

19th Corps Links With Soviets

The XIX Corps, spearheading the Ninth Army from the Rhine River across the Elbe, climaxed its drive when a 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron patrol made contact with Russian units near the 83rd Infantry Division's bridgehead at Appolensdorf, 45 miles southwest of Berlin.

Colonel Biddle's Cavalry Group and the 83rd Division consolidated the juncture with Soviet forces and mopped up remaining resistance between the two armies to carve another niche in the Corps' historic record.

The language difficulty was no problem when GI's and

the patrol followed the path blazed by the patrol to forget momentarily the grimness of war and celebrate with their "comrades" from the East. The Russians whooped and yelled and were just as glad to see the Yanks as we were to see them.

It was a day the Corps had anticipated during its drive from

Omaha Beach, across Belgium, Holland, the Siegfried Line, the Roer and the Rhine.

One cavalryman, a veteran of Troop "E", 125th Cavalry Recon Squadron, remarked, "These Russians serve the strongest stuff of all." He maintained he had tasted from the vineyards of every country in Europe. "They over-estimate

the capacity of Americans, though."

Capt. Adolph Ploehn, of Grand Rapids, Mich., led the patrol making the initial contact in the Corps sector. He set out from newly captured Zerbst at 7:00 in the morning, drove southeast, and joined Russian tank units moving in from Appolensdorf.

Spanish Gags Infiltrate Lingo As 25th FA Howitzers Roar

WITH THE 25TH FA BN., GERMANY—Hearing the speech in this battalion makes one feel as if he were still in the American Theatre somewhere, were it not for the constant flood of eighty-eight shells breaking nightly around the foxhole positions up on the river.

When two men meet, it's "Que pasa?" ("What's cookin'?), or "Como esta?" (How's it going, Bud?). The reply is likely to be "Muy bueno," instead of "Pretty good," or another expression with less grammar and more sentiment.

The Spanish influence dates from training days in Porto Rico, when the battalion underwent an extensive preparatory period on their 105mm howitzers before going into action on the Western Front.

Since then, however, the battalion has fired well over 40,000 rounds of 35 pound ammunition into German positions, on drives culminating in the recent dash across Germany.

The 25th FA Bn. has been attached to such topflight divisions as the 8th, 30th, 75th and 83rd. Most of their rugged assignments have been in direct support of Colonel Biddle's famed 113th Cavalry Group, and the gunners have seen action in campaigns throughout the continent.

The 105 mm howitzer battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. John B. R. Hines, Fairmont, W. Va.

Markmanship Good; Two Holes In One

WITH THE 2nd TD. GROUP - Sgt. Austin Mediam has a good shooting eye, but the surprise of his life came recently, when he found out how good he really was.

There was a brace of tigers coming toward the TD's concealed position. Sgt. Mediam took aim at the glaucous plate of the first Tiger, and on orders from platoon leader, Lt. Thomas A. Springfield, (Topeka, Kan.) let her go. The tank merely stopped, then proceeded to hunt its assailant. Mediam took another careful aim, and fired number two. This time the Tiger snorted, and that was all. Upon close scrutiny, Lt. Springfield found that the second shell had gone right through the hole started by the first.

Memorial Elbe Span Defies Jerry Attacks

WITH THE 234TH ENGR. COMBAT BN., GERMANY - The long ponton span which feeds the bridgehead across the Elbe River near Zerbst has been under almost constant German attack since its construction. Christened the "Franklin D. Roosevelt Bridge". -- "It was dedicated to the memory of our late Commander in Chief" -- by the 234th Engineer Battalion

The symbolic as well as military danger to the Germans of the Roosevelt Bridge is emphasized by frequent bombing and strafing and by attacks with floating mines.

The 234th took care of the daily dozen floating mines by blowing them out of the water with rifle shots. One of the 3-man swimming parties got fouled in an upstream boom of wire and Jerricans and two of the men were captured in their large rubber suits with fish-like fins. The 800-pound, time-fused TNT floated to the bridge, dipped under it, and blew up 50 feet downstream. No damage to the bridge resulted.

Leaflets, Radio Talk; 12 Germans Give Up

WITH AN ARMORED DIVISION, GERMANY - Nearing Ahlen on the Road to Berlin, a road-block backed by a dozen Panzerfausts hidden in the woods brought the First Battalion to a halt. Nine rounds were fired into the trees. They contained leaflets.

A loud-speaker tank began to broadcast sweetly to the Krauts, telling them to surrender or feel the might of American artillery. Meanwhile real tanks deployed for attack.

The Jerries must have enjoyed the program, however, for 12 came out of the woods with their hands in the air.

This super-salesmanship was worked out by Lt. A. T. Hodley, Psychological Warfare Liaison officer to XIX Corps from Ninth US Army, and by Colonel Hines, Commanding Officer of CCB of an armored division.

226th AAA Bn.'s Lights Illuminate Hostile Planes

Spotlight Department



Searchlight battery crew, Left to Right: T/S Geo. R. Long, 720 Elizabeth st., Williamsport, Pa.; Sgt. Vernon P. Berg, 2827 3rd. St., Minneapolis, Minn.; Pvt. Alex Kulick, 1403 W. 14th Pl., Chicago, Ill.; Cpl. William Mobillian, 2425 Mahoning St., Canton, O.; Pvt. Roy Zimmermann, 232E. 5th St. Chester, Pa.; Pfc William Frierwood, Route 3, Wabash, Ind.; Pfc Alfred J. Gual, 2720 Elff St., Wheeling, W. Va.; T/S Jesse Craig, Benton Ill.; Pfc. Woodrow Catron, Bldg. more, W. Va.; Pfc. Paul Buekhoffer, 674 State Line, Calumet City, Ill.

Battery 'A' Wins 8 Cat I's For Spotting Luftwaffe; Ack-Ack Role Minor

Above the Roer River on a December night a Junkers 52 headed for Aldenhoven, Germany. In the huge ship were fifteen Nazi paratroopers, fully equipped to destroy communications and play havoc with troops in rear areas of the XIX Corps.

A beam of light shot up from the ground and illuminated the ship, luring it into the trap. Anti-aircraft crews cut loose and riddled the giant, sending it reeling to the ground, complete with crew. It crashed in the center of a barren field about a mile and a half from the river, as every member aboard met his death.

Second Platoon of Battery "A"

It was the first kill for the Second Platoon of Battery "A", 226th AAA (Searchlight) Battalion, the first searchlight battery to see combat action on the continent. Since then the battery has been awarded eight Category I certificates for illumination of enemy aircraft knocked down by automatic weapons units of the 12th AAA Group.

Anti-aircraft protection is the battery's most spectacular role, but it is only a minor feature of the many duties to which these huge 800,000,000 candle-power searchlights are put. They have also been used successfully to light up main supply routes, to blind enemy patrols, to enable Engineers to pick up or lay mine fields at night to assist in bridge construction at night, and to prevent the enemy's destroying the bridges by demolition charges and floating mines during darkness.

The battery commander, modest Capt. Howard W. Feindel, calls Berlin his home and rightly so. He comes from Berlin, New Hampshire. His outfit recently won a commendation from the commanding general of an armored division saying it would have been impossible (Con't on next page)

Bridge Dedicated To Yank Killed While Protecting Site

WITH THE 430TH AAA (AW) BN., GERMANY - Over a German river today stands a bridge dedicated to the memory of an American private who was killed during its construction.

Pvt. Trevor Jones, formerly of Howell, Mich., was a member of a Bofors 40mm. automatic gun crew which was protecting bridge construction across the river. While the engineers were constructing the bridge, enemy mortar and small arms fire became so intense that all personnel were forced to withdraw. During this engagement, Pvt. Jones lost his life in the midst of performing his duty.

Reinforcements were brought up to engage the enemy and clear the area. The engineers returned to complete the bridge. When it was finished the bridge was dedicated to Pvt. Trevor Jones, "who was killed in action while performing honorable and heroic service

in order that Americans might continue the way of life loved and dearly cherished by us all."

Pvt. Jones was with the 430th AAA (AW) Bn. (M) since March 11, 1943. He was an excellent soldier in the opinion of his battery-mates.

Celebrates Gold Bars; Three Tanks, One Gun

WITH THE 643RD TANK DESTROYER BN., GERMANY - Celebrating the anniversary of his receiving a battlefield commission a month ago, Lt. Wendell H. Simonsen of Co. "C" led his platoon of four M-18 tank destroyers in the destruction of a number of enemy vehicles, on April 21st.

The score stands at three Mark IV tanks and one enemy SP gun. Said Lt. Simonsen, "Give the boys credit. They fire the guns."

* THE TOMAHAWK *

Published every Sunday by the men of the XIX Corps Special Service Section, in connection with the Information and Education Program. Formerly THE WINDMILL

2nd Sig. "A" Leads Amerc Loop As 62nd Topo Holds Nat Edge 21

2nd Signal "A" Co., 1944 champions of the XIX Corps Softball League, swept into the lead of the tight race for this year's gonallon by taking two games, while 12th AAA Group Hq. was defeating 3252nd Signal Co. to drop them to fourth place in the standings.

62nd Engineer Topo Co. retained their league lead in the National Division but had their win streak sullied after reaching six, when 64th Chemical Co. edged them 5-4 in a pitchers duel.

2nd Signal "A" Co. was forced into two extra innings to nose out the suprisingly strong 2nd Signal Medical Detachment 3-2. The Medicos surged into a 2-1 edge in the second frame and the Signalmen tied the count in the fourth frame. Tommy Rodelle, Goose Creek, Texas edged Joe Kenny, Ogden, Utah in the pitching battle.

"A" Company scored their second success of the week 8-1 with XIX Corps Forward providing the opposition. Stallord, Banas, Merka, Chandler and Rodelle banged out two hits apiece to lead the 12 hit assault on Babe Stoeklin.

Trostle, 12th AAA mound ace, limited 3252nd Signal Service clubbers to three scattered blows, retaining complete mastery of the situation after the first inning when the opposition tallied their three runs. The final count was 12th AAA Group Hq. 7, 3252nd Signal Service 3. Woods, center fielder for the winners smashed out a home run and a single to lead the hitters for the victorious ack-ack men.

12th AAA moved into a contending position behind the leaders with their 5-4 win over Second Signal "B" Co. Trostle again starred on the peak with a home run by Sherrif providing the winning margin in the second overtime frame.

In another joust 2nd Signal "C" Co. moved into a contending position

with a 7-4 win over their perennial rival 2nd Signal "B" Co.

XIX Corps Forward recorded their second success of the campaign 8-2, with XIX Corps Artillery Group Hq. being the victims. Babe Stoeklin hurled masterful ball offering a choice collection of pitches to keep the Artillerymen at bay throughout.

In the National circuit 62nd Engineer Topo Co. defeated 64th Chemical Co. 3-1 with John Schalk, Cheetawango, N.Y. again turning in a fine mound performance. Moselle, flashy shortstop, had two hits for three tries to lead the batting department, and also saved the day with several acrobatic stops and throws.

The Chemical tossers reversed the verdict, 5-4, in the second meeting of the week with John Quirin, Smithtown, Ill. pitching and also unloading a circuit clout with the bases populated, to star for the winners. Jimmy Hessler also played fine ball in the upset win.

Other games found M.R.U. nosing out 497th Medical Collecting Co. 8-7 with Heinrich doubling Beebe in with the winning run in the last frame, and gaining their second win of the week by 13-12 over 62nd Medical Bn. Hq. on slugger Heinrich's boundary belt.

XIX Corps Rear edged out 62nd Medical Battalion 8-6 but then bowed 5-2 to the 497th Medical Collecting Co. in their other tussle.

62nd Medical Battalion scored their first success of the season with their bitterest rival 497th Medical Collecting Co. bowing 10-4.

24th Special Service Co. appeared in two exhibition tussles winning the first 4-1 behind the one hit pitching of Bob Collins, Indianapolis, Ind. Collins, pitching ace of last year's XIX Corps Varsity, Collins, pitched top form in his initial effort and appeared to be headed for another fine season.

Emil Uremovich, Hobart, Ind. had a

three base blow and a two-ply swat to star for the S.S. Co. aggregation.

In their second exhibition tussle, 3252nd Signal Service Co., contender for the crown in the American League, showed strength by edging out 24th Special Service Co. 2-0 in a pitching duel. Alfred Kamtke Wausau, Wisc. was the winner in the hurling duel with Emil Uremovich.

The standings:

RHINE VALLEY LEAGUES		
American League	Wins	Losses
2nd Signal "A" Co.	5	0
12th AAA Gp. Hq.	4	0
2nd Signal Hq.	3	0
3252nd Sig. Serv. Co.	4	1
2nd Signal "C" Co.	2	1
2nd Signal Med. Det.	1	1
XIX Corps F'wd.	2	3
2nd Signal "B" Co.	1	7
M.R.U.	1	2
XIX Corps Artillery Hq.	1	3
XIX Corps Hq. Co. F'wd.	0	2
2nd T. D. Gp. Hq.	0	3
2nd Signal Officers	0	3
XIX Corps Weather	0	3
National League		
Wins	Losses	
62nd Eng'r Topo Co.	5	1
64th Chemical Co.	3	2
11th M.R.U.	3	3
XIX Corps Rear	2	2
497th Med. Coll. Co.	2	3
62nd Med. Bn. Hq.	1	6

959 TH F. A. BN. LEAGUE

Headquarters Battery won four straight games to jump into the lead with the completion of the first round of the 959th F. A. Bn. Softball League.

Hq. Battery edged out Service Battery 7-6 with a four run rally in the last frame providing the winning margin after Hq. trailed throughout. Selvers singled to left field to score Wood from third in the closing canto to sew up the decision.

Hq. scored their second win by decisioning "C" Battery 4-1 with the clouting of Straley and Weaver featuring, each smashing out three safe blows.

Hq. Battery's other two wins came over "B" Battery 10-5 and "A" Battery 9-1.

Joe Mika, "B" Battery pitching ace fanned 14 Service Battery hitters to win 8-1. Minei had two doubles to star with the willow.

Other scores were: "A" - 11, "B" - 4, Service - 6, "C" - 5, "C" - 17, "A" - 5, Service - 8, "A" - 1, "C" - 6, "B" - 3.

F.A. Battalion Hq. defeated their parent 258th Bn. Hq. 3-0 in an exhibition tussle. Webber administered the whitewash allowing three scattered hits while Coale, losing hurler allowed only two but issued six walks that caused his downfall.

The standings:

959TH F.A. BN. LEAGUE		
	Wins	Losses
Hq. Battery	4	0
C. Battery	2	2
Serv. Battery	2	2
B Battery	1	3
A Battery	1	3

1115 ENGINEER C. GROUP

Competition was intense in the 1115th Engineer Combat Group as the Headquarters combination defeated the 611 L. E. Engineer Co. 5-4 in the opening tussle. The 611th tossers scored four runs in the opening canto to assume a commanding lead but Sgt. Renahan slid home with the winning run in the sixth inning, in the belated rally.

234th Engineer Combat Battalion bowed to 295th Engineer Combat Battalion 6-4 in another hard fought tussle. A five run second frame decided the contest.

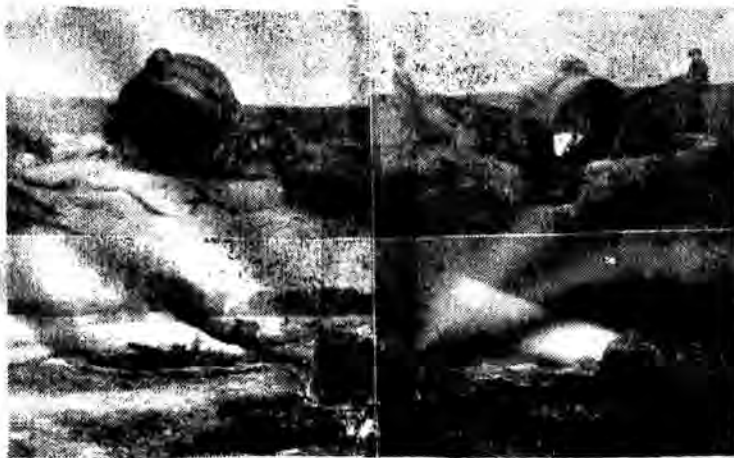
295th turned in their second win of the week over 234th 7-3 with Zanolotti's three hit twirling pacing the winners.

234th hopped into the win column in their third try nosing out 62nd Engineer Combat Bn. 3-1. Polonczyk again turned in a fine mound performance, fanning six enemy stickers and allowing only two scattered hits. 258th F.A. Group Hq. defeated 409th F.A. Group Hq. 6-1 in an abbreviated 4 inning tussle, on the losers home grounds. A five run fourth inning put the 258th aggregation in the lead when rain caused a cessation of hostilities.

PLEASE SEND HAIR TONIC

WITH THE 963RD F.A. BN., GERMANY - T/Sgt. Charles D. ("Pap") Shue of Headquarters Battery, lately has been placed in a very peculiar predicament by his relatives. "Pap" Shue has started to cultivate a real long-horn moustache to equalize the lack of growth on his head. He says that the moustache accounts for the packages he has received lately from his relatives, each containing at least three combs.

Battery 'A' Spots Luftwaffe; 8 Swastikas On Searchlights



Top Left: Cpl. Robert Carroll, Parkersburg, W. Va. operates a control lever on one of the Anti-Aircraft searchlights manned by Battery "A" 226th AAA (SL) Bn. There are three swastikas on the searchlight drum, awarded by the Anti-Aircraft Officer, Ninth Army for successful illumination of enemy aircraft. This section is commanded by Sgt. Roy A. Prim of Holly Springs, Ark. Top Right: Camouflaging searchlights from enemy. Bottom Left: Pfc. Antonio Ulibarri, Las Vegas, N. M., handles fifty Cal. machine gun, which protects one of the searchlights. Bottom Right: Night photo showing one of the powerful lights in action, furnishing battlefield illumination for troops.

(Con't from First Page)

for the division to build a bridge over the Weser River were it not for the illumination given by the lights of this battalion.

The crews on the lights have seen plenty of action from Jerry aircraft and know what his artillery can do. The lights are usually set up from 300 to 5000 yards from the front.

Protecting the crews from hostile planes which often dip low to strafe the base of the vertical shaft of light are water-cooled 50 calibre machine guns.

The lights have a spread-beam attachment which enables them to spot low-flying planes and illuminate them for the men on the guns.

The lights were used to defend bridges over the Roer River at Koslar, Pierlude and

Shophoven during the February 23rd jumpoff, and threw light into Bourheim and Julich when the troops reached the other side of the river.

Later when the beams were thrown above the Rhine River south of Neuss, German guns on the opposing side would fire occasionally and be knocked out when alert artillery observers picked up their positions and returned the fire. On one occasion four Germans paddled across the Rhine to surrender to the men manning the lights, because they had seen the beams from their side of the river and had been charmed by the strong lights into giving themselves up.

Capt. Feindel adds that enticing German prisoners is not the primary purpose of Battery "A's" lights, however.

THE TOMAHAWK STRIKES - WHY?

It has kept me puzzled, disturbed and the likes Trying to figure why the Tomahawk Strikes. There's plenty of chow and coffee and tea, So why, oh why, it has troubled me.

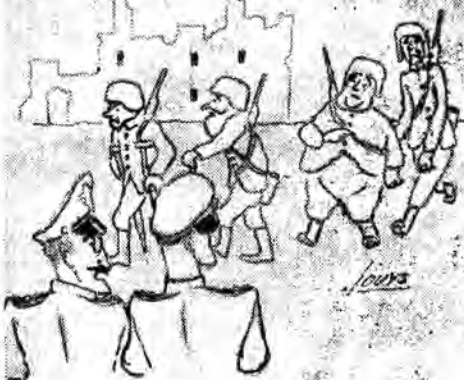
We have nice, wool clothes as well as fine shoes, Cigarettes for all and tobac for who chews, Could it be the hard work, long hours or such That makes this Tomahawk Strike for so much?

Or is it the wages? I wanted to know. Couldn't be that, ya can't use the dough. So I pondered and studied and racked my brain, But before I found it, it strikes once again.

Not for the fun, or the gals, or the loot. Although there is plenty, and some liquor to boot. But for one thing that everyone likes, To get this war over's why the Tomahawk Strikes.

So let's mount our vehicles, jeeps, tanks and cars, All those big trucks and those fine 'C and Rs', Even the Opels and all motor-bikes, And be ready to move when The Tomahawk Strikes.

Pvt. "Andy" Andrews, Hq. Co. Motor Pool, XIX Corps.



"Ach! Phooey! They're scraping the bottom of the barrel again."

(Pfc. Ed Louys, Hq. Co., 702nd Tank Destroyer BN.)

Their First Category 'I'



Replica of Category 'I' Certificate awarded to crewmen of the Second Platoon of Battery 'A', for spotting and illuminating a Junkers 52. A Cat. 'I' is a plane definitely shot down with its wreckage found. Fifteen paratroopers met death in this crash.