

THE DEADEYE

# DISPATCH

FIRST TO THE FRONT



12 April, 1945. PUBLISHED BY THE 96TH DIV I&D Tel Ext 300 Vol 4. No. 11

## NINTH ARMY TAKES HANOVER

### DEADEYES GAIN 300 YDS

\*\*\*Apr 11--(ID)--In a drive yesterday for a ridge in the vicinity of Kakazu, elements of the Deadeye Division drove against heavy opposition and supported by a preponderance of artillery and naval gunfire to make an average gain of 300 yards along her entire front.

Heroic actions by the troops of the line companies of the 381st and 382nd regiments were heralded by all observers behind the lines as the main drive was made and troops of the 382nd received credit for repulsing strong counterattacks made by the Japanese from caves and emplacements in their zone.

Probably the most outstanding results of the day were obtained by the men of Lt. Col. John G. Cassidy's battalion as they pushed energetically onto the ridge that was their initial objective of the day and by repulsing counterattacks in the afternoon. Today troops of Lt. E. A. Moorer and Capt M. M. Burlison carried forward the move to clean off the ridge and strengthen the position of the regiment.

Men of the 1st battalion of the 383rd were able to reach a saddle early in the morning which would lead them to the capture of their objective but the advance was slowed by heavy artillery and mortar fire during the day.

After a night of much heavy  
(Cont'd on Page Two)

\*\*\*Apr 11--Infantry and tank columns of General Simpson's Ninth Army have captured the important German city of Hanover and to the east of that city reached a point on the superhighway just 120 miles from Berlin. South of the Ninth, Hodges' First Army has captured Sigburg and are less than 60 miles from the Elbe River and 130 miles from Berlin. First and Third Armies have now joined forces near Nordhausen. The Third Army is located three miles from Erfurt and Coburg.

The battle of the Ruhr has turned into a military disaster for the Germans that has few parallels in history. By midnight Monday, more than 26,000 German prisoners had been taken. There is estimated to be about 100,000 German troops caught in the huge Allied Ruhr trap. Another 100,000 or possibly 200,000 Germans are in the process of being sealed off in Holland. Supreme Allied Headquarters has revised upward its estimate of the number of Germans trapped in Holland. The Ruhr pocket has been squeezed to less than 2,000 square miles. German transports are landing in the Ruhr pocket at night to salvage what high-ranking officers they can.

Canadian units in Holland are within 15 miles of the North Sea. They have captured the first German V-2 rocket sites. Gelsenkirchen has also been captured and Essen entered.

Since the Allied armies made their bold crossing of the sacred Rhine, they  
(Cont'd on Page Two)

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### WD FAVORS ARMY-NAVY MERGER

\*\*\*Apr 10--Secretary of War Stimson declared that the War Department strongly favors establishment of a single department of the armed forces which would merge our present Army and Navy. In a letter to Senator Hill of Alabama, Stimson pointed out that joint Chiefs of Staff already have appointed a special Army-Navy committee to study postwar reorganization of the Armed Forces.

Senator Hill is the author of the bill to set up a Department of Armed Forces with one secretary at the head and undersecretaries of Army, Navy and Air, and other activities. Recently James Byrnes asked Congress to consider merging the armed forces, pointing out that the present system is wasteful and duplicates authority.

### WHOLE BLOOD TO BE FLOWN TO PACIFIC

\*\*\*Apr 10--Brig Gen Fred W. Rankin, U.S. Army Medical Department, said yesterday that whole blood will be flown daily from the States by American planes direct to the battlefronts. A newly-perfected refrigeration unit keeps the whole blood in condition for transfusion for 21 days instead of the former time of 16 days. He said about 1200 pints would be collected in the states daily.

### 96TH BOX SCORE OF GOOD JAPS

Total for April 9.....	539
Okinawa Total.....	2,666
Leyte Campaign Total.....	7,341
Grand Total to Date.....	10,007

### WICKS NIXS NIPS TRICKS

Back at Division headquarters there isn't usually an opportunity to demonstrate bravery in action but that the courage is there has been proven by the valiant deeds of Sgt Elmer Wicks, Paterson N.J., of the Deadeye G-3 office, who singlehandedly captured a Jap. It is true that his captive was a half-starved 80-year-old Okinawan woman but under the circumstances it is only fair to chalk up one prisoner for the doughty doughboy.

Our friend, Elmer, was crossing a field near the CP when he noticed movement in a hole not larger than a gopher burrow.

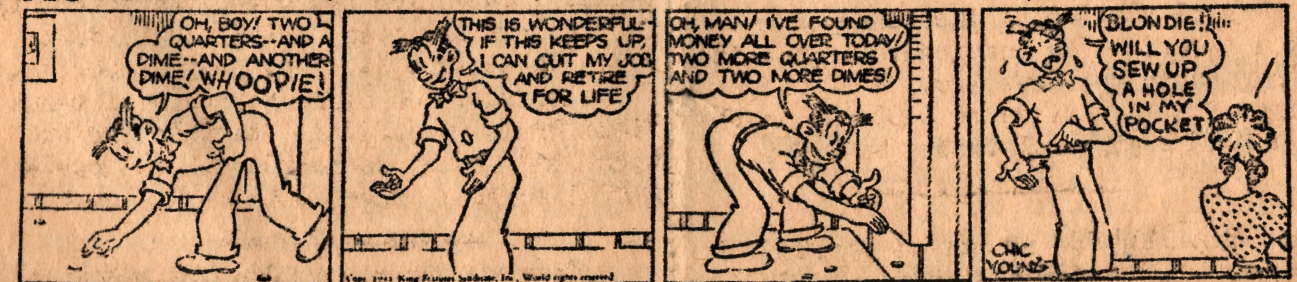
Cocking his carbine, Elmer approached cautiously until he could see a small piece of blanket sticking out of the hole. While another soldier with him went back for reinforcements, Elmer maintained a vigilant guard over the opening!

In the meantime Sgt. Wicks ordered whoever was inside to come out or he would pour bullets down the hole. Then grabbing an end of the blanket, he engaged in a tug of war with the holed up Japanese. With a great display of strength he finally managed to drag out a half-starved old Japanese woman who had been hiding there for over a week subsisting on a few beans.

### ITALIAN FRONT SHOWS LIFE

\*\*\*Apr 10-- The long dormant Italian front showed signs of life today as Fifth Army troops captured Mt. Belvedere, 3,000 feet peak and drove within 2 miles of Mas

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U. S. COMPARES NAHA LINE TO SIEGFRIED

\*\*\*Apr 11--San Francisco Radio has quoted a Tenth Army staff officer as saying that the Jap defense line near Naha is so strong it can be compared with the Siegfried Line. Every available Marine and Army big gun is being used to pound these positions. Leather-neck artillery not needed in the northern sector of Okinawa has been brought to the front lines of the XXIV Army Corps.

Stateside news credited guns of United States warships with blasting Nip strongpoints. Marine fighter planes based on two captured airfields, are also attacking the Naha line.

Home news about Okinawa strongly resembles in tone, dispatches received from Europe during the western front stall preceding the Ardennes breakthrough.

DEADEYES: (Cont'd from Page One)

artillery falling in their area the "Leaders" of Col M. L. Dill fought against the bitterest resistance yet encountered in their zone of action during the Okinawa Campaign. Supported by tanks until heavy rain bogged them down late in the day and delayed by machine gun fire along their route of advance the stalwarts pushed in their area and the 2nd battalion under Lt. Col Sterner and Capt J. Harbison had one of the fiercest actions in the sector during the afternoon.

Weather conditions rendered the air support which had been planned useless since planes could not fly their missions.

In the 7th Division sector, progress was not as great. On the right flank of this unit no advance was made although numerous caves and pill boxes were mopped up and mines removed from the areas. On the left flank an advance of about 400 yards was made against light resistance from the Japanese.

RED ARMY PLUNGES ON TOWARD MUNICH

\*\*\*Apr 11--Red Army forces beyond Vienna headed today for Munich and Prague, and link-up with Allied armies in the West. Inside Vienna, Soviet storm units battled the Germans for the last few blocks in the city. Moscow Radio said "the fall of Vienna is imminent."

Far to the north, other Russian troops along the Baltic coast captured the East Prussian capital of Koenigsberg after a massive 33 hour barrage which opened three lines of fortifications. Koenigsberg is known as the cradle of Prussian militarism. Seizure of Koenigsberg was hailed in the Russian press as one of the great victories of the war, comparable to breaching the Siegfried Line in the West.

NINTH ARMY: (Cont'd from Page One)

have found no German opposition of any consequence. Their advance has been limited only by the ability of their troops to keep up with mechanized units. There is the distinct possibility that Hodges' First and Patton's Third armies will meet Russian spearheads now driving up from Czechoslovakia.

With the British and Canadians cutting off Holland and northwestern Germany, it appears that Germany will be cut into three large segments. One segment is the Holland area cut by the British, while the other two portions will be formed of north central and south central Germany when the Allied armies meet the Russians.

96TH BOX SCORE OF GOOD JAPS

Total for April 10.....	378
Okinawa Total.....	3,044
Leyte Campaign Total.....	7,341
Grand Total to Date.....	10,385

Juliet, dearest, I'm burning with love for you. --Come now, Romeo, don't make a fool of yourself

# UNIT REPORTERS COLUMN

T/5 R. Drechsler; T/5 J. Gordon; T/5 J. Murphy; T/5 N. Hutton. (Unit Reporters)

AT CO, 383rd INF

AT Co is proud to announce that it has finally come into its own on this operation. Its three gun platoons have been on the front lines continuously, and the weapon of S/Sgt Kui Lincoln, Honolulu, Hawaii, has already taken toll of a Jap seventy-five, two pillboxes, a pig, and a low-flying grouse. The 4th platoon has been removing quickly-placed Jap mines, and now have five pounders to their credit. These recent events have already somewhat obliterated the memory of Leyte's ignominious days of ration-carrying.

While rolling down from the hills on the evening of the 3rd day, the AT trucks chanced to pass by the I&R Platoon's location what a sight greeted the eye! Two of the I&R crew were welding shovels, excavating subterranean vaults for the approaching evening, and four others were busily engaged in a chalk talk on the better points of softball. They state that they have been saving plenty of yen for that approaching game with AT Co, -- and have but one stipulation to make before final negotiations may be arranged: the game must be played on a cloudy day, with the likely possibility that it will rain like hell at any minute.

by Gene Dapron, AT Co  
383rd Inf

"TRUE INFANTRYMAN"

Pfc Virgil Ramsey, Company "K", 381st Inf, of Davenport, Iowa is an ammo bearer of a mortar squad. A few days ago Virgil won the grace and admiration of his

comrades in an action that proved he is a man "to ride the River with The Company had been advancing steadily on exceedingly rough terrain all day. Ramsey, along with him comrades of the weapons platoon was almost exhausted after a long climb up a steep hill. Suddenly, the leading platoon of the Company came under heavy enemy fire, and received a number of casualties. Upon hearing the call for help to carry out the wounded, exhausted as he was, Ramsey dropped his ammo bag and rushed forward to give aid. He helped carry two men out of exposed positions and returned all the way to the bottom of the hill with another. When the wounded man was safely delivered to the aid station Ramsey collapsed from sheer physical exhaustion. From such action can be credited the probability of saving a man's life.---Our hats off to Ramsey!

Co K, 381st Inf.

"DEADEYE ACCURACY"

A Japanese message was intercepted in a rather unique manner today. It was getting along toward dusk when sharp-eyed Pfc Wm Scritchfield, Co B, of Searcy, Ark., exclaimed, "Here come a carrier pigeon and there's a note tied to its leg! There was a quick debate, and it was decided that the pigeon should join his feathery ancestors for the benefit of Army Intelligence. When the luckless bird landed in a nearby tree, Sgt Russell Steimle, took careful aim, and with true "Deadeye" accuracy, shot and killed the bird. The bird was quickly sent to the rear, bird hunting Steimle has been assured that it has definite value.

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RESTRICTED  
DEAD EYE DISPATCH

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CENSORSHIP RULES CHANGE

Announced yesterday were the newest censorship rules which state that no mention of Okinawa or the Ryukyus may be made in letters of Deadeyes. Reason for the sudden shift was a discrepancy between press and mail censorship and it was explained that as soon as Admiral Nimitz makes known the presence of the Deadeyes in news releases, we will be able again to state our location. The DISPATCH will let you know when such release has been made.

An encouraging note was that all letters mailed up to and including yesterday, April 10th, were sent directly to San Francisco with no censorship other than that of company officers and the base censors, according to Lt. Stevens, Chief Base Censor. Anyone who sent a letter mentioning Okinawa before that time can be reasonably sure that their families or friends are informed as to his whereabouts. Mail continues to leave regularly.

LOST

One plain brown leather wallet, containing credentials and American currency, photographs and other valuables. Belonging to Ed Thomas of United Press. Lost in the "front" area, two days ago. Contact I&ED, extension 300.

One bedding roll belonging to Lt. A. Marcus, marked 94854A, G-2, JOB. Contact Division G-2.

ALLIED BOMBINGS PAY OFF

\*\*\*Apr 11--New York Herald Tribune correspondent Seymour Freidin has answered the oft posed question: "Of what value are the thousand plane bomber raids on Germany's large cities?" Freidin reported yesterday that terrible devastation poured by Allied bombers on the German city of Hamm had kept that city's railway marshalling yards -- Germany's largest -- nearly inoperative.

Excerpts of Freidin's story follow: "The destruction of this bombed out city of the Ruhr area and its twisted rail-yards was complete. Not a pane of glass in the railway station was unbroken. Cars earmarked for Eastern Germany lay in splinters. Practically every line of track was broken and torn, while the cables were strewn over the shattered rails."

ANYONE SEEN SWEENEY?

A copy of the Division History ordered for Mrs. Marieta Sweeney, Lock Box, No. 363, Woodside, Ill., has been returned to the publishers marked "No such address. No return address was given the Division PRO when the book was ordered. If the soldier who placed the order will send the correct address to the PRO, the book will be remailed."

NEATEST TRICK OF THE WEEK

(From "Love is Waiting" in the K.C. Star. "But perhaps you don't believe me," "Gosh," he said silently. From the New Yorker.

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SWEDEN SHUTS DOOR ON FLEEING NAZIS

\*\*\*Apr 11--United Press reported from London today that Sweden has shut the door to fleeing Germans in a move "obviously designed to prevent Nazi war criminals from slipping into the country in the guise of refugees." German refugees who have arrived in the past few days will be deported unless they are found to be genuine deserters from the German armed forces, or in poor health, the Swedish government stated.

Sweden's action left Switzerland the only neutral haven adjoining German or German-occupied countries for German refugees. A Bern Switzerland broadcast yesterday said Switzerland would continue to welcome "unfortunate and innocent victims of this war" but added bluntly that she is firmly determined not to accept on her territory any foreigners who have trespassed on the elementary laws of human rights. This would leave her an opening under which she could refuse entry to any Nazis wanted by Allied courts.

AMERICAN POW'S RETURN HOME

\*\*\*Apr 11--At an East Coast port, the first large group of American war prisoners to return from Germany sat down to a good Yankee banquet yesterday. They were 1,500 Yanks liberated from German prison camps by Russian forces. The cheering soldiers trundled down the gang plank and made almost as much noise as the band that was there to welcome them. After the chow, which was steak and ice-cream with all the trimmings, the men retired to catch up on the news. They have been processed and are now awaiting for furloughs which are being arranged for them.

Small Fry: "Mama, where do elephants come from? -- and don't stall me off with that gag about the stork."

RECORD NUMBER OF NAZI PLANES DESTROYED  
ITALIAN FRONT FLAMES INTO ACTION

\*\*\*Apr 11--Fighter pilots of the Eighth Air Force set a new all-time record Tuesday by destroying 245 Nazi planes, all but 18 of them on the ground. The score was made as more than 2,000 Allied bombers and fighters carried the offensive against German airfields into the fourth day. The previous record for German planes destroyed in one day both on the ground and in the air was 177 set in September of last year.

Allied planes of the 12th and 15th Air Forces in Italy have given German positions north of the Senio River the heaviest pounding of the Italian campaign, even surpassing Cassino. After the aerial blasting, British 8th Army troops jumped off on a new offensive supported by hundreds of artillery pieces. The drive is aimed at destruction of as much as possible of the German army in Italy before it can withdraw into the southern mountains of Germany.

GOERING AND HIMMLER CASHING IN

\*\*\*Apr 11--Undaunted by the prospect of immediate defeat, Nazi party heads are already working on plans for a Third World War. Working with other Allied governments to completely destroy the Nazi program, the American State Department is well aware of these plans.

Assistant Secretary of State Julius Holmes, in a radio address, disclosed the Nazi plot to export skilled German technicians, patents, stolen art and gold during the peace era to soften up the Allies for another conflict. Technical experts would attempt to get into key industries to learn the latest developments.

World Public Enemies Himmler and Goering are trying to cash in on works of art and other valuables in foreign countries. Before they can use the money, however, they must escape from Germany undetected, they are under the eyes of Allied agents.

# UNIT REPORTERS COLUMN

T/5 R. Drechsler; T/5 J. Gordon; T/5 P. Jurick; T/5 N. Hotton. (Unit Reporters)

## EM CO ROLLS BACK JAP COUNTERATTACK

E Co of Colonel May's 383rd Inf led the 2nd Bn assault on a hotly defended ridge east of Ginowan, Friday afternoon. 1st Lt. Robert L. Marshall's platoon was in the fore and Sgt Joe Arnold led the entire company up the ridge. He killed two Japs in the advance. Heavy enemy mortar fire on the slope of the ridge had to be outflanked. There were an estimated 100 Japs on the ridge. They throw grenade sticks near Lt. Marshall. He in turn threw a grenade into a cave occupied by a Jap but missed him. However, the Jap took one of his own grenades clutched it to his chest and blow himself up. Several other Japs also committed this form of suicide. The ridge was secured by mid afternoon.

Capt Jesse R. Thomas, Gainesville, Florida, dug in his company for the night. When the Japs laid down artillery fire, E Co men spotted four 75's about 900 to 1200 yards ahead. This information enabled our artillery to knock out three of the guns.

## NEW LIEUTENANT PROVES WORTH

2nd Lt. Magnett C. O'Shea, Manhattan, Kansas, displayed by his super handling of his H Co, 383rd Inf mortar section the soundness of commissioning veteran non-coms in the field. The new lieutenant was commissioned about a month ago, just before we left Leyte. He had been a sergeant in Lt. "Red" Hymers' regimental I&R Platoon.

Sunday morning his section spotted a large Jap patrol advancing toward his position. The H Co mortarmen loosed a salvo on the Japs with perfect effect. Approximately 55 Japs were bagged including two officers. The large amount of material seized consisted of 10 mortars, 3 machine guns, 32 Lugers, etc.

## POLISH DEAD EYES GAIN FAME

"Czy ty jestes Polak." That means "are you a Pole or of Polish descent?" According to Cpl Frank Spaak, 363rd Field Artillery Battalion, who is acting as a correspondent for the Polish Daily Zgoda, 7% of the Division are in that category.

Cpl Spaak sends his copy involving stories about Polish Deadeyes to the Polish Daily Zgoda, published in Chicago and which is the official organ of the Polish National Alliance. His stories are then syndicated by Joseph Kowal, the editor of the Zgoda to eight Polish publications in Milwaukee, St. Paul, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Boston and to the Polish Hour over WEDC, Chicago.

Cpl Spaak, who is a former Chicago newspaper man, estimates the total circulation of the Polish press to be over 800,000.

## "LUCK STORY"

On L-Day plus 1, Pfc Michael Siwek, Company K, of Chicago, Ill., was hit in the shoulder. When asked by his CO how he felt, he replied, "It's only a scratch (The bullet had gone through his shoulder by the shoulder blades). After receiving first aid, Siwek started back to the fight, refusing assistance in any way. On Leyte, Siwek received a wound on his lip and then too refused to go to the rear. From now on, the men will refer to him as "Lucky Jake".

Co K, 381st Inf.

## LOS ANGELES WILL HOLD WORLD'S FAIR IN '49

In the midst of the war, Los Angeles home of wacky ideas, announces that a World's Fair will be held in 1949 to commemorate the discovery of gold in California.

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STAFF: Editorial and Combat Writing: T/4 Sid Meyer, T/4 Joe Hannasch, Pfc Gil Feinstein, Pfc Joseph Kahl, Pvt Leo G. Reeler. Administrative and Reproduction: Sgt Joseph Bartoszek, T/4 James F. Koon, T/5 William L. Eubank. Signal Intercept: S/Sgt Calvin Clements, S/Sgt Emil Dargis. Art: Pvt A.A. Foreman, Pvt N.L. Kirk.

Officer in Charge - Capt D. W. Millsaps, Jr.

## PURPOSE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

Mention of the forthcoming San Francisco World Conference has appeared many times recently in the news, but to most readers the exact purpose of this meeting is rather hazy. To clear up some of the public questions about this World Conference, the New York Times has listed what the conference is to accomplish, and what it is not. From the Times we quote:

"The meeting is NOT to be:

1. A peace conference;
2. A Conference to enumerate settlements of post-war economic social or political problems of the world;
3. A boundaries commission;
4. A court of last resort on cases of any colonies and mandates, including colonies and mandates of enemy powers.
5. A drafting committee of a new code of international law;
6. A reparations commission;
7. An AMG or immediate non-military supervision of Germany and Japan.
8. A war criminals commission or court.

"The Conference IS to be:

1. A meeting to agree on details of a world security league for the post war era, including,
  - a. An economic council as machinery to adjust later developments in this field dealing among nations.
  - b. States for a world court.
  - c. Trusteeship for colonies and mandates of enemy nations.

"Beyond these duties and responsibilities, with the possible addition of some minor points, the San Francisco World Conference has none. Its objective is to set up an organization which, when necessary treaties are ratified by enough nations, will be authorized to employ its enumerated powers to maintain peace in a world situation as it then exists. This is a large, delicate and difficult task and a heavy enough burden. It includes working out a voting system for a proposed security council which will appear to large and small nations as fair."

## SPECIALISTS WILL AID YANK DELEGATION TO WORLD CONFERENCE

Forty-two American organizations have been invited to send consultants to assist the 8 members of the American delegation to the San Francisco Conference. The groups represent agriculture, labor, business, professional and civic leaders. These men will pay their own expenses but will be helped by the State Department. The American position on each issue will be determined by a majority vote, according to the Secretary of State. Neutral countries may not send observers.