



# THE TALON

*Crosses the Rhine*



PUBLICATION OF THE SEVENTEENTH AIRBORNE DIVISION





THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE, CHALONS-SUR-MARNE



RUE DE MUD



513 MESS HALL



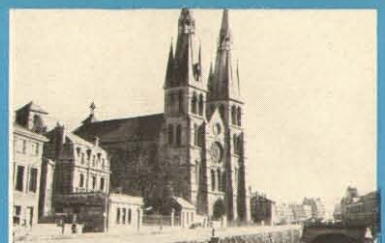
SPRING THAW



MARLENE DIETRICH & 194



CASERNE MAIN GATE



CHALONS  
NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL



VISIT BY MICKEY ROONEY



CHOW HOUNDS SWEAT





# Airborne OVER THE Rhine

## Airborne over the Rhine!

The tacticians had planned it. The folks back home had wondered about it. The jumpers and glider riders had dreamed about it since the day they first donned their boots and wings.

The Germans knew it must come and they feared the Allied might and the awful striking power of the Airborne leaping over Nazi-stolen lands to plunge directly into the heart of the Reich itself.

But when it came it was the biggest show of all.

It was far bigger than the planners had planned, the home front had guessed or the Germans had feared. It was bigger even than the GI's had dreamed as they shined their boots and double timed in the long grind to get ready.

It was hell from heaven. And it broke the back of German resistance and paved the way for the Allied victory that meant the Nazis never again could dominate their peaceful neighbors in Europe or threaten the rest of the world.

Back in February, 1945, the 17th Airborne Division, battered, crippled and half frozen, was slugging away in the Belgian bulge forcing back Hitler's troops who had gambled desperately on a great effort and broken through the Allied defenses in the Ardennes. But they finally were stopped and the 17th and other divisions all along the line were nibbling away at the Siegfried defenses.

Then orders came through for the Golden Eagle Claw Division to move back out of the lines to a rest camp in France and prepare for an airborne operation.

Châlons-sur-Marne was a sleepy little city in northern France when, tired and cold, the airborne men arrived by jeep and truck and time-honored "forty-and-eights" to look out on a sea of mud where houses were islands and the rain beat against new tents. But mud was better than the ice and snow that numbed their bones in Luxembourg and Belgium and they settled down to enjoy life while they could.

A part of the Division was quartered in an old caserne and the bulk of it in a tent city some miles away. But at night the men got together in town to parley with the local girls, hoist a glass of champagne or watery French beer or just swap rumors on what was being cooked up for them.

And while they guessed at the future the general staff and all the subordinate unit staffs were busy planning that future. They planned it so well that it will go down in the history books and the books on military tactics... Design for Airborne Invasion.

They worked in secret, in rooms behind barbed wire enclosures. And they worked surely and rapidly. They were a veteran staff from a veteran division. And this time they were going into combat airborne.

First of all, there was to be only one glider combat team. Two regiments, hard hit in the Battle of the Bulge, had to be welded into one. They became the strong 194th Glider Infantry, quickly adjusting themselves to be a single fighting team. The artillery had a similar problem, with addition of a parachute battalion and changes in the T/O and T/E.

Reinforced, resupplied and rested, the Division left in secret on March 19th for the dozen marshalling fields that would be the last French soil on which the men would set foot for a long time...some of them forever. But they had come a long way since receiving that important letter that began "Greetings," and they were ready to jump or crash-land in Germany.

The airfields were not too bad, the GI's opined as they inspected their temporary homes. For one thing, it was no longer so cold that tents were uncomfortable. They had a little time to rest or bat the breeze or do whatever they pleased without having a three-striper looking for them for some detail.

And they did bat the breeze. There was the matter of chow, always a staple item of GI conversation. And the chow was not bad, not half bad. That is, it was not bad compared with cold C-rations, though of course it would not compare with mom's home cooking, the air-doughs decided.

Phonographs kept grinding out good old American music, over the loudspeaker system. The Red Cross was on hand, providing a real link with home as smokes, gum, doughnuts and coffee were dispensed. The troopers of the 17th were getting a lot of attention. And they were to get a lot of attention of another kind in just a few days.

Three Air Corps Wings and a Pathfinder Group of IX TCC were staging the airborne show for the division. 52nd Wing was scattered about on five fields, north and east of Amiens, with paratroopers concentrated on B-54 and glider troopers occupying the other four. 53rd Wing crews were in the Paris-Reims vicinity on six fields with jumpers on A-79 and A-80. North and south of Chartres on five fields were the 50th Wing and the Pathfinders with the paratroops at A-40.





↑ TENSE HOURS BEFORE  
RHINE ASSAULT AT ACHIEF, FRANCE

↓ CHALK TALK TO  
MEMBERS OF TEAM



↑ AIR CORPS AND ENGINEERS  
PRAY AFTER BRIEFING



↓ MEDICS PREPARE TO LOAD  
AND TIE DOWN LITTERS



↑ HOT CHOW FOR  
HOT TROOPS



↓ TROOPERS SCRAMBLE OFF  
6x6'S PRIOR TO LOADING



Air Corps Troop Carrier Groups that flew the mission included the Pathfinders, 313th and 314th TC Groups, as well as 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, and 441st. Two hundred B-24's of the 8th Air Force dropped 270 tons of supplies to the Airborne on D-Day.

The men of the 17th Airborne had been briefed before... on Christmas Eve before they left England for the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes. But this briefing was different. The planners who had worked out the airborne mission knew their plans were good. They would work...if every body knew just what his job was and how he expected to carry it out. There could be no slip-up.

The troopers were told their destination...north of Wesel where the Rhine bends westward. And they were given their mission. It was :

"To drop during daylight on D-Day; seize, clear and secure the division area with priority to the high ground east of Diersfordt and the bridges over the Issel River; protect the right flank of Corps; establish contact with the 1st Commando Brigade, the XII British Corps and the 6th British Airborne Division. Objectives to be held at all costs..."

Joint briefings of pilots and their jump-sticks and of glider pilots and their glider-riders were held. Each plane and glider crew was briefed individually with the aid of the latest air photos and sand table. The briefing was closed with a prayer by the chaplain.

Before they hit the sack that night every officer and every GI in the whole operation knew exactly what his job was to be.

But the troopers at the airfields were not the only ones getting ready for the big push. An overland tail of hundreds of vehicles—jeeps, kitchens, ammunition, ambulances and all the rest — already was on its way. It had a rendezvous with the skytrain. Not everybody could jump or crash-land to fight and success of the whole operation would depend upon how fast the supplies could cross the Rhine.

So it was a nondescript convoy of close-mouthed GI's, wearing anything so long as it was not airborne, that wound its way through Belgium and Holland and was waiting just across the river from Wesel when the briefing at the airfields was finished.

The chow was still good and steak and apple pie for breakfast gave the troopers plenty to talk about besides the drop as they checked their last bit of equipment for the last time and loaded into planes and gliders.

It was March 24. It was D-Day.





MEN OF THE  
513th CLIMB  
INTO C-46



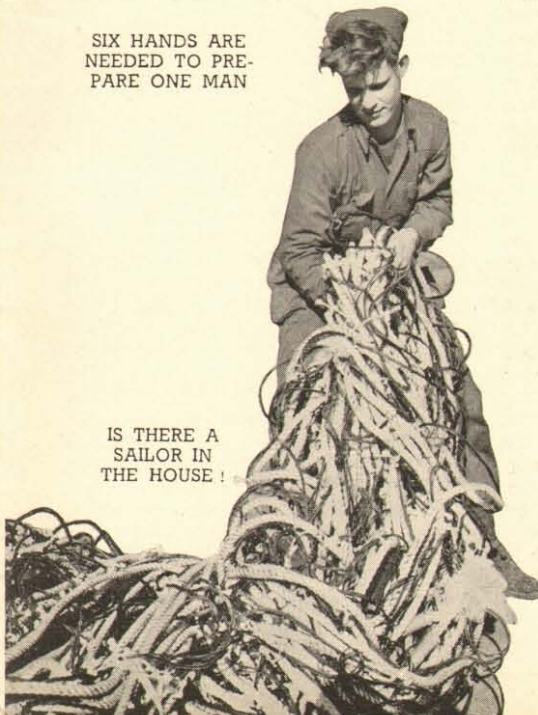
GLIDERS AND C-47'S IN POSITION FOR TAKEOFF



SIX HANDS ARE  
NEEDED TO PRE-  
PARE ONE MAN



WAITING FOR THE SIGNAL TO LOAD

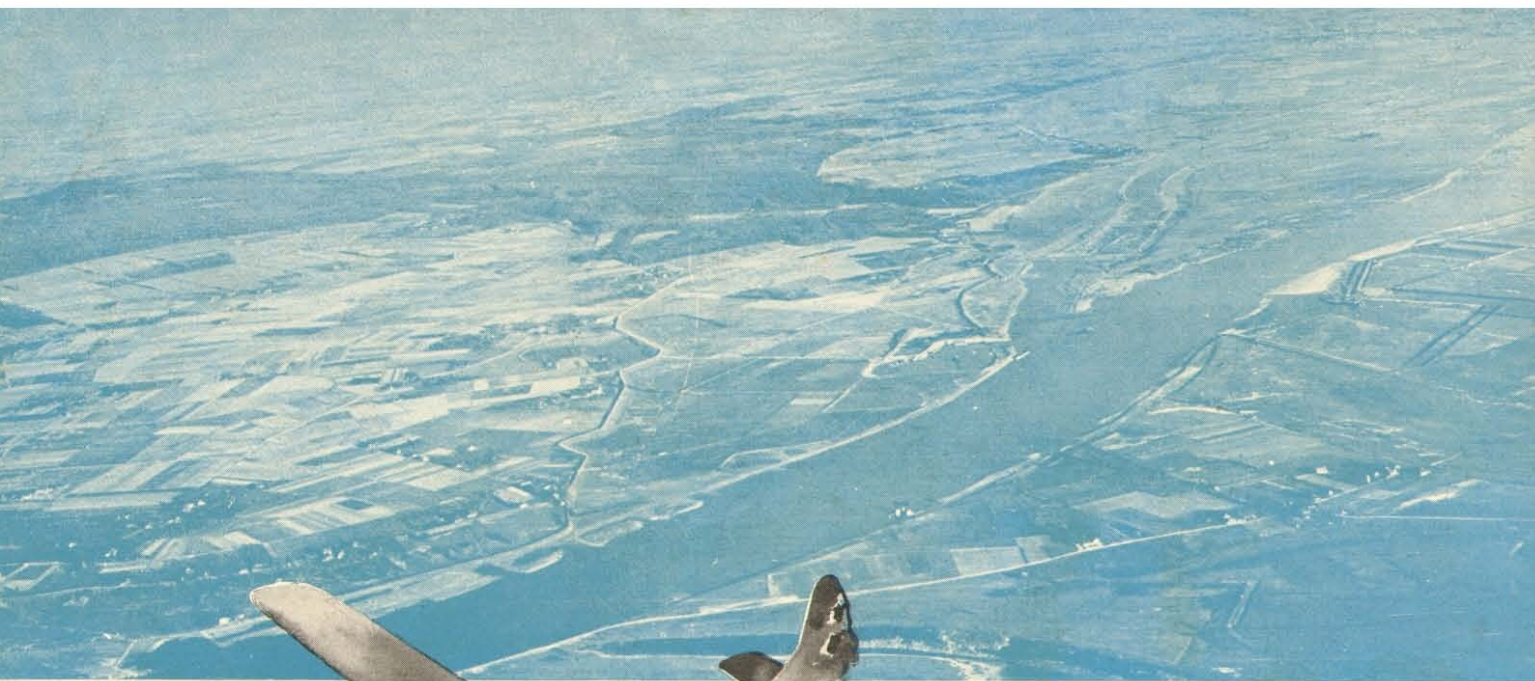


IS THERE A  
SAILOR IN  
THE HOUSE!



HOOKING A TOW ROPE TO A CG-4 A





## *D-Day At Wesel*

The 507th Combat Team was the first element of the division to take off. The entire column, more than two hours long, was made up of 226 C-47's and 72 C-46's loaded with paratroopers and 906 gliders towed by 610 tugplanes. Visibility and weather were good as the first ship rose from the runway at 0717.

The planes settled down to a steady pace and as far as anyone could see, and farther, there were planes. Three hours stretched by while the nervous GI's inside the planes and gliders thought about the past and wondered what was ahead as they counted rivers. The Seine slipped by, the Moselle and the Maas, and the air was a little bumpy for awhile and the Joes knew the Rhine was next. Then, almost before they were ready, there it was.

And with the Rhine came smoke. The British had smoked 66 miles of the river to mask the landings.

The order had come, "Stand up and hook up!" The number one men were standing in the doors as their planes rocked and bucked and flak tore through wings and sides and some of the troopers were hit.

In the gliders that came in a little later the same thing was happening except that the Joes just sat there tense with their belts fastened tight as the flak and small arms fire pelted through their wood and canvass crates with a sound like that in the rifle butts during rapid fire. Some of them shook hands and wished each other luck and prayed just as the paratroopers were praying and all of them kept their eyes glued on the pilot, ready for the moment when he would cut loose.

The First Battalion of the 507th Parachute Infantry, in camou-





15 MINUTES FROM THE DROP ZONE



ENOUGH SILK TO START A RIOT IN MACY'S



NOW TO FIND A JEEP TO TOW IT





# \*\*\* CRITICAL HOURS H+5



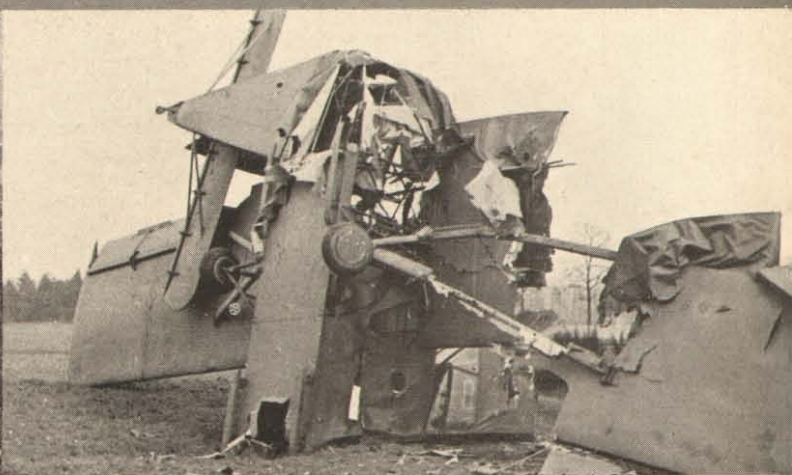
OUT OF CONFUSION COMES ORDER



THE GUNNERS LEFT TOO SOON



WAITING FOR CLEARING OF SNIPERS



AN EXPENDABLE EXPENDED



flaged chutes, began bailing out northeast of Wesel at 0950 and landed in the vicinity of Diersfordt Castle, which was quickly captured with a large number of German officers as prisoners. The Second and Third Battalions came in close behind and by mid-afternoon the combat team had taken all its objectives and established contact with the British 1st Commando Brigade in Wesel. The 513th CT followed the 507th by 17 minutes to complete the parachute drop and seize its objectives.

Twenty minutes later the 194th CT began landing in CG-4A gliders that had been double-towed to a set record — longest combat glider tow, first combat double-tow, first glider combat landing on fields not previously secured by paratroops. Within two hours after the 194th landed it had seized all its initial objectives.

Rapid assembly of troops and the effective establishment of communications through out the division marked the operation. The big prisoner roundup included many high ranking officers.

These are the hard, cold facts of the landing at Wesel. But they do not include the thousands of personal details that mean little in the military account of the Airborne's drop at Wesel but everything in the lives of a lot of Joes and their families.

Some of those Joes stayed at Wesel. Planes were shot down in flames. Field pieces and flak guns were zeroed in on drop zones and landing fields. Some Joes never left their gliders. Bodies of some of the jumpers were found hanging where they landed in trees, riddled by twenty bullets or more. Some were killed by civilian snipers.

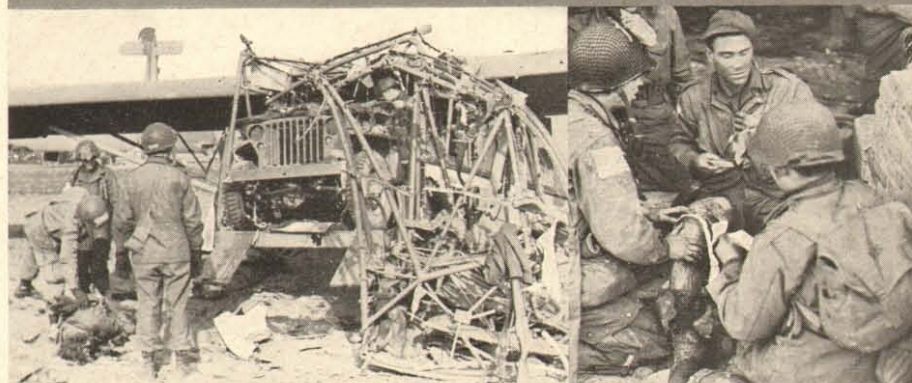
But some of them made it okay. And they fought so fiercely that within a couple of hours the terrorized Germans were calling the American Airborne troopers "the butchers with the baggy pockets."



ANOTHER QUEEN HAS DIED PROUDLY



A HEARTENING EXCEPTION — INTACT



THE PILOT GOT IT DOWN

THE MEDICS WERE THERE



CANOPY TRAIL



On the first night there were numerous counter attacks but they were not well coordinated and failed to make headway. The airborne troops had taken their objectives and they intended to hold them.

And where the lines had to be stretched thin because there just weren't enough glider troopers or paratroopers to man them, airborne courage replaced airborne personnel

A company held a line a thousand yards long, Another stretched out for 2,500 yards. Machine gun positions were overrun but the lines held.

A sergeant learned that fire-power on a certain spot was badly needed during the night but he could not afford to give away his comrades' position. So he took a mortar far in front of his own lines, prepared his charges, fired several rounds without benefit of the sight, then turned and ran back to his original position before enemy shells began dropping in on his false outpost emplacement.

A glider had landed some distance away from its selected LZ and a lieutenant left his men to make a reconnaissance. Thinking he saw a GI enter a house, he followed but found no one inside. Then he heard a door open and turned to find a German squad entering. He shot four men and started marching the remaining twelve away but was engaged in a firefight with another squad. He battled it out until help came from the Airborne. Then he continued on with his prisoners.

Another officer was not so fortunate. His glider's towline was cut by flak and the big crate landed three miles beyond its LZ. Two of the men were hit and flak guns levelled off on it as it came down. The six men got out and, led by a lieutenant, started crawling for the woods. But only the lieutenant made it. Then he met a patrol of five men, whom he killed. For two days and nights he remained in the woods, killing three more men, dodging other patrols and



THIS WAS A PLANE

FIRST BUILDING TAKEN



A BROKEN BACK

FIRE IS A HAZZARD



THE FIGHT MOVED ON

A JEEP CAN BE STOPPED



CONTROL STARTS WITH COMMUNICATION





THE GROUND IS ALWAYS SAFER



WAR MOVES TOO FAST FOR WALKING



BRITISH TANKS ARRIVE

being shelled by his own Allied artillery in a terrific bombardment. Finally he was captured, threatened with death but eventually escaped when the Nazi communication system broke down.

A medic also was captured and held prisoner for three days. But he remained a soldier despite his capture and when the Airborne and ground units moved nearer he accepted the surrender of his guards, lined up 20 of them in a column of twos and marched them to the first MP he saw.

Supplies were a critical problem during the early hours. The Airborne had thrilled to the sight of shiny new Liberators thundering over at treetop level almost before the drop was complete, to dump out badly needed supplies. But their hearts had ached as they saw some of those big ships burst into flame and crash, victims of German attack.

One artillery battalion discovered that 60 per cent of its ammunition had been lost in the landing. But a resupply had been dropped by the Liberators. Using every available vehicle, from wheelbarrows to horse-drawn wagons, the artillery Joes began to round up more ammunition and soon boosted the supply from 300 to 1,000 rounds. The men with the howitzers fought any way they were needed during the critical hours.

And, taking their cue from the rugged Airborne who had flown behind them, the glider pilots waiting for their return ticket across the Rhine became infantrymen that night to repel several counter attacks, using what weapons they had brought and what they could pick up to knock out several tanks and chop up a part of Hitler's bewildered army.

The confusion had disrupted the whole scheme of the German defense. The Nazis had planned an ordered stand. But the Airborne counted on confusion and made the most of it. Soon the Golden Eagle Claw, having grasped all within reach, was ready to move on.



# *The 17th Airborne in Germany*



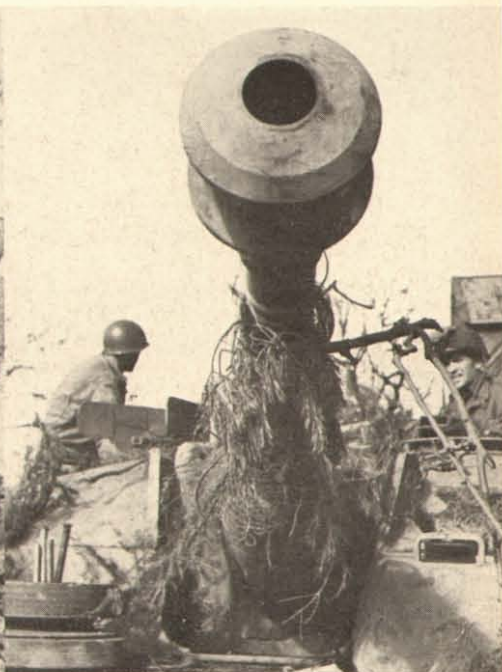








DESTRUCTION AT HALTERN



GERMANY'S FAMED " 88 "

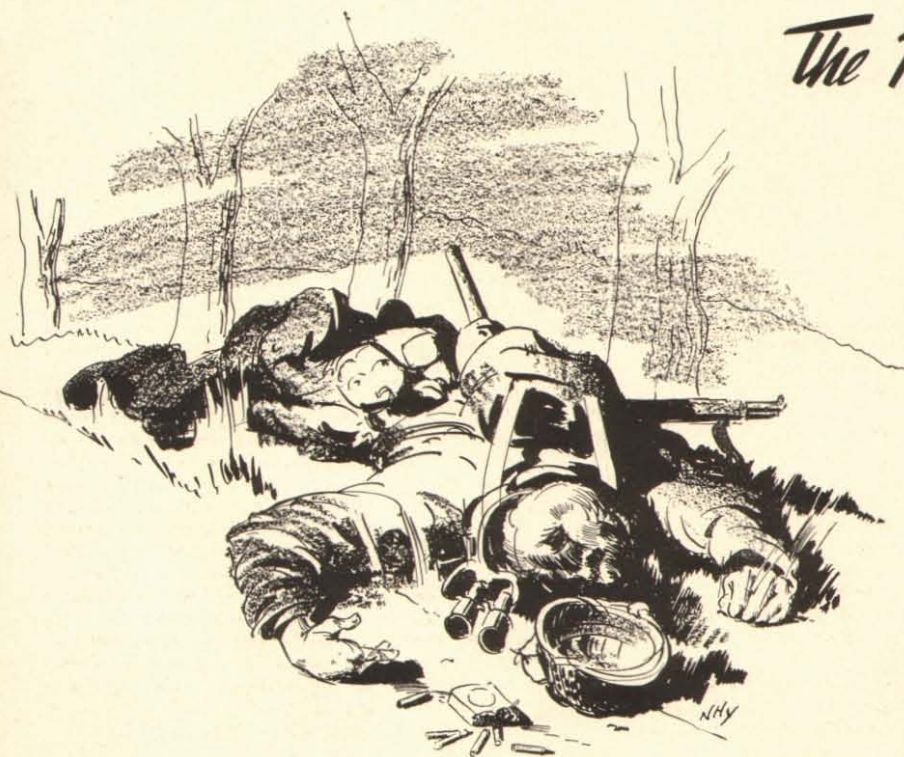
## *The Road to Munster*

The objective was Munster, prize city to the northeast and a Nazi corps area headquarters. But there were a lot of towns between, towns that had to be taken after a fight.

First the 17th cut the autobahn, the road that Hitler had boasted was the beginning of a super-highway system for a greater Reich. Then it moved on.

The division took Peddenburg and Schermbeck, tiny villages that meant little except places to fight, and drove forward so fast that it was difficult even to keep maps up to date. The 17th for the most part used back roads and trails and with it, along the main highways streamed miles of British and American armor.

Sometimes the airborne troopers rode tanks and sometimes trucks. Sometimes they just slogged forward and all their airborne marching and double-time paid off. But with them went an



WESEL . DORSTED . HALTERN





"TAKE TEN" — ROAD TO HALTERN



SLUGGING TOE-TO-TOE



NO BAND AT HALTERN



SITE OF DIV PW CAGE



REMAINS OF MUNSTER



ROUGH IN DULMEN

odd assortment of vehicles, makeshift arrangements of captured equipment, anything that would roll and speed up the big push.

Battles were fought at Dorsten, Haltern, Dulmen, Appelhulsen and a dozen other towns whose names most of the Joes won't even remember — they were just German towns that had to be taken and were taken before the division moved on to other towns like them. Then came Munster.

Supported by massed artillery and armor, the 513th and the 194th Combat Teams attacked from opposite sides of the city. Although the German communications had broken down, many of the defenders of the city were fanatical Nazis who had sworn never to surrender. By the time

the city was taken there were not so many fanatics.

The town was battered and shelled and the infantry attacked with tanks. Finally the shooting stopped and the civilians looked out fearfully from their white-flagged windows. Only a shell of the place remained. Munster was a dead city.

In the push into Munster the 513th had taken the Hermann Goering Barracks, then used as a rest center for picked troops of the German army. Among other things, in the big warehouses the Airborne found stored a ton of butter. Its presence belied the Nazis' assertion that a hungry people had "had to choose between guns or butter."

The 194th had been busy taking the corps area headquarters, where the power plant and a part of the

telephone system was still in working order, and in reaching a prison camp. As the glider troopers reached the stalag hundreds of prisoners from Allied nations poured out, shouting, laughing, crying. Now, like the troopers of the 17th, they too were free.

Munster had been the objective but now another job was left. The Ruhr Valley, the wehrmacht assembly line, remained. The Ninth Panzer Army under Oberst General Josef Harpe was holed up in a pocket and defying the Allies. The 17th went after him.

The 194th Combat Team was detached and swung far to the southeast. The rest of the division, relieving the 79th on April 6, began operations in the heavy industry area about the Rhine-Herne Canal.

On April 10 the 507th CT launched an attack from the south and by 2100 had occupied the center of Essen. No resistance was met in the shattered city and a perimeter defense was set up. The next day the 507th attacked Mulheim. Meeting only scattered small arms fire, it gained its final objective before noon, found a bridge across the Ruhr River intact and secured it.

With the fall of Essen came the fall of the Krupp arms empire ruled by Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach. Krupp, whose steel plants had supplied the German war machine in two wars against the United States, admitted joining the Nazi party in 1936. He was confined to the gardener's cottage on his estate, an estate normally staffed by 125 servants and a show place of the Ruhr.

**DULMEN . APPELHULSEN . MUNSTER**





**HAMBORN**

**OBERHAUSEN**

**ESSEN**



IN THE PATH OF WAR



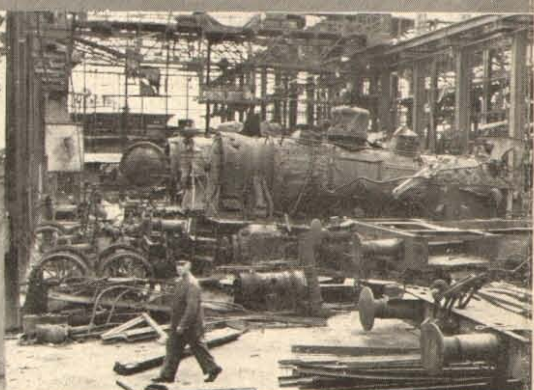
BALLROOM, KRUPP MANSION



CIVILIANS PROMENADE THRU DEATH

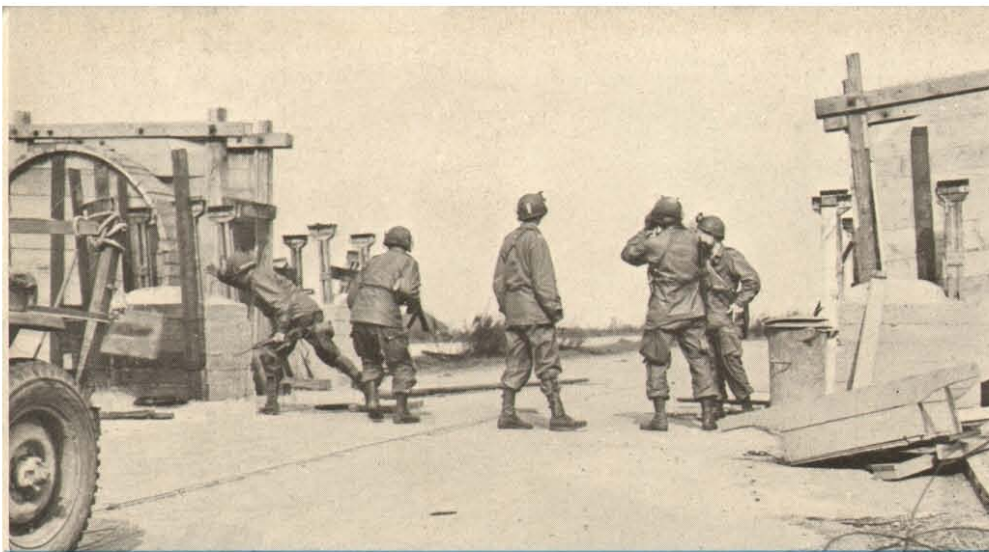


A FREAK IN ESSEN

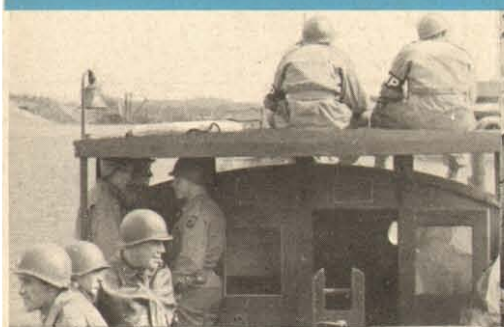


NOT ALWAYS WERE HOUSES HIT





CLEARING OF DUISBURG ROADBLOCK



AIRBORNE SAILORS



THE RUSSIANS START HOME

## MULHEIM

## DUISBURG



SURRENDER IN DUISBURG

## The Ruhr Pocket

Germany had pinned great faith upon the industrial Ruhr. Big industrialists there had helped the Nazi party come into power years before and their plants had worked on a boomtime basis ever since to make weapons. It was not by chance that the Airborne was selected to clean up the area.

As city after city fell, German morale dropped. The Germans were not used to an invading army on their own soil. To have those invaders—Joes they called “butchers with baggy pants”—sweep across the rich Ruhr was too much. German soldiers began to surrender in larger and larger numbers. The civilians felt the blow, too.

Thirteen troopers, attempting to reach their unit, passed an armored battalion preparing to attack a village, they suddenly came upon a foxhole and beyond it others, all manned by German machine gunners and bazookamen. They leaped from their jeeps and went to work. Within a short time they had rounded up 87 prisoners. They had captured the battalion objective intact.

When it saw that the military situation was hopeless, the Nazi party went underground in the Ruhr pocket. It formed an organization known as The Werewolves to snipe and sabotage the Allied invaders. But the Nazi efforts met little success as the Airborne drove on.

While the rest of the division was busy near Essen the 194th was making a name for itself as it smashed through the hills and forest a hundred miles away.

It bagged the biggest prisoner of all, Franz Von Papen, German diplomat, ace trouble-shooter and former envoy to both the United States and Turkey. His efforts had been anything but helpful to the Allied cause. Some time before, realizing that Germany had lost the Second World War, he had tried to hatch out a plan for saving German industry to prepare for a third one.

In the tiny village of Stockhausen after a battle a patrol led by a first lieutenant discovered a crippled English-speaking German in a crowd at an air-raid shelter. Questioning of Polish laborers revealed that the man was Capt. Franz Von Papen, son of the diplomat, and that the elder Von Papen was hiding at a hunting lodge nearby.

Next day the patrol went to the lodge and was met by a man who appeared to be acting as a bodyguard. He was Max Von Stockhausen, the diplomat's son-in-law.

When the GI's entered the hut they found Von Papen at dinner—and surprised. There were no German soldiers present, he told them.

“I don't know what you want with an old man of 67,” he added. “I wish this war was over.”

“So do eleven million other guys,” snapped one of the Joes.

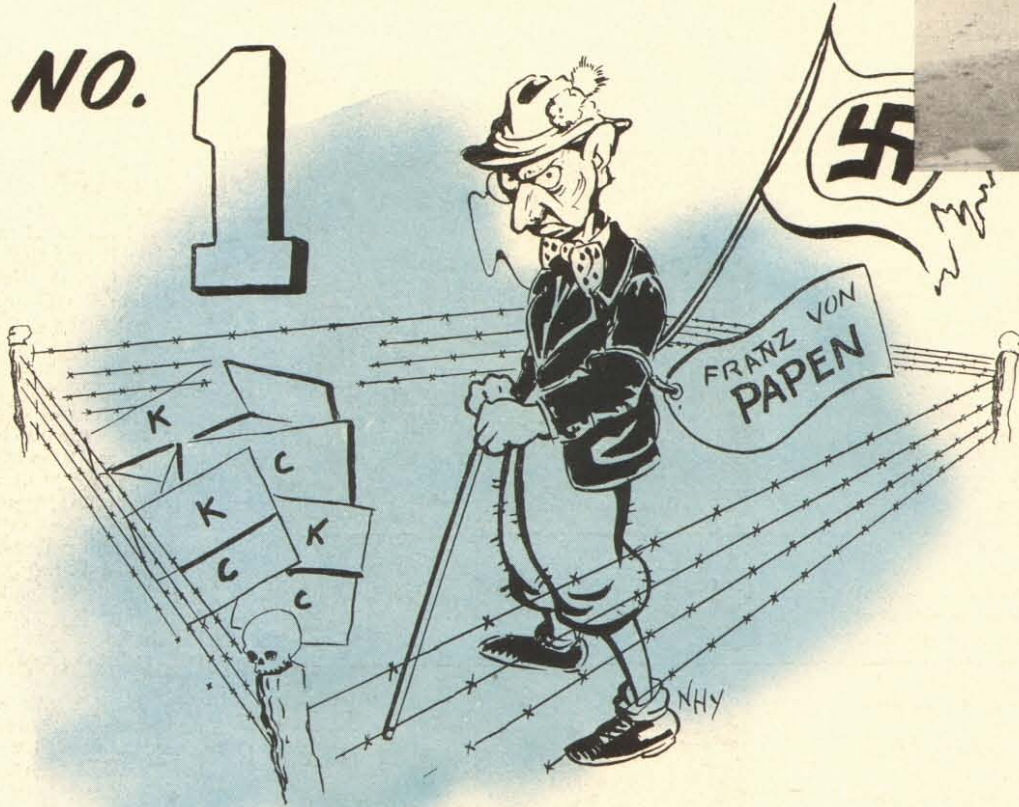
They started him on his long way back to talk with the Allied chiefs about his part in the war. There were a lot of questions to be answered.

The 194th rejoined the division at Mulheim on April 12-13. Defenses were maintained and patrolling conducted near Duisburg, which was found unoccupied and surrendered formally to the 507th. Elements of the division set up military government in Essen, Duisburg, Walson, Hamborn,



# P.W.

NO. 1



VON PAPEN WORE  
A TYROLEAN  
COSTUME

Wesel, Dinslaken and Oberhausen. A final small counter attack was repulsed along the Ruhr on April 15.

Last big catch of the war for the division was the capture of General Harpe himself. He had disbanded his army and on the morning of April 17 he and an aide tried to slip out of the pocket but were picked up by the security screen of a platoon from the 605th TD Battalion, a part of the 194th CT.

Ill-tempered and arrogant, he complained of the "agony of being photographed by a lot of underlings." But the cameras clicked anyway and a GI suggested he had spent his 36 years in the wrong army.



THEY BAGGED THE DIVISION'S PRIZE PRISONER





May 8 — V-E Day — came quietly to the Joes of the 17th Airborne Division. Their fighting in Europe was already over.

They celebrated the day by doing guard duty, swimming or awaiting their turn at bat in the softball games. It was good news, of course, but it was expected. But it did mean that there would be no more foxholes for awhile, no more jumps to sweat out, maybe a chance to see home before long.

Afterwards there was more leisure. Clubs were set up by Special Service and the Red Cross. Beer and soft drinks were available most of the time and PX rations meant smokes and chocolate bars. And there was plenty of time to shoot the breeze.

The Duisburg Stadium, scene of the 1936 Olympic tryouts, was the site of the first divisional track meet, which was won by the 507th Parachute Infantry. A short time afterwards the 513th Parachute Infantry won the division swimming meet and still later the 194th Glider Infantry in a last minute rush won a second track and field meet. Softball, baseball and a number of other sports claimed the interest of the whole division.

GI movies and such soldier shows as those presented by the 224th Medics and the 681st Glider Field Artillery Battalion helped to provide entertainment. The Information and Education office launched a program of post-war education designed to help GI's finish their schooling or fit themselves into civilian life and a civilian job.

The rest centers that were set up attracted many of the men for a few days. Passes to Paris and the Riviera — tables with real tablecloths and china and hours of lying out on the beach — made dreams come true.



NAZI GEN. HARPE ON WAY TO COMPLAIN



KRAUT "TOP KICK"



A FEW OF THOUSANDS



THEIR WAR IS OVER



BUT ARE THEY BEATEN ?



NAZI CHILDREN WERE CAPTURED TOO

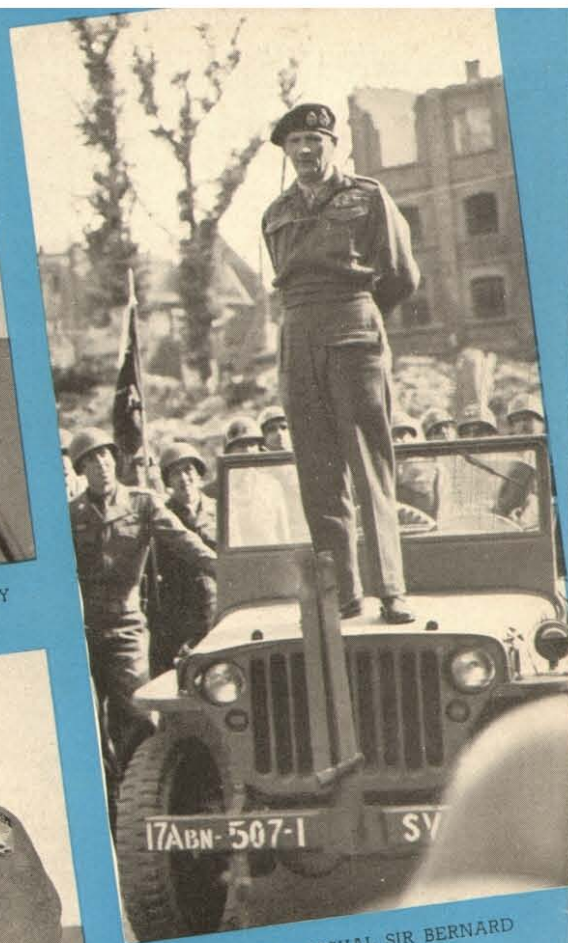




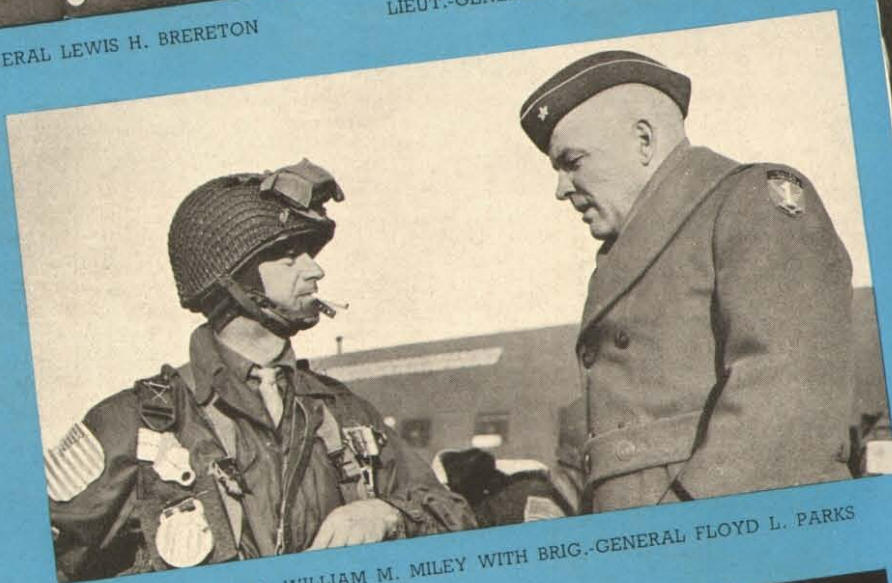
LIEUT.-GENERAL LEWIS H. BRERETON



LIEUT.-GENERAL MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY



FIELD MARSHAL SIR BERNARD L. MONTGOMERY



MAJOR-GENERAL WILLIAM M. MILEY WITH BRIG.-GENERAL FLOYD L. PARKS



# Airborne Personalities

Behind every successful operation there is a long period of planning. There are strong personalities who have visualized what must take place. So it was with the Airborne. These General Officers — First Allied Airborne Army and a British Field Marshal — conceived the idea of the airborne drop over the Rhine. The GI's put that idea into action. Together they made up the team.





# After V-E Day

Many prisoners had been liberated. Many slave laborers from Poland, the Soviet Union, France, Belgium and other Allied countries had been freed. The GI's found that a part of their job was helping operate camps for them and starting them on their way back home.

They uncovered German atrocities, too. Russians and Poles and other enemies of the Nazi system had been slaughtered and their bodies dumped into shallow holes in the ground. They were dug up — by Nazi party members under an Airborne guard — and given a decent burial while the Germans looked on and pondered their own short comings and the ways of the people who had crushed the Nazi might.

Units of the division on Memorial Day held ceremonies honoring the memory of Americans who died in order that their friends and people of the nation and all nations might live together in dignity and peace. Thousands of America's best fighting men, under the eyes of the people who had not yet come to understand the meaning of the rights of mankind, stood on conquered foreign soil with heads bowed in tribute to a great sacrifice for lasting peace and the right of every man to act as his own conscience dictates. That is the American way.

The GI's of the Golden Eagle Claw moved a step nearer home when orders came to return to France for redeployment and they started on the way back June 15.

They had had to demand of the Nazis by force of arms their right to live their lives in their own way, and the Germans, bewildered by the strange new idea that all men are free and equal, had wondered at the American Airborne's Memorial services.

But the French knew and understood. And when American troops passed in review on the Fourth of July it was before flags of two nations that symbolized free peoples and the friendship of nations and a united effort toward lasting peace.

Their airborne mission in Europe was accomplished.

## THE TALON CROSSES THE RHINE

A pictorial history of the 17th Airborne Division's airborne mission across the Rhine.

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SOCIAL LIFE IN A JEEP



5 GIRLS, 3,000 MEN



TRACK AT DUISBURG STADIUM



FIRST IN WAR, FIRST IN SPORT



A JOE GETS THE NEWS



SWEETHEARTS OF THE 681st.F.A.



MEMORIAL DAY IN GERMANY



FOURTH OF JULY IN FRANCE



# Awards



## SILVER STAR

MAJ. GEN. William M. MILEY.

BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH V. PHELPS.  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN L. WHITELAW.

COL. JAMES W. COUTTS.  
COL. WILLARD K. LIEBEL.  
COL. EDSON D. RAFF.

Lt. COL. PAUL F. OSWALD.

MAJ. WILBUR L. BARNES.  
MAJ. MORGAN A. BRAKONECKE.

CAPT. THOMAS W. ALLEY.  
\*CAPT. JOHN H. FEATHERSTON, Jr.  
CAPT. OSCAR A. FODOR.  
CAPT. GORDON G. GATCH.  
CAPT. WALTER E. GRISCTI.  
CAPT. KENNETH E. HATHAWAY.  
CAPT. DUDLEY G. HILL.  
\*CAPT. HARRY KENYON.  
CAPT. JAMES P. LYKE.  
CAPT. JOHN W. MARR.  
\*CAPT. JACOB I. STAHL.

\*1st Lt. CHARLES E. ALFORD.  
1st Lt. THOMAS J. DANES.  
1st Lt. JAMES E. DUNN.  
1st Lt. GEORGE A. DYSLIN.  
1st Lt. JOSEPH M. HUDACEK.  
\*\*1st Lt. JOHN W. LEARY.  
1st Lt. THOMAS McKINLEY.  
1st Lt. ROBERT L. RICHARDS.  
1st Lt. ROBERT J. SHEEHY.  
1st Lt. JOHN F. STACY

\*2d Lt. IRVING S. BRENNER.  
2d Lt. FRANK DIERAUF, JR.  
\*2d Lt. EARL A. GOODMAN.  
2d Lt. ARTHUR D. HICKERSON.  
\*2d Lt. HERMAN LEMBERGER.  
2d Lt. KENNETH E. McMANAMY  
\*2D Lt. DANIEL J. SCOTT.  
\*2d Lt. JOHN H. STERNER.

1st Sgt. Michael T. Stankiewicz.

\*T Sgt. Morris R. Patty.  
T Sgt. Wendell J. Sermir.

\*Killed in Action.  
\*\*Missing in Action.

\*S Sgt. Merrett R. Bunge.  
S Sgt. Robert Gallardo.  
\*S Sgt. Joe I. Gonzales.  
S Sgt. Cornelius J. Keane.  
S Sgt. Walter L. Lukens, Jr.  
S Sgt. Willie R. Moore.  
S Sgt. Henry Y. Parker.  
S Sgt. Clarence C. Thomasson  
S Sgt. Mervin F. Troutman.

\*Sgt. Richard N. Anderson.  
Sgt. James E. Guy.  
\*Sgt. LeRoy Haynes.  
Sgt. Loran G. Hendren.  
Sgt. Marvin M. Marrow.  
Sgt. Harold B. Samples.  
Sgt. John L. Smith.  
\*Sgt. Walter Thomas.

Tec 4 Thomas R. George, Jr.  
\*Tec 4 Harold E. Lotze.  
Tec 4 William J. Twigg.

Cpl. Herbert A. Nobrega.  
Cpl. Clyde Thornton.

Tec 5 John R. Albec.  
Tec 5 Richard C. Shaw

Pfc. Marvin L. Baker.  
\*Pfc. Thomas W. Balise.  
\*Pfc. Lowell N. Beard.  
\*Pfc. Joseph S. Brosnan.  
Pfc. Walter N. Campbell.  
\*Pfc. Jack Cook.  
Pfc. Leonard P. Diedrichs.  
Pfc. Robert E. Dodd.  
Pfc. Curtis Duce.  
Pfc. James P. Gallagher.  
Pfc. John F. Gillin.  
\*Pfc. Noble L. Helfer.  
Pfc. Raymond J. Kelly.  
\*Pfc. Justin Kizis.  
\*Pfc. Edward R. Knox.  
Pfc. Arne H. Lundgren.  
Pfc. Edward J. McGrath.  
Pfc. John E. Moore.  
Pfc. Alvin C. Ormsby.  
\*Pfc. Kenneth L. Stewart.  
Pfc. Williford E. Varner  
Pfc. Louis Zerby.

Pvt. Alex Deaton.  
\*Pvt. Edward J. Lehman.  
Pvt. Harry Rubin.  
\*Pvt. Ludie L. Smythe.  
Pvt. Lewis R. Steinmetz.  
\*Pvt. David C. Watkins.

## BRONZE STAR

BRIG. GEN. JOSIAH T. DALBEY  
BRIG. GEN. RIDGELY GAITHER.

COL. THOMAS S. GUNBY.  
COL. EDWIN J. MESSINGER.  
COL. JAMES R. PIERCE.

Lt. COL. ROBERT L. ASHWORTH.  
Lt. COL. CLARK N. BAILEY.  
Lt. COL. HARRY BALISH.  
Lt. COL. FRANK L. BARNETT.  
Lt. COL. KENNETH L. BOOTH  
Lt. COL. EDWARD S. BRANIGAN, Jr.  
Lt. COL. FLOYD L. CAMPBELL.  
Lt. COL. LEWIS R. GOOD.  
Lt. COL. ALONZO F. GREEN.  
Lt. COL. STANLEY T. B. JOHNSON.  
Lt. COL. JOSEPH W. KEATING.  
Lt. COL. WILLIAM A. KUHN.  
Lt. COL. GABE W. LEWIS) Jr.  
Lt. COL. ALBERT S. LISENBY.  
Lt. COL. LYLE N. McALISTER.  
Lt. COL. EDWARD SIGERFOOS.  
Lt. COL. ALTON R. TAYLOR.  
Lt. COL. RAYMOND H. TIFFANY.

MAJ. ROGER M. BACHMAN.  
MAJ. MORGAN A. BRAKONECKE.  
MAJ. FREDERICK C. BUCKWALTER.  
MAJ. ALBERT T. COOPER, Jr.  
MAJ. ROBERT R. COREY.  
\*MAJ. JAMES R. DICKERSON.  
MAJ. JOHN D. GRAY.  
MAJ. RICHARD J. LONG.  
MAJ. LAWRENCE L. LYNCH.  
MAJ. PLEASANT W. MARTIN.  
MAJ. FRED McGOLDRICK.  
MAJ. CARL A. PETERSON.  
MAJ. LAWRENCE W. ROBERT III  
MAJ. GEORGE K. VOLLMAR.  
MAJ. DANTES A. YORK.

CAPT. HERMAN W. ALFORD.  
CAPT. CHARLES F. COLYER.  
CAPT. GEORGE W. CRAIN.  
CAPT. CARL A. DAVIS.  
CAPT. JOSEPH A. DAVIS.  
CAPT. GEORGE C. DAWSON.  
CAPT. CHARLES D. DUREE, Jr.  
CAPT. RUSSELL N. FAIRBANKS.  
CAPT. ORMOND K. FLOOD.  
CAPT. EDWARD H. GEIGER.  
CAPT. GILBERT D. HARRISON, Jr.  
CAPT. ARTHUR M. HETZER.

CAPT. FREDERICK G. HOFFINE, Jr.  
CAPT. LOUIS E. HOLDER.  
CAPT. WILLIAM R. HUNTER.  
\*CAPT. EARL F. JENNINGS.  
CAPT. CHARLES H. JONES  
CAPT. HAROLD L. KARBLEY.  
CAPT. HORACE T. LAVELY, Jr.  
CAPT. JAMES P. LYKE.  
CAPT. RAY W. MacMULLEN.  
CAPT. VERNON L. MARTIN.  
CAPT. RAYMOND J. McCORRY, Jr.  
CAPT. JAMES MEESE.  
CAPT. LORAN B. MORGAN.  
CAPT. KATSUMI NAKADATE.  
CAPT. PHILIP O. NICE.  
CAPT. ERWIN W. O'MELIA.  
CAPT. DON R. PAY.  
CAPT. WALTER S. ROBINSON, Jr.  
\*CAPT. GEORGE J. ROPER.  
CAPT. DAVID R. SELLARS.  
CAPT. HERBERT U. SIEBEN.  
CAPT. HUMILIS P. SOLAND.  
CAPT. JOHN T. STEWART.  
CAPT. LESTER O. STEWART.  
CAPT. ROY L. STRANG.  
CAPT. AUGUSTUS SYLVESTER.  
CAPT. SIGVARD O. TYSKO.  
CAPT. WILLIAM H. UNSDERFER.  
CAPT. HARRY D. WATERS.  
CAPT. PHILIP H. WEAVER.  
CAPT. THOMAS A. WELDON.  
CAPT. ALBERT G. WING.  
CAPT. CHARLES E. WOOLLEN.  
CAPT. ALLEN R. WRIGHT.  
CAPT. JACK M. WYGLE.  
CAPT. NORMAN M. YORK.  
CAPT. ARTHUR F. YOUNG.

1st Lt. LEGARE ANSEL.  
1st Lt. STANLEY L. ARDZIEJEWSKI.  
1st Lt. JOSEPH J. AUDLEY.  
1st Lt. DAVID A. BLUNT.  
1st Lt. ROLLIE L. CANTLEY.  
1st Lt. WILLARD E. CHAMBERS.  
1st Lt. ARTHUR G. CLARK.  
1st Lt. RICHARD E. COSNER, Jr.  
1st Lt. EUGENE S. CROWLEY.  
1st Lt. EDWARD C. DENNIS.  
1st Lt. VINCENT G. DERITIS, JR.  
1st Lt. PETER DeVRIES.  
1st Lt. JOSEPH V. DRULIS.  
1st Lt. HILLARD S. DURA.  
1st Lt. MAX E. FREEMAN.  
1st Lt. JAMES W. GRAY.  
1st Lt. ROBERT F. GRAY.  
1st Lt. ROBERT A. HARRSCH.  
1st Lt. WILLIAM M. HARVILL.  
1st Lt. FRANK R. HERBERT.  
1st Lt. ROSS H. HOWARD.  
1st Lt. GLENN E. JOHNSON.



1st Lt. DENIS J. JONES.  
1st Lt. MICHAEL KOPENITS.  
1st Lt. FRED C. LANZ, Jr.  
1st Lt. JACK B. LARSON.  
1st Lt. KARL W. LILLOE.  
1st Lt. JAMES L. McNAMARA.  
1st Lt. THOMAS F. MAGNER.  
1st Lt. DON R. MORT.  
1st Lt. ALBERT G. OLSEN.  
1st Lt. KENNETH M. PALMER.  
1st Lt. FRANK H. POOLE.  
1st Lt. PAUL W. ROBISON.  
1st Lt. RAYMOND R. ROWLAND.  
1st Lt. JOHN E. SHERN.  
1st Lt. RAYMOND H. STEM.  
1st Lt. JAMES P. WEBB.  
1st Lt. PETER K. WHITE.  
1st Lt. ALBERT C. ZIMMERMAN.

2d Lt. ARTHUR H. ABEL.  
2D Lt. JAMES C. COX.  
2d Lt. HAROLD E. HARTRICH.  
2d Lt. HENRY H. HENTZ.  
2d Lt. ROSEL Z. JENSEN.  
2d Lt. WOODROW W. JORGENSEN.  
2d Lt. JAMES H. McCLURKIN.  
2d Lt. OLIN P. MERRETT.  
2d Lt. WILLIAM H. MURRAY.  
2D Lt. JAMES D. PHILLIPS, Jr.  
2d Lt. CARROLL D. PRICE.  
2D Lt. HAROLD E. RUDEL.  
2d Lt. ARTHUR E. STRINGER, Jr.  
2D Lt. PAUL E. TOTEN.  
2D Lt. MARSHALL I. WOLPER.

CWO JOHN P. EAKER.  
CWO WILBUR A. JONES.

WO (jg) MELVIN L. UPCHURCH.

1st Sgt. Paul V. Bechtold.  
1st Sgt. Thomas V. Carl.  
1st Sgt. Walter W. Fragnowski.  
1st Sgt. George W. Hughes.  
\*1st Sgt. Edmund L. Kissinger.  
1st Sgt. William H. Lindsey.  
1st Sgt. Basil W. Simmons.

M Sgt. Walter L. Bachenheimer.  
M Sgt. John L. Carr.  
M Sgt. D. N. Cottle.  
M Sgt. Fred O. Dickson.  
M Sgt. Kenneth C. Gifford.  
M Sgt. Guiney W. Grant.  
M Sgt. Frank L. Macchiaverna.  
M Sgt. Donald B. Mathews.  
M Sgt. Kenneth L. McAferty.  
M Sgt. Sam Mullins.  
M Sgt. Edward J. Schutz.  
M Sgt. Ota G. Wynn.

T Sgt. Walter R. Ashwill.  
T Sgt. Joseph P. Flanagan.  
T Sgt. Edward S. Harlow.  
T Sgt. Roy L. Hendricks.  
T Sgt. Richard A. Kahl.  
T Sgt. James A. Michienzi.  
T Sgt. O'Hara I. Near.  
T Sgt. Thomas R. Norsworthy.  
T Sgt. Paul E. Pachowka.  
T Sgt. Matias C. Ransom.  
T Sgt. Joseph J. Repich.  
T Sgt. Harold D. Russell.  
T Sgt. Albert J. Stutz.  
\*T Sgt. Ethmer D. Taylor.  
T Sgt. Arthur R. Waterloo.  
T Sgt. Alvah Q. Whittedge.  
T Sgt. Edward Woodward.

S Sgt. Alvie F. Aldermann.  
S Sgt. George Barale.  
S Sgt. Robert H. Bentzien.  
S Sgt. Grant L. Bishop.  
S Sgt. Lawrence A. Brothers.  
S Sgt. Averley Brown.  
S Sgt. Bert P. Bruno.

S Sgt. Donald R. Camp.  
S Sgt. Donald W. Cate.  
S Sgt. Lawrence L. Certain.  
S Sgt. Paul C. Christensen.  
S Sgt. LeRoy D. Coddington.  
S Sgt. Perry W. Cory.  
\*S Sgt. Preston E. Curtis.  
S Sgt. Clifford A. Davis.  
\*S Sgt. Bernard H. Deem.  
S Sgt. Corwin S. Dodge.  
S Sgt. Robert C. Elliott.  
S Sgt. Joseph Fernandez.  
S Sgt. David L. Gerhardt.  
S Sgt. Whitney Gerrish.  
S Sgt. William A. Giles, Jr.  
S Sgt. Thomas C. Halbert.  
S Sgt. Zigmund S. Kasproski.  
S Sgt. Arthur R. Kesby.  
S Sgt. Tom Kluge, Jr.  
S Sgt. Joseph F. Lupoli.  
S Sgt. William N. McCutcheon Jr.  
S Sgt. Kay A. McFarland.  
S Sgt. Buchan E. McKendrick.  
S Sgt. Earl J. McMillian.  
S Sgt. Stanley J. Melnick.  
S Sgt. Delmo Mitchell.  
S Sgt. Leo O. Moore.  
S Sgt. Edd B. Nave.  
S Sgt. Stanley P. Porter.  
S Sgt. Kermit L. Racey.  
S Sgt. Daniel Reed.  
S Sgt. Lawrence A. Sanford.  
S Sgt. Edwin C. Segars.  
S Sgt. Arnold H. Severson.  
S Sgt. Kenneth G. Simmerman.  
S Sgt. Louis W. Stearns.  
S Sgt. James W. Thoburn.  
S Sgt. Charles B. Thompson.  
S Sgt. Frank T. Tomascini.  
S Sgt. Ronald S. Worden.

Tec 3 Gaylord L. Blanc.  
Tec 3 Serry D. Couch.  
Tec 3 Albin F. Novak.

Sgt. Robert B. Allen.  
Sgt. James W. Beard.  
Sgt. Thad E. Blanchard.  
Sgt. Philip Brown.  
Sgt. Billie C. Cunningham.  
Sgt. Harry C. Deaton.  
Sgt. Stanley Drapala.  
Sgt. Richard J. Dunn.  
Sgt. Laurence S. Erwin.  
Sgt. Abraham Goldstein.  
Sgt. Joe H. Hall.  
Sgt. Fred B. Halow.  
\*Sgt. Wilbert J. Harman.  
Sgt. Arlie C. Hopkins.  
Sgt. Ralph D. Hunter.  
Sgt. Walter Ivanoff.  
Sgt. Thaddeus Jankowski.  
Sgt. Charles H. Kirsh.  
Sgt. Victor L. Krzesinski.  
Sgt. Ernest A. Lombard.  
Sgt. Richard D. Nott.  
Sgt. John F. Pass.  
Sgt. Henry H. Powell.  
Sgt. John F. Queenan.  
Sgt. Harlin M. Ratch.  
Sgt. Murray Rosen.  
Sgt. Elmer C. Rosenthal.  
\*Sgt. Paul R. Stotler.  
Sgt. Floyd G. Tillman.  
Sgt. William J. Visneau.  
Sgt. David E. Welch.  
Sgt. George D. Welling.  
Sgt. William Wolford, Jr.  
Sgt. Ernest S. Wood.  
Sgt. William S. Zdonczyk.

Tec 4 Abraham J. Bernstein.  
\*Tec 4 Harry B. Fernandez.  
Tec 4 Gilbert Fiscina.  
Tec 4 Wayne H. Golden.  
Tec 4 Ivan V. Greenfield.  
Tec 4 Theodore R. Harnes.

Tec 4 Paul L. Hoffman.  
Tec 4 Adasaus Karwasa.  
Tec 4 Alphonse L. Krynski.  
Tec 4 John N. McClanahan.  
Tec 4 Elmer R. Meshell.  
Tec 4 Fenton W. Miller.  
Tec 4 Lyle W. Slizewski.

Cpl. Donald R. Blimbing.  
Cpl. Samuel Brown.  
Cpl. Kermit A. DeMerse.  
Cpl. Charles B. Doyle.  
Cpl. Jack T. Ellis.  
\*Cpl. Harvey L. Fillback.  
Cpl. John F. Fleming.  
Cpl. Lawrence E. Foreman.  
Cpl. William H. Goodwin.  
Cpl. Robert E. Gray.  
Cpl. Luis J. Hurtado.  
Cpl. Alton H. Kelley.  
Cpl. James R. Lefler.  
Cpl. George J. Leon.  
Cpl. Kenneth E. McAtee.  
Cpl. Nathan L. McCoy.  
Cpl. Peter P. Pesock.  
Cpl. Ivan L. Regis.  
Cpl. Edwin C. Segars.  
Cpl. Paul T. Strange.  
Cpl. Raymond W. Taylor.

Tec 5 Alfonso M. Arredondo.  
Tec 5 William F. Bailey.  
Tec 5 Levi Bales.  
Tec 5 Sidney Bender.  
Tec 5 William A. Beveridge.  
Tec 5 Trinidad P. Cantu.  
Tec 5 Jack Champagne.  
Tec 5 Joseph J. Deutsch.  
Tec 5 Ernest M. Elder.  
Tec 5 Harry B. Ellis.  
Tec 5 Albert P. Gillespie.  
Tec 5 Everett G. Grimm.  
Tec 5 Gerald J. Grott.  
Tec 5 Urban E. Hoffman.  
Tec 5 Victor S. Jastrobsky.  
\*Tec 5 Henry G. Koczur.  
Tec 5 Walter O. Mierisch.  
Tec 5 John R. Miglin.  
Tec 5 Fred A. Obley.  
Tec 5 Joe M. Poole.  
\*Tec 5 Peter A. Smith.  
Tec 5 John Snurkowski.  
Tec 5 Alex J. Sot.  
\*Tec 5 Donald Stanford.  
Tec 5 Robert A. Starnes.  
Tec 5 Thomas A. Whitcomb.  
Tec 5 Walter E. Wrzeszczynski.

Pfc. Isaac I. Abouaf.  
Pfc. Ralph L. Albert.  
Pfc. William H. Alford.  
Pfc. Rudolph Allison.  
Pfc. Wilbur M. Martin.  
Pfc. William R. Baulkwill.  
Pfc. Harry W. Bolles.  
Pfc. Chester J. Borkowski.  
Pfc. Lester E. Briddell.  
Pfc. Marion L. Brush.  
Pfc. Robert E. Burns.  
Pfc. Vernon H. Byers.  
Pfc. John R. Cade.  
Pfc. William L. Chambers.  
Pfc. Jack E. Chapman.  
Pfc. Henry Clay, Jr.  
Pfc. Edward C. Cobb.  
Pfc. Albert M. Davis.  
Pfc. Robert J. Dunham.  
Pfc. Joseph E. Elias.  
Pfc. Martin F. Fernandez.  
Pfc. Thomas J. Fiorino.  
Pfc. Joseph J. Foster.  
Pfc. Pablo Galindro.  
Pfc. Robert J. Geist, Jr.  
Pfc. Arthur H. Graves.  
Pfc. Carlton R. Guthrie.  
\*Pfc. John E. Hauck.  
Pfc. Thomas J. Haynes.

Pfc. Louis R. Herlevich.  
Pfc. Adam B. Huber.  
Pfc. John Karpowich, Jr.  
Pfc. Emmitt L. Kauk.  
Pfc. Charles V. Kulhavey.  
Pfc. Edward R. Lantz.  
Pfc. Irvin E. Lawson, Jr.  
Pfc. Thomas Mancini.  
Pfc. Alfred Martinez.  
Pfc. Odis O. McCarty.  
Pfc. James C. McCourt.  
\*Pfc. Donald McNeill.  
Pfc. Glenn B. Meiers.  
Pfc. Fremont J. Neldon.  
Pfc. George H. Nelson.  
Pfc. Robert L. Nichols.  
Pfc. Carl M. Norris.  
Pfc. Clarence F. Novak.  
Pfc. Eugene R. Ott.  
Pfc. William Paliwoda.  
Pfc. Donald W. Quinn.  
Pfc. Vincent O. Ramirez.  
Pfc. Edwin W. Ripple.  
Pfc. William S. Roane.  
Pfc. Royal W. Rosenthal.  
\*Pfc. Alfred W. Sander.  
Pfc. Louis V. Shipe.  
Pfc. Frank Shippeck.  
Pfc. Benjamin V. Smith.  
Pfc. Hawley D. Smith.  
Pfc. John R. Soley.  
Pfc. Ellis Stoops.  
Pfc. Fred M. Strohman.  
Pfc. Joseph W. Tichenor.  
Pfc. Ernest J. Trombley.  
Pfc. Joseph R. Vaughan, Jr.  
Pfc. William J. Wallace.  
Pfc. James L. Winkles.  
Pfc. Larry F. Wymore.  
\*Pfc. Kenneth E. Young.  
Pfc. Stanley J. Zelinski.

Pvt. Grady L. Alexander.  
Pvt. Richard Elzey.  
Pvt. Richard D. Hicks.  
Pvt. Willard N. Hunter.  
Pvt. Minyard E. Irvin.  
Pvt. Nobel B. Kentzen.  
Pvt. George L. Lumm.  
Pvt. Walter E. Mephram.  
Pvt. Weddy C. Mute.  
Pvt. Ward S. Nash.  
Pvt. Wallace J. Nelson.  
Pvt. Richard A. Patterson.  
Pvt. Woodley T. Ray.  
Pvt. Harold F. Shields.  
Pvt. Clayton D. Simmons.  
Pvt. Alvin Smith, Jr.  
Pvt. Gilbert E. Stokes.  
Pvt. Roy P. White.  
Pvt. James W. Wilson.

## AIR MEDAL

Lt. COL. WILLIAM G. FORWOOD.  
1st Lt. OSCAR E. BREITHAUP.  
1st Lt. DAVID DeLANA.  
1st Lt. FRANK H. POOLE.  
1st Lt. JACK REESE.  
1st Lt. JOHN L. SAWYER.  
2d Lt. JOHN MOMENT.

## SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Tec 5 Grover C. Brown, Jr.  
Pvt. Stanley E. Reiss.





Courage in its final full measure has extracted the ultimate toll of those of our comrades who made the greatest sacrifice to insure the supremacy of righteousness.

Their example should imbue us with a determination to carry out the one final phase of the job yet to be done in a manner befitting the pattern which they have so gallantly placed before us.

The above scene of the United States Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland, marks the final resting place of those of our comrades who fell while upholding the traditions of freedom and right — the American way of life.

Their lives are irrevocably spent but the heritage which they have passed to us to uphold will glow brightly forever for those of us who knew them as soldiers fighting the forces of oppression.



**This book is dedicated to those brave men of the Division, living and dead, who by their valor made the Rhine Crossing an outstandingly successful Airborne Operation.**

*Wm. M. M. M.*