

Robert P. Bacon

"WE WILL"

-10 May	
Sunrise	0537
Sun.-t	2100

10 May	
Moonrise	0527
Moonset	1905

DIAMOND DUST

RESTRICTED

PUBLISHED DAILY BY THE 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Vol. XI, No. 9 "Somewhere in Czechoslovakia" Wednesday, 9 May 45

EUROPEAN WAR

The war in Europe officially ended at 0001 9 May. At 1500 8 May, Prime Minister Churchill and President Truman made simultaneous announcements that hostilities would cease at one minute past midnight. Marshal Stalin made no announcement, explained by continued fighting on the eastern front.

Mr. Churchill, after giving a brief factual account of the surrender and a résumé of the history of the war, said: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not for a moment forget the toils and efforts that lie ahead. Japan, with all her treachery and greed, remains unsubdued."

President Truman struck the same note: "Our victory is but half won." He added, "I only wish that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had lived to witness it."

King George spoke at 2100: "Today we give thanks to Almighty God for a great deliverance. I ask you to join with me in the act of thanksgiving."

Marshal Koniev's forces captured DRESDEN, last large German city remaining in German hands, after a two-day battle. Marshal Tito's forces have liberated ZAGREB, capital of Croatia.

PACIFIC WAR

36,000 Japanese have been killed on OKINAWA since 1 April. In the same period, 2,000 Americans have been killed and 17,000 wounded.

Australian and Dutch troops on TARAKAN just off BORNEO have advanced to within a mile and a half of the island's east coast.

Bitter fighting is still in progress on LUZON and MINDANAO.

In BURMA, Fourteenth Army troops have linked up 27 miles north of RANGOON and are closing in on the remnants of the Japanese Sixteenth and Thirty-third Armies.

In the HUNAU Province of China, the Japanese are still on the offensive and have pushed to within 55 miles of an important American air base.

Superfortresses made their 18th attack on the Japanese home island of KYUSHU.

MISCELLANEOUS

At last reports, the Germans in PRAGUE surrendered before midnight, and Czech Patriots controlled most of the city. But, as the Czech radio put it, the German troops had "their last wild fling, and behaved like devils." Some units had surrendered, but others fired on a hospital housing their own wounded and used women and children as screens for their tanks.

SOUVENIR VICTORY EDITION

So many people have called up G-2 and the Public Relations Office requesting copies of the 8 May edition of DIAMOND DUST, known now as the Boche Kaput or Victory-Europe edition, that it has been decided to run off additional copies for everyone in the division so they can keep it as a souvenir of the occasion. It will be out today or tomorrow, depending on how long the press foreman's mimeograph arm holds out.

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9 May 1945

Forcing a crossing of the Tepla Vltava river - the last division river crossing - under direct fire from partially-manned pillboxes, G Co. of the 2nd Inf., coordinating with E and F Co's, by-passed Volary and took the town of Oberschleg, four miles north of the city, on May 7, the final day of division fighting. The attack was launched on May 6 when the Germans blew the cement bridge across the river in face of the concentrated attack on the shore line, but the 3rd platoon of G Co. was dispatched approximately three miles in advance of the Co's forward positions to take and hold the still passable span. Platoon leader, Lt. Bernard J. Bond, Denver, Col., sent two squads of men, under S/Sgt. Ernest Nevs, Atwater, Calif., and S/Sgt. Robert L. Myer, Cleveland, Ohio, and a machine gun section of H Co. across the bridge where the doughs were met with intense fire from panzerfausts and small arms from several pillbox's on the far side.

The two squads were pinned down by the fire, which also included bursts from machine guns, from 0500 hours until 1500 hours when relieved by the Co. who forded the stream on a footbridge 1500 yards southeast of the bridge itself. E Co., commanded by Capt. Robert Z. Lefler of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., exploited the footbridge initially, sending S/Sgt. Donald C. Barrows of Detroit, Mich. and a squad of doughs across to secure itself in the woods on the opposite side. The remainder of E Co. went across shortly, followed by G and F Co's. G Co. proceeded upstream to rout the enemy from the pillboxes and free their two squads. The pillbox defenders evacuated their strongholds when subjected to machine gun and mortar fire. The Three Co's positioned themselves on high ground overlooking the city of Volary and the next morning Co. C of the 1st Battalion, under the command of Capt. Emile Bussolati, Gulfport, Miss., relieved E Co. with the mission of taking the city. E, F and G Co's moved early that morning, skirting Volary to advance above the city.

The Burgermeister of Volary appeared at the C Co. C.P. early the morning of May 7th, accompanied by over a hundred civilians, desiring to surrender the city to prevent further shelling and bloodshed. The surrender accepted the C Co. doughs moved into the town, meeting light shelling from a solitary artillery piece firing from the other side of the town. E Co., which had overrun a pesky SP gun and a 1st Lt. and several men of the 11th Panzer Div. approximately 2000 yds. from the city in its strike east of the river, pushed ahead of Volary to capture Mullerschleg. F Co., moving on the flank of the same drive, cleared the city of Boubimen, with G Co. occupying Oberschleg before "hold-fast" orders froze the advance.

One man was killed and three slightly wounded when the Recon. Co. of the 803rd Tank Destroyer Bn. was ambushed by German troops, who were ignorant of the "cease-fire" order, just ten minutes prior to the effective time of the surrender terms on May 7, outside Volary. This has been established as the final clash with enemy troops in the 5th Division zone. The Recon. Co., headed by Lt. Donald T. Warren, were assigned the mission of screening the right flank of the 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf. and were leading a spearhead ahead of the town around 0820 hours when the Germans opened up from concealed positions in the woods along the road.

Four rounds of panzerfausts were directed at the lead vehicle, an M-8 light armored car, but no hits were registered. In evading the fire, the armored car got mired in the ditch and the personnel were forced to evacuate the vehicle. Machine gun and small arms fire killed one man in the second vehicle, a jeep, and wounded Lt. Warren and Pfc. Anthony Talik and T/5 Leonard Skoje in the hands and face. The T.D. recon. men returned the fire on the estimated 30-man German force until orders were received to withdraw back into town where it was learned that "cease-fire" orders were in effect at 0830, some ten minutes before. Taken captive later, the German officer, who led the ambush, said he knew nothing of the cessation of hostilities until thirty minutes after their effective time and apologized for the incident.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Major League games were postponed yesterday (Tuesday) in observance and celebration of Victory Europe Day.