

CROSSING THE RIVER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER

DEATH PENALTY ARE RESCUED

BRUNSWICK, Germany, April 15 (Delayed) (AP) — American soldiers sentenced to death by a German military court sweated it out for 93 days in solitary confinement before their rescue by advancing American divisions on Friday.

They told today of watching the Germans erect posts in the ground in front of their prison windows and of waiting for a day when they would be led out before a firing squad and fired against the poles, but they never came.

Two days ago the Germans went away and left the Americans to rot in their cells. After a while the tanks heard a jeep outside and a doughboy saying, "I guess we had better shoot the damn locks out."

The four prisoners had been sentenced to death after the Germans planted forbidden articles in their bedding.

"It was just after they had brought in the other prisoners from the Ardennes and they might have wanted to make an example for them," said Sgt. Gene R. Manfredonio, who was with them.

Pelly, Tex., who was captured at Alsdorf on Oct. 15 and liberated by men from his own division when the veteran 36th took over this ancient Saxh town.

Pistol Placed in Bed

The Nazis had planted a pistol in Dickerson's bed during riot call at the Faulenburger street 11-B on the main street.

Propaganda papers were planted in the blankets of the three, Capt. Julius C. Lewis, Bruce, and Pvt. Kenneth R. Evans, Pontiac, Mich., both from the 820th tank destroyer battalion, and Sgt. Eugene R. Manfredonio, 36th Infantry Division.

The four men were taken to be on Jan. 15, 1945, they were represented by counsel who talked to them through an interpreter who "couldn't understand us any more than we could understand him." The four were sentenced to death.

"We were asked if we had anything to say for ourselves and we all said," said Manfredonio.

"Dickerson stood there with a Bible in his hands and swore in the Bible that we were innocent. He told that we were all too young to die. We were talking for our lives. He said that they were going through the streets of Hanau, and the civilians just stared at us."

Thrown in Cold Cells

The four Americans were brought in unheated and thrown into single cells where they were kept for all but 10 minutes out of every 24 hours.

"They let us out five minutes each day for washing and five minutes for a walk in the yard," Dickerson said.

The men were given no books or magazines and had nothing to do but to busy themselves in the bitter cold or look out of a window by standing on a bed, a board placed with no mattress or covering.

Evans talked once and they heard-cut him to the bed.

Loss Weight on Slim Ration

Each received half a loaf of bread every three days, and this was added to three small potatoes for dinner, a small dipper of soup, less supper.

As they were not registered prisoners they did not receive Red Cross packages. They lost on the average about 25 pounds.

Today they sat around a table, a rather comfortable room because their legs were not used to it.

"I'm glad for Gene" Dickerson's motion to R. Manfredonio. "His wife is expecting next month. He has been awfully worried. The waiting, that was what was bad."

"In some ways we were lucky," said Lewis. "My buddy and I were captured in the Ardennes bulge. They made us scrub our cars to clean our own artillery fire. After our

LOVED ONES - FAD SHOWS UP IN RHINE TRENCHES

WITH 9TH ARMY IN GERMANY, March 22 (Press Wire)—The fad of "loved ones" was the war. The American Army has developed its craze for naming inanimate objects in peace time. I remember that we didn't give names to anything much smaller than anything much smaller than summer cottages ("Dew Drop Inn" or "Wife's Delight" or "Pulman cars").

But, in the Army's its bulldozer, truck, traveling crane, machine gun, air compressor or anything that hasn't been christened and conspicuously labeled by the GIs who operate it. Often times, the names are ribald, even ironical (the foxhole named "Lebensraum"), sometimes they are apt, as for example, the huge tank wrecker named "Muscles". Sometimes, they are brittle, like the truck named "Berlin or Bust".

"I'm in the majority of cases—and increasingly so as the war gets longer and longer—the names are sentimental, the names of wives and sweethearts

and places back home, transferred to the implements of war.

Rehearsing a Crossing

This afternoon, for instance, they were the small assault infantry regiment of the 30th Division rehearse crossing a river with the engineers and the equipment which sooner or later will get them across the Rhine. I was struck by the fact that not one of the many, many boats was without a name. There was the small assault boat next to a sign, which read "44"—its official number for today's drill, on a small stream, as some day it will be the official designation on the broader Rhine. But on the port side there was the name "Marion" painted on white letters. This "Marion" is Mrs. Patzsch's wife, whose home is at Elizabeth St., Lawrence wife of the technical sergeant of Engineers who will man the stern when the boat takes assault troops across the Rhine one of these fine days or nights.

"On the other side of the square bow was another girl's

Nazi Proving YANKS TAKE SECRET TANK CARRYING 380 mm GUN

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BEADLE IS TRAPPER AND OUTPOST

Beadle is a trapper and an outpost by the trade, so handling boys and battling rivers is nothing new for him. For three years he worked for the Hudson Bay Company, living with the Indians, one by one by Indians. Before he went into the Army, he operated 600 acres of marshland, ideal for looking after the marsh for him.

This is the first time they've engaged infantry across a river in assault boats, but they are veterans of the Roer crossing. On that occasion they were on bridging operations. But as Sgt. Beadle put it: "We engineers can do anything that's required and there'll be plenty of bridges on the Rhine, too, I imagine, put up by other engineers."

Desrosiers and Beadle figure the Rhine will not be any tougher than the Roer. For one thing, they know the Germans can't do anything that far as work is concerned, they went 37 hours without sleep and with only one meal, while on the Roer job.

With the Allied Forces EAST OF THE RHINE

By the Allied Press

With the Allied Forces EAST OF THE RHINE, March 25. — Prime Minister Winston Churchill crossed the Rhine today for an inspection of British and American bridging operations. He came within yards of being struck by a German artillery shell while standing on the shattered western end of the bridge at Wesel.

Mr. Churchill, described as looking "extremely well and pleased", during his tour of part of the British front and positions occupied by the enemy as recently as 36 hours previously.

The Prime Minister spent a quiet hour with United States Ninth Army troops on the east bank of the river, being guided by Lieut. Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commander of the Ninth. While he was on the bridgehead German sniper fire could be heard a few hundred yards downstream.

Mr. Churchill crossed in an American landing craft.

Later while he was peering through binoculars at the battered bridgehead, a German shell crashed fifty yards away. Other enemy fire landed in the river as he watched from the western end of the bridge.

Mr. Churchill was accompanied by Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery and Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke. Also present were Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, called away before the party crossed and over to the east bank of the river.

While on the east bank, Lieut. Gen. Eisenhower was persuaded by General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery to walk to the nearest village because it had not yet been cleared of mines.

Mr. Churchill praised the Ninth Army Engineers, who a few hours earlier had completed bridges across the Rhine river. The British Division spent about three hours in the Ninth Army sector.

"Mr. Churchill seemed more than a little impressed by the cigar in the wind than he was about the shellfire," said Lieut. Ellsworth Karrison of Aberdeen, S. D. Lieut. Karrison is a member of the American 30th Infantry Division in whose sector the Prime Minister crossed the Rhine.

Finally it is that big cigar and was not as if nothing had happened", the lieutenant said.

On the east bank Mr. Churchill looked over into German-held land and compared Adolf Hitler's problems now with his own in 1940, saying it was impossible to see a line in the river line in strength just the same as it was trying to guard a long coastline from invasion.

As the party crossed the battlefield, Mr. Churchill discussed yesterday's fighting for the bridgehead with Maj. Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, D. C. commander of the Division. General Hobbs pointed out German emplacements which dug the dike behind the Rhine.

Shortly after a noon lunch of fried chicken, Mr. Churchill looked out of the window of a bus on the west bank, and mused:

"The last time I was on the Rhine was at Cologne during the last war. We cruised 50 miles upstream in a British gunboat."

"I would like very much to get across."

Lieut. Ellsworth Karrison, who still was with the party, shook his head.

Shortly after the Supreme Command had gone, Mr. Churchill began to talk and finally talked the other into letting him go.

NIGHT TIME NAZI SNET 12 NAZI TOWNS

STARS AND STRIPES

WITH 30th INF. DIV. IN GERMANY—After crossing the Roer at Krauthausen, the 120th Regt. swept back and captured 12 towns, containing 800 prisoners, and knocking out dozens of tanks in a call day non-stop battle toward the Rhine.

The first battalion, with F Co. attached, tramped the area, crossing the Grethenharter, and Kirchhofen—in spectacular night attacks.

"But we didn't get any call us now," said Maj. Chris McCullough, 120th Regt. commander.

"The night was dark and the moon was shining in the sky," said Lt. Col. E. W. Williams, of Raleigh, N. C., the Bn. CO.

The 120th Regt. belonged to the night raiders 30 minutes after they crossed the line of departure. Fifty-one prisoners were taken out of the town.

Tiger Tanks KG-6

But before Kirchhofen could be entered B. Co. had to deal with two machine gun units. The tanks were fired from the decks of the tanks, according to Capt. Murray Pulver, of Long Beach, Calif.

"The Krauts started shooting their machine guns into the ground then they started every two minutes firing ground," said Sgt. James T. Munn, of Bilmore, N. C. They were mounted together with the fire we had started. The place was as light as day. But we finally got our feet behind the monsters and rid ourselves of them."

Thanks Farmer

"I can thank the farmer who plowed the field for my life," says Lewis, of Bryn Mawr, Pa. "I was walking a mole when those tracers came screaming in from me."

John M. Jacobson, of Omaha, Neb., knocked out tank with bazooka at 175 yards. Two others were surrounded in a farm yard and abandoned intact. They were captured by Maj. Ezekiel Glazier, of Palm Beach, Fla.

Led by volunteer appearing Lt. Col. James M. Canteley of Columbia, S. C., the 2nd Bn. captured 150 PWs taken.

Sgt. Darrell E. Fuller, of Vallejo, Calif., fired a Panther out by setting it afire with a grenade.

A fanatical German captain had a force of 80 men and some tanks in the town and they were putting up fierce resistance. Canteley fired the automatic weapons, mortars, and tanks were given at all but we got it all right. About 150 prisoners were taken. Major Ezekiel Glazier said.

The third battalion snatched Gewehr from the falling. The members of the police force of Cologne were left behind in the town. They had little stomach for combat.

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Bartender and Butler Team Up

BY SEYMOUR FREIDIN

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The lone armor, however, were just what Raymond D. Butts had been waiting for. Butts, a patient, plodding private from Waynesboro, Va., handed a bazooka back at a tank—something. With Col. Kinuss Baker's 119th Inf. Regt., of the 30th Div., he slugged

Nazi Proving Ground Seized

WITH AMERICAN NINTH ARMY (AP) — The United States Third Infantry Division captured a German army proving ground—the equivalent of the Aberdeen Proving Ground—today with more than 2,000 artillery pieces.

Many of the field pieces were captured in the last three days. Some were captured by the First Bn. of the 117th Regt., under Col. Walter M. Johnson, of Missoula, Mont., captured the Tiger at a corner.

In daylight, they found the tank mounted a 380 mm, howitzer gun and a 100 mm howitzer project on two feet from the fixed turret, and launched a projectile—apparently rocket-propelled—100 feet long and 15 inches in diameter, weighing about 800 pounds.

The weapon's captured crew said there were four such tanks in the 1,000th Panzer Assault Howitzer Co. The Nazis said the "monster" weapon is a "newly developed" type of round of ammo which would have a long range and be able to fire at a distance of 10,000 yards.

The turret is capable of elevation to 45 degrees and can be turned to aim laterally.

All across the front, the doughs have been meeting the fire of enemy armor, thrown in vainly against drive which has been picking up momentum like a spring.

They have done so with tanks as they came, knocking out at least one with a 100 mm grenade, according to the boys who don't have much effect on a tank.

As the 120th Inf. Regt., cracking up seven miles in 24 hours, entered Kalrath S. Sgt. Darrell C. Burt, a tank driver, said he had a Mk. IV tank parked in a side street. A German got out of the tank to crank it and Fulton, the only thing he had—a smoke grenade—of the engine which in the rear. The intake sucked the fumes into the tank, and some of the fumes were blowing on the outside. The suffocating smell was just.

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