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The 65th Halbert

Division Daily News Letter

X 74 SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1945 D+354

HIMMLER TAKES OWN LIFE WHEN HELD PRISONER

Captured By British, No. 1 Nazi Murderer Takes Poison

Heinrich Himmler is dead.

The number one murderer of all history committed suicide by taking poison at the headquarters of the British 2nd Army, on Wednesday, when he was being examined by a doctor.

Himmler had been picked up two days before by British Tommies when he was found wandering through the country with his mustache shaved off and with a black patch over one eye.

For two days the British suspected they had captured the chief of the German Gestapo and real ruler of Germany in the last year of the war, but they were not able to make definite proof.

Admitted Idenity

On Wednesday, however, a check with records including fingerprints revealed that their prisoner was Himmler and the man who controlled the hundreds of concentration camps throughout Germany and Austria and, at one time, occupied Europe, admitted his idenity to British intelligence.

The Gestapo chief was then put under the command of a British sergeant and sent to quarters where a medical examination was to be held. The examining doctor was making a second probe of Himmler's mouth looking for poison when

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SUICIDE



Heinrich Himmler

TOKYO REPORTS NEW US BOMBER ATTACK

Say Carrier Planes Have Attacked Southern Air Bases

Tokyo radio reports, yesterday, stated that 180 carrier-based planes have attacked air bases in southern Japan following Thursday's 550-plane fire bomb blitz.

No confirmation of a new raid has been given by any Allied source nor did the Jap radio give the location of the southern Japan territory reported as struck by the naval planes.

Recon Photos

Recon photographers were over Tokyo, yesterday, taking pictures of the damage done by the Thursday raid, which was the greatest of the Pacific war.

REPORT PROGRESS AS INFANTRY, MARINES DRIVE INTO JAP-HELD SECTION OF NAHA

Fierce Battle Wages As Both Sides Suffer Huge Losses: One Marine Unit Beaten Back After 2 Mile Gain

Movie Schedule

260th Inf, Div Hq, Sp Trps: "Casanova Brown" with Gary Cooper and Anita Louise. Central Theater, Linz. Shows at 1400 and 1900.

261st Inf: "Saratoga Trunk" with Gary Cooper.

DivArty: "Eadie Was A Lady" with Anne Miller and Billy Wright.

265th Eng (C) Bn: "Together Again" with Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne.

808th TD Bn: "Melody Parade" with Mary Beth Hughes.

Flanking Attack

Infantry Starts To Move Around Jap East Flank

A fierce battle is waging inside the Okinawa capital city of Naha, this morning, with the recently joined marine and infantry units driving into the southeast sector of the city which is strongly defended by the Japs.

Only slight gains have been reported in the drive, up to this morning, and a communique from Adm. Kelly Turner, Naval chief of amphibious operations, states that the "losses have been great on both sides".

Start Flanking Drive

One marine unit was reported to have pushed two miles into the Jap defenses, but was repulsed when the Japs brought up heavy reinforcements. Infantry units of Lt. Gen. Buckner's US 10th Army are reported to have started a flanking movement around the eastern outskirts of the Jap position coordinated with the marine frontal attack.

3½ Miles From Sea

To the south on Okinawa, infantry and marine units are

(Cont. on Page 2)

CHINESE PUSH ABOVE FOOCHOW

Move 20 Miles To Take Jap Supply Base Of Lienkong

Chinese troops fighting north of captured Foochow have scored a major victory, according to a BBC report, yesterday, by pushing 20 miles beyond the captured city to take the former Jap-held supply base of Lienkong.

US Air Support

The Chinese drive was made in the face of strong Jap resistance and was covered by a heavy fighter plane patrol from the United States Army Air Force. The strength of the Chinese army taking part in the drive, has not been reported but an ABSIE newscast, yesterday, said that the Chinese troops "driving beyond Foochow constitute the largest fully armed, well trained force in China's history".

Speaking of the growth of the Chinese Army, as shown in the Foochow campaign, the commentator said that the results of American aid to China are now being felt by the Japs. Chinese officers trained in American-run schools, and American equipment made in Chinese factories, the commentator said,

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CENTRAL MINDANAO NOW IN US CONTROL

Junction of 3 Divisions Gives Gen. MacArthur Road Network

Three American divisions on Mindanao have made junction, according to a communique from Gen. of the Army MacArthur, yesterday, which reported that the Americans now control the central plateau of the island and have pushed the remaining enemy troops deeper into the hills.

Cut Jap Supplies

The taking of the plateau, according to the Pacific ground force Supreme Commander, gives the US complete control of the central Mindanao road network and thus cuts off any supply route to the hold-out Jap forces.

TANKMEN TO STAGE CORN SHOW TONIGHT

"Dehydrated Corn", a soldier show effort by the men of the 748th Tank Bn, will be offered for 65th consumption tonight at 1900 at the Landes Theater in Linz.

Under the expert MCing of Sgt. Irving Cohen, the cast of 25 tankmen provides a balanced diet of song, dance and comedy. In the former category, T/5 Rus Paulumbo, baritone, and T/4 Sam San Felippo, tenor, are featured vocalists, with a trio composed of Sgt. Red Barron, Pfc. Alfonse Mancini, and Pvt. Art Whiting mixing "Stardust" with cowboy tunes. T/4 Bernard Platner and Pvt. T. V. Miller offer the "Roaring Twenty Revue", a bit right out of the song-and-dance tradition of old time vaudeville, Cpl. Tex Seiden patter-sings his way through variations on boogie woogie. In the comedy department, Cpl. Claude C. Lapsley presents a Fred Allen show and Pvt. Jordan Cohen contributes a mad skit entitled "Out of this World".

BURMA OIL CENTER TAKEN BY BRITISH

British naval units, yesterday, occupied the important oil export city of Bassein, 90 miles west of captured Rangoon. When the British arrived in the city they learned that the Japs had just pulled out after setting fire to the great oil tanks which only four years ago were fired by the British as the Japs moved in.

Although the major oil supplies have gone up in smoke, BBC reported last night, that some of the smaller tanks were untouched and that all damage done by the hastily-retreating Japs can be repaired in three months.

RAAF

To the northeast in Burma, the mopping up fight against

(Cont. on Page 2)

Spearhead Division: 65th Moved 500 Miles During 39 Days To Strike Closest To Berlin

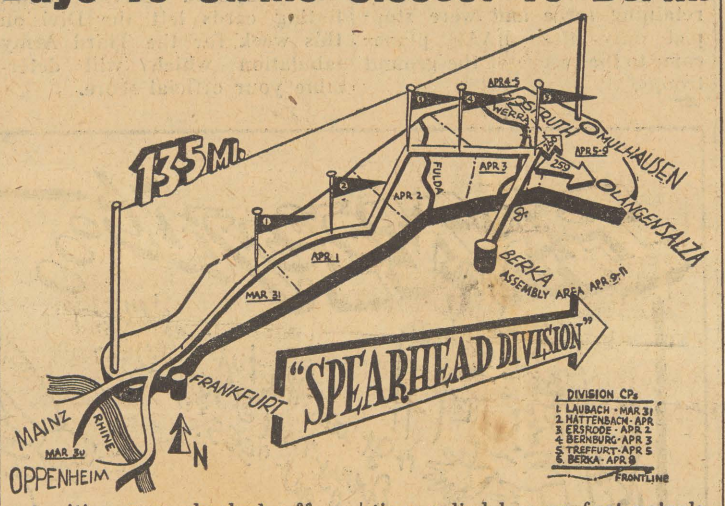
EDITORS NOTE: This is the fifth in a series of eight articles by Sgt Jordy reviewing the 65th Division's march across Germany. When the series ends the Division I&E Section contemplates publishing a booklet of the complete history.

by Sgt. Bill Jordy

For part of the first week in April, the 65th Division was the infantry organization closest to Berlin.

The Halbert Division had moved so rapidly in its zone that some of the newspapers in the States had dubbed it the "Spearhead Division". Of course, most GIs doubted that we were headed for the German capital; even so those who knew about it felt a little proud.

The 65th Division, like the rest of the divisions on the Western Front, was rolling through Germany. The last five weeks of the war against Germany were fought as much with 2½ ton trucks as with weapons. Tough battles were fought to be sure, and men died up to the eve of victory. But the overall impression is that afforded by the newspaper headlines, where, day after day, one after the other, the roster of Germany's great-



est cities was checked off as "kaput".

In thirty-nine days the Division traveled 500 miles. It was a continuous battle of transportation. The "4"-sections were concerned about gasoline and C- and K-rations which were frequently as much as 100 miles to the rear of the Division. The "3"-sections argued priorities on roads over which everyone wanted to move simultaneously, and worried about getting personnel from one point to the next. For information on the enemy, the "2"-sections relied less on foot patrols, and more on aerial and motor reconnaissance, and the hordes of prisoners which taxed the facilities of PWEs. For the 265th Engineers it was a battle of Bailey bridges. For the 65th Signal Company it was a battle of laying wire, of picking it up, and of laying it once more. Each unit had its own problem in the continuous battle of transportation, which can be the toughest fight of all.

The battle of weapons was far from continuous. It was

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Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chi 4,8 Bos 2,2; Det 4 Wsh 1
StL 10,4 NY 1,2; Phl 6,2 Clv 2,4

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
Chi	15	7	.682	Wsh	12	14	.462
Det	13	9	.591	Clv	9	14	.391
StL	13	9	.591	Phl	10	16	.385
NY	14	11	.560	Bos	9	15	.375

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NY 5,0 Pit 1,4; Chi 4,4 Brk 2,1
StL 6,6 Phl 2,7; Cin 10,4 Bos 8,9

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
NY	21	6	.778	Bos	11	13	.458
Brk	17	9	.654	Pit	11	14	.440
StL	13	13	.500	Cin	10	13	.435
Chi	12	13	.480	Phl	7	21	.250

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Church Services

Sunday, 27 May

Div Hq & Sp Tr

Protestant	Catholic
1630 Recon Trp	0900 Med Bn — School Bldg
1100 Eng Bn	1000 Div Hq. Sig Co, QM — Old Cathedral
1100 Div Hq, Sig, QM (Landstrasse Theater)	1500 Ordn Co, Reconn Trp
1930 (*: Special Gospel Service in Linz: Protestant Church	1630 Eng Bn
1330 Ord Co (Assembly Room)	

259th Regt Area

0900 I Co Area	0930 Regt Area (Hargelsdorf)
0930 M Co Area	1100 1st Bn Area (Kronsdorf)
1000 K Co Area	1300 2nd Bn Area (Hofkirchen)
1100 2nd Bn Area (Hofkirchen)	1700 I Co Area
1115 1st Bn Area (Kronsdorf)	1900 3rd Bn Area
1300 L Co Area	
1400 Cn Co Area	
1600 Sv Co Area	
1800 K Co Area	
1900 Reg Area (Hargelsdorf)	
1930 1st Bn Area (Kronsdorf)	
2100 1st Bn Area (Kronsdorf)	

260th Regt Area

0930 A & B Co	1100 1st Bn (St Severinus Ch)
1000 1st Bn Hq	1300 2nd & 3rd Bns. (St Michael Ch) (Landstrasse near 2nd CP)
1100 Evangelical Ch	1500 Regt Hq & Sp Tr (St Maximilian Ch.-near radion tower)
1600 Evangelical Ch (Episcopal Comm)	1730 868 FA (St Valentine Ch-Kirchberg)
1800 Evangelical Ch (Mormon)	**Confessions:** half hour before each Mass
1930 Evangelical Ch	**Daily Mass:** St Michael Ch-Landstrasse
(Above church: Landstrasse, half block on left, past traffic light)	

261st Regt Area

0900 Filmtheater-ENNS (Mormon)	1500 Local Church-ENNS (Confessions)
1100 Filmtheater-ENNS Comm)	1600 Local Church-ENNS (Mass)
100 Filmtheater-ENNS	1230 Local Church-ASTEN (Confessions)
1600 Filmtheater-ENNS	1300 Local Church-ASTEN (Mass)
1000 Theater Area-ASTEN	1100 720th FA
1400 Theater Area-ASTEN	

(DAILY BIBLE STUDY at 1800, Chaplain's Office: 1st Bn Aid Station Town Square, Enns)

JEWISH SERVICES:

0900 Chaptain's Office-Regt Hq-ENNS 1000 Bn. Hq-ASTEN

Med Bn Area

1000 School Bldg	0900 School Bldg (Mass)
1900 School Bldg	

JEWISH SERVICES:

1045 School Bldg

260 OFFICERS' CLUB WILL OPEN TONIGHT

The grand opening of the 260th Officers' Club will be held tonight at 2000 at what used to be known as the Rosenstuberl at 3 Bürgerstrasse, Linz.

There will be food, drinks and the special treat of real honest to goodness American women as Army nurses will be present for the dance which will follow the dinner. Two orchestras and a floor show will provide music and entertainment.

Chinese Push

(Cont. from Page 1)

"are starting to make China a major military force in the Pacific and if the development continues at its present rate, neither American men or materials will have to be sent to China in the numbers first anticipated".

Report Progress

(Cont. from Page 1)

both reported to have made gains in their drive into the Jap defenses along the southeastern shore of the tiny island, 300 miles directly south of the Jap mainland. Driving into the Jap positions from the west, the marines have, at one point, reached within three and a half miles of the sea.

Kyushu-based enemy planes were again active over American shipping, yesterday, and 17 Jap planes were reported as shot down.

Himmler Takes

(Cont. from Page 1)

the prisoner snapped his mouth shut on the doctor's fingers and swallowed a concealed poison pill. Efforts were made to revive him, but failed.

One Million Murders

Himmler was being held for trial as a war criminal and would have been charged with the death of over one million persons.

Burma Oil

(Cont. from Page 1)

retreating enemy forces continued, yesterday, with the Jap unit south of Meiktala making a strong bid to push its way out of its pocket. The Meiktala Japs drove one wedge almost through the British 14th Army retaining force and were stopped only after RAAF planes came to the rescue of the ground troops.

Battlefield Awards

SILVER STAR (Posthumous Award) to: First Lieutenant Francis C. Dolese, 261st Infantry; Staff Sergeant Michael F. Evans, 261st Infantry. SILVER STAR to: Staff Sergeant Dale K. Gulbransen, 261st Infantry; Captain Vernon W. Woods, 261st Infantry; Second Lieutenant John P. Byrnes, 259th Infantry; Technician Fourth Grade Lionel C. Marcus, Medical Department, 259th Infantry. BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Oak Leaf Cluster) to: Technician Fifth Grade Dudley M. Garvey, 869th Field Artillery Battalion; Captain Arthur B. Majdoch, 265th Engineer (C) Battalion. BRONZE STAR MEDAL to: Technician Fifth Grade Oliver E. Adams, 259th Infantry; Sergeant Fred P. Austin, 265th Engineer (C) Battalion; Private First Class George Beleny, 261st Infantry; Master Sergeant Harvey B. Black, 261st Infantry; Technical Sergeant Marvin D. Bowman, 65th Quartermaster Company; Private First Class Wilmer V. Brier, Jr., 261st Infantry; Private Rudolph L. Charpentier, 265th Engineer (C) Battalion; Staff Sergeant Rudolph E. Cisper, 65th Quartermaster Company; Sergeant Richard R. Cookson, 869th Field Artillery Battalion; Private First Class James F. Cornaire, 869th Field Artillery Battalion; Private First Class James Gomes, 265th Engineer (C) Battalion; Private First Class James E. Hony, 261st Infantry; Technical Sergeant Edward J. Kaverovsky, 259th Infantry; Sergeant Walter E. Kennedy, 869th Field Artillery Battalion; Private First Class Kenneth O. Kinsey, 260th Infantry; Private First Class Edward Krish, Medical Department, 261st Infantry; Private First Class Wilfred J. Lefebvre, Medical Department, 260th Infantry; Private First Class Alden J. Lejeune, 259th Infantry; Technician Fifth Grade James W. McCartin, Medical Department, 260th Infantry; Staff Sergeant William T. McCarty, Medical Department, 365th Medical Battalion; Technician third Grade Ivan L. McGlaughlin, Medical Department, 365th Medical Battalion; Private First Class Ivan C. Merrill, 261st Infantry; Private First Class William B. Miller, Medical Department, 261st Infantry; Corporal George E. Morrow, 265th Engineer (C) Battalion; Master Sergeant Robert F. O'Connor, Medical Department, 365th Medical Battalion; Private First Class Ronald V. Ordway, 265th Engineer (C) Battalion; First Lieutenant Paul W. Phillips, 261st Infantry; Private First Class Seymour A. Pratt, 261st Infantry; Sergeant Daniel D. Radu, 261st Infantry; First Lieutenant Frank G. Ralston, Jr., 265th Engineer (C) Battalion.

Spearhead Division

(Cont. from Page 1)

sporadic. One day it was a battalion which had some difficulty in taking a sizeable town. Another day it was a company or platoon savagely attacked by a determined band of SS troops left behind in the rapid advance. Or, on some dark night, on some lonely road, it might be a driver from the Quartermaster Company who was ambushed by a sniper miles behind the frontline.

However small the skirmish on an operations map, the most important battle for any given GI in the Division is the one in which he participated. It is difficult to ascertain which operations and battles are the most important from the point of view of the Division as a whole. Only a few of the outstanding battles from among the many fought across the Rhine can be treated here — among them the fighting for Langensalza and Struth, the capture of Neumarket, and the crossing of the Danube with the subsequent entry into Regensburg.

With 6th Armored

On crossing the Rhine at Mainz and Oppenheim the 261th Infantry (with attached units) was detached from the 65th to push ahead with the 6th Armored. While with the 6th Armored the 2nd Battalion took a bridge over the Fulda in the vicinity of Malsfeld and held it against sharp opposition during the night of March 31 and the morning of Easter Sunday so that the entire 6th Armored reached the east bank of the river. On the night of April 3—4 the Regiment was given the mission of capturing and holding another bridge. This time "C" Company tore through Muhlhausen streets in 2½ ton trucks, wild-west fashion, to seize a bridge over a tiny river flowing through the center of the city. Once more the 261st kept the 6th Armored rolling.

The remainder of the Division was ordered to follow the 6th Armored and the 3rd Cavalry Group in a zone running northeastwardly from the Frankfurt area into the heart of Germany. The 65th was to be prepared to pass through both these units on Corps' order, to take the lead position on the assault of the XX Corps' objective the central German cities of Weimar and Erfurt. The order to pass through the 3rd Cavalry come when the Division reached its assembly areas west of the Fulda River in the vicinity of Hattenbach on April 1.

Attack

The next morning, at 0600, the 65th attacked through the 3rd Cavalry Group to cross the Fulda River, with the 259th and 260th Infantry Regiments abreast, and the battalions in column. At 2400, the 260th was seven miles, and the 259th ten miles, east of their crossing sites. The 65th Reconnaisance Troop, which had been released from an attachment with the 259th to secure the heights across the Fulda while the infantry crossed, was even further to the east.

The attack continued rapidly to the northeast against scattered, but frequently stubborn, enemy opposition. By 2400, April 3, the Division had pushed east of the Werra River to register an average gain of thirteen miles for the day's operations. On April 4, the 260th Infantry was held up by the 6th Armored Division which had a priority on all roads in the Regimental sector. Meanwhile, the 259th was ordered to proceed to Langensalza. When the movements of 6th Armored permitted, the 260th was to seize Muhlhausen. On reaching the Muhlhausen-Langensalza Line, the Division was to regroup and prepare to proceed further eastward towards Erfurt and Weimar. Although the 65th had advanced so rapidly in its zone that it was the closest Infantry Division to both cities, it was to enter neither of them. Orders from higher headquarters gave both to other divisions. The 65th was to move south, to a new sector.

But there were two stubborn battles to be won in the four days during which the Division remained in this zone - - Langensalza and Struth. Both were fought during the 65th's thirteen day attachment to the VIII Corps. The Division was asigned to the VIII Corps at 1030, on April 4. It reverted to the XX Corps on April 17, to fight with this latter organization until V-E Day.

(Continued tomorrow)

Special Service Shows

Special Service's traveling vaudeville units will be seen today in two 65th areas when the Cortez unit performs for the men of the 265th Eng (C) Bn and the Brantner troupe of European artists is seen at the DivArty. Another DivArty attraction will be a concert by the Upper Danube Chamber Music Society.

Sign Of The Times

One 3rd Army two-and-a-half-ton that 65th GI's used to see with "Berlin Or Bust" emblazoned on its side was sighted in front of the Division CP, yesterday, with a new slogan "On to Tokyo". Perhaps the Russians will beat him again.

GOING HOME?

Going home now? The basis for the answer to this question is to come to 65th Division GIs from Third Army Headquarters. The Adjusted Service Credit Rating cards left the Division this week for the Third Army tabulation which will determine your official score.

US Food Cut

Following England's order of a general food cut, which was announced, Wednesday, the Office of Price Administration has ordered a similar reduction for the United States, according to an ABSIE report, last night.

The purpose of the American cut is the same as that announced for England, so that more foodstuffs will be available to send to the war-torn nations of Europe.

First Ball Game

Sv Co, 259 Inf, last year's Regtl baseball champs beat Co F, 261 Inf by a score of 5-1 in the first baseball game of the season at Enns Ball Field, Wednesday.

The winning pitcher was Sgt "Ole" Olsen, with Cpl "Buddy" Hresko behind the plate. Pfc „Frenchy" Le Febvre of the Sv Co walloped two home runs, one of which was called back because he failed to touch second base.

