

The  
Tomahawk  
Strikes!

# THE TOMAHAWK

The Paper  
For The Men  
Who Make The News

Vol. III, No. 6

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY, 29. April 1945

Formerly THE WINDMILL

## SS Officer Candidates Fail Tests Before Co. "G"

WITH AN INFANTRY DIVISION, GERMANY — A determined lot of SS troops and students from a nearby Officer's Candidate School met for mean fighting when men from Company "G" attacked a road barrier along a range of hills during a night attack.

The Germans added punch to their stand by using tanks, anti-tanks guns and Panzerfausts, according to the company commander, Capt. John L. Faris, of Rockhill, S. C.

### BACK TO THE WAR

It helped a lot when Pvt. Louis De Christopher, West Springfield, Mass., celebrated his return to the war from a furlough in the States by knocking out a German tank with a German bazooka.

The First Platoon, led by Lt. Thomas R. Giblin, of Carbondale, Penna., left 15 dead SS troopers around a roadblock that was defended stoutly with anti-tank guns, machine guns, and Panzerfausts.

About 100 prisoners were taken. In speaking to one of them S/Sgt. Lawrence L. McCracken, Bloomsburg, Penna., said off-hand, "Go and get your brother and bring him along, too."  
The prisoner did.

## Infantry CG Awards Silver, Bronze Stars

WITH THE 2ND TD GP., GERMANY — The commanding general of an infantry division presented seven Silver Stars and 19 Bronze Stars, including one Oak Leaf Cluster, to men and officers of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion on April 24th.

The Silver Stars went to Capt. Ellis W. McInnis, Dallas, Texas; Sgt. Frank Krivosucky, Akron, Ohio; Sgt. Ray E. Dudley, Elko, Nev.; Sgt. William T. Stinnett, Antioch, Calif.; Pfc. Eszlantislao C. Chavana, Corpus Christi, Texas; Pfc. Jesse F. Diaz, Orange, Calif.; and Pfc. Doyle Mizell, Bogalusa, La.

1st Lt. Clair F. Farley, Pittsburgh, Penna., received an Oak Leaf Cluster for his Bronze Star Medal.

Bronze Stars were presented to Capt. Lester J. Baranov, San Diego, Calif.; Capt. George W. Sitt, Jr., Tracy, Calif.; 1st Lt. Joe H. Bruton, Abilene, Texas; 1st Sgt. Charlie B. Sandoyal, Sante Fe, N. M.; T/Sgt. Benjamin O. Thompson, Fort Worth, Texas; S. Sgt. Henry H. Stein, Eureka, S. D.; T/Sgt. Albert A. Dill, Johnstown, Colo.; T/Sgt. Patrick M. Warden, Clemmore, Ohio and T/3 Bennie P. Cucchiara, Independence, La.

T/4 Dale L. Eaton, Orange, Calif.; T/4 George W. Corf, Hawthorne, Calif.; T/4 Bernnon B. Flippo, West Columbia, Texas; T/4 Homer W. Kimpton, Gravity, Iowa; T/4 Simeon A. Road, Washington, D. C.; Cpl. Lee Lopez, Jr., Chino, Calif.; T/5 Rufus W. Hemphill, New Orleans, La.; T/5 Melvin C. Tingley, Toledo, Ohio, and Pfc. Houston A. Sandell, Natchitoches, La. also received Bronze Stars.

These awards bring the number of Silver Stars worn by the men of the 823rd to 26, while 93 now own Bronze Stars.

## Town Finally Succumbs As All 1st Bn. Fights

WITH AN INFANTRY DIVISION, GERMANY — A town in the path of the First Battalion was so strongly defended that even those who do not usually fight as infantry grabbed rifles and got on the line to help crush the resistance.

Using Panzerfausts as artillery, and making the best of houses for machine gun positions, the Germans put up a good fight for the town whose crooked and narrow streets made the use of tanks impossible.

According to S/Sgt. Arthur Floyd, Norlina, N. C., cracking this town made the going easy on the rest of the drive.

While tank destroyers cleaned out the houses on the flanks, S/Sgt. Floyd picked off Germans from the battalion observation post as they ran from the houses attacked by the TDs.

### KILLS 2 NAZIS

When the battalion S-2 was ambushed and wounded while reconnoitering a route for tanks to come up, Pfc. Nathan Kuperstein, Mauldin, Miss., stayed to give first aid, while Pfc. William Lord, Lebanon, Penna., killed two Germans in order to break out of the ambush for help.

Captain Allen S. Hubbard, Jr., Colebrook, Conn., rescued the wounded officer and his companion with a small task force which he had organized.

More than 600 prisoners were taken in the town after the Germans realized it was useless to fight on.

## Ack-Ack Leads Armor On Newly Made Span

WITH THE 430TH AAA BATTALION, GERMANY — Dogging the heels of bridge-building engineers, this veteran unit came to a site where a bridge was to be built and deployed as protection.

The infantrymen then arrived on the scene and crossed over in assault boats to mop up the East Bank. A few hours later, the last pontoons and treads swung into position and the bridge was completed.

One platoon of the battery's guns commanded by Lt. Paul Cummins, Sarcoxie, Missouri, moved over immediately and within three minutes were in position, ready for any action that might come.

Then came the supreme thrill in the life of the Ack-Ack gunner; armor followed their spearhead across the bridge site.

# 743rd Tank Bn. Sherman Blast Nazis Since H-Hour

## Lights Lure Nazis To Paddle Over Rhine

WITH BATTERY "A", 226TH AAA (SL) BN., GERMANY — The big searchlights illuminating the night in forward areas can be seen for miles around. The Germans can see them, too, as it was proved to Sgt. Basil A. Thaxton, section chief from Charleston, W. Va., and his companion, T/4 Luther K. Trent, Sneedville, Tenn.

Just before the drive over the Rhine, the battery was in position south of Neuss. Four Germans approached the two sergeants and the crew on one of the lights and surrendered to them.

Explaining their surrender, the Jerries said they had seen the beam from their position across the river and made up their minds they wanted to give themselves up to ack-ack crews, since that was their job in the German Army.

"We left our area at 10:30, walked to the Rhine, found a small boat, paddled across the river, and followed your beam until we got here," they explained.

## Recapture Half Track Taken Near Mortain

WITH THE 2ND TD GROUP, GERMANY — When the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion was slugging it out with Hitler's elite Panzers at Mortain, France, last summer, S/Sgt. William E. Higgins, Fillmore, Utah, platoon sergeant of the third platoon, Company "B", had his half-track overrun and captured by the Jerries.

Recently the platoon encountered the same unit in the battle toward the Rhine. The third platoon had just knocked out two enemy tanks and was drawing a bead on a half-track.

"Cease firing," yelled Sgt. Higgins, "That's my vehicle." Sure enough, shining light on the bumper was the horse-head emblem the 823rd had painted on the track months ago and which the Nazis had neglected to remove.

It required a little extra care to get the vehicle back intact, but it was accomplished. Higgins commented, "The track is worn and has an extra thousand miles on her, but the maintenance isn't worth a damn. She'll still run good."

We have some extra copies of the blue, souvenir edition of THE TOMAHAWK, April 15th, if you want one to send home.



Germans were instructed not to take any prisoners wearing this patch of the "743rd Panzer Division."

## Nazi Lt. Surrenders 45; No Longer Reason To Die

WITH AN INFANTRY DIVISION, GERMANY — Four American doughboys crouched on the west bank of a river and peered through the darkness. Against the light thrown by a blazing building the silhouettes of first one, then another and another German soldier appeared near the eastern approaches of the wrecked bridge.

This was what the doughboys were waiting for. Earlier in the day two German corporals with white flags had stumbled across the ruins of the bridge and asked surrender terms for their men. One went back at nightfall with this message, "If you aren't back within one hour, the artillery will fall thick and fast on your positions."

The Germans coming up to the bridge were well within the time limit. Several fell off the ruins of the bridge into the water, but swam to the western bank and were pulled out by the doughboys.

The count was 45 men and one officer, a lieutenant.

The men sent out by the 1st Battalion Headquarters to make the haul were Pfc. William P. Hoppe, Seattle, Wash.; Pfc. Ben B. Buten, Detroit, Mich. (interpreter); Pfc. Mark Markuson, Omaha, Nebr. (driver) and Pfc. Henry Szpakowski, Jersey City, N. J.

The officer explained the surrender by showing a picture of his wife and saying, "There is no longer a good reason to die."

## Meal On Hoof For Ex-PWs

WITH THE 110TH F. A. BATTALION, GERMANY — Pvt. Michael Krayniak, Passaic, N. J., the Russian interpreter for his unit, recently found four liberated Russians who had been slave laborers for the Germans for many months.

The Russians had discovered a cow in a field and started out to alleviate the hunger brought on by two days of marching and a big backlog of days without food.

One man started to milk the cow, another was hacking away at the animal to kill her for steaks, and still another began to skin her. The fourth man got into the operation in holding the cow for the milking.

That's the way the story came to us!

## President Cites Tanker For 16 Hours on Beach 13 DSC's Awarded

Twenty minutes before H Hour on June 6th, the first assault tanks of the 743rd Tank Battalion hit the beach with dough support from the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions.

The moment climaxed two years of preparation for the medium tank battalion. They had trained to open the curtain on the greatest invasion in history at Fort Lewis, Wash., the California Desert and the beaches of England.

When their tanks rolled onto French sand, no troops ahead opened the way for them. They had to blast an exit from the tiny strip of beach into the hedgerow country beyond or die. Many never made it and were buried just over the first hill. Others did, and the beachhead was established. The 743rd won the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon and nine DSC's during the 16 hour's fighting.

A short article like this can't begin to give credit to a unit that has been in action since D Day. During campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, the 743rd Tank Battalion has seen the bitterest fighting on the continent. Its real history rests in the men and their tanks. It will never be completely written.

Lt. Col. John S. Upham commanded the battalion when it landed. He was wounded on the beach and is now in a California hospital. The battalion's commanding officer is now Lt. Col. William D. Duncan, Sioux Falls, S. D.

The 743rd Tank Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry Division on the 14th of June, and has been knocking out resistance for the XI Corps ever since. The bag includes 70 tanks, 20 half tracks, 4 armor cars, 17 trucks, 9 artillery pieces, 47 anti-tank guns and two of the Luftwaffe destroyed, not to mention the equipment captured or destroyed which was not manned.

There has never been a time when the 743rd was not in combat or anticipating combat. They have fire



over a million rounds of light machine gun ammo and about 26,000 rounds of 75mm stuff from their Sherman tanks.

The award list is terrific. It includes 13 DSC's, 62 Silver Star

(Con't on next Page)

**\* THE TOMAHAWK \***

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**EDITORIAL:  
Road Block For Rumors**

Whenever yours or any outfit gets in a static position two inevitable catastrophes result, inspections and rumors.

Nobody ever found the solution to either one. We don't have it either.

Let's forget the former for the time being.

Rumors are as much a part of the Army as latrine details and usually begin in the same place.

In the States they usually talk about going "overseas."

Here they talk about going overseas, too, but here "going overseas" means something else. It means going home or going to the Pacific.

**EVERYBODY SNOWED**

Rumors make the rounds of foxholes and CPs. They branch off to higher headquarters, receive an unofficial "stamp of approval" and make their way back to the man who started them. He hears them in their new form and believes in the new version so that everyone is snowed under.

There's only one defense against rumors, a fatalistic attitude.

A fatalistic attitude is just this: If we go home, we go home. That's good. If we stay here as Army of Occupation, we stay, that's all. And if we go to the Pacific, that's TS. We'll get home eventually. And if we don't get home at all, that's also TS. We've done our share and those at home can be well proud of us.

**NO CHOICE FOR US**

When Germany is finally subdued — and we don't mean there's going to be any formal surrender — those three fates will be waiting for us. We won't have any choice in which one we want. They will just happen. Some of us will be lucky. Others won't.

If you go home, swell. You go a break. If you don't, you just weren't so lucky. That's all.

There's no use talking about it now, though, because neither we, nor you, nor — chances are — anyone, really knows what's in store for any outfit at the present.

So lay off those rumors that make us damn unhappy. When the word comes through, start worrying, griping or rejoicing. For the present, when you hear a rumor, "So what" is about the best comment.

Most rumors aren't any better than the toilet paper they're printed on.

**REDSKIN RAMBLINGS...**

Lovely lips and pretty eyes, Spapely calves and curvy thighs, Belly Grable in disguise, But darn ll, I can't fraternize.

And then there was the demure Parisienne newspaper woman who always spoke with an editorial "Oui."

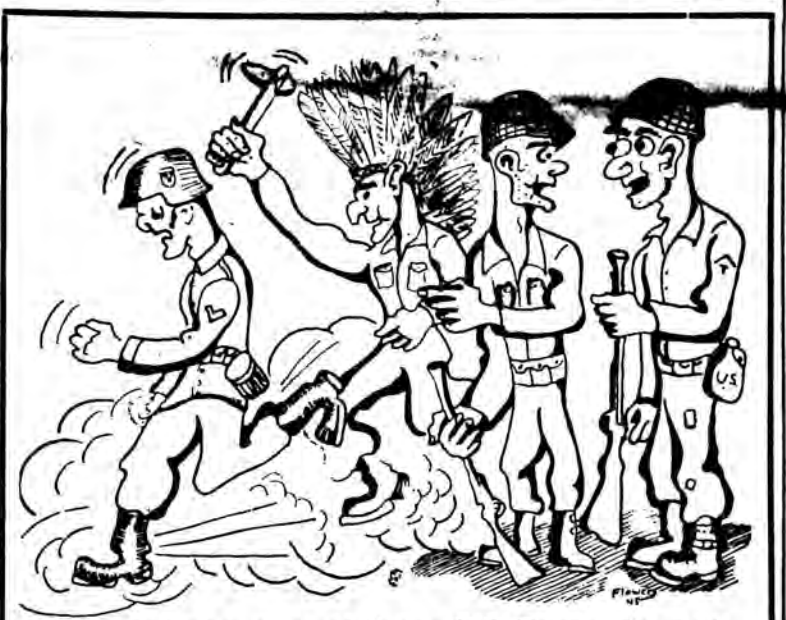
The funny part of a TOMAHAWK joke. Is to watch the other readers choke.

The only race yet to surpass Hitler's pure Aryan race seems to be the rat race the Allies made through the Fatherland.

"Mary had a little lamb; Its fleece was white as snow." Darn good camoullage job there, Mary.

Little Miss Muffel Sat on a tuffel, Eating her curds and whey An eager young Yank Rode by in a tank She feeds now on rajions, type "K".

**Shellhole Surveys**



"There goes one of those XIX Corps chaps." (T/5 Chet Flowers, B'try "B," 963rd FA Bn.)

**2nd Sig. Hq., "A" Co., 3252nd Tied For Lead, 62nd Topo Far in Van of National Loop**

3252nd Signal Service won three straight games in the Rhine Valley American League to share in a three way tie for the loop lead with 2nd Signal "A" Company and 2nd Signal Headquarters Company, who both chalked up two wins in as many starts.

12th AAA Group Headquarters was the winner in two league engagements and assumed a challenging position right behind the front running trio.

In the National Circuit, 62nd Engineer Topo Company edged out the other two by extending their win streak to five straight, outscoring the opposition.

3252nd Signal bludgeoned XIX Corps Weather 26-11 in their first win. In their second game, 12th AAA Group Headquarters hurled the first shutout of the league season allowing XIX Corps Forward four scattered runs in the 8-0 whitewashing. Alfred Kamtke, Wausau, Wisc., had a perfect day with the willow, unloading three singles and being passed in his other chance at bat to aid Mendell materially. The third contest found the power asserting itself once more with 3252nd winning 23-1 over XIX Corps Artillery, Mendell again starred on the mound with Harding Feibig, LaGrange, Texas, Bob Sudol, Passaic, N. J., Forrest Darby, Warren, Ohio and Howard Striker, Minneapolis, Minn. all wielding potent bats.

2nd Signal Headquarters defeated 2nd T. D. Group Headquarters 5-2 for win number two of the season and then surged into a tie for the loop lead by subduing XIX Corps Headquarters Company 11-2. Bob Newcomb, Nashville, Tenn. continued to display hill mastery over all opposition with Sam Smeeton, Bill Lazar and Imers aiding with their line play afield and at bat.

Second Signal "A" Company, titleholders of the 1944 Rhine Valley League played in Holland, again appeared to be the team to beat by winning their two carded tussles.

Tommy Rochelle, hard working mound artist blanked XIX Corps Forward 6-0 with Joe Stafford, Cleveland, Ohio, leading for the circuit and George Bott, Brooklyn, N. Y. hitting two doubles to aid in the batting department.

Rochelle also twirled in the 7-1 win over the Second Signal Officers. Joe Stafford again swung a potent club and gathered two hits to lead the hitters.

12th AAA routed 2nd T. D. Group Headquarters 14-1 and then maced XIX Corps M. P. 7-1 for their duo of wins. Trostle starred on the hillock for the Ack-Ack aggregation with Reineman and Aurora smashing out two bingles apiece. Manager Crouch hit a long three base blow to add to the runs-batted-in-column.

2nd Signal "B" Company defeated 2nd Signal Officers 11-5 in another interesting tussle, while 2nd Signal "C" Company laced XIX Corps M. P. 10-1.

XIX Corps Artillery won over XIX Weather in a tight pitching duel with John Alexander, Georgia, starting on the hill for the winners. Lt. Schwartz also performed well in the pitching department for the Weathermen.

2nd Signal Medical Detachment, a new league entry, showed impressive form in their first start by defeating XIX Weather 9-1. Joe Kenny, Ogden, Utah was the winning pitcher while Anderson was the leading hitter with three singles.

In the National League, 62 Engineer Topo Company edged out 62nd Medical Battalion 9-6 in a hard fought tussle. The league leaders surged with a 11-7 decision over M.R.U. with twirler John Schalk, Cheerawango, N.Y. pitching and batting his team to victory with his three hits. Schalk displayed stellar form again in the Engineers' third win of the week and their fifth straight, when he shut out the 497th Medical Collecting Company 4-0, allowing five scattered hits. Charles Davis, Jacksonville, Fla., and Clyde Kehler, Tower City, Pa. sparkled with the wood.

In another league game, XIX Corps Rear defeated 62nd Medical Battalion 5-4 in a pitchers duel with Walter Jones, Ky., delivering the winning single in the seventh frame to drive in Bodanski with the deciding tally.

312th Ordnance Battalion Headquarters defeated XIX Corps Rear 15-6 to show class.

64th Chemical Co., another new entry, won their first game 12-7 over the 62nd Medical Battalion with a seven-run last inning providing the necessary margin.

M.R.U. swept into the win column with a 5-3 verdict over the 64th Chemical Company in a well played game. Beebee sparkled for the winners with the pitching of Queen highlighting the loser's effort.

497th Medical Collecting Company also broke into the winning circle by a 13-0 rout of the 62nd Medical Battalion Headquarters representative.

**RHINE VALLEY LEAGUES**

League	Wins	Losses
2nd Signal "A" Co.	3	0
3252nd Signal Serv.	2	0
12th AAA Group Hq.	2	0
2nd Signal "C" Co.	1	0
2nd Signal Med. Det.	1	0
62nd Eng. Topo Co.	5	0
312 Ord. Bn. Hq.	1	0
497th Med. Coll. Co.	1	1
XIX Corps Rear	1	1
64th Chem. Co.	1	1
M.R.U.	1	3
62nd Med. Bn. Hq.	0	4

**Radio Op's 'Kamerad' Spurned; Freed By TF**

WITH AN INFANTRY DIVISION, GERMANY — Sgt. Robert Bishir, Momence, Ill., a radio operator in an M-8 scout car, was forced to abandon the vehicle when it was hit by a Panzerfaust (a new edition of a German Bazooka). German burp gunners then opened up and Bishir crawled to the remains of a nearby basement.

The action rolled on and presently a German soldier opened a door in the house and then saw the cellar door. Bishir hid his breath when the door opened and he saw a German soldier peering in. He then reluctantly slipped out a feeble "Kamerad," feeling that he had been captured. To his intense relief, the enemy soldier merely peered into the dark cellar and left, unaware of the presence of the Yank.

The next day "Task Force Revenge" a unit organized by Colonel Walter M. Johnson, regimental commander, for this expressed purpose, rescued Bishir from his enforced hiding.

**743rd Tank Bn. Shermans**

(Con't from First Page)

with five Oak Leaf Clusters, 123 Bronze Stars with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, and eight Certificates of Merit. Another 50 awards are pending for recent actions. The 743rd has suffered heavy casualties and a lot of Purple Hearts — 333 of them have been given.

The hedgerow fighting in Normandy was especially tough for the tanks, since mines along the narrow roads and in the fields became a problem. Tank dozers were used to break through the hedge barriers. The tankers saw plenty of the enemy and some from his position. The capture of Caumont cut off German retreat routes and trapped the Germans before the breakthrough at St. Lo.

The unit made a sweep down along the west bank of the Vire and took Hebecrevon, not far from St. Lo, and then began a chase through France after the great bombing attack burst Nazi resistance in Normandy.

Through Northern France and into Belgium, the 743rd reduced everything in its way, making the lightning sweep as fast as its low gas supplies would permit. Tanks entered Belgium in the vicinity of Tournai, with other spearheading units of the XIX Corps.

Belgium was no barrier in the 743rd's drive to the Meuse River. The tankers crossed the Meuse between Liege and Maastricht, and helped the 113th Cavalry Group and

the 30th Division liberate Maastricht on the Dutch border.

Continuing toward the Siegfried Line, the men of the 743rd freed Heerlen before crossing the German border in the vicinity of Ubach. Firing into stubborn pillboxes, artillery and ack-ack concentrations, the 743rd reduced Siegfried defenses as mines and Panzer counterattacks swelled the casualties.

After helping to cut off and capture Aachen, the 743rd's tanks moved to the Roer and later to the Rhine in another drive. A thrill came when the unit kayoed a new Mark VI tank mounting a 300mm gun at Uckem, between the Roer and the Rhine, and later when it was the first unit to get one of the new Panzers mounting an 88mm assault gun near Paddorn. They hit the gun at a range of about 65 yards.

Fifteen battlefield commissions to former enlisted men have been awarded. The present company commanders are Capt. Joel S. Mattison, "A"; Capt. Jean M. Ubbes, "B"; 1st Lt. Clyde S. Thornell, "C"; and Capt. Peter L. Henderson, "D".

Many of the old 75 guns have been replaced by 76's, which have greater fire power. The 743rd, one of the oldest battalions on the Continent, can look at its 10 months of combat with pride. Its tanks have rolled many a mile across Nazi occupied soil since their first barrage against Omaha Beach.

**Every killing weapon the Nazis had was fired at this great soldier of the 743rd Tank Bn. as he dismounted and led his tanks through D-Day, Omaha beach obstacles. His his Bn. C.O. wounded led a fierce assault and won the D.S.C.**



**Maj. Vodra C. Philips**  
A heroic fighter from Fayette, Mo.