

THE DEADEYE



DISPATCH

FIRST TO
THE FRONT

7 April, 1945. PUBLISHED BY THE 96TH DIV I&D. Tel Ext-300 Vol. 4. No. 7

BRADLEY PUSHES SOUTH

REDS HOT -- KOISO QUILTS

Apr 6—Two hard blows shook the Japanese Empire yesterday. Moscow let the boom down by announcing that the Soviet Union would not renew its neutrality pact with Japan on April 25; then Tokyo revealed that Chief of State Premier Koiso and his entire cabinet had resigned from office.

Russia's reason for abandoning her neutrality with Japan struck a menacing note for the Nips. The Soviet State Department had called in the Japanese representative in Moscow yesterday. He was informed by the Soviets that since the United States and Britain were Russia's allies, it would not be appropriate for the Soviet Union to agree to neutrality with Japan, who is at war with the U. S. and Britain. In Washington, our own State Department made only this brief comment, "We are pleased."

The State Department, as well as millions of GI's, was also pleased to witness the sudden resignation of Jap Premier Koiso, known affectionately to his confederates as the "Tiger". Filling in for Premier Tojo after the Japanese debacle at Saipan, the "Tiger" had reorganized his present cabinet four times in an effort to hold the Jap ship of state together. Altho many had wondered how he withstood the disasters of the Philippines and Iwo Jima, informed sources believed that Japan could not

(Cont'd On Page Two)

DEADEYES GAIN AGAINST FIRST RESISTANCE

***Apr 6—Pouring fire and men toward the southern end of Okinawa, Major General J. L. Bradley's Deadeyes yesterday pushed against the first real organized enemy force yet encountered by any of our forces, Army or Marines on Okinawa.

His forces have killed more than any comparable unit so far according to all available reports. To April 5th he has accounted for 1,151 Japanese. The III Amphibious Corps has accounted for 694 Japanese for the same period and the 7th Division for 536.

Aided by naval air strikes of excellent precision the attack moved out this morning early and a large gain is expected today.

In the sector of Col. E. T. May an enemy counterattack was destroyed during mid-afternoon yesterday before it reached the stage where it could be called effective. By courageous actions men of the 2nd Battalion nipped the Japanese force of an estimated company before they could damage our well-organized advance. The regiment gained 400 yards and pushed hard into caves and pill-box positions, in the vicinity of Uchitomari. (See map on Page Three). The developing counter-attack was supported by three enemy tanks, one of which was destroyed.

By afternoon, an estimated Japanese battalion was opposing our positions southwest of Ginowan. This is the

(Cont'd on Page Three)

6 April, 1945.

5.

MAY LAUNCHES ATTACK ON CORPS OBJECTIVE

by Pfc Joseph A. Kahl

April 4 -- The 2nd Battalion of May's Infantry shoved off at 0830 this morning from a ridge below Futema to attack down the valley toward the Corps Objective across the neck of the island above Naha.

I went up to the advance OP just before the shove off with T/5 Abel, FO press photographer. There I found the battalion commander, Major Prosser Clark, perched up on top of a large rock jutting forward from the peak of a hill overlooking the entire valley down which the assault was to go. Beside him was Lt. Leigh, S-2, Pfc Payte, telephone operator, and Pfc Taylor, radio man. The panorama stretched below us was like a demonstration for a Benning OCS class -- and we were in the best seats.

Capt George A. McCaffrey's company was moving down the left, almost to the road which marked the boundary of the regiment. Capt Irvin T. Larson's men extended to the right. Five Sherman's of Company "C" of Col. Edmonson's tanks, were in position amidst the infantry. Capt Jesse Thomas' heavy weapons were in support.

At 0830 the advance began. The infantry moved forward, tensely watching the dumps of trees hiding houses which might be pillboxes. Suddenly an enemy machine gun opened up directly to the front. One of our heavies put in several bursts of tracers, which set the house on fire. An artillery shell completed the job, and made the place much too hot for the Nips.

Soon heavy machine gun fire swept McCaffrey from his left flank, pinning down the company. Maj. Clark was worried about the high ridge which extended about 600 yards ahead of our left front. He called over Lt (jg) Art Maisinger naval liaison officer, and the two of them gave me a lesson in the uses of naval gunfire and field artillery. "The naval fire is not quite as accurate, so

I will use it to sweep that ridge in order to eliminate any possible fire from that sector," the Major said. "At the same time, I can use pin-point artillery to knock out that other machine gun nest that we just picked up"

A few orders over the JASCO radio to a destroyer, and back to the field artillery of Lt. Col. Glenn, and both missions were perfectly executed.

Just then, the OP came under machine gun fire. We hugged the ground much closer, but couldn't give up this perfect vantage point.

At 1010 we sighted the forces of Col. M. L. Dill's men coming up the left hand road. They were headed by nine tanks, jeeps and trucks. A whole convoy with the enemy right ahead! They pulled under cover until the tanks and foot troops could clear the way. "I feel a hell of a lot more comfortable now", the Major commented.

A contact patrol was sent out, and by 1115 it was arranged that our battalion with Lt. Col. Cyril D. Sterner's battalion would move forward and eliminate the machine guns holding down McCaffrey. The movement continued, it was by the outpost resistance of the strong defense line across the neck of the island. There they waited until our entire forces, to be joined by other troops, could continue down towards Naha.

Thus ran the story of what happened when stalwart Deadeye's approached the first strong Jap line to be met by the Tenth Army on Okinawa.

Most people nowadays have more respect for "old age" if it is bottled.

April 7, 1945.

JAPAN'S KOISO: (Cont'd from P. One)

withstand another cabinet change and that Koiso would remain in office as long as possible. As his reason for stepping down, Koiso gave the swift advance of American troops on Okinawa Island.

In Koiso's place, enters 77 year old Admiral Hiroto Suzuki, former Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Navy. As grave dissension has existed for some time between the Army and Navy, Suzuki's appointment is viewed as a political face-slapping for the Jap Army Staff.

Aged Admiral Suzuki takes over a government whose Navy has been virtually crushed by the American Pacific Fleet. He now faces the problem of stemming the American advance in the Ryukyus, as well as keeping Japan's supply lines up to at least a trickle.

AMERICAN BLOCKADE COMPLETE: MACARTHUR

General MacArthur has proclaimed that the American blockade against Jap shipping is now in complete operation. Confirming his proclamation, escorted heavy bombers made their first concerted strike at Hong Kong, hit the dock areas with 126 tons and returned to their bases without losing a single plane. Planes on blockade duty from Shanghai to Indo-China also sank or damaged 28 Jap ships, including the destruction of a destroyer escort and a 10,000 ton tanker. MacArthur said that the seizure of Tawitawi harbor in the Sulu Archipelago has severed the Japanese life line to the East Indies, thus putting the blockade in complete operation.

Troops of the 40th Inf Division have landed on Masbate Island, west of Samar and are rapidly securing the entire island with the help of Filipino patriot forces.

In other actions in the Philippines American doughboys continued to advance. On Negros an airfield was captured while the 32nd Division gained 10 miles on Luzon.

ALLIES TIGHTEN RUHR POCKET

***Apr 6--General Simpson's Ninth Army has reached the Weser River and is 38 miles from Hannover. With Ninth Army troops fighting in Hamm and five miles from Dortmund, they are compressing the Ruhr pocket from the north into a strong trap. Gen. Hodges' First Army to the south tightened its hold on the Ruhr trap from below with an advance of three miles. It is reported that Marshal Kesselring, German Commander on the Western Front, is caught in the Ruhr encirclement along with an estimated 110,000 Germans. Units of the American Ninth Army overran a German tank firing-ground and discovered a new super "Tiger" tank mounting a 155 mm gun. The super tank is 12 feet high and has tracks three feet wide.

On the far northern end of the Western Front, Canadian troops moved up to Arnhem and reached points within 20 miles of the Zuider Zee. The British Second Army is still operating under a partial news blackout, but dispatches indicate that the Tommies have crossed the lower Weser and Ems River and are now dashing on to Bremen and Emden, less than 55 miles away.

Still rolling without letup are the powerful armored units of Patton's Third Army, slashing their way inside central Germany to within 130 miles of Berlin. Third Army troops captured the war-factor city of Kassel, as well as Gotha and Suhl. Gotha fell without a shot when the German broke out white flags a half hour before the Fourth Armored Division was to begin its attack. The 2,000 Germans who had been estimated to be holding the city fled the night before. An example of Nazi confusion at Kassel is shown by the report of German reinforcements marching into the waiting arms of American troops and surrendering without resistance.

Fatch's Seventh Army has pushed to within 34 miles of Nuernberg. The French First Army took the important city of Karlsruhe. At present, the Germans are losing over two divisions a day in prisoners alone. Five of the nine Allied armies on Wednesday took over 26,000 prisoners.

6 April, 1945.

WAR MANPOWER BILL SQUASHED

***Apr 5--The United States Senate rejected the War Manpower Bill by a vote of 46 to 21 last Tuesday. Designed to provide penalties for employers and workers who refused to cooperate with the government's intention to keep workers on essential jobs, the bill had passed the House last week. Although it was a compromise measure, the Senate turned thumbs down on the bill. According to the Associated Press, there is now no prospect of any manpower legislation at all.

MARINE COMMANDANT NOW A 4-STAR GENERAL

***Apr 5--The Senate confirmed on Tuesday the promotion of Lt. General Alexander Vandergrift, Marine Corps Commandant, to the rank of four-star general. Also approved by the Senate was the promotion of Richard Edwards and Thomas Kinkaid to the rank of Admiral.

COAL SHORTAGE AND COLD IN U. S.

***Apr 5--The soft coal mining industry shut down in many parts of the country Tuesday in spite of a 30 day extension of the old union contract. Blame in many cases was placed on slow delivery of telegrams notifying miners of the extension. Fuel Administration expected coal production to be back to normal by Thursday.

Meanwhile, residents in the northern half of the United States settled down to endure another cold wave as temperatures fall rapidly from the Great Lakes region to as far southwest as New Mexico.

Two small negro boys were sitting on a curb. One turned to the other and said, "Ah's five, how old is yo?" "Ah doan know. Ah guess ah's five too." Does yo dream of winnin?" "Nope" --"Yo's only foh."

MAY WOUNDED, BUT FIGHTS ON

***Apr 5--Colonel E. T. May, leader of the Deadeye 383rd Regiment was yesterday wounded by mortar fire but he resisted all suggestions of medical officers that he retire for treatment. Immediately after he had been bandaged Col. May returned to the front to take his troops forward in their sweeping drive against the Japanese lines.

The wounds were described as "slight" and it is believed that Col. May will be recovered very shortly.

During the afternoon, Col. May's troops were opposed by the strongest resistance yet encountered by a Deadeye regiment in her battle history. South of Uchitomari the first well-organized Japanese position slowed his advance before nightfall.

RAILWAY CONDUCTOR HAD 12 WIVES

***Apr 5--Tommy Mansville and a few other may have had quite a number of wives in their day, but they played it safe and married one at a time. Not so with railway conductor Van Wie, who had 12 wives all at the same time. In San Francisco, the Superior court jury ruled that Van Wie may have married 12 women, but that he kept his sanity through it all.

The 54 year old railway conductor was found guilty on three counts of bigamy after being tried a second time on his plea of insanity. Van Wie admitted marrying 12 times without benefit of divorce. He contended that he was mentally incompetent because he was kicked in the head by a mule, clouted on the skull with an ax, and dropped 65 feet from a smokestack. The jury, however, believed there was a method in his madness and found him guilty of bigamy.

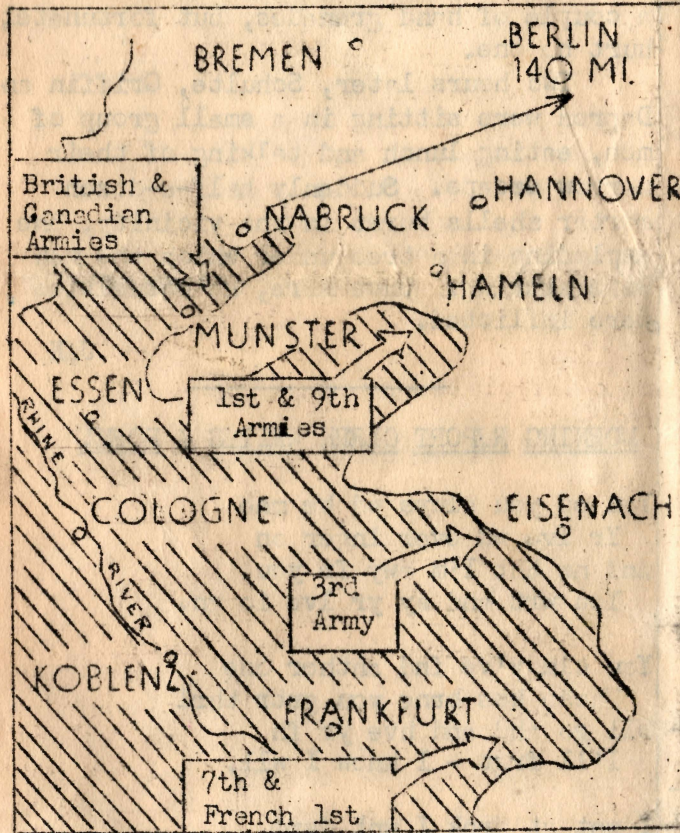
Here's a toast to the girl who steals, Lies and swears - who steals into your arms, lies there and swears she loves you.

"MAC" NOW COMMANDS ALL PACIFIC AGF

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CORRESPONDENTS CONTINUE COMING IN

Sammy Goldstein of International News Photos, Homer Bigart of the New York Herald-Examiner, Julian Hartt of International News Service and Ed Thomas of United Press came in last night. Bigart, Hartt and Thomas, along with Warren Moscow of the New York Times hit front line battalions of both the regiments fighting. Goldstein went out to one of the regiment almost as soon as he reported in.

Latest correspondents to move in today were: Shirley Povich, Washington Post; Bob Donahue, Pathe News and news reel pool; Gordon Cobbledick, Cleveland Plain Dealer

Both Bob Donahue and Sammy Goldstein covered the European front. Sammy was with the Deadeye's old maneuver rivals, the 91st "Pinetree" Division in Italy and reports they are doing a great job.

LATE SNOWS HARASS U. S.

Heavy snow and bitter cold, high winds and floods harassed the midwest. Danger of floods in the lower Mississippi Valley increased as Army engineers planned to blast open the great Morganza floodway to save the lower valley. Snow ranged up to 17 inches in Minnesota, 16 inches in Iowa, and 14 inches in Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming. It was freezing in Missouri, Kansas, and Texas with a low of 17 degrees below zero at Laramie, Wyoming. Weather in New England was normal while the East coast and the South were basked in warm weather.

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24TH XX DRIVES ON NAHA

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ARGENTINA JOINS PAN-AMERICAN NATIONS

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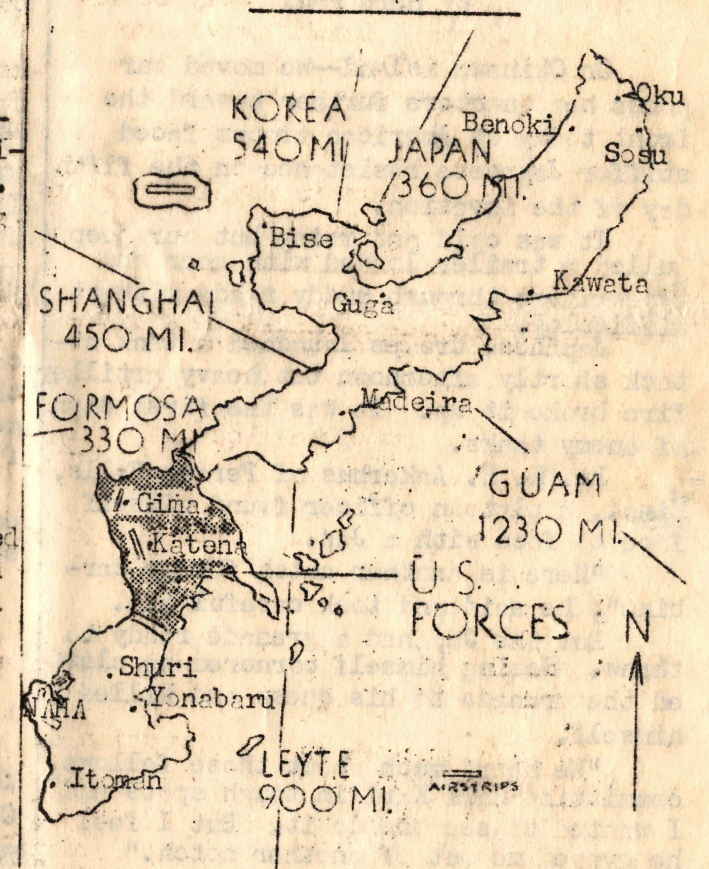
96TH BOX SCORE OF GOOD JAPS

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"JAP CHEATS LIEUTENANT"

We had been on Okinawa three days and the Jap dead added up. Our platoon officer, 1st Lt. Kenneth H. Aakerhus was doing his share, and now there before him was another Jap. "Here's another notch for my carbine", he said, as he took careful aim. The Jap now had a grenade ready to throw, but seeing himself cornered, clasped the sputtering grenade to his chest and zowie! No more Nip. Said the Lieutenant, "We heard so much about these fellows committing Hari Kari in a tough spot, that I've always wanted to see one do it, but just the same, I feel that he gypped me on the deal. I would have had him sure -- then I could have cut another notch on my carbine!"

by Pfc Ostrowski, "B" Co.

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by 1st Sgt. Ray Fuller

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Two hours later, Schulte, Griffin and Dapron were sitting in a small group of men, eating lunch and talking of their narrow escape. Suddenly half-a-dozen mortar shells burst in the vicinity, one exploding in a tree under which the men were sitting. Once more, no casualties were inflicted.

JAK

MORNING REPORT CLERK WRITES A POEM!

You sd you alwys wd be mne
Yr lve wd ever linger on
And nw tht I'm awy fr you
You wrt and sy yr lve is gn.

You tlm y've fnd anther one
Whose kss brng you grtr thrl
Will go shd and hve yr fn
I'll frgt - I know I will.

I wnt gt drnk I wnt dsrt
I wnt go AWOL
I'll just encl a bitter wish
That bth of you wd go to hll.

Jerry Fugh.

Betteye: Sure I like you Sergeant, but
save your maneuvers for the Infantry.

Published as the official news organ of Major General J. L. Bradley's 96th Div by the I&E Office, G-3 Section, daily except Monday while in the field. First published on 4 Nov 44. We receive Camp Newspaper Service materials and use the facilities of Army News Service. Republication of credited materials is prohibited without the permission of the originating service.

STAFF: Editorial and Combat Writing: T/4 Sid Meyer, T/4 Joe Hannasch, Pfc Gil Feinstein, Pfc Joseph Kahl, T/5 Leo G. Reeder. 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.

PRESS PATROL

To Minneapolis Star-Journal (by radio)
by Herb Paul

On Okinawa island--we moved our press headquarters further toward the front today as American troops faced stiffer Japanese resistance on the fifth day of the invasion.

It was cold and rainy but our jeep pulled a trailer loaded with gear and typewriters through muddy roads without difficulty.

Japanese troops launched a tank attack shortly afternoon but heavy artillery fire broke it up. It was the first sign of enemy tanks.

Lt. K. H. Aakerhus of Fergus Falls, Minn., a platoon officer found himself face to face with a Jap.

"Here is another notch for my carbine", he said and took careful aim.

But the Jap had a grenade ready to throw. Seeing himself cornered he clasped the grenade to his chest and killed himself.

"We heard much about those fellows committing Hari Kari in tough spots and I wanted to see one do it. But I feel he gypped me out of another notch."

Up near the front was Cpl David Jackson of Montivideo, Minn. a tank driver waiting to go into action. His tank bore the name of Dixie Belle and had a picture of a Varga girl with grass skirt insignia of the company.

Lt. Howard Tway of St. Paul, member of anti-tank company and a mine expert said Japs missed their opportunity and mined only a few roads on the island.

He picked up a white silk bag embroidered with green figures of Roosevelt and Churchill being beheaded by Japanese swordsmen.

Sgt Clyde L. Evers of Pella, Iowa, an assistant naval artillery spotter was looking at enemy lines from the top of a ridge shortly before the troops pushed off. Pfc William A. Potratz of Washington Iowa, son of Sam Potratz and Pfc Irvin C. Moyle of Elkader, Iowa, were in a nearby group. Sgt. Gerald L. O'Donnel of St. Paul was directing fire of a heavy mortar.

Natives continued to emerge from caves where they had taken refuge during the initial bombardment. Military government officials were rounding up clothing for them.

Two correspondents had a narrow escape when they crossed an open field swept by Jap machine gun fire.

RED CROSS IN ACTION 381ST GETS COFFEE IN THE LINES

Until hot meals are brought to the front lines, Mr. James H. Hill of the Red Cross is furnishing doughfeet of the 381st with hot java. He operates with a truck furnished by Colonel M. E. Halloran and makes two trips a day from the rear with 450 gallons for the fighters. He has been doing his job of delivering the steaming water cans since the day after the landing it was reported today by Mr. Scott division field director for the Red Cross.

The only thing a soldier wants more than mail, is female."

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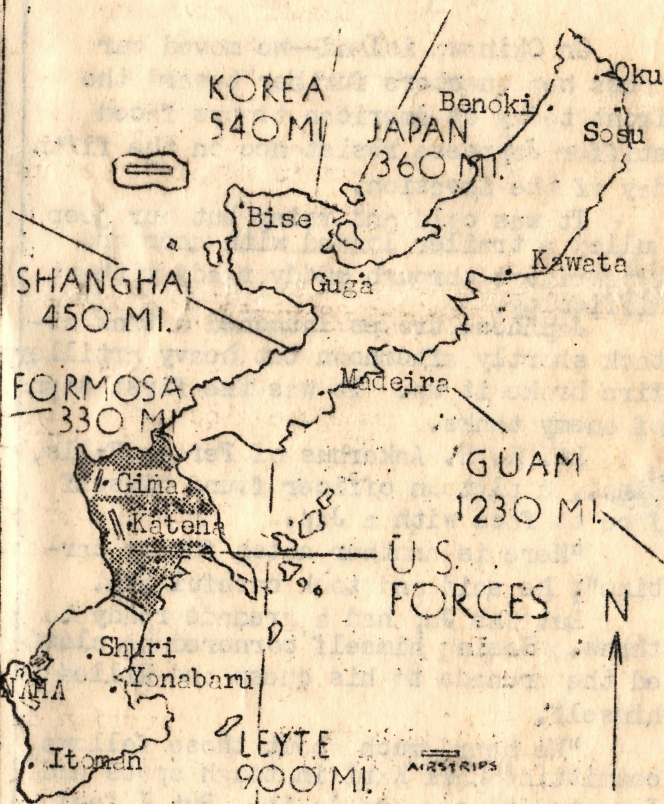
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by Herb Paul

On Okinawa island--we moved our press headquarters further toward the front today as American troops faced stiffer Japanese resistance on the fifth day of the invasion.

It was cold and rainy but our jeep pulled a trailer loaded with gear and typewriters through muddy roads without difficulty.

Japanese troops launched a tank attack shortly afternoon but heavy artillery fire broke it up. It was the first sign of enemy tanks.

Lt. K. H. Aakerhus of Fergus Falls, Minn., a platoon officer found himself face to face with a Jap.

"Here is another notch for my carbine", he said and took careful aim.

But the Jap had a grenade ready to throw. Seeing himself cornered he clasped the grenade to his chest and killed himself.

"We heard much about those fellows committing Hari Kari in tough spots and I wanted to see one do it. But I feel he gyped me out of another notch."

Up near the front was Cpl David Jackson of Montivideo, Minn. a tank driver waiting to go into action. His tank bore the name of Dixie Belle and had a picture of a Varga girl with grass skirt insignia of the company.

Lt. Howard Tway of St. Paul, member of anti-tank company and a mine expert said Japs missed their opportunity and mined only a few roads on the island.

He picked up a white silk bag embroidered with green figures of Roosevelt and Churchill being beheaded by Japanese swordsmen.

Sgt Clyde L. Evers of Pella, Iowa, an assistant naval artillery spotter was looking at enemy lines from the top of a ridge shortly before the troops pushed off. Pfc William A. Potratz of Washington Iowa, son of Sam Potratz and Pfc Irvin C. Moyle of Elkader, Iowa, were in a nearby group. Sgt. Gerald L. O'Donnel of St. Paul was directing fire of a heavy mortar.

Natives continued to emerge from caves where they had taken refuge during the initial bombardment. Military government officials were rounding up clothing for them.

Two correspondents had a narrow escape when they crossed an open field swept by Jap machine gun fire.

RED CROSS IN ACTION 381ST GETS COFFEE IN THE LINES

Until hot meals are brought to the front lines, Mr. James H. Hill of the Red Cross is furnishing doughnuts of the 381st with hot java. He operates with a truck furnished by Colonel M. E. Halloran and makes two trips a day from the rear with 450 gallons for the fighters. He has been doing his job of delivering the steaming water cans since the day after the landing it was reported today by Mr. Scott division field director for the Red Cross.

The only thing a soldier wants more than mail, is female."