

THE DEADEYE



DISPATCH

FIRST TO
THE FRONT

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REDS OPEN BERLIN DRIVE!

U.S. NINTH FIGHTS BACK ACROSS ELBE

Apr 18(ANS)—After they had been pushed back into the Elbe River with heavy losses American tanks and troops of the Ninth Army battered their way back to the east bank and fought five miles beyond the river. Other Ninth Army forces burst across the river farther north at Havelberg, only 45 miles northwest of Berlin and 94 miles from the Soviet lines.

Third Army tanks and infantry laid siege to Chemnitz, battled seven miles from the Czech border and thrust a steel fist within thirty miles of Dresden. The Third is now 85 miles from the Red Army.

Forty thousand German troops are defending Leipzig against the American First Army. The U.S. First hammered up to seven miles south of the great fortress which has been swollen by one million refugees.

Nuernberg, second largest Bavarian city and former Nazi convention center, was invested with Seventh Army troops. They were fighting in Nuernberg's streets after capturing Lauf, eight miles to the north.

British troops of Marshal Montgomery's command advanced 18 miles on a 20 mile front southeast of Bremen. They cut the last rail line between Bremen and the traffic hub of Soltau. In Holland, trapped and desperate Germans breached the dikes holding back the Zuider Zee.

Near the Atlantic coast, General
(Cont'd on Page Two)

"ACH, THIS IS IT": HITLER

Apr 18(ANS)—Adolph Hitler, calling for a death stand, announced Monday night that the Third White Russian Army had opened its final all out offensive against Berlin. As he spoke, the thunder of 1,000 Russian guns shook the Nazi capital and Soviet troops won high ground only 23 miles away. Berlin reports indicated that four Red armies with perhaps 2,000,000 men were on the move.

Unofficial reports to the Soviet press also hinted that the long awaited offensive had begun. Soviet historian Eugene Tarle, in a talk over Moscow Radio, said the attack on Berlin had been opened, from the east and west. The Red Army was reported making steady progress east of Berlin. It has overcome great chains of anti-tank defenses and an elaborate system of underground defenses. This indicated the opening phase of the final offensive.

Marshal Stalin made no mention of the Berlin front in his order of the day. The Second Ukraine Army captured Zisterdorf, Austrian oil producing center twenty six miles northeast of Vienna. Other Soviet forces were pushing up the road to Bruenn in Czechoslovakia and on separate fronts toward Linz and Graz.

As the American Ninth Army pushes in 45 miles west of Berlin, that capital faces imminent siege from two sides.

April 18, 1945.

DEADEYE DISPATCH

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DONUTERS REACH 30,000 MARK

Bringing all the materials from Leyte with the foresight born of a battle Service Company of the 382nd Infantry were ready by the third day of this campaign to deliver donuts and coffee to the fighters at the front every day. Up to now, some 30,000 donuts and 1500 gallons of coffee have been served from their "Donut Dugout" and taken by them to the lines.

They have perfected their procedure by now and got the welcomed items ready to leave their interesting CP by 1300 each day. During the wet cold nights of the first offensive here the doughfeet really knew who was backing them up. The names of all the men involved in the wholesale cooking were given to the war correspondents and a story went to each of their home-town papers through the Public Relations Office of the Deadeyes.

LOST

One 4" x 8" color photograph of a woman and baby. In waterproof wrapping. Also baby's shoe. Only mementos of home this soldier carried. Call I & ED, 382nd Inf.



SOUVENIR

by B. Freedman

The perils that lie in wait for confirmed souvenir hunters are graphically illustrated by the recent experience encountered by T/5 Clayton "Slim" Neilson and T/4 Melvin Moore, both of C Btry, 302nd FA Bn.

During a tour of the battalion area, Neilson accompanied by Moore, came across a cave just inside the entrance of which could be seen a woven straw suitcase.

Despite the fact that the entrance was an opening only large enough to permit a man to crawl through, "Slim" was determined upon examining the suitcase. He stands well over six feet, so it was with difficulty that he squeezed his way in. Moore, meanwhile, remained outside and waited.

Slim had just gotten to his feet inside and was about to open the suitcase. Suddenly from a dark corner of the cave a Jap soldier leaped up at him. Slim let out a yell, "There's a Jap inside!" and on all fours lit for the outside closely followed by the Jap who emerged with upraised arms.

Alerted by Neilson's warning shout, Moore was ready. He never wavered. Suspecting the advancing Jap of treachery he fired his carbine point-blank at him discharging nine rounds, one after the other into his body.

A subsequent search of the dead soldier produced a Jap flag and three medals evidently connoting three campaigns. The suitcase contained old rags - and nothing else.

"Slim" Neilson has a prediliction for finding excitement wherever he goes. Not long ago, as a member of a Forward Observer party, he slept one night in a cave at the front. Only later, did he learn that he had been sleeping atop an anti-personnel mine.

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April 19, 1945.

WESTERN FRONT: (Cont'd from Page One)

Jacques LeClerc's French Second Armored Division captured Royan in a drive up the Gironde Estuary. The French forces are attempting to free the Nazi held port of Bordeaux.

With Allied forces besieging Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig and Bremen, the overall picture was one of tanks and men assaulting large, isolated resistance pockets where Nazi commanders intend to fight to the last man. The Nazis were holding up in one of Germany's last major cities.

BURNING TOKYO RAIDED AGAIN

APR 18 (ANS)—Superfortresses on April 17 blasted six enemy aircraft staging bases on the Japanese home island of Kyushu, following destruction of at least 204 Jap planes in yesterday's all-day battle in the skies between Okinawa and Kyushu. A large force of B-29's swept out from bases against six airfields at Kanoya, East Kanoya, Izumi, Kokubu, and Nitagahara at the southern end of Kyushu.

AP stated that "unlike their fire attacks of Saturday and Monday when B-29's hit industrial areas in and around Tokyo, today's attackers loosed demolition bombs on enemy air installations. A tactical campaign to knock out Kyushu's airfields was launched Sunday by carrier planes when they destroyed 87 enemy planes. Carrier fighters struck again Monday destroying 22 enemy aircraft. They were followed by another sweep of Iwo based Army Mustangs. Results of the strike are not yet available.

A conflagration visible from more than 100 miles at sea raged in Tokyo Monday following the Saturday B-29 fire attack. The fires from that attack were still blazing when Monday's raiders roared in. 27 square miles of Tokyo had been devastated. 20th Air Force said 11 of our giant bombers are missing, but added that some of them may turn up later. B-29 staff officers at Guam believe they can bring all Tokyo war production to a standstill.

OKINAWA PICTURE

STATESIDE NEWS RELEASES

American invasion of Ie Island ju off the Motobu Peninsula on Okinawa was made against initially light opposition which stiffened as the Yanks drove inland. Most of the island has been secured. It is only about five miles long and over two miles wide. Twenty Fourth Army Corps units have already seized the four strip airfield with runways up to 5,110 feet. Ie Island is important because American seizure of its airfield will provide a bomber base for operations against Japan. American invaders of the island stated that the estimated 1,000 men Japanese garrison was virtually encircled on the heights at the southern corner of the island.

There was almost no change in positions along the southern sector of Okinawa, where the artillery carried the burden of activity. On the northern sector, the Marines pushed steadily northward, at the same time reducing resistance on Motobu Peninsula. The Leathernecks of the Sixth Marine Division enveloped the pocket of 1,800 to 2,500 Japanese on Motobu Peninsula.

JAPS TRY AERIAL STRIKE

Japanese air power took another heavy defeat yesterday with the loss 204 planes in its third unsuccessful attempt in three days to hurl a large aerial armada against American shipping and amphibious forces at Okinawa. UP correspondent Frank Tremain stated, "Blazing battles were fought between American and Japanese pilots in the skies along a 360 mile front between Okinawa and Kyushu. Navy gunners on ships ranging from gunboats to carrier of the Essex class joined in the fight

"The battle lasted all day. Jap planes trying desperately to reach the U.S. Fleet were sent hurtling in flame into the sea." At Admiral Turner's flagship it was stated that the result of this attack brought the toll of Jap planes in the last month to 2,626.

April 18, 1945.

UNIT REPORTERS COLUMN

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

WHEN THEY THREW THE KITCHEN SINK

T/Sgt R.T. Fitzgerald

Although most of the situations Cannon company has seen have been on the grim side here have been lighter moments.

First Sergeant Ernest Kinsley, Winter cousin, checking his perimeter in the earlier stages of the campaign noticed a hole in the side of a wall. Investigation seemed to be called for so the top kick went to look into the orifice. He lost several of the future summers of his life when a pair of eyes stared back at him calling up the reserves of Company Headquarters.

He widened the breach and in the staccato tones of a First Sergeant demanded the culprit to come out or receive a grenade in his lap. Immediately recognizing a First Sergeant's wish is a command, a plant eyed house cat leisurely came out and rubbed himself against Kinsley's legs.

Pfc Leland Kokon sat in his foxhole the same night and listened to shots following some quarry down the ridge line in front of him. Being on the alert he peered into the night awaiting his adversary who he was sure would come from his front. The next thing that could be recorded, was a wild screech, perhaps a war cry from some Missouri tribe of Indians as Kokon swung his rifle at a Nip who wanted to share his foxhole with him. It was too late to fire for the skulker had come up behind him. With a Joe DiMaggio swing Kokon tried for home run on the Nips head. His yellow foxhole mate was pretty fast though for he was out of the hole and had himself already shot by the men in another foxhole before Kokon could finish the follow thru of his swing.

Pfc Russ Colbourn, Goose Creek, Texas, was had two antennas shot off his radio. He and your Cannon correspondent heard that shine the other day and started chewing dust. When we dug out of the mud and the smoke cleared we were on the lip of a 15-foot crater. Colbourn said, "That was the kitchen sink".

"LUCKY" BOLAN

There's an old saying about the "Luck of the Irish" and it was proven true once again by Lt. Robert Bolan, the commander of "Charley" company in Col. Dill's regiment. In the battalion attack on "Tombstone Ridge" a few days ago, Lt. Bolan was leading his company up one slope of the hill when he was struck in the shoulder by a heavy metal object which, upon examination, proved to be a round from a Nip knee mortar — a dud. A direct hit from a knee mortar normally would be "curtains" for the recipient and Lt. Bolan was quite happy about getting off with only a broken collarbone.

"YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN"

Three members of Company D of Col. Dill's "Leaders" were lying in their foxhole the other night hoping that the Japs had run out of artillery ammunition and that they would then be able to enjoy a quiet night. Sgt. J. W. Caton was evidently quite confident that that would be the case because he was calmly going ahead with his task of drafting letters of condolence for the men in his company "I was wondering whether I ought to write one for myself just in case, when this shell landed," said Sgt. Caton. For while he was writing a shell landed about five feet outside of his hole, burying him and his two buddies, Pfc Thies and Pvt Schnitzius under about four feet of earth. The men were knocked unconscious by the dirt but regained consciousness in about a half minute and began yelling for help as best they could with the limited air and the weight of the dirt. Men from neighboring holes immediately went to work and began digging them out, using their hands as they were afraid of injuring the buried men if they used shovels.