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The 65th Halbert

Division Daily News Letter

X 78 WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1945 D+358

TODAY IS FIRST MEMORIAL DAY FOR MOST 65TH

Recent Events Give Men Real Understanding Of Meaning

For most of the 65th Division today is the first Memorial Day.

In past years as both soldiers and civilians, Memorial Day has been celebrated but its meaning was, at best, only partially understood. It was a day of 500-mile auto races, picnics, double-headers and highballs.

Today, the 65th understands Memorial Day. Today, Memorial Day is observed, not celebrated. The 65th has learned of the courage of free men and the Division pays tribute to the men of its ranks and of other armies and wars who, in the defense of liberty and decency, put courage to its final test.

The Memorial Day message by the Commanding General, a Memorial Day Prayer by the Division Chaplain and the schedule of today's activities are carried elsewhere in these pages.

Capture Haw Haw

Lord Haw Haw, William Joyce, was captured, yesterday, by the British 2nd Army. The Nazi's No. 1 propaganda voice and Britain's No. 1 traitor, who was born in New York but became a British citizen, will not be tried as a German war criminal but as a British subject guilty of treason.

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

Comrades of the 65th Division:

By working together, each of you contributing your part, you have accomplished great things since we came over the seas. You fought your way across Germany in sixty days, overcoming adverse weather, miserable roads, rivers, hills, and forests, as well as a fanatical enemy who believed himself to be the foremost military power on earth. The names of Saarlautern, Dillingen, Neunkirchen, Rotenburg, Sontra, Treffurt, Muhausen, Langensalza, Struth, Neumarkt, Kapfelburg, Regensburg, Passau, Scharding, Linz, and Enns, will always live in our memories and stir our pride. You have a right to be proud of these accomplishments for each has given of his effort, energy and strength, to say nothing of heroic courage, to the common cause, that you and I and our families shall be secure to live in our American way, free from the threat of the enemy domination which has caused such human misery and suffering as the world has never known before.

Yet, in our pride, we must never forget that we were privileged to be the comrades of those who gave vastly more than we did. All along that long march, from the Saar to the Enns, we have left them, those comrades who so loved us that they laid down their lives that we and ours might enjoy the fruits of victory which they themselves never would. They gave that which they never can be given again. They and the wounded endured for us the terrible pain and suffering. Without their sacrifices all of our strength could never have gained the victory we won. Before their memory we must be the most humble of men.

Today we honor them and their great courage; we acknowledge our everlasting debt to them which we can never repay. It is the day appointed for us to publicly appear and bear testimony of what we owe and to mourn our loss in the passing of these heroes, but every day we must do the same in our hearts. We must resolve that their sacrifice shall not be in vain and so live that the principles for which they died shall never be allowed to fall. We must so conduct ourselves that our cause and theirs shall not be weakened by our indifference or carelessness. We must insist that our leaders devote themselves to that cause and never give away any part of the victory won. To do less is to make a mockery of our sacred dead. Let us in life see through the fight in which they died.

In the light of our present accomplishments and future obligations, we must not fail to honor those, who at a similar cost in blood and sacrifice, brought our nation into being, preserved that nation, and made it possible for each one of us to contribute his part on the field of honor.

A. C. Reinhart

Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

YOKOHOMA IS BLITZED BY 3200-TON FIREBOMB RAID

Today's Schedule

260th Inf: Wreath Ceremony, 1130, Linz, Market Place; Movie (also Div Hq and Sp Trps) "Yellow Canary" at Central Theater, Linz at 1400 and 1900.

261st Inf: Memorial Day Ceremony, 1120; Track and Field Meet, 1400; Softball (Officers vs Serv Co), 1430; Baseball (261 vs 259), 1530; Swimming Meet, 1600; Movie ("My Reputation" with Barbara Stanwyck and George Brent), 1400; Retreat Parade, 1st Bn at 1830; Concert by Upper Danube Chamber Music Society, 1830; Officers, Club Lawn Party, 2000.

259th Inf: Review, 1130; Softball, cross-country race and variety show scheduled but HALBERT was not given the times.

DivArty: Memorial Day Ceremony, 1130; Softball, 1500 to 1900; Cortez Vaudeville Troupe, 2 shows 1530 and 1930 at St Florian hall; Movie ("Conflict") at unannouced time.

65th Recon Troop: Brantner Vaudeville Troupe, time not announced.

265th Eng (C) Bn: Movie ("Hail The Conquering Hero" with Eddie Bracken), time not announced.

Superforts Strike Naval Yards: Get Two Vessels

More than 450 superfortress bombers, yesterday, dropped 3,200 tons of fire bombs on the great Yokohoma naval base, just across the bay from bombed-out Tokyo. Main target was the naval repair dock at the southern end of the base where two small Jap vessels were in drydock.

Both vessels were hit, pilots report, but a full account of the success of the raid will not be released until recon photos have been studied. The 21st Air Force Headquarters, however, released a statement that "many of the naval buildings in the dock area were left in flames".

Tokyo Worse

Pilots also reported that flames could still be seen in nearby Tokyo where the fires kindled by last Saturday's raid are still burning. One Air Force major, who saw Berlin as a guest of the Russians, flew over Tokyo on a recon mission, yesterday, and reported that "Tokyo from the air looks to be in much worse shape than was Berlin when I toured the city in a Soviet jeep".

Meantime other bombing missions were also reported over the Jap mainland when Iwo Jima and Okinawa based planes struck at Kyushu and Shikoku, Japan's two most southern isles.

SHOOT DOWN 83 JAP PLANES AT OKINAWA

The Jap air force using everything from its early war Zeros to its latest fighter planes struck again, yesterday, at the American fleet off the shores of Okinawa and 83 of the Jap force of more than 300 were shot down, according to a communique from Adm of the Fleet Nimitz. One small American vessel was sunk and 12 others were damaged.

The 300-plane Jap raid marked the second enemy attempt to knock out the American fleet in the last five days and, according to Nimitz, demonstrates that the Japs know that the "battle for Okinawa is a fight to unlock Japan's back door".

On Okinawa, itself, the marines and infantry, yesterday, continued to reduce the Jap-held territory around the capital city of Naha and the 7th Division, which three days ago

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STETTINIUS GIVES US POLICY PLANKS

Secretary of State Stettinius, outlined a 5-point US foreign policy in a talk, Monday night to the delegates of the San Francisco Conference which, it was announced, last night, will conclude this Saturday with an address by President Truman.

Mr. Stettinius' most startling remark was the statement that "there is no longer any such thing as sovereignty". He said this in relation to his fifth point which was that the United States can't and won't return to isolationism.

The Secretary's other points were: 1. Take action so that Germany and Japan will never again be able to wage war. 2. Full support of a system of international justice. 3. Adjust social and economic ills on a world basis. 4. Continue the

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M'ARTHUR'S TROOPS ADVANCE 50 MILES

All Luzon's Cagayan Valley from Ilagan north to within 5 miles of Tuguegarao is now in American hands as Gen of the Army MacArthur's troops have pushed through the vast valley to register a 50 mile advance in three days against strong enemy resistance.

Ahead of the advancing Americans, air force tactical planes have pounded Jap defenses and road blocks and bombers have struck again at the north Luzon objective of Aparri, nearest Philippine port to Formosa.

Philippine-based bombers, yesterday, were over Formosa for the 11th straight day while other island-based craft hit French Indo-China, Canton and Shanghai.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY 5, Chi 4
Det 2, Phl 1 (night)
Clv 3, Wsh 0 (night)
StL 3, Bos 0

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
NY	17	11	.637	Clv	12	14	.462
Chi	15	10	.600	Wsh	12	17	.414
Det	15	10	.600	Bos	11	16	.407
StL	14	11	.560	Phl	11	18	.379

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NY 5, Chi 2
StL 9, Bkl 7 (night)
Chi 4, Phl 3
Pit 5, Bos 3

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
NY	24	7	.774	Chi	14	14	.500
Brk	17	13	.567	Bos	11	16	.407
StL	17	13	.567	Cin	10	16	.385
Pit	15	14	.517	Phl	8	23	.258

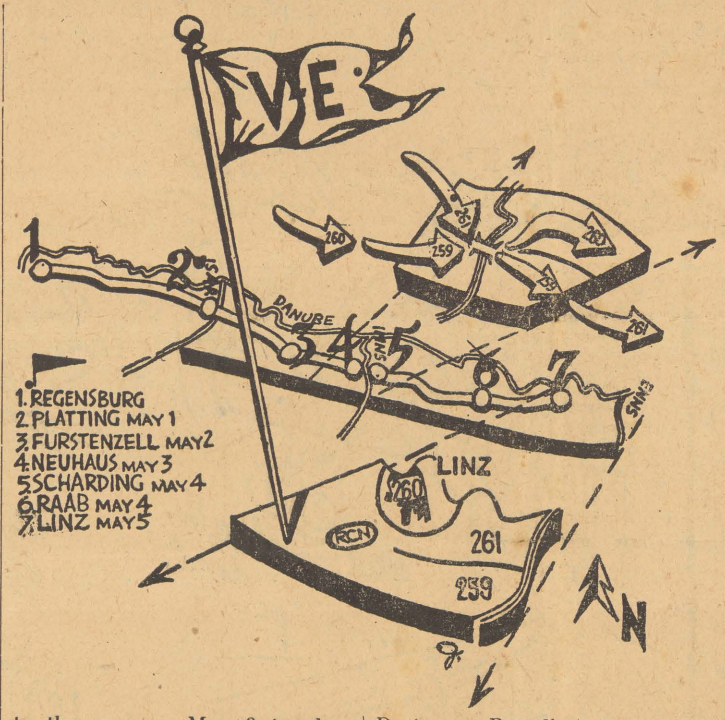
V-E Day: 65th Drives 125 Miles To Enns River To Reach Its Last Objective Before War's End

EDITORS NOTE: This is the eighth in a series of nine 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

There were 125 miles to go before victory. The 65th Division sprinted the distance in six days.

The Division occupied the area around Regensburg from its capture on April 28 until May 1 when it was once more ordered to advance to the southeast in a zone the left flank of which was the south bank of the Danube. The 65th was to move behind the 13th Armored Division to cross the Isar River at Plattling, and then to pass through the 13th Armored to continue the drive to the Enns River. The crossing of the Isar was completed about 2400, May 1. With the 259th and 261st moving abreast and followed by the 260th, the Inns River was reached on May 2. Several skirmishes took place enroute but did not delay the advance. By-passed enemy groups, so harassed units moving behind the assault regiments, that the 2nd Battalion, 260th, was sent



to the rear on May 3 to clear a wooded area which contained several hundred diehards.

On May 2, the 2nd Battalion, 261st Infantry, entered the Inns River town of Passau. There the joint action of the 869th Field Artillery, the 546 Antiaircraft Artillery, and the 808 Tank Destroyer Battalion was instrumental in destroying the 300 SS troops and three Mark IV tanks which had held the town. Passau surrendered at 0030, May 3, but was not cleared until later in the day.

While the 2nd Battalion was

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MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

by The Division Chaplain

Almighty God, our help in ages past and hope of years to come, we thank Thee for the courage of our forefathers who founded our nation and gave us both civil and religious liberty. We thank Thee for the men of valor who were ready to lay their lives on the altar of patriotism to preserve and perpetuate the principles upon which our government is founded. Marvelous and wonderful have been the ways in which Thou hast led our nation. Thine everlasting arms have sustained us, Thy hand of plenty has been open so that we have never suffered privation. Undeserving as we are Thy mercy Thou hast never withdrawn Thy gracious presence.

Help us who are following in the footsteps of those who preceded us in the service of our country, to give implicit obedience and unswerving loyalty to our superiors. Lead us to know that Thou hast set us to be the guardians of the priceless liberty and freedom enjoyed by our nation during the past centuries. Give us unity of purpose so that individually and collectively we may strive to safeguard our national heritage. Help us to be faithful to Thee while performing our duties as soldiers of the United States. Help us to rededicate ourselves this day to Thee and our country, so that generations to come may enjoy the singular blessings which have been ours, and praise Thee for Thy loving kindness.

Greatly comfort those who today remember their losses in our heroic dead. Give the spirit of patience and submission to those who are in our national hospitals. Comfort them by Thy Holy Word with the knowledge that all things must work together for good to those that love Thee. Give all of us that due sense of devotion that we may always incline to Thy will.

Lead all to worship Thee and to do Thy will. Preserve in us a living fait in Thy Word. Be Thou our strength and stay, an ever present help in trouble. Lead us in the paths in which Thou wouldst have us walk, so that Thy purpose may be accomplished, and we be preserved a nation, serving Thee with steadfastness of heart. We ask this in the name of and for the sake of the God and Father of us all. Amen.

V-E DAY

(Cont. from Page 1)

stopping in Passau, the 1st Battalion, 261st Infantry, was on the Inns River at a point eight miles south of Passau, opposite Scharding. 'Reconnaissance patrols, which had been sent ahead of the Battalion, arrived on the east bank at 0515, May 2, to have the long Neuhaus-Scharding bridge blown in their face. By 1200, the bulk of the Battalion had entered Neuhaus. Scouting parties were sent to look for boats and a fording site. They returned with the Judge Advocate Generals of both the German Army and Navy, who, like the GIs, had been stranded by the blown bridge. They also produced one large-sized rowboat in which the 2nd Battalion, 261st Infantry, started across the river.

Not a shot was fired at the boats. The enemy had been blasted from intrenched positions in Scharding by an artillery and heavy weapons barrage between 1500 and 1730. They were battered once more by a ten minute preparation before the rowboat took off.

Later, four engineer assault boats increased the flotilla. "A" and "C" Companies had crossed by midnight. The rest of the Battalion reached the west baok between 0430 and 0800 in a number of assault boats rushed to the Inns during the night. The next morning, the Wehrmacht woke up in Scharding cellars, where they had hidden since the barrage, to find Americans on top of them.

By 2400, May 3, the 3rd Battalion, 259th, and the 1st, 3rd, and elements of the 2nd Battalions, 260th Infantry had crossed on ferries with part of the 65th Reconnaissance Troop. The remainder of the Division crossed on the bridge which was completed at 0900, May 4. The 3rd Battalion, 259th, was attached to the 261st. Thus reinforced, the 261st Infantry moved rapidly southeastward out of the bridgehead on the Division's right flank. The 260th turned north from the Scharding bridgehead, advancing along the Inns River, to reach a parallel zone on the Division's left flank. Then, it too took off in a southeastwardly direction. These zones were to apply until the 260th entered Linz

Objective Linz

On May 4, the 65th was given Austria's second city as its principle objective, with the Enns River, eight miles to the southeast of the city, as the restraining line between troops of the United States and those of the Soviet Union.

The Division drove forward on the last lap of its march through the Reich, meeting only small delaying forces enroute. About 1200, May 5, elements of the XIIth Corps on the left reached Linz which had been declared an open city. They were relieved by the 260th which entered the metropolis between 1700 and 1730 on May 5.

The 261st Infantry arrived at the Enns River, overrunning the city of Enns itself without a battle, at 2245. On May 6, the 259th Infantry advanced to positions abreast of, and to the right of, the 261st zone, to complete the holding of the Enns River line.

Twenty-four hours before V-E Day became officially effective the German troops opposing the Division surrendered unconditionally.

Twelve hours and forty-six minutes before the specified time for this surrender, the 869th Field Artillery sent a volley of 105's sailing into the narrow pocket still remaining to the enemy. For the 65th Division, these shells marked the end of the shooting in the war against Germany. They exploded about 1115, May 7, thus completing the demonstration of the power of an American infantry division.

Just as the halbert was the shock weapon of the medieval knight, so its silhouette on the shoulder patches of the 65th Division symbolized the striking power of the modern infantry division. But the Krauts seemed in little need of explanation. Long before 0001, May 9, the unarmed Wehrmacht tramped through our front lines by companies, regiments and divisions, glad to relinguish the title of superman for the safety of the PWE.

Convoys Stop

Convoys in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea ended, today, according to a British and American naval announcement.

The two navies have decided that there is no longer enough of a u-boat hazard to warrant escorts for merchant ships. Planes, however, will continue to patrol the seas. Merchant shipping in the Pacific will continue under convoy.

3RD BN 261ST INF. OPENS NEW THEATER

The new Barn Theater of the 261st Inf's 3rd Bn was dedicated, Monday, at Asten by Lt Col John Cone, Bn CO, as the Bn opened what may well be the most unique theater this side of the Rhine.

From the mezzanine and box seats sloping to the orchestra pit, the men of the Bn have piled straw which affords them an excellent view of the screen and comfortable seats. The stage, complete with lighting, boasts a flowing curtain with apron and border to match and is flanked on both sides, backstage, by dressing rooms. The orchestra pit is large enough to hold the entire 65th Div dance band, the Bn explains wistfully, and adequate exits and emergency fire doors have been constructed.

Credit for the new theater goes to Lt Edward J. L. Hookanson, Bn SSO and to his enlisted team of S/Sgt Fisher, Tec 4 Dick Campbell, and Cpl David Glaser and their assistants.

Because of the material used in the seat construction smoking is kaput. The policy on Betty Grable films has not yet been outlined.

QUISLING TRIAL TO BE HELD IN AUGUST

The trial of Quisling, the quisling of Norway, was set for the second week in August by a British military court in Oslo, yesterday.

During the arraignment proceedings the former ruler of Norway told the court that he had "done everything possible to save Norway from German domination" and that "after what I have done for my people it is a disgrace that I should be held in prison".

STETTINIUS GIVES

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community of purpose with the other United Nations.

On the subject of Poland, Stettinius said efforts were being made to bring about the Polish Provisional Government's compliance with the Yalta agreement. In the meantime, he said, two Polish governments exist, London and Lublin. In reference to Argentina's being allowed in the Conference, the Secretary said it did not mean that the US approved the present Argentine government.

Religious Services

A memorial High Mass of Requiem will be held at 1630, this afternoon, in the Church of the Asumption for the repose of the souls of all Catholic men of the Division who sacrificed their lives during the past three months.

At 1830, tonight, Chaplain Prince will administer the ritual of Baptism in the Danube River. Bible Services will be held, tonight at 1930 in the Linz Protestant Church.

AUSTRIANS NOT HIT BY KRAUT FOOD CUT

The drastic food cut which went into being yesterday, in the zone of the US 15th occupation army (Ruhr, Rhine and part of the Saar) is not expected to spread into the Austrian occupation zones now governed by the US 3rd and the British 8th, according to an ABSIE report, last night.

The main reason for this is that the Austrian people were more industrious farmers than the Germans and indications are that an adequate summer crop will be able to carry the people through the year. The Austrian food stocks were also larger than those in the German zone, ABSIE said, and were not drained as quickly. One reason for this is that the number of slave workers in Austria, although great, was not as large as in the highly industrialized section of the Reich.

A third factor contributing to Austria's better food stock condition is the fact that the German Army did not hold out as long in Austria and, thus, did not draw as much food from the civilian supply sources. Until repatrioted, however, the liberated slave workers in Austria will have first call on all Austrian food supplies.

SHOOT DOWN

(Cont. from Page 1)

cut behind the Jap defense position, was reported to have advanced almost a mile to within 2 miles of the marine frontal attack now stalled on the banks of the Isuto river. The Japs are now defending the southeastern section of Naha from a 2 mile corridor and late reports say there are indications that they are preparing to withdraw to the hills just south of the city.

The 6th Marine division with a battalion of the 96th Division tried again, yesterday, to cross the Isuto, which winds its swollen way through southeast Naha, but were repulsed.

FRENCH FURLOUGHS FOR 24 65TH GI'S

Twenty-four fortunate men of the Halbert Division left Monday to a week's visit to the Riviera.

Leaving the Division area at 0900 Monday, they travelled by jeep and truck to Nurnberg, Germany, where they will board a plane for the Mediterranean vacationland. It is expected that the group will be divided between the two famous French resort towns of Nice and Cannes.

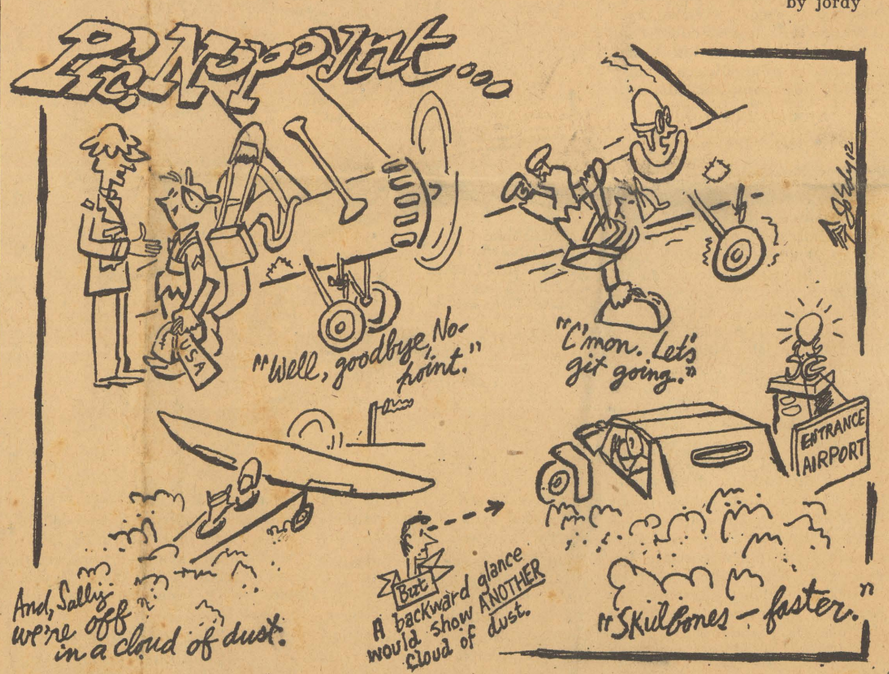
This is the second Riviera quota to come to the 65th Division. The first group, made up entirely of men from the 748 Tank Battalion in recognition of their lengthy service in the ETO, returned last week with glowing tales of recreation in Fraternizationland.

1st Lt Harry J. Simon of the 260th Inf, 1st Lt Francis V. Fox of the 259th Inf. Were the lucky officers on this quota. The twenty-two enlisted men who went to sunny France were: 259th Infantry; Tec 4 Charles N. Bassham, Jr. Sgt George E. Richard, S/Sgt Donald R. Fredricks, and T/Sgt Hughey L. Bush. 260th Infantry; S/Sgt Claude L. Brewer, Pfc Joseph Quartro, Pfc James F. Moore and Pfc Andrew S. Rujak. 261st Infantry; Sgt Joseph P. DeCasino, Sgt Carl A. Ackerman, Sgt Casimer R. Zajdel and Pfc Ernest E. Thompson. 868th FA Bn; Pfc Harold E. Benson. 869 FA Bn; Pfc George T. Kingman. 867 FA Bn; Pfc Louis B. Manka. 720 FA Bn; Pfc William D. Treadway. 265 Engr Bn; Pfc Rudolph A. Pinzini. 365 Med Bn; Tec 4 Michael F. Ciancaglini. 65th Rcn Tr; Tec 5 Victor D. Price. From 565th Sig Co; Tec 5 John J. Lessizza. 808 TD Bn: Pfc Jack C. Jackson. 748 Tk Bn; Tec 4 Nickolas Vercz.

Softball

The 259th Inf. softball center of the ETO, produced two more games, Sunday night, when Wire Section of Hq Co topped the Radio Section by a 19 to 11 count and the Hq Medics trounced the I&R Platoon 15 to 6.

by jordy



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