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7th Tankmen Claim Fastest Sweep of War

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WITH THE SEVENTH ARMORED DIVISION, Nov. 5.—If it wasn't the fastest military sweep on record, then the "Lucky Seventh" Armored Division invites unofficial correspondence to the contrary.

Six hundred miles in 21 days—that's the fighting mileage clicked off by cyclometers of Maj. Gen. Lindsay McDonald Silvester's fighting armor as it spearheaded the Allied drive to the German border. The record advance for any one day was 65 miles.

In addition, from Aug. 10, when the division's first tanks rolled ashore in France, through Aug. 31, end of the 21-day period, the Seventh Armored liberated approximately 150 towns, with an aggregate population of 350,000.

Brightest feathers in the Seventh's cap are the historic cities of Chartres, Château-Thierry, Rheims and Verdun. Major battles were fought at Chartres and Château-Thierry. At Melun, on the Seine, the Seventh encountered and overcame that bugaboo of all tactical problems—a river-crossing under fire.

More than 5,900 prisoners were scooped up during the drive, and an unestimated number of Nazi dead marked its path.