

# Colonel Boogie

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315<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> DIV.

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## ROOSEVELT DIES

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY AND NAVY, AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SINCE MARCH 4, 1933, DIED LAST NIGHT OF A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE AT THE AGE OF 63. THE PRESIDENT DIED IN HIS SLEEP WITHOUT REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS. OUR GREAT WAR PRESIDENT HAD BEEN AT WARM SPRINGS, GA., FOR THE PAST 10 DAYS, FOR HIS USUAL TREATMENT AT THE BATHS, FOLLOWING HIS TRIP TO YALTA WHERE THE PLANS WERE LAID FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE WILL GO ON AS SCHEDULED AND WILL SERVE AS A MEMORIAL TO THE IDEALS THAT WERE CLOSEST TO THE PRESIDENT'S HEART, INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE POURED IN FROM THE LEADERS OF ALL THE UNITED NATIONS AND FROM THE MAN IN THE STREETS, THE "COMMON MAN", THE "FORGOTTEN MAN", WHO HAD ELECTED ROOSEVELT AS PRESIDENT FOUR TIMES, MORE THAN ANY MAN IN HISTORY. HARRY TRUMAN OF MISSOURI, WAS SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TO THE PRESS, HE PROMISED TO CARRY OUT THE PRINCIPLES, POLICIES AND IDEALS OF HIS PREDECESSOR.

**WESTERN FRONT:** Spearheads of the 2nd Armored Division of the American 9th Army have crossed the ELBE River, last water barrier before BERLIN, less than 70 miles from the Reich Capital. The crossing was made at MAGDEBURG, Germany's 2nd largest city and the last of any consequence before BERLIN. At least one bridgehead has been secured on the E bank. At least a dozen 1st and 3rd Army columns are racing toward the ELBE at top speed. 9th Armored Division spearheads of the 1st Army advanced 26 miles yesterday to reach M.UMBURG, 22 miles from LEIPZIG. One column to the NE is 8 miles beyond M.UMBURG, while 2 crossings have been made of the SAALE River on a 30-mile front S of the city by 3rd Army columns, following a 40-mile advance. 11th Armored Division troops of the 3rd Army were last reported 40 miles from CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Patton's men have taken the city of WEIMAR, and are fighting in ERFURT. 9th Army troops were mopping up in BRUNSWIG, while clements advanced another 13 miles into the shrinking RUHR pocket yesterday.

NW of the 9th Army's thrust, British troops have captured CELLE, 20 miles NE of HANOVER, and have bridged the ALLER River at 3 points. General Dempsey's British 2nd Army has launched a new assault on BREMEN S of the port, racing 15 miles in 24 hours. Canadian troops in HOLLAND across the ISSEL River now have a bridgehead 2 miles deep and 3 miles wide, and are still expanding it.

In the S, General Patch's 7th Army troops have taken the important ball-bearing manufacturing city of SCHWEINFURT, and have cleared HEILBRONN after a 9-day battle. French 1st Army forces to the SW have taken the cities of RASTATT and BADEN-BADEN.

British Mosquito Bombers attacked BERLIN again last night.

**EASTERN FRONT:** The Russians have captured another 60 blocks in one of the last sections of VIENNA occupied by the Germans, between the DANUBE Canal and River. Other columns of Tolbukhin's forces have taken another 40 places and 5,000 more prisoners. More places have been taken by Marshall Malinovsky's troops in CZECHOSLOVAKIA, including one 35 miles SE of the MORAVIAN Capital of BRNO.

ADVENTURE IN ESSENby S/Sgt William D. Leahon  
315<sup>th</sup> Regiment 19<sup>th</sup> Div.

While powerful American Infantry and tanks warily and cagily eased close to the great city of Essen, aware that here, if anywhere in Germany, the Wehrmacht could still pack a mighty wallop, a lone jeep sped serenely up the wrong road and into the formidable city, without even a stone being thrown at it. Lt Jalmer Oren, of Astoria, Ore., looked around in alarm as he realized that there were no G.I.'s in sight. A quick check of the map put his heart in his throat. He was in Essen--home of the famous Krupp works.

Lt Oren and his driver were speeding toward one of the elements of our regiment which was pushing bouth past Essen just east of it. The roads in this much traveled area are a network of intersections, twists and crossings. None can say that they are thoroughly sure of themselves unless they keep their nose on a map and their eye on the roads. Lt Oren was aware, of course, that American forces massed here were treating this great munition center with the utmost caution. Here, with ammunition and arms coming "hot out of the oven", so to speak, the Krauts could unquestionably make it hot for our side.

He looked about the streets and decided that he was on the wrong road in one of the outlying suburbs of Essen through which American traffic regularly and safely passed. As he checked further for a familiar land mark or building he began to feel uneasy. He saw no American soldiers. Then a combination of scurrying civilians--a couple of sign posts, topped off by a frantic search of the map gave him the jolt of his life.

"Good God, we're in Essen! Let's us get the hell out of here!"

The jeep whirled in one turn and sped like a rabbit back between partially demolished buildings down the wide streets and out of the town. No shot was fired, there was no sign of a German soldier nor even a road block.

"Of course we were pretty concerned about mines, snipers and a million other things. But we saw nothing--nothing but scared civilians.

Co. A, 813<sup>th</sup> TD Bn.

Lt Oren reported his experience to Major Robert G. Hoover, of Webster, S. Dak., S-3 for the Regiment. He, in turn, passed the news to the rest of the staff, who, when they had returned to the floor from the ceiling, lost no time in sending out powerful combat patrols. Lt Benjamin Evans, of the 2nd Battalion, led one patrol and a non-com led another from the 1st Battalion. Reports came back--negative--negative! In other words there were no defenders!

At this time it looks very much as if Germany's Pittsburg is falling to the Regiment because of fighting all around it but not in it.

Put in charge of Protestant services at an advanced Marine base, the Catholic chaplain had only one handicap--the hymns were strange to him. One Sunday morning he was stuck. Standing in front of his congregation, he couldn't remember how the opening hymn began.

The Marines kept politely quiet until one Texas voice sang out: "That's all right, Chaplain. We'll take care of the singing, you just give us the devil."

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The Army now has 72,000 Smiths, 48,500 Johnsons, 39,000 Browns, 33,600 Millers, 31,300 Joneses, 31,000 Davises, 29,000 Wilsons, 24,500 Andersons, 24,300 Martins, 22,000 Taylors, 15,170 Halls, 15,000 Lewises. And the Army Postal Service has a daily headache.  
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