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The 65th Halbert

Division Daily News Letter

X 77 TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1945 D+357

JAPS BEAT OFF YANKS 3 TIMES AT NAHA RIVER

Marines, Infantry Pushed Back In Crossing Attempt

The swollen banks of the Isuto river which cuts through the southeast corner of the Okinawa capital of Naha proved, yesterday, to be almost as great an obstacle to the marines, fighting inside the city as did the fanatic Jap resistance. Three times, yesterday, the marines and one battalion of the 96th Division tried to cross the stream and three times they were thrown back.

Southeast of the city the 7th Division, which cut behind the Jap defenses on Sunday, is engaged, this morning, in a fierce hand-to-hand battle with the enemy, and tanks have been rushed into the battle zone which is roughly three miles below the marines' battle line in the center of the city.

Naval Action

Meantime the British and American fleets continued to aid the ground troops by shelling

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Battlefield Awards

BRONZE STAR MEDAL to: Technician Fifth Grade Charles L. Tillie, 868th Field Artillery Battalion; Private First Class Samuel O. Van Wegan, 259th Infantry; Major Stanley M. Walker, Headquarters, 546th Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Automatic Weapons Battalion Mobile; Private First Class Raymond A. Wank, 259th Infantry; Corporal Charles M. Warner, 868th Field Artillery Battalion; Private First Class Hazen E. Wheelock, 720th Field Artillery Battalion; Master Sergeant Harold W. Asworth, 565th Signal Company; Private First Class Frank M. Bergin, (then Private), Mi-

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GERMAN RATION CUT AS FOOD RUNS OUT

He that sows not, reaps not. Neither does he eat.

This ancient truth was being brought home to the German people in the occupation zone of the US 15th Army, today, as the new rationing order cutting an adult's daily fare to 1,200 caloric units went into effect in all Ruhr, Rhine and many Saar communities.

Reason for the cut which is

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ALL UNITS TO OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY: 260TH TO HONOR DEAD AT LINZ SQUARE

Col Dunkley Will Speak: Bn's To Present Wreaths

A regimental Memorial Day wreath ceremony in the Linz Market Place at 1130, tomorrow, will honor those former members of the 260th Infantry who died in the battle for Germany.

Col. Frank Dunkley, Commanding Officer, 260th Infantry, will address the assembled Regiment prior to the wreath ceremony in which all three of the battalion commanders will participate. Each battalion commander will place a sprig into the large commemorative wreath in memory of those who died from his organization. The Regimental Adjutant, Captain William O'Neil, will read the honored list of dead, before taps is rendered by the 65th Division Band.

U-Formation

Troops will form in a U-formation around the square at 1130 to hear Chaplain Thomas Bailey open the memorial review with an Innvocation, followed by the playing of "America" by the 65th Division Band.

Memorium Mass

A memorial High Mass of Requiem will be held at 1630, tomorrow, in the church of the Asumption for the repose of the souls of all the Catholic men of the Division who have sacrificed their lives during the past three months. The church is located one block from the Division CP.

261ST LISTS TRACK MEET TOMORROW

The 261st will formally open its newly graded quarter mile track and diamond in the CP area at Enns with a mammoth Memorial Day track meet, tomorrow. The cinder men will be followed in the afternoon's program of sporting events by swimming and diving contests in the Regimental pool, which may be highlighted by feminine divers.

Beginning at 1400, the track meet will feature all the traditionel events.

Swimming

For those who prefer a cooler sport, the swimming meet, scheduled for 1600, will include the 50 yard free style, the 50 yard back stroke, the 50 yard breast stroke and the 200 yard relay. Fancy diving exhibitions will conclude the acquatic show.

All those men in the 261st interested in any of the above events may compete by turning

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259th Schedules Review: DivArty Has Sports And Show

The units of the 65th Division will mark Memorial Day, tomorrow, in varied programs featuring reviews and religious services in memory of those members of the Division who gave their life in the battle for Germany. Many outfits have scheduled athletic contests for the afternoon, while almost all units have provided for special entertainment during the evening.

Of all the unit reviews scheduled throughout the Division during the late morning hours, the most impressive will be that of the 260th Infantry, which plans a wreath ceremony to be held in the Market Place of Linz.

The 261st has worked out the most elaborate athletic program. All units attached to the 261st will be brought into Enns for a Regimental-wide track and aquatic meet which will fill the afternoon hours.

To the 259th, goes the credit

(Cont. on Page 2)

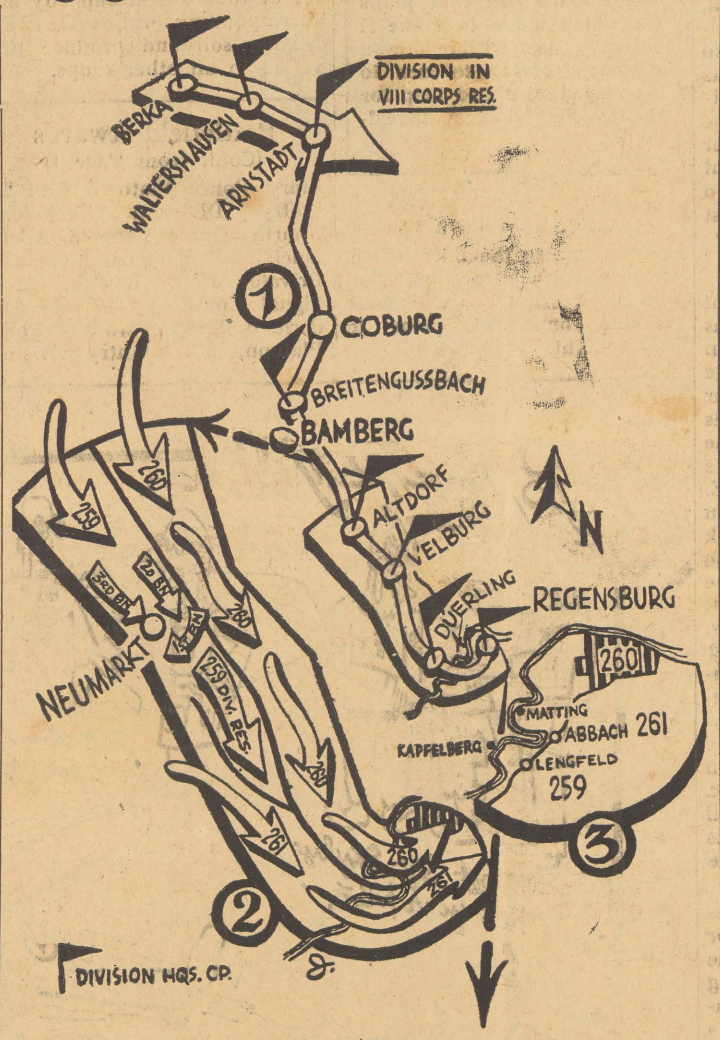
Redoubt Fable: 65th Swings South To Find Stiff Holding Engagements But No Final Stand

EDITORS NOTE: This is the seventh 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

On April 9, the day following the Struth engagement, the Division began its movement to an assembly area in the vicinity of Berka, 12 miles southwest of Langensalza. There it went into VIII Corps Reserve behind the 87th and 89th Infantry Divisions in a zone which ran south of Erfurt.

The Halbert Division remained in this capacity, mopping up behind the assault divisions, until April 16. During this period, the 65th advanced from Berka, southeast to successive assembly areas near Waltershausen and Arnstadt. At this latter town, on April 17, the Division reverted to the XX Corps. The shift in Corps marked a change in direction of attack, not only for the 65th, but for the entire Third Army. The northernmost part of General Patton's troops was driving across central Germany in an area where concentrations of First and Ninth Army forces were building. The XX Corps was accordingly lopped from the top of the Third Army, and sent to southeastern Germany, where there were rumors of possible tough opposition in the Redoubt area. The 65th took the long ride southward, through Coburg, to assemble, first in a group of farm towns outside of Bamberg, then to the vicinity of Altdorf where it relieved the 14th Armored Division. Here the Division was given a new zone which ran southeast through Neumarkt a cross the Danube to Regensburg.



The prophesies of a last ditch stand in the Redoubt area never materialized. But the rugged teritory was ideal for holding operations, and ardent remnants of the Wehrmacht made the best

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M'ARTHUR REPORTS ADVANCES ON LUZON

American bombers, yesterday, rained down 400 tons of bombs on the north Luzon port of Aparri as Gen of the Army MacArthur's troops continued their drive down the Cagayan valley with "general gains all along the line".

The 38th Division, which Sunday, drove to within a few miles of Tuguegarao, 65 miles south of the Aparri objective, met heavy resistance, yesterday, according to Gen Mac Arthur's communique but other units, not identified in the report, were said to have moved up the west side of the vallay against little opposition.

Mindanao

On Mindanao the mopping up progress continued as the Americal Division, Guadalcanal veterans, fanned out along the central hills to blast hold-out Japs from caves and fortifications.

Gen MacArthur also announced that the total Jap casualties so far in the Philippine campiagn total 380,000 while American losses are slightly more than 48,000 killed, wounded, captured or missing.

For the 10th straight day Philippine-based bombers struck Formosa while other Allied bombers ranged from French Indo China to Kyushu, the southernmost Jap isle.

CHINESE 35 MILES NORTH OF FOOCHOW

As Gen of the Army MacArthur's men drove toward Aparri, Luzon port closest to the east coast of objective Formosa, Chinese troops, yesterday, continued to clear the area nearest to the Formosa west coast when they pushed into Longyang, 35 miles north of captured Foochow.

As a result of these twin Allied drives, Jap-occupied Formosa is now sandwiched between a growing Chinese Army on the east coast of China and the powerful American forces driving north on Luzon toward the water barrier that seperates the Philippines from the Formosa southeast coast.

US Planes

American fighter planes continued to act as artillery for the Chinese forces and very little Jap air opposition was met in yesterday's advance.

The Chinese also announced, yesterday, that the Chinese 5th Army which took part in the battle for Burma is being transferred back to China.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY 6, Chi 3
Phl 7, Det 2
Bos 8, StL 6
Clv 1, Wsh 0

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
Chi	15	9	.625	Clv	11	14	.440
NY	16	11	.593	Wsh	12	16	.429
Det	14	10	.583	Bos	11	15	.423
StL	13	11	.542	Phl	11	17	.393

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NY 7, Cin 6
Phl 6, Chi 3
Pit 10, Bos 9
StL 7, Brk 5

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
NY	23	7	.767	Chi	13	14	.481
Brk	17	12	.586	Bos	11	15	.423
StL	16	13	.552	Cin	10	15	.400
Pit	14	14	.500	Phl	8	22	.267

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REDOUBT FABLE

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use of its defensive possibilities. Much of the reason for the swift advance of the doughs through this zone could be attributed, not only to the fact that Division Artillery played a big part in transporting them (as was the case in all such Division movements), but that artillery proved a speedy and inexpensive method of reducing these pockets of resistance to the proportions of tough, but local, skirmishes.

Neumarkt assumed its importance from a Division standpoint primarily because the enemy put up more stubborn resistance here than he had in other places. Actually, the 3rd Battalion, 259th Infantry, with Co "A", 748th Tank Battalion and elements of the 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, was to move through the town from north to south, simultaneously with an advance by the 260th Infantry through the north portion of the Division zone. The only foreseeable difference was that Neumarkt's size offered better opportunities for defense than the smaller towns. The 3rd Battalion hit the northern outskirts on April 20. The first third of the way was relatively easy. Then the Battalion was stopped by SP, nebelwerfer and artillery fire. The next day the 1st Battalion, 259th Infantry, which had advanced their front-line southeast of the city, moved to positions below Neumarkt, to catch the retreating defenders which the 3rd Battalion was to push out of the town. The enemy continued to resist in Neumarkt until the town was burned over their head, and individual snipers were dug from their hiding places with bayonets and grenades. Neumarkt was cleared on 22 April.

Danube

The crossing of the Danube (or Donau), at the southern end of this zone, was a large-scale operation in which all units of the Division participated. The 65th moved into forward assembly areas on April 25, to start crossing the swiftly-flowing Danube by boat beginning at 0200, 26 April.

The plan called for 65th Division units to cross the river west of Regensburg, then swing around behind the city to enter it by the back door. Meanwhile, the 71st Infantry Division was to cross east of the city in a comparable operation.

The 260th and 261st Infantry were to cross the river abreast, the 260th on the left flank of the Division, the 261st on the right. The 261st had squeezed past the 259th in the latter's zone south of Neumarkt, to place the 259th in Division Reserve. At 0200, the 2nd Battalion, 260th and the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 261st, began the crossing, while Engineers of the 206th Engineer Combat Battalion rushed treadway bridges forward to the bridge site. In the 260th sector, the crossing caught the enemy by surprise. Their outposts awakened to find bayonets pointed at their throats. The assault battalions fanned 'out rapidly from the landing site in the vicinity of Matting, to run into heavier opposition later in the day. The 261st, however, met heavy fire from entrenched enemy troops immediately on landing opposite Kapfelberg. The eastward drive of the 261st throught. Lengfeld towards Abbach was a bitter one. It increased in intensity during D-Day, while the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 260th Infantry, the 2nd and parts of the 1st Battalion, 259th Infantry, and some of the 808th Tank Destroyer Battalion crossed the Danube. Meanwhile, the remainder of the Division lined the quagmired road net on the east bank of the river to cross the following day. From behind these assembly areas, Division Artillery, the 808 Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 94th Chemical Battalion, and the 546th Antiaircraft Artillery very effectively supperted the doughs. During this operation, the 265th Engineer Combat Battalion worked continuously ferrying endless columns of troops and vehicles across the river and repeatedly rebuilding ferries which had been knocked out by 88 fire. At 2100, the treadway bridge was completed and the heavier vehicles of the Division began to cross to join their organizations on the far bank.

On April 27, the 1st Battalion, 260th Infantry, went to the assistance of the 261st Infantry, to take Abbach. Thus a road was opened between the two regiments. The remainder of the 259th Infantry crossed the river to protect the Division's right flank, so that the other two regiments could move east towards Regensburg.

Regensburg

The fighting abruptly ceased shortly thereafter, when it was learned that a retired German General, who had taken charge of Regensburg after the regular commander took to his heels early in the morning of the 26th, desired to surrender the city. Brigadier General John E. Copeland, Assistant Division Commander, and Colonel Frank Dunkley, Commander of the 260th Infantry, accepted the surrender of Regensburg at 1030. By the end of the day, 260th doughs were patrolling the cathedral city. Less fortunate GIs of the 261st were assigned the protection of a barnyard area to the south. While the 259th remained in position on the Division's right flank. These positions were held until other elements of the XX Corps passed through to continue the attack.

The 65th went into Corps Reserve once more. But not for long. It was to fight in one more zone, which was to bring Major General Stanley E. Reinhart's men to the Enns River -- and V-E day.

Another Nazi big shot committed suicide, yesterday. This time it was Field Marshal von Griem.

FATHER AND SON REUNION



V-E Day for one 65th Division corporal was more than a cessation of hostilities as it made possible a reunion with his father who he had not seen for 27 months. Shown above, left, with his father is Cpl Salvatore Fiorella of Co A of the 265th Eng (C) Bn whose father, right, Capt Pasquale J. Fiorella, visited Linz for the reunion following his transfer from Italy to Steyr, Austria, at the end of the war with Germany. Learning that the 265th Engineers were in Linz, Fiorella senior, who had been a military government officer attached to the British 8th Army, visited Linz on May 13 when the 27-month separation was temporarily ended.

NY Vet Plan

New York's surplus of 323 million dollars will be used, in part, to set up returning New York servicemen in business, Gov Thomas E. Dewey said, yesterday, according to the Army News Service.

The Governor said he expected that by the end of the war the state's surplus would have reached 400 million dollars and that plans are being made to make it as easy as possible for a returned veteran to turn to his state for needed help for worthwhile business investments.

260TH TO HONOR

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in his name to the SSO Office, or to company or battalion athletic officers, whichever is most convenient, prior to 1800 tonight.

Movie Schedule

260th Inf, Div Hq, Sp Trps: "The Yellow Canary". Central Theater, Linz at 1400 and 1900.

261st Inf: "My Reputation", with Barbara Stanwyck and George Brent. At Film Theater, Enns, 1400 and 1600. At 3rd Bn Barn Theater, Asten at 2100. At 1900 Barn Theater will present soldier show, "News and Review".

DivArty: "Hail to the Conquering Hero" with Eddie Bracken.

JAPS BEAT

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Jap positions while other warships ranged along the entire Ryukyu Island group bombarding Jap defenses and beating off enemy attempts to rush troop-loaded transports into the battle. The greatest naval concentration is that of the British task force operating off the Sakishima Island group, south of Okinawa. There, the British assault on Jap positions is entering its fourth straight day.

American aircraft from its new north Okinawa bases also took part in yesterday's fighting and reported downing 13 enemy fighters.

GERMAN RATION

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far below the 2,900 thought necessary for a healthy adult, is that the German food supply in the zone has been used up in the job of feeding the millions of displaced persons Germany imported as slave labor and there are only enough supplies left now to feed the Germans, with the reduced rations, for a month.

Small German Crop

Very little of the German food supply which was on hand at V-E Day was German grown. It came from the occupied countries who were required to do without so that Germans might eat well. Last year the Krauts planted only one-quarter of their wheat capacity and corresponding ratios between tillable soil and produce prevailed in all other crops.

Battlefield Awards

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litary Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Technician Fourth Grade Leopold A. Bilancia, 565th Signal Company; Private John Bologh, 565th Signal Company; Private Frederic B. Burger, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division.

WON'T USE ARMS TO GAIN TRIESTE - TITO

In a radio address, last night, Marshal Tito, Yugoslavian chief of state, reaffirmed his country's claim to Trieste and Corinthia but added that "Yugoslavia will not use force to gain its objectives".

"It would be a shame", the Marshal said, "if we were forced to fight for what we have already attained." Tito then reviewed Yugoslavia's contribution to the war against Germany and stated that all he desires is for people of "all bloods to live in harmony but under their own flags".

ALL UNITS

(Cont. from Page 1)

for the most imaginative program. Despite the fact that its regimental area offers no recreational facilities apart from the alpine view, the 259th Infantry has planned a full schedule of activities for Memorial Day. Following the Memorial Day review to begin at approximately 1130, there will be a series of intra-battalion softball games for the first part of the afternoon. Athletic Non-Com Cpl. Sherman Hoover has conceived such a large schedule that every company will be participating. Later a cross-country run through the woods, weeds, and water which abound in the 259th sector will be climaxed by a softball came between 259th's champion Service Co softball team and an unannounced outfit within the Division at the Service Co field. To complete the day, SSO Non Com, Cpl. Jerry Shepherd had arranged for a combined variety show and musical festival with talent culled from the Regiment.

Div Arty plans will utilize the most glamorous setting. The vast marble Hall at St. Florian will house the Cortez Variety Show for a double billing at 1530 and 1930. As in the other outfits, baseball and softball games will highlight the afternoon's festivities from 1500 to 1900.

Bible Week Service

All US military personnel in Linz are invited to attend the Bible Week service, tonight, at the Linz Protestant Church at 1930.

Messages based on the Gospel of St. John, Chapters 7, 8 and 9 will be brought by Chaplain Prince, of the 65th Div Special Troops and Chaplain Bailey of the 260th Inf.

by jordy

