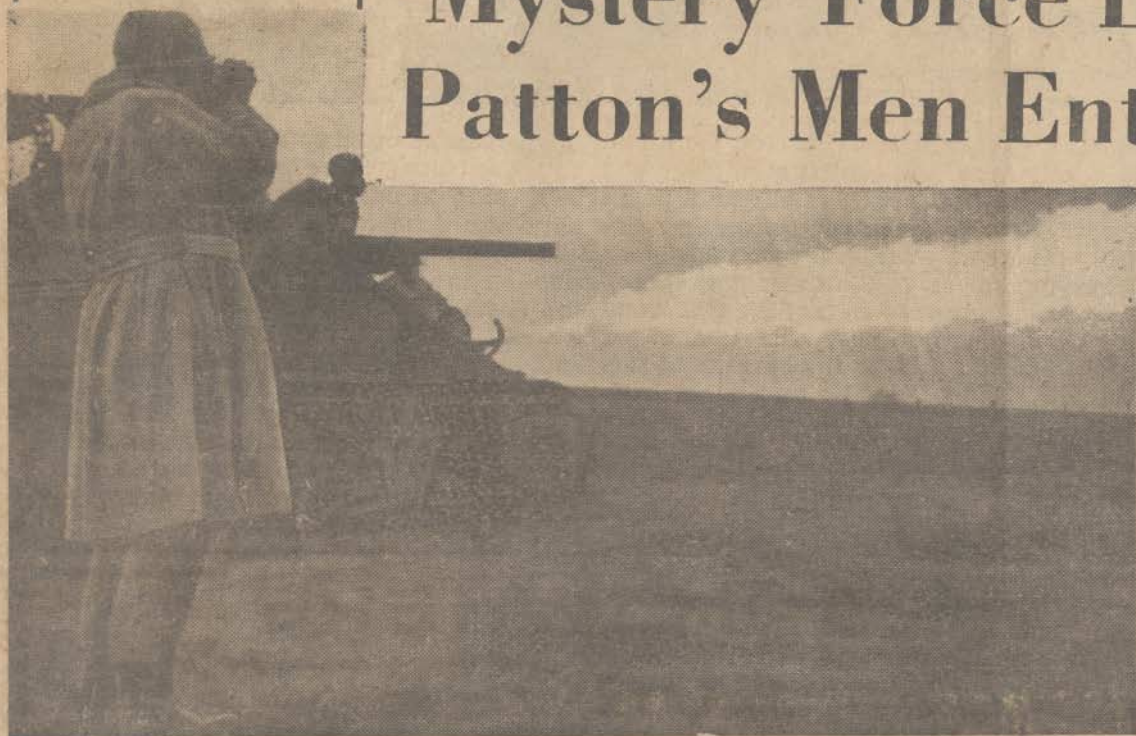
1 Fr.

Friday, Nov. 17, 1944

1st and 9th Open Attack

'Guts & Fire'

W. Leonard
**'Mystery' Force Lunges Into Reich;
Patton's Men Enter Metz Outskirts**



The cameraman in the foreground is Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, recording on his own film a demonstration by an ordnance flame-throwing tank somewhere near the front lines held by his Third Army. The tank is demonstrating its flame-throwing capabilities by the Third Army in its offensive to close a vice of men and

The U.S. Ninth Army, last heard of at Brest, materialized out of the Dutch bogs last night and smashed across the German border. For the first time four American armies were hammering against the German West Wall.

At the same time, the U.S. First Army launched a new attack behind a massed air bombardment.

Above the suddenly churning battlefront more than 5,000 Allied warplanes—massed fleets of bombers and fighters from the RAF and the USAAF—thundered against German strongpoints and behind-the-lines areas.

To the far south, in snow-covered, rolling Lorraine, Third Army patrols entered the outskirts of Metz.

South of the Third's right flank, Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's U.S. Seventh Army pressed toward the passes of the snowy Vosges passes.

Along almost three-quarters of the Reich's western border American armies hammered for 300 miles on a continuous front from Holland to the Swiss frontier.

On the northern front, the attacks of the Ninth and First Armies were almost simultaneous. The Ninth attacked northeast of Aachen in the Dutch Panhandle at 1245. The

Yanks Invade New Jap Island

American amphibious troops have invaded the small island of Mapia, 145 miles off the northern New Guinea coast. They destroyed Japanese coast warning stations reporting flights of U.S. planes northward. Gen. MacArthur's headquarters announced yesterday.

A small force landed Wednesday, under cover of a naval bombardment, met only light resistance and pushed on inland. The Japanese garrison on the island had been by-passed in MacArthur's advance to the northwest.

On Leyte Island, in the Philippines, U.S. forces virtually completed their encirclement of the west coast port of Ormoc.

U.S. Casualties Top 25,000 in October

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—U.S. ground force casualties in western Europe totalled 200,349 up to Nov. 1, the War Department announced today. This was an increase of 25,500 over the total announced up to Oct. 3.

The casualty total included 35,884 killed, 145,788 wounded and 18,677 missing.

Mud-Caked Yanks Say Metz Is Normandy Without Hedges

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer.

WITH U.S. THIRD ARMY, Nov. 16.—War at Metz and in Lorraine just east of Nancy, is more like Normandy than anything since the break-through.

It is yard by yard, mile by mile, fighting by pushing, punching doughboys supported by artillery and armor.

Charred remains of villages, dead animals and enemy are strewn everywhere in the path of the advance.

Infantry veterans of Normandy fighting—members of the 90th, 35th and Fifth Divisions—make the comparisons grimly. "The only thing missing here is Calvados," said one doughboy, grinning behind a face almost caked with mud.

Like Normandy before the break-through, the advance at times is slow and hard won. Among Normandy reminders are the battered,

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Pearl Harbor Ruling Due

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (AP).—Highly-placed congressional sources expect a decision within three weeks on whether courts-martial or exoneration will result from the Army and Navy board investigations of the Pearl Harbor attack.

ETO Vet Wins Seat in Senate

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—William E. Jenner, 36, an AAF captain who received a medical discharge after being severely wounded on duty in the ETO, today became the first World War II veteran to sit in Congress.

Jenner, a Republican, was elected to the Senate from Indiana to succeed Sen. Samuel D. Jackson, Democrat, for the remainder of the term of the late Sen. Frederick Van Nuys, which expires in January. After that, Jenner plans to resume his law practice at Bedford, Ind.

As he took the oath of office, Jenner recalled that he had a four-dollar-a-day job running an elevator in the old House office building in 1930 during college vacation.

Reds Crack New Hole In Budapest Defenses

Soviet storm battalions poured through a new break-through area ten miles east of Budapest yesterday, bringing the Hungarian capital under heavy siege from the east, southeast and south. New German withdrawals east of Budapest were admitted by Berlin.

As Russian infantry and tanks massed in a semi-circle around the city, the Red Army's big guns took positions for the task of blasting the Nazis from their fortifications.

First let go at 1100.

Besides the four American armies, the British Second in Holland and the First French Army on the right flank of the U.S. Seventh in the southern Vosges pounded the Germans.

Simpson Men Cross Border

The will-o'-the-wisp U.S. Ninth Army dropped its cloak of mystery into the mud of the Holland Panhandle and opened an attack at 12:45 PM yesterday, and by night-fall was already across the German border.

Two months ago the Ninth was reported at Brest. Then official silence settled over the army and its eagle-eyed Texas commander, Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson: Simpson was leading his men across three countries—France, Belgium and Holland to hand the Germans one of the war's biggest surprises.

There was little word immediately as to the Ninth's progress following the initial announcement from its headquarters which said: "The Ninth U.S. Army, under the command of Lt. Gen. William H. Simp-

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Hodges Gains In Early Blows

The U.S. Ninth and First Armies gained in the initial phases of their surprise assaults, SHAEF reported last night, while elements of the Fifth Infantry Division on the Third Army front to the south slashed behind Ft. Verdun to the outskirts of Metz.

Ninth Army men advanced up to 2,000 yards on a seven-mile front northeast of Aachen. They took the German villages of Immendorf, Floverich, Euchen and Bettendorf, just inside the German border.

Little resistance was encountered at Bettendorf which had been softened by bombers.

It was apparent the enemy had been taken by surprise in the Ninth's sudden attack, which was launched 800 miles from its last appearance at Brest. In two months,

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5,000 Warplanes Carve Way For Massive Drive on Reich

More than 5,000 warplanes yesterday hurled the massed might of Allied air power into support of the ground offensive which erupted against the German West Wall north and east of Aachen.

Twelve hundred American Fortresses and Liberators, almost as many RAF heavy bombers, 100 Marauder mediums and nearly 3,000 fighter planes stormed across the churning lines along the Reich's western border as the big offensive jumped off in the first hours of weather suitable for flying since Armistice Day.

Starting at 11:15, the first fragmentation bombs dropped from a force of 1,200 Eighth Air Force Fortresses and Liberators landed on strong points, field artillery batteries and flak-gun positions located

along the ten-mile road between Duren and Eschweiler. They were escorted by about 500 fighters. Synchronous with the American attack, more than 1,150 RAF bombers, escorted by a record 2,500 fighters, according to Reuter dispatches, smashed at Duren, Julich and Heinsberg. At 2 PM, 100 Ninth Air Force Marauders, coming over Duren-Eschweiler targets at half the heavy bomber altitudes, attacked gun sites and infantry positions.

Mustangs and Thunderbolts, breaking away from the main fighter force which escorted the heavies attacking in support of the First Army, strafed rail traffic in the Frankfort and Giessen areas, destroying or damaging 20 locomotives and 92 freight cars.

GI Won't Step in Ike's Shoes

By Jules B. Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer.

ADVANCED SUPREME HQ., Nov. 16.—Gen. Eisenhower offered to swap his sheepskin-lined overshoes for a GI's pair of beat-up arctic, but the Joe nixed the deal.

Squishing through knee-deep mud in the shadow of the front lines, Ike paused to talk to S/Sgt. Darrell Van Ness, of Placerville, California.

"Sure wish I had a pair of overshoes like yours," Van Ness said. The Joe watched Ike hop on one leg as he tugged at a frozen zipper.

"No, general," Van Ness finally sighed. "I guess you'll need those boots more than I will. The deal's off."

The four-star commander compromised. He offered Van Ness 500 francs on the line for his first dead Jerry.

Gen. Eisenhower inspected American installations all afternoon with Army and Corps commanders. It was the second week of his whirlwind tour through France and Germany.

'Mystery' Ninth Opens Attack With 1st Army

(Continued from Page 1)

the Ninth had slipped through France, Belgium and Holland to make a sudden appearance on the Dutch-German border.

U.S. First Army troops smashed ahead for advances of two to three kilometers, preceded by a mighty aerial attack in the area of Eschweiler, just northeast of Aachen. The area was plastered with fragmentation bombs.

First penetration of ~~Metz~~ invulnerable to assault for 2,050 years, was made after units of Patton's Fifth Infantry Division seized Aungny. Division elements advanced from there.

Resistance Stiffens

German resistance in other areas around Metz stiffened, however, as the Nazis counter-attacked heavily in two places and recaptured Peltre, a village strongpoint two miles southeast of Metz, and Ft. Hubert, four miles west of the city.

The infantry ring around the city tightened and the escape gap last night was reported six miles wide.

North of the city, elements of the 377th Regiment of the 95th Division pushed to within one and one-half miles of the city, front dispatches said.

Fourth Armored Division elements gained a mile during a German attack, front reports said, in an area 25 miles northeast of Nancy. Germans were reported using numerous Mark IV and Mark V tanks and mobile artillery, the front dispatches reported.

Horn Captured

Elements of the 26th Division have cleared the wood north of Dieuze and obtained high ground for observation over the Dieuze area, the reports added.

In Holland, the attacking British Second Army captured Horn, two miles northwest of Roermond, according to Reuter's front dispatch, in an advance which carried the Tommies up to four miles toward the southern dip of the River Maas toward the Roermond gateway to the Ruhr Valley.

This put British troops 35 miles west of Dusseldorf and Duisburg, German industrial cities, Associated Press reported from the front. Tommies seized the five towns, including Donk and Meiljel along a 10-mile front.

French Army Opens Drive

FRENCH FIRST ARMY FRONT, Nov. 16.—The French First Army today launched a vigorous offensive along a forty-kilometer front covering both banks of the Doubs River entry to the Belfort Gap.

Strongly supported by artillery, the new drive has reached all local objectives. The advances were made in rain and snow and against strong enemy resistance.

GI Tall-Tale-Tellers Swamp Liars Club

BURLINGTON, Wis., Nov. 16 (ANS).—O. C. Hulett, president of the Burlington Liars Club, today happily riffled through letters that have poured into his office in preparation for the club's annual New Year's Eve selection of the world's finest fibs. He attributed this year's bumper crop of lies and whoppers to contributions from servicemen.

Hulett cited a contribution from Alton C. Porter as one of the best examples of G. prevarication. Porter wrote: "One night in the North Atlantic the sea became so rough we had to stop the movie because the actors on the screen got seasick."

Simpson Men Cross Border

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son, attacked at 1245 hours this day. The attack was preceded by an aerial bombardment which continued to support the operation."

But a dispatch from Wes Gallagher, Associated Press correspondent with the Ninth, established that it was into the Reich itself, north of the First Army's sector above Aachen.

With the Ninth Army committed to action, the Ninth Air Force announced the formation of a new unit, the 29th Tactical Air Command, to support it. Brig. Gen. Richard E. Nugent commands it.

The Ninth had been under wraps for security reasons since it took Brest. The Germans, in broadcasts at various times, had placed it between the Seventh and Third Armies and between the Third and First.

The Ninth is the youngest of the American armies in the field on the western front, following the First, Third and Seventh into battle. It took over the job of cleaning up Brest and finally brought about the fall of the Brittany port and the capture of its fanatical Nazi paratroop commander. It also accepted the surrender of some 20,000 German prisoners south of the Loire River.

Correspondent Gallagher reported that the quiet, soft-spoken Simpson has been seen almost constantly by his troops since they took the field. Travelling by jeep and plane, he visited virtually all the units under his command and personally inspected each sector of the front before the present attack.

7 Billions for Month of War

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (Reuter).—U.S. war expenditures in October were \$7,447,000,000, topping September by \$343,000,000, officials announced yesterday. Defense and war expenditures from July 1 1940, through Oct. 31, 1944, totalled \$229,600,000,000.

All's Confusion as GI, Jerry Take Each Other 'Prisoner'

By Morrow Davis

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 30TH INF. DIV.—The boys in a company commanded by Capt. Edward E. McBride, of Somerset, Ky., like to tell about a little argument which grew out of a misunderstanding, flowered in confusion and resulted in loss to the Wehrmacht of two officers and 38 EM replacements, plus some new equipment up Bordenberg way.

This situation developed at night after the company was cut off during an advance. McBride was forced to establish his company in a tight little knot and await relief.

At one position, with a light machine gun covering the road, was posted Sgt. Joseph E. Price, of Augusta, Ga. He heard people approaching and a voice call, "Surrender, comrade." Price answered, repeating, "Surrender, comrade." The German group hove into sight, led by a captain and a lieutenant. The latter spoke English.

Price stepped aside and motioned the Jerry to precede him. "You go first," said the lieutenant. "We'll

treat you nice." Right there Price realized each side believed the other was surrendering. And then the fun began.

Price killed the German captain with his pistol. The light machine gun began to chatter. Next morning there were eight dead Jerries in the road, the aid station was filled with German wounded and the remainder were prisoners.

Terry And The Pirates





SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE

Steeple Shooting Sarge

When artillery couldn't knock out a steeple used as a German observation post some distance behind the XV Corps line, Sgt. Arthur Mygland, Ruby, N.D., worked his tank destroyer into position and drew a bead on the steeple, 3,000 yards away.

His gunner, T/5 Earl A. Towne, South Gate, Calif., fired five rounds, scoring five hits.

* * *

Gag Costs Sleep, Ammo

Jerry insisted on spraying the street with machine-guns. He hadn't hit anything except a horse, but he certainly was denying the street to the Americans. Two 30th Infantry Division soldiers, T/Sgt. Walter H.

Dunn, Canestota, N.Y., and S/Sgt. W. J. Widener, Logansport, Ind., went into a huddle and came up with a trick play. Jerry had annoyed them; they would annoy Jerry.

As soon as night fell the two Yanks strung a wire across the street and hung kettles and tin-pans on it. Then they ran a length of cord from the wire to their CP in a basement across the contested street. Comfortably settled, they pulled the string. Jerry opened up with machine and burp guns. When the firing ceased, they waited a few minutes and pulled the string again. Jerry opened up again. That went on all night. By morning the doughboys were as sleepy as hell, but they felt good. They'd made Jerry fire up an empty street all night.

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