Copied from an original at The History Center, Diboll, Texas. www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com 2019:010

The 65th Halbert

Division Daily News Letter

X 79 THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1945 D+359

MARINES FORCE RIVER TO HOLD MOST OF NAHA

Battle Enters Its Final Stage On Okinawa Island

Advance In South

Infantry Units Push To Within 1 Mile Of Coast

The battle for the Okinawa capital of Naha entered its final stage, yesterday, when marine and infantry units forced a crossing of the swollen Isuto river, in the southeast section of the city, and pushed within one mile of the 7th Division which had cut behind the Jap position.

Withdraw

From this narrow corridor, this morning, Jap units are trying to escape to the Shuri hills, just outside captured Shuri, to continue the fight. The Jap troops are facing heavy fire in their attempt to retreat and their losses are great. With the flight from the corridor, which they held for two weeks against overpowering American military might, the Japs have been forced out of all Naha, except one small

(Cont. on Page 2)

BRITISH 14TH ARMY CLOSES IN ON JAPS

British 14th Army troops in Burma, yesterday, pushed within 7 miles of Kalaw, gateway town through which many Jap troops have been retreating into the Siam hills.

To the north, other 14th Army troops have reduced the Meiktila pocket from the estimated

(Cont. on Page 2)

Pool

The Linz Park Baths and Swimming Pool will be closed to 65th Division personnel on Sundays and Mondays. All other days will find the watering-place open to GIs from 0900 to 2000.

VICTORY HOUR



Major General Stanley E. Reinhart, 65th Division Commanding General and a Russian general compare watches at 0001, May 9th, the minute the unconditional surrender of Germany took place. The name of the Soviet leader was censored for Russian security reasons. The meeting of General Reinhart, General Copeland and Colonel Epes with the Russians is described in Sgt Jordy's last installment of the 65th history, below.

65th Div. Photo.

This Is It: 65th Meets Reds AS War Ends After 850-Mile German Battle

With the conclusion of Sgt Bill Jordy's history of the 65th Division's march across Germany, in today's HALBERT, production has started on a 32-page booklet which will be a collection of Jordy's history and be distributed one to each man in the Division.

The booklet will have a paper bound cover, maps and pictures and will be titled, "Right To Be Proud", which is a quotation from Major General Stanley E. Reinhart's Memorial Day message to the men of the 65th in which he praised them for their contribution to victory.

by Sgt. Bill Jordy

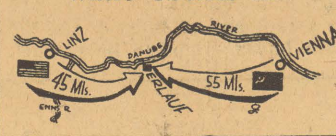
Message number 6 for the morning of May 7 went like this:

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT ZERO SEVEN ONE ZERO FIVE ZERO BAKER FROM ROMAN TWENTY CORPS PAREN LT COL DUNGAN CMA GEORGE DASH THREE SECTION PAREN BY TP CLN.

THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF LAND CMA SEA AND AIR FORCES AT ZERO SEVEN ZERO ONE FOUR ONE STOP ACTIVE OPERATIONS WILL CEASE AT ZERO NINE ZERO ZERO ZERO ONE STOP EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ALL TROOPS WILL STOP MOVEMENT AND ACTIVE OPERATIONS STOP DUE TO THE FACT THAT COMMUNICATIONS ARE SO POOR THERE WILL PROBABLY BE SOME ACTION ON THE PART OF THE ENEMY AND WE WILL HAVE TO REMAIN ON THE DEFENSIVE.

Translated from Signal-ese, the message said that the 65th Division received word by telephone from Headquarters XX Corps at 1050 on May 7 of the signing of unconditional surrender terms by the German high command. The terms were to become effective as of 0001, May 9.

Where US-Reds Met



For the 65th Infantry Division the abbreviated date-time, 090001, has another significance, Major General Stanley E. Reinhart, Division Commander, Brigadier General John E. Copeland, Assistant Division Commander, and Colonel William J. Epes, Chief of Staff, traveled through darkness to Erlauf to meet with the Russian General whose troops faced the 65th. A Division which had moved east from Saarlautern met with another which had come west from Stalingrad in a tiny town 45 miles east of Linz and 55 west of Vienna.

War in the ETO was over.

Now that it was past, there was time for reminiscing. Each regiment, each battalion, each company, each platoon, each squad, every GI could look back to "that day when we . . .".

In general, the best anecdotes

(Cont. on Page 2)

Balloon Bombs Launched In Japan Says Report From Forestry Service

A full report on the Jap balloon bombs which have been dropping in the United States at the rate of more than 5 a day was given, yesterday, by the Forestry Service, which revealed that the bombs are launched in Japan, itself, not from subs as was first thought.

How They Work

The balloons are made out of 5 layers of oil paper, the report said, and are 35 feet in diameter. They are launched on the Jap mainland and rise 20,000 feet into the air and in three to five days ride the west-east winds to the US. On reaching the atmospheric conditions of North America, a special switch starts the descent of the balloons and when they reach a height of 300 feet, another switch drops the bomb load. The balloon then, on losing its load, burns up. The only balloon bombs found so far in the States, according to the report, have been 5 faulty ones. Three of them on the west coast, one in the Rocky Montains and one on the Missourri-Kansas border.

60,000 HOMES DESTROYED IN YOKOHOMA B-29 BLAZE

Fires Still Burning From Superfort Raid Of Tuesday

Tokyo Kaput

50 Square Miles Of Jap Capital Wiped Out

First Tokyo and now Yokohoma.

Reports, this morning, state that a huge gale of close to 75-miles-an-hour is whipping the fires started by Tuesdays 450-plane superfort raid through the city of Yokohoma and that, at least, 60,000 homes have been destroyed. All the naval buildings in the port district, which was the chief B-29 target, have also been burned out.

The entire city, which had a peace-time population of a million, is endangered, according to BBC, and Jap radio states that the population is being moved to the interior.

The superfort raid, which dropped 3,200 tons of bombs on the city, was escorted by mustang fighters, the 21st Air Force revealed, yesterday, stating that the most fierce dog fights of the entire air war against Japan took place and that, at least, 26 Jap planes were shot down. US losses were 6 superforts and 2 mustangs.

Tokyo

Other reports, yesterday, told of the damage to Tokyo where fires are still burning. According to the Army News Service 50 square miles of Tokyo has been burned to the ground in-

(Cont. on Page 2)

Movie Schedule

260th Inf: (Also Div Hq, Sp Trps) "Conflict" with Humprey Bogart.

261st Inf: Film Theater, Enns, "Hail The Conquering Hero" with Eddie Bracken and Betty Hutton.

Other films will be shown, today, but at press time had not yet arrived from the Corps SSO.

FRANCE, SYRIA NEAR BREAK OVER TROOPS

An open break between Syria, the Lebanon and France is expected to take place within the next few days unless France backs down in her policy of landing French troops in the two Arabian nations, according to a Columbia Broadcasting System report, last night.

The Syrian government is now mustering in a national guard force of 200,000 men and armed civilians are patroling the streets stopping all French and European civilians. In a statement, yesterday, the Syrian

(Cont. on Page 2)

M'ARTHUR'S TROOPS CAPTURE LUZON DAM

Troops on Luzon, operating south of Gen of the Army MacArthur's new campaign into the Cagayan Valley, yesterday, captured a major dam above and east of Manila.

The dam, the largest in the South Pacific, was taken in tact although it had been heavily mined. With the dam under American control, the people of Manila will have running water for the first time in six months.

(Cont. on Page 2)

NOT OFFERED UNRRA POST SAYS HOOVER

Former President Hoover, yesterday, spiked a rumor of the New York newspaper, PM, by stating that President Truman had not offered him the job of UNRRA chief and that if offered the position he would refuse.

"Mr. Lehman is doing a great job", the former chief executive said, "people who charge the UNRRA with inefficiency don't realize that the relief organization gets only what the military doesn't need. And right now the military needs almost everything."

Mr. Hoover said he suggested to President Truman that UNRRA be allowed to request vehicles and materials from the Army overseas so that UNRRA would handle the policy and the Army do the actual work. The former President also said that he would like to see a closer relationship between the Army's military government and the UNRRA officials.

WON'T USE 200,000 DUTCH-MacARTHUR

Relations between the Netherlands and the United States went into a slight slump, yesterday, when Gen of the Army MacArthur, Supreme Commander of Pacific ground forces, stated that he would not use the 200,000 Netherlands troops to be sent to the Pacific, unless the Netherlands would agree to renounce its extra-territorial rights in China.

All other Allied nations, with troops in the Pacific, have already renounced their claims. Gen MacArthur's statement said "it is impossible to use a nation's troops in concord with the freedom forces of China when

(Cont. on Page 2)

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

No games played

	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

Phl 1, Chi 0

	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.
NY	24	7	.774	Chi	14	15	.483
Brk	17	13	.567	Bos	11	16	.407
StL	17	13	.567	Cin	10	16	.385
Pit	15	14	.517	Phl	9	23	.285

Copied from an original at The History Center, Diboll, Texas. www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com 2019:010

Battlefields Awards

BRONZE STAR MEDAL to: Lieutenant Colonel Howard C. Anderson, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Lieutenant Colonel John C. Boesch, 765th Ordnance (LM) Company; Lieutenant Colonel Burnett J. Brown, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. Carle, Hq, 65th Infantry Division; Lieutenant Colonel Paul G. Cramer, 65th Quartermaster Company; Captain Albert H. Fiedler, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Major Charles H. Gardner, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Captain Bruce L. Garrett, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Captain Clifton M. Griffen, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Major Charles D. Monsson, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Lieutenant Colonel John Ritchie III, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Captain Einar Watten, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Lieutenant Colonel Fred N. Whiting, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Captain Hollis E. Button, Headquarters 65th Division Artillery; Technical Sergeant Michael F. Clarkson, 565th Signal Company; Technician Fourth Grade Shirley E. Conway, 765th Ordnance (LM) Company; Technician Fourth Grade Robert E. Courtade, 765th Ordnance (LM) Company; Technical Sergeant William G. Flournoy, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Technician Fourth Grade Dwight Hastings, Headquarters Company, 65th Infantry Division; Technician Fifth Grade James C. Hill, Jr. 565th Signal Company; Staff Sergeant Grant E. Holmes, 565th Signal Company; Sergeant Francis J. Hunt, 65th Military Police Platoon; Private First Class Stanley C. Jennings, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Sergeant Erick W. Johnson, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Private First Class Walter G. Lehr, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Private First Class Frank O. Lewis, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Private First Class Joseph Maiorana, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Master Sergeant Norris V. Marsh, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Technical Sergeant Leonard M. Martens, 765th Ordnance Company; First Lieutenant Dorman B. McShan, 565th Signal Company; First Lieutenant Max D. Napper, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Corporal Herbert W. O'Donnell, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Private Ralph M. Payton, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Private First Class Albert Puzzo, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Master Sergeant Kenneth V. Rosen, Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Private Raymond E. Scott, 565th Signal Company; Private First Class James M. Sheetz, Jr., Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Technician Fifth Grade Benjamin B. Snow, Jr., Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Private Robert N. Strauss, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; Staff Sergeant Arthur L. Strickland, 565th Signal Company; Staff Sergeant James M. Thames, Jr., Headquarters 65th Infantry Division; Private Clayton H. Wedel, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division; First Lieutenant Raymond M. Wheeler, Military Police Platoon, 65th Infantry Division.

THIS IS IT

(Cont. from Page 1)

were those of the infantry regiments and the artillery battalions. They were closest to the biggest action. But the battle could never have been won, could, in fact, never have taken place, without the 265th Combat Engineer Battalion, the 365th Medical Battalion, and that Division miscellany lumped together as "Special troops".

One of these Special troops appeared beside the infantry and artillery on every G-3 overlay. The 65th Reconnaissance Troop had pulled up ahead of the front line to reconnoiter or to screen the infantry advance. It had rushed to the rear to aid in the mopping up of by-passed enemy pockets. It had been spread thin along the Division flank to outpost infantry activity.

Engineers

In the war of movement, the 265th Engineers had the tremendous job of maintaining battered road nets which were often pitifully inadaquate for Division transportation. The signs along the highways - - Mines Cleared To The Ditches - - did not come with the newly conquered routes Frequently, the highways came bridgeless too. Then, the Engineers ferried the infantry across-the Saar, the Danube, the Inns - - over and back, over and back, and often under intense enemy fire. Finally, there was the tough and dangerous work of bridge building. The Engineers were also responsible for furnishing the troops with pure water.

Medics were up front too. Side by side with the combat units they went into battle, and side by side their names appeared on the rosters of battlefield awards. The details were different; the citation was usually the same: aiding the wounded "under intense enemy fire", where one never knew whether the Red Cross was to be respected, or used as an aiming point by some enemy sniper. Despite its having one of the largest installations in the Division, the 265th Medical Battalion, with the 3rd Platoon of the 60th Field Hospital, trailed behind the front lines. Instead of the usual twenty miles, the operating tables were within a mile of the Danube during the crossing.

MP's

The 65th Military Police platoon with additional assistance from the 65th Division Band, was responsible for getting the traffic through, and for guarding the ever increasing numbers of prisoners which this traffic overran.

Ordnance

The 765th Ordnance Company kept the 2½-tonners rolling and the weapons firing. Whereas the training manuals claim that a light ordnance company is responsible for only 30 per cent of the division repair work, the 765th undertook over 60 per cent, to eliminate the time-consuming system of sending disabled vehicles further back for mending. Meanwhile, the 65th Quartermaster Company filled the trucks, and brought them over round trip runs of as long as 250 miles, to supply the front with food, clothing and gasoline for further advances How QM drivers discovered their destinations without adaquate maps is still an unsolved mystery.

To keep communications abreast of the Front, the 565th Signal Company laid over 800 miles of new wire, and re-layed hundreds of miles of old. When the Division was sprawled over a quarter of the distance through Germany, the 185 miles from the forward CP at Treffurt to the rear CP at Schwabenheim was bridged by radio. If all else failed, there was still the messenger, who called on his rifle when the speedometer would not bring him through enemy pockets.

MARINES FORCE

(Cont. from Page 1)

area diectly south of the center of the capital.

American progress continued, also, in southern Naha where the infantry has pushed within a mile of the east coast in two places and the marines have started a drive toward the southernmost point of the island reaching within 6 miles of their objective.

A force of more than 50 enemy planes was over the American fleet off Okinawa, yesterday, and Adm of the Fleet Nimitz' communique reports that 16 of them were shot down. They did no damage to the naval vessels. Okinawa-based American Army and Navy planes again ranged over the rest of the Ryukyu Island group with some hitting as far north as Kyushu, Japan's southernmost isle, 300 miles above Okinawa.

BRITISH 14TH

(Cont. from Page 1)

25,000 Japs of two weeks ago to less than 5,000. Repeatedly the British commander has asked the enemy to surrender as their position is without hope, but the Japs have chosen to stand and fight and the consequences, to this date, are 20,000 Jap dead.

Finally, there was the Division CP itself - - the clerks, the draftsmen, the planners, and the complex of specialists which, thrown together, make up Division Headquarters Company personnel.

These troops had their reminiscing on V-E Day too. Most of it was centered on the overall pattern of the Division's operations. The 65th Infantry Division had come into the battle for Germany when Allied Armies were in the last stages of breaking through the Reich's final defensive line, when our Armies rolled from one tough encounter to another.

850 Miles

For the 65th, this meant 850 miles from Le Havre, France to the Enns, River, Austria. It meant traveling with the fastest moving Army in the ETO, and, more than this, moving from the upper flank of the Third Army, where it touched the First, to the southern flank, where it abutted the Seventh.

It was therefore a battle of wheels as much as a fight with weapons. It was what the Wehrmacht had heralded as "blitzkrieg" in the fat days for the Reich. In the lean days of 1945, is was the Allied armies which put on a blitzkrieg performance.

Right To Be Proud

The 65th Infantry Division ably played its part in the return engagement. Of its record as a unit and as individuals, the 65th has a "right to be proud".

FRANCE, SYRIA

(Cont. from Page 1)

prime minister said that Syria will not allow France any rights in the country that are not enjoyed by other nations and that no talks of any type between the two nations will be held until France withdraws its troops.

In the major Syrian city of Aleppo riots have been in progress for three days and the death total is already well over 100. French troops in the city move only under heavy guard. There is a possibility the CBS report said, that Lebanon will talk terms with France but, the report continued, Syria is bringing strong pressure to bear on its Arabian neighbor to hold firm for its sovereignty.

General Benet, the French commander in Syria, said. last night that the French troops will "not originate any violent action" but CBS stated that the French, if they stay in the Levant, may be forced into action of "a most violent nature".

A Paris spokesmen for the French government has already explained that there are very few French troops in the two Arabian nations and that those that are in Syria and Lebanon are merely to insure that France has a middle base for its coming operations in the South Pacific. "We have no intention of doing anything to harm the sovereignty of the two nations", the French spokesman said, but he went on to say that "France expects to be allowed to keep its naval bases in Syria and to maintain troops in the nation to protect its oil pipe lines."

US-Britain

Great Britain and the United States have evidenced a great deal of concern over the French action and in a note to the Syrian government, the British Foreign Office said that "it regretted the action that had been taken by the French and that the US and Great Britain were keeping in constant touch with all powers concerned.

WON'T USE

(Cont. from Page 1)

that nation refuses to recognize that China has more than earned in blood and sacrifice its right to stand alone without interference from other governments. I would be doing a disservice to my nation and to my principles if I allowed otherwise".

STEAKS FURLOUGHS

American troops returning to the United States either for discharge, or transfer to the Pacific are greeted at the NY POE by a WAC band, a WAC reporter and a meal of T-bone steak, ice cream and pie and then handed a furlough, according to the Army News Service.

"WHAT'S THE POINT" NEW SOLDIER SHOW

A division show entitled "What's the Point" is being readid by the Division SSO team of Sgt's Jimmy Shelton and Murray Grand and a call has been issued to all interested Div. personnel to attend try-outs which are being, held every afternoon for the next week at the Landes Theater in Linz.

Shelton and Grand teamed before in the Shelby production, "T. S. Buddy", which was adjudged by the War department to be one of the outstanding soldier shows. Grand may be expected to turn out some more top show tunes of the nature of his earlier hits of "T. S. Buddy", "By The Numbers", "So This Is Paris", and "You Can't Leave New York", and Shelton who triples as actor-singer-comic is expected to hatch some other Ronnie Kemperish ballads of the nature of his "I Wanna Eat In the Mess Hall (where the men do)" which was such a hit in Mississippi.

MacARTHUR'S TROOPS

(Cont. from Page 1)

In the Cagayan Valley drive toward the north Luzon port of Aparri, nearest Philippine point to Formosa, very little progress was reported, yesterday, as stiff opposition was evidenced along the entire valley battle line south of the major Jap fortress city of Tuguegardo.

Philippine-based American bombers were over Formosa, yesterday, for the 12th straight day and oil dumps and supply bases were the major target. Other island-based craft hit Shanghai and Canton.

On Terakan Island, to the south of MacArthur's new drive, Australian troops have reached the most northern shore of the island in their mopping up drive. On Bougainville, other Aussie troops reported the capture of enough enemy equipment to supply an entire division for a year as they pushed north east of captured Wewak.

60,000 HOMES

(Cont. from Page 1)

cluding the main business district of the city. Announced as killed in the raid, last Saturday, on Tokyo was Viscount Ishi, ex Jap ambassador to the United States, former member of the League of Nations Council and present member of the Jap privy Council.

A corrected report, last night, boosted the number of Jap planes shot down off Okinawa from 83 to 115.

The new SSO unit is the Brantner Choral Society which will be at the Landes Theater in Linz, tonight.

by jordy

