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The 65th Halbert

Division Daily News Letter

X 72 THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1945 D+352

JAPS BOMB AMERICA

U. S.-BRITISH TROOPS OCCUPY ABOVE TRIESTE

Units Of 8th Army Push To Gorizia: No Tito Resistance

American and British troops of the British 8th Army, this morning, have moved north of Trieste to occupy Gorizia, Aidussina and Monfalcone thus forming a line of men and material south of the Allied occupation zone in Austria and north of Marshal Tito's Yugoslavian troops who have so far refused to obey a US-British order to evacuate Trieste.

Russian-Made Tanks

To form the new occupation zone, the American and British troops moved passed many hundreds of Yugoslav forces who offered no military resistance. Inside Trieste, yesterday, Marshal Tito increased the strength of his patrols in the city to bands of 20 fully armed men and BBC reported the arrival of 27 heavy Russian-made tanks to reinforce the light American-made tanks Tito has already placed in defensive positions.

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Movie Schedule

260th Inf, Div Hq, Sp Trps: "Christmas In Connecticut" with Barbara Stanwick and Dennis Morgan. Central Theater, Linz. Shows at 1400 and 1900.

261st Inf: "Eadie Was A Lady" with Anne Miller and Billy Wright, at the Film Theater, Enns at 1400. Special show for the 3rd Bn at Asten at 2130.

Div Arty: "Melody Lane" with Mary Beth Hughes.

265th Eng (C) Bn: „Saratoga Trunk" with Gary Cooper and Ingred Bergman.

365th Med Bn: "Casanova Brown" with Gary Cooper and Anita Louise.

CHURCHILL RESIGNS: ELECTION IN JULY

Expect General Election To Be Held July 5 Or 11

Prime Minister Winston Churchill offered his resignation and that of his cabinet to the King, yesterday, and advised that the Parliament be dissolved for an early general election.

After 5 Years

If the King accepts the Prime Minister's resignation (this is merely a formality), it will

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BALLOONS HURLED FROM SUBS STRIKE WEST COAST SAYS NAVY

North America has been bombed by the Japs.

First announcement of an enemy bombing of America was made by the Navy Department, yesterday, which said that long-range Jap balloons of a secret paper construction have caused explosions along the west coast, according to the Army News Service.

From Subs

Few details were given in the Navy release as to the construction of the balloons or the areas hit in the bombing attacks. The only statement was that the paper bombs were launched in a "hit or miss manner from Jap submarines".

Speculation was rampant among American radio commentators, last night, as to the methods used by the Japs and it was not known whether the balloons were a pilotless secret weapon or another Jap suicide weapon similar to the balta-bomb, a V-like aerial torpedo with a suicide pilot.

No Objectives

Military experts sumarized the speculation by pointing out

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BOMB FORMOSA FOR SIXTH DAY

Medium Bombers Also Hit Targets In Canton And Nanking

Bombing attacks on Formosa entered their sixth straight day, yesterday, as Philippine-based medium bombers subjected the Jap costal defenses to a heavy pounding. Raids were also reported over China.

The Chinese raids also carried out by Philippine-based planes struck Canton and Nanking, according to Gen. of the Army MacArthur, who reported that other planes from an undisclosed base, yesterday, pounded targets along the Singapore-Bangkok railroad.

Mindanao

In reviewing the ground pro-

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PREDICT QUICK END OF OKINAWA BATTLE

Adm. Taylor Says Island Soon To Be In US Hands

"Okinawa will soon be completely in American hands", according to a statement, yesterday, by Vice Admiral Taylor, chief of naval operations in the battle for the Jap-held fortress island, 300 miles south of the Jap mainland.

To give emphasis to the Admirals words, a communique from Lt. Gen. Buckner's US 10th Army headquarters, last night, stated that American infantrymen and marines had made sweeping gains all along the Jap's eastern defense line of the islands and that the battle for the capital city of Naha was "now in its final stages".

The key to the entire battle of Okinawa, according to the 10th Army release, was Sugar Loaf Hill which is now in American hands after see-sawing back and forth between the Americans and the enemy at "great cost to both sides".

There was no report whether the Japs still held the narrow Naha corridor between the infantry and marines

14TH PURSUES JAPS NORTH OF TOUNGOO

Firece battles are waging in Burma, this morning, northeast of Toungoo as the British 14th Army seeks to seal again the pocket out of which more than 25,000 Japs broke, Monday, in an attempt to escape into the mountains of Siam.

The British report that Jap rearguards, covering the attempted escape, are putting up fanatic resistance and that the British pursuit has been further slowed by the heavy rains of the monsoon season. For the past five days, the BBC reported last night, the British have been unable to supply a single plane to assist the ground troops because of the fierce winds and heavy rain.

LOVE MUSIC? HERE'S THAT BAND AGAIN

The 65th Division Band is back in the business of producing music. Gratefully putting aside the quard duties which occupied the bandsmen during combat, they are now reviewing the Shelby repertoire.

The instruments arrived in three 2½-ton trucks from Metz warehouses Friday evening. The Band Played its first official engagement, Monday, a parade for Lieut.-Gen. Walton H. Walker. CWO Bostrom finds that the boy have not forgotten how to play, and to prove it, the Band expects to open up with a series of concerts of both serious and swing music beginning "about next weekend".

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chi 3, Bos. 2, StL 4, NY 2 (night), Wsh. 6, Det. 2 (1st.), Det. 3, Wsh. 0 (2nd.), Clv. 4, Phl. 0 (1st.), Clv. 2, Phl. 1 (2nd.)

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
Chi	13	7	.650	Wsh.	11	13	.458
Det.	12	8	.600	Bos.	9	13	.409
NY	13	9	.591	Phl.	9	14	.391
StL.	11	9	.550	Clv.	8	13	.387

NATIONAL LEAGUE

(All games postponed, rain)

	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	Phl	6	20	.231

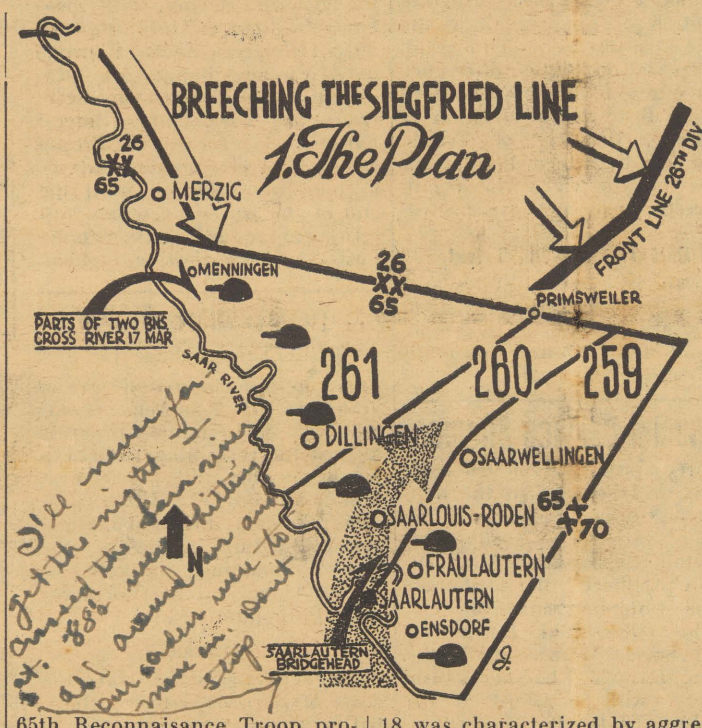
Aggressive Defense Was 1st Phase of Fight For Saarlautern: Battle Plans Are Outlined

EDITORS NOTE: This is the third 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 aggressive defense of the Saarlautern sector marked the baptism by fire for the 65th Infantry Division. At Ennery there was "peace". A few miles up front - - abruptly - - there was "war". Suddenly, training, and men, and fortitude met their first test. Almost immediately, the Division shed its first blood. It was especially hard to think of a man coming so far for one, two, or three days of combat.

The frontline ran along the west bank of the Saar River, from a point five miles north of Merzig, south to a point approximately two and a half miles below Saarlautern. The 260th Infantry moved into a small bridgehead which had previously been forced across the river at Saarlautern. The 259th and the 261st Infantry went into the line below and above the bridgehead respectively. The



65th Reconnaisance Troop protected the north flank of the Division in the 261st zone.

The period March 7, when Major General Stanley E. Rinehart took over command of the sector, until the Division joined the Corps' offensive on March 18 was characterized by aggressive holding action, intensive patrolling, and the extensive use of artillery fire against the enemy personnel and installations on the east bank of the river. During these twelve days, the

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FOOCHOW RE-TAKEN BY CHINESE TROOPS

Capture City For 3rd Time Now Have Firm Grip

Chinese troops threw the Japs out of Foochow for the third time in a week, yesterday, and now hold a firm grip on the China port city, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's communique said last night.

Digging in outside the city after being forced out, the Chinese forces mounted a new offensive so powerful it sent the Japs reeling six miles back to the east.

Just north of Foochow, the Chinese were menacing the enemy base at Mamoi on the Min River. They occupied several localities in an effort to establish a bridgehead across the river, several miles wide at these points.

AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE

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65th DivArty fired approximately 1,275 missions, with almost 19,000 rounds expended. Air OPs carried out extensive combat and reconnaisance missions over enemy territory. Patrols actively probed across the Saar, particularly in the 261st Infantry sector, where one patrol consisting of four EMs captured a German pill box and returned with its twelve former occupants on March 10 to merit the Division's first battlefield awards.

On both March 13 and 14 the 260th Infantry opened up with limited objective attacks inside the Saarlautern bridgehead in conjunction with XX Corps' three-division offensive to the north of the 65th Division. Both times several city blocks were taken, but both times the 260th was forced to withdraw in the face of strong enemy resistence. However, from the larger perspective of the Corps' offensive, these attacks must have confused the enemy. He undoubtedly miscalculated their limited nature, because orders for both days from the German High Command spoke of repelling fierce offensive action in the vicinity of Saarlautern.

On March 17, the active probing of the east bank of the Saar River by 261st reconnaissance patrols enabled the regiment to put parts of two battalions across the river at the litle hamlet of Menningen, about two miles south of Merzig and capture the dominating hill mass immediately south of Merzig.

The next morning, the Division joined the XXth Corps' offensive to breech the Siegfried Line.

The Plan

At midnight on the 17th the plan for the dawn attack of the next day was ready. The 65th Division was to smash through the Siegfried Line in a wedge-shaped area between the southeastwardly advancing 26th Division to the north, and the northeasternly advancing 70th Division to the south. The base for our attack had been decreased by a southward advance of the 26th which captured Merzig. As originally planned, each of the three regiments was to have a diagonal slab of the wedge which ran from its take-off positions along the Saar to a dead-end against the southern boundary of the zone of the 26th Division.

The 261st slab was cut south of Dillingen, and northeast to Primsweiler. The 259th slab included the southern half of Saarlautern, all of Fraulautern and Saarwellingen, to abut the 26th Division at a point about a mile southeast of the 261st boundary. The narrow sliver in the middle included the northern half of Saarlautern and Saarlouis-Roden. It was given to the 260th Infantry.

For this attack the 1st Battalion, 260th Infantry, and the 65th Reconnaissance Troop were attached to the 259th Infantry, while the 3rd Battalion, 259th Infantry, went into Division Reserve. The 1st Battalion, 261th Infantry, went to the 260th for this operation. The infantry battalions with the 259th were concentrated in the Saarlautern bridgehead area. The 65th Reconnaissance Troop was assigned the bulk of the sector to the south of Ensdorf and north of the 70th Infantry Division.

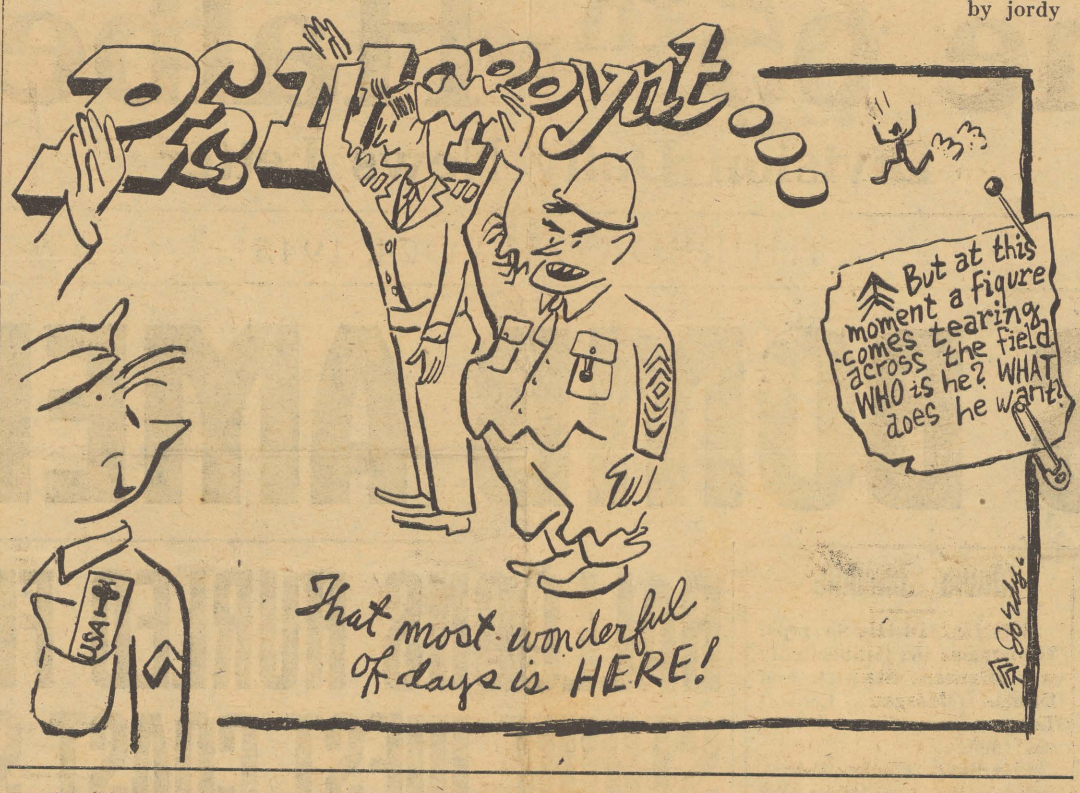
260th Zone

The main drive was to be in the 260th zone. The initial objectives of the assault on the Siegfried Line were the towns of Dillingen and Saarwellingen, and three areas of high ground which lay along the rim of a semi-circle between 3,000 and 5,000 yards out from the Saarlautern bridgehead.

This, briefly, was the plan as of midnight, March 17. But a battle is full of unpredictables. Events were to alter the plan.

(Continued tomorrow)

by jordy



ENGLAND WILL TAKE NEW FOOD CUT SOON

So that England will be able to send more food supplies to Europe, the British Food Minister, Col Llewlyn, announced, yesterday, that the people of England will soon be subjected to a new food cut.

Bacon and cooking fat are to be on the reduction list and of the meat supply, one-seventh of the meat sold by butchers will be corned beef. The Food Minister also announced that the food rations for German prisoners in England will also be reduced.

At the same time UNRRA chief, Herbert Lehman, former Governor of New York, announced that ships loaded with food for Poland and Czechoslovakia are now unloading at the Black Sea port of Constanta.

JAPS BOMB

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that if the balloons were of a "hit or miss" variety as described by the Navy Department, "no military objectives can be accomplished".

Aside from the Jap landings off Alaska, the only other reported enemy action on American soil took place two years ago when a Jap submarine surfaced and shelled the California shore.

No Beer Anyway

Sad Story Of Two Lt.'s Who Couldn't Get In PX

This is the sad story of two lieutenants who attempted day after day to get to the Linz PX -- and are still trying.

It appears that this pair of officers had been too busy to get to the Adolph Hitler Platz, until one of them, finding, himself in the neighborhood, two days ago, decided to take a look around. An MP stopped him at the entrance for the lack of a Halbert on a new shirt.

He informed a fellow worker of his troubles the next day. "Why that's right", this second officer exclaimed, -- "I haven't been to the PX either." He also had a new, Halbertless shirt. So he rushed to his quarters, sewed on the required insignia, and trotted up to the Division department store.

A sign on the locked entrance read, "Closed all day for inventory".

US-BRITAIN

(Cont. from Page 1)

Belgrade radio, last night, carried further word from Tito in regard to the US-British demand that his troops leave the Trieste area. "It is wrong and unjust to feel that Yugoslavia has taken over Trieste with the intention of not consulting the peace conference", Tito said. "There is no basic difference with our allies, we merely have decided to await the decision as to the partitioning of Trieste from inside rather than from bases to the east where our interests could not be protected."

Allied Leaders in Trieste

A late BBC report states that Marshal Alexander and Lt. Gen. Clark are in Trieste, this morning, holding conferences with the Yugoslavian leader.

Special Service Shows

Three Special Service traveling shows will be seen in the 65th Division area, today, as the Cortez vaudeville group will entertain the men of the Division Artillery, the Brantner troupe will play before the men of the 748th Tank Bn and a third Special Service unit, the Upper Danube Chamber Music Society, will be heard at the Landes Theater in Linz where they will play for the men of the 260th Inf, Div Hq and Special Troops at 1900.

The 261st Inf has also scheduled another of its Ignaz troupe revues for 1900 at the Film Theater in Enns.

BRITISH CONFIRM RAID ON SAKISHIMA

British radio, yesterday, confirmed an earlier Jap report that a British naval task force had again struck the Sakishima Islands, south of Okinawa. The attack took place, Monday, according to BBC and carrier planes from "more than 10 British carriers" were in action for 18 hours.

Only slight enemy air opposition was offered to the British airmen, according to the report, which stated that the carrier planes blasted four Jap airfields, many docks and enemy coastal defenses. One Jap transport ship was also reported to have been hit and probably sunk. Tokyo radio, last night, stated that the raid was still in progress and reported that another Allied fleet was operating off the shores of Kyushu, southernmost Jap mainland isle. These reports, however, were not confirmed by this morning.

CHURCHILL RESIGNS

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mean the end of a 5-year coalition rule for Churchill and the close of an even longer term of office for the Parliament which went into power in the days of Chamberlain.

London newspapers state that the general election will probably be held on July 5th with July 11th given as an alternate date. The newspapers also predict that the cabinet ministers from the Labor and Liberal parties, who forced the Prime Minister to give up his idea of keeping the coalition until the end of the war with Japan, will refuse to resign their cabinet posts until an election is held.

BOMB FORMOSA

(Cont. from Page 1)

gress on Mindanao and Luzon, yesterday, the Supreme Commander told of limited progress against the remaining 15,000 Jap troops in the hills of central Mindanao and of further progress through the Cabanatuan valley on Luzon, one of the three remaining pockets of enemy troops on the northernmost Philippine isle.

Terakan

On Terakan Island, off the coast of Borneo, yesterday, limited progress was reported in the mopping up campaign with Australian troops reaching within two miles of the northern tip of the island. On New Guinea a merger of two Australian divisions was reported four miles inland from captured Wewak.

RUSSIA REQUESTED MEETING SAY POLES

London Committee Replys To Stalin: Quote Invitation

In answer to Marshal Stalin's statement, of three days ago, that his government did not invite the 16 Polish democratic leaders to consult with the Polish Provisional Government and Russian leaders, the London Polish Committee, yesterday, released the invitation the now-arrested London Poles received.

The invitation, according to the London Committee, was received from Col Gen. Ivanov of the 1st White Russian Front and promised "safe conduct" to the 16 democratic leaders of what was once the Polish Government in Exile. The invitation also offered to send 12 leaders of the Polish resistance movement to London for other conferences concerning the Yalta agreement to broaden the Polish Provisional Government, according to the London release which was quoted by BBC.

Sabotage

According to the London Committee, the 12 resistance leaders never communicated with them and it was two months before they learned that the 16 London representatives had been arrested and taken to Moscow for trial "for sabotage against the Red Army".

Same Enemy

"We are fighting the same forces at home, now, that we fought after World War I", William Clayton, Assistant Secretary of State, told a Detroit audience last night during a speech on "America's place in the post-war world."

"We lost the last battle to the super-nationalists", Mr. Clayton said, "and they lost the peace. This time the State Department like the American people is following a program of international economic liberalism."

Gable Back

After three and a half years in uniform as an Air Force gunner-photographer, Clark Gable returned, yesterday, to the Hollywood movie cameras where he started work on a yet unnamed film. Gable was released, from the service last month as a major.

299,931 Points

A boatload of 2,500 soon-to-be-discharged ETO veterans and 65 Air Force transports full of 600 hopeful flight veterans arrived back in the United States, yesterday, with an aggregate point total of 299,931 points, the Army News Service reported, last night.

Truman - DeGaulle

A French Foreign Office spokesman, yesterday, announced that a meeting of Gen. DeGaule and President Truman will be held "sometime next month".

War Loan Drive

Secretary of War Stimpson, yesterday, urged all Army personnel to "give as great if not greater support to the 7th War Loan Drive, now in progress", than are the people at home.

The War Secretary said the purchase of war bonds was "for your own security" and stated that he hoped every officer "would buy at least up to 18 per cent of his base pay".